

September 2004

Contact

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



A New Day

2004 National Convention Review

Official Publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptists

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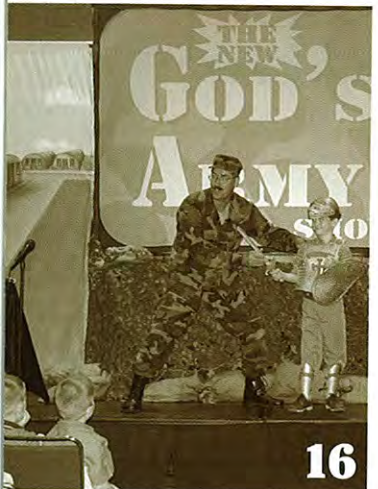
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Front Cover and Convention Photos:

Courtesy of Danny Conn, pastor of Soul's Harbor FWB Church in Pensacola, Florida, and editor of *Coordinator*, publication of the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists.



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Keith Burden

Don't Tell God!

Bessie wasn't a typical 90-year-old. Her mind was clear, and she outlived all her family except a nephew and granddaughter. Most of the time when I was her pastor, she lived in a nursing home. While not an ideal situation, I never heard her complain. She felt sorry for those unfortunate "old folks" who lived with her in the care facility.

Although I tried to visit her regularly, it was never often enough to suit her. If too much time passed between visits, she pretended she didn't know me when I called on her and threatened to send her tithes to a television evangelist. I marveled at her wit and outlook on life.

I received a call from the nursing home one afternoon informing me Bessie had been taken to the hospital by ambulance. She was experiencing severe chest pain, and they feared she was having a heart attack. I dropped what I was doing and left for the hospital.

Unafraid to Die

When I entered her room, nurses were starting an IV, hooking her up to a heart monitor and checking vital signs. I stepped aside and waited until they finished. The nurse motioned me to Bessie's bedside. I took her by the hand and in my most reassuring tone tried to calm her fears.

I encouraged her to conserve her energy and not try to talk. After promising I would stay until some of her family arrived, I asked if I could pray. She nodded approval. Gripping her hand firmly, I began, "Dear Heavenly Father, I know Sister Bessie must be very frightened right now. . . ."

Before I could continue, she began vigorously shaking my hand. Pulling the oxygen mask away from her face, she said with a weak but determined voice, "Pastor, don't tell God I'm afraid. *I am not*

afraid to die. Please don't tell God I'm afraid." No one had ever interrupted my prayer to tell me that.

I paused and looked down into eyes full of confidence and peace. I said, "I stand corrected." Then, continuing my prayer, I thanked the Lord for her strong faith and the promise of His presence no matter what happened. When I said amen she squeezed my hand.

Her condition eventually improved and she returned to the nursing home briefly, but died a short time later. The memorial service was more of a celebration than a funeral. She planned most details far in advance. We did our best to carry out her wishes.

Unexpected Optimism

Why would a 96-year-old woman have such a big influence on a young pastor? For one thing, she had a positive attitude. Ministers hear a lot of negative comments when they visit parishioners. Issues ranging from sickness to family problems dominate the conversations. Folks feel free to pour out their hearts to their shepherd, and rightly so.

All that bad news can take a toll on the man of God. That's why it's so refreshing to encounter someone like Bessie. She managed to see the best in others and strike a positive chord rather than playing a negative note.

I was impressed with her sense of humor. She had the uncanny ability to make me laugh. Many people become bitter and resentful when confined to a nursing home, but not Bessie. Her conversation seldom revolved around herself or her circumstances. Instead, she focused on brightening the lives of others. She refused to take herself too seriously. I admired that quality in her.

Unflinching Service

She did what she could. Rather than making excuses for her limitations, she found ways to serve the Lord and minister to others. She regularly sent cards of encouragement to people on their birthdays or special occasions. Several received hand-knitted afghans she made from colorful yarn. I was fortunate enough to be placed high on her prayer list. She was a prayer warrior.

Yet, the most significant aspect of her life was her faith and courage. I've been around my share of people who were dying and, frankly, most were terrified. That wasn't the case with this godly woman. The brave little saint put her trust in the Lord and stared death in the face without flinching. That's why she didn't want her pastor telling the Lord she was afraid.

Next time you find yourself in a crisis, choose your words carefully as you pray. Otherwise, you might be interrupted and reminded what not to tell God. ■





2004 National Convention Review

We knew the 68th annual national convention in Kansas City, Missouri, July 18–22 had gone well when street vendors outside Kansas City Convention Center told delegates they were glad the Free Will Baptists came to town because “when we lay our money down and look away, the money’s still there when we turn back.” The general manager at the headquarters hotel said, “I wish the Free Will Baptists met here every year.”

Not only did convention week impress Kansas City hotels and street vendors, Free Will Baptists from 40 states registered in near record numbers (5,476). We left smiling after five days of meetings, business and worship. More than one delegate was heard to say as the week unfolded, “It’s a new day for Free Will Baptists!”

So What’s New?

A New Publication

One of the most pivotal decisions came Wednesday morning when delegates adopted the Publications Committee Report to launch a new denominational magazine in 2005. The new publication (yet to be named) will start up with a 60,000 mailing list, be printed bimonthly (six times a year) and include 48 four-color pages.

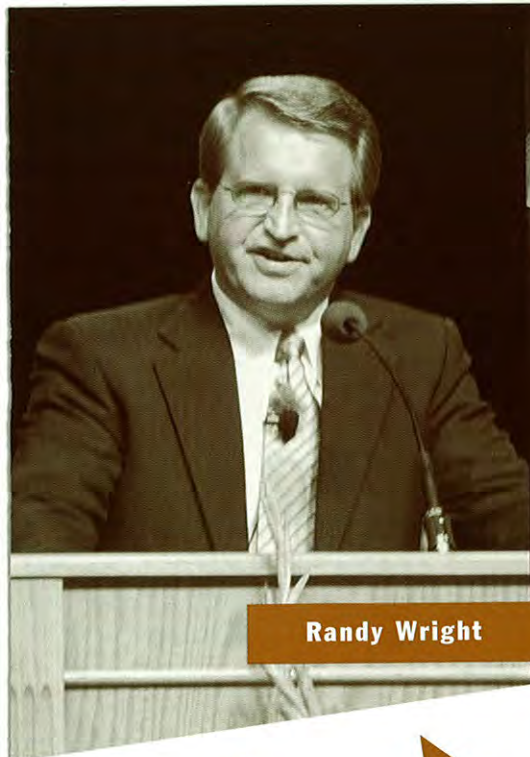
The publication will be sent free to readers. Six national agencies will pool financial resources and mailing lists: Home Missions Department (*AIM*), Foreign Missions Department (*Heartbeat*), Master’s Men Department (*Master’s Men Newsletter*), Free Will Baptist Bible College (*Bible College Bulletin*), Sunday School and Church Training Department (*OutReach*), Executive Office (*Contact*). All six publications will cease publishing and unite in the new bimonthly magazine.

In addition, the Board of Retirement and the FWB Foundation will provide additional funding for the new publication.

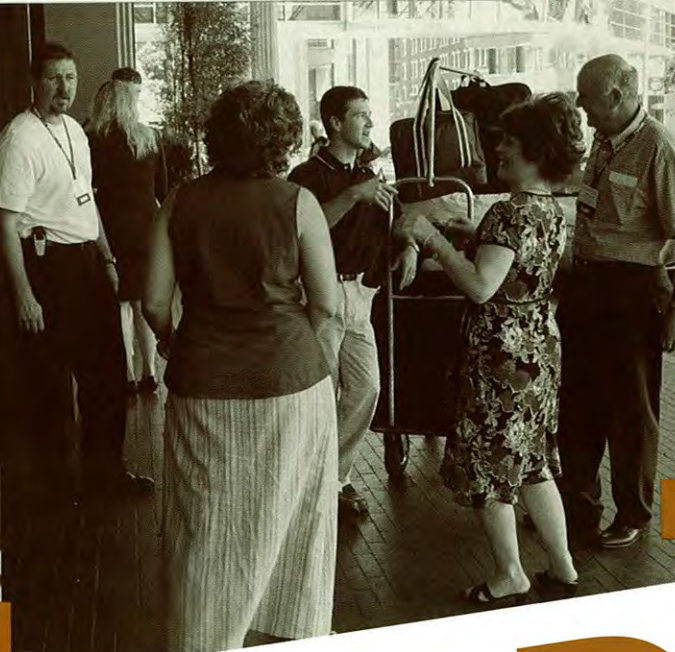
The recommendation specified that directors of the various departments involved serve as an oversight committee to determine the start-up date, publication name, managing editor and advertising policy for the new publication. Executive Secretary Keith Burden, who will serve as editor-in-chief, said, “I think the best days are ahead for Free Will Baptists.”

A New Name

The Foreign Missions Department is no more. Delegates voted to change the agency’s name to “Free Will Baptist Inter-



Randy Wright



Allen West

A New Day

By Jack Williams

national Missions.” The agency request for the name change was tabled in 2003 and presented for a vote in Kansas City.

A New Convention Format

Delegates approved a constitutional change to start future convention business Tuesday afternoon instead of Wednesday morning. The vote eliminates the Thursday morning session effective 2005.

The change was made in an effort to involve more people in the crucial business that usually occurs Thursday morning when fewer delegates are present to vote—adoption of resolutions, approving a \$24 million budget and electing general officers.

A New Board

Growth within the FWB Foundation prompted a recommendation to create an autonomous board to oversee operations. The agency has operated under the Board of Retirement, plus the directors of the other national agencies.

Effective August 2005, the Foundation will operate under its own nine-member board (like other national agencies), plus the directors of the other national agencies. The Foundation will employ a director when current Board of Retirement director William Evans retires to become the first Foundation director.

A New Curriculum

Randall House Publications (Sunday School and Church Training Department) introduced a new Sunday School curriculum called CLEAR. The learning system stands for C-Connect, L-Learn, E-Explore, A-Apply, R-Respond.

CLEAR curriculum will be available for all age groups—nursery through adults—this fall. CLEAR is an interactive product that comes with colorful designs, magazine-style format, creative study aids, age-appropriate and real-life application. The new curriculum is Bible-based, Christ-centered, family-focused and easy to teach.

A New Historical Pamphlet

The Historical Commission distributed copies of “Free Will Baptists and the Washing of the Saints’ Feet,” the first in a series of historical pamphlets. Delegates received free copies. Other copies may be purchased from Randall House.

The first pamphlet was written by Drs. William F Davidson and Robert Picirilli. The 3,000-word document examines feet washing biblically and historically, answers objections to the practice and explains the Free Will Baptist role regarding feet washing in America.



James Forlines (L); Larry Powell with Charlie "Tremendous" Jones; Clint Morgan (R)

Taking Care of Business

By the time delegates cast their first votes Wednesday morning, the Executive Committee and the General Board had met more than nine hours pouring over the 186-page *Digest of Reports* and listening to agency leaders explain budgets and projects.

\$24 Million Budget

Twelve national agencies presented combined budgets topping \$24.2 million for 2005, almost \$1 million more than 2004 budgets.

Referrals

Delegates referred a recommendation for a five-member Higher Education Research Commission to the Executive Committee. The Education Task Force completed its work and presented an 11-page paper of findings Thursday morning.

Delegates also referred a motion concerning a marriage amendment (in light of same-sex marriage) to the Commission for Theological Integrity. The Commission will research the issue as it relates to the Free Will Baptist *Treatise* and report to delegates in 2005.

