

September 2003

Contact



When Young Lions Roar

2003 National Convention Review

Official Publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptists



2003 National Convention Review

When Young Lic

The Tampa convention literally began with a thunderclap Saturday afternoon as registration opened when twin waterspouts whirled in Tampa Bay a few hundred feet from the convention center. That lightning-laced display of shock and awe was a first for most attendees. There

would be more rumblings inside the convention center before the gavel fell Thursday morning.

This was a year of departmental downsizing and red ink as well as a year of new vision, new challenges and new leadership. It was time to embrace the memory of those who brought the denomination to that point and a time to pound the doors of Heaven for more workers.

Convention Tampa was a year for the young lions to roar, and they did. Six departmental directors delivered major addresses to delegates in worship services. Two of the fresh-faced directors were in their 30s and three in their 40s, with four giving their first or second reports to the national body. Their speech sparkled with new hope, new dreams, new possibilities.

The third-largest attendance in convention history (a combined 7,778 registrants in the three concurrent conven-

tions) swarmed the beautiful Tampa Convention Center 15 hours a day to mingle in a flurry of workshops, worship, business, Bible competition and a record number of exhibits.

A New Moderator

Kentucky pastor Tim York (42) was elected moderator, succeeding Hillsdale FWB College president Carl Cheshier who served seven years as moderator and nine years as assistant moderator. Reverend York pastors Heritage Temple FWB Church in Ashland, Kentucky, and served as assistant moderator of the National Association since 1997.

Dr. York began preaching at age 12, ministered 11 years as a full-time evangelist, served 11 years as Kentucky's promotional secretary and has moderated the Blue Grass Conference (KY) since 1988. He is an alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

York will head an all-rookie slate of officers in 2004, since for the first time in memory, every national office had to be filled anew. The other "rookies" include: Assistant Moderator—William Smith (GA), Clerk—Randy Bryant (FL) and Assistant Clerk—Ernie Lewis (IL).

Doing Business

By the time delegates cast their first votes Wednesday morning, the Executive Committee and the General Board had already met nine hours pouring over the 176-page *Digest of Reports* and listening to agency leaders explain budgets and projects.

\$23 Million Budget

Twelve national agencies presented combined budgets topping \$23.3 million for 2004. Even after eight agencies reduced their 2004 budgets (Home



ns **Roar**

By Jack Williams



Missions, Executive Office, Sunday School, Master's Men and the four commissions), the combined budgets still rose \$1 million over 2003 levels. Four agencies increased their budgets (Foreign Missions, FWBBC, Retirement, Foundation).

Badges Work!

The transition from an open convention to a security-minded event requiring attendees to wear badges seems to be working. Delegates voted in 2002 to require badges at future conventions. Tampa was the first experiment. The highly visible "No Nametag, No Entrance, No Exceptions" signs reminded everybody that security was tight.

Referrals

Delegates referred three items to the Executive Committee for more study—a proposed \$10 registration fee for attendees, a proposal that the national convention meet biennially beginning in 2012, and the creation of a non-governmental organization (NGO) by the Foreign Missions Department.

**(Left to right)
Melinda and
Matt Pinson;
altar service;
Doug Little,
Keith Burden,
James Forlines;
Larry Powell
preaches;
Jonathan
Yandell leads
seminar; Ron
Hunter and
Leroy Scudder**





**(Left/above)
Convention Band**

**(Right/above)
Becky Beverly (L)
and Kathey Crowe
in Randall House
booth.**

**(Left) Retired
missionary Trula
Cronk autographs
her new book,
*Over Mountain or
Plain or Sea.***

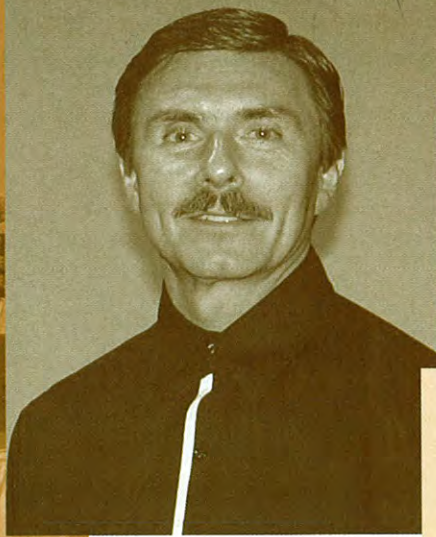


40-minute toe-tapping musical feast, another 15 minutes to conclude the session with a stirring 20-minute sermon by Home Missions director Larry Powell sandwiched between the music. A 100-voice choir along with brass and stringed instruments brought worshipers to their feet eager to sing along with the musicians.

Larry Powell played the role of elder statesman among convention speakers. The 64-year-old minister, former pastor and home missionary didn't need long to get his message across. He read Acts 17:26-27 and told the congregation, "God is still angry with sin. We are responsible to preach repentance before grace. There will be no revival in America until there is a profound repentance." Powell called America a great mission field and God's open door of opportunity for Free Will Baptists. "We must not fail," he charged.

Monday Evening

One of the great convention moments occurred Monday evening as executive secretary Keith Burden finished his sermon from Matthew 13 and called the other seven directors of national agencies to stand with him on stage in a display of denominational unity. The eight leaders stood shoulder to shoulder



(Above) General Board members; (Left) Missionary Mike Cousineau; (Right) Carson Wagner at piano.

behind the pulpit as the 49-year-old Burden pleaded with delegates to “love us, trust us, support us, pray for us and follow us.” Dozens of pastors and delegates came forward to pray for the directors during the invitation.

Earlier in his sermon, Burden warned against the temptation of egotism, the threat of satanic opposition and the deadliness of pluralism. He urged the denomination to take the “key” given by Jesus to the church and unlock the door of salvation for the lost.

Florida’s executive secretary Randy Bryant welcomed the convention to Tampa. After the Convention Choir completed their rousing version of “I Go to the Rock” and a three-song medley about Heaven, worshipers were eager to hear the evening sermon.

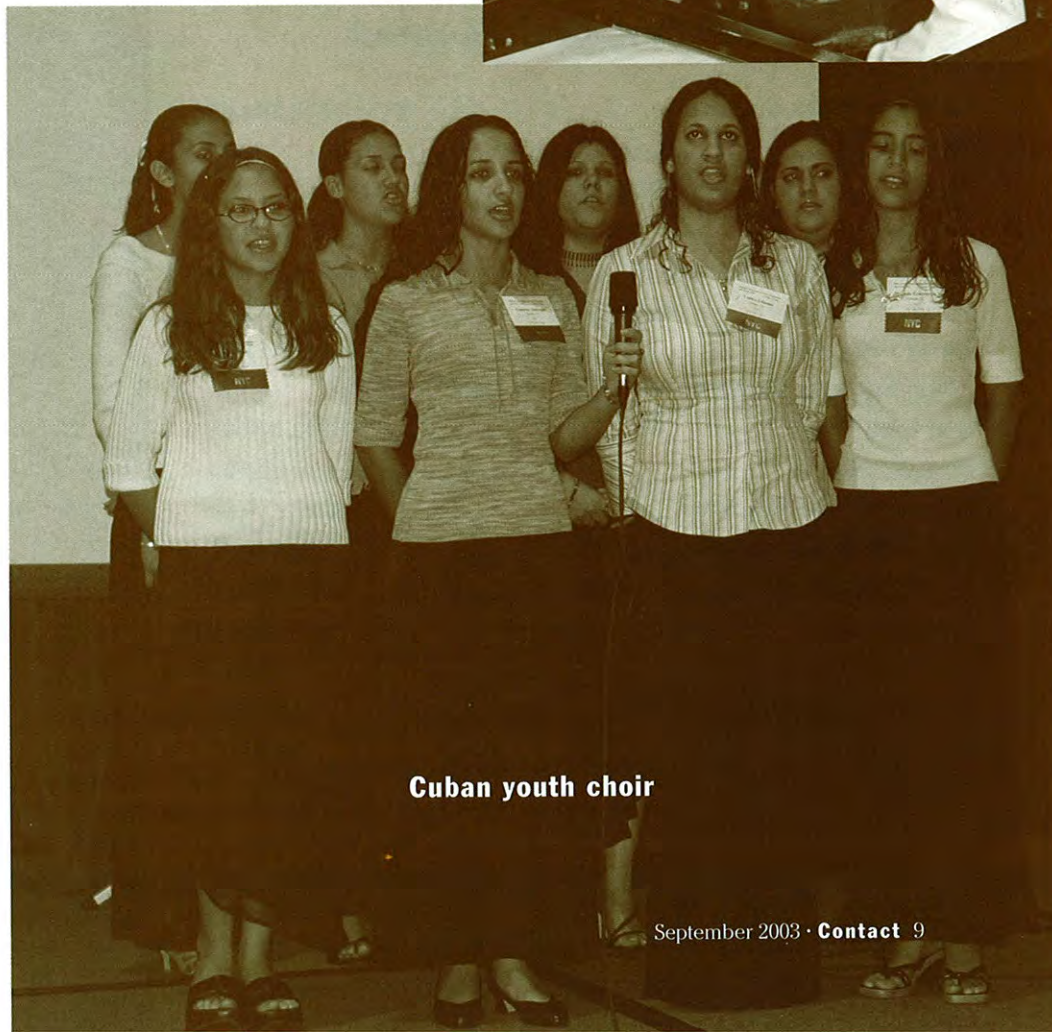
Tuesday Evening

Perhaps the most significant sermon preached from the national convention stage in 25 years came when Free Will Baptist Bible College president Matt Pinson delivered an impassioned 55-minute message titled “The Risk of Loving One Another.” The 35-year-old educator drew principles from two texts: Matthew 5:21–26 and 18:15–20. “If we don’t get this right, nothing else will matter,” he said.

