

April 2004

Contact

The Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist Next Door

How Not to Support
Your Missionary!

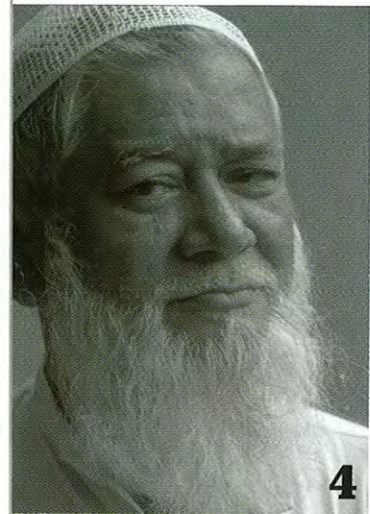
Would Jesus Buy
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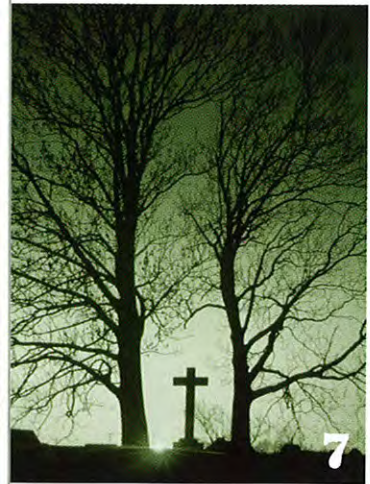
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Keith Burden

The Bad Haircut

Her name was Jennifer. I remember because I have a daughter with the same name. She seemed like a nice girl.

It had been a few weeks since my last haircut and I was looking ragged around the edges. I called my barber to schedule an appointment, but he didn't have an opening for two weeks. I couldn't wait that long.

I had visited another barbershop when I moved to the community. Big mistake. Even though I explained (in great detail) how I wanted my hair cut, the barber disregarded my instructions and proceeded to scalp me. I looked like a peeled onion when I slipped out of his chair. Folks weren't very complimentary the next Sunday at church.

Although I hadn't reached the point of desperation, I did need a trim, so I decided to try something different. A friend told me what he had done when faced with a similar situation. It sounded like a reasonable solution.

The local beauty college was on Main Street. Under the watchful eye of instructors, students learned how to cut and style hair. Jennifer was one of them.

Looking for a Good Deal

No appointment was necessary and the price was right. I figured I would get a good haircut and this young woman would get valuable experience in the process. It had every indication of being a win/win situation.

After I carefully described how I was accustomed to having my hair cut, she began clipping and snipping. I remember thinking, "I wonder why there aren't any mirrors in this shop?" As she worked, we touched on subjects ranging from the weather to our families. The conversation

was so enjoyable I lost track of time. Glancing at my watch I realized I had been in the chair for the better part of an hour.

I asked, "Are you about finished?" She nervously replied, "Yes, but I need my instructor's approval before you can leave." The two discussed my haircut. The teacher made a few suggestions, took comb and scissors in hand and continued trimming. I was apprehensive.

What Have I Done?

There is no way to describe how I felt when I looked in the rearview mirror of my car. I couldn't believe my eyes—uneven sideburns, visible ridges left by the scissors, and my hair was *short!*

I called a lady in our church, a professional beautician, and asked if she could work me in that afternoon. She started laughing the moment she saw me. She did her best then sent me on my way with these encouraging words—"There's nothing wrong with your hair that two weeks' growth won't fix." I looked like a human porcupine.

A Hair-Raising Experience

I learned some important lessons from that embarrassing experience:

Don't procrastinate. The familiar adage comes into play here—"Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today." Had I called my barber and scheduled an appointment earlier, none of this would have happened.

There's no substitute for experience. Jennifer had the best intentions. She didn't deliberately botch my haircut. She did the best she could, but she had not yet developed the skills to cut hair.

You get what you pay for. I paid for a cheap haircut and that's what I got. Some things in life are more important than saving a buck or two... like your appearance. You can't always put a price tag on quality.

Making It Practical

It doesn't take a genius to transfer these principles into the spiritual realm. For instance, if God has been dealing with you about obeying a directive or carrying out an act of kindness, don't procrastinate. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10).

Christian service is important. God deserves our best. Believers should seek to develop their gifts and abilities. Remember, consecrated incompetence is still incompetence. There is no substitute for experience.

Finally, cost should not always be the determining factor when it comes to making ministry decisions. We should never squander resources the Lord has given us, but cheaper isn't necessarily better. If something is worth doing, it's worth doing right, and sometimes doing things right is more expensive.

My hair grew back in a few weeks. Like Samson, I learned my lesson. That was my last trip to the beauty college. But I've always wondered—could that instructor's name have been Delilah? ■





**The mission field has come to America.
What will we do with the strangers among us?**



I spent 18 months traveling America gathering support from Free Will Baptist churches. From Virginia to California, Iowa to Alabama, I listened to pastors, deacons and congregants

The Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist Next Door

By Sean Warren



expound their views of Muslims and others who have “infiltrated our Christian country.”

Almost without exception, this influx of foreigners is viewed as a threat, a negative. There is even a sense of anxiety with some in which we (the church) may have to live with these “others,” and perhaps, given enough time for their numbers to grow, these “others” will drive us to live in the shadows.

Why Play Defense?

This mischaracterization of the immigrant community is embodied best by a Chick tract that shows a stereotypical Muslim in Middle Eastern garb with a sword, AK-47 rounds, planting a flag in the middle of the United States. Off in the distance stands a pastor with his deacon behind him nervously clutching a Bible. The caption reads, “Once again Islam is on the offensive.”

My question simply is this, why must we play defense? In 1864, Sabine Baring-Gould penned the song “Onward Christian Soldiers.” The first verse says:

**Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the Royal Master, leads against the foe;
forward into battle see His banners go!**



Muslim Encounters

We must go forward into this battle, and, yes, it is a battle. But not against people, not against those trapped, but against the one who is doing the trapping. We get this confused too often. Two stories illustrate the point.

I was in a church conducting a seminar on Islam. After the service a man came up and said, “Thank you. I used to think the only good Muslim was a dead Muslim.”

Inside me, I had a small gratification knowing I had helped this man see beyond a demonic religion to a human soul that God Himself created. A person for whom the Son of God hung on a cross. This man will now run into battle looking to share the gospel.

My next encounter was diametrically opposite. This time, I conducted the same seminar and had some time after the service to converse with a few men. One discussed how he had been going door to door witnessing, when he came upon a Muslim woman getting out of her car. She had the *Qur’an* in her hand when he approached.

While he was telling me this story, his friend chimed, “Did you give her what for?” I understood this to be, did you tell her off. They both chuckled, and he shared her response. I was despondent. The Bible is not a club, and when we take pride in

sticking our finger in someone's face, condemning them to Hell—where is the compassion?

Trendy Outreach?

I could go on with story after story sharing how we Free Will Baptists approach Muslims and immigrants in general. On several occasions, I have been questioned as to the "why" of ministry to Muslims. I have been told I should stay home and minister and "let them go to Hell." Another says, "That ministry is too difficult; go where the harvest is."

I am struck with amazement at the suggestions. In what chapter does the Bible qualify ministry only to those whom we find easy? Tell that to the John Weavers in Afghanistan, the Craig Portells of Mongolia, and to those who have labored and not in vain. Gaze upon the converts from Islam and dare say it is not worth it.

For some time now, these statements have been eating away at me. The quintessential example came at a men's retreat. A man looked at me and asked, "Isn't Muslim ministry a little trendy?" This was said with an audience and a smirk.

I replied that in the early 1960s there were more missionaries to Alaska than to all the Muslim world combined. If we were to line up 100 missionaries today, only six would be working with Muslims. There are over one billion Muslims on the planet. After sharing this information, I looked at him and said, "I hope to God it becomes trendy."

Immigration Facts

Regarding that Muslim immigrant or Hindu or Buddhist or whoever living next door to you or in your community, the Center for Immigration Studies says:

- The number of immigrants living in the United States has more than tripled since 1970, from 9.6 million to 28.4 million.
- Immigration has become the determinate factor in population growth. The 11.2 million immigrants who indicated they arrived between 1990 and 2000, plus the 6.4 million children born to immigrants in the United States during the 1990s are equal to almost 70 percent of U.S. population growth over the last 10 years.
- The percentage of immigrants without a high school diploma is 30 percent, more than three times the rate for natives.
- The poverty rate for immigrants is 50 percent higher than that of natives, with immigrants and their U.S.-born children (under age 21) accounting for 22 percent of all persons living in poverty.

- Immigration accounts for virtually all the national increase in public school enrollment over the last two decades. In 2000, there were 8.6 million school-age children from immigrant families in the United States.

Opportunity or Aggravation?

What do you see? Do you see school children who need help? Do you see immigrants living in poverty? Do you see people who need the gospel? Opportunity or aggravation? Are you in a defensive posture or offensive? Do you wish to win the argument or win a soul?

I visited with a pastor friend who lives in a small Missouri town. Its population is about 6,000, a fairly tight-knit community. A Muslim doctor from Pakistan recently moved in and works at the hospital in town. This pastor shared a visit with one of his congregants who had been very ill. As he knelt on the floor to pray, he held the patient's hand. He soon felt another hand grasp his; the Muslim doctor knelt down to pray as well.

This deeply moved the pastor, knowing this Muslim's prayers would not be heard by a loving God. He asked me how he could reach out to this man. My response was to open his church on Fridays to pray with this Muslim. Friday is the Muslim holy day, and this man does not have a Mosque to attend in this community. The pastor replied, "I bet he would come here and pray, and I could pray with him as well."

Strangers Among Us

His desire reminded me of Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple in II Chronicles 6:32-33,

"Moreover concerning the stranger, which is not of thy people Israel, but is come from a far country for thy great name's sake, and thy mighty hand, and thy stretched out arm; if they come and pray in this house; Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for; that all people of the earth may know thy name, and fear thee, as doth thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name."

Solomon saw foreigners as opportunities to tell the nations of God's name. How do you see the Muslim next door? ■



About the Writer: Sean Warren is a Free Will Baptist missionary to France. He is a 1996 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Sean completed a master's degree in Islamic studies at Columbia International University.

Hope from a Sinking Casket

By Frank Gregory

I numbly watched as that brown casket was lowered into the ground. In the background a

beautiful sunset brought an end to a lovely December day. That day had been anything but lovely to me, because I had just seen my dad that day for the last time. Dad was the one in the casket being lowered into the ground.

The lower that casket sank, the deeper my heart sank with it. I watched it go down until it was completely out of sight.

What Will Happen to Us?

Night was coming. Our family would have many long nights now. The father, the husband, the comedian, the provider, the rock, the hunter, the farmer, the future was gone.

What would we do? Were we still going to build a house? Where would we live if we didn't? The house we lived in was selling and we had to get out soon. What would happen?

That night, people came to our house. More came the next day. It was Sunday. We did not go to church that day. Everything was confused. I could still see that casket going down—lower, lower, lower. It is hard to separate the soul from the body for a nine-year-old. For all practical purposes, my dad was in that casket. He was in the ground.

Sometime after his death, it rained. My young sister, Tammy, who was only three years old, cried because her daddy was getting wet. What hope do you give a kid who watches his daddy sink into the earth, never to be heard from again? Forget about easy answers, how about *just answers*.

Why Was Jesus Late?

Mary was so upset when her brother died that she challenged Jesus about His tardiness and not trying harder to prevent Lazarus' death. Even though she believed in the resurrection, she had yet to embrace Jesus as the resurrection and the life.

