

JUNE, 1976

contact

OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



**FANNING
THE FLAMES
OF FREEDOM**

**40th ANNUAL CONVENTION
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
JULY 11 - 15, 1976**

**OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
TULSA, OKLAHOMA**

TEN YEARS IN THE MINISTRY, all of which has been spent as pastor of Ohio's largest Free Will Baptist church, is only part of the record which Paul Thompson has set as the leader of the Welch Avenue congregation. "Paul Thompson is one of the most unique pastors I know," says the Rev. Roger Reeds, general director of the Sunday School Department. "He leads his people by staying in the background. His people love and respect him. They do not fear him. His type of leadership does not necessitate force." Mr. Thompson has served as a member of the Sunday School Board since 1973.



THE WELCH AVENUE STORY

By Mike Boggs

From an obscure storefront meeting place in south Columbus, the growth of Ohio's largest Free Will Baptist church is a thrilling story of faith, diligent teaching, hard work, lay involvement and the subsequent blessings of the Lord.

It was an inconspicuous gathering when 15 persons met in 1952. Although these people were deeply rooted in the traditions of their native states of Kentucky and West Virginia, today they have grown to a thriving and vibrant metropolitan church.

Welch Avenue Free Will Baptist Church is not only known in the city and state but throughout the denomination as a rapidly growing congregation with a balanced program of soul winning, teaching, training and sharing in a worldwide outreach for Christ. A program of this type was the goal of Pastor Paul Thompson when he assumed leadership 10 years ago. The effectiveness of the program is a credit to his ministry.

With a high attendance of 1,645 on Homecoming Day in October, 1975, the church celebrated 23 years of outreach. But more significant than the attendance record were the more than 100 adults and young people who gave their hearts to Christ that Sunday. These decisions are obvious indications of the Lord's blessings on this church. There are no quick, simple answers for these blessings, but they stem from the historical fact of God's working His plan through His people.

The first auditorium was built at the church's present location in 1954. As the church experienced steady numerical growth and expansion became a necessity, additional land was acquired. The auditorium and classroom space presently used by the church totals over 17,000 square feet.

The most rapid growth of the church in numbers and ministries has taken place in the last 5 years. Since 1971 the church has developed the following ministries: bus, children's church, outreach to the elderly, soul-winning visitation and Christian school. From only the pastor and secretary, the church payroll has increased to 18 individuals. The emphasis is not so much on the number of people serving with the church but in the fact that these are needed to adequately administer the church's programs of outreach and to serve the membership. The church now has over 550 active members with 250 families and averaged 738 in Sunday school attendance for the first quarter, 1976. However, the

attendance has exceeded 1,000 several Sundays this spring.

The reasons for these successes are more interesting and inspiring than even the statistics. The 4 pastors who have served with the church have taken a very personal approach in bringing God and His Word to the people. This is especially true of the present pastor of 10 years, Brother Thompson. Having first served the church as janitor prior to his call to the ministry, Mr. Thompson spent the first 5 years of his pastorship at Welch Avenue cultivating the faithful core of the church in the truths of God's Word in a practical and understanding way. He started the first Bible institute in the state and saturated the people with E.T.T.A. study courses. His goal was for every teacher to earn a certificate.

The second generation of children of the church grew up under this training. The pastor's faith in God's Word not returning to Him void was fulfilled through his patient efforts. Of the 18 people who make up the church staff, 6 of them are sons of preachers or deacons and were raised in the church. This is true of Tim Thompson who serves with his father as associate pastor and of each of the men who heads a specific ministry of the church as bus director, school principal, music director, day-care director, or Church Training Service director. All of these men are in their twenties. They have come not to work at a job or to fill a position, but to fulfill a burden and a calling that God has given them. Before

full-time employment each one either developed the ministry he now heads or helped create the need for that position. In other words, they were already doing their jobs before they were hired.

God has responded with His blessings to the church's active expression of faith. In 1973 the church started its elementary school with 24 students. Each year enrollment has more than doubled, and it now stands at 127 students with 7 teachers in grades kindergarten through 8. Mike Boggs is school principal and also the church's minister of education.

In 1973 the church's "bus service" became a bus ministry. Bob Pack, minister of visitation, has led in the development of the ministry to 14 routes bringing over 400 children and adults to services each week. A children's church with 16 individual services sharing God's saving Gospel with young lives has been a natural product of the bus ministry.

These 2 ministries proved to be very expensive. Even with the added financial outlay, the watchful supervision of Business Manager Ralph Neibarger has enabled the church to continue to obey God's commandment to bring them and teach them. God honored that faith and literally gave the church a two-story building with over 5,000 square feet of space located on one of the main routes of the city just 5 minutes from the present church. A man who owns a chain of pancake house restaurants felt convicted about owning property that housed a



Architect's Conception of New Church



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THE WELCH AVENUE STORY
(Continued from page 3)

nightclub; so he ousted the nightclub and gave the building to the church. It was remodeled for use by the junior department. With this building the church was able to start a day-care center in 1975. Within 12 months 54 children were being cared for by 4 workers. David Boggs directs the day-care ministry and serves as minister of youth at Welch Avenue.

In time this added facility was filled each Sunday, and there was no more available space for expansion. The workers did not let that stop them. They continued to invite and bring more people. The only choice was to go to split sessions. Each Sunday there are 2 Sunday schools and 2 worship services. People can come to church at one of 3 different times and still be in a worship service and a Sunday school.

To accommodate continued growth in all areas of the church, plans have been drawn to build a new auditorium, educational space and a bus garage on a recently acquired tract of 14 acres adjacent to the property given the church by the restaurant owner. God's blessings are evident in the purchase of this additional land as the location will afford the church a more advantageous outreach. Final construction plans indicate an ultimate seating capacity of 2,400 people. Initially 10 classrooms will be housed under and in the balcony area. Later 2 educational wings will be added to house the future high school. The total plant will have 44,000 square feet of floor space. Construction of the bus garage began in May. The auditorium is expected to be under

construction in summer, 1976.

Rapid growth such as Welch Avenue has experienced must be undergirded by a strong base of adults. The worship services are responsible for strength in this area. Services are conducted trusting the Holy Spirit to approve the worship and to bless the worshipers through a warm reception, heartfelt singing and pure Bible preaching. The desire of the leadership of the church is to provide a service where the ministry is to the total person. Some portions of the service are designed to speak to a person's intellect; other aspects, to one's emotion and will. With the Holy Spirit working through these avenues, the result is a "warm" service, where no one needs to be offended and everyone can leave with the comfort that comes from genuine worship. Ed pack, minister of music, coordinates the choir, 2 adult mixed quartets, an ensemble and a men's trio. Variety in different types of music provides something for everybody.

Another strengthening factor to the church's adult base is an active soul winning and discipling ministry. The visitation program includes hospital visitation, tract ministry, door-to-door survey, Sunday school and bus visitation. Thousands of homes have been visited with hundreds of people being saved as a result. Every convert is strongly urged to walk the church aisle and make a public profession of faith, be baptized and enroll in the pastor's new converts' class. In the 9 years the new converts' class has existed, the church has yet to see a person who completed the course cease to be faithful to the church and its ministries. Effort is made to enlist these new converts into active service in the church. New converts cannot immediately become teachers, but they can visit, work in the bus ministry, help another teacher, or work in other areas

"In the 9 years the new converts' class has existed, the church has yet to see a person who completed the course cease to be faithful to the church and its ministries."

suitable to their spiritual maturity. Effort is made to get a new convert to actively witness to others what Christ has done for him.

The continuous efforts of those in leadership at Welch Avenue to make disciples of new converts is greatly responsible for the large response of participants in the recently staged "Here's Life, Columbus" endeavor. Over 200 from the Welch Avenue congregation completed a training program sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ that required attendance Thursday and Friday nights and for 12 hours on Saturday. An extensive \$80,000 city-wide media campaign was used to saturate Columbus with the Good News of the Gospel through newspapers, billboards, radio, television, bumper stickers and lapel buttons. The message of the first week was "I found it." For the next 3 weeks these medias carried personal testimonies of those finding Christ as Savior, always giving a number to call for further information. The calls were referred to participating churches. Then trained workers from that church were sent to make home visits in an effort to lead the inquirers to Christ. At Welch Avenue Church a bank of 20 telephones was installed to handle calls and to use in contacting every home in the section assigned as the responsibility of the congregation.

In an analysis of church growth there are some factors that are considered by others to be important and necessary to a successful endeavor, but these have not been strong determining factors in the Welch Avenue Church. For example, the continued growth cannot be attributed to human intellect. When rapid growth started, there was not one college graduate in the church. Ideal location was not a factor. The church is in an "inner city" location. Financial wealth was not the source of strength. The core of the membership has always been those of moderate means. The sole source of strength has been God, who always chooses to use Christians committed to earnest prayer and strict obedience to His Word.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Boggs serves as principal of the elementary school sponsored by Welch Avenue Free Will Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio. The Ohio State University graduate is a member of the Church Training Service Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Δ



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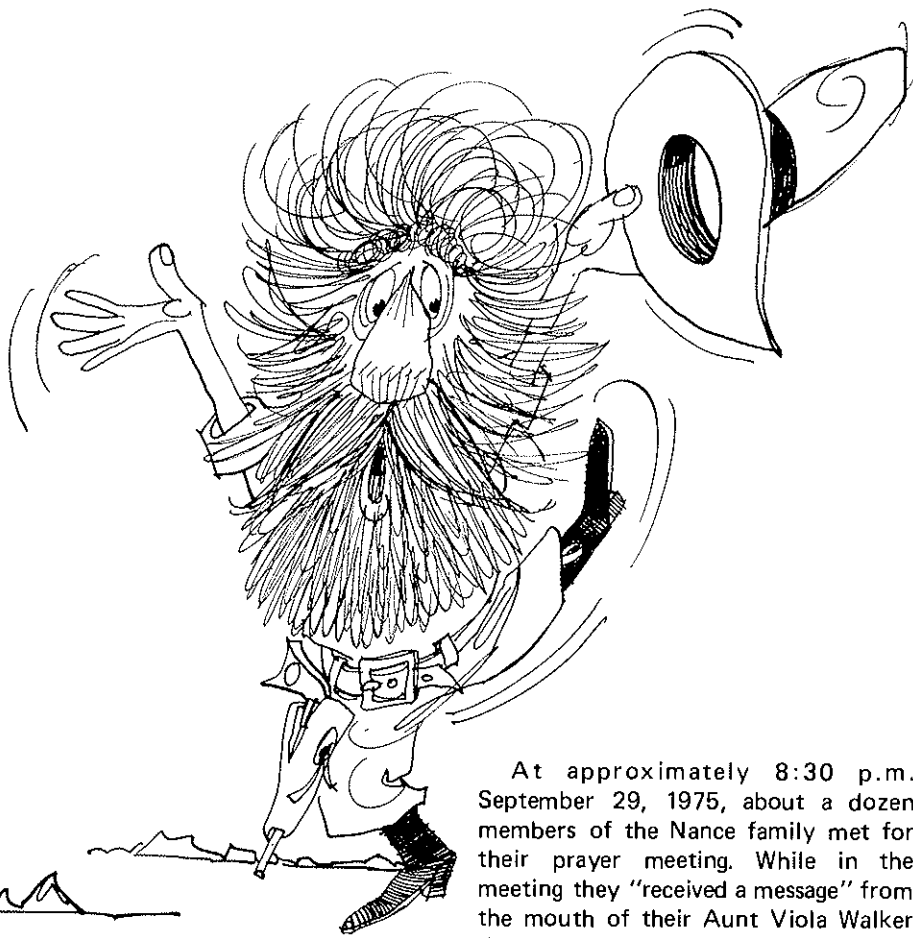
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Christians Are Not Hermits!

