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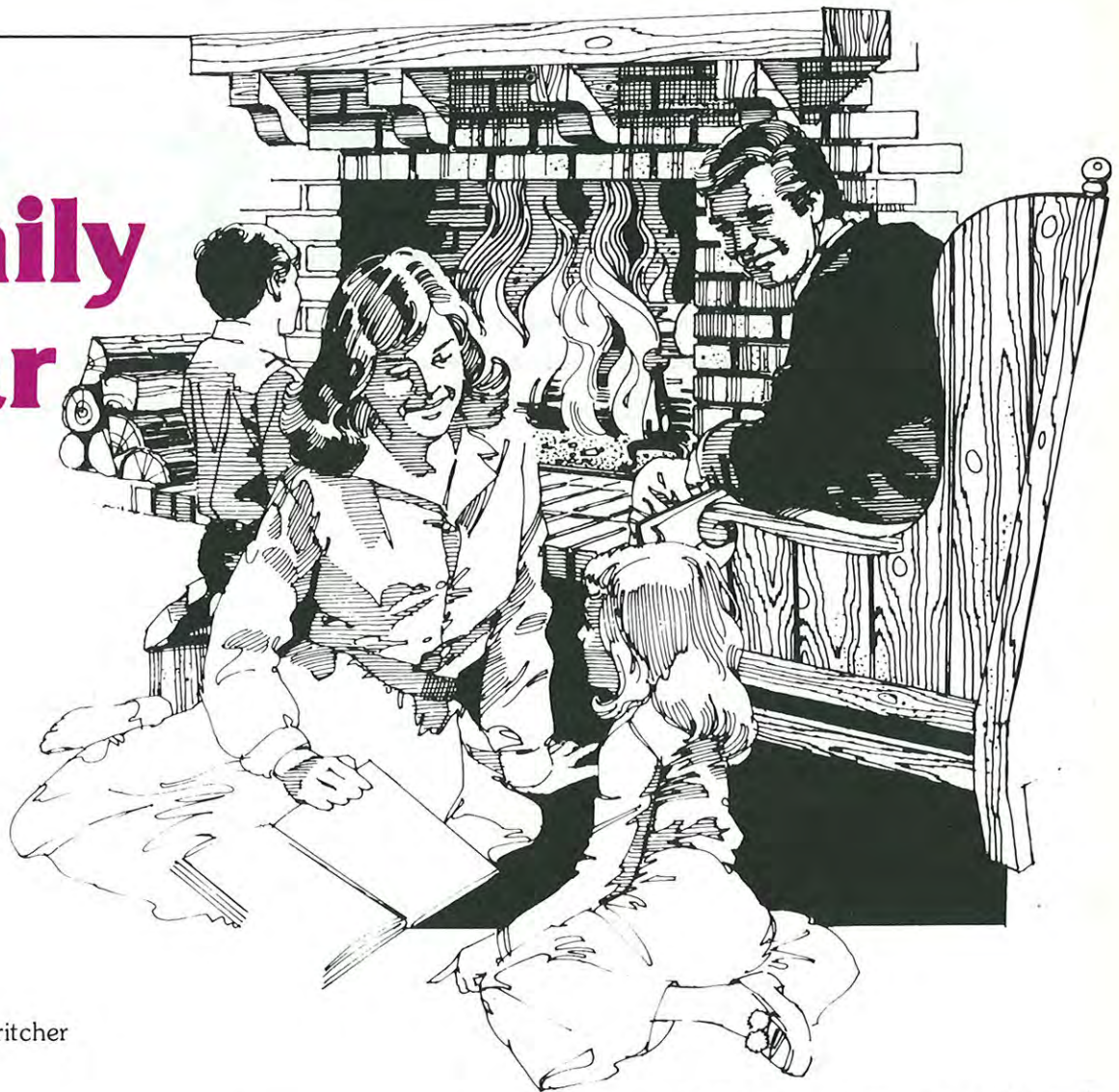
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The Relevant Gospel (Page 18)

The Family Altar



By June R. Critcher

No one seems startled or even the slightest bit surprised when he/she hears that the family is being fiercely attacked by Satan.

Satan plans his strategy in such subtle ways that many unsuspecting Christians are lulled to sleep right in his deceptive lap. He uses some of his most explosive tools to destroy the first institution ordained by God.

Concerned Christians can do something to halt family disintegration.

It is not too late to restore family unity and godly character and traditional family values.

Today God is trying to break through our crusty family exterior and speak to us. But many parents are so wrapped up in blankets of materialism and traditionalism and entertainment that they seldom hear the voice of God.

Let's turn off the television set a few minutes each day (a few hours would be even better!) and bring the family together to feed on God's Word.

Children need a cohesive setting where all the loose ends of everyday life may be pulled together. Praying and discovering biblical truth together unites the family and helps each member relate the events of the day to Jesus Christ.

Modern families are fragmented much of the time with members going separate ways. The Christian family must come together for a few minutes each day to preserve unity.

Listen to God Speak

What God has to say is more important than anything we can say to Him, so think first about the importance of listening to God speak to the family through His Word.

The Bible must always be the heart of family devotions. Parents who study the life of Christ soon discover that some of His most powerful lessons took less than five minutes' teaching time. These teaching times with our children need never be boring.

Many excellent Bible story books are available for young children. Either a parent can read a story or one of the older children may agree to read.

Asking questions about the Bible story helps children concentrate while the story is read or told. Time is well spent in making practical application of each Bible lesson.

Simple visuals can be effectively used during the Bible lesson or story. An object as simple as your salt shaker will be helpful as you teach Matthew 5:13.

One of the most helpful ways to prepare children to speak before groups is to take time during the

afternoon and coach an older child for the evening devotions. Encourage your older child to tell the Bible story occasionally.

Participation is vital to meaningful family devotions. Active participation keeps everyone interested in what's being taught.

Keep variety in your Bible lesson. One time you may want to read the Bible story, another time tell it, another time let an older child tell it, still another time have different ones act out the story with a simple skit.

Meaningful participation and variety will not just happen. Everything worthwhile in the Christian life calls for excellence. I have reminded our two children repeatedly: "Make it a life rule to give whatever passes through your hands the best you have."

We parents set the example in

teach your sons and daughters to meditate too.

Sing God's Word during family devotions. Buy one or two scripture songs tapes and learn to sing along with the musicians. Or if you have a piano, one or two nights a week sing along with the accompaniment.

Family devotions is also an ideal time to enjoy musical solos, duets, even trios. Children who sing during family times are more apt to sing before their congregations than those who are not used to singing musical specials.

Learn to Enjoy Prayer

After hearing God speak, we want to respond to Him in prayer. You might want to make a family prayer calendar with poster card, something like this one:

OUR PRAYER CALENDAR

"Men ought always to pray. . ." (Luke 18:1).

Day	Family Members	Church Leaders	Missionaries	Government Leaders	Praise And Thanksgiving
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1
2
3

excellence. The time we spend planning family devotions should be marked by excellence and a dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Be sure your planning includes a visit to a local Christian bookstore for resource material.

Include scripture memorization when the family gets together. Select a verse for each week, make a few comments on it the first day of the week, and then read it together several times the first day.

Review the verse throughout the week. Write or type the verse on 3x5 cards. If a family member is artistic, ask him/her to draw simple flowers around the card as a border. Keep it simple, yet colorful.

Keep a card on the refrigerator and maybe one on the bathroom mirror, and perhaps one on each child's dresser. (What is God teaching us in Deuteronomy 6:6-9?)

Learn to meditate on scripture with the use of these small cards. Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:2 stress the importance of meditating on God's Word. After learning to meditate on scripture,

Or you may prefer a prayer notebook. In this notebook you may want to include material suggested for the prayer calendar. These suggestions are given to help us focus on specific areas of need. Remember to keep prayer natural, conversational and suited to the length children feel comfortable with.

Family Members. Give opportunity for each family member to express any need he/she has. Encourage free expression of negative feelings during this time. Feelings of bitterness and anger and insecurity need to be dealt with and brought to the Lord.

Instead of "preaching a sermon," pray together for this family member who needs God's forgiveness and cleansing, His strength and wisdom.

Children need to hear their parents pray for them. Pray specifically for their present needs. Pray for each child's future. Pray concerning his choice of a college, life mate, future vocation or ministry.

Church Leaders. Occasionally ask



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FAMILY ALTAR (From page 3)

questions to see if your younger children are aware of the pastor's needs.

—He needs to be guided by the Holy Spirit in his ministry.

—He needs to discipline himself to spend much time in prayer and study of God's Word.

—He needs to equip believers to minister to others.

—He needs to keep his priorities in line with God's priorities.

—He needs to be a godly husband and father so his own family will teach by their very lives what the pastor teaches/preaches from the pulpit.

Teach younger children who the deacons are. Pray for each by name, perhaps one each day.

Encourage daily prayer for each child's Sunday School teacher and for the Sunday School superintendent.

Once a month is not too often to write a thank-you note to a leader in the church. Perhaps one month the father may write a note of appreciation to the pastor for his ministry and read it to the family.

The next month the mother may write to the church clerk (an often-forgotten willing worker) and thank him/her for serving the church so faithfully.

If your children are old enough to write, have them write thank-you notes to their Sunday School teachers and youth leaders.

Parents whose children are too young to write may write brief notes to their children's teachers and then read the notes to the children before mailing them.

Missionaries. Carefully read HEART-BEAT and remember specific needs. Avoid saying, "Lord, bless our missionaries." Learn the names of missionaries. Use the missions directory and attach a face to the name.

Write letters to missionaries and remember the requests when you receive replies. Your family may want to adopt a missionary or missionary family and write to this missionary or family throughout the year. Read each letter written to and received from the missionary.

Study missions literature as you acquaint family members with various cultures. Keep your information brief and interesting.

Government Leaders. Regardless of one's political persuasion, the obedient Christian remembers to pray for our President. In praying for our government leaders, pray for their private lives.

Many Christians in government must make adjustments as they care for their personal and family responsibilities while giving adequate time to their jobs. Pray that God will give our leaders wisdom. They need to know the mind of God as they vote on issues from day to day.

Pray that God will use them as His lights to dispel the darkness of sin. We need to pray fervently for our officials at the local, state and national levels.

Committed believers must never allow party preference to hinder their obedience to God's Word.

Praise and Thanksgiving. Learn to praise God! Record praise verses on posterboard or some other way. If God is important to us, as a family we will praise Him.

Develop an attitude of gratitude. Record answers to prayer. God desires that our lives overflow with thanksgiving. (See Ephesians 5:20 and I Thessalonians 5:18.)

Thank Him for family members, for good health, for the indwelling Holy Spirit, for His Word, for your local fellowship, for your jobs, for your home, and on and on.

Is It Really Worth It?

After hearing Mrs. Rolla Smith (wife of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Director Rolla Smith) share informally during a women's meeting, I asked her how family devotions had influenced her life.

"I have precious memories of our family prayer time with each of us kneeling beside his chair as Daddy prayed," she recalled. "He often called the name of each of his eight children."

She remembers that their prayer time "was not a structured routine. It just seemed to be a natural way to end the day."

Mrs. Smith recalls, "It seems it was a big umbrella of protection, giving us a feeling of security, of being loved and cared for, of being important enough for our parents to talk to God about."

Did this family time just happen? She reflects, "It took much conscious effort to maintain our family prayer time. I have heard my father say it was

something he had to work at. It is worth the effort!" she continued.

And then I wondered how a young father with two school-aged children of his own would reflect on his growing up years in a home that considered family devotions important.

So I asked Vernon Whaley (music professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College) how family devotions had influenced his life. "When I was a child, our family altar was usually right before bedtime at the end of the day. It was on one such occasion that my brother asked Christ to come into his heart," he recalls.

"My mother often used Child Evangelism flannelgraph stories. I am particularly enamored by the memory of 'Barney's Barrell,'" he said.

"As we grew older," Vernon continued, "the devotion time was switched to the morning. We had family time right after breakfast before the big get-off-to-school rush.

"I guess the most important thing our family devotions taught me," Vernon mused, "was the need to spend time with the Lord." He added, "Family devotions provided me with a sense of security in knowing I could enjoy a daily experience with God."

Is having family devotions really worth the effort? Perhaps your own testimony validates the fact that it is worth every ounce of energy parents put forth to have this meaningful time—and have it consistently.

Finding excuses for not spending time with the family in study of the scriptures and in prayer comes easily. But when we rattle off excuses, let's remind ourselves that we *make time* to do those things we feel are really important.

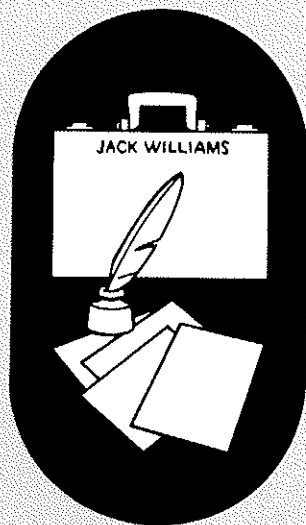
How important is your child's spiritual development? Do you put family togetherness at the top of your priorities?

Let's *make time* for family devotions. ▲



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. June Critcher is a free-lance writer who resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Briefcase



The Book Nut

I don't know of a quicker way to load up on guilt than pruning your shelves of author clutter. Once a book follows you home, it's harder to push out the door than your mother-in-law.

Books don't have cold noses and you may not have to feed them, but they're worse than beagles about finding the warm spot in your heart.

When it's time to thin your books, the first commandment is "Don't let last-minute sentiment undermine your resolve to dump junk."

That's the problem. Nobody can weed someone else's library and do it right. What's junk to you may be a literary jewel to me. Each library is a bastion of democracy and freedom of expression.

