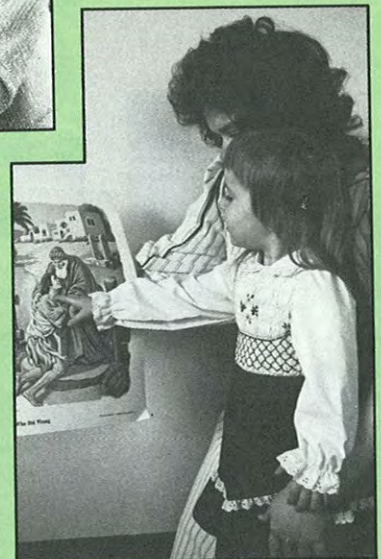
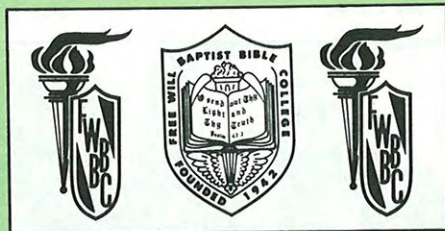


March 1986

C n t a c t

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

THE COLLEGE THAT CARES



The College That Cares

By Bert Tippett

1958: Discouraged

It was the beginning of my freshman year and I felt low. It must have shown in the droop of my shoulders or my shuffling step because, as I trudged across campus, I suddenly heard a kindly voice.

"Someone once told me to cheer up because things could be worse," the voice said.

Startled, I found myself looking into the twinkling eyes of Mr. Thigpen. The college dean!

He continued, "So I cheered up and, sure enough, things got worse." His grin slid into a chuckle. I couldn't help but grin too.

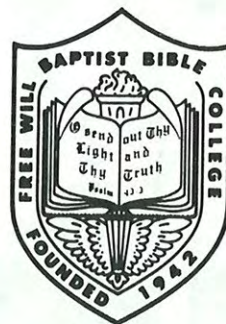
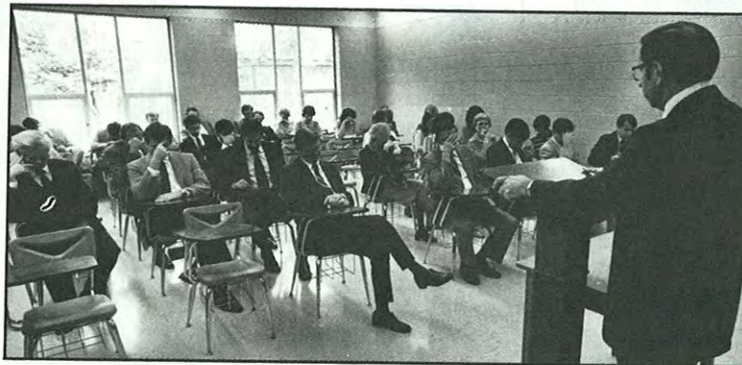
Without another word, he walked on. I stood for a moment, a little shocked. First, he had noticed me. Second, he saw that I was feeling low. Finally, he had encouraged me. Wow! The dean had taken time to help me, a freshman!

That was the first time I realized that I had enrolled at a college where people really care.

1985: Heartbroken

Shelly was almost ready to leave the dorm for her first hour class when the death call came. Her grandmother had died.

She came to Free Will Baptist Bible College in late August, closing an idyllic summer spent travelling across the United States from California to



Nashville with her mother and grandmother. The weeks on the road had drawn them closer and she hated to see them drive away from her new home on Richland Avenue, Polston Hall.

Now, as she hung up the phone, her thoughts focused on how to get home quickly. When her friends in the dormitory learned what had happened, they rallied to Shelly and offered comfort and assurances of prayer.

Shelly recalls, "Coming from a smaller Christian college, one where everyone I knew was a close and dear friend, I did not expect that at FWBBC. The precious thing about it is that it did not take this incident to make them suddenly start to care. I can't explain the love that is shared among the students."

One dormitory supervisor was especially comforting. Shelly recalls her hugs and words of comfort. Her roommate made arrangements for Shelly's flight home. Teachers assured her that they would be generous in allowing time for make-up work.

But the biggest surprise came when, as she left for the airport, her roommate gave her over \$260 that had been collected from Shelly's friends. Another substantial gift came from the church she attended in Nashville. Before she left for California, her friends had given Shelly \$540 toward her airfare.

When she returned to Nashville, The Dean of Women was waiting for her at the airport. "My mom feels so good about this college," Shelly says, "especially with me being so far from home."

Shelly discovered that people at Free Will Baptist Bible College care. They cared about her, as a new student, facing the loss of her grandmother. They cared about helping her get home. They cared about her making up class work she had missed.

Caring: The Sign

That is as it should be. Christians are caring people. Christian colleges should display that quality when dealing with students, families and those who support them.

You don't have to be a Christian to care. Even those in business have found that caring companies get better work from satisfied employees.

For instance, *Reader's Digest* shuts down every Friday in May. The reason? Their management says, "Because May is such a pretty month."

Trammel Crow, the Dallas industrial developer, refuses to have a private office and works beside his staff. He says, "I think a major component of a successful business is love. How are these people going to know I love them if they cannot see me?"

But, with Christians, caring is necessity, not luxury. It is the sign Jesus said would identify His people to those who are in the world.

At Free Will Baptist Bible College, caring has flowed through many channels: student to student, teacher to student, college to parents and others.

I love Sunday nights at the college. Bob Shockey, our campus pastor, always preaches a warm message, one that conveys the love of his own heart. Typically, a number of students make decisions at the end of the service. What a beautiful sight!

But the one that truly warms the heart is other students coming to pray with those who have made decisions. No one prays alone. After the prayers, they exchange hugs and handshakes.

The Caring Spirit: Students

The caring spirit among students is shown in a multitude of ways, even anonymously. Some time ago, one student, hearing about the financial plight of other students, went to the college's business office and made payments on the bills of others. He did this even to the point that, eventually, he had to take out a loan in order to continue his own training. Some of the students he helped still do not know that the benefactor lived right in the dormitory with them.

Regularly, students with cars help those without transportation get back and forth to work so they can stay in school.

This student-to-student caring is one of the most long-lived memories carried away from Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The Caring Spirit: Staff

College employees also find many opportunities to help students. They



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COLLEGE (From page 3)

do this both as part of their responsibilities and "above and beyond the call of duty."

One girl told me that, after undergoing emergency surgery, she was surprised to awaken and find one of the student deans sitting beside her bed. In fact, the lady had been there most of the night, and when others came to stay with the recovering student, the dean returned to the college for her full, normal day of work.

Others who work for the college have taken students into their homes to recuperate from surgery and injuries. Only another parent can understand the relief felt by a father or mother, knowing that their child is being watched over by someone who truly cares.

New students find immediate evidence of the college's program of care

they had been hurt and visited them on her day off.

This caring spirit finds expression in hundreds of day-to-day ways by teachers and staff workers who are already loaded: serving without pay as chaperones for dating couples, inviting couples and student groups into their homes, counseling at all hours of the day or night and helping students find places to work and live.

The people who work at Free Will Baptist Bible College have earned for it the reputation for being "The College That Cares."

The Caring Spirit: Parents

Those at the college have also demonstrated to hundreds of parents that they care.

One parent, who traveled through the night to be at the side of a daughter

The Caring Spirit: Nashville

Nashville has felt the impact of the Bible College's presence for more than 40 years. People at the school have had a beneficial influence on the community in ways too numerous to mention.

Every Christian service group that goes out to preach the gospel and minister to the afflicted says to Nashville, "People at the Bible College care!"

Young preachers go into jails to win lost souls to Jesus Christ. Others visit the elderly in nursing homes, conduct Bible clubs for children and go door to door with the gospel. Hundreds of lives in Nashville each year are changed because of the presence of FWBBC.

A young man stood up in a Sunday evening campus service and gave his first public testimony since becoming a Christian. He works at a local food store. He had been witnessed to both by teachers and by students, so, after his salvation, he wanted to come on campus to let everyone know that he had given his heart to the Lord.

Just a few days ago, one of our teachers told me how he sat on his back steps and shared the gospel with a telephone repairman. Witnessing tells that world that we care.

Twice each year, the Red Cross sets up its bloodmobile on campus to take donations from the faculty and students. Several times the college has been singled out for praise in the Red Cross paper "Quad State Report," that goes out to Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri.

Once it cited an emergency winter drive conducted at the college when snow had hindered the collection of needed blood in the Nashville area. On less than 24-hours notice, 103 volunteers from the college gave blood.

In another emergency winter drive, students gave 131 pints of blood, with 30 students giving blood for the first time. Numerous plaques from the Red Cross testify to their belief in the caring spirit of people at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

In addition to witnessing, many FWBBC employees take on added responsibilities in the community. The Dean of Students has spent many hours after work helping people at the Christian Counselling Service. An-

(continued on page 7)



"No One Prays Alone"

when they are shown lists of apartments that are available and employers who are ready to hire FWBBC students. While the college assumes no responsibility to find jobs for incoming students, the Financial Aid Office sends a letter to prospective student employers every summer. When students arrive in the fall, they find lists of hundreds of businesses in Nashville that are ready to hire them.

Recently, I heard about a student who could not afford to have his car repaired. A teacher loaned him the money to have it done. Another staff member called a garage that had done unnecessary repairs to a student's car and had the charges taken off his bill.

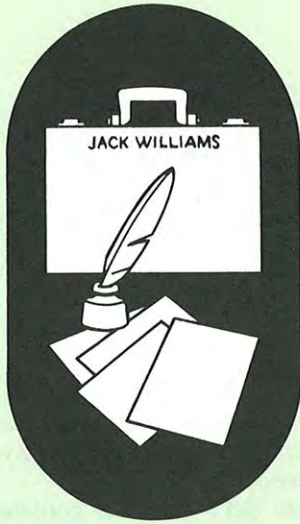
When a student gets sick, the help of someone who cares is even more appreciated. The college's campus nurse keeps regular hours, but many students have found her helping them at times when she could have been at home with her family. She has sat with them in the hospital, stopped by the emergency room when she heard that

who had just had emergency surgery, was surprised to find President Thigpen in the girl's room. She did not know that Dr. Thigpen makes it a practice to visit, if at all possible, every student who goes to the hospital.

That concern is passed down from the highest level to all of those who work at the college. Parents can be assured that the men and women who work at the Bible College are as concerned about the students as they care about their own children.

The college works hard to keep parents informed about the needs of their children. When there is sickness or the need for discipline, parents are contacted by the appropriate official and told about the situation.

Groups and individuals traveling for the college often transport packages (appropriately called "Care Packages") from homes to students. They know how much it means to get a new sweater and fresh chocolate chip cookies from Mom.



They Never Turn Loose!

It was the winter of 1962, the coldest winter on record in Nashville, the year that snow and ice blanketed the city and the mercury plummeted to 15 below zero.

Four separate but related incidents occurred in the city; all four involved Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The first incident focuses on Jan, a 22-year-old bride who graduated from FWBBC in May 1962, married that summer and moved to a basement apartment with her husband who was completing his degree.

Money was tight. Her husband worked 35 hours a week in a laundry and carried a full academic load at FWBBC. They borrowed money to pay tuition, then struggled desperately with the payments.

Jan prayed and trusted God, but her husband grew despondent trying to balance work and study and the checkbook. He soon quit his job at the laundry, convinced that he could make big money selling Bibles. Before long, Jan discovered that while her husband could teach the Bible, he sure couldn't sell it.

She watched. She waited. She prayed. She hoped. She cared.

The second incident concerns missionary to Ivory Coast, Sherwood Lee, who in 1962 was a student at FWBBC. He worked after-

noons and evenings as a checker at a local grocery store to support his family.

Sherwood heard that a former roommate at FWBBC had stopped attending classes and planned to quit school. One night after he got off work, he drove to his ex-roommate's home to talk with him. No one was home.

But Sherwood didn't leave. He parked his car on the street, turned off the motor and waited. An hour, two hours. The temperature was below freezing. So cold! Finally his friend returned home.

His sullen friend didn't want to talk about it. Sherwood persisted. They raised their voices. Sherwood pleaded with his friend to reconsider, calling the names of other students who dropped out of college and vanished.

At length, the ex-roomie refused to say any more. Sherwood left, troubled for his friend. He cared.

Incident number three involves Dr. Charles Thigpen who was dean of FWBBC in 1962. A ministerial student asked for an appointment to see him. The dean listened. He had heard it all before.

The young preacher said he couldn't make it. He was behind in his classwork, had missed two weeks of classes. It was so cold that the anti-freeze had frozen in his car and he had walked to school several days. He didn't have rent money. He wanted to withdraw from college and go back home.

Dr. Thigpen listened quietly and spoke gentle words to the surprised preacher who expected a rebuke. Before leaving the dean's office, the student agreed to continue with two classes, Greek and Pauline Writings. Thigpen had salvaged a preacher's ministry. He cared.

The final incident concerns the 1962 FWBBC student body. A

sophomore came to school one day expecting it to be his last as a college student. No one else knew about it, just the frightened sophomore who couldn't take the pressures anymore.

Suddenly (miraculously!) word circulated that classes were dismissed. All students were told to report to chapel. The college president had proclaimed a day of prayer and fasting. The discouraged sophomore trudged to chapel.

Someone prayed. Then another. The entire student body prayed together. A senior gave a testimony. Then others. One student turned to the sophomore and said he thanked God for him. Others told him how much they loved him.

The students prayed all day. The sophomore took hope and decided that perhaps he could make it. He gazed at his friends at FWBBC. They didn't know how much he hurt, but they cared, they really cared.

Oh, about Jan's husband who couldn't sell Bibles? That was me. And Sherwood Lee's sullen ex-roommate? That was me too. And the guy with the frozen anti-freeze? Yep, me again. And the sophomore who couldn't take the pressure? Guilty.

