

# 20th Anniversary Issue



**contact** 

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*OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS*

NOVEMBER 1973

# CONTACT

## 20 Years Old



### ABOUT THE COVER

The introductory edition of CONTACT Magazine in November, 1953 carried a cover picture of the first National Office Building located at 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee.

This issue commemorates CONTACT's 20th anniversary. It is fitting, therefore, that the present National Office Building, located at 1134 Murfreesboro Road, be featured on the cover of this issue. The view, taken from Vultee Boulevard which runs alongside the southeast corner of the property, was photographed by Douglas Henderson of Kinston, North Carolina.

By Eugene Workman

CONTACT Magazine emerged near the end of a significant year for Free Will Baptists. The year was 1953. The month, November.

Just two months before, when the leaves on the trees at 3801 Richland Avenue in Nashville, Tennessee were mingling yellows, browns and reds with the remaining greens, an historic step was taken in the work of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. For the first time, various national ministries became consolidated under one roof when they moved into the "roomy, three-story building" which had been the home of the now late Henry Melvin. These ministries had been located previously all over the United States and the offices were changed as frequently as a director was changed, since the office was usually in the home of the director.

The move to consolidate all phases of the national work in one location came because many denominational leaders felt this was the most effective means of meeting the challenging opportunities that had been thrust upon the denomination at that hour. Purchase of the building in May of that year was under the leadership of Damon Dodd, who was then serving as Executive Secretary. At the 1953 session of the National Association, the Reverend W. Stanley Mooneyham was elected to the denomination's executive position.

### NATIONAL PUBLICATION RECOMMENDED

Mr. Mooneyham, now president of World Vision International at Monrovia, California, recently noted that "it seemed especially fitting that with the coming together of the departments in one building, a new national publication should be launched to serve them and to serve the churches.

"In the 1953 session of the National Association, meeting in Mount Vernon, Illinois, a number of men pushed for a truly national publication which would have a contemporary journalistic style as well as serve the needs of all the churches and departments. Up to that time, most of the publications were regional in nature," Mooneyham continued.

In that 1953 session the General Board recommended to the national body "that a committee be appointed to work out a plan for publishing and financing" a national publication. It became the responsibility of the new Executive Secretary to carry forth this recommendation.

### FIRST PRIORITY

"Upon assuming the office of Executive Secretary that year," Mr. Mooneyham stated, "I established as my first priority the launching of CONTACT. Perhaps one of the reasons for this was that my university degree was in journalism and I felt very keenly the need for this link to tie our churches



together . . . If I had known then what I know now about the economics of magazine publishing, we might never have launched CONTACT! It is always a problem to make the subscription income equal the production costs."

#### MONEY PROBLEMS

Apparently money has been one of the problems which has "plagued" the publication of the denominational magazine during these 20 years — except for the first year. In his report to the 1955 session of the National Association, Mr. Monneyham called the convention's attention to the fact that CONTACT's account had a healthy balance as of July 1. But the next year the story was more bleak — a deficit of \$1,357.84 in that account had accumulated. Mr. M. E. Howard, a layman from Richmond, Virginia, stood and said that he was so sold on the ministry of the paper and liked it so much that he would personally assume that indebtedness.

Almost every Executive Secretary's report since 1954 has included the cost of printing CONTACT and the amount received from subscriptions. The latter figure has always been the smaller one and thus it has been necessary for the magazine to be subsidized by the Executive Office on a regular yearly basis. Within the past two years, the financial picture has become more favorable. The last direct subsidy received by the magazine was in November, 1971. Since that time, magazine subscriptions have underwritten the cost of printing and mailing, honorariums for writers, and the assistance of a part-time circulation employee. Salaries for the

administrative editor and full-time circulation secretary continue to be paid by the Executive Office.

Why is the magazine now better able to meet its financial obligations through subscriptions? Is the subscription cost higher? Are there more subscribers? Are printing costs less? Yes and no. Let's examine some history before we look at the present picture.

#### "EVERY CHURCH FAMILY" PLAN INITIATED

Mr. Mooneyham stated that "human inertia makes it almost impossible to finance a denominational magazine by individual subscriptions alone. It was not until we launched the bundle plan subscriptions that the circulation began to increase appreciably."

In his report to the national body in 1955, Mr. Mooneyham noted that CONTACT's circulation had risen to over 4,000 during the first year of publication but had since dropped to a level of something over 3,000. However, on a brighter note, he said circulation was beginning to increase because of the adoption in a growing number of churches of the "Every Church Family" plan (now known as the Church Family Plan). In 1956, circulation had increased 50 per cent above the previous year with 4,600 copies being mailed in June of that year. Again, credit for the increase was attributed to the adoption of the "Every Church Family" plan by numerous churches. However, at that time 97 per cent of the reported denominational membership was not receiving the magazine.

Again, Mr. Mooneyham rejoiced in his report at the 1957 National Association because CONTACT had

gone to 5,882 people, net increase of nearly 1,300 since 1956. "This is the highest figure yet, but we are grieved that so many of our homes, yes, and even parsonages, are without the paper. If we were to allow three of our members to each family, we have about 55,000 families and letting that same figure apply to our circulation, CONTACT would be reaching about 2,000 homes, leaving 53,000 homes without the church paper!"

In 1958, an effort to make CONTACT's subscription files current brought the circulation of the magazine below the 5,000 mark.

#### NEW EDITOR NAMED

In November, 1960, Billy Melvin became editor of the magazine by virtue of assuming the position of executive secretary upon Mr. Mooneyham's resignation.

"I enjoyed serving as editor of our denominational magazine for some eight years," Mr. Melvin recently commented. "There were the usual problems — limited time, staff and money. Often layouts were prepared on weekends at the kitchen table. More than once I was asked to remove my papers and layout sheets so a meal could be served to my family. However, I found real fulfillment in doing something that I believed was important to our growth and success as a denomination."

In his 1961 report, Mr. Melvin stated that even though the increase in subscriptions had been steady, "we have been completely unsuccessful in our efforts to boost the circulation to a respectable figure." Two subscription





campaigns prior to the 1962 national meeting were quite successful in bringing the circulation to near 6,400. Since March 1962, the majority of the publication responsibilities were handled by Harold Critcher.

#### MAGAZINE CHANGES

In 1964, the magazine changed in both appearance and price. Since it was increased to a 28 page publication with a two-color cover, the cost rose from \$1.25 to \$2.00 annually. Mr. Melvin observed, "General response to these changes have been favorable, though I believe it did cost us some of our Church Family Plans. We have been able, however, to maintain our 6,500 to 7,000 subscription list."

#### CIRCULATION GROWS

In 1965 there were 6,777 subscribers. In 1966, circulation was approximately 7,500. That figure had not changed in 1967 but a projected price change to \$2.50 annually was forecast. Mr. Melvin praised WNAC for their valuable assistance in obtaining new subscribers but reaffirmed the larger circulation "awaits pastors who will see the job done in their congregations."

#### STAFF CHANGES

In 1967, Mr. Melvin joined the staff of the National Association of Evangelicals in Wheaton, Illinois, and the magazine became the responsibility of newly elected Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey. Mr. Critcher, who had transferred to the Foreign Missions Department, consented to assist in the editorial duties on a part-time basis during the evenings and week-ends. In January, 1968, Mrs. June Critcher became assistant editor of the magazine.

In his first report to the National Association as its Executive Secretary,

Mr. Coffey noted the 1968 subscription list stood at approximately 7,000. In his 1969 report, he announced that Jim Jones had been named administrative assistant and would be in charge of CONTACT Magazine.

"CONTACT will be a primary source of information. This year we celebrate the 16th anniversary of this publication. From its inception the magazine has been a channel of communication to the grass roots level of our denomination. Plans have been made to improve the effectiveness of CONTACT. Some of the improvements to be made include the up-grading of contents and style; the selection of an 'editorial advisory council' to give the magazine a more authentic and far-reaching viewpoint; conducting a reader's interest and audience analysis survey; and the establishment of a separate budget with the objective of the magazine becoming self-supporting."

#### SUBSCRIPTION PRICE INCREASE

In January, 1970, the subscription price of the magazine was increased to \$3.00 monthly, the first increase in six years. The price has not increased since that time.

In August, 1970, Mr. Jones resigned his position in the Executive Office to join NAE. With the exception of two months when Jim Lauthern assisted in the publication of the magazine, Mr.

Coffey was without editorial assistance until the spring of 1971. At that time, Milton Crowson assumed some of the editorial duties on a part-time basis. In September of that year, Eugene Workman joined the staff as administrative assistant and assumed full editorial duties of the magazine. Circulation of the magazine then stood at 6,324.

