

April 1986

Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



**On
the
Field**



I Grew Up African

By Lynette Morgan



Some of my earliest memories are of my dad in medical school preparing for our family to go to Africa as missionaries. I remember the long absences typical of a medical student and later a resident doctor. And I recall many times gathering to thank the Lord for meeting a specific need, like lunch money through a letter in the mail.

By the time Daddy finished his medical training and was financially able to leave for the field, I was old enough to understand that a big change was near. I had just turned 10 and had my own special group of friends; all of us had started school together.

Our family looked forward to the adventure of departure. But it was also a time of sadness leaving close friends and saying good-bye to grandparents, aware that when we returned in five years things would probably be different.

The first taste of our new life was really a big bite. My brothers and I started French school as our parents began 13 months of language study in France. Every day we struggled to understand what was going on around us. On Thursday, the weekly holiday, we jumped back into

American correspondence studies so we wouldn't fall behind in our grades.

When we arrived in Ivory Coast in January 1962, we had just finished one year of schooling. That gave us until the end of August to complete another year of school so we could attend boarding school.

We worked hard during the next few months. Mom and Dad juggled teaching responsibilities with their unending missionary tasks. At the same time we became so attached to our new home and its primitive people that it was difficult to think of leaving in a few months.

But August did arrive. We finished our studies in the nick of time and picked out those treasures that we

wanted to take with us. Mom sewed on name tags and packed our trunks.

Every child is different. Some can handle boarding school and separation from parents and make the most of it. I was at an age—12 going into the seventh grade—that I could accept boarding school and enjoy it. My roommate became my best friend. I enjoyed sports and classroom competition. Those advantages were not available back home on our station.

I can't deny that I missed my parents and that there were nights I cried myself to sleep. But I was content at boarding school and learned much from my three years there.

For others, however, it's an adjustment that they just can't make and the forced separation scars them for years.

As an older girl, it was my responsibility to take a first-grader to the bathroom each night before my later bedtime because she still wet the bed. Night after night as I changed wet pants and tried to comfort this little girl crying for her parents, I promised myself that I would never send my children away to school.

If, when they were older—teenagers—and they wanted to go (perhaps for needed friendships, etc.) I would allow them to go. But never would I separate myself from them as long as they needed me.

That first five-year term finally came to an end. I was 15 going into the 10th grade when we returned to the States for our first furlough.

It was the most miserable year I ever spent.

Right away I realized that I was different. I didn't know how to wear make-up. My clothes were out of style. I didn't know how to communicate with girls whose experiences and life styles had been vastly different from mine. Neither could I carry on a conversation with a boy.

Not long after we arrived my old friends from first through fourth grades invited me to a slumber party. It was a disaster; I was a misfit.

The years that I had been away were crucial in the life of a child-turning-teenager, especially in forming friendships and "belonging." I no longer belonged. I never got together with them again.

I enrolled in a high school where cliques were already established. This shy, backward, insecure teenager had no chance of acceptance. My few friends were those excluded from the "in" group, the unpopular. Each day I pleaded sick. After being made to go, I looked at the other girls and wished I had grown up with them and been part of their fun.

Finally the dreadful year was over and we returned to the security and familiarity of bush life. For the next couple of years I studied by correspondence alone or with my brother on our station.

Soon it was time for college. I was pulled in two directions. All my life I had heard about Free Will Baptist Bible College from my parents. My older brother was already there. I had always dreamed of going. Yet on the other hand I knew it would be a year or more before I would see my parents again. And what if I was a misfit as before and stuck far away in the States?

I'll always be grateful to FWBBC, its staff and students for helping a "bushilized" (as my 9-year-old calls himself) M.K. adjust to college life and life in the States again.

I always regretted that I never had the advantage of growing up with the same friends, being part of clubs, dating and being popular. But I never regretted being an M.K. (Missionary Kid). Not only had I experienced living in two worlds, two cultures, but a love for the African people would ever be a big influence in my life.

Now I'm a missionary with my own four M.K.'s. I spend a great deal of time teaching them correspondence studies. I know that one day they may ask to go away to boarding school and I would say yes.

They are not fully American, yet they can never be truly African. They are part of two worlds, two cultures, even two peoples.

I'm proud to be an American and glad that my children have enjoyed their brief stays in the States. But tears well up in my eyes and a longing tugs at my heart when one of them says, "I'm ready to go home to Doropo."▲



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Lynette Morgan is a missionary to Ivory Coast, West Africa. She, her husband, Clint Morgan and their four children are on early furlough for medical reasons. Lynette is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley, former missionaries to Ivory Coast.

Contents April 1986

- 2 I Grew Up African**
Lynette Morgan
- 4 The Last Visit**
Gene Adams
- 5 Briefcase: Flight of the Bamboo Duck**
Jack Williams
- 6 The Single Missionary**
Arilla Wode
- 8 Thanks for the Memories**
Rolla Smith
- 12 The IRS—A Friend?**
Michael Johnston
- 14 Selfishness**
Floyd Wolfenbarger
- 15 Just Do Right**
David Taylor
- 16 Those Who Comfort and Encourage**
Yvonne Wolfenbarger
- 17 Procrastinator**
Garnett Reid
- 21 Free Will Baptist Newfront**
- 24 Currently**
- 25 On Little Lanes**
Donna Mayo
- 26 Top Shelf**
Thomas Marberry
- 27 Green Tree Bible Study**
Robert E. Picirilli
- 28 Teen Scene**
- 29 Especially For Young Preachers**
Dennis Wiggs
- 30 News of the Religious Community**
- 31 Thoughts from the Tomb**
Melvin Worthington

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

Volume XXXIII, No. 4

CONTACT (USPS 130-660), published monthly by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Post Office Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Address all correspondence and subscriptions to this address. Phone 615/361-1010. Subscription rates: 1 year, \$9.00; church family plan \$7.50 per year; church bundle plan \$8.00 per year. Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee. Copyright privileges, reserved ©, 1986 Member of the Evangelical Press Association. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CONTACT*, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. ISSN 0573-7796.

The

Last

Visit

By Gene Adams



It was Thursday night in February last year. I had spent the evening on soul-winning/visitation with no apparent results. Sometimes door knocking can be pretty discouraging work and, well, it was one of those nights.

I came dragging in about 10:30 p.m., feeling as bad as if I had shot my best hunting dog for sucking eggs. As I walked past the telephone, it began to ring. "Hello," I answered. "This is the Adams' residence. Can I help you?"

The lady on the other end of the line was weeping, but I recognized her voice. "Gene," she sobbed, "Do you know what day this is?"

"Yes," I answered, "It's Thursday."

"No, I don't mean the day of the week," she said. "It's Valentine's Day."

There I was in an unbelievable conversation, me, the respected pastor of a Free Will Baptist church listening to a radiant Christian lady weeping and asking if I knew that it was Valentine's Day. What would she say next?

My wife and I had led this young woman and her mother-in-law to the Lord one bitterly cold winter night five years earlier.

It has been my practice not to go into a home after 9:00 p.m. unless I know the prospect well enough to do so. People tend to give you a chilly reception when they have to answer the door in their pajamas.

Anyway, my wife and I drove up in front of the house, turned on the interior light and looked at the prospect card. The mother-in-law, Mrs. Powell, had seemed so receptive a few days before when I met her as I was canvassing the area. I looked at my watch. It was 8:58: time to quit for the night, but I felt that I just had to make this one last call.

Mrs. Powell's daughter-in-law, Cherry, was a new mother, and God had been dealing with her about the tremendous responsibility of motherhood. For days now, questions had been flooding her mind.

"Is there any hope for our marriage?" "How can we raise our little girl in a home like ours?" "Does God really care about us?"

The load of conviction pressed hard upon this young mother's soul. The situation seemed desperate, so she began to pray. "Dear God, I have been to different churches and I know that they don't all preach the same things. I don't know where to turn or who to believe. Lord, if you really do love me, please send somebody here today who will tell me what I need to hear."

Throughout the day she continued in prayer, but as the darkness of the cold winter night chased the light

away, hope gave way to a state of despair, colder and blacker than the dark February night.

The clock began to chime and she sat, not counting the chimes, but reasoning within herself, "It's 9:00 o'clock already, and nobody came. It looks as if God didn't hear my prayers after all."

Suddenly, she was drawn from her deep thoughts to a state of full consciousness. As the clock completed its chimes, the doorbell began to ring in unison.

Mrs. Powell opened the door, and with a look of surprise she exclaimed, "Well, Reverend Adams, how are you doing? I'm so glad you stopped by; come on in. This must be your wife."

After introductions and exchanges of pleasantries, we were on more personal terms. So Jackie Powell, Cherry's mother-in-law, frankly asked, "Preacher Adams, what brings you this way on a miserable night like this." (What a perfect opportunity to tell someone about Jesus!)

They were both like the Philippian jailer, waiting for someone to tell them how to be saved. I took them on a stroll down the Romans Road to salvation. By the time we read Romans 10:9-10, they were both ready to claim Jesus as Savior. There was rejoicing in heaven that night over two souls who came to repentance.

It didn't occur to my wife or to me that it was Valentine's Day. We just knew that we were doing what our Lord wanted us to do on that particular night. We had forgotten all about red paper hearts and fat Cupids with arrows. (Besides, I've always thought that Cupid was one of those fallen angels, or he wouldn't dress like he does, or doesn't.)

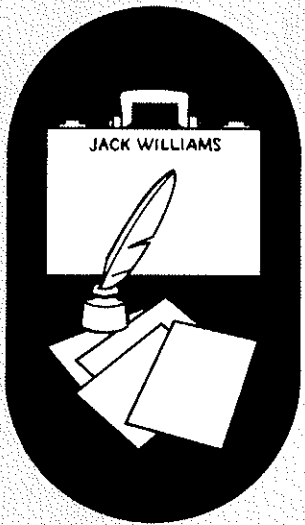
Anyway, I couldn't have received that phone call at a better time. She said, "Every Valentine's Day I spend the day thanking God for you and your wife. Don't you remember? It was Valentine's Day that you led me to the Lord?"

I hadn't remembered, but God used that testimony to encourage this discouraged preacher. That was truly one of the mountain tops in my Christian life. Now, every time I go soul winning, it's Valentine's Day. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Gene Adams pastors Community Free Will Baptist Church, Florence, South Carolina.

Flight of the Bamboo Duck

Briefcase



It seemed like a nifty idea at the time. You know how things usually work—you get a brainstorm to do something for a special person in your life, but before you finish it you question your sanity!

That's what happened the last day of January as I packed my bags for a flight from Fort Worth to Nashville. I and 234 other meeting planners had spent a week swapping ideas with convention bureaus.

Probably because I was a native son who stopped by their exhibit and said a kind word, the bureau chief from Lake Charles, Louisiana flagged me down as I left Tarrant County Convention Center and announced that I had won. A bouncy, bright-eyed lady handed over my prize. I was astonished.

There I stood holding a dainty bamboo basket shaped like a duck. The duck, neck twisted back over his wings like he was fighting a June bug, was stuffed with goodies from the bayou country—a cookbook of creole recipes, some Louisiana hot sauce, a bag of Jambalaya mix, some gumbo this and file that. The whole thing was wrapped in cellophane and topped off with a red and white checkered bow.

My first thought: "Boy, if I can get this thing home my wife will love me."

As I started for the door with the bamboo duck under my arm the lessons began. First lesson—bamboo ducks are too fragile to fly and they've

got all the grace of a hog on ice, plus they nose dive if you set them on a table.

I hadn't gone 20 paces before people began pointing at the grown man hugging a bamboo duck in the cowboy capital of the world.

Next morning, thoughtful husband that I am, I hauled briefcase, suit bag and duck to the hotel lobby where I waited for the redeye to the airport. It started again.

Couple of gals glanced at me and giggled "Aw, isn't it cute." I moved away from them but I couldn't hide the duck.

I stepped on the bus to discover one seat left, beside a blonde whose first words said it all, "Hi there, bring your duck and sit beside me." I pitched my briefcase overhead and sat me and the duck beside her. It was a long ride to the airport.

As I checked in at the terminal, the ticket agent grinned at the bamboo duck and said, "My, what a cute . . ." You can guess the rest.

By the time I arrived at the departure gate, I had enough courage to toss the duck in a chair, walk off about six paces and act like it belonged to somebody else. I kept reminding myself, "If I can just get it home, Janis will love me."

A metallic voice called my flight number and down the ramp we (the duck and I) marched. I boarded the plane ahead of two older ladies who cooed about the man carrying the duck. My ears turned red.

You know you're in trouble when you have to fend off little old ladies who want to rub your duck. But the best was yet to come.

I sat by the window with one vacant seat between me and some rough-looking character in the aisle seat. I buckled my seat belt and set the duck between us. The guy turned and mumbled out of the corner of his mouth, "Whacha got there, Buddy?"

"A duck," I murmured.

"Hmmm," he smirked and went back to reading *Field and Stream*.

Now all you guys who drive pick-up trucks and wear boots know exactly what I was thinking and what I thought

he was thinking by his "Hmmm." Believe me, I was ready to dump that duck on the runway.

Just before take off a flight attendant wandered by and asked, "What do you have there?"

"A duck," I grumbled.

"Better fasten his seat belt," she replied.

"Beg your pardon, Ma'am?" I asked.

"Your duck will have to wear a seat belt," she smiled. The fellow in the aisle seat snickered. I got this overpowering urge to choke him with the red and white checkered ribbon.

Think it's funny do you? You ever tried buckling a seat belt around a cellophane-wrapped duck? Finally, and not any too soon, the flight attendant agreed to stow the duck in an overhead compartment.