Resolutions

Five resolutions claimed the attention of delegates Thursday morning. They promptly adopted a strongly-worded resolution concerning same-sex marriage, a resolution concerning the war on terrorism, a resolution to retain recognition of God in public life, a resolution concerning voter registration and a resolution thanking the Missouri State Association for hosting the national convention.

OK to NGO

The Executive Committee and the Foreign Missions Board met with attorneys last December to determine if the Foreign

Missions Department met *Treatise* and charter requirements in order to proceed with the Hanna Project, a non-governmental organization (NGO). The meeting determined that the NGO effort met denominational and legal criteria. Delegates accepted the report.

No Registration Fee

Delegates agreed with the General Board that a 2003 proposal to charge a \$10 convention registration fee was unnecessary at this time. The current \$100 per church representation fee was considered sufficient to underwrite convention costs. However, the idea of a registration fee will be revisited beginning in 2006.

Hot Spots

Same-Sex Marriage Seminar

Two Tuesday seminars drew overflow crowds as attendees gathered information and heard answers to hard questions. "The Truth About Same-Sex Marriage" featured three speakers and 15 minutes of questions.

Tennessee pastor Roy Harris presented a fast-paced biblical explanation of God's standard for marriage beginning in Genesis 2. He cited biblical sources and gave principles for dealing with homosexuality in the culture.

Attorney Ron Barber (Oklahoma) addressed legal aspects of the issue. He briefly explained the legal landscape for churches, pastors and members. He warned of legal traps set for the unwary—defamation, invasion of privacy, sexual harassment and wrongful termination. Barber listed five steps that churches should take ranging from understanding legal organization to implementing clear employment policies and practices.

Moderator Tim York delivered the practical side of dealing with media, directing people, handling picketers and more. He urged pastors to prepare sound bytes for the media, to



Home Missionaries on stage at Wednesday evening service.

let the people speak to elected officials and to outsmart picketers.

The seminar was designed to educate pastors on how to address the same-sex marriage issue in their communities. Each pastor who attended received a copy of Dr. Erwin Lutzer's book, *The Truth About Same-Sex Marriage*, a 118-page paperback filled with resources and suggestions.

Islam 101

As soon as "Same-Sex Marriage" seminar hearers exited, attendees filled the room again to hear Missionary Clint Morgan speak on "Islam 101: Fundamentals of the Islamic Faith." The presentation was sponsored by the Commission for Theological Integrity.

The seminar focused for 60 minutes on Morgan's 33-page paper prepared for the occasion, followed by a 30-minute question-and-answer time with Missionary John Weaver and Morgan fielding queries from the audience.

Morgan gave a quick history of Islam and its founder Muhammad. He explained the different factions within Islam and how they came into existence. He examined doctrinal differences between Islam and Christianity, and discussed Muslim holy books and terminology.

Morgan reminded hearers that while Islam is a fast-growing religion, growth is by birth not by conversion. He closed saying, "Every Muslim is not a terrorist, but every Muslim is an unbeliever."

Preaching Conference

Michigan bivocational pastor Allen West and Hillsdale FWB College staffer David Archer began Tuesday morning

for several hundred ministers by preaching sermons to remember.

Pastor West spoke from II Corinthians 4 on the subject, "The Devil's Greatest Weapons." He pointed out *discouragement* that destroys our spiritual vision, *despondency* that destroys our will to try again and *despair* that destroys our boldness in face of obstacles.

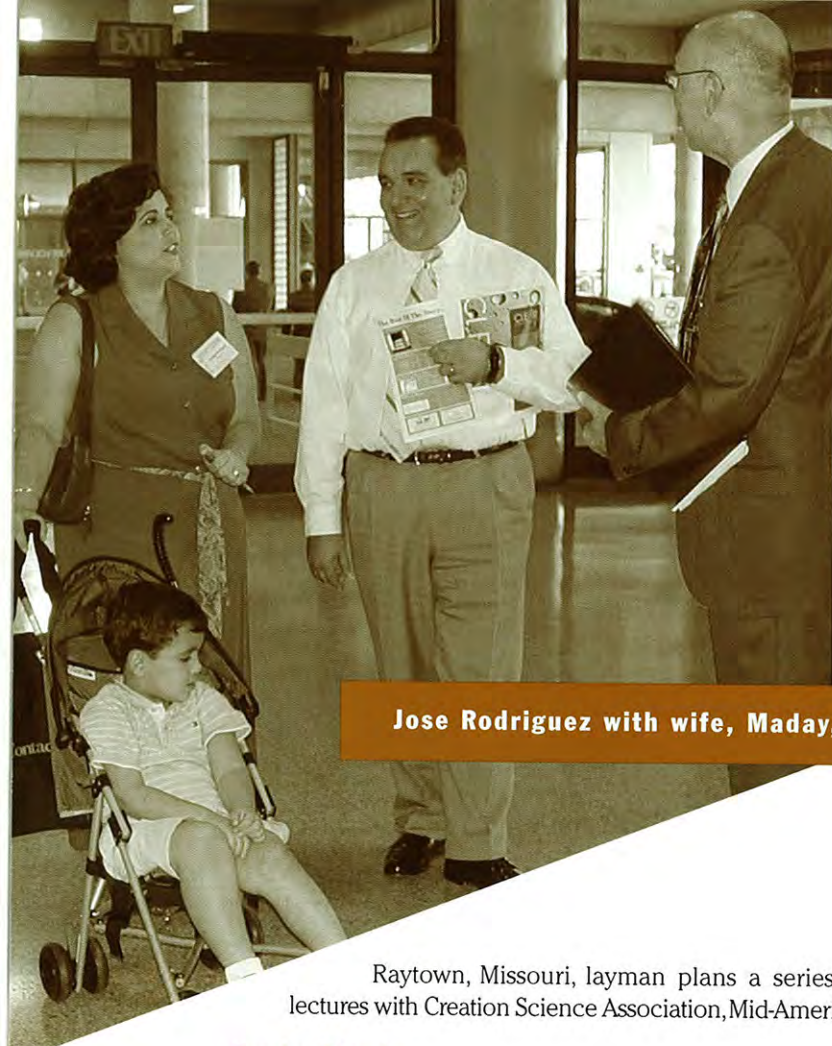
Former church planter and now college official David Archer read Isaiah 6:1-8 and asked hearers to answer three questions: Who Sent You? To Whom Were You Sent? Why Were You Sent? He urged ministers to pattern after the prophet Isaiah and stop negotiating with God, stop asking what's in it for me, stop settling for the good instead of reaching for God's best.

We Met to Worship

Sunday School

The toughest spot on the convention program belongs to the guy who speaks first, and that's the Adult Sunday School teacher. But somebody forgot to tell just-retired math and science teacher Bob Farwell. Bob brought a broad smile, 34 years of teaching experience and an encyclopedic knowledge of the Bible to his lesson on Melchisedec from Hebrews 7.

He wove carefully selected Old and New Testament verses with history and personal research to show hearers why early Jewish Christians needed encouragement to hold onto their new-found faith and not return to Judaism. He made a convincing argument that Melchisedec's first appearance in Genesis was none other than Jesus Christ. The 57-year-old



Jose Rodriguez with wife, Maday, and son, Samuel, Steve Lytle (L); Lange Patrick (R)



Raytown, Missouri, layman plans a series of lectures with Creation Science Association, Mid-America.

Sunday Morning

Worship speaker Glenn Murray began with a chuckle by informing attendees, "My name is Glenn Murray, and I approved this message." He spoke from Matthew 9:37–38 about the harvest. After 42 years in ministry, the West Plains, Missouri, pastor obviously knew his way around the pulpit and was comfortable handling the Bible.

He explained "God's Part" and "Our Part" in the harvest. Pastor Murray assured hearers that God had the power to convert any and all He convicted of sin. He reminded everyone that God alone does the saving and the adding to the church.

"We are the labor," Murray said. "Ministry is the hardest work I've ever done. You can't build a church without *work*. Let's get the seed out of the barn and into the soil. Let's toughen up, preach the Word and remember that God's only yardstick for success is faithfulness."

He stopped abruptly, promising that the God who gave Israel a 40-year revival in the days of King Josiah could do the same for America if the nation does its part in standing for what's right and opposing what's wrong.

Sunday Evening

After rousing songs from the Convention Choir, a trio and soloist Eddie Vincent, Arkansas pastor Kerry Gandy rose to speak. He read Matthew 13:24–30 and informed hearers about "an *enemy* that is against us, an *evil* that is around us and an *end* that awaits all."

Kerry cautioned, "If we're not careful, we will forget who is the enemy. The job of removing tares belongs to God. Our job is to spread the seeds of the Word, to speak the name of Jesus as a means to strengthen the weak, encourage the discouraged and revive our communities."

The Maumelle, Arkansas, minister pointed to the 1960s as the time that accelerated America's moral demise after God was removed from the nation's classrooms and replaced by man's philosophies. "Jesus," Reverend Gandy said, "is the answer to what threatens the church and the nation."

Monday Evening

Shoutin' on Monday night! That set the tone for the convention's official kick-off service as worshippers nearly shouted down the Convention Choir after a powerful recitation about Jesus. The return to more traditional music brought attendees to their feet in praise.

Worshippers clearly expected a sermon to match the music, and they got it as 43-year-old Alabama pastor Randy Wright caught the congregation on an emotional upswing and carried them higher. He read Revelation 22:20–21, announced his subject as the second coming, and delivered an articulate and stirring sermon.

Wright packaged his message in three sections—a word of *affirmation*, a word of *supplication* and a word of *consummation*. "Jesus came the first time right on time," Wright said, "and when it's time for Him to return, He'll be here on time."

"We do not have to add to the Bible to make it socially acceptable, nor take from it to make it politically correct," the fiery minister roared. He chided those who unfairly criticize believers who use another Bible translation while "we don't rightfully divide the one we've got."



Tuesday Evening

Jose Rodriguez stepped to the pulpit and promised to speak with a Cuban accent. He did. He said worshippers would think they were listening to Ricky Ricardo (also a Cuban) from the old *I Love Lucy* television program. He was wrong. We heard the voice of God instead as the Miami pastor preached from II Peter 2:2-4 on being empowered for the harvest.

Pastor Rodriguez came with three preaching points that believers are *energized* for service, *empowered* for life and *employed* for goodness. He expressed thanks that America gave him a home, but cautioned, "America has changed in 50 years. We are not the same country we were. Our neigh-

borhoods have changed, our homes, our education, our population mix, our religion."

As the Cuban-born preacher moved through his sermon, a subtle change occurred in the audience. Jose Rodriguez stood as a permanent reminder that America is now a mission field whose harvest is ready. The high emotional stir gradually refocused on the reality of missions with a different face, church-building with an accent, and living outside comfort zones in order to reach people for Jesus in our neighborhoods.

Before Rodriguez preached, the Reverend Ramon Sanchez, president of the Free Will Baptists in Cuba, addressed delegates through an interpreter, Missionary Stan Bunch. Sanchez spoke of growth in Cuba from 15 churches to 33 churches, from 700 members to 2,000 members, and reported 60 new ministers as well as numerous house churches.

2004 Registration Report*

National Convention	3,333
Ordained Ministers	614
Ordained Deacons	127
Licensed Ministers	43
Local Church Delegates	16
State Delegates	88
Home Missionaries	52
Foreign Missionaries	27
Board/Commission Members	57
Visitors	2,309
National Youth Conference	3,218
Women Nationally Active for Christ	956

* This report reflects the total number who registered for the three conventions. By actual count, some 5,476 individuals registered, some for more than one convention.

