

CONTACT

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Dual Citizenship
Born for Easter
The Little One
A Nudge from God

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THE SECRETARY SPEAKS



Melvin Worthington

Tempered By Tribulation

Smyrna is the second church addressed by the Lord (Rev. 2:8-11). This message was sent to a little church in a large commercial center. Smyrna was noted for its wickedness and opposition to the Christian gospel in the first century.

The Inscription

Christ is described as the first and the last, the one who was dead and is now alive. There is nothing before Him, and nothing is to follow for the final disposition of all things is in Him. He died, was raised triumphant over death and is able to save to the uttermost those who are enduring persecution and martyrdom. It is appropriate that he should promise to His true friends the same protection from the second death.

Christ relates Himself to time and eternity. He is the eternal God who has always existed in the past and who will always exist in the future. He is pictured as the Eternal One in relation to time and the resurrected One in relation to life. These attributes are calculated to comfort the church in Smyrna in the midst of severe suffering.

The Inventory

The Smyrna church had made much improvement in its spiritual state. It was physically poor, but spiritually rich. Christ commends them for their service and their faithfulness in spite of their suffering.

Hostile Jews, pagans and Satan himself persecuted the church. Christians in Smyrna found few friends in the hostile world around them.

Walter Scott states, "Not only was

the Church suffering from the pagan world without, but also from an enemy of religious character within. There was a company . . . which took up the place and pretention of Jews to be among God's people on the earth. This body of religious pretenders railed against the suffering church. False accusations and contempt were the cruel work of these religious people."

The Instructions

Christ reminds this church that God foreknows the trials of His people and forewarns them of coming trials. Through tribulation this church had been impoverished and imprisoned.

Christ, our captain, never keeps back what those who faithfully witness for Him may have to bear for His name's sake; never entices recruits by the promise they shall all find things easy and pleasant in His service.

John Walwood concludes, "Christ predicted that the devil would cast some of them into prison, doing all in his power to stamp out this testimony in the midst of his domain. Christ indicated that they would be cast into prison and would be tried and would have tribulation ten days. He exhorts them, nevertheless, 'Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer . . . be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.'"

Some of the early Christians, because

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of the dread of torture and death, denied their Lord, but not many. The martyr's crown can only be obtained by constancy and steadfastness to the end.

The Incentive

Christ declares, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death" (Rev. 2:11). Those who stand firm and true will conquer and vanquish all their adversaries. They will never be in danger of being eternally separated from God. They will never suffer punishment in hell.

This promise to the overcoming Christian is reassuring. Overcoming Christians will not have to experience the second death. They may be martyred and their life terminated in this world, but they will not experience the second death.

The Inferences

Christians will *face* suffering and tribulation. Paul reminds us that those who determine to live godly will suffer persecution.

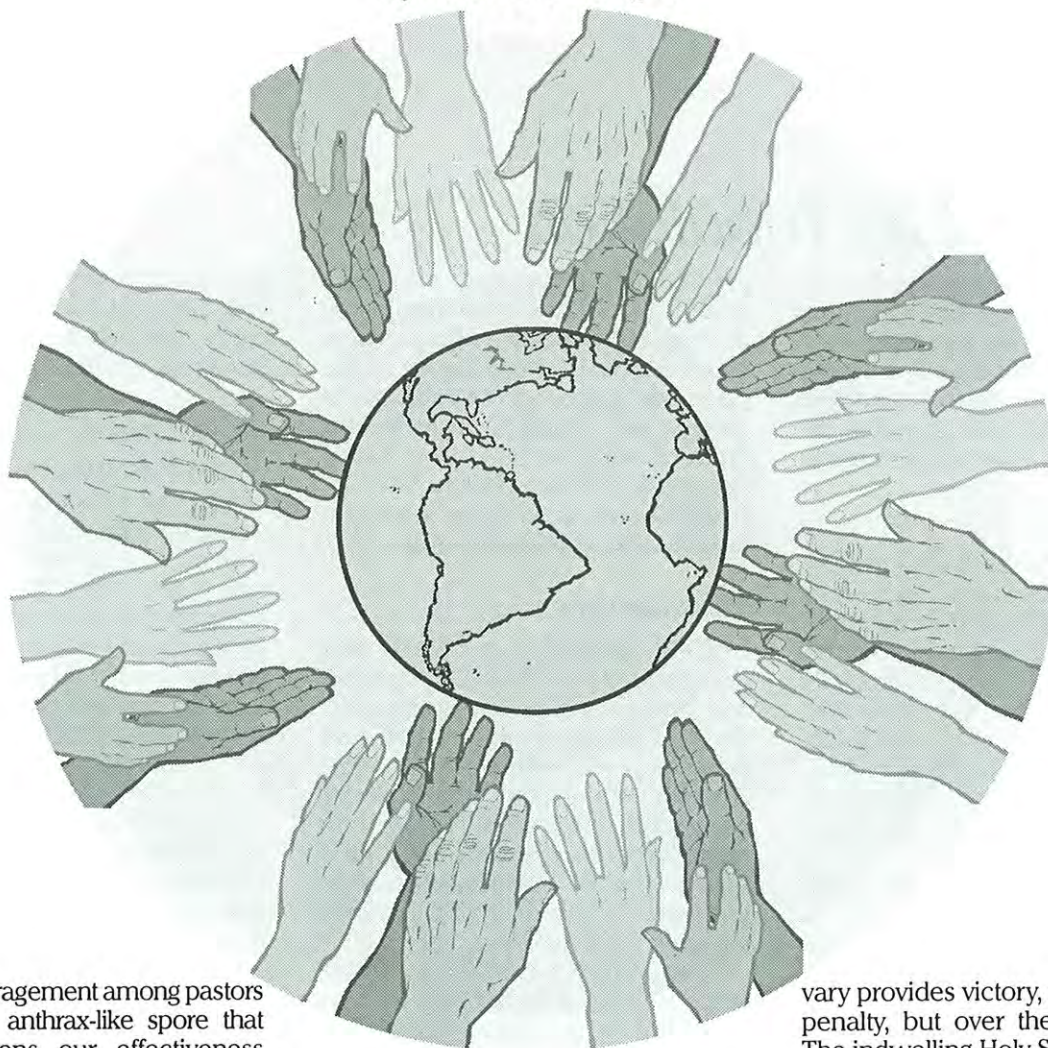
Christians need not *fear* suffering and tribulation. Our present suffering cannot be compared with our coming glory. Faithfulness in spite of suffering and persecution will bring eternal compensation. The hope of ultimate victory is sufficient cause for faithful, fervent and fearless obedience in this hostile world.

Christians must maintain the proper *focus* in the midst of suffering and tribulation. God's grace is sufficient to strengthen, satisfy and sustain us in the midst of suffering and tribulation. ■

How to mobilize and globalize your ministry

Churches Without Boundaries

By Robert J. Morgan



Discouragement among pastors is an anthrax-like spore that weakens our effectiveness and spreads quickly in settings dominated by me-mine-and-ours. It has little to do with the size of our churches and everything to do with the size of our vision. Without global optics, we limit ourselves to a lean harvest on small acreage, regardless of the size of Sunday's crowd.

Somewhere in the world a great harvest is occurring—and when a church figures out how to mobilize and globalize, it enters a realm of unlimited borders—a Jabez-like ministry expanding beyond church walls and city limits.

How thrilling to retire at night knowing that across the globe someone is be-

ginning a new day in the Lord's work, supported by our church! How comforting—knowing that our greatest fruitfulness may occur through our overseas enterprises, that we'll meet souls in Heaven who were saved through our international endeavors.

How, then, can we develop churches without boundaries? Here's a tool chest of ideas:

Preach the Victorious Christian Life

In "Keswick" tradition, the Victorious Life message declares that sin can rob Christians of daily joy, but Cal-

vary provides victory, not just over the penalty, but over the power, of sin. The indwelling Holy Spirit applies that victory to trusting, yielded souls.

As the Christ-life flows through us, consistent victory becomes possible, and our Lord's burden for lost humanity burns within us. Our hearts go with Christ to the ends of the earth. This message, faithfully modeled and preached, provides fertile soil for a Great Commission church.

Ask God to Send Missionaries from Your Church

The Great Commission assumes flesh-and-blood when God flings someone we know into a cross-cultural min-

istry. In our church, we have several serving in Africa, Brazil and, soon, among Muslims in southern France. Our church knows their names, sees their pictures, provides their income, remembers their prayer requests and shares their victories.

Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up some of your members as international workers. Of course, this means you'll "lose" some of your best workers, but God will replace them. Some of your children will be called overseas, some of your retirees will spend their golden years as short-termers, and some of your budget will be invested elsewhere.

But that's great! Don't grieve over things you should rejoice about. When the church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas to the "regions beyond," the whole congregation went with them in spirit.

"Adopt" a Missionary

If there's no immediate missionary candidate in your church, find one in a nearby church who needs backing. In our denomination, there are always missionaries needing financial and prayer support.

Contact the Foreign Missions office and schedule a missionary to visit your church. Learn all you can about them and their field of labor, then help underwrite their needs, share their passion, and send them on their way in a manner worthy of God (III John 6).¹

Send Short-Term Workers

The fastest way to generate passion for the field is to get your people there. There's a cross-cultural opportunity for almost every member of your church, from teenagers to young-at-hearts. Some short-term assignments last for days, some for years.

Information on such opportunities is available from Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions or from sources such as the annual magazine *Into All The World: The Annual Great Commission Opportunities Handbook*.²

Travel Yourself

I recently read the autobiography of aviator Charles Lindbergh, written in 1927, just after his famous flight in the *Spirit of St. Louis*. In his early days, Lindbergh kept a parachute with him.

When his plane got into trouble he would crawl from the cockpit and jump off the wing. Aviation was primitive, its future uncertain.

"Trans-Atlantic service is still in the future," wrote Lindbergh. "Multi-motored flying boats (airplanes) with stations along the route will eventually make trans-oceanic airlines practical." How times have changed. Now we can board a jetliner in America at bedtime and have breakfast in Paris. By shopping carefully, we can do it relatively inexpensively.

There's little reason for a pastor not to save his dollars and occasionally vacation overseas with a special eye on the spiritual conditions of the land being visited. Spending a few days in another culture, perhaps among the missionaries we support, is worth a semester's work in missionary school.

Listen to CNN World News

Read the overseas news the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and, when abroad, *The International Herald Tribune*. Keep a world atlas close at hand.

Make Friends with an International

There's probably a cross-cultural friendship right around the corner from where you live, just waiting to be made.

Draw Sermon Illustrations from Missionary Biographies and Magazines

Where could you find a better story, for example, than when Dick Hillis and his family were trapped between the Chinese Nationalists and the Communist forces of Mao Tse-tung. The bombing reached a crescendo one night as each shell dropped closer to the Hillis' home.

The family huddled in the corner as explosions sent dirt, glass and bricks through windows and walls. The children screamed, and the family prepared for death as best it could. But the shelling abruptly stopped, and the Hillises finally emerged from their corner. The room was filled with debris, but no one was hurt.

By and by, as Dick tucked each child into bed, he knelt beside little Margaret Anne and noticed a dirty scrap of paper stuffed under her pillow. On it was printed in big, childlike letters: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present

help in trouble" (Ps. 46:1).³

That little girl was resting on a big promise from a faithful God. Using stories like that helps the church see biblical truth through missionary eyes and helps them become accustomed to thinking in missionary terms.

Revive Faith-Promise Support

Ever since Andrew Fuller and William Carey passed a snuffbox and took up history's first collection for organized Protestant missions, pastors have been seeking ways to fund missions. For most of the 20th century, the old "faith-promise" card proved useful. Individual Christians were asked to trust God for a certain amount of money each month (above and beyond their regular tithes) toward the support of a particular missionary.

At our church, we're still doing this. Each Spring on Missions Sunday, we pass out a "MEGO" Card—My Enrollment in Global Outreach—on which individuals can make a number of commitments, including:

- Financially supporting a missionary
- Praying daily for a missionary
- Memorizing a "missionary text" in the Bible
- Subscribing to missions periodicals
- Taking a missions course offered by the church
- Participating in an overseas short-term project
- Reading a book on missions

These are completed in duplicate, collected and tallied; they represent our church's commitment toward missions for the next 12 months.⁴

Include Missionary Support in the Church's General Fund Budget

Several years ago, we realized not everyone would fill out a MEGO card, yet everyone in the church should be a part of Christ's Commission. At the time we were giving little of our general fund budget to outside ministries. We began increasing the amount by a half-percent per year, and now we are at tithe-level—10%—and counting.

This goes directly to missionary accounts, other overseas ministries and joint denominational projects. It provides a consistent monthly "floor" for missionary support, one that grows each year as our church grows.

Develop a Global Outreach Committee

Certain people in your church are more missions-minded than others. Find them, and develop a task force that meets each month to brainstorm and implement ways in which missions can become a greater force in your church.⁵

Plan an Annual Global Sunday

International Outreach should be a 52-week-a-year emphasis, woven into the fabric of the church's thinking as reflected in every service. But it helps us to set apart an annual Sunday to focus on missions, to hear from missionaries, to preach, pray and sing about missions, and receive our annual MEGO commitments.

Host the "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement" Course in Your Church

This in-depth study fuels a passion for missions as it covers the biblical, historical, cultural and strategic aspects of God's plan to reach the nations.⁶

Pray

God's church is a house of prayer for all nations. I once visited All Soul's Church in London, and I was impressed by the global sweep of the pastoral prayer. He led us in prayer for elections in Mexico, India and New Zealand; for rioting in Indonesia; for

the refugee crisis in Somalia; for missionaries in South Africa; for the persecuted church in China and Chad and more. It was a literal, unhurried intercessory tour of global events.

J. O. Fraser was a missionary to China in the early 1900s. He credited the conversion of hundreds of Lisu families to the prayers of his very earnest little prayer group back in England.

He said, *Christians at home can do as much for foreign missions as those actually on the field. It will only be known on the Last Day how much has been accomplished in missionary work by the prayers of earnest believers at home.*⁷

Envision Your Church in Global Terms

Having done these things, you'll find that your church will begin thinking of itself as a world-class church, one that is known around the world for its global impact. In our church, we've adopted this attitude into our purpose statement—to extend and strengthen the Kingdom for Christ and His glory—and in our "marketing" slogan—*Reaching around the world . . . Reaching out to you.*

Those statements represent who we are. A church of 10,000 people without a global vision is a little church, too small to pastor. A church of 50 whose resources reach around the world is bigger than it knows, and it does more good than it realizes. It has a ministry without boundaries, with fruit that will last throughout eternity. ■

Endnotes

1. Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions can be reached at 1-877-767-7736.
2. www.aboutmissions.com.
3. This story comes from Jan Winebrenner, *Steel in His Soul: The Dick Hillis Story* (Mukilteo, WA: OC International, 1996). Unfortunately, not many missionary biographies are currently published due to declining interest among readers. My favorite source of missionary biographical material is from OMF Publishers, located on the web at www.us.omf.org. Randall House Publications offers a selection of FWB missionary biographies.
4. Special "AMEGO" cards are designed for the children.
5. Check out www.acmc.org for excellent resources for advances churches in missions commitment.
6. For information, see www.perspectives.org.
7. I keep a copy of J. O. Fraser's biography by my desk all the time and refer to it often. Geraldine Taylor, *Behind The Ranges: The Life-Changing Story of J. O. Fraser* (Singapore: OMF Books International, 1998).



