

May 2004

# Contact

**Missouri Gruff vs.  
Rhode Island Slim**

**God's Grace Is  
the Only Safe Bet**  
Overcoming Gambling Addicton

**EVERYTHING'S  
UP TO DATE IN  
KANSAS CITY!**

Official Publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptists



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May 2004  
Volume 51, No. 5



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**Keith Burden**

## Breaking Rules—Keeping Promises

### **I've always enjoyed going to**

church camp. There's nothing else quite like it. It was in that unique environment God called me to preach during the summer of 1970. To this day there is a special place in my heart for those adult sponsors who gave their time and energy to provide a camping experience for me.

Throughout my ministry I've made an effort to provide young folk the same opportunity I enjoyed. Consequently, over the years I've served as camp director, evangelist, teacher, recreation leader, sponsor and assistant cook. Few things have been more physically demanding or spiritually rewarding.

One summer camp experience stands out in my mind. Our church took two vanloads of youngsters to a picturesque campground nestled among beautiful mountains and tall pines. While the kids and sponsors unloaded the trailer, the cook and I set up the kitchen.

Once the bunks were made and everyone situated, we met in the dining hall to review the schedule and camp rules. I answered the usual questions, then reminded the campers we anticipated a great week and expected everyone to be on their best behavior.

### **Now Hear This!**

To ensure the week went smoothly, I gave an additional caution. Anyone deliberately breaking a rule or causing a disturbance would be given one warning; those guilty of a second violation would be sent home. After praying together the group was dismissed.

Later that afternoon while we were preparing the evening meal, I was summoned to the boys' dorm. Two older teenage boys had partially shaved the head of a younger camper without his parents' permission. Sparing them a lecture I said, "Fellows, you've had your first and only warning. Please don't make me prove that I meant what I said about sending you home."

### **Calm Before the Storm**

The next two days were uneventful. There were no major behavioral problems and everyone seemed to be having a good time. Wednesday night marked the halfway point of camp and the highlight of the week. Following the evening service, a well-known Christian singing group would be presenting a concert. The tabernacle filled to capacity.

The house lights dimmed and all eyes focused on the singers. The crowd was mesmerized by the music. Without warning two boys ran across the front of the stage waving their arms at the audience. My heart sank as I realized they were members of our youth group . . . the same young men who misbehaved earlier.

I was prepared to address the problem at the conclusion of the concert; however, I didn't have the luxury of waiting that long. Within a matter of minutes the two rowdies sashayed across the front again. I intercepted them at the back before their third attempt at disrupting the service.

### **Pack Your Bags**

I pulled them aside and asked for an explanation. They shrugged off any sense of responsibility, claiming their antics were humorous and entertaining. I explained they had embarrassed themselves and our church by their actions. Their facial expressions and the tone of their voices were defiant and disrespectful. I told them to pack their bags. After arguing briefly they reluctantly complied with my instructions.

I telephoned their parents, explained what had happened and informed them their sons would be arriving later that evening. The mood was somber in our cabin that night. After talking to the other campers, I met with the sponsors. We wept together and prayed for the two young men. The other children were model campers the rest of that week.

I met with the two teens and their parents the day after camp. One young man was repentant and remorseful . . . he apologized and asked for forgiveness. The other was arrogant and belligerent . . . he refused to acknowledge or accept responsibility for his wrongdoing. The next year yielded interesting results.

The penitent lad emerged as a leader in the youth group and returned to camp the following summer. At last account the other young man was out of church and away from God. Two identical experiences . . . two very different outcomes.

### **Live and Learn**

That experience taught me some valuable lessons:

- **Honor your word.** Don't promise to do something if you are not prepared to do it. Had I not kept my word, I would have lost the respect of those two young men and the others in our youth group.
- **Expect criticism.** Sponsors from other churches accused me of being too hard on the disobedient duo. Doing the right thing is seldom easy or popular.
- **Trust the Lord.** You can deal with inappropriate actions, but only God can change bad attitudes. Trust Him to do it.

Incidentally, the young man who stayed in church is attending a Christian college today and preparing to be a children's minister. I wouldn't be surprised if he works at church camp this summer. ■





## Preview of the 2004 National Convention

# EVERYTHING'S UP TO KANSAS

Rodgers and Hammerstein got it right in their 1943 musical, *Oklahoma!* One of those unforgettable melodies at the train station in Claremore featured a

big-eyed cowboy telling all his friends, "Everything's Up to Date in Kansas City."

"They've gone about as far as they can go," he reported, speaking of buildings three stories high. "Everything's like a dream in Kansas City," he said, "It's better than a magic lantern show."

When the 68<sup>th</sup> annual Free Will Baptist national convention stampedes into town July 18–22, you may feel the same way. The hotels are taller than an elephant's eye; the tri-level Kansas City Convention Center is so large it's really like a dream or a magic lantern show. This is not the same city we visited in 1988 when 5,866 registered at the old Municipal Auditorium.

Since that time the convention center doubled in size, and luxury hotels crowd the downtown landscape. Nobody walks more than two blocks this year. Oh, yeah, *Everything's Up to Date in Kansas City*, the town that has a flavor all its own.

Back to the heartland. Kansas City straddles the Missouri-Kansas state line at the crossroads of American history. Headquarters for the storied Pony Express. Home to Hallmark Cards. Ancient hunting grounds for the Osage and Wyandotte. The town's 1850 beginnings launched it into the great American westward expansion. Railroads and cattle drives, Russell Stover Candies and the Harry Truman Presidential Library—Kansas City has it all.

And for the record, Eskimo Pies were invented in Kansas City. So was Teflon and that delightful melt-in-your-mouth-not-in-your-hands M&M candy coating. The swing sound in jazz

began in KC, along with the McDonald's Happy Meal and Wishbone salad dressing.

*Everything's Up to Date in Kansas City.* Kansas City International rates among the nation's most user-friendly airports. And if you simply must play a round, KC has 81 golf courses. The Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area has the same land area as the state of Connecticut and boasts of 15 four-year colleges and universities, 61 community colleges, five theological colleges, three medical schools, 23 business and secretarial schools, and a whopping 43 industrial and technical schools. More than 1.8 million people call it home.

Missouri's 15,000 Free Will Baptists and 186 churches host the national convention for the seventh time, the last three times (1964, 1978, 1988) in Kansas City. Executive Secretary Keith Burden says he expects 6,000 delegates and visitors for the five-day event. Convention Manager Dean Jones blocked 1,068 rooms in three downtown hotels for attendees.

### Badges Required

Badges are a fact of life for today's convention-goer. The "Badge Required" policy will be enforced without exception. This includes the opening service Sunday morning.

Registration opens Saturday at 3:00 p.m. to expedite the badge process. The best way to handle the matter is to preregister online at [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org) or use the forms in the April and May issues of *Contact*. Pick up your badge Saturday afternoon



# TO DATE IN CITY!

By Jack Williams

or Sunday morning in the Kansas City Convention Center. Remember: *No badge; no admittance; no exceptions.*

## Convention Business

One of the distinguishing characteristics of Baptists in general and Free Will Baptists in particular is accountability. That's why every national agency gives an annual report to delegates.

This year convention delegates are expected to approve denominational budgets exceeding \$22 million. Rookie moderator Tim York (Kentucky) will gavel the voting body through electing 31 board and commission members and general officers.

A major business item facing delegates is whether to combine six national publications into one. The Publications Committee (appointed in 2001) is expected to complete its work and recommend the one-publication concept. If approved, the following periodicals will cease publishing after December 2004 (or shortly thereafter) and be replaced in 2005 by a larger, four-color magazine: *AIM*, *Heartbeat*, *Master's Men Newsletter*, *Bible College Bulletin*, *OutReach* and *Contact*.

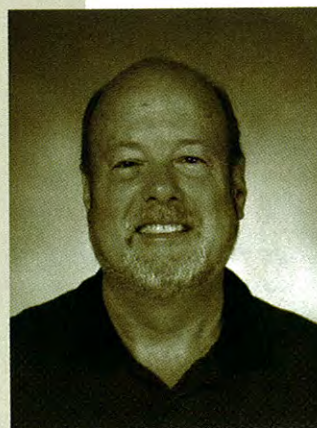
## Meet the Speakers

Five pastors will preach sermons developing the 2004 convention theme, "Harvest Time," taken from John 4:35. A Missouri layman will teach the Adult Sunday School class.

### Sunday School—Bob Farwell

For 34 years, Robert Q. (Bob) Farwell has taught math and science at Raytown High School in Raytown, Missouri. Bob is also a member/lecturer with Creation Science Association, Mid-America.

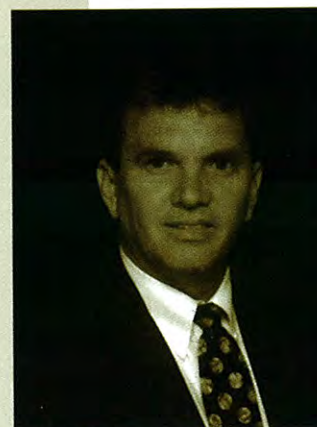
A member of Beacon FWB Church in Raytown, the 57-year-old Sunday School teacher was converted in 1978. He earned



**Bob Farwell**



**Glenn Murray**



**Kerry Gandy**



**Randy Wright**



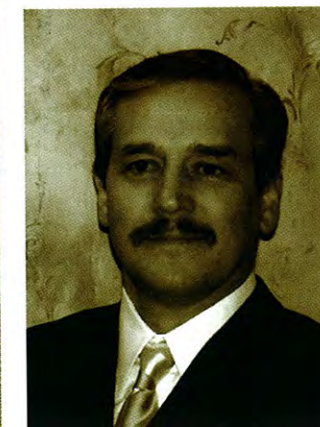
**José Rodriguez**



**Glen Johnson**



**David Archer**



**Allen West**



a B.A. degree at San Diego State University (1970) and an M.S. degree at Central Missouri State University (1976). Bob and Debbie Farwell have three daughters.

#### *Sunday Morning—Glenn Murray*

The oldest pastor on the program laces up his preaching boots and takes the pulpit first in Kansas City. Glenn E. Murray, 69-year-old Missouri minister, brings 42 years of experience to the kick-off message Sunday morning.

Glenn has pastored eight churches since 1962, seven of them in Missouri. For the last 23 years, he has led United FWB Church in West Plains. In other roles, Glenn chaired Missouri's Youth Camp Board, Senior Adult Ministries Board and Mission Evangelism Board, in addition to moderating the Cave Springs Association.

He served nine years with the Missouri National Guard. He is active as a volunteer chaplain at Ozark Medical Center in West Plains. Glenn and Rachel Murray have five children.

#### *Sunday Evening—Kerry Gandy*

Reverend Kerry Gandy, an alumnus of Hillsdale FWB College, served as a home missionary (1997–2002) at Rolling Oaks FWB Church in Maumelle, Arkansas. The church went self-supporting and Gandy continues to lead the congregation.

