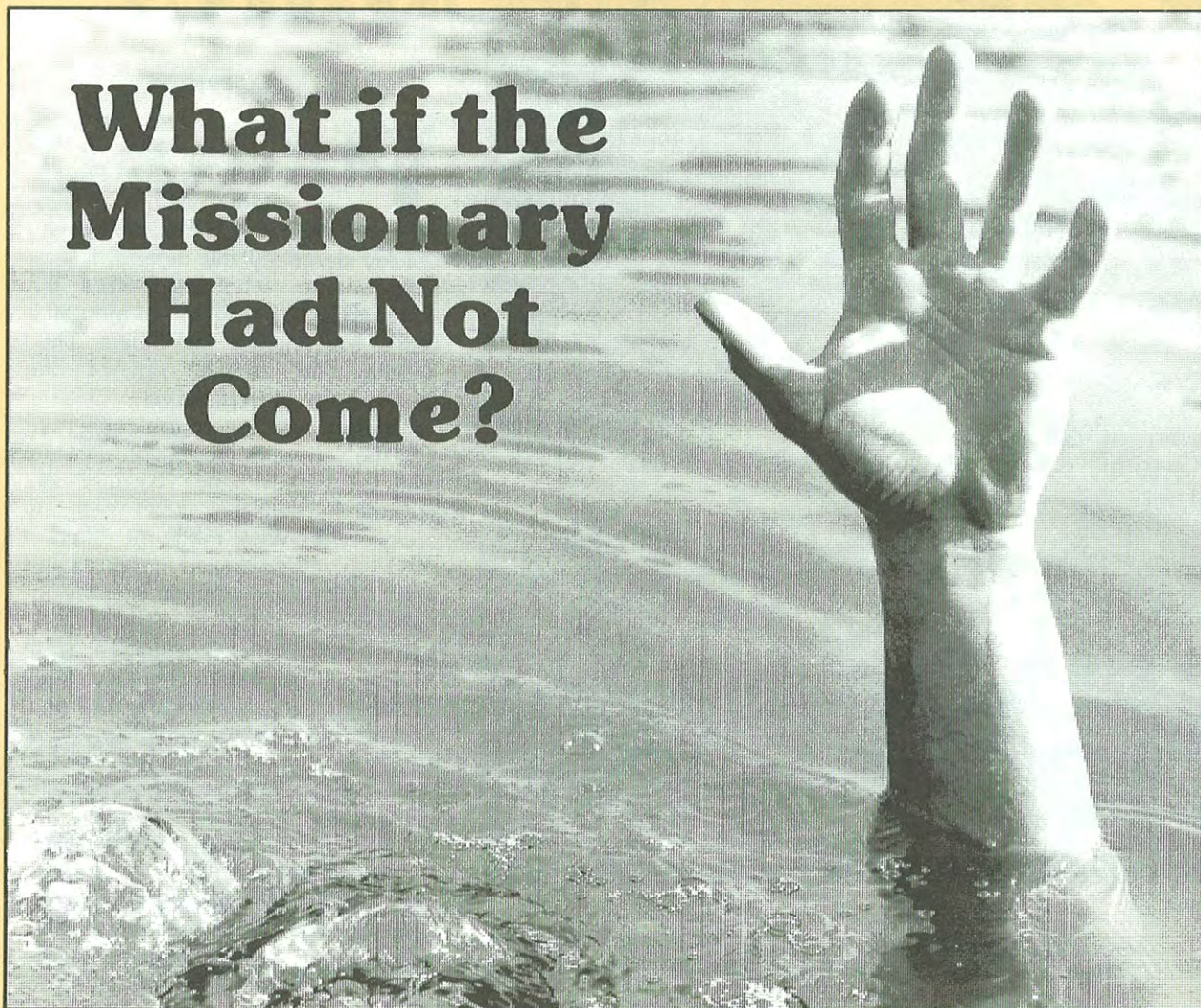


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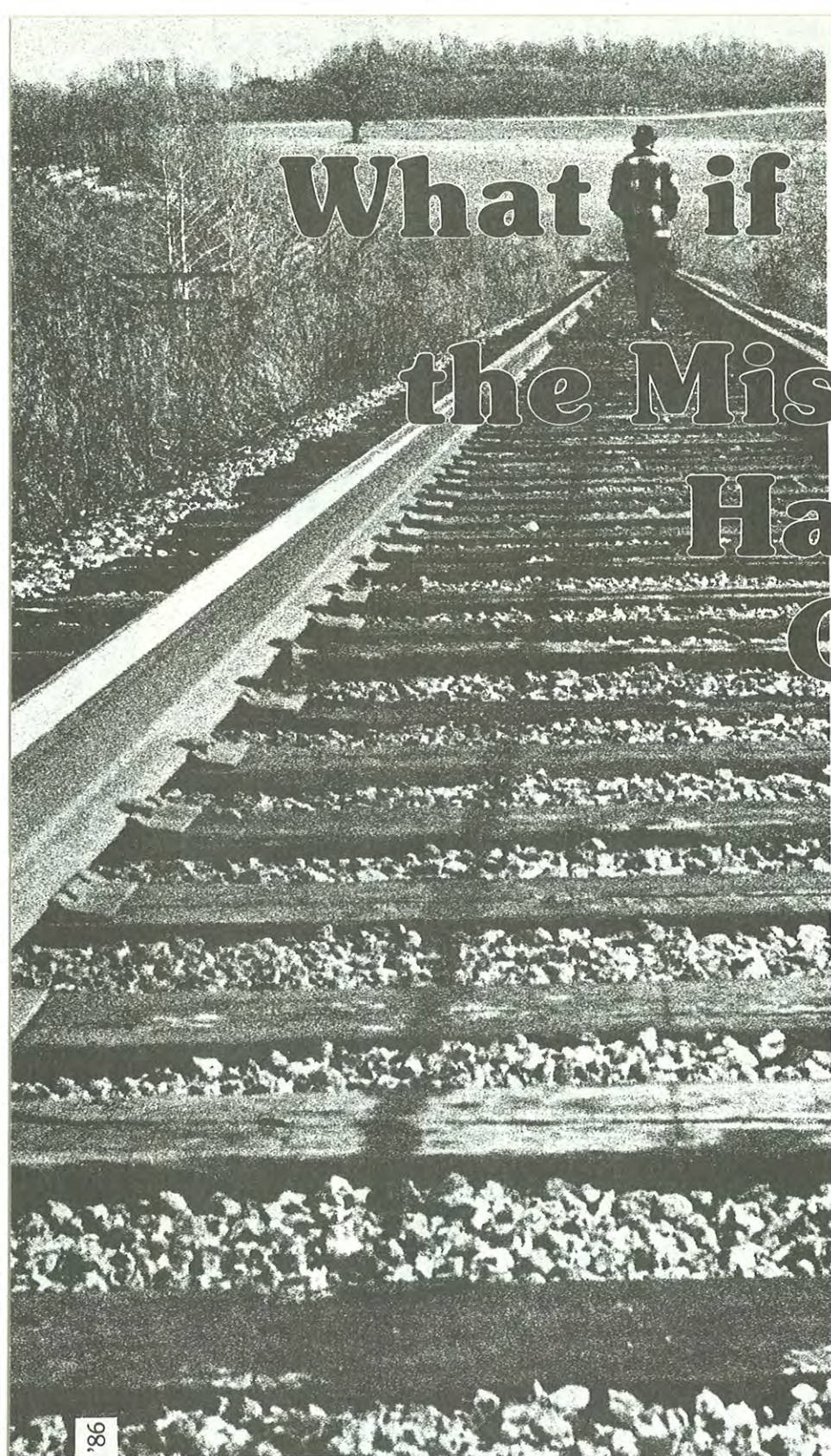
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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

**What if the
Missionary
Had Not
Come?**



Home Missions Issue



What if the Missionary Had Not Come?

By James O'Donnell

Police sirens wailed as the local sheriff sped to the oft-repeated scene. As he leaped from his car the anxious deputy quickly described the deranged Vietnam veteran who just before the commercial had thrown two men off a bridge and injured two others. This, another TV movie, opened the familiar story of a crazed vet.

My wife didn't seem too concerned that the vet beside her might suddenly explode into violence because she burned the beans or didn't wash my socks. Why? What made me different from the vets portrayed in movies and TV? The answer is simple—a missionary came.

Reflecting on my experiences in Vietnam, I can remember the enemy fire, the bullets, mortars and rockets. I remember the terror that grips you as you guide your aircraft into a hot LZ. The rush of emotion as a fellow pilot calls out on the radio, "Taking fire! I'm hit—going down! May Day! May Day!"

I also remember the sick feelings as men place badly wounded troops on your helicopter and you see at close range the destructive power of war—the real blood and guts of battle, not the TV war. I understand how a man can be tormented by these memories. Memories of friends injured and lost, memories of days and nights wondering, even doubting you might see

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend James (Jim) O'Donnell pastors Airport Road Free Will Baptist Church, Twin Falls, Idaho. While flying helicopters in Vietnam, Jim received the Combat Infantry Badge, multiple Air Medals and the Bronze Star. He served as dean of students at California Christian College in Fresno.

another. Vietnam was not a game for those who were combatants, it was life and death.

I went to Vietnam as a self-centered Army officer. Infantry school and flight training were behind me as well as a stint as a stateside medi-vac pilot. Confidence and training could not alleviate the fears of war. Alcohol became a means to try to escape the realities. It didn't work. It only postponed the realities.

I returned from Vietnam a different person. No longer filled with the arrogance and self-centeredness, no longer the swaggering man who thought he could do anything. Why? Not because the war matured me, but because I became a child. A child of God, I had been born again.

My wife faced her own form of combat while I flew helicopters in Vietnam. Hers was the daily fear of a lost husband, or a husband possibly mangled by the war. She was an Army wife, she had seen the victims, she knew the risks.

She spent the lonely time waiting, with the full responsibility of the house and infant son. Her combat did not see the quick physical destruction, but the strains were there just the same. She survived by God's amazing grace, she too was born again.

How had two individuals such as us become Christians? We were on opposite sides of the globe, neither with more than a passing belief that God may exist. Yet, both turned to Christ for salvation.

Many accept the so-called "myth of the salt-water crossing." They think the only "real" missionary must go to a foreign land to find those who don't know of salvation, who haven't heard how to be saved. If one man had believed that myth, if certain people had believed that myth, we might not have been saved.

I live in Idaho, located many miles from the Bible Belt. It's been described by some as a land "infested" with Mormons. Some have gone so far as the say you can't build a church in this area. It's true that Idaho and the western states are not part of the Bible Belt, but it's not true that all have heard the gospel, nor that a church cannot be built.

Home missions works are often neglected and discounted. If a church doesn't bloom and go self-supporting in a year or two, the missionary is accused of failing. If a state has one or two mission works, it's thought to have been reached and given all the chance it needs. These erroneous views have been used by the devil to undermine the home missions program.

It was a home missionary who led my wife and me through those tedious days from salvation through baptism and into Christian service. If that missionary had not come to Idaho, had not been willing to labor, we might have ended in an entirely different fashion. If people had not been willing to hear God's call and through prayers and finances support that missionary, we might not be serving the Lord today.

I could speculate all the what-ifs that might have been were it not for a home missionary. These run the gamut from death, divorce, drunkenness, even to that deranged vet. I could also list those many things God has done in our life while serving the Lord and our denomination in Idaho, Oregon and California. But these are things that God controls and for which we have been thankful.

But this I can tell you, one thing that burns in my heart is the story of home missions today. This great nation of ours is rapidly deteriorating in its moral and religious practices. Drug abuse, alcoholism, abortion and suicide are symptoms of the underlying disease. We cannot treat the disease by ignoring it, nor by passing it off as a "sign of the times." To do so is like treating cancer with a band-aid—too little, too late.

The disease is sin. Oh how apt is Paul's description for equipping the saints in Ephesians. I can relate to his preparing for war. How we desperately need soldiers of God to march out to battle. Not hand-wringing men, but men of God willing to face the battle despite the personal cost.

We need men unafraid to abandon the security of the Bible Belt, unafraid to go into oblivion in a new area. Men not so self-centered and egotistical

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Had Not Come? . . . (from page 3)

that they can't leave the prestige of their office or church or job. We need real missionaries. Missionaries with zeal and fire, with God's love gleaming in their eyes.

But these men cannot do it alone. To support a family and build a church at the same time is a difficult task. Home missionaries must have solid support behind them, men and women dedicated to seeing God's work progress and prosper.

Too many have good intentions when they agree to support a missionary. But as we all know "the road to hell is paved with good intentions." When we pledge to support a missionary, let's do it. It's not just the financial help they need but also the power of prayer. Oh, how much power those prayers carry to the mission field!


If every man, woman and child in our churches gave but a few dollars each month, we would not have the deficit accounts and missionaries struggling financially. If every church would earnestly, fervently pray, our missionaries would have untold power in the battles they face.

What price a soul? How often the question has been raised. I cannot put a price tag on my soul. I cannot put a price tag on the value of the fruits of a home missionary who did come. If I was the *only* one to have been saved after a home missionary had invested five years, after our denomination had supported for five years, even if the church folded, even if the missionary left, I think it would have been worth it.

What about you? What if the home missionary had not come to your town so long ago? What might your life have been if a missionary had not given you guidance, training and the love to nurture you into serving Christ? Is your soul not worth the cost? If it is not, then freely criticize home missionaries, do not support their labors, do not encourage others to go. Above all, do not give up what you have to go yourself.

But if your soul is worth it, then support missions, give your funds, your prayers, even yourself if God calls you to do so.

