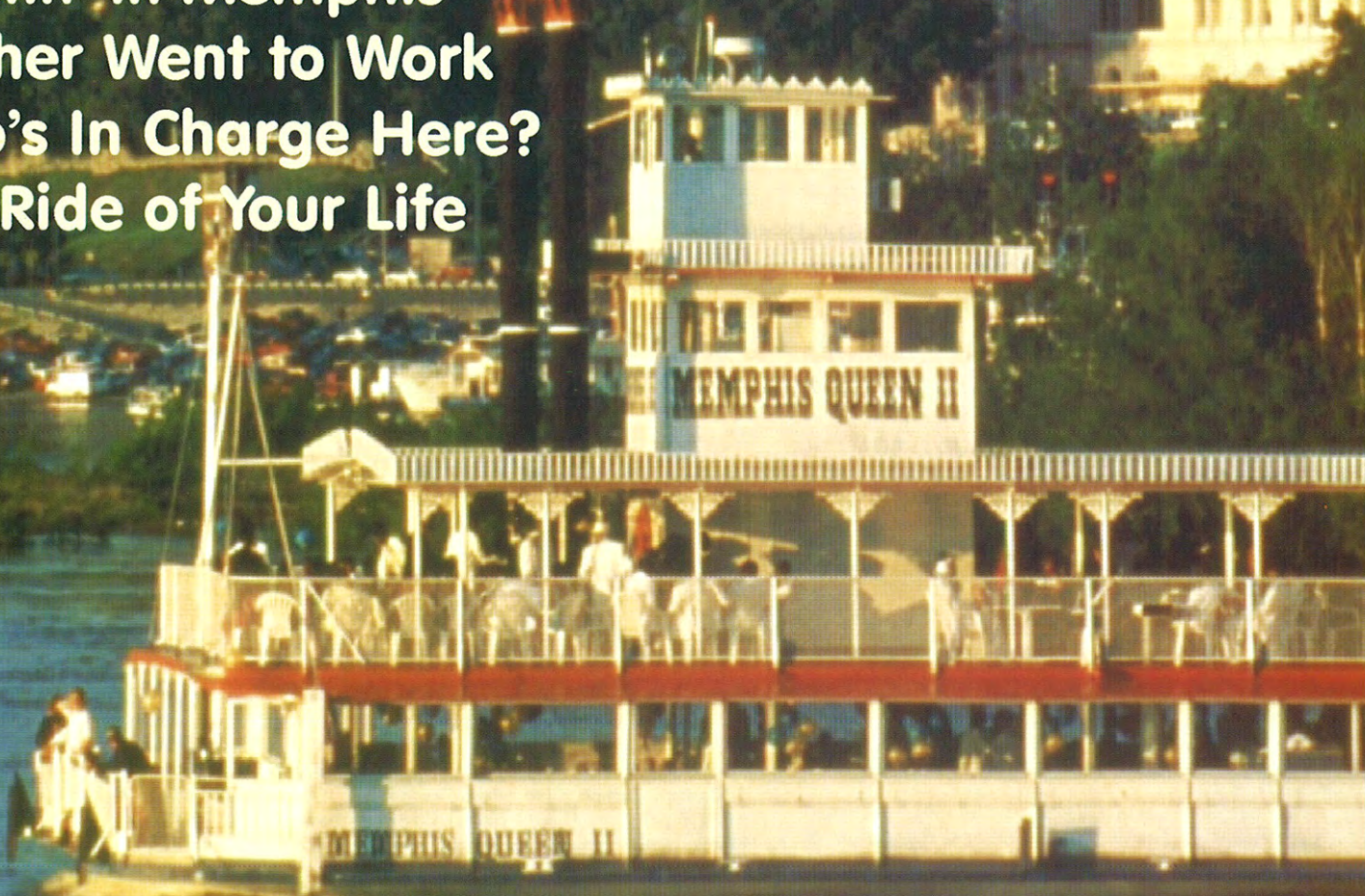


CONTACT

Official Publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptists

May 2002

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Mother Went to Work
Who's In Charge Here?
The Ride of Your Life**



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Editor-in-chief: Dr. Melvin Worthington
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Circulation: Angie Williams
Printed by: Randall House Publications

Contact (ISSN 0573-7796), published monthly by the National Association of

Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt. View Road, Antioch, TN 37013-2306. Address all correspondence and subscriptions to Post Office Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Phone 615/731-6812.

Annual subscription rates: Individual—\$15 per year, Church Family Plan—\$15 per year, Church Bundle Plan—\$15

per year. Periodical postage paid at Antioch, Tennessee, and additional offices.

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USPS 130-660

THE SECRETARY SPEAKS



Melvin Worthington

The Tolerance Trap

Revelation 2:12-17 records the address to the church at Pergamos. The city of Pergamos was located in Mysia, an ancient province of Asia, in the Caicus valley, three miles from the river and about 15 miles from the sea. The city had a great library and four beautiful temples representing the gods Zeus, Dionysus, Athena and Asklepios.

The church in Pergamos was established early since it is one of the seven churches addressed by Christ. Antipas was martyred there. He was the first Christian put to death by the Roman state. Revelation 2 mentions Pergamos as the place "where Satan's throne is," probably referring to the temples in which the Roman emperors were worshipped.

Description of Christ

Christ addresses the letter to the angel or pastor of the church in Pergamos. Christ describes Himself as one having a sharp two-edged sword.

The sword is a symbol of judgment. It is employed to denote the Lord's vengeance on the guilty world and also of thorough and unsparing judgment of evil. To those who refuse to bow before Him and own His absolute authority, the sword must do its mighty and sure work in the execution of judgment.

Discernment of Christ

Jesus declares that He knows their works and where they live. He commended them for holding fast His name and their refusal to deny their faith in spite of the martyrdom of Antipas.

Jesus knows our temptations and takes into consideration our circumstances. We have a tendency to judge harshly when Jesus would be far less severe. This church is commended for holding fast His name in spite of their circumstances. The profession of Christianity exposed the church to

the bitterest persecution, and yet they remained true and did not deny their faith. They were not ashamed of their relationship to Christ.

This letter sets forth the constant danger of doctrinal compromise. This often is the first step toward complete defection. The modern church has forsaken many fundamentals of biblical faith and needs desperately to heed this warning.

Denunciation of Christ

Christ denounces what's wrong in the assembly. This church tolerated the Nicolaitan sect and those who held the doctrine of Balaam. They taught the same doctrine which Balaam did and, therefore, deserved to be classed with him.

Although the Savior could approve their general course, He could not approve their toleration of those who held to pernicious error—error that tended to sap the very foundation of morals. Nicolaitanism was hated at Ephesus but tolerated in this church. The doctrine of Balaam permitted heathen religious rituals, which leads to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans that sanctions immoral practices.

This church was indifferent to subtle inward influences that corrupt its teachers and endangered the spiritual life of its members. It was a church with devotion and yet lax in dealing with erroneous thinking, apostasy and false leaders.

Directive of Christ

Christ issues a sharp command to repent. This message to the church at

Pergamos is valid for the church today. Unless the church repents, judgment will be swift and decisive. In spite of their faithfulness, till the point of martyrdom, the evil character of those things that were tolerated in the church was so serious to the mind of Christ that He would judge the church with the sword of His mouth.

The pastor of this church had not practiced or imbibed the deeds reprobated, but neither had he denounced them nor opposed their entrance into the church. The impending judgment unless they repented was designed for their edification and salvation. The call to repentance reminds us of the duties of churches and communities to repent of wickedness.

This church was condemned for its laxity. While all in the church did not practice the deeds or adhere to the deeds condemned by Christ, the church tolerated them in the assembly. The essence of Balaamism is worldliness. It is a grave mistake for the church to make a union with the world. Satan seeks to nullify the power of the church by mixing Christianity with worldliness.

Churches today are seducing their members away from Christ by providing worldly amusements, on the pleas that if they do not provide amusement they will go elsewhere to enjoy them. This is basically the doctrine of Balaamism.

Faithful leaders should not be guilty of allowing heretics to be tolerated in their assembly. When this is true, the pastor is not doing his duty, for he is allowing that which the Lord hates.

Disclosure of Christ

Christ admonishes the church to hear and heed the Spirit's words. He assures the church that overcomers would be given hidden manna to eat and a white stone with a new name written which no man would know without receiving it. ■

The Secretary's Schedule

May 2002

7-11 Florida State Association

16-17 Michigan State Association

21-24 Convention Planning Trip
Memphis, TN

Meetin' Time in Memphis

By Jack Williams



Over on the eastern edge of Tennessee where I-40 climbs down off the Appalachian Mountains, they sing *Rocky Top* and play a rough brand of college football. By the time I-40 crosses the Cumberland Plateau near Nashville, steel guitars whine and the Titans are the biggest game in town. But when I-40 snuggles up to the Mississippi River in western Tennessee, the music is strictly Beale Street blues and *Heartbreak Hotel*.

That's Memphis—a different town, a different tune, a different time. Like it or not, they still call Elvis "The King" here, and they don't blink when they say it.

The 66th annual Free Will Baptist National Convention meets in the Bluff City July 21-25 on the banks of Ameri-

ca's most storied river at Memphis' Cook Convention Center. Memphis has long been a crossroads to tomorrow. Before Davy Crockett fought at the Alamo, he hung his coonskin cap in Memphis. Future president Andy Jackson and future Texas governor Sam Houston made big tracks here.

They don't call this town the "Home of the Blues—Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll" for nothing. Memphis is as much "Music City" as its Grand Ole Opry first cousin 220 miles east. Even if you don't plan to tour Graceland in July, remember that Elvis Presley's private residence is second only to The White House in the number of visitors it attracts annually.

But if your summer just won't be complete without touching that leg-

endary 1955 pink Cadillac, you'll find it parked in Memphis' Southside at Graceland.

The National Association of Free Will Baptists has met seven times in Tennessee since 1935, but never in Memphis. This marks the first time the convention has met anywhere in Tennessee except Nashville. Enjoy the ride, because chances are we won't be back until somebody steps on those famous *Blue Suede Shoes*.

Tennessee's 22,000 members and 223 churches will host the national convention. Executive secretary Melvin Worthington and convention manager Dean Jones expect 8,000 people to register for the five-day event.

The convention unfolds in the four-level Memphis Cook Convention Cen-

ter with its 31 meeting rooms and exhibit hall. Located in the heart of downtown Memphis, the convention center connects to the headquarters hotel, the Memphis Marriott.

Convention officials blocked more than 900 rooms in six hotels, including a 400-room block in the headquarters hotel. The hotels are as close as across the street and as far away as eight blocks. Make your own choice about room rates and distance. But it's first-come, first-served, so don't wait.

Convention Business

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

Convention delegates will examine denominational budgets exceeding \$22 million as moderator Carl Cheshier (president of Hillsdale College) gavel the voting body through electing 30 board and commission members and general officers. Each national agency and commission will submit an annual report to delegates during the two-day business session on Wednesday and Thursday.

One major business concern will be electing a new executive secretary to succeed Melvin Worthington who has held the post 23 years. Oklahoma pastor Keith Burden will be recommended to the General Board as Worthington's successor. The decision goes on to the voting delegates Wednesday morning as one of the first items of business in Memphis.

Meet the Speakers

The 2002 convention theme, "Obedience: Our Obligation," will be developed by five ministers, including a military chaplain.

Sunday School—Gary Head

Forty-eight-year-old Gary Head is a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Head's FWB Church in Cedar Hill, Tennessee. He was ordained in 1972.

Gary is an alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He received his degree



Gary Head

Alton Loveless



Carl Cheshier

Kerry Steedley



Melvin Worthington

Curtis Linton



in civil engineering from Tennessee Tech University. For the past 27 years, he has served as an engineer with the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

In addition, Gary has served 16 years on the Robertson County Planning Commission. He has been a Registered Professional Engineer for 22 years. Gary and Terry Head have three sons.

Sunday Morning—Alton Loveless

Dr. Alton Loveless, general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department since 1994, preaches the opening sermon at the Memphis convention. He brings a broad range of experience in publicity, journalism, speaking and denominational leadership.

He served 19 years as executive secretary for the Ohio State Association (1974-93). He was elected 12 years on the Sunday School Board. Dr. Loveless served on the Historical Commission and the Foreign Missions Board. He pastored four churches in Arkansas and Missouri (1955-1970).

The 64-year-old Arkansas native has conducted seminars in 33 countries and 48 states. More than 450 of his articles have been published. He plans to retire in August. Alton and DeLois Loveless have two sons.

Sunday Evening—Carl Cheshier

Although the Music Commission plans a "Free Will Baptist Singing" Sunday evening, Reverend Carl Cheshier will deliver the Moderator's Message during a strategic point in the musical program. Cheshier has served as moderator of the National Association since 1996.

Cheshier was elected president of Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma, in 1997. He previously served nine years as assistant moderator of the National Association, 13 years on the Sunday School Board and 20 years as moderator of the Arkansas State Association.

Ordained to the ministry in 1957, Cheshier pastored 40 years in Oklahoma, California, Texas and Arkansas—28 years at Cavanaugh FWB Church in Fort Smith. Carl and Barbara Cheshier have two children.



Monday Evening—Kerry Steedley

U.S. Army Chaplain (Colonel) Kerry Steedley will deliver the keynote address at the national convention. An evening of patriotic music will precede his message.

After serving as an enlisted soldier in Vietnam (1971-73), Steedley went on active duty as a chaplain in 1978. His initial assignment was with the 101st Airborne Division. He later served at the U.S. Army War College, as brigade and division chaplain, and as Corps chaplain.

Col. Steedley (55) is currently Command Chaplain with the Military District of Washington (D.C.). He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Luther Rice Seminary and Troy State University, with an additional two years of graduate work at Vanderbilt University. He has earned numerous military awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Air Assault Badge.