Pinson captured the heart of Jesus’ teachings in four points: We must control our anger; we must watch our words; we must reconcile with others; we must put others first. He wept while

unfolding the practice of footwashing as a means of spiritual and emotional healing. He invited people to pray for unity and forgiveness during the invitation.

The Tuesday musical package included a piano offertory by a young man with a bit of magic in his fingers. Fourteen-year-old Carson Wagner from Tulsa, Oklahoma, wowed the large crowd with his artistry and skill. But what brought worshipers to their feet in



Cuban youth choir



2004 Budgets Adopted

Executive Office (Includes:)	\$ 723,190.00
Administrative	\$373,533.00
Contact	108,800.00
Convention	240,857.00
Free Will Baptist Bible College	5,572,151.00
(Includes \$1,300,000.00 in unrestricted gifts)	
Foreign Missions	8,607,321.00
(Does not include VISION and other projects totaling \$7,325,770.00)	
Home Missions	4,500,000.00
Master's Men	130,874.00
Retirement and Insurance	397,719.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation ..	183,100.00
Sunday School and Church Training	3,101,835.00
Commission for Theological Integrity	4,850.00
Historical Commission	2,800.00
Music Commission	4,000.00
Media Commission	6,000.00
Total	\$ 23,233,840.00





2003 Registration Report*

National Convention	3,610
Ordained Ministers	556
Ordained Deacons	92
Licensed Ministers	32
Local Church Delegates	31
State Delegates	73
Home Missionaries	47
Foreign Missionaries	38
Board/Commission Members	48
Visitors	2,693
National Youth Conference	3,390
Women Nationally Active for Christ	778
Grand Total	7,778

* This report reflects the total number who registered for the three combined conventions: National Convention, NYC and WNAC. By actual count, some 5,382 individuals registered, some for more than one convention.

praise was the Convention Choir's powerful delivery of "How Great Thou Art."

Wednesday Evening

The traditional missionary service began with a standing ovation in honor of the late Roy Thomas as Home Missions director Larry Powell presented a plaque to Pat (Mrs. Roy) Thomas. Ninety minutes later the service ended in the convention's fourth altar service



**(Clockwise)
Registration
line**

**Don Robirds (L)
and James
Forlines**

**Steve Ashby
leads seminar.**

**Marilyn Sneed
(L), Angie Deel
and Jill Pointer
in con-
vention
office.**

**Wednesday
night
missionary
service**



after an electrifying sermon by Foreign Missions director James Forlines.

"I believe it's time Free Will Baptists adopted a warfare lifestyle," Forlines roared. "A warfare lifestyle means everyone finds a role of service, prayer becomes vital, and we accept whatever sacrifices are necessary to get the job done."

Surrounded by flags from around the world and a stage full of missionaries, the newest home and foreign missionaries were commissioned in full view of the 5,000 worshipers before the evening message.

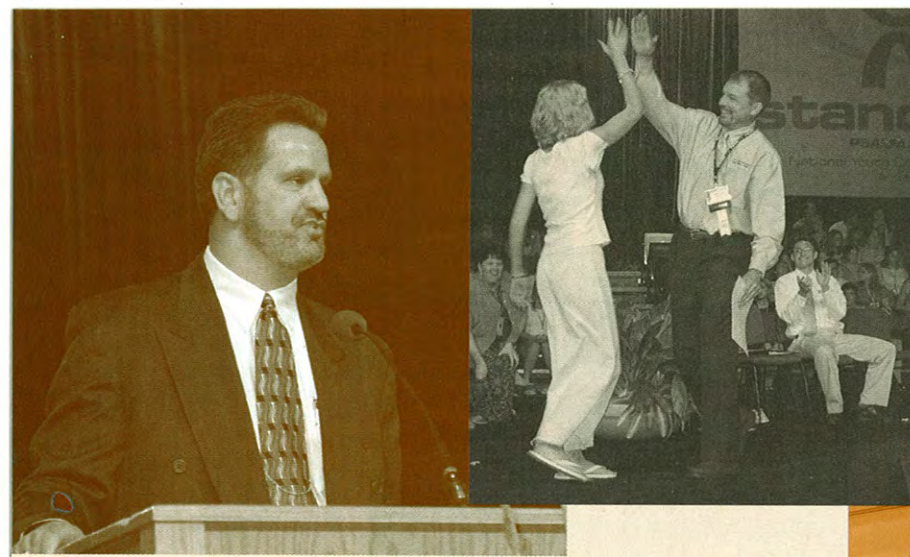
Departmental Highlights

Executive Office

Executive secretary Keith Burden called his first year a "time of transition" bringing a new look to *Contact* magazine, a financial crisis that resulted in downsizing staff, and a slight growth with churches reporting a net increase of 5,096 members.

FWB Foundation

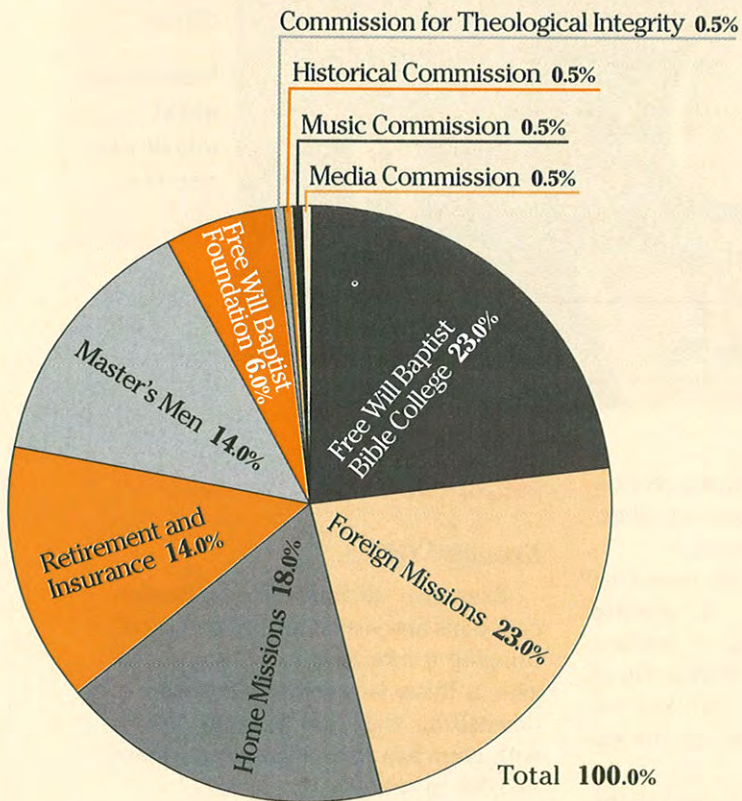
Director Bill Evans said 2002 brought "the largest increase in assets in any



The Together Way Allocations 2004

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

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



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

(Left to Right)
Kenneth Akers
teaches Sunday
School.

NYC winner
celebrates.

Don Neal and
Randy Bryant
tally votes.

Convention's
over, time to
go home.

Directory Update

Hawaii

Kenneth Reiter, Jr., to Waipahu Church, Waipahu

Michigan

Rick Dunn to Liberty Church, Detroit

Missouri

Alvin Hook to First Church, Springfield

Oklahoma

Joel Kircher to First Church, McAlister from Westside Church, Checotah

South Carolina

Chris Todd to Calvary Church, Georgetown
Danny Stone to Tabernacle Church, Coward

Tennessee

Ben Franklin to Fellowship Church, Antioch from Free Will Baptist Bible College ■



Ted Rendall



year of our existence. Total assets increased 48 percent."

Foreign Missions

Director James Forlines reported 320 organized churches and 366 mission works in 14 countries with an average Sunday School attendance of 22,753. The foreign work includes 87 ordained pastors, 344 licensed and lay preachers and 205 students in Bible Institutes. Sixteen missionaries were appointed in 2002, the highest number in history.

FWBBC

Fall 2002 enrollment was up 13%, dormitory students up 20%. President Matt Pinson reported the largest unrestricted giving total in history (\$1.1 million) last year. The school plans to graduate more pastoral ministry students. It will open the *iLearn Academy* this fall, a childcare and early learning center.

Sunday School

Director Ron Hunter announced a 9% budget reduction for 2004 while investing \$100,000 in curriculum development. The agency downsized from 42 to 36 employees, plans to complete the Randall House Commentary series, and introduced a Retirement Rewards Program that places one percent of curriculum sales in the pastor's retirement.

Retirement

Director Bill Evans reported 77 settlements involving \$2.15 million in 2002.

Elected in Tampa

The following were elected during the 67th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

General Officers

Moderator:	Tim York	(Kentucky)
Assistant Moderator:	William Smith	(Georgia)
Clerk:	Randy Bryant	(Florida)
Assistant Clerk:	Ernie Lewis	(Illinois)

General Board

2004	Paul Smith	(Florida)
	Len Blanchard	(Georgia)
	Larry Cook	(Illinois)
2006	Jim Marcum	(North Carolina)
	Jim Nason	(Northeast Association)
	Darrell Smith	(Northwest Association)
	Mike Stokes	(Ohio)
	Ernest Harrison, Jr.	(Oklahoma)
	Mike Jones	(South Carolina)
	Charles Thigpen	(Tennessee)
	Keith Woody	(Texas)
	Glen Johnson	(Virginia)
	Carl Vallance	West Virginia

Executive Committee

2006	Ernest Harrison, Jr.	(Oklahoma)
	Glen Johnson	(Virginia)
	Keith Woody	(Texas)

Board of Retirement

2009	William Ferguson	(Michigan)
	Jack Daniel	(Georgia)
	James Lowe	(Ohio)

Home Missions Board

2009	Ron Parker	(Louisiana)
	Loyd Locklear	(Michigan)
	James Puckett	(Oklahoma)

Master's Men Board

2009	Clifford Donoho	(Tennessee)
	Clarence Lewis	(Tennessee)
	Johnny Fowlkes	(Arkansas)

Foreign Missions Board

2006	Jerry Norris	(Missouri)
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Commission for Theological Integrity

2008	Matt Pinson	(Tennessee)
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Media Commission

2008	Sandy Goodfellow	(Tennessee)
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Music Commission

2006	Donnie Burke	(Georgia)
2008	Jerry Carraway	(Tennessee)

Historical Commission

2008	David Crowe	(Tennessee)
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(Left to right) Mark Shores speaks during business session; FWBBC Luncheon—Jean Lewis (L), Clarence Lewis, Tom Sass, Sheila Sass; Mike Anderson and grandson Warren Markins blow bubbles.



