

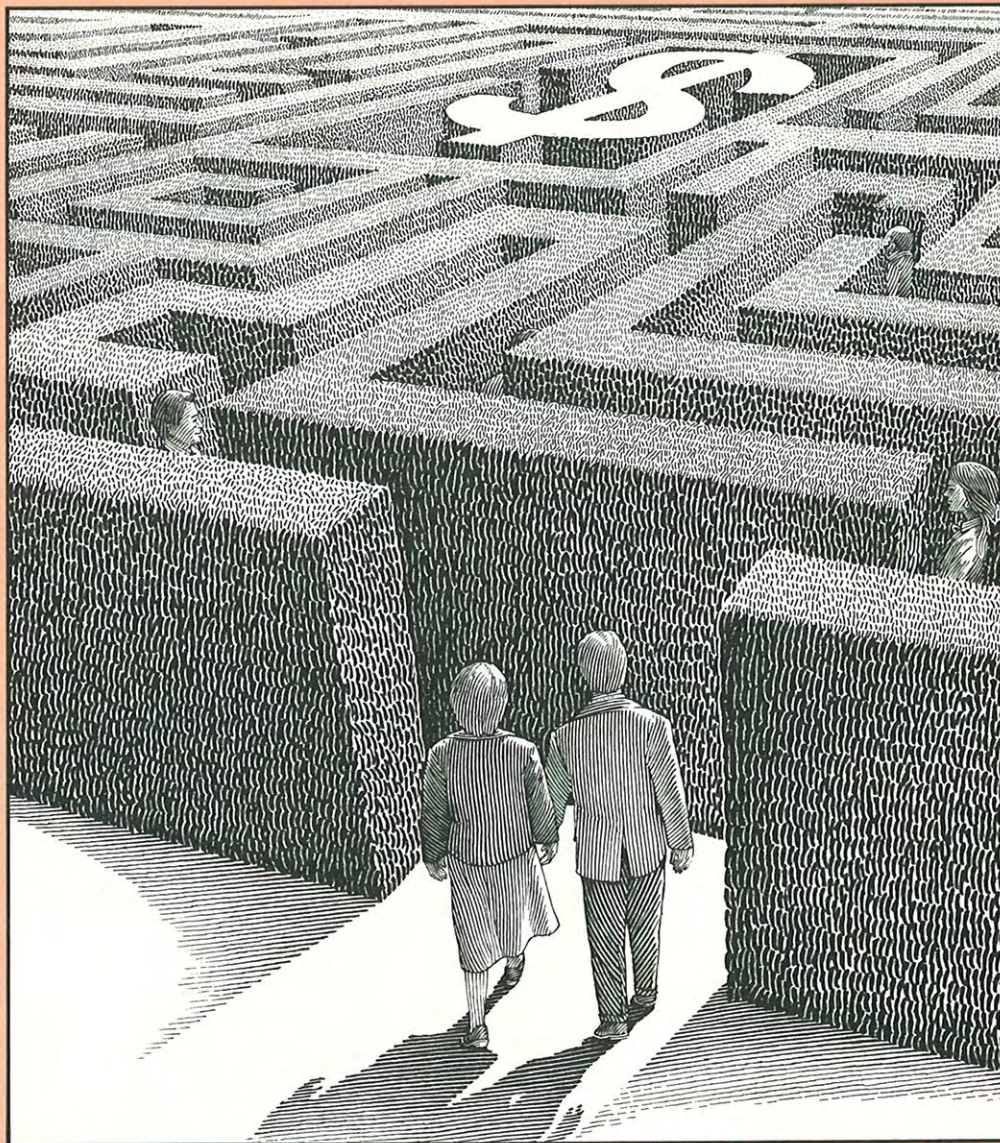
April 1987

CONTACT



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The Maze of Missions



Money-page 6, Ministry-page 2, Mandate-page 4

The Gift of a Letter

By Marilyn Pritchard

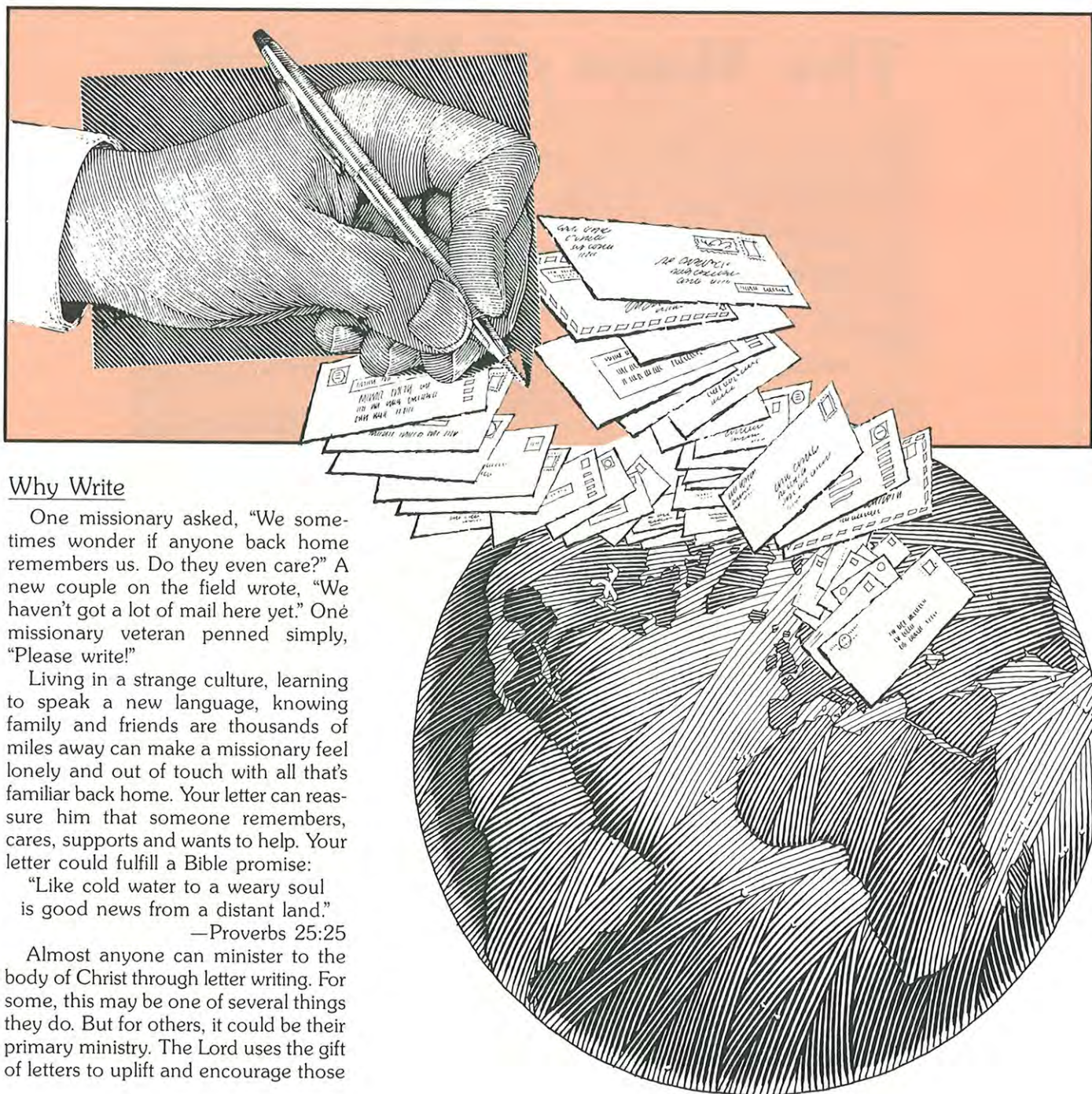
"My exotic alarm clock, the birds of Doropo, wakes me with their raucous cries as they greet the dawn. But I don't mind; the bread truck arrives at 6:00 this morning, and today he brings the mail!"

That's the way it is three mornings a week at Doropo, Ivory Coast, West Africa. The bread man comes daily, but on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday he delivers the mail. Each missionary eagerly awaits mail

day. At Doropo there's no junk mail. Every piece is precious, a special link with state-side family and friends.

Ever wonder how you can serve the Lord and minister to His servants? Your talents

may not include preaching, teaching, singing or leading. Your funds scarce? Your resources limited? Have you considered the gift of a letter?



Why Write

One missionary asked, "We sometimes wonder if anyone back home remembers us. Do they even care?" A new couple on the field wrote, "We haven't got a lot of mail here yet." One missionary veteran penned simply, "Please write!"

Living in a strange culture, learning to speak a new language, knowing family and friends are thousands of miles away can make a missionary feel lonely and out of touch with all that's familiar back home. Your letter can reassure him that someone remembers, cares, supports and wants to help. Your letter could fulfill a Bible promise:

"Like cold water to a weary soul
is good news from a distant land."

—Proverbs 25:25

Almost anyone can minister to the body of Christ through letter writing. For some, this may be one of several things they do. But for others, it could be their primary ministry. The Lord uses the gift of letters to uplift and encourage those

on foreign fields. (This also works for home missionaries.)

What to Write

A letter doesn't have to be fancy. The fact that you take time to write and mail a page of your life makes it a precious gift.

Write about the mouse that chewed the labels off your soup cans. About the cute question Junior posed last week—"Daddy, do worms laugh?" Drop in local or national news tidbits, sports scores, church events, weather reports. If you're praying for them, assure them of those prayers, past and future.

One thing to avoid: don't make it a "woe" list. On the other hand, do mention that your son broke his arm, you gave a dentist your wisdom teeth, your dad had surgery, the car threw a rod. After all, that's part of your life. Don't avoid the unpleasant, but don't make it the theme of your correspondence, either. Remember, you're trying to encourage, not depress.

How to Write

Write as if you're talking with a friend. You don't have to be an English major or a spelling champion. Write so you'll be understood. Use your best grammar but don't be formal and businesslike. Relax and enjoy it. Be warm and genuine.

Make it legible. Write clearly or, if you prefer, type your letter. If it can't be read, it can't minister.

Check with your post office about air mail costs. For most foreign countries, postage is paid per 1/2 ounce. You can purchase economical aerogrammes which include paper and postage that fold up to make envelopes. One problem with aerogrammes: no enclosures!

Who to Write

Don't bite off more than you can chew. You can't write everybody. Start small.

Choose one missionary single or family. Make friends with that missionary. With your first letter identify yourself, your church, where you work, your age, family statistics and maybe include a picture of yourself.

You might choose a couple with children the same age as yours, or someone from your state, a single about your age—someone with something in common with you.

If you don't know any missionaries, write to Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202, and ask for a *Foreign Missions Directory*. The directory lists names, ages, anniversaries, children, fields and other information for all the missionaries. It also includes on-the-field addresses.

Once you start writing one missionary and reaping the blessings, you might want to add another and multiply your ministry.

When to Write

Set a schedule that's convenient for you: once a month, once a week or whatever. Maybe you're a special day writer—Easter, Christmas, Valentine, birthdays, anniversaries, Groundhog Day, etc. Whatever your schedule, stick with it.


What to Expect

The ministry of writing to missionaries is one of those "behind the scene" jobs. Don't expect thousands praising you publicly. Some folks on foreign soil, however, will be grateful for your thoughtfulness. Your words of encouragement will help ward off discouragement and therefore increase the effectiveness of their ministry.

Don't expect an answer to every letter. Your missionary won't have time to answer every letter personally. His regular newsletter may be his way of keeping you informed. Don't be disappointed if that's your return correspondence. Time, thought, effort, postage went into getting that letter ready.

Be faithful in your letter-writing ministry without expecting praise or an answer to every letter. The Lord knows the thoughts and intents of the heart and blesses accordingly.

The birds still greet the dawn at Doropo. The missionaries still eagerly await the mail. As they do in Sao Paulo, Sapporo, Nantes, Montevideo, Madrid, West Bengal, Las Tablas....

Brighten their day with words of cheer, encouragement, support. Send your gift of a letter today. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Marilyn Pritchard became Contact editorial assistant in 1984 after she returned from 10 months in Ivory Coast, West Africa. She understands the value of the gift of a letter because she received many from friends and family members while overseas.

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Editor-in-chief: Dr. Melvin Worthington
Editor: Jack Williams
Editorial Assistant: Marilyn Pritchard
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Sure, We're Going Back!

By Ron Callaway

Outside on the parade ground over the loud-speakers, taps sounded. I rubbed my head. Not much hair there. It's dark in the barracks. I'd only joined the Navy two days before and now lying on my bunk at boot camp in San Diego, the thought finally sinks in: "Well, Callaway, you're here now and there's no way to go home." Once you're in the Navy, you serve the time you signed up for—no excuses, no backing out. You fulfill your word.

I served almost seven years in the Navy. I was saved a year or so before I finished my second enlistment. God gave me a wonderful Christian wife and we moved to Nashville, Tenn., so that I could attend Free Will Baptist Bible College.

There, in November of 1973, God called us to be Free Will Baptist missionaries to Spain. We looked around and saw many Christians that we thought would make better missionaries than us. However, since we were sure that God called us to go, we made preparations to go to Spain and fulfill the requirements. Nine months before we left America, God gave us a beautiful baby girl.

One summer morning in 1977 we three left for Spain. We left with tears in our eyes because of the separation from our beloved families, but we also went with a sense of achievement of having arrived at least that far, and with the assurance in our minds that we were doing what God wanted us to do.

In Spain, during the years between 1977 and 1981, we learned to speak Spanish, to eat with a fork in the left hand, to drive in Spanish traffic, to teach and preach the Bible in Spanish, how to love the Spanish people and to feel at home in Spain.

During that time my Dad died. Rachel (Raquel in Spanish) learned to walk and to speak both English and Spanish and to love olives. Most importantly, God showed us how he could use even us there in His harvest field of Spain.

We returned to Spain in 1982 and God used us (along with Dennis and Trena Owen) to begin a Free Will Baptist church in Mostoles, Spain (a city of 150,000 located about 10 miles southwest of Madrid). People were saved and they began the new life in Christ (along with all the same spiritual growth pains that American Christians suffer).

Our hearts were broken several times, our egos battered and bruised. We thought about quitting. We went back to the Lord and asked Him to reassure us that He wanted us in Spain. In His goodness and understanding, He did.

When we sat down on the airplane in Madrid in June 1986 to return to America for furlough, it seemed unreal that we were leaving Spain. We'd been so busy and suddenly, we were cut off from our work, going to America.