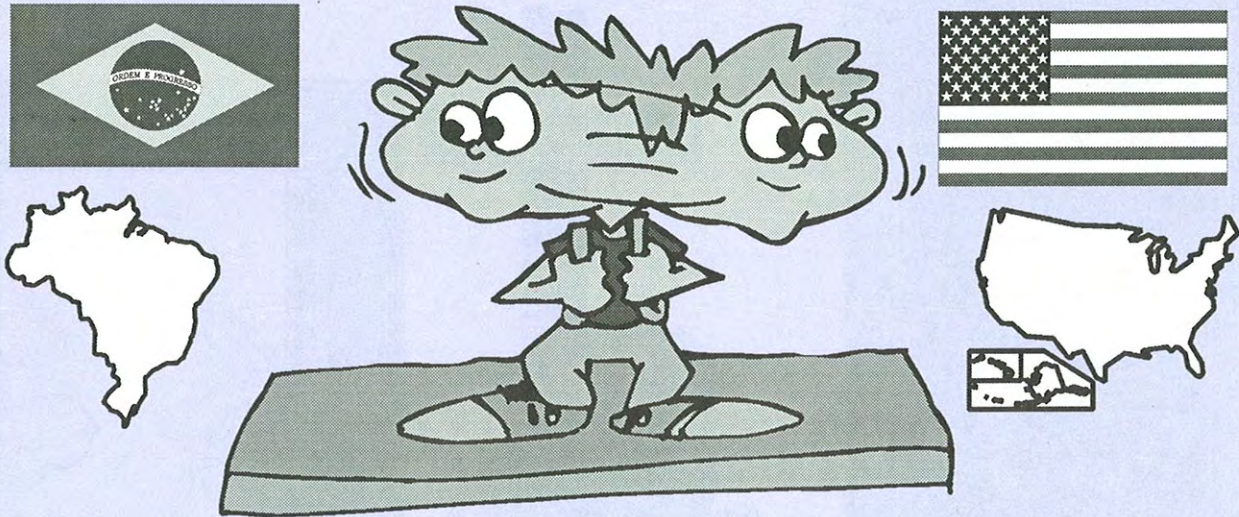
ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Robert J. Morgan pastors Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He has written 12 books, including the *Preacher's Sourcebook*, an annual publication of sermon ideas and outlines for pastors and Christian workers.

BEYOND BELIEF



Dual Citizenship

By Terry W. Eagleton



When pioneer Free Will Baptist missionaries Ken and Marvis Eagleton deplaned in Campinas, Brazil, on July 3, 1958, they felt very few certainties.

The uncertainties of housing, food, clothing, transportation, language and effective mission strategy were heavy on their minds. The fact that Marvis was seven months pregnant only added to their understanding that their well-being was completely in the hands of God.

Two months to the day after their arrival in Brazil, God smiled on them with a healthy second son. Because of citizenship laws of the American and Brazilian governments, it has been my privilege to carry dual citizenship ever since my birth.

When I was nine years old, after all the campers had left another rowdy week at our summer church camp grounds, I wrestled with understanding God's claim on my life. Following hours of struggle in prayer and meditation under a "mamona" tree, I joined millions from around the world and down the corridors of history in becoming a citizen of the heavenly kingdom. From that day forward, it has been my joy to pledge allegiance to

two nations and one kingdom.

Throughout life, as some have learned of my dual citizenship, I have been asked where my citizenship loyalties lie. It is difficult for citizens of one nation to comprehend the possibility of good dual citizenship. In the minds of so many "single nation citizens," the concept of good citizenship requires an either/or approach from dual citizens.

Mature Christians are perhaps most apt to understand dual citizenship loyalty. I am overwhelmed with awe when I read Ephesians 1:3-14 and am assured of the blessings of my kingdom citizenship.

According to this "Bill of Rights," I am chosen through Christ to be holy and perfect in His presence, adopted through Jesus Christ, forgiven of my failures, given wisdom and insight of His plan, sealed with His Spirit and guaranteed freedom to belong to Him. Furthermore, the King's mission of bringing Heaven and earth into subjection to Himself is made perfectly clear.

The Apostle Paul, who carried Hebrew and Roman citizenships, recounts in Acts 22:10 that when he met the Lord on the road to Damas-

cus and became a citizen of the kingdom, his first question was: "What shall I do, Lord?" And the Lord said to him—and says to us—"Arise, and go . . . it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do."

It's not a matter of divided loyalties for us, but a matter of double loyalties. We owe our community and our country. At the same time, as Christians, we owe allegiance to the kingdom of God, to other believers and to our local churches. What a great way to live! ■

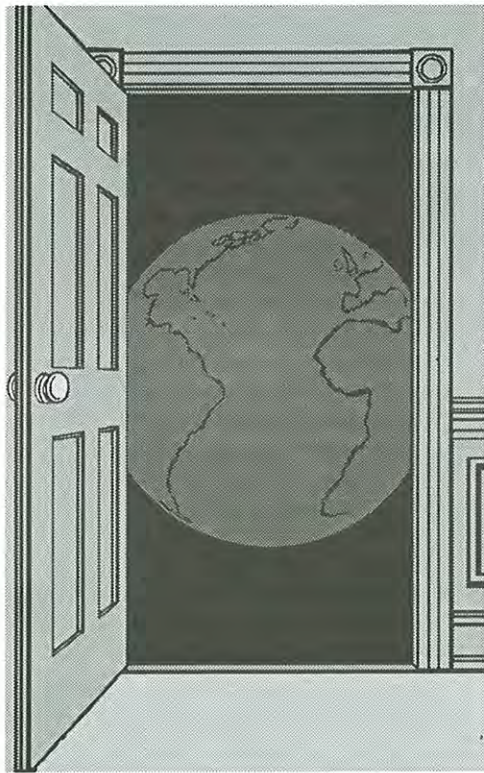


ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Terry Eagleton pastors Horton Heights Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He also serves as moderator of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Why Jesus came to earth when He did

Born for Easter

By Jeffrey L. Cockrell



We've all heard it said, "Two things are certain in life: death and taxes." The Bible informs us it is appointed unto man a time to die (Eccl. 3:2, Heb. 9:27). However, the Bible also tells us we have victory in death. Our victory comes from Christ's victory over death. As we celebrate Easter, we need to understand what was involved in Christ's coming to earth.

Special Time

Paul explains the nature of Christ's coming in Galatians 4:4-5. First, the time of Christ's coming—He came at "the fulness of time." *The Biblical Illustrator* says, "Fulness' means the arrival of a given hour or moment which completes an epoch—the hour which thus makes it appointed measure and brings it to a close."

In other words, Jesus came right on time. God the Father appointed Christ's coming. It was the time when the world was providentially ready for Christ. The emphasis of Christ's coming at an appointed time is seen in the angel's announcement in Luke 2: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The time of Christ's coming was the time foretold by the prophets. God promised that Christ would rise from the dead (Ps. 16). Paul said in I Corinthians 15:4 that Christ "was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

If Christ had come 100 years earlier, the manner of His death would not have been that foretold by the prophets. They prophesied that Christ would be crucified. The first known practice of crucifixion is by the Persians. Alexander the Great brought the method back to

Greece. The Romans adopted the practice and "perfected" it. They knew how to delay death for maximum torture.

Christ came at the time when the world was religiously, socially and politically prepared. Three cultures influenced the world in which Christ came: Jewish, Greek and Roman. The Jews' contribution was religious. Greeks offered philosophy. The Romans provided the necessary political conditions.

During the half-century preceding the birth of Christ, the Roman Empire was consolidated into a political whole so that a single government administered Palestine, Spain, North Africa and southern Germany. The Roman peace secured freedom of intercommunication. Roman roads provided the rapid transmission of the gospel so that Ethiopia, Gaul, Britain, Babylon and Spain received the Gospel within 30 years of Christ's crucifixion. People have often asked, *Why did not Christ*

come sooner? Answer: "Because it was not the right time."

Divine Source

Next, Paul explains the source of Christ's coming. The expression, *God sent His Son*, reminds us that Christ existed before He was sent forth. Colossians 1:15 describes Him as the "first-born of every creature." This means that Christ is before creation in time and that He is before creation in rank. The winds and waves obey Christ, because He is master of all creation.

Love was involved in the sending of Christ. The familiar words of John 3:16 state this fact: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son." God cared so much for the world that He sent His Son.

Willingness was also involved in Christ's coming. In order for Christ to come, He had to willingly accept His mission. His willingness is expressed in John 16:28: "I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world."

Unique Purpose

Furthermore, *sent* contains the idea of sending one on a mission. Christ's mission was to represent God. Hebrews 3:1 calls Christ God's unique messenger. John describes Christ as the "glory of the Father" (Jn. 1:14). Christ's mission was to bear the punishment of the world. Hebrews 2:9 says He came to "taste death for everyone." Christ's mission was to redeem humanity.

Paul states in Galatians 4:5 that Christ came "to redeem them that were under the law." Redemption deals with the payment for someone's release such as slaves or prisoners. Christ said in Matthew 20:28, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Under in Galatians 4:5 is translated from the Greek word *hupo*. The idea is being under authority. The purpose of the law is to reveal our sinfulness. The law shows the sinner that he needs the grace of God. Someone had adequately explained in an acronym that grace is:

God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense

Salvation is a free gift of grace, but it is highly paid by the death of Christ. As Humpty Dumpty had an unsolvable problem, we have a problem. But our problem has a solution: "Jesus Christ came to our wall, Jesus Christ died for our fall; So that regardless of death and in spite of sin, Through grace, He might put us together again," (Charles Swindoll, *Tale of the Tardy Oxcart*).

Miraculous Manner

Moreover, Paul describes the manner of Christ's coming as that "of a woman." The word *woman* is emphatic. It implies that Christ had only one earthly parent. Christ was born supernaturally. The birth of Christ goes against the laws of nature which dictate that a child must have two human parents.

God pronounced in Genesis 3, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." *Her seed* is an indication of something special. Normally the man provides the seed for conception.

As a man Christ experienced the same limitations of humanity that we experience. He grew (Lk. 2:52), hungered (Mt. 14:20), slept (Mt. 8:24-25), became tired (Jn. 4:6), thirsted (Jn. 19:28), died (1 Cor. 15:20). However, Christ was sinless. First Peter 2:22 states that Christ "did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." The expression *who did no sin* asserts His innocence in conduct. When Peter says, "neither was guile found in his mouth," he informs us that Christ was sinless in His speech.

Set Free

Yes! Death is certain, but victory is sure in the resurrection of Christ.

The story is told about a pastor who one Easter brought an old beat-up, rusty bird cage and sat it next to the pulpit. The pastor explained the reason for having the bird cage next to the pulpit.

He told them that several days before, he noticed a little boy whistling, walking down an alley, swinging that bird cage. Clinging to the bottom of the cage were little field sparrows he had caught. So the pastor stopped him and asked, "Say, sonny, what do you have there?"

He said, "Oh, I have some birds."

"What are you gonna do with 'em?" he asked.

"Oh, mess around with them, tease 'em, something like that."

"Well," he asked, "when you get tired of 'em, what are you gonna do?"

The boy thought a moment and said, "Well, I got a couple of cats at home and they like birds. I think I'll just let them have at 'em."

The pastor's heart went out to the little birds so he made the little lad an offer. "How much do you want for the birds?"

Surprised, the boy said, "Mister, these birds ain't no good."

"Well," the pastor replied, "regardless, how much would you like for 'em?"

The little fellow said, "How about two bucks?"

He said, "Sold." So he reached in his pocket and peeled off two dollar bills. The little boy shoved the bird cage forward pleased with his stroke of good fortune.

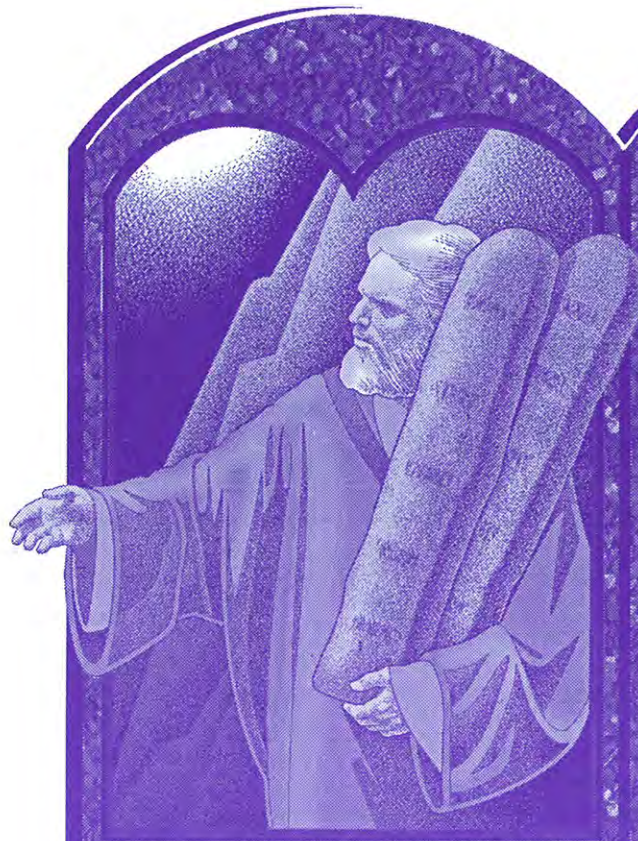
When the boy left, the pastor walked a good distance away, lifted open the little cage door and said, "Shoo, shoo!" And he shoved them out of the door and they flew free.

The empty bird cage was the perfect illustration of how Satan had the human race trapped and frightened. Jesus Christ not only paid the price for our freedom; He has set us free (Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations*).

Praise God for Easter. May we appreciate the beauty of God's timing in sending Christ. May we comprehend the love of God in sending Christ to die for us. Also, may we stand for the integrity of the Easter message. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Jeffrey Cockrell pastors Black River Free Will Baptist Church in Andrews, South Carolina.



Part four
of an eleven-part series
on
"Habits of Highly Successful People"

What's in a Name?

By Kevin Riggs¹

Habit #3—
A Highly Successful Person
Knows God Personally,
and Makes Him Known Publicly.

go by my middle name—Kevin. I like that name. I think it adequately describes who I am. I think I look like a Kevin. Not going by your first name does, however, cause difficulties from time to time. Elementary school was one of those times.

Growing up I tried to keep my first name a secret. At least once every school year a substitute teacher would let my secret out. Not knowing I went by my middle name, the substitute would call the roll asking for, "George Riggs." Everyone would laugh, and I would have to endure the taunting, "Georgie Porgie, puddin' and pie, kissed the girls and made them cry. . ."

If I, as a child, had feelings of humiliation and anger when people misused my name, can you imagine how God must feel every time a person violates the third commandment?

God has a Name

Through the burning bush, God called Moses to go to Egypt and deliver the Israelites from bondage.² Moses was not happy about this mission. He was scared and unsure. He needed some confidence that God would be

with Him, so he asked, "When I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, 'The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you;' and they shall say to me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say unto them?"³

God answered, "I AM THAT I AM . . . Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, 'I AM hath sent me unto you.'"⁴ "I AM,"⁵ what a strange name. What a perfect name! God's name signifies eternal existence. By using this verb God was proclaiming He has always existed, He exists in the present, and He will always exist. He was saying, "I will be what I will be."

The fact that Moses asked God for His name is important. The fact that God gave Moses His name is extremely important. Moses wanted to know God's name because Moses wanted a personal relationship with God. God told Moses His name because God wanted a personal relationship with Moses.

What's in a Name?

In our culture, as soon as we meet someone we introduce ourselves. In Moses' culture, doing so was unthinkable. In that culture a person did not

throw his name around, and he did not give his name to chance acquaintances. To give your name was to open yourself up to the scrutiny of another person.

What's in a name?

1. A name signifies personhood

My name represents who I am. It means I exist. It means I am somebody. My name says something about my character. My name enables people to deal with me as an individual. It is for these reasons that I do not like it when people make fun of my name. God's name signifies He is a Person who wants to be known personally.

