

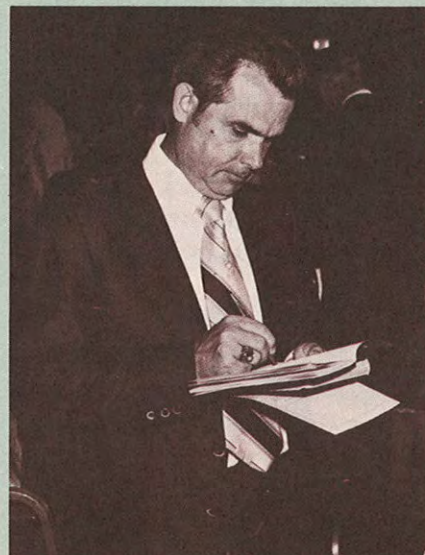
SEPTEMBER, 1981

Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



1981 National Convention



Louisville, Kentucky

Meetin' By The River

By Garnett Reid



The 1981 National Convention analysis was prepared by Garnett Reid, pastor of Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

This is the third year that Mr. Reid has served as Convention Press Officer. The CONTACT staff is grateful to Brother Reid for his assistance in this special convention issue.



- 1. Lonnie DaVoult
- 2. Wanda McClary
- 3. NC Minister's Quartet
- 4. Garnett Reid, Press Officer
- 5. Ronnie Watson

2/CONTACT/Sept. '81

1. Bobby Jackson (R) Fred Hanson 2. Richard Adams 3. L. C. Johnson (L) and E. E. Morris 4. Verla Pettit 5. Melvin Worthington 6. Fred Hall 7. Floyd Wolfenbarger	SEPTEMBER 1981  <small>OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS</small>
	 <p style="text-align: center;">1981 National Convention</p>

I looked down from my 20th floor hotel window at the swollen Ohio River rolling past Louisville, Kentucky. Thursday afternoon of the 1981 convention had come. The 45th annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists now waited to be printed and bound.

Most of the estimated 4,300 delegates and visitors sped toward home by this time. The last few children hurriedly punched elevator buttons for good-bye rides. Exhibits stood vacant. Only discarded badges and programs remained for the Commonwealth Convention Center's cleanup crews.

A good feeling lingered about this meeting. I tried to put my finger on the specific reason. Was it the rebound from a mediocre convention last year? Perhaps the powerful preaching, the splendid music, and the harmonious spirit of the worship services made the difference.

Some had come to Louisville fearing potentially explosive issues. But relatively smooth business sessions had defused anxiety. Maybe that's why the week went so well.

Other reasons came to mind—excellent planning and increased attendance among them. And Tuesday's Bible Conference sure did help.

Yet aside from those factors, as true as they were, I knew why the Louisville meeting was special. It's also the reason why Free Will Baptists themselves are special. The river brought it to mind.

Amid all their worries, problems and pressures at home, despite such obvious and genuine differences among our people, Free Will Baptists just love to get together with one another for this week of refreshment.

Barges, paddle-wheelers, pleasure boats—all kinds of vessels travelled the river as I stood watching. And all kinds of people make this movement we love. But we sail together on the same course, bound to one another by a love for Jesus Christ, a longing to serve Him, and a loyalty to His Book.

Like the mighty Ohio, we're making progress toward our goal, our final

destination. There are a lot of miles and choppy waters ahead, but our Captain who brought us this far will see us home.

So as a young preacher, I stand back and look at our National Convention with amazement and thanksgiving—amazed that such a diverse people can love one another like we do, but thankful that it's so.

Let's return now to the River City for a review of that refreshing week.

WORSHIP BY THE RIVER

It's no secret that Free Will Baptists love good preaching. In fact, the sermons set the tenor for the entire National Convention. Using the worship services as a gauge, most conferees agreed that the meeting excelled.

Fred Hall's capable exposition of Hebrews 5:12—6:12 greeted the 350 adult Sunday School pupils. "One of the most dangerous things in the Christian life is to take for granted spiritual matters," warned the Tennessee pastor.

SUNDAY MORNING

The Archibald-Cochran ballroom of the Galt House then swelled to accommodate some 1,200 worshipers for the Sunday morning service. Following music by Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College's New Life Singers and Carl Sullivan of West Virginia, Presider Lewis Perry welcomed the preacher, Arkansas Pastor Carl Cheshier.

For 40 minutes, the Oklahoma native developed the topic, "God's Man in Today's World—His Conversion." He noted the person in need of conversion, God's provision to bring about conversion, and the promise of conversion.

Cheshier closed his message with testimony and appeal. "Jesus met all my needs the night I was saved. I experienced a new found joy and peace that I can't describe. I still feel that joy and peace . . . Jesus is coming . . . until He does, serve Him, live for Him."

SUNDAY EVENING

Commonwealth Convention Center housed the Sunday Evening NYC Key-



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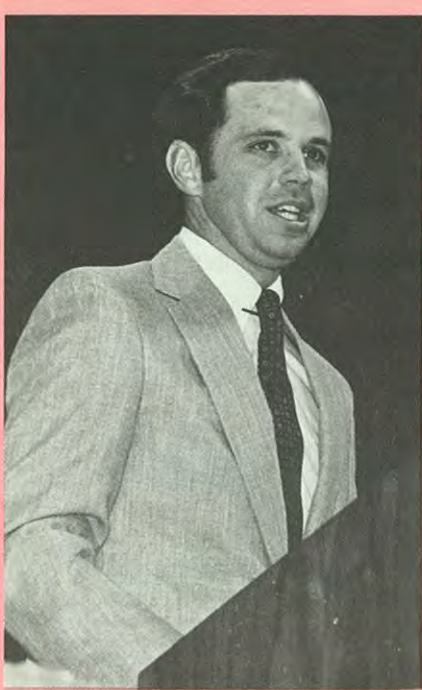
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NYC Keynote Speaker Jim Shepherd



The Cumberland Chorale, directed by Dr. Charles Hampton

MEETIN' (From page 3)

note Service as some 2,800 Free Will Baptists heard the 80-voice Mass Youth Choir sing, "In the Image of God."

Jim Shepherd, pastor of First FWB Church, Joplin, Missouri, delivered the keynote sermon. The 28-year-old preacher spoke from Romans 8:29, unfolding the NYC theme, "Conformed to His Image."

Citing the apostles' example in Acts, Pastor Shepherd commented, "When people looked at Peter and John, they did not see professional preachers. They saw men in the fashion of Christ."

"We are not artists commissioned to create a masterpiece," he concluded. "We are servants commanded to imitate our master."

MONDAY EVENING

Monday evening nearly 4,300 delegates and visitors gathered to hear Virginia Pastor Gene Parisher. But before Parisher's sermon, the assembly heard another sermon. This one came in the form of a welcome to Louisville from black Alderman W. J. Hodge, who also happens to be a Baptist preacher.

Rev. Hodge quickly found a home in Free Will Baptist hearts when he affirmed his belief that, "... the greatest service an individual can perform for another is to help that person get right with God through Jesus Christ."

A chorus of "amens" burst through the hall when Hodge closed, "When you leave, may both you and the people of Louisville have gotten more than you expected when you came."

Following the call to order and the roll call of states, the mass choir offered the prayer in song, "Set My Soul Afire." When Ohio soloist John Blakely sang "It is Finished," many thought the Lord had sent the spark needed to start the fire.

Reverend Parisher, pastor of Bethel FWB Church in Hampton, Virginia, then focused on the character of "God's Man in Today's World."

Taking Isaiah 32:2 as his text, he pointed out that the man of character is an ethical, strong, courageous man. "Revival must come through men and women of character. It does not necessarily originate with great men, but always with holy men."

His urgent appeal was warmly received. Several responded to the invitation, as Moderator Bobby Jackson led in a prayer of dedication.

TUESDAY EVENING

Although Tuesday night's attendance seemed lower than the previous night, expectations were high.

A first-class music lineup graced the program. Following Camille Scott's solo, Presider Archie Ratliff introduced the evening messenger, Jerry Dudley.

The Choctaw, Oklahoma pastor spoke on "God's Man in Today's World—His Conflicts." He assured the 3,800 people in the hall that it's not a matter of *if* we have conflicts, but *when*.

"In the midst of plagues, problems and persecutions, the man of God must turn his eyes to Jesus. He is our only hope."

Pastor Dudley, a preacher for nearly 30 years, warned, "There is no compromise in this battle. Too many soldiers are polishing their armor for parade or are jousting among themselves and have never gotten into the battle as it rages around them."

WEDNESDAY EVENING

The Wednesday evening missionary service—how many Free Will Baptists have special memories of past blessings from this service.

God moved in an unusual manner

WNAC President
Genelle Scott



Virginia Pastor Dale
Burden makes his point.



1982 Officers: (L) Moderator Bobby
Jackson (NC), Asst. Moderator Ralph
Hampton (TN), Clerk Waldo Young (OK),
Asst. Clerk Keith Burden (CA).

on this final evening of the Louisville convention. The 4,000 worshipers met 18 foreign and 37 home missionary families. After Malcolm Fry's solo calling for Free Will Baptists to "Evangelize", Jim McAllister presented Bobby Aycock, missionary to Brazil.

Developing the topic, "God's Man in Today's World—His Commission", the 21-year evangel to Brazil delivered his soul to the listeners. He examined the unique message, ultimate mandate, unreached masses and usable method involved in the Great Commission.

Appealing from both a burdened spirit and a full heart, Aycock called for "flaming laborers," volunteers to spread the gospel. God honored his plea.

Dozens lined the altar. Couples, young people, senior saints—they kept coming. Pastors, ladies, visitors and laymen streamed toward the platform. The Lord alone knows the nature and scope of all the decisions made that special night.

Appropriately, worshipers closed the service by giving \$13,165.39 to missions—a record total.

MORNING MANNA

Convention early risers feasted during the 30-minute Morning Manna Bible

study sessions. Sam Truett, pastor of West Calvary FWB Church, Smithfield, North Carolina, shared week-long expository studies of the 23rd Psalm.

He stressed the Psalm's two-fold theme—the sufficiency of the Shepherd and the security of the sheep.

"It is only the man who can say, 'The Lord is my shepherd' who can also say, 'I shall not want,'" the North Carolina pastor underscored. Each message intertwined exposition of scripture with application to life.

OUR FIRST BIBLE CONFERENCE

"The Bible Conference approach was just tremendous! It was like a breath of fresh air." So commented one conventioneer, obviously expressing the sentiments of many others.

BILLY SAMMS

Tuesday's Bible Conference attracted 1,200 people and featured four outstanding messages. West Virginia Pastor Billy Samms got things off to a rousing start.

Beginning with Acts 11:25-26, the vibrant 63-year-old mountaineer quoted scripture all over the second

floor of the Convention Center as he dealt with the teachings of Free Will Baptists.

Penning verses in the air with his staccato gestures, Samms' message gleamed with nugget after nugget of scriptural wisdom. Here's a sample: "Everybody believes. The devil believes. Faith, though, is believing hope."

KEITH BURDEN

Keith Burden followed Samms' unique message with a powerful sermon he titled "Beyond the Burning Bush."

Applying events from Moses' life to the minister today, the young California pastor observed that Moses had only one burning bush experience. "But that didn't stop the burning in his heart," he added.

Pastor Burden repeatedly struck crucial notes as he clearly and confidently applied biblical principles to current pastoral situations. "People are more concerned that you believe the job can be done than that you know exactly how to do it."

RICHARD ADAMS

"I don't know of anything that brings more joy, more excitement than win-



Co-Laborer Editor Lorene Miley (R) awards a first place check to WNAC Creative Writing Contest winner Virginia Morgan (Crossett, AR).

Three South Carolina ministers listen to business proceeding—Norris Hawkins (L) (Anderson), Dave Nobles (Spartanburg), Earl Hendrix (Inman).



MEETIN' (From page 5)

ning folks to Jesus!" Tennessee Pastor Richard Adams shared his burden for soul winning in his message, "The Comeback of a Defeated Champion."

He compared Samson's final display of power needed in believer's lives for reaching the lost.

"There is nothing any sadder than for a man of God, a church or a denomination to lose God's power and suddenly be helpless. The world laughs at a powerless Christian."

The Adams' style and one-of-a-kind sense of humor were at their best. But his urgent message and heartfelt concern occupied center stage.

ROBERT PICIRILLI

The conference closed with Dr. Robert Picirilli's sermon from Psalm 73, "A Meditation on the Circumstances of Sinners." With his usual clarity and insight, the Bible College Dean probed the timeless question, "Why do the wicked prosper?"