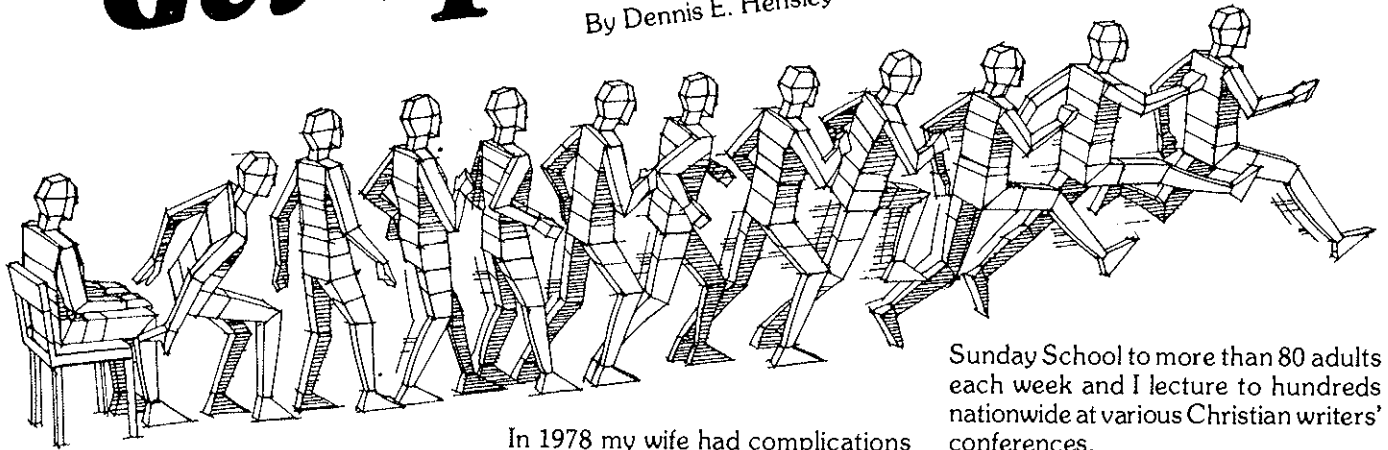
Yes, I remember that dreadful, wonderful winter of '62 when I tried to quit, but the faculty and students at Free Will Baptist Bible College refused to turn me loose. I cried, I blustered, I threatened, I felt sorry for myself—but I stayed because Free Will Baptist Bible College cared.

The college still cares. There are bigger colleges and there are more popular colleges. There are colleges with more students and some with broader curriculums. But there's not another college in the world that cares for people better than my alma mater.

God bless you, FWBBC. Thanks for caring. ▲

Get Up and Grow!

By Dennis E. Hensley



Mark Twain once wrote, "When I was 18, my father was the biggest fool I'd ever known. When I was 21, I was amazed at how much the old fellow had learned in just three short years."

That's how life often is. We see changes occurring all around us, but seldom realize that the most significant changes are taking place within us.

That's true of our growth as Christians, too. At age 37, I can look back over nearly four decades of living and realize, only now, that the seemingly overwhelming challenges or trials of previous years were really opportunities and experiences God was providing me for later use.

I'm now slower to react positively or negatively to life's circumstances. I wait for God's leading. I've grown and matured as a Christian; or, as I've confessed to friends, I've come to realize that I've learned a lot since I've known it all.

My growth as a Christian can best be summarized in four words: *priorities, confidence, perspective* and *forgiveness*.

Priorities

The *priorities* of our Christian walk should begin with service to God. I learned to make God the first priority in my life after He proved to me that I was His first priority.

In 1978 my wife had complications during labor while delivering our second child. Finally, the doctors told us our child would be stillborn. We were emotionally crushed. We hugged each other and cried for hours. We were terribly distraught over the death of our baby.

Nine hours later my wife was taken into the delivery room to have the child removed. Miraculously, a faint heartbeat was discovered in our daughter. She was rushed to a special intensive care unit at a major children's hospital where, for days, she was treated around the clock.

But she lived. Today she is a healthy and happy second grader. Each time my wife and I recall how close we came to losing Jeanette, our hearts fill with incredible joy over the realization that she's here with us. How we love her!

With that in mind, I often sit in awe when I equate that with the sacrifice God the Father made of His Son, Jesus. How *could* He yield His dearest love for the likes of a sinner like me?

The only answer is that my salvation was the most important of His priorities. Can I, then, make Him any less than my top priority? No, I dare not.

Confidence

My *confidence* as a Christian has increased in measured amounts over the years. As a teenager, I was embarrassed even to stand in front of a group to share my testimony. Today, I teach

Sunday School to more than 80 adults each week and I lecture to hundreds nationwide at various Christian writers' conferences.

How did I gain this confidence? I spent nine years working toward earning a Ph.D. in literature and linguistics. When the day came to defend my doctoral dissertation before a panel of five professors, I was ready and eager. I had prepared myself diligently and, as a result, I sailed through the defense without a hitch.

It occurred to me then, as never before, that confidence as a Christian also comes from preparation. The more grounded in the Word I became, the more able I would be to teach it, share it and proclaim it.

This led me to focus more time on prayer and Bible study. Shortly thereafter I was offered opportunities to teach fellow Christians. Preparation led to confidence, and confidence led to opportunity.

Perspective

My *perspective* on my life as a Christian was gained during a 12-month stint in South Vietnam as a sergeant in the U.S. Army. I worked as a chaplain's aide and bodyguard. The work was hard, the weather terrible and the assignments often life-threatening.

Through it all, however, I realized that my security in Christ gave me a comfort that many other soldiers did not have. I didn't relish the idea of being in a war zone, but I knew that God was with me and that He would

use the experience to make me a better person.

In later years I faced certain hardships and setbacks—a lost job, an automobile accident, a facial paralysis, a bankrupt stock investment—but I was able to shrug each one off. “I lived through a war,” I’d remind myself, “so what’s this compared to that?” With that kind of perspective, I found I could handle anything life could throw at me.

Forgiveness

And finally, the development of forgiveness in my life helped me understand my continuous relationship with God. Prior to becoming a parent, I sometimes felt that the Bible was too nonchalant about forgiving sins. It taught that by confessing, repenting and praying, we could receive forgiveness from God.

As a businessman, that baffled me. Shouldn’t there be more to the deal, I wondered? Shouldn’t I have to offer

some sort of trade-off or barter agreement?

After all, I came before God every day asking forgiveness of my sins. Surely, His patience would eventually run short and He would want something more tangible, right?

Actually, no. Just asking for forgiveness was enough.

Today, when my son or daughter makes a mistake or disobeys me or falls short of my expectations, and then he or she apologizes, I never fail to say, “That’s all right. I can see that you’re really sorry.”

My love for my children is boundless in its patience and forgiveness. How much more so must God’s patience and forgiveness be with and for me.

With growth, I learn more each day about God. I’m more spiritually mature today than I was at 17, but not nearly as mature in the Lord as I’ll be at 57. I never intend to stop growing in His grace. ▲



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dennis E. Hensley holds four university degrees in English, including a Ph.D. from Ball State University.

He is the author of 10 books, including *One Young Billion: The Youth For Christ Story* (Thomas Nelson Co., 1985). He is a columnist for *The Christian Writer* and the author of more than 1,500 freelance articles in a variety of magazines.

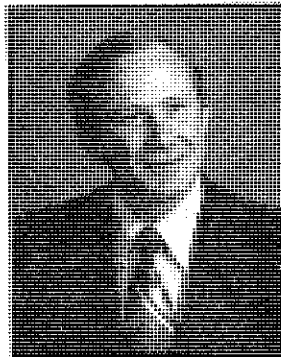
Dr. Hensley will be featured at the sixth annual Free Will Baptist Writer’s Conference scheduled May 16-17 at Randall House Publications in Nashville.

does not interfere in the affairs of any church, but provides any assistance it can when churches and preachers need help.

World missions dominates the classroom, campus conversations and the chapel pulpit. Since 1983, the student body has adopted an annual project to help meet specific missionary needs:

—Project India (1983-84) was launched to raise \$10,000 to buy vehicles for pastors in India and to build chapels. The students and college workers went over their goal.

—Project Ivory Coast (1984-85) saw the college family raise over \$12,000 to build a medical station and to help Dr. Kenneth Eagleton reach the mission field.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Bert Tippett is director of publications at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

COLLEGE (From page 4)

other teacher goes regularly to the Union Rescue Mission where he is teaching two transients to read.

Preachers at the college regularly fill the pulpits of churches, some far away from Nashville, when pastors have to be away. This is a service eagerly sought by both staff members and young ministerial students.

The Caring Spirit: The World

The size of an institution’s heart can be measured by how far its spirit of compassion extends. The Bible College has not localized its love. It cares about the city, the state, the world in which the Lord has placed it.

Churches looking for pastors and preachers looking for pastorates have found caring people at the college who try to get the two together. Lists of available churches and pastors are updated regularly. Conversation around the coffee tables frequently concerns what pastors and churches might work together well. The college

—Project Brazil is being carried out on campus this year. Its goal is to raise \$10,000 to build a Bible institute in Brazil for Free Will Baptist Missionary Jim Combs.

All of this is being done by students, many of whom work their way through college, and by teachers and staff workers, whose salaries are lower than those of many Free Will Baptist pastors!

Yesterday, one of the college staff workers sat in my office. It had been a hard day.

“Sometimes I ask myself why I am doing this,” she confided. Then she broke into a smile. “But I know I couldn’t be happy anywhere else, unless the Lord led me there. I work here because I care.”

If there is a secret that makes Free Will Baptist Bible College special, that is probably it. The college is a community of caring people who love the folks they work with and the Lord they serve.

That is the best witness any Christian can give.

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,” Jesus said, “if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35).

We do. ▲



Evangelists— Men Who Carry the Fire

By Evangelist Tim York

There's a new day of concern for church growth in our movement. Many church and denominational leaders are asking themselves a difficult question, "How do we ignite the fires of church growth as they were ignited in the New Testament and in the first and second great awakenings in church history?"

The philosophy of some has been a promotion of excitement without biblical content. To others it has been biblical content without any excitement.

A student of scripture and church history will find that church growth begins with biblical content and ends in the joy of the experience of church growth (Acts 2:47). Therefore, we must find God's plan for real church growth.

The purpose of this article is to search God's plan for igniting the fire that will bring about a true biblical sense of church growth.

From the examples of scripture and church history, God has used one

type of ministry to ignite the beginning of church growth—the evangelist.

In Acts 8, Philip the evangelist ignites the fires of church growth in Samaria. In Acts 2:14, Peter preaches a sermon like an evangelist. And the result of that sermon was the Lord adding to the church daily such as should be saved.

The first and second great awakenings were characterized by the ministry of evangelists. These evangelists were men with a burden from God for His work and His Word.

When we think of the time of these great awakenings, they are synonymous with such names as Charles Finney, George Whitfield, Jonathon Edwards, Billy Sunday and D. L. Moody. In a time when the church needed the fire of church growth, God used the ministry of an evangelist to ignite it.

Evangelist's Position

"God gave some . . . evangelists, for the edifying of the church." The gift of

the evangelist is one of the most misunderstood positions in the church today.

To many, the evangelist is a preacher who comes in for a week and does enough damage so that the pastor may stay busy the rest of the year undoing the harm.

To others, he is a person who is on one continual vacation, traveling at the expense of God's people. While some may have questionable motives as evangelists, the man whom God has given the burden of full-time evangelism will find the task much different than the misconceptions of our day.

The evangelist is necessary and scriptural in the total outreach of the local church.

The call of the evangelist is unique in its purpose. His calling is to the preaching ministry on an itinerate basis. The aim of his preaching is to share the simple gospel so that all may hear and believe.

The position of the pastor is the gift of feeding and overseeing the local

church on a day by day basis. The pastor in his calling must do the work of an evangelist, but he cannot have the heart of the evangelist and fulfill his pastoral duties.

The term "evangelist" means a proclaimer of the gospel. He preaches the gospel, simple and clear, both to saints and sinners.

While some have characterized the pastor as a preacher to the saints and the evangelist to the sinners, this is contrary to the teaching of scripture. The evangelist ministers to the saints by reminding them of and refreshing them in the power of the gospel. He ministers to sinners by preaching to them the power of the gospel unto salvation.

Evangelist's Preaching

The itinerate evangelist has a unique goal in his preaching. This goal is manifested in his preaching because of the uniqueness of his calling. The evangelist preaches with the excitement and joy of those simple truths of scripture as though he had just learned them.

The true characteristic of an evangelist is that while he carries the

burden of a man he still has the heart of a boy.

The evangelist will cover such subjects as the cross, the resurrection, the born again experience, hell and heaven. While these subjects may get lost in the preaching of the pastor because of the needs of his congregation, the evangelist comes in fresh, with the heart of a boy, and preaches these truths with joy and excitement. The gospel-called evangelist must be compassionate yet convincing.

Evangelist's Purpose

As we study the position and the preaching of this unique calling in scripture, we can clearly see the reasons for this ministry. Church growth is as much a part of the evangelist's ministry as it is the pastor's or any other leader in the local church.

The evangelist ignites church growth by soul-winning preaching. The delivery of the evangelist is pointed toward winning lost souls to Christ. As sinners hear the gospel and receive the Lord Jesus, there is an excitement no tongue can explain.

These new converts will add numbers to the local congregation, but will



ABOUT THE WRITER: Evangelist Tim York began preaching at the age of 12. He started a radio ministry at the age of 13. He served as full-time evangelist for Camp Caleb, Paintsville, Kentucky for one year.

In 1982 he became founder and director of Evangelism Today, Inc. He has held crusades and revivals in Jamaica and Canada. He is a full-time Free Will Baptist evangelist.

also warm the hearts of those who have been in the pew for many years. The excitement of a new baby in a home can be experienced in the church when babes are born in the family of God. Not only will it excite the people in the pews, it will motivate and burden them with the task of soul winning themselves.

The evangelist ignites church growth by reminding the saints of their conversion. As God's people hear the truth of salvation, they will become fresher in their hearts to the Lord and desire a closer walk with God. If God's people have warm hearts, soul winning, separation and service will be rendered freely.