Kerry and Brenda Steedley have two children.

Tuesday Evening—Melvin Worthington

For the past 23 years, Dr. Melvin Worthington has served as executive secretary of the National Association

of Free Will Baptists. The 64-year-old North Carolina native will retire in December after 43 years in the ministry.

Worthington's duties include arranging the annual national convention, publishing *Contact* magazine, arranging the annual Leadership Conference and publishing both the *Free Will Baptist Yearbook* and the *Treatise*, in addition to representing the denomination at professional meetings and state associations.

Prior to his election as executive secretary, Worthington pastored 20 years in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Georgia. He holds a doctorate in education from Vanderbilt University and has been a Certified Meeting Professional for 16 years. Melvin and Anne Worthington have two children.

Wednesday Evening—Curtis Linton

Dr. Curtis Linton takes the pulpit during what's traditionally the most anticipated sermon at the national convention—the Wednesday night missionary service. The 46-year-old Oklahoma native should be right at home with the large crowd, since he has conducted more than 300 revivals in 21 states and three countries.

Dr. Linton has pastored Cornerstone FWB Church in Tulsa since 1986. He began his pastoral career at age 19 as a youth pastor in Tulsa. Then for the next 10 years, he pastored in Salina and Lawton, Oklahoma.

Ordained to preach in 1975, Dr.

Linton served five years on the Board of Trustees at Hillsdale FWB College (1986-91). He has served on the Southeastern FWB College Board of Trustees since 1991. He is currently on the Oklahoma State Missions Board and the Greater Tulsa Area Missions Board. He previously served as moderator of the Dibble and Northeast Associations in Oklahoma.

Curtis and Karen Linton have three daughters and two grandchildren.

Pastors/Laymen Conference

Noted author and speaker Stan Toler will address the Monday afternoon Pastors/Laymen Conference at 3:00 p.m. in the East Hall at Memphis Convention Center.

Dr. Toler is senior pastor at Trinity Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoma City. He hosts a television program for church leaders and pastors, "Mission Today." He has written 35 books, produced four teaching videos and published numerous pastoral resource kits.

Some 2,000 people are expected to hear Dr. Toler speak during the two-hour conference.

Special Seminars

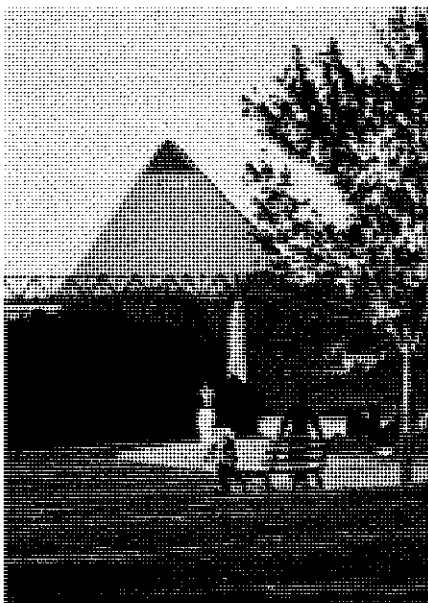
Dr. Richard H. Harris, vice president of the Church Planting Group with the Southern Baptist Convention will speak Tuesday at the 1:30 p.m. Foreign/Home Missions Rally in Memphis Convention Center's East Hall.

Under Dr. Harris' leadership, the Church Planting Group is developing and implementing North American strategy to plant and develop culturally relevant, reproducing churches.

The Tuesday morning Theological Trends Seminar features missionary to Panama, Ron Callaway, speaking on the subject, "What Do You Mean: God Does Not Know the Future?" Callaway will address open theism, a teaching that denies God's sovereign knowledge of some future events.

Reverend Callaway is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as a missionary in Spain, Cuba and Panama since 1977. He directs the Free Will Baptist Bible Institute in Panama. He is writing a commentary on the Gospel of Matthew in the Randall House Commentary series.

Other events being finalized at press



time include—Master's Men Seminar (Tuesday afternoon) and Music Commission Seminar (Wednesday afternoon).

WNAC Overview

The annual WNAC convention will bring 1,000 Free Will Baptist women together for two days of business and fellowship. The 2002 theme is "For Such a Time as This."

Two Monday afternoon seminars will meet in the Heritage Ballroom at Memphis Marriott Hotel. The Grifton (NC) FWB Church will present the drama, "Is There Hope for Me?" at 1:30 p.m. WNAC president Debe Taylor, a pastor's wife and preacher's kid, will lead the 3:00 p.m. seminar for pastors' wives, "Having a Difficult Time?"

The business side of WNAC opens Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. Missionaries to Spain, Tim and Kristi Johnson, will deliver the keynote address at WNAC's 11:00 a.m. missionary service in Memphis Convention Center. Tim and Kristi are graduates of Free Will Baptist Bible College and the University of Madrid. They were commissioned as missionaries in 1998.

WNAC president Debe Taylor will gavel delegates through reports and voting. Executive secretary-treasurer Marjorie Workman will present her annual reports to delegates.

The WNAC Fellowship Luncheon (Buffet) features Teri Peacock with Bell-Peacock Ministries who will give a dramatic presentation. The luncheon occurs at Memphis Marriott's Heritage Ballroom.

NYC Notes

National Youth Conference director Dean Jones expects more than 2,000 participants for the 35th annual conference. The conference theme is "Jesus 24/7: All His Ways, All My Days."

Service opportunities through NYC's "Reach That Guy"

event will branch out in the city of Memphis as Free Will Baptist youth go to work in some of the town's difficult places.

Numerous worship services as well as tutorials, seminars and special events are planned for youth. They start early and go late. More than 800 entries will crowd the annual Music and Arts Festival and Bible Competition.

Behind the Scenes

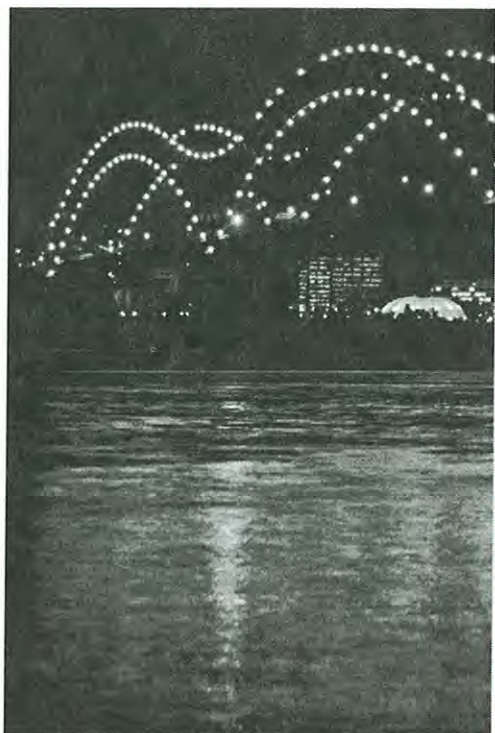
Nine Tennessee Free Will Baptists serve on the national Steering Committee to coordinate the 2002 convention:

Charles Thigpen (Nashville)	—	Chairman/Steering Committee
Terry Eagleton (Nashville)	—	State Moderator
Gwyn Pugh (Atoka)	—	Registration Committee Chairman
Jon Justice (Clarksville)	—	Hospitality Committee Chairman
Kent Barwick (Columbia)	—	Prayer Committee Chairman
Tim Osborn (Cordova)	—	Ushering Committee Chairman
Rebecca Pugh (Atoka)	—	State WAC President
Jeff Caudill (Nashville)	—	NYC Advisor

Last Call for Memphis

Time is running out. You can still beat the June 14 deadline to pre-register for the Memphis convention. But get it done today, because after June 14, you'll have to stand in a long line to register on site.

You'll want to be there Wednesday when we elect a new executive secretary for the first time in 23 years. You'll want to be there Sunday night to hear the Free Will Baptist Singing Convention. You'll want to be there Monday night when we raise Old Glory and thank God for America. You'll want to be there in July when the Memphis Convention Center becomes the world's largest Free Will Baptist church. ■



Free Will Baptist National Convention

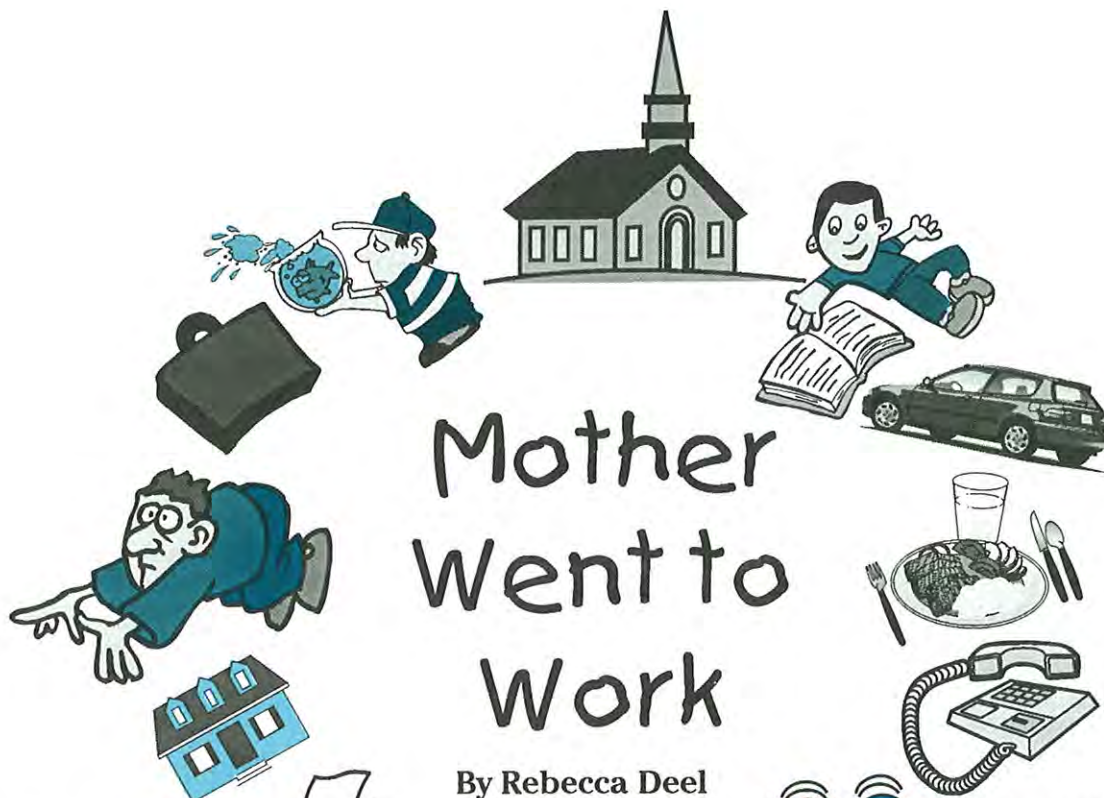
July 21-25, 2002

**Stop by the *Contact* booth
for convention specials.**

Sign up for door prizes.
One will be awarded each night, Monday - Wednesday.

Bring this coupon to the booth
and get \$3 off any new subscription.
The subscription can be for you
or a gift for someone else.





Mother Went to Work

By Rebecca Deel

Quietness reigns. Peace permeates the house. Children, parents and pets sleep. And then—it happens. The alarm screeches at the startled snoozers.

Feet hit the floor at a dead run. Jump in the shower. Throw on clothes. Pull a brush through your hair. Wolf down breakfast. Pack lunches. Roust the kids. Chase the dog. Find and fill backpacks. Grab your briefcase. Buckle the kids in the car. Pray for green lights and no traffic accidents. Drop the kids at school. Hope crazy drivers left early and Sunday drivers stayed home. Pull into the parking lot at work. Draw a deep breath. You made it—with one minute to spare.

Sound like your typical workweek morning? Welcome to a working mother's world.

Until World War II, most mothers worked mainly in the home. The war drained critical workers from the American economy. Women left home and joined the freedom fight by working in factories, stores and banks. They filled all vacant roles in support of their soldiers and country. Employers trained these women and discovered an untapped resource.

When the war ended, soldiers came home and found the women still at work. And those wives and mothers remained in the workforce. About 72% of mothers with children under 18 years of age currently work a job outside the home. When the military men migrated

back into the civilian population, a second income was luxurious. Now a second income is almost a survival issue.

The Benefits

There are many advantages in having a dual-income household. Working mothers tend to be more affectionate with their children. These moms know they only have three or four hours per day to help their children build Christian character and complete homework. Hugs, kisses and verbal expressions of affection abound.

Standardized achievement tests show children of working mothers score higher in reading, math and science. Young children enrolled in pre-

school enjoy the advantage of going to kindergarten already reading and doing simple math. Mom also sees the value of a good education in an eye-opening display of power shifts and promotions at work. That knowledge encourages her to expand her own educational horizons, and ensure her offspring absorb the skills critical to their own successful careers.

To preserve harmony in the dual-income family, husbands of working mothers shoulder more household chores and childcare than men in a single-income home. Gone are the days when the male breadwinner could prop up his feet and settle in for a relaxing evening of football and Tom Clancy. Dad also shares in car pooling, grocery shopping, housecleaning, errand running and doctor visits.

Mothers in the workplace enjoy high morale. Working mothers contribute to the family income, the church budget and the employer's bottom line. They are individuals with responsibilities and successes in all three worlds. A working mother is not just "John's mommy" or "David's wife." She is a child of God living up to the full potential of her varied abilities and making the best of her family's circumstances.

The Costs

Most mothers join the workforce to

supplement the family income. While the second salary keeps the family afloat, it comes with heavy chains attached.

The item in shortest supply around a dual-income home is time. Working mothers spend twice as much time at work as they do with their families. The normal activities involved in caring for a family and home must be condensed into the few hours left after work and school.

These mothers wear exhaustion like a second skin. Late nights, early mornings and busy workdays often add up to a short-tempered, frequently sick mom.

