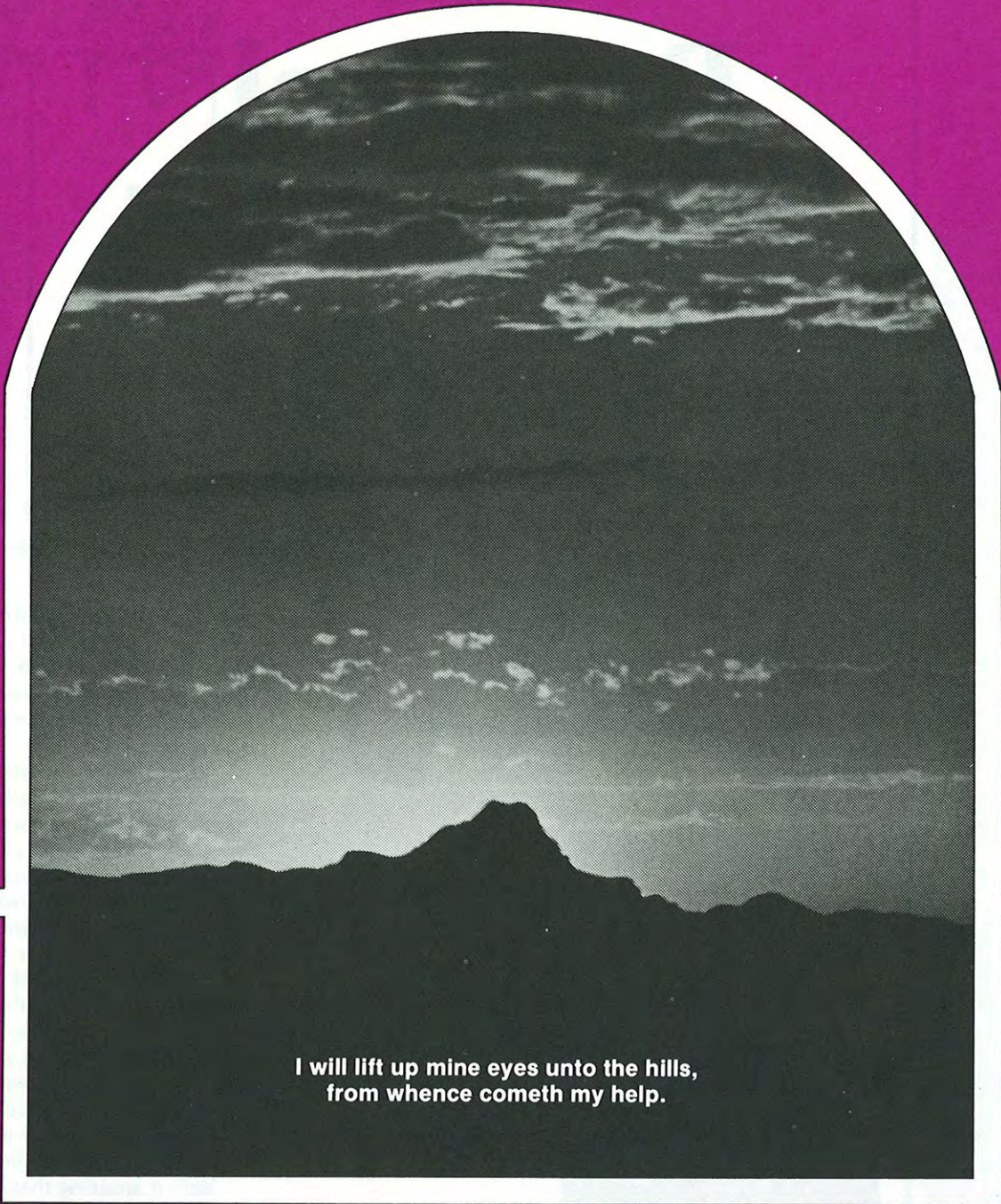


May 1985

Contact



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.



The Personal Soul Winner



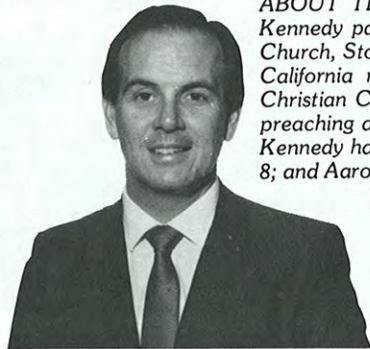
By Richard Kennedy

A personal soul winner! That's what I always wanted to be. At an early age, I became convinced that soul winning was where the rubber met the road.

Andrew Murray insists, "There are two kinds of Christians; soul winners and backsliders!" Personal soul winners come in all sizes and shapes: high school quarterbacks, business executives, newspaper editors, plumbers, painters and even the little girl next door. The truth of the matter is that all of God's children are to be soul winners.

John Wesley wrote, "We should be out of breath from winning souls!" "That's what we pay the preacher for . . ." is but one of the many misconceptions about this business of soul winning.

Isn't it amazing that the very thing that would revolutionize our churches, not to mention the world,



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Richard Kennedy pastors Northside Free Will Baptist Church, Stockton, California. The 35-year-old California native graduated from California Christian College, Fresno, in 1970. He began preaching at the age of 18. Richard and Pam Kennedy have three children—April, 11; Amy, 8; and Aaron, 2.

would cost us only our time and commitment to the task. In this age of gadgets and high-powered programs, I'm afraid we've stumbled over this matter of soul winning and put it aside hoping something else will take its place.

Don't get me wrong, I believe in employing the latest in technology and programs, but these are simply a means to an end—winning people to Jesus Christ. How can we be so sure that personal soul winning is still the “in” thing for Christians today?

All one has to do is to study the life of Jesus. He preached to thousands on more than one occasion, but keep in mind that many of His soul-winning encounters were one-on-one.

The scriptures abound with examples of personal soul winning; join me on a quick tour. As we travel, notice who did the soul winning, the nature of the prospect and the surroundings of the encounter.

First, Jesus leads a judge to the new birth in John 3. I say “judge” because Nicodemus is thought to have been a member of the Sanhedrin. Not your typical down-and-outer, but in great spiritual need nonetheless.

In the next chapter Jesus goes to the other end of the social spectrum and gives the Samaritan woman a drink from the well of salvation. To her amazement, He even spanned the racial barrier that existed between the Jews and Samaritans.

Next, Philip, deacon at the First Church in Jerusalem, wins a politician down in the desert. (Really, Gaza is like Needles, California.)

Resource List

- Evangelism Explosion*, James Kennedy, Tyndale
How to Win Souls and Influence People for Heaven, George Godfrey*
Go Tell, Freddie Gage*
Fruit That Remains, C. W. Fisk*
The Golden Path to Successful Soul Winning, John R. Rice, Sword of the Lord
The Master Plan of Evangelism, Robert E. Coleman, Revell
How to Have a Soul Winning Church, Gene Edwards, Gospel Publishing House
The Secret of Soul Winning, Stephen Olford, Moody
Let's Go Soul Winning, Jack Hyles*
Born to Reproduce, Dawson Trotman, Navpress

*Available through author.

Here the role of the Holy Spirit in soul winning is clearly seen. After all, it is He who is seeking a bride for the Bridegroom. Soul winning is cooperating with the Holy Spirit in His quest to find a bride for the Groom.

Too, we must not forget Andrew who won his blue-collar worker brother Simon Peter with his announcement, “We have found the Messiah.” Then there is Philip who won the skeptical Nathanael with a simple, “Come and see.”

Let's not forget Matthew who influenced his business associates with his own version of homestyle evangelism.

In more modern times, Edward Kimball won a shoe salesman to Christ with his honest concern and urgent plea . . . Dwight Moody. Dear to me is one Sunday School teacher who, in 1960 led me to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Soul winners . . . all sizes, shapes, occupations, cultural backgrounds, but with one thing in common, a desire to tell what they know to be true about their Lord.

Desire . . . that's where soul winning begins. One can enroll in the latest soul-winning classes, attend all the seminars he wishes, but without desire he will never get the job done.

“But I'm afraid . . .” That's what we've all said at one time or another. It's all right to be afraid. Who said we have to overcome our fears anyway? I've been a soul winner for 20 years and I still have to deal with my fears.

“What fears?” you may ask. The fear of rejection. The fear of ridicule. The fear of freezing up. The fear of running into a skeptic, or worse yet, an atheist!

How do we deal with these fears? First we must attend classes and seminars. They are a must. Shame on the church that tells its people to witness, but doesn't teach them how.

Second, we need the experience of observing an experienced soul winner at work. My first soul winning adventures were with my father. As I watched God use him to win the lost, a desire to do the same burned within me.

Then there comes that time when we must solo. Don't worry, you're not going to ruin any prospect. God will see to that. At first, simply share

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Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Melvin Worthington

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Circulation: Geneva Trotter

Printed by Randall House Publications

Volume XXXII, No. 5

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 ©, 1985 Member of the Evangelical Press Association. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CONTACT, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. ISSN 0573-7796.

By Clifford Donoho

C. S. Lovett describes the ministry of the gospel tract, "Tracts are like bullets; they strike a target with a terrific impact. They are verbal pellets which slam into a man's spirit and once lodged, are not easy to remove."

With today's fast-paced, instant everything lifestyle, the tract is becoming more important. People too busy to listen to an extended gospel message can be reached with a gospel tract.

A tract ministry can work for you and for your church. It will give people that much needed shot-in-the-arm in doing their part in carrying out the great commission. It generates excitement and enthusiasm that spreads through the congregation.

Tracts vary in size, shape and content. Size and shape are important—the most practical size being one that fits easily into a shirt pocket.

The possibilities for distributing tracts are endless. Restrooms, phone booths, restaurants, doctors' offices, hospital waiting rooms and even mailing with the monthly bills. The excitement seems to keep building while searching for new places to leave them.

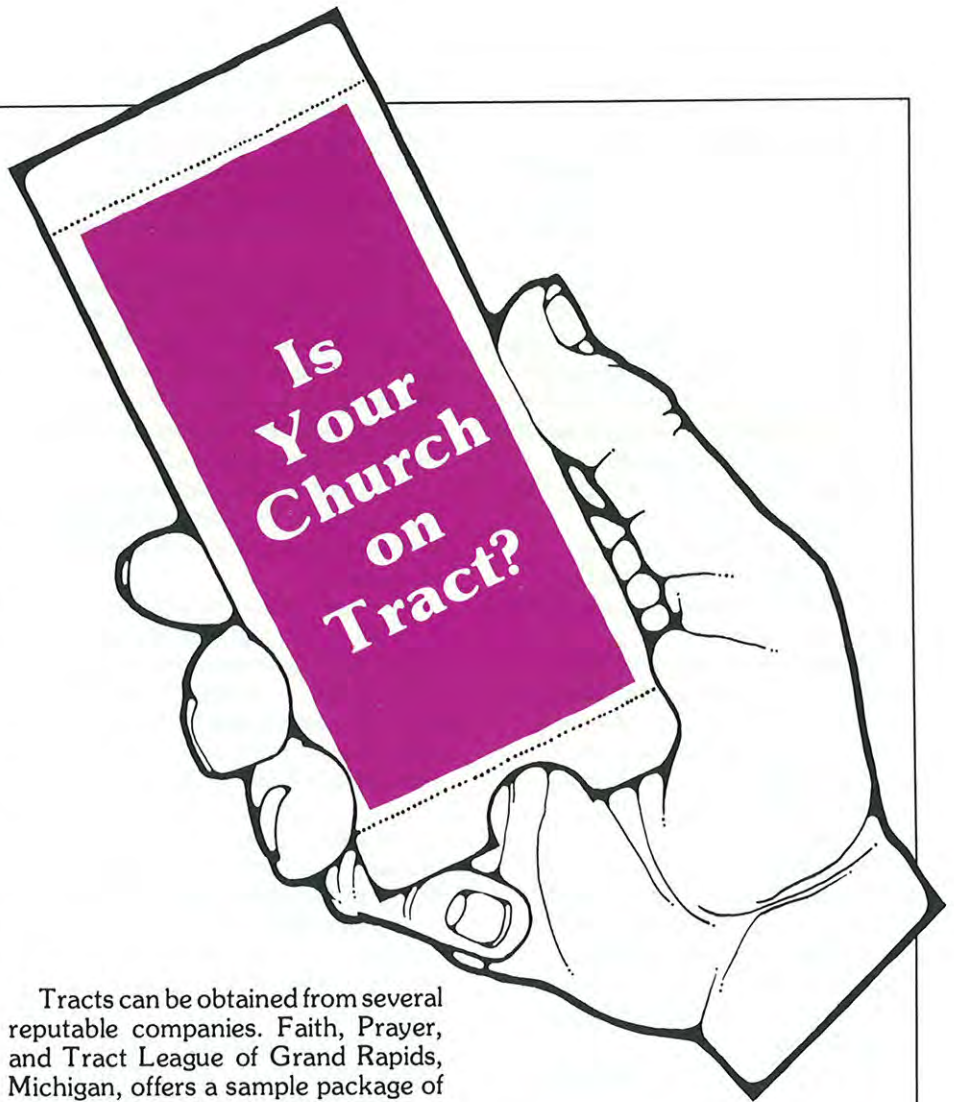
I feel there's no substitute for distributing tracts and witnessing on a one-on-one basis. Our church dispenses 500 tracts a month, and we have never been verbally or physically abused. I've never had anyone refuse to take one of our tracts.

The content of tracts can vary to meet the need of any community. If this is the only gospel message some people will ever get, then let's give them the gospel. My favorite tract is, "God's Simple Plan of Salvation." However, there are tracts that are effective for holidays and special days throughout the year.

WINNER (from page 3)

your testimony. A simple three-point outline comes in handy: my life before Christ; how I accepted Christ as Savior; the changes in my life since Christ has been made Lord.

Next, the "read along" tracts are great. They provide an outline to follow in sharing the gospel. Given time, you'll soon be an accomplished



Tracts can be obtained from several reputable companies. Faith, Prayer, and Tract League of Grand Rapids, Michigan, offers a sample package of assorted tracts for 50¢. Lifegate, Inc., Box 1771, Martinsville, Indiana, offers "God's Simple Plan of Salvation" in different colors and styles. They also offer the option of printing the church's name, address and phone number on the back.

I suggest that you contact Randall House; they offer some excellent tracts.

It's of utmost importance that the church's name and phone number be on the tract. But one word of caution—make the tract look professional! A shoddy-looking tract leaves

witness. You are about to taste the meat Jesus spoke of that most people know nothing about.

The joy of leading a person to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ is greater than scoring the winning touchdown or closing the big deal to win your boss's favor. Rather, you have involved yourself in the thing nearest the heart of God—soul winning! ▲

that same impression about the church. The most important thing is to simply do it. Get started. A tract ministry works.

A family picked up one of our tracts from a grocery store bulletin board and the Holy Spirit led them to our church. God had been dealing with them to attend church. Now the whole family has rededicated their lives to the Lord and are actively involved in the church and the tract ministry.

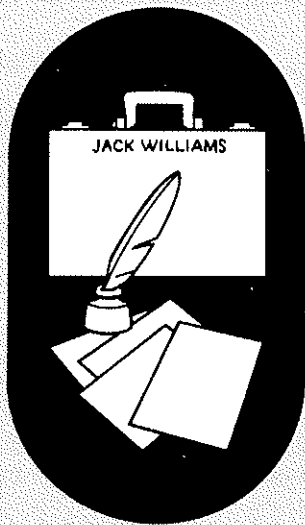
A 37-year-old gentleman called me in the middle of the afternoon and wanted to know if he could meet me at the church and get saved—again, it all started with a simple tract.

