

January 1987

Contact

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**GOD . . .
always has a plan.**

Conversion in Dining Hall B

By Paul Gentuso

After Tammy presented the gospel message to me, she did something just as important which led to my salvation. She gathered other Christians and prayed for me.



Why do Christians share their testimonies? This question needed an answer before I could write mine. In fact, as children of God in an increasingly godless world, we ask ourselves this question before attempting anything.

Why Another Testimony?

Will sharing my testimony build up my faith? Strengthening one's faith seems a laudable goal. To describe his conversion experience forces a man to think deeply about and better understand his salvation.

Will my testimony help others? Will Christians be encouraged? Will unbelievers be reminded of and convicted of their sins? Both groups of people could be affected by my testimony.

Most important, will God be glorified? After all, if He's not glorified in what I do, I should stop before I start. But God is pleased when we share our love for Him with others.

Saved from What?

People speak of being "saved." Perhaps we shouldn't use such shorthand when we speak of the conversion experience.

What are we saved from? We're saved from hell! From eternal suffering, everlasting punishment. If we spoke of "getting saved from hell" more people might be offended, but more might get the true message.

Every Christian describes his conversion experience differently. Let me tell you what the Lord did in my life.

Journey to Nashville

I was born to loving parents, the oldest in a set of twins, and the second oldest of seven children. I grew up in a

comfortable suburban Boston home with relatively happy people.

I also grew up in church and I became quite religious. I learned how Jesus died for us on the cross, but I never really knew Him. I certainly never trusted Him as my Savior. The only person I trusted as my savior was me.

I tried to earn my way into heaven, somehow struggling up those stairs. Like many religious people, I believed that anyone could get to heaven if he tried hard enough. After all, we all serve the same God, don't we?

I was doing all right, finished college and graduated from medical school. I then moved to Nashville for a combined residence program in internal medicine and pediatrics at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

I felt puzzled to be attracted to Vanderbilt and Nashville. I remember reading information that described the city as the "buckle on the Bible belt." What a laugh—me in among all those Baptists.

Episode in Dining Hall B

Before long the Lord made His move via a lovely, well-mannered, soft-spoken young nurse named Tammy. She had a nice smile, and I still remember rather embarrassingly telling her so.

We talked and ended up sharing a meal. In retrospect, the Lord worked all this out. Not only did He bring me to Nashville, but He had me meet this sweet, pretty, but still Baptist, Bible-believing, born-again Christian!

That was the beginning of the beginning. Within minutes after sitting down, we were speaking about Christ, and I was the one who brought Him up. My interest quickened as I saw the peaceful, surrendered heart of this person who placed her faith in Jesus Christ. (Never underestimate the power of a peaceful, surrendered heart even with the firmest unbelievers.)

When I showed interest in the gospel message, Tammy challenged me by questioning my relationship with God. After reacting defensively, the point began to sink in.

After our first meeting, we never met again except to discuss the Word. I read through the Gospel of John and the book of Romans, and the Word converted me.

We spent hours discussing the simplicity of salvation by faith. Within three weeks I accepted the simple plan of salvation through faith, confessed my sins and called on the name of Jesus believing that He was my risen Lord.

My conversion occurred in early September 1984 in Dining Hall B at Free Will Baptist Bible College. This was during an on-campus date which had been arranged for the purpose of Bible study.

Beyond Conversion

I keep wanting to break into song as I write these words. What's it like to be saved from hell? A great burden lifted, replaced by a great sense of peace. I was so glad to be a Christian and a child of God. I felt an urgency to tell others about salvation through faith, especially my family.

I also felt that I was at the starting gate and the gate had just sprung open. All my life I had heard that Jesus said, "Follow me," and now, for the first time, I was following.

I was baptized at Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville. One year after me met, Tammy and I married.

During the last year, the Lord firmly directed us toward the mission field. We served last summer in the Ivory Coast. While taking an active part in the medical and church work there, the Lord implanted the desire, the calling to bring the message of salvation through Christ to the Ivory Coast.

One final thing. After Tammy presented the gospel message to me, she did something just as important which led to my salvation. She gathered other Christians and prayed for me. Faculty and students at the Bible College prayed; patients and workers at the hospital prayed, as well as her parents and other believers at her home church in Farmington, Missouri.

Thank you, Lord, for answering their prayers. Thank you that your Holy Spirit softened my heart. Thank you for your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Paul Gentuso, 28, is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Gentuso, resident physician in the Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Departments at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, completed his M.D. degree in 1984 at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and the B.S. degree in biology (1980) at Tufts University.

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Cheer Up!

By Holt Seawell

Perhaps you jokingly said it to yourself, "Cheer up, things are going to get worse." Sometimes things do get worse, sometimes not. But the Word of God on numerous occasions does remind us to cheer up.

Webster defines cheer as "a state of mind, gaiety, being encouraged." To cheer up is to inspire oneself or others with renewed courage, spirit and hope.

On at least four occasions Jesus offered renewed courage, spirit and hope to others when He said, "Be of good cheer."

Pardon

In Matthew 9:2, a paralytic was urged to cheer up *because of Christ's pardon*.

He suffered a paralysis of the nervous system and was completely dis-

abled. Borne of four, he was dropped by a rope through an opening in the tiling. Jesus, seeing their faith, began to effect a cure upon the paralyzed man.

But first, he forgave the paralytic's sin. Jesus recognized that sin was responsible for the man's paralyzed condition, so He dealt with the cause before the effect. Then to demonstrate his power to forgive sin, Jesus healed the paralytic.

Palsy typifies sin's paralyzing power—it grips and destroys. Perhaps you're paralyzed, miserable and guilt-ridden under the bondage of sin. Cheer up—Jesus Christ can pardon your sins and remove the paralysis.

Presence

In Matthew 14:27, the disciples, fearing for their very lives, were told to

cheer up *because of Christ's presence*. As the storm raged they were "distressed in rowing" (Mark 6:48). Their fears were compounded by the appearance of what they assumed to be an apparition walking on the sea. It was Jesus, come to calm their fears.

Perhaps you're tossed on the waves of a stormy world and facing contrary winds. Fears and anxieties comprise your existence. Cheer up—Jesus Christ can calm, even replace those fears with the acknowledgement of His presence in your daily life.

Power

In John 16:33, the disciples were exhorted to cheer up *because of Christ's power*. Jesus would soon leave the disciples. He would be arrested, tried and crucified. In turn, the disciples would face trouble and persecution from a world ruled by Satan. But through Christ's resurrection triumph over the world, the disciples were promised peace in the midst of tribulation.

You may be undergoing physical and emotional suffering from those who oppose Christ and His followers. Cheer up! Christ's power over the world secures victorious peace for the Christian (1 John 5:4).

Plan

In Acts 23:11, Paul, facing an uncertain future, was encouraged to cheer up *because of Christ's plan*. Paul had been tried before the Sanhedrin, the supreme court of Israel, and thrown into jail. Yet he was assured by Jesus that his life and ministry were not over. Jesus promised Paul that he would bear witness also at Rome.

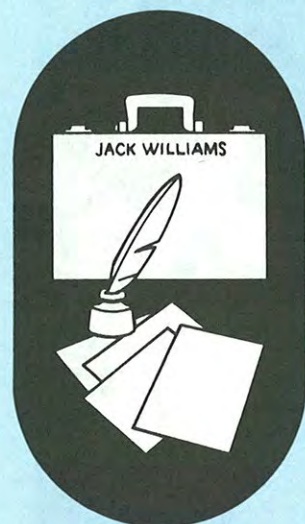
No matter what difficulties and uncertainties come your way, Christ has a plan for your life. Cheer up! Rest assured that Jesus knows what's best for you. He will guide you into His perfect will.

Jesus said, "Be of good cheer." That renewed courage, spirit and hope can only occur when you have received His pardon, when you are trusting His presence and power in your life, and when you are following His plan. So, *cheer up, Brother!* ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Holt Seawell pastors Oxnard Free Will Baptist Church, Oxnard, California.

Rambo in My Kitchen

Briefcase



There he stood. Big as life. Tight black tank top hugging his chest, faded denims straining against thigh muscles, scuffed high-top boots, flashing eyes, the dangerous look of a power-diving peregrine falcon, and that trademark red sweatband tied rakishly around rebellious black hair. Rambo!

Yep, it was him all right, even down to the pouty grin. You can imagine my surprise when I discovered this one-man army in my kitchen at 6:15 last Thursday morning.

Knowing old "First Blood" to be the rough, adventuresome sort, I asked him if he could handle a pre-dawn search and retrieve mission out in the high grass beyond the driveway.

"Yuh," Rambo grunted.

I watched him glide cautiously past the car and dash across the front yard into the "meadow" he forgot to mow last week. He cased the neighborhood, eyes like lasers cutting through the mist that curled at his feet. He reached down, turned, loped back to the kitchen and tossed me the morning paper.

"Thanks, Rambo," I said.

"Yuh," he grunted again.

You gotta understand how things work. Rambo's a man of few words

and instant action. I knew that if I didn't push it he'd tell me in time. He did.

"It's Hero Day at Antioch," Rambo grinned, loosening up a bit. "That's why I'm dressed this way."

My 17-year-old Rambo, a senior at nearby Antioch High School, did some weird stuff on Tacky Day and Nerd Day. At least, this one I understood. However, I drew the line at Rambo taking my assault rifle to Honors English.

"So it's Hero Day, huh?" I mumbled. He nodded. "Then why aren't you going dressed as me?" I asked. Boy, was that dumb.

"Oh, I thought about it," Rambo snickered, "I rea-a-l-l-y thought about it."

That's when it occurred to me that the kid might not be able to explain parading through the band room in my green-plaid trousers. I knew when to let a bad thing alone before it got awful.

Then he got quiet. He said seriously, "You know, there's a 10th grader who says he's coming to school today dressed like me. I'm worried. I wonder what he'll wear."

"Ah!" I countered, "now that should be interesting." The combat boot was on the other foot. "You might be surprised to learn how somebody else sees you."

Eight hours later I phoned the house. "Hey, Rambo," I quizzed, "how'd it go today?"

"I was the only Rambo there!" he brightened. "They all said I looked just like him."

"And what about that 10th grader who came dressed as you?" I pushed.

"Oh," disappointment sounded in his voice, "he dressed normally."

Again, I was just smart enough to leave that one on the table. I hung up

the phone and returned to slaying office dragons while Rambo settled down to translate his Spanish lessons.

Folks, it's kind of frightening to think that somebody, somewhere considers you a hero. Makes you wonder what that person will become if he dresses like you, talks like you, thinks like you, and accepts your values and goals. In fact, somebody's probably looking over your shoulder right now.

That snappy way you express anger turns ugly when exaggerated in another personality. Your innocent remarks sound lethal when restated by someone who thought you really meant it when you said that Mr. Jones fell off a turnip truck.

It's spooky how people usually pick up others' flaws while trying to mimic their strengths. We tend to confuse wearing red headbands and tight tank tops with hard-earned skills, training and years of sacrifice.

Remember, every day is Hero Day. You can never take a day off from character, integrity and honesty. If you do, someone will mistake your lapse for the strength that makes you what you are.

If a man never lies, he won't have to worry about what he told the last time. If a man never blames others when things go wrong, he won't have to explain to someone who mistook weakness for strength.

Be careful today. There'll always be young Rambos in your kitchen. They see more than you wish. They hear more than you say. They never forget the weak moments when your guard goes down.

Tomorrow, they'll demonstrate to the world what they think your strengths are. Fortunately, they sometimes learn better than we teach. ■

By Mircheal Jones

It began like any other Monday—busy! I did my Hymntime program, worked on the newsletter, and then took my wife to the doctor. She'd battled a slight heart problem all spring. On the way home we visited a church member who was sick so it was almost 5:30 p.m. when I returned to the office.

The doctor found some moles that needed to be removed when he examined my wife; he scheduled surgery for the next day. This meant another afternoon away from the office, so I tried to do as much as I could while I had the chance. My wife had a Woman's Auxiliary meeting and was also working on a new hostess list at the house.

Around 6:00 p.m. she called and told me that someone was coming to the office for some information. My office is in the fellowship building beside the church. It was standard policy with Paula and me that she sent anyone who came to the house to the office where I could handle them.

A young black man came in and asked if I knew a certain person who had promised him a job. I didn't but I spent 10 minutes searching local and Florence phone books trying to locate him. I was unable to locate the name, so the young man left. He was polite, and I didn't think anything amiss since people frequently drop by the church wanting help or information. We always try to help.

I returned to work knowing that it would not be long before the ladies would arrive for Woman's Auxiliary. Unknown to me at the time, the man I tried to help returned to the parsonage where Paula, assuming I sent him, opened the door to him. He said he wanted some water. She asked him to stand at the door while she got it. When she brought him water he attacked her, molested her, came within a heartbeat of killing her and dragged her from room to room to rob her.

One of the ladies came in to prepare for the Auxiliary meeting and asked me to make coffee. I was filling the coffee pot in the fellowship building when I looked out a window and saw this young man run by. I knew some-

thing was wrong. Before I could leave, the phone rang; it was my wife calling for help.

I immediately went to her; the lady who was at the fellowship building went with me. She stayed with Paula while I called the police. Soon we were in an ambulance headed for the hospital. Some of the wonderful members of the church took care of things at the parsonage while some ladies came to the hospital. Their presence proved a tremendous comfort to me.

The next several days passed in a blur. I tried to spend every minute I could with Paula, help police apprehend the man (mug shots, sketches, reports), and allow the hurt in my heart to heal.

There's simply no way to describe the terrible inner pain as I tried to cope, and there's no way to describe

the tremendous peace that came from God during those days. The prayers and concern of our friends and family meant more to us than we will ever be able to express.

Yes, Paula has recovered physically, has coped remarkably well mentally, and has grown spiritually. She still does not want to be left alone. We're learning to cope with unfounded and false rumors. We hope that after the trial people will find something else to satisfy their curiosity.

There are three things you have to deal with after a terrible tragedy like Paula and I went through—Fear, Frustration and Faith.

Fear of another attack. The rapist lived within a half mile of our home. His "helper" (the home he ran to) lives within 200 yards of our home.

When Disaster Hits

H. Armstrong Roberts

Fear of disease, fear of pregnancy. (We are that fraction of fundamentalists who believe that abortion is wrong, period. That preaches much easier than it lives!)