Conclusion

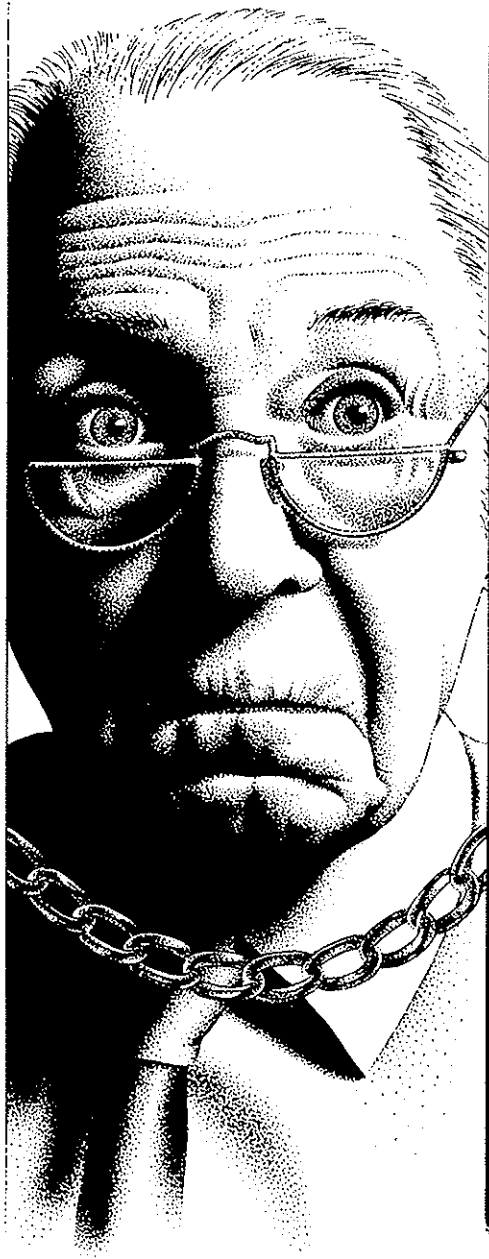
"The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47). This description of church growth in scripture ought to motivate us to desire the same in our day.

If we really desire a growth in numbers, doctrine and labor, we must pray to God for Him to call those into evangelism who will aid in the growth of that work. While promotions and programs have been and can be used of God, they will never take the place of God's man, the evangelist, igniting church growth.

Pray ye that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers (evangelists) into the harvest.▲



The Cults At Your Door



Church members are continually confronted with the claims of the cults. Through personal contact and the printed page these subversives try to deceive and divert members of our flocks. We dare not leave our people defenseless. They need a way to counter this onslaught of Satan.

One of the first things is to understand those with whom we are dealing. Obviously, we do not handle a lion like we do a lamb. Both are animals but their purpose and potential are totally different. Are these people promoting the Christ of the Bible or perverting His person and message?

Two verses furnish an adequate answer to the question. "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus (Savior) is the Christ (Messiah, God)? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father . . ." (I John 2:22, 23a).

All cults deny that Jesus Christ is God robed in flesh. This is the bottom line though they do some fancy verbal gymnastics. They not only destroy the good news of the gospel but leave people in as bad a shape as if they had no news from God.

Naive believers must be made aware of this fact. Otherwise, they will have difficulty embracing God's attitude toward these peddlers of spiritual poison.

The aggressive cultist first tries to come across as a nice, clean-cut person. Their aim is to disarm the "victim" and break down his resistance. Their neat trim look usually causes folk to trust them. That should say something to saved folk about standards of personal dress and appearance, if you care anything about seeing sinners saved from hell.

These people are usually well coached and smooth in their manner. They use Christian terms and usually seem to be saying what a Christian would say. Satan chooses the face that will serve his best interests, not a hideous one but an appealing one.

"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness . . ." (II Corinthians 11:14-15).

The Psalmist says, "Through thy precepts I get understanding: there-

Know Who Is Knocking

By Randy Cox

fore I hate every false way" (Psalm 119:104). We are to hate the false way. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11). We are to be party to none of their works.

The first verse is to set your attitude, hate what they are propagating. The second verse tells us that in no way are we to appear in harmony with or encourage them in achieving their purpose.

Preacher, you need to sound the alarm. Preach against the cults. All of them have the same basic error. Let it be known. Name the cults from your pulpit with some regularity so your people will recognize their label.

Call them "liars." God does (I John 2:22, 23a). They are liars. They are just like their father (John 8:44).

Acquaint your people with their manner and method so they will know these people are not "angels of light" as they appear to be but rather deceivers who are themselves in the darkness of sin. Don't be shy. It will cost you some of your people if you are.

God is very clear in II John 7, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

Those who are liars, antichrists, are again defined. They do not represent God because they do not know God. "Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God" (II John 9).

How do you handle those who come to you with a religious appeal but do not hold the doctrine of Christ as set forth in scripture? The Bible is clear, "If there come any unto you, and bring not *this doctrine*, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed" (II John 10).

It means don't invite them into your home and don't do anything to encourage them in what they are doing. To do so is to violate Ephesians 5:11 and become a helping hand in their deeds (II John 11). That is what the Bible says.

Some might say, well, what about I John 4:1 "... but try the spirits whether they are of God..." Here "try" does not mean to have exchange with, experiment with or experience. It means to examine, test, by a fixed standard. The standard, "doctrine," is

stated in I John 4:2-3 just as in II John 7, 9.

As you apply II John 10-11, many Free Will Baptists will say you are unloving and harsh. Friend, you just don't "love on" a wild man-eating lion. His intent is to devour you. You are his prey. You are the prey of the cultist. Their intent is to mangle your soul and devour you in their religious system.

Jehu the seer went out to meet King Jehoshaphat who was returning from a united war effort with Ahab, one of the most wicked kings the 10 northern tribes ever had. He asked Jehoshaphat a question, "Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord?..." (II Chronicles 19:2).

The answer should have been no, but Jehoshaphat's actions showed differently. He helped wicked Ahab in his wickedness and God judged him for it.

Several months back, on the 14th visit, I led a man to Christ. About four months later I missed him and his family at a service and called their home. I was told that the Mormons had been by five times in the past eight days. Wolves and lions always like lambs best.

One of my men and I moved immediately to help them. After scriptural



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Randy Cox pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina. Dr. Cox served as president of Southeastern Free Will Baptist College three years, 1982-85. He has pastored 26 years, the past 12 years at First Church in Raleigh.

explanation I had the new convert respond to the next call for an appointment in this manner. "I will not meet with you anymore except my preacher is present. Do not call and do not come by unless you are ready to make an appointment with the preacher here." We are still waiting for the call.

Preacher, if the representative of a cult gets his feet in the door of one of your folk, they will usually need your help to get rid of them. Warn your people early. Then keep them alerted.

If a cult gets to them anyway, be there to help. Our people need to know how to handle who is knocking before they get to the door. ▲

The Difference

By Wade Jernigan

Some years ago while lecturing on the California Christian College campus, Dr. Elmer Towns said he knew why the Union Army defeated the Confederate forces during the Civil War. That got everybody's attention.

Towns pointed out that the South went into battle singing, "I wish I was in the land of cotton, old times there are not forgotten, Look away, Look away, Look away Dixieland" (Dixie). But Northern troops marched into the conflict singing, "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord, His truth is marching on!" (Battle Hymn of the Republic).

The idea seemed to be that while the Southern troops sang of being somewhere else doing something else, the Northern troops kept on marching anticipating the glory of the coming of the Lord. The same principle is clearly seen in the work of churches today.

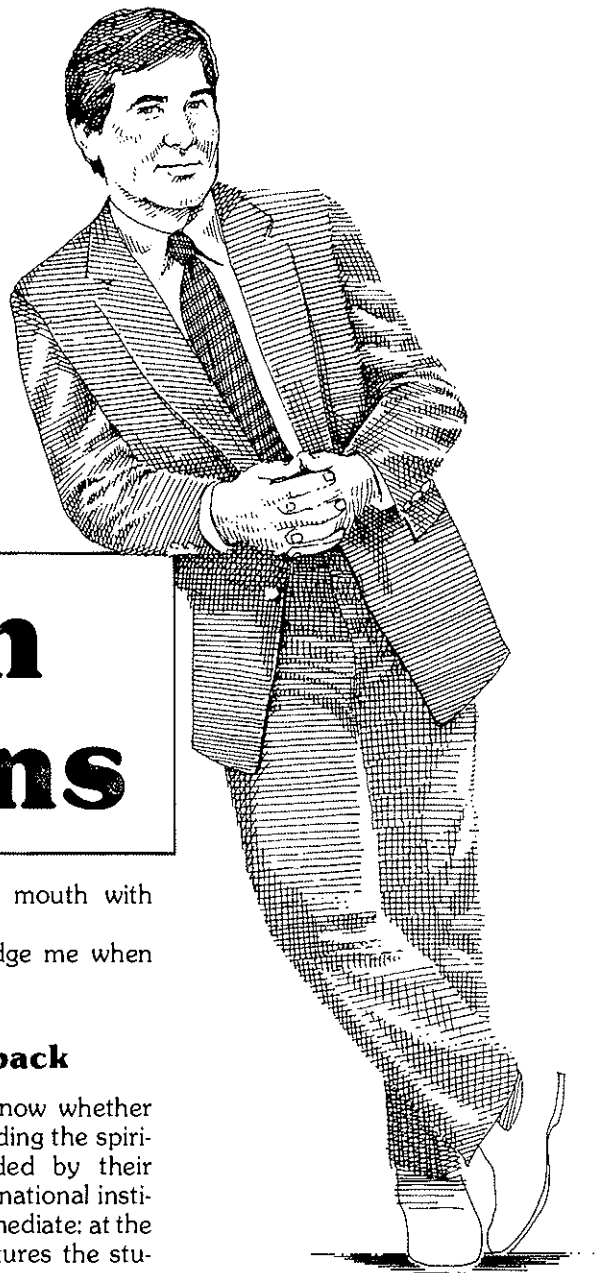
Many of them (maybe this is true with the pastor more than the congregation) wish they were in another time, a different place, engaged in an altered conflict. For a time they hold their own only to have that taken from them at the reckoning and given to another (Matthew 25:28).

Contrariwise, those who put their talents to usury know that the march is in His truth. They know what their eyes have seen; God's glory is evercoming.

Every believer must ask himself the question, "Do I wish to be in another time and place, or can I by faith see the glory of His coming and march on?"

The answer to this question will determine success or defeat. Can we face the reality of now, or will we turn away from present harshness to live with non-threatening memories? The choice is yours. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Wade Jernigan is a Free Will Baptist evangelist who resides in Lexington, Oklahoma.



A Sermon On Sermons

By Mal King

No sermon is effective that does not lead to action. Surveys disclose that sermons rarely result in people taking the action implied or suggested in the sermon. Why? This article describes and analyzes some of the reasons.

Lengthy Sermons

The first reason is that some preachers mistake quantity for quality. They talk so much that the point of the sermon is lost in the many words of the sermon—a sermon which continues long after the hearers have stopped hearing.

Some of the best advice I have heard is that given by an old country circuit rider to a minister just out of college:

New minister: "What should I preach about in your church?"

Old circuit rider: "About God. And about 20 minutes."

Some preachers overlook the first rule of sharing information with others: Finish talking before your listeners finish listening. Some of the most effective preachers pray some variation of the following prayer:

Lord, please fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff,

And then please nudge me when I've said enough.

Little Feedback

Few pastors really know whether their sermons are providing the spiritual nourishment needed by their flocks. When I teach at national institutes the feedback is immediate: at the end of my series of lectures the students evaluate my performance.

While evaluation of each sermon would grow tiresome for congregation and pastor alike, periodic evaluation could prove invaluable. Some evaluations will be critical, but if the pastor resists the temptation to be defensive and simply asks, "What can I learn from this?" he can learn much.

But the only evaluation some pastors receive is when they are voted out. Could it be that such pastors would rather be praised and fail than to be criticized and succeed?

One young minister asked his grandmother, a college speech teacher, for some feedback on his first sermon. The grandmother told the vain young minister that there were just three things wrong with his sermon. The young minister was de-

lighted: "Only three things wrong with my first sermon; what were they, Grandmother?" "Well, first you read it. Second, you read it poorly. And third, it wasn't worth reading at all."

Could it be that some preachers do not seek feedback because they fear that they will hear the same kind of assessment?

Poor Speaking Habits

Asked why they had gotten rid of a pastor who had been with the church for 30 years, a farmer-member of the church replied that they hadn't realized what a poor preacher they had until they saw his competition on television. The truth is that preachers must gain and hold the attention of a

congregation that is used to watching professional performers on TV.

Today's congregations expect—nay, demand—more from their pastors. All preachers would benefit from joining a local Toastmasters Club, and from seeing one or more of his sermons on video. One minister tells about playing golf with the poorest speaker he has ever heard. Invariably, the poor speaker tells him that his sermon was outstanding.

Why this gap in perception between speaker and hearer? Perhaps because there is a gap between what the speaker wishes to convey and his capacity to convey it. He knows what he wishes to share but does not realize that he has failed to do so.

No Visual Aids

We learn more from what we see than from what we hear. Studies conclude that perhaps 85 percent of what we learn, we learn by seeing. If the optic nerves are four times as effective, it is a sin against the congregation for ministers to fail to use this knowledge. Visual aids would improve almost any sermon.

Jesus—the Master Teacher—often used such aids: “See this mountain” The most memorable sermons are those in which the minister makes effective use of visual aids. Flip Wilson’s character Brother Leroy is right: “What you SEE, is what you GET.” And the congregation that sees, understands.

The Rut Syndrome

A road leading into the rain forest of Washington and Oregon contains this admonition: “Choose your ruts carefully, you’ll be in them for the next 30 miles.”

Some preachers select one approach to preaching and they stay in that rut for 30 years. For some this means commenting on a given set of scriptures verse by verse. As effective as this might be, it would be more effective if it were not used all the time. Just as the children of Israel grew tired of the same diet, church people grow tired of the same approach.

We sometimes fault formal churches for ritual, yet ministers can become so ritualistic that there are no surprises—only more of the same. This sameness

can lead to boredom. Some ministers might protest that their congregations would not approve of new or unconventional approaches. But Christ was an unconventional preacher who shocked the Pharisees. So, shocking the modern generation of Pharisees should not be something that inhibits His disciples.

A sermon can be a series of questions such as Christ used. For example, a minister preaching on “What is wrong with the church” might use the following questions:

Minister: “How many of you believe that the Bible teaches that we ought to visit? Please hold up your hands.”

Congregation: All hold up their hands.

Minister: “By a show of hands how many of you believe that this Bible teaching applies to all Christians?”

Congregation: All hold up their hands.

Minister: “By a show of hands, how many of you believe that this includes rest home visitation?”

Congregation: All hold up their hands.

Minister: “And by a show of hands, how many of you will be at the rest home at 2:00 p.m. for our rest home visitation and service?”

Congregation: Four people hold up their hands.

Minister: “See what happened? That’s what’s wrong with the Church universal; it is full of people who are not involved. The universal Church is like a football team that never leaves the huddle to play ball.” [Then give an altar call or ask the congregation to take notes on what they are doing at 2:00 p.m. that is more important than the rest home service and ask them to view this as if God were calling them to account for doing it rather than going to the rest home.]