#### CIRCULATION OPERATION CHANGED

A change in the circulation department was initiated in the spring of 1971. Prior to that time, mailing plates for the magazine were maintained by the former printer. This arrangement did not prove satisfactory. New subscriptions were not being commenced for periods of three to five months and apparently sometimes not at all. Changes of addresses were not being made. Subscribers' inquiries concerning these mix-ups were numerous. So the mailing files were moved to the National Office Building and a member of CONTACT's circulation department began to maintain them.

That fall an intensive comparison of the mailing plates with the subscription cards was begun. During this two-month process, approximately 600 discrepancies were discovered. Many subscriptions were being duplicated, addresses on the mailing plates did not agree with the subscription records and cancellations had never been removed. Consequently, many subscription dollars were not being received. In fact, some had been receiving the magazine for as many as two to eight years without paying, due to the malfunction in the circulation department. Changes made in the circulation department should assure that this problem does not occur again.

#### GROWTH DESPITE PURGING

Despite the fact that the names of approximately 500 individuals who

**"From its inception the magazine has been a channel of communication to the grass roots level of our denomination."**

## **"The magazine enjoyed a 93 per cent subscription renewal rate from July, 1972 through June, 1973."**

were delinquent in their subscription payments were purged from the mailing records of CONTACT, the subscription list showed little decline at the end of six months. Approximately 600 new subscriptions were begun in that same period of 1972 and they were *paying* subscribers! In June the number of subscribers stood at 6,116.

In his report to the national body that year, Mr. Coffey stated that "because of the improved quality and design, the appeal of the magazine is more widespread. Greater interest has been generated among the readership."

Reports from various sections of the denomination indicated that the magazine was causing some positive excitement among the readers. Letters began coming regularly. Not only was the interest of older subscribers being renewed but the magazine was winning many new readers. Perhaps this is why the magazine enjoyed a 93 per cent subscription renewal rate from July, 1972 through June, 1973.

### **WHY CURRENT SUCCESS?**

Three factors contribute directly to the success which CONTACT is currently enjoying. First, those who receive the magazine are now paying subscribers. Secondly, the remarkable renewal rate indicates the magazine is meeting a need in our denomination at this time. Readers seemingly approve of the thematic approach now being used. This approach groups feature articles of the issue around a central subject. Readers like the magazine's layout. Denominational news and regular columns are anticipated aspects of each monthly issue. Thus, apparently,

subscribers are telling other Free Will Baptists about the magazine and the subscription list grows.

Thirdly, members of the editorial advisory committee and concerned pastors are pushing the Church Family Plan. From the time of its inception the plan was and continues to be the *best* way to get the magazine into the home of every active church family. For an investment of five cents a week per family, a church's literature program can be supplemented to guarantee that each active family will receive a Christian magazine in their mailbox each month. Very little Christian reading material infiltrates most Free Will Baptist homes.

The September, 1973 issue was sent to 7,282 subscribers. This represents a net gain of approximately 800 over the number of issues mailed in September, 1972. But how woefully lacking is our subscription list. Special subscription drives at Christmas have yielded poor responses. For the past two years, special emphasis at the national meetings have garnered better results. The magazine should be reaching at least one-third of our reported membership of 214,000.

No other plan has been more effectively employed to increase the number of subscribers in the shortest period of time than the Church Family Plan. The full merits of the plan may be found on page 13 of this issue. Pastors and laymen in churches that are not Church Family Plan members are urged to give prayerful consideration to initiating adoption of the plan in their churches. ▲

## **Thanksgiving, 1973**

by Rufus Coffey

Since the days of the pilgrim fathers it has become customary for Americans to pause at the end of the fall harvest season and give thanks to God for His bountiful blessings. The Pilgrims had undergone great trials but in spite of the perils they encountered, they did not forget to express thanks for the manner in which God had provided for them. Overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude to Almighty God for His providential care, our colonial founders recognized the need for setting aside a special time of prayer and thanksgiving.

This practice continued as several governors of the colonies periodically proclaimed a day for thanksgiving. Finally, it became an annual observance by the proclamation of President Lincoln. Americans have continued to express thanks for the heritage of freedom, the material blessings which are the harvest of our labors and the joy of fellowship with friends and family.

Amid the material affluence, moral decadence and the national evils which beset us, we need to take time to count our blessings and think of the goodness and mercies bestowed upon us by a loving Heavenly Father. If ever a nation ought to humbly prostrate itself in utter gratitude to a merciful and longsuffering God, it is America. The innumerable favors that we receive from Him are adequate cause for continual thanksgiving.

Despite the problems that plague our nation, we must not forget the words of President George Washington who said Americans should express their thanks for the "kind care and protection of the people of this country — for the signal and manifold miracles and favorable interpositions of His providence — for the great degree of tranquillity, union and plenty, which we have enjoyed — for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness — for civil and religious liberty." ▲

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# 20 Year Subscribers Reflect On CONTACT's Progress

## APPRECIATES CONTACT'S LOW SUBSCRIPTION RATE

A statement in the very first issue of CONTACT reads, "It has been truly said, 'We do not know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future' and with that knowledge we advance into it with confidence." And with God's leadership, advance we did! We enjoy all the articles, but *Newsfront* is like getting news from a large family... CONTACT is a church magazine second to none... Something that "cost conscious" people might note is the surprisingly low subscription price of CONTACT after 20 years.

— Clemmie Kirby  
Sumter, S.C.

## ENJOYED THIS YEAR'S REVIEW OF NATIONAL CONVENTION

Congratulations to CONTACT for 20 years of service to the Free Will Baptist denomination! I have always believed that the printed page would tend to keep the denomination united, and I am sure CONTACT has been instrumental in this.

I have read every one that has been published, and every issue has been a blessing to me in some way.

I was not permitted to attend the National Association this year, but after reading the September issue it was just like being present.

— John H. West  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

## ESPECIALLY ENJOYS 'WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?'

The work of our denomination as a whole is kept well before me through the pages of CONTACT. I have read with a great deal of interest the progress being made by various churches through the bus ministry. Also, I have read with much interest many items on the modern movements of various denominations, and as a result I have been able to form definite opinions. Since it started I have especially enjoyed "What's Your Problem?", and it is usually the first thing I turn to.

— J. D. Ballance  
Raleigh, N.C.

## CONTACT — "LIKE A LETTER FROM MANY FRIENDS"

Since its beginning, CONTACT has been like a letter from many friends to me... It has kept me informed about the happenings of the whole Free Will Baptist family. It told me about "Pop" Willey's going home and Paul Pursell and our own Ray Lee. I've kept every issue — too dear to my heart to be discarded. I gave my periodicals, including CONTACTs, to Hillsdale College and I also sent some to FWBBC.

— Nancy M. Hancock  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

## BELIEVES CONTACT PRODUCES BETTER HOMES

I enjoy reading CONTACT. I have been a subscriber for 20 years. CONTACT has been a real blessing to me. I look forward to getting it each month... I praise the Lord that we still have a magazine that writes about our Lord Jesus... If more of our people would get CONTACT and read it we would have better homes.

— Mrs. Robert Parris  
Gastonia, N.C.

## THRILLED WITH CONTACT'S PROGRESS

To the best of my knowledge, we have subscribed to CONTACT ever since it has been published. We are thrilled to say we have enjoyed the many steps it has taken up the ladder and to know how God has helped our denomination grow. — Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Conkey  
Wheelersburg, Ohio

## APPRECIATES CONTACT'S INFORMATIONAL THRUST

We have received CONTACT since its first publication. During the discussion period we looked forward to the time when the National Association would become of age and begin to print its own literature so the denominational people would know what every department was doing.

We edited the ADVOCATOR and many times we used items of national interest to inform our people.

CONTACT has been an outreach into homes where many people do not know the many services of the National Association.

— Mrs. E. O. Griffith  
Ashland, Ky.

## I REMEMBER CONTACT'S DEBUT!

By Maurine Lee

There's always a great deal of excitement when something is introduced to the public for the very first time. Needless to say, there was no less excitement within the building at 3801 Richland Avenue when the first

issue of CONTACT magazine was delivered in November, 1953. It was a historical marker in the history of Free Will Baptists.

Brother W. S. Mooneyham, who was serving as Executive Secretary of the National Association, was the first editor and writer of CONTACT. His secretary, June Goode (now Mrs. Sam Wilkinson serving in Brazil, South America), was his only helper with preparing and reading copy. Curley Printing Company of Nashville was the publisher.

Since our people had not received a copy of this magazine before, there was no subscription list to be used. I was the first receptionist at the first national offices building and one of my first jobs was to work on mailing lists. The first issue was mailed to all those whose names and addresses could be found in state minutes or quarterly meeting reports, mailing lists from some state papers, and to those who had corresponded with the national offices

# I Remember The "Toddler Stage"

by Jo Ann Hurst

I remember CONTACT in the "toddler's stage" of its infancy, 1956-1961.

