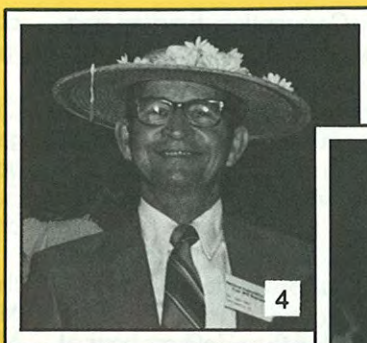
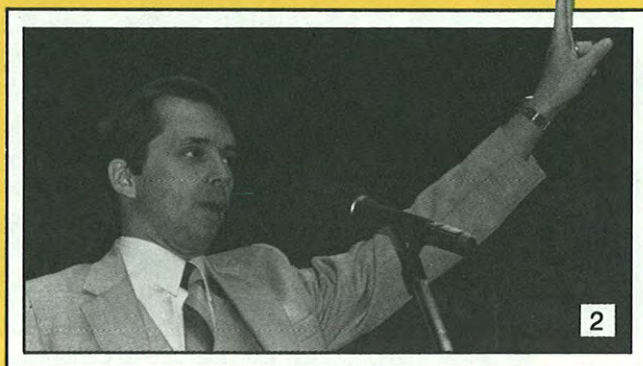
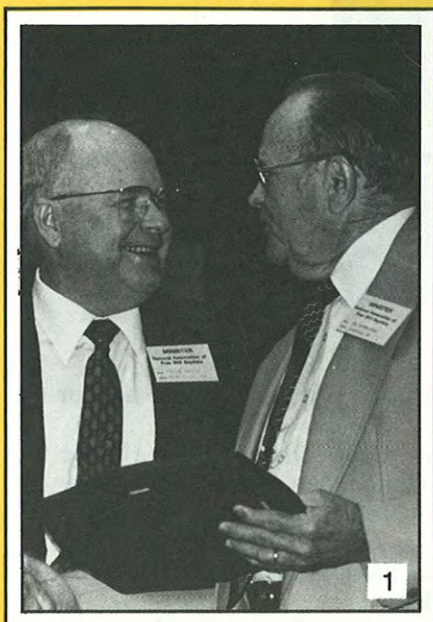


SEPTEMBER 1985

# Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



A Medley of Memories — Convention '85

# Focusing on Free Will Baptists



Moderator Bobby Jackson addresses Jubilee Convention.

By Larry Hampton

**F**ree Will Baptists took a close look at themselves during the 1985 National Convention. Each July delegates and visitors review the year's work. Reports given in Nashville were set against a 50-year backdrop of service to the Lord. Convention goes focused on happenings spanning five decades as well as events of the last 365 days.

Sensing the importance of this session, plans were set in motion to capture the spirit of the gathering. Dr. Vernon Whaley, chairman of the FWBBC music department, and Blaine Hughes, North Carolina music director, joined forces to oversee production of a live convention album.

The album, "Join Our Jubilee," contains live excerpts from the 50th

Anniversary Convention. Spirited singing (congregational and special), the clerk's call to order, the moderator's address, edited departmental reports and the Executive Secretary's challenge are all a part of this keepsake recording now on sale from Randall House.

If one word describes the business sessions of this convention, it is *peaceful*. A close second is *brief*. The General Board ended their deliberations at 12:15 p.m. on Monday. On Wednesday, the business session recessed at 3:00 p.m. Final adjournment came at 10:09 on Thursday morning.

But don't get the idea that nothing was accomplished.

Delegates approved 10 budgets topping \$11 million. They launched Target 90, selected sites for five future conventions, and elected 35 board and

commission members as well as four general officers.

Not only was the music of the Music City Convention outstanding, delegates voted to publish a new hymn book by 1988. Distinctively Free Will Baptist, it will reflect our doctrines and practices.

This may well be remembered as the year of the plaque. The Foreign Missions Department awarded four; Master's Men handed out three; Home Missions gave away two. The Radio-Television Commission unveiled a plaque listing individuals and churches that gave \$100 or more to "radioactivate" the gospel.

Let's hang one more plaque. It will have to be a large one—large enough to hold the names of the 8,340 people who made this our biggest and best convention ever. ▲

**The 1985 National Convention analysis was written by Larry Hampton, manager of the editorial division at Randall House Publications.**

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

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



1. Master's Men Director Jim Vallance awards plaque to Usher Coordinator Charles Denman.  
 2. Tennessee Auxiliary President Kay Hampton  
 3. Doug Little rehearses Mass Choir.



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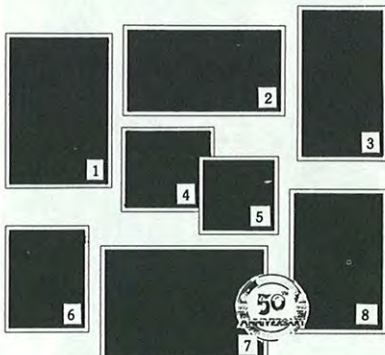
**31 Notes from Nashville**  
 Melvin Worthington

**Editor-in-Chief:** Dr. Melvin Worthington  
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SEPTEMBER 1985  
**Contact**  
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



A Medley of Memories — Convention '85

1. Foreign Missions Director Rolla Smith (L) gives plaque to Raymond Riggs.
2. NYC keynote speaker Jonathan Thigpen.
3. WNAC honors out-going executive secretary Cleo Pursell.
4. Elbert Farley (Tenn.) tries on Minnie Pearl hat.
5. The hat looks better on Marguerite Kern (Okla.).
6. Ohio Executive Secretary, Alton Loveless.
7. Convention organist Richard McDonald and pianist Patsy Gwartney.
8. Registration Coordinator Yvonne Wolfenbarger.

## ELECTED IN NASHVILLE 1985

The following were elected during the 49th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

### GENERAL OFFICERS

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

### GENERAL BOARD

1987 John Edwards (AL)  
Charles Marshall (AZ)  
David Joslin (AR)  
Fred Hanson (AC)  
Doice McAlister (CA)  
Gary Riley (CO)  
Robert Owen (FL)  
Herbert Waid (GA)  
Pat Burttran (ID)  
Wallace Malone (IL)  
Henry Patterson (IN)  
Gary Mitchener (KS)  
Edgar "Dick" VanHoose (KY)  
Lester Horton (MD)  
Jerry Barron (MX)  
Charles Cooper (MI)  
Al Hamm (MS)  
Millard Sasser (MO)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1987 Millard Sasser (MO)  
Doice McAlister (CA)  
Robert Owen (FL)

### BOARD OF RETIREMENT

1991 Ron Barber (OK)  
Glen Wright (TN)  
Milton Hollifield (GA)  
1989 Jack Daniel (GA)  
\*Elected to fill the unexpired term of Dennis Kern who resigned.

### HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1990 Steve Hasty (FL)

### HOME MISSIONS BOARD

1991 Milburn Wilson (CA)  
Glen Thomas (GA)  
Larry Russell (LA)

### MASTER'S MEN BOARD

1991 Howard Gwartney (OK)  
Tim Jordan (GA)  
Paul Moore (IL)

### FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE TRUSTEES

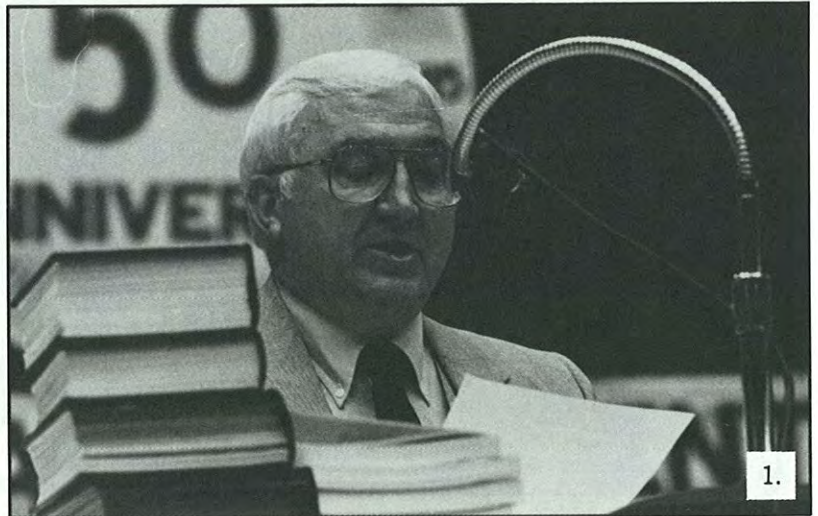
1990 J. M. Creech  
\*Elected to fill the unexpired term of J. D. O'Donnell who resigned.

### COMMISSION FOR THEOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

1990 Edwin Wade (OK)

### RADIO-TELEVISION COMMISSION

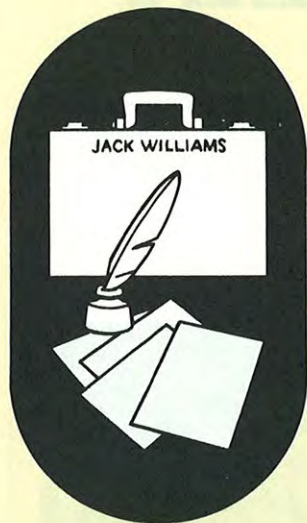
1990 Larry D. Hampton (TN)



1. Clerk Waldo Young reads report.
2. Michigan pastor J. B. Varney (c) holds forth in the Radisson Plaza lobby.
3. Texas pastor Bill Jones (r) greets assistant moderator Ralph Hampton, while missionary Jim Combs smiles.



# He Made a Difference



**T**he death of so many Free Will Baptist ministers in the past 12 months has staggered the denomination. Some were prominent men, some lesser known, some marked for greatness, all unique, each missed.

Death is never easy for us, especially the death of a young leader. We make grudging peace with the death of the elderly, but we mightily resist medical science and the inevitable loneliness when providence cuts down a strong young redwood in the forest of men.

The death of any minister diminishes us all, and none moreso than that of 36-year-old Floyd Wolfenbarger, who died May 22 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**A gentle giant** of a man, Floyd moved as easily among educators as he did among grocery clerks. He preached the Bible with freshness and authority. He was not an echo; he was an original sound.

Teenagers took the front seats to hear him speak. Older men recognized in his delivery the kind of power they remembered from brush arbor days. He explained truth in a way that few men can.

Floyd Wolfenbarger combined the disciplined mind of a scholar with the carefree spirit of a little boy romping through a patch of clover. He enjoyed life and lived it as it came. He loved people with an almost unlimited patience. He loved God's work and earned a reputation as a peacemaker.

His natural reverence balanced a splendid sense of humor in a ministry

that personified Paul's counsel to Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth."

**On the one hand**, he was the husband who couldn't do anything about a leaky faucet except notice it, who spent his last dollar on a set of commentaries and tried to sneak them past his wife, who could make a pair of new shoes look like Salvation Army rejects in a week, whose desk resembled a train wreck in a used book store.

But on the other hand, Floyd was the unselfish pastor with time for those who hurt in his community, who made everybody feel that he was their best friend, who cared about people but didn't demand anything in return.

While I acknowledge that in many ways all men are unique, if it be possible for someone to be more unique than others, Floyd Wolfenbarger was that man.

**He preached his** first sermon when he was in the seventh grade and had read the Bible through 12 times before he finished high school. While his grammar school classmates went to the playground to learn Little League baseball, Floyd went to the pulpit and learned to preach.

The boy who intended to be a lawyer became, instead, a minister. The high school valedictorian who won national acclaim as a public speaker and debater stepped back from the spotlight and became a servant/pastor.

He gave himself up to obscurity only to be lifted from that obscurity by his peers and handed a leadership role in his denomination by the time he was 25.

He attended three colleges and one university, yet never earned a college degree. Still, he lectured and preached conferences at Bible colleges and was held in highest esteem by professional educators.

**Not many men** who die at 36 have preached the gospel 24 years. Floyd Wolfenbarger did. The pulpit was his domain, the place where he excelled. He was a preacher with a

pastor's heart. An uncommon man who thought he was ordinary.

Floyd's preaching and writing were marked by the same trait—the ability to make the complex simple. He used the tools of his trade—theology, philosophy and literature—to build sermons just as a master carpenter frames houses from lumber and nails. He feared God, revered the Bible and had little respect for the critic of that which was holy.

If a man searches hard, if he's fortunate, perhaps he'll discover a handful of friends in life who believe in him, who trust him. Floyd was a believer in others. His confidence in others made them want to be what he thought they were, made them want to fly as high as he believed they could.

Floyd was a native Buckeye who pastored in Ohio as well as Oklahoma and Arkansas. But it was no secret that he belonged to anybody who needed a friend.

**All good men die.** Some good men die young. The record is written and the book closed on Floyd Wolfenbarger. He died like he lived—a man of great dignity, believing in others, trusting in God, giving himself until the end.

Somehow Floyd's death fits into the eternal plan of God just as his life and ministry did. His death is God's business; acceptance of that fact is mine.

Each of us bears the loss of a friend in his own way. Some dimensions of grief can be verbalized and shared with others, but some grief experiences are so intimate they never leave the sanctity of the human heart. They stay within us, refining, redirecting, reminding, becoming soil to grow new dreams.

**Meanwhile**, there's a gap in the hedge. A mighty voice is stilled in the wilderness. A sword lies on the battlefield while the war moves on.