By George Lee

Years ago I recall a popular gospel song entitled, "No Man Is An Island." The essence of the song is that Christians ought not isolate themselves but should let their light shine in order to assist others and give directions to lives that are groping in darkness. Should believers in Christ withdraw from society and wait for His return? We think not. We believe in the return of the Lord for His church, and we pray not, "Wait A Little Longer, Please Jesus." We pray with John, the beloved disciple, "Even so, Lord Jesus, come!" Christians ought to be actively involved in trying to win the lost and not to be retreating beyond a cloistered veil of anonymity.

At approximately 8:30 p.m. September 29, 1975, about a dozen members of the Nance family met for their prayer meeting. While in the meeting they "received a message" from the mouth of their Aunt Viola Walker that was to change their lives and manner of living. They had received similar messages which they thought "came from God." The message revealed to them that the "end of the world" was imminent and that they should remain in their house. Since that time they have remained as a unit in that house waiting for the end of the world and for Jesus to come.

According to various news releases they quit going to work since the "direct command of God to stay in the house overrode the biblical command to be industrious." They quit paying their bills. They reasoned that worldly possessions are of no account in a world that is about to face the judgment of Almighty God. Through default of payments they have lost automobiles, trucks and houses that they were buying. More recently, because of nonpayment FHA officials have taken steps to remove the clan from the house where they have been congregating since their decision to remain indoors.

They have ceased sending their children to school. They reason, "What good is schooling in an earthly system when the kingdom of God is at hand?" However, a county judge did require the replacement of 6 school-age children back into public school as required by law. One member of the clan has lost

custody of a 14-year-old daughter because the mother would not promise to reinstate the child in school.

All of this is taking place in Grannis, Arkansas, a small village, population of about 170, located near the southwestern border of the state.

The Nance family reports that the "message" they received on September 29 was not the first one they were given, and the family is particularly pleased with John Nance's gift of prophecy. They do not leave the house except for instances when John occasionally gets a "message" that tells him it is alright to go and do such things as fix the water pump when it freezes up. Over coffee and cigarettes they talk about the Bible and wonder about the future. They conduct prayer meetings, sometimes several times a week and often more frequently. They sleep on beds, couches and sometimes the floor. They say they have given up sexual activity.

Their prayer meetings take on the resemblance of Pentecostalism. They sway, rocking gently to "Amazing Grace." Simultaneously their words burst into a "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Love you Jesus, holy Jesus, praise your name. Oh, Jesus, Sweet Jesus, Oh, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus."

When John was asked why he had the "gifts" while others did not possess them, he replied, "Look at the business world. Some people prosper there more than others do, and some prosper more in the spiritual world." They had been told that the Lord was coming very soon, but something happened to make them think it was imminent.

Outsiders in the area have been quite stirred by all the commotion caused with the series of interesting events. Many have started reading their once forgotten Bibles and are asking themselves whether this could all possibly be true.

Our concern is not whether these people are sincere in what they are doing or whether the Lord is coming. We know that Jesus is to return. There are literally dozens of Scripture portions that point resolutely to His imminent return. We are looking for Him at any time (John 14:1-3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 22:17-20). However, many have been embarrassed by setting dates or predicting the dates of His return.

This is a free country. People can do

whatever they wish as long as the rights of others are not denied. Nevertheless, how can one reconcile the breaking of moral and legal laws? When agreements are signed setting forth contracts such as the paying of automobile installments, house mortgages, etc. and are broken, that is sin! The word of a Christian becomes an obligation to him.

A similar situation existed during the ministry of the Apostle Paul. The church at Thessalonica was so impressed with the soon return of the Lord that they sat down and refused to work. They evidently expected the church to supply their needs through its program of benevolence. When Paul sized up the situation, however, he rebuked the people for what they had done and said that if a man did not work he ought not to eat. This principle has not changed (II Thessalonians 3:8-11).

One can witness negatively or by what he does not do. But our witness for Jesus is also a positive one. A believer is recognized by the words that he speaks, the deeds he performs and the life that he lives. The age old question comes up: "Does the *end* justify the *means*?" In other words, are we ever right in breaking God's orders and does He set forth special messages to certain individuals over the centuries of time? We think not. We believe that

God has given us *all* one Book, and it is the Holy Word of God. Outside of it there are no "special revelations" to anyone. We all have the same opportunity to read it and to allow the Holy Spirit to interpret it to us.

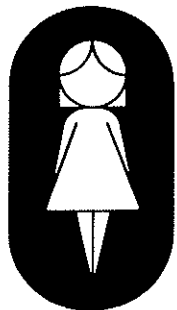
Will God contradict Himself? Can He give one message to one people and a different message to another? Obviously He cannot. While sensational headlines are being published all across the country about a family in seclusion awaiting the return of the Savior, millions of souls are unreached with the Gospel. What if we all went home, closed the doors and threw up our hands in despair? Who would carry the good news that Jesus saves? It may be sensational, but it will not reach many lost and dying souls for the Lord.

Therefore, we conclude that Christians ought not retreat from society but should remain and engage themselves to the fullest in the conflict *until* the Lord says it is enough. Christians ought to honor contractual agreements with finance firms and banks. It is immoral and exceedingly sinful for children of God to attempt to escape moral obligations whether personal or as a church body. If a local church signs an agreement in a bond program to give the first part of the offerings to meet the newly incurred

expenses of the congregation on a weekly basis, then they have no right to let a week pass without honoring that contract. Likewise, Christians are individually so obligated to honor the system of honesty whereby God regulates the affairs of our society.

Bible-believing Christians have always held to the imminent return of the Lord. The Nance clan has not unearthed some new and novel doctrine. We must preach it and declare it among all nations that Jesus Christ is to return. But can we do it from private walled rooms of secrecy and seclusion? We ought to concern ourselves with getting the Gospel out beyond the walls of the rooms we live in. We must meet the devil with a head-on offensive that will let him and all sinners know that our God is alive and that we are not some scared, anemic, shuddering, defeated foe. Yes, Jesus will return. We do not know when it will be; but if we understand our Bible rightly, His word to us for the twentieth century is, "Occupy until I come." So may it be. Christians are not hermits, and "no man is an island."

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Lee is pastor of Victory Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina. The Mississippi native is presently serving on the National Sunday School Board. Δ



OUR WOMEN SPEAK

What the Well-Dressed Free Will Baptist Woman Will Be Wearing

By Betty Plunkett

Tulsa, Oklahoma, will be the site of the social event of the Free Will Baptist season July 11-15. Since women from 40 different states will be attending, we know you will want to be aware of the latest fashion news. Let's consult a portion of our reliable fashion manual — Colossians 3:8-14.

First, you will notice that you should discard anything in your wardrobe left over from previous years. After all you used to walk in different circles and under a different fashion standard. Now

you will want to project the "new you" in your wardrobe. So, "put off" (that is, get not only "out of" but "away from") *anger* (including the idea of bitterness with the hope of getting even), *wrath* (flying off the handle), *malice* (ill will toward anyone with a desire to see him injured), *blasphemy* (slander, speech injurious to another's good name), *filthy communication* (foul or obscene speech), *lying* (including exaggeration and deceit — one of the hardest habits to put off!). All of these should be cast aside "seeing you have put off the old woman with her deeds" (verse 9).

Now that the old garments are out of the way, clothe yourself with the things that will project the image of the creator of the "new you." Put on *tender mercies* (having a compassionate spirit), *kindness* (a gentle, gracious disposition), *humbleness of mind* (modesty, realization of weakness and tendency to err), *meekness* (calm acceptance of God's dealings with us as being good and right), *longsuffering* (patience under ill treatment of others), *forbearing one another* (enduring, "putting up with" others), *forgiveness* (forgiving even without being asked).

Then put on over all these wonderful enhancing garments *love*, which is the "bond of perfectness." (That means it holds together all the others and makes them useful. Without it all the others are as "sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.")

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Plunkett is the wife of Rev. Lloyd Plunkett, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Seattle, Washington. Δ

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

40th Annual Convention / July 11-15, 1976
Assembly Center / Tulsa, Oklahoma

Theme: Fanning the Flames of Freedom

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Henry Van Kluyve
ORGANIST: Linda Daniels
PIANIST: Doug Little
NURSERY: Assembly Center — Rooms 3E,F,G
CONVENTION OFFICE: Assembly Center — Fourth Floor

SATURDAY AFTERNOON / July 10

1:00 REGISTRATION: National Youth Conference
Mayo Hotel: Ballroom foyer 16th Floor

SATURDAY NIGHT / July 10

8:00 Family Film Time: "My Son, My Son"
Devotional: Mal King
Mayo Hotel: Crystal Ballroom

SUNDAY MORNING / July 11

10:00 Sunday School
Primaries and Juniors: Betty Plunkett
Teens: Maureen Lee
Adults: Edwin Wade
Mayo Hotel: Emerald Room Pompeian Court Crystal Ballroom

10:45 Intermission

11:00 Morning Worship
Presiding: Clarence Burton
Special Music: Larry Gunnoe
Speaker: John West
Mayo Hotel: Crystal Ballroom

SUNDAY AFTERNOON / July 11

2:00 REGISTRATION: National Convention
(Delegates, Ministers and Visitors) and WNAC
Assembly Center: Ohoyohoma Room

2:00 Youth Competitive Activities
(See National Youth Program)
Mayo Hotel

SUNDAY EVENING / July 11

7:30 NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE
Keynote Speaker: Robert Shelton
Assembly Center: Arena

9:30 Youth Social Activities
(See National Youth Program)

MONDAY MORNING / July 12

7:30 Youth Competitive Activities (cont.)
(See National Youth Program)

8:00 WNAC Executive Committee Meeting
Mayo Hotel: English Room

8:00 GENERAL BOARD MEETING
Assembly Center: Rooms 4A,B,C

8:30 REGISTRATION: National Convention and WNAC (continued)
Assembly Center: Ohoyohoma Room

MONDAY AFTERNOON / July 12

1:00 REGISTRATION: National Convention and WNAC (continued)
Assembly Center: Ohoyohoma Room

1:00 WNAC State Presidents, Field Workers and Executive Committee
Mayo Hotel: French Room

1:00 Youth Competition and Other Activities
(See National Youth Program)

1:30 General Board Meeting Reconvenes
Assembly Center: Rooms 4A,B,C

1:45-2:45 EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

"Making Children's Church Effective"
Don Pegram
Assembly Center: Room 3A,B

"Biblical Principles of Church Music"
Bill Gardner
Assembly Center: Rooms 3A,B

"The Dynamics of a Christian Home"
Dr. LaVerne Miley
Central Library: Aaronson Aud.