Since we've been back in America this time, we've been asked several times: "Are you going back again?" "How long do you plan to stay in Spain?" They're both good questions

and well-meaning ones. These are the questions that we've settled.

For us, the question of returning to Spain and being there is sort of like going to church on Sunday. In our home that's not an open question, we just always go. My theology professor said once that there were some things that one didn't have to pray about, like whether we were going to be in class every day or not.

I didn't join the Navy for just a couple of weeks to first see if I'd like it or not, and then decide about the rest of my hitch. The fact is that I didn't like the first few weeks of boot camp. When God called us to Spain and we became convinced that He wanted us there, we've never really thought about not being in Spain.

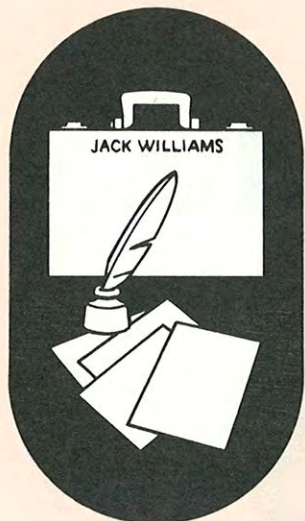
We've never thought about doing anything else but returning to Spain. It's all we know. But more than being all we know, it's what God gave us to do, and for us, that's the bottom line. Christians are supposed to do what God tells them to do. We try to obey Him and we enjoy serving Him.

We recognize that God has different things for His children to do at different times and in different places. He brought our senior missionaries, Lonnie and Anita Sparks, from the Ivory Coast to work in Spain. He may change our place sometime.

We look around at the world and we see many things that we think would be useful and good to do in His kingdom, but we haven't been called to do a lot of those good things in other places. He sent us to Spain. Because we love Him and we want to obey Him, we're going

(continued on page 7)

Briefcase



When You Pray for a Thief

The thieves came as thieves usually do. At night. No warning. They entered through the back door of the duplex and plundered the Francis Canaday home.

It was late, near midnight. The Canadays—Mom, Dad and two young boys—were attending watch night services at Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Antioch, Tenn., a Nashville suburb. They didn't discover the burglary until almost 12:30 a.m. New Year's Day.

Thieves never seem to understand that they take more than property when they invade a home. They also cart off human dignity and a sense of well being. Burglary/robbery victims feel violated. Some trust again, others never do. They lose confidence in their fellow man.

This might've been the last crime of 1986. The thieves boldly stole a VCR, kerosene heater, stereo system, jewelry and a personal computer. Then they ripped the phone off the wall. When the Canadays returned from praying in the new year, the thieves had disappeared leaving broken glass, scattered toys and upended furniture in their wake.

The family huddled together in horror and disbelief that their home had been robbed. They called the police. They called a deacon. The deacon called interim pastor Bert Tippett.

The police stayed till 4:00 a.m., but offered no encouragement that the

property would be recovered. The four Canadays finally got to bed, shaken and wondering what to do next.

But across town, the Lord pulled interim pastor Bert Tippett from a troubled sleep at 2:00 a.m. He arose and prayed. He asked God to make the thieves feel so badly about taking the Canaday's property that they'd return it.

It was probably just as well that the police didn't hear Bert Tippett's prayer, or that the thieves didn't hear it either. You can imagine how they would've smiled at such naivety.

But praying people tap into the Power of the universe. A strange thing happened 24 hours later. The thieves called the Canaday's next door neighbor. Said they were sorry they'd robbed the family. Said they felt real bad about it and wanted to return the stolen property.

In fact, the thieves placed a plastic bag on the back porch of the Canaday's duplex. It contained the stolen VCR. They left word that the rest of the property lay hidden off the fairway of a nearby golf course in a wooded area.

Unlikely as it sounds, that's exactly what happened. A neighbor drove to the golf course, found the stolen items and delivered them to the Canadays. The police couldn't understand it. The Canadays were ecstatic. The interim pastor thanked God for that uneasy, pre-dawn prayer meeting New Year's Day.

The Fellowship FWB Church family rejoiced. Then interim pastor Bert Tippett asked the church to pray again. You see, earlier, thieves had robbed more than 90 Nashville-area churches, including the Fellowship Church. They took a micro-

wave oven from the church kitchen. The church prayed that the thieves would be caught and the microwave returned.

The worldly-wise smiled when they heard about another naive prayer meeting in Antioch. You're never gonna believe what happened. After months of dead-end leads, the police suddenly broke the church burglary ring, captured the thieves...and told Fellowship FWB Church to come pick up their microwave oven!

While it's true that many thieves never get caught and much stolen property's never found, this gang of Tennessee thieves was caught because a Free Will Baptist church prayed and believed that the impossible could happen.

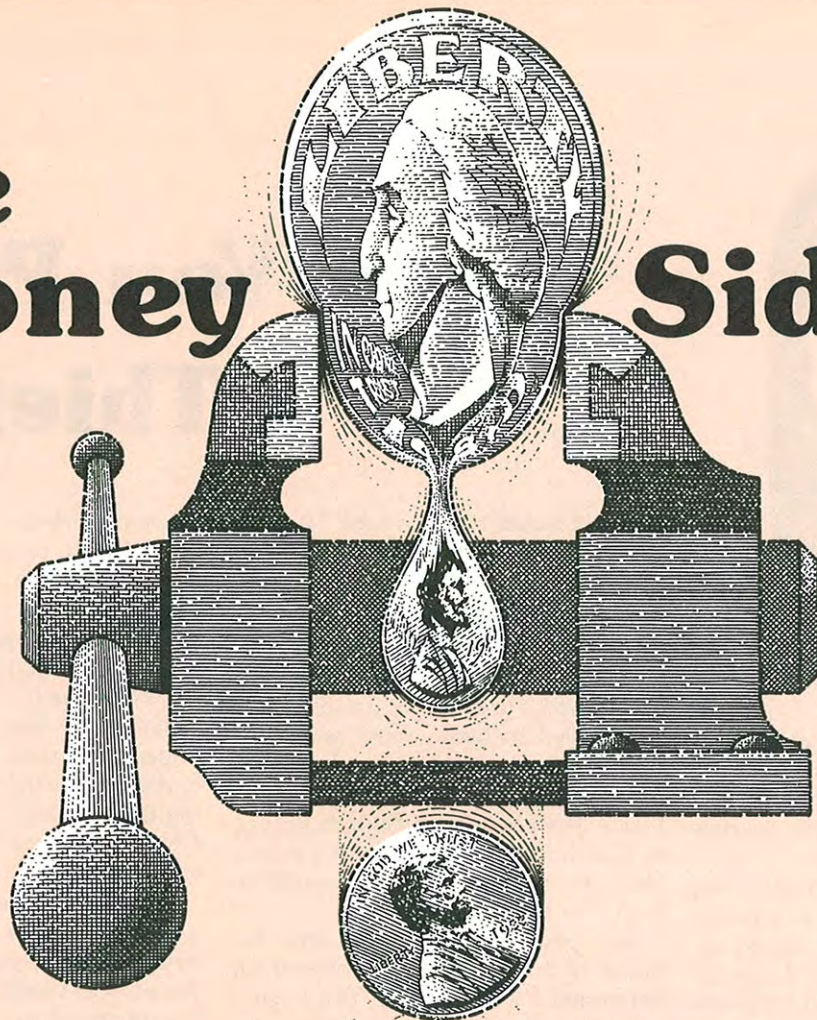
Yep, it's naive. I admit it. But for all the naivety of such praying, there's a microwave oven back in the kitchen at Fellowship Church, and a family's valuables returned to a Murfreesboro Road duplex.

Maybe the police don't understand it. And maybe you don't either. But I think I do. Prayer used to change things. It still does.

Sometimes, the Hound of heaven makes the best detective. After all, God never sleeps. He knows the address of every thief, and He holds the key that unlocks the darkest heart. We've tried everything else—perhaps it's time we put the hand of God on the long arm of the law.

This seems like a good spot to recommend an ancient remedy for this type problem. "Let him that stole steal no more." And, "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

The Money Side



By Earl Larson

of Missions

Devaluation? What's that? The dollar value dropped 40 percent against the Japanese yen? Who cares? Brazil's inflation rate's over 250 percent! What does all this have to do with me?

For Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, those are very real problems. And if you are a missions-minded Free Will Baptist, they're problems for you as well.

Our missionaries deal with problems of constantly changing money markets and spiraling prices in the countries where they work. Those problems also affect you and me as we support them.

Increases in overall department needs are easily understandable when one looks at the increased size of our overseas staff. Thirty years ago, we only had about 25 foreign missionaries. Twenty years ago, we had about 70, and that number remained fairly constant for several years. Today, however, we

maintain over 110 missionaries reaching out to people in other lands. Obviously, more money is needed to take care of each new missionary.

On the other hand, it's not so easy to comprehend why the cost per missionary has risen so drastically over the years. Some have asked, why do you require several thousand dollars per month in monthly commitments plus a huge cash balance before a missionary can leave for language school? Why does money appear to be constantly on a missionary's mind?

Part of the blame rests on our overall structure of support. "Faith Promise" cards are emphasized annually in many churches. But different missionaries come to the church, so many tend to switch their support every year. That helps the new recipient, but it hurts the missionary to whom the commitment was made previously. He was counting on that support for his four-year term. Consequently, he encourages people to increase their support or his account will suffer.

People tend to forget the changes that have taken place since "the good ol' days," especially in the area of finances. Think back over things here in the United States. What did an average house cost 20 years ago? Remember when an expensive car cost "over \$2500"? Inflation and price increases have certainly affected us here.

The same things are happening overseas! Average cars in some countries now cost over \$15,000. In Brazil, the price is upwards of \$24,000 for one with no extras. That represents a jump of 103 percent at one time. Prices for food, gasoline, equipment have risen

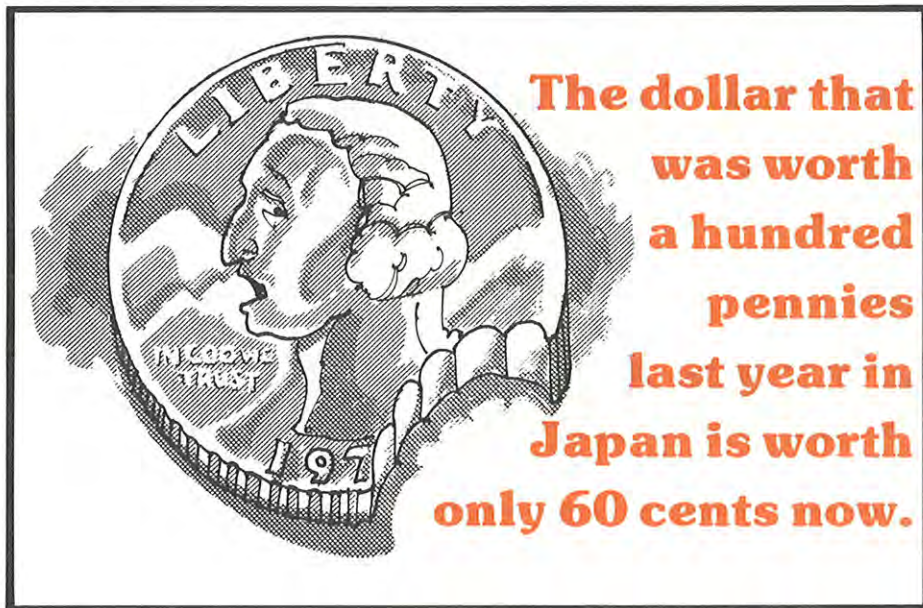
The home office staff has been entrusted with various responsibilities. The denomination must be informed about what's going on with our missionaries and our fields. Missionary services must be scheduled. Financial records must be kept.

last 20 years. If not, consider increasing accordingly.

If we promised to give \$10 per month 20 years ago, we should be giving \$20 or \$30 now just to keep up with inflation and devaluation. We like for our income to keep up with price increases. Why should we expect God's income to remain stable?

The foreign missions family is keenly aware that dollars given to missions are tools for winning the lost and making disciples. Everything done, whether here or overseas, is tied to those goals. Because those are your goals, too, giving to foreign missions must increase. We believe God will continue to fund these programs necessary to carry out the Great Commission. And He will use people like you and me to channel those funds to the areas of need. 🌐

ABOUT THE WRITER: Earl Larson serves as treasurer/administrative assistant for the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department. He's a member of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church, Antioch, Tennessee.



tremendously. So a missionary's cash needs rise also.

On top of that, for many years a fairly strong dollar worked for us. However, times have changed. The dollar has been devalued just over the past year anywhere from 10 percent to 40 percent in the countries where our missionaries live and work. The dollar that was worth a hundred pennies last year in Japan is worth only 60 cents now. And that does not consider any other natural price increases! Our missionaries struggle to stretch that dollar as far as they used to—both personally and for mission expenses.

We are experiencing tremendous growth on our fields. More people are being reached with the message of salvation than ever before. People are being brought into the kingdom of God. Evangelism efforts such as special campaigns, phone and literature ministries, and opening new preaching points regularly bring reports of salvation experiences.

Several fields either have or are establishing local Bible institutes to train national preachers and workers. We praise the Lord that they are reaching and training people right where they live. But all this costs money.

While the overseas staff doubled, the home staff increased only slightly over the past 20 years to handle the necessary work involved. Yet, increased costs have hit us, too.

We appreciate the prayers of faithful Free Will Baptists. But we need your understanding when it looks like a missionary is asking for an excessive amount of money. Supporters might ask themselves if their support has at least kept up with inflation during the



Going Back . . . (from page 4)

back to Spain. It all seems pretty simple to us. We're far from what we'd like to be as Christians, but we want Him to see us as obedient children.

Deputation is long sometimes. Some Free Will Baptists are interested in missions and some are not so interested. Sometimes it takes a long time to raise the money to get an account out of the red. The letters from Spanish Christians ask when we're coming back. My daughter would like me to be home some weekends. But we're a Free Will

Baptist missionary family and we're in God's will and glad to be there.

We'll be returning to Spain soon. When we get on the airplane at the Raleigh-Durham airport we won't be leaving home. Ten or 12 hours later when we arrive in Madrid, we won't be arriving home. We'll just be leaving America to go to Spain.