Fear of fear—We cannot allow ourselves to become prisoners in our own home.

Then there is the *Frustration*: Over some people's lack of understanding. My wife is one of the most pure and modest Christian ladies I've ever met. She did everything in her power to prevent this; yet some who know nothing about the facts seem to know how she could have avoided it.

Frustration over the law's unwillingness to deal with matters like this. The assailant was out on parole after serving eight months of an 11-year sentence. The police and solicitor tell us that no matter what his actual sentence, there's the possibility he'll be back on the street in less than 10 years.

Frustration over the fact that we must pay hospital, doctor and medicine bills for something he did, while he is housed, clothed and fed with our tax dollars.

Finally there is *Faith*. Faith to believe that all things do indeed work together for good to them that love the Lord (Romans 8:28). We expect God to use this to bring glory to Himself. Otherwise it would be almost impossible to stand the heartache.

Faith to allow God to handle the punishment according to Romans 12:19. "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Sometimes when I think of what he did, I feel like someone kicked me in the stomach. I want to kill his dog and poison his cats, but then I remember who I belong to and who vengeance belongs to.

Faith to approach the future with an absolute dependence on God for strength and direction.

In times like this, the rubber meets the road as far as your Christianity is concerned. If your faith and commitment can't stand a trial like this, then you need to re-examine it. I believe in God's love for me even more today than I did before this happened. I'm determined more than ever to serve Him. I don't understand all the

"whys," but I do trust God and will continue to do so.

People often wonder what they can do for someone facing a disaster like ours. Three things have stood out to Paula and me during this time.

1. Supplication

The presence and comfort of the Holy Spirit during this time has been marvelous. The Lord anchored us with peace when the waves of depression and despair would seek to overwhelm us. We believe that part of the reason for this was the fact that hundreds were praying for us. Churches, prayer groups and conferences brought us before the throne of grace.

When you hear of someone in need you can pray—and keep on praying.

2. Support

We live on a street with five widows and a number of retired people. We have said many times since this incident that if it had to happen on our street we would much rather it happen to us than to anyone else because of the support we've received.

Our families have loved and protected us. The church has uplifted and encouraged us. A remodeling project for the parsonage that was on a back burner was moved up, and new carpet and paint have helped remove some of the physical memories. The deacons met with me and told me to make taking care of my wife my top priority until she recovered. The church has been understanding in the matter of visiting and socializing.

The support from our friends has stood out in my mind also. Many of

them would call and say, "I don't know what to say right now but I do want you to know that we love you and are praying for you." They didn't know it but that was just what we needed to hear.

Is there someone today you should call or write?

3. Silence

Paula and I determined from the beginning that we'd use this disaster to glorify God. We have not tried to sweep it under the rug, but to use it to show God's care and strength during difficult times.

On the other hand, this is not something we want to occupy all our time or thoughts.

People need to talk about a disaster. Be willing to listen and encourage. But sometimes they simply want to forget it and get on with their lives. Blessed is the man who knows when to talk and when to be silent.

Your tragedy may be different from ours (a child problem, a mate problem, sickness, etc.), but I want you to know today that you can lean on God for strength and help. Christianity is not just a church you attend; it's a life you live. It can stand the hard time, and it can help you stand the hard times.

Lean on the Lord today. Live for Him with all your being and you will find real life—even in the midst of disaster. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Mircheal Jones pastors Grace Free Will Baptist Church, Lake City, South Carolina.

Perfect 10... (from page 8)

God do this to Ranae?" It puzzled them, because Ranae went to church and had high morals.

However Ranae reasoned differently. "I never wanted to ask, 'Why is this happening to me?' I knew there was a purpose for it." She avoided bitterness and took one day at a time.

Humor became a part of the coping mechanism for this family. While discussing her expensive prosthesis, her fiancé said, "As many shoes as Ranae has, she'll probably have a bunch of feet made."

Her dad remarked, "They cost \$200 each."

"Uh... in that case, she'll just have one."

Ranae came home 10 days after surgery to rest before starting chemotherapy. God sustained her through the trauma of amputation and the difficult months of chemotherapy. She wears her prosthesis now and walks without crutches or a cane.

Ranae's faith surprised me. Recently she gave her testimony in church acknowledging God's presence through her crisis. She remarked, "One day in heaven I'll be able to walk just like all of you."

Then she'll actually be a perfect 10! ■

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

A Perfect 10

By Ruth Creech Mullen

Met Ranae Bean. She's 20 years old and beautiful. She studies elementary education at Arkansas State University. With parental protection and pampering, life flowed smoothly for her until last January. Then something happened that shoved Ranae nose to nose with death.

It started with a 10th grade volleyball injury. Ranae's right ankle seemed to be sprained, but never healed. After an unsuccessful round of doctors and therapy, she still couldn't stand for anyone to touch her foot.

A year ago last Christmas the doctor operated expecting to find scar tissue and fluid. Instead he removed a tumor. Lab results indicated 99 percent chance it was benign but could re-occur. Just to be safe, he sent it off again. For two more weeks life progressed normally, only to halt abruptly on January 10.

That day her mother, Bonnie, called us with the second lab results. (When her dad became a Free Will Baptist pastor, Ranae continued attending the church my husband pastors in Jonesboro, Arkansas.) Listening to half the conversation, I heard the term "clear cell sarcoma" for the first time. Immediately I thought, "Ranae has cancer." When Jim hung up, we confirmed our suspicions by checking the encyclopedia.

I questioned Jim. "Do you think Bonnie realizes it's cancer?"

"No," he replied, "I'm pretty sure she doesn't from the way she talked."

"Then you better go over there right now."

Ranae's parents relayed the doctor's message and the technical diagnosis, mentioning she needed to see a specialist in Memphis. She accepted all this without asking many questions.

Sunday, Ranae taught her Sunday School class. Obviously, she still didn't know sarcoma had another name. I worried lest Ranae's faith wouldn't carry her through such a major ordeal.

Monday Ranae's parents told her she had cancer and took her to the specialist. He admitted her to Baptist Hospital for testing, but reality didn't hit Ranae until Wednesday morning. That's when the surgeon explained the choice she faced—radiation or amputation. Her chances improved to 65 percent with amputation. He advised her to take that option.

Ranae demanded more information. "Tell me five people who've had this cancer and where they are today."

The doctor pointed out that some were dead and some were alive.

"If I have my leg amputated, how do you know it's not going to come back somewhere else?"

"I don't know that. But how do you know that you won't get killed in a car wreck next week or die of a heart attack?"

That night at prayer meeting Jim reported Ranae's dilemma to our shocked congregation. Having watched her grow up, they couldn't believe it. She seemed fine last Sunday.

But it was true. And there was more. The chemotherapy doctor came to discuss her treatments Thursday. Ranae feared them more than the amputation. She didn't want to be sick for a year or lose her hair. School and wedding plans would be postponed.

When Jim and I arrived at the hospital Friday, we found Ranae on the phone. "I'm having my amputation Monday. Then chemotherapy

starts two weeks later." There were no tears of self-pity, just a statement of facts with smiles. Her calm, cheerful attitude amazed me.

Love flowed to Ranae from many directions. Friends called or visited to cheer her, but instead her sunny disposition cheered them. Several people mentioned the *Donahue* show that featured Ivy, a model who had an amputated leg. Others sent her copies of the *Guideposts* article about Ivy. She sailed through the weekend supported by prayer.

The night before surgery she slept without a sleeping pill. Seven days after Ranae learned she had cancer the surgeon amputated her right leg above the knee. He also inserted her port-a-cath which would carry the chemotherapy drugs directly to her heart. Tests indicated the cancer was localized in the ankle. Doctors assured Ranae she had made the right choice.

After surgery, Ranae's stump was about 10 inches long. (Later she quipped, "A perfect 10!") She examined her new "leg," a steel rod attached to a metal plate in her cast. The day after surgery she stood up, the following day she walked a short distance. In a week she amazed doctors with her mobility on crutches.

One doctor caught her hopping from the bathroom without her crutches. He asked what she was doing.

Always conscious of her appearance, Ranae replied, "Curling my hair and putting on make-up."

He cautioned her to use the crutches so she wouldn't break her other leg.

During this time I drew telephone duty. Jim drove to Memphis every day and then described Ranae's progress to me at night. Limiting visitors increased the calls for updates.

Earlier, doctors predicted Ranae would be depressed after surgery. She wasn't. Ranae radiated God's love. The president of the hospital sent her a fruit basket. Nurses and doctors brought other patients to Ranae for encouragement. One became a friend she still keeps touch with.

The girls from Ranae's sorority at ASU verbalized the question many wanted to ask. "Why did

(continued on page 7)



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

MISSISSIPPI TO LAUNCH HOME MISSIONS PROJECT

COLUMBUS, MS—The Mississippi Home Missions Board targeted the South Haven area near Memphis as the next missions project, according to Home Missions Board chairman J. L. Gore. Officials expect to survey the community and purchase property by April, Gore reported to the Mississippi State Association which met October 31-November 1, 1986, at First FWB Church in Columbus.

The annual "March for Mississippi Missions" will attempt to raise \$20,000 for the project. Reverend Gore said that Mississippi Master's Men and Woman's Auxiliary organizations agreed to raise funds to assist in the state-wide missions effort.

Six sermons filled the two-day state association. More than 200 attended Friday evening services. Speakers included: Early White, George Crowden, Phil Davis, Glenn Shelby, Luther Gibson and Robert Dykes.

Delegates elected the following officers: Moderator—George Crowden; Assistant Moderator—J. M. Creech; Clerk—Robert Dykes; Assistant Clerk—Jack Jones; General Board Member—J. L. Gore.

National Master's Men Director James Vallance spoke to the 36 men who gathered for a Saturday morning breakfast. Mrs. June Critcher addressed 80 members of the state Woman's Auxiliary.

The 1987 state association will meet October 30-31 at First FWB Church in Pearl.

OKLAHOMA ENDORSES \$1.6 MILLION BUDGET

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK—The 78th annual session of the Oklahoma State Association passed state and national ministry budgets in excess of \$1.6 million, according to Clerk Waldo Young. Delegates met in three Oklahoma City area locations October 13-16 to conduct business—Hillsdale FWB College (Moore), First FWB Church (Norman), Calvary FWB Church (Norman).

A Hillsdale College budget of more than \$850,000 spearheaded the 1987 projects. Delegates passed a \$300,000 Cooperative Plan budget to be disbursed according to the following percentages: Executive Board (21%), Christian Education Board (6%), State Mission Board (15%), Hillsdale College (28%), National Ministries (30%).

After intense discussion Thursday, delegates approved a proposal allowing Moore Christian Academy to lease Hillsdale College land and build a sports complex. Plans call for the Academy to build a combination baseball/football field at a maximum \$150,000 investment and a maximum 10-year lease agreement.

Moderator Jerry Dudley was re-elected. Keith Burden was elected clerk. Two members of the Hillsdale FWB College Board of Trustees were recognized for faithful service—Ray Gwartney (14 years) and Delbert Akin (11 years).

More than 55 delegates heard greetings from Victor, a convert from Ivory Coast, West Africa, who spoke for 15 minutes during the Wednesday session.

Seven ministers preached sermons developing the association theme, "Framed Together for Growth." The seven speakers included Mack Franklin, Milton Worthington, Larry Haggard, Charles Brazeal, Ernest Harrison, Jr., Homer Young and Mike Wade.

The Oklahoma State Master's Men met Monday evening. Charles Murphy spoke. Oklahoma State Woman's Auxiliary members met Tuesday using the theme, "The Eyes Have It." June Wilkinson addressed delegates and visitors.

The 1987 Oklahoma State Association will meet October 12-15 in the Muskogee Civic Center.

CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE READIES 'NEW BEGINNING'

FRESNO, CA—Some 175 pastors and laymen gathered in California Christian College's newly renovated Activities Building October 24, 1986, for the Fall Banquet, according to President Jim McAllister.

The \$50 per plate fund-raiser banquet resulted in gifts of \$8,000 for the CCC Dormitory Redecorating Fund. Meeting under the theme, "A New Beginning," guests ate filet mignon pre-

pared by California Executive Secretary Nuel Brown and associates.

President McAllister hosted the activities. Sacramento Pastor Larry Condit brought the evening message. Reverend McAllister said he anticipates that by this fall renovation will be complete on five of the nine buildings.

McAllister said, "Student prospects for 1987 continue to increase, and there is a very positive spirit in the state of California concerning this college."



CCC President addresses Fall Banquet.

newsfront

(continued)

REVISED REPORTING FORMS READY

NASHVILLE, TN—Revised reporting forms for local churches, quarterly meetings/district associations, and state associations may be ordered from the Executive Office effective January 1, 1987, according to Dr. Melvin Worthington, executive secretary.

The simplified and color-coded one-page forms were adopted during the 1984 National Convention in Little Rock. These forms include:

Form 501 — Annual Free Will Baptist Church Letter to Quarterly Meeting/District Association
Color: Blue

Form 502 — Annual Letter from Quarterly Meeting to District Association or District Association to State Association
Color: Green

Form 503 — Annual State Association Letter to the National Association
Color: Yellow

Form 504 — Quarterly Free Will Baptist Church Letter to Quarterly Meeting/District Association
Color: White

The revised forms are provided at no cost to churches, quarterly meetings and state associations. Clerks may order the forms from the Executive Office, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202 or from the nearest Free Will Baptist Bookstore.

UPPER ROOM EDITOR TO LEAD WRITERS' CONFERENCE

NASHVILLE, TN—The 1987 Randall House Writers' Conference meets May 15-16 and features Mary Lou Redding, managing editor of *The Upper Room* magazine. The seventh annual conference will hold all sessions at Randall House Publications located at 114 Bush Road in Nashville.

Mary Lou Redding brings a wide range of experience from the religious writing field in addition to editing the 2.8 million circulation *Upper Room* publication. The popular workshop leader has also taught professionally on the university level.

Writers' Conference brochures may be secured by writing:

Writers' Conference
Randall House Publications
P. O. Box 17306
Nashville, TN 37217

EDWARDS TO MODERATE ALABAMA ASSOCIATION

MUSCLE SHOALS, AL—Dr. John Edwards, pastor of Eastside FWB Church in Dothan, was elected to his fifth term as moderator of the Alabama State Association, according to Clerk Ray Ritch. Almost 300 registered for the 67th session which met November 6-8, 1986, at South Highland Church, Muscle Shoals.

