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WICHITA '74

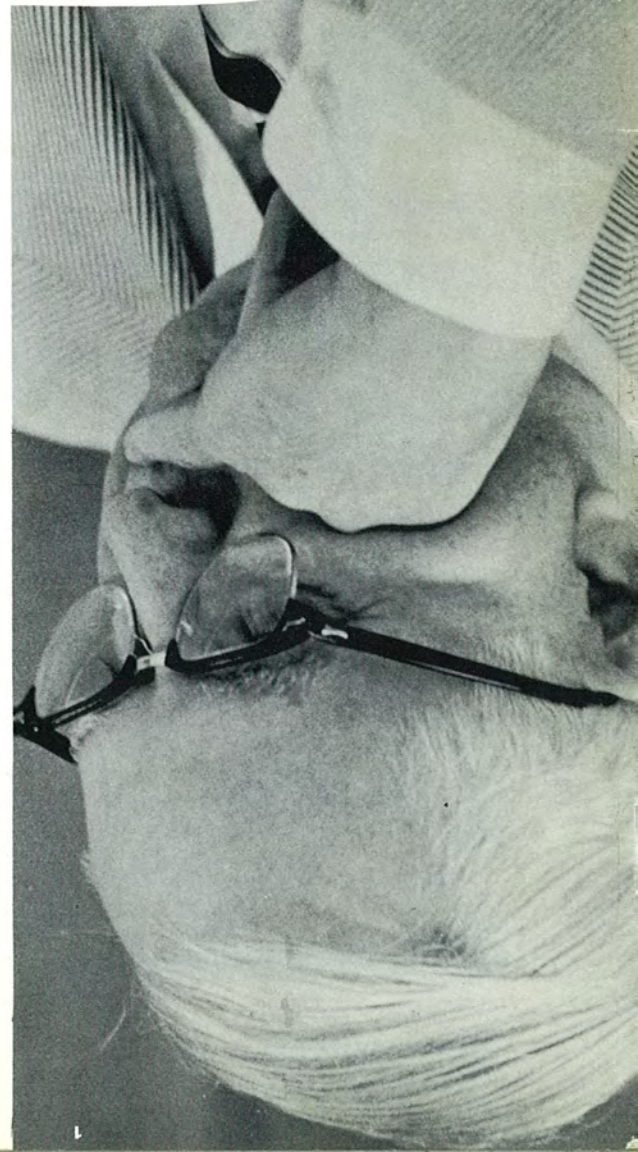


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contact

OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

SEPTEMBER, 1974



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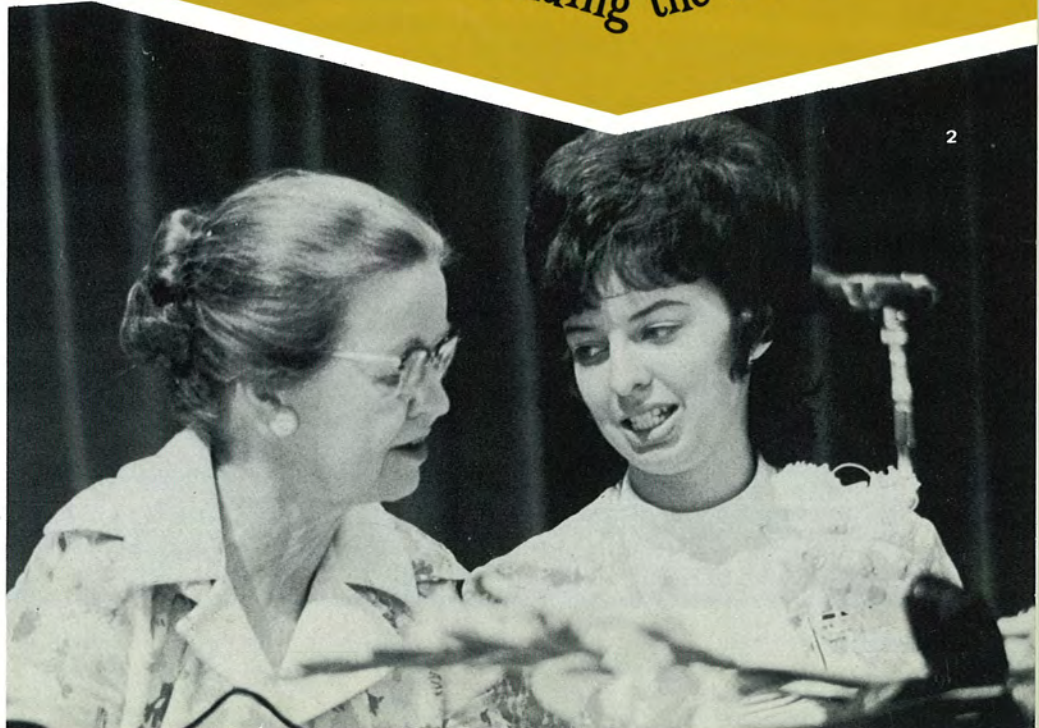


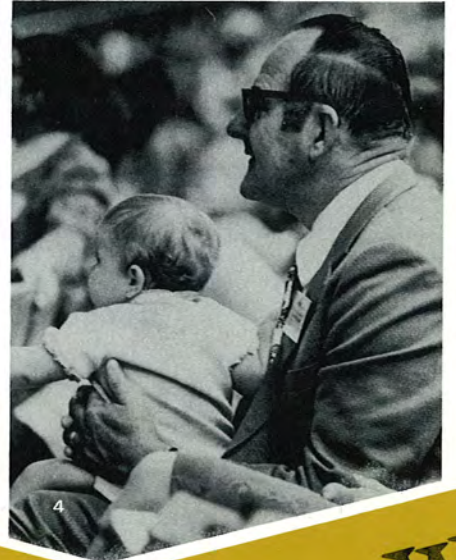
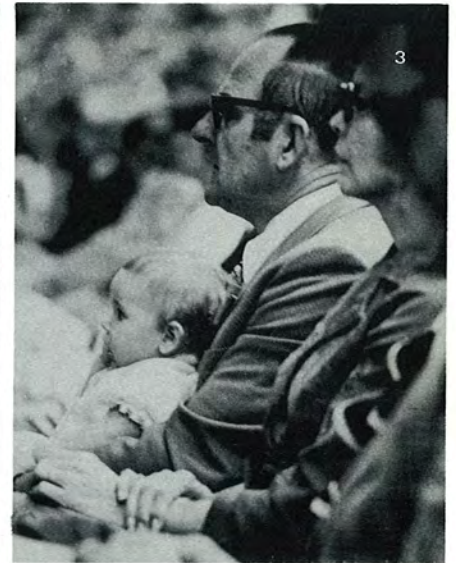
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COWTOWN CONVENTION:



Eleven O'Clock Specials ... Night Gallery ... Minding the Store ...





COWTOWN CONVENTION: WY

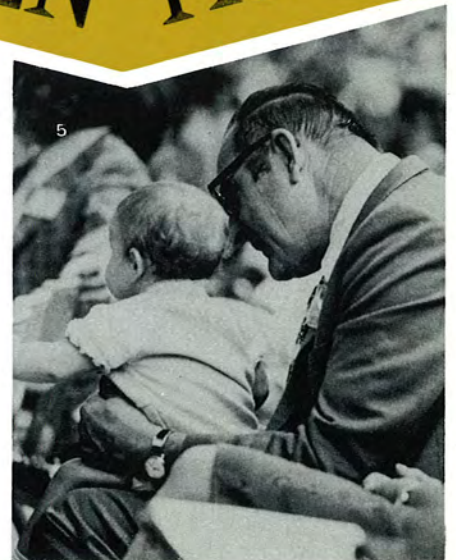
PICTURE CAPTIONS:

Cover:

1. Dr. L. C. Johnson, Free Will Baptist Bible College president, appears deep in thought during the Alumni meeting.
2. Century II's marquee welcomes Free Will Baptists.
3. Miss Krisan Hall, Royal Oak, MI, winner of vocal solo competition, Crusader division, receives her trophy from CTS Board Chairman Milton Worthington.
4. Mrs. Lawanna Brewer, left, Madison Heights, MI, and Mrs. Mabel Wiley, missionary to Panama, fellowship with Mrs. Owen Thomas, Four Oaks, N.C. and Jim Vallance, Huntington, W.V.

Page 2:

1. The convention theme, "Growing Toward Maturity," is prominently displayed for the opening night service.
2. Mrs. Brenda Spruill, right, WNAC Field Worker, chats with Mrs. Kathryn De Lorie, guest speaker, during the WNAC Fellowship Dinner. Mrs. Spruill presided at the WNAC activities in the absence of Executive Secretary Cleo Pursell who was unable to attend due to surgery.
- Page 3:
1. Mrs. Lucy Boyle, CONTACT's Circulation Secretary, mans the Executive Office display.
2. Eugene Klassen, Ulysses, KS., is one of 2,946 persons registering for the convention.
- 3, 4, 5. The attention of Carl Vallance, Huntington, W.V. pastor, is diverted by his granddaughter.



Wyatt Earp roamed this town in the 1870's.

But in July, 1974 the 38th annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists blew into town. Wichita had seen the Pawnee, the Osage, and the Cheyenne; but this was her first encounter with Free Will Baptists en masse.

Denominational exorcists who had predicted ambush on the old Chisholm Trail outside Wichita were quietly laid to rest. These were no ambushings in Wichita, and there was no famine in the "World's Breadbasket" as we had no stunted sermons nor convention binding resolutions.

Some 3,800 conventioners staked out the \$15 million dollar Century II convention complex in downtown Wichita, Kansas, July 14-18, which headquartered the Association. It was a pleasing and sane national convention. All the boys left their sidearms under the bridge in Memphis or in the parsonages at Oklahoma City and points west. The apostles of crisis who came to this convention, as in past years, like

All the business of the national convention is essential; however, some items warrant special mention as is the case with the following areas:

THE EDUCATIONAL STUDY COMMITTEE

Delegates voted to create a special committee to define for this Association the Biblical meaning of Christian education and to gather and to make available information to states and local churches that request assistance in organizing Bible institutes and Christian day schools. The committee is allocated \$1500 in funds to expedite the planned one year project. Moderator J. D. O'Donnell appointed the following men to serve: Dr. Douglas J. Simpson, Chairman, Tennessee; Blaine Hughes, Virginia; Ansel Smith, South Carolina; Clarence Hearron, Oklahoma; and Jack L. Williams, California.

A MINISTERIAL RESOLUTION ON DISCIPLINE

This one almost slipped by before anyone read it closely for content. Nearly total silence greeted the clerk when he read the resolution encouraging

associations with no written guidelines at all and could be construed as a point in favor of the 'women's liberation movement.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The first definite project toward the production of a Free Will Baptist Encyclopedia was presented. Next year's goal is the printing of a brief history of all active state associations in booklet form. A call was issued for volunteers to form a network of workers across the denomination to facilitate the commission's goal.