The family dwelling is often a casualty of the working world. Housekeeping chores are jammed between errands, emergencies and dinner. Clutter and laundry grow to mountainous proportions, and mothers-in-law could write a book in the dust.

Working moms buy professional and casual clothes. And, of course, that means a run to the dry cleaners more regularly than your checkbook would prefer.

A second car becomes essential for two-income families. Car payments, insurance and gas roar through the bank account like a hurricane, leaving a few scattered dollars in their wake.

The budget's food section grows as Mom packs her lunch too. And don't forget those nights when exhaustion gains the upper hand and demands a meal from a restaurant.

The church is not immune to the dual-earner scenario. Since Mom is short on time and energy, the pastor will be lucky if she doesn't snore quietly in the pew during his sermon. Many volunteer positions in the church go unfilled because working moms must prioritize to survive.

Survival Tips

Being a working mother will never be simple. But take heart. There are ways to veer around the crater-sized potholes on your journey.

Dump the guilt.

God included a strong nesting and nurturing instinct in women for the preservation of the family unit. It is not intended to destroy your contentment because you must work. Staying home full time would let the financial

wolves move in. Take pride in helping to keep wildlife at bay.

Realize that your job is just that—a job.

Career choices narrow dramatically until the children leave home. Working mothers must choose what is best for their families, even if it means refusing a well-deserved promotion. A few extra dollars in the bank is a poor substitute for irreplaceable time with your children. Junior won't remember later that he couldn't buy a Dallas Cowboy's starter jacket. He will remember that Mom was there to see his home run in T-ball.

Organize your life.

Get a day planner and use it. Go to the grocery store after you plan your menus, check the pantry and make a list. Dust off the crock pot. Cook meals large enough for planned leftovers.

Houseclean in 15-minute segments.

Dust one day; clean bathrooms the next. If you wait to do all the cleaning on Saturday, you will stumble over the diversions lurking around every bend in the trail. Saturdays are inevitably running days. Reserve Sundays for much-needed rest.

Delegate responsibility.

Mom is not the *Merry Maid*. Husbands and children can control clutter and pick up rooms. Some even turn out to be great chefs if given the opportunity. Remember to produce a big smile and enthusiastic hug for creative dinners of cereal and milk or bologna and jelly sandwiches.

Get multivitamins for each family member.

Keep consistent bedtimes. Nudge everyone into some form of exercise. Protect nights and weekends.

Allow children only one extracurricular activity. Make one night family video or game time. Reserve one night a week for your spouse, even if your "date" consists of watching television together after the children are in bed.

Limit your own extracurricular activities.

Refuse to accept more than one church responsibility. Pass up party

invitations unless they are church sponsored.

Value every minute with your children.

Don't let your child's freshest memory be of a nagging, sniping or snarling parent. No child deserves to start a school day in tears, berated in front of his classmates.

Instead of coming to after-school care or preschool with groceries and dry cleaning in your car, take your child with you on errands. Travel time is an excellent opportunity for conversation. Grocery shopping is a great education in healthy food choices and money management. You may unearth gems of wisdom if you take the time to know your children.

Leave work at work.

What's the point in bringing work home? There is more than enough work for another full-time job waiting inside the front door.

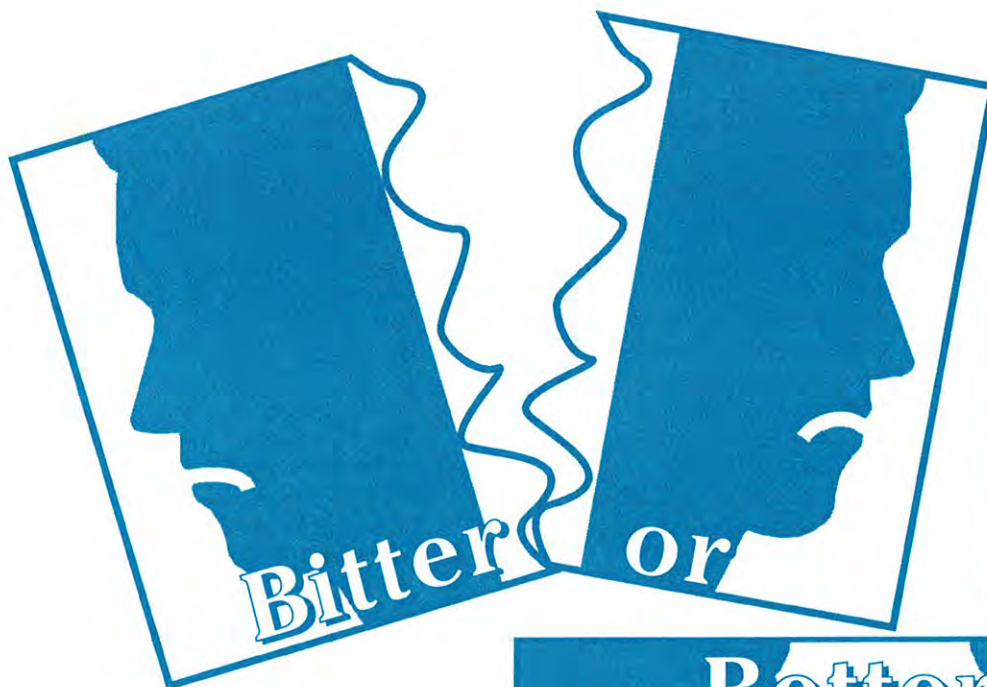
Got stress? Grab a book. Escape for a few minutes each day. Your family will thank you.

The greatest challenge for families on the dual income highway is balancing the demands of work, home and church. The family is a team, and all obstacles must be tackled together. Decisions reached must reflect love and commitment to each other.

Beware! Dual income families are not for the faint of heart. If you enjoy lightning-paced roller coasters filled with the unexpected around each curve, hop on board. The next ride is about to depart! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Rebecca Deel chairs the business department at Free Will Baptist Bible College. She serves as pianist at Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Antioch, Tennessee.



**How to move past
life's disappointments**



By Joan Martin

Laura gave a gift of money to a young college student. He had moved on, forgetting to send a message of thanks. With each reminder of him, my friend's irritation grew.

After hearing her story many times, I suggested, "I've had similar experiences, Laura. Tim should have thanked you, but he didn't. These kids are so busy sometimes, they don't think. In spite of that, perhaps God answered Tim's need through you. Try to put the incident behind you and thank the Lord for allowing you to help someone."

Nevertheless, Laura often yanked her hurt from the gunnysack where she stowed many other injustices over past years. She chose to keep this hurt fresh.

David, an older man, gave of himself to be a friend to a man who was lonely. He took his new friend out for dinner, invited him to church functions and often slipped him some money.

Then one day Steven simply disappeared. Once in a while he would surface and ask for a favor which David granted with cheerfulness.

Someone inquired, "Don't you realize you're a doormat for this man?"

David replied, "Yes, but God must have a reason to allow Steven into my life. If he calls again, I'll still be his friend."

There are ways we can decide to remain better instead of bitter when unfair and unwanted hurts enter our lives.

Refuse to Blame the Lord

Job lost children, health, home, friends and livestock. His wife told him to curse God and die (Job 2:9). The Bible says of Job, "There is no one on earth like him: he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil," (Job 1:8b).

Pray for God to Help Let Go the Hurt

One of my boys was a rebellious teenager. My friend attended a coffee party held in our neighborhood. She told me the subject of conversation was my son.

She said, "I told them you were good people and trying to raise your son right. I also said I couldn't stay and hear the gossip."

I remembered that morning and

the hostess for a long time. When shopping in the supermarket, I'd go down another aisle if I saw her in the store. It was making me miserable. As I allowed the bitter thoughts to continue, I was the one suffering. My hostess didn't even know I was angry.

When I could stand it no longer, I began to pray something like this: "Lord, You and I know it's not right for a Christian to be unforgiving. I know my neighbor has two small children and cannot possibly understand what we're going through. Please help me to let go of the bitter thoughts."

It didn't happen overnight, but with continued prayer, the thoughts came less and less and disappeared. My neighbor and I even exchanged Christmas cards for several more years after I moved away.

Choose Not to Let the Hurt Grow

If we don't take an active role, the root of bitterness will begin to grow. God's Word instructs us to get rid of it (Heb. 12:15).

Men and women living in Bible time also had trouble with hurts and how to handle them.

King Saul allowed his jealousy of David to become so strong that he tried to kill God's anointed (1 Sam. 18). He imagined that David was trying to take his throne and as bitterness grew, so did Saul's desire to get even.

Face the Problem Instead of Ignoring It

My husband's mother was a widow when we married. It was necessary for us to help her financially which meant I had to do without things I wanted.

I didn't confide my feelings to my husband, and so my hurt grew and caused me to dislike his mother. Each time she visited for a week I resented her.

So often we don't pray for our feelings, but I knew things were not improving. I began to pray and also to talk to my husband. My mother-in-law had very little and God began to show me she could not help how things were.

A love for her came into my heart

and I found myself letting go the resentment I had. It ended with our still having to help, but a good relationship grew for us both.

Avoid Bringing Hurt on Ourselves

Terry continues to meddle in her children's lives. They stay away and her bitterness grows. Terry made a choice to continue a power struggle. When I pray, I know the Lord will show me if there are faults in me that I can correct.

Accept circumstances over which we have no control: Even when we suffer unpleasant and unjust situations, we still have a choice. Will we learn from it or will it make us bitter?

One person remarked, "Now that I've gone through that experience, I can understand how others feel. I can help someone else."

When my brother died, our pastor said, "God could have built a wall around Don so the brain tumor could not affect him. However, He chose not to do so. We don't know why."

My brother remained single and lived his life being obedient to the Lord. He also had a great faith. I was angry, knowing he died so young when there was so much love and caring in him.

For a long time I questioned God. A verse was given to me. "And the God of all grace, who called you to

his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast," (1 Pet. 5:10).

I knew my brother would not be happy if he knew I was bitter. I accepted the fact that God was in control and had His reasons.

A woman named Ruth, in the Bible, was forced to gather leftover grain in the field of a man she did not know. She loved her mother-in-law and promised to take care of her. When Ruth did this humble task with a sweet spirit, God rewarded her by giving her Boaz, the owner of the field, as her husband.

It is not always possible to forget an incident which was dynamic and life-changing. It is possible not to allow it to have an unhealthy effect. It's my choice as to what I will do with those hurtful and uncomfortable memories.

We have all been a "Laura" sometimes, but she reminds us that the solution doesn't lie in carrying around a sack full of bitterness. We can find freedom and healing in turning it all over to the Lord. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Joan Martin is a free lance writer who resides in Grayslake, Illinois.

BEYOND BELIEF





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

God's Remedy for Stress

By Kevin Riggs¹

Habit #4—
A Successful Person
Recognizes His Total Dependence
on God.

I live my life over-scheduled and under-rested. I feel like the rabbit in Alice in Wonderland who, while running sporadically, says, "I'm late. I'm late, for a very important date. I'm late. I'm late. I'm late." If I keep up this pace, it will result in emotional stress and physical exhaustion—but I can't help it. I need to stay busy.

Is the busy lifestyle what Jesus meant by the abundant life?² Is winning the rat race what success is all about? Is this how God intended me to spend my time?

God said, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."³ To "remember" means "to observe without lapse" or "to hold as a present and continuing priority." The word "Sabbath" literally means "rest," and the meaning behind "holy" is "to set apart and treat as sacred."

The principle behind this command is that God wants me to make it a top priority to set apart one day out of seven for Him.⁴

Myths Concerning Time

The problems I face don't compare to the stress and dangers the Israelites were living under. They were in the wilderness trying to survive. Every day was an adventure. Every day was a battle between life and death. Yet, God told them to rest one day out of seven. Obeying this commandment was a statement of faith. It was saying: *Lord, we are depending on You to meet our needs.* By setting one day aside every week, the Israelites were acknowledging that every day belonged to the Lord.

Is the way I schedule my life a statement of my faith in God? When I try to justify my workaholicism, I usually argue one or more of the following myths.

If I had more time, I could accomplish everything I need to accomplish.

If I am not careful, I will treat Sunday like any other day because I am

trying to find more time to do what I think needs to be done. If there were 28 hours in a day, I tell myself, then I could finish all my projects.

Not long ago I had a revelation, of sorts. I was feeling overwhelmed because of all I had to do when it dawned on me: If there isn't enough time in the day to do what needs to be done anyway, then taking one day off per week is not going to hurt. Since there will always be more to do, taking a break will not negatively affect the outcome.

No one is as busy as I am.

Everyone has jobs and families and hobbies and children and sports and church and meetings. Everyone has the same 24 hours per day. Furthermore, as busy as I think I am, Jesus was busier. Yet, everyday He went off by Himself to pray, and every Sabbath He was found worshipping in the synagogue. If Jesus needed a day off, how much more do I?

Being busy is important.

There is a strong temptation to equate my value as a person with what I do for a living. The biggest mistake I can make is to think I am irreplaceable. Once I missed a business meeting at my church so I could take my daughter out. To everyone's surprise, or at least to my surprise, the business meeting went fine without me, and Katherine⁵ and I had a great time.

I know God ordained work, and I know working hard is honorable. But I also must confess that being a workaholic is a sign of my lack of faith in God. Placing my value as a person on my busy schedule instead of in the image of God is an insult to God.

I am too busy to take a break.

When I take one week off, I get three weeks behind. But the busier I am and the more hectic the pace, the more important it is that I observe the Sabbath. The more stress I feel and the more exhausted I am and the more depressed I become, the more I need to keep the Sabbath. God knew what He was doing when He said to take off one day in seven.

"Quiet Time" is a waste of time.

Working seven days a week doesn't make me more productive. It does, however, make me more grumpy. Too much time may be the devil's workshop, but God did say, "Be still, and know that I am God."⁶ Cicero said, "He does not seem to me to be a free man who does not sometimes do nothing."

