

Convention Issue



New moderator-Ralph Hampton Outgoing moderator-Bobby Jackson

Here's a riddle for you. What takes months to plan, lasts five days, and produces eternal results? (Turn to page two...)

National Convention Review

The Word From Birmingham

By Larry D. Hampton

Give up? A national convention!

The 1987 edition of this annual event is now history. Work is well under way on the new and improved 1988 model. This seems an appropriate time to look back on the denomination's visit to Birmingham, Alabama, the week of July 19-23.

The 51st session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists will not be remembered as the largest. The total number of registrants (6,159) is healthy, but we've had bigger crowds at our meetings. The convention facilities will not be recalled as the finest we ever had. While they were adequate, we've used more convenient locations that were in better repair.

Still, this convention will be regarded as one of the best we ever had. The music was exceptional. Who can forget Bill Gardner singing "Home, Sweet Home"? Or the Mass Choir's rendition of "Heavenly Love"? Or the New Life Singers' version of "On The Jericho Road"? You get the point. Nearly all the music was as good as any we've ever had.

And what preaching! From Sunday to Wednesday, we feasted on the Word of God. While there have been outstanding sermons during past conventions, it would be difficult to pinpoint a year when all the messages were of such high quality.

Such an outstanding convention does not just happen. The Executive Office in cooperation with the Alabama Steering Committee spent months getting ready for these five days. You saw Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington. While other staff members were seldom seen, they manned the phone and printing press to make sure the convention turned out as planned.

Steering Committee Chairman, John Edwards; Hospitality Chairman, Glenn Hood; Prayer Chairman, Danny Thompson; Registration Chairman, Shirley Kennedy; Ushering Chairmen Raymond Lee and Donny Hussey; gave freely of their time to make this meeting a success.





Alabama Moderator John Edwards welcomes delegates to Birmingham.

For the past 12 years Blaine Hughes has served as music coordinator for this annual event. His efforts produced an outstanding musical ministry. This year he was assisted by Ted Wilbanks (organist), Susan Forlines (pianist) and those who led the congregational singing.

George Harvey, Jr. was registration coordinator. By now you get the idea that it took many men and women many hours to put together the 51st annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

To all of you, our heartfelt thanks. We will never forget this association in the heart of Dixie because God touched our hearts.

The Preaching Five

Sunday Morning

A steamy convention center greeted Free Will Baptists from across the denomination when they gathered for Sunday School July 19 in Birmingham. Doice McAlister, veteran pastor from Turlock, Calif., welcomed conventioneers to the Magic City.

Joseph Cutler, minister of music and youth, Sherwood Forest FWB Church, El Sobrante, Calif., directed congregational singing. The New Life Singers from Hillsdale FWB College provided special music.

Separate Sunday School classes were conducted for children, youth and adults. Jeff Stegall and Sarah Malone taught the Primary/Junior class. The YET Team from Albany, Ga., led the teen class. Roger C. Reeds, general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department, instructed the adults from I Thessalonians 4.

Ruth Thigpen Slaten's solo, "It Is Well With My Soul," prepared worshipers for the morning message.

For the past 15 years Rev. Larry Condit has pastored Capitol FWB Church, Sacramento, Calif. On the third Sunday in July someone else filled his pulpit. He was in Birmingham's Boutwell Municipal Auditorium to address the Sunday morning worshipers at the National Convention.

Condit based his well-received message on Joshua 1:7. He sprinkled references to an eagle's development throughout his sermon.

Sunday Night

A near-capacity crowd filled Boutwell Auditorium Sunday evening. Ralph



Oklahoma pastor Delbert Akin.

Hampton, assistant moderator of the National Association, presided. Joseph Cutler again led congregational singing.

The 50 Truth and Peace participants thrilled the audience with their spirited singing. The Preachers Quartet from Oklahoma also provided special music as they sang the offertory.

J. Delbert Akin, Jack Richey, Homer Young and Waldo Young—The Oklahoma Ministers Quartet—sang, "More About Jesus."

John Gibbs, director of development for the Home Missions Department, concluded the special music.

Delbert Akin, an ordained minister for over 35 years and a member of the Oklahoma Ministers Quartet since 1959 began by paying tribute to three Free Will Baptist preachers who influenced his ministry—Ralph Hampton, Sr., E. E. Morris and W. V. Wood.

Akin's message came from I Peter 1:1-9. He pointed out that to have joy it is necessary to be born again, to believe God has the power to keep you, to love Jesus, and to know that Jesus is coming again. "Jesus is coming back. That's all I need to know," thundered Akin.

Monday Night

The Monday evening worship service was well attended. Waldo Young, clerk of the National Association, guided the worship service. Blaine Hughes, convention music coordinator, directed singing. At 7:15 Young called the 51st session of the National Association to order. He introduced Moderator Bobby Jackson who announced committee appointments: Credentials-Mark Vandivort (chairman), Raymond Riggs, Herbert Waid, Charles Cooper and Fred Hanson. Resolutions—Dennis Wiggs (chairman), Bobby Ferguson, Nuel Brown, David Joslin and Alton Loveless. Nominating-L. C. Johnson (chairman), Nathan Ruble, Larry Clyatt, Bailey Thompson and Wilburn Beasley.

Dr. John Edwards, chairman of the Alabama Steering Committee and moderator of the Alabama State Association, officially welcomed the National Association to Birmingham. He spoke about the first national convention he attended in 1957 at Birmingham's Tutwiler Hotel.

Special music was provided by the Waymon Fields Family of Millport, Ala., and a Mass Adult Choir of singers from across the nation. Arkansas pastor Doug Little directed this talented group. The Free Will Baptist Bible College quartet provided the offertory. Tom Hollingshead of South Roxana, Ill., sang just before the message.

