

CONTACT

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ARTICLES

4 World's Greatest Dad

Eight tried and tested principles that can make any dad a top pop.

6 The Generation Gap

Part six of an 11-part series on the Ten Commandments.

8 The Silent Slayer

It no longer stalks us just in the streets. It has stepped into America's homes and churches.

11 God Was in the Nursery

When life hurts the most, we don't have to look far to find God.

12 National Convention Program

COLUMNS

3 The Secretary Speaks

Caught in Compromise

21 The Department Pages

25 Green Tree Bible Study

First Impressions (Part II)

26 The Pastor's Wife

Ten Ministry Myths

27 The Preacher's Perspective

A Meditation on the Life of a Servant (Part I)

29 Top Shelf

30 Student Children Ministries

31 Briefcase

Father of the Year

NEWS

16 Free Will Baptist Newsfront

Oklahoma Church Honors Pastor

Wilburn Beasley Dies

Dan Merkh Dies

Illinois State Association

FWBBC Students Elect Officers

Georgia State Association

FWBBC Receives \$100,000 Bequest

FWBBC Welcome Days

Convention Orchestra

Billy Tabb Dies

FWBBC Seeks Stewardship Director

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Melvin Worthington

Caught in Compromise

Sentimentalism leads to compromise. Compromise leads to corruption. Christ addresses the dangers of compromise at the church in Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29). The church's great fault was tolerance of false teachers, specifically, a woman named Jezebel who was allowed to teach heretical doctrines in the church.

Thyatira was a wealthy town in the northern part the Roman province of Asia and derived its wealth from the Lycus valley. It was noted for its trade guilds. The guilds were closely connected with Asiatic religion.

The Inscription

Christ identifies Himself as the Son of God who has eyes like flame and feet like fine brass. The title "Son of God" conveys His deity and His relation to God. The Lord's "eyes of fire" indicate piercing insight into all persons and things while "feet like fine brass" indicate strength and steadiness as He judges with perfect wisdom.

The Inventory

Before Christ condemns that which is wrong, He commends that which is right and good—their love, service, faith, patience and continued growth. The increase in works implies that the church was making some spiritual progress. They were acting in line with their profession.

The Indictment

The *source of the problem* (Rev. 2:20). This church was permitting an evil in its midst of a more serious character than any that had yet appeared. Christ charged the church with tolerating teachings and influence that led

the church to commit fornication and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Some believe that Jezebel was highly gifted and persuasive, artful and resolute in the accomplishment of her purposes. She was ambitious in perpetuating her power and unscrupulous in the means she employed to accomplish her ends. The prophetess Jezebel encouraged believers in Thyatira to attend festivals of idols. These festivals led to licentiousness and were attended by those who were gross and sensual in their daily lives.

The *solution to the problem* (Rev. 2:21). The wicked woman had been given opportunity to repent but had refused to do so. Since Jezebel showed no disposition to abandon her course, it was proper for the Lord to rise in anger and cut her down.

The *scope of the problem* (Rev. 2:22-23). Christ declares that His judgment will fall on Jezebel, those who are participating with her and her children. The only way to avert swift, sure and severe judgment is repentance. The coming judgment would convince the church that Christ knows the hearts of all men, even the secret acts of wickedness that are concealed from human view.

The Secretary's Schedule

June 2002

- 2 Central FWB Church
Royal Oak, Michigan
- 3-4 North Carolina State Association
- 3-5 Missouri State Association
- 5-8 Texas State Association
- 8-9 West Virginia State Association
- 13-14 Virginia State Association
- 29 Atlantic-Canada District Association

The Incentive

The *godly remnant* is given a special word of encouragement. For the first time in the addresses to the Asian assemblies, a group is singled out within a local church as being true to the Lord. They did not hold the doctrine of Jezebel and had not known the depths of Satan. The Lord did not intend to add to their burden nor did He expect them to lead reforms.

The *gracious reminder* of the coming glory includes God's promise of final triumph and glory. Those who overcome are crowned with victory and will participate in the final triumph of the Lord.

The Instructions

The church is exhorted to hold fast until Christ came. He required their attention to what they had received and that they hold fast their faith and good conscience. Until He comes, the Word of God as our compass enables us to chart our course. God's people go by faith and not sight.

The Inferences

This letter discloses the danger, description and disaster of compromise, the danger of disregarding the Word of God and depending on one's sentimental temperament. Sentiment takes the place that belongs to conviction and tries to make feelings do the work of moral qualities. Many had kept themselves pure but had, as a result of sentimentalism, tolerated an ungodly woman and her teachings. The pastor and church clearly neglected their duty to adhere to the Word of God. ■



By Eric Thomsen

Eight principles that can make any dad a top pop



It all started with the T-shirt my wife and daughter gave me last Father's Day. The shirt was navy blue with bright crimson letters sprawled across the chest, "World's Greatest Dad." I wore it proudly! But one day, the inevitable happened.

As I rounded the corner of the automotive aisle of our local Wal-Mart, I came face to face with someone wearing *my* shirt. When he glanced down at my chest, his eyes narrowed then rose slowly to meet my own steely gaze. For just a moment, I felt like Gary Cooper in High Noon. My hands clinched, and I

took a deep breath. Only *one* man could be the world's *greatest* dad!

The moment passed as reality struck home. Our claim to fame was, after all, just a T-shirt—mass produced somewhere across the globe and sold by the thousands if not hundreds of thousands. We grinned sheepishly at one another, and I mumbled "Nice shirt," as I squeezed by and headed for the oil filters.

This encounter in the automotive aisle set the wheels of thought in motion. What characteristics do make a great dad? The ability to toss a perfect

spiral? The patience to fix squeaky brakes? The energy to keep pace with a hyperactive three-year-old? Are these part of the formula, or does being a great dad require something more? The following list contains a few paternal principles I think make any dad a top pop.

A great dad has a big mouth!

He knows when to speak up. He is not afraid to say, "I love you," "I'm sorry," or even, "What do you think about this?" Great dads take time to encourage their children, to ask questions about their day and to ask their

opinions about big decisions. Most important, a great dad prays earnestly and consistently for his family.

A great dad loves sports.

From playing catch to ring around the rosie, a great dad gets into sports, at least the really important ones. He recognizes the importance of a fast-paced game of hide-'n'-go-seek or one final game of ping-pong. As his children get older, a great dad becomes their number one fan, attending their ball games and cheering wildly when they do *anything* well! To be blunt, a great dad understands that spending time with his children is far more important than catching the latest Sportscenter or watching the big game with the guys.

A great dad spends a lot of time in his favorite recliner.

After all, it is a great place to play "horsie," to read or tell favorite stories, to snuggle under a blanket while watching a favorite episode of Veggie Tales.™ (By-the-way, I realize these may not work so well with teenagers.)

The recliner is also a great place to review spelling words, to talk about dating and sex (yes, sex), and to listen as children voice their frustrations about school, friends and life in general.

A great dad takes time to work on his "six pack."

No, I don't mean the abdominal muscles everyone raves about these days. I'm talking about the six guidelines for living and thinking found in Philippians 4:8. A great dad must focus on those things that are (1) true, (2) honorable, (3) just or right, (4) pure, (5) lovely, and (6) of good reputation.

He avoids traps like hypocrisy, deception, prejudice, sexual impropriety, base humor or anything that would tarnish his character. He must remember that building spiritual muscles takes just as much discipline, patience and determination as toning the physical body. It takes time and effort for any dad to sculpt a life his family can respect and admire.

A great dad has an eye for the ladies.

Not just any ladies, mind you, but the ladies God has placed under his care—his wife and daughters. His kids have *no* doubt that Dad loves Mom because he treats her with love and respect, treatment she deserves.

He disciplines his daughters with love and teaches them to be ladies. His sons learn to treat women with courtesy and deference. A great dad doesn't flirt with, comment on or ogle other women. He holds women in the highest esteem and his attitude and actions impact every member of his family.

A great dad collects stamps.

He patiently and carefully stamps out the influence of this world in his home. He monitors the television programs his children watch. He browses the magazines left on the breakfast table, and from time to time, he talks to his children about the latest fads and fashions and how Christians should respond to them.

A great dad also stamps out Satan's attacks on his home by maintaining a daily family devotional and prayer time.

Finally, he stamps out any hint of prejudice, malice or hate that attempts to sneak in the back door of his home. The quality of a dad's "stamp" collection is directly related to the spiritual and emotional health of his family.

A great dad gets wrapped up in a good book.

But not just any book. Great dads love the Word of God. Hours before the rest of the world opened its eyes, my dad sought the face of the Savior within the pages of his well-worn Bible. While typical dads snored and sputtered, he memorized entire books of the Bible, including Proverbs, Acts, Romans and Revelation—no small task by anyone's standards.

And you should hear him preach. I once heard him quote 71 passages without once referring to his notes. I know. I counted. Am I bragging on my dad? You bet I am! By his example, Dad taught me to love and respect the precious principles and promises of

the Word of God. A great dad—my great dad—loves the Word of God.

A great dad wants to be "King of the Hill."

Oops, I left out a word. Great dads want to be *like* the real "King of the Hill." They follow Christ's example of service. Just as the Savior knelt before His disciples and gently washed their dirty feet, a great dad lays his life before his family and says with every word, action and expression, "How can I serve you?"

Great dads also follow Christ's example of humility. Things don't always have to go their way. They don't have to be right all the time. Their egos don't make unrealistic demands on their wife and children. They model strength under control.

Finally, great dads follow Christ's example of sacrifice. The needs of their families—both spiritual and physical—come before their own comfort and pleasure. You might say that great dads follow Christ's example all the way to the foot of the cross where they leave their own burdens and frustrations and find comfort and strength in the arms of a loving Savior. Great dads know and imitate the "King of the Hill."

After a tough year of service, my "World's Greatest Dad" T-shirt is wearing thin. A small, ragged hole has appeared in the right shoulder seam, and the fabric is soft and stained . . . but it is still my favorite shirt! I wear it as a reminder that I hold an important position, one I can never take for granted. I am the world's greatest dad—at least to my daughter, and I never want to give her any reason to change her mind. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Eric Thomsen is youth pastor at Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church in Ashland City, Tennessee. He serves as teen curriculum editor at Randall House Publications.



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

The Generation Gap

By Kevin Riggs¹

Habit #6 –
A Successful Person
Understands the Importance of Family

Mark Twain is credited with saying: "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."² Ever since the first child in history hit puberty, there has been a *generation gap* between parents and their offspring. The older generation has always thought the younger generation was disrespectful, and the younger generation has always looked at the older generation as being out of touch.

God bridged the gap between generations when He commanded, "Honor thy father and thy mother."³ At different stages in my life, my relationship with my parents has changed. One attitude that must never change, however, is that of honor and respect. Honor, not only for my parents, but al-

so for the institution of marriage.

The Fifth Commandment doesn't say, "Honor your parents if they did a good job," or "Honor your parents only when you feel like it." This Commandment doesn't even say, "Honor your parents if they are Christians." The reason for the honor is wrapped up in the position of parenthood, not in the quality of the individual parent. It is also important to notice that God did not differentiate between the father and the mother. Both are equal; both deserve respect.

The word "honor" comes from the Hebrew verb meaning "to be heavy" or "to carry weight." The opposite of honor is to treat something "lightly." The role of a parent deserves to be respected and held in high esteem. To disrespect parenthood is to treat it as if it were light and worthless.

Commandment Five carries a promise: ". . . that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord

thy God giveth thee."⁴ What does this promise mean? How can honoring my parents prolong my life?

First of all, if I honor my parents, my *quality* of life is better. My parents were not perfect, but neither was I the perfect child. My parents did give me the gift of life, and I believe my life is more enjoyable because I chose to honor them instead of showing them disrespect.