CONTACT

I have sad inflation news for you. **CONTACT** is going up in subscription price January 1, 1975. The price will be \$4.00 annually. But it's still a good buy.

INDEFINITE TERM OF OFFICE

A tabled item from the General Board's report relating to employing the Executive Secretary for an indefinite term instead of the present two year term was removed from the table and discussed. Because it was not clear just how his services would be terminated, should the proposed constitutional proposal be adopted, a motion was passed to refer this item to the Executive Committee of the General

WICHITA '74

By
Jack Williams
and
Eugene Workman

RECORD BUDGET . . .

black vultures had little chance to land, much less use ugly words and brassy glares.

UNDER THE GAVEL

For the second straight year, increased interest in the business of the denomination was evidenced when 687 of the 916 duly registered delegates cast their votes on one particular item facing the convention. The apathy in the business sessions which had been forecast by "self-appointed prophets" prior to the convention was not apparent among delegates. Perhaps the interest was gendered because of the 56 positions that had to be filled on boards and commissions in compliance with the body's instructions in 1973 to increase each of the standing boards of the National Association to nine members this year.

the proper and Scriptural discipline of errant ministers. Local churches, associations, and state bodies were forewarned that preachers too must be subject to discipline when circumstances demand such. The resolution was approved.

WOMAN PREACHERS

Chapter II, Section I, paragraph 6 under D, page 56, which reads, "Most associations do not ordain women to the ministry," was deleted from the Treatise. This statement was deleted in deference to the motion from the Kentucky State Association tabled last year. This clause had been interpreted as officially approving the ordination of women to the ministry. The consensus was that if a stronger statement was not going to be made, the deletion of the sentence would satisfy those on both sides of the discussion. But this leaves

Board for clarification.

1975 BUDGET AND COOP FUNDS

The total budget adopted by the National Convention for the next fiscal year surpassed the \$4 million mark for the first time. Included in the \$4,590,000.00 budget are operating budgets exceeding \$1 million for 3 departments. They are the Sunday School Department, Foreign Missions Department, and Free Will Baptist Bible College.

All cooperative funds for the next year are to be distributed on a national level in the following manner after the portion of the Executive Office budget above direct gifts is underwritten: CTS — 13%; Board of Retirement and Insurance — 13%; Layman's Board — 3.5% and Commission on Theological Liberalism — .5%. The remaining 70% is



to be allocated on a percentage basis to Free Will Baptist Bible College, National Home Missions and National Foreign Missions. Currently this breakdown is Free Will Baptist Bible College 37.3%, Foreign Missions 36.8% and Home Missions 25.0%.

During the discussion on Coop percentages, Dr. Malcolm Fry, Director of the CTS Department, made the most magnanimous gesture of the 1974 Wichita convention. In order to raise the allocation for the Retirement and Insurance Department, the budget

(Please turn to page 6)

PICTURE CAPTIONS:

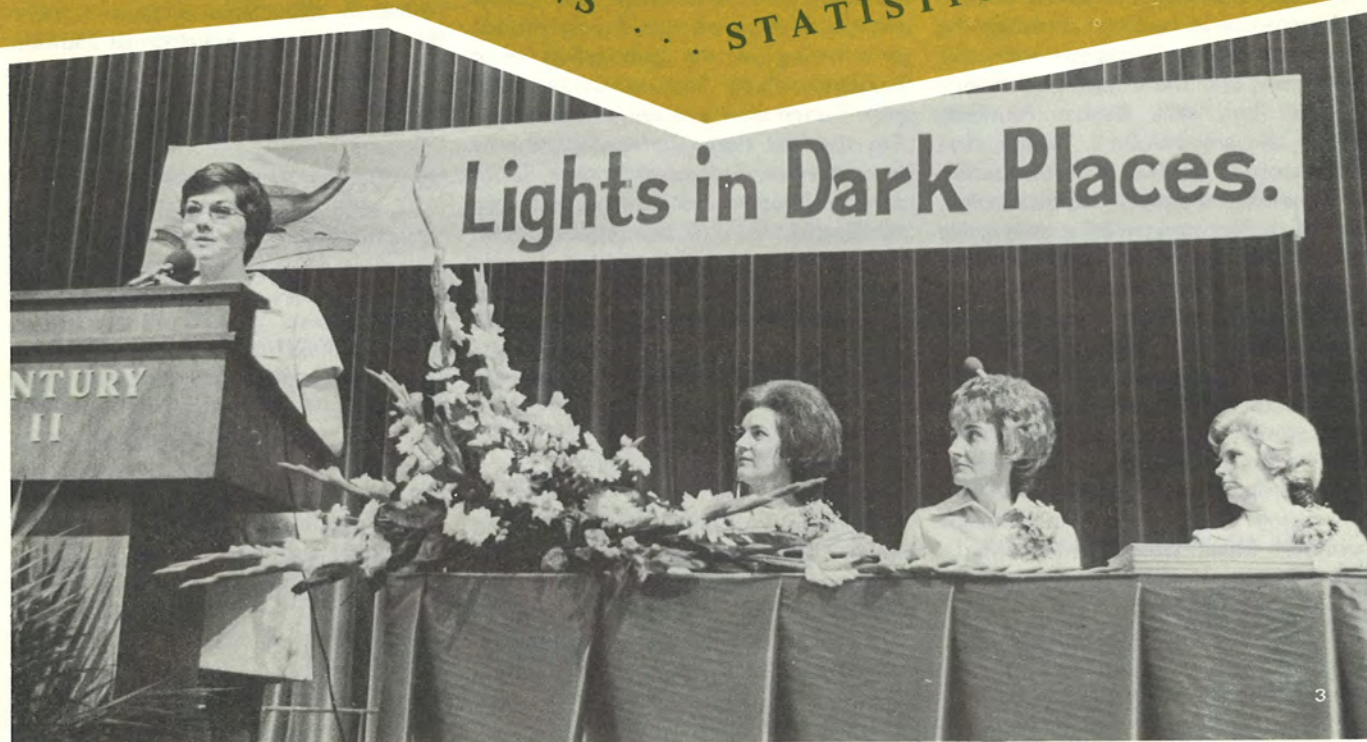
1. Bill Gardner, Columbus, MS., addresses the Music Ministries Breakfast meeting. Listening intently are President Vernon and Mrs. Whaley, Albany, GA., right, and Vice-President Danny and Mrs. Thomas, Beaufort, N.C.

2. Anita Sparks responds emotionally as her husband Lonnie addresses the convention following special recognition for their translation work in Africa. The missionary couple now serve in Spain.

3. Mrs. Janice Banks, missionary to Japan, shares during the annual WNAC session. Listening are, left to right, President Clara Picirilli, Nashville, TN; Secretary Anne Worthington, Albany GA; and Member-at-Large Genelle Scott, Little Rock, AK.



SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS ... STATISTICS SHOW INCREASE...



(Cont. from page 5)

proposal was to decrease the Layman's Board allocation from 4% to 1.5%. After ardent discussion and a plea from Keith Kenemer, a member of the Layman's Board, not to cut their percentage, Dr. Fry saved the day. He stepped to the microphone and volunteered to give the Layman's Board 2% of the CTS Coop allocation so that the Board of Retirement and Insurance could receive the proposed increase. It was a great courtesy and sacrifice as the CTS Department needs all the funds it can receive. This is a real example of inter-departmental cooperation in the National Offices.

AN UNSUCCESSFUL MOVE

A motion sired by Paul Kettelman requesting that all convention offerings above that needed to meet expenses be divided according to current Coop allocations was tabled. The tide was running strong against the motion when it was tabled. A vote may well have done it in. If it is brought off the table in Dayton (1975) after a year of thinking about it... who knows.

INDIVIDUALS RECOGNIZED

Probably a moment which will be well remembered by those attending the Tuesday evening session of this convention was the tribute paid to one of the Free Will Baptist founding fathers, Reverend John L. Welch, first moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Rufus Coffey, Executive Secretary, read a descriptive honorarium about Brother Welch and presented a plaque from the denomination. An instantaneous standing ovation accompanied the presentation. Quite in keeping with his past record, the 85-year-old Welch, who had stood passively while Coffey extolled his life, quickly minimized his own role and thanked the denomination for using him. Such magnificent humility! Small wonder that John L. Welch is revered and loved by the Free Will Baptists world-wide.

Sharing recognitions at the Layman's Breakfast on Wednesday morning, Ken Lane, board chairman, announced that songster I. L. Stanley of Greeneville, Tennessee had garnered the high award as the 1974 Layman of the Year. Mr.

Stanley, who for a number of years led the singing of the National Convention, spoke briefly of his conversion and becoming a Free Will Baptist because one day the late M. L. Hollis had told him, "Stanley, you are not a Missionary Baptist, you are a Free Will Baptist away from home." Runner-up for this honor was frosty-haired Alvin Day of Blakely, Georgia. Like Mr. Stanley, the 70-year-young Day is retired. It was heartwarming to see these older laymen recognized.

Breakfast speaker, Harold Critcher, Director of Finance for the Foreign Missions Department, was presented a \$500 church bond by Mr. Lane on behalf of the Master's Men organization. The presentation was made to show the group's appreciation for Mr. Critcher's help and guidance during the past 15 years. During that time, he has been associated with the Layman's Board in some manner.

Lonnie and Anita Sparks, who first began serving Free Will Baptists in the Ivory Coast, West Africa in 1958, were paid a special tribute on Wednesday night by Foreign Missions Board member, Dr. Joe Ange. Dr. Ange recognized the Sparks' 15 year project culminating in the publication of a Koulango New Testament. The 616 page Testament has a remarkable story. For the first time, the Koulangos now have the New Testament in their native tongue. Four copies were presented to the Sparks family. A standing ovation in the darkened hall spotlighted Lonnie Sparks who quietly proffered that he and his wife had only done their duty. Then with red hair bobbing, he smilingly added, "But we enjoyed doing it."

CONVENTION SIDELIGHTS STATISTICS

Registering for the main convention were 2,946 delegates and visitors, an increase of 482 representatives over the 1973 delegation. The largest increase of 519 came in the category of visitors and observers. This is a healthy sign which indicates that many attend the National meetings even though they may not be voting delegates. Convention planners will give further

attention to including additional beneficial activities in the format of future programs to meet the needs of these observers.

The registration statistics are 175 local church delegates, 103 state delegates, 605 ministers, 20 missionaries, 13 lay board members, and 2,030 observers.

