

SEPTEMBER 1983

# Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



## National Convention Issue



# The Buckeye Convention

By  
Garnett Reid



**An analytical summary of the 47th annual Free Will Baptist National Convention which met July 17-21, 1983 in Columbus, Ohio.**



**V**ariety adds spice to life. And it certainly flavored the 47th annual National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, July 17-21.

More than 6,000 people converged on the Ohio Center to sample the five-day mid-summer banquet highlighted by the theme, "Considering the Covenant."

Convention-goers discovered a literal variety of cuisine offered by the Ohio Center Mall merchants. Menus with Greek, Chinese, Italian, German,

and Mexican specialties tempted hearty appetites.

How appropriate, then, that the convention be compared to a full-course meal cooked to taste and seasoned just right for every stripe of Free Will Baptist.

Let's review the recipe.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Sunday

Pastor Elro Driggers launched convention worship services Sunday morning with a message from John 4. Following special music by Dayton, Ohio's John Blakely, Millard Sasser introduced South Carolina pastor Driggers to the 1,000 worshippers in the Regency Ballroom.

Driggers examined the concern, conversation, and command of Jesus



in dealing with the Samaritan woman and with His disciples. "As ministers of Christ . . . God forbid that our conversation skin and bruise without offering the balm of Gilead that brings healing to the soul," he pleaded.

The 33-year pulpit veteran concluded, "God's well springing with living water is not running dry, nor is it polluted . . . God just needs more people who will carry it to those who are thirsty."

## Monday

Battelle Hall welcomed 4,000 delegates and visitors Monday evening. Latecomers streamed into the hall for some 30 minutes after the service began, however.

After Clerk Waldo Young gaveled the session to order, Ohio Promotional Director Alton Loveless welcomed the convention on behalf of the state's 139 churches.

Special music featured the 100-voice mass choir, the Ambassador Chorale from Free Will Baptist Bible College, and Soloist Rollie Nagel of Wilson, North Carolina.

Ohio Pastor Roger Childers presented the evening messenger, David Sutton. The Oklahoma pastor and state moderator expounded the first two paragraphs of the Church Covenant as he developed the topic, "Our Sacred Promise to God Personally."

In his carefully structured sermon, Sutton warned, "Our covenant is empty and meaningless without this foundation of our promise to God. Before we can subscribe to the other parts of the Covenant, we must first give ourselves to God."

Pastor Sutton's application was clear and to the point. Several came forward to pray during the invitation. "God give us transformed people and churches in this day of sin and confusion," he prayed.

## Tuesday

Tuesday evening belonged to Harold Pitts. This service was one of those few in the National Association annals deserving a niche in the category, "Convention Highlights."

Following music selections by the mass choir, a mixed quartet from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, and Virginian Ann Maines, Mississippi's J. M. Creech called the 70-year-old Pitts to the pulpit.

Pitts quoted from memory a concordance full of scripture verses as he laid the biblical foundation for his message, "Our Sincere Pledge to God's People."

Addressing paragraphs three, four, and five of the Covenant, he commented, "If there has ever been a time when Free Will Baptists need to watch over one another in love, it's now . . . We must reprove, but never with a 'holier-than-thou' attitude, putting ourselves on a pedestal."

The altar filled with preachers as Pastor Pitts challenged every Free Will Baptist to observe the conditions of the Covenant. Tom Malone closed the service with a prayer of dedication, asking God to raise up preachers, "who are pure, who love You with all their hearts."

## Wednesday

Some 3,500 worshippers enjoyed the 50-voice men's chorale as the Wednesday evening service began. Don Robirds and Trymon Messer presented 85 missionaries, home and foreign, attending the convention.

Carl Sullivan of West Virginia electrified the congregation with "He's Alive" just before David Joslin introduced the evening messenger.

"I'm not interested in building a condo in Charlotte, nor a tower in Tulsa, nor a cathedral in California, nor a miracle on the mountain. I'm a

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The 1983 National Convention analysis was written by Garnett Reid, director of Christian service at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

All convention photographs are provided courtesy of Bert Tippet, director of publications at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The CONTACT staff is grateful to Brother Reid and Brother Tippet for their assistance in this special convention issue.



## CONVENTION (From Page 3)

Free Will Baptist," aptly began Virginia Pastor Lester Horton's message, "Our Sacrificial Promotion of God's Program."

After commenting on the final two paragraphs of the Covenant, Horton shared principles regarding "Covenant Breaking" from Numbers 32.

The 25-year pastor of Fairwood Free Will Baptist Church in Maryland carefully listed the consequences of covenant-breaking. "There's no room on my shoulder or yours for a chip and a cross at the same time," he charged.

A number of people accepted his invitation.

Delegates and visitors then gave a record missions offering—\$17,968.43.

## CONVENTION BIBLE CONFERENCE

Tuesday's four-course Bible Conference drew some 800-900 conventioners and proved to be another feast suited to any appetite.



*Delilah Scott delivers WNAC devotion.*

The resume' of speakers tells the story:

- Lynn Wood, Oklahoma native, now a California pastor
- Don Sexton, former missionary to France, originally from the Kentucky mountains
- Lloyd Locklear, of American Indian descent, born in North Carolina, now from Michigan
- Fred Hanson, moderator of the Atlantic Canada Association, saved under Bobby Jackson's ministry

Now for some of the delicacies:

**LYNN WOOD**, "Take Heed Unto Yourselves" (Acts 20:28-30)

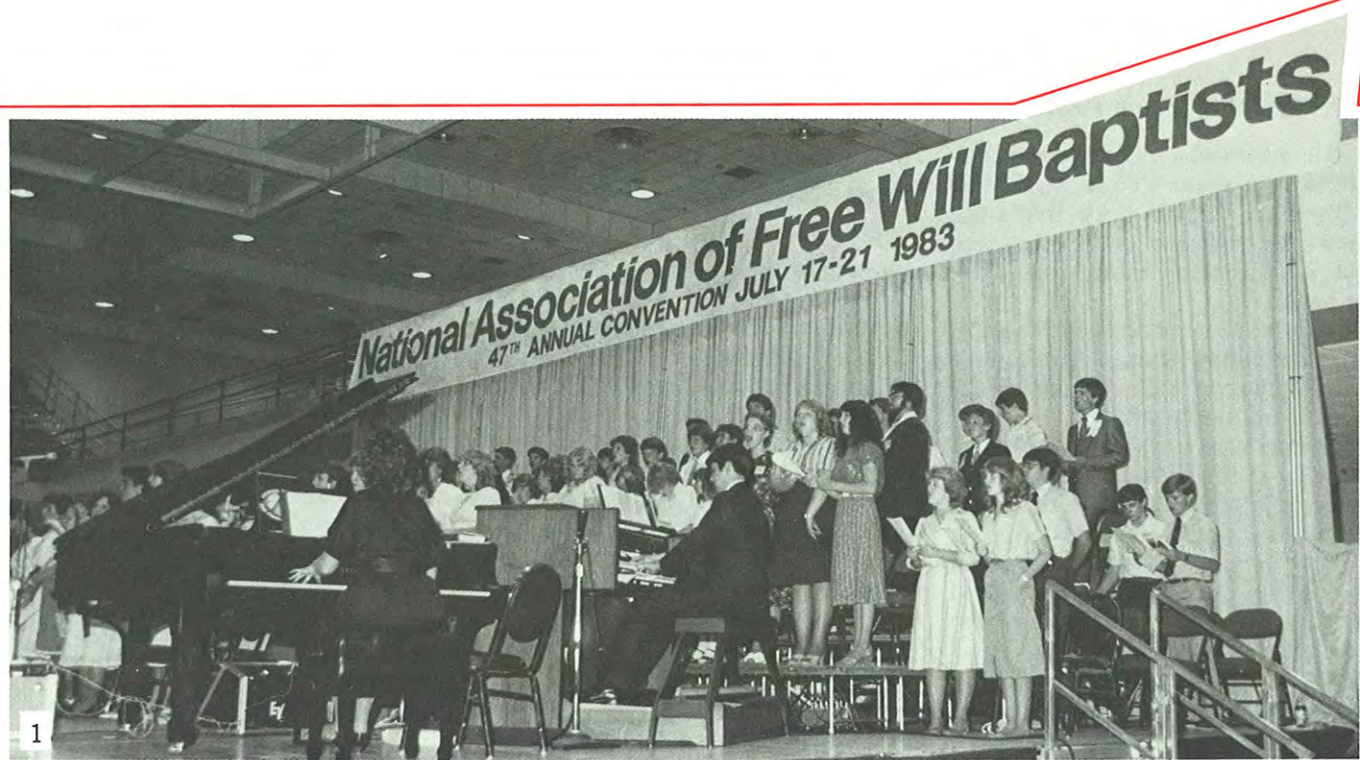
- "The pastor needs a daysman sometimes—someone to care, counsel and pray with."
- "Our families must think sometimes we'd sell them out before we'd risk losing ministerial prestige."

**DON SEXTON**, "Always Abounding in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:57-58)



1. Registration in Ohio Center.
2. Kenneth Frisbee (R) greets fellow delegates.
3. Monday evening speaker David Sutton.
4. J. M. Creech (L), confers with Harold Pitts, Melvin Worthington and Fred Lockwood.





- “The disciples never asked the Lord to teach them to preach, build a church, or sing. But they did ask, ‘Lord, teach us to pray.’”
- “It’s impossible for me to believe a man of God can say, ‘I understand the scriptures, but don’t believe in missions.’ Brethren, that can’t be.”

**LOYD LOCKLEAR**, “A Call to Higher Living” (II Kings 2)

- “We cannot be successful leaders until we learn how to follow.”
- “We’re living in a time when preachers are afraid to tell men to repent.”

**FRED HANSON**, “The Old-Time Religion” (Jude 3)

- “Some have suggested that we re-write the Bible; we need to re-read it, not re-write it.”
- “All too often Free Will Baptists have been crucified between two thieves: regret for yesterday and fear of tomorrow.”

## GENERAL BOARD

An assortment of entrees livened the business sessions. Although concord and unity prevailed in most of the discussion, conflict and disagreement occasionally surfaced.

The only heat at Monday’s General Board meeting resulted from a malfunctioning air conditioning unit. The



1. Mass Youth Choir
2. Jack Stallings (L) and Leroy Forlines exchange pleasantries.
3. Tuesday evening speaker Harold Pitts.
4. Bobby Jackson moderates General Board session.



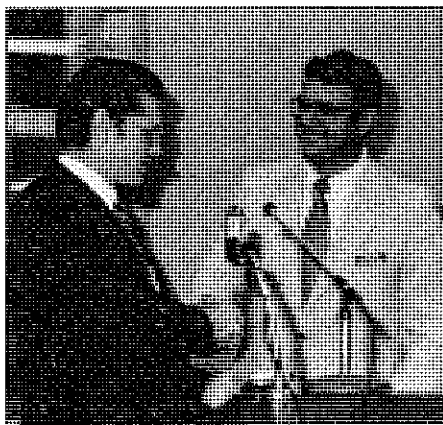
## CONVENTION (From Page 5)

thunderstorm which crippled the cooling system prompted Moderator Bobby Jackson to quip, "I hope that's the worst storm we have for the next three days. The next one, though, would be our fault."

Reports from the various National departments flowed smoothly. All were encouraging and met with speedy approval from the Board.

Members overturned a recommendation from the Missouri State Association calling for all standing delegates to pay a \$10 registration fee.

The current method of reporting church statistics to the State and National Associations drew fire from some of the representatives. The Board assigned the Executive Committee the task of studying the procedure now used and suggesting revisions.



Meredith Lockyer (L.) addresses news editor's Mrs. Director James Vallance.

Board members also altered the Radio-Television Committee report. The committee had recommended that the National Association appoint a Radio-Television Commission. Pilot programs, one radio and one television, would be produced by the Commission to present to the 1984-85 conventions. The report also suggested a budget of \$10,000 for Commission expense and production costs.

Although the General Board suggested another year of committee study on the project and a reduced budget of \$3,000, floor delegates later approved the original committee recommendation, with \$2,000 of the budget coming from the Executive Office. Individuals, churches, and Sunday School classes are encouraged to help undergird the project.

## LET'S EAT

### Music Ministries

Free Will Baptist Music Ministries sponsored their annual breakfast for some 60 guests Tuesday morning. Outgoing President Charles Hampton reviewed the goals of the commission and noted progress in several areas.