Mary was still not convinced when Jesus spoke the words "*I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*" Her faith gave way to sight, however, when Jesus called Lazarus forth from the dead.

In those three words, "*Lazarus, come forth,*" grief and despair gave way to hope. Mary knew in that instant that Jesus was the resurrection and the life.

She was witnessing it in a very tangible way. Lazarus was alive!

Life After Death

Even though I was familiar with the story of Lazarus, what was God going to do about me not having a father? For starters, our family moved into a new house 15 months after Dad was buried. God was proving Himself just as able to get a house for us as He had been in taking my father to his eternal destination. The healing came slowly, but it came.

I still see that casket sinking in the sunset, but more importantly, I see the sun rising to a new day when I will walk with my dad in the presence of Jesus. I have found my hope from a sinking casket, in an empty manger, on an empty cross and in an empty tomb. His name is Immanuel—God with us. ■



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 by Randall House Publications.

Attitudes toward missionaries and missions are changing. A veteran missionary responds to the changes.

How **Not** to Support Your Missionary!

By Lynette Morgan

After 40 years in missions, I have witnessed a change in thought and practice among Free Will Baptists about missions. In the early years (1960s, 70s and 80s) the missionary was a person set apart—

a special person. Not to say that such a perspective was accurate, but that's the way it was.

The Way It Was


There were accepted ways of supporting missionaries then. Along with the monthly giving to the missionary's account, we were invited into homes to spend the night and have meals. Children listened raptly as we shared exciting tales of life on the field and showed pictures of animals they would only dream about owning as pets.

Furlough often began with a pounding that helped us set up housekeeping or a shower that uplifted the weary soul, making us feel special. We were outfitted with much-needed new clothes, toiletries and cosmetics, or provided

with necessary funds to buy winter clothes for the family.

Christmas on the field meant receiving exciting shoeboxes crammed with toys for the kids, goodies for the adults and American candy and cake mixes. There were also the we-were-thinking-about-you boxes and cards that brightened the day. Hardly a month went by that we didn't receive boxes for the hospital ministry, but tucked inside most of the medicine bottles were candies and little toys or gadgets.

If you had asked me then how not to support your missionary, I



would have said, please don't send empty medicine bottles: fill them with candy and gum. And thanks for the used tea bags, discarded false teeth and 10-year-old magazines and newspapers, but. . . . Yet it was the thought that counted and it meant a lot to know people were thinking of us and praying for us.

The Way It Is

Today the world is changing. Even the definition of "missionary" is no longer the same. I have heard it said over and over: "Everyone is a missionary." I prefer to see that there is a difference between a missionary and a witness—one who shares his faith and experience with Jesus Christ.

The word *missionary* has lost its original meaning based on the Latin verb *mitto* which means "I send." Perhaps the thinking then, is, "If we're all missionaries, why should I be involved with what *he* is doing?"

In the book, *What in the World Is God Doing?*, C. Gordon Olson explains it this way: "Frequently one hears it said that every Christian is a missionary—that is, that every Christian ought to be a missionary. . . . It sounds good, but this kind of fuzzy thinking only clouds the issue. Every Christian cannot be a missionary, nor should be. . . . It is just like saying that every Christian ought to be a pastor, or that every Christian ought

to be an evangelist. . . . But as pastors and evangelists are specially called by God for a ministry of the word of God, just so with the missionary!"

A missionary has most often given up his own culture, home and family and friends to go where life is not *[always]* comfortable and where he must learn another language and culture, lifestyle and method of ministering.

In many Christian communities, there is a greater missions' awareness than ever before and more Christians are getting involved in other ways that allow them to have a more hands-on approach to the great commission.

I understand, after living in the United States the past 18 months due to a change in ministry, that the lifestyle here is so hectic people don't have the *time* to engage in such activities as sending packages to missionaries and receiving missionaries into their homes. There's always a nice hotel right across from the church, and we get to eat at the favorite restaurants of pastors and deacons. (Hey, I'm not complaining; I love to stay in hotels and eat out! I'm just pointing out how things have changed.)

The Way It Could Be

Yet in many Christian communities, there is a greater missions' awareness than ever before and more Christians are getting involved in other ways that allow them to have a more hands-on approach to the great commission. (Perhaps this is one reason for the feeling that all Christians are missionaries.)

More short-term missions trips are made now than in the past, which is a positive influence causing people to be more involved in missions when they return to their homes and careers.

Taking all this into consideration, my expectations of supporters have also changed to some degree. Putting aside the material aspects of supporting missionaries, the following are the faux pas that most affect the missionary:

- Promising to pray and then failing to follow through.
- Making a faith promise commitment and not keeping it.
- Committing to write, phone, e-mail and not doing it.
- Supporting a missionary but not learning about the field nor keeping abreast of what God is doing there.
- Taking a trip to an area of the world where your missionary serves and not visiting their ministry area, and just doing the tourist thing.
- Saying you want to spend time with your missionary and never getting around to it.
- Promising to have your missionary for a service in your church and not extending the invitation.
- Spending over \$50 a month on a cell phone bill or other non-essentials, and saying there is no money for missions.
- Simply forgetting your missionary.

These are some ways to "not support your missionary." But there are many more ways to be involved, including the reverse of the above. Your missionary is counting on you to be engaged with them in reaching the lost for Christ.

I am honored and humbled that God has called us to be missionaries. But, unlike most other jobs, we are not independent but rather interdependent. We must have others behind us and beside us to pray for and support us financially. Our supporters, as we do, have a strategic role in God's plan to reach the world. We are all in this together. We thank God for the Christians He has raised up who faithfully partner with us to get the Good News to the ends of the earth. ■



About the Writer: Mrs. Lynette Morgan and her husband (Clint) have served in Côte d'Ivoire, Africa, since 1978. They are currently on special assignment developing strategies for Free Will Baptists to minister in restricted-access countries.

A large, stylized green question mark is positioned in the upper center of the page. To its right, two green dice with white pips are stacked, with the top die showing a one and the bottom die showing a six. The background is a light green with a subtle, wavy pattern.

Part two of a three-part series on gambling in America.

Would Jesus Buy a Lottery Ticket?

By Dave Nobles

Gambling is one of the most destructive elements in our culture. Those in the grip of this awful sin know its crushing power. If we raise our voices in protest, we must do so as God directed—based

on solid biblical principle. We must not only know statistics (the facts) but also the truth as given in the Word of God. It is the truth that will set men free, not statistics.

We often hear it said that gambling is not mentioned in scripture, so there must be nothing wrong with it. Better look again!

Breaks Three Commandments

If you went to a casino and asked Joe Homeowner who is there for a few days of fun if he keeps the Ten Commandments, he would probably say he does—at least most of the time. If you accused him of stealing, idolatry or greed, he would be insulted.

Yet, that is what happens when a person gambles.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant,

nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's (Ex. 20:17).

Paul explained it this way:

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows (1 Tim. 6:10).

The love of money is not really about money but about what it can buy. It is what we perceive money can bring us that makes it valuable. The average person believes money can bring happiness, and gambling looks like an easy way to get lots of it.

For some, money means more “things.” For others, money means power. For most, money means security.

At the bottom of every gambler's heart is a desire for what money brings so he can be happy. Gambling

appears to be a shortcut to prosperity and happiness. The Bible calls it greed—covetousness. The gambler sees others enjoying power, wealth, fame, acclaim . . . and he wants it.

Greed can control the heart of man. The book of I John calls it the *lust of the eyes*. What we see, we want. If we get it and enjoy it, we want more. That's greed. If we are not careful, greed (covetousness) takes over our thinking. How do we get more money so we can fulfill those desires? A better job is not always an option, and theft is out of the question, so gambling seems to be the easy way to riches.

It seems so easy, so harmless. Who can it hurt? After all, it is only a slot machine or a two-dollar lottery ticket.

The answer is: It can hurt me! Greed is like an addictive drug. Its perfume is sweet, but its bite deadly. The lure of easy money can cause the strongest person to fall.

Otherwise honest, hard-working people will stoop to theft or embezzlement to feed a gambling habit. The hardcore gambler may lose his savings, his house, his family or his own life. For the person caught in the grip of a gambling habit, nothing is more important than the next game, the next lottery ticket, the next race or the next throw of the dice.

Teens, as well as adults, get snared in the gambling trap. A 19-year-old youth from a small Iowa town, unable to face his large gambling losses, penned a short note, saying, "I'm out of control." Then he killed himself. Three New Jersey high school students were arrested for running a \$6,500-per-week sports betting operation. A 16-year-old paid off his gambling debts by turning his girlfriend into a prostitute.¹

Thou shalt have no other gods before me (Ex. 20:3).

Paul said:

... and covetousness, which is idolatry (Col. 3:5).

According to the dictionary, a god is "one that is worshipped, idealized or followed."² The thing you allow to control your thinking is your god. Paul made it clear that the controlling nature of greed makes it a god.

There is one more commandment to be considered.

Thou shalt not steal (Ex. 20:15).

Where does the money originate? Lottery winners essentially take money from people who can least afford to lose it.

The National Gambling Impact Study Commission (report published 1999) says lotteries function as a regressive tax, taking from the poor and giving to those better off. A person making less than \$10,000 per year spends an average of \$597 on the lottery, more percentage wise than in any other income group.³

Suppose you hit the big one and win a multi-million dollar lottery. The possibility of that happening is greater than a million to one, but let's suppose it does. Remember, the money came from people who could no more afford to lose it than you. It is as though you put your hand in their pocket and stole their wallet.

True, you did not force them. It was their choice. But that's the same argument a con artist uses who swindles the unsuspecting elderly out of their life savings. Gambling makes empty promises so that the unsuspecting willingly give their money. It is still stealing.

I realize that some can afford to lose what they gamble. They willingly put their money in the pot, but they did

Greed is like an addictive drug. Its perfume is sweet, but its bite deadly.

not expect you to take it. It is not a gift. They expected to win so they could take your money. If they did not make a gift to you of the money, if they did not want you to have it, if they did not owe you the money, how do you explain the fact you have their money?

Destroys Christian Stewardship

As Christians, we are stewards of what God has given us. We do not own ourselves or our money. Paul said:

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (I Cor. 6:19-20).

If God owns me, He owns all I have, including my money. Not only does the 10 percent (tithe) belong to Him, but the rest of it does as well.

A person making less than \$10,000 per year spends an average of \$597 on the lottery, more percentage wise than in any other income group.

Over the years I worked at jobs which required that I handle sums of money. In a retail outlet, it meant using a cash register and being responsible for the money at the end of the day. Without exception, if an employee was found taking five or 10 dollars from a cash drawer, he would be fired. The boss called it stealing.

Should we be less accountable to God than we are to an earthly boss? Sure, God has plenty and does not need our money, but He expects us to use the money He has given us for His glory, just as a boss expects us to use the business and his money to bring him a profit.

Causes Laziness

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth (Eph. 4:28).

How do we take care of the needs of our family and others? The Bible way is work. The work ethic began in the Garden of Eden with Adam (Gen. 2:15). Work was a part of the blessing of God on Adam, not the curse. The curse of sin brought hardship in work, not work itself (Gen. 3:17-19).

There are three ways to receive money—work, gifts or theft. Work may include investments, a job, a business or any other service for which a person can be paid. Most of us will gain whatever we have through hard work. Few will be given enough to live. Most will not wish to steal and risk jail.

Gambling encourages one to look for an easy way to get rich quick. Why work if you are going to hit the big one?

Answer from Scripture

Is investing in the stock market gambling? It involves risk and people lose money.