While every man's library expresses his personality and particular interests, most books in your library should relate to your life's work.

A library that looks like a haberdashery may be a precision-selected group of texts purchased to stimulate the owner's gray matter. It's almost impossible to evaluate someone else's library.

One of my close friends owns a stamp collecting library. And while he can curl up with one for hours, in my ignorance, his philatelic books bore me. If I caught them in my library, they'd be in a Salvation Army bookstall before Friday.

On the other hand, he feels the same way about my World War II volumes. But until he clobbers me with a stamp tome, I'll continue my romp through the gunfire and devastation with Tojo, Stalin, and Stuka bombers.

Avoid needless duplication. This is iffy, since what's duplication in one man's opinion is simply rein-

forcement to the next guy. The point is, you don't need 97 commentaries on Hebrews to discover what a verse means.

Don't be afraid of books that disagree with you. Some of my books are so radical that when guests browse my library, they invariably turn around at the same place on the same shelf and squint at me as if to say, "Gotcha! You can't explain this away."

Keep books that deal with the cults. I try to stay current with my favorite cultist, Herbert Armstrong—which is no easy task if you know anything about the fussing and splintering the past 10 years in the Worldwide Church of God.

The most overlooked fact in library trimming is that needs and personal reading habits change through the years. What sparked prairie fires in my soul at age 21 doesn't even crank my motor now.

Some books written for young Christians no longer interest me. From time to time, I purge them from my shelves—not because they aren't good, but because I no longer need them. It's a dirty job, but sometimes you gotta do it.

Don't be afraid to dump a book. But I hope you understand that the day you trash a volume you haven't touched since 1970, you'll uncover six reasons why you can't live without it.

Did I mention how frustrating it is to buy back a book from the Salvation Army a week after you expunged it from your shelves? Catch me some rainy Monday, and for the price of a cup of coffee, I'll sing you that sad song.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have an appointment to mow my library. ▲

I live with a family of book nuts, of whom I am chief.

My wife devours books that I wouldn't read on a bet. My daughter's bedroom wall bristles with enough science fiction to start her own book club. My son defends a wretched collection of pulp that I hope to slip aboard the next unmanned space probe to Pluto.

Even so, I've managed to toss several books in recent months. That's rougher than it sounds, since, to me, losing a book is like knifing an old friend.

But I'm not one to argue with Solomon who after perusing his own shelves, grouched, "Of making many books there is no end."

You can't read all the books printed each year in the United States. What's more, you can't read all the good books that are printed.

If you plan to hoard books, you'd better be a connoisseur, discerning in what you read and demanding in what you buy. All books are not created equal, but that won't help one bit when you're faced with dumping them.

Reaching The Military



For Christ

By Mark Thomas

The Tidewater area of Virginia has a number of military bases. All four branches of the military operate here. There are 100,000 military personnel in the area.

For several years, the people at Gateway Free Will Baptist Church searched for ways to have an effective outreach to the military. The church started a military ministry because most of those people are unsaved. No one was doing anything and we wanted to help.

The military outreach began when a few sailors heard about our church from bus workers visiting in neighbor-

hoods around the city. Young men began attending our church, and various families would take them home for a meal.

We discovered that we needed a place for the young men to stay on weekends, a place away from the bases and close to the church. Since a house was available on the church property, it became our first Servicemen's Center.

Subsequently, the church built a Servicemen's Center to house 30 men and secured a full-time staff member to work in reaching military personnel.

For a church to be effective in reaching the military, it must develop a program that honors God. In Acts we read how "daily in the temple and in every house they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

We developed a program that follows those principles. We provide a soul winning outreach to the bases on which we are working. At the present time, we minister on nine military bases. We provide transportation to all church services from the bases.

We maintain two Sunday School classes for people in the military—the Military Couples Class and the Lighthouse Sunday School Class for military singles. Sunday nights we have Christian Boot Camp (C.B.C.) and put couples and singles together for that class. Thursday nights are for follow-up. We teach 13 lessons in which we strive to make disciples out of converts.

Each Friday night we host an activity for the military folks. Every Saturday we go soul winning on various bases, try to round up folks for church ser-

vices, and talk about the Lord Jesus Christ.

A unique part of our ministry is the Lighthouse Servicemen's Center, where young men can get away from their barracks or ship and live in a Christian atmosphere. Military bases are not the most wholesome atmosphere for Christians, especially new converts.

We also have a Church At Sea ministry. We mail tapes to servicemen when they go to sea or are transferred overseas. The tapes are distributed on a loan basis. The men have 60 days to return them.

Any time a church begins to reach people for Christ, the devil will oppose it. We have faced enormous opposition from unsaved chaplains! They resent the gospel we preach and the convictions that we stand for as Free Will Baptists.

We encountered trouble getting our vehicles on bases to pick up the servicemen, and even greater trouble passing out tracts and inviting people to church. But God intervened and we secured authorization from highly-placed commanding officers. God has opened the door for us to continue our outreach.

Another problem churches face in a military ministry are the working schedules of those in the military, because there must be many people working at all times to insure the safety and defense of our country. This makes it difficult for them to attend the church services when they have duty.

It takes strong, dedicated workers to be effective in reaching military personnel. Workers must expect rejection and cursings as they invite people to church and talk to them about Christ. Military workers must be those who witness because it is a command to be obeyed, not because it is something they feel like doing.

Many churches simply cannot afford to finance a ministry like this. We provide a free, home-cooked Sunday dinner for the servicemen. The meal is a great encouragement to get them to come out to church.

There are some great possibilities for Free Will Baptist churches near military bases. We have seen many saved. Almost every service at our church now, there will be servicemen at the altar making peace with God.

We have seen Christian workers emerge from our military ministry.

There are presently three young men at Southeastern Free Will Baptist College who were reached through the military ministry. We average one young man each month who answers the call to preach.

There's a great possibility of reaching souls all over our country and the world through military ministries. When someone is reached, about the time you can get him half-way disciplined, he gets transferred. Many are sent to isolated parts of our country, or even overseas.

These young people are sent at government expense—it's like sending a "free" missionary, if they have the Lord Jesus in their hearts and are good witnesses.

There are some things you can do to help reach those in the military with the gospel. You can pray for our ministry and for other churches to begin ministries to military bases. If your church is located near a military base, talk to the officers there about picking up some of the young people for church services. You can invite the servicemen to eat with you and your family. That is a very special thing for a young person who is away from home.

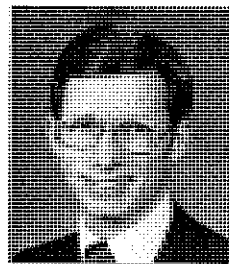
Another thing you can do is send us names and addresses of people who are in the military. Because of our

Church At Sea ministry, we can minister to people no matter where they are stationed. We would be delighted to contact them about receiving the loan cassette tapes.

Please fill out the form below and mail it to Gateway Lighthouse Military Ministries, 5473 Virginia Beach Boulevard, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462. We will contact them about our Church At Sea ministry.

If you have a friend or relative stationed in the Tidewater area, please fill out the form below and we will contact them.

If we will be faithful to reap the harvest of souls in the military, we may have the chance of bringing revival to our country and the saving gospel of Christ to a lost world. ▲



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Mark Thomas is military and visitation minister at Gateway Free Will Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee.



Name _____	Rank/Rate _____
Social Security Number _____	
Military Mailing Address _____	

The Art of Planning Your Work and Working Your Plan



You Can Do It!

By Carl Sullivan

I imagine yourself boarding an air plane and then discovering the pilot, a well-trained, qualified professional, doesn't have a destination in mind, but just likes to fly. Or you find out the pilot knows where the plane is supposed to go but he doesn't have a flight plan or clearance to get there.

I'm sure you are like me in that when you step on that airplane you want to know the pilot knows where the plane is going and how to get there.

Into which one of these examples does your church or ministry fit? Do you meet twice on Sunday and once during the week because you always have? Do you look for 300 in Sunday School but wonder why only 95 came?

I hope this doesn't describe your situation, but unfortunately this is the case in many churches. These problems are the result of a lack of planning.

Some may say that planning takes the faith out of Christianity. I believe

proper planning is an extension of our faith.

The Bible is full of examples of planning. Luke 14:28-32 records two examples of planning that Jesus used. Paul wrote to the early church "Let all things be done decently and in order" (I Corinthians 14:40). That requires knowing what is to be accomplished and how it is to be done.

The creation of this world is a perfect example of planning on God's part. Each day's creation was in the proper sequence. Nothing was created before it should have been.

Proper planning consists of two major parts: setting the objective and developing the plan. Let's consider these parts in more detail using Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1-6).

Setting the Objective

The first part in the planning process is to determine what you want to achieve. This is your objective or goal. An objective is not the work you do; it's the result that your work will achieve. No doubt you can think of several goals for your church right now and that is good.

Goals require commitment on the part of those involved. Without goals there will be no commitment; without commitment there will be little opportunity for success. Goals provide direction and sense of purpose for an organization or individual.

Therefore, the goals of the church as a whole and the leaders as individuals must be consistent. Two church leaders should not be committed to achieving conflicting objectives, as Paul wrote in I Corinthians 1:10 "... that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Another characteristic is that a goal is specific. You don't hit something if you don't aim at it. Zero-in on exactly what you wish to achieve.

Before you adopt each goal, ask yourself if you can achieve the objective. The goal should be attainable. This is one area which our faith influences.

You should decide if this is something you will do, or something God wills to do through you, or something that only God can do.

In the case of Nehemiah, most of this is settled before chapter one ends.

After hearing the report of how bad things are at Jerusalem, Nehemiah wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed (v. 4).

One can sense the decision that Nehemiah has made by how he prays. In verses 8 and 11, Nehemiah asks God to hear "the prayer of thy servant." Again in verse 11 he says "... and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this (King Artaxerxes) man. For I was the king's cupbearer."

We see the commitment that Nehemiah made as he refers to himself as a servant—one willing to do what the Master wants. The decision must have therefore been consistent with the personal aims of Nehemiah.

The events of chapter two occur about four months after chapter one. While in the king's presence, God opens a door of opportunity to Nehemiah, who makes known his specific goal in verse five "... send me unto Judah, ... that I may build it."

Developing the Plan

The second part of the planning process is developing the plan. Many of us have no trouble setting objectives. Our problem is reaching the objective. In developing the plan for obtaining our objective we need to consider four areas.

First, define the activities necessary to achieve the objective. These should be arranged in the best possible (or necessary) order. Don't forget details. Every activity needs to be given consideration, regardless of how small.

Second, time should be considered. Establish a starting time and a finishing time for each activity.

Third, review the resources. Answer the questions "Who will do the work?" "What materials will be needed?" "Is there a financial requirement? If so, from where will it come?"

Fourth and last, determine where the work is to be done. In most cases, this is pretty well fixed. However, it might be possible that some activities may be performed most anywhere.

Let's return to Nehemiah two and see how these four steps apply. In verse six Nehemiah sets forth the time frame for the king as to how long this task should take. I am sure this was not a hasty answer to the king's question. This belief is based on the details contained in verses seven and eight.

Realizing the work has to be done at Jerusalem, Nehemiah had to get there. Having selected the fastest route, Nehemiah asks for letters of conduct to the provincial governors along the route (v. 7).

In verse eight we see Nehemiah's attention turn to the material needed to perform the work. As a result a letter is sent by the king to "Asaph the keeper of the king's forest" to provide the material Nehemiah would need.

Achieving the Objective

First, keep the objective in mind. The objective is what we, through prayer and faith, have determined God would have us do. We have made a commitment to this specific item that with God's help we will try to achieve.

"Goals provide direction and sense of purpose for an organization or individual."

Nehemiah was so convinced, "I am doing a great work" (6:3). We can be that sure in our ministries as well.

Second, evaluate the work in progress. In chapter three Nehemiah makes note of those who were involved, including those who worked very well (v. 20) and those who did not work at all (v. 5).

As we set our goals and objectives, talk with other church leaders and members. Let them share in setting the goal. In helping to set the goal, they will be more eager to help achieve it. (2:17-18).

When an activity is given to someone, be sure to check back with that person to see if the work is on schedule. (By the way, effective ministers know that they cannot do it all by themselves; they are not afraid to ask someone to help.) Achieving most goals requires teamwork, so stay in touch with your team members.

Third, be aware of other influences that may interfere. Possible obstructions may arise from within (4:10-12; chapter 5) as well as from without (4:1-3; chapter 6).

Based on the assurance of our faith that what we are doing is God's will we can face these possible problems as Nehemiah said in 6:3, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, while I leave it and come down to you?"

Fourth, be willing to adjust your plan. Your plan should not be set in concrete, but your goal should be fixed. Do not be afraid to compromise, adjust or modify your plan, as long as it's not illegal, immoral or unethical.

Adjustments may be made to the plan based on the evaluation of the work and/or the external or internal influences. But keep the objective in mind. The wall at Jerusalem was built even though half of those who could have worked stood guard (chapter 4).

Through the course of time, planning has helped to bring many successes. The lack of planning can account for most failures. For the Christian, planning is essential.

The better prepared we are to face situations that come before us, the better God can use us in His service. The Lord may come back tomorrow. And we should live accordingly. But if He tarries His coming, what will we accomplish for Him?

Planning for tomorrow, setting goals and developing a course of action to reach those goals, will help us to "redeem the time" (Ephesians 5:16). ▲



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Carl Sullivan is a deacon in Central Free Will Baptist Church, Huntington, West Virginia. He is the Master's Men State Senator for West Virginia. A graduate of Marshall University, Mr. Sullivan is employed as Accounting Superintendent for Huntington Water Corporation.

