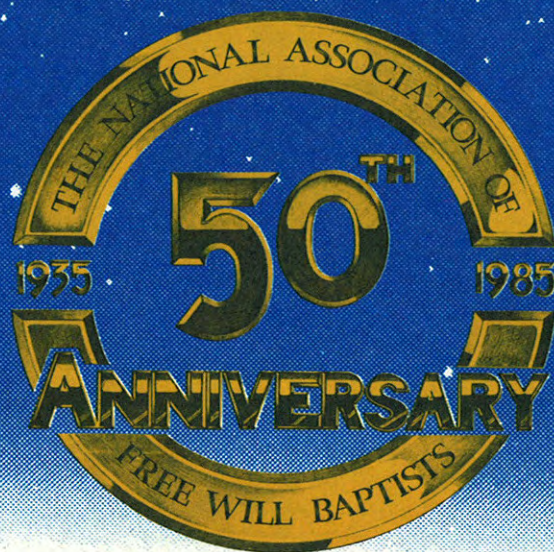


Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

June 1985

FOCUSING ON
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



"Remembering The Past"

"Reviewing The Present"

"Realizing The Potential"

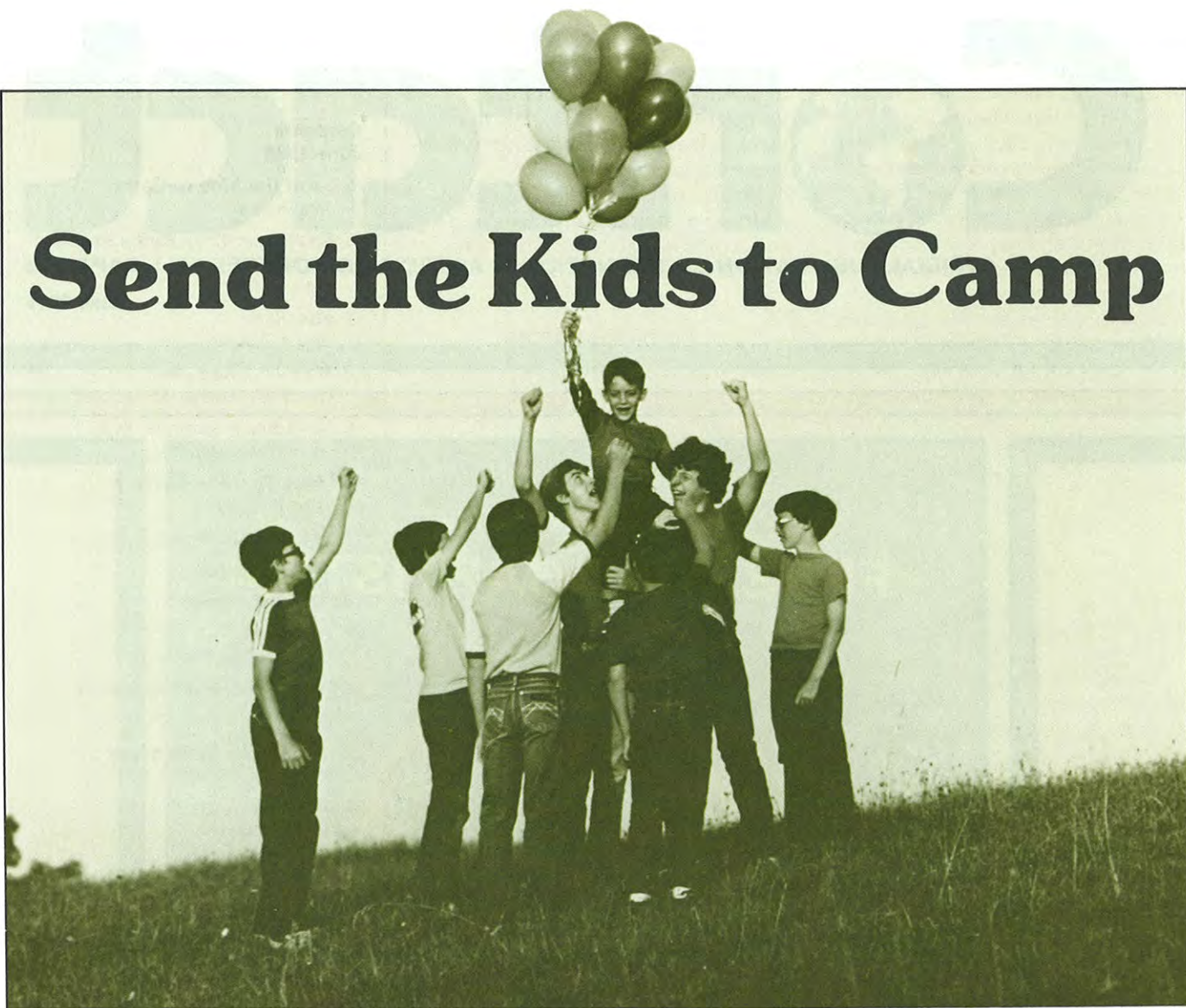
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

49TH ANNUAL CONVENTION/JULY 21-25, 1985

MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Send the Kids to Camp



H. Armstrong Roberts

By Jim Pursell

Christian summer camp is by far the largest district and state-sponsored annual event for Free Will Baptist young people. Do you know the advantages you offer a youngster when you "send a kid to camp?"

There's a simple enough answer. Let's take a look at the purpose, the place, the preparation, the participation and the promise of Christian camping.

Purpose

Several kinds of camps are available today. The purpose of each one can be determined by the end results: a sports camp builds athletes; a music camp trains

musicians; a cheerleading camp develops effective cheerleaders. The objective of a Christian camp is to produce stronger Christians.

While the benefits of Christian camping are many, one of its greatest values is placing a child in an environment where all teaching is directed to and for him. If he knows this, he's more likely to accept and apply what he hears.

While children must be taught on their own level, adults sometimes fail to realize a child's mental capabilities. Research shows that most of what a person learns in life will be learned by the age of nine.

Solomon said, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Which is to say, he will not forget it.

All of this reminds us of the long-lasting effects of teaching children.

The responsibility of adults is to provide training in an atmosphere in which the child not only can, but will listen. The key is for the child to say within himself, "This is for me."

While assemblies for children (Junior Church) help tremendously, perhaps no local effort isolates the child and places the message directly in his lap quite as effectively as church camp.

The results? He can understand if he will listen.

The fact that about 50 percent of all full-time Christian workers made their commitments at summer camp confirms the reason why parents should "send the kids to camp."

A well-organized church camp will spend as much time preparing recreational and fun-time activities as other camp sponsored programs, such as Boy Scouts. Recreation is a

vital part of a child's training.

So what's the difference?

The isolating effects of camp place a child in an independent position and make him conscious of his personal needs. To provide such an atmosphere and not teach him his need for God would be the injustice of a lifetime!

So, while there are many summer camp programs available, we Christians must realize that no physical, mental or social training is more vital to our child's welfare than his spiritual training.

This, of course, lays a special burden on leaders to provide the type camps that young people will not just be obligated to attend, but will desire to attend.

Preparation

There is much preparation required for camp—physical items such as clothing, bedding, personal articles, etc.

Perhaps, however, the most important preparation for spending a week at camp is mental preparation.

Mental preparation is especially important for young children who attend camp for the first time.

Step number one is parent preparation. Although it's only a week, to the parent whose child has never been away from home (except overnight at Grandma's), it seems an eternity.

Therefore, parents must prepare themselves and in turn prepare their children for the entire week.

An incomplete week at camp can have adverse effects on a child.

A child should not be harshly forced, but should be given an

explanation of the value of the complete camp program. We don't want to leave him with the attitude of enduring to the end.

Finally, give him at least one self-addressed, stamped envelope and encourage him to write home after his first day of camp.

Participation

If we prepare our child to stay all week, how can we parents help as the week goes along?

After the first day of camp, most of the child's fears are gone. Fears such as *How can I keep up with my clothes? . . . make my own bed? . . . comb my hair? . . . wake up? Will my counselor beat me if I don't behave?* and others. He will normally have developed the attitude at this point of "Hey, I can do this!"

Now he writes his first letter home. Your correspondence should be in response to his letter to you. Comment on his accomplishments. Otherwise you'll have nothing to say except what's going on at home.

In general, letters to children at camp should convey: "I wish I were there with you," rather than "I wish you were here with me."

Though children may differ in personalities, the general rule is that phone calls and visits should be for emergency purposes only.

While letters or post cards can be a source of encouragement, phone calls or visits often have a "side tracking" effect. They also may stimulate a severe case of home sickness that often cannot be cured.

All church camps should have follow-up programs. Pastors and churches should be notified of decisions made or special accomplishments of children at camp. Each local church should provide special recognition for all children who attended camp. Follow-up on conversions is especially important. But more important than church follow-up is follow-up by the parent.

At camp the child learned that attending church was required and was done without question. He will probably appreciate church more if we continue to teach that it's not just important, but our Lord requires it.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Jim Pursell is the Arkansas Church Training Service Director. He resides on the grounds of Camp Beaverfork near Conway, Arkansas.

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RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP	Total	March '85	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$.00	\$.00	\$.00	\$ 653.99	\$ 1,534.63
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	181.68	101.35
Arkansas	20.00	3,058.03	3,078.03	3,219.60	10,941.71
California	.00	699.68	699.68	1,149.44	2,606.93
Florida	.00	2,544.94	2,544.94	1,474.09	5,120.40
Georgia	3,001.71	5.00	3,006.71	2,407.88	10,784.57
Idaho	.00	131.60	131.60	.00	131.60
Illinois	5,468.78	714.73	6,183.51	7,173.96	19,705.87
Indiana	519.65	.00	519.65	623.52	1,531.33
Kansas	.00	113.04	113.04	.00	261.36
Kentucky	.00	266.00	266.00	373.54	649.80
Maryland	.00	90.00	90.00	.00	90.00
Michigan	2,190.61	1,502.00	3,692.61	3,661.79	11,347.90
Mississippi	.00	116.47	116.47	559.38	868.88
Missouri	1,230.03	6,867.68	8,097.71	5,533.90	19,932.00
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	629.16	85.32
North Carolina	614.26	831.45	1,445.71	1,254.59	3,064.21
Ohio	428.00	1,930.40	2,358.40	3,166.55	8,606.40
Oklahoma	24,762.26	12,500.88	37,263.14	29,346.66	108,431.85
South Carolina	.00	.00	.00	.00	349.64
Tennessee	246.22	1,003.87	1,250.09	1,931.58	3,153.04
Texas	3,710.67	488.25	4,198.92	4,027.57	11,719.98
Virginia	.00	151.80	151.80	193.33	1,722.16
West Virginia	3,518.61	118.57	3,637.18	4,597.92	11,409.64
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	25.00
Totals	\$45,710.80	\$33,134.39	\$78,845.19	\$72,160.13	\$234,175.57

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive	\$ 115.64	\$14,027.04	\$14,142.68	\$13,184.64	\$ 41,927.24
Foreign Missions	33,177.19	4,394.67	37,571.86	33,114.56	113,454.86
FWBBC	2,099.66	4,394.67	6,494.33	5,296.13	16,442.95
Home Missions	8,896.14	3,439.31	12,335.45	14,712.00	40,797.65
Retirement & Insurance	44.86	2,675.06	2,719.92	2,209.27	6,915.29
Master's Men	44.33	2,484.07	2,528.40	2,125.59	6,425.85
Commission on Theological Liberalism	16.01	191.06	207.07	152.69	539.41
FWB Foundation	10.75	1,146.39	1,157.14	876.01	3,144.08
Historical Commission	16.01	191.06	207.07	151.02	534.84
Radio & TV Commission	10.75	191.06	201.81	.00	620.65
Hillsdale FWB College	1,247.58	.00	1,247.58	321.54	3,172.41
Other	31.88	.00	31.88	16.68	200.34
Totals	\$45,710.80	\$33,134.39	\$78,845.19	\$72,160.13	\$234,175.57

CAMP (From page 3)

They also learned, especially teens, that there's more to life than jammers, jalopies and junk food. To continue in moderation of such, they need your help.

Many of them learned to make their own bed and hang up their clothes for the first time. Why not encourage them to continue? The military learned a long time ago that for one to respect others, he must first respect himself.

Summer youth camps can never be placed above the home, church or schools in importance. But if used properly, camp can be one of our best helpmates to all these institutions.

Promise

The promise? A week of Christian camp should hold these promises:

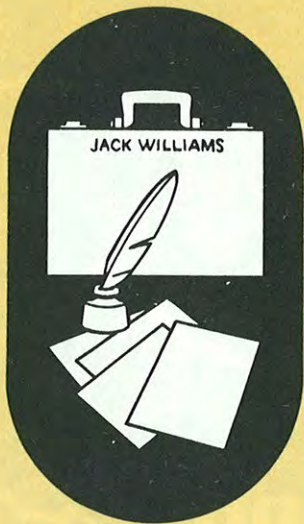
- A promise to *present* Christ to your child as his personal Savior.
- A promise to *teach* your child in His ways.
- A promise to *guide* your child in a personal, daily relationship with Christ.
- A promise to *train* your child in godliness.
- A promise to *give* your child an enjoyable, worthwhile week of fun and fellowship with other Christians his or her own age.
- A promise to *show* your child his role and the necessity of his fulfilling his role in the Great Commission.
- A promise to *provide* your child with the opportunity of giving himself totally and completely to be used according to God's purpose for his life.

A week of Christian camp may not only affect your child's life both now and in eternity but perhaps untold numbers of other people may be influenced and won to Christ by someone who once attended, listened, responded and acted upon the message presented at a youth camp.

Why send the kids to camp?

Can you think of a more valuable or worthwhile way for your child to spend 120 hours and \$20 or \$30 this summer? ▲

Briefcase



They Battle the Dark Demon

When Henry walked into my office two years ago, the last thing I expected was for him to stay five days and for us to have the kind of conversations that we did.

