

# Contact

**What Does  
My Pastor  
Do All Week?**

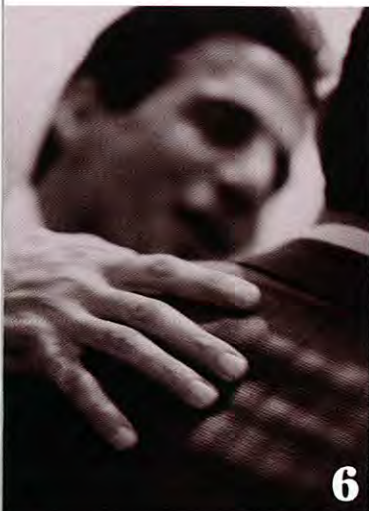
**7 Ways to  
Appreciate  
Your Pastor**

**The Interim  
Pastor**

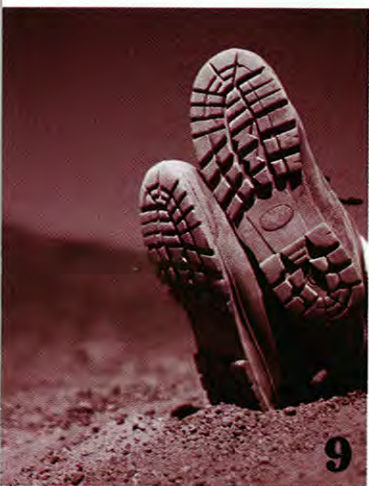
**What to do when  
the pastor resigns**

# Contents

August 2003  
Volume 50, No. 8



6



9



10

## ARTICLES

- 4 **What Does My Pastor Do All Week?**  
The average pastor starts his day early, comes home late, runs between meetings all day, and nobody seems to notice.
- 6 **Seven Ways to Appreciate Your Pastor**  
Want to do something special for your pastor? It's easier than you think. A Missouri pastor tells how.
- 9 **My Socks Don't Match!**  
When life isn't perfect and you aren't either, God still has a plan and place for you.
- 10 **What 50 Years of Ministry Taught Me**  
A veteran church planter, evangelist and educator remembers how it all started.
- 12 **The Interim Pastor**  
What to do when the pastor resigns.
- 14 **Man of the People**  
Tribute to Damon Dodd, former executive secretary and missionary to Cuba.

## COLUMNS

- 3 **An Encouraging Word**  
**What Do You Want to Be?** A five-minute conversation in a parking lot changed a young minister's life.
- 21 **Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus**
- 25 **Green Tree Bible Study**  
**Best Foot Forward (Ephesians 4:17-32)** How we live matters. The community watches to see if God makes a difference in our lives.
- 26 **Top Shelf**  
**The Gospel of Mark in The Randall House Bible Commentary**
- 27 **Student and Children Ministries**  
**International Road Trip**
- 28 **The Pastor's Wife**  
**The Reluctant Pastor's Wife** She said she would never be a preacher's wife, never. Then she married a minister.
- 29 **The Preacher's Perspective**  
**Surviving the Pain of Change (Part III)** Sometimes all it takes to change everything is for one man to stand up and make a decision.
- 31 **Briefcase**  
**Toughest Job in America** He wears a half-dozen hats, stays on call 24 hours a day and is the target of choice for every grump in the community.

## NEWS

- 16 **Free Will Baptist Newsfront**  
Arkansas Pastor Accepts Post | New Mexico District | Fitu Tafaoa Dies | Damon Dodd Dies | Florida State Association | Virginia Blood Drive | FWBBC Graduation | Toll-Free Numbers
- 20 **Currently**



4

**Editor-in-chief**  
Keith Burden

**Editor**  
Jack Williams

**Editorial Assistant**  
Marilyn Pritchard

**Circulation**  
Angie Williams

**Layout, Design & Printing by**  
Randall House Publications

Contact (ISSN 0573-7796), published monthly by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt. View Road, Antioch, TN 37013-2306. Address all correspondence and subscriptions to Post Office Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Phone: 615/731-6812.

Annual subscription rates: Individual—\$18 per year. Church Family Plan—\$18 per year. Church Bundle Plan—\$18 per year. Periodical postage paid at Antioch, Tennessee, and additional offices.

Copyright privileges, reserved © 2003. Member of the Evangelical Press Association. Postmaster: Send address changes to Contact, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

USPS 130-660



Keith Burden

## What Do You Want to Be?

**It had been a particularly** difficult first semester. I struggled with typical freshman challenges—homesickness, academic pressures and transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. I had maintained contact with my high school buddies, two of whom were playing college football. I was convinced that I was as good an athlete as they were. I missed the game... a lot!

Thanks to some scholarships and the financial assistance of my parents, my school bill was paid that first semester. Shortly after the second semester began, Dad developed blood clots in his leg and was unable to work for several weeks. I was forced to seek on-campus employment through the work-study program. My assignment was custodial duty—floor maintenance and cleaning restrooms. I was less than excited about my new job.

### Second Thoughts

There had been few preaching opportunities for me the first semester. As the bass singer in the men's college quartet, I spoke every fourth service. In spite of my youthful exuberance in the pulpit, I witnessed no visible results. The combination of these factors eventually caused me to become a discouraged, restless young man. I was having second thoughts about attending a Christian college and entering the ministry.

One day I shared my frustrations in confidence with a close friend who happened to be my pastor's son. I told him I was considering dropping out of school or transferring to another college the following semester. He tried to encourage me but I was inconsolable. To be honest I soon forgot about our conversation.

A few days later I walked out of the administration building following an afternoon class. I was on my way to

change clothes before beginning my janitorial duties. As I stepped outside I noticed a familiar looking car in the parking lot near the building's front entrance. The car belonged to my pastor who was seated behind the steering wheel motioning me to join him inside the car.

### Cutting to the Chase

After a moment's hesitation, I cautiously approached the vehicle, opened the passengerside door and sat in the front seat. A brief period of awkward silence hung between us. There was no exchange of pleasantries...no small talk or greetings. He came straight to the point—"What's this I hear about you wanting to change schools?" I sat there speechless, staring straight ahead through the windshield.

During those initial few seconds I experienced a full range of conflicting emotions. I was angry because my friend had betrayed my confidence, yet relieved that my secret was out in the open. I was embarrassed to admit I felt like a failure, but encouraged to know someone cared enough to intervene.

Taking a deep breath, I began explaining the rationale behind my decision. With all the skill of a courtroom attorney, I laid out the logic for transferring to another college to play football. I reasoned that as a Christian athlete I would have more and better opportunities to be an effective witness for Christ.

### Long-Term Commitment

My pastor sat quietly, courteously listening until I finished talking. Then, with compassion in his eyes and voice, he firmly but gently began to dismantle my arguments.

"You were a pretty good athlete in high school," he said. "In fact, you were probably above average. However, you don't have what it takes to make it in Division I football, Son. You're too small and too slow to compete on the major college level.

"But," he continued, "even if you were to be successful as a college athlete, where would you go from there? College sports only lasts four years. Very few players go on to play professional football. Preaching is a long-term commitment, something you'll be doing the rest of your life. What do you want to be? An average football player or an extraordinary preacher?"

### Five-Minute Conversation

I sat there stunned. Dr. James Dobson's paraphrase of John 8:32 pretty well summed up how I felt—"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you mad." It was a painful experience, but my pastor was forcing me to face reality. I hated to admit it, but he was right. That was a defining moment in my life.

Things turned around in the weeks that followed. My attitude became more positive, I stayed in school and God allowed me to see visible results when I preached. Today, more than 30 years later, it's an honor to express my appreciation for a pastor who was willing to make an eight-hour drive to have a five-minute conversation—thanks, Brother Bailey! ■

**Editor's note:** Rev. Bailey Thompson served as Keith Burden's pastor 17 years. Bailey is now retired and resides in Poteau, Oklahoma, with his wife Barbara.



# The typical pastor starts early, comes home late and covers

# What Does My Pastor [

**Not having a time clock to punch or regular business hours to maintain can cause uncertainty about what the pastor does all week. The nature of the pastor's duties often leaves little to show for what he has done. There may even**

be times when a pastor looks back over the week and wonders what he has accomplished.

But when he takes inventory of the phone calls, house calls, junk mail, email, hospital visits, nursing home visits, driving time, waiting time, funerals, weddings, meetings and emergencies, he realizes why he has so little time for family, prayer and study. No wonder he reads the Sunday morning paper at 10:00 p.m. A typical pastor can log 400 miles and over 80 hours a week, not counting the day or afternoon he takes off to be with his family. Not that he's complaining, just answering the question.

The Bible pictures the pastor as a shepherd. In that role his duties are to tend and mend, feed and lead, protect and correct the sheep in his care. But rarely does the pastor's life resemble the seemingly serene routine of a shepherd. The life of Nehemiah provides a more accurate illustration of the typical pastor.

Nehemiah was busy in the king's service when God called him to a great work. He was called to construct, forced to fight; wanting to build, willing to do battle to accomplish God's purpose—Nehemiah might have been pastor.

## **Building Sermons**

One of your pastor's primary tasks is building sermons. In the days of Nehemiah, God raised up Ezra to teach God's Word to His people. It was Ezra's practice to read from the Word, then explain it to the people. This is the role of your pastor that is witnessed every Sunday.

But before Ezra preached the Word, he first had to prepare his own heart. Preparation time is rarely observed by church members, but this time is crucial for the development of good sermons. Building sermons that effectively communicate the truth of God's Word requires hours of study, deliberation and prayer.

## **Building Relationships**

Building relationships is another important role of your pastor. He is there for the early morning coffee at McDonalds or

the even earlier surgery. He is available throughout the day to hear a prayer request, answer a question or share a moment of your time. He opens his door at midnight and answers the phone in the wee hours of the morning. He feels privileged to be part of your family, sharing special times and memories.

It takes time to build relationships and he is willing to invest that time with every family in the church. He is especially concerned with building relationships of those within the church: husband and wife, children and parents, family with family, and these with those. You won't hear much about this part of his job. He's taking care of it, but he keeps private matters private.

## **Building Bridges**

Building bridges is another task of your pastor. Sometimes those bridges lead nowhere, but he puts in the effort with the hope that someone will be reached. Bridge building could involve taking a stranger 30 miles to the hospital to visit a spouse, even though his own family refused.

Bridge building includes taking advantage of the opportunity to discuss eternity with an unsaved funeral director on the way to the cemetery, collecting and delivering donations for a community relief program, changing a tire, or buying gasoline and a meal for someone who needs help.

## **Building a Building**

Your pastor might even be building a building. Of course, he's not the only one involved, but somehow he shows up when the morning crew is there and again when the evening crew arrives. He takes suggestions and opinions from all concerned and mediates between the building committee, finance committee, decoration committee (and the unofficial committee of one).

If your building is not under construction, there's still plenty of maintenance. It may be mowing the lawn, cleaning the church, repairing a broken toilet, building a deck for the parsonage, helping a member work on his house, contacting the repairman, working at the campground or picking up materials for the upcoming church work day.

t of ground nobody ever notices.

# Do All Week?

By Danny Conn

Even when others willingly take these responsibilities so that your pastor can give attention to prayer and the ministry of the Word, he may help out to have the satisfaction of seeing a task completed and knowing it won't come undone.

## Building the Kingdom

Actually, your pastor is building the kingdom of God. Since it is a spiritual kingdom, physical eyes won't comprehend the full extent of his efforts. He may be gifted in a particular type of ministry, but he is fulfilling the evangelistic, edification and administrative roles as God enables

**The Bible pictures the pastor as a shepherd. In that role his duties are to tend and mend, feed and lead, protect and correct the sheep in his care. But rarely does the pastor's life resemble the seemingly serene routine of a shepherd.**

him. Your pastor is telling people about Jesus, developing contacts and maintaining prospect lists.