I must praise the Lord that the missionary did come, and hope you



COOPERATIVE CHANNEL Free Will Baptist

**Cooperative Channel Contributions
August 1986**

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	Aug. '85	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$ 56.10	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,056.10	\$ 127.00	\$ 7,392.00
Arizona	00	150.00	150.00	00	221.29
Arkansas	00	4,995.24	4,995.24	5,256.97	33,145.33
California	50.00	920.72	970.72	1,336.47	6,720.98
Florida	00	2,022.18	2,022.18	2,913.62	16,437.26
Georgia	5,358.39	15.00	5,373.39	4,665.46	35,889.12
Idaho	00	00	00	00	190.72
Illinois	8,041.43	1,321.34	9,362.77	9,185.22	58,003.50
Indiana	116.00	337.76	453.76	472.62	4,399.23
Kansas	00	45.11	45.11	170.44	474.24
Kentucky	00	574.77	574.77	45.40	3,716.71
Michigan	5,031.01	996.05	6,027.06	2,984.04	38,806.73
Mississippi	29.59	00	29.59	299.84	3,332.16
Missouri	1,453.76	8,065.69	9,519.45	9,098.04	67,932.09
New Mexico	43.11	21.55	64.66	78.02	311.97
North Carolina	860.92	300.00	1,160.92	622.82	15,873.72
Ohio	945.00	1,528.00	2,473.00	10.00	22,979.07
Oklahoma	35,196.44	7,220.84	42,417.28	32,069.94	330,611.39
South Carolina	3,889.20	00	3,889.20	489.18	13,011.35
Tennessee	223.35	498.11	721.46	324.50	12,271.99
Texas	6,640.49	661.10	7,301.59	6,893.13	59,893.98
Virginia	70.00	10.00	80.00	108.70	4,076.75
West Virginia	2,294.56	232.92	2,527.48	2,529.00	26,121.31
Canada	00	500.00	500.00	00	500.00
Northwest Assoc.	00	00	00	00	18.00
Totals	<u>\$70,299.35</u>	<u>\$31,416.38</u>	<u>\$101,715.73</u>	<u>\$79,680.41</u>	<u>\$762,330.89</u>

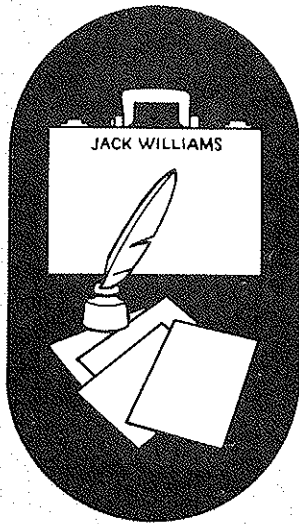
DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 709.64	\$14,077.30	\$ 14,786.94	\$14,103.49	\$118,295.50
Foreign Missions	49,436.17	3,987.97	53,424.14	38,934.87	390,081.94
FWBBC	3,319.54	3,987.97	7,307.51	6,241.21	51,638.19
Home Missions	13,759.78	3,121.05	16,880.83	11,642.47	135,614.20
Retirement & Insurance	509.33	2,427.51	2,936.84	2,800.47	21,392.10
Master's Men	32.80	2,254.12	2,286.92	2,533.34	18,994.69
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	18.31	173.37	191.68	211.13	1,622.70
FWB Foundation	00	1,040.35	1,040.35	1,353.66	9,086.28
Historical Commission	21.00	173.37	194.37	207.04	1,627.24
Radio & TV Commission	106.00	173.37	279.37	200.45	1,943.09
Hillsdale FWB College	1,865.74	00	1,865.74	1,417.23	10,989.07
Other	521.04	00	521.04	35.05	1,045.89
Totals	<u>\$70,299.35</u>	<u>\$31,416.38</u>	<u>\$101,715.73</u>	<u>\$79,680.41</u>	<u>\$762,330.89</u>

will join me in that praise. Let us labor together for victories here at home as well as abroad. Let us rejoice with

others who might joyfully say their life has been changed because the missionary did come! ☉

Briefcase



The Whiner's Wail

I don't remember when I met my first whiner. But I rather suspect the first one was me. At least that's the impression my brother left when he slugged me with a hammer after I refused to hand him a walnut. We were 5 and 4 at the time. I've since learned to be a bit more respectful.

Whiners are the mosquitos of life. They squawk, growl, jam communication lines, aggravate, irritate and make me want to swat 'em. Beats me how one whiner can create so much grumpiness. Maybe it's because a bad taste lingers longer than a good one.

Mind you, I always try to be forgiving when the other fellow whines, while denying myself the urge to bark back at him. Two whiners in the same room can curl the carpet.

Whiners don't try to solve problems. They just sound depressing when they talk about 'em. Spending an hour with a whiner is almost as rewarding as punching a skunk.

I know some whiny men; they're a sorry lot. I also know some whiny women, and they're no better. Nobody can harmonize with whiners. They stumble through life one step behind and half a note flat.

Even parents are more apt to thump a whiny young'un than one that misbehaves. Whiners squeeze the joy out of earning a livng and tempt me to

strangle 'em. I've met a few who needed a good strangling.

Public life bristles with whiners. You know the sad faces, those politicians who grub for worms in the national salad bar. Or 230-pound fullbacks who wail that quarterbacks grab more headlines. Or the cute secretary who mutters that her counterpart down the hall types on IBM's newest.

There aren't many reformed whiners in this world. The good, the bad and the ugly all do it.

The Bible contains some dandy whine stories. There's a whale of whine in the book of Job. And did you catch Jonah's testy yowl after the gourd withered? Judas groused about the ointment poured on Jesus. Elijah whimpered under the juniper tree until God almost took a belt to him.

At times, I'd like to crate up all the whiners and ship 'em to some cactus county in Arizona. Or paint 'em green and toss 'em in a Nebraska corn field.

You got the whines? Know anybody who does? Here's some free advice—

For job whiners. Don't like your job? You've got options. First, you can quit. If that's too creative, do something to improve your production, your job skills. Find one thing good about your job every day and concentrate on that.

For family whiners. Since you can't resign your family citizenship, try a

smile and a little understanding. Some sanctified quietness cures most family whines. Do some chores. Mow the grass. Wash the car. Iron the clothes. Kiss the cook.

For church whiners. Before you get too feisty with church whining, take up the matter with Top Management. God's program doesn't need much correction, thank you. Read the instruction manual. The Bible works wonders on grumps.

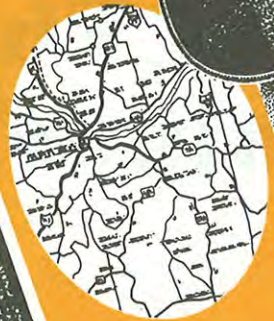
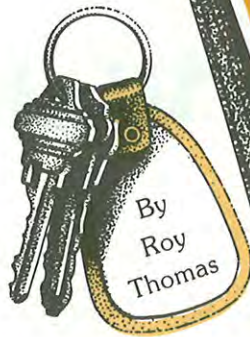
One more time now. Whining is not good for you. It's also bad on other people's nerves. They may throw things at you—an eviction notice, severance pay, heavy objects, a one-way bus ticket to Peoria.

Go ahead. Get it all out of your system. Tell you what, since you've read this far, you've got 24 uninterrupted hours to whine until you make yourself hoarse and everybody else sick. Then when you're done, get on with living. The rest of us need you.

Nobody's born whining. It's an acquired tastelessness. Speaking for myself—I quit. Whining that is. I want to do something more constructive than kick dirt at life.

Help a whiner today. Some of them don't even know they've got the problem. They think their carping gets the job done. But as Tom Brackett wrote, "Always remember, it isn't the whistle that pulls the train." ■

Population:



One

One August weekend I preached at Webb Free Will Baptist Church in western Oklahoma. The pastor, Rev. Allen Mabra, met me at the Oklahoma City airport and we drove three hours to the church. He aroused my curiosity by the time we arrived. I sensed that I was about to experience something unusual.

Webb FWB Church began as Jobe Baptist Church in 1906. Later, Methodist circuit riders preached there. Then the congregation became a Union Baptist Church. But Union Baptists were dying, so in 1954, the Webb Church and several other Union Baptist churches reorganized as Free Will Baptist churches since they were alike doctrinally. For years student pastors from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College drove out on weekends to conduct Sunday services.

The church stands on the north side of the Canadian River in Dewey County. Two bridges cross the river, but they are about 20 miles away in either direction. This makes it difficult

for the church to draw people from the river's south side.

Western Oklahoma's known as wheat and cattle country. When the church began, Webb was a thriving community surrounded by small farms. Today Webb may be the smallest town in the world. Population: one. That's right.

Mr. Paul Epperly is the only resident in the town of Webb! Now, instead of many families farming a few acres, a few families farm hundreds and thousands of acres each. The store that Brother Epperly operated for 22 years closed. He said, "I once had over 200 credit customers who did business at the store."

So the Webb FWB Church sits in a city, population one, with the surrounding area tilled by a handful of farmers.

By the time we pulled into the church yard, I'd concluded that the church should be renamed "No Hope Free Will Baptist Church." I also thought I was wasting a weekend. But what shock awaited me!

Three years ago the church elected 30-year-old Allen Mabra pastor. This son of a western Oklahoma farmer had no formal training; Webb was his first church. His first Sunday as pastor, 12 people came to hear him preach.

Allen knew that if the church grew, he would have to go after the people. Because the church could not fully support him financially, he worked all day then spent his evenings contacting the Dewey County farmers.

Instead of simply inviting folks to church, he witnessed to them about Christ. He began by asking two questions. First, "If you died today do you know you would go to Heaven?" Second, "If you died and God asked you, 'Why should I let you into my heaven?' what would you say?"

Then he turned to I John 5:13 and showed people that they could know they have eternal life. Romans 3:23 disclosed that they were lost. Then Romans 6:23 revealed the penalty for sin. He moved to Ephesians 2:8-9 to prove that salvation is not of works but the gift of God. He closed with Romans 10:9-10. After they accepted Christ he took them to II Corinthians 5:17.

The first family he presented this plan to accepted Christ. The whole family was in church the next Sunday. Since then he has presented the plan to every family in Dewey County on the river's north side. Many of them are now members of Webb FWB Church.

After witnessing to all the farmers, Brother Mabra started working on the

nearest towns. Taloga, 25 miles away, and Woodward, 50 miles away were his targets. Twenty people from Woodward and several for Taloga now drive to Webb for services. Attendees drive an average of 30 miles to church.

The church put Brother Mabra on full-time salary so he could spend more time presenting the "plan" and training new converts. Brother Mabra doesn't "train" his laymen to witness. He takes them with him until they can do it on their own. Several of his men now present the "plan" almost as well as he.

The church remodeled their building, adding a baptistry, pastor's study and several classrooms. They raised the \$32,000 it cost to do this.

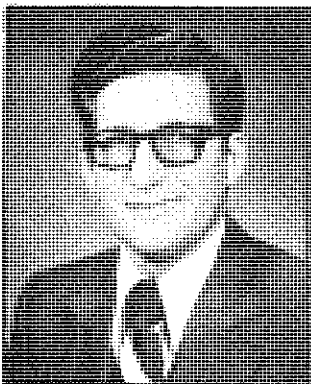
Webb FWB Church averages 70 in attendance and gives more than \$30,000 a year to denominational causes. The house fills for every service and the people are excited about winning souls.

They realize their potential is limited, so they plan to start other churches. They've raised money for a new building in Elk City, Oklahoma, about 50 miles west of Webb. When the Elk City church gets on its feet, they plan to start a church in Woodward.

Brother Paul Epperly, the sole citizen of Webb, remarked, "Our congregation is united. We have never had a dissenting vote on anything our pastor has presented."

I left Webb with admiration for these brave people who've won souls and built a church in spite of an unlikely location and sparse population.

I left with the conviction, "If a church can be built in Webb, a church can be built anywhere." ☐



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Roy Thomas is general director of the Home Missions Department.

Read It!

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

Tennyson said, "Bible reading is an education in itself." Dickens agreed, "The New Testament is the very best Book that ever was or ever will be known in the world."

These tributes by literary giants should not go unnoticed. Countless leaders have considered the Bible the greatest single volume in the world. What's so remarkable about it?

It is unchallenged as literature. I can think of no equivalent to the story of Ruth. It's one of the great all-time examples of romance overcoming obstacles. Through it all the unseen hand of God works.

The courageous faith of Esther, Daniel and the three Hebrew children has been material for an array of novels, plays and short stories. These characters are far superior to modern heroes (e.g. James Bond, Dirty Harry and Papa Smurf).

It is unequalled as instruction. Herbert Hoover wrote, "There is no

book so full of concentrated wisdom as the Bible whether it be of law, business or morals. He who seeks guidance may look inside its covers and find illumination."

Hoover spoke like a man well acquainted with Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Epistles. The scriptures are characterized by a variety that in no way diminishes its impact. Its teachings are accurate, factual and practical.

It is unique as to its power. No other book has the power to redeem, sanctify, discern and nourish as does the Bible. I have little respect for critics who belittle it without an objective reading.

In fact, I'm convinced that objective searching of the scriptures so convicts a man that usually he will be converted. If you read it, you will believe it. If you believe it as you read, you will grow.

Go ahead! Pick it up. Read it for yourself. ☐

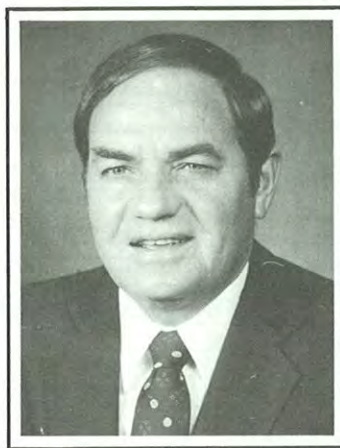
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Make Big Days Work for You

By Connie D. Cariker

Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

Deuteronomy 31:12-13



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Connie D. Cariker is executive secretary of the Oklahoma State Association of Free Will Baptists.

When I was a boy in Oklahoma, we had a service once a year when we were encouraged to invite people from other neighborhoods and communities to join us for a "Big Day" at the Hoyt Community Church. We'd sing until 11:00 a.m. and then the preacher would preach. Then came "dinner on the ground." Oh, how I enjoyed that!

There was food of all kinds—long tables loaded with fried chicken, ham, chicken and dumplings, vegetables, and then a long table loaded with desserts. After dinner we'd all gather inside the church for some good ole' time gospel singing until late in the afternoon. That was a "Big Day" at the Hoyt Church as I remember.

Big Days—Important!

Big Days are important in the lives of all Americans. Whether we like to admit it or not, we make much of big days and special occasions. Most of our families get together during the Christmas season. Most of us observe Thanksgiving, Labor Day, Memorial Day, July 4 and other holidays which mean so much to us who live in this great country.

If people in the secular, commercial and political world can use big days and special occasions to their advantage, I believe we could use them as a time to pump vitality into the life of our churches.

I believe in big days! Some large churches have as many as four big days a year. That may be fine, and I guess it is if it works for them. I prefer several special days throughout the year and one big day.

The special days are always well attended, and sometimes in a growing church, you'll break your attendance record. Even though special days are good, I like one "super-colossal" day each year when everyone goes all out to get any and everyone to attend Sunday School and church.