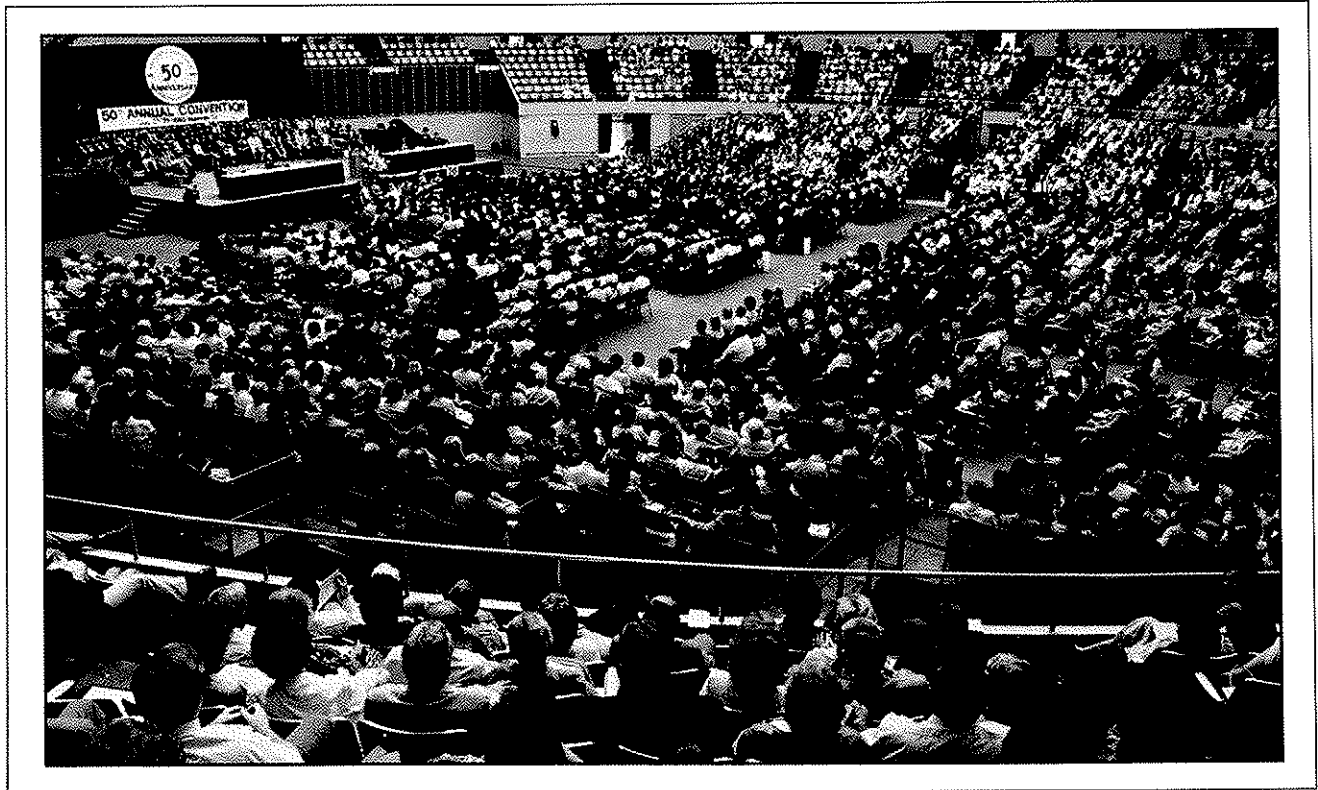
A long line of Christian soldiers stretches from Calvary to Judgment. Floyd Wolfenbarger stood in that line and made a difference. There's a place for you in that line. You, too, can make a difference. ▲

# MUSIC CITY MEDLEY

By Larry Hampton

## Worship

—“Brethren, We Have Met To Worship”—



### Sunday Morning

At 10:00 a.m., July 21, Nashville's Hyatt Regency Hotel housed the denomination's largest Sunday School class.

Ralph Hampton, Jr., assistant moderator, welcomed conventioners to Tennessee. Following music by a group from Free Will Baptist Bible College, Rev. Harrold D. Harrison taught the Sunday School lesson.

Harrison, assistant director of Randall House Publications, skillfully developed the study of David's desire to build a house for God. He illustrated his three major points, "David Reposing," "The Lord Proposing," and "David Deferring," on overhead transparencies.

The first worship service of the National Association was marked by

enthusiastic singing and powerful preaching. Donnie Miles led the 700 adults in congregational singing. Rachel, Rebekah and Ruth Worthington of Royal Oak, Michigan, sang "Great Are You Lord." A stirring rendition of songs by Free Will Baptist writers formed the offertory by Howard and Patsy Gwartney. Steve Johnson sang "O What A Moment When We See Him."

"Denominational Stewardship" was the topic assigned to Rev. Herman Hersey. Hersey, director of Retirement and Insurance/executive secretary, Free Will Baptist Foundation, shared four characteristics of biblical stewardship from I Chronicles 29.

First, stewardship recognizes that all wealth comes from God (vv. 12, 14b, 16). Second, stewardship requires absolute love for the Lord (v. 3). Third,

stewardship results in willing service (v. 3). Fourth, stewardship causes one to realize, "I do not give to my church, a board, a missionary, an institution, a pastor, or a program but unto the Lord" (vv. 16, 14, 17b).

Hersey reminded hearers that we are to give in faith, willingly, humbly, and worshipfully.

Separate services for primaries, juniors and teens were conducted by Brian Peters, Dean Stone and Toby Jenkins respectively.

### Monday Night

One unique aspect of the Monday evening service was the recording of congregational singing for the "Join Our Jubilee" convention album.

Blaine Hughes, music coordinator, led the congregation in "Victory in

Jesus" (twice!) and "Blest Be The Tie That Binds." Doug Little directed the mass adult choir. Bill Gardner, Indiana pastor, sang "Does Jesus Care?"

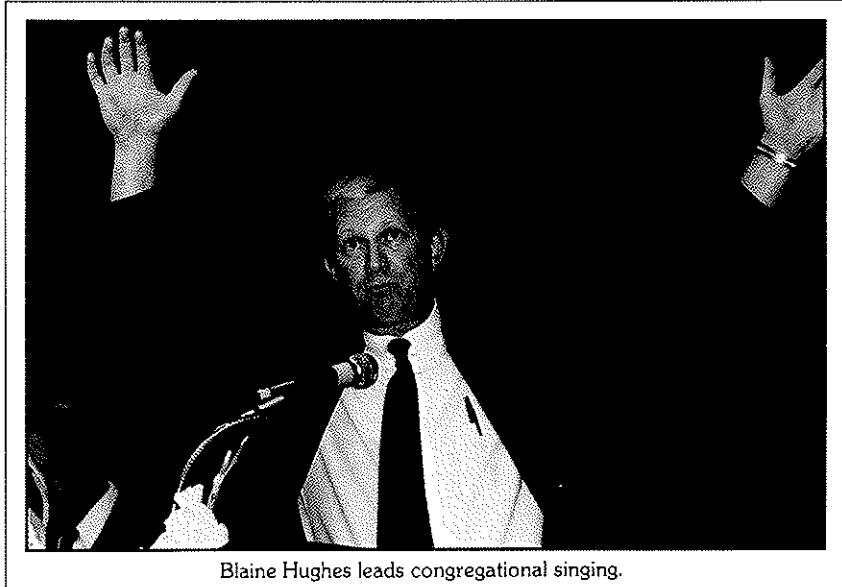
Clerk Waldo Young called the session to order and introduced Evangelist Bobby Jackson, moderator. Jackson raised two questions. Is there enough difference between Free Will Baptists and other Baptists to merit the existence of Free Will Baptists? If so, is there ample justification for the National Association of Free Will Baptists to continue operation?

He then showed that the key difference between Free Will Baptists and other Baptists is the doctrine of the freedom of the will. In answer to the second question, he pointed out what we can do together that we could not do alone.

The moderator then gave the report of the Committee on Committees. Jackson listed the members of the Credentials Committee, Resolutions Committee, and Nominating Committee.

Rev. Raymond Riggs, Tennessee promotional director, welcomed the National Association to Nashville. Riggs noted that three members of the original Treatise Committee are still living. Of the three, only Rev. Ralph Staten was able to attend this session.

For the fifth time Dr. L. C. Johnson, former president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, addressed a national convention. Michigan Pastor Milton Worthington introduced Dr. Johnson as one of the three men who have influenced his ministry the most. He spoke of Dr. Johnson's ability to "browse through the Word and find a jewel for that moment that you never forget."



Blaine Hughes leads congregational singing.

Dr. Johnson helped conventioners accomplish the goal of "Remembering The Past." Johnson, whose ministry covers two years more than the history of the denomination, has watched Free Will Baptists mature.

He told of the "dark ages" when Free Will Baptists had neither missionaries nor educational facilities. "Localitis" is the name he gave the disease he said plagued Free Will Baptists for 25 years. During those days Free Will Baptists lost many young preachers who studied outside the denomination. Gratefully, he noted that "ministerial drain has all but been eliminated."

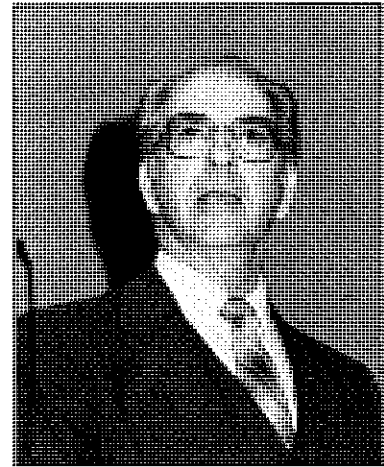
Free Will Baptists remained in the country even though the society was being industrialized and urbanized. Johnson suggested that we have paid for our mistake with stagnation and limited growth.

Dr. Johnson challenged the conventioners to learn what direction God is moving and follow Him.

The Monday evening service ended with the Gospeliers singing "Heartaches."

### Tuesday Night

Jack Richey presided over the Tuesday evening service. I. L. Stanley revealed what his initials stand for and that this will be his last year to lead singing at a convention.



Harrold Harrison teaches adult Sunday School class.



The Free Will Baptist Bible College Ambassadors

Throughout the week outstanding musicians ministered. Tuesday night was no exception. Hillsdale FWB College provided the call to worship. Doug Little directed the mass choir. Rusty Russell was responsible for the offertory. West Virginia's Carl Sullivan was the soloist.

"Reviewing the Present" became the task of Rev. Alton Loveless. Loveless, Ohio promotional secretary,

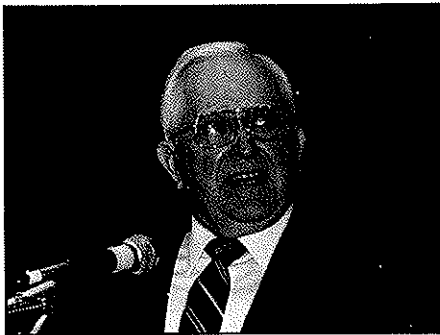


## MEDLEY (from page 7)

gave the results of a survey he conducted in preparation for his message. Respondents indicated a need for strong leadership. The body of his sermon was an examination of the 12 apostles. He drew lessons on leadership from this study.

## Wednesday Night

Traditionally, Wednesday night has been the missions service. This year



L. C. Johnson "remembers the past."

there was no missions service. However, there was a strong missions flavor to the Wednesday night service.

All missionaries present, both home and foreign, were recognized. Rev. Bill M. Jones, chairman of the Foreign

Missions Board, made a presentation to Rev. Rolla Smith, who is retiring as general director of Foreign Missions in 1986. Smith was given a plaque plus a check for \$1000. Mrs. Smith received flowers.

The congregation gave a special missions offering in excess of \$17,000. Undesignated funds will be equally divided between the two missions departments.

Henry Van Kluyve took charge of the song service. Special music was provided by the Southeastern FWB College Ensemble, Bill Gardner with the Men's Chorale, and John Gibbs. John Neal led the instrumental ensemble in the offertory.

Moderator Bobby Jackson spoke on the topic "Realizing The Potential." He wasn't supposed to. The scheduled speaker, Rev. Floyd Wolfenbarger, 36, of Russellville, Arkansas, died on May 22. The Executive Committee asked Bobby Jackson to take his place. The honorarium for the speaker was given to the scholarship fund for Angie Wolfenbarger.

Jackson evaluated our physical assets. He noted we have many fine buildings. Unfortunately, numbers of them are far too large for the congregation. Also, splits have prompted construction of countless unnecessary buildings.

He also surveyed our personnel. We now have more trained pastors than ever before. However, training does not guarantee effectiveness. Of course, we need even more pastors.

Next, Jackson looked at the money situation in our denomination. While he acknowledged improved conditions, he bemoaned the lack of an effective stewardship program.

Another positive aspect of denominational life cited by Jackson is belief in the Bible. (Free Will Baptists have no theological liberals.) However, there is a danger that we will not let scripture accomplish its purpose in our lives.

Jackson stated that Free Will Baptists must possess three qualities if we are to realize our potential. These qualities are conviction, consecration and cooperation.

# General Board

—“There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit In This Place”—

The General Board convened at 9:00 a.m. July 22 in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton-Nashville Hotel. A smooth, steady stream of business coursed through the next 3¼ hours.

Following Moderator Bobby Jackson's opening remarks, Clerk Waldo Young read the names of the General Board members. After the delegates were seated, the report of the Executive Committee was read and acted upon item by item.

All departmental reports were handled routinely. A lively discussion resulted from similar actions taken by the Home Missions Board and the Missouri State Association. General Board members feared a drift toward connectional church government.

General Director Roy Thomas assured everyone that no missionary was required to deed his church to the Home Missions Board. Thomas suggested that a commission study the

matter in detail. He promised that the Home Missions Board will not interfere with the autonomy of any local church.

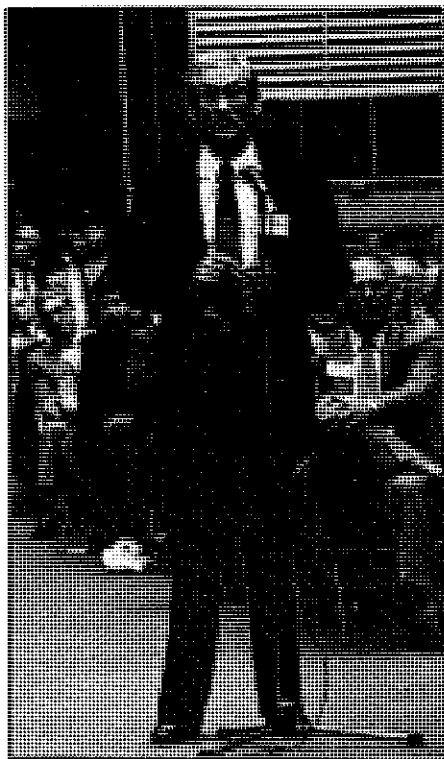
General Board members voted to recommend publication of a new hymn book. The proposal called for the Hymn Book Study Committee to function under the supervision of the Executive Office.

Target 90, a united effort to spark church growth, was also approved by the General Board and submitted to the National Association.