He is teaching, counseling and correcting. His schedule includes planning, dreaming, hoping and praying. He's trying to improve himself by reading and attending conferences. His work in the association is an extension of his ministry. He also pastors another preacher friend who needs some help or encouragement, and he keeps in touch with a missionary somewhere in the world.

Like Nehemiah, your pastor also has to be prepared for battle. He battles the opposition of Satan, internal conflicts and outside attacks. You may not see it, but from time to time he will also battle personal discouragement, private doubts and weakness. It's at those times he wishes he had a "regular" job so he could clock out and go home. But again, like Nehemiah, your pastor will do everything he can to accomplish God's calling.

There are times in every building project when things go smoothly and progress is readily evident. There are also

tedious times when it looks like little has been accomplished. Building temples for God is slow work. That's what your pastor is doing. Some of his greatest building projects will take a lifetime to complete. ■



**About the Writer:** Dr. Danny Conn pastors Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida. He also serves as editor of *Coordinator*, the bimonthly official publication of the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists.





**Pastor  
appreciation  
is more than  
just an action,  
it's an attitude.**

# WAYS TO APPRECIATE YOUR PASTOR

By Rick Dement

Let me start by warning you that I'm a pastor. I have pastored for 18½ years, have served 17½ of those years as a full-time pastor, one as an assistant and all that time has been at the same church, thank you.

Our church has observed Pastor Appreciation Day for 15 years. The first time was a surprise to me. Church leaders contacted all our family, my wife's and mine, and some of our neighbors to attend. I still remember walking into the sanctu-

ary and seeing our families and neighbors sitting there. They sang our favorite songs and did special musical arrangements to honor us. It was a touching day.

For many years it was hard for me to receive their expressions of appreciation. I always felt that I didn't deserve them. The realization finally hit me, *people could love me even though I was unworthy.*

They have not missed a year since. They don't try to keep it a secret anymore, but each year they have done something a little different that makes it a special event. Various kinds of appreciation are given—written expressions, spoken expressions, gifts and monetary expressions, too.

We hired a second man two years ago. His first day was in June and in September (the month we have Pastor Appreciation Day) they gave him the same type of appreciation they have always extended to me. *I believe this reveals that pastor appreciation is more than just an action, it's an attitude.*

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake," (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

How can you express appreciation for your pastor?

## Care for His Needs

The easiest place to start is with what you're already doing—taking care of his needs. Is it biblical to take care of the pastor? Yes. Listen to the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:9-14.

**"For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? . . . Do ye**

**not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."**

### Support Him

Second, assure him of your support. I remember listening to a minister tell about a situation he was going through when one of the men in the church told him, "Pastor, I would take a bullet for you."

What a way to say, *I appreciate and support you*. The enemy wants to isolate the under-shepherd so he can defeat him, and many times he uses the sheep. Remember, when you drive off the shepherd, there is no one to protect you. Don't give the enemy any more chances than he already has to attack your pastor; assure him of your support.

### Be Honest

Third, be honest with him. Pastors need relationships in which they can have confidence. By being honest you demonstrate that he can trust you. If you have a problem with the pastor, go to him. If he has made a difference in your life, tell him. It will mean a lot to him.

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful," (Prov. 27:6).

### Value the Bible

Fourth, value the Word. Psalm 19:7, 10 says, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.... More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."

You may ask how this shows appreciation for your pastor. A pastor's primary duty is the study and proclamation of the Word of God. If we value the Word, we will value what the pastor is doing. You will want the pastor to spend time in the Word if you value it. It is easy for people to take the pastor for granted when the Word doesn't mean much to them.

### Obey the Bible

Fifth, be obedient to the Word. The Apostle John wrote in III John 4, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." For me as a pastor, the greatest appreciation I can experience is the lives of people being changed. You can bring great joy to your pastor by being obedient to the Word.

### Pray for Him

Sixth, pray for him. How often do you pray for your pastor? The Apostle Paul asked people to pray for him in I Thessalonians 5:25, "Brethren, pray for us."

### Love Him

Seventh, love him. Your pastor is not perfect and he is probably keenly aware of that. Most of the time the reason people have a falling-out with the pastor is because of something they don't like about him, but remember the words of Peter in I Peter 4:8.

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

Love does not overlook sin but does address it in an appropriate manner. If you love your pastor you will appreciate him!

At this point, I again express appreciation to my church family for their faithfulness and kindnesses expressed over the years. I have often wanted to express appreciation for them but didn't know how I could do it all at once. What better way to express appreciation than in the "Pastor Appreciation Issue" of *Contact!* ■

**About the Writer:** Reverend Rick Dement pastors First Free Will Baptist Church in O'Fallon, Missouri. He also serves as clerk of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists.

## BEYOND BELIEF

WE'LL START YOU AS A PREACHER AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK WE'LL CALL YOU A TEACHER. IF YOU CAN'T TEACH WE'LL MAKE YOU A SHEPHERD. IF YOU CAN'T SHEPHERD WE'LL ASSUME IT'S BECAUSE YOUR FLOCK'S WAITING FOR YOU IN ANOTHER CHURCH ACROSS TOWN.





# My Socks Don't MATCH!

When life isn't perfect,  
God still has a place  
and a plan for you.

By Frank Gregory

**As I sat looking out over the lake with my mind full of profound thoughts, I noticed something odd. My socks, both white footie types, didn't match. You must understand that I am a neat freak and to someone as particular as I am, unmatched**

socks are unacceptable (my wife, who studies psychology, says I am borderline Obsessive Compulsive Disorder).

I then had to ask myself if I were the one who matched these socks on the way to the sock drawer. This surely could not have been my doing. You see, these socks probably look fine to the common man, but not to the person who must eat his bologna sandwich in a straight line! The socks, at first glance, looked to be a perfect match, but upon a more scrutinized examination, the differences were glaring and staring me right in the face.

Though both socks were white and ankle high with the toe, lower foot and heel areas outlined in gray, the similarities abruptly ended there. Although both socks were outlined in gray, the sock on my left foot had both toe and heel areas accented in darker gray. The sock on the left had an indented two-inch-wide band that went around the instep. How could I have missed such a thing?

Here is the worst part about my socks not matching: To my surprise, I realized that I really didn't care. I noticed this unusual turn of events while staying at a lake house outside Charlotte, North Carolina, during a personal retreat. I was not scheduled to meet with anyone that day except God. Here is what He taught me about socks not matching.

First, I was not about to take off the socks I had earlier placed on my petite feet (size nine that carry

235 pounds), because I had put them on to keep my feet warm and they were doing just that.

God knows we will never look perfect, something important to know in this cosmetic surgically-driven culture where we live. He simply wants us to be used of Him and fulfill His purpose for us. He makes everything beautiful in His time.


Second, how many people live their lives in frustration because the "perfect match" never happens? I would much prefer 20-plus years of blissful marriage with a near-perfect wife who has partnered with me to produce three lovely daughters, than to be a grumpy old bachelor who never found *Miss Perfect*.

God knows we will never find ourselves in the ideal situation this side of Heaven; He wants us to stop worrying about perfection and get in there and mix it up for Jesus.

I urge you to please stop looking for that *perfect* ministry fit, just let God use you where you are. He doesn't care that your socks don't match and neither should you! ■



**About the Writer:** Reverend Frank Gregory pastors First Free Will Baptist Church in Duncanville, Texas. His first book, *Aren't You Glad Jesus Asked?* was published this summer by Randall House Publications.



# What 50 Years of

## A CHURCH PLANTER, EDUCATOR AND EVANGELIST

**Nearly six decades ago I entered the ministry. But was that truly the start? Did it not actually begin 15 years sooner when I was two? My first recollection puts me in the back yard at Belhaven, North Carolina, preaching to sticks. I borrowed Dad's Bible and didn't tell him. However, it was April 8, 1945, when in**

reality I began. As a student I endeavored to grasp lessons from each experience. Now it's my time to reach back and draw out a few important things learned about people, the Bible, God, the Church and myself.

### **Remember the Widows**

Early in my ministry I came to appreciate what seemed to me a neglected segment of the average congregation—widows. Especially the older. For instance, I learned a sound principle when an elderly widow who was rearing a young granddaughter invited me to eat lunch with them. Her home was an abandoned log tobacco barn. A makeshift wooden floor that humped up in the middle had been installed. The table had to straddle the rise, thus causing the chairs to lean away from the table. All that was on the table was cornbread and collards.

When I started to leave we shook hands. She left a dollar in mine. I protested. I have never forgotten her words: "You would not rob me of a blessing would you, Preacher?" She was blessed. I was blessed. A lesson learned.

Elijah, Elisha and Christ would all like to testify of "a handful of meal," a "pot of oil" and "two mites." Widows' contributions count.

### **Reverence the Word**

My regard, respect and reverence for the Word of God came early in life because of a second incident that took place in that same back yard. You guessed it. I borrowed Dad's Bible again. This time it was for viewing since it contained pictures depicting biblical stories. I liked them so well I began to lift them out. Mama caught me and I caught what for. When Dad came home, Mama squealed on me.

Dad, however, when she added, "I spanked him," said, "Nora, I wish you had not done that. You'll drive the boy from the Book." Though I had not embraced it in regards to salvation, my science teachers in high school wished I'd not quote it so much.

In time I was to learn that the Word is pure, Proverbs 30:5. The Word is perfect, Psalm 19:7. The Word is powerful, Hebrews 4:12. All of that I readily accepted. What truly puzzled me was when the Spirit directed my attention to Psalm 138:2b, "... for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

Were it not for illumination, questions would still probe my mind. For years I had preached—hear, heed, honor and hold. The word, *hold*, took on new meaning. No longer did it simply mean

"hang on," but rather hold in highest regard. Yes, above His name. Surprised? So was I.

### **Expect Something New**

Soon after entering the ministry, I coined, "God stepped out of nowhere, created all things and hung it on nothing." I have stood by that throughout the years. No one has challenged me on the validity of the statement. A God as ancient as the ages, as seen in the expression, "from everlasting to everlasting thou art God," framed deity for me.

Study revealed a God "new every morning," (Lam. 3:23). Jeremiah named certain attributes of God as being always new. Since God operates within the boundary of His attributes, it may be said, we have a brand new Lord every morning. As the fingers of the sun's rays splash the eastern horizon, a full-fledged God says, "Good morning," to saints and sinners. Yesterday has not subtracted from His grace, love, mercy, forbearance or any other of His distinguishing attributes.

### **Rise Above Problems**

After Christ spoke of His resurrection, repentance and remission of sin, He instructed the Church, "And ye are



# Ministry Taught Me

REFLECTS ON HOW IT ALL STARTED.

BY WADE JERNIGAN

witnesses of these things," ( Luke 24:48). No excuse.

Moses tried that. "And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue," (Ex. 4:10).

"And the Lord said unto him, who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing,

nized his deficiency he did not let it hinder him in preaching.

During my ministry I have seen some people who were "muculiar." Brogues, accents, twangs or drawls should not deter anyone from witnessing. Neither should stuttering, stammering or lisping keep one from telling the story. No one speaks absolutely perfectly. All of us have stumble words. Don't ask me to say *statistics*.

phone call. This question was asked, "Did this experience change you?"

My response was, "I used to be against everything I did not have to be for. Now I'm for everything I do not have to be against." That's quite a difference. That difference has made me different for the better. And no one knows that better than I.

The last sunset beckons me. God spoke to me once in my questioning,

**As the fingers of the sun's rays splash the eastern horizon, a full-fledged God says, "Good morning," to saints and sinners. Yesterday has not subtracted from His grace, love, mercy, forbearance or any other of His distinguishing attributes.**

or the blind? have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth ...," (Ex. 4:11, 12a).