Wednesday Evening

There's nothing else quite like Wednesday night at a Free Will Baptist national convention. Wednesday night is when it all seems to come together—debate ceases, differences are set aside, the one evening during convention week when everybody's in the same place at the same time. Wednesday night is traditionally the time when memories are made, decisions get nailed down and preaching rises to a crescendo.

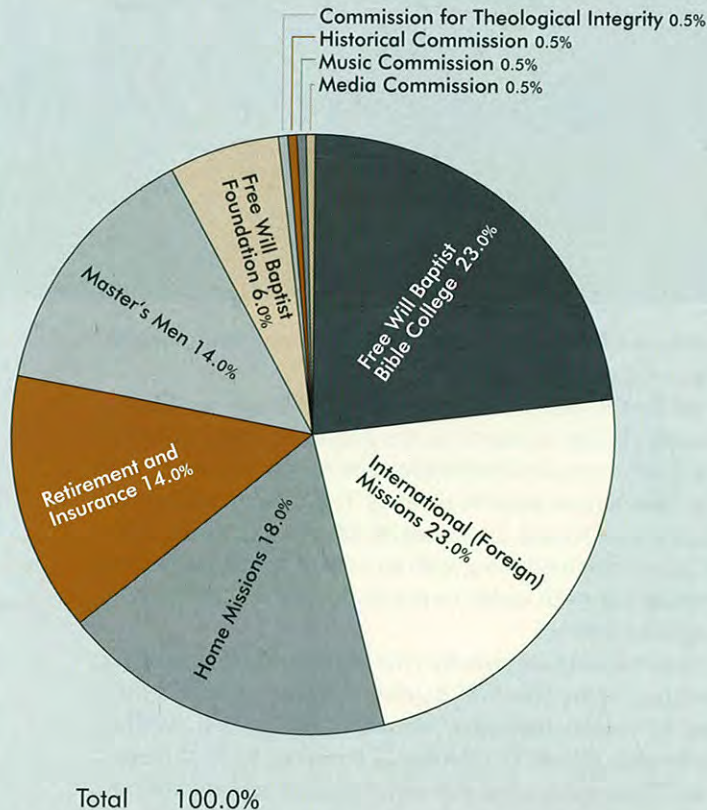
That's what happened in Kansas City. With 5,000 people in the convention center, the worship session ratcheted up the intensity level. The anticipation of *Mission Night* swept the congregation. Speaker Glen Johnson got it right when he reminded listeners to be patient during a long invitation with dozens praying at the altar because, "Although we came to conduct business, this is the big business of the denomination."

The evening started with a standing ovation when more than 75 home and foreign missionaries crowded on stage. Missions Directors Larry Powell (Home Missions) and James

2005 The Together Way Allocations

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

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



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

Forlines (Foreign Missions) led a commissioning service for 13 new missionaries. Veteran missionaries gathered around the kneeling rookie missionaries, laid hands on them and prayed.

Then it was preaching time. Virginia pastor Glen Johnson burst toward the pulpit in full stride, quoting Romans 1:16-17, stirring listeners with a well-prepared sermon that left no doubt about the identity of Jesus Christ, the plan of salvation and our place in that plan.

"Faith is the crater that's left after the gospel explodes on you," Johnson said. "If ever there was a time to be an exclamation point, it's now."

He pointed a biblical finger at cultural compromise, "We are in danger of letting the world tell us how to do church. Drifting begins in our actions before it reaches our doctrine."

2005 Budgets Adopted

Executive Office (Includes:)	\$ 709,145
Administrative	\$ 378,735
Convention	330,410
Free Will Baptist Bible College	6,033,945
(Includes \$1,300,000.00 in unrestricted gifts)	
International Missions	8,563,374
(Does not include Vision and other projects totaling \$7,700,770)	
Home Missions	4,500,000
Master's Men	136,720
Retirement and Insurance	507,390
Free Will Baptist Foundation	319,065
Sunday School and Church Training	3,471,804
Commission for Theological Integrity	6,350
Historical Commission	2,800
Music Commission	3,500
Media Commission	5,000
Total	\$ 24,259,093

Johnson drew amens with, "There's no dishonest way to get saved." He said, "I fear that we are experiencing one-dimensional Christianity—we only celebrate; we don't agonize in prayer over sin and sinners."

The sermon concluded with an altar service. In a departure from recent practice, the missionary offering was received *after* the sermon and altar service.

Department Highlights

Executive Office

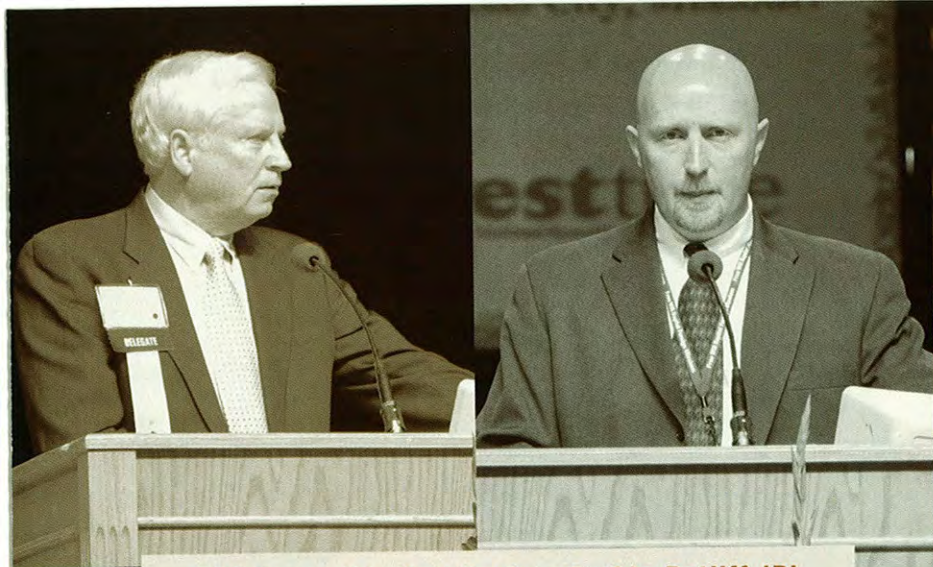
Executive Secretary Keith Burden introduced plans for stewardship outreach for local churches. He hopes to schedule eight regional workshops next year to present cost-effective stewardship training and materials. He also reported an improved financial picture, and said that denominational statistics indicate 8,713 baptisms last year with 10,968 members added.

Retirement

Director William Evans announced his retirement effective July 31, 2005, when he will devote full time to the FWB Foundation. He reported 72 new enrollees in 2003 with 27 more through March 2004. The agency had 19% returns in 2003, and hopes to enroll 100 new participants each year.

Foundation

The FWB Foundation reports \$25 million under its management with the number of trusts under management steady.



Bill Evans (L), Rob Conley, Archie Ratliff (R)





Jeff Evans (L), Tim York

Exhibit set-up

ly increasing. Surging growth necessitates a full-time director in August 2005, along with a separate nine-member board. Endowments are up 23% and deferred giving up 14%.

Home Missions

Director Larry Powell reported unprecedented growth in church planting and cross-cultural outreach. Eleven new Hispanic works began. Three Home Missions churches went self-supporting, a Spanish seminary opened in South Carolina and 12 church planters are currently in building programs. The Benjamin Randall Offering reached a record \$349,000. Home missionaries reported 1,705 converts and 893 baptisms in 2003. They also gave back \$1.6 million to the denomination in offerings and gifts. Roll Call Sunday efforts resulted in 1,620 conversions. Five new missionaries were appointed to Arizona (Flagstaff and Yuma), Virgin Islands, Indiana and Colorado.

Master's Men

Thirteen new chapters began this year, according to Director Ken Akers. The agency developed a notebook for short-term mission trips. The second annual Marriage Enrichment Conference held in conjunction with WNAC attracted 50 couples. Akers wants to create a denominational emergency response team to assist churches when floods, fires and tornadoes occur.

Foreign Missions (now International Missions)

Director James Forlines reported 690 organized churches and mission works with an attendance of 26,902 and 2,153 conversions in 2003. Free Will Baptist missionaries serve in 10 countries (Brazil, France, India, Ivory Coast, Japan, Panama, Russia, South Korea, Spain and Uruguay). The agency reports work with national pastors in Cuba, Nepal and China, as well as two NGO partnerships that enable Free Will Baptists to minister in six more restricted-access countries. A 16-member lay advisory council was created. The agency introduced *Impulse*, a quarterly video magazine and announced the creation of Tekmerion Productions, a film division. A group of Free Will Baptist businessmen will travel to Russia in 2005 and connect with Russian businessmen.

Free Will Baptist Bible College

"We're in a growth mode," President Matt Pinson told delegates. Enrollment increased 20% in two years with a 25% increase in dormitory students. The college's fastest growing major, the pastoral training major, increased 75% in two years. The school logged significant growth in the areas of business and early childhood development education. FWBBC purchased a building on West End Avenue for the *iLearn Academy* early childhood development center. Two full-time staff were cut in a cost-saving measure.

Sunday School (Randall House)

Director Ron Hunter announced that Randall House will reprint *The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book: Rejoice*. The agency

completed four quarters in the black and halted a 15-year curriculum sales decline. Sales are expected to increase with the introduction of CLEAR, the new Sunday School curriculum. Randall House book title sales increased 250% in four years.

And Finally

High marks go to Music Coordinator Chris Truett and the Music Commission for their in-flight adjustment that brought convention music back to traditional hymn singing. The Music Commission came under sharp criticism after the 2003 convention in Tampa. To their credit, they heard the criticism, re-evaluated the music program and came to Kansas City with a musical package that brought worshippers to their feet in praise.

That same commendation fits Missouri executive secretary Nathan Ruble, the Missouri Steering Committee and the Missouri State Association for hosting the national convention—an expensive and exhausting experience.

