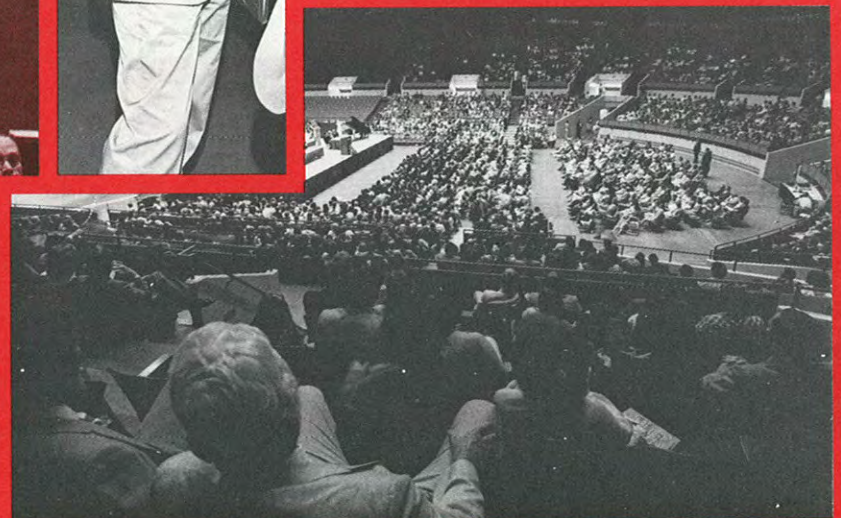
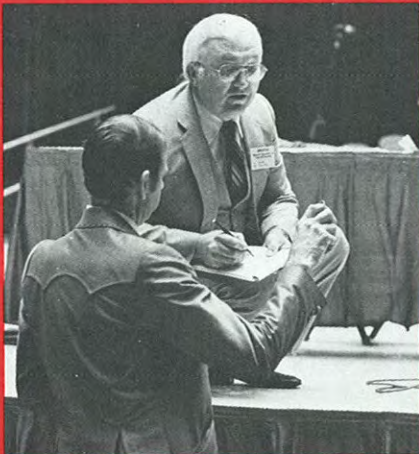
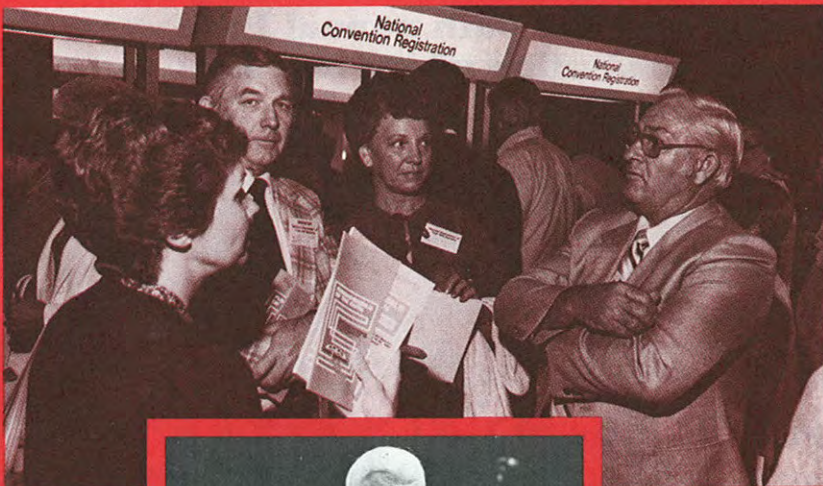


SEPTEMBER, 1982

Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1982 National Convention



The Streets Of Fort Worth

By
Larry D. Hampton

An analytical summary of the 46th annual Free Will Baptist National Convention which met July 18-22, 1982 in Fort Worth, Texas.



Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington reports to the General Board.

The 1982 National Convention analysis was written by Larry D. Hampton, manager of the editorial division of the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

This is the second time that Mr. Hampton has served as Convention Press Officer, having completed a similar project during the 1977 National Convention.

The CONTACT staff is grateful to Brother Hampton for his assistance in this special Convention issue.

Sunday Morning/July 18 Sunday School

At precisely 10 a.m., more than 1,500 Free Will Baptists crowded onto the dance floors in the Texas and Grand Crystal Ballrooms of the Fort Worth Hyatt Regency. They were not there to dance, however, for the ballrooms had been converted into Sunday School rooms.

When the National Association of Free Will Baptists meets each July, conferees observe the Lord's Day in their usual manner—by attending Sunday School and church (morning and evening). Sunday School classes are provided for primaries through adults.

Myrtle Reeds, editor of Primary-Junior materials for the Sunday School and Church Training Department, taught the primaries. Curt Gwartney, member of Lawnwood Free Will Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma instructed the juniors. A Free Will Baptist Bible College professor, Jonathan Thigpen, led the teens in their study.

Tupelo, Mississippi Pastor Fred Lockwood presided over the large adult Sunday School class. An octet of Hillsdale FWB College students expressed the spirit of the worshipers when they sang "I'm Feeling Fine."

Reverend George C. Lee, pastor of Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina, addressed the adult Sunday School class. The Mississippi native followed a carefully crafted manuscript as he applied the prophecy of Nahum to the hundreds of Free Will Baptists assembled for Bible study. He reminded the adults of "the unalterable law of harvest—you always reap what you sow."

Morning Worship

Missouri Promotional Secretary Clarence Burton, preached the Sunday morning sermon. Reverend Burton guided the congregation to Golgotha where they observed three crosses. He pointed out the cross on the left—the cross of rebellion, the center cross—the cross of redemption, and the cross on the right—the cross of repentance.

Burton affirmed that the cross of Christ discloses the depths of God's love as well as the awfulness of sin and God's hatred for it. He noted that the cross reveals the unity of believers and the division of unbelievers from believers.

Sunday Evening/July 18 National Youth Conference

The National Youth Conference keynote service attracted a crowd of 2,800. Bobby Sebastian, minister of music and youth, Bethel Free Will

Baptist Church in Hampton, Virginia, led congregational singing. Dr. Charles Hampton, registrar at Free Will Baptist Bible College and minister of music for Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, directed the Mass Youth Choir. The FWBBC Ensemble provided special music for the massive youth rally.

Reverend Nate Ange, youth pastor of Gateway Free Will Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia, delivered a powerful sermon on doing the will of God. He entreated teens and adults alike to live according to the will of God. He thundered that God's will for believers is to be separated from the world, Spirit-filled, and totally surrendered to God. He insisted that those who live such lives will be characterized by a keen spiritual perception and soul-winning fervor.

Morning Manna

Monday through Thursday of the convention conferees gathered at 8:20 a.m. for a 30-minute worship service. Each day the congregation sang a hymn and listened to special music. Georgia Pastor Irvin Hyman spoke throughout the week.

While Hyman considered several different themes, one in particular seemed especially relevant. He analyzed Christ's love and found that it was unmerited, appropriate, working, forgiving, persistent, sacrificial love.

He charged the early morning worshipers to love one another. (He emphasized that the command to love one another is repeated in scripture with "magnificent monotony.") He stressed that love is to be expressed in deeds of kindness.

Unfortunately, Hyman's well-prepared messages were met with scant attendance. Thursday morning there seemed to be almost as many in the Free Will Baptist Bible College Ensemble that sang as there were in the congregation.

Monday Morning/July 19 General Board

The General Board convened at 9 a.m. Moderator Bobby Jackson requested that the General Board choose

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CONVENTION (From page 3)

the five-member Committee on Committees. The Board's 39 members elected the following men to serve on this committee: David Joslin (AR), Tom Lilly (NC), Herbert Waid (GA), Jack Stallings (VA), and Wallace Malone (IL).

The Committee on Committees then selected the members of the Credentials, Nominating, and Resolutions committees. The following men comprised the Credentials Committee: Billy Walker (TX), Fred Hanson (Canada), Willie Justice (SC), Lester Horton (MD), and Charles Cooper (MI). The Nominating Committee consisted of: Alton Loveless (OH), Clarence Burton (MO), Guy Owens (TN), David Shores (IL), and A. B. Brown (NC). The Resolutions Committee was made up of: Mark Vandivort (AZ), Van Dale Hudson (NC), Leroy Forlines (TN), Carl Cheshier (AR), and Gene Norris (IL).



WNAC
Executive Secretary
Cleo Pursell

Following brief debate, the General Board voted to recommend that the National Association of Free Will Baptists incorporate. Reports from all departments of the National Association were heard and approved.

A large number of individuals attended this year's General Board session. The crowd dwindled after various letters and resolutions sent to the General Board pertaining to the wine issue were handed over to the Resolutions Committee along with the duty to propose a solution to the problem.

The Executive Committee report on electing standing board members annually returned the matter to the body without a recommendation. However, a means of electing board members annually was included in the report in case the delegates decided in favor of annual board elections.

After an hour of discussion the General Board voted to recommend to combine the minutes of the National



1. Missionary service altar call
2. Nate Ange
3. Blaine Hughes
4. Lynn Wood (L), Pastor and Mrs. Ray Gwartney

Association with the Church Directory. It was suggested that Randall House print and market this publication.

The First Colorado District Association petitioned for membership. Previously, individual churches in the state held membership in the national body. The Executive Committee also recommended that the 1986 convention be held in Tulsa.

Monday Evening/July 19 Worship Service Fundamentals of the Faith—Part I

Houston, Texas Layman Raymond Lee presided at the opening session of the National Convention Monday evening. Mr. Lee, moderator of the Texas State Association, extended a warm Longhorn State welcome to conventioners.

Clerk Waldo Young called the 46th annual session to order and introduced Moderator Bobby Jackson. Jackson recognized Reverend Herbert Waid, chairman of the Committee on Committees, for that group's report.

On hand to welcome the convention was Fort Worth Mayor, the Honorable Bob Bolen. Following the mayor's official greeting, Raymond Lee escorted the convention goers through a rousing roll call of states.

Blaine Hughes led the congregation in singing. The FWBBC Ensemble and the Mass Adult Choir provided special music. Mike Jones, minister of music, First Free Will Baptist Church, Poteau, Oklahoma, also sang.

Evangelist and Conference Speaker Don Pegram delivered the convention keynote address. His assigned topic was the "Doctrine of the Scripture." The North Carolina native explained that God's people's acceptance of the Bible as His Word is in accordance with Christ's statement "My sheep know My voice."

Tuesday Morning/July 20 Free Will Baptist Music Ministries Breakfast

Free Will Baptist Music Ministries Breakfast included a menu of fine food, excellent music, and a thought provoking address. The Fort Worth Hilton served the food. Rodney Whaley provided the music and the message,



1. FWBBC Ensemble
2. The Honorable Bob Bolen, Mayor of Fort Worth
3. Fawn Gwartney

with an assist from fellow FWBBC Music Faculty member Richard McDonald.

Whaley's well-received speech touched on the purpose, procedures, and problems of using band instruments in the church. Mary Neal, Music Ministries Secretary/Treasurer, reported a balance of \$273.46 in the bank.

The Second Annual Bible Conference

The National Bible Conference was slated for 9 a.m. Tuesday in the Hyatt Regency Grand Crystal Ballroom. Reverend Paul Thompson, long-time pastor of Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio, presided over the first half of the conference.

John Edwards, pastor, Eastside Free Will Baptist Church in Dothan, Alabama, and moderator of the Alabama

State Association, spoke first. Tom Lilly, promotional secretary, North Carolina State Association, was next on the program.

Edwards expressed his concern for America. He prophesied impending doom unless America experiences a spiritual revival. He prodded fellow preachers to work for revival. "We know what to do to have revival. Let's do it!"

Lilly described a meanness that pervades our orthodoxy. He indicted his listeners, charging that we have lost the ability to judge righteous judgment. He also sounded an alarm lest we accept mediocrity in theology and let methodology replace worship.

After a break for the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention Missionary Service in the Convention Center Arena and lunch at nearby restaurants, Reverend Norwood Gibson, promotional secretary, South

CONVENTION (From page 5)

Carolina State Association, introduced the first speaker of the afternoon.

Bailey Thompson, pastor of East Tulsa (Oklahoma) Free Will Baptist Church, addressed his fellow pastors. He mused "to reach the world, we must first reach the church." "The crowning work of the ministry is church planting and building. You'd think we were demolition experts the way we tear churches apart," Thompson lamented.