Lack of Preparation

Henry Fosdyck claimed that one of his secrets to success was that he spent 30 times as much time preparing for a sermon as he spent delivering it. Thus, he spent 10 hours preparing for a 20 minute sermon.

He would find or develop illustrations for each of his points, he would pray for understanding and for ways to help his audience understand, and he would pray for ideas on how to encourage the audience to apply that which was learned.

One of the great musicians of an earlier generation was asked why he still practiced every day for six hours. His response: “If I were to fail to practice for a month, my audience would know. If I were to fail to practice for a week, my wife could tell when I play. If I were to fail to practice for a day, I could tell.”

And not only does God know when a minister fails to prepare, so does his audience.

Irrelevant Sermons

Too many clergymen are so isolated from the lives of their flocks and the lost that they fail to preach sermons that are relevant. By doing so they violate one of the first rules of teaching: “Start where your pupils are (not where you are).”

To deliver an eloquent sermon about tithing when an audience of tithers is dying for a message that will comfort and uplift those who place spiritual things above physical ones is to preach a biblical but irrelevant sermon.

When I attended the FBI National Academy in 1968, the Washington Metropolitan Police were demanding relevant training. If congregations were asked what the church needed, many of them would say “relevant messages—messages that deal with what we have to deal with at work, on the street and at home.”

Through the leadership of the Holy Spirit, relevant sermons can (in ways known only to God) comfort the afflicted while afflicting the comfortable.

I have never heard this topic preached, yet it is probably the one young Christian parents most often think about: “How can I pass on Christian values to my children during this time when Christian values are everywhere under attack?”

Lack of Enthusiasm

“Nothing great was ever accomplished without enthusiasm,” according to Emerson. The minister who is not enthusiastic about the topic of his message had best pray for enthusiasm or for another message.

The minister’s attitude is contagious; if he is bored with the message,



SERMON (From page 13)

he will bore the congregation. Conversely, if he is afire, he will inspire his audience. And that contagion will spread.

It has then been rightly said that the minister who is not fired with enthusiasm, should be fired—with enthusiasm!

Failure To Challenge

Abraham Lincoln was asked by an aide about the church service he had attended. Lincoln responded that the minister was inspired, interesting, well-prepared, eloquent and the topic relevant. The aide said, "Then it was a good service?"

Lincoln responded, "No."

The aide protested, "But, Mr. President, you said that the minister was inspired, interesting, well-prepared, eloquent and that the topic was relevant."

"Yes," replied Lincoln, "but he didn't challenge us to do any great thing."

The best sermons are those which conclude with a challenge. Sermons that do not lead to reflection and action are simply ineffective. Surely the goal of almost all sermons should be Christ-like behavior and action.

As St. Francis de Sales wrote, "The test of a preacher is that his congregation goes away saying, not, what a lovely sermon, but, I will do something!"

Failure To Explain By Example

According to scripture, Christ taught by parable so the people would understand. Principles unexplained by earthbound example often remain principles which are neither understood nor applied.

Christ's preaching manifested his constant awareness of this principle. Why then do so many of His followers today fail to use the technique used by the Master? Could it be that they do not invest the time to find appropriate examples?

Poor Example

Christ was our example. He realized that He was an exemplar whose every act taught those around Him. Ministers can preach about soul winning

until they are blue in the face, but they will not have a soul winning church until they set the example.

Thomas Carlyle was once asked by a young man how he could become a great teacher like Carlyle. Carlyle's response: "Be what you would have your pupils be. All other teaching is but apery and mockery."

A minister must be what he would have his congregation be. The story is told of a stranger who called a small town and asked the operator to speak to Dr. Smith (the town had two Dr. Smiths, one a minister and the other a physician). The operator asked, "Which one, the one that preaches or the one that practices." The minister must be both as this poem suggests:

I'd rather see a sermon
than hear one any day;
I'd rather have one walk with me
than merely show the way.
The eye's a better pupil
and more willing than the ear.
Fine counsel is confusing
but example's always clear.
And the best of all the preachers
are the ones who live their creeds
For to see the good in action
is what everybody needs.

I can soon learn how to do it
if you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action,
but your tongue too fast may run
And the lectures you deliver
may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons
by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you
and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding
how you act and how you live.
I'd rather watch a sermon
than hear one any day.

Failure To Make Impact

One study found that only one-fifth of the congregation could recall the main idea of the sermon. Why? Sermons were too lengthy, the minister used the same old approach, no use of visual aids, no use of interesting stories, failure to involve audience through questions, failure to rely on the leadership of the Holy Spirit, failure to practice what was preached.

Lack Of Humility

According to one leading educator we should approach learning as a little child: "humbly and with an open mind." Satan can blind the eyes of even the

most spiritual to the need for improvement; this he accomplishes when God's ministers lack the humility to admit that they can learn.

Conclusion

People have been bored so often by irrelevant, boring long-winded messages that they turn-off mentally as soon as they enter the church or immediately after the special singing.

The worst sin against God's Church is not those Communists who attempt to bar its service—for God can be worshipped in the heart anywhere—rather the worst sin against the Church is the dull sermon.

Why? Sinners are not touched by such sermons; Christians are not challenged by them, and young people are not inspired to become servants of God. Well might Christ have said, "A little child shall lead them because the child is enthusiastic."

Ministers who reach their congregations will be men of prayer and study, men who ask God to reveal His truth to them and then ask Him to reveal to them how they can best convey the exciting, exhilarating and eternal Truth.

Any time you see a turtle on a fence post, you know he had some help. And any time a message touches the spirit of man—not just the emotions—it is because the messenger had some help. The ideas recommended in this article will not benefit others spiritually unless the man or woman of God spends time with God.

The main point of the message should not be the visual aids, if they are used, or the illustrations—the most evident fact should be that he who brings the message has been with Jesus, and that the message delivered is His message and that it is carried and blessed by His Spirit. Then, every word will be a benediction.

May God help us all. Help those in the audience and those who preach to realize that the sermon ought not to be just another sermon, but a sacred link between God and His creation. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mal King is president of Mentor Consulting Group in Santa Paula, California. He is a member of Santa Paula Free Will Baptist Church.

Thank You For Your Contributions...



COOPERATIVE CHANNEL Free Will Baptist
on

... Through the Cooperative Channel

**Cooperative Channel Contributions
December 1985**

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP	Total	Dec. '85	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$.00	\$.00	\$.00	\$ 109.75	\$ 6,296.94
Arizona	.00	48.74	48.74	.00	215.49
Arkansas	.00	3,673.03	3,673.03	4,431.63	47,949.42
California	.00	742.87	742.87	852.34	10,691.84
Florida	.00	1,822.96	1,822.96	1,854.53	19,526.31
Georgia	14,217.29	.00	14,217.29	3,329.86	50,418.31
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	395.41
Illinois	4,269.82	767.03	5,036.85	6,355.14	85,501.48
Indiana	460.38	.00	460.38	416.22	7,483.59
Kansas	.00	47.13	47.13	158.16	1,185.98
Kentucky	.00	291.00	291.00	34.20	3,135.28
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	180.00
Michigan	3,585.67	1,136.43	4,722.10	4,713.52	46,018.76
Mississippi	.00	110.73	110.73	.00	3,409.89
Missouri	2,014.18	11,245.81	13,259.99	13,438.47	99,344.05
New Mexico	38.38	19.18	57.56	.00	400.52
North Carolina	363.20	489.62	852.82	868.29	10,554.22
Ohio	.00	.00	.00	2,225.62	26,217.20
Oklahoma	24,836.17	11,258.00	36,094.17	27,068.76	398,009.89
South Carolina	138.00	.00	138.00	.00	1,775.54
Tennessee	236.73	1,265.80	1,502.53	196.58	11,633.18
Texas	4,760.08	599.32	5,359.40	3,615.89	60,838.99
Virginia	140.00	520.00	660.00	134.91	6,730.33
West Virginia	2,377.25	151.06	2,528.31	7,650.76	39,727.43
Other	.00	613.51	613.51	1,062.20	638.51
Totals	<u>\$57,437.15</u>	<u>\$34,802.22</u>	<u>\$92,239.37</u>	<u>\$78,516.83</u>	<u>\$938,278.56</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 183.90	\$13,974.15	\$14,158.05	\$13,115.71	\$168,430.02
Foreign Missions	42,118.45	4,790.42	46,908.87	32,839.95	452,674.90
FWBBC	1,758.59	4,790.42	6,549.01	6,610.02	73,151.72
Home Missions	10,925.58	3,749.12	14,674.70	15,517.41	148,831.47
Retirement & Insurance	54.15	2,916.04	2,970.19	3,557.91	30,715.89
Master's Men	42.90	2,707.65	2,750.55	2,844.49	27,876.31
Commission for Theo.					
Integrity	20.45	208.24	228.69	223.85	2,322.77
FWB Foundation	211.14	1,249.70	1,460.84	1,499.31	13,453.89
Historical Commission	18.44	208.24	226.68	221.80	2,294.94
Radio & TV Commission	28.44	208.24	236.68	.00	2,471.27
Hillsdale FWB College	2,042.01	.00	2,042.01	2,058.83	15,339.55
Other	33.10	.00	33.10	27.55	715.83
Totals	<u>\$57,437.15</u>	<u>\$34,802.22</u>	<u>\$92,239.37</u>	<u>\$78,516.83</u>	<u>\$938,278.56</u>

Disturbing the Peace

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

I'm sure you know that Satan, the deceiver, is a master of counterfeits. There is no fakery in which he is more skilled than in the fabrication of peace.

The false prophets and oracles of Satan in the Old Testament were accused of God that they said, "Peace, when there was no peace." Therefore we must be vigilant or we too may be easily fooled.

Do not call it peace when it is indifference. Satan tranquilizes us with indifference that, like a dose of Valium, gives us the "don't cares." Since we don't cry or fight or strive, then we may think that we have peace. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, was sometimes angry, often wept, and was never indifferent.

Don't call it peace when it is ease of luxury. Satan would like us to mistake leisure for peace. To sit in the cool evening shade and feel a pleasant breeze is certainly refreshing. To bask in the mid-winter warmth of a hickory-filled fireplace is quite pleasant. Satan would like for us to stay by the fire while the world goes to hell and call it peace.

Don't call it peace when it is compromise with worldliness. If we surrender to the world's demand that we conform to its values and succumb to its secular philosophies, then we will be able to sleep at night. We will not be haunted by the deaths of the unborn or the proliferation of pornography.

If we compromise our "peace" we will not be disturbed by the perishing souls of our children. We will not lay awake concerned about our teenagers. We laugh at our bad memory when we cannot recall a scripture or hymn, but it never bothers us that the beer jingles are so familiar. Many have the peace of compromise.

True peace is a gift of God to those who obediently trust Him. For pictures of true peace, look at Daniel in the den of lions or the Hebrew children in the fiery furnace.

More clearly still look at Jesus on the cross. He had peace of soul, but He went about disturbing the peace of the world. ▲

Target 90 Update

TARGET 90 STATE COORDINATORS

Alabama	Richard Cordell
Arkansas	David Joslin
Florida	Larry Montgomery
Georgia	Herbert Waid
Indiana	Brian Atwood
Mississippi	Joyce Gore
Missouri	Clarence Burton
Oklahoma	Executive Board and one member from each board
Tennessee	Raymond Riggs

PLEDGES SUPPORT

This is to inform you that the Emmanuel Free Will Baptist Church of Columbus, Georgia has officially endorsed and pledged to support the Target 90 campaign.

We will do all we can do; we are currently evaluating ourselves and planning for the future. Since we have not set any goals or established any definite plans, we cannot send all the information that you requested in your letter. However we will keep you informed.

Thank you so much for the concern, time and thought you have put into the campaign. The information packet is appreciated and I as pastor am excited. I look forward to hearing from you from time to time. May God strengthen your hands as you lead our denomination to win souls to Christ.

Reverend Willie Martin, Pastor
Emmanuel Free Will Baptist Church
Columbus, Georgia

100 PERCENT SUPPORT

Our church will be a part of the Target 90 campaign. Our deacons are 100 percent in support. They have agreed to work hard and to recommend to our church to participate in the five-year growth program.

Our Target 90 committee will be:
Randall Riggs—Chairman
Ellis Nichols—Deacon
Robert Nicholson—Trustee
Terry Mayhugh—S.S. Superintendent
Jerry Binkley—Church Member

We will be meeting to set goals and prayerfully ask for God's blessings.

Reverend R. Randall Riggs, Pastor
Good Springs Free Will Baptist Church
Pleasant View, Tennessee

COUNT US IN

This is to notify the Target 90 Committee that as a congregation we have voted to officially participate in the Free Will Baptist Target 90 campaign.

We will be looking forward to joining with you and our Free Will Baptist brethren in this endeavor.

Reverend Robert J. Morgan, Pastor
Donelson Free Will Baptist Church
Nashville, Tennessee

SETS GROWTH GOALS

I am praying that this will be a great year for Free Will Baptists and the work of the Lord.

I am excited about the progress we are going to make concerning church growth. I feel the church growth thrust will even be a means of bringing about a greater unity among our people.

Our church began a growth thrust at the beginning of 1985. We ended the year with a 12.6 percent attendance increase over the previous year. Our goal for 1986 is a 10 percent increase.

Reverend David Sutton, Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Ada, Oklahoma

WANTS TO PARTICIPATE

Received the information on Target 90 and have gone through it. It is very good.

Our church will participate and will work for at least 10 percent growth over the five years.

Trust all will go well and that we will more than reach our goal of 50,000.

Dr. James Ursrey, Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Jesup, Georgia

ADOPTS TARGET 90

We have set several goals for ourselves in 1986, among these, we have adopted the Target 90 campaign. We have called for a week of fasting and prayer for our church to double its attendance in 1986.

The method we have chosen is for each person to commit himself to bring at least one other person to consistently attend our services this year.

On a long range plan, we have set our goal at a 15 percent increase per year for the next five years. Although we are an older, established rural church, we believe these goals are well within our reach.

Reverend Gerald Taylor, Pastor
New Lebanon Free Will Baptist Church
Tishomingo, Mississippi

VOTES TO PARTICIPATE

Just a note to let you know that the church voted at our last business meeting to participate in the Target 90 program. Our local committee has not yet been established, but you may go ahead and list me as the contact person for our committee.