I discovered that one big day a year does wonders for the pastor and church. The pastor and his people can easily settle in a rut and become satisfied with what they have. They need something to get them out of this status quo rut. A successful big day will do that.

We had some great days in Oklahoma at West Tulsa Free Will

Baptist Church where I pastored for 21 years. Many workers there were saved as a result of our people bringing them to hear their teachers teach and their preacher preach on a big day. I've seen God do great things for us on these big day occasions.

What's a Big Day?

So, what is a big day? A big day at your church is when every member gets involved in reaching others, when you try for a record attendance and maybe a record offering.

A big day is when you work, pray and trust God for a great number of souls to be saved. (On one such day we had 43 saved, in addition to those saved in six children's churches.)

A big day is when we pull out all the stops and go all out for *numbers*. Every person is a soul that will spend eternity in heaven or hell. The final destination is decided by what a person does with Jesus Christ. It's worth every effort to get people in touch with Him.

Why a Big Day?

Why have a big day? Because it *excites* people and involves them in winning others to Christ. Because it *increases* Sunday School enrollment.

Most of our churches don't have enough enrollment, and that's why average attendance is not as good as it could be. It's a proven fact that average attendance will not exceed 60 percent of enrollment. If you run buses and use an aggressive enrollment plan, your average will probably be no more than 50 percent of enrollment. The more enrolled the more in attendance.

A successful big day always *encourages* workers to attempt greater things for God. The devil's business is to discourage church workers. Nothing puts the devil's program in reverse like a successful big day and many souls saved. The workers get a *new vision*.

Why have a big day? Because it *gets people* under the sound of the gospel. Many who never attend church will come when you try to break your attendance record on a big day. There will be more souls in heaven because we have big days in our churches. Some have come to the pastor after months, even years, and were saved because of a big day effort.

Why a big day? Because it *enlarges* the people's faith. "We did it, and we can do it again," is an often-heard comment from folks who had a part in a successful big day.

When to Plan a Big Day

Do not plan a big day on a normal big day. By this I mean that on days like Easter Sunday crowds are always good anyway. Plan your big day sometime other than routine, calendar days.

Do not set too many goals. But when you set a goal, set it high. A church will come nearer reaching a high goal than a low one. The people *must* be challenged! They will respond to a big challenge more than they will to something that does not tax their energy. Sure, you may not reach your goal, but you'll always know victory because you have more than you ever had before.

Plan your big day a year in advance. To know the direction the church is going and in order to have success, it's best to plan the big day as far in advance as possible.

Start the promotion of your big day early. Start promotion of your big day six weeks in advance. Announce it from the pulpit at every service. The pastor needs to be excited about the big day.

Have a good time as you prepare for the big day. Churches are so sober, cold and formal in our generation that it seems good for the big day to create fun and excitement.

Build your big day around the pastor. If you build your big day around visiting speakers, people will not see the church in a normal atmosphere. After all, the pastor works hard every day and should receive the blessings of seeing folks walk the aisle on a big day.

Big Day Outline

Here's an outline that may help you plan a successful "Big Day" in your church:

Plans For a Big Day

1. As stated earlier, *plan your big day far in advance.*

2. *Three months before big day:*

Meet with your leaders and key people to lay the ground work. Make sure that all promotional materials are ordered and ready. →

Big Days . . . (from page 9)

3. *Two months before big day:*

Get your workers together for a special meeting dealing with the big day plans. Make sure everyone understands what you're trying to accomplish. Keep your plans and procedures as simple as possible.

Choose the necessary committees to work during the two months preceding the big day, such as activities, prayer, welcome, telephone, etc.

Announce from the pulpit the details concerning the big day. Be excited about it and remember: "He who excites must be excited."

Plan bus promotions and make sure the bus workers know the plans and goals.

4. *One month before big day:*

The pastor should preach a motivating sermon on reaching people in the community for Christ. Invite people to come forward and commit themselves to bring a certain number on the big day.

Prayer for Big Day

1. *Select a prayer committee* who will keep before the people the importance of prayer in attempting big things for God. This committee can plan and announce special times of prayer for different groups in the church.

2. *Pray for the plan, the promotion, the pastor, the preaching and the power of the Holy Spirit for the big day.*

Promotion for a Big Day

1. *Select an activities committee* to work on all activities for the big day. Classes might need to be changed, parking lot attendants secured, chairs rearranged. You might want to serve dinner at church.

2. *Select a welcoming committee* that will have a plan whereby every person attending will be met and welcomed. Remember: "We will not have a second chance to make a first impression."

3. *Select a telephone committee* and make them responsible to contact all people who have signed a commitment card. This contact should be done on Friday night and Saturday before the big day.

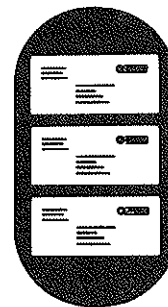
4. *Sign up method* for big day should be well planned. Equip all your people with cards to get people to commit themselves to attend the big day.

5. *All-out visitation* for the final two weeks before the big day is a must.

6. *Do a mailing* to all enrollment and prospects the week before the big day.

Remember, the main purpose for a big day is to increase your enrollment, your prospects and to see people saved. Plan a big day. Work you plan with a purpose by promoting and praying for power to reach as many as possible.

Try it. You'll like it. God will bless your efforts in a big way! ■



OUR READERS COMMENT

CONTACT UNIQUE

The September issue of *Contact* was a gem. Your editorial on "The Hammer" was so interesting, and, like so many of them, you feel that "A hammer" hits your head with the surprise conclusions so often given. I'm sure that many of us have "hammers" like that in our closets.

I'm happy that my church is a "Family Plan" subscriber. Some of the best reading matter we can place in the hands of our folk comes from the monthly pages of *Contact*. It is truly a unique monthly messenger to our people.

Reverend George C. Lee, Pastor
Victory Free Will Baptist Church
Goldsboro, North Carolina

LIKES WIGGS' ARTICLES

Thank you for your work. I really appreciate the wisdom and common sense of Brother Dennis Wiggs in his advice to young preachers.

Reverend Randy Riggs, Pastor
Good Springs Free Will Baptist Church
Pleasant View, Tennessee

You support your state university with your taxes.



How do you support your Bible College?

Directory Update

ARKANSAS

Kent Tallent to First Church, Dardanelle from Liberty Church, Millington, Tenn.

CALIFORNIA

Rick Scroggins to First Church, Chula Vista

GEORGIA

David Young to First Church, Eastman
Charles McNeese to Crossroads Church, Cochran
Billy Sumner to First Church, Hahira
Pete Winstead to Cool Springs

Church, Norman Park
Duane Hunt to Colquitt Church, Colquitt
Johnny Terry to Dalton Church, Dalton
David Hutchinson to Swainsboro Church, Swainsboro

OTHER PERSONNEL

Phil Smith to First Church, Albany, Ga., as minister of youth
Jerry Carraway to First Church, Elizabethton, Tenn., as minister of music from Donelson Church, Nashville, Tenn., as minister of music

God's Holy Word— Handle With Care

By Milton Fields



H. Armstrong Roberts

"I know you believe you understood what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I said."

—Anonymous

Three elements shape any relationship: a common goal, cooperation and communication. Communication maintains the other two. Through His Word, God communicates His relationship to us, His expectations of us and His feelings toward us.

To be effective communication must be accurate. This only occurs

when the receiver attaches the same meaning to a word which the sender intended. It's not as Humpty Dumpty said in *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland*, "When I use a word . . . it means just what I choose it to mean."

God's Word is never arbitrary. It has specific meaning and is directed to a definite audience. God intended that we understand Him, thus He chose

the writers, the cultural context and guaranteed even the words of the holy scriptures (II Peter 1:21; I Thessalonians 1:13). Throughout its entirety God's Word is a complete and accurate reflection of His will (II Timothy 3:16).

Those who handle the Word are compelled to use it as God originally intended. To do otherwise is to

God's Word . . . (from page 11)

change it. Then it's no longer God's Word and no longer reveals God's perfect will.

Unfortunately, many approach biblical study and exposition with preconceived notions and force scripture to substantiate their position. Paul describes those who corrupt the Word as insincere, ungodly and not "in Christ" (II Corinthians 2:17). No one ever has license to infer a meaning that's not present nor to modify a meaning that is present.

One such example often occurs when someone labels a particular sin and someone else cautions, "Remember, the Bible says, 'Judge not'." Actually, this Matthew 7:1 portion urges an equality of judgement and a warning against reckless condemnation.

In reality it's impossible and even dangerous for the Christian not to form opinions based on God's Word. Later in the same chapter, Jesus encourages us to discriminate between good and bad fruits to test the character of false prophets.

Exercise discretion when using the Word of God lest the emphasis be changed from interpretation of initial meaning to legislation of new meaning. Frequently, when tragedy strikes, some well-meaning person says to the bereaved, "All things work for good." In this statement, "all" is often mistaken for the word "this," meaning this individual situation.

Is that what Paul meant in Romans 8:28? Can we say to the young child whose loving parents just died that this is good, or is there more to the verse?

There are other conditions to the promise. "Work together" modifies the statement to mean that taken totally and collectively, things mutually contribute to good. Further, the promise is made to the called ones or to Christians.

Even difficult situations can add blessings such as patience. Chastening is designed to return the backslidden to Christ. Any explanation of the Bible retains authority only if it retains original meaning.

munication process with differences in perception resulting from differences in experience. These have a definite influence on the style of the writer and the reaction of the reader.

Remember, however, God chose the writers, fully aware of their individual characteristics and environments. He intended that we understand the Word as they understood the Word.

Interpretation will be most effective when the views of the writer and the

Men found peace with God in the preaching of the prophets because they delivered the Word of God in the words of God.

Within recent years judicial courts in the United States have strayed far from their purpose of interpreting the Constitution to create new law by judicial decree. Judicial law has become such a common characteristic that one legal educator stated publicly, "The Constitution says only what the Supreme Court says it says."

A Supreme Court Justice recently attacked his critics by saying that he was tired of the push toward a return to constitutional government. He continued by stating that the original framers of the Constitution could not possibly have foreseen the needs of our day. Do we not act in the same manner when we add to God's Law or alter it to meet our needs? Is it not the Constitution of Christianity?

Either God foresaw the future during the time the Bible was written and guaranteed its writing or else, by definition, He ceases to be Almighty God. But He is God, His foreknowledge is perfect and He and His Word never change nor can they be changed.

Biblical communication does have certain challenges which must be met. These are differences in the languages, cultures and the ages during which writers and readers live or lived. Each approaches the com-

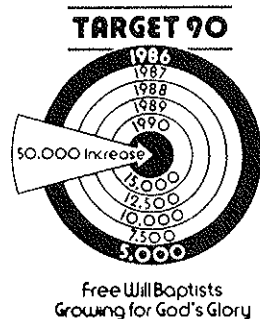
reader are in harmony. A correct observation of the Bible is this, "What did it mean to those who wrote it and what would it mean to those to whom it was written?"

With some exception (I Peter 1:11-12), those who wrote it understood its full meaning. In all cases, God, who inspired it, certainly understands it and expects those for whom it was intended to understand it.

The primary prerequisite to harmony between writer and reader is regeneration. Paul states rather definitely that the natural man cannot understand spiritual things (II Corinthians 2:9-16). God exhorts us to ask liberally of Him and promises understanding in answer to our prayer (James 1:5).

Men found peace with God in the preaching of the prophets because they delivered the Word of God in the words of God. When confronted with Matthew Henry's new commentary on the book of Matthew, Mr. Henry's servant observed, "Strange, Mr. Henry, how much light the Bible sheds on your commentary." ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Milton Fields resides in Columbus, Mississippi. He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College.



CONTACT for every Church

- Why should the official denominational magazine be in the home of every Free Will Baptist?
- As the name suggests, *Contact* is a link between the members of Free Will Baptist churches and the denominational ministries. It's also a tie between the local church and the home.
- *Contact* provides Free Will Baptists with inspirational reading material which many would not have access to otherwise. We feel the official denominational magazine is worthy of being included as a part of any church's regular literature program. The church which provides

its membership with Christian literature beyond the usual quarterlies makes an investment from which it will reap extra benefits of laity participation and leadership in years to come.

- *Contact's* Church Family Plan is the most economical way to subscribe. Churches that adopt the Church Family Plan pay only \$7.50 per year for each subscription. That's \$1.50 less than the Individual subscription rate.

Oh, and don't forget—when a church adopts *Contact's* Church Family Plan, the pastor gets a FREE subscription!

Here's How the Plan Works

Contact is mailed directly to the home of each active family. The cost is paid quarterly in advance with one check from the church.

After the church votes to participate in the *Contact* Church Family Plan, the following steps are all that are necessary:

1. Select a responsible person to obtain the names and complete addresses of *all* active families in the church. Forward one copy of this list to *Contact* and retain a duplicate copy of the list for church records. It is not necessary to send any money initially.
2. This list will be checked against our current subscribers. Any current subscribers will continue as they are until their subscriptions expire, at which time they will automatically be added to the Church Family Plan.
3. The church will be billed quarterly in advance at the rate of \$1.89 for each subscription. The cost, for example, would be \$37.80 quarterly if 20 families were enlisted.

4. A form to update the Church Family Plan list will be sent quarterly with each billing. Additions, deletions or changes may be made more frequently than quarterly if desired.

5. This plan continues in effect until the church gives a 30-day written cancellation notice.

(Clip and mail to: *Contact* P.O. Box 1088 Nashville, TN 37202)

Dear Editor:

- Yes! I am interested in presenting the Church Family Plan to my church.
- Please send sample copies of *Contact* to be used in presenting the Church Family Plan.

PASTOR'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

You Can Start a New Church

By Trymon Messer

It's time we understand the importance of the local church. In Paul's writings, *I Timothy 3:14-16*, Paul speaks of the New Testament church. Here he describes the local church under three headings: The House of God, Speaking of God's family on earth—if the local church is important than any other organization on earth. The Pillar and Ground of Truth preserve, preach and practice God's Word in a world of darkness. It's the foundation in a world of darkness, paganism and heathenism—a world that has lost all sense of reason and is blinded by self-indulgence, humanistic materialism and depravity. That foundation is crumbling with only

one church in five in America preaching the gospel. We must expand God's foundation.

The Body of Christ

The local church is Christ's body on earth to continue the work He began. Every saved person is a part of that body. As such, our greatest goal on this earth should be to expand Christ's body by planting local churches all across our country.