After a rising vote of thanks to Dr. Hampton for six years of service, members elected Doug Little of Oklahoma president. Tennessee's John Neal was chosen vice-president, and Mary Neal of Indiana will serve as Secretary-Treasurer.

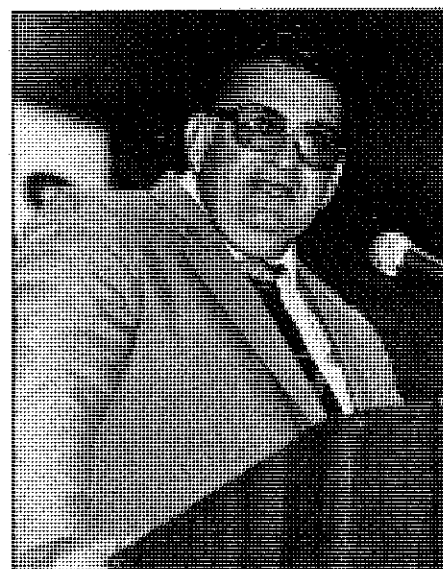
### Master's Men

Wednesday's Master's Men breakfast witnessed a change in the organization's leadership. James Vallance of West Virginia will replace Loyd Olsan as director.

Charles Christian from McAlester, Oklahoma was honored as layman of the year by the board.

The 250 guests then heard Ben Scott's message from I John 3, "Love the Brotherhood." The Arkansas pastor unfolded the blessings of the brotherhood we share as believers and as Free Will Baptists.

Board member Wayne Spruill presented a plaque and book of letters to outgoing Director Loyd and Mrs. Olsan for a fruitful eight years of service.



Wednesday evening speaker Lester Horton.

## GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

Moderator Jackson steered the 800 or so voting delegates through a sea of motions, amendments, and amendments to amendments—a sea sometimes smooth, sometimes stormy.

A few excerpts from departmental reports:

### Executive Office

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington noted the \$287,000 increase in cooperative giving in 1982.



Eager hands grab the Wednesday evening missionary offering.



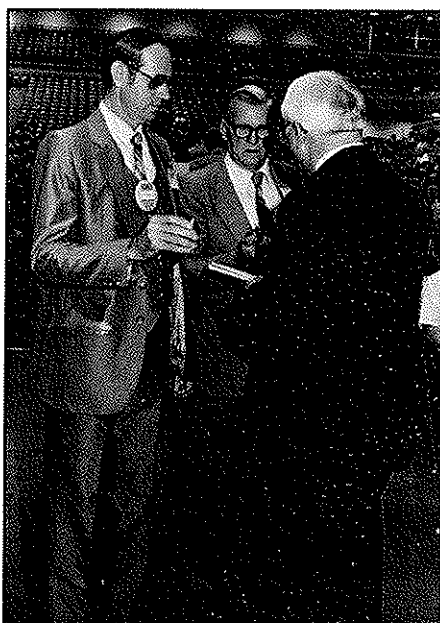


Wilma Riggs (R) wants to know what kind of sauce was on her roast beef.

"The convention fund deficit has been erased," he announced. The Columbus convention met its offering budget of \$6,044.35.

### Sunday School and Church Training

"Randall House Publications shall promote Christianity through evangelism, edification, and the development and distribution of Bible-based, quality, and reasonably-priced curriculum materials and products." With these words Dr. Roger Reeds stated the policy and philosophy of the department.



Usher Coordinator Charles Denman (L) and Robert Orr present voting count to Clerk Waldo Young.

Dr. Malcolm Fry is returning to the pastorate after 12 years as assistant director.

### Foreign Missions

General Director Rolla Smith rejoiced, "This past year we had the largest group of appointees I can recall in any single year."

His report cited numerous conversions on the fields and an increase of \$88,302 in total income above the previous year.

### Free Will Baptist Bible College

Enrollment totalled 589, according to President Charles Thigpen. Gifts to the school amounted to \$727,672.45, as the College finished the year in the black.

Graduates numbered 73, with the first graduate degree awarded this year.

### Theological Liberalism Commission

Chairman Leroy Forlines reminded the body of the most recent Commission publications, Humanism and Prophets of Prosperity.

### Home Missions

The department received a record income of over \$1.4 million in 1982.

Director Roy Thomas also reported that 11 new missionary families had been approved and that nine churches had become self-supporting.

### Retirement and Insurance

Director Herman Hersey announced significant upgrading in the pension plan, giving it advantages similar to, and in some cases better than, an IRA.

Ray Lewis has joined the department as business manager.

### Free Will Baptist Foundation

A new pamphlet explaining the Foundation is available from the Retirement and Insurance office.

### Master's Men

James Vallance, new Master's Men Director, challenged pastors and laymen to become involved "with heart service in the work of Master's Men."

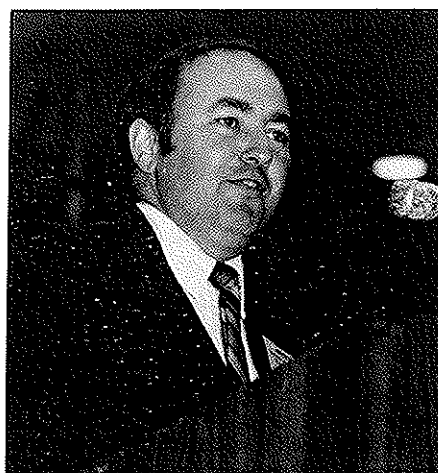
### Woman's National Auxiliary Convention

Executive Secretary Cleo Pursell reported a \$46,000 increase in cash gifts to missions, with total gifts nearing \$324,000 in 1982.

Mrs. June Rolon of California was elected president of WNAC.

### Historical Commission

Alton Loveless noted progress on the commission projects for this year. The Fifty-Year Record, Volume I, will be available at the 1985 convention in Nashville.



Bible Conference speaker Fred Hanson of Canada.

## CONVENTION (From Page 7)

Delegates endorsed the budget committee's report totalling almost \$10.2 million for all departments of the National Association.

Cooperative Plan allocations are based on the same percentages of distribution as last year.

The registration committee's final tally revealed that over 6,100 people attended the convention. The total registration figure is the highest of any year since the Tulsa convention in 1976.

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions approved by the body included:

- \*Support for the right of Bob Jones University and Goldsboro Christian Schools to exercise freedom of religion in light of the Supreme Court decision in May denying their tax exemption status.

This resolution prompted 90 minutes of debate, as delegates were anxious to disclaim any hint of racial discrimination among Free Will Baptist schools.

- \*A measure voicing agreement with President Reagan's "peace through strength" efforts with regard to national defense.

- \*A denunciation of the Tax Reform Act which will charge church employees other than ordained ministers social security taxes.

- \*A standing vote of appreciation for our hosts, the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Delegates clearly voiced their sentiments on two other subjects introduced by resolutions. Extended debate focused on "the wine issue," as some expressed continuing concern about establishing "what Free Will Baptists hold to be the biblical doctrine."

A large majority of the delegation, however, clearly echoed the sentiments expressed by the brother who pleaded, "Let's drop this thing, sing 'Amazing Grace,' weep awhile if we must, then go out of here and win souls and rejoice in the victory God gives."

Delegates did approve a motion urging that "the aggrieved parties" in the controversy get together "to see if they can settle their differences on the wine issue."

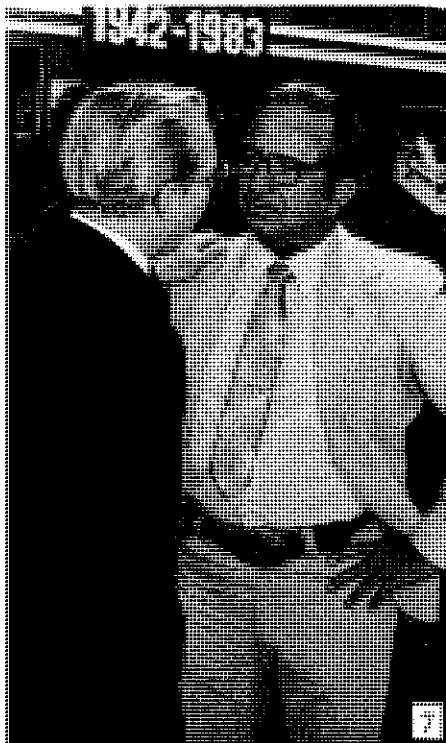
1. Charles Christian (L) of McAlester, OK receives Layman of the Year award from Board member Wayne Spruill.
2. Ernie Lewis (L) and friend stroll off-spring.
3. Ohio Promotional Director Alton Loveless.
4. Violet Cox (R) and friend find rest for the weary.
5. Laverne and Lorene Miley autograph her book, I Looked For A Man and Found One.
6. Bible Conference speaker Lynn Wood of California.







7. Charles Thigpen (L) and Wade Jernigan.
8. Becky Beverly (R) and Valerie Watson (C) sympathize with booth customer.
9. John Blakely of Dayton, OH sings at Master's Men Breakfast.



Voters refused to consider a proposal to reestablish ties with the National Association of Evangelicals.

Following a standing ovation by the delegates on behalf of Moderator Jackson and the other officers, Assistant Moderator Ralph Hampton dismissed the assembly with prayer—only 55 minutes behind schedule!

### *Collection of Columbus Comments*

"Master's Men, when you reach a membership of 10,412, we'll serve as your ushers."—WNAC official Genelle Scott challenging Master's Men who were ushering at the WNAC missionary service.

"There's nothing wrong with our system of church government. We've got a democracy from top to bottom."—Rev. E. E. Morris

"If things get bad enough, we can start depending on the Lord again."—Don Sexton

"Short of the return of our Lord, there is no expiration date on the Great Commission."—Foreign Missions General Director Rolla Smith

"Let's get on the air!"—Fred Hall, concerning the Radio-Television Commission

"This is my first experience as a delegate at the National. I must say it has been unique."—One of the final floor comments, from a rookie convention-goer.

### *A Basket of Peaches . . .*

- . . . to the Ohio Center personnel. A friendly lot, they were.
- . . . to the Master's Men ushering corps led by Charles Denman.
- . . . to Alton Loveless for the history lesson on Ohio Free Will Baptists Monday evening.
- . . . To all convention musicians, the mass choir, and men's chorale, all in the capable hands of Blaine Hughes.
- . . . to Melody Shrewsbury, Kristi Bryan, and other slaves in the convention office. Keep that Gestetner rolling, ladies.
- . . . to our mission church and pastor Bob Breeden of Wausau, Wisconsin, for sending their first convert, Bob Baranawski, to Columbus.





## CONVENTION (From Page 9)

... for the Ohio Center security guards who tackled a purse snatcher in the dining area Tuesday evening.  
... to David Joslin for keeping the Wednesday night offering appeal short and to the point (maybe

that's why we gave a record amount).

### And a Few Lemons . . .

—Dozens of folks exited Battelle Hall immediately before the invitation Monday night. Disruptive movement marred other worship services as well.

—Sparse traffic plagued display booths on the east side of the hall.

—The main entrance on the southwest side of the seating area sure was a bottleneck before and after services. ▲



Ohio (L) (Clarence Newman) meets California (Carl Young).



Whatever it is, Delois Loveless (OH) is for it!

## 1984 COOP 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%
Foreign Missions . . . . .	23%
Home Missions . . . . .	18%
Retirement and Insurance . . . . .	15%
Master's Men . . . . .	13%
Free Will Baptist Foundation . . . . .	6%
Commission on Theological Liberalism . . . . .	1%
Historical Commission . . . . .	1%
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*All national ministries receive funds through the Cooperative Plan except for Executive Church Bonds and the Sunday School and Church Training Department which are self-sustaining.