The final message of the conference belonged to Richard Kennedy of Stockton, California. Kennedy, a National Home Missionary, is also moderator of the California State Association. He prescribed Paul's cure for discouragement for his preacher brethren. First, he exhorted them to rejoice and give thanks for being called to the ministry. Then, he stressed the need for inner renewal day by day and emphasized the heart presence of the Comforter. Finally, he counseled listeners to take the "far look" rather than focusing exclusively on the immediate.

Tuesday Afternoon/July 20 WNAC Fellowship Dinner

More than 600 attended the WNAC Fellowship Dinner in the Heritage Ballroom of the Fort Worth Hilton.

Mrs. Norma Gabler of Longview, Texas, surveyed her ministry as a textbook consultant and educational research analyst. She, along with her husband Mel, has reviewed textbooks for the state of Texas for more than

two decades. Their work is chronicled in *Textbooks on Trial*.

Mrs. Gabler recounted the healing of one of her three sons and the untimely death of another son. She pleaded with parents to make the most of every day with their children.

Tuesday Evening/July 20 Worship Service Fundamentals of the Faith—Part II

Ben Scott is a preacher like his father before him. He has two sons who are preachers. Tuesday night, July 20, Ben Scott preached, really preached, on the "Doctrine of Salvation." He divided his topic into three parts—the design of salvation, the discipline of salvation, and the destiny of salvation.

Scott proclaimed that our day is characterized by "too many new births without the labor pains of conviction." He asserted "I believe in the church. I believe in church membership. I wish I could find Free Will Baptists in the Bible because I believe in them too!"

The Mass Adult Choir, Hillsdale College Music Department, and Mrs. Vicki Whaley brought the special music. David Thomas, minister of music, Central Free Will Baptist Church, Royal Oak, Michigan, led congregational singing.

Wednesday Morning/ July 21 Master's Men Breakfast

Registration at Tarrant County Convention Center.



Marie West (L) has found a friend in Geneva Trotter.

Scores of sleepy men and women surrounded the tables in the Fort Worth Hilton's Heritage Ballroom at 7 a.m. After a breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, hash brown potatoes, and biscuits, the early risers perked up at the singing of Bill Paulk, Oklahoma's Labor Commissioner. Paulk is a member of Southern Oaks Free Will Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

They applauded Claude McLaughlin, this year's Layman of the Year. McLaughlin is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church of Barnsdall, Oklahoma.

The enthusiastic crowd listened attentively as Ohio Promotional Secretary Alton Loveless traced Edward Kimball's influence on D. L. Moody whose ministry ultimately led to the conversion of Billy Graham. Loveless urged hearers to make the most of every opportunity since we never know what the outcome of our involvement may be.

Convention Business Session

Shortly after 9 a.m. Evangelist Bobby Jackson delivered the moderator's

message. That was followed by the Credentials Committee report and seating of delegates.

The partial report of the General Board consisted of five items. The first item concerned First Colorado District Association's request to join the national body. The request was granted and the association's three delegates seated.

Item two pertained to the reports of the National Departments. Each report, including departmental budgets, was adopted as it was presented.

Item three concerned incorporating the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Delegates voted to incorporate the National Association, but not before a brief period of debate in which several delegates expressed concern over the possibility that incorporation would lead to centralization.

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington allayed the fears when he assured the voting body that the articles of incorporation said precisely the same thing the Treatise said, only in legal terms.

Action on item four of the General Board report was delayed until the Executive Office report was given. At that time delegates held an extended discussion on whether or not to combine the National Association minutes with the Church Directory. The original recommendation called for Randall House Publications to print and market this item.

The recommendation's final form instructed Randall House to provide one free copy of the combined publication to each church. Additional copies will be available from Randall House for a nominal fee.

Item five recommended that delegates vote to convene the 1986 convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They did.

The partial report of the Nominating Committee contained names of General Board nominees from states beginning with letters N-Z. Each of the men elected will serve for two years. Three members of this group were elected to two-year terms on the Executive Committee.

These men are: Carl Vallance (WV), Jack Richey (OK), and Raymond Riggs (TN).

Reports from the Executive Office, Master's Men, Retirement and Insurance, the Free Will Baptist Foundation,

Wine Resolution

The following resolution regarding wine was adopted at the National Convention in Fort Worth.

WHEREAS in recent months there have been deep concerns among us over the wine issue, and

WHEREAS these concerns have evoked various states and/or local groups to pass resolutions of concerns sent to this body, and

WHEREAS all of the parties involved in the wine issue have declared their belief in teetotalism and wholly condemn the use of any form of alcoholic beverages, and

WHEREAS to attempt to agree on the interpretation of all scriptural references to wine would only lead to divisiveness, and

WHEREAS, all parties involved in the wine issue believe that Jesus Christ was absolutely sinless;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this body recommit itself to the statement on alcoholic beverages found in our church covenant, and that such statements be accepted as an adequate answer to our concerns on the wine issue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since the drinking of alcoholic beverages is one of our nation's greatest problems and since it is a most sensitive issue among Free Will Baptists, that any and all who speak and or teach on the subject take such sensitivity into account and be cautious accordingly.

Jerry Dudley moves the previous question.



CONVENTION (From page 7)

Home Missions, and the Commission on Theological Liberalism were heard and accepted before the lunch break.

During the afternoon session Dr. Roger Reeds, Rev. Rolla Smith, and Dr. Charles Thigpen delivered reports from the Sunday School and Church Training Department, the Foreign Missions Department, and Free Will Baptist Bible College respectively.

A highlight of the Foreign Missions Department report included Samuel Appia's testimony. Clint Morgan, missionary to Appia's African homeland, translated for him.

Delegates chose not to elect standing board members annually. Thus, the association will continue to elect three members to each board every two years.

The final report of the General Board brought the long awaited wine issue to the convention floor. As this item had been referred to the Resolutions Committee, it was necessary to receive this committee's report. A partial report consisting of two resolutions was presented.

The first resolution proposed that a seven-man study commission be appointed by the moderator to deal with the wine issue and report their findings to the 1983 session of the National Association.

Resolution number two was a denunciation of the use of alcohol and a reaffirmation of the denomination's stand for total abstinence. Delegates elected to consider this item first. While this measure would have directed all denominational agencies to see that employees teach and practice total abstinence, some delegates felt it skirted the issue of whether or not the miracle in John 2 yielded a beverage with alcoholic content.

Did Jesus make fermented wine? One of the delegates who said no proposed to amend the resolution so that it would affirm that "Jesus did not make or consume any alcoholic beverage." Both this amendment and the original resolution failed to receive a majority of the delegates' votes.

Near the end of the Wednesday afternoon business session, following a prolonged discussion, Dr. L. C. Johnson former president and chancellor of Free Will Baptist Bible College,

read a proposed substitute resolution. This resolution met with immediate favor. The delegates requested that copies of this resolution be prepared for the voting body.

With some reluctance, delegates voted to adjourn until Thursday morning.

Wednesday Afternoon/ July 21 Pastor's Dinner

Wallace Malone, pastor Decatur (IL) First Free Will Baptist Church, greeted the 300 diners assembled for the Pastor's Dinner in the Hyatt Regency's Grand Crystal Ballroom. The FWBBC Ensemble provided special music.

Ralph Staten, retired pastor and former moderator of the National Association, addressed the 1982 Pastor's Dinner. Staten organized his thoughts

under the heading "Resume' of a Pastor." In particular, he magnified the minister's high and holy calling. He assured his listeners they will face evil in the conduct of their office.

Wednesday Evening/ July 21 Worship Service Fundamentals of the Faith—Part III

Foreign missionaries from six countries tramped across the Arena stage as Don Robirds, director of communications for the Foreign Missions Department, called their names.

Veteran missionary Mabel Willey introduced Joshua Lopez who played "The Holy City" on piano and trumpet at the same time. Lopez, who won first place in his category and age level in the Music and Arts Festival, is from



1



2



3



4

1. Raymond Riggs
2. Ronald Creech
3. Layman of the Year
Claude McLaughlin (C)
4. Herman Hersey
5. Don R. Pegram
6. Norma Gabler
7. The Robert Picirillis chat with the
Carlisle Hannas.



Miami, Florida, where he attends Ebenezer Free Will Baptist Church pastored by Rev. Benito Rodriguez. Rodriguez was converted under the Willeys' ministry in Cuba.

Trymon Messer, associate director of the Home Missions Department, introduced home missionaries laboring in 22 states, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Rev. Bill Fulcher, missionary to Spanish Americans living in Houston, Texas, brought the final message of the convention. His topic was the "Doctrine of Stewardship." Several individuals responded to the call for reapers.

Bill Jones, pastor of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church, Bryan, Texas, and chairman of the Foreign Missions Board received the missions offering, totaling \$8,982.32. Of this sum \$1,049 was designated for particular missionaries, the remainder to be equally

divided between the Foreign and Home Missions Departments and placed in the general fund of the respective missions departments.

Rodney Whaley directed the congregational music. North Carolina Pastor Bill Gardner thrilled the worshipers with his singing. A group comprised of Hillsdale and Free Will Baptist Bible College students sang two numbers. The first was led by Dr. Vernon Whaley of the FWBBC Music Faculty. Ed Pack of the Hillsdale Music Faculty directed the second selection. The Men's Chorale performed a stirring rendition of "I See Jesus." The Watchmen Quartet from Oklahoma sang as the missions offering was received.

Thursday Morning/July 22 Concluding Business Session

A majority of the delegates stayed

for the Thursday business session. Moderator Bobby Jackson opted to follow the day's agenda. Thus, the wine issue was laid aside until the convention could hear the WNAC report, the Historical Commission report, and the Registration and Budget Committee reports.

The next item of business was the Resolutions Committee report. Two resolutions had increased to 10 by the time the Resolutions Committee's final report was given.

Following lengthy debate the substitute resolution proposed by L. C. Johnson was passed by an overwhelming majority. In light of this action, resolution number one calling for a study commission was tabled.

Resolution number three directing the moderator to appoint a five-man commission to investigate the feasibility of the National Association sponsoring a radio-television outreach was passed. Sandy Goodfellow (TN), Larry Hampton (TN), George Lee (NC), Guy Owens (TN), and Raymond Riggs (TN) were named to serve on this commission. They are to report to the 1983 session of the National Association.

A fourth resolution dealing with the matter of pastoral authority was tabled.

Resolution number five, a motion adopted in 1970 in Fresno, California, calling for toleration of differing viewpoints within the denominational family, was tabled.

Resolution number six proposed that Monday at the National Convention be set aside as a day of prayer and fasting. It further suggested that money not spent for food that day be given in the Wednesday night missions offering. After changing the day of prayer and fasting to the Monday before the National Convention, delegates passed the motion.

Resolutions seven and eight concerned routine matters. Resolution number seven provided for the traditional rising vote of appreciation to the host association, in this case the Texas State Association. It also instructed the clerk to send letters of commendations to officers of the Texas State Association as well as the General Director of Master's Men for his efforts in coordinating the ushering duties.



CONVENTION (From page 9)

Resolution number eight involved a rising vote of thanks to the officers of the National Association, the convention planning committee, and all national workers. Both resolutions passed without opposition.

Delegates refused to consider resolution number nine which called for "strong disapproval" of the Free Will Baptist Bible College's publication of "The Record Speaks."

Resolution number 10, a denunciation of alleged liberal trends in the National Association of Evangelicals aimed at vindicating the withdrawal of the National Association from the body 10 years ago, failed.

One final motion was offered from the floor, to encourage denominational unity. In particular, it encouraged every member of the denomination to pray for one another.

Tennessee Promotional Secretary Raymond Riggs asked to address the delegates. Riggs, long-time denominational stalwart, implored delegates to work together in unity to further the cause of Christ. He admonished the denomination's leaders not to quibble over non-essentials.

Following Riggs' eloquent statement, North Carolina Pastor Dann Patrick requested permission to speak. Patrick praised the spirit and content

of Riggs' emotional speech. He then reminded delegates that Free Will Baptists must guard against blind denominational loyalty. He underlined the point that purity must take precedence over peace. The motion calling for unity and prayer passed without dissent.

One last item of business stood between the convention and adjournment—the election of general officers. Moderator Bobby Jackson, Assistant Moderator Ralph Hampton, Clerk Waldo Young, and Assistant Clerk Keith Burden were all re-elected without opposition.

As Raymond Riggs prayed the benediction, the denomination breathed a sigh of relief. By an overwhelming majority the voting body had agreed to disagree. What's more, all the delegates had pledged themselves to work together and pray for one another.