2. A name signifies reputation

Nicknames do this better than real names. If I introduced you to my friends named "Red" and "Slim," you would automatically know something about their reputation. If I refer to someone as a "Benedict Arnold" or an "Honest Abe," you would automatically know what I mean. Because a name signifies reputation, the writer of Proverbs said, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."⁶ God's name underscores His

reputation as a sovereign, holy God.

3. A name signifies uniqueness

There are many people with the name, "Kevin." Chances are there is even someone else named "Kevin Riggs."⁷ But I doubt if there is anyone else in the whole world named, "George Kevin Riggs." I know I am the only Mr. Misty Riggs.⁸ No matter what a person's name, and no matter how many people may share that name, each name signifies uniqueness. There is only one you. There is only one God, and He is the great I Am.

4. A name signifies authority

Not long ago a volunteer in my church's children's worship told me that when my son, Zachary, acts up, all they have to do is say, "I'm going to tell your daddy," and he straightens up. "Daddy" carries authority, even when daddy is not around. Likewise, God's name carries with it authority and respect.

5. A name signifies relationship

The most important aspect of God's name is that it signifies His desire to be known by us. God wants to have a relationship with you and me. God desires to be known, and He has made Himself known by His name. God has introduced Himself to me and wants me to know Him and make Him known to others.

The Third Commandment

The Third Commandment reads, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD⁹ thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."¹⁰

When I was growing up, I was convinced that taking the Lord's name in vain was so serious a violation that God would strike me dead the very moment I did so. However, misusing the name of God goes far beyond using it in profanity. The word "vain" means to abuse or misuse.

When I call out to God without committing myself to Him, and when I want His power without being personally changed, I am taking the name of God and treating It as if it were nothing. As a Christian, when I claim to be one thing but by my actions prove to be an-

other, I am breaking this Commandment. When I am hypocritical, I give God a bad name.

When I try to manipulate God through my selfish prayers, I am abusing God's name. My selfish prayers do nothing more than treat God like a genie in a lamp. I once heard a person put it this way, "The reason our prayers are so ineffective is because we have put all our begs in one ask-it."¹¹ When I try to bargain with God, I am misusing His name and violating the Third Commandment.

My irreverence toward the sacred is another way I violate this Commandment. When I come to worship each week unprepared to enter into God's presence and when I approach worship in an insincere matter, I violate the Third Commandment.

As a pastor, when I stand before the people to proclaim "a word from God," but I have not spent my time with God in His Word, I am taking His name in vain. When I stand in front of God, take vows, make promises and then break them, I have misused and abused the name of the Lord.

Habit #3

The most basic, and most overlooked, lesson behind the Third Commandment is the fact that God has a name. He has revealed Himself to me. He is knowable, and He wants me to know Him. God created me to have a relationship with Him, and He provided the way for that relationship through Jesus. Furthermore, God has given me the responsibility to make Him known to others.¹²

Now that I understand what the Third Commandment is, what is the third habit? *The third habit is: A highly successful person knows God personally and makes Him known publicly.*

The whole Bible can be summarized in one sentence: *Through faith in Jesus, anyone can be brought back into a right relationship with God.* God already knows me. Now He wants me to know Him, and He wants me to make Him known to others.¹³ If I desire to be a success, I will strive to know God intimately, and I will work hard to make Him known to others. It is impossible to know God and make Him known, and at the same time be a failure.

What about you? Is your life truly a success? The message behind the

Third Commandment is that God loves you. He knows you and wants to be known by you. God has given you His name. Don't abuse it or misuse it. Instead, get to know God better and make Him known to others. ■

Endnotes

1. I would love to hear from you with your questions and comments. Please feel free to email me at kevin@franklincommunitychurch.org.
2. Exodus 3:1-12.
3. Exodus 3:13.
4. Exodus 3:14.
5. God's name—Yahweh or Jehovah, became so sacred to the Israelites that they refused to pronounce it out loud. Doing so was a violation of the Third Commandment. The only exception was one day per year, on *Yom Kippur*, the holiest day of the year. But even on that day, only the High Priest would pronounce God's name, and he would only do so within the Holy of Holies. Compare the Israelites' attitude with our flippant, casual use of God's name.
6. Proverbs 22:1.
7. When I was in graduate school in Dayton, Tennessee, there was a local pastor my age who was named Kevin Riggs. His first name, thankfully, was not George!
8. Just so there is no confusion, Misty Riggs is my wife's name.
9. It is important to note the "LORD" is in all capitals. In the Old Testament this signifies that the Hebrew word being translated is the name God gave Moses in Exodus 3. Thus, "LORD" is not *adonai*, but it is God's personal name.
10. Exodus 20:7.
11. I don't remember who I heard say this, or where I read it, but I know it was not original with me.
12. II Corinthians 5:20-21.
13. II Corinthians 5:20-21.



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



The Little One

By Mary R. Wischart

I was experiencing an authentic African village for the first time in the village of Panzarani. Missionary Clint Morgan had taken me, my niece Jennifer and our friend Somé on a hot afternoon in May. After visiting the chief's house and sitting for awhile in the courtyard, we headed back to where we had left the van under a spreading baobab tree.

The children in the village all pushed and shoved to get the best position in every picture I made, always smiling broadly. Now they ran on ahead to stand on the roots of the baobab tree near the van. Some would climb on its branches and be in a good position for another picture or for telling us goodbye.

I was lagging behind everyone else on the worn dirt path toward the gigantic tree. Somé, my African friend, lingered with me, just a few steps ahead.

Suddenly, I became aware of labored breathing behind me. I thought it must be one of the bigger boys out of breath from carrying a little one on his back. I noticed two or three of them were carrying smaller children. Then I heard a thud on the packed dirt of the path. I looked around to see a small child who had fallen.

Immediately, he scrambled to his feet and continued to run. Then he fell again. I went to him, took his hand and helped him up. I wanted to hold his hand and keep him from falling again. I was too slow for him, however. He jerked his hand free and left the path.

Instead, he ran ahead and took a shortcut across the roots of the tree. The toes of his feet seemed to turn under and his little toes dragged across the rough terrain at every step.

"He has a problem with his feet," Somé said.

When we arrived at the van, there he was under the baobab tree, standing apart from the other children. Had they rejected him? Did he know he

was different? Such a brave little boy with such determination.

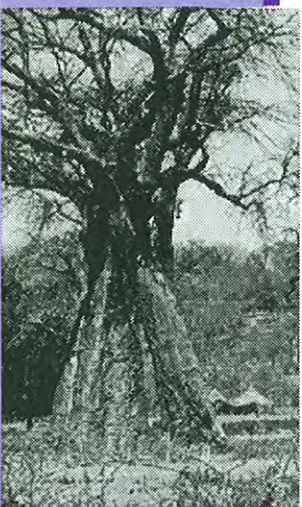
Somehow this little one crept into my heart. Tears filled my eyes and I began to weep. I wanted to take him with me, to see if those little feet could be straightened. I wanted to assure him that he was just as valuable as any other child. I wanted to be sure that he was cared for and loved.

As we turned the van and pulled away, I glanced out to see him waving good-bye and showing every one of his gleaming white teeth in a wide smile.

"He may have crippled feet," I said to my companions, "but he doesn't have a crippled spirit."

Still I worried about the child. Did he have anyone to love him? Did someone value him and let him know? Did anyone care?

Then I remembered. He was wearing a pair of white sandals that covered his toes. Not the toes, but the sandals dragged across those roots. Someone cared enough to put those shoes on him. Someone wanted to protect those little toes, I knew, because the child wore not another stitch of clothing. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Mary R. Wischart served 12 years as executive secretary for Women Nationally Active for Christ. She previously taught 30 years at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Dr. Wischart is a member of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.



Major League Opportunities

By Rachel Bryant



For as long as I can remember, my family has gone to the Free Will Baptist national convention every summer, then on to the nearest major league baseball stadium to watch a game. It was just part of the national convention experience for me.

However, while watching those games, I never thought I might one day work with some of the very people I cheered for on the field, or that the Lord would equip me for my future and bring His glory to the baseball scene.

A Dream Job

During my junior year in high school, I was hunting for a job to help with my finances. My school hosted a job fair where many community businesses came to recruit students. I hoped to find a job that would offer good hours, good pay and be enjoyable at the same time. I thought a job like that probably only existed in my dreams. But I was wrong—God provided and I found my dream job!

While my friend and I checked out the business tables, I spotted the familiar and unmistakable “Dodger” logo. I almost didn’t bother with them, think-

ing that if I worked there I would be out of a job come the end of baseball season. Little did I know that not only does Dodgertown host spring training and minor league, but it also hosts instructional league, rookie camp, fantasy camp, a rehab program for injured players, and a conference center that hosts corporate clients year ‘round.

The Dodger representative showed

me a listing of available part-time jobs and pointed out the stadium job most high school students get. I listened, but browsed the list of other jobs at the same time. I saw the position of front desk agent. I inquired and was told that they don’t have students working there, but I could try.

I applied and waited. Three weeks later, I was called for an interview.



Rachel at the front desk in Dodgertown.



Rachel standing at the front door of Dodgertown.

Two days later after that, I was filling out paperwork to become part of the Dodger family. I could only guess what lay ahead.

Meeting New People

Upon arrival at Dodgertown, everyone checks in at the front desk. That's the best part of my job. My first day at work, I began meeting ballplayers, coaches, scouts, managers and owners. I was helping people I had seen on television and read about in the sports pages. It was a dream come true.

One particularly exciting week is our semi-annual Los Angeles Dodgers adult baseball camp. (This is when grown men are transformed into young boys and come to Dodgertown for a week of baseball camp.) They are divided into teams and coached by Dodger greats such as Ralph Branca, Carl Erskine, Tommy Lasorda, Maury Wills and Duke Snider.

During my first camp, I met and became acquainted with these Hall-of-Famers. I had opportunities that very few people get. I discussed the World Series with Carl Erskine, had Ralph Branca sing me his favorite show tune, and was treated to a banjo solo by Maury Wills.

God Is a Baseball Fan, Too

Throughout my life, I've felt the Lord calling me to missions. I look for opportunities at school and at my job to share the gospel. I love being able

to invite people to my church when they ask about churches nearby. I am always quick to share with them that my church is only five blocks away.

One Saturday night, I almost succeeded in getting a particular coach to attend church with me the next day . . . until he found out it was not Roman Catholic. Oh, well, I had good intentions.

My favorite Dodger story shows how God is in everything we do. Many players come from the Dominican Republic where the Dodgers have a baseball camp. Because of this, a number of rookies and minor leaguers don't speak English, or if they do, it's patchy and mixed with Spanish.

One night while I was working, I answered the in-house phone as I always do, "Front Desk, this is Rachel."

The trainer on the other end said, "Hello Francesca." I wasn't sure where he got that name, but I went with it. Later in the week, after he had addressed me as "Francesca" several times, my co-worker laughingly asked why he called me that when my name was Rachel.

He looked confused and said, "It is?" Then to me, he said, "You talk too fast." From that point on, I made sure to clearly enunciate when answering the phone.

However, with God's help, that same trainer introduced me to what might be a big part of my career. He brought an English book and asked if I could help him learn to speak English. I accepted the challenge.

For about an hour each night that I

worked, we studied English. I read a paragraph, and then he read it back to me. I had to explain words and phrases, some of which were hard for him to say and understand, but he tried. Hopefully, this was just a preview of a way God can use me on the mission field.

It amazes me how God uses little things to work together for His purpose. If I had not been a baseball fan, I wouldn't have applied for this job. I have learned much and am still learning how God uses simple things, even a baseball and an English book, to show us His will and His purpose. With spring training and the rest of my life right around the corner, I can only imagine what and who He has in my line-up. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Rachel Bryant is a high school senior. She plans to enroll at Free Will Baptist Bible College this fall. Rachel is a member of Ryanwood Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Vero Beach, Florida, where her father (Randy Bryant) pastors.



How to find strength to continue at the hard places in life

Is This the Last Hill?

By Keith Fletcher

I dropped to my knees beside the tree, sat down in the snow and turned off the flashlight. Sitting in darkness, I heard nothing but the cold wind howling through the trees. My friend had hiked on ahead. He was expecting me to follow him up the hill, but my aching body refused. A pulled muscle made every step painful. The pack, though lightened, still seemed more than I could bear.

My mind tried to rationalize some other way out of this difficult situation. It wasn't really *that* cold, I thought. I hadn't begun to shiver—*yet*. Surely, I could spend the night here under this tree, but my sleeping bag was strapped to my friend's backpack.

Beyond Rocky Top

I had no tent. No food. No water. No shelter from the biting wind. No protection from any wild thing in the dark, and we had seen a wolf on the prowl, a wild boar and bear tracks in the snow. Without tears, I began to sob. "Please, Lord, if this is my time to go, just take me now. I can't go on."

We had been hiking almost 12 hours. The last three had been in the dark, snow and ice covering most of the trail. I had shared the last of my water with another team member an hour ago. In spite of the cold, I had been sweating profusely and dehydration was setting in.

We were headed up the infamous Appalachian Trail to a shelter at Derrick Knob and had already crossed the historic Rocky Top at 5,441 feet, Thunderhead at 5,527 feet, and a few lesser known but just as steep ridges.

One of our team who had hiked in this area recently had

speculated that the shelter was a "half mile, maybe three-quarters" away. He had said that so many steps ago that I now doubted his expertise. At that moment, I also doubted anyone cared if I sat there and died under that tree.

Dark and Cold

As my last hopes were dropping along with my body temperature, my friend James called from near the top of the hill, "Keith, are you all

right? Are you coming?"

I answered weakly, "No . . . I don't know. Are you at the top of the hill? Do you know if this is the *last* hill?"

His answer didn't inspire me. "No, I'm not all the way up. I don't know if this is the last one."

"Can you see the shelter?" I asked, switching on the light, trying to scrape up a shred of hope.

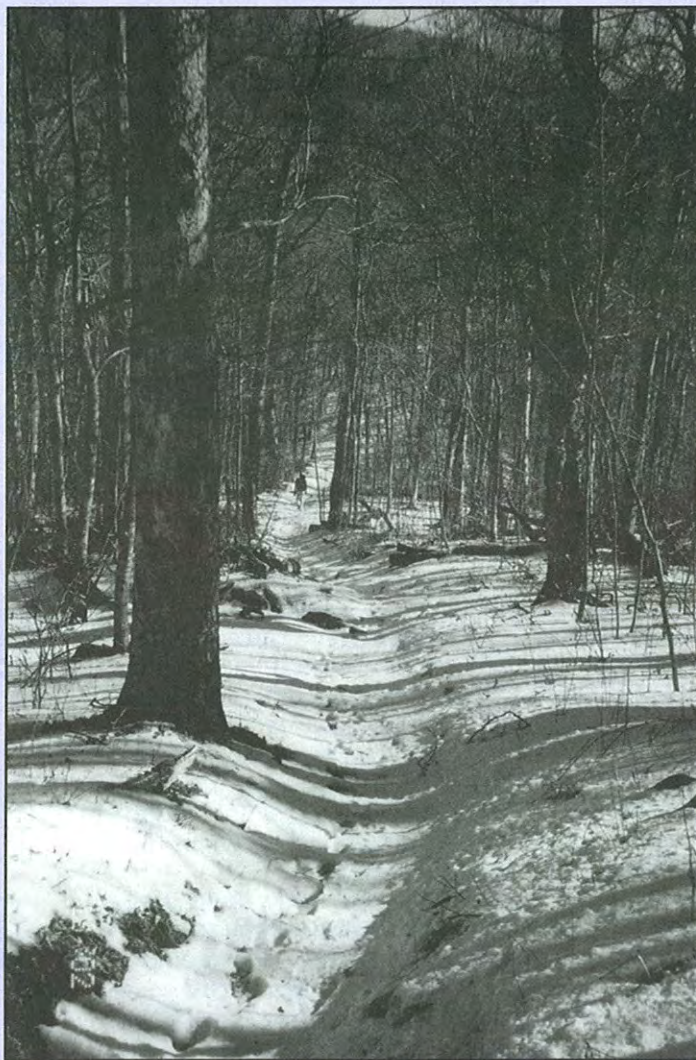
"No, but it can't be that far now. Come on, let's go! I'm getting cold." This hike, originally planned for early fall, had been postponed twice due to unforeseen events. In mid-January, the Smokies were as always, beautiful, but now also cold and treacherous. But the timing was God's.