I suppose you know who stood up first, jerked open the compartment and made quite a production of handing me the duck when we arrived at the Nashville airport. Yep, that ugly guy in the aisle seat.

As we deplaned, one of my colleagues whispered to my editorial assistant who met us, "Be nice to Jack; he's had a hard time with that duck. I think he's embarrassed." So when she asked, I quickly consented for her to carry the duck. She was delighted. I moved away from her and it.

But when I got home with the bamboo duck, that special girl in my life thought I was great. And she almost convinced me that all my embarrassment was worthwhile.

You know, life is filled with bamboo duck incidents when in order to do something for others we place their interests above our own comfort. Getting a handle on some social or spiritual situations is about as awkward as buckling a seat belt on a duck. No matter what you do, you make a spectacle of yourself. But sometimes, most times in fact, it's worthwhile.

In case you're interested, that duck roosts on our kitchen cabinet, which is all right I suppose. But every once in a while when there's nobody home but me and the duck . . . ▲

The Single Missionary

By Arilla Wode

A missionary is a follower of Christ who gives his or her life to the extension of Christ's kingdom on this earth. Who is a "single missionary?" One who fulfills the role of a missionary without a husband or wife.

A Desire, Not A Disease

"You've gotta be crazy to want to go live among all those heathen." "Why don't you just stay at home and work in a little church here?" "We could use you here." "Now honey, the Lord can send someone else. Besides, you'll never find a husband over there." "Just look at all the things you're missing by going to that far-off place."

Many folks thought I'd lost my ability to reason when I announced that the Lord wanted me to be a missionary. I was saved at the age of 9 and surrendered my life to God at age 14. Since that summer evening at an old-fashioned altar, there's been a continuing "want to" or desire to serve God wherever He chooses.

The first Free Will Baptist missionary I remember hearing was Mom Willey. She spoke on Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God (and its extension) . . . and all these things shall be added unto you." The extension of the kingdom of God is to reach those without Christ. My desire to be a part of that extension increased.

The greatest joy is leading someone to Jesus Christ as Savior. Winning people to Christ is a full-time job.

Most people I know here in Agnibilekrou—Africans, Lebanese, Vietnamese and French—do not know Jesus Christ. Some have heard that He was a great man or even a prophet, but He is unknown as the Savior of the world.



They have to be taught step by step. The moment that sin is confessed, Christ comes to live in a heart—what a thrill! I'm part of the extension of the kingdom of God.

A Privilege, Not a Penalty

"Poor thing. She didn't find a husband here, so she's just throwing herself into the Lord's work to forget her plight in life as an old maid." Well-meaning people who've conveyed this idea have somehow forgotten that I have a choice in deciding my life's mate.

So far the Lord has not shown me who my life's mate will be. If I can trust the Lord with the other areas of my life, surely I can trust Him with the question of marriage.

Serving the Lord in another country is a privilege, not a penalty. The Lord did not banish me from the United States, but He allowed me to broaden my knowledge and deepen my love for lost humanity.

There are definite cultural differences in the acceptance of single women in Africa. Most African women are married or at least have children by the time they are in their early 20's. A single woman is a rarity. Living a victorious life in this culture shows the difference between the pagan culture and God's culture.

A Challenge, Not a Calamity

I may be the only person you know who can walk across the floor and fall over the seam in the tile. Being a klutz has taught me some helpful lessons.

First, the moment I fall my pride is bruised, as well as my body. My first reaction is to look around and see how many people were watching. Embarrassment seizes me. But life must go on and so must I. I must get up off the floor. The calamity is not in falling but in staying down.

Second, as I gather all the assorted arms and legs and dust myself off, I might as well laugh as cry. The recovery period may take a while, but there's no need to remain on the floor.

There have been difficult times in my life as a single missionary. Hopeful-

ly I used them as challenges and did not succumb to the disasters.

My Machinery

Malfunctioning machinery from hair dryers to typewriters to lawnmowers aggravates me. I tried repairing steam irons, pump organs and wall clocks, but mechanics is not my forte.

One frustrating thing is keeping the car in good working order. There are few wreckers here if a car breaks down. How in the world do you explain to someone what you don't understand yourself? My vocabulary is very descriptive with "that thing there" or "wha-cha-ma-call-it" or it made a "whoosh" or "ugh" sound.

Gasoline engines are a great invention, but I'm sure my car eats mufflers, spark plugs, points and head gaskets. It drinks gallons of water and uses oil for mouthwash. For dessert it chews various nuts, bolts and gaskets.

My Needs

Some days there are things I feel I need. I read in a Bible study guide that "felt needs" are not necessarily the "real needs."

Perhaps today I feel like I'm put together all wrong. My real need is to accept myself just the way God made me. Then maybe I feel like I'd like to be married and have someone put a loving arm around me. That real need may be for security and male companionship.

Problems and loneliness do not disappear just because one is married. After all, Christians are told in I Peter 5:7 to "cast all our anxiety on him because he cares for us."

Paul tells us in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." I believe that includes learning to be content with my marital status too. The Lord can meet the felt needs as well as the real needs.

My Health

Facing sickness has been a chore for me. It's easy to ask, *Why me, Lord?* But it's hard to be thankful in every circumstance.

You've known folks that compact a 24-hour virus into eight hours? The

next day they look like the picture of health. I'm the kind who stretches a 24-hour virus for three days. It takes me 10 days to get over it and I look like I've knocked on death's door.

I "live" with malaria; that's no fun. Neither was the rabid dog bite. Believe me, I'd much rather help someone else feel better than have someone meet my physical needs. Perhaps sickness teaches me the value of allowing others to meet my needs.

My Relationships

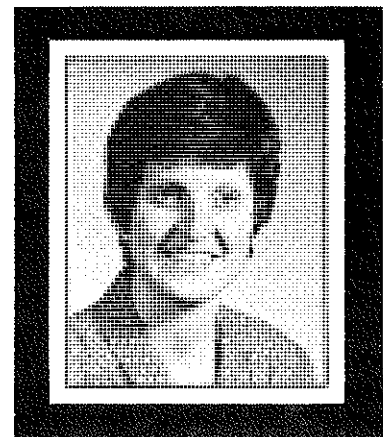
There are times singles are misunderstood by each other as well as by married people. Each of us has his own distinctive gifts and personalities, whether married or single. Life is a process of blending lives and gifts to extend the kingdom of God.

When I feel that I'm right in a situation and my colleagues feel their views are best, things get awkward. Giving in and foregoing my rights is hard; at times it's painful.

Working through personality differences is difficult but possible. What a challenge to learn to interweave ideas and ideals and find creative channels to present them.

So I'm single. There are good times and bad times. There are advantages and disadvantages.

To me the most important aspect is not marital status but rather the desire to do what God wants me to do, the privilege to reach others for Christ, and the challenge to be all I can be. ▲



ABOUT THE WRITER: Arilla Wode was appointed as a missionary to Ivory Coast, West Africa in 1976. She is a graduate of Hillsdale FWB College and Free Will Baptist Bible College. Miss Wode was a member of the 1972 Good News Team in Japan.

Thanks for the Memories

By Rolla Smith

I was 16 when I had my first contact with a Free Will Baptist foreign missionary in the summer of 1937. Reverend Thomas H. Willey stayed in our home during an itinerary in Wright County, Missouri. Getting to know Brother Willey was one of the highlights of my teenage years.

I chauffeured him to his services in our family car and helped carry camera equipment and projector. He even went swimming with me in the stair-steps swimming hole at Whetstone Creek. He was an expert high diver and swimmer.

In 1944 Reverend Winford Davis, promotional secretary-treasurer of foreign missions had a service in my home church in Mountain Grove, Missouri. He preached and reported on his recent trip to Cuba. His sermon on the text, "He must needs go through Samaria" (John 4:4) made an indelible impression on me. This was before I responded to the call to preach.

In July 1952 the National Association elected me to serve on the Board of Foreign Missions. I had just accepted the call to pastor Fellowship FWB Church, Flat River, Missouri and was ending my first pastorate of three years at Hazel Creek FWB Church near Kirksville.

The Cuban Experience

One unforgettable experience during my first term as a board member was a trip to Cuba in January 1959. I arrived in Havana shortly after Castro took over the government. The next 10 days were action-packed from early morning until late at night.

The whole island was jubilant. At long last Cuba was freed from Batista, the cruel dictator! But the rejoicing was short-lived. Castro was a wolf in sheep's clothing. The sequel to the story is well known. Communism is still in control.



Retiring Foreign Missions General Director Rolla Smith turns back the pages on 49 years of love for foreign missions and foreign missionaries.

One day I visited Pinar prison with Brother Willey. I stood on an army cot, balancing myself on his broad shoulders, as I spoke to 400 of Batista's men from Psalm 130:4, "But there is forgiveness with God."

I have never preached to a more attentive audience. Some of the prisoners were to be executed by a firing squad each morning at sunrise. Brother Willey went daily to pray with them just before they were shot.

At that time there were about 25 Free Will Baptist churches in Cuba with a combined membership of over 2,000. What a delight to preach to those lovely people who were so excited about serving the Lord.

This was my first experience speaking through a translator. Tom Willey, Jr., took me to most of the churches and translated my sermons, but when I spoke to the Cuban Association of Free Will Baptists, Tom Willey, Sr., translated.

Benito Rodriguez translated when I spoke to the Pinar Church. I recall the

deep moving of the Holy Spirit and the unusual freedom with which the Lord enabled me to speak to a packed house that night.

What a joy to visit the campus of Cedars of Lebanon Bible Institute where many Free Will Baptist young people were being trained for Christian service. The atmosphere was charged with enthusiasm. I remember radiant faces, Christian love and testimony, and exuberant singing. The institute and mission compound, located on an 18-acre tract near Pinar, opened on January 4, 1944 with seven students.

At the time of my visit, more than 40 full-time Christian workers had been trained at Cedars of Lebanon. Small wonder that the Free Will Baptist work in Cuba has survived in spite of hardships and persecutions. Once again the Lord confirmed His words—"I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 17:18b).

General Director 1960-1962

I succeeded Reverend Raymond Riggs as Foreign Missions general director-treasurer on January 1, 1960. The home staff consisted of the general director, a bookkeeper-secretary (Mrs. Gladys Sloan), and a promotional secretary (Reverend Louis Moulton).

There were only 30 missionaries including Reverend Mario Cignoni, a national in Spain and Mrs. Josephine Stevens, a Free Will Baptist, who served in South Africa under another board with her husband Reverend Harold Stevens.

In April 1960, Brother Moulton suffered a heart attack. He resigned later that year. Jerry Ballard joined the staff in late 1960 as promotional secretary-editor. Another secretary was added to the staff in 1960. We published the first issue of *Heartbeat* in January 1961.

Those were important days as the denominational missionary thrust gained momentum. The Hannas, Cronks and Volena Wilson were seeing many saved in India, our oldest field. Nationals were trained to carry the gospel to their own people. Laura Belle Barnard was filling a key missions role as a teacher at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Missionaries in Brazil and Japan were reporting conversions and expanding ministries. New missionaries were added to the staff.

Another focus of enthusiasm was the developing field of Ivory Coast. Bill and Joy Jones had joined Lonnie and Anita Sparks and Dan and Margaret

Merkh on the field. Dan was in charge of building missionary residences and the first medical buildings in Doropo.

Dr. LaVerne Miley finished his training and became the first medical doctor commissioned by Free Will Baptists

Mr. Smith checks his baggage and supplies for missionary Lonnie Sparks.



since the earlier foreign missions work was lost in the Northern Baptist merger in 1910.

In November 1960, I saw the Miley family board the S.S. United States in New York en route to France for language study. A year later they arrived in Doropo to begin medical work. Dr. Miley felt his primary calling was to take the gospel to the people and that the practice of medicine was a means to that end.

In the last five weeks of 1960 three couples entered language study—The Bobby Pooles and the Bobby Aycocks in Brazil and the John Moehlmans in Costa Rica for work in Panama.

Early in 1961 the Lonnie Palmers entered French language study in Switzerland to prepare for service in Ivory Coast. That same year the Bill Fulchers and the Paul Robinsons began language school in Costa Rica so that they could open a new field.

More pastors and churches responded to the missionary vision with increased offerings and prayer support. This was encouraging, but be-

cause of a conviction that I should return to the pastorate, I submitted my resignation effective February 1, 1962.

Before agreeing to serve as general director, I had told the board I was not comfortable making a long-term commitment. At the same time, I expressed a willingness to serve indefinitely should the Lord lead.

There was no doubt in my mind that the Lord led me to fill the gap created by Brother Riggs' resignation. I was equally convinced the time had come to name my successor.

The Pastoral Years

My involvement in foreign missions did not cease, however. I was elected to the board in July 1962 and served until I was again chosen general director in 1975.

Reverend J. Reford Wilson succeeded me as general director and served for 13 years. Under his leadership, the ministries of the department continued to expand. The missionary staff doubled. Three new fields were opened—Uruguay, Spain and France.

I'm grateful that the Lord and the denomination permitted me to continue a direct association with the department during Brother Wilson's administration. From 1963 to 1975, I served as recording secretary for the board. This enabled me to keep abreast of the department's continued growth and activities.

Since the future ministries of Christians applying for overseas service and the eternal destiny of countless souls in other lands depend upon board decisions, board membership calls for dedication to the task and reliance on the Word of God and the Holy Spirit for guidance.