Highlights of Reports

*The Executive Office announced that Cooperative Plan receipts for 1981 topped \$471,000.

*The cost of an individual subscription to CONTACT will climb to \$8.50 January 1, 1983. The Church Family Plan subscription rate will jump to \$7.50 at the same time. Blame it on the U.S. Post Office.

*Master's Men counted 226 local chapters in 28 states with a membership of 2,664 at the close of 1981.

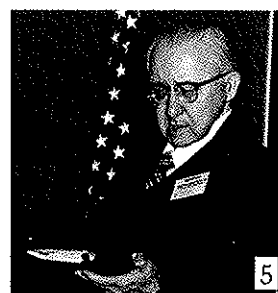
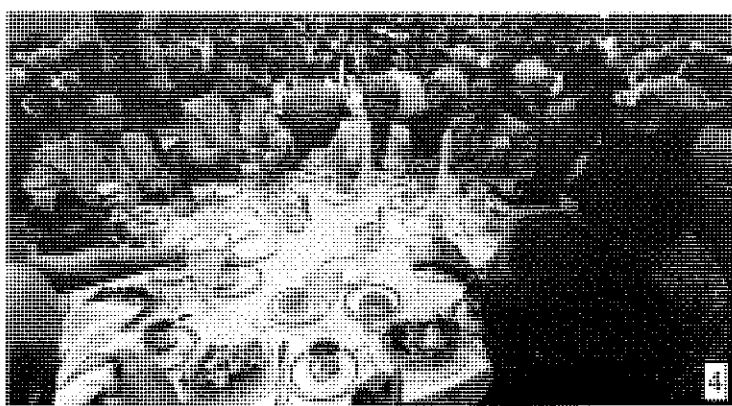
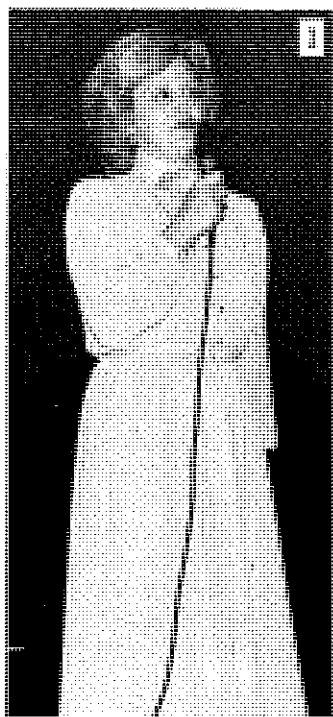
For the first time since Master's Men has had a full-time, paid general director, the department ended the year in the black!

*Board of Retirement assets increased 21 percent or \$7,442 a week. The retirement fund topped the \$2 million mark.

*Home Missions has averaged one new missionary per month for the last four years. Thirteen home missionary families were approved for service in 1981. Eight home mission churches became self-supporting last year. Walter Minor entered Rhode Island in 1981, leaving only eight states with no Free Will Baptist churches. Income soared to a record high \$1.3 million.

*The Commission on Theological Liberalism announced publication of two new booklets, *Humanism* and *The Prophets of Prosperity*. Rev. Jack Stallings authored *Humanism*. Rev. Leroy Forlines and Rev. Lonnie Skiles teamed up to write *The Prophets of Prosperity: A Biblical Examination of the Health and Wealth Philosophy*. The Commission's booth did a land office business selling over \$600 worth of booklets.

*The Sunday School and Church Training Department renovated the



1. Lucy Lima
2. Texas Moderator Raymond Lee
3. Missouri Promotional Secretary Clarence Burton
4. Pastor's Dinner
5. Ralph Staten

exterior of its building last year. The facility located on 9½ acres valued at nearly \$300,000 houses nearly \$500,000 worth of equipment.

Dr. Roger C. Reeds finished 20 years as General Director of the department.

Bobby and Sue Aycock resigned as missionaries to Brazil. Bobby will teach missions at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Sue will work in the Registrar's Office.

Seven new missionaries have been approved to go to Missionary Intern-

1982 graduating class.

The Graduate School will open this fall with a projected enrollment of 10 to 15 students. Dr. Robert E. Picirilli will serve as Dean of the College and the Graduate School. Dr. Robert Woodard and Rev. Ralph Hampton will teach in the Graduate School along with Picirilli. Patton II will house the Graduate School.

Miss Phyllis Rivers died June 19, 1982. A loan fund has been established in her honor. Miss Rivers taught business courses at the College for more than 20 years.

The College purchased three additional buildings on Richland Avenue during this year.

*WNAC reports Co-Laborer magazine circulation is approximately 18,000.

The Minister's Wife is sent free twice each year to approximately 2,500 ministers' wives.

This year's Creative Writing Contest attracted 276 entries from 84 women in 21 states and three foreign countries.

Cash gifts to missions, missionary objectives and Bible Colleges were \$226,196.64. Non-cash gifts totaled \$58,673.64 including \$34,000 in gifts to the missionary provision closet.

"I love us in spite of us."

**—Raymond Riggs
Tennessee**

"What a pilgrimage has been made! What a journey lies ahead!"

**—Ralph Staten
Tennessee**

"It's not courage but a lack of sense that gets us preachers into trouble."

**—Bailey Thompson
Oklahoma**

*Foreign Missions reported spontaneous development of new works led by nationals in the countries of Brazil, Panama, and Ivory Coast. Three church buildings are under construction in Brazil. The first national pastor of the growing congregation in Bondoukou, Ivory Coast, has been installed.

ship this fall. Income for 1981 totaled \$2,055,216—an increase of \$291,707 over the previous years.

*Free Will Baptist Bible College has concluded 40 years of service to the denomination. This past year was the school's largest with an enrollment of 648 students from 35 states and six foreign countries. There were 75 in the



1. George C. Lee
2. Richard Cordell at mike
3. Irvin Hyman
4. Tom Hughes



CONVENTION (From page 11)

WNAC assisted 15 students at Free Will Baptist Bible College with loans last year.

*In 1985, the 50th anniversary year of the National Association, the Historical Commission, in conjunction with other denominational agencies, plans to publish a "50-year Record." Tentative plans call for it to appear in two volumes.

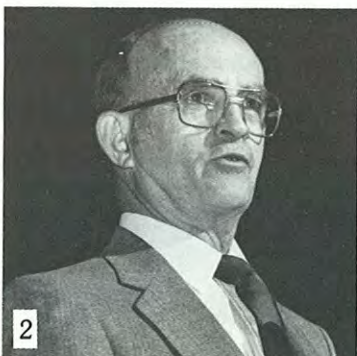
Volume I will be available at the 1985 convention in Nashville. This volume's 150 pages will be devoted to a general history of the National Association since 1935, department histories, and appropriate photographs.

Volume II will basically be expanded minutes of the 1985 National Convention and include the usual account of proceedings and digest of report materials. This volume will list the names of

all registrants, including delegates and visitors, as well as major addresses and photographs of the convention.

*The Historical Commission distributed copies of an inventory of books in the historical collection to convention delegates.

The Commission's 1983 project is to enlist support for Dr. William Davidson in his effort to prepare an expanded history of Free Will Baptists. ▲



1983 Registration

National Association Registration	3,172
State Delegates	109
Local Church Delegates	216
Ministers	721
Foreign Missionaries	20
Home Missionaries	48
Lay Board Members	5
Visitors	2,053
National Youth Conference	
Registration	1,450
Woman's National Auxiliary	
Convention	696
TOTAL REGISTRATION	5,318

1. Hillsdale College Singers
2. Ben Scott
3. Floyd Wolfenbarger
4. Pat Thomas
5. Alton Loveless
6. Samuel Appia
7. Bill Fulcher
8. Ralph Hampton
9. Master's Men Booth
10. Bobby Jackson
11. Convention Business Session



1983 CO-OP Allocations

The Budget Committee recommended that gifts received through the Cooperative Plan be allocated to the national ministries* on the following basis:

1. Underwrite the Executive Office Administrative Budget above those gifts received directly.
2. Disburse the balance of undesignated funds to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

Free Will Baptist Bible College	23.0%
Foreign Missions	23.0%
Historical Commission	1.0%
Home Missions	18.0%
Board of Retirement	15.0%
Master's Men	13.0%
Free Will Baptist Foundation	6.0%
Commission on Theological Liberalism ...	1.0%
TOTAL	100.0%

*All national ministries are funded by the Cooperative Plan except for Executive Church Bonds and the Sunday School and Church Training Department which are self-sustaining.

"I never thought I'd freeze to death in the month of July."

**—Bobby Jackson
North Carolina**

"I am the professor. It was my tape."

**—Leroy Forlines
Tennessee**

1983 Budgets Adopted

Executive Office	\$ 270,227.06
Free Will Baptist Bible College ...	2,295,000.00
Foreign Missions	2,527,807.00
Home Missions and Church Extension	1,400,000.00
Master's Men Board	60,600.00
Board of Retirement	132,100.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation	17,000.00
Sunday School and Church Training	2,810,422.00
TOTAL	\$9,513,156.06

ELECTED IN FORT WORTH '82

The following were elected during the 46th 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

1983 Charles Harris (CO)
1984 Bill Adkisson (NM)
1984 Dennis Wiggs (NC)
1984 Walter Minor (NE Assoc.)
1984 Jesse Dunn (NW Assoc.)
1984 Delmar Sparks (OH)
1984 Jack Richey (OK)
1984 Willie Justice (SC)
1984 Raymond Riggs (TN)
1984 Billy Walker (TX)
1984 Sigbee Dilda (VA)
1984 Carl Vallance (WV)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1984 Carl Vallance (WV)
1984 Jack Richey (OK)
1984 Raymond Riggs (TN)

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE TRUSTEES

1988 Bob Ketchum (OK)
1988 Tom Malone (AL)
1988 Lewis Perry (WA)

FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

1988 Norwood Gibson (SC)
1988 Robert Trimble (MI)
1988 Jim Walker (TN)

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH TRAINING BOARD

1988 Eugene Hales (AL)
1988 Jim Shepherd (MO)
1988 Milton Worthington (MI)

MASTER'S MEN BOARD*

1987 Dwight Fletcher (MS)
1987 Paul Moore (IL)

*These men were elected to fill the unexpired terms of Bill Creel (AL) and Jack Forlines (NC) who resigned.

COMMISSION ON THEOLOGICAL LIBERALISM

1987 Leroy Forlines (TN)

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1987 Jack Williams (TN)

1982 Convention Tapes Available

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

The cost of the tapes is \$3.00 each. Payment must accompany order.
Select the tapes you wish to order by circling the number and placing the quantity desired in the appropriate boxes.