Family Mountains

My family and I had been climbing various "mountains" for the past 12 months—dealing with lifelong hurts, personal struggles, career changes, health and family needs, financial stress and uncertainty in the workplace. So many times I had cried out, "Lord, is this the *last* hill? Where's the shelter You promised me?"

I had heard no definite answers. At times all I had wanted to do was sit down in the cold, dark night and surrender what little hope I had left in my tired soul to the ravenous wolves of despair and my bear-sized fears.

Now at the bottom of yet another hill (make that *mountain*) the verse haunted me, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." Lord, I don't *want* another hill. I just want some help! I hurt too bad to take another step. This world is so dark; I



The cold and long Appalachian Trail.

Free Will Baptist National Convention



OBEDIENCE Our Obligation

Memphis, TN
July 21-25, 2002

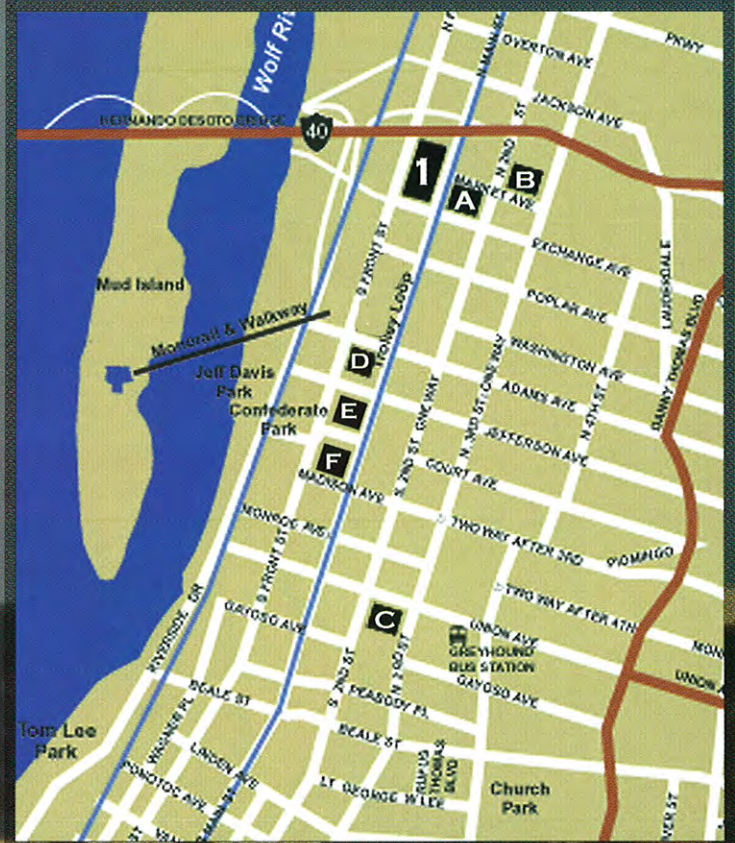
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City Information

Downtown Memphis

Memphis is:

- ◆ The largest city in the state of Tennessee.
- ◆ The nation's 18th largest city with a metro population of over 1 million people.
- ◆ Located atop one trillion gallons of the world's best artesian well water.
- ◆ The third largest rail center in the U.S.
- ◆ 10th in the ranking of the most mannerly cities in America according to the book, *Common Sense Etiquette*.
- ◆ One of the top 20 destinations for people traveling to see or participate in a sporting event.
- ◆ Ranked the fourth most efficiently operated U.S. city for the past five years.
- ◆ Economically larger than 12 U.S. states and 123 sovereign nations.



Hotel Information

Hotel	Room Rate	Parking	Distance From Convention Center*	Restaurant On-Site?	Continental Breakfast?	Map Location
Memphis Marriott <i>Headquarters Hotel</i>	\$115	\$6-self \$12-valet	Across Street	YES	NO	A
Wyndham Garden	\$109	\$5-self	1 block	YES	NO	B
Radisson Hotel Memphis	\$109	\$5-self	8 blocks	YES	NO	C
Comfort Inn Downtown	\$85 or \$110**	Free Parking	3 blocks	NO	YES	D
Sleep Inn at Court Square	\$85	Free Parking	3.5 blocks	NO	YES	E
Spring Hill Suites Downtown	\$109	Free Parking	4 blocks	YES	YES	F

* Convention Center is marked #1 on the map above.

** The higher rate is for an Executive Suite.

nance Info

Special Events

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
NAFWB
FREE WILL BAPTIST CONVENTION
WNAC CONVENTION
NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Women Nationally Active for Christ will host the annual WNAC Fellowship Luncheon on Tuesday, July 23, at 12:30 p.m. Teri Peacock of Bell-Peacock Ministries will speak. Tickets to the luncheon buffet are \$25.

The **National Youth Conference** will host the Youth Workers Reception. The reception is Monday, July 22, at Memphis Marriott in the Concierge Lounge. Tickets for this event are \$20.

Arrangements have been made for two Mississippi River cruises on authentic paddle wheel riverboats: a Student Cruise on Tuesday, July 23, at 9:00 p.m. and a Family Cruise on Wednesday afternoon at 4:00. Cruise tickets are \$15.

MEMPHIS 



Dr. Stan Toler

Stan Toler is senior pastor at Trinity Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and host of the television program, "Mission Today." For the past 10 years he has taught seminars for the INJOY Group, a leadership development institute. Toler has written over 45 books, including best sellers, *God Has Never Failed Me, But He's Sure Scared Me to Death a Few Times*; *The Five Star Church* and his latest book, *The Buzzards Are Circling, But God's Not Finished With Me Yet*.

Stan Toler will speak Monday afternoon during the **Pastors/Laymen Conference**. The conference convenes 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Memphis Convention Center's East Hall.



Dr. Richard H. Harris

Richard H. Harris is vice president of the Church Planting Group, North American Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention. Under his leadership the Church Planting Group is developing and implementing a strategy throughout North America to plant and develop healthy, culturally relevant, reproducing churches with an evangelistic passion. His office provides leadership for church planting readiness, recruitment, mentoring and church multiplication.

Richard H. Harris will speak at the **Foreign/Home Missions Rally** Tuesday, July 23, 1:30-3:00 p.m. in Memphis Convention Center's East Hall.

Schedule

Sunday July 21

Sunday School

10:00-10:45 a.m.

Memphis Convention Center
East Hall

(consult NYC Directory for schedule)

Teacher: Gary Head

Deacon, Head's FWB Church
Cedar Hill, Tennessee



Sunday Morning Worship

11:00-12:00 noon

Speaker: Alton Loveless

Dr. Loveless, general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department and Randall House Publications, is retiring after more than 45 years of ministry.

(for NYC Worship information, see page 8)



Early Registration

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center Lobby
(Pre-Registered persons only)

Registration Opens

3:00-6:30 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center Lobby



Reach That Guy Orientation

Service Project Ministry

4:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention

Center

Room L-14



Sunday Evening Worship

Free Will Baptist Singing!

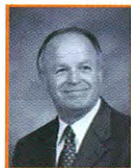
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center

East Hall

Speaker: Carl Cheshier

Join us for an evening of uplifting music presented by the Free Will Baptist Music Commission.



NYC Judges Reception

9:00-10:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
Room L-2

NYC Afterservice Activities

9:00-10:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center

(check NYC Directory for locations)



Monday July 22

General Board

8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom

Registration Continues

8:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center Lobby

NYC Art Gallery Opens

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily

Memphis Convention Center
Room L-1

NYC Competitive Activities

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center

(check NYC Directory for locations)

NYC Seminars

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center

(check NYC Directory for more information)

WNAC Seminar

1:30-2:30 p.m.

Memphis Marriott

Heritage Ballroom

Drama: Is There Hope For Me?

Grifton (NC) FWB Church

WNAC Pastors' Wives Seminar

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Memphis Marriott

Heritage Ballroom

Speaker: Debe Taylor

Having a Difficult Time



of Events

Pastors/Laymens Conference

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
East Hall

Speaker: Stan Toler



Monday Evening Worship

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
East Hall

Speaker: Colonel Kerry Steedley



Col. Steedley is the MDW Command Chaplain at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. His 25 years of service include tours of duty in Vietnam and Germany.

Alton Loveless

Retirement Reception

8:30-10:00 p.m.

Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom

Youth Workers Reception

9:00-10:30 p.m.

Memphis Marriott
Concierge Lounge



Tuesday July 23

NYC Competitive Activities

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for locations)

Registration Continues

8:00 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center Lobby

WNAC Convention

8:30-10:50 a.m.

Memphis Convention Center
East Hall



MEMPHIS

Theological Trends Seminar

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom

Speaker: Ron Callaway



What Do You Mean: God Does Not Know the Future?

Ron Callaway, veteran missionary, will address the latest intrusion into the evangelical community, open theism, a teaching that denies God's sovereign knowledge of some future events.

NYC Seminars

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for more information)



WNAC Missionary Service

11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Memphis Convention Center
East Hall

Speakers: Tim & Kristi Johnson



Tim and Kristi have just completed their first missionary term in Spain and are on stateside assignment.

WNAC Fellowship Luncheon Buffet

12:30-2:30 p.m.

Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom

Speaker: Teri Peacock



Foreign/Home Missions Rally

1:30-3:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
East Hall

Speaker: Richard H. Harris



Master's Men Seminar

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
Room L-14

Sunday School Workshop

3:00-4:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
Room L-12

*Teacher: Randall House Staff
40 Years of Serving You*



Tuesday Evening Worship

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
East Hall

Speaker: Melvin Worthington

Dr. Worthington has served as executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists since 1979.



NYC Afterservice Activities

9:00-10:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
(consult NYC Directory for locations)



Mississippi River Student Cruise

9:00-11:00 p.m.

Memphis River Queen Riverboat
(see page 9 for ticket information)



Melvin Worthington

Retirement Reception

8:30-10:00 p.m.

Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom



Wednesday, July 24

NYC Bible Competition Finals

8:00-11:00 a.m.

Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for more information)



Registration Continues

8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Memphis Convention Center Lobby

Convention Business Session

9:00-11:45 a.m.

Memphis Convention Center
East Hall



NYC Seminars

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for more information)



FWBBC Luncheon

12:00-1:15 p.m.

Memphis Marriott
Heritage Ballroom

Registration Closes

12:00 noon

NYC Seminars

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
(check NYC Directory for more information)

Convention Business Session

1:30-4:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
East Hall

Music Commission Seminar

1:30-4:00 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
Room L-11

Mississippi River Family Cruise

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Memphis River Queen Riverboat
(see page 9 for ticket information)



Wednesday Evening Worship

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Memphis Convention Center
East Hall

Speaker: Curtis Linton

Dr. Linton is senior pastor at Cornerstone FWB Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he has served since 1986.



NYC Awards Ceremony

9:00-11:00 p.m.

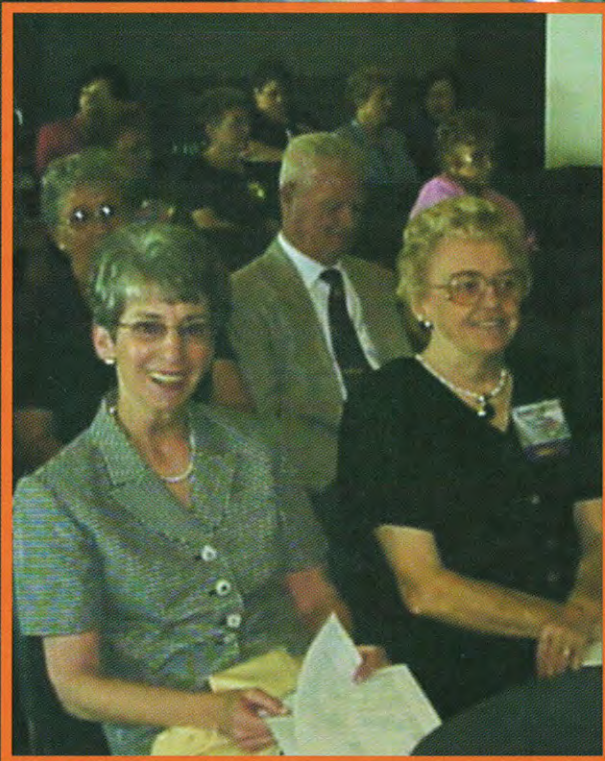
Memphis Convention Center
East Hall





Women Nationally Active For Christ

For Such a Time as This . . .



Join nearly 1,000 FWB women nationwide in praise, prayer and worship at WNAC's annual convention.

The two-day event will include:

- Helpful seminars to expand and revitalize women's ministries in your local church
- Missionary speakers to help you glimpse a vision of what God is doing throughout the world
- Innovative ideas how you as a woman can join Him in the work
- Testimonies
- Uplifting music
- Fellowship
- Session of praise for the works God has accomplished through FWB women in the past year
- Luncheon with dramatist Teri Peacock
- Opportunities to purchase helpful resources and materials

Come join us—for an hour, a morning or afternoon or for the whole event. Sessions are open to all women. Even if you've never attended WNAC, now is your time. Make time in your schedule—"For Such a Time as This."

The annual WNAC Fellowship Luncheon will meet in the Memphis Marriott's Heritage Ballroom. The Luncheon Buffet is at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23. Tickets to the Luncheon are \$25. See page nine of this brochure for ticket information and ordering instructions.



"..and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14b



1000
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE!

Children's Worship



Dean and Lisa Stone

Dean and Lisa Stone serve as co-children's pastors in Oklahoma. Dean is Children's Ministry Consultant with Cook Communications Ministries in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Dean and Lisa have one daughter, Janelle, age 11. They operate Cornerstone Kid's Ranch, a working cattle and horse ranch near Ada, Oklahoma, offering area children an outdoor environment to explore and learn about God.

Tweener Worship



The Denton Brothers

The Denton Brothers, from San Jose, California, have recorded a number of albums that present their musical ability. They are also great ministers to the kids and will be speaking to Tweeners again this year! They did such a wonderful job last year that we asked them to return.

The Denton Brothers have a deep desire to honor the Lord with their music and to share about His work in their lives.

Teen Worship



Mark Roberts

The National Youth Conference is no stranger to this year's keynote speaker, Mark Roberts. Mark spoke at NYC last year in Detroit on Monday night. Mark is a trainer/coach for the campus ministry plan known as FISH!, as well as a dedicated youth minister.

Mark possesses an unusual gift of communication to students and adults, and we feel fortunate to present him again. Mark is from Cumming, Georgia.

Don't forget the kids!



If you have children ages 3-6 who have not started the 1st grade, remember to register them for our Preschool Worship program. See page 9 for more information.



PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Memphis, Tennessee July 21-25, 2002

Personal Information *Please print*

Name Desired On Badge (First) _____ (Last) _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Church You Attend _____

Church Location: City _____ State _____

**Badges Required
For Attendance
At All
Convention Events**

***** One Person Per Form *****



National Association

All voting delegates must be members in good standing of a Free Will Baptist church.

Voting Delegates:

- National Board/Commission Member
- State Delegate*

*Authorization from state clerk must accompany this form.