3:00-4:00 EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

"Continuing Education Through Home Studies"
Thomas Marberry
Assembly Center: Room 4G

"Developing A Balanced Youth Program"
Leroy Welch

Assembly Center:
Rooms 4C,D

"Getting the Most From Personal Bible Study"
Milton Worthington

Central Library:
Aaronson Aud.

"What Is a Pastor's Wife To Do?"
Betty Hill

Assembly Center:
Rooms 4A,B

4:00 Music and Arts Festival
(See National Youth Program)

Mayo Hotel:
Crystal Ballroom

5:00 WNAC FELLOWSHIP DINNER
Speaker: Dr. LaVerne Miley

Assembly Center:
Assembly Hall



LIPSCOMB



HARRISON



RAYMOND

"Christian Education: The Total Task of The Church"
Harold Harrison

Assembly Center:
Rooms 4A-D

9:30 Youth Social Activities
(See National Youth Program)

MONDAY EVENING / July 12

7:00 CONVENTION ASSEMBLY

Assembly Center:
Arena

Anthology of American Hymns
Hillsdale College Choir

7:30 WORSHIP SERVICE

Theme: The Pillars of Christian Freedom
Presiding: Jack Paramore

Convention Singing
Prayer

Special Music: Free Will Baptist
Bible College Ensemble

7:40 Session Called to Order and Moderator
Introduced:
Waldo Young, Clerk

Report of Committee on Committees:
Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, Moderator

7:45 Welcome to Tulsa -- Mayor Robert LaFortune

7:50 Get Acquainted Time

8:00 Convention Offering

8:10 Special Music: Ted Wilbanks

8:15 Message: "The Foundation of Freedom"
Dr. Wade Jernigan

9:00 Session Recessed (Exhibit Area Open)

9:30-

10:30 EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

"Maintaining an Effective Missionary Program"
Dr. Norm Lewis

Assembly Center:
Assembly Hall

TUESDAY MORNING / July 13

7:00 FWB Music Ministries Breakfast
Speaker: Don Clark

Assembly Center:
East Annex Room

7:30 Music and Arts Festival (cont.)
(See National Youth Program)

Assembly Center:
Assembly Hall

8:30-
9:30 EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

"Why and How Sunday Schools Grow"
Clate Raymond

Assembly Center:
Assembly Hall

"Developing Church Activities For Older Adults"
Herman Hersey

Assembly Center:
Room 4G

"Act Or Lose Religious Freedom"
Wyatt W. Lipscomb

Assembly Center:
Rooms 4A-D

8:30 Registration Continues

9:00 WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION
Presiding: Clara Picirilli, President

Assembly Center:
Arena

9:50-
10:50 EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

"Maintaining an Effective Missionary Program"
Norm Lewis

Assembly Center:
Rooms 3A-D

"God's Ideal Deacon"
J. D. O'Donnell

Assembly Center:
Rooms 4A-D

"Developing a Dynamic Soul-Winning Church"
Dr. Max Helton

Assembly Center:
Assembly Hall

11:00 WNAC Missionary Service
Speaker: Joe Haas

Assembly Center:
Arena

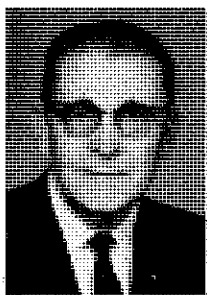
12:00 WNAC Recess

12:20 State Promotional Men's Luncheon
(By invitation)

Mayo Hotel:
French Room

TUESDAY AFTERNOON / July 13

1:00 Youth Competitive Finals
(See National Youth Program)



WEST



WORTHINGTON



HILL



TUESDAY AFTERNOON (cont.)

1:30 WNAC Reconvenes Assembly Center, Arena

1:45 Children's Activities (See National Youth Program)

1:45-2:45 EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

"The Pastor's Role in Church Administration" Dale Burden Central Library: Aaronson Aud.

"The Issue of Scriptural Separation" Leroy Forlines Assembly Center: Rooms 3A-D

"Building a Year-Round Stewardship Program" R. T. McCartney Assembly Center: Rooms 4A-D

3:00-4:00 EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

"The Second Man: Myth, Monster Or Ministry" Blaine Hughes Assembly Center: Rooms 4A-B

"Gifts of the Spirit in the Life of the Church" Dan Cronk Central Library: Aaronson Aud.

"Christian Education: The Total Task of the Church" Harrold Harrison Assembly Center: Rooms 4C-D

"Building a Year-Round Stewardship Program" R. T. McCartney Assembly Center: Room 4G

5:00 PASTORS' DINNER Topic: "Christian Citizenship" Speaker: Congressman John Conlan Assembly Center: Assembly Hall

5:00 Jr. Adventurers' Banquet (See National Youth Program) Mayo Hotel: Emerald Room

TUESDAY EVENING / July 13

7:00 CONVENTION ASSEMBLY Assembly Center: Arena
"I Love America"
Free Will Baptist Bible College Ensemble

7:30 WORSHIP SERVICE Theme: The Preservation of National Freedom Presiding: Dr. Ronald Winkle
Congregational Singing
Prayer
Special Music: Free Will Baptist Bible College Ensemble

7:45 Convention Offering

7:55 Recognition of "Gideon's Army"
Special Music: Denise Braswell

8:15 Message: "One Nation Under God"
Congressman John Conlan

9:00 Session Recessed (Exhibit area open)

9:00 Youth Social Activities (See National Youth Program)



PICIRILLI



CRONK



HELTON

9:30 EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

"Why and How Sunday Schools Grow" Clate Raymond Assembly Center: Assembly Hall

"Developing a Dynamic Soul-Winning Church" Max Helton Assembly Center: Room 4A

WEDNESDAY MORNING / July 14

7:00 Laymen's Breakfast Speaker: Steve Davis Assembly Center: Assembly Hall

8:30 CONVENTION PRAYER SERVICE Presiding: Reford Wilson Special Music: Free Will Baptist Bible College Quartet Assembly Center: Arena

9:00 CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSION Worship through Song Prayer Moderator's Message: J. D. O'Donnell

9:30 Report of Credentials Committee Seating of Delegates Partial Report of General Board Partial Report of Nominating Committee

9:35 REPORTS OF NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS (Board members elected at conclusion of each report)
Church Training Service: Dr. Malcolm Fry
Free Will Baptist Bible College: Dr. L. C. Johnson
Foreign Missions: Rolla Smith
Home Missions and Church Extension: Robert Shockey
Executive Office: Rufus Coffey

10:50 Recess

11:00 SPECIAL FEATURES Assembly Center: Arena
The Board of Retirement and Insurance Ministry
The National Sunday School Department Ministry

12:15 FWBBC Alumni Luncheon Assembly Center: Assembly Hall

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON / July 14

1:00 Youth Activities (See National Youth Program)

1:45 CONVENTION BUSINESS Resumes
Worship through Song
Devotions and Prayer: Wyman Straughan

2:00 NATIONAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS (Continued)
 Sunday School Board: Dr. Roger Reeds
 Laymen's Board: Loyd Olsan
 Board of Retirement and Insurance: Herman Hersey

2:45 General Board Report
 Business Session

3:45 Partial Report of Nominating Committee
 Election of General Board Members

4:00 Session Recessed

5:00 Youth Banquet
 Assembly Center:
 Assembly Hall

5:00 CONTACT Dinner
 Topic: "Gifts of the Spirit:
 A New Look at Christian Service"
 Speaker: Dr. Robert Picirilli
 Assembly Center:
 East Annex

WEDNESDAY EVENING / July 14

7:00 CONVENTION ASSEMBLY
 Assembly Center:
 Assembly Hall
 Special Music Program
 Hillsdale Choir

7:30 WORSHIP SERVICE
 Theme: The Proclamation of Spiritual Freedom
 Presiding: Tom Hampton
 Congregational Singing

7:40 Convention Offering
 Special Music Program: Hillsdale Choir

7:50 Introduction of Missionaries

8:00 Congregational Singing

8:05 Special Music: Blaine Hughes

8:10 Message: "Proclaiming Christ's Freedom"
 Robert Shockey

8:55 Missions Offering

9:00 Session Recessed (Exhibit Area Open)

9:30 NYC '76 Awards Presentation
 Assembly Center:
 Arena

THURSDAY MORNING / July 15

9:00 CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSION
 Assembly Center:
 Assembly Hall

Worship through Song
 Devotions and prayer: Ernest Winchester

9:15 WNAC Report
 Cleo Pursell, Executive Secretary

9:20 Historical Commission Report:
 Ronald Creech

9:25 Commission on Theological Liberalism:
 Leroy Forlines

9:30 Report of Committees
 Registration
 Budget
 Resolutions

10:30 Intermission

10:45 WORSHIP SERVICE

Theme: The Principles of Personal Freedom
 Presiding: Jack Rollins

Congregational Singing
 Prayer
 Special Music: Free Will Baptist
 Bible College Ensemble
 Offering
 Special Music: Jerry Pilgrim

10:55 Message: "The Liberated Christian"
 Winford Floyd

11:40 Concluding Session
 Selection of 1978 Convention Site
 Nominating Committee's Report and Election
 of General Officers

12:00 Adjournment

**IMPORTANT NOTE
 TO CONVENTIONEERS**

Bring the name and address of your hometown newspaper to this year's convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A special feature of the convention will be a prepared news release for each conventioneer to send to his hometown paper. News editors like to use stories of the townspeople prepared from news releases describing their whereabouts. We will provide you with a news release of your attendance at the Tulsa convention so you can mail the news story to your hometown editor.

LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____

is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will Baptists from _____

(Name of church)

_____ of _____, _____
 (District Association) (City) (State)

 Pastor Clerk or Secretary

IMPORTANT: This form properly signed and accompanied by a \$10 registration fee entitles a local church delegate to register for voting privileges.