Preachers have implied that Moses had an impediment. That is not true. Proof of their fallacy is in Stephen's message. "And Moses was learned in all wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds," (Acts 7:22). Even if Moses had been "slow of speech and of a slow tongue," God would have been with his mouth and taught him what to say (See Ex. 4:12).

When I was a boy a dear preacher came to pastor my home church. He never could form his mouth to say "peculiar." When quoting verses that included the word he would say a "muculiar" people. Though he recog-

One of the three most influential men who witnessed to me could not speak plainly. Nor could he read or write. He had, however, been with Jesus.

Pronunciation, in the matter of certain words, was a problem for some of our finest speakers and better preachers. I have heard "coat" for quote, "vestipew" for vestibule, "fornafication" for fornication, "aswociation" for association. These mispronouncements were not of occasional nature but of regular speech. God used them nonetheless.

## The Last Lesson

Some time ago, after being in intensive care 45 days, I was dismissed from the hospital. Soon afterward I received a

words I'll never forget. He startled me: "Wade, the gospel was preached before you came along. It has been preached since you have been here. When you are dead and gone, the gospel will still be preached." He sobered me. That's what I learned after 50 years in the ministry. ■



**About the Writer:** Dr. Wade Jernigan pastors Crossland Free Will Baptist Church in Norman, Oklahoma. He started 25 churches, served as president of California Christian College and now teaches homiletics at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma.

**What to do when your pastor resigns.**

# The Interim Pastor

By David Joslin

## **Free Will Baptists need to investigate and utilize more fully the position of interim pastor. "Interim" means "temporary." When your church faces the dilemma of losing a pastor and choosing another, it can be a stressful time for the entire**

church. If your church is in the middle of transition or conflict, the last thing needed is a leadership vacuum.

While your church makes the transition from one permanent pastor to another, the interim can give direction through the transition and can guide the church in making important decisions for the future.

### **Avoid Down Time**

The first step in the selection of a new pastor is to bid good-bye to the previous pastor. Most church members find this a difficult task. The former pastor may have been both good and bad, depending on who does the analysis. But if the church makes it successfully through the transition period, this farewell must be made... and the sooner the better.

The transition between pastors need not be a down time for the church. The best course of action is for the church to seek the services of a minister who understands that his task as interim pastor is temporary. This position is more than being a supply pastor or the selection of someone to fill the pulpit in the absence of the pastor.

In order to be successful, the interim must have full pastoral authority. All that which was expected of the regular pastor is also expected of the interim. The authority to birth, baptize and bury should become the interim's responsibility as it would a regular pastor.

### **Two Examples**

Let me share my recent experiences as an interim pastor. The first was with Center Point FWB Church near Vilonia, Arkansas. The duration of my interim time with the church was 10 months. From day one, the deacons gave me full pastoral authority to guide the church. With the church in the hands of a capable pastor, they could give themselves freely to search for their next pastor.

The next experience came at Oak Park FWB Church in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. This time the term of service was only 10 weeks. This was a town/city church with an average of 80-90 on Sundays. The previous pastor had accepted a pastorate out of state. The associate pastor had also accepted a position out of state. The church, while without pastoral leadership, was in harmony.

Services were exceptionally good. The period of transition was the best I had ever witnessed. The pulpit committee, now freed from the difficult tasks of filling the pulpit and keeping the spirit of the congregation high, gave themselves fully to finding their next pastor. In spite of the 70-mile distance from my home in Conway to Pine Bluff, I was able to give myself completely to the responsibility of pastoring the church.

### **Role of the Interim**

The major task of the interim pastor's ministry to the church is to prepare the congregation for the arrival of the next pastor. With this in mind, the interim pastor should help the congregation deal with its problems and other unresolved issues arising from the departure of the previous regular pastor. He should help deal with internal conflicts and help heal divisions within the congregation.

The brief time of the interim period limits the scope of development for the interim pastor. However, as well as maintaining an effective ministry during this period, the interim works with the congregation to prepare for a good transition to the next pastor.

Amid all the good times with these two churches, part of my responsibility as an interim was to work myself out of a job by helping them prepare for a new future. Success in interim ministry depends on working oneself out of a job for the health of the relationship between the congregation and the new pastor.

There are three specific goals an interim pastor should try to achieve:

- 1. Help the church establish a new identity. The interim has the liberty to give direction the regular pastor might not have.**
- 2. Direct and strengthen the ties of the local church with the denomination.**
- 3. Aid the church in facilitating the shift in leadership.**

### **Tap the Reservoir**

Who can be an interim pastor? Some of the best men among Free Will Baptists are those who are in retirement. These are capable, knowledgeable men of reputation and character. Their time and talents should not be wasted but used for the glory of God. A vast reservoir of biblical knowledge waits to be tapped for service to our churches. The next time your church faces the transition period between pastors, give one of these godly men a call.

A final thought—the regular pastor should be paid well. The church should also pay the interim pastor well for his services. The position of pastor is honored when the church accepts its responsibility by helping the pastor financially. ■



**About the Writer:** Reverend David Joslin resides in Conway, Arkansas. He retired in 2002 as executive director of the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists. He is a writer, conference speaker, historian and interim pastor.

Excerpted from a sermon preached  
at the funeral of Reverend Damon Dodd.

# Man of the People

By Kent Barwick

**On the night of July 29, 1983, I met two people who changed my life. First, and most important, I met Jesus Christ. Second, I met a Free Will Baptist pastor named Damon C. Dodd who introduced me to Jesus Christ. God used this man to influence me for His Kingdom. Most of what I have learned**

about God came through the teaching and preaching of my pastor, Damon Dodd.

The greatest gift I have from Brother Dodd is his influence. He marked every aspect of my life and heavily influenced my attitude toward pastoring and preaching. It is my opinion that as I sat under his ministry I was being taught by one of the finest servants to ever minister among Free Will Baptists.

The Old Testament instructs us to honor the aged. That is what I plan to do—honor this 87-year-old man. His age and his experience have influenced us all. We do not know the number of people who came into Christ's Kingdom under his ministry and influence. Only in Heaven will we know just how many made it home as a result of him preaching the gospel. Listen to the scripture.

Leviticus 19:32 says that we are to rise before the gray-headed and honor the presence of an old man.

There are several reasons why we should honor this "old man." Here are four.

## His Preaching

Brother Dodd was a *gospel preacher*. He knew and appreciated the fact that the gospel was sufficient in and of itself. Damon C. Dodd understood that the gospel was the power of God unto salvation. He never saw the need to resort to cheap gimmicks to see a church grow. My pastor knew that preaching the gospel would get the job done. It mattered not what Brother Dodd was preaching, his dispensational view of Revelation or the creation account in Genesis—the gospel message would dovetail into his sermon.

He was a *powerful preacher*. I never became uninterested as Brother Dodd preached for he preached with power. Damon Dodd did not give talks; he did not lecture; he did not offer devotions; he preached! He preached under the unction and power of the Holy Spirit. It was hard to daydream as the Georgia preacher opened the Word of God and led people to the throne of God. His preaching influenced me to want to preach with power too.

He was an *informed preacher*. He knew his subject. One may disagree with his eschatology, but all who heard him agreed he knew what he was talking about. Brother Dodd did not use his pulpit time to prepare his sermons. When he stood in the pulpit he was ready to preach.

My pastor had the unusual ability to commit facts to memory and recall them in detail. At times I asked where he hid his "cheat sheet." His response was, "It is all in my head." May God give us more preachers like Brother Dodd.

## His Pastoring

Brother Dodd was a people person. He knew the ministry was made of and for people. He knew how to shake a hand,



**Damon Dodd at Free Will Baptist National Offices.**

hug a neck and make eye contact. He pastored people, not buildings. He understood that Jesus died for people, not for programs and projects.

He focused on an individual as much as he did a crowd. Regardless of how large the crowd, he always made time for one-on-one contact before he left. I remember one Father's Day Sunday when Brother Dodd came to me at the end of the service and assured me of our Heavenly Father's love. What a glorious day that was.

He was concerned about his flock, about their knowledge of God. He was concerned about their service to God in the local church. If Brother Dodd was your pastor, you could not sit by and watch others serve. You were expected to serve as well.

He knew one of the best ways to show his love for God was to feed the Shepherd's lambs. Not only did he show his love for God in service, Brother Dodd also demonstrated that love through his service to others.

### **His Passion**

Brother Dodd was excited about everything with which he involved himself. Perhaps his passion was nothing less than the touch of God on his life. He had a reason to live. He knew God and he knew that God's hand was upon Him.

He was passionate about his family. If given the chance he would tell you how fortunate he was to have Ola Maude for his wife, show you the latest family pictures, lovingly brag on the academic achievements of the grandchildren or tell you how proud he was of his family.

He loved being in the ministry. He loved being a preacher and a pastor. I do not recall him bemoaning the fact that he was a preacher. He never attempted anything half-heartedly. It can be truly said of Preacher Dodd that he gave it his all.

### **His Promoting**

Brother Dodd was the best promoter I have ever known. Whatever he decided to promote was a sure thing, because he knew how to dress it up and present it in such a way that all would surely accept it.

He promoted his family. On many occasions he told me how proud he was of his two daughters, his two sons-in-law and all his grandchildren.

He promoted young preachers. I should know, because he promoted me and others to churches needing pastors. One lady told me of a young preacher Brother Dodd was raving so about. According to this lady, Brother Dodd said so many positive things about the young preacher I knew I needed to meet him.

I asked Brother Dodd who this young preacher was he was bragging so much about. How humbling it was when he informed me the young preacher was me! In all honesty, I was nowhere close to the promotional claims of my pastor.

Brother Dodd promoted Free Will Baptists. He was not ashamed to be a part of this denomination. He had opportunities to move into other denominations and declined them



all. He told me he was completely satisfied to wear the *Free Will* Baptist hat.

He saw the best in people and promoted that. He knew the shortcomings in people, yet he decided to promote their positive traits. I do not recall hearing my pastor spend any time destroying someone's character. He truly lived by the rule of silence when nothing good could be said.

At this moment, Brother Dodd has joined the heavenly host promoting the holiness and worthiness of Christ our King (Revelation 4:6-11). This was what Damon C. Dodd was created to do. He spent his life telling all who would listen that Jesus is the Way, Truth and Life. Now he will spend his eternal day promoting the One who died for him. I can hear this great preacher now saying with the seraphim, "He is Holy, Holy, Holy." ■



**About the Writer:** Reverend Kent Barwick pastors Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church in Colquitt, Georgia.

## Arkansas Pastor Accepts Foreign Missions Post



**RUSSELLVILLE, AR**—Reverend Doug Little, pastor of First FWB Church in Russellville, has been named director of stateside development by the Foreign Missions Department. The 48-year-old Kentucky native has led First FWB Church since 1985. Reverend Little began his new duties July 1.

Little said, "My three priorities the rest of the year will be prayer, learning the job and sharing information. I'm not coming to the office with some grand plan. I want to help our general director, James Forlines. I also want to help our state leaders and pastors."

Reverend Little's duties will include promoting the annual World Missions Offering, networking with pastors and state leaders, and assisting missionaries with their accounts. He expects to travel for the agency as needed, write informational pieces, attend training seminars in estate planning, deferred giving and general fund giving, as well as speak in churches and conferences.

Doug Little was converted in 1963, licensed to preach in 1971 and ordained in 1973. He earned a bachelor of science degree at Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1977, a master of arts degree at Middle Tennessee State University in 1983, and a bachelor of arts with a French major at Arkansas Tech in 1996.

Prior to his 18-year tenure as pastor at First FWB Church (1985–2003), Doug served four years as associate pastor at Southern Oaks FWB Church in Oklahoma City (1981–1985), three years as director of Christian education at East Nashville FWB Church (1977–1980) in Tennessee and two years (1978–1980) on the music faculty at FWBCC.