Fitting Into God's Family

By Sheila D. Scarborough

After Sunday School, I overheard a 5-year-old describe my handicapped daughter's presence in her classroom that day.

"Mommy," she said, "the new girl in class can't walk fast and doesn't talk. Just makes funny noises, but I helped her paste pictures in her book, and she laughed and smiled at me."

This could very well be any child's reaction to someone who may be different entering their Sunday School class. Someone they have not yet encountered in life.

A friend's hearing-impaired son got this reaction, "You just gotta come and see the new boy here. He's got two telephones in his shirt, and buttons in his ears!"

During the past 10 years while parenting a multi-handicapped child, I've seen non-handicapped children exclude my daughter from their activities because she was unable to fully participate or because they didn't know how to include her. Many Sunday School teachers have done the same.



But at the same time, I admit that I've also seen handicapped children with varying disabilities—mental retardation, blindness, physically handicapped, behavior problems—show very poor social skills. And the non-understanding was due to a lack of understanding on both parts.

Because these situations are all too real, I wonder how we might fit them into the families of our Sunday School classes and junior churches, and increase the rewarding aspects of integrating or mainstreaming handicapped and non-handicapped children together.

Then, perhaps, the amazement the young girl had because of my daughter would be minimized.

Startled reactions of the non-handicapped child to the handicapped is

typical though because of non-exposure. Mainstreaming would produce understanding and changes in how other people are treated and add new challenges to our already established programs.

The logic behind mainstreaming is when non-handicapped and handicapped children are placed in the same programs, all manner of mutually wonderful things might occur.

Through this mainstreaming process handicapped children will have opportunities to interact with their more advanced peers and be encouraged to develop higher levels of achievement, better understanding relationships, and more appropriate behavior.

The standard procedure now if there is a handicapped child in your Sunday

School is to place that child in a segregated area or the church nursery. Some would say for their own protection. But who is protecting whom?

This hinders our non-handicapped children's exposure to different kinds of handicapping conditions. This exposure would discourage our handicapped brothers and sisters from being labeled.

It may take some planning on the part of a good Sunday School teacher to attain the desired results when children with divergent abilities and interests are placed together, but think of the results. I believe the results would be worth the effort.

Some children may need to be taught to be "cooperative" and share, but a good teacher could guide and teach cooperative sharing where it doesn't exist. Encouraging the handicapped child is as important as encouraging a non-handicapped one.

They need to know when they are correct, incorrect, or just simply making progress. The more alike handicapped children are treated and expected to behave, the more alike they will become.

Also, non-handicapped children will ask questions concerning their handicapped classmates, and a teacher's response will do much to foster healthy acceptance or rejection of that classmate. It should be clear from the teacher's behavior that she cares for each child in her class the same way.

Teacher, do not alienate. Over-protection will alienate the non-handicapped from the handicapped child or children. You are showing partiality. Children should be encouraged to feel and behave the same toward their peers.



As more and more handicapped children are involved, very few special adaptations will have to be made. Usually common sense, an open attitude, and basic background information are the best tools a teacher needs.

The theory behind mainstreaming is to put handicapped and non-handicapped children back into the "mainstream of life." The child with a disability is very much a part of the real world. When you get the two groups

together, it will be striking to see how much more alike they are than different.

In such a program, the Sunday School class and junior church will become places where children learn the merit of making new friends. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Sheila D. Scarborough is a member of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. Her 5-year-old daughter, Shawna, is a multiply-handicapped child.

The Ignored Sin

By Nancy Smith

Did you know that a number of people do something that offends other Christians and are not even aware of it?

I speak of overeating! This body-abusing sin is widespread (no pun intended).

Many overeat unconsciously. How do I know? I've done it, too. I was one of them. And it showed! When I overate in private, it showed up in public.

It is inconsistency when you say you've laid your life on the altar for God, but the rolls around your middle tell a different story.

And oh how confusing it is to see a preacher waddle into the pulpit to preach about clean living, when he is exceedingly, abundantly overweight. You'd think that he'd have better control of what goes into his body. After all, didn't I read that our bodies are the Temple of God?

The devil defeated me at the dinner table for years. I waffled from one diet to another. Some worked and I lost pounds, but as soon as I started back on my regular diet again, I always gained back every pound, and more.

I had prayed and done everything I knew to do. Still I was saddled with those extra pounds.

Finally, after years of battling fat, I admitted I had a problem I couldn't handle. I joined Weight Watchers and went for a few weeks. They taught me how to plan my eating in a very simple way so as to start a slow, steady weight

loss without any crash diets and without starving myself.

Although it's the primary responsibility of each person to push back from the table in time, nutrition and balanced meals are usually controlled by the lady of the house.

If our children were taught about good nutrition, balanced meals and moderation in all things while young and impressionable, just think how easy it would be for them to continue in that pattern when they're older.

We hide behind words like portly, stout, and matronly. But gluttony by any other name still spells sin. I pray that church and denominational leaders will recognize gluttony in their lives and seek help. And if they won't do it for God, then perhaps for the sake of their own health.

If this is a problem for you, admit it and get busy. There is a thinner you hoping to emerge.

My eating once controlled me instead of me controlling it. Learn from my mistakes. Food is good, but fat is grievous to God.

Being seriously overweight means that everything in one's life is not under control.

It's a sin we live with every day. But with God's help, you can pass a mirror without looking the other way! ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Nancy Smith is a slender mother of two children. She's a member of Sylvan Park Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.



Somebody's Brother

By Steven Hasty

The doorbell rang repeatedly, insistently, with a note of urgency. I ran through the house to the back door where I saw a black man, unkempt and dirty standing outside with a troubled look on his face.

"Should I open the door?" I wondered, until I recognized him as one of the construction workers on a drainage project down the street from our house. I reached to unlock the door.

"Call an ambulance!" he said somewhat shaken, turning on his heel to leave.

"What's wrong?" I asked, hoping to relay the information to the dispatcher.

"A man's been electrocuted."

There wasn't time to think or feel, that would come later. After dialing 911, I ran outside to see for myself.

A young man, 19, sprawled on the ground surrounded by a half-dozen fellow workers. No one was doing anything. He was already purple, his eyes motionless and half-open. Below a mustachioed upper lip, his mouth

drooped. His chest was still.

The thought raced through my mind as I knelt down beside him in the clay, "I haven't done this in years." I ripped off my necktie and instinctively tilted his head back.

I was a bit rusty since leaving police work 12 years ago. I placed my mouth fully over his and blew into his body. Air whistled through his nose. "Oh, yeah," I remembered, "Pinch his nostrils."

A man standing nearby pleaded, "Oh, God, save him! He's my brother!" I was glad somebody was praying, because I was busy trying to remember what to do next.

"You'd better clear the passageway," someone suggested. He had been chewing tobacco when the accident occurred. I was glad for the reminder. I sensed that the man making the suggestion could help. I looked up at him.

"Do you think you could do this?" I questioned. He nodded and then took over while I started the heart massage. The victim's color improved.

Emergency medical technicians (EMT's) arrived with the ambulance. One inserted an airway and began to pump pure oxygen into the victim's lungs. A police officer began administering CPR, while another EMT alternately monitored defibrillation on an

electrocardiogram and shocked the victim with electric paddles.

His purplish color faded, then returned. The life-and-death struggle was not yet won. Fifteen minutes had elapsed when I became aware that the medical resources might not be enough. Standing in the middle of a crowd of people, I bowed my head and asked God for His help.

The situation improved immediately. I overheard a technician say softly, "We've got 30 beats per minute." Within seconds the ambulance's siren blasted an opening through the traffic and hurried to the hospital.

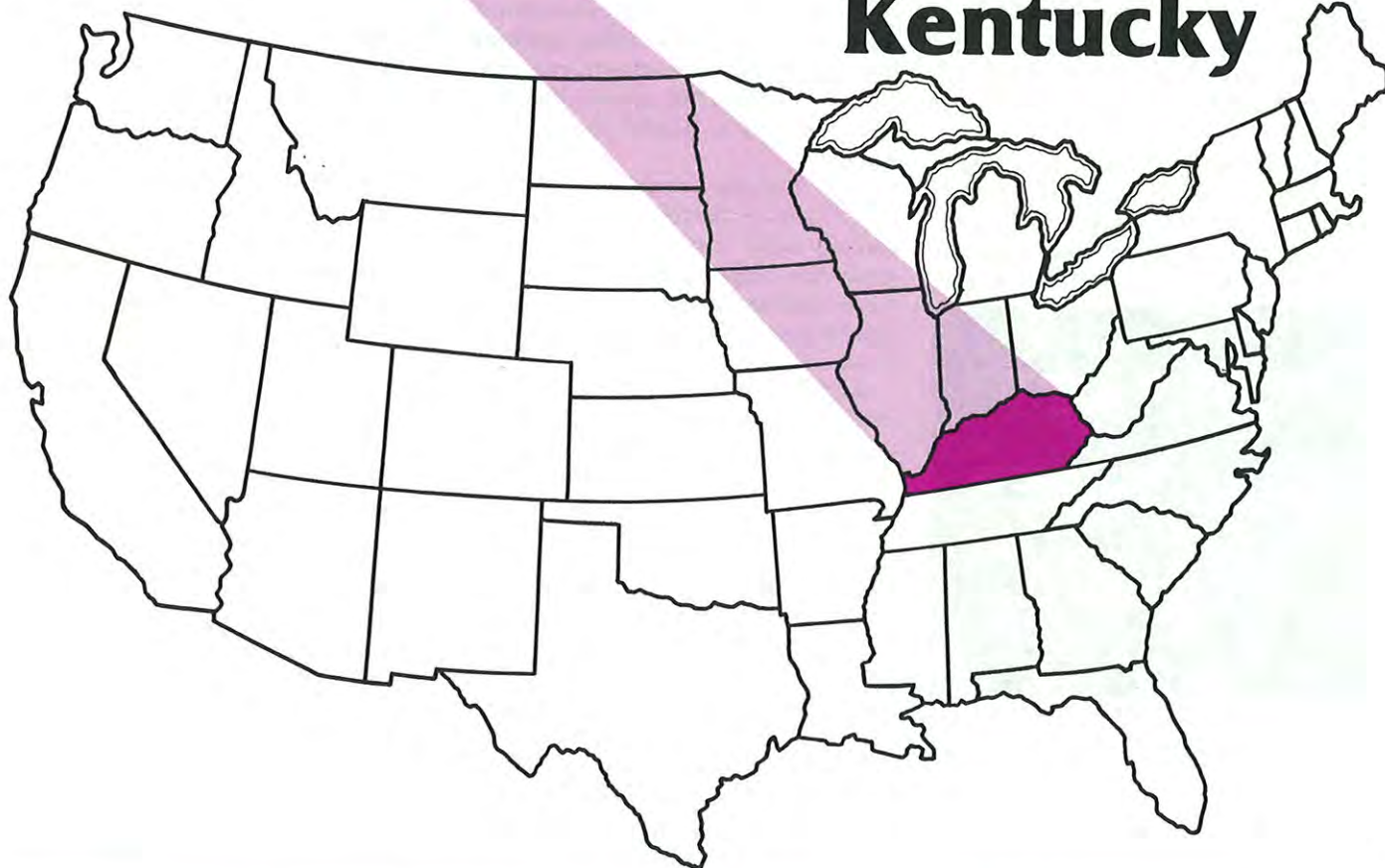
Emotion swept over me like a tidal wave. God had saved and called me to minister to a lost and dying world. I felt strangely fulfilled.

I wept as cross-currents of thoughts and feelings swirled around me. The world had nothing to compare with the "high" of being used of God, in the right place at the right time.

"God save him! He's my brother!" echoed through my memory. How many *Somebody's Brothers* are there who are dead, damned and doomed out in the world? Let's introduce them to the One who gives new life. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Steven R. Hasty pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Albany, Georgia.

Spotlight On Kentucky



By Mike Carter

KENTUCKY, stretching across the Appalachian Mountains in the east to the Mississippi River on the west, from our friendly neighbor Tennessee on the south, to the liquid northern border formed by the Ohio River, is one of the traditional boundaries between the Northern states and the Southern states.

KENTUCKY leads the United States in total coal production. This valuable resource is mined in the eastern and northwestern counties.

KENTUCKY sparkles with the beauty and excitement of such attractions as Cumberland Falls, Mammoth

Cave, and Natural Bridge. And on the Virginia border lies the Breaks of the Big Sandy, commonly called "The Grand Canyon of the South."

KENTUCKY got its name from a Cherokee Indian word whose possible meanings include "Land of Tomorrow" and "Meadowland." Another possible meaning, "The Dark and Bloody Ground," is often used as a nickname for the state.

KENTUCKY sports such names as Daniel Boone, Henry Clay, and Mary Todd Lincoln (wife of 16th president Abraham Lincoln).

KENTUCKY'S Fort Knox houses the nation's gold reserves, but that is not the real treasure stored in our state.

The real treasure is the Kentucky State Association of Free Will Baptists, comprised of 10 quarterly meetings,

141 churches, 12,749 members, 416 ordained ministers, 358 ordained deacons, and church properties valued in excess of \$10 million.

KENTUCKY has a missions outreach that brings glory to God. In Cannonsburg, Heritage Temple FWB Church is a National Home Missions project headed by Rev. Bob Shockey.

In Paducah, Rev. Wayne Williams leads a joint project of the National and State Home Missions, and in Lexington, Rev. Sandy Adams plans to bring First FWB Church to self-supporting status this year. This work is also a joint project of National and State Home Missions.