Convention Theme

Embraces Freedom's Meaning and Responsibilities

In keeping with our nation's Bicentennial celebration, the overall objective of the program for the 1976 session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists is to remind our people of the meaning and responsibilities of freedom. Since

freedom can be lost, we must kindle anew the desire to keep the spirit of patriotism alive in order that our religious freedom may be preserved. Therefore, "Fanning the Flames of Freedom" was chosen as the theme for this 40th annual meeting.

Furthermore, the message of Christian freedom must be shared with those who are enslaved by the chains of sin. Our missionary mandate is one of liberating souls spiritually. However, the message of Christian liberation is not some cold, irrelevant or negative teaching. It is a positive and vibrant truth which encourages us to live for Christ consistently in a pagan society by conforming to scriptural standards rather than the mores and values of a particular culture.

Each of the men chosen to speak will seek to remind Christians anew of their spiritual freedoms as well as their patriotic responsibilities.



JERNIGAN



CONLAN



SHOCKEY



FLOYD

MONDAY EVENING

July 12, 7:30 p.m.

The Foundation of Freedom

Always with great zeal and enthusiasm, Wade T. Jernigan has served with his denomination since he was ordained a Gospel minister July 7, 1946, at the Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Bladenboro, North Carolina. Now serving as president of California Christian College, Dr. Jernigan began his ministry as pastor of the Hurricane Chapel Free Will Baptist Church at McEwen, Tennessee, in 1946 while he was still a student at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville. Since that time he has pastored 8 churches in Oklahoma, California, Idaho and Arkansas. He served from 1964 to 1967 as an extension worker and home missionary to Jerome, Idaho, under the National Home Missions Department. He is also responsible for helping to establish a total of 16 churches during his ministry.

Brother Jernigan grew up in the home of a Free Will Baptist preacher. Many who knew his father, the late Walter Jernigan of North Carolina, say that it was from him that Brother Wade acquired the determination to count in

the service of the Lord and for his denomination. He has prepared himself educationally not only at our denominational college, but also at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, the University of Oklahoma and Sacramento Baptist College and Seminary, where he was awarded both B.A. and M.A. degrees. In 1975 he received a Ph.D. degree from the Baptist Christian University in Sacramento. He also holds honorary doctorate degrees from Pacific Western College, Shreveport Bible College and Indiana Northern University. He is listed in the current edition of *Who's Who in Fresno* and is a recipient of Fresno's Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans Award, 1975-76. He authored *The Unsealed Book*, which is an examination of the Book of Revelation from the amillennial standpoint. It was published in 1975 by Randall House.

Brother Jernigan and his wife, the former Nettie Lou Blair, are members of the Memorial Free Will Baptist Church in Fresno. They have 5 daughters, 4 of whom are married. Sons-in-law Tom Hampton and Bob Thomas are California pastors.

TUESDAY EVENING

July 13, 7:30 p.m.

"One Nation Under God"

Congressman John Conlan of Arizona has established himself as an outspoken defender of individual freedom, the free enterprise system and other basic principles upon which America was built. But what most characterizes him as a distinguished leader in government is his commitment to Jesus Christ as his own Savior and as the hope of America and the world.

Achievement, adventure and fame were all basic to John Conlan's life long before he became a Christian. His father is the famous "Jocko" Conlan, the renowned umpire elected to baseball's Hall of Fame. The Congressman was educated at Northwestern University, Harvard University Law School, and the Hague Academy of International Law. He served as a captain and paratrooper in the U.S. Army. But when he met some college students who were dynamic Christians, he realized that Jesus Christ could give him life far more abundant than anything he had known before.

While active in numerous Christian organizations and national evangelistic campaigns, John Conlan has worked in the mainstream of American society to help preserve America's strengths and to lead the way to positive reform. He has twice received the distinguished George Washington Honor Medal from Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for his understanding of the American way of life.

The Congressman has traveled or lived in 80 countries in the free and Communist worlds, and has lectured on international politics and American foreign policy as a faculty member at 2 universities. He served in the Arizona State Senate for 8 years and is now in his second term as a member of the United States Congress. He is currently a candidate for a U.S. Senate seat from Arizona.

Congressman Conlan believes that Christians must move into key positions in every area of life, and he has become nationally known as a dynamic young leader committed to principles which will preserve true freedom in America. His message to our convention will undoubtedly reflect this commitment.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

July 14, 7:30 p.m.

Proclaiming Christ's Freedom

Probably no contemporary Free Will Baptist minister is better known in denominational circles than the Reverend Bob Shockey. Ordained into the ministry May, 1955, he established himself as a pastor and church builder with congregations in Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama before he accepted his present position as general director of the Home Missions Department in 1973. He previously served with that department from 1968-71 as promotional secretary.

Someone has said that once you hear Brother Shockey preach, you don't forget him or his enthusiastic ways. Bob Shockey has been preaching and holding services on behalf of Home Missions all over the denomination ever since he was affiliated with the department. This contact with the people at the local church level has enabled him to lead his department to a new high in financial giving and in placing missionaries on fields in 20 states, 2 territories and Mexico. The Home Missions family currently numbers 60 adults.

Brother Shockey and his wife Betty are members of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. They are the parents of 2 daughters, Paula, who is at home, and Stephanie Smith, who recently presented them with their first grandchild, a girl.

Brother Shockey is an alumnus of the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, and also had additional schooling while he was serving his country in the Navy. The Kentucky native has authored several tracts and booklets including "Fishers of Men" and "How To Call a Pastor."

THURSDAY MORNING

July 15, 10:45 a.m.

The Liberated Christian

For almost 16 of the 27 years the Rev. Winford R. Floyd has been a minister of the Gospel, he has served as pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Elizabethton, Tennessee. He first entered the active pastorate in his native state of North Carolina in June, 1952, and came to the Elizabethton congregation in January, 1956. He served this growing church until January, 1969, when he answered the call of the Bethany Church in Norfolk, Virginia, where he ministered for the next 5 years. Then he returned to Elizabethton to resume the pastorate of the First Church. His return to the present pastorate indicates the reciprocal love and devotion that the people of the church have for Brother Floyd and he in turn for them. He has been described as a "gracious man of God."

Brother Floyd has been active in each of the associations where he has pastored and served as chairman of the Appalachian Preaching Mission for several years. Normally extending for 8 nights each year, this associational preaching mission drew over 100,000 people every year when he served as chairman. Mr. Floyd also served as a member of the National Foreign Missions Board from 1963 until 1969.

Although graduating from Cramerton High School in 1951, Mr. Floyd did not begin his college training until 1956 when he entered Milligan College at Milligan College, Tennessee. He and Mrs. Floyd, the former Juanita Pittman, are the parents of 4 daughters, 3 of whom remain at home. ▲

1976 NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

July 11-14 / Tulsa, Oklahoma

THEME: "FREE IN THE SON" — John 8:36

NYC COORDINATOR: Jonathan Thigpen

REGISTRATION COORDINATOR: Yvonne Thigpen

MUSIC COORDINATOR: Blaine Hughes

COMPETITIVE COORDINATOR: Tim Rolan

(All NYC activities are in the Mayo Hotel unless otherwise specified.)

SATURDAY EVENING / July 10

6:00-
10:00 Registration Ballroom Foyer
16th Floor

SUNDAY AFTERNOON / July 11

12:15-
1:30 Luncheon for NYC staff, all judges
and officials Founder's Room

2:00-
2:30 Competitive Assembly
(All Bible Tic Tac Toe, Bible Bowl,
Sword Drill, and Bible Memory
contestants and all coaches) Crystal Ballroom

2:30-
6:30 Bible Tic Tac Toe — winner's bracket Pompeian Court

Bible Bowl — winner's bracket Crystal Ballroom

3:00-
5:00 Music practice for evening service Assembly Center:
Arena

3:00-
4:00 Bible Sword Drill—preliminary round Founder's Room

4:00-
5:30 Bible Memorization Program finals Founder's Room

SUNDAY EVENING / July 11

7:30-
9:00 Sunday Night Keynote Service Assembly Center:
Speaker: Robert Shelton Arena

10:00-
11:00 1976 NYC Youth Project Presentation
and patriotic film, "In God We Trust" Crystal Ballroom

9:45-
10:30 Jr. Adventurer after-service activity Emerald Room

MONDAY MORNING / July 12

7:30-
9:00 Bible Tic Tac Toe — winners
bracket (cont.) Pompeian Court

Bible Bowl — winner's bracket (cont.) Crystal Ballroom

9:00-
11:00 Bible Tic Tac Toe — loser's bracket
starts Pompeian Court

Bible Bowl — loser's bracket starts Crystal Ballroom

9:00-
11:00 Jr. Adventurer Crafts Emerald Room

Children's Activities (ages 3-8) Metropolitan Rm.

11:15-
12:00 Sharing the Word of Freedom Crystal Ballroom
Speaker: Robert Shelton

12:00 Lunch

MONDAY AFTERNOON / July 12

1:00-
3:30 Bible Tic Tac Toe — loser's
bracket (cont.) Pompeian Court

Bible Bowl — loser's bracket (cont.) Crystal Ballroom

1:00-
3:30 Children's Activities (ages 3-8) Metropolitan Room

4:00-
5:30 Music and Arts Festival:
Sect. I — Jr. Adv./Cat. I,IV,VI Crystal Ballroom
Sect. II — Her./Cat. I,IV,VI Pompeian Court
Sect. III — Jr. Adv. & Her./Cat.V,III Emerald Room
Sect. IV — Crus. & Amb./Cat.VIII French Room

MONDAY EVENING / July 12

7:00 National Association Service Assembly Center:
Arena

9:00-
10:30 Jr. Adventurer after-service activity Emerald Room

9:30-
11:30 Teen after-service activities Crystal Ballroom

9:30-
11:30 Ambassador after-service activities Pompeian Court

TUESDAY MORNING / July 13

8:00-
9:30 Music & Arts Festival:
Sect. V — Crus. & Amb./Cat. I Crystal Ballroom
Sect. VI — Crus. & Amb./Cat. IV,VI Pompeian Court

9:00-
11:00 Jr. Adventurer Crafts Emerald Room

Children's Activities (ages 3-8) Metropolitan Rm.

9:45-
11:00 Music and Arts Festival:
Sect. VII — Categories II, V Crystal Ballroom

11:15-
12:00 Sharing The Word of Freedom Crystal Ballroom
Speaker: Robert Shelton

12:00 Lunch

TUESDAY AFTERNOON / July 13

1:00-
2:45 Competitive Finals:
Sword Drill, Bible Bowl,
Bible Tic Tac Toe Crystal Ballroom

1:00-
3:30 Children's Activities (ages 3-8) Metropolitan Rm.

