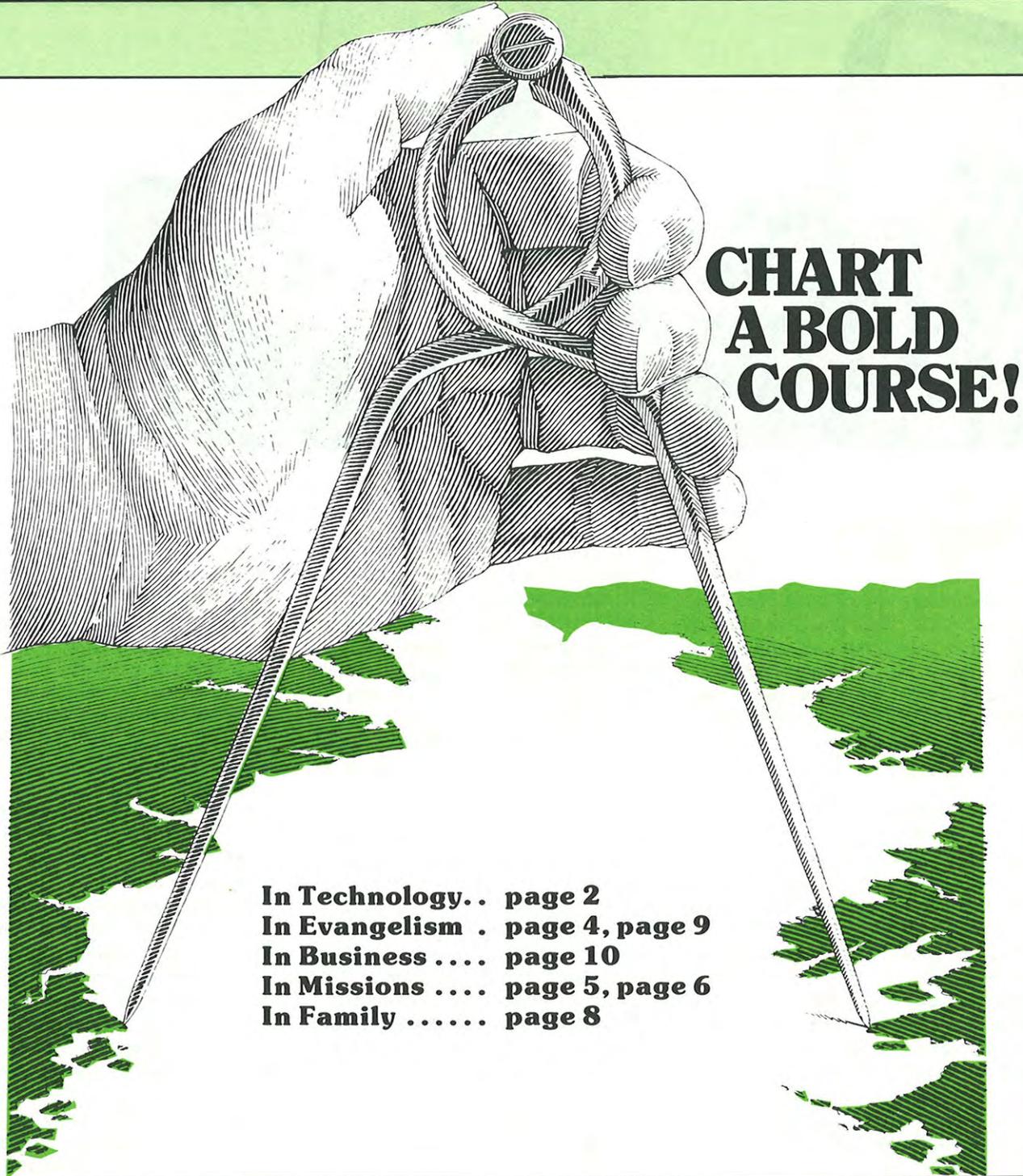


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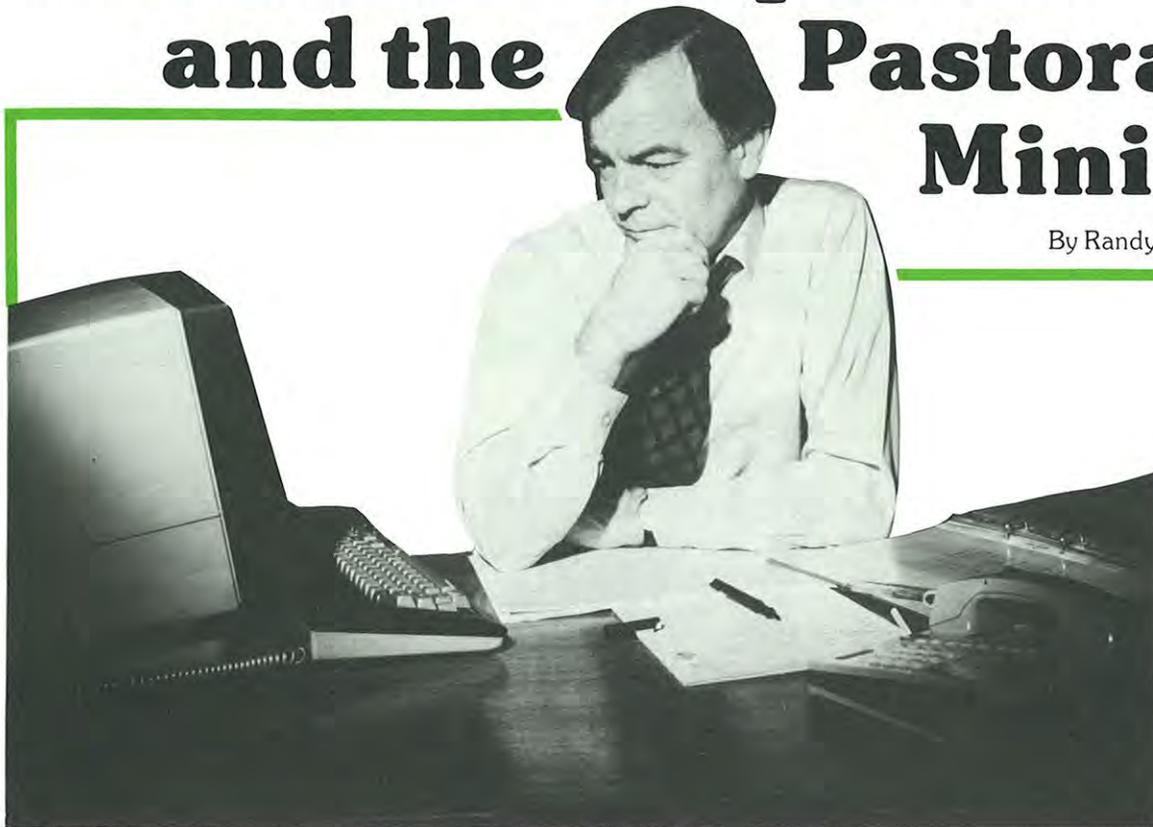


**CHART
A BOLD
COURSE!**

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Personal Computers and the Pastoral Ministry

By Randy Corn



H. Armstrong Roberts

We live in a computer age. If you place a long distance phone call, withdraw cash from an automatic teller or drive a recently-manufactured car, you use computers. They're all around us, and they're showing up in increasing numbers in church offices. The potential of these thinking machines is only limited by the imagination of their users.

Getting Started

Now wait a minute! I can almost hear someone saying, "All this stuff might be great for a pastor who was born speaking computer-ese, but I'm not technically minded. I wouldn't even know where to begin." You're off to a good start by reading this article.

Let me assure you that I'm no computer whiz, but as a pastor I've found my PC (personal computer) to be a time saver. In fact, I fondly refer to it as the secretary the church will never hire. Let me share some of the discoveries made along the road to computer literacy.

What It Can Do for You

Like most ministers I know, I'm not a world-class typist. Somehow I made it through Typing I in high school, but the experience did little for my self-confidence or my grade point average. The advantages of a word processor over a typewriter are roughly equivalent to the advantages of a Boeing 747 over a Fokker Triplane. The end product is the same, but the trip is quite different. A word processor allows you to type with no thought of when to return; it automatically does that for you. Once the information displays on the screen you can easily correct it.

For some time now there have been software programs that check spelling. More recent programs check grammar. The current "Cadillac" of word processing programs contains a thesaurus, a word counting function, a spelling and grammar checker, and a grade level tester! All this can aid in producing letter-perfect sermons, bulletins, newsletters and correspondence. You can even produce that scourge of the computer age, the form letter.

Another significant way the computer can aid the pastor is in information management.

When dealing with numbers an electronic spreadsheet can be helpful. This can be true of both income and expenditures. It's a fairly easy matter to record expenses in the computer form and allow it to figure where you are in terms of your church budget. The treasurer can use the spreadsheet to record giving, and at the press of a button have an annual giving report generated.

Most spreadsheets generate graphs from the numbers supplied. These charts can help you visualize where all the tithes and offerings went.

A computer spreadsheet allows you to play endless "what if" games with budget items. Suppose you choke on your morning coffee after reading that the local power company will raise their rates 12 percent next month. From records already stored, you can project what that means in terms of weekly giving.

"But, hey," you say, "I can easily do that with a calculator and a scratch pad." Yep, but add three or four other

variables to the equation and you'll have to put new batteries in that calculator. Sure, you can figure out all those things. The computer simply does them faster and without error.

When dealing with non-numeric information you can be aided by a computer software program called a database. It's exactly what the name infers, a way of storing and retrieving data or information.

Most ministers have filing cabinets in their offices to file items that may be needed or helpful in the future. But let's face it, most preachers have sorry filing systems—if we have one at all.

A database can allow you to file all your articles by a number code rather than by an alphabetical scheme. This results in less misfiling of articles and allows you to cross reference all items by subject, title, author, scripture passages cited, illustrations and publication. Any busy pastor can see how this increases the effectiveness of his files.

The PC allows you to index all those books of sermons the average preacher owns. After entering the information, simply ask the computer to scan all the subject entries to find everything you have on discipleship, soul winning or whatever. The same can be done with scripture passages or illustrations. Your people will think you have the memory of an elephant!

Another likely application for database would be to neatly file on disks all those records we generate in the average church. Our church has a computerized membership roll that allows us to generate mailing labels in a snap. One of the tasks we just added to our Sunday School superintendent's job is to enter attendance records into the computer.

We keep a computer record of all visitors and prospects. I can ask the computer to sort these by zip code to help in visitation. And speaking of visitation, a database can also be set up to record your pastoral calls so that you spread yourself around more evenly, or at least know where the clumps are.

Oh, did you know that a computer can produce personalized cards, note pads and even banners? I have a pastor friend who was not impressed at all by pastoral PC's until he saw one produce a personalized birthday card. It was like a light bulb flicked on over his

head. Folks are impressed by this sort of thing. Why not use it to your advantage in the ministry?

Church Software

We've discussed the basics of computer capabilities. They are word processing, databases and spreadsheets. Now comes the question of customizing all these to church needs or church software. These programs are designed to answer the most common questions pastors and parishioners ask about their church. Most of them integrate all three areas of computer capability. While they can be an effective management tool, there are drawbacks.

First, most of the best programs are designed for large churches, and mine is hardly large. Second, almost all of them are designed for IBM or IBM-compatible machines. This is great if you are a believer in Big Blue, but I happen to be a proud Mackintosh owner.

This introduces one of the codes of computerdom, "Software determines hardware." In other words, find the task you want performed, the program to achieve it, and then buy the machine to run it. I learned this law through expensive experience.

Third, most integrated packages are pretty well described in the old adage, "A Jack of all trades and a master of none." Why not buy a really good database that you customize to your own needs? The same is true of the other two areas. By the way, this is usually a more economical route as well.

The Down Side

Obviously, I'm sold on the pastoral use of personal computers. It's also obvious that I'm in the minority. Let's consider some of the objections.

About a year ago I was invited to talk to a homiletics class at Free Will Baptist Bible College about computers. After I shared with the class what I've done we had a question and answer time. One of our exchanges was about cost. Some students, along with most pastors I know, simply see computers as too expensive. True, they aren't cheap, but when you consider the amount of work they can do, I believe they're cost-effective.

Another factor to consider is that, just like with hand-held calculators or

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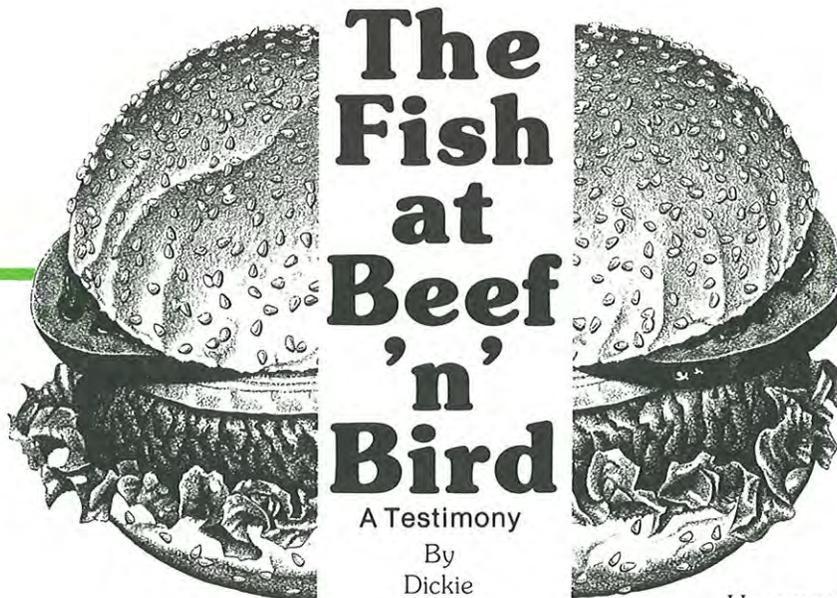
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The Fish at Beef 'n' Bird

A Testimony

By
Dickie
Anderson

A group of men from Free Will Baptist Bible College drove to Georgia last fall to preach in a number of churches.

