

SEPTEMBER, 1975

contact

OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1975 CONVENTION REVIEW**FREE WILL BAPTISTS****DISCOVER**
Dayton

By Jack Williams and
Eugene Workman

With 40 years of continuous service in points throughout the world, the 4,100 representatives to the 39th annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists were challenged during their convocation July 13-17 to make the next 10 years a "Decade of Advance."

In his report to the body Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey noted that in the Scriptures the number "40" is used to symbolize testing. During the past 40 years Free Will Baptists have withstood the tests of trials, discouragements and adversities. The years since November 5, 1935, have been times of developing spiritually, unifying the work and building a solid foundation for the future. Therefore, beginning with the bicentennial year of 1976, he strongly urged that we make an aggressive advance on the next decade, giving priority to Christian education, worldwide missions, Christian literature, the denomination's youth, lay involvement and stewardship.

Coffey issued a note of warning concerning the Cooperative Plan of giving to the delegates gathered in the Convention Center at Dayton, Ohio. The plan's advantages and benefits are

being hindered by a trend in the denomination toward using a greater percentage of the funds at the local and state levels. This is a dangerous trend in that it weakens the base support for the national ministries. "The Cooperative Plan cannot be a big Santa Claus for every pet project," Coffey stated. More churches are needed to participate in the plan. He urged that this present trend be reversed with more judicial stewardship of funds at the district and state levels as well as the national level.

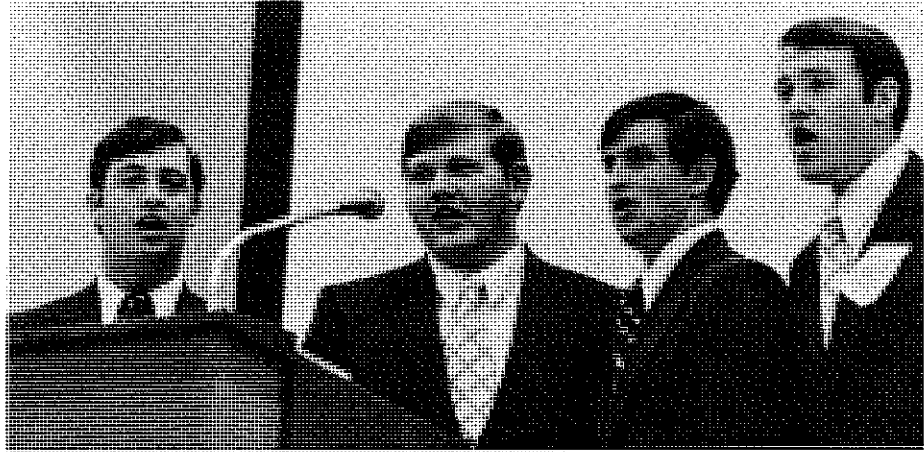
SEMINARS GENDER ENTHUSIASM

Creating a great deal of interest and probably as much enthusiasm as any other aspect of the convention this year were the 14 seminar sessions conducted Monday and Tuesday. Topics for the sessions ranged from "Harmony in the Home" to "Equipping the Pastor to Preach" to a session for church and associational clerks. The seminar, "The Plain Truth About Herbert W. Armstrong," received coverage from the Dayton press, and that coverage in turn became the topic for a local radio talk show. As a result of his statement in the seminar, California Christian College Dean Jack Williams became the brunt of some unkind statements by listeners who felt he was wrong in saying that the

Armstrongs "wrapped the Bible in barbed wire and bludgeoned their followers into line with fear and dire predictions of famine, disease and World War III."

Although the other seminars were not covered by the Dayton press, they equally generated excitement for those in attendance. Evaluating the seminar "Preaching to Preachers," which featured television evangelist Willard Wilcox of Ashland, Kentucky, A. J. Looper, a Cookeville, Tennessee, pastor, stated, "If this had been the only sermon I could have gotten to hear while at the national convention, it would have been worth the trip to Dayton. Being able to hear the shouts of 'Hallelujah' lets me know that Free Will Baptists are alive and doing well on planet earth." This seminar was sponsored by the Home Missions Department.

Richard Horner, a pastor from Arvin, California, stated, "Pastor Jim Walker in the 'Missions Education in the Local Church' seminar produced an unending challenge as he related his experiences of missions in the local church. This superior involvement was produced by the Foreign Missions staff's excitement. This excitement absorbed by fellow pastors has developed a personal enthusiasm that I will share in my local church."



MICHIGAN SCHOOL TEACHER, Violet Cox, Hazel Park, listens intently during business proceedings.

THE CROWNSMEN from Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, sing prior to the Wednesday morning business session. Quartet members are left to right: Doug Little, Steve Ashby, Gwyn Pugh and Randy Riggs.

CONDUCTING THE BUSINESS

GENERAL BOARD QUICK AND QUIET

The shortest General Board session in a decade inaugurated the 39th annual convention's business agenda. Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, moderator, gaveled his way through the 4½-hour Monday morning resume. There were plenty of empty chairs in the Cotillion Room as only General Board members and a few nonmembers made an appearance. A sleepy, probably somewhat deceptive calm, prevailed until the motion to adjourn.

Departmental budgets received routine unanimous approval in anticipation of recommending the various reports to the voting delegation on Wednesday. With the exception of the Home Missions Department's extended presentation, the General Board shuffled from presentation to adoption with casualness.

One General Board member pled to have board members receive the *Digest of Reports* earlier. A slight deviation from previous years saw the Committee on Committees bypassed; in its place the moderator and his assistant appointed the Credentials, Nominating, and Resolutions Committees. Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey presented initial plans for a Free Will Baptist national emblem.

ON THE FLOOR

The Educational Study Committee, chaired by Dr. Douglas J. Simpson of Tennessee, received funding for one more year. By a substantial majority, the nearly 800 delegates approved the document which the committee had prepared during the past year. The paper assesses the scope of Christian education and suggests guidelines to start and/or maintain a Bible institute, Christian day school or Bible college. This committee was born at the 1974 convention after some controversial discussion that questioned whether it should be brought into existence.

That 4:00 p.m. motion made on Wednesday concerning a "convention dress code" was well-intentioned, probably needed, but could also end up as a "snipe" hunt. On the other hand, the men who advocated the dress code regulations are smart enough to know that you don't have to get some motions enacted to do some good: just bringing the problem to the attention of the National Association often acts as a deterrent sufficient to cure the ailment. That is a version of the "ounce of prevention" theory. At any rate, the



WITH HANDS RAISED, Ted Wilbanks emphasizes a point in his message during the NYC keynote service Sunday night.

CTS Board is saddled with that gargantuan task of drawing up guidelines regarding "hair and hemlines" for those participating in national functions by convention time next year.

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CONTACT

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FREE WILL BAPTISTS DISCOVER DAYTON (Cont. from p. 5)

A voting delegation of nearly 800 adopted a 1976 budget for the national departments totaling almost 5 million dollars. The budgets for 3 departments exceed one million: Sunday School, Foreign Missions and Free Will Baptist Bible College. As expected strong resolutions criticizing offensive television programming and the menace of alcohol passed unanimously. The Historical Commission unveiled plans to publish a bicentennial history of each state work by 1976. Home Missions Director Bob Shockey called for "100" new churches to be organized by July, 1976. The Sunday School Department report showed they surpassed one million dollars in sales for the second consecutive year.

No doubt one man who greatly contributed to the easygoing convention climate was National Moderator Dr. J. D. O'Donnell. He was visibly relaxed when presiding over business sessions and did so with discernment. He was reelected to his fifth consecutive year as moderator. Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey was unopposed in his election to a fifth 2-year term in office.

The delegates voted to hold the 1978 session in Kansas City, Missouri. The 1976 convention will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the 1977 session in Detroit, Michigan.

The body seemingly contradicted itself by defeating 2 proposals that the General Board sent to the floor. The Board recommended a constitutional change whereas the appointment of the chief executive officer of each standing board would have been subject to the confirmation of the National Association at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Since the vote was negative, this means that each departmental director will continue to be selected by the department's board without confirmation by the body. However, it did not extend the same consideration to the executive secretary who will continue to be nominated by the convention nominating committee and elected by the body for a 2-year term of service. The General Board had proposed that the executive secretary would be nominated by the Executive Committee and elected by the body for an indefinite term of service.

In other action concerning the executive secretary, the body voted to accept the treatise change that the services of the executive secretary may be reviewed by the request of 7 members of the General Board. Such services shall be terminated upon a 90-day notice by either his resignation, a majority vote of the National Association or the majority vote of the General Board in the called session.

STATISTICS

Registration for the main convention reached 3,081 this year, an increase of 135 over the number registered in 1974. The greatest gain of 107 came in the category of ministers. An unhealthy trend was indicated by the fact that 27 fewer lay representatives from local churches officially represented.

The 1975 registration shows the following statistics: 148 local church delegates from 24 states; 103 district and state associational delegates from 23 states; 62 foreign and home missionaries from 8 countries including the U.S.; 11 lay delegates from standing boards; and 712 ministers from 29 states. There were 2,045 nondelegates from 29 states.

CONVENTION EXTRAS

CTS AND FWBBC

Deviating from the business on Wednesday morning at 11 a.m., conventioners were treated to special presentations by the Church Training Service Department and Free Will Baptist Bible College. In a strong bid to refurbish its public image from a child-oriented program, the Church Training Service Department introduced a new audio-visual presentation "CTS - The Family Place." Dr. Malcom Fry, director, and his staff are working overtime to correct the erroneous image some had projected that CTS was geared "for children only." The well-produced filmstrip clearly shows that CTS is a family-oriented program which fills a needy gap in the Free Will Baptist training cycle.