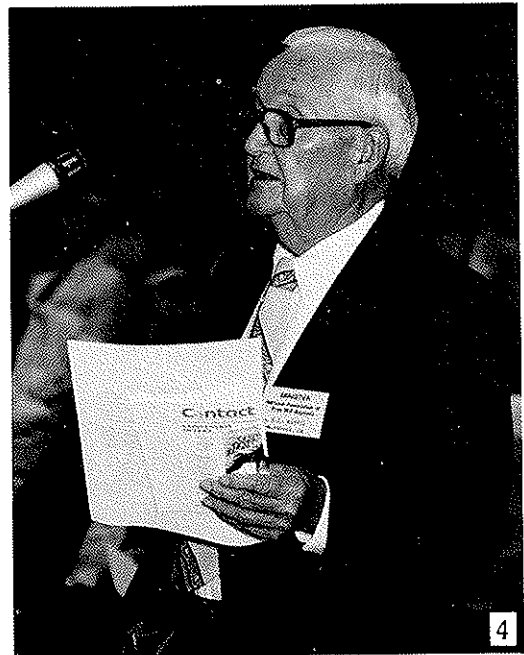


1. Convention Press Officer Garnett Reid (TN) keeps an eye on the proceedings.
2. Delegates ride the Ohio Center escalator to Battelle Hall.
3. Ushers and office staff prepare to count the Tuesday evening offering.
4. E. E. Morris (OK) reminds delegates that "we shot that duck in Fort Worth."
5. Ronald Creech (R) assists delegates at FWBBC booth.



## 1984 BUDGETS ADOPTED

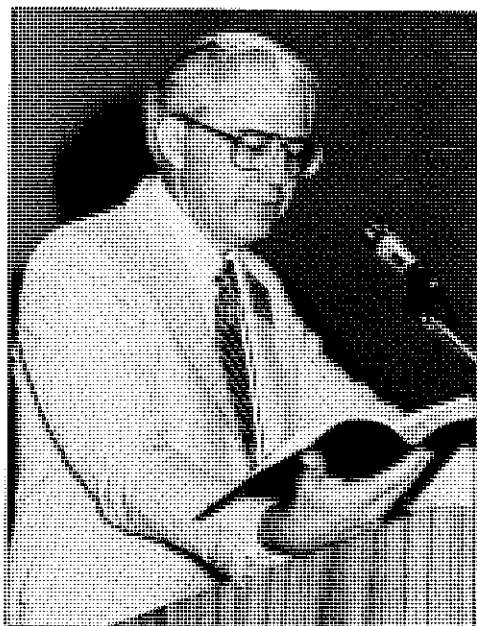
Executive Office .....	\$ 290,555.38
Free Will Baptist Bible College ...	2,177,000.00
Foreign Missions .....	2,937,728.00
Home Missions and Church	
Extension .....	1,500,000.00
Master's Men .....	81,500.00
Retirement and Insurance .....	135,958.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation .....	12,000.00
Sunday School and Church	
Training .....	3,063,404.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$10,198,145.38</b>



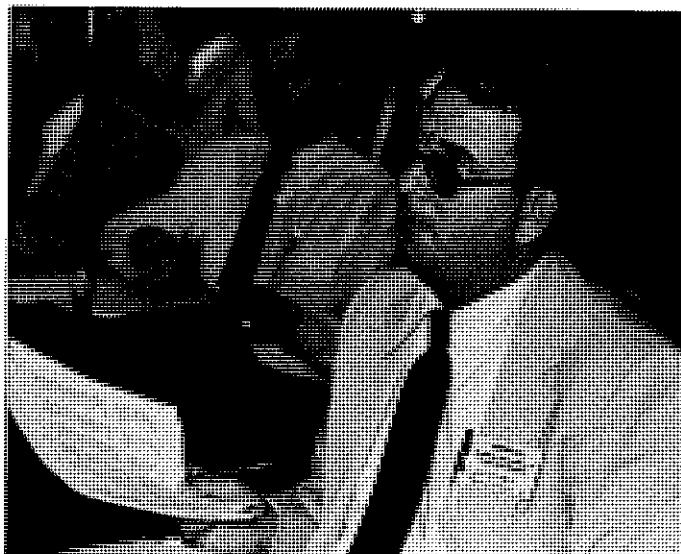
## 1983 Registration

National Association Registration .....	4,053
State Delegates .....	100
Local Church Delegates .....	134
Ministers .....	726
Foreign Missionaries .....	35
Home Missionaries .....	50
Lay Board Members .....	6
Visitors .....	3,002
National Youth Conference	
Registration .....	1,280
Woman's National Auxiliary	
Convention .....	774
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION .....</b>	<b>6,107</b>





Moderator  
Bobby  
Jackson  
presides  
at  
General  
Board



Kentucky General Board Member Ed Hutchinson

### ELECTED IN COLUMBUS '83

The following were elected during the 47th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

#### GENERAL OFFICERS

Moderator Bobby Jackson (NC)  
Assistant Moderator Ralph Hampton (TN)  
Clerk Waldo Young (OK)  
Assistant Clerk Keith Burden (OK)

#### GENERAL BOARD

1984 Tom Lilly (NC)  
Jack Stallings (VA)  
1985 John Edwards (AL)  
Charles Marshall (AZ)  
David Joslin (AR)  
Fred Hanson (Atlantic Canada)  
Doice McAlister (CA)  
Randy Bishop (CO)  
Robert Owen (FL)  
Herbert Waid (GA)  
Harley Bennett (ID)  
Wallace Malone (IL)  
Henry Patterson (IN)  
Nathan Eason (KS)  
Edward Hutchinson (KY)  
Lester Horton (MD)  
Jerry Barron (MX)  
Charles Cooper (MI)  
Al Hamm (MS)  
Millard Sasser (MO)

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1985 David Joslin (AR)  
Herbert Waid (GA)  
Wallace Malone (IL)

#### HOME MISSIONS BOARD

1989 Gordon Sebastian (NC)  
James Puckett (OK)  
William Johnson (KY)

#### MASTER'S MEN BOARD

1989 Paul Kennedy (CA)  
James Orr (MI)  
Raymond Lee (TX)

#### BOARD OF RETIREMENT

1989 Dennis Kern (OK)  
Robert Picirilli (TN)  
Wilburn Beasley (SC)

#### FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE TRUSTEES\*

1984 Sam Truett (NC)  
1988 Ken Walker (FL)  
\*These men were elected to fill the unexpired terms of Bobby Floars (NC) and Lewis Perry (WA) who resigned.

#### COMMISSION ON THEOLOGICAL LIBERALISM\*

1984 L. C. Johnson (TN)  
\*Elected to fill the unexpired term of Wade Jernigan (OK) who resigned.  
1988 Fred Hall (TN)

#### HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1988 Mary Wisheart (TN)

#### RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION

1984 James Vallance (TN)  
1985 Larry Hampton (TN)  
1986 Sandy Goodfellow (TN)  
1987 Guy Owens (TN)  
1988 George Lee (NC)



Foreign Missions Associate Director Eugene Waddell confers with delegates.



Rev. and Mrs. Laurie Coffman of Arkansas





Roger Reeds (L) and Henry Van Kluyve (R) surround a delegate.



Jerry Dudley (R), OK, explains that latest motion to Ben Scott, AR.



Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington.

# 1983 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. | Elro Driggers/Sunday Morning Worship                       | _____ |
| 2. | David Boggs/National Youth Conference                      | _____ |
| 3. | David Sutton/"Our Sacred Promise to God Personally"        | _____ |
| 4. | Harold Pitts/"Our Sincere Pledge to God's People"          | _____ |
| 5. | Lester Horton/"Our Sacrificial Promotion of God's Program" | _____ |

### BIBLE CONFERENCE

- |    |               |       |
|----|---------------|-------|
| 6. | Lynn Wood     | _____ |
| 7. | Don Sexton    | _____ |
| 8. | Loyd Locklear | _____ |
| 9. | Fred Hanson   | _____ |

### WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION

- |     |  |       |
|-----|--|-------|
| 10. | Mike Cousineau/WNAC Missionary Service | _____ |
| 11. | Dorothy Sample/WNAC Fellowship Dinner  | _____ |

### MEET 'N' EAT

- |     |   |       |
|-----|---|-------|
| 12. | Douglas Simpson/Hillsdale Alumni Luncheon | _____ |
| 13. | Ben Scott/Master's Men Breakfast          | _____ |
| 14. | Charles Thigpen/FWBBC Alumni Luncheon     | _____ |

Please Complete the Following:

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ORDER FROM: Sandy Goodfellow/500 Wilclay Drive/Nashville, Tennessee 37209  
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Sandy Goodfellow



# National Youth Conference '83



*Sunday School and Church Training Board Chairman Milton Worthington presents plaque to outgoing National Youth Conference Director Malcolm Fry for 12 years of service.*

By Clarence Lewis

**M**ore than 3,000 Free Will Baptist youth and adults attended the keynote service of the 1983 National Youth Conference in Columbus, Ohio Sunday night, July 17.

Roger C. Reeds, General Director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department, opened the service with prayer. After congregational singing led by Dick Martin, Charles Hampton, National Youth Conference Music Coordinator, directed the record number 180-voice volunteer youth choir composed of young people from around the country.

Malcolm C. Fry, completing his last year as NYC Director, introduced the keynote speaker, Rev. David Boggs, pastor of Heritage Temple Free Will

Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio. Brother Boggs also coordinated the Sunday night after-service activities for the youth.

Before the message Milton Worthington, chairman of the Sunday School and Church Training Board, presented a plaque to Malcolm Fry for his 12 years of service to the National Youth Conference. Under Dr. Fry's direction the Music and Arts Festival of the National Youth Conference was instituted. A record number, over 950, participated in this year's festival.

The latest registration count came to 1,280 (youth only). Bible competition climaxed Wednesday morning with the competitive finals. More than 1,600 watched South Carolina come from the loser's bracket to defeat previously unbeaten Arkansas twice to claim the championship in Bible Tic Tac Toe.

In the Bible Bowl finals, unbeaten North Carolina came from behind in the final two minutes of the contest to claim a victory over a determined Alabama team. Immediately after the

finals, awards were presented to the top three finishers in Bible competition and medals given to all those receiving a "1" rating in the Music and Arts Festival.

Barbara Cordle, member of Westerville Free Will Baptist Church, Westerville, Ohio, planned the after-service activities for the Learner and Adventurer groups on Sunday night. She also coordinated efforts of several central Ohio churches to plan entertainment for the skating activity after the Tuesday night service.

Both banquets were a success. The Junior Adventurers enjoyed a program presented by Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College under the direction of Ed Pack, while those attending the youth banquet were challenged by two groups from Free Will Baptist Bible College—a singing group under the direction of Vernon Whaley and a drama group under the direction of Joseph Jones.▲

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Clarence Lewis is the National Youth Conference Coordinator.*





## ENRICHED BY KNOWLEDGE

"...in everything ye are enriched by him, in all knowledge" (1 Cor. 1:5)



### 1983 WNAC Review

By Lorene Miley

#### *Enriched By Knowledge*

The theme "Enriched By Knowledge" highlighted activities at the 1983 Woman's National Auxiliary Convention which met in Columbus, Ohio on July 17-18.

Monday afternoon, 251 women attended a "Creative Women" seminar. President Genelle Scott introduced Judy Puckett, Diane Worthington and Mary Ruth Wisheart who developed the theme through homemaking, being a pastor's wife, and careers. All pastor's wives were given bookmarks.

Following the seminar, state presidents met with the executive committee where new study books and techniques were introduced.

The 48th annual session of the convention convened Tuesday morning in the Hyatt Regency Hotel's Union Room. Carolyn Riddick led the 785 registered delegates and guests in singing the theme song, "We Love The Bible." Beth Whaley sang "Tell Me More," a composition by her husband,

Vernon, written especially for the occasion.

The 23 winners (and proxies) in the annual creative arts contest were recognized. The more than 250 entries from 83 women represented 19 states and one foreign country. Mae Fry (TN) read her winning poem, "They' Need Revival."

Delegates elected the following officers to two-year terms: President June Rolan (CA), Vice President Mary Neal (IN), Recording Secretary Peggy Outland (TN), and three members at large: Barbara Fletcher (AL), Marguerite Kern (OK), and Helen Sanders (NC).

Other business opposed N.O.W. (National Organization of Women) and expressed approval of President Reagan's stand on women's rights, abortion and E.R.A. Cayo Raymond, Haitian student at Free Will Baptist Bible College, was awarded \$1000 from the National Student Fund.

Mrs. Pursell, executive secretary-treasurer, reported \$10,000 in student loans disbursed last year. Total cash and non-cash gifts to missions and missionary objectives totaled \$323,777.03.

Bible conference guests joined WNAC for the missionary service with Mike Cousineau, returned missionary

from Ivory Coast. His message illustrated the transforming power of Christ in lives enriched by His Word.