We trust that this will be an instrument used of God to produce growth locally and nationally. May the Lord guide you in administering this program!

Reverend Randy Bryant, Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Vero Beach, Florida

NAMES GROWTH LEADERS

Our church voted during a business session on December 11 to participate in the Target 90 program.

Our local Target 90 Committee consists of Pastor and Chairman Kent Hubbard, Deacon Board Chairman Jim Christie, Trustee Board Chairman Steve Goforth, Christian Education Board Chairman and Sunday School Director David Arnold, Music Director Les Kern, Youth Director Phil Stokes and Children's Program Director Marguerite Kern.

We will meet in the weeks ahead to determine goals for the five year period. After adoption of these goals by the church, further information will be communicated to you. I'm excited about this united growth effort.

Reverend Kent Hubbard, Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Locust Grove, Oklahoma

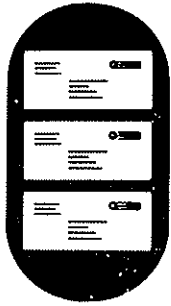
TARGET 90



Free Will Baptists
Growing for God's Glory

1986 State Association Meetings

STATE	DATE & TIME	PLACE & ADDRESS
ALABAMA	Starts: November 6, 9:30 am Closes: November 8, NOON	South Highland FWB Church 704 E. State Street Muscle Shoals, AL 35661
ARIZONA	Starts: March 8, 10:00 pm Closes: March 8, 3:00 pm	First FWB Church 2665 E. 18th Street Tucson, AZ 85716
ARKANSAS	Starts: August 12, 7:30 pm Closes: August 14, NOON	Camp Beaverfork P.O. Box 1404 Conway, AR 72032
ATLANTIC CANADA	Starts: June 26, 7:00 pm Closes: June 29, 7:00 pm	St. John Valley Bible Camp Hartland, Route 5 Somerville, N.B., Canada EOJ 1NO
CALIFORNIA	Starts: June 12, 7:30 pm Closes: June 14, NOON	Memorial FWB Church 4141 N. Millbrook Fresno, CA 93726
FLORIDA	Starts: October 29, 7:30 pm Closes: October 31, NOON	Lake Jackson FWB Church 3617 Old Bainbridge Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32303
GEORGIA	Starts: November 13, 7:00 pm Closes: November 15, NOON	Norman Baptist Assembly Norman Park, GA 31771
IDAHO	Starts: May 9, 7:30 pm Closes: May 10, 3:00 pm	Airport Road FWB Church 757 S. Washington St. Twin Falls, ID 83301
ILLINOIS	Starts: March 21, 9:00 am Closes: March 22, 3:00 pm	First FWB Church 2709 North 27th Street Decatur, IL 62526
INDIANA	Starts: June 20, 7:00 pm Closes: June 21, 3:00 pm	Emmanuel FWB Church S. R. 15 South Wabash, IN 46992
KANSAS	Starts: June 12, 7:30 pm Closes: June 14, NOON	First FWB Church 633 Willis Salina, KS 67401
KENTUCKY	Starts: June 20, 7:30 pm Closes: June 21, 4:00 pm	Brush Creek FWB Church Route 5 Naples, KY 41101
MARYLAND	Starts: June 20, 9:00 am Closes: June 21, NOON	Free Will Baptist Church 409 Moores Lane New Castle, DE 19720
MICHIGAN	Starts: May 16, 7:30 pm Closes: May 17	To Be Determined
MISSISSIPPI	Starts: October 31, 9:00 am Closes: November 1, 2:00 pm	First FWB Church 1800 Main St. Columbus, MS 39701
MISSOURI	Starts: June 2, 7:30 pm Closes: June 5, NOON	Nelson Community Center Bland Road Lebanon, MO



**OUR
READERS
COMMENT**

EDITOR TO EDITOR

The Lord spoke to me as I read the January editorial about the push-broom bandit. Thank you for such good writing, clear, concise, with anecdotes that make me want to read.

As Christians we need to take opportunities not only to witness but to encourage one another. Your writing makes me want to improve my writing. Please keep up the good work—and keep witnessing.

I agree with you about being totally honest and I'm glad you paid your dime to keep your conscience clear.

Larry Clark
In Other Words
Wycliffe Bible Translators

9-YEAR-OLD WRITES

I enjoy reading "On Little Lanes." I've read about all the stories.

I am 9 years old. I have a little brother, his name is Joseph. He is 4 years old.

Every month when we get *Contact* magazine I'm eager to read "On Little Lanes."

April Bevins
Ulysses, Kentucky

P.S. I'm in 4th grade. I hate the math!

PASTOR PRAISES ARTICLE

I enjoyed the article written by Pastor Richard Cordell in January *Contact*. It sounded out the timely message that our pastors and churches need to hear. Any pastor who can win some people to Christ can build a church.

Our lack of growth is an indictment that falls on us who pastor churches. I rejoiced to read the article, and hope that it will be used to motivate young pastors to win souls and lead their people to reach the lost for Christ as well.

Reverend Mike Mutchler, Pastor
Grand View Free Will Baptist Church
Portland, Oregon

1986 State Association Meetings

(Continued)

NEW MEXICO	Starts: April 18, 1:30 pm Closes: April 19, 4:00 pm	First FWB Church 2529 W. Alameda Roswell, NM 88201
NORTH CAROLINA	Starts: June 2, 11:00 am Closes: June 3, NOON	Sherwood Forest FWB Church P.O. Box 1006 New Bern, NC 28560
NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION	Starts: November 7, 4:00 pm Closes: November 8, NOON	First FWB Church P.O. Box 164 New Durham, NH 03855
NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION	Starts: May 16, 7:30 pm Closes: May 17, NOON	New Hope FWB Church 13414 S.E. 272nd Kent, WA 98042
OHIO	Starts: June 27, 9:00 am Closes: June 28, NOON	Heritage Temple FWB Church 2295 S. High St. Columbus, OH 43207
OKLAHOMA	Starts: October 13, 7:30 pm Closes: October 16, 3:30 pm	Oklahoma City, OK
SOUTH CAROLINA	Starts: February 13, 9:30 am Closes: February 14, 3:00 pm	Hillside FWB Church 2405 Purvis Drive Florence, SC 29501
TENNESSEE	Starts: November 10, 7:00 Closes: November 12, NOON	First FWB Church 162 South Jefferson Cr. Oak Ridge, TN 37830
TEXAS	Starts: June 4, 7:00 pm Closes: June 6, 12:00 NOON	First FWB Church 501 Russell St. Henderson, TX 75652
VIRGINIA	Starts: June 12, 10:00 am Closes: June 13, 9:30 pm	First FWB Church 1019 Gus Nicks Blvd., N.E. Roanoke, VA 24012
WEST VIRGINIA	Starts: June 6, 9:30 am Closes: June 7, 3:00 pm	Prince of Peace FWB Church Piedmont Road Huntington, WV 25704

Directory Update

ALABAMA

G. Gene Gilbert to St. Mark Church, Phenix City from Little Brown Creek Church, New Site, MS

ARKANSAS

Gary Elder to Faith Church, Corning
Robert Spencer to First Church, Booneville
Gilbert Pixley to Trinity Church, Hamburg

CALIFORNIA

John Aranda to Lompoc Church, Lompoc
Rex Shipman to Mountain View Church, Mountain View

SOUTH CAROLINA

Don Kivett to Happy Home Church, Andrews
Thomas M. Parrish to Windsor Park Church, Cheraw
Cyrus Shoffner to New Town Church, Lake City from Ashland City Church, Ashland City, TN as youth pastor.
Perry Faile to First Church, Rock Hill
Larry Hughes to Liberty Church,

Manning

Johnny Evans to Williams Hill Church, Hemingway from Little Bethel Church, Johnsonville
Joseph Benton to Sweet Home Church, Socastee
Paul Hyman to Pee Dee Church, Conway
Robert Scott to Hickory Hill Mission, Gresham
Joe McKnight to Beulah Church, Pamplico from Oates Church, Oates

TENNESSEE

Novis C. Edwards to Olivet Church, Clarksville



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

MASTER'S MEN CONFERENCE SET APRIL 17-19

NASHVILLE, TN—The eighth annual National Master's Men Conference will meet April 17-19 at Camp Linden near Nashville, TN, according to General Director James Vallance.

The three-day conference includes workshops, sermons, testimony time, prayer sessions and creative recreational periods.

Mr. Vallance said that West Virginia minister Bobby Lowther will keynote the session. Four laymen will deliver major addresses: Loyd Olsan (TN), Horace Johnson (GA), Butler Hall (NC) and Tom Kemble (GA). Mr. Earl Larson (TN) will serve as conference director.

"The Conference has become the highlight of the year for the men who attend. It provides stimulating speakers, practical workshops and rich fellowship. Laymen are used to provide the spark of excitement that comes from first hand experience," said Mr. Vallance.

Conference attendees are requested to pre-register by April 10. The pre-registration cost is \$5. Total conference cost (including pre-registration) is \$55. Officials said the conference limit is 300 persons.

Pre-registration fee and all correspondence should be directed to:

Master's Men Department
P.O. Box 17306
Nashville, TN 37217

RADIO COMMISSION TAPS SHOCKEY, REVAMPS PROGRAM

NASHVILLE, TN—The Reverend Robert (Bob) Shockey, 58-year-old Christian Service Director at Free Will Baptist Bible College, agreed to be the speaker for the Victorious Faith radio broadcast, according to Commission spokesman James Vallance.

Shockey, a Kentucky native, accepted the Radio-Television Commission's invitation after their fall 1985 meeting. He succeeds Reverend Tom Malone who asked to be replaced as speaker because of pastoral obligations.

In addition to the speaker change for the national radio broadcast, the Commission also shortened the program length from 30 to 15 minutes. The shorter format will be less expensive to air and will allow more flexibility in finding station air time, reports Mr. Vallance.

Reverend Shockey brings more than 20 years pastoral experience and almost two decades of energetic, denomination-wide influence to the broadcast. In addition to pastoring seven churches in Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee, Shockey has conducted hundreds of revival campaigns and evangelism conferences in the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Virgin Islands.

He organized two home mission churches and led them through building programs to full-time ministries.

Shockey logged seven years as a National Home Missions Board mem-



ber and three years as the Board's promotional secretary. He served five years as general director for the National Home Missions Department. During his years as general director, Reverend Shockey also functioned as director of evangelism and director of chaplaincy for the denomination.

For two years Shockey was president of Bethel Bible Institute, a Bible training school based in Paintsville, Kentucky.

Bob Shockey is an alumnus of FWBBC. Converted in 1954, he started preaching in 1955 and was ordained in 1956. He was soon elected to numerous local and state posts by his peers, and was named Kentucky's Pastor of the Year in 1964.

The Victorious Faith program is available to any individual, church or group of churches who wish to sponsor the broadcast. The Commission does not purchase air time. For more information contact any Commission member or James Vallance in the Master's Men Department at Randall House Publications.

FWBBC CHRISTMAS PROJECT HITS \$60,000

NASHVILLE, TN—The students, faculty and staff of Free Will Baptist Bible College raised a record \$60,079.83 for the 1985-86 Christmas Project, according to Paul Ketteman, public relations director. This year's drive, promoted under the slogan "Dollars That Make Sense," surpassed the previous record of \$55,290, set in 1981. The goal was \$45,000.

Gifts were tallied in a chapel service on January 9. Money continued to come in during the week and the project was officially closed January 16, when the record total was announced.

Reverend and Mrs. Howard Munsey of Tennessee and Reverend and Mrs.

James Munsey of Texas challenged the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes to see which could bring in the most gifts.

The freshman class topped all others with gifts totaling \$11,236. Each of the other three classes raised more than \$9,500. The faculty, staff, graduate school and others bought in over \$18,700, according to Mr. Ketteman's office.

The entire college family celebrated the Lord's goodness on January 16. The college family, friends and neighbors met in the school's Cumberland Cafeteria to enjoy a steak supper, courtesy of the Munseys.



25 ENROLL FOR BIBLE COLLEGE MASTER'S COURSE

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College enrolled 25 ministers from 10 states in the first course of its new Master of Ministry program, held on campus December 30-January 3.

The course was Church Growth and Evangelism. Teachers included Rev. Jim McAllister, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, Farmington, MO; Rev. Bob Shockey, FWBBC campus pastor and a veteran church planter; and Dr. Steve Wilkes, a teacher at Mid-America Baptist Seminary in Memphis, TN.

The pastors praised the course. Here are some of their comments:

"I expected great things, yet I received even more than I expected... I look forward to future courses."

"It was the kind of course I wish every pastor in the denomination had taken. It's exactly what we need as Free Will Baptists."

"The instructors have been just great. They have kept us excited."

The new program for preachers may be completed in three years. It requires that eight courses be com-



Dr. Robert Picirilli, dean of the Graduate School, welcomes 25 preachers to the first class of the Master of Ministry program.

pleted, but only involves being on campus three weeks each year—once in the winter and twice during the summer.

The next course in the Master of Ministry program will be offered May 19-23.

For more information on the Master of Ministry program, please write or call:

Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 383-1340

NORTH CAROLINA TEAM WINS BIBLE COLLEGE TOURNAMENT

NASHVILLE, TN—The Trinity Christian Academy Tigers from Greenville, NC, won Free Will Baptist Bible College's sixth annual high school basketball tournament, held in Nashville January 9-11.

The Tigers rose from the losers' bracket to defeat Woodbine Christian

Academy in two games on the last day of the tournament. The Woodbine Eagles, from Nashville, had beaten Trinity in an earlier round, but went down 40-36 and 56-51 in the finals.

Woodbine placed second. Third place went to the Florence Christian Academy Saints from Florence, Alabama.



Art Reynolds, a 6'4" senior from Trinity, was chosen Most Valuable Player of the tournament. Seven others joined him on the All-Tournament Team:

1. Kip Scott—Florence Christian, Florence, AL
2. Dewey Chalos—Henrico Christian, Richmond, VA
3. Jim Lowe—Heritage Temple Christian, Columbus, OH
4. Donnie Hunter—Pleasant View Christian, Pleasant View, TN
5. Jimmy Powers—Trinity Christian, Greenville, NC
6. Jeff Hargis—Woodbine Christian, Nashville, TN
7. Michael Waddell—Woodbine Christian, Nashville, TN

The cheerleaders from Bethany Christian, Norfolk, VA, were voted the tournament's best.