Dean and Mrs. Charles Thigpen in cooperation with students and alumni of Free Will Baptist Bible College told the almost breathtaking story of FWBBC from its inception through 1975. The 30-minute presentation demonstrated the worldwide impact of the college since 1942. After viewing

the gradual but stable success of FWBBC, Richard Cordell, president of the Alumni Association, remarked appropriately, "The Bible College moves slowly, but it moves well." May it continue to be so.

PASTOR'S DINNER

Noted Bible conference speaker and radio evangelist Dr. Lehman Strauss pressed the ministers present for the 1975 Pastor's Dinner for excellence in their homes and personal lives. Strauss assured the dinner crowd of 686 that "the private life of a minister is very important before he shows himself in public." The major thrust of his lecture focused on the pastor's *marriage, morals and money*.

Strauss's low-keyed cautions advised his audience that "at times it could be more spiritual for a preacher to go play ball with his son than to sit in his study preparing sermons." He warned against the temptation to become mercenary toward the ministry and lobbied for a strong physical fitness program in the life of every pastor. Dr. Strauss, who has authored some 16 books, said repeatedly, "We don't work for men; we work for God." Further he made a strong bid that ministers be so consistent in their private lives that when in public they can "preach what they practice!"

Strauss met with favorable audience response when bemoaning widespread preacher absenteeism from the home at the expense of the children.

LAYMAN'S BREAKFAST

Sunday school revivalist and layman, Leon Kilbreth, told 400 early risers that every Christian must face the challenge of following Jesus. Speaking from Philippians 3, Kilbreth beat the drum for laymen to "get excited about Jesus." The graying, nattily attired Southern Baptist decried any allegiances which dethroned Christ in daily living. Kilbreth quipped, "You can't get a thing done in Baptist churches for the traditions that bind the people." He allowed as how the world was standing on the street corners making fun of the church because of inconsistencies in practical living.

NOTICE

Because of the extensive coverage of the 1975 National Association, all standing features are omitted from this issue.

THORNS

There seemed to be an abnormally large number of public announcements this year saying in essence, "Corral those kids . . . Move those cars!" The youth may not have been any more unruly in Dayton than in previous conventions, but the security people at the Convention Center were up in arms a good portion of the time because of the abuse of the escalators. Young teens and older teens misused the escalators by making them playthings. But it was impossible for convention personnel to maintain a security watch on the escalators at all times. There seemed to have been a lack of supervision by sponsors. On the other hand proper supervision and guidance in the home will make the task of sponsors much easier at meetings such as the national convention.

As for those cars which parked in front of the Convention Center where the signs clearly stated "No Parking," it seems that outright disobedience of Dayton's traffic laws would do nothing to enhance the testimony of Free Will Baptists in that city. But it was the same story 2 or 3 times each day of the convention. If it had not been for the kindness of the Convention Center officials who alerted our own convention personnel from time to time, some conventioners would have had to bail their cars out of the city pound. If such had happened a time or two, perhaps the no parking signs would have carried more weight. The failure to observe the no parking signs is not a good testimony for a church group.

However, even more consequential in the testimony left with Dayton is the fact that a motel operator complained to convention personnel that some guests registered as attending the Free Will Baptist National Association left

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PICTURE CAPTIONS

1. Willie Justice, Florence, South Carolina, pastor, strikes a thoughtful pose as he speaks from the floor during a business session.

2. Randall House Publications' display is manned by Harrold Harrison, Manager of Sales and Promotion for the Sunday School Department.

3. CTS Director Malcolm Fry garners hearty "amens" as he sings at the annual Pastor's Dinner.



FREE WILL BAPTISTS DISCOVER DAYTON

(Cont. from p. 7)

the motel without paying the bill. This complaint is equally as perturbing as a report that reached us concerning the 1974 convention when one hotel manager reported that only 2 ministers were registered to stay in a room, but the maid allegedly reported 4 men staying in the room each night. Both are "cheap" acts and poor testimonies. An honesty code is just as important as a dress code!

Apparently some of the young people at the convention made a more positive impression upon the people of Dayton than did the aforementioned ministers. One North Carolina leader related that when he got into a taxicab to return to his hotel that the driver complimented the appearance and behavior of the youth. He said, "I am a Christian man from Kentucky and know what the Lord Jesus can do to a man's life when He saves him from sin. I want to tell you that I have been the most impressed with your people here in Dayton than I have with any convention we have ever had. The young people looked right. They don't have all this long beard and wearing shorts, going barefooted, all that stuff. They look nice, talk nice, act nice."

In evaluating the critique sheets used for the first time this year, probably one complaint received more than any other concerning this year's convention was the restlessness and the unnecessary traipsing in and out by conventioners. One would like to think that the only ones leaving the worship service would be parents who by necessity must take

out small children. However, one state leader decided to count the number of people exiting during an evening service due to the fact that there had been so much commotion in the services the previous evening. He counted 138 people who exited during the service, and only 6 of those were accompanied by young children. Although a large number of the others were young people, an equal percentage of those leaving were adults. One convention worker had to leave the Monday evening service immediately prior to the preaching hour because of illness. Upon leaving the auditorium that person was appalled to find the lobby of the Convention Center literally packed with people mingling and talking. Much the same sight was apparent on the veranda, and there were even ministers wearing the convention's registration badges huddled in the lobby of the hotel. All this transpired during the worship hour when one would expect that those attending the national convention would be present in a worship service. The large number of youths and adults who nightly mingled in the lobby and on the third floor of the Convention Center was indeed a disappointing sight. Such actions make a person ask the question for what purpose does one attend the national meeting? Perhaps the layout of the Convention Center lended itself to this type of atmosphere. At this writing convention personnel are buffaloes as to what actions to take to insure a more reverent attitude in the worship services and to persuade conventioners that they should attend every session of the National Association available to them but especially the worship services.

As with the 1973 convention in Macon, Georgia, conventioners had to endure "the battle of the P.A. system." It seems that this happens in every convention center which is designed to double also as an arena for sports and other events. The sound system in Wichita's Century II Center (1974) was indeed designed for convocations such as ours. The CTS Department personnel wish the Dayton center had likewise been designed as the National Youth Conference is usually the guinea pig to experiment with the use of the sound system since NYC starts its convention activities in a big way on Sunday evenings. Reports from those attending the convention this year indicated they

found that some sections of the auditorium benefitted from better sound than other sections. Although those presiding over the services suggested more than once that those who could not hear should move, many of them did not choose to do so. Therefore, hearing was difficult for them.

BOUQUETS

Toss a handful of bouquets to the city of Dayton for their warm, cordial reception extended to this National Association. Most every store in the downtown area had window signs welcoming our group. And the city buses provided free transportation to the Free Will Baptists traveling in the Convention Center area.

The friendly newspaper reporters aided our image considerably; but the very feminine reason why the press seemed eager to help was due largely to

WNAC CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST 1974-75

PROGRAMS

1. Emma Hickman
First Church/Guymon, Ok.
 2. Rhett Butler
Union Hill Church/Slocomb, Al.
 3. Glenda Devine
Cherryvale Church/Sumter, S.C.
- Honorable Mention:
Betty Reeves
Fellowship Church/Flat River, Mo.

ARTICLES

1. Dorothy Pressnell
First Church/Springfield, Oh.
 2. Patricia J. Mullins
First Church/Stephens City, Va.
 3. Brenda Evans
Central Church/Kansas City, Mo.
- Honorable Mention:
Agnes Hurst
West Greene Church/Mosheim, Tn.

PLAYS

1. Mildred Daniel
Central Church/Royal Oak, Mi.
 2. Geraldine Davidson
Jones Chapel Church/Stella, Mo.
 3. Barbara Otwell
First Church/Santa Paula, Ca.
- Honorable Mention:
Wanda Powell
Free Will Baptist Church/Puerto Rico



TEAMWORK IS THE WORD as Jill and Fred Renich, Farmington, Michigan, conduct the WNAC seminar, "Harmony in the Home."



MISSIONARY BOBBY AYCOCK, Brazil, discusses an aspect of WNAC's theme, "Bloom Where You Are Planted," during the morning worship service Tuesday.

the effective job done by Mrs. June Critcher, press liaison for the convention. June did a great deal of research before, during and after the Dayton session. Improved news coverage is a welcome dimension.

One final bouquet goes to the Executive Office staff who labored diligently in taking care of details to insure a smooth convention. The Executive Office secretarial staff was especially helpful in preparing printed convention materials at all hours and on short notice. This service helps the delegates avoid much confusion in trying to recall from memory some intricately worded resolution or motion.

Dateline Dayton, the daily newsheet published by the Executive Office staff, helped keep conventioners abreast of what was transacted the day before and what to expect on that day's agenda. This newsheet also should prove helpful to delegates in making reports back to their local bodies.

WNAC

In a significant move delegates to the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention passed a far-ranging resolution opposing the Equal Rights Amendment and called on women from states which have not already approved the ERA to return home and lobby against it. Their annual conclave on Tuesday saw a 10 percent increase in registration with 835 identification tags being issued.

Clara Picirilli of Nashville, Tennessee, was reelected to her third 2-year term as president of this organization. Brenda Spruill, who has served as field secretary for the past 4 years, resigned that post effective September 1. There are no immediate plans to fill that

position according to Mrs. Cleo Purcell, executive secretary.

In addition to the increase in attendance, this arm of the National Association also showed a yearly membership gain of 498; an increase in total income, including the gifts to missions and student loan fund, to an all-time high of \$145,187.00; and a record-breaking crowd of 795 heard Fred C. Renich speak at the annual WNAC Fellowship Dinner on Monday night. Mr. Renich was joined on Tuesday by his wife Jill for a seminar geared to the home.