Although I'm not called to preach, I felt impressed of the Lord to go with them. It was great! I spoke in a church Sunday morning and evening; however, I was disappointed when no one responded to the invitations. But the verse, "Knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" kept running through my mind.

On the bus, returning to Nashville, we shared our experiences. Several men had seen people walk the aisles for Jesus. This only made me all the more depressed at my lack of fruit. After sharing the blessings, everyone settled down to rest for the long trip home.

Two days later, in chapel, we shared our experiences with the entire student body. I testified too, even about my disappointment at having no decisions in my services.

Soon after that, I left the campus one afternoon, hungry, and decided to drive to the Beef 'n' Bird, a fast-food restaurant. As I drove down Church Street, a traffic light stopped me. While I waited for it to turn green, a ragged old man approached my window.

"Hey, you," he said. "Think you could carry me to Beef 'n' Bird to get me something to eat?"

I'm not inclined to pick up strangers, but I noticed that he named the restaurant he wanted me to take him to. He didn't say Wendy's, McDonald's or any of a score of others. In spite of my misgivings, I unlocked my door and invited him in. I had the feeling that the Lord had sent him to me. After all, no one

had been saved on my trip to Georgia. Maybe he was my "fish."

After we went through the drive-in and got our food, I parked and asked the man if he minded if I asked the blessing. After praying, I began witnessing to him. When I asked him if he would go to hell if he died, tears puddled in his eyes.

"I don't want to go to hell," he said.

"You don't have to," I replied. "Jesus loves a poor man just as much as He loves a rich man. Do you mind if I show you in my Bible how you can be saved and go to heaven?"

Computers ... (from page 3)

digital watches, prices are falling. An Apple II that sold for \$2,500 five years ago now costs \$1,500 and has been significantly improved.

Simply put, today you get more computer for less money. That very truth, however, has stopped some folks from buying. "If the price has dropped that much in five years," they ponder, "perhaps it will drop another \$1,000 in the next five years." If you follow that line of reasoning, in just 10 years Apple should be paying folks \$500 to take machines off their hands. Waiting for lower prices or technical improvements is a good way to keep yourself from owning a computer. Go ahead and take the plunge.

Other students wondered if they could master the use of the machine. Would they be able to get all the good out of it without a degree in computer science? Admittedly, some machines

He agreed, so we looked at some verses together while I gave him the plan of salvation. Then I asked him to pray. First I prayed, then I asked him to pray the sinner's prayer.

Afterward, he had a few questions, which I tried to answer by showing him verses from the Bible. How thrilled I was that God gave me the privilege of leading this man to Christ.

God taught me that although I saw no decisions on the trip to Georgia, He had someone waiting for me back in Nashville!

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dickie Anderson is a sophomore at Free Will Baptist Bible College, a graduate of Pioneer Christian Academy in Nashville, and a member of New Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Joelton.

are more difficult to operate than others. Some instruction manuals for software are only slightly more readable than *pig latin*. But there are computers which are "user friendly." Like the phrase implies, they are easy to get along with.

The biggest obstacle most students saw was how to get all the information into the computer in the first place. When you consider the mass of information involved it can be discouraging. In my case, I've enlisted volunteer aid to help compile the material. That approach, coupled with the fact that you aren't going to try to get all of it done before next Tuesday, makes it possible. The time to begin is as early in your ministry as possible, and you can't get any earlier than right now.

Why not ride the crest of the high-tech wave into the 1990's?

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Randy Corn pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Savannah, Georgia.

Briefcase



Commission: Valley of the Sun

When it comes to home missions work, you can throw out the storybook beginning. The yellow brick road's closed for repairs. It's one detour after another until you arrive at Grandma's house only to discover that the wolf got there first. Few things happen the way the manual promises.

That's home missions, all work and no glamor. The glamor missionary's usually stationed in some exotic-sounding village far, far away. People don't get excited about a missionary to New Orleans or Los Angeles or New York. Why, my Uncle Harry lives there.

The home missionary hits the same non-Christian resistance as the foreign missionary. He knows it'll take a miracle to win the misled in San Francisco, the uninformed in Chicago or the town drunk in Shreveport. Sin does the same damage to men whether it's Africa or Arizona.

Meet Howard and Patsy—missionaries to the Phoenix, Arizona, area. Someone set the Gwartney's December commissioning service for a Wednesday night in Nashville. Anything go wrong, you ask? Of course.

For starters, it rained all day and night. Not a pretty rain, mind you, but a grey, depressing downpour. The kind that routinely dogs the missionary's trail. In every missionary life, a lot of rain must fall. Better to learn it now.

Then, Patsy's grandfather had major surgery the same day as the commis-

sioning. And Patsy's dad, Home Missions Director Roy Thomas, got fogged in at the Salt Lake City airport and missed one of the most important days in his daughter's life. But that's home missions for you. Sometimes loved ones miss those special moments.

I watched them that Wednesday—Patsy so serious, Howard introspective as the public commissioning drew nearer. I heard their two spunky daughters (ages 5 and 7) bounce up and down the office steps. Outside a cold rain fell. The fog didn't lift in Salt Lake City. And somewhere, a physician's knife cut.

But rain or shine, surgery or no, father or fog, the commissioning service moved forward. That's typical. Ask any home missionary. They work when it's convenient and when it's inconvenient. Better to learn that now than later in Arizona when friends stand four states and 1,500 miles distant.

I tracked Howard and Patsy to Woodbine FWB Church, arriving 15 minutes early. A smiling usher handed me a typed program as I stepped inside the 600-seat auditorium. I wondered how many months they'd labor in the Valley of the Sun with no place to worship and no trained usher to distribute the bulletin. That's home missions—seldom what people expect, often what they wish it wasn't.

You'd think the whole town would turn out to bid a missionary family God speed. Not so! There were plenty of vacant seats. That's home missions work—empty seats, few people and a long, long road. Only the God-called better try it.

Then the service began. Music? Fittingly enough, the Booster

Band kicked things off and struggled through some Christmas carols. I asked myself how long Howard would preach before he won a Booster Band in the Phoenix area. Would our people here pray like they ought? And give faithfully?

Patsy attended junior high and high school in a Nashville suburb. Even back then, God had His hand on her, growing a home missionary just eight miles from the Free Will Baptist National Offices.

Some old songs, an offering, cor-sages for Patsy and the girls, a warm sermon, a commissioning prayer—and it was done. Ninety minutes. Done, did I say? Perhaps, it's just begun. Tomorrow, they load and leave for the great American West.

We'll read about them in newsletters now. They'll write about the new converts, the hundreds of doors knocked, the building project, the heavy financial load—all part of the home missionary saga.

Howard and Patsy will cry most of their tears alone. They'll do the counseling, the teaching, the witnessing. But our prayers will open their doors, our dollars pay their rent, our love encourage them to stay when things get tough. That's home missions.

Oh, by the way, Howard and Patsy, about 5,000 of us are coming for Sunday dinner on July 15, 1990. That's when the National Association meets in Phoenix.

You kids take the next 42 months to train that usher and grow a Booster Band. Here's our prayers, our love and our dollars. Invest them wisely. And build us a Free Will Baptist Church in Mesa, Arizona.

Why I'm a Missionary

By Patsy Gwartney

Thankful! That's what I am. I'm thankful to be a home missionary to Mesa, Arizona. As I look back on my life, I realize that it was no accident I became a missionary. There was a deliberate effort by my parents to bring me to this point in my life.

I was raised in a family involved in home missions ever since I can remember. When I was five, our family moved to Denver, Colorado, where we started the first Free Will Baptist church in the state. Those happy, exciting years built upon four main foundation stones in the lives of my brother and me to equip us for full-time Christian service.

Salvation

The first stone was a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Our parents lived a consistent Christian life before

us. They never "got over" how the Lord saved them and the joy He brought into their lives. They communicated this joy to us and gave us a hunger for salvation and for the things of God.

We spent many hours sitting around the piano singing gospel songs. They loved the ministry and tried hard to instill a love for the ministry and the laity of the church.

They never expressed bitterness or resentment toward the people of our church. We were taught that being in the ministry was a privilege. We were not constantly reminded about the "dark side" of the ministry. We never felt financially deprived or that we were missing out on life because Daddy was a preacher.

Denomination

The second thing our parents tried to instill was a deep love for the Free Will Baptist denomination. Whenever a discussion arose about the faults and failures of Free Will Baptists or when we were disappointed in something a fellow Free Will Baptist did, they encouraged us to look beyond the situation and keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus.

Yet, there was always a deep concern for our denomination. We were taught that it was a privilege to attend a Free Will Baptist church. We wanted to invest our lives in accomplishing the Lord's work through the Free Will Baptist denomination. We were taught a sense of loyalty to this group. They'd brought us the gospel and we owed a great debt!

Sense of Humor

A third quality that's been of great use to me through the years was the cultivation of a sense of humor. No matter how bad things seemed, no matter how dark the situation, we always saw our parents laugh and talk about the good side of things. We learned to joke and tease each other.

Since I was a child, when things would be at their worst, I've been able to reach into the resources that our parents gave us and see that God is in control of everything. We learned to be flexible and to fit into any situation that might arise.

When I was a teenager, we moved to Nashville and began working for the National Home Missions Department. We went with Daddy many times for services in our Free Will Baptist



churches. We learned to love all different kinds of people and to keep a pleasant outlook on life.

Soul Winning

The most important stone our parents placed in our lives was that of soul winning. We learned early in life to have a burden for lost people. We would pray for lost relatives and friends who did not know Jesus as Savior. As we grew older, we were taught to share Jesus with others everywhere we went.

We were taught to cultivate the talents and abilities the Lord gave us, to use them in service for Him. Our interests were steered toward the things of God. We were told that the more a person could learn about the Bible and the good things of life, the more he could use these things to win other people to the Lord.

As we anticipate establishing a self-supporting Free Will Baptist church in Mesa, I thank God for my rich heritage. If discouragement, disappointment and trouble come, I believe the foundation upon which our lives have been built will help me keep my eyes on the Lord and what He has in store for us.

I want my children to be raised with the values and family closeness that we experienced as children. I want them to know that it's a blessed privilege to be a Christian, to be a preacher's kid and to be a home missionary. May God help us impart these truths to the people of Mesa, Arizona.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Patsy (Mrs. Howard) Gwartney and her husband are Free Will Baptist home missionaries to Mesa, Arizona. Patsy is the daughter of Roy Thomas, director of the Home Missions Department.



By Joy Simpkins

Hurt feelings. Rejection. Losses. Overlooked. Unappreciated. Sound familiar? That's how the list of emotional pain starts day after day. We don't care to be reminded that something in this day will probably cause us great hurt.

We know the end result if we allow pain to fester inside and infect us. We find ourselves hating the world as the resident grouch-of-the-month. We gripe; we complain; we resent; we plot how to get even.

Frequently we take our frustrations out on innocent bystanders who happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. And have you ever noticed how contagious we are? That sweet family member, co-worker or associate gets downright nasty just after we do. Grouchiness spreads quickly.

Does pain have a good side? Believe it or not, emotional pain can be good. Think about it. Why do we hurt? Because we can feel. Hurt can't be all bad if it shows us that we still have compassion and that we aren't hardened or calloused.

What do we do when we hurt? We lean on God. We realize, as Christians, (even though it may take a while) that God is the only one who can heal our hurts. If we turned to God immediately, we could save ourselves even further pain and disappointment.

That's a lesson hard to learn. Think back and recall the times when you felt the closest to God. It was probably when you felt the most defeated and rejected and in desperation turned it over to God. What peace!

What can hurt lead to? *Change*. And change, if done right, can be good. Hurt, if handled in Christian maturity and love, can go to a brother or sister and say, "This is bothering me. Am I justified and if so, what can we do *together* to change it?"

Hurt can bring a change in our inner, spiritual lives. The kicks and knocks of life result in a tough wisdom—in dealing with people, being sensitive to needs and helping mend other's hurts.

If we're willing to learn from our hurts and what God can teach us through circumstances, we'll rise above resentment, anger and jealousy.

Don't let life's hurts harden your heart. There's no limit to what God can do with your disappointments. Be ready.

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

The Budget

By M. J. Pritchard

Father,

Help me cope with costs that rise higher, faster than my salary. Let me find good bargains, budget and spend my money wisely.

I need Your wisdom, Lord. I can't do it alone. When I check the figures, I panic and sink in despair. Help me not to be bitter; don't let me get uptight. I know You can help me overcome, override this unending problem.

Thank You for the victory I'm going to experience in this matter of finances with Your help. Thank you for the peace you give. I love you, Father.

Amen

Family

Fun Night



By Sandra Atwood

Thud! Goliath (Daddy) hits the ground. David (Jared) runs to cut off his head with the sword (wooden spoon). The army (Nathan, Justin and me—Mother) cheer. This is a typical Friday evening scene as we act out Bible stories. (Noah's Ark runs a close second to David and Goliath.)

One thing I learned about children (after I had some of my own) is that they need lots of love and attention. Don't give them any for a few days and you'll be amazed at the trouble they can get into. Each of us needs to know that we are special to someone and loved.

Living in a society which is grasping for things, it's easy for Christians to become confused and think that we need to give our children more and more things. They don't need more things, they need us—parents who love them and listen to them. Sounds simple doesn't it? Actually, it's time-consuming and difficult. Sometimes it's easier to give them things to occupy their time rather than give ourselves.

As an adult who remembers special memories from childhood, I am motivated to do the same for my children. It's not the gifts or toys that I remember; it's the time we spent together. Time spent having a picnic, watching a Thanksgiving Day parade, making cookies, playing ball, giggling with a sib-

ling late at night until a parent threatens to hang you at noon.