He was pushing 40, a pastor for 20 years, a college graduate, and to many of his peers the prototype ministerial success story.

But there was something about his sad eyes, the way he'd lost the spring in his step, that should've tipped me off that something was wrong. Unfortunately, in my joy to see him I ignored the warning signs.

We weren't more than five minutes past the "Hellos" and "How are the wife and kids" when Henry dropped his head and a shadow crossed his face.

He said it started some months earlier when he began staring out the window of his study every morning. He couldn't concentrate. He forgot some appointments and cancelled others. He felt like the walls were caving in on him.

He drifted through the community, listless, and nothing seemed to matter. Most of the time he didn't care if he got the visitation done, did his sermon preparation or even called on the sick.

He felt hopeless. No matter how hard he tried he could never get the job done. He couldn't remember the

last time he finished anything. His calendar bulged with appointments that meant nothing.

He coped for a while. Then he carried his frustration home with him. His wife and children commented about his short temper, so unlike Henry. He whispered, "I got to the point where I almost despised my wife and children."

He smiled thinly and said that wasn't the worst part. He didn't like being around people any more. Church work became routine, a vast cavern into which he poured his energies with no visible results.

His voice sounded flat and he glanced at me as if he knew what he'd say next would startle me. It did. He said that for several months he'd considered suicide.

Henry saw the disbelief in my eyes, and smiled, "I understand, a few months ago I was shocked that I thought it."

He came back to the office every day for a week. He felt depressed; he feared ministerial burnout; he talked constantly of a mid-life crisis.

Something had put out the fire in Henry's life. He was in deep trouble. He and his wife were talking past each other. He didn't trust himself. He was physically tired, emotionally wrung out. He was pastoring by memory; he'd lived so long with despair it no longer alarmed him.

Henry may be the extreme concerning untreated ministerial stress. But the fact remains that every

minister faces the same pressures on a regular basis. Where can a minister go for help?

The minister must admit that he has a problem when one exists. Depression is normal in every life and flows through society with no respect of persons. The mighty and the weak, the brilliant and the mundane all wrestle with it at some time.

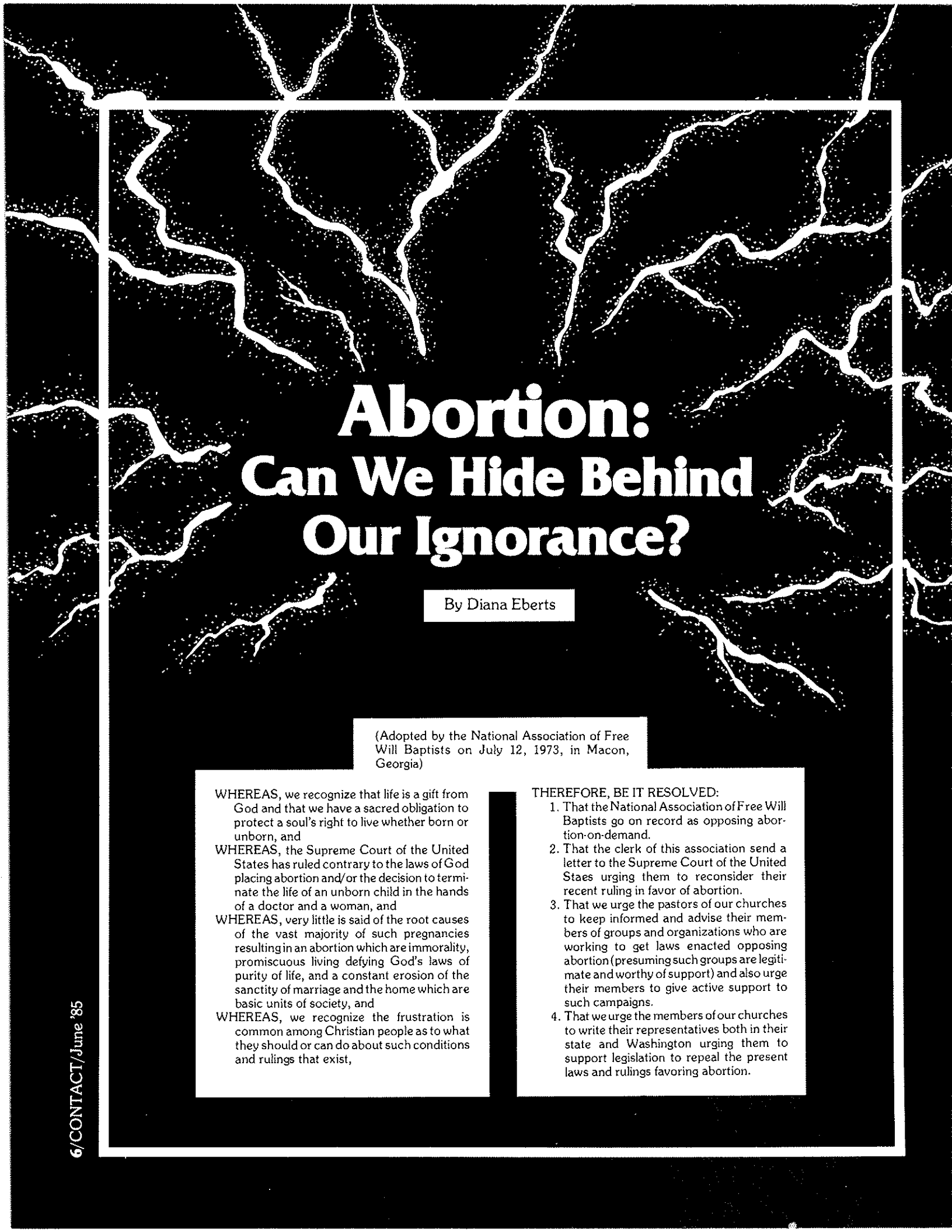
What can the minister do to help himself? Get some rest. Change his routine. Pick up a new hobby. Find a friend and talk it out regularly. Help somebody else. Take a vacation. See a good doctor and take his advice.

The point is that ministers face daily pressures and demands from a life given to others, but they don't have to hit the wall and shatter like clay men. There is a way through frayed emotions and extreme circumstances. The challenge to get off the floor emotionally and start over again is like a refiner's fire—purifying, painful, unavoidable.

What preventive measures can members take to encourage a harried pastor? Be kind to the minister God has given you. Be loving and thoughtful. Remember him when you pray. Say something nice about him in the community. Sometimes good news travels almost as fast as bad news does.

Many pastors are headed toward Gethsemane tonight where they'll struggle in the darkness. Then before morning, some will face the greatest trials of their lives.

Even Jesus took three friends to His Gethsemane. Perhaps today, you and two others could help pray your pastor through his time of personal agony and testing. No man should have to face the dark demon alone. ▲



Abortion: Can We Hide Behind Our Ignorance?

By Diana Eberts

(Adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists on July 12, 1973, in Macon, Georgia)

WHEREAS, we recognize that life is a gift from God and that we have a sacred obligation to protect a soul's right to live whether born or unborn, and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled contrary to the laws of God placing abortion and/or the decision to terminate the life of an unborn child in the hands of a doctor and a woman, and

WHEREAS, very little is said of the root causes of the vast majority of such pregnancies resulting in an abortion which are immorality, promiscuous living defying God's laws of purity of life, and a constant erosion of the sanctity of marriage and the home which are basic units of society, and

WHEREAS, we recognize the frustration is common among Christian people as to what they should or can do about such conditions and rulings that exist,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the National Association of Free Will Baptists go on record as opposing abortion-on-demand.
2. That the clerk of this association send a letter to the Supreme Court of the United States urging them to reconsider their recent ruling in favor of abortion.
3. That we urge the pastors of our churches to keep informed and advise their members of groups and organizations who are working to get laws enacted opposing abortion (presuming such groups are legitimate and worthy of support) and also urge their members to give active support to such campaigns.
4. That we urge the members of our churches to write their representatives both in their state and Washington urging them to support legislation to repeal the present laws and rulings favoring abortion.

There's an urgent need for the public to be better informed on the facts about abortion. However, as a Christian and member of a Free Will Baptist church, I believe that this educational process must begin within our own local churches.

The National Association of Free Will Baptists adopted a resolution in 1973 that we "go on record as opposing abortion-on-demand." The resolution urged pastors to keep informed and advise church members to actively support campaigns to pass laws opposing abortion.

Let's take a look at some of the abortion facts. On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court declared unconstitutional all state laws protecting pre-born children from abortion. The court stated that legal personhood does not exist prenatally, and ruled that an unborn child is not entitled to legal protection of his life. This ruling allows abortion of any child until the day he's born!

The U.S. Supreme Court obviously believes that life begins at birth, but even a limited knowledge of proven medical facts shows this is not to be true.

Approximately 25 days after conception a baby's heart starts beating. By 45 days, brain waves can be measured on an EEG, the cartilage of the skeleton is complete, and the baby makes the first movements of his body. By 63 days he will grasp an object placed in his palm and can make a fist.

All organ systems are functioning by three months, and the baby can sleep, wake, hear, feel pain, breathe, swallow, digest, urinate and suck his thumb. By four months the baby is fully functioning and only needs to grow in size and maturity. Does this sound like a creature that is not alive?

Even more important than these medical facts is the evidence found in the Bible. Conception is an act of God. God closes the womb, as stated in Genesis 20:18, "For the Lord had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife."

God only is responsible for opening the womb as shown in Genesis 25:21, "And Isaac intreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived."

God knows us prior to conception—"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee . . ." (Jeremiah 1:5).

Isaiah 43:7 leaves no doubt that God alone is the giver and creator of all life—"Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."

Thus, when he destroys a pregnancy, man terminates a life force that has been created by God. The authority to terminate a pregnancy has not been given to man.

Even if a person is not convinced by God's Word against abortion, there are other facts which the public needs to know. Methods of abortion include suction aspiration, dilation and curettage, saline injection and hysterotomy.

Are these procedures simple, gentle, medically sound, beneficial to the mother and humane to the child? By learning about these methods, you'll find that the abortion process unnaturally interrupts the protective and nourishing functions of the mother's body and may cause long-term and harmful mental and physical effects.

Abortion procedures also create a painful, violent death for the child. The public needs to know how these procedures are done and possible side effects in order to make an informed choice.

Many arguments for abortion refer to rape, incest, deformed and handicapped babies, saving the mother's life, mental health of the mother, social or economic reasons, unwanted children and child abuse.

Study the facts concerning these different situations. The excuses do not justify abortion-on-demand; more humane solutions to the problems are available.

Current estimates place the number of abortions in the United States each year at two million. In Ohio where I live, the number is 46,197. This waste and destruction of human life is staggering and sickening.

Many Christians have backed away from the abortion controversy, believing that their ignorance concerning the matter will excuse them of any evil resulting from their inaction. However, God calls us

in this, as in all matters, to seek His will, to resolve our difficulties by careful study of the scripture, and to proclaim the truth with confidence.

Even our nation stands in jeopardy of God's harsh judgment for this holocaust against the unborn. The legalization of abortion-on-demand is just one shameful example of how far our nation and mankind have strayed from God's will.

So, what can we as Christians do to help protect the rights of the unborn? Take a look at how God blesses the sincere efforts of even a few individuals.

In the local church I attend, two people began telling others about the burden they felt for babies being murdered through abortions. Seeking factual information, a contact was made with a pro-life group in another county which resulted in a lecture-slide presentation at our church.

Those who wanted active involvement in the pro-life movement began holding regular meetings in their homes and organized a group we now call "Christians for Life." This organization is separate from our church affiliation, and we encourage other Christians in the community who share our burden and goals to join our activities.

Our first priority was to educate people concerning abortion facts. Each Free Will Baptist church in our conference was asked to allow us to do a lecture-slide presentation in their church. This has also been extended to other denominations in our community. Literature has been distributed through church presentations, at local libraries, at a community fair and through individual contacts.

We write to state and national representatives and senators to support pro-life legislation, including a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution to guarantee the right to life to all human beings, born and unborn.

We also write letters to newspapers to inform the public about general abortion facts, fetal pain and how abortion affects the mother physically and psychologically. We publish newspaper ads, including a half-page layout, to provide factual information as well as offer assistance to those in need.

We sponsored the construction of a billboard along a state highway in our community in order to display pro-life





Who Touched Me?

By Floyd W. Harris, Jr.

Winter rain pounded the big doors of the fire station as they opened. It had been an unusually quiet evening and the seasoned squad expected something to happen. They had seen too many peaceful evenings turn into nightmares. Tonight's run would be no different.

We roared out of the city into the hilly countryside where we had been dispatched to an automobile accident. The fire engine, with its siren screaming, raced in front of our ambulance to the scene of a single-vehicle accident where an over-turned station wagon lay on its side after smashing into a large tree.

Like many times before, I ran to the car and crawled through a shattered window, the rain beating down the back of my neck. As I wiped rain from my eyes, a scene etched in my memory that I'd see for many nights.

The mother's chest was crushed between the steering wheel and the

seat. There was no breath, no pulse. She was obviously dead. Four children were wrapped together in such a way that I couldn't tell which arm or leg belonged to which child. Blood ran from horrible open wounds, pumped from one body to another.

I quickly examined each child and concluded that they were all dead. As rain pelted the car roof, the air reeked with the smell of death.

A million thoughts chased through my mind as I checked and rechecked, making sure there was no life or hope of life. I had seen many scenes like this. I looked around again noting what had to be cut away with the powerful hydraulic tool for us to remove the bodies.

The walkie-talkie I used to communicate with the truck and station fell from my back pocket as I turned around in the car. Shining my flashlight downward, I reached for it to call the coroner. Someone had to pronounce the people dead.

ABORTION (From page 7)

messages. We made contacts with school officials hoping to provide literature and slide presentations emphasizing the value of human life.

As God reveals individual concerns to us, we strive to provide financial, physical and spiritual assistance as needed. All expenses for "Christians for Life" activities are covered through donations.

But above all, we pray! We pray for our nation that the Holy Spirit will enlighten and convict men, women and children of this terrible holocaust. We pray for pro-life activities and for other individuals and organizations who are publicly taking a stand against abortion.