The tract ministry is a good way to involve people in the local church. In fact, it could very well be one of the most important ministries in the church today. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Clifford Donoho pastors Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Salem, Illinois.

The Man In The Shadows

Briefcase



Sometimes it doesn't take long to tell a hero's story. That's the case with Joash in I Chronicles 27:28 when eight words, five of them three letters or less, bracket his life—"and over the cellars of oil was Joash."

That terse summary understates his good self-image and the fact that Joash never complained about his royal appointment to the cellars, and labels him as a man who knew how to work without supervision.

Many sons of Joash fill Free Will Baptist pulpits today. They go quietly about their duties while others run the dog and pony shows. They take the back seats, get none of the credit, but always shoulder more than their share of the load.

Let me tell you about a Joash among us who answers to the name of Arnold Pollard. Quiet, mystical, a man of few words who warms your soul like a gentle spring breeze. Arnold tells me that we met six years ago at an Ohio ministers' retreat, but I don't remember him from that time.

Arnold Pollard entered my life to stay on Friday, September 10, 1982, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. That was the day I met with the Ohio Steering Committee to plan the 1983 National Convention.

It takes the work of five major committees to direct the annual convention. I'd already assigned a committee responsibility to each man before we met. My secretary typed "Arnold Pollard" in the space for Prayer Committee Chairman.

Even though Ohio Executive Secretary Alton Loveless told me later that if

he had matched men with responsibilities, Arnold Pollard would have been his choice for prayer chairman, I admit to some doubts at first. You see, Pastor Pollard was that rare Free Will Baptist pastor who wore a full beard.

While I grew to love Arnold and his frosty brown beard, you must remember that as a denomination we'd just weathered a storm that equated whiskers with rebellion. However, it didn't take long to discover that Arnold Pollard spent more time talking with God than he did grooming his beard.

He took the job of National Convention prayer chairman seriously. He mailed letters, prepared flyers, called people on the phone—but most of all, Arnold Pollard prayed.

I met with Ohio's Steering Committee in the fall, winter and spring. Each time, Arnold's piercing eyes and cheerful outlook promised to share the convention planning load.

During our meetings, Arnold took a side seat and didn't say much unless asked a direct question. But I noticed that the other men seemed to gravitate toward Pastor Pollard. There was something special about the quiet man behind the silver-streaked beard.

Just before the National Convention, I attended the Ohio State Association and Youth Conference where several youngsters from Puritan FWB Church emerged as Bible competition winners. The church wasn't large, yet there was something unique about their youth program. I knew the source of that uniqueness—Arnold Pollard pastored the Puritan Church.

Then came the National Convention with its tidal wave of frustrations when it seemed that a thousand unsolved problems swirled around me. As I hurried across the exhibition floor, someone tugged on my coat and a calm voice asked, "Brother Jack, is everything going well?"

"No!" I snapped, then turned to look into a pair of the most caring eyes I'd ever seen. It was Arnold Pollard. He wanted to help.

By then I'd learned that when it came to prayer, Arnold was all business. I leaned against him and whispered, "Brother Arnold, if you really want to help, please pray." He nodded, turned without another word and disappeared down a hallway.

With 5,000 people scurrying about the hotels and convention center, Arnold Pollard did just that—he found a place to pray, and got some answers. Oh, did I feel great knowing that Arnold Pollard was praying for me!

Things got better after that, a lot better. Later, I pulled Brother Pollard aside and promised him a steak dinner the next time he came to Nashville. Before he could take me up on the offer, Arnold's letter arrived with news that he'd undergone major cancer surgery.

Provisionally, this past February, I returned to the Ohio ministers' retreat where I met Arnold in 1979. I looked for the preacher with the full beard, but he wasn't there. He had eight days to live.

While at the conference, friends related an incident concerning Pastor Pollard's cancer surgery five months earlier.

It seems that as attendants wheeled him into the operating room, he asked the surgeon if he could have prayer. The doctor consented. There, in a high-tech world surrounded by thousands of dollars worth of equipment, with nurses waiting and a skilled surgical team poised, Pastor Pollard had them all join hands and circle him while he prayed.

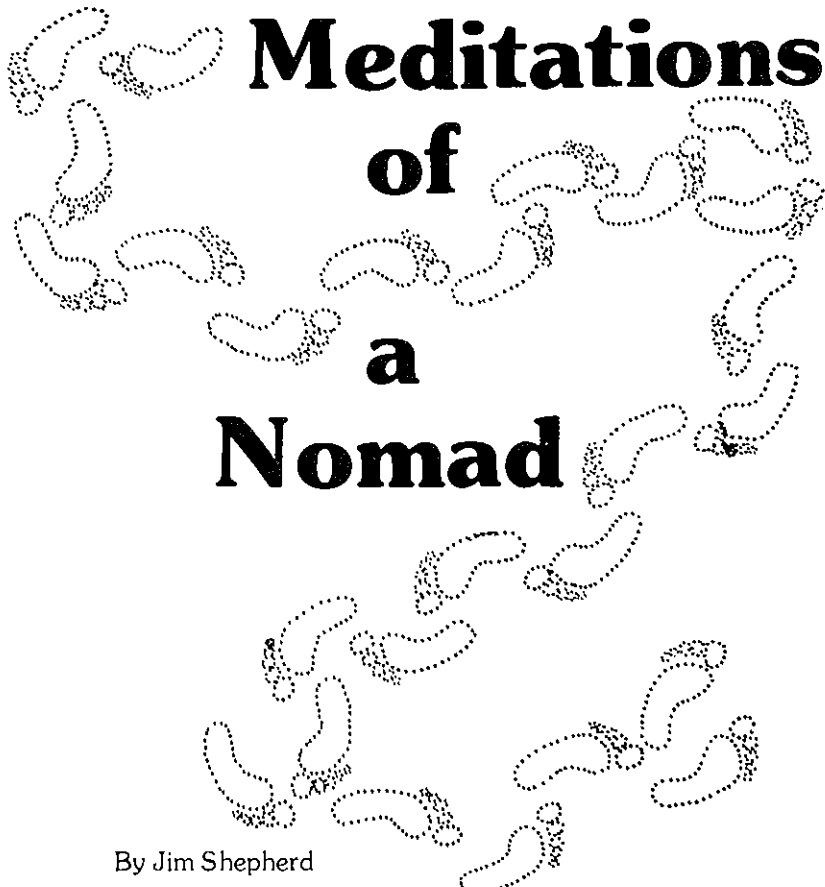
Arnold then lifted his hands toward heaven and talked with God. When he finished praying, he lowered his hands, looked at the surgeon and announced, "You may begin."

Two days later, Pastor Pollard returned to surgery. This time he could not speak. The chief surgeon turned to his surgical team and said, "Pastor Pollard is unable to pray for himself now. Therefore, let us join hands and pray for him."

This past Saturday night, the call came that Arnold Pollard was dead.

As ministers go, Arnold Pollard was one of those like Joash whom the king appointed to watch over the cellars of oil. He served without notoriety, but with distinction.

The cellars of oil still exist today, perhaps in the town where you live. If you're ready to serve in the shadows should the King ask, if you can do your duty without supervision, if you're willing to commit your future to God, in the words of Pastor Pollard, "You may begin." ▲



Meditations of a Nomad

By Jim Shepherd

Most boys spend a fair share of their youth lost in dreams that take them to a care-free, idyllic land where there's no trash to carry and no chores to do. My personal paradise sprouted from the rich history of the Plains Indians of western Oklahoma, my homeland.

An afternoon horseback ride would transform a freckle-faced schoolboy into an Arapaho warrior. Bedrooms and brussels sprouts were gladly exchanged for teepees and buffalo jerky. Give me the life of a nomad.

Most little boys grow up and settle down to a more permanent lifestyle. Others are called to preach. We preachers have no need to join Nomads Anonymous with the hope of reforming. Our greatest concern is learning the new address and phone number.

Unlike the innocent daydreams of boyhood, our mobile lifestyle is seasoned with frustrations, trauma and unruly emotions. Changing pastorates results in some of the greatest crises the pastoral family will experience.

Since only a small percentage of our traveling tribe has divine and congregational permission to spend a lifetime at the same address, we would be well-advised to recognize the impact that pastoral change has on the minister and his family.

Whose Idea Is This?

Not every pastor skips up to the local U-Haul dealer with a spring in his step and a song on his lips. Not every family member responds with a hearty cheer to the news that the family will be moving. The response of the parsonage family is largely determined by factors which necessitated the move.

God's will is reported to be the number one cause for pastor resignations and dismissals. The potential for happiness is increased when, in reality, the Sovereign has directed His servant from one church to another. Honesty compels us to admit that God doesn't always get a ballot when the decision is being made. More than a few children develop long-lasting resentment for

God because He keeps moving Daddy around, or so they are told.

Pastor-church conflict, if improperly handled, can prompt the pastor's departure. The three responses to conflict are: (1) Ignore it and live with it; (2) Run from it; and, (3) Work to resolve it.

Pastors and congregations often accept alternatives to conflict-resolution that are not biblical. Unwarranted guilt results when a warring faction refuses to meet a well-meaning man at the peace table. Scars accumulate as unresolved conflicts brand a man's ministry.

Philosophical differences may become so great between the shepherd and his sheep that a move is required. As the servant-leader evaluates the facts and chooses a course of action, he must never ignore the faith and integrity of God's people. A wise leader recognizes that most differences can be treated in positive ways that strengthen the ministry and witness of the gospel.

A change may follow the preacher's realization that he's merely an interim pastor. This unofficial office often exists after the service of a long-term pastor, an unusually successful pastor, a pastor who died in office, or a pastoral term that created deep divisions within the congregation.

Although an interim ministry will be limited in duration, it will play a major role in the church's future if the pastor accepts his short-term role without rancor. Great personal satisfaction can be derived from selfless service as the pastor enables a reluctant congregation to leave a sad or tumultuous past and take a healthy step into the future.

Who Won?

The scoreboard at an athletic event reports only one aspect of the game—the score. It has no concern for the quality of performance, the ebb and flow of the game, the breaks and errors, nor the comparative ability of the opponents. The scoreboard merely declares winners and losers.

As a pastor reflects on his service in a church, he experiences a natural

impulse to determine the winners and losers. His scoreboard may pit pastor against deacon, trustee or some other significant person. A deadly temptation invites the man of God to exult in his courage and ability when he wins and to transfer blame and responsibility when he loses.

The men of the ministry must realize that heaven tallies the score differently. It reports the struggle of one man against two opponents named "Faithful Servant" and "Unfaithful Servant." (Consider God's standard for Ezekiel's ministry in Ezekiel 2.)

We soon recognize that the greatest foes are found within the pastor's heart, and his advice to the parson would be "Conquer your heart!" A man's inability or unwillingness to fight the real battle often leads him to set up personal conflicts with parishoners wherein manipulation and power carry the day.

At stake in the pastor-church relationship is the pastor's self-esteem and his opinion of the church. The man who competes for the upper hand will experience increasing animosity toward the church and seek further domination and revenge. He will also encounter personal frustration with the ministry if he "loses" too frequently.

On the other hand, the pastor who seeks to serve an imperfect church in the spirit of Christ discovers an increasing awareness of his own need for the grace of God, and he will develop a growing appreciation for the faith and service of the body of Christ. Who won? The score is not important when pastor and church are at peace with themselves and with God.

Good-Bye, Pink Panther

My wife and I observed an annual ritual prior to Christmas. With dread and determination, we entered our daughters' playroom with one purpose. We had to make room for the yuletide arrival of new dolls, toys and games.

Working feverishly, we tossed the dismembered and discarded into plastic, twist-top containers. Behind us came the sounds of a tearful voice. Our eldest daughter could barely choke out the words, "Good-bye, Pink Panther." What was only a long-for-

gotten stuffed animal to us was a constant reminder of a day at the circus for Casey.

The heart serves up surprising sensations of sorrow and pain as the time approaches to park the moving van at the parsonage door. Those acts of mercy and friendship, significant at the time but long since forgotten, race through everyone's mind.

A man with a lesser calling would return an empty van and refuse to leave home, but the preacher recognizes that these heartaches are an occupational hazard.

But wait a minute. Mom and the kids have feelings, too. They may not mind the fact that Daddy is a preacher, but they do get a little aggravated at his gadabout ways. While we preachers are occupied with ministry demands, our families are busy with life. They make friends. They get involved in the community and the schools. They even learn to like their latest home. Sometimes.

A preacher's son told me that he finally gave up on friendships because he knew that they soon would be ended. His response was to retreat into the friendly privacy of his room. For him, it was easier to be lonely than it was to go through an endless cycle of making and ending relationships.

Some wounds are inevitable, but are all necessary? I offer the following thoughts for the pastor who is interested in being as faithful to his family as he is to his calling.

First, is a pastoral change necessary? We should stay where we are unless leaving is the only option that the Lord or the congregation offers us.

Second, how will each family member be affected by a move? Give special attention to the needs of each member of your household.

Third, involve the entire family in the decision and subsequent transition. Invite them to pray with you about God's will. Help them express their love for the friends soon to be left behind.

Help them forgive people and forget circumstances that have been hurtful or unpleasant. Create a sense of anticipation for the opportunities that the future holds. The difficulties of moving cannot be eliminated, but they can be minimized with prayerful, thoughtful effort.

Managing The Crisis

A crisis is a circumstance that calls for action. It is neither positive nor negative. Rather than seeking to eliminate the crisis, which is impossible, the problem-solver seeks to discover healthy solutions which bring good from the circumstance.

As long as there are pastors and churches, there will be pastoral changes and personal crises. Bitterness, resentment, alienation and depression will struggle to gain supremacy over love, patience, forgiveness, and humility.

The final days of a man's service to a church provide a true test of his ministry and spirituality. The manner in which he handles the crises of those difficult days tells the secrets of the heart.

A wise deacon once advised me to never burn bridges. I've learned that those fires are ignited with attitudes that are contrary to the mind of Christ.

A nomad never leaves home. He knows that home is wherever happiness and life are found. Sure, moving is difficult, but we will learn the new address and phone number. We will find the shopping mall. We will make friends. We will have a ministry. We will make a home in that new place. We will serve with gladness.▲



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Jim Shepherd is vice-president of student affairs at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, Oklahoma.

Music City



2.



4.



5.



6.



7.



3.

Jubilee Meetin'

By Jack Williams

A few of us (about 7,000 or so) are planning a little get-together in Nashville this July. We'd sure like for you to crank up the family car, drive on over and join the celebration.

The big table's spread for you. We've swept the front yard, tied up that fightin' rooster and chased the pig under the house. I'm putting on my Sunday shoes and my best tie. We've scrubbed the kids till they shine. You just gotta come!

Take your pick of three interstate systems that run right through the middle of town—Interstates 24, 65 and 40. Turn your radio to WSM and follow the clear channel station to Tennessee.

You won't have any trouble finding us. Once you hit the Tennessee state line, just roll down the car window and

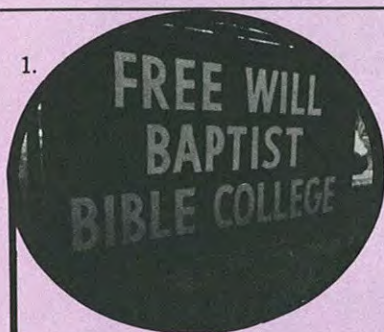
listen for the wail of the Wabash Cannon Ball or a Bluegrass breakdown—that'll be Nashville.