<u>Tape Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
------------------------	----------------	-----------------

CONVENTION MESSAGES

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | Clarence Burton/Sunday Morning Worship | _____ |
| 2. | Nate Ange/National Youth Conference | _____ |
| 3. | Don Pegram/"Doctrine of the Scriptures" | _____ |
| 4. | Ben Scott/"Doctrine of Salvation" | _____ |
| 5. | Bill Fulcher/"Doctrine of Stewardship" | _____ |

BIBLE CONFERENCE

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|-------|
| 6. | John Edwards/Bible Conference | _____ |
| 7. | Tom Lilly/Bible Conference | _____ |
| 8. | Bailey Thompson/Bible Conference | _____ |
| 9. | Richard Kennedy/Bible Conference | _____ |

MORNING MANNA

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 10. | Irvin Hyman/Morning Manna #1 - #2 | _____ |
| 11. | Irvin Hyman/Morning Manna #3 - #4 | _____ |

WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------|
| 12. | WNAC Leadership Seminar
Mary Ruth Wisheart/June Rolan | _____ |
| 13. | Tommy Hughes/WNAC Missionary Service | _____ |
| 14. | Mabel Willey/WNAC | _____ |
| 15. | Norma Gabler/WNAC Fellowship Dinner | _____ |

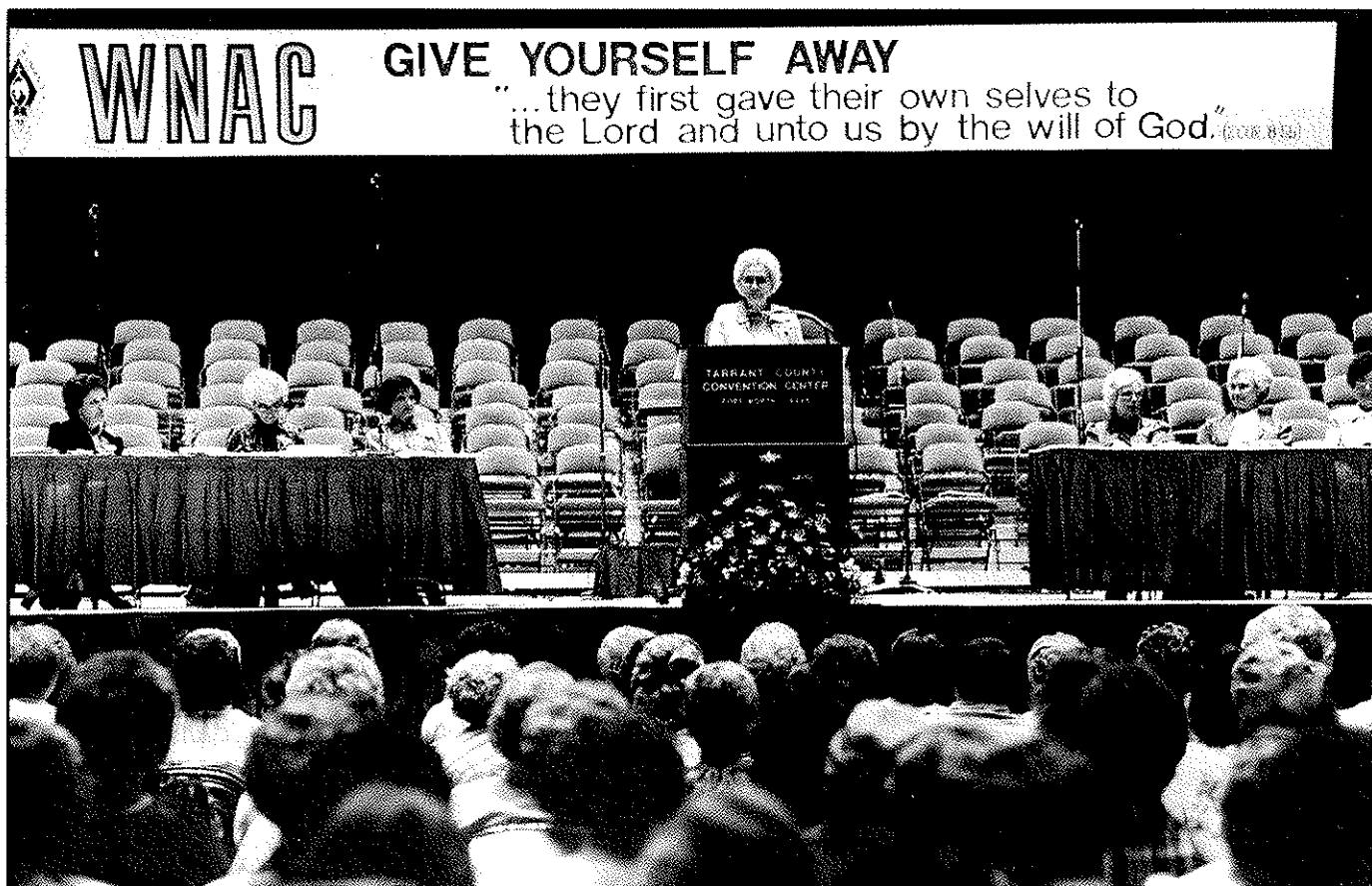
MEET 'N' EAT

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------|
| 16. | Rodney Whaley/Music Ministries Breakfast | _____ |
| 17. | Robert Morgan/Hillsdale Luncheon | _____ |
| 18. | Alton Loveless/Master's Men Breakfast | _____ |
| 19. | Charles Thigpen/FWBBC Alumni Luncheon | _____ |
| 20. | Ralph Staten/Pastor's Dinner | _____ |

Please Complete the Following:

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WNAC

GIVE YOURSELF AWAY

"...they first gave their own selves to the Lord and unto us by the will of God." (2 COR. 8:5)

1982 WNAC Report

By Lorene Miley

The WNAC booth in the convention display area hinted at what to expect at the 47th annual session of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention meeting July 19-20, 1982, at the Tarrant County Convention Center, Fort Worth, Texas.

"Give Yourself Away" monopolized a massive red heart flanked by gifts and pictures. An arrow, "Through Mission Action," pointed to gift boxes, suggestive of ways to give ourselves away—our tolerance, faith, love, joy, hope, time, kindness, appreciation, etc. Another arrow, "Through Writing," indicated past and current winners in the 10 years of creative writing contests sponsored by WNAC.

The musicians gave themselves to the Lord and to us. Pianist Mitzi Burks and Organist Emma Ellis, both Texans, accompanied Carole Carner, Tulsa,

Oklahoma, as she opened the convention with the theme song, "Give of Your Best to the Master." Judy Puckett and Jean Marie Rogers, Oklahoma, joined Carole in special music. Lucy Lima, former missionary to Cuba, sang a medley of songs.

The speakers "first gave their own selves to the Lord and unto us by the will of God" (II Corinthians 8:5). Tommy Hughes, missionary to Brazil; Mabel Willey, veteran missionary to the Latins, and Pat Thomas with the Home Missions Department, used this theme scripture to focus attention on Christ and our privilege in giving ourselves to Him.

Norma Gabler and her husband, Mel, Longview, Texas, have devoted more than 20 years in giving themselves to the Lord and the children of America in improving school textbooks. Mrs. Gabler related her experiences to the fellowship dinner guests on Tuesday evening and Mr. Gabler autographed their book, *Textbooks on Trial*.

The WNAC officers gave themselves to the Lord and to us in the Leadership Seminar on Monday afternoon. More than 150 women participated in a skit, "Power of Influence,"

directed by Mary Ruth Wisehart and presented by the WNAC officers. June Rolan challenged leaders to "Improve Your Serve."

Nineteen creative writing contest winners were awarded prizes in token appreciation of their willingness to give themselves away in art and writing.

Delegates gave themselves away to others as they approved a resolution awarding a \$700 scholarship to a Panamanian student, the fiancée of Raul Sanes who was assisted last year from the National Student Fund.

Delegates also approved a resolution designating the next three years for an in-depth emphasis on the three departments of work: 1982-83 Mission Action, 1983-84 Mission Study, and 1984-85 Mission Prayer. Because of this convention, the women already have a head start in giving themselves away through mission action. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Lorene Miley is editor of *Co-Laborer Magazine*.



1. Mabel Willey
2. WNAC Executive Committee
3. Genelle Scott



WNAC CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST 1981-1982

Ninety-one writers from 21 states and 3 foreign countries submitted 276 entries.

ART

Seven artists submitted 13 entries.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1st | Carolyn Franks
Mantachie, MS
"The Retreat" |
| 2nd | Dee Kingsmill
Donelson, TN
"The Windmill" |
| Honorable
Mention | Janis Williams
Antioch, TN
"A Country Scene" |

ARTICLES

Thirty writers submitted 40 articles.

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1st | Diane Thomas
Grifton, NC
"The Walk of Love" |
| 2nd | Velda Tucker
Batesville, AR
"Bouquet From A Dimpled Hand" |
| 3rd | Shirley Turner
Carlisle, OH
"Children Are An Heritage of the Lord" |
| 4th | Lois Maynard
Lenore, WV
"When I Put God First" |

PLAYS/SKITS

Twelve women submitted 19 entries.

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1st | Debbie Cavitt
Tulsa, OK
"The Visitor" |
| 2nd | Anita Wolfe
Prairie Grove, AR
"Spiritual Armor" |

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 3rd | Judy Nichols
Westerville, OH
"The Foot Doctor" |
|-----|--|

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 4th | Mildred Collingsworth
Dayton, OH
"The Heart Specialist" |
|-----|---|

POETRY

Fifty poets submitted 172 entries.

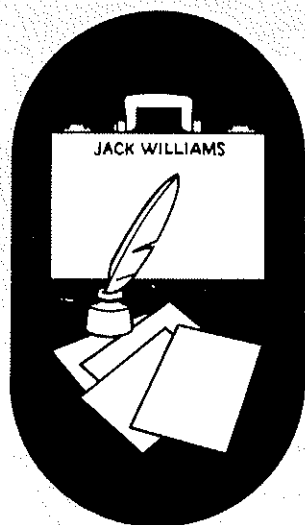
- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1st | Gertrude Cantrell
Santa Fe Springs, CA
"He Is" |
| 2nd | Darlene Wilmoth
Pontiac, MI
"My Thanksgiving Prayer" |
| 3rd | Connie Norwood Stilson
Topeka, KS
"Waterfall" |
| 4th | Connie Burks
Huntsville, AR
"A Young Girl's Dream"
"A Young Boy's Dream" |

PROGRAMS

Twenty-five women submitted 32 programs.

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1st | Sylphia Bondeson
Sterling, VA
"Arrows in Our Hands" |
| 2nd | Debbie Cavitt
Tulsa, OK
"Triple 'A' Auxiliary" |
| 3rd | Glenda Wilson
Belk, AL
"Getting in Shape" |
| 4th | Sarah Fletcher
Johnson City, IL
"Study: To Be Quiet" |

Briefcase



The Impulsive Giving Trap

ones. I believed it when some brother hooted, "Give till it hurts." That was the easy part. I tried it when he stage-whispered, "Now give till it quits hurting." Hah! It never quit hurting.

The last thing I want to do is discourage generous giving, but there is a point beyond common sense and biblical principle when it becomes sin to give. I know, I've been there.

I remember going to the bank when a wolf appeal was made by some church organization and borrowing \$500 or \$1,000, not once, but several times. And then I felt guilty for wishing I hadn't done it when the payment book arrived.

Yet the next time the wolf howled, back I went to a different bank to borrow and stave him off another day. But it was all for God's work I kept telling myself, the need was real and so was the wolf.

Meanwhile, my family finances fell through the cracks that separated stewardship from idealism. I stayed depressed and moped through the first and 15th of every month. To me, the money meant nothing except a means to an end—get the job done. But to the bank, Brother, it was all business.

To make a bad thing worse, I co-signed bank notes for friends. After all, someone did that for me. The difference was that my conscience and character drove me to honor the debt. I soon discovered that was not the case with some of my friends.

I could kick myself when I recall borrowing money we desperately needed to pay for a fellow's flying lessons. Then there was the time I co-signed a note at a finance company and tied up our furniture, the car, both kids . . . That was dumb. Especially when the friend began missing payments.

What's been the result of all this? We have not been able to bridle my impulsive giving curse. If anything can be worse than stinginess, perhaps it's impulsive giving.

I later discovered that some who gave what I gave did so because they had greater resources. For them it was inconvenient; for us it was disastrous.

Do I regret any of my impulsive giving? You betcha! Every dollar!

Don't get me wrong—I don't regret the tithes and offerings. That's biblical and what I should have done.

Oh, I know I've been taken on a few rides by slick operators and my willful ignorance of biblical borrowing and giving principles.

I haven't quit giving. But I listen to the whole story now before I reach for my checkbook or run to the bank.

What have we learned from my mistakes? For one thing, we scissored our credit cards, all 17 of them. We're back to a cash and carry policy again, except for automobile purchases. I stopped co-signing bank notes. I'm still holding a \$450 reminder that bounced through the bank twice.

I've rediscovered that God's plan of tithes and offerings frees the individual from false guilt. I no longer feel like a selfish man if we have \$100 in checking after the month's expenses.

I warn fellow pilgrims that impulsive giving can be worse than 10 miles of bad road, and that some religious fund raisers are not above using emotional intimidation and browbeating techniques to bankroll pet projects.

We're not there yet, but we're slowly making our way back to the solid Bible base to "Owe no man anything" (Romans 13:8).

I'm seriously considering starting the South Nashville Chapter of Borrowers and Co-Signers Anonymous. Anyone care to join me? ▲

I'M the last man in the kingdom who should write about the evils of borrowing money, since I pay about as much in interest for a car as the original sticker price. But if the school of hard knocks counts for anything, I've earned the right to speak on falling victim to usury. So here goes.

My family finances have been in trouble for years, not because of impulsive buying but impulsive giving.

Christian workers are easy marks when it comes to giving. We get so wrapped up in a church, a school, an organization that we feel responsible to make it go, even if it means great personal sacrifice.

We accuse ourselves of selfishness if we have one dime left over at the end of the month that's not faith-promised to some worthwhile project. After all, millions are hungry and two-thirds of humanity have never heard the gospel.