This question comes up often from people who hate gambling and do not want to be guilty of the things mentioned above. Let's acknowledge that all of

life involves risk. Getting out of bed in the morning or driving your car risks your life.

Investing one's money should be done with caution

and wisdom. Reckless investing is not gambling, but it is poor judgment. Whether in the stock market, a mutual fund, a retirement program or a bank CD, investing should be done with prayer, good financial advice and caution.

Putting money in investments that have no basis in good business judgment is no better than throwing money away at a casino. Looking for the get-rich-quick investment where only a small amount is put in and big money is to be gained in a short period of time is more than risk. It's gambling.

Was "casting lots" in the Bible the same as dice? If God told them to use dice, what's the problem with games of chance?

This is a legitimate question. People want to justify what they do and make it look like the Bible is either silent on the matter or supports their sin. At the very least, they claim a "contradiction" in scripture.

Lots were used in the Old Testament and, prior to the Day of Pentecost, in the New Testament as well. God included the use of lots in ceremonies involved on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16). The land was divided with the use of lots by Joshua (Jos. 18). Proverbs names lots as a way to resolve disputes and know the will of God (Prov. 18:18; 16:33). When the disciples needed to replace Judas, they used the lot to decide between Matthias and Joseph Barsabbas (Acts 1).

Does that mean we should use dice to know the will of the Lord? Should we sanction games of chance



Looking for the get-rich-quick investment where only a small amount is put in and big money is to be gained in a short period of time is more than risk. It's gambling.

as God's will in a Christian's life? Certainly not! Lots were not dice as we know them, but rocks. Sometimes they were designed to fall differently as they were cast, and other sets were of differing colors.

Casting lots was used in the Old Testament before the indwelling Holy Spirit. After the beginning of the church and coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, decisions were made through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

God did not sanction a game of chance using lots. The use of lots was a means of making decisions and knowing the will of God in a matter, not a game of chance for money. God chose to use such a practice for the guidance of His people, just as He did other things that may not be needed today since we have the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The fact that a sinful world would use lots for gambling (the Roman soldiers for the clothes of Jesus) does not make God a gambler or One who encourages such behavior.

Conclusion of the Matter

While this article does not answer all the questions on gambling, I do hope it will encourage you to go to scripture and answer the questions from there. Based on biblical evidence, gambling cannot be justified in any form. The evidence is clear. Gambling breaks the

commandments, corrupts stewardship and produces laziness. ■



About the Writer: Dr. Dave Nobles pastors Bethel Free Will Baptist Church in Woodbridge, Virginia. Dr. Nobles published *Whoever Will* in 2002, a 132-page review of Arminianism and Calvinism. He has pastored 38 years.

¹Morgan, Timothy C., "The Invisible Addiction," *Christianity Today*: April 8, 1996.

²Excerpted from *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition*© 1996 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.

³Kelly, Timothy A. PhD., *Gambling Backlash: Time for a Moratorium on Casino and Lottery Expansion*, Family Research Council Newsletter entitled *Insight*, Number 215, March 17, 2000.



An East Tennessee ministry to children reaches beyond state borders to touch the nation.

MISSION *of* OPPORTUNITIES

By Ralph Dingus

Wednesday, December 31, 2003, marked a day of new beginnings and broader opportunities in the history of Free Will Baptist Family Ministries (FWBFM) that will not soon be forgotten. This was the day, in Little Rock,

There is nothing institutional about the cottages. They are places where children can kick off their shoes at the door and enjoy the comfort of their homes.

Arkansas, when the board of trustees at Florence Crittenton Services, Inc., signed documents transferring facilities and assets to be managed by FWBFM.

Miracle at Little Rock

The Florence Crittenton facility occupies a 1.86 acre-site, a full city block in Little Rock, that includes a 12,500-square-foot home and administrative offices. The property is licensed to serve up to 30 children and comes with a 2,200-square-foot certified school facility on the premises. The Crittenton Home has ministered to hundreds of women since its conception in 1903, providing services to teens and unwed mothers in crisis situations.

FWBFM will bring to the Florence Crittenton Home a high expectation of even greater things to come. During the transition period over the next 12–18 months, the facility will undergo a time of development for services and ministries. While continuing to serve families through existing programs, we hope to add residential services in the near future.

God has blessed FWBFM with an incredible opportunity which we have taken on by faith with no prior commitment of outside support. Along with this opportunity, of course, comes the responsibility to accomplish the work He has placed before us. In order for us to reach these new goals, we are asking for Free Will Baptist participation from across America. We hope you will consider helping us as updates and renovations are needed. (If you would like to be involved with this project, contact Ralph Dingus, director of development, at 423-639-9449.) Together, we can continue “Changing America’s Families, One Child at a Time.”

But as important as the Little Rock opportunity is, we have another older, on-going responsibility at FWBFM. We call it M-O-V-E. Let me tell you about it.

Mission

The mission of FWB Family Ministries *is to meet the needs of children and families by seeking to unify and preserve the family in order to share Christ and instill Christian values.* The images in the home’s brochures, videos and webpage portray clean, happy, smiling, sweet children playing together. You see them interacting with house parents, playing games, feeding and caring for their sheep and cows, doing chores, attending school and church.

Yes, that’s the image and the fact. However, each child’s history can be so different and so sad and even shocking for those of us who grew up in a strong and loving family. Statistics show that 83% of the children in our care come from abusive situations. One great avenue for bringing long-term change in the lives of youth and families is to partner with the family in their own home.

Our reunification program gives us this opportunity. When a child leaves one of our residential or foster homes and returns to live with his own family, one of our family specialists provides transitional services for a period of up to nine months.

This program has seen explosive growth over the past several months. Families served in our reunification program take part in a two-day skill-building retreat at OAKS camp. Families participate in the ropes course and other team building activities. In addition, they attend educational sessions throughout the retreat. Yes, there’s more. . . .

Opportunity

Opportunity to advance brings responsibility to accomplish the goals God sets before us. We have been given opportunity to expand and improve, to “enlarge our territory” as it were. As God has given us new territory, we have not faltered in seizing those opportunities but have taken advantage of them.

The picture of the “Big House” on our Greeneville, Tennessee, property is no longer valid. There is nothing institutional about the cottages these days. Sometimes nicer than those the child comes from, these are indeed “homes”—brick ranches, traditional farm houses, even a gorgeous modern log home.

Restoring or creating a child’s self-esteem and self-worth begins with these well-kept exteriors and interiors, quality furnishings, updated appliances and amenities, and cheerful homey décor. It’s a place where they can kick off their shoes at the door and enjoy the comfort of their home.

Vision

Our vision at FWB Family Ministries *is to be nationally recognized as a model of excellence in family and child care services.* FWBFM was established in 1939 by Free Will Baptists who envisioned the creation of a children’s orphanage. From that humble beginning, each administration has shaped the ministry with their unique contributions bringing it to where it is today. Over the past five years, we have served children and families in 14 states as well as Puerto Rico and Canada.

When Dr. James Kilgore came to FWB Family Ministries, he asked God to let us build and grow. This was our mountain, and we wanted to climb and conquer it. God has given us many mountains as we embraced the vision He has for us. We have kept our sights on His goals. The rebuilding and renovations at the OAKS after the 2001 floods will include Class-A RV and tent sites. We plan to open the EcoQuest Learning Center. The Hope Center, our outreach to young women in the surrounding community, served 278 clients in 2003.

We enlarged our capacity to care for more children through opening a home in Virginia and most recently by reaching out to Arkansas. We researched the possibilities of embracing the elderly in a living-assisted environment, creating a safe haven for their senior years. We have built and we have grown, but we cannot be satisfied. There are so many hurting children and families across this nation who need our help.

Expectations

Expectations of great things to come through God. We have learned not to limit Him or the potential eternal impact that

FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

68th Annual Convention
July 18-22, 2004
Kansas City, Missouri



harvesttime
CONVENTION 2004 *National Association of Free Will Baptists*

Welcome to Kansas City

A Flavor All Its Own!

Incorporated in 1850, Kansas City played a major role in North American history as the gateway to the Old West. Countless wagon trains of pioneers, missionaries and traders began their courageous journeys here. In time, the railroad and the livestock industry established Kansas City as a booming business community. Today, the city continues to build upon its colorful past with rich cultural exhibits and historic sites . . . not to mention world-famous barbeque and good-natured fun. Come and see why Kansas City has **a flavor all its own!**

FOR A FREE VISITOR'S GUIDE:

Visit www.visitkc.com.

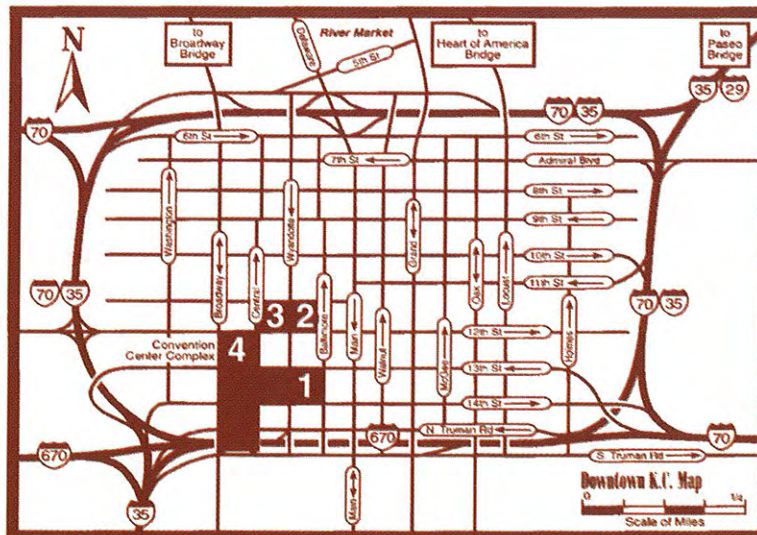
Contact the Kansas City Convention and Visitor's Bureau by calling (800) 767-7700.

HOTEL INFORMATION:

HOTEL	RATE	PARKING
Kansas City Marriott <i>Headquarters Hotel</i>	\$119	\$10-Self \$12-Valet
Doubletree Hotel	\$109	\$6-Self \$10-Valet
Hotel Phillips	\$115	\$12/Day Valet Only

All convention hotels are located within easy walking distance of the convention center.

NO HOTEL RESERVATIONS TAKEN UNTIL APRIL 1, 8:00 CST.



Kansas City Marriott

200 W. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64105
800.228.9290
FAX 816.471.5631
www.marriott.com

Doubletree Hotel

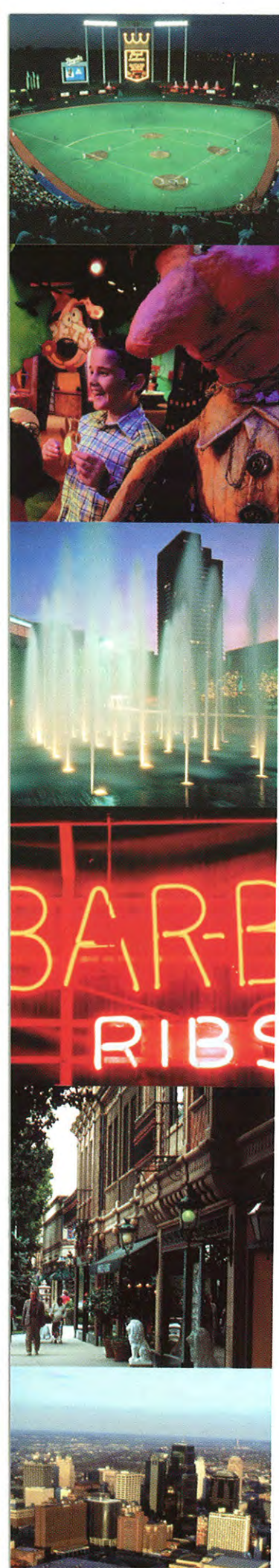
1301 Wyandotte
Kansas City, MO 64105
816.474.6664
FAX 816.474.0192
www.kansascitydowntown.doubletree.com

Hotel Phillips

106 West 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64105
800.433.1426FAX
816.221.3477
www.hotelphillips.com

MAP LOCATION

1. Doubletree Hotel
2. Hotel Phillips
3. Kansas City Marriott
4. Convention Center



housing

National Association of Free Will Baptists * Kansas City, MO * July 18-22, 2004
 Women Nationally Active for Christ * National Youth Conference

Step one

Personal Information

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

Personal Information:

 (Confirmations will be mailed to this person only.)