Of course, we've got more on the agenda than pickin' 'n' grinnin' at the 50th anniversary celebration July 21-25 when the National Convention meets in Nashville for the seventh time. We're ready to answer those questions you have. Settle back a minute and let me put your mind at ease.

Where does the convention meet?

We'll spread out through four major downtown hotels for a number of small (and not so small) meetings and seminars. However, the large sessions—which include business meetings and evening worship services—will meet in Nashville's Municipal Auditorium.

The tri-level Municipal Auditorium located at 417 Fourth Avenue, North, seats more than 9,000 comfortably. Most of the auditorium seating is on



1.

1. Free Will Baptist Bible College
2. Parthenon
3. Grand Ole Opry
4. Hyatt Regency
5. Ramada Inn-Downtown
6. Maxwell House
7. Radisson Plaza

the mezzanine level, but we'll have room for 2,000 on the arena floor in front of the stage.

What about hotel costs?

Now, that question's a bit tricky. You'd better plan to invest between \$45 and \$65 per day for a hotel room, depending on where you stay and how many stay with you. Check the housing form in this issue.

All five hotels allow children under 18 to stay free in the room with parents, if you use existing bedding. I wouldn't order a rollaway bed unless it was necessary, since they range from \$8 to \$15 extra, and could kick up the room rate for a family.

You don't have parking problems, do you?

Got some bad news for you. Parking in downtown Nashville is no fun except on Sunday. I advise you to park your car in the hotel garage where you stay and leave it.

Two of our convention hotels—the Maxwell House and the Ramada Inn Downtown—provide free parking for registered guests. The other three hotels—Hyatt Regency, Radisson Plaza, Sheraton Nashville—charge \$2 to \$4 daily.

For those who must drive in each day, the Municipal Auditorium parking garage has 500 spaces and charges between \$3 and \$4. But be careful here, you know how public parking garages operate—first come, first served.

Oh, if you drive a church bus to the convention, check with the hotels where you register. The Bell Captains can give you directions where to park.

How far do I have to walk?

Better bring an umbrella. The weatherman promises sunshine for convention week. Even though the Nashville temperature averages 90 degrees during July, we also average 3.8 inches of rain that month. Knowing us, we'll get the whole load while you're walking from your hotel to Municipal Auditorium.

The hotels nearest to Municipal Auditorium are the Radisson Plaza and the Ramada Inn Downtown, both less than three blocks away. The Hyatt Regency is between three and four

blocks away, the Sheraton Nashville about eight blocks.

The Maxwell House is about two miles away. *BUT* you get free parking, the newest hotel and probably the best coffee in Tennessee—Maxwell House, what else!

What's the headquarters hotel?

The Hyatt Regency is the headquarters hotel and the hub of most convention activities.

For what it's worth, most youth activities also meet in the Hyatt Regency. Woman's National Auxiliary Convention activities, except the Tuesday business meeting and dinner, meet at Radisson Plaza.

Sorry, there's simply not enough room in any one hotel to house everyone and everything.

We've blocked almost 1,200 rooms for the Free Will Baptist Convention in downtown hotels. They include:

Hyatt Regency	—400 rooms
Radisson Plaza	—250 rooms
Sheraton Nashville	—250 rooms
Maxwell House	—175 rooms
Ramada Inn-Downtown	—100 rooms

Don't wait. Get your housing form in the mail before sundown. Hotel rooms in Nashville this summer will be scarce as politicians in heaven. July is a peak tourist month here. You've been warned.

Who's preachin' this year?

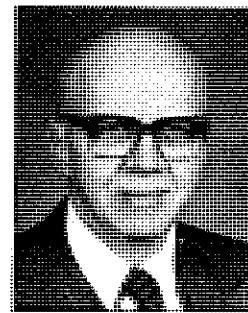
Oh, are you gonna like the preaching menu this July! The convention theme is "Focusing On Free Will Baptists" and features four outstanding men with more than 130 years experience between them.

Reverend Herman Hersey, director of the Retirement and Insurance Department, leads off Sunday morning with a message on denominational stewardship. Hersey, 59, also serves as executive secretary of the Free Will Baptist Foundation.

Monday evening Dr. L. C. Johnson, 71-year-old statesman, will help delegates recall lessons from our past since 1935. Dr. Johnson, now retired, is a former moderator of the National Association. However, he's best known for his leadership at Free Will Baptist

Bible College where he was president for 34 years before stepping down in 1979.

Tuesday evening, Dr. Alton Loveless turns the convention spotlight on where the denomination is at present. Dr. Loveless, 47-year-old executive secretary for the Ohio State Association, knows what it means to survive



Herman Hersey



L. C. Johnson



Alton Loveless



Floyd Wolfenbarger

MEETIN' (from page 9)

under pressure—a preacher since age 17, chairman of the Historical Commission, 12-year member of the Sunday School Board, editor, writer, meeting planner, bookstore manager, workshop leader, pastor, educator and more.

The new kid on the block, 36-year-old Russellville, Arkansas pastor, Floyd Wolfenbarger, points the denomination toward the future Wednesday evening. Reverend Wolfenbarger began preaching at age 12 and has served in numerous leadership positions—pastor, Ohio State Association moderator, General Board member, Executive Committee member, conference speaker and writer.

A nursery this year?

Nope. There's no nursery in Nashville. This is another of those take-care-of-it-yourself conventions.

So if Junior is at that "be careful" or "don't touch it" age, this should give you enough lead time to leave him with Grandma or make other arrangements.

Any special meals planned?

You betcha. In fact there are 18 catered meals planned for conferees. Got something for everybody ranging from an eight-girl, by-invitation-only board breakfast to a Tuesday afternoon, 1,000-person banquet that's the centerpiece of the convention.

Prices stretch from "free" if you're on certain boards to \$11.50 a plate if you attend the joint WNAC/Foreign Missions Banquet. Browse through the ticket request form in this issue of *Contact* and make your choice(s).

You can order your tickets in advance if you wish, or you can risk the wrath of Mom and the kids if you wait until convention time and then discover that the tickets are all sold.

Be smart. Order now.

What about registration?

Registration for the National Convention begins 3:00 p.m. Sunday at

rately for each of our three gatherings—National Convention, National Youth Conference and Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.

Don't give up hope. We're planning a single registration form that will include all three conventions. But it won't be ready in time for Nashville.

Any exhibits this year?

We've got exhibits of every size and brand circling the Arena Concourse in Municipal Auditorium. You couldn't miss them if you tried.

Exhibits open at 5:00 p.m. on Monday and stay open daily 8:30 a.m.—

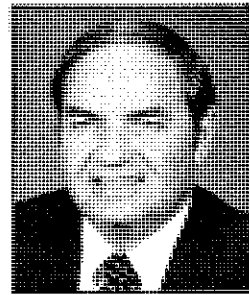
Bible Conference Speakers



Picirilli



Waddell



Cariker

Municipal Auditorium and continues until Wednesday noon. This also includes WNAC registration.

However, National Youth Conference registration takes place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Same time.

Sorry for the confusion, but please remember that you must register sepa-

10:30 p.m., except during evening worship services. Exhibits close at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday.

You can visit with missionaries in the exhibit area, talk with an office machines representative, get your picture taken, try out a new piano or organ, learn about Bible College, subscribe to *Contact*, buy a commentary or church pew, sign up for a trip to Israel—in fact, don't forget to attend the business meetings!

Anything unique about Convention '85?

Sure is. We're recording a live album during the convention and will have it ready for you to take home with you on Thursday.

Under the direction of musicians Vernon Whaley and Blaine Hughes, portions of each department's report to the General Board, the Monday evening service, some music and business sessions will be mixed with other ingredients to produce a Jubilee album—price \$10.

LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____

is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will

Baptists from _____

(Name of church)

_____ of _____

(District Association)

(City)

(State)

Pastor

Clerk or Secretary

IMPORTANT: This form properly signed and accompanied by a \$10 registration fee entitles a local church delegate to register for voting privileges.

Only 1,000 numbered albums and 1,000 cassettes will be made available. They tell me this will be a collector's item. After I get mine, that only leaves 999 more for the other 7,000 people.

Tell me about the Bible Conference.

The fifth annual Convention Bible Conference begins 8:00 a.m. Tuesday in the Radisson Plaza Hotel with three back-to-back preaching sessions. Conference speakers include Connie Cariker, director of evangelism (Home Missions Department); Eugene Waddell, associate director (Foreign Missions Department); and Robert E. Picirilli, dean of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Better come early if you want a seat. Great preaching and great music await the first 900 through the doors. The room limit is 900 people.

Where will the business take place?

Business kicks off Monday morning at 9:00 when the General Board meets in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Nashville Hotel.

In case you're wondering, that's eight blocks from Municipal Auditorium and five from the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Wear your sneakers for this one, fellows.

Convention business sessions begin Wednesday when Moderator Bobby Jackson gavels the house to order at 9:00 a.m. in Municipal Auditorium. In addition to adopting an \$11 million budget and electing 34 board and commission members, delegates are expected to select convention meeting sites for 1991-1995.

The WNAC business meeting starts Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in Municipal Auditorium. WNAC President June Rolan will moderate the 1985 session which includes the final report by outgoing WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Cleo Pursell. Don't miss this special day, ladies.

What about NYC and WNAC programs?

Big question. Have you got an hour? There's an avalanche of NYC and WNAC activities, competitions and workshops docketed for July.

REQUESTS FOR TICKETS TO MEAL FUNCTIONS 1985 National Convention

Number	Meal	Total
_____	Free Will Baptist Bible College Alumni Dinner \$6.00 Monday, July 22/4:45 p.m. FWBBC/Cumberland Cafeteria	\$ _____
_____	Learner/Adventurer Banquet \$6.00 Monday, July 22/5:00 p.m. Radisson Plaza/Woodland-Shelby Room	\$ _____
_____	Music Ministries Fellowship Breakfast \$6.00 Tuesday, July 23/7:00 a.m. Sheraton/Magnolia-Dogwood Room	\$ _____
_____	Friends of Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon \$10.00 Tuesday, July 23/12:15 p.m. Radisson Plaza/Woodland Room	\$ _____
_____	WNAC/Foreign Missions Banquet \$11.50 Tuesday, July 23/5:00 p.m. Hyatt Regency/Regency Ballroom	\$ _____
_____	Youth Banquet \$9.00 Tuesday, July 23/9:00 p.m. Radisson Plaza/Cumberland Ballroom	\$ _____
_____	Master's Men Breakfast \$6.00 Wednesday, July 24/7:00 a.m. Sheraton/Grand Ballroom	\$ _____
		Total Enclosed \$ _____

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to TICKET SALES. Mail requests to TICKET SALES, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Please send check or money order. Do not send cash. All requests must be received by **July 1, 1985**.

NO TICKET REFUNDS AFTER JULY 1, 1985

Reverend Jonathan Thigpen, professor of Christian Education at Free Will Baptist Bible College, will keynote the 1985 National Youth Conference Sunday evening when more than 4,000 adults and teens are expected to gather in Municipal Auditorium. This year's theme, "Reach For The Gold!" is taken from Philippians 3:13. Competi-

tive activities for youth conclude on Wednesday of the four-day conference.

The one-day Woman's National Auxiliary Convention meets Tuesday in Municipal Auditorium. Former missionary to India Laura Belle Barnard will speak at 11:00 a.m. service. This



MEETIN' (from page 11)

year, WNAC and the Foreign Missions Department will sponsor a joint dinner for 1,000 Tuesday evening. WNAC will conduct a Monday afternoon seminar, "Jewels Far Above Rubies."

Don't forget Master's Men!

I'm not, and neither should you. After all, that fine group of fellows coordinates ushering and security duties for the entire convention under the expert eye of a tall Texan from Houston, Charles Denman.

the entire convention program in the June issue of *Contact*.

What's to see in Nashville?

Come on, admit it now—Nashville's the place where you always wanted to vacation before or after the convention, isn't it?

Nashville will keep you informed. The city has six television stations,

we've got the Parthenon, the Hermitage and the Cumberland Museum.

But for many who attend the Convention in July, one of the great moments will be a sentimental visit to Free Will Baptist Bible College where Free Will Baptist history has been made since 1942.

Or drive out Murfreesboro Road in South Nashville and tour the National Office Building. Or walk through the huge Randall House Publications plant on Bush Road where our literature is printed.

There'll never be another National Convention quite like this one with the

NYC



THIGPEN



LAUTHERN



NEWSOME



FLOYD

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington will speak at the 7:00 Master's Men Breakfast Wednesday morning. Hear Worthington's wit and wisdom on Wednesday—if you like it alliterated.

Is there more?

Yes, there's more. More banquets, more workshops, more meetings, more fellowship, more preaching . . .

You can't do it all, so make your plans carefully. Some things you must do. Some you'd like to do. We'll print

two daily newspapers and 13 radio stations. We also got sales tax and more traffic laws than you can imagine. Keep an eye on the parking meters and right turns on red.

They don't call this place Music City, USA, for nothing. If you like country music, this is your town. Grand Ole Opry! What more need I say?

Try Opryland. Visit the Country Music Hall of Fame. Stomp around Music Row and meet the men behind country music. For the more refined,

drama, special memories and denominational timing. This is the town where it all started 50 years ago.

When our forefathers met in Nashville in 1935, there was no Free Will Baptist Bible College, no publishing house, no national offices, no worldwide missions program—all they had was a dream.

Take my advice and come to Nashville this July. Join the Jubilee celebration. Join the ongoing dream.

Y'all come, y'hear! ▲

WNAC



Pursell



Wisehart



Barnard



Rolan

PLEASE USE THIS ADDRESSED FORM FOR YOUR HOUSING RESERVATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS:

The Nashville Housing Bureau will handle all housing requests on a first-come, first-served basis until the reservation DEADLINE of JUNE 30, 1985.

When your room request has been processed and assigned, you will receive a confirmation direct from the hotel. After your reservation is confirmed, ALL changes, cancellations and deposit refunds must be handled directly with the hotel assigned. To receive a deposit return, you must cancel at least 78 hours prior to your arrival date.

This form must be accompanied by an advance deposit of \$55 for each room requested with a check or money order payable to the NASHVILLE HOUSING BUREAU.

OR, if you wish to guarantee by a major credit card, please complete the following:

Credit Card Name _____

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____

The Housing Bureau will not take phone reservations. For information & inquiries ONLY, call (615) 259-3900, ext. 50.

HOTELS (Hotels will not take phone reservations direct)

Hotels	1 Bed 1 person	1 Bed 2 persons	2 Beds 2 persons	2 Beds 3 persons	2 Beds 4 persons	Rollaway
1. HYATT REGENCY (Headquarters) Parking—\$4 per day Children under 18 free	\$55	\$55	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$10
2. MAXWELL HOUSE Parking—free Children 18 & under free	\$55	\$55	\$55	\$55	\$55	\$12
3. RADISSON PLAZA Parking—\$4 per day Children 18 & under free	\$55	\$55	\$55	\$65	\$65	\$15
4. RAMADA INN DOWNTOWN Parking—free Children 18 & under free	\$46	\$46	\$46	\$54	\$54	\$8
5. SHERATON NASHVILLE Parking—\$2 per day Children 18 & under free	\$45	\$45	\$45	\$55	\$55	\$8

*The above rates do not include sales tax.