Many good memories are built through just being together. But as a busy parent I find myself needing special designated times. Not only do they force me to give the needed attention, but they allow our children a chance to look forward to a time of undivided attention. That's why we chose Friday night as our "Family Fun Night."

Friday night belongs to our children. We give them a big say in what we do. They love to be involved in the planning. There's just one rule—it has to be something we all enjoy and something we do together.

We start the evening with a meal we all enjoy, no broccoli or spinach on Friday. At our house it usually turns out to be pizza. The children take turns choosing, planning and even cooking the meal. Festive napkins and paper plates simplify clean-up.

It has been our experience that it's not so much what we do but the fact that we do it together. One of the favorite evenings for our 6-year-old Jared is for the whole family to cuddle under blankets on the couch while Daddy reads or tells stories by candlelight. We

don't turn on the tv unless there's a special program—tv seems to inhibit conversation rather than encourage it.

We try to build special times into our family night. On one anniversary we dressed up and had a candlelight dinner complete with china and crystal. We told the children about how we met, our engagement, the ceremony and then we reaffirmed our commitment to each other.

Our children enjoy hearing stories of when we were children, especially the wild antics of aunts and uncles. They also love hearing stories about when they were younger. On a recent Friday night we showed old home movies. We watched Jared make snow angels, Nathan smear cake all over himself, and baby Justin eat the wrapping paper on Christmas day.

A family fun night provides an opportunity for a family to serve others. One night a month could be set aside to plan projects and ways to help others. One year we planned a birthday party for Jesus and invited the neighborhood children to hear the real story of Christmas.

Take a trip to a nursing home. Do volunteer work at your church. Visit a sick neighbor. Bake cookies and take to

Uncle Joe—Meet the Master

By Dennis Carter

Two years ago, I was married, living in Columbia, South Carolina, and unsaved.

I'd never experimented with drugs until one night when some of my friends who used drugs offered me marijuana. I tried it and liked it. I began using it more and more. In addition to drinking and smoking pot with my friends, I also ran around with my Uncle Joe. My drug habit grew, costing \$400-\$700 per month.

Other changes took place, too. My job productivity began to fall off and my relationship with my wife, Janie, was falling apart. At the same time, I became more and more disgusted with myself.

One night, after going out with my friends, I came home and found a note from Janie. She said she could not live with me anymore because of what I had become in the year since I started to use drugs. I didn't blame her for leaving me. I knew what I'd become.

I began calling people who might know where she was, hoping to find her. I wanted to try to patch things up and get back together, but no one knew where she was.

Eventually, Janie called me from Florence, South Carolina. She had gone to live with her Aunt Diane, who was a Christian and a member of the

Peace Free Will Baptist church. I was glad for a second chance when Janie asked me to come to Florence. After talking things over, I decided to leave my friends in Columbia and try to make a new start in Florence. Janie's Aunt Diane let us move in with her until we could get on our feet.

The first Thursday night we were there, the pastor of the Free Will Baptist church, Danny Keen, came by on visitation. He told me about Jesus—that He loved me and wanted to save me. I really wasn't interested. My heart was hard: Jesus was the last thing on my mind.

After talking to me, the preacher stood to leave. I was glad to see him go. But when he put out his hand toward the door, I felt something grip my heart. Suddenly, I began to cry. Before I knew it, I was asking the preacher to pray for me. In just a few minutes I was saved!

Two months later, February 1986, God called me to preach.

I heard about Free Will Baptist Bible College and felt that God wanted me to go to Nashville to prepare to preach. My wife and I sold everything we could, gave away the rest, and moved to Nashville with our clothes and \$200! (The Lord has provided for us ever since.)

When I came to Nashville, I knew that Uncle Joe had cancer. Word



reached me that he was critical and probably would not live long. He was more than a relative to me; he was a friend, and I could not bear the thought that he would die without Jesus.

I wrote to my mother and enclosed a list of verses I'd learned in Evangelism class. I asked her to take them to the hospital and give them to Uncle Joe. She called me a few days later and said that she could not do it. He was weak, she said, and cried much of the time.

That Wednesday night, I felt the Lord telling me to call the hospital and witness to Uncle Joe. When I reached his room, they told me he was too weak to talk to me. I asked them to tell Uncle Joe who was calling. In a few moments I heard his voice and began to witness to him.

At first he began to make excuses, so I told him that, without Jesus, he would go to hell if he died the way he was. Then I heard him begin to cry. In just a few minutes, Uncle Joe gave his heart to the Lord!

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dennis Carter, 24, is a freshman at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Since his conversion, Mr. Carter has contacted his Roman Catholic father whom he has never seen, and witnessed to him.

a shut-in. Rake leaves for an elderly person. Distribute tracts at a nearby shopping center. Children have wonderful ideas. Encourage them.

It's sometimes surprising to discover that children enjoy the simplest things. You don't have to spend any money to read good books, listen to music or play games together. Our boys love wrestling on the floor with their dad. The activities may change depending on the ages of your children.

There are many resources and ideas available for the family now. (Some are listed below.) I don't believe it's for lack of ideas that we don't spend valuable time with our children, but rather the lack of commitment. If we want our children to look back on their childhood

with pleasant memories, we have to be willing to take the time to make those memories with them!

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Sandra Atwood is a member of Free Will Baptist Church, New Castle, Delaware.

Business and Ministry of the Christian Bookstore

By Ray Martin



After World War II, many new types of businesses came into existence. One of them was the Christian bookstore. Before the war there were a few stores such as Baptist bookstores, Cokesbury bookstores, Berean bookstores and others owned by denominations or publishing companies. There were also some individually-owned stores scattered across the United States. Some secular stores stocked Bibles and a few Christian books like they do today. As late as the mid-1950's there were only two Christian bookstores in the Oklahoma City area.

The Business Side

In June 1950 a few Christian book publishers and Christian bookstore owners met in Chicago for a convention. They subsequently formed the Christian Booksellers Association (CBA). The convention attracted 279 booksellers and 48 exhibitors. In July 1986 the Christian Booksellers Convention which met in Washington, D.C.,

registered 9,600 with more than 350 exhibitors.

The CBA listed 724 member stores in 1965. In contrast, at the end of 1986 more than 3,000 stores (plus hundreds of unaffiliated stores) swelled the CBA ranks. The average gross sales for CBA member stores in 1970 was \$46,300. In 1985 average gross sales topped \$235,000 per store.

Free Will Baptists are not left out of this vast industry of bookstores. In 1958 the Oklahoma executive secretary, the late Rev. E. M. Kennedy, started the Oklahoma Free Will Baptist Bookstore in his home. He hauled Bibles and books to quarterly meetings and associations. By 1960 the store purchased property at its present location, 4801 South Walker in Oklahoma City. As far as I know, this is the oldest state-owned bookstore in the denomination.

Now other states have their own bookstores. Arkansas: Christian Supply Bookstore in Conway; Georgia: Christian Supply Bookstore in Moultrie; Missouri: Lebanon Bible Bookstore in

Lebanon; North Carolina: The Bible Bookstore in Durham; Ohio: Ambassador Bookstore in Columbus; Kentucky: the Master's Miracle Bookstore in Inez; and Randall Bookstore in Nashville, Tennessee, operated by Randall House Publications. In addition, a number of Free Will Baptist ministers and laymen operate their own bookstores.

In the early 1970's various Bible translations and a number of new books appeared on the best sellers list. This encouraged many people to enter the Christian bookstore business. However, because some were underfinanced they were unable to stay in business. Remember, this is a business as well as a ministry.

The Ministry Side

I think the Christian bookstore is a ministry. It serves the churches with Sunday School and Vacation Bible School curriculum. Many young people accept Christ through the Sunday School or Vacation Bible School.

The Christian bookstore also serves teachers with a vast array of teaching aids, books and supplies. It serves minister and layman alike with reference books and commentaries. However, the greatest book in the bookstore is the Bible. (I have a plaque by the Bible section that says, "The Bible is not only the world's best-seller, it is man's best purchase.")

I believe that God calls people to serve in Christian bookstores, just as He calls pastors or missionaries to serve in churches or on mission fields. As Christians, we're admonished by His Word to be co-laborers with Him. As booksellers, we serve by placing the right book in the



Church in Action

By Louis Nettleton



What's the purpose of the local church? What's the ministry of individual believers, and how can we accomplish what God wants us to do? These questions or our inability to answer them will decide whether our churches grow or die.

Through the years, the church has changed its methods of evangelizing. In America, we went from home churches to circuit-riding preachers to Sunday School, and now we're in the era of big-day evangelism and the "super church."

The Bible is quite easy to understand when we consider the call and command of evangelism. God calls us to reach the world with His message of saving grace. But amid all the church's programs and concepts, which one is best and will work for us?

Sometimes things get so confusing that we throw up our hands and quit. Sometimes we grab the easiest and fastest way to accomplish the task. At times we simply do what someone else has done; we adopt their plan regardless of whether it fits our church.

What we should do, of course, is seek God's direction. On the other hand, some churches coast, satisfied to maintain their small congregation. After all, it's easier to do nothing than to attempt something. "Stagnant Christians," if such people exist, demand far less than a bevy of overly enthusiastic new converts willing to do anything to glorify God.

An alarming fact is that for the most part, our churches are small. Another alarming fact about churches across America is that only four percent of their membership gets involved in local ministry, leaving 96 percent warming pews. What a waste.

Have we ventured so far that we no longer see what the Bible says about our goals in ministry, or do we con-

sider the Bible too outdated to fit with our modern worship methods? The Bible method works as well today as it ever did.

We must evaluate what our churches do to see if they're fruitful. Many churches are so mindset in tradition that they begin to worship the program by giving it artificial life; never mind that the program may be unfruitful. Whether it be traditional standbys such as Sunday School, CTS, youth programs, visitation, etc., every program must be fruitful.

When churches find that no fruit is produced through certain programs, some resort to "Big Day" concepts and promotions. While this works for some, others make "Big Days" and promotions acts of sensationalism. Evangelism is not "one size fits all,"



hands of our customers at the right time.

God uses all types of books to reach, touch, inspire and change the hearts of His people. God also uses talented and dedicated booksellers to share the value of Christian literature with others. We who serve in Christian bookstores must love books, have incentive to learn, not be afraid of work, love people and put our whole heart into our ministry. Ours is a great responsibility!

The Apostle Paul gave instructions to young Timothy, advising him to give attention to reading, exhortation and doctrine (I Timothy 4:13). When we do our work diligently, we receive a great reward for a job well done (II Timothy 2:15).

The Christian bookseller should increase his knowledge and abilities in order to serve his customers. We should become experts in our vocation, able to tell customers about good books on subjects relevant to their needs. A book we recommend may be the answer for a customer going through a trial or valley experience.

In all the enterprises of Christian bookselling, the emphasis is not only on the power of the printed page, but also on the power of the ever-speaking Spirit.

We must remember our calling, that it is much better to serve others well than to expect others to serve us.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Ray Martin is completing 16 years as manager of the Oklahoma Free Will Baptist Bookstore. He has served in numerous capacities in Free Will Baptist churches for 44 years. He is a member of Southern Oaks Free Will Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where he serves as a deacon and Sunday School superintendent.

Action ... (from page 12)

and we should not feel guilty if we don't use these types programs to bring about success in our church.

The purpose of the church and individuals that make up the church is to share the good news of Jesus Christ and minister to the needs of people—both physically and spiritually. Jesus met physical and spiritual needs of men and women. He did not separate them. Since Jesus is our example, neither should we.

This is where we've failed to follow closely the program Jesus used with the apostles. The church today has allowed the secular world to take over the ministry that God intended for the church, such as providing for the elderly, feeding the hungry, meeting the needs of the poor, and providing for unwed mothers and the divorced.

When the local church stopped meeting the physical needs of its community, the church began to lose its influence upon society. To this day, the church is not considered when people seek help for their physical needs. Meeting physical needs draws people to the church so that the spiritual needs may be met by the Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of being concerned with only spiritual needs of mankind, we must learn to minister to the physical as well.

Most churches have only these types of ministries—the worship program, the Sunday School program, youth programs, Woman's Auxiliary, Master's Men, and possibly a visitation program. These programs are useful for maintaining our people, but we've failed to extend them to meet physical needs as well as spiritual.

The reason for this is that the few people we have who are eager to learn to be good disciples are tied up as board members, teachers and leaders, or they're simply used up by attending all the programs our church may sponsor. Some pastors measure success by how busy we keep our people. At times we keep them so busy with revivals, meetings, singings and seminars, as well as regular services that they have no time left to be effective disciples in the community.

Part of the church's ministry must be internal so that our people may be taught to have a mature walk with the

Lord Jesus Christ. But the greatest part of our ministry is external, reaching out to a society full of the leprous effects of sin. It's at this point that Jesus ministers to men and women, and it's also where we touch the physical and spiritual needs of mankind by the power of Christ.

But how can we get started? For the most part, our churches are too small to do everything that needs to be done. Even though we're small, however, we can begin with one simple ministry at a time as God directs. Then, as we can and as God directs, increase the ministries. The real challenge comes as we balance the ministry of the church with both internal and external ministries to meet the needs of people in and out of the local church.

Here's what we did at our church. To accomplish what God has put in our hearts, we eliminated some programs and downgraded others. One of the areas downgraded is Teen and Adult Sunday School classes. Both the Teen and Adult Departments meet together on Sunday morning from 10:30 to 12 noon. We've not forsaken teaching these individuals; we merely adapted a different approach.

The teaching of our teens and adults is vital. We accomplish this with our teens through the Teen Ministry on Sunday night. Adults get extra teaching weekly through home study groups. These home studies are evangelistic in effort as we try to reach our neighbors and friends with the gospel.

The Children's Department consists of a Nursery class and Beginners' class. The Primary and Junior classes make up our Children's Church. This enables us to reduce our staff while increasing the amount of teaching time for our children.