Sites recommended for convention from 1991-1995 were accepted by the General Board.

Bobby Jackson announced his appointments to the Credentials Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Resolutions Committee.

At 12:15 p.m., the General Board adjourned.



Winston Sweeney at the microphone.



# Bible Conference

—“Holy Bible, Book Divine”—

Again this year, one of the most popular features of the convention was the Tuesday Bible Conference. The speakers represented Home Missions, Foreign Missions and Free Will

preaching services. Howard Gwartney served as conference music director. A group from Southeastern FWB College sang to a packed ballroom the first hour.

The Hillsdale FWB College Quartet sang before the second sermon. The Glad Tidings Quartet from Virginia provided special music for the third service.

Connie Cariker drew examples from his pastorate in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to illustrate his message. He introduced a man who was won to the Lord during his ministry there. The brother shared his testimony as the second service began.

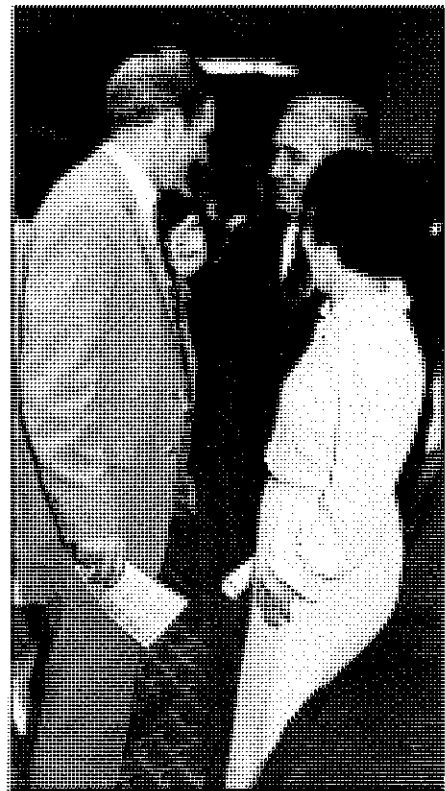
Eugene Waddell's sermon was taken from Romans 1 and 15. Waddell began by sharing Paul's review of his ministry (15:19). Next, he showed how Paul re-established his priorities (15:20). His



Soloist John Gibbs

Baptist Bible College. Rev. Connie Cariker, Rev. Eugene Waddell and Dr. Robert Picirilli are all well known and widely used preachers.

David Joslin, Arkansas promotional director, presided over the three



Donnie Miles (L) chats with pastor Sam Truett.

**“You can stand tall for the right without being nasty, ugly or thoughtless.”**

**—Jerry Dudley**

**“Christian soldiers do not have to please anybody but the One who enlisted them. They certainly don't have to please the enemy. They don't even have to please the rest of the troops!”**

**—Robert Picirilli**



Mass adult choir prepares for worship service.

third point covered Paul's revealing of his plans (15:24). Then he talked of Paul's request for partnership (15:24, 30, 32). Finally, he told of Paul rededicating himself to the task (1:15).

The Bible repeatedly states that believers are at war with Satan and the forces of evil. Robert Picirilli used one of the passages which refers to Christians as soldiers as his text.

In II Timothy 2:3-4, Paul urges believers to endure hardness as good soldiers. He also reminds Christians of the need to be free from distracting entanglements. Finally, he challenges fellow soldiers to seek to please Him who enlisted them. Dr. Picirilli stressed these points as he explained that our commitment is to a Person not a cause.

# The Breakfasts

—“We Shall Rise”—

## Tuesday Morning, 7:00

This year's Music Ministries Fellowship Breakfast did not include a speaker since the program was devoted to business. However, there was time for eating and singing at the Sheraton-Nashville Hotel.

President Doug Little played the piano as ticket holders joined him in singing. Bill Gardner sang two solos, “My Song” and “How Wonderful Thou Art.”

Music Ministries members voted to lengthen the three officers' terms of office to four years. Doug Little was re-elected president. Vice-President John Neal and Secretary-Treasurer Mary Neal were also returned to office for four more years.

A committee was appointed by the president to establish specific goals and clarify the purpose of the organization. The committee, which consists of Bill Gardner, Charles Hampton and John Neal will report next year in Tulsa.

Little also gave an update on the work of the Hymn Book Study Committee. He announced that a questionnaire would be circulated if the association approved the publication of a new hymn book.

## Wednesday Morning, 7:00

Master's Men marked their 29th year with a breakfast attended by 401



Executive Secretary  
Melvin Worthington

early risers. The annual gathering at the Sheraton-Nashville Hotel was keynoted by Dr. Melvin Worthington. Rev. W. C. Combs, retiring Master's Men Board member, introduced the speaker.

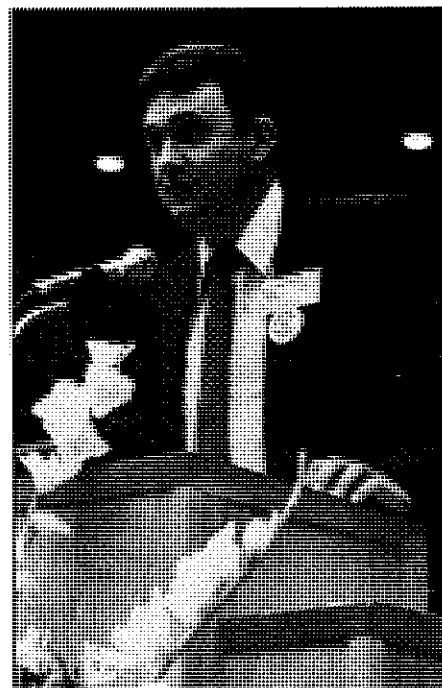
Worthington, executive secretary, developed the theme “Committed to Christ's Commission.” He thundered, “There is something wrong when folks claim to love the Lord and love souls, but are not able to get along with fellow Christians.” He warned that “if we reproduce folks like ourselves, we will have a horrible mess in a few years.”

In addition to hearing the executive secretary's address, diners enjoyed musical numbers by the Locust Grove (OK) Trio and a piano solo by Ryan Vallance.

Board Chairman Raymond Lee presented awards to the Layman of the Year and the runner-up.

George Brunkhorst of Sacramento, California, was chosen Layman of the Year. James O. Brewer of Topeka, Kansas, was selected as runner-up.

The Master's Men Board selects the Layman of the Year. Their decision is based on the recommendation of the individual's pastor. Pastors describe the nominee's commitment to the Lord and involvement in His work.



Master's Men Director  
Jim Vallance



“Wonder what I just ate?”  
Winona Riggs



Master's Men Board Chairman Raymond Lee (R) presents Layman of the Year award to Californian, George Brunkhorst.

# Convention Business Sessions

—“To God Be The Glory”—

Item number one on Wednesday's agenda was the Moderator's message. Bobby Jackson developed his address on the jubilee theme from Leviticus 25.

He pointed out that the jubilee year brought a release of persons, restoration of property, rest from planting, reverence for the Provider and righteousness toward the people.

The first business transacted was seating delegates. After delegates were seated, they heard a partial report from the General Board. Each national agency summarized the previous year's work.

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington gave the report of the Executive Office. Total funds received through the Cooperative Channel, \$940,490, surpassed 1983's gifts by more than \$137,000. Of this amount, \$560,490 was designed and \$380,000 was Co-op.

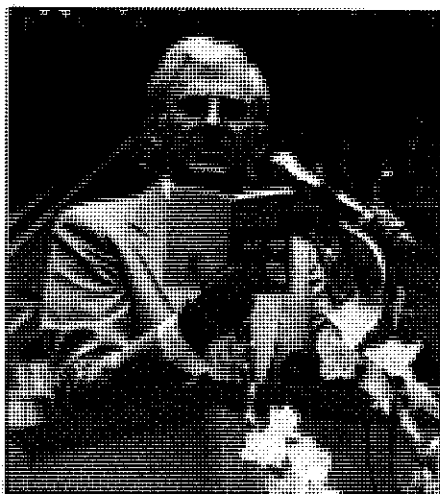
Voters approved an Executive Office budget of \$304,786 for 1986.

The Executive Office, which was established in 1941, publishes *Contact*, promotes the Cooperative Plan and plans the national convention as well as coordinating and correlating the ministries of the National Association.

Lonnie DaVoult questioned the escalating costs of staging a national convention. Dr. Worthington pointed out that inflation is a definite factor and promised to be as conservative as possible.

Rev. Rolla Smith, Foreign Missions general director, presented an extended report of foreign missions activity over the past 50 years. In 1935 Free Will Baptists had one missionary—Laura Belle Barnard. By 1950 that number had grown to 11. Today there are 110 missionaries under appointment. This is 61 percent of the total missionaries that have served.

Plaques were given to Miss Barnard, first missionary; Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Willey, first missionaries to Cuba; and



Moderator Bobby Jackson quotes Treatise.

Rev. Raymond Riggs, first full-time director of Foreign Missions.

Gifts to foreign missions in 1984 soared to \$2,488,075. The 1985 budget is \$2,895,498.

Rev. Smith announced his retirement effective April 1, 1986. Smith, who turns 65 December 29 has served 13 years as general director, 1960-62 and 1975-86. He was also on the Foreign Missions Board for 21 years.

Bill Jones, Board chairman, introduced Robert Eugene Waddell, general director designate. Rev. Waddell brings a wealth of experience to this position. The North Carolina native pastored for 25 years. He has served as associate director of the Foreign



Director Herman Hersey explains insurance program.

Missions Department for the last four years. He holds an M.A. degree in missions from Columbia Bible College. Jimmy Aldridge reported on the Advance Celebration. South Carolina became the first state to make a pledge to this project. South Carolina delegates committed themselves to raise \$75,000 of the \$1 million goal.

Free Will Baptists have 63 organized churches in nine foreign countries. We have 32 ordained pastors and 13 licensed preachers. In addition 48 lay preachers are helping spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The total average Sunday School attendance is 4,895. During 1984 our missionaries recorded 1,058 conversions.



Oklahoma Executive Secretary Lonnie DaVoult asks a question.

The Free Will Baptist Bible College report was given by President Charles A. Thigpen. Thigpen related that the College enrolled 467 students from 28 states and seven foreign countries in 1984-85. Dr. Thigpen announced the Masters of Ministry program. It is now possible to obtain a master's degree over a three-year period while continuing to pastor. Students will attend three one-week sessions each year—



**BUSINESS** (from page 11)

two during the summer and one between Christmas and New Year's.

A President's Council has been established. Any individual donating at least \$1,000 per year to the College will be included in the council. The Council will meet annually during the Bible Conference.

Dr. Thigpen lauded Free Will Baptist Bible College students who raised \$5,000 for Dr. Ken Eagleton's account. They also raised \$7,000 to erect buildings in the Ivory Coast.

Rev. J. M. Creech of Tupelo, Mississippi, was elected to fill an unexpired term on the Bible College Board of Trustees.

**Rev. Roy Thomas** (Home Missions Department) recounted a year of progress. Income was the largest in the department's history with total gifts of \$1,704,537.

Currently, 57 families serve under the Home Missions Department. On Roll Call Sunday, 10,382 attended Sunday School in home mission churches.

The department recently hired Howard Gwartney as missionary builder to assist missionaries with building programs. Gwartney completed projects in Colorado Springs and Elkhart, Indiana. The Church Extension Loan Fund (CELF) now exceeds \$542,000.

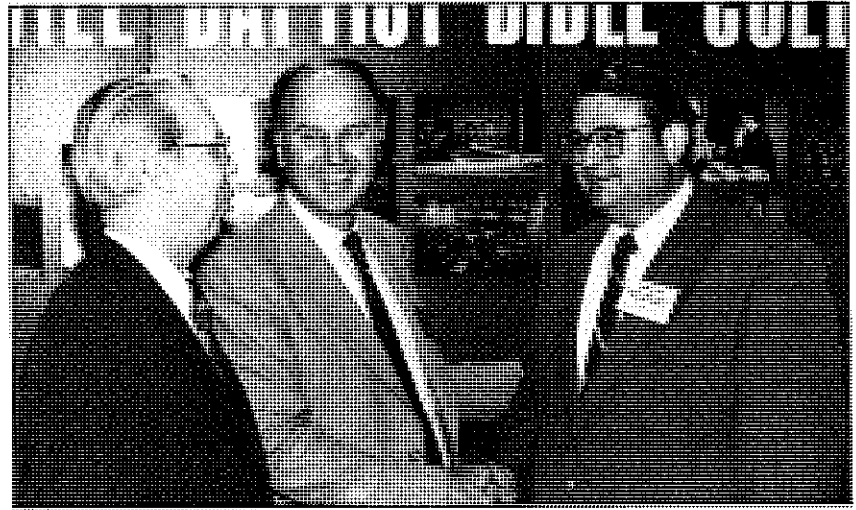
Two Board members were awarded plaques. Neither man was eligible to be re-elected. Rev. Claudie Hames completed 12 years of service. Rev. J. E. Blanton was honored for 17 years as a Board member. Rev. and Mrs. George C. Lee were recognized as pioneer missionaries.

Milburn Wilson (CA), Glen Thomas (GA) and Larry Russell (LA) were elected to the Home Missions Board.

**Master's Men** gained 27 new chapters last year. Total receipts reached \$75,407.

A new area of ministry was launched under the name Master's Hands Project. Master's Men from Oklahoma constructed a building for Home Missionary Bob Lewis. This was the first Master's Hands Project.

Three plaques were presented by General Director Jim Vallance. Rev. W. C. Combs was recognized for 12 years on the Master's Men Board.



Free Will Baptist Bible College President Charles Thigpen (L) and Board chairman Tom Maione welcome new Board Member, J. M. Creech of Tupelo, Miss.

Charles Denman was honored for four years' service as chairman of the National Convention Ushering Committee.

Howard Gwartney was given a plaque for initiating the Master's Hands Project.

Tim Jordan (GA), Paul Moore (IL) and Howard Gwartney (OK) were elected to the Master's Men Board.

**Rev. Herman Hersey** gave the Board of Retirement and Insurance report. He recognized the contribution of Rev. Lawnie Coffman who served 12 years on the Board.

Concern was evident as several questions were raised about problems associated with the new insurance program. There are currently 189 par-

ticipants in this program offered through American Heritage Life Insurance Company.

