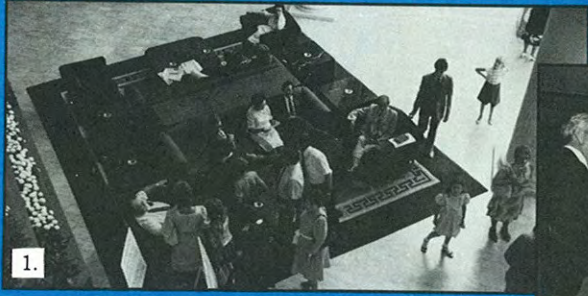


SEPTEMBER 1984

# Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



1.

## FELLOWSHIP



2.

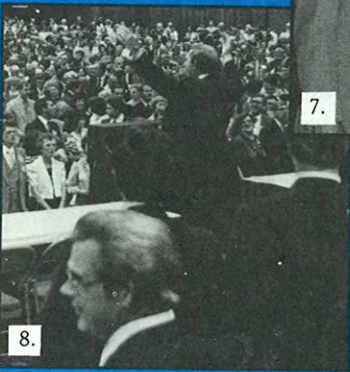


3.

## WORSHIP



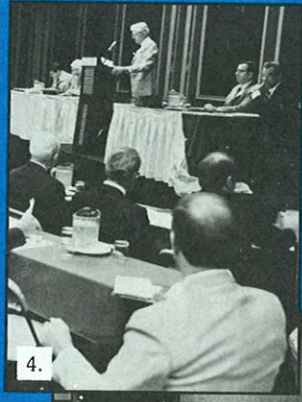
7.



8.

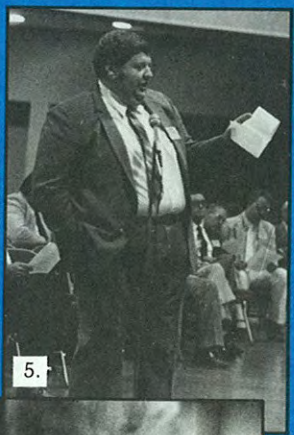


9.



4.

## BUSINESS



5.

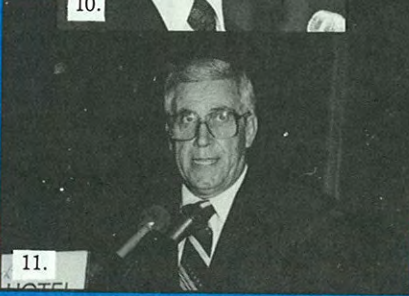


6.

## SPEAKERS



10.



11.



12.

# CONVENTION '84





# National Convention In Capsule

By Larry Hampton

**T**hree times during the past 36 years Arkansas' 23,000 Free Will Baptists have hosted the Free Will Baptist National Convention. The most recent time was July 15-19. For five days Little Rock's Statehouse Convention Center was headquarters for the Free Will Baptist denomination. What is the National Convention? "It's homecoming and revival." At least that's what the convention program says. Sometimes it seems more like a five-day endurance test performed on an obstacle course full of worship

2/CONTACT/Sept. '84

SEPTEMBER 1984

## Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1. Excelsior Hotel Lobby
2. Fred Hall (R) fellowships with conferees.
3. Lonnie DaVoult (R) and friend.
4. General Board
5. Floyd Wolfenbarger
6. Bobby Jackson moderates business session.
7. Mike Hollifield (L), Kim Johnson and Stephen Hales
8. Worship service
9. A time of prayer
10. Keith Burden
11. Vernon Barker
12. Terry Forrest

CONVENTION '84



services, meals and business sessions. Sane men become schizophrenic. They ask themselves "What am I doing here?" then tell their friends "I'll see you next year!"

What is the National Convention? It's fellowship. Familiar faces. Friendly smiles. Firm handshakes. Friends sharing a meal.

Over 6,600 registered for the three concurrent rallies—the National Convention, National Youth Conference, and Woman's National Auxiliary Convention—held in Little Rock. For all of them the National Convention was a time for fellowship.

What is the National Convention? It's worship services held in surroundings more conducive to sporting events than church gatherings.

What is the National Convention? It's a singing convention. Blaine Hughes, convention music coordinator, was responsible for the musical fare. Soloists, a mass choir, a male chorus, an ensemble, a duet, trio and quartet all sang. In addition, everyone joined in on the many congregational songs.

Although some might argue that there was too much music, it seems unlikely that any would deny the quality of the music throughout the entire convention.

What is the National Convention? It's preaching and lots of it. This year there were seven worship services complete with seven sermons.

Preaching during the denomination's 48th annual meeting was consistently good. One veteran convention goer said this year's messages were the best in years.

Three Free Will Baptist Bible College alumni explored the "Reaching For Revival" theme. Vernon Barker preached during the Sunday morning worship hour. Barker, a Kentucky

native, pastors New Hope Free Will Baptist Church of Joelton, Tennessee.

The man behind the pulpit on Monday evening was Lonnie DaVoult, executive secretary of the Oklahoma State Association. DaVoult, 61, has been preaching for 34 years.

Tuesday evening, Arkansas pastor Terry Forrest outlined the final aspect of the revival theme. Forrest serves First FWB Church of Monticello.

Free Will Baptist pastors from Florida, Mississippi and North Carolina preached in this year's Bible Conference. All three men—Ken Walker, J. M. Creech, and Billy Jackson preached powerfully to a packed ballroom.

Veteran missionary Jimmy Aldridge preached during the Wednesday night missionary service. Although Aldridge delivered a fine message, its impact was lessened by the many activities preceding it. The audience was exhausted by the time Aldridge got to the pulpit.

After the two hour, 31-minute marathon, one preacher quipped, "Next year everyone should get a T-shirt that reads 'I Survived the Wednesday Night Missions Service.'" Clearly, the new format followed during this service is not without flaws.

What is the National Convention? It's big business. This year 800-1,000 voters adopted budgets totaling more than \$10 million. That's the easy part. Raising the funds requires faithful stewardship on the part of Free Will Baptists everywhere.

What is the National Convention? It's too often personality conflicts, power struggles, petty politics and powerless resolutions.

What is the National Convention? It's one meeting that hundreds of Free Will Baptist preachers and laymen wouldn't miss for love nor money! It's always an unforgettable week. ▲

## Contents September 1984

**2 Convention In Capsule**  
Larry Hampton

**5 Briefcase: Get a Piece of Little Rock**  
Jack Williams

**6 The Little Rock Drama**  
Larry Hampton

**19 Convention Tapes**

**20 Rejoice!**  
NYC Staff

**22 Ask of Me**  
Lorene Miley

**23 Free Will Baptist Newsfront**

**26 Currently**

**27 Our Readers Comment**

**28 Spotlight on Michigan**  
Charles Cooper

**31 Leaving Little Rock**  
Melvin Worthington

**32 Five Keys to Revival**  
Floyd Wolfenbarger

**Editor-in-Chief:** Dr. Melvin Worthington  
**Editor:** Jack Williams  
**Editorial Assistant:** Kristi Bryan  
**Circulation:** Geneva Trotter  
**Printed by Randall House Publications**

Volume XXXI, No. 9

*CONTACT (USPS 130-660), published monthly by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Post Office Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Address all correspondence and subscriptions to this address. Subscription rates: 1 year, \$8.50; church family plan \$7.50 per year; church bundle plan, 67 cents per copy. Individual copies 75 cents each. Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee. Copyright privileges, reserved ©, 1984 Member of the Evangelical Press Association. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CONTACT, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. ISSN 0573-7796.*

**The 1984 National Convention analysis was written by Larry Hampton, manager of the editorial division at Randall House Publications.**

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

**The CONTACT staff is grateful to Brother Hampton and Brother Tippett for their assistance in this special convention issue.**



## ELECTED IN LITTLE ROCK 1984

The following were elected during the 48th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

### GENERAL OFFICERS

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

### GENERAL BOARD

1985 Edward Van Hoose (KY)  
1986 Bill Adkisson (NM)  
Tom Lilly (NC)  
Jim Nason (NE)  
Paul Wood (NW)  
Delmar Sparks (OH)  
Jack Richey (OK)  
Earl Hendrix (SC)  
Raymond Riggs (TN)  
Billy Walker (TX)  
Jack Stallings (VA)  
Carl Vallance (WV)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1986 Tom Lilly (NC)  
Jack Richey (OK)  
Billy Walker (TX)

### FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE TRUSTEES

1990 James Earl Raper (TN)  
J. D. O'Donnell (TX)  
Sam Truett (NC)

### FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

1990 Dan Cronk (TN)  
Galen Dunbar (KS)  
Archie Mayhew (CA)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH TRAINING BOARD

1990 James McAllister (MO)  
Malcolm Fry (NC)  
Carl Cheshier (AR)

### HOME MISSIONS BOARD\*

1985 Leroy Cutler (FL)  
\*Elected to fill the unexpired term of Elzo Bevan (VA) who resigned.

### BOARD OF RETIREMENT

1987 N. R. Smith (OK)  
\*Elected to fill the unexpired term of Earl Hendrix (SC) who resigned.

### COMMISSION ON THEOLOGICAL LIBERALISM

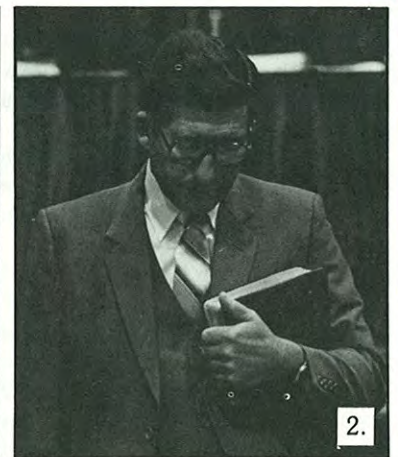
1989 L. C. Johnson (TN)

### HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1989 Robert Picirilli (TN)

### RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION

1989 James Vallance (TN)



1. Donnie McDonald (L) registers.
2. Roy Thomas meditates.
3. Larry and Margrette Hughes browse exhibit material.
4. Kevin Lauthern (L) and Fred Scott (alias "Beak" and "Boothed") share FWBBC memories.
5. Jeff Halliburton holds his three-week-old son, Adam Scott—possibly the youngest conventioner!





## Briefcase



# Get A Piece of Little Rock

**T**hey loved us in Little Rock! They really did. Anytime I get hugged by the Convention and Visitors Bureau staff on the last day of a convention, you know it all came together as planned.

And there's another indicator the convention center housekeeping and maintenance crew start calling me "Brother Williams" (and they did), somebody has done a great job selling the Free Will Baptist National Convention to a city.

In fact, we came as close to a perfect convention in Little Rock as I ever expect to get.

**The microphones** worked; the stage looked gorgeous; the exhibit area had a crisp, new smell; hotel security smiled at our teenagers; caterers praised the overflow crowds at meal functions; convention center heavyweights were on a first name basis with our office staff.

If we had written the script ourselves, we couldn't have asked for a better plot, story line and supporting cast than what was provided by Little Rock hotels and Statehouse Convention Center personnel.

**Some cities are** all sugar and spice until you sign a contract for 1,000 hotel rooms and agree to rent a colli-

seum or auditorium. Then the decision makers disappear into the alleys and leave conventions to flounder as they will. That didn't happen in Little Rock.

We got the kind of cooperation that makes us reluctant to leave and eager to return. The Convention and Visitors Bureau made a lot of big promises up front about what the hotels, the city, the convention center and the people of Little Rock would do if we brought our convention to town. And they delivered exactly as promised, thank you.

From now on we'll have to measure future conventions by how they compare to the 1984 convention in Little Rock. We registered more people (6,604), filled more hotel rooms (1,200 plus), and encountered fewer major problems than any convention in memory.

The 1984 convention makes up for the 1966 Little Rock convention when we were deep-fried by the sizzling temperatures. By contrast, the Statehouse Convention Center's air conditioning system had enough juice to cool Pulaski County.

**At the same time,** let's not sell ourselves short either. We were on our best behavior in Little Rock.

If you've ever worked behind the scenes at a convention, you know that if it's anything, it's a team effort. We rise or fall by how well we work

together.

The lion's share of credit for this successful convention goes to Arkansas Promotional Director David Joslin and the five-man Arkansas Steering Committee who anticipated every need and put together a statewide network that brought home-grown talent by the carload to Little Rock.

**We had it all** this year—a city that did handsprings to keep us happy, an Arkansas convention team that requires us to redefine the word *cooperation*, a great convention theme and speakers, and more Free Will Baptists together in one place than anyone has seen in 50 years.

If ever a city opened its heart to a convention, Little Rock had a five-day love affair with the Free Will Baptist National Convention this past July.

**I don't know** about you, but Little Rock gets my vote as one of the best convention cities in America. If I had my choice, I'd take us back in '85.