An advance deposit of \$55 must be enclosed with this form for each room requested.

HOTEL PREFERENCE: If you fail to list a 2nd, 3rd or 4th choice and your first choice is full, we will assign you to the best possible facility available.

1st Choice _____ 3rd Choice _____

2nd Choice _____ 4th Choice _____

ACCOMMODATIONS DESIRED:

Number of Rooms Requested	Room Type	Name of Occupant(s) (No more than five to a room) Please Print:
_____	1 person, 1 bed	_____
_____	2 persons, 1 bed	_____
_____	2 persons, 2 beds	_____
_____	3 persons, 2 beds	_____
_____	4 persons, 2 beds	_____
_____	TOTAL ROOMS REQUESTED	_____
_____	Rollaways requested	_____

Do you have special needs? _____

ARRIVAL date and time _____ DEPARTURE date and time _____

Confirm to _____

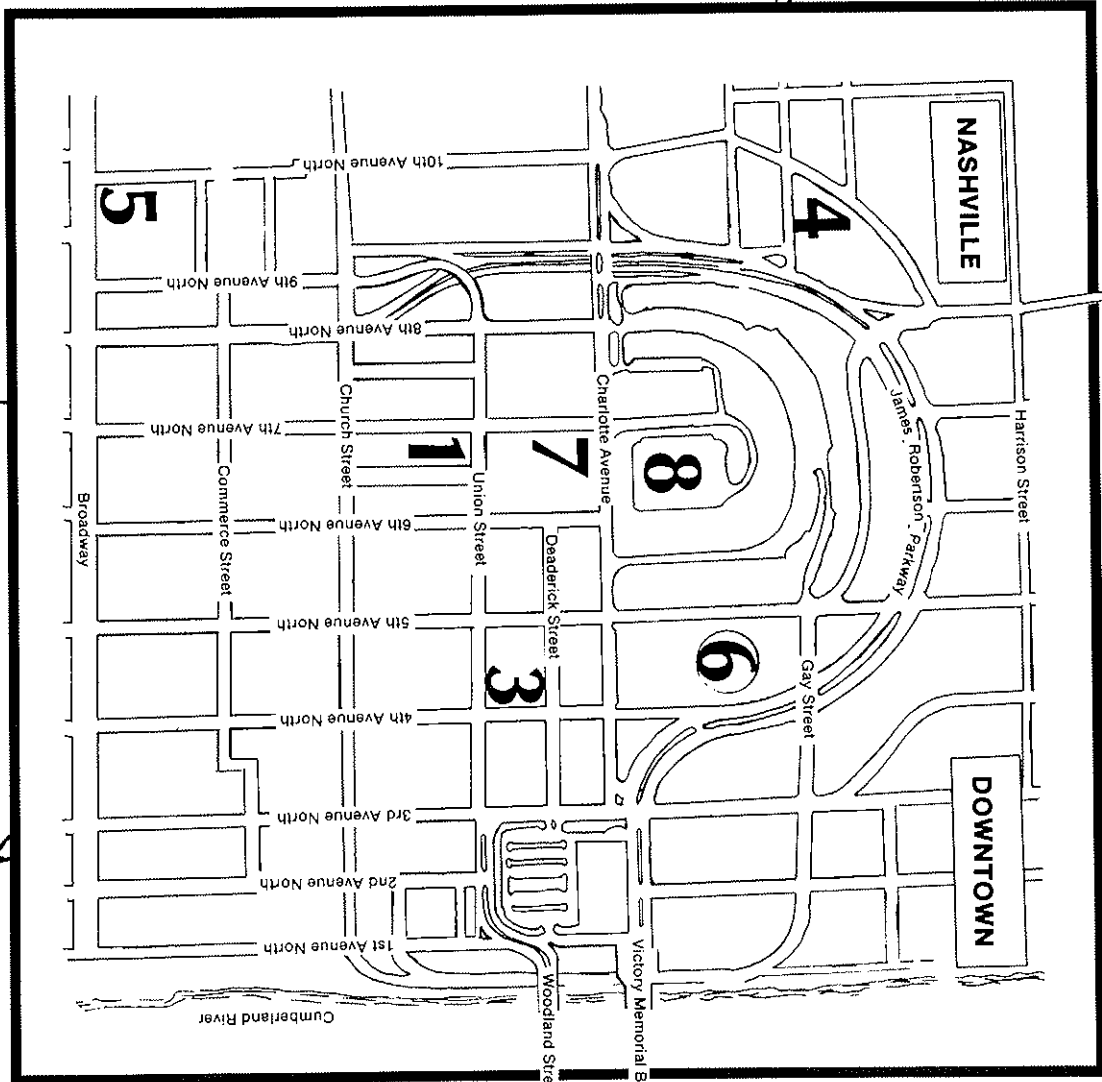
Address _____ Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

DEPOSIT AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ (Staple check to this form.)

- 1. Hyatt Regency (Headquarters)
- 2. Maxwell House
- 3. Radisson Plaza
- 4. Ramada Inn-Downtown

- 5. Sheraton
- 6. Municipal Auditorium
- 7. War Memorial Building
- 8. State Capitol



FROM:

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
 c/o Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
 Nashville Housing Bureau
 161 4th Avenue, North
 Nashville, TN 37219

58/CONTACT/May/85
14



My Friend, PAIN



By Zeke Jones

Good morning, Pain.

Somehow I managed to sleep a few hours without your constant presence. But you made your usual forceful intrusions, again gained control and there was no more rest for the weary.

I've done my best to accept you since you came to live with me, if you would only let me sleep. I yearn for the day we can again part from each other.

My heart reminds me, however, that in spite of your constant annoyance, you've proven to be a friend. Some ask, "How can something that hurts you all the time be a friend?"

Well, Pain, you've shown me that I must cling to Someone else for comfort, strength and help. That Someone is God.

He gives me grace. You know, Pain, that grace is the only thing that allows me to tolerate you. Each day since

you've been here, I've had to depend on God's grace in order to bear the hurt you give me. The more you inflict, the more God gives grace to bear it.

In spite of the sleepless nights, the days of torture, the weeks and months of your sometimes unbearable presence, you've been a friend.

You've wedged yourself between the world and me. As you slowly forced me away from the world, you pushed me closer to God. For that I thank you.

Pain, you taught me to depend on God for everything. No one else ever did that. I'm afraid when I think where I'd be without you, my friend.

At times you make me, at age 44, cry like a child. But, Pain, God tells me I must become as a little child if I would enter His kingdom.

Pain, you've been a great teacher, but more importantly, you've been for the glory of God. John 11:4 says, "When Jesus heard that, he said, this sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby."

So . . . thanks, Pain.

ABOUT THE WRITER: C. W. "Zeke" Jones is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina. Rheumatoid arthritis forced Zeke into early retirement from his job as an undercover police officer.

Zeke, 44, joined the Raleigh Police Department in 1962. After three years of walking a beat, he was promoted to detective where he served for the next 17 years. The 200-pounder worked four years as a narcotics officer, and also investigated crimes committed by and against children.

Before Zeke developed rheumatoid arthritis in January 1982, he usually walked six miles a day. His health forced him to retire in June 1982, three months short of 20 years on the force.

Zeke was saved in 1975 and transferred from drug investigations to the juvenile section where he witnessed to numerous youth who were in trouble with the law.

Although arthritis prevents Zeke from continuing his work at First Free Will Baptist Church in bus ministry and ushering, he does serve as assistant Sunday School teacher for an adult class.

Where Zeke's hobbies were splitting firewood, fishing and hiking before his illness, he now spends his time writing and reading. ▲

By Mary Neal

Early one Sunday morning in September, I was a patient in our county hospital where I'd had major surgery. I lay there watching a gathering thunderstorm and the quiet rain that followed.

A young lady rushed into my room with a breakfast tray. Looking surprised, she said, "Mrs. Neal, it is you!" Then she said, "You don't remember me, but I was one of your piano students a few years ago."

She told me her name and said, "You will not be able to go to Sunday School and church today." I agreed that I would not, and with her comment ringing in my ears, she left the room and continued her work.

Some days before entering the hospital, the letter came to our home about writing this article on "Why I Attend My Church." The question was on my mind, *how* do I say what's in my heart? With the young lady's remark that morning and thinking about what any normal Sunday morning would be for me, God showed me how to answer this special question.

Psalm 118:24 came to mind, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." This day, every day, is special because God has given it to us. The opportunity to give our Father praise and glory is wonderful to me. Coming together to worship at church brings a special sweetness of fellowship and blessing and joy to my soul.

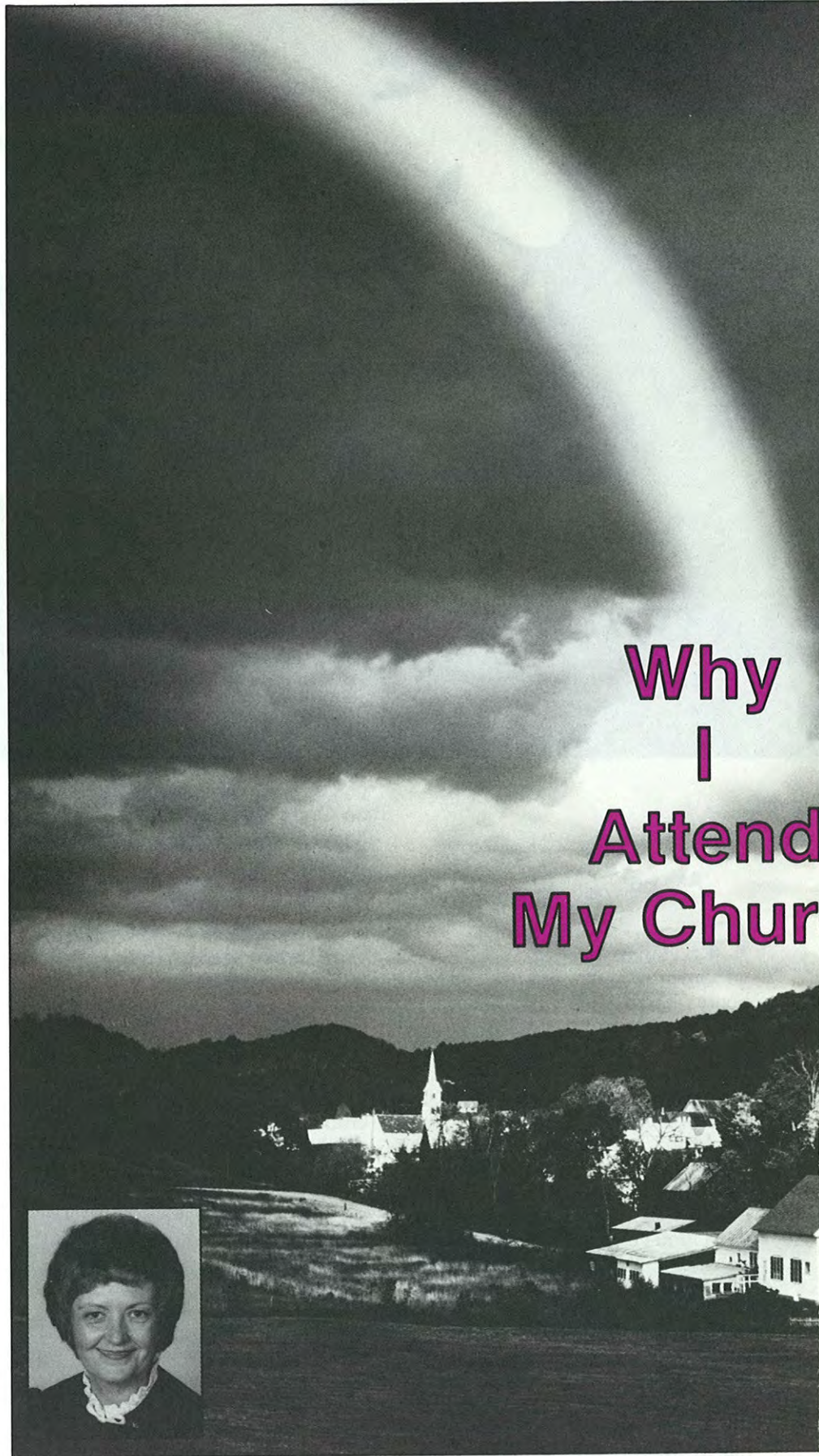
SINGING

Oh, how I love to sing with God's people; it brings such blessing and joy to me. Our church loves to sing His praises. So often the scripture tells us to sing His praises.

Psalm 95:1, "O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation."

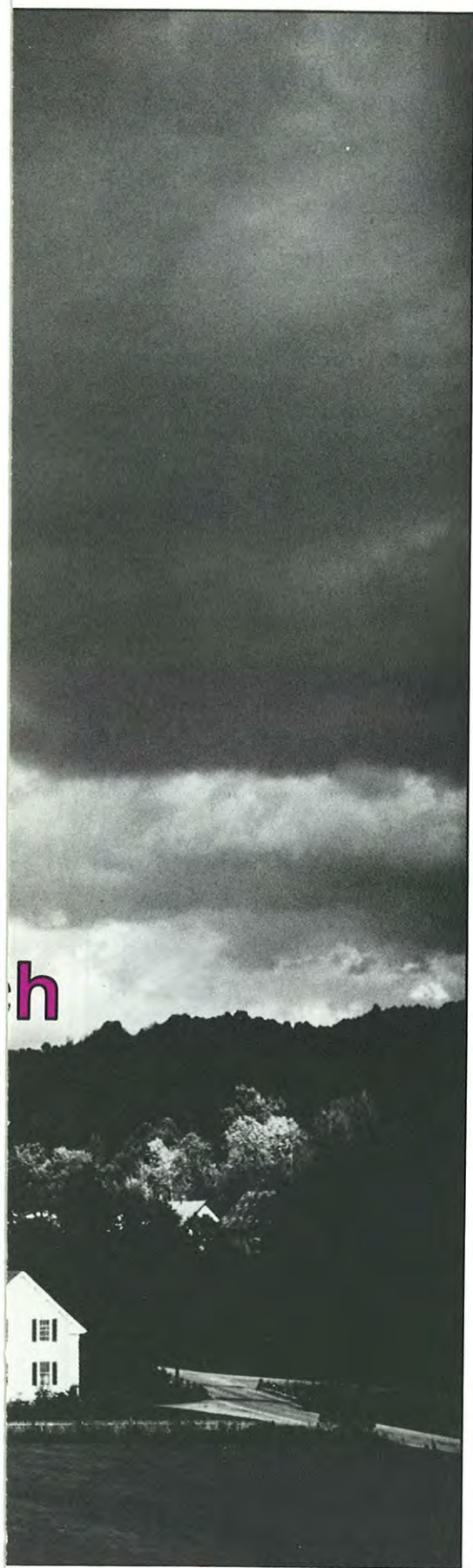
Or Psalm 96:2, "Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day."

A special verse for me is Psalm 104:33, "I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being." We should never sing for our glory, only for His!



Why I Attend My Church





H. Armstrong Roberts

PRAYING

Prayer service on Wednesday evenings, auxiliary prayer groups or a special time of prayer around our church altars are precious times.

Prayer is the greatest power in the world today, and the most unused. Prayer continuously, daily in our lives brings us closer to God (I Thessalonians 5:17). It will increase our faith (Mark 11:24) and bring us real joy (Psalm 37:4).

Among the many special scriptures on prayer, a favorite passage is James 5:13-16. When we confess our faults to another, pray one for another, our Father answers prayer.