The denomination's pension plan now has more than 700 members. Deposits to their accounts average \$6,000 a week.

Since the retirement program began, the department has loaned \$3.8 million to our churches. In addition, the department has purchased church bonds totaling \$1.5 million.

Milton Hollifield (NC), Ron Barber (OK) and Glen Wright (TN) were elected to five-year terms on the Board of Retirement and Insurance. Jack Daniels (GA) was elected to fill an unexpired term ending in 1989.

All outstanding medical bills have been paid. Members of the Benevolent



Delegates listen to reports.

Fund Committee requested that the fund be retained for another year.

The report of the Commission on Theological Liberalism was the last report given before lunch. Commission members proposed that the Commission be renamed the Commission for Theological Integrity. They also requested that a statement of purpose and scope be placed in the by-laws of the National Association.



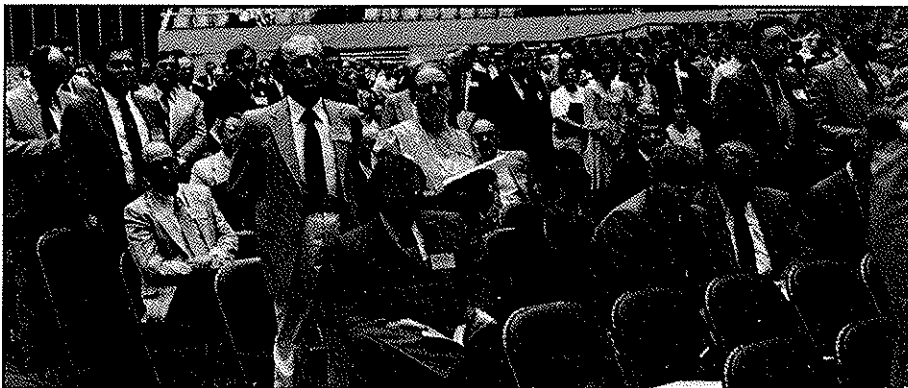
Georgia pastor Billy Sharpston makes a small friend.

Since the proposal required a constitutional change, it had to be tabled until Thursday.

Rev. Edwin Wade (OK) was re-elected to the Commission.

The convention reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Rev. Ralph Hampton, Jr., assistant moderator, read from II Timothy 3 and led the congregation in prayer.

An audio-visual presentation comprised the report of the Sunday School



Delegates stand up to be counted.



Roger Reeds reports to the National Convention.

and Church Training Department. The program entitled "A Ministry of Milestones" detailed the growth of the denomination's publishing house. Dr. Roger C. Reeds, general director, mentioned new products now available. *Linda's Song* and *The Free Will Baptists In America, 1727-1984* are the department's most recent releases.

Rev. George C. Lee reported for the Radio-Television Commission. Lee explained that a lack of funds prohibited the production of a television pilot program. He showed the plaque containing the names of individuals and churches that donated \$100 or more to the Commission. Lee distributed cards seeking additional monthly support for the Commission.

Delegates elected Larry Hampton to a five-year term on the Radio-Television Commission.

All reports of the departments and commissions were accepted.

Voters also approved the report of the Hymn Book Study Committee. Their recommendations call for a distinctively Free Will Baptist hymn book

to be published in 1988. The Executive Office will oversee the project which has an estimated cost of \$100,000. This new volume is expected to serve as the denomination's hymn book for 15 years. A hymn book questionnaire was distributed to conventioners following the vote.

Delegates endorsed the report of the Target 90 Committee. Target 90 is a five-year growth strategy. It aims at growth in two areas: membership and new churches. By 1990, Free Will Baptists plan to enlist 50,000 new members and plant 100 new churches. The cost of this campaign will be taken out of available funds. No additional funds will be solicited. Every department of the National Association is committed to work for the success of Target 90.

The following sites were selected for the national conventions on the dates listed.



Ushers assist Clerk Waldo Young (C) in tallying votes.

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Charleston, WV   | July 21-25, 1991 |
| Indianapolis, IN | July 19-23, 1992 |
| Louisville, KY   | July 18-22, 1993 |
| Little Rock, AR  | July 17-21, 1994 |
| Charlotte, NC    | July 16-20, 1995 |

At 3:00 p.m., the business session recessed until 9:00 a.m. Thursday.



## BUSINESS (from page 13)

The concluding business session began with scripture reading by Rev. Jerry Dudley.

Next, Mrs. Cleo Pursell gave her final report as executive secretary-treasurer of WNAC. She noted that 1,237 registered for the Auxiliary convention. Representatives from 23 states, two districts, and one local auxiliary trekked to Nashville.

Free Will Baptist women contributed \$358,288 in cash and non-cash gifts to missions and missionary objectives.

This year's Creative Arts Contest drew 120 participants and 378 entries.

A new history of WNAC, *Sparks Into Flame*, has been written by Dr. Mary R. Wisehart.



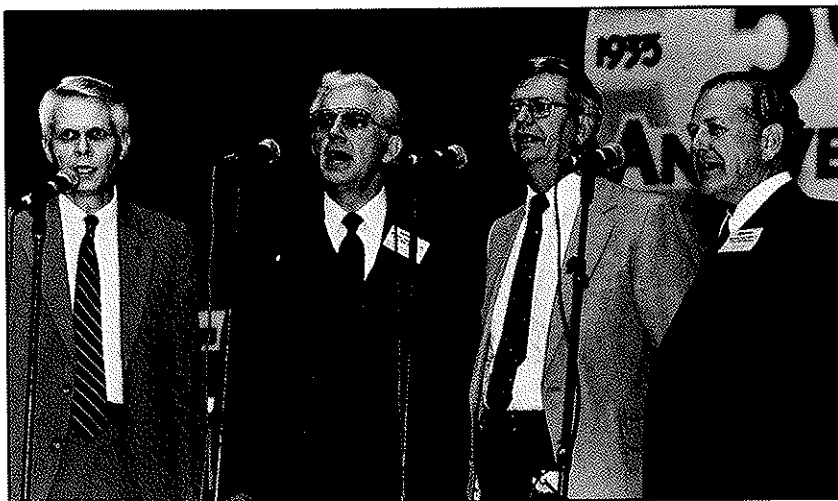
Larry Liverett (L), North Carolina pastor talks with Ray Lewis (Tenn.).

The report of the Historical Commission was presented by David Joslin. He noted that the Commission's 1985-86 projects are: (1) to publish the 50-year *Record* by the end of 1985, and (2) to investigate the possibility of starting a Free Will Baptist Historical Society in 1986.

The names of individuals present 50 years ago at the organizational meeting and at this year's session are to be included in the minutes. Rev. Ralph Staten, Mrs. Luther Reed, Agnes Frazier, J. B. Parsons, Mary Elizabeth Griffith and Ethel Burroughs were present at both.

Steve Hasty was elected to the Historical Commission.

Next, the recommendation of the Commission on Theological Liberalism



Gospeliers Quartet sing Wednesday evening.

was adopted. The commission's new name, purpose and scope will be added to the by-laws in the Treatise.

Then the clerk read the report of the Registration Committee.

Total registration for the National Convention reached 8,340. This is 1,736 more than registered in 1984 making this the largest convention ever.

The Budget Committee recommended combined budgets totaling \$11,120,335.86. Delegates approved these budgets.

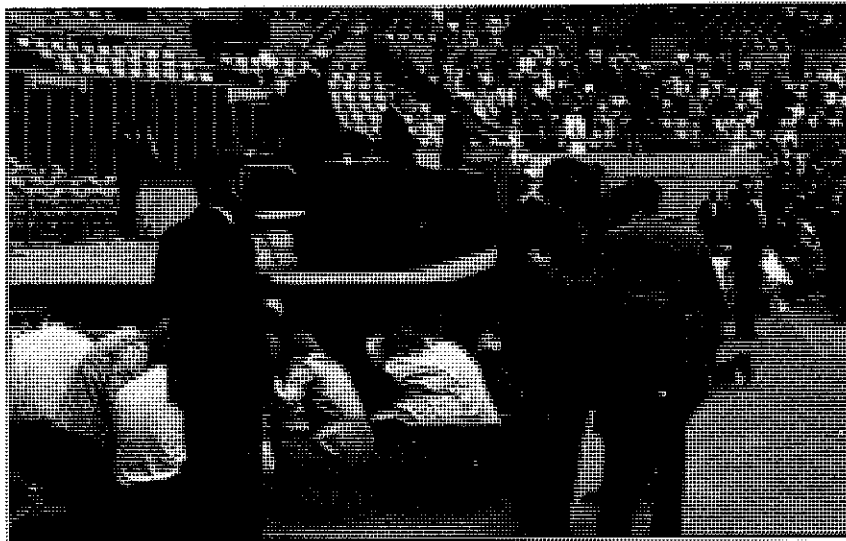
Three resolutions came from the Resolutions Committee. All were approved. Resolution number two was amended to instruct the clerk to send a copy of the resolution to the major television networks as well as both houses of Congress.

Miscellaneous business included a motion to instruct the Executive Committee to consider providing nursery facilities at future conventions. This motion passed.

A motion to commend the general officers of the National Association was also approved by the body.

The final item of business was election of general officers. Bobby Jackson, moderator; Ralph Hampton, Jr., assistant moderator; Waldo Young, clerk; Keith Burden, assistant clerk were reelected.

At 10:09 a.m. the 49th session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists concluded with prayer. The assistant moderator thanked God for the past 50 years and asked God's blessings on the next 50. ▲



Altar service concludes Wednesday evening sermon.

### 1986 BUDGETS ADOPTED

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Executive Office .....                   | \$ 304,786.86          |
| Executive Church Bonds .....             | 10,000.00              |
| Free Will Baptist Bible College .....    | 2,297,000.00           |
| Foreign Missions .....                   | 3,148,471.00           |
| Home Missions and Church Extension ..... | 1,800,000.00           |
| Master's Men .....                       | 84,322.00              |
| Retirement and Insurance .....           | 178,456.00             |
| Free Will Baptist Foundation .....       | 17,000.00              |
| Sunday School and Church Training .....  | 3,258,000.00           |
| Radio and Television Commission .....    | 22,300.00              |
| <b>TOTAL .....</b>                       | <b>\$11,120,335.86</b> |

### 1986 CO-OP ALLOCATIONS

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

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



Home Missions staff and missionaries wait for service to begin.

### 1985 REGISTRATION

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| National Convention .....                   | 5,447        |
| Ministers .....                             | 800          |
| Missionaries .....                          | 92           |
| State Delegates .....                       | 103          |
| Local Church Delegates .....                | 161          |
| Standing Delegates .....                    | 8            |
| Non-Delegates .....                         | 4,283        |
| National Youth Convention .....             | 1,656        |
| Woman's National Auxiliary Convention ..... | 1,237        |
| <b>TOTAL .....</b>                          | <b>8,340</b> |

This, the largest registration total in the 50-year history of the National Association, exceeds the previous high (1984) by 1,736.

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

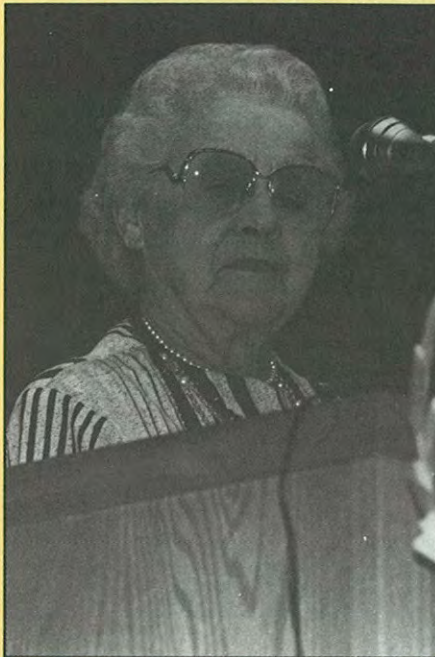
\*All national ministries receive funds through the Cooperative Plan except for Executive Church Bonds and the Sunday School and Church Training Department which are self-sustaining.

# A Past to Remember, A Future to Mold

By Lorene Miley with Debbie Payne



Outgoing WNAC Executive Secretary unwraps memory quilt during Tuesday tribute.



Agnes Frazier (L) and Laura Belle Barnard address auxiliary members.



A spirit of gratitude underscored a challenge to serve at the 50th annual session of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention. Missionaries from seven foreign countries were among the 1,237 who registered to walk through the corridors of the past into the beckoning lights of the future.

Auxiliary activities opened Monday afternoon with the seminar "Jewels Far Above Rubies." Nearly 300 women heard Carol Pinkerton, proxy for Eunice Edwards, develop the topic, "The Jewel of Faith." Other jewels presented were Worship and Adoration, June Critcher; Motherhood, Trula Cronk; Devotion, Donna Wade; and Courage, Billye Gwartney.

Two resolutions emerged from the Presidents and Field Workers meeting, presided over by Mary Ruth Wisheart. Greater missionary outreach would be realized through the adoption of a national project and a monthly newsletter or auxiliary hotline.

President June Rolan presided over the Tuesday morning session which featured auxiliary pioneer Agnes Frazier and missionary pioneer Laura Belle Barnard. Twenty-one winners or their proxies received creative arts contest awards. One hundred twenty women from 21 states and two foreign countries submitted 378 entries in this year's contest.

In this election year, the nominating committee suggested only two changes. Geraldine Waid (GA) and Maurine Lee (NC) replace Barbara Fletcher and Helen Sanders as members at large.

"Go Tell Your World," a missionary cantata directed by Janis Williams, gave the afternoon a musical flavor. Laura Thigpen and Genny Waddell narrated with interspersed testimonies from Susan Turnbough, Spain; Sandra Payne, Ivory Coast; Patsy Vanhook, France; and Amy Robinson, Uruguay.

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This session closed with the much-anticipated tribute to Cleo Pursell for her 22 years of faithful service as WNAC's executive secretary-treasurer. Highlights included a dozen red roses, biographical review, presentation of a quilt composed of the name tags from WNAC's national retreat at Ridgecrest last year, and of course, the offering. State representatives presented their love gifts of over \$19,000.