However, none of this could have happened without the tall gentleman from Tennessee, Dean Jones. His uncanny ability to juggle 150 events in five days, maintain his poise and coordinate a large staff mark Dean Jones as one of the finest convention managers in America. He will need those skills next year in Louisville, Kentucky, when the convention refits and reorganizes itself in order to launch *A New Day* for Free Will Baptists. ■

Elected in Kansas City

The following were elected during the 68th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

General Officers

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

General Board

2005 Bud Bivens (Mexico Association)

2007 Rick Cash (Alabama)
 Charles Marshall (Arizona)
 Tim Campbell (Arkansas)
 Luis Felipe Tijerina (Association of Mexico)
 Fred Hanson (Atlantic-Canada)
 Millard Sasser (California)
 Mark Thomas (Colorado)
 Paul Smith (Florida)
 Len Blanchard (Georgia)
 Earl Jenkins (Idaho)
 Larry Cook (Illinois)

Executive Committee

2007 Tim Campbell (Arkansas)
 Fred Hanson (Atlantic-Canada)
 Rick Cash (Alabama)

International Missions Board

2010 Tom McCullough (Michigan)
 Danny Williams (Alabama)
 Sherwood Lee (South Carolina)

Free Will Baptist Bible College Trustees

2010 Terry Pierce (Mississippi)
 Billy Hanna (Georgia)
 Steve Ashby (Oklahoma)

Master's Men Board

2009 Rick Stone (Kentucky)

Sunday School and Church Training Board

2010 Tim Eaton (Oklahoma)
 Tim Owen (Florida)
 Michael Waddell (Alabama)

Commission for Theological Integrity

2009 Jeff Manning (North Carolina)

Historical Commission

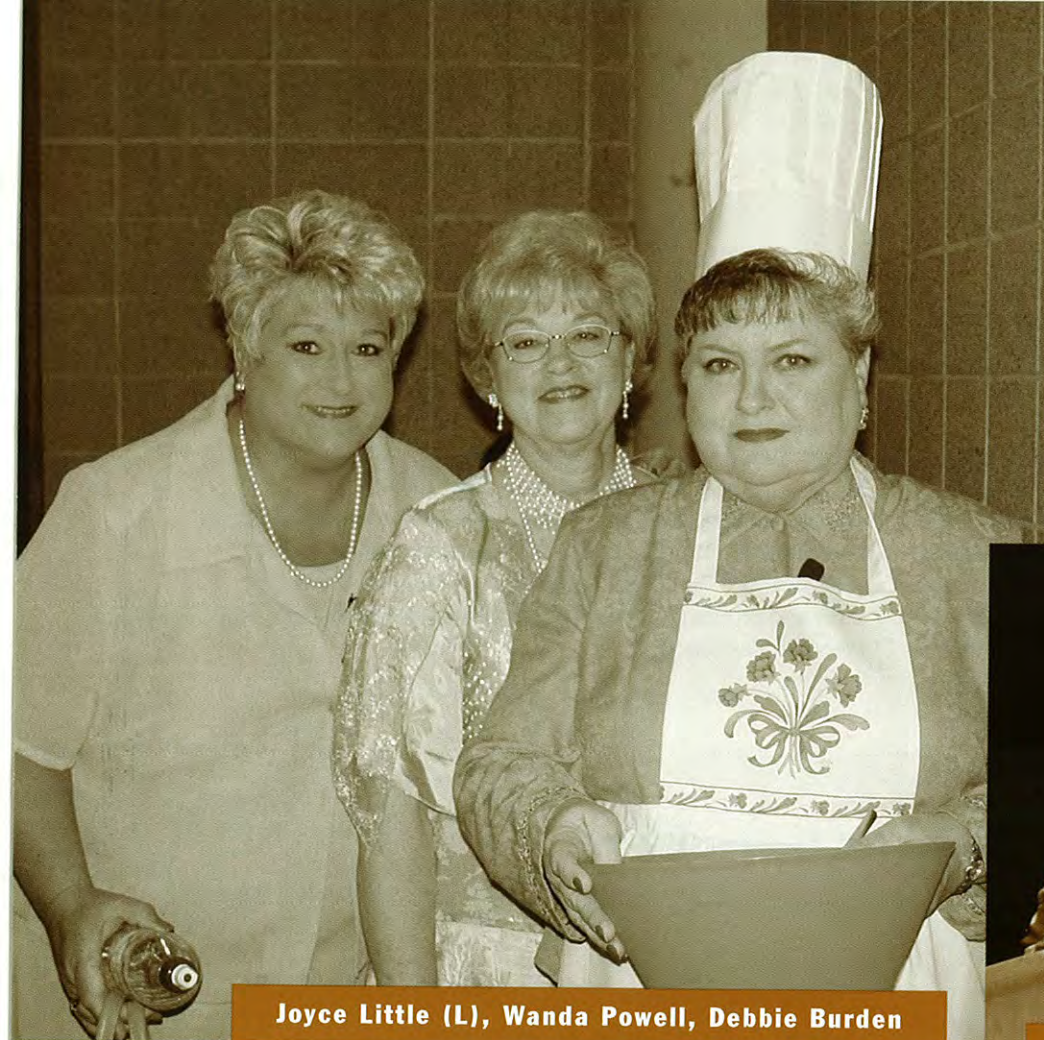
2009 Robert Picirilli (Tennessee)

Media Commission

2009 Mike Jones (South Carolina)

Music Commission

2009 Randy Sawyer (North Carolina)



Joyce Little (L), Wanda Powell, Debbie Burden



Debe Taylor

WNAC 2004 CONVENTION

Great Expectations

By Sarah Fletcher

More than 900 registrants came with expectations to the 69th annual convention of Women Nationally Active for Christ, July 19–20, in Kansas City. Each session and speaker reminded women to wait upon God, placing every expectation in Him (Psalm 62:5).

Monday Seminar

Monday's HGTV-WNAC Style seminar crowd exceeded expectations of WNAC meeting planners. Between 250 and 300 women attended the mock live-taping of television shows, "Hospitality with a Heart," "Gardening with Grace" and "Trunkful of Treasures."

Hostesses Debbie Burden, Joyce Little and Wanda Powell gave practical, proven suggestions for welcoming guests, lavishing God's servants, and kindling honor and appreciation for others. Producer Sandy Atwood and soloist Donell Wilson added spice and sentiment to the afternoon.

Answered Prayer

Tuesday's general session began with a great expectation realized. President Debe Burden noted that two years prior, at the convention in Memphis, she requested prayer for her son, Bradley. Now in fellowship with God, Bradley opened the meeting in prayer. Congregational singing led by music coordinator Sheila Haas, special music by a Missouri women's quartet and a mini-concert from the Mountain Grove, Missouri, hand bell choir contributed to a spirit of expectancy.

FWBBC Purchase

In her annual report, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marjorie Workman alluded to

another great expectation now realized. Free Will Baptist Bible College recently purchased a new organ, thanks to contributions from the Mary Wisehart Organ Fund. This longtime project provided more than half the necessary funds.

50/50 Project

Women Active for Christ's new "50/50" National Project, involves two great expectations—women's ministry in Central Asia and the WNAC office. In April 2005, Central Asian women will hold their first-ever women's conference. The region's impoverished conditions require financial assistance for the 500–700 women who will attend. Total cost is only \$50 per attendee.



Patricia Fite, (L) Sarah Fletcher, Marjorie Workman, Dianna Bryant

Don & Ruth McDonald



Every local group is encouraged to participate, sponsoring at least one woman to the "Sisters' Prayer Fellowship for Revival of the Nation of Central Asia."

Financial Crisis

The WNAC office currently faces a financial crisis, ending its year with a \$10,000 shortfall. Groups are encouraged to give a one-time,

special gift of at least \$50 toward this indebtedness.

God's Work in Japan

"Had we been given this topic 20 years ago, our message would have been very different," commented missionaries Don and Ruth McDonald during the Tuesday morning worship service as they reflected upon their great expectations. Years of labor in Japan turned their focus away from themselves and toward a great God.

Speaking together, this husband-wife team shared three great expectation principles. (1) We can expect God to work. He is at work in all the nations—even Japan. (2) We can expect God to work through us. Ruth told of her unlikely ministry opportunity leading a community gospel choir. (3) We can expect God to work through prayer. Don recalled the touching story of the prayer of his father to "raise a missionary."

The McDonalds likened the work in Japan to the days of Elijah. Just as Elijah's servant observed a small cloud after the prophet's prayer for rain, the McDonalds believe they are seeing that small cloud

appear. Showers of blessings are eminent. "The need is for prayer."

Putting God's House First

Lynette Morgan pictured great expectations as the long-awaited rain after the dry season in her beloved Côte d'Ivoire. Speaking to 350 luncheon attendees at the sold-out event, Lynette compared Christians in America to the people of Haggai's day. Those individuals had built fine houses while the house of God lay in ruins. Though America's church buildings are well financed, her vision for the "house of God" through world evangelism remains a low priority.

Lynette shared testimonies of Central Asian Christians who have "put the house of God first" in spite of persecution and poverty. She challenged listeners with Habakkuk 1:5—to "be amazed" at the work God wants to do in and through His servants worldwide.

KC Community Outreach

A handful of women realized even greater expectations as they participated in Women Active in Kansas City. Stocking a local food bank, conducting Child Evangelism Fellowship Bible clubs, WNAC, in conjunction with NYC's *Reach That Guy* program, sponsored both Monday and Wednesday service opportunities. Several children came to faith in Christ through these outreaches.

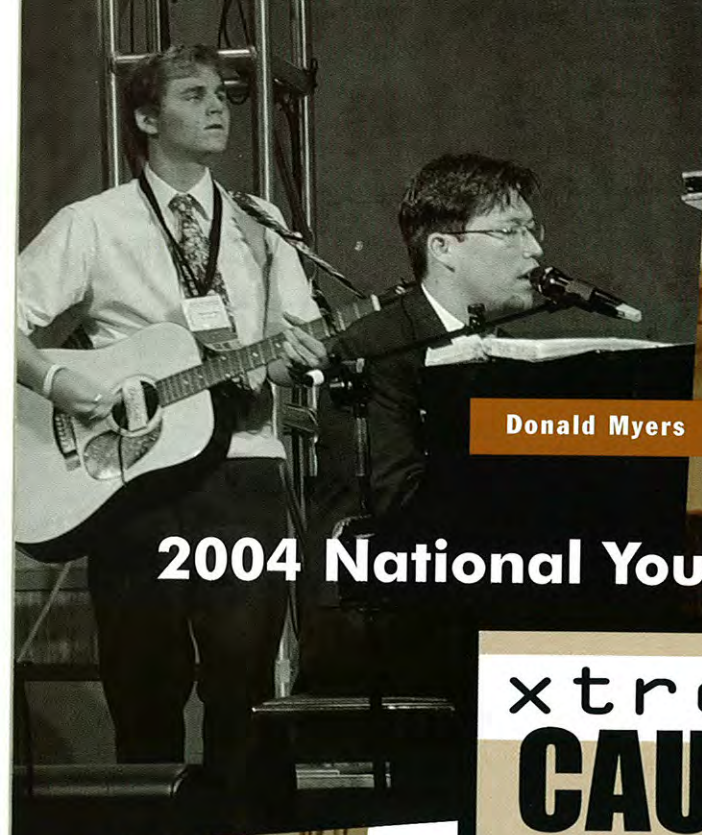
The 69th annual convention provided a greater understanding of the Great Commission and offered great expectations for future ministry through Women Nationally Active for Christ. ■

About the Writer: Mrs. Sarah Fletcher, editor of *CoLaborer* magazine, is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

WNAC Resolutions

Delegates to the WNAC Convention passed the following resolutions:

1. We recommend that scholarships be given from the Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship Fund as follows:
 - a. To continue the scholarship for Paul and Robert in Côte d'Ivoire and Philippe for a total of \$1,250.
 - b. To continue the scholarship for the Cuban Cedars of Lebanon Seminary but reduce the amount to \$500.
 - c. To continue the scholarship assistance for the five students at the Volena Wilson Bible Institute in Conoor, Tamil Nadu, South India for a total of \$1,250.
2. We recommend doing a National 50/50 project, encouraging each local WAC to participate in sending a \$50/\$50 offering with \$50 for Central Asian women to participate in their "Sisters' Prayer Fellowship for Revival of the Nation of Central Asia" and \$50 to the WNAC general fund. If there is an overage in the Central Asian women's fund, it will be used by the Central Asian women for a mission project. All money needs to be in by January 15, 2005.
3. We recommend that WNAC send a letter of support for the Decency Act to the FCC. We further recommend that each member write the FCC in their local broadcasting networks in support of the Decency Act. For more information, log-on to American Family Association or Focus on the Family website.
4. We recommend that WNAC send a letter of commendation to President Bush for his position on the Constitutional Amendment stating that marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman.
5. Be it resolved that all members take a stand for marriage as the union between a man and a woman and that each member send a letter to her Congressmen voicing her support of this definition of marriage. At Congress.org enter your zip code to find contact information for your state and local representatives.