He brings a wide range of denominational experience to his new role. He was a member of the Hymn Book Committee that assembled and published *The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book:*

*Rejoice (1988)*. He has served 15 years on the Music Commission.

Reverend Little served 12 years on the Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees (1986–1998), four years as chair. He has been a member of the Foreign Missions Board five years, three as chair.

He is a noted musician who writes, arranges, directs, publishes and performs. He hopes to do more writing now that he is in Tennessee.

While in Arkansas as pastor, Doug served six years (1996–2002) on the state Executive Committee, five years on the state Mission Board and five years on the state Christian Education Board.

Doug and Joyce Little have one daughter, Mrs. Rachel Whittenburg, who resides in Russellville.

In an April 30 interview with *Contact*, Reverend Little reflected on his upcoming move: "God has placed an open door before Free Will Baptists. I want to help us all re-examine the resources He has given us to reach the lost world for Christ. We can do more than we are doing. Together, we can do a better job taking the gospel around the world."

## New Mexico Remembers Roy Thomas



**CARLSBAD, NM**—Delegates to the April 10–12 New Mexico District Association

paused to remember the ministry and influence of the late Roy Thomas who died this spring. Clerk Doris Heard said delegates voted to send \$100 to each building fund of the Free Will Baptist churches where Dr. Thomas' two children serve in Arizona and Colorado.

Moderator Mark Shores led the business sessions which met at Lighthouse FWB Church in Carlsbad. Thirty-three

people registered for the meetings, including 10 ministers, 12 lay delegates and two deacons.

Delegates adopted resolutions calling for prayer on behalf of American troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and for national leaders. A second resolution called for prayer on behalf of Free Will Baptist missionaries displaced by unrest and fighting in Africa.

Business included a vote to comply with the increase in National Association representation fees to \$100 per church

in 2004. The district will also continue their \$200 monthly support of the Mt. View FWB Church in Albuquerque.

Three ministers preached messages during the session: Pastor Rob Gerst (Artesia FWB Church), Reverend David Shores (member, Foreign Missions Board) and executive secretary Keith Burden.

The 2004 district association will meet April 8–10 at Artesia FWB Church in Artesia.





## Hawaiian Pastor, Fitu Tafaoa, Dies

### WAIPAHAU, HI—

The Reverend Fitu Tafaoa, Sr., the first Hawaiian to pastor a Free Will Baptist church, died February 26. "Big T," as Reverend

Tafaoa was known to his many friends, was converted in 1966 and baptized in Pearl Harbor.

He began working in the Waipahu FWB Church as a layman shortly after

his conversion. He answered the call to preach and was ordained to the ministry in 1983.

Reverend Tafaoa was called to pastor the Waipahu Church in 1994, the sixth minister to lead the congregation. Former missionary to Japan Fred Hersey gave him the label, "Product of Home Missions," while on a visit to Hawaii.

Big T was converted under the ministry of Reverend R. Luther Sanders who started the Waipahu FWB Church in 1959. Tafaoa was a retired U.S. Marine

and worked in every department of the church for almost 37 years.

Reverend Tafaoa told his family that he wanted the plan of salvation preached at his funeral. His wishes were honored when his son, Dr. Fitu Tafaoa, Jr., preached. Twelve local friends were converted.

Reverend Fitu Tafaoa, Sr., is survived by his wife, Joyce Tafaoa, and four children. Mrs. Tafaoa plans to relocate to Jacksonville, Florida, and live with her son, Dr. Fitu Tafaoa, Jr.

## Dr. Damon Dodd, Former Executive Secretary, Dies

**NORMAN PARK, GA—**Dr. Damon C. Dodd, who served as executive secretary for the National Association of Free Will Baptists (1949–1953), died April 27 at age 87. Dr. Dodd was a preacher, writer, evangelist, church planter and educator for 70 years.

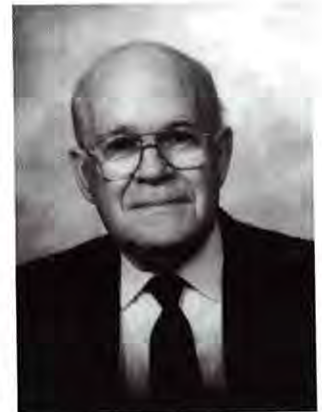
Reverend Dodd was converted in 1932 at age 16, licensed to preach in 1933 and ordained in 1936. He began pastoring in his home state of Missouri at age 21. He would later pastor in Tennessee and Georgia while serving the broader denomination in leadership positions and through his journalistic efforts.

Damon attended Flat River Junior College in Missouri. He and his wife of 58 years, Sylvia R. Wood, moved to Nashville in 1942 to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College, and were one-half of the first graduating class. He completed a doctor of ministries degree in the 1980s.

Damon and Sylvia served as missionaries to Cuba (1945–1948). Sylvia died in 1996 and Damon remarried a preacher friend's widow, Ola Maude Mercer.

The denomination called on Reverend Dodd frequently and he always responded. He served as promotional secretary for the Home Missions Department (1953–1956), on the Foreign Missions Board (1944–1946) and 14 years as a member of the Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees (1962–1976).

His 40-plus years of ministry in Georgia saw him elected to numerous offices, including state clerk and state moderator. He also served as president of Georgia Bible Institute, chaired the Georgia Historical Commission and chaired the committee that wrote the doctrinal examination for licensing and ordaining ministers.



Dr. Dodd wrote seven books. He is best known for his landmark historical volume, *The Free Will Baptist Story* (1956). His other published works include: *All of Mine for Him* (1954), *Go Home and Tell Thy Friends* (1957), *Trailways to Adventure* (1963), *Study Guide for Revelation* (1967), *Handbook for New Church Members* (1970) and *Marching Through Georgia* (1977).

Dr. Dodd had a distinctive pulpit delivery that stirred hearers. Former Georgia executive secretary Herbert Waid said, "When he preached, one could always feel his love for God, the Book and his hearers. His speech cadence was as a military leader challenging troops for the battle. One wanted to fall in behind him and face the enemy whatever the cost."

Brother Dodd was a great encourager of young ministers, taking time to counsel them while serving as both mentor and role model.

Funeral services were conducted April 29 with Reverends Kent Barwick, Jim Hattaway and Marshall Kennedy officiating.

Dr. Dodd is survived by his wife, the former Ola Maude Mercer; two daughters, Marilyn Hudson of Macon and Barbara Tucker of Hahira; five grandchildren; one brother, Leeman Dodd of St. Louis, Missouri; nine stepchildren and eight step-grandchildren.



## Florida Gears Up for Future

**JACKSONVILLE, FL**—Three major

constitutional changes, a renewed emphasis on soul winning and a new look at seniors' ministry positioned the Florida State Association to focus their energies on the 21<sup>st</sup> century, according to executive secretary Randy Bryant.

The 59<sup>th</sup> annual state association met April 30–May 3 at the Jacksonville Marriott Hotel. Two hundred people attended the four-day session which also included the state Youth Convention and the Florida Women Active for Christ.

Moderator Tim Owen led business sessions that resulted in the creation of

the Christian Ministries Board by consolidating the Youth Board and the Christian Education Board.

Delegates voted to increase annual per-church dues from \$100 to \$200. They eliminated the offices of assistant clerk and assistant treasurer, making the assistant moderator responsible for those duties.

Delegates cleared the way to begin a seniors' ministry in 2004. Preliminary plans call for a start-up with a Seniors Summit.

Pensacola pastor David Baker was elected clerk, succeeding Randy Bryant who held that position since 1987. Bryant was named executive secretary earlier.

Evangelist David Wood, founder of David Wood Ministries and Soul Winning Directors Institute, preached during two plenary sessions and conducted seminars on Thursday.

Delegates approved a state ministries budget topping \$465,000. Long-time members Ernest and Etha Mae Owen were presented a plaque for faithful service since 1944. Brother Owen helped organize the state association and served many years as treasurer. Although Owen has attended all 59 state meetings, declining health may not allow him to attend future associations.

The 2004 state association will meet May 4–8 at the Jacksonville Marriott Hotel.

## Virginia Church Hosts Blood Drive



**Bloss Memorial member Sandy Revis gives blood.**

**ARLINGTON, VA**—Fourteen people showed up to donate blood April 17 when Bloss Memorial FWB Church in Arlington hosted a Red Cross blood drive, according to Pastor Steve Faison. Twelve of the 14 were able to donate blood, two for the first time.



**Pastor Steve Faison (R) and Deacon Bobby Wilson donate blood.**

Pastor Faison said the blood drive served two purposes. It was an opportunity for community service and it allowed the church to promote their Easter services. The year-long theme at the church is "Be Free in 2003."

The student and children's ministries distributed 500 flyers in the community during the week preceding the blood drive. The church also utilized radio, storefronts and community bulletin boards.

While the turnout was lower than expected, Pastor Faison was encour-

aged. "The weather was chilly and dreary. The Red Cross had warned me that this is a difficult area for blood donors because of world-wide travelers. Of the 14 who came, three were a direct result of the flyers that our kids passed out. One of those is an unchurched person living in close proximity to our church. That person, plus another who came to donate, did express interest in attending the church."

Pastor Faison continued, "We praise the Lord for this effort by our church people to think creatively in reaching our world for Christ. Volunteers manned the registration table and canteen table. Our people gave blood and were there to encourage guests who came to donate blood. Our church sign before the event summed up our goals: *Jesus shed His blood for us to live. Come donate a pint of blood so someone else can live.* This is just a small way our church was able to provide a community service, as well as teach a tangible lesson about Christ's ultimate gift."

# Free Will Baptist Bible College Graduates 59



**NASHVILLE, TN**—Free Will Baptist Bible College graduated 59 students from 15 states and one foreign country in commencement exercises held on the Nashville campus May 15. Twenty-two—41% of the bachelor degree graduates—graduated with honors.

President Matthew Pinson handed out 19 bachelor of arts, 35 bachelor of science, two associate of science in business, and three associate of arts degrees. Academic Dean Milton Fields noted that 28 members of the class—47%—are entering some field of ministry.