3:00-
4:30 Music and Arts Festival
Sect. VII — Category III Crystal Ballroom

5:00-
6:45 Jr. Adventurer Banquet
(Patriotic Program) Emerald Room

TUESDAY EVENING / July 13

7:00	National Association Service	Assembly Center: Arena
9:00- 10:30	Jr. Adventurer after-service activities	Emerald Room
9:30- 11:30	Teen after-service activities	Crystal Ballroom
9:30- 11:30	Ambassadors after-service activities	Pompeian Court

WEDNESDAY MORNING / July 14

8:30- 9:30	Action Group 1 "Developing Meaningful Youth Social Activities" — Clint Morgan	Pompeian Court
	Action Group II "The Ministry of the Song Leader" — Dr. Malcolm Fry	Emerald Room
	Action Group III "Developing a Youth Group in the Local Church" — Guy Tucker	Crystal Ballroom
9:00- 11:00	Children's Activities (ages 3-8)	Metropolitan Rm
9:00- 12:00	Jr. Adventurer tour to World Museum Art Centre	Buses leave from front of Mayo Hotel
9:30- 10:30	Action Group IV "The Ministry of the Vocal Soloist"— Vernon Whaley	Pompeian Court
	Action Group V "Exciting Programming for Youth Camp"— Greg Hanson	Emerald Room
	Action Group VI "The Ministry of the Keyboard Soloist"— Danny and Barbara Key	Crystal Ballroom
10:45- 11:30	Sharing The Word Of Freedom Speaker: Robert Shelton	Crystal Ballroom
11:30	Lunch	

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON / July 14

12:00- 3:30	Youth Roller Skating Party (Jr. Adventurers—Ambassadors)	Buses leave from front of Mayo Hotel
1:00- 3:30	Children's Activities (ages 3-8)	Metropolitan Rm.
5:00- 7:00	Teen Banquet (Patriotic Program)	Assembly Center: Assembly Hall

WEDNESDAY EVENING / July 14

7:00	National Association Service	Assembly Center: Arena
9:30- 11:00	NYC '76 Awards Presentation Competitive Awards Music & Arts Awards	Assembly Center: Arena
	END OF CONFERENCE	

**FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
of Tulsa, Oklahoma**

CHURCH	PASTOR
Airport 1190 North Mingo Road Tulsa, OK 74115 Telephone 918/835-6898	Rev. Glenn Lewis 1229 North 94 East Avenue Tulsa, OK 74115 Telephone 918/838-7619
Central 835 East 46 St. North Tulsa, OK 74126 Telephone 918/425-1111	Rev. Leon Sheppard P.O. Box 301 Sapulpa, OK 74066 Telephone 918/446-1072
Cincinnati 5900 N. Cincinnati Tulsa, OK 74126	Rev. Steve Carver 6305 N. Rockford Tulsa, OK 74126 Telephone 918/425-1240
Dawson 2044 North Darlington Pl. Tulsa, OK 74115 Telephone 918/835-1791	Rev. Euel David 2044 North Darlington Pl. Tulsa, OK 74115
East Tulsa 25 South 161st E. Ave. Tulsa, OK 74108 Telephone 918/234-3482	Rev. R. D. Hester 212 South 201st E. Ave. Tulsa, OK 74108 Telephone 918/266-1121
First 834 North Utica Tulsa, OK 74110 Telephone 918/582-5749	Rev. Don Jones 112 Wheeling Tulsa, OK 74110 Telephone 918/582-5311
Lawnwood 4115 West Edison St. Tulsa, OK 74127 Telephone 918/585-9070	Rev. J. C. Morgan 4115 West Edison St. Tulsa, OK 74127 Telephone 918/585-9005
Lewis Avenue 1928 North Lewis Ave. Tulsa, OK 74110 Telephone 918/584-6696	Rev. Larry Tuttle 2733 East Ute Tulsa, OK 74110
Madison Avenue 5900 North Madison Tulsa, OK 74126 Telephone 918/425-1156	Rev. Doyle Baker 5903 North Madison Tulsa, OK 74126 Telephone 918/425-2339
New Home 3110 South 65th West Ave. Tulsa, OK 74127	Rev. J. B. Chism Jr. 3110 South 65th West Ave. Tulsa, OK 74107 Telephone 918/446-0758
Northside 1734 East 63rd St. North Tulsa, OK 74130	Rev. J. R. Shade 6231 North Utica Place Tulsa, OK 74130 Telephone 918/425-6780
Southeast 1801 South Garnett Road Tulsa, OK 74128 Telephone 918/437-4716	Rev. Ted Davis 3145 South 108th E. Ave. #C Tulsa, OK 74145 Telephone 918/664-9527
Tree of Worship 1224 North Trenton Tulsa, OK 74106	Rev. Reece Murray (address unknown) Telephone 918/835-5292
Trinity Temple 4928 East Latimer Street Tulsa, OK 74115 Telephone 918/835-3718	Rev. Sherman Webb 7316 East Newton Street Tulsa, OK 74115 Telephone 918/835-8097
West Tulsa 930 West 23rd Place Tulsa, OK 74107	Rev. Connie D. Cariker 923 West 23rd Place Tulsa, OK 74107 Telephone 918/585-8094



NORFOLK CHURCH ACQUIRES SCHOOL SITE, PLANS EXPANSION OF MINISTRIES

NORFOLK, VA. — The American Christian School will get a new name and a new home in Fall, 1976, as a result of a recent purchase by its sponsoring congregation, Fairmount Park Free Will Baptist Church. Pastor Dale Burden says that the church's Christian school will be known as Gateway Christian School when it is moved to the new 11.8 acre campus located in the 5700 block of Virginia Beach Blvd. just ½ mile inside the city limits of Virginia Beach. The facilities now house an independent Christian school which has experienced financial difficulties in recent years. The complex is complete with a cafeteria and gymnasium. The Fairmount Park congregation purchased the property for a reported \$400,000 and also acquired an option on an adjacent 14 acres.

Initially, Gateway Christian School will open next fall with kindergarten through ninth grade and an anticipated enrollment of approximately 250 students. The current enrollment is 175. The newly acquired property will also be the home of Norfolk Bible College, a 2-year Christian institution which the church began last year. The first year enrollment reached 44. Pastor Burden serves as president of the college, and the Rev. A. B. Brown is dean. The Rev. Frank Sells, well-known Bible teacher from Columbia, South Carolina, will be joining the staff full time this fall. Other local Free Will Baptist pastors serve on the faculty on a part-time basis and also comprise a cooperating board. Rev. Burden said other full-time staff members are being secured to accommodate the expected increase in college enrollment in 1977 when the school will qualify for G.I. benefits.

Burden said the 1,300 member congregation, which is one of the largest Free Will Baptist churches, will embark on an ambitious 3-year building program which calls for the construction of a new church, a 2,000-seat auditorium, dormitories, a bookstore and an amphitheater.

"We hope that in 4 or 5 years we will have an enrollment of 500-600 in our day school and another 300 in our Bible

college," Burden said.

The newly acquired property can readily be seen from the Norfolk-Virginia Beach Expressway and has easy access to Interstate 64. It is only 6 miles from Fairmount Park's present location and is within 30 minutes of the cities of Portsmouth, Newport News and Hampton, where Free Will Baptists have active congregations.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

MISSOURI CHURCH OBSERVES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

DE SOTO, MO. — Ten years of progress culminated for the First Free Will Baptist Church of De Soto on Sunday, April 25, when Pastor Charles Miller and the congregation observed the tenth anniversary of the church's founding. Special speaker for this day was Rev. James Earl Raper, superintendent of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Greenville, Tennessee.

Over half of De Soto's 6,000 population is represented by the 800-900 professing Catholic families living there. Yet the work of Free Will Baptists in De Soto has grown since that first Sunday in April, 1966, when a group met to worship in what was later to become the First Free Will Baptist Church. By 1971 land had been acquired, and the construction of a basement building with a sanctuary to seat 275 had been completed. In 1972 the church began supporting their

pastor in a full-time ministry, and in 1973 they added the present educational unit. The current average Sunday school attendance is 175.

From the very beginning of their existence the church has supported the Cooperative Plan of Missouri. In March they were third among Missouri churches in giving to this phase of denominational support. Their outside giving also includes other denominational projects. For the past 3 years the church has averaged \$1,000 annually in giving to Missouri's library project for Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. The recent Easter Sunday offering of \$1,200 was designated to the Foreign Missions Department. Mr. Raper was presented a \$500 gift for the Children's Home while he was sharing in the anniversary observance.

SPRING CAMPAIGN MOST WIDELY USED SUNDAY SCHOOL DRIVE TO DATE

NASHVILLE, TENN. — The 1976 Spring Sunday School Enlargement Campaign, "Free Indeed," was "the most widely used campaign with the best results of any campaign the Sunday School Department has ever promoted," according to Harrold Harrison, director of sales and promotion. An impressive 45.13% net increase in attendance over

the fall quarter average attendance was reported by participating churches from 24 states. The campaign was written by Steve Ange, a layman who serves as the principal of Woodbine Christian Academy, Woodbine Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

First and second place winners in the various divisions are as follows:

MASTER'S MEN CELEBRATE 20th ANNIVERSARY

NASHVILLE, TN. — Because Free Will Baptist churches across the land were filled with laymen who were not being used, a proposal to consider a layman's organization for our denomination was presented at the National Association when it convened in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1955. At the 1956 National Association in Huntington, West Virginia, the body gave approval for the organization which is known today as the Master's Men.

Loyd Olsan, director of the laymen's group, states, "It is with much anticipation that we look forward to celebrating our 20th anniversary this year in the very same city where the organization was first proposed." Work that the laymen have accomplished over the past 20 years will be the focal point of the booth which the organization will maintain in the display area at the 1976 national meeting in Tulsa, July 11-15.

The highlight of the laymen's promotion will be the annual laymen's breakfast on Wednesday morning, July 14, at which time the Layman of the Year will be announced.

Division	Church	Sept.-Oct.- Nov. Avg.	Camp. Avg.	Increase
A	1st Welch—Columbus, OH	798	930	16.54%
	2nd First—Bakersfield, CA	559	591	5.72%
B	NO INCREASE REPORTED			
C	1st Trinity—Greenville, NC	341	456.25	33.80%
	2nd Bethel—S. Roxana, IL	314	396	26.11%
D	1st Kistler—Kistler, W VA	217	373	71.89%
	2nd Friendship—Flint, MI	221	288	30.32%
E	1st West Dayton—Dayton, OH	150	230	53.33%
	2nd Mount Holly—Mt. Holly, NC	162	245	51.23%
F	1st Locust Grove—Locust Grove, OK	121	220	81.82%
	2nd First—Houston, TX	132	236	78.79%
G	1st First—Richmond, VA	65.6	142.5	117.23%
	2nd Cocoa—Cocoa, FL	52	111	113.46%
H	1st Randall Memorial—Billerica, MA	15	67	346.67%
	2nd Grace—DeQueen, AR	5	20	300%

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 person will be listed as having left a place of service until he is called officially to serve with another congregation.