KENTUCKY'S Ledge and Sharon Ferguson are missionaries to Ivory Coast. They are in their second term of service and are from the Cherokee

KENTUCKY (From page 13)

FWB Church at Blaine.

Mark and Donna Daniels have been appointed to missionary service in Ivory Coast and plan to depart this fall. They are from the Southside FWB Church at Paintsville.

KENTUCKY, during 1982, gave \$62,582.77 to the National Foreign Missions Department (\$5,582.77 over quota); and \$72,516.82 to National Home Missions (\$32,516.82 over quota).

In 1983, with the economic crunch and with nearly all the mining industry at a halt, Kentucky continued to increase the total gifts to missions with \$65,336.03 to Foreign Missions and

\$77,439.47 to Home Missions.

KENTUCKY is making an effort to educate its people through Bethel Bible Institute. President Bob Shockey constantly strives to improve and expand this much-needed ministry.

The Institute takes the classes to the local church and also makes Bible study available through correspondence courses. Bethel Bible Institute plans to expand in order to reach as many local churches as possible. This type ministry is helpful to the local pastor.

The Institute recognizes the fact that the local pastor is the key to a strong local church and that by educating laypersons the pastor will have qualified people on the job for teaching and working in and through the local church.

KENTUCKY is interested in the ministry to our youth as seen in the work at Camp Caleb Christian Camp and Adult Conference Center. This mammoth project is led by James Cox of Paintsville.

Camp Caleb, covering 400 acres, nestles in the rolling countryside between Paintsville and Louisa. The Camp will minister to 2,000 youth each summer.

Completion of the Camp is targeted for 1987 at a projected total cost of \$1.5 million. This is a real bargain since the value of the property and facilities will top the \$2.5 million mark. The camp has its own water supply, sewage treatment, and natural gas well.

Upon completion the camp will operate year-round in the Adult Conference Center with retreats and activities for all ages. The camp also has adjacent room for growth and fully realizes its ministry as a help to the local church.

KENTUCKY'S Tim York is the most recent addition to full time evangelism in our denomination. Brother York is a fine preacher and an excellent example of character for our younger Kentuckians to follow. He is from Louisa.

KENTUCKY has just given birth to a State Master's Men Association. The organization was born in October 1983 when Brother Jim Vallance, the National Director, visited Turkey Creek Free Will Baptist Church at the request of Brother Ed May who had planned a meeting for all Master's Men groups in the state. Brother May was

elected as the president.

The organization published the first issue of their monthly state-wide newspaper, *Under God*, with 2,000 copies professionally printed in April 1984. Plans are now being made to lead the men of Kentucky into faithful stewardship for the Master.

KENTUCKY'S women are busy in the Woman's Auxiliary. The state president, Sister Francis Varney, is the wife of Rev. Lincoln Varney who pastors First FWB Church at Louisville.

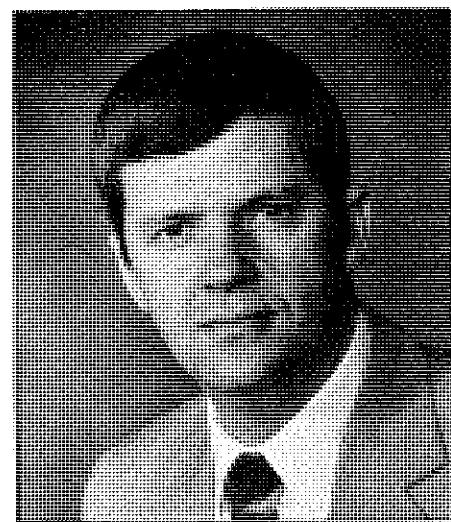
The Kentucky State Woman's Auxiliary contributed \$2,052.48 to the National Foreign Missions Department and \$2,086.33 to the National Home Missions Department during the year ending May 31, 1983.

KENTUCKY'S treasure of Free Will Baptists will never run dry. There are reservoirs of untapped souls and spiritual resources in our great state. There is also some diversity, and who could think that strange; remember the Civil War?

KENTUCKY has Free Will Baptists and Free Will Baptist churches of every sort and kind that you would find anywhere in the world, but they are all Free Will Baptists.

Though we do not always agree on methodology, we do continue to love Christ and give of ourselves and our resources to promote the success of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Kentucky's doors are opened wide to those who love Christ and long to serve Him with what they have. ▲



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Mike Carter pastors Turkey Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Turkey Creek, Kentucky. He is the promotional director for Kentucky Free Will Baptists.

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Free Will Baptist Music Ministries

Keys To Better Church Music

By Doug Little

The music quality in the church depends more on keyboard musicians than anyone else. A good pianist and organist add richly to the sound, even in churches with weak congregational singing, choirs, and special music. On the other hand, the finest vocal talents can be significantly hindered by inability at the keyboards.

The keyboard musician assumes heavy responsibility. His attitude toward service should set an example of humility before other church musicians—to be in the spotlight and yet serve so as to focus attention and praise on the Lord instead of self.

Talents, which in a carnal mind are a source of pride and divisiveness, must be submitted to the Lord to bring glory and honor to His name. A commitment to excellence in ministry is more evident at church keyboards than anywhere else.

The musician who strives to offer his best to the Lord has great influence on others in even non-musical ministries.

Where does a church find an ideal pianist? What resources can help a music director develop accompanists to their fullest potential? How can a sincere musician improve his ability to minister to the church at an instrument?

These are critical questions. Fortunately, there's a growing awareness on the part of churches concerning the spiritual ministry of music and musicians.

There's a broad scope of resources now available to assist church music leadership and individual musicians in development and training of quality musicianship and spiritual maturity in service. Christian bookstores offer a variety of materials in this field.

Rather than list such resources, it's of greater benefit here to emphasize that pianists and organists are people, too. This implies that the best investment toward having excellent keyboard musicians is in building a relationship of trust, appreciation, and encouragement.

Church music leaders—pastors, choir directors, full-time ministers of music, lay song leaders—should take the initiative to build a solid ministering relationship with those who accompany church music. Usually such attention is reserved for choir members, soloists, or those in special groups.

Keyboard musicians invite criticism with little effort—a missed note, a sour chord, an improper attitude. But they are also fertile soil to receive seeds of encouragement, love and appreciation.

Church members in general, and music leadership in particular, would do well to take the time to say that dependability and the use of talents for the Lord are appreciated. A subscription to *The Church Musician* or *Pedal-point* (published by Southern Baptists), or a book on church keyboard musicianship would help say it with style and appreciation.

Interested in making a difference for your accompanists? There are several practical things you can do that will produce great results for the time and money you spend:

(1) Talk with your pianists and organists. Ask them how you can help them do a better job.

(2) Pray for them, just as you do the pastor, the choir, the Sunday School teacher. Their success in ministry depends on the Holy Spirit, not their natural ability.

(3) Seek to develop potential in those who play, even children just beginning to study piano.

(4) Investigate resources available for training. Talk with other music leaders, attend workshops, read books on the subject.

Pastor Ted Wilbanks at Grant Avenue FWB Church in Springfield, Missouri, has much experience in music ministry and is a highly qualified instrumentalist himself. He will speak on this subject at the Music Ministries Breakfast at the National Convention this month.

If you're coming to Little Rock, come have breakfast with us on Tuesday morning and learn more about developing and working with keyboard musicians in your church.

Musicians are valuable members of your church's ministry team. Because of that, they're deserving of constructive, growth-inducing attention from church leadership.

Have your accompanists been neglected? Help them grow spiritually; let them know you care. Make it possible for them to become better musicians. Your church music ministry will reap the benefits. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Doug Little, president of Free Will Baptist Music Ministries, is minister of music at Southern Oaks Free Will Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Children's Church—

The Purpose and Worship

By Linda Gilliland

One of the most challenging and rewarding ministries of the church is that of children.

With the growth of the bus ministry came the realization that some type of program would have to be developed to minister to bus children. Sad to say, in many cases children's church was begun simply to alleviate a crowding or discipline problem caused by bus children who were ill-mannered and undisciplined.

The logical solution? Put them off in a place with anyone who was willing to give an hour a week in service to the Lord. Many times children's church



was no more than an hour of baby-sitting—neither fruitful or productive as far as any eternal value could be determined.

Later when those same ill-mannered, undisciplined children grew old enough to stay in morning worship service, they still wanted to play—a fact which has caused many congregations to frown on, or even abolish children's church.

The Planning

An effective children's church—one with a real ministry to children—does not just happen. Much prayer and planning must take place.

Children's church workers are totally removed from Sunday morning worship and fellowship, so it is important they be involved in Sunday evening and Wednesday evening worship. Their Christian life needs to be consistent and they must be dedicated to the ministry with children. The workers must view their positions as an opportunity to win, teach, and train those children to whom they minister each week.

Without this vision and burden, the real purpose of children's church will never be fulfilled.

The Participation

Singing, praying and reading God's Word are all part of worship and children should be encouraged to participate. However, it is difficult for children to share in the adult services.

Grown-up words can be confusing. My son questioned one Sunday afternoon, "Mommy, I did not know that Jesus had a trumpet for a nose." I told him as far as I knew, Jesus' nose was just like ours.

"Well," he continued, "that's what we sang in church this morning. 'Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty trumpet for a nose.'"

I explained to my four-year-old that when Jesus rose from the grave, He triumphed over his foes. In children's church the songs are written for children to understand and the unfamiliar words are explained as the songs are learned.

It can be comical to watch a child try to keep his head bowed and eyes closed during the morning prayer.

Children's church gives the young ones a chance to talk to God in their own words. They need to know that God is interested in what they have to say. Now is the time for them to learn that prayer will help them in making decisions—as children and as adults.

Many questions cannot be asked in an adult worship service, whereas children's church offers opportunity for first-hand explanation.

The Program

Bible lesson time becomes special to children as they are taught on a level they can understand—within a time frame designed for their attention span.

As a child I heard many sermons on the Trinity. I could not understand how one person could be three people. In my mind He was monstrous looking—one body, three heads.

I understood it better as I was preparing an object lesson for children's church. Using a simple egg I explained to the children that while I only had one egg, there were three parts—the shell, the white, and the yolk. Even so, there is one God yet three personalities—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Simple, yes; but definitely effective.

Using object lessons or any visuals

that are familiar to children help them understand Bible truths that otherwise would confuse them. Children visualize in concrete objects. They relate to things they know and understand.

The Product

Because children's church is directed at the child's level, the children look forward to it. Soon, they begin to realize that they are special to God—that He cares about them. Their own worship service is special to them.

They learn that God's House is a special place, His Book is a special Book, talking to Him through prayer is a special time, and singing about Him is a special privilege.

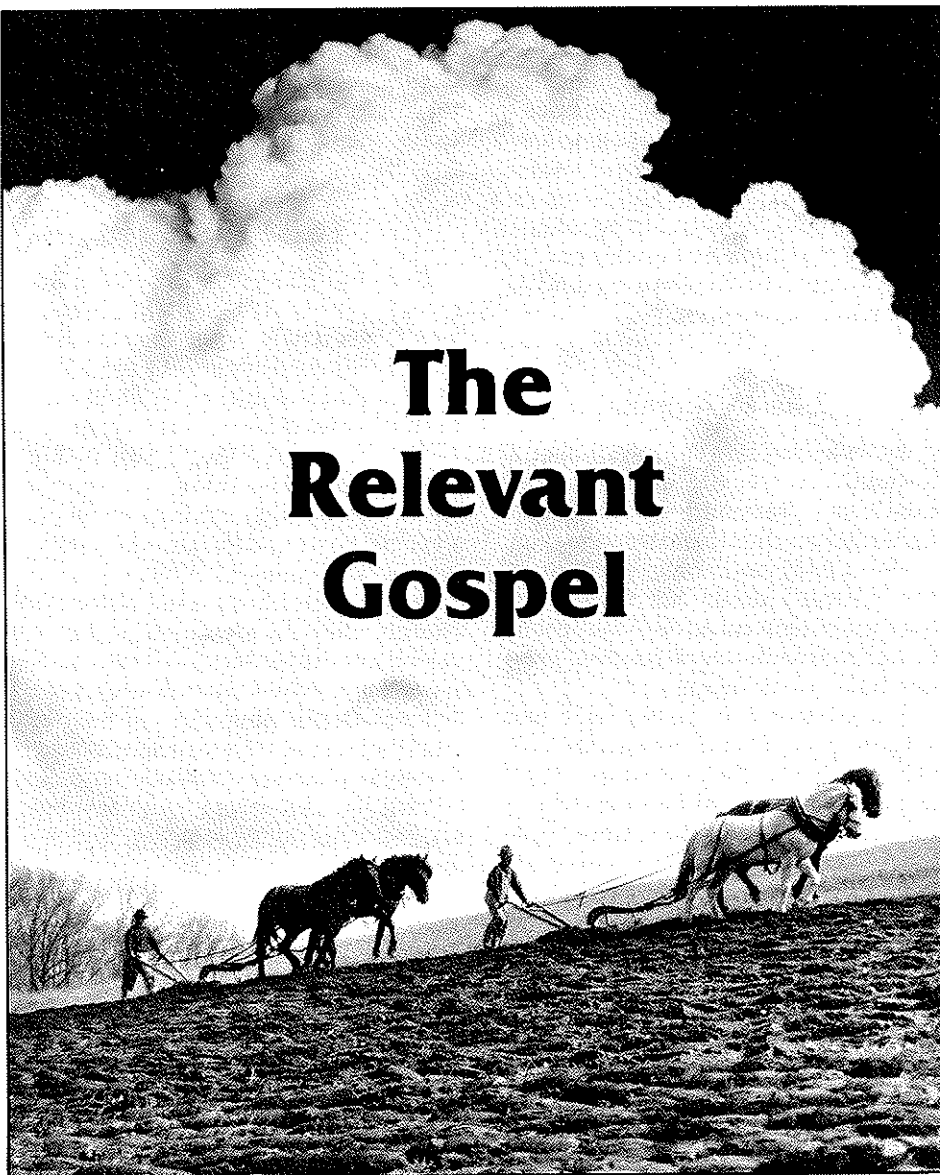
In an effectively directed children's church, children are taught to be involved in worship service. The results are evident when you observe your children in the sanctuary on Sunday and Wednesday nights participating in the worship service—not writing notes, talking, or destroying hymnals; but singing, praying, worshipping, and responding. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Linda Gilliland is a member of Oak Park Free Will Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where her husband, John, pastors.