While we were in Little Rock, the Democratic National Convention met on the West Coast. Their delegates may have left their hearts in San Francisco, but thousands of Free Will Baptists took a piece of the Little Rock home with them. ▲



# The Little Rock Drama



By Larry Hampton

---

Reaching For Revival

---

## Act I "The Folks Responsible"

**Time**—11:00 a.m., Sunday, July 15  
**Setting**—Grand Ballroom/Excelsior Hotel

**Characters**—Free Will Baptists (For folks who don't believe in dancing, Free Will Baptists spend a lot of time in ballrooms at National Conventions!)

**Summary of Action**—Approximately 800 adult Free Will Baptists gathered for Sunday worship. Three other concurrent worship sessions were being conducted for primaries, juniors and teens.

Larry Clyatt, pastor of Fellowship FWB Church in Antioch, Tennessee, led singing. The offertory was provided by a Free Will Baptist Bible College ensemble. Hearty amens met their songs "Looking for a City," "We Shall Rise," "First Day in Heaven" and "Mansion Over the Hilltop." Boyd

Osborne of nearby Russellville, Arkansas, sang a solo.

When Dale Skiles introduced Vernon Barker to speak, he stated that Free Will Baptists do not have to apologize for their preachers or their preaching. As Barker developed the topic "The Folks Responsible," it became obvious that Skiles' words were correct.

Barker reminded worshipers that the world's wisest man became a fool when he refused to listen to God. The same danger faces today's Christians.

Revelation 2:1-6 tells how the church at Ephesus left its first love. Barker pointed out that this church ceased to exist. He added, "It's worse for a church to remain standing and continue meeting unaware that Ichabod is written over the door."

He also said, "Today's church is marking time instead of marching against Hell." Barker asked, "What will our nation be like in 10 years if there is not revival?" He pleaded for revival while stressing that God wants to revive His people.

For the first time, special services were held for children and youth. Toby Jenkins was in charge of Primary Church. Barbara Johnson led the juniors in worship. Randall House's Youth Evangelistic Team performed in Teen Church.

## Act II "The Formula Revealed"

**Time**—7:00 p.m., Monday, July 16  
**Setting**—Statehouse Convention Center

**Characters**—Lonnie DaVoult, Carl Sullivan, I. L. Stanley, Waldo Young, Bobby Jackson, David Joslin, Bill Gardner and 5,000 other Free Will Baptists

**Summary of Action**—Carl Sullivan, layman from Central FWB Church in Huntington, West Virginia, presided over the first night's session.



Executive Secretary  
Melvin Worthington

I. L. Stanley led the congregation in "Victory in Jesus." The Waves of Faith Quartet sang as did the mass adult choir. The choir's version of "I'm Redeemed" was warmly received. Additional special music was provided by Hillsdale FWB College and Bill Gardner.

At 7:24 Clerk Waldo Young called the association to order for the 15th time. Moderator Bobby Jackson noted the convention had been marked by "great interest, great attendance and a great spirit." Jackson announced the appointment of the Credentials Committee, Nominating Committee and Resolutions Committee.

David Joslin, Arkansas promotional director, welcomed the convention to Little Rock. This marks the third time the National Association has met in Arkansas. In 1948 the convention was held in Pocahontas. The 1966 session convened in Little Rock.

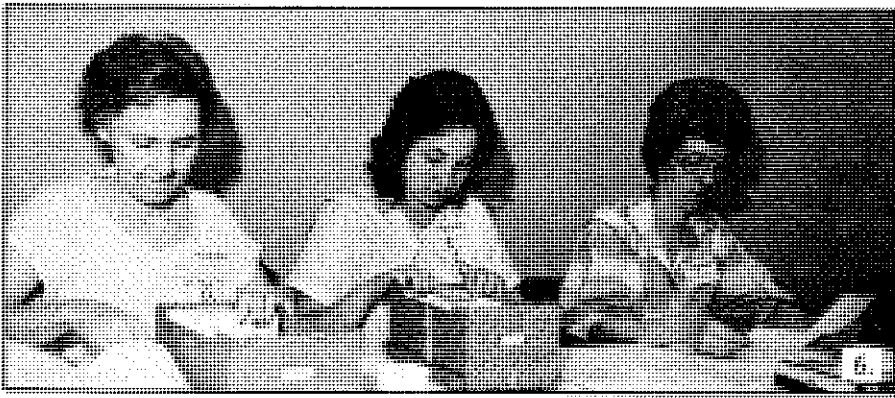
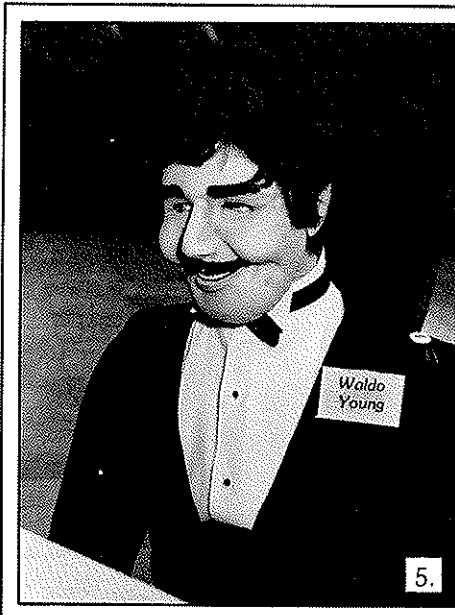
Joslin presented Moderator Jackson a proclamation from Governor Bill Clement designating him as an Arkansas Traveler. Joslin also gave Jackson a T-shirt which read "And On The 8th Day God Created The Razorbacks."

The roll call of states was handled by Carl Sullivan. Strong delegations from several states contributed to a total attendance estimated at 5,000.

Like the other speakers, Oklahoma Executive Secretary Lonnie DaVoult preached from II Chronicles 7:14. His assigned topic was "The Formula Revealed." DaVoult emphasized prayer and humility.



1. Brenda Pursell, convention organist
2. Lonnie DaVoult
3. PEACE and TRUTH prepare for youth service.
4. I. L. Stanley leads Monday evening worship.
5. Grecian Formula, huh Waldo?
6. Registration—a never-ending task.







*Waves of Faith quartet sings during worship service Monday evening.*

## CONVENTION (From Page 7)

He condemned false humility which says "I'm nobody." "If you are a child of God, you are special." Speaking of "the Son of God wrapped in a gunny sack," DaVoult described Jesus as our example of humility.

DaVoult also dealt with pride which Proverbs 6 includes in a list of things God hates.

### Act III "The Fruit Received"

**Time**—7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 17

**Setting**—Statehouse Convention Center

**Characters**—Terry Forrest, John Smith, Raymond Lee, Mary Nell Beck, David Bates and thousands of Free Will Baptists.

**Summary of Action**—Tuesday evening John Smith, president of California Christian College, led the service. The singing was led by Raymond Lee. Lee, a layman, serves as moderator of the Texas State Association. The mass adult choir, Mary Nell Beck, and David Bates provided music for the service.

"The Fruit Received" was explained by Pastor Terry Forrest. He listed three fruits of revival—God will hear our prayers; God will handle our problem (sin); God will heal our people.

Forrest warned, "We do not face the seriousness of sin in our churches." In diagnosing the need of the hour, he prescribed revival. "We must stop depending on spiritual aspirin to do what only major surgery can do."

## Convention Bible Conference

By Tuesday morning, Little Rock was bustling with activity. At 7:00 the Music Ministries Fellowship hosted a breakfast. At 8:00 Bible competition as well as music and arts activities opened at the National Youth Conference.

While ladies were getting ready for the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, over 700 people crowded into the Excelsior Hotel's Grand Ballroom for the annual Bible Conference.

Spirited congregational singing and lively special music prepared hearts for the pointed preaching of Ken Walker, J. M. Creech, and Billy Jackson.

Following congregational singing led by Boyd Osborne and special music by Gilbert and Rupert Pixley, Lincoln Varney introduced Ken Walker. Walker, pastor of First FWB Church in Deerfield Beach, Florida, used Proverbs 14:9 as his text.

His message was built to answer

three questions. What is sin? Why do people sin? Why do people continue sinning when they know it is wrong? Walker explained that man is punished by his sins as well as for his sins. "Man is to be judged for sins committed, right omitted and light rejected."

J. M. Creech, Tupelo, Mississippi pastor was the second conference speaker. In addition to Creech's message, the service included music by the Ambassadors from Free Will Baptist Bible College and congregational singing.

Creech's outstanding sermon was based on Acts 27:14-29. He addressed the problems faced by a minister—the storm spoken of in verse 14. The answer to problems (solution) is found in verses 21-26. He then discussed stays (anchors) to stabilize the minister—faith in the Savior, fullness of the Spirit, fervent supplication, and fellowship among the saints.

Hillsdale FWB College furnished special music for the final Bible Conference service. A trio sang "His Grace Is Sufficient," "I'd Rather Have Jesus," and "Jesus Is The Sweetest Name I Know."

For 30 years Billy Jackson has pastored Free Will Baptist churches. He now serves Cardinal Village FWB Church in Jacksonville, North Carolina. His conference message was taken from Psalm 126:6.

Jackson suggested several methods of sowing the seed his church practices—street services, tract ministry, services at the old folks' home, bus ministry and radio ministry.

## Wednesday Missionary Service

J. Reford Wilson, former general director of the Foreign Missions De-



*Peggy Outland (C) and Mary Ruth Wisheart sell WNAC banquet tickets.*



partment, was scheduled to preside over the Wednesday night mission service. Instead, Wilson was confined to an Illinois hospital in critical condition.

Rolla Smith, Foreign Missions general director, took charge of the service. Blaine Hughes directed the singing. Special music was provided by the men's chorale, Free Will Baptist Bible College and Beverly Weich.

The service followed a revised format. Following the introduction of home and foreign missionaries, Paul Thompson, home missionary to Arizona, spoke. Ken Eagleton, missionary to Brazil, spoke next. Jerry Barron then interpreted for the Mexican national moderator.

Jimmy Aldridge, missionary to Africa, brought the evening message. A missionary offering of \$17,945.50 was received. Undesignated gifts are to be divided between home and foreign missions.

## General Board Overview

**Business Hours: 9:00-1:42**

Onlookers dragged into the General Board meeting on Monday. At 9 a.m. Moderator Bobby Jackson read from II Timothy 4. Jackson noted that Paul

mentioned 17 people in this chapter. He then commented that our relations with men are important while our relation to God is necessary and essential. After prayer, business commenced.

Clerk Waldo Young read the names of the General Board members from each state. The chairmen of the standing boards and the states' elected representatives were seated. The General Board voted for the moderator to appoint the committees. Jackson announced the following appointments:

### Credentials Committee

Herbert Waid (GA) Chairman  
Bill Adkisson (NM)  
Jack Stallings (VA)  
Earl Hendrix (SC)  
Nathan Eason (KS)

### Nominating Committee

Raymond Lee (TX) Chairman  
Doice McAlister (CA)  
Luther Gibson (MS)  
Wayne Phillips (MO)  
Bill Gardner (IN)

### Resolutions Committee

Edwin Wade (OK) Chairman  
Rue Dell Smith (AR)  
Dennis Wiggs (VA)  
Mary Ruth Wisehart (TN)  
David Nobles (NC)



1. David Joslin presents Bobby Jackson a gift from the Razorbacks.
2. Waldo Young (C) tallies votes.
3. Jerry Dudley (L) receives donor book listing contributors to Metcalf Memorial Dormitory.
4. Was the business session that boring?
5. Wallace Malone (C) listens to departmental reports.





## CONVENTION (From Page 9)

Clerk Waldo Young read the report of the Executive Committee. Their report consisted of three recommendations.

Recommendation number one called for approval of the Executive Secretary's report and adoption of the various budgets contained in it.

Recommendation number two called for an amendment to the Free Will Baptist Charter in order for it to conform to section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Recommendation number three suggested the implementation of three new reporting forms: one from the church to the district, one from the district to the state, and one from the state to the National Association.

All three items were approved.



Fred Hersey delivers WNAAC missionary service.

## HOME MISSIONS

Roy Thomas shared the Home Missions report. He led in the rejoicing for a record income of \$1,535,328 in 1983. Thomas announced that 197,992 people attended Sunday School in 2,584 Free Will Baptist churches on Roll Call Sunday.

## MASTER'S MEN

Jim Vallance gave his first report as general director of Master's Men. During his first 39 weeks in office, 38 new local chapters were chartered. He noted a debt reduction of \$6,147 during 1983.

## BOARD OF RETIREMENT

For the 15th time Herman Hersey reported to the National Association. The Board of Retirement has assets in excess of \$3.3 million. However, this figure was not the one that concerned the General Board members.