- Local Church Delegate - \$50
- Foreign Missionary
- Home Missionary
- Ordained Deacon
- Ordained Minister

Non-Voting Attendees:

- Licensed Minister
- Visitor



Convention

Voting Delegates:

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

Non-Voting Attendees:

- Visitor
- Missionary



National Youth Conference

- Grades 1-12 — \$25***
Required to attend NYC Events or Competition
- Preschool Worship — \$20***
For children ages 3-6 who have not started 1st grade
- Visitor (Adults)**

Birthdate _____ Age _____
 Grade Completed Spring 2002 _____
 Parent/Guardian _____
 Youth Leader _____

***On Site
Registration
is \$30**

Date Rcv'd
CK/MO#
Amount
From

**For Office
Use Only**

Tickets

Youth Workers Reception...Qty. _____ x \$20= _____

Monday — July 22, 9:00 pm

WNAC Luncheon.....Qty. _____ x \$25= _____

Tuesday — July 23, 12:30 pm

Hillsdale Luncheon.....Qty. _____ x \$20= _____

Tuesday — July 23, 12:00 noon

FWBBC Luncheon.....Qty. _____ x \$23= _____

Wednesday — July 24, 12:00 noon

Mississippi River Cruises

Student Cruise.....Qty. _____ x \$15= _____

Tuesday — July 23, 9:00 pm

Family Cruise.....Qty. _____ x \$15= _____

Wednesday — July 24, 4:00 pm

Ticket Total \$ _____

Convention Fees

Local Church Delegate (Send signed delegate card) + \$50 = _____

Local WNAC Delegate (Send signed delegate card) + \$5 = _____

NYC Pre-Registration Fee.....+ \$25 = _____

NYC Preschool Worship Fee.....+ \$20 = _____

Deadline June 14

Fee Total \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

No refunds after June 14

(Ticket total + Fee total)

Paying by check (Payable to FWB Convention)

Paying by credit card

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Mail Pre-Registration Form to:

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

Questions? Call us toll-free:
877-767-7659

**Beginning April 1:
Pre-Register Online!
www.nafwb.org**

Confirmation Letters Will Be Mailed.



HOUSING FORM

National Association of Free Will Baptists
 Women Nationally Active for Christ
 National Youth Conference
 Memphis, Tennessee July 21-25, 2002

INSTRUCTIONS

Personal Information

Complete the **Personal Information** box. The contact name is the person to whom you want the confirmation sent. List each person who will be staying in this room. Don't forget the **Special Requests** box to the right. All special requests will be noted but cannot be guaranteed.



Hotel Information

The next step is to complete the **Hotel Information** section. Mark the box on the grid to the right, indicating the **hotel** in which you would like to reserve a room, and the **room configuration** you want.

Don't forget to include your arrival and departure dates. Please see **page 2** for more information about the hotel choices available in Memphis.

Payment Options

Complete the **Payment Options** section by indicating how you will be paying for your room. You may pay by credit card or check. If you choose to pay by check, make the check payable to the hotel of your choice.

Reserving a Room

You may phone, mail or fax your housing form. If mailing or faxing, please write or type all information requested on this form and **send it directly to the hotel of your choice** no later than Friday, June 21, 2002. Reservations received after this date are subject to availability and may be at a higher rate.

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

PERSONAL INFORMATION

****Confirmations will be mailed to this person only.****

Contact name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

Email Address _____

SPECIAL REQUESTS

- Wheelchair Accessible Room
- Rollaway Bed (see chart below)
- Crib Non-Smoking Room
- Other _____

Room Occupants

(List each person.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

HOTEL INFORMATION

Mark the box that corresponds to the hotel and room you want.	SINGLE 1 BED/ 1 PERSON	DOUBLE 1 BED/ 2 PERSONS	DBL/DBL 2 BEDS/ 2 PERSONS	TRIPLE 2 BEDS/ 3 PERSONS	QUAD 2 BEDS/ 4 PERSONS	ROLL- AWAY BED	PARKING RATES
Memphis Marriott Headquarters Hotel	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	\$15 day	\$6/\$12 Valet
Wyndham Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	\$10 day	\$5
Radisson Hotel-Memphis	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	Free	\$5 valet
Comfort Inn-Downtown	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	\$10 day	Free
Sleep Inn-Court Square	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	N/A	Free
Spring Hill Suites	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109	N/A	Free

ARRIVAL DATE ____ / ____ / ____ DEPARTURE DATE ____ / ____ / ____

MEMPHIS MARRIOTT
 250 N. Main Street
 Memphis, TN 38103
 Tel (901)527-7300
 Fax (901)526-1561
 www.marriott.com
 Group Code: FWBFWBA

WYNDHAM GARDEN HOTEL
 300 N. 2nd Street
 Memphis, TN 38105
 Tel (901)525-1800
 Fax (901)524-1859
 www.wyndham.com
 Group Code: 07764NO

RADISSON HOTEL
 MEMPHIS
 185 Union Avenue
 Memphis, TN 38103
 Tel (800)333-3333
 Fax (901)525-8509

COMFORT INN
 DOWNTOWN
 100 N. Front Street
 Memphis, TN 38103
 Tel (901)526-0583
 Fax (901)525-7512

SLEEP INN
 AT COURT SQUARE
 40 N. Front Street
 Memphis, TN 38103
 Tel (901)522-9700
 Fax (901)527-8931

SPRING HILL
 SUITES-DOWNTOWN
 21 N. Main Street
 Memphis, TN 38103
 Tel (901)522-2100
 Fax (901)522-2110

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Check Enclosed. Check # _____
 Make check payable to the hotel of your choice.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

**SEND ONLY ONE
 FORM PER ROOM
 REQUEST.**

**DON'T DELAY!
 RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE PRIOR
 TO JUNE 21, 2002**

Music Notes

The Free Will Baptist Music Commission has released the rehearsal and performance schedule for the Convention Choir and Men's Chorale for this year's National Convention, July 21-25 in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Convention Choir will be singing in the Sunday evening, Monday and Wednesday services. The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Sunday 4:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.
Monday 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

The Men's Chorale will be featured during the Tuesday evening service. They will rehearse Monday, 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

Convention Orchestra Planned

The 2002 National Convention will feature an orchestra comprised of volunteers from across the denomination. For more information call or write:

*Bethel Free Will Baptist Church
Attn. Chris Truett
1936 Banks School Rd.
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 522-2451 ext. 229*

Security Notice

In light of security concerns, official convention name badges will be required for all convention events. Please be diligent in this area for yourself and those for whom you are responsible.

Important Reminders

Pre-Registration for the National Convention must be completed prior to **JUNE 14, 2002**. Those who pre-register will receive a special commemorative name badge depicting the spirit of the city of Memphis.

National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002
877-767-7659
www.nafwb.org

2002 Local Church Delegate Card

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

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

2002 Local WNAC Delegate Card

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

Local Coordinator's or Local Secretary's signature
Important: This card properly signed and accompanied by a **\$5 registration fee** entitles a local delegate to register for voting privileges.
Only one delegate per church.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

NAFWB

FREE WILL BAPTIST CONVENTION
WNAC CONVENTION
NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE



First Annual FWB Classic



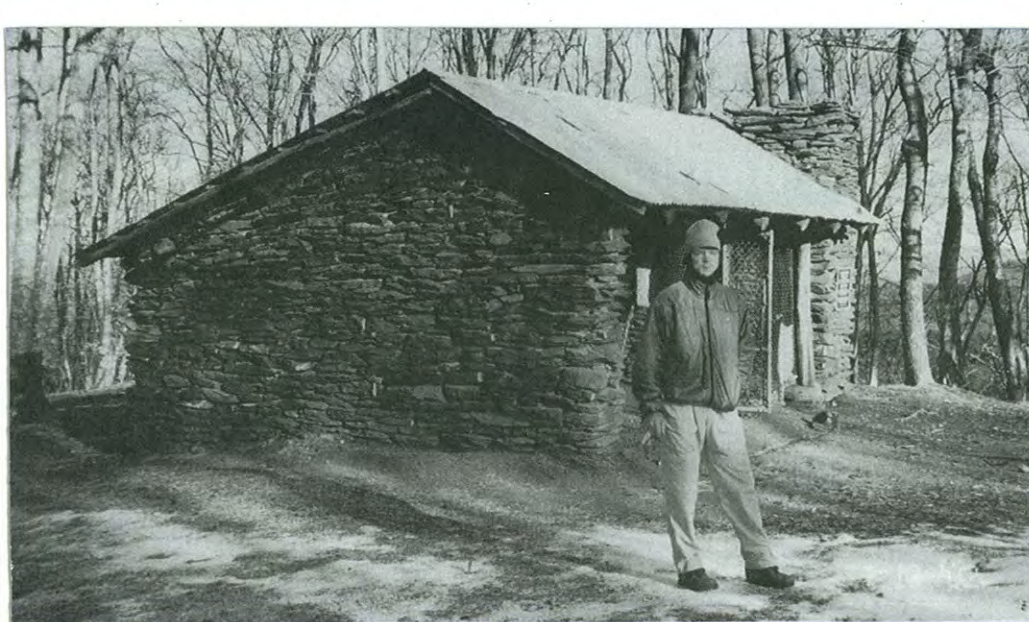
Call 800-877-7030, Ext. 344 to register.

Check out the web
page today!

www.nafwb.org



National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002



The shelter at Derrick Knob, above 5,000 feet.

can't see what's ahead, whether a safe shelter from the howling wind or a slick, dangerous path.

Encouragement from Others

But as I've walked this path, I have seldom been alone. Other members of the body of Christ have ministered to me—not with definitive answers, but in prayer, helping me lift hands in worship, bearing burdens, encouraging me to press on, not sit down and die. Now once again a friend was calling me upward, ministering to me with a gentle, firm command. "Let's go, Keith. You can make it!"

Slowly rising to my feet, gingerly putting one foot in front of the other on the crusty snow-packed trail, I ascended yet another hill. No, I could not see the top, much less the shelter. The headlamp illuminated only the next few steps, and each step seemed as faltering as the dim, fading light.

Somewhere along the way, I thought of missionary Gladys Aylward leading a hundred orphans across the snowy mountains out of China into safety. I thought of my pastor's description of William Carey as a "plodder." Even after a fire consumed years of work on extensive dictionaries, grammar books,

whole versions of the Bible, and all his printing equipment and supplies, Carey persevered and was resilient.

He wrote, "There are grave difficulties on every hand, and more are looming ahead. Therefore we must go forward."¹

Forward and up! There was no other place to go. As we topped the hill and rounded the next corner, in the distance my eyes caught a glimpse of a faint glow up on my right. It was the shelter! Two of my fellow hikers had reached it and had already lit the lantern.

Soon a cool drink of mountain spring water quenched my thirst; hot cocoa and a blazing fire calmed my shivers. With numb fingers, I rejoiced over simple things—water, food, shelter, dry clothes and a warm sleeping bag. I didn't need anything else.

God's Provision

After arriving safely back home, I read the rest of Psalm 121 and found new strength for the hills and mountains of life I have yet to climb.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help *cometh* from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber . . . The LORD

is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Strength for climbing the hill comes from the Lord. He "made heaven and earth." That means He made the *next* hill. In fact, He made *every* hill, and the path He chooses leads us over many of them as we follow Him. No matter how dark it is and how cold we get, we are never alone.

He calls us to press onward, upward in faithful obedience. His voice speaks to us both through His Word and through the Spirit-prompted encouragement of other believers. He will make a way in His time to a place of shelter. Then He gives us times of refreshing, just what we need, and much more than we deserve.

Faith is taking the next step in the dark. Ministry is helping another take that step. Endurance is going on in spite of the pain. Fellowship is rejoicing together along the way.

"Is this the last hill?" I don't know. Only God knows, but come with me. With God's help, let's climb it together. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Keith Fletcher serves as editor-in-chief at Randall House Publications. He is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

Endnote

Morgan, Robert J., *On This Day* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997).

Keith Fletcher with backpack and staff.



Nominating Committee Announces Nominees

ANTIOCH, TN—The 2002 Nominating Committee for the national convention has released a preliminary list of nominees for boards, commissions and general officers. Chairman Rick Cash said, “The committee will meet in Memphis immediately after the General Board session to finalize the report. Other names may be placed in nomination at that time.”

The Nominating Committee includes: Chairman Rick Cash (AL), Doice McAlister (CA), Chris Clay (IN), Nathan Ruble (MO), Keith Woody (TX), Tim Owen (FL) and William Smith (GA).

Free Will Baptist Bible College Trustees

- Replacing Archie Ratliff (North Carolina)
Archie Ratliff
— Pastor, Bethel FWB Church, Kinston, NC
- Replacing Larry Montgomery (Georgia)
Edward Moody, Jr. (North Carolina)
— Pastor, Tippetts Chapel FWB Church, Clayton, NC
Associate Professor, North Carolina Central University
- Replacing Gene Outland (Illinois)
Gene Outland
— Pastor, Hazel Dell FWB Church, Sesser, IL

Foreign Missions Board

- Replacing Bill Jones (Texas)
Bill Jones
— Pastor, Eastside FWB Church, Houston, TX
- Replacing David Williford (Florida)
David Williford
— Executive Secretary, Florida State Association
Pastor, First FWB Church, Chipley, FL
- Replacing Bill Van Winkle (Tennessee)
Bill Van Winkle
— Pastor, Fellowship FWB Church, Antioch, TN

Sunday School and Church Training Board

- Replacing David Sutton (Oklahoma)
Danny Dwyer (Alabama)
— Pastor, First FWB Church, Florence, AL
Administrator, Florence Christian Academy
- Replacing David Reece (Virginia)
David Reece
— Pastor, Heritage FWB Church, Fredericksburg, VA

- Replacing Nuel Brown (California)
Nuel Brown
— Executive Secretary, California State Association

Commission for Theological Integrity

- Replacing Leroy Forlines (Tennessee)
Leroy Forlines
— Professor, Free Will Baptist Bible College

Media Commission

- Replacing Kevin Norris (Michigan)
Kevin Norris
— Member, Riverside Fellowship FWB Church, Clinton Township, MI

Historical Commission

- Replacing Jack Williams (Tennessee)
Jack Williams
— Editor, *Contact* magazine

Music Commission

- Replacing Doug Little (Arkansas)
Doug Little
— Pastor, First FWB Church, Russellville, AR
Chairman, Foreign Missions Board

General Board

- Indiana: Replacing Chris Clay **Chris Clay**
- Kansas: Replacing Dale McCoy **Dale McCoy**
- Kentucky: Replacing James Patton **James Patton**
- Mexico: Replacing Luis Felipe Tijerina **Luis Felipe Tijerina**
- Michigan: Replacing Gene Norris **Gene Norris**
- Mid-Atlantic: Replacing Jay Baines **Jay Baines**
- Mississippi: Replacing J. L. Gore **J. L. Gore**
- Missouri: Replacing Nathan Ruble **Nathan Ruble**
- New Jersey: Replacing William Brown **William Brown**
- New Mexico: Replacing Tim Byers **Tim Byers**

Executive Committee

- Replacing J. L. Gore (Mississippi) **J. L. Gore**
- Replacing Gene Norris (Michigan) **Gene Norris**
- Replacing Nathan Ruble (Missouri) **Nathan Ruble**

General Officers

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

Tim Campbell Named Arkansas Executive Director

CONWAY, AR—For the first time in 28 years, the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists went shopping for an executive director to succeed 65-year-old David Joslin who retires June 30. They found Reverend Timothy Glynn Campbell, a Walnut Ridge-born native son, and offered him the leadership post.

Reverend Campbell, 46, will move from Nashville, Tennessee, in mid-June where he serves as director of stewardship development at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He begins his tenure as Arkansas' executive director on July 1.