PASTORATES

ALABAMA

Charles Hollingshead to Piney Grove Church, Guin from First Church, Chipley, Florida

Hoover Lewis to Muscle Shoals Church, Muscle Shoals from First Church, Batesville, Arkansas

ARIZONA

Malcolm Toms to Coolidge Church, Valley Farms from First Church, Surprise

William Thorp to First Church, Surprise

CALIFORNIA

Darrell Goodman to Lompoc Church, Lompoc from Coolidge Church, Valley Farms, Arizona

GEORGIA

Curtis Alligood to Bay Church, Hartsfield

Edward L. Hodges to Dublin Mission, Dublin

Thomas M. Parrish to Satilla Church, Hazelhurst from Ashville Church, Ashville, North Carolina

IDAHO

Cecil Spurlock to Airport Road Church, Twin Falls

KENTUCKY

Kenneth Jones to First Church, Louisville from West Wayne Church, West Wayne, Michigan

LOUISIANA

Paul E. Daniels to Faith Church, Baton Rouge from Riceville Church, Riceville, Kentucky

MISSOURI

Richard S. Stidham to Willow Springs Church, Mountain Grove

NEW MEXICO

Rodger McClellan to First Church, Hobbs

NORTH CAROLINA

William T. Newsome to Bethlehem Church, Kannapolis from First Church, Louisville, Kentucky

OKLAHOMA

John Redfearn to Claremore Free Will Baptist mission, Claremore

Roma Stewart to Non Church, Calvin from Tecumseh Church, Tecumseh

TENNESSEE

Tim McDonald to Carlise Church, Tennessee Ridge

Ed Cook to Donelson Church, Nashville from West Palm Beach Church, West Palm Beach, Florida

TEXAS

Chuck Skaggs to Westside Mission, Weatherford

J. E. Jean to Connally Church, Waco from First Church, Waco

OTHER PERSONNEL

NORTH CAROLINA

Bill Gardner to Liberty Church, Durham as Minister of Music and Youth from Associate Pastor of Music and Youth at First Church, Columbus, Mississippi

VIRGINIA

Ron Christ to First Church, Newport News as Minister of Music and Youth from similar position at Liberty Church, Durham, North Carolina

OPERATION PARTNERSHIP'S GIDEONITES TO BE RECOGNIZED AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

NASHVILLE, TN. — Operation Partnership's Gideonites who reach their goal of raising \$500 each for the campaign will be honored Tuesday evening, July 13, during the worship session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Over 300 men and women joined Gideon's Army in an effort to enlist participants in Operation Partnership. The campaign was born as a result of the desire to pay off the indebtedness on the denominational offices. Although the majority of these Gideonites accepted the goal of raising \$500 each, some accepted the challenge

of \$1,000. Members are urged to send in whatever money they have raised or the additional pledges they have secured by July 1 so that the total may be compiled prior to the national meeting. Gideonites who reach their goal after that date may bring the funds with them for accounting at the National Association. Operation Partnership will have a booth in the display area where late gifts may be turned in. Also, conventioners who have not yet had the opportunity to participate in the campaign may obtain full information at the booth.

Gifts totaling over \$5,000 were

received in March to make it a record month for Operation Partnership. However, funds are still far short of the \$150,000 goal needed to pay off the indebtedness of the National Offices. Campaign Coordinator J. D. O'Donnell stresses that this is the reason those who have made pledges should mail them immediately so they can be received before the National. According to records, several thousand dollars have been pledged to be paid by July 1. A victory celebration will be planned in conjunction with the national meeting this year if funds sufficient to pay off the indebtedness are received.



OUR READERS COMMENT

TONGUES EDITORIAL "A JEWEL"

"CONTACT... seems to be getting better all of the time... I wanted you to know that your article entitled 'Should Tongues Speaking Be Tolerated?' [April, 1976] was a jewel... It seems that some of our brethren are on the fence in regard to this question, but I believe the time has come that we must take a stand..."

Rev. John H. West,
pastor at large
Tulsa, Oklahoma

APPRECIATES FIRMNESS OF EDITORIAL

"... Thank you for the good, strong editorial on tongues and the Charismatic Movement. I think you are absolutely right concerning the firmness with which it must be dealt. I also appreciate the news 'Currently'..."

Rev. Guy Owens, pastor
Liberty Free Will
Baptist Church
Durham, North Carolina

MISSIONARY ALSO FACES TONGUES PROBLEM

"I just received CONTACT and read with interest your interview with Brother Smith about his trip to Europe and also the article about tongues speaking [April, 1976]. I think that you are right by laying it on the line and trust that our pastors across the denomination will have the courage to take a stand..."

We face the same problems in France as you do there in the States, perhaps even more so since we are the only evangelical church in a city of over 200,000 people except the Pentecostal Church... It is clear to our people that we are not Charismatic and we will not tolerate it in our midst..."

Rev. Joe Haas,
Free Will Baptist
pastor/missionary
Rennes, France

STATE LEADER COMMENDS NEW COLUMN

"... Let me commend you for... 'Currently.'... How effective just a few lines can be!... I do appreciate your work in the production of the national magazine; however, I still doubt the merit of spending so much of the Lord's money and reaching so few people."

Lonnie E. DaVoult
Executive Secretary
Oklahoma State Association of
Free Will Baptists
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

BELIEVES STAND IS NEEDED

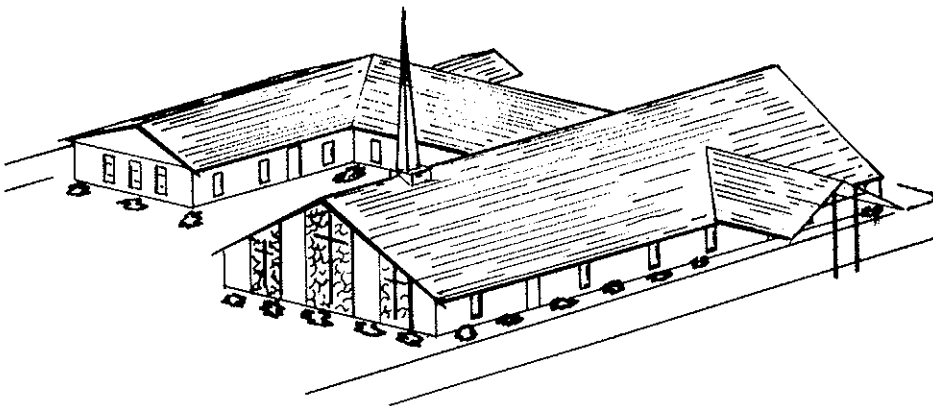
We really liked the article by Rufus Coffey this time [Should Tongues-Speaking Be Tolerated? April, 1976]. Free Will Baptists need to take a strong stand on issues. We need more articles of this type... We would like to see more articles... against intrusion of neo-evangelical ideas and more for our biblical beliefs.

Jim & Phyllis McKown,
Bob Jones University
Greenville, South Carolina

ART DRAWS NEGATIVE REACTION

"... I'm always anxious to get CONTACT magazine. It's a good piece of reading for the whole family as well as preachers and missionaries and Christian workers. But I was astounded at the picture you put in on the article about FWB veterans and servicemen [April, 1976, page 7]. Actually it is a drawing, I believe. I... ask, 'What relationship does the cross of our Lord Jesus and a modern 20th Century rifle have?' I am not criticizing the article by no means. It was good and worthwhile, but even to publish such a drawing of the cross and a weapon together simply looks diabolical!..."

Melvin Clark,
minister of youth and music
Lawnwood Free Will
Baptist Church
Tulsa, Oklahoma



Currently . . .

By
EUGENE WORKMAN
 Administrative Editor

NEW AUDITORIUM DESIGNED TO MEET POPULATION GROWTH

BROKEN ARROW, OKLA. — The construction of a new 450-seat auditorium, the first phase of an expansion project for the Bethany Free Will Baptist Church, is underway according to Pastor Ernest Harrison, Jr. The church is located in the midst of one of Tulsa's fastest growing suburban areas. Population projections estimate that in the next 20 years the southeast side of Tulsa will have expanded so greatly that the geographical center of the city will be at Bethany's doorstep. To accommodate its share of the neighborhood's new residents and to alleviate the already crowded conditions, the church is expanding its physical plant.

The new sanctuary will be a brick structure 2 stories in height with laminated wooden beams. Balcony-level

seating will be added at a future date. Some of the space now used for worship will be converted to classroom use, making a total classroom capacity of approximately 250. Total cost of the expansion is expected to be about \$100,000 with the church members doing much of the work. Financing will be by church bonds and savings. The anticipated completion date is early fall.

Bethany's record Sunday school attendance stands at 131. During the month of March the average was 116. Average attendance for Church Training Service is 70. The church has an active Master's Men Chapter and Woman's Auxiliary. Through these arms of the church and personal witnessing, 24 persons made first-time decisions for Christ last year.

A recent missionary emphasis in the **First FWB Church, Moore, Oklahoma**, resulted in monthly faith pledges of \$420, according to **Pastor Dan Farmer**. This totals \$5,100 yearly. This is commendable for congregation which averages 120 in Sunday school. The special missionary service was conducted by **Deputational Director Henry Van Kluyve, Foreign Missions Department, Nashville, Tennessee**.

Pastor George Lee, Victory FWB Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina, was recently appointed chaplain for the Goldsboro Rescue Squad. He will lead devotionals at squad meetings and special functions of the group and will be on call for spiritual help and counseling in times of crises to persons who do not have a pastor immediately at hand.

Pastor Mircheal Jones, Grace FWB Church, Lake City, South Carolina, maintains a radio ministry on 4 different radio stations in Lake City, Manning, Kingstree and Marion. He feels that radio work is definitely useful and effective in spreading the Gospel. He follows up inquiries with Bible-based literature.

Weatherford FWB Church, Weatherford, Oklahoma, dedicated its new educational building March 28. **Pastor Henry Braiser** and his men did much of the work on the building. Special speakers for the dedication services were **Business Manager Francis Boyle, Hillsdale College, Moore**, and **Oklahoma's Executive Secretary Lonnie DaVault**.

The congregation of **Winfield FWB Church, Winfield, Alabama**, is constructing a new parsonage for their pastor **Rev. A. J. Looper**. Brother Looper reports 20 new members received into the church during the first quarter, 1976.

SALEM BIBLE COLLEGE TO OPEN DOORS THIS FALL

SALEM, FLA. — Salem Bible College will open its doors for students August 23, 1976, according to President Graeme Savage. Savage, who also is pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church at Scottsmoor, stated that dormitory facilities will be available for up to 50 students and that a quality program of education will be available. Eventually a 3-year college program will be offered with the addition of the fourth year contemplated according to demand. The college is an outgrowth of the Christian Workers' Institute, which has been functioning in Florida.