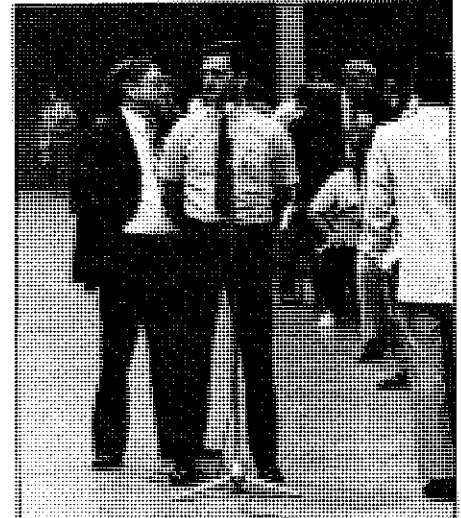
Their attention was riveted on the Free Will Baptist ministers left with nearly \$100,000 in unpaid claims when the Religious Employees Association folded. The General Board instructed the Board of Retirement to present a recommendation for eliminating these unpaid claims to the Board's afternoon session. Action on this report was deferred until that time.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School and Church Training Department General Director Roger Reeds announced the publication of Spanish literature beginning in Spring 1985. A new Free Will Baptist history book by Dr. Bill Davidson will be available at the 1985 session. Volume one of the new Randall House commentary is due out in 1986.

## FOREIGN MISSIONS

Rolla Smith reported a record number of missionaries appointed in 1983—eight couples and two singles. Income for the year was \$2,413,693—an increase of \$270,175 over 1982. Deficit accounts were the lowest in more than a decade. Gifts received during the first six months of 1984 totaled \$1,237,087.



Delegates wait in line for their say at the mikas.

## FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

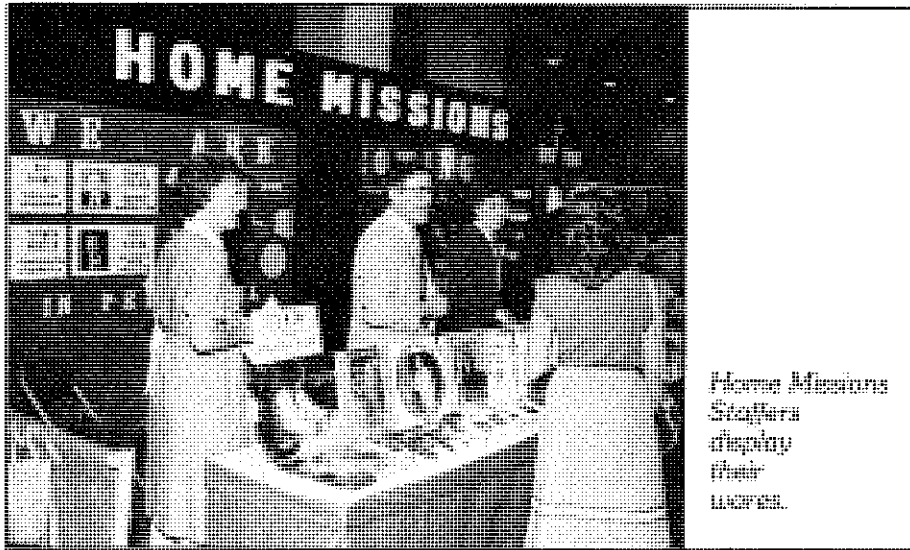
The last report before lunch was given by Dr. Charles A. Thigpen, president of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Dr. Thigpen stated that the total enrollment for 1983-84 was 526 (513 college; 13 graduate school). The college finished the year in the black. Income exceeded expenses by \$2,574.41.

Raymond Riggs, Tennessee's promotional director and representative to the General Board, led in a prayer of thanksgiving shortly before the lunch break. The morning session recessed at 11:40.



The Larry Russells (L) and the Lester Hortons enjoy a meal.





Home Missions Stationery display their words.

At 1:30 General Board members and visitors reconvened for a 12-minute session.

Herman Hersey presented the following recommendation: "That a fund be established to receive gifts toward the unpaid medical expenses of those who were in the Religious Employees Association's plan and this fund be administered jointly by the Executive Office and the Board of Retirement and Insurance."

General Board members endorsed this proposal and approved Hersey's complete report.

After hearing and receiving the report of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, the General Board adjourned its 1984 session at 1:42.

## Meals 'n' Messages

### Reaching For Musical Excellence

Ted Wilbanks, Missouri pastor, addressed this year's Music Ministries Fellowship Breakfast. Wilbanks, a former minister of music, is an accomplished vocalist and pianist. He has taught music at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Hillsdale FWB College and California Christian College.

Wilbanks made numerous practical suggestions to help the overworked, under-appreciated volunteer accompanists in the local church. First, music should be selected with the pianist in mind. This eliminates the frustration associated with material too difficult for the pianist.

The accompanist should always receive a copy of music in advance of rehearsal. If possible, a church should provide lessons for its instrumentalists. The church should have good musical instruments. They should be tuned often.

Music Ministries Fellowship has published a planbook for church musicians which provides a record of the year's music. It is available for a year's dues in the Fellowship.

### Reaching For Lay Involvement

Wednesday at 7:00 a.m., 365 people filed into the Grand Ballroom of the Excelsior Hotel for the Master's Men Breakfast. The theme "Sharing The Load" was developed by R. Luther Sanders, pastor of the Garner (North Carolina) Free Will Baptist Church.

Sanders pointed out that the pastor is ordained of God. However, this is neither reason nor justification for the pastor to feel superior to laymen. He added that the pastor can expect a struggle. Laymen need to help their pastor in that struggle.

In addition to the message by Rev. Sanders, the program included music by Carl Sullivan. Jim Vallance, Master's Men general director, recognized the 1984 layman of the year as well as the runner-up.

R. L. Sharp of Jenks, Oklahoma, was selected as laymen of the year. Sharp, an educator, has served the Bethany FWB Church as Sunday School teacher and superintendent. He has also been a trustee of Hillsdale FWB College. Terry Welsh of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, was named runner-up.

A special presentation was made posthumously to Donnie M. Smith of Lyons, Georgia. Pastor Len Blanchard recommended Smith for layman of the year honors. Smith was saved in February 1983. In the nine months before his death, Smith won 11 souls to the Lord.

## National Convention Business

### Open For Business

The Convention business session began at 9 a.m. Wednesday morning. Evangelist Bobby Jackson delivered the moderator's message. Jackson



Bob Shockey (L.) entertains fellow delegate.



Linda Hersey, Arkansas Women's Auxiliary President



**CONVENTION** (From Page 11)

delves into II Chronicles 15:1-7 to reveal the kind of preaching necessary for revival. Jackson showed that such preaching is Spirit-filled, courageous and effective.

Waldo Young read the Credentials Committee report. Delegates from state associations, district associations and local churches were seated along with standing delegates.

Delegates approved the partial report of the General Board. They then heard and approved the reports of the various departments and commissions. Highlights of these reports are given below.

Dr. Melvin Worthington, Executive Secretary, noted that this is the first year since 1979 that it has not been necessary to borrow money to fund the convention.

Worthington stated that contributions to and through the Cooperative Channel during 1983 totaled \$802,039.06. Of this amount, \$487,876.30 (61%) was designated while \$314,162.76 (39%) was undesignated.

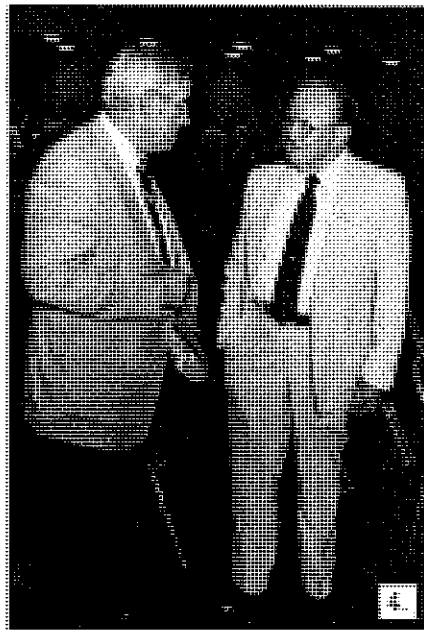
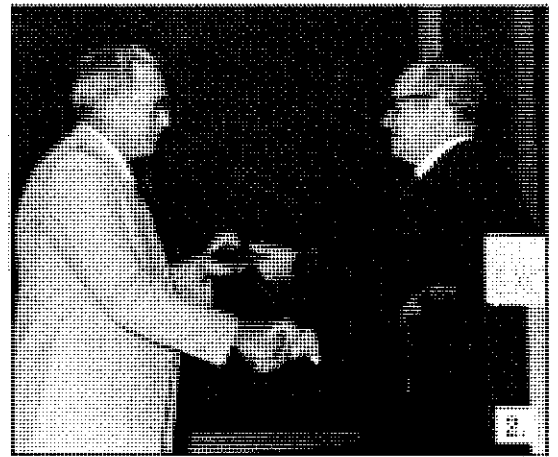
During discussion following the Executive Office report, a motion was made to prohibit rental of booths to those involved in litigation against presbyteries or associations in good standing with the National Association.

The proposed prohibition was expanded to include those whose credentials have been properly revoked in accordance with the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. The motion was tabled.

At this point, the moderator read a statement from members of the Tidewater Association (Virginia) currently involved in litigation. It specified that these men would refrain from making motions, discussing motions or voting on motions addressing the issue involved in their court case.

The Home Missions report was given by Roy Thomas. Thomas named 13 home missionary families approved in 1983. He then listed five missionaries whose churches became self-supporting in 1983. Thomas also announced that David Burgess has been accepted into the chaplaincy.

Elzo Bevan resigned from the Home Mission Board to become a home missionary. Leroy Cutler of Jacksonville, Florida, was elected to fill his unexpired term. This term will expire in 1985.



1. Luther Sanders speaks at Master's Men breakfast.
2. R. L. Sharp (L) receives Layman-of-the-Year award from Master's Men Chairman Raymond Lee.
3. Say "Cheese!"
4. Vernon Barker (L) and Raymond Riggs discuss business.
5. Frank Davenport voices his opinion.
6. Charles Thigpen drives his point home.
7. Couple takes advantage of Majestic Marketing's free pictures.
8. Convention worship service.
9. Mary Ruth Wisehart and Cleo Pursell pose for the camera.
10. Mexican national Javier Gallegos (L) with home missionary Jerry Barron.
11. Arkansas and Mass Youth Choir combine 150 voices for Sunday youth service.







According to General Director Herman Hersey, 1983 was an excellent year for the Board of Retirement. The total funds in participants' accounts increased 20.5 percent. Retirement funds from all sources increased 17 percent or \$1,232 a day.

N. R. Smith, Moore, Oklahoma, was elected to the Board of Retirement with a term to expire in 1987. The vacancy occurred when Earl Hendrix resigned in order to become South Carolina's representative on the General Board.

Hersey also gave the report of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. To date seven different trusts have been established and are being administered by the Foundation. The Foundation's assets now exceed \$29,000.

During 1983 and 1984 the Master's Men raised \$8,382.32 to build the Metcalf Memorial Dormitory in Brazil. (John and Kay Metcalf were appointees to Brazil at the time of their death in a traffic accident.) Jim Vallance, general director of Master's Men, presented a book listing donors to the project to Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Dudley, the parents of Kay Metcalf.

Dudley acknowledged that theirs had been a shared grief. He stated, "Free Will Baptists are a family. We have received not hundreds but thousands of cards, calls and letters from friends around the world."

Using Project Toolshed funds, Master's Men recently purchased a memory typewriter for use in translation work in Ivory Coast, West Africa.

This year's Foreign Missions report included two special features. Rolla Smith introduced Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, Jr., who will go to Ivory Coast to lead the medical work. Joe Haas interpreted for a French national convert who had been led to the Lord by Dan Merkh in 1969.

Many have come to the Lord in recent months as a result of foreign missionary activity, including 235 Africans. Missionaries to Panama witnessed 118 conversions during 1983.

Dan Cronk (Tennessee) was elected to a second six-year term on the Foreign Mission Board. Galen Dunbar (Kansas) and Archie Mayhew (California) were also chosen to serve on the board.

Dr. Charles A. Thigpen, president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, praised the students of the college. He





**CONVENTION** (From Page 13)

cited the college faculty and staff as "a dedicated, unselfish, harmonious group of people."

Next, he lauded the loyal supporters of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He then paid tribute to the school's alumni. Finally, he recognized the contribution

in the absence of chairman Leroy Forlines. The Commission has published a book entitled *Contending For The Faith*, a compilation of 11 booklets published by the Commission as well as three booklets issued by Randall House Publications. A new booklet on denominationalism is scheduled to be released next year.

The Radio and Television commission was created in Columbus, Ohio. The five-man commission was charged with the responsibility of producing a pilot radio program for the 1984 convention.

A 30-minute program featuring Rev. Tom Malone of Florence, Alabama, was played for the delegates on Wednesday afternoon. Approximately 100 churches or individuals pledged gifts of \$100 to the Commission in response to an appeal by Commission member Guy Owens.