Judging from the peak attendance of approximately 3,800 people on Tuesday night, it is evident that approximately one-fourth of the crowd did not register. Perhaps this is because of the perennial misconception that registration in the youth convention or the WNAC automatically registers you for all three conventions.

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

The 1974 National Association was marked by an innovation in the area of educational seminars. Ten hour-long sessions (five each on Monday and Tuesday afternoons) were designed to help local churches have a more effective ministry in the areas of Christian education, missions, leadership training, ministerial retirement, and current theological issues. The enthusiasm and interest evidenced by those in attendance at these seminars indicate they are a welcomed addition. Consideration will be given next year to broadening the scope of subject matter to be dealt with in the seminars.

CONVENTION DAILY

A convention newsheet was printed daily. It may become a regular feature at conventions in the future. Response to the paper is being evaluated now.

PASTORS' DINNER:

T. S. Rendall confronted 503 in the Century II Exhibition Hall Tuesday evening with an ominous theme, "Discerning the Devil's Devices in Today's Church." The 1974 Pastors' Dinner could well have turned into a session of ouiji boards, tarot cards, and seances; but Rendall brushed aside the temptation to deal with the occult and concentrated on dealing with Satan's devices in four specific areas of the pastor's life. He used I and II Corinthians with his usual expository thoroughness.

Satan may work through some

pastoral failure in the area of personal relationships. Rendall cited for specific examples the spirit of hardness, the spirit of pride and superiority, or a spirit of criticism or of rudeness. He charged that some men look upon God's work as if it were their work.

The doctrinal relationship drew particular attention as Rendall named holding to Scriptural inspiration and inerrancy as "the fountainhead from which all doctrine comes." He insisted that pastors resist the opposition to teaching Bible doctrine in the local church and do something to alleviate the problem, like preaching expository sermons instead of topical "ditties."

Dangers in the pastor's marital relationship were gingerly but positively dealt with. Rendall pinpointed the importance of purity of inward thoughts and fantasies, the unworthiness of words with double or implied meaning, the need to avoid knowing looks, suggestive winks, and improper touches. He advised that counseling experiences be approached with caution, and he also cautioned against using so-called "marriage manuals" which openly encourage perversion and adultery.

The last area Mr. Rendall discussed was physical relationships. Satan can and will attack the minister who is physically run-down. He must take care of his body if he is to ward off the attacks of Satan. This slightly-built Scotsman has been the route. He probed into four sensitive real-life problem areas for the pastor and offered Biblical aid.

W.N.A.C.

Thirteen women were honored for their winning entries in the 1974 Creative Writing contest during the annual Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, July 16. The Convention voted that the Creative Writing Contest be continued in 1975 with the same three categories: programs, plays and skits, and articles. Tuesday's convention brought a total of 756 registered attenders, barely a 10% representation of the 7,360 members.

Mrs. Kathryn DeLoria, social worker in Norton, Kansas, addressed 501

people at the annual WNAC Fellowship Dinner on Monday evening. The theme of her address was "Change or Changeless." She was also one of the three speakers for Tuesday's convention, conducting an afternoon workshop on "Our Bodies — God's Temple." Mrs. Janice Banks, missionary appointee to Japan, brought the morning devotion. Dan Merkh, missionary to France, was the speaker for the 11:00 a.m. worship hour. More than 30 people responded to the invitation at the conclusion of his message to be more dedicated to God's will.

LAYMAN'S BREAKFAST

You've got to hand it to those laymen. To plan a 7:00 a.m. breakfast on Wednesday morning in a busy convention requires real faith. But just as sure as their faith, 300 early riser (most of them awake) claimed positions in Broadview's whitetopped South Ballroom.

Harold Critcher, a layman who is Director of Finance for the Foreign Missions Department, addressed the 300 on the subject "Jesus is Coming Soon." Said Critcher, "I am more interested in the fact that Jesus is alive and well on earth than I am in Satan's heel-kicking antics."

It is Critcher's personal opinion that the nation of Israel and the events surrounding that people show the moving of God in the world today. He snapped at the occult briefly and talked of a limited experience with a mind control seminar, warning others away from such darkness. Eschatology and the European Common Market were candidly joined together. He said more: Anti-Christ, internationalizing world currency, Revelation 13, the United Nations and the Six Day 1967 war... somehow it all seemed a bit strained and heavy for a 7:00 a.m. breakfast. Not all agreed with his interpretation of events.

FWBBC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Meeting for a noon luncheon and their semi-annual meeting Wednesday, July 17, the Alumni Association of Free Will Baptist Bible College voted to underwrite the purchase of the Patton property located immediately to the west of the present Administration

WNAC CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST 1973-74

PROGRAMS

1. Rose Marie Cloud Lafoon
First Church / Seminole, Ok.
 2. Anne Worthington
First Church / Albany, Ga.
 3. Carolyn Franks
Fawn Grove Church / Mentachie, Ms.
- Honorable Mention:
Susan Kay Burgess
Wesconett Church / Jacksonville, Fl.

PLAYS

1. Debbie Cavitt
Airport Church / Tulsa, Ok.
 2. Norma White
Corcoran Church / Corcoran, Ca.
 3. Rose Marie Cloud Lafoon
First Church / Seminole, Ok.
- Honorable Mention:
Bonnie Shellnut
First Church / Hazel Park, Mi.

ARTICLES

1. Norma June Teague
First Church / Henderson, Tx.
 2. Louise Wampler
Mt. Calvary Church / Perryman, Md.
 3. Carolyn Hayes
Woodlawn Church / Russellville, Ak.
- Honorable Mention:
Cora Christian
Upper Room Church / Church Hill, Tn.
Jo Hastings
Hannon Church / Liberty, Mo.

Building. The \$100,000 four-year project was adopted after Director of Development Jack Paramore announced that the \$70,000 swimming pool project had been fully subscribed since its adoption 3 years ago. The implementation of the new project is scheduled to begin as soon as the remaining subscribed pledges and matching gifts for the pool are paid.

Some 242 alumni and friends heard Alumni President Richard Cordell set forth 4 proposals which will be acted upon at the annual meeting in March during the College's Bible Conference. The 4 proposals are (1) that the Alumni president address the student body of FWBBC yearly; (2) that an

(Please turn to page 8)

... COMPLAINTS FEW ... VOTING HEAVY ...

(Cont. from page 7)

alumni award of money and a medal be bestowed upon a graduating FWBBC senior each spring; (3) that an outstanding alumnus be honored annually, based on the criteria of interest and participation in alumni affairs and present achievement in chosen work; (4) that the Alumni Association president be directed to maintain an active working relationship with the college administration.

CALL FOR HOLINESS

At the urging of Reverend Dale Burden, Norfolk, Virginia pastor, the convention was adjourned on Thursday with delegates, ministers and visitors on their knees praying that Free Will Baptists would retain high morals, purity and holy practices. His plea was an echo of Mr. Forline's Tuesday evening message that Christians' lives must be holy. It was an earnest plea delivered from a broken heart. Some felt it was a fitting climax. Others received it with mixed emotions. They concurred with the urging. However, they felt the plea was prompted by Mr. Burden's reaction to isolated situations which were not typical of the majority of Free Will Baptist young people in attendance at the convention.

COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT

1. Broadview Hotel's ongoing remodeling was terribly inconvenient and at times overbearing.

2. A misunderstanding with the Wichita City fathers about parking tickets ruffled a few feathers.

3. Conflicts between advertised room rates and actual room rates were finally ironed out by convention personnel, but not before a few unpleasant scenes developed.

4. Hotel managers and employees were as a whole most complimentary of the behavior of both adults and young people attending the convention. The friendliness of conventioners drew particular praise. However, one manager was quite perturbed because 2 ministers were registered to stay in a room, but the maid allegedly reported 4 men

staying in the room. He said, "If you can't trust preachers, who can you trust?" This is a serious accusation. If this was an accurate report, his complaint was legitimate. Brethren, our conduct should not even allow such accusations to be made.

5. Finally, conventioners were actually very rude as some moved freely in and out of the auditorium during the evening worship services with an even greater number leaving the services before dismissal. This in essence forced some of the booths to be manned

during services when booths are to be closed because so many frequented the display area during those times.

Noise from the display area was quite disturbing particularly during the daytime sessions of WNAC and of the convention's business meetings. Excessive noise was also apparent to those in the loge seating area during the Tuesday evening services when many youths were restlessly roaming the exhibit area prior to their annual 10:00 p.m. banquet. However, as a whole, Free Will Baptist youths are a well-behaved lot. △

Voting in Wichita

Nearly 700 voting delegates filled 56 positions on boards and commissions. They were in agreement with the nominating committee 53 of 56 times. This reflects that the committee was in tune with the denominational needs and indicates there was no effort by any faction to stack boards and commissions. Perhaps the nominees were better chosen this year because the nominating committee more closely observed the guidelines for making nominations which was devised by the Executive Committee last year. These guidelines were read to the convention delegates prior to this year's elections.

The following members were elected during the session and will serve until the dates indicated.

CHURCH TRAINING SERVICE BOARD

1980 Gene Hales (NC)
1980 Jake Creech (GA)
1980 Robert Edwards (SC)

HOME MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION BOARD

1979 Claude Hames (CA)
1979 Ed Cook (FL)
1979 J. E. Blanton (GA)

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1979 E. E. Morris (OK)

BIBLE COLLEGE TRUSTEES

1980 Delmer Priest (AZ)
1980 Bill Robinson (MS)
1980 Richard Cordell (TN)
1978 Bobby Floars (NC)
1976 Tom Malone (AL)

RETIREMENT AND INSURANCE BOARD

1979 Glen Wright (TN)
1979 Burt Hall (WV)
1979 Lawnie Coffman (AK)
1975 Roy Rikard (NC)

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

1979 Lewis Perry (WA)
1979 Melvin Worthington (GA)
1979 Clarence Burton (MO)
1977 Carl Cheshire (AK)

FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

1980 Fred Warner (AK)
1980 Dennis Wiggs (NC)
1980 Allen Moore (TX)

LAYMAN'S BOARD

1979 Jack Rollins (AL)
1979 W. C. Combs (FL)
1979 Bob Harless (TX)
1977 Lee Thomas (NC)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES

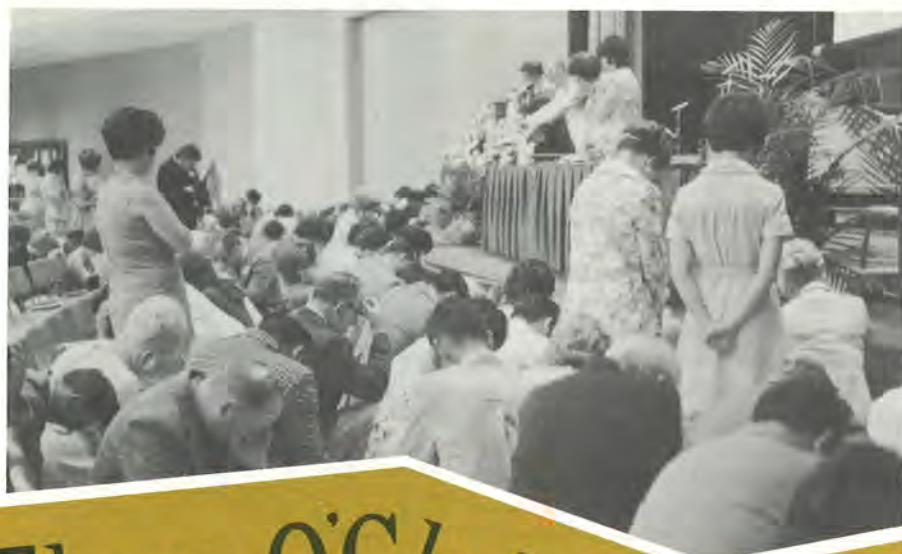
1980 J. B. Hall (TN)
1980 Ivan Luttrell (TN)
1980 Jim Lauthern (TN)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1975 Wingate Hansley (FL)
1975 Edward Johns (CA)
1975 Wallace Malone (IL)
1976 Floyd Wolfenbarger (OH)
1976 Lewis Wickham (OK)
1976 Clarence Phillips (TN)

THEOLOGICAL LIBERALISM COMMISSION

1979 Wade Jernigan (CA)



Eleven O'Clock Specials

By Jack Williams

"CHOICE NOT CHANCE DETERMINES DESTINY" Sunday, July 14

This was the second consecutive year that early arriving national delegates walked two blocks and attended convenient Sunday school and worship services instead of being required to scout the town in search of local churches. Following massive classes at 10:00 a.m., the West Hall of the Broadview Hotel was opened to accommodate the morning worship congregation.

The 600 people responded to the music provided by Maude Coffey and Herman Hersey, the Youth Choir of Woodbine Church, Nashville, Tennessee and the California Christian College Dormettes. But the eleven o'clock service clearly belonged to Dean Charles Thigpen of Free Will Baptist Bible College. For forty minutes the black-suited, composed Thigpen, using that oh, so familiar voice with all those marvelous inflections and well-timed pauses so characteristic of him, insisted that "choice not chance determines destiny." His sermon was interchangeably fatherly, pastoral and topical, landscaped with anecdotes about R. G. Lee, a famous 400 meter runner, and the president of the University of Tennessee — all precisely and strategically told.

Thigpen spent his time discussing the

"four basic choices that everybody ought to make": (1) Choose the Bible as your guide; (2) Choose moral law as your obligation; (3) Choose prayer as your daily experience; and (4) Choose the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal savior.

He said that a man ought to choose the Bible as his guide because "it is holy, it originated in the holy God, was communicated by the Holy Spirit, was penned down by holy men, and it produces a holy life . . ."

Regarding the tendency in some churches to isolate children in specially structures, youth oriented services, Thigpen trumpeted, "Those children in your church have the right to get acquainted with that man of God who preaches the word . . . to see new births happen in the sanctuary . . . to sense the oneness in the church as a body . . .!"

He issued an ultimatum to get back to the 10 commandments of God, of bringing lives back in line with eternity and God, and he talked about prayer like a man who knows. "God will eventually break through to you if you pray every day. Nothing is beyond the reach of prayer unless it's outside the will of God."

Charles Thigpen believes "the will of man is capable of making no greater choice" than choosing Jesus Christ as savior. He concluded his sermon by relating his personal testimony of how

OVER 30 RESPOND for dedication following Dan Merkh's message at the conclusion of WNAC's morning worship service.

he was "roped into church membership as a Junior boy" but how in later years he experienced genuine conversion when the Holy Spirit brought deep conviction as he saw a sinking South Carolina sunset and heard his two aged grandparents singing, in broken harmony, "How Firm a Foundation."

"GROWING IN LOVE ONE TOWARD ANOTHER" Wednesday, July 17

Calvin Evans abducted the National Convention on Wednesday morning. Evans, a husky, eagle-faced Ohio pastor/evangelist, used sweeping gestures and bell-ringing oratory in his convention pronouncements.

"Love is a four letter word that has been forgotten by almost everybody," the television evangelist said. Love became his shibboleth as he traced a route of Christian values. "L" became the "Law of Love" and defined it. "O" pointed to the "Object of Love" and confined it. "V" extolled the "Virtue of Love" and refined it. "E" wrought the "Effect of Love." When Evans dramatically told about the old illiterate Mexican who knew only John 3:16 and one stanza of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," yet used these to win many of his people, the amens were resounding.

He hammered at, "If we can only convince the world we love them, we can win them." Earlier Evans had spoken of a scale of values on which to build and he moaned, "I'm afraid that sometimes we expect Christian growth without Christian birth." He spoke with gripping directness about his conversion, "When I got saved the choir looked like a convoy of golden winged angels come to get me!"

"GROWING IN GRACE" Thursday, July 18

Some sly remarks had been circulated that the last man to preach on the national program this year would be forced to use meager fare because of the superb caliber of the first four sermons. The responsible party

(Please turn to page 19)

Night Gallery

2000 HEAR CANADIAN SCOTSMAN: Sunday, July 14:

The preservice jitters of some who painfully remembered last year's rainy Sunday night in Georgia with Karate King Mike Crain proved to be happily unfounded. The 1974 CTS headliner winged his way south from Three Hills in Alberta, Canada, to disarm the doubters with a witty, Scottish brogue. T. S. Rendall, an Edinburg, Scotland native, is both editor of the *Prairie Overcomer* and Vice-President of the Prairie Bible Institute.

Mr. Rendall's address was properly prefaced by a forty-five minute musical package including a quartet, Hillsdale College's excellent New Life Singers, the massed youth choir and a duet.

Rendall's message took the traditional Bible conference, in-depth study approach. His exposition centered in Colossians 2:6-7 where he explored the believer's (1) Reception of Christ (2) Responsibility to Christ and (3) Resources in Christ. As Charles Thigpen so forcefully did in the morning service, Rendall, too, colorfully illustrated his sermon. He called upon Lord Nelson in a naval victory over the French, upon some South African gold miners, upon a Christian doctor named Kelly, upon an architect and upon his recent plane excursion from Calgary.

The quick Scotsman said, "I know of no substitute for the Scriptures..." He indicated that the Devil had posted detour signs just outside the church door in Colossee and that as Paul warned the Christians there of the dangers, so he now warned the hearers about the many who insist that men look for some new experience in religion. Instead of the abandoning of one's spiritual equilibrium, Rendall suggested, "You just dig deeper in the shaft of Jesus Christ. You don't need some sort of emotional disturbance. Jesus is the gold mine; Don't dig a new shaft. He is enough."

He assured that the Christian had "unseen resources... the heavenly gardener... the heavenly builder... the heavenly teacher..." Rendall is

easy to listen to; his systematic Bible exposition found eager learners in the crowd. Rendall expressed elation at the CTS theme, "Rooted and Built up in Him" because "we are living in dangerous, difficult days, because this is exactly what we need to be, and because this is exactly what God wants to do for each of us."

CAMP MEETIN' IN THE KANSAS AIR CAPITOL: Monday, July 15:

Waldo Young called the 38th annual session of the National Convention to order as the clock struck 7:30 p.m. A green sign hovered twenty feet above the platform. It announced the convention theme, "Growing Toward Maturity," from a blood-red background. Patches of empty seats cropping up here and there in the lower and upper levels prophesied more delegates were on their way to Wichita.

Moderator, Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, expedited a few administrative chores. Then Fred Warner, as presiding officer, guided the proceedings of the evening worship service. The Terrys, the Ledbetters, and the New Life Singers sang. Then the offering buckets were passed from seat to seat, absorbing the delegation's currency.

The city of Wichita sent an envoy from the City Commissioner's office. John S. Stephens, a Christian Kansas businessman, hitched up the welcome wagon for the lively Free Will conventioners. His easy manner and clear voice found friends at this 38th annual meeting. He told of his conversion, shared some of his convictions, and was ushered off stage to spontaneous applause.

When Rue Dell Smith laid hold of the pulpit, it was 8:10 p.m. By now everyone felt welcome, and Blaine Hughes had just sung. Smith announced the topic of his fifty-minute sermon, "Progressing in the Knowledge of God," Colossians 1:9-10. Rue Dell Smith is broad-shouldered and big handed. He arrived in the pulpit with a load on his



MINISTER RECOGNIZED — On behalf of the denomination, Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey, right, recognizes Rev. John Welch, Nashville, TN., for his long service to the denomination.

mind and a sermon to match it. He breathed out Scripture quotations like a dehydrated man takes in water, fast and constant.

The sermon superstructure was shaped like a tripod: (1) The Pathways to God (2) Perceiving the Knowledge of God (3) Progressing in the Knowledge of God. Home-grown illustrations of a bus ride to Oklahoma City and "tall corn in the valley" enlivened the delivery of the Purcell, Oklahoma, pastor.

At one point Smith said, "You can educate a crook, and he'll just be a better crook." This was to prove that education, like intuition, is not the way to God. He railed on philosophy courses in college. Fundamental to Brother Smith's address was a warning that the Bible and only the Bible was reliable in judging experiences: "This touch, taste and feel craze has swept through every denomination... I doubt not that it's an experience; I doubt if it be of God... There is a road marked *revelation*... the things that are written in the Bible are more real than the things we have experienced..."

Nearing the end of his sermon, Smith assured, "I didn't find God, God found me."

It was a restless audience that sat in Century II Monday night. Too many people traveled the metal-topped balcony areas and the orange-orange middle loge section. It was distracting for those seated in those areas who wanted to hear. Despite minor distractions, Rue Dell Smith preached the kind of sermon you'd be glad to

endorse. What's more, he even pried a chorus of hearty "Amens" from the ministerial army who were analyzing him and his sermon.

LEROY FORLINES IN THE OVAL DOME:

Tuesday, July 16:

Who would ever have suspected that a keen voiced graying theology professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College could preach 35 minutes on "Holiness" and stand 400 tired convention delegates in the aisles. Unlikely, perhaps, but a fact nonetheless.

Leroy Forlines ushered the congregation to Ephesians 4 and proceeded to give one of his potent, scripturally-based lectures on the theme "Growing in the Likeness of Christ." Neatly attired in a conservative business suit, Forlines appeared pleasantly disarming as he ascended to speak. His sermon was delivered with trip-hammer blows. He grappled with big unwieldy principles and gradually found the right semantic code to isolate bite-sized absolutes for the appreciative listeners.