He served four years on the Arkansas Mission Board, three years on the state C. E. Board, seven years on the Executive Boards of Social Band and New Hope Associations, and three years on the Acts 1:8 Task Force.

Gandy's first pastorate was a seven-year stint (1990–1997) at Sutton FWB Church in Pocahontas. The 46-year-old Texas native was converted at age 13 and ordained to preach at age 32. Kerry and Janet Gandy have three children.

#### *Monday Evening—Randy Wright*

When he was 28 years old, Randy Wright accepted a call to pastor Piney Grove FWB Church in northwestern Alabama. Fifteen years later, he's still there serving the community and leading people to Christ. Wright previously served as assistant pastor in Memphis, Tennessee, and Fayette, Alabama.

Brother Wright serves on the Alabama Home Missions Board and the ALCAP Board. He is also a hospice chaplain.

Converted and baptized when he was 11, Randy later graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College (1982). He was ordained to preach at age 23. Randy and Kathy Wright have two children.

#### *Tuesday Evening—José Rodríguez*

At 37 years old, he's the youngest speaker on the 2004 national convention program. He's also the only minister who pastors an Hispanic congregation. José L. Rodríguez has led the larger-than-life Ebenezer FWB Church in Miami, Florida, since 2001.

Prior to pastoring Ebenezer Church, José worked in a joint project with the Florida Mission Board and the national Home Missions Board (1995–2001) to establish Renacer FWB Church in Miami. He headed up the Spanish ministry outreach at Woodbine FWB Church (Nashville, Tennessee) 1992–1994.

Brother Rodríguez is a member of the Florida Mission Board. He served six years (1995–2001) as moderator of Florida's Hispanic Association. A 1994 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Rodríguez is pursuing a master's degree at Trinity International University.

He was converted in 1974 and ordained to the ministry in 1992. José and Maday Rodríguez have two children.

#### *Wednesday Evening—Glen Johnson*

Half of Glen Johnson's 50 years have been spent in pulpits of Free Will Baptist churches. He pastored First FWB Church in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, 11 years (1979–1990). He has served Good News FWB Church in Chesterfield, Virginia, since 1990.

When Glen steps to the microphone Wednesday night in Kansas City, he may be addressing the largest crowd in his 25 years as a preacher. The 1979 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College was converted in 1975 and ordained to the ministry in 1979.

Since 1996, Johnson has served as Virginia's General Board member to the National Association, and as a member of the national Executive Committee. He previously moderated Virginia's Tidewater Association and served as clerk of the Indiana State Association. Glen and Lorri Johnson have six children.

### **Preaching Conference**

Two pastors will speak during Tuesday morning's Preaching Conference in Kansas City Convention Center. The 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. gathering is expected to attract 1,000 attendees.

#### *David Archer*

First up is Oklahoma pastor David Archer who leads Covenant FWB Church in Tulsa, one of two churches he established. He started the Covenant Church in 2002 after 17 years at Faith FWB Church in Glenpool, the other church he organized.

Archer (52) is a 1975 graduate of Hillsdale FWB College (B.A.) and a 1999 graduate of Moody Bible Institute (M.A.). Except for a two-year pastorate in Texas (1976–1978), his 31-year ministry has been in Oklahoma. He served six years on Oklahoma's Executive Board.

#### *Allen West*

Michigan pastor Allen West delivers the second sermon at the Preaching Conference. West has pastored Harmony FWB Church in Burton since 1996. This is his third pastorate, all in Michigan. He is clerk of the Michigan State Association and clerk of the Presbytery (Wolverine Association).



## NYC Speakers



**Don and Ruth McDonald**  
**WNAC Keynote Speakers**

Allen attended Free Will Baptist Bible College one year, then completed a degree in engineering at Henry Ford Community College. He was converted at age nine and ordained to preach at age 28. One of West's sons answered the call to preach; a daughter attends Free Will Baptist Bible College.

### WNAC Overview

The annual WNAC convention brings more than 700 Free Will Baptist women together for two days of business and fellowship. The 2004 theme is "Great Expectations" (Psalm 62:5).

A two-hour Monday afternoon seminar coordinated by Debbie (Mrs. Keith) Burden is expected to draw 300-plus attendees for an interactive exchange on the biblical mandate for hospitality. Five presenters will revisit biblical principles about opening homes as a means of both fellowship and evangelism. The practical, fast-paced seminar titled "HGTV—WNAC Style" will touch on a variety of subjects ranging from hospitality tips and decorating short-cuts to Bible examples and spiritual applications. The "HGTV" stands for "Hospitality, Grace, Treasures, Values."

The business side of WNAC opens Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. with music by a handbell choir from First FWB Church in Mountain Grove, Missouri, and a report from WNAC executive secretary-treasurer Marjorie Workman. WNAC president Debe Taylor will gavel delegates through reports and votes. Missionaries to Japan, Don and Ruth McDonald, will deliver the keynote address at 11:00 a.m.

The WNAC Fellowship Luncheon features veteran missionary (now on special assignment) Lynette Morgan. Lynette and her husband Clint Morgan were appointed as missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, in 1976 and left for the field in 1977.

### NYC Notes

National Youth Conference director Dean Jones expects more than 1,500 participants for the 37th annual conference. This year's conference theme is "Xtreme Cause, Xtreme Cost" (Matthew 10:38).

Service opportunities through NYC's *Reach That Guy* community projects will branch out in Kansas City as Free Will Baptist youth work in homeless shelters, food banks and inner-city educational programs.

Sixteen worship services as well as tutorials, seminars and special events are planned for youth. More than 800 entries



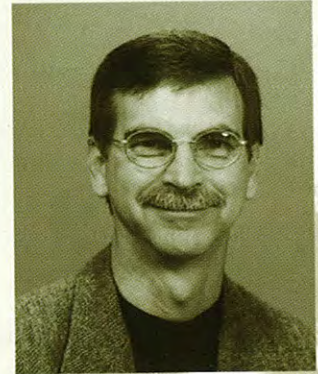
**Trula Cronk**



**Steven Pierce**



**Craig Portell**



**Neil Gilliland**

will power the annual Music and Arts Festival and Bible Competition.

### Behind the Scenes

Seven Missouri Free Will Baptists serve on the national Steering Committee to coordinate the 2004 convention:

Nathan Ruble (Lebanon)—Steering Committee Chairman  
Richard Robinson (Joplin)—State Moderator  
Ken Simpson (Raytown)—Hospitality Committee Chairman  
Gene Howell (Grandview)—Prayer Committee Chairman  
Allen Kinder (Grandview)—Ushering Committee Chairman  
Shirley Jackson (St. Peters)—State WAC President  
Mark Braisher (Overland Park)—State NYC Advisor

### Join Us in KC

There's still time for you to discover for yourself that *Everything's Up to Date in Kansas City*. Beat the June 18 preregistration deadline. Make those hotel reservations today.

When a national meeting the size of the Free Will Baptist convention returns to the same place four times, it means the city is doing a lot of things right. Come and see for yourself. Missouri Free Will Baptists have done all the work. Give the "Show Me" state a chance to show us. We'll see you at the big meetin' in KC. ■



# Missouri Gruff

Two young men meet on a Bible college campus

**Bert:** It was instant dislike. It started the moment I heard his voice. I don't know why. It isn't my nature to form instant opinions. But I did with him. And it wasn't good.

**Bill:** *My dislike for Bert developed more slowly. After all, I came in second semester and knew none of the dorm guys. But it didn't take long for him to grate on my nerves.*

**Bert:** Bill and I were freshmen at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He came from Missouri and I had ridden a train from Rhode Island (which is another story). He was blustery and outgoing. I was quiet . . . at least more so than Bill. He was about my height, but heavier. That wasn't saying much, since I only weighed 145 pounds at the time.

**Bill:** *He may have been quieter but he sure did have a superior attitude, and he did have a head start with relationships in the student body, so extra size was no help to me. Bert just used his size in an effort to generate sympathy.*

**Bert:** I can't remember when the bad blood started, but once it did, it grew. At first it was annoyance. He was loud. And he spoke as if he owned it all. Over time, annoyance became dislike, even enmity.

**Bill:** *Well, it sure is a good thing every story has two sides. Bert remembers it all wrong. Really, I was timid. What he did get right was the progressive enmity. That grew until I didn't want to be in the same room with him, which was hard since*

*we lived in the same dorm and were members of the same campus literary society.*

**Bert:** Is the Devil omniscient? I don't think so; at least that isn't what they taught me in systematic theology. But he must have discerned that Bill and I were destined to work together for the Lord, and set out to derail it early. That's the only explanation I have.

Whatever the source (could it have been simple human depravity?), the tension seemed to grow. The sound of his voice across the dining hall was like the scraping of fingernails on a chalkboard. I could feel the hair rise on the back of my neck.

We both played doubles in ping-pong, but never on the same end of the table. Never. We would scowl and whack away at the ball, determined to beat one another into the ground. I remember him besting me in a set. It made me so mad, I pulled back the paddle to throw it at him. Only the fear of Leroy Forlines (the college's dean of men) kept me from turning it loose.

This went on for months. I knew it was un-Christian, but didn't feel inclined to fight it. Until one night at dorm prayer meeting. It was a typical gathering, in the middle hall, second floor, of Davidson Hall (now the Music Building). I remember who brought the devotion, but his topic wasn't pertinent to what was on my mind that night.

There was Bill, sitting on the floor against the opposite wall, and all I could think was, "This has gone on too long; time to get it settled." So, when the final "Amen" was said, I got up and



# Rhode Island Slim

and dislike each other on the spot.

By Bill Evans and Bert Tippet

started across the floor. To my surprise, Bill was headed my way. We met somewhere near the middle.