Contact name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Special Requests:

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

Room Occupants:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Step two

Hotel Information

Complete the **Hotel Information**. Mark the box to the right, indicating the hotel in which you would like to reserve a room and the room configuration you want.

Include arrival and departure dates. Please see page 2 for more information about the hotel choices available in Kansas City.

ARRIVAL DATE ____ / ____ / ____

DEPARTURE DATE ____ / ____ / ____

Hotel Information: (PLEASE SEND ONLY ONE FORM PER ROOM REQUEST)

MARK THE BOX that corresponds to the hotel and room you want	SINGLE 1 BED/ 1 PERSON	DOUBLE 1 BED/ 2 PERSONS	DBL/DBL 2 BEDS/ 2 PERSONS	TRIPLE 2 BEDS/ 3 PERSONS	QUAD 2 BEDS/ 4 PERSONS	ROLL- AWAY BED	PARKING RATES
Kansas City Marriott <i>Headquarters Hotel</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$119	<input type="checkbox"/> \$119	<input type="checkbox"/> \$119	<input type="checkbox"/> \$119	<input type="checkbox"/> \$119	N/A	\$10-Self \$12-Valet
Doubletree Hotel <i>Suites Available</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109 <input type="checkbox"/> \$129	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109 <input type="checkbox"/> \$129	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109 <input type="checkbox"/> \$129	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109 <input type="checkbox"/> \$129	<input type="checkbox"/> \$109 <input type="checkbox"/> \$129	\$15/ Day	\$6-Self \$10-Valet
Hotel Phillips	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	\$15/ Day	\$12/Day Valet Only

Step three

Payment Options

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

Kansas City Marriott
 200 W. 12th Street
 Kansas City, MO 64105
 800.228.9290
 FAX 816.471.5631
 www.marriott.com
 group code: FWBFWBA

Doubletree Hotel
 1301 Wyandotte
 Kansas City, MO 64105
 816.474.6664
 FAX 816.474.0192
 www.kansascitydowntown.
 doubletree.com
 group code: FWB

Hotel Phillips
 106 West 12th Street
 Kansas City, MO 64105
 800.433.1426
 FAX 816.221.3477
 www.hotelphillips.com
 email reservations to:
 jongalloway@hotelphillips.com

Step four

Reserving a Room

You may phone, mail, fax or send your housing form via the internet. If mailing or faxing, please write or type all information requested on this form, and **send it directly to the hotel of your choice no later than Friday, June 18, 2004**. All electronic reservations require a credit card for advance deposit. Reservations received after this date are subject to availability and may be at a higher rate.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE! An advance deposit of \$145 is required. Without complete credit card or check information, your reservation will not be processed.

Payment Options:

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____

Name on Card _____

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

Don't Delay! Reservations must be made by June 18, 2004.

schedu

Saturday, July 17

Registration Opens

3:00 pm-7:00 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

Sunday, July 18

Sunday School

10:00 am-10:45 am

Kansas City Convention Center/Marriott

Morning Worship

11:00 am-12:00 Noon

Kansas City Convention Center/Marriott

Evening Worship

7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

NYC Worship Services

7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center/Marriott

Monday, July 19

General Board Meeting

8:00 am-2:30 pm

Kansas City Marriott

NYC Competitive Activities

8:30 am-4:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center/Marriott

NYC Seminars

1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

WNAC Seminar

1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

Missions Rally

3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

Exhibit Area Open

3:00 pm-10:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

Children's Banquet

5:00 pm

Doubletree Hotel

Tweener Banquet

5:00 pm

Doubletree Hotel

Evening Worship

7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

NYC Worship Services

7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center/Marriott

Youth Worker Reception

9:00 pm

Doubletree Hotel

Tuesday, July 20

NYC Competitive Activities

8:30 am-4:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center/Marriott

WNAC Convention

9:00 am-10:50 am

Kansas City Convention Center

Preaching Conference

9:00 am-11:00 am

Kansas City Convention Center

Exhibit Area Open

10:00 am-10:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

NYC Seminars

10:00 am-4:00 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

WNAC Missionary Service

11:00 am

Kansas City Convention Center

Hillsdale College Luncheon

12:00 noon

Kansas City Marriott

WNAC Luncheon

12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

Theological Trends Seminar

3:00 pm-4:00 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

Evening Worship

7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

NYC Worship

7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center/Marriott

Youth Banquet

9:00 pm-11:00 pm

Kansas City Marriott

Wednesday, July 21

NYC Competitive Finals

8:00 am-11:00 am

Kansas City Marriott

Convention Business Session

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

NYC Seminars

10:00 am-4:00 pm

Kansas City Convention Center/Marriott

Exhibit Area Open

10:00 am-10:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

FWBBC Luncheon

12:00 noon-1:15 pm

Kansas City Marriott

Evening Worship

7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

NYC Awards Ceremony

9:00 pm

Kansas City Convention Center

Thursday, July 22

Concluding Business Session

9:00 am

Kansas City Convention Center

Security Notice
In light of ongoing security concerns, official convention name badges will be required for all convention events.

e of events

Worship Service Information

Adult worship is scheduled Sunday morning and each evening Sunday through Wednesday.

Student worship (grades 7-12) is scheduled Sunday morning and each evening Sunday through Tuesday.

Tweener worship (grades 4-6) is scheduled Sunday morning and each evening Sunday through Tuesday.

Children's worship (grades 1-3) is scheduled Sunday morning and each evening Sunday through Tuesday.

Preschool worship (ages 3-6) is scheduled Sunday morning and each evening Sunday through Wednesday.

Convention Rehearsal Schedules

Convention Choir:

Sunday 5:00 pm and 8:30 pm
Monday 5:30 pm
Tuesday 5:45 pm and 8:30 pm
Wednesday 5:30 pm

Men's Chorale:

Monday 8:30 pm
Tuesday 5:15 pm

Orchestra:

Monday 4:00 pm
Tuesday 4:00 pm
Wednesday 4:00 pm

Orchestra Details:

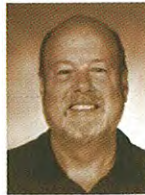
Chris Truett
Bethel FWB Church
1936 Banks School Road
Kinston, NC 28504
252.522.2451 x. 229
ctruett@bethelfwb.com

More Convention Details:

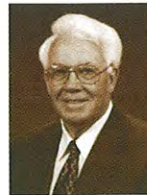
www.nafwb.org
exoff@nafwb.org
(877) 767-7659

CONVENTION SPEAKERS

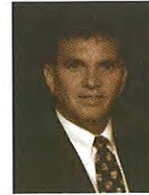
Free Will Baptist Convention



Bob Farwell
Adult Sunday
School



Glenn Murray
Sunday am



Kerry Gandy
Sunday pm



Randy Wright
Monday pm



José
Rodriguez
Tuesday pm



Glen Johnson
Wednesday
pm



David Archer
Preaching
Conference



Allen West
Preaching
Conference

National Youth Conference



Trula Cronk
Sunday am



1LT Steven
Pierce
Sunday pm



Craig Portell
Monday pm



Neil Gilliland
Tuesday pm

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

NAFWB

FREE WILL BAPTIST CONVENTION
WNAC CONVENTION
NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

pre-register

National Association of Free Will Baptists

Kansas City, MO * July 18-22, 2004

Women Nationally Active for Christ * National Youth Conference

ONE PERSON PER FORM * REGISTER ONLINE: WWW.NAFWB.ORG

Name Desired On Convention Badge:

First _____ Last _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Church You Attend _____

Church Location: City _____ State _____

Badges Required
at ALL Events!

**Lost Badge
FEE \$5**

National Association

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

Voting Delegates:

- National Board/Commission Member
- State Delegate
- Local Church Delegate (Documentation Required)\$100
- Foreign Missionary
- Home Missionary
- Ordained Deacon
- Ordained Minister

Non-Voting Attendees:

- Licensed Minister
- Visitor

Tickets:

Hillsdale LuncheonQty. _____ x \$20= _____

(Tuesday, July 20, 12:00 noon)

FWBBC LuncheonQty. _____ x \$20= _____

(Wednesday, July 21, 12:00 noon)

National Youth Conference

Youth Leader: _____

- Preschool Worship (Ages 3-6).....\$25
- Grades 1-3\$25
- Grades 4-6\$25
- Grades 7-8\$25
- Grades 9-12\$25

Registration required to attend NYC events or competition.

- Visitor (Adult & Birth-age 2)
- Visitor (Ages 3-6, not attending preschool worship)

Tickets:

Children's BanquetQty. _____ x \$8= _____

(Monday, July 19, 5:00 pm)

Tweener Banquet.....Qty. _____ x \$8= _____

(Monday, July 19, 5:00 pm)

Youth Banquet.....Qty. _____ x \$20= _____

(Tuesday, July 20, 9:00 pm)

NYC on-site registration\$35

Deadline June 18, 2004

No Refunds After June 18

Total\$ _____

Payment Options:

Check Enclosed (Payable to FWB Convention)

Credit Card (VISA, MasterCard, Discover ONLY)

Card # _____

Name on Card _____ Exp. ____/____

Return Form & Fees to: Convention Registration
PO Box 5002 * Antioch, TN 37011-5002

FAX: 615.731.0771 Questions? 877.767.7659 or exoff@nafwb.org

Online Registration Begins April 1
www.nafwb.org

WNAC

Voting Delegates:

- National Officer
- State President
- State Field Worker
- State Delegate
- Local WNAC Delegate (Documentation Required)\$5

Non-Voting Attendees:

- Missionary
- Visitor

Tickets:

WNAC LuncheonQty. _____ x \$25= _____

(Tuesday, July 20, 12:30 pm)

Office Use Only: Date Rcvd _____ CK/MO# _____

Amount _____ From _____



Great EXPECTATIONS

69th Annual WNAC Convention
July 19-20, 2004 + Kansas City, MO

Featured Speakers



Lynette Morgan
WNAC Luncheon



Donnie and Ruth McDonald
WNAC Missionary Service



Special Events

Monday, July 19, 2004

WNAC Seminar "HGTV: WNAC Style!"

1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Kansas City Convention Center

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

WNAC Convention

9:00 am-10:50 am
Kansas City Convention Center

WNAC Missionary Service

11:00 am
Kansas City Convention Center

WNAC Luncheon

12:30 pm-2:30 pm
Kansas City Convention Center

Don't Miss HGTV . . . WNAC Style!

This two-hour seminar led by Debbie Burden (and special guests) will take a deeper look at **Hospitality, Grace, Treasures and Value**. Come enjoy this refreshing event built around the popular TV program.