Those were years of endeavor to make the name and purpose of the publication known to our people. Every new Christian publication can expect a difficult time in building circulation, but one limited to a single denomination has an even slower process to endure.

The editors during those years — Stan Mooneyham until 1960, then Billy Melvin, were determined to produce a quality Christian magazine which all Free Will Baptists could proudly present as the official voice of the denomination. However, there were more than a few obstacles to reaching that goal.

Introducing CONTACT to the average Free Will Baptist, so that he could, indeed, be in contact with his denomination and also be aware of news in the religious realm worldwide was a

primary concern from the beginning. Introduction was slow since the best avenue of promotion was through the pastors and fellowship with them was mostly limited to the quarterly meetings and yearly conferences which the editor could manage to attend.

Because making the acquaintance of the individual readers was a slow and tedious task, there were not enough subscriptions to pay the costs of publication. Economy (or perhaps poverty is more accurate) was an ever present factor. The least expensive paper was used for printing for a long while; the cuts for the pictures were made out-of-state because of better prices, but which often meant delay in receiving, and the printing company deserves thanks forevermore for its generosity in carrying overdue accounts.

The constant lack of funds brought on the greatest obstacle of all, in my thinking, because it meant that the editor could hire no help and had to be everything to the magazine. He was

reporter, typist, layout man, proofreader, writer, editor, circulation manager, and often subscription collector. He had to wedge those responsibilities for the denominational publication into his elected job as Executive Secretary. He had no assistant, he had no consultant, he had only his own resources. It is a certainty that those tasks were not accomplished in forty hours per week of any year! His staff consisted of one ever-changing Bible College student who worked a few hours per week to try and keep the subscriptions recorded and the change-of-address notices current. There were no funds to allow for more hours or more persons, so the system was quite inadequate.

The "Every Family Plan" was a great boost to circulation when churches were encouraged to subscribe for each family of their membership. It is a plan continued to this day. I remember



for any reason. Each name and address was individually typed on gummed labels. Records will reveal the number mailed of the first issue, but it must have been not more than 500. I didn't believe I could come up with even that many names!

We did not have zip codes back then, but the post office had its regulations. Ten or more copies going to any one town had to be tied in a bundle and clearly labeled for that city. I do remember that individual copies which did not go in these bundles were rolled and held in place with a gummed paper or the gummed label. This counting, sorting, rolling, sticking, and tying by hand all took a great deal of time. There were no funds to hire extra help, so Mr. Mooneyham, his secretary, and the

receptionist had the pleasure of doing it all.

I can still remember the excitement at the response to the first issue. Paid subscriptions began to come in! The number did not soar as we might have hoped, but Free Will Baptists responded with joy and enthusiasm. If my memory is correct, I believe the first subscription to come by mail was from a minister in Marked Tree, Arkansas. If it were not first, it was near the first.

Before the second or third issue went out, a used addressing machine was purchased. The back porch became the mailing room. The addresses now were transferred to stencils. These came in frames such as slides for a slide projector. Each stencil was first soaked between two wet sponges to make it soft and pliable. When the addresses were typed on, they were then put aside to dry before being filed according to states and towns. A tray of stencils were placed into the machine at a time and a foot lever operated the machine. There

was no automation. Each copy had to be inserted in the machine by hand, stamped with the address, and then taken out. However, a careful worker could put them through quite fast and it was much faster than putting a label on each one. Again the process of counting, tying, and rolling of copies had to be done.

Free Will Baptists responded with warmth, love, and understanding. They remembered that editors and those who send the mail out were human. They did not try to set everyone straight on the very first copy!

Though you may not have felt any particular excitement when you took this anniversary copy of CONTACT from your mailbox, it is my opinion that you now hold one of the most effective (and most overlooked) tools which has been used to bring Free Will Baptists together across our nation. My prayer is that we will all recognize it as a ministry and support the staff with our prayers — and subscriptions! ▲

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Lee is the wife of George Lee, pastor of the Victory Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina. She is a writer for the National Sunday School Department.*

# GOTTA' NICKLE ?

That's all it takes! Just five cents a week — a small investment! Yet, what a dividend! Five cents a week assures CONTACT will go into the home of that Sunday school teacher, the C.T.S. secretary or that new convert. It takes just five cents a week; that is, if the church to which these members belong is a member of CONTACT's Church Family Plan.

A local church supplies those who attend its Sunday school and C.T.S. with literature designed for these respective programs. Many churches supply a weekly take-home paper. Many Free Will Baptist churches also send the denominational magazine into the home of each active member. They feel this is a vital supplement to their literature program. And in the homes of many church members, this is the only Christian publication that comes to their mailboxes each month.

## CONTACT FOR EVERY CHURCH FAMILY

Why should the official denominational magazine be in the

home of every Free Will Baptist Church member?

*First,* As the name suggests, it is a link between members of Free Will Baptist churches and denominational ministries. It is also a tie between the local church and the home.

*Second,* It provides reading material which is informative, instructional and inspirational in relation to Christian living. Contained in these categories is factual material by which leaders may intelligently evaluate current issues as they relate to Christian living and articles which strengthen the saints, awaken the slothful, convict the unsaved, and above all, glorify God.

*Third,* An informed Christian is a better church member. When a church member is aware of the programs and projects which are being successfully utilized by other individuals and churches across the denomination, he will be more willing to participate in a similar outreach for his own local church. Too, when he has some facts and reasons on which to base his opinions concerning contemporary

issues of today's world which affect Christendom, he is better able to be a positive leader within his own Sunday school class or Church Training Service group, as well as the church as a whole.

*Fourth,* CONTACT provides Christians with reading material to which many otherwise would not have access. We feel your official denominational magazine is worthy of being included as a part of the church's regular literature program. The church which provides its membership with Christian literature beyond the usual quarterlies is making an investment from which it will reap extra benefits of lay participation and leadership in years to come.

The cost? For just \$2.52 a year or 63¢ per quarter per family, this magazine will be sent directly to the home of each active church family. This savings, against the regular individual price of \$3.00 yearly, is only possible because the church agrees to involve *all* of the active members in this Church Family Plan.



## I REMEMBER THE "TODDLER STAGE" (Continued)

subscriptions coming in the mail addressed to everything from CONTEXT to HARDTAC. But they were welcomed, one and all!

CONTACT was not without reader comment even in infancy as evidenced by some letters published in "Our Readers Write" column. Some persons objected to the answers in "What's Your Problem?". When articles were reprinted from other publications with the objective of presenting religious news throughout the world, some readers

presumed that the editor was in agreement, and promptly proceeded to castigate him with typewriter, pen, and mostly pencil. At least they were responding. One of the greatest problems with the readers was to help them understand that what was news in the local paper was not necessarily news across the denomination. One lady reported how Aunt Eller had been hospitalized when her pressure cooker

exploded while canning soup. These letters were answered personally by the busy editor with a gentle tenderness that is impossible to convey in this article.

How pleasant now to receive the beautiful and timely magazine of our denomination. It has built to financial maturity from those important "toddling" years. Those years were produced by capable men whose personal contributions and sacrifices will never, no never, be known to a great extent. But the continued success of CONTACT to its present stature must provide them a certain gratification that we readers can only assume.

*ABOUT THE WRITER:* Mrs. Hurst serves as bookkeeper for the Foreign Missions Department in Nashville, Tennessee. Her husband, Joe, is pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church in LaVergne, Tennessee.

## HERE'S HOW THE PLAN WORKS

CONTACT is mailed directly to each active family and the cost is paid from the church treasury or one of the auxiliaries, such as the Sunday school, Master's Men or the Women's Auxiliary. After the church approves this project the following steps are all that are necessary.

1. Send the names and addresses of *all* active families in the church. Do *not* send any money.
2. This list will be checked against our current subscribers. Refunds for all who are presently subscribing will be credited to the church account. (For example, if someone has six months remaining on his subscription, \$1.50 is deducted from the church account.)
3. The church will be billed quarterly at the rate of 63¢ for each subscription. The cost would be \$12.60 if 20 families were enlisted. A form to add or drop any name will be sent quarterly.
4. This plan continues in effect until the church gives a 30-day written cancellation notice.

