

OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



## 1976: IT WAS A RECORD CONVENTION





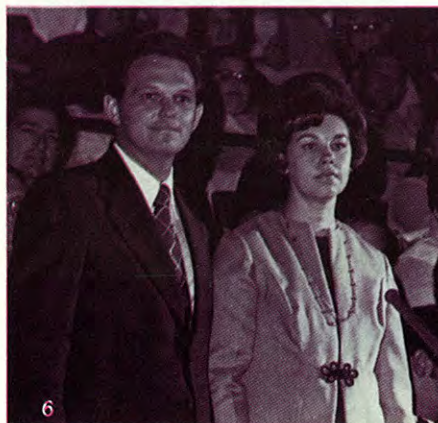
# BICENTENNIAL CONVENTION



## PICTURE CAPTIONS

### Cover

1. CTS Crusader Debbie Mills, Ypsilanti, Michigan, uses facial expression and gestures to get the judge's first place nod in the Oral Communication division of the National Youth Conference.
2. Robert Shockey, General Director of Home Missions Department, draws hearty "amens" as he gives the missionary challenge to the convention on Wednesday evening.
3. Pastor Fred Lucas, Torrington, Wyoming, is one of over 20 state representatives who carried state banners to the platform during the opening activities of the convention Monday evening.
4. Convention business draws some thoughtful expressions from pastors David McDaniel, left, Springfield, Illinois, and Gary Terrell, Buhl, Idaho.
5. Two signs in strategic locations near the Assembly Center welcome Free Will Baptists. The signs are a project of the Tulsa County Ministerial Association.



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1. The Wednesday evening missionary service drew 5,739 persons, the largest crowd ever to assemble for a single service of any national meeting.
2. Convention voting time finds Moderator J. D. O'Donnell watching as Assistant Clerk Lloyd Plunkett, right, and Clerk Waldo Young tally the figures relayed from the floor by usher Jim Haas, Skiatook, Oklahoma.
3. Beneath the convention's theme banner, Free Will Baptist Bible College Ensemble presents the patriotic musical, "I Love America." Music instructor Maude Coffey directed the group.
4. Mrs. June Critcher, Nashville, Tennessee, addresses the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention during its afternoon session.
5. Convention Music Director Henry Van Kluyve, director of deputation with the Foreign Missions Department, involves the audience in the convention singing.
6. Home Missionaries Larry and Wanda Powell, McAllen, Texas, stand amidst fellow missionaries during introduction time Wednesday evening.



# SETS NEW RECORDS

By Jack Williams and  
Eugene Workman

Record breaking statistics characterized the 40th annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Over 6,000 delegates and visitors from 32 states, 7 foreign countries and 1 territory were graciously hosted by Oklahoma Free Will Baptists for this annual gathering July 11-15 in the windy canyons of downtown Tulsa.

Tulsa's Assembly Center was teeming with Free Will Baptists from Sunday night when 4,245 attended the keynote service of the National Youth Conference to the voting on the last item of business on Thursday afternoon. Local hotels, motels and restaurants became Free Will Baptist havens during that time. A friendly news media smiled benevolently on the Free Will Baptist deluge infiltrating the city. Convention personalities and happenings grabbed a lion's share of radio and television programming as well as accurate and sincere newspaper space.

## STATISTICAL RECORDS BROKEN

Meeting under the patriotic banner, "Fanning the Flames of Freedom," the Bicentennial convention attracted 4,580 registrants, the greatest delegation ever to register for a National Association. The largest crowd ever present for a single service of a national meeting was recorded for the Wednesday evening missionary service when 5,739 persons filled the Assembly Center Arena. Attendance records were also set by the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention with 1,021 registrants and the National Youth Conference which attracted 2,362 participants. Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey stated that although dual representation in more than one of the simultaneous conferences is per-

missible, many of the denomination's youth did not register for the national meeting proper.

In his report to the national convention Mr. Coffey noted that Cooperative Plan giving zoomed upward the first 6 months of 1976 at a phenomenal 28.5% rate of increase over 1975. The 1976 gain represents the largest increase in the same period of time ever in the history of the Cooperative Plan. He also noted that in 1975 the increase over the previous year was 20%, which was also a record climb.

The unprecedented increase in cooperative giving reflects that more local churches are adopting this denominational plan of stewardship, which provides undergirding support for the ministries of all the national departments except the Sunday School Department which is self-sustaining.

The achievements noted at this convention are indicators that the denomination is aggressively trying to achieve Mr. Coffey's challenge of the 1975 national meeting when he urged the launching of a "Decade of Advance" beginning with the Bicentennial year of 1976.

## THE 25-YEAR CHALLENGE

What may very well prove to be one of the biggest challenges ever placed before the Free Will Baptist denomination was unveiled in Tulsa's darkened Assembly Center Arena on Wednesday morning. Dr. Roger Reeds narrated a half-hour audiovisual presentation calling for one million people to be enrolled in Free Will Baptist Sunday schools by the year 2,000 A.D.

"From 2 to 1 by 2" is to be the motto. "The motto means simply this," explained Reeds. "Based upon the... current enrollment figure of 200,000, I am calling for our denomination to reach the lofty plateau of one million

enrolled in our Sunday schools by the year 2,000 A.D.: hence, the motto 'From 2 (200,000) to 1 (one million) by 2 (2,000 A.D.).'"

The challenge of the denomination's third century will only be achieved after Free Will Baptists deal with several growth hindering factors. Reeds listed, "We must overcome our apathy.... We must overcome our inferiority complex.... We must stop using the excuse that Jesus is coming soon.... Divisions must give way to cooperation. Some must change their attitudes toward numbers."

Reeds asked the support of every denominational department in this effort. Large churches were implored to assist smaller churches. Every church was urged to take up the gauntlet: "Double your enrollment by 1980 and every decade thereafter until we have reached our goal." The convention flowed to the altar in a prayer of dedication to this enormous undertaking. As the prayer ended, a new slide flashed on the screen. Two words blared: "The Beginning."

## FRONT LINE REPORT: BUSINESS SESSIONS

The voting delegation started early, worked long and stayed late in Tulsa, hammering out decisions which will influence the National Association for years to come. Eight major areas drew large blocs of delegate attention.

### Area 1: Graduate Studies Committee

Doubtless the most strongly contested matter on the business agenda was the decision to appoint a 5-man committee to study the feasibility of beginning a denominational seminary and/or graduate school. Two opposing factions debated back and forth for an hour Wednesday afternoon on not only the propriety of such





## BICENTENNIAL CONVENTION SETS NEW RECORDS

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a committee's being formed, but also whether the chair should appoint or the body elect the committee members.

Dr. L. C. Johnson, president of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, made a motion to postpone for one year any action of the national body pending the completion of a similar study already underway at the Bible College. The postponement motion eventually was voted down and the committee authorized. Johnson then submitted that FWBBC would suspend its investigation and pull out of any study effort in this matter since he felt that 2 committees ran the risk of bringing conflicting reports to the 1977 convention.

A motion instructing the college to continue its study met with a second and immediate opposition. Subsequent discussion sharply revealed wide and keen interest both pro and con on this issue. FWBBC was instructed by majority vote to proceed with its study and to cooperate with the Graduate Studies Committee. A motion proposing that the FWBBC Board of Trustees be the Graduate Studies Committee was ruled out of order by the moderator. At this point Dr. Robert Picirilli, former moderator, cautioned the body against what he feared was the misuse of previous question motions to squelch open debate. After the debate subsided, the convention instructed the Bible College to focus its study on establishing a graduate school of religion while the Graduate Studies Committee was mandated to broaden its research and include seminary data as well.

Thursday morning the moderator appointed the 5-man Graduate Studies Committee as follows: Chairman Melvin Worthington, Georgia; Dale Burden, Virginia; Millard Sasser, Missouri; William Mishler, Illinois; and Jack L. Williams, California.

## Area 2: Educational Study Committee

The report of the Educational Study Committee was approved by the assembly. This committee has functioned 2 years gathering data and disseminating its findings regarding family education, Christian education and higher education. Its request to continue one more year in order to edit a book written by Free Will Baptists on the overall task of the church in Christian education was sanctioned.

Educational Study Committee outreaches during the 1976 convention included the family film, "My Son, My Son," shown for all delegates and visitors Saturday evening preceding the convention's opening. During regular convention time the committee sponsored a booth displaying wholesome family magazines; free copies were available to booth visitors. Two seminars, one by Dr. LaVerne Miley discussing the family and another examining the second man concept by Blaine Hughes, were offered. Copies of committee papers were distributed free of charge. These papers deal with the family and external education options. The Sunday School Department published Blaine Hughes' paper on the Christian education director in booklet form. It may be ordered for 50 cents through that department.

## Area 3: Resolutions

Six resolutions, 2 of them normal appreciation nods, swept through convention voting Thursday. A strongly worded resolution censuring some public school systems for promoting secularistic-humanistic philosophies received top billing. While encouraging the establishment of more Christian schools by churches, the resolution also encouraged Christian teachers and administrators who remain in the public schools to exert all possible Christian influence in shaping the programs of those schools.

After lengthy and impassioned debate, the delegates passed a

resolution that Paul's statement in I Timothy 3:2, 12 and Titus 1:6, namely "the husband of one wife," be looked upon as making ineligible as ministers or deacons anyone who has been divorced and remarried, regardless of the cause of the divorce or the guilt or innocence of either partner. Each body comprising the National Association was "encouraged to adopt" this position so as to afford across-the-denomination unanimity of standards for any new candidates. The resolution is not retroactive. Said persons whose marital state disqualifies them to be ordained were "encouraged to live faithfully for Christ and serve Him" in other church-related positions.