Dr. Picirilli explored what Asaph said regarding the prosperity of the wicked, their pride and their end. "We must not envy anything God despises. We don't need what the wicked have On the contrary, revival will

bring a new love for the Lord Himself."

God spoke to hearts as the Dean closed with an *a capella* rendition of "Fade, Fade Each Earthly Joy."

The first National Association Bible Conference displayed not only the amazing variety of preaching styles among Free Will Baptists, but primarily the awesome power of God through His preached Word.

BUSINESS BY THE RIVER

GENERAL BOARD

Business sessions flowed smoothly, beginning with the General Board meeting on Monday.

Convention financial woes drew most of the board's discussion. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington disclosed that he had taken out a loan for \$35,000 to underwrite the 1981 Convention, with the Executive Committee members serving as co-signers.

The board then recommended a plan for generating some \$25,000 in revenue by raising national representation fees paid by the state and district associations and local churches.

Moderator Jackson referred to this matter of convention financing as, "probably the most serious item to be voted on this year."

Board members also approved a request from the Primitive Baptist denomination, an Arminian group descended from the Randall movement, in New Brunswick, Canada asking for affiliation with the National Association.

Reports from the National Departments reflected both encouragement by progress made during the year and concern over continued financial needs.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Floor action by delegates advanced smoothly during business sessions despite some confusing steps in procedure.

After the body approved the Credentials Committee report, a motion passed welcoming the Primitive Baptist group from New Brunswick to the National Association as the "Atlantic Canada Association of Free Will Baptists." Their three-man delegation was seated for the business session.

Departmental leaders then presented reports from the National ministers.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington cited a 23 percent in-



Missionaries pray with conferees who responded to the Wednesday evening altar call.

Director Herman Hersey (L) presents study Bible to Chairman William Evans for 11 years service on the Retirement and Insurance Board.



crease in Cooperative giving over the previous year. He spoke of the spirit of unity and progress evident in state associations. Worthington's report also included an explanation of the ill-fated charter flight to the 1980 convention.

"In light of rising costs, we need to focus immediate attention on the best possible method to finance the National Convention," urged Dr. Worthington. A budget of \$252,648.15 was approved for the Executive Office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/ CHURCH TRAINING

In his 22nd report to the national body, Dr. Roger Reeds characterized 1980 as a fruitful year for the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

Sales rose 15 percent over 1979. Total income exceeded \$1.95 million as compared with \$38,000 just 22 years ago. Delegates endorsed the 1982 budget of \$2,463,775.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

"Opportunities abound"—that's how Director Rolla Smith painted the picture of the foreign missions potential among Free Will Baptists.

Smith bases his optimism on new

missionaries sent out, requests for more laborers from field councils and increased missionary interest among our people.

Income for 1980 increased more than \$122,000 over 1979. The delegation signed the foreign missions budget of \$2,197,148 for the coming year.

HOME MISSIONS

Home Missions Director Roy Thomas rejoiced in God's goodness to the Department in 1980. He observed that 12 new missionary families were approved and three churches became self-supporting.

The Home Missions staff conducted numerous evangelism conferences during the year in an effort to encourage soul winning among our churches. Income reached an all-time peak at \$1,022,245. A 1982 budget of \$1,100,000 was adopted.

FWBBC

The Free Will Baptist Bible College report was a specially prepared visual program celebrating the school's 40th anniversary. The program featured slides, songs and testimonies reflecting the Bible College's ministry of training Christian workers.

President Charles Thigpen's remarks included the encouraging prospects of a record 1981-82 enrollment and the good news of record giving to the general fund.

This news of increased support was somewhat tempered by the fact that \$65,000 more in gifts were needed to meet the school's quota. A 1982 budget of \$2,249,000 was adopted.

RETIREMENT AND INSURANCE

Herman Hersey's report from the Board of Retirement and Insurance reflected progress. Assets in the revised pension plan increased 26 percent in 1980. This new plan requires a minimum contribution of 5 percent of the pastor's salary, on the average less than half of what other denominations require.

Delegates approved the \$115,000 budget for the Department.

FWB FOUNDATION

Reverend Hersey also gave his report as Executive Secretary of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. Bill Evans, a pastor from Colquitt, Georgia,



MEETIN' (From page 7)

serves as Director of Planned Giving. The Foundation's \$17,000 budget was passed.

MASTER'S MEN

The Master's Men organization is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 1981. Loyd Olsan, General Director, presented Rev. Bob Hill to the convention. Rev. Hill is a pioneer in early Master's Men work.

Mr. Olsan spoke of progress with 237 Master's Men chapters in 27 states. He reported that the National Master's Men Conference continues to be a success. The body passed a \$26,190 budget in 1982 for Master's Men.

THEOLOGICAL LIBERALISM

This year's report of the Commission on Theological Liberalism deserves attention. Some Free Will Baptists had expressed concern over the article "King James Fever," (CONTACT, March, 1981).

In his report, Rev. Leroy Forlines, chairman, noted that an explanation had been published in the June, 1981 issue of CONTACT. He indicated that practically all those who had expressed initial concern over the March article were satisfied with the June explanation.

In response to the report, two delegates voiced their request that similar articles in the future be given closer scrutiny before publication.

REGISTRATION

The registration committee reported that of the more than 4,300 attending the convention, a total of 3,334 registered for the National Convention, including 746 ministers, 67 missionaries, 258 lay delegates and 2,253 visitors. The NYC logged 1,131 registrants, while the WNAC reported 769.

1982 BUDGET

A record 1982 budget topping \$8.4 million met with the body's approval, according to the budget committee. Allocation of the Cooperative Plan

funds continues according to the formula adopted last year.

RESOLUTIONS

Delegates voted the following resolutions:

*A proposal establishing an "In Memorium" list in the *Minutes* honoring deceased ministers and denominational leaders.

*A resolution affirming our continued support of the "Clean Up TV" campaign.

*An item expressing appreciation to Kentucky Free Will Baptists for excellent hospitality.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

The matter of convention funding received considerable attention from delegates on the floor. A substitute motion was introduced and passed changing the proposed funding plan approved by the General Board.

Under the plan adopted by the body, states may be represented by five delegates to the National Convention upon payment of a \$10 fee per church. The same fee entitles district associations affiliated directly with the National representation by three delegates. The fee for a lay delegate from a local church remains \$10.

A motion passed asking each church to send a \$100 gift to defray convention expenses. Dr. Melvin Worthington confirmed that \$23,000 in pledges and offerings had been given toward the deficit of \$35,000.

Delegates then approved a proposal that the National body be responsible for the \$35,000 note signed by the Executive Secretary and the Executive Committee members.

An item changing the number of members on standing boards and calling for all boards to elect some members annually was referred to the Executive Committee for further study and a recommendation next year.



1. Kentucky Moderator J. D. O'Donnell
2. Layman of the Year Randall Steelman (C) flanked by Mrs. Steelman and Master's Men Board Chairman Don Elkins.
3. NYC competitors confer.
4. Fawn Gwartney waits for Grandma Pat Thomas.

Following a rising vote of thanks to the convention planners and officials, and the election of general officers, the 45th annual National Association adjourned at 11:42 a.m.—ahead of schedule for the second consecutive year!

FELLOWSHIP BY THE RIVER

MUSIC MINISTRIES

More than 100 guests enjoyed Tuesday's Music Ministries breakfast in the Hyatt Regency Ballroom. Following selections by Tennessee's Cumberland Chorale, Dr. Charles Hampton, president of the organization, shared with the group from Philippians concerning "The Pursuit of Excellence."

"Music is an aspect of worship," he emphasized. "When we look for and embrace what is excellent . . . our music programs will be richer."

He also warned the musicians of three very real dangers in a music

program: music for its own sake, "piecized pragmatism" or "if it works, use it," and contentment with the status quo.

Dr. Hampton was re-elected president in the business session.

WNAC BANQUET

WNAC banqueters feasted on more than a delicious meal Tuesday evening. Verla Pettit, director of the Memphis Union Mission for 35 years, stirred the hearts of the 690 guests with her pungent wit and keen practical insight.

At the outset of her message, Mrs. Pettit stated that she intended, "to give you something you can identify with," and give it she did.

Relating the characters in the parable of the good Samaritan to attitudes found in today's religious world, the outspoken mission director charged, "Our business is people. If we're not meeting their needs, we're in bad shape."

She closed by noting the qualities in the Samaritan that we must display. "Compassion," she concluded "is not sympathy. Compassion turns you inside out. It is love with risk . . . When I realize what Jesus paid, no cost is too great. If one soul is won, all the time and effort has been worth it!"

MASTER'S MEN BREAKFAST

The Hyatt Ballroom welcomed nearly 350 early risers Wednesday morning for the Master's Men breakfast. "Men in Solid Support" adorned the banner as the 25th anniversary theme.

Don Elkins, Master's Men board chairman, recognized nominees for the "Layman of the Year" award who were present for the celebration. He then presented the annual honor to Mr. Randall Steelman of First FWB Church, Granite City, Illinois.

West Virginia's Carl Sullivan helped open still-sleepy eyes with the song, "Is Not This the Land of Beulah?" Director Loyd Olsan then introduced the speaker, CONTACT Editor Jack Williams.

Alluding to the example of David in Acts 13:36, Williams posed and answered the question, "What Can a Layman Do?" He detailed David's life as an entertainer, a rancher, a soldier and a political leader.

Applying these principles to his listeners, Williams cautioned, "There will come a day when you must lay down the gauntlet and call the bluff of your Goliath."

PASTOR'S DINNER

"I've heard some mighty good preaching; but somehow they've all left my message alone." So began Rev. E. E. Morris' message to over 350 Pastor's Dinner guests Wednesday evening.

The pioneer Free Will Baptist leader addressed the subject, "The Love of the Brotherhood," from John 13:34-35. "Genuine affection is based on respect and confidence. When you rejoice because a brother has failed, you need to go to the altar," he thundered.

Speaking very pointedly to his audience, the quotable 58-year-old pulpit veteran observed, "We've got a lot of 'have-beens' and 'aim-to-be's.' The



1. WNAC Officers prepare for business.
2. Rodney and Vicki Whaley
3. Ministers Greg (L) and Steve Bevan.

MEETIN' (From page 9)

question is, what are you right now?
"How far we can go together! But we'll have to go in love."

WISH I'D SAID THAT

"Most Baptist preachers I know anything about are politicians"—W. J. Hodge, Louisville alderman and a Baptist preacher.

"The 'up and out' are just as out as the 'down and out'"—WNAC banquet speaker Verla Pettit.

"We are morally responsible to pay for this convention"—FWBBC Professor Leroy Forlines addressing floor delegates.

"I hope it won't be 40 more years before you come back to Kentucky"—Ed Hutchinson, chairman of the Kentucky Steering Committee, at the close of the business session.

"Preach another one, brother!"—Presider Richard Cordell at Tuesday's Bible Conference.

"I only know one Greek word, and it describes the philosophy of Christians who don't witness—BA-LO-NEY!"—Richard Adams, Bible Conference speaker.



1. Foreign Missions Booth
2. Sunday Morning Speaker Carl Cheshier (AR).
3. One prays quietly at altar.
4. Free Will Baptist Chaplains Kerry Steedley (L), Larry Cusick, Robert Cooper.
5. Master's Men Director Loyd Olsan
6. Tuesday Evening Speaker Jerry Dudley (OK).
7. Missionary Bobby Aycock
8. FWBBC Professor Leroy Forlines
9. WNAC Executive Committee: Back Row—(L) Peggy Outland (NC), Anne Worthington (TN), Barbara Fletcher (MS). Front Row—(L) Genelle Scott (AR), Cleo Pursell (TN), Norma Teague (TX)
10. Part of large voting delegation.

"It's hard to smile when you have blisters on your feet"—A moderator's weary wife.

"This convention went as smoothly as any I've ever worked. All these people were well-behaved"—A convention center security guard.

"Most 7:00 a.m. breakfasts at the National are about as exciting as soggy toast"—Master's Men breakfast speaker Jack Williams.