Can your church afford not to make a weekly investment of five cents on behalf of each active family? ▲

## CHURCH FAMILY PLAN New members

January—September, 1973

### ALABAMA

Fairview Church No. 1, Trussville;  
Larry Nix, pastor  
Laodicea Church, Hanceville;  
pastor unknown

### ARKANSAS

First Church, Batesville;  
Hoover Lewis, pastor  
First Church, Searcy;  
David Joslin, pastor

### CALIFORNIA

First Church, Kerman;  
Newell Brown, pastor  
First Church, Huntington Park;  
Lloyd Reddick, pastor  
First Church, Santa Paula;  
Gordon Bradshaw, pastor  
First Church, Norwalk;  
Bob Thomas, pastor

### IDAHO

Burley Church, Burley;  
Delmar Hopkins, pastor  
First Church, Boise;  
Jesse Dunn, pastor

### MISSOURI

Verdella Church, Lamar;  
Dale Pitts, pastor

### NORTH CAROLINA

First Church, Lenoir;  
James Childers, pastor  
Victory Church, Goldsboro;  
George Lee, pastor  
Caroleen Church, Caroleen;  
Ted Reynolds, pastor  
Shelby Church, Shelby;  
Jason Salyer, pastor  
First Church, Bessemer City;  
Lee Whaley, pastor

### OHIO

Garden City Church, Wheelersburg;  
Oral Maggard, pastor  
Amherst Church, Amherst;  
pastor unknown  
Westside Church, Columbus;  
Charles Bowman, pastor

### TENNESSEE

East Nashville Church, Nashville;  
Fred Hall, pastor

### TEXAS

First Church, Henderson;  
Harold Teague, pastor

### VIRGINIA

Virginia Beach Church, Virginia  
Beach; Ray Berry, pastor

### WASHINGTON

Victory Church, East Wenatchee;  
Lewis Perry, pastor  
Valley Church, East Wenatchee;  
Milan Ruble, pastor  
Liberty Church, Rockport;  
Fred Dillinger, pastor

# Southwestern Association Had It's 'Trumpet'

by Robert Picirilli

Not many people today realize that there was once a Southwestern Association of Free Will Baptists, composed of various associations in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and elsewhere. This was before the existence of the National Association, of course. An earlier "History Corner" article has made reference to some of the minutes of that organization.

Now we have come into possession of an issue of the *Free Will Baptist Trumpet*, which called itself the "organ of Southwestern Free Will Baptist churches." The masthead further identifies the magazine as "crying out against Falsehood, Formalism and Fanaticism."

Charles B. Wier was the editor, and it was published from Fort Worth, Texas. The issue we have in the Historical Collection is dated November 1, 1934,

## HISTORY CORNER

and is identified as Volume 3, number 1. This would mean that this periodical began in November of 1932. It was "Published on the 1st and 15th of each month." We do not know how long it lasted. The subscription price was "50 cents per year!" The Historical Collection is badly in need of other issues of this old periodical.

This issue contained a complete account of the Arkansas State Association for 1934, a continued article entitled "Will A Man Rob God?" by Charles E. Haydon, "Lines on Salvation" by Mrs. N.A.H., and a very interesting article by W. G. Fields entitled "Justification by Faith."

Brother Fields defines *justification* as "the clearing of the sinner from guilt,

and reestablishing him or her in the favor of God." *Faith* he defines as "belief in or assurance of the reality of an unseen object."

He explains that saving faith consists of: "(1) A belief in the sufficiency of Christ... Christ is the only way and will not share the merit of saving a soul with anyone. (2) A belief in God's willingness to accept him on the terms and conditions of the atonement... (3) A present and complete acceptance of salvation through Christ."

He concludes: "The wisdom and beneficence of God are seen in thus making faith the medium and condition of salvation, as it is really the only condition that all sinners could comply with. A condition founded on merit or good works would have been out of the question, seeing the sinner has neither the one nor the other to offer; but all can ask and receive, believe and be saved, look and live." ▲

## JANUARY DESIGNATED "BIBLE STUDY MONTH"

A renewed interest in studying the Scriptures is sweeping across America. A hunger and thirst for things of God is evident as the Word of God is being searched and believers are gaining new insights into this revelation of God.

Because of the need for greater Bible knowledge and spiritual edification which strengthens the spiritual life of believers, the National Association of Free Will Baptists, during its annual convention in July, 1973, voted to designate January as BIBLE STUDY MONTH.

Study books are available for weekly group studies or mid-week prayer services. Congregations may designate one week in January as BIBLE STUDY WEEK or the Bible study emphasis may take shape during the five Wednesday evenings in January.

By ordering study booklets to serve as a guide to in-depth study, the sessions will be much more meaningful to all participants. This personal involvement in study of the Word will result in deeper commitment to God and His Word. Participants in the Bible study can use their booklets at home between sessions for searching the Scriptures and personal enrichment. Then, when believers meet for group study, the sessions can be times of sharing exciting discoveries and mutual growth.

The following study books are recommended for this January Bible Study:

### PRECEPTS FOR PRACTICE

— By Malcolm Fry

Acquaints believers with basic doctrines of the Christian faith and helps them relate these truths to day by day Christian living. Leader's Guide (120 pp.) — \$2.95. Individual Study Booklet (100 pp.) — \$1.50.

### THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

— By Robert E. Picirilli

An overall presentation of Galatians. (113 pp.) — \$1.50.

### FAITH FOR TODAY

— By J. D. O'Donnell

A presentation of Free Will Baptist teachings — Scriptures, God, Creation, Man, Christ, Holy Spirit, Salvation, Church, Last Things. (92 pp.) — \$2.95.

### A SURVEY OF CHURCH HISTORY

— By J. D. O'Donnell

This brief account of church history helps one to see how Free Will Baptists fit into the mainstream of Christianity and to appreciate the contributions we have made as a denomination. (212 pp.) — \$3.95.

### THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

— By Robert E. Picirilli

Ideally arranged for Bible Study Month into 5 chapters. 50¢ per copy.

### WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT TONGUES

— By Robert E. Picirilli

5 chapters; Single copy — 50¢, 10 or more copies — 25¢ per copy.

### THE BOOK OF ROMANS

— By Robert E. Picirilli

Volume 1 (Volumes 2 and 3 will be available next year.) Study focuses on chapters 1-7 of Romans. 13 chapters — \$1.50.

Each church can unite in this denominational-wide effort of concentrated Bible study. All you need to do is set a definite time and decide what specific study you would like to pursue. Then send your order to...

### BIBLE STUDY

P.O. Box 1088

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

## POLICE OFFICER ENTERS FULLTIME LAY MINISTRY

WICHITA, KANSAS — A detective sergeant with the Wichita Police Department exchanged his law career for a fulltime lay ministry in October.



TERRYS

After 25 years with law enforcement agencies, Doyle Terry, and his wife, Donna, began a fulltime Christian service ministry of testimony and song. They are available for youth services, lay revivals or other special lay services. Besides ministering in churches, the Terrys conduct services and personal work in camping areas which they have found to be a great field in today's recreation-minded society.

Mr. Terry, who is a member of the National Layman's Board, says they have found no limit as to the places where their testimony can reach and touch others who have a need and are hungry to hear the gospel. Terry stresses that "laymen need to be stirred to accept the challenge of the Great Commission." At the time of his resignation, Terry was serving as Parole Officer — Bailiff with one of the Sedgwick County District Courts.

Doyle and Donna are members of the Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Wichita. The Reverend Jack Ledbetter is their pastor. They may be contacted at 611 West Main Street, Harper, Kansas 67058.

## NEW MISSION CHURCH IN SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

DE QUEEN, ARK. — A Free Will Baptist mission has been established in this southwest Arkansas town. According to Claude L. Irvan, who is assisting in the endeavor, this is believed to be the first Free Will Baptist work in the immediate De Queen area. The Reverend Travis Garner is pastor.

The mission was begun independent of any sponsoring group. However, the Little Missouri River Association of Arkansas is assisting with token monetary support, according to the clerk, Mrs. Floyd Welch.

## HEART ATTACK FATAL TO MISSIONARY'S FATHER

KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI — Mr. Herman Miley, father of Dr. LaVern Miley, medical missionary to Ivory Coast, West Africa, died September 23, 1973, as a result of a massive coronary attack. The native Missourian was 70 years of age.

Funeral services were held September 25 with the Reverend Archie Cooper conducting. Mr. Cooper is pastor of the Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church of which Mr. Miley was a member.

Mr. and Mrs. Miley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary September 2 of this year. Present for the occasion was Dr. Miley who was in the United States for a six week vacation furlough. He had returned to Africa on September 6.

## MISSIONARY'S PLANE HEAVILY DAMAGED IN TAKE-OFF CRASH

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA — On July 29, 1973, just twelve days after the long-awaited Cessna 180 airplane arrived for use in Bob Carr's missionary ministry, the vehicle received major damage in a take-off crash. Mr. Don Nelson, a Christian brother who operates a radio station in the community of North Pole, which is a suburb of Fairbanks, was reportedly in command of the plane at the time of the crash. Neither he nor Mr. Carr were injured.

The plane was insured and was being repaired at last report.

The purchase of the plane was secured through a campaign to collect 13,675 books of S & H Green Stamps. The campaign was sponsored by the First Free Will Baptist Church of Lakewood, Colorado. Mr. Bill Campbell, who headed that campaign, stated approximately 6,000 more books of stamps were needed to fulfill the purchase agreement. He also reported that Mr. Carr had given in excess of \$10,000, received in the sale of his Colorado home, toward the plane's purchase price.