Contents

September 1987

- 2 The Word from Birmingham Larry Hampton
- 5 Briefcase: Ministry Under Fire Jack Williams
- 13 WNAC Report Mary Wisehart
- 14 NYC '87 Jim Lauthern

16 Free Will Baptist Newsfront

19 Currently

- 20 The Department Pages
- 28 Teen Scene
- 29 Especially For Young Preachers Dennis Wiggs
- 30 Revival Floyd Wolfenbarger
- 31 Business in Birmingham Melvin Worthington
- **32 Election Schedule**

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Birmingham...(from page 3)

Ken Riggs, chairman of the Teacher Education Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College, preached on "Grow in Godliness." He observed that holiness is grounded in a belief in and commitment to God. He explained that the Father demanded holiness, the Son demonstrated holiness and the Spirit develops holiness in believers. Riggs noted, "A real understanding of godliness will not make you sinless, but it will make you sin less."

Tuesday Night

Tuesday evening, Jack Richey called the large congregation to worship. Randy Sawyer, chairman of the Music Department at Southeastern FWB College, led the song service. The New Life Singers, the Mass Adult Choir, the Preacher's Quartet, and Bill Gardner demonstrated the value of a music ministry.

Missouri pastor Dale Skiles developed the theme, "Grow in Giving." Skiles called on conventioneers to give themselves, their salaries and their service to God. He urged fellow Free Will Baptists to give themselves to one another and to a lost and dying world. He suggested that the frustration many experience in their service to God results from the failure to first give themselves to the Lord. Skiles reminded listeners that the service God expects is reasonable, reachable and rewarding.

Wednesday Night

Wednesday evening is the convention missions service. Raymond Riggs, former general director of the Foreign Missions Department, presided over this special meeting. Free Will Baptist missionaries in attendance were introduced to the assembled missions supporters. There were 41 foreign missionaries and 67 home missionaries present at the convention.

Riggs mentioned the passing of several friends of missions this year-Nell Woolsey, Agnes Smith and Paul Ketteman. He shared a letter from Helen (Mrs. Paul) Ketteman to the National Association.

Larry Clyatt, pastor of First FWB Church, Benton, Ill., led congregational singing. Each worshiper received a minihymnal version of Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book as he entered the arena. All of the songs selected by Clyatt came from this new Free Will Baptist hymn book.

A highlight of the evening was special music by the Mexican guartet. Other special numbers were provided by the Men's Chorale directed by Vernon Whaley, a group from Southeastern FWB College and Howard Gwartney. Gwartney, home missionary to Phoe-



Michigan pastor Milton Worthington

nix, Ariz., sang a medley of songs written by Free Will Baptists.

The annual missions offering totaled \$19,302.80. All undesignated gifts are divided equally between home and foreign missions.



4/CONTACT/September '87

Doug Little directs Mass Adult Choir.



FWBBC professor Ken Riggs

Milton W. Worthington, pastor of Central FWB Church, Royal Oak, Mich., seemed an obvious selection to bring the missions message, "Grow in Going." He pastors the home church of eight current Free Will Baptist missionaries. In addition, he recently returned from a five-week tour of several mission fields.

Worthington's message came from Isaiah 6-the deity of God, the depravity of man and the duty of God's servants. He told conventioneers that the servant God sends must see the nature of the Lord, not the needs of the world. He also reminded his listeners that the "whole church is to take the whole Word to the whole world."

Scores came forward at the invitation to commit themselves to "grow in going."

Bible Conference

Free Will Baptists love preaching. In addition to five major messages scheduled throughout the conference, the program included a Home Missions Camp Meeting and a Bible Conference.

The Tuesday Bible Conference met in the Civic Center Theatre. A large crowd gathered to hear Johnny E. Pike (Charlotte, N.C.) and Fred Hall (Bowling Green, Ky.) preach God's Word.

Millard Sasser presided over the two services which also featured congregational singing and special music. Waymon Fields led the singing. His family joined him as they sang before the first message. Southeastern FWB College also provided music for this service. A quartet from Free Will Baptist Bible College and Jon and Susan Forlines ministered through music in the second service.

(continued on page 6)

The Ministry Under Fire

you're surprised to learn that the ministry's under fire, it means one thing—you're not paying attention. Although the firestorm began long before the recent PTL scandal, that muddy spectacle took church news away from religious news editors and put it on the front page.

That's also when we discovered the common denominator between Watergate and Pearlygate. A few high-profile people in politics and religion did something illegal, immoral and dumb, and everybody else took the heat. That's unfair to honest public servants and to faithful televangelists and pastors.

It's tough to accept the blame when somebody else broke the cookie jar. Just ask the U. S. Marine Corps. Two marine embassy guards allegedly sold out their country in a Moscow sex-spy scandal last spring. Before sundown some official demanded that all marine guards be replaced by civilians.

No American boy should shun a political career or military service because of Watergate or Moscow. But I'll tell you what's worse—if a young man backs away from a call to preach because of Pearlygate. That's a price we cannot afford.

It's a miracle when God calls a man to preach, and a miracle when that man stays called. Men balanced on the razor's edge of a call to preach need encouragement, not a ministerial dog 'n' pony show. Believe me, it's traumatic coming to terms with the possibility that you may spend the rest of your life in a parsonage.

A few years ago it seemed that every preacher I knew was 28 and struggling with his first pastorate. That's no longer the case. Those rookie pastors turned 53 last month with 25 years' experience. They could write books of ministerial war stories. Some do.

Do fewer men answer the call to preach today? Or does it only seem that way because I now run with the greybeards? Young preachers remind

me of young boxers; they get overmatched and hurt without guidance. But brought along under the careful tutelage of wise men, the younger preacher soon finds his place in God's plan.

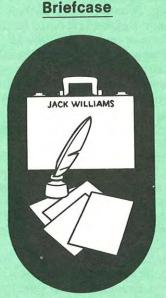
Men called to preach-that's Heaven's answer to those who guestion whether the Lord of the harvest still keeps His eve on the field. Nonetheless, the church never moves more than one generation from paganism. That's especially true when it comes to leadership. The generation that rejects the ministry for whatever reason-fear or pressurewanders without shepherds in a land of wolves.

We believe in a God-called ministry that's different from the fact that in the church everybody ministers. The difference between the called preacher and the laity focuses on particular responsibility, special qualifications and community expectations. The local church expects more from the preacher. God certainly demands more. Not everyone who qualifies as God's child can qualify as God's preacher.