Times of prayer are important in all our services at church.

Our Father wants to hear our prayers, but most of all He wants us to listen and be still. Then we can really learn to know Him.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A few months after our marriage in 1955, God impressed my husband, Don, about the importance of bringing our tithes and offerings to His house (Malachi 3:8-10). Through the years we have kept that important commitment. God has taken wonderful care of us and truly opened the windows of heaven.

For the past four years, many in our church family have not had regular paychecks coming in each week. Many went long months without steady work. Some moved to other states for employment.

But through all this time, the tithes and offerings have paid all the bills, purchased 6.5 acres adjoining the church property and remodeled the parsonage—all *paid in full*.

We believe Malachi, "... and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

MESSAGE

Our pastor always seems to have a special message from the Lord. Through the years, listening to this servant of God as he brings the message, I listen closely for one thing. When the worship service is over and we all head home, how much can I remember from the sermon to tell someone who was not at the service?

Our pastor presents his sermons in such a way that I can remember them for days to come. This is special to me and strengthens my Christian life. It also helps as I witness to others of Jesus' love for them and invite them to our services.

The Bible has an excellent illustration of the right approach to hearing God's Word—the conversion of Cornelius, a Roman army officer. He was told by an angel to send for Simon Peter. When Peter came, Cornelius gathered his relatives and friends, and explained to Peter why he had sent for him.

Then the army officer said, "Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us" (Acts 10:33). Cornelius recognized that he was to hear the *voice of God*, not just that of a man; he was prepared to hear everything God said. He accepted God's word as a commandment, not merely as a comment.

Thank the Lord for a good pastor!

CONCLUSION

Hebrews 10:25 is a familiar passage, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." The earlier verses of this chapter say, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith." Then, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering... and let us consider one another to love and good works." Verse 25 finishes with, "but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

I'm so thankful to be in a church where these precious truths are taught and preached. And now you know why I attend First Bible Free Will Baptist Church in New Castle, Indiana. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Mary Neal is the music director at First Bible Free Will Baptist Church, New Castle, Indiana. She also serves as president of the Indiana State Woman's Auxiliary and as vice-president of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

WRITER'S CONFERENCE TO MEET MAY 17-18

NASHVILLE, TN—The fifth annual Free Will Baptist Writers' Conference will convene at Free Will Baptist Bible College, May 17-18. The annual conference is sponsored by Randall House Publications.

The conference format offers to aspiring, new and established writers exposure to notable Christian resource persons. Program personalities who have made an impact on society through their journalistic skills will lead the sessions.

Highlighting the annual event will be gifted missionary-writer, Don Richardson who authored the powerful story, *Peace Child*, condensed and published by *Reader's Digest*. He is also the author of six additional books.

Mr. Richardson will bring an inspirational address following the Friday banquet and also conduct three seminars.

Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart, who heads the English Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College will speak on "Creating The Taste For Poetry." Dr. Robert Picirilli, the college's academic dean, will give a seminar on "Writing With Clarity and Brevity."

In addition to the above, a seminar covering the "Basics of Copyright" will be conducted by copyright attorney, Walton Conn.

A free descriptive brochure and program guide will be sent upon request. Address inquiries to: Reverend Harrold D. Harrison, Conference Director, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

SOUTH CAROLINA TO BUILD BOOKSTORE

LAKE CITY, SC—Delegates to South Carolina's 43rd annual session voted to establish a state bookstore, according to Promotional Director Norwood Gibson.

Reverend Gibson said he expected the bookstore operation to begin in late summer. The store will operate under the direction of South Carolina's 5-man state Executive Committee. Gibson will serve as manager.

More than 200 attended the February 14-15 state meeting at Little Star FWB Church in Lake City.

In related action, delegates created a 5-man Home Missions Board, reduced the Children's Home Board from seven members to six, and placed all state boards on a rotating basis with a two-term limit for members.

Following a seminar on Free Will Baptist organizational structure by

Promotional Director Gibson on Thursday afternoon, delegates adopted a "South Carolina Plan of Support." The financial support program will be implemented as soon as possible. Reverend Gibson said the designated giving program gives state churches the opportunity to support a wide variety of denominational outreaches.

Three ministers, two from South Carolina, preached during the meeting. Rev. Dan Runion (First FWB Church, Charleston) and Rev. Jimmy Miller (Florence) shared pulpit responsibilities with Foreign Missions Field Secretary Jimmy Aldridge.

Moderator Earl Hendrix was elected to his second term. The 1986 session will be hosted February 13-14 by the Eastern Conference.

REVEREND ARNOLD POLLARD WITH THE LORD

McARTHUR, OH—After a lengthy struggle with cancer, Reverend Arnold Pollard died February 15. The 53-year-old minister was pastor of Puritan Free Will Baptist Church.

Pastor Pollard entered the ministry at age 37. He was a member of the Ohio General Board representing the Jackson Conference. In 1983 he served on the National Association Steering Committee and acted as the National Prayer Committee Chairman when the Convention met in Columbus.

Born in Houlton, Maine, he pastored Puritan FWB Church the last five years of his life.

Brother Pollard was a Korean and Vietnam Air Force veteran and retired after 20½ years of service.

Rev. Ferroll Rood, pastor of Zaleski FWB Church, where the deceased had been a deacon and trustee, officiated at the committal service on Saturday, February 16. He preached from James 2:23, "He was a friend of God."

More than 200 crowded into the Puritan Church on Sunday afternoon for a memorial service where Ohio State Moderator Wendell Combs preached.

Songs selected by Brother Pollard were sung and testimonies shared on the way Brother Arnold had touched their lives. One fitting statement was



made by Jim Eberts, convert and assistant to Pastor Pollard, "He was a gentle man."

Reverend Pollard is survived by his wife, Anne Houseknecht Pollard; two daughters, Connie of Athens and Rachael of New York; and a son, David of Germany.

BIBLE COLLEGE TO OPEN DORMS FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION GUESTS

NASHVILLE, TN—Two dormitories at Free Will Baptist Bible College will be open for those who attend the July 21-25 National Convention when it meets in Nashville, according to FWBBC Treasurer E. B. McDonald.

Polston Hall on Richland Avenue will be open to women, two per room. Each two rooms share a bath. The cost will be \$16 per room (\$8 per bed), per night.

Goen Hall, on Craighead Avenue, will be open for men. Men will be house two per room, with two baths/showers on each of the three floors. The cost will be \$14 per room (\$7 per bunk) per night.

The college cannot provide family facilities.

All guests must bring their own linens: sheets, pillows, pillowcases, towels, washclothes, etc. The college's life and dress

codes must be observed by guests. No meals will be served on campus.

Pre-registration will be necessary. To receive more information and a pre-registration form, please write or call:

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE
P.O. Box 50117
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 383-1340

FWBBC RECEIVES \$1,000 HOMER WILLIS MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

NASHVILLE, TN—A \$1,000 music scholarship honoring Rev. Homer E. Willis was presented to Free Will Baptist Bible College by the West Nashville Kiwanis Club on February 12.

Dr. Robert Picirilli, dean, accepted the scholarship on behalf of the college. The award was a surprise to Rev. Willis, who expressed pleasure that the Kiwanis Club should honor him in this way.

The scholarship will be awarded

annually, with the college to choose the music student(s) who will receive it.

Reverend Willis is a full-time Free Will Baptist evangelist, based in Nashville. He began Evangelism Unlimited ministries in 1973.

Evangelist Willis was General Director of the Home Missions Department for 17 years. He also served three years as assistant moderator of the National Association.

ARIZONA ELECTS CHARLES MARSHALL TO GENERAL BOARD POST

PHOENIX, AZ—Reverend Charles Marshall, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, Phoenix, was elected as Arizona's General Board member to the National Association at the District Meeting March 9 in Phoenix. Marshall will be recommended to the National Association in July.

Arizona moderator Joe Grimmert, elected to his second term, also praised Rev. Marshall's organizational skills and hard work in spearheading a constitution and by-laws for the Home Missions Board that delegates adopted at the Saturday meeting.

Grimmett said approximately 100 attended the March session at First FWB Church in Phoenix, including eight Arizona ministers.

Three visiting ministers preached: Rev. John Smith, president of California Christian College; Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington and Hillsdale FWB College's Richard Gallant.

Special music for the meeting was provided by California Christian College and Doyle and Donna Terry, a lay evangelistic team from Wichita, Kansas.

The 1986 meeting will convene March 8 at First FWB Church in Tucson.

WASHINGTON EDUCATOR ADDRESSES CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

NASHVILLE, TN—Dr. George Youstra, Christian educator who works in the U.S. Department of Education, was guest speaker at Free Will Baptist Bible College's Christian Schools Conference February 18-20.

Representatives from 15 Free Will Baptist church schools in eight states attended the meeting.

Dr. Kenneth Riggs, Chairman of the college's Teacher Education Department, said he was glad Christian schools have an ally of Dr. Youstra's caliber in Washington.

In other observations on the conference, Dr. Riggs said, "We are seeing a growth in curriculum and staff

excellence in our Christian schools, as well as numerical growth. Administrators are telling me that they need thoroughly trained teachers to serve their present needs."

Visitors and students chose among 14 conference workshops and seminars. Dr. Riggs felt that one of the most beneficial of these was on how to use newspapers in the classroom, presented by personnel from the Nashville TENNESSEAN/BANNER.

Dr. Riggs says that plans have already been discussed concerning the 1986 conference and that he will release information as soon as plans are confirmed.

newsfront

(continued)

REVEREND ROBERT FRANCIS DEAD AT 50

SPRINGFIELD, MO—The Reverend Robert (Bob) Francis, a Free Will Baptist minister for 28 years, died Sunday, March 3 in a Springfield hospital after an extended illness. Funeral services were conducted March 6 at



First FWB Church, Farmington, Missouri.

Reverend Francis pastored churches in three states and served as a home missionary. He was licensed to preach in 1957 and ordained in 1959. The Fredericktown, Missouri, native was an alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Brother Francis served in a number of district and state offices including clerk of the Missouri State Association, chairman of Missouri's Nursing Home Commission, member of the St. Louis District Association Executive Board and others.

He began pastoring at age 26 in Arkansas where he pastored Old Reyno FWB Church, Reyno (1960-62); Willoughby FWB Church, Warren (1963-64); Ballews Chapel FWB Church, Grubbs (1964-66); First FWB Church, Conway (1966-68); First FWB Church, Star City.

Other pastorates included two terms as a home missionary at First FWB Church, St. Paul, Minnesota (1969-72, 77-79); South Side FWB Church, St. Louis, Missouri (1972-77); and as a state home missionary at Branson, Missouri.

Reverend Francis is survived by his wife, Bonnie Jean Denton Francis of Branson, Missouri; two children, Mrs. Rebecca Brown of Nashville, Tennessee and Robert A. Francis, Jr. of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

REVEREND EARL JENSON DIES AT 73

McALESTER, OK—Reverend Earl Jenson, 73, a Free Will Baptist minister for 43 years, died February 21 at McAlester Regional Hospital.

Reverend Jenson was pastor of Lone Oak FWB Church, Indianola, at the time of his death. He was licensed to preach in 1942, ordained in 1943 and preached by appointment until 1945 when he began his pastoral career which spanned four decades and three states.

Brother Jenson pastored 14 years in California, during which time he also organized a new church near Fresno at Selma. He pastored one year in Missouri, but invested most of his ministry in Oklahoma churches.

For 26 years Rev. Jenson pastored five Oklahoma congregations. His first pastorate was in 1945 at the Lone Oak Church where he returned in 1984 and served until his death. In addition to

the Lone Oak Church, Brother Jenson pastored at McAlester, Allen, Eufaula and New Hope (Indianola).

Reverend Jenson held numerous positions of leadership and influence in local associations in California and Oklahoma. He served as moderator of the Oklahoma State Association in 1952. He was widely acclaimed for his biblical insight and his ability as a debater.

Funeral services were conducted at New Hope FWB Church with burial in the Indianola Cemetery. Reverends Buddy Drake and Cecil Fassio officiated.

Reverend Jenson is survived by his wife of 53 years, Golda Whitfield Jenson; a son, Charles, of Norman; one brother, Gene Daniels, Corcoran, CA; and three sisters, Coeta Shelton, Crowder; Lela Burnhardt, McAlester; Gladys Tallent, Modesto, CA.

BIBLE COLLEGE'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE ABOUT 1,000

NASHVILLE, TN—Approximately 1,000 attended services at Free Will Baptist Bible College's annual Bible Conference, held in Nashville March 10-14. Speakers were Dr. Willard Wilcox, Rev. Floyd Wolfenbarger, Dr. Charles Thigpen and Dr. LaVerne Miley.

Dr. Wilcox, media evangelist and FWBBC alumnus, preached his first message Monday night, encouraging hearers to know the "total Christ." He preached twice more on Tuesday and closed his series of messages Wednesday morning.

Rev. Wolfenbarger, pastor of Russellville (AR) First FWB Church and also an alumnus of the college, preached five messages on "Questions That Challenge The Church."

He said, "Sometimes the most stirring questions, those that touch us, that convict us, come from the world, not from the church." He proved his point by focusing attention on Old Testament challenges to Christians.

Dr. Thigpen, president of the college, brought three messages from the book of Revelation. In one of these, on Heaven, he said, "Every man needs three homes; an earthly home, a church home and a heavenly home."

Dr. Miley, FWBBC Bible and science teacher and former missionary to Ivory Coast, preached three messages: "What Think Ye of Christ?", "What Think Ye of the Church?" and "What Think Ye of Yourself?"

Conference music featured both college personnel and guests. The Evangel Players drama team presented their production of John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress" Wednesday afternoon.

The Alumni Association met twice for fellowship and business, hailing the Bible Conference as their annual college homecoming. The class of 1960 held its 25th anniversary reunion.

Next year's Bible Conference is scheduled for March 9-13.

ALABAMA CHURCH REBUILDS AFTER FIRE

EUFULA, AL—Members of Sardis FWB Church, Eufaula, have built a 400-seat sanctuary complete with Sunday School rooms and fellowship hall, according to Pastor M. C. Taylor.

Reverend Taylor said, "After the church burned, many observers thought it would never be rebuilt. They were wrong. Thanks to the determination and hard work of some faithful members, the folks at Sardis now have a beautiful new church."

The six-acre site is located within the Eufaula city limits. The church property and building are appraised in excess of \$350,000. The church uses the personalized tithe envelope system and operates from a strong financial base in the community.

Pastor Taylor says that the congregation also resolved that it was unprofitable for the pastor and impractical for the church to maintain a parsonage. They began paying the pastor a housing allowance and agreed to help him build a home of his own.

The group advanced Taylor \$25,000 to be applied toward construction of a home on a five-acre site. The property and house are valued in excess of \$90,000. The housing allowance will be applied to the repayment of the advancement.

Taylor believes the church's progressive new image will have a positive effect in bringing people to Christ.

UNUSUAL EVENT BOOSTS MISSIONS PLEDGE

MOREHEAD CITY, NC—A law enforcement official stepped to the pulpit of First Free Will Baptist Church after Reverend Danny Howell finished his sermon Sunday morning, February 17, and read a warrant charging the pastor with "failure to support foreign missions and being in violation of the Great Commission." The official then hauled Pastor Howell to City Hall as startled worshipers watched.