Taps hasn't sounded yet and we signed up for the duration. One of these days we will be going home. Until then, just look for us in Spain. 🌐

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Ron Callaway is a Free Will Baptist foreign missionary to Spain. He was first appointed in 1976.

51st Annual Session

**NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

July 19-23, 1987



Theme: "Grow Toward the Goal"



Larry Condit
Pastor
Capitol FWB Church
Sacramento, Calif.



Delbert Akin
Pastor
Westgate FWB Church
Shawnee, Okla.



Ken Riggs
Professor
FWB Bible College
Nashville, Tenn.



Dale Skiles
Pastor
South Fremont FWB
Church
Springfield, Mo.



Milton Worthington
Pastor
Central FWB Church
Royal Oak, Mich.

Hotel Reservation

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Birmingham, Alabama

1987 National Convention

July 19-23, 1987

- Please indicate your hotel choices below in order of preference.
- Telephone requests will not be honored.
- Hotels will not accept direct requests without approval of the Housing Bureau.
- Do not mail a deposit with your request. The hotel will confirm your reservation and receive your deposit directly. **THE HOUSING BUREAU DOES NOT HANDLE DEPOSITS.**
- Reservations will be made in order of receipt. If requested room rate is not available, the next available rate will be confirmed.
- All accommodations are subject to local taxes.
- Confirmations will come directly from the hotel.

Cutoff Date:

Received by
June 30, 1987

MAIL TO:

Housing Bureau
c/o Birmingham Convention
and Visitors Bureau
2027 First Ave. N
Birmingham, AL 35203

(205) 252-9825

HOTELS	Choice	Single	Double	Twin	Triple	Quad
Hyatt Birmingham (Headquarters)		\$55	\$55	\$55	\$63	\$63
Birmingham Hilton		\$55	\$55	\$55	\$63	\$63
Holiday Inn-Medical Center		\$54	\$54	\$54	\$54	\$54
Redmont Hotel		\$62	\$62	\$62	\$62	\$62
Tutwiler		\$68	\$68	\$68	---	---
Econo Lodge		\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40
Tourway Inn		\$30	\$30	\$30	\$37	\$37
Belton Inn		\$24	\$24	\$24	\$32	\$32

Guaranteed Arrival yes no

Credit Card _____ card name _____ card number _____ expiration date _____

Reservations are held until 6:00 P.M. on the day of arrival unless you guarantee your first night payment by credit card.

Rooms will be occupied by:
(Please bracket those who will share same rooms. List additional names on separate sheet.)

NAME	CITY AND STATE	TYPE OF ROOM	ARRIVAL Hour-Date	DEPARTURE Hour-Date
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Applicant _____

Company _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Date Submitted _____

(For Convention Bureau Use Only)

RESERVATION FOLLOW THROUGH DATE & INITIAL

Received at Housing Bureau _____

Processed to Hotel/Motel _____

BIRMINGHAM'S CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT



HOTELS

- 1. Hyatt Birmingham
- 2. Birmingham Hilton
- 3. Holiday Inn-Med. Ctr.
- 4. Redmont Hotel
- 5. Tutwiler
- 6. Econo Lodge
- 7. Tourway Inn
- 8. Belton Inn
- 9. Boutwell Auditorium

U.A.B.

UNIVERSITY BLVD

RED MOUNTAIN EXPRESSWAY

Is Your Easter Bonnet Old Hat?

By Sandy England

Bulletin boards were the last thing on my mind as I rushed into the deserted schoolhouse that Saturday afternoon. A large, combined 5th and 6th grade class had kept me somewhat overwhelmed with academics, and little time remained for adorning my classroom with visuals.

However, Easter season was approaching, and I found the valentine hearts about the room inappropriate for the occasion. What caption, I thought, might be clever enough to catch the attention of these students?

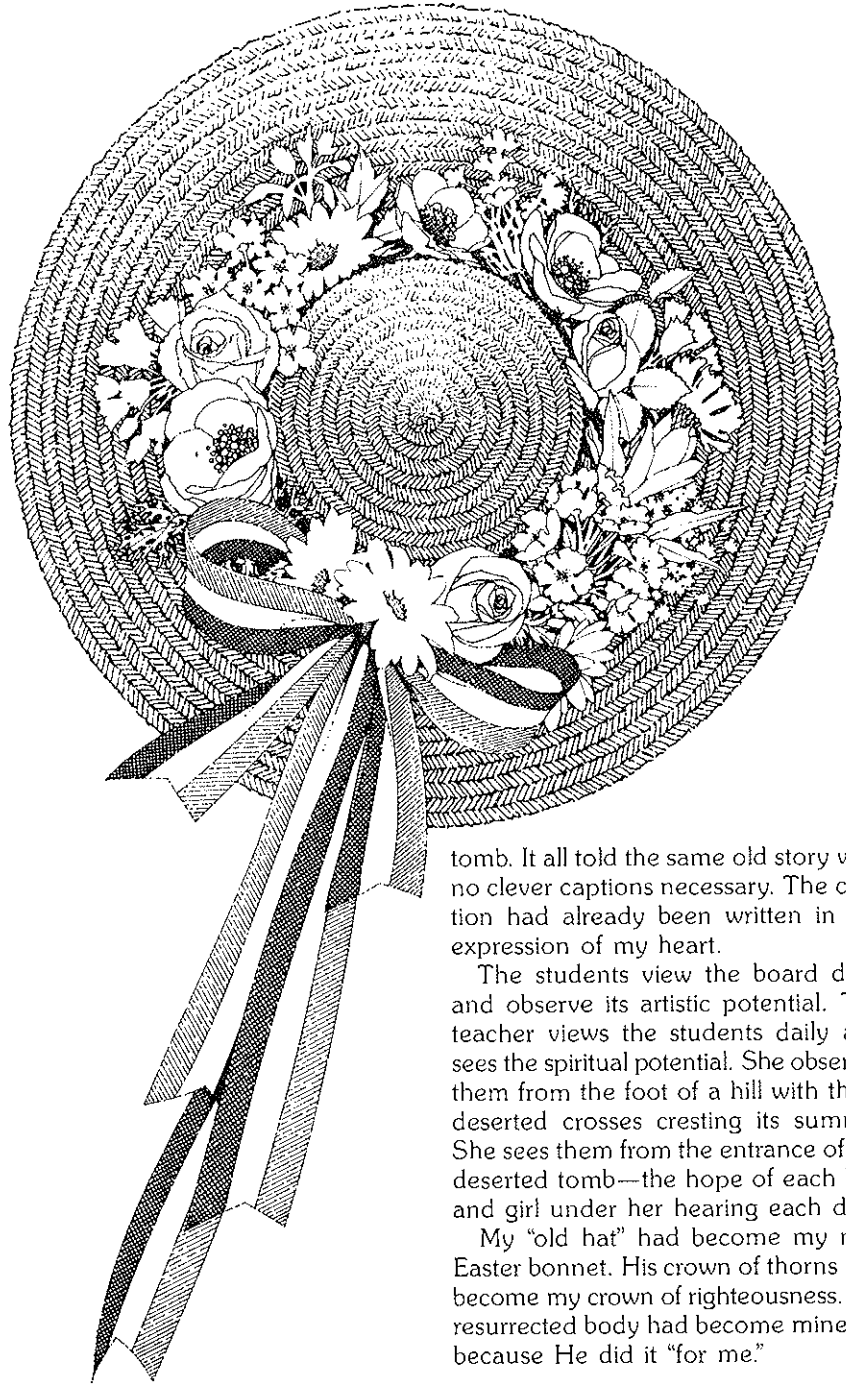
Christ's death, burial and resurrection along with all the other events surrounding the Easter scenario were almost old hat to the children. Many of them, raised in Christian homes and Christian schools, were unimpressed by this blessed old story. I must find a new or unusual way of saying it—the Lord Jesus did it for each one of them.

As I began to doodle and brainstorm for ideas, my eye caught sight of a greeting card on the front of which was a small boy standing at the foot of a hill. Atop the hill were three vacant crosses. The inside caption stated simply "for me."

My heart was suddenly gripped with the realization that Christ's work of redemption was "for me"—the overwhelmed, frustrated and often inadequate school teacher. My Easter bonnet had become old hat.

As I began to draw the soft pastel figures on the paper my heart was moved in worship and praise to the Savior who paid the ultimate price to repurchase me. The jagged thorns of His crown pricked my head and the desertion by all around Him as He hung, dying on the cross wounded my heart. The resurrection of His glorious external body filled my mind with wonder. I was exchanging my old hat for a new Easter bonnet.


Four hours later I stood back to observe the artwork that I had almost unconsciously derived. Three scenes unfolded the story: the small boy at the



foot of the hill, another small boy gently touching the jagged thorns, and the small girl child peering into an empty

tomb. It all told the same old story with no clever captions necessary. The caption had already been written in the expression of my heart.

The students view the board daily and observe its artistic potential. The teacher views the students daily and sees the spiritual potential. She observes them from the foot of a hill with three deserted crosses cresting its summit. She sees them from the entrance of the deserted tomb—the hope of each boy and girl under her hearing each day.

My "old hat" had become my new Easter bonnet. His crown of thorns had become my crown of righteousness. His resurrected body had become mine; all because He did it "for me." 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Sandy England is a member of Westerville Free Will Baptist Church, Westerville, Ohio. She is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

**REQUESTS FOR TICKETS TO MEAL FUNCTIONS
1987 National Convention**

Number	Meal	Total
_____	Learner/Adventurer Banquet \$4 Monday, July 20/5:00 p.m. Hyatt Hotel/Pacific-Atlantic-Indian Room	\$ _____
_____	Music Ministries Fellowship Breakfast \$6 Tuesday, July 21/7:00 a.m. Hyatt Hotel/Arctic Room	\$ _____
_____	Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon \$10 Tuesday, July 21/12:15 p.m. Hyatt Hotel/Mediterranean Room	\$ _____
_____	WNAC Fellowship Dinner \$12 Tuesday, July 21/5:00 p.m. Hyatt Hotel/Four Seas Ballroom	\$ _____
_____	Youth Banquet \$9 Tuesday, July 21/9:00 p.m. Civic Center/South Meeting Rooms	\$ _____
_____	Master's Men Breakfast \$7 Wednesday, July 22/7:00 a.m. Hyatt Hotel/Mediterranean-Caribbean-Baltic Room	\$ _____
_____	Free Will Baptist Bible College Luncheon \$8.50 Wednesday, July 22/12:00 Noon Hyatt Hotel/Mediterranean-Caribbean Room	\$ _____
	Total Enclosed	\$ _____

PLEASE PRINT:

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to TICKET SALES. Mail requests to TICKET SALES, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202. Please send check or money order. Do not send cash. All requests must be received by **JULY 1, 1987.**

NO TICKET REFUNDS AFTER JULY 1, 1987



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

**MICHIGAN PASTOR
BEATEN BY INTRUDERS**

HAZEL PARK, MI—The Reverend Roger M. Cooper, pastor of First FWB Church, Hazel Park, was beaten with a sledge hammer after he surprised two burglars at his church about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 28.

Brother Cooper, 37, told police that two men in their early 20s confronted him as he carried video equipment into the church. They grabbed him when he tried to run. One swore at him while the other struck him repeatedly on the head with a sledge hammer.

Cooper said, "They hit me three or four times on top of my head in the same place. By then, I was on the floor holding my hands and feet up trying to ward off the blows. I turned to crawl away and that's when they started to beat me on the back."

Cooper said he told them if they would stop, he would take them to the safe. One took him upstairs to the office where he could hardly open the safe for all the blood on his hands.

At about the same time, Brother Cooper's 15-year-old son entered the church and saw his injured father with one of the men. The son said his father yelled for him to get help. The boy then ran to a nearby house to call the police. When the son went for help, the two assailants fled.

"I'm just grateful to be alive," declared Pastor Cooper. "They tried their best to kill me. I believe God protected me."

Cooper was apparently almost stabbed. One of the assailants stabbed at him with a knife, but the blade hit an \$8 pocket watch and bent. Brother Cooper sustained an array of back and head injuries, including a broken nose.

Pastor Cooper said, "It's really strange. I don't feel angry. But I'd sure like to see them caught so they don't do this to anyone else."

12/CONTACT/April '87

WORTHINGTON ATTENDS CLRTV MEETING; SEES LOOMING BOYCOTT

CHICAGO, IL—Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington attended the January 20 meeting of the National Board of Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLear-TV) in Chicago. Dr. Worthington, a member of the CLear-TV advisory board, said he expects a nationwide boycott before September.

The National Board voted unanimously to recommend that the 1600-member group proceed with a boycott. If CLear-TV members approve the recommendation, boycott activities could begin as early as April.

Companies identified as possible targets for a boycott have been selected. They rank among the worst offenders on television over the past five years, according to CLear-TV officials.

This action follows a year of activity by CLear-TV to persuade networks and

advertisers to reduce incidents of sex, violence and profanity by 35 percent during the fall season of 1986, and to end all anti-Christian stereotyping. CLear-TV officials said that effort has failed, and they are recommending the boycott.

"During the past year, CLear-TV has made a sincere effort to appeal to the networks and advertisers to correct the situation which exists on network television. Unfortunately, that effort was not successful. If the membership of CLear-TV approves, we have no alternative but to proceed with an economic boycott," said Dr. Billy Melvin, chairman of CLear-TV.

Donald E. Wildmon, executive director of CLear-TV, said that the recommendation reflected reality. "I feel that the entire membership will give over-

whelming approval of the proposed plan of action."

All members present were given an opportunity to express their opinions concerning the possibility of a boycott. Expressions such as "It's about time," "We are waiting for the word to go," and "Our people are ready," were the response.

Clear-TV is composed of approximately 1600 Christian leaders, constituting the largest and most diverse group of Christian leaders ever to participate in a single social concern. The group includes the CEOs of 70 denominations, presidents of 53 Christian colleges, more than 200 Christian broadcasters and the heads of most of the large para-church organizations in America.

N.C. PASTOR TO DELIVER SOUTHEASTERN COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—Commencement exercises for seniors at Southeastern Free Will Baptist College are scheduled at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, May 14, in the Gateway Free Will Baptist Church auditorium, according to Dr. Lorenza Stox, college dean.

Dr. H. Randolph Cox, pastor of First FWB Church, Raleigh, N.C., and past



president of Southeastern, will deliver the commencement address.