The Foreign Missions Department joined with WNAC for their annual

fellowship dinner. A multimedia presentation, "From Victory Unto Victory," surveyed modern Free Will Baptist foreign missions, tracing the work passed on from trailblazers to the present.

Visitors sought out the auxiliary booth to view their celebration of themes. Volunteers cross-stitched some of our past themes which were combined to form a substantial craft display. Mrs. Pursell's memory quilt crafted by the Cumberland (TN) Dis-



More than 920 attend WNAC/Foreign Missions banquet.

-A Past to

Wisehart—A Mold

Your  
-Janis  
directs  
cantata.



trict women also attracted attention. Thirty-five segments of her life were represented in original cross-stitch designs.

Another booth attraction included the ceramic souvenir collection by Mrs. Norwood Gibson, Florence, SC, and offered lasting mementoes of this occasion.

WNAC's golden jubilee celebration offered a time of nostalgic remembrance, yet more importantly, a challenge to quicken our steps to the opportunities of the future. ▲

Laura Belle Barnard leads prayer of dedication for new Executive Committee members.

**ABOUT THE WRITERS:** Lorene Miley is editor of *Co-Laborer* magazine. Debbie Payne is an M.K. Her parents are missionaries to Ivory Coast, West Africa.



# NYC '85 Wrap-Up

By Jim Lauthern

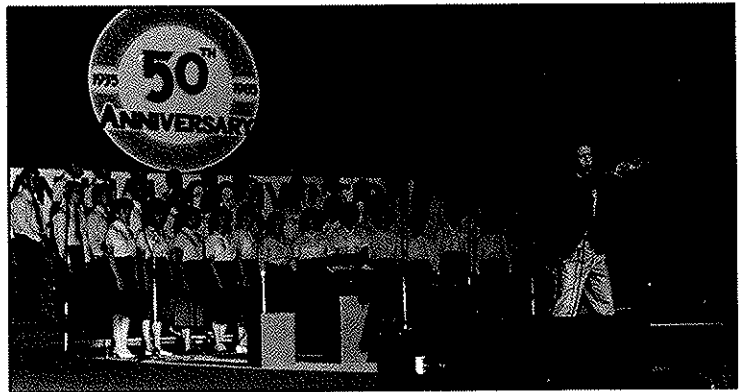
**T**he 1985 National Youth Conference convened with 1,400 attending Sunday School and morning worship services in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, downtown Nashville. Cars, vans and buses were rolling into downtown by mid-afternoon Sunday when registration began.

The Sunday evening keynote youth service started at 7:00 p.m. in Municipal Auditorium where more than 4,000 gathered to hear Jonathan Thigpen address the youth conference. As a teenager, Reverend Thigpen keynoted the first National Youth Conference in 1969.

Participants of the Truth and Peace Youth Leadership Conferences joined the Youth Evangelistic Team to present a musical drama that concluded this keynote service. Several made decisions during the invitation.

Approximately 2,000 youth and youth workers met Sunday at 9:00 p.m. in War Memorial Auditorium for a special "Welcome to Music City, USA" program. Sausage biscuits, Goo Goo bars and soft drinks set the mood for this one-hour presentation of Tennessee music and humor.

"Reach For The Gold," the youth conference theme, was featured in various ways during the conference. Two huge banners hung in the open atrium of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. A



David Outlaw performs "Creation."



Holly Brown, Ft. Smith, Ark., looks for the verse.

Gold Mine Booth featured souvenirs and youth materials.

Each morning began with a youth devotional time, "Nuggets of Gold," featuring youth workers from across the denomination.

Monday morning packed ballrooms and meeting rooms to capacity in the Hyatt Regency as Bible Competition and the Music and Arts Festival began. There were 535 competitive entries compared to 475 entries in 1984. Competition continued through Tuesday afternoon.

Finals in Bible Competition were conducted Wednesday morning. In keen competition, North Carolina outlasted the Missouri team to become Tic Tac Toe champions. Mississippi defeated Missouri in the final match to become the winning Bible Bowl team.

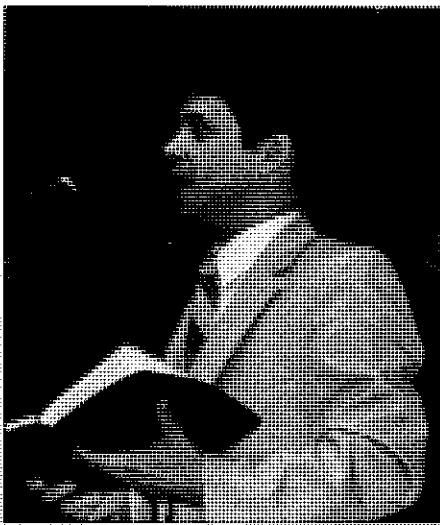
The 50 high-schoolers in Truth and Peace Youth Leadership Conference assumed leadership roles to assist the NYC staff with registration, recording, competition and special conference activities. They represented 19 states across the denomination.

During Monday evening afterservice activities, members of the Free Will Baptist Bible College choir presented a production, "Christmas in July." The lavishly decorated Hyatt Ballroom and the aroma of fresh-popped corn welcomed the more than 900 who attended.

Anticipation of the late Tuesday night youth banquet resulted in a sell-out of tickets to the 540-seat event



Jerry Carraway (Tenn.), rehearses the troops.



Keynote speaker, Jonathan Thigpen.

prior to the conference. The banquet, with the theme "A Touch of Class," was set in the beautiful Cumberland Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel. An excellent program, centered around "The Wedding," highlighted the evening.

The Wednesday evening afterservice activity, a "Birthday Party For Everyone," provided cake and soft drinks for refreshments and featured the film "Never Ashamed."

Activities for the younger children included films, ventriloquists, magicians and puppets. There were also afternoon tours to local museums and historical sites. The Learner/Adventurer Banquet highlighted the children's activities on Monday afternoon with a presentation of "The Christmas Lamb," a musical written and produced by Steve Elkins, a member of the Donelson FWB Church in Nashville.

Youth and youth workers attended seminars tailored especially for them on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

The 1985 NYC is now history. It was truly a year to "Reach For The Gold." We saw a record registration of 1,639 as well as a record number of competition entries and banquet attendees. Our 1985 NYC theme verse from Philippians 3:13, "reaching forth unto those things which are before," became a reality in the lives of many youth.

We now reach forth to Tulsa '86. ▲

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Jim Lauthern is director of the National Youth Conference.*

## 1985 Convention Tapes Available

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

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

| <u>Tape Number</u>                           | <u>Subject</u>   | <u>Quantity</u> |
|--|--|-----------------|
| <b>CONVENTION MESSAGES</b>                   |  |                 |
| 1.   | Harrold Harrison/Sunday School                             | _____           |
| 2.   | Herman Hersey/"Denominational Stewardship"                 | _____           |
| 3.   | L. C. Johnson/"Remembering the Past"                       | _____           |
| 4.   | Alton Loveless/"Reviewing the Present"                     | _____           |
| 5.   | Bobby Jackson/"Realizing the Potential"                    | _____           |
| <b>BIBLE CONFERENCE</b>                      |  |                 |
| 6.   | Connie Cariker   | _____           |
| 7.   | Eugene Waddell   | _____           |
| 8.   | Robert Picirilli   | _____           |
| <b>NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE</b>             |  |                 |
| 9.   | Jonathan Thigpen/NYC Keynote Service                       | _____           |
| 10.  | James Dunbar/Youth Seminar                                 | _____           |
| 11.  | Fred Carraway/Youth Workers Seminar                        | _____           |
| 12.  | Kevin Lauthern/Youth Seminar                               | _____           |
| 13.  | Blaine Hughes/Youth Workers Seminar                        | _____           |
| <b>WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION</b> |  |                 |
| 14.  | WNAC Seminar/"Jewels Far Above Rubies"                     | _____           |
| 15.  | Mary R. Wisheart/"A Future to Mold: Reaching for Tomorrow" | _____           |
| 16.  | Agnes Frazier/WNAC Devotional                              | _____           |
| 17.  | Laura Belle Barnard/WNAC Missionary Service                | _____           |
| 18.  | Tribute to Mrs. Cleo Pursell                               | _____           |
| <b>MEET 'N' EAT</b>                          |  |                 |
| 19.  | Tim Eaton/Hillsdale Luncheon                               | _____           |
| 20.  | Melvin Worthington/Master's Men Breakfast                  | _____           |
| <b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>                         |  |                 |
| 21.  | Bobby Jackson/Moderator's Message                          | _____           |
| 22.  | Roy Thomas/Ole Time Camp Meetin'                           | _____           |

Please Complete the Following:

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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Sandy Goodfellow

# RESOLUTIONS PASSED 1985

## MRS. CLEO PURSELL

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cleo Pursell has given exemplary and unselfish service to the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention for twenty-two years as Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and  
 WHEREAS, the work of the WNAC has grown significantly under her leadership, and  
 WHEREAS, 1985 marks her retirement from this position, therefore,  
 BE IT RESOLVED that this delegation of the National Association of Free Will Baptists give a standing vote of thanks to Mrs. Pursell in honor of her faithfulness to the WNAC and the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

## OFFENSIVE TV PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, there has been an increase in offensive material on television, and  
 WHEREAS, television continually holds fundamental Christianity and its preachers up to ridicule and scorn, and  
 WHEREAS, the National Association of Free Will Baptists opposes the advertisement, use and promotion of alcoholic beverages on television, and  
 WHEREAS, we appreciate the work of the Reverend Donald Wildmon and the National Federation for Decency in promoting fundamental Christianity on television, therefore,  
 BE IT RESOLVED that the clerk of this body send a letter to the Reverend Donald Wildmon and the National Federation for Decency informing them of

our support for their work in this area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerk of this body send a copy of this resolution and a letter to the major television networks and to each house of the U. S. Congress encouraging them to enact legislation appropriate to the position expressed in this resolution.

## APPRECIATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that this body give a standing vote of appreciation to the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists for their hosting this Golden Anniversary celebration of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

## Did You Know . . .

- . . . 920 conventioners attended the WNAC/Foreign Missions Banquet on Tuesday evening?
- . . . there were more than 55 booths in the exhibit area this year?
- . . . the Georgia FWB Historical Society was founded in 1985?
- . . . FWBBC had its best general fund year ever and still had a deficit of \$99,475.55?
- . . . the National Association originally intended to meet only every three years?
- . . . Mrs. Cleo Pursell completed 22 years at the helm of WNAC?
- . . . A recommendation requiring members of the Board of Retirement and Insurance to be participants in the plan was rejected by the General Board?
- . . . 180 different individuals have served as foreign missionaries since 1935?
- . . . 544 voted on Wednesday?
- . . . *Heartbeat* began publication in 1961?
- . . . a Free Will Baptist gives 21¢/week to foreign missions?
- . . . 1985 was the eighth year the men's chorale has sung at the National?
- . . . total gifts to home missions from 1935-84 totaled \$13,526,486.24?
- . . . total gifts to foreign missions from 1935-84 totaled \$26,622,112.44?
- . . . Evangelist Bobby Jackson began his itinerant ministry June 2, 1955?
- . . . Convention functions were held in seven different locations—Municipal Auditorium, Hyatt Regency, War Memorial Auditorium, Sheraton Hotel, Radisson Plaza, Cumberland Cafeteria/FWBBC, Ramada Inn-Downtown?

**"When is the last time you went to church to worship God?"**

—Bobby Jackson

**"Pastors who wouldn't let a heretic near the pulpit allow ungodly singers to perform in their church."**

—Bill Gardner

**"If anyone told you the Christian life is a rose garden, I hope you didn't believe him."**

—Robert Picirilli

**"Have you ever noticed how we make the fruit of the Spirit sound bad and the works of the flesh sound good?"**

—Bobby Jackson

**"Our shortage of preachers is partly due to our failure in stewardship."**

—Herman Hersey

**"You never preach doctrine? Shame on you! What do you preach?"**

—L. C. Johnson

**"We wouldn't need as many seminars on how to do it if we'd find out how God wants to do it."**

—L. C. Johnson

**"The question is not how can I get my people to give more but how can people be set free from greed?"**

—Herman Hersey



FREE WILL BAPTIST

## newsfront

### CALIFORNIA TO RE-DIRECT CCC EMPHASIS

FRESNO, CA—The California Christian College Board of Trustees brought a recommendation to the June 13-15 State Association that the college return to an emphasis on student practical work and training. Delegates endorsed the recommendation which prevents closing the college but will restructure the academic program.

Declining student enrollment for several years prompted the Board to release the administration and faculty this spring. The Board will seek new workers for the college's restructured program.

Executive Secretary Paul Kennedy said that delegates also voted to move the state office to the Fresno campus of California Christian College in 1986.

More than 300 delegates and visitors crowded in Memorial FWB Church in Fresno to conduct State Association business. While Moderator Lynn Wood directed the agenda, the temperature outside in the San Joaquin Valley climbed over the 100° mark each day.

Dr. Charles Thigpen, president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, joined California ministers Jonathan Yandell, Tim Rolen, and Archie Mayhew in preaching the 42nd annual State Association's theme, "Let Us Go Up At Once."

The 1986 State Association will meet June 12-14 in Memorial FWB Church.

### EVANGELIST THOMAS BRASHEAR WITH THE LORD

RUSSELLVILLE, AR—The Reverend Thomas (Tommy) Brashear, noted Free Will Baptist evangelist, died of a heart attack June 30, 1985, at Dardanelle Hospital in Dardanelle, Arkansas.

Reverend Brashear became seriously ill late Saturday evening after officiating at his granddaughter's wedding. He was rushed to the hospital but died shortly after arriving at the facility.

Reverend Brashear began preaching 35 years ago. For the past 31 years, he was a full-time evangelist. He conducted more than 1,000 revivals. He had meetings booked into 1987 at the time of his death.

Brother Brashear told writer Larry Hampton in 1984, who was doing research on Free Will Baptist evangelists, that 30 years of evangelistic work was "starting to take its toll." He said he planned to cut back his schedule to two revivals per month.

The 66-year-old evangelist was recognized on sight by thousands of Free Will Baptists. Pastors considered him their friend. He was welcomed in pulpits across the nation.