Pastor Howell said it was all part of a well-organized effort by church leaders to raise funds for foreign missions. After the pastor was escorted from the church, Ronnie West, chairman of the deacon board, joined former missionary to Brazil, Mary Ellen Rice in explaining to the congregation the purpose of the pastoral abduction.

Members were asked to take faith-promise cards home, discuss the matter with their families, and call back to the parsonage by 1:00 p.m. to let the Missions Committee know how much they wanted to pledge. Pastor Howell was kept at City Hall until the pledges were phoned in that afternoon.

By church time Sunday night, members had pledged more than \$6,000 to foreign missions and the preacher was turned loose. Howell said, "It was far above what we had expected."

The church followed up on the pledges with an exciting missionary conference February 24-27.

Reverend Howell has pastored the North Carolina congregation for two years. Sunday School averages 118, with 142 in worship services.

OVER \$8,000 RAISED FOR BIBLE COLLEGE AT PLEASANT VIEW RALLY

NASHVILLE, TN—Churches from the Cumberland Association's Northern Quarterly raised \$8,069 for Free Will Baptist Bible College and presented it to the college at a rally attended by over 1,000 people on February 24 at Pleasant View Christian School, Pleasant View, TN. Thirteen decisions were witnessed at the rally, including three conversions.

More than a hundred FWBBC employees and students combined efforts in the rally which included presenta-

tions by the Evangel Players drama team, the College Choir and the Concert Band.

This is the third annual rally held by the Northern Quarterly churches. Pleasant View Christian School Principal Roger Hood said, "This was the best of the three years we've been doing this." The offering was a record for the event.

Frank Breedon, rally coordinator, said, "The pastors and people are amazing with their cooperative spirit. They have shown tremendous friendship to us in this effort. We are very thankful for our neighbors of the Northern Quarterly."

REVEREND JOHN HOCKENBERRY, 63, DIES

HUNTINGTON, WV—The Reverend John Hockenberry Jr., 63, died February 18 in St. Mary's Hospital in Huntington. Funeral services were conducted February 20 at Prince of Peace Free Will Baptist Church where Reverend Hockenberry had pastored for 23 years, by the Reverends Glenn White, Roger Wren and James Brady.

He was born December 13, 1921, in Willow Wood, Ohio, a son of the late John and Margaret Hockenberry Sr. He was also a U.S. Navy veteran during World War II.

Reverend Hockenberry was an ordained Free Will Baptist minister for 35 years. Officials said that he preached

his last sermon Sunday night, February 17 and had four conversions.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Reed Hockenberry; one daughter, Mrs. Joan Gue of Barboursville;



one son, John Paul Hockenberry also of Barboursville; six sisters and four grandchildren.

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Students at **Free Will Baptist Bible College** raised almost \$53,000 during their 1984-85 Christmas project. According to **Paul Kettelman**, public relations director, this year's drive to raise operating funds for the college was the third highest in the school's history.

The Central District Association in Texas honored Moderator **Raymond Lee** on February 9 for 12 years of service as moderator of the district. Mr. Lee, a layman from Houston, is also a member of the Master's Men Board.

Pastor **Fred Hanson** of **Upper Brighton FWB Church, Hartland, New Brunswick, Canada**, led his church in a letter-writing campaign to the Canadian Prime Minister voicing their opposition to abortion. Hanson also sent additional materials, a sermon tape and related matters. The Prime Minister sent Reverend Hanson a personal response.

Calvary Fellowship FWB Church, Fenton, MO, set a new attendance record of 366 in March, according to Pastor **Jerry Norris**. One of those responsible for the new mark was **Peggy Rider**, who brought 22 visitors one Sunday.

The 1985-86 budget for **Cavanaugh FWB Church, Fort Smith, AR**, exceeds \$200,000, according to Pastor **Carl Cheshier**.

CONTACT welcomes UPDATE, publication of **Northside FWB Church, Stockton, CA**. Northside Church celebrated its fifth anniversary in January with 393 people in attendance. **Richard Kennedy** pastors.

First FWB Church, Jesup, GA, completed a new fellowship hall, says Pastor **James Ursrey**. The brick structure, 40' x 80', was completed in time for annual homecoming services. It includes a fellowship area, kitchen, pantry, storage and other facilities.

Pastor **James Avery** says **First FWB Church, Mt. Holly, NC**, has seen 58 conversions in the past nine months.

Pastor **Daryl Ellis** of **Bethel FWB Church, South Roxana, IL**, announced a writing contest for church members. Ellis said any member of the church is eligible and that article subjects could range from encouragement to personal testimonies or church ministries. This sounds like a great idea! Other churches may wish to adopt a similar program just to see where the journalistic talent lies in the congregation.

Donelson FWB Church, Nashville, TN, has been undergoing some growing pains. Pastor **Robert Morgan**, in order to encourage a much-needed building program, announced to members "If there is still anyone anywhere on earth who wonders if we really need more space, consider that we had 21 singing, shouting, growing children packed like sardines into our small pre-school classroom last Sunday!"

First FWB Church, Inman, SC, announced plans to construct a gymnasium and four classrooms in a multi-purpose structure. Pastor **Earl Hendrix** said the structure will contain approximately 10,000 square feet.

CONTACT welcomes **Jacob's Journal**, publication of Camp Jacob near Clintwood, VA. Camp Director **Jim Cox** said a total of 76 campers met at the camp last summer with 19 conversions.

Pastor **Edwin Baine** of **Straight Street FWB Church, Norman, OK**, said the congregation experienced 10 percent growth in 1984 and a 50 percent increase in missionary offerings. The church participates in the Cooperative Program. Pastor Baine said the group recently purchased new hymn books.

Pastor **Alton Wall** of **Mt. Pleasant FWB Church, Hamburg, AR**, said the church underwent major renovation recently which included bricking the church and adding a foyer. The ladies of the church purchased a public address system.

A study at **Farmington FWB Church, Farmington, MO**, showed that church giving doubled in five years, according to Pastor **James McAllister**. The group averaged \$2650 per week giving in 1980 and have exceeded \$4400 weekly in 1985.

Annual income at **Templo FWB Church, Weslaco, TX**, leaped from

just over \$10,000 in 1981 to more than \$25,000 in 1984. Sunday School average increased from 71 in 1983 to 81 in 1984. But Pastor **James Munsey** said the most exciting news was that worship attendance averaged 112 in the last quarter of 1984. Plans for 1985 include starting a Bible Institute, a day-care center and reaching 150 in Sunday School.

The Georgia State Association announced a special missions offering day which will be instituted in 1985. It will be called "The Laura Belle Barnard Special Missions Offering Day". The first **Laura Belle Barnard Day** is scheduled for October 13. Funds received on that day will be allocated to special Georgia state projects, the needs of Georgia foreign missionaries and other goals to be determined jointly by the Georgia State Mission Board and the State Executive Board.

Pine Level FWB Church, Chester, GA, started a church library. **John Amburgey** pastors.

Pastor **Rick Cason** said **New Salem FWB Church, Colquitt, GA**, recorded a record high attendance of 119.

In what may be a first of its kind, two former "missionary kids" were married December 23, 1984 at Surrency FWB Church, Surrency, GA. **Kevin Wilkinson**, son of Pastor Sam and June Wilkinson, was married to **Penelope Waid**, daughter of Reverend and Mrs. Herbert Waid.

Pastor **Charles Bigger** of **Stratford FWB Church, Stratford, OK**, said the congregation completed a \$135,000 remodeling project, turning the old auditorium into a new sanctuary with classrooms and a fellowship hall.

Pastor **Richard Rust** of **Hawkins FWB Church, Alex, OK**, lost his trailer home in a fire that destroyed all the family's belongings. The Hawkins Church is a member of Oklahoma's Dibble Association.

Pastor **Jerry McArthur** reports 10 teenagers saved in the last six weeks at **First FWB Church, Grand Prairie, TX**.

We'd like to get word of **new churches starting** around the country. We encourage pastors to send in news of new churches that begin and include the church name, pastor, date started, number of charter members and an address and phone number. Thanks for your cooperation, we'd like to share the good news of new churches with the entire denomination. ▲

**Attention Parents:
Nursery services
will NOT be
available during
the 1985
Convention.**



Free Will Baptist Music Ministries

If your church is ready to learn some new music, perhaps you should consider a . . .

Hymn of the Month!

By Charles Hampton

The purpose of church music is to assist in, support and promote worship, fellowship, evangelism, Christian education and admonition of one another.

One means of realizing this purpose is to have the congregation learn new hymns together. A vehicle for such congregational learning (which some churches enjoy) is the hymn of the month approach.

The motivations for using a particular hymn of the month may be varied, certainly. However, let us assume that at least one thing to be accomplished is learning, singing and enjoying more of the hymnody of the church.

Selections should generally come from the hymnal your church uses. This approach makes the chosen hymn readily available without possibility (temptation) of copyright infringement. Besides, you will find there are many good numbers in your hymnal which your church does not know and use.

Your congregation will be the richer for learning such numbers together. Of course, there will be the extra benefit of making your hymnal a better bargain—you will be using more of what you paid for. (Many churches probably use about a tithe of their hymnal's offerings. You might like to check your records for the last year and see how many different numbers your church used.)

There are many possibilities for increasing the value of a new hymn as you learn it. Let's consider a few of those. The song leader (or pastor) might introduce the hymn by relating the story behind its composition. The first hearing of the hymn might be an instrumental presentation—keyboard or otherwise. In either case, the melody

should be clearly heard by the congregation.

If the hymn is no longer protected by copyright, you may want to print the words in your bulletin that first service in the month. The church choir or another special group may be used to model the melody for the congregation, or simply to perform the hymn as a special number for one service.

The next service the congregation might practice singing just the melody in unison. Follow this in another service with a part work on the harmony, as needed. (The congregation might again be given an assist by the choir.)

You may then wish to sing the chorus or one or more stanzas of your new hymn in each of the services remaining in the month. At the end of the month your church will have another song in its repertoire. Indeed, some of your people will have memorized it.

Come to think of it, that's not a bad idea! Some music directors try to get their children's groups to memorize 10 hymns per year using such an approach. Surely, adults could memorize a few stanzas now and then.

Two reminders may be helpful here. First, be sure the hymn of the month is not new to everyone at the beginning of the month! The director and the keyboard folks should know the song, and it would be very helpful to have the choir practice it a few times before you start with the congregation.

Second, once the song has been learned, do not lay it aside to be forgotten. Use it again soon after your month is behind you.

Should you like the notion but have no particular choice in mind for your first hymn of the month, let me suggest a few possibilities from the *Free Will Baptist Hymn Book*.

For relatively simple numbers with strong messages, consider: "All Hail

the Power"—Coronation (225) or Miles Lane (227); "Man of Sorrows, What a Name" (228); "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (230); "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross" (336); "The Lord Is My Shepherd" (114); "Great Redeemer" (241); or "My Wonderful Lord" (216).

For a bit more challenge you may want to try: "All Hail The Power"—Diadem (226); "God of Our Fathers" (155); "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (9); "Hallelujah For The Cross" (186); or "Wonderful Grace of Jesus" (184). Certainly, the size and musical ability of your congregation should be considered as you choose a new song to learn together.

Your church may not want or need to use the hymn of the month concept all year to find it a profitable tool. Perhaps two or three such emphases a year would be a good start. But whatever the approach, it should prove to be a blessing to your church as you learn to sing and appreciate more of the church's musical heritage. Sing all—Worthy is the Lamb! ▲

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Charles E. Hampton is past president of the Free Will Baptist Music Ministries Fellowship. He serves as registrar of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee.



Green Tree Bible Study



Robert E. Picirilli

Colossians 3:1-4

Living the Resurrected Life

In most of his letters, Paul deals with doctrine first and then with practice. Colossians follows that pattern: In the first two chapters, teaching errors were exposed; in the last two, Christian living is the main concern.

Actually, the section from 2:20 to 3:4 is one grammatical unit. One side is 2:20-23: If you died with Christ; 3:1-4 presents the other side in precise balance: If you were raised with Christ.

Paul uses these two sides as transitional, the first part to close out the section exposing error, the last part to begin the practical section. Doctrine and practice are not very far apart anyway.

The Exhortation: Seek Things Above (vv. 1-2)

Just as 2:20 followed an assumed reality with a rebuking question, 3:1-2

follows an assumed reality with an exhortation.

The reality assumed is that we are risen with Christ (v. 1a). The "if" does not cast doubt but assumes a truth: "Since you were raised with Christ." This truth was already established in 2:12.

The exhortation is expressed twice, in different words: seek the things above (v. 16); *mind* ("set your affection") the things above (v. 2). Both of these are continuing action verbs in Greek: be seeking, keep your mind/thoughts on.

The first explains "the things above" as being in the realm where Christ sits enthroned at God's side—called "the heavenlies" in Ephesians.

The second contrasts these to "things on the earth" (compare Philippians 3:19). The Christian who lives the resurrection life with the resurrected Christ seeks the things of

heaven. His interests are there. He values spiritual things. His standards are those of another world.

The Logic of the Exhortation (vv. 3-4)

Three points are made to back up the reasonableness of what Paul has asked.

Our death in Christ (v. 3a). This repeats 2:20 and 2:12-13, lest they have been forgotten. As there, this is simple past: "you died." (Compare Romans 6:3-4.) Every Christian is one who died in Christ, both in the sense that Christ's death as penalty for sin is imputed to the believer and in the sense that the old way of life ("the old man") is regarded as having been put to death in Christ.

Our hidden life in Christ (v. 3b). "Your life has been hid with Christ in God." The point, apparently, is that the standards and values that govern our lives are hid, not from us but from those who are naturally minded. If we are heavenly minded, our lives are beyond the "seeing"—the comprehension—of this world. We follow things that only those who are in God with Christ have access to.

Our coming revelation in Christ (v. 4). If our lives are hid from the world now, they will not always be. At Christ's coming, He will appear, to be revealed in His true glory that is now unseen.

Likewise, since our life is hid in Him, we will also be revealed then. Our lives will be seen for what they really are. Our "full manifestation as sons of God" (Romans 8:19) will then take place.

Basking in *His* glory, we will reflect and participate in that glory. (The same truth, by the way, was implied in 2:3: The world does not yet recognize the real treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are also "hid" in Christ.)

Ascetic ordinances, then, cannot express the Christian's life: they are like ABC's and this-worldly ones at that (2:20-23). Our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20), and the direction for our lives springs from there. The old way of life is dead, the new way lives. ▲

TEEN Scene

Local Scene

What started as a planning session for five couples from area churches in Greenville, North Carolina turned into a youth rally with 275 present Saturday evening, January 19 at Trinity FWB Church.

The program featured a 50-voice mass youth choir under the direction of Dick Martin, associate pastor at Trinity. Other music included soloists Danny Barrow, youth worker at Grifton FWB Church in Grifton, and 10th grader Kyler Welch of Trinity. Danny composed the words and music to his song.

The attendance banner was awarded to Temple FWB Church of Greenville with 59 in attendance. They will keep the banner until the next youth rally.

The evening's main event was the film, "Face In The Mirror." The film presented the way of salvation and focused on total commitment to Christ, showing how youth groups tend to isolate or turn away other young people within their groups. After the film, three salvation and two rededication decisions were made.

The youth rallies are held on a quarterly basis. The summer rally will sponsor a Youth Olympics—a time of competitive fun for the youth.