Habit #4

The Fourth Commandment involves more than where I spend a few hours on Sunday morning. It has to do with how I live my life every day. I believe this Commandment is still a statement of faith. Obedience is a declaration of my total dependence on God.

Thus, the fourth habit is as follows: *A highly successful person recognizes his total dependence on God to meet his needs.* The successful person demonstrates his dependence on God by setting aside one day per week as completely different from all the others.

What should I do on this day? How do I keep it holy? What are the bene-

fits of keeping the Sabbath?

Relax

I believe this is the main purpose of the Sabbath.⁷ God knows I need a day to rest from the routine of life. Keeping the Sabbath doesn't mean I do nothing; it means I do things I enjoy and find relaxing. Things like reading a book, walking through the park or going on a bike ride with my kids. By taking a break, and resting my mind and body, I honor God, especially if the first thing I do on the Sabbath is take my family to church.

Refocus

I may rest through some activity, but the way I keep the Sabbath holy is by first honoring God, the Creator of every day and every moment. Coming to worship helps keep my life focused. Praising God and hearing from His Word remind me what is really important. Setting aside one day per week to worship God helps me focus and readjust my priorities.

Renew

When I take time out to relax my mind and body and refocus my spirit, I become renewed and ready to face the week ahead. Put another way: Weekly renewal through relaxing and refocusing is the fuel that keeps me going through the difficult and monotonous routines of life.

Re-energize

As I relax, I am able to refocus, which results in being renewed, which then re-energizes me to do what needs to be done. I believe by keeping the Sabbath I am better equipped to handle Mondays. Without the Sabbath, I become weak and worn down. By honoring the Sabbath, I get what I need to keep on keeping on.

A highly successful person knows his limitations. He knows there will always be more to do than hours to do it. A highly successful person strives to achieve balance and recognizes his total dependence on God by keeping the Sabbath day holy.

Maybe the reason Mondays are so bad is because Sundays have become just another day. Setting aside one day per week as holy and using that day to

rest, refocus, renew and re-energize is God's gift to us. God created the Sabbath for us,⁸ and by keeping the Sabbath we are able to re-create ourselves for Him.

Are you on the road to success? Are you obeying the Fourth Commandment? Is it the habit of your life to be totally dependent on God? ■

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. John 10:10.
3. Exodus 20:8.
4. For the Jews, the Sabbath was Saturday. Because Jesus' resurrection took place on Sunday, Christians have replaced the Sabbath Day with the Lord's Day, but the principle is still the same.
5. Katherine is my daughter's name.
6. Psalm 46:10.
7. I base this belief on the fact that the word literally means "to rest."
8. Mark 2:27.

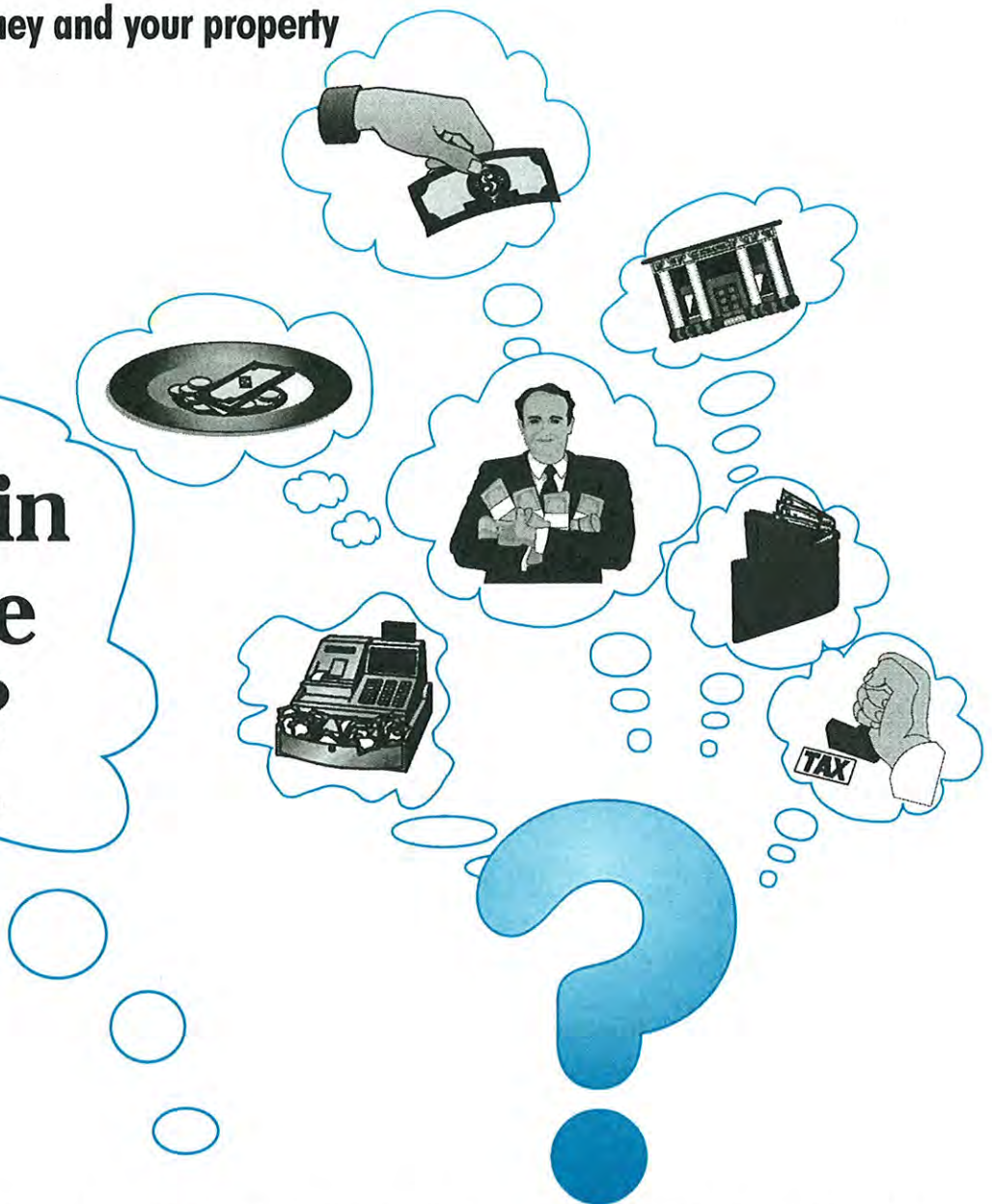


ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Kevin Riggs pastors Franklin Free Will Baptist Church in Franklin, Tennessee.



Who's in Charge Here?

By Cliff Donoho



Have you ever read a portion of God's Word and wondered if you were really doing or obeying the Bible? I must admit, I had those feelings as I read Luke 20:25, *"And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's."*

The old English word, "render" simply means to willfully submit. Jesus was telling the chief priests and scribes to yield themselves willingly to the Roman government under the leadership of Caesar, and enjoy its protection and watch care. He was also telling them to willfully yield themselves unto God and enjoy His protection and His watch care.

No wonder they were astonished

in verse 26. They marveled that they could not trap Christ in His words.

Who Owns It?

We live in a society where many advocate socialism which teaches that society owns everything. Society knows best how to take care of you. Socialism wants you to believe that if you leave it to society, they can take care of all your health issues, your retirement issues, your housing issues, and that, indeed, they can run your life.

Capitalism, however, teaches the opposite. Capitalism teaches that society doesn't need to own everything, individuals need to own everything. Those who work the hardest

and do the most will gain the most.

Christianity, on the other hand, teaches that God owns everything and there shouldn't be any debate about it. We believe that He owns it all, but that He entrusts it to the watch care of His children. Christians then are stewards of His property.

Inevitably, when a preacher mentions stewardship from the pulpit, an invisible wall rises between the preacher and the congregation.

The Bank Principle

Consider this simple illustration about stewardship. Biblical stewardship is much like a bank. A bank is entrusted with money that belongs

to others. The money doesn't belong to the bank, but they have the right, the freedom and permission to invest money deposited to their care.

Investments, loans and payments are all part of the uses of money entrusted in their care. Please understand—the bank is not some generous organization that puts your money in their vault and guards it for you. They invest your money to make them money.

However, a bank must be careful how they use money placed at their disposal. They are required to be honest and just in their dealings. The bank must be able to pay the money back to the owner upon demand.

As Christians, we believe that everything we have belongs to God. We also believe that everything God has, He entrusts to His children. God demands that we be good stewards of the things He entrusts to us.

We are simply managers of someone else's property or possessions. Let's consider this matter of rendering and being obedient stewards. *"And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's,"* (Luke 20:25).

Christians will only become good stewards and render to God the things that are God's when we recognize who owns God's property. Psalm 24 tells us, *"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."* When we understand that God owns everything, it makes all the difference in our thinking process and our tithing practice.

The Three "T"s

When we realize God owns it all, we become thankful. Our jobs, homes, families and health are all blessings from the Lord. We don't deserve any of them.

James says that every good gift is from above—that includes physically, materially, medically, financially and spiritually. How can we be anything but thankful to Almighty God?

Realizing God's ownership brings us to the issue of trusting God. Proverbs 3 tells us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts, to trust that God can and will take care of His people. The Bible tells us that He owns the hills and the cattle on the hills as well. He owns it all, therefore, I can trust Him that Philippians 4:19 is

true and He will take care of us.

Realizing God's ownership of everything will cause us to be tithers. When Malachi asks if a man will rob God, the answer is yes if that man does not recognize God's ownership. God actually gives us the choice when it comes to tithing—the choice of a curse upon our lives or a blessing that we don't have room to receive.

We will not begin to be thankful, trusting or tithing until we are convinced that God is able to do what the Bible says He can do. Simply put, Malachi informs us that when we withhold our tithes it makes us thieves.

The question we need to ask ourselves is this, "Should we be obedient to the Word of God?" We have two choices. One, we can be honest with God and be blessed, or, two, we can be dishonest with God and be cursed. It's our choice.

It's amazing that folks get upset when the pastor preaches on tithing. However, those same folks would never consider failing to file their federal income tax. I asked a personal friend what would happen if he didn't pay his income tax. He replied, "The IRS would come after me." We need to realize that by not tithing, God will come after us!

Areas of Submission

When we "render," we willingly submit. Submit means at least three things. First, it means yielding our *time*. John 9:4 tells us it is time to work. Christians need to meet their personal responsibility to the great commission. Do we tithe a portion of our time to the work of the Lord?

Second, submitting in this context means to yield our *talents* to God. I do not believe that God gives us gifts to sit on the shelf. Luke 12:48 reminds us that to whom much is given, much is required.

Third, submitting means to yield our *treasure*. Luke 6:38 promises that if we give with a willing heart that God will press it—shake it—and it will be running over from His blessing. It is important to note that God is promising to bless us with the same generosity that we have for others.

We will never know God's promises until we begin to practice His precepts. As Christians, we will render to God the things that are God's when we respond to the obligation of God's people.

Inescapable Obligations

There is at least a three-fold obligation for God's people. Obligation number one is to see the need. We will never give until we see the need. We must see further than our own lives and families. This is what Jesus meant in John 4:35, *"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."*

Obligation number two is to spread the news. See the need and spread the news. Jesus spoke of this on several occasions when He talked about the harvest being plenteous, the laborers few, the fields ready for harvest.

How does modern Christianity keep the great commission and spread the news? We will either spread the news through our monetary giving or through our missionary going.

Obligation number three is to share the name. *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved,"* (Acts 4:12)

Other verses also command us to share the name of Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:9-11; 1 Cor. 4:2).

It would be hard to read the Bible and not be convicted to be faithful stewards. We will only be faithful stewards when we apply three simple principles to our lives. We must recognize the ownership of God's property; we must resign to be obedient to God's precepts; we must respond to the obligation of God's people. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Cliff Donoho pastors Priest Lake Free Will Baptist Church in Antioch, Tennessee. He also chairs the Master's Men Board.

Gone Before 50

By Ginny Reeves Williford

More than 20 years ago, a young man and his wife came to our church to serve as youth pastor. It was his first position, and they were both very young. It couldn't have been the easiest move for him to make; he was from Michigan, she from Alabama.

At a time when Free Will Baptists weren't quite sure what they wanted from youth ministers, he worked diligently with a servant's heart. I will never forget the trips to Nashville, youth camps, lock-ins and all the other jobs he did that weren't written in his job description. He made a tremendous impact on my life in the few short years he was there.

I later went on to Bible College, and he to a pastorate. Our paths crossed again years later when he began pastoring in the area where my husband and I were ministering, and I got to know him all over again as an adult. He had changed some and his style of preaching had matured, but I still observed a servant's heart.

As an adult this impressed me even more. He wasn't all that interested in being important and making sure everyone knew his name. What he was interested in was the souls of the people around him.

We moved on to a different ministry. A few years ago we made a trip to his church and visited with him and his family. Sure he was older, but his servant's heart was still there.

This past Friday my mom called to let me know that Mike Creech (my first

youth pastor) had died of a massive heart attack. It took a minute to sink in; after all Mike was only in his 40s. I prayed it was just one of those stories that got started and spread, but wasn't true. After a few phone calls to South Carolina, the reality of it sank in—Mike Creech was dead.

Yesterday I stood at his graveside with his wife, children, church members and others who grieved his passing. Being human, I questioned: *Why? There are so many horrible people who live to be old. Why, Lord, did You take him?*

I may never know the answer to that question, but I do know that God's ways are higher than ours. I also know that Mike's influence will continue, and I pray the Lord will give me a heart like his. I thank his wife, Carla, his children, Rachel, Hannah and Caleb, for sharing this special man with my family and with Free Will Baptists. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Ginny Williford is a member of Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church in Colquitt, Georgia, where her husband, Mark, pastors.