The ministry that takes place in adult worship is both that of exhortation and edification. The exhortation comes by ministering to each other through prayer, music and fellowship. We achieve edification by teaching and preaching God's Word. Then, on Sunday night, we also conduct a dual service.

The Teens (ages 12-18) receive in-depth training time to learn how to witness and how to walk the Christian walk. They become students of the Word, memorizing scripture and com-

peting as they learn. They're also involved in practical works about the community. It becomes a fruitful time for our teens.

During this same time slot, we also conduct evening worship. Again, the exhortation and edification process continues. We emphasize family values taught directly from God's Word.

On Wednesday night, we schedule Discipleship Training Class, focusing on four areas: lifestyle evangelism, daily walk, perseverance and leadership. Instead of assigning responsibilities within the church walls, we give our people responsibilities outside those walls where Jesus wants us—amidst the highways and hedges to rescue people from sin.

Our current outreach ministries include Rest Home Service, Woman's Auxiliary, Master's Men, Singles Ministry, Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, juvenile counseling and a Bible Institute. All are designed with ministry outreach in mind.

While training people, we pray that God will call us to more external ministries such as Crisis Pregnancy Centers, juvenile care, caring for the poor and needy, caring for the elderly, prison ministry, drug counseling, as well as many other possibilities. All these ministries will be accomplished by the leadership of God's call upon the people in the church.

Too many times our churches have appointed people to do a job they didn't feel they could handle. This reminds me of how the apostles selected Matthias. Later, God called the person He had in mind, Paul. What a difference God's call made in the life of Paul with respect to the ministry of Matthias.

In conclusion, we must consider the Word of God. It's time to return to biblical principles. This may take longer, but will have a lasting effect in building churches. The blessings of God come from obedience to Him.

Our church is building by the program Jesus used: God's call upon man. We teach and train people to get out of the pews, into the streets and minister to people of our community, both physically and spiritually. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Louis Nettleton pastors Greenfield Free Will Baptist Church, Greenfield, California.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL ENLARGEMENT SET

NASHVILLE, TN—The Randall House Spring Sunday School Enlargement Campaign will use theme material written by Jonathan Thigpen, manager of the editorial division. The March campaign launches a five-week "Bringing Forth Fruit" challenge, based on John 15:5.

During the campaign, Sunday Schools will be arranged in accordance with the following table for competitive purposes.

- 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 percentages 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.

Campaign materials are available from the Sunday School and Church Training Department. Churches may use the toll-free number 1-800/251-5762 to place orders. Tennessee customers call 1-800/624-6538.

REVEREND RALPH HAMPTON, SR., WITH THE LORD

SHAWNEE, OK—Funeral services for the Reverend Ralph Clayton Hampton, Sr., 71, were conducted December 29, 1986, at Westgate Free Will Baptist Church in Shawnee. Reverend Hampton died December 26 at Baptist Hospital in Oklahoma City.

The Reverends Jerry Dudley and Delbert Akin officiated. Both men pastored and were pastored by Reverend Hampton. The Oklahoma Ministers Quartet sang during the 2:00 p.m. service. Burial followed at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Brother Hampton was born March 13, 1915, in Blanchard, Okla. He married Lucille Jackson on Dec. 3, 1933, in Chickasha.

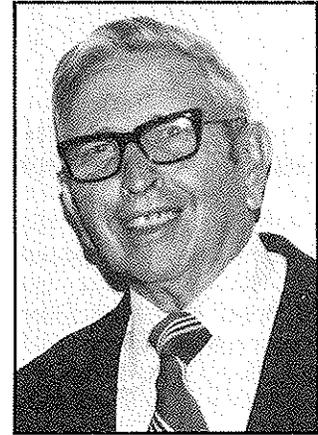
A retired Free Will Baptist minister, he was ordained on Oct. 29, 1938, at Iron Chapel Free Will Baptist Church near Blanchard.

The Reverend Hampton served 15 churches in a ministry spanning six decades. He pastored 10 churches in Oklahoma: Iron Chapel, Hawkins, Adkins, Bryant, Freeny, Earlsboro, Shawnee, Prague, Stigler and Non.

He also pastored in Denison, Texas; and Porterville, Modesto and Concord, Calif. He organized the North Modesto, Calif., church.

Hampton served five years as moderator of the California State Association of Free Will Baptists. Also, he traveled as that body's promotional secretary.

Brother Hampton held numerous posts in the district associations where he pastored. He was a member of Westgate Free Will Baptist Church, the Okla-



homa State Free Will Baptist Ministers Conference and an honorary member of the Free Will Baptist Bible College Alumni Association.

Reverend Hampton's three sons are ordained Free Will Baptist ministers. Reverend Ralph Hampton, Jr. serves as dean of the Graduate School at Free Will Baptist Bible College and assistant moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Dr. Charles Hampton is registrar at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Reverend Larry Hampton, now principal of Bethany Christian School in Norfolk, Va., previously served as adult editor at the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

Reverend Hampton was preceded in death by a fourth son, James Hampton.

Survivors, in addition to his three sons, include his wife Lucille of Shawnee; 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

HILLSDALE NAMES DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

MOORE, OK—Rev. Richard Terry was named director of development at Hillsdale FWB College, according to President Edwin Wade. Rev. Terry assumed his duties in December.

The new director of development brings 17 years of pastoral experience to the position. The last seven years he pastored Pryor FWB Church in Pryor, Okla.

He previously served on the Hillsdale Board of Trustees from Kansas, five years on the Oklahoma Board of Chris-

tian Education, president of the State Ministers Conference and clerk of the South Grand River Association. He is an alumnus of Hillsdale College.

In addition to denominational activities, Reverend Terry has been active in civic affairs, serving on the Pryor City Council, a member of the Rotary Club and active in the Pryor Ministerial Fellowship.

Richard and Thelma Terry have three sons: Richard (16), Michael (14) and Stephen (13).



TEXAS PASTOR TO COORDINATE MEXICAN WORK

NASHVILLE, TN—The Reverend James Munsey, pastor of Templo FWB Church, Weslaco, Texas, has been named Home Missionary Coordinator for Mexico, according to Home Missions Director, Roy Thomas. Rev. Munsey's primary task will be to coordinate the work of Mexican pastors and churches, to teach and motivate Mexican nationals to win their own people and build Free Will Baptist churches.

Reverend Thomas said, "Brother Munsey will work to help overcome the



language barrier between Mexican works and the Home Missions Department. He will have a ministry of encouragement and enlightenment for all the Free Will Baptist pastors in Mexico."

Mr. Munsey's duties include translating letters, reports and literature into Spanish. He will also prepare mailing lists, newsletters and official records for the Mexican churches.

In addition, he will travel among Free Will Baptist churches in the United States to promote prayer and financial support. He will assist the Home Missions Board with the employment of new national workers.

Thirty churches now comprise the Mexican Association. Reverend Munsey's liaison work will encourage unity and fellowship in the association.

OKLAHOMA CHURCH PLANS PASTORAL TRIBUTE

BROKEN ARROW, OK—Members at Bethany FWB Church, Broken Arrow, plan a March 1 farewell tribute to retiring pastor Reverend Ray Gwartney. The 65-year-old minister will complete nine years as pastor at Bethany Church this month.

Leaders on the tribute committee were quick to point out that "Brother Ray is not retiring but reloading to a country home near Locust Grove where he will stay active as a supply and interim minister."

For the past 35 years, Reverend Gwartney has pastored Oklahoma churches. His pastorates include Smith Chapel at Rose (1952-1955), Locust Grove (1955-1957), Bixby (1957-1961), Pryor (1961-1978) and Bethany (1978-1987).

Brother Gwartney served in numerous positions, including assistant moderator and moderator of South Grand River and Greater Tulsa Area Associations. For 14 years Pastor Gwartney has served on the Hillsdale FWB College Board of Trustees, the last seven as board chairman.

Born in Leach, Okla., Ray Gwartney graduated from high school in Locust Grove before serving a four-year hitch with the U.S. Army (1942-1946). He married Billye Burkett in 1943 and answered the call to preach in 1950 at the age of 28. He was ordained in 1952.

Ray and Billye Gwartney have two daughters, Mrs. Sherian Davis of Pryor; and Mrs. Brenda Allen of Allen, Texas.



Reverend Gwartney told church members that he wants to be remembered as a Free Will Baptist pastor who loved his people. He also said, "My pet peeve is folks who always find fault with the church."

Businessman Donald Wagner, a member of Bethany Church, said, "Before Brother Ray takes his final bow, he will be involved in many more acts for our Lord Jesus. You can rest assured that when the applause settles down, Reverend Ray Gwartney will have done his part."

The special tribute for Pastor Gwartney begins at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 1.

VIRGINIA CHURCH DEDICATES ADDITION

CHESAPEAKE, VA—Members of Great Bridge FWB Church, Chesapeake, Va., dedicated a 10,000-square-foot addition in October, according to Pastor Bobby Sebastian. The new addition includes classrooms, fellowship hall and a kitchen.

Pastor Sebastian said that 1986 marked the church's 10-year anniversary. The October dedication also featured the first annual homecoming activities. The day's events attracted 203 people.



**WORLD LITERATURE
CRUSADE TAPS FWB
MINISTER FOR VP POST**

CHATSWORTH, CA—Reverend Andy W. Lay, 45-year-old Free Will Baptist minister, was appointed executive vice president of World Literature Crusade, according to WLC officials at their Chatsworth, Calif., headquarters.

Rev. Lay, a 1963 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, joined World Literature Crusade in 1979 after pastoring Free Will Baptist churches 17 years in Tennessee and Missouri.

Mr. Lay previously served as Missouri's General Board Member, state clerk and editor of the *Free Will Baptist Gem*. He also served as a member of the Hillsdale FWB College Board of Trustees. Ordained to preach in 1958, Reverend Lay is a native of Greentop, Mo.

When he joined the WLC staff in 1979, Mr. Lay worked as a field representative in the Trust Services Department, assisting WLC supporters with their estate planning needs. In 1982, he was appointed director of the Trust Services Department and treasurer of World Literature Crusade.

Mr. Lay will now function as the administrative head of World Literature Crusade's U.S. operations. He travels



extensively throughout the United States as a guest speaker and represents WLC in missions conferences and fund-raising events.

Mr. Lay resides in Simi Valley, Calif., with his wife, Kathy Jo and their 14-year-old son, Jamie.

World Literature Crusade is a 40-year-old interdenominational missionary organization which currently sponsors Every Home Crusades (EHC) in 53 countries worldwide.

The Every Home Crusades are a cooperative effort of Bible-believing churches and mission organizations that systematically delivers two pieces of gospel literature to every home in a nation.

What Do You Bid?

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

I used to go to auctions in search of a bargain. When I'd buy, I'd often get something I really didn't need at a price I really couldn't afford.

The auctioneer was so good. It started so small and moved so fast that what looked like something for nothing turned out to be nothing for something. I went home with a lean checkbook and a train load of husks.

Satan is an auctioneer with no equal. He once got a young couple to sell their land and the souls of their children and children's children for a taste of bitter fruit. Yes, Adam and Eve left that auction with nothing but a bad case of aftertaste.

Satan still sells nothing for something. Listen to the auctioneer. "Yes, ma'am, everyone who's anyone has one! The bidding will start with a sacrifice of modesty. Do I hear respect for the pastor's teaching? Yes, I have added willingness to tempt others, a loss of personal testimony!

"You bought it, ma'am—this ticket is good for one tan and can be redeemed at any public pool or beach. (I like these because nobody listens to the preacher about them.) I sell them to Sunday School teachers and deacons' families; everybody buys them. Be sure to come back next summer." *Going Once.*

"Don't miss this! This ticket buys you sophistication. You'll learn how to seduce or be seduced. You'll learn how to lie, cheat, steal, swear, even kill. What are you offering? Pure minds, clean conscience, good testimony? Those are

good bids but not high enough. If I throw in an occasional glimpse of nudity, what will you say? Chastity! You've got it—redeem it at any theater, or better yet, a drive-in." *Going Twice.*

"I know that you're almost spent out. I've taken your modesty, your testimony, your pure minds, but don't go away! There are lots of people to put stumbling blocks before, and I've got rock music, dance tickets, popularity, worldly cares . . . *Going Three Times.*"

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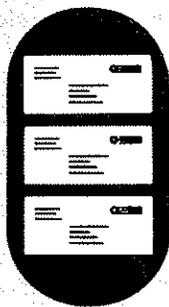
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OUR READERS COMMENT

PRAYER HELPS READER
 I look forward to getting *Contact* every month. "Here's My Heart" (December) and "Rescue Prayer" (January) by M. J. Pritchard really helped me.

Mrs. Edna Bland
 Hobgood, North Carolina

Pastor **Mircheal Jones** set the White Christmas offering goal at **Grace FWB Church, Lake City, SC**, at \$3,000. After the congregation responded with more than \$4,500, Pastor Jones said, "What a privilege to pastor people willing to sacrifice in order to advance the cause of Christ."

The newly-organized Youth Planning Committee at **Southern Oaks FWB Church, Oklahoma City, OK**, came together to meet growing demands of youth outreach, says Pastor James Puckett. The committee is staffed by 10 married couples and four teenagers.

Pastor **Brian Atwood** said it: "As always, God opened a door!" His observation came after the church made a down payment on 20 acres of prime city property on which to relocate. The **Emmanuel FWB Church, Wabash, IN**, had struggled with space problems and with neighbors hesitant to sell their property. After prayer, the Lord opened this door of opportunity.

Burglars broke a window and sneaked into the **Fellowship FWB Church, Antioch, TN**, over the Christmas holidays. They bashed in the door to the pastor's study searching for money, then stole a microwave oven and trashed several filing cabinets. (This happened six weeks before new pastor **Bill Gardner** arrived.)