Second, by honoring my parents, my *emotional stability* increases. Moses repeated this command, saying, "Honor thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee: that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee."⁵

If I cut myself off from my parents, remaining bitter towards them, I cut myself off from a full life. Furthermore, it is within the context of a family that I have the chance to learn, grow and build relationships. All of which helps me live a healthy, stable life, the meaning behind,

“that it may go well with thee.”

Habit #5⁶

The Fifth Commandment exhorts me to honor my parents,⁷ but the fifth habit goes beyond doing that alone. The fifth habit is as follows: *A highly successful person understands the importance of family.* How important is the family? I believe my family comes above everything except my relationship with God.

My family is more important than my career goals, my church, my financial achievements, my volunteer activities and my personal happiness. For me to understand the importance of family means that I must understand and accept the roles God has given each family member, especially my own.

Husbands Love

Within the family, my role as a husband is to show unconditional, sacrificial love to my wife. I am to love her as Christ loved the Church.⁸ That means I should never refer to my wife in derogatory terms. It also means I should never blame my wife for my failures, saying, “If you would just show me more support, then . . .” Christ never called the Church names, and He never blamed her, even though she was far from perfect.

To love my wife as Christ loves the Church means I defend her at all costs. It means I build her up, protect her reputation, and defend her honor and integrity. To love her as Christ loves the Church means I am willing to die for her, sacrificing everything. To understand the importance of family, I must accept my role in that family.

Wives Submit⁹

Biblical submission has nothing to do with superiority or inferiority. In fact, the Fifth Commandment suggests equality between sexes and between parents. Furthermore, to submit does not mean a woman remains in a situation where there is physical danger or where she is asked to do immoral things.

To submit does mean, for the sake of family unity, that a wife voluntarily places herself under the leadership of her husband. It means she supports him, refusing to tear him down—especially in front of the children. The reason the wife is asked to submit is because the

main responsibility for the health and welfare of the family rests on the husband’s shoulders. When the husband fulfills his role in the home, then submission is not an issue, but a privilege.

Children Obey

Ephesians 6:1 says, “Children obey your parents” The idea behind “children” refers to all dependents living at home, regardless of age. The principle is simple: If your parents pay your bills, you are obligated to obey them. A child does not obey his parents because they are perfect or because they know more. They are to obey because that is how they show honor, and that is how they show their commitment to Christ.

Parents Honored

The Fifth Commandment encompasses two truths. First, parents are to be *honored*. Second, parents are to be *honorable*. As a parent, I cannot *force* my children to *honor* me, but I can *make* them *hate* me.¹⁰ Thus, the Fifth Commandment is as much for me as a parent as it is for my children. I must continually ask myself, “Am I parenting in such a way that my children can honor me?”

God gave me the responsibility of raising my children. Therefore I am accountable to God for how I raise them, a thought that scares me. I must confess that I don’t know how to be a parent. But one thing I do know—I want to parent in such a way that my children will desire to honor me. At the very least, I don’t want to parent in such a way that gives them reasons to dishonor me.

Being a good parent starts with my relationship with my Heavenly Father and continues with my relationship to my own parents. That is why my obedience to the Fifth Commandment is so important.

What about you? When was the last time you showed your parents honor? Have you accepted your God-given role in the family? Do you need to ask forgiveness for harmful things you have said and done in the past? Do you need to reach out to your parents, reconnecting with them? Do you need to accept your role in your family?

Have you allowed other things to come before your family? Are you a

loving husband? A submissive wife? An obedient child? An honorable parent? Do you need to apologize to your spouse and children? Do you need to pray, recommitting your family to God? If I ask your spouse and children if they think you are a success, how will they answer?

Remember, a highly successful person understands the importance of family. ■

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. The reason I say, “credited” is because I could not find the source of this quote. It is my understanding that it did originate with Mark Twain, however.
3. Exodus 20:12.
4. Exodus 20:12.
5. Deuteronomy 5:16.
6. Here is a review of the first four Commandments and habits: (1) “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” — A highly successful person places God first in all areas of life. (2) “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image” — A highly successful person accepts God on God’s terms. (3) “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain” — A highly successful person knows God personally and makes God known publicly. (4) “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” — A highly successful person recognizes his total dependence on God to meet every need.
7. Exodus 20:12.
8. Ephesians 5:25.
9. Ephesians 5:23-24.
10. Ephesians 6:1.



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



I walked out of my house to get into my car, and there he was in the driveway—a real, live killer. It's not every day that I come face-to-face with a heartless butcher, but this one I had seen before.

Most recently, I'd seen him at the church, hiding around the corner of the building. I had thrown him out that day, but he was back and I knew he wanted to hurt somebody.

In a split second, my mind flashed back over the dozens of times he had shown up before. Actually, I had run into him all over town: at the grocery store, in the public library, on TV, at the movie theater. I even had heard reports that he'd been seen at local schools.

For a moment I shuddered and wanted to run, but my feet seemed anchored to the ground beneath me. Then came the rage. How dare he threaten my family in broad daylight?! How could he put

For a moment I shuddered and wanted to run, but my feet seemed anchored to the ground. Then came the rage. How dare he

the innocent children of our neighborhood in such grave danger? What kind of an animal lurks in the shadows, waiting to pounce on the unsuspecting?

That's when I went after him. With a fury that surprised even me, I reached for him, ripping, tearing and crushing with all my might. I was taking him apart piece by piece, but he never said a word.

The silent killer on my driveway was not a man. He wasn't even human. But he was deadly just the same. Strewn on my driveway that day was some of the most hideous pornography you can imagine.

It was laid out neatly in full view of people walking on the sidewalk, opened to display some of the most rancid full-color, glossy photos the human mind could conceive. "Outraged" doesn't begin to describe how I felt.

Victims at Every Turn

Years later, my rage has turned to pity. Pity for the poor soul who placed it there, for the individuals whose photos were on the pages of those publi-

cations, for the photographers who took the photos, and even for the perverted and debased people who publish and sell such material.

But I feel even more sorrow for the real victims. The men and boys whose minds are twisted to see others, not as people, but only as objects of desire—a set of body parts existing only for their selfish pleasure.

My heart breaks for the women and girls who try desperately to measure up to this airbrushed image of beauty with everything from surgical enhancements to starvation diets.

I feel, too, for the wives whose husbands have been caught in the maelstrom of porn that inevitably leads one deeper and deeper into the world of fantasy, destroying marriages and families by the thousands.

I hurt for the women who have vainly sought to recapture their husband's attention believing that if they were just a little bigger here, a little smaller there, or a little more sexy they could woo him away from his make-believe lovers.

And I especially hurt for the kids. I ache for the little boys and girls whose daddy grows increasingly distant as his porn addiction grows—the kids whose innocence is forever shredded when they stumble onto such material in their home, at school or on the computer.

And don't forget the other victims—the women and the boys and girls who are molested and raped when the hard-core porn user tries to turn fantasy into reality.

Mainstream, USA

Of course, pornography is a problem that is confined to sleazy little stores on the wrong side of the tracks, right? It's only perverts and sexual deviants who buy the books, magazines and videos, isn't it?

And the guys who sell this stuff? They're a bunch of unkempt balding, big-bellied men in too-short T-shirts, who chomp their cigars and guzzle beers while their trench-coated patrons hustle to their cars with their brown paper sack full of perverse poison, right? If that's your view of the pornography business today, you couldn't be more wrong.

When we think of porn, we think of *Playboy* and *Hustler* magazines. Publishers like Hugh Hefner and Lar-

ry Flynt come to mind. But the truth is, these guys are small time.

The big players in the porno business include names that are much more familiar: AT&T, General Motors (through their subsidiary, DirecTV), EchoStar, Marriott International and the Hilton (source: *A New York Times* story appearing in the *Orange County Register*, Oct. 23, 2000).

Today pornography has hit the mainstream. It's on sale at the local mall, the neighborhood video store and major bookstore chains. It's on display at the local movie theaters where countless contemporary movies include scenes that would've only been found in porno shops just a few years ago. It's piped directly into your home through cable TV and into your kid's bedroom through the computer on which he does homework.

But that's not the worst of it. The worst part is that this killer has found a home in the lives of many Christians, church leaders and yes, even pastors. Some studies show little difference between the use of pornography among non-Christians and its use by Christians. Sadly, as the years pass the barriers fall.

Looking for Solutions

So how do we deal with this killer on the loose? How do we protect ourselves and our kids from this silent slayer? We must begin by acknowledging that the truth is still the truth. Jesus said, "... whoever looks at a woman to lust for her, has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matt. 5:28).

It's not "entertainment." It's not a cure for boredom. It's not a marital aid. It's not harmless and victimless. Porn is a killer. If you invite it into your life, someone is going to die.

Arrest the Silent Slayer

"I put a picture of *Playboy* Playmate Stephanie on my wall because I think she's hot . . . My mom got the pictures for me, actually. She knows I like that . . ." These are the words of Ari, a 13-year-old boy who lives with the silent slayer—pornography. Tragically, it was Ari's mother who invited the murderer into their home.

But Ari is not alone. He's one of millions of young Americans who are being

fed a steady diet of deadly porn. Contrary to some opinions, pornography is not just a problem for dirty old men. The American Family Association reports that the average age of first-time contact with pornography among sex addicts is 11, and U.S. phone companies estimate that 70 percent of the 500,000 daily callers to dial-a-porn are under 18 years of age (Source: *The Promise Keeper*, Vol 1, No. 4, July/August 1998, p. 6.).

Of course, kids aren't the only consumers of porn. In February 1997, *U.S. News & World Report* stated that Americans now spend more money at strip clubs than at Broadway, off-Broadway, regional and nonprofit theaters, the opera, the ballet and jazz and classical concerts combined. *Adult Video News* claims there are almost three times as many outlets for hard-core pornography in this country (approximately 25,000) than McDonald's restaurants (about 9,000).

With the advent of the internet, access to pornography is more widespread than ever. In 1997 there were 22,000 web sites offering free access to porn. By 2000, that number had grown to 280,300 (*AFA Journal*, June 2001, p. 14). Today free hard-core porn (including every perversion imaginable) is available 24/7 to users of any age.

What is a Christian to do? What should be our response to this explosion of evil in our culture? How can we protect ourselves and our children from this killer? The following three-step battle plan is a good place to start.

Begin by addressing pornography as a spiritual issue.

Our culture views porn as merely entertainment, but believers must understand its spiritual roots. Pornography is a perversion of the good and godly gift of sex. It distorts our perception of others, causing us to see them, not as an individual created in the image of God, but as an impersonal object existing solely to satisfy our own fleshly desires.

As such, it turns sex into a god—a consuming pseudo-deity who demands total control of our lives, thereby taking the place of the one and only true God. Put simply, producing, distributing, selling or consuming pornography is sin.

Jesus said, “. . . whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matt. 5:28 NKJV). Until we see the use of pornography as sin, we have cut ourselves off from the only real hope of breaking free from it: our repentance and God’s forgiveness.

Take a stand against pornography at home.

Before we can address the porn issue in our culture, we must first address it in our own lives. Pornography is not just “their” problem, it is “our”

Practically speaking, this may mean cancelling some subscriptions, disconnecting cable or satellite TV, getting a filtered internet service provider, and moving the family computer to the living room where it can be easily monitored.

It’s also necessary to begin replacing the bad with the good by reading the Bible and other Christian literature, starting a new video collection of Christ-honoring movies, reinvesting in relationships with family and friends, and surrounding ourselves with godly influences. Most of all, we need to devote some serious time to prayer, especially

of pornography.* (Facts marked with an * come from a *Focus On The Family Fact Sheet*, c. 1999.)

With facts like these, we cannot remain silent when community leaders, politicians and entertainers imply that porn is harmless, or when classmates and co-workers brag about their involvement in this world of evil. We must speak up!