Southeastern's third graduating class includes 19 men and 14 ladies. Sixteen graduating seniors are preachers, 15 plan to serve in Free Will Baptist Christian day schools, and the other two plan to enter full-time Christian ministries.

This graduating class is the first class with students who completed their entire four years at Southeastern.

President Joseph Ange extends an invitation to the public to attend the ceremonies.

NORTH CAROLINA TEAM WINS FWBCC TOURNAMENT

NASHVILLE, TN—The Trinity Christian Tigers, from Trinity FWB Church, Greenville, N.C., won Free Will Baptist Bible College's eighth annual high school basketball tournament, held in Nashville January 8-10, according to Byron Deel, athletic director.

Second place went to Pleasant View Christian Academy, of Pleasant View, Tenn. Woodbine Christian Academy, Nashville, Tenn., captured third place.

Other schools participating included Bethel Christian Academy, South Roxana, Ill.; Martin Hill Christian Academy, Booneville, Miss.; Farmington Christian Academy, Farmington, Mo.; and Victory Christian Academy, Jasper, Ala.

The Trinity Tigers have won the tournament for the past two years, the only team to win back-to-back victories since the tournament began.

Seven players were chosen for the all-tournament team: Darren Portell, Bethel; Chuck Owens, Martin Hill; Daniel Jenkins, Pleasant View; Kyler Welch, Trinity; Kreston Welch, Trinity; Jeff Hargis, Woodbine; and Kevin Wisdom, Woodbine.

Ralph Moseley, a 6-foot junior center from Pleasant View, was chosen Most Valuable Player.

Next year's tournament is scheduled for January 7-9.

WORTHINGTON PRESIDES AT RCMA CONVENTION

LONG BEACH, CA—Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington presided over the Friday morning session at the 15th annual convention of the Religious Conference Management Association (RCMA) which met January 27-30 in Long Beach.

Dr. Worthington, in his second year as vice-president of the 800-member organization, gave the final meeting through business and tutorial sessions. Some 255 exhibitors, mostly hotels and convention bureaus, joined the meeting planners in the Long Beach Arena and the Hyatt Regency Hotel to conduct business and plan future meetings.

During the Long Beach conference,

Dr. Worthington was publicly recognized as a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP), one of only four religious meeting planners in the world to hold that designation.

Members of RCMA plan more than 2,000 meetings annually that attract up to 1.4 million people. RCMA Executive Director DeWayne Woodring said, "The convention services industry has increased its appreciation for religious conventions."

Dr. Worthington also serves on the RCMA Board of Directors. He travels several weeks each year making site inspections for future Free Will Baptist national conventions.

Pastor **Jeff Gaskins** said 209 attended worship services at the 30th anniversary celebration for **Grant Avenue FWB Church, Springfield, MO**. The church organized with 30 charter members in 1956.

Pastor **Ron Edgil** of **First FWB Church, Flat, River, MO**, began a daily five-minute radio program called "Standing in the Gap." The program places biblical emphasis on contemporary issues.

Missouri Executive Secretary **Clarence Burton** preached the homecoming messages at **Victory FWB Church, Kansas City, MO**. **Mark Braisher** pastors.

Oklahoma City pastor **Joe Grizzle** delivered a series of family-oriented lectures at the April 3-4 family seminar for husbands and wives sponsored by **Missouri's Christian Education Board**. The seminar met at Stonecroft Conference Center, Hollister, MO.

Pastor **Glen Hood** reports 89 in attendance at **Mile High FWB Church, North Glenn, CO**. The church began as a mission in 1978.

The Mid-South Pastors' and Workers' Conference met February 9-11 at **First FWB Church, Florence, AL**. Conference Chairman **Richard Cordell** said the three-day meeting included 18 sessions, an extensive display and exhibit area as well as a Christian workers dinner Monday evening. Speakers: **Tom Malone** (Pontiac, MI), Oklahoma Executive Secretary **Connie Cariker**, North Carolina pastor **Billy Bevan**, Evangelist **Van Dale Hudson** and **Bob Baines** (Guin, AL).

Rick Jagers, principal at **Inman Christian Academy, Inman, SC**, says the school increased 200 percent in attendance in four years. Jagers said the growth centers in child care and kindergarten areas. Inman Christian Academy is a ministry of **First FWB Church, Inman, SC**. **Earl Hendrix** pastors.

After four years as a mission church, **Faith FWB Church, Glenpool, OK**, went self-supporting in March, according to Pastor **David Archer**. Oklahoma State Home Missions Board members and Executive Secretary **Connie Cariker** joined the celebration activities.

Planning to attend the **Texas State Association**? Better check your calendar. Moderator **Bobby Ferguson** sends word that the Texas Executive Board changed the dates for the 1987 state association. The Texas State Association meets June 17-19 at the **Odessa Hilton** in **Odessa, TX**.

Members of **Victory FWB Church, Andrews, SC**, plan to occupy their new

sanctuary in May, says Pastor **Washington Miles**. The \$30,000 structure includes an auditorium, four classrooms, a Sunday School office and storage area. Former pastor **I. Bennie Turner** and South Carolina Promotional Director **Norwood Gibson** spoke during ground breaking ceremonies November 30, 1986.

South Carolina's **Bethel Bible Institute** awarded 27 certificates to students at the close of the fall semester, according to instructors **Billy Keith** and **Billy Vanderford**. The institute conducts classes in Lake City and Darlington.

Pastor **Reedy Saverance** of **First FWB Church, Hartsville, SC**, began a five-minute daily broadcast over station WSDC. The program airs at 11:35 a.m.

Terry Motte, a Free Will Baptist minister who resides in **Timmonsville, SC**, authored a 24-page booklet titled *What Child Is This?* The book deals with the doctrine of incarnation and then gives multiple answers to the title question from the book of John. The \$3 book may be ordered from Soundwords, P.O. Box 3943, Florence, SC 29502.

Through the efforts of the Woman's Auxiliary at **Cardinal Village FWB Church, Jacksonville, NC**, every child at the South Carolina FWB Children's Home received a new bicycle. Twenty-two bicycles, at a cost of just over \$1,000, were delivered to the boys and girls. Each child's name was engraved on a copper plate and riveted to his/her bicycle. **Patty Lanier**, president of the Woman's Auxiliary, guided the program. **Billy Jackson** pastors.

The **Emmanuel FWB Church** began last August in **Santee, SC**, a resort area on Lake Marion. Founding Pastor **Herman Hyman** reported 16 in attendance at the first morning service.

Members of **Whitney FWB Church, Whitney, SC**, honored **James Childers** for 17 years as pastor. Members startled Pastor Childers when they opened the baptismal curtain revealing a sign, "This is Your Night, Preacher." **Sandra** and **Eddie Phelps** presented a skit titled, "Picking on the Preacher." Members presented Pastor and Mrs. Childers with a telephone answering machine and a cash gift from the church.

Pastor **Delmar Marks** reports 19 conversions, five baptisms and five rededications at **Espyville FWB Church, Marion, OH**.

By January 20, Pastor **Richard Cordell** reported 46 conversions at **First FWB Church, Guin, AL**. Dr. Cordell said, "This is the most outstanding result we have ever experienced!"

Free Will Baptist Executive Secretary **Melvin Worthington** was featured in a

two-page interview in the November-December 1986 issue of *Convention World*, a magazine for meeting planners. Dr. Worthington was interviewed in his capacity as vice president of the Religious Conference Management Association.

Pastor **Ben Scott** said members of **First FWB Church, North Little Rock, AR**, gave more than \$94,000 to the church in 1986, of which more than \$11,000 went to denominational causes outside the church.

On one Sunday in December, members of **First FWB Church, Norman, OK**, raised \$30,000 to purchase property adjoining the church. **Joe Grizzle** pastors.

Harvest FWB Church, Colorado Springs, CO, burned the mortgage, according to Pastor **Bob Lewis**.

Carlisle and **Marie Hanna** said more than 200 participated in a women's retreat in **India**. The majority of the participants were young mothers.

The **California Men's Retreat** met February 5-7 at conference grounds near Watsonville, CA. Speakers included California ministers **Dave Molter**, **John Smith**, **Adrian Condit**, **Louis Nettleton**, **John Hibbard**, **Edward Johns** and Board of Retirement Director **Herman Hersey**.

Pastor **Brian Atwood** says members of **Emmanuel FWB Church, Wabash, IN**, increased giving in 1986 by 39 percent over 1985. The total giving for the year surpassed \$191,000. Pastor Atwood also noted 122 conversions, 48 baptisms and 45 new members.

Contact welcomes the *Kentucky Crossroads*, official voice of the Kentucky State Association of Free Will Baptists. Evangelist **Tim York** serves as editor of the publication.

Members of **Southern Oaks FWB Church, Oklahoma City, OK**, presented Pastor and Mrs. **James Puckett** with an all-expense paid vacation to the Virgin Islands.

Free Will Baptist minister **Arnold Woodlief** was featured in a column called "A Community Plus" in *The Jackson County Floridian*. The paper cited Woodlief's efforts as jail chaplain and a volunteer at the convalescent center.

Pastor **Jerry Norris** said 14 members of **Calvary Fellowship FWB Church, Fenton, MO**, read the Bible through in 1986.

Oops! We goofed. **Evangelist Hughes Ellis** says he will probably forgive us if we print his correct address this time. Here it is:

Hughes Ellis
P.O. Box 227
Pleasant View, TN 37146
Phone 615/746-3582.





Herman L. Hersey
Director

Board of Retirement

AT YOUR SERVICE

ORGANIZING ALERT (Adults Living Effectively In Retirement)

Average Americans reaching age 65 have a third of their adult lives left. Ministering to them is an inescapable responsibility of the church.

There are four types of aging adults. First, the active, mobile and healthy who drive. Some are still employed.

A second group includes those who are healthy but are hindered by physical impairments such as failing vision or hearing. Some have difficulty walking or traveling.

A third group needs care provided in the home and is often referred to as home-bound.

In a fourth group are those who need care in an institution such as a nursing home, rest home or hospital.

Consider the needs of all four groups for a well-rounded ALERT ministry. For example, if all activities are planned around healthy, active members, the inactive ones will be neglected.

Establish A Purpose

Before organizing, establish a clear purpose. Write out the reasons for the ministry and the goals to be accomplished. One purpose is to give aging adults a place to serve in the church, to challenge them to use their spiritual gifts for the Lord. Another purpose is to provide for their

social needs.

Survey

Locate prospective members through a survey. Learn where they are and what their needs are. Start with Sunday school and church members. Next, locate older adults who are not members but whose families are. Then, survey the community.

Gather other information through the survey. Who lives alone? Who needs transportation or special transportation to accommodate a wheelchair? Who is able or unable to get out at night? Who has physical problems that prevent certain activities? A free survey sheet is available from our office listing further questions about family, interests, hobbies, talents, needs, etc.

From the survey determine the areas of ministry to develop and the general interests of prospective members. Plan your strategy based on this information and on your purpose.

For example, training classes may be necessary before evangelism activities start. In groups one and two there may be enough ALERT members to effectively minister to those in groups three and four. Do not assume that groups three and four can do nothing. They can pray, conduct a telephone service or minister in other ways.

Who Should Lead?

It is imperative that ALERT members assume leadership roles. The ministry is to and for them but must be primarily by them. Give them major roles in planning and implementing the program. A simple structured organization is best.

Introduce ALERT

Decide how to introduce ALERT. Start with a fellowship meeting or sponsor a senior adult weekend. Launch the program with a Saturday night banquet and a special service on Sunday.

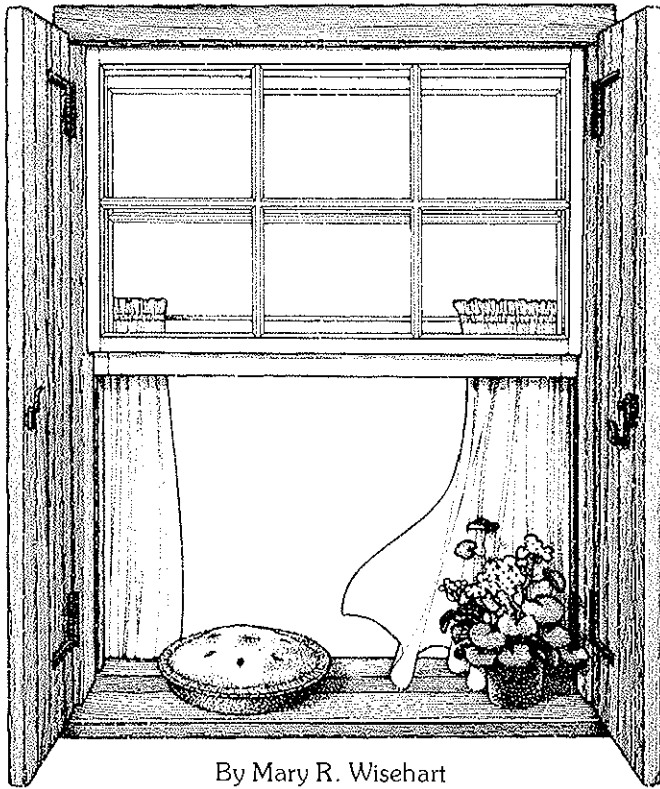
Set the time and place of future meetings from the needs and preferences of the prospective members. Morning or afternoon meetings may be preferred to eliminate problems of nighttime transportation.

Ready, Go

Now you are ready to develop a meaningful ministry. Just as in any other ministry, it takes work and consistent planning to start and to continue. It is time-consuming too. Just keep in mind that aging adults have the time and the talent. Never do for them what they can do for themselves.



Woman's Window on the World



By Mary R. Wisheart

From My Window

Friday. Rush hour and we were trying to get out of town to a retreat 60 miles away.

Just as rush hour began, a heavy thunderstorm began also. With the beginning of rain, a series of accidents occurred, some involving four or five cars. Traffic slowed to a crawl, then a pause.

One radio newsman exclaimed, "Nashville traffic has finally met itself."

We were moving only a car length at a time, when we moved at all. People became impatient. Tempers flared.

Then suddenly as though God had brought us into His theater and seated us for a special display, He flung out the rainbow. It extended across our sky, a perfect arch and in the most brilliant colors I've ever seen.

While we sat, I had time to look and marvel at the beauty. God's sign of promise. How long it has endured.

Now out of the storm, out of the traffic snarl, He gave me a special pause so that I, the driver, could enjoy the beauty.

So it is with our lives.