From a total of 69 entries 12 women from throughout the United States were honored for their winning entries in the 1975 Creative Writing Contest. This contest will be sponsored again this year. Complete details are available from the WNAC office. However, as a part of the WNAC's involvement in the United States Bicentennial observance, they are also offering women the opportunity to submit songs not later than March 1, 1976. Original words may be sung to familiar tunes, or both words and music may be original. The best entries will be included in a share-a-song booklet which will be distributed during the 1976 convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

LAYMAN'S BOARD IN TRANSITION

In an unexpected move Kenneth Lane, chairman of the Layman's Board, represented the group in presenting a proposal to the convention body that a part-time director be employed for the organization. He submitted the name of Lloyd Olsen, an Alabama layman who will be retiring from the armed services and moving to Nashville, Tennessee, in August. The proposal was accepted by the body, and Mr. Olsen will assume his responsibilities this fall. The men's organization continues to seek a closer working relationship between the layman and the pastor. A move toward this goal was initiated last year when the board requested at least 1 minister be placed on the board then with plans to extend that to include 3 ministers in the future.

David Bryant of Columbus, Ohio, was named Layman of the Year in a special presentation at the Layman's Breakfast. Bobby Hays of Russellville, Arkansas, was awarded runner-up honors. ▲

RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING WINS VICTORY IN FCC RULING

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NRB) — In a unanimous decision the Federal Communications Commission on August 1 denied a petition which advocated a freeze on future applications by religious institutions for TV or FM channels reserved for educational stations.

The coauthors, Jeremy D. Lansman and Lorenzo W. Milan of California, contended that religious institutions were monopolizing educational channels and thus denying minorities their fair share of such channels and failing to produce truly educational programs. The case did not involve religious programming on commercial networks as many people mistakenly believed.

Since the petition was filed on December 5, 1974, the FCC received over 700,000 letters, the largest number in its history relating to one hearing. The Commission ruled that Lansman and Milan "would have us practice discrimination against a school or university simply by virtue of the fact that it is owned and operated by a sectarian (religious) organization. As a governmental agency, the Commission is enjoined by the First Amendment to observe a stance of neutrality towards religion, acting neither to promote nor inhibit religion."

Dr. Ben Armstrong, executive secretary of the National Religious Broadcasters, who led the fight against this petition, asserted that the ruling by the FCC was "an impressive victory for religious broadcasting." However, he further indicated that the contest had instigated close examination on the part of religious broadcasters of their effectiveness in the use of educational channels. ▲

conservative, spoke out concerning youth involvement and advocating a call-to-arms for Free Will Baptist young people to rally in the service of Christ.

Wilbanks stood beneath a broad triple banner which offered the CTS theme for all to see, "Transmission is Our Mission." Before the evening sermon J. Reford Wilson, outgoing Director of the Foreign Missions Department, was given a check for just under \$2,300 representing the culmination of "Cassettes for Christ,"

religionists bartering twisted systems of theological error to the gullible and the naive.

Earlier that evening Dr. J. D. O'Donnell gaveled the 39th annual session of the National Association to order at Dayton's Convention Center. Some 4,000 Free Will Baptists from 35 states and 7 foreign countries rallied to the rollcall meeting in downtown Dayton. Alton Loveless, Ohio State Promotional Secretary, welcomed the delegation to Ohio reminding them of the denomination's 165-year history in that state dating back to 1810.

A rousing special musical package by the Crownsmen Quartet of Free Will

BRETHREN,

WE MET TO WORSHIP...

By Jack Williams
and Eugene Workman

... AT THE BILTMORE

Sunday morning in Dayton the streets were alive with Free Will Baptists walking to worship services at the Biltmore Towers Hotel. A large crowd (1,000 plus) of early arriving conventioners filled the crystal-strung Grand Ballroom where North Carolina pastor Roy Rikard delivered a 45-minute sermon titled "You Can If You Want To, But You Can't If You Don't Try."

This was only the third year that Sunday school and morning worship were planned as part of the pre-convention activities for those who did not wish to drive out of the downtown area. The Youth Choir from Peace Free Will Baptist Church in North Carolina sang during the 11 o'clock meeting.

... AT THE N.Y.C.

The 1975 National Youth Conference attracted 3,000 participants on the main floor of the Dayton Convention Center. Local congregations within driving distance transferred their Sunday evening services to the Convention Center. Hundreds braved the dark rain clouds to hear Ted Wilbanks, associate pastor at Southern Oaks Church in Oklahoma City, preach "The Command to Evangelize." Wilbanks, a keen-voiced, young

the 1974 CTS project. The 1975 CTS Project, "Cash for Cajun Country," received a hefty boost toward its goal of \$10,000 to purchase land in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, when some \$6,173 in faith promises were signed and returned.

A joint CTS-Home Missions W.O.W. seminar (W.O.W. meaning "Workshop on Witnessing") conducted by Roy Thomas and Bob Shockey rounded out a full evening for the adults and teens. A capacity crowd of over 1,500 stayed to watch a film titled "The Burning Hell."

... TO HEAR DR. PICIRILLI

Dr. Robert Picirilli, keynote speaker, held the Monday evening worshipers spellbound as he delivered a piercing 40-minute exposition of Ephesians 4:11-16, urging constituents toward practical Christian maturity and total involvement for every Christian in the local church. Picirilli cited the critical shortage of workers, typical unconcern about holiness and the breakdown of Christian distinctives as evidence that something is missing in the church today. "The Missing Dimension" theme was presented with gripping authority and penetrating insight.

Picirilli, 6-time past moderator of the National Association, rose to make an impassioned plea for the denomination's ministers and teachers to equip the saints "... to be ... to grow ... to serve ..." He spoke of being concerned with stature and stability, warning that failure in these areas would place Free Will Baptists at the mercy of marauding

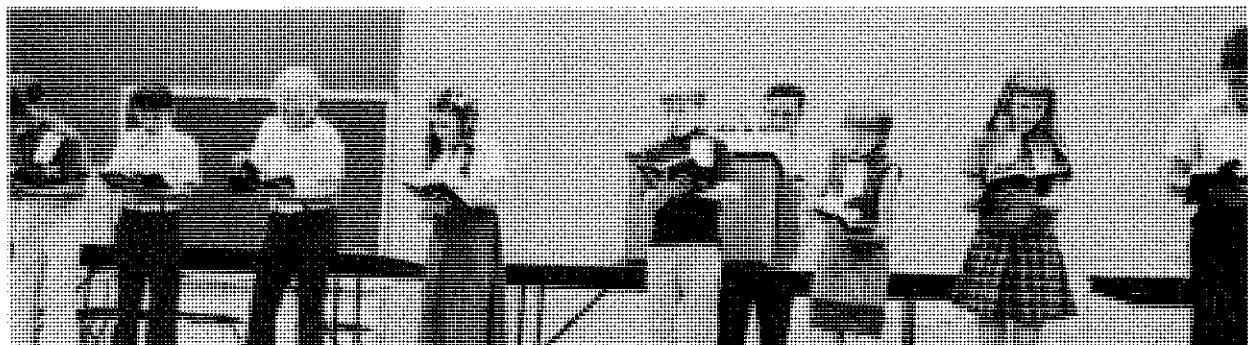
Baptist Bible College and by tenor soloist Bill Gardner prefaced Dr. Picirilli's sermon. The bicentennial flavor was apparent via the red-white-blue draped platform bedecked with ample greenery.

... TO SEE JACK WILLIAMS

California Christian College Dean Jack Williams proved stature does not affect a speaker even if he is barely able to see over the pulpit. So as unobtrusively as possible, Mr. Williams literally "mounted" the platform to deliver the second address on the convention theme, "Equipped to Serve." His topic was "Fitted for Action." Therefore, it was quite appropriate for the Convention Center personnel to provide the additional height necessary to expose Mr. Williams to the waiting crowd.

From the time he shared his opening remarks until he "dismounted" the platform, the delivery of the Louisiana native exhibited some of the color reflected in his writings. Yet, in seeking to show that Christians must be fitted for action, the educator did not speak in unfamiliar terms. In his former pastoral ministries and in his present educational capacity, Williams has demonstrated that he can relate to people in understandable language.

Prior to the evening message CTS Director Malcolm Fry and Board Chairman Milton Worthington had the happy task of announcing the winners of the NYC competitive activities and the Music and Arts Festival. All first



"CHARGE!" is the command sword drill contestants wait to hear before beginning their search for the given Scripture.

NORTH CAROLINA PASTOR Roy Rikard, Cramerton, oscillates from sheer enjoyment to reproof as he speaks Sunday morning.

place winners came to the platform for a plaque and appropriate recognition.

... WITH BILL JONES AT THE MISSIONARY SERVICE

A crowd of near 3,500 listened as Bill Jones promised them, "God can be trusted ... God will direct His people ... God can and will meet every need." Wednesday evening at the Dayton Convention Center Jones, who is president of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, refused to succumb to preservice jitters; instead he told his audience, "I as the preacher am not on trial here tonight; you are!"

Preaching from Philemon 4-6, the tall, 38-year-old college administrator declared that "God makes the difference between possibility and reality ... that there are no spectators in God's plan." Jones, strikingly attired in a silver pin-striped black suit, called for commitment to a "no-strings-attached love" among Christians. He had developed his theme of a sharing, effectual faith along 3 major lines: its source ... its actual sharing ... its sequence.

Earlier in the evening Don Robirds and Roy Thomas introduced to the denomination some 76 home and foreign missionaries and missionary appointees. Rolling applause and a standing ovation from the national convention delegates embraced the missionary family.