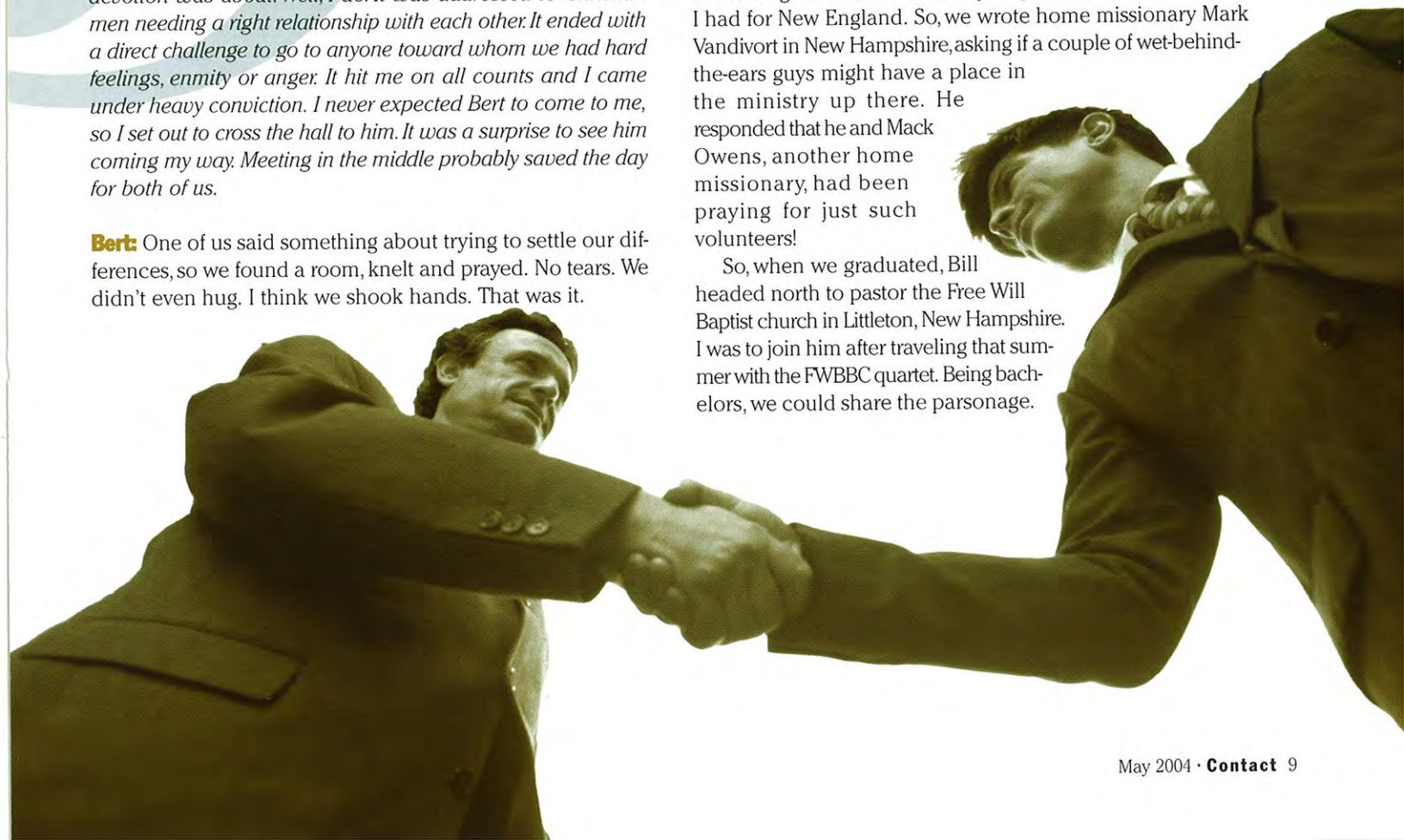
**Bill:** *Now isn't that just like Bert? He can't remember what the devotion was about. Well, I do. It was addressed to Christian men needing a right relationship with each other. It ended with a direct challenge to go to anyone toward whom we had hard feelings, enmity or anger. It hit me on all counts and I came under heavy conviction. I never expected Bert to come to me, so I set out to cross the hall to him. It was a surprise to see him coming my way. Meeting in the middle probably saved the day for both of us.*

**Bert:** One of us said something about trying to settle our differences, so we found a room, knelt and prayed. No tears. We didn't even hug. I think we shook hands. That was it.

The next day we spoke when we passed on campus. Eventually, we played ping pong as partners. Little by little, we became friends. Maybe not the best of friends, at least, not at first.

But that November night God called me to preach, I remember talking to Bill about it. To my surprise, he shared a burden I had for New England. So, we wrote home missionary Mark Vandivort in New Hampshire, asking if a couple of wet-behind-the-ears guys might have a place in the ministry up there. He responded that he and Mack Owens, another home missionary, had been praying for just such volunteers!

So, when we graduated, Bill headed north to pastor the Free Will Baptist church in Littleton, New Hampshire. I was to join him after traveling that summer with the FWBBC quartet. Being bachelors, we could share the parsonage.







**Bill:** Entertainment for us was reading (neither of us could afford a television set). Thankfully, both of us loved to read. Bert was into that silly science fiction while I gravitated to more classical subjects, westerns by Zane Grey. I would irritate Bert (totally unintentional at this time) by eating raw carrots while

the table. New Englanders did not have a problem with obesity back then since they cooked a fixed portion for each individual. That portion, though adequate, was small. We heaped up the platter and bowls and watched with joy as we all stuffed.

**Bert:** In September 1962, I moved out and found a small third-floor apartment into which I planned to move my bride after we were married in October. As soon as I and my new wife arrived back in Littleton, Bill left to "commit matrimony" (as the late Paul Kettelman used to call it) in Tennessee. So, Bill and Brenda, and Dianne and I spent many hours together in the winter of '62, playing Scrabble and watching old

**“As a team brought together by the miracle of God’s mercy, we enjoyed a unique time. Neither one of us changed in personality all that much. God just managed to change our attitudes toward one another.”**

**Bill Evans**

*reading. His good health today may result from his self-defense action of eating raw carrots, too.*



**Bert:** We tried cooking our own meals. Bill was better at it, so I washed the dishes. Our day job was at a furniture factory in nearby Lisbon. We worked alongside each other and took lunch breaks together. And we enjoyed the hospitality of some of the finest families I have ever known, who welcomed two very green college graduates into their homes and hearts.

movies on a black and white TV. The friendships we formed at FWBBC grew stronger since we enjoyed our fullest fellowship with each other.

And when my son was born, Bill was beside me as we looked through the hospital window at him and wondered at the grace that had overcome our early anger and made us best friends. Bill’s office is across town from mine. I don’t see him as often as I would like, but when I do, the years fall away and the friendship that was forged in the fires of early antagonism and the chills of New Hampshire winters rolls on.

**Bill:** Forty-five years have passed since we first met. Both of us are better men because of our friendship. Neither of us is crippled by dependence on the other, but there certainly is a deep friendship and respect between us. The plain fact is I like Bert Tippet and he likes me. ■

**“The friendships we formed at FWBBC grew stronger since we enjoyed our fullest fellowship with each other.”**

**Bert Tippet**

**Bill:** As a team brought together by the miracle of God’s mercy, we enjoyed a unique time. Neither one of us changed in personality all that much. God just managed to change our attitudes toward one another. We enjoyed going to estate auctions on Saturdays, talking about our future brides, working with the church families and developing contacts with other believers in the North country.

We even teamed up to host each of the family groups in the church to a Southern-style dinner. It wasn’t a Southern dinner in much more than volume, but we agreed to really load up

**About the Writers:** Bert Tippet and William (Bill) Evans are Free Will Baptist ministers. Bert serves as director of publications at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Bill is general director with the Board of Retirement. Today, they’re great friends, but it wasn’t easy.



# I Didn't Plan It That Way

By J. Mark Vandivort



**One summer** my family and I were preparing to move from one state to another. Our two teenage sons accompanied me on a trip to search for a house. One morning at a campground along the way our station wagon refused to start. A local mechanic, after diagnosing the problem, gave

me an estimate of repair cost. "How would that compare with installing a new engine?" I asked. (That was on a Friday.)

On the phone, a supplier promised to have a new engine on the mechanic's dock at 8:00 o'clock Monday morning. However, it was delivered two days later than promised. And our sons became bored with nothing to do but swim in the campground pool.

Each morning our neighbor campers would check out and move on except for two young men who were working the graveyard shift as roustabouts on an oil rig. One afternoon while sitting at a picnic table reading my Bible, one of the men stopped by and sat down.

"I used to read that book," he volunteered. Gradually his story began to flow. "No one knows where I am," he concluded bitterly.

My heart ached for that young man. During that conversation and others that followed, I tried to help him see that there were people who loved him and were praying for him. God knew where his tent was pitched. But God was not the one who had failed him. Nothing good was to be gained by deserting God and His Word.

It is important to keep our eyes on the "one Person" who will not make mistakes and disappoint us. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set

down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

Finally, we were once again on our way. Time designated for house hunting had been spent at the campground. After arriving at the city of our destination, I purchased a newspaper. There was one house listed for rent. It met our family's needs.

When your carefully laid plans are derailed, look around. God may have a special mission planned for you. ■



**About the Writer:**  
Reverend Mark Vandivort writes for the *Noble Free Press* in Noble, Oklahoma. He is a retired Free Will Baptist home missionary.



**Soldiers headed home from Iraq rode with him . . . But an old hard-backed chair waited a few days ahead.**

# Going Home

By Eric Thomsen

**From the moment I sank into my narrow, high-backed seat for the short flight to Nashville, it was apparent that this trip would not be routine. The atmosphere on the Boeing 737 was electric. Cheers and catcalls echoed above the dull roar of the jet**

engines as more than 50 soldiers shouldered their way down the center aisle, shoving dusty gear into overhead compartments and under every vacant seat. Honed thin by months in the desert of Iraq with fatigues stained by sweat and blood, their haggard faces and red-rimmed eyes spoke of harsh desert winds, stinging sand and the unspoken horrors of war.

A young lieutenant squeezed past me to collapse in the window seat. After brief introductions, he told me that fewer than 36 hours before, he and his men had been lying face-down in the desert sand as bullets whistled above them. For more than a year, the lieutenant explained, his unit of paratroopers from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, endured the desert heat, the threat of chemical warfare and the bloody reality of war.

Now they were on their way home. I will never forget the way the word *home* sounded as it fell from the lips of this hardened soldier. Wistful, almost reverent, the word reverberated with a depth of longing that few ever experience. He repeated it softly to himself, "Home."

## War Stories

For more than an hour, I sat spellbound listening to harrowing tales of war, from the first jump behind enemy lines to the fall of Baghdad and the more difficult task of keeping the peace in a country long-accustomed to violence. Soldiers laughed as they remembered liberated Iraqi citizens dancing in the streets like crazed school children.

Their faces clouded with sorrow as they described the death of a fellow soldier who somehow strayed from the rest of his unit and walked through a deadly curtain of enemy fire. With each story, their voices grew louder, punctuated with language that was certainly colorful. Beneath their jovial demeanor, however, unchecked emotion and repressed violence still simmered—the product of long months of constant strain, vigilance and adrenaline.

## Nashville Reunion

The pilot's voice broke in from the cockpit, asking passengers to buckle up for the descent into Nashville International Airport.





*Home.* Soldiers on both sides of the aisle broke federal regulations as they climbed over one another and pressed their faces to the windows for their first glimpse of the runway. The excited chatter faded quickly and faces grew serious, anticipating the long-awaited arrival.

Teddy bears (in middle-eastern garb) appeared from duffle bags along with travel-worn bouquets of flowers. By the time the plane touched down, we sat in absolute silence. *Home.* As the plane rolled to a stop, the pilot's voice echoed throughout the cabin, thanking the soldiers for their service to our country.