The assembly was quick to pass a resolution denouncing homosexuality, adultery and fornication. Another resolution urged the use of the King James Version of the Bible in public services.

## Area 4: Dress Code Guidelines

"If we are going to be born again people, then we ought to look like it from the outside," one delegate told the convention during the lively discussion which swirled around the General Board recommendation to accept the Church Training Service Board's dress code proposal. The CTS Board was acting on instruction of last year's delegation to set forth guidelines for all participants in the youth competition and the delegates to the national body.

"If we compromise our appearance and attitudes, next thing will be our doctrines; and we will be going down the road of most of the other major denominations," one delegate asserted.

"What is the biblical standard for a necktie?" countered another delegate. "I would not want to turn away any individual from youth camp or their conventions unless my convictions about the matter were strong enough that I could stand at the door of my own church and say, 'You cannot enter this church and hear the Gospel



unless you put on certain articles of apparel, including a tie.' Unless I could look them in the eye and say that at my church, I could not vote for the motion."

After a lengthy discussion the matter was ultimately referred to the Executive Committee for further study by a vote of 309-297. The Executive Committee will report in 1977.

#### Area 5: National Offices Trustees

Because the National Offices Trustees served no other function than to hold title to the National Offices property, the Treatise was changed to allow the directors of the departments who now serve as the Management Committee to fulfill this role. Therefore, the Management Committee now serve as trustees. Treatise references affected by this decision are Section 20, page 80; Item G, page 77; Section 16, page 79.

#### Area 6: Co-op Allocation

The Executive Office expenses are underwritten completely by Co-op funds. Budgetary needs for 1977 are projected at \$91,183. Remaining funds are to be distributed in this proportion.

Church Training Serv. .... 15%  
Retirement and Ins. .... 12%  
Laymen's Board ..... 3.5%  
Commission on  
Theo. Liberalism ..... .5%

The remaining 69 percent is to be divided equally among the Foreign Missions Department, Home Missions Department and Free Will Baptist Bible College. Each department is to receive 33 1/3 percent of the 69 percent.

Departmental budgets totaling 5.23 million dollars were given unanimous approval.

#### Area 7: Future Convention Sites

The body accepted the invitation from the North Carolina State Association to meet in Charlotte for the 1979 session. California Free Will Baptists will host the 1980 meeting at Anaheim.

The 1977 convention will be in Cobo Hall in Detroit, Michigan, July 17-21. Delegates will travel to

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Dr. Roger Reeds  
(See page 3)



Dr. Robert Picirilli  
(See page 7)



Vernon Whaley  
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Rufus Coffey

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to coverage of the national meeting, the monthly columns "Christian Doctrine" and "Our Women Speak" are not included in this issue.*

*The staff is indebted to Reverend Jack Williams for his contributions to this convention issue. Mr. Williams is Dean of California Christian College, Fresno.*

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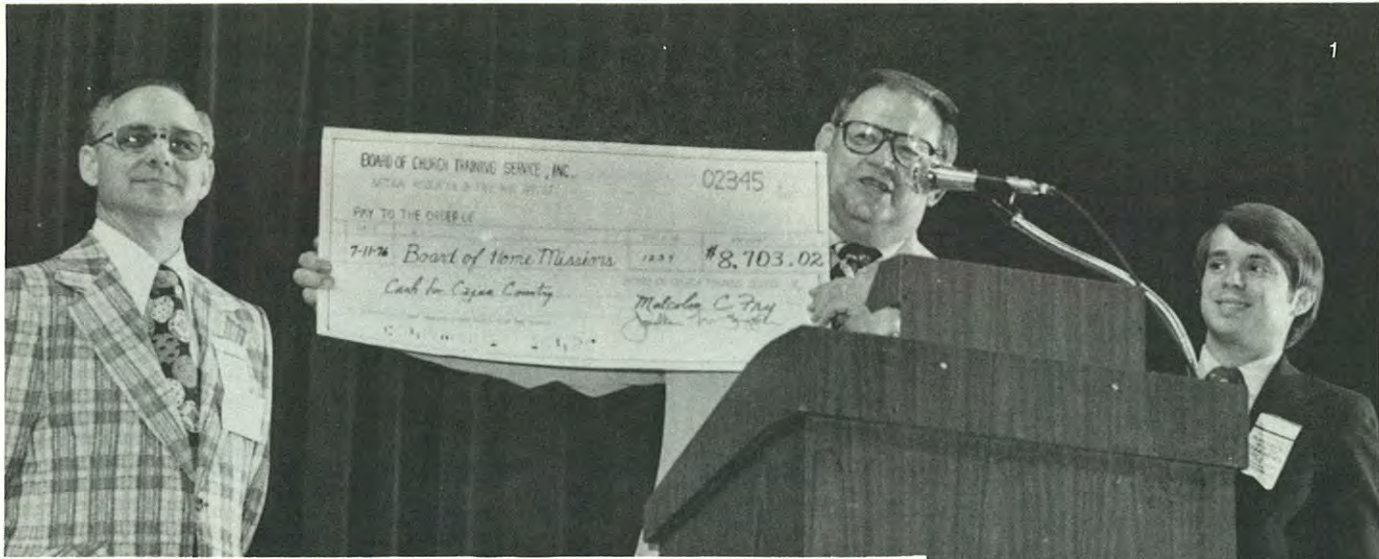


## CONTACT

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Kansas City, Missouri, for the 1978 conclave.

### Area 8: Miscellaneous

Scant minutes before final adjournment 3 subjects were tossed onto the convention floor. Each was quickly heard. A suggestion that the convention consider making arrangements to adjourn following the Wednesday night missionary service was to be passed on to the Executive Committee. A motion to prohibit CTS competitive activities on Sunday found little support and was voted down. Objection was raised to continually reelecting the same executive officers.

## TULSA EXTRAS

### Convention Firsts: Film Time and Contact Dinner

Two convention firsts appeared on the agenda for the 1976 national meeting. One was the Saturday night family film time and the other was a dinner sponsored by **CONTACT** Magazine.

In anticipation of the many Free Will Baptists who would be arriving in Tulsa a day earlier than usual so that their youth could participate in the National Youth



1. Home Missions Director Robert Shockey holds the gigantic check presented to him by Director Malcolm Fry, left, and Jonathan Thigpen of the CTS Department. The check represents a portion of the almost \$9,000 which has been received for the 1975-1976 CTS Project, "Cash For Cajun Country." The money will be used in the purchase of property for the mission work in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where Larry Russell is serving.

2. Mrs. Gerry Waid staffs the Executive Office display booth where supporters of the denomination's Cooperative Plan of Support are given "the tip of the hat." Over 40 exhibitors lined the display gallery to offer helps and information to conventioners.

3. Missionary to France Joe Haas, right, introduces Pierre Marchand, a member of his church in Rennes, during the worship hour of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.

4. Dr. Wade Jernigan, president of California Christian College in Fresno, delivers the convention's opening address on Monday night.

5. Free Will Baptists' only missionary doctor, LaVerne Miley, Ivory Coast, West Africa, speaks at the WNAC Fellowship Dinner. He also conducted an afternoon seminar on the Christian home, one of 24 seminars offered during the convention.

6. Congressman John Conlan from Arizona received a standing ovation from the Tuesday evening convention crowd following his address, "One Nation Under God." He also spoke at the Pastors' Dinner.

7. Over 150 people lined the 3 aisles on the convention floor to make commitments following the Wednesday evening missionary message.





Conference activities on Sunday afternoon, a family film time was scheduled for Saturday evening. Over 750 Free Will Baptists filed into Mayo Hotel's Crystal Ballroom to view the feature-length film, "My Son, My Son," which tells the true story of a wayward son of a Christian couple.

Preceding the two-reel film, the delegation heard a strong monologue by California layman Mal King of Santa Paula. King is the director of Ventura County Regional Criminal Justice Training Board. He presented the 20-minute devotional entitled "The Centurion," a striking account of a Roman soldier's encounter with Christ. The stage for this devotion was set by Dr. Malcolm Fry, CTS director, who ministered with a well-prepared solo, "He Looked Beyond My Fault and Saw My Need."

What has been described as the "\$10 Experiment" transpired this year on Wednesday evening when *CONTACT*, the official publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, hosted an evaluation and subscription dinner. The tickets sold for \$10 each, and each ticket holder was given a free, hard-back copy of the New American Standard Version of the Bible, which retailed for more than the ticket price. The *CONTACT* staff pulled out all the stops in a concerted effort to multiply the publication's number of home deliveries.

The 5:00 p.m. dinner had a blue ribbon speaker but primitive meeting facilities. Due to lack of adequate space for larger dinner meetings in Tulsa's Assembly Hall, this inaugural dinner was served in an unair-conditioned, out-of-the-way room. Despite the discomfort of the heat, Dr. Robert Picirilli was not hindered in his address to the 126 guests on "Gifts of the Spirit: A New Look at Christian Service."