A missionary panel led by June Rolan accented the afternoon session. Participants included Virginia Van Kluyve (Virgin Islands), Molly Barker (Uruguay), Janice Banks (Japan), Janice Webb (France), Lois Reagan (Canada), Deleen Cousineau (Ivory Coast), and Glenda Fulcher (Texas). They responded to questions concerning the provision closet, child guidance, food preparation, and areas of prayer concern.

The fellowship dinner on Tuesday evening concluded the scheduled auxiliary activities. A capacity crowd of 700 packed the Regency Ballroom to be enriched with Dorothy Sample's spiritual and psychological insights.

The watchword throughout the year, "In everything ye are enriched by him—in all knowledge" (I Corinthians 1:5), should develop spiritual maturity in auxiliary women and prepare them for 1984's emphasis on intercessory prayer. ▲

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Mrs. Lorene Miley is editor of Co-Laborer Magazine. She recently authored a book *I Looked For a Man and Found One*.



1. Cleo Pursell  
2. Genelle Scott



## WNAC Creative Writing Contest 1982-1983

Eighty-two writers from 19 states and one foreign country submitted 250 entries. There were 23 winners, 14 first-timers.

### ART

Eight artists submitted 16 entries.

- 1st Marie Scott  
Rogers, Arkansas  
"Missionary Offering"
- 2nd Joyce Crouch  
Farmington, Missouri  
"These Things I Command You"
- 3rd Karen Polston  
Nashville, Tennessee  
"Harvest"
- 4th Vicky Mutchler  
Conway, Arkansas  
"Laborers Together"
- Dee Kingsmill  
Nashville, Tennessee  
"A Roaring Lion"

### ARTICLES

Twenty-five writers submitted 32 entries.

- 1st Diane Mitchell Thomas  
Grifton, North Carolina  
"The Faces About Me"
- 2nd Margie Patton  
Glennville, Georgia  
"Bless The Lord"
- 3rd Ann Maines  
Norfolk, Virginia  
"His Little Lambs"
- 4th Carolyn Redfearn  
Modesto, California  
"Coming To Grips With Being a Pastor's Wife"

### PLAYS/SKITS

Ten writers submitted 12 entries.

- 1st Velda Tucker  
Batesville, Arkansas  
"Don't Settle For Crumbs"

- 2nd Vaudine Lancaster  
Ethelsville, Alabama  
"God's Gem Cutter"

- 3rd Loretta Williams  
Van Buren, Arkansas  
"Heaven's Auxiliary Members"

- 4th Loree Medley  
Wichita Falls, Texas  
"A Working Auxiliary"

### POETRY

Forty-two writers submitted 178 entries.

- 1st Mae Fry  
Nashville, Tennessee  
"They Need Revival"
- 2nd Laura Danielson Wade  
Morehead City, North Carolina  
"Little Hands"
- 3rd Cheryl Akers  
Jacksonville, Florida  
"A Missionary Heart"
- 4th Connie Greene  
Ashland, Kentucky  
"Priorities"
- Noveline Burgess  
Antlers, Oklahoma  
"Dogwood Blossoms"

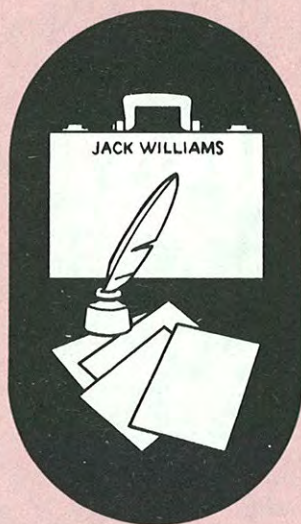
### PROGRAMS

Sixteen writers submitted 22 entries.

- 1st Geneva Poole  
Brazil  
"Walk Worthy"
- 2nd Annette Drake  
Blanchard, Oklahoma  
"Auxiliary Disciples"
- 3rd Debbie Cavitt  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
"With Talents That Abound"
- 4th Zylphia Bondeson  
Sterling, Virginia  
"A Model's View"
- Barbara Ellen Thomasson  
Fredricktown, Missouri  
"C.P.R.—Concern, Prayer, Revival"



## Briefcase



# Sammy And The White Bible

**T**hey took Sammy to prison last week. Locked him up because of a long list of DUI charges.

I talked with his ex-wife about it. Seems that he drank his way through 10 years of marriage; not even a loving wife and four beautiful children could pull him away from the bottle.

Some say he's getting what he had coming. And I suppose that's correct. At least legally.

**But I remember** Sammy kneeling at an altar during a revival in a small Free Will Baptist church next to a dirt road. I heard him pray and ask forgiveness for his sins. He was a teenager then. I was a 20-year-old evangelist.

I remember those big soulful eyes brimming with tears. He was a case study in natural humility as he rose from prayer, so pliable in the hands of God.

I'd never seen a man more bent to the will of God. And it was real.

Sammy didn't have a Bible. That night he asked if I'd loan him one of mine. I had two—a Thompson Chain Reference that I used for preaching and a white Light of the World Bible that my first pastor had given me. Oh, how I loved that white Bible.

But Sammy's need was great that

night, it was plain to see. So I handed him my treasured white Bible to take home and read.

**The next night** Sammy approached me just before I was to preach, his chin quivering. I saw hurt in his eyes. Then he explained.

After I loaned Sammy my white Bible and the crowd broke up the previous night, he started home. He had to walk a footlog across a creek. It was dark. He had no light.

Maybe it was excitement over getting saved. Maybe he was concentrating on the white Bible. You've probably guessed what happened. Sammy made a careless step, fell off the footlog and landed in the creek. My white Bible fell in beside him.

By the time Sammy returned my Bible, the water-soaked pages had swollen until it was impossible to close. The key verses that I had underlined so carefully were smeared with ink stains. The leather binding would never be the same.

**At first, my heart** cried out in protest. Then I saw Sammy looking at me, hoping. That's when I realized that I loved him more than I did the white Bible.

I reached out and hugged Sammy, told him it was all right and made him believe it. I gave the white Bible to Sammy that night. I don't know what he did with it, but it doesn't matter now.

The next time I saw Sammy (a year later) he was married. We laughed about the white Bible. The last thing we did

together was take our wives to the park and eat 12 hamburgers. Sammy and I ate nine between us.

The world was good. The future was ours. I went back to college and Sammy went to the local church. That was 20 years ago. I never saw Sammy again.

**Somewhere over the past** two decades, in the darkness on his way home, Sammy fell off the footlog again. And I wasn't there to help him.

They tell me he kept getting up, but he had lost his balance in life. He lost his self-respect. He lost his wife and children.

The lure of beer and whiskey compounded with the frustrations of life made Sammy forget what was in the white Bible. Made him forget that night at the altar when he prayed, made him forget the hamburgers in the park, the laughter, and stole the dreams that might have been his.

**But I didn't forget,** can't forget. And I weep while I write these words, knowing that something so precious got trampled while I was busy here and there.

No, his name isn't Sammy. I made up that name to avoid embarrassing his family. But the white Bible is real. And the altar beside the dirt road. And the prison.

The night is still dark. Somewhere another Sammy has made a careless step and fallen off the footlog on his way home. Who will be there to help clean him up, to give him a white Bible and tell him it'll be all right, to laugh with him in the park? ▲



# Depression— A Walk Through The Valley Of Baca



By Sarah Mayhew

**E**very individual who has lived to be an adult has been depressed at times, and maybe many times in varying degrees.

These times come as a result of a wounded spirit or hurt pride, resulting in anger or resentment, the loss of a loved one, or many other things over which we have no control.

But when the emphasis is placed on the problem rather than the grace God provides, we are headed for depression.

## Identify With A Problem

Identifying with a problem produces a reaction to it: anger, sadness, fearfulness, bitterness, unforgiveness, etc. This sort of a diet over a period of time gives one a spiritual headache or depression.

Then, we may find that we are controlled by our problems and that our decisions are only reactions rather than being controlled by the Lord.

A friend told me a story about a grumpy fellow who had a long beard. Some fellows caught him asleep and rubbed limburger cheese in his beard. When he awoke, he sniffed and said, "This room stinks."

Then he rushed out into the hall and said, "It stinks here, too." He hurried downstairs to the living room, took a big sniff, and yelled, "It stinks here, too!"

Rushing out into the street, he sniffed again and dejectedly stated, "The whole world stinks!"

The moral of the story being, maybe the trouble is coming from some source nearer to us.

## Identify The Enemy

So if the whole world stinks and we feel like saying, "Nobody loves me, everybody hates me, I'm going out to eat worms," maybe we need to identify



our enemy, for we wrestle not against flesh and blood.

We are flesh and blood, and so are those around us. Our fight isn't with ourselves nor with others, in spite of what we might think about it. Ours is a spiritual battle and has to do with one who "Walks about seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

Depression ranges from a case of mild "mully grubs" such as the limburger cheese sort where the whole world stinks, to the "going out to eat worms" type which results in withdrawal from people, to a walk through the valley of Baca.

The valley of Baca is mentioned in Psalm 84:5-12. I suggest that you read this passage. Baca means weeping, a valley of tears. It seems to be a desert place far away from water.

As Christians, we don't need this valley described to us because who among us has not passed through this dry place, this valley of the soul, where the heart cries out for direction, a touch, the presence of God?

David described it in Psalm 42: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God . . . My tears have been my meat day and night . . . O my God, my soul is cast down within me . . . All thy waves and thy billows are gone over me . . . I will say unto God why hast thou forsaken me? Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: For I shall yet praise Him."

Can you relate to these feelings of David, a man after God's own heart?

## Tell God About It

Psalm 84:5-12 tells that the person whose strength is in God has it in his heart to make this valley a different place. He will sink a well there and make the valley a more pleasant place for the next passerby.

He will learn some things that can help others in their Christian life. He goes from strength to more strength for the Lord God is his sun and his shield. The hot sun of Baca is not his problem, God is his sun.

He relates the problem to God and what He can do with it. He is blessed because he trusts in his Lord. God will

bring him through his valley and he will have learned some things about his God. He learns that this God is absolutely trustworthy and He is truly a friend.

Someone concluded that, "Christians are like tea bags—no good until put into hot water."

During my 30 years as a Christian, some of that time has been spent in hot water. It may not have made me good, but it has made me better, because as I have walked through the valleys of Baca, I've studied God's Word and tried to apply it to my own problems. I've tried to dig a few wells in my valleys.

One thing I've learned is that I am the way, I am the door into these valleys. He is the way, He is the door out.

Paul said, "We have the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God" (I Corinthians 1:9).

Sometimes we depend on others to be our emotional props. Our love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance cease to be fruits of the Spirit and begin to be responses to the actions of others.

You love me, I love you. Don't rock my boat and I'll respond with joy, peace, patience, etc. These are simply reactions to the actions of others. They have nothing to do with spiritual fruit.

Jesus said, "Ye are like children sitting in the markets, and calling to their fellows, and saying, 'We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.'"

He knows our little maneuvers, our strings that we try to attach to others to control them, doesn't He? You don't dance to my music; then, when I complain, you don't listen to me. I can't control you.

You don't love me. I have no joy, therefore I have no peace. My patience is gone and with it gentleness, goodness, meekness, self-control.

What's left of my faith? Only a glimmer and it is all your fault. And so once again, we head for our valley!

By now, some of you may be saying, "She doesn't know what depression is." You may be right; but remember, this is my well, dug in my valleys, and it is a source of strength to me.

## Identify With Christ

I have found that I must identify with Christ and not the problem. I'm told in Ephesians that I am accepted in the beloved—made holy, without blame, blessed with all spiritual blessings in Him.

Colossians tells me that through His death, He presents me holy, unblameable, unreprouvable, perfect in Jesus Christ.

You may be thinking that you are not holy and without blame. Think about this: Only God can call an acorn an oak tree. He has put the qualities within that little brown box to become a mighty oak tree. He has the power to bring forth that which He has ordained.

My inheritance is in Him. I am complete in Him. All that He has is mine. I'm a joint heir with Him. He has inherited me and all that I have, which includes my problems, spiritual and otherwise.