I challenge each Free Will Baptist church as well as each Christian to

learn the facts about abortion and share the information with others. We must teach moral responsibility and human worth, vocally take a stand against abortion-on-demand, and provide counseling and whatever support necessary to help individuals find positive solutions to problem pregnancies.

How much longer do we dare hide behind our ignorance?

Proverbs 24:11-12 says, "If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?" ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Diana Eberts is a member of Puritan Free Will Baptist Church, Hamden, Ohio.

But as I groped in the darkness for the walkie-talkie, I felt someone touch me! Without knowing whether it was a child or not, I knew someone had pulled on my shirt. With my heart hammering in my throat and my breath rapid and shallow, I shined the light downward again. There was a little arm, bloody but moving. Someone was alive!

I moved the other children back and pushed the seat forward to discover a 6-year-old girl. She had no cuts or broken bones, just a small bruise. The blood had been someone else's. She had been the one who had touched my clothes.

Jesus walked through this world, a world spiritually dead because of sin. But as this great life-giving Physician passed through the masses of people, many reached out to touch Him.

Just as someone reached for my help in that over-turned station wagon on a cold winter's night, a sick woman reached out for the Savior's help. Jesus did for her what only the Son of God could do. He sensed someone's touch who possessed a living faith in the land of the dead.

Like that little girl's pull on my shirt, a touch indicated the stirring of life. What a shame that many of us spend our lives burying the dead instead of looking for the stirrings of spiritual life.

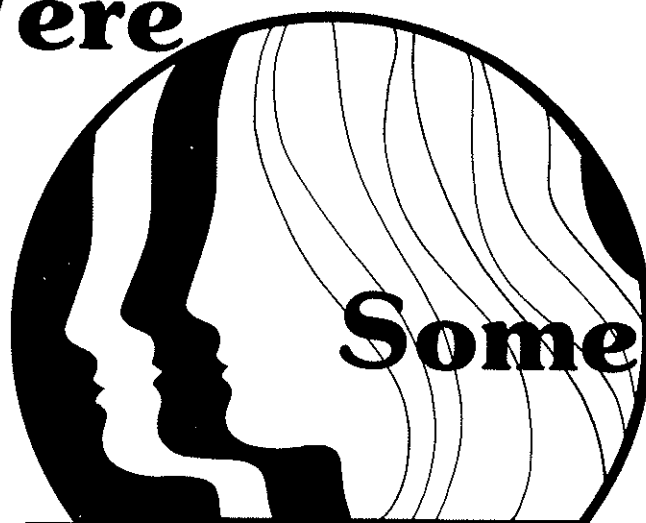
Millions today are covered in the blood of their own guilt with sin's wages spilling about. Many make feeble attempts seeking help. Our job is to "Rescue the Perishing . . . Care for the Dying." But how can they reach us? How can they touch us?

Three steps are taught in basic life support. Look, listen and feel. Look for breath movements, listen for breath to be exhaled, feel for pulses.

Let's look for the living in the land of the spiritually dead instead of pronouncing them D.O.A. Listen for their whispers and weak pleas for help. Feel their life, understand their problems and be there for them! ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Floyd W. "Sonny" Harris Jr. pastors Mount Carmel Free Will Baptist Church, Perry, Florida. Reverend Harris worked as a paramedic for 10 years.

Such Were



Some Of You

By Marvin Beculhimer

The Church and the Homosexual

Homosexuality seems to be on the minds of many today. It's a frequent subplot in novels, movies and some television shows. Media at all levels gives coverage to the concerns and political efforts of the gay community ("gay" is a common synonym for homosexual and is used in neither a pejorative nor complimentary sense).

Homosexuality is sometimes an issue in political campaigns though in varying degrees of importance and publicity. Many urban areas have seen public protests by members of the gay community and counterprotests by members of conservative and fundamentalist groups.

In some churches, leaders and members debate accepting homosexuals into the ministry. Other churches denounce homosexuality as number one on the list of God's most hated sins. Television and radio preachers frequently warn of a gay conspiracy.

Gay spokesmen never cease to tell us that not only do most of us work with or live next to practicing homosexuals, but that they are responsible for a disproportionate amount of the many and varied achievements of Western culture.

The average person, particularly the Christian, is concerned by all of this, and so the subject stays on his mind: troubled that homosexuality is so widespread, he is also perplexed as to what—if anything—he can do about it.

Yet much of this concern and perplexity is misplaced. Studies from several decades ago indicated that approximately 15 percent of the male population, or one in six men, was homosexual. All statistical analysis since that time has indicated no significant change in that number.

The percentage of people practicing homosexuality is no greater today than it was in your grandfather's day. Yet it seems so much more widespread that many people are actually shocked at those figures. If the percentage of people practicing homosexuality has not changed, what has?

Two overriding factors contribute to the idea that homosexuality is on the rise. The first is a change in attitudes toward homosexuality. Gay activist groups for two decades have pushed for acceptance of homosexuality as a viable alternative lifestyle and for positive portrayals of homosexuals in the media. In both areas they have been fairly successful, at least at the level of elites.

Psychiatric Association Ruling

Psychologists and psychiatrists from Freud onward regard homosexuality as abnormal and treated it as a disorder. But, in 1974, the *American Psychiatric Association*, under pressure from gay activists, voted, though far from unanimously, to regard and treat

homosexuality as a normal, if minority, orientation.

That ruling, though not followed by all members of the profession, changed the public thrust of psychiatric concern in this area from one of altering homosexual orientation to one of simply helping homosexuals cope with guilt feelings and pressures from society, though they allowed for traditional treatment of homosexuals who desired a change in orientation.

In a nation like ours which has such high regard for its professionals, the long range influence of such a dramatic change in philosophy on the part of respected professionals with a great deal of influence among opinion-makers can hardly be overstated. Related to this has been the shift in media values regarding homosexuality.

Media-Reversal

Prior to the 1970's, gays, if mentioned at all, were generally portrayed in the media as either villains or pitiable perverts to be treated with much disdain and little compassion. Since that time, due to changing values among elites and to the powerful gay lobby in the television industry, the situation has been almost completely reversed.

Homosexuals are almost never portrayed negatively, though conservative critics of homosexuality



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frequently have been. The last time homosexuality was dealt with negatively on a series was a Marcus Welby episode from the early seventies. The late seventies and early eighties saw a spate of television shows, particularly sitcoms, dealing with homosexuality, with most portraying it as a morally neutral lifestyle which simply requires understanding from "straight" society.

There were a few exceptions to this trend, but they were generally unsuccessful and uninfluential. And while the number of shows with homosexual themes on television has declined (television moguls having tired of dealing with the gay lobby), those currently produced reflect values formed in the late seventies. This is upsetting to Christians because they know the media's power to shape viewers, if not in terms of lifestyle, then at least in terms of attitudes and values.

Political Football

There's a second major reason for the seeming increase in homosexuality and its certain increase in exposure: attempts to make the subject a partisan political issue. Here, both sides have contributed to the increased publicity attached to homosexuality. Gay activists have for some time sought increased visibility and political power in order to make government more responsive to their concerns.

Urban areas have seen public protests by members of the gay community, and citizens in numerous cities are aware of active and frequently powerful gay lobbies. These activists have generally sought to align themselves with liberals and have been successful at the national level in gaining forums for their concerns.

They were particularly visible and vocal during the 1984 Democratic National Convention where they not only got prime-time exposure from reporters looking for offbeat stories to enliven otherwise dull coverage, but also made headway in gaining political power within that party.

Critics of homosexuality have likewise given excessive and

frequently counter-productive publicity to the issue. Gay rights demonstrations regularly draw counter-protestors in varying numbers, mostly conservative Christians whose behavior is sometimes embarrassingly ugly. Some religious spokesmen frighten moderate Americans by calling for the execution of homosexuals.

Some radio and television preachers have used the homosexual issue on their national forum to frighten their conservative audiences into increased giving and enlistment as followers.

The kind of exposure which homosexuality is receiving from both liberals and conservatives—even some Christian leaders—serves only to exacerbate a moral problem and create false impressions. Because, while gay activists have engaged in partisan politics, the practice of homosexuality has a distinctly non-partisan face.

In the last congress of 16 known homosexuals, 13 were conservative Republicans who took particular delight in their status as "closet queens." The five most recent sex scandals in congress have involved one liberal Democrat, one conservative Democrat and three conservative Republicans.

The one liberal Democrat and two of the conservative Republicans were involved in homosexual scandals; the latter two were also members of fundamentalist organizations. And the head of one of the most powerful conservative political action committees, who counts some active fundamentalist preachers and politicians as close friends, is a not-so-closet homosexual.

Basic Principles

At this juncture, three important points should be made: 1) Homosexuality is no more widespread today than at any other time, but it is far more public than it ever has been before in our society.

2) People's attitudes towards homosexuality are changing in that they are accepting it as an alternative lifestyle which, while not right for most, may be right for some.

3) Despite the efforts of both gay and conservative activists,

homosexuality *per se* is decidedly not a partisan political issue.

Those observations are rather simple, but much time has been expended in arriving at them. The reason is because, on this as well as many other issues, simplistic voices are loud and sometimes seductive even to the Christian. That is why any controversial issue should be examined honestly, not on the basis of the accusations and apologetics of activists of any hue, but on the basis of God's revelation.

If we truly believe with Paul that the entirety of scripture was written for our benefit, we must use it to inform and shape both what we believe and what we do. And there is no issue about which this is truer than homosexuality.

At the outset we must affirm that the Bible's teaching has direct relevance to the issue of homosexuality. It is a practice which has been around almost since there were men, and it was widespread and accepted among many peoples during the period of both testaments. Therefore when the Bible speaks either directly or indirectly on this issue, it speaks God's Word in the midst of a contemporary human experience which has changed little across the centuries.

The Bible Says . . .

The Bible has a great deal to say about sex in general, from both practical and theological perspectives. Our heterosexual nature is part of our original creation by God and is mysteriously linked with our being made in God's image (Genesis 1:27).

It's a source of fulfillment and completion (Genesis 2:18-24), a means of comfort (Genesis 24:67), the method of procreation (Genesis 2:27-28), an expression of intimacy (the Song of Solomon; and see all the uses of the euphemism "know" in describing sexual intercourse), a source of pleasure, and an almost sacramental symbol of deeper spiritual realities (Ephesians 5:21-33).

The ideal expression of human sexuality is heterosexual monogamy (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; I Corinthians 7:2; I Timothy 3:2, 12), though some may forgo sexual expression and become celibate for

the cause of God's kingdom (Matthew 19:10-12; I Corinthians 7:1-8).

It belabors the obvious to state that homosexuality, by its nature, violates this heterosexual nature of man. Man is not made complete by man, but by woman, a metaphysical reality which finds physical expression in heterosexual relationships. The race is not propagated by men alone, but by men and women.

Homosexuality does not reflect the spiritual realities of either the *imago dei* or redemption in Christ. This is not to say that homosexual relationships do not contain elements of involvement, emotional pleasure and sometimes even intimacy. But such relationships obscure or deny so many of God's purposes in making us sexual beings, that those who refer to homosexuality as perverse and unnatural are not off the mark.

Throughout the scriptures, stress is laid on the fact that, as part of God's good creation, man was made male and female; homosexuality is a living denial of this rather obvious fact. It should be regarded as unnatural because it violates our God-given heterosexual nature.

It would be enough to simply state the above and then conclude that homosexuality is wrong because it violates God's will as found in both nature and revelation. But scripture deals with this issue not only indirectly, but directly, in both testaments, and with the united voice that homosexuality is sinful and that persistence in such a lifestyle places one outside of God's kingdom.

The law (Leviticus 18:22-30), the prophets (Ezekiel 16:50), and the epistles (Romans 1:24-32; I Corinthians 6:9-10), declare the sinfulness and the consequences of such a practice. Such unequivocal condemnation is all the more telling because homosexuality was widely accepted among Israel's neighbors both inside and outside of Palestine.

Canaanites, Egyptians, Greeks and Romans all gave homosexuality a great deal of acceptance and varying degrees of prestige. The cultural milieu mitigated against a wholesale rejection of homosexuality, but God's will demanded it. Israel did

not live up to these standards in her historical experience, but the revelation she—and later the Church—bequeathed to posterity is unequivocal: homosexuality is a sin.

The Idolatry Link

Before concluding our look at direct biblical teaching on homosexuality, we should note the frequent connection between this act and idolatry (Leviticus 18:22-30; Romans 1:24-32). This has led some to assert that the Bible does not condemn homosexuality *per se*, but only homosexual actions related to idolatry. That this is incorrect is shown by the fact that some prohibitions against this are totally divorced from any reference to idolatry (Leviticus 20:13; Deuteronomy 23:17-18).

Particular attention should be paid to Paul's discussion in Romans 1 where he states that homosexuality results from prior idolatry. He gives no indication here that he's speaking about homosexual religious rites. He is simply stating the truth that idolatry precedes moral depravity.

If we take this teaching seriously we would cease to listen to those who argue that homosexuality is the heinous sin that is carrying our nation down the path of destruction; it is rather the disastrous end result of a sinful path long trod by our nation as a whole (see especially God's catalogue of charges against Sodom in Ezekiel 16:49-50), and for which more than just homosexuals need to repent.

What To Do

But simply declaring homosexuality a sin still leaves the believer with the dilemma of coping with this sin. What does he do when he learns of someone who is homosexual—whether a personal acquaintance or a public figure?

In looking to the Bible for answers, we must bear in mind the progressive nature of revelation. In the Old Testament, homosexuality is proscribed by a law both Divine and national, with the penalty for violation being death (Leviticus 20:13). Some Christian leaders both publicly and privately advocate

capital punishment today for homosexuals.

These people are like those whom Paul described as loving to teach the law but never really understanding it (I Timothy 1:7). They seem to have forgotten that the same law they seek to enforce also prescribes capital punishment for sabbath-breakers, idolaters and adulterers! Can you imagine how empty our churches would be if those who had ever been guilty of such sins were executed?