We take justifiable pride in the thin blue line of police that stands between society and anarchy. Another thin line leads the church through history-our pastors. When we attack the police, we encourage lawlessness. When we belittle our pastors, we invite godlessness. Our nation can survive neither the destruction of its police force nor the downfall of its preachers.

A final word about young preachers. True, they blunder, sometimes tragically. They're prone to say the wrong thing at the worst moment. Most trip over themselves trying to do right. Some are arrogant, sorry to say. Some confused. But given time and opportunity, their awkwardness turns into leadership.

The next time the media damns all preachers because of the sins of a few. remember this. Newspaper reporters don't go to the hospital with you for



open-heart surgery. TV anchormen aren't there to grieve with you when death claims a child or parent. Network executives won't return your frantic call at 3:00 a.m.

Media offers quick fixes for surface ailments. The pastor of your local church offers the counsel of God on eternal matters. He'll also be there next week when you need him. He knows where you live, and he's on a first-name basis with your wife and kids.

Everybody works hard, and nobody works harder than the pastor. He's one person who generally deserves better than he gets. While the ministry comes under fire in every generation, ours takes diabolic delight in skewering Christianity because of men with clay feet.

Count on it—the ministry will survive. God's preachers always rise from the ashes. The pastor operates with limited skills under the unforgiving glare of public scrutiny. His every word examined, his moods analyzed, his life an open book. He's real, so real that he frightens the pretenders.

The pastor's got nowhere to turn but God. No authority but his Bible. No credibility but his reputation. Without God, he's quite ordinary. But with God he's unique on this earth.

The fire never gets so hot that God walks away from His preachers. When the fire gets hot enough, He joins them in the flames. And when He does, He sets them free! 60

Birmingham...(from page 4)

Both speakers spoke on assigned topics. Johnny Pike preached, "The Church: Defined." He based his powerful sermon on I Corinthians 12—"One Yet Many; Many Yet One." Pike said, "In theory we are one. In practice, we are divided." He challenged his brethren to repent of their disunity. He added, "The living body must reunite in diversity around one purpose: to know Him and make Him known."

Fred Hall preached, "The Church: The Dangers We Face." Hall's sermon was appointed plea to stay on guard lest Satan destroy us. He began by reminding listeners that the devil is a formidable foe. He alerted them to the hazard of falling prey to him.

Hall outlined three specific dangers. First, he warned of becoming jaded by materialism. Second, he cited the danger of becoming divided over minor issues and taking sides. Third, he pointed out the danger of focusing on less important things rather than winning people to Christ.



Evangelist Bobby Jackson moderates the General Board meeting.

Executive Committee consists of the moderator, assistant moderator, and clerk of the National Association, plus six members of the General Board elected by the National Association. The Executive Secretary also meets with them. This meeting is not open to the public.

The Executive Committee hears reports of the Executive Office work. This includes *Contact* and Executive Church Bonds, Inc. They also examine proposed Executive Office budgets. The Executive Committee passes various



Jack Trotter (top, left) unloads national offices exhibit materials.

Understanding the System

The National Convention is another name for the yearly business meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. This year our annual conference convened in Birmingham, July 19-23.

Business is conducted in the following fashion. On Friday and Saturday preceding the National Convention, the Executive Committee meets. The recommendations to the General Board.

On Monday of the National Convention, the General Board meets. Each state association is entitled to one member on the General Board. Department directors and board chairmen also serve on the General Board. This meeting is open to the public.

The General Board hears reports from all departments, commissions, as

well as special committees that may be functioning at that time. The General Board also considers departmental budgets. In addition, the General Board acts on recommendations from the Executive Committee. Any General Board member may propose an item of business to the board as a whole. While only a General Board member or his proxy may vote, anyone may speak on an issue before the General Board.

At 9:00 o'clock Wednesday morning, the convention business session begins. Throughout the morning and afternoon, standing delegates (ordained ministers and lay board members) and local church delegates hear reports from boards and commissions. The voting body approves these reports and adopts the proposed budgets.

Board members for each department are elected at the end of that department's report. Each board has nine members who serve six-year terms. Commissions have five members; commission members serve five-year terms. On even numbered years three board members for Free Will Baptist Bible College, Foreign Missions and the Sunday School and Church Training Department are elected. On odd numbered years, the Home Missions Department, Master's Men and the Board of Retirement elect three new board members. Of course, a vacancy can be filled during any session. One commission member is elected each year.

Half the General Board members are elected annually. Half the Executive Committee members are elected each year. The term of office in each case is two years.

The general officers of the association—moderator, assistant moderator, clerk and assistant clerk are elected annually. Their election is the final item of business on Thursday.

Various recommendations from the General Board are considered during

this business session. A Resolutions Committee also suggests position statements for adoption by the association. In addition, any delegate may introduce business to the convention.

The Birmingham Business

This year the Executive Committee met on July 17-18. The General Board met Monday, July 20, in the Four Seas Ballroom at Ramada Civic Center Plaza.

Moderator Bobby Jackson brought a devotion from Revelation 2. He spoke concerning the church at Ephesus and encouraged those present to remember that love is the proper motivation for every action.

Next, Jackson appointed the Committee on Committees. The following individuals served on that committee: Chairman Keith Burden (Okla.), Charles Hampton (Tenn.), George Lee (N.C.), Wallace Malone (III.), Clarence Burton (Mo.). This committee selected the Nominating Committee, the Credentials Committee (five members of the General Board) and the Resolutions Committee.

Executive Office

Melvin Worthington presented the Executive Office report. The following items are from this report.

During 1986, Worthington attended 17 state associations. Four state associations voted to host future national conventions—Ohio (1997), Oklahoma (1998), Georgia (1999) and California (2000).