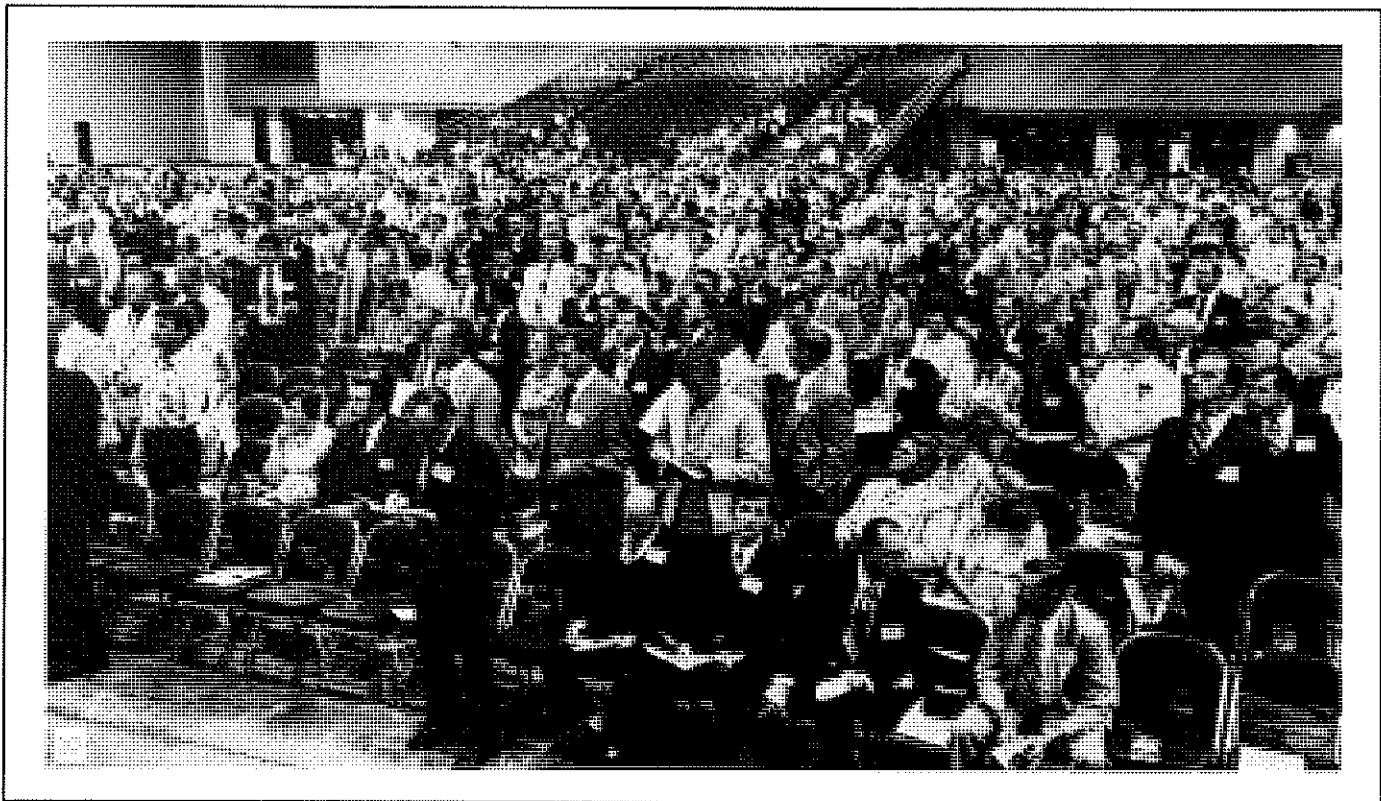
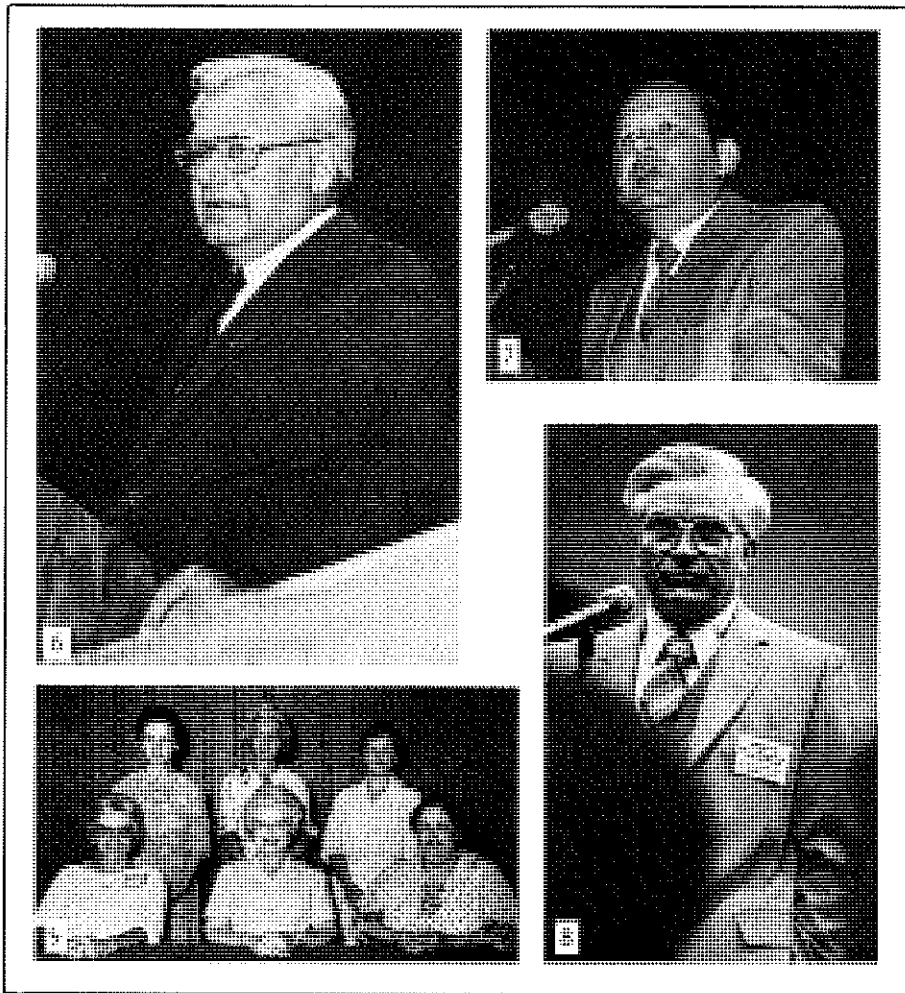
"You can't make a Free Will Baptist do anything. But you can love him and he'll buy a steamboat from you on the desert"—E. E. Morris, Pastor's Dinner speaker.

"It's all been great. I have no regrets in coming. But it's an indictment against the Free Will Baptist denomination for us to leave without the money needed to pay this bill"—A businessman and convention delegate.

ROSES 'N' ONIONS

—Convention musicians breathed a belated sigh of relief when the rented instruments finally arrived—three hours behind schedule.

—And speaking of music, Director Blaine Hughes' line-up gets better every



MEETIN' (From page 11)

year. What talent there was in the mass choir and in the men's chorale.

—Three cheers for the ushers, sponsored and organized for the first time by the Master's Men.

—Many convention-goers had to pass some sleazy spots in downtown Louisville to and from their motels.

—“What! No Nursery! How could they do this?”—Several young mothers at the meeting.

—It sure is a blessing to see and hear Preacher Carl Vallance get blessed!

—Oh for a sound system like Louisville's every year—hat's off to the sound engineer with the cowboy hat.

—Many commented on high banquet and breakfast prices, but the catering and food rated above average.

—Several exhibitors were heard grumbling about the late set-up time for booths on Monday.

—And finally, a couple of thank yous: to Larry and Kristi Bryan, Melody Shrewsbury, and Robert West of the Executive Office staff for some fast printing jobs—and to Clarence and Jean Lewis of the NYC staff for the much-needed maps locating nearby restaurants. ▲



1. Louisville Alderman W. J. Hodge
2. Monday Evening Speaker Gene Parish (VA)
3. Moderator Bobby Jackson
4. Registration Flurry
5. Pastor's Dinner



ELECTED IN LOUISVILLE '81

The following were elected during the 45th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

GENERAL OFFICERS

Moderator Bobby Jackson (NC)
 Assist. Moderator Ralph Hampton (TN)
 Clerk Waldo Young (OK)
 Assist. Clerk Keith Burden (CA)

GENERAL BOARD

- 1982 Mack Humbles (NM)
- 1982 Dennis Wiggs (NC)
- 1983 John Edwards (AL)
- 1983 Fred Hanson (AC)
- 1983 Dan O'Donnell (AZ)
- 1983 David Joslin (AR)
- 1983 Doice McAllister (CA)
- 1983 Robert Owen (FL)
- 1983 Herbert Waid (GA)
- 1983 Harley Bennett (ID)
- 1983 Wallace Malone (IL)
- 1983 Henry Patterson (IN)
- 1983 Galen Dunbar (KS)
- 1983 Ed Hutchinson (KY)
- 1983 Lester Horton (MD)
- 1983 Jerry Barron (MX)
- 1983 Charles Cooper (MI)
- 1983 Al Hamm (MS)
- 1983 Millard Sasser (MO)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 1983 Al Hamm (MS)
- 1983 Millard Sasser (MO)
- 1983 Galen Dunbar (KS)

HOME MISSIONS BOARD

- 1987 Richard Adams (TN)
- 1987 Rue Dell Smith (AR)
- 1987 Hobert Ashby (OH)

RETIREMENT AND INSURANCE BOARD

- 1987 Billy Samms (WV)
- 1987 Earl Hendrix (SC)
- 1987 Francis Boyle (CA)

MASTER'S MEN BOARD

- 1987 Wendell Leckbee (AR)
- 1987 Jack Forlines (NC)
- 1987 Wayne Spruill (TN)

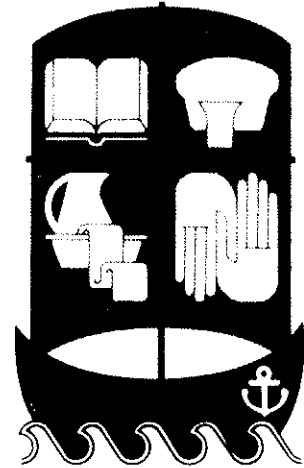
COMMISSION ON THEOLOGICAL LIBERALISM

- 1986 Lonnie Skiles (MI)

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

- 1986 David Joslin (AR)

It's not too late



If you missed **The National Association of Free Will Baptists, July 19-23, 1981**, you can still hear all the key presentations. All of the lectures were recorded as a professional service to produce clear, verbatim cassette tapes.



Nationwide

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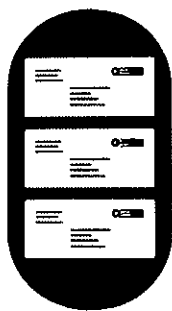
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OUR READERS COMMENT

44 YEARS IN THE FAMILY

I was saved in a Free Will Baptist church 44 years ago. My parents were Free Will Baptists and my paternal grandparents were Free Will Baptists.

I give you this background that it might help you understand when I say that second only to my love for Jesus Christ is my love for my denomination.

I was a member at the same Free Will Baptist church 33 years, but about two years ago I was forced to leave because the pastor began studying after Jack Hyles and Elmer Towns and felt that the only way to have a large church was to have an authoritarian pastor.

If anyone disagreed with him, he was removed from leadership in the church. After seeing six of the seven deacons leave and most of the older members leave, I decided it was time for me to go to another Free Will Baptist church.

So you see, this is why I was so thrilled when I read the article "Before You Leave" in April CONTACT. As I read, tears came to my eyes as I couldn't contain the joy that filled my heart.

Praise God—finally, somebody in denominational leadership spoke out about pastors who allow independents to persuade them that theirs is a better way.

I remember an article in CONTACT that Dr. Wade Jernigan wrote where he said that what we don't need is more independent Free Will Baptist churches. I certainly agree with him on that.

If a pastor can't, with clear conscience, lead the church he pastors to be a Free Will Baptist denominational church, then he should leave and let some pastor who can, come and pastor it.

He should not try to steal the church away from the people who labored and sacrificed so that Free Will Baptists would have a place to serve and witness for Christ in that community.

Here's one real Free Will Baptist who is standing up for your article.

Verlan Pegues
Anderson, Texas

GIVE US MORE 'DISCIPLINE' ARTICLES

I just finished reading July CONTACT. The article by Jack Stallings on church discipline is excellent.

I think he exposes several obstacles to the practice of church discipline. Some of the same factors keep us from standing against worldliness from the pulpit.

Relativism and permissiveness do indeed plague the church. The man of God who does proclaim the Word of God is blithely ignored. Our independent spirit allows us to hold our opinions while disregarding his (and God's).

We need many more such perceptive articles.

Larry D. Hampton, Manager
Editorial Division
Randall House Publications

PASTOR HAILS TWO ARTICLES

First, I want to thank you for printing the article, "King James Fever", that has apparently unsettled many.

The only thing that disturbed me about the article was that I thought it was one of the timeliest you've printed—until the onslaught of the brethren. Then I began questioning whether I was still among the evangelicals, to say nothing of the fundamentalists!

And then I remembered reading some time back that Christians today have basically three options on this subject.