However, we must also pray and reach out in God’s love to the victims – the men trapped in this sin, the women and children exploited by the industry, and even the photographers, publishers and sellers of porn. These people need Jesus, too.

Can we rid our culture of this silent slayer? Barring a sweeping revival, I doubt it. But we can and must arrest him and limit the damage he causes by protecting ourselves and our families from this killer of marriages, families and childhood innocence. What’s more, we can expose this work of darkness and bring it into the light. There we can offer the only lasting way to victory—new life in Jesus Christ—and in so doing rescue others from pornography’s tenacious grip. ■

Are you battling with pornography?
Get some help! Contact Focus On The Family at 1-800-A FAMILY. There is hope for victory, but please don’t fight this battle alone.

problem. Studies show that pornography is found in the homes of professing Christians almost as frequently as in non-Christian homes.

Rather than pointing an accusing finger at others, we need to step back and take an objective look at the books and magazines we read, the television programs and videos we watch, the music we listen to and the internet sites we visit. Ask yourself, “Could I invite Jesus over to enjoy this with me?” If the answer is anything but a certain, “Yes,” it must go.

In addition, we must build some strong moral fences around our hearts and homes to keep it out.

when temptation arises, and be faithful to church services and activities.

Take a stand against pornography in the community.

While the problem of pornography is a spiritual issue, it is not exclusively so. Wherever it goes pornography leaves a string of broken people in its wake. It has been estimated that approximately 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 7 boys will be sexually molested before age 18.

Not surprisingly, over 80% of child molesters are regular users of hard-core pornography.* In addition, over 85 percent of rapists are regular users



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Jonathan Yandell pastors Garden Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Garden Grove, California.

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Coming Next Month

- Anger—Almost Danger
- Revival!
- Dealing with Deadness
- Ministry Behind Bars
- Youth Camp Gold Mines
- How to Beat Temptation

Where is God in times of crisis?

God Was in the Nursery

By Mark Vandivort

Oklahoma City terrorist bomber, Timothy McVeigh, was reported to have said that the children killed in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building nursery were "collateral damage." After tragedies such as the Oklahoma City bombing and September 11, we tend to ask, *Where was God?*

He was in the nursery! He suffered pain and loss as our community's children, loved ones and neighbors bled and died.

Jesus said, "... Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God," (Lu. 18:16 NKJV). Part of "God's kingdom" was dying in the nursery that day.

Does He understand the sadness and loss of widows and orphans, (Isa. 1:23)? Can He relate to the feelings of Christians imprisoned and tortured for their faith, (Heb. 11:35-39)? Does He see the hopelessness of a conquered people being pressed into slavery, (Matt. 25:32-46)? Does He comprehend the pain of a woman raped and abused? Does God understand evil?

The cross documents God's perception of evil. Jesus' death on the cross is the supreme example of a pure and innocent man suffering at the hands of evil men. God understands evil.

Note Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane shortly before He was betrayed, arrested, illegally tried and crucified on the cross: "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven,

strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:42-44).

Why was Jesus' "cup" so bitter? The Apostle Peter answers that question: "He personally bore our sins in His [own] body to the tree [as to an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed," (1 Pet. 2:24 Amplified Bible).

God knows how to triumph over evil! "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. . . . The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. . . . But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ," (1 Cor. 15:20, 26, 57). ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Mark Vandivort retired to Noble, Oklahoma, after serving Free Will Baptist Home Missions for 38 years, including five years as national field secretary and assistant to the director.

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Includes National Youth Conference and WNAC programs

The National Association of Free Will Baptists

66th Annual Session / July 21-25, 2002

Memphis Convention Center

Memphis, Tennessee



Alton Loveless
Tennessee



Carl Cheshier
Oklahoma



Kerry Steedley
U. S. Army



Melvin Worthington
Tennessee



Curtis Linton
Oklahoma

Theme: "Obedience: Our Obligation"

All events are at Memphis Convention
Center unless otherwise specified.

Theme: "Obedience: Our Obligation"

Moderator: Carl Cheshier

Music Coordinator: Scott Bullman

Organist: Jamie Patrick

Pianist: Jerry Carraway

Instrumental Coordinator: Chris Truett

Registration Coordinator: Dari Goodfellow

Headquarters Hotel: Memphis Marriott

Convention Office: Executive Conference Room/Conv. Center

SUNDAY MORNING / JULY 21

10:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45 Adult Class East Hall
Preschool Class (Ages 3-5) Mississippi Room
Children's Class (Grades 1-3) Sultana/Plantation Rooms
Tweeners Class (Grades 4-6) Rooms L-5, 6, 7
Teen Class (Grades 7-12) Cotton Row/Steamboat Rooms

10:45 Intermission

11:00 - MORNING WORSHIP

12:00 noon Adult Church East Hall
Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5) Mississippi Room
Children's Worship (Grades 1-3) Sultana/Plantation Rooms
Tweeners Worship (Grades 4-6) Rooms L-5, 6, 7
Teen Worship (Grades 7-12) Cotton Row/Steamboat Rooms

SUNDAY AFTERNOON / JULY 21

12:15 NYC Personnel Luncheon Memphis Marriott
Heritage I, II

12:30 - WNAC Executive Committee Memphis Marriott
1:15 Luncheon Beale Room

1:00 - Early Registration Lobby
3:00 (Pre-Registered Only)

1:30 - WNAC Executive Memphis Marriott
4:30 Committee Meeting Board Room

3:00 -	Registration Begins	Lobby
6:30	(continues until Wednesday noon)	
4:00	TruthQuest Pre-Test Session #1	Room L-12
4:00	Reach That Guy Service Project Orientation	Room L-14
5:00	Usher Orientation	Mezzanine Board Room
5:00	Music Rehearsal	East Hall

SUNDAY EVENING / JULY 21

7:00 -	Convention Assembly	East Hall
8:30	Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5)	Mississippi Room
	Children's Worship (Grades 1-3)	Sultana/Plantation Rooms
	Tweener Worship (Grades 4-6)	Rooms L-5, 6, 7
	Teen Worship (Grades 7-12)	Cotton Row/Steamboat Rooms
8:30	Convention Choir Rehearsal	East Hall
8:30 -	Registration Continues	Lobby
10:00		
9:00 -	NYC Judges Reception	Room L-2
10:00	Children's Activities	Sultana/Plantation Rooms
	Tweeners' Activities	Rooms L-5, 6, 7
9:00 -	Youth Activities	Cotton Row/Steamboat Rooms
11:00		
9:15	Music Rehearsal	East Hall

MONDAY MORNING / JULY 22

7:00 -	General Board Breakfast	Memphis Marriott
7:45		Heritage Foyer
7:00 -	Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal	East Hall
9:00		
7:30 -	Missionary Orientation	Memphis Marriott
8:30	(For Exhibit Schedule)	St. Louis Room
8:00 -	General Board Convenes	Memphis Marriott
1:00 p.m.		Heritage Ballroom
8:00 -	NYC Art Gallery Opens	Room L-1
5:00 p.m.	Table Top Displays	
8:00 -	Registration Continues	Lobby
6:30 p.m.		
8:30 -	NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES	
12:00 noon	Music and Arts Section 1	Cotton Row/Steamboat Rooms
	Music and Arts Section 2	Rooms L-2, 3

Music and Arts Section 3	Rooms L-5, 6, 7
Music and Arts Section 4	Room L-4
Bible Bowl	Room L-14
Bible Tic Tac Toe	Room L-13
Sword Drill	Room L-12
Bible Memorization	Room L-11

9:00 -	Reach That Guy Service Project	Memphis Marriott
10:00	Orientation	St. Louis Room
9:00 -	WNAC Nominating Committee	Memphis Marriott
11:00		Memphis Room

MONDAY AFTERNOON / JULY 22

1:00 -	NYC Youth Seminars	Room L-4
2:00		
1:00 -	NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES	
4:30	Music and Arts Section 5	Cotton Row/Steamboat Rooms
	Music and Arts Section 6	Rooms L-2, 3
	Music and Arts Section 7	Rooms L-5, 6, 7
	Music and Arts Section 8	Room L-4
	Bible Bowl	Room L-14
	Bible Tic Tac Toe	Room L-13
	Sword Drill	Room L-12
	Bible Memorization	Room L-11
1:30 -	WNAC Drama	Memphis Marriott
2:30		Heritage Ballroom
2:00 -	NYC Children's Drama	Room L-4
3:00		
3:00 -	NYC Worker Seminars	Room L-4
4:00		
3:00	Exhibit Area Opens	West Hall
3:00 -	WNAC Pastors' Wives Seminar	Memphis Marriott
4:00		Heritage Ballroom
3:00 -	Pastors/Laymen Conference	East Hall
5:00		
3:30 -	TruthQuest	Memphis Marriott
4:30	Pre-Test Session #2	Memphis Room
5:00	Tennessee WAC Executive Dinner	Memphis Marriott Beale Room
5:15 -	Benjamin Randall	Wyndham Garden Hotel
6:30	Appreciation Dinner	Ballroom
6:00	Music Rehearsal	East Hall

MONDAY EVENING / JULY 22

7:00 - Convention Assembly	East Hall
8:30 - Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5)	Mississippi Room
Children's Worship (Grades 1-3)	Sultana/Plantation Rooms
Tweener Worship (Grades 4-6)	Rooms L-5, 6, 7
Teen Worship (Grades 7-12)	Cotton Row/Steamboat Rooms
8:30 - Men's Chorale Rehearsal	East Hall
8:30 - Registration Continues	Lobby
10:00	
8:30 - Loveless Retirement Reception	Memphis Marriott Heritage Ballroom
10:00	
8:30 - Exhibit Area Open	West Hall
10:00	
9:00 - Board of Retirement	Room L-4
10:00 - Information Meeting	
9:00 - Children's Activities	Sultana/Plantation Rooms
10:00 - Tweeners' Activities	Rooms L-5, 6, 7
9:00 - Youth Workers Reception	Memphis Marriott Concierge Lounge
10:30	
9:00 - Youth Activities	Cotton Row/Steamboat Rooms
11:00	
9:15 - Music Rehearsal	East Hall
10:00 - Exhibit Area Closed	

TUESDAY MORNING / JULY 23

7:00 - State Promotional Personnel	Memphis Marriott
7:45 - Breakfast	Beale Room
7:00 - Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal	East Hall
7:45	
8:00 - Registration Continues	Lobby
10:00 p.m.	
8:30 - Theological Trends Seminar	Memphis Marriott Heritage Ballroom
10:00	
8:30 - WNAC Convention	East Hall
10:50	
8:30 - NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES	
12:00 noon	
Music and Arts Section 9	Cotton Row/Steamboat Rooms
Music and Arts Section 10	Rooms L-2, 3
Music and Arts Section 11	Rooms L-5, 6, 7
Music and Arts Section 12	Room L-4
Bible Bowl	Room L-14

Bible Tic Tac Toe	Room L-13
Bible Memorization	Room L-11

9:00 - TruthQuest	Room L-12
12:00 noon	
Playoff Rounds	
10:00 - NYC SEMINARS	Memphis Marriott
12:00 noon	
NYC Youth Seminars	Orpheum Room
NYC Children's Seminars	Memphis Room
10:00 - Exhibit Area Open	West Hall
10:00 p.m.	
11:00 - WNAC Missionary Service	East Hall
12:00 - Hillsdale College Luncheon	Wyndham Garden Hotel Ballroom