Dr. Mark Paschall, former medical missionary to Ivory Coast, brought the challenge. Dr. Paschall currently serves as Vice Chief of Family Medicine at St. John Hospital in Detroit, Michigan

## *Associate of Arts Degree*

Lori Ann Gaw	Cookeville, TN
Holly Jo Miller	Huntington, AR
Sandra Lee Pontious	Norfolk, VA

## *Associate of Science in Business Degree*

Rena Elizabeth Sagraves	Antioch, TN
Mary Beth Sensing	Nashville, TN

## *Bachelor of Science Degree*

Heather Diane Adams	Northport, AL
Phillip Lee Adkins	Clearfield, KY
Aaron Russell Baldrige	Wilmore, KY
Christy Marie Barfield	Macon, GA
James Tison Barnhill	Albany, GA
Candace Jacqueline Bradley	Belle Rive, IL
Eric Andrew Brant	Valrico, FL
Amy Jo Brewer	Topeka, KS
Sabrina Shea Brummitt	Elizabethton, TN
Amy Elizabeth Carson	Pocahontas, AR
Charles D. Cook	Cookeville, TN
Katrina Taylor Crowson	Salado, AR
Chanda Gail Daughtry	Glennville, GA
Jillian Annette Davis	Nashville, TN
Kendra Lee Dodson	N. Charleston, SC
Philip Edward Eller, Jr.	Nashville, TN
Kari Dyane Ferguson	Mt. Vernon, IL
Dale C. Harvey	Seffner, FL

Jason Neal Janus	Roodhouse, IL
Misti Beem Jenkins	Joelton, TN
Carol Ann Jennings	Hampton, VA
Mary LeAngela Kilgore	Hixson, TN
Raymond Lee Kirby	Timmonsville, SC
Kenneth Wayne Knight	Taylor, MI
Andrea Marie Maines	Centreville, VA
Shanna Lynn McMillan	Smithville, MS
Stacey Elaine McVay	Pleasant View, TN
Laura Kathryn Meadows	Lexington, KY
Stephanie Williford Olsen	ChIPLEY, FL
Mark E. Ousley	Banner, KY
Susan Gail Pattengill	Park Hills, MO
Joni Marie Pettis	Ozark, AL
Jonathan Blaine Postlewaite	Florence, SC
Kristine Marie Shrove	Pembroke Pines, FL
Amanda Dale Springs	Lake City, SC

## *Bachelor of Arts Degree*

Richard Neil Buttrey	McEwen, TN
Roy Rustin Carney	Thompsonville, IL
Mitchell Gene Cooper	Oklahoma City, OK
Joshua Patrick Crowe	Kingston Springs, TN
Natalie Marie Crowson	Nashville, TN
Kristy Nicole Gates	Walnut Ridge, AR
Brett Allan Hudson	Wabash, IN
Amy Diane Lankford	Dickson, TN
Benjamin Joseph Leary	Nashville, TN

David Anthony Lytle	Antioch, TN
Jessica Lynn McClary	Statesboro, GA
Stephanie Jane McVay	Nashville, TN
Adam Morgan	Nashville, TN
Daniel Alexander Plunkett	Ashland City, TN
Bridget Lavinia Riley	Jonesboro, AR
Joel Keith Riley, Jr.	Tuckerman, AR
Matthew Lee Turnbough	Madrid, Spain
David Matthew Usry	Hermitage, TN
Emily DeAnn White	Van Buren, AR

## NEED TO REACH A NATIONAL OFFICE?

**ANTIOCH, TN**—These toll-free numbers will take you directly to individual departments.

<b>Executive Office</b>	<b>877/767-7659</b>
<b>FWB Foundation</b>	<b>877/336-7575</b>
<b>Foreign Missions</b>	<b>877/767-7736</b>
<b>Home Missions</b>	<b>877/767-7674</b>
<b>Master's Men</b>	<b>877-767-8039</b>
<b>Randall House</b>	<b>800/877-7030</b>
<b>Retirement and Insurance</b>	<b>877/767-7738</b>
<b>WNAC</b>	<b>877/767-7662</b>

**Arizona:** Some teen getaways involve more noise than others. Take the May outing when 24 teens from **North Valley FWB Church** in **Phoenix** took in the Monster Truck and Jet Car Jam at Firebird International Raceway, for instance. Adult sponsor **Larry Diehl** says everybody came back ready to hear Pastor **George Harvey, Jr.**, preach.

**Arkansas:** **Cavanaugh FWB Church** in **Fort Smith** reports 13 new members. **Will Harmon** pastors.

**Cornerstone FWB Church** in **Bono** organized March 30 and called **Dale Blackwell** as pastor. State executive director **Tim Campbell** preached the organizational message.

Pastor **Russell Hensley** and members of **Sharum FWB Church** in **Pocahontas** burned the mortgage in less than 10 years. Congratulations on a job well done.

**Colorado:** They ran out of seats at **First FWB Church** in **Fort Collins** when 125 showed up for worship. Pastor **Roger Raper** said 23 first-time visitors attended. The happy pastor was delighted to help set out folding chairs for the morning service.

**Mile High FWB Church** in **Northglenn** reports five conversions, four baptisms and several rededications. **Scott Cheatham** pastors.



**Randy Bryant (L), Diana Bryant, Deacon Sam Lucky**

**Florida:** Pastor **Randy Bryant** celebrated 20 years at **Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church** in **Vero Beach**. The church hosted a dinner in honor of Pastor Bryant and presented a plaque for faithful service. An album of cards, letters, pictures and news releases accompanied the plaque.

Ever wonder if anyone preaches on Hell anymore? Drop by **Beulah FWB Church** in **Pensacola** where Pastor **David Baker** is preaching an eight-part series on the subject this summer. The series began June 22 and concludes August 17.

**Georgia:** Members of **Wilson Chapel FWB Church** in **Thomaston** honored Pastor Emeritus **L. S. Anthony** who led the congregation 37 years. During his 58-year ministry Rev. Anthony served as clerk of the Chattahoochee Association, moderator of Georgia Union Association and terms on the state Home Missions Board. The pioneer church organizer pastored 14 churches since his 1944 ordination.

**Illinois:** Pastor **Ken Doggett** reports 10 first-time visitors at **Heritage FWB Church** in **Springfield**. He also claims a 155-yard hole-in-one with a six iron while out visiting with a neighbor... on the Bunn Park course. (Not bad for a home missionary.)

Pastor **Ernie Lewis** baptized six converts at **Blue Point FWB Church** in **Cisne**.

The newly-remodeled sanctuary at **Victory FWB Church** in **Mascoutah**, comfortable pew-chairs and expanded parking lot arrived just in time. Four new families have joined the church. Pastor **Jon Cannon** baptized six.

Pastor **Randy Kash** reports five new members at **Oak Grove FWB Church** in **Scheller**.

**Louisiana:** **Landmark FWB Church** in **Monroe** completed black-topping their 500-foot-long roadway and parking lot to accommodate 130 vehicles. Members also trucked 341 boxes of ceiling tile from Arkansas after an 18-wheeler overturned. No cost for the tile. **Rue Dell Smith** pastors.

**Michigan:** Pastor **Greg Floars** reports 67 conversions in 18 months at **Sawyer FWB Church** in **Gwinn**. The church building has fresh paint and a new roof.

**Mississippi:** Nine conversions and seven baptisms at **Eggville FWB Church** in **Eggville** put a big smile on Pastor **Gerald Gann's** face.

**Missouri:** **First FWB Church** in **Joplin** celebrated 50 years of ministry and dedicated a new family life center, according to Pastor **Richard Robinson**. Eight men have been called to preach from the congregation as well as two missionaries. Pastor Robinson is the eighth minister to lead the church. He has pastored there since 1984. The church began with 19 charter members. Two hundred people attended the afternoon activities.

**Fourth FWB Church** in **St. Louis** marked 50 years of service this spring. Pastor **Gary Parker** and 125 members welcomed state executive secretary **Nathan Ruble** (a former pastor) to preach the morning message.

**North Carolina:** Wow! Pastor **Tim Rabon** reports 200 conversions on "Big Bus Day" at **First FWB Church** in **Raleigh**. Some 1,171 riders came to all-day activities at the church, including 406 first-time riders.

**Ohio:** Pastor **Paul Finney** baptized eight and welcomed nine new members at **First FWB Church** in **Clyde**.

The word is good from **Lockbourne FWB Church** in **Groveport**. Pastor **Leon Stevens** reports 17 new members, seven baptisms and five rededications.

**Turkey Creek FWB Church** in **Portsmouth** marked 50 years of ministry in May with day-long activities, including a slide presentation. **Dave Sibole** pastors.

Members at **Rittman FWB Church** in **Rittman** plan to build a 300-seat sanctuary, according to pastor **John Castle**.

**Oklahoma:** Hold onto your hats. **Cedar Grove FWB Church** in **Francis** celebrated their 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary in July, according to Pastor **Willie White**. Holdenville pastor **Earl Scroggins** was guest speaker.

**First FWB Church** in **Norman** reports six new members and eight baptisms. **Joe Grizzle** pastors.

Somebody knows a good deal when he sees it. **Troy Smith** of **Broken Arrow** subscribed to *Contact* for 10 years in April, beating the price increase. Way to go, Troy!

■



# Soaring to the Nations

By Eddie Payne, Director of Mobilization and Recruitment



Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus



FOREIGN MISSIONS

- Eight E-TEAMS including a total of 77 students went out this summer.
- Encourage your high school students to apply for future E-TEAMS and support them as they go.
- E-TEAM alumni now serve in foreign fields and in ministries in the US.

**Wings fully extended, powerful muscles controlling every movement, the majestic eagle slips into the currents of heated air to soar high into the heavens. Just as God made eagles to soar, He made His people to grow**

in Christ and extend His Kingdom to the very ends of the earth.

**Students in missions** are one component in the stirring of the Spirit among us as part of the people of God. Although our world is not really smaller, knowledge about it has increased in incredible ways making it appear so. We live in exceptional days of exciting and unparalleled outreach opportunities.

**Student and Children Ministries** has done a remarkable job over the past 20 years of captivating our youth for Christ. Tireless dedicated workers have invested their lives as mentors, trainers and teachers. Regional events and the fantastic marathon of ministry at the National Association of Free Will Baptists have transformed generations of our young people. They are not the church of tomorrow. Free Will Baptist youth are very NOW.

Couple this exciting youth movement with the ability to quickly reach other places and cultures in a matter of hours, and you have a formula for achieving critical mass. For over 10 years **E-TEAM has bridged a significant gap** between the desire of dedicated youth to be significant in their

generation and a world needing to see God's love exhibited in the vitality and exuberance of godly young people.

**Your prayers are appreciated.** You have a special thank you from the 77 members of the eight E-TEAMS who spread their wings and soared to new heights of personal commitment and involvement in global outreach this summer.

**You can help young people soar** by encouraging your high school students to apply for E-TEAM. Be an additional blessing and help them find the resources to go.

**Prepare future participants** in student missions for radical obedience to God. Provide opportunities for them in their here and now. Get them involved in outreach in their home church and school. Practice the Acts 1:8 model for fulfilling the mandate to evangelize every individual on earth.

Do your best to help your students soar for the glory of God. **E-TEAM alumni** now serve on our mission fields and in ministries here at home. Many others are in colleges training and preparing for a lifetime of soaring. ■

# Why We Need Men's Ministry

By Tom Dooley, Director of Publications

**In an article titled, "The Battle for the Hearts of Men," George Barna shares that of the 94 million males in America, age 18 and older, only about 26 million attend a church service on a typical weekend. Those**

who avoid the church outnumber those who choose to worship nearly three to one. Barna's research also reveals that each week approximately 27 million men read the Bible (other than at church). The other 67 million men do not open God's Word even though 80% of them own at least one Bible. In America only 30 million men profess to be born again. That leaves 60-plus million American men who need to be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many believe that the decade of the 90s has been a time of tremendous spiritual revival among American men. Data gathered by the Barna Research Group tells a different story. Since 1991, their surveys indicate that church attendance, Bible reading, Sunday School attendance, volunteering at church and giving to the church have all decreased among men. Though some men within the church have made significant advances in their spiritual growth, current trends demonstrate that the majority are in spiritual decline.

The question then becomes, what is the church going to do to evangelize and disciple the men of our society? Perhaps the most important question the individual church must ask is this. Are we doing anything to focus our attention on reaching one of the most neglected mission fields in the world, the American man?

Jesus challenges us to open our eyes to the fields and see the opportunities of harvest before us (John 4:35). Failure to make the evangelism of

men a priority will inevitably cripple the efforts of Free Will Baptists to extend the gospel of Jesus Christ in our local communities, across the nation and around the world.

If men are not won to the Lord in greater numbers, where will men come from to fill our pulpits? Other denominations are at a point of desperation today as they attempt to supply churches with pastors. How will Free Will Baptists plant churches here in the United States and foreign fields without manpower? Where will we get teachers for our colleges and schools? Who will finance our efforts to evangelize the world?

Future generations of Free Will Baptists will face a serious shortfall of leadership unless men are evangelized and disciplined. Who will pastor their churches? Who will go as missionaries 15 and 20 years from now? If current trends continue in our society, millions of children will grow up without having the influence of a godly father in the home or a godly man in their life. Who will mentor the new millennium's young men? It is imperative that we awaken to the fact that there is a tremendous need in our culture for churches to win men to the Savior and equip them for service to the kingdom.