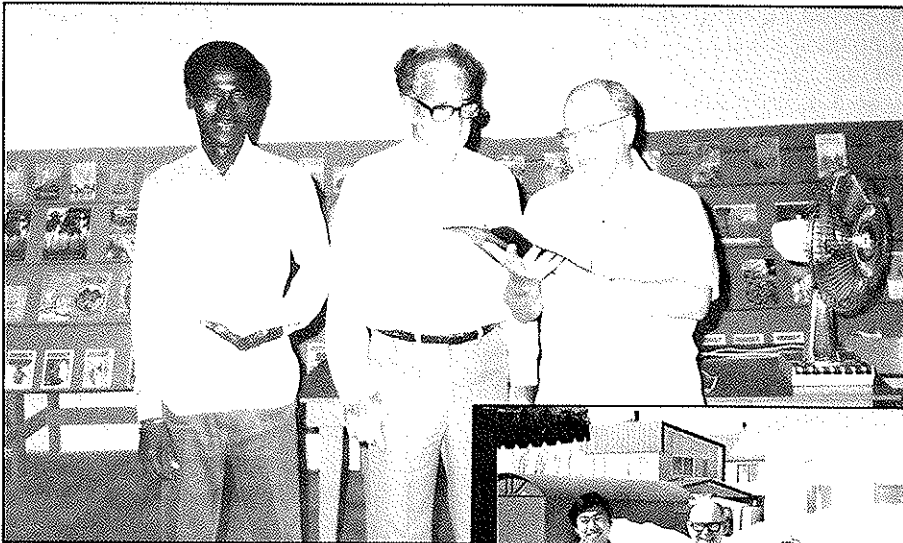
I am thankful for every board member who has met this criteria, and hold dear the memory of laboring together with these men in seeking to advance the cause of Jesus Christ around the world since 1952.

I began my five-year ministry at Donelson FWB Church in Nashville in January 1962. The group had worshiped in the basement a few years with part-time pastors. Although the number was small, I was challenged



Rolla Smith (front row, left) and Mabel Willey at Pinar Prison, Cuba in 1958.





Reverend Smith (R) preaches in English; Missionary Norman Richards translates into French; Danso, a member of the Agnibilékrou church, translates into Twi, an African tribal language.

MEMORIES (From page 9)

with the opportunity for growth and accepted the call on a full-time basis.

We began construction on a sanctuary in October 1962. The first service was held in it January 27, 1963. The church continued to experience growth during the next four years.

I resigned in January 1967 to pastor First FWB Church in Savannah, Georgia. My family and I moved from Donelson with the assurance the Lord was leading. Even so, we left with mixed emotions. Leaving a church has always been difficult for us. We were leaving behind many friends and pleasant memories.

Savannah Church received us warmly. We soon felt at home for they were a congenial people, easy to love. There was an excellent spirit of fellowship and cooperation.

Savannah was one of the top 10 churches in the denomination in giving to foreign missions and the largest contributor to the general fund of Free Will Baptist Bible College during those years.

Although not a native son of Georgia, I was privileged to serve four years as moderator of both the state association and the South Georgia Association. Again, leaving was not easy when after six and one-half years I accepted the call to pastor Grant Avenue FWB Church, Springfield, Missouri. The deep south had been good to us and for us.



Mr. Smith visits with Mr. Uemori San, a Japanese lay preacher, and his family.

Although it was hard to leave Savannah, my wife and I were excited about returning to our native state and expected to complete our ministry either in Springfield or elsewhere in Missouri. However, our plans were changed when in 1975 the Board of Foreign Missions asked me to assume the role of general director for a second time.

Return To The Helm 1975-1986

At first I declined. After others were contacted and none accepted, the board asked me to reconsider. The decision was made more difficult in that I had been pastor at Grant Avenue just over two years.

It was reminiscent of 1959 when I first became general director. Then I was leaving an eight-month pastorate in St. Louis following a seven-year pastorate in Flat River. But after prayerful consideration and consultation with trusted friends, I accepted

with the assurance the Lord was leading. It seemed a solemn call to duty.

When asked why I accepted the position a second time after resigning in early 1962, my reply was:

"There are more opportunities in our present structure to share a pastor's heart. I now have fewer family responsibilities . . . I've already had a reasonable number of years in my basic calling (as pastor). Now that the department has an enlarged staff, the general director does not have to be a specialist in so many areas. I also realize time is running out. I want my life to count most in the years that are left, be they few or many" (*Heartbeat*, September 1975).

Now another 10½ years have passed. I thank and praise God for His leadership and blessings. To be sure there have been unpleasant experiences. Many times I have known disappointment and sometimes the pang of sorrow. But God's enabling grace has been sufficient in every circumstance.

My family and I were deeply saddened by the long illness and death of our daughter, Linda. Yet, it was a sorrow mingled with joy because of her courage as she experienced days of intense pain and faced death.

February 28, 1984 was a day suddenly darkened by a phone call—"John and Kay Metcalf are dead." Missionary appointees to Brazil, they had been killed in a fiery automobile crash in Jackson, Tennessee. They had left our offices two hours earlier after spending most of the day with me and other staff members. They were filled with joy and excitement about their plans for a ministry in Brazil.

John and Kay were headed for home in Tulsa but God intercepted their travel plans. Again, sorrow was tempered with joy because of the radiant Christian living John and Kay had exemplified.

I felt a keen sense of loss when in August 1983 two key national pastors died. John Baptiste, 40, died from kidney failure in Ivory Coast. I recalled my meeting with him on my first trip to Ivory Coast. He was so full of joy and a most promising leader.

In India, Pastor Dorairaj died at 65. He pastored Immanuel Church in South India for 26 years. Dan Cronk said of him, "Dorairaj was a good father, rearing 10 children, all of whom are active in the church . . . We would have no continuing work in South

India if this Indian man of God had not been faithful all these years.”

Serious illnesses, major surgeries and injuries from unexpected causes have been frequent among missionary families. Concern for their well-being has often been a source of pressure.

Termination of service, especially when by recall, has been grievous. In some cases, health, unusual family responsibilities and other circumstances beyond the individual's or couple's control led to resignation. Such instances were also regrettable.

At times missionary efforts have been severely hindered by what I perceived to be unnecessary and unjustified criticism of missionaries, MK's or home office personnel. Admittedly, there have been those who have given cause for criticism. In either case, I have been distressed and disappointed.

Coping with deficit accounts, rapidly changing economic conditions and governmental red tape (domestic and foreign) are other factors that added to the burden of administration. But in reflecting on the past I prefer to give prominence to the persons, places, programs and events that have been a source of joy and fulfillment.

I count it a great privilege to have been a co-worker with so many of the Lord's choice servants—missionaries, staff members, board members, pastors, denominational leaders, nationals and a host of rank and file church members. My association with this company of believers provides cherished memories on which to reflect as I begin another chapter of life.

Although tiring and demanding, and sometimes grueling, my overseas trips have been rewarding and challenging. Sensing the excitement and seeing the glow on the faces of believers (black, white, red and yellow) in our overseas congregations has made every sacrifice worthwhile.

Preaching to nationals was gratifying whether in the busy country or in small towns or large cities. I have seen abundant evidence that the gospel does exactly what the Bible says it will do when people anywhere in the world receive it. Realizing most of the national converts never heard the gospel until our missionaries arrived gave me added impetus to carry on in spite of criticism, fatigue, discouragement and other opposing forces.

Meeting with missionaries in field council sessions was an important part of every overseas trip. There was mutual sharing regarding progress and future plans of the work. Also, I was privileged to preach, usually several times, during the days and nights the missionaries were together.

Highlights of every overseas trip were the visits in the homes of missionary families. They were most hospitable. These visits provided opportunity for personal and family counsel and encouragement.

Being Uncle Smith or Uncle Rolla to a hundred or so MK's has been worth all the energy expended, sleep lost, heat or cold endured and every other physical inconvenience experienced. Their excitement at receiving the "goodies" I gave them convinced me that I really was at the time their favorite uncle.

I have appreciated the opportunities afforded me to speak in stateside local churches and denominational meetings. The administrative responsibilities of the office often prohibited me from accepting invitations to preach which otherwise I would have gladly accepted.

Commissioning services were extra-special events. Without exception, home churches responded with renewed commitment to Christ and world missions as they witnessed the commissioning of their own. I have had the privilege of conducting 34 commissioning services during the past 10 years.

Tomorrow

Having reached the official retirement age of 65 set by the board, I left the helm to my dedicated and capable successor, Reverend R. Eugene Waddell on April 1.

The denomination is now celebrating 50 years of advance in foreign missions. The theme of the celebration which is being coordinated by Jimmy Aldridge is "Fifty Golden Years of Advance—From Small Beginnings . . . to a Fruitful Present . . . and on to a Vigorous Developing Church." It is fitting and proper that we review the past and anticipate the future at this significant milestone.

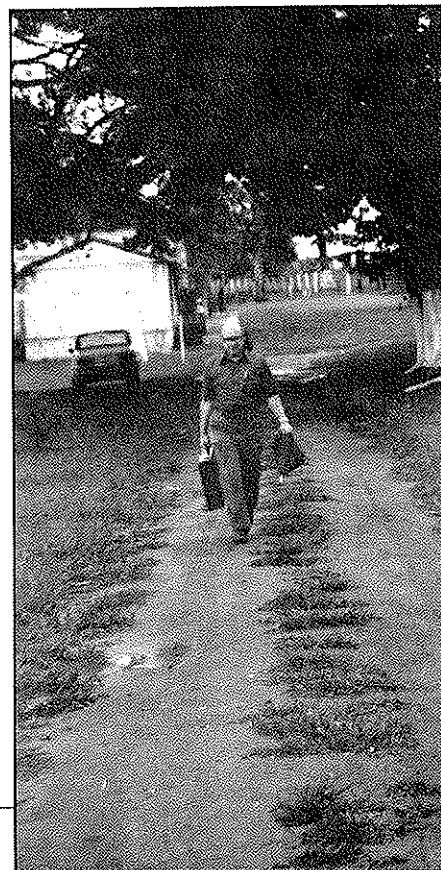
Mr. Smith at FWB camp in Brazil.

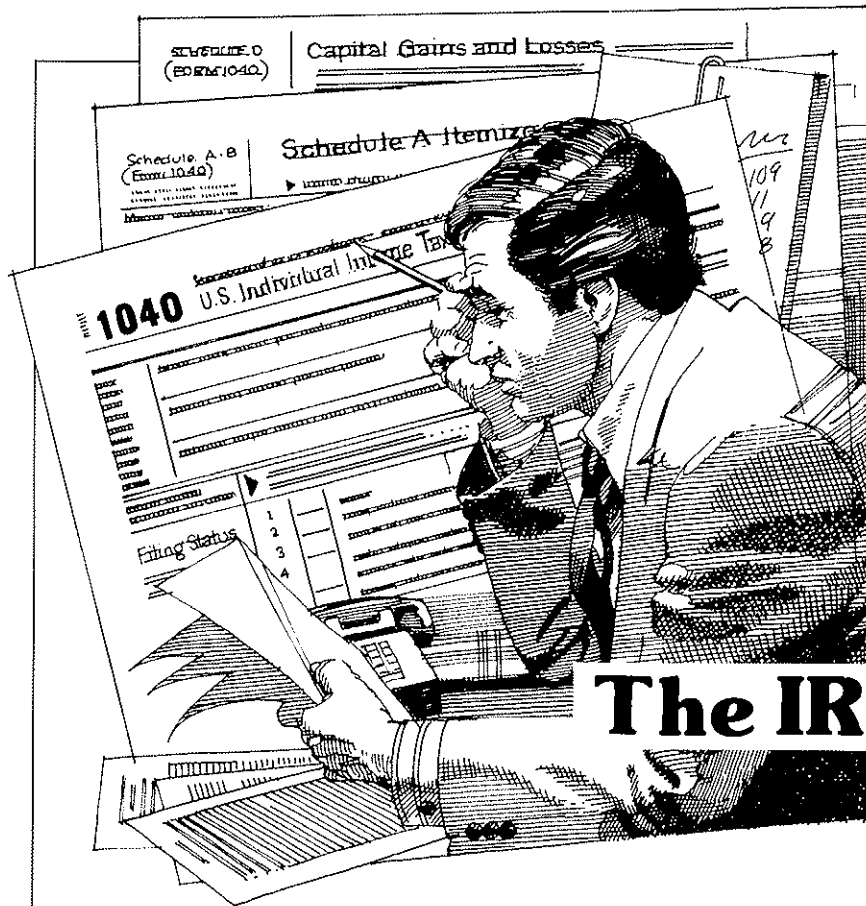
I have confidence that the years to come will mark continued spiritual and numerical growth in this great enterprise. This is God's work involving at the present time 112 adult missionaries, a dedicated home staff and board, thousands of supporters who pray earnestly and give liberally and many churches and congregations in nine other countries.

In the words of Adoniram Judson, the future is "bright as the promises of God." This was his classic reply when after 10 years' work he could show only 18 converts in Burma. But those were just the first fruits of a bountiful and spiritual harvest that was reaped in future years.

After 50 years of Free Will Baptist missionary work overseas, there are several thousand believers. My prayer and hope is that these are only the first fruits of an abundant harvest in the years ahead. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Rolla Smith retires as general director of the Foreign Missions Department as this April 1986 issue of Contact is mailed. He has served with distinction in a difficult, and at times almost impossible, position.





The IRS—A Friend?

By Michael Johnston

To most people, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is a heartless instrument of big government that's feared and hated. Nothing sends shivers down the taxpayer's spine like receiving a letter stating he has an appointment for an IRS audit.

In reality, the IRS can assist us in tax matters and, believe it or not, can be a friend. Now that we're over this initial shock, let's find out how this governmental agency can benefit us.

The United States tax structure is based largely on the honor system. We Christians should not have any qualms about being honest in our dealings with the government. I would say that a majority of Americans purposely sidestep the tax laws to reduce their burden.