Out of the very ugliness we think may destroy us, God can bring something beautiful if we will let Him.

The rain stopped; traffic thinned out; the rainbow faded.

But in my mental scrapbook (the only kind I keep), the rainbow remains, a brilliant promise for tomorrow.

Eunice Edwards Project

At the end of January, the National Project Fund totaled \$1,374.55.

January 10, Mrs. Edwards' children planned a special celebration for her completion of 75 years.

Why not send a gift of \$75 to the Eunice Edwards Fund this year in honor of her 75 years? WNAC will be glad to relay the news to her. Or let her know that you are sending the gift through

regular channels: district treasurer, state treasurer, WNAC.

Her address is 606 S. Harry, Desloge, MO 63601.

DO NOT SEND GIFTS FOR THE FUND TO HER ADDRESS.

Emphasis: Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

This week of prayer preceding Easter concentrates on foreign missions and includes the Laura Belle Barnard sacrificial offering for missions. Offerings may be designated for specific missionaries, fields, projects or the general fund.

Please mark your offerings clearly, Laura Belle Barnard Offering or Pre-Easter Week of Prayer Offering. Help us determine a valid total for our Easter offerings.

—Special Prayer Suggestions—

Pray for the Church in the countries where our missionaries work.

Pray that God will unify it and protect it from Satan's attacks.

Pray for our missionaries by name and for the believers where they work.

—Sacrificial Offering—

Consider giving the price you might pay for a new Easter bonnet. Or a whole outfit. Give it joyfully and silently, knowing you receive His reward.

Plan Ahead

Make plans to attend the WNAC meeting in Birmingham, Ala. July, 20-21, 1987.

At the convention WNAC could have 1500 delegates participating in the business sessions. In 1986 approximately 400 registered. Each state should see that it fills its quota of 15 delegates. Then encourage your state president and field worker to come.

Also, each local auxiliary may send a delegate with a \$3 representation fee.

Free!

Have you requested a free copy of the January-February 1987 issue of the new-look *Co-Laborer*? Some copies are still available for use in publicity and enlistment.

Send requests to WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.



PASS THE TORCH

*Light For Tomorrow's
Leaders Today*



The torch has been the symbol of Free Will Baptist Bible College for 45 years. It has stood for light . . . the light of God's Word that dispels fear and ignorance, and brings men and women to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

What a thrilling ministry it has been, to take young men and women, and reveal to them the light of the Word! We have seen their lives changed and watched them become useful in the Lord's service. These 45 years have been filled with challenges and have yielded tremendous results.

Now we are looking to the future. We are preparing to pass on the torch to yet another generation of young people. A new campaign is underway to make Free Will Baptist Bible College better than ever. A new torch symbolizes this campaign, but it beams forth the same light that has always been the hallmark of Free Will Baptist Bible College!



NEW, IMPROVED PROGRAMS OF STUDY



Pass the Torch means an effort to provide new and better programs of study for this generation of Free Will Baptist young people.

This campaign is designed to attract students and produce finances—both of which are essential to broaden and intensify the present programs for pastors, missionaries, church musicians and Christian day school teachers.

Students and finances are also needed to add degree programs in counseling, physical education and business—areas now being considered by the college.



"Free Will Baptist Bible College taught me enough Bible and Theology to lay the foundation for an evangelistic ministry, opened the doors of opportunity for the performance of that ministry and introduced me to friends (I married one of them!) who have supported me in that ministry through the years."

Rev. Bobby Jackson
Evangelist
Greenville, North Carolina



SCHOLARSHIPS

Pass the Torch will also mean thousands of dollars in scholarships for its students. One of the main thrusts of this drive is to broaden the base of student support by granting many new scholarships.

For example:

—The dependent children of full-time Free Will Baptist pastors will receive up to \$3,000 in tuition credit scholarships over four years of training at FWBBC.

—Young people who have maintained an outstanding academic record in high school will now be able to qualify for up to 50% discount on their freshman year's tuition.

—If more than one dependent child from the same home enrolls at FWBBC, the second child will receive a 25% tuition credit scholarship.

—When the spouse of a full-time student enrolls, he or she will receive a 50% tuition credit.

—Tuition scholarships of \$500 will be offered to winners of certain categories of the national CTS competition, Crusaders division.

—FWBBC students may participate in Army ROTC. A number of scholarships, funded by the Army, are available to ROTC participants.

—Three ministry scholarships of up to \$500 per year tuition credit will be awarded to selected students who excel in the fields of pastoral studies, missions and church music.

—Present students who bring new students to FWBBC can receive up to \$400 per year, per new student, in tuition credit scholarships.

—In addition, scholarships will be awarded to *all* students as state and denominational goals are met in the campaign.

For example, when states meet periodic goals, the students from those states will receive an additional tuition discount of \$2 per hour. Then, when denomination-wide goals are met, as much as \$5 per hour more in tuition discounts will be made. For a full-time student, these incentive benefits can total as much as \$200 per year!

These state and denomination periodic goals are available from the college and from Torch Campaign leaders in your state.

The college is exercising tremendous faith in God and its people to provide the funds for these scholarships. Your generous, sacrificial support will make it possible for the college to continue offering these scholarships during the second year of the campaign and in years to come.

For detailed information on the new scholarships, see the 1987-88 Catalog, available from the college.



"Free Will Baptist Bible College has been a mighty instrument used of God to mold and shape my life and ministry. Its ministry in my life has been an anchor."

Rev. Tom Malone
Pastor
Florence, Alabama



"There has been no greater single influence in our denomination over the past 45 years than Free Will Baptist Bible College, challenging young people to dedicated living, equipping Christian workers for fruitful service and changing the course of history for Free Will Baptists."

Rev. James Puckett
Pastor
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



GOAL: \$3,000,000 IN TWO YEARS



Pass the Torch is a challenge to Free Will Baptists, unlike any ever offered before. To meet it, the college will need to raise \$3 million in two years, March, 1987—May, 1989. This will represent the college's total financial need for this period, since other funds—general and development—will be combined under the Torch Campaign.

To do it, the college has built a network of Torch leaders across the denomination to take the challenge to every church in every state.

Each state is being asked to reach its own two-year goal in the Torch Campaign. Here is how each state is being challenged over the next two years:



"The vanguard for Free Will Baptists was, is and will continue to be Free Will Baptist Bible College. The emphasis for righteousness and purity remains unchanged since its inception. The influential impact upon the Free Will Baptist denomination and our entire nation can never be fully measured."

Rev. David Joslin
Promotional Director
Arkansas State Association
Conway, Arkansas



"Ninety-seven of our 112 foreign missionaries received part or all of their training at Free Will Baptist Bible College. I am thrilled that the college still strongly emphasizes world missions."

Rev. R. Eugene Waddell
General Director
Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions
Nashville, Tennessee

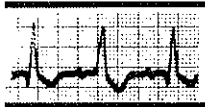
STATE QUOTAS 1987-1989

Alabama	\$ 183,600	Nebraska	2,160
Arizona	3,240	New Mexico	216
Arkansas	108,000	North Carolina	571,320
California	21,600	Northwest Ass'n	
Colorado	2,000	(WA, OR, AK).....	1,500
Florida	103,680	Ohio	52,920
Georgia	182,520	Oklahoma	86,400
Hawaii	5,000	South Carolina	178,200
Idaho	2,160	Tennessee	459,000
Illinois	74,520	Texas	43,200
Indiana	16,200	Virgin Islands	2,160
Iowa	2,000	Virginia	61,560
Kansas	3,240	West Virginia	20,520
Kentucky	38,880	Canada	1,000
Maryland Ass'n (MD, NJ, PA,		WNAC	9,720
DE and part of VA)	12,880	Other	505,444
Michigan	76,680		
Mississippi	69,120	TOTAL	\$3,000,000
Missouri	99,360		

The more we give, the less students pay!



3606 WEST END AVENUE P.O. BOX 50117 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37205-0117 (615) 383-1340



God's Grace Shows in Ivory Coast

by Jimmy Aldridge

God is doing a fantastic thing in Ivory Coast! Since 1980, we have experienced a 250 percent growth in church attendance.

In 1957, the Holy Spirit directed us to send the Word of God to the area known in colonial times as the Bondoukou Circle. Most of the inhabitants had little knowledge of God when our first missionaries arrived. Believers were almost nonexistent.

Our missionaries gave themselves to language learning and literacy work. A medical work was also started to help open the hearts of the people for the message of salvation. Christ was preached at every opportunity.

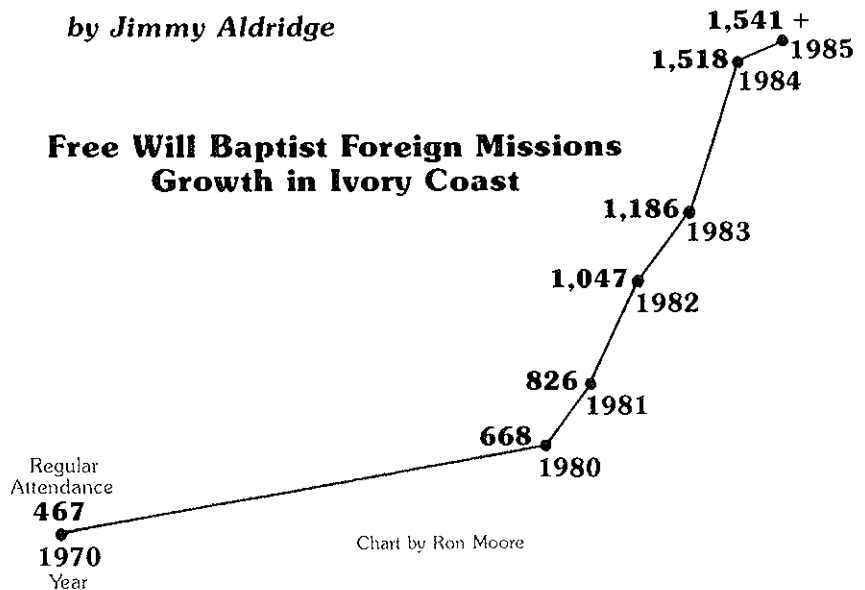
A few people were converted and some churches were started during these formative years. The missionaries gave themselves to soul winning and discipleship training of new believers. Much time and effort has gone into training faithful men and women to reach their own people as directed in 2 Timothy 2:2.

Using the power of the gospel, the Holy Spirit has faithfully drawn men and women to Christ.

As this chart demonstrates, over 900 people have been added to the body of believers since 1980! These figures are an average attendance figure. Many others have met Christ as Savior and moved on to other areas of Ivory Coast.

Faithful Free Will Baptists have had a great part in this by interces-

Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Growth in Ivory Coast



sory prayers. According to Romans 10:14, missionaries can only go as they are sent and sustained.

I want to urge Christians to pray

that the many thousands who have heard the gospel, and are now considering salvation in Christ, will turn to Him and receive Him as Savior.

35 Saved in November Campaign at Bouna, I.C.

IVORY COAST—A special evangelistic campaign was held in Bouna, Ivory Coast, during the last week in November. Attendance averaged between 400 and 500 each night.

According to missionary Eddie Payne, the meeting lasted six nights and was held in the church building at Bouna. The Christians were challenged to bring at least five people with them each evening.

A film was shown each night, followed by a brief testimony by one of the Christians in the church. An invitation was extended and 35 first-time decisions for Christ were registered during the week. Follow-up classes have been started by the young men who operate the reading room in Bouna.

The first convert of the meeting was a 19-year-old Arab Muslim girl from Paris, France, who was visiting one of the members of the church in Bouna.

Richards Baptizes Nine from Agnibilekrou Area

IVORY COAST—Five ladies and four fellows were baptized by Norman Richards in Agnibilekrou, Ivory Coast, on November 23.

According to Norman, three people received Christ during the Sunday services of January 4 and 11. On Friday afternoon, January 9, Bessie Richards was able to lead a young man to Christ at the reading room.

Norman reports that his own diabetic condition has been well under control since his return to the Ivory Coast. 🌐

Friends of FWBBC:

Doing What They Can

by Ida Lewis

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;...." Eccles. 9:10a.

A few weeks ago, I attended a meeting of an organization known as Friends of Free Will Baptist Bible College. I had heard of this organization and had even participated, in a limited way, in some of its activities.

But nothing I had previously known really prepared me for what I would see and hear that morning. As I listened to accounts of projects for the college that had been completed and proposals for future projects, I began to realize the magnitude of what was being accomplished. I was amazed at the number of people already involved and the number of areas in which work is continuing.

After hearing the reports of things already done and listening to proposals for future projects, I realized that there is no limit to what can be done! That is why I wanted to introduce to you the ministry of Friends of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

This organization was begun in February, 1984, by Mrs. Laura Thigpen, wife of FWBBC President Charles Thigpen. Joining her in the concept were other women who, because of their love and concern for the welfare of the college, wanted to give time and abilities to help the college in any way possible.

We are familiar with the obvious, usual method to help institutions in which we believe: Give money. But this group of ladies wanted to help in many other areas also, knowing that there would be no pay for their services. Their work was to be done out of deep desire to serve the Lord and the college. Although the organization was begun by women, a number of men have given many hours of volunteer service also.

The basic goals have been: (1) To grow in knowledge about the functions and an awareness of the needs of Free Will Baptist Bible College; (2) To give opportunities for volunteers to supply some of the services that will improve the ministry of the college; (3) To promote interest and prayer support for the college.

Let me share some of the areas where work is being done:

- Christian Service:** maintain materials of the Christian Service Department.
- Clerical:** helping with bulk mailings and other general office tasks.
- Entertaining:** food and service for receptions and large meetings.
- Library:** Inventory, book repairs, customer service, bulletin boards, orientation tours, etc.
- Grounds:** landscaping, planting and caring for flowers and shrubs.
- Missionary Children:** making arrangements for hospitality during holidays.
- Married Students:** activities that include a student's entire family.
- Sewing, Handwork:** making/repairing drama costumes, decorating, etc.

As you can see, there are many areas of service and many more we will undertake as manpower is available.

There has already been a tremendous amount of work completed by Free Will Baptist volunteers, both women and men, in the Nashville, Tennessee area. But it doesn't have to stop there. We have avenues of service for anyone who loves and wants to help Free Will Baptist Bible College. There are no dues. Membership is open to all who would like to give the college their time and service.

Think about it. What are your interests? Do you have abilities/talents that would benefit the college? If so, please let us know.