The college is located on a 10-acre tract consisting of a former school building with 7 classrooms, offices and auditorium; an operational restaurant; a 12-unit motel with a second-floor apartment; 2 houses and 2 trailers. Property was purchased for approximately \$95,000, which is reportedly 1/4 to 1/5 the replacement value.

Steps have been taken to have the institute and college recognized by the

Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists as an official part of the state's work. The association would have the right to nominate members of the Board of Trustees, who will exercise oversight of the college and hold the property for the Free Will Baptists of Florida.

The Board of Trustees is composed of the following: Chairman Darrell Gwinn, Vice-chairman W. C. Combs, Secretary R. H. Allen, Rev. W. A. Hansley, Rev. John Gilliland, Mr. Randy Brooks, Mr. Homer Hallum, Mr. Guy McCallin and Mr. Paul Francisco. All of the men are Free Will Baptists.

The dedication service for this educational arm affiliated with Free Will Baptists was held Saturday, May 29, 1976, at 1:30 p.m. in the college auditorium. Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, was the speaker for the occasion.

College catalogs are now available by writing to President Graeme Savage, Box 179, Scottsmoor, Florida 32775.



CURRENTLY (Continued)

Home missionary "Buddy" Drake, Enid, Oklahoma, reports a monthly average of 33 in Sunday school and 36 in worship services. The group has committed itself to buy land and construct a church building. The Enid work is under the auspices of the Oklahoma State Mission Board and the National Home Missions Board.

Congregation of the First FWB Church, Roswell, New Mexico, has voted for Pastor Walter Parry to assume his duties on a full-time basis. This is a step of faith for the congregation and for the minister, but one God will undoubtedly bless.

Pastor Delbert Akin, First FWB Church, Ada, Oklahoma, reports the group is now giving 36 percent of their income to outside causes.

In May, 1975, Bethel FWB Church, Kansas City, Kansas, became a joint project of the Kansas Home Missions Board and the National Home Missions Department. Eleven months later Pastor Larry Messer announced that the church is self-supporting. From a Sunday school attendance in the 20's on his arrival, Pastor Messer has led the congregation to reach a recent high attendance of 217.

The congregation of Fellowship FWB Church, Kingsport, Tennessee, recently raised \$3,575 for foreign missions in one Sunday service. The gift was designated for the McLains (\$2,200), Ellisons (\$1,000) and Filkins (\$375). Winston Sweeney pastors.

Guin FWB Church, Guin, Alabama, broke all attendance records on March 28 with 522 in worship service. Pastor Richard Cordell designated that Sunday as "Miracle Sunday."

Pastor Gene Norris and the congregation of First FWB Church, Benton, Illinois, finally broke that elusive 200 mark on March 28 when they had 209 in Sunday school. That Sunday was designated as "I Love America Day" with county board candidate Ron Head, city councilman Frank Thomas and radio station owner George Boggs as speakers.

The membership of Johnston City FWB Church, Johnston City, Illinois, recently voted to purchase adjacent property on which a Dairy Queen was formerly located. Pastor William Mishler and his people anticipate an imminent

expansion program for the church.

The Rev. Curtis Alligood has been named manager of Georgia's Christian Supply Store in Moultrie. He succeeds the Rev. Damon Dodd who has reentered the full-time pastorate with New Home No. 1 FWB Church, Colquitt, Georgia.

Home Missionary Karel Smith, Shiloh FWB Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico, reports that attendance at the mission is now averaging 30 persons per service. The group continues to meet in a rented church building while getting established and experiencing some growth.

July 4 has been designated as "Fred and Evelyn Hersey Day" at First FWB Church, Raleigh, North Carolina. The Herses, who are members of the church, are FWB missionaries to Japan. Randy Cox pastors.

Metropolitan Fellowship of FWB Churches, Knoxville, Tennessee, sponsored an area-wide spring revival at the Holston Hills FWB Church using a different FWB minister as speaker each evening. The Rev. James Dunlap, Oak Ridge FWB Church, Oak Ridge, coordinated the endeavor. Wesley Bounds was the host pastor. Attendance averaged near 225 nightly with several decisions being made.

A recent weekend revival at Grace FWB Church, DeQueen, Arkansas, saw 26 teenagers and one adult accept Christ as Savior, according to Thomas Johnson, missionary pastor. The Rev. Carl Cheshier, Fort Smith, conducted the revival.

Faith FWB Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, recently increased its membership by 11 and saw 7 saved and 8 baptized as a result of a revival with Evangelist Van Dale Hudson. Thurman Pate, Sr. is pastor.

Pastor Glenn Shelby, Lee's Chapel FWB Church, Waynesboro, Mississippi, and his congregation have voted to relocate and construct new church building. More definite plans are forthcoming.

Pastor Homer Arrowwood, Mount Holly FWB Church, Mount Holly, North Carolina, reports 65 souls have been saved in his church since the Pastors and Workers Conference in Kinston last November.

The first joint missionary project between the Texas State Missions Board and the National Home Missions Board will be in the Rio Grande Valley. Home

Missionary Larry Powell will leave the work in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in the hands of nationals and assume the mission efforts in the Rio Grande Valley in late summer. He will return to the states in June and will hold itinerate services through August.

The centennial celebration for Toms Creek FWB Church, Paintsville, Kentucky, June 25-27 will include the dedication of their new 800-seat auditorium on June 27. Pastor James Caudle Sturgill reports the new building is paid for. Evangelist Homer Willis, Nashville, Tennessee, will be the dedication speaker. Toms Creek is the oldest FWB church in Kentucky still in existence. It is the mother of the first conference in Kentucky as well as numerous churches in Kentucky and Northern Ohio. Membership now stands near 800 with an average Sunday school attendance of 100 and worship attendance of 300. They have an active youth work and a Woman's Auxiliary.

Pastor Larry Hughes, Canton FWB Church, Canton, North Carolina, has been invited to serve on the panel for Dr. Claude Frasier's program of Sunday school lessons that will be televised each Sunday morning in August at 7:45 a.m. on WSPA, Channel 7, Spartanburg, South Carolina. Dr. Frasier is a Christian medical doctor specializing in allergies. He practices in Asheville, North Carolina. An Asheville paper carries his weekly exposition of the lessons. Dr. Frasier has also written several books dealing with Christian life as well as allergies.

First FWB Church, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, set a new attendance record the last Sunday of March with 175 present. Bill Van Winkle has pastored the church since its establishment as a mission nearly 6 years ago.

Beacon FWB Church, Farmville, North Carolina, officially organized March 17 with 40 charter members. Pastor Tommy Godley reports a 90 percent increase in Sunday school attendance during the March campaign over the fall quarter. Attendance the last Sunday of the month was 88 with 2 salvation decisions and 5 baptisms.

Capitol Hill FWB Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, recently had a teacher turn-a-round in their Sunday school departments for one week. Teachers were given the opportunity to instruct classes of age groups other than the ones they currently teach. The great thing

about this endeavor is that the 5-year-old class, 6-year-old class, third-grade classes, fourth-grade classes, sixth-grade class, seventh- and eighth-grades class, and the high-school class all had men teachers. Recent psychological studies indicate youngsters, particularly boys, are better adjusted at the teen and adult levels if they are able to relate to a male teacher or leader while in the preteen years.

Southern Oaks FWB Church is one of many in the Oklahoma City area who are participating in "Here's Life, Oklahoma City." This program is under the sponsorship of Campus Crusade and is endeavoring to completely saturate the Oklahoma City area through television, newspapers, billboards, bumper stickers and personal contact so that every person in Oklahoma City will be confronted with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Special training sessions were held periodically prior to the May endeavor. Money for this campaign was donated by Christian businessmen of Oklahoma City.

On April 29, 1973, the Reverend Denzil Durbin conducted the first service of the Sikeston FWB Church, Sikeston, Missouri, in an activity center. On the third anniversary of its establishment the church boasts a 36' x 80' structure, the first of 3 units planned for construction on the 5-acre tract alongside Interstate 51 in Sikeston. The present building was mostly constructed by members at an approximate cost of \$25,000. It contains 6 classrooms, nursery facilities and baptistry; is completely carpeted; and has central heat and air. The congregation first occupied the building September 14, 1975. The church is the only FWB witness in Sikeston.

First FWB Church, Anderson, Indiana, received their largest offering ever (\$4,595) when Pastor Eddie Vincent challenged members to give one week's pay on March 7. The offering will be used in constructing a new 70' x 80' multipurpose building for the church.

Missionary Pastor Lavelle Reeves is ministering with the FWB Mission, Stockton, Missouri. Now meeting in rented facilities, the group has already broken ground for a new building on a site overlooking Stockton Lake. The mission is sponsored by Missouri's Central Western Association.

Pastor James Rice, Jr., home



Thank You for Your Gifts to the . . .

COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT April, 1976

RECEIPTS:

State	April '76		April '75	Yr. to Date
	Co-op	Design.		
Alabama	\$ 982.50	\$...	\$ 590.63	\$ 992.30
Arizona	...	...	...	498.40
Arkansas	2,175.41	...	987.10	7,747.61
California	905.49	...	536.58	2,982.84
Florida	494.68	...	1,292.08	3,353.75
Georgia	284.20	...	97.59	1,049.58
Idaho	...	...	95.82	61.83
Illinois	1,077.10	(75.00)	1,886.51	4,311.85
Indiana	...	...	...	95.92
Iowa	181.23	...	...	735.81
Kansas	314.63	...	...	870.18
Maryland	117.54	...	60.00	429.49
Michigan	...	...	...	50.31
Mississippi	45.06	...	155.59	214.71
Missouri	4,599.17	(4,599.17)	3,469.30	13,411.04
New Mexico	...	...	...	131.66
North Carolina	176.54	(50.00)	75.00	584.49
Northeast Assoc.	47.59	...	...	127.90
Northwest Assoc.	77.87	...	88.93	216.79
Ohio	486.22	...	844.68	7,051.82
Oklahoma	5,652.44	(5,473.03)	4,206.67	22,182.61
Tennessee	1,210.23	...	305.76	2,741.41
Texas	25.00	...	25.00	1,277.18
Virginia	27.36	...	41.15	97.91
Virgin Islands	80.00	...	...	200.00
Totals	\$18,960.26		\$14,758.39	\$71,417.39

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	6,378.81	(1,336.83)	5,790.76	25,609.82
Foreign Missions	4,198.10	(3,245.57)	3,027.45	14,915.85
Bible College	2,766.84	(1,821.98)	1,975.17	9,779.40
Home Missions	2,374.15	(1,704.03)	1,705.06	8,543.43
Church Training Serv.	1,390.20	(832.03)	960.09	5,131.23
Retirement & Ins.	1,170.25	(723.71)	795.58	4,228.63
Layman's Board	439.09	(308.84)	303.51	1,667.10
Commission on Theo- logical Liberalism	110.82	(92.21)	73.27	400.68
Miscellaneous	132.00	(132.00)	127.50	1,141.25
Totals	\$18,960.26		\$14,758.39	\$71,417.39

missionary to Greer, South Carolina, states the work is now self-supporting and has officially been organized as First FWB Church with 39 members. Group is currently worshipping in new \$55,000 building located on 3-acre tract. Building has 200-seat auditorium and 8 classrooms. Average Sunday school attendance in February was 49. Work began 3½ years ago as a joint

home missions project between Beaver Creek Home Missions Board and National Home Missions Board, Nashville, Tennessee.