With that question, we have stumbled upon the notion of progress in God's revelation, glimpsed the true nature of the Church, and uncovered the principle which should guide our dealings with homosexuals as with all sinful men: grace! We are not under law but under grace.

Moses gave us law; Jesus gave us grace and truth. The law condemns and punishes sinners; grace redeems them. There is a telling passage in II Corinthians 6:9-11 in which Paul lists some of those who shall have no part in God's kingdom, and includes among them homosexuals.

Then he makes a most startling statement to the Church: "And such were some of you. But now ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified . . ." The Corinthian church was, for all its faults, what today's church is, for all its faults: a community of redeemed sinners. The Christian role in society at every level and in every situation is to be a redemptive one. We seek not to consign sinners to hell, but to win them for heaven. This includes homosexuals.

Exercising this redemptive ministry is a responsibility Christians have at all levels. At the societal level we have an obligation to speak out for righteousness. Whether it is on the subject of race relations, compassion for the poor or homosexuality, Christians must faithfully declare God's righteous will.

But we must do so in the humble attitude of those who recognize themselves as redeemed sinners. We must not equivocate, but neither need we agitate. We seek not to coerce but to persuade, knowing



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that it's not our rhetorical skill but the power of God's Spirit which shall effect change. We should not panic, but should recognize that the situation in society today is certainly no worse than it was during the time of the apostles.

Who To Believe

Knowing this, we will not listen to hate-and-fear-mongers who usually are seeking to increase their own riches and power. We should also recognize the limitations of such efforts as well. Even if we use all of the right methods to secure national reform in this area to change the values of the elites and to alter immoral attitudes inculcated by the media—and all this we should do!—

we still have not accomplished our primary goal: individual salvation. This necessitates work on a personal level.

When dealing with homosexual individuals, we must first understand them. The protestations of gay activists notwithstanding, most of them are dissatisfied with their lifestyle and are frequently afflicted by guilt feelings. While there is an element of choice in their actions, their orientation is a product of forces they never controlled. Though some (mostly gay activists) argue that homosexuality has a genetic basis, the overwhelming bulk of evidence still places the blame on childhood and adolescent environmental factors—particularly family relationships.

Homosexuals are not created by being seduced (a common

accusation from some quarters today) but by being brought up in environments the church all too often tolerates. But whatever the cause of homosexual orientation, we must honestly confront the individual with the truth that homosexual practices are wrong, and that it is his responsibility to seek "repentance and amendment of life." And in everything our attitude should be genuinely loving, seeking what is best for the individual, and not selfishly trying to cover up an embarrassing circumstance.

The Church's Answer

The church in a darkened world is always in a situation of great opportunity. How well she serves God is often determined by her willingness to grasp those opportunities, such as the homosexual controversy. The church can truly declare herself the Church of Christ by dealing wisely here.

First, actively propagate and articulate the Bible's positive teachings on human sexuality. This would not only contribute to people's overall happiness but would help curb the types of home environments which breed homosexuality.

Second, uncompromisingly stand against sin—all sin. We who would speak against homosexuals should not coddle adulterers, racists and oppressors.

Finally, not only preach redemption—accept it! When one repents and turns to the Lord, he need not be under a constant cloud of suspicion—no matter what his past sins were. For in reality, we are all redeemed. Read Paul's lists again in Romans 1:22-32; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21—carefully.

We may not have been homosexuals, but the odds are most of us could sadly find something that would compel us to stand before Paul and hear him say, both sadly and gloriously, "Such were some of you." ▲

I Was There In 1934

By Cleo Pursell

I read the January CONTACT article, "I was there in 1935" by Ralph Staten. I really enjoyed it . . . It brought back memories from an earlier meeting.

When the committee from the General Conference met with the Cooperative Association at Denison, Texas, November 6-9, 1934, I was there.

I was 16 years old, had been converted the year before and united with the Denison Church. Not having a Free Will Baptist background, I knew and cared little about the denominational "split" and current efforts to merge the two bodies.

The "spiritual" evening services held special interest. Having been reared in a mainline church where emotional demonstrations were unheard of, talk of the Rev. Van Hoose "jumping benches" was exciting.

The Rev. John L. Welch spoke about the seminaries of that day. (Oklahoma preachers referred to them as "cemetaries.") Rev. Welch said that when a minister attended some of

those liberal schools, he emerged as an apple that had all the juice squeezed out.

Our church members tried to keep all the visitors in their homes. Two Missouri preachers stayed in our home—Winford Davis and Noel Turner. I was quite smitten with these young, unattached ministers (Rev. Davis' apparent deep dedication and Rev. Turner's striking good looks).

Two other gentlemen made an indelible impression upon my mind. Both were from Oklahoma. The Rev. Edward W. Morris emerged from the pastor's study carrying a two-foot high stack of weighty volumes. He was accompanied by Dr. I. W. Yandell. One could instantly tell that they were VIPs!

My pastor, Rev. Bert Rogers, attended the 1935 meeting at Cofer's Chapel in Nashville and was elected assistant secretary-treasurer. Upon his return, he informed the church that "At last, the Mississippi has dried up!" ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Cleo Pursell is executive secretary-treasurer of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Marvin Beculhimer is assistant manager of Ambassador Bookstore in Columbus, Ohio.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Theme: "Focusing On Free Will Baptists"



Herman Hersey
Director
Board of Retirement
Nashville, Tennessee



L. C. Johnson
Former President
FWBBC
Nashville, Tennessee



Alton Loveless
Executive Secretary
Ohio Association
Columbus, Ohio



Floyd Wolfenbarger
Pastor
First FWB Church
Russellville, Arkansas

49th Annual Session/July 21-25, 1985 Municipal Auditorium Nashville, Tennessee

THEME: "Focusing on Free Will Baptists"
MODERATOR: Bobby Jackson
MUSIC COORDINATOR: Blaine Hughes
ORGANIST: Richard McDonald
PIANIST: Patsy Gwartney
REGISTRATION COORDINATOR: Yvonne Wolfenbarger
HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: Hyatt Regency
CONVENTION OFFICE: Municipal Auditorium
Meeting Room A-31

SUNDAY MORNING/July 21

10:00-10:45	SUNDAY SCHOOL	HYATT REGENCY
	Presiding: Ralph Hampton Music: Free Will Baptist Bible College	
	Primary: Donna Mayo	Suite Four
	Junior: Terri Breeden	Suite Five
	Teen: YET Team	Regency I, II
	Adult: Harrold Harrison	Regency III, IV
10:45	Intermission	

11:00	MORNING WORSHIP	HYATT REGENCY Regency III, IV
	Presiding: Ralph Hampton Song Service: Donnie Miles Call to Worship: Worthington Sisters Solo: Steve Johnson Offertory: Patsy Gwartney	
	MESSAGE: "Denominational Stewardship" Herman Hersey	
	Primary Church: Brian Peters	Suite Four
	Junior Church: Dean Stone	Suite Five
	Teen Church: Toby Jenkins	Regency I, II

SUNDAY AFTERNOON/July 21

3:00	REGISTRATION for National Convention and WNAC	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse
3:00	REGISTRATION for National Youth Conference	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-B
3:00-5:00	Rehearsal (NYC Keynote Service)	Municipal Auditorium Arena Stage
5:00	Usher Orientation	Municipal Auditorium Room A-6



PROGRAM (From page 13)

SUNDAY EVENING/July 21

7:00-8:30	NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE Keynote Service Speaker: Jonathan Thigpen	Municipal Auditorium Arena
8:30	Mass Adult Choir Rehearsal	Municipal Auditorium Arena Stage
8:30-10:00	Registration Continues	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse
8:30-10:00	NYC Registration Continues	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-B
9:00-11:00	NYC Activities (See National Youth Program)	War Memorial Auditorium

MONDAY MORNING/July 22

7:00	NYC Breakfast (staff, judges and officials)	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-A
7:30-9:00	Master's Men Board	Sheraton Hotel Laurel Room
8:00-8:45	WNAC Executive Committee Breakfast	Radisson Plaza Bellevue Room
8:30	Registration Continues	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse
8:30	NYC Competitive Activities (See National Youth Program)	Hyatt Regency
9:00	GENERAL BOARD Convenes	Sheraton Hotel Grand Ballroom
9:00-11:00	WNAC Nominating Committee	Radisson Plaza Robertson Room
9:00-11:45	WNAC Executive Committee	Radisson Plaza Davidson Room

MONDAY AFTERNOON/July 22

12:00-12:45	WNAC Executive Committee Luncheon	Radisson Plaza Bellevue Room
12:00-1:15	General Board Luncheon	Sheraton Hotel Magnolia Room
1:00	NYC Competitive Activities (See National Youth Program)	Hyatt Regency
1:30	GENERAL BOARD Reconvenes	Sheraton Hotel Grand Ballroom
1:30-2:30	WNAC Seminar Theme: "Jewels Far Above Rubies"	Radisson Plaza Woodland/Shelby
2:00-3:00	Youth Seminar Speaker: James Dunbar	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-A
2:00-3:00	Youth Workers Seminar-A Speaker: Fred Carraway	Hyatt Regency Suite Seven

3:00-4:00	WNAC Presidents and Field Workers Speaker: Mary R. Wisehart	Radisson Plaza Jefferson/Victory
3:00-4:00	Youth Workers Seminar-B Speakers: NYC Staff	Hyatt Regency Suite Seven
4:00	Mass Adult Choir Rehearsal	Municipal Auditorium Arena Stage
4:45	Free Will Baptist Bible College Alumni and Friends Dinner	FWBBC Cumberland Cafeteria
5:00	Learner/Adventurer Banquet	Radisson Plaza Woodland/Shelby
5:00	Instrumental Ensemble Practice	Municipal Auditorium Arena Stage
5:00	EXHIBIT AREA OPEN	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse

MONDAY EVENING/July 22

7:00-8:30	WORSHIP SERVICE	Municipal Auditorium Arena
	Presiding: Milton Worthington Song Service: Blaine Hughes Call to Worship: Free Will Baptist Bible College Music: Mass Adult Choir/Doug Little, Director	
	Session Called to Order and Moderator Introduced: Waldo Young, Clerk	
	Report of Committee on Committees: Bobby Jackson, Moderator	
	Welcome to Nashville: Raymond Riggs Tennessee Promotional Director	
	Offertory: Patsy Gwartney/Richard McDonald	
	Solo: Bill Gardner	
	MESSAGE: "Remembering The Past" L. C. Johnson	
8:30	Exhibit Area Open	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse
8:30	Men's Chorale Rehearsal	Municipal Auditorium Arena Stage
8:30-10:00	Registration Continues	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse
9:00-11:00	NYC Activities (See National Youth Program)	Hyatt Regency
10:30	Exhibit Area Closed	

TUESDAY MORNING/July 23

7:00	Music Ministries Breakfast	Sheraton Hotel Magnolia/Dogwood
7:00	Home Missions Board Breakfast	Hyatt Regency Suite Seven-B

8:00-11:00 BIBLE CONFERENCE Radisson Plaza
Cumberland Ballroom

Presiding: David Joslin
Song Service: Howard Gwartney

8:00 Music: Southeastern FWB College
Speaker: Connie Cariker

9:00 Music: Hillsdale FWB College
Speaker: Eugene Waddell

10:00 Music: Glad Tidings Quartet
Speaker: Robert E. Picirilli

8:00	NYC Activities (See National Youth Program)	Hyatt Regency
8:30	Registration Continues	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse
8:30	Exhibit Area Open	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse
9:00	WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION Presiding: June Rolon, President	Municipal Auditorium Arena
11:10	WNAC Missionary Service Message: Laura Belle Barnard	Municipal Auditorium Arena

TUESDAY AFTERNOON/July 23

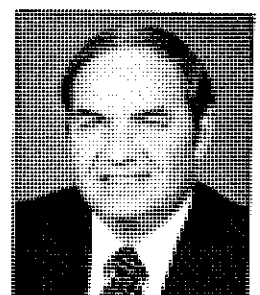
12:15-1:30	Friends of Hillsdale College Alumni Luncheon Speaker: Tim Eaton	Radisson Plaza Woodland Room
12:15-1:30	State Leaders Luncheon	Ramada Inn- Downtown Johnny Cash Room
1:00	NYC Competitive Activities (See National Youth Program)	War Memorial Auditorium
1:30	WNAC Reconvenes	Municipal Auditorium Arena
2:00-3:00	Youth Seminar Speaker: Kevin Lauthern	Hyatt Regency Suite Six
2:00-3:00	Youth Workers Seminar-A Speaker: Blaine Hughes	Hyatt Regency Suite Seven
2:00-4:00	FWB Press Association	Radisson Plaza Brentwood/Franklin
2:30-4:00	Home Missions Staff Seminar	Radisson Plaza Shelby Room
3:00-4:00	Youth Workers Seminar-B Speakers: NYC Staff	Hyatt Regency Suite Seven
4:00	Mass Adult Choir Rehearsal	Municipal Auditorium Arena Stage
5:00	Instrumental Ensemble Practice	Municipal Auditorium Arena Stage
5:00-6:45	WNAC/Foreign Missions Banquet	Hyatt Regency Regency Ballroom



Picirilli



Waddell



Cariker

TUESDAY EVENING/July 23

7:00-8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE Municipal Auditorium
Arena

Presiding: Jack Richey
Song Service: I. L. Stanley
Call to Worship: Hillsdale FWB College
Music: Mass Adult Choir/Doug Little,
Director
Offertory: Rusty Russell
Solo: Carl Sullivan

MESSAGE: "Reviewing the Present"
Alton Loveless

8:30	Exhibit Area Open	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse
8:30	Men's Chorale Rehearsal	Municipal Auditorium Arena Stage
8:30	Historical Commission	Municipal Auditorium Room A-31
8:30-10:00	Registration Continues	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse
9:00-10:00	Learner/Adventurer Activities	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-A
9:00-11:00	Youth Banquet	Radisson Plaza Cumberland Ballroom
10:30	Exhibit Area Closed	