The following churches and couples boost the rally:

Grace FWB Church, Jon and Susan Forlines
Grifton FWB Church, Ray and Diane Thomas
Immanuel FWB Church, Jerry and Louise McRoy
Temple FWB Church, Rod and Alice Whitley
Trinity FWB Church, Larry and Kristi Bryan

National Scene

The Youth Ministries Division of Randall House Publications announces the following high school students who have been selected for the second TRUTH and PEACE Leadership Conferences July 8-25. The 1985 participants include:



Avery Allman—Ohio
Troy Arnoldi—Illinois
Shawn Bassham—Missouri
Mark Bess—Oklahoma
Jeff Breeding—Indiana
Earl Broadway—Georgia
Joe Carter—Kentucky
Mike Coker—South Carolina
Paul DuPree—North Carolina
Michael Gragg—Tennessee
Barry Harris—Alabama
Steve Kohnstamm—New Mexico
Roy Lynch—Alabama
Reggie Nicholson—Tennessee
Thomas Parker—North Carolina
Todd Parrish—North Carolina
Gary Phillips—Missouri
Matt Pinson—Florida
Mike Pointer—Missouri
Brad Sneed—Arkansas
Kyle Sutton—Oklahoma
Timothy Taylor—Indiana
Tyrell Wagner—Tennessee
Kyler Welch—North Carolina
Joey Wilson—Illinois

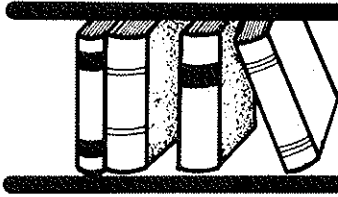


Jane Amburgey—Georgia
Sondra Baker—Kansas
Denise Brown—Oklahoma
Katrina Bryan—West Virginia
Prudence Clyatt—Florida
Rhonda Collins—Michigan
Kim Durden—Georgia
Tanya Getz—Texas
Cathy Harrington—Missouri
Angela Harris—Mississippi
Diane Henderson—Louisiana
Tracy Jones—Ohio
Debbie LeRoux—Indiana
Kathy Locke—Tennessee
Sondra Magness—Oklahoma
Jennifer Mathews—North Carolina
Krista McClintock—Illinois
Deanna Nunley—Oklahoma
Cindy Perry—Tennessee
Toni Richmond—Oklahoma
Cindy Riggan—Mississippi
Julie Roberts—Illinois
Tanya Searcy—Mississippi
Pam Stokes—Ohio
Sheila Wood—Tennessee

These young people, representing 20 states, were selected from over 120 applications that were received. They will share in two weeks of extensive leadership training involving seminars and input from denominational leaders and resource personnel.

Sam McVay will return for his second year as director of TRUTH and Sarah Malone will return to guide the PEACE conference. The last week of the conference will be spent in active involvement at the National Youth Conference July 21-25 in Nashville.

Top Shelf



Thomas Marberry



Donald E. Wildmon, *The Home Invaders*, (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1985, paperback, 192 pp., \$5.95).

It's difficult to avoid the conclusion that television is the most influential medium of communication devised by man. Few American households today are without a television set. Many children spent a considerable portion of their day watching TV.

Television is certainly a great benefit to mankind. It can be used to bring all types of useful information to remote parts of the world. It is used to spread the gospel in this country and in many other countries. It also has the potential to do great harm.

Television is an effective teaching device. Television programs have a subtle but significant impact on the

attitudes and moral judgments of people, especially children.

Donald Wildmon and his supporters are concerned that the television industry reflects a value system which is secular, humanistic and anti-Christian. They assert that violence, profanity and immorality are presented as normal and acceptable. The Christian faith and Christian values are often belittled.

As Wildmon notes, "Never is a modern-day Christian shown as a loving, caring, intelligent, compassionate person who contributes to society."

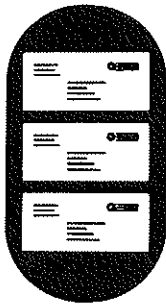
Wildmon argues that Christians should not keep silent in the face of

this growing tide of secularism and pornography. Christians should speak out in protest. The air waves are public property, and they should not be used to belittle the Christian faith or to undermine American values of decency, morality and honesty.

It's difficult to deny the truth of Wildmon's arguments. Anyone who watches television cannot help but notice that profanity is common. In most television programs, immorality is pictured as normal and accepted. The use of drugs and alcohol is likewise viewed as normal and acceptable.

Personally, I like Wildmon's approach because it emphasizes the involvement of individual Christians and local churches rather than government censorship. I tend to fear government censorship because it could be used to hinder Christians as we use the air waves to spread the gospel.

Individual and church involvement is a much better way; there are a number of things we can and should be doing. This is a good book; I recommend it. ▲



OUR READERS COMMENT

READER IDENTIFIES WITH ARTICLES

I just had to write to say how much I enjoyed Kathy Tippet Henderson's prize-winning story, "The Bride and the Bayonet" (Feb. '85).

Since I'm also a child of the fifties, Kathy's story was so real to me it almost seems it was part of my own memories.

Also, even at this late date, I must comment on Jack Williams' article, "The Broken Promise" (Oct. 1984). The story affected me strongly.

I felt so sorry for Brad who, seemingly for the first time in his young life, was having his very honor questioned. But my heart broke for his father who, for several agonizing hours, saw his whole life slipping away because of the actions of a beloved but schizophrenic son.

If anyone missed "Broken Promise," I suggest he back up and read it.

Mrs. Lorraine Layne
Harold, Kentucky

AGREES WITH 'TITANIC' AND 'CRABOLOGY' PROBLEM

I read the March issue and just had to write and thank you for "Briefcase."

I was amused with what you called the "Titanic Attitude Syndrome." You hit the nail right on the head. Rather than dwell on this kind of an attitude, a holier than thou attitude and conducting spiritual "witch hunts" because someone differs with our ideas and interpretations, one should look from whence they came and where the Lord has brought them now.

Then, instead of mistrust and questioning integrities, we could peacefully inquire and pray about and for people and their differences.

Even though I get a little riled at these people, I don't strive to harm them, I pray for them.

It's never too late to change our "crabology." All we need to do is to take the love that the Lord has put into our hearts, cultivate it and let it grow and spill over into others.

Kenneth Lane
Norman, Oklahoma

ARTICLE REMINDS OF DUTY

As I read the article in the January CONTACT by Rev. Clifford Donoho entitled "Send Them, Not Me!" it reminded me to fulfill my ministry.

Sometimes we are not satisfied with the responsibilities God has given us, thinking we are fitted for a larger ministry. Looking enviously at the size or scope of a fellow believer's calling, we think less of our own work and begin to neglect it.

HATS OFF TO PK ARTICLE

Perhaps some day I can meet young Mark Hampton that "preacher's kid," shake his hand and congratulate him for his fine article in the March issue titled "Who Is Normal?"

My hat is off to Mark for speaking his piece and saying perhaps what a few hundred other PKs would like the world to know.

I am a father of four (all grown now). I know about the abuses from those who think they can get by with any and everything. I have watched my children cringe into seclusion, so as to protect my ministry and help things to run smoothly.

I am aware of the watchful eyes waiting for the preacher's kid to make the wrong move so they might reflect it back to the pastor. I have spent my share of times in a spare room somewhere weeping over abusive words spoken and the isolation experienced by my children.

Don't ever think that Moms and Dads don't feel the pain also. "Who is Normal?" You got it right! If the norm for a Christian is Christlikeness, then just stay the way you are.

Reverend Milton Gann, Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Decatur, Alabama

Whether our task is large or small or whether it is in the limelight or behind the scenes, God expects us to fulfill it in a diligent and commendable manner.

Reverend Arnold Woodlief
Marianna, Florida

Thank You For
Your Contributions...



... Through the
Cooperative Channel

Cooperative Channel Contributions
February 1985

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP	Total	Feb. '84	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$.00	\$ 534.63	\$ 534.63	\$ 1,611.96	\$ 1,534.63
Arizona	.00	101.35	101.35	.00	101.35
Arkansas	.00	5,620.67	5,620.67	4,920.34	7,863.68
California	.00	1,200.49	1,200.49	1,000.03	1,907.25
Florida	.00	1,745.30	1,745.30	1,624.46	2,575.46
Georgia	4,050.36	5.00	4,055.36	1,576.91	7,777.86
Illinois	6,379.68	1,005.60	7,385.28	6,340.49	13,522.36
Indiana	324.38	96.33	420.71	527.10	1,011.68
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	674.26	148.32
Kentucky	.00	306.00	306.00	474.00	383.80
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	90.00	.00
Michigan	2,029.44	324.50	2,353.94	1,632.09	7,655.29
Mississippi	.00	364.00	364.00	483.42	752.41
Missouri	1,871.12	10,447.12	12,318.24	8,752.84	11,834.29
New Mexico	22.18	11.08	-33.26	.00	85.32
North Carolina	250.00	525.00	775.00	937.67	1,618.50
Ohio	394.00	2,152.00	2,546.00	1,751.68	6,248.00
Oklahoma	29,140.65	8,257.32	37,397.97	28,839.45	71,168.71
South Carolina	.00	.00	.00	10.00	25.00
Tennessee	101.69	476.55	578.24	3,845.43	1,902.95
Texas	.00	.00	.00	3,766.41	7,521.06
Virginia	.00	80.00	80.00	165.37	1,570.36
West Virginia	4,335.31	308.48	4,643.79	3,934.43	7,772.46
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	349.64
Interest	.00	.00	.00	988.07	.00
Totals	\$48,898.81	\$33,561.42	\$82,460.23	\$73,946.41	\$155,330.38

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive	\$ 227.06	\$13,935.14	\$14,162.20	\$12,992.77	\$ 27,784.56
Foreign Missions	31,205.34	4,514.07	35,719.41	33,657.73	75,883.00
FWBBC	1,414.03	4,514.07	5,928.10	7,133.68	9,948.62
Home Missions	13,902.87	3,532.74	17,435.61	11,475.43	28,462.20
Retirement & Insurance	36.43	2,747.72	2,784.15	3,271.02	4,195.37
Master's Men	30.17	2,551.40	2,581.57	3,287.27	3,897.45
Commission on Theological					
Liberalism	17.52	196.26	213.78	222.14	332.34
FWB Foundation	8.83	1,177.50	1,186.33	1,496.82	1,986.94
Historical Commission	15.42	196.26	211.68	267.85	327.77
Radio & TV Commission	108.83	196.26	305.09	.00	418.84
Hillsdale FWB College	1,898.60	.00	1,898.60	13.35	1,924.83
Other	33.71	.00	33.71	128.35	168.46
Totals	\$48,898.81	\$33,561.42	\$82,460.23	\$73,946.41	\$155,330.38

More Than the Resume

By Helen Ketteman

Before final exams and graduation, many young people begin putting down on paper their record of education and experience, hoping to land their dream job.

It's important that a resume contain a good summary of their qualifications. Top-grade stationery, no typographical errors, no spelling errors, no smudges—impressive references. All very convincing!

But the best resume cannot reveal the qualifications of heart and attitude. More than the perfectly typed resume, there are the important qualities of character that the employer looks for in a Christian employee. These qualities cannot be transferred to paper. They are written on the heart.

More than academic achievements or popular acclaim by peers, employers search for men and women who are "living epistles, known and read of all men," examples of strong character, faithful workers, honest, respectful of authority, truthful and prayerful.

Perhaps it's true that one only learns how to be an employee by being one. But being an employee means working with people, and it means living and working where people are. Integrity is important in all walks of life. Employers consider that first.

The job seeker may learn many skills and have many abilities. However, the one quality demanded more than any other is not skill, knowledge or talent, but character. The resume alone cannot convey, prove or portray this quality. When it's written on the heart by the Holy Spirit, employers and fellow employees can read it clearly. ▲



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Helen Ketteman teaches in the business department at Free Will Baptist Bible College.



ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

Surprise in the Storm

By Donna Mayo

Rain pelted the windows and danced on the tin roof of Mrs. Douglas' farm house. Lightning split the midnight sky and thunder rumbled.

"I hope nothing has happened to Mom and Dad," fretted Megan looking at her watch.

"Oh, I wouldn't worry," assured Mrs. Douglas. "I'm sure it's just the storm that's slowed them down."

Marty, Megan, and Jeff were spending the evening with Mrs. Douglas, their favorite babysitter, while their parents celebrated their anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Lane had gone to dinner and a concert.

Megan thought they looked dreamy in their formal attire. "I can't wait until I'm old enough to dress up and go to neat places," she sighed wishfully.

It was almost midnight and still no sight of the Lanes. Little Jeff had curled up on the couch to sleep. Marty, Megan, and Mrs. Douglas listened to the storm and tried to scare each other with ghost stories.

Megan heard something bang outside. "Oooh!" she shrieked. "What was that?"

"Aw, Megan, you old fraidy cat," said Marty. "You're imagining things."

"I heard it too" added Mrs. Douglas.

"What is it?" asked Megan, her eyes wide with fear.

"Nothing to be afraid of, I'm sure. Probably a loose shutter knocking about in this wind," said Mrs. Douglas, quite sure of herself. "I'd better fix it," she added, getting an umbrella and flashlight from the closet, "or it will wake up Jeff."

Mrs. Douglas stepped out into the rain while Marty and Megan busied

themselves looking about the room full of antiques.

"Look at that neat old gun," Marty pointed to an antique rifle hanging above the mantle.

"Mrs. Douglas told me that her great-grandfather fought with it in the Civil War," said Megan.

"Wow," said Marty. "I gotta see this." He pulled a chair over, climbed up on it, and carefully took down the gun. He was inspecting it when the front door was shoved open and Mrs. Douglas was ushered in by a strange young man.

He had her arm twisted behind her back, and Mrs. Douglas was near tears. "It wasn't a shutter," she sobbed.

"Give me all your money and valuables," muttered the prowler gruffly as he tightened his grip on Mrs. Douglas' arm.

"O.K., Buddy," said Marty, "get out of here or I'll shoot." Marty pretended to aim the old gun, knowing that it wouldn't shoot and that even if it did work, he didn't know how to use it.

With a shocked look the man let go of Mrs. Douglas and started backing toward the door when, all of a sudden, BANG! Marty accidentally pulled the trigger. The startled would-be burglar jumped off the porch, sprawled on the slippery wet grass, and scrambled for the woods.

"Law me," said Mrs. Douglas. "Will wonders never cease? I didn't know that old thing would even fire—much less that it was loaded."

The rifle had quite a kick, and Marty was trembling from the jolt as well as the shock. "I didn't know it was loaded. I didn't mean to hurt anybody," he stammered.

"It's all right," said Mrs. Douglas as she put her arms around his shoulders

and gave him a squeeze. "You didn't hurt him, but you sure gave him a scare. I bet that's the last we see of that burglar," she chuckled.

"You were great, Marty," said Megan with admiration. "So brave. Why I was shaking like Jello. I didn't know what to do."

"Well, it's like it wasn't really me," admitted Marty. "I'm scared now to think about it, but when it was happening I didn't have time to be afraid."

"Just like David and Goliath," said Mrs. Douglas.

"What?" questioned the twins.

"The Lord will always give you the courage and strength to fight your enemies," she explained. "I'm sure the Lord wasn't surprised when that old rifle fired. He saw to it that there was a bullet in it, and He helped Marty keep his wits about him so he could use it."

The twins and Mrs. Douglas made hot chocolate and were still talking about the intruder when they heard another bump outside.

Marty jumped, but Megan giggled. "I know that sound," she said. "It's a car door."

"Must be Mom and Dad," added Marty.

But Mrs. Douglas peered behind the curtains before opening the door just to make sure.