With the blessings and sponsorship of the North Louisiana Association, Rev. Ralph Fowler has begun a new FWB mission in Bastrop, Louisiana.





CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Made in His Image

PART VIII

By Leroy Forlines

Spiritual growth manifests itself in the way we think, feel and act. The experience of spiritual growth involves human activity with divine aid. In previous articles I have discussed the fact that the divine provision of truth in the Bible is a part of the divine aid that brings about spiritual growth. Also, attention has been given to the functioning of the mind and heart in grasping and appropriating divine truth.

In this article I want to discuss the ministry of the Holy Spirit as a part of the divine aid that is given to us. There is the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing the sinner to Christ. There is the work of the Holy Spirit in helping the Christian in the process of spiritual growth.

The Holy Spirit convicts the sinner of sin (John 16:8-11). The drawing power of the Holy Spirit is necessary before a person can come to Christ for salvation (John 6:44). He works the work of regeneration in us (John 3:6). He enables the believer to understand the Word of God (John 16:13). He helps us overcome sin (Galatians 5:16-17).

There is a mystical aspect of the work of the Holy Spirit that defies explanation. However, there are a few basic principles that we can be sure about. The Holy Spirit works with us as persons. One of the most instructive verses in the Bible on how the Holy Spirit helps is in Philippians 2:13, "For

it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." The work of the Holy Spirit is designed to get us "to will" and "to do." The willing and the doing constitute involvement of the human personality.

The Holy Spirit does not work in us in terms of cause and effect like a hammer causes a nail to go into wood. The nail has no choice. The Holy Spirit works within the framework of influence and response. He influences us to have the will to do. We have a choice. We can respond in an appropriate manner or an inappropriate manner. We are active, and the Holy Spirit is active in us. We are not passive.

We are not always conscious of how He helps us, but we can know that the Holy Spirit is active in helping us understand the truth in our minds. He helps the truth become real in our hearts. He helps us act in obedience to the truth with our wills.

We know that we do not enter spiritual battles alone. We know that the Holy Spirit is involved in our spiritual activity. Yet, we are active. We do not become passive and ask God to use us like puppets. We engage our minds, hearts and wills in spiritual activity and trust the Holy Spirit to help us. This means that while we must depend upon God, we must also come to understand the functioning of human personality. We must learn what it means to be active and dependent at the same time. It is not dependence versus independence. It is dependence *and* independence. Anything less will undercut the integrity of either the divine activity or the human activity. Δ

CURRENTLY (Continued)

Pastor Carl Cheshier, Cavanaugh FWB Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas, reports the group has secured loan to begin first phase of their relocation project to the 4 acres of land they have

purchased near I-540. Present church property will be sold.

Most of the information for this column is gleaned from church bulletins, newsletters and other published sources. Put me on your mailing list. Δ

FROM THE BRIDGE



AMERICAN HOME UNDER ATTACK

By Executive Secretary
Rufus Coffey

The American home has been invaded. While we slept, a mechanical monster known as television subtly took control. Sinister forces of evil succeeded in planting a Trojan horse in an estimated 97 percent of American homes with a potential viewing audience of 200 million people.

Because of the overwhelming acceptance of this enemy, multitudes disregard the destructive power of this dictator which is sabotaging the basic spiritual and moral values upon which the home is built.

The Impact of Television Influence

TV is the single most influential factor in American life today. *The U.S. News and World Report* asked 500 business, government and professional leaders to rate, in terms of their

influence, 18 principal organizations and institutions. Television was first. It ranked ahead of the White House, the Supreme Court and the Congress; ahead of education, religion, political parties and all competing media.

Why is this electronic wonder, so often referred to as the "boob tube," so fascinating, absorbing and captivating? Interest centers in several factors. It comes before the viewer as a source of amusement. It is a world information center which bears good news and bad. It is a teacher and a salesman. It serves as a theater for drama and an arena for sporting events. It is both a political tool and a course in government. It is a marvelous medium of communication, which no doubt makes this the most informed and best entertained generation that ever existed.

The Evaluation of Television Influence

Television is a definite force in today's life. It can be a positive or a negative force, depending on what is watched and for how long. Basically, the television set is amoral. The owner and operator has the ultimate responsibility for determining whether it is good or bad.

To be sure, producers and advertisers play a major role in determining the contents of a program. However, program planning is based upon the projected response of the audience. Program producers know very well what will stimulate a viewer's interest and thereby produce rich monetary returns. This is why they capitalize on themes that stimulate the emotions. Producers deal with human problems and the issues of the time with emphasis on realism. The problem, though, is that these men are generally ungodly and secularly minded men who largely ignore God and the values of God-fearing people. Motivated by competition and greed, the producers and advertisers boldly and brazenly stretch the level of people's sensitivity and toleration by gradually conditioning the audience to accept every form of social and sexual aberration under the guise of relevance and audience maturity. Consequently, the programs reflect a permissiveness that is appalling.

Producers justify their actions because they say they are giving people what they want. Therefore, the watchers are to be indicted as well as

the producers, performers and sponsors. The real problem is not the boob tube itself but the boobs who sit passively and stare at the programs with apparently very little conviction or will to change things. It seems that many Christians have become just as calloused as unbelievers in accepting programs that are suggestive, vulgar, crude, obscene, unwholesome and obnoxious. Because the carnal nature is set on evil continually, Christian viewers feed on violence, murder, rape, lawlessness, filthy corruption and brutality along with the ungodly.

We read in II Peter 2:7,8 that Lot was a righteous man. He was distressed by the sensual conduct and wantonness of ungodly men because he saw and heard their wickedness. Nevertheless, he lacked the courage and power to do anything about it because of his own position of compromise. Even though he was vexed and tormented by the flood of iniquity, he was unwilling to leave Sodom and Gomorrah. Like Lot many Christians are caught in the web of a powerful sorcerer today. They are guilty of video gluttony. They feed upon TV like cotton candy. It attracts their attention and creates a desire, but after indulging it leaves them empty. This is why adults and especially Christian parents must begin to accept personal responsibility in what is controlling their lives and what they are allowing their children to feed their minds.

The Correction of Television Influence

Much could be said about the addiction that a person often develops to television. Television has such power over people, regardless of age, that they are tied to it just as if they were literally chained to it. Christian parents especially need to come to grips with the TV problem. It is not just a matter of poor programming, but it is a great time waster which slowly seeps in and dominates one's life by an endless string of synthetic stories which stretch the imagination and distort genuine values.

In order to conquer the foe, Christians must first of all become aware of how much time they spend glued to the television. In the average home statistics tell us that the television stays on 6-8 hours each day, and the average child watches television from 20-30 hours each week. By the time a

child graduates from high school, he has watched television 18,000 hours or more. This is in comparison to 12,000 hours spent in school. By the time a person reaches 65, it is estimated that he has spent 8-9 years of his life watching television.

No one can possibly watch something so much and not be significantly influenced one way or the other. Therefore, it is essential for Christians to recognize that television can have detrimental influence over a period of time. It shapes the attitude and bends the mind by a steady bombardment of ideas and actions that run contrary to the will of God for mankind. A steady diet of violence, sex, slanted news and the glorification of sin presents a threat to the Christian ideals of a godly home.

Another factor to consider is the harmful effects of advertising that flood the home. Many Christians become unfaithful stewards because of the constant appeals of supposedly new and better products. Advertisers have learned that the way to daddy's pocketbook is through the children. Therefore, a great deal of advertising is geared particularly to the child's interest.

But most tragic of all is that few Christians have any set of standards or guidelines for controlling their TV habits. The lack of discernment and discipline reflects spiritual poverty. Christians who do not know when to turn the television off or cannot control what is shown in their homes are poor examples of those who profess to acknowledge Christ's lordship.

Although the battle may well be lost, it is not too late for Christians to rally their forces and make the strong effort to combat the enemy. Christians must rise up in righteous indignation and register their disapproval of the present programs with all their corruption and profanity so that the networks cannot ignore or scorn their efforts. They can make their displeasure felt by refusing to buy the products of filthy programs and notifying the sponsors of their actions. Most of all we can change channels or else turn off the TV set completely. If we lack the will and character to do this, then it would be better to get rid of our television sets. Strong resistance is the only solution to the invasion that imperils our homes and nation.

CONTACT

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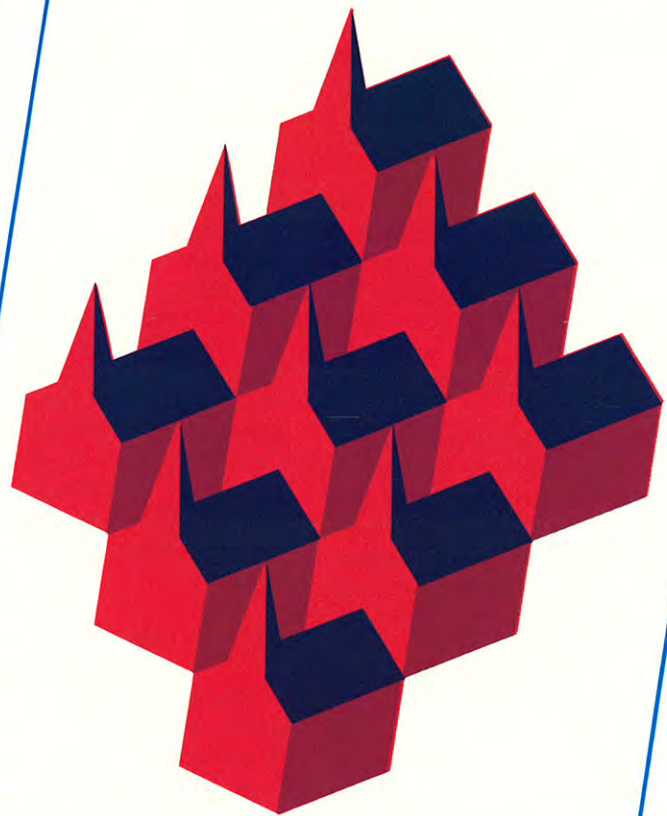
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