The Carrs ministry in Alaska is independent of any missions board. The layman and his family are members of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Denver, Colorado.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

**newsfront**



## KNOXVILLE CONGREGATION DEDICATES NEW FACILITY

KNOXVILLE, TENN. — Dedication Sunday, August 19, 1973, climaxed a desire and a dream which began some nine years prior when 13 people first met in a Knoxville home to form the nucleus of the body known today as Faith Free Will Baptist Church.

Securing 3.83 acres of choice land in the Inskip community in 1964, the group proceeded to erect an "A" frame building in the fall of 1965. Official organization as a church came in February, 1966. At that time, the Reverend Wayne Smith was called to pastor the congregation of 22 charter members. Although his pastoral tenure was only seven months, three Sunday school rooms were built adjoining the "A" frame structure during that time. From the beginning, the group tithed through the National Cooperative Program and supported the Home For Children, Greeneville, Tennessee.

The present pastor, the Reverend Thurman Pate, Sr., began his pastoral duties in October, 1966. The next five years of development were characterized by a transit movement of members. Realizing the net increase in

new members was not what it should be, the congregation stepped forth on faith and embarked on a full-time ministry. Brother Pate became the first full-time pastor. The average Sunday school attendance increased almost immediately from 33 to 54.

On Sunday, November 12, 1972, ground breaking services for the new brick structure were held. The auditorium, which seats approximately 175, is designed with cathedral ceilings supported by laminated piers. The 58 by 34 foot sanctuary is completely carpeted. The two storied educational wing houses 11 classrooms. The entire building is centrally heated and cooled. Construction of the facility was financed with a \$50,000 bond program under the direction of Executive Church Bonds.

Mr. Pate, who entered the ministry in 1937, stated that the average attendance for Sunday school rose to 59 during the first month in the new building. There were 12 candidates baptized during the first 90 days the new building was occupied.

## GEORGIA PASTOR ASSUMES EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S POST

MOULTRIE, GA. — C. B. Dowdney, an active minister in the work of Georgia Free Will Baptists, has been named Promotional Secretary for his state. He assumed his duties October 1.

Mr. Dowdney, who was pastoring the Greenwood Free Will Baptist Church at Camilla at the time of his acceptance, succeeds A. C. Truluck. Mr. Truluck, who had served in that position since November, 1969, resigned to accept the pastorate of the Satilla Free Will Baptist Church at Hazelhurst, the congregation to which he was ministering when he accepted the state position.



MR. DOWDNEY

Mr. Dowdney said he wants to continue the forward strides which have been accomplished in the state under Mr. Truluck's administration. Especially noteworthy is the 100 per cent increase in Co-op giving. Of the state's 130 churches, 90 participate in this endeavor to support all phases of the state and national ministries. The state bookstore was also moved to a downtown location in June, 1972 and grossed over \$60,000 for the year.

In 1947, Georgia Free Will Baptists took the denominational lead by hiring the first full-time promotional secretary. He was E. C. Morris. He was followed by Mance Cason who preceded Mr. Truluck.

Mr. Dowdney is an alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. In addition to his pastoral duties, he has been teaching in the Camilla High School for the past four years. He and his wife, Beatrice, are parents of four children, one of whom remains at home. Mrs. Dowdney will be assisting in the state office and in the bookstore.

## ATTENDANCE GAINS NOTED BY OHIO CHURCH

COLUMBUS, OHIO — North Free Will Baptist Church has already experienced a thirty per cent increase in Sunday school attendance for the first half of 1973 according to Matt Hayes, Education Director for the church. Averages of 200 and 231 were posted for the first and second quarters of 1973. Figures for the first two quarters of 1972 were 158 and 174 respectively.

Prayer, hard work and dedication are the keys to this increase according to Mr. Hayes. The leadership of Pastor Richard Pressnell and Sunday School Superintendent Kelly Patton has added much to the efforts of the church.

Pastor Pressnell heads the visitation committee and oversees a three vehicle bus ministry in the community. A youth church directed by Frank Hawley helps maintain the interest of bus students and brings them the message of the Gospel on their own level. The third Sunday of each month is a special Sunday school rally day. Special speakers and events are scheduled on these days.

## MINISTER APPOINTED HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

BECKLEY, W. VA. — The Reverend A. L. "Bud" Hines, a Free Will Baptist minister, was recently appointed chaplain of the Pinecrest Hospital here.

As chaplain he holds a service at 9 a.m. each Sunday in the hospital chapel. He will make approximately 3,000 visits and distribute 2,000 pieces of non-denominational literature to patients during a three-month period. Mr. Hines also gives pre-surgery counseling and during the surgery has prayer and meditation with the patient's family in the hospital's family room.

Mr. Hines is currently serving as part-time pastor of the Shady Spring Community Church near here while working with the State Department of Highways. Prior to this time, his pastorates have been in North Carolina. He resigned the Emmanuel Free Will Baptist Church at Durham earlier in the year.

## CHURCH PERSONNEL CHANGES

These changes in Free Will Baptist pastoral and other church personnel are provided by CONTACT Magazine as a service to its readers. No personnel will be listed as having left a place of service until he is called officially to serve with another congregation.

### PASTORATES

#### ALABAMA

John Edwards to First Church, Decatur, from First Church, Tuscon, Arizona

Thomas Kirkland to Springfield Church, Ashford from Union Church, Abbeville

Kenneth Kirby to Graysville Church, Graysville from New Home Number 1 Church, Colquitt, Georgia.

#### ARIZONA

Bob Duvall to Northside Church, Phoenix from Trinity Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### KENTUCKY

Dewayne Patterson to Olivet Church, Guthrie from Community Church, Oakland, Illinois

## SPANISH EVANGELISTIC CRUSADE ARRANGED BY FREE WILL BAPTIST

McALLEN, TEXAS — The recent Rio Grande Valley evangelistic crusade, sponsored by the Spanish Minister's Alliance, climaxed six months of hard work for American Sunday School Missionary Felix Lima.

Lima, a Free Will Baptist minister who became a ASSU missionary following his departure from Cuba, was in charge of arrangements for this crusade which brought the gospel to about 6,500 people. Under the preaching of a Spanish evangelist, 463 first time decisions were made plus many rededications.

Lima is married to the former Lucy Wisheart of Missouri. Both are alumni of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. The Limas left Cuba in 1961 following Castro's take-over, resided in Nashville until 1962 when they began their ministry among the Spanish speaking people in the McAllen area as ASSU missionaries. The American Sunday-School Union is the oldest home mission effort in the United States. They have recently moved to new home offices in Villanova, Pennsylvania near Philadelphia.

#### NORTH CAROLINA

John Stewart Craft to Unity Church, Smithfield.

#### OKLAHOMA

Ernest Harrison, Sr. to Richmond Avenue Church, Allen from Bethany Church, Broken Arrow.

Richard Shade to North Side Church, Tulsa from First Church, Mtn. Home, Arkansas.

Rex Hester to East Tulsa Church, Tulsa, from First Church, Russellville, Arkansas.

Doyle Baker to First Church, Claremore

Robert Martin to First Church, Sayre

#### TENNESSEE

Marion Pettus to West End Church, Springfield from North Heights Church, Texarkana, Arkansas.

David Patterson to Oak Grove Church, Greenville.

Joe Hurst to LaVergne Church, LaVergne.

Ivan Ryan to Oakwood Church, Woodlawn

#### TEXAS

Jerry McArthur to Trinity Church, Fort Worth from Good Hope Church, Henderson.

#### OTHER CHANGES

##### MISSOURI

Roy Pearson to Trinity Church, Bridgeton, as Minister of Christian Education and Youth from Southside Church, St. Louis where he served as assistant pastor

Jack McAllister to Berkeley City Church, Berkeley as Director of Christian Education

##### OKLAHOMA

Bob Followwill to Capitol Hill Church as Minister of Music and Education from First Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he served in a like position.

##### VIRGINIA

David Nobles to Collinswood Church, Portsmouth as Associate Pastor and Director of Music from Belvoir Church, Greenville, North Carolina

## OUR READERS COMMENT

Dear Mr. Workman:

I appreciate very much what was said in the August issue of *CONTACT* concerning the Bus Ministry. Our denomination needs much more material concerning the Bus Ministry distributed to our people.

However, I did not appreciate nor did I agree with the article written by Rev. Forrest C. Keener, "Visions of Bubble Gum." Why do men that perhaps are really good Christians want to criticize and "downgrade" other men of God that are winning souls and have soul-winning churches? I understand that we are to stand up against the evils of our day, but is winning souls for Christ, using methods to motivate people a sin?