An emotion charged congregation watched the changing-of-the-guard for the Foreign Missions Department as long time director, J. Reford Wilson, stood to be honored and thanked by his denomination and the Foreign Missions

Board for his 13½ years of service. Dr. Joe Ange, chairman, read a fitting tribute to the departing director and presented him with an appropriate plaque from the department. Jack Williams, representing the California State Association, stepped quickly to the microphone to join with the Foreign Missions Board in honoring Wilson with yet another plaque. Wave upon wave of applause broke across the platform in recognition of J. Reford Wilson's years of service and loyalty to the denominational missions program. It took no more than 5 minutes for the slender Oklahoman to make the public transition from director to, as he calls it, "another phase of God's design for my life." He assumes an academic gown at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma.

There is something special about J. Reford Wilson. The Foreign Missions Board recognized that "special something" in 1962 when Reford was appointed as General Director. He has served with distinction.

Rolla Smith of Springfield, Missouri, was named as successor to Wilson. The new director stepped into his role citing it as "a great honor and a fearful responsibility." He challenged with "I beg you on behalf of our Lord and untold millions who have never heard the Gospel to give of yourself, your children, your finances." Smith had previously declared, "I am going for broke to put my whole soul and, if God desires, the rest of my life in Free Will Baptist foreign missions."

A record missions offering of \$8,995.00 to be equally shared by the Home and Foreign Missions Departments was received at this

Missions Night service.

Nearly 2½ hours slipped by before Rufus Coffey finally called for a 4-minute prayer conclusion to the lengthy service. At 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening the denomination had a new Foreign Missions Director; J. Reford Wilson had entered a new dimension of Christian service; and Bill Jones had delivered his soul.

... BEFORE THE CLOSING GAVEL FELL

Billy Morris swept the convention-weary delegates into the last worship service on Thursday morning at 11:00 a.m. The Virginia pastor's sweet attitude sent the folks home happy with that "I've been preached to" feeling. Morris gave assurance of God's power being available for today's tasks. He reminisced about his conversion and experiences at Bible college while pointing out that "victory is not imitating the successes of others." Billy Morris is an avid Bible reader who recommends the same for anybody who will listen to him. For those who follow his counsel, Morris smiled a guarantee, "The Bible will bring us through the crisis hour."

Newly appointed Foreign Missions Director Rolla Smith paid tribute to 3 missionary couples who have recently resigned after 57 years of combined service: Herbert Waids of Japan (16 years), Dan Merkh of France (15 years), Dan Cronks of India (26 years). Waid and Merkh will assume pastorates while Cronk continues in his third year of teaching missions at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee Δ



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PICTURE CAPTIONS

1. Mrs. Cleo Purcell, WNAC executive secretary, presides over the annual woman's convention.
2. Director Herman Hersey, left, discusses the program of the Department of Retirement and Insurance with a potential insurance participant.
3. Billy Morris, Norfolk, Virginia, pastor, preaches the final convention message Thursday morning.
4. Alton Loveless, Ohio's promotional secretary, welcomes conventioners Monday night.
5. Charles Hampton, Nashville, Tennessee, serves as music director for the 1975 session.

12/CONTACT/Sept. '75

NYC REGISTERS HIGH ATTENDANCE

"Explosive" could probably be the one word used to describe the 1975 National Youth Conference. This is certainly true as far as the attendance was concerned, and NYC officials hope that the same reaction was gendered by the full and varied program planned during the 4-day event which ran simultaneously with the National Association. Registration jumped 47% over the previous year with 2,290 participants receiving badges in Dayton, Ohio. Last year's registration was 1,560. Jonathan Thigpen, NYC coordinator, stated that the 2,290 registrants represented 37 states and 2 foreign countries. Of that number 1,641 were full registrations while 649 were competitive passes.

This explosion of numbers was evident in the competitive activities and

the Music and Arts Festival where a total of 554 participants were judged, up from 324 entries last year. The Music and Arts Festival has tripled in participation since its beginning in 1973 with 118 entries recorded this year from 17 states. The highlight of the festival featured 10 youth choirs in a sing-off before a packed auditorium of 800. The Bible Memorization Program featured 26 participants, and the Sword Drill included 17 individuals. There were 17 Bible Tic Tac Toe teams and 15 Bible Bowl Teams competing.

CTS officials stated that one of the noticeable areas of increase was the Youth Banquet which attracted 1,250 teens and sponsors as opposed to 750 in 1974. Attendance at the Junior Adventurer Banquet increased to 165 surpassing last year's attendance of 125.

1975 NYC WINNERS

COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

BIBLE MEMORIZATION

Grade 1

1. Vance Stallings
Martin Hill Church/Booneville, Ms.
2. (Tie) John Johnson
Forestdale Church/Birmingham, Al.
Mike Burgess
First Church/Deerfield Beach, Fl.
Joseph O'Neal
First Church/Darlington, S.C.
3. Colette Clendenin
First Church/Johnston City, Il.

Grade 2

1. Crystal Dawn O'Neal
First Church/Darlington, S.C.
2. Sonya Barbour
Prospect Church/Dunn, N.C.
3. Lisa McCullar
Lewis Avenue Church/Tulsa, Ok.

Grade 3

1. Johnny Mathis
First Church/Scottsmore, Fl.
2. (Tie) Derek Ketner
Shady Grove Church/Durham, N.C.
Sharon McCombs
Ensley Church/Birmingham, Al.
3. Lora Robinson
First Church/Columbus, Ms.

SWORD DRILL

1. Jerry Don Spencer
Cavanaugh Church/Fort Smith, Ar.
2. Tim Presley
North Memphis Church/Memphis, Tn.
3. Shirley Ann Justice
North Church/Columbus, Oh.

BIBLE TIC TAC TOE

1. Russellville, Al./First Church
Randy Harmon, Mark Riggs,
Tina Randolph, Donna Borden
2. Norman, Ok./First Church
Terry VanWinkle, Marcus Pennington
LuAnn Lane, Beth Shivers
3. Dunn, N.C./Prospect Church
Janet King, Terry Avery,
Timmy Tart

BIBLE BOWL

1. Nashville, Tn./Donelson Church
James Forlines, Paul Harrison
2. Charleston, S.C./First Church
Joni White, Dale Rease
3. Miami, Fl./First Church
Lisa Helton, Darla Buck

*NOTE: To be declared a winner in the Music and Arts Festival the participant must receive the highest one rating within his category.

MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

VOCAL SOLO

Adventurer

Winner/Jeff Wilson
Central Church/Royal Oak, Mi.
1st runner-up/Ginger Boshell
Townley Church/Townley, Al.
2nd runner-up/Barry Stevenson
Sherwood Forest Church/New Bern, N.C.

Herald

Winner/Pam Peters
Greenbrier Church/Adair, Ok.
1st runner-up/Scott Singletary
First Church/Timmonsville, S.C.
2nd runner-up/Craig Hall
Central Church/Royal Oak, Mi.

Crusader

Winner/Kristi Farmer
Peace Church/Wilson, N.C.
1st runner-up/Steve Riggs
Central Church/Royal Oak, Mi.
2nd runner-up/Sherry Curtis
Pleasant Grove Church/Hartville, Mo.

Ambassador

Winner/Geri Ross
Spencer Rd. Church/Oklahoma City, Ok.
1st runner-up/Thurman Lucas
Peace Church/Wilson, N.C.
2nd runner-up (Tie)/Ann Horton
Fellowship Church/Bryan, Tx.
Mike Magdalena
Central Church/Royal Oak, Mi.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Winner/Central Echoes
Central Church/Royal Oak, Mi.
1st runner-up/Immanuel Trio
Immanuel Church/Durham, N.C.
2nd runner-up (Tie)/West Tulsa Girls' Trio
West Tulsa Church/Tulsa, Ok.
Fellowship Trio
Fellowship Church/Nashville, Tn.
Mascoutah Mixed Ensemble
Mascoutah Church/Mascoutah, Il.

YOUTH CHOIRS

Winner/Maranatha Choir
Central Church/Royal Oak, Mi.
1st runner-up/Bethany Youth Choir
Bethany Church/Norfolk, Va.
2nd runner-up/Peace Crusaders
Peace Church/Wilson, N.C.

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

Adventurer

Winner/David Reynolds
First Church/Joplin, Mo.
1st runner-up/Duane Allen
First Church/Holdenville, Ok.

Herald

No Winner*
1st runner-up/Michael Beale
Mascoutah Church/Mascoutah, Il.
2nd runner-up/Robin Brooks
First Church/Winter Haven, Fl.

Crusader

Winner/Bryan Edwards
First Church/Beaufort, N.C.
1st runner-up/Jonathan Cude
First Church/Walnut Ridge, Ar.
2nd runner-up/James Dunbar
Bethany Church/Norfolk, Va.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

Winner/Ruth and Rebecca Worthington
Donelson Church/Nashville, Tn.

KEYBOARD SOLO

Adventurer

Winner/Rebecca Wilson
Bethany Church/Tulsa, Ok.
1st runner-up/Rhenelle Butler
First Church/Slocum, Al.
2nd runner-up/Debbie Gardner
First Church/Columbus, Ms.

Herald

Winner (Tie)/Lois Edgar
Randall Memorial Church/Memphis, Tn.
Karen Howell
Sherwood Forest Church/New Bern, N.C.
1st runner-up/Larry Price
First Church/Norman, Ok.
2nd runner-up/Janice Hageman
Central Church/Royal Oak, Mi.

Crusader

Winner/Arletta Watkins
Randall Memorial Church/Memphis, Tn.
1st runner-up/Tinker Brake
Beulah Church/Pensacola, Fl.
2nd runner-up (Tie)/Robin Ray
West Tulsa Church/Tulsa, Ok.
Keith Fletcher
First Church/Johnston City, Il.