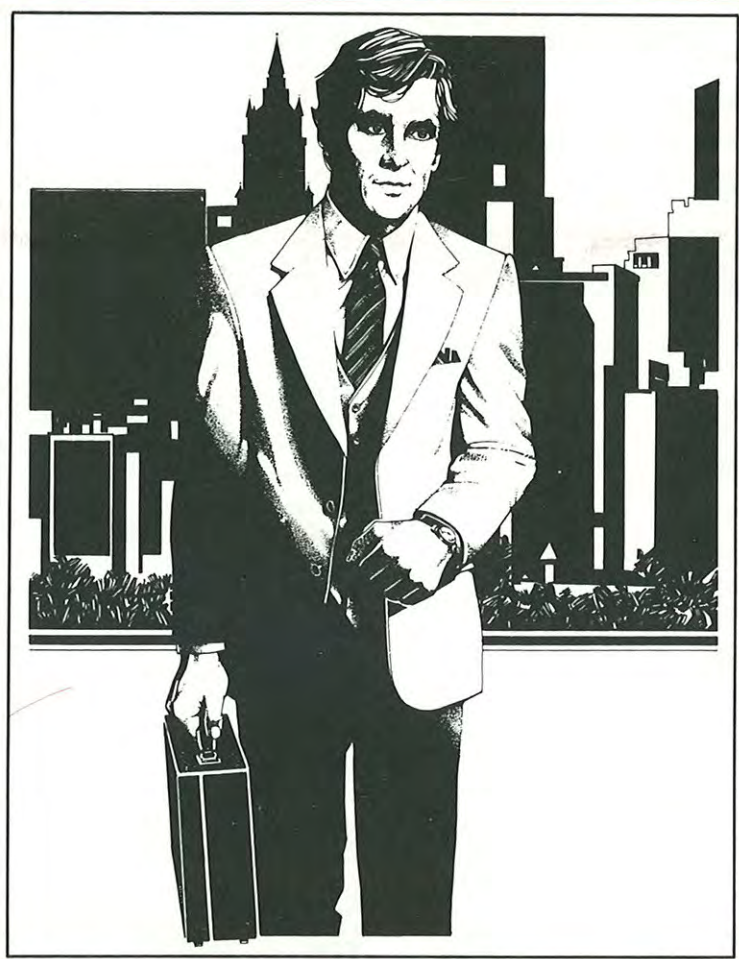
It isn't a fair exchange, but He said it is according to the good pleasure of His will and that it is to the praise of the glory of His grace.

Isn't He good? Isn't He great? "The rain filleth all of the pools." My valley has become a lovely place. ▲



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Sarah Mayhew requested that any biographical data show that she was "just Sarah, accepted in the Beloved, and kept by His grace."

But for any of our readers who may not know her personally, at the time she wrote this article, Sarah Mayhew and her husband, Archie, had just returned from Ivory Coast, West Africa as foreign missionaries and were pastoring First Free Will Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, Illinois.



# Staying Honest In Tough Times

By Fred Hanson

By Fred Hanson

**A** teenager added this note to the end of his term paper: "The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the textbook!"

Today, the views and values of many churchmen are living disclaimers concerning the convictions of the Christian's text—the Word of God.

## The Thief

"Just once I'd like to have all the money I want and spend it as I choose," he mused, going about his duties.

"Travel, adventure, excitement—

they're all passing me by," he muttered aloud, his mind filled with thoughts of far away places.

"Oh, to be like the wealthy young businessmen I see in the marketplaces with the finest clothing and jewelry. They've got it all!"

Suddenly, a voice startled him, interrupting his fantasy. "When you're through in the garden, there are several pieces of furniture in the shop to be repaired. And don't forget to check that roof. I need not remind you of the mess to be cleaned up after the last heavy rain!"

"How well I know," fumed the young man. "I cleaned every inch of this old, sprawling mansion. Why would anyone maintain such a house? The garden, yard, doors, windows—they all demand constant attention and repair. My work is never done. I feel like running away from it all. Run away? That's it!"

"The boss must have plenty of money and valuables stashed around," he

thought. "I'll plan my moves and wait until he's away on business. That'll give me time to get everything together and get a good headstart. I'll be hundreds of miles away before anything is discovered."

His mind was racing now, his heart pounding. For the first time in a long while he had the sensation that he would really be somebody.

The opportunity presented itself sooner than he expected and his plans were executed flawlessly. His pockets bulging with newly acquired wealth, he traveled from town to town trying to be as inconspicuous as possible; but with every muscle and fiber crying out: "Look at me! I'm free! I'm rich! And I'm doing what I want!"

His money was squandered, freedom, fortune, and frolic proved short-lived. The flurry of partying, celebrating, and carousing ended as abruptly as it began.

Providentially, he heard a man speak of Jesus Christ, a man who claimed Him



to be author of peace, joy, and hope—words the young man understood but hadn't experienced.

Responding to deep conviction, he soon accepted Christ. After hearing him relate the events of the past few weeks, the old preacher spoke gently and lovingly, but forcefully to the new convert.

"You must go back. Ask forgiveness and make restitution. I know your master and you may return without fear, I promise!"

"Return? Impossible!"

"No, difficult maybe, but not impossible. Besides, God's grace will overrule your doubts and fears."

A new believer retraced his steps, bearing a letter explaining his actions and recent conversion. Forgiveness, restitution, and reinstatement were simultaneously offered and joyfully received.

Does this sound like a 1983 success story from the pages of your local paper? Perhaps, but this drama unfolded 1900 years ago in the days of Paul, Philemon, and Onesimus.

Staying honest in tough times? You may be a humble servant, a stately prime minister or an average church member, but you aren't above temptation nor below the favor and grace of God.

## The Accused Rapist

The gaze of her hard, knowing eyes became a stare. Nervously, the young man stood there, the events of the past weeks flashing in rapid succession through his mind.

From the moment he assumed this position, he felt uncomfortable in her presence. Her suggestive remarks startled him, then sickened him. And now, what he feared most had happened.

"My husband need never know," she hinted. "And . . . what he doesn't know won't hurt him," she continued her smooth arguments.

"No! I couldn't; it would be wrong. I respect my employer. I could never do such a thing to him," he replied.

Unaffected by his resistance, she countered: "Don't you find me attractive?"

"Why, yes, you're beautiful," he confessed, "but to have an affair with you—I cannot. I will not compromise my convictions and sin against God."

She flared, "I have power to give you everything you could ever want, and I can take it all away. You'll lose your job. I'll see to that! I'll have you dismissed and

imprisoned. How dare you refuse me!"

One might think this account of sexual harassment took place within the offices of a large corporation in the city somewhere in North America. The truth is, it took place in Egypt thousands of years ago. And noble, faithful Joseph continues to be an example for us today.

## The Business Deal

"This Property For Sale" read the freshly painted sign.

"Honey, this is prime real estate, sure to bring top dollar" he said confidently, squeezing his wife's hand as they walked together.

"You know, dear, I think we should make a sizeable donation to the church when this deal goes through," his wife remarked.

"Well, we have been fortunate in our business dealings. What say we give all the money from this sale to the church?" he suggested.

In a few days the transaction was finalized. He couldn't believe how fortunate he had been to find a buyer so quickly, and at that price! It was more than he had expected to receive. Happily, he shared the details with his wife. "But," he hesitated, "it's just too much money to give the church."

"I agree it is a lot of money, but we— we decided!" she blurted.

"Honey, we've discussed church finances a hundred times, and I'll be the first to agree the church has many obligations—the poor, the sick, the widows. But this is different. All this money and they'll probably just start more programs to be financed," he argued.

"And besides, darling, you've always said you wanted to visit Rome. It could be the vacation of a lifetime," he whispered, sensing her weakening.

"Maybe you're right, dear," she smiled. "You're always right about things like this."

Later, after they agreed to give a generous amount of money, the husband went to see the church treasurer. Some time later, she went to the church to see what was keeping her husband.

Uneasiness gripped her as she approached. The decision had not been easy, but it would all soon be over, and they would be on their way to beautiful Rome on vacation. Or so she thought! For this drama's conclusion was not a vacation, but a double funeral. Not delight, but death. Not joy, but judgment.

And sadly, regretfully, the greed of Ananias and Sapphira still lives in the hearts of millions today.

Staying honest in tough times? Spiritually the battle rages. Times are always tough when we live by the devil's clock. Freedoms are repressed when he is on the throne. The kingdom of darkness shudders all the windows of the soul.

## CONCLUSION

Besides being the sign of a righteous man (Psalm 1:1-3; Luke 8:15), and the means of testimony (I Peter 2:12), honesty is a Christian obligation (II Corinthians 13:7).

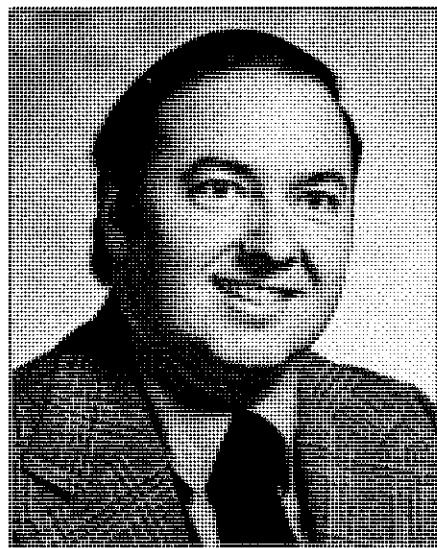
Honesty is exemplified in the Word through such men as Samuel, David, Zacchaeus, and Paul.

Dishonesty leads the assault against God's commandments and is manifested in half-truths (Genesis 12:11-20), trickery (Genesis 27:6-29), falsifying one's word (Genesis 34:15-31), wicked devices (Proverbs 1:10-19), embezzlement (John 12:6), and unpaid wages (James 5:4).

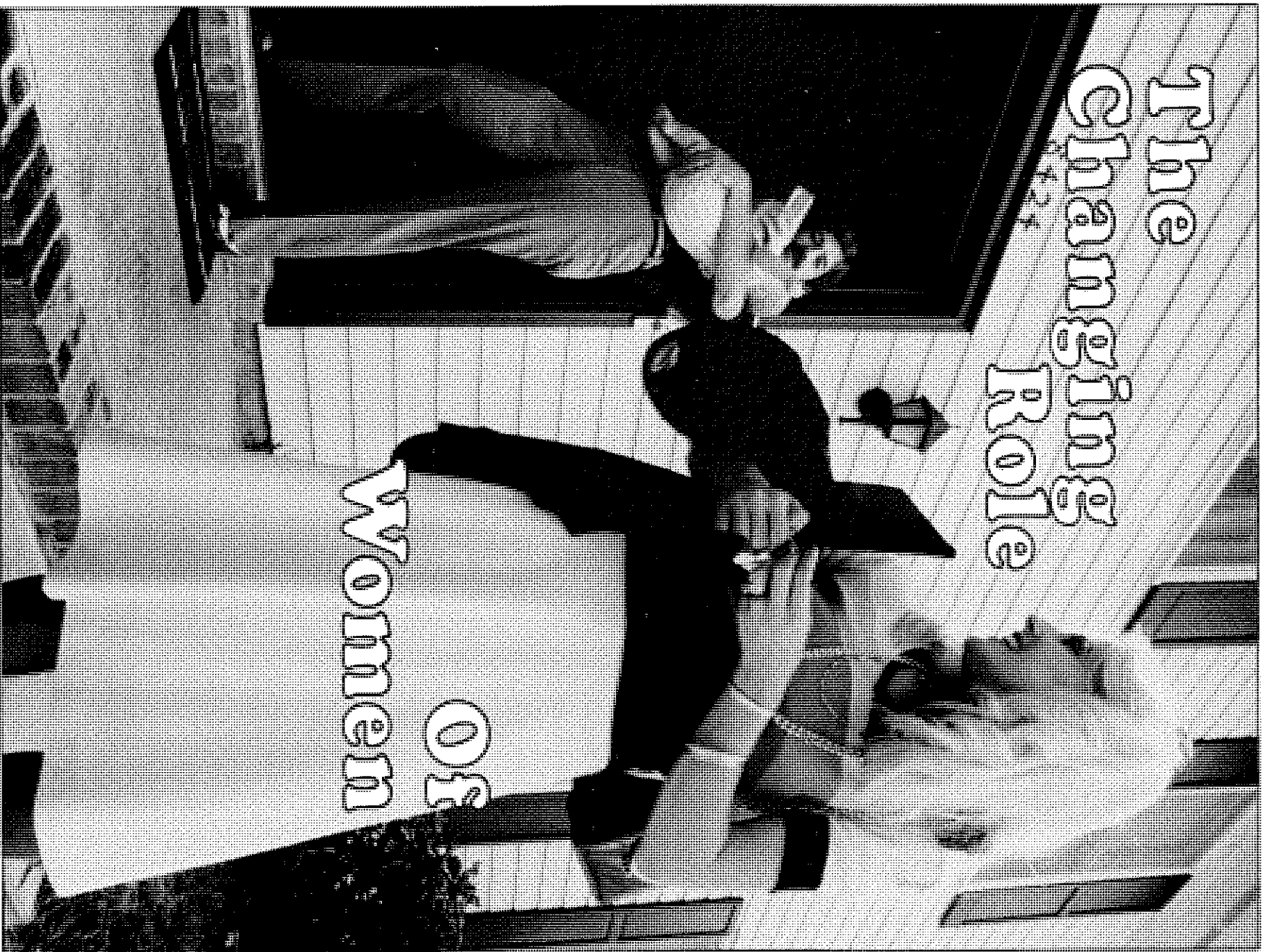
Listed among dishonesty's consequences are condemnation by conscience (Matthew 27:3-5), discovery by men (Joshua 9:3-21), and being uncovered by God (I Kings 21:17-26).