This is one of the greatest investments you can possibly make with your life, for your family, for a city, for our country and for God's glory. No other generation of Christians has faced the challenge this generation faces today. No generation in human history has had as many lost people living at one time as this generation.

Why Start a New Church?

Half of all the people born since the beginning of recorded history, that lived to the age of five, are alive. World population increases by 160,000 every 24 hours. God's plan to reach the masses is to plant local churches throughout this world.

Acts 1:8 makes this plan clear. A study of Acts helps us see that they understood what Jesus meant in Matthew 16:19 when He said, "... I will build my church ..."

Other verses of support include, "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42). "Ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine ..." (Acts 5:28). "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied" (Acts 9:31).

Even in our own country, men like Benjamin Randall started churches all across his area. In every state where Free Will Baptists are strong, you will find that preachers followed the people and started churches. Somehow, we have lost that pioneering spirit or the sense of importance of the local church.

It seems that many of today's preachers are content to live on someone else's ministry, the established church with salary and benefits. I realize that this is God's will for many. Someone must pastor these churches. That leaves approximately 1,700 preachers without a church!

Some of that 1,700 are evangelists, but the majority just sit in churches, preaching once in a while. At the same time, our own country is becoming a pagan nation and a seedbed of depravity. Families are not safe in the streets or in their homes. Mothers are afraid to let children play in their own front yards. Sin floods our lands, our schools and our living rooms.

The local church is God's standard, God's conscience in the community. It's the bulwark for broken hearts and lives. Yet, only one in five churches preach enough gospel to get a soul saved. Less than two percent have any outreach ministry.

Our denomination voted to start 100 new churches in the next five years. We must have them for the survival of our country and denomination, for students for our colleges and for a stronger base to reach the world.

If we accomplish this goal, many of our preachers must leave their homes, jobs and churches, and go out and start new ones. Many pastors are defeated, discouraged and frustrated in situations where they feel helpless to do anything. Why not consider starting a new church in a city or state where we do not have a Free Will Baptist church?

We need some men with daring spirit and faith. Why not get a good lay couple, claim a city, and go and start a new church?

Some of you already have an income. Some of you have jobs that will transfer to a city where we need churches. Many could go out under the Home Missions Department. We have three programs to help:

1. Full-time National Home Missionary Program (or Joint Project with a state)
2. Associate Missionary Program
3. Tentmaker

Who Should Start a New Church?

I believe there's a desire on every preacher's heart to someday start his own church. There's a desire to win and disciple his own people and set up and establish his own program.

There's an unexplainable thrill and excitement in a new church with new converts and a sense of accomplishment. Sure, there are problems, discouragement, disappointments and setbacks. That's part of life, but God is

faithful. He uses these things to mature His man and His church. Many young preacher boys could claim a city and start a new church.

How Do I Start?

First, start praying and asking God what He would have you do about starting a new church. Start gathering material on church planting, such as Roy Thomas' *Planting And Growing A Fundamental Church*. Visit one of our successful missionaries and spend a few days with him. There's an orientation program available through the Home Missions Department that helps missionaries develop strategy for starting a church.

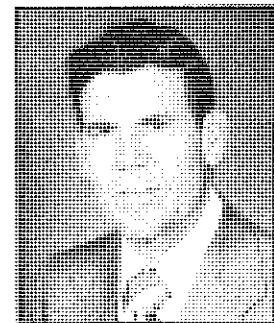
Second, start praying about a city or state without a Free Will Baptist church. We still have nine states without a church. Many of our larger cities are without a church. What a challenge!

The Texas State Convention of Southern Baptists plans to start 2,000 churches in the next five years. The Nazarenes and Assemblies of God are starting record numbers of new churches. Free Will Baptists can, too. Pastor, if God is not leading you to go, get your church or association to sponsor a new church in another city or state.

How Do I Know if It's God's Will?

Is the local church God's will? Is Free Will Baptist doctrine important? Has God called you to preach? Has God been dealing with you about starting a new church somewhere? If you have the desire and see the need, then try to find the place and time. Every day you wait, souls will be lost. Do it now.

If it's God's will, you have already been thinking about the place. Just say, "Yes, Lord, I'll go." Then, go! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Trymon Messer is assistant director of the Home Missions Department.

Worry—

Part five of a five-part series.

By Malcolm Fry

Daily, science discovers new evidence to substantiate the fact that too much worry is detrimental to health. Research at Columbia University shows that even mild worry can affect one's eyesight.

Dr. Leonard S. Fosdick of Northwestern University proved conclusively that worry restricts the flow of saliva. One type of baldness is also brought on by chronic worry.

Tests conducted at Cornell University Medical School indicate that the brain's ability to function is seriously hampered if one is overburdened with the stresses of life. Powers of concentration, memory, creative thinking and the ability to learn are all adversely affected.

The Institute of Experimental Medicine at the University of Montreal found that diseases such as high blood pressure, colitis, diabetes, heart trouble, circulatory ailments and asthma are aggravated by worry. It seems plausible to heed the advice of Linus to Charlie Brown—"Why worry when you can pray!"

When did you last spend an entire carefree day with no worries? What percentage of the things you worried about last week came true?

One must hasten to explain that there's a difference between worry and concern. Concern is sincere interest in a person or matter. Worry is an overactive, corrosive fear that the problem will grow worse. Concern causes a person to look at difficulties with a calm, reasoning mind to find solutions. Worry makes him jump to gloomier conclusions without trying to think through problems.

Jesus never worried. Yet while living in this world He had no money,

no home to call His own, no place to lay His head. Many nights He was alone under the stars. He knew He was on His way to the cross to die, but even about this He did not worry.

What is Worry?

Worry is fear—a natural human trait. It's also a tragedy. Habitual worry injures beyond repair certain cells of the brain, which being the nutritive center of the body, cause other organs to become gradually injured. When some disease of these organs or ailments arise, death finally ensues. Medical men state that worry kills more people than all other diseases combined.

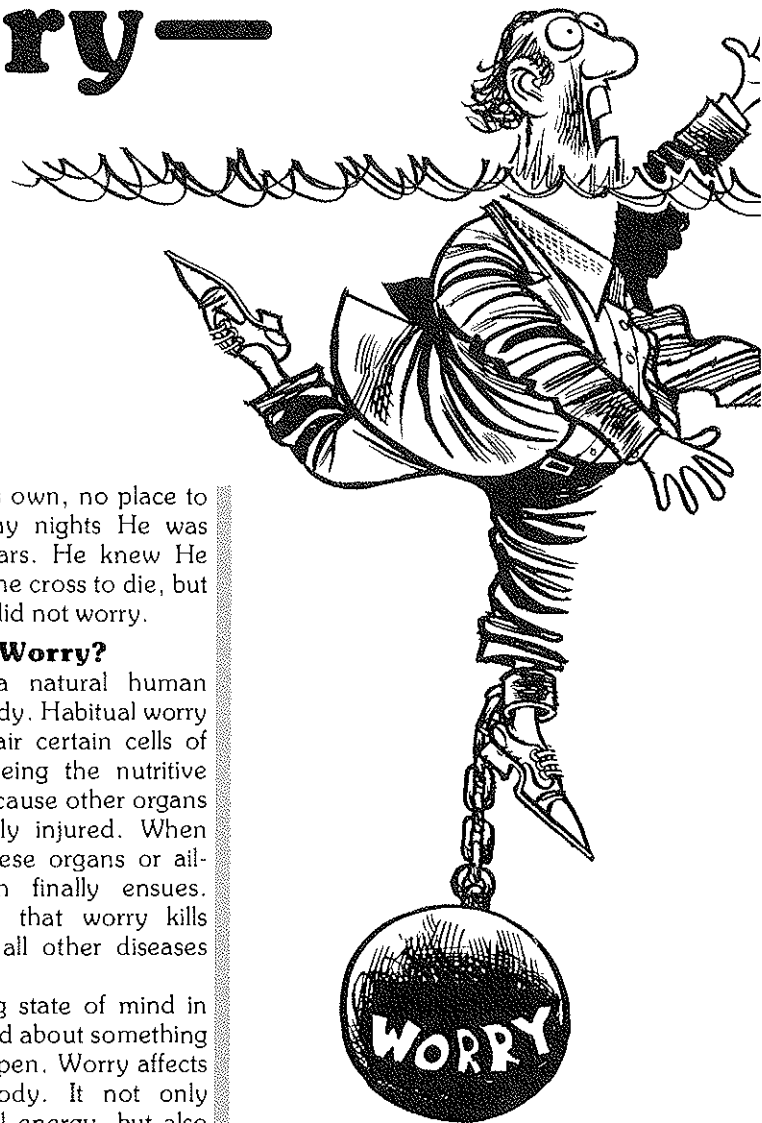
Worry is a wrong state of mind in which one is troubled about something that may never happen. Worry affects both mind and body. It not only wastes one's mental energy, but also poisons the blood and drains the vitality, which results in hardening of the arteries and stiffening of the joints. Medical science discovered that worry causes thousands of Americans to contract joint diseases and arthritis.

Worry is sinful. It shows a lack of faith in God and in His Word. It reflects upon His faithfulness and as a result brings reproach upon His name.

Worry is a robber. It robs a person of at least two valuable assets: the power to think clearly and the ability to act wisely. Worry is borrowing trouble, worry is brooding, and worry is absolutely useless. Worry never helps the situation, but results in increased distrust.

What Worry Does

Worry doubts God's love. Many people, when encumbered with



sickness or trials repeatedly, believe God doesn't love them anymore.

However, Hebrews 12:6, 11 declares, "For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

Sickness and trials do not always represent, however, the chastening of the Lord. One should look at his situation objectively to determine why this happened to him. And even then, the Christian does not always know

Its Causes and Cure

why God permits sickness to enter his life. God always has his *afterward* for those who suffer in the light of His love.

Worry doubts God's wisdom. Our Lord is too wise to make mistakes and too good to be unkind. When we worry we doubt this. The Psalmist says, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go. I will guide thee with mine eye" (Psalm 32:8).

If God promises to direct our lives every step of the way, what have we to fear? We need not fear anything for His wisdom is sufficient.

Worry doubts God's power. We have a mighty God. He is all-powerful. There is nothing He cannot do for His own. If we are standing on redemption ground we may claim every promise of the Word of God as ours.

We read in Psalm 46:1-2: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."

God is unlimited in His mighty power. Nothing can harness His strength and force. When we worry we doubt God's power. We need not doubt the power of God for His power is all-sufficient.

Cure for Worry

The remedy for worry is trust in God. "Be careful for nothing (don't worry about anything), but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6).

The one who prays and supplicates with thanksgiving gives evidence of

faith and trust. (Notice the result in Philippians 4:7.) Since unbelief is the chief cause of worry, then trust in God is the effective cure.

Trust in God will end worry, for worry and trust cannot live together. The one is opposed to the other. Either trust will drive worry from your life, or worry will reign without a rival.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord and trust in Him" (Psalm 37:5). Are you willing to commit your way to God and trust Him? If so, He will order your steps and lead you right.

Finally, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him" (Psalm 37:7). do not become nervous and anxious; rather be steady and patient.

What is the secret of rest? It is thought without worry, care without anxiety, knowledge without fear, and faith without misgiving. Trust God to direct and help, but allow no doubt to enter the mind. Thus one may rest in the Lord.

One dark night a man slipped and rolled down a steep place. He stopped the descent by grasping a bush on the hillside, which left him dangling in the air. His attempt to climb up the hill was in vain. Below was darkness. He strained every muscle as he kept a tight grip on the bush. Finally, his strength was exhausted. In despair he let go and dropped—just six inches!

Many of us worry and struggle with our nerves at high tension when all the time we only need to let go and drop into the "everlasting arms" just beneath us.

The Son of God did not condone the worry of His followers. We learn from Mark 4 that He fell asleep one day while in a boat with His followers on the Sea of Galilee. Suddenly a storm arose and His disciples were

terror-stricken. They hurriedly awakened the Lord saying, "Carest Thou not that we perish?"

Jesus looked upon the angry waves and with a word of rebuke He summoned the winds to hush. A great calm settled upon the sea. Then turning to His bewildered followers He asked, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

What a rebuke that was! How could they be afraid, how dare they worry, when they had the Son of God in the boat with them? What about you?

Said the Robin to the Sparrow,

"I should really like to know

Why these anxious human beings

Rush around and worry so."

Said the Sparrow to the Robin,

"Friend, I think that it must be

That they have no Heavenly Father

Such as cares for you and me."

(Elizabeth Cheney, in "Overheard in an Orchard")



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Malcolm C. Fry
pastors Unity Free Will Baptist Church,
Smithfield, North Carolina.

Why Go to Church?

By G. Roger Schoenhals



Sunday morning. You will not go to work today because it's your day off. You could spend the morning leisurely at home, or head outside for some recreation. Instead, you get up and go to church.

Why? Why would any person begin each Sunday in church? Why do you go to church?

As I've reflected on this question, several reasons stand out. They tell me that Christians need to be involved in the life and ministry of a local church.

Growing Personally

We need the church because we need to place ourselves in a growth environment. We need teaching and preaching that stirs our hearts, expands our minds and challenges us to greater commitment. We also need the example and advice of older believers.

The relationships of a church family help us live out the truth we receive. Commitment to a community of people helps us learn to deal with diversity of opinion and personality. We cannot grow on our own nearly as well as we can in the midst of fellow pilgrims learning to love and forgive one another.

Giving Our Gifts

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit gives each of us a gift of ministry. These gifts are special talents or inclinations that give us a unique role in the life of the church. Our gifts may relate to music, teaching, cleaning, encouragement, administration, finances, discernment, evangelism or something else. Exercising our gifts not only benefits others, it's a way of honoring God as a good steward of the gifts He gave us.

Someone said, "What you don't use, you lose." This is true of those gifts and abilities given to us by the Lord of the Church. If we withhold our gifts, they may wither away. But using our gifts will polish them and make them even more useful to Christ and His Kingdom.

Receiving Each Other's Gifts

If others in the church are dependent upon our gifts, we are likewise dependent on theirs. The

hand needs the foot, the eye, the neck the arms, and all the rest of the body in order to be complete. In the same way, we need the gifts of others in the local church to complete what is lacking in our lives.

Helping Us Maintain Balance

A healthy local church offers doctrinal balance through well-rounded teaching and preaching. This not only helps insure a more complete understanding of Truth, it also protects us from false winds of doctrine that circulate in society. Whatever may be its faults, the institutional church has been God's way of preserving His Truth from generation to generation. Placing ourselves under the influence of a solid local church is a preventative decision that makes good sense.