The key to Leroy Forlines' theological system is central, primary emphasis on God's holiness. He went to great lengths to prove his point and to show that the "clearer picture" Jesus gave revealed that first "God is Holy" then "God loves." Forlines suggested that Jesus "did not just give us a definition of what we should be or a description of what we should be, but an example . . . He lived out an example for us in a very real world."

During his sermon the speaker noted: "I believe we need to grow in number, but we *must* grow qualitatively." This qualitative growth Forlines identified as making the Christian into the "image of God." One emotional moment allowed Forlines to assert: "People who call Fundamentalists Pharisees know neither what Fundamentalism is nor what Pharisaism is." He drew vocal support by proclaiming, "Jesus was not some weakling . . . a coward . . . He had backbone . . . He would not tolerate the desecration of the temple . . ." Even more gratifying was the response to: "You just don't get saved and not do something about the sin in your life."

Forlines projected that the man who misunderstands God's holiness also misunderstands God's love and vice versa. He said that while "conversion is

the product of the new birth and dedication is the product of surrender, maturity is the product of growth." It was a high peak when he said, "Holiness is not optional to the Christian life . . . Grace does not gloss over sin in your life, and those who live like it does will go to Hell!" Forlines dismounted with a flurry of "Amens."

Prior to Leroy Forline's sermon in Century II, the delegates had been feted to a musical extravaganza highlighted by Wichita's own Singing Ledbetters. Glen and the Ledbetter family reached out from the stage and embraced the crowd with that inimitable Ledbetter fashion. If they had sung one more song, spiritual pandemonium would likely have burst forth.

THAT MAJESTIC MISSIONARY SERVICE:

Wednesday, July 17:

"Oh, Lord, I've been looking forward to this service for months." The author of that prayer was Eugene Waddell. A few minutes later, the other 3,800 Wednesday nighters understood why Gene Waddell prayed in just that fashion. As the missionaries were introduced to the National Convention, each turned and waved through the blue spotlight in the darkened auditorium.

Gene Waddell introduced "Mr. Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions," Raymond Riggs, to the assembly. Riggs worked from three major points: (1) Growth in Retrospect, (2) Growth in

Introspect, and (3) Growth in Prospect to develop his assigned topic of "Growing in Faith and Missionary Outreach."

We discovered that the Free Will Baptist movement has grown because we've had "fearless and powerful preaching . . . faithful and persistent preachers . . . we have not forgotten fruitful pruning . . ." Riggs stirred remembrances as he dramatically read a carefully prepared list of men and women who have made significant marks for the denomination.

He straightly issued an indictment decrying unspiritual education and declared that, "Education is an altar which is now cursed by multitudes of idolatrous worshippers." Later Riggs rebuked with "anything that enters into competition with God, He will blight and wither . . ." He encouraged the ranks to "Keep a healthy heart . . . let us walk what we talk and talk what we walk." In rapid strides, he hit the utter hypocrisy of sending missionaries to Africa and at the same time allowing no blacks to ride our buses to Sunday school. The Michigan pastor came out strongly opposed to the competitive air seeming to exist between present Free Will Baptist colleges; he encouraged each state to have its own college.

A tremendous, triumphant altar service crowned the evening sermon. The altar service was followed by the receiving of a record breaking \$6,731.80 missions offering. Δ



NATIONAL BIBLE TIC TAC TOE WINNERS — Johnson City, IL.

"ENLARGE YOUR VISION": THEME OF FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL DRIVE

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Involvement in witnessing and missionary vision is the goal of the 1974 Fall Sunday School Enlargement Campaign. Using the theme, "Enlarge Your Vision," the campaign will be of special value to the Sunday school which wants to promote not only a time of dramatic growth but also a time of spiritual growth for their students and teachers.

The campaign will begin October 6 and conclude October 27. Sunday schools in each division which experience the greatest percentage of gain over the thirteen weeks average attendance for April-May-June 1974 will be declared winners and presented appropriate awards denoting first or second place.

To be eligible for participation in this campaign, entries must reach the Sunday School Department by October 4. The mailing address is P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, Tennessee 37217.

Sunday schools will be arranged in accordance with the following table for competitive purposes.

| | | |
|------------|----------|---------|
| Division A | over 500 | average |
| Division B | 400-500 | average |
| Division C | 300-399 | average |
| Division D | 200-299 | average |
| Division E | 150-199 | average |
| Division F | 100-149 | average |
| Division G | 50-99 | average |
| Division H | under 49 | average |

FOREIGN MISSIONS DIRECTOR ADDRESSES CCC STUDENTS

FRESNO, -CA. — The Reverend J. Reford Wilson, General Director of the Department of Foreign Missions in Nashville, Tennessee, was the guest speaker for California Christian College's Spiritual Life Conference August 21-23. He ministered to new and returning students during the morning chapel period as well as during special evening services. The conference is an annual part of each new college year.

California Christian College is owned and operated by the California State Association of Free Will Baptists. Dr. Wade T. Jernigan is the school's president.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

CHURCH BOND DIRECTOR TENDERS RESIGNATION



BOYLE

NASHVILLE, TENN. — The Reverend Francis W. Boyle, after 13 years' affiliation with Executive Church Bonds of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, officially resigned as Director of this service arm of the denomination. He formally announced his decision at the 38th annual National Association of Free Will Baptists which convened in Wichita, Kansas, July 15-18. The resignation is effective January 1, 1975. His future plans are indefinite at this time.

Mr. Boyle became the first full-time director of the office in 1967 after serving 6 years as a West Coast representative. During his first year as full-time director, \$550,000 worth of

bonds were issued in 17 churches. By July 1, 1974, these figures had surpassed the \$13 million mark in issues through 300 programs.

The ministry of Executive Church Bonds will continue to operate from the facilities in the National Office Building. Personnel will be available to assist Free Will Baptist churches having a need to build. Executive Church Bonds is not a commercial company and does not operate as such. Overhead is maintained at a minimum and this savings is passed on to participating churches. Through this denominational agency, a church is able to save approximately 38% of a commercial company's fee. The need to save churches money has been and will continue to be a prime reason for maintaining this service. The need is even more apparent during this period of escalating costs in interest and construction and the lack of commercial church financing.

NEW FACILITIES AID IN HOSTING STATE MEETING

LOUISA, KY. — A new educational unit, which was first utilized by the Louisa Free Will Baptist Church on Easter Sunday of this year, greatly aided the congregation in hosting the 1974 session of the Kentucky State Association, June 21.

The educational building is a concrete block structure with a brick veneer, consisting of 12 classrooms, kitchen, and a large fellowship hall. It is located immediately across the street

from the church. The Reverend James A. Hayes is pastor of this active church which averaged 210 in Sunday school attendance the first quarter of 1974. The church's program consists of Sunday school, Church Training Service, Woman's Auxiliary, Master's Men, and 5 visitation teams which are active in the Louisa area.

The Kentucky Association elected the Reverend William Amburgy as moderator for the ensuing year.



October, 1974

CHURCH FAMILY PLAN MONTH

During the month of October, each church which agrees to adopt the Church Family Plan for at least a one year period will be granted a special rate of \$1.00 per subscription for the first 6 months. Thereafter, the church will be billed at the current rate.

This means that for every 10 active families in a congregation, the church will pay only \$5.00 per quarter for the first 6 months as opposed to the regular rate of \$6.30 per quarter.

HERE'S ALL THAT IS NECESSARY:

1. The church must vote to involve each active family in the Church Family Plan.
2. Names and addresses of all active families must be received during the month of October. Do NOT send any money.
3. Refunds for present subscribers will be credited to the church account.
4. The church will be billed quarterly and will be allowed to add or drop names at that time.
5. This plan continues in effect until the church gives a 30-day written cancellation notice.

A SPECIAL OFFER
introducing
CONTACT, the official
denominational publication, to
Free Will Baptist churches
interested in sending to the home
of each active member a magazine which
"has proven to have a wealth of information
concerning the issues facing our
Free Will Baptist churches and
people today . . ." as

stated by
Mrs. James Stancill
of Charlotte,
North Carolina.

CONTACT / P.O. Box 1088 / Nashville, Tenn. 37202

Dear Editor:

- ☐ Yes, I am interested in presenting the Church Family Plan to my church. Please send me some further information concerning the special October introductory offer.
- ☐ Please send some sample copies of CONTACT to be used in presenting the Church Family Plan.

PASTOR'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____

PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE TO HEAR CHRISTIAN PROFESSOR

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Dr. Stuart R. Crane, outstanding Christian professor and businessman from Greenville, South Carolina, will be the main speaker for the third annual Free Will Baptist Principals Conference, October 10-11. The meeting will convene on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College. The College sponsors the fall event.

Sessions will be open to principals, pastors and teachers from Christian day schools as well as individuals interested in the Christian day school movement.

Expected to emerge from this 1974 conference, which is not formally organized, is the Fellowship of Christian Day School Administrators. This organization will be open to Free Will Baptist administrators including presidents, principals, and board members of schools. Lorenza Stox (Faith Academy, Goldsboro, N.C.), Dann Patrick and Don Edmons (Randall Christian Academy, Memphis, Tenn.), and Steve Ange (Woodbine Christian Academy, Nashville, Tenn.) are formulating organizational plans to be presented to interested individuals from this group during the October meeting.

1,060 PERSONS ATTEND "FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY"

WHEELERSBURG, OHIO — The second annual Evangelistic Outreach Fellowship Sunday attracted 1,060 persons to the Union Free Will Baptist Church near here Sunday, July 21. This set a new attendance record for the 117-year-old congregation. A tent was erected near the church to accommodate the overflow crowd.

The Reverend Calvin Evans, the church's pastor, is also director of Evangelistic Outreach, Inc. which ministers through a weekly Radio-TV outreach over several stations. The success of this special day was attributed to these outreaches. Several states were represented. Guest speakers included the Rev. Homer Willis, a Nashville, Tennessee pastor, and Ohio Evangelist Andrew Workman.

Four persons made decisions for Christ during the all-day event.



Architectural Drawing

BEAUFORT CONGREGATION TO CONSTRUCT NEW PLANT

BEAUFORT, N.C. — The First Free Will Baptist Church of Beaufort has voted to build a \$400,000 church on 10.6 acres of land east of the city on Highway 70.

The new facilities of almost 23,000 square feet will include a sanctuary seating about 700 people. The building will provide space for offices, a day care center, a kindergarten, a large fellowship hall, church and school libraries and classroom space for church and school. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall.

The church operates a Christian school of kindergarten and grades 1-8 in the present buildings. The new facilities will accommodate a high school, also.

Proposed plans for the future also include a gymnasium, playground and

activities field.