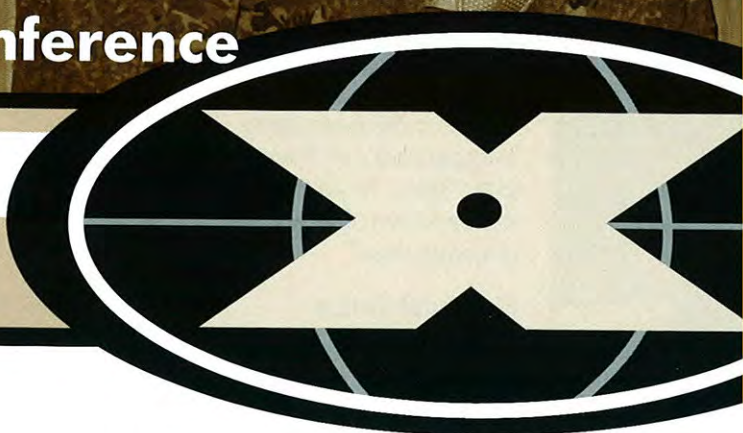
Donald Myers



Dean Stone

2004 National Youth Conference

x t r e m e CAUSE



By Angie Deel



Craig Portell



Allen Pointer

Extreme Cause . . . Extreme Cost was the theme of the 37th annual National Youth Conference, July 18–22, in Kansas City, Missouri. Jim Lauthern, former director of the National Youth Conference and founder of the Truth and Peace Conference, led Sunday School with the assistance of the 2004 Youth Evangelistic Team.

Veteran missionary Trula Cronk amazed the Sunday morning crowd as she explained how what seemed like a sacrifice wasn't one when given to Jesus. Donald Myers (Taylor, MI) served as music coordinator for teen worship services. Donald has a unique ability to quietly lead in worship.

Sunday evening's teen service featured music by Truth and Peace Leadership Conference. The stage was set through their song as they shared their desire to "Live the Difference." 1st LT Steven Pierce, U.S. Army, asked the hard question, "What Things Are Worth Fighting For?"

Bible Competition and Music and Arts Festival started early Monday morning and ended Wednesday morning with 770 entries and 1,460 registrants.

Monday evening Craig Portell, missionary to restricted-access countries, told how the Lord led him to outer Mongolia to teach English. He sang a song in the Kazakh language that he learned from the first Christians he met in Mongolia.

On Tuesday all Bible Competition entered the semi-final round. Instrumentalists, puppeteers, ensembles, choirs and chorales packed competition rooms.

Attendees visited the art gallery where 123 entries were displayed. They also picked up conference souvenirs and favorite T-shirts at the NYC sales booth.

Tuesday evening Neil Gilliland, director of member care for Foreign Missions, challenged us to get still before the Lord. A powerful altar call saw numerous students make life-changing commitments.

Wednesday morning featured Bible Competition Finals. Following the joint evening service, the 2004 NYC Awards were presented. Check out the website at www.randallhouse.com to see a complete list of all winners.

The 2005 National Youth Evangelistic Team was named.

Bryce Mims—South Carolina

Kaley Schwab—Arkansas

Andrew Heath—Tennessee

Lauren Taylor—Arkansas

Rachel Atwood—Tennessee

Nick Johnson—Oklahoma

Kera Zint—Indiana

Jay Meagher—Illinois

Chris Lauckner—Arkansas

Derek Lewis—Illinois

Lindsey Parks—Tennessee

Emily Kinnick—Tennessee

Special awards were given to the following:

Youth Group of the Year

Bethlehem FWB Church, Van Buren, AR



x t r e m e C O S T

matt 10.38

Youth Leader of the Year

Jim Brewer, Topeka, KS

Youth of the Year

Casey Gwartney, Locust Grove, OK

During the four-day conference, 36 workshops and seminars filled free time for children, teens and youth workers. The *Reach That Guy*—Impact Kansas City project involved over 1,200 students in outreach ministries.

Preschool Worship (ages 3–5) services met each day under the direction of Katie Greenwood. Children (grades 1–3) were led in worship by Dean Stone, minister of children at Crosspointe FWB Church (Norman, OK).

Tweeners (grades 4–6) met with Jeff Nichols, children's pastor at Donelson FWB Church (Nashville, TN).

The 60 hard-working Truth and Peace Leadership Conference students gave life and energy to the planned activities. They were divided into various areas of responsibilities and did a wonderful job. These students were involved in leadership training two weeks prior to the National Youth Conference. Hillsdale FWB College hosted the conference this year. It was a wonderful time for students and staff alike.

Join us next year in Louisville, Kentucky, July 17–21, 2005, as we say yes! "Yes, Your Majesty" (Psalm 145:5).

■
About the Writer: Mrs. Angie Deel served on the Truth and Peace Conference staff during the Kansas City convention. She is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.



NYC Judges



How about some Drama?



2004 Convention Tapes

Shipping per order: \$2

Cassettes: \$4 CDs: \$5

VHS & DVD: \$12

Sunday, July 18

Adult SS	Bob Farwell	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>	VHS <input type="checkbox"/>	DVD <input type="checkbox"/>
Morning Worship	Glenn Murray	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>	VHS <input type="checkbox"/>	DVD <input type="checkbox"/>
NYC Morn Worship	Trula Cronk	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>		
Evening Worship	Kerry Gandy	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>	VHS <input type="checkbox"/>	DVD <input type="checkbox"/>
NYC Eve Worship	1 LT Steven Pierce	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>		

Monday, July 19

Mission Rally	Charlie Jones	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>		
Evening Worship	Randy Wright	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>	VHS <input type="checkbox"/>	DVD <input type="checkbox"/>
NYC Eve Worship	Craig Portell	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>		

Tuesday, July 20

Preaching Conf	Allen West	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>		
Preaching Conf	David Archer	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>		
WNAC Miss Serv	Don/Ruth McDonald	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>	VHS <input type="checkbox"/>	DVD <input type="checkbox"/>
WNAC Luncheon	Lynette Morgan	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>		
Islam 101	Clint Morgan	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>		
Same-Sex Seminar	Three Speakers	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>		
Evening Worship	Jose Rodriguez	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>	VHS <input type="checkbox"/>	DVD <input type="checkbox"/>
NYC Eve Worship	Neil Gilliland	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>		

Wednesday, July 21

Moderator's Message	Tim York	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>	VHS <input type="checkbox"/>	DVD <input type="checkbox"/>
Evening Worship	Glen Johnson	Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>	VHS <input type="checkbox"/>	DVD <input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL NUMBER OF RECORDINGS:

Cass <input type="checkbox"/>	CD <input type="checkbox"/>	VHS <input type="checkbox"/>	DVD <input type="checkbox"/>
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Cassettes: \$4 CDs: \$5 VHS & DVD: \$12

Total cost for order plus \$2.00 shipping

Payment must accompany order.

Shipping information:

Name

Address

Contact: Mike Anderson
6521 Mercomatic Ct
Nashville, TN 37209

Email: mikea@fwbbc.edu

Flood Waters Devastate West Virginia Community



LENORE, WV—A Memorial Day weekend storm and the second highest monthly rainfall in state history triggered widespread flooding in central West Virginia that left Parsley Bottom FWB Church near Lenore with eight feet of water in the basement, nine families homeless and 16 other families with damaged homes. Thirty-one-year-old pastor Wayne Runyon said 75 percent of the church's 300 members were hammered by May 31 flood waters. They lost cars, jobs, clothing, computers and a lifetime of collected memories.

Pastor Runyon said estimates to repair the flooded church basement and adjacent educational building will top \$250,000. "We lost everything," Runyon said. "We lost all our Sunday School rooms, chairs, desks and literature. We also lost our kitchen equipment that we use to service our Meals on Wheels ministry."

The adjacent 9,600-square-foot educational building, a new facility scheduled to be paid off, filled with six feet of water. The church did not have flood insurance and is not eligible for federal assistance.

By June 7 the church had received about \$3,000 to assist in the recovery process.

Pastor Runyon said, "Our greatest needs are financial and building materials. We've been feeding 1,000 people every day at the church. We spent \$24,000 and depleted our treasury in less than a week because our people must have food and clothing. We have people living in cars, with friends and relatives. We need help. We've show-

eled about all the mud and water we can. Now it's time to rebuild."

The 63-year-old Parsley Bottom FWB Church was scheduled to host the West Virginia State Association June 11-12. The meeting was moved to Parkersburg.

Reverend Runyon, who began preaching at age 14, has pastored the church since 1996. The congregation maintains a food pantry and a television outreach in addition to a Meals on Wheels ministry that services about 200 people.

While attempting to assist others, Pastor Runyon must also make arrangements for a new roof on his home. He said, "In light of what so many have lost, I feel very fortunate to only lose a roof."

These nine families lost their homes in the flood:

Shirl Dempsey
Gary Hall
Don Goff
Sandra Hopson
Sharon Sutters
Gary Bartoe
Rick Dempsey
Butch Hodge
Doug Bartoe

Another 16 families had their homes damaged:

Fred Dempsey
Kim Mitchell
Doug Chafins

Curtis Hall
Tim Reed
Sandy Runyon
Roger Maynard
Billy Barger
George Mayhew
Merle Tingler
Elmer Tingler

(Plus five families whose names are not printed.)

Mudslides subsequent to the flooding damaged the homes of Warren Preece and Wally Preece.

Governor Bob Wise activated 500 National Guard troops for flood recovery, many from the 1092nd Engineer Battalion which returned this spring from a 14-month deployment to Iraq. He pledged to do "whatever is necessary for as long as it takes" to help flood-wracked West Virginians put their lives back together.

Pastor Runyon may be contacted at:
Reverend Wayne Runyon
P.O. Box 24
Lenore, WV 25676
Phone: 304-475-2537



LEBANON, MO—After 36 years in the ministry, the last 12 as executive secretary for the Missouri State Association, Reverend Nathan Ruble announced his retirement effective August 1. The 65-year-old minister was pastor of Fourth FWB Church in

Nathan Ruble Retires

St. Louis when Missouri's General Board asked him to serve as executive secretary. He moved to Lebanon and logged 12 years (1992–2004) as the state's chief executive officer.

Ruble said the accomplishment he is most pleased with during his tenure is helping introduce Missouri's "Show-Me Plan," a missions program that grew three percent each year and resulted in the state rising to the denomination's number three giver to missions.

Brother Ruble praised Missouri's generous churches, citing a 43 percent increase in cooperative giving in 12 years. The state gave more than \$700,000 this year cooperatively.

Ruble's successor, Reverend Gary Fry, took office August 1. Ruble said, "God has given us a choice servant in Gary Fry. He has been my confidante for 12 years. Our pastors trust him. He has earned the respect of Free Will Baptists at all levels.

I believe he will take us higher than I ever did or could."

Nathan was licensed to preach in 1968 and ordained in 1971. After graduating from Free Will Baptist Bible College, he pastored in Arizona and Washington before returning to Missouri. He served three years as state moderator.

Brother Ruble rose to the occasion every time the denomination asked for his leadership. He served on the Home Missions Board, the General Board and the Executive Committee. He chaired the national Nominating Committee and the Publications Committee. He spoke at the 1993 national convention in Louisville and subsequently preached at both the FWBCC Bible Conference and the national Leadership Conference.

He plans to do pulpit supply and travel. Nathan and Judy Ruble are both Lebanon natives.

Missouri Elects Jim Williams Moderator



SPRINGFIELD, MO—As Missouri's 91st annual state association drew to a close, delegates asked Carthage pastor Jim Williams to serve as their new moderator. He succeeds Richard Robinson. Reverend Williams pastors First FWB Church (Carthage) and previously served as assistant moderator.