He announced 19.5% earnings (January–June 2003), and said the agency has more than \$22 million in total assets.

Home Missions

Director Larry Powell said the agency approved a record eight new missionaries in 2002 while six works went self-supporting. The agency reduced its 2004 budget by \$500,000, and plans to establish the “Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute” in South Carolina to train Hispanic pastors.

Master's Men

Director Ken Akers reports 21 new Master's Men chapters in 14 states in 2002, with another 11 chapters in the first six months of 2003. The agency worked in conjunction with FWBBC on the missionary in residence home, with Home Missions to promote Operation Saturation, and with WNAC to sponsor a marriage enrichment seminar.

And Finally

The Florida State Association wrapped its arms around Free Will Baptists from across America and made us feel welcome and wanted. They were eager to please, and it showed in their smiling, can-do attitudes at hospitality tables.

Most of us were on our best behavior in Tampa. We displayed a great deal of maturity in business discussions. We seemed to understand that our newly-elected directors need time to adjust, to take hold, to launch their visions. We took a big step forward by trusting our new leaders.

Convention Tampa showed that we can weather heavy seas and red ink if we stick together. Everything is in place for Free Will Baptists . . . it's our time do something important in the work of God. We started in Tampa when the young lions roared. ■



2003 Convention Tapes

National Association Messages on Audio Cassette Tapes

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

Convention Videos and Youth Audio Available!

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

Tapes other than those listed on the order blank at right are available. Audio tapes contain only the sermon; videotapes contain the whole service, including the music.

Once again this year, youth worship services were audiotaped—this year's speakers were Barry St. Clair and John Weaver. Each of the four tapes are available at the regular price: \$4 per tape (plus \$2 for the whole order's postage).

All adult worship services were videotaped. Among these videotapes are the special FWB singing on Sunday evening.

The cost is \$15 each (which includes postage and handling).

Other educational seminars were taped and are available for purchase on audio tape.

Space below is available for you to indicate which of these video and/or audio tapes you would like to order.

Tape No.	Speaker(s)	Subject	Quantity
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Convention Messages

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Ron Hunter | Sunday Morning | <input type="text"/> |
| 2. | Larry Powell | Sunday Evening | <input type="text"/> |
| 3. | Keith Burden | Monday Evening | <input type="text"/> |
| 4. | Matt Pinson | Tuesday Evening | <input type="text"/> |
| 5. | James Forlines | Wednesday Evening | <input type="text"/> |

Women Nationally Active for Christ

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 6. | French M Team | Seminar | <input type="text"/> |
| 7. | Karen Owen | Seminar | <input type="text"/> |
| 8. | Deleen Cousineau | Missionary Service | <input type="text"/> |
| 9. | Rosalie Ranquist | Fellowship Luncheon | <input type="text"/> |

Seminars

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 10. | Steve Ashby | Theological Trends Seminar | <input type="text"/> |
|-----|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------|

Miscellaneous

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 11. | Ted S. Rendall | Pastors/Laymen Conference | <input type="text"/> |
| 12. | Cousineau/Weaver | Foreign/Home Missions Rally | <input type="text"/> |
| 13. | Kenneth Akers | Adult Sunday School Class | <input type="text"/> |

Other Available Tapes

Convention Worship Service Videotapes (list individually at left)

← NYC Audio Cassette Tapes (list individually at left)

← Other seminars

Please complete the following:

Name	<input type="text"/>	Total Tape Cost	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>	Plus Postage	\$2.00
City/State/Zip	<input type="text"/>	Amount Enclosed	<input type="text"/>

Please send Check or Money Order to:

Mike Anderson • 6521 Mercomatic Court • Nashville, TN 37209

WNAC 2003 Convention

Jill Warren

Dana Portell

Opportunity

By Sarah Fletcher

Capture the view—palm trees, flowering plants, glistening blue waters. Describe the feeling—calm, refreshing, teeming with life

and opportunity. That was Tampa, July 21–22. The 2003 WNAC national convention enjoyed a feast for eyes and hearts.

Calm. Florida Women Active for Christ had planned, prepared and bathed the event in prayer. Delegates voted unanimously. Business sessions finished early. **Refreshing.** Like the daily afternoon Florida rain shower, each session was sprinkled with praise, worship and reports of answered prayers. **Opportunity.** Opportunity may best describe the 2003 WNAC convention. Tampa gave women opportunity to....

Realize an Identity

"Who Are You?" A Tuesday morning PowerPoint presentation sought to answer the question. Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marjorie Workman shared the ministry of Women Active for Christ. Our purpose is clear—to help women understand and fulfill the

Great Commission—in the home, the church, the community and around the world.

Glimpse Islamic Culture

The Monday seminar, "Mystery, Mothers and Mercy" opened eyes to the physical and spiritual dilemma of Muslim women. French M team wives Becky Derby, Di Keener, Dana Portell and Jill Warren used dramatic monologues to portray the degradation and lack of opportunities women face in Islamic countries. True stories of three women carried the common themes of shame, disgrace and fear. "Who will bring life and hope to the women of Islam?" These missionary wives challenged attendees to look for creative opportunities to share Christ with Islamic women in their communities.

The team wives answered questions. Where will they minister? How much will their husbands be involved? How successful has their ministry been to date? When asked if they feared for their safety, given the present world situation, Becky



Debe Taylor

Rosalie Ranquist



Executive Committee:
(L) Debe Taylor, Shirley Jackson, Phyllis York, Carolyn Hendrix, Linda Harvey, Joanne King, Marjorie Workman

Derby responded, "No . . . the safest place in all the world to be is in the Lord's will and we feel it is the Lord's will for us to be in France."

Prove God's Principles

"Most people think money is an economic issue. But it's a spiritual issue," commented pastor's wife Karen Owen, Florida, in her seminar, "Developing a Financial Green Thumb." Comparing family finances to a plant, Mrs. Owen shared eight biblical principles for financial peace and success. She cited specific examples of God's provision and urged women to prove the faithfulness of God as they put the principles into practice.

Trust in Times of Terror

Missionary Deleen Cousineau, Côte d'Ivoire, recounted moments of peace and assurance in the midst of the rebel uprising and military stand-off at the missionary boarding school in Bouake. "I stand before you as a visible answer to prayer," she declared. She gave thanks to God that WNAC Ridgecrest Retreat attendees heard the news and immediately went to their knees.

She recalled how God had been teaching her not to trust Him to protect her, but simply to trust Him. She questioned, "Must missionaries alone bear the risk of the rising cost of sharing the gospel?"

Minister in Spite of Circumstances

Who would have thought an uneducated, abused, foster child could become an international missionary consultant? "No one but God," stated Rosalie Ranquist. Her clear, moving testimony gave evidence of His wonderful grace. This New Tribes Missionary treated WNAC Luncheon attendees to tears and laughs as she described her unpleasant upbringing and her journey to faith in Christ.

Praise and Worship

Great singing is a hallmark of WNAC conventions, and Florida musician Amy Holland led

women to the throne of God through song. Music by the Northwest Florida Trio and Evidence of Mercy spoke of God's grace, presence and power. Yet the convention offered other opportunities for praise.

A special WNAC offering netted over \$2,200. President Debe Taylor reported that at least four "sons have come home to the Father" as the result of year-long prayers for prodigal children. Though financially challenged, WNAC met its budget for 2003, largely through funds from the WNAC Cookbook. Marjorie Workman expressed praise for the response to the MIR House project. An increase in membership was also cause for praise.

Share Ideas

Fellowship is always a highlight of the WNAC convention. A Tuesday evening State Presidents and Field Workers' reception hosted by the WNAC staff gave WNAC leaders opportunities to meet and share.

Shape the Future

Delegates elected three Executive Committee members: President, Debe Taylor (AR), Vice President, Joanne King (NC), Secretary, Phyllis York (KY), Members at Large—Carolyn Hendrix (AL), Linda Harvey (AZ) and Shirley Jackson (MO).

Women voted to extend three \$1,000 missionary scholarships. Recipients are Robert and Paul, pastoral students in Côte d'Ivoire; the Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Cuba; and the Marie Hanna Bible Institute in India.

The convention body went on record as opposed to same-sex marriages. Women are encouraged to communicate this stance to their congressmen and local elected officials.

The future of WNAC will include change and challenges that can only be accomplished as we lift our eyes to the source of our strength, the Maker of Heaven and earth. ■

About the Writer: Mrs. Sarah Fletcher is editor of Co-Laborer magazine.



Deleen Cousineau



Karen Owen



2003 National Youth Conference

stands

Stand Still was the theme of the 36th annual National Youth Conference, July 20–23, in Tampa, Florida. Missionary John Weaver and Barry St. Clair preached to over 1,200 students each evening in the youth services. Many students responded to a higher call from the Lord.

Donald Myers (Taylor, MI), served as music coordinator for the teen worship services. The music prepared students for the challenge given from the Word. Truth and Peace, the Youth Leadership Conference, opened the Sunday evening service with “The Call” from the musical, “My Utmost for His Highest.”