WEDNESDAY MORNING/July 24

7:00	Master's Men Breakfast Speaker: Melvin Worthington	Sheraton Hotel Grand Ballroom
8:00-9:30	NYC Competitive Finals	War Memorial Aud.
8:30	Exhibit Area Open	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse
8:30	Registration Continues	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse



PROGRAM (From page 15)

9:00-12:00 **CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSION** Municipal Auditorium Arena

Moderator's Message: Bobby Jackson
 Report of Credentials Committee and Seating of Delegates
 Partial Report of General Board
 Partial Report of Nominating Committee

REPORTS OF NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS
 (Board members are elected at conclusion of each report.)
 Executive Office: Melvin Worthington
 Foreign Missions: Rolla Smith
 Free Will Baptist Bible College: Charles Thigpen

9:30-12:00 NYC Awards Celebration War Memorial Aud.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON/July 24

12:00 **REGISTRATION CLOSES**

1:00 NYC Activities Hyatt Regency
 (See National Youth Program)

1:30 **CONVENTION BUSINESS RECONVENES** Municipal Auditorium Arena

Scripture Reading and Prayer
 Assistant Moderator: Ralph Hampton

1:35 **REPORTS OF NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS (continued)**

Sunday School and Church Training: Roger Reeds
 Home Missions: Roy Thomas
 Master's Men: James Vallance
 Board of Retirement: Herman Hersey
 FWB Foundation: Herman Hersey
 Commission on Theological Liberalism: Leroy Forlines
 Radio-TV Commission: George Lee

3:30 General Board Final Report
 Partial Report of Nominating Committee
 Election of General Board Members

4:00 Business Session Recessed

4:00 Men's Chorale Rehearsal Municipal Auditorium
 (or immediately following Arena Stage
 business session)

5:00 Friends of Southeastern College Hyatt Regency
 Dinner Regency Ballroom I, II

WEDNESDAY EVENING/July 24

7:00-8:30 **WORSHIP SERVICE** Municipal Auditorium Arena

Presiding: Tom Lilly
 Song Service: Henry Van Kluyve
 Music: Men's Chorale/Vernon Whaley, Director
 Missions Offering: Tom Lilly
 Offertory: Instrumental Ensemble/
 John Neal, Conductor
 Solo: John Gibbs

MESSAGE: "Realizing The Potential"
 Floyd Wolfenbarger

8:30 Exhibit Area Open Municipal Auditorium
 Arena Concourse

9:00-11:00 NYC Activities Hyatt Regency
 (See National Youth Program) War Memorial Aud.

10:30 Exhibit Area Closed

THURSDAY MORNING/July 25

7:00 Sunday School Board Breakfast Hyatt Regency
 Suite Seven-B

8:30 Exhibit Area Open Municipal Auditorium
 Arena Concourse

9:00 NYC Activities Hyatt Regency
 (See National Youth Program) Davidson Room-A

9:00 **CONCLUDING BUSINESS SESSION** Municipal Auditorium
 Arena

WNAC Report: Cleo Pursell
 Historical Commission Report:
 Alton Loveless
 Report of Committees:
 —Registration
 —Budget
 —Resolutions

Nominating Committee's Final Report

Election of General Officers

11:45 Adjournment

12:15 Exhibits Closed (or 30 minutes
 after convention adjournment) ▲



**July 14
 National
 Convention
 Day of
 Prayer
 and
 Fasting**

Reach for the Gold



NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

18th Annual Conference July 21-25, 1985

Hyatt Regency Hotel/Nashville, Tennessee

THEME: "Reach For The Gold"—Philippians 3:13
NYC DIRECTOR: Jim Lauthern
NYC COMPETITION COORDINATOR: Gene Floyd
NYC ACTIVITIES COORDINATORS: Pam Newsome
 Allen Pointer
NYC REGISTRATION COORDINATOR: Janita Warren
NYC OFFICE COORDINATOR: Shirley Lauthern
NYC MUSIC COORDINATOR: Jerry Carraway
NYC HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: Hyatt Regency



Thigpen



Lauthern



Newsome



Floyd

SUNDAY MORNING/July 21

10:00-10:45	SUNDAY SCHOOL	HYATT REGENCY
	Primary: Donna Mayo Junior: Terri Breeden Teen: YET Team Adult: Harrold Harrison	Suite Four Suite Five Regency I, II Regency III, IV
11:00	MORNING WORSHIP	HYATT REGENCY
	Primary Church: Brian Peters Junior Church: Dean Stone Teen Church: Toby Jenkins	Suite Four Suite Five Regency I, II

SUNDAY AFTERNOON/July 21

3:00	NYC Registration	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-B
3:00-5:00	Keynote Service Rehearsal	Municipal Auditorium Arena Stage

SUNDAY EVENING/July 21

7:00-8:30	NYC KEYNOTE SERVICE Speaker: Jonathan Thigpen	Municipal Auditorium Arena
8:30	Registration Continues	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-B
9:00-11:00	NYC Afterservice Activity "Welcome to Music City, USA"	War Memorial Aud.

MONDAY MORNING/July 22

7:00	NYC Breakfast (staff, judges and officials)	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-A
8:30	Bible Bowl Assembly ALL Teams and Coaches	Hyatt Regency Suite Six
	Bible Tic Tac Toe Assembly ALL Teams and Coaches	Hyatt Regency Suite Five
	Music & Arts Assembly ALL Teams and Coaches	Hyatt Regency Regency II, III, IV
9:00	Oral Communication	Hyatt Regency Suite Seven
	Music & Arts, Section 2	Hyatt Regency Regency II, III, IV
	Music & Arts, Section 3	Hyatt Regency Regency I
	Bible Bowl	Hyatt Regency Suite Six
	Bible Tic Tac Toe	Hyatt Regency Suite Five
	Bible Sword Drill, Grade 4	Hyatt Regency Suite Four
10:00	Bible Memorization, Grade 1	Hyatt Regency Suite Four



PROGRAM (From page 17)

MONDAY AFTERNOON/July 22

1:00	Music & Arts, Section 4	Hyatt Regency Regency II, III, IV
	Bible Bowl	Hyatt Regency Suite Six
	Bible Tic Tac Toe	Hyatt Regency Suite Five
	Bible Sword Drill, Grade 5	Hyatt Regency Suite Four
1:00-3:00	Learner/Adventurer Activities	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-A (Meet here, leave for tour at 1:30.)
2:00	Bible Memorization, Grade 2	Hyatt Regency Suite Four
2:00-3:00	Youth Seminar Speaker: James Dunbar	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-A
2:00-3:00	Youth Workers Seminar-A Speaker: Fred Carraway	Hyatt Regency Suite Seven
3:00-4:00	Youth Workers Seminar-B Speakers: NYC Staff	Hyatt Regency Suite Seven
5:00	Learner/Adventurer Banquet	Radisson Plaza Woodland/Shelby

MONDAY EVENING/July 22

7:00-8:30	MAIN CONVENTION SERVICE	Municipal Auditorium Arena
9:00-11:00	Learner/Adventurer Activities	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-A
9:00-11:00	Youth Activities "Christmas in July"	Hyatt Regency Regency Ballroom

TUESDAY MORNING/July 23

8:00	NYC Devotional Time	Hyatt Regency Regency II, III, IV
8:30	Music & Arts, Section 5	Hyatt Regency Regency II, III, IV
	Music & Arts, Section 6	Hyatt Regency Regency I
	Bible Bowl	Hyatt Regency Suite Six
	Bible Tic Tac Toe	Hyatt Regency Suite Five
	Bible Sword Drill, Grade 6	Hyatt Regency Suite Four
8:30-10:30	Learner/Adventurer Activities	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-A
9:30	Bible Memorization, Grade 3	Hyatt Regency Suite Four

TUESDAY AFTERNOON/July 23

1:00	Music & Arts, Section 7	War Memorial Aud.
1:00	Learner/Adventurer Activities	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-A (Meet here, leave for tour by 1:30.)
2:00-3:00	Youth Seminar Speaker: Kevin Lauthern	Hyatt Regency Suite Six
2:00-3:00	Youth Workers Seminar-A Speaker: Blaine Hughes	Hyatt Regency Suite Seven
3:00-4:00	Youth Workers Seminar-B Speakers: NYC Staff	Hyatt Regency Suite Seven

TUESDAY EVENING/July 23

7:00-8:30	MAIN CONVENTION SERVICE	Municipal Auditorium Arena
9:00-11:00	Youth Banquet "A Touch of Class"	Radisson Plaza Cumberland Ballroom
9:00-11:00	Learner/Adventurer Activities	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-A

WEDNESDAY MORNING/July 24

8:00	Bible Competition Finals	War Memorial Aud.
9:30	NYC Awards Celebration	War Memorial Aud.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON/July 24

1:00-3:00	Learner/Adventurer Activities	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-A
2:00-3:30	Youth Sharing Service	Hyatt Regency Regency III, IV

WEDNESDAY EVENING/July 24

7:00-8:30	MAIN CONVENTION SERVICE	Municipal Auditorium Arena
9:00-11:00	Youth Activities "A Birthday Party For Everyone"	War Memorial Aud.
9:00-11:00	Learner/Adventurer Activities	Hyatt Regency Davidson Room-A

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

WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION

50th Annual Session/July 22-23, 1985

Municipal Auditorium/Radisson Plaza Hotel Nashville, Tennessee

THEME: "A Past to Remember . . . A Future to Mold"
SCRIPTURES: "... Hitherto hath the Lord helped us . . ." (1 Samuel 7:12b).
 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . ." (Matthew 28:19).
HYMN: "O God Our Help In Ages Past"
SONG DIRECTOR: Mary Neal
ORGANIST: Winona Riggs
PIANIST: Susan Berry
REGISTRATION CHAIRMAN: Esterlene Barnett
WNAC HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: Radisson Plaza

SUNDAY AFTERNOON/July 21

1:30	Registration Committee Orientation	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse
3:00	REGISTRATION	Municipal Auditorium Arena Concourse

MONDAY MORNING/July 22

8:00-8:45	WNAC Executive Committee Breakfast	Radisson Plaza Bellevue Room
9:00-11:00	WNAC Nominating Committee	Radisson Plaza Robertson Room
9:00-11:45	WNAC Executive Committee	Radisson Plaza Davidson Room

MONDAY AFTERNOON/July 22

12:00-12:45	WNAC Executive Committee Luncheon	Radisson Plaza Bellevue Room
1:30-2:30	WNAC Seminar: "Jewels Far Above Rubies: Biblical Patterns"	Radisson Plaza Woodland/Shelby
3:00-4:00	WNAC Presidents and Field Workers "A Future to Mold: Reaching for Tomorrow" Speaker: Mary R. Wisheart	Radisson Plaza Jefferson/Victory

TUESDAY MORNING/July 23

9:00	WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION Presiding: June Rolan Song Service: Mary Neal	Municipal Auditorium Arena
9:15	Devotion: "A Past to Remember" Agnes B. Frazier	



Pursell



Barnard



Wisheart



Rolan

9:30	Solo: Barbara Anderson Welcome: Kay Hampton Creative Arts Contest Awards: Lorene Miley Credentials Committee Report/ Seating of Delegates Executive Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Cleo Pursell Resolutions Committee Report Nominating Committee Report/ Election of Officers Appreciation Committee Report	
11:10	WNAC MISSIONARY SERVICE	Municipal Auditorium Arena
	Offertory: Jane Atchison June McVay Rhonda Sagraves Message: Laura Belle Barnard	
12:00	Recess	

TUESDAY AFTERNOON/July 23

1:30	Song Service: Mary Neal	Municipal Auditorium Arena
	Registration Committee Report Cantata: "Go Tell Your World" Janis Williams, Director Tribute to Cleo Pursell Prayer of Dedication	
3:00	Adjournment	
5:00	WNAC/Foreign Missions Banquet Theme: "From Victory Unto Victory"	Hyatt Regency Regency Ballroom



David L. Northcutt, *Financial Management for Clergy* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984, paperback, 127 pp., \$6.95).

The author, a pastor for 15 years serves as sales representative for Presbyterian Minister's Fund and has substantial training and experience in financial management. His experience in finances and pastoral ministry gives him an understanding of the unique problems which ministers face.

Earthly treasures must never be foremost in the life of a minister (or in

the life of any other Christian). Yet, a minister has the responsibility before God and his congregation to be a good steward of his financial resources. Bad checks and unpaid debts have ruined the credibility of many ministers.

The pastor must make provision for his retirement years and for the care of his family after his death. No minister wants to leave his wife and children in difficult circumstances.

As a general rule, ministers cannot rely on making large salaries. Therefore, they cannot expect to put aside large amounts of savings in the last few years before retirement. In order to provide for the future, the minister must start early, develop a life-time financial plan and then stick with it.

The author suggests that the minister must develop long-range goals. He must get his family together and they must decide which things are most important to them. Then they must, as a family, develop goals and sub-goals to help them get where they want to be.

The author includes a great deal of practical advice. He compares term life insurance policies with whole life policies. He discusses various types of health, disability and casualty insurance and how they can provide needed protection for the minister and his family.

Northcutt shares valuable information on various types of investments which a minister can afford. He has helpful analysis of various steps which a minister can take to reduce his present tax burden and provide for the future by using IRA's and other vehicles.

The author even gives several tips concerning the purchase and maintenance of automobiles. He suggests that repairing an older car is often less expensive than purchasing a new one.

There is one word which occurs repeatedly throughout the book; it is "discipline." If the minister is to be financially responsible, he must discipline himself to establish a plan and stay with it.