State clerk Rick Dement said 398 people registered for the June 7–9 session which met at the Clarion Hotel in Springfield. Ninety-three ministers and 20 deacons joined 215 visitors and 70 ministers' wives in business and worship activities.

Delegates honored retiring executive secretary Nathan Ruble with a plaque and a gift of more than \$15,000. Ruble served 12 years. Ruble's successor, Mountain Grove pastor Gary Fry, began his new duties August 1.

Five ministers preached sermons developing the association theme, "Founded, Faithful and Focused." The speakers included

Missouri pastors Gene Crewse (Fordland FWB Church), Melvin Haas (Thayer FWB Church) and Steve Reeves (Rejoice FWB Church, Columbia), as well as guests Charles Shepson and William Evans, director of the Board of Retirement.

Delegates passed two resolutions regarding same-sex unions, and encouraged members to actively seek passage of an amendment to the state constitution defining marriage as limited to one man and one woman.

In other action, delegates adopted a \$600,000 state budget. They voted to allocate Together Way funds: 65.5% (state work), 31.5% (national ministries), 3% (Show Me Plan). Delegates also added two new articles to the state constitution and changed eight existing articles.

The 2005 state association will meet June 6–8 at United FWB Church in West Plains.

West Virginia Appoints Historical Committee

©Parkersburg



PARKERSBURG, WV—West Virginia's 59th annual state association activities included the creation of a new organization, a three-person Historical Committee. Pastors Russell Wright (Inwood FWB Church) and Carl Cooper (Springdale FWB Church, Hurricane) were elected to the committee along with Charleston minister Rickie Holstein.

The June 11–12 session met at Hope FWB Church in Parkersburg after spring rains flooded the original meeting site in Lenore at Parsley Bottom FWB Church. Clerk Norwood Webb reported 222 registered, including 68 ministers, 34 lay delegates and 17 deacons.

Moderator Ivan Asbury was elected to his second term. Delegates adopted three resolutions. One resolution affirmed support for the Federal Marriage Amendment. Two others pledged financial assistance for churches needing help paying the \$100

national representation fee, and \$3,000 for the Christian Education Board regarding an August 21 conference in Charleston.

Three ministers preached messages developing the association theme, "Unite Our Hearts." Foreign Missions staffer Steve Lytle joined with Pastors Allen Whitt (Danese FWB Church) and Roger Tolliver (Cornerstone FWB Church, Crab Orchard) to deliver the sermons. Brother Tolliver also presented a seminar on "Maintenance Versus Mission."

A Saturday morning Pastor Appreciation Breakfast was directed by state promotional director James Cox.

Delegates authorized allocation of cooperative receipts according to the following formula: General Fund (15%), Christian Education (12%), State Paper (15%), Mission Board (18%), Promotional Director (25%), National Co-op (4%), 2008 national convention (8%) and ministers' retirement (3%).

The 2005 state association will meet June 10–11 at Sunshine FWB Church in Huntington.

Kansas City



Kansas Creates New Position

KANSAS CITY, KS—Wellington minister Joplin Emberson came to the 43rd annual Kansas State Association to deliver the Friday evening message, which he did. But before the June 10–12 session ended, delegates created a new position to boost the state work and elected Reverend Emberson as assistant promotional director.

State clerk James O. Brewer said 79 people registered for the meeting at Bethel FWB Church in Kansas City. Ten ministers, 12 lay delegates, 3 deacons and 54 visitors gathered for business and worship.

Moderator Zane Brooks was elected to his third term. The Home Missions Board reported that Living Hope FWB Church (Hutchinson) is growing after almost closing.

Executive Secretary Keith Burden and Southeastern FWB College staffer Howard Gwartney preached two of the six sermons at the three-day session. Kansas ministers Josh Bush, A. J. Warden, Zane Brooks and Joplin Emberson completed the preaching program.

The Kansas Women Active for Christ sponsored a banquet and skit on Friday.

The 2005 state association will meet June 9–11 at Faith FWB Church in Salina.

BEYOND BELIEF



Cancelled Revival Results in 100 Conversions

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—After a schedule conflict with an evangelist, Virginia Beach FWB Church cancelled their spring revival and opted for three presentations of the drama, “Heaven’s Gates and Hell’s Flames.” Pastor J.D. Norris, Jr., said more than 2,000 people attended the April 25–27 drama presentation with 100 salvation decisions and 36 rededications.

Prior to the dramatic event, church members distributed 5,000 tickets and several hundred posters. Three months before the presentations, the congregation signed up for around-the-clock prayer for the event. The drama was prefaced by 90 days of prayer.

Church secretarial staff and volunteers stuffed and prepared


mailings to area churches and others on their mailing list.

Pastor Norris said he promised the Lord nine years earlier when he came as pastor that if the church ever secured the building, space and staff to launch a production of “Heaven’s Gates and Hell’s Flames,” he would do it.

Norris said the Lord provided the building two years ago when the congregation moved into a new worship center. During the past 24 months, the staff to handle the production came on board.

When the revival cancelled, Norris contacted the drama personnel and discovered they had one opening for April 25–27. Norris says, “We call it a God thing.”

California to Review Constitution



BAKERSFIELD, CA—California Free Will Baptists will conduct a public hearing October 15 on the California Christian College campus to hear recommendations from a committee studying the state constitution. Executive Secretary Randy Williams said Moderator Millard Sasser appointed the committee during the May 13–15 state association which met at First FWB Church in Bakersfield.

The committee will review the constitution and “make recommendations as to the removal of ambiguities with the constitution.” California Free Will Baptists were

encouraged to attend the October 15 public hearing and express their opinions on the study. The committee will present recommendations to delegates during the 2005 meeting.

The theme for the 61st annual state association was “Passing the Torch.” Sermons by California pastors Jeff Hollinsworth (Harvest FWB Church, Bakersfield), Jim Kilgore (Taft FWB Church), Darius Wentz (Farmersville FWB Church), Gary Long (Gospel Light FWB Church) and Sam Hensley (Fairfield FWB Church) joined Tennessee minister Ralph Dingus and


CCC president Wendell Walley in developing the theme.

Officials reported six new mission churches in the state and introduced Jesus Delangel who is starting an Hispanic work in Greenfield near the San Francisco area.

President Wendell Walley reported that most of the \$85,000 needed by California Christian College to start the summer had been raised. The state Missions Board gave a \$5,000 gift to the college and forgave a \$50,000 loan the school had with the board.

The 2005 state association meets May 12–14.

North Carolina Re-Elects Ange Moderator



GOLDSBORO, NC—Delegates to North Carolina’s 42nd annual state association re-elected Pastor Nate Ange to a second term as moderator. The 48-year-old minister leads Landmark FWB Church in Cary.

State clerk Wade Parker said 231 people registered for the June 7–8 meeting at Faith FWB Church in Goldsboro. That number included 141 ministers, 17 lay delegates, 69 visitors and

four missionaries.

Three ministers preached during plenary worship services—Promotional Director Jim Marcum and Pastor Jeff Manning (Unity FWB Church, Greenville) and Reverend Christian Powell.

Randall House Publications presented the new Sunday School curriculum, CLEAR, during a luncheon.

The 2005 state association will meet at Meadowbrook FWB Church in Black Mountain. ■

Alabama: Pleasant Ridge FWB Church in Hamilton paid off the note on the new sanctuary in just three years. Pastor Bobby Duncan says the 5,000-square-foot building first opened on Easter Sunday 2001. The old sanctuary was renovated to provide a foyer, nursery and pastor's office.

Four former pastors of Mt. Moriah FWB Church in Ethelsville joined forces to conduct a three-day revival at the church—Dennis Kizzire, Mike Rogers, Hank Hollis and Milton Fields. Current pastor Roy Plymon attended the church as a youth 30 years ago.

Arkansas: Don Matchett has been named missions director by the Arkansas State Mission Board. He began his new duties in June. Matchett was pastor at Mt. Vernon FWB Church in Russellville. He previously served four years as a youth pastor and 18 months as a minister of music.

Arbor Grove FWB Church in Hoxie hosted a Women's Day this spring with 70 ladies attending. Guest speaker Angie Outlaw addressed the "New Beginnings" theme. Don Robertson pastors.

Colorado: Pastor Dexter Guin reports seven conversions and five baptisms at Gateway FWB Church in Colorado Springs. The congregation has begun a land and building fund to prepare for future construction.



Westgate FWB Church, Grand Junction, CO

Westgate FWB Church in Grand Junction dedicated their new building this spring following a weekend revival with former Home Missions director Trymon Messer. Pastor Bob Lewis said the congregation purchased a new church sign that was subsequently paid for by Union Chapel FWB Church in Chocowinity,

NC. Ladies from North Carolina paid for carpet in the church.

Florida: Pastor David Baker said Beulah FWB Church in Pensacola completed Phase I renovations of their sanctuary, even though the job cost \$5,000 more than original estimates. The church's Phase II capital improvement campaign is to install lighting control and multimedia systems at a cost of \$9,800.

Georgia: Bay Springs FWB Church in Eastman added a 1,620-square-foot fellowship hall and kitchen to accommodate 100 people. Benny Lafferty pastors.



David & Debe Taylor

Georgia's 2004 Couples' Retreat featured Arkansas pastor David Taylor and his wife Debe who is WNAC president. Some 125 couples attended the St. Simon's Island retreat and heard the Taylors speak four times on communication, commitment, conflict and children.

Illinois: With Sunday services pushing 180, Pastor Larry Cook says the sanctuary and parking area at Bear Point FWB Church in Sesser need expansion.

Pastor David Potete says Northwest FWB Church in Chicago set a record with 85 in attendance, four conversions and seven rededications.

Michigan: First FWB Church in Kalamazoo dedicated a 2,400-square-foot sanctuary with seating for 550, a basement and fellowship hall. The church organized in 1970. Their first building program in 1973 produced an auditorium; a 1977 expansion resulted in a multi-purpose building housing Sunday School rooms, offices and a gymnasium. Pastor John

Vick said a couple in the church paid for the purchase of a steeple while another major donation paid off the building program loan. "We are debt free!" says Pastor Vick.

North Carolina: Pastor Henry Van Kluyve said members of First FWB Church in Beaufort pledged \$26,194 in a spring missions conference. This marks Van Kluyve's 53rd year in the ministry and his 50th year attending national conventions without missing.

Bus Day at First FWB Church in Raleigh resulted in 1,603 people in attendance with 500 first-time visitors and 203 conversions. Tim Rabon pastors.

Ohio: Pastor Billy Joe White reports six new members, four baptisms, one conversion and a record attendance of 160 at Wellington FWB Church in Wellington.

Cleveland FWB Church in Cleveland reports four baptisms and 11 new members. Robert Prichard pastors.

Pastor Mike Blanton reports 21 conversions, 21 baptisms and 12 new members at Canaan Land FWB Church in Grove City.

More good news at Samantha FWB Church in Leesburg—21 baptisms and 18 new members. Wiley Perkins pastors.

Pastor Delbert Dixon said they couldn't shut down the revival after one week at Dogwood Ridge FWB Church in Wheelersburg. After three weeks, 29 people were converted or rededicated. For a while, the congregation had weekly baptisms in the Ohio River after Sunday morning services.

Pastor Tim Stout reports 11 baptisms and 12 new members at Heritage FWB Church in Columbus.

Minister Freddy Dutton reports six revivals, 10 other preaching appointments and 115 decisions, in addition to a new television outreach that airs on four cable stations. Dr. Dutton operates out of Columbus.