Ambassador

Winner/Steven Long
First Church/Douglas, Ga.
1st runner-up/Pam Strickland
First Church/Darlington, S.C.
2nd runner-up/Mike Turman
Straight St. Church/Norman, Ok.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Adventurer

Winner/Keith Grubbs
Ruth's Chapel Church/New Bern, N.C.
1st runner-up/Suzanne Followwill
Capitol Hill Church/Oklahoma City, Ok.
2nd runner-up/Susan Freeman
First Church/Darlington, S.C.

Herald

Winner/Ruth Postlewaite
Hindman Park Church/Little Rock, Ar.
1st runner-up/Beth Lee
First Church/Florence, S.C.
2nd runner-up/Kay Dunn
Ruth's Chapel Church/New Bern, N.C.

Crusader

Winner/Philip Johnson
East Nashville Church/Nashville, Tn.
1st runner-up/Diana Latshaw
Central Church/Royal Oak, Mi.
2nd runner-up/Bobbye Jones
First Church/Darlington, S.C.

Ambassador

Winner (Tie)/Rhonda Spivey
Ruth's Chapel Church/New Bern, N.C.
Sandra Wiggins
Beulah Church/Pensacola, Fl.
1st runner-up/Pam Strickland
Lancaster Church/Lancaster, S.C.

CREATIVE ARTS

Adventurer

Winner/Jim Clenney
Colquitt Church/Colquitt, Ga.
1st runner-up/Jeff York
First Church/Winter Haven, Fl.
2nd runner-up/Wade Pursell
Eastside Church/Muldrow, Ok.

Herald

Winner/Kim Watkins
Randall Memorial Church/Memphis, Tn.
1st runner-up/Becky Jones
Southeast Church/Tulsa, Ok.

Crusader

Winner/Wesley Harmon
Church not available/Mississippi
1st runner-up/Gary Cantrell
First Church/Dayton, Ohio
2nd runner-up/Kristi Shrum
First Church/Granite City, Il.

Ambassador

Winner/Leta Welch
First Church/Mountain Grove, Mo.
1st runner-up/Bonnie Novak
First Church/Columbus, Ms.
2nd runner-up/Robin Vance
First Church/Walnut Ridge, Ar.

CREATIVE WRITING

Crusaders

Winner/Randy Dockens
Christian Home Church/McDavid, Fl.
1st runner-up/Randy Wilson
First Church/Pryor, Ok.
2nd runner-up/Crusader Group
First Church/Melbourne, Fl.

△

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CAMPAIGN PLANS ADVANCE

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Stressing the importance of getting involved in God's work now while there is still time, the theme, "Count On Me, Lord," expresses the aim of the 1975 Sunday School Fall Enlargement Campaign. This campaign is of special value to the church which wants to invoke personal commitments to Christ's work from the entire Sunday school staff and enrollment. Through these commitments the Sunday school campaign seeks to arouse an increased concern for the great harvest of souls who need to be reached for Christ.

October 5 is kick-off Sunday with the contest continuing through Sunday, October 26, 1975. In each division the Sunday schools which earn the greatest percentage gains over the 13 weeks average attendance for March-April-May, 1975, will be declared first and second place winners and

awarded appropriate plaques. Entry blanks and orders for enlargement materials of at least \$10.00 must be received by the Sunday School Department no later than October 3, 1975.

The present size of the Sunday school does not prevent it from being eligible to win in the appropriate division. For competitive purposes Sunday schools are separated into the following categories.

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

MISSOURI CONGREGATION WORSHIPS IN NEW SANCTUARY

CABOOL, MO. — Members of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Cabool, Missouri, are now worshipping in a new 240-seat auditorium. Completed in the Spring of 1975, the auditorium is part of the 2-story sanctuary and educational plant built to replace the former inadequate facilities.

Besides the auditorium, the new building also includes a pastor's study, church office, nursery, 12 classrooms, fellowship hall, kitchen and rest rooms. The total property value is estimated at \$80,000.00. Under the leadership of Pastor Max Courtney the church has averaged over 100 in attendance since moving to the new unit.

The First Church was organized in 1947 by the Union Association. It later transferred its membership to the Mission Association. The church supports all phases of the denominational work.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

OCTOBER 5 DESIGNATED COMMITMENT DAY FOR OPERATION PARTNERSHIP

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Free Will Baptist church leaders are urged to help erase the indebtedness on the National Office Building by designating October 5 as Commitment Day on behalf of Operation Partnership.

Campaign Director J. D. O'Donnell stated the purpose of Commitment Day will be for each church leader to challenge his congregation to give a \$100 gift either in cash or by pledges. This added effort to involve every Free Will Baptist church in the denomination is in addition to the work of the 300 members of Gideon's Army who are

seeking to enlist 10 people, Sunday school classes, auxiliaries or other groups to give \$50 cash gifts or pledge \$5.00 monthly for 10 month periods. The enthusiastic efforts of the Gideon's Army members have already realized \$19,585.25 as of July 31.

The target date for reaching Operation Partnership's \$150,000 goal is June 1, 1976. A special mortgage burning is planned for the national convention in Tulsa in July, 1976.

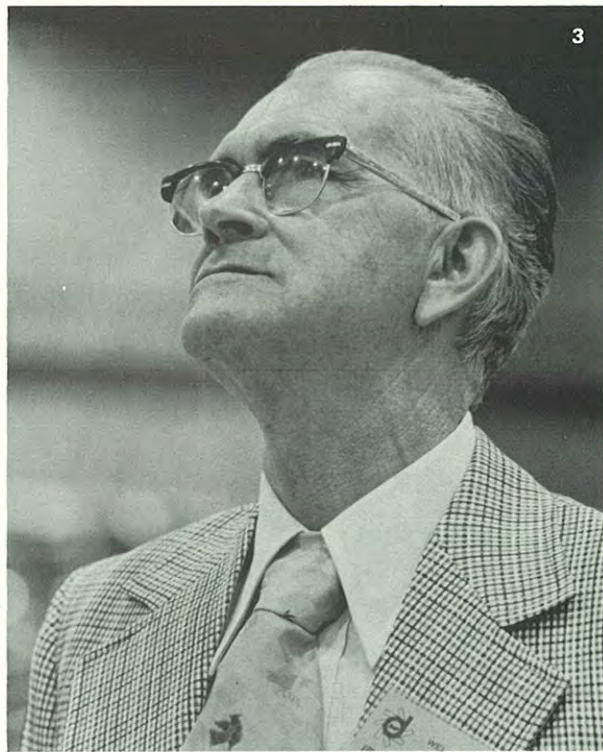
Clearance of the indebtedness on the National Office Building will not only result in saving a portion of interest

presently being paid to an insurance company, but will ultimately reduce the monthly rental rates of the various national departments housed in the National Office Building.

A local church may choose another Sunday in October to observe as Commitment Sunday should the October 5 date cause a conflict.

Operation Partnership materials are available by writing Dr. O'Donnell at P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS



PICTURE CAPTIONS

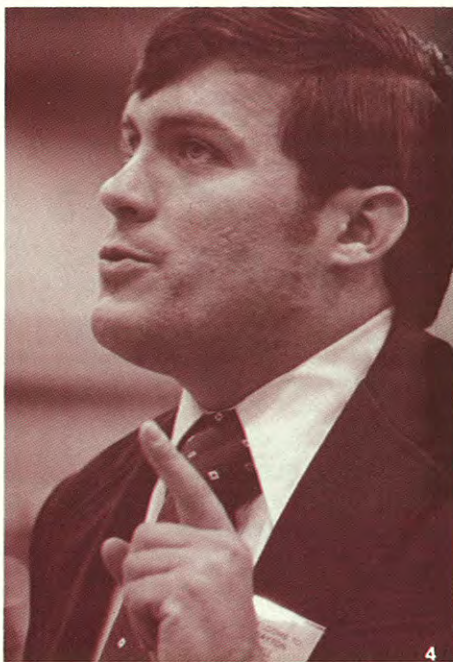
Cover:

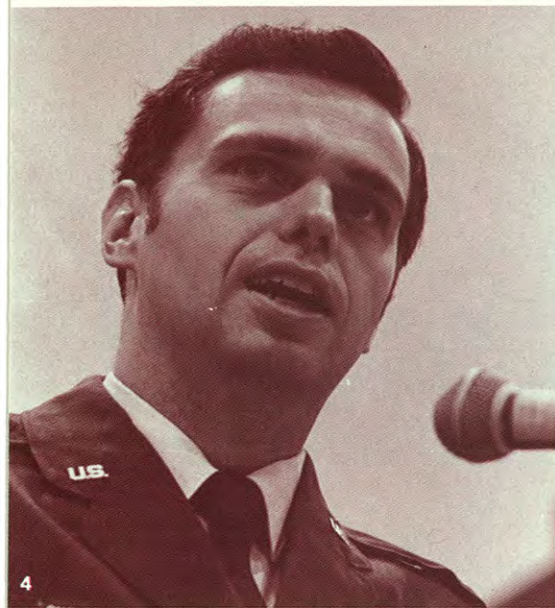
1. Outgoing Foreign Missions General Director Reford Wilson, right, is honored by Board Chairman Joe Ange with an appropriate plaque.

2. Jack Williams, Fresno, California, delivers the Tuesday evening message.

3. Pastor A. J. Lambert, Jasper, Alabama, seeks recognition from the chair during a business session.

4. Tony Sebastian and Kristi Farmer, Peace Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, North Carolina, follow the Scripture reading during an evening worship service.





PICTURE CAPTIONS

Page 2:

1. Beneath the convention theme banner, Moderator J. D. O'Donnell announces the committees of the convention.
2. CTS staff members Steve Davenport, left, and Quintin Smith assist conventioners at the department's booth.
3. Harry Beatty, Missouri's retiring promotional secretary, delivers a morning devotion.
4. Indiana pastor, Dan O'Donnell, New Castle, speaks from the floor during a business session.
5. Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey challenges the body for positive advances during the next decade.