Brother Campbell is a third-generation Free Will Baptist whose spiritual heritage extends from the historic Social Band Association in Northeast Arkansas. His was one of the founding families of Lawrence County, one of the first three counties in Arkansas.



Tim was ordained to the ministry in 1986. Prior to that, he was an active layman for over a decade.

He is a 1990 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College and has completed 30 graduate hours in Bible and pastoral counseling. His pastorates include Hazel Creek FWB Church in Kirksville, Missouri, and First FWB Church in Monticello, Arkansas. For the past seven years he has ministered in various roles as an administrator and faculty member at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Brother Campbell and his wife of 26 years, Janie Williams Campbell, have a 10-year-old son, Benjamin Glynn. Janie has served at Free Will Baptist Bible College as secretary to the president for the past six years.

Worthington Book of Letters Planned

ANTIOCH, TN—The Executive Office staff is gathering materials for a book of letters honoring Dr. Melvin Worthington who retires this year after 23 years as executive secretary.

The tribute letters will be bound into a book and presented to Dr. Worthington when the national convention convenes in Memphis this July.

Denominational officials, state leaders, pastors and friends are invited to write letters of appreciation to be included in the book. Recall a special memory, an ex-

perience or other reminder about Dr. Worthington's tenure as a denominational servant.

Deadline to receive the letters for inclusion in the bound volume is **June 4**.

Please send letters to:
Worthington Tribute
c/o Jack Williams, Executive Assistant
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Sadie Harrell, Oldest Free Will Baptist, Dies

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK—Mrs. Sadie Harrell died in Oklahoma City on October 8, 2001. At age 111, Sister Harrell was thought to be the oldest Free Will Baptist. She was a member of Trinity FWB Church in Oklahoma City where her grandson, Reverend Stan Konopinski, pastors.

Sadie's parents moved the family from Arkansas to Oklahoma by covered wagon when she was 13 years old. They settled in what is now Stratford.

Three years later, Sadie was converted during a revival preached by her grandfather, James Parmer. Although it was the middle of winter and freezing, Sadie was baptized in a creek after waiting a week for the ice to thaw. She was 16.

On the day after Christmas 1910, Sadie married Asa (Acie) Harrell in what may have been the first-ever drive-by wedding. She and Acie sat in a horse-drawn buggy during the ceremony while the



preacher and his wife stood in the yard.

Sadie's Free Will Baptist ties go back about 85 years, beginning at Paris Chapel in Stratford, where her husband was saved. At that time, the pastor of Paris Chapel was Dr. I. W. Yandell, father of Reverend DeArthur Yandell, who would become Sadie's pastor at Trinity Church in 1975 a year after her husband, Acie, died.

One of Sadie's four children is Janilou Konopinski, long-time member of Trinity Church and mother of the church's pastor, Stan Konopinski.

Back in 1947 when the Harrells sold their farm in Frenny and moved to Oklahoma City, the auctioneer for the sale was Clay Richey. Reverend Clay Richey was a Free Will Baptist preacher at Dibble and father of Jack Richey, former executive secretary for the Oklahoma State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Convention Orchestra Seeks Instrumentalists

KINSTON, NC—The 2002 Convention Orchestra needs to sign up instrumentalists for the national convention as soon as possible, according to Chris Truett, the instrumental director.

Truett said, "We are asking pastors, associates and laymen to notify members that we will have an orchestra at the convention again this year. We are inviting anyone from the ninth grade and older to participate in the Convention Orchestra."

The orchestra will accompany congregational selections Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights in the Memphis Convention Center July 22-24.

The orchestra will practice daily at 7:00 a.m., beginning Monday, July 22. The practice sessions will meet on the stage in Memphis Convention Center and last one hour.

Anyone interested in participating should send his name, address, phone number and church name to:

Bethel Free Will Baptist Church
Attention: Chris Truett
1936 Banks School Road
Kinston, NC 28504
252/522-2451, Ext. 229

Please specify instrument(s) and how many years of experience in playing the instrument. Notify Chris Truett by June 1 so that music can be mailed prior to the convention. Call the number above with questions.

Southeastern College Sets Special Events

WENDELL, NC—Officials at Southeastern FWB College announced four special events this spring and early summer—Get Acquainted Days, Camp Meeting, Commencement and Summer Camp.

The April 4-6 Get Acquainted Days is open to 10th-12th-grade students for a cost of \$25 per student.

Eight speakers will highlight the April 15-17 Camp Meeting—Jim Maddox, Tim Rabon, Johnny Pike, William Jacobs, Terry Hardison, Earl Hanna, Tommy Steele and David Gibbs.

North Carolina promotional director Jim Marcum will address the 25-member graduating class May 10 at the college's activities center. The 25 graduates include six with Bible/pastoral theology majors, six with elementary education majors, five with secondary education majors, one in music education, two in religious arts and five with business diplomas.

The college plans five weeks of summer camp June 17-July 26 which will include three junior camps and two teen camps. President Billy Bevan said the school can accommodate 140 campers per session, plus workers and chaperones.

Camp evangelists will be Ron Davis, Rick Cash, Jeff Jones, John Williams and Christian Powell. This marks the college's first camping program.

Choir Schedule and Worship Book Announced

NASHVILLE, TN—The Free Will Baptist Music Commission announced rehearsal and performance schedules for the Convention Choir and Men's Chorale at the July 21-25 convention in Memphis.

The Convention Choir will sing in the Sunday evening (homecoming style singing), Monday (patriotic emphasis) and Wednesday (missions theme) services. The rehearsal schedule is:

Sunday 4:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m.
Monday 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

The Men's Chorale will be featured during the Tuesday evening service. They will rehearse Monday, 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

In a second news release, the Music Commission announced plans for *The Worship Leader's Cookbook: Fifty Recipes for Blended Worship*, a book to be offered at the convention in Memphis.

The project, featuring worship service plans with traditional hymns and newer choruses packaged together, will be available in the Music Commission booth and at a Wednesday afternoon seminar. The session will be spent singing and talking through some of the service plans for a hands-on approach to helping the song leader adapt the material in his home church setting.

CCC Spring Enrollment Up

FRESNO, CA—Twenty-six students enrolled for the spring semester at California Christian College, according to President Wendell Walley. With registration closed, the student count stood at 89.

President Walley said, "This is a significant gain for second semester, and much of the credit goes to Brian Henderer, hired last October as director of admissions and recruitment."

While the numerical growth is impressive, the best news is that over one-third of the students plan to enter full-time Christian service. The breakdown includes 12 pastors, one missionary, four youth directors and several Christian counselors and other ministries.

The growing student body continues to reflect the diversity in America as illustrated by new Fresno students. Russian-born Dasha immigrated to Seattle, Washington, five years ago, finished high school and then enrolled in City College. Her prayer was to be able to afford a Christian education so she could become a missionary to Russia.

Walley said, "We have been praying for God to send us someone to work in the office who speaks Russian. God answered both prayers. Dasha plans to do missionary work in Russia this summer and return as a career missionary after college."

The college enrolled 34 students in their Russian program in Sacramento.

currently

Cavanaugh FWB Church in **Fort Smith, AR**, celebrated 39 years of ministry with a video depicting the events that highlighted nearly four decades, according to Pastor **Will Harmon**. Former pastor **Carl Cheshier** who led the congregation 28 years was the guest speaker. Twenty-four new members joined the church that day. The church committed themselves to a \$1.6 million financial outreach expansion in the community.

The **Quail Valley FWB Church (Batesville, AR)** Women Active for Christ completed a mission project and gave \$863 to **First FWB Church in Bald Knob** to assist them in their start-up efforts. **Jim Richardson** pastors the Quail Valley congregation.

Reverend **Billy David Willhite** died November 5, 2001. He was 74 years old, a World War II veteran and a Free Will Baptist minister who was a native of Jackson County, **Arkansas**. Brother Willhite and his wife, **Geraldine**, were married 50 years.

Faith FWB Church in **Jonesboro, AR**, logged 25 years of service to the community in 2001. The church held its first service on August 18, 1976, with 31 people present. The first pastor, **Early White**, led the group to organize in 1977 with 43 charter members. They completed a new sanctuary in 1981 and burned the mortgage in 1998. The congregation purchased an additional two acres in 2000 and paid it off in 2001. **Ken Wunningham** pastors.

The 26th annual Mid-South Pastors' and Workers' Conference met at **East-side FWB Church** in **Dothan, AL**, February 11-13. Speakers included Tennessee pastor **John Gibbs**, FWBBC chancellor **Tom Malone** and **Dan Ireland**, executive director of ALCAP.

Peace FWB Church in **Wilson, NC**, welcomed 14 new members, according to Pastor **Gordon Sebastian**. Their 2002 goal is to enroll 500 in Sunday School.

A Sunday School class of 4-, 5- and 6-year-olds at **Christ Chapel FWB Church** in **Blanchard, OK**, raised \$150 the hard way for Puerto Rico missions. Teacher **Terri Thomas** said the missions-minded young-

sters gave \$1 each week to build a church "in a far away place." **Dan Harper** pastors

Members of **First FWB Church** in **Donalsonville, GA**, dedicated **Walter A. Rathel Hall** on November 4, 2001. The \$45,000 fellowship hall was named in honor of **Walter Rathel** who was the Sunday School superintendent. The new addition, begun in October 1999, was completed in the spring of 2000. The structure includes a large dining area and kitchen. **Rollin Rathel** pastors.

Reverend **Richard Lee Callison**, a Free Will Baptist minister for 38 years, died November 1, 2001, at his home in **Pryor, OK**. Brother Callison pastored four churches including 18 years at **Westside FWB Church** in **Pryor** and nine years at **First FWB Church** in **Salina**. He and his wife, **Betty**, were married 45 years.

Big remodeling efforts at **First FWB Church** in **Weatherford, TX**, have the place sparkling like new, according to Pastor **Dennis Kiser**. The sanctuary sports new carpet, new padding on the pews and freshly-sanded and lacquered walls. The fellowship hall is wearing new vinyl flooring.

Members of **Collin Creek FWB Church** in **Plano, TX**, expect to complete an 18-month, \$650,000 expansion in May, says Pastor **Robert Posner**. The 8,000-square-foot project includes an 1,800-square-foot fellowship hall, five classrooms, kitchen and new offices downstairs and eight classrooms upstairs. When completed, the expansion will also include a new playground for children. The church began in 1989 under the leadership of the late **Don Guthrie**.

Members of **Glad Tidings FWB Church** in **Asheboro, NC**, celebrated Pastor **Robert Edmondson's** anniversary with them in November 2001 by opening their new auditorium for the first time. Some 144 attended in service with three decisions.

Pastor **Carl Miller** reports seven baptisms and seven new members at **Homer's Chapel FWB Church** in **Black Mountain, NC**. The church purchased a

van and began developing a seniors' ministry outreach.

In five years as pastor at **Way of the Cross FWB Church** in **Shelby, NC**, **Alan Sailors** reports growth from 50 to 175. Small wonder that the congregation dedicated a 6,000-square-foot sanctuary and expanded their parking lot.

Contact welcomes *Update*, publication of **Tulsa Area Association** in **Oklahoma**. Moderator **Robert Hidde** said the purpose of the publication is to provide information about church events and denominational news for member churches. The first issue was published January 2002.

Ruth's Chapel FWB Church in **New Bern, NC**, observed its 70th anniversary on January 20, according to Pastor **Dennis Wiggs**. Former pastors **Earl Hanna**, **Sigbee Dilda**, **Lorenza Stox** and **A. L. (Bud) Hines** preached. Wiggs has led the congregation since 1986.

Gulf Coast FWB Church in **Gulfport, MS**, turned 20 years old in 2001. Pastor **Johnny James** led members in a time of rededication.

Fourteen conversions and baptisms at **Immanuel FWB Church** in **Richton, MS**, was cause for celebration. **Early White** pastors.

Sunrise FWB Church in **Emporia, KS**, reports six new members. **Brian Bird** pastors. The church began a teen training class on Wednesday nights. ■

E-TEAM is a life-changing short-term mission experience for high school juniors and seniors (students who have completed the 10th grade).

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TEAM Brazil 2000 members reflect on their ministry.



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*This represents the annual per capita amount needed to meet the budget for Support Services.

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**Laura Belle Barnard
World Missions Offering
April 28, 2002**

**Goal:
\$200,000**

Churches giving \$5,000 or more—receive a large gemstone globe for the pastor and a time-zone clock or a globe for the church.

Churches giving \$1,000 or more—pastor receives these beautiful gemstone bookends.



Individuals giving \$500 or more—receive a beautiful 110mm gemstone globe on a wooden stand.

Individuals giving \$100 or more—receive a four-pack book collection about FWB missionaries.

Individuals giving \$25 or more—receive a book, "Touching the Untouchables," by Laura Belle Barnard.



Books piled up on the dining room table, the floor, the den and even in the car. My husband and I were going through a decorator's dream, but an amateur's nightmare—redecorating our home. Evenings and Saturdays were consumed running to wallpaper stores, clipping samples of paper and fabrics; many hours spent looking through sample books. We left no stone unturned.

We even checked out model homes in new subdivisions searching for ideas. Furniture stores were open prey; antique shops, flea markets, sale papers—all options for finding just the right scone, lamp, picture or vase. Even though it was fun, redecorating was work and time consuming. A very limited budget made the task even more difficult.

However, like most women, I dreamed of decorating a new house or redecorating an old one with my favorite colors and fabrics. I even know a few men who enjoy the adventure.

Recently, while in a young couple's new home, I learned the husband had done all the decorating. It was beautiful. His colors coordinated; there were unique touches throughout. His wife confirmed that the task was totally his, and she loved every room including the bright, dazzling, yellow guest bedroom.

WNAC women have adopted a new project. Delegates voted to do it at the 2000 national convention in Anaheim, California. Now it is time for action. All Free Will Baptist women's groups have the opportunity to be involved in refurbishing a beautiful old house with an updated elegant new look.

The vote at the 2000 WNAC National Convention in Anaheim, California, was to decorate and furnish the new mission house to be built by the Foreign Missions and Master's Men Departments on the new campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Since that vote, there has been a rollback of the timeline for relocation to the new campus, but the intent remains the same—provide housing for a missionary in residence.

Foreign Missions director James Forlines has proposed to refurbish the "Boyce" house on the present campus. Master's Men is furnishing the labor and some materials for this mammoth project. Foreign Missions is providing financial undergirding for the pro-



Boyce — The Mission House on FWBBC Campus

Partnering Together

By Marjorie Workman

- To provide housing for a missionary while on stateside assignment.

By design, the house will be open and spacious for entertaining. Its location between the men's and women's dormitories makes it easily accessible to students. Future partnerships could be realized as a result of the friendships developed. These contacts can be invaluable to the future of missions in our denomination and to the support of global outreach.

Work is already underway to complete the renovation of the house. Move-in for the missionary is scheduled for September 2002. Furniture and decorating will be completed as funds are provided. Your help with this four-prong partnership is essential. Without you, it cannot be accomplished.

Here's how you can help.

1. Volunteer your labor through the Master's Men. They are looking for skilled carpenters, electricians, plumbers, heating and air-conditioning technicians and general laborers. Call Director Kenneth Akers at 877-767-8039 for details and scheduling.
2. Help WNAC with the furnishings. You may choose to decorate an entire room or select one or two pieces. All purchasing will be done through an interior decorator in order to coordinate colors and furniture throughout the house. For your convenience, all furnishings will be itemized and priced to assist you in determining your goal toward the completion of this project. For price list, call WNAC at 877-767-7662, see *CoLaborer* magazine, or go to our web site: www.nafwb.org/wnac.