Oak Hill FWB Church in Oak Hill honored Pastor Tim Simpson for his nine years of leadership. The congregation also honored Deacon Les Miller who has served the church more than 50 years. Pastor Simpson reports seven conversions and two baptisms. ■

Aunt Hazel's Tomato Farm

By David L. Brown
Associate Director

I was born in Bradley County, Arkansas. However, Bradley County's main claim to fame is not the production of Browns but tomatoes. The county hosts the Pink Tomato Festival each June where its most famous crop is prominently displayed and consumed. While I did not grow up in Bradley County, I did spend several weeks there during two tomato-picking seasons. Uncle Fay and Aunt Hazel Mann raised the finest tomatoes in the county. Even though I'm no expert on growing tomatoes, I learned several valuable lessons.

Lessons from the Land

Producing a good crop every year required hard work. Some work started the previous year when tomato plants stopped producing. It was important to disk the field and mulch the plants which would then be plowed under as fertilizer. Farmers had to plan ahead for next year as they concluded the current year and prepared for a new crop. Land that had lain undisturbed all winter had to be broken up, fertilized and planted.

I learned there was risk in growing tomatoes. No one was guaranteed a good crop. A spring storm could leave wind and hail damage. Too much rain was as bad as not enough rain. The possibility of damage from insects loomed every year. Some risks could be reduced through proper management, but some were acts of God. Tomato farming does not always produce a profit. Sometimes proceeds from the crop did not meet expenses. Yet the land was there with the potential if properly managed.

Managing Money Today

These lessons from Aunt Hazel's tomato farm carry over to my work at the Foundation helping to manage endowments. Funds placed with the Foundation are like the land. For endowments to produce a good and consistent income, they must also be managed.

Until two years ago, our policy was to pay out 100% of earnings on all endowments.

Starting in 2003, the board voted to pay 5% instead of all the earnings. This enables us to "prepare the field" for future harvests by "plowing" excess earnings back into the endowment to produce a larger "crop" for future years. This also makes it possible for Free Will Baptist ministries to receive a steady income even during down markets. Excess earnings plowed back into the endowment can be used to give a consistent return.

Endowments must be properly managed regarding appropriate risk. Some advise taking no risk at all. This is akin to the tomato farmer refusing to plant a crop because he is afraid he might lose money. Like the prudent farmer, everything must be done to manage risk. But if you want to produce a crop, risk is part of the process.

We use a management style with a balanced mixture of stocks and bonds to minimize risk. However, risk cannot be eliminated. Many Free Will Baptist individuals, churches and organizations have given us "land" to farm. Thank You! Based on current policy, it is conceivable that over \$125,000 in earnings will be "harvested" to support various Free Will Baptist ministries this year.

We at the Foundation want to be good stewards of that which has been placed in our hands as we do our best to produce a good "crop" of earnings every year. Contact us toll-free at 877-336-7575 or go online at www.fwbgifts.org to learn more about endowments and consider what portion of your "land" you may want the Foundation to farm. We'll treat you right—just ask Aunt Hazel! ■



THE
FREE WILL
BAPTIST
FOUNDATION

The Foundation uses a management style with a balanced mixture of stocks and bonds to minimize risk.

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus

Church Extension Loan Fund

By Richard Adams
Director of Development

Your Money—Building While Earning

God has been good to Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Through His leadership and blessings, new churches are being established all across the United States, Mexico and the islands of the sea.

The burden of these young churches, in most cases, is obtaining funds to build a new building or purchase land.

Feeling the urgent need for home mission churches to have their own meeting place, the Home Missions Board authorized the Church Extension Loan Fund Investment Program to be incorporated as a religious, not-for-profit organization. As the investment program list of participants grows, it will open doors of opportunity never realized by the Home Missions Department.

The Church Extension Loan Fund Investment Program is one means whereby Free Will Baptists can help expand the cause of Christ and earn money while doing so. We borrow your money, lend it to churches and pay you a good rate of interest while your money is on deposit.

Let the Lord use your money through us, and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that *your money is building while it is earning.*

Please check out our website at www.HomeMissions.net and learn all about C.E.L.F.

Purpose of the Program

The Investment Program exists solely to provide a financial base for the Church Extension Loan Fund. The Loan Fund in turn issues loans to Free Will Baptist national Home Missions projects. The loan fund is perpetual as the new church repays the loan.

Where the Money Originates

Where does the Church Extension Loan Fund get the money for loans? The investment program is one avenue. Term notes or securities are offered at varied rates of interest. These notes of any amount are available to persons interested in the advancement of Free Will Baptist Home Missions. This program is a good opportunity for someone to invest his money, earn good interest and help national Home Missions at the same time.

If you have any questions about the C.E.L.F. Program, please contact Dr. Richard Adams at our toll-free number, 877-767-7674, or write to: Church Extension Loan Fund, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. ■



HOME
MISSIONS

Other topics
found on
homemissions.net

- Relationship of C.E.L.F. and the Home Missions Board
- Owner and Manager
- Profit Earned by the Program
- Security of the Program
- How Interest Is Paid
- Access to the Money
- Withdrawing an Investment
- Loan Application

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus

The Clear View

By Emily D. White, Editor
Randall House Publications

Sunday School as we know it is about to change.

Meet CLEAR Curriculum, the new Sunday School curriculum by Randall House Publications. What's so different? These teaching products are not simple Bible study tools. They are more

than information and good ideas. CLEAR Curriculum is based on the CLEAR Learning System, a new approach to Sunday School that meets students where they are and takes them into the Word where God wants them to be.

Every lesson is Bible-based, drawing students deeper into the Word of God. In the course of six years, CLEAR Curriculum will walk students through the entire Bible story.

CLEAR is also family-friendly. In recent years, the family unit has been under attack by our culture, out-of-control materialism and ever-busier lifestyles. CLEAR brings needed relief by encouraging family members to discuss the principles of the Word of God . . . together. The curriculum is family-focused. Each Sunday the entire family will study the same life-related themes from scripture. CLEAR sends students home talking.

From the youngest to the oldest, CLEAR makes God's Word relevant and easy to understand. Consider CLEAR Learning System for yourself. Each lesson on every age level consists of five components organized to guide the teacher in effective teaching:

Connect—the opening activity for each lesson grabs the attention and draws students into the lesson.

Learn—answer the question, What does this portion of scripture say? It explains the biblical text in simple terms that help the teacher communicate to students.

Explore—dig deeper into God's Word, putting an end to the "bore and snore" that plagues many classes.

Apply—discover the intersection where biblical truth meets real life, focusing on how God's Word affects 21st-century living.

Respond—every lesson calls for decisive action from both teacher and students.

The entire CLEAR Curriculum line is built on this learning system, but it doesn't stop there. *Teaching Essentials*, all-in-one kits available on each appropriate age level, equips teachers with handouts, visuals, music, classroom décor and a myriad of other resources to help teachers reinforce lesson themes and topics.

CLEAR Curriculum also provides products for students. Infants and toddlers will bring home *Cuddle Cards*—story cards that illustrate and reinforce the Bible stories introduced in a teaching nursery. Preschoolers will love their *Kids Cards* and *Take 'n Talk* sheets. Both tools help preschoolers interact with their families about the Bible. Elementary students will enjoy their own magazine—*Explorer's Guide* is filled with games, articles and a devotional section designed for elementary students.

Junior high students will enjoy *Clear Direction* while high school teens will benefit from *Clear Horizon*. Both magazines include student-written articles, humorous features and great tools for personal Bible study. *Clear Living* is the student magazine formulated to meet the needs and demands of busy adults. It combines daily Bible studies with relevant articles and features.

Want more information about the new CLEAR Curriculum? Call (800) 877-7030 or visit www.randallhouse.com.

In one sense, the CLEAR Learning System is a fresh approach to Bible study. But, in reality, it simply returns to the teaching style of the Master. Jesus met His listeners where they were and applied God's truth to their lives in a practical and challenging way. That's the goal of CLEAR Curriculum—to teach like Jesus. ■



RANDALL
HOUSE
PUBLICATIONS

Free Will Baptist Ministry Focus

CLEAR Sunday School Curriculum

- meets students where they are and takes them into the Word where God wants them to be.
- brings needed relief by encouraging family members to discuss the principles of the Word of God together.



Garnett Reid

“I Am Telling You New Things”

The Bible’s Story-Line, Part VIII

“What a great story,” I keep telling myself. The novel I’m reading has it all: nightly-news-like characters, a stream of tell-it-like-it-is dialogue, narrative that Faulkner would appreciate and a dynamite plot. I can’t wait to see what happens next since I’ve just come to the climax of that plot.

In our studies this year, we’ve noted that the Bible has all these elements of a story. Now we’re ready for the climax as we turn to Matthew 1. Here’s a reminder of the New Testament story-line:

In the New Testament,

God begins to fulfill His promise when His Son Jesus appears on earth, lives a sinless life, dies in the place of sinful people, rises from the dead, graciously calls all people by the Holy Spirit to a saving relationship with Himself through their faith in Him, unites them to His body, the church, sends those who believe into the world to tell and to model this good news before all people, and sits in exalted glory preparing to return to establish His kingdom on earth in which His church will glorify Him forever.

In the Margin

Before we look at each of these details, note with me a few items in general about this story. First, even as the Old Testament reveals the “initial” phases of God’s plan, so too the New Testament only “begins” to fulfill this promise. The gospel’s work continues today and really *never* ends. His kingdom *is* forever.

The New Testament story unfolds in three historical moments. The first is the lifetime of Christ on earth. Lines 1–6 of the above summary involve Jesus’ earthly life and work.

A second venue is human history since Christ’s ascension. The truth is that all of history is really “church history.” From the

apostles, through the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment, to our own day, God has arranged all events on planet earth—whether we think of them as sacred or secular, delights or disasters, good or evil—according to His kingdom blueprint (lines 7–12).

The third and final moment of this story is its completion (not its end), as suggested in the final three lines of the summary. At some point in the future we will see total success in our mission, absolute joy in our fellowship and unending life in our King.

Alike Though Different

We must also remind ourselves that this “New” Testament/Covenant continues the story of the “Old.” In both we see the same God and the same promise. He works in Old and New to restore the broken relationship between Himself and His rebel creation. In both testaments His aim is the same: “that we should be to the praise of his glory” as He reconciles all things to Himself in Christ. Sin’s ruin, faith’s priority, salvation’s joy—all harmonize in the two movements of scripture’s symphony.

Yet these two parts are not the same. The labels “Old” and “New” suggest that some things change when we move from Malachi to Matthew. The promises of the Old, all those shadowy types and symbols, emerge into the light of the New as real people and events that bring the plan to life. John’s gospel adds color, detail and precision to the pencil sketch outlined in Isaiah’s prophecy. What once concerned Israel primarily and other people only incidentally now focuses on all of us *because* of what God has done through Israel.

What Have We Learned?

From this great story come two lessons we must not miss. First, God does all He intends. Nothing will stop His plan, not

even our disobedience. The second truth is that all of God’s work testifies to His glory. Listen to His servant Isaiah:

I told you about those things I did long before I ever did them.

I spoke them and they happened—and I told you I was going to do them!

Suddenly I moved and they happened.

I told you I was going to do them because I knew how stubborn you are.

You are so hardheaded that if I had not told you they would happen, you would have said,

“My idol planned and did all these things.”

So now you know.

Okay, now hear this and spread the news:

I am telling you at this moment new things

**I am about to do—
and you have no clue!**

They are happening now.

**I haven’t told you before now
so that you wouldn’t say,
“I knew that all along.”**

**There’s no way you have known
what I am about to do**

**because I know how unfaithful you are
and how rebellious you have always been.**

**I have put up with you for my own name’s sake
so that I will receive praise for sparing you.**

Actually I have been testing you through fiery trials.