Through the assortment of church ministries, we are continually reminded of the big picture of God's mission in this world. We face our

responsibility to world evangelism through the missions program. We see the needs of children, youth and adults through the age level emphasis of the Christian education program. We hear of the social and spiritual needs of the community through the outreach and compassion ministries. All this provides a balance of perspective that keeps us from narrowing our vision to a single mission or emphasis.

Belonging to Others

We all want to be needed and appreciated. Local churches provide a network of relationships that can meet this need. Our church friends become an extended family of brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, children and grandparents. There is something warming and affirming about coming to a church service or function and being welcomed by people who know us and care about us.

Being Accountable

If we think no one is counting on us, it's easy to shift into neutral. But to have responsibility—to have people expecting things from us—places us under the kind of pressure that helps keep us in touch with the influences that promote spiritual health. Teaching a class or serving in some other capacity in a local church helps keep our lives from being overrun with lesser and more selfish involvements.

Presenting a Positive Statement

By regular involvement in the local church we communicate to our neighbors and members of our family that spiritual matters are important to us. Going on record in this way also helps us further establish our own commitment to Christ.

When we unite with a congregation of believers and fully participate in the mission and ministries of that church we affirm and encourage God's people.

Maintaining Stability

As the waters of the sea vary, so do the circumstances and moods of life. Strong habits of attendance and participation help us keep steady when the variations of life arise.

Of course, the order and structure of an institution can be viewed as wooden and restrictive. But a healthy institution can also be seen as a positive framework that provides

needed stability in a helter-skelter world.

Providing Familiar Surroundings

As the people of God gather week after week in the same environment, associations and memories from the past come to life. Kneeling at an altar where we have knelt before reminds us of those precious times of confession, commitment and intercession.

As we walk the familiar halls and sit in familiar rooms and mingle with familiar people we have a similar sensation as when we are in our own apartment or house. We feel at home.

Offering a Support System

When the going gets tough and the bottom falls out, it's too late to run around and develop the kind of relationships that we need at a time like that. How much better to build those ties week after week with God's people. It's wonderful to know that we have the support of a network of believers who will pray for us and care for us when a crisis comes.

Sharing Good News

When the church gathers, the people bring with them the trials and triumphs of their lives. While we need to know about the difficulties in order to care and pray more effectively, we especially need the influence of the positive reports. It's encouraging to learn of answered prayer.

Our faith is bolstered when we hear of how others have been delivered or strengthened by the Holy Spirit. Such reports represent a depository of God's marvelous faithfulness, patience and miracle working power. We need to plug into the that kind of news.

Worshiping with God's People

Isn't it great to join with other believers and sing praises to God! In the local church we have worship leaders, music ministries and the preaching of God's Word to guide our thoughts and resolves. We experience a special sense of God's presence in corporate worship.

Extending Our Ministry

As participants in a local church, we are part of the ministry of each person in that church. Through personal care and prayer we can help them as they witness for Christ in their workaday worlds.

The local church also lets us extend our influence around the world by

supporting national church leaders, missionaries and a host of urban, educational and other ministries. We need the church to help us fulfill the Great Commission to "go into all the world."

Helping Parents

Those of us who are parents need to place our children in a setting where they will have positive models and receive supportive instruction. We want them to build friendships with other parents and children who share our values. The local church reinforces what we seek to instill at home.

Obedying God

While it is true that the Church of Jesus Christ transcends any denomination or institution, it is also true that in biblical times the church expressed itself in the form of local congregations. These local churches were structured with leadership levels and with practices such as regular giving, compassion ministries, instructional efforts and fellowship activities.

In the beginning of Jesus' ministry we find Him calling individuals into community. For three years He spent the bulk of his time molding together the lives and commitments of 12 men. This band of disciples was organized with a common treasury, training sessions, ministry assignments and a leadership structure that set Peter, James and John in the forefront.

At Pentecost we see the Holy Spirit drawing people together to hear the Word preached and to participate in corporate ministries. The book of Acts documents the birth and organization of local churches throughout much of the ancient world. The letters of Paul address the needs and concerns of local churches.

The church is God's idea. There never has been and never will be a satisfactory substitute for it. The Holy Spirit continues to call persons into the life and work of the local church. How can we obey God and evade the local church?

God has given you and me the local church—a special place to worship and grow. We show our gratitude to Him by affirming our loyalty and support, and by giving ourselves to others who are partners with us in God's great work in the world. ☉

ABOUT THE WRITER: Roger Schoenhals is a free-lance writer who resides in Seattle, Washington.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

CONVENTION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS IN BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM, AL—The Alabama Steering Committee met September 5 at the Hyatt Hotel in Birmingham to make plans for Alabama Free Will Baptists to host the July 19-23, 1987, National Convention. Plenary sessions of the National Convention, National Youth Conference and the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention will meet in Boutwell Municipal Auditorium and the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center.

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington said he had blocked more than 1,200 rooms in eight downtown hotels for Free Will Baptist delegates and visitors. The convention housing form will be printed in the April 1987 issue of *Contact*. Dr. Worthington said the Hyatt Birmingham has been designated headquarters hotel for the three concurrent conventions.

The Alabama Steering Committee includes:

- John Edwards—Chairman/State Moderator
- Glenn Hood—Hospitality Committee Chairman
- Ray Ritch—Registration Committee Chairman
- Donny Hussey—Ushering Committee Chairman
- Danny Thompson—Prayer Committee Chairman

The Steering Committee personnel met from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. gathering information, reviewing committee assignments and touring convention facilities. The committee will meet twice in 1987, January and May, to finalize convention plans.

ARKANSAS RADIO BROADCAST MAY REACH MILLIONS

CONWAY, AR—The Arkansas State Association approved the recommendation of Promotional Director David Joslin and the State Executive Board to sponsor weekly radio broadcasts over station KAAY-Little Rock.

At 50,000 watts, KAAY is one of American's most powerful stations. The night-time directional signal is beamed north into Canada and south towards the Caribbean, reaching 21 states and 14 foreign countries. The outreach extends to 47.7 million potential listeners night time and 5 million day time.

The Radio-Television Commission of the National Association of Free Will Baptists bears the cost of production and distribution of the 15-minute

programs. James Vallance, director of the National Master's Men, serves as the announcer. Rev. Bob Shockey delivers the sermons on the program. Free Will Baptists from across the denomination will present the music.

The cost of airing the programs will be underwritten by pledges and contributions by Arkansas Free Will Baptists. During the August meeting of the State Association, 36 churches and/or individuals pledged \$3,475 annually to initiate the broadcasts.

The initial broadcast will begin October 4 over KAAY-1090 AM frequency at 11:15 a.m. and 9:15 p.m. All weekly programs must be aired on Saturdays or Sundays, while the time on Monday through Friday is allotted to daily programming.

WNAC BIENNIAL RETREAT ATTRACTS 662

RIDGECREST, NC—Free Will Baptist women from 19 states and Panama met August 27-29 for three days of fellowship and seminars at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, according to WNAC Executive Secretary Mary Wisehart.

Keynote speaker Mrs. Eunice Edwards, WNAC's first full-time executive secretary, delivered the Thursday evening message titled "Joy Unspeakable and Full of Glory." Mrs. Edwards' presentation expanded on the conference theme "Rejoice with Joy."

Participants registered for 10 workshops and seminars during the three-day meeting. The program also included a Joni Eareckson Tada film series, as well as daily devotionals led by Jan Arnoldi with the help of her "friends," Chester and Rainbow.

Twelve missionary women introduced the cultures of Brazil, France, Ivory Coast, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Spain and Uruguay. The Thursday afternoon "International Variety Program" featured costumes, drama and pantomime. The conferees gave a \$3,800 offering to the missionaries.

Mary Neal (Ind.) directed the retreat's music program. A woman's choir sang each evening. Winona Riggs (Tenn.) and Angie Deel (Tenn.) served as retreat organist and pianist.

Missionary Billie Sexton says the highlight of the retreat for her occurred when her sister came forward for salvation. "I have been praying for this for 36 years," she said. Several women made rededications and other commitments.

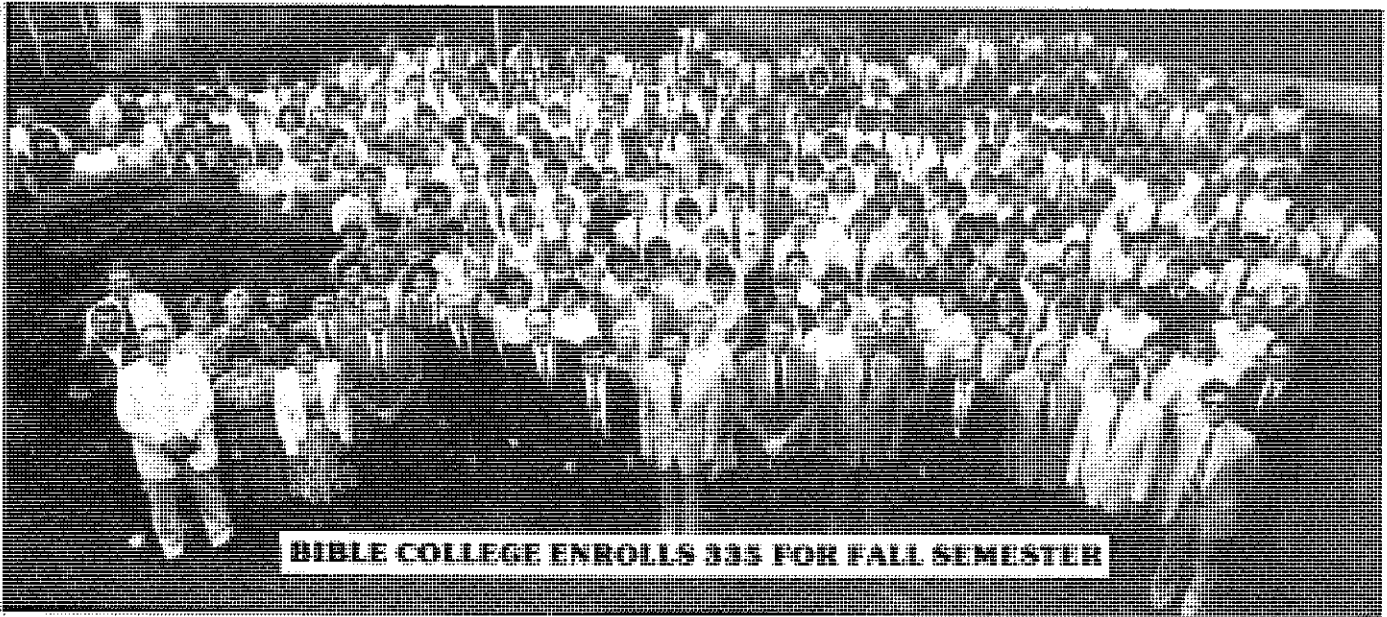
The next WNAC retreat meets September 8-10, 1988, at Ridgecrest.

FWBBC SETS FEBRUARY PASTORS CONFERENCE

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College will hold a Pastors/Workers Conference on the Nashville campus February 16-18, 1987 according to President Charles Thippen.

Speakers include Dr. Robert Sumner of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Rev. David Sutton of Ada, Okla.; and Rev. Leroy Welch of Greenville, N.C.

As many guests as possible will be housed on campus.



BIBLE COLLEGE ENROLLS 335 FOR FALL SEMESTER

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College enrolled 335 students from 25 states and five foreign countries in August to begin its fall semester, according to Dr. Charles Hampton, registrar. Of these, 332 are undergraduates and three are enrolled in the graduate program.

He noted increased numbers from several states, including Arkansas (up 7), Michigan (up 6), Oklahoma (up 5) and Virginia (up 7). The largest number of students are from Tennessee (69), followed by North Carolina (37), Illinois (23) and Arkansas (22).

The student body includes 71 ministerial students and 36 missions students.

Enrollment Breakdowns

By state

Alabama	14
Arizona	2
Arkansas	22
California	3
Delaware	1
Florida	8
Georgia	14

Idaho	1
Illinois	23
Indiana	7
Kentucky	12
Massachusetts	1
Michigan	20
Mississippi	5
Missouri	20
New York	1
North Carolina	37

Ohio	14
Oklahoma	7
South Carolina	14
Tennessee	69
Texas	6
Virginia	18
Washington	3
West Virginia	4
Foreign	6

By Classification

Freshmen	107	Juniors	66
Sophomores	90	Seniors	56
Special	13		

Others

Male	160	Ministerial	71
Female	172	Missionary	36
New	112	Single	252
Returning	220	Married	80
Free Will Baptist	319		
Other	13		

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS CONFERENCE TO MEET AT FWBBC

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College will host its annual Christian Schools Conference February 16-18, 1987, according to Dr. Kenneth Riggs, chairman of the Teacher Education Department.

Special guest speaker for the conference will be Anna Sue Darkes, executive director of Faith Venture Visuals. Other speakers will hold special seminars on a variety of topics, says Dr. Riggs.

The conference will also give visiting Christian school administrators an opportunity to interview graduating education students for possible employment.

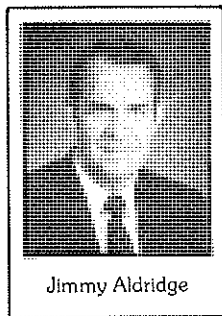
HOME MISSIONS READIES SPANISH FOLLOW-UP LESSONS

NASHVILLE, TN—The Home Missions Department announced publication of 13 *Spanish Follow-Up Lessons for New Converts* in October. The 13 lessons with an instruction sheet were translated into Spanish using the same format as the English lessons. Sets of 13 lessons sell for 35¢, the same price for which the English language sets sell.