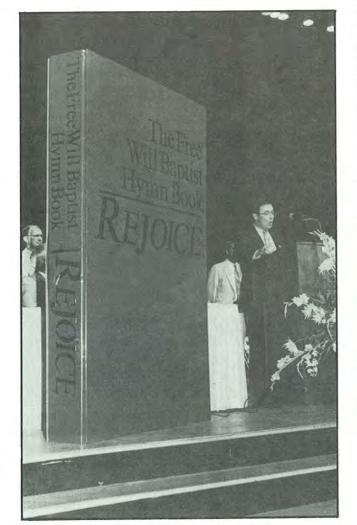
Worthington showed an artist's drawing of the proposed new national office complex. He said that the 30,000square-foot, cross-shaped building would house every department except the Sunday School and Church Training Department. If this proposal is adopted, the new building will be constructed on property owned by the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

Worthington also shared the Target 90 report. The Target 90 Committee publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, "Target 90 Report." Free Will Baptist Bible College sponsored a Target 90 Conference in February.

The committee also planned the Church Growth Seminar conducted during this year's convention. Participants included Dale Burden, Jim McAllister, Gordon Sebastian and Rue Dell Smith.

The Target 90 goal for 1986 was an increase of 5,000 in denominational membership. Worthington reported a gain of 4,738. At this time, the number of new churches started is not known.

Worthington also gave the International Fellowship Study Committee report. The Committee corresponded with several denominations that have an



Vernon Whaley introduces new hymn book.

1987 REGISTRATI	UN	Contraction of
National Convention		. 3,780
Ministers	80	6
State Delegates	9	2
Local Church Delegates	14	2
Lay Board Members		7
Home Missionaries	6	7
Foreign Missionaries	4	1
Non-Delegates	2,62	5
National Youth Conference		1,417
Woman's National Auxiliary Conventio	n	962
	Total	6,159

1007 DECISTDATION

Did You Know...

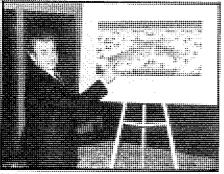
- Bobby Jackson preached the Wednesday night service 30 years ago when Free Will Baptists met in Birmingham (1957)?
- The Free Will Baptist Foundation offers a twohour Family Financial Planning Seminar as well as Will Clinics?
- Pastor Lynn Wood's car was stolen during the National Convention?
- The Youth Division of Randall House Publications plans to raise \$10,000 for the Uruguay Bible Institute during 1987-88?
- Commitments to the Advance Celebration stand at \$642,749?
- Free Will Baptist Bible College students gave approximately \$7,000 for the Central Bible College in Brazil last year?

Birmingham...(from page 7)

international constituency. Members also polled our missionaries. The missionaries suggested the name, "International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists."

This committee is now studying information received. When their study is complete, they will make the appropriate recommendation to the National Association.

Worthington recognized Vernon Whaley who gave the report of the Hymnal Committee. Whaley



Melvin Worthington displays proposed new office building.

announced a publication date of October 1987 for the new hymnal to be called *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book.*

Whaley stated that the hymnal will contain more than 600 selections hymns, gospel songs, choruses, praise and worship songs. It will also include more than 100 responsive readings, calls to worship, benedictions and the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant.

The Hymnal Committee requested that Sunday, December 6, be designated, "Rejoice 87: Hymn Book Dedication Sunday."

Board of Retirement/FWB Foundation

Next, Herman Hersey gave the Board of Retirement report. Hersey noted that the 18-year-old pension plan has assets of more than \$5.8 million. The Board of Retirement is once again making church loans; over \$2.6 million is now invested in such loans.

Hersey also brought the report of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. Assets in the Foundation increased 56 percent during 1986. These assets increased an additional 18 percent during the first quarter of 1987.

The final report Hersey presented was the Benevolent Fund Report. During the past year the fund received and disbursed \$18,468.58 to pastors left with unpaid medical claims when the Christian Organizations Medical Society took bankruptcy.

The Benevolent Fund also has an outstanding loan of \$17,000 which was taken to finish paying claims for those covered by Garrett Street and Associates. During the past year the fund received gifts totaling \$4,096.08.

A recommendation to continue the Benevolent Committee for another year was also presented to the General Board. Following this report, there was lengthy discussion on how to pay off the Benevolent Committee's outstanding loan. A recommendation which would have requested that each department give \$1,000 toward this debt was tabled.

Foreign Missions

R. Eugene Waddell presented the Foreign Missions report. Progress was noted on all the fields. Eight of the 11 churches in Brazil are pastored by Brazilians. In France, the Nantes church reported 13 conversions last year. They have already baptized eight this year. More than 600 people attended the annual conference in India last February. There are now 43 churches and missions in Ivory Coast.

The Panamanian Association set a goal to establish a Free Will Baptist church in every province. Our church The Cuban Association was not permitted to send representatives to our convention as planned. However, they do report that they are remodeling the Cedars of Lebanon Institute.

Waddell explained that a neutral committee was appointed by the Foreign Missions Board to investigate charges made by Lonnie Palmer against several missionaries in Ivory Coast. The committee consists of Melvin Worthington, Clarence Burton, Dean Dobbs, Earl Hendrix and Jack Richey. This committee met once in July and will meet again in October.

Waddell stated that he and Board Chairman Bill Jones traveled to Ivory Coast to look into these allegations. Their conclusion was that the charges were unfounded. During their annual meeting, the board recorded a unanimous vote expressing confidence in Ivory Coast missionaries. In the interest of the missionary program, the board decided to appoint the special committee upon the request of several pastors.

Bible College

Next, Charles Thigpen presented the Free Will Baptist Bible College report. The total enrollment for 1986-87 was 388 students. Of these, 24 were graduate students. Thigpen stated that the college ended the year in the black. He



Foreign missionaries Dawn Sweeney, Billye Sexton, Don Sexton, Mabel Willey, Jimmy Aldridge.

in Villalba is the first Protestant church ever started in this Spanish city. The Bible Institute in Uruguay has a new downtown location. Currently, 12 students are enrolled. pointed out that this was possible only because deep cuts were made in the budget. However, some items such as library purchases cannot be eliminated on a long-term basis.