A son of the late Thomas L. Brashear and the late Amanda Suzanne Barham Brashear, he was born May 1, 1919, at Pottsville. He was a member of the Woodlawn Free Will Baptist Church. He was a veteran of World War II and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



More than 500 friends and colleagues attended funeral services July 2 at First Free Will Baptist Church in Russellville. The Reverends Connie Cariker and George Latham officiated.

Reverend Brashear is survived by his wife, Imo, and one son, Jerrell Brashear, both of Russellville; a daughter, Mrs. Lawanda Elkins of Oklahoma City; three brothers, Terrel Brashear, Sr., of Russellville; Warren Brashear of Casa Grande, Arizona; and Kermit Brashear of Little Rock; one sister, Mrs. Lucille Jackson Kell of Fort Smith; five grandchildren and a host of friends.

### KENTUCKY INVITES 1993 NATIONAL CONVENTION

PIKEVILLE, KY—Delegates to the 46th annual Kentucky State Association voted to host the 1993 National Convention, according to Promotional Secretary Mike Carter. The state previously hosted the 1981 National Convention in Louisville.

Meeting at Pikeville FWB Church, June 14-15, more than 300 attended the business and worship sessions.

After some discussion, delegates adopted a state cooperative plan to fund state and national outreaches. Kentucky churches were encouraged to give at least 10 percent of their offerings to outside causes through the cooperative channel.

The following formula for distribution of cooperative funds was adopted:

State General Fund—18%, State Mission Board—23%, State Promotional Office—5%, Bethel Bible Institute—13%, Camp Caleb—18%, National Cooperative Plan—13%, *Under God* paper—10%.

*Under God*, a monthly publication with Ed May as editor, was endorsed as the official publication of the Kentucky State Association.

Reverends Dewey Conley and Curtis Beculhimer preached the Friday evening and Saturday morning messages.

Delegates elected Reverend Sandy Adams as moderator. The 1986 session will meet June 20-21 at Faith FWB Church near Grayson.



# newsfront

(continued)

## INDIANA ADOPTS DR. EAGLETON

CHESTERFIELD, IN—When delegates to the Indiana State Association learned of Dr. Kenneth Eagleton's need for funds to depart for Ivory Coast, West Africa, they adopted the 29-year-old medical doctor and accepted a challenge to raise \$8,000 for the Eagleton family.

The decision to adopt the Eagletons was made during the June 14-15 meeting at First FWB Church in Chesterfield. Moderator Archie Ratliff guided the 150 delegates and visitors through the mid-June session.

In other business, delegates reactivated the state Home Missions Board, which Moderator Ratliff termed "a positive step for the state."

Anticipating an opportunity to host the 1992 National Convention, delegates endorsed a resolution calling for each Indiana church to raise \$92 each year to underwrite convention expenses.

Brian Atwood, pastor of Emmanuel FWB Church in Wabash, and his brother Richard Atwood, pastor of New Castle FWB Church in Delaware, preached sermons during the state meeting.

## OHIO TO BUILD STATE OFFICE IN COLUMBUS

COLUMBUS, OH—Following a year-long study by the Board of Directors, delegates to the 47th annual Ohio State Association voted to proceed with plans to purchase property in Columbus and build a state office/bookstore complex.

Dr. Alton Loveless, Ohio executive secretary, said the state expects to pay \$45,000 for property on the main street in Columbus.

Approximately 500 delegates and visitors met at Heritage Temple FWB Church, Columbus, for the June 21-22 state association. Moderator Wendell Combs was elected to a third term.

Delegates also voted to invite the 1997 National Convention to meet in Ohio. National Conventions previously met in the state in 1975 (Dayton) and 1983 (Columbus).

Three Ohio pastors preached sermons on the associational theme, "The Unity of the Godhead." Pastor Oscar Baldwin preached "Chosen By the Father;" Pastor Merlin Teets preached "Redeemed By the Son;" Pastor Kenneth Frisbee preached "Sealed By the Spirit."

Home Missionary Roy Roach was commissioned during the Friday evening service.

## VIRGINIA STATE SPEAKS ON UNITY

ROANOKE, VA—The 92 delegates and visitors to Virginia's State Association heard five sermons on unity during the June 13-14 session at First FWB Church in Roanoke.

The 47th annual session combined a Bible Conference and State Association agenda. Ministers speaking included Dale Burden, Robert Picirilli, Walter Statzer, Ronnie Floyd and Steve Cannon. In addition, Norton, Virginia pastor Tim Sturgill spoke during the Thursday evening banquet.

Delegates elected Tim Sturgill as moderator, succeeding out-going Bob Surber.

The 1986 session will meet at First FWB Church in Roanoke.

## HOME MISSIONS STAFF LEAD KANSAS MEETING

TOPEKA, KS—The National Home Missions staff led an evangelism conference thrust at the June 13-15 meeting of the Kansas State Association.

Moderator Andrew Pearcy said the theme for the 24th annual session was "Go Forward." Home Mission staffers Roy Thomas, Connie Cariker, Trymon Messer and John Gibbs spoke to the delegates and visitors who gathered at First FWB Church in Topeka.

Delegates elected Salina pastor Gary Mitchener as General Board member to the National Association.

Nebraska Home Missionary Wanda McClary spoke during the Friday evening Auxiliary Banquet which was catered at the church.

The 1986 state association meets at First FWB Church in Salina.

## WORK CREW ERECTS MISSION CHURCH IN ONE WEEK

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—Eleven men and three women arrived in Colorado Springs from Oklahoma on June 1 to help erect a new building for Harvest Free Will Baptist Church. Home Missionary Bob Lewis said that Rev. Howard Gage challenged the group to take a week's vacation and assist in the project.

Under the direction of Howard Gwartney, a professional contractor employed by the Home Missions Department as a part-time missionary builder, the men raised the walls on Monday, June 3.

Services were conducted Wednesday night in the shell which was completely framed. When the group left on June 8, after working 12 to 16 hours a

day, the building was ready to be drywalled.

Pastor Lewis said, "These workers saved the congregation of this mission

church hundreds of dollars and weeks of difficult labor. We hope that others will do the same thing for Home Mission churches."



Oklahoma crew poses after a long day's work.

## HILLSDALE COLLEGE COMPLETES BUILDING, ADDS FACILITY

MOORE, OK—Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College announced the completion of a new library/classroom building this summer. President Edwin Wade says that the new 10,500-square foot structure with a price tag of \$640,000 is debt free.

During the summer months staff members were busy moving library and faculty offices in preparation for classes in August.

Rev. Sam Wilkinson and his wife June joined the college faculty in August, according to Dr. Thomas Marberry, vice president of academic affairs.



Reverend Wilkinson's primary responsibility will be to teach missions courses and give direction to the overall missions program at Hillsdale. He will also teach in other subject areas. Mrs. Wilkinson will teach on a part-time basis. During the fall semester she will teach speech and typing.

"We are very pleased to have Sam and June as a part of our college family. We believe that they will make a great contribution to our missions program and to many other areas of the Hillsdale ministry," commented Dr. Marberry.

## 'VICTORY' THEME AT MARYLAND STATE

BEDFORD, VA—The 19th annual session of the Maryland State Association met at First FWB Church, Bedford, Virginia, under a "Victory in Jesus" theme. Pastor Lester Horton moderated the June 21-22 meeting. One hundred fifty were in attendance.

Three ministers preached messages explaining the victory theme. Reverend Danny Dwyer, staffer at Southeastern FWB College, keyed the state association. Pastors Murray Southwell and Vergel Maness completed the

theme preaching. North Carolina pastor Billy Bevan addressed a Friday evening fellowship banquet.

Delegates passed a resolution urging that the next home, mission project in the region be placed on the Maryland side of Washington, D.C.

Moderator Horton said the state adopted a \$31,000 budget for 1986, the largest in the organization's history.

The 1986 state association will meet in New Castle, Delaware.

## CANADIANS ELECT HANSON TO SEVENTH TERM

HARTLAND, N.B. CANADA—Moderator Fred D. Hanson, pastor of Upper Brighton and Wakefield FWB Churches, was elected to a seventh term by delegates to the June 27-30 session of the Atlantic Canada Association of Free Will Baptists. Hanson also serves as General Board member for the Canadian churches.

Kentucky-based evangelist Tim York spoke five times during the meeting at St. John Valley Bible Camp. Evangelist York developed a series on the theology of the early church from the book of Acts. His sermons included the revelation of the scripture, regeneration of the sinner, reality of the spirit, responsibility for soul winning and the resurrection of the saints.

Delegates authorized a committee to gather information regarding group insurance and report later.

The 1986 session will meet June 26-29 at St. Johns Valley Bible Camp.

## SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE BEGINS THIRD YEAR

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—Southeastern Free Will Baptist College will begin its third year of operation on Monday, August 26. Newly appointed president, Dr. Joseph Ange, will deliver the opening address.

On Tuesday, Pastor Larry Stevens, Parker's Chapel FWB Church, Greenville, North Carolina, will preach to

students, parents, faculty and friends who attend opening services.

South Carolina Pastor Willie Justice will deliver the concluding message Tuesday night. Registration for fall classes begins Tuesday morning, August 27, with classes starting Wednesday, August 28.



Justice



Ange



Stevens

### Directory Update

#### GEORGIA

Willie Martin to Emmanuel Church, Columbus

#### ILLINOIS

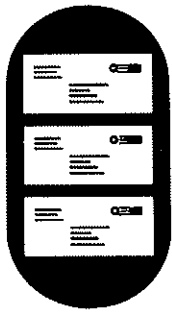
Bob Norton to First Church, Niantic

#### TENNESSEE

Daniel Dean to First Church, Murfreesboro

#### TEXAS

Joe Buttgen to Christ's Church, Corpus Christi



**OUR  
READERS  
COMMENT**

**ARTICLE STOPPED TOO SOON**

Thank you for the July issue. One portion of the article "How It All Works" ended a little too soon. Mr. Joslin says services provided by the National Association include home and foreign missions outreach, specialized training at Free Will Baptist Bible College and literature for Sunday Schools and Church Training.

I agree, we do provide those. But that is certainly not the end as he suggests. What about the services provided by the other departments—Foundation, Master's Men, Retirement and Insurance?

Our polity in the past has limited our vision. Mr. Hendrix' article states the reason the various departments exist in our National Association is to assist local churches in fulfilling the task Christ left for us, that is to disciple. I think it's time we realized that serving in any capacity is a form of discipleship.

Someone in the past believed each of our seven departments was worthy and vital or they would not have been established. Every Free Will Baptist church should see just what the National has to offer for every individual.

Reverend Ray Lewis  
Nashville, Tennessee

**PASTOR APPRECIATES MAGAZINE**

Just a word to express my thanks for *Contact*. I look forward each month to receiving our magazine. Most of the articles are well worth reading.

I appreciate the kindness extended to our friends from other states who came to Nashville for the National Association in pointing out some of the interesting places to see in Nashville. Many use this time for vacation as well as attend our National Association. I think this was a thoughtful and helpful gesture.

I enjoyed the July articles concerning Free Will Baptists by Bill Davidson, J. D. O'Donnell, David Joslin and our moderator Bobby Jackson.

Reverend Melvin Knott, Pastor  
Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church  
Clarksville, Tennessee

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



**... Through the  
Cooperative Channel**

**Cooperative Channel Contributions  
June, 1985**

**RECEIPTS:**

| State          | Design.            | Coop               | Total              | June, '84          | Yr. To Date         |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Alabama        | \$ 339.00          | \$ 1,000.00        | \$ 1,339.00        | \$ 464.88          | \$ 4,013.63         |
| Arizona        | .00                | 20.40              | 20.40              | 78.30              | 166.75              |
| Arkansas       | 15.00              | 3,811.24           | 3,826.24           | 3,777.19           | 23,083.69           |
| California     | .00                | 974.96             | 974.96             | 1,333.40           | 5,348.98            |
| Florida        | .00                | 1,001.34           | 1,001.34           | 1,832.73           | 8,720.07            |
| Georgia        | 3,695.15           | 5.00               | 3,700.15           | 4,357.08           | 25,406.29           |
| Idaho          | .00                | .00                | .00                | .00                | 131.60              |
| Illinois       | 3,946.87           | 2,939.23           | 6,886.10           | .00                | 39,502.39           |
| Indiana        | 516.58             | .00                | 516.58             | 444.84             | 4,302.25            |
| Kansas         | .00                | 50.95              | 50.95              | .00                | 585.13              |
| Kentucky       | .00                | 106.20             | 106.20             | 129.40             | 1,304.40            |
| Maryland       | .00                | .00                | .00                | .00                | 180.00              |
| Michigan       | 2,498.11           | 1,842.00           | 4,340.11           | 4,371.31           | 17,090.31           |
| Mississippi    | .00                | 10.25              | 10.25              | 449.32             | 1,663.06            |
| Missouri       | 1,159.33           | 6,899.52           | 8,058.85           | 8,982.11           | 45,107.72           |
| New Mexico     | 45.17              | 22.59              | 67.76              | 45.56              | 238.22              |
| North Carolina | 30.00              | 575.00             | 605.00             | 626.57             | 5,178.21            |
| Ohio           | 247.00             | 2,389.00           | 2,636.00           | .00                | 17,150.20           |
| Oklahoma       | 19,790.64          | 8,308.91           | 28,099.55          | 33,907.59          | 205,293.79          |
| South Carolina | .00                | .00                | .00                | .00                | 715.85              |
| Tennessee      | 231.36             | 863.05             | 1,094.41           | 575.95             | 6,377.65            |
| Texas          | 7,768.44           | 916.85             | 8,685.29           | 6,572.26           | 31,006.42           |
| Virginia       | .00                | 197.12             | 197.12             | 149.30             | 3,466.43            |
| West Virginia  | 3,286.15           | 125.52             | 3,411.67           | 3,561.74           | 21,814.97           |
| Canada         | .00                | .00                | .00                | .00                | 25.00               |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>\$43,568.80</b> | <b>\$32,059.13</b> | <b>\$75,627.93</b> | <b>\$71,659.53</b> | <b>\$467,873.01</b> |

**DISBURSEMENTS**

|                                      |                    |                    |                    |                    |                     |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Executive Office                     | \$ 185.98          | \$13,950.43        | \$14,136.41        | \$13,070.42        | \$ 84,145.31        |
| Foreign Missions                     | 32,298.79          | 4,164.99           | 36,463.78          | 36,124.73          | 224,477.20          |
| FWBBC                                | 2,086.22           | 4,164.99           | 6,251.21           | 5,366.41           | 37,237.95           |
| Home Missions                        | 7,630.69           | 3,259.55           | 10,890.24          | 10,513.28          | 76,663.87           |
| Retirement & Insurance               | 47.25              | 2,535.24           | 2,582.49           | 2,715.46           | 14,598.93           |
| Master's Men                         | 36.72              | 2,354.14           | 2,390.86           | 2,390.95           | 13,560.99           |
| Commission for Theological Integrity | 17.81              | 181.08             | 198.89             | 185.09             | 1,138.55            |
| FWB Foundation                       | 12.54              | 1,086.55           | 1,099.09           | 1,070.48           | 6,407.46            |
| Historical Commission                | 17.81              | 181.08             | 198.89             | 183.42             | 1,126.58            |
| Radio & TV Commission                | 12.55              | 181.08             | 193.63             | .00                | 1,195.28            |
| Hillsdale FWB College                | 1,188.17           | .00                | 1,188.17           | 22.61              | 7,014.28            |
| Other                                | 34.27              | .00                | 34.27              | 16.68              | 306.61              |
| <b>Totals</b>                        | <b>\$43,568.80</b> | <b>\$32,059.13</b> | <b>\$75,627.93</b> | <b>\$71,659.53</b> | <b>\$467,873.01</b> |



**Hillsdale FWB College, Moore, OK**, graduated 38 students in May. Sixteen students received the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology. Twenty-two students received Associate in Arts Degrees.