Pastor **Allen Moore, North McAlester FWB Church, McAlester, OK**, reports a roaring men's prayer group. He said that about 25 men gather each Monday morning at 6:00 for prayer. The group began meeting in February 1986. With almost 190 in Sunday School as a result of the men's prayers and actions in the community, Pastor Moore said the biggest problem now is a lack of parking space.

Through efforts of **Ron Cloer**, a Circuit City outlet in **Nashville, TN**, donated a video cassette recorder to **Donelson FWB Church, Rob Morgan** pastors.

Nineteen preachers spoke during the New Year's watchnight service at **First FWB Church, Guin, AL**. Pastor **Richard Cordell** called it "the greatest preaching spectacular in all Alabama."

After an offering of almost \$13,000, members of **Victory FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC**, voted to proceed with a sanctuary renovation project. Pastor **George Lee** said the special offering was in addition to the regular Sunday offering of nearly \$2,000.

Canadian Free Will Baptists extended special recognition to **Laverne Hanson**, wife of Canadian Moderator **Fred Hanson**, for her work in the camping ministry. Officials presented a plaque to Mrs. Hanson in appreciation for her faithful service.

A publishing note of interest: **Rick Nash**, minister of Christian education at **Central FWB Church, Royal Oak, MI**, wrote five articles in the Prophecy Edition of the Open Bible published by the Thomas Nelson Company. The special Prophecy Edition has been in print for about a year.

Frank Breeden was named director of student support at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to President **Charles Thigpen**. The new position consolidates and coordinates the college's fund raising efforts. Mr. Breeden brings 10 years of promotional experience to his new position.

Pastor **Steve Trail** said that **Victory FWB Church, Pineville, LA**, celebrated its grand opening with guest speakers **Roy Thomas**, director of National Home Missions, and **David Joslin**, Arkansas promotional director. Pastor Trail said the \$60,000 construction project includes a chapel with baptistry, five Sunday School rooms, two offices and a day care.

The youth group at **Thompson Memorial FWB Church, Vineland, NJ**, raised more than \$160 for the Maryland State Home Missions project in a walk-a-thon. **Vergel Manness** pastors.

Pastor **Richard Atwood** says members of the **Free Will Baptist Church in New Castle, DE**, pledged more than \$10,000 to the Foreign Missions Advance program. The church also voted to give seven percent of its general income to the Cooperative Program. Atwood then said, "With the three percent that goes to the state association, we will now be tithing."

There's a new Master's Men chapter at **First FWB Church, Yakima, WA**. Pastor **Terry Stafford** said the new chapter began with eight charter members.

Pastor **Mike Mutchler** reports 22 conversions at **Grand View FWB Church,**

Oregon City, OR. He also confirmed, "If the zoning goes through, we will be purchasing 11.6 acres of land."

Members of **Victory FWB Church, East Wenatchee, WA**, purchased a 36-passenger bus to aid in church growth efforts. **Paul Wood** pastors.

Georgia Free Will Baptists did something special for the Target 90 push in the state. Executive Secretary **Herbert Waid** printed a two-page spread in the January issue of the *Georgia Promotional Bulletin* about Target 90. Georgia Free Will Baptists can now order visitation folders as well as state brochures to assist them.

California Executive Secretary **Nuel Brown** preached the 36th anniversary sermon at **Concord FWB Church, Concord, CA**. Pastor **Ron Wood** said 144 attended the anniversary celebration. That number included charter member **Pearl Huddleston**.

Immanuel FWB Church, Joliet, IL, hosted a teen lock-in, according to Pastor **David Potete. Lee Bryan** coordinated the event. Some 19 teenagers as well as adults from churches in the Northern Illinois Quarterly Meeting attended. Pastor Potete commended the work of **Vicki English** and **Helen Bryan** who oversee the church's new nursery ministry.

Pastor **Keith Perkins** reports five conversions and six baptisms at **Hillsboro FWB Church, Hillsboro, OH**.

Pastor **Delmar Marks** sends word of growth at **Espyville FWB Church, Marion, OH**. The growth includes four conversions, nine baptisms, six new members and four rededications.

The February 3-5 **Ohio** Minister-Layman Retreat met at Big Prairie using the theme, "How to build a growing, healthy Sunday School." Ohio Executive Secretary **Alton Loveless** said speakers included Dr. **Elmer Towns** and Dr. **Roger Reeds**. Towns is dean of the School of Religion at Liberty University. Reeds is general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

Pleasant Valley FWB Church, Pedro, OH, celebrated its 70th anniversary this year. **Meredith Settle** pastors.

Pastor **Paul Oppy** said members of **Bloom FWB Church, Wheelersburg, OH**, conducted the church's 75th year anniversary.

Sounds of praise ring out at **Pleasant Hill FWB Church, Delaware, OH**. Pastor **Lucien Baker** reports 24 rededications, five conversions and eight new members. The church also paid off the mortgage.

Pastor **Wylie Perkins** reports four baptisms and seven new members at **Samantha FWB Church, Leesburg, OH**. 

CONVENTION HOTELS

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MINI GRAMS

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

Roll Call Sunday Reflections and Projections

By John Gibbs

Roll Call Sunday is already three years old. Like a typical youngster it's finally able to take a few steps on its own. Roll Call Sunday is beginning to say some things. While the message is not as clear as it will be in the future, the information is valuable and enlightening. The past three years revealed some interesting facts.

For instance, we have the most accurate count of our churches we've ever amassed. Next, we have a base number on which to build. We know where we are so we can set our growth plans. Also, we've seen hundreds of pastors and churches work together in a denominational effort to reach one goal. This achievement fulfilled a missing element among Free Will Baptists.

On and on I could go as we look back on the first three years of Roll Call Sunday. Let me mention one more accomplishment brought about through this one special day. Across the country, hundreds of new people were invited to church, many came and many were saved. We are talking new souls won to Jesus, not just stastics found on a dusty membership roll.

Projecting Ahead

The date for Roll Call Sunday 1987 is March 29. To make it easy for everyone to remember, Roll Call Sunday will be the *last Sunday in March* each year.

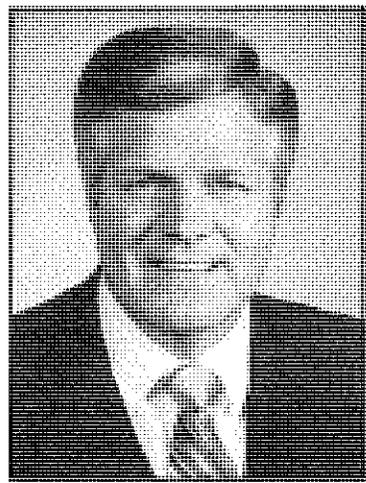
Attendance goal for 1987 is 227,000. In order to keep attendance figures uniform, pastors are asked to record their Sunday morning church attendance on March 29. This will answer a question

often asked during the first three years. "Should I count Sunday School or church attendance?" Please count church service attendance. Projections for Roll Call Sunday '87 also include the number saved on that day.

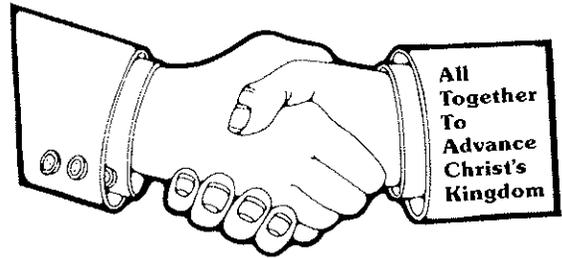
This year National Home Missions is working in conjunction with our Sunday School Enlargement Campaign. Pastors are urged to use the March "Bringing Forth Fruit" campaign for the Sundays prior to Roll Call Sunday, then conclude with a giant Victory Day. Materials for enlargement campaign can be ordered through the Sunday School Department.

Roll Call Sunday is a massive effort that has yielded positive fruit. How much fruit or how little fruit will be revealed when God takes His final roll call.

ROLL CALL SUNDAY MARCH 29, 1987. 



MASTER'S MANDATE



BUILDING TOGETHER...

...LIVES OF SACRIFICE

One hundred five laymen, 19 preachers and two new LifeFriends make up the present list of LifeMembers. Men sense the excitement of being with an organization advancing the cause of the Master.

A one-time deposit of \$100 guarantees LifeMember status. Some men choose to give on a time payment plan.

The funds received become a part of the LifeMember Endowment Trust. These funds generate interest used to supplement the General Fund. The principal amount is never used.

The list of LifeMembers included on this page show the newest additions.

TEXAS CHAPTER FIRST TO ENLIST ALL LIFEMEMBERS

The Eastside FWB Church Master's Men are the first in the denomination to have 100 percent LifeMembers. The men in Houston, Texas, worked together on a chapter project building shipping pallets.

The funds generated were divided equally three ways, with the first portion set aside for LifeMembership, and the other portions aiding a missions project and a work of their church.

Rev. E. R. Mayo was pastor when the men began this project. Now, Rev. Ned Graham is their pastor. Chapter President is Bob Welker.

Fourteen men have joined the ranks as LifeMembers from this church.

In Mississippi, another chapter has begun payments with the goal of all members becoming LifeMembers. First Free Will Baptist in Petal plans to use the time-payment method to achieve the goal.

Jerry Nicholson serves as president of the chapter. He issued a challenge to all the chapters in Mississippi to work toward 100 percent LifeMembership. The pastor is Rev. J. L. Gore. He was a Master's Men member when the Lord called him to preach.

ATTACK PRINTING SUSPENDED

The ATTACK magazine will not be printed in 1987. Master's Men Board suspended printing due to a drop in finances. In their December meeting, the Board discussed ways to economize department operations.

General Director Jim Vallance stated, "We will continue to produce monthly study lessons, probably in the form of packets. The packets will be mailed to the chapter presidents. I believe our people will help this year to reduce the financial crisis."

PASTOR LOCKLEAR RECEIVES ANONYMOUS GIFT

Woodhaven FWB Church in Michigan contains the largest chapter of Master's Men in our denomination this year with 55 members. Recently, pastor Loyd Locklear was presented a LifeMember certificate as an anonymous

gift from a friend. With the presentation he became LifeMember number 90.

Pastor Locklear has shown great interest in the men of his church. They volunteered nearly all the labor to construct the church facilities. The sanctuary seats over 600.

CALENDAR

April 23-25

Ninth Annual Master's Men Conference
Linden, Tenn.

Call for details: 1-615/361-MMEN

MEMORIAL GIFT RECEIVED

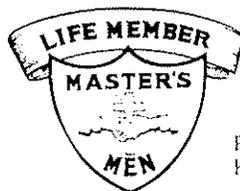
The Master's Men of First FWB Church, Sparta, Tenn., made a gift to the Master's Men Endowment Trust in memory of Mr. Sam Gay. Brother Gay was a deacon and active member of the Sparta church. His unexpected death in November was a loss to the family, church and denomination. This memorial gift will continue to aid the ministry of Master's Men until the Lord returns.

LAYMAN OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORMS AVAILABLE

Nomination forms for the Layman of the Year 1986 Award are available by writing or calling Master's Men Department. Forms are mailed to the pastors of the churches with Master's Men chapters. Nominations must be made by the pastor.

The deadline for entries is May 15.

BUILDING TOGETHER...



...LIVES OF SACRIFICE

Ryan Vallance, W.Va.
Jerry Lewis, Ark.
Jackie Neeley, Miss.
Michael Endebrock, Ill.
Paul Mayfield, Jr., Tenn.
Dirk A. Dent, Tenn.
Gene Castle, Mich.
Rev. Carlos Kelsey, Tenn.
Ralph Addington, Ariz.
Lee Merritt, Ga.
Butler Hall, N.C.
Tom Kemble, Ga.

Donald G. White, Ga.
James Prater, Mich.
Larry Phillips, Ark.
Justin Barnett, Ark.
Larry Sanders II, W.Va.
Larry R. Sanders, W.Va.
Rev. Wayne Bess, Tenn.
Horace Johnson, Ga.
Rev. J. L. Gore, Miss.
Keith Walkley, Tenn.
Ed Knight, Texas
Jim Yarbrough, Texas

Rev. Ned Graham, Texas
Kenneth Mayo, Texas
Jack Johnson, Texas
Bill Reese, Texas
David Jennische, Texas
J. B. Huggins, Texas
Sammy Blake, Texas
Kevin Walker, Texas
Bob Welker, Texas
C. L. Allen, Tenn.
Rev. Loyd Locklear, Mich.
Kenneth Smith, Tenn.

Rev. Carson Whiteaker, Tenn.
Jerry Proffitt, Tenn.
Bobby Littrell, Tenn.
Michael Johnston, Ill.
John Spry, Mich.
Doyle Terry, Kansas
Jerry Nicholson, Miss.
Paul Robinson, Uruguay
Rev. Leander McAdams, Miss.
LifeFriend
Ima June Brunkhorst, Calif.
Betty Hall, Tenn.



AT YOUR SERVICE

Board of Retirement



Herman L. Hersey, Director

TAX DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time we get a call from someone inquiring whether or not IRAs, or anything comparable, are available through our retirement pension program. For many years we had to tell them no. For the last two years, however, we have been able to offer a tax-deferred plan similar to IRAs.

Any member of our pension plan may make tax-deferred employee contributions. These before-tax contributions must be made by the employer through a Salary Reduction Agreement. Under the agreement the employer withholds a stipulated percentage of the employee's salary each pay period.

In most cases, the church or employer may withhold up to twenty percent. The exact allowable percentage is determined by a worksheet furnished by our office.

Tax-deferred contributions lower the employee's taxable income, reducing the amount of current federal income taxes paid. Income taxes on these contributions and earnings are not due until withdrawal. Pension plan members may contribute to their tax-deferred account and to an IRA at the same time.

A member retains the right to withdraw any tax-deferred employee contributions at all times. However, there are two disadvantages to consider should a withdrawal be made before retirement.