This is an excellent book. It would be even better if the author had examined crucial areas such as wills and estates more fully. There are many good books available today on financial management, but this is one of the better ones. It is clear, direct and easy to understand. ▲

**REQUESTS FOR TICKETS TO MEAL FUNCTIONS
1985 National Convention**

Number	Meal	Total
_____	Free Will Baptist Bible College Alumni and Friends 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

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 _____

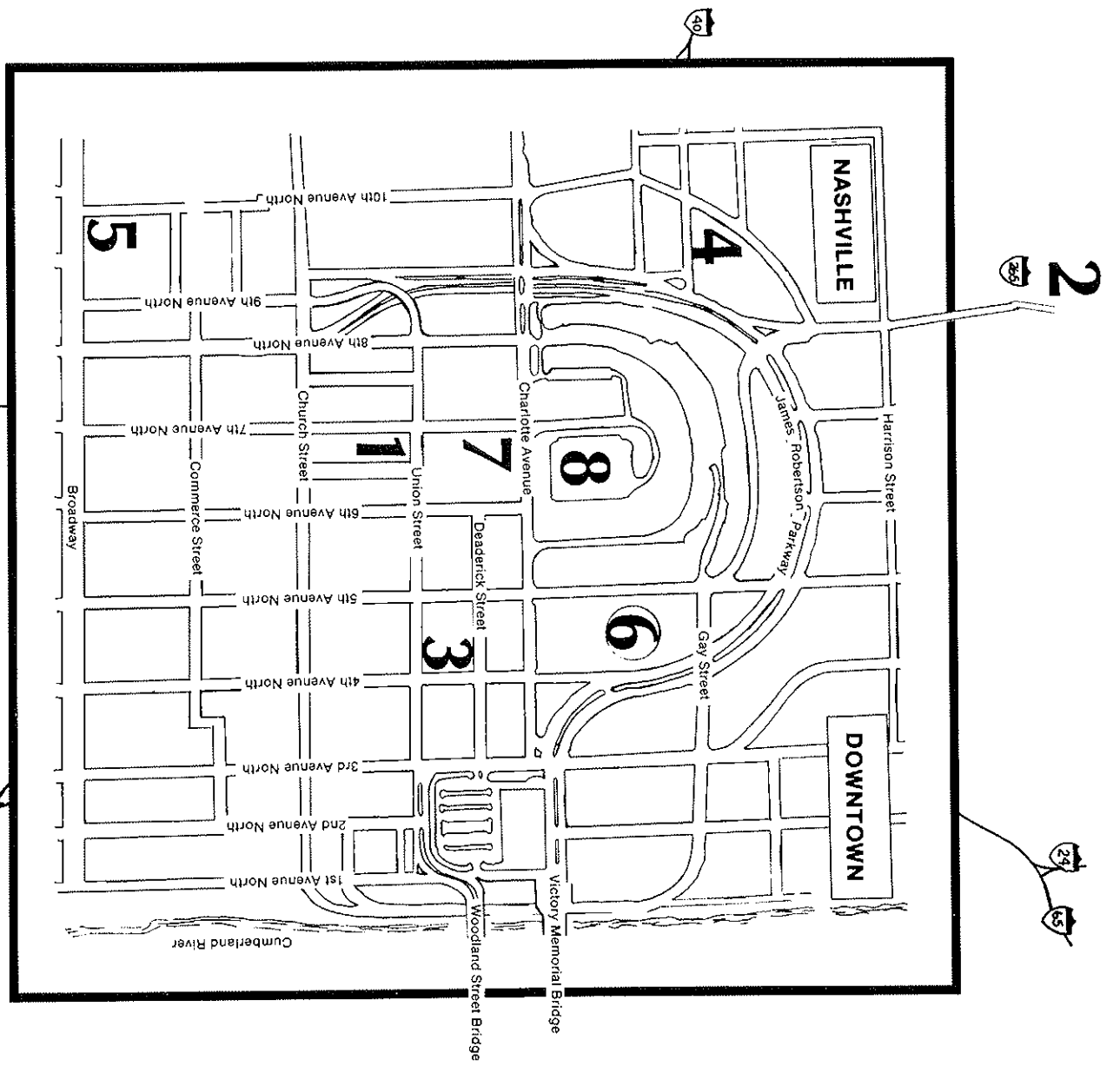
Address _____ Phone () _____

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



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FROM:

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

85, nune/ICVJNOC/22



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

FIFTH ANNUAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT SET

NASHVILLE, TN—The fifth annual Free Will Baptist slow-pitch softball tournament sponsored by Randall House Publications will be played August 16-17 at Shelby Park just off I-265 in Nashville.

Space in the tournament is limited to 32 teams. Applications are now being accepted. The registration fee is \$85 per team.

The 1984 winner, Seventh Street Free Will Baptist from Ecorse, Michigan, will return to defend their title.

According to tournament manager Clarence Lewis, competition begins August 16 at 1:00 p.m.

For further information about the tournament, write or call Clarence Lewis at P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217. Phone: (615) 361-1221.

ILLINOIS CREATES TWO NEW BOARDS

EWING, IL—Delegates to Illinois' 23rd annual state association created two five-member boards during the March 22-23 session at Camp Hope, according to Clerk Larry Cook.

Grant Bruce, a layman from Salem FWB Church (Wayne City), chairs the newly-created Camp Board which will coordinate camp activities. Reverend Wallace Malone chairs the five-member Sunday School and Christian Education Board which will function in place of two boards—the Sunday School Board and the Christian Education Board.

Delegates adjusted state cooperative plan allocations to the following percentages: National Ministries 25% Board of Missions 20%, Camp Board 17%, Promotional Fund 15%, General

Fund 9.5%, and the remainder divided among five state ministries.

Moderator Loyd Crain completed his third term. New officers include Daryl Ellis, moderator; David Potete, assistant moderator; Larry Cook, clerk; and Clifford Donoho, assistant clerk.

Five sermons highlighted the two-day meeting. Four of the sermons were preached by young pastors in the state—Ernie Lewis, David Potete, Keith Fletcher and Corey Adams. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington preached Friday evening.

More than 150 attended the business meetings and worship sessions. The 1986 state association convenes March 28-29 at Decatur First FWB Church.

NEW FWB HISTORY BOOK READY

NASHVILLE, TN—A new Free Will Baptist history by Dr. William F. (Bill) Davidson titled *The Free Will Baptists In America, 1727-1984* will be released in June, according to spokesmen at Randall House Publications.

The 455-page hardbound volume chronicles the interesting and dramatic account of the largest body of Arminian Baptists in America. Dr. Davidson is professor of church history at Columbia Bible College, Columbia, South Carolina.

A special limited edition of the volume, numbering about 500, will be made available as a collector's item. Each volume will be numbered, the

purchaser's name recorded, and a certificate of authenticity issued. The price of the special edition will be \$19.95. The regular edition will sell for \$14.95.

The author will be present for an autograph party at the National Convention which meets in Nashville, Tennessee on July 21-25.

Dr. Davidson is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Northern Baptist Seminary, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the author of *An Early History Of Free Will Baptists (1727-1830)* published by Randall House Publications in 1974.

CAROLINA CHURCH TO BUILD \$700,000 STRUCTURE

RALEIGH, NC—First Free Will Baptist Church, Raleigh, voted to construct a classroom-gymnasium building at a cost of \$710,699, according to Pastor Randy Cox, in order to accommodate a growing church and day school ministry.

The 23,166 square foot facility will contain nine classrooms, office space, teachers lounge, gymnasium, athletic locker rooms for men and women, plus a concession-ticket area and lobbies.

Reverend Cox said the church has already raised \$240,000 and is in a Capital Stewardship Campaign directed by Cargill Associates of Fort

Worth, Texas. The campaign theme is "Sharing to Build—Building to Share."

This marks the fourth building program for the church in 12 years, each project coming at three-year intervals. Some 50 people minister to staff four basic areas of the church's ministry.

Ministry areas are directed by Doug Henderson, Richard Tippet, Tim Rabon and John Raper, Sr.

Pastor Randy Cox states, "We continue to rejoice in God's blessings and the growth of His work here."



AGENCY CALLS FOR 'TEACHER RECOGNITION DAY'

NASHVILLE, TN—The Free Will Baptist Sunday School and Church Training Department suggests an annual Teacher Recognition Day in order to encourage volunteer workers.

Each local church will be encouraged to select its own "Teacher of the Year" according to the criteria it chooses. This could be done at the end of each church year. The Sunday School Department will prepare, print and offer for purchase, an attractive

certificate of award in recognition of this achievement.

In addition, the department will offer a handsome plaque for those churches who want to show additional appreciation. The plaque could be presented to the nominee or displayed in the church foyer. (When ordering the plaque, the name for engraving should accompany the order.)

Department officials said they are proposing the recognition day because "Sunday School teachers comprise the greatest single force of volunteer workers in the church.

"These dedicated servants of God give hours and hours of their time each week. They are engaged in prayer, Bible study, lesson preparation, visitation, card writing, telephoning and lesson presentation.

"These God-gifted persons in the church serve without remuneration and, in some instances, any kind of recognition or appreciation. Often they are taken for granted."

BOOK DEALERS ELECT NEW OFFICERS

NASHVILLE, TN—The Free Will Baptist Bookdealers Fellowship met March 12-13 in Nashville at Randall House Publications and Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Officers elected for the 1985-86 year were President: Keith Johnson (Arkansas); Vice President: Alton Loveless (Ohio); Secretary/Treasurer: Becky Beverly (Tennessee).

On Tuesday afternoon the book dealers attended the dedication service of the new Spanish Curriculum produced by Randall House Publications, and a presentation of Dukane Products given by the Regional Director Tom Hamner.

Fred Green, former president, gave a presentation of forthcoming Randall House products including new maps and charts, new teen curriculum and a new Free Will Baptist history book.

Tuesday concluded with a meal at Holiday Inn Briley Parkway, compliments of Randall House Publications. The Wednesday program was provided by Thomas Nelson Publishers.

FWBBC ALUMNI MEET

AHOSKIE, NC—Free Will Baptist Bible College alumni from Virginia's Tidewater and Eastern North Carolina areas met March 30 in Ahoskie, NC, to fellowship and share mutual ideas.

The gathering, coordinated by Paul Creech and Rick Polston of Norfolk, VA, brought together alumni and their families for a steak dinner, a film and a time to exchange dreams and hopes. The Saturday evening festivities began with steak dinner at Ahoskie's Golden Corral and then moved to Ahoskie FWB Church where the group viewed the college's latest recruitment film.

Reporter Joy Nelson said, "After the film we each told what had transpired in our lives since our attendance at FWBBC, and how God was using each of us in His service."

Nelson challenged other alumni, "We hope the idea will spread and encourage people from all over our denomination to do the same. Let your friends know they are not forgotten."

BIBLE COLLEGE 'WELCOME DAYS' ATTRACT 349

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College hosted 259 prospective students and 90 adult sponsors from 84 churches in 17 states for spring Welcome Days, April 4-6, according to Dr. Charles Hampton, coordinator. This ties the 1982 record for the number of young people to attend Welcome Days.

Eighteen of the 84 churches represented this spring sent prospective students for the first time. The church with the most present was Fellowship FWB Church, Flat River, Missouri.

Dr. Hampton said that it would be difficult to select one event as the Welcome Days highlight. Some might choose the class visits, others the Thursday night North-South basketball game that went into triple overtime. All would agree that the Friday band/choir concert was great. Numerous young people publicly rededicated their lives to the Lord and at least one was saved.

The following numbers came from each state represented:

Alabama	31
Arkansas	16
Florida	10
Illinois	50
Indiana	15
Iowa	3
Kentucky	6
Michigan	29
Mississippi	17
Missouri	45
North Carolina	55
Ohio	15
South Carolina	4
Tennessee	29
Texas	2
Virginia	15
West Virginia	7

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.

Currently . . .

Pastor **Ed Hutchinson** said that **Shelby FWB Church, Shelby, NC**, set an all-time attendance record on March 31 when 145 came to Sunday School and 153 to morning worship. In the 17 months that Pastor Hutchinson has been at the church, the congregation has experienced a growth surge from an average of less than 50 to an average of 108. The church recorded 25 baptisms and added 40 new members. During the past year, the group spent more than \$16,000 on improvements in the church property.

Rev. **Clyde L. Eldridge, Sr.**, new pastor at **Pine Prairie FWB Church, Huntsville, TX**, conducted a "Great Acquainted Revival" during the spring. On the last day of the revival, young people from the Sunday School classes presented Pastor and Mrs. Eldridge with a \$352 check.

Chairmen of the various ministry areas at **Grace FWB Church, Greenville, NC**, introduced their ministries to the church and all members on a Sunday morning this spring. Pastor **Ed Walker** and Associate Pastor **Jon Forlines** were pleasantly surprised to learn that the church has 38 ministries at present with more added each year. At the conclusion of the service, Pastor Walker baptized eight new members.

Gateway FWB Church, Virginia Beach, VA, is praising the Lord for a record Sunday School attendance of 2,264, according to **Mark Thomas** who heads up the church's ministry to the military. Thomas said that buses and vans brought 1,003 to church. The group also had a record number 813 in the adult department. **Dale Burden** pastors.

Members of **Athens Chapel FWB Church, Detroit, MI**, surprised Pastor **Ron Ramey** with a pastor appreciation day in March. They gave Pastor Ramey a plaque, a phone answering machine, and gave his wife two dozen roses. When Ramey began pastoring the church three years ago, attendance averaged in the low 20's. Since that time the church has averaged in the high 70's with a record attendance of 94.

Pastor **Bert Miller** reports 32 conversions, 10 baptisms and 15 new members at **Lockburne FWB Church, Lockburne, OH**. The group also installed new windows and central air.

Members of **Faith FWB Church, Logan, OH**, purchased a new building in which to worship this spring. The new structure consists of a sanctuary, six classrooms, pastor's study, nursery, baptistry and room for expansion. **Mark Bailey** pastors.

Richwoods FWB Church, Richwoods, MO, conducted dedication services for their new auditorium in April, according to Pastor **James Parker**.

Members of **First FWB Church, Joplin, MO**, burned the mortgage, according to Pastor **Richard Robinson**. Robinson said, "Through the blessing of God and the love and dedication of the people, the last dollar of the loan that was made to improve the parking lot and other improvements has been paid. This day is a day of victory celebration." Missouri Executive Secretary **Clarence Burton** delivered the dedicatory message.