One hundred three ministers, 65 lay delegates and 25 deacons were among the voting delegation that passed three major resolutions. One resolution requested that all worship services at the National Convention be held together, instead of separating the youth worship services.

Another resolution instructed the state Executive Committee to search for someone to research the history of Alabama Free Will Baptists. The third resolution re-allocated Alabama

Cooperative Plan funds. The new allocation calls for funds to be disbursed: State General Fund (45%), Pastors and Workers Conference (15%), Alabama Missions (15%), Alabama Children's Home (10%), Retirement and Insurance (10%), Christian Education (5%).

Officials presented a plaque to Pastor Mickey Kirkland and Light-house FWB Church for going self-supporting in four years.

Seven ministers preached sermons during the state association, developing the theme "Man of God—Keep Yourself in the Love of God." Speakers included: Eugene Hales, Raymond Riggs, Levy Corey, Rick Cash, Rickey Patterson, Larry Reynolds and Ernie Emmons.

The 1987 Alabama State Association meets at Hamilton FWB Church, Hamilton, November 5-7.

TENNESSEE ADOPTS \$937,00 BUDGET

OAK RIDGE, TN—Delegates to Tennessee's 49th annual state association adopted combined projected budgets for state and national ministries exceeding \$937,000, according to Promotional Secretary Raymond Riggs. Most of the monies will go to three national agencies—Home Missions Department (\$222,000), Foreign Missions Department (\$450,000) and Free Will Baptist Bible College (\$125,000).

Some 210 people registered for the November 10-12, 1986, session at Oak Ridge FWB Church, Oak Ridge. That number included 77 ministers, 15 deacons and 24 lay delegates.

Delegates elected new officers: Moderator—Terry Boyd; Assistant Moderator—Don Walker; Clerk—Chris Real; Assistant Clerk—Glenn Poston.

Reverend James Earl Raper, superintendent of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Greeneville for 13½ years, was recognized for his faithful service and presented with a plaque of appreciation. Reverend Raper resigned as superintendent last fall. Reverend A. J. Looper of Cookeville was named to succeed him.

Four ministers preached during the three major association gatherings and two Bible Conference sessions. The speakers included: Lonnie Skiles, Rolla Smith and Don Sexton.

Home Missionary Glenn Poston spoke Tuesday at the Tennessee Woman's Auxiliary Convention. Foreign Missionary Janie Aldridge addressed the Auxiliary banquet.

The Tennessee Master's Men gave a plaque of appreciation to I. L. Stanley. Harvey Crain spoke during the Master's Men breakfast.

The 1987 Tennessee State Association will meet November 9-11 at United Free Will Baptist Church in Dickson.

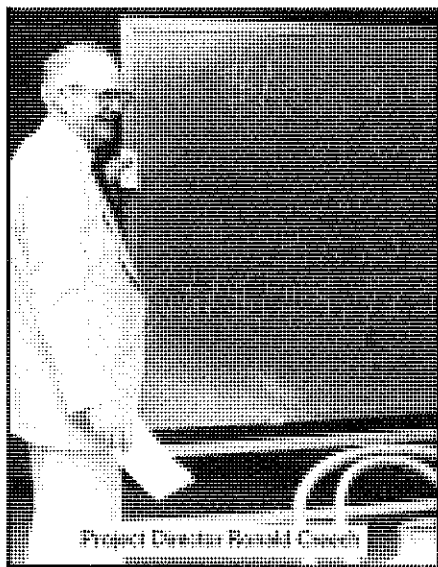
NORTHEAST SETS FAMILY RETREAT

NEW DURHAM, NH—The Northeast Association of Free Will Baptists plans a two-night Family Retreat in late February, reports Moderator Jim Nason. The group expects 25-30 to attend the annual outing at Camp Berea near North Turner, Maine.

Approximately 45 delegates and visitors attended the November 7-8, 1986, association which met at First FWB Church in New Durham, New Hampshire. Moderator Jim Nason was re-elected.

Home Missionary Melvin Haas preached Friday evening. Linneus, Maine, pastor Thad Boyd preached Saturday morning.

The 1987 annual meeting will convene November 6-7 at Linneus FWB Church.



JEHOIADA GOES 'OVER THE TOP'

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College's \$250,000 "Project Jehoiada" ended successfully October 31 as more than enough funds came in to secure a \$50,000 challenge gift, according to Ronald Creech, director of development.

The project to underwrite renovation of four campus buildings was \$150,000 short of completion last spring. Two North Carolina laymen challenged Mr. Creech to raise \$100,000 for the project by October 31. If he was successful, they would contribute \$50,000 to complete the drive.

On October 31, the last day of the challenge, the college added up \$117,400.77 in cash, checkbooks and corporate matching gifts. Commitments of over \$30,000 brought the total raised to \$147,500. With the addition of the \$50,000-challenge gift, "Project Jehoiada" has gone over the top, according to Mr. Creech.

A celebration supper was held in the college dining hall for Nashville area Free Will Baptists. In spite of an announcement that the challenge had been met, people at the dinner added another \$6,200 to the total.

Mr. Creech praised Free Will Baptists for their response to the project. "I am so proud of our people," he said, "who joined to achieve such a marvelous undertaking. I love them, one and all!" He noted that people, while completing "Project Jehoiada," also gave healthy support to the college's general fund.

FWBBC ANNOUNCES BIBLE CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

NASHVILLE, TN—Four preachers will be featured at Free Will Baptist Bible College's spring Bible Conference, March 8-12, 1987, according to President Charles Thigpen.

This year's speakers are:

Dr. Ben McGrew—Professor of Bible, Theology and Greek at Baptist Bible College, Clark's Summit, PA.

Rev. Rue Dell Smith—Pastor, Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church, Van Buren, AR.

Rev. Howard Munsey—Pastor and church planter in Morristown, TN.

Dr. Charles Hampton—Registrar, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN

The Bible Conference is an annual highlight for college personnel and hundreds of Free Will Baptists. Make plans to attend. Write the college for a list of local motels/hotels.

BIBLE COLLEGE SCHEDULES BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

NASHVILLE, TN—Eight basketball teams from Free Will Baptist Christian schools in seven states accepted invitations to compete in Free Will Baptist Bible College's eighth annual tournament, to be held in Nashville January 8-10, according to Byron Deel, the college's athletic director.

The following schools plan to send teams: Trinity Christian, Greenville, NC; Bethel Christian, South Roxana, IL; Farmington Christian, Farmington, MO; Shenandoah Christian, Baton

FLORIDA EXCEEDS 'ADVANCE' GOAL

TALLAHASSEE, FL—Delegates to Florida's 42nd annual association heard state Foreign Missions Advance Celebration leader Elmer Turnbough announce that Florida Free Will Baptists surpassed their \$50,000 pledge goal by more than \$12,000.

Officials also informed the 200-member voting delegation assembled October 29-31, 1986, at Lake Jackson FWB Church in Tallahassee that in Florida's first year of participation in the denomination-wide Target 90 program, the state experienced a five percent growth increase.

Miami pastor Gene Helton moderated the three-day session. Dr. Ken Riggs, Christian Education professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College, preached five times to highlight the fellowship and worship hours.

In other action, delegates adopted a resolution commending Southland Corporation for removing pornographic magazines from 7-11 stores.

The 1987 state association will meet October 28-30 at Auburndale FWB Church, Auburndale.

Rouge, LA; Pleasant View Christian, Pleasant View, TN; Van Buren Christian, Van Buren, AR; Victory Christian, Jasper, AL; and Woodbine Christian, Nashville, TN.

Trinity, last year's tournament champions, will try to repeat their victory.

'BRINGING FORTH FRUIT,' SPRING ENLARGEMENT THEME

NASHVILLE, TN—The 1987 Sunday School Spring Enlargement campaign will focus on "Bringing Forth Fruit" this March. Reverend Jonathan Thigpen, manager of the editorial divi-

sion, wrote the campaign materials. The material is based on Jesus' challenge to be fruitful in John 15:5.

During the five-week campaign, Sunday Schools will compete according to the following table:

Division A — over 500 average

Division B — 400-500 average

Division C — 300-399 average

Division D — 200-299 average

Division E — 150-199 average

Division F — 100-149 average

Division G — 50-99 average

Division H — Under 49 average

Division I — Newly Established

The Spring Enlargement Campaign begins Sunday, March 1 and continues through Sunday, March 29. Sunday Schools in each division that experience the greatest percentage of gain over the 13 weeks' average attendance for September-October-November 1986 will be declared

winners and awarded appropriate trophies denoting first and second place.

The present size of the Sunday School does not hinder from being eligible to win in your division. Campaign materials are available from the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

Tell Your Story

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

I sat in a Gideon banquet and listened to an Alabama salesman tell how God saved him from drunkenness to salvation with the help of a Gideon Bible. Though his grammar was imperfect, his testimony was so clear that even a Ph.D. could have understood it. I leaned over to a friend and whispered, "That's what witnessing is all about, just telling what Jesus did for you."

There's really no necessity for pithy outlines or cute opening lines. People are interested in people, not theology. If you know that Jesus saved you and you tell that story, then you can witness. If you can talk to others about your grandchildren, your operation or the last turkey you shot, then you can tell them how Christ changed your life.

Another thought that struck me is that it's a shame the Gideon banquet was full of saved folk. Too bad some

unsaved salesman wasn't there to hear the story. I've heard some clear and stirring testimonies which present a strong witness for Christ. The problem seems to be that much of the witnessing done is done inside the church, often in prayer meetings seldom attended by the unsaved. The challenge is to tell the story out in the world.

You have friends or relatives who are interested in you. They want to know about your children, your job, your politics. In short, they want to know what makes you tick. Next time you talk with them, let them know that you're interested in more than the weather, sports scores or soap powder. Tell them that Jesus Christ brought deliverance, peace and purpose to your life. They may be wanting to know what you've known about all along.

Tell your story! ■

Members of **Sulligent FWB Church, Sulligent, AL**, presented Pastor **Edward Puckett** with a \$1,100 money tree. Assistant Pastor **Don Holland** spearheaded the cooperative effort.

Pastor **Henry Van Kluyve** called it "one of the greatest days in the church's history." That statement described a record-breaking homecoming attendance at **First FWB Church, Beaufort, NC**. Pastor Van Kluyve said the 600 who attended homecoming activities gave an almost \$5,000 offering.

First FWB Church, Conway, AR, celebrated its 32nd anniversary, according to Pastor **Zane Kirkland**. The congregation heard **Earnie Deeds** speak, received a \$1,332 offering for the Deeds' account, and burned the church mortgage.

Pastor **Paul Payne** reports 29 additions to **Westside FWB Church, Springdale, AR**. Attendance surged from 43 to a high of 127.

Youth at **Center Point FWB Church, Vilonia, AR**, raised more than \$150 for missionary **Earnie Deeds**. The youth participated in a Read-a-Rock-a-Thon. **Johnny Conyers** pastors.

First FWB Church, Albuquerque, NM, celebrated their 31st anniversary, according to charter member **Mrs. W. W. Winters**.

Free Will Baptists who attended the 1986 National Convention in Tulsa were asked to pray for 2-year-old **Joshua Clinton** whose parents attend **Cookeville FWB Church, Cookeville, TN**. Joshua needs a liver transplant. Pastor **A. J. Loooper** said that through efforts of Free Will Baptists across America and Cookeville residents, more than \$233,000 was raised for the transplant. Loooper said, "To God be the glory. We thank all our FWB friends for their help in raising money for little Joshua."

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.

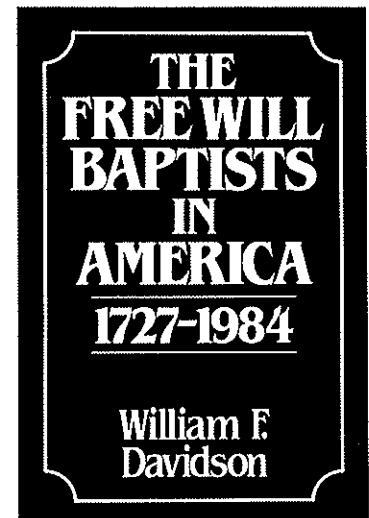
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Reverend **Dewey Lockee**, senior FWB pastor in New Jersey died October 30, 1986. Reverend Lockee pastored **Hope FWB Church, Franklinville, NJ**. He was a native of North Carolina.

Contact welcomes **Yesterday's Beacon**, Occasional Newsletter of the **Florida FWB Historical Society**. **Steven R. Hasty** edits the publication. The Florida Historical Society produced the first volume of the publication in October 1986.

Members of **Wilson's Chapel FWB Church, Thomaston, GA**, presented Pastor **L. S. Anthony** with a plaque for 20 years' service at the church.

Little Bethel FWB Church, Cochran, GA, burned last September, according to Pastor **Tony Howell**. Brother Howell said the church had just invested \$35,000 remodeling the fellowship hall and installing new carpet and pews. At the time of the fire, the church was still meeting in the original structure built 71 years ago.

During an October missions conference at **Trinity Temple FWB Church, Tulsa, OK**, members of **Tulsa Area Quarterly Meeting** of Oklahoma's First Mission Association gave more than \$7,300 in a record-breaking offering. **Brenda Martin**, Tulsa Area clerk/treasurer said funds were divided between missionaries Howard Gwartney and Earnie Deeds.

Pastor **Don Guthrie** said that **Harrah FWB Church, Harrah, OK**, is only 28 months old, but the group logged an all-time high of 274 in services last October.

Mike Dickerson was an unlikely candidate for baptism. Mike fell last May, broke his neck, and doctors said he would not live. However, Mike continued to improve and received Christ as Savior. Pastor **Ron Parker** of **Lifegate FWB Church, Tyler, TX**, made arrangements with Medical Center Hospital to use their burn tank as a baptistry. Mike Dickerson is now a member of Lifegate FWB Church.

The Walker County, Alabama, Boots and Saddle Club sponsored a Labor Day horse show with proceeds going to the **FWB Children's Home in Eldridge, AL**. **Levy Corey** is superintendent.

Pastor **Herman Christian** of **Upper Room FWB Church, Church Hill, TN**, celebrated 54 years in the ministry.

Pastor **Richard Atwood** said the **Free Will Baptist Church at New Castle, DE**, began two Sunday morning worship services.