The reunion in the terminal was nothing short of heart-warming. Soldiers dropped their gear at the end of the breezeway and ran to meet their wives, children and girlfriends. I moved slowly through the clusters of families holding one another with complete abandon. In many cases, the hugs turned to kisses—not glamorous Hollywood-styled affairs, but the long, clinging embrace between lovers who have no promise of tomorrow.

As I lugged my travel bag up the terminal, I realized I was laughing aloud, yet with tears running down my face. For one precious moment, I shared the joy of the soldier who returns to the loved ones for whom he fought. I remembered what it really means to go home.

### **Another Home Going**

From the moment I sat down in the uncomfortable hard-backed chair at my grandmother's bedside, it was apparent that this visit would not be routine. Her eyes, so often clouded by the effects of age and senility, were surprisingly clear and bright as she looked over at me. She squeezed the hand I offered her gently

and said hello. I asked her how she was doing. She shrugged, "Not so bad to be almost 30."

I smiled at her humor and thanked God for her brief moment of clarity. Once hardy and sharp-tongued, the years had made her feeble, a frail shadow of the robust and somewhat intimidating grandmother of my youth. Our conversation was brief, small talk about family and friends, a question or two about the new pictures hanging in her room—casual talk between people thoroughly comfortable with one another.

Then suddenly, with raw emotion that welled up from somewhere deep inside, Grandmother looked into my eyes and spoke words I will never forget. "Honey, you know, I'm ready to go home." I held her hand a little tighter and felt tears hot on my cheeks. "I know, Grandma; I know."

Five days later, I dropped a yellow rose onto my grandmother's casket as they lowered it into the ground, but Grandma really wasn't there. After 99 years of service in the army of the Lord, another faithful soldier finally made it home. ■



**About the Writer:** Eric Thomsen is the design manager at Randall House Publications.







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

# God's Grace Is the Only Safe BET

By Dave Nobles

This is where the rubber meets the road. After we turn the spotlight on the problem of gambling, what do we do about it? How do we deal with the friend, family member or church member who is

hurting because he or a family member is involved in gambling? How do I follow Paul's exhortation in Galatians?

*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ (Galatians 6:1-2).*

## Renewed Relationship, Not Rigorous Rules

Paul says we are to "restore such an one." But to what or whom are we to restore the person? Do we restore him to the church, to his family, to friends, to a better life or to feeling better about himself?

In the context of Galatians, we are to restore the erring person to the walk of grace. This walk with the Lord is a relationship, not a walk of law—rules. Victory comes not from a new set of rules, but

from a new or renewed relationship with the Savior.

When the Holy Spirit works in the life of a person bound by gambling (or any other addiction), restoration is possible. He will be restored to the church, family, friends and a sense of self-worth. However, that's not the goal. Restoration is a relationship with Christ. Anything less results in falling back into old habits.

## Right Tool for the Job

The hardest part is determining what to do so that restoration can take place. This is a work of God, but it is obvious from scripture that God uses us in His work. We are the tools for ministering His truth and revealing His character and person.

The operative word is "tool." We are not the doers, but the ones used by God



in the doing. As a hammer and saw are tools of the carpenter, so we are tools of the Master Carpenter. My job is to be available and ready for the Master's use. He will use me as He chooses and fashion me so I will be the proper tool for the job. I must be pliable in His hands and sensitive to His touch and direction. He knows how to do what I cannot.

The first and most important element is prayer. Seeking God's plan for a particular person is imperative. It will take much prayer along with searching the scripture to know how God will have you move.

### Coming Home Is Never Easy

There are no recipes for success when dealing with someone bound by powerful chains of sinful addiction. Everyone is different. Each person will require different means in order to help him. Some things, however, will be necessary in every case.

#### Respect and Honor

The person must be treated with respect and honor. To lord over him with a holier-than-thou mentality damages your relationship with him and your ability to help. Respect and honor mean recognizing that "there, except for the grace of God, go I." Love him as a friend and brother. Be willing to sacrifice time and yourself to help him. Admit you do not have all the answers but are willing to help find them.

#### Deeper Problem

Look for the deeper problem. In almost every case, you will be dealing with a person bound by an addiction, not the casual gambler. If he has come to you or has been brought to you, his involvement will be far deeper than the occasional purchase of a lottery ticket.

The question you must answer is, What pain is so bad and so deep that he must

gamble to salve the hurt? What does gambling do for him that he must have?

If you do not know the root cause, you may get him to stop gambling, but he will replace it with another addiction. He will not have victory and be restored to a right relationship with God. You will have put a bandage on the problem when a more radical form of treatment is required.

#### Expect a Process

Realize this is a process, not a quick fix. You will invest much time in the restoration of a person. Getting to the real problem requires listening. Go through the scripture; allow him to answer questions rather than simply teaching him the answers. He must see for himself how God can help. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the deeper problem so you can attack it with the power of God.

#### Three Elements

Three elements must come together if the real problem is addressed. First, there must be *recognition* of the sin involved as well as the power of God to forgive and heal the sin. Until this is done, nothing else will take place. I have used Romans 6–8 to help the person see what God can do. This is the time, if he is not already a Christian, you can lead him to Christ.

However, getting him to make a decision on the basis that getting saved will cure all his ills is too simplistic. Salvation is the answer, but with the initial trusting Christ as Savior comes the process of growing in grace. For the addict, no matter what the addiction, it will then be a journey to allow God to heal.

Second, there must be *repentance*. This involves not only mental agreement that the problem is there and God can help, but true turning from the problem. There must be brokenness concerning sin and

willingness to forsake it (Psalm 51; II Corinthians 7:10). This brokenness must not only be regret for what gambling has done in his life, but that he has sinned against God.

Third, there must be *replacement*. If old habits, friends, lifestyle are not replaced with new, the person will in all likelihood return to gambling (Matthew 12:43–45). This is where the church must be a support group for the wounded saint. He has sinned and brought hurt and pain to others, but he is still a child of God who needs acceptance and love. Pushing him away will do no good. He needs to be loved and encouraged while he finds a new life.

#### Find the Key

Look for the "key" that triggers his addiction. Something triggers the mindset that causes him to gamble, even if he admits it is wrong. He may say, "I know it is wrong, but, at the time, I can't help myself." Finding this key may require going back to what started the behavior. If he can, he will need to remember what made him "feel" that gambling would make his life better.

We tend to underestimate feelings, but they are important in behavior. We may believe something is wrong, but "feel" that doing it is more important than being right. Humans are complicated, and only God can straighten out humans. Removing the key can, and usually will, help break the cycle of addiction.

#### Exercise Patience


Do not think this is a simple process or a once-for-all cure. Most addicts have deep-rooted habits and feelings. Even when the key is found, building new keys for better behavior is a work only God can do. You will spend much time in prayer and effort guiding the person through Satan's minefield. Do not expect perfec-

# The question you must answer is, What pain is so bad and so deep that he must gamble to salve the hurt?



# 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](http://www.visitkc.com).

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

## HOTEL INFORMATION:

HOTEL	RATE	PARKING
<b>Kansas City Marriott</b> <i>Headquarters Hotel</i>	<b>\$119</b>	\$10-Self \$12-Valet
<b>Doubletree Hotel</b>	<b>\$109</b>	\$6-Self \$10-Valet
<b>Hotel Phillips</b>	<b>\$115</b>	\$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](http://www.marriott.com)

### Doubletree Hotel

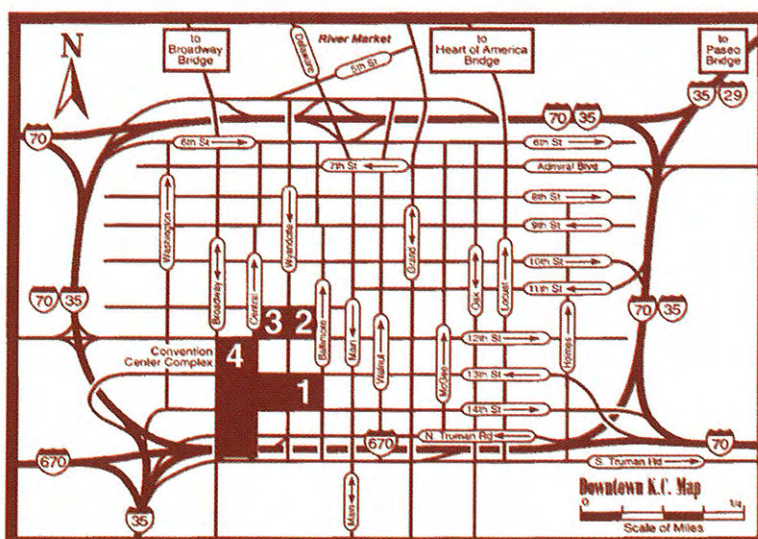
1301 Wyandotte  
Kansas City, MO 64105  
816.474.6664  
FAX 816.474.0192  
[www.kansascitydowntown.doubletree.com](http://www.kansascitydowntown.doubletree.com)

### Hotel Phillips

106 West 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105  
800.433.1426 FAX  
816.221.3477  
[www.hotelphillips.com](http://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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

### 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.

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
<b>Kansas City Marriott</b> Headquarters Hotel	<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
<b>Doubletree Hotel</b> Suites Available	<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
<b>Hotel Phillips</b>	<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

**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

**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:

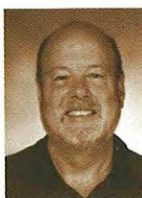
Chris Truett  
Bethel FWB Church  
1936 Banks School Road  
Kinston, NC 28504  
252.522.2451 x. 229  
ctruett@bethelfwb.com

## More Convention Details:

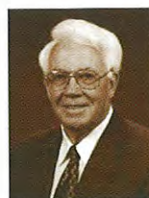
www.nafwb.org  
exoff@nafwb.org  
(877) 767-7659

## 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



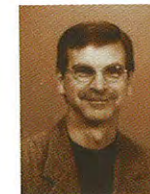
Trula Cronk  
Sunday am



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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 Luncheon .....Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20= \_\_\_\_\_

(Tuesday, July 20, 12:00 noon)

FWBBC Luncheon .....Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20= \_\_\_\_\_

(Wednesday, July 21, 12:00 noon)

## National Youth Conference

Badges Required at ALL Events!