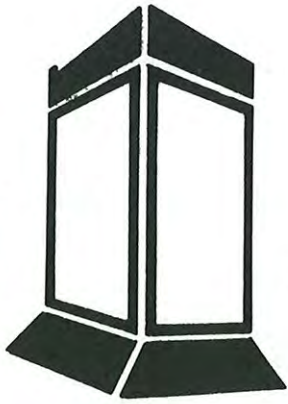
Mr. and Mrs. Lane hurried in out of the rain. Instead of looking dreamy, they looked drenched. "You'll never believe what happened to us," began Mrs. Lane.

"We had a flat tire," said Mr. Lane.

"And in all this downpour," interrupted Mrs. Lane.

"Just wait until you hear what happened to us," said the twins.

And they all started talking at once about the exciting events in the storm.



The Free Will Baptist Pulpit

Reverend Leslie C. Carney

Free Will Baptist Minister, Cheyenne, Wyoming

The Potter At Work

Jeremiah 18:1-17

Text v. 3, "Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he (the potter) wrought a work on the wheels."

INTRODUCTION

(Exegete while reading to get the setting—then apply individually.) The point of all this is very simple. God has a plan for your life. Jeremiah, in effect, is saying, "We are the clay. God is the Potter. God desires to make of us vessels, fit for the Master's use."

The illustration of the Potter and the clay is an excellent one, and the steps which are involved in making a vessel are instructive to us who desire God's will for our lives. Note three steps in making a vessel illustrated by the Potter and the clay.

- I. The Submission Of The Clay (vv. 1-4, 6)
 - A. The Clay Should Be Characterized By Purity (vv. 1-4)
 - B. The Clay Should Be Characterized By Pliability (v. 4b).
 - C. The Clay Should Be Characterized By Perseverance (v. 6).

II. The Skill Of The Potter (vv. 4b, 6)

- A. A Plan—What is He going to make? (vv. 4b, 6b)
- B. A Purpose—Why is He going to make it? (v. 4b) It seemed good to the Potter. He knows best. He will do what is right. The vessel is His handiwork—He makes it for His glory!
- C. A Process—How is He going to make it? (v. 6b) To suit Himself (v. 4).

III. The Speed Of The Wheels

- A. Involves Patience (Romans 5:3-5)
- B. Involves Progress (II Peter 1:5-8)
- C. Insures Final Products (Jude 24, 25)

CONCLUSION

We see then that it is God who takes the clay and, as the skillful Potter, He so orders movements and men for the benefit of the vessels He is making. Stressing purity in the vessel, the Apostle Paul writes: "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (II Timothy 2:21). (See also verses 19, 20, & 22.)

DIRECTORY UPDATE

CALIFORNIA

Robert Riddle to Norwalk Church, Norwalk from Taft Church, Taft
Harry Hernandez to Richmond Church, Richmond

FLORIDA

Floyd W. Harris, Jr. to Mt. Carmel Church, Perry from Traveler's Rest Church, Newton, GA

GEORGIA

Alton Everson to First Church, Tifton
James Simmons to Athens Church, Athens from Mt. Carmel Church, Perry, FL

KANSAS

Gary Mitchener to First Church, Salina from New Home Church, Mt. Pleasant, AR

NORTH CAROLINA

Jerry Allen to Oak Grove Church, Durham

OHIO

Wayne Keys to Mansfield Church, Mansfield

OKLAHOMA

Daniel E. Martin to First Church, Tulsa from Ozark Church, Ozark, AR

TEXAS

Ralph Clark to Mt. Olive Church, Laneville
Clyde Eldridge to Pine Prairie Church, Huntsville
Frank Cope to United Church, Bryan
Patrick Dickens to Westside Church, Midland from Ivory Coast, West Africa

WASHINGTON

Terry Stafford to Yakima Church, Yakima

OTHER PERSONNEL

John Aranda to Richmond Church, Richmond, CA as pastor of ministries
Darryl LeMond to Calvary Fellowship Church, Fenton, MO as minister of youth and busing
Ron Thiebaud to First Church, Duncanville, TX as music and youth director



ISRAELI GOVERNMENT KEEPS CHRISTIAN CHURCH FROM USING ITS FACILITIES FOR WORSHIP

REHOVOT, Israel (EP)—A legal injunction prohibiting worship in its rented building is the latest in a series of obstacles faced by the Grace and Truth Assembly, a congregation of Jewish Christians located here.

The city of Rehovot contends that the congregation is in an area zoned strictly as residential, even though the building formerly housed a kindergarten, and International Business Machines competed with the church to rent the facility.

Pastor Baruch Moaz says members of his group have suffered physical abuse, vandalism, and threats of violence. A wheel fell off Moaz's car Feb. 3; an inspection revealed some of the bolts had been removed, and others loosened.

Though the congregation's meeting place is only 200 yards from a police station, authorities have been of very little help in stopping persecution of the church. Protests by Orthodox Jewish groups, in which worshippers are physically obstructed from entering the building, and Bibles and hymnals are trampled upon in the street, are allowed to continue even after police are notified.

Moaz told Baptist Press "I am ashamed of the behavior of my fellow Jews. I am ashamed of the lack of concern for democracy on the part of all or any. We have been treated the way people are treated in some communist countries—countries with which Israel would not associate."

SCIENCE TEACHER DENIED HONOR BECAUSE HE TAUGHT CREATIONISM

HUDSONVILLE, MI (EP)—High school science teacher David Bolhuis was denied consideration for being selected as the "State High School Science Teacher of the Year" after the Michigan Science Teacher's Association found out that Bolhuis taught creationism in his classroom. According to the Freedom Council, Bolhuis had been a top contender for the award until the Association learned of his belief in creationism.

SUPREME COURT GIVES O.K. TO NEBRASKA CHURCH'S SUIT

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—A government-sponsored raid on a Nebraska church was unconstitutional and violated the rights of worshippers, according to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court refused to overturn a lower-court ruling that worshippers at Faith Baptist Church in Nebraska had their civil rights violated by government officials.

The case will now be returned to a lower court for a trial for damages. Plaintiffs in the

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—"The Silent Scream," a documentary film that uses ultrasound images to show a fetus being aborted, received White House endorsement. At a Washington D.C. rally protesting abortion, President Reagan called the film a "chilling documentary of the horror of abortion," and suggested that every member of Congress see it.

Crusade for Life, sponsor of the film, will make that suggestion a reality. The pro-life organization announced that it is giving every member of Congress and every Supreme Court justice a videotape of the 30-minute film.

Reagan aide Faith Ryan Whittlesey introduced the makers of the film at a special screening and said it would "alter forever the terms of the debate on the abortion issue."

"The Silent Scream" is narrated by Dr. Bernard Nathanson, a former abortionist who presided over 60,000 abortions as head of a New York City abortion clinic. Nathanson, now a

staunch anti-abortionist, was a founder of the National Abortion Rights Action League.

The film shows a fetus being aborted. The child is seen to move in an effort to avoid the suction device. When the abortionist finally contacts the fetus, the child's mouth opens in a "silent scream."

Pro-abortion activist Judy Goldsmith, president of the National Organization for Women, has denounced the film as "fraudulent, emotionally exploitative and overpraised." Goldsmith claimed that the film is "emotional manipulation at its most cynical, designed to exploit a cultural concern for children—real living, born children—and transfer it to a 12-week old, 2-inch long fetus."

Debating Goldsmith at the National Press Club, Moral Majority founder Jerry Falwell said the film "is not a fraud," and said "I cannot believe that any human being can sit through it without having some deep, deep, deep remorse for the unborn."

NUMBER OF UNEVANGELIZED IN WORLD HAS DROPPED, BUT SO HAS PERCENTAGE OF CHRISTIANS

NAIROBI, Kenya (EP)—The number of unevangelized people in the world has dropped by about four percent since 1980, but the percentage of Christians in total world population also dropped by about one half of one percent during that time, according to a report by David Barrett, Anglican statistician and editor of the World Christian Encyclopedia.

According to Barrett, the number of unevangelized in the world had dropped by 45.3 million in the last five years, leaving an unevangelized population of 1.3 billion, 27.9 percent of the world's population.

The number of Christians in the world grew by 115.9 million during that period to a total of 1.5 billion, or 32.4 percent of world population. This is a slight drop from 1980, when the percentage was 32.8.

In the last five years Muslims added 94 million adherents for a new total of 817 million. Hindus now stand at 648 million, a gain of 64.8 million, and Buddhists added 22 million, and presently total 296 million.

Barrett notes a gain of 400 Christian missionary-sending agencies; the new total number of agencies is now 3,500. There are 250,000 foreign missionaries, an increase of 1,000, and 3.5 million national Christian workers, up by 550,000 in the last five years.

WYCLIFFE REACHING SECOND THOUSAND LANGUAGES

DALLAS, TX (EP)—It took Wycliffe Bible Translators only 50 years to enter 1,000 languages for translation work, but entering the next 1,000 languages is expected to take less than half that long.

According to Executive Vice-President John Bendor-Samuel, the current growth rate for Wycliffe is 44 languages per year; at this rate the next 1,000 languages will take 23 years.

Bendor-Samuel is urging a further increase of Wycliffe's outreach. He wants to allocate 66 new languages each year; this would allow the second 1,000 languages to be reached by the year 2000.

NBA ALL-STARS CONTRIBUTE GAME EARNINGS TO HUNGER RELIEF

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (EP)—The National Basketball Association donated \$100,000 to INTERACTION, the American Council for Voluntary International Action, for relief work among Ethiopian drought victims. Jerry Ballard, World Relief executive director, accepted the check on behalf of INTERACTION Feb. 10 during the NBA All-Star game.

The donation represents the winning and losing shares that members of both teams would have earned—a total of \$50,000—and after \$50,000 matched by the NBA Players' Association. The donation will be distributed equally among World Relief and 27 other members agencies of INTERACTION.

evict pastors and others who were in prayer on their knees.

The plaintiffs are receiving volunteer legal assistance from the Concerned Women for America Education and Legal Defense Foundation.



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

Harmony in the Home



Every home ought to be a little replica of heaven. Remember, if the home fails in its responsibility serious consequences always result. The home holds the power to corrupt or correct our minds, morals and manners.

When there is harmony in the home, society is a better place. The ability to get along with people is learned first at home. Homes torn by conflict send children into society who find it difficult to get along with others.

Some Essentials

Oneness of the couple forms the basic truth about a family (Genesis 2:24). It's a sexual, social and spiritual oneness that does not just happen but develops during the course of marriage.

The husband's love for his wife is like Christ's love for the Church—unselfish, understanding, untiring and unique. The husband leads his wife in spiritual matters and listens to her without criticism, contention or calousness. She, in turn, submits to the loving leadership of her husband.

Obedience of the children marks another essential. Children have a responsibility to obey their parents as evidenced by Old Testament command (Exodus 20) and New Testament principle (Ephesians 6:1).

When children leave home and establish their own families, they no longer have to obey their parents but they never outgrow the obligation to honor and respect them.

Children need the balance of a godly home where parents obey and honor God. Children learn by watch-

ing how Mom and Dad treat each other and how they treat God.

Observe the concepts—harmony results when family members take the Bible seriously. God's pattern for the family comes packaged in the story of redemption. The Bible pulls no punches; it tells what happens when families ignore God and what *could* happen if those same families obeyed God.

Some Enemies

The tragedy of today's society is that many homes are battlefields. Here's how it happens.

Bickering. Constant feuding between family members makes life almost unbearable. Bickering places parents under a terrible strain and turns children into living land mines, waiting to explode at the slightest prod.

Belittling. Emotional and psychological put-downs by parents or children rob family members of a sense of self-worth. This wicked practice cannot be tolerated in the home.

Some wives can never do anything right in the eyes of their husbands or children. Some children can never do anything right or good enough in their parents' eyes.

Bitterness. Husbands are warned to not be bitter against their wives, but

that warning extends to other family members as well.

Bitterness denies, defrauds, defies and deceives others. Wives and husbands defraud and deceive each other. Children deceive their parents. The result leaves a home weakened at best, and sometimes destroyed.

Some Exhortations

Prayer goes a long way in the home. But since praying is such hard and thankless work, many toss it aside and look for answers elsewhere. Whatever's wrong with a home will never get better until somebody prays about it.

Perseverance builds a strong home out of the fragments of life. But it takes dogged determination along with patience and purpose. While many parents give up on each other and their children, perseverance plugs away with an eye on faith and a hand-hold on God till the broken is mended and the lost is found.

Perception recognizes the differences and the distinctiveness of family members. No woman views life like a man. No man faces sunrise like a child. It takes the special gifts of children and parents to make a home out of a house and a few people.

Harmony in the home is no accident. Harmony means that differences are faced and adjustments made. Holy people only live in harmony with each other after maturely working through fragile egos and conflicting viewpoints.

Check your home harmony today—I'm checking mine! ▲

The Secretary's Schedule

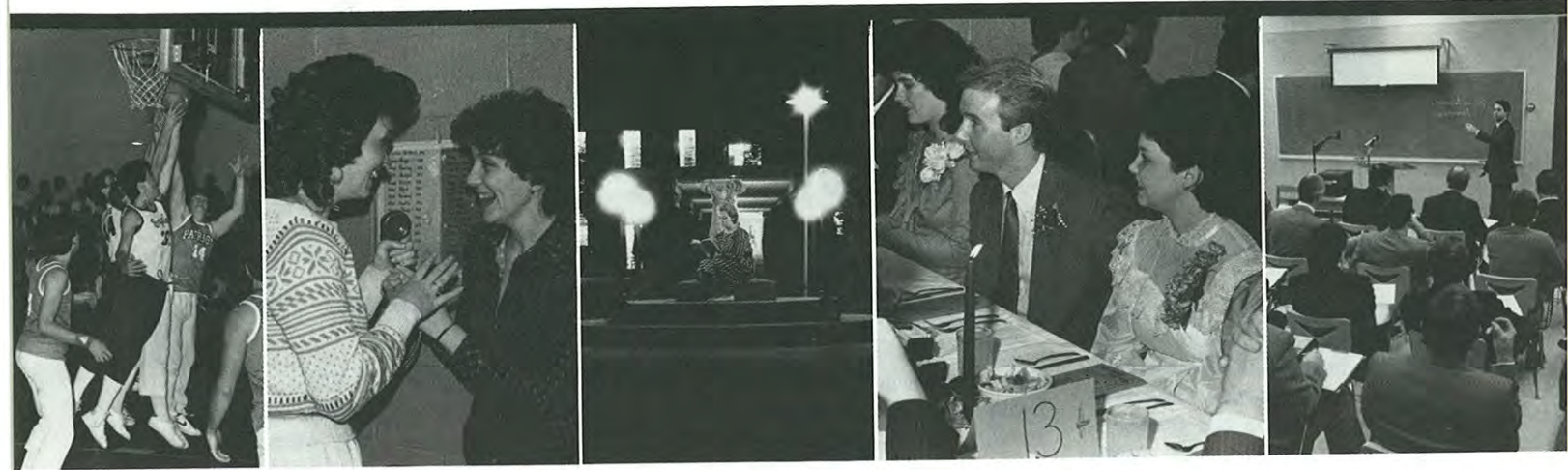
May 3-5	First FWB Church Charleston, AR
May 17-18	Michigan State Association
May 19	Central FWB Church Royal Oak, MI
May 22-26	First FWB Church Flat River, MO
May 28-31	Missouri State Association

CONTACT

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Nashville, Tennessee

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