Principal **Larry Hampton** said **Bethany Christian School, Norfolk, VA**, celebrated its 20th year. The school is an outreach of **Bethany FWB Church, Norfolk**.

Director **Tim York** said that the Evangelism Today board approved a crusade for Perth, Australia, in 1987. Evangelism Today's radio broadcast airs every Saturday night in the West Indies on Radio Paradise.

Members of **North Spartanburg FWB Church, Spartanburg, SC**, completed a 3,000-square foot, \$35,000 fellowship building, says Pastor **Clyde Nations**.

Pastor **Theron Scott**, **Westside FWB Church, Johnsonville, SC**, conducts a

Introducing:

The Department Pages — The National Association at Work —

This month we add a new dimension to *Contact*, "The Department Pages." The Department Pages will be a monthly standing feature allowing readers to more clearly see the National Association at work. Material for The Department Pages will come directly from the national agencies. The format will include department news, promotional ideas, opinion pieces, staff reports and other items.

By and large the programs established and projects adopted by the National Association are carried out through the departments and commissions. Each department's responsibilities reach around the world. The Department Pages will give readers a glimpse of how each agency functions

within the denominational framework to accomplish the work assigned to it by the National Association.

The national agencies have been allocated one page each every month in *Contact*. We are pleased to share in this spirit of cooperation with the following agencies: Board of Retirement, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Free Will Baptist Foundation, Foreign Missions Department, Home Missions Department, Master's Men, Sunday School and Church Training Department, Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.

Rejoice with us as we work together on this new venture. Take time to read the Department Pages. Tell us what you think about the idea. ■

weekly radio broadcast Sunday at 9:00 a.m. over Station WKYB in Hemmingway.

Pastor **Charles Keith** retired from **Calvary FWB Church, Durham, NC**, in 1985 after 23 years at the church. He later moved to Effingham, SC, where "he apparently got retreaded for another term of service" and now pastors **Camp Branch FWB Church, Scranton, SC**.

Pastor **Phil Ange** says six men from **Jefferson Road FWB Church, Sumter, SC**, entered the ministry in the past four years. The six include **Steve Dowless, Richard Conyers, Rusty Conyers, Bill Sams, Al Burke** and **Donnie Burke**.

During Pastor **Mike Ramsey's** two years at **Southside FWB Church, Darlington, SC**, Sunday School attendance increased from 33 to nearly 80. In a pastor appreciation effort, members gave Ramsey a \$560 love offering and a sport coat.

Twenty **South Carolina FWB Churches** gave more than \$6,000 to aid Missionary **Sherwood Lee** in purchasing a vehicle when he returned to Ivory Coast, West Africa.

Pastor **James Puckett** said members of **Southern Oaks FWB Church, Oklahoma City, OK**, began an alternative to Halloween. Southern Oaks established an annual October 31 Harvest Festival. The effort provides youngsters in the community with a festival atmosphere filled with booths, prizes, games and other activities. Funds raised during the festival were sent to FWB Foreign Missions. **Jane Gammel** and **Ed Adkisson** head the program.

Members of **Grant Avenue FWB Church, Springfield, MO**, celebrated their 30th anniversary. **Jeffrey Gaskins** pastors.

Pastor **William Jones** reports six new members at **Marysville FWB Church, Marysville, OH**.

Pastor **Roy Hutchinson** reports five new members, four conversions and long-term commitments of \$3,000 each to foreign missions, state building fund and state home missions. The **Reynoldsburg FWB Church, Reynoldsburg, OH**, gives 20 percent of its income to outside causes.

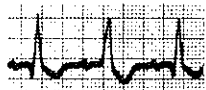
A tornado demolished the parsonage at **Hillsboro FWB Church, Hillsboro, OH**. However, Pastor **Keith Perkins** says the church built a new parsonage.

Pastor **Kenneth Edenfield** says **Bristolville FWB Church, Bristolville, OH**, started an organized visitation program Tuesday evenings to saturate the community and surrounding area with information about the church.

Samantha FWB Church, Leesburg, OH, baptized seven members. **Wylie Perkins** pastors.

Pastor **Delmar Marks** reports seven conversions, five rededications and five new members at **Espyville FWB Church, Marion, OH**.

Vacation Bible School attendance at **Mansfield FWB Church, Mansfield, OH**, increased from 75 to 110 before the five-day school ended, according to pastor **Wayne Keith**. Special missionary speaker **Roy Roach** helped youngsters raise \$115. ■



Fruit That Remains

*As told to Don Robirds
by Steve Lytle*

Demon possessed! No one could deny it.

As awful as it sounds, sometimes Erundina Castillo literally lived among the trees and along the creeks. She was only 15 years of age. But no one could talk to her or restrain her while she was under Satan's control.

As she testifies, "My demonic strength was such that even 10 men could not hold me."

About that time in the teenager's life, God sent missionaries Thomas H. and Mabel Willey to that area. Erundina's family lived in the village of El Cangre, Cuba. Soon, the Willeys opened the Cedars of Lebanon Bible Institute near there. Several of the students—Melitino Martinez, Benito Rodriguez, and Mario Perez in particular—began trying to talk to Erundina, but she wouldn't listen. They were not easily discouraged.

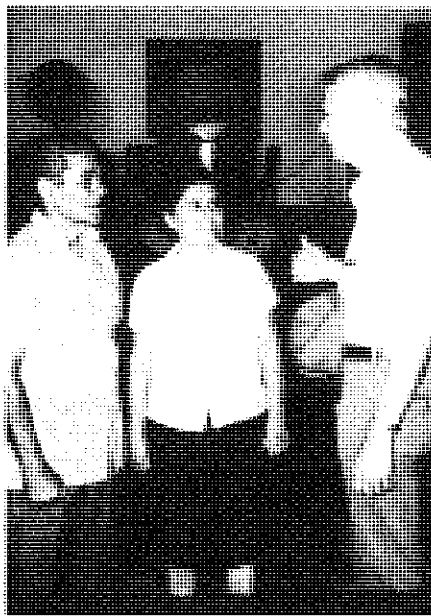
Saved in the Nick of Time

One day, shortly after someone had talked to her about the Lord, the young demoniac suffered a severe demonic attack. She broke the bed she slept on, kicked holes in the wall, and took a rope to hang herself. Fortunately, Melitino and Mario entered the house and grabbed her, saving her from a broken neck. They invited her to the institute so they could pray for her.

Erundina wept all the way to the institute that night in May of 1944. But when Rafael Rodriguez, his wife, and those at the institute prayed for her, the demons left and she claimed Christ as her Lord and Savior.

The evident change which the Lord made in the young girl's life was so drastic that it was very influential in reaching the other members of her Catholic family. Soon her mother and all of her brothers and sisters received Christ as Savior.

Although she had never read the Bible before and had just turned 16



Ramon and Erundina talk with Eugene Waddell.

years of age, some of the students encouraged Erundina to go to school. The age requirement for the Bible institute was 18, but the Willeys worked out a way for her to attend. Due to her age, the administration was reluctant to give her credit for the classes even though she passed with good grades. Finally, they agreed to allow credit and Erundina rejoiced.

It Was a Miracle

In April of 1949, the new Erundina Castillo graduated from Cedars of Lebanon. Prior to handing her the diploma she had earned Mr. Willey commented, "This is a miracle!" It was indeed!

Erundina immediately began working as a missionary. She visited many towns and villages to share the gospel. She continued this ministry until 1953 when she married Ramon Ginebra, also a graduate of Cedars of Lebanon.

When Foreign Missions General Director Eugene Waddell and mission-

ary Steve Lytle visited Cuba in August of 1986, they rejoiced at being privileged to fellowship with Erundina, a remarkable trophy of God's grace. That's when she shared her story.

Erundina and her husband, who has been in the ministry now some 34 years, have labored together for the Lord in the pastorate of five different churches. Currently, the couple labors in Pinar del Rio where Ramon pastors the Free Will Baptist church. Attendance averages between 40 and 50 people for Sunday school.

At 60 years of age, Ramon is nearing retirement. But his and Erundina's work will continue as Ruben, their son, is just beginning his ministry after completing studies at the Baptist Seminary. Their son-in-law, Adolfo, is also a pastor in Cuba.

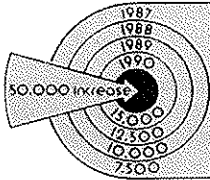
"Pop" and "Mom" Willey, as they came to be known, were instruments in the Master's Hand serving as pioneer missionaries on the alligator-shaped island. Converts, like Erundina and Ramon, learned to trust the Lord and follow His leading. And over the years all of the opposing forces have been unable to crush the work. Jesus' promise of John 15:16 has held true and is evident today in the abiding fruit. ■



World redemption is God's primary concern! That is the heartbeat of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. Over the past 50 years God has given and is now giving abiding fruit in the fields where our missionaries labor. In praise and honor to Him we celebrate 50 years of Advance. This article is another evidence of God's grace at work through Free Will Baptists. Gratitude is being expressed monetarily by many and God is being glorified. Perhaps *Contact* readers would like to respond. Simply send your response to Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202 or call 615-361-1010.

If you can only attend one conference this year, make it...

The Department Pages

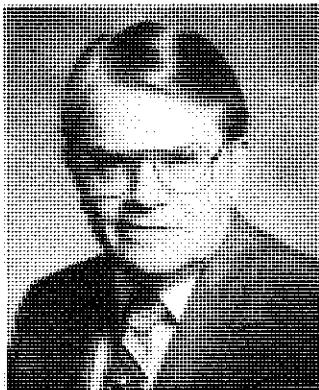


TARGET 90 CONFERENCE

A conference for preachers, teachers and other Christian workers

February 16-18, 1987
Free Will Baptist Bible College
Nashville, Tennessee 37205
(615) 383-1340

Featuring leadership training for church growth and evangelism.



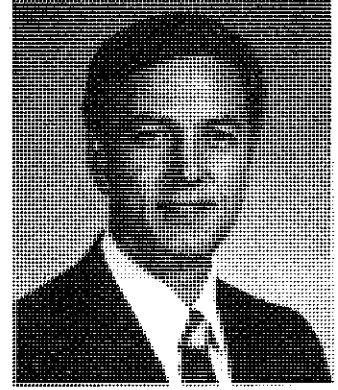
Dr. Sumner



Miss Darkes



Rev. Sutton



Rev. Welch

Featured Speakers:

Dr. Robert Sumner—Evangelist, Editor of *The Biblical Evangelist*, Murfreesboro, TN.

Anna Sue Darkes—Executive Director, Faith Venture Visuals, Lititz, PA.

Rev. David Sutton—Pastor, First Free Will Baptist Church, Ada, OK.

Rev. Leroy Welch—Pastor, Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, NC.

The Target 90 Conference, to be held on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College, will bless and challenge you. It will feature 19 outstanding speakers and 35 preaching/teaching sessions for preachers, teachers, women and other Christian workers.

The conference begins with the evening meal at 5:30 on Monday, Feb. 16, and runs through Wednesday night, Feb. 18.

Other Speakers:

June Critcher—*Keeping Love Alive in Marriage*

Rev. Daryl Ellis—*Developing a Good Self Image*

Rev. Harold Harrison—*Effective Teacher Training*

Trymon Messer—*Personal Soulwinning*

Dr. LaVerne Miley—*Avoiding Stress/Burnout*

Lorene Miley—*The Woman's Role in The Christian Home*

Rev. Robert Morgan—*Preparing Notable, Noteless Sermons*

Dr. Robert Picirilli—*Prayer*

Rev. Morris Proctor—*Cultivating a Devotional Life*

Cleo Pursell—*Motivating Women for Service*

Dr. Ken Riggs—*Using Your Time Well*

Sheila Sass—*Living On a Tight Budget*

Rev. Bob Shockey—*Planting and Growing Churches*

Dr. Charles Thigpen—*Conference Introduction*

Dr. Robert Woodard—*Revitalizing Worship Services*

Cost:

A \$20-conference fee will include all sessions and a complete set of conference notes. If more than one person comes from a church, the conference fee will be \$15 per person.

A list of local motels is available from the college.

If you wish to stay on campus (men and women housed separately), the charge is \$55 per person, \$95 per couple. This includes the conference fee, room and eight meals. Please bring single bed linens, pillow, wash cloth and towel. Since campus space is limited, write or call early to reserve your room.

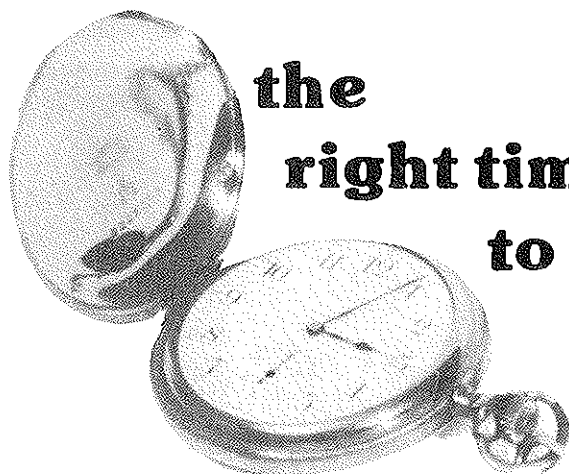
To reserve a room on campus or for more information, please write or call:

Target 90 Conference
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205-0117
(615) 383-1340



Foundation

Herman L. Hersey, Executive Secretary



the right time to give

The average new convert's first encounter with stewardship of possessions occurs when someone shoves a woven breadbasket at him in Sunday School. Or maybe it happens when an usher passes a shiny silver offering plate at the worship service.

That is just an introduction. Shortly afterwards, the budding steward gets his first stewardship lesson. The pastor shakes his hand and tactfully places a box of tithing envelopes in the other. On the first day of the week he should "give as the Lord has prospered him" to support his church.

Right away the church presents him other giving opportunities through special offerings and love gifts for a visiting speaker, new hymnals, paint for the nursery or any one of a score of special projects.

Very little time passes before the new convert encounters the urgent appeal for a needy family, a missionary, a college or any one of many ministries caught in a financial

pinch. The need is immediate; he must give now.

Before long, the church introduces him one by one to outreach ministries such as foreign and home missions, Christian education and community causes. All need his long-term consistent support.

Opportunities for giving increase, even double or triple. After a few months direct mail appeals from outside causes arrive daily in his mailbox. Then, one day the befuddled steward finds himself holding a faith promise card. A major stewardship decision confronts him. His church plans an expansion program in the near future.