If you would like more information, please write:

Friends of
Free Will Baptist Bible College
 3606 West End Avenue
 Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Mrs. Lewis is publicity chairman of the Friends of Free Will Baptist Bible College and works for the National Home Missions Department.

Officers	
President	Mrs. Gloria Outlaw
Sponsor/Coordinator	Mrs. Laura Thigpen
Vice President	Mrs. Rachel Crawford
Sect./Treas.	Miss Katy Chasteen

Herman L. Hersey
Executive Secretary-Treasurer



the death of a loved one

•••is traumatic, especially the death of a spouse. Dozens of decisions must be made in a few hours. These include arrangements for a burial plot, an appropriate casket, pallbearers, funeral services, notification of relatives...and the list goes on.

after the funeral

Shortly after the funeral other questions arise. Where are the life insurance policies? How much money is in the bank? Is it available? Is there a savings account? It is hard to believe, but many husbands keep these facts from their wives. More than one widow has told me she knew nothing about family bank accounts, or even how many accounts they had.

Later the widow and family are faced with other business decisions. What about that home in another state? Or that lot by lake? Where is the title? Is it paid for?

Psychologists tell us the greatest stress we ever face is the death of a spouse. A thoughtful husband and father makes sure his family suffers no unnecessary stress at his death. He makes adequate provisions with a comprehensive estate plan that guarantees an easy transfer of property and assets. He makes arrangements to

save unnecessary attorney and court fees.
dying without a will

Facing the loss of a loved one is bad enough, but facing the death of a spouse who dies without a will is tragic. Every state has specific laws regarding intestacy, that is, dying without a will.

While each state has its own specific laws, there are some general rules for what could typically happen should you, a husband and/or father, die without a will.

If you are survived by a spouse and children, your spouse would receive one-third of your estate. The rest would be divided among your children and/or the issue of a deceased child. The court would have to name a guardian for your children, hopefully their mother.

If you are survived by only a spouse, most of your estate would pass to your spouse but part could go to your parents or other family members who are living.

If you are survived by children only, the court would name a guardian for your children under age 18. That guardian would not necessarily be a family member. Your children would share your estate in equal portions.

If you are survived by no spouse or

children, your parents or other family members would inherit your entire estate. It could go to distant cousins if your immediate family is deceased.

Should you be survived by no known relatives, your entire estate would be transferred to the state in which you lived.

Remember, specific laws vary from state to state, but the illustrations above are typical if you die without a will or an adequate will substitute.

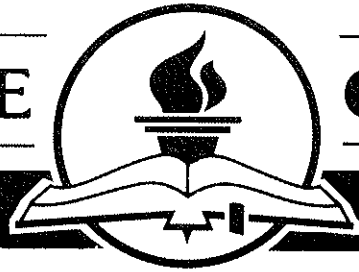
providing through a will

The Apostle Paul wrote in I Timothy 5:8, "If any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel."

The responsibility for one's family goes beyond the grave. A man cannot say he is taking care of his family by providing clothes, food and shelter while he lives. He must also make provision for their future care. Don't waste another day. Get started by writing the FWB Foundation for a will packet. Your family will be glad you cared.



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



HUSBAND AND WIFE NAMED MANAGERS AT RANDALL HOUSE

Dr. Roger Reeds, General Director of Randall House Publications, recently named Robert and Janita Warren to managerial positions.

Rob assumed responsibilities as manager of the Printing Production division in January. He brings with him a background of experience in the printing industry. He has more recently been involved with Bill Foster in the Sales and Promotion division at Randall House.

The native Coloradoan moved to Jacksonville, Florida, in 1974 where he enrolled in Florida Junior College. Following completion there he transferred to Trevecca Nazarene College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he attended one year.

He first came to Randall House in 1981 and remained for two and a half years in the printing production area. He returned to Randall House in January, 1986 after a two-year absence.



Janita is a native Nashvillian. She is the former Janita Raley. Her parents are Robert and Bertha Raley.

She is a 1979 graduate of Woodbine Christian Academy. Following her graduation, she was employed by Randall House Publications where she has served since that time.

The Warrens have two children; a five-year old son named Rob and a daughter, Kari, age 2.

Randall House will not only benefit from the Warren's experience, but from their sweet friendly spirit as well.

PERSEVERANCE BOOKLET TO BE REPRINTED

A booklet entitled *The Doctrine of Perseverance* by Rev. Leroy Forlines will be reprinted by Randall House Publications in July.

This booklet was first published for the denomination by the Free Will Baptist Press in 1959. It has been out of print for some time.

The size of the booklet has been

increased to 5½" X 8½" and the type face enlarged considerably. Pastors, teachers, and other students of the Word will welcome the reissue of this doctrinal booklet.

It may be purchased directly from Randall House or through the Randall House distributor nearest you.

BULLETIN BOARD BRIGHTENERS ON THE WAY

Any Christian person responsible for keeping bulletin boards alive with fresh, colorful and concise ideas that communicate will hail the release of Roberta Dishman's *Bulletin Board Brighteners*.

This 8½" X 11", three-hole punch, ringbinder format is jam full of easy-to-use ideas.

You will find seasonal themes, monthly emphases, background and lettering suggestions.

Mrs. Dishman packs thirty-five years of church experience and twenty years of service with a county Board of Education into this sure-to-be popular product. It will retail at \$9.95.

Seventh Annual Writers' Conference

May 15, 16, 1987

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MINI GRAMS

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

Unsung Heroes

By Roy Thomas

A hero is one who's admired for great deeds or noble qualities, one who's distinguished himself for unusual service or duty. In today's world, many young people especially make heroes of sports figures, rock musicians or movie stars. However, I put before you some unsung Christian heroes who work with a dedication that makes them worthy to be admired among Free Will Baptists. They are the nine men charged with the responsibility of overseeing the work of the National Home Missions Department.

I introduce to you the National Home Missions Board. All nine are pastors, and all come from different states. Board officers: chairman—Rev. Rue Dell Smith, Van Buren, Arkansas; vice chairman—Rev. Richard Adams, Elizabethton, Tennessee; and secretary—Rev. Jim Puckett, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The other members: Rev. Glenn Thomas, Moultrie, Georgia; Dr. Milburn Wilson, El Sobrante, California; Rev. Bill Johnson, Dothan, Alabama; Rev. Larry Russell, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (a former missionary); Rev. Hobart Ashby, Dayton, Ohio; and Rev. Gordon Sebastian, Wilson, North Carolina.

The National Association elects leading pastors to the Home Missions Board, and the present board is no exception. All of these men pastor leading churches in their respective states. They bring stature, maturity and credibility to the Home Missions Department.

Each man is elected at the National Association for a term of six years and may be re-elected once. Chairman Rue

Dell Smith, vice chairman Richard Adams, and board members Hobart Ashby all have terms that expire in July, and all of them may be reelected.

The board interviews and approves all National Home Missionary applicants. They review the work of the staff, chaplains and missionaries. They review the financial reports and approve the budgets which are recommended to the National Association for adoption.

These men pastor growing, soul-winning churches that are faithful supporters of home missions. Twice each year they attend scheduled board meetings. They often meet at the National

Association, and frequently a committee comes to Nashville to approve missionary candidates. They take many hours from their churches and families to attend these meetings and conduct the important business of the department. They serve faithfully without pay and carry a heavy burden for the work of home missions.

These unsung heroes are to be commended for their sacrifice, interest and efforts to help advance the cause of Christ through home missions. I am proud to set these men as heroes before the youth as well as adults of our denomination.



Standing (L) Hobart Ashby, Richard Adams, Rue Dell Smith, James Puckett, Gordon Sebastian. Seated (L) Glen Thomas, Milburn Wilson, William Johnson, Larry Russell.

MASTER'S MANDATE

All
Together
To
Advance
Christ's
Kingdom

Attack

DiscipleDepth Studies Continue

The studies this year follow the 1987 theme, DiscipleDepth. In Ephesians 3:18, Paul wrote his prayer for the church at Ephesus. He desired them to be rooted and grounded in love and comprehend with all saints the breadth and length and depth and height; and to know the love of Christ.

Studies for the second quarter include the topics: A disciple is Enthusiastic, A disciple has Initiative, A disciple has Judgment. These topics are part of the aptitudes of disciples. Aptitude, according to Webster, is the capacity for learning...and natural abilities.

This prayer reemphasizes the need for Christ to dwell in our hearts by faith. He wants to dwell in the lives of everyone, but only moves in where and when invited.

During this year commit yourself to achieving greater depth in your life with the Lord. Use your capacity for learning to deepen your involvement with the Master. Use your natural abilities to broaden your service for Him.

These activities will lead to greater knowledge of the love of Christ.

Best Place to be in April

If you men had a choice for the best place to be in April, where would you go? Some might choose a weekend to fish, golf, canoe or relax together. You might want a restful weekend of Bible reading and study. Your best choice would be a combination of all those things and more.

Why not consider a weekend in beautiful Tennessee for the Ninth Annual Master's Men Conference? April 23-25 are the dates for you to be strengthened and to "Strengthen Thy Brethren."

Men will gather in beautiful Buffalo River valley near Linden, Tennessee at Camp Linden. This Baptist camp property is a lovely location to meet and fellowship from Thursday afternoon until

Saturday morning. Space is available for 300 to sleep and eat through the conference.

Ample time is provided for sports and relaxation. The times of worship and fellowship in workshops help enrich the

experience. Men share their testimonies and needs during the conference. Comments are received like, "The best weekend I've ever had," "Rewarding experience," and "A real blessing to share this time with other men."

Ninth Annual National Master's Men Conference Schedule of Activities

Thursday, April 23

- 12:30 Tour National properties in Nashville
Sports areas available at Camp Linden, including: Archery, Canoeing (\$9), Golfing (\$5 green fee), Basketball, Hiking, etc.
- 3:30 Registration begins at Camp Linden
- 6:00 SUPPER
- 6:45 Registration continues
- 7:00 Sing out!—HARVEY CRAIN
- 7:30 PAUL WRENN, World Record Strongman
"Strength for today is mine . . . because of Christ"
- 8:45 Men's chorale rehearsal

Friday, April 24

- 7:15 Devotions / Prayer Groups meet
- 7:35 BREAKFAST
- 8:00 Registration for late arrivals
- 8:20 Praise Him in joyful song!
- 8:30 Topic 1: "Satan hath desired you, that he may sift you as wheat."
- 9:00 Sing and stretch
- 9:10 Topic 2: "I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not."—CHARLES DENMAN
- 9:40 Break
- 10:00 Director's Challenge: "Be strong in the might of the Lord"—JIM VALLANCE
- 10:30 Morning Workshops
- 11:30 Pictures (in front of dining hall)—MIKE HAYES
- 12:00 LUNCH
- 12:30 Registration / free time
- 12:45 Song time
- 12:55 State skits, State news—JIM VALLANCE
- 1:45 Afternoon Workshops
- 2:45 Free time / Snack shop open till 4 p.m.
- 3:00 State Fun Competition—THURMAN PATE
- 6:30 SUPPER
- 7:15 Registration / free time
- 7:30 Sing out!
- 7:40 Awards, State recognition, presentations.
Sports Trophy award—THURMAN PATE
Evening message: I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me."
- 9:15 Break
- 9:45 Testimony Time for Praise

Saturday, April 25

- 7:15 Devotions / Prayer groups meet
- 7:30 BREAKFAST
- 8:00 Sing the glory down!
- 8:15 The Master's Hands—HOWARD GWARTNEY, JAMES MUNSEY
- 9:00 Mexican Quartet Music
- 9:15 Topic 3: "When thou art converted, STRENGTHEN THY BROTHERS."
- 9:45 Topic 4: "Lord, I am ready to go with thee."
- 10:15 Closing Comments
Date for Tenth Annual National Master's Men Conference: April 21-23, 1988.
Theme: Continue in the Faith
- 10:30 Home to *Strengthen Thy Brethren* in service to the Master!





Free Will Baptist Music Ministries

The Organization and Structure of Hymnbooks

By Ted Wilbanks

The categories of hymns included in a hymnbook are usually found in the topical index. The categories of the hymnbook should touch every area of Christian faith, doctrine, life and experience. Therefore, a wide range of subjects should be represented by the hymns.

There should be a large body of hymns about God, His attributes and qualities. Hymns of praise and worship to God should be central to the book. Then, hymns of human experience, church ministry and beliefs and service should make up the remainder of the book. The *Free Will Baptist Hymnbook* has a detailed listing of hymn categories.

The general layout of a hymnbook varies with each book. The more liturgical books tend to be quite detailed. The *Methodist Hymnbook* has 21 divisions with subheadings in some divisions.


The *Methodist Hymnbook* has some interesting sections: a section called "Directions for Singing Hymns;" suggested orders of worship; aids for the Ordering of Worship, which related the hymns to the Christian year. There's an index of first lines, an index of composers and an index of tune names.

Hymns of the Spirit is the hymnbook for the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee. This book has the same basic layout as other books. However, the general index is different. The title of the

hymn is in capital letters, the first line of the hymn in lower case letters, the first line of the refrain in italics.

The *Hymns of Glorious Praise* hymnbook has a simple layout with the following divisions: (1) Title page, (2) Table of contents, (3) Hymns, (4) Scripture readings, (5) Title index to Scripture reading; (6) Topical index, (7) General index.

In my opinion the basic layout of our hymnal should be simple but with the necessary divisions and categories to make it meaningful.

I suggest the following divisions: (1) Title page, (2) Preface, (3) Forward, with name of the hymnbook committee, (4) Directions for singing, (5) Table of contents, (6) Hymns, (7) Scripture reading, (8) Index of Scripture readings, (9) Calls to Worship, (10) Index of composers and authors, (11) Index of tune names, (12) Metrical index, (13) General index, (14) Topical index. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Ted Wilbanks is a member of the Free Will Baptist Hymnal Committee.

—CONVENTION MUSIC—

The 1987 National Convention will convene this July in the great state of Alabama in Birmingham. Along with outstanding preaching will be music and more music.

Free Will Baptists from just about everywhere will harmonize spirit and voice as the great songs of the faith resound in Boutwell Municipal Auditorium.

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

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

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

Get your music at the first rehearsal.

See you in Birmingham!

Blaine Hughes
Convention Music Coordinator

The Hollow Church

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

Nothing is more dangerous to true Christianity than to get men to assume lightly the name of Christian" (Kierkegaard).