Though in shirt sleeves and somewhat obscured from sight by concrete pilings, Dr. Picirilli scolded an immature Christianity that prompted superior feelings

toward some who are deemed "less talented." He affirmed that the purpose of gifts is edification of the church and that the "best gifts" are those which most ably accomplish that purpose. He further delineated that all believers have at least one and maybe more than one spiritual gifts. Picirilli categorized spiritual gifts generally as "sign gifts" which were temporary, "special gifts" which were accessible to only a few, and "service gifts" which were available to many. The local church can expect the Holy Spirit to supply such gifts to its members as are actually needed.

#### **WNAC Fellowship Dinner: Sell-Out Crowd**

One could not help but feel somewhat sentimental as Dr. LaVerne Miley, medical missionary to Ivory Coast, West Africa, shared a personal account of his grandfather's immigration to the United States from Czechoslovakia at the WNAC Fellowship Dinner on Monday evening. As a sell-out group of 960 persons sat quietly, Dr. Miley then ably guided the crowd through his message of the evening, "Free, Yet Servants." In a pointed, but simple presentation the missionary doctor showed how the believer was free from satan and self so that he might be free to serve.

Prior to the address the Bicentennial Song Booklet, composed of original songs submitted by Free Will Baptist women, was introduced to the waiting crowd by song director Bob Followwill, Oklahoma City. The booklet was made up of 46 songs selected for inclusion from over 60 entries in the contest, which was sponsored by WNAC earlier in the year. Special music of the evening was provided by Mrs. Sue Sellars of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Mrs. Nadine Followwill, Oklahoma City.

#### **The Dawn Patrol: FWB Music Fellowship**

The hour of 7:00 a.m. is not early, except at the National

## **VOTING IN TULSA '76**

The following members were elected during the 40th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

#### **ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS 1976-77**

Moderator J. D. O'Donnell (TN)  
Assistant Moderator  
Bobby Jackson (NC)  
Clerk Waldo Young (OK)  
Assistant Clerk  
Lloyd Plunkett (CA)

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1978 Galen Dunbar (VA)  
1978 Carl Vallance (WV)  
1978 Jack Richey (OK)

#### **FWBBC BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

1982 Randy Cox (NC)  
1982 Dann Patrick (TN)  
1982 Tom Malone (AL)

#### **CHURCH TRAINING SERVICE BOARD**

1982 Milton Worthington (MI)  
1982 Mike Boggs (OH)  
1982 Carl Heinz (IL)

#### **FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD**

1982 Ronnie Winkle (WA)  
1982 James Murray (OK)  
1982 Jim Walker (IL)

#### **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

1979 Robert Picirilli (TN)

#### **COMMISSION ON THEOLOGICAL**

#### **LIBERALISM**

1981 Dean Moore (CA)

Convention.

But some 90 wide-eyed music enthusiasts squeezed into the hot, muggy East Annex Room in Tulsa's Assembly Center to support the growing Free Will Baptist Music Fellowship. President Vernon Whaley maintained a running commentary of Music Fellowship benefits while break-fasters enjoyed ham and eggs. Whaley juggled quartet and soloist guests throughout the agenda. Soprano Sue Gage Wilcox sang a medley of original songs, a moving experience perhaps intensified by the early hour.

Speaker Don Clark, music instructor at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, answered the question, "Who Are We and What Shall We Do?" Clark, who formerly headed the music department at FWBBC, rounded up numerous Old Testament passages to punctuate the role of





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music personnel. "The Lord of music deserves quality," sounded Clark. He zeroed in on having well-rounded hymnals for church worship, then scored advanced and continued training in instrumental or voice areas.

Clark cautioned against using guest musicians in a local church, especially musicians whose philosophies and performances contradicted high musical standards. He urged utilizing specialists occasionally to upgrade and guide on the local level. Mr. Clark shared his marvelous baritone voice in concluding his workshop.

The FWB Music Fellowship is becoming highly visible as a service organization. It is manned by a dedicated nucleus of alert, talented Free Will Baptists. A 6-man study committee was appointed to recommend goals and objectives for the group.

### **Pastor's Dinner: Congressman Conlan Sways Hundreds**

Arizona Congressman John Conlan told the 550 gathered in Tulsa's Assembly Center that decentralization of government power from the few to the people is a biblical philosophy and a practical necessity.

Conlan, son of National League umpire Jocko Conlan, garnered a rousing response from the Free Will Baptist leaders. He noted,

"People like you are carrying the ball in America for freedom." He spat repeated warnings against high government exploitation in the religious sector of this country. Specifically, Conlan rehearsed how proposed federal legislation negative to Christian radio stations, youth camps and tax-exempt status for churches was thwarted by letter writing campaigns on the part of concerned Evangelicals.

"Secular humanism is machine-gunning your flocks from their political, educational and entertainment spheres," trumpeted the former paratrooper. He urged election of political leaders who would reinforce home values. Conlan shared colorful episodes of prayer meetings in Washington and Bible studies for Congressmen. He was clear and forthright in his firm Christian commitment.

Before closing his dinner remarks, the Congressman stabbed again at nonvoting Christians who must share their part of the blame for tolerating near pagan leadership in America.

### **Another Dawn Patrol: The Layman's Breakfast**

It was a near sell-out this year for the hard-driving Layman's Board. They convinced 475 weary conventioners to purchase breakfast tickets and then show up at 7:00 Wednesday morning. The Gerald Brashear Trio, a layman and his family, sang the early risers past their orange juice and coffee.

Keith Kenemer announced the Layman of the Year. Twenty-one nominees for the honor were recognized and presented with certificates acknowledging their recommendations by their pastors. The 1976 Layman of the Year is Texas Promotional Secretary Jim Williams of Bryan. Runner-up for the year's award is Jerry Binkley, Sunday school superintendent of the Good Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Pleasant View, Tennessee.

But when it came time for "Boomer Sooner" Steve Davis,

former Oklahoma University quarterback, to speak, he was a no-show. After an hour and a quarter Loyd Olsan explained that Davis was not in the convention complex. He turned to Keith Kenemer and passed the microphone to the jovial, always ready layman. Layman Board leaders later learned that Mr. Davis had trouble with his private air plane at take-off time and was unable to reach an officer of the group by telephone until a later hour.

The Master's Men have prepared a 20-year history of their organization. It is available for \$1 per copy from the Layman's Board.

## **WNAC CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST 1975-76**

### **PROGRAMS**

1. Vernie Hersey  
Nashville, Tennessee
  2. Helen McAllister  
Farmington, Missouri
  3. Anne Worthington  
Albany, Georgia
- Honorable Mention:  
Polly Roberson  
Leeds, Alabama  
Jean Williams  
Raytown, Missouri

### **ARTICLES**

1. Gertrude Cantrell  
Santa Fe Springs, California
  2. Betty Reeves  
Farmington, Missouri
  3. Kathey Barnes  
Washington, North Carolina
- Honorable Mention:  
Loree Medley  
Wichita Falls, Texas  
Rosemary Blackburn  
West Frankfort, Illinois

### **PLAYS/SKITS**

1. Velda Tucker  
Batesville, Arkansas
  2. Ann Ruble  
Sophia, West Virginia  
Mary Perry  
Mt. Hope, West Virginia
  3. Mildred Daniel  
Troy, Michigan
- Honorable Mention:  
Norma White  
Corcoran, California  
Mary Ann Owens  
St. Clair, Missouri



MASTER'S MEN DIRECTOR Loyd Olsan is flanked by Layman of the Year Jim Williams, left, and runner-up Jerry Binkley.



## WNAC

Delegates to the 41st annual session of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention passed a resolution opposing abortion on demand during the convention's business activities July 13. Meeting for its Bicentennial conclave in Tulsa's Assembly Center, the delegates also looked favorably upon the proposal to continue with the creative writing contest using the same categories as the previous years of programs, plays or skits, and articles. This year from 79 entries 15 women were presented awards for their writing efforts.

States and/or districts are asked to send to the WNAC office biographies and photos of women who are or have been prominent in the work of the Woman's Auxiliary. These women will be honored as space permits on the future pages of *Co-Laborer*.

In keeping with the increased attendance of 1,021 to this annual assembly, Executive Secretary Cleo Pursell reported a membership increase of 665 as compared to a 498 member increase last year. Missions gifts (including noncash gifts and gifts to Bible colleges) totaled \$144,211, an increase of more than \$20,000. Of this amount \$13,346 was contributed in noncash gifts to the missionary provision closet maintained at the national office.

Joe Haas, missionary on furlough from France, was the keynote speaker for the worship hour. He delighted the audience by introducing the president of the Woman's Auxiliary from the church in Rennes, France, who with her husband attended the national meeting. Both of the French representatives spoke briefly while their pastor interpreted. Missionary Haas then fulfilled his assignment of the hour and challenged those who heard with his development of the theme, "Free Indeed."