Women Nationally Active for Christ

2004 Local Church Delegate Card

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

Church Name _____

Church/City/State _____

(pastor or church clerk's signature)

Important: This card properly signed and accompanied by a **\$100 representation fee** entitles a local FWB church delegate to register for voting privileges. **Only one delegate per church.**

2004 Local WNAC Delegate Card

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

Church Name _____

Church/City/State _____

(local coordinator or local secretary's signature)

Important: This card properly signed and accompanied by a **\$5 representation fee** entitles a local delegate to register for voting privileges. **Only one delegate per church.**

National Youth Conference

This summer, don't sit at home.
Join hundreds of other high school
students and take Kansas City by
storm . . . with the love of Christ!



This is your opportunity
to make an eternal
difference.

National Youth
Conference 2004
July 18-22
Kansas City, MO

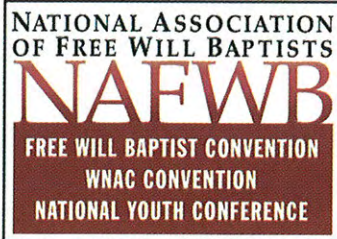
xtreme
CAUSE



xtreme
COST

matt 10:38

Visit RandallHouse.com
for more information and
competition schedules.



National Association of
Free Will Baptists

PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002



THE BIG HOUSE 1939-1968

Free Will Baptist Home for Children

Greeneville, Tennessee



FWB Family Ministries can make on our world. "From the cradle to the grave" hasn't changed, but we continue to expand in order to better serve a changing world and volatile society—from pregnant teens, struggling moms and newborn babies, to forming resources to care for the elderly population.

We will continue to follow God's plan as we strive to be your family crisis servants. ■



Flood Damage



About the Writer: Ralph D. Dingus is assistant executive director at Free Will Baptist Family Ministries in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Tennessee Church Reaches Out to Women

NASHVILLE, TN—Five minivans driven by Free Will Baptist women pulled into the Hope Center on December 5, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. to pick up 18 excited women. The Hope Center women were



Makeovers begin for 18 women.

graduating from the drug rehabilitation program at the Nashville Rescue Mission, and the women from Cofer's Chapel FWB Church treated them to a total makeover. After loading into vans, they headed for

The Retreat of Brentwood where the women received their first treat—a haircut and a manicure while sipping coffee and cider. Each lady had a “before and after” picture taken.

They headed to the mall for lunch, a facial and a shopping spree. They tried on clothes and shoes and each lady received \$75 to purchase an outfit. (They modeled it later that night at an evening celebration.) The caravan of minivans headed



Ending the day with a steak dinner at Cofer's Chapel FWB Church.



Pastor's wife Marianne Waddell (second from right) and Hope Center ladies.

back to the church where a steak dinner had been prepared. The women changed into their new outfits ready to introduce themselves and walk across the stage.

The pastor's wife, Marianne Waddell, welcomed women from area churches and the entire Hope Center as they joined in the evening celebration with Iris Blue. Mrs. Blue spent seven years in prison, but had a wonderful testimony telling how the Lord turned a “tramp into a lady.” Five women were saved and many rededicated their lives. They each received a gift bag with a Bible, a Christian book and other items.

The Hope Center women appreciated the special day planned for them. Their remarks as they introduced themselves to the congregation said it all. “*I've never felt so cared for.*” “*Why would you women want to do this for us?*” “*Knowing that you care makes me want to care about myself.*” “*Thank God for women who are willing to share so much with us.*”

Event organizer Sonia Briggs, said, “The year of preparation was worth it. Watching God work through it all to bring women to Himself was the best part. The relationships we have formed continue. One of the women, Cathy, was baptized last Sunday at church. We all give God praise for His help in making this a successful day.”

Michael Waddell pastors Cofer's Chapel FWB Church.

Reporting Forms Available Online

ATTENTION ALL CLERKS: Reporting forms for quarterly meetings, district, state and national associations are now available online. Forms 501, 502, 503 and 504 may be viewed and downloaded by following the simple steps.

Go to www.nafwb.org, click on “Reporting Forms.” Select the form you need, download the file and print. It's as easy as that! (Forms are also available by calling 877-767-7659.)

242 Attend Alabama State Meeting



SYLACAUGA, AL—The 84th annual Alabama State Association met November 5–7, 2003, at First FWB Church in Sylacauga. State clerk Ken Bozeman said 242 people registered for the meeting.

Seventy-five ministers, 34 lay delegates, 20 deacons and 113 visitors participated as Moderator Danny Thompson gavelled his way through business sessions. Thompson was re-elected as moderator.

Delegates adopted five resolutions. One resolution encouraged support for displaying the Ten Commandments. Another instructed the clerk to send a letter to President Bush commending his stance against partial-birth abortion.

A third resolution affirmed that marriage is defined as between one man and one woman. A fourth resolution instruct-

ed the moderator to write a general letter citing opposition to legalized gambling; the letter was to be sent to the director of ALCAP. The final resolution encouraged prayer for U.S. military personnel.

Delegates adopted a \$540,000 ACTS 1:8 budget. Three speakers preached sermons during the association meeting—Dr. Elmer Towns and Alabama ministers Joe Beckon and James Walden.

The Alabama WAC scheduled a 5:00 p.m. missions banquet Thursday afternoon at J. Craig Smith Community Center. Guest speaker for the event was Doug Little, director of stateside development for the Foreign Missions Department.

The 2004 Alabama State Association meets November 10–12 at Madison FWB Church in Madison.

Convention Orchestra Seeks Instrumentalists

KINSTON, NC—The 2004 Convention Orchestra needs to sign up instrumentalists as soon as possible according to Chris Truett, convention music coordinator.

Truett said, “We are inviting anyone from the ninth grade and up to participate in the instrumental ensemble. We would like to have as many adults participate as possible.”

The ensemble will accompany the congregational selections on Monday,

Tuesday and Wednesday nights in the Kansas City Convention Center.

The orchestra will practice daily at 4:00 p.m., beginning Monday, July 19. Practice sessions will meet on the stage of the Kansas City Convention Center.

Those who wish to participate in the Convention Orchestra should send name, address, phone number and the name of your church to:

Bethel Free Will Baptist Church
Attention: Chris Truett

1936 Banks School Rd.
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 522-2541, Ext. 229
or e-mail ctruett@bethelfwb.com

Please specify instrument(s) and how many years of experience in playing the instrument. Notify Chris Truett by June 1 so that music can be mailed to each player prior to the convention. If you have questions, please call the number provided.

CONVENTION HOUSING UPDATE

This issue of *Contact* contains housing information for the 2004 Free Will Baptist national convention. Although the information is currently available, reservations will not be accepted until 8:00 a.m., CST, April 1, 2004.

Preaching Conference Set

PIGEON FORGE, TN—The annual “Help Build the Fire” preaching conference meets June 14–16 at Smoky Shadows Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, according to Reverend Roy Helms who chairs the steering committee to plan the event.

Ten preaching sessions in three days will keep attendees busy. Southeastern FWB College president Lorenza Stox will speak twice, as will Colorado pastor Roger Raper and Oklahoma minister Connie Cariker.

The conference begins with an hour-long prayer meeting Monday at 4:30 p.m. Youth activities will include two sermons Tuesday afternoon by young ministers, plus a fun time at Lazerport after the evening service.

Gateway Christian College president Bruce Barnes will address attendees Wednesday morning.

Cost to register for the conference is \$15 per pastor.

Nominating Committee Announces Nominees

ANTIOCH, TN—The 2004 Nominating Committee for the national convention released a preliminary list of nominees for boards, commissions and general officers. The committee will meet in Kansas City in July to finalize their report to convention delegates.

Those serving on the Nominating Committee include: Chairman Ernest Harrison, Jr., (OK), Milton Worthington (NC), Bill Van Winkle (TX), Chris Clay (IN), Gary Fry (MO), Will Harmon (AR) and Edwin Hayes (OH).

Nominating Committee Nominees

Foreign Missions Board

Replacing David Shores (Illinois)	Tom McCullough (Michigan)
Replacing Danny Williams (Alabama)	Danny Williams
Replacing Sherwood Lee (South Carolina)	Sherwood Lee

Free Will Baptist Bible College Trustees

Replacing Terry Pierce (Mississippi)	Terry Pierce
Replacing Billy Hanna (Georgia)	Billy Hanna
Replacing Steve Ashby (Oklahoma)	Steve Ashby

Sunday School and Church Training Board

Replacing Will Harmon (Arkansas)	Tim Eaton (Oklahoma)
Replacing Tim Owen (Florida)	Tim Owen
Replacing Michael Waddell (Tennessee)	Michael Waddell

Commission for Theological Integrity

Replacing Jeff Manning (North Carolina)	Jeff Manning
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Historical Commission

Replacing Robert Picirilli (Tennessee)	Robert Picirilli
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Media Commission

Replacing Mike Jones (South Carolina)	Mike Jones
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Music Commission

Replacing Randy Sawyer (North Carolina)	Randy Sawyer
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General Board

Alabama	Replacing Rick Cash	Rick Cash
Arizona	Replacing Charles Marshall	Charles Marshall
Arkansas	Replacing David Joslin	Tim Campbell
Association of Mexico	Replacing Luis Felipe Tijerina	Luis Felipe Tijerina

Atlantic-Canada	Replacing Fred Hanson	Fred Hanson (TBD)
California	Replacing Doice McAlister	Mark Thomas
Colorado	Replacing Mark Thomas	Paul Smith
Florida	Replacing Paul Smith	Len Blanchard
Georgia	Replacing Len Blanchard	Earl Jenkins
Idaho	Replacing Earl Jenkins	Larry Cook
Illinois	Replacing Larry Cook	

Executive Committee

Replacing David Joslin (Arkansas)	Tim Campbell (Arkansas)
Replacing Doice McAlister (California)	Fred Hanson (Atlantic-Canada)
Replacing Rick Cash (Alabama)	Rick Cash

General Officers

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

Bible College Looking for Teachers

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College needs two teachers for the fall 2004 semester, one to teach English and one to teach music.

Candidates must be Christians, members of a Free Will Baptist church, have teaching experience, and hold a master's degree or doctorate in the field from an accredited college or university.

Information may be requested from and resumés sent to:
 Free Will Baptist Bible College
 Office of the Academic Dean
 3606 West End Avenue
 Nashville, TN 37205
 Phone: 1-800-75-FWBBC
 Email: mfields@fwbbc.edu
 Fax: 615-269-6028

Arkansas: Pastor **Will Harmon** reports 11 new members at **Cavanaugh FWB Church** in **Fort Smith**.

The **Arkansas Ministers' Retreat** met February 23–25 and featured two guest speakers—President **Carl Cheshier** (Hillsdale FWB College) and Tennessee pastor/author **Rob Morgan**.

Missionary pastor **Jim Fairchild** and the congregation at **Worship Center FWB Church** in **Cabot** launched construction on a two-story, multi-purpose building to seat 300 people. The 9,600-square-foot structure sits on the church's 23-acre site.

Georgia: **Philadelphia FWB Church** in **Folkston** honored retiring pastor **Conrad Williford** for 50 years in the ministry. Pastor Williford served the congregation five years. Dinner and a love offering marked his final service. Williford's ministry also included pastorates in Missouri, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama.

Members of **Ozias FWB Church** in **Pearson** burned the note on their \$100,000 mortgage in 17 months, according to Pastor **Larry Johnson**. Thirteen baptisms and a two-week revival kept members focused. Their Sunday School campaign plans to reach 150 people this spring.

Michigan: Five years after completing a new parsonage, **Faith FWB Church** in **Ray** burned the mortgage. **Rex Evans** pastors.