Pastor **Gene Parton** says the **Arnold View FWB Church, Creal Springs, IL**, started a bus ministry which is averaging 20 children per Sunday.

Sunday services at **Mountain View FWB Church, Mountain View, CA**, started with a bang on February 17 when a pipe bomb exploded in the parking lot. Pastor **John Hibbard** said that no one was injured and damage was minimal. Police are continuing to search for suspects in the bombing.

Pastor **Gene Deaton** of **First FWB Church, Johnson City, TN**, said that even though the ceremony had to be delayed a month due to illness, the church honored **Don** and **Billie Sexton** with a plaque of appreciation and other gifts. Pastor Deaton said the Sextons are members of First Church and the group wanted to express appropriate thanks for their service in France while they were foreign missionaries. The plaque inscription read, "Presented to Don and Billie Sexton for their faithful service in promoting the gospel of Christ at home and in France for God and Free Will Baptists."

The youth group and a number of adults at **Victory FWB Church, East Wenatchee, WA**, participated in "Planned Famine" to help in the problem of world hunger. Pastor **Paul Wood** said the group raised more than \$400 which was sent through the World Vision International organization.

Pastor **Jesse Dunn** said that **First FWB Church, Salem, OR**, enrolled 20 students in its A.C.E. school this January.

Pastor **Lloyd Plunkett** of **New Hope FWB Church, Kent, WA**, said that two members of the church are involved in unique outreach ministries. **Marlene Nickell** trains teachers in Washington's Kent County for the Child Evangelism Fellowship. Member **Ed Stone** returned from Navy boot camp and reported that he had led nine men to Christ during that time.

Columbus First FWB Church, Columbus, OH, purchased a new van to replace one of their buses. **Louis Nettleton** pastors.

The **Blackwelder Memorial FWB Church of Worthington Springs, FL**, organized February 25. The executive board of **Greater St. John's Association** officiated at the meeting. Newly elected Pastor **James Roebuck** said 58 people were present for the meeting, 22 of whom presented themselves as chart members. The group purchased a double-wide trailer last September to begin services. The trailer serves as a parsonage. Members expect to purchase land for building construction. The church was named in memory of the late Reverend I. J. Blackwelder. ▲

DIRECTORY UPDATE

ARKANSAS

Larry Doggett to Faith Church, Ft. Smith

Charles Davis to First Church, Ozark from Union Hill Church, Slocomb, AL

Randall Williams to Shady Grove Church, Hackett from Plainview Church, Plainview

David Williford to Sutton Church, Pocahontas from Bethel Church, Ashland City, TN

Billy Goforth to Mt. Harmony Church, Saffell from Oak Grove Church, Green Forest

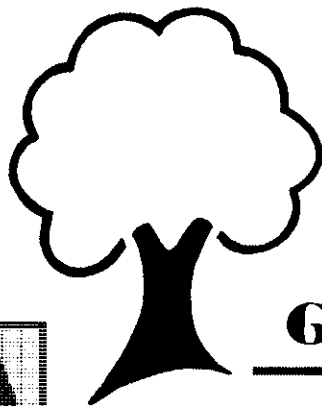
Jim Garrett to Eastvale Church, Blytheville

CALIFORNIA

Nuel Brown to Countryside Church, Visalia from Community Church, Kernman

TENNESSEE

Dan Cronk to Covenant Church, Southside



Green Tree Bible Study



Robert E. Picirilli

Colossians 3:5-9

Putting Off the Old Man

Our previous study showed that the “practical” section of Colossians began at 3:1. In 3:1-4 the general basis for Christian living was laid down: in Christ we died and rose to a new life.

Now, in 3:5-17, that reality is to be worked out in the “daily grind” of behavior. The obligations that rest on us are both negative and positive: 3:5-9 concerns the negative.

The key phrases are “old man” and “new man.” What they mean, specifically, is the old/former/unconverted way of life versus the new way—the person you used to be versus the person you are now.

These phrases should not be carelessly equated with “flesh” and “spirit” in other Pauline passages. True, the old/unconverted man walks after the flesh (his depraved nature); but the new/converted man—although he characteristically walks after the Spirit—still experiences an inner warfare between the flesh and the Spirit.

It’s important to understand the way Paul balances fact with duty throughout this passage (and the similar one in Ephesians). Fact: “the old man died”; duty: put him off. Fact: You are a new man; duty: put him on.

In other words, it is *both* true that the person you used to be died *and* that you must keep on putting that person’s way of life to death. You do that every time you deny the old way in your new life.

At conversion, we *did* put off the old man; in practice, we must put off his ways every day. As Lohse expresses

it, the Christian must “actualize what has already happened.”

The Behavior to Be Put Aside is spelled out in verses 5, 8, 9a. Twice the command occurs to deny this behavior: “mortify,” meaning “put to death” (v. 5), and “put off” (v. 8).

The first means: you died with Christ, now put to death the deeds of that dead (old) man. The second: you did put off the old man (v. 9); now put off the way of life of the person you used to be.

The list could be longer; these are typical examples. *Fornication* is any illegitimate sexual encounter. *Uncleanliness* is any kind of impurity. *Inordinate affection* is literally “passion” (Greek *pathos*), here referring to any kind of base passion. *Evil concupiscence* is literally a “wicked desire” (Greek *epithumia kaken*). *Covetousness* is selfish desire with dissatisfaction: greed. And Paul calls it idolatry! (Compare Matthew 6:24.)

These first examples (v. 5) move from actions to desire; the next group (v. 8) begin with emotions and move to actions (McDonald).

Anger (Greek *orge*) is not just a flying off the handle, but “a more or less settled feeling of hatred”; while *wrath* is “a tumultuous outburst of passion” (Lightfoot). *Malice* is a malignant attitude that harbors ill will against others, even strives to injure them.

Blasphemy could be directed against God, but here probably means slander, evil speaking against others. The word (Greek *blasphemia*) literally

means hurtful speech. *Filthy communication* is literally shameful speech, foul abuse.

Lying to one another (v. 9) is singled out for special prohibition. “A lie ignores my brother’s claim on me” (Alexander Maclaren).

Considerations Involved in This Warning are seen in verses 6, 7, 9b. There are three. *First* is the fate of those who live in such sins: as disobedient children, they will be objects of the wrath of God (v. 6). This is God’s final wrath, as manifested in eternal damnation.

Second is the fact that such sins characterize our former way, not our present way (v. 7, 8a). This is a gentle but powerful exhortation. This is the way you *used* to live. Compare I Corinthians 6:11: such *were* some of you.

Third is the putting off of “the old man.” Actually, the Greek participle *could* be translated either “since you have put off the old man with his deeds” (as in King James and most versions) or “thus putting off the old man”

Either way, the truth is still the same: the fact that the old self died in Christ is the basis for denying the deeds of that old self in our new way of life. We do not have to walk in the old way. Whenever we allow any of the behavior of the old man to crop up in our present lives we are letting that dead man rear his ugly head and live again.

The old man is dead; his deeds should have no place in our new lives.

Pirates and



Purse Strings

ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

A huge maple on a vacant lot offered five boys some welcome shade from the hot sun. Marty and Tony lay on their stomachs on the warm ground chewing blades of grass. Rob and Mike leaned against the tree's big trunk, and Stuart, who had just moved to the subdivision, lay on his back looking up at the clouds slowly drifting across the blue sky.

"I'm bored," said Marty. "Bored stiff."

"Me too," said Tony. "I wish we had something fun to do."

"This place is Dull City," said Stuart. "I wish I was back home in Chicago or on the beach or camping in the woods or anywhere 'cept here."

"Since we're wishing," said Mike, "I wish I was a cowboy riding my black stallion across the plains."

"Not me," said Rob. "Horse rides are OK, but I'd like a rocket ride. I'd like to be the first kid on the moon!"

"What about you, Marty?" asked Tony. "What would you like to be doing right now?"

Marty thought hard. "I know. I'd be a pirate on a big ship. I'd wear a black patch over one eye and carry a big sword. I'd have treasure chests full of diamonds."

Stuart sat up quickly. "Say, that gives me an idea. Why don't we start a secret club?"

"Yeah!" said the other boys with enthusiasm.

"Let's call ourselves the Pirates," said Marty.

"And we'll be blood brothers," said Tony.

"We need a clubhouse," said Mike. "It'll be fun to build one."

"We'll need lumber and tools," said Marty.

"And nails and paint," added Rob. "I know, we'll build our clubhouse to look like a pirate ship."

"We'll need sails and a flag," added Stuart. "A black flag with a skull and those weird bones on it."

"And we need a parrot," said Tony.

"Don't forget the treasure chest and a gangplank," said Rob.

A few minutes before, the boys had been so lazy and bored. Now they were brimming with excitement.

"Wait a minute, guys," said Marty. "Where are we getting all this stuff?"

"We're pirates, aren't we," said Stuart. "We'll steal it."

"Steal it?" blinked Marty. "You've gotta be kidding."

"No, I'm not," said Stuart. "That ought to be one of our rules. If you want to be a Pirate, you have to steal something and bring it to our first meeting. We'll put it in our treasure chest."

"But it's not right," said Marty.

"Real pirates steal," insisted Stuart. "And I'm not talking about something big. You don't have to take a car or anything like that. Just something to prove that you're not chicken."

"But I don't know how to steal anything," said Rob.

Stuart snickered. "There's nothing to it. Just make sure nobody's looking, grab it, and run."

"I don't guess it's really stealing," said Mike. "It's, it's sorta like a game."

"I don't know," said Tony shaking his head.

"Well nobody's gonna make you do it," said Stuart. "We don't want sissies in our club anyway. If you want to be a Pirate, prove it. This is Friday. Meet back here Monday morning with your loot."

Marty felt confused as he rode his bike toward home. He knew stealing was wrong, but he wanted to be a Pirate. His friends were going to be Pirates, and he didn't want to be left out. He sure didn't want them to think he was chicken.

Marty rode by a lot where a new house was being built. Seeing all the lumber, brick and building materials reminded him of their plans for a clubhouse. "Sure wish I could haul off some of this," thought Marty. Then he felt ashamed for thinking such a thing.

Later that afternoon when Megan was busy watching cartoons, Marty went into her room and looked around. He looked at the animals and dolls and other girl stuff, and thought to himself, "There's nothing in here worth stealing."

Then he saw Megan's piggy bank sitting on her dresser. He reached his hand out toward it, but suddenly drew it back as if he had touched a hot stove.

Marty was quiet at supper, and he just picked at his food.

"What's wrong with you?" asked Mr. Lane. "You and your buddies didn't sneak some green apples from Mrs. Douglas' orchard, did you?" teased Mr. Lane.

"What kind of question is that?" demanded Marty slamming down his fork and running to his room.

The rest of the Lanes looked at Marty in amazement.

When everyone was in bed that night, Marty sneaked to the kitchen and telephoned Tony.

"What are you going to do?" whispered Marty into the phone.

"I don't know," answered Tony. "I know stealing is wrong, but maybe this isn't really stealing."

"I don't think I can do it," said Marty. "I tried, and I just couldn't."

"But you have to," said Tony. You heard Stuart. If you don't steal something, you can't be a pirate."

"But what if we get caught?"

"Just be careful," warned Tony. "Wait for just the right chance."

"I'll try," yielded Marty. "But I'm not promising anything."

"You have to do it," said Tony. "It was your idea to be pirates in the first place."

"OK, OK," agreed Marty, "I've got to go. Someone's coming."

Marty hung up the phone as Megan flipped on the light. "What are you doing?" she demanded. "Who are you talking to so late at night?"



TEEN Scene

Local Scene

"Teen to Teen" is the title of a new phone ministry at Grace FWB Church, Greenville, North Carolina. Approximately 100-200 daily callers dial the "Teen to Teen" number to hear a 60-second pre-recorded message relating to problems that teenagers face.

What began as a hotline with messages available from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on the private line of youth pastor Jon Forlines grew into a 24-hour-a-day ministry. Phonenumber advertising is made through distribution of "Teen to Teen" business cards and ads placed in the local paper. Plans are underway for appearances on a local talk show to make more people aware of the ministry.

The messages are recorded by teens from the youth group. Topics include "Looking Out for the Other Guy,"

"Turning Hardships into Helps," "Saying No" and "Two Ways to Tell a True Friend." A new recording is available each day.

The purpose of the recordings is to help teens face specific problems and make the caller aware that God does care and understand. Reverend Forlines hopes these recordings will influence the unchurched youth to check out the church and realize there is something for them.

National Scene

There's something for everyone this year as Music City hosts the National Youth Conference which is the golden anniversary for Free Will Baptists. Sunday evening starts the festivities with the NYC keynote service. Then all youth and youth workers are invited to a special "Welcome to Music City,

U.S.A." program in War Memorial Auditorium.

Competition in Bible and Music and Arts begins Monday. All competition will be held in the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This year features seminars for the youth and youth workers on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

Monday's after-service activity will be a Christmas in July celebration, and Tuesday features the annual Teen Banquet. If you didn't get a chance to celebrate your birthday this year, come celebrate it with us. On Wednesday evening we're throwing a "Birthday Party for Everyone," complete with cake.

Wednesday morning is final competition for Bible events, followed by the Awards Celebration. The afternoon "Golden Reflections" service promises to be a time of sharing, singing and serious praise to the Lord.

If you're worried about your youngsters having something to do, put your worries to rest and bring them along to the NYC. Learner and Adventurer activities are planned throughout the week, with a banquet just for them Monday afternoon.

Come join us in Nashville July 21-25 as the NYC "Reaches for the Gold." It is what you and your youth need to highlight the summer. See you in July!

Pirates (From p. 27)

"None of your business," said Marty.

"Marty Lane, you're up to something, and I'm going to find out what," insisted Megan.