Eventually, as a church member he faces stewardship decisions constantly, even daily. He finds he must be prepared to give at anytime: on the Lord's Day, now, later, once-a-month, once-a-year, every time he goes to church and in the interim.

By now he sees he can't simply give when he has extra cash or not give

when he runs short. He soon realizes, too, that he can't let anyone, anytime, decide his stewardship responsibilities. Giving becomes ineffective and unfulfilling. Without direction and planning he finds it impossible to give intelligently and effectively.

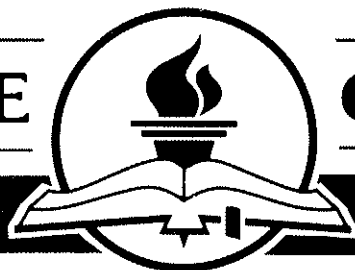
The wise steward seeks the leading of the Holy Spirit. If his church offers stewardship training, he gets the help he needs in planned giving. Planned giving adds joy to his giving. It allows him to give the right amount at the right time in the right way. It allows for systematic, consistent giving yet takes into account the unanticipated. Surprisingly, his capacity to give more now and later increases.

Through planned giving he learns of another right time to give—after death. He regards his eventual death as an appropriate time to give a final gift to honor the Lord. He makes the necessary legal arrangements through his will or through one of the several other deferred giving methods offered by the FWB Foundation.

When is the right time to give? The mature steward gives now and later. Through planned giving he accomplishes effective stewardship. ■

The Foundation is not engaged in rendering legal service or advice. Advice from legal counsel should be sought.

HOUSE



CALLS

FIRST RANDALL HOUSE BIBLE COMMENTARY RELEASED

The first New Testament volumes of the *Randall House Bible Commentary* are to the press. Prepublication orders are to be shipped soon. Volume V, *The Book Of Romans*, by F. Leroy Forlines, is the first of the New Testament set to be printed. It is to be followed by 1, 2 *Corinthians*.

These handsome 6" x 9" hard-bound volumes are jacketed in burgundy and gold. They are analytical in scope, exegetical on key words and phrases, homiletical and instructional on important principles, and practical in applications.

Dr. Robert E. Picirilli, Academic Dean at Free Will Baptist Bible College, serves as General Editor of the New Testament series. He is also the author of Volume VI, 1, 2 *Corinthians* in the set. These three books were originally intended to be one volume, but the timing and bulk of them dictated otherwise.

For other than prepublication orders, these volumes will sell for \$19.95 each and are only available from Randall House Publications.

FEBRUARY—NATIONAL TEACHER TRAINING MONTH

Trained teachers in the Sunday School greatly increase the probability of mature and nurtured members in the pew.

Pastoral experience invariably reveals that a planned, systematic approach to leadership development pays long-range dividends.

Plan to use this month for teacher training. It will aid you in meeting your Target 90 goals.

A TRAINING COURSE FOR NEW AND USED CHRISTIANS

BASIC TRAINING, a comprehensive workbook for new converts and Christian growth, is a by-product of the fruitful ministry of Rev. Richard Kennedy.

The evangelistic thrust by this progressive minded pastor gave necessity to the birth of this versatile, adaptable, and expandable three-ring binder format.

The unique arrangement guides the user in a step-by-step approach through essential stabilizing and enriching Bible study.

This valuable aid is scheduled for distribution by Randall House Publications the first week in March, 1987, and is priced at \$12.95.

NEW MAE FRY PLAY RELEASED

Thousands have been blessed by the writing ministry of Mae Fry. Her Christmas plays published by Randall House have enjoyed a wide and interdenominational use.

Mae's latest work is a three-act drama based on the Christian's armor as given in Ephesians 6. It is a timely and practical portrayal of Satan's onslaught of the Christian and the Christian's proper response.

Mae and Odessa Ledlow worked together to develop a fit-

ting song for this presentation. The play, FAITH IS THE VICTORY, has been released and is available from Randall House Publications or your state bookstore. It sells for \$1.95.

LETTERS THAT HELP CHURCHES GROW

Elizabeth Whitney Crisci has actively served for 38 years with her Baptist pastor-husband. She has a degree in Christian education and serves on the Board of Directors of the New England Association of Christian Education. She is the author of five previous books and over 290 articles and stories.

Her sixth book, LETTERS THAT HELP CHURCHES GROW, will be published by Randall House Publications by March 1, 1987.

LETTERS THAT HELP CHURCHES GROW is a product of maturity and personal experience. These letters have grown out of the heart of a pastor's wife who knows the need and the heartcry of a busy, burdened pastor.

These 140 different letters speak to the needs and situations faced by a growing church. The personal touch, the warmth and compassion of these letters, will surely build strong interpersonal relationships between sender and recipient.

The last chapter is a "How To" on planning, developing, and mailing an effective church newsletter.

LETTERS THAT HELP CHURCHES GROW will sell for \$14.95. ■

MINI GRAMS

Department of Home Missions and Church Extension
of the National Association of Free Will Baptists

What's Happening South of the Border?

By Roy Thomas

The Free Will Baptist work in Mexico began in 1958 when Arthur and Jenell Billows established a school near Monterrey, N.L., called the Institute of Gold. From this school pastors were trained and sent out to organize Free Will Baptist churches in the needy cities of Mexico. Some leading pastors trained at the Institute and now pastor our largest Free Will Baptist churches in Mexico.

In 1970, Jerry and Julie Barron went to Mexico as missionaries where they organized a Free Will Baptist church in Guadalajara. Jerry traveled extensively both in Mexico and the states promoting the work and spreading the gospel. Several Mexican pastors trained at Rio Grande Bible Institute under his leadership.

In 1985, Fred and Barbara Jones went to Mexico to assume leadership of the school and make it a training center for pastors and Christian workers. It became obvious that the school must be moved to a new location because the property is too small, inaccessible and has an inadequate water supply.

God has laid the work in Mexico on the heart of Pastor Bob King of Cramerton FWB Church, Cramerton, N.C. His church has had Mexico Day for the past two years on Home Missions Sunday and contributed \$21,500 on these two days. The first year, the money raised built the new church building in Altamira where Javier Gallegos pastors. The second year the money paid for the new school property located on the main highway between Tampico and Reynosa.

On Mexico Day in 1986, the Home Missions Traveling Team was at Cra-

merton with Brother King. A portion of the funds needed to build new facilities was given on that day.

The new building will contain boys' and girls' dormitories, classrooms, cafeteria, chapel and three apartments for teachers. It will cost about \$50,000



to build. We are praying that other churches will catch the vision of Cramerton FWB Church and help erect this building.

The National Home Missions Board does not plan to send a large number of American missionaries to Mexico, but rather establish the school and train the young people of the Free Will Baptist churches in Mexico to evangelize their own country.

There are 18 churches affiliated with the Mexican Association. Eight of these are self-supporting, and 10 pastors are supported by the National Home Missions Board. Each pastor receives about \$200 per month. For a small investment, a Free Will Baptist church can be started in Mexico.

Only two of these pastors' support is underwritten at this time—Javier Gallegos and Rueben Munoz. Fellowship FWB Church, Kingsport, Tenn.,

with Winston Sweeney as pastor, supports Jesus de la Rosa (Chuy) who directs the old Institute of Gold. Chuy will move to Altamira and assist Fred Jones with the new school.

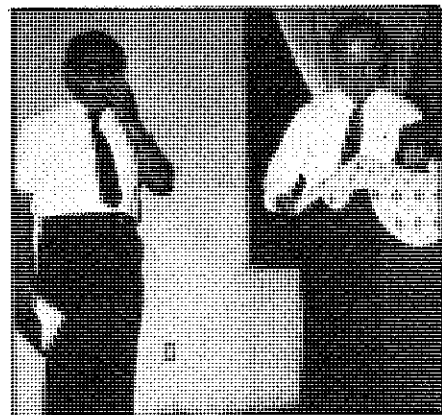
John and Paula McClure work in Mexico as associate missionaries planting new churches. Rev. James Munsey works across the border from Weslaco FWB Church, Weslaco, Texas, and has also started some churches in Mexico.

I just returned from Mexico where I visited six of our churches, met with some of our pastors there and viewed the property for the new school. The churches were filled. People stood around the walls. Souls were saved in every service. Every church has a large group of young people anxious for the new school to start so they can be trained.

Mexico is hungry for the gospel, but communistic signs are everywhere.

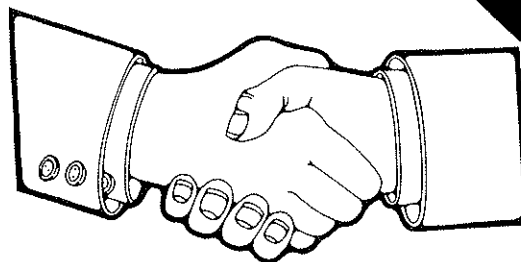
We must act now to evangelize the 80 million across the Rio Grande or we may become neighbors to a communist country.

Gifts for the work in Mexico may be sent to National Home Missions, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202. ■



Fred Jones (L) prepares for North Carolina Pastor Bob King.

MASTER'S MANDATE



DECADE OF DISCIPLESHIP 1985-1995

"DiscipleDepth" highlights 1987 as our theme for the monthly study programs for year three.

These studies detail the qualities disciples should show in a day-to-day walk with the Master. The programs include: Adaptable, Alert and Confident—the titles for the first three months.

Yielded men, ready to serve the Master, should display these characteristics. Disciples need to cultivate these abilities.

The first year theme, "Committed to Christ's Commission," detailed the attributes of a disciple. In year two, the theme "DiscipleLife" helped define the attitudes of disciples.

PROJECT TOOL SHED

Master's Men Project Tool Shed helped purchase a HILTI nailer and nails for Missionary Builder Howard Gwartney.

The nailer belongs to the Home Missions Department for use in construction of churches and related projects.

The equipment cost \$482.59. It was used for the first time on the Alexandria, La., project for Home Missionary Steve Trail. The stapler operates by compressed air. The purchase included free repairs to other nailers belonging to Gwartney.

Possible future projects include a church in Lincoln, Neb., for Home Missionary Russell Wright. The work there is quite a distance from our Master's Men chapters. But workers will be needed when construction dates are set.

Project Tool Shed receives gifts from Master's Men and other interested Free Will Baptists to aid in purchasing equipment for missionaries. Requests for tools come to Master's Men and are filled as funds are available.

OKLAHOMA MASTER'S MEN CONVENE

Master's Men in the Sooner State met October 13 in Norman. Last year the men adopted a project to raise funds which would be portioned three ways. National Master's Men would receive 45 percent, Hillsdale Endowment Fund 45 percent and Oklahoma State Master's Men 10 percent.

Three churches raised \$1,648.48 and divided it so that the Master's Men Department and Hillsdale each received \$877.32 and the State Master's Men received \$164.84.

Jim Vallance, Master's Men director and Edwin Wade, Hillsdale president each received a "big" check representing the gifts during the services.

Officers elected for 1986/87:

President—Wesley Smith
Vice President—Dennis Kern
Secretary/Treasurer—Waymon Ray
State Senator—Bob Sharp
Advisory Board—Rev. Kent Hubbard
Rev. Ray Gwartney
Rev. Keith Burden

CALENDAR

Jan. 7

Time of prayer for the Decade of Discipleship, Year 3.

April 23-25

Ninth annual Master's Men conference
Linden, Tenn.

"Strengthen Thy Brethren"

LIFEMEMBER LIST GROWS

Men across the denomination continue to join Master's Men as LifeMembers. The list contains 77 laymen and preachers. A deposit of \$100 obtains LifeMember status.

The funds are placed in a LifeMember Endowment Trust in the Free Will Baptist Foundation. Those funds then generate interest to be used in the general fund for the Department. The principal amount is never used. It will aid the general fund until the Lord returns.

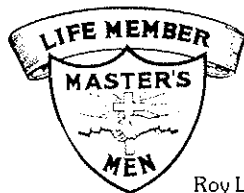
Another 54 men made commitments to give the deposits through time payments. They will receive LifeMember status and have their names added to the list as soon as the total deposit is received.

See the list of LifeMembers on this page.

BUILDING TOGETHER . . .

George Brunkhorst, Calif.
James T. Duncan, Okla.
Lester White, Okla.
Ronald LeRoux, Ind.
Earl Larson, Tenn.
Clyde Hanley, W.V.
Rev. Earl Stapelton, Ark.
Burl Lasiter, Tenn.
Rev. Walter Gragg, Tenn.
Rev. Eddie Hopkins, Tenn.
Gene Plybon, W.V.
James Wooldridge, Okla.
Clint Hardin, Ga.
Bob Isbell, Ark.
Albert Sharp, Ark.
Ronnie Fowlkes, Ark.
Michael Robertson, Ill.
Paul Kennedy, Calif.
Robert L. Hager, Fla.
Gleason N. Fowler, Ga.
Kenneth Nabors, Ark.
Harvey Crain, Tenn.

Glenn Harlinger, Iowa
Rev. Ben Scott, Ark.
Rev. Luther Sanders, Hawaii
Thomas Lepard, Tenn.
Tom Orlovsky, Ky.
Bud Bostic, Ark.
Jerry Saulton, W.V.
John T. Rogers, Ark.
Rev. Dwight Fletcher, Miss.
Gene Phillips, Mich.
Jerry Renfro, Mich.
Don Elder, Mich.
Tom Nagano, Hawaii
Debriel Berry, W.V.
Edward Hall, Tenn.
Howard Price, Ga.
Buddy Morris, Ga.
Robert C. Scales, Ind.
Rev. Hansford Reed, Ohio
O. B. Everson, Ga.



. . . LIVES OF SACRIFICE

Roy Lee Conn, W.V.
Walter E. Golding, Ga.
Lavelle Braddock, Miss.
John Zubor, Mich.
A. V. Jennische, Texas
Rev. E. R. Mayo, Texas
Tommy Fowlkes, Ark.
Rev. Phil Kimbrough, Tenn.
Elbert Farley, Tenn.
Benny R. Higgs, Ind.
Charles Denman, Texas
Norwood Talton, N.C.
Bill Massey, N.C.
Robert Vallance, W.V.
Gary Sutton, Sr., Mo.
Bill Foster, Tenn.
George McJenkin, Ala.
George A. Kimbrow, Miss.
Rev. Robert Lowther, W.V.
Walter Crotts, Tenn.