Ninety-two people have been saved since Home Missionary **Greg Floars** moved to **Gwinn** to start a new church. **Sawyer FWB Church** now occupies a building that would require \$1.2 million to replace. Closing on the building was set for late January.

Ohio: Pastor **Howard W. Cameron III** reports 154 conversions in 2003 at **Greater**

Columbus FWB Church in **Columbus**. Their 2004 goal is 200 conversions.

Pastor **Robert Prichard** sends word of 11 conversions, five baptisms and nine new members at **Cleveland FWB Church** in **Cleveland**. Thirty officers attended the church's fourth annual Police Appreciation Day. Police Chief **Edward Lohn** delivered the keynote address.

Fifteen baptisms (three during Christmas Eve service) and nine new members gave Pastor **Wiley Perkins** reason to smile at the Lord's blessing on **Samantha FWB Church** in **Leesburg**.

Mount Home FWB Church in **Wheelersburg** celebrated 140 years of service to the community. The church was built in 1863. The oldest living member is 94-year-old **Susie Dutiell Cartee**. Her family gave land on which the church was built. **Rob Fulton** pastors.

Pastor **Richard Burns** reports nine new members at **Hillsboro FWB Church** in **Hillsboro**.

Oklahoma: The Over-70's Revival in March at **New Home FWB Church** in **Coweta** lasted two weeks and featured 12 preachers over the age of 70, according to Pastor **Audie Abel**. The well-traveled evangelists included: **Lonnie DeVault** (80), **Wade Jernigan** (76), **Bill Ketchum** (86), **Edgar Beaver** (73), **Marvin Mann** (75), **Ollie Wright** (73), **Doyle Murray** (78), **Louis Maxwell** (80), **Euell Qualls** (80), **Buck Cope** (72), **Alex Warren** (85) and **James Williams** (74).

Here's a good idea for the church bulletin or newsletter, courtesy of Pastor **Leonard Pirtle** at **First FWB Church** in **Owasso**. They include a statement in each newsletter reminding members to call the staff about illness, surgeries and such. The statement? "We don't know if we don't know!"

Members of **Northwest FWB Church** in **Oklahoma City** reduced their indebtedness \$20,000 in one week, according to Pastor **Waldo Young**. They cashed a CD to cut their indebtedness in half from its \$42,000 high two years ago.

South Carolina: Pastor **Buddy Seay** celebrated 10 years at **White Savannah FWB Church** in **Conway**. A special meal, some unique gifts and 196 people were on hand to help the pastor celebrate.

Members of **First FWB Church** in **Hartsville** installed a new church sign late Saturday night, just in time to announce the church's 39th homecoming event the next day. **James Skipper** pastors.

Pastor **Joe Cagle** baptized 15 people at **Little Bethel FWB Church** in **Johnsonville**.

Pastor **Steve McCutcheon** reports 127 new members, seven conversions and five rededications at **Cypress Forks FWB Church** in **Manning**. The congregation built two more Sunday School rooms and installed a new steeple.

Pastor **Todd Black** announced 20 conversions and 24 new members at **Converse FWB Church** in **Spartanburg**.

Freedom FWB Church in **Ladson** burned the mortgage on their sanctuary. **Johnny Evans** pastors.

Tennessee: **Liberty FWB Church** in **Millington** braved chilly temperatures to place a float in the city's Christmas Parade. Some 8,000 people saw the church's float that focused on the theme, "Wise Men Still Seek Him." **Gwyn Pugh** has pastored the congregation 17 years. He celebrated 25 years in the ministry.

Pastor **Jeff Davis** reports 12 new members at **Fellowship FWB Church** in **Kingsport**. The congregation is noted for its missions awareness and support. ■



FOREIGN
MISSIONS

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus

- The first ETV lays the foundation of the biblical basis of missions.
- ETV II offers an in-depth explanation of practical ways churches may participate in world outreach.
- ETV III provides an opportunity to evaluate progress and express gratitude for accomplishments.
- ETV IV focuses on individual involvement in sharing the gospel.

How's Your Vision?

By Deborah St. Lawrence, Print Media Coordinator

Vision! God's vision of a world turning to Him in worship through Jesus Christ! Many in the last few years have embraced that vision. And you can join them through the fourth installment of the *Embracing the Vision* VHS video series now available for use in your church.

The initial *Embracing the Vision* videos developed from a seminar General Director James Forlines conducted during the 2000 National Association in Anaheim, California. That series laid the foundation of the biblical basis of missions throughout four sessions. The response was good, and pastors were excited to have a tool presenting God's vision of redeeming a lost world with a Free Will Baptist perspective.

People asked if we would produce a follow-up. The Foreign Missions Department responded with the four-session video, *Embracing the Vision II*, offering a more in-depth exploration of practical ways churches may participate in world outreach.

Embracing the Vision III, a 30-minute single-session video sub-titled "Acts 1:8 in Action," provided an opportunity to evaluate our progress and express gratitude for our accomplishments.

Embracing the Vision IV returns to the four-session format and focuses on individual involvement in sharing the gospel "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Through various examples of God's leading and working in the lives of short-term overseas servants, professional volunteers and career missionaries, this presentation seeks to guide each individual through self-evaluation and commitment to God's will at home or abroad.

Session one, "Am I Called?" gives a quick review of the previous ETV videos, a reminder that God has a role for all of us to play, and an overview of what to expect in the rest of the sessions. The second session, "As You Are Going," focuses on individuals who have hands-on ministry involvement in their town and overseas. "Short-term Service, Eternal Gain," the third session, highlights those who have made commitments to utilize their talents and abilities for one or two years on a mission field. Session four, "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Commitment," profiles veteran missionaries Jerry and Barbara Gibbs and their ministry in France.

Foreign Missions hopes *Embracing the Vision IV* will encourage viewers to explore a variety of avenues to impact their community, country and world, and find the place God has for each of them in His plan to evangelize the earth.

ETV IV is available upon request at no cost. As with previous *Embracing the Vision* series, Foreign Missions anticipates the response of recipients to include a generous World Missions Offering toward mobilization efforts. If a church has not viewed the previous videos, they should be seen first.

Churches may place an order for the new four-part series or any of the ETV videos by phone (1-877-767-7736), e-mail (heartbeat@nafwb.org) or website (www.nafwb.org/fm). ■



Men of Priority

By Ken Akers, General Director

Master's Men exists to fulfill certain needs within our denomination. We want our men to be men of priority, purpose, passion, prayer and purity. Each of these is important in our daily walk with Christ and with our example to a lost world.

In 2004 we want to focus on being men of priority. There are many things that draw our time and attention. We have our families, jobs, hobbies, church activities and other duties that require our time. One of our greatest challenges is to prioritize time.

We know the order—God, family, church and after that you must decide. But what happens when we face decisions that draw us two different ways? Is it always right to place the needs of our family in front of the needs of the church? Do we set the right example to our family when we place the needs of the church before them?

It is easy to make certain decisions and very difficult to make others.

What's the answer?

The answer is to have a close enough relationship with God that He will tell you. I know that

sounds like the ultimate spiritual answer, but what else can you say? Every decision we make should be made with God's guidance. Our first priority should be to seek God's direction. How many times have you made a decision without prayerfully consulting God?

How many of those times have you made the wrong decision? In the world we live in today, it's easy to get so busy we don't take time to stop and pray. Then when we do pray, do we wait for an answer?

During the next 12 months we will be focusing on priorities, asking God to direct us in what He would have us do. We must learn to keep the main thing the main thing.

Where are your priorities? Is God first in your life? There is a correct order.

Let's make 2004 the year we get our priorities in line. ■



Master's Men
Free Will Baptist
Men's Ministry

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus

My Priorities

1. God
2. Family
3. Church
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Check out our website at
www.nafwb.org/mm
 and sign up for our
monthly newsletter.

Hats Off

By Marjorie Workman, WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer

“Doug, would you repeat what you just said? I’m not sure I heard correctly.”

“Sure. One of my most pleasant discoveries as I looked at the support base for Foreign Missions was the significant financial support that comes from Free Will Baptist

women through the WNAC office. Over the past five years, WNAC has been one of the largest single contributors to missionary accounts and projects, second only to Co-op in support of the home office operating fund,” repeated Doug Little, director of stateside development for Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions.

Doug’s comments prompted me to ponder the relationship between WNAC and missions. Just how has WNAC impacted our missionaries and their ministries? I asked a few missionaries to tell me. They all mentioned the provision closet.

Missionary Provision Closet

For 21 years Susan Turnbough has looked to WNAC to provide sheets, towels, small appliances, cookware and numerous other items to keep her home running while serving Free Will Baptists on the mission field in Spain. Every room in her home has something from the closet. Now her son Matthew and daughter-in-law Brooke make visits to the Provision Closet, stocking their home as they begin their missionary journey.

Judy Bryan writes, “I’ll never forget the *whole* day I spent in the Provision Closet. It was like going on a shopping spree and the sky was the limit.” She and her husband Robert are returning to the field after a leave of absence.

Tupperware® containers that protect food from the humidity, ants and other bugs make LaRhonda Bowerman (Panama) thankful for gifts from the Provision Closet. “Something as simple as a pressure cooker can bring a smile and warm the heart of a woman trying to make a home in a foreign culture,” shares Jill Warren, new missionary to France. Hats off for keeping a well-supplied Provision Closet.

Prayer

“More than anything,” writes Susan Turnbough, “when I think of WNAC, I think of godly ladies praying.”

“We see the results of their prayers,” writes Carol Pinkerton from Côte d’Ivoire. “Just knowing they care is such a blessing.” Deleen Cousineau adds, “What I appreciate most about WNAC is the way they

interceded in prayer for us during our evacuation from the Ivory Coast in September 2002.” Women attending the WNAC National Retreat in Ridgecrest, North Carolina, fell to their knees as events of the day unfolded. Deleen believes “. . . the Lord literally drew the troops away from the school when the ladies began praying.” Hats off to WNAC for intercessory prayers.

Financial Support

Even as a child, Kristi Johnson saw the generosity in what her district and state WAC did for the missionaries as she tagged along with her mother to meetings. Now, as a missionary to Spain, she writes, “I’m able to see from a grown-up perspective just how meaningful those projects, notes and fundraisers really are.”

“Foreign Missions would be hurting without WNAC,” according to Carol Pinkerton. “They encourage us with messages, cards, packages and financial assistance. Each one truly is a *colaborer* with us!”

From Japan, Linda Snow sends her thanks. “Without your support we would not be able to labor for our Lord in Japan, a country where 199 out of every 200 people have not had the opportunity to hear the gospel even for the very first time.”

The Villalba church in Spain purchased land through WNAC’s Eunice Edwards Loan Fund for Churches Abroad which funded the Spain National Revolving Church Loan Fund. Susan Turnbough says it would have taken the church many years to save that much money.

The most recent national project that WNAC funded was the missionary-in-residence house on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Within 18 months women gave over \$25,000 for furniture and accessories.

“The sacrifice and generosity of WAC women is making a huge impact for the extension of God’s kingdom. I cannot say thank you enough,” said Doug.

There you have it. From the field to the home office, only gratitude for the ministry of WNAC. Hats off to all of you who have a global interest in building the kingdom. ■



WNAC
WOMEN
NATIONALLY
ACTIVE FOR
CHRIST

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus

A few ways
WNAC has
impacted
Foreign
Missions

- Well-supplied
Provision
Closet
- Intercessory
prayer
- Generous
financial
support



When Does 2+2= More Than 4?