Worship services were also conducted for Preschool (ages 3–5), with an average of 100 attending, and for the Children (grades 1–3) and Tweeners (grades 4–6) with an average of 300 attending. Students learned how to walk with Jesus through the story of Jonah and through hands-on activities using rotating centers in the areas of music, crafts, activities and Bible stories. Steve Elkins sang with the children and laid a foundation for scripture memory using music.

Bible Competition and the Music and Arts Festival started Monday morning and continued through Wednesday morning with 761 entries and 1,673 reg-

istrants. Over 100 art entries filled the display room. Competition rooms overflowed with vocalists, instrumentalists, puppeteers, ensembles, choirs, chorales and speakers. When the students weren’t competing, they filled their bags with souvenirs and T-shirts at the NYC sales booth.

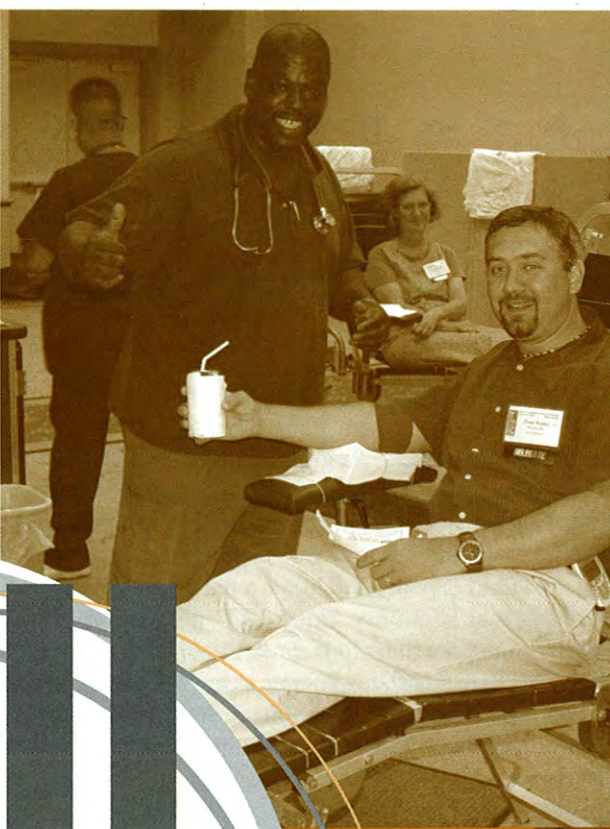
During the four-day conference 54 workshops and seminars were presented to children, youth, children’s workers, youth workers and adults. Over 900 students and adults participated in *Reach That Guy*, our area service project program. Projects included the Tampa Bay Dream Center, Second Harvest Food Bank, Tampa Homeless Shelter, McDonald Training Center, and a blood drive with Florida Blood Services (115 units of blood were collected).

Some 2,000 people gathered for the Awards Celebration Wednesday evening where Bible Competition and Music and Arts Festival winners were recognized. The 2004 12-member National Youth Evangelistic Team was announced:

Nick Skaggs, IA
Lynsey Stripling, AR
Matthew Slemp, TN
Kasey Lundquist, NC
Derek Lewis, IL
Rebecca Brown, GA
Casey Deel, TN
Ben Trimble, MI
Timothy McNeal, FL
Jerod McNeal, FL
Ashley Ridgway, OK
Teddie Collier, MO

Awards went to the following: Youth Group of the Year—New Home FWB Church (Tulsa, OK), Youth Worker of the Year—Aaron Baker (Trinity FWB Church, Greenville, NC) and a very special award given posthumously to Patsy King, a youth worker from Cedar Hill FWB Church (Asheville, NC). Patsy poured her life into her youth group; it was a moving moment when those students accepted this honor on stage.

It would be impossible to conduct a conference of this magnitude without the assistance of the Truth and Peace Leadership Conference. These 60 youth gave life to every planned activity. They



THP

By Angie Deel

were divided into various areas of responsibility. They did a super job. The students had been involved in leadership training for two weeks prior to the National Youth Conference. Truth and Peace celebrated their 20th year with a special reception for all former members. Casey Gwartney (OK) and David Jones (MO) were honored by the staff for their outstanding leadership.

The students have been challenged to Stand Still and allow God to reveal Himself and His will to students who live in a busy, hurried world. Our prayer for the coming year is that our students will return to their local churches more equipped and in touch with the Lord.

The 37th annual National Youth Conference is scheduled for Kansas City, Missouri, in July 2004 where our theme will be: *Extreme Cause, Extreme Cost* (Matthew 10:38). ■

About the Writer: Mrs. Angie Deel served as Truth and Peace Conference assistant during the Tampa convention. She is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

Photos: (Clockwise) Truth and Peace Alumni Reception; National Youth Evangelistic Team; Trent Walley (MI) at blood drive; John Weaver preaches; Steve Elkins leads children in Total Recall Bible memory; Barry St. Clair preaches; Children's worship check-in, NYC worship



Ron Callaway Joins Bible College Faculty



NASHVILLE, TN—The Reverend Ronald Callaway, veteran Free Will Baptist missionary to Spain, Cuba and Panama, joined the Free Will Baptist Bible College faculty to direct its missionary-training program, according to Dr. Milton Fields, academic dean.

Rev. Callaway, a 1975 FWBBC graduate, will transition from his service with the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department to begin teaching at the college this fall.

In addition to the bachelor of arts degree he earned at FWBBC, Ron studied at the University of Madrid (Spain) and holds a master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Since 1976, he and his wife, Linda, have served as church planters and teachers in institutes in Spain, Cuba and Panama.

FWBBC President Matthew Pinson says, "Several things attracted us to Brother Callaway. He has served on more difficult fields such as Spain and more receptive fields such as Cuba and Panama. He is the best known teacher/scholar on our mission field. He has a passion for the lost and for global evangelization. He is also noted for his outstanding work with high school students on E-Team mission trips."

The Missouri-Texas native will fill the position occupied by Tom McCullough for six years. McCullough now pastors Central FWB Church in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Preaching Highlights North Carolina Meeting



CRAMERTON, NC—Four sermons in two days set the tone for a rousing North Carolina State Association, according to clerk Wade Parker. The

June 2–3 session (the 41st), met at Cramerton FWB Church in what Reverend Parker described as a time of "great preaching, great singing, awesome presence of the Holy Spirit."

Promotional director Jim Marcum preached the opening message, "I Shall See Him." Pastor Ray Stockton (Bethel FWB Church, Marion) followed immediately with, "Greater is He that is Within You."

Monday evening's sermon came from Hemant Patel, missionary to India. The final sermon was delivered Tuesday morning by Bob Edmondson, pastor of Glad Tidings FWB Mission in Asheboro.

Moderator Nate Ange presided during business sessions, gave the moderator's address and will serve another year.

One hundred fifty people registered for the meeting, including 108 ministers. Delegates received a 47-page *Digest of Reports* to review.

The 2004 state association will meet June 7–8 at a site to be determined.

Virginia Elects Steve Faison Moderator



VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—Delegates to Virginia's 65th annual state association elected Arlington pastor Steve Faison as moderator. Faison, who pastors Bloss Memorial FWB Church, succeeds Dave Nobles who moderated the June 12–13 session.

Faison recently completed 10 years' service on the denomination's Media Commission.

Some 135 people registered for the state association which met at Virginia Beach FWB Church. Fifty-five ministers and deacons attended. Clerk Vergel Maness said delegates adopted a new state constitution.

Five Virginia ministers preached sermons developing the "Moving Toward Maturity" theme from the book of James: Marty Puckett (Mary's Chapel FWB Church), Howard Bass (member, Gateway FWB Church), Roger Bevins (Grace FWB Church) J. D. Norris (Virginia Beach FWB Church) and Steve Faison (Bloss Memorial FWB Church).

Several churches received plaques in recognition of their support (\$1,000 or more) for the Harrisonburg state mission land fund.

Delegates adopted a \$15,000 state budget, plus a Missions Board budget to finance two in-state mission projects.

The 2004 state association will meet June 17–18 at Bethel FWB Church in Woodbridge.

Fire Destroys Oklahoma Church



Everything destroyed—Crossroads FWB Church.

JENKS, OK—An early morning fire on May 1 burned Crossroads FWB Church in Jenks, according to Pastor Doug Carey who lost all his books, sermons and Bibles in the flames. The sanctuary walls were left standing when the sun rose.

Pastor Carey said, "We lost everything that our church used for worship, Sunday School and mid-week services. We lost our youth center, a commercial kitchen and the kindergarten section of our school, Jenks Christian Academy that houses 220 students."

The Jenks Fire Department arrived on the scene at 1:46 a.m. and found much of the building north of the sanctuary burning or already consumed. Pastor Carey arrived at 2:15 a.m. and watched the church where he had preached for nine months shrouded in smoke and fire.

Reverend Carey said, "We will knock down the sanctuary walls and begin from scratch." The church had upgraded their fire insurance two days before the blaze.

Jenks Fire Chief Bob Douglas said that investigators believe the fire was caused by an electrical malfunction and started in the furnace closet or attic. Initial estimates placed the damage at more than \$1 million.

Several hours before the fire, Pastor Carey had changed the church sign to read, "Experience God Here." He told a local newspaper reporter, "We serve a great God and God will build it again."

Pastor Carey stands in front of his office.



Southeastern Announces New Faculty/Staff

WENDELL, NC—President Lorenza Stox of Southeastern FWB College announced new additions to the faculty and staff of the college for the 2003–2004 school year.

Howard Gwartney, church planter and pastor of 25 years, joins the faculty as chairman of the Bible/Pastoral Theology Department. He will also develop a church planting course and travel on behalf of the college. His wife, Patsy, will work as secretary in the music and promotion departments.

Gwartney graduated from Hillsdale FWB College in 1977 and plans to com-

plete work on a master's degree. He has pastored East Valley FWB Church in Mesa, Arizona, 16 years after he planted the church under the Home Missions Department.