Pastor **Keith Fletcher, Oak Valley FWB Church, Geff, IL**, said the congregation observed ground breaking ceremonies in late spring for a new auditorium, classrooms, kitchen and fellowship hall. The brick auditorium will seat one hundred twenty. The structure will be air conditioned and carpeted. Pastor Fletcher said the congregation expects to be in the new building this fall.

Members of **Shelby FWB Church, Shelby, NC**, completed a \$25,000 renovation project at the church at a cost of less than \$11,000, according to Pastor **Ed Hutchinson**. Dr. Hutchinson said that 36 members worked on the renovation project with most of their energies expended in the sanctuary and Sunday School areas. After the painting and enlarging work was complete, new carpet and pews were installed. The church has doubled in attendance in less than two years.

After breaking attendance records of more than 250 in Sunday School and worship, members at **Stratford FWB Church, Stratford, OK**, launched a construction and remodeling program for their auditorium and classroom complex. Pastor **Charles Bigger** said the old auditorium was remodeled and turned into seven classrooms. The new 350-seat auditorium is 54 feet wide and 76 feet long.

Four students completed their studies at **Georgia Bible Institute in Albany, GA**, this spring. The graduates were **LaVerne Mock, Betty Akridge, Reuben Cason** and **Jimmy Brown**. Rev. **Mance Cason** delivered the graduation address.

**Fellowship FWB Church, Dunn, NC**, celebrated **Mike Trimble's** first year anniversary with a pastor appreciation day. The congregation voted to make all necessary repairs to the pastor's car. Pastor Trimble, reflecting on his first year, said, "Each day I grow and learn. Our congregation is loving and caring. I am looking forward to God's continued blessings upon our church."

A new Sunday School attendance record was set this spring at **Holmesville FWB Church, New Brunswick, Canada**. The church recorded 214 present during the Sunday School hour. The congregation also completed construction on an addition to the auditorium and a new foyer at the church.

The Board of Trustees at **Bethel Bible Institute, Paintsville, KY**, named

**Mike Carter** president during its June meeting. Carter succeeds Bob Shockey who is presently serving at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN. Carter said, "We had 120 students this spring and look for many more in the fall sessions." According to material distributed at the Kentucky State Association in June, Bethel Bible Institute offers tuition-free classes. Interested persons may contact the institute at Box 1226, Paintsville, KY 41240.

**First FWB Church, Ft. Smith, AR**, conducted dedication services July 7 for the R. E. Pixley Family Center Building. State promotional director, **David Joslin** preached the morning message. Dedication and open house activities were observed Sunday afternoon. **Rupert Pixley** pastors.

How far would you drive to attend church on Sunday? Someone polled the members at **Calvary Fellowship FWB Church, Fenton, MO**, and discovered

that five families drove more than 30 miles each Sunday to attend church. **Jerry Norris** pastors.

Members of **Guin FWB Church, Guin, AL**, were challenged by their pastor to raise \$5,000 for the bus fund on a particular Sunday. Pastor **Richard Cordell** said that the group exceeded their goal and raised \$7,000 for the fund. The church expects to buy two used buses.

**Gary Maines** is the new principal at **Trinity Christian School, Greenville, NC**. The school is an outreach of Trinity FWB Church. **Leroy Welch** pastors.

**Bob and Betti Snyder** began a new Sunday School class at **Gateway FWB Church, Virginia Beach, VA**. The new class is for physically and mentally handicapped children 12 years of age and under. **Dale Burden** pastors. ▲

## But Can I Trust Him?

By Marilyn Pritchard

**B**ut can I trust Him? After all, you know, it's my life, a precious thing to me. I can't indiscriminately or blindly hand control of it over to just anyone. Besides if I give Him my life with no strings attached, what will He do with it?

Will He botch things up for me? Will He cause problems that I'll never get worked out? Will He require things that are impossible? Will He make my life miserable? Is He really capable of handling something so delicate and complex as my life? Will I regret it? Can I trust Him?

After all, He's only the God of the universe, the God of Creation. He only loves me enough to have sacrificed His only Son for me. He only understands every fear and problem I encounter because He was once a man.

His omniscience sees yesterday and tomorrow. He only knows every detail that will happen to me forever. He only has complete compassion and cares deeply about what happens to me. And He only has all power to control the forces, seen and unseen that surround me.

So, considering what I know about Him, can I trust Him? Is my knowledge superior to His? My ability to see into the future? My knack for solving problems? My strength? Can I always determine what's the best course of action? After all, I am a human. And He is only God.

Can I trust Him? Job was right, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him!" ▲

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Marilyn Pritchard is editorial assistant for CONTACT.*

**What Are We Doing To...**

# Reach the Minorities?



By Frank Breeden

**L**et's suppose, just for sake of consideration, that a law is passed by your legislature: Meet a quota of 25 percent minority church membership or lose your tax exempt status.

Sure, it sounds preposterous. But which would anger you more, the loss of a precious financial privilege or government being more concerned about reaching neglected people than you are?

Minorities don't have problems simply because they are fewer in number. Billionaires are small in number but they get plenty of attention. Examine the essence of being a minority in America and you'll discover one common ingredient—prejudice!

Whether it be a physical handicap, skin color, ethnic or racial peculiarity, language difference, mental deficiency, gender or financial position, if it deviates from the norm of a given society it either receives a suspicious glance

from the rest of the populace or no attention at all.

So, whether prejudice causes society to neglect a group of people or ignorance of a need is the cause, the effect is the same—they get left out.

## Bible Facts

What is the ideal approach to reaching these minorities? Let's be biblical about it, before we form an opinion that justifies our present situation. The scripture (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8) makes several facts clear for us, if we are willing to listen.

Most emphatic are the commands to reach people with the gospel. "Ye shall be my witnesses" and "Go ye" include all Christians in the evangelistic process. The issue of minorities is addressed, and it is equally emphatic. Not only are we all told to go, but go to all. "Into all the world" makes clear that there should be no worries about stepping out of bounds.

The command becomes even more specific in Acts 1:8 when Jesus addresses the specific question of who should hear the gospel. For those who would neglect their neighbor, he defines Jerusalem as the street where you live. He also lays the responsibility on us to reach Judea, our region.

For those who tend to neglect the other side of the tracks, He includes Samaria in the list. If he had not, some Jews, for sure, would have found a "weasel clause" somewhere to keep them from being responsible for the hated Samaritans.

And, of course, for those who have erroneously thought that home missions was the extent of our evangelistic task, the Master completes the list by telling us to reach "every creature" and go "to the uttermost" to do it.

## Silence No Solution

Most of us believe this. Most of us, deep inside our hearts, would be willing

to witness to everybody, if we would be willing to witness at all. Almost. The fact is, even the most ardent evangelist has a Samaria somewhere in his domain. Sometimes "they" exist quietly in their own world and we're content to let them do so, as long as they don't bother to ask for the gospel.

Have you ever entertained the notion that "they" are better off worshipping on their own, in their specific way, and that they probably prefer it that way? If you feel this way, it's almost certain that your skin is white.

For those who are brown, black, yellow or red, the song has a different tune. Maybe they worship by themselves, live in their neighborhoods and exist in their own society because they have been forced to do so. If we are not careful, we won't bother to find out or offer a different suggestion for fear they might take us up on it. Hence, our Samaritan solution—silence.

## BLACKS

Let's be specific about racial minorities. It is at least one item that we all have in common. No matter where we live, some group will always be the "off" color. The largest group of people constituting a racial minority in our nation is the black populace.

If challenge ever stared Free Will Baptist churches right in the face, particularly in the South, it's the challenge to reach out to the black man.

## INDIANS

American Indians probably rank near the top as recipients of evangelistic prejudice. Whether it be Maine, Minnesota, Oklahoma or Washington, you'll find a marked absence of Indians in the white man's society. He is, to his area, what the black man is to the South, only the color of the Samaritan is different.

## HISPANICS

The Hispanic population is another major target of racism in our evangelical world. He may be a Mexican in southern California or Texas, a Cuban refugee in south Florida or a Puerto Rican in New York City. He, too, has been shut out behind the great white curtain.

## ORIENTALS

With the recent turn of events in politics and foreign diplomacy, the international portion of our nation has begun to feel the influx of many refugees from Oriental lands and other places. What was exclusive to "China Town" regions of New York City, San Francisco and Los Angeles, may now be present in typical mid-America rural farm communities. The difference is that there may be 500 Vietnamese or Haitian refugees now living there. It presents a problem for those who have enjoyed a static way of life for so long.

## Free Will Baptist Outreach

Free Will Baptists are doing something. Sure, we can do more, and we need to do more. But at least we are doing something.

Many of our churches have provided for the physically handicapped. More churches than ever have sign language with their services. Reserved parking spaces for the handicapped, wheel chair ramps, special transportation and easy access restrooms all help the physically handicapped to know that we care about their souls. However, our zeal to help the physically handicapped seldom matches our zeal to reach the man with a different skin color.

Attend the Southern Free Will Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and you'll find an inner-city church which reaches every nationality that city has to offer. In California, before you step down the hall to Pastor Lynn Wood's office, you'll pass a study belonging to the Korean Church pastor. They share facilities at Garden Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

California has five Spanish-speaking churches to reach the Hispanic people of their state. Because Californians cared, Hispanics can now hear the gospel.

The same is true in Florida. Hispanics in Miami can attend a Spanish-speaking church and hear Rev. Benito Rodriguez preach the gospel.

Cross Beams Missions team, Jim and Mitzi Munsey, not only cared enough to build a Free Will Baptist Church in Templo, Texas, they extended their energy and resources to

establish a church in Reynosa, Mexico. Even when language was a barrier between them and the Spanish-speaking people, they helped establish a Spanish-speaking leader, Sr. Manuel Larraga, to help break that barrier.

Most churches with a successful bus ministry have done much to incorporate minorities into their predominantly white worship service. Even though most of the bus riders are children, the churches have a better opportunity to reach their parents than ever before.

## What Now?

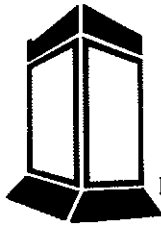
Are we doing all we can? Of course not. For those who are doing something, they can be commended and challenged to be a continuous example of evangelism without prejudice.

For those who exist in the middle of untapped mission fields, why not re-evaluate your stance. Why be more enthusiastic about winning blacks in Ivory Coast than reaching them in your town?

We are pointing a soul to Christ when we witness. Now, if we're concerned about the souls of men, remember that a soul is exempt from racial designation, gender, language and financial standing. Maybe if we saw souls more than skin, we would have better success. What do you think? ▲



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Frank Breeden is public relations assistant at Free Will Baptist Bible College.



## The Free Will Baptist Pulpit

Reverend Robert Hesselmeier, Pastor

Beech Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Saitillo,  
Mississippi

# The Jehovah Waiters

Isaiah 40:27-31

## INTRODUCTION

Israel feels forsaken of God in an unsympathizing, hostile world (How so for us of the church age). Isaiah 40 tells Israel the Babylonian captivity is about to end. The spirit of the chapter is very much like I Thessalonians 4:18. This comfort is based upon who and what God is (note vv. 12 and 22).

### I. The Condition for Comfort (v. 31a)

A. "But" indicates a change from v. 30.

B. "Wait upon" means to wait in sense of expecting.

1. Does not imply inactivity or want of exertion
2. (Illustration) A farmer waiting for God to plough and plant would not only be disappointed but also guilty of provoking God.

C. The class of persons meant to be described are those who show their confidence in God's ability and willingness to execute His promises, by patiently waiting their fulfillment.

### II. The Renewed Comfort ("shall renew")

A. People of God who trust in Him

1. Shall become strong in faith.
2. Shall be able to contend with their spiritual foes.
3. Will gain victory over their sins.
4. Will discharge their duties while meeting trials of life.

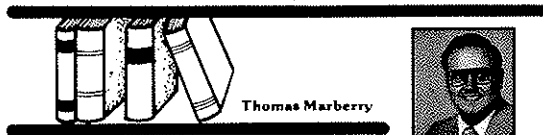
B. Israel saw God as (v. 28)

1. Everlasting
2. The Creator
3. Unwearied
4. Unsearchable (This is how we need to see God.)

## CONCLUSION

This section of Isaiah is made up of nine parts. Two end at 48:22 and 57:21. The third one ends at 66:24. These tell of unfaithfulness. However, 40:31 ends another part which says the Jehovah waiters shall have the strength to do God's will.