Jim Vallance was elected to a five-year term on the Radio-TV Commission. Vallance has been selected to be the announcer on the Commission's radio program.

Following the report of the Radio and Television Commission, the final report of the General Board was read. Item two, the amendment to the denominational charter, was tabled until Thursday in accord with provisions of the charter regarding amendments. This measure was passed on Thursday.

Item three—simplified letters—carried. Each letter is to be one page in length. The color-coded reporting

**"We all want to lead the Philippian jailer to Christ, but we don't want to be jailed to have the opportunity."**

**—J. M. Creech**

**"To sow discord among the brethren is sinful regardless of the motivation."**

**—Terry Forrest**

of the Board of Trustees to the success of the college.

James Earl Raper (Tennessee) and J. D. O'Donnell (Texas) were re-elected to the Board of Trustees of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Sam Truett (North Carolina) who was elected to fill an unexpired term in 1983 was retained on the board.

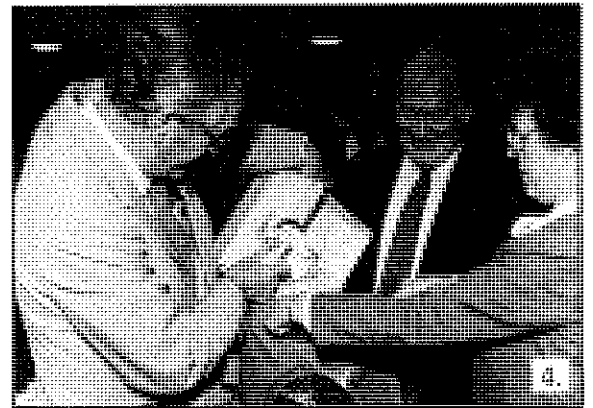
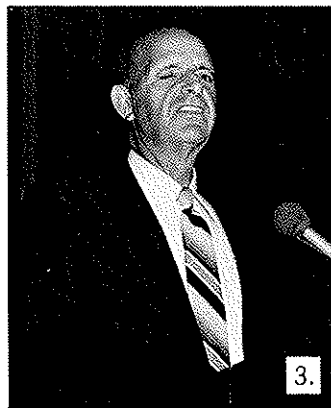
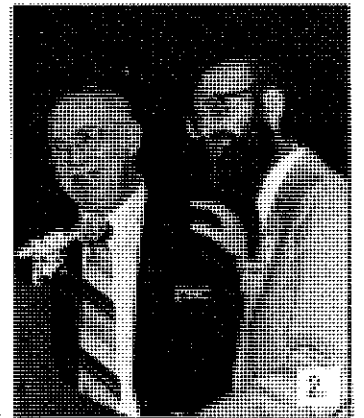
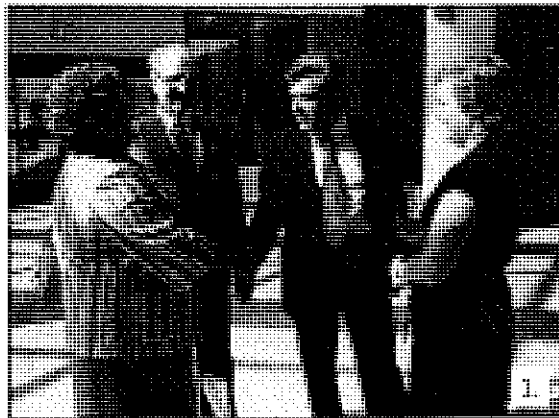
Did you know the Sunday School and Church Training Department employs 50 people who put in 104,000 production hours per year? One project of the department for the coming year is new teen Sunday School curriculum. It is due for release in September 1985.

A special award was presented to Paul Thompson. Thompson, home missionary to Arizona, completed two terms on the Sunday School and Church Training Board during this convention.

Jim McAllister, a pastor from Farmington, Missouri was elected to the board. Malcolm C. Fry, former assistant director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department, was also elected to a six-year term. Carl Cheshier, Arkansas pastor, was elected to a second term on the board.

Fred Hall gave the report of the Commission on Theological Liberalism

L. C. Johnson was re-elected to the Commission on Theological Liberalism. Commission members serve five years.





forms will be available from Randall House.

Item four was discussed at length. Finally, the recommendation was amended to say a loan was to be secured to pay unpaid claims of members of the defunct insurance plan. The amended recommendation also called for raising funds to repay this loan. This measure was referred to the Board of Retirement with the instructions to present a detailed plan or procedure to the body on Thursday morning.

Mrs. Cleo Pursell presented the WNAC report on Thursday morning. Registration for the convention reached 1,078.

The women of WNAC gave \$334,318.05 to missions/missionaries in 1983. This figure includes both cash and non-cash gifts. Non-cash gifts includes items for the Missionary Provision Closet.

Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart has been chosen to succeed Mrs. Pursell as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WNAC. She will take office in 1985.

*The 50-Year Record*, a history of the first 50 years of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, is being

prepared by the Historical Commission. It will be on sale at the 1985 convention.

When the moderator asked for their report, Herman Hersey indicated that the Board of Retirement still favored the recommendation that a fund be established to receive gifts toward the unpaid medical expenses of those who were in the defunct Religious Employees Association's insurance plan.

gested that no action be taken until their October meeting, thereby allowing time to find out the total amount needed to satisfy all unpaid claims.

After extended debate, the body decided in favor of the original proposal (establishment of a fund). An offering was received for this fund from delegates and visitors. The fund which is to be administered by the Executive Office and the Board of

---

**“The last time I was in Little Rock they fried eggs on the sidewalks. This time icicles are hanging from the ceiling of the Exhibition Hall.”**

**—Bobby Jackson**

**“The drama of life would be a better production if we would concern ourselves with being an actor instead of the director.”**

**—R. Luther Sanders**

---

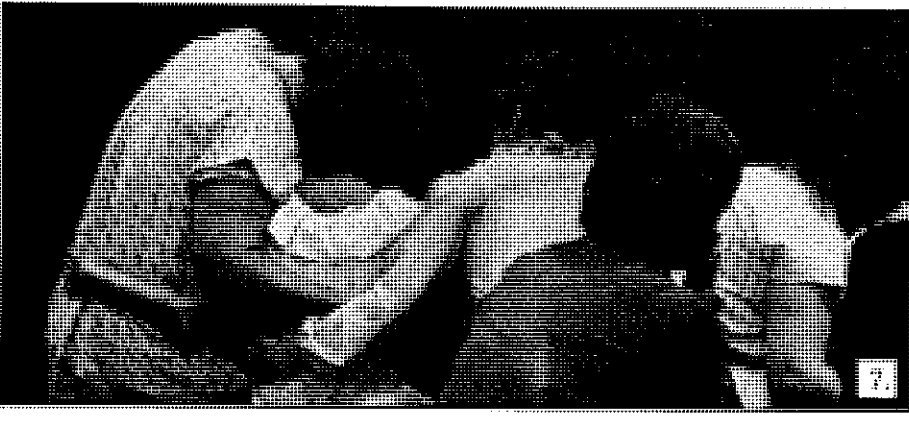
However, he added that should the Association decide for a loan to be secured, the Board would prefer not to do so immediately. The Board sug-

Retirement will remain open until all claims have been paid.

Later a separate motion was passed which stipulated that payment of unpaid insurance claims was an act of charity rather than an admission of responsibility for these claims.

The Budget Committee recommended departmental budgets totaling \$10,539,550.47.

The 48th annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists ended with prayer at 12:07 Thursday afternoon. ▲



- 
1. *The Harrisons (L) meet the Hannas.*
  2. *Joe Haas (L) interprets for French national.*
  3. *Adult Sunday School teacher Almon Calvert.*
  4. *Winston Sweeney's (L) box runneth over.*
  5. *Camera snaps Dan Merkh between comments.*
  6. *Sitting room only at WNAC seminar.*
  7. *Decisions—what conventions are all about.*
-



## 1985 CO-OP ALLOCATIONS

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

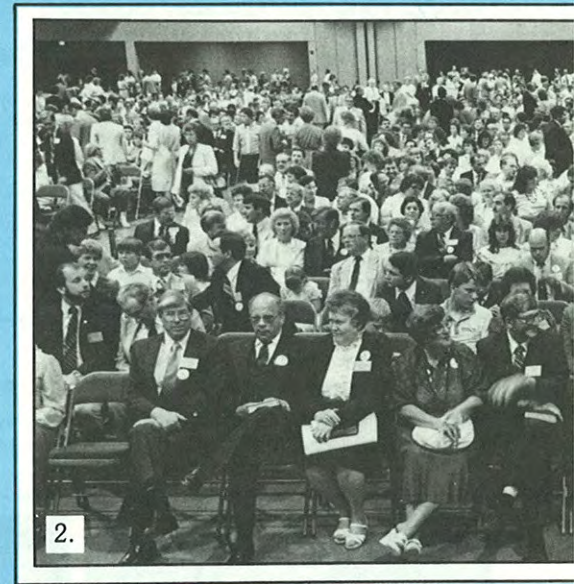
1. Underwrite the Executive Office administrative budget above those gifts received directly.
2. Disburse the balance of undesignated funds to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

Free Will Baptist	
Bible College .....	23%
Foreign Missions .....	23%
Home Missions .....	18%
Board of Retirement	
and Insurance .....	14%
Master's Men .....	13%
Free Will Baptist	
Foundation .....	6%
Commission on Theological	
Liberalism .....	1%
Historical Commission .....	1%
Radio and Television	
Commission .....	1%
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

**"Jesus chose the unacceptable as His disciples. We need Christlike compassion to win those nobody wants."**  
—Billy Jackson

**"True spirituality results in humility, not pride."**  
—Terry Forrest



1. Melvin Worthington (L) and Bobby Jackson.
2. Home and foreign missionaries.
3. Sunday School and Church Training Department Chairman Milton Worthington (R) presents award to Paul Thompson.
4. Delegate heckles registration typist.
5. California's John Smith (L) takes break with friends.







**“Paul’s life was spared not because he was a Roman citizen by birth but because he was a citizen of heaven by rebirth.”**

**—Almon Calvert**

**“Fellowship is two men in the same boat rowing together not beating each other over the head with the oars.”**

**—Sam Truett**

**“Men of reason should be able to achieve unity without absolute uniformity.”**

**—Terry Forrest**



### 1984 REGISTRATION

National Convention .....	4,096
Ministers .....	800
Local Church Delegates ....	201
State Delegates .....	99
Missionaries .....	84
Standing Board Members .....	5
Visitors .....	<u>2,907</u>
National Youth Conference ....	1,430
Woman’s National Auxiliary Convention .....	<u>1,078</u>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>6,604</b>

### 1985 BUDGETS ADOPTED

Executive Office .....	\$ 295,327.47
Free Will Baptist Bible College .....	2,288,000.00
Foreign Missions .....	2,895,498.00
Home Missions and Church Extension .....	1,700,000.00
Master’s Men .....	83,821.00
Retirement and Insurance .....	163,614.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation .....	15,000.00
Sunday School and Church Training .....	3,044,590.00
Radio and Television Commission .....	<u>53,700.00</u>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$10,539,550.47</b>



# RESOLUTIONS PASSED 1984

## SUING A BROTHER

WHEREAS, 1 Corinthians 6:1-8

"Dare any of you, having matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. I speak to your shame. So it is, that there is not a wise man among you? No, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren."

Forbids a brother to take another brother to court,

BE IT RESOLVED, that this body go on record as disapproving any action contrary to this biblical injunction.

## SOCIAL EVILS

WHEREAS, the greatest needs of our

nation are spiritual revival and a return to God and biblical values, and

WHEREAS, the current movement for rights of homosexuals, disregard for the sacredness of human life as created by God, such as abortion on demand and euthanasia, the equal rights amendment, pornography, secular humanism, and other such evils are in direct conflict with a return to God and spiritual renewal,

BE IT RESOLVED, that this body go on record as opposing the said evils, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our people be encouraged to work for the election of public officials, regardless of political party, who are supportive of biblical values.

## CHRISTIAN HOME

WHEREAS, the American home is experiencing a deterioration in foundation, and

WHEREAS, this moral decay is greatly affecting our Free Will Baptist homes, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that this body encourage and admonish our pastors to assist our people in establishing and conducting Christian homes.