The annual ministers retreat of the **Arkansas State Association** met February 17-19 at **Oak Grove FWB Church** near **Lake Village**. Speakers included Pastor **J. M. Creech** from First FWB Church, Tupelo, MS, and Dr. **LaVerne Miley**, faculty member at Free Will Baptist Bible College and former missionary to Ivory Coast, West Africa.

Members at **First FWB Church, Batesville, AR**, celebrated 24 years of service to the community with a combination preaching conference/homecoming/bond burning ceremony. Former pastors **David Joslin, Hoover Lewis** and **Glen Murray** spoke during the meetings. Pastor **Bobby Shepherd** said the bond burning service celebrated payment of a \$30,000 bond program.

Pastor **David Archer** said that three-year-old **Faith FWB Church, Glenpool, OK**, gave more than \$10,000 to outside causes in 1985. The group's goal for 1986 is to reach a self-supporting status.

One way that members of **Arnold View FWB Church, Creal Springs, IL**, express their concern for the community-at-large is by reaching out during holidays with a special hand of love. Pastor **Gene Parton** said, "We made 28 fruit baskets for Christmas and delivered them to shut-ins who are unable to attend church."

Officials announced that **Georgia Free Will Baptists** gave more than \$15,000 for missions outreach during the first annual **Laura Belle Barnard Day** last fall. Georgia Executive Secretary **Herbert Waid** expressed thanks for each contributor who enabled Georgia to surpass its \$15,000 goal. The second annual **Laura Belle Barnard Day** is set for October 12.

Reverend **Ron Palmer** has moved to **Billings, Montana**, to begin a new Free Will Baptist church. Pastor Palmer said the new work is called **Cross Roads FWB Church** and is located at 34 Maier Road, Billings, MT 59101. Brother Palmer conducted the first service on January 5. He said the group has access to a church with the sanctuary capacity of 150 in addition to 15 classrooms. Palmer said the church building and property are available for purchase for \$110,000. If you have friends or relatives in the Billings, MT, area, send their names and addresses to Pastor Palmer.

Pastor **Mircheal Jones** said that **Grace FWB Church, Lake City, SC**, "met our miracle goal of \$4,000 in the White Christmas Offering." The church then celebrated with a victory supper.

Pastor **James Pittman** said that efforts to establish a Free Will Baptist Church

Havelock, NC, have met with a degree of success. The **Freedom FWB Church** averaged more than 40 during the fall 1985 months. Pastor Pittman said, "We have seen folks saved about every week."

Pastor **Dale Burden** reports that members of **Gateway FWB Church, Virginia Beach, VA**, gave more than \$35,000 to Southeastern FWB College during 1985. The giving was highlighted by a December 15 Southeastern College Day in which a \$9,500 cash offering was received.

Pastor **Mike Mutchler** said the new Free Will Baptist church in Oregon which is just over one year old, had a high of 134 in attendance with nine saved in one service. The **Grand View FWB Church, Oregon City, OR**, averaged 105 in attendance during November 1985.

The **Tennessee State Association** sponsored a Christian Workers' Retreat at Happy Hills Acres Youth Camp February 27-March 1. State Moderator **Larry Clyatt** presided during the retreat. The retreat featured 10 worship/workshop sessions in addition to times of recreation and fellowship. **Dr. L. C. Johnson** opened the retreat activities with a banquet address on Thursday.

Reverend **Lavelle Reeves** has moved to **Grand Junction, Colorado**, to start a new FWB church. Readers are encouraged to send names, addresses and phone numbers to Reverend Lavelle Reeves, c/o Orville Lake, 260 Coventry Court #17, Grand Junction, CO 81503. Telephone 303/241-0941. Starting a new church anywhere is a major undertaking; that's especially true in the western states.

Pastor **Edwin Hayes** sends a word of praise for the youth at **Columbus First FWB Church, Columbus, OH**. Pastor Hayes said that the youth visitation program touched 119 homes in a two-month period. At least two people were saved as a result of the visits. **Daniel Castle** is president of the youth group.

Bessie Carter, James Stephens and **Lilly Sutton Buck** were featured on a segment of the CBN News. What makes the trio unusual is that the three of them observed Halley's Comet 75 years ago. Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Buck and Mr. Stephens are friends who attend **Bethany FWB Church, Norfolk, VA**. Bethany Church clerk, Mrs. **Gladys J. Findley** wrote a 22-paragraph article regarding the comet's fiery trail 75 years ago. The story was picked up and printed by a local newspaper.

Two FWB ministers have begun home Bible studies in the **Placerville, CA**, area. Reverends **Jay Constant** and **Roy**

Pembrook intend to start a new FWB church. Readers may contact the work by writing Jay Constant, 5005 Mt. Aukum Road, Placerville, CA 95667.

White Savannah FWB Church, Conway, SC, conducted dedication services for a 7,000-square-foot auditorium, according to Pastor **Billy Baker**. Pastor Baker delivered the dedicatory message and dedication prayer. The building was constructed at a cost of \$225,000 but has been appraised at \$380,000. Seating capacity for the auditorium is 535.

Members of **Peace FWB Church, Florence, SC**, celebrated their first homecoming and dedicated their new building which is located on a five-acre site four miles from downtown Florence. Pastor **Danny Keen** said that North Carolina promotional director **Tom Lilly** delivered the dedication message. Records showed that 160 attended the Sunday School service, 180 the morning worship service and more than 200 the afternoon dedication service. Construction for the 55,000-square-foot building cost \$92,500. The building includes eight classrooms, pastor's study, office space, and an auditorium seating capacity of 275.

Pastor **Roy Player** preached the gospel for 32 years, 30 of those years as pastor of **Temple FWB Church, Darlington, SC**. Pastor Player retired recently after a long and fruitful ministry.

Members of **First FWB Church, Chester, SC**, honored their pastor, **J. B. Smith**, for 20 years of service to the church. Members presented Pastor Smith and his family a check for \$1,000. Under Pastor Smith's leadership church membership grew from 95 to 400. The physical plant was expanded several times in order to accommodate the growing congregation.

Third grade student **Angela Smallwood** was chosen as one of the 25 most caring students in Tennessee by *Woman's Day Magazine*. Angela along with her parents **Rick** and **Brenda Smallwood** are members of **Donelson FWB Church, Nashville, TN**. **Rob Morgan** pastors.

Pastor **Ernie Lewis** of **Blue Point FWB Church, Cisne, IL**, was chosen to receive an Outstanding Young Men of America Award for 1985. The award was given in recognition of outstanding professional achievement, superior leadership ability and exceptional service to the community. Congratulations, Pastor Lewis. ▲



Marty's Disease



ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

Marty was sick—terribly sick. He had that awful, dreaded disease called *mefirstitis*.

Subtle at first, the symptoms slowly intensify until the victim is not fit to be around. Unlike other illnesses, *mefirstitis* makes the victim's friends feel

worse than the person who is stricken with the disease. Precautions should be taken to avoid undue exposure to the highly contagious *mefirstitis*.

Let's look in on the Lane family and get a firsthand look at *mefirstitis* in action.

Mrs. Lane had made biscuits for breakfast. "Sorry," she said, "but there's just a spoonful of grape jelly. I hope apple butter will do."

"I get the grape," cried Marty as he grabbed the jar and spooned the jelly onto his biscuit.

"But I don't like apple butter," said Megan. "And you do. Why can't I have the grape?"

"It would be the nice thing to do, Son," said Mr. Lane. "Since you like them both and Megan doesn't."

"No way," said Marty. "I want grape this morning."

Because it was raining, Mr. Lane decided to drive the twins to school. "Get a move on," he said, "or we'll all be late."

Marty and Megan scurried around looking for school books, lunch boxes and jackets. Mr. Lane and Megan were out the door when Marty went back for a drink. "I get the front seat," he called, gulping his orange juice and racing out the door.

Megan was already sitting in the front seat when Marty came out. "Hey, I called it first," he said.

"But I was already here," said Megan.

"Get in the back," ordered Marty. "I called it first!"

Megan knew they didn't have time to argue. She gathered up her things and got in the back seat.

When the twins got home that afternoon there were three cupcakes and a note on the table. The note said, "Enjoy the cupcakes. Had to take the rest of them to church. Be back in a minute. Love, Mom."

"Yipee, cupcakes!" said Megan walking to the refrigerator for milk.

"I get two," cried Marty as he stuffed one in his mouth and grabbed another.

"Why do you get two?" asked Megan. "Why don't we split it?"

"Because I'm hungrier," said Marty. "Besides, I called it first."

Megan ate in silence, and then went to her room.

Later that afternoon, Marty called from his room, "Hey, Megan, want to play some softball?"

Megan hesitated. She was still annoyed about the grape jelly, the front seat and the cupcake.

"Come on," urged Marty.

"Oh, all right," said Megan.

When they got outside, Marty tossed the ball to Megan and said, "Here, you pitch, and I'll bat first."

Megan was getting fed up with Marty, but she pitched anyway. After all, it was better than not playing at all.

Later, Mrs. Lane called the twins to supper. She had cooked one of their

favorites—fried chicken. She was filling Jeff's plate, and had already put one chicken leg on it.

"I get the other leg," cried Marty reaching for the platter.

"But I wanted it," said Megan.

"Sorry," said Marty. "I got it first."

"That's not fair," retorted Megan. "You got it the last time."

"Would you kids quit arguing?" said Mr. Lane. "Your mother has worked hard cooking a good supper—now let's enjoy it."

After supper Mr. Lane had a surprise for his family. "You all go in the den, and I'll bring it in," he said.

The three children and their mother went to the den to wait.

"Wonder what it is?" squealed Jeff.

Mr. Lane walked in carrying a jogging trampoline.

"Neato!" cried the twins.

"I thought it was about time our family got in shape," laughed Mr. Lane setting the trampoline down in the middle of the room. "Now, who wants to try it out?"

Marty ran for the trampoline. "Me first!" he called.

"I wish it would break," thought Megan to herself as she waited for her turn.

"I wanna turn! I wanna turn!" cried Jeff.

"Just wait a minute, Squirt," said Marty. "I'm not finished."

Tongues— Not Valid for Today

By David Turner

"I wanna turn now," said Jeff, "and I not a 'Quirt!'"

"Hold on, kids," said Mr. Lane. "I thought this would be something for all of us to enjoy, but if you can't do it without arguing, I'll have to take it back."

And so it went, day after day. Marty always wanting to be first and have the first, the most, the best, the biggest. He insisted on choosing the television shows they watched and games they played. He was always first in line at the tire swing, the slide and even the bathroom. He wanted the first piece of toast that popped up, the tallest stack of pancakes and the biggest bowl of ice cream.

One day Megan could stand it no longer. What was wrong with Marty? He used to be pretty nice—for a brother anyway. Now he was selfish and greedy. But Megan would fix him. She had never heard of the disease of mefirstitis, but she had come up with a cure.

Megan went to the kitchen and cut two pieces of apple pie—one big, one little. Then she put vanilla ice cream laced with what looked like cinnamon on each one. One scoop on the little piece, three heaping scoops on the big piece.

"Marty," called Megan, "I have a surprise for you."

Marty came into the kitchen and spotted the luscious dessert his sister had prepared. Just as Megan predicted, Marty sat down in front of the bigger one. He took a big bite of ice cream, grabbed his throat, and yelled, "AHHHHHH! Water!"

Marty ran to the sink and stuck his mouth under the faucet. Megan doubled over with laughter. Mr. and Mrs. Lane came running to see what all the ruckus was about.

"You dirty, rotten . . ." started Marty. But Megan didn't hear a word he said. She was laughing uncontrollably.

"What's going on in here?" asked Mrs. Lane.

"She tried to poison me," screamed Marty.

"It was just a joke," said Megan. "I was getting fed up with Marty always wanting to be first and have the best, so I decided to fix him. Instead of using the cinnamon, I laced the biggest one with a little red peper. Can I help it if he

Several years ago I attended a Bible Conference which turned out to be a tongues conference. The conference moderator stated several times, "This is not an evangelistic meeting. This is a conference to help you get tongues and enjoy it."

At that time I predicted that tongues would be the vehicle to bridge the gap between all different denominations and religious groups. Even though I expected it, it still chills me when I hear of some groups that have started "speaking with other tongues."

It beats me how a Christian group could teach that cults, who do not believe that Christ is the Son of God, could be indwelt by the Holy Spirit, much less evidence such by speaking in tongues. If tongues speaking is valid for today, there should be no quibbling about the first qualification—Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, in many groups the test of fellowship is whether a person has received the Spirit and manifested it by tongues, rather than whether the individual has received Christ as Savior.

How has this thing gotten so far from the Word of God? In my opinion it is the deception of Satan. Lucifer's great proclamation in Isaiah 14:14, "I will be like the Most High," is being fulfilled in our day through religious deceit.

If the devil is going to be like God, then he must use God's Word in a distorted manner but stay close to the real thing. And now those of us who

picked the biggest one?"

Mr. and Mrs. Lane couldn't help but laugh along with Megan. And maybe in time Marty will laugh too—when the fire in his throat dies down.

Mefirstitis—easily recognized by three classic symptoms: thoughtlessness, selfishness and greed—has been stamped out in the Lane household. No, Megan had never heard of the terrible disease, but she had surely cured it. ▲

reject the error are accused of being unspiritual. In order to deceive, the devil has to appear as something holy. Whatever he does must look like God is doing it.

Deception is the name of the game! Misunderstanding the original purpose of tongues fuels the deception. Let's look to Joel for the purpose of tongues.

Joel prophesied that because of Israel's sins God would send judgment on the nation. He said that after the judgment, Israel would repent and God would restore the years of the locust. Israel would eat in plenty, God would be in their midst, and they would never be ashamed again (Joel 2:21-27).

Joel said the way they would know that God was in their midst would be the outpouring of His Spirit on their sons, their daughters, their old men and their young men. Until Pentecost God worked basically through the priests. Even though God used prophets to give guidance, the priests instituted it and taught the people.

In this new dispensation, Joel tells us that God will use not only priests and prophets, but all of Israel in His teaching plan. The way they will know they have been included is by the outpouring of the Spirit on everyone as evidenced by prophecy, dreams and visions. Peter recognized Pentecost as fulfillment of Joel's prophesy.

For the second purpose of tongues, let us examine Israel's response to their new mission. Though a great number of Jews believed on Christ, as a nation they rejected Him. Even those who believed had difficulty accepting the fact that God would extend His plan of salvation to the Gentiles.