No, you can't out-give God. And, yes, God loves a cheerful giver. But it's painful to smile when you just gave away the September car payment.

Friends, I've given for all the right reasons and for most of the wrong



Thanks for Listening

By Nathan Ruble

A hostess decided to test how well people listen. Serving canapes, she remarked, "Do try one. I've filled them with strychnine." Not a single guest hesitated. "Lovely," they said. "I must have your recipe."

Individuals spend 80 percent of their waking hours communicating in one way or another. Of that time, approximately 45 percent is spent in listening.

The conditions within and without the church point to the fact that we are doing a lot of hearing but not a lot of listening. Divorces, suicides, unsaved people, stunted Christians and split churches are just a few of the problems that stand as memorials to the fact that there is a breakdown in listening.

Some well known examples of bad listening are the sinking of the Titanic, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the incident at Jonestown, Guyana, and the recent fatal crash of an Air Florida jet in Washington, D.C. Messages were sent in each of these tragedies, but listening broke down.

Listening is a learned behavior, so it can be improved. There are three things we can do in order to improve our listening ability.

More Than Hearing

First we must understand that listening is more than hearing. Lyman K. Steil, an authority on communication, defines listening as more than merely hearing what someone else is saying.

He goes on to state that there are three other important components: Interpretation of what is said, which

leads to understanding; evaluation, which involves weighing the information and deciding how to use it, and finally, responding, based on what was heard, understood and then evaluated.

He contends that when all four stages are taken together, people on the average listen at an effective rate of only about 25 percent.

Adopt Listening Principles.

Second, we can adopt some principles of good listening to help us improve. Try the following:

—*Listen intently to what is being said.* This will take concentration, for according to Margaret Line most of us speak at 120 to 180 words a minute and think at four or five times that rate. We can tell when our mind is outrunning the mouth for when this happens unnecessary movement of the hands or feet, daydreaming, or second guessing the speaker by completing his sentences for him often occur.

—*Plan to share the message with someone else.* This can be done by the child of God whether the message is public or private. If it is public, share it with another person. If it is private, share it with the Lord in prayer.

—*Take notes.* Listening is enhanced as one listens intently enough to record what is being said.

—*Be willing to take some responsibility for the success of the communication by encouraging the speaker with appropriate comments and responses.*

—*Try to find the speaker's purpose and adapt to his thinking.* It may be that he is merely informing or enter-

taining, but he may be asking for help. In any case look for the purpose.

Practice Listening.

Finally, practice listening. In this case practice really does make perfect.

Knowing how to listen is not an end in itself. There should be preparation made for listening. This involves what I am as well as what I know.

Preparation must begin with a willingness to listen. While in Bible College, a group of us ministerial students were discussing preachers we had heard preach. Each of us pointed out the merits of our favorite speaker when one student spoke up and said, "I don't like to hear anyone preach but myself."

While this man was joking, his statement expresses one of the real hindrances to truly hearing what others are saying, for many people are willing to talk but few are willing to listen. The admonition of God's Word is, "... let every man be swift to hear and slow to speak ..." (James 1:19).

Preparation must also include a willingness to get involved. Involved in



the pain or the joy of those we hear. It may call for a nod of the head or a word of encouragement. It may mean bearing another's burden or even bearing arms of opposition, for one cannot long remain neutral when one has truly listened.

Jesus encouraged involvement as He urged His disciples to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.

Plan To Respond.

When one has truly listened there will be a response to what has been heard. For the Christian this response will open the doors of personal reward and service.

Christian growth and God's blessings are just two of the rewards available to those who will respond to what they have heard. James stated this when he wrote "... whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed" (James 1:25).

Not only are we to consider what God will do for us but what He will do for others through us. Service to God could be described as a response that comes from listening to the Word of God. A part of this service is sharing of our faith with others. Listening is a great part of witnessing.

The expression of God's concern, compassion and love for man is displayed through a listening servant. People are crying out to be heard and helped.

Henry David Thoreau expressed man's desire to be heard when he wrote, "The greatest compliment that was ever paid me was when one asked me what I thought and attended my answer."

With just a moment of reflection, I feel that each of us should cry out to God, "Thank you for listening to me." We should then turn to those around us who have given us their time to listen and cry again, "Thank you for listening to me."

Finally we should pray, "Lord, help me to listen." ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Nathan Ruble pastors Fordland Free Will Baptist Church, Fordland, Missouri. He is a 1970 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Reverend Ruble is moderator of Missouri's Greater Springfield Area Association.

Thank You For Your Contributions...



... Through the Cooperative Channel

June, 1982

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	Undesign.	Total	June '81	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$ 181.53	\$ 2,781.88	\$ 2,963.41	\$...	\$ 7,204.46
Arizona	...	111.00	111.00	199.32	222.31
Arkansas	...	2,353.40	2,353.40	2,749.74	21,018.76
California	...	864.99	864.99	1,193.14	6,658.16
Florida	...	1,437.62	1,437.62	1,093.89	9,612.30
Georgia	1,067.91	884.63	1,952.54	1,213.69	10,092.50
Idaho	...	...	...	...	218.78
Illinois	7,274.24	1,383.88	8,658.12	895.82	24,749.93
Indiana	...	...	...	...	130.62
Kansas	98.80	167.12	265.92	185.99	1,598.19
Kentucky	...	...	...	25.00	157.00
Maryland	...	10.00	10.00	40.00	200.00
Michigan	4,256.72	1,153.42	5,410.14	4,786.25	22,883.27
Mississippi	908.96	553.25	1,462.21	984.99	4,522.21
Missouri	4,967.12	...	4,967.12	4,825.89	34,383.47
New Mexico	500.00	...	500.00	87.01	861.00
North Carolina	1,260.00	573.00	1,833.00	399.56	5,328.59
Ohio	7,022.64	1,192.40	8,215.04	1,071.60	15,379.62
Oklahoma	14,469.65	7,159.72	21,629.37	1,326.04	164,017.93
South Carolina	...	...	...	...	25.00
Tennessee	1,126.19	1,176.46	2,302.65	1,152.51	7,983.18
Texas	3,946.71	195.92	4,142.63	2,398.85	19,278.52
Virgin Islands	...	...	...	222.50	...
Virginia	...	241.54	241.54	...	476.57
West Virginia	...	...	...	11.48	196.95
Totals	\$47,080.47	\$22,240.23	\$69,320.70	\$24,863.27	\$357,199.32

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive	\$ 1,072.88	\$ 9,305.78	\$10,378.66	\$ 9,240.46	\$ 63,085.95
Foreign Missions	32,138.33	3,298.25	35,436.58	8,103.21	169,841.60
Bible College	7,142.58	3,298.25	10,440.83	3,744.77	42,660.26
Home Missions	5,512.67	2,457.56	7,970.23	2,082.12	54,773.50
Retirement & Insurance	346.69	2,392.89	2,739.58	1,092.37	16,610.63
Master's Men	77.22	1,293.45	1,370.67	505.20	8,024.88
Commission on	...	...	...	...	...
Theological Liberalism	49.80	194.05	243.85	95.14	1,462.20
FWB Foundation	.30	...	.30	...	.30
Convention	640.00	...	640.00	...	640.00
Hillsdale FWB	100.00	...	100.00	...	100.00
Totals	\$47,080.47	\$22,240.23	\$69,320.70	\$24,863.27	\$357,199.32



What Happened To Evangelism?



By Trymon Messer

Evangelism, preaching the gospel and winning people to Jesus Christ, is the life blood of the church and should be its main purpose.

One look at the book of Acts makes it clear that evangelism was at the forefront of their activity.

Acts 2:47—"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Acts 9:31—"Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."

Acts 5:28 declares that the early Christians filled Jerusalem with their doctrine. Acts 9:31 states that they filled Judea, Galilee and Samaria with their churches.

Cornelius is saved in Acts 10 and the gospel goes to the Gentiles. Acts 16:5 reveals that churches had been established in Asia Minor and were thriving—"And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily."

The early church evangelized their cities, filled their state and neighboring states with their churches and planted churches throughout the known world. *All this was done within 30 years!*

But our churches today seem to be stagnated or at least struggling. **WHY?** Has Christ stopped leading His

Church? Has God stopped loving the world? Has the Holy Spirit stopped convicting sinners? Has Christ's blood lost its power to save? Has the job been completed? The obvious answer is NO!

Then what's wrong? What has happened to the evangelism flame that characterized the early church? Even in America there were those times when revival and evangelism swept across our country and turned her back to God. But, it seems that the church today is . . .

Confused about her Purpose

The church has become program-oriented rather than people-oriented. Her purpose seems to be her program. The church has improved and upgraded her program, but she is not increasing in souls daily.

Acts 1:8 gives the purpose of the church: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Confused about Priorities

Her priority must be clear. God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:18). This is not just the preacher's responsibility, but every child of God. This is our mission.

Paul said it in II Corinthians 5:11, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men . . ."

Jude confirmed it in verse 23, "And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

We are God's rescue squad.

In Acts 19:21, Paul declares Christ house to house, night and day with tears. Evangelism *must* take top priority. Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. This must be our goal.

Souls saved puts shouting in heaven and it will also put shouting and victory back in our churches.

Our people have become church-oriented rather than souls-oriented. Evangelism deals with the deepest root of all human ills. Evangelism is the

cause that feeds all other causes.

Social services, educators, hospitals, and orphanages all want to do something about "skid row and slums." Evangelize them! If we want politics cleaned up, evangelize politicians! Crimes, drugs, child abuse—all can be eliminated by evangelizing. If we want revival in the church, we must start evangelizing.

Confused about our People

Our people must be challenged. Many preachers think of their people as money-minded, unconcerned and indifferent. That may be true, but many of God's people want to do more for God than they are doing. The same Holy Spirit who convicts the preacher convicts them. However, they must be challenged.

You cannot challenge anyone to do what you don't do. The morale of the church is low for lack of purpose. Nobody wants on a ship that is going nowhere and has no purpose. The same old thing every service Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, becomes dry and boring.

Man needs a cause to rally behind. Evangelism is that cause. *God's people have become job, home and sports-oriented rather than God-oriented. They must be challenged.*

What's more important, a gold medal or souls saved? Promotion on the job or promise from God? The kingdom of God and His work is far more important than the challenges, ambitions and commendations of men.

Many of our pastors are acting like coaches, standing behind the pulpit shouting, "Get out there and get'em!" What is needed is a team captain who will call the game plan and lead God's team to victory. "Come on team, follow me. We are going to take our city for Jesus Christ."

We need a challenged captain, and a battle cry. The cry should be to evangelize.

Confused about our Preaching

Our preaching *must* be stirring, for it takes the emotions stirred to bend the will. The people in our churches must be moved with compassion, con-

cern, fear, love, broken-heartedness for the lost and over their own sins.

This moving is accomplished only by the hearing of stirring, compassionate preaching. Much of the preaching in our churches today is powerless, and can be "received as information" only. It has no purpose, no power, no pain. It is dull, dead, dry.

The late Free Will Baptist Pastor John H. West was heard to say, "There has to be unction in the pulpit if there is to be action in the pew and asking in the altar!"

It takes real men of God to preach with excitement, fire, zeal, and compassion. Why is this kind of preaching missing in many of our churches? Is it because we have a soft generation which is not masculine, but effeminate in actions? Have we gone soft—soft in living, soft in giving, soft in our message, soft in the ministry?

Until masculinity in life styles returns, it will be impossible to find real men to pick up the cross for Christ and ring out a fiery message and ministry. Jesus' preaching challenged the roughest of men. Paul's fiery, down-to-earth preaching turned criminals into pastors.

Has our society become so effeminate that we can't produce real men who will ring out the truth with stirring hell and brimstone messages? God give us men!

The preacher is the conscience of the community. His preaching is to cry out to that community, warn them of their sins, and give them the remedy for their problems. He is to challenge and lead his church to reach that community with the gospel of Christ.

The pastor is not the coach of the team, but the captain. He calls the game plan and leads his team to victory through evangelism. He is to be a soul winner and set the example to his flock in soul winning. The needs of both the church and the community are met when the pastor preaches and practices evangelism.

Our purpose must be stated. Our priority must be clear. Our people must be challenged. Our preaching must be stirring. Revival will come when we get back to soul winning.