**Convention Photos by:
Bert Tippett
Herbert Waid**

Page 3:

1. Dr. Robert Picirilli, Nashville, Tennessee, delivers the keynote address Monday evening.
2. Author Lehman Strauss, Pastor's Dinner speaker, chats with Pastors Melvin Worthington, left, Albany, Georgia, and Milton Worthington, Nashville, Tennessee.
3. Dr. Holland London, president of California Graduate School of Theology, Glendale, conducts a seminar for the Sunday School Department.
4. Air Force Chaplain Larry Cusick, Tuscon, Arizona, challenges the body during a morning devotion.
5. The winning Tic Tac Toe team from the First Free Will Baptist Church, Russellville, Alabama, pose with their sponsors Ed Kimbrough, left, and Freddie Beem.
6. Layman of the Year David Bryant, left, and runner-up, Bobby Hays, right, receive congratulations from Ken Lane, chairman of the Layman's Board.

FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE TO HOST NATIONAL PASTORS' CONFERENCE

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Sixteen pastors from 11 states will participate on the program of the National Free Will Baptist Pastors' Conference in Nashville, November 3-6, 1975. The conference, organized and sponsored by Free Will Baptist Bible College on its campus, will present one of the largest programs ever planned for the denomination's preachers.

Seminars on Pulpit Power, The Public Service, Promotion/Publicity, Church Outreach, and Current Issues will be conducted by experienced pastors. **Bill Gardner**, assistant pastor of the First FWB Church of Columbus, Mississippi, will add sparkle to the program by providing special music throughout the meeting.

MISSOURI PASTOR APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

NASHVILLE, TENN. — The Reverend Rolla D. Smith, pastor of Grant Avenue Free Will Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo., has been appointed general director for the Department of Foreign Missions. The Board of Foreign Missions made the appointment during the National Association Convention in Dayton, Ohio.



SMITH

Mr. Smith steps into the role of general director for his second time, having served for 2 years in 1960 and 1961. He served on the Board of Foreign Missions from 1952 until his appointment in 1960. He was reelected to the board in July of 1962 and served until this present reappointment as chief executive officer of the department.

Rolla and his wife Agnes have served in pastoral ministries in Missouri, Tennessee and Georgia since his call to preach in 1948. They have 2 married daughters: Linda, Mrs. Joe Dan Underwood, of Smithfield, N.C.; and Beth, Mrs. Vernon Whaley, of Albany, Ga.

The Smiths plan to move to Nashville in September to begin their new ministry.

Pastors' wives will not be neglected. Women of the college family have planned 2 programs that will deal with the attitudes of the pastor's wife and her stewardship responsibility. Time will be left for the women to shop and tour in Nashville.

Dr. John Rawlings, pastor of Landmark Baptist Temple in Cincinnati, Ohio, will be special guest speaker for the conference. Dr. Rawlings is president of Baptist Bible Fellowship International and served 20 years as vice-president of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. Under his leadership Landmark Baptist Temple has grown from an average attendance of under 1,000 to more than 4,000. He pioneered the church bus ministry, and Landmark Temple operates 90 buses in the greater Cincinnati area.

Other speakers for the conference will include **Jim Bowman**, bus director for Fairmount Park FWB Church in Norfolk, Virginia; **Dale Burden**, pastor of Fairmount Park; **Randy Cox**, pastor of First FWB Church in Raleigh, North Carolina; **Frank Davenport**, pastor of Faith FWB Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina; **Luther Gibson**, pastor of First FWB Church in Booneville, Mississippi; **Irvin Hyman**, pastor of Bethany FWB Church in Timmonsville, South Carolina; **Dave Joslin**, Arkansas State Promotional Secretary with offices in Conway, Arkansas; **Keith Kenemer**, lay evangelist and director of Sunday School Revivals out of Dalton, Georgia; **Tom Malone**, pastor of Florence FWB Church in Florence, Alabama; **Jim McAllister**, pastor of the First FWB Church in Farmington, Missouri; **Billy Morris**, pastor of Hyde Park FWB Church in Norfolk, Virginia; **Connie Cariker**, pastor of West Tulsa FWB Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma; **Guy Owens**, pastor of Liberty FWB Church in Durham, North Carolina; and **Leroy Welch**, assistant pastor of Central FWB Church in Royal Oak, Michigan.

The conference, including seminar notes, is offered to guests free of charge if they provide for their own meals and accommodations. A fee of \$15 will be charged for pastors who wish to eat and sleep on campus. Accommodations on campus will only be available for pastors who come alone. Those wishing family accommodations will have to secure off-campus housing.

"We are hoping that hundreds of our pastors will come to the conference from across our entire denomination," states Jack Paramore, director of development for the college. "We're doing our best to provide inexpensive accommodations for those who will notify us, and we have built a program tailored to meet the needs of the typical pastor. We believe this will be the greatest time of inspiration and challenge ever afforded our people. Friends are urged to help us pray for God's blessings to fall on this conference."

Pastors who want to attend the National Free Will Baptist Pastors' Conference should notify the Bible College of their plans. Accommodations can be reserved on campus by writing: Free Will Baptist Bible College / 3606 West End Avenue / Box 50117 / Nashville, Tennessee 37205.

Voting in Dayton '75

The following members were elected during the 39th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1977 Wingate Hansley (FL)
1977 Lester Horton (MD)
1977 Wallace Malone (IL)

FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

1978 Dan Cronk (TN)

HOME MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION BOARD

1981 Trymon Messer (KS)
1981 Don Pegram (VA)
1981 Jim Williams (TX)

LAYMAN'S BOARD

1977 James Vallance (WV)
1979 Don Elkins (AR)
1981 Kenneth Lane (OK)
1981 Wayne Spruill (TN)
1981 Doyle Terry (KS)

RETIREMENT AND INSURANCE BOARD

1981 Francis Boyle (OK)
1981 Bill Evans (MO)
1981 Ernest Harrison, Sr. (OK)

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

1981 Dale Burden (VA)
1981 Alton Lovelless (OH)
1981 Jack Williams (CA)

THEOLOGICAL LIBERALISM

1980 Bill Jones (OK)



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

COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT
July 1975

RECEIPTS:

State	July '75		July '74	Yr. to Date
	Co-op	Design.		
Alabama	\$...	\$...	\$...	\$ 1,215.94
Arizona	...	...	...	800.07
Arkansas	1,103.97	...	1,054.85	9,736.58
California	669.10	...	514.32	4,108.88
Florida	1,031.48	...	790.26	6,621.44
Georgia	...	...	250.12	750.03
Idaho	...	...	60.71	387.18
Illinois	2,707.01	...	2,108.23	9,437.76
Indiana	...	...	...	460.35
Kansas	170.60	...	335.87	1,384.16
Kentucky	...	...	...	88.80
Maryland	59.66	(59.66)	35.00	284.66
Michigan	...	...	...	137.80
Minnesota	...	...	23.60	...
Mississippi	120.92	...	127.80	666.52
Missouri	2,890.50	(2,890.50)	4,130.86	21,207.12
New Mexico	...	...	...	86.36
North Carolina	125.00	(50.00)	146.00	650.61
Northwest Assoc.	34.76	...	...	314.98
Ohio	412.77	...	1,808.16	6,110.60
Oklahoma	5,368.79	(5,184.23)	4,188.35	34,985.03
Tennessee	218.37	...	167.60	2,609.15
Texas	25.00	...	331.80	1,034.74
Virginia	31.44	...	39.38	245.75
Wyoming	...	...	25.00	...
Totals	\$14,969.37		\$16,137.91	\$103,324.51

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 5,828.56	\$(1,054.58)	\$ 5,523.96	\$40,517.84
Foreign Missions	3,067.11	(2,554.70)	3,731.48	21,437.95
Bible College	1,902.82	(1,379.13)	2,213.29	13,369.26
Home Missions	1,723.46	(1,351.81)	2,252.53	12,081.35
Church Training Ser.	979.33	(717.92)	1,149.43	6,658.08
Retirement & Ins.	809.55	(548.14)	819.13	5,467.24
Layman's Board	346.21	(275.83)	354.18	2,288.66
Commission on Theo- logical Liberalism	87.33	(77.28)	93.91	542.97
Miscellaneous	225.00	(225.00)	...	961.16
Totals	\$14,969.37		\$16,137.91	\$103,324.51

newsfront

(continued)

**HILLSDALE ADMINISTRATION
NAMES 3 NEW
FACULTY MEMBERS**

MOORE, OKLA. — Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College announces 3 new full-time employees will be joining the faculty for the 1975-76 school year. Rev. Edwin Wade will be serving as acting academic dean; Rev. J. Reford Wilson, as missions professor; and Rev. Thomas L. Marberry, as Greek, church history and Bible instructor.

Edwin Wade, who will also be teaching pastoral counseling and Bible this year, has pastored in Washington and, for the last 8 years, in Garden Grove, California. The Missouri native received his B.A. from Azusa Pacific College with a major in psychology in 1973 and his M.A. in religion in 1975. He has taught in the Southern California Extension School of California Christian College.

After 13½ years as director of the Foreign Missions Department of the National Association, J. Reford Wilson comes to Hillsdale to share the knowledge he has gleaned from his experience and travels around the world for missions. Mr. Wilson, who attended Free Will Baptist Bible College and University of Tennessee in Nashville, Tennessee, received his B.A. in missions in 1974 from California Christian College, Fresno. In 1975 Baptist Christian University, Shreveport, Louisiana, awarded him an honorary doctor of divinity degree.

Currently working on a Ph.D. in religion at Baylor University, Thomas Marberry has received a B.A. in religion from Baylor University in 1971 and a master of divinity in 1973 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Oklahoma Bible College (now Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College) alumnus has pastored the United Free Will Baptist Church, Bryan, Texas, for the past 2½ years.