Whether this encompasses just a few dollars or runs into thousands of dollars makes no difference; this skirting of the rules is cheating and cannot be tolerated by believers.

The Internal Revenue Service is a necessity because of a breakdown in that honor system. It is a watchdog to

assure that individuals and organizations (including churches) are following the guidelines.

Our tax laws are extremely complicated and some are unfair to many of us. Even accountants and lawyers with special training cannot keep up with all the rules and exceptions. Thus, the IRS is available to regulate the application of the system and to assist Americans with their tax questions.

The IRS regularly issues rulings to inform professionals and taxpayers how to apply unclear tax legislation. In addition, the Internal Revenue Service answers questions (usually in a courteous manner) regarding the tax matters of individuals, churches or other organizations. In that way, any person who is unsure of how an item or transaction should be treated for tax purposes can, in most cases, find out from the IRS what to do in that situation.

We must remember that agency employees are human like the rest of us and may not know all the answers.

But most will attempt to find someone who does have the solution or will be kind enough to admit that they can't come up with the answer in that particular area.

If any of us as Christians or our churches are selected for an audit by the Internal Revenue Service, we should not have any reason to fear if we have acted uprightly in all of our affairs.

IRS auditors are not monsters waiting to pounce on innocent citizens. In fact, it may surprise us to discover that some IRS personnel are reasonable, God-fearing people. It has been rare when I represented a client in an audit and found the agent hard to deal with.

The secret to having simple, uneventful IRS examinations is to be fair and honest in all tax return items, be friendly and courteous, and keep the best records possible of each amount.

I recently appeared for one of my clients at an audit. There were a few small transactions in which I was unsure if the agent would agree with me. The auditor and I had an enjoyable

conversation and the entire exam lasted only an hour.

The taxpayer had kept concise and complete records and we had prepared well for the meeting. These factors led to a "No Change" result on his tax return.

Another aspect of the Internal Revenue Service that is harmless and might even be beneficial to us is the required bookkeeping. Not only will maintaining proper records keep us in the good graces of governmental agencies, we may find these ledgers can remove other conflicts in our financial dealings.

If, for instance, a church treasurer is accused of dishonesty in handling God's money, an accurate and complete set of books will remove all doubt. On the other hand, if records are missing and/or incomplete, suspicions will only be increased and that individual or organization can expect trouble.

I hope I haven't shocked you by pointing out that the Internal Revenue Service actually does have some good points and can benefit us. Don't think I am naive enough to believe that everything is perfect about the IRS.

Of course there are abrasive agency personnel who will not be patient with taxpayers' questions and may not care whether they give correct answers to inquiries. There are also a few agents who may be out to "get" some innocent individuals or organizations.

Overall, though, we as Americans have the wrong concept of the IRS. If we keep the proper records, deal honestly and fairly in all tax matters, and are courteous and cooperative with agency personnel, we will find that the Internal Revenue Service can be a friend instead of a foe. ▲



ABOUT THE WRITER: Michael Johnston is a Certified Public Accountant who has his own accounting firm. He is a member of Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church in Effingham, Illinois. Michael is the treasurer of his church and of the Illinois State Association.

Thank You For Your Contributions...



... Through the Cooperative Channel

Cooperative Channel Contributions

January 1986

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP	Total	Jan. '85	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 170.38	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,170.38	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,170.38
Arkansas	.00	2,463.17	2,463.17	2,243.01	2,463.17
California	.00	721.98	721.98	706.76	721.98
Florida	.00	1,502.08	1,502.08	830.16	1,502.08
Georgia	3,004.70	.00	3,004.70	3,722.50	3,004.70
Illinois	7,432.78	1,259.59	8,692.37	6,137.08	8,692.37
Indiana	526.81	128.39	655.20	590.97	655.20
Kansas	.00	90.25	90.25	148.32	90.25
Kentucky	.00	358.16	358.16	77.80	358.16
Michigan	5,980.97	1,510.56	7,491.53	5,301.35	7,491.53
Mississippi	89.82	494.36	584.18	388.41	584.18
Missouri/	.00	.00	.00	(483.95)	.00
New Mexico	16.89	8.45	25.34	52.06	25.34
North Carolina	450.00	325.00	775.00	843.50	775.00
Ohio	10.00	.00	10.00	3,702.00	10.00
Oklahoma	22,537.15	9,009.44	31,546.59	33,770.74	31,546.59
South Carolina	711.50	.00	711.50	349.64	711.50
Tennessee	2,235.19	600.73	2,835.92	1,324.71	2,835.92
Texas	3,637.34	454.89	4,092.23	7,521.06	4,092.23
Virginia	70.00	948.75	1,018.75	1,490.36	1,018.75
West Virginia	1,764.40	153.74	1,918.14	3,128.67	1,918.14
Canada	.00	.00	.00	25.00	.00
Totals	\$48,637.93	\$21,029.54	\$69,667.47	\$72,870.15	\$69,667.47

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 975.84	\$13,811.10	\$14,786.94	\$13,622.36	\$14,786.94
Foreign Missions	32,922.79	1,660.24	34,583.03	40,163.59	34,583.03
FWBBC	3,463.74	1,660.24	5,123.98	4,020.52	5,123.98
Home Missions	10,781.31	1,299.32	12,080.63	11,026.59	12,080.63
Retirement & Insurance	53.38	1,010.59	1,063.97	1,411.22	1,063.97
Master's Men	97.35	938.46	1,035.81	1,315.88	1,035.81
Commission for Theological Integrity	23.10	72.16	95.26	118.56	95.26
FWB Foundation	212.72	433.11	645.83	800.61	645.83
Historical Commission	20.02	72.16	92.18	116.09	92.18
Radio & TV Commission	30.02	72.16	102.18	113.75	102.18
Hillsdale FWB College	22.46	.00	22.46	26.23	22.46
Other	35.20	.00	35.20	134.75	35.20
Totals	\$48,637.93	\$21,029.54	\$69,667.47	\$72,870.15	\$69,667.47

Selfishness

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

REQUESTS FOR TICKETS TO MEAL FUNCTIONS 1986 National Convention

Number	Meal	Total
_____	Learner/Adventurer Picnic \$2.50 Monday, July 21/5:00 p.m. Williams Center/Lower Level	\$ _____
_____	Music Ministries Fellowship Breakfast \$6.00 Tuesday, July 22/7:00 a.m. Excelsior Hotel/Woodward Room	\$ _____
_____	Friends of Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon \$10.00 Tuesday, July 22/12:15 p.m. Excelsior Hotel/Manchester-Geneva	\$ _____
_____	WNAC Fellowship Dinner \$11.50 Tuesday, July 22/5:00 p.m. Excelsior Hotel/International Ballroom	\$ _____
_____	Youth Banquet \$9.00 Tuesday, July 22/9:00 p.m. Westin Hotel/Plaza Ballroom	\$ _____
_____	Master's Men Breakfast \$7.00 Wednesday, July 23/7:00 a.m. Excelsior Hotel/Buckingham-Windsor	\$ _____
_____	FWBBC Alumni & Friends Luncheon \$8.50 Wednesday, July 23/12:00 Noon Excelsior Hotel/Buckingham-Windsor	\$ _____
_____	Youth Workers Dinner \$8.00 Wednesday, July 23/5:00 p.m. Westin Hotel/Oklahoma South	\$ _____
	Total Enclosed	\$ _____

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to TICKET SALES. Mail requests to TICKET SALES, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Please send check or money order. Do not send cash. All requests must be received by **JULY 1, 1986**.

NO TICKET REFUNDS AFTER JULY 1, 1986

There is an oddity in our generation. It is selfishness. I am not arguing that other ages didn't have selfishness. The parable of the prodigal is proof that selfishness was abundantly present in Jesus' generation. However, what seems unique about our day is that selfishness not only thrives but is even admired.

This admiration for selfishness is seen in our theology. It doesn't surprise me to hear of "Christian Assertiveness Training." We have moved from preaching repentance to promising fulfillment as our chief tactic in evangelism.

In a letter to *Moody Monthly* a defender of Robert Schuller's teaching wrote: "Yes, I'm proud, and I bet God is proud of me as His kid." We have elevated the "me first" attitude from its formerly crass, overbearing, crude position to the status of dogma.

This admiration for selfishness is seen in our standards. The voice that calls for restraint of selfish desires is quickly dismissed amid charges of legalism.

People cannot defend immodest apparel, premarital petting, dancing to lurid rock music or attending profane and licentious films on moral grounds. Instead, they insist on exercising their liberty without regard to their testimony before others, or the need to protect the purity of their own minds.

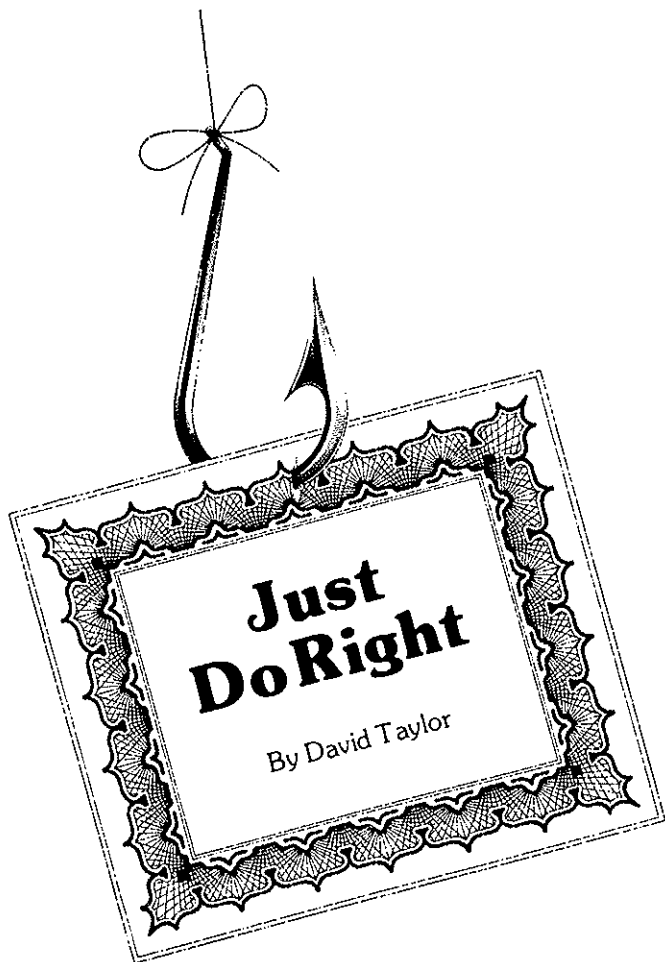
This admiration for selfishness is seen in our insistence that we be ministered to. "I missed four Sundays and no one came to visit me!" is a cry that's usually heard from those who never visited an absentee in their life.

We break a promise to someone with no remorse. If they break one to us we cry, "Foul!"

Jesus did not come to be ministered to but to minister. When you get in the fellowship of saints you have found a place where you can minister to others.

Help us Lord; we let selfishness turn our lives upside down. ▲





William Penn said, "Right is right, even if everyone is against it; and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it."

Am I alone in sensing that more people are basing their decision as to right and wrong on trends of the day or on the influence of their companions in order to justify appeasing their desires and passions?

Are there no longer any absolutes? Are right and wrong no longer clear? Does the assertion that "everybody

else is doing it" make wrong right?

Solomon wrote, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

Paul told Timothy a time would come when people would refuse to hear and abide by sound doctrine, "But after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Timothy 4:3-4).

Paul warned the Corinthians that "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them" (II Corinthians 4:4).

No, I think I am not alone. I'm just reconfirming to myself what the Holy Spirit has already shown to be the truth. Man is searching for the way of truth and morality. But what is right for self usually gets priority.

Therefore, men seek those who will confirm and commend, for we all seek approval of our ways. We then have a false sense of justification. All the while, Satan blinds us from the truth of absolute morality—Jesus Christ.

Satan will tell you anything you want to hear; Jesus will not. Is that why Jesus is not always popular? He is straight, too straight for some. He is set, not flexible enough for many. He is sound. He is simple.

Right and morality have always been, and will forever be, measured against only one yardstick, Jesus Christ.

William Penn was correct, "Right is right, even if everyone is against it; and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it."

Make your decisions on Christ's principles, not on the crowd's preference. Choose truth, not trends. Follow the Light, not your lusts. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend David Taylor pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Wilburton, Oklahoma. He is an alumnus of California Christian College.

'SHOOT' IN POOR TASTE

I found the February article, "But Could I Shoot" to be in poor taste. Any man in his right mind (saved or not) would protect his family from bodily harm.

Don't get me wrong. I believe in self-defense, but not to the tune of encouraging others to "blow away" intruders. If fear be our guide then we are blind to the law of Christ.

If we're so keen on protecting our families from intruders, then let's get rid of the adulterers, the homosexuals, the violence and the illicit sex that we allow to come into our homes by way of television.

Let television violence continue in the home and it could be your son or daughter that becomes the intruder and gets blown away by a Free Will Baptist pastor who's just protecting his family.

Reverend Michael Neuman, Pastor
Hannon Free Will Baptist Church
Liberal, Missouri

YOU BLEW IT!

I have read *Contact* for more years now than I care to remember.

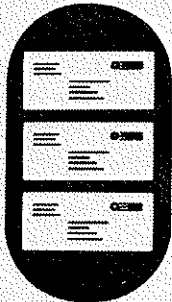
While there have been articles and statements in past issues I have disagreed with, February's edition contains a statement on capital punishment that not only do I disagree with but it prompted me to write my first letter to the editor.

Thinking about capital punishment causes me to "see" many things, but beauty is not one of them. I see no beauty in capital punishment.