Ed Bevans, Ohio
Buddy Gailey, Tenn.
Thurman Pate, Tenn.
Travis Ray Carter, Ala.
John Fowlkes, Ark.
Rev. Carl Vallance, W.V.
Rev. Melvin Worthington, Tenn.
Rev. Jack Williams, Tenn.
I. L. Stanley, Tenn.
Howard Gwartney, Okla.
Mike Hayes, Tenn.
Jim Jordan, Ga.
Wendell Leckbee, Ark.
James Orr, Ky.
Raymond Lee, N.C.
Wayne Spruill, Hawaii
James E. Vallance, Tenn.

LifeFriend

Alice Smith, Africa
Lois A. Vallance, Tenn.



AT YOUR SERVICE

Board of Retirement



Herman L. Hersey, Director

Because of dramatic increase in life expectancy over the past several generations, Americans find retirement a vital part of their lifetime plans. Personal retirement plans hold as important a place as buying a home, planning for childrens' education or buying life insurance. Ministers and lifetime employees of the church discover they are not exceptions.

At the turn of the century people only expected to live until age 50. Closeknit extended families lived in the same community most of their lives. Multigeneration families under one roof easily integrated an older person into the household.

Today life expectancy for men is 71.1, and for women 78.3. Twenty to 30 years of living lies ahead for the retiree. If those years are to prove productive and meaningful, every man and woman needs to anticipate their real needs and make preparation.

Because of drastic changes in modern America and the growing population of older adults, yesterday's multigeneration households and financial provisions are no longer viable options.

Actually, future generations need never face retirement without ade-

quate financial provision. Since the 1930s the government administers a social security program for supplementary income at retirement. Employers provide pension plans.

In 1969 the National Association of Free Will Baptists came to the aid of our churches by establishing a Department of Retirement. The department designed a pension plan to meet the particular needs of ministers and lifetime employees of our churches.

The FWB pension plan ranks with the best. It meets federal government requirements and offers flexible plans to fit individual needs. Enrollment and

participation procedures are simple and easy.

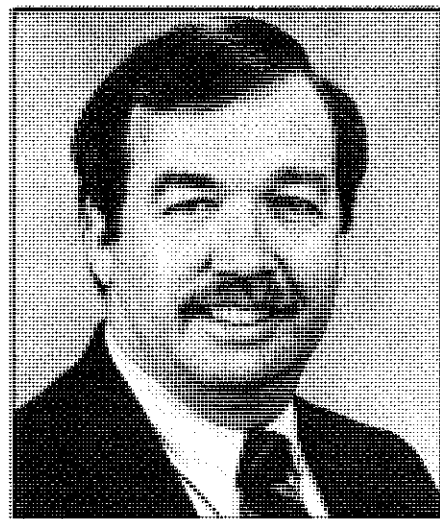
A nine-member board and office staff of three along with Director Herman Hersey are at your service, ready to help you and your church. ■



Lois Vallance
Secretary/
Editorial Assistant



Vernie Hersey
Editor



Ray Lewis
Business Manager

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisehart

NEWS

New Staff Member

Yvonne (Mrs. Floyd) Wolfenbarger began work as executive assistant in the WNAC office September 8, 1986. Yvonne and daughter, Angie, moved to Nashville from Russellville, Arkansas, where the late Floyd Wolfenbarger pastored.

She serves as secretary to Dr. Wisehart, does word processing, fills orders and carries out general office work.

Eunice Edwards Loan Fund

WNAC launched its first national project since the 1960's at the 1986 convention, the Eunice Edwards Loan Fund for Churches Abroad.

The goal is to raise \$50,000 in five years. The fund will provide loans to groups building churches abroad. The church will repay the loan to its association, and the money will be available to other church groups in that country.

At the end of October 1986, the fund contained \$100. WNAC had 10,295 dues-paying members in 1986. Just an average of \$5 per member would mean \$51,485! Send offerings to the Eunice Edwards Fund through Auxiliary district treasurers.

New Equipment

WNAC has its list of *Co-Laborer* subscribers in its own computer files. The staff can now make changes and run mailing labels.

The New-Look Co-Laborer

WNAC voted in 1944 to start a monthly magazine. Now with the January-February 1987 issue, the *Co-Laborer* becomes a bimonthly with a new format.

The staff wants reactions and new subscribers. ■

From My Window

Here it comes! The tomorrow of 1987.

A new beginning is exciting, challenging. An empty canvas. A blank page. A smooth path waiting for tracks.

Here it comes, and there's nothing I can do about it. Yet, I am in control of one person's tomorrows. And so are you.

"Not me," you say. "If I were in control, I would . . ."

Of course you don't always choose the circumstances, but you do make the tracks, write the story or paint the picture. Ron Hembree writes in *The Fruits of the Spirit* that Christians should be thermostats, not thermometers. Don't simply register the atmosphere; control your response.

"Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man" (Matthew 15:11).

Yes, here they come. All those beautiful tomorrows. Days for knowing God better, loving Him more, being more conformed to the image of Christ.

EMPHASES

January — Enlistment Month

Order extra copies of the new-look *Co-Laborer* and give to prospective members with an invitation to attend the next meeting. (Free sample copies available for enlistment purposes.)

At the January meeting hang up ribbon streamers with paper hearts attached. Write the name of a prospective Auxiliary member on each heart. Ask members to take a heart, cut it in half and give one part to the prospect, asking her to bring it to the February meeting. Decorate the streamers at the next meeting. Try to avoid empty spaces and half hearts.

Subscribe to *Co-Laborer*, a magazine especially for Free Will Baptist women. \$5.75 annually for individuals, \$5 for five or more to the same address.

Name _____ Auxiliary _____

Address _____

Send _____ magazine(s). Total Enclosed _____

CO-LABORER
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202

Write On!

By Joy Simpkins

I think I've scheduled myself into a corner for the simple reason that I find no time to sit down, pick up a pencil and jot down those blazing inspirations and profound bits of wisdom that leave as quickly as they come. For my own creative sanity I must find a way to trap those brilliant morsels that fly across my mind at the most inconvenient times and in the most awkward places. (Now if I can just figure out how to write while driving!)

I know that if I don't take the time to plant those thoughts on paper they're lost in the minutes and hours of busyness. I'm a firm believer that talents and gifts not honed and limbered with use disappear forever. The Lord never intended that our gifts and talents be shelved amid the humdrum of ceaseless activity. If we're ungrateful the Giver may retrieve His gifts.

No, it's not easy finding time to write down those inspirations or sharpen whatever tools the Lord gives us, but it's necessary. Some may find themselves in positions where their talents are kept in shape through their jobs. But what about the rest of us? Those who wait? Waiting and learning to be patient as God prepares us for that one-day delightful job that will be so fulfilling and rewarding.

Regretfully, man sometimes stands in the way of accomplishing God's will for His servants. But I must remember to focus on God and do *what I can, where I can, when I can* and be assured that one day it'll all come together and make sense.

Meanwhile, I'll write on and work on those thoughts that juggle around in my head. I pray that if I'm doing right now what the Lord wants me to do till retirement, I'll learn to be

Directory Update

ARKANSAS

James Forlines to Allen's Chapel Church, Batesville from First Church, Chesterfield, IN

J. W. Blanks to Eastvale Church, Blytheville from Allen's Chapel, Batesville

David Copeland to Chapel Lane Church, Searcy from Union Grove Church, Atkins

LeVan Hubbard to Woodlawn Church, Russellville

George Rutledge to First Church, Arkadelphia

Steve Hendrix to Salem Church, Glenwood from First Church, Fordyce

Paul Payne to Westside Church, Springdale from Oak Grove Church, Lake Village

David Gentry to Willoughby Church, Warren

CALIFORNIA

Dennis Clariday to Earlimart Church, Earlimart

GEORGIA

Robert Stiles to Pleasant Hill Church, Vienna

Rowan Sirmans to White Hall Church, Waycross

Sim Youngblood to Sunnyside Church, Pearson

Terry Drinkwater to Corinth Church, Iron City

W. L. Rentz to Highway Church, Brinson

Ken Faison to New Home Church, Climax

W. E. Brown to Enterprise Church, Blakely

David Griffin to Lyons Church, Lyons

ILLINOIS

Michael R. Newman to Oak Valley Church, Geff from Hannon Church, Liberal, MO

NORTH CAROLINA

Wade Hudgins to Union Grove Church, Durham

Wayne Hargrove to Coastal Church, Wilmington

SOUTH CAROLINA

Jerry Clark to First Church, Greer

Jimmy Miller to Hearon Circle Church, Spartanburg from Hillside Church, Florence

Floyd (Buddy) Seay, Jr. to Hillside Church, Florence from Arcadia Church, Spartanburg as associate pastor

D. J. Boyd to Freedom Church, Ladson

Kenneth Baxley to Little Bethel Church, Johnsonville from Bible Church, Florence

Theron Scott to Westside Church, Johnsonville from New Town Church, Lake City

Billy Jones to Mt. Trolley Church, Galivant's Ferry from Freedom Church, Ladson

Charles Keith to Camp Branch, Scranton

Lamar Smith to Bible Church, Florence

TENNESSEE

Billy B. Walker to West Green Church, Mosheim from Texas as Executive Secretary

OTHER PERSONNEL

James Randy Carr to Beaufort Christian Academy, Beaufort, NC as principal from FWB School, St. Croix, VI as principal

Terry Rowland to First Church, Fort Smith, AR as youth pastor from Chapel Lane Church, Searcy

content and no longer wait for that "rewarding and fulfilling" job. And if I'm not, then I pray that man will not close what doors God has opened. And that I will not jump through the windows instead! ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Joy Simpkins is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

Rescue Prayer

By M. J. Pritchard

Come to my rescue, Lord. I'm at the end of my rope; it's frazzled and about to break. Catch me, Lord, if I fall.

Soothe the hurts and pains of life and make me whole again. Calm my nerves, my shaken emotions; help me to trust in You. Control my temper before I lose it and hurt someone with unkind words.

Give me peace in place of the frustration that rises up to tear at my serenity. Give me steadiness in place of the shakiness that came because I failed to trust in You.

Forgive me, Lord, for letting life and living upset me and spoil my day and disrupt my calm. Help me to rest in You and there find perfect peace. ■



Tomorrow's Free Will Baptist leaders are at Free Will Baptist Bible College today.

Please support them.



Free Will Baptist Music Ministries

The Task of the Hymn Book Committee

By Melvin Worthington

During its July 13, 1984, meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, the Executive Committee of the National Association appointed a seven-member committee to research the possibility of revising the *Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* (1964) and report to the Executive Committee during the 1985 national convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Members appointed to this committee included Vernon Whaley (chairman), Blaine Hughes, John Neal, Doug Little, Ted Wilbanks, Bill Gardner and Floyd Wolfenbarger. Floyd Wolfenbarger's death made it necessary to appoint Leroy Cutler to fill the vacancy. John Neal resigned and Rodney Whaley was appointed to replace him. Three advisors were appointed to assist the committee—Robert E. Picirilli, Roger Reeds and Melvin Worthington.

The responsibility of the committee was to:

1. Determine the present use of the *Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* (1964).
2. Determine the potential interest in a new hymn book.
3. Determine the production cost of a new hymn book.
4. Determine the publication date for the release of a new hymn book.

The committee was aware that any new Free Will Baptist hymnal should reflect denominational distinctives, illustrate balance in musical style and

provide a tool which Free Will Baptists would use.

The committee research was diligent and detailed. The research procedure resulted in the following conclusions:

1. A new Free Will Baptist hymn book is needed and wanted.
2. A new Free Will Baptist hymn book should be thoroughly eclectic and include hymns of praise, worship, family, evangelism, missions, 20th century gospel songs, children and youth, praise choruses, music of the Stamps Baxter traditions, seasonal songs, hymns by Free Will Baptists.
3. A new Free Will Baptist hymn book should be musically and stylistically balanced. It should illustrate enduring quality and uphold theological integrity.
4. A new Free Will Baptist hymnal should contemplate a distinctly Free Will Baptist book. It needs to be different from any other collection on the market (both of our own denomination and of the many non-denominational publications).
5. A new Free Will Baptist hymn book should include selected music written by Free Will Baptists.
6. A new Free Will Baptist hymn book should be available in shaped note and round note editions.
7. The printing of a companion to the new Free Will Baptist hymn book should be a high priority although not part of the initial printing.
8. A new Free Will Baptist hymn book should conform to established hymnology tradition and include

hymnal indices, chapter-like divisions and be a thorough aid in worship.

9. A new hymn book should be doctrinally sound.

In compliance with the Executive Committee's instructions the committee fulfilled its responsibility, did research and reported to the Executive Committee in July 1985.

The committee recommended that:

1. The Hymn Book Study Committee be authorized to prepare and produce a new *Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* (1988) under the supervision of the Executive Office.
2. The Hymn Book Committee be instructed to publish the book by July 1988.
3. The hymn book be distinctly Free Will Baptist, emphasizing denominational doctrines and practices.
4. The details for financing the project be coordinated through the Executive Office.
5. The hymn book be designed to meet constituents' needs for 15 years.

The report and recommendations were adopted by the National Association during the July 21-25, 1985, convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

While the task is tremendous, the committee's work is on schedule. We anticipate the completion of this significant project in 1988. We believe it will provide a beautiful and beneficial tool for Free Will Baptists around the world. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Melvin Worthington is executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.



Thomas Marberry



Judy Osgood, *Meditations for the Widowed* (Sunriver, OR: Gilgal Publications, 1985, 69 pp., paperback, \$5.95).

When I started reading this book, I wasn't expecting much; I am not a great fan of devotional books. I soon discovered that this book is something special. It can provide help and comfort to those going through the greatest crisis most people ever face.

All of us must deal with the death of friends and loved ones; that is the reality of life. There is no death which brings as much sorrow, grief and loneliness as does the death of a spouse.

The death of a spouse not only produces sorrow and grief, it also produces an abundant crop of fear and frustration. After the death of a spouse, we often hear such questions as "Why did this happen to me?" and "How can I go on?" Yet, life must go on. That is God's plan.

The meditations in this book are written by men and women, preachers and lay people, from a variety of backgrounds. All have two things in common: they love the Lord, and they have lost a husband or wife. Some are advanced in years, others are in the prime of life. Some lost their spouses after lengthy illness, others had no time to prepare.