## OFFENSIVE TELEVISION PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, offensive television programs continue

BE IT RESOLVED, that we reaffirm our position as stated in Resolution #1 in 1975:

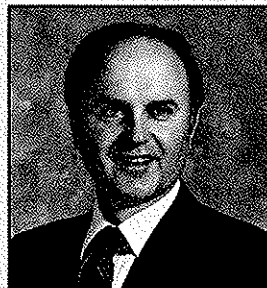
1. That the National Association of Free Will Baptists hereby express its firm conviction that television programs which degrade sex, glorify violence and deny moral decency have no place on the airways.
2. That we strongly oppose programming which undermines the moral values and ideals of our great nation.
3. That we urge all Free Will Baptists to enthusiastically express appreciation to producers, networks and sponsors for morally wholesome television programs.
4. That we call on Free Will Baptists to vigorously oppose the showing of offensive movies on television through:
  - (a) Letter writing (to the Federal Communications Commission, legislators, local station managers and sponsors),
  - (b) Selective buying practices,
  - (c) Selective viewing, and
  - (d) Supporting worthy organizations that are opposing such programs.
5. That we regard this issue with such intense concern that we commit ourselves to work to secure its implementation.

## APPRECIATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that this body give a standing vote of appreciation to the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists for their hosting of the 48th Annual Session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

## RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION PRESENTS

### Pilot Radio Program



Featuring Tom Malone, Pastor  
First Free Will Baptist Church  
Florence, Alabama

Your contribution of \$5 will reserve your tape.

**SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER; DO NOT SEND CASH**

ORDER FROM: Sandy Goodfellow/500 Wilclay Drive/Nashville, Tennessee 37209

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Sandy Goodfellow



# 1984 Convention Tapes Available

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

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

<u>Tape Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
<b>CONVENTION MESSAGES</b>		
1.	Almon Calvert/Sunday School	_____
2.	Vernon Barker/"The Folks Responsible"	_____
3.	Keith Burden/National Youth Conference	_____
4.	Lonnie DaVout/"The Formula Revealed"	_____
5.	Terry Forrest/"The Fruit Received"	_____
6.	Jimmy Aldridge/Wednesday Evening Service	_____
<b>BIBLE CONFERENCE</b>		
7.	Ken Walker	_____
8.	J. M. Creech	_____
9.	Billy Jackson	_____
<b>YOUTH SEMINARS</b>		
10.	Howard Gwartney/Monday Youth Seminar	_____
11.	Greg McAllister/Monday Youth Workers Seminar	_____
12.	Bobby Sebastian/Tuesday Youth Seminar	_____
13.	Doug Little/Tuesday Youth Workers Seminar	_____
<b>WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION</b>		
14.	"Your Attitudes Are Showing"/Seminar	_____
15.	Steve Riggs/Devotion	_____
16.	Fred Hersey/WNAC Missionary Service	_____
17.	Tuesday Missionary Panel	_____
18.	Beatrice Bixler/WNAC Fellowship Dinner	_____
<b>MEET 'N' EAT</b>		
19.	Ted Wilbanks/Music Ministries Breakfast	_____
20.	Thomas Marberry/Hillsdale Alumni Luncheon	_____
21.	Luther Sanders/Master's Men Breakfast	_____
22.	Charles Thigpen/FWBBC Alumni Luncheon	_____
23.	Bobby Jackson/Moderator's Message	_____

Please Complete the Following:

NAME _____	Total Quantity Ordered _____
ADDRESS _____	Total Tape Cost _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____	Plus Postage: \$2.00 _____
Total Amount Enclosed _____	

**PLEASE SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER; DO NOT SEND CASH**  
 ORDER FROM: Sandy Goodfellow/500 Wilclay Drive/Nashville, Tennessee 37209  
 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Sandy Goodfellow

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

### GEORGIA

Leroy Lafferty to New Hope Church, Empire

G. Rodney Wilson to Emmanuel Church, Columbus from Emmanuel Church, Norfolk, VA

Robert Simpson to Proctor Chapel Church, Pelham

### MISSOURI

Greg McAllister to New Life Church, St. Peters

### OKLAHOMA

David Taylor to First Church, Wilburton

### OTHER PERSONNEL

Roger G. "Rusty" Russell to First Church, Elizabethton, TN as minister of music and youth from Fellowship Church, Nashville, TN as minister of music



Attach your mailing label to all correspondence.

Mail coupon to:  
**CONTACT Magazine**  
 P.O. Box 1088  
 Nashville, Tn. 37202

Please check below:

- Change of address. Affix current mailing label; enter new address below. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks.
- New Subscription. Fill in coupon below.
- Renewal. Affix current mailing label; check coupon below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- Please send a one year subscription of CONTACT—\$8.50
- Payment enclosed.  Bill me.



# National Youth Conference **REJOICE!**

By NYC Staff

**T**he 17th annual National Youth Conference registered 1,430 youth for five days of competition, activities, banquets and other special services.

Each of the five days started with a "Catching the Rainbow" devotional time highlighting the colors of the rainbow. The conference theme, "REJOICE!" was symbolized by the rainbow which represented God's manifold (many colored) graces to believers. The conference verse was Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice."

Sunday morning began with Sunday School and worship services conducted on the Primary, Junior and Teen levels. Kay Hampton (Primaries), James Dunbar (Juniors) and Curt Gwartney (Teens) served as Sunday School teachers. The puppet ministries of Toby Jenkins (Primaries) and Barbara Johnson (Juniors) were featured in Children's Church.

Teen church consisted of the YET (Youth Evangelistic Team) members and other youth vocalists presenting a musical drama depicting the life and ministry of Christ.

Keith Burden, pastor of West Tulsa Free Will Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, was the Sunday evening keynote speaker. A mass youth choir and the Arkansas youth choir, with a combined 150 voices, provided special music.

Members of the PEACE and TRUTH Youth Leadership Conference were presented during the Sun-

day youth service. They provided testimonies and special music. The 52 high school youth from 17 states had been in intensive training during the two weeks prior to the National Youth Conference. These youth assumed major leadership roles during the conference.

Monday morning ushered in competition which continued through Wednesday. More than 440 entries competed in Bible or Music and Arts. Rooms were overflowing as Clarence Lewis, competitive activities coordinator, and more than 40 judges, workers and emcees conducted the competitive activities.

Four seminars for youth and youth workers were presented on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Greg McAllister and Doug Little spoke to the youth workers while Howard Gwartney and Bobby Sebastian ministered to the youth. Tapes of the seminars can be obtained by writing: Sandy Goodfellow, 500 Wilclay Drive, Nashville, TN 37209. Tapes of music competition conducted in the Camelot's Golden Knight and Great Hall Rooms are available by writing: NYC Tapes, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

Severe weather forced the Monday evening YouthFest '84 inside the Camelot Hotel. All youth were treated to variety shows, puppet programs and "paint a face" activities. The main reception hall became a brightly decorated arena serving popcorn, cotton candy, snow cones and soft drinks.

The Clowns for Christ from Winfield, Alabama provided the program for the 200 people who attended the

Learner/Adventurer Banquet. This clown team with pastor Bud Hill was featured at various activities during the conference.

Gifts from the Rainbow Booth were distributed at almost all activity times. The Rainbow Booth was open during the conference and sold all types of rainbow souvenirs and gift items.

Through the mediums of ventriloquism, song, gospel clowns and gospel magic, the Learner/Adventurers were





both entertained and taught Bible truths during the week. Ventriloquists from across the country introduced such characters as Rainbow the Clown, Randy the Cajun and even a talking gorilla.

Raymond and Winona Riggs brought delight through song during the Tuesday evening "Visit with Grandma and Grandpa." Delbert Wood concluded the week of activities through his presentation of "Gospel Magic."

Youth after-service activities on Sunday included "Nite Song"—a powerful Christian film that touched the hearts of many youth. Wednesday evening after-service activities was a gathering to munch on nachos and join in the fun of a Laurel and Hardy film and the lighter side of the Youth Evangelistic Team. YET presented good-natured spoofs of a cowboy, a boxer and of the great "Gone With The Wind." However, they entitled their production "Blown With The Breeze."

After final Bible competition, the beautiful Music Hall Theater was filled for the Awards Celebration. As the curtains rolled back and the "REJOICE!" banners descended on stage, the 52 voices of TRUTH and PEACE blended to start the celebration and awards.

Wednesday afternoon featured a special "Season of Rejoicing." Various individuals and groups presented special music and other youth gave testimonies.

Many youth left late on Wednesday and Thursday morning. Though there were sad farewells in the hotel lobbies, each rejoiced in God's blessings. Old friendships had been renewed; new friendships had been made. Many youth had made various spiritual decisions—some had answered the call to the preaching ministry, some to missionary service, others to full surrender of their lives to the Lord.

The rainbow is gone, but we all know that there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. So next year, in celebration of our 50th anniversary, join us as we "Reach For The Gold."▲

*ABOUT THE WRITERS: Jim Lauthern is director of the National Youth Conference; Pam Newsome and Allen Pointer are National Youth Conference activities coordinators.*

## Thank You For Your Contributions...



## ... Through the Cooperative Channel

June 1984

### RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	Undesign.	Total	June '83	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$ 226.00	\$ 238.88	\$ 464.88	\$ 1,671.49	\$ 6,973.43
Arkansas	.00	3,777.19	3,777.19	3,563.73	23,219.71
Arizona	.00	78.30	78.30	100.10	259.98
California	.00	1,333.40	1,333.40	1,124.66	6,651.20
Florida	.00	1,832.73	1,832.73	1,297.97	8,821.01
Georgia	4,352.08	5.00	4,357.08	3,166.44	18,985.13
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	175.96
Illinois	.00	.00	.00	6,196.74	46,748.82
Indiana	118.65	326.19	444.84	.00	3,269.37
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	90.30	1,409.54
Kentucky	.00	129.40	129.40	590.00	1,347.74
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	180.00
Michigan	2,321.51	2,049.80	4,371.31	4,172.87	25,175.69
Mississippi	.00	449.32	449.32	1,915.96	4,667.22
Missouri	.00	8,982.11	8,982.11	5,499.35	36,769.68
New Mexico	33.71	11.85	45.56	130.39	773.34
North Carolina	331.57	295.00	626.57	385.00	5,178.90
Ohio	.00	.00	.00	.00	13,106.71
Oklahoma	24,140.24	9,767.35	33,907.59	29,173.12	195,988.03
South Carolina	.00	.00	.00	.00	10.00
Tennessee	82.22	493.73	575.95	896.60	12,972.20
Texas	5,940.36	631.90	6,572.26	1,914.32	26,976.59
Virginia	.00	149.30	149.30	94.97	2,321.44
West Virginia	3,272.51	289.23	3,561.74	1,382.84	29,997.48
Interest	.00	.00	.00	.00	988.07
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$40,818.85</b>	<b>\$30,840.68</b>	<b>\$71,659.53</b>	<b>\$63,366.85</b>	<b>\$472,967.24</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 70.37	\$13,000.05	\$13,070.42	\$11,757.57	\$ 77,928.41
Foreign Missions	32,021.41	4,103.32	36,124.73	32,542.70	227,749.64
FWBBC	1,263.09	4,103.32	5,366.41	5,671.72	37,915.94
Home Missions	7,301.97	3,211.31	10,513.28	8,462.58	86,262.28
Retirement & Insurance	39.36	2,676.10	2,715.46	2,203.70	16,470.51
Master's Men	71.67	2,319.28	2,390.95	1,642.41	15,528.67
Commission on Theological Liberalism	6.68	178.41	185.09	168.37	1,132.90
FWB Foundation	.00	1,070.48	1,070.48	731.22	6,845.22
Historical Commission	5.01	178.41	183.42	125.54	1,147.91
Radio/TV Commission	.00	.00	.00	.00	300.00
California Christian College	16.68	.00	16.68	.00	86.76
Children's Home	.00	.00	.00	39.30	.00
Hillsdale College	22.61	.00	22.61	21.74	1,414.00
Southeastern FWB College	.00	.00	.00	.00	20.00
Union Association, TN	.00	.00	.00	.00	115.00
WNAC	.00	.00	.00	.00	50.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$40,818.85</b>	<b>\$30,840.68</b>	<b>\$71,659.53</b>	<b>\$63,366.85</b>	<b>\$472,967.24</b>



# "Ask of Me"



**Woman's National Auxiliary Convention Executive Committee**

By Lorene Miley

**A**rkanas women went hog wild to host the 49th annual session of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention which met in Little Rock, July 16-17. A record 1,078 registering for the two-day session represented auxiliaries from 27 states.

Over 300 women attended the Monday afternoon seminar to hear six leaders probe the subject, "Your Attitudes Are Showing." Speakers Patsy Gwartney (MO), Lila Faye Morgan (OK), Elizabeth Gibson (MS), Kay Hampton, Helen Kettelman and Ruth Johnson (TN) addressed our attitudes in strategic areas as God, self, husband, children, money and others.

"Petitionary Prayer" emphasized the Presidents and Field Workers meeting which attracted more than 125 officers. The executive committee developed the theme and distributed packs of updated auxiliary literature and information.

Under the unfurled banner, "ASK OF ME," President June Rolan, Fresno, California, called the convention

into session. Missions dominated the auxiliary scene.