This letter has many "I feel" and "I believe" in it. It is strictly personal opinion, but then so was the article. Because *Contact* is viewed by many as fact with no opinion, the editors need to do a better job. This is one time the editors "blew it!"

Lenny Bass
Florence, South Carolina

OUR READERS COMMENT



Those Who Comfort and Encourage

By Yvonne Wolfenbarger

Some years ago F. B. Meyer said, "If I had my life to live over again, I would spend more time in the ministry of comfort and encouragement."

Most of us are looking for a ministry in the Lord's work, a place of service uniquely ours that fits our gifts, personality and interests. In a well balanced church many avenues of service are available. But how do we determine the area in which we will serve?

Some of us are geared toward the senior-saints ministry while others prefer a more lively group such as children's church or the nursery. God gifted some with musical abilities while others best express themselves through teaching or woman's auxiliary.

If you're confused about your role in church, I suggest the ministry of comfort and encouragement. It's listed along with other spiritual gifts in I Corinthians 12:28 as the gift of "helps." No age limit, no educational requirement is necessary to perform this neglected work.

The choir always needs another voice and there's no end to the call for teachers. But let me assure you that no area is more deserving of your time and effort than that of encouragement and comfort.

In fact if you comfort and encourage others, they may join the choir or teach that class! Maybe all Brother Joe needs is a word of encouragement and he'd go on visitation with the pastor. Your comforting words, "I care and am praying for you," may be all Widow Smith needs to kick her depression and think about others.

A minister friend once told me, "I believe the work of the local church

could be revolutionized if more people developed the ministry of encouragement."

How Do I Begin?

First, ask God for guidance and direction. Plan so that your week includes time to send cards, write notes, make phone calls and do some visiting. If you don't *make* time, you won't *have* time.

You're probably wondering, "What could I say that would encourage or comfort anyone?" Remember, it need not be profound. Begin by sending cards; let Hallmark say it for you.

Then start adding your own postscript. Though it may not be as poetic as the card, it will mean more to the receiver. Now you're getting the hang of it.

Next, try writing your own notes and letters. Say it from the heart. Don't be afraid to express your emotions.

I know what you're thinking, "I never know what to say to someone who has lost a loved one." That's all right, your presence is comfort enough. A hand extended or a hug can bring peace to someone in the midst of emotional turmoil.

Who Needs My Comfort?

The Lonely: A widow, a mother whose son recently left for college, a

wife whose husband is out of town, a man whose wife has left him, a grandmother alone in the nursing home. They all need comfort.

The Bereaved: Death is the king of terrors. There is no other time in a person's life when he needs more comfort and encouragement than when he is grieving over the loss of a loved one.

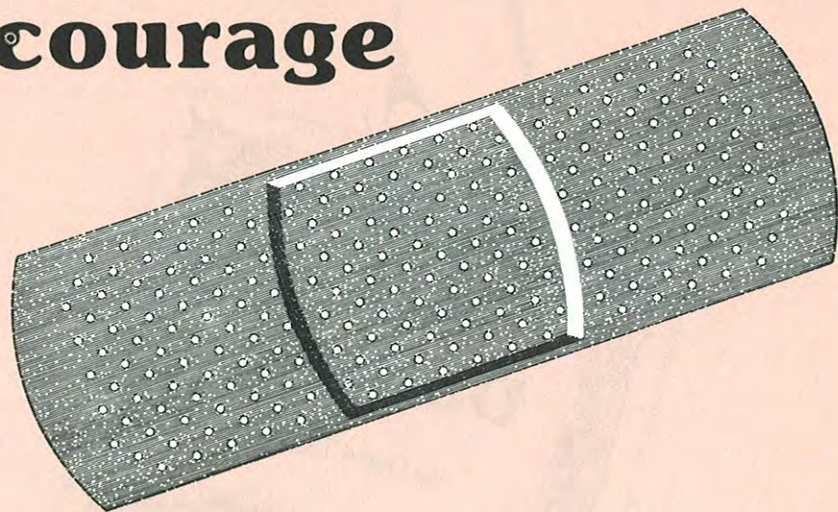
The Anxious: Impending surgery, family crisis, loss of a job, marital problems . . . the list goes on. Stress can be handled if people know they have the love and support of friends.

The Sick: Eighty percent of our adult society will experience illness this year. Whether it's a tonsillectomy or a critical, even terminal, illness, a call to let them know you are praying or a visit to share God's love can brighten their day.

The Happy: This area is often overlooked. Most of us only respond to critical situations. We're anxious to weep with those who weep, but not so eager to rejoice with those who rejoice.

If someone in your Sunday School class gets a job promotion, a card saying, "Congratulations, I knew you could do it," could cheer him on to do his best. A new baby, golden anniversary, spiritual rededication, graduation, weight loss—any time you see a brother rejoicing, rejoice with him.

Make your own list. The opportunities for sharing comfort and encouragement are limitless. →



I keep putting it off. My deadline has passed for a series of articles I'm supposed to be writing. So, why am I writing this instead? Why don't I get busy and finish those silly things?

Procrastination, that's why. I'll admit it: I'm a procrastinator. That's a nasty-sounding thing to say about anybody, especially yourself. Ought to be a four-letter word.

The first explanation—no, excuse me—I thought of is that I must be lazy. After all, a procrastinator doesn't have as much to do as often. You only mow the lawn half as much if you're twice the procrastinator your neighbor is. But no, laziness isn't it; I'm doing too much to fit that label.

Hey, now that's a possibility. I'm doing too much—period. "Simplify, simplify," Thoreau says in *Walden*. "Let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or thousand."

Sounds great, but who's he kidding? Come on, this guy has nothing better to do than live in the woods by a pond for a couple of years. I wonder if he took Mrs. Thoreau to remind him of all the chores he was neglecting.

This "too busy" idea seemed to have real possibilities until I realized (reluctantly) that I do make all the ballgames I want to; I find time to watch Andy Griffith reruns and Bill Cosby on the tube; and okay, my lunch time sometimes expands to a full hour.

"Procrastinator" Should Be A Four Letter Word



Suddenly I'm feeling desperate about this thing. I mean, I'm not in very good company. Remember Felix of "some more convenient season" fame? How about Scarlett "tomorrow-is-another-day" O'Hara?

My wife just gave me a reassuring word, though. "If anyone is qualified to write about procrastination, it's you." Thanks, just what I needed.

There's the knee-high grass out back, the one unpainted window that's been on the agenda for two summers now; oh, yes, I'm going to wax the car as soon as the shade is right. But these, too, shall pass (or rot or rust, whichever comes first).

Please don't remind me of Ben Franklin's cute maxim about not putting off 'til tomorrow what you can do today. I don't want to hear anything from a guy who stands out in electrical storms flying kites. I'll bet even old Ben put that one off for awhile.

Maybe procrastinate—well, that dirty word—isn't so bad after all. The pressure keeps building until you have to do it, whatever it is. Then you usually do a better job under pressure than those disciplined souls who tackle the work at first call.

Or there is another explanation. The whole thing comes from the Fall. It all goes back to Genesis 3. I mean, you really don't think Adam went out to plow the very next morning, do you? "Later, Eve, later."

But that excuse just blows in the wind like the peeling paint on my window. No, the Fall can't be the answer since not all the human race suffers from the malady of procrastination. My creditors have yet to show a single symptom.

And there may be help for me, too. After all, you're reading this article, aren't you? ▲

Reprinted by permission from FWBBC INSIGHT.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Garnett Reid is a member of the faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Encourage (From page 14)

How Can I Know The Needs?

Keep your eyes and ears open. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit who will direct you to those who need comforting and encouraging. Carry a note pad with you at all times. When you see an opportunity for service, write it down.

Prayer meeting is a great place to become aware of needs. Write down prayer requests. Then check the ones whom you feel need a card, a letter, a call or a visit. Pray for those in need, then let them know you are praying.

Call the church office or talk with the pastor. He'd be happy to share with you those who need an encouraging word or a comforting visit.

Consider it your responsibility, your ministry. Realize that if you don't give

comfort or encouragement, perhaps no one will. Remember, others feel as David did, "Reproach hath broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none, and for comfort, but I found none" (Psalm 69:20).

It's not a high-profile ministry. You won't get many public pats on the back, but God sees everything we do in His service. I believe He is especially pleased with those who labor in the background or who stand in the balcony saying, "Bravo!"

You can be one of those of whom the prophet wrote, "They helped every one his neighbor; and everyone said to his brother, Be of good courage" (Isaiah 41:6). ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Yvonne Wolfenbarger is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas.

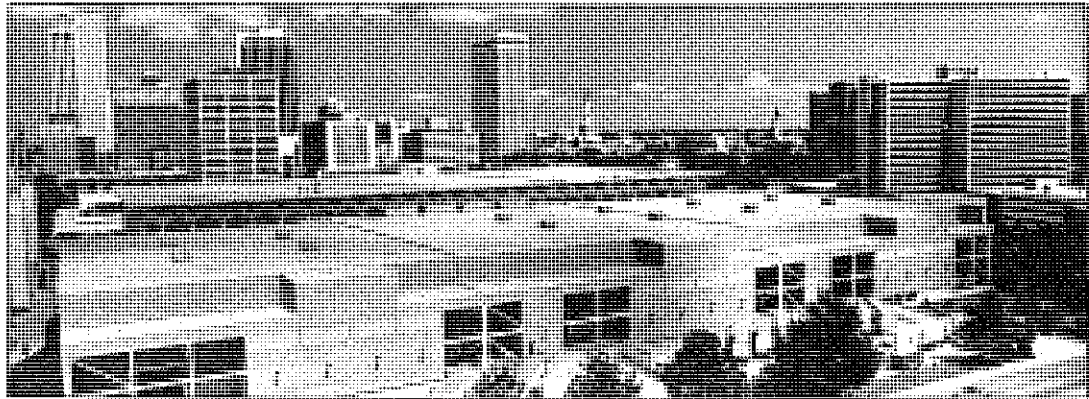
50th Annual Session

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

July 20-24, 1986

TULSA CONVENTION CENTER



Theme: "Guidelines For Growth"



J. D. Norris
Pastor
Lake Jackson FWB Ch.
Tallahassee, Fla.



Carl Vallance
Pastor
Central FWB Church
Huntington, W.V.



Bob King
Pastor
Cramerton FWB Church
Cramerton, N.C.



Frank Wiley
Pastor
Sunnyside FWB Church
Del City, Okla.



Richard Cordell
Pastor
First FWB Church
Guin, Ala.

PLEASE USE THIS ADDRESSED FORM FOR YOUR HOUSING RESERVATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS

The Housing Bureau will handle all housing requests on a first-come, first-served basis until the reservation DEADLINE of JULY 1, 1986.

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

This form must be accompanied by an advance deposit of \$60 for each room requested with a check or money order payable to the HOUSING BUREAU.

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

Credit Card Name _____
 Account Number _____
 Expiration Date _____

The Housing Bureau will not take phone reservations. For information & inquiries ONLY, call (918) 582-1230.

HOTELS (Hotels will not take phone reservations direct)

Hotels	1 Bed 1 person	1 Bed 2 persons	2 Beds 2 persons	2 Beds 3 persons	2 Beds 4 persons	Rollaway
1. RADISSON EXCELSIOR (Convention & WNAC Headquarters) Parking—\$4.50 per day Children under 18 free	\$57	\$57	\$57	\$67	\$67	\$10
2. WESTIN HOTEL—WILLIAMS CENTER (NYC Headquarters) Parking—\$4.00 per day Children under 18 free	\$55	\$55	\$55	\$65	\$65	\$10
3. HOLIDAY INN—CONVENTION CENTER Parking—free Children under 12 free	\$46	\$46	\$46	\$50	\$50	\$5
4. EXECUTIVE INN Parking—free Children under 12 free	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$36	\$36	\$5
5. DARBY LANE Parking—free	\$36	\$36	\$36	\$36	\$36	N/A

*The above rates do not include tax.

An advance deposit of \$60 must be enclosed with this form for each room requested.

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

1st Choice _____ 3rd Choice _____
 2nd Choice _____ 4th Choice _____

ACCOMMODATIONS DESIRED:

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

Do you have special needs? _____

ARRIVAL date and time _____ DEPARTURE date and time _____

Confirm to _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

- 1. Radisson Excelsior
- 2. Westin Hotel—Williams Center
- 3. Holiday Inn Convention Center

- 4. Executive Inn
- 5. Darby Lane
- 6. Tulsa Convention Center



FROM:

**PLACE
STAMP
HERE**

**Convention Housing Bureau
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
616 South Boston
Tulsa, OK 74119**

NO ENVELOPE NECESSARY FOLD THIS FLAP LAST FOLD-TAPE-MAIL



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

WORTHINGTON NAMED RCMA VICE PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TX—Dr. Melvin Worthington, Free Will Baptist executive secretary, was elected vice president of the Religious Conference Management Association during RCMA's 14th annual conference January 28-31 in Fort Worth.

More than 700 meeting planners, hoteliers and convention bureau personnel met at the Hyatt Regency Fort Worth for three days of tutorials and business. RCMA activities included Expo Central, displays at the Tarrant County Convention Center by 250 exhibitors.

Dr. Worthington, who also serves on the RCMA Board of Directors, has been a member of the professional development organization since 1980.

Current RCMA membership stands at 608. This includes 235 full members (meeting planners) and 373 associate members (convention bureaus, hotel personnel, etc.). RCMA member organizations plan 1,700 meetings annually which generate \$100 million in revenue.

The 1986 conference theme was "New Dimensions for the Meeting Professional." RCMA Executive Director DeWayne Woodring said, "Through a unique program of learning and fellowship, the Conference focuses on new ideas and knowledge which help (meeting planners) achieve excellence . . . in the planning of rewarding and successful meetings in an age of continual change."