Furthermore we are admonished in Philippians 4:8 that: ". . . whatsoever things are HONEST, if there be any virtue . . . praise . . . think on these things . . ."

By the Lord's help, we can stay honest, even in tough times! ▲



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Reverend Fred D. Hanson pastors the Upper Brighton Free Will Baptist Church, Hartland, New Brunswick, Canada. He is the moderator of the Atlantic Canada Association.



H. Armstrong Roberts



By Joyce Watson

**W**hen I was young (in the late 40's, early 50's), my first memories were of my mother standing over a wood stove cooking breakfast.

I remember breakfast more vividly than the other meals. It seemed that the food smelled so good on those long ago mornings. I would sit on the wood stacked in the corner of the kitchen and watch her as she went about her work.

After breakfast she would wash the dishes in a big pan of water that she had heated on the stove. Mother made everything look easy when, I realize now, it must have been difficult.

It seemed that she scrubbed for hours on the rub board to get our clothes clean. All our clothes were made on her treadle sewing machine—most were made from flour sacks.

Besides the housework, there was the gardening as well as helping milk the cows. Mother did all this and much more. As I look back, I'm amazed that she survived. However, that was the kind of life most women lived then.

The men worked in the fields and the women took care of the home. There were few women employed outside the home. This was a time when the home was truly believed to be the woman's place.

## Beyond The Scrub Board

But times have changed. Towns and cities now flourish where once there was nothing but fields and pastures. With growing towns came new industries. This means more jobs for men and women.

Today, women have a place in the business world. More women now work outside the home. With the rising cost of living, it takes two salaries in order to get by.

There are more good positions available to women than ever before, and, because of this, we're beginning to find our place in society. We've always known we were capable human beings. Now, finally, we're being recognized as such.

Yes, ladies, our world is changing for the better. We're demanding our rights. If we do a man's job, we deserve a man's pay. In this competitive world we find ourselves competing more than ever with men.

But we need to advance with caution! I feel there is a real danger in the change that's occurring in the lives of some women today.

## Don't Overdo A Good Thing

What started out as an effort to establish our rights in the world of business and be recognized as equals, has somehow gone far beyond this.

If you watch the news broadcasts, you'll see women taking a stand for their rights and fighting for many different causes.

However, if you watch closely, it will begin to seem more like a hate campaign—toward men.

Women have already proven themselves to be equal. Some have now set out to prove themselves superior with an attitude of "we don't need men." And to look at some of the women leaders, you begin to wonder if they really do.

They talk, dress, and look like men. This superior attitude and the position that some women are trying to take could be dangerous.

I am an independent person with at least average intelligence. I'm not rebelling against women's efforts to find a place in this changing world. I agree with them—we have definite contributions to make and we are making them.

I do not, however, think we're superior beings. Neither do I believe that men are superior. Both male and female have their role in life and, although this world is continually changing, there are certain things that were not meant to be changed. This is where the danger occurs.

When there is a feeling of superiority of one sex over the other entering into society, there is a possibility it also exists in the home. Maybe it began in the home.

## Be What You Are

God has a particular place in the home for each member—our role—if you please. He placed man in the role

of leadership. The woman He gave to man as his help meet.

It's true that these roles are sometimes reversed because some man will not accept his responsibility as leader. There are also times when the woman becomes more of a hindrance than help. This may be caused by competitive feelings.

I do not feel that the Lord placed me in a lower position than my husband. Neither do I feel that I am a slave to him. I have a responsible position and I carry out those responsibilities quite well.

We've all heard the jokes about how God made the man first, saw what a mistake He made, then made woman. Let me tell you, God doesn't make mistakes. His plan for us, the roles He places us in, is the natural order of things.

If you are not in that role at home, then your home is out of order. This is not opinion, it's fact. I have little time for women who feel life has thrown them a curve just because they're women.

Proverbs 31:10 paints the picture of an industrious woman, not the picture of a family slave wearing a dress. She is submissive, not subjected to her husband. A lot of women get these words confused.

God did not mean for a woman to wait on her husband hand and foot and to muddle around as if she did not have a brain. He did, however, intend for the wife to be submissive, to believe in her husband, to help in his role as leader, and to be supportive of him.

Man needs a woman to share his life. God recognized that it was not good for man to be alone, thus He created and gave man a help meet.

Proverbs 31 describes a business woman. She speaks with wisdom and kindness. She looks after her household and is not idle. Her children call her blessed (so we know she's a good mother), and her husband also praises her. She fears the Lord. She is a virtuous woman.

The world will not remain as it is today but will change continually. Perhaps our roles in society will continue to change. In fact, I'm sure they will.

Our roles in our homes (if they are as they should be) are supposed to remain the same, according to His



## CHANGING ROLE (From Page 23)

plan. If they don't, then there will not be the order that God intended.

God gave us examples to follow. He gave the passage on the virtuous woman to show the high regard He has for woman.

My feelings may not be the most popular in today's world, but I'm contented with them (as well as the role I have). They are based on Bible teachings, and I'd rather follow the example God gave than any example brought about by a changing world.

When one follows His examples and lives according to His plan, there is a peace and stability that cannot come from this world. ▲

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Mrs. Joyce Watson is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

### CALIFORNIA

Archie Mayhew to Santa Paula Church, Santa Paula from First Church, Mt. Vernon, IL

### KANSAS

Rick Messer to First Church, Topeka

### MICHIGAN

Eugene Wolford to Wayne Church, Wayne

### MISSOURI

Lester Lemons to Macedonia Church, Niangua

### OHIO

James Jewell to United Church, Cleveland from Faith Church, Cleveland  
Joe Rager to First Church, Youngstown

### TENNESSEE

Johnny Floyd, Jr. to Trinity Church, Erwin from First Church, Hazel Park, MI

### OTHER PERSONNEL

Waldo Young to Hillsdale FWB College as dean of men from Spencer Road Church, Spencer, OK

Toby Jenkins to First Church, Fort Smith, AR as youth minister and director of education

## Thank You For Your Contributions...



## ... Through the Cooperative Channel

June, 1983

### RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	Undesign.	Total	June '82	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$ 238.00	\$ 1,433.49	\$ 1,671.49	\$ 2,963.41	\$ 5,760.24
Arizona	.00	100.10	100.10	111.00	219.33
Arkansas	.00	3,563.73	3,563.73	2,353.40	20,726.83
California	.00	1,124.66	1,124.66	864.99	6,356.20
Florida	.00	1,297.97	1,297.97	1,437.62	9,449.35
Georgia	2,746.44	420.00	3,166.44	1,952.54	21,447.69
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	100.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	261.46
Illinois	4,814.94	1,381.80	6,196.74	8,658.12	43,247.90
Indiana	.00	.00	.00	.00	159.84
Kansas	.00	90.30	90.30	265.92	1,892.75
Kentucky	167.69	422.31	590.00	.00	2,492.29
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	10.00	180.00
Michigan	3,327.37	845.50	4,172.87	5,410.14	21,512.80
Mississippi	96.85	1,819.11	1,915.96	1,462.21	6,032.29
Missouri	5,499.35	.00	5,499.35	4,967.12	34,063.81
New Mexico	86.94	43.45	130.39	500.00	342.14
North Carolina	345.00	40.00	385.00	1,833.00	3,574.60
Ohio	.00	.00	.00	8,215.04	9,472.91
Oklahoma	20,546.09	8,627.03	29,173.12	21,629.37	167,270.37
Tennessee	174.90	721.70	896.60	2,302.65	6,944.72
Texas	1,548.82	365.50	1,914.32	4,142.63	16,707.56
Virginia	.00	94.97	94.97	241.54	483.92
West Virginia	1,180.84	202.00	1,382.84	.00	7,941.26
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$40,773.23</b>	<b>\$22,593.62</b>	<b>\$63,366.85</b>	<b>\$69,320.70</b>	<b>\$386,640.26</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS

Executive	\$ 1,350.27	\$10,407.30	\$11,757.57	\$10,378.66	\$ 69,963.32
Foreign Missions	29,739.85	2,802.85	32,542.70	35,436.58	190,683.53
Bible College	2,868.87	2,802.85	5,671.72	10,440.83	38,434.72
Home Missions	6,269.03	2,193.55	8,462.58	7,970.23	57,813.84
Retirement & Insurance	375.75	1,827.95	2,203.70	2,739.58	13,034.82
Master's Men	58.21	1,584.20	1,642.41	1,370.67	9,657.84
Commission on Theological					
Liberalism	46.52	121.85	168.37	243.85	1,019.07
FWB Foundation	.00	731.22	731.22	.30	4,735.56
Historical Commission	3.69	121.85	125.54	.00	785.04
FWB Children's Home	39.30	.00	39.30	.00	318.82
Hillsdale College	21.74	.00	21.74	100.00	43.70
Convention	.00	.00	.00	640.00	150.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$40,773.23</b>	<b>\$22,593.62</b>	<b>\$63,366.85</b>	<b>\$69,320.70</b>	<b>\$386,640.26</b>



# Granny Got A Diploma

By Vera Clyatt



**I** couldn't believe it! There I was 68 years old, married 50 years, marching down the aisle like a high school coed to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance."

My throat tightened, my eyes pooled with tears. I don't cry pretty so I raised my chin, hitched my step and proceeded across the stage to receive that long-coveted diploma.

We live on the farm where my husband's dad was born. Our children have walked the same paths, sat around the same table and warmed by the same fireplaces as their grandparents, uncles and father.

The local Avon lady is my oldest daughter who lives about 15 miles away. She keeps me powdered, perfumed and polished.

Our oldest son and his family live on the adjoining farm. They keep us repaired, plowed and planted.

Our second son is a minister. He and his family live in Moultrie, Georgia where he pastors Midway Free Will Baptist Church.

The youngest daughter and her family live about 15 miles in another direction. She is involved in Adult Education and encouraged me to take the GED Test.

Robert and I were married in 1932, remembered by many as one of the depression years. "No flowers, no ring, no cake, no sing." The marriage certificate, we learned four children and several years later, was premature.

Not that we didn't have a good life,

but we needed so badly to have finished our education. We had the Lord, love, the necessities, plenty of hard work and a wonderful church.

My husband was ordained as a deacon in 1935. He still holds that office. I have taught Sunday School most of those years—first, the teenagers and for several years now, the older adults. I have also enjoyed serving as pianist and organist.

The Woman's Auxiliary has been a special joy to me since its organization in 1936. They too have used me first one place then another—most recently as president and (in spite of it) we continue to grow. We thrill to see young married women assume responsibility in this mission arm of the church.

One of my greatest delights is teaching piano. Since 1967 a steady stream of children, teenagers and adults have

poured through our home. In the beginning I practiced on the grandchildren. Some were completely immune; others, I am glad to say, responded in a satisfactory manner.

Now, what difference will that diploma make in my life? I know not. But I do know it is a dream come true, a goal reached.

I urge anyone, but especially young people, to continue their education. One thing you need more than a formal education is the Lord as your Savior and Guide.