TUESDAY AFTERNOON / JULY 23

12:30 - WNAC Fellowship Luncheon	Memphis Marriott Heritage Ballroom
2:30	
1:00 - NYC SEMINARS	Memphis Marriott
4:00 - NYC Youth Seminars	Orpheum Room
NYC Children's Seminars	Memphis Room
1:00 - NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES	
4:30	
Music and Arts Section 13	Cotton Row/Steamboat Rooms
Music and Arts Section 14	Rooms L-2, 3
Music and Arts Section 15	Rooms L-5, 6, 7
Music and Arts Section 16	Room L-4
Bible Tic Tac Toe	Room L-13
Bible Memorization	Room L-11
1:30 - Foreign/Home Missions Rally	East Hall
3:00	
3:00 - Master's Men Seminar	Room L-14
4:30	
3:00 - Sunday School Workshop	Room L-12
4:30	
3:00 - Foreign Missions Board Meeting	Memphis Marriott Board Room
4:30	
4:00 - Music Rehearsal	East Hall
5:00 - Men's Chorale Rehearsal	East Hall

TUESDAY EVENING / JULY 23

7:00 - Convention Assembly	East Hall
8:30 - Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5)	Mississippi Room
Children's Worship (Grades 1-3)	Sultana/Plantation Rooms
Tweener Worship (Grades 4-6)	Rooms L-5, 6, 7
Teen Worship (Grades 7-12)	Cotton Row/Steamboat Rooms

8:30 Men's Chorale Rehearsal East Hall
 8:30 - Registration Continues Lobby
 10:00
 8:30 - Exhibit Area Open West Hall
 10:00
 8:30 - Worthington Retirement Reception Memphis Marriott
 10:30 Heritage Ballroom
 9:00 - NYC ACTIVITIES
 10:00 Judges Post-Competition Meeting Room L-10
 Children's Activities Sultana/Plantation Rooms
 Tweeners' Activities Rooms L-5, 6, 7
 9:00 - Mississippi River Student Cruise
 11:00 Memphis Queen Riverboat
 10:00 Exhibit Area Closed

WEDNESDAY MORNING / JULY 24

7:00 - State Leaders Breakfast Memphis Marriott
 7:45 Heritage I
 7:00 - Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal East Hall
 8:00
 7:00 - Home Missions Board Breakfast Memphis Marriott
 8:30 Beale Room
 8:00 - NYC Competitive Finals Cotton Row/Steamboat Rooms
 11:00
 8:00 - Registration Continues Lobby
 12:00 noon
 9:00 - Convention Business Session East Hall
 11:45
 10:00 - NYC SEMINARS
 12:00 noon NYC Youth Seminars Room L-11
 NYC Children's Seminars Room L-12
 NYC Worker Seminars Room L-13
 NYC Youth Worker Seminar Room L-14
 10:00 - Exhibit Area Open West Hall
 10:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON / JULY 24

12:00 Registration Closes
 noon
 12:00 - Free Will Baptist Bible College Memphis Marriott
 1:15 Luncheon Heritage Ballroom

1:00 - NYC SEMINARS
 4:00 NYC Youth Seminars Room L-12
 NYC Children's Seminars Room L-13
 NYC Youth Worker Seminar Room L-14
 1:30 - Music Commission Seminar Room L-11
 3:00
 1:30 - Convention Business Session East Hall
 4:00 Reconvenes
 4:00 Men's Chorale Rehearsal East Hall
 4:00 - Mississippi River Family Cruise
 6:00 Memphis Queen Riverboat
 5:00 Music Rehearsal East Hall

WEDNESDAY EVENING / JULY 24

7:00 - Convention Assembly East Hall
 9:00 Preschool Worship Mississippi Room
 8:30 - Exhibit Area Open West Hall
 10:00
 8:50 - Children's Choir Presentation East Hall
 9:00
 9:00 NYC Awards Ceremony East Hall
 10:00 Exhibit Area Closed
 11:00 - Truth & Peace Reception Memphis Marriott
 1:00 a.m. Heritage I, II

THURSDAY MORNING / JULY 25

7:00 - Presidents' Breakfast Memphis Marriott
 8:00 Orpheum Room
 7:00 - Foreign Missions Board Memphis Marriott
 8:30 Breakfast Beale Room
 7:30 - Sunday School Board Memphis Marriott
 9:00 Breakfast Memphis Room
 9:00 Concluding Business Session East Hall
 9:00 - Exhibit Area Open West Hall
 12:30 p.m.
 11:45 Adjournment
 12:15 Exhibits Closed
 (30 minutes after convention adjournment)

Dan Merkh, Missionary Church Planter, Dies



RICHMOND, VA—The Reverend Daniel J. Merkh died on April 12, the day after his 74th birthday. His death brought to a close an extraordinary ministry that spanned more than 50 years as a pastor, missionary and church planter.

While a student at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Brother Merkh pastored in Tennessee. Soon after graduation, he and his wife Margaret

were commissioned in 1957 as missionaries to Africa. They took language study in Switzerland and arrived in Ivory Coast in 1958.

The Merkhs served one term in Africa, then were assigned as missionaries to France. They departed for France in 1966, eventually leaving the foreign missionary service in 1975. While on the field, he was a teacher and church planter.

Dan was an original thinker and innovator who understood the clash of cultures with the gospel. He brought a great deal of energy to the ministry.

Reverend Merkh pastored in South Carolina and Virginia for 20 years, most of that time with First FWB Church in Richmond. He retired to Florida for a time, then helped start Glen Allen FWB Church in Richmond.

Dan was converted in a tent revival at age nine. His active life included a tour with the U.S. Navy, decades of preaching the gospel in French and English, and a never-diminishing interest in the work of God among Free Will Baptists around the world.

Funeral services were conducted April 16 at Faith FWB Church in Carrollton, Virginia.

Reverend Merkh is survived by Margaret, his wife of 54 years; one daughter, Elizabeth; and four sons—Daniel Merkh, Jr., Timothy Karl Merkh, Raymond Earl Merkh and Jonathan Mark Merkh.

Reverend Wilburn Beasley Dies



TURBEVILLE, SC—Wilburn Beasley died March 19 at age 84. Reverend Beasley had been confined to a nursing home the last five years of his life because of declining health.

Born June 2, 1917, in Marion County, Alabama, Brother Beasley pastored two Alabama churches before moving to Nashville, Tennessee, where he graduated from Free

Will Baptist Bible College in 1954. He pastored Oaklawn FWB Church while a student.

After he graduated from FWBCC, Beasley was called to pastor Beech Springs FWB Church in Tupelo, Mississippi. He would later pastor in Georgia at Glennville FWB Church, and in South Carolina at Horse Branch FWB Church in Turbeville and High Hill FWB Church in Lake City.

While he was committed to pastoring, Reverend Beasley also served the denomination in numerous offices at the district, state and national levels. He is probably best remembered for his 12-year tenure on the Board of Retirement and Insurance.

Reverend Beasley was preceded in death by his wife, Verna Mollie Beasley, who died in 1972 after 35 years of marriage. He is survived by one son, James Beasley; and two daughters, Betty Creech and Jan McElveen.

Funeral services were conducted by South Carolina moderator Sherwood Lee and Brother Beasley's son-in-law Jacob Creech, who pastors Horse Branch FWB Church.

Bible College Welcomes 260 for Welcome Days

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College hosted 210 prospective students and 50 sponsors from 17 states for the spring Welcome Days, March 28-29, according to Jeff Caudill, acting director of enrollment management. Sixty visitors were high school seniors who came to give the college a close examination.

This was one of the event's largest spring attendances. It included delegations from 18 states and 75 churches. The largest state representations were Tennessee (39), Missouri (38) and Illinois (30). Other states with 10 or more were North Car-



Students Register for Welcome Days at FWBBC.

olina (21), South Carolina (17) and Virginia (13). The largest church group was 11 from Virginia Beach FWB Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Mr. Caudill was pleased with the event. "Spring 2002 Welcome Days was a great success!" he said. "God really used Thursday's drama and choir presentations, as well as the Friday chapel to encourage and challenge all our guests."

The next Welcome Days will be held November 14-16, 2002. For information, please contact the Enrollment Management Office (Telephone: 1-800-76-FWBBC; E-mail: recruit@fwbbc.edu).

Georgia Association Sets "State Office Day"

KINGSLAND, GA—Delegates to Georgia's 66th annual state association agreed with the Board of Trustees and declared October 27 "State Office Commitment Day." Each church is requested to give \$25 per member toward the building project and to participate in "State Office Ground Breaking Day" on November 2.

Moderator Paul Smith led business sessions March 14-16 at Camden FWB Church, Kingsland. Clerk Keith Lloyd reported that 139 registered for the three-day event, including 48 ministers and 38 lay delegates.

A \$675,000 state budget was adopted for 2003, including a \$250,000 Cooperative Plan budget. Executive secretary William Smith presented a plaque to Wynelle Clower for her \$29,000 gift to Free Will Baptist ministries in memory of J. W. Clower and Mischa Bevan.

In other action, delegates passed a resolution supporting President Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and the U. S. military. The state clerk was instructed to send copies of the resolution to the President and Secretary of Defense.

James Forlines, general director of the Foreign Missions Department, was the keynote speaker in three worship services. Keith Kennemer led a Sunday School workshop.

The 2003 state association will meet March 13-15 at Calvary FWB Church in Columbus.

Billy Tabb with the Lord

RIDGELAND, MS—Field reporter and former editor of the *Mississippi Messenger* Billy Tabb died at his home in Ridgeland on March 26. Brother Tabb was 75. Funeral services were conducted March 28 at First Baptist Church in Ridgeland. Reverends David Watson and Gary Walter officiated.



Billy Tabb became associated with Free Will Baptists in the Jackson, Mississippi, area in the early 1980s. Through his contact, Faith FWB Church was organized in north Jackson. He was also instrumental in the beginning of the Madison mission in Madison, Mississippi.

The potential of Brother Tabb's unique ministry was recognized quickly, and he was asked to assume the position of editor for the Mississippi state paper. He had previously served as editor of the *Messenger*, a publication of the Congregational Methodists, and had been a newspaper writer.

He was an exceptional musician. Billy and his wife, Versie, traveled extensively, providing music for revivals or wherever they were needed.

His writings appeared in various denominational publications. Brother Tabb was a dedicated man and continued faithfully in his work and travel until health no longer permitted him to do so.

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.

FWBBC Receives \$100,000 Bequest

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College received a \$100,000 bequest from the estate of a late Georgia pastor, the Reverend Riley Giddens.

Rev. Giddens pastored nine churches during his 24 years of ministry in the Little River and Chattahoochee Associations of Georgia. In 1958, he founded the Free Will Baptist church in Valdosta, Georgia.

When Rev. Giddens died June 22, 2000, he specified that part of his estate go to the college for student scholarships.

FWBBC President Matthew Pinson says, "I would like to use this bequest to fund several major scholarships for outstanding young men who have been called to pastoral ministry." President Pinson feels this would be a fitting memorial to this dedicated pastor.

Details on how the scholarships will be awarded are still being considered, but names and brief descriptions of appropriate candidates may be forwarded to the college. Please send them to:

The Riley Giddens Scholarship
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205

Illinois Honors Moderator Larry Clyatt

COLONA, IL—More than 200 people joined in a tribute to retiring Illinois state moderator Larry Clyatt who stepped down after serving 13 years. Reverend Clyatt, pastor of First FWB Church in Benton, was given \$500 in appreciation for his leadership.

Delegates to the 42nd annual Illinois State Association elected Pastor Daryl Ellis (Butterfield FWB Church, Aurora) to succeed Clyatt as moderator. Rev. Ellis is a member of the denomination's Commission for Theological Integrity and has written extensively.

Promotional secretary David Shores said that attendees at the state meeting included 48 ministers, 24 lay delegates and five deacons. The session met at Green Rock FWB Church in Colona.

Guest speaker Dr. Robert Picirilli preached three times from Proverbs 22:28 on the distinctives of Free Will Baptist foundations, faith and future. Dr. Picirilli retired from his administrative position at FWBBC where he served more than 40 years as registrar and dean.