That is why your church needs a men's ministry. That is why your church needs Master's Men. The heartbeat of the Master's Men is to help pastors and churches reach men with the gospel and equip them to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. ■



**Master's Men**  
Free Will Baptist  
Men's Ministry

**Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus**

- **Current trends demonstrate that the majority of men are in spiritual decline.**
- **Failure to make the evangelism of men a priority will inevitably cripple the efforts of Free Will Baptists to extend the gospel.**
- **The heartbeat of the Master's Men is to help pastors and churches reach men with the gospel and equip them to serve.**

# Don't Forget to Remember

By Marjorie Workman, Executive Secretary/Treasurer

**She stands on the eastern edge of Ponca City, Oklahoma, just one-half mile from the Cherokee Strip, the last free land in America. She is a gift from wealthy oilman Ernest W. Marland. With a Bible clutched in her**

right hand and a small bundle strapped over her arm, she rises with a proud determined stride. Looking out from under her sunbonnet, chin up, her left hand clasps her bright-eyed son's. Together they share the same proud gait.

The Pioneer Woman Statue was given to honor the rugged pioneer spirit of women that characterized the 89ers and the tremendous progress of the homesteaders. The Bible represents her greatest contribution to the frontier. Everywhere the women went, they established churches and schools. Law and order followed. The small bundle is a reminder of the few material possessions she brought with her. Life was rugged and hard for women; they went anyway.

The Apostle Paul told the Ephesian Gentiles to "remember the past." He wanted to remind them that they had not always known Christ. At one time they were aliens, strangers having no hope and no promise. Throughout scripture God's people were instructed to build memorials as a reminder of important events not to be forgotten. Memory serves to remind us from where we have come. It helps to keep us from taking present opportunities for granted.

Women Active for Christ has some memorable pioneers. Webster's definition for a pioneer, "one who goes before, preparing the way for others."

We can't ignore our roots, our pioneer women. I admire the early visionaries who prepared the way for us today. Women like Mrs. J. L. Welch, Mrs. Eva Ray and Mrs. Ed Parker who signed the resolution sent to the Board of Education of the General Conference endorsing the beginning of an educational school in Nashville, Tennessee.\*

Lizzie McAdams stood and made the motion that the West and East join together to form the

National Association of Free Will Baptists in 1935. Mrs. Fannie Polston dared to stand in 1935 and request "that the women be excused to go to another room and organize a national body."\*

I found it interesting what Mrs. Agnes Frazier, a prolific writer, said in the foreword of the first *Manual of Woman's Auxiliary Methods*. "If Christian women can build on these suggestions, or in any way find in them that which stimulates initiative and creates a desire to design plans to suit their needs, I shall be happy."\*

She understood "having a dream or vision." She understood that tomorrow will not be like today. She realized that packaging and programs change—not substance, mind you. What methods worked yesterday or even today will not work tomorrow. Each generation has to be creative and understand the times.

From the beginning, the purpose of our organization has been to "promote the cause of Christ in every way possible." Solomon said there was nothing new under the sun. Our methods change. We try new things. Society changes.

Someone said, "I don't mind change as long as I'm the one doing the changing and it's not my daughter." The innovations of today will be the outdated methods of tomorrow. Christian women of tomorrow will come up with their own fresh, new ideas. Remembering yesterday influences today and tomorrow.

August is WNAC Emphasis month. Women Nationally Active for Christ encourages local groups to take this opportunity to "show-case" their women's ministry to the church. Remember the past. Cast a vision for the present and future. ■

\* *Sparks Into Flame* by Mary R. Wisheart



**WOMEN  
NATIONALLY  
ACTIVE FOR  
CHRIST**

**Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus**

- Tomorrow will not be like today. Packaging and programs change—not substance.
- The purpose of WNAC is to "promote the cause of Christ in every way possible."
- Showcase your local women's ministry to the church as part of WNAC Emphasis month in August.

# Filling More Baskets

By D. Ray Lewis, Associate Director

**Retirement means a major change in our lives. It marks a shift in our pattern of living. For 30 years or more, work has been our most time-absorbing activity. Our entire schedule is built around work: eating,**

sleeping, weekends and vacations have been largely determined by job demands. And now this activity will end.

The word *retirement* raises all kinds of reactions. Many think about it and can hardly wait to begin. They see it as an opportunity to do all the things they haven't had time to do during their working years.

Others look at it with dread, wondering what in the world they will do with themselves. Some view retirement as just another transition and plan for it. With proper planning, retirement can be the most fulfilling and rewarding time of our lives.

How often over the years have you longed for time away from your day-to-day obligations? Time is so precious that when a few free moments come along, we cherish them. There's never enough time when you're working.

In retirement, we face the opposite situation: the potential for too much free time. Aside from sleeping and eating, we will have almost 100 hours a week at our disposal. What will we do with all this free time? Your newfound freedom provides the chance to fulfill your dreams—take advantage of it.

In planning for the use of leisure time, we begin by asking questions. *What were my interests in the past? What are my present interests? What have I always thought I'd like to do but have never done?*

You may know exactly what you want to do with special projects lined up and a lot of "just doing nothing" planned. If you are like most people, after the special projects are completed and the initial excitement wears off, you will find yourself at loose ends. It is an unusual person who can go on doing nothing and stay happy. Most of us need something to do. As long as we have regular duties with a job or profession, we don't have to think about how to keep occupied. But after retirement, time will not fill itself.

Consider variety in spending your time. The saying, "*Don't put all your eggs in one basket,*" applies not only to investments but also to time. Too often, people find they've put their lives into a "one-bas-

ket" pattern of work and family routine. The transition from a busy career to a more leisurely retirement is a wonderful chance to find and fill more baskets. Playing, exercising, entertaining others and simply sitting back and relaxing all have their place.

Retirement can be a time to try new things. Being active is the best way to feel good about yourself and your life, and brings you into contact with others who provide mutual stimulation and excitement.

Many retirees return to the classroom. For several years I taught in the Adult Community Education program in Nashville. I always had several retirees in these classes. When I asked one of the older men why he was taking my class, his response was typical. He said all the years he worked he kept telling himself that once he retired he was going to learn two things: to type and to play the piano. He was not only taking my typewriting class, he was taking private piano lessons. He knew one of the secrets of filling more baskets.

Some retirees use the time to travel. This involves more than sightseeing. It involves interacting with other people in other places. Many organizations sponsor trips for retirees.

Retirement also provides opportunities for the older adult to be involved in volunteering. There are numerous opportunities in the local church and other worthwhile organizations for a retiree to continue using skills, talents and services developed during working years.

Many retirees are re-entering the job market, some to supplement their income while others just want to do something productive. It is a good time to work at something you choose to do rather than something you have to do.

There are so many ways to use leisure time in retirement that you could easily become overwhelmed deciding what activities will be most rewarding. Remember that you have earned your leisure time; concentrate on those activities that interest you the most. ■



Board  
Retirement  
RETIREMENT  
AND  
INSURANCE

- The newfound freedom of retirement provides the chance to fulfill dreams.
- The transition from a busy career to retirement is a wonderful chance to find and fill more baskets.
- The local church and other worthwhile organizations provide numerous opportunities for a retiree to volunteer.

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus





Garnett Reid

## Best Foot Forward (Ephesians 4:17-32)

### Duped. Hoodwinked. Taken

for a ride. Somehow, somewhere many Christians have believed the lie—the lie that it doesn't matter how we live. Maybe it was in our efforts to counter perceived "legalism" that we overslid second base. Could be it has grown out of the "who cares" attitude of a pluralistic culture where nobody is really "wrong" in what they do.

Wherever it came from, our casual attitude toward sloppy, on-the-edge living needs attention. We need to come to our senses—our biblical senses about belief and behavior, heart and life.

### What to Expect

Many would stress verses such as these:

"Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart."

"As he thinketh in his heart, so is he."

While it is true that the inner person, our dispositions and mind-set, govern our being, don't forget this biblical counsel as well:

"The grace of God... teaches us to *live soberly, righteously, and godly.*"

"We are... created in Christ Jesus unto good works."

Spurgeon reminded his students of a preacher "who preached so well and lived so badly, that when he was in the pulpit everybody said he ought never to come out again, and when he was out of it, they all declared that he ought never enter it again." Shame on any of us when our practice negates our profession.

How Christians live does make a difference, as Paul now instructs us in Ephesians 4:17-32. In light of the priorities of 4:1-16—unity, ministry and maturity—"how should we then live?" to borrow Francis Schaeffer's memorable inquiry taken from Ezekiel 33:10.

### What to Avoid

The apostle here describes clearly what sort of life the believer avoids and what sort he embraces. Examine first the profile of the person "alienated from the life of God" (v. 18), the unsaved. His story begins with a vain mind, in the dark as far as understanding goes. He lacks knowledge; his heart is without truth, (vv. 17-18).

As a result, he pushes all the limits of indulgence without regard for consequences. You name it, he does it—from the terrible misdeeds of moral perversion to the supposed lesser "siblings" of cheating, stealing, meanness, jealousy (v. 19).

That's how it is with the "old man." His passions and desires lead him to deceive for his own ends (vv. 22, 25). When he is frustrated in his pursuits, his greed gives way to wrath, bitterness and imbedded anger (vv. 26, 31). He brazenly takes whatever he wants (v. 28). Should anyone get in his way, the "old man" lashes out at them with rotten, hurtful language targeted to abuse and injure, (vv. 29, 31).

Some may respond, "Even though I reject Christ and the Gospel. I don't do all those things. I try to live a moral life; my vices are really few; and I'm a good person. The issue is not whether we do or don't do all those awful things. No one ever commits all the crimes he could commit. The problem is our nature, the way we are deep within our personality. Sin controls us even though we may not carry out all its dictates. Remember Paul said earlier we are "by nature the children of wrath," (2: 3).

### What to Practice

"But ye have not so learned Christ," he now reminds us. That's why it makes no sense for a Christian to live a careless life. The disciple who is "taught... the truth in Jesus," (v. 21) has "put on the new

man," with a renewed way of thinking (v. 24). His story is one of following God's righteous character as one set apart ("holy") for Him (v. 24).

The new man renounces deceit and practices integrity in speech and conduct (v. 25). He directs his anger appropriately so that it does not master him. Instead of stealing, he works so that he may produce "good" things to share with those in need (v. 28).

Because of his relationship with the Holy Spirit (v. 30), the new man in Christ disciplines his speech. His words graciously build up all who hear him (v. 29).

Because of his relationship with the forgiving Christ, he now forgives. His heart is tender, overflowing with the kindness known only by those who know God's kind heart (v. 32).

Finally, hear this wise counsel:

**I have had a deep conviction for many years that practical holiness and entire self-consecration to God are not sufficiently attended to by modern Christians in this country. . . . The subject of personal godliness has fallen sadly into the background. The standard of living has become painfully low in many quarters. . . . Sound Protestant and evangelical doctrine is useless if it is not accompanied by a holy life. It is worse than useless: it does positive harm. . . . True holiness . . . does not consist merely of inward sensations and impressions. It is much more than tears, and sighs, and bodily excitement, and a quickened pulse, and a passionate feeling. . . . It is something of the "image of Christ," which can be seen and observed by others in our private life, and habits, and character, and doings (Rom. 8:29).**

J. C. Ryle might well have written of our day as he did of his in 1877.

Do you know Jesus? Then "don't walk like the Gentiles." Walk the way Jesus walked. ■



Thomas Marberry

## “The Gospel of Mark” In The Randall House Bible Commentary

By Robert E Picirilli (Nashville: Randall House Publications, 2003, hardback, 446 pp., \$29.95).