The apostles sent a delegation to Samaria to verify what happened. The confirmation at Samaria was not for the benefit of the Samaritans, but for the Jews! The Samaritans had no problem believing they were included in God's plan.

TONGUES (From page 23)

Peter's evangelistic team was amazed that it could happen. Cornelius and his house were convinced they were included in God's plan. The confirmation was for Peter and his group. Paul had to confront Peter about his hesitancy to fellowship with the Gentiles.

If Israel could not grasp their mission to Samaria and the uttermost part of the earth, then God must teach them. Isaiah prophesies in 28:7-11 that because of Israel's error God would use a new group to teach them. In Joel's statement the outpouring of the Spirit

was not only to be on Israel but also the servants (Samaritans) and hand-maidens (Gentiles).

To paraphrase Isaiah 28:9-11, those who will teach Israel will be a group other than Israel, speaking a language that is not their own. The method of teaching will be precept upon precept, line upon line (over and over), here a little, there a little (an installment now and later on another installment). This would be God's method of teaching Israel until the completed revelation of God was given.

If God would teach the new group who in turn would teach Israel, it stands to reason that when the completed revelation was given, there would be no more need for the "installments." The need would then change to exercising the gifts of wisdom and discernment.

Paul says that where there be prophecies (installments of revelation) they will fail (no more given), and where there be tongues (a language other than one's own), they will cease (no more need of it).

To paraphrase I Corinthians 13:10, "When the completed is given then the installments will end."

implies that we do not have the completed Word of God. If prophecies exist today, then God forgot something. And if that be true, how can we be sure that the "man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:17)?

Some believe that the perfect thing is the rapture and that prophecies and tongues will continue until the church is lifted out of the world. The writer's position is that the perfect thing referred to is the completed Word of God. When the completed Word was received, prophecies failed, and when Israel had the Word to study, tongues ceased.

There might be other interpretations of the timetable, but one thing we all must agree on—advocating open-ended renewal of tongues and prophecies is anti-scriptural.

Some think a modification of tongues is acceptable—believing that tongues use is winding down with only a few still practicing it with scriptural support. Even that view weakens in light of Paul's strong words *will fail* and *will cease*. In translations some words lose their meaning or become weakened, but *fail* and *cease* is the same in Greek, Hebrew, English, Yankee twang and Southern drawl!

What we are seeing in our day is a clever deception. God used tongues at one time but replaced it with something better—the complete canon. Don't be deceived. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend David Turner pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Springfield, Illinois.

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To determine if prophecies and tongues are valid for today, we must discern when God gave His final installment (revelation), and when Israel was able to study the completed revelation for themselves.

God has not given any revelations since John penned the book of Revelation on Patmos. To teach otherwise



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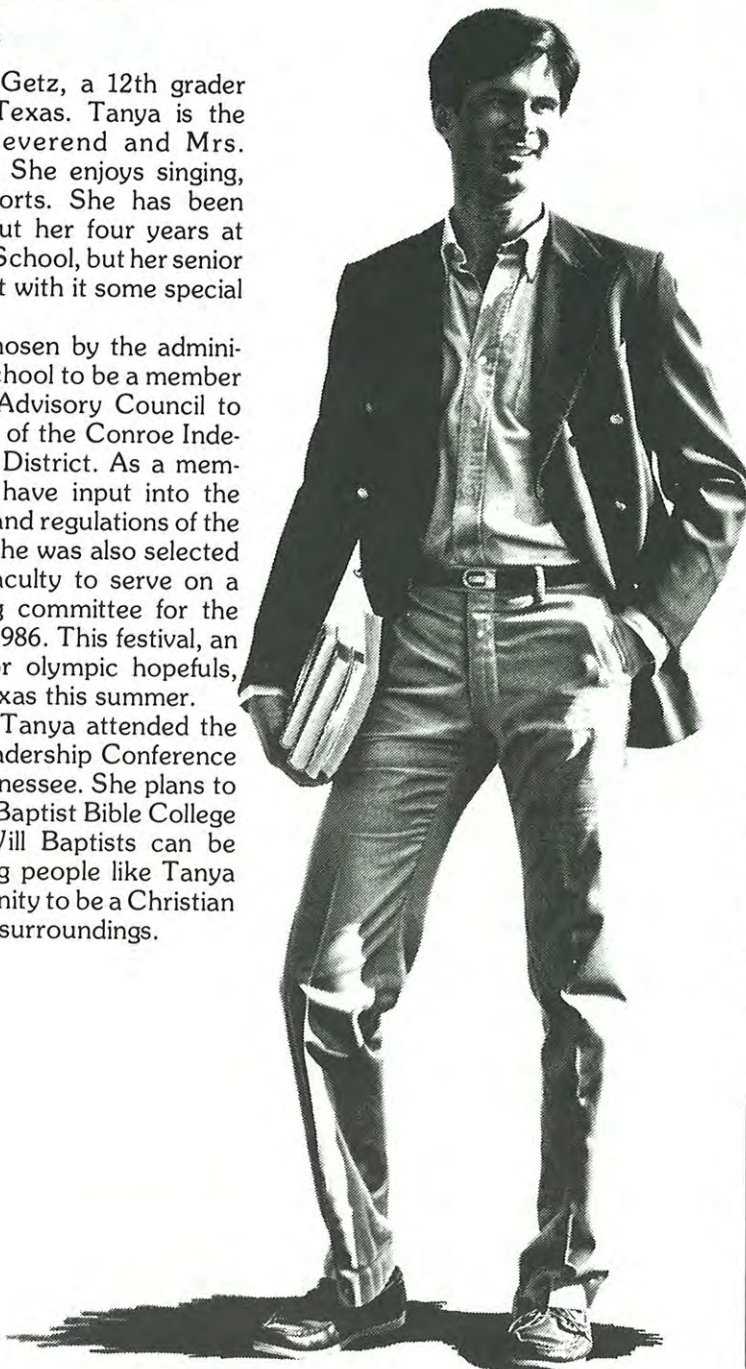
Youth Profile

Meet Tanya Getz, a 12th grader from Conroe, Texas. Tanya is the daughter of Reverend and Mrs. Raymond Getz. She enjoys singing, reading and sports. She has been active throughout her four years at Oak Ridge High School, but her senior year has brought with it some special honors.

Tanya was chosen by the administration of her school to be a member of the Student Advisory Council to Superintendents of the Conroe Independent School District. As a member, Tanya will have input into the student policies and regulations of the school district. She was also selected by her school faculty to serve on a junior organizing committee for the U.S. Festival of 1986. This festival, an athletic event for olympic hopefuls, will be held in Texas this summer.

Last summer Tanya attended the Peace Youth Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. She plans to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College this fall. Free Will Baptists can be proud that young people like Tanya have the opportunity to be a Christian influence in their surroundings.

TEEN Scene



YET Profile

Youth Evangelistic Teams (YET) are developing in several areas across the denomination. One such team, based in Albany, Georgia, is directed by Danny Thomas, minister of music at the Frist FWB Church.

The team is sanctioned by Midway Association, and four association churches are represented on the team. Through music and drama this group of teens presents youth-oriented services on weekends and during a week-long tour each summer.

Last summer the team traveled in Georgia and South Carolina. Director Thomas feels that for these young people, being involved in a YET team is a growing experience. They have grown spiritually and also in their ability to communicate the message better through music and drama.

Future plans for this team include a televised presentation of their program. The program will be aired via satellite and beamed into several foreign countries. The project will be taped this spring to be telecast during the summer. The Albany team extended an invitation to the Youth Evangelistic Team based in Nashville to join them in this project.





By Vernon Whaley

Volunteer Choir: It Can Work!

Last Sunday Nancy sang a solo that stirred emotions and convicted hearts. The choir accompanied her, and together they moved people to worship. Some wept. Others sang. Some gave shouts of joy. Even the pastor spontaneously joined the choir in song. The gospel message had been communicated by energetic, Spirit-filled singers.

A unique experience? Not at all. Most any Spirit-filled group of singers can have a positive music ministry. Approaches may vary, but the idea of bringing people together in worship is the same. A director doesn't have to be a full-time, paid staff member at a large, well-known church to make it happen.

Two important keys for success are: (1) Knowing responsibilities. What is the volunteer choir to do? (2) Knowing and appropriating resources.

The Responsibilities

Volunteer choir members are unsung heroes. Week after week they freely give their most valued possession, time. Their reward is the satisfaction of making music to the Lord and ministry with fellow believers.

The job involves five essential tasks: teaching, training, evangelizing, edifying and promoting the work and ministry of the church (and denomination). These responsibilities, no matter the church size, become the focal point of a choir's ministry.

Choirs have the challenge of communicating theology in song. It is their opportunity to lead people in worship. They are given the mandate of training young and old in making music to the Lord.

Planning is crucial for success. These tasks will not be accomplished until the volunteer choir director plans. And that takes time. Careful planning is required to purchase music, develop choirs musically, use individuals for special music and integrate the music ministry with other organizations in the church.

The Resources

Resources are available to the volunteer choir. The most obvious resource is people. Use people in the church. Train children to sing, play and perform. Use the junior high and high school band students. Let them

develop instrumental abilities while serving the Lord.

If your church doesn't have children already taking band, encourage them to take lessons. Get those young people in the adult choir as soon as possible. That's the future of any choir's ministry.

Time is a resource. Set a time each week for rehearsal, then live by the decision. Rehearsal must begin on time. Some people will give time when they have nothing else to give. Utilize that commodity.

Another resource is money. Every church needs to appropriate money for music ministry. If no money is available in the budget, take an offering during weekly rehearsals. Ask for donations. Some people will give money for a well-organized music ministry when they don't have singing abilities or available time.

When buying music, look for literature that accommodates the choir's ability. Music is the tool a choir member uses for ministry. Make sure the tools are practical. It doesn't do any good to buy music the choir can't use.

If the piano parts are too difficult for the accompanist, find someone in the community who will tape record the song for performance and rehearsals. Don't be afraid to reduce choral parts to unison if the music is too ambitious for the singers. The fun doesn't come in struggling over difficult parts, but in singing together.

If a church doesn't have a good pianist, sound tracks can be used until

someone is trained to play. At best, sound tracks are only a short-term remedy to specific needs. But they can be used.

Publishers and fellow choir directors are important resources. Many publishers have choral preview clubs that provide sample music, tapes, aids and ideas for local churches. An annual fee is usually required.

One company (*The Church Music Report*, P.O. Box 1179, Grapevine, TX 76051-1179) publishes a monthly collection of ideas, helps and information for choirs. Ideas are assembled from publishers, music directors, magazines, music supply companies and more. This newsletter is an invaluable resource for any choir.

Appropriating Resources

Unison and two-part singing is the quickest, most efficient way to develop a volunteer choir. Four and eight-voice music is impractical when there are not enough people in the group to

effectively sing each part. An enormous amount of unison and two-part literature is available.

Use the hymnal. Be creative while singing hymns or gospel songs in unison. Get the men to sing a line or two and then the women. Or, get someone to sing a solo on a stanza while the choir sings a unison refrain. Any number of combinations can work effectively.

Design special concerts for the choir. Set a goal for a mini-concert once or twice a year. Plan the program around a theme or scripture. If the choir doesn't have the money, create a program from the hymn book. Get people not usually involved in music ministry to participate as narrators or ushers.

Teaching people to sing together will do more to develop choral sound than anything else. Communication is enhanced by a choir starting, stopping, pronouncing and interpreting at the same time. Additionally, a choir will sing in tune much more effectively

if words are pronounced in like manner. Remember, the objective is to communicate the gospel.

Take advantage of workshops and music seminars. They are offered in almost every area of the country. Unbelievable helps, even for the most inexperienced or experienced choral group, can be gleaned through these avenues of training. Often there is no charge for the seminar and free music is usually given to those attending.

Remember, choirs do not have to sing full eight-part harmony to be a blessing. They do need members dedicated to the gospel ministry and committed to rising above mediocrity. Striving for excellence, no matter the difficulty of literature, will bring results. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Vernon Whaley is minister of music at Southern Oaks Free Will Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Top Shelf



Thomas Marberry



Larry L. Lewis, *Organize to Evangelize*, (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1980, 132 pp., paperback, \$3.95)

This book is written by a veteran pastor who led three congregations during periods of growth. He wins large numbers of men and women to faith in Christ and leads them in active membership in Christ's church. His is the voice of experience.

Lewis says that everything in church growth depends on good leadership. The church will not grow without sound leadership, and that leadership must begin with the pastor. The pastor must be a man of vision, dedication and proven spiritual depth. He must set the example for his flock in evangelism, work well with people, and be unafraid to delegate. He cannot do the whole job himself.

Lewis claims that the two greatest tools the church can use to reach people for Christ and disciple them are the Sunday School and the bus ministry. The key to growth is active, intelligent participation by church members.

The church must recruit, train and motivate workers if it is to win and disciple a significant number of people. Classes do not reach people; buses do not reach people. Only people reach people. If people are to be effective, they need training and motivation.

If a church grows, it must have a solid program of Bible study, music, worship and preaching. The church must provide an enjoyable and beneficial worship experience or people will not come back.

The author provides helpful suggestions on how to locate prospects, how to recruit and train workers, and how to organize an effective visitation program. This is not just a book filled with theory; it contains common-sense advice.

The Vacation Bible School can be a valuable evangelism tool if it is properly used. Buses can be used in a variety of ways to further church growth. Lewis discusses the do's and don'ts of the bus ministry.

One of the most beneficial chapters presents the role of revival in church growth. This is an important chapter because little has been written about revivals in recent years. The author contends that the revival meeting is a valuable tool of evangelism and church growth, but it must be properly used. Just because a church experiences revival does not mean that it will grow.

This is a good book. It is short, easy to read, filled with practical advice. The author points out that there is much more to church growth than methods and techniques. There are simply no substitutes for prayer and the power of God. ▲



Green Tree Bible Study



Robert E. Picirilli

I Corinthians 3:6b-17

The Church as God's Building

Biblical pictures of the church leave us with no choice but to believe that it is God's will for the church to grow. One of the ways the church is often pictured is as a building.

This concept, in fact, underlies many things we find in the New Testament. Some of these we will examine in this article (without limiting ourselves to an expository study of I Cor. 3:6-17).