Missionary David Potete received a \$35,000 check from the Illinois Board of Missions. The funds were raised by selling a house donated by a Free Will Baptist family. Missionary Jon Cannon accepted a plaque citing the self-supporting status of Victory FWB Church in Mascoutah.

Delegates approved a \$272,000 state budget which includes \$114,000 for The Together Way Plan. The Together Way funds will be allocated: Illinois Board of Missions (28%), National Association (25%), Promotion Fund (16%), Camp Board (16%), General Fund (8%), C. E. Board (3%), CTS Board (3%), Master's Men Board (1%).

Effingham pastor John Hollis spoke at the Friday Board of Missions Banquet. Davenport (Iowa) pastor Randy Skaggs addressed the Saturday Master's Men Breakfast.

The 2003 state association will meet March 14-15 at Northwest FWB Church in Chicago.

FWBBC Seeks Stewardship Director

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College, an accredited four-year Christian institution, is seeking a director of stewardship development.

The applicant should be computer literate and a good public speaker, possess significant administrative and organizational abilities, and have fund raising experience. The position will require extensive travel. The person hired will be responsible to oversee raising the college's \$1.1 million annual general fund.

Résumés may be sent to:

Staff Opening
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205

FWBBC Students Elect New Officers

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College students chose officers for the 2002-2003 school year in elections held on campus in early April.

Neil Morgan, a junior from Pamplico, South Carolina, was elected for president. Neil is a missions major and has been active in missions outreach throughout his college career. He has served as president of the Bryan Society and as a Christian service group leader.

Kiley Hawkins, a junior from Greenville, North Carolina, will serve as vice president. Kiley is majoring in Christian education.

Charles Cook is following up on two terms as student body president by serving next year as secretary/treasurer. The Cookeville, Tennessee, native is majoring in English and minoring in history.

Scott Collins, a pastoral training major from Hutchinson, Kansas, was elected chaplain. He is now a junior student.

Mitchell Cooper will serve as worship leader. Mitchell is a junior from Norman, Oklahoma. He is majoring in Bible and minoring in missions.



L-R: Neil Morgan (Pres.), Kiley Hawkins (VP), Charles Cook (Sec./Treas.), Scott Collins (Chaplain), Mitchell Cooper (Worship Leader).

Please remember these 2002-03 student leaders in your prayers.

Oklahoma Church Honors Pastor Joe Grizzle

NORMAN, OK—Members of First FWB Church in Norman arranged a surprise 25th anniversary celebration for Pastor Joe Grizzle on March 3. The celebration had been set several weeks earlier but was postponed after Pastor Grizzle was hospitalized with a heart attack.

The day featured a visit by U. S. Representative J. C. Watts. Representative Watts read a national proclamation that was submitted into the *Congressional Record* on behalf of Pastor Grizzle, and recognized the 25 years he has committed to a single congregation. He praised Grizzle on his outstanding work as a pastor.

Watts commented, "It is a high calling to be a minister of God and we commend you on the work you are performing in proclaiming the Word of God and strengthening marriages, families and ultimately, our nation. While Congress is working on new legislation and the passing of bills, you are touching the lives of people . . . and that is the heart of America."

Church members enjoyed a lunch and reception in honor of Joe and Billie Grizzle. A memory book was presented to the Grizzles filled with letters, pictures and personal words from members of the congregation. It reflected a compilation of the heritage and legacy created over the past 25 years of their ministry.

An afternoon program in the sanctuary focused on the theme, "This is Your Life, Joe Grizzle." A video production included photographs of the couple from their



Billie and Joe Grizzle

childhood through adult years. It featured testimonies and personal words from friends, former staff members, family, current members and other significant people in their lives.

A presentation was made to the pastor's son and daughter and their families. A personalized letter of appreciation was framed and given to them to recognize the support and sacrifice they have shown to their

parents during the past 25 years as they ministered to others.

Children's leader Raylene Langford presented the couple with a scrapbook from the children in the church. It included personal letters of thanks, artwork, pictures and creative expressions of their appreciation.

The deacon board presented a final gift to the Grizzles on behalf of the entire church—a love offering showing monetary support as a token of appreciation.

Joe Grizzle preached his first sermon at Norman First FWB Church on November 21, 1976. The church moved to its current location on 24th Avenue in Norman in January 1999.

Reverend Grizzle was converted at age 10 and began preaching at age 18. He has pastored in California, Arkansas, Idaho and Oklahoma. He helped start Noble FWB Church in Noble, Oklahoma, and did pioneer missions work in Idaho.

He graduated from Oklahoma Bible College (now Hillsdale FWB College) and later attended Free Will Baptist Bible College.

currently

Fifty-seven men and teen boys attended the **Kansas State Men's Retreat** at **Prairie View Christian Camp**, according to **James O. Brewer**, chairman of the sponsoring **Christian Education Board**. Guest speaker for the retreat was **Trymon Messer**, former general director of the **Home Missions Department**. Master's Men general director **Ken Akers** brought a devotion and provided information about the organization.

Pastor **Mike Trimble** baptized 14 converts at **Kirby FWB Church** in **Taylor, MI**. Two of the converts were over 70 years old. The congregation averages 420 in two Sunday morning services and 200 on Wednesday night. Members gave a \$51,000 offering one Sunday to spur a relocation campaign. The church has started four adult Bible fellowship study groups.

Sawyer FWB Church in **Gwinn, MI**, reports 31 conversions. **Greg Floars** pastors.

Pastor **Ken Dodson** writes of 10 conversions at the **FWB Church** in **St. Croix, VI**.

Home missionary **Tim Byers** reports a family of six converted in **Ashtabula County, OH**. Byers conducts Bible studies on Tuesday and Friday nights.

The congregation at **Beech Springs FWB Church** in **Saltillo, MS**, added 25 members, according to Pastor **Dennis Kizzire, Sr.**

Southside FWB Church in **Hickory, NC**, is completing a 160-seat sanctuary. **Julius Hall** pastors. The church is a mission project of **North Carolina's Blue Ridge Association**.

White Oak FWB Church in **Bailey, NC**, is over 100 years old and still growing. Pastor **Tim Riggs** says the congregation averages more than 200 in attendance. They plan to complete a 10,700-square-foot auditorium with a 500-plus seating capacity by mid-June. Their \$1.1 million construction project also includes upgrading the family life center and paving the parking lot. Members raised nearly \$500,000 for the building project, and borrowed about \$600,000.

Emmanuel FWB Church in **Jacksonville, NC**, purchased property across the street from the sanctuary and built a multi-purpose structure. The 11,200-square-foot, two-story facility will serve several purposes—fellowship area, youth meetings, physical activities and a temporary worship hall when construction begins on their new sanctuary. **Joe Haas, Sr.**, pastors.

Cape Fear FWB Mission in **Wilmington, NC**, celebrated their fourth anniversary with 150 people in attendance. Pastor **Pat Hall** says the group plans to raise \$140,000 by late summer and will begin construction on a building.

Glad Tidings FWB Missions in **Asheboro, NC**, completed a new auditorium, according to Pastor **Bob Edmonson**. The church remains strong in evangelism outreach and training young believers.

Pastor **Rob Morgan** reports seven baptisms at **Donelson FWB Church** in **Nashville, TN**.

The **Missouri Bible Institute** opened a campus at **United FWB Church** in **West Plains, MO**. A \$2,000 donation helped establish the new outreach. The institute operates under the direction of **Missouri's Christian Education Board**. Dr. **Ralph Hunter** began teaching a study on the life of Christ in January.

More than 40 young people have been riding vans to attend prayer meeting at **Bear Point FWB Church** in **Sesser, IL**. **Larry Cook** pastors.

Pastor **Sam Henderson** reports six baptisms at **Green Rock FWB Church** in **Colona, IL**.

Ohio Free Will Baptists sponsored a state-wide memorial service May 4 at the grave site of **David Marks**, a pioneer Free Will Baptist minister who died in 1845. The memorial service featured **David Crowe** as guest speaker. He is director of church growth and evangelism with the **Home Missions Department**.

Ohio evangelist Clovis Vanover reports 15 conversions in revival services.

Heritage FWB Church in **Colum-**

bus, OH, celebrated 50 years of ministry with five days of meetings April 6-10, according to Pastor **Tim Stout**. Guest speakers included former pastor **Paul Thompson** and North Carolina pastor **Dann Patrick**.

The **Ohio Men's Retreat** set a record attendance in January when 270 men registered, according to executive secretary **Edwin Hayes**. Three men preached during the meeting: Pastor **Roger Duncan** (Florida), Evangelist **Billy Fields** (Tennessee) and Board of Retirement director **William Evans**.

Traveler's Rest FWB Church in **Newton, GA**, couldn't wait to complete their building program, so they pulled a trailer on site to accommodate expanding Sunday School and children's church needs. Pastor **Gene Gilbert** is in his seventh year with the congregation. The **Traveler's Rest Church** is located six miles from **Newton**, a town of 800 people, and has the largest attendance in the county.

The fourth annual "Over 70 Revival" sponsored by **Oklahoma's New Life Association** met March 4-16 at **New Home FWB Church** in **Coweta**. Twelve men preached and all 12 were over 70 years old. **Lonnie DeVault** (78), and **Wade Jernigan** (74) preached the opening sermons.

Pastor **I. Bennie Turner** reports seven new members at **Fellowship FWB Church** in **Manning, SC**. An insurance company gave the church a computer and printer.

In case you wondered: It takes 15 hours and 30 minutes to read the Bible through. That's how long it took the youth at **Unity FWB Church** in **Johns-ville, SC**. **Mikell Edge** pastors. ■

What Have You Done for Me Lately?

By Ken Akers

This has become a familiar phrase lately. It doesn't matter what happened last year; what matters is what you're doing now. In the last four or five years Master's Men has made several changes. In addition to changing general directors twice, several new programs have been started, as well as expansion and improvement on some that have been on-going.

When Tom Dooley became director, he introduced the Direction Bible Study Series. These are Bible studies written for men. They deal with current issues that men face in their day to day lives. The first in the series was "Become a Man Who Prays." The title is self-explanatory. Following closely behind were the next four studies. "Pure Man," my favorite, deals with the temptations men face. "Winning Men" is about teaching men to reach other men for Christ. "The Armor of God" talks about our daily battle. And finally, for now, "Blessed Is the Man." How good God is.

Operation Saturation has been called the greatest one-day event ever undertaken by Free Will Baptists. On the last Sunday of September, Free Will Baptists across America meet at one of our home mission churches to help our missionaries get the word out about their church. In conjunction with Operation Saturation, we have started taking groups on mission trips. In 2000, a group of 15 went to Puerto Rico. In 2001, 18 went to St. Croix U.S. Virgin Islands.

Up to and including 2001, Master's Men held a National Men's Retreat at a selected site around the country. Each year it would be too far for some guys to attend. In 2002, we will be holding re-

gional retreats. This year we have retreats planned for East Tennessee, Northeastern Kentucky, and Branson, Missouri. By having three different locations we hope more men will take advantage of this opportunity. Another change this year is that the retreat in Branson will be using a hotel setting rather than a camp.

We will continue with our sports fellowships. We begin each year with our Deep South Golf Tournament in Dothan, Alabama. This year we had a record number of golfers. We will again be having our National Golf Tournament August 1, 2002, at Pine Creek Golf Course in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, the Nashville area. The next two days there will be over 40 men's and women's softball teams from across the country in Nashville for two days of action.

The first weekend of April saw over 90 couples come together in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, for the first Master's Men / WNAC National Marriage Enrichment Conference.