Let's rediscover evangelism! ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Trymon Messer is associate director of the Home Missions Department.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

KANSAS VOTES FWBBC SUPPORT RESOLUTION

HUTCHINSON, KS—Delegates to the 21st annual Kansas State Association passed a resolution voicing support of Free Will Baptist Bible College and expressing confidence in the college staff.

The June 17-19 session met at First FWB Church, Hutchinson, and attracted 100 delegates, ministers and visitors, according to Clerk James Brewer.

Guest preacher Paul Thompson, pastor of Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus, Ohio, preached a five-part sermon series on the association theme, "Work for the Night is Coming."

Woman's Auxiliary Banquet speaker Sandra Payne spoke Friday afternoon on the subject "Have You Heard? Have You Told?"

Moderator Gary Elder was re-elected to a second term.

TOM'S CREEK CELEBRATES 106 YEARS



Before renovation



\$50,000 renovation later

NIPPA, KY—More than 400 members and guests crowded into Tom's Creek FWB Church, Nippa, on June 27 to climax three days of homecoming festivities, according to Pastor James K. Caudill.

Tom's Creek Church observed its 106th anniversary in the Paintsville, Kentucky area. Members gave a homecoming offering in excess of \$5,300 to help retire a \$10,000 expansion indebtedness.

Nine-year Pastor James Caudill was honored with a surprise "Pastor Appreciation Day" on Sunday in conjunction with the other activities. Pastor and Mrs. Caudill were presented with an engraved serving tray while members filed by them to individually express their appreciation.

Some 140 participated in a Friday evening feet washing service which began the annual homecoming.

Church officials noted that during Pastor Caudill's tenure at Tom's Creek, 473 members have been added to the

rolls. He also led the group in a \$50,000 building project which was paid for on the church's 100th anniversary in 1976.

Tom's Creek Church is the oldest Free Will Baptist Church in Kentucky, dating back to June 26, 1876. It is the home church of the late Reverend Millard Van Hoose who helped organize the current National Association of Free Will Baptists in 1935.

The Tom's Creek Church has filled a significant role in the political life of the Paintsville community and the state of Kentucky. Members of the church have held various positions of political influence, including state senator, state auditor, county court clerk, judge, sheriff and jailer.

Pastor Caudill credited the maturity and dedication of his members for the stability and community leadership displayed by the Tom's Creek Church.

CONTACT Editor Jack Williams spoke during the Saturday and Sunday homecoming program.

'ANDY' WORKMAN, 70, EVANGELIST/PASTOR, WITH THE LORD

WAVERLY, OH—The Reverend Andrew Allen Workman, 70-year-old Free Will Baptist evangelist and pastor, died June 21, 1982, at Portsmouth, Ohio. Funeral services were conducted June 23, 1982, at Daileyville FWB Church, Waverly.

Three Free Will Baptist ministers officiated—Rev. Carl Dunn, Rev. John Henson, and Rev. Forrest Chamberlin. Eight Free Will Baptist ministers served as pall bearers.

Brother Workman had completed 49 years in the ministry; he was licensed to preach in 1933 and ordained in 1934. During his lifetime, he pastored five Free Will Baptist churches in Ohio and one in West Virginia.

Reverend Workman, a native of Wayne County, West Virginia, left a job with 10 years seniority at the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad on September 29, 1950, to enter the ministry full time. He conducted more than 900 revivals before the Lord called him home.

He invested four years as evangelist for West Virginia's Brotherhood Conference. He was Ohio's first state evangelist, filling that position 1951-1958.

Brother Workman logged more than 30,000 miles annually preaching revivals, even in his later years. In a 1978 interview with CONTACT Magazine regarding his favorite sermon, the fiery

mountain preacher confirmed, "It has to be the cross, preaching on the cross, telling folks of the Lord's death. I like Romans 5:8 for my text."

The father of seven was a preacher, revivalist, pastor, and church organizer who (in his words) "in 49 years preaching, I've never been called on the carpet for the way I lived."

Perhaps the finest tribute paid to Andrew Workman came from his youngest son Clarence, moderator of the Ohio State Association, who when asked about the hardships of being reared in an evangelist's home said, "I wouldn't have had it any other way."

OHIO PREPARES FOR 1983 NATIONAL CONVENTION

COLUMBUS, OH—Five men were appointed to the 1983 National Convention Steering Committee by delegates to Ohio's 44th annual state association which met at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus, June 24-26.

The Buckeyes will host the July 17-21, 1983 National Convention in Columbus. With 12 months preparation time remaining, four pastors and the state promotional secretary were named to help coordinate national activities.

Steering Committee members in addition to Promotional Secretary Alton Loveless include pastors Roy Hutchinson (Fairborn FWB Church, Fairborn), Delmar Sparks (Westerville FWB Church, Westerville), Arnold Pollard (Puritan FWB Church, Hamden), and Paul Thompson (Heritage Temple FWB Church, Columbus).

More than 400 delegates and visitors gathered in Heritage Temple FWB Church, Columbus, to hear reports, endorse budgets and conduct the state's business. Moderator Clarence Workman guided delegates through the session under the conference theme, "Christ, The Light of the World."

Two major resolutions won approval—one, a resolution of support for Free Will Baptist Bible College, and the other supporting the President's school prayer amendment.

A state youth board was formed to coordinate youth activities. The board was instructed to secure a state youth director.

Three pastors—Floyd Wolfenbarger (Arkansas), Billy Samms (West Virginia), and Clyde Perry (Ohio)—preached sermons focused on the conference theme.

The state Woman's Auxiliary honored 35 pastors in Ohio whose churches have auxiliaries, and expressed appreciation for all the state's pastors. Promotional Secretary Alton Loveless was awarded a plaque for his work in serving as a pastor to the pastors. Genny Waddell (Nashville, Tennessee) spoke to the state auxiliary members during their Thursday evening banquet. The 400-member state auxiliary adopted a \$7,500 missionary budget.

KENTUCKY GEARS FOR CHURCH TAXATION FIGHT

KENOVA, WV—The Kentucky State Association passed a resolution June 19 opposing enforcement of an 1891 law that calls for church property to be taxed, including buildings, furnishings, buses, vans, land, etc.

The 90-year-old law was apparently dug out of mothballs by an Ashland, Kentucky lawyer who had been on the losing side of a struggle between liquor interests and churches. Pastors at Kentucky's 43rd annual state association said that they felt the unearthing of the 19th century law was a retaliatory move by the liquor industry to punish churches for opposing expansion of liquor interests.

Delegates asked Grayson FWB Church Pastor William Johnson to prepare a letter voicing Free Will Baptist opposition to church taxation and to send copies to the mayor of Ashland, the Kentucky governor, senators, other responsible public officials, and the media. Johnson was pastoring in Ashland during the liquor confrontation.

Kentucky Promotional Secretary Richard Van Hoose was named program chairman in charge of organizing

an annual state-wide evangelistic conference. The one-night, one-day revival conference will meet in the fall of the year and include a speaker from each of the state's 10 conferences.

Delegates agreed to move the Kentucky State Youth Conference to the third Saturday of May each year instead of its customary June meeting time, in order to give music and arts and competitive activities winners more time to prepare for the National Youth Conference.

A resolution urging unity and support of all state and national projects—with special emphasis to full support of Free Will Baptist Bible College—won hearty delegate approval.

State Moderator Lincoln Varney gaveled the June 18-19 meeting through a seven-hour session on Saturday. The state meeting was hosted by Route 60 FWB Church, Kenova, West Virginia.

The Woman's Auxiliary reported gifts topping \$9,700 to state and national projects in 1982.

The 1983 state association will meet June 17-18 at Lovely FWB Church, Lovely, Kentucky.

FALL ENLARGEMENT CAMPAIGN SET

NASHVILLE, TN—The annual fall Sunday School enlargement campaign sponsored by Randall House is designed to inform, inspire and stimulate an active lay participation. The materials are simply written, colorful, relatively inexpensive and easy to use. This year's fall theme is "Outreach To The Unreached."

The campaign will organize competition on the basis of average Sunday School attendance during the Spring Quarter, 1982 (March, April, May) as follows:

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

This enlargement campaign will begin on Sunday, October 3, 1982, and continue through Sunday, October 31, 1982. Sunday Schools which experience the greatest percentage of gain over the 13 weeks average attendance for March, April, May, 1982 will be declared winners and recognized with appropriate awards denoting first and second place.

The present size of Sunday Schools does not prevent any church from being eligible to participate. Campaign materials are available from the Sunday School and Church Training Department. The deadline for entering the campaign is October 1, 1982.



newsfront

(continued)

FWBBC BUSINESS TEACHER DEAD AT 44



NASHVILLE, TN—Phyllis Ann Rivers, business teacher at Free Will Baptist Bible College, died in Nashville on Saturday, June 19, 1982, after a lengthy struggle with cancer.

Memorial services were conducted June 20 at Horton Heights Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville. Pastor Fred Hall, Reverend Harold Critcher, and FWBBC President Charles Thigpen officiated.

Miss Rivers was born November 6, 1937, in Paintsville, Kentucky. She joined the college in 1960 to establish a two-year business program for stu-

dents who wished to study in a Free Will Baptist institution. She headed the Business Department and served as sponsor of the campus chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, the national organization of college business students. In statewide competitions her students often scored high.

Miss Rivers received her B.S. Degree at Berea College and her M.A. at George Peabody College. She also studied at the University of Tennessee (Nashville), Belmont College, and Memphis State University. She worked two years for Ashland Oil Company of Ashland, Kentucky, and was listed in Outstanding Educators of America.

Reverend Hall and Reverend Critcher described her as a dedicated local church worker. She planned social activities and regularly helped bring those without transportation to church.

President Thigpen summarized Miss Rivers' life from Mark 14:8, "She hath done what she could." He described her as faithful, dependable and devoted. "We thank God for her life, her work, and her example. She will be greatly missed by all of us at the college," he said.

CANADIANS ADOPT COOPERATIVE PLAN

SOMERVILLE, N.B.—The Atlantic Canada Association of Free Will Baptists voted unanimously to adopt the Cooperative Plan as their means of denominational support during the annual conference which met June 30-July 5 at the youth camp in Hartland.

The four-day Bible Conference/business meeting concluded the first year that the Canadian churches have been a part of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. The group joined the Association in July, 1981 during the National Convention at Louisville, Kentucky.

More than 350 adults and youngsters gathered to hear Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington and Michigan Pastor Milton Worthington speak during

the Bible Conference. The conferees included 81 teenagers, 102 junior campers, staff members, as well as those who came for the annual conference.

Moderator Fred D. Hanson was re-elected. Hanson was also elected as the group's General Board member to the National Association. Mrs. Blanche Rideout was named editor of the *Gospel Standard*, official publication of the Atlantic Canada Association.

Two men were granted licenses to preach, Carl DeMerchant and Brian Williams.

Quarterly sessions for the coming year were set—October 30-31 at Upper Brighton; January 8-9 (1983) at Fielding; April 2-3 (1983) at Wilmot.

SHOCKEY TO HEAD BETHEL BIBLE INSTITUTE

PAINTSVILLE, KY—Reverend Robert (Bob) Shockey was named president of Bethel Bible Institute on June 3 by the Institute's Board of Trustees.

Shockey, who pastors Heritage Temple FWB Church in Ashland, will be on campus one day a week (Monday) to direct business activities, and other days as the work requires. He will continue his pastoral duties at Heritage Temple.

The new president praised the work of former Bethel Bible Institute President J. D. O'Donnell and pledged himself to the concept that "every local church ought to be a miniature Bible institute."

Shockey said during a June 19 breakfast at Catlettsburg that he has adopted an Institute theme for 1982-83—"Discovering the will of God by studying the Word of God." The 54-year-old Kentucky native told boosters that he was interested in promoting local church evangelism that reaches around the world.

Seven Bethel-sponsored evangelism conferences were scheduled throughout the state in July and August, and Shockey confirmed that he will be encouraging September revivals in all churches in Kentucky.

Mr. Shockey said he plans to enlist eight or ten pastors to teach courses in local churches beginning in September. The courses will be in line with traditional 13-week, 45-minute ETTA sessions, but will be altered to meet local needs.

Board Chairman James Kelly Caudill said Institute finances are current. Bethel's statement of net worth showed that in June the Institute had total assets exceeding \$155,000. President Shockey estimated that it would take approximately \$1,500 monthly to operate the school. He indicated that regular gifts from local churches are expected to undergird the program.