The Beaufort Free Will Baptist Church was begun in 1890. The first building was on Cedar Street. In 1947 the congregation moved to the present location on Turner and Broad Streets. In recent years the church has outgrown the present facilities. So in 1972 the church purchased the land on which they are now relocating.

"This building program is greatly needed. Our church family has responded with faith and a vision," comments the Rev. Dennis P. Wiggs, pastor, adding, "We seek to build larger and better facilities that will be used seven days a week and, most of all, glorify God and his purposes for this church."

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE BOARD APPROVES MAJOR IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION FOR FALL TERM

NASHVILLE, TENN. — At its meeting in May, the Board of Trustees of Free Will Baptist Bible College approved a new major in Elementary Education. Students who pursue the program will receive the B.S. degree upon successfully completing their studies, according to Dr. Douglas Simpson who will be supervising this area of study.

The program is especially designed for students who intend to teach in Christian schools. The college is seeking to meet the standards for teacher certification established by the state of Tennessee which will facilitate students being certified by other states. Dean Charles Thigpen stated steps have been taken toward applying for state approval of this teacher training program.

The Elementary Education students, in addition to obtaining a major in Bible, will take courses in the natural sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, physical education and mathematics. The distinctive program of study for Elementary Education

students falls into three areas. The first area, the professional care, introduces the student to the study of education and concentrates on the historical, sociological, philosophical, psychological, and technological foundations of education.

The second aspect of the program centers around a study of elementary schools themselves. Students will receive instruction that is designed to help them effectively teach courses pertinent to elementary students, e.g., art, music, mathematics, science, social studies, reading, health, and Bible.

The final phase of the program is concerned with student experiences in elementary schools. Students are required to spend a large portion of a semester under the supervision of an experienced teacher. The experienced teacher will guide the education student into the various kinds of activities commonly engaged in by the elementary school teacher. △

IN A DAY WHEN MODESTY IS LOOKED
UPON AS AN OLD-FASHIONED, OUT-OF-DATE
VIRTUE, IT IS WELL TO EXAMINE THE
SUBJECT FROM A BIBLICAL VIEWPOINT.

MODESTY - What is it ?

By Eunice Edwards

Modesty is more than a young lady not crossing her legs while seated on a platform or a sedate old lady adjusting her skirts. It is *much* more than this — it is a condition of the heart. Modesty is more than a verb; it is one of God's *verities*.

Titus tells us about modesty. He says, "In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you." Titus puts the lie to today's philosophy: "He that tooteth not his own horn, doesn't get it tooted."

The "pattern" Titus spoke of was a reality to Deborah. She was keenly sensitive to God's directions, so her successes were very great. Those who fail to walk in God's light never know this intimacy. Modesty, then, is Deborah, singing in complete harmony with Barak (Judges 6). Deborah did not sing a solo as she could have, but rather she sang in harmony with Barak. Modesty is sharing.

Modesty is Moses singing the song of deliverance in harmony with the children of Israel at the Red Sea (Exodus 15:1). Christians who live in the dust of a praiseless life never know the utter bliss of a shared blessing.

Modesty is an effective antidote for jealousy in the Lord's work. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another" (Rom. 12:10). Those who stand firm in this spiritual battle against worldliness and every sin that would endeavor to negate God's grace should be supported by our prayers, not envied!

Modesty is Abigail saying, "... the Lord will certainly make my Lord a sure house; because my Lord fighteth the battles of the Lord, and evil hath not been found in thee in all thy days" (1 Sam. 25:28).

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Edwards is a social worker with the state of Missouri. The former WNAC Executive Secretary is a member of the Parkview Church, Desloge, Missouri.

Paul believed in the full and eternal glory of Jesus Christ! He not only believed but he practiced this truth. Modesty is Paul saying, "Christ is not one among many, but He is the One and the Only One." Modesty is Paul declaring, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers." All things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell" (Colossians 1:16-18).

The Christian who accepts the Grace of God as the total Provider of his salvation has begun his lesson in theological basics. The man who feels he is able to save himself will never know the true meaning of modesty. Modesty links the believer to Christ and thus to heaven. Self-love, self-aggrandizement, self-sustainment link man to hopelessness and defeat. Hope links believers to other graces and actually enhances the believers position in Christ.

Modesty is the virtuous wife saying, "Husband, your heart can safely trust in me, and you need have no fear of spoil" (Prov. 30:11). In other words, "I will conduct myself in such a way that your enemies cannot honestly hurt you through me."

Many Christian women are so engrossed in the daily grind of soap operas that they have neither the time

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(Please turn top 18)

Mind ing

By Jack Williams

A 4½ HOUR GENERAL BOARD SESSION

Four and one-half hours in the Gold Room of the Holiday Inn Plaza terminated the Monday General Board session. Between 8:00 a.m. and 2:15 p.m., less a ninety-minute luncheon, nine departmental reports were screened by the General Board members prior to the convening of the 38th National Association of Free Will Baptists.

An early move by Moderator J. D. O'Donnell to have the General Board proper select a five man Nominating Committee proved to be a ruling of wisdom. Due to board expansions, normal term expirations, resignations, and deaths, the highly influential committee was handed the Herculean task of providing 56 nominees for convention voters. Bill Jones of Oklahoma chaired the committee.

The recommendation for the Executive Committee of the General Board that consideration be given to providing an indefinite term of office for the National Executive Secretary passed and headed toward the convention business floor where it fell on hard times during the Thursday morning session.

The Board also smiled upon a second recommendation that standing board members be elected on odd and even years. On the odd years members of the Home Missions Board, Layman's Board, Retirement and Insurance Board, and



PICTURES CAPTIONS:

1. Sword Drill contestants prepare to receive a charge.
2. I. L. Stanley, Greenville, TN., is named "Layman of the Year."
3. George W. Cloud, a layman from Melbourne, FL., brings the Thursday morning devotion.
4. Theology Professor Leroy Forlines delivers the Tuesday evening message.
5. Harold Critcher, right, Nashville, TN., Layman's Breakfast speaker, accepts surprise gift from chairman Ken Lane on behalf of the Master's Men organization.
6. Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey, center right, and Francis Boyle, Director of Executive Church Bonds, meet with the Executive Committee in pre-convention activities.

the Store

the Sunday School Board will be elected. The Free Will Baptist Bible College Trustees, Church Training Service Board Members, Foreign Missions Board Members, and the National Association Trustees will be chosen in the even years.

No opposition was voiced to Detroit, Michigan, being the site for 1977's National Convention, July 16-20.

A trio of suggestions from State Associations found themselves pigeon-holed ere the day was very old. California's resolution that "no local church be allowed to represent directly to the National Convention if that church is not aligned with the appropriate state association or nearby state association in cases so warranted" received no support, possibly because of a misunderstanding. It died an ignominious death.

Indiana's entry was "buck-passed" to the Executive Secretary who apparently doesn't have enough to do already! Their protest centered around the fact that certain ministers who are not in good standing with their state association are registering as voting ministers at the National Association.

Missouri's General Board couldn't muster more than cold-eyed stares in attempting to get the National Convention to rescind the action taken at the 1973 convention which expanded all boards from seven to nine members. It was the old dilemma of too little too late.

Most of the day was invested in the perennial seat-twisting which accompanies the promenade of reports.

EXECUTIVE CHURCH BONDS:

What a Difference a Year Makes

Director Francis Boyle resigned after thirteen years, thirteen million dollars, and three hundred bond programs. The business is being phased down to a part-time operation. Boyle sighed, "Inflation is wiping us out."

EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

An Educational Study Committee

The Executive Secretary seemed to be a stranger in a far country in trying



THE REMARKS of T. S. Rendall, Canadian minister and educator, to those attending the Pastor's Dinner receive apparent approval of Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey.

to maneuver his Educational Study Committee proposal through the chastising General Board. He lost. Many were fearful of his ambiguously worded recommendation. Undaunted, the Secretary trimmed the fat from his idea and laid it before the convention delegates. On Wednesday afternoon they blackjacked the General Board's rejection and endorsed the Educational Study Committee.

CTS:

Change to Fiscal Year Operation

The General Board heard the request of CTS Director Malcolm Fry to operate on a March 1–February 28 fiscal year and embraced it. Later, the voting delegation endorsed the Board's action. Now the fiscal year of the CTS Department is in line with the Sunday School Department.

FOREIGN MISSIONS DEPARTMENT:

Continuation in EFMA

A strange thing happened in Wichita. The fact that the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department continues to receive assistance from EFMA in getting missionaries to the field, an organization shillelagged in Fort Worth, met absolutely no disfavor. Director J. Reford Wilson assured the General Board his department did not have a secret \$100,000 salted away in a bank but did have a very real \$76,000 deficit for the first six months of 1974. Inflation again!

HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT:

New Motto – New Churches

Director Bob Shockey announced that five new works began this past year

and that nine more are programmed for the next. The phrase is, "A missionary in every state, a church in every city!" Bob kept throwing a little "preach" in to flavor his report – more tasty than statistics and the Digest of Reports.

SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT:

Another Resignation

N. R. Smith, manager of the Bookkeeping and Order Division, has terminated his employment and is returning to the pastorate. Director Roger Reeds told of "our first million dollar year" and crooned a verse of the inflation blues. Sunday School is a big department with a little report. Efficiency has her virtues. The new catalog of materials was plugged by Reeds.

FWBBC:

Elementary Education Venture

Dr. L. C. Johnson, while recommitting the college to Bible College philosophies, announced that definite plans are underway to implement an elementary education teacher training program. This is a full four or maybe five year program of study. Johnson nixed inter-collegiate athletics at FWBBC. Another full-time man is needed to assist Paul Kettelman in general fund raising. Here's another department that has collided with inflation . . . in a big way.

BOARD OF RETIREMENT AND INSURANCE:

First Year as Full-Time Work

Director Herman Hersey, ever the courteous gentleman, proudly reported victory in his first year as full-time worker in this department. The operation is on solid footing and "has no plans to begin a building program."

LAYMAN'S BOARD:

100% Increase

Director Ken Lane disclosed that since the bleak Nashville convention three years ago, when the only buffer between the Layman's Board and extinction was a vote of confidence by interested delegates, the organization has experienced a 100% membership increase! In a calculated move, the board requested at least one minister be placed on their board now with plans to extend that to include three ministers so that the pastor will have a closer working relationship with the organization. *The Layman*, a newsletter, published bi-monthly began this past year. Δ

MODESTY — WHAT IS IT?

(Cont. from page 15)

nor wisdom to be real strengths to their husbands. Their affections and interests are so influenced by the dramas portrayed on the television screen that their judgments are poor. They are so subtly dominated by these unreal portrayals that they can't differentiate between black and white. To them, all areas of moral conduct are gray. Therefore, they do not know what true modesty really means. To them modesty connotes a lack of nudity. Nothing is further from the truth. While appearance is included, true modesty is *much, much* more than a lack of nudity.