When Marty got out of bed the next morning, he was trying to give himself courage. "If I'm going to do it, today's the day. I could never do it on Sunday." Just planning to steal made Marty hurt inside. He loved Jesus, and he knew this would make Jesus sad.

"Marty, Marty," called Mrs. Lane. "Get the door. I'm giving Jeff a bath, and Daddy and Megan went to buy doughnuts for breakfast."

Marty opened the door. "Mama, it's the paper boy."

"Get my purse from the bedroom and pay him whatever he says," called Mrs. Lane.

"Five dollars," said the paper boy.

Marty looked in his mother's billfold. She had two fives and six ones. He

gave the boy one of the fives and shut the door.

"She'll never miss one of these," said Marty taking another dollar from the billfold and putting it in his pocket. Marty's hands trembled and his heart raced as he replaced the purse.

Mr. Lane kept the twins busy working in the yard all day, so Marty didn't have a lot of time to think about what he had done. Still he had a miserable day.

Marty was ashamed of himself, and he knew his parents would be disappointed. But most of all, he had hurt Jesus.

"Let's call it a day," said Mr. Lane. "I think the Lanes deserve a treat tonight," he said. "How about a pizza to show you all just how proud I am of you. I'm lucky to have such hard-working kids."

"Yipeee!" yelled Megan. "Let me go tell Mama." Off she ran to the house.

Marty looked at his dad with big tears in his eye. "Daddy, I don't want any pizza, and I don't want you to be

proud." By now the words and the tears were tumbling. "I wanted to be a Pirate, and the paper boy came, and Mama said 'Get my purse . . .'"

"Hold on, Son," said Mr. Lane pulling Marty close to him. "What's this all about?"

Marty told his dad what he had done. Mr. Lane was disappointed in Marty, but he was still proud of him. Proud that he had the courage to confess his sin. Marty asked Jesus to forgive him. Then he went inside to find his mother and give back her dollar.

On Monday, Marty made his way to the big maple on the vacant lot. He was nervous, but he knew what he had to do. "Call me chicken if you want," said Marty, "but I don't want to be a Pirate. Not if it means stealing."

Marty turned and walked away. The guys might think Marty was chicken, but Marty knew better. It may take courage to be a Pirate, but it takes a lot more courage not to be one. ▲



By Mary Neal

Women Directors— Bless 'em!

on you and allows you some freedom of movement without difficulty or immodesty. Avoid clothing that would be distracting in any way.

Musicianhip

Develop a proper conducting pattern. A correct pattern is modest in its appearance and gives confidence to the instruments and voices by supplying tempo and interpretation. Do not try to oversing while directing. Remember, you lead the singing with your pattern, not your voice.

Many women who lead singing are sopranos and must guard against pitching songs too high for the average voice. Most of all, continue to help develop your people in an appreciation of a wide variety of hymns and songs.

I hope these remarks encourage the women who are song leaders. May

Colossians 3:23-24 help you to overcome any discouragement as you serve the Lord:

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” ▲



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Mary Neal is Secretary/Treasurer of Free Will Baptist Music Ministries and serves as music director at First Bible Free Will Baptist Church, New Castle, Indiana.

In many churches across the denomination, circumstances have thrust upon women the responsibility of leading hymn singing. In addition to opportunities available through expanding women's ministries, such as WNAC, as well as responsibilities in the Sunday School and Church Training, some women head congregational singing in church worship services.

It's not my intention to promote or condemn the use of women as song leaders, but to recognize that such situations do exist, and that women often feel unprepared and ill-equipped to deal with the special demands and difficulties of leading singing, especially for entire congregations.

While an exhaustive discussion of these unique concerns is impossible, there are two general principles which must become major considerations of any song leading by women.

Modesty

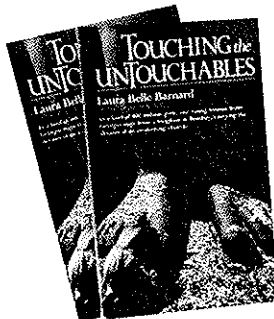
Do not duplicate a man's style of song leading. You do not have to give a masculine style to your leadership in order to be effective as a conductor. Use a more restricted pattern with which you feel comfortable but which still keeps your instruments and voices together. You can be effective and feminine at the same time.

Your choice of apparel is important as well. Wear clothing that hangs well

TOUCHING *the* UNTOUCHABLES

By Laura Belle Barnard

With Georgia Hill



Touching the Untouchables is the intriguing story of Miss Barnard's life among the outcaste people, or "untouchables," in regions of South India. It is also the story of the Free Will Baptist denomination as it struggled to pound out a missions strategy.

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EVOLUTIONIST OFFERS, BUT WON'T PART WITH PRIZE

PHOENIX, AZ (EP)—Geologist Robert Dietz, who has been described as "an ardent evolutionist," issued a public challenge to creationists, offering \$1,000 to the finder of certain fossils in the Cretaceous limestone around the Paluxy River in Texas. According to evolutionary doctrine, trilobites became extinct 125 million years before dinosaurs evolved. Dietz challenged creationists to find fossil evidence that disproved this doctrine.

In response to Dietz' challenge, Arizona State University student Robert Witter took a copy of the Bible-Science Newsletter to the Geology Department of Arizona State University. The front page of that newsletter showed a trilobite from the Paluxy formation as well as saber-toothed tiger tracks. Creationists have found trilobites with dinosaurs, as well as human footprints and handprints in the Paluxy formation.

Confronted with photographic evidence, Dietz refused to award the \$1000 prize. Dietz claimed that the evidence was not satisfactory, and claimed the fossil was from a quarry in Illinois. The fossil in question is, in fact, on display at the Somervell County Museum in Glen Rose, Texas. Witter continues to seek the reward.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS OUTSHINE PUBLIC SCHOOL PEERS

LEWISVILLE, TX (EP)—Students at private Christian schools test one to two years higher than students in public schools, according to a recent study.

In 1984 more than 7,000 students in Accelerated Christian Education schools (A.C.E.), randomly selected from 44 states, averaged between one and two grade levels above the average public school pupil in the California Standard Achievement Test. A.C.E. schools do not use teachers in a traditional classroom setting. Students work at their own pace on nongraded curriculum, monitored by adult supervisors.

Students in Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) schools rated an average of one year ahead of the national average on the Stanford Achievement Test. That test includes vocabulary, reading, word study skills, math, spelling, language listening, social studies, science and using information.

EVOLUTION COMING UNDER ATTACK FROM SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, long the object of attack by creation-science advocates, is now coming under attack from the scientific community as well, according to Newsweek magazine.

"So heated is the debate," said the magazine "that one Darwinian says there are times when he thinks about going into a field with more intellectual honesty: the used-car business."

Though Darwin's theory of biological change coming about through evolution is still widely accepted in secular scientific circles, his teaching that natural selection is the mechanism responsible for evolution is now greeted skeptically by many secular scientists. "When it comes to accounting for life on earth, natural selection should be 'relegated here to the [explanation of] last resort'" Newsweek quoted from a Harvard biologist's book.

The article also said "Some critics go so far as to liken Darwinism to creationism because of its slipperiness: it does not make specific predictions about what sorts of organisms evolution will produce, they charge, and so it is never vulnerable to disproof."

U.S. LEADS INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD IN TEEN PREGNANCY, BIRTHS, ABORTIONS

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—American teenagers become pregnant, give birth, and have abortions at significantly higher rates than teens in other industrialized nations, according to a study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute. The study also shows that the U.S. is the only developed country where teenage pregnancy has increased in recent years.

The pregnancy rate for Americans ages 15 to 19 is 96 per thousand, compared with 45 in England and Wales, 44 in Canada, 43 in France, 35 in Sweden, and 14 per thousand in the Netherlands. The teenage abortion rate for the U.S. is as high as the combined rates for abortion and births in other countries studied.

Pregnancy rates among black teens in the U.S. are still higher than the rates for white teens: 163 pregnancies per 1,000 compared to 83 per 1,000. Younger teens have even higher birth rates in the U.S. as compared with teens in other countries. With more than five births per 1,000 girls aged 14, the U.S. rate is around four times that of Canada, the only other country with as much as one birth per 1,000 girls of comparable age.

According to the study, 60 out of every 1,000 women in the U.S. have had an abortion by the time they are 18 years old, twice the rate of Sweden, and three times the rate of England and Wales.

NEW AGREEMENT MAY LEAD TO SCRIPTURE PRINTING PLANT ON CHINESE MAINLAND

HONG KONG (EP)—The Amity Foundation, being formed by Chinese Christians for the purpose of promoting health, education and social service projects in the People's Republic of China, may lead to the establishment of a modern printing facility in mainland China under the direction and ownership of the Foundation.

The proposed printing plant will give priority to the production of Bibles and Testaments and other Christian publications. Representatives from the Foundation and the United Bible Societies are working now to open a printing plant. Funding for the project will be provided by the United Bible Societies in consultation with the Foundation.

The United Bible Societies is the world's largest partnership for Bible work, and was organized so that people everywhere may have the scriptures in their own language. Major funding for UBS comes from the American Bible Society.

STUDY SHOWS RELIGIOUS GROUPS OUT-GIVE SECULAR GROUPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—A new study by the Council on Foundations says total giving by religious organizations in 1983 surpassed the combined charitable contributions of corporations and secular organizations by about \$1 billion. The study indicates charitable giving by religious organizations in the United States probably surpassed \$7.5 billion in 1983.

The report also indicated that its findings did not reflect an estimated \$1 billion given at the congregational level.

Corporations and their foundations gave \$3.1 billion to charitable causes, while other secular foundations gave another \$3.46 billion according to the study.

James A. Joseph, president of the Council on Foundations, said "Every conceivable need in society is being addressed, from soup kitchens in urban areas to making films about social justice, from building wells in the Sudan to emergency food aid in Ethiopia."

SCRIPTURE PLACEMENT PROJECT UNDERWAY IN ECUADOR

QUITO, Ecuador (EP)—A scripture placement project which will provide a contemporary Spanish translation of the New Testament for every student in the nation's schools and universities is underway in Ecuador. The nation-wide program is one of a series initiated in Latin America by the World Home Bible League.

Evangelical leaders here hailed the project as the greatest evangelistic undertaking in the history of Ecuador, which has the lowest percentage of evangelicals of any nation in Latin America. Only 2.5 percent of Ecuador's population is Protestant.

The government of Ecuador is cooperating with the project, allowing 2.5 million New Testaments to be admitted to the country with no duty or harbour charges, despite Ecuador's recent tightening of controls on imports, and imposition of a very high duty on incoming books.



Dear Dad...



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Free Will Baptists

THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

This month is special for you as a father. But it's also a special time for me as your son, a time to say some things that you need to hear.

As a person, you set the example of what a father should be. You demonstrated gentleness and godliness. Your humble, honest disposition made a profound impact on my life long before I realized it. You exemplified the highest and noblest ideals of Christianity.

You allowed each family member a sense of dignity and self worth. I never recall you complaining about the work necessary to provide for our family; you seemed to enjoy the privilege.

Your faithfulness as a provider confirmed in my mind the biblical pattern for the home. You made it possible for Mom to be a full-time mother for us children. Your example taught me the value and dignity of work.

You were fair but firm. You did not allow some things, but you were not harsh, haughty or hateful. You protected us from ourselves when we didn't know it.

Perhaps the soundest advice I ever received was yours, "Son, listen to what others have to say, but then, having weighed all the facts, do what you know is right."

You taught me early in my pastoral ministry, "Stick with the scriptures—preach the Bible." What wise advice that was and is.

You showed me that men who do not agree don't have to fight. You banned friction and fussing from our home. Thanks to you, we avoided the emotional scars which surface in later years from bitterness, belittling and backbiting during childhood.

You protected me from immoral, indecent and immodest life styles during my youth. Your godly example drew me away from the profane and promiscuous life style of many around us.

What you said balanced with what you did. Your conduct was consistent with your character and conversation. You did what you did well. You never half-did anything.

You were also compassionate. I often wondered why you were kind to the animals. Later when I read in the Bible that a righteous man regards the life of his beast, I knew why. You were kinder to the animals than many men are to each other.

You were considerate. Whenever we wanted something, you did not immediately reject the idea. Your favorite line was, "We will see." Even though in many cases we never did "see," it was your way of showing consideration of the request without denying it.

I'm grateful that you were a man of caution. You did not hastily or quickly make decisions. You took time to investigate and gave time for introspection before announcing a decision. I now realize the great value of being cautious.

You were always a man of confidence. You trusted God, You trusted

your family. As a farmer you worked the same whether we had a good crop or a bad crop. Your confidence in God's providence, provision and protection never wavered. From you I learned to put confidence in my Heavenly Father and human family.

You were also a man of contentment. At no time do I remember you being discontent with what God had given you or called you to do. You were content with what you had. You did not strive to be rich and famous, nor did you seek position, popularity or prestige.

When I read Paul's declaration, "Godliness with contentment is great gain," I think of your example.

Dad, you contributed to your companion, children, church, community and country. You gave time, talent and money to the church and our denomination.

Only the Lord knows what could be done if our denomination were filled with men like you. Thank you for your example that every man can be a contributor rather than a criticizer.

You were not a contentious man. You avoided controversy. You did not stir debates, dissensions or division. You knew that contentious men cause problems. I have sought to follow your example of being swift to hear and slow to speak.

You were a man of courage. You were not manipulated by nor intimidated by others. You never just went along, but even when disagreeing you were always a courteous Christian gentleman.

Dad, your character and conduct continue to this day. Your life has been a challenge not a compromise.

I'm honored to be your son. ▲

The Secretary's Schedule

June 3-4	RCMA Board Meeting Indianapolis, IN
June 5-7	Texas State Association Convention Site Inspection
June 10	Houston, TX
June 13-14	Virginia State Association
June 16-19	First FWB Church Grand Prairie, TX
June 21-22	Ohio State Association
June 27-30	Atlantic Canada Association

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FATHER'S DAY OFFERING

Our missionaries, pastors and denominational employees are looking to the Board of Retirement to provide pension benefits and insurance protection.

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