There is nothing wrong with motivating people to do right. Jesus did that Himself when He fed the 5,000. Our denomination for years has awarded pens and bars for members attending Sunday school for one year without missing. Is this wrong, a sin? No, we'll all agree that it is not a sin.

I am not in agreement with anyone or any denomination criticizing the best soul-winners in our nation. I am a Free Will Baptist, but I stand with any man that is fundamental and is winning souls for Christ through the Bus Ministry, and there are those being won through this ministry.

Thank you for the good work with *CONTACT*. I appreciate the magazine and always enjoy reading it. I just felt it necessary to express my opinion of this particular article, and I feel the opinion of many others.

Sincerely yours,  
Rev. Bobby Parker  
Howard Grove Church  
Cottonwood, Alabama

(more letters on page 14)



**FREE WILL BAPTISTS ATTEND WRITERS WORKSHOP** — Three Free Will Baptists from Nashville were among 55 persons who participated in a Writers Workshop at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board recently held in this Tennessee city. The workshop was designed to aid persons in developing skills for writing articles for church-related publications or curriculum writing. Shown (seated, left to right) are: Mrs. Genevieve Waddell, free lance writer whose husband is pastor of Cofer's Chapel Church; Mrs. Harold Critcher, youth worker at Horton Heights Church and wife of the Director of Finance for the Department of Foreign Missions; and Mrs. Leroy Forlines, Hillwood High School teacher and wife of the dean of men at Free Will Baptist College. Standing (left to right) are: James Hefley, workshop lecturer and free lance writer of 25 books; and Lynn M. Davis, Jr., workshop director and manuscript analyst in the Sunday School Board's church services and materials division.

## OUR READERS COMMENT (Continued from page 12)

Dear Gene:

You've got some nerve printing all those pro-bus and con-bus articles in the August *CONTACT*. And I appreciate it!

The bus ministry is not a "cure all" for every problem in a thorny pastorate as "Viewpoint" by Rufus Coffey so aptly disclosed. Roy Thomas' "Is the Bus Ministry Home Missions?" underlines a caution area with keen insight. Keener's "Visions of Bubble Gum" graphically turns the bus ministry upside down for a much needed safety inspection and motive analysis.

This letter is sounding more "anti-bus" than I want it to. But I'm so elated at finally seeing the other side of wheeling-dealing evangelism that I'll take the calculated risk of being misunderstood.

August '73 of *CONTACT* faced a jagged issue and gave us readers the full story and a choice for a change. My personal thanks.

Sincerely yours,  
Jack L. Williams, Dean  
California Christian College  
Fresno, Calif.

Dear Sir:

I received "*CONTACT*" today and was sadly disappointed that you ran the article by Forest L. Keener in our magazine. I know that you will defend its appearance by the statement that "*CONTACT*" does not necessarily agree with all that goes into its contents. However, I feel that the harm done by including this article will be more than the good to be accomplished. Also I feel that the inclusion of this article destroyed the good done by all the other articles.

I am a loyal Free Will Baptist but if this kind of material is going to be included in our denominational paper let me assure you that my subscription to *CONTACT* need not be renewed.

I also was not too appreciative of the editorial made by Brother Rufus Coffey . . . Honestly let me say I am not trying to be overly critical or too anxious to judge other people's motives, but I don't like for others to judge mine. While we cry for unity let us work to that end.

In Christ,  
Pastor Willie Justice  
First Church  
Florence, S.C.

# THE CHRISTIAN CAN HAVE VICTORY OVER SIN

By Dr. Robert Picirilli

Romans 6:6 sometimes presents problems, especially the phrase "that the body of sin might be destroyed." A look at the Greek words involved proves helpful in understanding the teaching of this verse and the whole passage.

## what's your problem?



By R. Eugene Waddell

**QUESTION:** My wife is a wonderful Christian but she sleeps most all the time and isn't interested in housekeeping at all. How can I help her?

**ANSWER:** First of all, *insist* on a physical check-up, as a doctor might find an immediate answer for the drowsiness. Secondly, most psychological studies reveal that *boredom* is the cause of chronic fatigue. Is your wife involved in the women's activities at the church? If not, encourage her, even if you have to ask some of the ladies whom you trust to

insist on your wife attending Auxiliary, going on visitation and getting involved in the work.

Also, do you arrange for regular nights out with your wife *without* your children if you have any? This will give her something to look forward to.

As the head of the home, have a frank discussion with your wife about housekeeping. If necessary, sit down and make out a schedule of work with her. If she responds well to rewards, help her set up a rewards program so that she will treat herself to a lunch out if she finishes the cleaning by noon, etc.

If your frankness and encouragement does not solve the problem and the doctor finds nothing physically wrong, go to an older, trustworthy lady in the church. Ask her to talk with your wife. This is Scriptural. "The aged women . . . That they may teach the young women to be . . . keepers at home, . . . obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." (Titus 2:3,4,5)

Readers may address their questions to Mr. Waddell at P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Please limit each question to one specific topic. There will be no personal correspondence regarding those questions which are not used in the magazine. The column will not necessarily be considered the official voice of the denomination relative to the problems involved.

First, we need to glance at the verses before and after, Romans 6:1-11. For some strange, unknown reason, the translators clouded the picture by a confusing handling of the Greek tenses. Several times, a verb that is simple past time in Greek reads like a present tense in English. In verse 2, "we that are dead to sin" means "we that *died* to sin." In verse 4, "we are buried with him" means "we *were* buried with him." In verse 6, "our old man is crucified with him" means "our old man, *was* crucified with him." Verse 7 means "he that *died* has been set free from the guilt of sin." In verse 8, "we be dead with Christ" means "we *died* with Christ."

Perhaps this tense clarification will help you realize that these verses are all looking back to the death, burial, and

passage to annihilation. It means "to make of no effect," "to rob of power." It is formed as an emphatic negative of the Greek word that means "working, effective, operating." In other words, the sinful bent of the body, the lusts of the flesh, ruled us before we were saved. But the effectiveness and power of that

sinful body has been cancelled. The hold it had has been broken. That master no longer sits on the throne of the Christian's life. Thus, even though the flesh still tugs in the wrong direction (Galatians 6:17), the Christian can follow his new master and have victory over sin. ▲

## gems

from the  
Greek New Testament

resurrection of Christ as crucial, historic events in which we, by identification, took part with Him. We died with him (2, 8). We were buried with him (4). We were raised with him (4, 5, 8, 11). We have not only been publicly identified with Him in these crucial events by baptism (3, 4), but we have somehow participated in those events and experienced the effects of those events in our own lives.

This is what is involved in verse 6. We participated in the effects of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The phrase "old man" means simply the person before he was saved, the sinner. That old person, with his sinful way of life, was nailed to the cross with Jesus. That old person died and was buried with Christ. A new person came to life and now walks in newness of life. All this describes the experience of a Christian. Compare Colossians 3:9, 10.

The point of verse 6 is that this "old man" helplessly served sin as his master, but now has been freed from that dominion and has a new master. The "body of sin" means "the sinful body." Paul is using this in much the same way as he often uses "the flesh," referring to the unredeemed, depraved flesh as the seat of sinful desire.

The Greek word for "destroyed" is *katargeo*, which does not refer in this

## Thank You for Your Gifts to the . . .

### COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT

September 1973

#### RECEIPTS:

State	Sept. '73 Coop	Sept. '72 Design.	Yr. to date
Alabama	\$ . . .	\$ . . .	\$ 2,922.21
Arizona	420.23	(420.23)	\$1,249.00
Arkansas	653.88	. . .	8,282.01
California	327.20	. . .	4,845.39
Florida	58.37	. . .	6,109.80
Georgia	616.67	. . .	6,054.74
Idaho	94.08	. . .	617.55
Illinois	679.44	. . .	9,910.47
Indiana	. . .	. . .	81.92
Kansas	412.80	. . .	1,219.82
Kentucky	. . .	. . .	1,014.42
Maryland	86.62	. . .	551.11
Michigan	. . .	. . .	127.90
Minnesota	36.90	. . .	346.31
Mississippi	95.28	. . .	682.65
Missouri	2,531.83	(2,531.83)	24,823.81
New Mexico	. . .	. . .	29.24
North Carolina	75.00	. . .	905.00
North West Assoc.	39.12	. . .	128.77
Ohio	1,544.52	. . .	7,726.88
Oklahoma	379.79	(379.79)	5,919.67
Tennessee	239.51	. . .	2,222.65
Texas	332.89	. . .	1,755.11
Virginia	40.95	. . .	564.45
West Virginia	. . .	. . .	25.00
Totals	<u>\$8,665.08</u>		<u>\$9,683.52</u> <u>\$88,115.88</u>

#### DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$3,863.57	\$ (718.38)	\$3,245.03	\$36,768.04
Foreign Missions	1,638.51	(1,003.29)	2,116.21	16,890.44
Bible College	1,305.93	(679.03)	1,735.55	14,140.08
Home Missions	913.80	(513.04)	1,299.60	10,628.87
Church Training Ser.	447.35	(228.52)	563.77	4,344.77
Retirement & Ins.	337.17	(162.13)	424.66	3,209.43
Layman's Board	126.00	(16.60)	229.16	1,577.17
Commission on Theo- logical Liberalism	23.82	(1.93)	69.54	543.55
Miscellaneous	8.93	(8.93)	. . .	13.53
Totals	<u>\$8,665.08</u>		<u>\$9,683.52</u>	<u>\$88,115.88</u>

# DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE OF CHRIST

By Leroy Forlines

In the previous article, I discussed the problem of lack of assurance of salvation. Before discussing ways of coping with the problem of lack of assurance, one point needs to be clarified. When we talk about being saved and lacking assurance, we are not talking about being saved and not being aware of it. The person who lacks assurance is aware that he has a relationship with God, but he is confused about it. His confusion robs him of confidence.