First, the earnings are subject to a substantial penalty based on the continuous years of participation.

Second, once a withdrawal is made, a three-year waiting period is required before further funds can be deposited.

Borrowing privileges on tax-deferred employee contributions are permitted. A participant can borrow, after three years, at an interest rate determined by our board, against the balance of employee contributions, plus earnings. The percentage allowed is determined by the number of years of participation in the plan.

The current interest rate on loans is twelve percent. Loans are set up for regular monthly payments over a five-year period or less, depending on the amount of the loan.

Funds in the account continue to earn at the same rate of interest as for all other funds, even though there is a loan against it.

Call or write our office for a salary reduction agreement and worksheet.

Tax Advisors

More Americans rely on tax advisors and preparers than need to. Unless your tax return is likely to be complicated you probably can rely on your own work. Just allow yourself time and be careful—both necessary also if you get outside help.

Keep in mind that the Internal Revenue Service will help you; in many instances you can have questions answered by phone.

IRS also sponsors a free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in many cities, aiding primarily low-income, elderly disabled or non-English speaking taxpayers. Contact IRS for further information.

Another IRS-funded service, Tax Counseling for the Elderly, helps those in the 60s and older.

Otherwise, if you feel you need help without relying on IRS, it's wisest to deal with a tax office that is open year-round, not one that prepares returns only at tax time. If there is a serious dispute over a return, you'll want the tax preparer available to help with it.

Remember you're responsible even if someone else prepares your return.

Should there be a major IRS challenge of your tax return or troubles over state or municipal returns, don't hesitate to go to a tax attorney—your costliest option but perhaps the safest step you can take.

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisheart



From My Window

Look! Yes, there they are again. The snowdrops. Glistening star-shaped white petals rise through the crust of snow in my front yard.

Years ago someone planted the bulbs, and now I enjoy the surprise of blossoms in the snow.

Their return reminds me of God's promise: "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22).

Their life force seems to melt the snow above them with its energy. And there they are glistening white against green foliage. Little white stars which say to us that we also may blossom in the snow.

Are you planted in a frozen waste? Try the warmth of God's love.

All through the cold winter these little buds hid in the bulb. But with the first

warm rays of sun, they begin to seek its warmth.

Finally here they stand, spreading white stars down my walkway. Testimonies to the wonder of God's grace.

National Project Update

Total for the Eunice Edwards Fund at the end of 1986 was \$1,239.55.

Prayer Fellowship

WNAC has always emphasized prayer.

The 9:00 a.m. hour of prayer was established at the Convention in 1941. The resolution suggested that all members pray each morning for missionaries, ministers and Christian workers.

Renew your pledge to pray. Enlist other women for the hour of prayer. Prayer is a powerful force which can change our world.

Prayer Fellowship cards are available. Put one in your wallet. Attach one to

the fridge to remind you to pray. Order them from WNAC. They're free!

Keep in touch with current requests from the Hotline, 615/361-5005. Read *Heartbeat*, *Co-Laborer*, *Mission Grams* and the state or district papers.

The WNAC office staff prays each working morning about 8:15 CST (or CDT). Join us. Let's unite our prayer force.

Need a Project?

Thieves broke into First Free Will Baptist Church, Panama City, Panama, says Steve Lytle. They made off with all the audio equipment belonging to the church.

That equipment is valuable to the church, and \$400-\$500 will replace it.

Send money designated for Audio Equipment, Panama.

Enlistment

Every month is enlistment month. Reach out to the women of your church who are not involved.

Talk with women from churches in your area where there is no Woman's Auxiliary.

A free packet of materials is available to new groups including one free issue of the *Co-Laborer*.

Write and request the packet from WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202. State how many copies of the magazine you need.

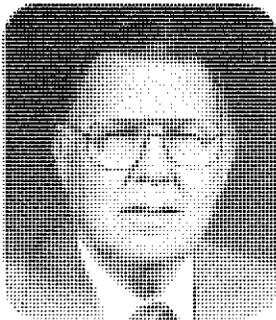
Four Speakers Featured At 1987 Bible Conference



Dr. McGrew



Dr. Hampton



Rev. Munsey



Rev. Smith

Four speakers are scheduled for Free Will Baptist Bible College's 1987 Bible Conference, March 8-12, according to President Charles Thigpen. They are Dr. Ben McGrew, Dr. Charles Hampton, Rev. Howard Munsey and Rev. Rue Dell Smith.

Dr. McGrew is Professor of Biblical Studies at Baptist Bible College, Clarks Summit, PA. He has also served as Registrar and Academic Dean during his 22 years of service to the college. He has studied at Moody Bible Institute, Baptist Bible Seminary and Dallas Theological Seminary.

Dr. Hampton is a native of Oklahoma and a 1960 FWBCC graduate. He is Registrar of FWBCC, and has served as Registrar and Mathematics Professor at Hillsdale College, Moore, OK. Before returning to FWBCC in 1974, Dr. Hampton studied at the University of Texas (Austin), the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma Baptist University.

Rev. Munsey says, "My chief concern has always been missions." He has pastored churches in east Tennessee for more than 32 years. He has served as moderator, assistant moderator, promotional secretary and secretary of the Union District Association of Free Will Baptists. He is the founder of Hearthstone Builders and has channeled generous support to home and foreign missionaries.

Every church Rev. Smith has pastored has grown by at least 300 percent. His present pastorate, Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church, Van Buren, AR, has grown from 90 to a high attendance of 538 in two years. Rev. Smith served for four years as a home missionary and is chairman of the National Home Missions Board. He has also served on the Arkansas and Unity Association mission boards.

The college has planned a special service for the 11:15 hour on Tuesday, March 10, at which a new comprehensive growth campaign will be unveiled. The service will include a spectacular new multi-media presentation and will be attended by dignitaries from Metropolitan Nashville.

Special music for the services will be provided by the college's Music Department, under the direction of Richard McDonald.

The FWBCC Alumni Association will meet during the conference, according to President Billy Gene Outland.

Local accommodations are convenient to the conference. A list of area motels may be requested from the college.

Come to the 1987 Bible Conference and enjoy three-and-a-half days of spirit-lifting, soul-refreshing Bible preaching! For more information, write or call:

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



FOUNDATION

Herman L. Hersey, Executive Secretary

the importance of a will in estate planning

wills are vital

We don't mind planning for the accumulation of an estate—financial planning—but we find it hard to take the further, vital step of arranging to dispose of what we've accumulated at death.

We put off from year to year the drafting of wills; we don't like to think of death. However, wills are important even for those who are young, healthy and looking ahead to many years of life.

Everyone should have a will. You cannot be sure that what you have—your estate—will be preserved and passed along to your heirs unless you have made clear, legally through a will, how you want your property distributed.

laws prevail

Only about one-third of all adults have wills, although it isn't particularly costly or difficult to make one. Most see no reason to make wills, believing—wrongly—that if one spouse should die, the other will automatically receive whatever assets there are.

The result of death without a will can be legal confusion that adds to the trauma of losing a loved one. Where there is no will, the disposal of assets will be determined by a state's laws of intestacy, without taking into account how the person who accumulated the estate intended it to be divided.

In most cases, state laws require assets to be divided between a surviving spouse and children in the family, often with one-half to two-thirds going to the children. For the childless, laws

may require assets to be divided among the surviving spouse and direct relatives of the deceased spouse.

court costs

Dying without a will can also mean substantial court costs that would otherwise have been avoided. The court will appoint an administrator to manage the distribution of the estate, often at a cost of three to five percent of its total value, with the added cost of a required bond, another \$200 or more.

While you can draw up your own will, it's better—and legally more secure—to let an attorney do it. Depending on the complexity of the will, his costs ordinarily will be around \$75. You can designate as an administrator a relative or trusted friend, making a court appointed and paid and bonded administrator unnecessary.

Once drafted, wills should be kept at home (and not in a bank safe deposit box) and on file with your attorney. Be sure that beneficiaries or close friends know where the will can be found.

update wills

Wills should be reviewed if or when family changes occur—particularly if there's a divorce, marriage, birth or death. Divorces lead to complicated problems; by all means consult an attorney.

If there are dependent children, your will should include your wishes for a guardian or guardians should the children be orphaned. Be sure to discuss this with the relative or close friend you choose to care for the children; the guardian you propose might not want

the responsibility and would be free to say no.

You can name a guardian and also someone to manage money left to the children. Or you can consult an attorney about setting up a trust fund for the children.

use a lawyer

There are enough rules in will-making to justify using an attorney. For instance, you can't try to pass along to others property that is jointly owned—your home, for an example—or insurance that has a named beneficiary. Jointly-owned property goes automatically to your partner upon your death, insurance money to the designated beneficiary.

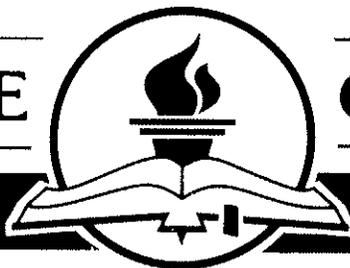
Keep the will clean-cut and simple. You may make major bequests in it but when it comes to divvying up personal and household effects, either mention who is to get what in a supplementary and nonbinding letter or let your beneficiaries decide among themselves on matters of sentimental but not necessarily monetary value.

Finally, an attorney can help you with federal and state tax laws. By consulting an attorney on the ins and outs of the law you might save money.

Provisions for passing an estate along to heirs in an orderly manner and in the way we want is a vital part of estate planning. A will is a basic—and integral—part of estate planning. Be sure you have one and keep it up to date.



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



THE RANDALL HOUSE BIBLE COMMENTARY BENEFITS THAT BUILD—FEATURES THAT FORTIFY

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Frequent Summaries

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Double Columns For Eye Comfort

KJV Text

Greek & Hebrew Transliterations

Applications For Teaching & Preaching The Passage

NOTE THESE FEATURES

CHECK THESE BENEFITS

The Epistle Of Paul To The Romans
Commentary

Part One
God's Provision of Righteousness: Its Need, Meaning and Implications (1:1-8:39)

I. PAUL'S INTRODUCTION (1:1-17)

A. Paul Greete the Christians at Rome (vv. 1-7)

1. Paul introduces himself (v.1)

I, Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God.

As was the custom in those days, Paul identified himself by name at the outset of the letter rather than at the end as our custom is today. The first mark of identification after greeting is Paul's introduction of himself as "a servant of Jesus Christ." By referring to himself as a slave of Jesus Christ, Paul did not mean a slave in the ordinary sense of the word. He was not referring to a master who would whip him if he disobeyed. It was rather a simple statement of his relationship with Jesus Christ and announced that he was called to be an apostle.

Called to be an apostle, Paul was not being subject to any appointment by the church. He was an apostle so the people would know that he spoke with authority. He had the necessary credentials for what he was saying and doing. Sometimes we tend to operate on the assumption that humility requires us to keep our eyes for our work. Yet, without knowing our qualifications, people do not know what confidence to place in what we say. We do not want to boast or brag, but we can at the appropriate time and in the proper way declare what our qualifications are.

If we, like Paul, keep ourselves reminded and acknowledge to others that we are servants for slaves of Jesus Christ, it will form the basis for a proper Christian humility. The certain attitude will be a corrective to a sinful pride about our qualifications or our accomplishments.

2. In Christian apologetics there is just one issue that is more important than the resurrection of Christ: the truth of Christianity. Some of the greatest minds of the world have tried to deny the truth of Christianity, but I do not know of any who have succeeded. The resurrection of Christ is the miracle of miracles. It is the basis of the Christian faith. It is the foundation of the Christian religion. It is the proof of God's love for the world. It is the power of God's kingdom. It is the source of our salvation. It is the basis of our hope. It is the foundation of our faith. It is the power of our love. It is the source of our joy. It is the foundation of our peace. It is the power of our strength. It is the source of our wisdom. It is the foundation of our knowledge. It is the power of our understanding. It is the source of our insight. It is the foundation of our discernment. It is the power of our perception. It is the source of our intuition. It is the foundation of our inspiration. It is the power of our imagination. It is the source of our creativity. It is the foundation of our innovation. It is the power of our leadership. It is the source of our influence. It is the foundation of our authority. It is the power of our glory. It is the source of our honor. It is the foundation of our respect. It is the power of our esteem. It is the source of our admiration. It is the foundation of our awe. It is the power of our reverence. It is the source of our worship. It is the foundation of our praise. It is the power of our thanksgiving. It is the source of our glorification. It is the foundation of our sanctification. It is the power of our redemption. It is the source of our liberation. It is the foundation of our freedom. It is the power of our deliverance. It is the source of our rescue. It is the foundation of our salvation. It is the power of our redemption. It is the source of our liberation. It is the foundation of our freedom. It is the power of our deliverance. It is the source of our rescue. It is the foundation of our salvation.

Application: Teaching the Passage and Preaching the Passage

1. It was an honor to be an apostle to the church. Paul was not being subject to any appointment by the church. He was an apostle so the people would know that he spoke with authority. He had the necessary credentials for what he was saying and doing. Sometimes we tend to operate on the assumption that humility requires us to keep our eyes for our work. Yet, without knowing our qualifications, people do not know what confidence to place in what we say. We do not want to boast or brag, but we can at the appropriate time and in the proper way declare what our qualifications are.

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Free Will Baptist Music Ministries

Theological Guidelines for a New Hymnal

By Leroy Cutler

Can you imagine a worship service without music? It would be like another Sunday School class or Bible study. Music is important in our worship of God because everyone participates.

Historically, music is associated with service to God. Old Testament believers sang in one style, while Paul and Silas probably sang in another. The style of music changes with time. What we sing today is unlike singing in Bible times.

This fact remains unchanged: believers have always sung songs about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the church, truth, etc. So the Bible becomes the standard for evaluating a song's validity for worship.