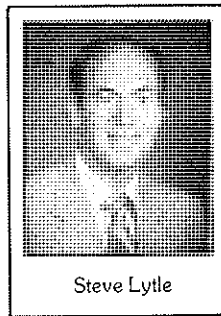
Home Missions officials hope the lessons will be used not only in the U.S. Spanish-speaking churches and the Home Missions fields of Mexico and Puerto Rico, but also in Spain, Panama, Uruguay and other Spanish-speaking missions fields. The Department also plans to print the *Romans Road* tract and other evangelism materials in Spanish as time and funds permit.

newsfront

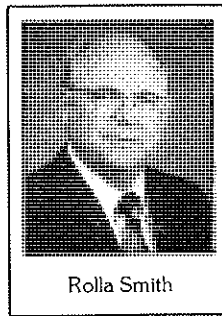
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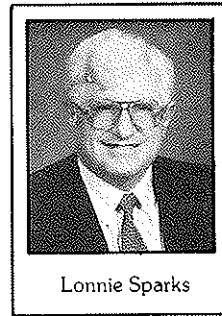
Jimmy Aldridge



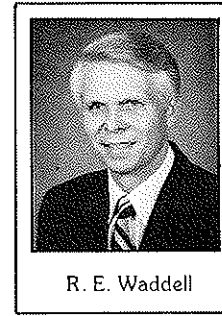
Steve Lytle



Rolla Smith



Lonnie Sparks



R. E. Waddell

FOREIGN MISSIONARIES TO SPEAK AT BIBLE COLLEGE CONFERENCE

NASHVILLE, TN—Foreign missions will be emphasized at Free Will Baptist Bible College's annual Missionary Conference, to be held on campus November 3-5, according to President Charles A. Thigpen.

Speakers for the conference include missionaries Lonnie Sparks and Steve Lytle, and missions executives R. Eugene Waddell, Jimmy Aldridge and Rolla Smith.

The college, on alternating years, emphasizes the needs of home and foreign missions fields in its conference.

EVANS EVANGELISTIC TEAM REPORTS 295 CONVERSIONS

PEDRO, OH—The Calvin Evans Evangelistic Team, headquartered in Pedro, Ohio, conducted an areawide crusade in Trinidad, West Indies, August 10-15. Evangelist Evans said the 12-member team held 31 services in six days near Arima, with a concentrated effort on a tent crusade in La Horquetta.

The team did a massive door-to-door visitation two days prior to the crusade distributing thousands of gospel tracts. Pastor Carl Dhountal, pastor of Arima Baptist Church, coordinated the meetings which drew a total attendance of 3,260, with 295 public professions of faith. Most of the converts came from a Hindu or Moslem background. Pastor Dhountal, with assistance of local ministers, continued the tent crusade and follow-up training for new converts.

Reverend Calvin Evans is a full-time Free Will Baptist evangelist. Other Free Will Baptists among the 12-member Trinidad evangelistic team included Mike Carter from Kentucky, Calvin Ray Evans, Pam and Angie Evans, and Jeff Schilling all from Ohio.

SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE ENROLLS 173

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—South-eastern Free Will Baptist College enrolled 173 students from 17 states during registration in August, according to the dean, Dr. Lorenza Stox.

President Joseph Ange and pastors James Pauley and Don Lamb challenged the students during opening days with Bible preaching.

The college enrolled 57 new students. Student classification breaks down as follows: Freshmen—59,

Sophomores—33, Juniors—28, Seniors—32 and Special students—7.

Virginia leads the states with 59 students and North Carolina is second with 57. Other state breakdowns include:

West Virginia 4	Michigan 1
South Carolina 17	Alabama 9
Mississippi 3	Kansas 2
New Jersey 1	Ohio 1
Arkansas 1	Indiana 2
Florida 3	Texas 2
Pennsylvania 1	New York 1
Tennessee 9	

HILLSDALE ENROLLS 144 STUDENTS

MOORE, OK—A Total of 144 students enrolled at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College for the fall semester, an increase of two over fall 1985 enrollment. Of this total, 64 are new students and 80 are returning students. The students come from 12 states and 5 foreign countries. The largest number (74) comes from Oklahoma; Missouri is second with 15. Texas is third with nine, followed closely by Arkansas with eight.

A total of 111 students attend full time; the remaining 33 attend part time. Men students outnumber

women students 96 to 48. Biblical studies, education and business are the three areas of concentration favored by most students. Biblical studies is the largest area with 62 enrolled. Business is next with 35. Education is third with 25.

Dr. Thomas Marberry, vice president of academic affairs, explains, "We are encouraged to have an increase in our enrollment this fall. We are looking forward to a good school year. The students are taking their work very seriously."

**18 PASTORS ATTEND
MASTER'S COURSE**

NASHVILLE, TN—Eighteen Free Will Baptist pastors from seven states attended the Free Will Baptist Bible College course on "Pastoral Care: Ministering to the Needs of People." The course, part of the Master of Ministry program, was held on campus August 4-9, according to Ralph Hampton, dean of the Graduate School.

Teachers for the course were Reverends Hobert Ashby, Leroy Forlines and Peter Wilson.

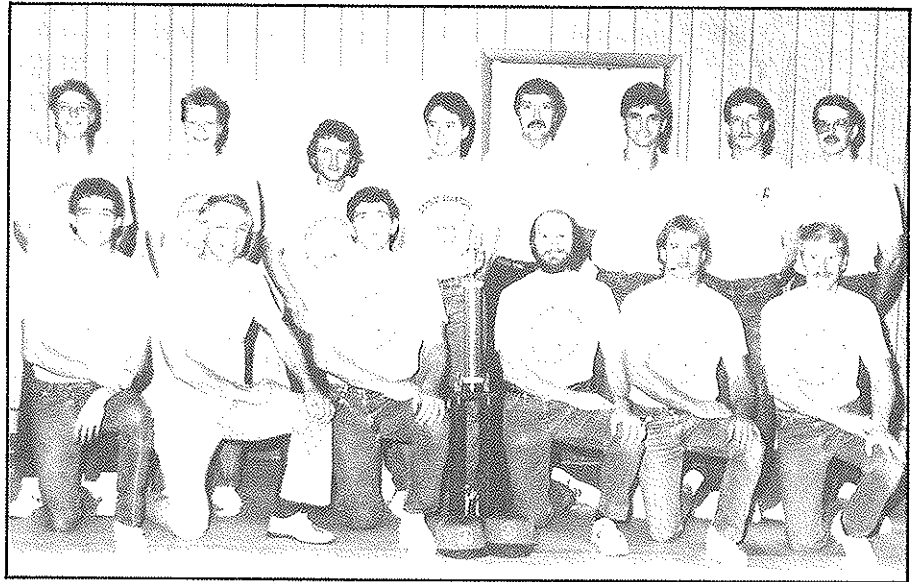
The course was the third in the new graduate program, which is designed to help pastors who want graduate study without giving up their churches. Students in the program attend one-week courses on campus, offered three times a year, and carry out projects and assignments in their local churches.

At present, 25 Free Will Baptist pastors are enrolled in the program for credit. Several others are taking the courses on a non-credit basis.

The next course in the program will be held December 29-January 2 and will feature Pastoral Leadership, according to Mr. Hampton.

For more information, please write or call:

**Master of Ministry Program
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205-2498
615/383-1340**



Championship softball team, Hamilton, Alabama.

ALABAMA TEAM WINS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

NASHVILLE, TN—Twenty-six teams from 10 states drove to Nashville to vie for the annual Randall House Softball Tournament in August. The Hamilton FWB Church team from Hamilton, Ala., scored 78 runs in winning seven of eight games and the championship.

This marked the second trip to the tournament for the Hamilton group. Led by tourney Most Valuable Player Tony Fincher, Hamilton powered through its semi-final matchup with another Alabama team (Florence) in a 14-1 romp.

The championship game pitted Hamilton against the team from Central FWB Church, Detroit, Mich. Hamilton won 13-9. Team coach Roger Ellis said, "It was really great. This was a total team effort."

Reverend Vern Gunnels, pastor of Hamilton FWB Church and a member of the championship team, said one young man told him, "You have to believe in miracles to see how far this church team has come in three years."

Where and when did Free Will Baptists begin?

Who were our early leaders and what were they like?

These and many other questions are answered in the pages of *The Free Will Baptists In America (1727-1984)*. Dr. William F. Davidson traces the denomination's roots from colonial days to the present time. This hardbound volume, containing over 450 pages, is filled with interesting and sometimes dramatic accounts.

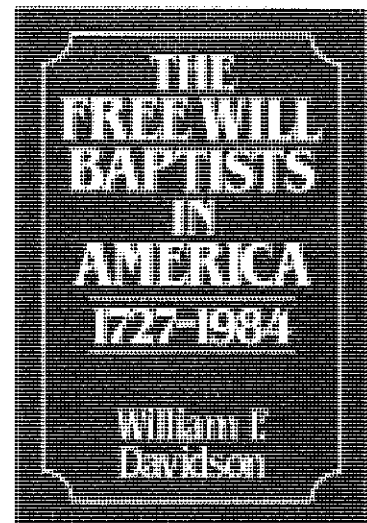
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Members of **Grant Avenue FWB Church, Springfield, MO**, voted to install a \$5,800 sound system in the sanctuary. Pastor **Jeff Gaskins** said the system will include special receivers for the hearing impaired.

Home missionary **Elmer Turnbough** has the most wonderful problem in **Pinellas Park Mission in Largo, FL**. Pastor Turnbough and the congregation have been worshipping in a facility that can seat 53 people. Earlier this fall they were averaging 55 people on Sunday morning and 56 on Sunday evening. Blessed is the pastor whose congregation runneth over!

Pastor **Raymond Capps** at **New Hope FWB Church, Ina, IL**, said the group averaged 43 in a Vacation Bible School this year. The congregation gave the \$139 VBS offering to missionary **Dennis Owen**.

The 16-member visitation team at **Calvary FWB Church, Salem, IL**, paid off recently, according to Pastor **Cliff Donoho**. Donoho baptized six people, and a family of five joined the church.

Twelve children were saved during the Vacation Bible School at **Oak Valley FWB Church, Geff, IL**. **Keith Fletcher** pastors.

When Pastor **Kenny Pell** counted noses before the 1985 National Convention, Sunday morning attendance averaged 20 at **Unity FWB Church, Bradley, IL**. After the 1986 convention, Pastor Pell reports attendance up to 40, and that he baptized five and welcomed 10 new members following the convention.

Perry FWB Church, Perry, GA, dedicated a new sanctuary just outside the city limits on Highway 127, according to Pastor **Lee Lafferty**. The church, a mission outreach of Georgia Union Association, started in 1974 when a small piece of property was purchased in the city. Pastor Lafferty, a building contractor, was instrumental in starting the new building.

The Board of Christian Education in Georgia suspended the resident program at **Georgia Bible Institute**, according to **Rex Lynn**, a board spokesman. The possibility exists that Institute studies will continue with greater emphasis on external studies and/or regional seminars. The decision to change the GBI operations results from the fact that only two students expressed interest in attending classes for the fall 1987 semester.

Members at **Victory FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC**, voted a \$78,000 budget for 1987 and also agreed to pay off all the church's indebtedness by December 1, 1986. **George Lee** pastors.

The **Oklahoma FWB Christian Education Convention** met at **West Tulsa FWB Church, Tulsa, OK**, September 5-6. Officials reported 20 workshops in the two-day schedule. Fourteen resource persons led the different workshops.

Arkansas state CTS director **Jim Purcell** said that during the first four weeks of camp at the state-owned **Camp Beaverfork** facility, workers reported 89 conversions and 185 rededications among the campers.

Reverend **Guy Owens**, former pastor at Randall Memorial FWB Church, Memphis, TN, announced that he is entering the field of evangelism and simultaneously founding the **Faith Institute of Biblical Studies**. Owens has conducted more than 300 revivals in 20 states. The portable Faith Institute will feature Evangelist Owens teaching personally and by video. He may be contacted at 2110 Trawick Road, Raleigh, NC 27604; phone 919-872-2215.

Pastor **Brian Atwood** says **Emmanuel FWB Church, Wabash, IN**, had a record summer high of 512 in Sunday School and 522 in church on July 20. The church celebrated its 20th anniversary on that date.

Indiana state youth director **Greg Hanson** reports 22 conversions, 22 rededications and 57 altar responses for special needs at the Indiana youth camp this summer. In addition two young men answered the call to preach.

Free Will Baptist Bible College set a \$42,500 goal for students and teachers to

raise in the annual Christmas Project, according to Public Relations Director **Paul Ketteman**. Receipts from the project help meet the college's \$660,000 general fund gift budget.

Committee members **Tim Hollingshead, Lela Shrum** and **Sandy Tiller** worked with the Master's Men chapter at **Bethel FWB Church, South Roxanna, IL**, to purchase a Samick piano for the church sanctuary.

Southeastern FWB College, Virginia Beach, VA, will host its annual "Tip-Off Basketball Tournament" December 4-6. Dean **Lorenza Stox** announced that any schools interested in participating in the tournament should contact Southeastern College at P. O. Box 61599, Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

Keith Skelton, a member at **First FWB Church, Batesville, AR**, noticed a mobile home burning early one Saturday morning as he drove down the highway. He stopped to help and heard a woman crying for assistance. An elderly handicapped woman had attempted to escape the fire but had fallen. Mr. Skelton rescued the woman from the fire and notified her granddaughter. **Bobby Shepherd** pastors this good Samaritan.

Paster **Fred Hall** said that members of **Trinity FWB Church, Bowling Green, KY**, expect to complete a \$125,000 recreation/fellowship building by December. Pastor Hall said the facility will contain extra Sunday School space, an office suite and general recreation areas.

Pastor **Richard Cordell** said members at **First FWB Church, Guin, AL**, conduct services each Sunday at the local jail. He added that the jail ministry team now conducts extensive Bible study follow-up with those inmates who wish to involve themselves in this project.

Pastor **Sam Henderson** at **First FWB Church, Green Rock, IL**, says Sunday School attendance surged 50 percent from July until August with a high of 169 for morning worship. Pastor Henderson said two families brought 13 people each to the special "Pack-A-Pew" Sunday.

The new home mission work at **Pioneer, CA**, reported 21 in attendance on September 7. **John Hibbard** pastors.

Twitty Enterprises of Hendersonville, TN, gave an IBM System 34 computer to **Free Will Baptist Bible College** in September. The gift includes a high-speed printer and four input terminals, according to **Sandy Goodfellow**, the college's business manager over physical operations. The new computer has double the capacity of the college's current System 34 and the new printer is twice as fast as the one presently being used.