## Top Shelf



Thomas Marberry



**Richard R. Reiter, Paul D. Feinberg, Gleason L. Archer, Jr., and Douglas J. Moo, *The Rapture: Pre-, Mid-, or Post-Tribulation?* (Grand Rapids: Academie Books, 1984, 268 pp., hardback, \$13.95).**

Many books on eschatology shed more heat than light, but that's not true of this one. This book is a serious attempt by three leading scholars to grapple with an issue which has long divided Premillennialism, the time of the Rapture.

Feinberg defends the view popularized a number of years ago by C. I. Scofield that the Rapture will precede a seven year period of tribulation. Archer asserts that the church will endure the first half of the Tribulation and then be raptured before the second half.

Moo defends the position that the Rapture does not occur until after the seven year period of tribulation is

over. According to his view, the church will endure the Tribulation, but God will preserve it through this terrible time.

In most theological writings there is little opportunity for dialogue—the author defends his position and demonstrates the weaknesses which he finds in the viewpoints of others. His opponents must write their own books. This book is different.

Each author defends his position as ably as he can. Then, the other two writers respond immediately to what he has written. Thus, the reader gets the benefit of both the original author's argument and the response of knowledgeable critics. The reader does not have to search out several books to get a picture of different positions.

The writers do not belittle each other; they search for truth. They respond frankly but kindly to areas of

honest disagreement. Throughout the book one thing shines through, a deep commitment to the Bible as God's truth. The authors honestly seek to understand the meaning of difficult passages in the Bible.

The first chapter is a historical introduction by Richard R. Reiter. In this chapter he analyzes the development of the rapture controversy in American Premillennialism. He outlines how the various positions have developed and presents the writers who have been most influential in their development.

On the other hand, this is certainly not an easy book to read. The issues are most complex, but they are too important to be ignored. The Bible has a great deal to say on the subject of eschatology, and its message cannot be ignored just because it is difficult to understand.

I'm an Amillennialist, but I can recommend this book. It is first class work. Perhaps it can be of benefit to you as well. ▲

**“Mommy, can I ask God for a little bit of stained glass windows in our next church?”**

# Stained Glass Prayers

By Ruth Mullen

The question hung in the air between my 6-year-old and myself. My heart seemed to stop beating as my mind raced, grasping for the correct response both practically and theologically.

I was afraid to say, “Yes,” for fear my daughter’s faith would be shaken if our next church didn’t have stained glass windows. Yet I was afraid to say, “No,” to the implied faith in her question. She believed if she prayed for the windows that God would grant her request.

Reluctantly, I said, “Let’s talk to Daddy about this when he gets home.” Stalling for time to think, I had put off an immediate answer.

Here’s the background that prompted her question. Spring had just arrived in Texas when my pastor-husband resigned from our church. It had been a hard decision for all of us.

Laura, our daughter, was finishing kindergarten which meant this would be our first pastoral change that included changing schools. I was pregnant with our second baby due in early fall which meant changing doctors, hospitals and Lamaze classes.

Sensing that God wanted to do something unusual in our lives, I started a prayer list with two columns—Prayer Requests and Prayer Answers. In each column I put the date for both the request and the answer. At the top of the list was our prayer for a new church (3/4) and a space beside it that stayed blank for several months.

After discussing Laura’s question as a family, we decided it was okay to pray for the windows as long as she realized that God didn’t always say, “Yes,” to prayers. We reviewed the three answers to prayer: Yes. No. Wait.

And so instructed, Laura prayed for stained glass windows in our next church, while I held my breath. I was afraid of what the outcome would be, but I entered her request on my prayer list anyway.



This started my husband and me thinking, and we came up with specific requests of our own. He wanted a study big enough to have his library accessible on shelves, not out of boxes. I prayed for us to move before the baby came (and a month ahead of time if at all possible). These requests were entered and dated on the prayer list also.

Then came the waiting, for God had put us on hold. It seemed like forever at the time, but in reality was only four months.

Seeing the blank spaces beside our requests for so long caused my faith to waver some. I suspect the same thing happened to my husband. But Laura’s faith was not dampened by the passing of time. She was confident there would be stained glass windows in our next church.

Finally, we heard of an Arkansas church that needed a pastor and received a call from the chairman of their deacon board. There was interest on both sides so we were invited for a trial sermon.

The deacon gave us directions to find the church once we arrived in town, “There is a stained glass cross in the end of the building that is visible from the road.”

We discussed it and decided not to tell Laura about the cross.

Now I was really apprehensive. I knew when we turned in the drive to the church and she saw the cross, Laura would assume that this was our next church.

How would I ever explain if things did not work out, either because we did not receive the call to the church, or worse yet, received it and then my husband did not feel led to take it. I’ve never worried and prayed so much in my life for all three (oops! four) of us.

My assumption was correct. As we turned into the church driveway, the radiant glow on Laura’s face told us that she had seen the stained glass cross—the answer to her prayer. It did not bother her that the stained glass window was a cross. From that moment she knew this was the place for us. The only problem was that we did not know it yet.

God in His marvelous way of doing things sent us to the church with the stained glass cross for my daughter. It had a large study with some book shelves, and the men added more to accommodate my husband’s books. And we moved two months before our son was born.

I learned something important from my daughter’s stained glass prayer. Maybe next time I can pray with the faith of a little child! ▲

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Ruth Mullen is a member of Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas, where her husband, Jim, pastors.*



## NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

### **KHOMEINI SAYS WAR IS 'A BLESSING FOR THE WORLD'**

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—The April issue of Harper's magazine includes excerpts from a speech given by Iran's Islamic leader, the Ayatollah Khomeini. The address last year marked the birthday of the Islamic prophet Mohammed.

Khomeini said, "Those who follow the teachings of the Koran know that Islam must apply the lex talionis, and thus that they must kill . . . War is a blessing for the world and for all nations. It is God who incites men to fight and to kill . . . A religion without war is an incomplete religion.

"If His Holiness Jesus—blessings upon Him—had been given more time to live, He would have acted as Moses did and wielded the sword. Those who believe that Jesus did not have 'a head for such things,' that he was not interested in war, see in him nothing more than a simple, preacher, and not a prophet. A prophet is all powerful. Through war he purifies the earth.

"Thanks to God, our young people are now, to the limits of their means, putting God's commandments into action," Khomeini concluded. "They know that to kill the unbelievers is one of man's greatest missions."

### **SUPER AMERICA STORES DROP PORNO MAGAZINES**

ASHLAND, KY (EP)—Pornographic magazines are no longer being sold through Super America convenience stores. The Board of Managers of Ashland Oil Company, which owns Super America, decided to drop pornographic magazines effective July 1.

George Townsend, vice-president and general manager of Super America's midwest division, said the decision was in response to "a significant volume of customers who have expressed displeasure with these products." Townsend added, "We have struggled with this issue for some time."

One Super America area manager suggested, "My feeling was that they didn't want to see Super America picketed like 7-Eleven stores have been."

Donald Wildmon, of the National Federation for Decency, which has targetted 7-Eleven stores for anti-pornography picketing, praised the change in Super America's policy. "Regardless of the reason, it certainly is appreciated," he said. "Their action shows that they do care about their customers, and their action indi-

### **GENOCIDE TREATY SEEN AS THREAT TO FOREIGN MISSIONS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—An international treaty aimed at prohibiting genocide is awaiting Senate ratification for the sixth time since it was proposed in 1949. The wording of the treaty has made it a target for religious leaders who believe the treaty could be used to prohibit foreign missions work.

Senator Steven D. Symms (R-Idaho), a leading critic of the proposed treaty, says "The Treaty's definition of 'racism' is so broad that it would cover a missionary trying to convert a small African sect to Christianity."

The treaty defined "genocide" as "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group," including causing "mental harm" to members of the group, or "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about physical destruction in whole or in part."

Critics argue that this language could be interpreted to prohibit missions work, which seeks to convert people from one religious group to another. An article in Dr. John Hash's Pathway News said the genocide treaty would "give communists and others opposed to Christianity a legal handle to virtually stop all attempts to convert the lost to Christ anywhere in the world. Christian missionaries could face trial before the United Nations World Court."

That article went on to suggest "The Treaty could deny you the right to share the Gospel of Christ with a Buddhist refugee from Vietnam. By making him aware of his lost conditions and his eternal destiny in Hell, you could be charged with genocide because of the 'mental anguish' that might result when you tell him about the desperate condition of his lost soul."

Critics of the treaty also say that a provision of the treaty, inserted at the insistence of the Soviet Union, insured that the term genocide does not apply to politically motivated actions. Thus, Soviet killings in Afghanistan would not be covered by the genocide treaty because they are politically motivated.

cates that they do care about the moral values of their communities."

The change at Super America is not likely to affect policy at 7-Eleven convenience stores. "We usually don't consider the actions of our competitors in making product merchandising decisions," explains Doug Reed of the Southland Corporation, which controls 7-Eleven store. "What would affect our decision on these magazines would be our consumers. If they no longer wish to purchase the products, then we would take a look at the continued usefulness of that product line."

### **AUSTRALIAN PASTORS MORE SATISFIED WITH SALARIES THAN THOSE IN U.S.**

ST. PAUL, MN (EP)—Lutheran pastors in Australia are more satisfied with their salaries than pastors in the United States, according to a study by Dr. William E. Hulme, professor of pastoral care at Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary here. Results of his study are presented in Pastors in Ministry (Augsburg Publishing House).

Hulme surveyed more than 1,200 Lutheran pastors in the U.S., Canada and Australia, on the general level of satisfaction in their calling. Questions dealt with marriage and family difficulties, conflicts with parishioners, salaries, their own devotional life and other problems.

Hulme found an overwhelmingly positive feeling among pastors in regard to their work. He also found great similarity between clergy in the U.S. and in Australia. Salary was the one issue on which there was a big difference of opinion.

To the statements, "Higher salaries would improve the lot of clergy" and "I do not have enough money to make ends meet," the answers indicated a 30 percent satisfaction gap between clergy in Australia and their counterparts in North America.

The Australian clergy were more satisfied even though in that country all pastors receive the same base salary, with added increments for each child in the family; the president of the theological seminary and the seminary graduate on his first call get the same salary.

Hulme said "In the United States the system in which salary bears the symbol of status and worth does not produce contentment, even when salaries are increased. Salary for a pastor in Australia is only for receiving an adequate living. The basic needs for livelihood are taken care of by the salary. Competition and comparison regarding salaries is impossible."

In contrast, Hulme says, "In the United States and Canada, the church and its clergy have been influenced by the cultural value system in which the purpose of salary is more than earning a living, because it carries a symbolic meaning as well: it is an indicator of how one is valued. One's self-esteem and even self-worth are associated with it. The salary system is thus competitive and comparative."

Hulme continued, "Such a system actually fosters discontent. Studies have shown that salary in itself does not lead to discontentment. As a symbol of how one is doing comparatively, the salary is a reminder that there are others who are doing better, if not in one's own profession, then in some comparable profession, so there is always the push for more."

The problem clergy rated highest is the lack of a satisfying devotional life. Two-fifths of the clergy surveyed said they put off dealing with conflicts with parishioners. Two out of three said it was difficult to confront problems in the parish. Half of the respondents said their feelings were easily hurt. A third admitted finding it difficult to preach about controversy. ▲



## THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

# Notes from Nashville



**J**oy floods my soul as I reflect on the blessings of the 50th anniversary convention. Attendance was the highest in history, attitudes harmonious throughout the session. Anticipation helped deepen awareness of the Spirit's work during the convention.

Over 8,000 Free Will Baptists rejoiced as we were reminded of past success, our present state and our proposed strategy for advancement.

## Gratitude

Denominational reports reflected the progress of 50 years. Hearts filled with gratitude for the Lord's blessings through Free Will Baptists.

Denominational reports revealed the programs which have been developed to expedite the work. Many programs have been refined, some replaced in order to keep pace with the growth of the work. The wisdom of the Lord was evident when the denominational programs were reviewed. We are grateful for those with a broad and balanced vision who helped develop the denominational programs which exist today.

We stand on the threshold of our greatest hour as a people. The potential of our organization for outreach has never been greater. The personnel for outreach are available in numbers unparalleled in our history. The programs for outreach take into consideration our diversity and distinctiveness.

## Goals

During this convention we were confronted with the need for aggressive outreach. We adopted the Target 90

program which includes growth goals of 50,000 net membership by 1990 and 100 new churches.

Personal and perfect obedience must be the goal of every Christian. This convention not only challenged me to a greater effort in outreach but rekindled my desire to be an obedient child of God.

Another goal is the use of opportunities. God has planned the life of the Christian. Nothing happens by accident. Every opportunity should be used to share the gospel with those who are lost. In spite of perplexing and pressing problems, we have never had greater opportunities for service than in this hour.

The personal goal of every believer should be to give ourselves without reservation to the Lord. As Isaiah said, may we say, "Here am I, send me."

## Guidelines

During the next 50 years, three needs must claim the attention of Free Will Baptists if we reach our potential.

(1) *We Need to Display Family Sensitivity.* This need is evidenced in the opening paragraph of our church covenant. "Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word

of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant."

Sensitivity within the Free Will Baptist family results in proper disposition toward, discernment of, dependence on and deportment among the Fellowship. Family sensitivity is characterized by a spirit of unselfishness, understanding and unity.

(2) *We Need to Develop Financial Stability.* Each Free Will Baptist has a responsibility to his local church, his local association, his state association and the National Association. Giving which meets the scriptural standard flows from a theological conviction of stewardship responsibility as well as stewardship accountability.

(3) *We Need to Demonstrate Faithful Service.* Acceptable service flows from adoration and affection for the Lord. A proper concept of our Heavenly Father will result in the proper consciousness of our human frailty and produce a happy faithfulness.

Remembering and reflecting on 50 years of National Association history fills me with gratitude to God for His goodness. And yet, there is more.

Paul said it best when he wrote, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus."

Free Will Baptist priorities for the next 50 years include:

Growth in godliness—that's Spirituality!  
Growth in giving—that's Stewardship!  
Growth in going—that's Service! ▲

### The Secretary's Schedule

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>September 1</b>     | Stratford FWB Church<br>Stratford, OK    |
| <b>September 3-7</b>   | Convention Planning<br>Trip<br>Tulsa, OK |
| <b>September 9-15</b>  | Urbana FWB Church<br>Urbana, OH          |
| <b>September 25-29</b> | Butterfield FWB<br>Church<br>Aurora, IL  |

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