Rodney Holloman, a 1992 graduate of Southeastern FWB College, will teach systematic theology and Greek, as well as other Bible courses. Holloman earned a master's degree from Pensacola Christian College in 1996 and plans to pursue his doctorate. He served as an assistant pastor for six years and as pastor of Ahoskie FWB Church in Ahoskie, North Carolina, two years.

Ronald Davis, a 1992 graduate of Southeastern FWB College, joins the administration as director of student life. His duties will include dean of students, activities director and student counselor. In addition, he will teach some classes. Davis has experience as a Christian school teacher and was youth/associate pastor at Parker's Chapel FWB Church in Greenville, North Carolina, eight years. He is completing work on his master's degree.

Fred Crank joins the staff as maintenance director. Crank pastored Mansfield FWB Church in Mansfield, Ohio, the past five years. His wife, Joyce, will be supervisor for one of the ladies' dorms.

West Virginia Adopts Retirement Plan



HUNTINGTON, WV—Following a Friday morning seminar led by West Virginia promotional director James

Cox and Board of Retirement associate director Ray Lewis, delegates adopted a retirement plan for ministers and full-time Christian workers. The two men explained the Free Will Baptist retirement program and invited West Virginia ministers and Christian workers to participate.

The retirement seminar occurred on opening day of West Virginia's 58th annual state association which met June 6–7 at Central FWB Church in Huntington.

Clerk Norwood Webb noted that 263 people registered for the meeting. Moderator Ivan Asbury led business sessions; he will complete his two-year term in 2004.

Executive secretary Keith Burden joined three West Virginia ministers who spoke on the state theme, "Stand Still and Know That I Am God." The other speakers were senior preachers Caudle Adkins, Carl Vallance and Luther Morgan

Delegates adopted a state budget with funds to be distributed: General Fund (17%), Missions (18%), State Paper (15%), Christian Education (10%), Promotional Director (15%), 2008 National Convention (8%), National Co-op (4%), Retirement Plan (3%).

Slaughters Creek FWB Church from the Kanawha County Conference received a plaque for giving \$5,000 during the "March for Missions."

The 2004 state association will meet June 11–12 at Parsley Bottom FWB Church in Lenore.

Gateway Christian College Begins

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—Pastor Karl Sexton and Gateway FWB Church announce the opening of Gateway Christian College in August 2003 in Virginia Beach. Gateway Christian College (GCC) will provide a local-church structure maintaining a unified purpose and direction as well as a revival type atmosphere. It is the commitment of Gateway, as a multi-ministry church, that students receive practical, hands-on training in Christian service within a local church setting.

Because the primary focus is to train and produce pastors, youth pastors, missionaries, Christian school teachers and administrators, GCC will begin the first year by offering undergraduate degrees in Bible, missions, sacred music, music education, elementary and secondary education, religious arts, biblical studies, as well as certificate and diploma studies.

Dr. Bruce Barnes will serve as the college president. He holds B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Bob Jones University. He taught at BJU in the Greek Department as well as at Southeastern FWB College in the fields of pastoral theology, Bible, theology, Greek and English. He also served collegiately as Bible and pastoral theology department chairman, dean of students, academic dean, and vice president in charge of academics. He has pastored in North and South Carolina and ministered nationally and overseas.

Seven other professors serving at GCC have at least an M.A. or M.S., and two have either a D.Div. or Ph.D. Three professors will be pursuing master's-level degrees, and three are in the planning stages for doctorates.

Dr. Barnes states, "Students training for Christian ministry at Gateway College will be encouraged to have a personal walk with Christ and to fulfill the purpose of II Timothy 2:15, 'Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'" To find out more about the college, go to www.gatewayfwb.org. ■

BEYOND BELIEF





Terrance Spralling in mid-leap

Alabama: Terrance Spralling from the FWB Children's Home in Eldridge placed second in the state high-jump finals clearing 6'2". Terrance also placed second in two other state finals: the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes. He was named "Mr. Track" at Winfield City High School.

Red Bay FWB Church in Red Bay has a space problem. Pastor **Barry Raper** said the church needs more room to park vehicles for worship services. Members responded by voting to add 100 parking spaces.

Illinois: Pastor **Brad Ryan** reports eight new members and six baptisms at **Ina FWB Church in Ina**.

Oak Grove FWB Church in Scheller welcomed four members and witnessed four baptisms. **Randy Kash** pastors.

The three remaining active members of **Harmony FWB Church in West City** voted to suspend services and give the church property and assets to the Illinois State Association. The congregation had met in the same location for more than 60 years. Harmony saw several ministers called to preach from its membership; it is the home church of Mrs. **Lorene Miley**, former missionary to Ivory Coast.

Mexico: Two teams from Conway, SC, and Locust Grove, OK, went to **Altamira** to build a new Free Will Baptist church. The building was erected in two weeks at a cost of \$8,000. Ninety-four attended the opening service with one conversion. **Mark Cole** and **Bud Bivens** led the South Carolina and Oklahoma work teams.

Michigan: **Southgate FWB Church in Southgate** celebrated 40 years of service

this spring, according to Pastor **Ron Helms** who has led the congregation 12 years. The church was founded by **Leo Worley** who pastored 22 years (1963-1985). **Darvin Oakes** pastored five years (1986-1991). Pastor Helms preached the anniversary sermon, "Being a Light."

Missouri: More than 230 people attended the sixth annual Men's Rally for Christ with Pastor **Roger Hogan** from First FWB Church in Farmington as guest speaker. The men's rally is sponsored by **First FWB Church in Ozark**. **Gary Mitchner** pastors.

Monett's Words of Eternal Life FWB Church (Hispanic congregation) reported 51 in attendance and one conversion on Father's Day.

Long-time minister Reverend **Archie Cooper** died April 27 at age 95 in **Kirkville**. He was a Free Will Baptist minister 66 years. Ordained in 1937, Brother Cooper served six congregations in his career. He pastored **New Harmony FWB Church** 38 years, retiring at age 87. He conducted a 6:15 a.m. radio program six days a week for 32 years. He was a bi-vocational pastor who worked numerous jobs to support his family and minister.

Oklahoma: Pastor **Leonard Pirtle** reports 11 baptisms at **First FWB Church in Owasso**.

First FWB Church in Norman welcomed nine new members. **Joe Grizzle** pastors.

Jack Richey celebrated 41 years in ministry this year. Called to preach in 1962, Brother Richey has pastored seven churches (six in Oklahoma), conducted 600 revivals, served the denomination in state and national responsibilities, and sung bass 40 years in the Ministers' Quartet. He preached his first sermon July 29, 1962, at **First FWB Church in Duncan**.

South Carolina: Pastor **Carroll Bazen** and members of **Grace FWB Church in Lake City** gave home missionary **Todd Smith** money for 50 chairs and 50 hymn books at the mission in Aiken. The check was written for just over \$2,500.

During homecoming this spring at **Walker's Chapel FWB Church in Sumter**, members honored Pastor **Mancy**

Noles by placing a plaque in the sanctuary citing his work as church founder and pastor since 1974.

Members of **Beulah FWB Church in Pamplico** surprised Pastor **Elro Driggers** with a celebration honoring his 50 years in the ministry. The first man who answered the call to preach under Driggers' ministry came from Oklahoma to join the festivities—**James Puckett**, now state missions director. Banners, bulletins and pictures called attention to Brother Driggers' half-century ministry.

Sixty-eight people attended 16th anniversary events at **Liberty FWB Church in Orangeburg**. Former pastor **Jerry White** preached the homecoming message. **Roger Tripp** pastors.

Lighthouse FWB Church in Florence conducted its first service April 6 with 25 charter members joining and four baptisms. **Brian Tolliver** pastors.

Members of **Enoree FWB Church in Enoree** dedicated their fellowship building this spring as part of homecoming activities. **Earl Hendrix** (Inman) preached the homecoming message. **Billy Vanderford** is interim pastor.

Tennessee: Evangelist **Charles Cooper** did a good thing this summer. The **Cookeville**-based minister subscribed to *Contact* for 10 years... at the old subscription rate, beating the price increase by four weeks.

Berea FWB Church in Johnson City dedicated their just-renovated building this spring, as well as their two additions that added 2,500 square feet to the structure. The church that began with eight members in 1917 now averages 158 in attendance. This marks the congregation's third major building program. Tennessee promotional director **Charles Thigpen** preached the dedication message. **Jerry Stout** pastors.

Texas: **Magnolia FWB Church in Magnolia** purchased land on which to build. Pastor **David Holguin** says, "We no longer have a land fund. Now we have a land payment!" Until the land purchase in Magnolia, the congregation was known at the Tomball FWB Mission. ■

Benjamin Randall, a Muslim and a Pocket Watch

By David Crowe, Director of Church Growth and Evangelism

For seven years I have studied Free Will Baptist history and collected Free Will Baptist books and memorabilia. I have gathered over 1,000 books, magazines, journals, photographs, and other items dating to the late 1700s. It is amazing how many books and periodicals were printed by Free Will Baptists through the 1800s. But of all the Free Will Baptist items I found and purchased, one stands above the rest.

Two years ago Bob Ketchum (fellow FWB historian) mentioned a California antique dealer who had a pocket watch that once belonged to Elder Benjamin Randall. Bob spoke with the dealer by phone and learned the watch would be placed on Ebay for auction.

When a year passed, I almost gave up hope the pocket watch would ever be for sale. Late one night while searching Ebay for Free Will Baptist items, there it was! Documentation traced the watch family owners back to Benjamin Randall. The dealer knew it once belonged to the founder of a religious denomination in America and was not going to sell it cheaply.

After securing means to pay for the watch, I began bidding in the nine-day auction. With one day left before the auction closed, I had the high bid and was excited about owning a piece of Free Will Baptist history. In the last 24 hours, I received an email that the auction was closed and the item pulled from Ebay, no longer for sale.