Singing was part of both Old and New Testament worship. Ephesians 5:17, 19 urges believers to communicate "...in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Many Bible songs described the experiences of Israel, the captivity in Egypt and Babylon, the deliverance by God. There are songs of praise and thanksgiving, expressing the heart of the psalmist.

Ephesians 5 mentions three different types of songs: psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. We may say that we sing anthems, hymns, gospel songs, choruses, evangelistic songs, missionary songs and others. Musical style may divide high church from low church, but biblical content is important to all.

Music edifies, educates and excites, being a means to enhance worship. Joshua sang, David sang, the Israelites

sang, Paul and Silas sang, and in Revelation 19 everybody sang the Hallelujah Chorus!

A song or hymn must be theologically sound to be acceptable for use in worship. That is, it must speak properly and accurately about God. It must be acceptable to God, as well as being acceptable to those who sing.

We need a theological standard when selecting songs and hymns for the new Free Will Baptist hymnal. And how can we measure a song's validity other than by the scriptures? Does it say what the Bible says? Will those who sing it understand it to mean what the Bible means concerning that particular truth?

One quartet song I remember as a boy was "Lord, Build Me a Cabin in the Corner of Glory Land." Good harmony, but bad theology. God says He has a mansion for us!

Paul uses the expression, "Making melody in your heart," in Ephesians 5:19. Literally, it says "Psalming with the heart." Maybe that's what David did while shepherding his sheep, composing songs from his own experiences and knowledge of God.

Three guidelines for hymn selection can help us avoid problems: Would God approve it? Would Jesus sing it? Would the Holy Spirit inspire it? If it doesn't pass those three criteria, it should be eliminated.

In order to reach our ultimate goal, we also ask the following:

1. Does it present the truth already approved by God in His Word? It's not the proven examples that we question, such as "Amazing Grace," "Blessed

Assurance," "Victory in Jesus," "Jesus Loves Me" or "How Great Thou Art." It's the new songs that we hope to include from new authors, even Free Will Baptist composers. We don't anticipate any problems here, either. But we must have some means of measuring them.

2. Is the meaning clear? John Wesley was concerned on one occasion about some of his songs being changed. He believed every word in a song should have meaning, and it would change the meaning to change the words. He wanted it published as he wrote it or not at all.

John Wesley and his brother Charles wrote and published entire hymn books. They were both well educated men and wrote complex hymns, believing that this was a way of educating the laity. For instance, we sing, "Here I raise mine Ebenezer," Ebenezer meaning "memorial stone." Words like "diadem," meaning "crown" or "authority" illustrate the point.

3. Will it strengthen those who use the song? Songs make impressions on



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Leroy Cutler pastors Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida. Dr. Cutler is a member of the Free Will Baptist Hymnal Committee.

our subconscious mind. We find ourselves singing them while driving or washing dishes. They become part of our beliefs and convictions.

4. *Does the song have a double meaning? Could it mean something else?* The song, "You Light Up My Life," is an example of this. Debbie Boone says she had God in mind when writing it. But it's sung in night clubs and bars, and in that setting does not make one think of God.

A country-western song popular in the 1960's was titled "Almost Persuaded." But it was about a guy in a bar "almost persuaded" to become involved with a girl.

"When the Saints Go Marching In" was a favorite, used in bars by a young man whose parents attended our church. He played in a band and was unsaved.

5. *Could all our people use it? As diverse as we are, even on some doctrinal points, we must either eliminate all songs that would not be acceptable by all our people, or we must allow tolerance to choose hymns that reflect our views as well as the views of others.* Some of our people hold premillennial views on eschatology, while others are amillennialists. Do we eliminate all songs on the subject, or do we include some of both? My opinion is that we include both.

6. *Would the song glorify God?*

7. *Would the life of the composer glorify God?* We do not question the songs of Fanny Crosby or John Newton. But some modern-day gospel song writers do not bear witness to being saved individuals.

8. *Would it be a blessing to our people?*

9. *Does it produce positive results?*

10. *Does it adhere to traditional Free Will Baptist values?* Free Will Baptists hold certain views concerning the Lord's Supper, baptism, education, missions, Sunday School, women in the church, the virgin birth, the blood atonement, tongues in the New Testament church, God's power to heal, the providence of God, and the free will of man. These are only a few of many doctrines that we hold dear.

It's impossible to write a complete statement on each of these. Time and space do not permit. But we will judge every song's teaching in the light of what we believe will be true to traditional Free Will Baptist doctrine. Our guide here will

Top Shelf



Thomas Marberry



Carol R. Shearn, *The Church Office Handbook* (Wilton, CT: Morehouse-Barlow, 1986, 223 pp., paperback, \$10.95).

Carol Shearn is office manager for a 2,500-member congregation in Florida. She's responsible for record keeping and correspondence for this large church. In her book, she shares many helpful insights on how to set up, organize and run a church office. The volume is designed for the person with little or no experience working in a church office.

Part one deals with the basic organizational skills needed in a church office. Effective channels of communication must be established between all people involved. The pastor and the church secretary play vital roles in that they must provide leadership. Mrs. Shearn includes a helpful section on recruiting, training, using and keeping volunteer workers. Every pastor should read this section of the book.

Part two deals with collecting, preserving and using information about people. Every church needs to preserve accurate records of members and visitors. Maintaining current records is often a difficult task, and the author suggests ways to do it as effectively as possible.

Part three addresses financial records and reports. A church must keep an accurate and understandable record of its income and expenditures. Many churches do not have the services of trained bookkeepers to do this work. They must rely on volunteers. This book gives a simple, step-by-step outline of

how to set up and maintain the various ledgers.

The author also discusses the preparation of financial reports which are to be used by the pastor and members of the congregation. *The most helpful section* of part three deals with completing government reports on unordained employees. Churches are now required to withhold income tax and social security on unordained employees and file reports with the federal government. Mrs. Shearn gives a simple and clear explanation of how to do this.

The remaining parts of the book deal with a variety of important subjects including preservation and storage of church records, handling church mail, and using computers to speed up the work of the church office. The last part gives a list of books which can be consulted to find answers to specific questions.

I recommend the book to all churches, large and small. Many small churches do not have secretaries. The pastor and members of the congregation must do the office work. This book can provide immediate help to them. A church office is, in some ways, different from other offices. A person with some secretarial training may not be familiar with the specific procedures needed in a church office. This book can benefit someone in all church offices.

be the Bible, of course, and the Articles of Faith from the Free Will Baptist *Treatise*.

In singing as in preaching, we are to "speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1). "O Come, let us sing unto the Lord. Let us make a joyful noise unto the Rock of our sal-

vation" (Psalm 95:1). Can you imagine singing to the "Rock of our salvation" anything less than a scripturally sound song?

Finally, our hymn book should reflect what we are as Free Will Baptists and what we hope to become as Christians.



ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

Things and Important Things

With their noses pressed against the window, Marty, Megan and Jeff watched as a big moving van pulled into the driveway across the street. Three men began unloading furniture and boxes into the vacant house.

"Look!" cried Megan as one of the movers rolled a pink bicycle down the ramp. "They must have a girl. Yippee!"

"Shucks," groaned Marty turning from the window. "Hey, wait a minute. What's this?" Two of the movers were carrying out a go-cart. "They must have a boy, too, and he's got a go-cart. What luck! I can't wait to meet him."

Marty got his chance that afternoon. Mrs. Lane baked a cake, and she and the children took it across the street to welcome the new neighbors.

A woman in her 50's opened the door.

"Hello, welcome to the neighborhood," said Mrs. Lane warmly. "I'm Laura Lane and these are my children, Marty, Megan and Jeff."

"Why, thank you," answered the lady. "I'm Mrs. Kemble, the Whitley's governess."

Marty and Megan stared at the woman. They'd heard of governesses on television, but never knew anyone who had one.

"I baked this cake for you all," said Mrs. Lane. "Would you please tell Mr. and Mrs. Whitley that I called, and that we're looking forward to meeting them?"

"Mr. and Mrs. Whitley are in Europe on business," answered Mrs. Kemble. "They won't be returning to the states for several weeks. But I know they

appreciate your kindness, and the children and I will certainly enjoy the cake."

"Could we meet them, please?" asked Megan shyly.

"Why, of course," answered Mrs. Kemble. "George, Christy, come here, please. You have guests."

The two Whitley children ran into the room. They both had big brown eyes and shiny black hair. George was 10, Christy 8.

After Mrs. Kemble introduced everyone, Mrs. Lane said, "It was nice meeting you, but I know you're busy trying to get settled in, so we won't keep you. Come on children, let's go home."

"Oh, please, Mrs. Kemble, can't Marty and Megan stay?" asked Christy.

So the twins spent the afternoon with the Whitley children. It was like playing in a toy store. George and Christy had every kind of toy and game imaginable.

Marty and Megan bubbled over at supper that night. "Boy, they have everything," said Marty. "Can I get a go-cart for my birthday, so George and I can race?"

"You should have seen all of Christy's dolls," said Megan enviously. "She has 29 Barbie dolls and 12 different Cabbage Patch dolls. Can you believe it?"

"George has his own color tv in his room," said Marty.

"So does Christy," added Megan, "and her own computer."

"Can we go back and play with George and Christy tomorrow?" asked Marty.

"Why don't we invite them over here?" asked Mrs. Lane.

"Aw, Mom, there's nothing to do here," complained Marty. "Can we, please? George said we could fly his remote control airplane."

Mr. and Mrs. Lane looked at each other and wondered what kind of people the Whitleys were and how they ended up in their subdivision.

The weeks went by and Marty, Megan, George and Christy became good friends. The twins never tired of all the Whitley's toys, and Mrs. Kemble took them on outings to keep them entertained. They went to the zoo, the circus, an amusement park, puppet shows, museums, libraries, plays and even a concert.

Once when Mrs. Kemble was sick, George and Christy spent the night at the Lanes' house. Mr. and Mrs. Lane overheard the children talking.

"I know it's sorta boring here," said Marty as George and Christy were leaving.

"No," said George quickly. "It's been swell. Playing baseball with your dad this afternoon was really neat."

"And I really liked it when we made popcorn and played Uno," added Christy.

"But we don't have nearly as many toys here," said Megan.

"But it was still fun," said George. "It's sorta...well, cozy here."

Marty and Megan couldn't believe what they were hearing.

One day Megan and Mrs. Lane went shopping for a birthday present for

Christy. "I don't know what to get her," said Megan. "She has everything. She's the luckiest girl in the world."

Mrs. Lane didn't like to hear Megan talk that way, but she didn't say anything.

The next day Marty and Megan went over to help Christy celebrate her birthday. Mrs. Kemble gave her a pretty lavender jumper and blouse along with knee socks, hair ribbons and a purse to match. George gave his sister a Victorian doll house that his parents' credit card had paid for. Their parents, still in Europe, had arranged for a big organ to be delivered from the music store.

"Wow!" exclaimed Megan. "Neato!" "Yeah, it's neat," said Christy quietly, "but I wish Mother and Dad were here."

"Time for cake," said Mrs. Kemble cheerily carrying in a beautifully decorated cake in the shape of a doll. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to Christy. Then Megan said, "Make a wish and blow out the candles."

A sad look came into Christy's brown eyes as she made her wish. Everyone knew what she was wishing for. She was wishing for her mother and daddy.

"Well, how was the party?" asked Mrs. Lane when the twins got home.

"It was ok," said Megan, "but Christy was sad because her parents weren't there."

"But she got all those great presents," said Marty, "and she had a real neat cake from a bakery that looked just like a doll."

"Yeah," agreed Megan, "but I couldn't help thinking about our birthday cakes that Mom always works so hard on. I think they taste a lot better."

"You're right," admitted Marty. "You know, it's fun to go over to the Whitley's, but it always feels good to come home. It's sorta lonely there."

"I don't think George and Christy have it made," said Megan solemnly. "I think we do."

Mr. and Mrs. Lane looked at each other and smiled. They hugged the twins. "We've had to bite our tongues to keep from telling you that there are more important things in this world than things," said their mother.

"We thought we'd let you figure it out for yourselves," said Mr. Lane.

"Toys, games, computers and outings are nice," said Megan, "but having a family that loves each other and is all together is better—lots better." 

Thank You For Your Contributions...