Master's Men will be working with our Foreign Missions Department on several projects in 2002. We are currently working with Foreign Missions and Free Will Baptist Bible College to renovate a home on the campus to house the missionary in residence there. We are also working on mission trips with Foreign Missions to do some service projects overseas. ■

**If you still have to ask
what we are doing,
call me!**

Master's



Men

WNAC's annual Creative Arts Contest encourages women to develop their talents in art and journalism, while contributing to the ministry of *CoLaborer* magazine. Categories include: Photography, Art, Poetry, Devotionals, Articles, Programs, Skits and Plays. All entries should represent WNAC's purpose—to know Christ and to make Him known. . . in the family, the church, the community and the world. Possible themes could include faith, evangelism, church ministries, Christian growth, family concerns and women's issues.

2003 WNAC Creative Arts Contest

Topics should be of interest to Christian women.

Programs: Length should be 2,000-3,000 words double-spaced with indented paragraphs. All entries should expand the theme: "Let Us Pursue."

Programs should be suitable for use at WAC meetings. Entries must have a scriptural basis. Writings should be divided into sections or sub-topics. Works should contain both an introduction and a conclusion. Program entries should also include an appropriate song or hymn and ideas for publicity and presentation.

Skits: Length should be one to four pages double-spaced (5-10 minute production time). Comedy or drama is acceptable. Pieces may be WNAC specific (enlistment, installation, emphasis, etc.) or general in nature. Characters should be primarily women. Props should be minimal.

Plays: Length should be seven to twelve pages double-spaced (20-30 minute production time). Plays require characterization, setting and a well-defined plot. Manuscripts should include a synopsis, a list of characters, setting, props and any stage directions. Comedy or drama is acceptable. Plays should focus on issues of concern to women. Plays may also be seasonal, patriotic or missions-oriented.

Contest Rules

- Contest is open to all subscribers of *CoLaborer* magazine, members of Women Active for Christ groups and women who attend a Free Will Baptist church.
- WNAC requires no entry fee but an official entry form should accompany each entry. (Forms are reproducible and available from WNAC.)
- Contestants may enter in more than one category, but total number of entries is limited to 10 per contest year.
- Contestants may submit no more than three entries per category.
- All entries must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2003.
- Entries will be filed for potential future use in WNAC publications. Submissions are eligible for, but not guaranteed, publication. WNAC will hold first rights only.
- Entries may be submitted online or by mail.

Online: cac@nafwb.org

Send as email (Word file attachment or JPEG).
WNAC will acknowledge receipt of all online entries.

By mail: WNAC Creative Arts Contest
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Awards and Recognition

Awards are given in each category:

1st place: \$20

2nd place: Christian book

3rd place: gift subscription to *CoLaborer*

Testimonial of One Contestant

"I owe a debt of thanks to WNAC for sponsoring the Creative Arts Contest. In 1974, when I discovered that God's will for my life included writing for His glory, I needed a place to start. I was advised about the contest. Poetry was something God had made easy for me, but a program titled, 'Recipe for Happiness' was what caught the eye of WNAC and since that recognition, I have often participated. The encouragement I have received through the years has been deeply appreciated. I feel the contest has helped me to grow as a writer, giving me and countless other women confidence to write." Sue Winchester, Fourth FWB Church, St. Louis, Missouri.

Invitation

Women, we invite you to enter the WNAC Creative Arts Contest. Encourage others to enter, also. Attend the Tuesday morning WNAC session of the National Association in Memphis, Tennessee, July 23, where this year's winners will be announced. ■

Submission Requirements

Photography: Photographs may be color or black and white. Online submissions must be in JPEG format. Entries must meet size requirements (8½" by 11" maximum).

Art: Various mediums (watercolor, acrylic, oil, pen, pencil, charcoal, pastels, textiles) are acceptable. Art pieces should be original work. Textile entries should be artist's own design. Entries must meet size requirements (8½" by 11" maximum).

Poetry: Poetry may be rhymed or free verse. Poems submitted online should be formatted for proper line sequence.

Devotionals: Length should be 150-500 words double-spaced with indented paragraphs. Devotionals offer scriptural insights from life experiences.

Articles: Length should be 500-1,500 words double-spaced with indented paragraphs. Articles include first-person accounts, human-interest stories or seasonal pieces.

Women Nationally **WNAC** Active for Christ

Planning for Your Retirement

By D. Ray Lewis

Many people spend more time preparing for a two-week vacation than planning for retirement.

What are you doing right now about the day you will retire? After 65, what? Even with retirement several years away, it should have crossed your mind. If you are like most people, you haven't given it enough thought.

Retirement years can be the most enjoyable and productive time of life—with the right preparation. A successful retirement requires both a chosen lifestyle and the financial means to maintain it. Such goals and their fulfillment do not result from a one-time discussion or decision. They evolve from an ongoing process of identifying wants and needs, developing plans to fulfill them and then acting on these plans . . . continually reviewing and revising them as needed.

Some think of retirement as living the life of leisure, having time for all the things they did not have time for when working. They see days spent on the lake fishing, day after day on the golf course or the freedom to travel to places they did not have the time to visit while working. Most retirees, however, quickly learn that a person can't fish or golf all the time, and traveling gets old after so many trips.

AARP says that it takes the average retiree about six months to complete all the projects and plans he/she anticipated doing in retirement. After that, what? Hopefully, there are still years of living left. What will you do with all this time? Living happily in retirement is possible if it is planned.

The first step in planning your retirement is to develop the right attitude about retirement. Often the closer a person comes to retirement, the more he wants to hold on. Retirement is seen as the end of something rather than an exciting new beginning. Look at it as one of the most exciting and rewarding times of your life.

Failing health is a major concern for many. We all desire longevity and a healthy life. Maturing inevitably produces physical change. But the truth is, you can be even healthier after retirement, since there is an opportunity to take better care of yourself in retirement. Maintaining the best health in retirement depends on good eating habits, the right amounts of exercise and rest, and proper medical care, starting now.

Maintaining financial independence in retirement is a primary objective for most people. Everyone wants to know, "Will I be able to manage on my retirement in-

come?" The single most important factor in financial security is adequate planning. Generally, retirement income is less than

when you're working. But this isn't an unmanageable problem. You should base your standard of living in retirement on pension or profit sharing income, social security benefits, personal savings and other assets available.

Retirement presents us with approximately 40,000 new leisure hours over the course of an average lifetime. This time is a day-to-day reality rather than a break from the daily routine. You should begin now to consider the options that will make it personally satisfying through continuing your present leisure activities as well as developing new interests. After you leave your primary occupation, planning for and implementing the productive use of leisure time often becomes more important than financial or health concerns.

Another consideration in planning for your retirement is where to live. Communication about and agreement on where to live is essential for a couple considering relocation. Often, a husband and wife have completely different ideas about retirement housing which are unknown to the other spouse. Make it a point to discuss individual needs and desires with a spouse when you consider relocating. In deciding whether to move or not, move only if it will make life more comfortable, pleasant or economical.

Because retirement involves change in almost every area of your life, it often raises legal matters which require attention. Getting your legal affairs in order while still employed will go a long way in contributing to your peace of mind and in avoiding probable difficulties later. A valid will is probably the most important legal document you must consider in your planning, yet only about 60% of people over 65 have one. Other reasons for needing legal assistance is buying or selling property, prenuptial agreements, estate planning, living wills and a durable power of attorney. Neglecting to have good legal assistance now can be very costly later.

Retirement is a relatively recent phenomenon. In fact, the concept of "retiring" from work was unheard of until the last century. In the past, most people worked until they died or otherwise became unable to provide for their families. Things have changed. People are living longer and spending more time in retirement. This can be an exciting and enjoyable time, it just takes planning for it. ■

Retirement  & Insurance

First Free Will Baptist Church in Russellville, Ark., "will never be the same," according to Pastor Doug Little.

"Two of our college girls have come to talk to me about the next steps to take for career missions preparation," says Doug one month after their Global Impact Celebration of March 6-10 and Global Focus Leadership Seminar of March 6-8.

One couple from Russellville flew to Ogden, Utah, in early April to investigate moving there to help Tim and Jessica Lewis in their Home Missions work. Between 25 and 30 people signed up to begin studying weekly conversational Spanish taught by Uruguay missionaries Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster and Panama missionary Eddie Bowerman.

"We've had public professions of faith and significant recommitment decisions each Sunday," declared the elated Pastor Little in early April. He also reported a faith-promise offering of \$38,000 on April 7 contrasted with \$10,000 in the month of March. This was due, in part, to urging by Cameron Lane, church missions coordinator. He encouraged some who could give all or most of their annual commitments up front to do so and provide funds for upcoming summer trips.

Registered for the GF Leadership Seminar were over 60 pastors and leaders from 14 states. Mike Mounts, pastor of Westerville FWB Church in Westerville, Ohio, exclaimed, "Wow! I wish my whole church could have been here! Very insightful, instructional, inspirational and very practical."

Pastor Bill Crank of Bethel FWB Church in South Roxana, Ill., said "This was the best conference on missions/church leadership I have ever attended. I would recommend every pastor attend and get involved." Lay leader Michael McClintock of Bethel declared, "In 30 years this rates in the top five percent."

Yes, God is working! The Global Impact Celebration registered 17 who said they were willing to serve in career missions, and 169 declared willingness to serve in short-term missions. A total of \$178,000 in missions offerings and faith-promise



Many people (left) publicly declared willingness to serve and overseas representatives (right) challenged attenders through displays and personal contacts.

God Is Working

By Don Robirds

come. I dreaded driving two days with these kids. But I loved the personalization time. It has been an ointment to my spirit. I have truly fallen in love with Terra and Chris Hale (a laycouple who hosted the Lewises in Russellville). We are honored to be a part."

Yes, relationships between missionaries and church people were developed during the conference. Out of this has come partnerships in ministry and commitments to service. People have become involved in God's plan for the world. And God is being worshipped and glorified.

"I have great expectations," concluded Doug Little. Evidently others agree. They are experiencing God in ways they have never known Him before.

commitments to local, national, and international missions were received.

Missionaries participating in the conference were moved as well. Two MKs were saved during the programs for kids. Jerry Gibbs of St. Nazaire, France, excitedly responded, "I've got so many ideas for our missions month in St. Nazaire it will take two months of missions."

Utah home missionary Jessica Lewis wept as she said, "To be quite honest, I did not want to

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*Note: If your church has not seen the original "Embracing the Vision" series, order and view it prior to showing the new series.





Garnett Reid

First Impressions *(Exodus 19, Part II)*

Last month we walked through Exodus 19. This chapter marks the first meeting between the Lord and His newly-redeemed people. Israel bivouacs at the foot of Sinai three months after leaving Egypt. When Moses ascends the mountain, God announces His continued love for Israel and pledges to claim them as His own special treasure.

Initially, the people promise to return God's favor with faithfulness. Yet when the appointed day comes for them to go up the mountain to meet God, they tremble in fear as the earth shakes and the skies fill with smoke, thunder and lightning. The Lord then tells them *not* to come up into His presence.

These critical events offer three lessons for us.

Lesson number one: Some things God said yesterday only make sense tomorrow.

In Exodus 3:12, God had given Moses a sign confirming His call to deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage.

"This will be a sign for you," God had said. "When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God upon this mountain." The events that take place during these 11 months at Sinai constitute the sign God had promised Moses long before he had ever gone to Egypt.

Remember that two kinds of signs occur in the Bible. Some are "present persuaders" (J. A. Motyer's phrase)—that is, God gives an immediate sign to confirm His word then and there (note, for example, the plagues on the Egyptians in Ex. 7-11).

Other signs, though, await future fulfillment. A series of events will occur before the sign appears. The Immanuel prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 belongs to this latter category. Consider, too, that Joseph waited over 20 years to see his dreams fulfilled. While he waited, "the word of the LORD tested him" (Ps. 105:19).