This book is filled with sadness and heartbreak. Many times no words can adequately express the feelings of one who has lost a companion of many years, but these writers do their best with a remarkable degree of frankness and honesty. Yet, this book is also filled with victory and hope. All these men and women came through the time of sorrow and triumphed over it. The bitterness has been replaced with beautiful memories of times shared together.

This book would make an excellent gift for a widow or widower. It should also be of value to pastors and others who counsel those who are bereaved. ■

Thank You For Your Contributions...



Cooperative Channel Contributions October 1986

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	Oct. '85	Yr.to Date
Alabama	\$ 59.27	\$ 1,217.41	\$ 1,276.68	\$ 1,075.00	\$ 8,996.64
Arizona	00	00	00	00	221.29
Arkansas	00	4,530.37	4,530.37	2,075.33	41,322.59
California	00	1,019.18	1,019.18	733.93	8,566.28
Florida	70.92	516.85	587.77	1,105.79	19,245.79
Georgia	6,390.57	00	6,390.57	1,900.66	46,606.69
Idaho	00	202.08	202.08	00	392.80
Illinois	5,025.08	755.76	5,780.84	7,892.14	71,363.58
Indiana	457.48	123.79	581.27	748.35	5,536.52
Kansas	00	46.61	46.61	106.46	583.06
Kentucky	14.00	286.00	300.00	713.80	4,469.21
Michigan	2,239.87	1,914.35	4,154.22	3,044.11	47,019.49
Mississippi	35.79	602.12	637.91	653.74	4,390.60
Missouri	1,623.29	9,012.20	10,635.49	7,878.39	86,457.86
New Mexico	52.17	26.09	78.26	00	390.23
North Carolina	458.00	325.00	783.00	500.00	18,646.55
Ohio	855.00	3,589.00	4,444.00	1,521.00	27,433.07
Oklahoma	38,430.01	6,555.91	44,985.92	36,039.63	410,635.95
South Carolina	3,841.58	00	3,841.58	432.51	19,560.73
Tennessee	526.21	1,293.43	1,819.64	1,188.10	15,637.21
Texas	6,159.77	506.74	6,666.51	4,213.38	74,012.81
Virginia	130.00	1,187.37	1,317.37	1,070.00	5,394.12
West Virginia	1,494.25	125.47	1,619.72	50.00	30,557.83
Canada	00	00	00	00	500.00
Northwest Assoc.	00	00	00	00	18.00
Totals	\$67,863.26	\$33,835.73	\$101,698.99	\$72,942.32	\$947,958.90

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 800.61	\$13,986.33	\$ 14,786.94	\$14,021.57	\$147,869.38
Foreign Missions	44,520.89	4,565.33	49,086.22	37,688.63	475,997.47
FWBBC	2,013.21	4,565.33	6,578.54	4,675.00	63,465.48
Home Missions	18,131.74	3,572.91	21,704.65	9,711.50	177,841.52
Retirement & Insurance	47.04	2,779.00	2,826.04	2,169.83	26,673.08
Master's Men	31.39	2,580.51	2,611.90	2,027.10	22,901.48
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	21.45	198.44	219.89	167.68	1,950.74
FWB Foundation	10.48	1,191.00	1,201.48	928.06	10,875.32
Historical Commission	24.18	198.44	222.62	164.90	1,959.64
Radio & TV Commission	64.18	198.44	262.62	174.90	2,345.49
Hillsdale FWB College	2,111.32	00	2,111.32	1,196.72	14,815.40
Other	86.77	00	86.77	16.43	1,263.90
Totals	\$67,863.26	\$33,835.73	\$101,698.99	\$72,942.32	\$947,958.90



ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

Do I Have To?

Megan," called Mrs. Lane from the kitchen, "I need you to set the table for supper."

"Aw, Mama, do I have to?" groaned Megan. "I want to finish reading my book."

"You can do that later," said her mother.

Megan put her book down and stomped into the kitchen. "Oh, all right," she grumbled. She tossed plates and silverware carelessly on the table.

After supper Mr. Lane said he was going outside to mow one more time before winter. "Marty, I need you to help me pull weeds around the trees."

"Aw, Daddy, do I have to?" he complained. "I want to watch tv."

"Yes," answered his dad, "I guess you have to."

Mr. Lane and Marty went outside, and Megan settled down in an easy chair to read. She had just found her place when her mother called, "Megan, I've got Woman's Auxiliary tonight, and I need to run. Would you mind finishing the dishes?"

Megan groaned and took the dishcloth from her mother. Marty and Megan did their work, but they fussed the whole time. They thought all the things kids think when they are angry at their parents: "They treat us like slaves," and "Nobody else has to work this hard," and "Boy, they have it made, always bossing us around."

When the twins got home from school the next day, their mother was busy vacuuming and dusting. Even little Jeff was helping pick up toys.

"I'm glad to see you," said their mother giving them quick hugs. "You have cookies and milk in the kitchen. When you finish eating I want you to clean your rooms."

"Aw, Mama," they both moaned, "do we have to?"

Fifteen minutes later the twins announced that they had finished their tasks and were going outside. "Not so fast," said Mrs. Lane. "We're having inspection." She looked in Megan's room first. Megan had hung up her clothes and put away her toys. "Megan, you straightened, but it isn't clean. You need to vacuum and dust."

Then Mrs. Lane went to Marty's room. At first glance it looked pretty good. Then she noticed something sticking out from under the bed. "What's this?" asked his mother as she lifted the bedspread and pulled out a sock. "Marty!" she screeched.

Under his bed he had stuffed clothes, school books, a baseball bat, a football, a pair of tennis shoes, and a dozen or more gum and candy wrappers. "Marty, this is not how you clean. Put all this stuff where it belongs," ordered Mrs. Lane.

"Aw, Mama . . ." began Marty.

"Yes, you have to," answered his mother firmly.

That night Mr. and Mrs. Lane discussed the twins' bad attitudes about doing their chores. Then they worked out a plan.

The next morning when the alarm buzzed, Mr. and Mrs. Lane ignored it. It rang and rang, and nearly jumped off the night stand. Marty and Megan came in their

room to see why they didn't turn it off. Their parents pretended to be asleep.

"Why aren't you up?" asked Megan turning off the alarm. "It's a school day."

Mr. Lane opened one eye. "Oh," he groaned, "Is it time to get up?"

"Mom, I'm starved," said Marty. "You better hurry and cook breakfast."

"Aw, Marty, do I have to?" asked his mother. The twins looked at each other with puzzled faces. Then Mr. and Mrs. Lane rolled over and pretended to go back to sleep.

Marty and Megan got ready for school, ate breakfast and left the house. When they came home that afternoon, they found the kitchen just like they had left it—their bowls with milk and cereal in the bottoms, the cereal they had spilled still on the floor, and the carton of milk they had forgotten to put away still on the table. But the real surprise was finding their mother lying on the couch reading a book.

"Mama, what are you doing?" asked Megan.

"Are you sick?" asked Marty.

"I'm fine," answered their mother. "I'm just reading."

"But the kitchen," stammered Megan.

Marty spotted a pile of laundry on the floor. "And those clothes," he added.

Just then Mr. Lane walked in carrying his fishing pole and a string of trout.

"Daddy!" exclaimed the twins. "Why aren't you at work?"

"I'm tired of working," said Mr. Lane.

Little Lanes . . . (from page 25)

"Yeah, me too," agreed Mrs. Lane. "Say, I've got an idea. Megan, why don't you be the mama around here for awhile and Marty, you be the daddy."

"What?" cried the twins.

"That's a great idea, Honey," said Mr. Lane. "Let's see . . . this is Friday. We'll trade place until Sunday night. Then we'll trade back."

"That is if you want to," smiled Mrs. Lane sweetly.

The twins agreed, but felt uneasy.

"Boy, I'm sure thirsty," said Mr. Lane. "Megan, would you please fix me a glass of lemonade?"

Marty and Megan went to the kitchen to make lemonade. They could hear their parents pretending to argue about which channel to watch on tv. "What are they up to?" asked Marty.

Around 6:00 that evening Jeff said, "I'm hungry, Mama. Let's eat."

Mrs. Lane called from the couch, "Oh, Megan, when's supper? We're hungry."

"What?" called an astonished Megan.

"What's for supper?" repeated Mr. Lane. "I thought you would have cleaned those fish I caught and fried them for supper."

"Yuk!" shivered Megan.

She looked in the pantry and found a can of soup which she warmed up, and she made some peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Her family wasn't impressed. But they all ate, then went to the den to relax, leaving her in the kitchen to clean up by herself.

Mrs. Lane said, "You know, Dear, it's a little cool in here. Would you mind building a fire?"

"Great idea," agreed Mr. Lane, "but that's not my job. Marty . . ." he called.

"But there's no firewood," protested Marty.

"Well, you must have forgotten to bring it in," said Mrs. Lane. "Go out and get some."

Marty put on his shoes and jacket and stepped out into the chilly darkness to get the wood. He worked for a long time and finally had a roaring blaze.

Megan came in and collapsed in front of the tv when the phone rang.

"Would you get it, Megan?" asked her daddy. "We're in the middle of this show."

"Sure," said Megan with the voice of a martyr. She came back into the room with a message for her mother. "That was Mrs. Phillips. She said that Mrs. Wilson is coming home from the hospital tomorrow and the auxiliary is fixing dinner for her. You're supposed to take a dessert."

"Fine," replied Mrs. Lane. "What

are you going to fix?"

"Me?" asked Megan in surprise.

"That's part of your job now, isn't it?" reminded Mrs. Lane.

"I guess I can bake a cake if you've got a mix in there," answered Megan. "But I just finished cleaning up the kitchen," she groaned and headed back as if to a prison.

"Mom," asked Marty, "do you know where my grey sweatshirt is? I'm supposed to go hiking with Mike and Rob Johnson tomorrow, remember?"

I think it's in the dirty clothes," answered Mrs. Lane hiding a smile.

"Would you . . . could you . . . oh, never mind," said Marty as he started to the laundry room to conquer that buzzing, swishing, sudsing beast.

But as it turned out, Marty didn't need his sweatshirt. By the time he had washed the car, chopped firewood, cleaned out the garage and raked the leaves, the Johnsons had left.

Megan's day had gone no better. She mopped the kitchen, cleaned the bathrooms, cooked and cleaned up after meals, and took care of Jeff. And to make matters worse, Mrs. Lane spent the day strolling through the mall while Mr. Lane played golf and watched football on tv.

"I don't know if I can take another day of this," said Megan. "Mama, Daddy, can we call a truce?"

"Yeah," agreed Marty. "We're bushed. We didn't know you guys worked so hard to keep our family going."

"If you'll let us go back to being the kids, and you go back to being the parents, we promise to do our chores and never complain again," said Megan.

"Never?" asked their parents smiling.

"Well, almost never. We'll try," said the twins.

"Come on, can we trade?" pleaded Megan.

"Please," begged Marty, "before we have to eat any more of Megan's cooking?"

"Well," chuckled Mr. and Mrs. Lane, "do we have to?"

OUR READERS COMMENT



SEVEN YEARS, PLEASE!

Here is my check for \$63. I want seven years of *Contact*. My old subscription is expired on September 1, 1987. I want my new subscription to last until September 1, 1994.

I love and enjoy *Contact* very much. It is the very best magazine in the country. It is the number one magazine for me. Looking forward every month to receiving it.

My favorite article every month is "Green Tree Bible Study" by Robert E. Picirilli. He is my favorite Free Will Baptist preacher.

So, don't send any more bills, not until the fall of 1994.

Deacon Noonie Lewis
Fairborn, Ohio

ISSUE HELPS PASTOR

The August (1986) issue was superb! Several of the articles ministered to my heart as a pastor.

Dr. Malcolm C. Fry, Pastor
Unity Free Will Baptist Church
Smithfield, North Carolina

FIRST GRADE TEACHER WRITES

Thank you so much for the Marty, Megan and Jeff stories. I teach first grade at Northeast Atlanta Christian School.

This summer I was going through my old *Contacts* and decided to collect the stories to read to my class. The students just love the stories and were disappointed when I read the last one I had, but they told me I could start over!

Is there any way I could get copies of any of the stories I don't have in my collection?

The students drew some pictures about their favorite stories; sorry I didn't have time to jot down their thoughts.

Keep writing for the Lord and I'll keep reading.

Mrs. Bernadene Kemble
Grayson, Georgia

How is a family like a team? What do you need to do to have a "winning team?" What can you do to help around the house?



Green Tree Bible Study

Robert E. Picirilli

Matthew 7:7-12

Encouragement to Pray

The next several studies will examine selected passages from Jesus' teaching on prayer. He both set the example for us and instructed us in the art and importance of prayer: The Matthew 7 passage, one of the best known of these, gives us encouragement to pray.

The content of the encouragement (vv. 7-8) is, to put it simply, a promise that God will answer our prayers: ask, and you will receive. The promise is triply stated; the second and third statements—seek and find, knock and have opened—appear to be metaphorical, illustrative restatements of the first statement.

I sometimes wonder if the King James translators were aware that they gave us, with Ask, Seek, Knock, a neat acronym: A-S-K.

In summary: if we ask God, He will give us what we ask. Verse 8, then, provides a general principle, not limited to prayer, that backs up v. 7: people who ask receive.

You have heard it said that the verbs here are linear action in the original Greek, which is quite true. Those who point this out often paraphrase: Ask and keep on asking, and it will be given to you. By this they mean that Jesus is teaching the need for persistence in prayer. That is a possible understanding of the meaning. No doubt persistence is sometimes necessary.

But linear action in a Greek verb has a wide variety of possible meanings. Sometimes it is repetitive. In that case, Jesus may mean that we can keep coming to God in prayer as often as we have needs, that He never tires of our asking, that His resources are never exhausted. As often as you have a need, ask. I regard this meaning, in this context, as much more probable than the other one.

The basis of this encouragement is shown in vv. 9-11, and it is found in that marvelous relationship we who are Christians have with God as our

Father. This point Jesus makes by asking a question that uses human fatherhood for an illustration. The questions expect negative answers: no father worth the name would give a hungry child who asked for bread or fish a stone or snake instead as some sort of cruel mockery.

Then if you can conceive a human father who would respond positively to a hungry child's request for food, you can be assured that our heavenly Father will respond when we seek from Him things we really need.