COOPERATIVE Free Will Baptist
CHANNEL *Plan*

Cooperative Channel Contributions December 1986

RECEIPTS:

State	COOP		Total	Dec. '85	Yr. to Date
	Design.	(Undesignated)			
Alabama	\$ 309.04	\$ 40.00	\$ 349.04	\$.00	\$ 9,544.91
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	48.74	221.29
Arkansas	283.32	2,268.11	2,506.43	3,673.03	49,134.54
California	.00	775.54	775.54	742.87	10,113.33
Florida	.00	.00	.00	1,822.96	21,900.99
Georgia	4,021.78	619.50	4,641.28	14,217.29	60,631.23
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	392.80
Illinois	6,991.61	1,436.60	8,428.21	5,036.85	86,194.89
Indiana	740.20	.00	740.20	460.38	6,759.08
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	47.13	688.36
Kentucky	.00	353.00	353.00	291.00	5,091.87
Michigan	3,151.35	.00	3,151.35	4,722.10	54,278.25
Mississippi	105.32	516.59	621.91	110.73	5,041.06
Missouri	1,496.16	6,058.77	7,554.93	13,259.99	104,695.95
New Mexico	14.25	7.13	21.38	57.56	411.61
North Carolina	955.00	185.00	1,140.00	852.82	21,458.52
Ohio	586.54	3,300.00	3,886.54	.00	34,141.02
Oklahoma	28,212.06	5,322.61	33,534.67	36,094.17	493,815.95
South Carolina	10,972.88	.00	10,972.88	138.00	36,024.56
Tennessee	195.79	478.70	674.49	1,502.53	17,051.99
Texas	6,914.20	520.82	7,435.02	5,359.40	89,271.69
Virginia	145.00	(140.00)	5.00	660.00	5,674.12
West Virginia	1,749.21	192.48	1,941.69	2,528.31	35,358.81
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	500.00
Other	20.00	10.00	30.00	.00	48.00
Interest	.00	1,013.85	1,013.85	613.51	1,013.85
Totals	\$66,818.71	\$22,958.70	\$89,777.41	\$92,239.37	\$1,149,458.67

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 872.59	\$13,852.35	\$14,724.94	\$14,158.05	\$ 177,381.24
Foreign Missions	44,794.94	2,094.42	46,889.36	46,908.87	583,782.76
FWBCC	2,258.18	2,094.42	4,352.60	6,549.01	74,089.55
Home Missions	16,779.86	1,639.17	18,419.03	14,674.70	216,981.24
Retirement & Insurance	51.02	1,274.93	1,325.95	2,970.19	30,628.98
Master's Men	60.99	1,183.85	1,244.84	2,750.55	26,666.19
Commission for Theo.					
Integrity	24.10	91.05	115.15	228.69	2,271.15
FWB Foundation	514.43	546.41	1,060.84	1,460.84	13,254.98
Historical Commission	26.04	91.05	117.09	226.68	2,284.31
Radio & TV Commission	56.04	91.05	147.09	236.68	2,720.16
Hillsdale FWB College	1,311.28	.00	1,311.28	2,042.01	18,000.13
Other	69.24	.00	69.24	33.10	1,397.98
Totals	\$66,818.71	\$22,958.70	\$89,777.41	\$92,239.37	\$1,149,458.67

TEEN Scene



Missouri

Youth at First FWB Church, Monett, Mo., participated in an Underground Revival. Led by Youth Pastor Toby Jenkins, the youth met for six nights in different homes. They were told each evening where the next service would be. There was no advance promotion, no advertising, no contacting other local churches. It was simply by word of mouth through the teen group.

There were no Bibles allowed and no refreshments served. The youth pastor memorized the book of Jude and shared messages from it each evening. They sang songs and choruses from memory, recited scriptures, prayed and praised the Lord during services conducted in dimly lit homes.

The results? Many youth gave up bad habits; some fasted; teen/parent relationships were enhanced, homes strengthened, 38 teens rededicated, seven teens converted. The revival spirit carried over into the church as the final message from Jude was delivered Sunday morning. Sunday evening was highlighted by testimonies and baptisms.

Oklahoma

The teens at Shadynook FWB Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., live up to their group name, "Teens on Fire." Youth Pastor Steven Turner directs this group of approximately 25 youth. Steve and Gayla Turner are assisted by five other adult workers.

The group won the Oklahoma State Youth Conference attendance trophy in November 1986 at Ada. This was the first year they attended the state conference.

The youth pastor says, "Active involvement in the church as a whole, not just teen activities, is a must. Otherwise the world and its attractions will confuse and pull our youth into a false hope of pleasure and joy which can only truly be found in Christ."

The youth produce a monthly youth activities letter for their church and plan a teen newsletter for area churches. The youth will gather the materials, write the stories, take the pictures, edit and lay out the newsletter.

The youth production (drama) group will present "The Judgment," written by their youth pastor. A puppet ministry and a youth vocal ensemble add dimension to their outreach.

The teens conduct a youth service each second Sunday where they direct,

make announcements, lead song service, perform special music, prayer and altar counseling.

The teens divide into prayer groups and select an elderly member or couple of the church for special projects during the year. They plan to scrape and paint an elderly church member's home.

The teens are responsible for earning funds for the youth program. They



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maintain the church lawn and keep up the church sign slogans.

Pastor Stanley Konopinski laid the foundation of faithfulness, love and dedication in the Shadynook youth. "Teens on Fire" group goal is to actively involve teens in church service and help them become productive leaders of tomorrow's church.

Especially
For Young
Preachers

The Young Preacher's Family

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

The qualifications for a preacher in I Timothy 3 include the fact that he must rule well his own house and have his children under control. This qualification begins before the first child is born. It continues even in the lives of grandchildren.

1. Dedicate the children to the Lord before they are born. Believe fully Psalm 127:3-5.
2. Assist your wife with the children. Lay the Bible and sermon notes down, and help feed, clothe, wash and change the baby.
3. Read Bible story books to young children. Yes, mothers do this, but the young preacher should, too. You may be surprised how much you learn by reading children's Bible stories.
4. Have a family night. Set aside one night each week for your family. Take them out to eat, window shop at local stores, visit a zoo or museum, have a picnic. Make family night "an appointment" that cannot be broken unless an emergency arises. Then, reschedule family night.
5. Play with the children. Give quality time to your children. A few minutes playing ball, sitting in the floor watching the dolls, or listening to a child talk -- this is quality, important time. The child will never forget these experiences.
6. Schedule family devotions. This is one of the day's most important activities. Find a convenient time and stick to it.
7. Control the children. The preacher's children should not run wild at church. The young preacher and his wife must remember that their most important responsibility is to train their children properly, not fellowship with the church family.
8. Plan a vacation. Save money all year for a few days' relaxation with the most important people -- your wife and children.
9. Include your children in your ministry. Happy is the preacher whose children play the piano, sing, visit and welcome visitors to church services.
10. Treat all children alike. Your children are wonderful, but so are all boys and girls. Love the children publicly without showing partiality to yours.

Dennis Wiggs

Next Month: The Children and Their Money



7-ELEVEN STORE MANAGER FIRED FOR NOT SELLING PORNOGRAPHY

SUPERIOR, WI (EP)—Dean Krych, named manager of the year in 1980 and 1981 for his work with a 7-Eleven store, was fired for refusing to sell *Playboy* and *Penthouse* magazines in the store he manages for the Denver-based Wydomak Corporation. Because the stores are franchised, rather than owned by the Southland Corporation (parent of 7-Eleven), Wydomak stores are not affected by 7-Eleven's decision to remove pornography from its area stores.

"I believe our country is being invaded and polluted by pornographers," Krych told a crowd gathered in his support. Krych said Wydomak corporation has "thrown down the gauntlet" and stated that he would not take his job back until pornographic magazines were removed from all Wydomak stores. "I just want to take this stand for the good of the community and this neighborhood."

Until he was fired, Krych was manager of one of Wydomak's three largest convenience stores. During the last seven years he made his store a center for neighborhood activities. He was nationally honored for his compassionate handling of a neighborhood fire tragedy; he housed and fed 70 victims of an apartment fire in his store overnight.

FEW AMERICANS OBJECT TO RELIGIOUS MEETINGS, COURSES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PRINCETON, NJ (EP)—Few Americans object to having a variety of religious studies available in public schools, including elective Bible study courses, using the Bible in literature, history and social studies classes, teaching about the major religions of the world, and making facilities available after school for student religious groups, according to a Gallup Poll done in conjunction with the Laymen's National Bible Committee.

Comparative religion classes were opposed by only 16 percent of those polled. Using the Bible in literature, history and social studies classes was opposed by 20 percent. Making facilities available after school for use by student religious groups and organizations was opposed by 21 percent, and offering elective courses in Bible studies was opposed by 20 percent. Five percent of those polled had no opinion, and others said they would not oppose such activities.

The survey also asked Americans, "How often do you read the Bible?" Only one percent said they read the Bible more than once daily. Daily Bible reading was indicated by 10 percent of those polled. Others said they read the Bible two or three times a week (nine percent); weekly (13 percent); two or three times a month (six percent); monthly (eight percent); less than once a month (26 percent); and never (22 percent). Five percent of those polled were unable to say how often they read the Bible.

The survey showed that women, blacks, older people, the less-well-educated, Protestants, evangelicals and Southerners were more likely to be regular Bible readers.

MINISTERS SHUN COUNSELING, METHODIST SURVEY REVEALS

NASHVILLE, TN (EP)—Although pastors are often involved in providing counseling as part of their ministry, they are reluctant to seek it for themselves, according to a United Methodist survey. The survey also found that most pastors feel ill-prepared for the task of counseling their parishioners.

About 1,900 pastors responded to the survey, which was sent to 3,000 of the 32,000 ministers in the 9.4-million-member Methodist Church. Of the respondents, 46 percent said they do not feel free to seek counseling, and only five percent said they would turn to their bishop for counseling. Most feared that such an overture would be a sign of weakness, according to the survey.

Some ministers seek friendships with clergy from other denominations to exchange gripes and unload burdens, the survey showed. The study also found that counseling and administration create the most headaches for pastors, who feel better qualified to tackle preaching and educating.

WEEKLY CHURCH ATTENDANCE VARIES AROUND THE WORLD

PRINCETON, NJ (EP)—The percentage of the population who practice weekly church attendance in countries around the world ranges from a high of 91 percent in Malta to a low of three percent in both Denmark and Iceland, according to the September 1986 PRRC Emerging Trends.

The percentage of survey respondents attending church weekly in the United States is 43 percent. Percentages in other countries include: Ireland, 72 percent; Mexico, 54; Northern Ireland, 52; South Africa whites 50 percent, blacks 38 percent; Spain, 41; Italy, 36; Chile, 31; Belgium and Canada, 30; Netherlands, 27; Australia, 22; West Germany, 21; South Korea, 19; Great Britain, 14; France, 12; Norway, seven percent; Hungary and Sweden, five percent; and Japan and Finland, four percent.

UTAH CITY STOPS PAYING TO LIGHT MORMON TEMPLE

ST. GEORGE, UT (EP)—The city of St. George, Utah, ended its 44-year lighting subsidy for the St. George Mormon Temple. The temple, built on a hill above the town, is a commanding presence, and is easily seen by motorists on Interstate 15. Since 1942 the city had subsidized the lighting of the temple at night, hoping to draw tourists to St. George, former home of Mormon patriarch Brigham Young.

Two suits filed against the city charging that the subsidy violated "separation of church and state" forced the city to rethink its position. A local attorney filed one of the suits; five Baptist ministers and a Catholic priest filed the other.

Ted Shumway, city attorney for St. George, explained, "Our position was that the purpose of the energy credit was to highlight a scenic landmark and promote the city. We didn't feel it was unconstitutional." But the city agreed to drop the subsidy when Mormon leaders agreed to finance the lighting. "We just don't want the friction or the bad publicity," said Shumway.

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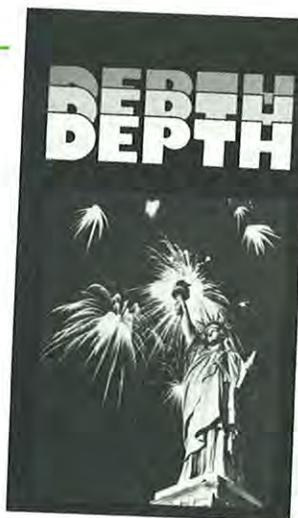
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Highest in History



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS
By Melvin Worthington

What's 32 years old and worth a million dollars to the Free Will Baptist denomination? The Cooperative Plan, that's what!

It's true. Giving to denominational causes through the Cooperative Plan topped the \$1 million mark in 1986. That's the highest in history. We praise the Lord for this milestone.

Cooperative giving undergirds the entire work of the National Association and extends the influence of a local congregation around the world. It's also a tangible expression of our corporate commitment to proclaim Jesus Christ by every means possible to every person on earth.

The Cooperative Plan is a voluntary plan created and controlled by Free Will Baptists, through which designated and undesignated gifts can be given. It provides systematic support for denominational agencies. This giving concept recognizes relationships within the denomination, responsibilities to it, as well as its resources.

Its Promotion

The stewardship which pleases God consists of tithes and offerings. The Free Will Baptist position on financing God's work is quite clear. We believe that "Both the Old and New Testament scriptures teach tithing as God's financial plan for the support of His work." (*Treatise*)

The *Treatise* charges the executive secretary to "...provide a program of stewardship education that will produce

increased support for the denominational ministries through the Cooperative Plan and other methods of proportionate sharing. He is charged with the responsibility of receiving and dispersing cooperative funds, and in general to serve as treasurer and business manager of the National Association."

This includes designated and cooperative (undesignated) gifts. It's not a matter of utilizing one or the other, but both. Proportionate sharing benefits all denominational ministries including local church, district, state and national associations. All agencies in the Free Will Baptist family are worthy of fair, faithful and full support. The Cooperative Channel provides a way to focus on and fund all denominational agencies.

Its Progress

Gifts through the Cooperative Plan totaled \$17,872 in 1955. By 1965 gifts reached \$77,849. In 1975 Cooperative Plan gifts passed \$152,000. Gifts for 1985 rose to \$938,278.

Then came 1986 when cooperative giving topped \$1.1 million. That

included \$368,470 undesignated (Co-op) gifts and \$780,988 designated gifts.

Its Problems

But it isn't all good news. Some misinterpret, misuse and misunderstand the Cooperative Plan. They fear that it's a step toward centralization and control.

Not to worry. Free Will Baptists can be confident that the Cooperative Channel which receives and disburses undesignated (Co-op) and designated gifts is our plan. We authorized it; we allocate it, and we adjust it. If the plan doesn't do what we want it to do, we can abolish it.

There may never be complete agreement on undesignated (Co-op) and designated giving, but it need not be a battleground. We need both kinds of giving. Let's stop dividing ourselves over giving and implement both as a means to fully and fairly support all denominational ministries.

Its Potential

The Cooperative Plan has the potential to fund every Free Will Baptist program from the local church to district, state and national associations. A comprehensive, cooperative stewardship program will bring a spirit of unity, understanding and unselfishness among us.

Denominational stewardship gives opportunity for every Free Will Baptist to participate in biblical stewardship. Yes, 1986 gifts made history. Now, let our Cooperative Plan motto be "A million more by '94."

Secretary's Schedule

- March 7** Arizona District Association
Heritage Temple FWB Church
Gilbert, Ariz.
- March 9-11** Christian Stewardship
Council Conference
Kansas City, Mo.
- March 13-15** New Life FWB Church
O'Fallon, Mo.

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