A careful study of the wise man's description of a virtuous woman will reveal God's basic definition of modesty (Proverbs 31:10-31). (Today's "women's libber" would feel out of place in the wise man's description.)

The virtuous woman is to (1) remain with her husband all the days of her life; (2) she is skillful with needle and thread; (3) she stays within the family budget; (4) she doesn't remain in bed until noon; (5) she grows food for her family; (6) she exercises regularly; (7) she is a careful buyer; (8) she is careful to guard her family; (9) she is charitable; (10) she provides for the protection of her family's health; (11) she is clothed attractively; (12) she isn't afraid to be courageous; (13) she considers her words before she speaks; (14) she is not lazy; (15) she is a good mother to her children in that she is honest with them; (16) she fears the Lord! These are some of the attributes of a modest woman. Modesty is much, much more than a way of dressing. The Wise Man concludes his description of a modest woman by saying, "Let her own works praise her in the gates." Her behavior, in other words, is beyond reproach, and she does not need to draw attention to herself by her appearance.

Modesty is a desperate woman saying, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole" (Mark 5:28).

Paul sums it up beautifully for us in Philippians 4. "For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honourable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if

there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things — fix your minds on them" (Philippians 4:8, Amplified Text). Paul gives us the description of a modest

spirit. And that is where true modesty begins! "...even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." (1 Peter 3:4b) △

Thank You for Your Gifts to the . . .

COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT

July 1974

RECEIPTS:

| State | July '74 | | July '73 | Yr. to Date |
|------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Coop | Design. | | |
| Alabama | \$... | \$... | \$ 821.34 | \$ 972.04 |
| Arizona | ... | ... | ... | 533.00 |
| Arkansas | 1,054.85 | ... | 1,050.23 | 8,430.03 |
| California | 514.32 | ... | 84.00 | 3,757.87 |
| Florida | 790.26 | ... | 843.57 | 6,185.65 |
| Georgia | 250.12 | ... | 622.83 | 1,379.48 |
| Idaho | 60.71 | ... | ... | 232.98 |
| Illinois | 2,108.23 | ... | 2,169.57 | 7,810.36 |
| Indiana | ... | ... | ... | 428.79 |
| Kansas | 335.87 | ... | ... | 1,327.49 |
| Kentucky | ... | ... | ... | 172.50 |
| Maryland | 35.00 | ... | 35.00 | 447.21 |
| Michigan | ... | ... | ... | 128.98 |
| Minnesota | 23.60 | ... | 33.00 | 173.85 |
| Mississippi | 127.80 | ... | 117.00 | 558.97 |
| Missouri | 4,130.86 | (4,130.86) | 3,091.37 | 21,072.03 |
| New Mexico | ... | ... | ... | 66.24 |
| North Carolina | 146.00 | (71.00) | 75.00 | 1,028.46 |
| Northwest Assoc. | ... | ... | 22.15 | 69.63 |
| Ohio | 1,808.16 | ... | 799.52 | 4,571.50 |
| Oklahoma | 4,188.35 | (3,963.39) | 344.91 | 21,121.79 |
| Tennessee | 167.60 | ... | 250.56 | 1,867.69 |
| Texas | 331.80 | ... | 213.39 | 1,207.25 |
| Virginia | 39.38 | ... | 34.83 | 322.88 |
| West Virginia | ... | ... | ... | 57.33 |
| Wyoming | 25.00 | (25.00) | ... | 125.00 |
| Totals | \$16,137.91 | | \$10,608.27 | \$84,049.00 |

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Executive Dept. | \$ 5,523.96 | \$ (966.84) | \$ 4,356.18 | \$34,989.65 |
| Foreign Missions | 3,731.48 | (2,858.10) | 2,008.35 | 17,219.39 |
| Bible College | 2,213.29 | (1,328.01) | 1,784.36 | 10,819.63 |
| Home Missions | 2,252.53 | (1,637.84) | 1,218.05 | 9,771.48 |
| Church Training Ser. | 1,149.43 | (640.84) | 553.59 | 5,286.39 |
| Retirement & Ins. | 819.13 | (480.07) | 407.97 | 3,798.91 |
| Layman's Board | 354.18 | (218.54) | 206.95 | 1,618.28 |
| Commission on Theo- logical Liberalism | 93.91 | (60.01) | 72.82 | 445.81 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | 99.46 |
| Totals | \$16,137.91 | | \$10,608.27 | \$84,049.00 |

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SPECIALS

(Cont. from page 9)

neglected to inform Dr. Melvin Worthington about the problem. A master preacher, Dr. Worthington probed sensitive areas and then using II Peter 3 assuaged the ripples his biting phrases caused.

Worthington talked of "Discernment being Necessary," of "Duty Prescribed," of "Danger Iminent." His delivery was stairstepped with side-funnies and home-spun wit. He thundered, "One ounce of truth is worth a ton of argument" and then grimly reported that evidence of growth could only be measured by "Our decrease... Jesus' Increase... Our weening from the world... the right attitude in suffering." Melvin Worthington's sermons are easy listening; he does all the leg work for you.

Deep into his message Mr. Worthington made the following observation: "We take for granted that a very active person is growing in grace and that may not be true... Accumulation of Bible knowledge in the mind does not guarantee growth in grace." "Some people are not candidates for growth." He had hit his stride by the time these three manifestos were given to the eager audience. "A lot of folks don't trust anybody else because they think everybody else is just like they are..." "You'll never become a great man if you remain envious... Most of us think we're great because we tear everybody else down!"

Dr. Worthington is a man of the Book, and he preaches "growing" the way a man should. A fully rejuvenated delegation roared at his epigraph: "If all you do during the week is drink Pepsi Colas and visit members, then all you'll give them on Sunday morning is Spiritual froth!"

Carl Sullivan of Huntington, West Virginia, who provided the special music for this service, punctured the convention-end drudgeries. This full voiced man was a welcome part of our last service. ▲

NOTICE

Because of the extensive coverage of the National Association, all standing features are omitted from this issue.

WICHITA '74

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| ELEVEN O'CLOCK SPECIALS | | |
| 3 | "Life's Four Choices" — Rev. Charles Thigpen | () |
| 4 | "Fruit Bearing Christians" — Rev. Dan Merkh | () |
| 5 | "Growing in Love One Toward Another" — Rev. Calvin Evans | () |
| 6 | "Growing in Grace" — Rev. Melvin Worthington | () |
| NIGHT GALLERY | | |
| 7 | "Rooted and Built Up in Him" — Rev. T. S. Rendall | () |
| 8 | "Growing in the Knowledge of God" — Rev. Rue Dell Smith | () |
| 9 | "Growing in the Likeness of Christ" — Rev. Leroy Forlines | () |
| 10 | "Growing in Faith and Missionary Outreach" — Rev. Raymond Riggs | () |
| SEMINARS | | |
| 11 | "A Growing C.T.S." — Rev. Malcolm Fry and | () |
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| 12 | "A Growing Program of Evangelism & Follow-Up" — Rev. Bob Shockey and | () |
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| 14 | "Biblical Management Principles & Practices" — Mr. Gilbert Peterson | () |
| 15 | "Managing a Growing Church" — Mr. Gilbert Peterson | () |
| 16 | "A Growing Sunday School" — Rev. Paul Thompson | () |
| 17 | "A Growing College Ministry" — Rev. L. C. Johnson and | () |
| | "A Growing Layman's Organization" — Mr. Keith Kenemer | () |
| 18 | "Our Bodies, His Temple" — Mrs. Kathryn De Lorie | () |
| 19 | "A Growing Layman's Organization" — Mr. Keith Kenemer and | () |
| | "Maranatha — The Lord is Coming!" — Mr. Harold Critcher | () |
| SPECIAL EVENTS | | |
| 20 | WNAC Fellowship Dinner: "Change or Changeless" — Mrs. Kathryn De Lorie | () |
| 21 | Pastor's Dinner: "Discerning the Devil's Devices in Today's Church" — | () |
| | Rev. T. S. Rendall and Wednesday a.m. NYC Bible Study — | () |
| | Rev. T. S. Rendall | () |
| 22 | Laymen's Breakfast: "Maranatha — The Lord is Coming" — | () |
| | Mr. Harold Critcher and | () |
| | "A Growing Layman's Organization" — Mr. Keith Kenemer | () |
| N.Y.C. | | |
| 23 | Monday & Tuesday a.m. Bible Student — Rev. T. S. Rendall | () |
| 24 | Wednesday a.m. Bible Study — Rev. T. S. Rendall and | () |
| | "Discerning the Devil's Devices in Today's Church" — Rev. T. S. Rendall | () |
| 25 | Teenspiration '74 | () |
| 26 | Hillsdale College's New Life Singers | () |
| 27 | 1st place winners — Music & Arts Festival | () |

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National Youth Conference: 1974

By Larry Hampton

An unprecedented number of 1,560 youths and sponsors registered for the 1974 National Youth Conference, July 14-18. Competitive activities gendered the normal excitement resulting in elation and disappointment for those participating. The Music and Arts Festival proved to be one of the most competitive events with over 90 entries. A new addition to the competitive activities this year was the Bible memorization which is conducted according to grade level for grades one, two and three.

This year's theme "Rooted and Built Up In Him" was developed by Rev. T. S. Rendall, Vice President, Prairie Bible Institute, Three Hills, Alberta, Canada. Rev. Rendall spoke in the Sunday evening keynote service as well as in Bible studies Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings.

Each evening of the conference, activities were scheduled following the services. Sunday night was a get-acquainted time. Throughout the week, lay evangelist Keith Kenemer shared with the conferees from the book of Philippians such thoughts as "Life With A Purpose" and "Life With A Plan." Kenemer told the youthful audience, "Jesus Christ is the largest motivator in my life."

COMPETITION KEEN

At 9:45 a.m. Monday the roll call of competitors began. Charles Hollingshead and Eugene Hales served as quizmasters for the 16 Tic Tac Toe teams. Sigbee Dilda and Russel B. Spurgeon worked with the Bible Bowl teams.

Quizmaster Charles Hollingshead tape recorded the *Tic Tac Toe* finals between undefeated Illinois and once defeated North Carolina. Illinois won the second regular game. Four other contests were "cat" games. It was the third game in sudden death competition before Illinois could win a second time in the best two out of three series. During sudden death play which was restricted to Bible quotations, Hollingshead called the judges out of the room several times to listen to the tape to determine if a quotation had been accurately given.