On Tuesday afternoon after a rousing musical presentation by the New Life Singers of Hillsdale

College, the women were intrigued by the drama, "Free To Follow Him," written and directed by Mary Ruth Wisehart of the Cofer's Chapel Auxiliary, Nashville, Tennessee. Profiles of women down through the centuries who chose to follow their Lord because He gave them

freedom to do so were presented by 9 women. This was a fitting prelude to the stirring message with which June Critcher climaxed the Bicentennial celebration using the subject, "Free To Be God's Woman." Mrs. Critcher is a pastor's wife from Nashville, Tennessee. △

## Tulsa '76

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

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2.	"Continuing Education Through Home Studies" — Thomas Marberry	( )
3.	"Getting The Most From Personal Bible Study" — Milton Worthington	( )
4.	"What Is A Pastor's Wife To Do?" — Betty Hill	( )
5.	"Maintaining An Effective Missionary Program" — Dr. Norm Lewis	( )
6.	"Christian Education: The Total Task Of The Church" — Harrold Harrison	( )
7.	"Developing Church Activities For Older Adults" — Herman Hersey	( )
8.	"Act Or Lose Religious Freedom" — Wyatt W. Lipscomb	( )
9.	"God's Ideal Deacon" — Dr. J. D. O'Donnell	( )
10.	"Developing A Dynamic Soul-Winning Church" — Dr. Max Helton	( )
11.	"The Pastor's Role In Church Administration" — Dale Burden	( )
12.	"The Issue Of Scriptural Separation" — Leroy Forlines	( )
13.	"Building A Year-Round Stewardship Program" — R. T. McCartney	( )
14.	"The Second Man: Myth, Monster Or Ministry" — Blaine Hughes	( )
15.	"Gifts Of The Spirit In The Life Of The Church" — Dan Cronk	( )
16.	"The Guise Of Mormonism" — John L. Smith	( )
<b>SPECIAL EVENTS</b>		
17.	WNAC Fellowship Dinner, "Free Yet Servants" — Dr. LaVerne Miley	( )
18.	Pastors' Dinner: "Christian Citizenship" — Congressman John Conlan	( )
19.	Layman's Breakfast — Keith Kenemer	( )
20.	CONTACT Dinner: "Gifts Of The Spirit: A New Look At Christian Service" — Dr. Robert Picirilli	( )
<b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b>		
21.	Sunday Morning: "Anchored Till Morning" — John West	( )
22.	NYC Keynote Service — Robert Shelton	( )
23.	"The Foundation Of Freedom" — Wade Jernigan	( )
24.	WNAC Missionary Service — Joe Haas	( )
25.	"One Nation Under God" — Congressman John Conlan	( )
26.	"Proclaiming Christ's Freedom" — Robert Shockey	( )
27.	"The Liberated Christian" — Winford Floyd	( )

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# '76 WINNERS: NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

## COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

### BIBLE MEMORIZATION

#### Grade 1

1. Steve Chandler  
Shady Grove Church/Durham, NC
2. Chris Hamm  
Victory Church/Columbus, MS
3. Misty Edwards  
Canah Chapel Church/ Erwin, TN

#### Grade 2

1. Teresa Covey  
First Church/Joplin, MO
2. James Vance Stallings  
Martin Hill Church/Booneville, MS
3. Tracy Hartin  
White Plains Church/Blakely, GA

#### Grade 3

1. Jay Bob Brown  
Crowder Church/Crowder, OK
2. Crystal Dawn O'Neal  
First Church/Darlington, SC
3. LaDonna Steelman  
First Church/Glen Carbon, IL

### SWORD DRILL

1. Jerry Don Spencer  
Southeast Church/Tulsa, OK
2. Randall Sturgill  
Esserville Church/Wise, VA
3. Lynn Ingle  
Beaverdam Church/Candler, NC

### BIBLE TIC TAC TOE

1. Russellville, AL/First Church  
Donna Borden, Susan Borden,  
Tina Randolph, Brent Nix
2. Dayton, OH/First Church  
Frank Gentry, Barbara Lester,  
James Leonard, Troy Sizemore
3. Bixby, OK/Shellenbarger Church  
Brian Gibson, Vicki Gibson,  
Eddie Waugaman, Marcus Pennington

### BIBLE BOWL

1. Birmingham, AL/Forestdale Church  
Diane Beasley, Sandra Hawkins,  
Sharon Hawkins, Pam Pennington
2. Charleston Heights, SC/First Church  
Joni White, Dale Rease
3. Johnston City, IL/Johnston City Church  
Sarah Blades, Dwayne Smith,  
Ralph Colp, Keith Fletcher

## MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

### VOCAL SOLO

#### Adventurer

Winner/Joy Henderson  
Woodbine Church/Nashville, TN  
1st runner-up/Jeff Wilson  
Central Church/Royal Oak, MI  
2nd runner-up/Bruce Kimbrel  
Bellview Church/Colquitt, GA

#### Herald

Winner/Ruth Worthington  
Donelson Church/Nashville, TN  
1st runner-up/Carla Dudley  
Southern Oaks Church/Oklahoma City, OK  
2nd runner-up/Susan Sudduth  
Northport Church/Northport, AL

#### Crusader

Winner/Donell Sessions  
First Church/Pryor, OK  
1st runner-up/Barry Baird  
Harmony Church/Leighton, AL  
2nd runner-up/Sherry Curtis  
Pleasant Grove Church/Hartville, MO

#### Ambassador

Winner/Thurman Lucas  
Peace Church/Wilson, NC  
1st runner-up/Elaine Allen  
Bethany Church/Broken Arrow, OK  
2nd runner-up/Dick Martin  
Central Church/Royal Oak, MI

### VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Winner (TIE)/Immanuel Quartet  
Immanuel Church/Durham, NC  
Woodbine Girls' Ensemble  
Woodbine Church/Nashville, TN  
Cave Springs Trio  
Cave Springs Church/Moulton, AL  
1st runner-up/Shiloh Sextet  
Shiloh Church/Atmore, AL (representing FL)  
2nd runner-up/Pearce Chapel Ensemble  
Pearce Chapel Church/Smithville, MS

### YOUTH CHOIRS

#### Chorale

Winner/Southern Oaks Chorale  
Southern Oaks Church/Oklahoma City, OK  
1st runner-up/Cofer's Chapel Chorale  
Cofer's Chapel Church/Nashville, TN  
2nd runner-up/Guin Chorale  
Guin Church/Guin, AL

#### Choir

Winner/Cofer's Chapel Choir  
Cofer's Chapel Church/Nashville, TN  
1st runner-up/Locust Grove Choir  
Locust Grove Church/Locust Grove, OK  
2nd runner-up/Red Bay Choir  
Red Bay Church/Red Bay, AL

### INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

#### Adventurer

No Winners

#### Herald

Winner/Paul David Reynolds  
First Church/Joplin, MO  
1st runner-up/Paula Miller  
Holdenville Church/Holdenville, OK  
2nd runner-up/Jeff Sloan  
Guin Church/Guin, AL

#### Crusader

Winner/Tim Pierce  
Martin Hill Church/Booneville, MS  
1st runner-up/Terry Van Winkle  
First Church/Norman, OK

#### Ambassador

Winner/Brian Edwards  
First Church/Beaufort, NC

### INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

Winner/Ruth and Rebecca Worthington  
Donelson Church/Nashville, TN  
1st runner-up/Tulsa First Ensemble  
First Church/Tulsa, OK



REPRESENTING ALABAMA, the Bible Bowl team from Forestdale Church, Birmingham, happily receive their first place awards from CTS Director Malcolm Fry.





*TENNESSEE'S GIRLS' ENSEMBLE, Woodbine Church, Nashville, tied for first place honors in their division.*

## KEYBOARD

### Adventurer

Winner/Rhenella Butler  
Union Hill Church/Slocumb, AL  
1st runner-up/Susan Berry  
Randall Memorial Church/Memphis, TN  
2nd runner-up/Derrell Bender  
West Tulsa Church/Tulsa, OK

### Herald

Winner/Larry Price  
First Church/Norman, OK  
1st runner-up/Jonathan Snow  
Decatur Church/Decatur, GA  
2nd runner-up/Lois Edgar  
Randall Memorial Church/Memphis, TN

### Crusader

Winner/Tanya Jarman  
Bethany Church/Broken Arrow, OK  
1st runner-up/Keith Fletcher  
Johnston City Church/Johnston City, IL  
2nd runner-up (TIE)/Karen Howell  
Sherwood Forest Church/New Bern, NC  
Tracie Wright  
Randall Memorial Church/Memphis, TN

### Ambassador

Winner/Mike Turman  
Straight Street Church/Norman, OK  
1st runner-up/Tinker Brake  
Beulah Church/Pensacola, FL

## CREATIVE WRITING

### Adventurer

Winner/Ruth Ann Smith  
Beulah Church/Pensacola, FL

### Herald

Winner/Freda Harper  
Oologah Church/Oologah, OK  
1st runner-up/Janet Perkins  
Liberty Church/Vernon, AL  
2nd runner-up/Ron Peyton  
Randall Memorial Church/Memphis, TN

### Crusader

Winner/Pam Porter  
Oologah Church/Oologah, OK  
1st runner-up/Barry Baird  
Harmony Church/Leighton, AL  
2nd runner-up/Tracie Wright  
Randall Memorial Church/Memphis, TN

### Ambassador

No Entries

## CREATIVE ARTS

### Adventurer

Winner/Mark Hutchings  
First Church/Joplin, MO  
1st runner-up/Tommy Martin  
Bakerville Church/Bonnie, IL  
2nd runner-up/Warren White, Jr.  
White Plains Church/Blakely, GA

### Herald

Winner/Kim Watkins  
Randall Memorial Church/Memphis, TN  
1st runner-up/Tammy Ponyi  
Pleasant View Church/Walnut Hill, IL  
2nd runner-up/Ricky Reynolds  
First Church/Conway, AR

### Crusader

Winner/Micah Jones  
Sylvan Park Church/Nashville, TN  
1st runner-up/Angela Felts  
Grant Avenue Church/Springfield, MO  
2nd runner-up (TIE)/George Perkins  
Christian Home Church/Tampa, FL  
Mark Leonard  
First Dayton Church/Fairborn, OH

### Ambassador

Winner (TIE)/Angela Harlament  
Grant Avenue Church/Springfield, MO  
Leta Welch  
First Church/Mountain Grove, MO

## ORAL COMMUNICATION

### Adventurer

Winner/Audrey Mae Davis  
Southeast Tulsa Church/Tulsa, OK  
1st runner-up/Tammy Brandsma  
West Palm Beach Church/  
West Palm Beach, FL  
2nd runner-up/Jerold Montgomery  
East Heights Church/Tupelo, MS

### Herald

Winner/Rhonda Sealy  
Cove City Church/Cove City, NC  
1st runner-up/Phil Whitaker  
Pine Hill Church/Star City, AR  
2nd runner-up/Paul Hill  
First Church/Chippley, FL

### Crusader

Winner/Debbie Mills  
Stoney Creek Church/Ypsilanti, MI  
1st runner-up/Angela Outland  
Shady Grove Church/Durham, NC  
2nd runner-up/Tenie Sizemore  
First Church/Dayton, OH

### Ambassador

Winner/Cyndy Blake  
Central Church/Royal Oak, MI



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1. W. S. Mooneyham, president of World Vision, concludes the Tuesday evening service with a special prayer for America in this crucial election year.