Shockey will also edit "Bethel Echoes," a monthly paper published by BBI and the Kentucky State Association. The mailing address of BBI is P.O. Box 1226, Paintsville, Kentucky, 41240. Phone (606) 789-7453.

CHURCH PAYS TRIBUTE TO PASTOR HAROLD PITTS

NORTHPORT, AL—The Reverend Harold A. Pitts was honored by friends, colleagues, and relatives on June 20 at First FWB Church, Northport, where the 69-year-old minister pastors.

Hundreds of letters praising Brother Pitts and recalling significant moments in his ministry were collected in a large basket and presented to him during the morning service.

Travis Ray Carter, member of the Northport FWB Church where Pitts serves, led the tribute session detailing the Mississippi native's early life and milestones in his church and denominational work.

Brother Pitts, ordained to preach in 1938, was the first Alabama Free Will Baptist minister to leave farming and launch full time into the pastorate. He

organized four Alabama churches and subsequently pastored churches in Alabama, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Pitts has been widely used in denominational outreach and has served in leadership capacities the past 40 years as Alabama state moderator, assistant moderator of the National Association, and moderator of three district associations in Alabama and North Carolina.

More than a dozen men have answered the call to preach under Reverend Pitts' ministry. Pitts has conducted numerous revival meetings in 19 states. He has twice preached at Free Will Baptist National Conventions.

Travis Ray Carter said of Pitts dur-



Pastor & Mrs. Harold Pitts

ing the time of tribute, "We're just thankful it's never too dark nor too late for Brother Pitts to go and help those in need."

350 ATTEND CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION

EL SOBRANTE, CA—More than 350 delegates and visitors to the 39th annual California State Association gathered for the Friday evening missionary service June 18 to hear Home Missionary Bob Jude preach "Continue to Visit the Lost."

Missionary Jude was one of six men who spoke on the 1982 theme "Continue in the Faith." Other devotional and sermon speakers included Californians Lynn Wood, Vernon Jones, and Jonathan Yandell; FWB Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington, and Foreign Missionary Joe Haas.

The June 17-19 meeting convened at Sherwood Forest FWB Church, El

Sobrante. The State Woman's Auxiliary sponsored a luncheon with proceeds going to the Jerry Webb account. Some 25 guests attended a California Christian College Alumni Breakfast.

Clerk Ron Young said that delegates passed a resolution affirming that Christ neither made nor drank fermented wine, and that all denominational institutions and agencies be requested to teach the same position.

Moderator Richard Kennedy was re-elected to a second term.

The 1983 session will meet June 16-18 at California Christian College.

MICHIGAN COMMISSIONS STATE PAPER

ECORSE, MI—Delegates to the 26th annual Michigan State Association instructed officials to begin printing a state paper this fall, according to Promotional Secretary Charles Cooper.

More than 185 attended the June 18-19 conference which met at Seventh Street FWB Church in Ecorse. Delegates endorsed a \$27,550 state budget to include national fees, general fund, youth camp, and missions.

The state adopted the Lansing mission project as a state-wide project for 1983. The Lansing work had been underwritten by the Wolverine Association prior to the vote in June.

In other business, churches were encouraged to support the Cooperative Plan. Promotional Secretary Charles Cooper said, "We made history this year. We're setting goals for our state; we took a big step forward when we adopted a state budget."

Keynote speakers for the state association included FWBBC President Charles Thigpen, Home Missions Director Roy Thomas, and Sunday School and Church Training Assistant Director Malcolm Fry.

Moderator J. B. Varney was re-elected. The 1983 session will meet June 17-18 in the Wolverine Association.

GIBBS, SMITH, CREECH ADDRESS INDIANA MEETING

NEW CASTLE, IN—Home Missions Director of Development John Gibbs, Foreign Missions Director Rolla Smith, and FWBBC Director of Development Ronald Creech delivered major addresses to the June 18-19 Indiana State Association which met with First Bible FWB Church in New Castle.

Indiana Promotional Secretary Archie Ratliff said that more than 200 Hoosiers gathered to conduct business and hear the preaching.

Reverend Gibbs spoke on "Christians With an Extra Kick," Reverend Smith on "Bread for Others," and

Reverend Creech on the "Whole Duty of Man."

Delegates endorsed the National Convention \$10 per church representation fee, and passed the responsibility to secure the fee on to local associations.

State Home Missionaries Mike Lake (Elkhart) and Robert Helms (Evansville) gave progress reports and received reaffirmations of support.

Moderator Tim Hackett was re-elected for a second term. The 1983 state meeting will convene June 17-18 at First FWB Church, Fort Wayne.

Currently . . .

One year ago when **Harry Frisbe** accepted the pastorate of **Cherokee FWB Church, Webbville, KY**, the small congregation was about ready to close the doors. Twelve months later the local newspaper reported on their surprise anniversary theme dinner for Pastor Frisbe, "Tribe Honors Chief," and carried a six paragraph account of the buffet dinner, accompanying gifts, and the attendant jubilant crowd. Brother Frisbe, his wife, daughter and son travel from Staffordsville to minister in the church each Sunday.

CONTACT readers often inquire where they can obtain accredited external study courses. **Hillsdale FWB College, Moore, OK**, offers on-going credit and non-credit courses. Persons interested in obtaining information concerning the program should write the Director of External Studies, Hillsdale FWB College, P.O. Box 7208, Moore, OK 73153.

During the summer months, some enterprising folks at the **Central FWB Church, Huntington, WV**, published "The No-Kiddin' News". The news sheet was printed for the benefit of the Brown Bag Days Gang, a summer activity group ranging in age from kindergarten through the sixth grade. **Carl Vallance** pastors.

Fellowship FWB Church, Kingsport, TN, joined a number of other Free Will Baptist Churches in passing a resolution of support for Free Will Baptist Bible College on June 30. However, Pastor **Winston Sweeney** and his congregation did more than pass a resolution . . . they also increased their monthly financial support to the college by \$100, making the total church contribution to FWBBC \$300 monthly.

Pastor **Merle Guess** reports 15 saved and 16 who joined **Lamont FWB Church, Lamont, CA**, in the past eight months. With the aid of a bus ministry, the church broke a 20-year-old attendance record of 124 when 141 people came to Sunday School as a result of their community involvement.

First FWB Church, Monett, MO, celebrated its 50th anniversary. Pastor **Stanley Jones** led the group in the half-century celebration. First Church recently completed a \$16,000 kitchen facility and also voted to send \$4,000 to the **Jerome FWB Church, Jerome, ID**, to help with a building program. Jerome Pastor **Tom Carlson** was ordained at the Monett Church.

First FWB Church, Lexington, OK, heard **W. S. Mooneyham**, president of World Vision International, speak at their church in June. **O. T. Dixon** pastors.

Northside FWB Church, Bowling Green, KY, organized on May 20 with 17 charter members. **Rick Bowling** was called as pastor. Northside Church began in October, 1981. The group is renting a building with four Sunday School rooms and an auditorium which seats 130.

They are a long way from anyone else, but **First FWB Church, Omaha, NE**, and **Capitol City FWB Church, Lincoln, NE**, decided to sponsor their own youth camp. **Terry Eagleton** was guest evangelist. First Church Pastor **Jerry McClary** said the group reserved the camp and used their own people to staff it.

Someone took a shot at **Kent Webb** while he was traveling Interstate 40 near El Reno, OK. The bullet, fired from a passing pickup truck, missed Webb's spinal cord by less than an inch. He is a member of **First FWB Church, Moore, OK**. **Dan Farmer** pastors.

Blue Point FWB Church, Cisne, IL, reports seven conversions and nine baptisms following a revival with evangelist **Lonnie Skiles**. **Cliff Donoho** pastors.

Pastor **Don Brewer** and members of the **Edmond FWB Church, Edmond, OK**, made some fast friends in **Choctaw**

FWB Church, Choctaw, OK, when they made available a 36-passenger bus for the Choctaw group to use. **Jerry Dudley** pastors the Choctaw Church.

FWB radio and TV evangelist **Calvin Evans**, headquartered in southern **Ohio**, reports that it takes \$4,568 per week to underwrite his various ministries. Evans and his group conducted a total of 77 revivals and crusades, two of which were in Jamaica, plus 88 other evangelistic services. They preached in 137 churches and witnessed a total of 4,956 public professions of faith. Brother Evans maintains a strong correspondence school, enrolling more than 1,800 students in various parts of the world.

Pastor **Arville Woolery** of **Lindsay FWB Church, Lindsay, CA**, died June 20 at the age of 70. Several veteran National Convention goers may remember that Brother Woolery baptized some new converts at the 1950 National Convention which met in Richmond, CA. He was pastor of Firebaugh FWB Church at the time, and may be the only preacher to ever conduct a baptizing at a Free Will Baptist National Convention! ▲

F.W.BAPTIST



"But Mrs. Purdy, what kind of service would we have if everyone went home to change hats?"



Green Tree Bible Study

Robert E. Picirilli

Haggai 2:1-9

When Yesterday Robs Today

Haggai's first word of rebuke had come in Darius' second year, on the first day of the sixth month of the year (the month Elul in the Hebrew calendar, our September).

By the 24th of that month, the Jews had repented their neglect of God's house and began rebuilding the temple in a spirit of real revival (see 1:1, 14, 15).

It is now nearly a month later, the 21st day of the seventh month (the Hebrew Tisri), and discouragement has apparently begun to set in again.

Old habits of attitude are hard to break: when the first flush of excitement is over and the routine sets in, we find it all too easy to revert. Thank God He is not quick to forsake us: Haggai received another word from the Lord for the people (2:1).

The reason for discouragement this time was different. Previously they had been hindered by opposition from enemies and political pressures, not to mention preoccupation with their own selfish interests.

But now the problem is that some are comparing the structure they are building with the former, glorious

temple that Solomon had constructed. And that comparison robbed them of a sense of the worth of what they were doing.

Verses 1-3 tell this story, how Haggai was sent to address the leaders and the people.

In particular, there were some old people present (was Haggai one of these?) who had seen Solomon's temple in their childhood and remembered how glorious it was—which is quite reasonable, considering the time between Jerusalem's destruction in 588/7 B.C. and Darius' second year 520 B.C.

Solomon's temple had been magnificent. By comparison, what they were building now was as nothing (v. 3). They were a small band of Jews, returned from captivity, surrounded by enemies who did all they could to hinder them. They could not afford anything like the stunning structure of former days.

They needed a dose of Paul's medicine: "forgetting those things that are past." It is usually a mistake to compare what we're doing with what's being done by someone else, or even with what we've done at some other time and place.

What God gives one is not what He gives another, what He gives you one time may not be what He gives you another time. The only question is

whether we're doing what we can with what God gives us now. We should not lose joy in doing God's bidding by comparing it with something else.

A Reassuring Challenge is contained in verses 4, 5. The reassurance is a reminder of God's presence: "I am with you," says the Lord of hosts; "My spirit remains among you, as I covenanted when I brought you from Egypt."

When we're doing God's work, however insignificant it may seem, God is there. And His presence is blessing.

The challenge is "Be strong"—addressed to governor Zerubbabel, to priest Joshua, to the people—"and work." God's presence is the source of strength; all man needs is firm commitment to doing His will.

A Promise for the Future is given, by Haggai, in verses 6-9. Or it would be better to say, a set of promises. Notice the threefold "I will" of the Lord: I will shake, I will fill, I will give peace.

In summary, God is promising that His temple—no matter how plain it may appear to them—will yet be glorious, even more than in the days of Solomon.

The time of this promise is identified only as when God will "shake" the



GREEN TREE (From page 27)

heavens, the earth, the sea, the dry land—indeed, all nations (vv. 6, 7).

This can mean but one thing: the overthrow of the nations by the establishment of the kingdom of God. (But, of course, *that* can mean more than one thing!) Check out the way this verse is used in Hebrews 12:25-29. This time is said to be in “a little while”: God’s “little” isn’t necessarily the same as ours.

At that time, God will fill His temple with glory, and two points are involved in that.

First, “the desire of all nations” will come into it. Some interpret this to

mean the Lord Jesus, and no doubt he is the “glory” of the kingdom of God.

But “desire” is plural and more likely means “desired things” in the sense of costly or precious things: the treasures of all nations will adorn the temple in the kingdom of God. After all, as verse 8 shows, all the silver and gold of all nations is the Lord’s and He will yet reclaim it for His own. See Revelation 21:26.

Second, when God fills His temple with glory, it will be a glory that far surpasses that of any man-made temple, including Solomon’s in all its glory.