Come. Partner with us. We can accomplish more together than we can alone. ■

ject from a gift designated for this purpose. Women Nationally Active for Christ is decorating and furnishing the house with furniture, small appliances, draperies and other household items. The furnishings will be moved to the new house on the new campus whenever that occurs.

What is the purpose of a missions house on campus?

- To provide opportunities for interaction between students and missionary.
- To provide a missions professor at no expense to the college. (The missionary will continue on salary with the Foreign Missions Department.)

Tax News You Can Use . . . Well, Maybe

By William Evans, General Director

The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA) created 441 changes in our tax code. Involved were major changes in the tax rates, estate transfers, retirement contributions, investment results and an immediate rebate for many. Some of these changes will impact your tax reports for 2001; others will impact later reports.

New Income Tax Rates

The beginning tax rate was lowered from 15% to 10% on the first \$6,000 of taxable income for single tax payers, or \$12,000 for couples filing jointly. This rate was made retroactive to January 1, 2001, and resulted in the distribution of so-called refund checks in the second half of 2001.

Retirement Contribution Limits

The changes regarding retirement accounts was basically good news.

The Old Rule

In the past, tax-sheltered contributions to a 403(b) plan were limited to the lesser of a percentage, 20% of gross income or 25% of taxable income, or a set dollar amount (\$10,500 for 2001). That was a determination problem for participants and a tracking problem for management.

The New Rule

Beginning in 2002, the tax-sheltered contribution limits are simple dollar amounts that increase annually through 2006.

2002	—	\$11,000
2003	—	12,000
2004	—	13,000
2005	—	14,000
2006	—	15,000

(inflation adjustments
in \$500 increments)

Catch-up contributions were also authorized for those age 50 or over. The following amounts may be added to the figures above:

2002	—	\$1,000
2003	—	2,000
2004	—	3,000
2005	—	4,000
2006	—	5,000

(inflation adjustments
in \$500 increments also)

The percentage limits are totally removed. So participants may contribute all of their annual income to the limits listed above.

This is great news for participants:

1. who simply need to increase their contribution for retirement;
2. who are able to make larger contributions due to increased income, decreased financial demands or those with severe income tax liabilities or;
3. those who may have been confused by exactly what the percentage limitations applied to, who need fixed numbers. It certainly simplifies our communications about tax-sheltered contribution limits.

To use these higher limits for tax-sheltered contributions, you need to use a Salary Reduction Agreement. If you want to increase your level of contributions or to begin one, please call our office toll-free 877-767-7738 for the necessary form.

Social Security Entry

Members of the clergy who originally chose to decline Social Security coverage have until April 15, 2002, or if an extension is filed, on the later due date of the 2001 tax return, to reinstate coverage. To elect in requires filing Form 2031 and choosing either tax year 2000 or 2001 as the applicable date and payment of the self-employment tax on net earnings from then on.

Anyone who chooses to elect back in cannot revoke that decision later.

Business Travel

The standard mileage rate for business miles driven during 2002 is 36.5¢ per mile. This rate may be used by pastors to compute a deduction for the business use of a vehicle. Mileage claimed this way should be supported by a daily travel log, including odometer readings at start and finish of the travel and who or what the visit involved. Parking fees and tolls are additional deductible expenses. ■

Retirement  & Insurance

GREEN TREE BIBLE STUDY



Garnett Reid

“Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?” (Genesis 4, Part 2)

It's amazing how different siblings can be. Take Cain and Abel, for example. Mention these first two brothers in human history and we think of conflict. Their character, occupations, families and destinies present one of the Bible's earliest contrasts between right and wrong. Genesis 4 highlights this antithesis. We continue our look at this instructive, though often unappreciated, chapter.

“Sin Crouching at the Door” – The Godless Legacy of Cain

Last month we examined Cain in the roles of *an angry farmer whose sacrifice God refuses and an exiled murderer whose life God spares*. Genesis 4 also portrays Cain in another light: he is *an urban father whose family makes a mark on the world* (vv. 17-24).

These latter verses of Genesis 4 provide vital information about the development of early culture in the human race. As Leupold observes, “Students of history and of anthropology too largely ignore” this section, “the only authentic record” of this period of human history.

The account begins by noting Cain's wife. In all likelihood he married one of his sisters (Gen. 5:4). No law as of yet prohibited such a union; in fact, procreation in this early stage of the human family would have required it. Cain himself built a city and named it after his son, Enoch. The fifth descendant from Cain, Lamech, stands out for two reasons.

First, he broke the pattern of monogamy God had established for marriage (Gen. 2:24). Second, Lamech's “taunt-song” (Gen. 4:23-24) boasts of his unending vengeance (“seventy-seven fold”) against those who would harm him.

Other descendants of Cain who make their mark include Jabal, the first rancher; Jubal, the first musician; and Tubal-cain, the first craftsman. In spite

of the Cain family's disdain for righteous ways, God's common grace bestows cultural gifts through them that have benefited humans ever since.

“Sinners Calling on the Lord” – The Godly Legacy of Abel

Abel's portrait in Genesis 4 also reflects three parts. *First, he is a grateful shepherd whose sacrifice God accepts* (vv. 2-4). Overshadowing God's receipt of Abel's offering is the question, why did God look with favor on his sacrifice but not on Cain's? The text provides some clues.

No elaboration is given describing the quality of Cain's offering. Yet Abel brings “the firstborn of his flock” and its fatty portions. In other words, Abel brought the best part of what he loved, revealing his inner attitude toward God.

Also the Hebrew text at the beginning of verse 4 may be translated, “And Abel, he brought, even he, from the firstborn. . . .” The emphasis clearly is on Abel. Verse four also tells us that “The LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering.”

The order of those objects is significant: respect for *Abel*, then for his offering. No wonder Hebrews 11:4 points to the disposition of faith Abel showed in presenting his sacrifice to God.

The contrast between the two brothers' heart attitude thus offers the best explanation for the fate of their sacrifices. Some have pointed to the lack of a blood offering on Cain's part as the reason for God's displeasure. Since the term translated “offering” in verses 4 and 5 can refer to sacrifices other than those involving slain animals, however, this answer seems unlikely.

The chapter also depicts Abel as a *slain brother whose blood God hears* (vv. 8-11). This account of Abel's murder exudes irony. The only “voice” associated with Abel in the passage is

that of his blood accusing his brother of the foul deed (v. 10). Further, the source of this sanguinary indictment is “the ground,” the very center of Cain's life (v. 2). Now his once-fertile soil germinates only seeds of accusation and cursing (vv. 10-11). Again, Hebrews offers insight regarding the testimony of Abel's blood and its later echo in Jesus, whose blood speaks of forgiveness, not just condemnation (Heb. 12:24).

Abel's final role is that of a *replaced son whose successor honors God* (vv. 25-26). Seth, whose name means “appointed” or “granted,” takes Abel's place in the family. His descendants, however, travel a different path than that of Cain's. Seth's son is Enosh, which means “weakness,” and in connection with this acknowledged need, his generation “began to call upon the name of the LORD” (v. 26).

This phrase likely refers to prayer, but could mean something else. The verb translated “call” often refers to “calling out” or “proclaiming” in the Pentateuch. If this approach is correct, the days of Enosh, then, may have witnessed the first preaching, as men “began to proclaim in the name of the LORD.”

Genesis 4 establishes forever two ways of life – the two ways Jesus contrasted (Matt. 7:13-14); the two “yokes” Paul noted (II Cor. 6:14); and the two cities, the City of God and the city of man, Augustine described. So you and I, the readers of this chapter, face a decision. Whose legacy do we follow? Cain may have taken Abel's life, but he could not silence Abel's voice: “Abel . . . through his faith, though he died, still speaks” (Heb. 11:4). ■

Remember to send your suggestions for underappreciated or neglected Bible chapters to:

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Nashville, TN 37205
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Dolly Stox

Little Things Mean So Much

By Dolly Stox

A business owner was looking at a list of his employees in an effort to determine to whom he might offer a promotion to oversee a phase of his business. He selected three employees whom he felt could perform well in the position. Each was about equal in time of service, educational preparation and core quality of work. He determined his choice by the little things one of the employees did for his fellow workers and business customers whom he served.

It was the *little things* that meant so much.



A daughter of a family was asked, "What is it that your parents have done for you as you were growing up that made you the productive Christian and good citizen you are today?"

The daughter replied, "It is a huge number of little things they have done day in and day out to make me feel special and loved."

Little things mean so much.



A couple who have been married for 35 years and still love each other will tell you that it is small but frequent acts of thoughtfulness that have cultivated their love through the years. Most families can not financially afford expensive gifts on a regular basis, but that is not what they treasure most about the gift anyway. Most of the time it is the consistent support, admiration, appreciation, respect and genuine concern for the person's whole being and welfare that causes love to grow.

The personal notes, telephone calls to say, "I was just thinking about you. I called to say *I love you*. I'm so glad I married you." When a couple truly talk the *talk* and walk the *walk*, it is easy to strengthen the marriage day by day.

During the past 39 years of my married life, my husband has given some gifts that I call large and expensive, but for me, the reason they are so special is because he planned for months financially to buy the gift. It was the giving of himself—his time, his creativity, his sacrifices—that gave me that warm, loved feeling. Little things mean so much.



In my Christian education experience, I have known some great second-mile teachers. It is that sense of love, those little sessions of private instruction for a student who didn't conquer the concept during class, those extra worksheets of problems to see a student achieve, that sweet tone of voice when possible, yet firm when needed and the list goes on—these things make the student become a successful adult.

Little things mean so much.



Among the thousands of Christian workers I have seen in full-time Christian service, the most successful in my opinion are the self-giving ones. I believe one can give without loving, but one can't love without giving. I believe God will channel extra blessings through the Christian whom He knows

will share them with others.

Words encourage so much. Special dishes encourage others when given in love. Work load sharing encourages others. Attending special events or ball games when your loved one is playing encourages.

Little things mean so much.



God's Word teaches that each person is fearfully and wonderfully made; therefore, everyone has something to give in life. The giver is the most blessed of the two. There is a satisfaction—I like to think perhaps a nod of approval from the Lord—when we do something to build up another person. Everyone needs encouraging at some point; I trust that you may become an encourager. A selfish person is not an encourager. No matter where you live or work, someone near you needs uplifting.

Little things mean so much. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Dolly Stox has taught in Christian schools for 36 years. She served as an instructor and as business manager at Southeastern FWB College. Dolly is a member of Parker's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville, North Carolina, where her husband (Lorenza) pastors.

COMING NEXT MONTH

- CONVENTION PREVIEW
- MOTHER WENT TO WORK
- OUTREACH FOR CHILDREN
- THE TOLERANCE TRAP
- GOD'S STRESS REMEDY

THE PREACHER'S PERSPECTIVE



Randy Sawyer

Facing Yourself (Part II)

The life of a local church pastor is one of almost constant activity and endless demands. Let me use a recent Saturday to illustrate the point. The day began with my usual quiet time, followed by a routine 45-minute trek on the treadmill. Then, after putting the finishing touches on Sunday's sermons, I showered and dressed for the day's whirlwind activities.

Little Time

First, I stopped by the hospital to check on a church member (and friend) who was gravely ill, then on to the church for back-to-back counseling sessions with a couple I'm trying to prepare for marriage, and with a girl who's living with a young man to whom she is not married, and consequently breaking her mother's heart.

Afterwards, I walked through the family life center to greet parents and children involved in our "Upward Basketball" program, then made another quick dash to the hospital to check with the family of my dying friend. I had only moments to spend with them because there was just enough time to get home and sit down for a quick breather before heading to a wedding I was scheduled to conduct at 6:00 p.m.

Almost as soon as I sat down to take that much-needed break, a call from the hospital informed me that my friend had lost his battle with cancer. So I hurriedly dressed, and before the wedding, I returned once again to the hospital—this time to console a grieving wife and children.

Entering the hospital for the third time that day, I had almost no time to spare. Thankfully, a deacon and his wife came a few moments after I did. I prayed with the grieving family and left for the 20-minute drive to the wedding chapel, where I arrived just in time to get into position to receive the happy couple. Following the ceremony, I shook hands

with wedding guests for what seemed like an eternity, and drove home in a state of near exhaustion.

My wife encouraged me to get to bed early, and I was more than happy to comply with her suggestion. But instead of quickly falling into the state of unconsciousness which I craved, I spent nearly an hour with the upcoming Sunday services racing through my mind. Finally, slowly, I drifted off to sleep, to spend a few happy hours with nothing on my mind.

Little Faith

Sound familiar? If you're a pastor or pastor's wife, you have no doubt lived through such days. The problem comes when those days stretch into weeks and the weeks into months. Added to the near physical exhaustion that often occurs under a pastor's demanding schedule, is the stress and strain of carrying the hurts and struggles of an entire congregation. When the emotional and spiritual dimensions are added to the physical, overload or burnout or worse can result.

Some may respond by saying that burnout shouldn't occur, and won't, if we tap into the unlimited reservoir of grace available from our Lord. I wholeheartedly concur. But let's be honest, what we know to do and what we do, at times fall into sharp conflict.

When my doctor made the unthinkable suggestion two years ago that I might be suffering from overwork, burnout and depression, all I could do was beat myself up for not having enough faith. I prayed, "Lord I believe, help thou mine unbelief."

At that time in my life and ministry I knew I lacked sufficient faith for what lay in front of me. I just didn't know what to do about it. The voices claiming my attention were so numerous and the needs so serious that I lost my ability to distinguish reality from per-

ception, and in the process I lost my sensitivity to the very voice of God.

During the five-week sabbatical I spent as an initial treatment for my depression, I came face-to-face with the real problem. The problem was not my schedule or even the emotional and spiritual warfare which each pastor feels so keenly. The problem was me. If I was going to face the enemy, I had to realize that I would have to face myself. I would have to deal with core questions related to my life and ministry.

What attitudes and misconceptions had contributed to my burnout? Had my ministry gotten off track? Had I lost sight of the essentials? As I prayerfully considered these issues, I came to four conclusions about how I had arrived at such a place in my ministry. We'll look at the first of these in this issue, and conclude by considering the others in the next.

Little Contentment

As I faced myself, I learned that I had allowed others to set my agenda. I feel quite certain that every pastor wants to be successful. I am no exception. But what is success? How is it measured? Usually, when considering ministry success, we speak in terms of statistical analysis. In other words, we evaluate growth according to the numbers.

With this as our primary standard, we set out to do anything and everything necessary to achieve numerical growth. In the process, we invariably seek advice and counsel from those we consider models of what we are attempting to accomplish. That's normal, and that's exactly what I did. I put into place every program the experts suggested would get my church where I wanted it to go.

After a while, however, more not only became less as my church had difficulty focusing on so many varied programs, but the time demands on my staff, my lay people and myself became almost ridiculous. But I had to keep up. I

not only had to employ the programs and ministries that others promised would bring the blessings of God down upon us; I had to utilize them also because they are mandated by scripture. At least that's what I was led to believe.

I was running out of gas trying to keep up with an agenda set for me by my peers. In facing myself, I had to learn that my ministry and my church are unique, that cookie-cutter-copies are as impossible as they are unnecessary.

Further, I had to discover that success in ministry results from following the timeless principles established in God's Word, and that programs may vary from age to age, and from location to location. Finally, I had to come to the place in my life and work where I could hear the voice of God for myself and allow my agenda to be established by my own relationship with Him.