RCMA is headquartered in the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, Indiana.

REV. WINFORD DAVIS MARKS 60 YEARS IN MINISTRY

MONETT, MO—Reverend Winford Davis, a member of the 1935 Treatise Revision Committee, celebrated 60 years in the gospel ministry on January 13.

Reverend Davis, who now pastors First FWB Church, Greenfield, Missouri, preached his first sermon on Wednesday night, January 13, 1926, at Macedonia FWB Church, southeast of Monett. He subsequently pastored the Macedonia Church 40 years, one of 13 pastorates.

He served 19 years as secretary-treasurer for the Missouri State Association. He traveled the state in 1928 stirring interest to establish a monthly state publication. Reverend Davis served three and a half years as editor-manager of *The Free Will Baptist Gem* and the Gem Printing Establishment.

Brother Davis was a member of the national Board of Education that led the denomination in establishing a

Free Will Baptist College in Nashville. He recalls that Monett was considered as a location for the college.

As secretary-treasurer of the Foreign Missions Board, he and others made a 1942 trip to Cuba as the denomination moved toward beginning a mission work on the island. He made three trips to Cuba on behalf of the Board. The work and a mission school were begun in Pinar Del Rio.

During his 60-year ministry, Reverend Davis' records indicate that he preached 9,100 sermons; witnessed 2,170 conversions; received 1,385 members; traveled 380,772 miles; officiated at 173 weddings and 621 funerals. Other statistics reveal that he baptized 871, ordained 25 ministers and 30 deacons, and organized 13 churches.

Pastor Davis says, "I'll continue on in the work until the Lord says it is enough."

26 READ BIBLE THROUGH

NEW CASTLE, IN—Twenty-six people were awarded certificates for reading the Bible through in 1985 at First Bible FWB Church, New Castle. Completion certificates were awarded during the worship service Sunday morning January 12.

For 11 of the 26, this was the first time they had read the entire Bible. Many said they had tried but failed in the past; they succeeded this time because of the church's encouragement. A monthly reading schedule kept members on target.

Certificate recipients gave testi-

mony stating:

"It helped my day."

"I do not like to read but I asked God to wake me up early every day to read His Word. He woke me every morning before 5:00. I no longer need an alarm clock."

"My husband and I had a contest going to see who was ahead with our Bible reading. It kept us on our toes."

"I found things I didn't know were in the Bible."

Pastor Bill Gardner said the program had helped his people grow in the Lord.



Award recipients display certificates for reading the Bible through in one year.

— CONVENTION MUSIC —

The 1986 National Convention will convene this July in the great state of Oklahoma in Tulsa. Along with outstanding preaching will be music and more music.

Free Will Baptists from just about everywhere will harmonize spirit and voice as the great songs of the faith resound in the Tulsa Convention Center.

Would you like to participate in this great event? You can!

For men and women: Mass Choir (scheduled Monday and Tuesday evenings)

For men: Men's Chorale (scheduled Wednesday evening)

Get your music at the first rehearsal.

See you in Tulsa!

Blaine Hughes
Convention Music Coordinator

FWBBC TO HOST HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC CAMP

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College will host a Music Camp for high school students who have completed grade nine, according to Rodney Whaley, director of the College Choir and Concert Band. The camp will meet at the college June 23-29.

The young musicians will be housed in FWBBC dormitories and will be rehearsed, both privately and in groups, by members of the Bible College music faculty. The camp will include vocalists and instrumentalists, including keyboard musicians.

The week will climax with a concert for area Free Will Baptists.

"Part of the fun," says Mr. Whaley, "will be getting to know other Free Will Baptist young people who are interested in music." In addition to the instructions, there will be times of devotion and spiritual growth.

For more information, please write or call:

Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205-0117
(615) 383-1340

OHIO RETREAT ATTRACTS 110

BIG PRAIRIE, OH—One hundred ten ministers and laymen from Ohio and neighboring states along with various denominational representatives attended the annual retreat sponsored by the Ohio Association of Free Will Baptists, February 4-6, at Big Prairie, according to Alton Loveless, promotional secretary.

Reverend Bill Gardner and Reverend Brian Atwood, Indiana pastors,

spoke four times each during the three-day meeting. Gardner spoke regarding music in the church and Atwood spoke on the priority of preaching.

The meeting was nearly evenly attended by both ministers and key laymen. One man attending with a friend was saved during the services.

The theme of the conference was "Leadership: The Church's Need."

LOVELESS LEADS BRAZIL WORKSHOPS

COLUMBUS, OH—Dr. Alton Loveless, promotional secretary for the Ohio State Association spoke eight times at the Brazilian missionary field council, January 7-9, at Barbacena, Brazil. Missionaries from Uruguay also attended the three-day meeting.

During his three-week visit Dr. Loveless preached in the Lafaiete, Ribeirao Preto, Araras churches and

MASTER'S MEN APPROVE LIFE MEMBERSHIP

NASHVILLE, TN—The Master's Men Board has approved a life membership plan, according to General Director James Vallance. A one-time fee of \$100 in 1986 (\$125 after 1986) guarantees all membership benefits for life. The new concept is called "LifeMember".

LifeMembers will receive special membership cards identifying their new status. They will receive new materials when released. LifeMembers will receive special recognition through the *Attack* magazine.

LifeMember fees will benefit the national department. All funds received from LifeMembers are placed in the Master's Men Trust Fund held by the Free Will Baptist Foundation. The principal amount will never be touched again.

Master's Men Department will receive interest from the funds during the year for the General Fund. The Trust will provide funds until the Lord returns.

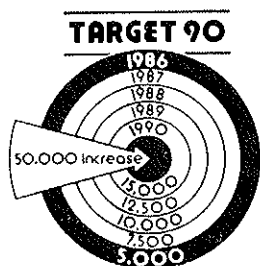
Director Jim Vallance states, "This plan is great for men who are committed to the Master's Men concept. All nine Board members believe in the future of this work. Six have already paid the fee. The other three plan to join within the calendar year. The men took up an offering after approving the concept to pay for my LifeMember status. I believe this form of membership will help our department achieve financial stability."

LifeMember status is available to laymen and preachers. Any Free Will Baptist man may join. It is not necessary to belong to a chapter presently in existence. Individual members are encouraged to take advantage of this concept. The Master's Men goal is to work "All Together To Advance Christ's Kingdom."

conducted a series of teacher training workshops at the Araras church.

He acknowledged that many of the churches are either building or have plans for enlargement due to growth in the churches. A number of decisions were witnessed in the services.

Loveless has preached or conducted more than 600 seminars in 44 states and 25 foreign missions.



'ATTACK' AVAILABLE BY SUBSCRIPTION

NASHVILLE, TN—The Master's Men Board voted in its December meeting to sell *Attack* magazine by subscriptions, according to Director James Vallance. Vallance said the Board believes the concepts and materials in *Attack* should be available to anyone, not just members. He said the goal of Master's Men is to make every man more effective in the work of the Lord.

Attack magazine fills each issue with Bible studies, program study guides, Bible reading guides, news, ideas, activities, photos, fellowship plans, policy statements . . . a potpourri of concepts for men.

Subscription price for one year is \$5.00, postage included. Published quarterly, the four issues can be mailed anywhere in the world.

Director James Vallance spoke for the Board, "In the past many have thought Master's Men Department

existed only for men who pay dues to belong. Our goal as a national department is a commitment to help every Free Will Baptist layman and pastor.

"We exist to aid our denomination in challenging every layman to be all he can be for the Lord. In order to help, we must reach a man where he lives. We cannot always expect a man to come for help. He may not know the organization exists.

"By offering *Attack* on a subscription basis, it will be easier to reach every layman. Members of Master's Men will continue to receive *Attack* as a part of their membership. Now, every man may share in the blessings of the work."

Subscriptions with complete address and zip code may be sent to:

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

SOUTHEASTERN SETS 'GET ACQUAINTED DAYS'

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—Southeastern Free Will Baptist College will observe spring "Get Acquainted Days" April 10-12. Prospective students will arrive on campus Thursday night and leave after lunch Saturday. The college will accommodate groups that wish to stay over for Sunday services at Gateway FWB Church.

Students will attend classes Friday with special activities on Friday night. On Saturday they will visit bus routes, military bases and teenagers. A giant youth rally is planned under the direction of Nate Ange, youth director at Gateway Church.

For more information call (804) 473-1100 or write the college at P.O. Box 61599, Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

Directory Update

OKLAHOMA

Allen Moore to North McAlester Church, McAlester

SOUTH CAROLINA

Joe McKnight to Beulah Church, Pamplico
Larry Hughes to Liberty Church, Manning

TEXAS

Edwin Miles to Union Arbour Church, Beckville

OTHER PERSONNEL

Tim Murfin to Immanuel Church, Durham, NC as minister of music

GEORGIA

C. W. Harrell to New Home #2 Church, Climax

NORTH CAROLINA

Terry Bailey to First Church, Stanley

OHIO

Roy Hutchinson to Reynoldsburg Church, Reynoldsburg
Jim Young to Greater Columbus Church, Columbus

Sixth Annual Writers' Conference

May 16, 17, 1986

Sponsored by:
Randall House Publications

Featuring



Dr. Dennis Hensley

Author, Freelancer
Seven Books In Print
Over 1,500 Articles Sold

Workshops for Beginning
and Advanced Writers

All Sessions Held At
Randall House Publications
114 Bush Rd.
Nashville, Tn.

Contact
H. D. Harrison (615) 361-1221 P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, Tn. 37217

LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____

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

(Name of church)

_____ of _____

(City)

(State)

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

Pastor **Guy Leonard** reports six baptisms at **Waltonville FWB Church, Waltonville, IL.**

Contact welcomes **Revival Reveille**, quarterly publication of Evangelist **David Crowe** based in **Guin, AL.** The first issue reports that Evangelist Crowe conducted 40 revivals, youth camps and other special services in 1985. The meetings resulted in 144 salvation decisions and 572 rededications.

Pastor **Robert Morgan** says he hopes the problem is a result of overuse rather than old age. The baptistry at **Donelson FWB Church, Nashville, TN**, cracked in several places and needed \$700 in repairs.

White Oaks FWB Church, Macon, GA, enrolled 15 in a new converts class. Pastor **Billy Sharpston** teaches the class.

Pastor **Larry Williams** reports 31 in attendance at the first service of **Peace FWB Church, Martinez, GA.** The Peace Church is sponsored by the **Ogeechee Association.**

Randall House announced the publication of a new booklet for children titled **Teaching Children the Meaning of Church Ordinances.** **Terri Breeden** wrote the four-lesson booklet. The purpose of the book is to explain the meaning of church ordinances on a child's level. Price—\$5.95.

The **Brockland FWB Church, Lawton, OK**, completed a renovation project at the church and erected a large brick sign. **Dean Thompson** pastors.

Former Oklahoma executive secretary, **Lonnie DaVoult** started a new church in the **Midwest City** area of **Oklahoma.** He reports 27 in attendance on the second Sunday. The name of the new church is **Charity FWB Church.**

Missouri's South Central District Association presented a plaque of appreciation to **Max Courtney** for faithfulness in serving as association clerk and member of the executive committee.

Pastor **Mike Hutsell** led **Unity FWB Church, Lebanon, MO**, in a mortgage burning ceremony. The mortgage note was for the two-acre land tract which the church purchased to construct its present facility. Deacons **Eugene Reed, Stan Vandergrift** and **Dave Sperry** assisted the pastor during the ceremony.

Members of **Pleasant Ridge FWB Church, Urbana, MO**, celebrated the church's centennial anniversary, according

to Pastor **Don Anderson.** Deacon **Lee Pitts** gave a brief history of the church which included the fact that in 1901 services were dismissed for two months because of an outbreak of smallpox. Former pastors, **Len Gardner** and **Jeff Bennett** attended the service.

Here's a creative idea for revival meetings—get the laymen to do the preaching! That's what happened at **Community FWB Church, Florence, SC**, according to Pastor **Gene Adams.** Pastor Adams said five members of the church preached; eight people were saved in addition to several rededications.

The **California State Pastor's and Laymen's Retreat** at Emerald Cove Camp near Bass Lake featured the theme, "The Search for Unity." Three pastors conducted seminars during the February 6-8 meeting. They included pastors **Cecil Spurlock, Doice McAlister** and **Nuel Brown.** The session also included four seminars on unity.

Contact welcomes a new publication, **Preacher's Periodical.** The four-page periodical is published by the **Ohio State Association** with **William Pitts** as editor.

Arkansas Promotional Director **David Joslin** published a 13-page report titled **Pastors Financial Status Study.** The report is filled with interesting information such as 30 percent of the

Arkansas pastors are full time; 91 percent of the churches do not provide pastoral medical insurance; 78 percent of the pastors work at some other occupation to supplement their income. If you would like to have a copy of the report, send David Joslin a self-addressed, stamped envelope at P.O. Box 1404, Conway, AR 72032.

Pastor **Homer Young** reports 26 new members at **First FWB Church, McAlester, OK.**

Pastor **Doug Little** of **First FWB Church, Russellville, AR**, writes a regular column in the church's weekly publication, "Cross Currents." The January 14 column made four suggestions on how to get more out of the sermon. They include prepare ahead of time, take notes, pray and talk back. That talk back section includes saying, "Amen!" Sound like good ideas.

Grace FWB Church, Lake City, SC, baptized six converts. **Mircheal Jones** pastors.

Members of **New Hope FWB Church, Fredericktown, MO**, adopted a church growth goal of 60 percent for 1986. Pastor **Gary Tune** said that while 60 percent sounds high, the church has been growing at a rate of 77 percent per year.