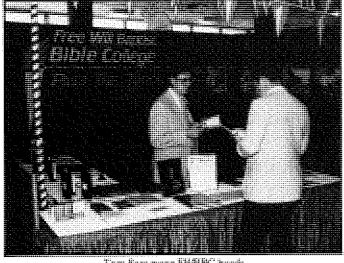
The college recognized Paul Ketteman for 25 years service as the school's fund raiser at this year's graduation. One week later Rev. Ketteman died of cancer. Mrs. Mary Lou Ennis also died of cancer during this year. She taught in the English department.

Thomas expressed concern that two Navy chaplains will be dropped unless the Navy changes its policy. Currently, they are viewing the chaplaincy as a single three-year tour of duty. The chaplains who would be affected are David Burgess and Robert Wiant, Jr.

General Board

Following the last departmental report, the General Board approved five recommendations from the Executive Committee:

1. That Sunday, December 6, 1987, be designated as a denomination-wide



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Sunday School

Roger Reeds gave the report of the Sunday School and Church Training Department. He noted that Randall House Publications (the trade name of the Sunday School and Church Training Department) is 25 years old this year.

Currently, the department prints only 20 percent of the material it publishes. Reeds announced the publication of LifeQuest. This training curriculum for teens will be used beginning with the fall guarter. It replaces Teen Encounter and Triumph.

The Sunday School and Church Training Board recommended that a separate youth department be established. This proposal was referred to the Executive Committee for further study. They are to report their findings to the General Board in 1988.

Home Missions

Roy Thomas presented the Home Missions Department report. Seventeen families were approved for home missionary service during 1987. Four churches became self-supporting-Montgomery, Ala.; Lawton, Okla.; Salem, Oreg.; Fredericksburg, Va. Attendance on Roll Call Sunday was 215,390. There were 866 people saved that day.

Master's Men

After lunch, James Vallance gave the Master's Men report. Over the past two years Master's Men participated in the erection of eight new churches. It has been estimated that these Master's Hands projects saved \$250,000 in construction costs.

Vallance expressed concern for the financial well-being of Master's Men. He noted that giving to his department is down \$11,000 in 1987. He candidly commented, "The question is not whether we can survive, but how long we can survive with constant cuts of income."

1988 BUDGETS ADOPTED

Executive Office \$	343,175.40
Executive Church Bonds	10,000.00
Free Will Baptist Bible College	2,012,000.00
Foreign Missions	3,336,036.00
(Includes \$150,000.00 Advance Budget)	
Home Missions and Church Extension .	1,900,000.00
Master's Men	85,750.00
Retirement and Insurance	199,710.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation	23,100.00
Sunday School and Church Training	2,434,700.00
Radio and Television Commission	11,980.00
	10,356,451.40

"Hymn Book Sunday."

2. That the Management Committee continue its work as authorized by the National Association and report to the Executive Committee in December further details concerning the possibility of relocating the national offices.

3. The acceptance of Capitol City FWB Church in Lincoln, Neb., as a church representing directly to the National Association.

4. That the Budget Committee be authorized to study the financial structure of the total ministry of the National Association and report its findings to the General Board at the 1988 convention.



California Executive Secretary Nuel Brown (r) presents 25-year plaque to Roger Reeds.

Birmingham...(from page 9)

5. That Cincinnati, Ohio, be the site for the July 20-24, 1997, National Convention.

The final item of business considered by the General Board was repayment of the outstanding loan of the Benevolent Committee. After considerable debate, the following recommendation passed: "We recommend that Sunday, February 7, 1988, be designated as Integrity Sunday, and that an offering be received in our churches on this Sunday for the purpose of retiring the \$17,000-plus note made to pay claims resulting from the default of the Garrett Street Insurance Company, and that if funds are still needed after that effort. the Retirement Department pay off the remainder of the note by July 1, 1988."

Breakfast Anyone?

Music Ministries

The Music Ministries Fellowship met at 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 21, at Ramada Civic Center Plaza. Early risers blended their voices as President Doug Little led such standards as "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" and "Glory to His Name." The Preachers Quartet—Ed Pack, Jerry Pilgrim, Bob Thomas and Vernon Whaley—entertained the assembly.

One of the highlights of the annual breakfast was a report of *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book.* The new hymnal is now available for purchase with shipment in November.

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington addressed the diners. He stressed the value of music in church life, the variety needed in music and the vision for the future. His final point was a proposal for a music commission. This commission would serve as a quality control for denominational music ministries. Worthington suggested underwriting the commission with profits from the sale of the new hymnal.

<u>Master's Men</u>

On Wednesday, July 22, the annual Master's Men Breakfast met in the Four Seas Ballroom of the Ramada Civic Center Plaza. Attendees enjoyed a menu of scrambled eggs, bacon, hash browns, biscuits and coffee. This year's guest speaker was McLeod Wilcox, executive director of Vision Foundation Counselling Center in Albany, Ga.



Raymond Lee (r) presents Layman of the Year award to Jerry D. Lewis.

Wilcox examined the role of the father in the home. He noted that the father is to lead the family in worship. Wilcox reminded the men that a child's first impression of God comes from his father. He emphasized the importance of a father being loving and caring.

Raymond Lee, chairman of the Master's Men Board, presented the Layman of the Year Award to Jerry D. Lewis, 48, of Arkansas. Lewis attends the First FWB Church of North Little Rock. Last year's Layman of the Year also attends this congregation led by Pastor Ben Scott.

James Vallance, director of Master's Men, recognized the missionaries present. He also welcomed guests from Mexico as well as Canada. Vallance acknowledged the LifeMembers and LifeFriends who have each donated a minimum of \$100 to Master's Men.

The Arena Floor

Wednesday morning the convention business session began with the moderator's message. Bobby Jackson, evangelist from Greenville, N.C., spoke from I Timothy 6. He cautioned delegates and visitors to flee false teachers, materialism and fleshly lusts.

The first business transaction was reading the Credentials Committee report and seating delegates. In order to allow the delegate from Capitol City FWB Church, Lincoln, Neb., to participate in the business session, delegates immediately proceeded to item two on the General Board report and voted to receive the church "as a church representing directly to the National Association." Next, the voting body acted on item one of the General Board report to receive reports from the various departments as well as the Hymn Book Committee and Benevolent Fund and adopt their budgets.