1. Learn the original language yourself. Then you will not have to take anyone's word for it.
2. Take the word of 17th century Anglicans. Today they are called Episcopalians—as in "high" and "low" church.
3. Take the word of 20th century Evangelicals. There are some questionable "translations" (falsely so called), but there are also some excellent, readable, and reliable versions.

Pastors should teach new Christians the differences between Protestant and Roman Catholic, Methodist and Baptist, and Southern and Free Will Baptists. And they might do themselves a favor by putting something to read into their new converts' hands. The more converts learn from reading, the less the pastor has to teach.

Secondly, I again read Dr. Reeds' article on denominational distinctives and diversities. Bravo! Could not have been said better. A concerted, conscious, and continuing effort needs to be made on all sides for genuine spiritual maturity.

May God in His mercy grant us wise leaders, and the grace to recognize and support them for His glory and the future of our denomination.

Rev. Dennis Pettyjohn, Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Selma, California

I CAME BACK TO CONTACT!

I appreciate the recent articles in CONTACT. I had dropped CONTACT because of articles that were not in good taste with my thinking. But I intend to renew my subscription.

I especially appreciate those articles that uphold the Free Will Baptist doctrines, such as the ones on feet washing, apostasy, and church discipline.

I wonder why there is no cry from our people when articles on other denominations appear in CONTACT, and then such a cry arises when something is said about Independent Baptists? After all, some of their leaders have called Free Will Baptists a cult!

We have enough God-called and Spirit-filled Free Will Baptists that we do not have to be dependent upon Independents for our work. We do not need to pattern after a man's super personality.

Bob Grindstaff
Erwin, Tennessee

DOESN'T ALWAYS AGREE, BUT RENEWS ANYHOW

Enclosed is my \$7.00 check for one year's renewal.

I do not agree with all articles that are printed in CONTACT. I was very hurt at an article last year about the electric church.

I am soon to be 77 years old, and the electric church blesses my soul often when I am unable to get to church.

My husband died in 1971. He was a minister. I worked alongside him in the music field for 46 years. I am still singing.

I love the Free Will Baptists, but I must say that some of the clergy and leaders are too critical of their brethren. God says love and pray for each other, not tear each other apart.

I had no idea I was going to say all this. But maybe God guided by pen to say this in real love.

Mrs. Mable Norris
Azusa, California

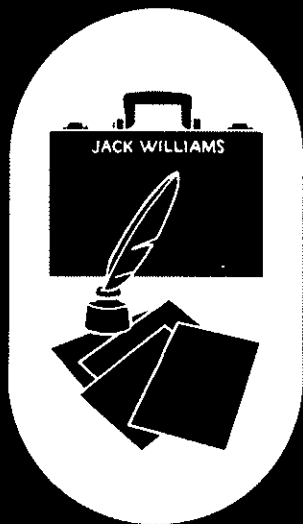
'WARNING' IN GOOD TASTE

I'm glad to send my renewal for a magazine that always has something interesting and inspiring to read.

I appreciated the article by Brother A. B. Brown on the King James Version (March, 1981) and the warning he gave us. It was done in good taste.

Keep up the good work.

Rev. Roy Norie, Jr., Pastor
Easley Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
Comanche, Texas



Let's Give The Christian Schools A Chance

Is it *really* a sin to send your child to public school? Should every church start a Christian school? Are Christian schools inferior academically? Are children who attend Christian schools socially maladjusted? What about those who do not attend? Are they condemned to be gobbled up by an evil society?

Do those questions sound like somebody wants to fight? Do you wish you had the answers? One thing is certain, the case for Christian schools is finally being heard in Free Will Baptist circles.

At the urging of numerous readers, CONTACT magazine is printing two well-written articles in this issue describing the Christian school panorama. Please read them carefully. Both writers are prominent Free Will Baptist pastors with successful Christian schools in their churches.

Then take a long look at the list of Free Will Baptist Christian schools flourishing throughout the denomination. You'll probably be surprised.

We encourage readers to follow up on the two articles by writing to the professional agencies and curriculum publishers listed for more information.

Let's stop making off-the-cuff remarks about Christian schools. Be informed. If you really want to know, all you have to do is ask.

Christian schools—a passing fad or a biblical mandate? Decide for yourself

what the Bible teaches, what your church and your family should do.

Many Free Will Baptists believe that *only* a Christian school is biblical for training their children. Do you agree? If you do not agree, why do you disagree?

Let this be one issue upon which if you speak, speak from an informed position. And if someone disagrees, at least listen to what he says.

But wait, being a minority does not make you wrong. Just as being a majority does not make you right—it just gives you control.

Have Christian school advocates fashioned *the great* evangelism and training tool for the Church? Before you say no, investigate. You owe it to yourself to find out.

What about the numerous *small* Free Will Baptist Christian schools? Does that make them ineffective? The answer is yes, if you believe that being small makes a church ineffective.

By the way, just for the record, the *average* Free Will Baptist Christian school enrollment is 150, which makes it considerably larger than the *average* Free Will Baptist church membership of 100 . . . if we're playing the bigger versus smaller game, that is.

Let us lay aside suspicions and preconceived ideas. Here's your opportunity to learn first hand. Examine the Christian school curriculum. Study the mandates. Hear the arguments. Search the scriptures. Count the cost.

Is it really education? Is it quality

education? Is it quality Christian education? If you find out that the answers are yes, what will you do?

Because you did not attend a Christian school is no reason to say that your children should not. Most of our denominational forefathers never attended college. But they built a Bible College in 1942 so that their children could attend!

When you examine the Christian school materials, expect to meet some extremes. Be open when you hear some say it is a sin not to send your child to a Christian school. You will hear others say that all Christian schools are inferior.

Small movements fear persecution, whereas large movements fear criticisms or questions. While it is true that the Christian school movement in Free Will Baptist ranks is small, the movement is far larger than the 48 Free Will Baptist Christian schools. In fact, it is worldwide.

Let's not persecute our own children and brethren. But rather let's ask questions. Let's read. Let's analyze and evaluate. Let's see what the movement has to say.

We ask all our Christian school friends to be open to questions, to supply information, to be ready when inquirers honestly want to know the issues.

At the same time, we ask the uninformed, the inquisitive to seriously consider what is available in the Christian school movement.

Here's the gauntlet. We toss it down in your living room. ▲

By Richard R. Cordell

The Christian day school movement is growing at a rate of one new school every seven hours. Thousands of children and young people have made the transition from public schools to the burgeoning Christian day schools all across the country.

Many young people are entering junior high and high school who have never attended a public school. The second decade of growth and expansion for church-related schools reveals that it is more than a fad or passing fancy.

The current student body at Free Will Baptist Bible College is composed of a large percentage of students from Free Will Baptist Christian day schools.

The Christian day school is a competitive alternative to the deteriorating public school system. But it is more than that!

Christian day schools are the only answer today for Christian parents who are determined to have their own precepts and practices reinforced.

It is true that parents of older children and teens often fail to see the danger in the present-day school system. Their frame of reference dates back to their own school days *before* the philosophical control of public schools passed from local leadership to the federal government.

In order to secure federal aid, schools had to accept federally approved programs and policies regardless of community desires or moral standards.

Therefore, in reality we changed from "public" schools to "government" schools. The change has devastated the American school system.

The New Arena

During the past 10 to 15 years, parents, church leaders and many educators have become disturbed enough to create a new arena that screens out atheistic, humanistic and socialistic thinking. This new arena is the Christian day school.

It is Christian in philosophy and methodology. It is educational in purpose and approach, incorporating the finest methods in pedagogy.



The Case For Christian Schools



It is, in fact, a return to the biblical mandate to "Train up a child in the way he should go . . ." (Proverbs 22:6).

Since school teachers are *en loco parentis* (in the place of parents), they share a major responsibility toward this aim.

It is a direct violation of God's Word for a parent to teach his child, in precept or practice, those things the Word condemns. It is also a violation of God's Word to give your child to a school teacher or anyone else who teaches, in precept or practice, those things the Word condemns.

Parents have primary responsibility. Teachers are but an extension of parental responsibility.

Bible-believing, Bible-practicing parents who understand Proverbs 22:6 and other related truths as a mandate have spearheaded the Christian day school thrust.

Like so many other areas, persecution required these Christians to define their purpose and motivation. Hundreds of court cases in the 1970's challenged and tested the validity of Christians and their schools.

The action solidified and brought together thousands of Christians, many of them Free Will Baptists, who have come to understand and accept the Christian day school as a necessary and worthy ministry.

There is a freshness and excitement about this emerging ministry of the church. Opportunities for service have expanded far beyond the dreams of church leaders of a past generation.

In the average Christian day school, a trained staff functions with a day to day efficiency that pales the often floundering efforts of weekly church programs.

Imagine the comparison between a daily program and environment that is geared to complement the regular program of the church. Think of it, "Daily in the temple . . ." (Acts 5:42).

Some seriously ask, "Is the Christian day school a glorified and extended Sunday School?" The answer is found in the purpose of the Christian day school.

It was not designed to take the place of, or compete with the Sunday School or any other program of the church. It is a complement to the weekly church program.

It is also an educational program. Academic excellence is one of the

chief aims. Remember, the Christian day school movement is in the adolescent stage. Many schools are in their infancy, but they are growing and developing.

Admittedly, there are schools where the standard of excellence is questionable. There are also churches where this same problem exists, but we do not forbid them to minister to those who choose to attend.

The FWB Mandate

Free Will Baptists are getting into the Christian day school ministry in a serious way. New schools open every year. By the end of this decade there will be scores of schools ministering daily in Free Will Baptist churches across the country.

If the future belongs to those who prepare for it, our denomination is solidly laying the groundwork for a growing Christian day school ministry in our churches.

The teacher education program at Free Will Baptist Bible College began primarily to train Christian teachers for a ministry in Free Will Baptist Christian day schools.

The Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Christian Day Schools, founded in 1972, has as its primary purpose to promote the day school ministry among our churches and provide a platform for instruction, information, incentive, and inspiration to member schools, prospective schools and their personnel.

The annual Pastors' and Principals' Conference is held on campus at Free Will Baptist Bible College. This gathering attracts representatives from most Free Will Baptist schools.

Campus students are exposed to the widest avenue of service ever made available to Free Will Baptists. More full-time workers are found in Free Will Baptist Christian day schools than in all our colleges, national offices and mission stations.

This seldom stated fact means the Christian day school is the largest field of opportunity for Christian service available to Free Will Baptists.

We have not only developed a place to serve, but we have at the same time been obedient to our scriptural mandate.



THE CASE (From page 17)

The following references support the "mandate" Christian educators and parents share. Of course this is by no means an all inclusive list: Deuteronomy 6:6-7, 31:11-13; Acts 5:42; Psalms 11:3, 53:1, 84:10; Proverbs 1:7, 3:5-6, 9:10, 14:12, 34; 19:27, 22:6, 25:28; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Colossians 2:8.

What About You?

Who should begin a Christian day school? The answer to that question

is, only a pastor and church that really believe this is a ministry.

For those who are unsure, it is always advisable to visit and observe the *best* Christian day schools in your area. Even a trip of several hundred miles and a few days is a small investment for such a great undertaking.

To begin with a wrong motive will result in damaging relationships or painful changes later that could have been avoided. The financial investment is insignificant compared with the commitment that must become a part of any quality educational institution and ministry.

Let me make one thing clear at this point. After my first full decade with the Christian day school ministry, there are no regrets about starting. That is a good feeling. If my motive or commitment had been weak, the "glory and glamour" would never have supported me.

Now, what about a school in every church?

This is the goal of some leaders in the movement. It seems unrealistic to me. The alternative to that aim, at least for Free Will Baptists, is a strong school in every area. The primary purpose would be to serve Free Will

We Operate A Christian School



By Dennis Wiggs

Our church operates a Christian school. The Monday through Friday school uses the same facilities the Sunday School classes use on the Lord's Day. We believe that both schools are ordained of God.

On the first day of the week our trained Sunday School teachers explain the Bible, point students to Christ, teach social adjustment, and help class members to grow in the spiritual graces.

From Monday through Friday, our trained Christian school teachers teach the same spiritual information plus educational subjects so necessary for living in this civilized world.

Both schools, separate and yet vitally linked together, operate under the umbrella of our church.

Beaufort Christian Academy began in 1972 with 54 pupils in kindergarten through grade six. Using combination classes, the four teachers used secular textbooks,

Baptist families.

Some areas could support more than one school. There may be differences in areas that necessitate additional schools to meet the needs of the various people.

Many churches do not have, nor could they provide, adequate facilities to accommodate a Christian day school. Make no mistake about it, the educational business is an expensive business regardless of who is doing it.