**But now I am about to act for my own sake,
and for nothing else.**

**I will not let you drag down my name,
And I will not allow anything else
to receive the glory I alone deserve.**

Isaiah 48:3–11, paraphrased ■



Randy Sawyer

Senior Night

I consider every invitation to speak a unique privilege, and I still recall my gnawing hunger for preaching opportunities while in my 20s. If invitations had been as widespread as I hoped, I wouldn't have been prepared, since it took me weeks to get a single sermon ready.

Life Out of Balance

Perhaps because I remember the burning desire to preach in the beginning, it's hard for me to say no when asked. Saying yes too frequently has gotten me into scheduling jams. My bigheadedness at wanting a full speaking calendar left my family in the cold—as if being in demand is more important than being a father or husband, that somehow my self-worth is measured in terms of busyness.

Ten years ago when my father-in-law died from cancer, that mindset changed. During his six-month illness, my wife shouldered the burden for her family and was emotionally and physically spent. In a moment of brutal honesty, she informed me that I had been an absent-

tee husband during the crisis. She was right. Her words, spoken not in anger but in pain, got my attention.

Choosing the Best

I started making important changes in the way I approach life and ministry. Since then, there have been occasions when family needs conflicted with church and denominational needs. As a result of lessons learned during tense days, I began setting aside *good things for the best things*. Discerning which need is most important is tough, and I have failed at times. But I am learning to make scheduling decisions based on priority concerns.

Four months ago the pressure of living according to life priorities peaked. This was my son's senior year in high school, and I did my best to attend all his basketball games. I'm not sure the church staff understood when I put aside meetings, planning sessions and more to be where my son's team played.

December and January were cold, wet months in the Carolinas, forcing the school system to cancel classes several days. Snow days meant rescheduling basketball games. With each adjustment in their schedule, I changed mine too. Then I found out senior night had been moved to a Tuesday when I was to speak at the Alabama Pastors' and Workers' Conference.

The plane ticket had been purchased, the hotel reservation made, the programs printed. I was sick. How could I miss one of the most exciting preaching opportunities ever? But how could I not be present when my son played his final home game? On senior night, each senior and his parents are introduced, and each player's achievements recognized.

I talked over the conflict with my son and, to his credit, he told me he understood. As a preacher's kid, he knows what it's like to be left out when duty calls. Although he said it was all right, I could see disappointment in his eyes. I got in touch with three of my best friends and asked what I should do. Each agreed that senior night was priority. I made the call and lost the price of a plane ticket. But it was the right call.

There will be other speaking opportunities. Maybe even in Alabama. But there will be no more senior nights in my son's high school basketball career. At least for that one night, he knew his dad thought he was the most important person in the world.

Bringing Life into Balance

One of the most valuable lessons I learned is that the *enemy of the best is the good*. I hear men say, "I can't run fast enough to cover all the bases in my life. Some important things in my life are not getting done. The faster I run, the more out of balance I get."

The tragic results of this imbalance include broken marriages, disillusioned kids, shallow relationships and a wagon-load of guilt. Many pastors are living unfulfilled lives and turning to solutions that complicate their situations. Affairs are all too common. Many are working excessively to escape the sense of failure or a loss of control.

Setting Life's Priorities

Since duties do sometimes conflict, it is important to determine which duty is the priority. According to author Stephen R. Covey, the key to choosing the best is

Directory Update

Arkansas

Keith Johnson to First Church, Conway, from Christian Supply Store, Conway, as manager.

North Carolina

Danny Dwyer to Cramerton Church, Cramerton, from First Church, Florence, AL.

Tennessee

John E. Smith to Richland Church, Nashville, from First Church, Topeka, KS.

to identify the basic roles of life (example: I am a believer, a husband, a father, a pastor, a son, a friend, a denominational leader), to prioritize those roles, and to work at balancing the calendar and clock around those roles.

With such a plan in mind, it's easy to see that I should begin each day with daily quiet time, because my role as a Christian is number one on my list; or that my responsibility as husband is more important than my role as pastor; or that my children take precedence over my outside speaking opportunities. When life is organized around my life roles, decisions are simply the balancing of those roles according to what is best.

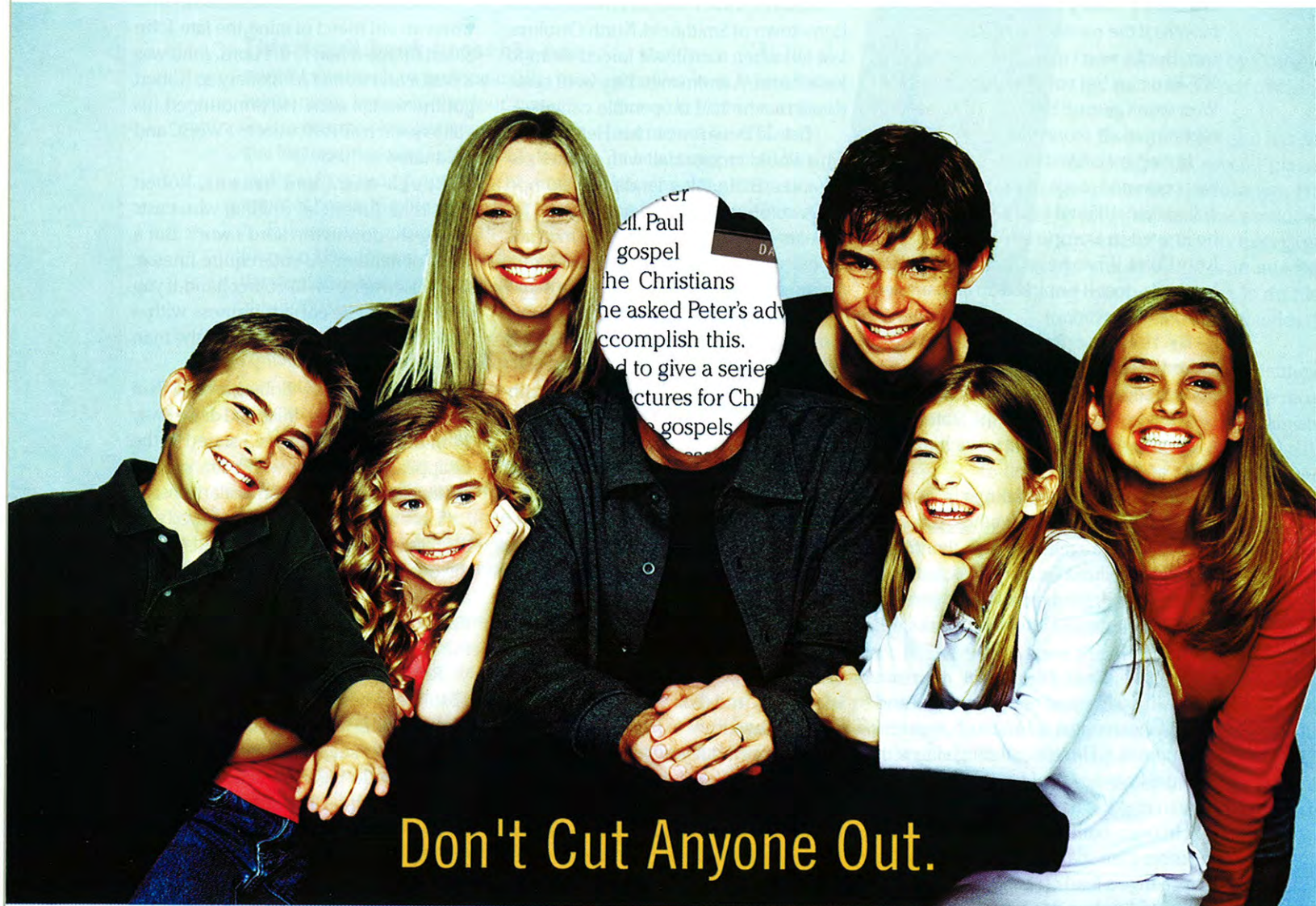
Emergencies will occur, the unforeseen arise, and sometimes decisions will be driven by other people's priorities and expectations. However, by investing in life's most important relationships and careful long-range planning, many conflicts can be avoided. When a crisis moment does arrive, less energy is expended making the appropriate choice. Then, it is simply a matter of choosing the best instead of the good . . . and maybe attending senior night instead of a preaching conference.

■

Receipts:				Year To Date	Year To Date	Year To Date
State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Designated	CO-OP	Total
Alabama	\$ 535	\$ 310	\$ 846	\$ 2,799	\$ 1,085	\$ 3,884
Arizona	0	81	81	105	240	345
Arkansas	10,782	10,123	20,905	64,745	98,966	163,710
California	42	1,066	1,108	2,442	6,872	9,314
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	124	0	124	369	5,536	5,905
Georgia	32,324	1,713	34,037	209,815	9,562	219,377
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois	15,343	2,003	17,346	89,008	13,544	102,552
Indiana	3,861	266	4,127	11,716	1,459	13,175
Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	0	30	30	0	450	450
Kentucky	0	386	386	1,190	3,928	5,118
Louisiana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maryland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michigan	26,030	2,265	28,296	115,715	16,333	132,048
Mississippi	18,458	620	19,078	76,211	4,545	80,756
Missouri	31,899	18,199	50,098	297,885	104,358	402,243
Montana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Mexico	886	23	910	3,246	140	3,386
North Carolina	794	725	1,519	7,660	24,729	32,389
Ohio	16,209	2,675	18,884	97,807	20,415	118,222
Oklahoma	63,899	15,185	79,084	355,124	71,934	427,058
South Carolina	60,414	37	60,450	299,030	680	299,710
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	10,975	1,145	12,119	70,772	9,227	79,998
Texas	9,695	561	10,256	46,531	1,724	48,255
Virginia	46	0	46	478	327	806
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Virginia	20	0	20	2,222	443	2,664
Wisconsin	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada	853	18	870	5,739	101	5,840
Northwest Assoc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northeast Assoc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	\$ 303,190	\$ 57,429	\$ 360,619	\$ 1,760,609	\$ 396,597	\$ 2,157,206
Disbursements:						
Executive Office	\$ 2,282	\$ 25,843	\$ 28,125	\$ 9,807	\$ 178,468	\$ 188,275
Foreign Missions	188,804	7,265	196,068	1,109,275	50,169	1,159,444
FWBBC	26,796	7,265	34,061	151,789	50,169	201,959
Home Missions	76,589	5,685	82,275	439,439	39,263	478,702
Retirement & Insurance	355	4,422	4,777	1,882	30,538	32,420
Master's Men	905	4,422	5,327	3,718	30,538	34,256
Commission for Theo. Integrity	77	158	235	279	1,091	1,370
FWB Foundation	246	1,895	2,141	1,097	13,088	14,185
Historical Commission	77	158	235	279	1,091	1,370
Music Commission	75	158	233	424	1,091	1,515
Media Commission	110	158	268	634	1,091	1,725
Hillsdale FWB College	2,309	0	2,309	13,252	0	13,252
Other	4,566	0	4,566	28,735	0	28,735
Totals	\$ 303,190	\$ 57,429	\$ 360,619	\$ 1,760,609	\$ 396,597	\$ 2,157,206

Contact
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Antioch, TN 37011-5002

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Board of Retirement and Insurance
National Youth Conference
Women Nationally Active for Christ
The Commissions
(Theological Integrity, Music, Historical and Media)

**Rest of the Family
Offering**

September 26, 2004