Students at **Southeastern FWB College, Virginia Beach, VA**, raised more than \$15,000 during the Christmas holidays, according to Promotional Director **Joe Haas.** Three students who raised more than \$1,000 each received scholarships: **Glenn Tripp**—\$500; **Pat Seamster**—\$250; **Jay Baines**—\$150.

Second Semester enrollment at **Southeastern FWB College** reached 167, says college dean **Lorenza Stox.** That number includes 38 dorm girls, 52 dorm boys, 77 off campus students and 25 night students.

Rev. **Dewey Bernard** and the **Northern Quarterly Conference** churches of Tennessee's **Union Association** gave a \$14,000 van to **Free Will Baptist Bible College** in January. The 1985 Ford Econoline Club Wagon will be used to transport students to weekly Christian service assignments.

As a matter of public record—**Rev. John Neal** voluntarily surrendered his ministerial credentials to the Presbytery Board of Michigan's **Wolverine Association.** The Board revoked the ministerial credentials of **Rev. William Page.**

You support your state
university
with your taxes.



How do you support your
Bible College?



ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

The Separation

The Lanes had a great week on Grandpa Lane's farm. But now it was Monday and time to say goodbye. It was usually hard for Marty, Megan and Jeff to leave their grandparents, but today they were eager to leave. Their parents had promised them a visit to Fantasy World, a new amusement park, on their way home.

"What was your Sunday School lesson about yesterday, Marty?" asked Mr. Lane as they drove down the highway.

Fantasy World was all that Marty and Megan had thought about, and they had squirmed through most of Sunday School.

"Uh, uhh . . . well," Marty thought hard. "Oh yeah, it was about Adam and Eve."

"Yeah," added Megan, suddenly remembering. "When they sinned and had to die. You know, I still don't get it. They really didn't die. All they had to do was leave the garden."

"Don't you remember what the teacher said death meant?" asked Marty. Megan looked at Marty in surprise, as if to say, "You mean you remember?"

"It means separation from God," added Marty.

"It really doesn't seem like a big deal," said Megan. "It's really not as bad as dying."

"No," said Mr. Lane, "it's worse. God made us with a hunger for Him that nothing else can fill."

The twins weren't sure they understood. But they didn't care. Fantasy World was just ahead. They caught a glimpse and squealed in delight.

The Lanes found themselves in the biggest parking lot they had ever seen. Acres of cars reflected the warm spring sun. The children gasped when

they entered the park gates—they had never seen such a place. It was so big. And there were so many people. They were bubbling with excitement.

"Look at the size of that roller coaster," said Marty in awe.

"Did you ever see so many things?" shrieked Megan. "Where do we start?"

"Yippee!" cried Jeff. "Cotton candy!"

The Lanes had a terrific afternoon. They rode the carousel, the ferris wheel, the sky lift and the train. They rode dodge 'em cars, airplanes, space ships, swings and boats. They shot down white rapids on logs and raft rides. They went through the haunted house and the house of mirrors.

They visited the petting zoo and saw deer, sheep, goats and a baby camel. They jumped and tumbled on huge air mattresses and wallowed in a sea of plastic balls. They climbed up ropes and slid down poles. And they ate and ate and ate. Popcorn, cotton candy, ice cream, candy apples. It was wonderful!

But it was getting late. "It's 4:30. You may each take one more ride," said Mrs. Lane, "but then we'd better head for home."

Jeff rode the carousel. Marty didn't think twice—it was the roller coaster for him.

"Come on, Megan," he urged his sister. "Don't be a fraidy cat." Finally, Marty talked her into it. Instead of waiting in line at the roller coaster, Mr. and Mrs. Lane decided to take Jeff to the carousel.

"When you two get off the roller coaster, wait right here," said Mr. Lane. "We'll probably be back before you get off, but in case we're not, wait right here."

The line was short, and the twins didn't have to wait long for their turn.

They were about to board when Megan felt queasy. Her legs felt like spaghetti. Her stomach turned somersaults.

"Marty," she croaked, "I can't ride."

Marty was about to call her a chicken and push her into the car, when he noticed her face. She looked like a ghost.

"Just go back down the steps and wait," said Marty as he climbed in and the roller coaster chugged away.

Megan made her way through the line back down to the entrance. She collapsed onto a bench. In just a minute she was fine. She wiped her clammy palms on her shirt, and stood up.

"Marty told me to wait here," she thought to herself, "but this is just where you get on. He'll get off way around on the other side."

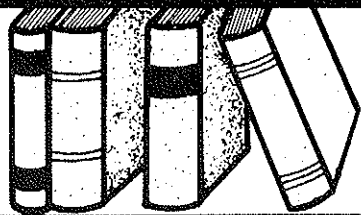
Megan began walking to the opposite side of the roller coaster. But there were so many people, and Megan had trouble seeing over their heads. "I hope I'm going the right way," she thought as she was swept along by the crowd.

In route Megan saw a shop window filled with beautiful dolls. She entered and gazed longingly at the rag dolls' stitched-on smiles, the antique china dolls, the satin and lace bride dolls, the dimpled, rose-cheeked baby dolls. Megan had never seen so many dolls. And they were made out of everything—even dried apples, cornhusks and clothespins.

Megan was admiring every nook and cranny of a three-story Victorian doll house when she heard a clock chime. "Five o'clock! Oh, no! I've got to hurry!" In her haste, Megan didn't leave through the same door she entered.



Top Shelf



Thomas Marberry



Andy Anderson with Linda Lawson, *Effective Methods of Church Growth* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1985, 120 pp., paperback, \$5.95)

According to author Andy Anderson, there are 120 million unchurched people in the United States. This is a mission field the church should not and cannot ignore.

The church is God's mission agency in the world, and lost men and women will not come to know Jesus Christ unless some local church shares the gospel with them. If they are not brought under the ministry and influence of a church, there is little chance they will be saved.

Anderson argues that the Sunday School is the best avenue the church has to reach men and women for Christ. The Sunday School emphasizes Bible study. In a good Sunday School class, people can be introduced to the study of scripture in a non-threatening environment.

They can also establish meaningful relationships with caring Christians through the Sunday School. As lost men and women begin to study the scriptures and develop meaningful re-

lationships with Christians, they become more open to the gospel.

If the Sunday School is to become an effective growth instrument, we must rethink some ideas. We must realize that the Sunday School does not exist just to teach. It exists both to teach and to minister. It must become an organization which encourages and enables Christians to share the love of Christ in practical, personal ways.

The Sunday School must develop a philosophy of growth. It cannot be content simply to teach those who come. It must find ways to actively enlist new members.

There is no reason why a person must attend three Sundays before he can be considered a member of the Sunday School. Such requirements deny the ministry of the Sunday School to the people who need it the most. Neither should the Sunday School be hasty to purge from its rolls those who

no longer attend. Instead, it should make every effort to reclaim them.

If the Sunday School is to function as an instrument of growth, there must be an adequate number of workers and they must be properly trained. The pastor is in a key position to provide part or all of this training.

Many churches use a pastor's class as a vehicle to bring new members into Sunday School. The author gives some advice to help organize a pastor's class. He also gives much practical help in organizing a Sunday School, keeping records, planning effective visitation, finding prospects and doing the multitude of things which need to be done.

This book is clear, understandable and timely. Most large evangelistic churches in the United States have used the Sunday School effectively to reach people for Christ. There is much we can learn from this volume. ▲

Little Lanes (From page 25)

She tried to retrace her steps from the roller coaster, but nothing looked familiar. Megan kept going. "That roller coaster has got to be around here some place," she thought. It was impossible to run, but she darted around people as fast as she could.

After 10 minutes, Megan was out of breath and there was still no sight of the roller coaster or her family. She realized that she was lost. Tears fell down her cheeks. There were thousands of people near, but Megan felt all alone.

"What if I never find my parents?" she thought. "What if somebody kidnaps me? What if . . ." Megan started running.

Suddenly Megan felt someone grab her arm. She screamed and shut her eyes tight. Then she looked up into a smiling face. "Are you a policeman?" she stammered.

"No, I'm a security guard," answered the kind man. "You look like you could use some help."

"I'm lost," sobbed Megan. Through tears she choked out her story. "I didn't mean to stay so long in the doll shop. And they're waiting at the roller coaster. And I can't find the roller coaster. And I've been gone forever. And I'm so scared."

The security guard helped Megan into a vehicle similar to a golf cart and they whizzed through the crowds to the roller coaster. Megan looked everywhere for her parents. Finally she saw them. "Mama! Daddy!" she cried as

she ran into their waiting arms.

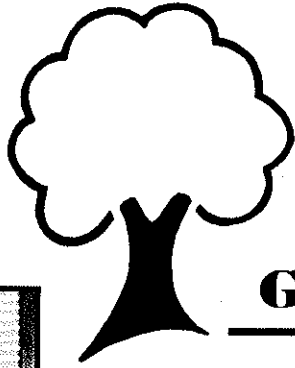
It was almost midnight when the Lanes pulled into their driveway. Jeff was sleeping, and Mr. Lane carried him to his bed. The twins roused enough to stagger inside and put on their pajamas before falling into their beds.

"It's been some day, hasn't it?" asked Mr. Lane as he kissed Megan good night.

"Yes, sir," she said. "And you know, I think I sort of know how Adam and Eve felt. If they missed God like I missed you, well separation can be pretty bad."

"Good night, honey," said Mr. Lane, patting her head.

"Good night," said Megan. She snuggled under the covers and sighed, "It was the best vacation ever. And the worst." ▲



Green Tree Bible Study



Robert E. Picirilli

Ephesians 4:11-17

A Biblical Picture of a Growing Church

The “edifying of the body of Christ” (v. 12) means building the church as Christ’s body. Certainly the universal church is meant, but a local church is like a microcosm of the whole. The picture given here applies to a single congregation, too.

An overall statement of purpose appears in vv. 11, 12. Verse 11 names four leadership roles: apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastor-teachers. The last two are one and the same, made clear from the grammatical structure both in English (note the four-fold “some”) and in Greek.

“Pastor” is a name by analogy: the word literally means a “shepherd.” “Teacher” is a name by function: the pastor is primarily a teacher of the Word to his “flock.”

Those with leadership gifts work to “perfect” the saints. This word (Greek *katartismos*) means to “fit out” something—in this case, God’s people—to be everything it is designed to be. Here, the saints are being “fitted out” for a work of ministry. “Ministry” (Greek *diakonia*) means service.

All of this is aimed at building Christ’s body, the church—“building” that surely must include both expansion and edification, winning new members and bringing them to maturity.

The goal of growth is indicated in vv. 13-15.

Perhaps this can be summarized as “the measure of the stature of the

fulness of Christ.” Ultimately this refers to the church as a whole, but the body of Christ does not reach its goal unless individual members are reaching the goal.

God’s goal is that every member grow into the likeness of Christ. Little boys often aim at growing as tall as their fathers: Christians should aim at becoming like Jesus in His perfect humanity. This must be “the perfect man” of v. 13.

This involves many things in these verses—too many to treat in detail here. One thing is that we should “come in”—arrive at—a unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God (v. 13). Neither the body of Christ nor the individual believer reaches maturity apart from unity among those who are faithful to the Lord.

Another thing involved is *stability* (v. 14).

Paul compares an immature believer (or church) to a small boat helplessly tossed by waves and carried every which way by shifting winds. A church (and an individual Christian) needs to grow to the point where it can hold a steady course regardless what influences are brought to bear.

Paul warns against the “slight” and “cunning craftiness” of men that are instruments of deception. Satan is a liar and false teaching is tricky and deceptive. Growing Christians learn how to resist error and are therefore stable in their faith.

One more thing is a *commitment to truth balanced with love* (v. 15).

Interesting that Paul makes this so important in “growing up” into Christ as the Head of the body. He had an unswerving commitment to the truth, and yet no one ever showed greater love. We need not sacrifice either one for the other. A mature Christian practices genuine, self-sacrificing love without compromising the truth.

The way the church functions is the picture in v. 16.

Comparing a church to a physical body, Paul makes Christ the head, the nerve center that monitors and controls all bodily functions. Believers are like parts of the body, including joints and sinews. All the parts function together in harmony, taking orders from the Head.

And the goal is the “increase” (same as “growing” in v. 15) of the body, the building up of itself in love.

What do we need for growth, then? An appreciation of our true purpose, to grow by winning the lost and edifying the saved to be like Christ. An appreciation of the leaders He has given us to help equip us. A commitment to maturity, with all that it involves: unity, stability, truth, love.

A willingness for all to be involved, actively contributing—under the control of Christ, of course—to the building of the church toward the goal God has for it. ▲

Youth Leadership Conferences

The Truth and Peace Youth Leadership Conferences begin July 7 at Hillsdale FWB College campus in Moore, Oklahoma. The conferences will bring together 50 (25 boys/25 girls) high school students from 18 states.

The three-week conferences will feature leadership and personal development seminars. Leadership in Action sessions will involve the youth in developing activities and programs for the National Youth Conference.

The youth will be transported to Tulsa on July 19 where they will assume NYC leadership roles.

Denominational input, special Oklahoma City area-wide youth services, and local church involvement are part of the conferences.

In addition to serious learning times, fun and fellowship activities are planned. Participants will make friendships that will last a lifetime.