Bible Bowl teams work for months to participate in the 12 minutes of torture at the national level. For a dozen frantic minutes, lights flashed and answers were speeled off as questions were asked in the ratio of two new to one old. Occasionally, a coach's hand was raised in protest. When one team was eliminated, a bystander remarked that the team members would now be able to enjoy the conference.

By the time Russel Spurgeon introduced the South Carolina and North Carolina Bible Bowl teams at 11 a.m. Tuesday, twelve teams had lost twice in the double elimination tournament. North Carolina was playing with one loss. South Carolina was undefeated. The final score was 270 - 130 in favor of South Carolina. Mississippi finished in third place.

Drill master Mike Boggs directed the *Sword Drill*. There were eight participants in the final drills. All were quite quick.

Bible Memorization is conducted according to school grade level. This category proved a popular addition for younger competitors.

AFTER-SERVICE SPECIAL

The New Life Singers of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College presented the musical "Celebration of Hope" after the Monday evening service. Dr. Charles E. Hampton directed the Oklahoma-based collegians as they performed in an amphitheater backed by the Arkansas River. It seems that since the performance was outdoors, many people in the audience, especially the adults, acted as if they were at a football game. The visiting and the moving about were poor response to the fine performance of the New Life Singers.

BANQUET EXCITEMENT

Century II Exhibition Hall was filled by the sell-out youth banquet Tuesday evening at 10 P.M. Following dinner, the winners of the Music and Arts Festival conducted earlier in the day were announced by Dr. Malcolm C. Fry, General Director of Church Training

Service. Mr. Fry seemed to be teasingly prolonging the suspense as he announced winners in the various categories.

TALENT SHARED

Hillsdale's New Life Singers and the New Life Quartet each sang before the presentation by the drama group, Four Evangelists. Rev. Joseph Jones, Danyne Potter, Garnett Reid, and Mike Russell comprise this group from Free Will Baptist Bible College. Their program title, "A Message For Everyman" was the 1974 banquet theme. The theme was effectively portrayed by the group in their presentation.

Teenspiration '74 featured the NYC Corale in "The Good Life" by John W. Peterson. The nine talented vocalists gave a good performance Tuesday morning. Yet, it was more than a well-performed musical. It was a challenging, moving experience. Personnel of the easy-to-listen-to group were as follows: Ann Thigpen, Yvonne Thigpen—soprano; Carol Kettelman, Laura Thigpen—alto; Gwen Pugh, Vernon Whaley—tenor; Blaine Hughes—baritone; Gary Fry, Larry Gunnoe, bass.

The 27 voice Woodbine Youth Choir of Nashville, Tennessee, was directed by Miss Sue Hancock. The 19 girls and 8 boys, who sang their way to the winner's spot with the selection "It Keeps Gettin' Better," performed during the Wednesday morning service of the National Association.

"CASSETTES FOR CHRIST"

The NYC in co-operation with the Free Will Baptist Board of Foreign Missions sponsored "Cassettes for Christ." This was an ambitious project designed to enlist 1,000 teens who would give \$1 a month for 10 months in order to raise \$10,000 to purchase recording and duplicating equipment for use in Ivory Coast, West Africa. Participants are still needed if this worthwhile goal is to be achieved.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Hampton is on the faculty of California Christian College, Fresno. △

1974 NYC Winners

COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

SWORD DRILL

1. Tim Presley
First Church/Memphis, Tn.
2. Darryl Mea
First Church/Dayton, Oh.
3. Reginia Fountain
First Church/Melbourne, Fa.

BIBLE TIC TAC TOE

1. Johnson City, Ill./First Church
Donna Sneddon, Sarah Blades
Ralph Colp, John Blades
2. Durham, N.C./Liberty Church
Becky Creech, Kim Swann
Joann Scruggs, Marty Scruggs
3. Darlington, S.C./First Church
Ricky Edwards, Dale Reese,
Joni White

BIBLE BOWL

1. Darlington, S.C./First Church
Patricia Boyd, Wanda Rogers
Sandra Weatherford, Eddie Truett
2. Dunn, N.C./Prospect Church
Mark Tart, J. E. Snipes
Karen Barbour, Teresa Barbour
3. Burnsville, Ms./Antioch Church
Rhonda Lambert, Kathy Kennedy
Jean Cummings, Joann Johnson

MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

VOCAL SOLO

Adventurers

Winner (tie)/Michael Beaty
First Church/Tupelo, Ms.

Barry Stevenson
Sherwood Forest Church/New Bern, N.C.

2nd runner-up/Carla Dudley
Southern Oaks Church/Okla. City, Ok.

Herald

Winner/Scott Singletary
First Church/Florence, S.C.

1st runner-up/Alan Hester
First Church/Columbus, Ms.

Crusader

Winner/Krisan Hall
Central Church/Royal Oak, Mich.

1st runner-up/Pam Greenway
Donelson Church/Nashville, Tn.

2nd runner-up (tie)/Debra Hay
Patmos Church/Leary, Ga.

Kay Dudley
Southern Oaks Church/Okla. City, Ok.

Ambassador

Winner/Ann Thigpen
Cofer's Chapel/Nashville, Tn.

1st runner-up/Cynthia Cutler
First Church/Bryan, Tx.

2nd runner-up/Sherry Earp
Capitol Hill Church/Okla. City, Ok.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Winner/The Brashears
Northside Church/Phoenix, Ar.

1st runner-up/Ladies' Trio
Capitol Hill Church/Okla. City, Ok.

2nd runner-up/Hope Singers
Patmos Church/Leary, Ga.

YOUTH CHOIR

Winner/Youth Choir
Woodbine Church/Nashville, Tn.

1st runner-up/Youth Choir
First Church/Norman, Ok.

2nd runner-up/Young Horizons
First Church/Mtn. Grove, Mo.

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

Adventurer

No Winner*

1st runner-up/Amanda Sharpston
Vernon Church/Vernon, Al.

Herald

No Winner*

1st runner-up/Ricky Ham
Faith Church/Goldsboro, N.C.

Crusader

No Winner*

1st runner-up/Greg Lawson
Willow Springs Church/Mtn. Grove, Mo.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

Winner/String Ensemble
Southern Oaks Church/Okla. City, Ok.

KEYBOARD

Adventurer

No Winner*

1st runner-up/Rebecca Wilson
Bethany Church/Tulsa, Ok.

2nd runner-up/Duane Walley
Mississippi

Herald

Winner/Larry Price
First Church/Norman, Ok.

1st runner-up/Arletta Watkins
Randall Memorial Church/Memphis, Tn.

2nd runner-up/Debbie Reeves
Springfield Church/Vernon, Al.

Crusader

Winner/Sandra Wiggins
Ensley Church/Pensacola, Fl.

1st runner-up/Philip Johnson
East Nashville Church/Nashville, Tn.

2nd runner-up/Karen Thomas
First Church/Florence, S.C.

Ambassador

No Winner*

1st runner-up/John Lyerly
Little Bethel Church/Johnsonville, S.C.

No 2nd runner-up

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Adventurer

No Winner*

1st runner-up/Susan Lee
First Church/Florence, S.C.

2nd runner-up/Brian Cook
First Church/Dothan, Al.

Herald

No Winner*

1st runner-up/Lori Straughan
First Church/Norman, Ok.

2nd runner-up/Scott Singletary
First Church/Florence, S.C.

Crusader

No Winner*

1st runner-up/Tenie Sizemore
First Church/Dayton, Oh.

2nd runner-up (tie)
Faith Partridge
Crowder Church/Crowder, Ok.

Arlene Davis
First Church/Henderson, Tx.

CREATIVE ARTS

Adventurer

No Winner*

1st runner-up/David Malone
Bethel Church/So. Roxana, Ill.

Crusader

No Winner*

1st runner-up/Gary Cantrell
First Church/Dayton, Oh.

2nd runner-up/Bonnie Deas
First Church/Columbus, Ms.

CREATIVE WRITING

Winner/Miriam Paramore
Cofer's Chapel/Nashville, Tn.

BIBLE MEMORIZATION PROGRAM

Grade 1

1. Crystal Dawn O'Neal
First Church/Darlington, S.C.
2. (Tie) Melissa Smith
Beulah Church/Pensacola, Fl.
Vance Bowden
Prospect Church/Benson, N.C.
3. Sheila Wood
Fellowship Church/Nashville, Tn.

Grade 2

1. Cindy Weaver
Martin Hill Church/Booneville, Ms.
2. Ronald Wade
Faith Church/Goldsboro, N.C.
3. Cindy Beam
Capitol Hill Church/Okla. City, Ok.

Grade 3

1. Becky McAllister
Enterprise Mission/Dothan, Al.
2. Randy Dill
Antioch Church/Burnsville, Ms.
3. Sandra Shaw
Fellowship Church/Nashville, Tn.

*Note - To be declared a national winner, the participant must receive the highest 1 rating within his category.

CONTACT

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Editor-in-Chief; Rufus Coffey / Administrative Editor: Eugene Workman / Editorial Assistant: Judy Simpson / Circulation: Lucy Boyle

'74 Convention in Retrospect

The term "convention" has come to be a catchall for a variety of business, political, professional and religious meetings.

In the strictest sense a convention is a gathering of people to conduct business. General sessions are geared to give information and to provide an opportunity for voting on official business and policy matters. However, in modern society, conventions have become an indispensable means of education, communication, and promotion of positive programs.

While individuals are encouraged to participate in decisions, the aim of the church convention is to exchange information and to inspire and challenge the attendants to higher goals — both individually and denominationally. The annual meeting brings people into touch with one another and enables them to deal with mutual problems of concern. In a sense this denominational conclave becomes the town meeting for free discussion of issues at hand.

But a convention does not attempt to resolve all the varied and difficult problems confronting the church. Although certain desired objectives may be accomplished, it cannot possibly deal with all the complex issues in one session. For this reason not all who attend view a convention from the same perspective. Persons with different frames of reference tend to draw different conclusions.

But "Wichita '74" was different from the average convention. It went beyond the usual "ho-hum" of activity. There was excitement, involvement and inspiration. The harmonious sessions gave evidence of a oneness of heart and purpose. Spirit-annointed speakers ministered to the hearts of people. Progress reports from each department were enlightening and encouraging. Stimulating workshops provoked new ideas and thought. Convenient convention facilities and a super job by each member of the local convention committees helped to make this one of

the smoothest functioning conventions we have had.

This session of the National Association served as a mirror to reflect the mood and attitude of our people. It was a barometer to measure the progress of the work as a whole.

From the wholesome response we have received through numerous letters, church papers and personal conversations, the general consensus is that we had one of our best conventions. We cannot help but conclude that Free Will Baptists are alive, well and growing. We eagerly look forward to July 13-17, 1975, when our next session convenes in Dayton, Ohio.

VIEWPOINT

By
Executive Secretary
Rufus Coffey