This lesson teaches us not only that God knows *the* future, but also that He knows *our* future. He has planned for all the contingencies in your life, good and bad. What we need is greater trust and confidence in Him. Today's need is faith; tomorrow's promise is fulfillment.

Exodus 19 gives a second lesson: God accepts nothing from us as He makes us His treasure, but expects everything from us as we make Him our treasure.

Have you noticed in reading Exodus that chapter 19 precedes chapter 20? Of course 19 comes before 20; that's elementary math! True, but in this case, it's also elementary *theology*. What happens in Exodus 19 must precede the giving of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20.

Many people miss this point, and as a result, wind up with a "works" salvation. Before God presents His holy character in law, and thus His defined lifestyle of holiness for His people, they must first *be* His people. Chapter 19 plays a vital role in identifying Israel as the people of God. God never gave the commandments (and the entire Mosaic Law) as a means for people to begin a relationship with Him. Instead, chapter 19 makes it clear that Israel is already His people.

The Lord had carried them "on eagles' wings" and brought them to Himself (v. 4). Deuteronomy 7:6 makes it clear that God chose Israel for no other reason than His own freedom to love whomever He will. They did not, they could not, earn their position as His people. Yet they were now to demonstrate His holy character by obeying His voice and keeping the covenant (v. 5). In this way, Israel would live out their standing as God's "special treasure" and fulfill their role as a "kingdom of priests."

The word translated "peculiar treasure" (Heb. *segullah*) refers to one's valued personal possession, property inseparably

linked to its owner (see Deut. 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Ps. 135:4; Mal. 3:17). Although we enjoy our position in Christ solely because of God's grace, Peter reminds us that we, too, are God's "special treasure" called to "show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9).

Exodus 19 presents a third and final lesson for us: God tells us not to fear coming to Him, but to come to Him in fear.

"Fear" in the Old Testament shows itself in two different ways; one complements faith, the other contradicts it. The kind of fear founded on faith in God enhances our relationship with Him (we'll call it "Fear A"). The other fear drives us away from Him (we'll call this one "Fear B").

For example, Exodus 14 reveals both kinds of fear in the same context. In verses 11-13, the Israelites were afraid (Fear B) of certain death as they stood between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea (note v. 13). But when they exercised faith, they "feared the LORD" (Fear A) (v. 31).

A similar situation exists in Exodus 19, as shown by the summary of these events in Exodus 20:18-21. When God thundered from Sinai, the people turned away in fear—the faithless kind (Fear B). "Let not God speak with us, lest we die," they pled (v. 19).

Yet Moses explains that God's purpose in revealing His immense power is so that they will trust Him and come to Him with a reverential fear (Fear A). "Fear not (Fear B): for God has come to test you, and that his fear (Fear A) may be before your faces, that you will not sin" (20:20).

Israel's "fearful" experience at Sinai teaches us that whatever our fears and anxieties, they should propel us toward God, not away from Him. Yet as we draw near to Him, we must do so with the reverence and unmatched honor He alone is due. ■



Anita Haney

Ten Ministry Myths

Forty years ago I moved into my first parsonage as a pastor's daughter. Thirteen years and three ministry moves later I found myself, at 22 years old, moving into a new parsonage, but this time, with my own pastor-husband.

The past 40 years of ministry life have certainly been a learning journey for me. Not only have I learned, I've changed. At age 49, I view many aspects of the pastorate much differently than I did at age 9 or 22.

I've compiled a list of 10 of my own myths that have influenced my life in the pastorate for over 40 years. They aren't universal myths and certainly do not apply to every ministry and pastor's wife. They are myths that I have had to discover and let go of for myself.

Myth #1: Privacy has no place in the pastorate.

I am a private person. At times it has been difficult for me to be both private and a pastor's wife. I've learned that even though our lives are on display, so to speak, privacy is important as well. It is not wrong to need privacy as long as it is balanced alongside your open door.

Myth #2: You need to have an out-going personality to help your husband succeed.

God uses every woman—even the shy and reserved ones. I've learned it is very taxing both mentally and emotionally to squelch my true God-given personality in order to try and fit into an assumed mold that's not really me.

Myth #3: Your children must be perfect.

Pastor's children are thrust into roles they didn't choose for themselves. They need to be allowed to be human just like other kids. It is wrong to place higher expectations on pastor's children.

Myth #4: You must be involved in every ministry of your church.

I've exhausted myself over the years by making sure I never missed one ser-

vice and always participated in every single program of the church. I recently learned that not every program offered was for me. I tried them all, but then chose the ones where I felt God was leading me to be involved. I learned to be frank and honest if asked why I didn't participate in certain programs.

Myth #5: The church is your whole life.

Even though the ministry does affect every part of your life, it's refreshing to discover activities and friends outside the church. Going out to eat with girls I worked with at my job not only helped me, but helped my co-workers see that I was "normal" just like them and could have fun just being one of the girls. I also made friends with another pastor's wife in our town and attended her women's Bible study group at her church.

Myth #6: Your husband belongs to the church first and to you and family second.

It's frustrating to feel that you have to continually take the #2 or #3 slot on your husband's list of priorities, with the church family frequently taking #1. There are many times when you know you need to take the back seat and allow him to minister without your feelings of insecurity surfacing. But without our marriages being first, we have no ministry.

Myth #7: You have to squelch any desire to look attractive for fear of conforming to the world.

Godliness goes deeper than the outward appearance. Yes, it's important to project godliness with our dress and appearance. However, you can be godly and wear makeup and modern clothes if that's your style. I still remember one of my Bible college professors who said it well regarding the subject, "Any barn looks better when painted."

Myth #8: You must accept all criticism as constructive.

I've learned that some criticism is intended to be constructive. Even if it

hurts, it's best to accept and apply it. However, sometimes criticism is just criticism. Accept that too and then let it go.

Myth #9: Avoid getting closer to certain families in the church.

Even though it's important to be a pastor to every church member equally, it's normal to feel closer in friendship to some families than others just because we are naturally drawn to those with whom we have more in common.

Myth #10: You really need to be a spiritual giant to succeed as a pastor's wife.

No, you really need to be your true self in order to succeed. Not every woman has the gift of teaching or public speaking. But being a prayerer or an encourager is equally important to God. Paul covers this beautifully in Romans 12:4-8.

I admit that it has only been within the past couple of years that I have come face to face with the fact that believing myths has influenced much of whom I am today. God is patiently causing me to learn the eternal value of genuinely seeking Him on my own and allowing Him to shape me into a useful vessel whether it's as a pastor's wife or just as His child. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Anita Haney is married to a Free Will Baptist minister (Ken Haney) who has pastored churches in Georgia, Arkansas, Tennessee and Missouri. They have pastored First Free Will Baptist Church in Lebanon, Missouri, for the past five years. The Haney's have three children—Lianne (27), Eric (25) and Ben (22). Anita enjoys writing and authored the book, *Battling Anorexia: A Deadly Trap*, published by Randall House.



Randy Sawyer

A Meditation on the Life of a Servant (Part 1)

The following piece was written for the funeral of my dear friend, Greg Phillips. Greg was 36 when he was killed in an accident. Though he had been a Christian only six years, his dramatic spiritual development was evident to everyone who knew him. The loss of this willing and helpful young man has been almost too difficult to bear, yet God has been glorified in his death as several of his closest friends have come to faith in Christ, and others are stepping forward to assume the servant mantle which he left behind.

In the next two articles we will discuss the making of a servant, or more specifically, how to facilitate spiritual growth in laymen of the church. Using Greg's story as the centerpiece, we will examine the deliberate mentoring of men and discuss specific ways in which the maturational growth of men of your church may be accomplished. In the meantime, let this brief meditation on the life of a servant serve as a challenge to your own heart, as well as for those whom you lead.

A life doesn't have to be long to be significant. It doesn't have to be prominent to be notable. When the course of a life has ended and an individual has passed from the stage of history, the truly significant life, the unquestionably notable life will have been a life of service.

The Servant's Life

Many are those who live to be served. These find joy in the power of mastery. With command and domination, they seek control of what they cannot understand and of those to whom they are not equal. But there are a few, a precious few, whose time on earth is marked by giving instead of taking. These spend and are spent in a life of service.

A life of service claims no attention

and seldom is adequately praised. But without such men and women, the machinery of this world would grind to a halt, and acts of sacrifice would be largely unknown. Without these selfless people, greed would rule the day and pride would endanger humanity's very existence.

A life of service bears the indelible marks of the commonplace and dares to attempt the ordinary. With efficiency and precision, these others-directed souls pursue the unwanted and seek the unclaimed. No place is too lowly, no need too great, no challenge too difficult and no project too humble for those with service in their hearts.

The Servant's Heart

A life of service is an attitude; it comes from the core of a being. If such selflessness is not really inside a person, it can't be faked, put-on or worked-up. Service comes from who a person is, not what he or she does. A selfish man can do a selfless deed, and a selfless man display the opposite some of the time. But for an individual to live the true servant's life, such a spirit must be genuine.

A life of service must be deliberate. Since the days of man are numbered, and because no one can do two things at the same time, choices must be made. Either an individual can live to please or live to be pleased. He can choose to serve others or command that others serve him. But he can't do both. Not consistently, not as a way of life. And a life of service is a way of life.

The life of service offers little compensation and almost no thanks. But that's all right with those who from the heart have chosen such a life. They realize that the greatest joy to be experienced is the joy of giving. The self-centered can only be happy as their needs are met, their demands fulfilled. The

true servant can be content anywhere with anything, because the focus of life is not inward, but outward. Greedy people are miserable people; giving people are satisfied people.

The Servant's Example

The life of service finds its most complete picture in Jesus Christ. Having laid aside the glory that was His with the Father from before the worlds began, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, the death of the cross. In that single act of service, He rescued us from our pride, from our greed, from our selfish living, and set us free to be like Him.

He set us free to make ours a life of service; to die to live and to live to die; to die to gain and to gain to die. He was and is our example. He was and is our power, the power to live on a different level, the power to live for a different purpose. As He took up the towel and basin, so may we; as He came to minister, so may we; as He came to serve, so may we.