Editor's Note: Reverend Mike Creech, pastor of First FWB Church in Florence, South Carolina, died February 22, 2002. He was 47.

Free Will Baptist National Convention



OBEDIENCE Our Obligation

Memphis, TN
July 21-25, 2002

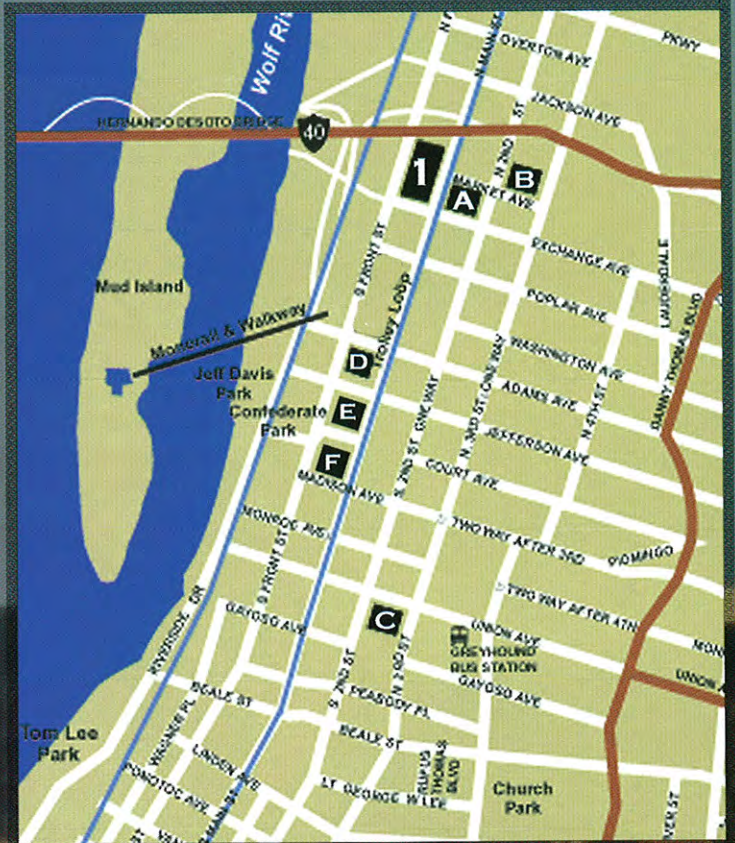
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City Information

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 Headquarters Hotel	\$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.

nce Info

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

Special Events

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



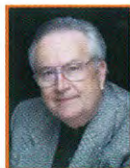
Sunday Morning Worship

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

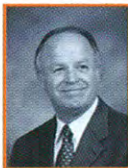
Free Will Baptist Singing!

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:

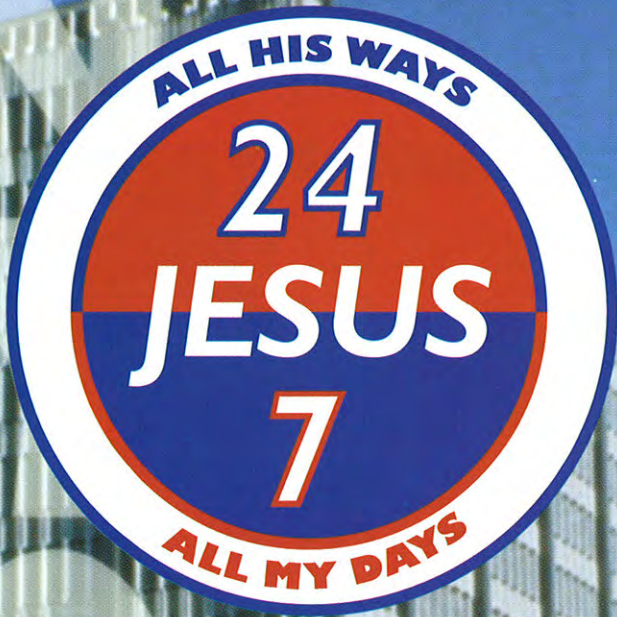
- Helpful seminars to expand and revitalize women's ministries in your local church
- Missionary speakers to help you glimpse a vision of what God is doing throughout the world
- Innovative ideas how you as a woman can join Him in the work
- Testimonies
- Uplifting music
- Fellowship
- Session of praise 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

FWBNC 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 \$ _____

(Ticket total + Fee total)

No refunds after June 14

☐ 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.

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

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 <i>Headquarters Hotel</i>	<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	WYNDHAM GARDEN HOTEL	RADISSON HOTEL	COMFORT INN	SLEEP INN	SPRING HILL
250 N. Main Street Memphis, TN 38103 Tel (901)527-7300 Fax (901)526-1561 www.marriott.com Group Code: FWBFWBA	300 N. 2nd Street Memphis, TN 38105 Tel (901)525-1800 Fax (901)524-1859 www.wyndham.com Group Code: 07764NO	MEMPHIS 185 Union Avenue Memphis, TN 38103 Tel (800)333-3333 Fax (901)525-8509	DOWNTOWN 100 N. Front Street Memphis, TN 38103 Tel (901)526-0583 Fax (901)525-7512	AT COURT SQUARE 40 N. Front Street Memphis, TN 38103 Tel (901)522-9700 Fax (901)527-8931	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.

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

Check out the web
page today!

www.nafwb.org



First Annual FWB Classic



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



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

Bible College Student Dies on Campus

NASHVILLE, TN—Ashlee Powellka, a Free Will Baptist Bible College sophomore from Norfolk, Virginia, died in Polston Hall women's dormitory sometime during the morning of March 1. The cause of death was unknown at press time.

Ashlee was a business administration major. She was a member of the Virginia Beach, VA, FWB Church and a graduate of Gateway Christian School. She was serving as business manager for the *Lumen*, the college's yearbook.

A service was held at the college Friday evening, March 1, to remember Ashlee. Students shared their memories and celebrated the confidence that Ashlee is with the Lord.

Her funeral was conducted March 4 in Virginia Beach. Members of the administration, staff and student body, including President and Mrs. Tom Malone, attended.

Following the funeral, Ashlee's father, John Powellka, gave President Malone an excerpt from her journal, written shortly before her death. In part, Ashlee wrote:

I have resolved that God has something very special for me. I just have to remain patient. I can't rush God . . . I can't wait to experience all He has for me. Better yet, I can't wait to see His face and glory! I could only imagine what I would do when I stand in His presence.



Reverend Mike Creech Dies

FLORENCE, SC—The Reverend Mike Creech (47), pastor of First FWB Church in Florence, South Carolina, died February 22 after a massive heart attack. He had led the Florence congregation since 1994.

Reverend Creech began his pastoral ministry as associate pastor at Fellowship FWB Church in Flat River, Missouri (1977-79). He then served four years at First FWB Church in Thomaston, GA, (1979-83) and eight years at Smithville FWB Church in Smithville, Mississippi (1983-91) before moving to South Carolina where he pastored Bay Branch FWB Church in Timmonsville (1991-94).

Prior to his 25-year pastoral career, Brother Creech attended Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Funeral services were conducted February 25 at First FWB Church in Florence. An overflow crowd heard associate pastor Lee Patrick tell about Reverend Creech's impact in the community. Burial followed on February 27 in Jasper, Alabama.

Reverend Mike Creech is survived by his wife, Carla Creech; daughters Rachel and Hanna Creech; son Caleb Creech; and sisters Bonnie Gabbard (Michigan) and Carol Bechard (Kentucky).



2002 Yearbooks Available

NASHVILLE, TN—The 2002 *Free Will Baptist Yearbook* is off the press! The *Yearbooks* will be mailed to district association clerks for distribution to local pastors. If you are interested in purchasing a copy for your personal use, call Randall House Publications at 800/877-7030.

Harvest Ministries Opens Emergency Shelter



DUFFIELD, VA—Harvest FWB Child Care Ministries completed a 20-bed emergency shelter to accommodate children in crisis situations, according to Martha Stone, advancement director. Located in Stickleyville, VA, the \$900,000 facility has ministered to 125 children since June 2001.

The emergency shelter provides a 45-day program for children in crisis and includes educational, behavioral and psychological evaluations. Robin Neal, director of emergency services, compiles the information into an assessment profile that is presented to the court and legal guardian.

Martha Stone indicated that

recommendations for the children may include residential treatment, foster home care or family reunification based on the needs of each child.

Harvest officials are seeking funds to reduce the \$900,000 indebtedness incurred during construction of the emergency and assessment shelter. Advancement director Martha Stone said, "For an investment of \$1,000, givers' names will be engraved in the Walkway of Hope."

More information can be obtained from Newl Dotson, director of Harvest Child Care Ministries by calling 276/523-2315 or e-mailing him at newl@harvestccm.org.

Directory Update

FLORIDA

Steve Berry to First Church, Melbourne
Kenny Thompkins to First Church, Ocala

MICHIGAN

Jeff Isaacs to Berea FWB Mission, Battle Creek

MISSOURI

Eddie Vincent to Parkview Church, Desloge from
Baxley Church, Baxley, GA

OKLAHOMA

Toby Youngblood to Faith Church, Glenpool from
Spencer Road Church, Spencer

SOUTH CAROLINA

Dennis Trolley to Gaffney Church, Gaffney

TENNESSEE

Bill Van Winkle to Fellowship Church, Antioch
from Fulton Church, Fulton, MS

OTHER PERSONNEL

Travis Carter to Valley Falls Church, Spartanburg,
SC, as youth director

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

South Carolina Tweaks State Structure

SPARTANBURG, SC—Delegates to the 60th annual South Carolina State Association approved three constitutional changes that adjusted names and titles, and expanded the General Board, according to Mike Jones, executive secretary. By the time attendees adjourned the February 21-22 session at Peace FWB Church in Spartanburg, the promotional director had become the executive secretary, the promotional office had been renamed the SC State Office, and the General Board included broader representation.

Moderator Sherwood Lee, elected to a seventh term, welcomed

155 registrants which included 93 ministers. Delegates granted permission for the association to begin a benevolent fund for ministers which will provide resources when a minister or his wife dies.

In other action, delegates passed resolutions of support for the changing denominational leadership, and a reaffirmation of opposition to gambling and lottery.

The state Executive Committee, after consulting with local conferences, presented a motion that the South Carolina State Association withdraw fellowship from any church or conference which licenses, ordains or recognizes as

a pastor any minister who has fallen into sexual sin. The motion cited both the moral mandate and the legal liability in this matter.

The state association theme, "A Call to Holiness" was developed in sermons by Columbia pastor Carroll Alexander, missionary to India Carlisle Hanna and retired minister Billy Vandiford. Three devotionals by Brian Welch, Tom Hill and Richard Conyers also addressed the theme.

The 2003 state association will meet February 27-28 at Peace FWB Church in Florence.

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.

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.

currently

Seventeen people joined **Beech Springs FWB Church** in **Satillo, MS**. **Dennis Kizzire** pastors.

Pastor **Gordon Sebastian** reports 10 new members at **Peace FWB Church** in **Wilson, NC**.

The family of the late **Elro and Virgie Burrow** gave two stained glass windows in their memory to **Peace Chapel FWB Church** in **Smithville, MS**. **Tim McDonald** pastors.

William Walden was honored by members of **Martin Hill FWB Church** in **Booneville, MS**, for more than 50 years' service as Sunday School superintendent. The 80-year-old **Walden** is also a deacon. **Ron Dail** pastors.

The Board of Trustees at **Lowery FWB Church** in **Twin Oaks, OK**, purchased a 47-passenger bus for the church. They also secured and gave to the church additional land for parking. **Doug Carey** pastors.

President **Thomas Marberry** reports 15 students at **Seminary of the Cross** in **Reynosa, Mexico**. A work group from Kentucky spent a week on campus laying block for the tabernacle and cafeteria. An Oklahoma group donated a van to the seminary.

Contact welcomes **The Barnabas Connection**, publication of **Rodney Bailey**, associate pastor at **Oak Grove FWB Church** in **Greeneville, TN**. The eight-page premier issue explains the purpose of the publication as a ministry of encouragement. A neuromuscular disease forced Reverend Bailey (a 1979 graduate of FWBBC) onto disability seven years ago. He now wears leg braces, uses a quad cane and sometimes requires a wheelchair. Bailey says everybody needs encouragement, and *The Barnabas Connection* is one way he reaches out to others with a kind word and hope.

Teens at **Unity FWB Church** in **Johnsonville, SC**, decided to read the entire Bible through in 24 hours. They began reading aloud at 7:00 p.m. Friday evening and continued until every word in the Bible had been read . . .

even the hard-to-pronounce names. **Mikell Edge** pastors.

Members of **Una FWB Church** in **Spartanburg, SC**, celebrated Pastor **Ken Cash**'s 25th anniversary as their leader. They also broke ground for a new church building.

Pastor **Bobby Bowers** has the longest tenure at one church in **South Carolina**. **Bowers** has led **First FWB Church** in **Greenville** for 35 years. Members gathered to honor Pastor **Bowers** for his years of service. Testimonies, a monetary gift, a good sermon and a well-cooked fellowship meal all reminded the pastor how much the church appreciated his efforts.

Here's a different idea. The **West Fork District Association** in **Texas** prepared a special 2002 calendar for its member churches. The wall calendar includes local church, district, state and national events. Four-color pictures of West Fork churches, people and events accompany each month. It's a novel idea that's worth repeating.

Corcoran FWB Church in **Corcoran, CA**, will celebrate their 50th anniversary May 19, according to Pastor **Ron Young**. Guest speakers will include former pastor **Edward Johns** and **Nuel Brown**, director of ministries for the California State Association. Pastor **Young** reports five conversions and six baptisms.

The **Ohio State Association** received a check for \$11,615 from Brotherhood Insurance, according to executive secretary **Edwin Hayes**. The check was a yearly dividend based on insurance coverage by the company of Free Will Baptist churches in Ohio.