The church is God's construction (v. 9b). Just as "husbandry" can mean either the garden or the work of gardening, so "building" (Greek *oikodome*) can mean either the structure or the work of construction. Either way, God's work of gathering a people for Himself is compared to erecting a building.

It is God's building, God's work of construction. Compare what Jesus said: "I will build my church" (Mt. 16:18)—using the same Greek root (*oikodomeo*).

The building is intended to be God's temple (vv. 16, 17). The teaching here is not the same as in 6:19, 20. "Ye (plural) are the temple of God (singular)." The local church at Corinth is a temple for God to dwell in. So is the whole Christian church, as Ephesians 2:21, 22 shows.

There we see clearly that the building is growing into a holy temple for God to inhabit. In the Mosaic economy, God dwelled in the tabernacle-temple structure; now He is building His people for His dwelling.

The foundation is Jesus Christ (v. 11). Surely Peter's confession of Him as "the Son of the living God" is the "rock" on which Jesus said He would build His church (Mt. 16:16-18).

Ephesians 2:20 also compares the church to a building built on the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, "Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." See also Mt. 21:42; I Pet. 2:6, 7: as the stone which the builders rejected, Christ has become the chief cornerstone. The Christian church in general, along with any true local church, is built on Christ.

Those who minister to the church are builders (vv. 10-15). Paul laid the foundation at Corinth by being the one who first evangelized the city and planted the church there (v. 10). "By his preaching he spread Jesus Christ underneath the forming church so that it could be regarded as built on Jesus Christ" (Orr & Walther).

But others build too—properly so (v. 10b). Every person who aims to contribute to the building of the Christian community in any place is a builder—whether a pastor or evangelist or a servant of Christ in some other capacity.

And since this is such a serious work, each one who plays a part in building must take heed. He must be careful not to build on some other foundation (v. 11). He must also realize that what he contributes to the work will be tested by the fire of the judgment of Christ (vv. 12-15).

If his contribution stands that test—like gold, silver, precious stones that endure fire—he will receive reward: the recognition of his Lord, if nothing else (cf. 4:5). If what he has invested in the building does not stand that test, it will be like wood, hay and stubble consumed by fire; there will be no such reward.

All of us ought to be earnestly concerned that our efforts are worthy and fruitful, making lasting contributions to the building of Christ's church.

The members of the church are "living stones" in the building. While Paul does not make this point directly here in I Corinthians 3, it is implied in the analogy of the building. I Peter 2:5 makes the point explicitly: "You yourselves, like living stones, are being built (into) a spiritual house."

When we win people to Christ, we are Christ's instruments for bringing more stones into His building. We are helping the church to grow. And when we help those won to grow and develop into the image of Christ as God intends them to be, we are assisting in the finishing work that fits them for the beautiful and holy temple that God wills to inhabit.

Watching a building go up is extremely interesting. From foundation to superstructure to the finished work: the entire process is aimed to produce one thing, a building that functions according to its design as the architect planned it. God's building—His living temple—is not finished yet.

Christ is still building His church, graciously involving us as His construction crew. Until the structure is done, it is His will for the work to go on, for the building to grow into a finished, holy house for Him to inhabit.

Let's pray and work for the church to grow. ▲

Especially
For Young
Preachers

Pay for a Car

"Be diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds" (Proverbs 27:23).

One of the pastor's largest expenses is his automobile. He must have one. The church members expect it to look new. It must be large enough to accommodate his family and take others to church services. The car must be in good condition, ready to make a hospital trip late at night or lead a funeral procession. The pastor's car is an expensive necessity, and often his car allowance doesn't cover the expenses. How can the young pastor spend less on the automobile? Here are some suggestions:

1. Select a used car. Purchasing a new car is too expensive. Choose one that will handle the size of your family today and five years from now. Resist the temptation to purchase a new car. Don't look at them.
2. Pay for the car. As soon as possible, pay off the bank. Debt may be necessary for the first car, but eliminate that debt quickly.
3. Establish a car fund. Once the present car is paid for, open up a savings account. Have the bank draft your checking account a certain amount each month (preferably what you were paying on the previous car debt) to be transferred into your car fund. When that fund accumulates to about \$500 re-invest the money in a higher yield account. Don't touch the money. It's better to take out a bank loan for emergencies rather than deplete your car fund.
4. Set a mileage goal. Plan to drive your present car 100,000 miles. Once that's accomplished, you will delight in driving the auto another 100,000 miles.
5. Don't trade on impulse or aggravation. Repair the car if at all possible. Yes, it may cost. But compare the repair cost to a bank note for a newer car. You can pay for a lot of repairs cheaper than buying a new car.
6. Keep the car serviced. A busy preacher is too busy if he can't wash and vacuum his car at least twice a month. Get it serviced regularly. Remember, the better the old auto looks the more valuable when you want to sell it later.
7. Finally, time to buy a newer car. The old car is about dead. Plan ahead. Read the newspaper ads daily for several weeks. Ask the Lord to lead you to the best buy. Don't get in a hurry.
8. Set a goal to drive a quality auto that is paid for. It may take you several years but it can be accomplished. A more expensive, heavier car may cost more initially, yet be less expensive to operate over a period of years. Don't let members intimidate you when you drive a car that looks expensive. At least you paid for it.

Next month: Go Soul Winning Every Day

Dennis Wiggs



APPEALS COURT SAYS RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY MUST PAY \$910,000

DUNNELL, MN (EP)—A religious community in Arkansas known as the Realife Ranch must pay \$910,000 to a couple from Dunnell, Minnesota, according to the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. But the court overturned a further award of \$898,000 for lost wages and punitive damages against the ranch owners, Dean and Nelda Long. Noting that the other damages awarded against the ranch would all but exhaust the community's assets, the court said that would be sufficient punishment.

The awards were made to Carl and Diane Bredberg, who moved to Realife Ranch in 1979 with their three children. They then transferred all their assets to the ranch, including a prize dairy herd, cash, and other property worth about \$180,000.

At the trial, the Bredbergs testified they left a religious community in Dunnell to go to the Arkansas ranch because they had been told it was a place where Christian family relationships were stressed and God's work was done. Instead, they worked 14 to 16 hours a day. While at Realife, the Bredbergs worked in various businesses, and received food, lodging and a weekly allowance of \$3 instead of wages.

Bredbergs said life was closely controlled by the Longs, who emphasized commitment to the group and submission to authority.

U.S. SUPREME COURT DENIES 'MARK OF THE BEAST' APPEAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Ezra Eli Borntrager, a Kansas City, Mo., attorney who refused to divulge his Social Security number in an application to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, lost his final appeal to that Court.

Borntrager refused to provide the number based on his religious belief that Social Security numbers are the "mark of the beast" mentioned in the New Testament. He was assigned a Social Security number years ago, but stopped using it after discovering references to the "mark of the beast" in the Book of Revelation.

Borntrager argued that his Social Security number is different from other numbers, such as a driver's license number, because it is "mandatory, omnipresent, [and] a universal identifier." The Court refused without comment to review the case.

'SILENT SCREAM' SEQUEL PLANNED

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—Dr. Bernard Nathanson, a former abortion clinic director who narrated "The Silent Scream," announced plans to make a follow-up film. Nathanson said the new film will be "graphic in the extreme," and may include an interview with a girl who survived a saline abortion he performed on her mother.

Nathanson said he performed a saline abortion that resulted in the live birth in the middle to late '60's. In this procedure, a saline solution is injected into the womb, causing the fetus to be expelled through labor. Nathanson said his interview with the girl was "staggering."

"I think the interest is obvious," he told the Associated Press. "This is a unique experience for a human being. How many people do you know walking around like that?" An estimated one percent of saline abortions result in live births.

Nathanson said the film would also include supporting witnesses of the abortion performed in "The Silent Scream," which was released last December. "It's regrettable we've had to do it this way," he said. "We were forced because of the fabrication, the innuendo by the pro-abortion people after the last film."

"The Silent Scream" fueled the national controversy over abortion with its ultrasound images of a fetus being aborted. Abortion advocates attacked the film as misleading propaganda.

VARGHESE NAMED 1985 RECIPIENT OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

MONROVIA, CA (EP)—Dr. Mary Varghese, a Christian physician noted for her work among lepers in India, has been honored with the 1985 Robert W. Pierce Award for Christian Service, presented annually by the international humanitarian organization, World Vision. Completely bedridden since 1978, Varghese accepted the award in her Vellore, India, hospital room.

An Indian national, the 60-year-old physician is the sixth recipient of the award named for the founder of World Vision and presented in recognition of exemplary Christian service in developing nations. The award includes a silver medalion, a wall plaque, and a check for \$10,000.

In 1954, two years after graduation from the Christian Medical College in Vellore, Varghese lost the use of her legs and suffered severe facial lacerations in an automobile accident. After two years of rehabilitation, she began studying advanced surgical techniques.

From her wheelchair, Varghese embarked on a 30-year career in medical service among India's lepers and handicapped persons, specializing in tendon transplants on Hansen's Disease patients with clawed hands. Her work has expanded to include treatment and rehabilitation of paraplegics, hemiplegics, and polio victims.

INDIA'S SUPREME COURT SAYS CHRISTIANS LOSE GOVERNMENT AID

NEW DELHI, India (EP)—Members of "scheduled castes" lose their special government aid if they convert to Christianity, but are entitled to the aid if they convert back to Hinduism, India's Supreme Court has ruled.

Members of scheduled castes (formerly "untouchables") qualify for financial aid, and benefit from policies that reserve government jobs, Parliament seats, and educational posts for them. About 144 million of India's 684 million people are members of scheduled castes.

The court dismissed lawsuits filed by Indians who had converted to Christianity, reasoning that Christians in scheduled castes are not as severely oppressed within the Christian community as "untouchables" are within the Hindu community.

KENTUCKY SCHOOL DISTRICT PREPARES FOR 10 COMMANDMENTS SUIT

HAZARD, KY (EP)—The Ten Commandments hang on classroom walls in Perry County, Kentucky. Alone among the state's 180 school districts, it refuses to ban the ancient moral code from public schools.

Five years ago the U.S. Supreme Court declared unconstitutional a state law requiring that the Ten Commandments be posted in all public schools. The Kentucky Attorney General issued an opinion saying this meant that the commandments must be removed.

Last year, after a complaint by the American Civil Liberties Union in Kentucky, the State Board of Education again requested their removal. But against the advice of its lawyer, the Perry County board voted to fight.

"It's time for Christian people to stand up for more morals in the school system," coal hauler Charles D. Campbell, who serves on the school board, told *The Courier-Journal* in Louisville. "The Ten Commandments were good enough for Moses, and I believe they need to be taught."

A school parent with a local radio program has appealed for donations to help the poor county if the state or the ACLU should file suit.

COURT LETS CONTROVERSIAL ZONING ORDINANCE STAND

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—The U.S. Supreme Court let stand a Medford, Oregon zoning ordinance which requires churches to get special zoning permits to operate grade schools.

First Assembly of God in Medford argued that the city should not have jurisdiction over a church program, and that allowing such jurisdiction violated the separation of church and state.

The dispute began five years ago when the church refused to apply for an additional use permit for a parochial school it runs in church buildings. The church said if the city was allowed to regulate one aspect of the church ministry, it would be allowed to regulate others, including Sunday School.



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

Speak Softly



How can one deal with those who make angry accusations because of misinformation or misinterpretation?

No question about it, it's tough to communicate with an angry man. But Christians must learn to cope with a cynical and corrupt world. How we respond to those who are filled with anger toward us is vital.

Proverbs declares, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

One editor gave some good advice on this subject: "... speak softly and sweetly. If your words are soft and sweet, they won't be as hard to swallow when you have to eat them."

The Spirit Exhibited

When one gives a soft answer he gives a gentle, mild reply. He recognizes that peace can be kept by soft words.

Matthew Henry said, "If wrath be risen like a threatening cloud, a soft answer will disperse it and turn it away. Reason will be better spoken, and a righteous cause better pleaded, with meekness than with passion; hard arguments do best with soft words."

The miracle of such an answer lies in the fact that it is unexpected, unmerited and often unwanted.

Some consider it unmanly not to resent, react and rebuke an insult in kind. But as Harry Ironside so aptly said, "... it takes far more true character to meet an angry man in quietness of spirit, and to return cool,

calm words for hasty ones, than it does to give railing for railing or malice for malice."

A soft answer is a *Christian* answer; it exemplifies Christ. A soft answer is a *conciliatory* answer; it gives opportunity for sensible reason to prevail. A soft answer is a *competent* answer; gentle and gracious words do what bellowing and belittling cannot.

A soft answer reveals *character*. A soft answer is a *compassionate, communicating* answer that is more apt to be understood. A soft answer is a *considerate* answer. It takes into account the feelings and frustrations of the individual who is attacking.

How right R. F. Horton is when he says, "In Christ Jesus are forces, moral and spiritual, strong enough to control the most uncontrollable rage and to soothe the most irritable temper."

The Success Expected

Speaking softly cools hot indignation. Adam Clark suggests, "One angry

word will always beget another, for the disposition of one spirit always begets its own likeness in another."

J. M. Gibbon provides a solution, "A kind, gentle, patient, peaceful answer to an angry, loud, rude word, turns away wrath, sends it off so that it passes by you like an arrow glancing off a shield."

A soft answer is like water to fire; it snuffs the flame. This is what firemen do. He who gives a soft answer to angry words is God's fireman, extinguishing a fire that might have done great harm.

Speaking softly *tempers* wrath. The benefits from speaking softly are worth the effort to learn the skill. One can make up his mind to do it, and then set about practicing the art of soft speaking as God's grace enables.

Speaking softly *terminates* wrath. Abigail's gentle apology disarmed David's anger. The angry Ephraimites were disarmed by Gideon's mild and modest answer.

A man's tongue is either a piece of velvet or a piece of sand paper, just as he chooses to use it and to make it.

Angry words for the moment may seem to be smart and spirited, signaling a dignified temper and a haughty courage, but in reality, they are nothing more than proofs of littleness, spitefulness or base emotions.

We can work together if we want to. We can talk to one another if we choose. Let us not give in to angry and harsh words; let us reach for a soft answer in times of difficulty.▲

Secretary's Schedule

March 8	Arizona District Association First FWB Church Tucson, AZ
March 10-13	Christian Fellowship Council Conference San Diego, CA
March 21-22	Illinois State Association First FWB Church Decatur, IL
March 23	Bethel FWB Church South Roxana, IL

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