Some of our churches would elect not to gear up for such a program, but would be supportive of a sister church. They could send students and perhaps

even occasionally financial support. There are as many ways to lend assistance as there are areas of need.

As you examine the Christian day school ministry, you must remember that those involved are not expressing a preference. They are not simply multiplying their responsibilities for activity sake.

Most Free Will Baptist Christian day schools are administered by those already heavily involved in ministering to people.

The big question is not whether our churches need Christian day schools. Rather, it is "Do our children and

young people need the Christian day school?"

Your answer will come as you see them earnestly looking to you for an alternative to the daily conflicts and conditions.

The Christian day school is not a "cure all", but it is a tremendous tonic for an area of need that we only have one opportunity to meet—the education of our children in a manner that will not conflict with the teachings of the Bible-believing church and the Christian home. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Rev. Richard Cordell pastors Guin Free Will Baptist Church, Guin, Alabama.

working in scriptural principles as opportunity arose.

After nine years of operation, the school's curriculum is totally Bible-centered. Students in Christian schools today have advantages that students in the classrooms of America have never experienced until just recently.

From pre-school through grade five, we use the A Beka Publishing Company curriculum. From grade six through grade twelve, our students are enrolled in the Accelerated Christian Education program.

Twelve teachers carry on a successful academic program that is producing committed, young Christians with high achievement test scores.

Order prevails. Discipline is enforced. High moral and social standards exist. The students are happy.

Just walking in the doorway reveals to visitors that there is something different about Beaufort Christian Academy, a ministry of First Free Will Baptist Church, Beaufort, North Carolina.

About 65 percent of our students come from other churches. Just as our Sunday School is open to the community, our Monday school is provided for those who are interested.

Gifts in the offering plate sustain the school on the Lord's Day. Gifts and tuition pay the operating costs of the week-day school. Both programs are an act of faith by the same church.

Why operate a Christian school when down the street is a large, well-staffed government educational center?

First, parents are responsible for the academic, spiritual, social and physical well-being of their children. The home was the first God-ordained institution.

The Church can and must assist parents in the mandate of rearing their children in the ways of the Lord. It is not the state's responsibility to do what parents are instructed to do. Parents have the right to choose the best for their children.

Second, government schools are humanistically inclined. Students are unduly exposed to unsaved teachers, who often are bent and determined to destroy a student's faith in God and the Bible.

Evolution is taught as truth and not theory in many classrooms. The world's philosophy of materialism and secularism are emphasized.

Students are instructed in dancing. Sex education is taught without the biblical rules of marriage explained.

Christian schools provide an alternative to government schools that Christian parents want.

Third, the Christian school complements home training. Parents who teach their children holiness, standards and convictions find that a good Christian school confirms and strengthens those teachings.

Fourth, parents who send their children to a Christian school spend very little time "undoing" or "un-learning" what the students learned at school. Sending a child to a Christian school provides a comfort that only a parent with a child in that type school can understand.

Our school exists for three major reasons: to evangelize, to educate, and to edify.

Through chapel services, personal witnessing and Bible classes we attempt to make sure every child is a born again Christian. Then, daily, we teach biblical principles for the spiritual growth of the young believers.

At the same time, we major on quality education. With an academically sound curriculum, dedicated teachers, limited enrollment and students who want to be in this type school, how can we fail? Yearly test results continue to reveal the quality education that students receive at our church school.

We count it a privilege to offer a Christ-centered education to our church families and the community. Our competition might make government schools a little better. An alternate education is being provided.

Christian parents can fulfill God's mandate to train their children in His ways. Thank God for the freedom in America to operate a Christian school.

Should every church provide a Christian school?

Only if they enter the endeavor as a ministry. Only if they are determined to provide the best education possible. Only if they are willing to hold the standards and rules high. Only if they are convinced it is God's will!

If that's the way you feel, then begin a Christian school. It's hard work but a rewarding ministry. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Rev. Dennis Wiggs pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Beaufort, North Carolina.

Where Are The Free Will Baptist Christian Schools?

The CONTACT staff expresses thanks to Mr. James M. Spikes secretary-treasurer of The Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Christian Day Schools for his generous cooperation in compiling the following comprehensive list of Free Will Baptist Christian schools.

If any school was inadvertently omitted from our list, we apologize for the oversight. To the best of our

knowledge, the information contained in the list is accurate and up-to-date through the 1981 school year.

When information was not supplied to us directly by the school principals, we relied on the latest data available from The Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Christian Day Schools.

According to the material available to us at press time, there are 48 Free Will Baptist Christian schools in 16

states (and the Virgin Islands) with a combined enrollment of 6,534+ students. The largest school is located in Virginia with 410 students, the smallest in Tennessee with 10 students.

Almost half of the schools (22), are located in the three states—North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee.

The list of schools is alphabetized by states to facilitate ease of location for our readers.

ALABAMA

Florence Christian Academy
First FWB Church
Florence, AL
Principal: Tom Malone
Students: 215

Liberty Christian Academy
Guin FWB Church
Guin, AL
Principal: Walter Sloan
Students: 172

Victory Christian Academy
First FWB Church
Jasper, AL
Principal: Sam Postlewaite
Students: Unavailable

Vinemont Christian Academy
Soul's Harbor FWB Church
Vinemont, AL
Principal: Dennis Reeves
Students: 75

ARKANSAS

Pocahontas Christian Academy
First FWB Church
Pocahontas, AR
Principal: Don R. Jones
Students: (opens 1981)

CALIFORNIA

Happy Day Express
Baldwin Park FWB Church
Baldwin Park, CA
Principal: Robert Riddle
Students: 32

Oxnard Christian Academy
Oxnard FWB Church
Oxnard, CA
Principal: Charlie Sartor
Students: 110

FLORIDA

FWB Day School
Hollywood FWB Church
Hollywood, FL
Principal: Joy Rice
Students: 50

Lake Jackson Christian School
Lake Jackson FWB Church
Tallahassee, FL
Principal: Phillip E. Cook
Students: 103

Wesconnett Christian Academy
Wesconnett FWB Church
Jacksonville, FL
Principal: Howard Bass
Students: 75

GEORGIA

Brunswick Christian School
First FWB Church
Brunswick, GA
Principal: Unavailable
Students: Unavailable

Glennville Christian Academy
Glennville FWB Church
Glennville, GA
Principal: Richard Barnard
Students: 200

LOUISIANA

Shennandoah Christian Academy
First FWB Church
Baton Rouge, LA
Principal: Samuel Henderson
Students: 50

MISSISSIPPI

Amory Christian Academy
First FWB Church
Amory, MS
Principal: Eddie L. Vincent
Students: 73

Martin Hill Christian Academy
Martin Hill FWB Church
Booneville, MS
Principal: Johnny Sexton
Students: Unavailable

MISSOURI

Cape Christian School
First FWB Church
Cape Girardeau, MO
Principal: Frank Giunta
Students: 21

Farmington Christian Academy
Farmington FWB Church
Farmington, MO
Principal: Gene Wilfong
Students: 143

Fourth Christian Academy
Fourth FWB Church
St. Louis, MO
Principal: Mike Willhite
Students: 31

NEW MEXICO

Faith Christian School
Faith Memorial Chapel
FWB Church
Carlsbad, NM
Principal: Peggy Humbles
Students: 14

NORTH CAROLINA

Beaufort Christian Academy
First FWB Church
Beaufort, NC
Principal: Dennis Wiggs
Students: 140

Bethel Christian Academy
Bethel FWB Church
Kinston, NC
Principal: Mike Paramore
Students: 300

Cramerton Christian Academy
Cramerton FWB Church
Cramerton, NC
Principal: Joanne King
Students: 305

Faith Christian Academy
Faith FWB Church
Goldsboro, NC
Principal: Russ Moots
Students: 330

Jacksonville Christian Academy
First FWB Church
Jacksonville, NC
Principal: Buford Pierce
Students: (opens 1981)

Liberty Christian School
Liberty FWB Church
Durham, NC
Principal: Neil Hearn
Students: 210

Mt. Calvary Christian Academy
Mt. Calvary FWB Church
Hookerton, NC
Principal: J. E. Windom
Students: 193

Raleigh Christian Academy
First FWB Church
Raleigh, NC
Principal: Richard Tippett
Students: 200

Ruth's Chapel Christian School
Ruth's Chapel FWB Church
New Bern, NC
Principal: David Thompson
Students: 175

Trinity Christian School
Trinity FWB Church
Greenville, NC
Principal: Van Dale Hudson
Students: 165

West Duplin Christian Academy
West Duplin FWB Church
Warsaw, NC
Principal: John Reed
Students: 125

OHIO

Heritage Temple Christian Schools
Heritage Temple FWB Church
Columbus, OH
Principal: Merle Dempsey
Students: 232

OKLAHOMA

North West Christian Schools
North West FWB Church
Oklahoma City, OK
Principal: L. R. Haggard
Students: 80

SOUTH CAROLINA

Maranatha Christian School
First FWB Church
Florence, SC
Principal: Gary I. Donica
Students: 140

Palmetto Christian Academy
Sponsor: Unavailable
Florence, SC
Principal: Unavailable
Students: Unavailable

TENNESSEE

Chandler Christian School
Sponsor: Unavailable
Chandler, TN
Principal: Mark Shores
Students: 15

FWB Home For Children
Greeneville, TN
Principal: James Earl Raper
Students: 20

Gorman Christian School
Gorman FWB Church
McEwen, TN
Principal: Roy Helms
Students: 10

Pleasant View Christian School
Sponsor: Unavailable
Pleasant View, TN
Principal: Roger S. Hood
Students: 200

Randall Christian Academy
Randall Memorial FWB Church
Memphis, TN
Principal: James M. Spikes
Students: 230

Woodbine Christian Academy
Woodbine FWB Church
Nashville, TN
Principal: Joe R. Haas, Jr.
Students: 270

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Free Will Baptist School
FWB Church
St. Croix, VI
Principal: Earl Langley
Students: 406

VIRGINIA

Bethany Christian School
Bethany FWB Church
Norfolk, VA
Principal: Gary L. Maines
Students: 200

Bethel Christian Academy
Bethel FWB Church
Hampton, VA
Principal: Lloyd V. Donica
Students: 155

Collinswood Church School
Collinswood FWB Church
Portsmouth, VA
Principal: Tim Jones
Students: 45

Gateway Christian School
Gateway FWB Church
Virginia Beach, VA
Principal: Danny Baer
Students: 410

Peninsula Christian School
First FWB Church
Newport News, VA
Principal: Mark Shores
Students: 321

WEST VIRGINIA

Forest Christian School
Loudendale FWB Church
Charleston, WV
Principal: Glenn Batten
Students: 21

Sophia Christian Academy
Sophia FWB Church
Sophia, WV
Principal: Larry Gunnoe
Students: 62



SCHOOLS (From page 21)

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
WRITE:**

**MAJOR CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL CURRICULUM
PUBLISHERS**

A Beka Book Publications
125 St. John Street
Pensacola, FL 32503

Accelerated Christian Education
Box 917
Lewisville, TX 75067

Bob Jones Publications
Bob Jones University
Greenville, SC 29614

Alpha Omega
Huntington Boulevard
Tempe, AZ

Associated Christian School Pub-
lishers, Inc.
Box 27115
Indianapolis, IN 46227

**MAJOR CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
PROFESSIONAL AGENCIES**

Association of Christian Schools
International
Paul Kienel, Executive Director
P.O. Box 4097
Whittier, CA 90607

American Association of Christian
Schools
Al Janney, President
Box 32395
Washington, D.C. 20007