Actually, it's better than that: Jesus says, How much more will our heavenly Father give when we ask. Earthly parents are sometimes limited, either by not really knowing what is "good" for their children, or by not being able to give them what they need. God faces no limitations that hinder Him from giving to His children what they need and ask for.

What kind of conditions are attached to this promise? I can only see two, so far: first, that we must be His children; second, that what we ask for must be that which is truly good for us—and certainly the idea of what is good for us includes the proper timing in His wisdom. Indeed, I'm glad that He doesn't give us everything we ask.

Finally, consider that a responsibility that grows out of this encouraging promise is laid on us in v. 12. Did you notice that "the golden rule" is attached to vv. 7-11 by a "therefore?" Apparently the connection is similar to the one between being forgiven and practicing forgiveness (as in Matthew 6:12, 14, 15). As children of our Heavenly Father, who expect Him to respond generously when we call on Him, we must manifest His character and be generous when others call on us.

In Luke 6, the golden rule (v. 31) is preceded by: Give to every man that asks of you (v. 30). And in that same context we read: "Give and it shall be

given unto you" (v. 38). People who expect mercy from God must be merciful (Matthew 5:7). People who claim God's forgiveness of their sins must be forgiving (see Matthew 18:23-35).

We can add, then; that people who take full advantage of the freedom to ask God when they have needs and confidently expect Him to meet those needs have falling on them the responsibility to be equally open to respond to others who call out to them in need.

Then maybe we have to add this last as a third condition. ■

1987 Writers' CONTEST

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March 16, 1987

Write for rules of entry to:

Rev. Harrold D. Harrison,
Writers' Contest Director
P.O. Box 17306
Nashville, TN 37217

TEEN Scene



North Carolina

A new Youth Evangelistic Team started this summer in Kinston, North Carolina. The 11-member team formed from the youth group at Bethel FWB Church. Seven men and four ladies, ranging from eighth grade through 12th grade, comprise the team.

Eddie Moody visited First FWB Church in Albany, Georgia, and saw how their Youth Evangelistic Team functioned. He then talked with Jim Lauthern, director of youth ministries at Randall House Publications. Eddie returned with a deep burden to begin a YET ministry in his home church. He talked with his pastor, church and young people. Tryouts were set and the team formed.

During the summer they practiced three, sometimes four nights a week preparing their program. The program consisted of two 10-minute plays and a 20-minute play. They presented their program in seven eastern North Carolina churches. Sherry Williams, teacher in the Christian School,

assisted Eddie in assembling the program.

Eddie said, "Having a Youth Evangelistic Team accomplished two goals for my youth group. First, it helped to build community in the youth. The young people have become close because of the YET ministry."

Kelly Green, a team member, said, "The plays really brought us together."

The second goal was to help the young people see that they can become involved in ministry and service for God through ministering to others.

Eddie said, "Although it was hard work, it matured me, and it was very worthwhile."

Interested in starting a Youth Evangelistic Team? Contact:

Youth Ministries Division
Randall House Publications
P. O. Box 17306
Nashville, TN 37217

Virginia

The youth group at Bethany FWB Church, Norfolk, Virginia, took a three-day journey to eastern Tennessee. They spent two days at Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge in activities ranging from Dollywood Amusement Park to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Greeneville.

The final day, and highlight of the trip, involved visiting First FWB Church in Johnson City. The youth group stayed in church members' homes and enjoyed a time of fellowship. Sunday morning the youth presented a mini-concert, and youth pastor Randy Kinnick preached.

Randy says, "This gave them an opportunity to minister to people outside our home church. The trip was really a great success. The youth want to go again." ■



YET Team from Bethel FWB Church, Kinston, NC.

Especially
For Young
Preachers

Be a Friend to Preachers

"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly" (Proverbs 18:24).

1. Defend other preachers. Don't be guilty of believing the "ecclesiastical garbage" that is so often spread about other preachers.
2. Pray for other preachers. Make a list of those you want to pray for regularly and place it in your Bible.
3. Tell other preachers you are praying for them. Each Sunday morning select a different preacher. Call him at 9:00 a.m. to say that you are praying for him on that particular Lord's Day. Call his name in prayer from your pulpit.
4. Invite preachers to your home. Take the initiative. Don't wait for others to invite you to their homes. Have them over for a meal or a time of fellowship.
5. Send preachers cards. Recognize his birthday, anniversary, or his illness or bereavement with a card.
6. Give money to preachers. Fellow preachers experience financial difficulty. Assist them with a \$20 gift.
7. Listen to preachers. Don't dominate the conversation. God gave us two ears and one mouth -- that should be a big enough hint. Ask the preacher a question, especially the one who is discouraged, and then listen intently to his conversation.
8. Treat preachers the way you want to be treated. The young preacher wants respect, appreciation and kindness. Treat other preachers the same way.
9. Be a pastor. The only person in the congregation without a pastor is the preacher. As a young preacher, be a pastor to another preacher. He needs your counsel, fellowship and concern.

Next Month: Establish a Church Around Men

Dennis Wiggs



NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

TEXAS CLERGYMAN REFUSES LICENSE FOR BOYS HOME

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (EP)—“We’ll never take a license, not even if Hell freezes over,” says the Rev. W. N. Otwell, who faces \$25,000 in fines and a contempt citation for refusing to license his church-run boys home in Forest Hill, Texas.

Otwell, who skipped a hearing in Austin, Texas, and was cited for contempt, spoke in Indianapolis to the American Coalition of Unregistered Churches. Otwell is a guest of the Indianapolis Baptist Temple, and authorities are unable to extradite him because he’s charged with a civil, rather than criminal, complaint.

Otwell says he’ll return to Texas “when I feel like we have been able to tell the American people how the judicial system is trying to take over . . . momma and daddy’s right to raise their children under God.”

Otwell says the license requirement is an unconstitutional attempt by the state to control a church activity. His school is continuing to operate, but Texas authorities have announced plans to seize and sell the church’s property.

“We’re going to proceed with auctioning off his property to settle the fines,” said Ron Dusek of the state attorney general’s office.

ODESSA BAPTISTS MEETING OUTSIDE

ODESSA, U.S.S.R. (EP)—A church building in Odessa, Ukraine, was sealed by authorities, then demolished, according to Georgi Vins of the International Representation for the Council of Evangelical Baptist Churches of the Soviet Union, Inc.

Photo-documents have been received from the congregation of the Baptist church in Odessa showing various attacks against them. Their building was sealed by Soviet authorities on April 8, 1986, and razed to the ground on April 9. The streets around the church were filled with policemen, militiamen, KGB agents, and officials from the city council during the demolition. After the building was destroyed, all materials were hauled away from the site.

Presently the congregation of 300 people has nowhere to meet. Authorities have been disrupting gatherings outside and in private homes, arresting church members, and giving them brief jail sentences. More than 100 house searches have been conducted in the Odessa area. A criminal case has been raised against one of the women of the church for teaching children.

The church’s senior pastor, Nikolai Boiko, 64, is serving a 10-year sentence, his third term, for preaching the gospel, according to Vins. Although he is not due for release until 1992, camp authorities are already threatening to sentence him to another term without release.

MUSLIMS MUST BELIEVE BIBLE SAYS INDIAN EVANGELIST

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands (EP)—Muslims are required by their own scripture—the Koran—to believe in the Bible, according to Indian evangelist Akbar Haqq.

Leading a workshop on how to witness to Muslims at Amsterdam 86, Haqq said the Koran commands Muslims to make no distinction between the Koran and all previous scriptures, including the Bible; believe that the Koran was sent down to confirm the Bible; believe that the Koran was sent to be a “watchman” over previous scriptures.

Haqq added, “The Muslims have got to believe the Bible. [In the Koran] the only person who is most honored—highly extolled—is Jesus Christ. [The Koran] authenticates, even declares, that Jesus Christ was born miraculously.”

Why then do Christians have such difficulty witnessing to Muslims? “Muslim scholars have introduced a pernicious doctrine—a doctrine of corruption of the scriptures.” That doctrine holds that Jews and Christians “somehow and somewhere got together to conspire to corrupt

the Bible,” he said. “The usual idea among Muslim scholars is that we corrupted the text of the Bible.” For this reason Muslims do not feel bound to believe the Bible in its current form, he explained.

Haqq said no Muslim has ever been able to tell him how or when the Bible was corrupted, and notes that Jews and Christians are traditional “enemies”—and are therefore not likely to conspire together. “How in the world could it have happened logically?” he asked. “Jews all over the world and Christians all over the world got together just to corrupt the scriptures that they would rather die for? Jews and Christians will be perpetual enemies, so why would they come together to corrupt the Scriptures? I think it is blasphemy for any Muslim to say the Bible has been changed.”

Haqq encouraged the evangelists to witness “with love and kindness” to Muslims, and to do so armed with a good understanding of the Islamic faith. “If you couldn’t communicate with Muslims, then the only problem was that you did not do your homework,” he said.

STUDY FINDS FAST-GROWING AND LARGEST CHURCHES

LYNCHBURG, VA (EP)—Indiana has the largest, and Arizona the fastest-growing church in the United States, according to a study by Elmer Towns, dean of Liberty Baptist Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia.

First Baptist Church in Hammond, Indiana, is the largest church in the U.S., with 19,320 worshippers in 1985, a gain of 620 over the previous year. The church’s bus ministry brings about 8,000 people to the church each week.

First Assembly of God in Phoenix is the fastest-growing church in the U.S. It gained 2,307 new worshippers in 1985, bringing its total to 7,688. Pastor Tommy Barnett cites a bus ministry and newly-completed 7,000-seat sanctuary as factors in his church’s rapid growth.

The study found that in a list of the fastest-growing churches in each of the 50 states, 32 were Assemblies of God congregations. This marks the first time Assemblies of God churches have outstripped Baptist congregations in growth, said Towns.

NEW ZEALANDER SENTENCED FOR HURTING RELIGIOUS FEELINGS OF MUSLIM

KAJANG, Malaysia (EP)—New Zealander Grant Terrance Nesdale, 28, was sentenced to a day’s jail term and fined \$1,000 Malaysian (about \$390 U.S.) for wounding the religious feelings of a Muslim, according to Dan Wooding, chief correspondent of the Open Doors News Service.

Nesdale was associated with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) and was in the country as part of the YWAM missionary training program.

Fellow New Zealander Julian Mary Miessen, 27, who is also with YWAM, was acquitted. She had been charged with showing her approval by nodding and smiling when Nesdale committed the alleged offense.

The court found Nesdale guilty of allegedly saying, “Your Islam is not original,” “Your Quaran is not true,” and “Prophet Mohammed is not true,” with the deliberate intention of wounding the religious feelings of businessman Mohamad bin Mahmood. Nesdale was said to have committed the offense in front of Modhamad’s house. The charges carry a maximum sentence of a year in jail, or a fine, or both.

In acquitting Miessen, a church receptionist, Magistrate Naim Darwish said he was satisfied that the defense had cast a reasonable doubt on the prosecution’s case.

Nesdale paid the fine and served out his one-day sentence by sitting in the courtroom for one hour, which under Malaysian law is considered adequate.

This was the first time the law against hurting the religious feelings of an individual has been tested in Malaysia, where more than half of the 16 million people are Muslims. Observers believe this test case is part of a toughening of attitudes in Malaysia as part of the “Islamization” of the country. ■



Contact through Contact



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

Did you know that *Contact* is the official publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptists? It's true—the 32-page magazine that's mailed to about 8,000 subscribers 12 times a year became the official denominational monthly in 1953. *Contact* is one ministry of the Executive Office.

Complimentary copies go to pastors whose churches adopt the Church Family Plan, as well as to students at California Christian College, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Hillsdale FWB College and Southeastern FWB College during the academic school year.

The choice is yours. *Contact* offers readers three annual subscription rates: Church Family Plan (\$7.50), Bundle Plan (\$8.00) or individual subscription (\$9.00).

While format changes occur from time to time, the focus remains the same. *Contact* keeps readers informed about issues discussed in the Christian community, especially in Free Will Baptist homes. The magazine preserves the thoughts of this generation, and that includes the heritage, history, particular customs, traditions, beliefs and practices of Free Will Baptists.

The Objectives

The magazine's objectives are clear, concise and consistent. Each issue contains something for the entire Free Will Baptist family.

Inspiration. The magazine is designed to inspire believers in their daily walk, spiritual development and

growth. It challenges readers to personal involvement in the kingdom's work.

Information. The magazine informs the constituency regarding denominational events, people, churches, activities, accomplishments and outreach. On a limited basis it addresses happenings in the broader religious world.

Beginning with the January 1987 issue, each Free Will Baptist national agency will have a monthly page in *Contact*. This is a giant step forward in fulfilling the objectives to provide information. We're pleased to cooperate with other national ministries in this effort to better demonstrate the National Association at work.

Indoctrination. Don't be afraid of the term. We use it in the best sense of the word. *Contact* aims to impart spiritual truths based upon the Word of God. In particular it presents those biblical truths as believed and interpreted by Free Will Baptists.

We recognize that not all members of the Body of Christ belong to a Free Will Baptist church. At the same time, however, we never ignore our distinctives.

Issues. We give prayerful, thoughtful attention to contemporary issues within society in order to help readers gain a world view. *Contact* offers constructive, objective answers from a biblical point of view. We want our readers to stay informed so they can make sound, scriptural judgments.

Influence. By presenting articles in a positive manner the magazine stimulates thinking and broadens perspectives. It helps readers think objectively about the great doctrines, about issues and problems where there is difference of opinion. We work hard to avoid bias and prejudice. We neither slant the facts nor print half-truths. We constantly seek balance in our articles.

The Opportunities

Contact has an unparalleled opportunity to provide regular information from all national ministries under the new format. The magazine can also promote the programs of the National Association.

Then there's the opportunity to instruct the Free Will Baptist constituency in matters relating to denominational distinctives, doctrine and practice. The chance to present the issues of our time, the opportunity to publicize new methods and means of outreach.

We strive for excellence. We believe that every Free Will Baptist needs to read *Contact*. It's the historical record of what has happened, is happening and will happen among Free Will Baptists.

Stay in contact through *Contact*. Subscribe today! ■

Secretary's Schedule

Jan. 13-16	Convention Planning Trip Birmingham, Ala.
Jan. 20	CLRTV Board Meeting Chicago, Ill.
Jan. 21	Alabama Missions Conference
Jan. 27-30	RCMA Conference Long Beach, Calif.

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