**Lost Badge FEE \$5**

**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 Banquet .....Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ 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**

## 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 Luncheon .....Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25= \_\_\_\_\_

(Tuesday, July 20, 12:30 pm)

**Office Use Only:** Date Rcvd \_\_\_\_\_ CK/MO# \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_

**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](mailto:exoff@nafwb.org)

**Online Registration Begins April 1**

**[www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org)**





# 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.**



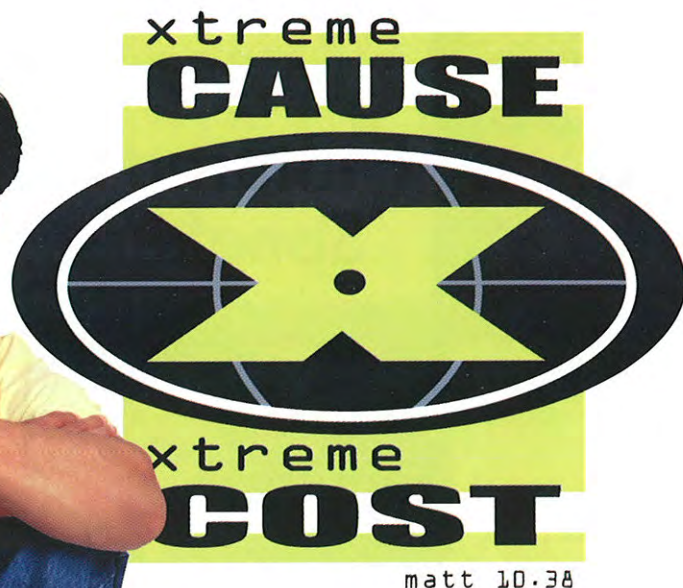
# National Youth Conference

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!

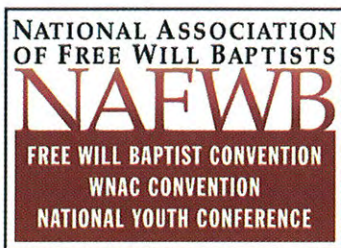


This is your opportunity  
to make an eternal  
difference.

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



Visit [RandallHouse.com](http://RandallHouse.com)  
for more information and  
competition schedules.



**National Association of  
Free Will Baptists**

PO Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002



# Victory comes not from a new set of rules, but from a new or renewed relationship with the Savior.

tion. Do not be surprised at failures. Be patient. Remember how patient God has been with you.

## Final Thoughts

Dealing with a gambler (or any similar addictive problem) is no simple matter. Volumes have been written on this issue. It comes down to a reliance on the Holy Spirit as He guides us in conjunction with the Word.

Remember this vital truth—it cannot be done apart from the work of God. We can try everything we know and still come up empty. There are two elements over which pastors and counselors have no control—God's work and the will of man. Only God can change the

heart of man. Anything else is external and will ultimately be ineffective.

It is essential that the person *let* God work. Not even God can help those who do not allow Him. He has chosen not to control a person's choices. Neither can we. We can guide him, instruct him, love him, walk with him, cry with him and warn him. But the ultimate choice to allow the Holy Spirit to work is his.

We're back where we started—the importance of prayer cannot be overstated. Not only must we pray, but we must teach the person with whom we're dealing to pray and depend on that prayer.

Get him in the Word of God. The sanctifying power of the truth as revealed in God's Word changes lives—not personality

or cleverness or education. It is the truth that will set men free. God is able to heal the most broken soul and, therefore, our efforts done in His Spirit will bring fruit. Christ is the only hope for the gambler.

■



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



A humorous new definition of a hard word.

# Buzz Word at the NATIONAL CONVENTION

By David A. Joslin

Several times during  
the July 2003  
Free Will Baptist  
national convention  
in Tampa, Florida,  
delegates heard  
the word  
“downsizing.”

What is downsizing?

It is the action taken when economic situations demand drastic measures to erase deficits. That's one definition. Most denominational departments reflected red ink last year, thus the reason for the concern expressed.

What is downsizing? Here's another definition.

The Sunday after the national convention, I was on the road traveling Arkansas on behalf of Free Will Baptist Family Ministries. Having left home early that morning, I stopped at McDonald's for a cup of coffee.

As my order was being placed, a previous customer elbowed his way around me and said in a loud voice, “Lady! Do you know that you have only one spoon in the house?”

Without a smile, the waitress retorted, “That's right! And, when you get through with it, lick it off and put it back!”

Now that's downsizing. ■



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



## Dotson to Head Berea Ministries

**MORRISTOWN, TN**—The Missions Committee at Berea Ministries named Tennessee pastor Chris Dotson as their new director. Reverend Dotson, who has pastored Peace FWB Church in Morristown for 13 years, succeeds Howard Munsey.

The appointment came at Berea's annual committee meeting and missions conference on December 13. While Howard Munsey will remain as corporate president, Dotson now assumes day-to-day oversight of the ministry operation.

Chris Dotson is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and holds the Master of Ministry degree from Bob Jones University Seminary.

Commenting on Dotson's appointment, Howard Munsey said, "He is a longtime friend and supporter of the work whose credentials qualify him to lead the ministry. His proven ability has been revealed through his work helping to establish Harvest FWB Child Care Ministries in Duffield, Virginia, as well as his pastorate at Peace Church in Morristown."

Since 1971 Berea Ministries has been under the direction of Reverend Munsey. While the ministry's purpose is similar to other missions organizations, Berea's method is different. They train nationals to win their own people to Christ. They fortify their ministers by providing training opportunities and assisting with salary supplements,



building materials, supplies and equipment. Their goal is to aid pastors in planting churches which will then multiply themselves and extend the witness of the Lord into all areas of Mexico.

## 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.



## Theological Papers Sought

**NASHVILLE, TN**—The 2004 Theological Symposium will meet October 25–26 on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville. All who wish to submit a paper are encouraged to do so.

Papers should be 10–15 pages in length, double-spaced, and should be related to the Bible, theology, Christianity and culture, or some related topic. Submit papers by August 1, 2004, to:

**Matt Pinson**

**3606 West End Avenue**

**Nashville, TN 37205**

**E-mail: [president@fwbbc.edu](mailto:president@fwbbc.edu)**

The symposium is sponsored by the Commission for Theological Integrity of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

## Foundation Funds FWBBC Ministry Studies Center

**NASHVILLE, TN**—Free Will Baptist Bible College received a second grant of \$25,000 from the Chatlos Foundation of Longwood, Florida. The funds are helping the college establish a Biblical and Ministry Studies resource center in Welch Library.

The first \$25,000 came from Chatlos in August 2002. The second was received February 2004.

Reverend Terry Forrest, the college's pastoral training coordinator, says:

"The Chatlos grant has placed in our hands much needed technology and mate-

rials for the honing of the skills of our students. It has placed at students' disposal the latest and best research materials in the field. In addition, a portion of the grant has underwritten our efforts to specifically target prospective ministerial students and recruit them to help to fill the growing need for pastors."

Mr. Forrest has been busy identifying about 150 young men across the denomination who have been called to preach. He visits them personally, encourages them to pursue training, and helps them

find ways to underwrite the cost of that training.

FWBBC President Matthew Pinson says, "We are grateful for the funding we have received from the Chatlos Foundation for our Biblical and Ministry Studies resource center. This grant, and the ministerial students it supports, will help us build on our commitment to producing dedicated pastors for local churches."

## FWBBC Sets Summer Camp

**NASHVILLE, TN**—Free Will Baptist Bible College's Summer Camp '04 will be held on campus June 27–July 2. Campers may choose from four camp choices:

- **Leadership Camp**—for those who know where they are going.
- **Music Camp**—for people who want to give their music talent back to God.
- **Drama Camp**—for those who know the power of the gospel on stage.

- **Basketball Camp (for guys and girls)**—for those who exercise for the glory of God.

The cost is \$195 for the week. Send registration or request a free brochure:

Summer Camp '04

Free Will Baptist Bible College

3606 West End Avenue

Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Phone: 615-844-5000

Email: [tommys@fwbbc.edu](mailto:tommys@fwbbc.edu) ■



**Alabama:** The 28<sup>th</sup> annual state Pastors' and Workers' Conference featured eight sessions with veteran ministers. North Carolina pastor **Randy Sawyer** and retired pastor/evangelist **Fred Warner** (now resides in Arkansas) preached four times each during the February 9–11 conference which met at **First FWB Church in Northport**.

Pastor **Tim Baumgarten** said attendance increased from 102 to 150 this past year at **First FWB Church in Northport**. He reports 13 conversions and 10 baptisms.

**California:** The parking lot is full and attendance has climbed above the 100-mark at **Taft FWB Church in Taft**, according to Pastor **Jim Kilgore**. The desert town surrounded by oil rigs and roustabouts became Kilgore's beat even though he joined the Bakersfield Police Department to get away from it in 1991.

**First FWB Church in Bakersfield** expanded its programs to include a two-year Bible institute in 2003, according to Pastor **Mark Harrison**. Bethel Bible Institute operates under the auspices of the church with **Michael Kennedy** as director. The institute graduates may transfer credits to Louisiana Baptist University (Shreveport) and continue work toward an A.A. or B.A. degree.

**Georgia:** **Piney Grove FWB Church in Bristol** honored interim pastor **James Ursrey** by making a quilt for Ursrey and his wife. Members of the adult Sunday School classes signed their names on squares; children drew distinctive images on individual squares.

The annual state Couples Retreat brought Arkansas pastor **David Taylor** and his wife, **Debe**, to Saint Simons Island for the February 27–28 session. David pastors Lake Hills FWB Church in Hot Springs. Debe serves as WNAC president.

**Illinois:** Pastor **Brad Ryan** baptized two five-year-old girls at **Ina FWB Church in Ina**. Then he baptized 82-year-old **William Osborne**.



**Community Dinner at Northwest FWB**

**Northwest FWB Church in Chicago** logged 34 first-time visitors in one month. Pastor **David Potete** said 160 people attended a special dinner geared to reach the community. Two teens from the church will participate in E-Team outreach with the Foreign Missions Department—one going to Panama, the other to Japan.

**Kentucky:** The **Green River Association** voted to place \$10,000 in an account to support a mission work in the Association's area of west and central Kentucky. Assistant Clerk **Wayne Garrett** said the Association would support a mission work \$500 per month for a year. The local Presbytery Board would meet with the missionary and expect the work to become part of the Association.

**Maryland:** Pastor **Mike Phillips** said **Waldorf FWB Church in Waldorf** scheduled a FOCUS Youth Rally in early spring that stirred the church's teens and younger members. A church youth worker (Kathy) said 80 people attended the Friday and Saturday sessions with **Darin Gibbs** and the guys in the band. She said Darin's messages were clear and relative to youth, challenging them to follow Christ with new passion and purpose.

**North Carolina:** **Chris Truett**, minister of music at **Bethel FWB Church in Kinston**, has developed a two-day conference designed to enhance music and worship in local churches. Chris says the conference will help pastors, musicians and church leaders learn the foundations

and assist in developing a Christ-centered, worship-focused, music and worship ministry. Those interested in the Friday–Saturday meetings may contact Chris at 252-522-2541, ext. 229.

Pastor **Don Holland** and members of **Maccriline FWB Church in Macclesfield** planned a Valentine's Banquet with an unusual twist. They invited retired minister, author and song writer **George C. Lee** to attend the event. Lee later discovered he was more than an invited guest. The congregation recognized Lee's 52-year ministry in sermon and song, and gave him a plaque from the church to commemorate the occasion.