2. Evangelist Robert Shelton keynotes the opening service for the National Youth Conference on Sunday evening.

3. Saxophone player Tim Pierce, Booneville, Mississippi, plays the selection which won him top honors in the Crusader division of the instrumental solos.

4. Faculty member Leroy Forlines, left, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, and North Carolina pastor Sigbee Dilda, New Bern, both strike contemplative poses during business proceedings.

5. Jim Lauthern, left, shows a conventioneer some of the many books offered at the Sunday School Department's exhibit.

6. Foreign Missions General Director Rolla Smith and his secretary Shirley Lauthern find the Foreign Missions display booth is the ideal place to chat with Lee Evans, a layman from Springfield, Missouri.



6



## **NORTH CAROLINA PASTOR'S WIFE ACQUITTED OF MURDER CHARGE**

HENDERSON, N.C. — Mrs. Sandra Dupree, 34, mother of 4 and wife of Free Will Baptist pastor Harvey Dupree of Scotland Neck, was acquitted here July 10 in the March 11 shooting death of a 21-year-old Scotland Neck man.

Mrs. Dupree took the witness stand in her first-degree murder trial and testified that she shot Harry Lee Dickens in self-defense after Dickens had attacked her and her son in the yard of Dickens' mother's home. Mrs. Dupree stated that she had come to the aid of her 14-year-old son Mark when she drove up the street and saw Dickens holding the boy down on the ground. Dickens then reportedly attacked her. Young Mark was selling newspapers at the time of the shooting. Mark testified Dickens attacked him after he refused to give Dickens \$5.00.

Mr. Dupree is the pastor of Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Scotland Neck. Several North Carolina pastors came to Mrs. Dupree's aid by spearheading a drive to raise money for her defense.

## **OKLAHOMA PASTOR WITH THE LORD**

PRYOR, OKLA. — The Reverend Oron Estes, pastor of the Northside Free Will Baptist Church, Broken Arrow, died July 17, 1976, at the age of 72.

Mr. Estes was a retired school teacher and served as a principal of an elementary school in Haskell for a number of years. He began preaching in 1945 and was ordained to the ministry in 1946. His pastoral ministry had all been with Oklahoma churches.

There were about 30 ministers present for his funeral service, which was conducted by the Reverends Carl Hembree, Howard Gage and Cordell Coppin. Among his survivors is his wife and 2 sons.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

**newsfront**

## **DENOMINATION'S COLLEGE GETS TEACHER CERTIFICATION**

NASHVILLE, TN — Approval to prepare teachers for the elementary grades was given to Free Will Baptist Bible College August 6, 1976, by the Tennessee State Board of Education. According to Dr. Charles A. Thigpen, dean, this means that students who graduate with the elementary education major are eligible to receive the Teachers Professional Certificate En-

dorsement, grades 1-9, from the Tennessee State Department of Education.

This achievement marks the culmination of several years of study and preparation by the administration and faculty of the denomination's 4-year college. The milestone is timely in that many Free Will Baptist churches have begun Christian schools and must have certified faculty members to meet the requirements of their state education boards. There are 8 students who graduated in May, 1976, with the elementary education major who are now eligible for state certification.

Any person who is interested in pursuing a program of study which leads to state certification to teach in the elementary grades should contact Dr. Robert Picirilli, registrar, 3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37205.

## **IDAHO FREE WILL BAPTISTS GIVEN UNUSUAL RECOGNITION**

BOISE, IDAHO — The Free Will Baptists of Idaho have been given some unusual recognition throughout the state according to the Rev. Cecil Spurlock, pastor of the Airport Road Free Will Baptist Church in Twin Falls.

Governor Cecil D. Andrus of the state of Idaho declared that the week beginning June 27, 1976, be "Free Will Baptist Week" in Idaho. In signing the proclamation, Governor Andrus recognized the existence of the denomination in the United States since 1727, emphasized the Free Will Baptist doctrine of freedom of the will in choosing or rejecting Jesus Christ and noted that Free Will Baptists agreed to faithfully discharge their obligations to mankind within the nation and the state. He also called on the people of the state to be aware of the contributions of the Free Will Baptist faith to the individual, his family, his community, his state and the society in general.

## **ARIZONA CHURCH BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW BUILDING**

GLOBE, ARIZ. — The First Free Will Baptist Church recently broke ground for its new 255-seat auditorium. The group is currently meeting in rented facilities.

The Rev. Bennie Burrow is leading this young church in the building program. Pastor Burrow, who served 2 years with the West Coast Mission Board of California and also as an Arkansas pastor, is pleased with the potential of the Globe congregation. The group began meeting some 3 years ago for services.



## FLORENCE CHURCH LAUNCHES "SATURATION EVANGELISM"

FLORENCE, ALA. — With the goal of reaching the city of Florence for the Lord Jesus Christ, the members of the First Free Will Baptist Church of that city launched Saturation Evangelism by publicly announcing the campaign on 7 billboards placed in strategic locations throughout the city.

Saturation Evangelism, according to Pastor Tom Malone, is preaching the Gospel to every available person at every available time by every available means. In addition to the billboards, this program includes other means of evangelistic activity, such as radio, telephone, television, cassette tapes, soul winning for both teens and adults, Bible institute, Christian



day school, bus ministry, church newsletter, newspaper advertisements, special mailings, youth camps, retreats, child evangelism, and other promotional means. Immediately after the billboards were placed, Pastor Malone stated he began receiving responses. Malone feels that the key to Saturation Evangelism is (1) contact, (2) continuous contact, and (3) a consciousness of no limitations.

The church staff at Florence also includes Eric Murphy, minister of music and youth, and Clifford Holland, who serves as principal of Florence Christian Academy.

## MISSION DEPARTMENTS TO SPONSOR COLLEGE MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

NASHVILLE, TENN. — The cause of worldwide missions will come into focus November 1-3 on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College when the departments of Home and Foreign Missions cosponsor a missionary conference. Missionary personnel emphasize that the conference is open to the college family, parents, and friends of the college and missions.

Free Will Baptist home missionary Larry Powell of McAllen, Texas, and Dr. Norm Lewis, former missionary to Argentina, will be the main speakers for this missionary emphasis. Larry has ministered for Free Will Baptists in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and is presently beginning a new home missions effort among the English speaking people on the Texas border. Dr. Lewis is presently director of ministries at Western Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary, Portland, Oregon.

Other personalities featured on the program include foreign

missionaries Dave Franks of Brazil, Joe Haas of France, and Eddie Payne of Ivory Coast and Home Missions Director Bob Shockey and Associate Director Roy Thomas.

The regular Sunday evening campus service, October 31, will feature a missionary emphasis. However, the conference officially starts Monday night, November 1, at 7:30. The conference will continue through the 7:30 service Thursday evening.

## FWBBC DEAN SUFFERS HEART ATTACKS

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Dr. Charles A. Thigpen, academic dean of Free Will Baptist Bible College, is making normal progress after suffering a heart attack in Nashville, on August 10. A second attack occurred August 17. Doctors estimate that recovery will take about 3 months.

Dr. Thigpen, 49, has been active in the affairs of the Free Will Baptist denomination and served as moderator of the National

## FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS ASKED TO SPONSOR THANKSGIVING "GOD AND COUNTRY" RALLIES

NASHVILLE, TENN. — The 180 district associations in the 40 states which comprise the National Association of Free Will Baptists are being called to promote Christian citizenship, renew Christian fellowship and generate a greater sense of oneness in the Body of Christ through "God and Country" rallies.

During the recent national meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey urged that every Free Will Baptist association sponsor a "God and Country" rally during the week of Thanksgiving, November 21-25. Associational moderators have been challenged to plan and promote this effort at which time Free Will Baptists will be united in prayer for God to let "the fires from heaven" fall among us. Mr. Coffey stated that as a result of such gatherings souls would be born into the Kingdom of God and Free Will Baptists would petition God to stay His hand of judgment on our nation and to bring revival in our denomination and nation.

Associational moderators have received a personal letter from Mr. Coffey relative to launching this denominational-wide Thanksgiving week effort. Pastors or laymembers desiring further information should contact their district moderators or Mr. Coffey.

Association from 1954-1960.