By William Evans, General Director

The laws of mathematics will never allow the equation above. However, all of us know that getting more for our money is possible if we shop wisely. Shopping principles that increase our purchasing power are also available in the area of financial planning. Printing money is legally limited to the US Mint, but getting the most for our money is good management.

So, pastor, what can you do to stretch your pay package?

One thing to consider is the way your pay package is arranged and noted in the minutes of the church or official board. The following example illustrates how a few simple steps can increase the effective economic power of the same pay package.

	No Tax Planning	With Tax Planning
Salary	\$20,000.00	\$15,350.00
Housing (fair rental value)	9,000.00	9,000.00
Term Life Insurance	0	400.00*
Book allowance	0	250.00*
Retirement contribution	0	2,000.00*
Car Allowance (accountable arrangement)	0	1,500.00*
Furnishings for house	0	500.00*
Total package value	\$29,000.00	\$29,000.00
Portion of package subject to taxes:		
Income tax*	\$20,000.00	\$15,350.00
*(You probably will owe little or no income tax due to itemized or standard deduction Form 1040, Line 37, and personal exemptions on Line 6d.)		
Self-employment tax base	\$29,000.00	\$24,350.00
	<u>x .9235</u>	<u>x .9235</u>
Self-employment tax due on	\$26,781.50	\$22,487.22
	<u>x .153</u>	<u>x .153</u>
Actual self-employment tax	\$4,097.56	\$3,440.54
Income available	\$20,000.00	\$15,350.00
Self-employment tax	4,097.56	3,440.54
Term life insurance	400.00	
Books	250.00	
Retirement	2,000.00	
Car expenses	1,500.00	
Furnishing for home	<u>500.00</u>	
Funds available to Pastor	\$11,252.44	<u>\$11,909.46</u>

This is a difference of + \$657.02 extra income to the pastor at no additional cost to the church.

Is your church making the most of your present package? If not, please call our office for some information on how you can give your pastor a raise at no cost to the church.

The illustration above deals with the pay package as agreed. In cases where the church will consider nothing else, arranging the package in a tax-wise way will stretch its benefits. There is a better way.

Look at the other side of the pay package issue. Dear Laymen, how much is your church paying your pastor? Is that amount reasonable for the size and financial ability of your church? If no, consider making changes in your budget. In the event your church is doing all it can, make sure your personal attitude expresses gratitude for his service to you and your family.

There are several elements you should consider. Do you expect him to provide transportation for his work? Then see to it that visitation (both community and hospital) does not come out of his family income. How would you feel if your employer asked you to furnish your own transportation to do his work? The IRS considers 37.5 cents per mile a "standard deduction" amount. Should you do anything less?

Do you expect him to preach fresh, challenging sermons regularly? Then see to it that he has an increasing source of reference material to study. A generous book allowance provided by the church will help. If your church is to grow and please the Lord, it is essential that you do what you can to see that your pastor is provided with reasonable pay.

Most employers provide some type of life/disability insurance for their employees even if it is nothing more than half their social security payments and worker's compensation. Can a church who cares for its pastor do less?

Then there is the matter of health insurance. This is probably the most difficult of all benefits to provide and manage. How would your church feel if your parsonage family experienced a serious long-term illness? Do something for them.

If you are doing all you can as a church, at least help the pastor arrange his package in the most cost-effective way possible. Then the benefits of his package will add up to more than the simple sum of its dollar value. ■



**RETIREMENT
AND
INSURANCE**

Assumptions in example to the right: The pastor is married; he has two children; his wife works outside the home and has hospitalization insurance for herself; she pays extra for family coverage. The church provides a salary package of \$20,000 with a parsonage and all utilities.

* The figures to the right are given for illustration purposes only. For your personal situation, it is important that all IRS requirements be met to exempt these items from income taxes and self-employment taxes.

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus



Garnett Reid

“The Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ”

The Bible’s Story-Line, Part III

Our summary of the Bible’s message began: “*God is establishing His kingdom rule over all that He has created. He purposes to bring all creation under His sovereignty.*” Last month we examined these opening lines in some detail. The next two lines focus on the “how” and “why” of this great plan.

“He will accomplish this through the work of His Son, Jesus Christ, as Mediator.”

Jesus Christ stands as the supreme person in the history of the world. Popular novels such as *The DaVinci Code* may

pervert the inspired record of His sinless life. Dime-a-dozen comedians may slander His name with trashy obscenities. Even so-called theologians may conduct seminars that impugn His matchless person. But the fact remains: “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.”

The Bible affirms that all things will find their ultimate destiny as they relate to Christ. Secular historians provide us with a record of Jesus’ *existence*. Yet the testimony of inerrant scripture, also a historical document, tells us details of His *essence*. Jesus is God and man, living with-

out sin, dying in the place of rebel humanity, coming to life again and reigning forever in glory.

Jesus is the centerpiece, the fulcrum on which everything turns. Your existence, both here and in the next life, your neighbor’s destiny, the fate of all the cosmos, in fact, hinge on how we respond to Him. Those who yield to His authority experience life to the fullest. Ultimate, unending death awaits those who resist Him.

Christ, then, is the “mediator” between God and us (1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 9:15). No other exists. This role of Jesus as intercessor leads us to consider the purpose of God’s kingdom and our redemption.

“The final end of God’s plan is to bring the highest possible glory to Himself.”

God acts for the sake of His own glory. He is the only perfect being in the universe; therefore only He is worthy of absolute praise. This concept of “glory” is often misunderstood. The word most often translated “glory” in the Old Testament (Heb. *kabōd*) involves the literal idea of weight or heaviness, and thus, by implication, something important or impressive. The New Testament term (Gk. *doxa*) speaks of that which is bright and radiant.

We should think of God’s “glory” not as some vague, far-off, mystical heavenly cloud, but as the totality of all God’s perfections (all that He is marking Him as unique, supreme, unrivaled, pre-eminent).

God’s purpose in all that He does is that His creation may know, delight in, and declare His glory. Even His aim in bringing salvation to the world is that “. . . unto me every knee shall bow, every

BEYOND BELIEF



tongue shall swear" (Is. 45:23). The Lord has created the world and intervened in its rebellious path to ruin for the sake of His own name. "... I will not give my glory unto another" (Is. 48:11).

Like the Old, the New Testament affirms God's goal of displaying His glory to the nations (Matt. 5:16; I Pet. 4:11b). Jesus is the link between us and this great end. We glorify God by glorifying Jesus (see John 5:23).

Let's apply it further. What is our response to these two great truths, that God intends to glorify Himself and that He does so by exalting His Son? I suggest we take four steps.

1. Forsake our sins and trust Christ's provision of forgiveness.
2. Commit ourselves completely to obey Christ and follow His will. We must live for Him by serving and sharing Him with others. We must resolve to make Christ our life. He is not "a" way among many to God; He *is* God and is our only way to the Father.
3. Renounce the world and its values, habits and lifestyles—"the cheap values of the fallen world," A.W. Tozer calls them.
4. Change our way of thinking. We need to focus on God, Christ and the Holy Spirit's life-changing power through a Word-saturated life. Tozer contends: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." We could add, what comes into our lives when we profess to know God is the real test of what our profession is worth. ■

Receipts: State				YearToDate	YearToDate	YearToDate
	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Designated	CO-OP	Total
Alabama	\$ 305	\$ 153	\$ 457	\$ 305	\$ 153	\$ 457
Arizona	0	44	44	0	44	44
Arkansas	15,383	26,487	41,870	15,383	26,487	41,870
California	79	1,159	1,238	79	1,159	1,238
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0
Georgia	42,647	2,460	45,107	42,647	2,460	45,107
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois	10,077	2,186	12,263	10,077	2,186	12,263
Indiana	1,632	947	2,578	1,632	947	2,578
Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kentucky	135	798	933	135	798	933
Louisiana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maryland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michigan	26,759	2,231	28,990	26,759	2,231	28,990
Mississippi	8,970	799	9,769	8,970	799	9,769
Missouri	74,335	20,876	95,211	74,335	20,876	95,211
Montana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Mexico	466	23	488	466	23	488
North Carolina	2,927	7,123	10,050	2,927	7,123	10,050
Ohio	18,250	2,743	20,994	18,250	2,743	20,994
Oklahoma	62,948	11,366	74,314	62,948	11,366	74,314
South Carolina	39,571	43	39,613	39,571	43	39,613
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	22,809	2,702	25,510	22,809	2,702	25,510
Texas	16,932	786	17,718	16,932	786	17,718
Virginia	162	0	162	162	0	162
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Virginia	505	91	596	505	91	596
Wisconsin	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada	1,114	15	1,130	1,114	15	1,130
Northwest Assoc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northeast Assoc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	\$ 346,004	\$ 83,031	\$ 429,036	\$ 346,004	\$ 83,031	\$ 429,036

Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 1,548	\$ 37,364	\$ 38,912	\$ 1,548	\$ 37,364	\$ 38,912
Foreign Missions	217,248	10,503	227,752	217,248	10,503	227,752
FWBBC	34,686	10,503	45,190	34,686	10,503	45,190
Home Missions	78,735	8,220	86,955	78,735	8,220	86,955
Retirement & Insurance	512	6,393	6,905	512	6,393	6,905
Master's Men	223	6,393	6,616	223	6,393	6,616
Commission for Theo. Integrity	68	228	297	68	228	297
FWB Foundation	347	2,740	3,087	347	2,740	3,087
Historical Commission	68	228	297	68	228	297
Music Commission	93	228	322	93	228	322
Media Commission	128	228	357	128	228	357
Hillsdale FWB College	2,650	0	2,650	2,650	0	2,650
Other	9,698	0	9,698	9,698	0	9,698
Totals	\$ 346,004	\$ 83,031	\$ 429,036	\$ 346,004	\$ 83,031	\$ 429,036



Shelly Puckett

Learning the Lesson

There are many methods of finding God's will in your life. He is not so concerned with how you discover it so much as that you are determined to find it (Jer. 29:13). Blessings await those who hunger to know His plan. He is not withholding from us but reveals each piece of His will as we become ready. I have been *recipient* of the benefits He shares with those who trust Him. Here's how I learned the lesson . . .

Piece by Piece Equals Peace

Before going to Houston as home missionaries, my husband and I were in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Randy worked as an associate pastor and we planned to stay for a long time. We loved the church and we loved Tulsa. After moving there, we determined that we could get more house for less money if we built, so that's what we did.

I'm so glad the Lord hadn't revealed His entire plan to us before that point. If we thought we would only be in Tulsa a few years, we wouldn't have gone through all that trouble.

Leap of Faith

After we had been in Tulsa a couple of years, Randy was approached about starting a church as a home missionary. We prayed and sought the Lord's will and became convinced we should accept and plant a church in Sugar Land, Texas (suburban Houston). Realizing we might be looking at a cut in pay and

have to give up our dream home, we took the leap of faith.

When we approached a realtor friend to determine the asking price of our home, her response to our suggestion was that she would not let us "give it away" for that—she suggested a price almost 50% higher! Although we went down slightly on the selling price, the Lord still gave us a tremendous profit—a profit we needed to provide the down payment for our home in Sugar Land.

Obstacles Don't Mean Punishment

While waiting for our home in Tulsa to sell, we searched for a home in Sugar Land. We kept encountering obstacles. First, we could not seem to agree on the right home. Then if we did agree, the timing or the price would be wrong.

When our Tulsa home sold, we decided to drive to Sugar Land and sign a contract on a home that wasn't really what we wanted, but one that was close enough. I called before we left Tulsa to let the salesman know our plans, and he informed me that the house we were going to settle for had already been sold.