Coming Next Month . . .

- Growing Up With A PK
- What Happens When The Pastor Gets Sick?
- There's A Woman In The Parsonage
- How Much Authority Does The Pastor Have?

The Relevant Gospel



By Bailey Thompson

Paul believed the gospel was relevant to the times in which he lived. We believe it's relevant to our time, and, because we recognize what the gospel can do, we preach what Paul preached—"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

The greatest challenge in preaching is making the gospel apply to the hearers. The minister's chief business is to be aware of his congregation's needs. He need only visit his parish to find relevant preaching material.

People are interested in preaching that touches their lives and affects their souls. The gospel, when preached, *will* affect the hearers. Whatever task is involved in making the gospel relevant, the minister has that responsibility.

The problem, of course, is that a congregation, on any given Sunday, may come to worship services with dozens of unrelated problems. Many have family problems, problems with their children, husband and wife problems, financial problems, and moral problems.

Seated in our churches are people whose homes may be broken before Friday; someone may have committed suicide or some young lady may lose her virtue before she returns to church next Sunday morning. All of these possibilities make one sermon rather

difficult.

However, we have confidence in the gospel when it is preached by the power of God, that by some means, it will meet the needs of those who hear it. God has always had a way of speaking to people that we do not understand.

There are four things that make the gospel relevant to past generations, this generation and the generation that is to come.

Relevant Because It Is God's Command

Peter said, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21). The Bible is "thus saith the Word of God."

Hebrews 1:1-2 confirms, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken to us by his Son . . ."

Paul's summation in II Timothy 3:16 is the favorite of many, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine . . . reproof . . . instruction . . ."

The point is simply this, the Bible is the inspired Word of God. When you know that and believe that, the gospel is relevant.

Inspiration

I have struggled with inspiration, and been to the altar more times over it than any other subject or problem. Some never had a problem with inspiration, but that has not been the case with me.

I did not know what "plenary verbal" inspiration meant until a few years ago. I was told it meant that every word was inspired, leaving room for the personality of the writer. And that just made it worse for me.

I guess I believe in verbal dictation. I believe that if God said it I am to believe it. I read that inspiration means that God so directed that the Word was written without error. That statement satisfies me.

I do not care if the personality of the writer is involved; I just know that God ordained it, and God directed it, and God made it possible so that it is without error.

Some say that has to do with the original manuscripts. That is fine with me, but I have confidence that the Bible is "thus saith the Word of God." It is God's command, and it is relevant to the people to whom we are preaching.

Unchangeable

God's word is unchangeable. In this world of rapid change, I'm glad some things do not change. God's word cannot change. That makes it relevant.

If society changes, man basically is the same. He's in sin, that's his problem. People with a sin problem need to confess it. Preaching the gospel will stop a lot of counseling in the office.

God's word is unchangeable because God cannot lie. Hebrews 6:16-20 relates to this unchangeability which makes the gospel relevant.

The gospel was confirmed by an oath by two immutable things. Those two immutable things were the Word of God and His Son. This hope becomes the anchor in our souls. As the anchor enters into the sea which is its proper place, so Christ entered into Heaven itself, to His proper place, and took the anchor and laid hold on something that's everlasting.

Jesus is the incarnate living oath of God, His word of promise made flesh. The word of God is our anchor, but the anchor needs an anchorage. So Jesus the forerunner has taken that anchor into the veil and fastened it to the rock of ages!

David said, "Oh, Lord, thy word is forever settled in Heaven."

We live in a day when you can hear about everything in the world, and some call it preaching. Preach the Word—it is still relevant because it is God's command. God's command is always most relevant when it is applied. When people apply it, they say, "Hey, that works!" It always has.

Relevant Because It Convicts Men

Jesus said in John 6:44, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I

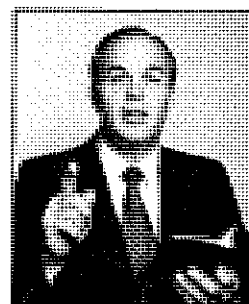
will raise him up at the last day."

The Word of God through the Holy Spirit convicts men. The best place to see this picture is in the early church.

Pentecost

Peter preached a message on Christ, His death and resurrection. In Acts 2:37, the scripture says, "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

"The greatest challenge in preaching is making the gospel apply to the hearers."



You can tell all the stories and read all the clippings from the newspapers you like. What people need is the gospel that will convict them of sin.

When Peter saw them convicted, he told them to repent. They were touched by preaching. People are still touched by preaching today. That is why it is relevant.

Peter

Acts 5 shows us the same thing happening again. Peter was preaching after a short stay in prison. The angel came, released him from prison and told him to go preach. He went, he stood, and he spoke.

The Jewish council accused Peter of filling Jerusalem with his doctrine. Peter and the other apostles replied, "We ought to obey God rather than men." "When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them." They were convicted by the gospel.

Stephen

Stephen was a good deacon. Take a good look at his sermon in Acts 7. He worked his way through the sermon to

its conclusion in verse 51.

I've been told that when you preach you give them thunder and then when you get ready to give the invitation, you get nice and tell them that God loves them. Stephen had not read a book on how to give an invitation, so he did not know how to get his sermon to a conclusion. Read this invitation in verses 51-54. When he finished, the result of his sermon was, "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth."

But Stephen, full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfast to heaven, and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing on the right hand. I guess he thought, "Thank God for the convicting power of the Holy Spirit."

I believe that Saul could never get away from Stephen's convicting sermon until he met Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Paul

Paul before Agrippa, said, "I am glad you asked me to speak for myself." He gave Agrippa a sermon about righteousness and judgment. Festus screamed, "Paul, you are mad."

God's word had convicted Festus of his sin. When Paul concluded the message, Agrippa said, "Paul, you've almost persuaded me to be a Christian." The gospel convicts men.

Relevant Because It Changes Men

Organizations to relieve the afflicted are fine, but the real cure is a changed life by the power of God. Moral issues



RELEVANT GOSPEL (From page 19)

are not sickness; they are sin problems.

I have seen God change men that some would say were impossible, but God works in the department of the impossible. The gospel will change men's lives. (See II Corinthians 5:17.)

Read I Corinthians 6:9-11. When Paul finally stops his list of terrible sins and sinners, he reminds the Corinthians, "And such were some of you."

I am telling you, the gospel will change people's lives!

Ephesians 2:1-6 paints the same dark picture until the gospel broke through the darkness of sin. The gospel changes people and that's what makes it relevant.

Paul is a great example of a changed life. He persecuted the church by killing Christians. But when God struck him down on the road to Damascus, he was a changed man from that day. He was as strong for Jesus as he had been for Satan. Not many people were worse than Paul.

The minister's greatest reward is to see men's lives changed. I have seen many people saved, seen homes and lives salvaged that were near despair. I have seen those converts be faithful in church, heard them pray, and become my best friends. It is good to enjoy the rewards of changed lives. Sometime when you are feeling about as low as you can feel, think again about the folk in your church that God has changed.

Relevant Because It Speaks of the End

Where can I find out about the future? The best place is to look at the word of God. God's word has enough to say about last things to satisfy me.

He said the heaven and earth would pass away. That's pretty simple. He said, "Set your affections on things above and not on things below," and that helps.

Ephesians says it like I want to say it. In chapter two, He said He'd raise us up to sit together in heavenly places that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace and His kindness toward us through Jesus Christ. Keep that in mind a minute.

He is going to show the exceeding

greatness of His grace in the final consummation. He's showing it now, and He has shown it, but He's going to show it once and for all at the end of time.

Do not allow thoughts of the future to rob you of realizing that He is reigning now, that He is glorified now, that the crown is on His brow. He is the King and He is going to come again as King, so do not let the hope of the future rob you of the blessing of today.

It is a privilege to be a Christian. It is an honor to be a child of God. Look around you today. People vie for positions and pay great sums of money for honor. But you don't have to push and shove for honor or a position. You and I hold the greatest position in all the world.

It aggravates me to watch some of our preachers pushing and shoving to get to the top. If you are saved, you're already at the top! You are already sitting in heavenly places—what else could a man want?

When you feel weak and you're unable to cope, and are conscious of the forces that are against you, I remind you of something. He is the head over all things, and to Him you belong.

Nothing can thwart Him, for He is the master of all. He defeated the devil on the earth, routed him on the cross, and, finally, He is going to cast him in a

lake of fire. So, get your head up!

There is more good news. Just as sure as Jesus rose from the grave, we are going to rise from the grave. The reason is simple—if the head has risen, it is a guarantee that the body is going to rise! When you get the head out, you cannot keep the body from coming out, and Christ, the head, has been victorious over death.

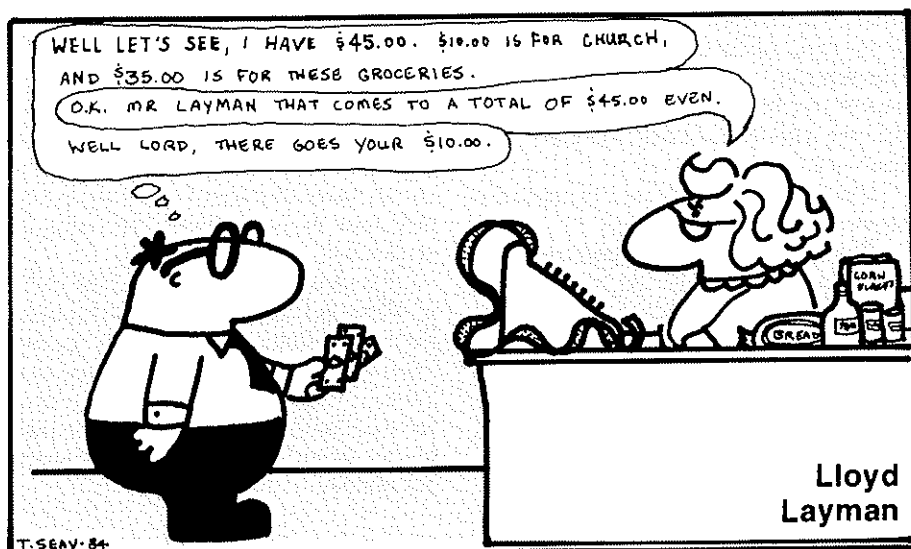
When Jesus was here, He said, "I have glorified thee on earth." But there is a final glorification. God is preparing His people for the final day as an artist puts the final touch on his painting. God is getting us ready.

God is going to roll back the curtain and reveal once and forever the glory of the Father, His church, the redeemed of all ages.

In Revelation 7, John saw it all—a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people and tongues, stand before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.

John saw the people who are redeemed by power and the glory and the love and the grace of God. So, get your mind on glory and preach the relevant Word—the Word of the consummation. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Bailey Thompson pastors East Tulsa Free Will Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma.





FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

BIBLE COLLEGE TO OFFER MISSIONS MAJOR

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College will offer a major in missions this fall to better prepare students to minister on foreign fields, says Chairman Reverend Ralph Hampton of the College's Christian Ministries Department.

In the past, missions students could only earn a 20-hour minor. The new program combines 30 hours of missions studies with 40 hours of Bible and 62 hours of general studies.

Citing the fact that Bible College-trained FWB missionaries have done an outstanding job on the field, Hampton added, "The time has come when we must do more for future missionaries. Foreign missions work is increasingly complex. The missionary needs to know more, and there is more to be known, than ever before."

Missions instructor Bobby Aycock, who spent more than 20 years in Brazil, says, "In addition to the required courses, two new electives—Student Missionary Internship and Roman Catholicism—are being offered." He points out that five of the eight countries where Free Will Baptist missionaries are serving are predominantly Roman Catholic.

Dr. LaVerne Miley, who spent 19 years as a medical missionary in Ivory Coast and now teaches at the Bible College, says that the new program "should be a tremendous asset to our missions enterprise."

The Bible College had 75 missions students in the 1983-84 student body and has seen a growing missions interest in recent years.



Tornado destroys subdivision.

NORTH CAROLINA CHURCHES SEND RELIEF TO TORNADO VICTIMS

CLINTON, NC—Eleven Free Will Baptist churches in North Carolina's Randall Association rallied with food, clothing and money when a series of tornadoes swept through North Carolina on March 28.

According to Pastor L. D. Creech of Colonial Heights FWB Church in Clinton, more than \$10,000 in cash and goods poured into the tornado-stricken area from FWB people.

Creech said after he discovered that several FWB families had lost their homes, he contacted Randall Association moderator Bobby Bazen and asked for help. Free Will Baptist churches in Durham, Raleigh, Smith-

field and Dunn sent immediate aid.

Pastor Billy Keith (Oak Grove Church, Durham), Moderator Bobby Bazen, and others loaded goods in trucks and cars and delivered them to Pastor Creech for distribution.

Creech said, "We even had a mission church in Florida to send a check. The storm was a tragic thing to happen, but, oh, the joy of seeing Christianity in action."