How true that statement is. The 19th century Dutch philosopher was rightfully concerned that people could be satisfied by a *nominal* Christianity.

We are surrounded by the paraphernalia of the Christian faith—bumper stickers, lapel pins and gospel tracts. But the vitality of Christ, the fire of the Spirit is missing. The first century society feared this new sect, Christianity. The fire burning in their bosom for Christ made their commitment too real to be ignored.

Now we have ashes. Who trembles at the threat of ashes? Are the principalities of hell concerned about confronting what used to be fire?

The world sees the church as a pathetic, emaciated Don Quixote threatening the strongholds of humanism with the sword of nostalgia and the shield of social acceptability. We warn them that if they keep pushing us around we'll raise up some shepherd to slay their blaspheming Goliath. We remind them that the names of Polycarp, Luther, Calvin, Edwards, Finney and Moody are on our roster, not theirs.

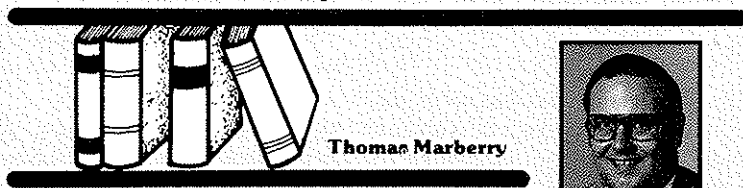
While we remind them of our burning past, we allow ourselves to conform

to them. The world has no battle scars from its conflicts with us, except perhaps an occasional smudge of soot.

We are too well liked for my liking. Why does the world that hated Christ now accept us? Certainly not because the world turned to Him; maybe it's that we turned to the world. They don't mind an occasional smudge of soot from our ashes so long as we apologize by buying their theater tickets, playing their devilish music, gyrating at their sensual dances and emulating their immodest fashion.

All this reassures them that we mean the world no harm. Our complacency and conformity send the world a peace signal. Remember that Jesus is listening in on the same frequency. I'm ready for a church that's tired of trying to accommodate the world and desires to please only Christ.

Top Shelf



Thomas Marberry



Robert E. Picirilli, *Paul The Apostle*, Chicago: Moody Press, 1986, 247 pp., paperback, \$7.95).

Robert Picirilli is no stranger to biblical scholarship. For 31 years he has taught Bible courses at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He's recognized as one of the leading scholars to come from within our ranks. The publication of this book by Moody Press culminates many years of research and teaching.

This book is first of all a textbook, and it possesses those qualities which make it useful in a classroom. It has a clear structure and organization. It covers essential information without being overly technical. It suggests additional resources which the student may consult in order to locate more detailed information on different subjects. The author presents alternative viewpoints in a fair and reasonable way; this

challenges the student to study the issues and draw his own conclusions.

The volume has one unusual and beneficial feature. It contains a series of short and interesting sections which examine important social, political and economic issues. The section entitled "Jerusalem at the Time of Paul's Arrest" is most helpful.

Dr. Picirilli faces squarely the most important controversial issues in the study of Paul. He examines the various dates which are suggested for the different letters (especially Galatians). He also outlines the major concepts presented in each letter. His reconstruction of the Corinthian correspondence is most helpful as is his analysis of the destination of Ephesians.

The relationship between Acts and the Pauline letters is probably the most difficult single problem faced in the study of Paul. Dr. Picirilli deals with this area objectively and thoroughly.

This work can help to meet the needs of two groups of people. It can help college students as they begin the serious study of Paul. It can also be of value to pastors and laymen who wish a more in-depth study of the Pauline writings than is generally found in devotional-type books. This is a book which is worth the price.

I have only one suggestion for improvement: Archaeological discoveries have dramatically affected the study of Paul in recent years. More attention to this subject would have made this book even more valuable. Obviously an introductory text like this cannot cover all areas, but archaeology is too important to neglect.



Green Tree Bible Study



Robert E. Picirilli

Matthew 18:18-20

The Keys of the Kingdom

When we look at our Lord's teachings about prayer, this is one that gets our attention. It has some strange sounding words about "binding" and "loosing" things on earth and in heaven. What do they mean? And what do they have to do with prayer?

As soon as you ask that question you realize that Mt. 16:18-19, another difficult passage, is involved. Indeed, 16:19 and 18:18 are almost alike, the only difference being that 16:19 calls this "the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

Let's look at 18:18-20 more closely. Verse 18 is a promise: Actually, the tense of the Greek verbs in the two-sided promise is *future perfect* and not simple future. Literally: whatever things you bind on earth *will have been bound* in heaven and whatever things you loose on earth *will have been loosed* in heaven. The exact significance of this detail is a little hard to be sure of. Apparently it gives added confidence of heaven's backing: when we lay claim to heaven's help, we are assured that it has already been settled there for us. (The grammar of 16:19, by the way, is exactly the same.)

But exactly what does this promise mean? Verse 19 is evidently meant as an explanation; the "Again, I say to you" probably means something like, "To repeat." In that case, the "binding" and "loosing" on earth is the same as agreeing, on earth, about something to ask heaven's help on, and the promise is (literally), "It shall come to pass for them from my father in heaven."

In other words, then, the whole section is a promise about prayer, that God in heaven hears and responds to our prayers, that heaven is on our side.

Verse 10 goes on to give a basis: Where there are two or three of God's children gathered in His name, He is there in their midst. Heaven will not have to be stormed from afar or bombarded into submission. So soon as His children agree on what they truly need from Him, that soon they can hear the Father say that it is already theirs.

This is what Jesus called, "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" in 16:19. Anyone knows what keys are for: they give you access. My own keyring means that I have instant access, by right, to my house, car, and office. The "keys of the kingdom of heaven" represent our right of access to our Father there. We come to Him freely and with assurance of His attention.

Note, further, that the number required is but two of us. While the

promise in other places (like Mt. 7:7-11, examined in an earlier column) is for one, this one relates to things *the church* needs. The "binding" and "loosing" do not mean locking someone in or out of salvation (neither here nor in 16:19).

Probably the two verbs suggest two different kinds of needs the church may have: to lay hold of, obtain something; or to be free from, released from something. In the particular context of Mt. 18, assuming that there is a connection with the preceding verses, the need is for the discipline of one who has refused reconciliation with a brother he has sinned against.

Regardless of the need, then, we can be sure of heaven's intervention on our behalf when we come, together, to the throne of grace confident of what our need is.

LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____

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

Baptists from _____
(Name of church)

_____ of _____
(District Association) (City) (State)

_____ Pastor Clerk or Secretary

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



ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

The Pie that Preached

The loud crowing of Mrs. Douglas' rooster woke Marty and Megan. They rubbed their eyes and got slowly out of bed. The sun peeked over the treetops, and the twins could smell bacon cooking. Marty and Megan loved to spend the night with Mrs. Douglas, even though it meant getting up early and helping with chores.

After breakfast Mrs. Douglas and the twins got to work. "Marty, would you scatter this feed around for the chickens, please?" asked Mrs. Douglas. "And Megan, let me show you how to gather eggs," said Mrs. Douglas slipping her hand under a big hen.

"Hey, Mrs. Douglas, aren't you supposed to have 12 hens?" asked Marty. "I only see 11."

Mrs. Douglas and Megan began counting, but they were interrupted by loud squawking and flapping as a hen scrambled over the fence. A barking hound dog was close behind. Just then Ralph Hawkins appeared with his shotgun.

"I'm gonna shoot that no-good bird if you don't keep it off my land," he snarled at Mrs. Douglas.

"Oh, Ralph, I'm sorry if that hen has gotten on your property again," apologized Mrs. Douglas. "I agree she's a feisty critter. I've never had a hen get out like she does."

"I'll wring her neck if she causes another ruckus at my place," growled Ralph.

"I'll do my best to keep her in," said Mrs. Douglas. "In fact, I've been fattening her up for Easter dinner. Just a few more weeks to go and you surely won't be bothered by her," laughed Mrs. Douglas.

"Humph," grunted Ralph Hawkins.

"And I'd be pleased to have you join us at church for Easter services and then come home with me for dinner," offered Mrs. Douglas.

"Religion is for sissies, and I don't need no part of it," snapped Ralph. "It'll be a cold day in July when you catch me in that church." Then he turned and stomped off with his dog.

Ralph Hawkins lived in a cabin in the woods just at the edge of Mrs. Douglas' property. He was a loner, and most of the folks in town agreed that he was nothing but an old grouch.

"Do you think he'll really shoot your hen?" asked Megan when Ralph left.

"I don't know," answered Mrs. Douglas. "It won't be the first time he's gotten upset over nothing."

"Who cares if a little old hen gets on your property anyway?" asked Marty.

"Ralph says that she makes the dogs bark and then he can't get any sleep. And I think she pecked on a few tomatoes once. But you're right, nothing worth getting so riled about," said Mrs. Douglas.

The twins forgot about Ralph Hawkins and went on with their work. They fed the hogs, and then Mrs. Douglas taught them to milk her cow, Old Bessie. Marty chopped some firewood, and Megan helped Mrs. Douglas wash clothes and hang them on the clothesline.

After lunch Marty and Megan sat in the porch swing sipping lemonade and listening to Mrs. Douglas tell stories when they heard a pick-up chugging down the country road. There was no mistaking the rusty, beat-up truck of Ralph Hawkins. He honked his horn, and without stopping, flung the dead carcass of Mrs. Douglas' hen in her yard.

"What in the world?" exclaimed Mrs. Douglas running down the porch steps.

"Why he did shoot it, he really did," exclaimed Marty.

"I didn't even know she had gotten out of the coop," sighed Mrs. Douglas.

"Why that good-for-nothing, wicked snake," shrieked Megan. "How could he shoot your prize hen? And the very one you were fattening up for Easter."

"I'm going to tell Daddy," said Marty. "He'll take care of Ralph Hawkins."

"Why, we ought to ring his neck," said Megan.

"Now, now, kids, calm down," said Mrs. Douglas. "What's done is done." Then she quietly picked up the dead chicken and carried it to the back porch. She chopped off its head, drained the blood, plucked the feathers and scrubbed it. Then Mrs. Douglas put it in a pot of boiling water. Next she got out flour and shortening and began rolling pie crusts.

"Mrs. Douglas, what are you doing?" asked Megan.

"The Bible tells us to return good for evil, and that's what I'm going to do," answered Mrs. Douglas. When the chicken was done she mixed up one of her delicious chicken pies. She put it in the crust and baked it to a perfect golden brown. Then she and the twins got in the truck and delivered the warm chicken pie to Ralph Hawkins.

"Ralph, I want to apologize for the trouble that hen has caused you," said Mrs. Douglas. Marty and Megan couldn't believe what they were hearing. "I hope you'll accept this pie as a sort of peace offering," continued Mrs. Douglas.

Ralph was too stunned to say anything.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

ALABAMA

Steven R. Hasty to Heritage Church,
Atmore from Shiloh Church, Bratt, FL

GEORGIA

James Allen to Spring Hill Church,
Spring Hill
Paul Smith to Double Branch Church,
Unadilla
Bill Barksdale to Corinth Church,
Brookfield
Walter E. Sumerlin to Liberty Church,
Waycross
Wayne Blanchard to Landmark Church,
Phenix City
Jerry Wishum to Sylvester Church,
Sylvester

MISSOURI

Gary Sheets to First Church, Lebanon

OHIO

James Thacker to Good Shepherd
Church, Lockbourne

OKLAHOMA

Dale Smith to First Church, Tecumseh
Clayton Craft to Trinity Church,
Muskogee

SOUTH CAROLINA

Edward Baird to Calvary Church,
Georgetown

The next day was Sunday, and the whole church was surprised to see Ralph Hawkins slip in during the first song. He left before the last prayer was finished, so no one got a chance to talk to him. But he kept coming back—always arriving late and leaving early. But one Sunday, Easter Sunday in fact, Ralph didn't leave early. When the preacher gave the invitation, Ralph nearly ran down the aisle. He was in a big hurry to ask the Lord to forgive him and come live in his heart.

When the preacher asked Ralph what changed his mind about church, he answered, "Well, Preacher, it was a pie." Then in front of the whole church he told what he had done to Mrs. Douglas' hen. "I figured," said Ralph, "that there really must be something to that lady's religion if it made her forgive a sorry scoundrel like me. It made me start thinking that maybe her Jesus could forgive me too."

Thank You For Your Contributions...



Cooperative Channel Contributions January 1987

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	Jan. '86	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$ 107.00	\$ 104.28	\$ 211.28	\$ 1,170.38	\$ 211.28
Arkansas	.00	4,298.44	4,298.44	2,463.17	4,298.44
California	.00	916.32	916.32	721.98	916.32
Florida	83.28	3,197.85	3,281.13	1,502.08	3,281.13
Georgia	12,690.59	899.00	13,589.59	3,004.70	13,589.59
Illinois	4,471.64	871.55	5,343.19	8,692.37	5,343.19
Indiana	420.29	133.05	553.34	655.20	553.34
Kansas	.00	43.80	43.80	90.25	43.80
Kentucky	83.62	170.46	254.08	358.16	254.08
Michigan	5,809.54	.00	5,809.54	7,491.53	5,809.54
Mississippi	29.98	280.73	310.71	584.18	310.71
Missouri	1,274.00	7,062.04	8,336.04	.00	8,336.04
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	25.34	.00
North Carolina	743.10	1,213.60	1,956.70	775.00	1,956.70
Ohio	457.00	3,086.00	3,543.00	10.00	3,543.00
Oklahoma	32,040.39	9,478.74	41,519.13	31,546.59	41,519.13
South Carolina	8,032.00	.00	8,032.00	711.50	8,032.00
Tennessee	869.76	2,454.27	3,324.03	2,835.92	3,324.03
Texas	6,147.43	471.22	6,618.65	4,092.23	6,618.65
Virginia	60.00	1,028.06	1,088.06	1,018.75	1,088.06
West Virginia	4,398.93	164.52	4,563.45	1,918.14	4,563.45
Totals	\$77,718.55	\$35,873.93	\$113,592.48	\$69,667.47	\$113,592.48

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 863.11	\$16,053.56	\$ 16,916.67	\$14,786.94	\$ 16,916.67
Foreign Missions	54,664.17	4,558.67	59,222.84	34,583.03	59,222.84
FWBBC	2,264.81	4,558.67	6,823.48	5,123.98	6,823.48
Home Missions	17,917.22	3,567.69	21,484.91	12,080.63	21,484.91
Retirement & Insurance	46.39	2,774.91	2,821.30	1,063.97	2,821.30
Master's Men	88.90	2,576.61	2,665.51	1,035.81	2,665.51
Commission for Theo.					
Integrity	21.21	198.19	219.40	95.26	219.40
FWB Foundation	212.28	1,189.25	1,401.53	645.83	1,401.53
Historical Commission	23.89	198.19	222.08	92.18	222.08
Radio & TV Commission	53.89	198.19	252.08	102.18	252.08
Hillsdale FWB College	1,506.30	.00	1,506.30	22.46	1,506.30
Other	56.38	.00	56.38	35.20	56.38
Totals	\$77,718.55	\$35,873.93	\$113,592.48	\$69,667.47	\$113,592.48

TEEN Scene



Parent Appreciation Banquet

The third annual Parent Appreciation Banquet met at Locust Grove FWB Church, Locust Grove, Okla. The youth, under the supervision of youth pastor Phil Stokes, planned the evening. They wanted to show appreciation to their parents for supporting the church youth ministry.