I emailed the owner in California to express disappointment. I informed him I had bid in good faith thinking he placed it up for auction in good faith. I told him I thought it was unethical to do what he had done. I received a reply telling me he was a Muslim and he removed the watch because the description stated that the watch still ran. After closer examination, he found it only ran part of the time.

He said he didn't want to give a false description. He would put it back on Ebay at a later date and would email me so I could bid on it again. I assumed he thought he could get more for it by holding it longer. I didn't care whether the 225-year-old watch ran or not. I wanted it because it had been owned by Benjamin Randall.

Several months later I received an email late one night from the Muslim antique dealer giving

me his phone number and asking me to call him. When I called he said, "Allah has troubled me deeply." I was thinking Someone indeed had troubled him, but it wasn't Allah. It was Jesus because I had been talking to Him about the situation. The dealer said he wanted to do the right thing and the watch needed to stay in the hands of Free Will Baptists. He said if I still wanted the watch I could buy it for the last bid I had on Ebay.

When the watch arrived, I took it to a pastor friend in Alabama. Thomas Kirkland, a retired jeweler and Free Will Baptist pastor, examined the watch, cleaned it and replaced the crystal. He showed me on the inside that the watch was made in 1777 in London, England. After slight repairs, the watch keeps good time and runs well when wound.

Along with the watch were papers from the Drew family. Benjamin Randall had bought the watch in 1785 and carried it until his death in 1808. The watch then passed to a son who passed it to a daughter. This granddaughter of Benjamin Randall married a man whose last name was Drew. The watch passed through several generations of the Drew family until it was sold at an estate sale in Connecticut, purchased by the Muslim antique dealer from California along with 11 other watches.

The pocket watch is now part of the historical display at the Home Missions office. It is housed in an obelisk-shaped glass display case along with these items:

- 1834 First edition, *Treatise* by David Marks for the Freewill Baptist Connection
- 1827 First edition, *Life of Randall* by John Buzzell
- 1823 First hymnbook by John Buzzell for United Churches of Christ (FWB)
- 1832 First hymnbook by David Marks for Freewill Baptist Connection
- 1831 First edition, *David Marks' Journal*
- 1815 First edition, *Life of John Colby*
- 1889 *Free Baptist Cyclopedia*.



Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus

Turn Your Sunday School Class Inside Out

By Keith Fletcher, Creative Services Director

What must one do to become “a member” of your Sunday school class?

- (A) Attend Sunday School three Sundays,
- (B) Join the church,
- (C) Pass an entrance exam,
- (D) None of the above.

I have heard guests and Sunday School regulars answer (A), (B) and even (C). Believe it or not, the correct answer should be (D). The only thing required of a guest to get “on the roll” is to say, “Yes, you may add my name to your list.”

The problem is many of our classes are closed to newcomers. We discourage new members by unspoken rules and assumptions. We might as well hang a sign on the door, “Lost people not allowed.” If they do come, we call them visitors and make them wear a badge like someone visiting a factory or a hospital, someone who will be asked to leave when the tour ends or after visiting hours.

By our actions, we imply that it is *their privilege* to be among us, rather than *our opportunity* to extend Christian hospitality to them. Telling guests, “If you come to our class three times, we’ll add you to our roll,” tells them they are on probation. We will check you out to see if you are the kind of person we want attending our class.

Put yourself in the unchurched person’s shoes. Would you want to be on trial? If your class roll does not contain the names of lost or unchurched people, how will your class, or your church for that matter, reach anyone outside its walls for Christ?

What about the chronic absentee? Some say, “Let’s purge the rolls and get rid of the dead wood!” Really? If you are talking about *living* people within driving distance of your church, people who have not plugged into another Sunday School class, then you are talking about people for whom Jesus died, people for whom you and your class members will be held accountable.

Unless they die, move away or join another church, their names (including current address, phone number, email address, birthday, anniversary, etc.) should stay on the list. These individuals and families must not fall through the cracks.

Take a fresh look at Sunday School enrollment. Consider renaming your Sunday School roll the

“Care List.” When a person visits your class (or attends worship service at your church), ask if it would be all right to put his name on your list. Stress that this is the way your class helps people.

Being on the list obligates your class to find ways to minister to that person’s needs. Your goal is to add people to this list, not for the sake of attendance (though that will be a natural result) but for the sake of reaching people for Christ.

By agreeing to be added to your class Care List, an individual agrees to be open to the ministry of your class. The responsibility becomes yours, not that of your guests, to encourage their attendance to Bible studies and class outings. You are also responsible to find out if they have prayer concerns. Remember, it is not the prospect’s responsibility to find a class and plug into it; it is the mission of your class to reach out to the guest (or prospect) and minister to his needs.

Don’t stop at making a list. Start really caring for the people already on your list. If your class roll is large, divide it into “care groups” of 8–10 people each. Assign Sunday School regulars to be care leaders and care givers. The mother with a new baby, the family with a loved one in the hospital, the elderly widow with no one to fix that leaky faucet—these are ministry opportunities that surface as your list grows and class leaders keep in touch.

Let it be known that you are not hounding people for their attendance. This will be more obvious if they hear from you not just before Roll Call Sunday or during the annual Sunday School campaign. The calls, cards, visits and help they receive from your class will be evidence of your concern throughout the year. As you build relationships among members, you encourage and strengthen relationships with Christ. Make Sunday School an easy place to join, an even easier place to *belong*.

■



Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus

- If your Sunday School class roll does not contain the names of lost or unchurched people, how will your class, reach anyone outside the church’s walls for Christ?
- Consider renaming your Sunday School roll the “Care List.”
- Your goal is to add people to this list, not for the sake of attendance but for the sake of reaching people for Christ.



Two FWBBC alumni recently joined the staff. Read their testimonies how God made it possible.

“God Wants Me Here!”

Charles Cook, Assistant to the Director of Advancement

My college experience did not start at Free Will Baptist Bible College. I attended Cumberland University a year on an athletic/academic scholarship before coming to FWBBC.

As a student I participated in numerous activities: Bible conferences, Heritage Weeks, missions retreats, basketball games, Renaissance festivals, society skits, Southern Writers nights, Francis Schaeffer discussions, witnessing at the men’s prison and nursing homes. I graduated May 15, 2003.

Graduation did not end my association with my *alma mater*. During my time at FWBBC, I learned about the distressing state of many smaller Free Will Baptist congregations. My prayers focused on asking God to provide workers for smaller churches. Eventually, the inevitable happened: I realized God wanted me involved.

After much prayer, I felt led to enter the ministry and was licensed to preach by Tennessee’s

Upper Cumberland Association. Later, I was approached about working for the college. President Pinson said he was paying close attention to conditions in smaller Free Will Baptist works, and wanted the college more actively involved with churches at the grass-roots level.

I began working with David Williford in the office of advancement. One of my duties will be representing the college at rural associational meetings. Another primary task will be to pursue alumni relations and help the school work better with new alumni. Finally—on a personal note—as I travel I will collect histories of churches and people I meet. This will help preserve the Free Will Baptist story for future generations.

Jennifer Dycus, Retention Coordinator

The day I first stepped on Free Will Baptist Bible College campus as a student I was nervous about all the change happening in my life, yet excited that the Lord made it possible for me to be here. I chose a major in sports medicine but, in truth, I was trying to please my parents and hide from the fact I had no clue what I wanted to study.

As the year continued, it became evident that I did not want to go into that program of study. Through chapels, conferences, the college staff and students, the Lord showed me His love for people, especially His love for young people who are searching. I changed to a minor in missions. I found my niche and knew the Lord would continue to direct my life.

When it came time to graduate, I was relieved to be finished with school. People asked, “Now, what are you going to do?” I didn’t know. Then I realized the Lord placed me at a pause point in life. My ultimate goal was mission work, but God gently held up His hand and said, “Not yet. I have other things for you now.”

I found a job as a physical therapy technician at a Nashville hospital and waited on God. Four

months later I received a call from the director of enrollment management at FWBBC. He wanted me to be part of the enrollment management team. I was overwhelmed. Through much prayer and discussion with those closest to me, I interviewed for the position and got the job!

My first day, while driving to the college, I was once again overwhelmed with the wonder of God’s love. I praised the Lord for His direction. There is no better feeling in the world than being right where God wants you. Now I work with young people who are looking for God’s direction, searching for their niche just like I was.

Coming to work at FWBBC wasn’t an option for me. The Lord wanted me here and I knew it. I could not ignore His guidance. Through His unfailing love, the Lord gave me exactly what I needed exactly when I needed it—friends who are my co-workers and a college that is my home.



Free Will Baptist
Bible College

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus

- Charles Cook’s duties include attending associational meetings and pursuing alumni relations.

- As part of the enrollment management team at FWBBC, Jennifer Dycus works with young people who are looking for God’s direction.



Good News, Bad News

By David L. Brown, Member Services

The economic news has been mixed lately. Good news for some, bad news for others. For instance, consider the current interest rate environment. According to the June 24, 2003, issue of the *Wall Street Journal*, the nationwide average for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage is

4.98% with the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage dropping to 4.42%. The average rate on a new car loan is 5.27%, while the average rate on a home equity loan is 6.68%. This is good news if you are buying a house or car.

The nationwide average for money market accounts is 1.38%, while the average five-year certificate of deposit (CD) is 3.02%. Inflation is around 2.0%. This means that individuals who place their savings in money market accounts, on average are losing purchasing power. Those who invest in five-year CDs are on average earning a real rate of around 1% above inflation. This is bad news for savers.

Federal Reserve Fallout

The Federal Reserve recently decided to cut the target short-term rate by one-quarter point with a possibly equal cut yet to come. This cut pushes the short-term rate down to levels not seen in 45 years. Their decision could also push money market and CD rates down even further.