He earned his B.A. at Bob Jones College in 1947, his M.A. at Winona Lake School of Theology in 1953 and his D.A. from Middle Tennessee State University last December.

All of Dr. Thigpen's duties have been reassigned to members of the college's faculty and administration while he regains his strength.



## 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

Harvey Henderson of Corinth Church, Midland City from Pine Grove Church, Perdido

Wade Conger to Townley Church, Townley

#### ARKANSAS

Bob Thompson to Sheridan Church, Sheridan from Lubbock Church, Lubbock, Texas

Larry Cook to Pine Hill Church, Star City

#### COLORADO

Ollie Wright to First Church, Denver from Shellenbarger Church, Bixby, Oklahoma

#### GEORGIA

Jimmie Roebuck to Pine Level Church, Norman Park from Arlington Church, Arlington

W. C. Combs to Donalsonville Church, Donalsonville from Piney Grove Church, Chipley, Florida

#### IOWA

Owen Ganey to Riverview Church, Bettendorf from Living Waters Church, Bethel, North Carolina

#### KANSAS

Rue Dell Smith to New Hope Church, Kansas City from Booneville Church, Booneville, Arkansas

#### MICHIGAN

Johnnie Floyd, Jr. to First Church, Hazel Park from Goshen Church, North Belmont, North Carolina

#### MISSOURI

Don Bieberdorf to Granby Church, Granby from New Hope Church, Neosho

#### NORTH CAROLINA

John C. Moore to Asheville Church, Asheville from Sweeten Creek Church, Asheville

Delmus Walker to Davis Church, Davis

#### OKLAHOMA

Burnett Lunsford to Felker Church, Valient

Jesse Stepp to Duck Creek Church, Mounds from Valley Heights Church, Salina

Curtis Linton to Valley Heights Church, Salina

James Cearley to Stobtown Church, Lone Grove

James Franklin to Non Church, Calvin

#### TEXAS

David Archer to First Church, Garland from assistant pastorship, Woodlawn Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma

#### TENNESSEE

Larry Carr to First Church, Jackson



Currently . . .

By  
**EUGENE WORKMAN**  
Administrative Editor

The congregation of the **Mount Holly FWB Church, Mount Holly, North Carolina**, recently surprised **Pastor Homer Arrowwood** with a 1976 Ford LTD automobile on his birthday. Brother Arrowwood has served with the church for 11 years.

Dedication services for the new Christian education building of the **First FWB Church, Cushing, Oklahoma**, were held Sunday, July 11, with **Mr. Keith Kenemer** of Sunday School Revivals, Dalton, Georgia, and **Dr. Roger Reeds**, general director of the Sunday School Department of the National Association participating in the dedicatory activities. Pastor **Richard Gallant** is thrilled with the additional space.

Mississippi's newest home missionary, **Rev. Steve Nichols**, who is ministering in Greenwood, reports there were 21 present for Sunday services July 25. The Greenwood Mission began services June 13, 1976. The group is temporarily meeting in the missionary's home but is seeking a lot to set up the state's mobile chapel.

North Carolina's newest missionary effort has been started at Swainsboro by the **Rev. Rudolph Outlaw**. The mobile chapel from the state Home Mission Board is being utilized in this new endeavor.

The youth of the **Grant Avenue FWB Church, Springfield, Missouri**, had a unique opportunity in August to spend 2 weeks in Colorado visiting Free Will Baptist churches and camping while seeing the sights of the state. Almost 30 youths made the trip under the leadership of assistant pastor **Eddie Altis** and

## DEATH CLAIMS RETIRED MISSOURI MINISTER

DESLOGE, MO. — The Reverend John Long, 77, died Sunday, July 25, in a St. Louis Hospital following an extended illness. At the time of his death he was a member of the Parkview Free Will Baptist Church in Desloge, where he had formerly served as pastor. Funeral services were conducted July 28 at the church.

Brother Long was pastor of the Desloge church in 1957 when the original building was destroyed by a tornado. He then led the church in a building program.

Mr. Long entered the ministry in 1933 and pastored a number of churches in the southeast Missouri area. Among his survivors is his wife Myrtle, 2 daughters and 4 sons. Son Vernon is a licensed minister and resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

## ALABAMA PASTOR ON TO GLORY

PHENIX CITY, ALA. — For almost 22 years Walter E. Jones served as pastor of the St. James Free Will Baptist Church. He was serving the congregation of his home church at the time of his death June 10, 1976. He served only one other church, Damascus Free Will Baptist Church in Georgia during his ministry.

Among his survivors is his wife Etta. She states that her husband had deep feelings for the ministry of the Children's Home and for the cause of home and foreign missions. He was also interested in the elderly and several years ago organized a group from the church who ministered at local nursing homes each week.

Mr. Jones was 56 at the time of death.



chaperons. Other churches might do well to consider providing similar opportunities for the youth of their congregations.

California pastor **Gordon Bradshaw, Selma FWB Church, Selma**, has returned to his pulpit and resumed part of his pastoral duties following a near fatal car accident last spring.

Did you ever celebrate "Christmas in July"? That was the emphasis for the bus ministry at **Grace FWB Church, Rocky Mount, North Carolina**, for Sunday, July 25. Assistant pastor **Billy Keith** stated, "The 183 riders did not know what to expect but really became excited when they alighted from the bus to find Christmas trees, Christmas bells, Christmas carols and even Christmas presents."

Building programs can be exciting events as **Pastor Billy Bevan** and the congregation of the **Tupelo FWB Church, Tupelo, Mississippi**, are discovering. It is exciting to see the new addition take shape, but Pastor Bevan is even more excited by the fact that the building is being paid for as it progresses. In a 3-months period the congregation made 2 payments, the first one \$26,100 and the second \$11,700. A third payment of \$26,900 was due in mid-August. Pastor Bevan has a right to praise the congregation for their faithfulness.

**Capitol Hill FWB Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**, is trying a new approach to the Thursday evening visitation program by combining visitation and fellowship. In an effort to enhance both phases of church life, **Pastor Homer Young** has suggested that those participating in visitation meet in specified homes for a time of prayer prior to visiting and then return to that home for a time of fellowship later in the evening. This sounds like a great idea for taking care of 2 specific needs in the church program.

**Pastor Eugene Waddell** was boosting the 30-member youth choir from **Cofer's Chapel FWB Church, Nashville, Tennessee**, who brought home the top rating in competition at the National

Association in Tulsa. He states the group achieved 69 of a possible 70 points. **Dr. Charles Hampton** directed the group.

In addition to the day care and kindergarten ministry, the **First FWB Baptist Church, Inman, South Carolina**, opened **Inman Christian Academy** with grades 1-12 in August. The school will utilize the Accelerated Christian Education program. **Pastor Earl Hendrix** will serve as principal.

The **Guin FWB Church, Guin, Alabama**, initiated a 5-year-old kindergarten program this year. **Pastor Richard Cordell** indicates that the success of this teaching program will help to determine the decision to add other grades in the future. A day care program was instituted earlier in the year.

The walk-a-thon annually conducted by the **Canton FWB Church, Canton, North Carolina**, to benefit the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, yielded \$3,933.32. Additional offering on Sunday netted \$1,220.23 for a grand total of \$5,153.55. Being able to exceed their goal of \$4,000 was a big thrill, according to **Pastor Larry Hughes**.

The **Fellowship FWB Church, Kingsport, Tennessee**, continues to reach out beyond its 4 walls to meet the needs of others. Most recently the church voted to increase missions giving by \$100 per month with \$50 to go to Joe Haas in France and \$50 to go to the Jim Cowarts, who are training for service in Brazil. They also made another gift to the ministry of Tennessee's state office, headed by **Promotional Director John Gibbs**. **Pastor Winston Sweeny** and his congregation are proving that the church which gives to outside causes will not suffer for needs within.

The rains of July 4 did not stop the crowd from coming to **Eastside FWB Church, Elizabethton, Tennessee**. **Pastor Richard Adams** stated they had a total of 740 present for the special service commemorating our nation's 200th birthday.

**Pastor Thomas Johnson, Grace FWB Church, DeQueen, Arkansas**,

mixes praise and statistics in giving a summary of the first 6 months of activities for this mission work: Sunday school enrollment reached 33; average weekly attendance, 20; salvation decisions, 31; rededication, 1; record high Sunday school attendance, 55; record high number of people in any given service, 83 for a revival. The church has also purchased a bus through donations and is the recipient of a central heating and air conditioning system given by a Christian couple from Shawnee, Oklahoma. The group is now in the process of adding 2 new classrooms to the house which they remodeled for church facilities prior to the first service. The work is being financed through donated cash, materials and labor.

The great number of the publications I received prior to our national meeting publicized the annual convention. Following the national meeting, many pastors took the opportunity to share with their people some of the activities that transpired during that session. Those of us from the National Offices who labor in planning, preparing and fulfilling the program of the national meeting are grateful for this promotion at the local church level. These efforts certainly contributed to the record attendance that was experienced at the 1976 meeting.

**First FWB Church, Searcy, Arkansas**, is literally "on the move" according to **Pastor Howard Hensley**. The church has purchased 3 acres of land in the west part of the city to build a new church plant. This purchase will be followed by much prayer, planning and promoting before actual construction begins.

**Pastor Richard Kennedy** preached to 630 people June 6, the second anniversary of **Temple FWB Church, Greenville, North Carolina**.