I'm happy in the place the Lord has chosen for me. I have found through the years that the joy of the Lord is my strength (Nehemiah 8:10b) and to delight myself in the Lord for the desires of my heart (Psalm 37:4). ▲

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Vera R. Clyatt resides in Lake Butler, Florida. She is a member of the Harmony Free Will Baptist Church.*





FREE WILL BAPTIST

## newsfront

### KNIGHTON MARKS 50th YEAR

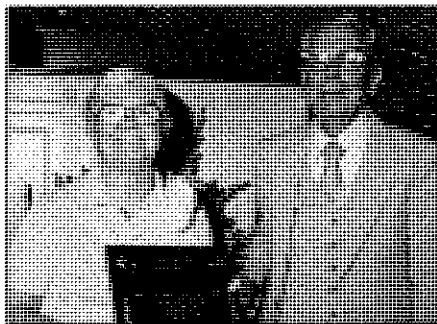
ALBANY, GA—Reverend H. L. Knighton was honored in a special service May 29 at First Free Will Baptist Church, celebrating 50 years in the ministry. He was ordained May 28, 1933 at St. James FWB Church in Phenix City, Alabama. Knighton is a former pastor of and active member in First Free Will Baptist Church.

Knighton and his wife, Sara, were given a plaque and a love gift from the congregation. A proclamation was read proclaiming May 29, 1983 as "H. L. Knighton Sunday."

Greetings by cassette tape were heard from Reverend Bobby Parker, Greenville, NC pastor who grew up under Brother Knighton's ministry.

The services were attended by his children: Rev. J. W. Knighton of Bruton, AL, Nell Thomas of Slocumb, AL, Faye Higdon and Thomas Knighton of Albany.

Reverend Knighton has pastored five other churches—St. James FWB Church (Phenix City, AL), Turners Chapel FWB Church (Butler, GA), Providence FWB Church (Columbus, GA), First FWB Church (Thomaston, GA), and Macedonia FWB Church (Colquitt, GA).



Standing with Dale Evans and Roy Rogers (center), are members of the Herman C. Lewis Christian Academy graduating class. They include Mark Casey (L), Cindy Huber, Rob Johnson, Kelly Mandernacht, Kevin McClure, Rick Otwell and Nadine Sullivan.

### 'QUEEN OF THE WEST' SPEAKS AT COMMENCEMENT

SANTA PAULA, CA—Dale Evans Rogers delivered the commencement address June 10 at Herman C. Lewis Christian Academy in Santa Paula, according to Principal Marc Hatwig.

Dale Evans agreed to speak at the graduation exercises after her grandson, Rob Johnson, one of the seven graduating seniors, called and asked her if she would consider it.

Roy Rogers and Dale Evans posed for pictures with the graduating seniors.

Dale congratulated the graduates on their achievements, and then turning to their parents and friends in the sanctuary, she congratulated them on having raised them so well, and on being wise enough to select a Christian School for them.

"These young people will need all the help they can get as they move out and into the world of higher education," she said. "In the colleges and universities, they are likely to find professors who will test them and try their faith.

"They will throw everything they have at the Christian student, and if his faith remains steadfast, they will attack him on a personal basis."

Dale warned the audience about

forgetting that our nation had its beginnings in religion. She believes that the nation who forgets God is an endangered nation, and she believes in voluntary school prayer.

She told the graduates to settle for nothing less than the best for themselves, and the best from themselves, and to turn to the Bible for help and guidance on a regular basis.

She reminded them that they had the power to choose the kind of life they would have for themselves, and that she was confident that they would choose wisely and continue on the path they had started.

In closing she congratulated them and wished each of them "Happy Trails."

Following her talk, the graduates were given their diplomas from Bill Helms.

The Herman Lewis Academy, a four-year-old institution, is owned and operated by Santa Paula Free Will Baptist Church.

The school was named after Herman Lewis, the pastor of the church who helped organize the school. He was the first pastor of the Santa Paula Free Will Baptist Church.



## OHIO ADOPTS STATE YOUTH CONFERENCE

COLUMBUS, OH—Delegates to the 45th annual Ohio State Association endorsed a five-page document which became the constitution and by-laws for the Ohio Youth Conference.

Spokesman for the Ohio Youth Conference (OYC), Carl Dunn, said the constitution was the end product of a six-year effort by members of the state C.T.S. Board. The board framed the OYC to include C.T.S. activities, but is broader than that one area of training.

Citing the fact that only five percent of the state's youth were involved in C.T.S. competitive activities, Dunn said, "The OYC will minister to the other 95 percent of our youth who are not involved in competition."

The new constitution divides the state into four districts with each district divided into three geographical areas. With the adoption of the OYC constitution, the youth conference will be funded by three percent of the Ohio Cooperative Plan funds.

Moderator Wendell Combs gaveled the 380 plus delegates and visitors through the two-day business sessions which met June 24-25 at Columbus in the Heritage Temple FWB Church.

The Southern Ohio Conference, a group of three churches, was received into fellowship.

Promotional Director Alton Loveless reported that sales at Ambassador Bookstore topped the \$371,000 mark. He also related that 163 are enrolled in correspondence courses through the Ohio Bible Institute.

Three speakers preached sermons developing the 1983 theme "A Living Hope"—Ohio Pastors Oral Maggard (Wheelersburg) and Willie Booth (Cincinnati) and CONTACT Editor Jack Williams.

The 41st session of the Ohio Woman's Auxiliary registered 120. Their 1984 project is to raise \$8,000 for missions.

## 'DISCIPLING' WORKSHOP SET IN MISSOURI



GRANDVIEW, MO—Two days of "Growing By Discipling" workshops are slated October 10-11 at the Missouri Free Will Baptist Campgrounds in Niangua, according to State Sunday School and Church Training Service Board spokesman, Howard Gwartney.

Mr. Howard Ball, a layman from San Bernadino, California, and founder of Churches Alive International will lead 10 hours of instruction in four sessions beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Monday.

The October discipleship workshop is a follow up to Missouri's 1982 church growth workshop.

This year's speaker, Mr. Ball, was formerly in business in Aurora, Illinois. In 1960 he began a speaking and teaching ministry that has touched more than 40 countries and every continent of the world.

Churches Alive presently serves churches from more than 40 denominations and independent backgrounds in 40 states plus India, Sweden, Norway, Canada, and Germany.

The goal of Churches Alive is to help churches convert their members from spectators into those who minister where they live, work and play. They do this by helping church leaders develop more effective discipleship and evangelism ministries. Then they assist them to become effective in helping other churches do the same.

Howard Ball spoke at the Governor's Prayer Luncheons for state leaders in Florida and Alabama. He also developed and directed multi-national Christian leadership conferences throughout Europe. Howard led one of the four featured core curriculum seminars on discipline at the recent American Festival of Evangelism.

Mr. Ball believes that a spiritual awakening is underway and can be accelerated if the training of future pastors becomes recentered in effectively equipping their men, women and youth.

Pre-registration costs (by October 5) are \$30 per person and \$35 per couple for Missouri residents. Non-Missouri residents will be charged a \$40 per person flat rate for pre-registration. Registration fees include meals, lodging, insurance and workshop materials.

The church with the most registered (over 5) will receive a free Churches Alive Intro-Pac from the Missouri S.S./C.T.S. Board. This includes a copy of the discipleship materials published by Churches Alive and valued at \$80.

Send all inquiries to:

Missouri State S.S./C.T.S. Board  
3200 Blue Ridge Extension  
Grandview, Missouri 64030

## KENTUCKY NAMES MIKE CARTER NEW PROMOTIONAL DIRECTOR

LOVELY, KY—Reverend Mike Carter, pastor of Turkey Creek FWB Church, Turkey Creek, was elected promotional secretary by delegates at Kentucky's 44th annual state association.

Carter succeeds Reverend Richard Van Hoose who served as promotional secretary since 1979.

Outgoing moderator Lincoln Varney said extra chairs were set in the aisles at the June 17-18 meeting as more than 225 delegates and visitors crowded into Lovely FWB Church for the two-day conference.

Varney praised the sermons during the state association as the "highlight of the session." Reverend Mike Carter

and FWBBC President Charles Thigpen preached.

One constitutional change now calls for the four-member state Home Missions Board to be elected by delegates instead of appointed as has been the practice.

Former missionary to India Trula Cronk addressed 76 Woman's Auxiliary registrants on Friday.

New churches were started in the state this year at Big Creek and Nicholasville.

Riceville Pastor Herbert Arms was elected to moderate the 1984 session which meets June 15-16 at Marion FWB Church in Marion, Ohio.



## KANSAS MEETING HOISTS STEWARDSHIP THEME

EMPORIA, KS—Two out-of-state speakers keyed the Kansas State Association theme, "Stewards—Be Found Faithful," with four sermons prepared from I Corinthians 4:2, as 71 delegates and visitors gathered at First FWB Church in Emporia for the 22nd annual session.

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington spoke three times and Foreign Missions Associate Director Eugene Waddell once during the June 16-18 meeting.

Dr. Worthington preached a series—"Learn the Scriptures, Love the Savior, and Loyalty in Service." Reverend Waddell spoke on "Faithfulness in Missionary Task."

Moderator Ken Stephens, pastor at First FWB Church in Hutchinson, was reelected for a one-year term.

Anne (Mrs. Melvin) Worthington addressed 45 attendees during the Woman's Auxiliary meeting on the subject, "Put Love To Work."

First FWB Church in Wichita will host the June 14-16, 1984 session.

## KETTEMAN, SMITH KEYNOTE INDIANA MEETING

FORT WAYNE, IN—Free Will Baptist Bible College's Public Relations Director Paul Ketteman and Foreign Missions Director Rolla Smith preached the keynote messages at the June 17-18 Indiana State Association which met at First FWB Church, Fort Wayne.

State Moderator Archie Ratliff, though unable to be present at the meeting, was re-elected. Emmanuel FWB Church pastor Brian Atwood moderated the session in Ratliff's absence.

Approximately 75 delegates and visitors attended the meeting. Don Arms of Columbia City was elected state promotional secretary.

The 1984 state association will meet June 15-16 at a site to be chosen by the executive committee.

## CALIFORNIA CHURCHES BAPTIZE 661 CONVERTS

FRESNO, CA—Officials reported that California Free Will Baptist churches baptized 661 converts in the past 12 months. The baptismal statistics were compiled for delegates to the 40th annual state association which met June 16-18 on the California Christian College campus in Fresno.

Executive Secretary Paul Kennedy estimated that 400 attended the Friday evening service in the college auditorium.

Four state pastors—Richard Kennedy, Dean Moore, Edward F. (Butch) Johns, and Jonathan Yandell—

preached sermons on the association theme, "Chosen to Please Him."

Delegates re-confirmed a 1976 resolution passed by the National Association concerning the ineligibility of divorced and remarried men to serve as ministers or deacons.

Outgoing moderator Richard Kennedy was elected to the CCC Board of Trustees. Garden Grove Pastor Lynn Wood succeeded Kennedy as moderator.

The 1984 state association will meet June 21-23 at California Christian College.

## MARYLAND ENDORSES SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE

MANASSAS, VA—Delegates to the 17th annual Maryland State Association approved a resolution recognizing Southeastern Free Will Baptist College as an institution worthy of prayer and support. Southeastern College, located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, began classes in August.

The 150 plus delegation met June 24-25 in Yorkshire FWB Church, Manassas, under the conference theme, "Constrained by Love." Moderator Lester Horton was re-elected; he also serves as the state promotional officer.

A \$26,000 state budget for 1984 won delegate approval.

Free Will Baptist Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington spoke during a Friday evening fellowship banquet. Home Missions Director Roy Thomas addressed the state Woman's Auxiliary on the subject "Thou Shalt Love."

Pastors Elzo Bevan (Mt. Calvary Church, Perryman, MD) and Jimmy Hopson (Macedonia Church, Sparta, NC) delivered keynote messages.

The 1984 state association meets June 21-23 at Heritage FWB Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

## THOMAS, CARIKER LEAD VIRGINIA SESSION

ROANOKE, VA—Home Missions Department General Director Roy Thomas and Director of Evangelism Connie Cariker preached five sermons during Virginia's two-day Bible conference and state association June 16-17 at First FWB Church, Roanoke.

Speaking from the conference theme, "Church Revival and Evangelism," Thomas and Cariker urged church growth and personal soul winning as the natural outgrowth of revival in a local church.

Norfolk Pastor W. B. Hughes (Bethany FWB Church) moderated the 45th annual session and was elected to moderate the 1984 meeting next June 14-15 at Roanoke.

Sixty-five registered for the conference. Home Missionary Steve Cannon spoke at a Fellowship Banquet with 40 in attendance.