Pastor **John Meade** reports 61 conversions and 21 new members at **Southwest FWB Church** in **Columbus, OH**. The congregation completed the second phase of their three-phase building program.

Lighthouse FWB Church in **Elsmere, KY**, reports 23 conversions, 25 new members and 12 rededications. **Bobby Courtney** pastors.

Six baptisms were good news at **Samantha FWB Church** in **Leesburg, OH**. But even Pastor **Wiley Perkins** was surprised when five people joined the church during a New Year's Eve service.

Pastor **Dwayne Bryan** reports 12 new members and four conversions at **Fairborn FWB Church** in **Fairborn, OH**. The church has begun a children's church.

Nearly 50 police officers attended **Cleveland FWB Church** in **Cleveland, OH**, during the church's Second Annual Cleveland Police Appreciation Day. Several officers brought their families to the service. **Robert Prichard** pastors.

Pastor **Herb Davis** reports five conversions and three baptisms at **Forest Valley FWB Church** in **Springfield, OH**.

Attendance at **Bethel FWB Church** in **Kansas City, KS**, surged from 20 to 60, according to Pastor **Clifford Ball**. The church witnessed six conversions. They celebrated their 40th anniversary in April.

Bristol FWB Church in **New Brunswick, Canada**, reports nine baptisms and 15 new members. **Oral McAfee** pastors.

Pastor **Cliff Donoho** reports seven conversions at **Priest Lake FWB Church** in **Antioch, TN**. Members have knocked on 13,000 doors in the area and secured a full-page ad in a publication servicing 12,000 apartments. ■

COMING NEXT MONTH

- *World's Greatest Dad*
- *Father of the Year*
- *The Generation Gap*
- *Convention Program*
- *Ten Ministry Myths*

About three months ago, I answered the phone and heard a voice I did not recognize. "Mrs. Atwood, this is Brian Whitaker," the voice began. I wracked my brain trying to remember Brian Whitaker. Trying not to embarrass myself, I confessed my poor memory and asked, "How do I know you?"

"I came to a Good News Club at your house when I was a little boy. I came to your church some, too," he answered. As we talked, I did remember that he had lived in our neighborhood and came each week to hear the stories and even received Christ one day.

Brian wanted to let us know that he is now attending a Free Will Baptist church, and to thank us for the teaching he received in those Good News Club sessions. He mentioned things we had taught him some 20 years ago. What a humbling experience for me.

Those who have worked with children know that reaching out to them can be exhausting and frustrating. Trying to keep preschoolers still long enough to teach them anything is demanding for the stoutest at heart!

You don't often get calls like this one thanking you for teaching them. It is, however, one of the greatest ministries and one that seems closest to God's heart, (Matt. 18:1-10). Jesus loves kids! Childhood is the best time to reach anyone for Christ. Children are trusting, sincere, and will easily believe that Jesus loves them and wants to be their Savior.

I know this from personal experience; I was saved when I was five years old. Many missionaries, pastors and other workers were saved before they left adolescence. Most of us know that reaching children is the right thing to do, but how do we do it?

Start by smiling at each child and teenager you see. Call them by name. Hug them. Ask them what they like to do. Pray for them. I have to warn you . . . a church with lots of kids is noisy and messy. They leave fingerprints on the wall; they track mud on the carpet; they stop up the toilet. But isn't reaching people (i.e. children) the main reason we have these lovely buildings?

An after-school Bible club is an open door to reaching children. Just last year the Supreme Court ruled that any school that allows other groups to meet in the school must also allow faith-based groups to meet. We found that most parents want their children to receive religious instruction even though they may not attend church themselves.

Most of the children who came to our after-school club were either unchurched or unsaved. The club started as soon as school ended and lasted 90 minutes. We gave them a snack, sang songs, taught them Bible verses and stories,

Outreach for Children

By Sandy Atwood

played games and gave an invitation to receive Christ.

The Mailbox Club has been around a long time, but it is still a good way to reach out. Kids love getting mail! Visit web site: www.nagm.org/seekers for information on Bible lessons that can be sent to children. You may sign up online by giving them the names of children you would like to receive these lessons. They send free Bible stories and lessons to children ages four and up.

If you have adults who like kids and can help them with homework, perhaps an after-school tutoring program would draw children to your church. Open the church one afternoon a week for free tutoring. Put up notices in stores or contact local schools to advertise.

Vacation Bible School is probably used more than any other way to reach out to children. This can be held during the day, in the evenings, on a Friday night and Saturday, or just on Saturdays or Wednesday nights. Child Evangelism Fellowship actually publishes "party kits" for around six dollars that have Bible stories, games, songs and ideas. I typed in "children's ministry" on my computer and 2,364 sites came up.

Most people reading this article want to reach out to people. There are 100 million people under age 25 in this country, according to the 2000 census. Temptations, abuse, distractions by our culture are luring children away from God, but they are hungry for genuine love and interest.

I had just finished telling the Bible story at one of our after-school Bible clubs and I looked up to see a few children standing by the table at the back of the library. During the story, I would always tell the children about Jesus and how much He loved them, and how He wanted to live in their heart and take away their sin. Afterwards, I would invite children who wanted to know more about that to go to the back to talk with an adult. We wanted to make sure they really understood the gospel and to see if they were ready to receive Christ.

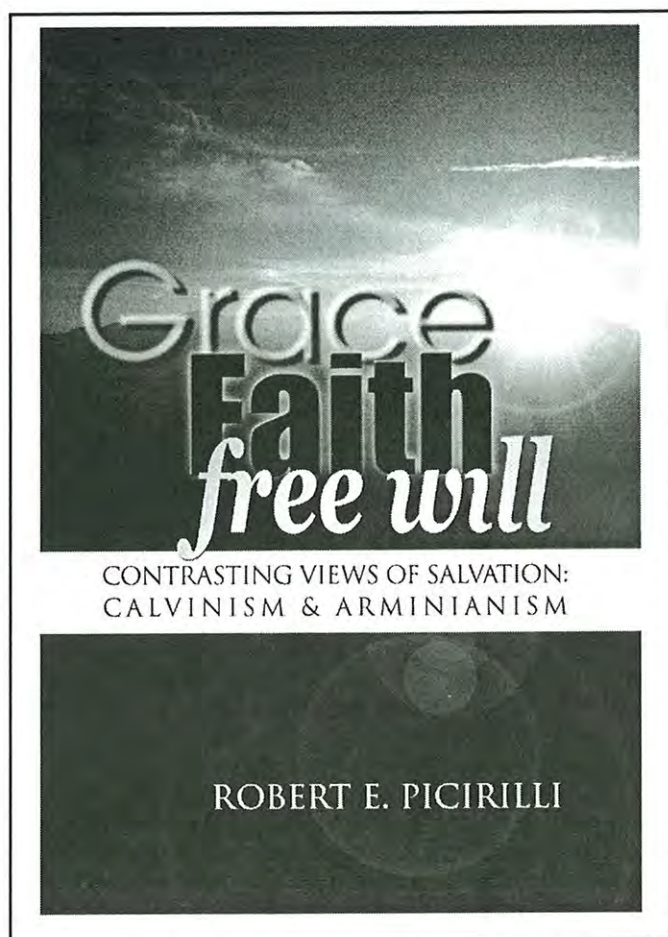
That day, I talked with a little girl who must have been about seven years old. She listened so closely as I reviewed the salvation message. "Yes," she said she had sinned and wanted to ask Jesus to come into her heart. She bowed her head, said the prayer and then looked up at me. I can still see the sweet smile on her face as she said, "You've got to tell other kids about this." ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Sandy Atwood is the wife of Richard Atwood, director of missionary assistance, in the Home Missions Department. She is an author, musician and speaker, as well as a homemaker and mother of four children.

Home



Missions



Dr. Robert E. Picirilli is one of the most prolific writers among Free Will Baptists. His latest book—*Grace, Faith, Free Will*—is published by Randall House Publications.

In 13 well-crafted chapters, Dr. Picirilli examines the issues that have divided Calvinism and Arminianism since the Reformation. As he does so, he takes great pains to present the Calvinist position clearly and correctly. He also explains his position which he terms "Reformation Arminianism."

The book is divided into five sections. In the first section, Dr. Picirilli "reviewed the historical setting as it involved the struggle of Arminius and the original Remonstrants." Each remaining section is "devoted to one of the four key issues: Predestination, Atonement, Salvation by Faith, and Perseverance."

Each section consists of three chapters. "The first sets forth the Calvinistic view, the next the Arminian view, and the last some biblical theology studies in support of the Arminian view."

Get This Book!

By Larry Hampton

In a day when too many believers place too little stress on doctrinal distinctives, this is a volume that is sorely needed. It is a welcome addition to the ongoing

debate between Calvinists and Arminians written by a thoroughgoing Arminian.

Dr. Picirilli is a well-known and highly respected scholar, having taught Greek and New Testament for more than 40 years at Free Will Baptist Bible College. His writing reflects a thorough grasp of the differing views on this controversial topic. He has the rare gift of making such subjects understandable and interesting.

This book merits diligent study. Such effort will increase the reader's understanding of this centuries old conflict. It will also give him a greater appreciation for the Bible's teaching on predestination, atonement, salvation by faith and perseverance. ■

Reviewed by Larry Hampton, adult curriculum editor at Randall House Publications.

Randall



House

On, Wednesday, February 20, the college conducted a Day of Prayer.

Such days are not unusual on campus. The college has done this for years.

Many alumni can remember coming to their first period class and hearing the teacher say that everyone was to assemble in the auditorium. The administration would announce that classes were suspended and that the college family would spend the day in prayer.

The details varied. Sometimes there would be large groups that gathered. At other times, students would meet in vocational units to pray. Often, private times with God were part of the program. Scriptures were often read and "prayer promises" claimed.

On most Days of Prayer, there has been a reassembling of the college family for testimonies to be shared and answers to prayer announced. Young men have announced calls to preach and young women to the mission field on Days of Prayer. Lives have been changed on these days.

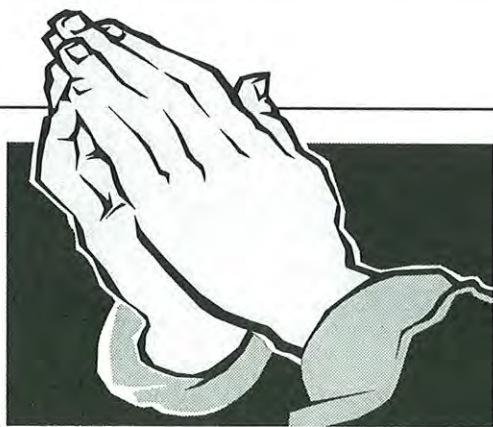
This semester's Day of Prayer was publicized well in advance. There was no surprise announcement at first period classes. On the contrary, the two chapels preceding the Day of Prayer were spent in close examination of the Lord's Prayer, found in Matthew 6. For a week before that Wednesday, chapel was opened with video taped interviews of teachers, students, and staff workers sharing their answers to prayer or their methods of spending time with God each day.

When the day arrived, the entire college family met at 8:00 a.m. in the auditorium. The music called us to prayer. The challenge was to spend the day with God.

Three prayer periods were announced. First, students would meet in groups of 8-10 to pray. Each group of men and women was led by a teacher or staff worker. Here, they shared those personal needs that are sometimes too intimate to be voiced in large groups. And they prayed.

Next, everyone was asked to spend time alone with God; no visiting with one another, no studying, no horseplay. Just read the Word and pray. And they prayed.

Finally, those whom God has called to similar vocations met to share needs and to pray over their



You, too, can have a Day of Prayer

By Bert Tippett

unique requests. Preachers, teachers, youth ministers, musicians, etc., all met. And they prayed.

It would be nice to tell you that God came down in an explosive display of power and revival. But, it wasn't like that. It was quiet. Like Elijah's still, small voice. God met a need here, laid His hand on someone there, gave comfort to this one, and challenged that one.

The Day of Prayer did not end with the final "Amen." Issues raised that day may not be resolved for awhile. But God began moving. Requests raised may not be answered yet. But God began to respond. Not all of the walls came down. But God began chipping away at them.

It was a day of planting and a day of watering. The reaping will come later.

How about you? Have you had a Day of Prayer recently?

You don't have to stay home from work. You don't have to deposit the children with Grandma. Just make sure you begin your day with Him and stay in touch all day. Breathe a prayer over breakfast dishes or on your drive to the office. When a visitor leaves, bow your head and talk to God about him or her. Pray for your children as you wash your hands. Remember your pastor as you eat your lunch.

When the sun has set and your head drops onto your pillow, you will be at rest, knowing you have had your own Day of Prayer. ■



Mr. Tippett is Public Relations Director at the college, where he has served since 1965. He served on the committee that planned this year's "Day of Prayer" on the campus.

Frequently-Asked Questions about Money Management Trusts

By David L. Brown

Q What is a Money Management Trust?

A A Money Management Trust is similar to a money market account in that funds may be added or withdrawn at any time without penalty. They earn a fixed rate that is adjusted every six months. At press time for this article, the funds were earning 5% for the period ending June 30, 2002.

Q Who can have a Money Management Trust?

A Any Free Will Baptist individual or organization can open a trust. Individuals must designate a Free Will Baptist ministry as beneficiary for 20% of the trust if they die without revoking the trust. The individual can revoke 100% of the trust anytime. This provision only takes effect after his death.

Q What is the total value of the Money Management Trust pool?

A At press time, the Foundation was managing in excess of \$5 million in Money Management Trusts.

Q How are these funds invested?

A They are invested in a ladder pool of U.S. government-backed investments in such a way that a portion of the investments are always coming due to be available for withdrawals. This enables the Foundation to give longer term rates on funds that may be withdrawn on a short notice.

Q Are these funds FDIC insured?