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TEEN Scene

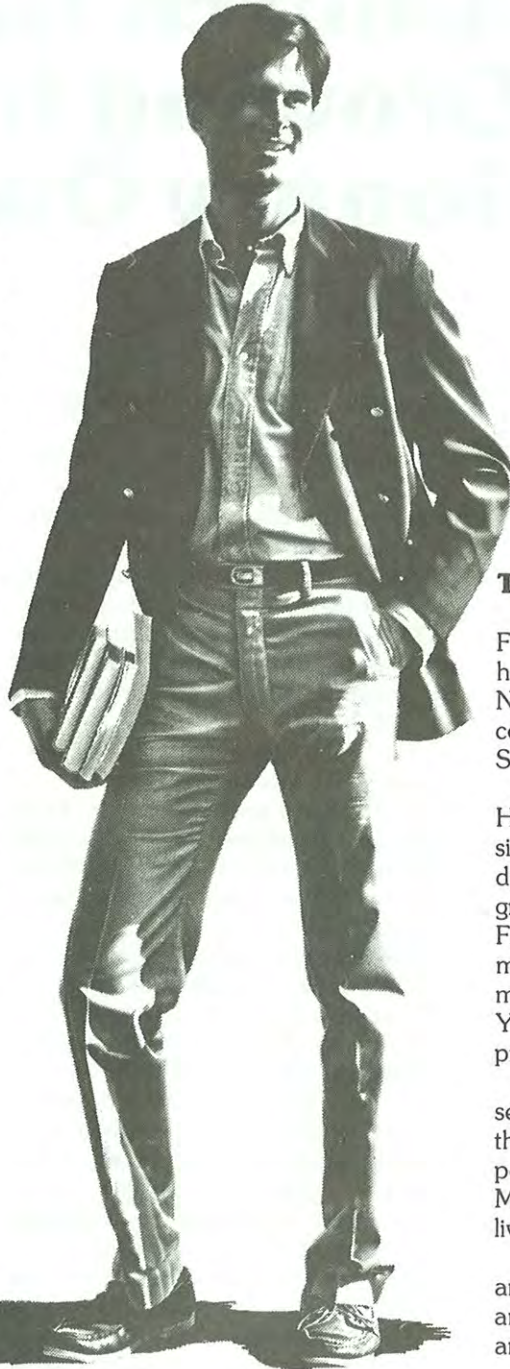
Oklahoma

As a mission of ministry, the Prince Puppeteers of Ada, Oklahoma, presented "Colby's Missing Memory Puppet Show" in eight churches, two youth camps and a nursing home. The group touched more than 1,000 children with the message of God's love and friendship.

The Prince Puppeteers is a 15-member puppet team from First FWB Church in Ada. Members alternate traveling to churches to minister. This gives everyone a chance to get involved in reaching others.

Director Dean Stone challenged the young people to choose a team name. They had a contest and "Prince" was selected. Prince stands for Puppeteers Rejoicing in Christian Evangelism.

One additional note—on March 6-7, 1987, First FWB Church of Ada will host the Southern Regional Puppetry Festival. The conference will feature seminars, competition and other specialties.



Tennessee

The youth group from New Hope FWB Church in Joelton, Tennessee, held three services this summer at the Nashville Rescue Mission. They conducted one service every fourth Saturday each month.

Jeff Chandler, song director at New Hope and a youth group member, led singing at the mission services. He also directed special music provided by the group. Kent Barwick, a freshman at Free Will Baptist Bible College and a member of New Hope, brought the message at the August service and Youth Director Barry Simpson preached at the other services.

There were salvation decisions and several rededications in response to the gospel messages. However, many people who frequent the Union Mission live difficult and confusing lives.

These services provided the youth an opportunity to counsel at the altar and see the reality of where alcohol and drugs often lead their captives. ●



Green Tree Bible Study

Robert E. Picirilli



The Church in Acts— Growing by Missionary Outreach

Sometimes, when we think of “church growth,” we think only about a local church. But Christ’s church also grows by conquering new territory. That is at least as important, in Acts, as any other part of the early church’s growth.

From first to last, Acts presents the church as a missionary church.

Start with the Great Commission: they were to evangelize to the ends of the earth (1:8). Chapters 1-7 have Jerusalem and Judaea as their scene; chapter 8 moves into Samaria; the rest traces the gospel to the capital city of what was then considered “the civilized world.”

View Peter’s experience with Cornelius (chapters 10, 11) in that light. The Lord was making clear that the door of faith was open to all.

Most of all, Paul’s “missionary journeys” make the point. Chosen a special “apostle to the Gentiles” (9:15), he trudged doggedly back and forth across Asia Minor and Greece planting churches, until he could say that he had finished the work in that area and was at last free to plan for Rome and Spain (Romans 15:19-24).

What does it take for the church to be a missionary church, to grow by expanding into new territory? A study of Acts with this question in mind produces some of the answers.

1. *It takes willing goers.* The original apostles were conscious of their commission (1:22). Peter went

whenever the Lord’s direction was clear: to the temple at home (3:1-26); to Samaria (8); to Lydda (9:32); to Joppa (9:38-39); to Cornelius in Caesarea (10). He was a going missionary (9:32; cf. 9:28).

Paul and Barnabas were “set apart” by the Lord to go (13:2-3). Later, it was Paul and Silas, with Barnabas and Mark going elsewhere (15:40).

Acts is full of people going about: not just these, but Philip (8), Timothy (16:3), Luke (16:10), Aquila and Priscilla (18:18), Apollos (18:27)—not to mention a larger unnamed host (8:1,3; 11:19).

The church grows when called and committed people move out.

2. *It takes a sending church.* there may be exceptions, but God’s usual plan is for His church to send out those He has chosen—with all that “send forth” implies.

The classic passage in Acts is 13:2-4: God called Barnabas and Paul (v. 2) and the Spirit of God sent them forth (v. 4). But it’s also true that the church at Antioch sent them (v. 3). Yes, “sent away” (v. 3, Greek *apoluo*) literally means that they *released* them for the work. But the actions in the verse certainly show that they “sponsored” them, that they identified with them. And Paul was always careful to return and report to them (14:27).

Paul’s isn’t the only such case: consider how the Jerusalem church viewed the work of Philip in Samaria

(8:14) or the new church planted in Antioch (11:19-22). In both cases, they *sent* people to labor there.

The church reaches out when it is deeply concerned and actively involved in planting new churches in new places.

3. *It takes the powerful working of God.* Everywhere in Acts we see clearly that God is the one working through the missionaries. Right at the start, the commission itself sets the tone for this: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and you will be my witnesses: (1:8; cf. 4:31).

Stephen’s message was remarkable in this way (6:10). Cornelius’ conversion couldn’t be argued against for this reason (11:15-18). This is why Sergius Paulus was “astonished at the doctrine of the Lord” (13:12). You can hardly turn a page without meeting this truth. What was said of Lydia could have been said of them all: “whose heart the Lord opened” (16:14).

The credit went to the Lord because it was clear that the Lord did the work. And that resulted from the fact that His servants prayed for Him to do the work and depended on Him for it, going forth only in His power.

No doubt we could add to these three things, but they are the absolute essentials that Acts emphasizes: chosen servants, sent by the church, going forth in His power.

None of that is a secret. But sometimes we have to rediscover it. ●



ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

The Runt

Marty and Megan raced their bicycles through the chilly spring air to Mrs. Douglas' farm. They were eager to see "Mrs. Suey's" 10 new piglets. Two days earlier they helped Mrs. Douglas wash the sow and move her to a clean pen.

"She'll farrow any day now," Mrs. Douglas had told them.

"What does 'farrow' mean?" Megan questioned.

"Oh, that's just the word we use when a sow's about to give birth to pigs," Mrs. Douglas had explained. "I think Mrs. Suey is about ready."

Now the twins stared down at the 10 little pink pigs. Mrs. Douglas had installed a heat lamp in the stall, and the pigs snuggled under its warmth snoozing contentedly.

"They sure are tiny," whispered Marty.

"Pigs usually weight about two and a half pounds when they're born," said Mrs. Douglas. "But look at this little fellow," she remarked, picking up the runt of the litter. "I bet he wouldn't weight a pound and a half soaking wet."

Megan took the baby pig in her palm and stroked it gently. "He'll be all right, won't he?" she asked.

"He will be if his brothers and sisters don't run over him at dinner time," answered Mrs. Douglas.

"He sure is a teeny little thing," said Megan. "Hey, that's what I'll call him, 'Teeny Weenie,'" said Megan.

Mrs. Douglas chuckled. "If he grows up to be a 'weenie,' it will be a miracle."

The twins went to see Mrs. Douglas every day. They helped her take care of the pigs and enjoyed watching them grow. But Mrs. Douglas' prediction about Teeny Weenie was coming true. His brothers and sisters got most of the dinner and grew rapidly, but Teeny was still, well, teeny.

"Reckon he needs to be bottle fed," said Mrs. Douglas, "But my sister in Chicago is sick, and I'm supposed to fly up and help her."

Megan had an idea. "I'll do it for you, Mrs. Douglas. Oh, please, let me. I promise I'll take good care of him."

"Well, it's fine with me," said Mrs. Douglas, "if your parents don't mind."

Megan put Teeny in the basket on her bicycle, and Mrs. Douglas gave her a book to read about raising hogs.

"I hope you know what you're doing," said Marty as they started home.

Mr. and Mrs. Lane were surprised to see Megan walk in with a pig, but with some persuasion, they agreed to let her raise Teeny Weenie at home.

Megan fixed Teeny Weenie a soft bed in the doll cradle in her room. Then she and her mother went through Jeff's old baby things and found a supply of bottles, blankets and even clothes.

"That's one lucky pig," remarked Mr. Lane when he saw Megan rocking Teeny and feeding him from a baby bottle.

"Daddy, isn't he darling?" asked Megan as she lifted the blanket to reveal the pig's outfit. "Mama let me borrow some of Jeff's old clothes."

Mr. Lane laughed when he saw Teeny Weenie dressed in a blue sailor suit and cap.

"I'm going to make a little gentleman out of him," said Megan.

Megan never had to be reminded to take care of Teeny Weenie. She fed him four times a day, bathed him, strolled him in her doll carriage, and even rocked him to sleep.

Two weeks passed quickly, and Megan was sad to see her time with Teeny Weenie end. Her parents were relieved, however.

"Megan is really getting attached to that pig," said Mrs. Lane, "I think the sooner we get rid of him, the better."

Then Mrs. Douglas called.

"How's Teeny Weenie?" asked Mrs. Douglas from her sister's house in Chicago.

"He's doing great," answered Mr. Lane. He's a fat little pig."

"Oh, I'm glad to hear that," said Mrs. Douglas. "Maybe he'll be all right then till I get back. I can't come home yet. Millie must have surgery, and I'll stay and help out until she's on her feet again. Just put Teeny back in the pen with his family. I'm sure he'll be all right."

Little Lanes . . . (from page 27)

"Listen, don't worry about a thing," said Mr. Lane. "Teeny, and all the pigs for that matter, will be fine. The twins check them every day. Just tell Millie our love and prayers are with her."

"Thank you, oh, thank you," said Mrs. Douglas. "I don't know what I'd do without you folks. Bye, now."

Sadly, Megan lined the basket on her bicycle with a soft blanket and placed Teeny Weenie on top. Then she and Marty rode to the farm. They put Teeny in pen with the sow and pigs and watched. When Teeny Weenie approached his mother, she grunted and nudged him away with her snout.

"Marty, look!" cried Megan, "Mrs. Suey's going to hurt him."

"She wouldn't hurt her own baby, would she?" asked Marty.

Teeny tried again to approach his mother, but this time she snorted and knocked him out of the way.

"She's not going to let him nurse," said Marty. "What are we going to do?"

Megan smiled. "We'll take him home."

"Mom and Dad aren't going to like this," said Marty as the twins biked home.

But, Mama, what else could I do?" questioned Megan when she walked in with Teeny cradled in her arms. "He'll die if I leave him there."

The Lanes sighed. They knew Megan was right.

"And anyway," said Megan cheerfully, it'll only be for about six more weeks or so. My book said that most pigs are weaned by eight weeks."

Mr. and Mrs. Lane groaned.

The days and weeks passed and Teeny Weenie grew sleek and strong. He was good-natured and full of energy. He chased balls for Marty and let Jeff pull him around in his red wagon. But to Megan he was more than a pet. Teeny was like on of the family. When Megan got home from school every day Teeny ran to her as fast as his short legs could carry him and squealed excitedly. Megan worked hard trying to train him.

"Honey, you can't turn a pig into a person," said Mr. Lane.

"But Teeny will make a great pet," argued Megan. He's learned lots of manners."

"Megan," said Mrs. Lane, "be reasonable. That pig is going to weigh half a ton soon."

"They'll see," thought Megan to herself. "Teeny will be like one of the family to them real soon. Why he'll be just another little Lane."

But when Megan came home from school the next day, her mother had tied Teeny to the clothes line pole. He had pulled Mrs. Lane's clean laundry from the clothes line and scattered it over the yard.

"Teeny," scolded Megan, "that's not the way nice boys behave."

The next day the twins came home and found Teeny Weenie rooting up Mrs. Lane's flowers.

"Oh, my petunias!" cried Mrs. Lane running out the door. "My beautiful mums are ruined."

Megan took Teeny aside. "Teeny, you've got to mind your manners."

Weeks passed and the days grew warmer. Teeny outgrew his cradle and became an "outside pig." He spent a lot of time wallowing in the mud.

"Pigs don't have sweat glands, you know," explained Megan. "He just does it to stay cool." Megan tried to break Teeny from his dirty habit by cooling him off with the hose.

"What a good boy," bragged Megan.

One afternoon Marty and Megan were swinging in the back yard while Jeff filled his wading pool. Jeff made quite a mud puddle by the time the twins noticed what he was doing. Teeny Weenie squealed and jumped in the squishy mud. He rolled and wallowed and oinked with glee.

"Kids, want a snack?" called Mrs. Lane from the back door. "Oh, no!" she gasped when she saw Teeny. The pig squealed and shot through the door like an arrow.

"Aaaaaaah!" screamed Mrs. Lane. "My clean floors. Megan, get that nasty pig out of here."

"But, Mama," started Megan.

"No 'buts' about it," said Mrs. Lane. "If you don't want ham and eggs for breakfast, get that pig back to Mrs. Douglas."

Megan chased Teeny, bathed him and walked him on a leash to the farm.

"We tried," she said as she waved goodbye to Teeny and started home. "But we couldn't turn you into a little Lane."

Megan went to visit Teeny Weenie almost every day until he was sold. And then it was a long time before she could even look at a hot dog. ◼

GIVE THANKS

for . . .

- Jesus Christ
- The Holy Scriptures
- Family
- Friends
- Good Health
- Our Church

Some people try to act like Christians and look like Christians. But that doesn't make them Christians, any more than putting baby clothes on a pig makes it a baby. The change has to come from God. Read II Corinthians 5:17. What does this mean? Are you a new creature in Christ?