**Oklahoma:** **Pretty Water FWB Church in Sapulpa** celebrated 70 years of service, according to Pastor **Larry Tuttle** who has led the congregation since 1989. Pretty Water organized with 11 members on October 10, 1933. They acquired land and constructed a 12' x 30' building. Under **Rex Weatherman's** leadership as first pastor, the church grew to 65 members. A 1959 fire destroyed the original structure. After difficult times in 1968–1969, the church rebounded with Pastor **Barry Day** at the helm and built a new church.

**South Carolina:** Move over and give him room. The fellow driving that new Buick Century is Pastor **Johnny Evans**. Members of **Mill Branch FWB Church in Johnsonville** secretly raised more than \$11,000 to purchase the vehicle. The congregation also gave Pastor Evans a \$2,000 check. Well done!

**Heartland FWB Church in Lancaster** dedicated an 1,800-square-foot outdoor shelter, according to Pastor **Eddie Hinson**. The shelter is used for singings, special meetings and camping.

The **New Prospect Christian School**, a ministry of **New Prospect FWB Church in Pamplico** began in 1976 with three students. Pastor **Phillip Tipton** says things have changed for the better. The school's K5–12<sup>th</sup> grade program enrolled 183 students last year. Mrs. **Gwen Ard** serves as principal. ■



# Hope for Our Heroes

By Chaplain CPT David Trogdon

**The War on Terror has taught us much about heroes. We have seen the heroism of firemen, police officers and rescue workers who risked their lives, and those who even sacrificed their lives trying to save others on 9-11. We have since seen and heard of the many heroic acts of our soldiers, marines, airmen, sailors and coast guardsmen**

in Afghanistan and Iraq who risked their lives and many who sacrificed their lives as part of the War on Terror.

Since 9-11, Americans should have a fresh awareness of what it takes to be a hero. Heroes are more than millionaire athletes, Hollywood celebrities or rock stars; heroes are those who give of themselves for the sake of others.

One of the many blessings of serving as a Free Will Baptist chaplain is being able to minister to our nation's heroes on a daily basis. Along with Air Force Chaplain Richard Anderson, a fellow Free Will Baptist, I seek to share Christ with our military heroes who are now recovering from their wounds here at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC.

These young warriors, many who have lost legs and arms to IED (Improvised Explosive Devices) and RPG (Rocket-Propelled Grenade) attacks, are now receiving the best medical care in the world. Their physical needs are being cared for, but what about their spiritual needs? That is the mission of your Free Will Baptist chaplains.

Whether in Iraq, Afghanistan or in a hospital room in our nation's capitol, soldiers want and need hope. They need the hope that God is with them, hope that God will take care of their families and hope for the future. The good news of the gospel proclaims that there is always hope in Christ.

As chaplains, we are called by God, endorsed by Free Will Baptists and commissioned by the military to share that "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13). As we seek to fulfill this call, we have been thrilled to introduce a number of these heroes to the only true source of hope in a saving relationship with Christ.

Ministry to these young men and their families is indeed a great blessing. They are not seeking recognition and will tell you that they were "only doing their jobs." They don't call themselves heroes and feel uncomfortable when someone else refers to them in such a way. Even though many have lost limbs, endured much pain and faced death, they rarely complain. They love their country deeply, are concerned for their buddies who are still in danger, and they are glad to have fought for freedom.

Recently, a young soldier asked me, "Chaplain, what's the Word for today?" He was only 20 years old with a young wife and child. A few days before, he had lost his left leg in an ambush and roadside explosion. Now he faces a new and long road of recovery with an uncertain future.

Looking around the room and seeing a concern which I have seen many times before, I responded, "Philippians 4:13 says, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Christ saved you in Iraq, and He will be with you and help you today and in the future as long as you trust Him. You can do this because Christ will give you the strength."

The smiles on the faces of this hero and his family said it all. Christ is our hope! I thank God and Free Will Baptists for the wonderful opportunity to be able to share that hope with all our heroes at home and abroad. ■

**About the Writer:** Chaplain CPT David Trogdon is a Free Will Baptist chaplain serving with the U.S. Army.



**Photo Caption:**  
Chaplains  
Richard  
Anderson (L)  
and David  
Trogdon

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus



# Quench Their Thirst

By Keith Fletcher  
Creative Director

**In the glare of the noonday sun, a weary teacher stops alone beside a roadside well. He speaks to an unlikely student. By asking this outcast woman of questionable reputation a surprising yet simple favor, "Give me a drink," the teacher immediately captures her undivided attention.**

His bold approach breaks down centuries-old barriers of suspicion and prejudice and touches the learner where she lives. The stark contrast of His ultimate goodness and her absolute unworthiness is cloaked by a gentle exchange of questions, answers, explanations and challenges.

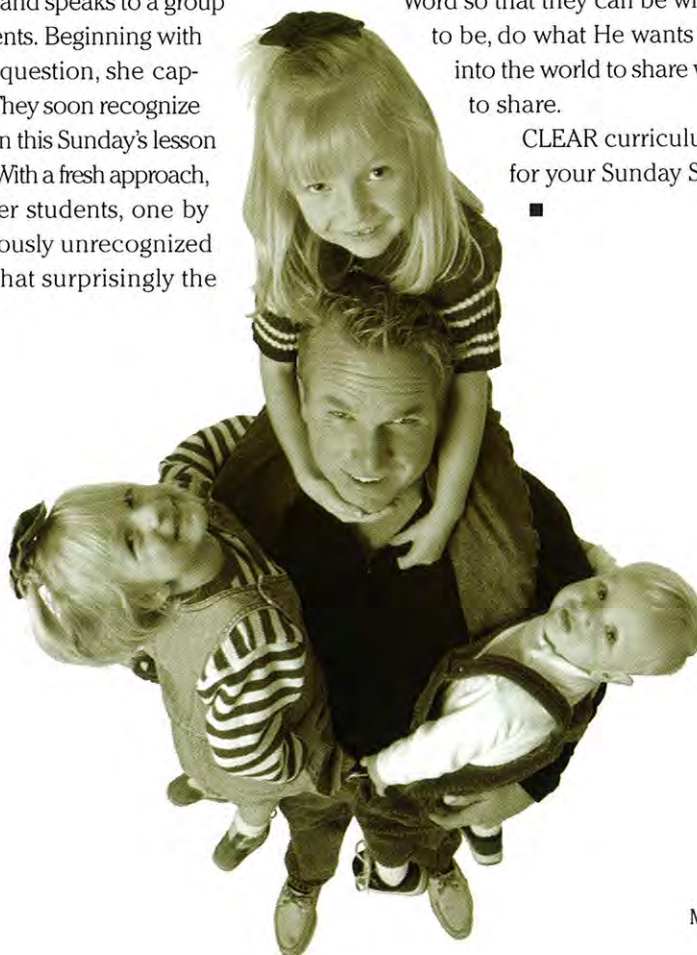
Within moments, the woman drops her theological misgivings and tacitly acknowledges her need. He declares His sufficiency. She believes. He accepts. She goes and tells the whole town that she has met Christ.

Early one Sunday morning, a weary teacher enters her classroom and speaks to a group of disinterested students. Beginning with a simple activity or question, she captures their attention. They soon recognize a connection between this Sunday's lesson and their world today. With a fresh approach, the teacher leads her students, one by one, to realize previously unrecognized needs—life-needs that surprisingly the Bible addresses.

A new way of learning breaks down old patterns of boredom. The clear light of scripture starts shining into the dark corners of the students' daily lives. In less than an hour, the students abandon boredom and begin to discover Truth for themselves. Not a dusty, dead, irrelevant truth, but a living, loving Truth that speaks to their deepest thirst. They believe. They go and tell their friends that they have met Christ.

This is what CLEAR is all about. It's a new approach to Sunday School. It's a curriculum built from the ground up on a foundational system of learning. CLEAR meets students where they are, takes them into the Word so that they can be what God wants them to be, do what He wants them to do, and go into the world to share what He wants them to share.

CLEAR curriculum will be available for your Sunday School August 2004.



**RANDALL  
HOUSE  
PUBLICATIONS**

**CLEAR stands for**

**Connect—**  
captures the  
attention and  
plugs the lesson  
into life.

**Learn—**  
emphasizes  
simple truths  
students can  
learn and  
remember.

**Explore—**  
explains what the  
Bible says and  
investigates its  
deeper meaning.

**Apply—**  
shows students  
how timeless  
biblical principles  
affect 21<sup>st</sup>  
century life.

**Respond—**  
reminds students  
and teachers that  
every lesson calls  
for decisive  
action.

**Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus**



# Who Will Take Their Place?

By Milton Fields  
Academic Dean

**Paul admonishes Timothy in II Timothy 2:2, "And the things thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." In modern business vernacular, Paul is saying, "Duplicate yourself. You know what to do. You have a proven track record. Now teach others to be successful Christians." Timothy was to duplicate himself in trusted folks, people who had the potential to be teachers and whose proven records of success made good patterns for others to follow.**

## A Few Good Men

At Free Will Baptist Bible College, we are always looking for faithful folks to join our faculty, those with successful experience and strong educational credentials. But most of all we look for people with an excellent grasp of God's Word dedicated to Christian principles both in the church and in the world. Like the military, we are looking for a few good men and women willing to duplicate themselves in future leaders of the Christian church in general and particularly in Free Will Baptist churches.

We recognize that those who teach our students must first have a successful experience in their own area of ministry. All faculty members must be able to articulate convincingly their personal salvation experience. Akin to the caution regarding bishops found in I Timothy 3:6, our faculty members are not novices.

## Lead By Example

Education at Free Will Baptist Bible College is not a "do as I say do" proposition but a "follow me" example. Our faculty and staff include seasoned pastors and church builders, veteran missionaries, long-term church musicians, well-known theologians, tested educators, banking consultants, published historians, weathered business leaders, experienced psychologists, a developer of the first Christian school special education program in Tennessee, accreditation evaluators, members of various Tennessee State Department of Education committees, and leaders in local churches and civic groups.

We are here to help students prepare for Christian ministry regardless of the profession they enter. The Bible College began as a training site for Free Will

Baptist ministers, missionaries and other full-time Christian workers. As it grew, its leaders recognized the need to equip men and women to serve beyond the local church.

## Great Concern

There is one thing which concerns us. Many of our faculty and staff are approaching retirement age—some are well beyond that age. Finding a well qualified, seasoned and willing replacement is rare. One unusual characteristic of such individuals is they may not realize God can use them to minister at FWBBC. The person who fills the currently vacant English position may be someone who retired early and has 10 or 20 years left to help a young Bible College student develop proper grammar, writing and critical thinking skills.

The person God has in mind for the currently open Music Department chair may be a choir director in a local Free Will Baptist church. Although we are looking for folks with proven track records, we are not necessarily looking just at those with denomination-wide name recognition.

## Great Opportunity

Serving to prepare a future generation of Christian leaders is no nine-to-five commitment. Some nights and weekends may be spent speaking at a distant church or representing the college at a professional meeting 800 miles away. A student may need advice at hours when most folks would be asleep.