**Ada FWB Church, Ada, Oklahoma**, has 19 couples in the congregation who have been married

(Please turn to page 18)



# THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WORK ETHIC

By Paul Fred Hall

A hastily lettered sign held by a rather rumpled looking young man attracted the attention of motorists along busy Interstate 40. The sign said simply, "Tramps for Jesus." When questioned as to the meaning of the seemingly paradoxical words, the young man indicated that he was floating from one town to another, wherever his ride of the moment happened to be going, and living from the sympathetic gifts of those who felt sorry for him. He was doing it all "in the name of Jesus."

There is something alarming about that young man's attitude. First of all, it is alarming that so many young people, claiming to be Christians, are accepting this "Christian vagabond's" way of life. They feel that without lifting a finger toward any constructive work their needs will be met by the gracious hand of God. Secondly, it is alarming that there is such a similarity between this way of life and the old "hobo" way. He was marked by a total lack of dependency and a drift toward the seamy and coarse things in life. There was nothing Christian about him as he was a totally undesirable and unwholesome character. Yet, this bumming way of life is attractive to many youthful Christians of this day.

The aversion to work in this country can be reflected in the many federal, state and local programs of recent years

designed to meet the daily material and social needs of people. *U.S. News and World Report* said in its issue of December 22, 1975, "Spending for social welfare and related programs has jumped from less than a third — 32 percent — of the total federal budget to well over half — 55 percent." In 1966 the total amount spent from the federal budget for such programs amounted to 43.1 billion dollars, while in 1976 that amount will be 202.6 billion dollars, an astronomical amount!

The federal food stamp program, designed to help families of low income stretch their food dollar, has ballooned upward every year of its existence. In 1964 there were 367,000 participants in the program. This number has now grown to the staggering figure of 18.9 million participants. The cost of the administration of the program and the benefits received by the participants is threatening to become a burden that the American taxpayer cannot bear.

The trend that develops in the

light of these enormous expenditures of tax money for such programs is a dependency upon a program rather than a personal obligation to be involved in a meaningful work that will produce the supply for the everyday needs of a family. Such a dependency is not a part of the Christian work ethic.

There are certainly legitimate reasons why some may not be physically able to work at meaningful jobs. In other instances, jobs may not be available. Yet, there remains for most Christians the spiritual obligation to earn their bread by the sweat of their brows whether the job is desirable or not. Paul addressed this problem when he wrote to the church in Thessalonica, "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly (i.e. in idleness or undisciplined fashion), working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread" (II Thessalonians 3:10-12). It is obvious that Paul was instructing all who were able-bodied to carry on meaningful labor in order to earn the bread which they would consume daily. To do any differently would be to walk "disorderly" and come under the disapproval of the church and the Lord.

At least 2 facets of the Christian's work obligation ought to be considered here. First, the Christian employee has a spiritual obligation to perform to the best of his ability in the job for which he has been hired. The important matters of service to God and a pure testimony before men are certainly involved in this facet of one's Christian obligation. On the other hand, the Christian employer has a spiritual obligation to compensate fairly and to treat with consideration all those who work under his direction.



Too many times the cause of Jesus Christ has been shamed because of the work habits of those who claim to be Christians. Coming in late, taking too long at the break time, loafing when the work needs to be done, not accepting a fair share of the work load, asking for unreasonable time off, and watching the clock all day long all contribute to a lessening of the strength of the testimony of the Christian worker. To do such things is actually stealing from the employer the time that has been paid for by wages. Paul said in Ephesians 4:25, "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." His admonition was for the careless worker to cease a sinful way of doing things and begin an honest and dependable way of life. There is a great deal heard in this country about "honest value," and the Christian would do well to become characterized by that phrase as it relates to his labor for the person or company that pays his wages.

The attitude of doing less and less work has seeped into the affairs of the church as well. Every church is infected by a spirit of "do-nothingism" to the point that there are very few who do the work that needs to be done. While the work of Jesus Christ languishes for lack of laborers, Christians seem to have plenty of time for leisure activities. The program is reflected in what one tired pastor replied when asked how his church was doing: "Well, it's up and down — some of my members are up at the mountains and some of them are down at the beach." The admonition of our Lord to His disciples when He saw the multitudes takes on new meaning in light of the lack of workers today: "... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37,38).

In a world of shoddy workman-

ship, lack of commitment to do a job well, and a general attitude of simple time-serving among most employees, the Christian has an opportunity to make a difference for Christ. A new respect could be created for the very name "Christian" if the born-again craftsman or laborer could reflect his commitment to his Lord through his desire to give his employer 60 minutes of honest and sincere labor for every hour of wages paid. Perhaps then when the Christian witness attempts to win the businessman for Christ, there will be a new receptiveness to the Gospel in his heart.

The Christian employer has a spiritual commitment as well in this matter of the work ethic. Paul admonished Timothy concerning those who labored in the ministering of the Word: "... Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the labourer is worthy of his reward" (1 Timothy 5:18). Those who have been hired to do a job should be treated with respect and concern by the employer who claims to know Christ. There should be a commitment to compensate the worker fairly in line with the skills needed to perform the job and on a par with what others working for other employers are being paid for the same job. To do less would be to detract from a pure testimony for the Lord.

Something should be said here concerning the many churches who are the "employers" of full-time Christian workers. There is the troublesome attitude in many churches, whether intended or unintended, that full-time Christian workers are somehow able to get along on much less than the normal Christian involved in secular employment. This is simply not the case. While the secular employee is accumulating seniority, profit sharing, higher position in the company, and regular raises in his salary, the Christian worker barely keeps his current bills paid and usually accumulates none of the benefits of the secular employee. Church boards and congregations should

feel very keenly the obligation of paying a worker a fair and just salary in line with his obligations and training needed for the job and should encourage him with regular raises in salary and other benefits.

The rewards of adherence to the Christian work ethic of honest value for wages received are tremendous. First of all, the name of Jesus Christ would be lifted up before a world of unregenerate men and women who care nothing about honesty and righteousness. The work of the Christian witness would be enhanced because both the worker and the management of business would believe that there really was a difference in the man or woman who knows Jesus Christ as personal Savior. Secondly, a challenge would be presented to the employee who has become shoddy in his work production to "shape up" if he would keep his job. A new respect for the craftsman and the laborer would be created because a new confidence would be instilled in the average consumer concerning products purchased. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, there would be the personal satisfaction in the heart of the Christian that he has done his best both in his secular employment and in his work for the Lord to present a pure testimony before others.

No easy answer can be offered to the problems worldwide of welfare reform and unemployment, but the simplicity of the Christian work ethic can do much to make the problems that much less awesome. Let every Christian worker make a contribution to the solution of such problems by being true to the commitment of a pure testimony for Jesus Christ in this world.

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Hall has recently accepted the pastorate of Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Chocowinity, North Carolina. The Free Will Baptist Bible College alumnus is one of the writers in The Bible Teacher and High Teen and Teen Teachers publications produced by the Sunday School Department.*      Δ





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

### COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT

July, 1976

#### RECEIPTS:

State	July '76 Co-op	Design.	July '75	Year to Date
Alabama	\$ 96.93	\$ (96.93)	\$ . . .	\$ 1,100.63
Arizona	. . .	. . .	. . .	644.43
Arkansas	2,054.92	. . .	1,103.97	13,855.59
California	968.91	. . .	669.10	5,360.54
Florida	1,304.51	. . .	1,031.48	9,030.31
Georgia	202.83	. . .	. . .	1,819.55
Idaho	. . .	. . .	. . .	154.08
Illinois	2,052.80	. . .	2,707.01	7,793.26
Indiana	. . .	. . .	. . .	188.60
Iowa	359.10	. . .	. . .	1,266.62
Kansas	287.60	. . .	170.60	1,872.18
Maryland	185.97	. . .	59.66	720.46
Michigan	45.09	. . .	. . .	95.40
Mississippi	41.50	. . .	120.92	363.79
Missouri	4,465.42	(4,465.42)	2,890.50	25,083.70
New Mexico	. . .	. . .	. . .	131.66
North Carolina	207.32	(50.00)	125.00	1,041.81
Northeast Assoc.	. . .	. . .	. . .	193.90
Northwest Assoc.	151.65	. . .	34.76	440.09
Ohio	438.69	. . .	412.77	9,937.83
Oklahoma	3,481.94	(3,462.21)	5,368.79	41,087.60
Tennessee	1,161.01	. . .	218.37	6,080.79
Texas	25.00	. . .	25.00	2,060.52
Virginia	. . .	. . .	31.44	233.57
Virgin Islands	87.00	. . .	. . .	496.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$17,618.19</b>		<b>\$14,969.37</b>	<b>\$131,052.91</b>

#### DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 6,327.34	\$(1,136.05)	\$ 5,828.56	\$ 44,559.06
Foreign Missions	3,696.78	(2,582.63)	3,067.11	28,249.03
Bible College	2,624.07	(1,518.94)	1,902.82	18,639.25
Home Missions	2,139.17	(1,355.36)	1,723.46	16,231.64
Church Training Serv.	1,281.35	(628.50)	979.33	9,796.67
Retirement & Ins.	1,093.18	(570.89)	809.55	8,108.18
Layman's Board	362.68	(210.34)	346.21	3,175.75
Commission on Theo- logical Liberalism	93.62	(71.85)	87.33	754.56
Miscellaneous	. . .	. . .	225.00	1,538.77
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$17,618.19</b>		<b>\$14,969.37</b>	<b>\$131,052.91</b>

#### CURRENTLY . . . (cont.)

for more than 50 years. **Pastor Delbert Akin** recently recorded an anniversary for half those years — 25 years in the ministry.