The conferences are sponsored by the Youth Ministries Division of Randall House Publications. The following are participants for the 1986 conferences:



TEEN Scene

Peace Staff

Sarah Malone, Director
Lisa Wallace, Assistant
June McVay, Assistant



Truth Staff

Sam McVay, Director
Len Davenport, Assistant
Jeff Stegall, Assistant

Youth Participants

Vivian Allman—Ohio
Kristy Ball—Ohio
Alicia Bess—Oklahoma
Tanya Getz—Texas
Carol Gokey—Oklahoma
Suzann Grant—Oklahoma
Clark Ann Gray—Illinois
Sonya Hamilton—Oklahoma
Christie Hanna—Georgia
Jilinda Holderman—Oklahoma
Debbie LeRoux—Indiana
Nancy Lucky—Florida
Christy Montgomery—Arkansas
Stephanie Norris—Missouri
Suzanne Norris—Missouri
Janet Pittman—Oklahoma
Melissa Rainey—Texas
Julie Roberts—Illinois
Elizabeth Sizemore—Ohio
Ewa Smith—California
Faith Van Winkle—Mississippi
Monica Vincent—Mississippi
Bonnie Waldon—Indiana
Merinda White—Alabama
Regena Workman—Tennessee

Youth Participants

Bryan Alligood—Georgia
Troy Arnoldi—Illinois
Joe Carter—Kentucky
Pete Chatterton—West Virginia
Michael Curtis—Tennessee
Paul Dupree—North Carolina
Joel Hampton—Tennessee
Mark Hampton—Virginia
Barry Harris—Alabama
Jim Harris—Texas
Greg Harvey—Arkansas
Jeff Harvey—West Virginia
Dan Lake—Indiana
Lee Nix—Texas
Bruce Parker—Missouri
Jerime Parker—Oklahoma
Thomas Parker—North Carolina
Darren Portell—Illinois
Brad Savage—Arkansas
Nathan Snow—Georgia
Kevin Taylor—Kentucky
Darrell Testerman—Oklahoma
Michael Waddell—Tennessee
Kyler Welch—North Carolina
Joey Wilson—Illinois

Especially
For Young
Preachers

Go Soul Winning Every Day

"A true witness delivereth souls..." (Proverbs 14:25).

The young preacher is busy. Preparing and preaching several times a week is a new experience. The study time for one message takes hours. And soon the young preacher can become frustrated.

He wants to witness. He wants to win souls. But all the church responsibilities are new. There just doesn't seem to be enough time in the day. Here are some suggestions on how to be a witness and still get the church responsibilities done:

1. Gospel literature. The preacher should keep tracts, booklets and other information to show sinners. Wherever he goes--service stations, restaurants, rest rooms, hospitals, rest homes, homes, jails, shopping centers--he should have tracts at his fingertips. No other tool is more useful to proclaim the gospel. The tract-conscious preacher can distribute hundreds of tracts in a month's time.

2. The postal service. Preachers pay bills, too. They write letters. The young preacher will have dozens of opportunities each month to present the gospel through the mail.

3. The bulletin. Bulletins frequently repeat the same information week after week. Once the service ends, it's as old as yesterday's newspaper. The young pastor often must prepare the bulletin. Include a gospel message regularly. Encourage your people to take them home. Mail them to absentee church members. Bulletins are read, even by sinners. Tell them how to be saved.

4. Witness. Leave seed thoughts with the gas station attendant, the barber, the trash man. The young preacher can see spiritual fruit in years to come by witnessing with compassion to those who cross his path. Take advantage of every opportunity.

5. Go soul winning at least one afternoon a week. Set aside one afternoon to look for prospects. Ask the Lord to send you to the most-needed place. You may go from house to house or make designated visits.

6. Schedule a visitation night. Select a night in the week that's best for you and your people. Announce it in the bulletin. Train those who come. And then visit! If only one comes, rejoice. You have doubled your witness. Don't moan over quantity. Major on quality. More sinners are won on visitation night than any other time.

Next Month: The Young Preacher's Health

Dennis Wiggs



FCC REITERATES PROMISE TO NOT BAN RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—In response to a revival of rumors, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a public notice, reiterating that "it is not considering, nor has it ever considered, a petition by Madalyn Murray O'Hair, or anyone else, to ban religious programming on radio or television."

The statement emphasized that the FCC is prohibited by the Communications Act of 1934 from censoring broadcast material, and by the First Amendment from interfering with the freedom of speech in broadcasting.

The statement also noted that in 1975 the FCC unanimously denied a petition which asked the agency to "freeze" applications by religious institutions for TV or FM channels reserved for educational stations. This petition was "routinely assigned the rulemaking number RM-2493" according to the FCC, and though the petition was denied, the Commission has received over 16 million pieces of mail and "a corresponding number of telephone calls" on the mistaken belief that the FCC was considering a ban on religious broadcasting.

DIVORCE RATE DROPS FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—America's divorce rate has declined for the second straight year, following 20 years of increases, government statistics disclosed. There were 1,158,000 divorces in the U.S. in 1983 (the last year for which statistics are available), 12,000 fewer than 1982.

That one percent drop followed a four percent drop from 1981 to 1982, reversing a 20-year trend that resulted in an all-time high of 1,213,000 divorces in 1981. However, provisional estimates indicate divorce rates may once again increase when final figures are reported for 1984 and 1985.

Geographic variation is strong in divorce patterns across the country. The Northeast has the lowest divorce rate at 3.6 per 1,000 people, followed by the Midwest with a rate of 4.6. The South's rate was 5.6, while the West's was the highest at 5.8 per 1,000 people. Massachusetts had the lowest divorce rate at 3.2; Nevada had the highest divorce rate at 15.0, an increase from 1982's 14.9 rate.

NAVAJO TRANSLATION OF BIBLE COMPLETED

TUBA CITY, AZ (EP)—The first Bible to be translated into Navajo has been completed by Navajo Bible Translators, a group of Protestant missionaries who began the project 40 years ago.

"We needed it," said Peter McDonald, former tribal chairman. "The traditional religion of the Navajo is dying out very fast because there are no new medicine men coming along, yet we are a very religious people, and in order to continue to have faith in the Great Spirit it is important to have this Bible."

The translation into Navajo had some special pitfalls, according to Lois Martin, one of the pioneer Navajo translators. For example, "He watches over me," could have sinister overtones in Navajo. "The easiest parts were anything about sheep and lambs," said translator Faith Hill. "Navajo people know everything about sheep."

The New Testament was completed first, and published in 1955 with help from Wycliffe Bible Translators. The entire Bible, including a revised New Testament, was published by the American Bible Society, Inc., of New York.

AMERICANS' RELIGIOUS PREFERENCES HAVE SHIFTED IN LAST FOUR DECADES

PRINCETON, NJ (EP)—Americans' religious preferences have changed dramatically during the last four decades, according to Gallup Poll information released by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

In Gallup surveys during 1985, 90 percent of adults questioned stated a religious preference, with 57 percent saying they are Protestant, 28 percent Catholics, two percent Jews, two percent Mormons, and one percent Orthodox church.

This is a shift from 1947, when Gallup began studying religious preferences. In surveys taken then, 69 percent of adults said they were Protestant, 20 percent Catholic, and five percent Jews. The growth in the number of Catholics is attributed to a higher birth rate, and the high number of Hispanic immigrants in recent years.

A study of individual Protestant denominational preferences showed that the percentage of Baptists responding has changed very little from 1947 to the present, going from 21 percent then to 20 percent now. Drops were seen in the number of respondents expressing a preference for mainline Protestant denominations, such as Methodist (from 14 to 10 percent), Lutheran (from seven to six percent), Presbyterian (from six to two percent) and Episcopalian (from three to two percent).

SOVIET OFFICIALS WORRY THAT ABORTIONS DAMAGE HEALTH

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R. (EP)—Soviet medical officials have expressed concern over the consequences of the estimated 10 million abortions performed every year in the U.S.S.R.

Soviet women commonly have four or five abortions, and some have had as many as 20 in state-run clinics. The government officially discourages abortion, but it remains the primary method of birth control. Clinics charge five rubles (about \$6.50) for the procedure. Abortions are legal in the first three months of pregnancy, but only one is permitted within a six-month period.

One observer estimates that Soviet doctors performed 16 million abortions in 1980, about ten times as many as were performed in the U.S. There are an average of 2.08 abortions for each live birth in the Soviet Union, compared with about two live births for each abortion in the U.S.

A. A. Popov, a Moscow specialist in medical demography, said "It is well known that the current abortion rate is a major factor in determining the incidence of gynecological diseases and childless marriages, infant mortality, miscarriages and child morbidity. Lowering the abortion rate would have a colossal effect on public health."

GIVING STRONG, MEMBERSHIP SLIPS IN U.S. CHURCH BODIES

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—Giving in nine U.S. mainline Protestant church bodies increased by nearly eight percent in 1984 over 1983, despite a decline of about three-fourths of one percent in their combined memberships, according to a survey by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (NCCC).

Data from nine selected U.S. church bodies—compiled from information collected on 39 U.S. church bodies—showed a membership decline of 0.77 percent from 1983 to 1984, but a 7.83 percent increase in giving, well above the 4 percent inflation rate for 1984.

Per capita giving increased by 8.67 percent in the church bodies surveyed, which included the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. (1982-83 data used), The American Lutheran Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), The Episcopal Church, Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), United Church of Christ, and The United Methodist Church (1982 and 1983 data used).

In those church bodies, average per capita giving was \$293.65, up from \$270.22 the previous year.

Among the nine church bodies studied, only the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) showed a gain in total or full membership from 1983 to 1984. The LCMS showed a gain of 0.11 percent to a total of 1,986,392.

The United Church of Christ showed the greatest increase in total contributions, 14.46 percent, to a total of \$444,465,292 in 1984, despite a membership loss of 0.32 percent.



Thoughts From The Tomb

THE SECRETARY SPEAKS
By Melvin Worthington



Bright sunshine beamed through the trees. Birds sang. The speaker talked about Calvary. The setting—a garden outside Jerusalem near the empty tomb where Jesus was buried.

While the guide lectured to our eager group, my mind turned to the biblical account of Jesus' death, burial, resurrection and ascension. Three truths worked their way into my consciousness and hung there as the guide moved through his speech.

The Father's Will

Jesus' birth, death, resurrection and ascension fulfilled the Father's will. That's what the writer of Hebrews meant when he wrote, "Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God . . ." (Hebrews 10:7).

Matthew records the prayer of Jesus in which He cried, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39).

Jesus concludes His prayer in Gethsemane, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink of it, thy will be done" (Matthew 26:42).

Jesus prayed this prayer three times according to Matthew 26:44. His death on the cross was no accident, no afterthought. It was part of the divine plan.

In all things Jesus pleased the Father, even at Calvary. Jesus declared, "For I do always those things that please him" (John 8:31).

As Jesus fulfilled the will of God so should every Christian. Our burning ambition must be to do the will of God.

The Finished Work

Jesus' final words on the cross were, "It is finished." Then He bowed His head and died (John 19:30). God's eternal provision for mankind's redemption was complete, the sin debt paid.

The finished work was a *predestinated* work. Peter makes this clear in I Peter 1:18-20. Paul hits the same chord in Galatians 4:4-5.

The finished work of Christ was *promised* in the Old Testament. From Genesis 3:15 to Isaiah 53, no truth is repeated more frequently than the promise that Messiah would come to right wrongs, to deliver the hopeless.

The finished work was *pictured* in the Old Testament. The Passover, the multiple offerings and the sacrificial system were all object lessons of Christ's finished work. Hebrews 9:18-28 gives the New Testament interpretation of the Old Testament pictures. John the Baptist was one of the first to recognize the reality of why Christ came (John 1:29).

The finished work of Christ makes sufficient *provision* for the redemption of all mankind. Romans 5 explains the ancient truth in detail using language so intricate that great minds wrestle to plumb its depths.

The Secretary's Schedule

- April 6-11** Cavanaugh FWB Church
Fort Smith, AR
- April 18-19** New Mexico State Assn.
Roswell, NM
- April 25-27** First FWB Church
Charleston, AR
- April 28-May 4** Sherwood Forest FWB
Church
El Sobrante, CA

The provision includes regeneration for men dead in sin, reconciliation for men separated from God and resurrection for men who know the grave waits as sure as the sunset.

The Final Word

Following the resurrection, Christ appeared on a number of occasions. His final word at each of those meetings sets forth the role and responsibility for believers.

The Sovereign's will is that all men come to a saving knowledge of Christ. He does not want any man to go to hell. He has made provision for all to be saved.

The saints' witness is required if men are to hear the gospel. Christ's final word to believers rings from Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Christ's commission to the Church has not been altered, aborted or abandoned. But then neither has it been accomplished. His final word is to go and teach and baptize.

His final word includes winning, working, watching and warning converts. We tell them; we teach them; we train them; we test them.

Standing before the open tomb, I realized the most important truth is its emptiness. Jesus is not there now, was there only one weekend, and He is never going back. It's finished.

Before that empty tomb, my heart surrendered anew to the last orders of Jesus—Tell the world! ▲

CONTACT

P.O. Box 1088

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

Free Will Baptist Teammates . . .

**10 NEW
FOREIGN MISSIONARIES
are counting on you!**

So are the unreached peoples they are
burdened to reach . . . and your **TEAM EFFORT**
is vital during Call-a-thon 1986.

Our goal: \$50,000

This would provide \$5,000
for each new missionary.



*Call-a-thon 1984 helped to send
12 New Missionaries in 1985!*

**CALL-A-THON SUNDAY
April 27, 1986**

No gift is insignificant! If every church will participate, the goal will be reached.

C.T.S. class: GET INVOLVED AS A GROUP!

**Sunday school class: SET A GOAL AND DO
SOMETHING SPECIAL!**

**Master's Men: ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE TO
BE THE EXAMPLE!**

*Be sure to report your gifts to Foreign Missions on
Call-a-thon Sunday, April 27, 1986.*

Just dial

(615) 361-1010

(Call between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in your time zone.)

Send gifts to:

Call-a-thon, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tenn. 37202