A No, but since the entire pool is invested in government-backed investments, we can offer government security that is as good for the first dollar as it is for the one hundred thousandth dollar.

Q How long has the Foundation been offering Money Management Trusts?

A The Foundation changed the name of "Revocable Trusts" to "Money Management Trusts" a few years

ago, but the Foundation has been offering revocable trusts since its founding in 1980. From 1980 to 1994 the revocable trusts were invested with the Board of Retirement and the return closely paralleled the return of the retirement fund. Starting in 1994, the Foundation changed the investment philosophy to the current government-backed position to remove these funds from the volatility they may have experienced being partially in the stock market.

Q What kind of funds should be invested in Money Management Trusts?

A Many individuals put their emergency funds here. Some use Money Management Trusts to save for big-ticket items like cars. Churches and organizations often use them for building funds or special projects. Generally, you should only put funds that you will not need for at least six months into these types of trusts.

Q How much and how often can I make withdrawals?

A You may make up to 12 withdrawals a year. Withdrawals of up to \$50,000 only require a seven-day notice. Because of cash flow considerations, we reserve the right to require 30 days or more notice for withdrawals of \$50,000 or more.

Q Is there a penalty for early withdrawal?

A No. These funds are invested by the individual or organization on an indefinite basis. It is not tied up for a specific period like a certificate of deposit; therefore, there is no early withdrawal penalty.

Q How do Money Management Funds benefit the Free Will Baptist denomination?

A The Foundation charges a 1% service fee to handle these funds, which generates the income necessary to operate the department. Since the Foundation is the planned-giving arm of the denomination, this service fee makes it possible for the Foundation to serve all ministries of the denomination in developing endowments and planned gifts for those ministries. ■

Free Will Baptist



Foundation

GREEN TREE BIBLE STUDY



Garnett Reid

First Impressions (Exodus 19, Part I)

“He was not a pretty man by any means—nor was he an ugly one. He was a homely looking man. His face was long—sallow—cadaverous—shrunk—shriveled—wrinkled and dry . . . His cheeks were leathery and flabby, falling in loose folds at places, looking sorrowful and sad.” So William Herndon first described his law partner, Abraham Lincoln.

First impressions are important because we never get a second chance to make them, says the old adage. Although initial impressions can be wrong, what we first see in a person is seldom forgotten.

In many ways, Exodus 19 gives us God's first “meeting” with His newly redeemed people. Exodus opens with the unfolding drama of deliverance: Israel's bondage and Moses' call (ch. 1-6), the plagues on Egypt (ch. 7-11) and the Red Sea crossing (ch. 12-14). The narrative continues with the song of Moses (ch. 15) and the Lord's miraculous provisions in the wilderness (ch. 16-18).

The last half of the book (ch. 20-40) focuses on the covenant God makes with Israel through Moses at Sinai: the Decalogue (ch. 20), Book of the Covenant (ch. 20:22-23:33), covenant ceremony (ch. 24), and tabernacle design and construction (ch. 25-31, 35-40). In chapters 32-34, Israel breaks the covenant, only to repent and renew her loyalty.

Sandwiched in the middle of these signal events is the easily-overlooked chapter 19—like the first day of school with a new teacher, Israel learns some never-to-be-forgotten lessons.

This chapter marks the beginning of a memorable 11-month stay at Sinai. During these months, Moses records what will become 59 chapters (Ex. 19-40; Lev. 1-27; Num. 1-10) of our Bibles. Over the course of these days vital events occur, including:

- Meetings between the Lord and Moses (at least two when Moses stays 40 days on the mountain)
- God's giving of the Ten Commandments
- God's writing of the Ten Commandments on stone tablets, twice
- God's revealing the Book of the Covenant and the Holiness Code
- God's detailing plans for the tabernacle
- Moses' reading of all these laws to the people
- God's providing instructions about sacrifices, the priesthood, cleanness and uncleanness
- The golden calf incident and its repercussions
- Moses' intercession for the people (at least four times)
- A celebration of the Passover
- Covenant renewal ceremonies
- Construction of the tabernacle
- The initial organization of Israel's civil government

With all these events to come in the immediate future of the Sinai setting, Exodus 19 marks an important get-acquainted session in the relationship between the Lord and His people.

The story unfolds as follows in chapter 19:

Camping (vv. 1-2)

Israel leaves Rephidim and journeys to Mount Sinai, arriving in the third month after they had left Egypt (probably in our month of June). At the base of the mountain they set up camp.

Claiming (vv. 3-6)

Moses ascends the mountain, where God declares His love for His redeemed people and His intent to make them His own “special treasure,” a holy nation.

Trusting (vv. 7-9)

When Moses conveys God's words to the people, they respond with a pledge of loyalty. God then announces His plan to come down to the mountain again and speak (the Mosaic covenant?) so that Israel will continue to believe.

Preparing (vv. 10-15)

In compliance with the Lord's instructions, the people consecrate themselves for a meeting with Him in three days. They are not to ascend the mountain, though, until they hear the trumpet blast.

Trembling (vv. 16-20)

On the third day, God's presence on Sinai causes smoke, thunder and lightning on the mountain as it shakes. The people standing at the foot of the mountain shake as well; though the trumpet sounds, they stay away while Moses goes up to meet the Lord.

Warning (vv. 21-25)

The Lord now forbids the people to ascend the mountain into His presence. ■

Next month: The three great lessons of Exodus 19

Remember, if you have suggestions for neglected or underappreciated chapters you would like this column to address, contact me at the address below.

Garnett Reid
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THE PASTOR'S WIFE



Phyllis York

My Privilege

By Phyllis York

Almost 23 years ago, I walked down the aisle of my home church to marry a preacher. I knew from the beginning of our marriage that my life would be one lived under the microscope of others. That was all right. I knew the man I was marrying was part of God's will for my life, because as a young teenager I had prayed for God to send me the right one to marry. Even though my life didn't have to succumb to close scrutiny until nine years ago, I still lived as though it was.

Subjection

The first principle I tried to live by was subjection to my husband. I knew what the Bible said about the husband being the head of the home, but I also knew what I had been taught through social organizations—that I was my own person, subject to no one. I had an inward struggle with God about this, but finally through much prayer and study I placed myself into subjection, both to God and my husband.

I realized that God would direct our home through my husband, and he would be the one to answer to God for all things concerning our home. This principle was and is especially helpful in times of searching for the direction of God for our lives.

We discuss the possibilities. I give my sense of direction. We pray together and separately. Then, when the final decision is to be made, Tim shoulders that responsibility. There are times I do not agree with his decision, and I tell him, but I also assure him I will go along with whatever he feels is right and support him in that decision 100%.

As people inspect our lives, I pray they have always seen Tim and me as "one," going in the same direction with the same enthusiasm.

Example

Another principle that has been brought to my attention is being an example both in word and in deed. When Tim became pastor of Heritage Temple FWB Church, I realized that whatever he preached from the pulpit, my life had to reflect. If he preached about being a student of the Word, I needed to be one. If he preached about having a life of prayer, I needed to have one. If classes were offered at the church to help us in our spiritual walk, I needed to be there, even if I have already taken the class.

How could he expect anyone else, especially other women, to be actively involved in all aspects of the church if his own wife wasn't? Sure, there have been times I didn't think I could take another step or do another thing, but God has always provided the extra strength needed. Not only has He (God) provided strength but He also has provided the means to become a stronger prayer warrior and a better student of the Word.

We have Ladies' Bible Study at the church, and I have the responsibility of directing this class. We have studied everything from the tabernacle to the fruit of the Spirit. Our group has grown from three to 30, and lives have been changed, not because of my teaching, but because of their own desire to learn and study God's Word. Again, my prayer is that I am an example both in word and in deed.

Helpful

The last principle I try to follow is one of being helpful. I make myself available to each lady in the church. I don't intrude in their lives or nose around to find out what's going on, but I wait for them to come and share with me their burden, and I always try to be helpful. If there are situations that I don't feel comfortable dealing with, I encourage them

to meet with our pastor. I make myself available to go with them to the pastor's office for his advice.

Above all, I keep our conversations strictly confidential. No one ever knows what we have talked about, unless they have given their permission to do so. Every lady in our church is important to me, and I always want to have the relationship with them of trust and confidence.

Being a pastor's wife is a great privilege for me. Since we have been here at Heritage Temple, I have experienced many things and met many people, all of which have been made possible because of being the pastor's wife. God has so richly blessed me by giving me this responsibility. Every day is different and every day brings with it new challenges. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Phyllis York is a member of Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church in Ashland, Kentucky, where her husband Tim pastors. Phyllis is president of the Kentucky Women Active for Christ.

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THE PREACHER'S PERSPECTIVE



Randy Sawyer

Facing Yourself, Part III

While working after hours in the church several months ago, I heard an usual noise outside my office. Bravely, but cautiously, I went to investigate. I emerged from my office and followed the source of the sound into the church lobby. I made my way across to the light switch, flicked it on and then turned to examine the area. Suddenly, with my peripheral vision, I saw my own reflection in the large mirror that hangs on a lobby wall.

Thinking that someone was standing beside me I panicked, screamed and lunged backwards. After realizing that it was really my own image that had startled me, I broke out in almost uncontrollable laughter. I never did find the source of the noise, but I quickly returned to my work, thankful that no one had been there to witness my great moment of courage.

As I think back on that scene now, I realize that I had come face-to-face with myself, and was afraid. That pretty much sums up the way most people feel when they honestly and openly face themselves. To look at who we really are is a brutal experience, to say the least. Fear is certainly what I felt two years ago when depression forced me into an intense period of self-examination.

Focus on His Will

As I shared in last month's article, one of the things I learned from my look in the mirror was that I had allowed others to set my agenda. I felt pressured to measure up, and to achieve success as defined by my peers. As I tried desperately to force myself into the box of ministerial philosophy, I lost my own ability to hear from the Lord, and to follow His will for my life and work. Freedom came when I decided that my ministry is to be God-directed, not man directed. Facing myself released me to focus on His will. But that's not all.

Focus on Faithfulness

As a corollary, facing myself also forced me to see that my timing is not always the same as God's. I want success in my work, but I want it now. And I thought, if I could just do the things I should do and be the person I should be, then I could expect results quickly and easily. After all, this is a cause and effect world. Do the right things in the right way, and get the right results at the right time. Right?

The results I desired, of course, were those that would compare favorably to my peers. I was still trying to measure up. Numbers to numbers, ministries to ministries. I had forgotten that pastoring is spiritual work, the dynamics of which can't be neatly packaged or easily defined. Nor can context be transferred or the measure of giftedness compared.

In fact, it is foolish for us to "measure ourselves by ourselves," because God sets the standard of success for a given ministry.

Growth in the church is not a slice and dice proposition. Just because one ministry fails to meet the standard established by another worthy work, does not necessarily mean that one work is better than another, or more correctly, that one ministry is truly blessed of God while the other isn't.

More importantly, just because a given church has not reached the desired goal doesn't mean that it isn't in the process of becoming an effective work for God.

Great churches become great over time, and successful ministries develop through careful cultivation. We must simply plug along, doing our best within our given context. Our task is to be *faithful* and *fruitful* where He has planted us. Facing myself encouraged me to focus on faithfulness. But there was more that God was trying to teach me.

Focus on Disciple Making

As I faced myself I also realized that I had not placed enough emphasis on disciple making. The typical pattern for pastoring in most of our churches is the ubiquitous pastor, that is, the shepherd who is everywhere present at once. Like any other pastor, I care deeply for my flock, and consequently, when they need me, I want to be there for them.

But what happens when the church reaches a size that strains the pastor's ability to be everywhere he's needed? If we follow traditional patterns, we simply work harder, moving about more furiously, doing our best to be omni-present.

Never mind that we don't have time for other important aspects of our life and work, such as quiet time, sermon preparation, professional and personal development, and family concerns. Just be there, plain and simple.

This problem created a profound internal conflict for me. Which do they need more, my constant presence or a prepared preacher? Should I hold their hands one-on-one or touch their hearts collectively as I minister the Word?

Some feel that the solution to this dilemma is found in limiting the growth of the church, but that doesn't seem to fit the New Testament paradigm or allow for fulfilling the Great Commission. Others suggest that the answer lies in time management. While that is certainly a necessity for the busy pastor, proper scheduling will never eliminate all the time constraints in a growing work. The answer seems to be found in equipping, and releasing the saints to utilize their own spiritual giftedness.

In fact, in Ephesians 4 Paul indicates that the pastor's primary role is that of an equipper. Once I discovered this exciting principle, and once I got over the "Messiah complex" with which so many men in my position are afflicted, I learned that my people

are extremely competent, talented and gifted to do many things I was trying to do but couldn't find the time.

Most importantly, I soon found that in releasing believers to use their spiritual gifts and natural talents in the work of the church, I was also releasing myself to the ministry for which God had gifted me, that is, the ministry of prayer and the Word. What a novel concept. So facing myself enabled me to focus on disciple making.

Focus on Walking with God

Finally, as I came face-to-face with myself, I learned that spiritual warfare does take its toll on a leader. Now I realize that this phrase has been over-worked and misunderstood by the contemporary church. I am not expecting to find demons under every bush, nor see angels hovering all about. But the fact remains that if Satan can get any person in my congregation to commit adultery or embezzle money or fall into any other obvious sin, he wants that person to be me.

Consequently, spiritual attack is very real for God's servants, and victories are won daily through an active prayer life, a consistent devotional life and a life filled with the Holy Spirit. My problem was that I was so busy *doing* that I did not focus on *becoming*.

In the end, stress and depression are spiritual issues. Jesus expressed this when He encouraged disciples everywhere to "pray and not faint." So facing myself challenged me to focus on my walk with God.