Christian Law Association
P.O. Box 30290
Cleveland, OH 44130

Christian Legal Defense
Box 32395
Washington, D.C. 20007



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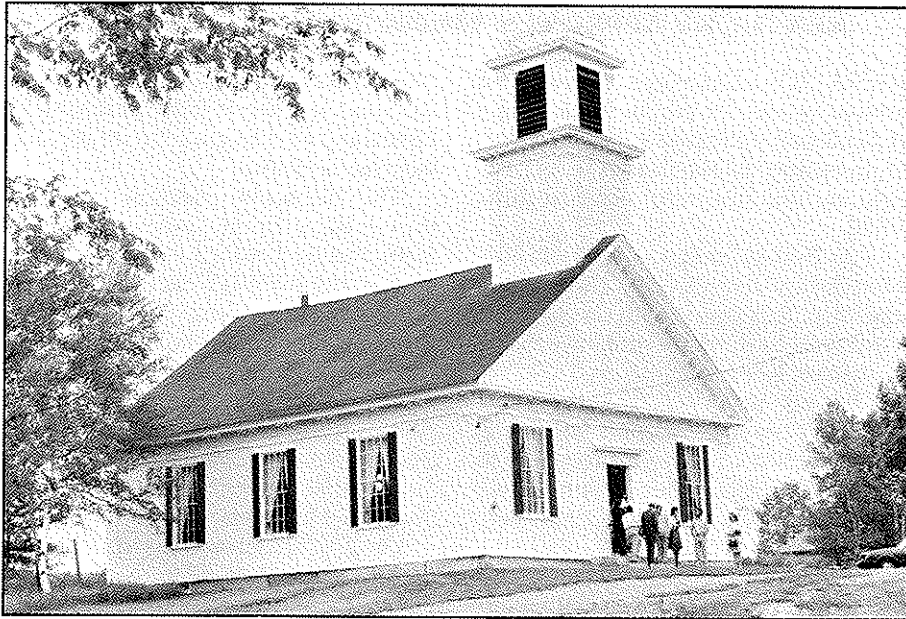
State	June '81		June '80	Yr. to Date
	Coop	Design.		
Alabama	\$...	\$...	\$ 36.20	\$ 2,208.12
Arizona	199.32	396.30
Arkansas	2,749.74	...	2,419.91	19,819.00
California	1,193.14	...	1,420.67	6,775.00
Florida	1,093.89	...	1,842.05	7,583.91
Georgia	1,213.69	(150.05)	995.11	6,755.22
Idaho	...	...	...	200.82
Illinois	895.82	...	1,364.61	5,748.98
Indiana	...	...	...	100.00
Kansas	185.99	...	249.56	1,254.56
Kentucky	25.00	...	...	25.00
Maryland	40.00	...	251.07	210.00
Michigan	4,786.25	(4,286.25)	1,468.00	16,107.16
Missouri	4,825.89	(4,825.89)	5,134.63	35,073.75
Mississippi	984.99	(842.69)	...	1,966.00
New Mexico	87.01	...	...	225.24
North Carolina	399.56	...	399.69	2,701.07
Ohio	1,071.60	...	957.20	5,704.04
*Oklahoma	1,326.04	(1,326.04)	6,510.91	37,759.47
Tennessee	1,152.51	(275.00)	441.03	5,691.62
Texas	2,398.85	(2,092.91)	152.16	3,079.44
Virgin Islands	222.50	(222.50)	186.00	1,058.42
Virginia	...	...	57.70	4,549.11
West Virginia	11.48	...	8.05	53.11
TOTALS	<u>\$24,863.27</u>		<u>\$23,894.55</u>	<u>\$165,045.34</u>

Disbursements:

Executive	\$ 9,240.46	(2,340.52)	\$ 5,575.84	\$ 55,122.69
Foreign Missions	8,103.21	(7,097.99)	6,224.65	46,263.83
Bible College	3,744.77	(2,739.55)	4,881.89	24,675.44
Home Missions	2,082.12	(1,333.14)	4,038.57	20,351.43
Retirement & Ins.	1,092.37	(363.11)	2,063.20	11,657.46
Master's Men	505.20	(111.01)	922.11	5,785.26
Commission on Theological Lib.	95.14	(36.01)	188.29	1,189.23
TOTALS	<u>\$24,863.27</u>		<u>\$23,894.55</u>	<u>\$165,045.34</u>

* This reflects only the gift sent for the Executive Office. Gifts totalling \$8,711.90 were sent directly to the other departments. Oklahoma's gift totalled \$10,037.94.

Note: Total receipts, including Oklahoma's gifts sent directly to each department were \$33,575.17.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

FIRST CHURCH RETURNS, 70 YEARS LATER

NEW DURHAM, NH—The First Free Will Baptist Church in America, founded June 30, 1780, by Elder Benjamin Randall, united with the Northeast Association of Free Will Baptists on June 12-13, 1981, returning the "Mother Church" to the Free Will Baptist denomination after a 70-year absence, begun in the 1911 merger between the Northern Baptist Convention (now American Baptist Convention) and the northern Free Will Baptists.

The First Church voted unanimously in an April 5, 1981, conference to affiliate with the National Association of Free Will Baptists. The intent of that vote was completed when the Northeast Association received the New Durham Church into membership.

Appropriately, the Northeast Association's 21st semi-annual conference met June 12-13 at New Durham where the historic vote was taken. Reverend Ben Bostic, pastor of Linneus FWB Church, Houlton, moderated the meeting.

Free Will Baptist Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington delivered two messages during the June conference in First Church.

The following seven-paragraph resolution was passed April 5, 1981, by the New Durham congregation.

WHEREAS, the First Free Will Baptist Church of New Durham, New Hampshire, holds the unique historical distinction of being the first church established by Elder Benjamin Randall in 1780, and

WHEREAS, this church became the mother church of hundreds more through the untiring missionary efforts of Elder Randall and his followers, resulting in a magnificent chapter in the history of the Christian church, and

WHEREAS, the historic Free Will Baptist theological position was somewhat lost through an amalgamation with the Northern Baptist Convention in 1911, when more than half of the 1,100 Free Will churches in the North and West joined this group, and

WHEREAS, the Northern Baptist Convention, now the American Baptist Convention, has in the intervening years gradually left its fidelity to the Word of God in many respects, and

WHEREAS, this church reaffirms its acceptance of the basic doctrines, precepts and guidelines as set forth in the founding articles of

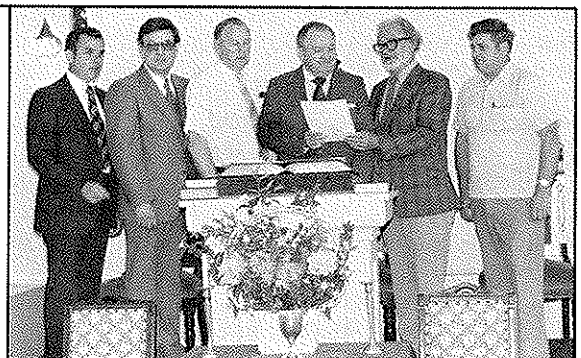
charter, and wishes to continue an unbroken observance of the same to the best of our knowledge and ability.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that to best fulfill and carry out the work of this church, and the furtherance of the teaching of the Free Will Baptist principles as revealed in the Word of God, we do hereby present our desires and intent to affiliate with the National Association of Free Will Baptist Churches of the United States of America, an evangelical fellowship organized in 1935 by the remnant churches of the Randall movement together with the southern Free Will churches of the Palmer movement.

FURTHERMORE, we desire to express our appreciation to the American Baptist Convention of New Hampshire for its cooperation and assistance to this church in past years. We desire, also, to maintain loving fellowship with other churches, regardless of denomination, which seek to maintain a position of fidelity to the historical fundamental doctrines and practices of the Christian faith revealed in the Word of God.



Melvin Worthington (L)
Mack Owens
Bill Nehring
Ben Bostic
Al Sims
Bill Smith



newsfront

(continued)

BIBLE CONFERENCE KEYS VIRGINIA MEETING

ROANOKE, VA—A one-day Bible conference featuring four speakers kicked off the 43rd annual session of the Virginia State Association, according to Promotional Director Jim Cox.

An estimated 80 delegates and visitors gathered in First FWB Church, Roanoke, for the June 18-19 conference and state meeting.

The Bible conference theme, "The Fundamentals of the Faith," was developed by Lester Horton, pastor of Fairwood FWB Church, Fairfax; Harold Kilgore, pastor of Indian Creek FWB Church, Pound; Tag Kilgore, pastor of First FWB Church, Newport News; and Home Missions Evangelism Director Don Pegram.

When the state association met on Friday morning, delegates heard an address by Mike Messer, pastor of Adwolfe FWB Church, Marion.

Moderator Jack Stallings of Collinswood FWB Church, Portsmouth, stepped down after moderating the 1981 session. Delegates elected Walter Statzer, pastor of Shiloh FWB Church, Bristol, as the new moderator.

OUTLAW LEADS KANSAS MEETING

SALINA, KS—The 20th annual session of the Kansas State Association met at First FWB Church, Salina, and heard Free Will Baptist Bible College Professor Stanley Outlaw preach the conference theme, "Building on a Sure Foundation."

Dr. Outlaw, Bible instructor at FWBCC, addressed the state gathering at plenary sessions on June 18-20. Some 120 conferees met for worship and business activities.

Rev. Gary Elder, pastor of First FWB Church, Topeka, was re-elected as state moderator and promotional officer.

Free Will Baptist Missionary to Ivory Coast Arilla Wode spoke to the state Woman's Auxiliary banquet.

The 1982 Kansas State Association is slated to meet with the Hutchinson FWB Church, Hutchinson, Kansas.

KENTUCKY APPROVES \$59,000 INSTITUTE BUDGET

NIPPA, KY—Delegates to the 42nd annual session of the Kentucky State Association endorsed a \$59,000 operating budget for the Bethel Bible Institute during business activity June 19-20.

The Bethel budget is down a thousand dollars from 1980-81. The Institute operates year-round with classes at its Paintsville base and at satellite schools in eastern Kentucky.

Officials reported that Kentucky Woman's Auxiliaries and Kentucky churches had responded financially to help underwrite National Convention expenses in Louisville July 19-23, with more than \$8,000 raised.

Meeting at Tom's Creek FWB Church in Nippa, more than 200 people

heard Moderator J. D. O'Donnell gavel the representatives from 10 Kentucky conferences through business and worship activities.

The Kentucky meeting was keynoted by a Friday evening sermon from Pastor Clifford Austin of Highland Avenue FWB Church, Prestonsburg. Saturday morning, Louisa Pastor James Hayes preached a rousing sermon on denominational loyalty.

Delegates approved a recommendation that the city of Paducah be supported in a joint missions project between Kentucky State Missions and National Home Missions.

Dr. J. D. O'Donnell was re-elected as state moderator, and Rev. Richard Van Hoose as state promotional secretary.

OHIO ASSOCIATION ATTRACTS 400

COLUMBUS, OH—Ohio Promotional Secretary Alton Loveless said that 400 representatives from state churches registered for the June 25-27 state association which met in Columbus at Heritage Temple FWB Church.

The Buckeyes sandwiched three state-wide meetings into the three-day flurry—Woman's Auxiliary activities were set June 25, while 200 youth met June 26-27 at nearby Circleville Bible College to complement the state association business sessions.

Delegates heard Promotional Secretary Loveless call for reorganizing the Ohio Bible Institute with provisions to offer correspondence courses. Other business centered around discussion to create a seven-man state Church Training Service Board to guide state youth work.

Ambassador Bible Bookstore in Columbus reported a nine percent

increase in annual sales. The growing firm has broken its financial records each year, with total sales of more than \$1.75 million since opening seven years ago.

Moderator Franklyn Harness, completing his third year, was awarded the state gavel in appreciation for his services. Delegates elected Pastor Clarence Workman of New Hope FWB Church, Chillicothe, to succeed Reverend Harness.

Three speakers preached the "Christ the Hope of Glory" theme at this the 43rd State Association. Ohio Pastors Robert Prichard (Cleveland FWB Church, Cleveland) and Howard Kimble (Union FWB Church, Wheelersburg) joined Home Missions Department Director of Evangelism Don Pegram in preaching "The Lively Hope," "The Living Stone," and "The Lasting Word" respectively.

ROBIRDS, REEDS ADDRESS INDIANA STATE

LA FONTAINE, IN—Speaking from Isaiah 6, Foreign Missions Director of Communications Don Robirds told the 125 delegates and visitors to Indiana's State Association that they could know the specific biblical principles which produce missions-minded churches.

Robirds' sermon was re-enforced by Dr. Roger Reeds' presentation, "The Story of the Bible," as both men issued challenges to the state gathering. Reeds directs the Sunday School

and Church Training Department.

Indiana Promotional Director Archie Ratliff, following the June 19-20 session, said he felt "encouraged about the state work."

Moderator Don Trogdon gavelled delegates through business items at La Fontaine FWB Church.

Reverend Tim Hackett, pastor of First Bible FWB Church, New Castle, was elected moderator for the 1981-82 fiscal year.



TENNESSEE CHURCH GETS \$4,000 FACE-LIFT

MANCHESTER, TN—Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Manchester, completed a \$4,000 fund-raising and renovation project this spring, according to Pastor Arthur Lambert.

When the project was completed, Faith Church had been bricked, new windows were installed and a new front entrance-way was constructed.

The women's group at the church purchased a new sink and cabinets and had them installed.

As the remodeling work neared completion, Pastor Lambert told members, "I believe God's house should be the best looking building on the street.

MARYLAND RESOLVES TOTAL SUPPORT

MARTINSVILLE, VA—The Maryland State Association voted three resolutions at its 15th annual session, two of which urged pastors and congregations to rally support for total denominational enterprises. A third resolution that unanimously passed reaffirmed their anti-abortion stand.