But this business of sharing the Good News and duplicating yourself is the greatest job in the world. It is living beyond your own life as those you teach duplicate themselves after you have gone to be with the Lord.

If you are interested in a teaching ministry at Free Will Baptist Bible College, especially the English or music position, please e-mail me at [mfields@fwbbc.edu](mailto:mfields@fwbbc.edu) or call me at 615-844-5203. If you might be interested in a staff position, e-mail Mr. Tom Sass at [Tom-s@fwbbc.edu](mailto:Tom-s@fwbbc.edu) or call him at 615-844-5230. ■



Free Will Baptist  
Bible College

Free Will Baptist  
Bible College is  
looking for  
people with  
the following  
qualities:

- Successful experience.
- Strong educational credentials.
- An excellent grasp of God's Word.
- Dedication to Christian principles both in the church and in the world.

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus





# Money Management Is Tough!

By David L. Brown  
Associate Director

**You wouldn't think working with money is a tough job, but putting it in appropriate places is often a chore. Some funds are needed for everyday bills and need to be easily accessible through a checking account. Decisions about where to put these types of funds are driven by checking account fees and the service your bank provides.**

You may have retirement monies in a stock mutual fund that you will not need for many years. These funds need to earn a reasonable rate of return to underwrite your retirement goals. The rate of return is often the driver of these funds.

Other funds are not needed for immediate bills but may be savings for medium range projects (three to five years) or just emergency funds. With this money, quick accessibility is important, but you do expect some earning potential until you need the funds.

This latter type has been one of the most difficult to manage through the years. It is not difficult to find a bank willing to give you good service on a checking account for a reasonable fee. There are many choices to choose from when you look for a place to put your retirement funds. But when you begin to look for a place for medium range or emergency funds, the pickings are slim.

You can opt for a five-year certificate of deposit (CD) and improve your return to a reasonable level. However, if you need the funds before five years is up, you lose a good bit of the return in early withdrawal fees. Another option is passbook savings or money market accounts. Current rates on these accounts are currently at or below the inflation rate, which means you would almost be as well off burying it in a jar in the back yard or stuffing it in your mattress.

Free Will Baptist Foundation offers a solution for these funds. Money management trusts have earnings rates that are near five-year CD rates and yet they offer withdrawals of up to \$50,000 on seven days notice.

Money management rates will change as market conditions change, but the rates are set for six-month periods at a time. The rates are set in January for the period that ends June 30 and in July for the period that ends December 31. As this article is written in February 2004, the rate stands at 4.15% through June 30, 2004.

The Foundation invests money management trusts in government backed investments only. Primarily the funds are in government agency bonds and long term CDs. However, the Foundation is not a bank and, therefore, we do not offer FDIC insurance on these funds.

Individuals and churches or organizations can establish these trusts, but individuals are required to designate a Free Will Baptist ministry as a 20% beneficiary if they die without fully revoking the trust.

The Foundation has been offering these types of trusts for over 20 years. We manage over 400 of them for individuals, churches, state associations, regional ministries and national agencies.

It is a tough job managing money. Let the Free Will Baptist Foundation help you. Call 877-336-7575 or go online at [www.fwbgifts.org](http://www.fwbgifts.org) for more information.



THE  
FREE WILL  
BAPTIST  
FOUNDATION

- David Brown addresses the dilemma of where to invest money budgeted for medium range projects or emergency funds.
- The Free Will Baptist Foundation offers money management trusts with earning rates near five-year CD rates which offer some advantages over bank CDs.

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus





**Adethia Rudd**

## Helpmate to a Bivocational Pastor

**My husband has been a bivocational pastor for over 16 years.** He was not in the ministry when we married, and I've learned some things through the years that may help another wife who is struggling with her new role as I did.

### **Be Supportive**

Proverbs 31:12 says a virtuous wife will do her husband good and not evil. Recognize that secular work is stressful and can drain your husband of spirituality. Support him and pray for him and his ministry within his secular job.

My husband is a contractor in a managerial position. He encounters opportunities to witness to lost men on the job and through a weekly Bible study at work. This is vital to his ministry at our church, because he lives what he preaches.

### **Help in Ministry**

We joke that my husband was definitely called to preach, but not to make phone calls or to mail cards! A wife can take on that aspect of ministry.

Send encouraging notes to church members, call when they're sick, and make brief visits when necessary. Put their upcoming medical procedures on your calendar so you can check on them or remind your husband to call them. These matters will spread your husband's time a little thinner during the week.

### **Pay Attention to Unsaved Spouses**

Invite unsaved spouses of church members to fellowships to let them know you love them. Minister to them with cards and food when they experience illness or loss of a loved one. They may be won to the kingdom by your good conduct (1 Peter 3:16).

### **Manage Ministry-Related Calls at Home**

This is important, because often your voice (and the background noise) is the first contact a person will have with your husband's ministry. I learned long ago when a caller asks for "Brother Rudd" or "Reverend Rudd" to grab a pen and paper.

Be polite. Teach the children to take good messages or to find you quickly. Ministry-related calls for my husband are often long distance. Be diligent to pass on the message as soon as possible. Know when to call your husband at work.

### **Be Hospitable**

Let your husband know in advance that he may invite the missionary home after church. We've enjoyed many visits over the years by simply leaving home that morning prepared to invite the guest speaker or singer to come and share a meal with us.

Your husband will delight in spending quality time with other Christian workers in the comfort of his own home. Best of all, he will be energized and renewed in spirit on Monday morning.

### **Respect His Study Time**

He likely does not have hours in a quiet church office to prepare messages. Teach your children to give Daddy the peace he needs at home, even at the expense of your time with him.

### **Be Available to Your Church**

Let them know they can call you for confidential wise counsel and that you can be trusted to pass any messages to the pastor as soon as he gets home. This makes you a partner in his ministry and helps your church have a more available pastor.

The task can seem daunting to both the newly-called minister and his wife. There are too many empty pulpits to ignore men who will give their best to a pastorate in addition to working a 40-hour workweek. Your church will be blessed by your husband's real-world perspective, and you will be blessed for your partnership with him. ■

**About the Writer:** Mrs. Adethia Rudd is a member of Good Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Henderson, Texas, where her husband, David, pastors. She teaches Sunday School and plays the piano. Adethia homeschools their three children (ages 16, 14, 6). She is an early morning walker who enjoys vegetable gardening and fiction writing.

### **Alabama**

**Benny McKinney to Free Water Church, Guin from Harmony Church, Warren AR**

### **South Carolina**

**Larry Monday to Evergreen Church, Conway from Bay Branch Church, Timmons ville**

**David Newton to First Church, Greenwood**





Thomas Marberry

## Permission Evangelism

By Michael L. Simpson (Colorado Springs, CO: Nexgen, 2003, 208 pp., paperback, \$14.99)

**Michael L. Simpson is a former** atheist who became a believer and developed a passion for reaching a lost and often hostile generation for Christ. He is a businessman with years of experience in sales and marketing, yet, his book is not just another attempt to apply modern sales techniques to the Christian faith. This book calls for a return to more participatory methods of evangelism like Jesus used.

Traditional methods of evangelism do not work well in modern contexts where people have little interest in organized religion and resent those who would impose religious beliefs on them. Many have been wounded by previous contacts with churches and other religious institutions.

Simpson argues that we need to look to the ministry of Jesus as the model for personal evangelism. He writes, "We have been taught by Christian culture to interrupt strangers and force people to listen. But that was not the approach Jesus used with the lost. Christ told parables that few understood and let those not seeking truth—or not yet ready to accept truth—walk away. Was he a poor evangelist, or did he know something about relating to the lost that we've somehow missed?"

Simpson's approach is that witnessing is best done in a relaxed conversational atmosphere where no one feels pressured or forced to accept something he is not ready to accept. He provides excellent strategies that Christians may use in ini-

tiating conversations with non-Christians. These conversations often result in opportunities to share one's faith and testimony with the unbeliever.

These conversations must take place in an atmosphere of sensitivity both to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and to the needs and desires of non-Christians. Holy Spirit guidance is crucial, because He alone can open the heart of the unbeliever. The conversation must also occur at a pace acceptable to the non-Christian. In many cases, several conversations over a period of time will be necessary.

Chapter eight tells the story of Margarita. She was born into a Jewish family in the Ukraine in 1914. Three members of her family perished in Stalin's deliberate famine of 1921; she suffered through the siege of Leningrad during World War II. Her final years were spent in poverty and isolation. She did receive occasional visits from a nephew named Victor.

One day she met a missionary named Susan Green who knew the heart of God. Susan visited this elderly Jewish woman, took food to her and spent time with her. During Margarita's final illness, Susan and some friends went to visit her. They shared the gospel with her, and God changed the heart of one elderly Jewish woman. That is evangelism.



Unless he is sensitive to the leadership and direction of the Holy Spirit, the personal evangelist can do more harm than good. Simpson explains, "Sharing your faith with a nonbeliever without the leading of the Holy Spirit can do great damage to the journey of the seeker and quench the Holy Spirit in the believer."

Sometimes the best thing a believer can do is terminate the conversation in a polite way and leave. Perhaps the Lord will open the door for further witnessing in the future.

This is a valuable book on personal evangelism. It emphasizes the importance of the personal testimony of ordinary believers. Non-Christians find it hard to identify with many of the dramatic testimonies of people saved from terrible sin. The author provides practical guidance to help the believer share his or her faith in a non-threatening way. Most important, this book underscores the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding the believer.

This book will not satisfy those who view personal evangelism as hard-hitting encounters that press for an immediate decision. It provides a valuable alternative for believers who wish to share their faith but who are not comfortable with many traditional approaches. ■





Garnett Reid

## Everything Old Is New Again

The Bible's Story-Line, Part IV

**This month we begin our look** at the Old Testament's place in the biblical story-line. Here's the second paragraph of our summary statement of scripture:

**In the Old Testament, God reveals the promise, the initial phases of His plan to reconcile fallen humans to Himself. This plan unfolds in history through a series of covenant relationships He makes with His people Israel.**

### Why "Old?"

We need to understand why the first 39 books of the Bible are called the "Old Testament." "Testament" is a translation of

the Hebrew and Greek words for "covenant." The Lord affirms the coming of a "new covenant" in Jeremiah 31:31-34. Jesus' saving work marks its arrival (Matt. 26:28; II Cor. 3:6).

Hebrews 8 speaks of two covenants as part of one design: the "first" or "old" covenant, and the "new," "second," "better" covenant. Clearly two parts make up the one story of the Bible. Each part is incomplete without the other. They are alike but different; the Old promises and the New fulfills.

### Very Revealing

Another feature of our summary recognizes that God "reveals" truth to us through

Old Testament writers. He speaks to them directly (Num. 12:8; Jer. 23:18-22), in dreams and visions, through written records (Num. 21:14; Josh. 10:13), and even as they observe life and nature (Prov. 24:30-34).