Since my near breakdown two years ago, I am happy to report that God has renewed my love for His work and Word, and my church is experiencing its greatest period of growth yet. I can't wait to see what God has in store for our future. I now realize that if my church is to reach the next level of ministry success, I will have to get there ahead of them. Facing yourself is a frightful but healthy experience. Do you need to slow down, get away and refocus? You'll be glad you did. ■

THE TOGETHER WAY

February 2002

Receipts: State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 386.16	\$.00	\$ 386.16	\$ 987.87	\$ 390.93	\$ 1,378.80
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	73.60	73.60
Arkansas	9,188.06	15,652.88	24,840.94	26,567.07	42,048.07	68,615.14
California	.00	1,200.51	1,200.51	.00	2,985.25	2,985.25
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	2,268.00	2,268.00	113.84	2,268.00	2,381.84
Georgia	24,662.16	1,223.58	25,885.74	54,276.48	3,162.73	57,439.21
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	10,291.80	2,246.71	12,538.51	22,361.08	4,686.75	27,047.83
Indiana	2,204.80	317.47	2,522.27	4,332.32	540.39	4,872.71
Iowa	.00	2,058.78	2,058.78	.00	2,058.78	2,058.78
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	26.55	156.26	182.81
Kentucky	.00	330.36	330.36	6.00	1,240.79	1,246.79
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	131.25	131.25
Michigan	14,906.70	1,416.79	16,323.49	51,605.36	6,007.45	57,612.81
Mississippi	50.00	.00	50.00	20,405.14	1,198.56	21,603.70
Missouri	45,628.30	15,215.36	60,843.66	95,275.66	37,072.09	132,347.75
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	621.68	35.84	657.52	1,273.50	86.76	1,360.26
North Carolina	485.00	2,039.92	2,524.92	3,333.04	8,600.82	11,933.86
Ohio	.00	.00	.00	17,447.85	3,008.17	20,456.02
Oklahoma	47,437.41	10,928.04	58,365.45	113,091.24	24,638.86	137,730.10
South Carolina	29,847.31	.00	29,847.31	30,587.69	95.35	30,683.04
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	10,691.52	719.35	11,410.87	13,304.98	2,218.81	15,523.79
Texas	14,561.10	450.82	15,011.92	29,071.35	1,091.60	30,162.95
Virginia	230.00	.00	230.00	572.64	.00	572.64
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	522.62	81.90	604.52	1,335.04	236.96	1,572.00
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	1,263.09	24.91	1,288.00	1,263.09	24.91	1,288.00
Northwest Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.06	.06	.00	.00	.00
Totals	\$ 212,977.71	\$ 56,211.28	\$ 269,188.99	\$ 487,237.79	\$144,023.14	\$ 631,260.93

Disbursements:						
Executive Office	\$ 1,648.78	\$ 25,295.06	\$ 26,943.84	\$ 3,672.89	\$ 64,810.44	\$ 68,483.33
Foreign Missions	122,640.22	7,110.71	129,750.93	266,595.10	18,218.90	284,814.00
FWBBC	21,515.37	7,110.71	28,626.08	44,964.63	18,218.90	63,183.53
Home Missions	59,129.87	5,564.91	64,694.78	149,308.82	14,258.29	163,567.11
Retirement & Insurance	428.02	4,328.28	4,756.30	628.36	11,089.80	11,718.16
Master's Men	323.46	4,328.28	4,651.74	698.20	11,089.80	11,788.00
Comm. for Theo. Integrity	76.96	154.59	231.55	140.68	396.06	536.74
FWB Foundation	352.68	1,854.97	2,207.65	549.35	4,752.77	5,302.12
Historical Commission	57.39	154.59	211.98	101.54	396.06	497.60
Music Commission	31.39	154.59	185.98	46.02	396.06	442.08
Media Commission	170.96	154.59	325.55	305.16	396.06	701.22
Hillsdale FWB College	2,138.90	.00	2,138.90	5,207.83	.00	5,207.83
Other	4,463.71	.00	4,463.71	15,019.21	.00	15,019.21
Totals	\$ 212,977.71	\$ 56,211.28	\$ 269,188.99	\$ 487,237.79	\$144,023.14	\$ 631,260.93



Thomas Marberry

Bringing Up Boys

By Dr. James Dobson

(Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001, hardback, 269 pp., \$22.99).

James Dobson is founder and president of *Focus on the Family*, an organization devoted to the preservation of the home. He is a licensed psychologist with a Ph.D. in child development from the University of Southern California School of Medicine. He is an internationally known author and lecturer with a daily radio program heard by more than 200 million people. He and his wife, Shirley, are the parents of two grown children, a son and a daughter.

There is little doubt that boys are in trouble today. As Dobson writes, "Boys, when compared to girls, are six times more likely to have learning disabilities, three times more likely to be registered as drug addicts, and four times more likely to be diagnosed as emotionally disturbed."

They are far more likely than girls to commit violent crimes including murder. Most killers in recent school shootings "have been young white males who couldn't explain why they wanted to murder their classmates and teachers."

This author's work is based on two basic assumptions. The first is that raising boys is different from raising girls. He asserts that boys are generally more difficult to raise than girls. They are "designed to be more assertive, audacious and excitable than girls are." He cites with approval the famous quotation from the Greek philosopher Plato, "Of all the animals, the boy is the most unmanageable."

The second assumption is that several forces in modern society have contributed greatly to the current tragic situation. In Dobson's view, the greatest enemy of the modern boy is the "break-down of the family." He notes that 70% of the black babies and 19% of the white babies are born out of wedlock. "Most will never know their fathers and what it means to be loved by them."

He points out that 72% of mothers with children at home now hold outside employment. This often means that when the boy arrives home from school, there is no one at home. That is a recipe for disaster.

Dobson summarizes this tragic situation in these words, "Boys are in trouble today primarily because their parents, and especially their dads, are distracted, overworked, harassed, exhausted, disinterested, chemically dependent, divorced or simply unable to cope." For many boys today the stable home environment that is so important to proper development is simply nonexistent.

There are, in his view, two other powerful forces which began in the 1960s that have contributed to the current difficult situation—the sexual revolution and radical feminism. Dobson writes, "Everything that had been associated with maleness was subjected to scorn." Men came to be viewed as "male chauvinist pigs" or heartless oppressors. Television programs often present men as "immature, impulsive, selfish, weak and not very bright."

History is often rewritten to serve the current political agenda. Dobson cites the example of the popular film *Titanic*. In the true story, only 325 men survived the sinking of the ship because many of the men insisted on putting the women and children in the lifeboats first. In the movie version, hundreds of male passengers had to be kept out of the lifeboats at gunpoint. It is no wonder that boys and young men cannot understand who they are or what their role in society should be.

One insightful chapter is devoted to the treatment that boys receive in schools. Dobson writes, "Almost every authority on child development recognizes that schools are typically not set up to accommodate the unique needs of boys. Elementary classrooms, especially, are designed primarily by women to

fit the temperament and learning styles of girls." The special needs and different maturity levels of boys are generally not addressed.

This book addresses many important and difficult areas in raising boys. The author recognizes that helping boys develop into mature caring masculine men who are devoted to their children and families is often easier said than done. The challenges are great, and modern Western society makes them even greater than they should be.

This book examines both the relationship between a boy and his father and the relationship between a boy and his mother. Both relationships are crucial to raising emotionally healthy men. It also discusses the important roles of grandparents and other family members who make very significant contributions to raising boys. It discusses the important issues of discipline and education.

The primary goal of the author is recognizing and preventing future problems, but occasionally he offers advice and counsel on dealing with older boys who are already experiencing problems.

This is a book that deserves a place on the pastor's top shelf. In some ways it is a controversial book; the author challenges many of the popular theories of child raising. He challenges some of the current educational strategies; he openly advocates home schooling for many boys today. As a society, we have to do a better job raising the next generation of boys. This is a resource than can help us do that. ■



**Number of homeless people currently
in the city of Memphis.....10,000***

**Number of children affected by
homelessness in Memphis.....3,000**

**Number of Free Will Baptists it takes
to make an impact in their lives:**

One.



* 10,000 men, women and children in Memphis are homeless or are classified as precariously housed and in immediate danger of living on the streets. Reach That Guy is an outreach of the National Youth Conference. For more information about how you can make a difference in Memphis this summer, call 1-800-877-7030, ext.346.



Jack Williams

The Ride of Your Life

Angie stood in the doorway to my office Wednesday morning and announced, "There's a man at the front desk asking for you by name. Says he needs a pair of boots." *Oh, no, here we go again*, I thought. Three months earlier a man did that and left with my new boots.

Sensing my hesitation, Angie said, "Don't worry. This one has a business card," and handed it to me.

The card belonged to W. E. Brown, a name I'd last seen as a pastor in Blakeley, Georgia. He and his wife relocated 30 miles north of Nashville in the border town of Portland, Tennessee, where he was regaining his health after a setback.

Preacher Brown moseyed in wearing black, lizard skin cowboy boots and a bandage on his gun hand. He carried something noisy in a large plastic sack that he laid on my desk.

"Thought I'd give these to you," he said. "Add 'em to your Louis L'Amour collection." Then he grinned and stepped back to watch what happened next.

Two rompin', stompin' rodeo pictures bucked out of that plastic bag—matted, framed and the stuff of legends. One shows a cowpoke being unhorsed from a rank saddle bronc, the other a bull rider straddling 1,200 pounds of horns and hair.

Both cowboys were getting the ride of their lives. I could almost smell the dust and hear the grunts as those big animals snorted and pawed the ground. Cowboy art is a unique slice of the American West.

When I asked Preacher Brown where he found the pictures, he surprised me again. "Painted them myself," he murmured. "Thought you'd like 'em, so I brought 'em to you."

Most preachers I know earn their keep by studying hard, sermonizing on Sunday, golfing and fly-fishing. They avoid paint brushes, except

to slap a second coat on the mailbox. This man, however, captured an idea on canvas with a few deft strokes.

That's part of life's wonder and mystery, of course. While one man relaxes with a putter in short grass, another unwinds in his boat with a Zebco rod and reel. The do-it-my-way entrepreneur pulls a rodeo from his mind.

The Good Lord invented all that creativity and variety. He enjoys the pull a five-pound bass gives the fisherman as well as the raucous whoop after a duffer drills a 40-foot putt.

The conversation with Preacher Brown drifted from old cowboy flicks to churches without pastors to Southern Gospel music. He glanced at "The Cowboy Corner" of my library and commented that he was a Zane Grey man, expressing some irritation that Mr. Grey takes nine pages of single-spaced type to describe a short ride down a canyon trail.

Brother Brown told me he was ready to saddle up again and return to the pastorate. That's normal for a preacher. A fellow may get thrown from the saddle in a tense moment and break something that requires time to heal.

But a few months out of the pulpit makes the average preacher restless, and he starts pushing against the coral gate. That's when he and his wife know it's time to go live in another parsonage again. I could see that Preacher Brown had scuff marks on his boots from kicking the fence.

Before he left, he ran his eyes across the dark-stained bookshelves bristling with theology, history, biography and some easy reading. Naturally, I counted my cowboy books as he drove away . . . just in case one of them accidentally fell into his pocket when my back was turned.

Within an hour, a powerful racket scared the women-folk in the office.

When they investigated the pounding and banging, they found a bull rider hanging above a row of filing cabinets and a saddle bronc rider looking for a place to land between Matthew Henry's commentary and Zondervan's five-volume Bible encyclopedia.

How long those cowboys hang among the books and filing cabinets is anybody's guess. Word has it that a major overhaul coming up the trail will include new carpet and revised wall coverings. Since most interior decorators are women long on dead flowers and hard on Brahma bulls, I may be in for the ride of my life defending the cowboy legacy.

The point of all this being that in the Lord's work, we must strike a balance. It's not all lesson preparations, sermons, budgets, door knocking and committee meetings. While all that's good, there's more to life than that.

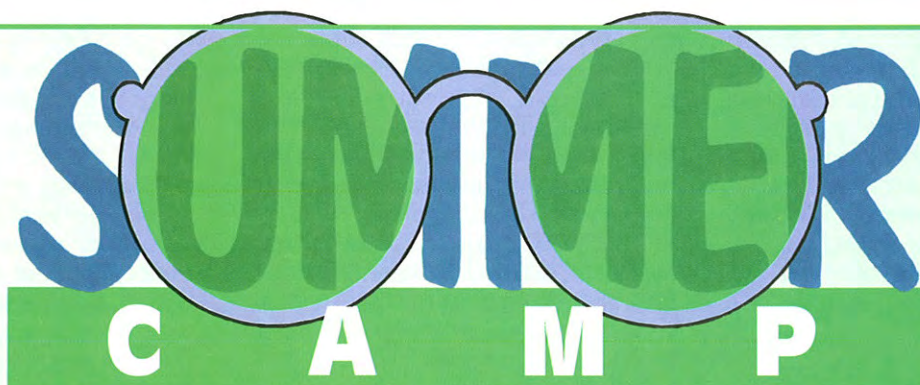
Sometimes it's coffee at Shoney's with a friend or a Friday baseball game. Now and then it's a Saturday morning gun show, the Science Museum with a brown-eyed boy or chasing the neighbor's evil cat. On a special day, it might be a piece of cowboy art hand-delivered by one of God's servants working his way back into the starting lineup.

It's all right to do something for yourself without feeling guilty and without explaining why. Catch a fish and show it to God. Capture a dream on canvas. Buy your best girl a gift certificate to your favorite sporting goods store. Make reservations at a Chinese restaurant. Read the biography of Albert Einstein or sneak a double scoop of black walnut ice cream.

Bernard Baruch said, "Millions saw the apple fall, but Newton was the only one who asked why." Ask your question today. You could be in for the ride of your life. ■

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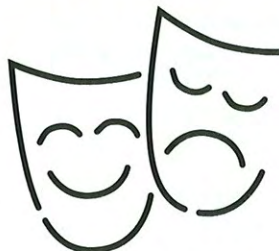
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