Reverend Bazen said that "the devastating tornadoes left a trail of death and destruction in the Carolinas unrecalled for at least a century."

Twelve people were killed in North Carolina's Sampson County.

REVEREND BUFORD PIERCE WITH THE LORD



JACKSONVILLE, NC—The Reverend Buford A. Pierce, pastor of First FWB Church, Jacksonville, died Sunday, April 29, 1984, in a local hospital following a heart attack on Saturday.

Reverend Pierce, 53, pastored three churches in his ministry which began when he was licensed to preach in

1959. He pastored Little Brown FWB Church, Booneville, Mississippi; Marvin Chapel FWB Church, Marianna, Florida, and First FWB Church, Jacksonville.

Brother Pierce served on the National Home Missions Board (1978-1981). He was converted in 1948 at the age of 17 in Booneville, Mississippi. He married the former Virginia Moss; they have two children—Susan and Paula.

Reverend Pierce attended Mid-South Bible College, Memphis, Tennessee, and Gulf Coast Seminary, Panama City, Florida.

Home Missions Director Roy Thomas, speaking at the funeral, remembered Brother Pierce as "a steadfast Christian and a faithful preacher."

newsfront

(continued)

BIBLE COLLEGE GRADUATES 78 IN COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College graduated 78 students on May 10 in the school's 41st Commencement Exercises. Students, parents and friends packed the campus Activities Building to honor the graduates and close the 1983-84 school year.

Six degrees were awarded to different graduates. The Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies was given to seven men who finished the college's new graduate program.

Other degrees bestowed were 21 Bachelor of Arts, 36 Bachelor of Science, six Christian Workers Bible Diplomas, one Associate of Arts, and eight Associate of Science in Business.

The commencement speaker was Paul J. Ketteman, FWBBC director of Public Relations. Seven graduates gave brief testimonies: Paul Creech, Gwen Riddle, Connie Barnes, Susan Pierce, Jonathan Snow, David Mishler and Wendell Walley. The College Choir and concert band provided special



music.

The following special awards were also made at commencement exercises:

Yearbook Editor's Medal: Johnie Terry, Hampton, VA

Student Body President's Medal: Johnny Merkh, Richmond, VA

Outstanding Student: Gwen Riddle, Nashville, TN

Best All Around Students: Gwen Riddle, Nashville, TN; Robert Poole, Brazil

Twenty-two students graduated with honors.

MASTER'S MEN RETREAT ATTRACTS 177

LINDEN, TN—The sixth annual Master's Men Retreat April 26-28 included 177 men from 18 states, according to Master's Men General Director James Vallance.

The men gathered at Linden, Ten-

nessee, in the Buffalo River Valley some 100 miles west of Nashville. Ten workshops and devotionals underlined the conference theme, "Looking For A Man."

General Director Vallance informed

participants in his address that 36 new chapters had been started in the previous 38 weeks, and that the department had paid outstanding debts in excess of \$10,000.

Conference Director Bill Ezell received a plaque citing his work in coordinating the last four retreats. Ezell stepped down to assume more responsibilities in his local church.

A Friday night testimony time lasted two hours as men shared how the conference and the fellowship had helped them.

Two Tennessee ministers addressed the conference. Pastor Vernon Barker (New Hope FWB Church, Joelton) and Tennessee Executive Secretary Raymond Riggs developed the conference theme in their messages.

The 1985 conference is set for April 25-27 at Linden.



WRITERS' CONFERENCE MEETS IN NASHVILLE

NASHVILLE, TN—Forty-eight writers and editors from five states attended the fourth annual Free Will Baptist Writers' Conference May 11-12 at Free Will Baptist Bible College. The conference, sponsored by Randall House Publications, drew praise from participants as well as speakers.

Conference Director Harrold Harrison guided the fast-paced, two-day program.

Devotional speaker and workshop leader Lorene Miley, editor of *Co-Laborer Magazine*, gave a stunning banquet address that whisked conferees through the humor, heartbreak and discipline required to turn ideas into published books.

Keynote workshop leader George Knight spoke five times on subjects ranging from producing church newsletters to rewriting exercises.

Knight, a Middle-Tennessee author and businessman, reminded his hearers that the ultimate judge in writing is the reader.

He suggested that writers combat discouragement by keeping a number of manuscripts in the mail to publishers simultaneously.

Mr. Knight and Mrs. Miley joined FWBCC professors Mary Wisheart and Charles Hampton on Saturday afternoon for a panel/forum wrap-up. They fielded impromptu questions from the participants for more than an hour.

The Saturday morning session included a workshop on how to use a word processor. The IBM Corporation set up a word processing system on-site and sent a qualified lecturer to demonstrate and explain the equipment.

Both conference attendees and speakers praised the well-stocked display tables provided by Randall House. The tables included leading writers magazines and more than 40 books relating to writers and writing.

The 1985 Writers' Conference is set for May 17-18 in Nashville.

NEED A PLACE TO SERVE?

For some time now, a number of Free Will Baptist churches and Christian schools have requested that an effort be made to help them secure pastors and workers.

Many of our churches and Christian schools have experienced difficulties contacting prospective pastors, associate pastors, music directors, principals, teachers, secretaries, and coaches.

Beginning with the August 1984 issue, *CONTACT Magazine* will set aside space each month in a POSITIONS AVAILABLE column to alert interested persons concerning vacancies in our churches and schools. We know there may be some awkwardness working through the details at first, but we need to at least try something.

We will list churches and Christian schools with positions that need to be filled. We chose to list the institutions rather than ministers and other workers available, since there are fewer churches and schools, and because we have limited space in the magazine.

At any rate, when a position is listed, interested personnel may call or write the church or school for additional information or to recommend a prospect.

However, we can't list your church or school need without authorization

from you. We don't know what positions are available until you tell us. We certainly don't want to erroneously print that you're looking for a pastor or principal if you already have one.

In order to be listed, instruct a representative from your church or school to complete the enclosed form and mail it to us. This will also give us a permanent record of each request.

There will be a time lapse which we cannot avoid and which you should be aware of. Even though we publish monthly, a listing may not appear in the next issue after someone notifies us. We have a turnaround time that varies from five to 12 weeks depending on when the information reaches us.

While this is not ideal, it's the best we can do at the moment.

We will list a church or school opening once and once only. We do this to avoid confusion and because we won't know how soon positions are filled. Besides, it's unfair to carry information months after an opening has been filled simply because someone forgot to notify us.

In order to list any position or opening, we must have the following information: position available, church or school name, address, name of a specific contact person in the church or school, and phone number.

Position Available: _____

Church or School Name: _____

Address: _____

Person at church or school to contact: _____

Phone Number: Area Code () _____

Mail this form to:

Editor

CONTACT Magazine

P.O. Box 1088

Nashville, TN 37202

Signature of Person Supplying Information

Date

ADKISSON TO MODERATE NEW MEXICO STATE

ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Delegates to the April 20-21 New Mexico State Association elected Albuquerque FWB Church pastor Bill Adkisson as the new moderator. Adkisson succeeds outgoing moderator Julian Hawkins.

Approximately 35 attended the 16th

annual meeting which was keynoted by Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington. Worthington spoke three times on the theme, "Where Is Your Treasure?"

Anne (Mrs. Melvin) Worthington addressed the Friday banquet for the

state Woman's Auxiliary at the Holiday Inn.

Delegates selected a committee to study the state constitution and report back during the 1985 session which will meet at Faith FWB Church in El Paso, Texas.

The **Friendly FWB Church, Linneus, ME**, will be one year old August 28. According to pastor **Gary Bird**, during the past 12 months the group purchased two acres with a church building, began a bus route, and built attendance to 74. The congregation reported 63 first time visitors during its first Sunday School campaign this spring.

And speaking of visitors, **Faith FWB Church, Glenpool, OK**, welcomed 79 first time visitors during April. **David Archer** pastors.

Pastor **Loy Counts** says **Phillips Chapel FWB Church, Springdale, AR**, witnessed 49 conversions, 21 baptisms, and 22 new members in the past year.

Calvary FWB Church, Springdale, AR, reports nine conversions, seven baptisms, and ten new members. **Leon Hodge** pastors.

Pastor **Orville Hood** says attendance records were established at **First FWB Church, Checotah, OK**, this spring. The group set a Sunday School attendance Record at 165, Children's church attendance at 114, and total church attendance at 448. **Bill Coleman** is the superintendent of the fast-growing Sunday School.

A special missions offering at **Fellowship FWB Church, Kingsport, TN**, brought in gifts of \$9,000, according to pastor **Winston Sweeney**.

Pastor **Dale Burden** of **Gateway FWB Church, Virginia Beach, VA**, says the group shattered Sunday School records by 500 on April 1. Officials hoped

to have 2,000 in attendance, but reported more than 2,400 for the special services.

The Board of Christian Education in **Alabama's State Line Association** has established a scholarship fund for young people who wish to further their education at a Free Will Baptist college, according to board member **Walter Baxley**. The scholarship is open to any graduating senior who is a member of a Free Will Baptist church in the State Line Association. The only stipulation is that the funds be used in a Free Will Baptist college of their choice.

Foreign Missions call-a-thon Sunday in April netted more than \$41,000, according to Director **Rolla Smith**. Some 127 churches from 22 states, Canada, and France participated. The 1984 call-a-thon topped the 1983 effort by \$25,000.

CONTACT welcomes **THE MISSION MESSENGER**, the bi-monthly publication of the **Mission District Association in Texas**.

Texas Executive Secretary **Billy Walker** says an increasing number of Texas churches are building again. Churches that report new auditoriums or educational wings include—**First FWB Church, Henderson**; **Chapel Hill FWB Church, Brownwood**; **Eastside FWB Church, Houston**; **Bible FWB Church, Odessa**; **First FWB Church, Duncanville**; **Good Hope FWB Church, Henderson**; **First FWB Church, McAllen**; **Bay Shore FWB Church, Baycliff**; and **Trinity FWB Church, Arcadia**.

Nine families participated in a baby dedication service April 22 at **Victory FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC**. Pastor **George Lee** said 10 babies were dedicated during the morning service.

Evangelist **Tim York** reports that he is

preaching on six radio broadcasts each week and plans other programs in the days ahead. Evangelist York is based in **Louis, KY**.

The Master's Men chapter at **Tom's Creek FWB Church, Nippa, KY**, voted \$50 in monthly support to the Master's Men Project Tool Shed. Local chapter President **Tom Crider** says the chapter has 20 members. **James Kelly Caudill** pastors.

CONTACT welcomes **UNDER GOD**, publication of the Kentucky State Association of Free Will Baptist Master's Men. The first volume of the tabloid came off the press in April. The paper is published by the **Turkey Creek FWB Master's Men Chapter in Turkey Creek, KY**. **Ed May** serves as editor. Brother May is also the president of the State Master's Men.

Congratulations to Evangelist **Homer Willis**, who completed 44 years of full-time FWB ministry in May. The 60-year-old evangelist is based in **Nashville, TN**.

Evangelist **Calvin Evans, Pedro, OH**, reports 3,029 conversions during a February revival in Jamaica.

Alan and LaDonna Chapman, members of **First FWB Church, DeSoto, MO**, adopted a daughter from India in February. The young lady's name is **Angel**. Mr. Chapman is the Church Training Service Director at the church.

Members of **First FWB Church, Morehead City, NC**, burned the mortgage on their Fellowship Hall and Educational Building in March, according to pastor **Danny Howell**. The buildings were dedicated 14 years ago. The action this spring makes the church debt free. More than 175 attended the special services. ▲

newsfront

(continued)

RANDALL HOUSE ANNOUNCES SPRING CAMPAIGN RESULTS

NASHVILLE, TN—Some 142 churches from 23 states and Canada entered the Spring Enlargement Campaign "Free Indeed" sponsored by Randall House Publications.

The following churches were declared division winners.

The Fall, 1984 Sunday School Enlargement Campaign will be "Count On Me, Lord" and will begin October 7, 1984.

DIVISION			FALL AVG	CAMP AVG	AVG INCREASE
A	1st	Gateway, Va. Beach, VA	1581	1600	1.20%
	2nd	no entry			
B					
no entry					
C	1st	Mt. Calvary, Hookerton, NC	392	417	6.38%
	2nd	no entry			
D	1st	Emmanuel, Wabash, IN	280	390.5	39.46%
	2nd	Donelson, Nashville, TN	225	267.5	18.89%
E	1st	Kirby, Taylor, MI	170	239	40.59%
	2nd	First, Salem, OR	163	227	39.26%
F	1st	Hazel Dell, Sesser, IL	115	194.5	69.13%
	2nd	East Tulsa, Tulsa, OK	136	220	61.76%
G	1st	Selma First, Selma, CA	92	221.5	140.76%
	2nd	Homerville, Homerville, GA	70	139	98.57%
H	1st	Good News, Richmond, VA	20	55.2	176. %
	2nd	Faith, Boise, ID	18	46	155.56%
I	1st	Victory, Winter Haven, FL	19	57	200. %



OUR READERS COMMENT

JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS

In regards to a statement in "A Frog and a False Accusation" (Mayo, May 1984), when the frog jumped from Mrs. Curtis' purse to her desk, she interrogated, "Now would you kindly remove that reptile from my desk?"

No scholarly teacher would refer to a frog as a reptile. If you want to know why, look up the word "amphibian" in a reputable encyclopedia.

This article presented a very good example on a child's, as well as an adult's level for a Christian to follow.

Mike Hicks
Mt. Vernon, Illinois

EDITOR OWES APOLOGY TO TIDEWATER ASSOCIATION

We are writing regarding an article in the May 1984 issue of *Contact*, entitled "The Evangelists—Men on the Move," written by Larry D. Hampton. The article included the name of Don Pegram, listing him as an acceptable evangelist among our Free Will Baptist people.