Was *this* God's will? Then I started thinking maybe the salesman was confused about the house I was interested in. I called back hoping he was mistaken and that the Lord would make a miracle happen. A miracle it was! In the second phone call, the man informed me that another home had just become avail-

able. I felt an indescribable peace and excitement.

I knew the Lord had saved this home for us even before the man said another word. Sure enough, it was exactly the home we would have chosen for ourselves, down to the smallest detail. We drove excitedly through the night and arrived at the sales office in Sugar Land before the salesman that morning.

We walked through the unlocked home laughing and crying and praising the Lord. Not only did the Lord give us a large profit on the sale of our home in Tulsa, He gave us an unbelievable deal on an amazing home in Sugar Land, also. You see, sometimes the Lord *provides obstacles* so that we have to wait on Him and enjoy His best blessing.

Still Learning the Lesson

We are currently waiting . . . and waiting on the Lord to provide land for our church. Land here is expensive, but because I am fully confident He led us here, I know He has great plans in store. Although this long wait has been difficult at times, I am convinced the obstacles we are encountering are His way of having us wait for His best. I can't wait to see what He has in store for us! ■

About the Writer: Mrs. Shelly Puckett and her husband Randy are home missionaries in Sugar Land, Texas. Shelly teaches kindergarten at Meadows Elementary School.



Thomas Marberry

“Proverbs” in The NIV Application Commentary

By Paul E. Koptak. Edited by Terry Muck. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003, 712 pp., hardback, \$31.95)

Paul E. Koptak holds a Ph.D.

from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary/Northwestern University. He presently serves as Paul and Bernice Brandel professor of communication and biblical interpretation at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago. His goal in this commentary is to make the book of Proverbs more understandable and applicable to modern readers.

The author notes that Proverbs is an important book which is much more than practical guidance for everyday living. As he writes, “We will do ourselves and the book a disservice if we think of Proverbs as the kind of success handbook we find in the self-help section.”

Proverbs is often difficult and frustrating for modern interpreters. It deals with a large variety of important themes, and proverbs on different subjects are often placed together with no apparent plan or organization. Proverbs was written to meet the needs of a world very different from our own. It was written for a primitive agrarian society in the Middle East. In his commentary on Prov. 2:1–22, the author explains, “their world was not our world, so their practices cannot be applied to our day without some reflection about the differences.”

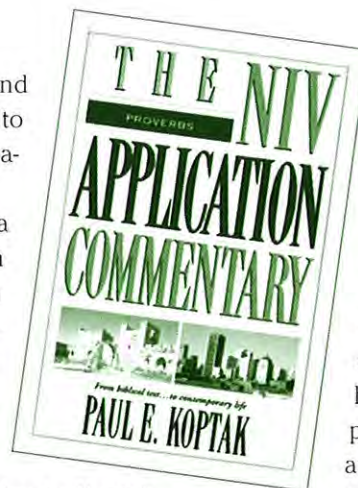
Koptak divides the text of Proverbs into its natural divisions and explains the meaning of each section. He analyzes the key Hebrew words and phrases and seeks to interpret them in light of how they were used in the ancient world. He outlines the major teachings

of each section and applies these teachings to our contemporary situation.

Proverbs 2:1–22 is a familiar section which advises the young man to accept the instruction of his parents and avoid evil influences whether they come from evil men or wicked women. According to Koptak, there are three major themes in this section.

First, it deals with the importance of understanding the fear of the Lord and the knowledge of God. Second, it deals with the theme of protection. The wisdom of God can protect the young man from the dangers and temptations that are out to destroy him. Third, this section emphasizes the subject of desire.

An important responsibility of a commentator is to help the reader with the difficult passages in a book, and Koptak takes that responsibility seriously. One of the more difficult passages in Proverbs is 25:21–22 which says that giving food and drink to an enemy is to heap burning coals on his head. Since the earliest days of the Christian church, these words have been interpreted in one of two ways. Some suggest that these words refer to “burning pangs of shame that lead to repentance.” Others believe that they refer to the “final punishment of an enemy who refuses to be reconciled, even after being fed.”



This large commentary is a most useful volume. It gives the reader some idea of what life was like in the ancient world and how ancient peoples viewed their relationship with God and with one another. It helps to put the various proverbs in their context and helps the modern reader to understand them and

apply them to our world today.

This author does sound one necessary word of caution for modern interpreter. Proverbs is a book of wisdom and instruction, not a book of absolute promises. As he writes, “following the approach of Proverbs will not guarantee that kids will listen, nor does it mean that something was done wrong if they do not.”

Proverbs 22:6 says “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” This important proverb should never be interpreted to mean that “caring parents whose offspring give up the faith or get into trouble are at fault.” This verse should be interpreted in light of the total message of Proverbs. Children have a responsibility; they must accept the wise teachings they are offered.

This new commentary is a balanced and judicious treatment of an important Old Testament book. It can be of great value to both pastors and teachers. ■



BE PART OF SOMETHING GREAT

By Steve Greenwood
Reach That Guy Service Coordinator



It's that time again. In the next few weeks, a great deal of energy will be expended in the job of preregistering for the convention, reserving hotel rooms and confirming travel arrangements. We hope your time in Kansas City will be well spent. It's a beautiful city with many wonderful opportunities, but there is also a darker, less beautiful part. Kansas City, like all larger cities in our nation, is filled with needs, both physical and spiritual.

Because of these needs, the National Youth Conference provides service opportunities for teens and their sponsors through *Reach That Guy*. Not simply to fill time on a schedule between competition and worship services, but to make a lasting impact on people in the community that hosts our convention.

In the last two summers, students and sponsors who participated in *Reach That Guy* provided over 5,000 hours of community service. In Tampa last summer, our students worked at the MacDonald Training Center for Disabled Adults. Students tutored and assisted adults and painted the interior of a new module for adults with more advanced disabilities.

Dede Grundel, director of volunteer coordination, praised the students' efforts and informed *Reach That Guy* staff that our work would allow them to open the new module ahead of schedule. Ms. Grundel also relayed a story of a student and her mother from our convention who stayed behind when the *Reach That Guy* van came to pick up their group in order to be able to complete the job.

This made a huge impact on the MacDonald Training Center staff. This is the type of impact we can make on the people of Kansas City. Kristi Baker, a youth worker from Missouri, worked with her youth group on *Reach That Guy* projects last summer. She points out that "so many times we think of worshipping God through singing and praying, but working with *Reach That Guy* allows people to worship God with their hands and feet."

Together with these willing students, the adults who attended the last two years also helped provide over 1,200 articles of quality clothing that went to the homeless in Memphis, gave over 16,000 minutes of prepaid long distance to soldiers in Iraq, and donated over 300 units of blood in our *Reach That Guy*—sponsored blood drives.

I invite you to be part of something truly great. My challenge for you is to take one morning or one afternoon this summer during the convention and participate with a *Reach That Guy* service project. The cost is minimal (\$1-2), the time commitment is short (2-3 hours), but the experience will be priceless. Not only for you, but for the teens who see you working alongside them to make a difference.

In Kansas City, the needs are great. Help Free Will Baptists make a difference and join us as we work together. For more information, email us at Reachthatguy@randallhouse.com or check out our website at www.randallhouse.com. ■

Upcoming Events

Springboard Junior High Leadership Conference Georgia

Camp Echeeconnee
April 22-25

National Youth Evangelistic Team Tour

AR, OK, MO, IL, TN
June 18-27

National Youth Conference

Kansas City, MO
July 18-21

Purchase National Youth T-shirts and Lanyards online at www.randallhouse.com effective April 1st.



Jack Williams

Sunday Was a Workday

Sunday was a workday until

Jesus changed it. In fact, God spent the first Sunday creating land and water, speaking light into existence and separating light from darkness. The Bible says about that Sunday, "... the evening and the morning were the first day" (Gen. 1:5). Wow! What a productive workday.

But that's the way God planned things from the beginning. It wasn't until six days later that God rested (Gen. 2:2). Sunday was still a workday when Moses stepped down from Sinai carrying the Ten Commandments carved in stone nearly 3,500 years after the creation event (Ex. 20:8-11).

Then Jesus came and changed Sunday from workday to worship day. You may wonder what in the world happened to move worship from a Saturday Sabbath to Sunday. After all, Saturday was entrenched as a day of rest and worship from Genesis to Malachi, through the 400 years between the testaments, and was in place when John baptized Jesus.

Jesus' public ministry began with a tradition-breaking sermon at a synagogue in Nazareth on a Saturday (Luke 4:16). Jesus observed the Sabbath principle while on earth. However, He did not punish Himself or others with absurd Sabbath restrictions imposed by leading religionists (Luke 6:1-3). That attitude kept Him in hot water with those more interested in the letter of the law than the spirit of the law.

Jesus' claim as Lord of the Sabbath (Luke 6:5) irritated over-zealous guardians of Moses' law. He healed the sick on the Sabbath (Luke 6:6-10) which angered the Pharisees to the point of madness (Luke 6:11). They conspired to kill Him (Mt. 12:14). Saturday worship observance was so much

a part of the Jewish culture that to question it was to court death.

You see, the Jewish religious system took Sabbath keeping seriously. But like other wonderful principles that men try to improve on in order to help God, they turned the Sabbath into a club to bludgeon others. The day Jesus declared the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27), He signed His own death warrant.

When Jesus arrived preaching grace, hard-nosed Sabbath keeping took a turn nobody expected. Jesus fulfilled the law (John 19:28)—all the law—including the Sabbath principle. Three hours before the last Sabbath under the old covenant began, Jesus completed His work on earth and declared, "... it is finished" (John 19:30).

The veil of the Temple ripped from top to bottom (Mt. 27:51), the earth trembled (v. 51), graves opened (v. 52), and the people knew something unprecedented had occurred (v. 54). God brought change without debate, without a vote of the Sanhedrin, without Roman approval. Nothing would ever be the same again.

Then Sunday dawned, that amazing first day of the week when the earth again shook (Mt. 28:2), and Heaven rolled away the stone. Jesus was gone! He had risen from the dead. That's what changed Sunday from a workday to the Lord's day—the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Sunday became a meeting day for the New Testament church (Acts 20:7). They gathered to fellowship, to pray, to preach the gospel. Sunday became tithe day (1 Cor. 16:2) for New Testament believers who gave tithes on earth to acknowledge that He lives and receives the tithe in Heaven as the great High Priest of the new covenant (Heb. 7:8). Sunday was the day God gave

the Apostle John the book of Revelation for the church (Rev. 1:10).

Sunday means a better testament (Heb. 7:22), a new way, a new commission, a living way (Heb. 10:20). We now worship on the first day of the week, not the last, in recognition of the finished redemptive work of Christ.

In his article titled, "When Sunday Is the First Day of the Week," Chuck Sackett wrote, "... if Sunday becomes the first day of the week—not the last day of the weekend—if Sunday becomes the day that orders all other days, then I will not let the sermon be the only time I spend in Scripture" (*Christian Standard*, January 25, 2004 issue).

Sackett continued, "Quite frankly, if Sunday is the last day of your week, then God is probably not first in your life."

Yes, Sunday was a workday. But no more. Thanks to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, Sunday means worship for Christians around the world. Sunday rearranges priorities because of the empty tomb.

Fifty years ago, gospel quartets sang a rousing four-part harmony song titled, "Every Day Will Be Sunday By and By." The idea behind the song was a time when work ends and believers gather to sing and praise God. Maybe it's time to teach that song to a new generation, because Sunday is no longer a workday. It's the Lord's day. ■



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—Psalm 67:7

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