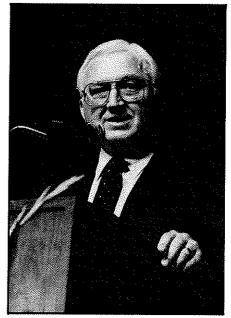
The Executive Office reported first. Melvin Worthington reported that 1986 giving through the Cooperative Channel topped \$1.1 million, a 22 percent increase over 1985.

Worthington announced a 50-cent increase in *Contact* subscription rates. Effective 1988, individual subscriptions will cost \$9.50, bundle plan \$8.50, and church family plan \$8.00 per subscriber.

He reported the cost of the 51st annual convention at just over \$55,000. The Alabama State Association gave \$10,000 to defray costs of the convention.

Worthington also gave the Executive Church Bonds report, the Target 90 Committee and the International Fellowship Steering Committee reports.

Vernon Whaley, chairman of the Hymnal Committee, gave their report as other committee members sat on stage. A seven-foot replica of the new



Clerk Waldo Young

hymnal stood on display during the report. Whaley announced the initial press run for *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* at 100,000 copies. Both round and shaped note editions of the hymnal will be produced. The book will be available in three colors sky blue, spring green and cardinal red.

R. Eugene Waddell gave the Foreign Missions Department report. One hun-

dred twenty missionaries (including two self-employed associate missionaries and two short term missionaries) serve in eight nations. Free Will Baptists have 76 organized churches and 105 mission works in these fields. Missionaries reported 640 conversions last year.

Gifts for 1986 totaled \$2,995,919. Of this amount, \$158,676 was earmarked for the Advance Celebration. Waddell announced that a record 1,618 churches supported foreign missions.

For more than an hour, delegates debated the Lonnie Palmer controversy. Some expressed concern over appointment of the neutral committee to investigate charges against Ivory Coast missionaries. A motion to adopt the Foreign Missions Department report and dissolve the special committee was defeated. Delegates seemed to accept the explanation that the committee is no different from other committees appointed by the Foreign Mission Board.

According to Bill Jones, chairman of the Foreign Missions Board, this committee will report directly to the board. Their findings will be made public. Melvin Worthington, chairman of the special committee, explained the duties which the committee had been given. The committee will investigate accusations against Free Will Baptist missionaries in Ivory Coast. It will also consider the attitude of Lonnie Palmer. Finally, it will assess the effect of Palmer's presence on the field.

Charles Thigpen gave the report for Free Will Baptist Bible College. President Thigpen noted that the 1986-87 school year will be remembered as the "year of the volunteer." According to Thigpen, "Students, staff and faculty have all given many, many hours and performed various tasks—all for the glory of God, as a labor of love and without remuneration of any kind."

Although the college ended the year with a surplus of \$12,117, it still owes \$200,000 to the bank due to deficits the past two years.

The Pass the Torch Campaign is off to a good start. For the next two years, all gifts to the college will go into this fund.

Roger Reeds reported for the Sunday School and Church Training Department. Reeds announced that the department's property, valued at \$2.9 million, is debt free.

The department (which operates under the trade name of Randall House Publications) published several new books this year. Two volumes of the Randall House Commentary are off the presses. A study for new believers and a book of bulletin board suggestions are also available. Reeds noted that the Executive Committee will study a proposal to launch a Youth Department "separate and apart from the Sunday School and Church Training Department."

Nuel Brown, executive secretary of the California State Association, presented a plaque to Reeds in recognition of 25 years as general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department. Delegates gave Reeds a rising vote of thanks.

Randall House maintained a Hospitality Suite in the Ramada Civic Center Plaza throughout the convention in observance of its 25th anniversary.

Following Reeds' report, the session recessed for lunch.

Business resumed at 1:30. Assistant Moderator Ralph Hampton read from Ephesians 4 and led in prayer.

Roy Thomas gave the Home Missions report. Thomas rejoiced over the banner year. A record \$1.8 million was given to home missions in 1986.

Two lay couples now participate in the "Aquilla and Priscilla Program." Twelve families serve in the "Tent-Maker Program." Seven associate missionaries currently work under the board.

The Church Extension Loan Fund has grown to \$1.4 million. Eighteen loans have been made from this fund to mission churches. Following the Home Missions report, four board

1988 CO-OP ALLOCATIONS

The Budget Committee recommended that gifts received through the Cooperative Plan be allocated to the national ministries^{*} on the following basis:

- 1. Underwrite the Executive Office administrative budget above those gifts received directly.
- Disburse the balance of undesignated funds to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

Free Will Baptist Bible College
Foreign Missions
Home Missions
Board of Retirement and Insurance
Master's Men
Free Will Baptist Foundation
Commission for Theological Integrity
Historical Commission
Radio and Television Commission
TOTAL 100%

*All national ministries receive funds through the Cooperative Plan except for Executive Church Bonds and the Sunday School and Church Training Department which are self-sustaining.



Home Missions Director Roy Thomas

Birmingham...(from page 11)

members were elected (see election schedule).

Next, James Vallance gave the Master's Men report. Vallance gave a plaque to Wayne Spruill who was completing 12 years on the Master's Men Board. The plaque was accepted for Spruill by his pastor, Luther Sanders.

Vallance noted that the department's spendable income decreased each of the last two years. To conserve funds, the department suspended publication of *ATTACK* magazine for 1987. The office functioned with part-time secretarial help since February.

The Tenth Annual Master's Men Conference will meet April 21-23, 1988, at Camp Linden (Tenn.). The theme is "Continue in the Faith."

Three board members were elected following the Master's Men report (see election schedule).

Prior to the Board of Retirement report, delegates gave a rising vote of confidence to our Ivory Coast missionaries.

Herman Hersey gave the Board of Retirement report. Hersey projected that the Retirement Fund will surpass \$6 million by September 30.

Hersey also presented the Free Will Baptist Foundation report. He told delegates that the Foundation administers 13 endowment trusts as well as three gift annuities and seven revocable trusts.