The Servant's Decision

Let us not choose to live as those impoverished souls who know only the desires of the greedy and the satisfaction of gain. May we join those ennobled ones who with blistered hands, dusty feet and dirty clothes know the happiness of hard work. May we touch the lives of others through our service. May we, through our own humility, lift others to a higher humanity. May we offer ourselves willingly, freely and without reservation in the service of those whom others might ignore. May we claim the unclaimed and attempt the impossible. May ours be a life of service, and when we have fallen asleep in Christ, may we know the final joy of our Lord's well done. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." ■

Beyond Belief



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THE TOGETHER WAY

March 2002

Receipts:						
State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 311.15	\$ 173.61	\$ 484.76	\$ 1,299.02	\$ 564.54	\$ 1,863.56
Arizona	.00	80.80	80.80	.00	154.40	154.40
Arkansas	4,556.44	6,991.68	11,548.12	31,123.51	49,039.75	80,163.26
California	.00	.00	.00	.00	2,985.25	2,985.25
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	126.80	.00	126.80	240.64	2,268.00	2,508.64
Georgia	26,066.88	1,661.76	27,728.64	80,343.36	4,824.49	85,167.85
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	11,693.70	1,933.80	13,627.50	34,054.78	6,620.55	40,675.33
Indiana	1,624.98	150.73	1,775.71	5,957.30	691.12	6,648.42
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	2,058.78	2,058.78
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	26.55	156.26	182.81
Kentucky	553.36	1,328.13	1,881.49	559.36	2,568.92	3,128.28
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	131.25	131.25
Michigan	9,232.54	1,188.62	10,421.16	60,837.90	7,196.07	68,033.97
Mississippi	20,609.23	883.34	21,492.57	41,014.37	2,081.90	43,096.27
Missouri	27,709.91	12,692.28	40,402.19	122,985.57	49,764.37	172,749.94
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	633.60	41.80	675.40	1,907.10	128.56	2,035.66
North Carolina	378.00	3,613.41	3,991.41	3,711.04	12,214.23	15,925.27
Ohio	29,553.30	7,054.34	36,607.64	47,001.15	10,062.51	57,063.66
Oklahoma	51,770.65	12,533.06	64,303.71	164,861.89	37,171.92	202,033.81
South Carolina	37,238.69	35.21	37,273.90	67,826.38	130.56	67,956.94
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	9,480.93	670.63	10,151.56	22,785.91	2,889.44	25,675.35
Texas	9,831.57	292.43	10,124.00	38,902.92	1,384.03	40,286.95
Virginia	129.20	.00	129.20	701.84	.00	701.84
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	4,656.92	88.70	4,745.62	5,991.96	325.66	6,317.62
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	610.37	6.03	616.40	1,873.46	30.94	1,904.40
Northwest Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.01	.01	.00	.01	.01
Totals	\$ 246,768.22	\$ 51,420.37	\$ 298,188.59	\$ 734,006.01	\$ 195,443.51	\$ 929,449.52

Disbursements:						
Executive Office	\$ 1,738.45	\$ 23,139.15	\$ 24,877.60	\$ 5,411.34	\$ 87,949.59	\$ 93,360.93
Foreign Missions	143,365.56	6,504.68	149,870.24	409,960.66	24,723.58	434,684.24
FWBBC	21,671.70	6,504.68	28,176.38	66,636.33	24,723.58	91,359.91
Home Missions	71,798.04	5,090.62	76,888.66	221,106.86	19,348.91	240,455.77
Retirement & Insurance	382.63	3,959.38	4,342.01	1,010.99	15,049.18	16,060.17
Master's Men	310.36	3,959.38	4,269.74	1,008.56	15,049.18	16,057.74
Comm. for Theo. Integrity	80.17	141.40	221.57	220.85	537.46	758.31
FWB Foundation	313.63	1,696.88	2,010.51	862.98	6,449.65	7,312.63
Historical Commission	50.60	141.40	192.00	152.14	537.46	689.60
Music Commission	26.79	141.40	168.19	72.81	537.46	610.27
Media Commission	106.36	141.40	247.76	411.52	537.46	948.98
Hillsdale FWB College	1,903.34	.00	1,903.34	7,111.17	.00	7,111.17
Other	5,020.59	.00	5,020.59	20,039.80	.00	20,039.80
Totals	\$ 246,768.22	\$ 51,420.37	\$ 298,188.59	\$ 734,006.01	\$ 195,443.51	\$ 929,449.52



Thomas Marberry

The Message of Deuteronomy

By Raymond Brown

(Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1993, 331 pp., paperback, \$14.99).

Deuteronomy is one of the most outstanding books of the Old Testament, but in recent years it has not received the attention it deserves. Few pastors have preached consistently from this valuable book. The author's goal is to produce a commentary which will help the preacher discover and share the book's important message for the Christian world today.

The author is a leading Baptist preacher in Great Britain. He formerly served as principal of Spurgeon's College in London.

Brown begins his commentary by noting the great historic importance of Deuteronomy. As he correctly notes, "The Lord Jesus treasured its distinctive message, making use of it both privately and publicly." Jesus often quoted from this book, and its key ideas figured prominently in His preaching and teaching.

The early church recognized the centrality of this book. It is one of the four Old Testament books (along with Genesis, Psalms and Isaiah), which are most frequently quoted by the New Testament writers. It is quoted in 17 of the 27 books of the New Testament.

The English title "Deuteronomy" comes from the Septuagint (a very important Greek version of the Old Testament) and means "second law." As Brown points out, this title does not imply that Deuteronomy is a new law different from that which was given to Moses at Mt. Sinai.

It is, rather, "a faithful repetition and more detailed amplification of God's word addressed to his servant at Sinai, applied to life in a different context prior to the entry into Canaan, and relevant to us in present-day life."

The author accepts a rather traditional view of the date and authorship of the book. He considers Moses the principal author, although he recognizes that it is highly likely some editorial work was

done after the death of Moses.

Every book of the Bible was written in a specific context, and it was designed to meet the needs of people in that context. The biblical books also contain many timeless truths which are just as important today as they were when the book was originally written. Brown notes that three of the most important truths of Deuteronomy are its doctrines of God, revelation and grace.

We live in a time that needs to recover the greatness and majesty of God, and Deuteronomy can help us do that. This author writes, "God's name is found almost two hundred times in Deuteronomy, and its teaching serves to remind us of the theological importance and spiritual enrichment of a full-orbed doctrine of God."

Revelation is one of the key doctrines of Deuteronomy. It emphasizes that God has communicated His message to His people in a powerful way through Moses. It is a message that can transform their lives both individually and corporately. Deuteronomy is a series of dynamic sermons preached by Moses to the people of Israel in their hour of need.

The third of these timeless truths is the grace of God. Deuteronomy consistently exhorts the people to obey the laws that God has given, but that does not mean the book teaches a legalistic form of religion. The message of Deuteronomy is a message of grace. God has always taken an initiative and revealed Himself as the God of love and mercy. Human obedience is a response to that love. He writes, "The loving and serving begins with Him, not with us."

This commentary not only seeks to interpret the basic teachings of Deuteronomy, it also seeks to help us preach and teach effectively from the book. The author always isolates the important lessons in a passage and then helps us apply those lessons to

our modern world.

In his analysis of Deut. 21:10-14, the author first addresses the historical background of the passage. It deals with the situation of a Gentile woman who has been captured in war by a Hebrew.

He explains, "The woman who has been captured in war is still a human being and must not be exposed to inhumane degradation—as she would certainly have been if she had fallen into the hands of pagan conquerors."

If her Hebrew captor wishes to take her as his own, he must marry her and extend to her all the protections that the Jewish law extended to a wife.

As Brown writes, "The Lord will not allow people to be treated as things." He adds, "The physical, moral and emotional welfare of the Gentile woman was of far greater importance than the sexual desires of her conqueror."

He concludes the discussion with these poignant words, "No man loves a woman as deeply as he says he does if he insists on pre-marital sexual relationships with her."

Few commentaries on Deuteronomy have been written in recent years that are really useful for preaching and teaching. Most emphasize the historical aspects and the difficulties we face in interpreting the book. This commentary is easy to read; it is designed to be used by pastors, Sunday School teachers and college professors. ■

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Jack Williams

Father of the Year

The “Father of the Year” lives in a two-bedroom South Nashville apartment with his wife, a pair of brown-eyed tax deductions ages five and eight, a homely dog and two car payments. His name is Recardo and he’s a native of Manassas, Virginia.

The 36-year-old six-footer cut his teeth on a mountainside near Coeburn where he romped in the cold sunshine and ate his veggies, which paid off handsomely in black hair and dreamy chocolate eyes. He packs 210 pounds into his J.C. Penney suit and considers snowy Tennessee hills a manly winter challenge.

Thirteen years ago when Recardo was a senior at Free Will Baptist Bible College, he already knew what he wanted. What he wanted was profoundly against the rules—a date with his cute business teacher. Love prevailed, however, and they married soon after he graduated.

When asked what was the best thing she knew about him, Recardo’s wife said, “He puts the boys and me ahead of everything else.” Which is a pretty fair endorsement for any father or husband.

Recardo gets that family-first attitude honestly. His own father, a chiseled piece of hickory with a work ethic the size of Texas, would fight a sack of wildcats for his two sons. What Recardo saw modeled at home as a lad, he’s passing on to his boys.

Down at the bank where he works, he’s the operations supervisor. But when he walks in the front door of the apartment, two short linebackers use him for a tackling dummy. They roll and cavort on the carpet, tumbling and bumping while Wishbone (the homely dog) chews at Dad’s socks.

“He always wears out his jeans at the knees,” his wife grumbles with a

smile, “and it’s because of playing in the floor with the boys.”

The guiding principle for the Father of the Year is that he’s a Christian who takes his faith seriously and takes his family to church. His hands-on faith works this way—if the doors are open at Fellowship FWB Church, the whole family attends, except the four-legged homely member.

Recardo does more than show up. His wife plays the piano, his boys give the teachers a reason to study, and he serves as Sunday School superintendent. In a pinch, he leads the singing . . . quite a stretch for a guy more at home blowing a saxophone.

While he can handle a hymn book, he prefers using a hammer, a lawn mower or a dripping paint brush to keep the house of the Lord trim and fit. His two shadows volunteer as Daddy’s tool carriers and plunge eagerly into the dirt, the paint and the laughter. All of which serves as a reminder that Dad’s faith is more than book deep.

He leads by example. He taught the boys that real men help clean the house and do the laundry. They know how to pick it up, hang it up, wash it and put it away. The boys shop for groceries with Dad and think it’s great fun.

He’s also to blame for the Saturday morning cartoon clutter with one boy in his lap and the other on the couch beside him spilling cereal. They’re all three hooked on Scooby Doo and friends.

When things settle down after dark and Wishbone gets banished to the washroom, the linebackers expect Dad to read them a Bible story and tuck them in with a prayer and a tickle. If the little nippers get sick at night, he’s up with them.

Recardo knows what it means to make the hard decision. Some time back when finances got tight, he worked two jobs for 15 months. The

second job, a morning paper route, had him up at 2:30 a.m. rolling and delivering newspapers. He was back home when the boys climbed out of their racks to meet the day.

He got passed over for promotions several times at the bank because he refused to work 60 hours a week, which would have meant not being there when the boys needed him most.

About a year ago, he faced the toughest call a man can make in order for his wife to continue teaching at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He sold their house to reduce monthly expenses. It was a solemn decision, because he felt that her opportunity to serve the Lord at FWBBC was more important than owning a home.

His wife says that what she likes best about Recardo is his sense of humor. It’s probably a good thing he can laugh about his golf game, since he’s better at chasing the ball than hitting it.

But even the Father of the Year can’t have it all. When asked what she would change about Recardo, his wife at first said, “Nothing.” Then she reconsidered and giggled, “I wish he was allergic to the TV remote. He surfs too much.”

Does he have any faults? He certainly does, and the saddest is that as a Washington Redskins’ fan, he’s leading his innocent boys into that same error.

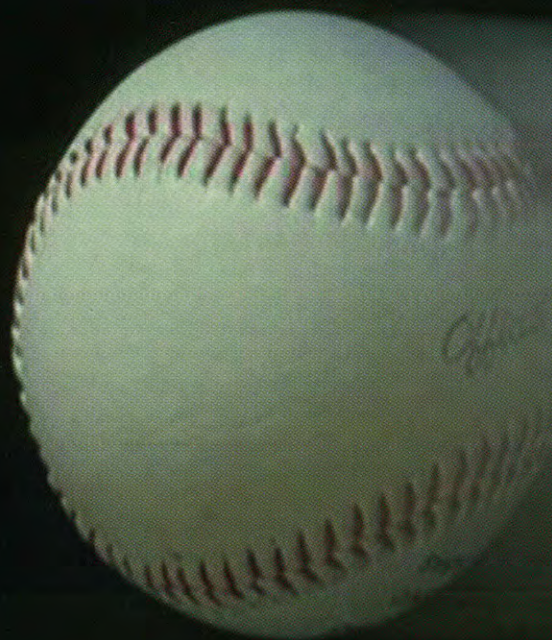
You’re probably thinking that I’ve got this Father of the Year deal all wrong . . . that you know the Father of the Year, that he doesn’t live in South Nashville, and his name is not Recardo. You’re thinking that maybe the Father of the Year lives at your house. Wrong! I couldn’t be that mistaken about my own son-in-law. ■

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