### This is the latest volume of

*The Randall House Bible Commentary*, a set of commentaries designed to meet the needs of Free Will Baptists and others who reflect a classical Arminian theology. The author, Dr. Robert Picirilli, served many years as academic dean and professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

He begins with a discussion of the relationship between Mark and the other two synoptic gospels (Matthew and Luke). Mark, the shortest of the gospels, contains little information that is not found in the others. For many years Mark was neglected, but in recent years has come to occupy a position of importance in New Testament studies.

Picirilli notes the three synoptic gospels have much material in common. They also present considerable differences. He writes, “... a careful reading of the three will confirm that they do not always place incidents in the same order, or give the same details, or even tell the same stories.” The study of these similarities and differences is commonly called the “Synoptic Problem.”

Picirilli explains the most common theories proposed to explain the Synoptic Problem. Some scholars believe the authors borrowed from one another; others believe the gospel writers drew upon a common body of written or oral sources available to them.

Picirilli suggests each gospel writer had certain unique information available to him; he also suggests they depended on a well-developed body of tradition developed “under apostolic influence.” The synoptic writers may have borrowed from one another, but there is no conclusive evidence that they did so.

Each gospel writer wrote to accomplish specific purposes. Picirilli explains,

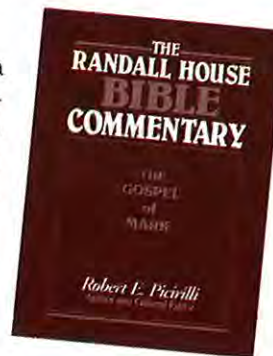
“Each of the three had a (divinely inspired) ‘theological’ purpose for his Gospel. This means each one selected and presented his material in such a way (not always chronologically) as to carry out that purpose.”

It is in his analysis of the text of Mark that Picirilli best displays his ability as a student of the New Testament. He frequently explains the meaning of Greek words and phrases so the reader can correctly grasp the meaning Mark had in mind.

Mark 1:1 uses the phrase “the gospel of Jesus Christ.” As Picirilli notes, Mark is not using the term “gospel” in the sense of a written document. He more likely uses it to describe “the way of salvation in Jesus Christ. The gospel is the saving word that describes Jesus and His redemptive work as the provision of salvation.”

Picirilli clarifies the meaning of passages frequently misunderstood. For example, interpreters often conclude from Mark 12:25 that angels are sexless creatures. The text of Mark only says angels do not establish marriage relationships. Mark does not go beyond this statement; he does not specifically say angels are sexless beings.

The “Olivet Discourse” in chapter 13 is the most difficult and controversial passage in Mark. Picirilli divides it into four divisions, vv. 5–13, 14–23, 24–27 and 28–37. The first deals with what the disciples can expect after Jesus’ departure. The signs discussed in this section are not “indications that the end is near.” They are, rather, “signs of the times,” things the disciples might expect to endure.



The second division, vv. 14–23, deals with the “abomination of desolation” spoken of by Daniel in the Old Testament. Some interpreters see this as a reference to the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in 70 A.D. Others see it as a description of great tribulation to come at the end of the present age. Picirilli suggests the

passage may imply both; he sees something of a double reference in this passage.

The third section, vv. 24–27, describes Christ’s second coming. Picirilli writes, “But the total picture of vv. 24–27 cannot reasonably be taken to refer to anything other than His return in glory, as most interpreters acknowledge.”

There is a shift in thought between divisions three and four. Jesus has now completed his answer to the disciples’ question; in vv. 28–37 He presents important lessons about the need to be watchful using two parables, the parable of the fig tree and the parable of a household-er on a journey.

This commentary does what an intermediate level commentary ought to do. It presents a good summary of important information about the date, authorship and purpose of Mark without bogging down in a mass of detail. It helps the reader understand the book’s most important ideas and concepts, and does so in a readable fashion.

The commentary provides useful ideas and suggestions for preaching and teaching from the shortest of the gospels. It concludes with a bibliography of books and articles for those who wish to pursue the study of Mark in greater detail. This commentary deserves a place on every pastor’s book shelf. ■



Nantes theatre where  
*La Jeunesse pour Christ*  
will take place



## International Road Trip

By Dean Jones

Muslim district in Paris

**How many times have you loaded your youth group into the church van for a weekend trip? Whether you were headed to youth camp, an amusement park, a youth rally or some other exciting, sleep-depriving event, the list of possibilities are fairly endless.**

That's one thing that separates American youth groups from students in other countries.

What if you had to load up the youth group at the crack of dawn, venture out (not of the state, but out of the country), cross an international boundary, then show up at a youth meeting not only in another country, but where every word was spoken in another language? It would be a greater challenge to motivate your students, get parental permission to attend, raise funds and keep your group adequately trained and spiritually fed if you had to jump through all those hoops every time you wanted to attend a youth conference.

That is exactly what students and missionaries in France face. If youth workers in France were to take their youth group to a youth conference, the closest comparable event is called Teen Street. This annual event takes place in Germany, nearly a two-day journey from most of our French churches.

What options do our European missionaries have? One is *la Jeunesse pour Christ*. Perhaps you don't speak French, but *la Jeunesse pour Christ*, translated is *Youth For Christ*. At the request of missionary Dennis Teague, Student and Children Ministries (a department of Randall House Publications) will be planning and conducting the first-ever French Free Will Baptist Youth Conference!

***La Jeunesse pour Christ*** happens a few days from now: August 29-31. French Christian students do not have an opportunity to be part of a larger group of Christian students, which our students often take for granted. Even in their public schools, it is common to have only one Christian student among thousands of non-believers.

This weekend event will focus on teaching French students apologetics and team-building skills. It will be pat-

terned after our American version of the Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference. This approach, combined with music and fun activities, will allow students to make new friends, reinforce their beliefs and prepare them for re-entry into their local school system. We anticipate as many as 150 students between 12 and 22 years old.

We invite you to participate in this exciting project by:

- **Praying for Project *La Jeunesse pour Christ*** (Youth For Christ). Pray that students who attend will find strength for their Christian walk and encouragement by meeting fellow believers.
- **Sponsoring a student to attend.** French students are not poor, nor are they wealthy. Because they rarely have opportunity to attend events such as this, they will be hesitant to pay much to attend. Most students don't have jobs because of rigorous educational requirements.
- **Help underwrite the cost** of the SCM team who will conduct the conference. We anticipate keeping the team to six people; however, they will be required to raise their own support in order to participate.
- **Consider adopting one of these opportunities** by your youth group, children's church or entire congregation. The goal of assisting a French student to grow in Christ, make new friends and bolster the foundation of his belief is a great undertaking! It will require the help of hundreds of people just like you.

For more information about this and other events, please send an email to [youth@randallhouse.com](mailto:youth@randallhouse.com) or call 1-800-877-7030. ■



Rhonda Helms

## The Reluctant Pastor's Wife

### Growing up I said I would

never marry a preacher. Never say never! On June 30, 1984, I said, "I do" to Ron Helms, that is, *Reverend* Ron Helms. For nearly 20 years now, I have been what I said I never would be. My greatest fear about being a pastor's wife was unwarranted, a fear born out of the standard I thought others expected of me. Expectations can lead to failure, at least in my eyes, and I did not want to fail.

I viewed the pastor's wife as the "Garden of Eden" type (perfect). I knew I wasn't Eve and I knew I wasn't perfect. And Michigan doesn't feel like Eden in the wintertime. My imperfections I knew too well. What if someone came to the altar—what would I do? What if someone had a serious problem? Would I know where to turn in the Bible even though I'd heard a thousand sermons in my life?

I finally realized how unwise and how useless I was until I embraced the advice Paul gave to the Corinthians about not comparing ourselves among

ourselves or measuring ourselves among ourselves. I came to understand that God made me who I was with a personality that fits places God sent Ron and me.

Since I was overwhelmed by it all and didn't have much self-confidence, my husband became my cheerleader and constantly told me I could do this. The Lord has used him many times to encourage me. I am grateful for that. Ron's best advice was to be who I was and love the people where we serve.

### Encourager

My challenge through the years has been to find God's standard and then fulfill it. One standard God expects of me is to be an *encourager*. He encourages me through His Word and His people. The Lord has given me a few friends outside our church who have been my encouragement. What a blessing! I want to be that for my church family.

If it could happen to me, then I could in turn help others by loving and encouraging them. To me, this is an important part of our ministry. Most of the time people just want to know they are loved. One of my fears was not having enough head knowledge; the Lord showed me that I can do much good with a big heart. I know it is a cliché, but it is the truth—people want to know that you care before they care what you know.

### Organizer

The Lord has also shown me it's okay to be me, an *organizer*. He made me a person who is extremely organ-

ized. Just ask anyone in our church. It may not sound spiritual, but most things have a place in our church and they are in their places. I'm not one for clutter or disorganization. I feel God has given me that gift and I want to use it for His glory. It seems small, but it is part of who I am. I offer it to an orderly God.

### Prayer

One last expectation God asks of me is to be a *prayer*. I want to fix everything, do everything right away and have it my way. God does not always do things my way, but through prayer He changes me, my thinking, situations and even people. Do not underestimate prayer. Who needs my prayers? My husband, Ron, my children, my church family... the list is endless and this article is 650 word max.

I love being a pastor's wife! But I had to grow into it, becoming my own person and becoming confident in Christ. I wouldn't trade my life for any other. If God calls you to marry a preacher, here are two things to remember:

1. **Never say never.**
2. **Live up to God's standard. ■**

**About the Writer:** Mrs. Rhonda Helms is a member of Southgate Free Will Baptist Church in Southgate, Michigan, where her husband Ron has pastored 12 years. Rhonda is a 1984 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College with a business degree. The Helms have three children—Lauren, Kristen and Brandon.

### Directory Update

#### North Carolina

Tim McFatter to Nowlings Church, Morganton from Oak Grove Church, Elm City

#### Texas

Bill Van Winkle to Fellowship Church, Bryan from Fellowship Church, Antioch, TN

#### Other Personnel

Ken Riggs to Donelson Church, Nashville, TN, as minister of adults ■



Randy Sawyer

## Surviving the Pain of Change (Part III)

**“We know not of the future,** and cannot plan much for it. But we can hold our spirits and our bodies so pure and so high, we may cherish such thoughts and such ideals, and dream such dreams of lofty purpose, that we can determine and know what manner of men we will be whenever and wherever the hour strikes, that calls to noble action . . . no man becomes suddenly different from his habits and cherished thoughts.”

These words are taken from an address delivered by Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain commemorating the fighting of the Twentieth Maine at the Battle of Gettysburg, July 2, 1863. For his own part in the heroic struggle, Chamberlain was later presented the nation's highest award for selfless courage under fire, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In the last two articles we have considered both the need for strategic and methodological changes in local church ministry as well as principles by which a church and pastor may survive the pain associated with such changes. There remains only the courage to step out in front to lead the *charge of change*.

Chamberlain's indomitable resolution at Little Round Top serves well as an example of such courage. He was a man of *lofty purpose and high ideals*. He seized the moment to make a significant difference. He claimed later to have merely done his duty, to have been following orders which instructed him to hold his position *“until the last.”* His actions, however, were a great deal more than that.

### Determined

By the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg, Union troops occupied a

long rocky ridge that extended from Cemetery Hill on the right to Little Round Top on the left. Chamberlain's Twentieth Maine was placed on the extreme right of the Union line, and given orders to hold the line at all cost. If Chamberlain's men were to move from their position, the flank would be turned and the whole Union army could be taken from behind. It was absolutely imperative, therefore, that the Maine boys remain stubborn.