Next, Hersey briefed the convention on activities of the Benevolent Committee. Delegates voted to retain the committee for another year. They also agreed to designate February 7, 1988, as Integrity Sunday. On that date churches are asked to receive an offering to help retire the \$17,000 note made to pay claims resulting from the default of Garret Street and Associates.

If the offering does not cover this amount, the Board of Retirement will pay the remaining debt by July 1, 1988. In the event the offering exceeds the loan amount, excess funds will be distributed to those with unpaid claims caused by the bankruptcy of the Christian Organizations Medical Society.

Delegates pledged \$10,990 toward the \$17,000 goal. An offering of \$2,191.20 was received to help repay the loan. Three board members were elected (see election schedule) to the Board of Retirement. Leroy Forlines reported for the Commission for Theological Integrity. A new booklet, *The Battle For Integrity* by Fred Hall, has been released. Several other projects are under way. Randy Corn is preparing an annotated bibliography on the cults. Harrold Harrison and Leroy Forlines are working on a manuscript on the charismatics. Bill Jones is revising his booklet on the occult and including a section on the New Age Movement.

George C. Lee gave the Radio and Television Commission report. "Victorious Faith" is currently carried by seven stations. Lee resigned from the commission. He suggested that new commission members come from Tennessee.

Bob Shockey, program speaker, presented an opportunity to place "Victorious Faith" on short-wave radio. For less than \$90 per week, Free Will Baptists can broadcast to a potential listening audience of 1.5 billion people.



Georgia pastor Billy Hanna (1) shares a light moment with Chaplain Kerry Steedley.

In other business, delegates instructed the Management Committee to continue its feasibility study regarding relocating the national offices. December 6 was officially designated "Rejoice 87: Hymn Book Dedication Sunday." The Budget Committee was authorized to study the financial structure of the total ministry of the National Association and report to the General Board in 1988. Cincinnati, Ohio, will host the 1997 National Convention.

The Wednesday business session recessed at 4:20 p.m.

Thursday's concluding business session began at 9:00 a.m. Keith Burden, assistant clerk, read scripture and led in prayer.

Mary Wisehart gave the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention report.

Cash and non-cash gifts to missions and missionary objectives surpassed \$349,000. Michigan women donated more than \$22,000 in goods to the Missionary Provision Closet.

Since the 1986 WNAC convention, the mailing list has been placed on WNAC's own computer. This enables WNAC to make corrections and print labels for *Co-Laborer*. The enlarged magazine is now published bimonthly.

David Joslin reported that the Historical Commission's 50-Year Record has been edited and will be printed and distributed by December 1987. Each church will receive a complimentary copy. Approximately 700 copies will be made available for sale at cost to interested buyers.

The Registration Committee reported that 6,159 registered during the Birmingham convention.

Next, the National Association adopted the Budget Committee's report. A total budget of \$10,356,451.40 was approved for 10 national agencies.

A proposal to allocate two percent of cooperative receipts to the Benevolent Fund failed.

Delegates voted on seven resolutions, passing five and tabling two. They adopted resolutions on creationism, sexual conduct, boycott of Mazda Motors, denominational loyalty emphasis in training institutions, and appreciation for Alabama Free Will Baptists. They tabled resolutions regarding American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and Holiday Inns.

For the first time in 10 years the National Association elected a new moderator, Ralph C. Hampton. His first official function was prompted by a motion to give outgoing moderator Bobby Jackson a rising vote of appreciation.

The 51st session of the National Association adjourned at 10:53 a.m. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington prayed the benediction.

1987 National Convention analysis was written by Larry Hampton, principal of Bethany Christian School, Norfolk, Virginia.

All convention photographs are provided courtesy of Bert Tippett, director of publications at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The Contact staff is grateful to Brother Hampton and Brother Tippett for their assistance in this special convention issue.

WNAC Convention Report

he 1987 theme, "Them Also I Must Bring," permeated the WNAC National Convention as 962 participants from 22 states registered.

Approximately 305 delegates convened to transact business at the 52nd Free Will Baptist women's convention. Business included election of officers:

President, Mary Neal, Indiana Vice president, Maurine Lee, North Carolina Secretary, Peggy Outland, Illinois

Members-at-large of the Executive Committee: Lila Faye Morgan, Oklahoma; Nora McCarty, California; Kay Hampton, Virginia.



Keynote speaker Robert Bryan

Retiring president, June Rolen, presented the incoming president with a brass gavel and Mrs. Cleo Pursell led a dedicatory prayer for the new officers.

The convention passed a resolution encouraging each member to support the national office with \$5 per year. The women also voted to encourage state presidents and field workers to attend the national Leadership Conference in Nashville, November 30 - December 1.

Olena McLain, missionary on furlough from Japan, opened the convention with thoughts of ministering to all cultures wherever we are. "We tend to believe," she said, "that if things aren't done the way we do them, it's not right." Often the method is just different, neither right nor wrong. She challenged the women to be in tune with the Holy Spirit and ask for opportunities to minister. "It's often in the everyday routine that we serve Him best."

By Mary R. Wisehart



Executive Secretary Mary Wisehart

Robert Bryan, four-term missionary from Ivory Coast, brought the message at 11:00. "God's love," he said, "extends far beyond our shortsighted view."

As six percent of the audience stood, participants had a vivid demonstration of the percentage of people who have ready access to the gospel. Ten ministers marched to the front, representing the 90 percent of the workers who minister to that six percent of the world. The other 94 percent has only 10 percent of the workers.

Bryan pointed out that when the Holy Spirit moves, "He can use some of us who are mighty worthless." He left the audience with the challence: "Wheth

going to take the time to learn the language, pray, give? Who's going to go?"

Ten missionary women shared methods they use to reach children, teens and women. Methods ranged from VBS and puppet ministries to game rooms, reading rooms, teas and teaching English. The missionary women demonstrated their versatility and creativity by showing how they used American quilt patterns, drama and tea time to reach women. One used the hand to teach 10 things about God to women who could not read.