Please do not misunderstand me, I do read and observe and learn from others. But trying to keep up with them, and more importantly, desiring so desperately to please them, almost cut my life and ministry short. One of the greatest days of my life came when, as a depressed pastor, I decided to be content with where God has placed me, and with the success He has planned for me. I may have trouble staying in the "land of contentment" for long, but it sure is a nice place to visit, if only for a while. ■

Directory Update

ILLINOIS

Gilbert Craig to Freedom Church, Marion

SOUTH CAROLINA

Phillip Tipton to New Prospect Church, Pamplico
Eddie Carter to New Life Church, Conway
Christopher Jackson to First Church, Simpsonville

TENNESSEE

Ronnie Mitchell to Limestone Church, Limestone from First Church, Mt. Vernon, IL
Charley Carmack to Ashland City Church, Ashland City
Herman Hersey to Victory Church, Jackson

THE TOGETHER WAY

January 2002

Receipts:				Year To Date	Year To Date	Year To Date
State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Designated	CO-OP	Total
Alabama	\$ 601.71	\$ 390.93	\$ 992.64	\$ 601.71	\$ 390.93	\$ 992.64
Arizona	.00	73.60	73.60	.00	73.60	73.60
Arkansas	17,379.01	26,395.19	43,774.20	17,379.01	26,395.19	43,774.20
California	.00	1,784.74	1,784.74	.00	1,784.74	1,784.74
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	113.84	.00	113.84	113.84	.00	113.84
Georgia	29,614.32	1,939.15	31,553.47	29,614.32	1,939.15	31,553.47
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	12,069.28	2,440.04	14,509.32	12,069.28	2,440.04	14,509.32
Indiana	2,127.52	222.92	2,350.44	2,127.52	222.92	2,350.44
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Kansas	26.55	156.26	182.81	26.55	156.26	182.81
Kentucky	6.00	910.43	916.43	6.00	910.43	916.43
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Maryland	.00	131.25	131.25	.00	131.25	131.25
Michigan	36,698.66	4,590.66	41,289.32	36,698.66	4,590.66	41,289.32
Mississippi	20,355.14	1,198.56	21,553.70	20,355.14	1,198.56	21,553.70
Missouri	49,647.36	21,856.73	71,504.09	49,647.36	21,856.73	71,504.09
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	651.82	50.92	702.74	651.82	50.92	702.74
North Carolina	2,848.04	6,560.90	9,408.94	2,848.04	6,560.90	9,408.94
Ohio	17,447.85	3,008.17	20,456.02	17,447.85	3,008.17	20,456.02
Oklahoma	65,653.83	13,710.82	79,364.65	65,653.83	13,710.82	79,364.65
South Carolina	740.38	95.35	835.73	740.38	95.35	835.73
South Dakota	0.00	0.00	0.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	2,613.46	1,499.46	4,112.92	2,613.46	1,499.46	4,112.92
Texas	14,510.25	640.78	15,151.03	14,510.25	640.78	15,151.03
Virginia	342.64	0.00	342.64	342.64	.00	342.64
Virgin Islands	.00	0.00	0.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	812.42	155.06	967.48	812.42	155.06	967.48
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	(.06)	(.06)	.00	(.06)	(.06)
Totals	\$ 274,260.08	\$ 87,811.86	\$ 362,071.94	\$ 274,260.08	\$ 87,811.86	\$ 362,071.94
Disbursements:						
Executive Office	\$ 2,024.11	\$ 39,515.38	\$ 41,539.49	\$ 2,024.11	\$ 39,515.38	\$ 41,539.49
Foreign Missions	143,954.88	11,108.19	155,063.07	143,954.88	11,108.19	155,063.07
FWBBC	23,449.26	11,108.19	34,557.45	23,449.26	11,108.19	34,557.45
Home Missions	90,178.95	8,693.38	98,872.33	90,178.95	8,693.38	98,872.33
Retirement & Insurance	200.34	6,761.52	6,961.86	200.34	6,761.52	6,961.86
Master's Men	374.74	6,761.52	7,136.26	374.74	6,761.52	7,136.26
Comm. for Theo. Integrity	63.72	241.47	305.19	63.72	241.47	305.19
FWB Foundation	196.67	2,897.80	3,094.47	196.67	2,897.80	3,094.47
Historical Commission	44.15	241.47	285.62	44.15	241.47	285.62
Music Commission	14.63	241.47	256.10	14.63	241.47	256.10
Media Commission	134.20	241.47	375.67	134.20	241.47	375.67
Hillsdale FWB College	3,068.93	.00	3,068.93	3,068.93	.00	3,068.93
Other	10,555.50	.00	10,555.50	10,555.50	.00	10,555.50
Totals	\$ 274,260.08	\$ 87,811.86	\$ 362,071.94	\$ 274,260.08	\$ 87,811.86	\$ 362,071.94



Thomas Marberry

The Power Of The Call

By Henry T. Blackaby and Henry Brandt

(Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1997, 256 pp., hardback, \$19.99).

This is a book for pastors and others involved in leadership in different Christian ministries. It is specifically designed to help the pastor understand who he is and what he is supposed to do. Many modern pastors would agree that the ministry is more difficult today than it has ever been.

The contemporary Christian leader labors under a variety of spiritual, emotional, physical and financial difficulties. He often tries to be all things to all men and satisfy all the demands that other people have for him and his ministry. He often feels frustrated because he cannot live up to his own expectations or to the expectations of others. These authors help the pastor determine a more realistic and biblical direction for ministry.

The two primary authors of this work come from different backgrounds. Henry T. Blackaby has more than 30 years experience as a pastor. He serves at the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Henry Brandt has served as a psychologist and biblical counselor for more than 50 years. He has experience counseling pastors in a variety of situations.

These authors have divided their book into four parts. Part one deals with "God's Standard for Your Calling." Part two analyzes "God's Standard for Your Message." Part three examines "God's Standard for Your Heart." Part four discusses "God's Standard for Your Ministry."

At first glance these titles may suggest that this is a negative book, but that is not at all the case. The authors' goal is a positive one. They seek to help the pastor determine what he needs to be and do, and to find the biblical resources necessary to fulfill the ministry.

In the introduction Blackaby and Brandt's basic assumption is that God has given the pastor a large and important task, but He has also provided

the pastor with all the resources necessary to accomplish that task. They note that this book does not deal with specific methods or strategies of ministry; there are many good books that do. This book emphasizes relationships, above all the pastor's relationship with God and with his people.

Chapter one addresses the role of the pastor. The pastor is called by God to be a steward. He is not the owner of the flock he serves; God is. He must be the spiritual leader of his flock; he must not seek to imitate the worldly patterns of leadership that are often advocated today. His goal is to develop God's flock and to use it as a way to accomplish his own goals.

As the authors correctly note, "Many pastors have no emotional ties with the people they lead. They do not suffer with the people. They keep themselves at a distance and use the people to accomplish a ministry goal." That pattern of leadership may be acceptable in the world, but it is fatal within the Christian community.

Chapter three confronts the issue of purpose. Many pastors lack a clear sense of purpose personal lives and in their ministries. According to Henry Brandt, "Pastor, God called you to preach repentance and teach the people of God to observe all things He commanded. Teaching the people of God to live a Spirit-filled life is crucial."

Henry Blackaby shares from his own experience how difficult it is for a busy pastor to maintain a proper sense of purpose. He writes, "It was easy to become primarily involved in administering the organization instead of insuring that each member was growing in Christ. I could give myself to building buildings instead of building homes and families in the experience of the fullness of God!"

The last chapter is perhaps the most useful; it outlines 26 marks of spiritual leadership that can help the pastor de-

termine the proper direction for his own ministry and mission. His first goal should be to let Jesus glorify the Father through his own life. Another important goal is to give eternal life to those who are entrusted to his care.

The Christian pastor must be careful to guard his reputation and be faithful in prayer for those in his flock. The pastor should take joy in his relationship with God and impart that joy to those he serves.

The pastor should be concerned to develop disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ and then send those disciples into the world to minister in Jesus' name. He needs to take a long-term view of things and draw his deepest satisfaction from the fact that those entrusted to his care truly come to know their heavenly Father and follow Him.

There are several things about this book that make it a valuable addition to a pastor's library. Although it contains a lot of practical advice for the pastor, it is first and foremost a book that is biblical and theological.

The sad fact is that many pastors today try to develop ministry skills and methods without first having a clear understanding of the biblical and theological nature of the ministry. This book can help the pastor develop that necessary foundation.

Another strong point of this work is its careful and abundant use of scripture. There are many quotations from the Bible, and the authors demonstrate good interpretive skills in their use of those quotations. They don't just use scripture verses as proof texts to support their personal positions. Instead, they carefully analyze what scripture says about pastoral ministry and how the pastor can apply those teachings in his own ministry. This is a book that deserves to be read and reread. ■



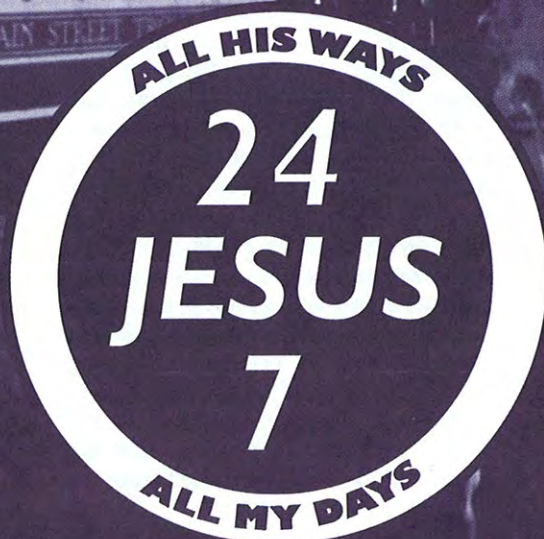
Now everyone who attends the National Convention can Reach That Guy (or Girl)!

This summer when you come to Memphis for the National Convention, we are calling on you and your church to help with one of the biggest Reach That Guy projects ever! In addition to 1000 service opportunities available throughout the week, Reach That Guy is conducting a massive clothing drive to benefit the homeless population of Memphis, TN.

Men: bring a clean shirt, pair of pants or suit. Women: bring a clean skirt, dress or blouse. Kids/Teens: bring a clean shirt or pair of pants. Please bring all clothing on a wire hanger to the Memphis Convention Center Lobby when you arrive to register for the convention.



1000
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Jack Williams

A Nudge From God

A Free Will Baptist layman on his way from East Tennessee to Mississippi pulled off the interstate in Nashville and made an unscheduled stop at the National Offices Building. That was at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 28, 1994.

When he called my name, I reluctantly turned from the light table where I was working on a deadline. The strain on his face said that he was packing a load. He came right to the point without a howdy.

"God sent me here today," he announced, "and told me to give you this \$20." Tears dripped off his chin as he fidgeted nervously. We had been friends for two decades.

"I can't explain it," he continued. "I was driving west on I-40 when the Lord nudged me specifically about you. So I got off the highway, found your office, found you, and here I am."

Hesitating briefly, then gathering himself with great effort, he held out a crisp \$20 bill and said, "Brother Jack, if you'll accept it, please take this \$20. I want to be obedient to God." Then he just stood there with his hand out, pushing that \$20 bill toward me.

What would you have done?

Had God told that dear brother to exit the interstate, look me up and give me \$20? The man standing in my office was sure enough about it that I didn't want to argue the point with him. He believed he'd just had an encounter with God and that it involved me.

I don't know what you would have done, but I hugged him, thanked him and took his \$20.

We talked a few moments more, and then that wonderful layman turned with no fanfare, climbed into his vehicle and drove out of my life. I never saw him again. Two months later, he was dead.

I've remembered that special Wednesday a thousand times since

1994. A Wednesday when one of God's servants heard a voice while driving down the highway and obeyed. It made a difference.

My friend gave me more than \$20 that day. I knew he'd spent several days in a hospital the previous summer losing his battle with cancer. He gave me a first-hand lesson in obedience, even when you don't know why.

My entire life changed before noon that Wednesday. He was a praying man, a holy man, a respected man. He touched me deeply with his obedience. Looking back, I know that I dared not *not* take the money. He was on a divine mission; I was just on a deadline.

What happened to his \$20?

The next day I gave it to a young mother with two hungry boys. A week later, I gave that same \$20 to a friend in Japan. Two weeks after that, the tear-laden \$20 was handed to a 68-year-old woman in a wheel chair going home to die.

In the past eight years, that \$20 has taken laughing children to McDonald's, bought a book for a college student, sent a cheery card to an ill friend, purchased a *Contact* subscription for a struggling writer, paid for two rodeo tickets and . . . and much, much more.

Because every time I hold a \$20, I remember the man who wanted to be obedient to what God told him. I remember the fire in his eyes, his tears, his absolute conviction that God sent him to see me.

Missionary Jonathan Goforth

wrote seven "rules" on the flyleaf of his Bible. Three of them helped me get a handle on that day in 1994.

Rule #1: "Seek to give much—expect nothing." What a great way to live. Some people are takers only, but it's the givers who make the difference. Be a giver; you'll sleep better.

Rule #2: "Put the very best construction on the actions of others." What a wonderful attitude toward people. Apply

this to those you meet, and you'll never waste time trying to second-guess others' motives. Trust people; they'll love you for it.

Rule #5: "In all things seek to know God's will, and when known, obey it at all cost." What a powerful guiding principle. Anything less and we're kidding ourselves about what's really important to us.

Has God nudged you about someone in your life? Perhaps to pray, to write a letter of encouragement, to send a financial gift, to drop by for a visit, to call on the phone or e-mail? Did you? Will you?

On a Thursday night this past January at 2:00 a.m., for no reason that I could determine, I awoke suddenly, concerned about a childhood friend I'd seen three times in 30 years. For half an hour, I wrestled with the Lord in the darkness about Larry, struggling in prayer for him, not knowing why.

The next night the phone rang at 8:30 p.m. Larry was dead. He died unexpectedly, they said . . . except that somehow, unexplainably, the Lord had notified me the previous night to pray for him. I wish I had called him that Friday before he received a higher summons to appear in eternity.

My friend from East Tennessee thought he was interrupting my day. He wasn't. He was obeying God. Because of his obedience, my life is fuller and glows with that splendid moment locked in time.

When the Lord woke me at 2:00 a.m. about my friend, Larry, I didn't call him. I thought I had no reason to call. But knowing Larry . . . and knowing the God who woke me . . . the two of us probably had some unfinished business. But I didn't call.

Next time, I will. And I hope you will, too. Don't delay. Write that letter of appreciation. Send that gift. Make that visit. Perhaps God is notifying you about a divine mission. ■

CONTACT

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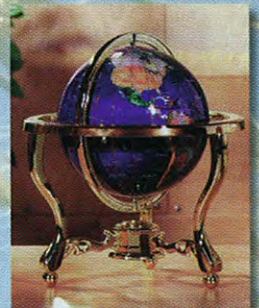


Goal: \$200,000

Now churches and individuals can do something significant toward the harvest and enjoy one of these outstanding world missions gifts to lift awareness and stimulate prayer for missionaries and unreached peoples.

Churches giving \$10,000 or more—receive an all-expense awareness trip for the pastor and his wife to a FWB mission field (to be announced) and the church will receive a beautiful gemstone globe.

Churches giving \$5,000 or more—receive a large gemstone globe for the pastor and a large globe for the church.



Churches giving \$2,500 or more—receive two gorgeous gemstone globes, one for the church and one for the pastor.

Churches giving the equivalent of \$6.64* per person based on average attendance—pastor receives a lovely gemstone globe on a wooden base.



Churches giving \$1,000 or more—pastor receives these beautiful gemstone book-ends.

Individuals giving \$500 or more—receive a beautiful 110mm gemstone globe on a wooden base.

Individuals giving \$100 or more—receive a four-pack book collection about FWB missionaries.

Individuals giving \$25 or more—receive a book, "Touching the Untouchables," by Laura Belle Barnard.

(Note: Due to IRS regulations, the value of the gift to individuals must be deducted from the receipt before tax credit can be claimed.)



*This represents the annual per capita amount needed to meet the budget for Support Services.

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