Many analysts believe rates could stay at these low levels for several months, since chairman Alan Greenspan will not be anxious to raise rates until there is firm evidence an economic recovery is in progress. Mr. Greenspan stated his concern about the remote possibility of deflation which will also delay the Federal Reserve's decision to increase interest rates.

Many senior adults depend on earnings from their savings to supplement their retirement income. Presently, rates on CDs and money market accounts are not providing the needed income many seniors have come to expect.

FWB Foundation Option

For senior adults who only need the income from an asset and not access to the principal, Free Will Baptist Foundation may have a solution. Annuities available through the Foundation pay attractive rates for seniors. In addition to higher rates, some of the income generated is provided tax-free during your actuarial lifetime. These annuities also generate a charitable tax deduction.

Consider a senior couple, both 75 years of age, who would like to generate a higher income on a \$10,000 asset. A joint life gift annuity would pay a guaranteed rate of 6.3% or \$630 annually. In addition to this higher rate of return, over two-thirds of the income is tax-free. This makes the effective return 7.06% for individuals in the 15% tax bracket and 8.6% for those in the 35% tax bracket.

Our annuities are irrevocable completed gifts, meaning donors give up the asset to receive the high gift annuity rates. Since it is a gift, the seniors in this example would also receive a charitable tax deduction of \$3,010. Ultimately, upon the death of these donors, the original asset will pass to their chosen Free Will Baptist ministry.

Win-Win-Win

For many senior adults this may be the solution to supplementing retirement income. A gift annuity will provide much higher returns, a tax deduction and a significant gift to a Free Will Baptist ministry. This is a Win-Win-Win situation. Gift annuities are indeed good news. Gift annuity payments are determined by personal information. Please contact the Foundation toll-free at 877-336-7575 for exact quotes for your individual situation without cost or obligation. ■



**THE
FREE WILL
BAPTIST
FOUNDATION**

**Annuities
available
through the
FWB Foundation**

- Pay attractive rates for seniors
- Create income which is over two-thirds tax-free
- Generate a charitable tax deduction

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus



Garnett Reid

“Be Followers of God” Ephesians 5:1–21

Not a sound came from the sold-out audience in the auditorium. Silent, too, was the performer we beheld as he worked his voiceless craft on stage. My mind replays the lithe, supple gestures of the great French mime Marcel Marceau. That night the little artist imitated, among other scenes, “walking against the wind” and the anguish of confinement in an imaginary cage—in total silence, of course.

A “mime” is a mute actor, an imitator. The source of this English word is a Greek term whose cognate (*mimētēs*) occurs six times in the New Testament. No context in which the word appears is more significant than Ephesians 5:1. “Be ye therefore followers (*mimētai*) of God as dear children,” Paul enjoins.

Believers are to pattern their lives after the character of God. He should so control and dominate every aspect of our being that we reflect Him in all that we are. This is true godliness. Here, too, is conformity to the image of Christ which is, after all, the ultimate goal of our election (Rom. 8:29).

Paul prepared us for the directive of Ephesians 5:1 by pointing to the example of Christ in forgiveness (4:32). As we forgive each other, we are “imitators” of God. (Note the implicit defense of Christ’s deity here; when we emulate Christ, we follow God.) What ensues in Ephesians 5:2–21 are three specific ways the believer is to imitate God by following the example of Christ. The text marks each of the three with the use of the verb “walk” (specifically, the repeated form *peripateite*).

Walk in Love (vv. 2–6)

The first two appeals regarding our “walk” include positive then negative examples. Paul begins by building on

the parent-child relationship. As God’s “dear children,” we should model our lives after Him the way a son looks to emulate his father. Specifically, this pattern focuses on the love Christ has shown us. His example is one of self-sacrifice, giving himself to God for our benefit (v.2).

The opposite of Christ’s pure, selfless, giving love is that desire which seeks only self-gratification by feeding the flesh. Here Paul mentions sexual immorality (Gk. *porneia*) and moral uncleanness. Loving intimacy between a husband and wife so models the loving relationship between Christ and His people that its violation offends God deeply and incurs His wrath.

Even lewd and obscene talk, suggestive and degrading humor, and greedy desire have no place in the lives of “saints” (lit. “holy ones,” vv.3–4). Sometimes we shrug off such coarse talk and careless behavior in excusing ourselves because “everybody tells an off-color story now and then.” The problem is the more we let down our guard, the more we condition ourselves to accept this inappropriate conduct.

How foreign this attitude is to the selfless giving modeled in Christ’s love! Paul makes it clear that an impure lifestyle has no place in Christ’s kingdom. Instead, God’s wrath awaits those who live to indulge their selfish desires (vv.5–6).

Walk in Light (vv. 7–14)

Believers are not to share in an impure lifestyle because they have emerged from that darkness into the radiant light of redemption (vv. 7–8). Since we are “light in the Lord,” it makes no sense to keep living in the shadows of the old life. “Walk as children of light,” counsels Paul. The results of such a

transformed life are evident: moral excellence (“goodness”), living by a right standard (“righteousness”) and loyalty to God (“truth,” v.9).

Instead of living in darkness, Christians are to “reprove” or expose ungodliness. The scripture says “it is a shame” even to mention the wicked things unbelievers do in secret. As a culture, we have lost this sense of shame over the disgraceful sins society embraces. We don’t know how to blush anymore. Yet as the light of Christ’s truth shines on these dark places, the raw disgrace of evil has nowhere to hide (vv. 11–13). The only hope for those caught in this gloom is to “wake up” and “get up” as Christ gives light (v.14).

Walk in Wisdom (vv. 15–21)

Christians not only need to discern the Lord’s will (v.17), we must also “walk” in the wise way He chooses for us. We need to live attentively (KJV “circumspectly,” v.15) with the decided purpose of “buying up” every minute God gives us to do what pleases Him.

Wise living includes the imperative to “be filled with the Spirit” constantly (v.18). Spirit-fullness here contrasts drunkenness. While believers must avoid the controlling influence of alcohol (“Don’t ever take the first drink,” my father would say, “and you won’t ever be a drunkard!”), we must submit to the dominating rule of God’s Spirit. When we do, every part of our lives will reflect His work: our fellowship, worship and testimony (v.19), our humility, gratitude and praise (v.20), and our submissive faith (v.21).

Our Lord Himself gives us this promise: “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life,” (John 8:12). ■



Randy Sawyer

The Pastor as Worship Leader

Ever talk to yourself? Sure

you do! That's how the Psalmist begins Psalm 103. He writes, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name." Then, as he brings this powerful hymn to its conclusion, he invites all creation to join in the celebration. The poet is not only eager to offer whole-hearted praise, he is eager for others to join him.

The Mandate

After becoming a Christian, C.S. Lewis struggled with the issue of worship, wondering why the writers of scripture so adamantly call for believers to praise the Lord. He later concluded:

"I had not noticed... that just as men spontaneously praise whatever they value, so they spontaneously urge us to join them in praising it; Isn't she lovely? Wasn't it glorious? Don't you think that magnificent?" The Psalmists in telling everyone to praise God are doing what all men do when they speak of what they care about."

Worship, in fact, is not merely commended by the Psalmists, it is commanded throughout scripture. In his recently released book, *My Heart's Desire*, David Jeremiah notes, "Worship comes as a command, not a suggestion. God tells Abraham where to make sacrifice and what the sacrifice should be. Worship comes not as the fruit of our impulse, felt need, or creativity; it is the specific command of God. Worship is God's idea."

The Misconception

If worship is commended and commanded, and if it is the supreme expression of our values, how is it that this highest of human activities has become so

meaningless in most churches? In his book, *Jubilate*, Donald Hustad writes, "We cannot escape the probability that acts of Christian worship are not meaningful to most Americans in our day. This is demonstrated by the fact that the majority of people never participate in worship from week to week, and also by... the criticism of worship practices with which we are frequently confronted."

The truth is, we suffer from a profound misconception of what worship really is; most people go to church for what they get from attending. But worship is not about getting; it's about giving.

Worship is our unified, celebrative response of thanksgiving to God for His creative and redemptive acts in Christ Jesus our Lord. Worship is giving, giving honor and respect and praise to God. That is why we gather on Sunday as believers. We do not gather to give respect to the preacher or those in music ministry, we gather to give honor to the Lord. The message and music are the stimuli that kindle the passion in our hearts for worship.

In recent years, leading worship in the average church has been assigned almost solely to those who minister in music while pastors distanced themselves from any responsibility with regard to the spirit of worship. Consequently, a false dualism has resulted; for the musician, worship is about singing; and for the pastor it is about preaching.

This imbalance has resulted in a growing infatuation with various musical forms and a diminishing interest in "thus saith the Word of the Lord," with the average believer well versed with the sounds of praise but ill-equipped to reflect "the beauty of holiness."

The Measures

The recovery of biblical worship will occur only when pastors become more directly involved in developing a spirit of sincere worship, both personally and collectively. In taking more seriously the responsibility of leading my congregation in worship, I have adopted several practical measures.

First, I remember that I am to worship with the body of Christ. I can only lead in worship if I myself am thus engaged. So, I no longer sit or stand on the platform during the prayer and praise portion of the service, I stand on the front row and experience everything with the congregation. This keeps me from focusing on who is or isn't there and what is or isn't going on around me. I do not review my notes while a song is being sung or the offering collected. That is extremely discourteous and distracting to the musicians, and hinders me from worshipping with them as they sing.

While singing with the congregation, I sometimes close my eyes and imagine that I'm standing before the Great God Himself, believing I am offering my song of praise directly to Him. I'm not a hand raiser as such, and do not attempt to cultivate that with my folks. However, I do believe we are too self-conscious when engaged in public worship, and it might do our people good to see some physical and emotional expression of worship from us.