Finally, God will give peace there. Always in scripture that is the nature of God’s Kingdom. The words of “the

Lord’s prayer” explains it: “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”

So those discouraged Jews could take heart from Haggai’s word from the Lord: their feeble efforts were destined for glory undreamed. It is thus with any honest doing of God’s will.

Our efforts may be feeble, the results unspectacular. But whatever we invest in the kingdom of God will one day be transformed into a thing of beauty and glory worthy only of Him who is the great architect of the universe. ▲

Top Shelf



Thomas Marberry



The Master’s Plan For Making Disciples, by Win Arn and Charles Arn (Pasadena, CA: Church Growth Press, 1982, 176 pp., paperback, \$6.95).

Christ’s command to go and make disciples has not been revoked. Leading people to faith in Christ and then helping them grow into mature disciples is the first responsibility of the church.

Yet, as the authors point out, reaching non-Christians with the gospel is not a high priority item with many congregations. Even congregations that do emphasize evangelism often focus only on getting a *decision* and do not assist the new convert to develop into a mature disciple.

The Arns conclude that too much of modern evangelism training relies on canned presentations and memorized testimonies. New Christians need to see the gospel message “in terms of its unique application to their own lives, situations, and problems.”

Win and Charles Arn present a number of suggestions designed to help the individual Christian and the local church do a better job of making disciples; they must have compassion;

they must be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Christians must search the scriptures, and new Christians must be incorporated into the fellowship of the church. Until these first steps are passed, a church cannot do an effective job of making disciples.

After these first steps are accomplished, attention can then shift to determining those who are prospects for discipleship. Friends, neighbors, relatives, and co-workers are the most likely prospects. Studies have shown that 75-90 percent of those who are active disciples today were first introduced to Christ and to the church by a friend or relative.

Christians must, however, develop a definite plan and strategy for helping their friends, relatives, and associates to become Christians. This entire process must be permeated with love and concern.

The authors give helpful suggestions on how this type of disciple-making can be implemented in a local church. They state that disciple-making is a team effort; it must be done by the whole church.

It must recognize the unique needs and individual differences which are found in the lives of people. There is no substitute for genuine care and concern on the part of Christians. Disciple-making requires personal involvement; an occasional visit is not sufficient.

As individuals make decisions for Christ, they should be incorporated into the fellowship of the church as soon as possible and encouraged to develop their gifts and abilities.

This is a book which I can heartily recommend. It presents an approach to evangelism which is firmly grounded in the scriptures and which is practical for every church, large or small.

What I appreciate most is the emphasis on the personal care and involvement in individual Christians in the disciple-making process. Making disciples cannot be delegated just to pastors and paid staff people.

As with any program of evangelism, it must be adapted and tailored to meet the needs of each individual congregation. This volume is available from Church Growth Press, 150 South Los Robles #600, Pasadena, CA 91101. ▲



OUR READERS COMMENT

LET'S WATCH THOSE ATTITUDES

I think an important issue is being overlooked. John 2:1-10 says that Jesus turned the water to wine, and Luke 7:33-34 strongly implies that he drank wine.

Now the scripture does not tell us what kind of wine. Does the Greek clarify this? If not, then where do these "scholars" get proof whether or not Jesus made or drank wine?

One more thing. From what I understand about winemaking, the only difference in ancient winemaking and modern winemaking is that today you know what you are going to end up with.

In ancient winemaking you could end up with a very sweet wine (having a low alcoholic content) or a very bitter wine (having a high alcoholic content).

I do not use alcohol. I am only concerned with the attitude about the scriptural record.

Paul E. Miller
Hutchinson, Kansas

DELETE LETTERS TO EDITOR?

I have read CONTACT throughout my ministry and have found its contents rewarding and refreshing. The many articles published over the years have provided food for the soul and I personally feel that our publication is on a "par excellence" when compared with other denominational publications.

There have been times when I did not agree with some of the contents of certain articles, yet I read them with enthusiasm crediting the writers for their scholarship when appropriate. I vigorously encourage both my family and my congregation to subscribe and read CONTACT.

Yet, I have fought against it. I have viewed with concern for several months the section in our magazine entitled "Our Readers Comment". This section is the most unacceptable part of our magazine at times and a discredit to the publication. Having viewed with concern July's comments, I am disturbed by comments which violate the teachings of the Word of God relative to our attitudes as Christian brethren.

I suggest that if our readers comments cannot be edifying that they be deleted from the publication. I say so with reservation because of the many letters that I have read over the past years that are of value to the edification of the Body of Christ and lend creditability to the magazine. However, I personally am not interested in individuals airing personal vendettas.

Letters which express fleshly comments will necessitate that I mark the "Our Readers Comment" section "Parental Guidance (PG)." It is contrary to the teachings of the Word of God to stand in the pulpit and in the classroom and teach standards of Christian attitude and unity and then expose these same persons to such unkind and fleshly remarks promulgated in many instances by men who are supposed to hold these standards high.

The high quality of our writers and the scholarship of our people does not deserve such needless waste of space. Please use this space for that which will feed the soul and not that which will feed the flesh.

Reverend E. E. McMillen, Pastor
Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
Chocowinity, North Carolina

DIRECTORY UPDATE

ARKANSAS

John Gilliland to Oak Park Church,
Pine Bluff from First Church, Glasgow,
KY

ILLINOIS

William Adcock to Waltonville
Church, Waltonville from Blue Point
Church, Cisne

Henry Potter to Alexander Church,
Olive Branch

KENTUCKY

William Johnson to Grayson Church,
Grayson from Second Church, Ashland

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION

Jim Nason to First Church, New
Durham, NH from Parkers Chapel,
Greenville, NC

OTHER PERSONNEL

Billy Ellis to Grant Avenue Church,
Springfield, MO as associate pastor from
First Church, Russellville, AR

John Neal to Donelson Church,
Nashville, TN as minister of music

William Reagan to mission work,
Montreal, Canada from First Church,
Morehead City, NC

Pastor Appreciation Day!

September 12, 1982

They Said It In Fort Worth . . .

"Every member of the body of Christ is needed. It is God's will for the National Association of Free Will Baptists to be together and work together."

**—Clarence Burton
Missouri**

"Free Will Baptist Bible College published *The Record Speaks* because we would have been derelict in duty not to answer questions raised."

**—Charles Thigpen
Tennessee**

"We are obligated to see that fellow Christians have a good life in Christ."

**—Bill Fulcher
Texas**

**"I wish I could sing like Bill Gardner."
—anyone who has ever heard Bill Gardner sing**

"If your grandfather was a baboon, that's OK, but don't try to pass off your folks on me. Some of my folks hung by the neck but not by the tail."

**—John Edwards
Alabama**

"Love is the medium by which we use our gifts and relate to one another."

**—Irvin Hyman
Georgia**

"I hope everyone enjoyed the NYC as much as I did. See you in Columbus!"

**—Mark Hampton
Tennessee**



**NEWS OF THE
RELIGIOUS
COMMUNITY**

POLICE BEATINGS SPARK REVIVAL IN CHINESE CHURCHES

HONG KONG (EP)—Fourteen Chinese Christians, enthusiastic about revival in their house church, were arrested in early April after preaching to more than 5,000 people in the streets of a town in the Henan Province. United Evangelism to the Chinese (UEC), a western mission organization which transports Bibles into the mainland, says it has just received two letters describing and confirming the arrests, according to East/West News Service.

Police reportedly seized the Christians, mostly teenagers, while they were preaching to a large group of bystanders. Some merchants even closed their shops and came to listen. After being arrested, the 14 were bound and ordered to kneel on the ground for three days and three nights. According to the letters UEC received, the young Christians fasted a total of nine days before being released.

Revival was already stirring one county in Henan. But the accomplishments made, are awesome for any religious group, yet alone one in a communist nation. Almost 300,000 of the 700,000 people in the county are Christian. One church has rapidly grown from 100 to more than 10,000 people in just a few years. The government-backed group which oversees legal Protestant functions now calls the Henan area "Jesus' Nest," says East/West News Service.

BOOK THIEF CONFESSES: NOW BROTHER IN CHRIST

NASHVILLE (EP)—Not every retail store can claim that shoplifting its merchandise can bring good into the life of a thief, but a Baptist Book Store somewhere in the United States can now make such a claim. Recently a letter of confession, accompanied by five dollars, arrived at the Arlington (Texas) Mail Order Center.

"Several months ago I was in your book store," the letter began. "I was drunk, at the end of my road, without a penny to my name. I stole a paperback book ("*Tracks of a Fellow Struggler*" by John Claypool). I am in the process of making right some wrongs in my life and need to send you this five dollars to make restitution for this sin. Please forgive me, even though you don't know me. Respectfully, a brother in Christ."

According to William S. Graham, director of the Sunday School Board's book store division, no one knows from which store the book was taken. "Learning of changed lives through events like this make all our efforts worthwhile," Graham said.



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

Hidden Help



Let me share two quick principles with you—One, Christians whose lives are characterized by dedication, discipline and dependability have the Word of God hidden in their hearts. Two, Christians who are hounded by doubts, dissatisfaction, disobedience and disbelief have neglected to hide the Word of God in their hearts.

Since Psalm 119 deals so extensively with the Word of God, let us probe the four basic truths which this Psalm displays concerning acquisition of God's hidden help.

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (v. 11).

The Precept

"Thy word" declares that God's Word is the precept which must be hidden in the heart. The *author* of the Bible is God. Many human writers penned the scriptures, but God authored the Book. The Bible is "thy Word."

In light of the fact that God authored the Bible, it naturally follows that the Bible is *authoritative*. It carries divine authority.

The Bible is also *accurate*. Though it is not primarily a history, geography, or science book, when it speaks on these subjects or any other subject, it is absolutely accurate. The precepts of the Lord are reliable.

The Process

"Have I hid in mine heart." The precepts of God must be hidden in the human heart. This is a process, not a once-for-all experience. The Word must enter the head, be stored in the heart, and evidence itself in one's habits.

What does it mean "to hide" the Word in one's heart? Barnes suggests that it means "to treasure up the Word of God as the most valuable thing in the heart; it was there though unseen; it constituted the secret power by which he was governed. It was permanently deposited there as the most valuable of his treasures."

Those who have hidden the Word in their hearts have it on deposit when they need it in times of sorrow, sadness, suffering and solitude.

The Bible should be read *seriously*. It is God's eternal Word to me. He is communicating to me as I commune with Him.

The Bible should be read *submittingly*. When one reads, it must be obeyed. As one reads the Word of God regularly, he should record it, review it and respond to it.

The secret of Bible study is to be faithful and flexible in reading habits. The regular reading of the Word of God brings increased faith, intimate fellowship and inevitable fruit.

The Place

David declared that he had hidden the Word "in his heart." Christians must give their hearts to God (Proverbs 23:26) and guard their hearts (Proverbs

4:23). The heart will be kept by the Word because the Word is kept in the heart.

We must not treat the Word as a protective charm to be worn, but hide it in our hearts as a rule of life. This is more than a mere feat of memory.

The Word hidden in one's heart will still, search and shape the heart.

The Purpose

The purpose which prompts the hiding of the Word is that we "might not sin against God." The possibility of sinning against God is assumed. The pathway which leads to such sinning is inattention, indolence, ignoring, insensitivity and ignorance of the Word.

The only preventative against displeasing, departing from, and disobedience to God is to hide the Word in the heart.

Time spent thoughtfully treasuring up the Word of God in one's heart is as essential to the Christian as is refueling in mid-flight to the nation's long-range bomber strike force. No matter how powerful the message we carry, we will never have the strength to deliver it where it's needed the most unless we take the time while standing in the fields white unto harvest to commune with the Lord of the Harvest! ▲

The Secretary's Schedule

September 7-11	Convention Planning Trip Columbus, OH
September 12-17	Liberty FWB Church Durham, NC
September 19-24	Central FWB Church Royal Oak, MI
September 26-29	Huntsville FWB Church Huntsville, AL

CONTACT

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Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee



Theme: Isaiah 54:2

**Enlarge thy tent of Involvement
Lengthen thy cords of Fellowship
Strengthen thy stakes of Faith**

Pastors are encouraged to use this special day as an opportunity to challenge and involve more of their men in the service of the Master, Jesus Christ, within their local churches. If you would like additional information on Layman's Day or Master's Men, please write:

Master's Men
P.O. Box 17306
Nashville, TN 37217