From the morning devotional by Steve Riggs (France), message by Fred Hersey (Japan), music by Henry and Virginia Van Kluyve (Virgin Islands) and Patty McCullough (France) to the afternoon testimonies of answered prayer by Geneva Poole (Brazil), Molly Barker (Uruguay), Patsy VanHook (France), Zalene Breeden (WI), Judy Bryan and Janie Aldridge (Ivory Coast). These personal contacts help produce missions-minded auxiliary women.

Nine of the 21 creative arts contest winners were on hand to receive their awards. A record number of 122 women from 24 states and one foreign country submitted 413 entries. Ruthann Hall (TN) read her winning poem, "Stir Me, Lord."

Delegates were surprised as Mrs. Cleo Pursell, veteran auxiliary worker since 1940 and WNAC's executive secretary-treasurer since 1963, tendered her resignation effective July 1985. Auxiliary reins were placed in the hands of Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart, English professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College and field worker since 1977.

A sell-out crowd attended WNAC's annual fellowship dinner on Tuesday to conclude activities. Beatrice Bixler, musician and composer of more than 300 gospel songs, is more comfortable behind a piano than a podium, but the 750 guests were challenged by her down-to-earth message.

Delegates left the convention in anticipation of WNAC's Golden Anniversary celebration in Nashville next year. Fifty cross stitch designs were formed in the minds of 50 crafters as they resurrect past themes to decorate WNAC's exhibit booth.

But more immediately—Ridgecrest! We hope you are among the 1,273 registrants for WNAC's third national retreat at the Ridgecrest Conference Center, Asheville, North Carolina, September 6-8.

"Ask of me," penned the psalmist, "and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession" (Psalm 2:8). Auxiliary women were challenged to become effective prayer warriors for needs both here and around the world. ▲

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Lorene Miley is editor of CO-LABORER Magazine.*





FREE WILL BAPTIST

## newsfront

### OHIO TO BUILD STATE OFFICE

COLUMBUS, OH—Ohio Free Will Baptists took the first major step toward securing their own state office and bookstore complex during the June 22-23 state association, says Promotional Director Alton Loveless.

The state Board of Directors were instructed by delegates at the 46th annual session to look into buying land or a building suitable enough to house offices and bookstore needs.

Seven hundred attended the Friday evening worship services at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus.

Promotional Director Loveless gave a 15-page, 10-year report analyzing state progress in the last decade. Wendell Combs moderated the meeting; he was re-elected.

Three ministers preached sermons on the program theme, "Awakening To His Work." The three included the two Ohio pastors—Blaine Etterling (Scioto Dale FWB Church) and Edwin Hayes (Columbus First FWB Church)—and Home Missions executive Connie Cariker.

The Ohio Woman's Auxiliary attracted 100 participants to their "Enriched By Knowledge" program.

### KENTUCKY TO STUDY STATE CO-OP PLAN

MARION, OH—Delegates to Kentucky's 45th annual state association appointed a committee to study the feasibility of implementing a financial program like the cooperative plan to undergird the state work. The committee will report its findings in a year.

Moderator Herbert Arms gaveled 240 delegates and visitors through the June 15-16 meeting at Marion FWB Church, Marion, Ohio.

Forty-seven women attended the Friday Woman's Auxiliary conference, using the theme, "Knowing and Growing."

Two Kentucky ministers delivered major addresses during the state meeting—Pastor Lincoln Varney, First FWB Church in Louisville, and Pastor Bobby Joe Spencer, Sammy Clark Branch FWB Church in Harold.

Officials announced that Reverend Bob White of Colquitt, Georgia had been secured to replace Home Missionary Wayne Williams at the Paducah Mission. Reverend Williams resigned earlier.

The 1985 session meets June 14-15 at Pikeville FWB Church, Pikeville, Kentucky.

### CALIFORNIA PREPS TO 'RISE UP AND BUILD'

FRESNO, CA—More than 250 delegates and visitors met at California Christian College to hear the state association challenged by four ministers to "Let Us Rise Up And Build."

Bakersfield pastor Claudie Hames preached "Building The Local Church"; Fresno pastor Lonnie Rolan preached "Building On The Secure Foundation"; Selma pastor Charles Roam preached "Building With The Proper Material." They were joined on the state program by Home Missions General Director Roy Thomas who

preached "Building Through Missions Outreach."

The 41st annual state meeting met June 14-16 with Garden Grove pastor Lynn Wood moderating.

Delegates voted that state cooperative plan allocations be dispersed as follows: national ministries—15%, California Christian College—35%, state office—30%, California State Missions—19%, and California Youth Conference—1%.

The 1985 session meets June 13-15 at Memorial FWB Church in Fresno.

### VIRGINIA STATE VOTES TO MEET YEARLY AT ROANOKE

ROANOKE, VA—Delegates to Virginia's 46th annual state association voted to meet permanently at First FWB Church in Roanoke, the site of the 1984 session.

Pastor Bob Surber, newly elected moderator from Cardwell Town FWB Church in Saltville, said approximately 100 attended the June 14-15 meeting, a larger delegation than in previous

years.

Six speakers preached sermons on the theme, "Considering the Harvest." The six included Home Missions staffer Connie Cariker, Southeastern FWB College officials Joe Haas and Lorenza Stox, and Virginia pastors Eddie Sturgill, Dan Merkh, and Ronnie Wilson.

### MARYLAND ADOPTS COOPERATIVE PLAN

FREDERICKSBURG, VA—Maryland Free Will Baptists adopted a state-wide cooperative plan at their 18th annual state association which met at Heritage FWB Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia, according to Moderator Lester Horton.

The plan calls for 30 percent of the cooperative receipts to stay inside the state work, and 70 percent to be channeled to national outreach.

The June 21-23 gathering included a Friday Fellowship Banquet where

160 heard Reverend Nate Ange speak and the Gateway FWB Church ensemble sing.

Tennessee FWB Children's Home Superintendent James Raper spoke to the state Woman's Auxiliary registrants.

Reverend Raper, Delaware pastor Richard Atwood, and Virginia pastor Lonnie Salyers developed the association theme, "Preach The Word," in major addresses.



# newsfront

(continued)

## PRESS ASSOCIATION TO SPONSOR 'YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST'

NASHVILLE, TN—The Free Will Baptist Press Association will sponsor its second annual Young Writers Contest this fall, according to Chairman Jack Williams.

The 1984-85 contest was devised by the FWB Press Association to attract, cultivate and encourage young Free Will Baptist writers.

The contest is open to any Free Will Baptist youth enrolled in grades 9-12.

The Press Association welcomes the assistance of pastors, parents and principals in urging Free Will Baptist youth to participate in the contest.

The deadline for all entries is November 15, 1984. Winners will be announced in the March 1985 issue of

CONTACT Magazine. The first place entry will be published in CONTACT Magazine.

In addition, the winning entry will be published in CONTACT Magazine.

The first place winner will be entitled to free registration, room and board at the 1985 Writers Conference conducted by Randall House Publications.

### CONTEST RULES

1. To enter this competition a writer must be enrolled in grades 9-12. Each entrant must be a member of a Free Will Baptist Church.
2. Entries may take any form the writer chooses (profiles of Free Will Baptists, inspirational, first person experience, historical sketch, testimony, etc). No poetry or fiction will be accepted.
3. Each entry must be the original unpublished work of the author, one entry per person.
4. The theme of each work should reflect some aspect of denominational loyalty, heritage, people, doctrinal distinctives or history.

5. Each manuscript must be typed, double spaced, on one side of the paper. Each paragraph should be indented five spaces.
6. Manuscripts must be 800-1000 words in length.
7. Each manuscript must include a cover sheet with the following information: name, age, grade, school, church membership, address and telephone number.
8. Entries must be postmarked by November 15, 1984. Send all entries to:

Young Writers Contest  
Free Will Baptist Press Association  
P.O. Box 1088  
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Winners will be announced in the March 1985 issue of CONTACT Magazine.

9. Each manuscript will be judged by a panel of competent, qualified judges.

### AWARDS

Plaques and cash awards will be presented to the first, second and third place winners as follows:

First Place—\$30  
Second Place—\$20  
Third Place—\$10

### MCALLISTER HEADLINES MICHIGAN STATE MEETING

TAYLOR, MI—Missouri pastor James McAllister spoke four times on evangelism and church growth at the 28th annual Michigan State Association which met June 15-16 at Kirby FWB Church in Taylor.

Reverend McAllister, pastor of First FWB Church in Farmington, Missouri, preached three times on the "Mobilized to Evangelize" theme and also gave a church growth seminar for 30 Michigan pastors.

More than 300 attended the two-day state meeting, including 67 ministers.

Delegates elected Reverend George Johnson, pastor of Old Fashion FWB Church, Warren, as the new state moderator.

In other business, delegates approved a \$29,050 state budget.

The 1985 meeting is set for May 17-18 at Old Fashion FWB Church in Warren.

### CANADIANS TO IMPLEMENT CO-OP PROGRAM

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA—Delegates to the third annual Atlantic Canada Association of Free Will Baptists instructed their Executive Board to devise means to implement the cooperative plan in Canadian churches.

Moderator Fred Hanson, re-elected to his sixth term, said more than 250 attended the June 28-July 1 Bible

Conference and business meeting at St. John's Valley Bible Campgrounds in New Brunswick.

Keynote speakers for the family-oriented meeting were Melvin and Milton Worthington. The Worthingtons spoke five times from I Thessalonians. Dr. Vernon Whaley, Free Will Baptist Bible College music professor, directed the music for the gathering.

### INDIANA WANTS 1992 NATIONAL CONVENTION

LA PORTE, IN—In an unprecedented move, the Indiana State Association voted during its June 15-16 session to invite the 1992 National Convention to Indianapolis.

Delegates from Indiana's 27 churches and 2,248 membership asked that Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington make a site inspection at Indianapolis' Hossier Dome to determine if the facility could accommodate

the National Convention.

State moderator Archie Ratliff and Home Missions staffer John Gibbs preached during the Friday and Saturday worship services.

Approximately 75 persons attended the sessions which were conducted at Fellowship FWB Church in La Porte.

The 1985 meeting is set June 22-23 at First FWB Church, Chesterfield.



## SIMPSON NAMED EDUCATION DEAN AT TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, TN—Dr. Douglas J. Simpson, 44, was named dean of the school of education at Tennessee State University on June 25, according to TSU President Fredrick Humphries.

Dr. Simpson, a Free Will Baptist layman and member of Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, served as associate dean and coordinator of the TSU doctoral program prior to his appointment.

Simpson is a former evening school administrator of the TSU downtown Nashville campus and also coordinator of the school of psychology.

The North Carolina native serves on the Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees. He previously taught at the College 1965-1968, 1973-1976.

He served as curriculum consultant for Hillsdale FWB College in 1969, and as chairman of the denomination's Educational Study Committee 1974-1978.

Dr. Simpson's newest book is an education textbook, *The Teacher as Philosopher: A Primer in the Philosophy of Education* published by Methuen Publications in Toronto, Canada.

His other books include *The Liberated People* (1980), *Christian Education: An Introduction to its Scope* (1978), *The Maturing Christian* (1977), *The Apocalypse* (1975), and *Daniel* (1974).

In 1970, Dr. Simpson was listed in *Outstanding Young Men of America*, and in *Outstanding Educators of America* in 1974.

Simpson is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, B.A.; Bob Jones University, M.A., Ph.D.; Middle Tennessee State University, M. Ed.; and the University of Oklahoma, Ph.D.

## FREE WILL BAPTISTS GIVE \$721,000 TO BIBLE COLLEGE IN 1983-84

NASHVILLE, TN—Gifts to Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1983-84 totaled \$721,118.94, according to Treasurer E. B. McDonald. This is \$6,000 less than was given in 1982-83, when gifts hit a record \$727,673. The school's fiscal year ended May 31.

General fund gifts also dropped, while building fund gifts rose, compared to the previous year. Income from estates/trusts was especially good in 1983-84.

Public Relations Director Paul Kettelman, who is responsible for gen-

eral fund income, says that giving to his department was down by about \$40,000.

He notes, "Eight states (Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, South Carolina, Tennessee) made significant gains this year, amounting to \$28,287.82. But 11 states (Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia) showed significant losses that amounted to \$68,495.28."

Building fund income grew by over

\$5,000, according to Director of Development Ronald Creech.

President Charles A. Thigpen noted that the college received over \$46,000 from estates and trust funds in 1983-84. "Many years ago," he says, "the Lord impressed a dear pastor and his wife in Texas and a fine layman in Arkansas to remember the college in their wills. The college received about \$40,000 this year from Rev. and Mrs. M. L. Sutton's estate and some \$6,600 from Mr. Arville Pride's estate."

## DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 1984 WRITERS' CONTEST

NASHVILLE, TN—The seventh annual Writers' Contest sponsored by the Free Will Baptist Sunday School and Church Training Department produced entries from 10 states in six of the seven categories.