Moderator Elzo Bevan and 200 delegates and visitors met June 26-27 at Woodland Heights FWB Church in Martinsville, Virginia. The Maryland State Association, because of its strategic location, includes churches from seven states in its fellowship.

The groups received a new quarterly meeting into membership at this session with churches from New Jersey and Virginia.

Keynote speaker Lester Horton, pastor of Fairwood FWB Church, Fairfax Station, Virginia, spoke to conferees on "The Plea for Revival." Rev. Burt Hall, pastor of Bethel FWB Church, Woodbridge, Virginia, delivered "The Product of Revival."

Tennessee Pastor Winston Sweeney (Fellowship FWB Church, Kingsport) addressed the Friday afternoon Woman's Auxiliary meeting, while Missionary Pastor David Reece (Fredericksburg, Virginia) spoke to 150 at a Friday evening banquet on the subject, "The Promise of Revival."

Delegates elected host pastor Ralph Weaver as the new state moderator and promotional man.

MICHIGAN ELECTS COOPER NEW PROMOTIONAL OFFICER

TROY, MI—The 25th annual session of the Michigan State Association met June 19-20 at Troy Free Will Baptist Church and elected host pastor Charles Cooper to the state Promotional Director's post. Rev. Cooper was to assume his new responsibilities immediately.

The registered delegates, ministers and deacons elected a state Home Mission Board. Rev. Bill Brown, pastor of Shiloh FWB Church in Detroit, was named chairman.

Four out-of-state speakers shared pulpit responsibilities in the two-day meeting. The four were Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington, FWBBC Director of Public Relations Paul Kettman, Foreign Missions Associate Director Eugene Waddell, and Manager Larry Hampton of Randall House's Editorial Division.

Rev. J. B. Varney, pastor of Kirby FWB Church in Taylor, was re-elected as moderator of the state association.

MISSOURI PROBES 80'S MANDATE

LEBANON, MO—More than 600 Missouri Free Will Baptists filled the Nelson Community Center in Lebanon on June 8-11 to launch their 1981 state association theme, "God's Mandate for the 80's."

Missouri Promotional Secretary Clarence Burton reported capacity attendance each evening for worship services.

The assembled conferees heard theme messages by Dr. N. R. Smith, director of development at Hillsdale FWB College—"Accepting the Challenge"; Rev. Richard Robinson, pastor of Thayer FWB Church, Thayer—"Building the Church"; Dr. Melvin Worthington, Free Will Baptist Executive Secretary—"Developing the Clergy"; Rev. Fred Warner, pastor of

First FWB Church, Russellville, Arkansas—"Choosing the Concepts."

When all the state outreach expenditures were totaled, Missouri Free Will Baptists had passed 1981-82 budgets that topped \$750,000.

An area of special concern to delegates was emphasis on development of a Free Will Baptist retirement village on 60 acres in Lebanon.

Moderator Dale Skiles was re-elected to a third term of office.

Steve and Judy Lytle, missionaries to Panama, spoke to the Tuesday afternoon Woman's Auxiliary banquet. The Evangel Players from Free Will Baptist Bible College began the four-day conclave with a performance Monday evening.



newsfront

(continued)

EXTERNAL STUDIES OFFERED BY HILLSDALE COLLEGE

MOORE, OK—Since 1975 Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College has offered a comprehensive program of External Studies. External Studies Director Tom Marberry says that this program makes available to the student a series of home study courses similar to courses offered on the Hillsdale campus.

The innovative program includes several courses in Bible as well as church history, church administration, English, American History, American government, missions, psychology and other related areas. The cost for the courses is \$25 per semester hour, which includes textbooks and other necessary materials.

Hillsdale also offers as a part of the external program a non-credit course in Free Will Baptist Doctrines designed for pastors as part of the educational program of local churches. The cost of this course is \$5.95 per copy.

Anyone who desires more information about this program should contact the Director of External Studies, Thomas L. Marberry, at Hillsdale College. The address is P.O. Box 6343, Moore, OK 73153.

STATE CALLS FOR CHURCH PLANTING REVIVAL

FRESNO, CA—Delegates to the 38th annual California State Association were urged repeatedly to involve themselves in "A Revival of Church Planting."

Hosted on the California Christian College campus in Fresno, the 250 attendees heard four keynote speakers as well as the California Executive Secretary bugle the church planting revival theme.

The June 18-20 speakers included Pastors Keith Burden, Harmony FWB Church, Fresno; Ron Young, First FWB Church, Salinas; Osmundo Coralles, Resurrection FWB Church, Culver City; and Milburn Wilson, Sherwood Forest FWB Church, El Sobrante.

State Executive Secretary Paul Kennedy called for Californians to organize 100 new churches by the year 2000 A.D. After hearing Kennedy's proposal, delegates promptly voted him an indefinite term in office, instead of the usual two-year stint.

During the state association, the California Christian College Alumni Association conducted its annual meeting.

Rev. Richard Kennedy, pastor of North Side FWB Church, Stockton, was elected state moderator, succeeding Rev. Edward F. Johns.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

LOUISIANA

James Bullock to Hillview Church, Bastrop from Corbin Ferry Church, Lake Providence

NEW MEXICO

Pat Burttram to First Church, Carlsbad from FWB Children's Home, Eldridge, AL

MISSOURI

Jim Shepherd to First Church, Joplin from First Church, McAlester, OK

NORTH CAROLINA

Steve Cayton to St. John Church, Goldsboro

Tom Lilly to Minister-At-Large, NC from Five Points Church, Washington

PENNSYLVANIA

Edd Green to Truth Church, New Oxford

SOUTH CAROLINA

Larry Monday to Mt. Elon Church, Pamplico from Cedar Creek Church, Hartselle, AL

Joe Faircloth to Hill Side Church, Florence

Robert Rose to Grace Church, Lake City

TENNESSEE

Larry Clyatt to Fellowship Church, Nashville from Ina Church, Ina, IL

Fred Hall to Horton Heights Church, Nashville from Calvary Church, Georgetown, SC

Guy Owens to Randall Memorial Church, Memphis from Minister-At-Large, NC

TEXAS

Roy Norie, Jr. to Easley Chapel, Comanche

**Pastor
Appreciation
Day!**
September 13, 1981

According to Director **Herman Hersey**, on June 30, 1981, funds on deposit with the Retirement and Insurance Department topped the \$2 million mark for the first time ever. We join with a host of other Free Will Baptists saying thanks to Director Hersey for his faithfulness in this important aspect of denominational life.

The **Jackson, MS** churches are sponsoring the Magnolia Bible Conference, October 9-11. The conference is for pastors, teachers and workers. It will be conducted at **Faith FWB Church** in Jackson. Featured speakers are **Harrold Harrison**, director of Teacher Training with the FWB Sunday School Department; Pastor **J. L. Gore** of Faith FWB Church, Jackson; and Rev. **Gerald Gann** member of First FWB Church, Pearl.

According to Pastor **Bobby Bazen**, members of **Immanuel FWB Church, Durham, NC**, are praying for God's direction regarding the possibility of opening a christian school in the fall of 1982.

CONTACT welcomes HOUSECALL, newest printing effort of Randall House Publications. According to Randall officials, HOUSECALL will be published quarterly. The free publication is printed in brochure format. If you're not getting HOUSECALL, write Randall House at P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217 and request your free copy.

Lightning hit a building in Fayetteville, NC, then passed through a car and then passed through **James Knott** who was leaning against the car. Brother Knott survived the indirect hit by lightning, suffering only an aching arm. His pastor is **Bobby Glenn Smith** of **College Lakes FWB Church, Fayetteville, NC**.

It's a great feeling to be 16 years old and debt free. That's how folks at **Homerville FWB Church, Homerville, GA**, feel about things. Members burned the note on their property in May, paying off the final \$3,300 indebtedness on the sanctuary and education building. **Curtis Alligood** pastors.

Do students at **Free Will Baptist Bible College** in Nashville, TN, do anything during the school year except study? According to statistics released by the school's Christian Service Department, the answer is a resounding yes. Director of Christian Service **Joe Ange** said the 62 groups from the school assigned to outreach ministries such as Bible clubs, hospital visitation, and tract distribution won more than 1,200 people to Christ during the 1980-81 school year. In 31 weeks of reporting such activities, the students preached 40 weekend revivals, nearly 4,700 sermons and registered another 1,614 decisions.

They call it **Camp Hope**. That's the new name for the new state youth camp in IL. Camp Hope was dedicated to the glory of God on May 16 with Rev. **Wallace Malone** delivering the morning message. By the way, Mrs. **Jane Harmon** of **Rescue FWB Church, Whittington, IL**, submitted the winning name.

Seven couples from **New Hope FWB Church, Ina, IL**, celebrated wedding anniversaries this year. When Pastor **Everett Beaty** added the anniversary years for the couples, they totaled 255 years of married life. Mr. and Mrs. **Mack Duncan** accounted for 60 of those years.

Pastor **Leo Potete** reports 12 saved and church attendance doubling in the past quarter at **Peoples FWB Church, Justice, IL**. The church now owns two vans and plans to purchase another one to accommodate their growing needs.

Editor **Billy Tabb** of the Mississippi FWB MESSENGER was saluted by a gospel radio station WJXN for his new position in producing the state FWB newspaper. The salute was aired every hour following newscasts for two weeks earlier this summer. In addition, the station posted their salute to Mr. Tabb on the marquee outside the station. Thank you WJXN Manager Rodger Ownby and Announcer Hal Harris.

California Executive Secretary **Paul Kennedy** said the state cooperative receipts for the month of April carried Californians over the \$7,000 mark for the first time in history. Congratulations, California.

Now here's a story about a family who really got involved in a Sunday School enlargement campaign. It seems that **Northside FWB Church, Stockton, CA**, began urging members to bring visitors during the campaign. **Darrell** and **Linda Romani** and their three children took Pastor **Richard Kennedy** quite seriously. In fact, they brought 80 visitors to the church during the campaign. They saw three of the families saved and baptized and join the church.

The **California Christian College** Alumni Association appealed to members to add books to the CCC Library. According to Librarian **Winnie McLain** more than 900 books have been catalogued in response to the drive and they're still coming in.

Thanks to 19 **South Carolina** FWB churches, Missionary **Sherwood Lee** received almost \$20,000 into his account in less than one month. Thanks to the generosity of the SC churches, the Lees returned to Ivory Coast on July 16.

You've got to travel a long ways to find a community that can build a 2,100-square-foot, four-bedroom parsonage at a cost of

\$35,000. But that's exactly what happened at **Poplar Hill FWB Church, Hemingway, SC**. **Robert Hagler** pastors.

May 17 was quite a dedication day at **Mt. Elon FWB Church, Pamplico, SC**. That was the day when the new piano, the new organ and the just-completed fellowship building as well as the land it was standing on all got dedicated at once. The new musical instruments were purchased by a group in the church. The cost of the fellowship building was paid for by the church, while the land was donated by the **Andrew Gibbs** family. **Larry Monday** pastors. ▲

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Free Will Baptists And The Ministry



By William F. Davidson

After further encouragement to consider home mission work in the west (Ohio) or mission work overseas, the editor listed a number of instructions that would insure success and God's pleasure.

It is almost impossible to comprehend the changes that we have experienced in society and in the church in the short lifetime of this writer.

We have come all the way from television sets with seven-inch screens to jet aircraft and men walking on the moon.

There have also been dramatic changes in the realm of the church. Church historians concluded that until 1940, we were involved in a Protestant synthesis in which Conservative Protestantism dictated the course of American society.

Businesses closed on Sunday. Unsaved people were frequently church attenders. Protestant morals governed the redeemed and the lost alike, and almost everybody believed in God.

Historians suggest, however, that after 1940, the roles were reversed, and the church married the world. For most churches today, the world dictates scruples, morality and lifestyle.

But the picture is not entirely dark. There have been some positive changes. In the 1940's, most rural churches (and most Free Will Baptist churches were rural or in smaller towns) had a part-time ministry. Pastors served two or more churches and often worked a secular job as well.

Few pastors were educated and few conferences required education. Then changes came rapidly. Churches struggled to support full-time pastors, the Bible College in Nashville developed a four-year training program, and colleges were founded in California and Oklahoma.

Just recently, the denomination took a bold step in the direction of establishing a seminary.

Looking Back

In the glow of present success, it is easy to forget that there were reasons for the difficulties of the 1940's and to determine that it was always that way—the anti-intellectualism, the economic problems.

The truth is that we really have not done anything new, we have just regained the vision of our Free Will Baptist forefathers.