Brave Confederates mounted a series of assaults as the entrenched Yankees waited at the top. *“The edge of the fight rolled backward and forward like a wave,”* Chamberlain wrote. The acid smoke of the battle filled the lungs and stung the eyes of the sweaty, grimy men on both sides of the conflict. Literally, sheets of flame and lead filled the air with death for over an hour. Chamberlain commented,

**The two lines met and broke and mingled in the shock. The crush of musketry gave way to cuts and thrusts, grapplings and wrestlings. The edge of the conflict swayed to and fro, with wild whirlpools and eddies. At times I saw around me more of the enemy than of my own men; gaps opening, swallowing, closing again with sharp convulsive energy; squads of stalwart men who had cut their way through us, disappearing as if translated.**

**All around, strange mingled roar—shouts of defiance, rally, and desperation; and underneath, murmured entreaty and stifled moans; grasping prayers, snatches of Sabbath song, whispers of loved names; everywhere men torn and broken, staggering, creeping, quivering on the earth, and dead faces with**

**strangely fixed eyes stark into the sky. Things which cannot be told—nor dreamed. How men held on, each one knows,—not I. But manhood commands admiration.**

### Decisive

The assaults continued against the Union line until Chamberlain's men were virtually out of ammunition. Fellow commanders counseled Chamberlain to withdraw, to surrender the field against the relentless onslaught of the Confederates. This he could not do. Just as the Rebel yell signaled yet another attack against his line, Chamberlain made a decision that is worthy of a poem or song commemorating the deeds of ancient heroes.

He reasoned that if he ordered the retreat, the Union left would be turned, and if he determined to stay in position, his men would have nothing but rocks to hurl at the oncoming enemy. So he decided to order a charge utilizing one of the most complex maneuvers ever attempted on a battlefield, a great right wheel. With his voice rising over the din of the battle he shouted, *“Bayonet! Forward, right wheel.”* The rest of the command was unheard as the cry *“Bayonet”* went up and down the line, and the clash of cold steel sounded in the charged air.

As the colors started down the hill, Chamberlain jumped onto the stone wall behind which his men had found some measure of safety. Standing stalwart and unbending, with his sword pointed toward the enemy, he screamed *“Charge!”* The sudden sight of 200 hoarsely screaming men surging down the hill horrified the astonished Confederates.

# THE TOGETHER WAY

May 2003

Believing the Yankees must have gotten up massive reinforcements, many Rebels surrendered on the spot, while others turned in headlong retreat down the hillside. Within moments the entire battlefield belonged to Chamberlain and his men, the fight for Little Round Top was over. Chamberlain's decisive action saved literally thousands of lives, and many historians credit that singular moment as the turning point of the war.

## Making a Difference

It is commonly believed that if Lee's Confederates had won the Battle of Gettysburg, the Confederacy would have been victorious in the war. When Lee's army took the battle north into Pennsylvania during the summer of 1863, a series of southern victories had placed enormous pressure on Lincoln to sue for peace. One more military success by the Confederates, especially in northern territory, would have had catastrophic consequences.

Chamberlain's decision to charge saved the day, and again, maybe even the war itself. Furthermore, if the Southern States had succeeded in establishing a separate nation, who would have thwarted the advance of the Nazis, the Communists, and more recently, various terrorists groups? It can be argued that the courageous charge led by one soldier altered the course of history.

What difference can one man make amid the maddening chaos that inundates the globe? What difference can one pastor make from the confines of his rural pastorate? Through courageous leadership, a solitary individual can lead the *charge of change* that may well make a difference for years to come. At the very least, one person can make an impact, one soul at a time. ■

## Receipts:

State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 319.03	\$ 131.42	\$ 450.45	\$ 2,395.43	\$ 975.97	\$ 3,371.40
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	15.00	123.00	138.00
Arkansas	7,448.98	8,855.52	16,304.50	50,433.36	85,131.17	135,564.53
California	.00	1,026.30	1,026.30	100.00	5,884.09	5,984.09
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	114.40	.00	114.40
Florida	.00	.00	.00	125.96	4,536.00	4,661.96
Georgia	38,442.63	1,677.89	40,120.52	181,760.18	8,990.14	190,750.32
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	14,336.93	7,677.80	22,014.73	66,500.09	15,811.07	82,311.16
Indiana	2,035.63	193.43	2,229.06	9,724.23	1,024.80	10,749.03
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	65.00	65.00
Kansas	.00	93.97	93.97	.00	385.72	385.72
Kentucky	450.00	1,122.04	1,572.04	1,350.00	6,258.65	7,608.65
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Michigan	17,635.00	3,173.71	20,808.71	107,485.55	12,286.45	119,772.00
Mississippi	12,162.02	941.28	13,103.30	56,303.32	3,409.57	59,712.89
Missouri	38,966.10	14,222.81	53,188.91	222,154.51	84,025.62	306,180.13
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	974.38	49.70	1,024.08	2,692.07	170.55	2,862.62
North Carolina	372.87	2,308.18	2,681.05	8,029.58	12,824.54	20,854.12
Ohio	18,294.75	7,114.49	25,409.24	88,580.29	20,920.39	109,500.68
Oklahoma	61,750.89	13,327.38	75,078.27	332,441.49	57,730.65	390,172.14
South Carolina	48,473.73	43.61	48,517.34	215,533.59	215.60	215,749.19
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	630.68	1,096.73	1,727.41	44,089.25	6,340.09	50,429.34
Texas	6,227.04	227.88	6,454.92	55,208.22	1,581.45	56,789.67
Virginia	104.61	22.10	126.71	774.19	186.58	960.77
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	650.00	95.84	745.84	6,508.68	660.54	7,169.22
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	785.28	12.88	798.16	3,331.27	64.53	3,395.80
Northwest Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.05	.05	.00	.01	.01
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$270,060.55</b>	<b>\$63,415.01</b>	<b>\$333,475.56</b>	<b>\$1,455,650.66</b>	<b>\$329,602.18</b>	<b>\$1,785,252.84</b>

## Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 1,156.39	\$28,536.75	\$ 29,693.14	\$ 8,098.60	\$148,321.03	\$ 156,419.63
Foreign Missions	160,250.49	8,021.99	168,272.48	842,605.14	41,694.66	884,299.80
FWBBC	18,322.28	8,021.99	26,344.27	119,519.35	41,694.66	161,214.01
Home Missions	80,334.02	6,278.08	86,612.10	434,106.89	32,630.61	466,737.50
Retirement & Insurance	115.72	4,882.98	4,998.70	1,754.06	25,379.42	27,133.48
Master's Men	353.68	4,882.98	5,236.66	3,382.57	25,379.42	28,761.99
Comm. for Theo. Integrity	36.14	174.39	210.53	265.62	906.37	1,171.99
FWB Foundation	60.88	2,092.68	2,153.56	1,044.54	10,876.90	11,921.44
Historical Commission	36.13	174.39	210.52	265.61	906.37	1,171.98
Music Commission	5.59	174.39	179.98	126.82	906.37	1,033.19
Media Commission	80.59	174.39	254.98	471.82	906.37	1,378.19
Hillsdale FWB College	1,809.61	.00	1,809.61	10,787.98	.00	10,787.98
Other	7,499.03	.00	7,499.03	33,221.66	.00	33,221.66
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$270,060.55</b>	<b>\$63,415.01</b>	<b>\$333,475.56</b>	<b>\$1,455,650.66</b>	<b>\$329,602.18</b>	<b>\$1,785,252.84</b>



Jack Williams

## Toughest Job in America

**A writer from a meeting** magazine called about an article he was researching for a trade publication. Ten minutes into the conversation he asked what I considered the toughest job in America—the one with the most demands, the highest pressure, the least appreciation and the lowest pay.

When I responded, “Pastoring a church,” he barked, “You’ve got to be kidding!” I haven’t heard from him since.

**What would you have said** in response to the “toughest job” question? Law enforcement leaps to mind as does fire fighting in the aftermath of 9-11. What about working with the homeless or the addicted at a rescue mission? Or 12 hours a day on the business end of a shovel?

People work harder than most of us realize. Doctors clock 36-hour shifts; day-care workers and teachers struggle with special-needs students; migrant workers huddle in minimum wage jobs that few want. Nobody gets a free ride.

**That said, I stand** by my answer that pastoring a church is the toughest job in America. How many people are on call 24 hours a day seven days a week? Add your pastor to that list. Even his day off gets cut short or cut out more often than not.

Consider job pressure. Guess who policemen and firemen call when their jobs turn really ugly? They dial up the chaplain (read *pastor*) to reason with the guy holding a pistol to a child’s head. They want a pastor standing by when news about a traffic death gets delivered. They request a pastor when fire destroys dreams and people need hope while standing in the ashes. The pastor doesn’t get many easy calls.

**What about appreciation?** You’d be surprised how many pastors can’t

ever get it right as far as some are concerned. If he goes to bed before midnight, he doesn’t love souls enough to agonize in prayer. If he sleeps until 7:00 a.m., he’s a lazy ministerial no-account.

His sermons are either too long or too short, too shallow or too deep, too boring or too lively. He visits the lost but ignores the saints. He frequents the hospital but his yard needs to be trimmed. A decent golf score is evidence he has too much time on his hands.

He’s on a first-name basis with the mayor or perhaps he has never met the mayor, but he’s roundly criticized in either case. Everybody knows you can’t trust a preacher who hobnobs with politicians or one who ignores politics.

Local newspapers never mention his stirring Sunday sermon. They do, however, label him a right-wing extremist if he believes the Bible is true and says so, or if he preaches that Jesus is the only way to Heaven in a pluralistic culture. They poke fun at his politically incorrect views on same-sex marriage and his opinion that the death penalty is consistent with the Sermon on the Mount.

**Want to compare salaries?** You already know the pastor’s pay package because you voted on it last month. On the other hand, if he asks about yours, well, that’s none of his business.

Does the pastor’s salary match yours? Since the company furnishes you a car, does the church furnish one for the pastor? Does the pastor enjoy the same home equity benefits of owning a house that you do, or is he required to live in a parsonage while the church keeps the equity?

Maybe you wear jeans and sneakers to work. Jeans last a long time and sneakers don’t require much polish. Suits cost big time. Why not consider a

clothing allowance for the pastor? Is your retirement plan in place? Does your church invest in the pastor’s retirement plan?

**When his day starts,** the pastor knows he’ll be lucky to squeeze in two hours of study for his weekly sermons. Then he switches hats and coaches a young couple through marriage preparation lessons. He will preach a funeral at 11:00 a.m., address the church board at 6:00 p.m., explain a doctrinal question this afternoon, as well as make three hospital visits before dropping his car off for an oil change and tire rotation.

The pastor understands enough law to keep the IRS at bay, enough Bible to qualify as the community theologian, enough medicine to calm fears, enough journalism to publish a newsletter, enough high finance to unravel the bond program and enough about women to remember his anniversary.

**The toughest job in town?** I spent eight years as a college dean; pastoring is harder and has no semester breaks. I chopped cotton 13 years; pastoring takes longer and the harvest comes less frequently. I graded lumber in an oak flooring mill; pastoring is rougher on the hands and the knees; I’ve been a meeting planner and editor 26 years; pastoring makes conventions look like child’s play, plus it includes more deadlines than magazine editing.

My hat’s off to those wonderful men who spend a lifetime helping us pick up the pieces. Thank God for pastors! They’re worthy of double honor and a pay raise. See that your pastor gets both this month. ■

**Contact**  
P.O. Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

**Periodical  
Postage  
Paid**

Is  
something  
missing  
in your  
family  
ministry  
picture?



***Take a good look at WNAC.***

**WNAC** is ministry *to women through women* that impacts the home, the church, the community, and the world. We're FWB family. We'd like to be part of your church family, too. Call toll free **1-877-767-7662** for more information on how **Women Nationally Active for Christ** can help complete your ministry picture.