General Director Roger C. Reeds announced that winners according to category were as follows:

### Short Story

- 1st: "The Bride And The Bayonet"  
Kathy Henderson  
Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2nd: "The Big Lady"  
Betty McGuire  
Bonne Terre, Missouri
- 3rd: "Thorns And Thistles"  
Noveline Burgess  
Antlers, Oklahoma

### Play/Skit

- 1st: "The Last Laugh"  
Lynda Wood  
Salina, Kansas

### Book

- 1st: Study Guide On The Epistle Of James  
Rev. Clifton Williamson  
Sacramento, California

### Photography

- 1st: "The Meetin' House"  
Jim Vallance  
Nashville, Tennessee
- 2nd: "The Window"  
Tom McCullough  
Royal Oak, Michigan

### Poetry

- 1st: "The Winds Of Golgotha"  
John Best  
Greensboro, North Carolina

- 2nd: "Loving Others"  
Gina Sides  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

- 3rd: "Teach Me Lord"  
Lynn Beard  
Bryan, Texas

### Exegesis/Sermon

- 1st: "Consider Your Ways"  
Rev. Joe McKnight  
Lamar, South Carolina

The annual contest affords an opportunity for writers to exercise their skills and/or to be "discovered."

New contest rules and fees will be announced soon for 1985 according to Harrold D. Harrison, assistant director.



# newsfront

(continued)

## FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CAMPAIGN SET

NASHVILLE, TN—The 1984 Fall Enlargement Campaign, "Count On Me, Lord," sponsored by the Sunday School and Church Training Department, is designed to promote spiritual and numerical growth for Sunday School.

The campaign stresses the importance of getting involved in God's work. A personal commitment by the entire church Sunday School staff will be necessary to make this campaign a success.

The present church size does not hinder opportunity to win. The divisions for competitive purposes are as follows:

Division A over 500 average  
Division B 400-500 average  
Division C 300-399 average  
Division D 200-299 average

Division E 150-199 average  
Division F 100-149 average  
Division G 50-99 average  
Division H under 49 average

Division I—Newly Established

The Fall campaign begins Sunday, October 7, and continues for four Sundays through October 28, 1984. Sunday Schools in each division that experience the greatest percentage of gain over the 13 weeks average attendance for March-April-May, 1984 will be declared winners and awarded first and second place trophies.

Campaign materials are available from the Sunday School and Church Training Department. Entry blanks should be on hand no later than October 5, 1984. The deadline for reporting increases is November 6, 1984.

## FORMER MISSIONARY, ARTHUR BILLOWS, SUCCUMBS TO LENGTHY ILLNESS

MONTERREY, MEXICO—Former Free Will Baptist Home Missionary to Mexico, Reverend Arthur Billows died of cancer June 12, 1984, in a hospital near Monterrey.

Billows ministered 26 years in Mexico, serving 14 years with the Home Missions Department before resigning in 1972 to continue work under the auspices of Cross Beams Missions, Inc. based in Dandridge, Tennessee.

He underwent three major cancer operations and numerous chemotherapy treatments in the past six years.

According to Reverend Howard Munsey of Cross Beams Missions, Inc., Jennel (Mrs. Arthur) Billows, an Oklahoma native, "will stay on the field under Cross Beams at the present."

## Currently . . .

**Gateway FWB Church, Norfolk, VA** completed a nine-room addition to the auditorium education wing in July. The carpeted rooms will house offices and classrooms for **Southeastern FWB College**, as well as provide dormitory space for 46 women students, and a dorm supervisor's efficiency apartment.

The **Indiana State** Home Missions Board was instructed at the June State Association to search for an area within the state in which to build a new church. Chairman **Robert Helms** asks that anyone having friends or relatives in Indiana who would welcome a Free Will Baptist church near them to send names, addresses and phone numbers to: Indiana Home Missions Committee, Chairman Robert Helms, 305 North 5th Street, Chandler, IN 47610.

Inmates at the Jackson County Jail in **Marianna, FL** sent a letter to a local newspaper expressing appreciation for the courage of a Free Will Baptist preacher

who shares his ministry with them in the jail. The minister is Reverend **Arnold Woodlief**.

The Vacation Bible School at **First FWB Church, Russellville, AR** averaged 156 nightly with a special home missions offering for Missionary **Hughes Ellis** of \$376. Director **Billy Ellis** said 49 workers led the successful VBS. **Floyd Wolfenbarger** pastors.

Rev. **Don Holland** reports record breaking attendance at **Immanuel FWB Church, Winterville, NC**, when Sunday School attendance reached an all-time high of 154. Sunday School Superintendent **Ricky Teel** and Assistant **Jerry McRoy** steered the congregation to the attendance mark.

Pastor **Jim McAllister** reports 95 baptisms in the past 12 months at **Farmington FWB Church, Farmington, MO**.

The **Georgia** State Missions Board met on June 9 at the state office in Moultrie and voted to begin a new church in the South Atlanta area.

**Stoney Hill FWB Church, Reidsville, GA**, added 21 new members to the

church in the first six months of the year, 14 by salvation and seven by letter. The church also started a Woman's Auxiliary.

Members of **Newark FWB Church, Newark, CA** honored Pastor **Rex Shipman** with a 25-year anniversary celebration commemorating his quarter of a century in the ministry. The theme of the event was "A Man Leaving Footprints." The deacon board presented Brother Shipman with a plaque for his years of service.

Twenty-three new members joined **Gateway FWB Church, Virginia Beach, VA** on June 3, according to Pastor **Dale Burden**. Some of the 23 new members were converted out of the bus ministry, others through the military outreach, some through the influence of people on their jobs, and others who have grown up in the church.

**Evangelist Tim York** appeared as a special guest on a local radio talk show on Station WVKY, **Louisville, KY**. The interview continued for six consecutive programs. Station Manager Jim Bradley said it was the best talk show the station had ever aired. Listeners called in to discuss problems and ask questions about the Word of God.

Members of **Welcome Home FWB**



**Church, Hector, AR**, burned the mortgage in a special service this summer. Pastor **Jasper Churchill** was assisted in the service by deacons and trustees. Attendance swelled to 172. The church was organized in 1904 with 12 charter members.

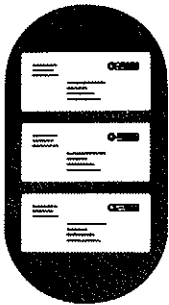
It is correction time. The June edition of this column indicated that **Eastside FWB Church, Houston, TX**, increased attendance from 79 to 124 since 1979—a five-year period. That is not correct. The increase from 79 to 124 occurred from the fall of 1983 until the spring of 1984. That does make a difference, as Pastor **E. R. Mayo** and all his members know. Sorry about that, gang; we'll try to do better next time.

Opening day services at **Harrah FWB Church, Harrah, OK**, attracted 26 33 for morning worship, 22 for evening worship, with two conversions. Pastor **Don Guthrie** has also begun publishing a paper, "In Christ."

Pastor **Mike Criswell** of **First FWB Church, Eugene, OR**, reports 27 conversions and 11 baptisms.

**Shiloh FWB Church, Bratt, FL**, voted to install central heating and air in the parsonage. **Mike Jones** is the cool preacher.

Five members of **Truth FWB Church, New Oxford, PA**, completed more than 300 hours of classroom and outside homework to graduate from Cross Keys Bible Institute, according to Pastor **Edd Green**. Commencement speaker was **Lorenza Stox**, dean of Southeastern FWB College. The college quartet provided music during the graduation. Cross Keys Bible Institute began in 1981 as a ministry of the church in New Oxford. ▲



## OUR READERS COMMENT

### ARTICLES PROMOTE UNITY

I am writing to commend the articles, "Spotlight on Arkansas, Illinois, Georgia, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Kentucky."

Each writer shared the Free Will Baptist work of his state in a unique way that instills pride in all of us for our Free Will Baptist denomination, heritage, and programs.

I believe articles such as these tend to promote unity and show the progress Free Will Baptists are making.

Reverend Roy Thomas  
General Director  
Home Missions Department

### STATE DISAPPROVES NEWS ABOUT EVANGELIST

The Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptists met at First Free Will Baptist Church of Roanoke on June 15, 1984. At this meeting a member of the Tidewater Association reported orally that the credentials of Don Pegram had been recalled. It was further stated that he had made no appeal.

It was also stated that you had been informed of this before your May issue of CONTACT Magazine. In the May issue you listed him as a reputable and recommendable evangelist. In the June issue you referred to him as a successful evangelist.

The Virginia State Association voted unanimously to go on record as standing against sweeping sin under the rug. We cannot approve of sin in the layman or the minister.

Furthermore, we unanimously voted to send a letter stating our voiced opposition to CONTACT giving a recommendation to anyone who is not in good standing with his local association.

We would appreciate you printing this letter in its entirety.

Lottie Cardwell, Clerk  
Virginia State Association  
of Free Will Baptists

### READER WRITES WEIGHTY LETTER ABOUT FAT

Being one of those who has battled a weight problem all my life, I confess to a certain sensitivity about the subject. I consider it a health problem and one that I confront every day of my life.

Although I have had this problem all my life, I considered it a trial to have to deal with, sometimes a burden to bear—but never did I consider it a moral issue as the July issue indicates ("The Ignored Sin," by Nancy Smith, p. 11).

I am not defending being overweight. I recognize that it is certainly a health hazard and unsightly, but so are bunions, skin blemishes, and warts! I do not like being overweight, and neither does anyone else who has the problem. What I am defending is the fact that being overweight is neither immoral, unspiritual, un-Christian, nor sinful.

I agree that "Being overweight means that everything in one's life is not under control." That is true. But the same can be said of those who are addicted to coffee, tea, cigarettes, gossip, long naps, jogging(!), criticism of others, jealousy, envy, and lack of love for others.

I commend Mrs. Smith on her achievement of shedding those extra pounds and learning how to eat in such a way as to keep them off. That is a tremendous victory. Only one who has been trying to achieve the same victory for years can appreciate how much a victory it is.

I also commend her on the spirit with which she wrote this article. I know her intention was sincere in alerting others to what she feels is the "ignored sin."


My taking issue with her is only an attempt to rescue us from assuming one kind of Pharisaical attitude toward those who are overweight and putting their condition on the kind of basis that makes it immoral and sinful for them to be overweight.

We should not make the mistake of thinking as the Pharisees did that what a man ate made him sinful (Matthew 15:2). Jesus is very specific when he says "Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man" (Matthew 15:11).

He describes that which comes out of a man as evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies (Matthew 15:19). Let us not put being overweight into the same category as these things—not even Jesus did that!

I wanted you to know how I felt about the article. Forgive the wordiness of my letter. Who knows, maybe I lost a couple of pounds just writing this little outburst!

Reverend Paul F. Hall, Pastor  
Horton Heights Free Will Baptist Church  
Nashville, Tennessee



**informed  
prayer  
is effective  
prayer**

**MISSIONS  
HOTLINE**

**(615)  
361-5005**

# Spotlight On Michigan



By Charles C. Cooper

**M**ention Michigan to most people and they think of Detroit and cars. That's a good place to begin this story.

## MICHIGAN: THE STATE

In 1622, the first white man set foot on Michigan soil. Quebec Governor Samuel de Champlain sent Etienne Brule to explore the Great Lakes in hopes of finding a passage to the west.

The settlers that followed were French. Catholic missionaries established a Catholic mission in Sault Ste. Marie in the upper Peninsula in 1671. It

was the early 1820's before non-Catholics began to move to Michigan from New York and the New England states.

Detroit was established as a fort in 1701 by French settlers who were engaged in fur trade and missionary work among the Indians. It was first called Pontchartrain du Detroit, founded by Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac. Detroit was the state capitol until 1847 when a shift was made to Lansing.

Michigan was part of the Northwest Territory until it became the 26th state on January 26, 1837, with a population of 85,000.

Detroit had its beginning as the "automobile capitol of the world" in 1893 when two companies were started, one by Henry Ford and the other by Ransom Olds.

The state is almost surrounded by water. There is no place in the state

where you would be more than six miles from a lake or fresh water stream. The Great Lakes are the largest body of fresh water in the world. The Mackinac Bridge was finished in 1957, connecting the lower and upper Peninsula.

One of the world's largest salt mines is under the city of Detroit and the Detroit river. The Ford plant in Dearborn is one of the world's largest automobile plants, built on a 12,000-acre site.

Michigan has a large population of deer and other wildlife to please the hunters. Some 750,000 hunters take to the woods each year. Over 70 percent of the state is forest land; second only to Alaska. Fishing includes everything from perch to salmon.

The Republican Party had its beginning in Jackson, Michigan, in 1854. A coalition of Free Soilers, Radical Whigs,



and Radical Democrats, all dedicated to the abolition of slavery and preservation of the Union met to form the party. Since the Randall movement stood for the same things and was already active in the state, it is possible, as some believe, that they had a hand in the start of the Republican Party.