Delegates voted to enlarge the state Executive Committee from three to five members.



Pastor **Jerry McArthur** tells of nine conversions at **First FWB Church, Wichita, KS**. The church scheduled a one-day Bible conference on June 25 featuring four speakers—**Milton Worthington** (pastor, Central FWB Church, Royal Oak, MI), **Ron Carner** (pastor, Southeast FWB Church, Tulsa, OK), **Jim Puckett** (pastor, Southern Oaks FWB Church, Oklahoma City, OK), and **Jerry Rogers** (member, West Side, Wichita).

For the first time in 47 years, **Horace Doyle** missed the Arkansas State Association in August. Brother Doyle died this spring. He was a member of **Mt. Harmony FWB Church, Strawberry, AR**.

What do you plan to do on your 95th birthday? **Betty Trammell** went to Sunday School and church, according to her pastor **Ben Scott** of **First FWB Church, North Little Rock, AR**.

The *Great Bend Tribune*, newspaper in **Great Bend, KS**, carried a three-column wide picture and story when Free Will Baptist Pastor **Gary Elder** signed the documents to purchase a church building in that city. The story included the fact that the denomination has 12 churches in the state of Kansas.

They are talking revival at **First FWB Church, Augusta, GA**. They began the year with an attendance average of 40, but surged to a 70 average by late spring. Pastor **Charles Corley** has resigned his job to serve the church in a full-time capacity.

Pastor **Steve Hasty** sends a growth report from **First FWB Church, Albany, GA**. He says the church has seen 10 conversions, 10 baptisms, and 37 new members.

Dedication services for the newly finished **Northside FWB Church, Marietta, GA**, were observed May 15 according to Pastor **Ronald Wallace**. Georgia Executive Secretary **Herbert Waid** was present representing the people of Georgia and Pastor **J. E. Blanton** represented the National Home Missions Board.

The **Richwoods FWB Church, Richwoods, MO**, moved into the basement of their new building this spring. Sunday church attendance has been near the 100 mark. **Jim Parker** pastors.

Twenty-six churches participated in a state-wide walk-a-thon for missions in **California**. The group raised in excess of \$40,000.

CONTACT welcomes THE GOOD NEWS, publication of **First FWB Church, Lebanon, MO**. **Joe Braddy** pastors.

And just so you'll know that not all preachers' kids are as bad as the publicity most of them receive—**Tom Lee**, son of Pastor and Mrs. **George Lee**, received his law degree from Wake Forest University and plans to practice law in New York City. George Lee pastors **Victory FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC**.

Nineteen **Kansas** pastors and laymen attended the state men's retreat at Camp King Solomon near **Salina** in May. Speaker **David Archer**, pastor from **Glenpoole, OK**, brought messages centered around the retreat theme, "Spiritual Growth For the Church and You."

**Timothy Smith** has been named the new editor of THE NOR'WESTER, publication of the Northwest Association of Free Will Baptists. Mr. Smith resides in Salem, OR. He replaces **Joan Warren** in the editorial capacity.

Pastor **Rupert Pixley** completed 36 years as pastor of **First FWB Church, Fort Smith, AR**, this summer. Congratulations to Brother Pixley and members at First FWB Church.

Pastor **Joe Rager** reports a revival spirit at **First FWB Church, Youngstown, OH**, with numerous conversions, three baptisms, and 10 new members added to the church.

The **Georgia** Master's Men announced

a work day at **Camp Mt. Bethel** expecting 40 men to show up. Instead, 78 men rolled into camp that day eager to work on the camp site. After one enterprising soul managed to bog a bulldozer in the mud, some men convinced a passing heavy equipment operator to give them assistance. After the bulldozer was rescued from the sludge, one of the men who helped extricate the equipment indicated that he would like to become a Christian, resulting from the deeds and actions that he had witnessed. ▲

## Merry Christmas!



## In September?

Start your holiday shopping early with a gift subscription to **CONTACT**

Send us your name—along with your check for \$8.50 per gift—and a list of names and addresses of the recipients. In December, we'll send distinctive gift cards announcing your thoughtfulness.

Mail to:  
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Nashville, Tn 37202





## OUR READERS COMMENT

### COMMENTS ON PRAYER EDITORIAL

I would like, in a Christian spirit, to make a few personal comments on your article on prayer; not necessarily to be different, but to express my own convictions.

I feel that we need to be stirred by the loss of freedoms and convictions. I offer the following comments:

The issue is freedom to pray.

Some schools have had prayer, Bible use (more or less) some not, but anyone lost or saved would benefit by freedom to pray. Judeo-Christian concepts still remain interwoven in our constitution and laws.

Church meetings and other fellowships can be listless, but may God help us to pray and seek the face of God until our fellowship with Him is as alive as Jesus and His Spirit want to be in us.

Our need is freedom to pray, not compulsion to pray.

What pagans do is not the concern; it is Christian freedoms and convictions that need to be expressed.

Prayer in secret, at home, or church is right, but freedom to pray publicly is also right.

I earnestly pray that in a time that must be critical, God will help us to be a faithful witness with convictions that the world needs to see in Christians.

Freedom to teach our children Bible truths and morals are in jeopardy.

It is not just prayer. I cannot view incidents such as Lubbock, Texas, school problems in Nebraska and many others as incidents we can afford to be complacent about.

It seems as if II Chronicles 7:14 would be appropriate in school, on the job, home, church or wherever. God help us while there is time.

I long to be part of a people who refuse to bow, bend or be quiet, who dare to be John the Baptists, Isaiahs, Jeremiahs or just the Bible-preaching, Christ-living, sin-hating people God wants today.

Reverend Burnett Lunsford  
Del City, Oklahoma

### TESTED ARTICLE VALIDITY FOR HIMSELF

I have never written to you in response to the content of our magazine, but I feel the time has come.

I read the article about Mormonism in the March issue and found it quite informative and strictly paralleled my research on the subject.

Since the article carried no footnotes of the sources used, I decided to call the author about his research materials. I found him very interested in not using "second hand" information. He relied almost entirely on Mormon writings.

There are more false religions in the world and more errors than true and truth. The best place to start exposing cults is in their errors, and it is the responsibility of every Christian to know truth and expose error.

Why do so many cry "hate and bias" when godly people bring the truth of God to bear on men's traditions or in this case, gross error?

We have allowed interpretations of words and phrases in the Word to occupy far too much of our time and energies, while gross deceptions under the banner of religion are deceiving thousands into soul-damning cults. Sad to say many people do not understand that God has set the standard for the redemption of man, and He will not change it.

I suggest that we all resign ourselves to know and speak "error is never truth, and truth is never error." May we accept the Word of God as our truth, and freely let it expose the cultists with their deceptions, of whom Paul said, "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

Reverend James L. Carrington, Pastor  
Mount Olive Free Will Baptist Church  
Plymouth, North Carolina

### WON'T BE WITHOUT IT

My husband and I are no longer able to travel to the National Conventions when they are so far away.

CONTACT is our only source of keeping up on all the National news. We don't want to be without CONTACT.

Reverend and Mrs. W. T. Roberts  
Owasso, Oklahoma

MAGAZINES HAVE A MINISTRY . . .



## THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

**W**e registered more than 6,000 delegates and visitors during the National Convention this July. The years of preparation, planning and promotion were evident as conferees strengthened friendships, shared fellowship and studied the scriptures.

A spirit of cooperation and conciliation contributed to make this a worthwhile convention.

### The Factors

One factor that contributed to the convention was the excellent *facilities*. Ohio Center's facilities were among the finest we have ever used. They were clean, cool and convenient.

Another factor was the *fellowship*. One of the best things about convention time is getting together with friends from across the country. Renewing old friendships and establishing new friendships puts the sparkle in this annual July highlight.

The *focus* of this convention contributed to its success. As speakers zeroed in on the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant, we were reminded of our relationship to God and each



# Convention Comments



other. The breadth of our Church Covenant brought into focus our personal obligation to the Lord and to the organization where we serve.

The *format* of the convention program contributed to its success. The board meeting, the Bible conference, and the business sessions were well attended. There was healthy interchange as reports from the various ministries were placed before the voting body.

## The Fears

Whenever Free Will Baptists gather, our diversity is apparent. The fear of *weakness* haunts every convention. Some feel we do not speak forcefully enough on current issues, while others feel we speak too strongly.

Caution must be exercised lest as a denomination we overreact or underreact in our business sessions when dealing with issues which could be disruptive. Flexibility and fairness are always in order.

We must also contend with the fear of *wickedness*. Wickedness can never be condoned or coddled in our midst. We must stand where the Bible stands on all issues.

We must deal with wickedness in attitude, action and association. Hatred of sin must not diminish among Free Will Baptists.

Another fear which seems to plague us is the fear of exercising *wisdom*. It is

difficult to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves when we are afraid to wait before the Lord before issuing edicts. Wisdom will not be rushed.

Fear regarding the *character* and *course* of the denomination can be laid to rest when we trust, think, teach and toil together. Involvement in the local church, quarterly meeting, state association, and National Association helps overcome the fear of denominational drifting and gives denominational direction.

## The Future

There are a number of encouraging signs evident among Free Will Baptists which make the future of the National Association bright. Let us lay aside blind optimism and bitter pessimism, and replace them both with biblical realism.

The future is bright when we consider our *maturity*. The denomination is growing up, slowly and painfully. This maturity is encouraging.

Our future is bright when we consider our *monies*. Funds continue to increase each year. More and more Free Will Baptists are recognizing their stewardship responsibility to a world beyond the local church.

The future is bright because of our *membership*. More members are taking an interest in the work of the denomination. We are better informed and more involved than ever before.

The future of our denomination is bright because of the *ministers*. We have a more dedicated and disciplined ministry than at any time in our history. Our ministers have a unique opportunity to build on the foundation of those who preceded them.

The future is bright because of our *mission*. We exist to fulfill the Great Commission. This is not an option but an obligation. The field is the world. Our outreach must extend to the ends of the earth.

There is no preventive for problems, but there is a way to deal with them.

Conflict, controversy and criticism are part of our heritage and history. We still have differences and dissatisfactions. They are normal, so we need not despair when brethren disagree.

A denomination is not measured by the presence or absence of problems, but by how well it is able to resolve those problems in a manner which brings honor and glory to God. ▲

## Secretary's Schedule September 1983

<b>Sept. 6-10</b>	Little Rock, AR Convention Planning Trip
<b>Sept. 11</b>	Union Chapel FWB Church Chocowinity, NC
<b>Sept. 11-18</b>	Grace FWB Church Greenville, NC
<b>Sept. 18-23</b>	Union Chapel FWB Church Chocowinity, NC
<b>Sept. 25</b>	Unity FWB Church Smithfield, NC
<b>Sept. 26-27</b>	First FWB Church Albany, GA



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## The Quaker Prayer Meeting

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

**W**e recently had a prayer meeting with no human leader. I did not tell people when to stand or kneel, when to pray or sing. In fact, I sat in the congregation with everyone else.

There was no call to worship hymn and no opening prayer. I did explain that they were to follow their own sense of the Spirit's guidance. They could testify, pray, offer a prayer request, read scripture, sing or do any of the activities we associate with worship.

After an initial silence (or perhaps it was shock), one of our men led the congregation to sing "Jesus Loves

Me." He could barely restrain the tears.

Afterwards, someone shared a prayer request. There was a moment of quiet as the congregation waited with bowed heads until someone prayed for that specific burden. This was repeated as others made requests known throughout the service.

Some wept as they read passages from God's Word. Others sang special songs which were their testimonies. I was even called upon to dedicate three babies during the service. We concluded by singing a hymn, "My Jesus I Love Thee."

I learned from the service that God didn't always need to go through me to get people to sing, pray or testify. Sometimes we want God to lead but only according to our own agenda.

I also realized that there is a natural discomfort with silence. Instead of accepting the silence as a gift for meditation, we see it as a vacuum which must be filled. A lot of talk from preachers is "busy talk."

I also learned that preachers tend toward worship-as-performance instead of worship-as-practice. The result is often apathetic spectators in the pews.

I will continue to keep the pulpit as the central aspect of our services. However, I will seek to rediscover ways to include the pews in worship. We'll even have "Quaker Prayer Meeting" again. Don't miss it! ▲

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Floyd Wolfenbarger pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas.*

# Pastor Appreciation Sunday

**September 11**