**Pastor J. D. Norris, Jr., Good Springs FWB Church, Pleasant View, Tennessee**, is thrilled with the Sunday school attendance which jumped from an average of

166 to 287 in just 3 months. He credits much of the increase to Sunday School Superintendent **Jerry Binkley** who was named runner-up as "Layman of the Year" at the National Association in Tulsa.

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

#### FROM THE BRIDGE



## DOES DIVORCE PRECLUDE ORDINATION?

By Rufus Coffey  
Executive Secretary

Should divorced ministers or deacons who have remarried be considered eligible for ordination and church leadership? The National Association of Free Will Baptists says, "No!" During its 40th session in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in July, 1976, the association voted overwhelmingly to declare ineligible for the ministry or deaconship anyone who has been divorced and remarried regardless of the cause.

Divorce is one of the great social evils of our time. This social cancer presents a serious dilemma for a church when any of its members are affected. The matter is complicated when the divorced person remarries.

On scriptural authority the church has never accepted divorce. It has been recognized as a disastrous tragedy which is contrary to social and spiritual standards. Nevertheless, the church has had to live with the fact that people, right or wrong, do divorce and remarry. The problem is even



more acute when a minister of the Gospel is involved or when a divorced person is under consideration for ordination and a role of church leadership as a deacon or pastor. Mixed emotions are aroused when such persons profess to be called of God to a particular ministry.

The matter is not easily resolved. On one hand, earnest Christians seek to avoid a judgmental attitude. They have a spirit of compassion and a deep concern to share the burden. Understanding and Christian sympathy are especially extended to the Christian brother who is the innocent victim of a scandalous situation.

But on the other hand, the Christian is confronted with the specific teachings that the deacon or minister is to be "the husband of one wife." Some evangelical scholars interpret this as referring only to polygamy; that is, a deacon or minister should not have more than one wife at a time. While this is a legitimate interpretation of this one passage, we must look at the overall teachings of Scripture and the spirit of the New Testament, which emphasizes the importance of a leader living an exemplary life.

The church is responsible for upholding the principles of Scripture and enforcing these principles. When God establishes certain restrictions, the church does not have the prerogative to change them but is obligated to uphold His standards. Otherwise it will cause stumbling, reproach and endless controversy.

This is particularly true when a divorced or remarried man is considered for ordination. Granting credentials to a man when he or his spouse has a former companion living will inevitably cause divisiveness and handicap the one who is attempting to serve.

Inasmuch as God forbade priests in the Old Testament to marry a divorced person (Leviticus 21:7), we should not think that the regulations for a minister in the New Testament would be less demanding. If the problem of divorce and remarriage is to be

corrected, the church must lead the way in upholding biblical standards for deacons and ministers, which will enable them to have "a good report" among those they serve as well as the unbelieving world.

Even if the Scriptures did not prohibit the ordination of persons involved in divorce, there are numerous reasons why ordination is unwise and unadvisable. Whether a person is guilty or innocent before or after ordination, divorce carries a social stigma. Regardless of the fault, scars always remain. While we know God's forgiveness is total and complete, we are also aware that people do not forgive or forget so easily. Regardless of the circumstances, there is a lifelong blight which limits the effectiveness of one's ministry.

Because of this stigma a minister's influence is usually nullified to a degree and the scope of his ministry curtailed. It is more difficult for a divorced minister to change pastorates because the overwhelming majority of churches prefer a nondivorced minister. Any success that a divorced minister achieves is usually an exception. Ministers who have been divorced confess they experience an inner sense of failure. Divorced ministers admit that they are less likely to be consulted about marital problems because it is easily assumed that a minister's own failure in marriage

renders him less capable of helping others. In some instances a sense of guilt may cause a divorced minister to shun preaching on marriage and divorce.

In some instances a divorced minister has assumed a pastorate without informing the church of past marital problems. Consequently, it became a source of personal embarrassment and a shock to the congregation when the matter was revealed. This concealment keeps a divorced pastor under intense emotional strain with a sense of guilt, anxiety and frustration. He is apt to feel more rejected than he really is.

Many of us are conscious of extenuating circumstances that cause us to empathize with innocent victims who are enduring a bitter experience. But the upholding of scriptural principles does not constitute personal condemnation or rejection of the party or parties involved. As in every other form of wrong doing, we can love the offender while detesting the offense.

Thus the action by the National Association is not a rejection of some sincere believer seeking God's will but the adoption of a regulation which is intended to be corrective. This is not an unprecedented action in the denomination. In 1972 a similar resolution was adopted by the Arkansas State Association. Other local associations have already adopted regulations that govern this matter. As recommended by the national body, we hope that every association will adopt a specific regulation instructing its Board of Presbytery not to ordain any deacon or minister who has remarried after divorce. This will eventually eliminate the problem and the division of the past.

Although a request for ordination may be sincere, it should be refused by the church or association if divorce is involved. Instead the prospective candidate for the ministry or deaconship can be encouraged to engage in other meaningful areas of church service, such as music, youth work or education. Δ



*EMPHASIZING THE NEW EDITION of the Free Will Baptist Church Directory, Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey gives his annual report to the 1976 convention body.*



## CONTACT

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Second-class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

### COMMENTS ABOUT CONVENTION '76

*Everything has been straight to the pastor.  
Please involve lay people more.*

— Pastor Ivan Ryan/Marion, IL

*Bob Shockey challenged my life and heart  
to do what God has for me to do.*

— Jerry McArthur/Lexington, OK

*... Consider the various preferences of  
our people across the country when you  
choose music. We have as many country  
and small town churches (or more) than  
we do big town churches ... not enough  
variety in the music, all one style ...*

(Anonymous)

*Winford Floyd's message was a  
thoroughly Scriptural examination of 'true  
liberty.' Clear exposition may not be what  
people want, but it is what we need ...*

— Rev. Dennis Lowry/Garner, NC

*Dr. O'Donnell did an outstanding job in di-  
recting the business meeting ...*

— Gary E. Kelly/Houston, TX

*... We appreciated all the patriotic empha-  
sis in the convention.*

— Don and Mary Neal/New Castle, IN

*The early morning prayer service just filled  
my cup to overflowing. I have missed one  
convention in the last 7. This was the most  
spiritual one to my estimation we have  
had. I also think that the dress was fine. In  
fact, I think Free Will Baptists are the  
most beautiful people in the world ...*

— Virgie Simpson, Clarkridge, AR

*Overall, the convention was one of the  
best.*

— Rev. W. H. Patterson/Chesterfield, IN

*I thought we had one of the finest conven-  
tions I've ever attended. I thought the  
workshops were especially good and  
needed.*

— Barbara McArthur/Lexington, OK

*Some devotions were too long ...*

— Bill Robinson/Columbus, MS

*I think the National was good — very  
good ...*

— William Baird/Leighton, AL

*While we must discuss our differences,  
we need more maturity in our  
approach ...*

— Rev. Leroy Forlines/Nashville, TN

*My soul has been blessed and refreshed.*

— Alvie Richmond/Mtn. Home, AR

*As a whole, the program and services were  
very good.*

— O. B. Everson/Colquitt, GA

*... Too much 'preaching' — not enough  
practical instruction in the seminars ...*

— Dennis P. Wiggs/Beaufort, NC

*... Evening preaching was somewhat anti-  
climactic because of too many preliminar-  
ies ... Reduce by 50 percent the time  
consumed prior to the preaching during  
the evening service.*

— Howard T. Munsey/Morristown, TN

*All sermons were wonderful.*

— Buck Gilcrease/Albuquerque, NM

*I'm glad the Lord didn't come during Wed-  
nesday afternoon's business meeting.*

— Betty Jones/Pocahontas, AR

*I enjoyed the convention very much ...*

— Sandra Loyd/Marion, IL

*The Tulsa pastors did a wonderful job of  
organizing this convention.*

— Mrs. Buddy Drake/Enid, OK

*The convention was wonderful. I came ex-  
pecting food for my soul, and I am going  
home spiritually fed by sermons, seminars  
and fellowship.*

— Wilma M. Ankrom/Hutchinson, KS

*A man who identified himself as a Tulsa  
lawyer saw our convention badges and  
stopped my husband and me to share the  
gist of a conversation he and a client had  
the previous day concerning the young  
people attending our convention. Enroute  
to a court session they met some of our  
teens, and his client remarked that those  
young people from that convention were  
certainly fine looking, much different from  
the majority of others they saw in town.  
The lawyer said he was a Christian and  
attended a Baptist church in Tulsa. Because  
he had 4 daughters, he had come through  
all the battles about short skirts and tight  
pants. He just wanted someone of our  
number to let our young people know that  
they were appreciated for their modest  
dress and good behavior.*

— Mrs. Jo Ann Hurst/Nashville, TN



1. Taking first place among the choirs competing in the Music and Arts Festival is the youth choir from Cofer's Chapel Church, Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Charles Hampton directs.

2. Pastor Winford Floyd, Elizabethton, Tennessee, concludes the convention preaching Thursday morning.

3. In keeping with the Bicentennial emphasis, the Monday evening session of the convention opens with the Color Guard presentation of the flags. North Carolina pastor Jack Paramore presides.

Convention Photographers:  
Bert Tippet, Herbert Waid