Second, I remain involved in planning the worship event. I meet weekly with the staff to discuss worship philosophy, forms and specifics. We work hard at keeping things fresh and alive. We utilize recent technological advances such as visual and sound enhancement,

THE TOGETHER WAY

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live drama or video clips, power point and graphics, while retaining traditional elements that offer a sense of continuity and history.

Our goal is not a Broadway style production, nor to impress people with our professionalism. We are simply attempting to harness emerging technology to enhance communication. I keep informed and involved, and take seriously the need to be biblically and theologically correct.

Third, I realize that the worship event is incomplete without the proclamation of the Word. As pastor, I work hard at having something substantial to set before my congregation. Further, I seek to inform, incite, instruct and inspire my hearers to worship "in spirit and in truth." True worship is more about being than doing, and they cannot possibly do unless they know.

Our greatest act of worship is submission to God's will and Word. I see the preaching of the Word, not as disconnected or separated from worship, but as the core of what we do in worship. I do not see the music as preliminary and preaching as primary, or the opposite. The music ministry and the preaching ministry are not in competition, but converge to lead our hearts to a deepening intimacy with God.

Most important, I resolve to keep my public worship real by cultivating my relationship with the Lord through private worship. "No man becomes suddenly different from his cherished habits," and no one, no matter how experienced, can offer true worship without the reality of a heart after God. Leading worship corporately begins in solitude. It is in being alone with God, ultimately, that the degree of our worship is measured. ■

Receipts:				Year To Date	Year To Date	Year To Date
State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Designated	CO-OP	Total
Alabama	\$ 284.20	\$.00	\$ 284.20	\$ 2,679.63	\$ 975.97	\$ 3,655.60
Arizona	.00	53.00	53.00	15.00	176.00	191.00
Arkansas	14,159.22	23,082.08	37,241.30	64,592.58	108,213.25	172,805.83
California	.00	1,214.82	1,214.82	100.00	7,098.91	7,198.91
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	114.40	.00	114.40
Florida	131.00	.00	131.00	256.96	4,536.00	4,792.96
Georgia	22,421.02	647.69	23,068.71	204,181.20	9,637.83	213,819.03
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	9,688.94	2,121.34	11,810.28	76,189.03	17,932.41	94,121.44
Indiana	1,551.11	136.43	1,687.54	11,275.34	1,161.23	12,436.57
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	65.00	65.00
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	.00	385.72	385.72
Kentucky	550.00	753.03	1,303.03	1,900.00	7,011.68	8,911.68
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Michigan	13,524.96	1,080.54	14,605.50	121,010.51	13,366.99	134,377.50
Mississippi	9,922.12	560.68	10,482.80	66,225.44	3,970.25	70,195.69
Missouri	38,884.13	14,792.54	53,676.67	261,038.64	98,818.16	359,856.80
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	2,692.07	170.55	2,862.62
North Carolina	648.00	2,854.74	3,502.74	8,677.58	15,679.28	24,356.86
Ohio	12,492.13	3,646.64	16,138.77	101,072.42	24,567.03	125,639.45
Oklahoma	48,649.49	9,418.96	58,068.45	381,090.98	67,149.61	448,240.59
South Carolina	43,300.60	30.34	43,330.94	258,834.19	245.94	259,080.13
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	29,146.48	1,326.28	30,472.76	73,235.73	7,666.37	80,902.10
Texas	.00	.00	.00	55,208.22	1,581.45	56,789.67
Virginia	64.76	32.10	96.86	838.95	218.68	1,057.63
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	1,145.00	72.40	1,217.40	7,653.68	732.94	8,386.62
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	580.44	13.33	593.77	3,911.71	77.86	3,989.57
Northwest Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.05	.05	.00	.06	.06
Totals	\$247,143.60	\$61,836.99	\$308,980.59	\$1,702,794.26	\$391,439.17	\$2,094,233.43

Disbursements:						
Executive Office	\$ 1,040.38	\$27,826.62	\$ 28,867.00	\$ 9,138.98	\$176,147.65	\$ 185,286.63
Foreign Missions	155,616.12	7,822.38	163,438.50	998,221.26	49,517.04	1,047,738.30
FWBBC	20,009.25	7,822.38	27,831.63	139,528.60	49,517.04	189,045.64
Home Missions	62,983.70	6,121.87	69,105.57	497,090.59	38,752.48	535,843.07
Retirement & Insurance	503.58	4,761.44	5,265.02	2,257.64	30,140.86	32,398.50
Master's Men	683.42	4,761.44	5,444.86	4,065.99	30,140.86	34,206.85
Comm. for Theo. Integrity	56.29	170.06	226.35	321.91	1,076.43	1,398.34
FWB Foundation	293.02	2,040.62	2,333.64	1,337.56	12,917.52	14,255.08
Historical Commission	56.29	170.06	226.35	321.90	1,076.43	1,398.33
Music Commission	84.74	170.06	254.80	211.56	1,076.43	1,287.99
Media Commission	144.74	170.06	314.80	616.56	1,076.43	1,692.99
Hillsdale FWB College	1,867.60	.00	1,867.60	12,655.58	.00	12,655.58
Other	3,804.47	.00	3,804.47	37,026.13	.00	37,026.13
Totals	\$247,143.60	\$61,836.99	\$308,980.59	\$1,702,794.26	\$391,439.17	\$2,094,233.43



Jack Williams

Unbaled Hay

When Dr. R. F. Smith, Jr., preached his annual “Unbaled Hay” sermons at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in Huntington, West Virginia, the community swarmed to hear him. The free-wheeling collection of unused sermon snippets, facts and odd items from his studies became Dr. Smith’s most remembered efforts.

So get ready to take on a load of unbaled hay from the Briefcase file—stuff I found while looking for something else. Here goes.

Frozen Beaver Tails. The West Carroll Parish Police Jury in Louisiana set a 90-day bounty on beaver tails this spring, \$25 per tail. Four guidelines applied, including this zinger: “No frozen beaver tails will be accepted.” *Please* don’t call me to explain.

However, someone might want to clarify beaver guideline #1. “Must furnish name, address and social security number.” Do Louisiana aquatic critters now wear name tags and carry social security cards?

Cowboys. Gene Autry wrote the “Cowboy Code” in 1939. It began, “The Cowboy must never shoot first, hit a smaller man or take unfair advantage.” I like the part about not hitting smaller men. Gene also said cowboys must be “gentle with children, the elderly and animals.” Which probably eliminates frozen beaver tail from the buckaroo menu.

A revered list of 55 famous cowboys and their horses identifies one screen legend who rode a pony named “Tarzan” while another saddled “Robin Hood.” Four stallions named “Silver” galloped across the prairie (sorry ‘bout that to all the Lone Ranger fans). However, there was only one “Champion the Wonder Horse” (Gene’s) and just one “Trigger” ridden by my hero, the King of the Cowboys himself, Roy Rogers.

Barbara Walters interviewed John Wayne shortly before his death from

cancer. As the man who tamed the West with a six-gun came to the end of the trail, he said: “I used to think that as long as I was as good as most people, the Man upstairs would let me into Heaven. I’m not so sure of that now.” Duke, you were burning daylight.

Frank Sinatra. My mother taught me to appreciate the crooning of Ol’ Blue Eyes, so I got hooked young. But what made me appreciate Frank Sinatra the man was his response when asked to sing at an atheist convention.

The invitation came from Madalyn Murray O’Hair who filed the test case that led to the U.S. Supreme Court ban on prayers in public schools. She asked Frank to sing at a benefit for the American Atheist Convention in New York City or to make a donation.

Sinatra sent a one-sentence reply: “I will not attend or perform or contribute to your atheist convention to be held at the New York Sheraton on April 9th, 10th and 11th of 1976, thank God.”

Seeing Eye Dogs. The first school for training dogs to guide the blind was founded in 1929 by Dorothy Eustice and Morris Frank who had been blind since age 16. The phrase which gave the school its name came from the Bible in Proverbs 20:12, “. . . the seeing eye, the Lord hath made. . . .”

For more than 70 years “Seeing Eye” dogs have given greater freedom to the blind around the world. Morris Frank called the dogs “God’s gift of new eyes.”

History of Torture. No, that’s not an analysis of my sermons. It’s one of the 250 linear feet of books in my office. You won’t like *Caesar’s Gallic War*, a 350-page hard cover with an 1895 copyright. Caesar generated better than he wrote.

Freedom and Crisis: An American History salutes events that signed America’s birth certificate. *Famous*

Biblical Hoaxes verifies that Christians will fall for anything. The *Reader’s Digest Bible* is dull. Jim Corbett’s *Man-Eaters of Kumaon* keeps me awake at night wary of India’s unstoppable killing machines, the man-eating tigers.

If you face unbearable grief, I recommend R. F. Smith’s *Sit Down, God . . . I’m Angry*. This 155-page plunge into troubled water at the dark end of life tells how a pastor grappled with God and faith after his 17-year-old son died in a boating accident.

Double Thanks. Thank God for the little Methodist church near Salem, Missouri, that produced, believe it or not, five Free Will Baptist preachers—Dale Skiles, Lonnie Skiles, Lawrence Thompson, Johnny Land and Elmer Turnbough.

Thank God for a sense of humor in Springdale, Arkansas. Pastor Loy Counts preached a funeral only to have both the body and hearse stolen by a wag who sold his bicycle that morning and needed a ride home. The Chevy Suburban with curtained windows, flowers and keys in the ignition proved irresistible to the gent with 60 arrests.

Back Door. When President John F. Kennedy spoke in San Antonio at the Alamo, he was on a tight schedule and had to make a hasty departure. Wanting to avoid crowds and reporters, Kennedy turned to his aide and asked, “Where’s the back door?” To which the aide replied, “Mr. President, if the Alamo had a back door we wouldn’t be celebrating any heroes.”

The Alamo may not have a back door, but Briefcase does. I’m gone for a second load of unbaled hay. ■



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