Hillsdale's fall semester began August 18. The First Oklahoma Associational Revival, annually hosted on the campus each evening of the first week of the new college year, acquainted students with area pastors who shared in the speaking responsibilities.

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.

PASTORAL CHANGES

ARKANSAS

Rue Dell Smith to Booneville Church, Booneville from Purcell Church, Purcell, Oklahoma

Alvie Richmond to First Church, Mtn. Home

Garland Davidson to First Church, Glenwood from Felker Church, Valliant, Oklahoma

Thomas Johnson to Free Will Baptist Mission, DeQueen from Friendship Church, Wilmington, North Carolina

GEORGIA

Herbert Waid to Corinth Church, Brookfield from foreign mission service in Japan

Don Reed to Mt. Olive Church, Reynolds

MISSOURI

Roger Harwell to Berkley Church, Berkley from First Church, Lebanon

Max Courtney to New Life Church, Licking from First Church, Cabool

NORTH CAROLINA

Larry Gill to Friendship Church, Wilmington from bus minister, Liberty Church, Durham

OKLAHOMA

Ronald Carner to Purcell Church, Purcell

VIRGINIA

Dan Merkh to First Church, Richmond from foreign mission service in France

OTHER PERSONNEL

ALABAMA

Walter Bell to principalship of Moody Christian Academy, Fairview Church, Leeds

DAYTON '75

**FOR YOUR LISTENING ENJOYMENT:
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
ON CASSETTE TAPES**

Single Tapes — \$3.00 Six Tapes — \$16.50 Twelve Tapes — \$30.00

SELECT THE TAPES YOU WISH TO ORDER BY CIRCLING THE NUMBER AND PLACING THE QUANTITY DESIRED IN THE APPROPRIATE BOXES:

Tape Number	Subject	Quantity
EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS		
1.	"Sunday School — God Needs Us Everyone" — Dr. Holland London	()
2.	"Plain Truth about Herbert W. Armstrong" — Jack Williams	()
3.	"Easy Believism" — Leroy Forlines	()
4.	"Stabilizing a Bus Ministry" — Richard Kennedy	()
5.	"Missions Education in the Local Church" — Jim Walker	()
6.	"Who Needs Children's Church?" — Don Pegram	()
7.	"How to Build a Soul-Winning Church" — Leon Kilbreth	()
8.	"Equipping the Pastor to Preach" — Lehman Strauss	()
9.	"Christian Day Schools: Their Program and Their Future" — Al Janney	()
10.	"Preaching to Preachers" — Willard Wilcox	()
11.	"Choral Conducting" — Dr. Loren R. Williams	()
NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE		
12.	"How to Organize and Develop a Youth Choir" — Rodney Whaley	()
13.	"How to Develop an Oral Communication Entry" — Mrs. Laura J. Thigpen	()
14.	"How to Develop Winning Bible Tic Tac Toe and Bible Bowl Teams" — Edward O'Neal	()
15.	"How to Develop Youth Outreach Ministries" — Jonathan N. Thigpen	()
16.	NYC Keynote Service — Ted Wilbanks	()
17.	"Workshop On Witnessing" — Robert Shockey & Home Missions Staff	()
18.	Teen Town — The Sounds of Peace; The Way Quartet	()
19.	Youth Banquet	()
20.	Dayton <i>Dunamus</i> '75	()
21.	Junior Adventurer Banquet	()
SPECIAL EVENTS		
22.	WNAC Fellowship Dinner: "Christian Family in Today's World" — Fred Renich	()
23.	Music Ministries Breakfast: "Calling of a Music Director" — Melvin Worthington	()
24.	Pastor's Dinner: "The Biblical Role of the Pastor" — Lehman Strauss	()
25.	Layman's Breakfast: "I Must Be a Maximum Christian" — Leon Kilbreth	()
WORSHIP SERVICES		
26.	Preservice Music	()
27.	Sunday Morning: "You Can If You Want To . . ." — Roy Rikard	()
28.	"The Missing Dimension" — Robert Picirilli	()
29.	WNAC Missionary Service — Bobby Aycock	()
30.	"Fitted For Action" — Jack Williams	()
31.	"Communicating Our Faith" — Bill Jones	()
32.	"A Victorious Warrior" — Billy Morris	()

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**SEPTEMBER
IS
NATIONAL CTS MONTH!**

Give your support

The National Association of Free Will Baptists - A DEMOCRACY OR HIERARCHY?



By Roger C. Reeds

I like the simple definition that is given to democracy in Webster's *New World Dictionary*. It is "government by the people, either directly or through elected representatives or the rule by

the ruled." On the other hand, a hierarchy is a "system of church government by priests or other clergy in graded ranks."

It is not my purpose to declare the National Association of Free Will Baptists a hierarchy. I do not believe that we are. However, there is a danger of our evolving to such a position. I want to point out some of the dangers as I see them.

The first danger is that of *apathy*. This has revealed itself in the few people who are present in the voting sessions of the National Association while it is in session for business. Attendance has grown during the past several years. It is estimated that as many as 4,000 people were present for some of the services during this past session of the National Association at Dayton, Ohio. There were a total of 251 registered lay delegates and a total of 712 ministers who are standing delegates. Yet the voting body during the business sessions averaged between 600-800. Most of the voting delegates were ministers. Where

were the lay delegates? Such apathy on the part of the laity can lead to an ecclesiastical hierarchy. I know of no better way to destroy a democracy than for the constituents to fail to exercise their privilege of voting in open elections and on items of business.

It is estimated that there are 2,340 churches in 39 states affiliated with the National Association. The constitution of the National Association provides for a broad representation. The constitution says:

Voting representation in the National Association, at any session, shall be by delegates from the various organizations which hold membership in the National Association according to the provisions of Article II, and upon the payment of the fees described in the by-laws. Delegates are of two kinds: standing delegates, who are the ordained ministers and missionaries in good standing with an affiliated organization, the officers of the National Association, and the

members of various boards, commissions, and committees of the National Association; and lay delegates who are elected representatives of the various organizations affiliated with the National Association, according to the provision of the by-laws.

Reference is made to the by-laws which provides for 5 lay delegates from each affiliated state association and 1 lay delegate from each local church. If these provisions of the Constitution and By-laws were adhered to, then the voting body could easily number 4000-5000. You can readily see that only 10% of the delegates that the Constitution and By-laws provide for are making decisions that grossly affect the remaining 90%. It is this kind of apathy that will destroy the democracy of our denomination. I fear the power structure of our denomination falling into the hands of a few, no matter who the few are, as much as I fear anything about our future.

The second danger that I fear is that of *sectionalism*. I don't believe that the National Association of Free Will Baptists should be controlled by any one group from any one section of our country. I cannot accept the mythical dividing line of the Mississippi River and the idea that one group of Free Will Baptists on one side of the river is better

than the group on the other side. In Christ there is no East nor West, and there should never be in our ranks either.

I heard a pastor remark recently, "I wish they wouldn't put so many of those fellows from California on boards. It costs too much to transport them to board meetings." I can appreciate this brother's desire to conserve money, but his philosophy is wrong. Californians are as vital a part of the National Association as Tennesseans. I contend that wherever Free Will Baptists are located, regardless of how sparse or plentiful they may be, that each one is a vital part of the National Association. No one should ever be denied the privilege of holding an elected office because he is from a remote area of our denomination.

Sectionalism could further be avoided by some constitutional changes. For a number of years I have advocated the idea that "no two men from any one state should serve on any one board." I even presented such an idea to the General Board in the form of a resolution several years ago. However, it was not adopted. We should have broad representation on all our boards. If we do not have this broad representation, then how can we be sure that we are carrying out the wishes of most of our people rather than a few? I can recall a time period of just a few years ago when

4 people from 1 state served on 1 of the 7 men boards of the National Association. Surely discretion would cause us to elect no more than 2 men from any 1 state. It is this kind of sectionalism that I believe should be avoided and can best be avoided by proper legislation.

The third danger that I fear that could lead us to an ecclesiastical hierarchy is that of *politics*. Are we assured of the fact that the men who fill the offices and the boards of the National Association are the best qualified for those positions? I think we would be less than honest unless we admitted that some men are placed on some boards whose previous history reveals little or no interest in the ministries of those boards. Some men are placed on some boards because of the previous problem of sectionalism that I mentioned. In other instances the person elected is highly popular though scarcely qualified. It is my conviction that it is dishonest to accept a position on any board unless you are qualified by experience and a keen interest in that board's ministry. One should never become a board member because it is a political plum that is to be plucked by a majority vote. Personally, I would like to see a stronger emphasis on the leadership of the Holy Spirit in our election process.

I am not ready to suggest a sweeping change in our electoral system. However, a more careful screening of all candidates for all boards and offices would be helpful. Therefore, I call for a strict adherence to the guidelines which the General Board devised in session at Macon, Georgia, for use by all nominating committees henceforth. If fully utilized, this system would better inform the voting body about each candidate. Too often the body is in the dark about a nominee's qualifications. I believe an informed body will vote intelligently.

I write this article from an honest heart about a denomination that I love and serve. I want to do my part to preserve our democracy. I hope this article will make a contribution in that direction.

ABOUT THE WRITER: For 13 years Dr. Reeds has directed the operations of the Sunday School Department. He holds earned degrees from Free Will Baptist Bible College, Middle Tennessee State University and Luther Rice Seminary. ▲

GUIDELINES FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. A member chosen should have a general overall acquaintance with our people.
2. A person nominated should have some qualities of leadership and some skills and abilities related to the particular area of work for which he is being considered.
3. A prospective nominee should either be involved with or give evidence of supporting the particular phase of work before being considered as a board member.
4. The various sections of the denomination should be taken into account.
5. Inasmuch as possible, dual representations from any one state should be avoided.
6. Consideration should be given to qualified laymen.
7. Each nominee should be interviewed to fully ascertain his interest in and support of the ministry for which he is being considered.
8. A brief description of why a person is nominated for a particular board should be written giving his qualifications and credentials for the position.