As you already knew, Mr. Pegram's credentials were revoked by the Tidewater Association of Free Will Baptists of Virginia on April 22, 1983.

In accordance with our national Treatise, at an official trial, this action was taken by the presbytery of our Association without a dissenting vote. The revocation was unanimously ratified by the Tidewater Quarterly Meeting.

In light of the fact that both you and Dr. Melvin Worthington, our executive secretary, were aware that Mr. Pegram's credentials were revoked, we are appalled at *Contact's* position representing him as an acceptable evangelist to our people. In so doing, you have violated our

national Treatise and called into question the integrity of the ministers and good people of our Association.

Having misinformed our Free Will Baptist people concerning Mr. Pegram through our official magazine, *Contact*, we feel it is now your duty in the same publication to correct that, letting your readers know that Mr. Pegram does not hold bona fide credentials within the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

We believe you owe an apology to Free Will Baptist people at large and the Tidewater Association of Free Will Baptists in particular.

We request this letter be published in its entirety in *Contact* at the earliest possible date. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

Rick L. Rasberry, Clerk
Tidewater Association of Free Will Baptists
Portsmouth, Virginia

EXCELLENT ARTICLE, HOWEVER...

The article by Violet Cox in your May issue is excellent, but she did not cover two vital points on the subject.

Teach your children what the real world is all about. Don't protect them from it. Point out the good in it as well as the bad. Then they will be able to cope with it when they must face it. Ignorance is not bliss. It is, rather, a deadly snare.

It has been both my experience and observation that the faith of more children of Christian parents is destroyed within the church than without. A child, or young person can be prepared to face sin and evil in the world, but he is usually under the illusion that all Christians and/or church members can be trusted.

He must learn that Satan can and will use sometimes well meaning Christians to hurt and destroy him, and his faith—by gossip, accusation, neglect, etc. Once he becomes disillusioned with Christians whom he has been taught are

kind, loving, and caring, it is next to impossible to restore his faith.

And parents, you can be the final point at which he is either restored or destroyed. Example: If he is wrongly accused and he tells you so, then for heaven's sake—and his and yours—believe what he tells you. You haven't spent all those years teaching him to be honest, only to destroy him by telling him you don't believe him, have you?

When he loses faith in you (you may be his last resort), he will lose faith in your God!

This happened to me, so I know whereof I speak. In the depths of devastation that lasted for years—separated from family, church, having lost my job, friends, respectability, and all else; I must have said a million times: "If only my mother had believed me. If only, if only."

Mrs. M. Conger
Arizona City, Arizona

When Jesus Comes

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

I don't need to say that things will change when Jesus comes. It is all too obvious. The priorities we have for our lives will turn topsy-turvy.

WHEN JESUS COMES, we'll wish we had treated our brother differently. We will regret the ill-advised word.

In fact, we will wish we had helped him when his wife was sick, or lent a hand when his waterpipes burst. We will certainly regret that he sat across the aisle from us in church and we barely knew his name.

WHEN JESUS COMES, we'll wish we had oil in our lamps. The neglect of prayer seems like a small and human frailty, but on that day we will regret

that days passed without a devotional life.

So many people never realize that the darkness in our world is due in part to the untrimmed lamps and empty vessels in the church.

WHEN JESUS COMES, we'll wish we had never buried our talent. To fail to use faithfully what is entrusted to us for the glory of God is a sad indictment.

God gave me my tongue, but I must give account of my speech. God gave me material treasures, but I must give account of my stewardship. God gave me my life, but I must give account of my time.

When He comes, I will wish that every word had been wise and every dime given to His work had been a dollar.

WHEN JESUS COMES, we'll wish we had been faithful to witness. While we enjoy ourselves in the pursuit of this world, our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, friends and kinsmen are slipping into hell. Some of those who are going to hell are people we love.

As hard as it is, we must face the fact that quite often we are doing absolutely nothing about it. When Jesus comes, we'll wish we had tried every thing with everyone to spare them from the fierceness of his wrath.

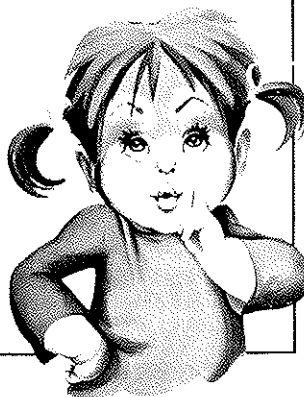
Maybe there needs to be changes BEFORE HE COMES. ▲

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



If You're My Brother,

Why Are We So Different?



By G. Roger Schoenhals

My son, Jonathan, takes care of his room. Usually the bed is made, the closets are neat, the floor is clean, and the dresser top is well-organized.

My daughter, Sara, maintains a disaster area. Though one year younger than her 11-year-old brother, she clearly does not share his flair for tidiness.

On the other hand, Sara's disposition is generally even and pleasant. She is relaxed, easygoing.

Jonathan tends to be uptight, more easily aggravated. His tolerance level is lower than hers.

Sara is self-sufficient. She can play by herself for hours at a time. I walked (climbed) into her room the other day and found her lecturing her dolls on word pronunciation.

Jon goes stir crazy if he's alone for five minutes. He thrives on action.

Sara is an avid reader. She can read circles around her older brother.

But Jonathan knows math. He can multiply and divide nearly as fast as a computer.

Jon saves his allowance. He has a respectable bank account for a fifth grader.

Sara's the big spender. Money runs through her fingers like water.

Sara sleeps like a log. When the wake-up call comes, she groans and moans and buries her face in the pillow.

Jonathan bounces out of bed at the first whiff of breakfast.

When I ask the children whether they'd like to run an errand with me, Jonathan wants to know what he will get out of it. He weighs the pros and cons.

Sara dashes for her coat. She's ready to go with daddy anytime, anywhere.

Jonathan gulps down his food like a starving dog. And when he leaves the table you can always tell where he sat.

Sara plays with her food. She'd rather talk than eat.

Strange, isn't it? Two children in the same family who are so different from each other.

Yet I love them equally. I enjoy their differences. I thank God for the unique blend of their temperaments and talents.

My children help me understand and appreciate the differences among my brothers and sisters within the family of God.

Some people tend to be more emotional than others. They prefer

gospel songs with peppy rhythms and strong feelings. They like soul-stirring speakers.

Others lean more toward the objective, the rational. They prefer the more stately hymns. They want sermons that stretch the mind.

Some of our brothers and sisters are tuned into the inner city. They have strong convictions about our responsibilities to the poor and downtrodden.

Other family members seem equally intense about our responsibilities in suburbia.

Some people like to question everything.

Others excel in listening.

There are those who complain, and those who encourage. Those who give, and those who withhold.

Some look up and say, "It's partly cloudy."

Others see the same sky and say, "It's partly sunny."

And think of the vocational assortment among us. Some have dedicated themselves to education, some to mission work overseas, and others to Christian witness in the secular marketplace. We have farmers, doctors, musicians, homemakers, electricians, postal clerks, athletes, morticians, and lots more.

Personality traits differ widely, too. We have the strong-willed, the sensitive, the humorous, the weak, the careless, the disciplined, and a thousand more.

Putting us all together you find an amazing array of different preferences, different interpretations, different opinions, different temperaments, and different abilities. No two of us are the same.

Yet God our Father loves us equally. He makes no distinction between us. We are one big family in Him.

That says something to me about tolerance and acceptance. About patience and understanding. It makes me put on the brakes when I come upon a brother or sister who differs with me.

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (1 John 4:11). ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Roger Schoenhals is a free lance writer who resides in Seattle, Washington.



July 8

National Convention Day Of Prayer And Fasting

DIRECTORY UPDATE

GEORGIA

John Amburgey to Pine Level Church, Chester from Sneads FWB Church, Sneads, FL

OKLAHOMA

Roger Ballard to Choctaw Church, Choctaw from First Church, Wilburton

TENNESSEE

Ken Haney to Forest Grove Church, Knoxville from First Church, Jonesboro, AR

TEXAS

John Kruger to Chapel Hill Church, Brownwood

**Thank You For
Your Contributions...**



**... Through the
Cooperative Channel**

April 1984

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	Undesign.	Total	April '83	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$ 273.16	\$ 1,487.81	\$ 1,760.97	\$ 771.64	\$ 5,772.20
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	181.68
Arkansas	.00	2,827.81	2,827.81	3,428.59	14,311.51
California	.00	1,178.18	1,178.18	1,124.86	4,391.48
Florida	.00	1,360.83	1,360.83	33.33	5,527.52
Georgia	3,448.32	5.00	3,453.32	3,425.79	12,425.30
Illinois	7,250.24	1,886.97	9,137.21	.00	31,443.44
Indiana	264.60	316.13	580.73	.00	2,165.13
Kansas	.00	596.79	596.79	.00	1,271.05
Kentucky	.00	59.80	59.80	524.04	1,193.34
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	90.00
Michigan	3,932.38	326.00	4,258.38	2,732.64	16,035.57
Mississippi	1,604.75	238.34	1,843.09	585.64	3,627.71
Missouri	.00	7,571.57	7,571.57	5,914.45	21,858.31
New Mexico	3.36	1.68	5.04	211.75	667.58
North Carolina	747.50	187.67	935.17	690.00	4,006.33
Ohio	.00	.00	.00	.00	4,918.23
Oklahoma	20,752.05	9,604.11	30,356.16	23,024.82	128,973.20
South Carolina	.00	.00	.00	.00	10.00
Tennessee	3,190.22	940.61	4,130.83	1,493.80	10,727.65
Texas	7,678.87	830.69	8,509.56	60.00	20,404.33
Virginia	.00	1,527.82	1,527.82	84.83	1,993.99
West Virginia	2,622.18	177.17	2,799.35	2,533.24	22,517.57
Interest	.00	.00	.00	.00	988.07
Totals	\$51,767.63	\$31,124.98	\$82,892.61	\$46,639.42	\$315,501.19

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 392.35	\$12,762.14	\$13,154.49	\$11,574.71	\$ 51,984.66
Foreign Missions	34,905.76	4,232.10	39,137.86	21,470.74	150,928.24
FWBBC	3,317.64	4,232.10	7,549.74	3,836.70	23,773.36
Home Missions	11,121.99	3,274.49	14,396.48	7,505.97	61,462.61
Retirement & Insurance	203.19	2,760.06	2,963.25	1,054.67	9,952.64
Master's Men	739.32	2,392.03	3,131.35	654.33	9,850.79
Commission on Theological					
Liberalism	5.84	184.00	189.84	95.14	689.64
FWB Foundation	.00	1,104.06	1,104.06	348.95	4,261.26
Historical Commission	4.00	184.00	188.00	49.37	708.26
Radio/TV Commission	.00	.00	.00	.00	300.00
California Christian College	13.35	.00	13.35	.00	56.73
Children's Home	.00	.00	.00	26.88	.00
Hillsdale FWB College	1,014.19	.00	1,014.19	21.96	1,368.00
Union Association, TN	.00	.00	.00	.00	115.00
WNAC	50.00	.00	50.00	.00	50.00
Totals	\$51,767.63	\$31,124.98	\$82,892.61	\$46,639.42	\$315,501.19



The Free Will Baptist Pulpit

Howard Gwartney, Pastor

Central Free Will Baptist Church, Grandview, Missouri

Feuding In The Flock I Corinthians 1:1-18

INTRODUCTION

The Corinthian church was full of conflict. Feuding and immorality characterized their daily lives. Members sued each other, had marital problems, were involved in sexual sin, were insensitive to weaker brothers, and got drunk at the Lord's table.

Their worship was displeasing, they would not share food at "potluck dinners," they lacked love, the women were unsubmitive, they even doubted the resurrection—they had problems!

Believers still fall into the same trap today. The Corinthians could not deal with sin problems in their fellowship on a spiritual basis. They became so disjointed that they shared no common purpose or common goals.

I. PAUL'S PASTORAL AUTHORITY (vv. 1-2)

Paul begins this letter by establishing his authority, his right to address the problems. Church leadership must deal with problems as they surface. Their scriptural qualifications and positions, which have been outlined by God, grant them that authority.

Many church leaders tend to gloss over problems because they fear stirring up the congregation. They are too concerned about what people might think of them.

Paul's concern is for the reputation of Jesus Christ and the maturing of the church. This servant's attitude validated Paul's pastoral authority in the church.

The church today needs to understand that the role of the congregation to *godly men of scriptural authority* is submission.

II. PAUL'S PERSONAL APPRECIATION (vv. 3-9)

In spite of the problems at Corinth, Paul expresses appreciation for the good things. You may be thinking, "What good things? What could be good about this church?"

Paul expresses gratefulness to God for His grace. Evidently Paul knew they would need God's grace in order to obey His instruction. Isn't it wonderful to know that the Lord always gives His grace to us in order to do what He requires!

III. THEIR PITIFUL ARGUMENTS (vv. 10-16)

One of the things that brought contention and division was individual personality preferences. Some liked Paul while others

thought more of Apollos. They were feuding about things that really did not matter.

Most of the fussing in the church today is not over things that really count. When was the last time you heard someone complain because the church was not reaching enough people with the gospel? No one seems to complain about the fact that not enough people are following the Lord in baptism.

No, we fume over the color of the carpet or the paint on the walls. The church never should adopt a "peace-at-any-price" policy. We just need to stop feuding over things that do not count for eternity.

IV. THE POWERFUL ALTERNATIVE (vv. 17-18)

The powerful alternative to feuding is fruitfulness in the flock through preaching of the gospel. Christians need to be involved in the Lord's work and be busy in reaching people for Christ. It is the idle believer that tends to complain and feud.