## RANDALL MOVEMENT IN MICHIGAN

The first Free Will Baptist church of the Randall movement was built in Michigan in 1826. These people were part of the group from nine states who met in the 1827 Free Will Baptist General Conference in Tunbridge, Vermont.

Although the state was predominantly Roman Catholic, a strong Free Will Baptist work was established, with a great emphasis on education. According to some records, the northern movement had over 20 colleges by 1900, and had trained more than 40,000. Hillsdale College of Michigan was one of those institutions.

Joseph Mauck, president of Hillsdale, was one of the leaders in the merger of Free Will Baptists with Northern Baptists, 1910-1917. The idea, first presented in 1880, was rejected, but subsequently passed in 1910 at Old Orchard, Maine. With the merger, the Free Will Baptist work in Michigan came to a standstill.

## CURRENT FREE WILL BAPTIST WORK IN MICHIGAN

God used the automobile industry to help re-establish Free Will Baptists in Michigan. Until after 1900, most of the people who came to Michigan were from the East Coast or Europe. Before the depression, a few people moved here from the South, but during the depression many people came to Michigan looking for jobs. The trend continued when industry sent to the South to recruit workers during World War II. At that time the only cars and trucks built were for the military.

In 1923, Newton P. Gates left his home in Arkansas to find work in Michigan. With his musical background and vast experience in teaching music, especially in churches, he

became the first music director at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Hazel Park, Michigan.

In the 1930's he began the Gates Jubilee Quartet along with his brother Bill, Van Pearce, and Fred Dallas. As they traveled in this area, they became well known as they introduced Southern gospel singing to Michigan.

By 1936, there was a need for a tenor singer, and Brother Gates wrote to Raymond Riggs, a young man back in Arkansas who had studied under him, and whose father, Rev. C. E. Riggs, a Free Will Baptist minister, was his life-long friend.

Raymond came to Michigan to help in the quartet. He gave up his school teaching job and eventually became the son-in-law of N. P. Gates. The quartet began a radio program on WEXL in Royal Oak and attracted a great following, especially southerners.

The members of the quartet now were N. P. Gates, his brother Bill, Raymond Riggs, and J. O. Butcher. Neither N. P. Gates nor Raymond Riggs were preachers at this time, however, within 18 months both had answered the call to preach.

Their singing was so well liked that they rented a Community Hall in Hazel Park on Stephenson Highway just north of the Detroit city limits to have gospel singings each Saturday night. This led to Bible study, cottage prayer meetings and eventually to the re-establishing of Free Will Baptist work in Michigan.

Before the first church was organized, a meeting was held to elect a pastor. Raymond Riggs was elected, and N. P. Gates was elected song director. This might have been the modern day version of Paul and Barnabas, because a disagreement caused Rev. Riggs to decide, along with about 10 other people to go to Highland Park, a city inside the city limits of Detroit, and start another work.

This work was called the Highland Park Free Will Baptist Church, later called Central when it moved to Royal Oak. The first group became the First Free Will Baptist Church of Hazel Park, pastored by Rev. N. P. Gates.

Although the Hazel Park work started first, the Highland Park work was organized first. Two of the first deacons of the Hazel Park Church celebrated their 60th wedding anni-

versaries in 1983. They are Van and Lottie Pearce and Charlie and Claudia Miller.

Rev. N. P. Gates probably organized more churches in Michigan than anyone else. He helped in organizing three of our four local associations, and along with Rev. Charles Thigpen, headed up the organizing of the Michigan State Association.

Most of our churches were started after World War II. When the war ended, many people here to work in defense plants went back home. Others moved here when they were discharged from service.

God must have been in the planning for southern people to be used in re-establishing Free Will Baptist influence in Michigan. However, this did create a problem in reaching the native Michigan people, and most anyone except southern folk.

Not all the people who moved from the South were church-going folk. In fact, many were very worldly and spent their weekends in bars, and many spent all they made on everything except taking care of their families. When the people of the North called people from the South "Hillbillies," they did not mean it as a compliment.

The priest in one of Michigan's largest Catholic churches, Charles Coglein, had a radio program in the 30's and 40's, and on this program he spoke boldly against "Jews" and "Hillbillies," as though we were second-rate people. The fact that we were branded as a "Hillbilly Church" did not help us in reaching people from the North.

This didn't bother our growth among southern folk; in fact, some pastors have been heard to welcome the people by saying we are just a good ol' bunch of southern folks. Many of our churches started in store buildings where folk from the South would come just to have fellowship with their kind of people.

Another problem was in the different style of worship. Most of our churches were made up of people who were raised in a rural area. The old saying "you can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy" seemed to be true.





## MICHIGAN (From Page 29)

There was nothing wrong with country folk still acting country, it's just that city folk didn't understand and they didn't fit in. Maybe we also had people who thought if these northern people got saved, the evidence of their salvation was that they would act like us.

Most of our early pastors had little or no theological training, and they along with the people did not understand that the difference in the way people worship often has to do with their lifestyle.

For example, many of the people before coming to Detroit were coal miners, hard-working farmers, and saw mill workers. Where they came from, everybody worked hard, and when they went to church they worshipped hard and became physical in their praying, even beating the altar with their fists as they would come to the altar for prayer. Most of the churches always began the service with an altar of prayer.

All these things are fine, and no one should be critical of the way people worship. Free Will Baptists probably have more variety in our style of worship than anyone else, but when people who do not believe it's proper to have an altar of prayer look down on those who do, we lose our ministry with the "all" Jesus told us to reach.

Over the years we have learned a lesson the hard way; our ministry is not just to the people from the South with a fundamental background. We are now reaching people of all religious backgrounds and from all over the world. Those of us from the South are still proud of our heritage, but most of us have learned to respect people who are just as proud of their heritage, too.

From the early 20's to the late 60's, people were constantly coming to Michigan for jobs. Through the 70's the population of Michigan began dropping with an average of 30,000 people per year leaving the state. According

to recent statistics, from April 1980 to July 1983 over 315,000 people moved out of the state. Detroit dropped from 5th to 6th place in size.

Many of our churches lost members and good supporters during this exodus from the state. Michigan is still one of the 10 highest in unemployment. In the early days of re-establishing the Free Will Baptist work in Michigan, when a church needed a pastor, it was easy to send out of state and get one to come to Michigan if he wanted to be a working pastor. Jobs were plentiful and someone would usually have him a job waiting. That would be next to impossible today, however, 35 of our churches now have full-time pastors.

We now have four district conferences; The Wolverine has 15 churches; The Liberty has 18; The Metropolitan has seven; and The New Hope has nine. There are some churches in the state that are not members of the associations. The churches in our State Association list 4,063 members. Our income for 1983 was \$997,000, with a total outside giving of \$121,542.

Besides pastors, we have 31 ordained ministers and 21 licensed ministers. For the first time in the history of our State Association (two years ago), we adopted a budget and most of our churches are giving on a regular basis. We support a full-time missionary in Lansing.

Because of the strong churches we have, even though many are small in number, the outlook for Free Will Baptists in Michigan is good. The fellowship among our pastors in all four conferences is excellent.

Many of our churches are supporting the denomination by giving to Free Will Baptist Bible College, Foreign Missions, Home Missions, and the Cooperative Plan. Our State Moderator is Reverend J. B. Varney.

There is also a strong Woman's Auxiliary in the state that has given more each of the past two years to the Missionary Provision Closet than any other state. ▲

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Charles C. Cooper has pastored Troy Free Will Baptist Church, Troy, Michigan, for 22 years. He has been involved in the Free Will Baptist work in Michigan since 1948. Reverend Cooper serves as Michigan's promotional secretary.*



## THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

**T**he 48th annual National Convention brought a record registration of over 6,000 and a high attendance Monday evening in excess of 5,000.

As we reflect on the convention, several things seem to stand out.

## Fellowship of the People

Free Will Baptists from 40 states and several foreign countries attended the meeting. The National Convention is more than buildings, budgets and bright lights—it's people.

Friendships established over the years are renewed and rekindled as well as new friendships developed. What a joy to see people laughing, singing and sharing together.

Little Rock was a unique gathering, a time to be unselfish and unified. Fellowship, in the Bible sense of the word, characterized the people who attended.

Fellowship with our brethren and our Beloved brings satisfaction, strength and steadfastness. The blessings which result when Free Will Baptists fellowship together must never be minimized.

It is one key to the strength and stability of our denomination. Where





# Leaving Little Rock



fellowship is ignored, suspicion, schisms and strife abound. Proper fellowship dispels misconceptions, misrepresentation and mistrust. The spirit of fellowship heals wounds and honors God.

## Fervency of the Preaching

Each preacher spoke with an urgency developing the theme "Reaching For Revival." The preparation and practical application of each preacher was evident as he spoke.

Once again we were reminded of the blessings of a God-called ministry. Free Will Baptists have some excellent preachers. The leadership of the Spirit is a marvelous thing to behold.

We are grateful to God for the power, place and purpose of preaching at our convention.

## Focus of the Program

Messages throughout the convention emphasized "Reaching For Revival." This theme echoed the sentiments of the conferees. The folks responsible for revival are God's people.

As each preacher spoke, it was apparent that God was in Little Rock. The messages were truthful and timely as each probed some area of revival.

The convention music was great. The musicians are to be commended for a job well done. Each year the music seems to get better.

The business meetings were conducted in a spirit of consideration,

cooperation and congeniality. Absent from this year's business sessions was the spirit of unnecessary conflict. Healthy discussion, disagreement, debate and decision prevailed.

Moderator Bobby Jackson did an outstanding job presiding. Fair, full and frank discussions were permitted during the General Board meeting as well as during the business sessions. One of the reasons for an outstanding convention is the excellent job done by the national officers.

## The Fact of Progress

As annual reports were given, significant if not spectacular progress was noted by each national agency. Although we may not have accomplished all we could have or should have, it is certainly evident that progress had been made during our 49 years of history. Thanksgiving should resound from each of us for the evident hand of God upon our denomination.

As one brother said, may we all get into the Free Will Baptist boat and row with the oars rather than fight with them. May we pull together rather than pull against each other.

## Fulfillment of Potential

We stand on the threshold of our greatest achievements. We have the means, methods and manpower which we have never had before.

Our potential is unlimited. Growth will come as we faithfully follow the Lord. The selfishness, shortsighted-

ness, stubbornness, suspicions and superficiality which hinder growth must be expelled and replaced by a spirit of unselfishness, unity and understanding.

May God enable us to fulfill our potential. We may never be as big as some other groups, but we can be the size God wants us to be. May we never be satisfied with anything less than what He wants us to be.

I hope you will join me in helping our denomination be all it can be and reach our full potential in Christ. ▲

---

## The Secretary's Schedule

<b>September 4-8</b>	1985 Convention Trip Nashville, TN
<b>September 16-21</b>	Sophia FWB Church Sophia, WV
<b>September 30— October 5</b>	Akron FWB Church Akron, OH

---



**CONTACT**

**P.O. Box 1088**

**Nashville, Tennessee 37202**

Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee



By Floyd Wolfenbarger

**C**hurches have sometimes confused annual evangelistic campaigns with revival. An evangelist is secured and sometimes expected to bring unsaved loved ones to Christ who have not been prayed for or witnessed to in a year.

It is no small wonder that such campaigns are rarely true revivals. What are the keys to true revival?

A revival of prayer. Prayer is much more than a recitation of things we would like to see happen. It must be a genuine longing of the soul coupled with a willingness to be used of God in the execution of our prayer. We would like revival anytime; unfortunately, we rarely long for it.

A revival of holiness. Without personal holiness there will be no revival!

It must be emphasized that in every trial, every prayer, every devotion, every circumstance and every chastisement, God is calling us to and making us partakers in holiness.

A revival of burden. Could it be that our church has seen so many people going into Hell that we do not care any more? God forbid that we allow such hardheartedness among us.

A revival of joy. One of the thieves of God's blessing of revival is complaining. Christ prayed that His followers

"might have my joy fulfilled in themselves" (John 17:13).

The joy of Christ in us will put an end to the bickering, complaining and squabbling that quench the fire of true revival.

A revival of obedience. The key to true revival is true obedience. I mean to say an obedience born of humility and contrition. God promised to "receive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite" (Isaiah 57:15).

The individual who is disobedient will not share the joy of revival until he turns to God and obeys.

O Lord, revive us again! ▲

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

**THE  
Free Will Baptist  
Bible study journal!**



*Dimension* is—

- Practical
- Stimulating
- Informative
- Scholarly (but not dry!)
- Published quarterly

Edited by Dr. Robert Picirilli, dean of the Graduate School of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

To subscribe, clip and mail the coupon below with your subscription check.



Please enter my subscription to *DIMENSION* for:

one year (\$7.50)     two years (\$14.00)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