Approved by the General Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists in session July 9, 1973, at Macon, Georgia.

The Purpose of Preaching: Making God Relevant

By Larry Hampton

"God, be relevant to me a Christian!" These words penned several years ago by a conscientious believer resound a ringing indictment of how many local churches fail. Frankly, God is irrelevant to many Christians. Regrettably, the church is frequently at fault in such predicaments.

Someone may protest, "The Old, Old Story is ever new and fresh. In a word, it is *relevant*;" and Free Will Baptists preach the Word!" A dilemma exists. How can men preach irrelevant messages based on the relevant Word of God? Dr. Clyde M. Narramore, a Christian psychologist, warns that most church members are bored by dead theology. On a more optimistic note he adds that people cannot get enough of theology that is life-centered — relevant.

May God deliver us from the snare of men who preach because it is Sunday. Give us men who must preach because they have a message that will meet people's needs. Give us men who are willing to hang up their 3 point alliterative outlines to share living, vibrant truths which make God real.

Pastor, when you step from the pulpit at the end of a sermon, do your people know what you want them to do in response to your message? More important — do you know what you want them to do? Never make a plea for

workers unless you have a definite task in mind. The story is told of a pastor who preached urging each member of his congregation to serve the Lord. One of his members was deeply moved; he approached the pastor following the morning service. The concerned parishioner asked to be assigned a place of duty. Haplessly, the pastor said he would try to find something for the member to do.

Many a pastor has been troubled by members with one-day-a-week religion. Yet, the church can be the breeding ground for this plague of twentieth century Christendom. Parents hear angels stress being present for Sunday school and church Sunday morning. (Actually they hear pastors up in the air harping about who's absent!) There must be a premium for being present on Sunday morning for that is the only time youngsters are invited to ride the church's buses. According to Free Will Baptists' *The Scope of Christian Education* (January-February, 1974), Richard Adams, pastor of the East Side Free Will Baptist Church of Elizabethton, Tennessee, does not have this problem. His church's bus ministry brings in more riders Sunday evening than Sunday morning. The buses are also operated for the Wednesday evening prayer service.

Consider this typical case. The First Free Will Baptist Church is enjoying a testimony session. Let's listen in as one brother testifies. "I thank the Lord for saving my soul. Praise His name!" This gentleman was saved 20 years ago. Every opportunity he has had since then he has dutifully praised the Lord for saving his soul. Has nothing else happened to him in 2 decades of knowing Jesus Christ as Saviour?

Every Sunday for 20 years this imaginary church member has been exposed to one truth: "Jesus saves." (Have you ever thought about how many different texts can be used to preach that glorious fact?) This dear brother has heard a few textual sermons, fewer expository sermons and many, many topical ones. Who is responsible for this imbalance? Professor Leroy Forlines tells the ministerial students at Free Will Baptist Bible College that preaching is to be an aid to sanctification and challenges them to augment the knowledge their people have of the Bible. No congregation should be given a steady diet of one kind of sermon, especially when growth in the Word is needed.

Dr. John Mitchell of Multnomah School of the Bible has stated that he is alarmed, as he crisscrosses this country, by the lack of Bible exposition among ministers in the various denominations. There is a logical reason for the dearth of Bible teaching and preaching that besets contemporary Christianity. Expository preaching requires getting into the Word. That is work — hard work! Thus, exposition is carefully avoided lest the preacher's ignorance of the Bible be exposed!

Pastors are often concerned by a church member's absences from services. Could the member's failure to be regular in attendance have anything to do with his familiarity with the topics to be repeated: (1) those not present, (2) "Jesus saves"?

While never failing to clearly present the Gospel of salvation, the pastor or teacher ought not forget to "declare the whole counsel of God." After all, every word is profitable. But the profit can only be realized when the people get a balanced diet, freshly prepared, still hot from the coals of prayer and pertinent to their needs.

Warren W. Wiersbe, senior pastor of Moody Memorial Church, has presented a workable solution to the problem of making God relevant to Christians — enjoy God. "Yes, it is possible to enjoy God. The mind can be stirred by His truth, and the heart can be filled with His love. This is the answer to carnality and indifference in our local churches: not a weekly scolding from the pulpit, but a congregation so caught up in the glory of God that everything the world has to offer is cheap and dirty in comparison." △

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Hampton recently began a program of study at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, which will lead to a graduate degree in communication. The former California Christian College faculty member also holds degrees from Free Will Baptist Bible College and Covenant Seminary.



WHAT IS OPERATION PARTNERSHIP ?

By J. D. O'Donnell
Campaign Coordinator

Communication has always been a problem for Free Will Baptists. Getting a program before our people always takes time. This has been true of Operation Partnership. Delegates attending the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Dayton, Ohio, passed by the booth promoting Operation Partnership and quizzed those manning the booth about its purpose: "What is this Operation Partnership? Does Gideon's Army have Bibles to sell?"

The overall program to raise \$150,000 to pay off the indebtedness on the National Office Building in Nashville, Tennessee, is referred to as Operation Partnership. It is a partnership because the basic plan calls for 3,000 Free Will Baptists to pledge \$50 each to pay off this indebtedness. To pay off the indebtedness will relieve the various departments housed in this building from having to make monthly payments over the next 10 years to clear the debt.

Gideon's Army and Operation Partnership are very closely related. Gideon's Army is a group of over 300 men and women across the denomination who have each been challenged to raise \$500 or 10 pledges of \$50. These funds are to be applied toward the campaign goal. The Gideon's Army is represented in practically every district association in the denomination. Some members are raising their funds in a single church. Others are raising them within their district meetings. In some district meetings there are more than one Gideon's Army member, and they are cooperating to raise funds in that district.

A program to pay off the building was voted by the National Association in its meeting in Macon, Georgia. Operation Partnership was launched last



November. The goal of this plan is to have the funds raised and to have the indebtedness paid by the time the National Association meets in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in July of next year. This means that we have less than one year to go to achieve the goal.

Besides asking individuals to pledge \$50, we are also asking churches, Sunday school classes, CTS groups, woman's auxiliaries, district associations and other groups to make pledges. Individuals or groups who can give more than the basic figure of \$50 are urged to give more. Those who cannot give \$50 are urged to give what they can.

At the National Association in Dayton plans were announced to set aside one Sunday in October as Commitment Day, a specific time when church leaders would promote an offering for Operation Partnership. Pastors are being urged to receive an offering in their churches on October 5 or on another Sunday more convenient to them. Every pastor is asked to set a goal of at least \$100 from his church. If

our pastors will cooperate in this, their gifts plus the \$50 pledges that individuals and groups are making should help us reach our goal. Pastors will be contacted and materials will be mailed out to those who will cooperate in this Commitment Day.

Where the program of Operation Partnership has become known, the response has been good. Funds are coming in weekly at a good pace, but this must be increased to meet the goal. Many of the members of Gideon's Army have already raised their goal in cash and pledges. Others have plans made to raise theirs in the next few weeks or months. Promotion will continue to try to get every church involved in Operation Partnership.

The National Office Building belongs to and is the responsibility of all Free Will Baptists. To pay off this indebtedness will benefit each department housed in the building. A gift to Operation Partnership is one way of making a contribution to all of these departments. Those of us who are working in the campaign trust that dedicated Free Will Baptists are going to rise up and help us make this effort successful. Surely out of over 200,000 Free Will Baptists there are 3,000 who will either give \$50 or raise that amount or more in their churches or auxiliaries. How about you? Will you be a partner in this venture? If so, contact the member of Gideon's Army in your association; or write to Operation Partnership, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Let us know what you can do to make Operation Partnership a success. We're counting on you!

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VIEWPOINT

CONTACT
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Second-class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT CONVENTION '75

This has been the most outstanding blessing one could receive.
 — William Stewart/Columbus, Ohio

The fellowship is good, but it's too noisy and people go in and out too much.
 — Mrs. Jack Rollins/Birmingham, Ala.

There's too much activity, but it's a good time to renew old acquaintances."
 — Bob Wilson/Warren, Mich

It's been great. I can hardly wait to get back and reorganize my church."
 — Bobby D. Toler/Davin, W.Va.

I feel that more could have attended and that people should be less restless in the services. I enjoyed the Christian fellowship tremendously. — Chris Hailey/Anderson, Ind

Fantastic! I've really enjoyed it, especially Pic's message. — Maretta Jones/Warren, Mich.

I especially appreciate the seminars. They were a real blessing to me.
 — Jim Ward/Charlotte, Tenn.

Greatest conference I've ever attended!"
 — James Keller/Fort Smith, Ark.

To me, it was very spiritual and I enjoyed it very much.
 — Miss Paula Westbrook, Tulsa, Ok.

I think it's terrific, very informative, well done.
 — Mrs. Mary Kelton/Fresno, Calif.

I've really been inspired. We're planning to come back next year.
 — Mrs. Betty Rowes/Farmington, Mo.

I was thoroughly inspired by the layman's breakfast. — Mrs. Donna Terry/Wichita, Ks.

The concern for the will of the Lord, the cooperation and the fellowship have most impressed me.
 —Edward Cook/W. Palm Beach, Fla.

Very exciting! I enjoy seeing a lot of people we only get to see once a year.
 —Mrs. Janice Wilson/Warren, Mich.

I've been very impressed by the conduct of the young people and the smoothness of the way the entire conference was run.
 — Tim Rolen/Fresno, Calif.

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