The first point to be clarified for assurance is that the Bible clearly teaches that a person can know he is saved. John tells us: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (I John 5:13). This verse should settle the question of whether a person can know he is saved. It is said so clearly that there should be no doubt. A person *can* know he is saved.

A person's assurance is strengthened by understanding the foundation upon which our salvation rests. Our salvation rests upon the fact that Jesus Christ fully satisfied the demands of the law for us. The law demands of us righteousness. Jesus Christ met the demands of the law for righteousness by living a sinless life. He met the demands

of the law that our sins be punished by paying the full penalty of the law for our sins (Isaiah 53:6; I Peter 2:24; and Galatians 3:13). The Christian's assurance rests upon the foundation of the righteousness and death of Jesus Christ that is placed on his account.

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## CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

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The account of the Christian looks like the account below:

OWED	PAID
Righteousness	Christ's Righteousness
Eternal Death	Christ's Death

In bookkeeping, the account given above would be marked "Paid in Full." Since our standing before God is declared by God as Judge, a judicial term is used. Because the demands made by the law are fully met for us by Christ, God declares us "justified." We are declared in right standing with God not on the basis of our own merits, but on the basis of the merits of Jesus Christ.

How do we receive the death and righteousness of Christ? We must first recognize our sin and guilt (Romans 3:23 and 6:23). Jesus is a Saviour of sinners who want their sins forgiven and their life changed. When we come to Him realizing our guilt and desiring to be forgiven and changed, He saves us on

the condition of faith.

The death and righteousness of Jesus Christ form the foundation of our salvation. Faith is the condition that puts us and keeps us on that foundation. The Bible makes it unquestionably clear that faith (John 13:16, 18, 36; Acts 16:31; Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8; and I John 5:13), and not works (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:9; and Titus 3:5), is the condition of our salvation. To meet the condition is to be on the foundation.

When we receive salvation, we receive forgiveness of sins and a change of experience with sin. This change of experience makes us new creatures (II Corinthians 5:17). It results in living a basically righteous life (I John 2:3-4, 3:3, 9-10), but it does not mean we never sin again. Assurance does not require a sinless life. When John said, (I John 3:3), "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" he indicated that while the Christian has a deep concern for purity, he must deal with impurity at times.

Salvation makes a definite change in our lives. It changes our habits with sin. However, our justification does not depend upon our righteousness, but upon the death and righteousness of Christ. This is ours on the condition of faith. This understanding paves the way for assurance. ▲



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## WORDS FOR WOMEN

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### Love Yields Tolerance

by Nora McCarty

God gave me four beautiful children. They are a gift from Him. They are His reward (Psalm 127:3). I also believe He gave me more than four — the children in my church, neighborhood, and many outside my neighborhood and church who have no one to care for them

physically or spiritually. They, too, are my gift and my blessing if I respond as God wants me to.

With this gift from God comes a responsibility. This is a day of controversy — over clothes, hair, etc. Parents sometimes despair in correcting

their children. Some parents demand their own way or else: "While you live in my house you'll do as I say or else get out!" This cry of anguish often ends in tragedy.

God's Word instructs children to obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1\*). It further admonishes the parent, "Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather bring them up with loving discipline the Lord Himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice." This passage tells me to voice my disapproval, discipline my children, advise them — but never demand my

\*All scriptures are from the Living Bible.

# RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

## TELEVISION

WHEREAS, television is the most effective means of communication today combining the eyes and ears for a double impression, and

WHEREAS, the television networks are using this media to show restricted movies and programs that appeal to the base and prurient nature of mankind and propose to show X-rated movies, and

WHEREAS, murder, rape, stealing, lying, and other such acts of crime are becoming common-place in regularly aired programs during prime time when children are watching, and

WHEREAS, the Bible describes all such acts of crime, lewdness, filth, and barbarous behavior as evil and wicked deeds against the God of heaven.

## THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the National Association of Free Will Baptists go on record as appealing to the three (3) major networks (NBC, CBS, and ABC) to cease showing such films and programs described above.
2. That we appeal to every member of every church of this association to send letters of protest to the three (3) major networks registering their complaint.
3. That parents be urged to keep a more thorough screening of programs viewed by their children thus protecting their minds from being bent and twisted by such evil influence.
4. That copies of this resolution be sent by the clerk to the three (3) major networks informing them of our action.

## ABORTION

WHEREAS, we recognize that life is a gift from God and that we have a sacred obligation to protect a soul's right to live whether born or unborn, and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled contrary to the laws of God placing abortion and/or the decision to terminate the life of an unborn child in the hands of a doctor and a woman, and

WHEREAS, very little is said of the root causes of the vast majority of such pregnancies resulting in an abortion which are immorality, promiscuous living defying God's laws of purity of life, and a constant erosion of the sanctity of marriage and the home which are basic units of society, and WHEREAS, we recognize that frustration is common among Christian people as to what they should or can do about such conditions and rulings that exist,

## THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the National Association of Free Will Baptists go on record as opposing abortion-on-demand.
2. That the clerk of this association send a letter to the Supreme Court of the United States urging them to reconsider their recent ruling in favor of abortion.
3. That we urge the pastors of our churches to keep informed and advise their members of groups and organizations who are working to get laws enacted opposing abortion (presuming such groups are legitimate and worthy of support) and also urge their members to give active support to such campaigns.



\*ADOPTED at the 37th annual National Association of Free Will Baptists while in session at Macon, Georgia, July 9-12, 1973.

own way to the point of driving them away from home and the church. I'm to love them, teach them, and they will see the right way. If I scold and nag they'll soon be beyond my teaching and advising. I must be tolerant of their errors.

Many teenagers have difficulty today keeping values straight. Sometimes parents complicate the matter for them. While teenagers are in the process of setting priorities in order and straightening out their values, it's terribly important for parents to be tolerant. Being tolerant does not mean approval. God is so tolerant of me and my errors. He loves me when I am unlovable. Therefore I can be tolerant of others.

God has given us mothers a mission field — our homes and community. He has also given us a mission — to love our children. We need not approve their dress, habits, etc., but we must love them. "Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong" (I Cor. 13:4-6). And the next verse deals a forceful blow: "If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him" (v. 7).

My prayer is, "O God, love through me." The greatest comfort I get when I feel one of my children is wrong — when I disapprove of a style or a friend — is the knowledge that I can take every burden to the Lord and leave it there. It's during those moments I claim Mark 11:24: "Listen to me. You can pray for anything, and if you believe you have it: it's yours."

Mothers who love their children enjoy the beautiful fruit of tolerance.

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. McCarty is president of the Ohio State Woman's Auxiliary and has served as an officer in the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention. She is the wife of Billy McCarty, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Youngstown, Ohio.*

## RESOLUTIONS (Con't)

4. That we urge the members of our churches to write their representatives both in their state and Washington urging them to support legislation to repeal the present laws and rulings favoring abortion.

### PORNOGRAPHY

WHEREAS, the problem of smut, pornography, and obscenity is on the increase in America taking the form of "adult book stores", "peep shows," and radio programs that major on sex-oriented discussions, and

WHEREAS, such pornography, smut, and obscenity leave a trail of perverted minds obsessed and twisted leading to a drastic increase in immorality, rape, and related crimes, and

WHEREAS, *The U.S. News and World Report* says that this is an \$800 million business which takes that much money from legitimate businesses that seek to build a decent, law-abiding society, and

WHEREAS, the Bible gives clear and unmistakable warning against such literature and pictures that appeal to the base Adamic nature of man making him more depraved in the sight of God, and

WHEREAS, the Bible teaches that Christians are to use their influence and energy to stop the flow of such literature and obscenity which deteriorates any society,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the National Association of Free Will Baptists voice its strong opposition to smut, pornography, and obscenity whether it be on television, radio, bookstores, or places of entertainment.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent by the clerk to the following persons and groups encouraging them to actively use their position, prestige, and influence to stop the production, sale, and display of such base and prurient materials or shows:

The President of the United States

The Supreme Court of the United States

3. That every member of the National Association be urged to actively become involved in opposing this illegitimate business.
4. That we encourage every family to subscribe to at least two Christian publications and to suggest that one of these be specifically for youth if there are children in the home.
5. That we as Christians voice our disapproval to supermarkets, drugstores, and other businesses that display pornography.