There are at least three kinds of fruit that should be produced in our lives:

1. Attitude fruit—"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).
2. Actions fruit—This includes all the "one another" passages of the New Testament.
3. Addition fruit—"... the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

CONCLUSION

When believers understand the function of authority in the church and continue to express appreciation for the things God has done for them and recognize the pettiness of some arguments, they can realize the powerful alternative—fruitfulness.

What really matters as far as the ministry of the local church is concerned is whether or not that church is evangelizing and making disciples of the people in its ministry area.

The question we must ask ourselves is this: Are we glorifying God by being fruitful or has our feuding damaged the reputation of Jesus Christ and our effectiveness in reaching people? That's the bottom line!

Every ministry of every local church ought to focus on bringing others to Christ and developing them as fruitful followers of Christ. ▲



ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

Coops And Robbers

Marty and Megan came through the door and ran to check their eggs. It was their first stop after school every day. The twins were hatching chicks for their science project.

Mr. Lane had brought them a dozen fertilized eggs from a hatchery, and Mrs. Curtis, their teacher, let them borrow an incubator from school. Marty and Megan conscientiously turned the eggs and kept the incubator temperature at 98.5 degrees.

It was finally day 21. "Look, Marty," cried Megan, "there's a hole in one of the eggs!"

"It's ready to hatch," exclaimed Marty. "Mom, Jeff, come quick!"

Mrs. Lane and the three children listened to the steady pecking and watched as the hole widened to make room for the bird to come out. Finally the scrawny chick broke the shell and wriggled out for its first glimpse of the world.

"That's a chicken?" asked Megan in disbelief when she saw the drenched creature emerge.

"Yuk," said little Jeff.

But by the time Mr. Lane arrived home from work a few hours later, Louie Leghorn, as Marty had named the chick, was running and chirping. He now looked like a yellow ball of fluff.

During supper the Lanes heard another tap-tap-tapping. They raced

to the incubator just in time to see their second chick step into the world. Megan named it Henrietta Hen, and two proud twins pranced to school the next morning with a chirping shoe box in hand.

Mrs. Curtis found a cage for the chicks, and Louie and Henrietta stayed at school for the next two weeks. The class took turns feeding them and cleaning their cage. One day Mrs. Curtis told Marty and Megan that they would have to take the chicks home—they were getting too big for their cage, and their constant chirping was disturbing. But at least the twins had made an A+ on their project.

Before the chicks hatched, Marty and Megan had been so busy preparing reports and posters to go along with their project that they had not considered what they would do when the chickens hatched.

"You know we can't keep them," said Marty on the way home from school.

"Why not?" asked Megan who had grown fond of her poultry pets.

"Well, for one thing, we don't have a chicken coop," said Marty. "Besides, I don't think you can have chickens in our subdivision."

"I guess we'll just have to wring their necks and fry them," joked Mr. Lane that evening.

"No!" cried the twins together. "You can't do that."

"Henrietta and Louie are almost like family," exclaimed Megan.

"Now simmer down," said their dad. "I was just joking."

"Well, what are we going to do with them?" asked Mrs. Lane. "We certainly can't keep them."

"We can't give them away," said Marty. "They're friends."

"Leave it to me," said Mr. Lane. "I've got an idea." And he went in the kitchen to use the telephone.

When he came back, Mr. Lane had a broad grin on his face. "I've found a new home for your brood," he said. "Mrs. Douglas has an empty chicken coop just waiting for new life."

"Yipee!" shouted the twins.

"Did you hear that, Henrietta? You and Louie won't be Sunday dinner after all!" exclaimed Megan picking up the chick and petting it.

For the next six months Mrs. Douglas and the twins cared for the chicks and watched them grow. Then Henrietta and Louie (who, as it turned out, should have been named Louise) began laying.

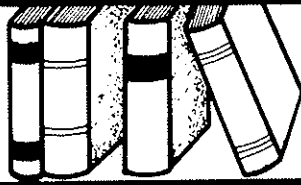
Marty and Megan went to Mrs. Douglas' every day to gather eggs. They kept them in her refrigerator until Friday, and then they went through the neighborhood selling eggs. The first month they made \$3.50.

"Kids, this is great," said Mr. Lane. "You've worked hard and earned your own money."

"We're really proud of you," agreed their mother.



Top Shelf



Thomas Marberry



Charles W. Colson, *Loving God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1983, hardback, 255 pp., \$11.95).

In recent years Charles Colson changed from convicted criminal to active Christian and insightful Christian writer. This book, while not his autobiography, does present something of Colson's struggle in his soul.

As the title suggests, the volume deals with loving God. But more accurately, it describes results which flow from deep and abiding love for God. Loving God produces a change in one's life. If one has the kind of love for God he should have, sin becomes terribly real and is taken very seriously.

If one loves God, he has a new commitment to holy living. Repentance and faith take on new dimensions. They're no longer just words he hears

on Sunday morning; they form the heartbeat of his life.

Colson presents a number of individuals with extraordinary love for God. He tells about a doctor in a Siberian prison camp whose love for God demanded that he treat helpless prisoners as human beings and not as animals.

There's the district judge whose love for God will not allow him to sentence a man to a long prison term when he knows that such a sentence is not deserved. There's also a group of Christians whose love for God led them to minister to the families of men serving time in prison.

Above all, there's the story of the Man of Galilee whose love for God led Him to give His life for an unloving world.

Then there are the stories of those

who have no conception of what it means to love God. There's the pathetic soul who deludes himself into thinking that he can follow Christ and still live a gangster's life.

One common thread binds together all those in this book who love God. That thread is suffering. The doctor lost his life; the judge lost his position. Yet, it is through suffering that they learn to love God even more. Through imprisonment and suffering which resulted from his Watergate involvement, Colson learned to love God.

From beginning to end, he emphasizes that the love of God motivates the Christians to become involved in the work of God. It takes him from the sideline and sends him into the middle of the field.

This is a provocative book; it makes us look at ourselves. It makes us ask ourselves two questions. First, "Do I really love God?" Second, "Is my love for God moving out and touching others?"

This is not to say that we would agree with every course of action undertaken by every character in the book. Not at all. It is to say that love for God makes all the difference in a life.

This book is outstanding. Read it. ▲

LITTLE LANES (From page 29)

"I want you to remember," said their daddy, "that the Lord allowed you to make this money, and you need to give back part of it to Him."

"That's what it means to tithe," said Mrs. Lane.

"Tithe, what's that?" asked Marty.

"That's when you give a tenth of your money to God," answered Mr. Lane.

"A tenth—let's see," said Megan doing some arithmetic in her head. "A tenth of \$3.50 is 35¢. We'll put it in the offering Sunday."

"Don't forget," said Mr. Lane. Then he read them a verse from the Bible. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." (Malachi 3:8). "Tithing is serious business," concluded their father.

"Why don't we make it 50¢?" said Marty eagerly.

"That's great," said Mrs. Lane. "The Lord loves a cheerful giver."

The egg business was good. Marty

and Megan saved their money and by the end of another month they had eight more dollars to add to it.

"I've got a great idea," said Megan one day while they were counting their money. "We've got \$11. Why don't we buy a rooster?"

"Yeah," agreed Marty. "We'll have more chickens, and that means more eggs."

"And that means more money," continued Megan.

"And we can sell baby chicks and eggs," said Marty, his eyes gleaming.

"But we're out of feed. That will cost \$5. Wonder if we can buy a \$6 rooster?" questioned Megan.

Marty and Megan found a farmer who sold them a rooster at their price.

"What should we do?" whispered Megan to Marty.

"Well we've got \$6," he reminded her.

"Yeah, but if we tithe part of it we won't have enough for feed and a rooster," said Megan.

"Well, I don't think it would matter just this once," said Marty.

"Maybe you're right," said Megan.

"Besides, no one will know."

"And I guess we could make it up someday," said Marty.

So Marty and Megan bought the rooster and dropped him off in the chicken coop. That was on Saturday. On Monday when they went to gather eggs, Mrs. Douglas met them with bad news. "Your rooster is missing," said Mrs. Douglas. "I think we've been robbed."

"Robbed!" shouted the twins.

"Yep, I heard quite a ruckus out here during the night, and I just bet a fox got hold of your rooster."

"Oh, no," groaned the twins. Then they remembered the words their father had read them from Malachi. "Will a man rob God?"

A fox had robbed Marty and Megan, and they had robbed God. In their desire to make money they had left God out. And He taught them a lesson they would long remember.

Their \$6 rooster was gone, and they were back where they started. The Lane twins asked the Lord to forgive them, and so what if they were a little poorer, they were a lot wiser! ▲



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

Reaching For Revival



The slogan "Revival for Survival" which has been used frequently in recent years hits at the crux of the matter. Christians do need revival for the good of society and the glory of the Sovereign.

Free Will Baptists need revival, a mighty moving of the Spirit of God. Revival is essential if we are to maintain standards and minister in service in accordance with the Word of God.

There's nothing wrong with the Free Will Baptist denomination that a revival will not cure. More emphatic, there's nothing wrong in our denomination that a revival among our preachers would not cure.

Revival is nothing more or less than renewed personal obedience to the Word of God. Christians who experience revival evidence that experience in unquestioning, unselfish, unequivocal and unashamed obedience to the Lord.

The Cry for Revival

The Christian who cries for revival recognizes the *need* of revival. He is conscious of his unconcernedness, unfaithfulness, unbelief, uncooperativeness as well as his unforgiving spirit. Saints, not sinners need revival.

The Christian who cries for revival recognizes the *nature* of revival. Revival comes from God. God is the Author of revival. David Matthews declared, "Divine movements have their birthplace in the heart of Deity."

There is no instant formula which can produce revival, but certain conditions can be met so when God blows revival we can catch the wind of revival in our sail. Somehow, in a mysterious union, God's sovereignty and man's responsibility are woven together in revival.

The Christian who cries for revival recognizes the *nearness* of revival. Revival is possible. As we patiently wait for the Savior's coming, we must work to honor the Savior's Commission. Revival is as near as recognizing my obligation and responding obediently to that obligation.

The Criteria for Revival

The criteria for revival includes the Sovereign's Word. God has promised that when certain conditions are met revival will follow. Without God's Word we could not claim revival as a possibility.

The criteria for revival includes the Spirit's work. The Spirit of God gently probes, prods and pricks the heart of the cold, careless Christian, thus producing a consciousness and conviction of sin which results in confession of sin.

The criteria for revival includes the saint's will. The saint must be submitted to God's will. No revival will come until the Christian submits his will to God's will.

There has been no revival among saints unless their lifestyles change. The very nature of revival demands a change in behavior.

The Climax of Revival

When the cry has been made for revival and the criteria met, God hears from Heaven and heals the land. Revival commences with a cry, continues with the criteria, and climaxes with cleansing and communion.

Revived saints have a renewed sense of their own sinfulness. They are conscious of their faults, frailties and failures.

Revived saints have a renewed sense of their obligation in service. They are eager, enthusiastic and excited servants of God. Revival will mean a new wave of missionary enterprise for the church to get the gospel to the ends of the earth. ▲

The Secretary's Schedule July 1984

June 28-July 1 Atlantic Canada Association
St. John's Valley Bible Camp
Hartland, N.B., Canada

July 12-21 FWB National Convention
Little Rock, Arkansas

CONTACT

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1984 THEME

SHARING THE LOAD

*38 New Chapters In 39 Weeks!***PROJECT BRAZIL '84**

This is the largest project ever adopted by Master's Men. The goal is to raise \$8,000 to build the Metcalf Memorial Dormitory. Mr. Carroll Poole and Mr. Don Wilbanks volunteered three weeks of labor on the 52 bed structure.

PROJECT TOOL SHED

Master's Men have purchased a memory typewriter for use in language translation. Mike and Deleen Cousineau took the \$900 machine with them to Ivory Coast, Africa.

NATIONAL MASTER'S MEN CONFERENCE VI

177 men from 18 states gathered in April. The conference theme, Looking For A Man, was developed by the various speakers. Next year, the meeting will be at Camp Linden in Tennessee April 25-27.

DEBT RETIREMENT

Master's Men Department had a fund deficit of \$14,211 on January 1, 1983. That deficit was reduced to \$8,064 by December 31, 1983. Now, we are working on current billings. The only unpaid debt is a bank loan which will be retired in 1985.

USHERING AND SECURITY

Master's Men are involved in the ushering and security at our National Convention. Their work this year will save over \$4,000 in security costs. Mr. Charles Denman (Texas) guides the men in this work.

**MASTER'S
MEN
DAY****MASTER'S MEN DAY**

The first Sunday in October is designated as the day to allow your church to participate in the ministry of Master's Men. The laymen in your church should be used in the services and a special offering taken for this Department. The goal for this year is \$10,000. It can be reached with the help of your church.

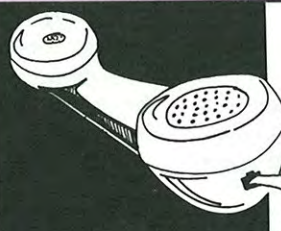
**OCTOBER
7
1984****1985****DECADE OF DISCIPLESHIP**

January will begin the 10 year study and application of the Master's call to "Follow Me." The men in our churches are the key to church growth. Men committed to Christ's commission can see great accomplishments in His work. Pray with us that this will be an exciting, fruitful time of growth.

Send Information About:

- ☐ Charter Application
- ☐ Individual Member Application
- ☐ National Master's Men Conference VII.
- ☐ National Projects: Tool Shed, Bookshelf, Missions
- ☐ The Master's Hands And Disaster Relief.

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