Especially
For Young
Preachers

Ministering from the Automobile

"Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field"
(Proverbs 24:27).

The young pastor spends much time in his automobile. It stands to reason that he should have proper provision in that auto to conduct his ministry efficiently. Every young preacher's car should contain the following:

1. In dash pocket (or small box between front seats)
 - City and area map
 - New Testament
 - Gospel literature, church information
 - Book to read for unexpected interruptions
 - Post cards to write those the Lord brings to your mind
 - Small note pad with pen or pencil
 - One dollar in dimes and a quarter and a nickel in an envelope
 - Small bottle of mouthwash and/or breath refresher
 - Small toothbrush, toothpicks and dental floss
2. On dash or in that area
 - Clock that works
 - Cassette player with tapes of sermons by other preachers
3. In box in trunk
 - Telephone book of areas where you minister or visit
 - Portable CB
 - Flares, flashlight, roll of paper towels, pair of gloves
 - Spare fuses, can of motor oil, fan belt, electrical tape
4. In billfold
 - Emergency information in case of accident
 - Extra key to car
 - Two-dollar bill for emergency cash
 - A check for emergency financial need
5. In file at home
 - Copy of all credit card numbers, driver's license, car registration filed where your wife can easily locate when you call her and tell her that your wallet has been stolen or lost
 - Instructions marked "In Case of Death" informing your wife where insurance policies, etc. are located

Please don't laugh at the above list. Before you stop laughing you may need a fan belt or a postcard. Set out today to prepare your car for a more effective ministry. Replenish an item immediately when you use it. You'll be glad you did.

Next Month: Your First Months at a New Pastorate

Dennis Wiggs



OBSCENITY CAN BE DEFEATED IN TWO YEARS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Americans can abolish obscenity in two years, according to Alan Sears, who headed the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography.

"Over-the-counter sales and large multi-state distribution of obscene material can be eliminated from this country in the next two years," says Sears, who was an assistant U.S. attorney with a reputation for prosecuting pornographers when he joined the commission.

"We could make a substantial attack on the pornography industry by enforcing present laws," says Sears. "When you drive [pornography] underground, you don't get rid of it, but you sure do make it smaller. Anybody who wants to use the analogy that driving something underground doesn't reduce its business doesn't know much about the heroin business and some of these other businesses that criminal enterprises engage in."

Sears said his work on the commission surprised him, even after his days as a prosecutor. "I had some understanding of the harm pornography caused, but to be honest, I had no idea when I set out on this task what I would find or where the commission would head up. I was amazed and really shocked to find out just exactly how much harm does occur, both in the production and as a result of the dissemination of a lot of the kinds of pornography in America today."

Sears understands the limitations of his commission's work. "The commission is very realistic," he noted. "It doesn't believe the elimination of pornography would create a perfect world, but it believes it would create a better one—one in which fewer children are molested, fewer women are raped and many other negative social aspects are minimized."

MOBILE CINEMAS REACH THOUSANDS IN AFRICA WITH GOSPEL FILMS

ACCRA, Ghana (EP)—Challenge Enterprises now has six mobile cinemas on the road, with the potential of reaching over 30,000 people nightly with gospel films.

"You can't ask for a more cost-effective ministry," said SIM missionary Len Perry, manager of Cinema Today. "On average, a cinevan visit to each town costs only \$50, and reached an average of 5,468 people. That's about one cent per person. But even with the ability to reach this many people so inexpensively, the task has only just begun. This is a growing nation of over 12 million people."

In the past 12 months, over 17,000 people expressed serious interest in following Christ through contacts made by mobile cinemas.

CALIFORNIA TO ELIMINATE ANTI-RELIGIOUS BIAS FROM TEXTBOOKS

ANAHEIM, CA (EP)—California schools will push to eliminate bias against religion from textbooks, according to Bill Honig, superintendent of instruction for the state. Honig told participants in the second annual Christian Congress for Excellence in Public Education, sponsored by the Christian Educators Association International.

Honig discussed the bias in public school texts against religion, as confirmed in a Department of Education study by Dr. Paul Vitz. Vitz, whose study showed that public school texts ignore religion or treat it as a topic of minimal importance, spoke at the conference, and shared the results of his study. Vitz suggested that parents voice concerns about anti-religion bias in textbooks, and ask local school districts and state departments of education to refuse to adopt any textbooks that maintain an anti-religion bias.

Honig said California would lead the way in textbook reform, and added that the results of the Vitz study would be part of the "framework for adoption" of textbooks used in his state. California controls 11 percent of the textbook market, and decisions about which texts will be used in California have a heavy impact on textbooks for public schools across the nation. Social studies and reading texts will be under review in California during the next three years.

Honig earned some notoriety earlier this year by rejecting science texts that watered down their teaching of evolution. He demanded more explicit teaching on the theory of evolution, and faulted textbook publishers for giving in to pressure from religious groups in the creation-evolution debate.

CHILDREN OF GOD CULT FORCED OUT OF CHINA

HONG KONG (EP)—China's Public Security Bureau has forced a controversial Western cult out of China. According to a report by the Chinese Church Research Center, 119 cult members, many of them working as English teachers, have been uncovered in China. They allegedly attracted people with pornographic pictures and literature. According to reports from other countries, sexual intercourse has also been used as a recruiting device.

A spokesman for China's Public Security Bureau confirmed that an investigation was underway, but would give no details. According to other sources, it is believed that most of the recruiting "missionaries" had already left China after their Chinese contacts were warned to avoid them.

The police believe about 100 Chinese families were involved with the cult, which entered China through Hong Kong and Macau, using a Macau radio station to make initial contacts. In both Macau and Hong Kong, activities of the group were restricted or stopped when they became publicly known.

SOCIOLOGIST SURVEY SHOWS RELIGION IS SATISFYING

AKRON, OH (EP)—Religious people are generally more satisfied than non-religious people, according to a survey by University of Akron (Ohio) sociologist Margaret Poloma.

Poloma surveyed 560 Akron-area adults and found that satisfaction with religious identity is as important to life satisfaction as is one's relationship with job and friends. Religion outstrips family and career in providing a sense of purpose, and spiritual people are more satisfied with their health than non-spiritual people, even if they suffer from major health problems, the survey found.

"Religion has been underemphasized as a factor leading to life satisfaction," said Poloma, who presented her survey to the American Sociological Association in New York.

Poloma found that church attendance habits and religious creed were not important in people's boost in well-being, but that personal prayer and belief in God's presence were factors in life satisfaction.

CULT GROUPS FED BY CHURCHES THAT DON'T FEED INTELLECT

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands (EP)—Most members of religious cults are not "weirdos who don't take baths and who have a penchant for airports and flowers," a researcher on cults told participants of the International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists.

Rather, cult members are usually above average in intelligence, between 18 and 25 years old, and are most likely to have a conservative religious background, said Jeff Amano, a research associate of Probe Ministries in suburban Dallas, Texas.

Amano said many young people coming from conservative backgrounds become prime candidates for cult groups if the churches they attend do not teach effectively the hows and whys of their beliefs. Churches which don't teach reasons for their beliefs skim only the surface and stress a "milky" rather than a "meaty" comprehension of the Scripture, he said. This causes people to search for further answers, said Amano, who analyzes new religious groups and lectures on university and college campuses about cults. "Usually, they want something deeper."

Amano told the evangelists there were more than 3,000 cults in the world. He noted that followers of these groups often do not remain followers for a lengthy time. One study showed that only one-half of one percent of Unification Church members (Moonies) remained Moonies after two years.

Amano said cults usually had these elements: an authoritarian leader; legalistic, highly structured and disciplined guidelines; they deem themselves as sole possessors of truth; are concerned with the end of the world and believe they can use unethical practices to fulfill what they consider the calling or purpose of their movement. ■



God's Ambassador



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Free Will Baptists

THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

Those who trust Christ as Savior wear many names—Christians, believers, servants, witnesses, disciples. One outstanding name surfaces in II Corinthians 5:20 when Paul declares, “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ . . .”

The term “ambassador” is one of great dignity and was used often by ancient writers. The Bible contains no finer characterization of the Christian’s exalted nature as the representative of Jesus Christ than as an ambassador.

Ambassador means “an official messenger or representative.” The Christian, then, is God’s spokesman to men. He comes with authoritative words from the court of heaven to plead the cause of Christ with men. Every minister and Christian is an ambassador for Christ. He communicates the message of the living God, not personal speculations. An ambassador holds a high and holy position.

An ambassador recognizes his *appointment*. God gave Christians the responsibility to be ambassadors. This is a divine appointment. Effective ambassadors are constantly aware that they’re commissioned by the God of the universe as His representatives in this wicked and sinful world.

An ambassador possesses *authority*. He owes his standing to divine authority. He operates under divine orders in obedience to the will and Word of God. He has not usurped authority but simply operates under the authority of the One who appointed and authorized him. Paul reiterates of the One who appointed and authorized him. Paul reiterates this truth throughout his epistles when he declares that he is one sent by God with divine authority.

An ambassador gives *allegiance* to his Lord. He does not hold an independent position nor independent authority. He has been sent by God as an ambassador for Christ and in Christ’s behalf. He carries instructions and he must obey them. He’s a mouthpiece who speaks in his Master’s name. Ambassadors owe their full allegiance to the one who appointed and authorized them to go.

An ambassador recognizes his responsibility to *adorn* the gospel which he proclaims. Plainly put, he must practice what he preaches. He must demonstrate those qualities which characterize the Master who sent him.

Everything depends on the life the ambassador lives. Earnestness, self-forgetfulness, truthfulness and simplicity ought to characterize his life. He must not be guilty of duplicity, untruthfulness, insincerity, self-assertion or self-seeking, all of which mar a

man’s influence. Ambassadors live and labor the way Christ would if He were present.

An ambassador must also demonstrate *adaptability* without compromise. Ambassadors must learn to adapt to whatever circumstances come their way. Paul declared that he had learned in whatever state he found himself to be content. He learned the truth of adaptability. The sad situations which result from inability of Christ’s ambassadors to adapt to new and different cultures are all too common.

An ambassador recognizes his *accountability*. Having been appointed by God and sent with divine authority, the ambassador must remember that with responsibility comes accountability. He must give an account to the Master who sent him. Passages like I Corinthians 3; Romans 14 and II Corinthians 5 detail the specifics of this accountability.

What a sobering thought—all ambassadors are accountable to Almighty God for every action, every thought and deed, every attitude and action.

An ambassador acknowledges the need for *availability*. Being available when people need him is essential to establish good relationships and provide opportunities for service.

An ambassador demonstrates *agreeability*. Effective ambassadors must develop a cheerful, congenial, cooperative and considerate disposition. Unreasonableness and disagreeableness hinder the work.

An ambassador for the Almighty! What a high and holy honor. Having experienced the work of regeneration and engaged in the work of reconciliation, may we now enjoy the work of representation. ☉

The Secretary’s Schedule

- Nov. 1-4** Templo FWB Church
Weslaco, Texas
- Nov. 6-8** Alabama State Association
South Highland FWB Church
Muscle Shoals, Alabama
- Nov. 11-12** Tennessee State Association
First FWB Church
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
- Nov. 13-15** Georgia State Association
Norman Baptist Assembly
Norman Park, Georgia
- Nov. 16-19** First FWB Church
Jesup, Georgia
- Nov. 20-23** Trinity FWB Church
Bridgeton, Missouri

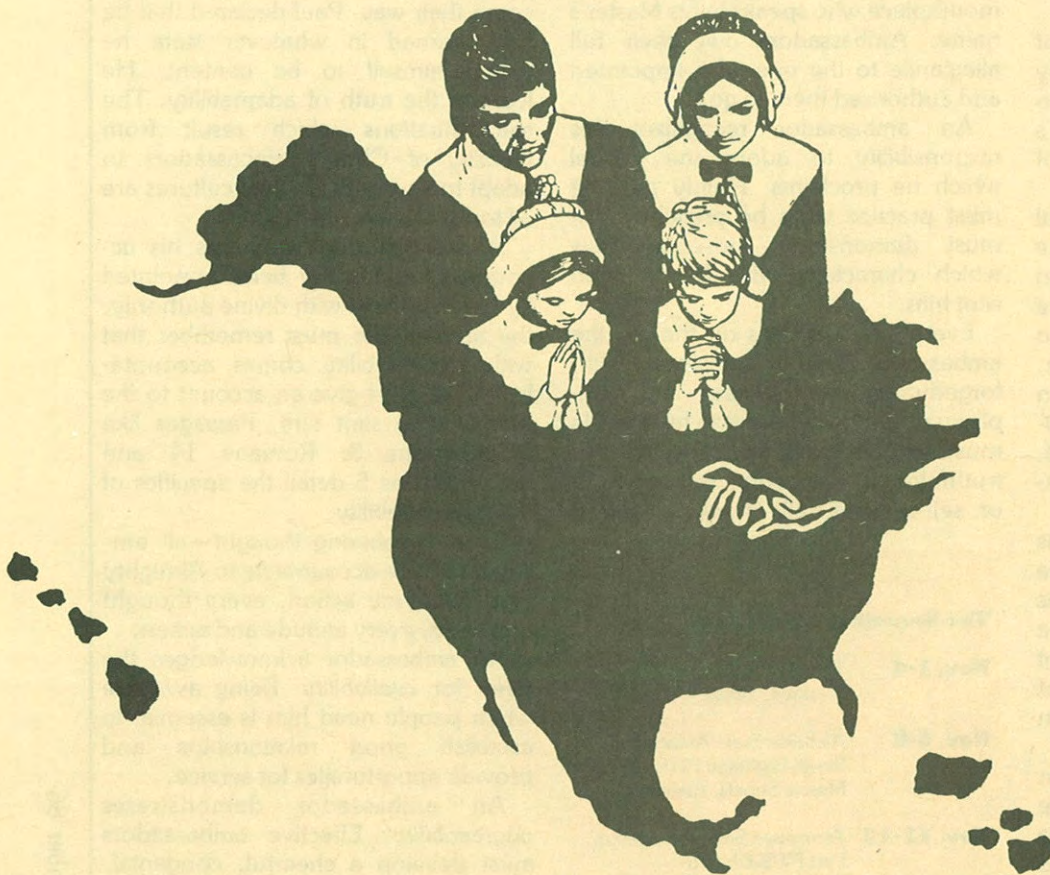
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