What He shows us through their words is His promise. Emerging from the tragedy of human rebellion in Genesis 3-11, God's assurance to Abraham flows to all of us promising that He will bless the whole world through Abraham's family (Gen. 12:3). This promise leads to the cross of Jesus. As Paul puts it, "the gospel" was preached to Abraham back in Genesis 12 (Gal. 3:8-9).

### Best Is Yet to Come

Yet these vistas are only the initial phases of His plan. The appetizers Genesis through Malachi offer are delicious, but they are not the main course. Jesus serves that fare.

This plan God unfolds in the Old Testament centers around Jesus and what He came to do: "reconcile fallen humans to Himself." Since our defiance of God in Genesis 3 and its resulting depravity throughout the race, He has set events in motion to restore us to Himself.

### "I Will Be Your God"

When God enters into each major covenant relationship in the Old Testament, He announces His ultimate goal: "I will be your God, and you will be my people" (Gen. 17:7; Ex. 6:7; 29:45; II Sam. 7:24; Jer. 30:22). Whatever happens in life, whether today makes us smile or cry, the best news we will hear is that God wants us to know Him. He makes that possible if we will trust Christ.

## BEYOND BELIEF



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## The Real Thing

God's plan unfolds in history. The biblical story is not science fiction or myth. No philosopher or think tank sat around the table to devise a scheme to dupe you into believing God. The God of the Bible is the Lord of history; the real world is the setting for what He has done.

To be sure, the story developed in stages over the course of time. In order to encourage faith, God worked as history unfolded in the real world of Mesopotamia and Palestine in the third millennium before Christ, for example. The accounts of Egyptian life and culture depicted in Genesis and Exodus are accurate. No wonder Joshua and the conquest of Canaan find their place in the Late Bronze Age. Israelite interaction with Syria, Philistia, Assyria and Babylon during the Monarchy concur as well with what we know from secular history.

Rebekah, Moses, David—even Maher-shalal-hashbaz—were real people! Indeed, we have not followed “cunningly devised fables.” The Old Testament message takes deep root in the soil of human history.

In God's design, the focus of His work in history begins with individual people and a particular nation. His covenant dealings with Israel serve as the front door through which all people may come into His presence. ■

**Next month** we inspect these covenants.

### Receipts:

State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 514	\$ 146	\$ 661	\$ 819	\$ 299	\$ 1,118
Arizona	0	0	0	0	44	44
Arkansas	6,412	10,183	16,595	21,795	36,670	58,465
California	2,156	1,212	3,368	2,235	2,371	4,606
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	123	2,768	2,891	123	2,768	2,891
Georgia	28,592	1,013	29,605	71,239	3,473	74,712
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois	12,348	2,089	14,436	22,424	4,275	26,699
Indiana	1,789	48	1,837	3,420	995	4,415
Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	0	101	101	0	101	101
Kentucky	30	630	660	165	1,428	1,593
Louisiana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maryland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michigan	13,949	3,725	17,674	40,708	5,955	46,664
Mississippi	0	0	0	8,970	799	9,769
Missouri	54,593	11,351	65,944	128,928	32,227	161,155
Montana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Mexico	0	0	0	466	23	488
North Carolina	235	6,561	6,796	3,162	13,684	16,846
Ohio	9,620	3,698	13,318	27,871	6,441	34,311
Oklahoma	61,724	12,258	73,982	124,672	23,624	148,296
South Carolina	29,045	44	29,089	68,616	87	68,703
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	1,873	1,291	3,164	24,681	3,993	28,674
Texas	0	0	0	16,932	786	17,718
Virginia	10	0	10	172	0	172
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Virginia	367	137	504	872	228	1,100
Wisconsin	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada	828	14	842	1,943	29	1,972
Northwest Assoc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northeast Assoc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 224,207</b>	<b>\$57,268</b>	<b>\$ 281,475</b>	<b>\$ 570,212</b>	<b>\$ 140,299</b>	<b>\$ 710,511</b>

### Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 1,040	25,771	\$ 26,810	\$ 2,587	\$ 63,135	\$ 65,722
Foreign Missions	137,811	7,244	145,055	355,059	17,748	372,807
FWBBC	14,814	7,244	22,058	49,500	17,748	67,248
Home Missions	64,623	5,670	70,293	143,358	13,890	157,248
Retirement & Insurance	264	4,410	4,674	776	10,803	11,579
Master's Men	582	4,410	4,991	805	10,803	11,608
Commission for Theo. Integrity	28	157	185	96	386	482
FWB Foundation	71	1,890	1,960	417	4,630	5,047
Historical Commission	28	157	185	96	386	482
Music Commission	56	157	214	149	386	535
Media Commission	91	157	249	219	386	605
Hillsdale FWB College	1,435	0	1,435	4,084	0	4,084
Other	3,367	0	3,367	13,065	0	13,065
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 224,207</b>	<b>\$57,268</b>	<b>\$ 281,475</b>	<b>\$ 570,212</b>	<b>\$ 140,299</b>	<b>\$ 710,511</b>





# WHAT'S A KID TO DO IN KANSAS CITY?

By Dean Jones, NYC Director

**If you're loading up the family truckster with the young'ns and heading to KC, you certainly have a treat in store for the whole family. First, make sure**

to preregister your entire family or group. Go to [www.nafwb.org/convention](http://www.nafwb.org/convention) to take advantage of this time-saving and money-saving option. You'll also have the chance to purchase Worlds of Fun Amusement Park discount tickets and purchase NYC t-shirts, bags and lanyards.

When your brood arrives in KC, they'll find loads of kid-friendly activities planned for the National Youth Conference. Age-appropriate worship services, daily story times, exciting after-service activities, Bible memory songs and workshops, kid-friendly banquets, hands-on craft sessions, especially-designed workshops and special service projects just for children.

Competition is always exciting for both competitors and spectators. If you're competing, be sure to check out the on-line competition directory at [www.randallhouse.com](http://www.randallhouse.com).

Beginning July 1, you'll find a listing of all competitive entries complete with dates, times and competition locations. If you're not competing, consider visiting a competition session. You'll not only expose your children to the exciting competitive atmosphere, but they might be inspired to give it a try themselves next year.

We've put together a team of speakers, musicians and workers who love kids. They'll experience the largest children's church they've probably ever seen. Each evening they'll hear God's Word, sing new songs, and enjoy crafts and activities just for them.

If you want to venture out into the city, you'll find Science City at Union Station, the Kansas City Zoo, the Kansas City Children's Museum and much more.

## IDEAS FOR KIDS

The trip to and from an event is often as much a part of the learning experience as the event itself. With a little planning, you can ensure that your trip to KC is not boring, but educational. After you've mapped out your route, visit the websites of major cities along your path to see what interesting sites may be along the way. While some things may cost a buck or two, there are plenty of free activities.

Plan your own rolling scavenger hunt, visit historical sites, play the traditional traveling games, memorize the NYC theme verse and others. Give everyone in the van, bus or car a job to do. If everyone has a role (window washer, trash collector, nose counter, song leader, etc.), the trip will go much faster and no one will be left out.

Visit [www.randallhouse.com](http://www.randallhouse.com) for more exciting ideas as you travel to KC. See you there. ■





Jack Williams

## Rainy Day Brothers

### An old friend stopped by late

yesterday during a driving rain storm that triggered flash flood warnings across the state. He came unannounced guessing I'd still be at work and would answer the office doorbell. Don and I spent a few quiet moments talking about his son who died 31 years ago and was buried a long way from here on another rainy day. As quickly as he came, he left, leaving behind the lingering warmth of a familiar handshake and the rushed awkwardness of a manly hug.

Don was licensed to preach in 1969 and ordained in 1972. He preached his first sermon, a 40-minute zinger, in a church I pastored in the next county. Best first-sermon I ever heard, and I've heard plenty. Never heard him teach a bad lesson or preach a bad sermon, which is more than he can say about me.

We talked about the dark times. Life has been meaner to Don than it has to me, but he never wavered in his faith. We both experienced financial struggles that seemed unending, when five dollars looked like a fortune and neither of us had a quarter in his pocket.

**Our trails crossed** and re-crossed as students at Free Will Baptist Bible College, instructors at California Christian College, clandestine meetings in Chicago while he completed a master's degree, together again in Nashville.

Don returned briefly to the Christian school arena as a principal in Virginia, then inevitably made his way back to publishing, because he's such a gifted writer and editor.

He's no kid any longer, turning 57 this spring, and I've known him since he was a college freshman. For years our families spent every Thanksgiving together. No agenda. Just turkey, watch the kids play and try to figure a way out of debt.

**We laugh a lot when** we're together, because we trust each other and are comfortable with any subject. We've been together in the valley of death, in financial reversals, in family emergencies, when times were good and when times were awful. Ours has been a friendship punctuated by laughter... and some rainy day tears.

Don's smarter than I am, a better thinker and writer. We both know that, but he lets me slide most of the time. However, I can take him one-on-one on the basketball court. But put a Bible in his hand or a manuscript, and he's something special.

He's a preacher from a family of preachers. His dad was a Free Will Baptist minister, as well as two of his brothers. He's a holy man who never forgets he's a Christian. He's the most consistent man I know. Private devotions every day, wouldn't miss church on a bet, witness at the drop of a hat, serve anywhere the pastor points, a true man of prayer.

**And, oh my,** what a reader! He reads circles around me and remembers what he read. He's the poster child for reading the right books—solid theological works, doctrinal commentaries, literary classics. Heavy stuff. Almost makes me want to hide my cowboy books, but what can I say—I'm a Louis L'Amour addict.

We've had few angry words in 40 years, and even they came and went like a storm in the night. I've never known a man who tried harder to imitate Jesus in his daily walk. Sure he has his faults, but I seem to have misplaced the list.

**Don knows tales** about me that make me blush. I keep him at bay because I know his back trail also. For the record, he's a worse singer than I am, and at least as dumb when it comes to cars and hammers. Neither one of us can fix anything that's

broken except a manuscript. The only practical skill he has is one we mutually share, an amazing ability to pack boxes when it's time to move.

We also share a mad love of books. I'm downright embarrassed that his library is so well rounded while mine resembles a rummage sale at a Bedouin camel auction. We've postponed buying clothes in order to buy more commentaries. At least Don did. I sneaked down the street and bought John Wayne books and the latest on World War II and the Dallas Cowboys.

**But we be brethren,** rainy day brothers. Brothers in the valley of death, brothers in laughter, brothers in the soup of life, brothers to make used-car salesmen smile. There's not much I wouldn't trust Don to do, except replace a spark plug or adjust the blade on a lawn mower. On the other hand, I'd trust him with my life, my wife and my cash. But definitely not my Volkswagen collection.

Next time you're in Nashville, stop at 114 Bush Road and ask for Don. Tell him I sent you. Better ask for him by his full name—the man with two master's degrees, a cat he hates and the title of adult curriculum editor at Randall House Publications—my rainy day brother, Larry Don Hampton. ■





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