### FREE WILL BAPTISTS AND THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

WHEREAS, the phenomenon of "speaking in tongues" is a spreading movement which usually causes confusion, contention and division within the church, and

WHEREAS, speaking in tongues over emphasizes an emotional experience out of proportion to a life of service, soul winning and ethical living, and

WHEREAS, tongues have never made any significant contribution to church growth and there is no evidence that contemporary charismatic movement is any different, and

WHEREAS, advocates of tongues-speaking misinterpret the scriptures in order to justify their position about this supposed gift of grace, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to clarify the position of the National Association of Free Will Baptists — THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That this body adopt the following statement as expressing the position of our denomination concerning the charismatic movement:

Free Will Baptists understand that the Bible teaches the following facts:

- A. On the Day of Pentecost believers spoke in distinct foreign languages which were readily understood by the nationalities present. (Acts 2:6, 8, 11)
- B. Tongues were given as a special gift to the early church as only one sign which confirmed the witness of the Gospel to unbelievers. (I Cor. 14:1-40, Heb. 2:4)
- C. Although practiced by some believers, it was the least significant gift which is not to be sought after. (I Cor. 12:7-11)

D. When the gift was abused it became a source of disturbance in public gathering. To eliminate confusion and correct the error Paul set specific guidelines for the Corinthian Church to follow. (I Cor. 14:18-19, 23, 28, 23)

E. The gift of tongues is not the evidence of the Baptism of the Spirit and neither does it bring about sanctification. (I Cor. 12:13)

F. Tongues were bestowed by the sovereign will of God in some believers but all did not speak with tongues. (I Cor. 12:10, 30)

Therefore the National Association of Free Will Baptists holds the following position on glossalalia.

A. We reject the doctrine of speaking in tongues as being a valid gift for the church today because the complete revelation of God is given in the Bible.

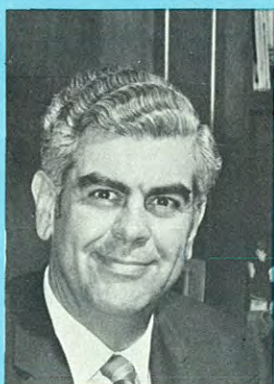
B. We reject the erroneous teachings that speaking in tongues is a visible sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Any implication of a "second work of grace" has never been tolerated in our fellowship of churches.

C. We refuse to embrace this doctrine. Even though some individuals may profess to speak in tongues, this practice is not to be encouraged or promoted in a local church nor do we find any reason to advocate "Neo-Pentecostalism." Churches affiliated with the National Association are not to be considered fertile ground to sow the seed of tongues speaking.

D. We believe the church, as God's instrument of redemption, has been advanced by the preaching of the Gospel in a "known tongue" rather than magnifying some particular gift.

E. We encourage all churches to preach the fulness of the Holy Spirit, the whole counsel of God and to take heed to the Scriptural admonition in Eph. 5:18b-20, "But be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." ▲

# Watergate : Moral Corruption and Christian Concern



By  
Executive  
Secretary  
Rufus Coffey

What was originally thought to be clumsy political espionage has turned out to be a major national scandal. The Watergate affair has involved numerous high government officials and implicates the highest office of our land.

Witnesses before the Senate Watergate Committee have not fully clarified the reasons for burglarizing the National Democratic Headquarters and who was responsible for this operation. Until the investigating committee and the courts can uncover sufficient facts to determine who the guilty persons are and to what extent, final judgment will have to wait.

In the meantime there is sufficient evidence already to conclude that Watergate is another sign of moral decay in our nation. It is another episode in the long history of political corruption. Because of the political ramifications of the Watergate case, national attention is focused on the whole matter of moral corruption in high places.

Congressmen, judges, state governors and prominent city officials have been indicted for bribery, graft, conspiracy, fraud and political corruption during the past year. In addition, the personal morals of others are often overlooked, minimized or excused. Recently, Senator Paul Fanning was arrested, fined and sentenced to one day in jail for drunken driving. The Chappaquiddick incident in the life of Senator Kennedy still leaves many unanswered questions for the public. Whether it be Watergate or some other situation, public immorality is not

confined to any one political party.

The growing number of officials who have been indicted for misconduct is a matter of concern to every American. Former White House aide John Ehrlichman declared in testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee that "some senators with serious drinking habits are of doubtful fitness for the sort of heavy duties that any senator bears." Serious charges of immorality have been lodged against other noted officials and "swingers" on top governmental positions.

Testimony from the Watergate hearings indicates political corruption runs deep. High level officials have confessed to lying under oath. Conflicting statements by witnesses indicate some officials are still guilty of perjury in order to conceal the facts of this political intrigue.

It is tragic and lamentable that criminal acts have been committed under the guise of political expediency. But the flaunting of moral responsibility gives cause for even greater concern. Watergate conspirators were obviously aware of wrongdoing or else there would not have been such a covert effort to keep the public from knowing the truth. In light of present moral and political corruption, Christian concern provokes several conclusions:

1. We must pray for public officials as the Scriptures teach. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty, for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour" (1 Timothy 2:1-3). Public servants are subject to pressures which ordinary citizens do not encounter.
2. In spite of the few who have abused their public trust, Christians ought

not lose faith in our system of government. There are many honorable God-fearing men of integrity who are worthy of confidence. Instead of becoming cynical about big government because a few leaders may disappoint us, the Christian attitude demands a wholesome and positive attitude. As Christians exert greater influence and work to preserve and protect the democratic processes, evils can be corrected. There is strength in a populace which is morally alert. Righteous indignation demands that Christians speak out more loudly against corruption while appealing for greater moral integrity among those who serve in government.

3. Watergate reminds believers anew that there is an omniscient God whose "eyes are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Man's ways of iniquity are not hid from Him. It is still a truism that "sin will find you out." No amount of political influence can protect the guilty from divine exposure. Fraudulent campaign practices, perjury and abuse of public trust invites God's wrath. A holy and righteous God will not at all acquit the wicked.
4. Finally, Christians are especially concerned about the moral welfare of America because the Scriptures teach "if the foundations be destroyed what shall the righteous do?" Just as the Roman Empire collapsed because of moral degeneration, America is doomed unless we rebuild the inner strength of moral values. It is still true that "righteousness raises a people to honor; and to do wrong is a disgrace to any nation" (Proverbs 14:34, NEB). Despite ominous signs of moral disintegration which we are witnessing, national repentance can stay the hand of God's judgment. ▲

## VIEWPOINT

## CONTACT

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## Wanted: 2,800

2,800? 2,800 more of what?

Unlike the number seven, which is said to be God's perfect number, the number 2,800 has no Biblical connotation. But it could surely bring rejoicing in the CONTACT camp!

That's our goal for new subscribers. We hope to reach that goal by July, 1974.

When Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey gave his 1973 report to the National Association, he noted that CONTACT's subscription list lacked only 2,800 subscriptions reaching the 10,000 mark. For this reason the goal of 2,800 new subscribers was chosen.

Why shouldn't this magazine be going into 10,000 Free Will Baptist homes? It is not an unrealistic goal. If we employ the formula used by Dr. Stan Mooneyham in his 1957 executive

secretary's report to the national body and surmise that each Free Will Baptist family is composed of at least three members, from our present membership of 214,000 we should have 71,333 families. Or to be even more conservative and allow four members per family, we can account for 53,500 Free Will Baptist families. But CONTACT is going into only 6,200 homes. This means that a very small minority of Free Will Baptists receive their denominational magazine.

Because of CONTACT's limited finances, we are not able to promote an extensive subscription campaign as secular magazines do. Members of the Executive Office promote the publication at the district and state meetings they attend. But a very small percentage of the laity and their leaders from local churches are present for these meetings. Many times most of those present are already subscribers. So the ones who would benefit most from learning about their denominational publication do not hear the promotion.

Here's where pastors and present subscribers can greatly assist in increasing the number of subscribers. If you feel the magazine is fulfilling a definite need in the Free Will Baptist literature ministry, then share this message with others and seek to enroll them as new subscribers.

If you do not file this personal copy of CONTACT, then pass it on to someone you feel would enjoy the magazine's ministry. Or if you will send that person's name and complete address, we will be happy to send them a complimentary copy of this or a future issue. ▲

## Currently . . .

By  
EUGENE WORKMAN  
Administrative Editor