The evening began with a meal; the youth cooked and served. Parents relaxed and enjoyed the event.

After the meal the youth cleaned while the parents exited the fellowship hall to the sanctuary for a time of encouragement and instruction. Kevin Lauthern, youth pastor at West Tulsa FWB Church, challenged parents to see the importance of family devotions. He then gave them 52 creative ways (one for each week of the year) to conduct family devotions.

They ended the evening with ice cream sundaes and slides of the past year's youth activities. It was a light time of sharing memories with family and friends.

The evening benefited youth and parents. The youth learned the importance of appreciating their parents, not taking them for granted. Parents received instruction and encouragement in building good relationships with their teenagers.

Dominican Republic Visit

Elisabeth Sizemore from Dayton, Ohio, along with 23 other youth from Dayton Christian School, visited the Dominican Republic in January. The trip sponsored by Food for the Hungry, was an experience of learning and growth.

Elisabeth says the sponsors challenged the youth to pray about going, then told them to get parental approval and support. Their final challenge was to raise \$850 each in order to go. Sponsors said if these things were accomplished, it would be an indication of God's approval for them to go. Elisabeth conquered the three challenges and went.

The youth went to a school in Laquida, Dominican Republic. They remodeled the kitchen, installing new sinks and cabinets. They also erected walls for additional rooms. And to make an end to the work in the school, they installed wooden floors in two rooms which had dirt floors.

The youth also did home repair work for a woman and her three children. The family was described as being poor and needy. Elisabeth said, "There were four of them, and they only had three cups and plates. The only clothes they had were the ones they were wearing." When asked why they were so happy and content, the Dominican woman replied, "We live one day at a time and our hope is in heaven."

The trip highlight was the fellowship shared with the Dominicans. Elisabeth said, "You can love someone even if you can't speak the same language. We sing the same songs and worship the same God, only in different languages."



Especially
For Young
Preachers

The Children and Their Money

"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house" (Proverbs 15:27).

These suggestions work well for me. Establish your own guidelines. The goal is to produce children who practice stewardship, frugality and selflessness.

1. Establish a savings account in your child's name when he is born. Place financial gifts to the child in that account rather than spend the money.

2. Buy an insurance policy on the child.

3. Don't buy a lot of toys. Be selective at Christmas and birthdays. Two or three good gifts are better than numerous gifts, especially when grandparents buy gifts. Teach the child to take care of toys.

4. Establish a financial plan. The child needs to learn stewardship and frugality. Here is a good plan.

- Purchase a notebook and write each child's name in a divided section of the notebook.
- Make three sections under each child's name: Lord, savings, self. (10% for Lord; 50% for savings; 40% for self)
- Sunday the child gives his tithe at church. Monday, father and child go to the bank and deposit 50% of the allowance in savings. This account should be designated for college.
- Divide money earned by the child according to the same schedule.
- Gifts given to the child would be his, unless he wanted to divide it according to the 10-50-40 schedule. Encourage the child to tithe the gift to the Lord.
- It takes time to teach your child essential money principles. Most children can develop good habits of tithing, saving money and knowing the value of personal finances if taught this method.

5. Teach your child the value of money. Through practice and instruction teach the child to care for possessions, buy items on sale, wisely use money, and pray about purchases.

6. Financial principles. Expect the child to buy the car, help with clothes purchases, help pay for college education. The parent is responsible to train the child in financial wisdom, rather than give him or her whatever is needed.

Dennis Wiggs

Next Month: Some Proverbs for the Young Preacher



NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER WINS BATTLE WITH SECT

POINT REYES, CA (EP)—After an eight-year legal battle, owners of a weekly newspaper in California, the *Point Reyes Light*, appear to have won over Synanon, the religious and drug rehabilitation center.

Synanon's insurance carriers agreed to pay \$50,000 to David V. Mitchell, editor, publisher and owner of the newspaper, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1979 for its reporting on Synanon. Mitchell's former wife, who is no longer associated with the paper, will be paid the same amount.

In exchange the Mitchells will drop their suit against Synanon for defamation, abuse of legal process, and malicious prosecution. Synanon filed a flurry of libel suits that Mitchell said were intended to intimidate his paper. Synanon lost one of the suits and dropped the others.

David Benjamin, general counsel to Synanon, said the settlement "in no way admits any kind of wrongdoing or impropriety by Synanon or anyone connected with Synanon."

Reports by the Mitchells in the *Light* quoted anonymous former members of Synanon as saying the organization had used violence and threats and had greatly exaggerated its drug rehabilitation claims. Synanon went to court to force disclosure of the sources' identities, but failed in this attempt.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES MORE RELIGIOUS THAN GENERAL PUBLIC, SAYS SURVEY

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—Top executives are more likely to be committed to a religious faith than the general public, according to a survey by *Forbes* magazine.

The magazine surveyed the leaders of the nation's largest corporations, and found "most called religion an important influence in their lives." Of the respondents, 65 percent said they and their families regularly attend church or synagogue; the national attendance figure for the U.S. is about 40 percent.

Presbyterians and Episcopalians were represented in *Forbes* study in far greater proportion than their representation in the general population. Of the 100 top executives surveyed, 25 percent were Presbyterians, though they make up only two percent of the U.S. population. Episcopalians, who make up three percent of the population, were 19 percent of respondents.

Baptists and Methodists were underrepresented among top executives. Baptists make up 20 percent of the population, but only six percent of top executives polled. Methodists make up nine percent of the population, but under eight percent of those polled.

Jews and Roman Catholics were represented in about the same proportion as their presence in the population (two and 28 percent, respectively).

FREED RUSSIAN POET SURPRISES LONDON CHRISTIANS WITH VISIT

LONDON, England (EP)—Irina Ratushinskaya, Russia's foremost Christian poet, arrived in Britain two months after her release from a Soviet labor camp, and was welcomed by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, according to Open Doors News Service.

Looking pale and weak, Ratushinskaya, 32, arrived with her husband, Igor Geraschenko, 33, after the couple unexpectedly received exit visas from Soviet authorities.

She told a packed press conference on her arrival that one of the horrors of imprisonment was constantly being told that her husband would be shot if she did not deny her belief, while he was told that she would be executed if he did not do the same.

Ratushinskaya continued, "As a rule, actual physical blows were not used, they didn't need this. They refined it down to an extreme cold, extreme filth and extreme hunger."

She was the first woman to receive the maximum sentence of seven years at hard labor followed by five years of exile. She was tried in March 1983 for "manufacture and dissemination of poems" which contained "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda."

In the Mordovian camp she says she spent about 140 days in punishment cells largely for defending other Christian women prisoners. Her hair was shaved and she was forced to sit in her underwear in a cold cell. She was given a daily ration of bread "the size of a fist" and a bowl of cabbage soup on alternate days.

Ratushinskaya was released on Oct. 9, 1986, on the eve of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Iceland. Many fellow prisoners in her camp had been concerned that she would not survive until the end of her sentence. Following her release, Ratushinskaya says that she was kept "barely alive." Asked why she was released, she said, "Perhaps it was something to do with efforts by the Gorbachev administration to democratize. But I would not call it a humanitarian gesture, more a kind of show."

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION GROUPS GUILTY OF FRAUD

FAIRFIELD, IA (EP)—A federal jury ruled that two Transcendental Meditation (TM) organizations should pay nearly \$138,000 to a man who sued them for falsely promising that he could learn to fly.

The Maharishi International University of Fairfield, Iowa, and the World Plan Executive Council-United States were held liable for fraud and negligence. Robert Kropinski, the plaintiff, was awarded \$137,890, but was given nothing for punitive damages he had sought in his \$9 million lawsuit.

Kropinski, 36, said he suffered psychological and emotional damage during his 11-year association with TM. In the month-long trial Kropinski told of TM followers trying to fly through self-levitation, but learning only to "hop with legs folded in the lotus position."

SCIENTOLOGY CHURCH TO PAY MILLIONS ON LAWSUITS

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (EP)—The Church of Scientology agreed to pay former members more than \$5 million to settle two dozen lawsuits alleging fraud, misrepresentation, and other abuses, according to sealed court settlements described to the *New York Times* by anonymous sources close to the church.

Lawyers in the case declined to disclose financial terms of the settlements, saying all participants had pledged not to disclose the details as part of the agreement. However, sources close to the church said the total for all cases was more than \$5 million.

The Church of Scientology, established by the late L. Ron Hubbard, is generally viewed as a lucrative cult, and has been charged with fraud, tax evasion, burglary, wiretapping and other crimes.

Former members who settled their lawsuits, including Julie Christofferson-Titchbourne and Gerald Armstrong, had sought damages totalling tens of millions of dollars. Armstrong, a former church archivist, said he was harassed for making public information he uncovered showing Hubbard's teachings to be false. As part of his settlement, Armstrong said he agreed to return original copies of thousands of church documents he took with him when he left the church.

United Press International quoted church lawyer Earle Cooley as saying that plaintiffs who received settlements did so "in recognition of the fact that their complaints were against prior management of the church and not present management. I think we have demonstrated that litigation against the church is not a cost-effective proposition and is not the road to untold riches."

POLL SAYS PUBLIC IS LOSING CONFIDENCE IN THE CHURCH

PRINCETON, NJ (EP)—For the first time in over a decade, the church and organized religion has lost its lead as the institution in which Americans have the most confidence. The military was the institution generating the most confidence, according to a Gallup Poll designed to assess the public's trust.

Those surveyed were asked to say how much confidence they had in various institutions in American society—a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little. The percentage of those indicating "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the church or organized religion was 57 percent, down from 66 percent in 1985.

The military led the survey with 63 percent expressing a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in it. The U.S. Supreme Court was third (53 percent), followed by banks (49 percent), public schools (49 percent), Congress (41 percent), newspapers (37 percent), organized labor (29 percent), big business (28 percent) and television (27 percent).

Aside from the nine percentage-point drop for religion, figures for other institutions were not significantly different from those obtained in the previous poll.

Women, blacks and Protestants were more likely to place confidence in the church than men, whites and Catholics. Confidence increased with age, and decreased as formal education and income increased.





The Resurrection Record



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS
By Melvin Worthington

Gone! That's what the biblical record states about Jesus on Sunday after the crucifixion. He was not there. He had risen.

The accounts of the sights, sequences and sayings of our Lord's resurrection end each of the four Gospels. No other doctrine is more thoroughly attested.

Paul declared the resurrection essential for salvation. Inspired biblical writers provide abundant details which make it virtually impossible to doubt, deny or discredit Jesus' physical bodily resurrection.

Reviewing the resurrection accounts brings to mind several truths.

Infallible Proofs

The Bible documents the resurrection doctrine. Luke declared, "To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God" (Acts 1:13).

Human witness further confirms the resurrection. Following the resurrection, Christ remained on this earth 40 days and appeared to His disciples. He spoke to them of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

Matthew records the Lord's post-resurrection appearance to Mary Magdalene and Mary (Mt. 28:9-10) as well as to the 11 disciples in Galilee (28:16-17). Mark notes His appearances to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9) and to the 11 disciples (16:14).

Luke mentions Christ's appearances to the two disciples on the road to

The Secretary's Schedule

April 17-18	New Mexico State Assn. First United FWB Church Hobbs, NM
April 26-May 1	First FWB Church Poteau, OK

Emmaus and to the 11 in Jerusalem. John cites Jesus' appearances to Mary, Mary Magdalene, the apostles (without Thomas) and the full 11 with Thomas present.

Acts 1 uniquely records Jesus' appearance just prior to His ascension. Finally, I Corinthians 15 confirms that Jesus appeared to Cephas, James, the 12 and 500 others.

The resurrection miracle is confirmed by Holy Word and human witness. Those witnesses saw Him, spoke with Him, touched Him and ate with Him.

Indescribable Power

The Gospel resurrection accounts focus on the angelic announcement that Jesus had risen. The angels posed this interesting question, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" In Luke's account the angels reminded the women that Jesus predicted His death and resurrection.

Paul teaches us that Christ "...was declared to be the Son of God with power, by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:4).

Paul further declares his ambition to know Christ and the power of His resurrection (Philip. 3:10). Paul prayed that the Christians at Ephesus might know

the greatness of Christ's power as a result of the resurrection (Eph. 1:19-21).

The power which raised Jesus from the dead provides salvation and sanctification, and supplies strength for service to everyone who believes. The facts of the gospel include the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

Implicit Program

After His resurrection Jesus set forth the commission for His Church. This commission includes evangelism—preaching the gospel among all nations to every tongue and tribe. Because the field is the world, we have a world-wide responsibility. Jesus' Acts 1:8 command makes this clear. To neglect Acts 1:8 means that we disobey Christ's commission.

His commission includes education. We win converts, then we teach them, train them and tend them. To ignore the education of converts is to ignore Christ's commission.

But take heart, Christian friends. Our Christ conquered death! His resurrection guarantees our resurrection. He lived. He died. He lives again. Nothing's impossible when we rise above the death.

CONTACT

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- Aren't you glad you participated?

CALL·A·THON can lift the burden!

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Everyone can do something!

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- 2) Special sacrificial gifts
- 3) Special Call-a-thon fund-raising projects
- 4) Sunday school offerings
- 5) Special Easter offerings or
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Surely your church can do something special in April. Wouldn't it be great to be part of 500 or more churches lifting the deficit burden in 1987?

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