The struggle with liberalism in the late 19th century that led to fear of education and the financial crash, and the wars of the 20th century that left economic ruin simply ended the progress made in centuries past.

Free Will Baptists had made significant gains in the early 19th century in missions, in education, and especially in the improvement of the ministry.

Instructions for Young Preachers

In a series of articles begun in *The Morning Star*, an official publication of the New England Freewill Baptists, in July, 1834, the paper's editor attempted to prepare young preachers for a lifetime of ministry.

Young men were encouraged to become more "learned." "After all, the burden of the ministry soon would fall on their shoulders and was it not therefore desirable that they should be prepared to fill their places in the best manner possible?"

1. Consider the desk (pulpit) sacred. (This instruction included a warning against humor in the pulpit or speaking out against other denominations.)
2. Avoid any preaching by note.
3. Your text should be meditated and well understood.
4. Accustom yourself to frequency of writing.
5. Let your preaching be simple, grave, warm.
6. Be punctual.
7. Give your whole time to the ministry.
8. Have little to do with worldly goods.
9. Avoid engaging in political affairs.
10. Do all to the glory of God.

Though the instructions seem to advocate extemporaneous preaching, the third exhortation required preparation and study. Instruction eight also suggested that interest in material goods should be replaced by reading and study of doctrine.

The exhortation to "give your whole time to the ministry" infers a full-time ministry. If that was true, however, the next instruction was enforced by the church and the life of the preacher was one of difficulty and financial strain.

In 1853, in the Pantego-Concord Church in North Carolina, the pastor's salary was raised to \$25 per year. It was a pattern difficult to break. Until recently Free Will Baptist churches seemed to feel that preachers had little need for financial support, and that what needs they did have God would miraculously meet apart from the support of the church.

However, concern for the preacher's welfare and for a "full-time" ministry was important and finally became the norm for our churches. It's exciting to learn that these elements were already

matters of concern to the denomination as early as 1834.

Education

In response to economic difficulties and fear of education in the early 20th century, education within the denomination nearly disappeared.

Few ministers had opportunity for formal training. The birth of Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1942 seemed like an entirely new period of history. At last, opportunity for education was available to our preachers.

But this interest in training really was not new at all. It, too, was a renewal of a much earlier dream. As early as 1832, the General Conference publicly encouraged preachers to "study to show themselves approved."

The minutes for that year included a ruling to limit "improper" preaching. Ordination was to be revoked for any Freewill Baptist preacher who preached: (1) against education for the ministry, (2) against missions, or (3) against support of the ministry.

By 1832, in the North, Freewill Baptists had established a seminary at Parsonfield and would soon add others in two states. Hillsdale College was established in 1855 in Michigan.

As early as 1850, the General Conference education committee recommended that young men called to the ministry avail themselves of the advantages of biblical education.

Education had made its mark and was to play an important part in the denomination's history in the 19th century.

Conclusion

Conservative Christians, including our own denomination, tend to ignore history. We find it difficult to imagine a time prior to our own and ordinarily date church history from the time of our conversion.

We see all of history as an extension of the present and cannot conceive of great events or ideas coming from the past.

But with a little adjustment, the statement of the wise Old Testament preacher still rings true as we survey years gone by. "There's little new under the sun."

Much of the progress we enjoy today is but the renewal or fulfillment of dreams dreamed long ago. ▲



NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

WOMAN "OBEYS" JESUS; GIVES MONEY TO RACKET VICTIMS

SPRING, TX (EP)—In a gesture reminiscent of "The Millionaire" television show, a mysterious woman who said she was sent by Jesus gave thousands of dollars to four out-of-state families victimized by a confidence scheme. The four families, who were conned out of their rent deposits on a suburban Houston home, called their anonymous benefactress an "angel of mercy."

The unidentified and "very well-to-do" woman donated about \$1,000 June 23 to each of the families, all of whom had put deposits down on the same house. The scam was discovered earlier in the week, and the families still were looking for housing June 24.

The gray-haired woman declined to give her name because she said she didn't want publicity for her philanthropy, said Karen Ford, a neighbor who has let some of the families stay at her house.

"She said Jesus told her to give them the money," Mrs. Ford said. "She took them into a back bedroom and gave them the money. Then she rushed out of the house before any of us knew what was happening. She was gone in a flash. None of us even saw what kind of car she was driving."

SIX PROFESS FAITH AT CREWMAN'S FUNERAL

NEW ALBANY, OH (EP)—Six persons made professions of faith in Christ at the funeral for a crewman killed in the crash on the aircraft carrier Nimitz. The funeral for Ronald Lee Wildermuth, 19, was conducted at First Baptist Church, New Albany, by its pastor, Kenneth Branham.

Wildermuth was working on a parked aircraft when another airplane crashed on deck. The accident occurred in the Atlantic Ocean off Jacksonville, Florida.

Branham said the family of the killed crewman asked for an evangelistic emphasis along with the normal funeral service. An invitation was given and six persons indicated they wished to receive Christ. The six included relatives and friends of the serviceman.

Wildermuth had made his own profession of faith at New Albany nearly two years ago. Nine members of his immediate family have been baptized at New Albany during the past year, according to Branham. This includes an older brother and two younger brothers of the sailor, also his grandparents. The mother of the dead crewman is waiting baptism. His father has indicated a call into the ministry.

MORAL MAJORITY UNVEILS "CONSERVATIVE VERSION OF THE ACLU"

LYNCHBURG, VA (EP)—The Moral Majority is creating a legal arm relying on volunteer lawyers to defend "folks who believe like we do," a spokesman said. "You'll see just as much of the Moral Majority Legal Defense Fund as you now see of the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union)," said Harry Covert, editor of Moral Majority Report. The defense fund, he said, would be "a conservative version of the ACLU."

Covert said the legal arm of the Moral Majority was conceived after the group received offers of help from conservative attorneys. He said he could not be specific about the number of attorneys involved. In the June 22 issue of the Moral Majority Report, the Rev. Jerry Falwell, the groups' founder and president, said: "We intend to make the Moral Majority legal defense a productive and influential part of the American scene."

An example of a case of interest to the Moral Majority would be "if the tax department jumps on some private school with 100 students that doesn't have the money to defend itself," Covert said.

The ACLU handles cases involving constitutional rights. It has represented American Nazis, but generally is equated with liberal causes.

CHURCH-STATE EXPERT SEES ROLE FOR RELIGION IN SCHOOLS

WACO, TX (EP)—Religion could play a "constitutionally sound" role in American public schools as long as it does not foster school-sponsored worship or religious education, according to a Baylor University expert on church-state relations.

Dr. James E. Wood Jr., director of Baylor University's J.M. Dawson Studies in Church and State, and former executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, believes there is a proper place for religion in the public schools and thinks he has a solution which will satisfy Supreme Court experts who say any legislation allowing for such a plan will be struck down on First Amendment grounds.

He referred to comments by a recent lecturer at Baylor, Dr. Leo Pfeffer, who has been called the most renowned jurist and expert on Supreme Court issues. In his remarks, Dr. Pfeffer said that "separation of church and state must be maintained at all costs." The basic principle at stake is safeguarding a pluralistic society, as opposed to satisfying a special interest group, he explained.

However, this principle need not deny the role of religion in American academic life, Dr. Wood maintains. Dr. Wood emphasizes that although the Supreme Court has ruled out state-sponsored prayer and Bible reading in the public schools and has also denied the constitutionality of providing religious education in the public schools, the court has "explicitly emphasized for more than three decades that teaching about religion is an integral part of secular education." ▲



Lesson From A Little Lamb

By Etta Crittenden

The Lord's love for little children is clearly stated in Matthew 18:1-6. His unmistakable concern for the "little lambs" is the centerpiece of this passage.

Since I teach the first grade, when I read these verses, my thoughts turn toward one particular little first grader.

He had a great big smile on his face the first morning he came to my class. There he stood in the doorway, big blue eyes shining with eagerness above a freckled nose. Delight was written all over his face as he waited for me to introduce him to his new class and show him his new desk.

Earlier one of the other teachers came to me and told me that I was getting a new student. He had been in her K-5 class the previous year at another school.

Is he on the same level as we are, or is he behind? Will I be able to get him caught up with the rest of the class? Will he adjust to our classroom routine? Will he be loved and accepted by the other children?

Those questions raced through my mind as I thought about getting a new student in the middle of the year.

When I arrived in my room and saw him, I immediately knew that he would be special. It did not take long for me to realize that God had brought this "little lamb" to my class for a reason.

As the days passed Jay and I worked hard. He was behind in his reading, so I had a reading session alone with him every day. It was during those times especially that I learned some of the reasons God had brought this little boy to my classroom.

I became more and more thankful for my Christian home—Jay came from a broken home. My Christian parents who love me became even more important as each day passed—Jay's parents were separated and neither had time for him.

Each new day brought problems as well as small victories. Because of his home, Jay had a hard time concentrating on school work. I was being taught lessons in patience.

Unfortunately, I did not always pass. While trying to understand and encourage Jay, I was constantly being reminded of God's patience with us, His children.

At some point in every day, I told and tried to show Jay that I loved him, but more importantly that God loved

him. It seemed that he was beginning to learn what love and attention were all about.

Not only did he receive my love and attention, but each child in the class began to pay special attention to him. I was thankful that the children were quick to sense Jay's needs. We all cheered and praised him for his accomplishments, no matter how small or large they were.

Yes, I learned from Jay about love and patience. Most of all, I understood what Jesus meant when He told the disciples that little children are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

As a teacher of children, the awesome responsibility of loving and teaching each child God places in my classroom became even more of a reality. As a teacher, academic responsibilities are ever present. As a Christian teacher, I am also responsible for leading my students to the greatest Teacher.

Jay no longer attends our school. I think of him often. When I do, I thank God for using one of His "little lambs" to teach me valuable lessons in thankfulness, patience and love. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Etta M. Crittenden teaches first grade at Woodbine Christian Academy, Nashville, Tennessee. She is also employed as dormitory supervisor at Free Will Baptist Bible College.



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

The Marks Of

Maturity



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Free Will Baptists

The most important issue facing the Church today is the question of spiritual maturity.

Many Christians feel that critical self-observation and examination is a waste of time. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Time must be given to honest and humble evaluation of one's progress toward spiritual maturity. The whole question of spiritual maturity is measured on the basis of our striving to reach the fulness of Christ. The mature Christian imitates Christ in his thinking, talking and toiling.

Spiritual maturity is manifested by one's *Diet*. Paul declares in I Corinthians 3:2 that he had fed them with milk rather than meat because of their immaturity. The writer of Hebrews declares that milk belongs to babes, while meat belongs to those who are of full age (5:13-14).

The mature Christian has progressed from milk to meat. He is informed. He knows the Word. He acquires facts, analyzes the issues, and applies his knowledge to his circumstances.

Spiritual maturity is manifested by *Discernment*, which means that one is able to distinguish between that which is important and that which is injurious in religious instruction.

Albert Barnes aptly states, "They will appreciate and understand that which is true. They will reject that which is false."

By long experience Christians develop an ability to understand the more elevated doctrines of Christianity. They see their beauty and are carefully and accurately able to detect the truth from error. They have insight. They display wisdom.

Spiritual maturity manifests itself when one fulfills his *Duty*. Maturity brings a heightened sense of responsibility. No one matures beyond the extent that there is a work which he accepts as his own, which he performs to the best of his ability, and from which he achieves a sense of purpose in life.

The mature Christian is industrious. He is a worker.

Spiritual maturity manifests itself in *Discipline*. Daniel displayed this in Babylon (Daniel 1:8). Joseph demonstrated it in Egypt (Genesis 39). Paul declared it in I Corinthians 9:24-27.

The mature Christian practically integrates the Word of God into life experiences. He knows about victory over the world, the flesh and the devil through the grace of God.

While children are tossed to and fro not knowing what they want, the mature Christian knows where he is and is unintimidated. He is a warrior.

Spiritual maturity manifests itself in *Devotion*. There is present in the mature Christian the proper devotion to the Word of God, will of God, worship of God and work of God.

Spiritual maturity is not achieved in a short period of time. Although we aspire to be mature and advance toward perfection, full achievement may escape us in this life.

Spiritual maturity should be the goal of all Christians. All should desire to be like Jesus Christ, to be conformed to His image, to reach the measure of His fulness. ▲

THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE

- Aug. 30-** First FWB Church
- Sept. 2** Oak Ridge, TN
- Sept. 8-11** Fort Worth, TX
Convention Planning Trip
- Sept. 13-18** First FWB Church
Russellville, AR
- Sept. 28-** First FWB Church
- Oct. 4** Lebanon, MO

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