Verla Pettit, director of the Memphis Union Mission, spoke to 705 at WNAC's annual Fellowship Dinner. She used John 10:16 to impress on the audience the need to let the love of God flow through us to those in sin and in need of a Savior.

Mary R. Wisehart, executive secretary, reported a membership of 10,223, which is 72 less than last year. Since July 1986, the national office has mailed out complimentary packets to 45 new auxiliaries. The Convention adopted a budget of \$185,132 for 1988.

Pat Pless welcomed participants to Alabama and presented a tow sack stuffed full of goodies from Alabama Auxiliaries to June Rolen, Mary R. Wisehart and the woman attending the most conventions, Mrs. Agnes Frazier, attending 51 of the 52. 4111



3/CONTACT/September '87

Executive Committee: (Back row. I) Mary Neal, Kay Hampton, Nora McCarty, Maurine Lee. (Front row, I) Peggy Outland, Lila Faye Morgan, Mary Wisehart.

NYC '87

By Jim Lauthern

ow do you measure the success of the National Youth Conference?

Decisions

The conference got off to a great start with a number of altar decisions at the Sunday morning youth service. The Youth Evangelistic Team from the Midway Association in Georgia presented a challenging program of music, scripture and drama. David Crowe, Cookeville, Tenn., pastor, challenged the teens to, "Be a mountain, not just a mole hill for the Lord."

The conference also ended with several altar decisions at the conclusion of the Wednesday evening youth service.

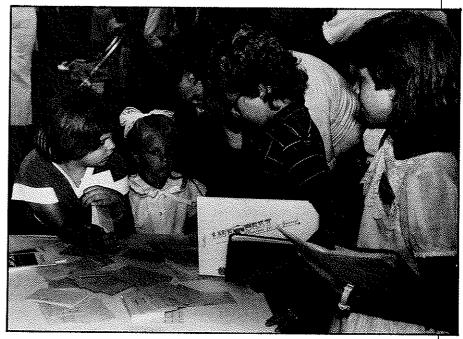
Participation

There were 1,417 youth registrants. There were 527 competition entries compared to 386 in 1986. Most events and activities were filled to capacity. Both the Learner/Adventurer Banquet and the Youth Banquet were at maximum seating with 300 and 750 respectively.

Response

Both the youth and youth leaders gave positive response to the good balance of programs. There were serious input sessions and also hilarious funfilled events.





NYC registrants help a friend.

Now let's look at the total program. The Sunday evening afterservice activity for youth was an initiative game where small groups completed assigned tasks in competition with other groups. This fast-paced event was called "Game of Life."

1 4/CONTACT/September '87



The competitive activities filled the days Monday and Tuesday, with the final Bible competition Wednesday morning. North Carolina took first place in all three grade levels of Sword Drill, Bible Tic Tac Toe and Bible Bowl. Alabama came in second in both the Bible Tic Tac Toe and Bible Bowl events. The Texas representatives took first place in grades one and two of Bible Memorization and the representative from West Virginia won first place in grade three Bible Memorization.

There was excitement about the new categories in Oral Communications of duo acting, skits and extemporaneous speaking. All sections of the Music and Arts Festival were filled with entries. Many judges commented on the high quality of entries this year.

"Life Celebration" was the theme for the youth afterservice activity Monday evening. There were carnival booths, puppet shows, variety shows and other action events. The activity concluded with a devotional thought of celebrating our life in Christ.

The Tuesday evening Youth Banquet featured "The Adventures of Captain Quest," a multi-media drama of the happenings and mishappenings of Captain Quest and his faithful sidekick, Life Boy.

Wednesday afternoon featured seminars, open forums, games and a special presentation of the new LifeQuest curriculum for youth from Randall House Publications. The elective seminars for youth and youth workers included Making Decisions, Bible Study, God's Ways, Evangelization of Children, Discipling Teens, and Competitive Activities.

The Wednesday evening youth service included a 150 voice mass youth choir, vocal solo by Kelly Carnes of Alabama and flute solo by Melissa Smedley of Oklahoma. The message was delivered by Neil Gilliland, returning missionary from Ivory Coast, West Africa. The annual Awards Ceremony followed the missionary service.

In addition to listing number one ratings and announcing the highest rating in each category, there was a special presentation given to Sandra Jackson of Jasper, Alabama, for her faithful participation and continued support of the competitive activities. Dana Hales, a student of Mrs. Jackson, performed her dramatic selection which was compiled of excerpts from the book, *Linda's* Song.

During the entire week the Learner/ Adventurer program had been, "Bear Witness." It started Sunday morning as they took an imaginary trip around the world to visit our Free Will Baptist mission stations. The Learner/Adventurer Banquet featured the children from the Red Bay, Alabama, church in a special presentation of "Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World." The activities throughout the conference featured missionaries from France, Ivory Coast, Japan, Brazil and Mexico.

The 50 participants from Truth and Peace Youth Leadership Conference were responsible for much of the conference's success. They worked with the children, led youth activities, assisted in competitive activities, worked in registration and sales booth and did other behind-the-scenes coordination to make a smooth-running conference. They also presented a musical drama

1987 Convention Tapes Available

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

The cost of the tapes is \$3.00 each. Payment must accompany order. Select the tapes you wish to order by circling the number and place the quantity desired in the appropriate lines.

Tape Numl	ber <u>Subject</u>		Quantity		
	CONVENTION MESSAGES				
1. Larry Condit—Sunday Morning - 2. J. Delbert Akin—Sunday Evening - 3. Ken Riggs/"Grow in Godliness" - 4. Dale Skiles/"Grow in Giving" - 5. Milton Worthington/"Grow in Going" -					
	CONVENTION BIBLE CONFERI	ENCE			
 Johnny E. Pike/"The Church: Defined" Fred Hall/"The Church: The Dangers We Face" 					
	NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERE	NCE			
8. 9. 10. 11.	Youth Seminar 1 Youth Seminar 2				
	WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION	J			
12. 13. 14. 15. 16.	3. Olena McLain/WNAC Devotional				
	MEET 'N' EAT				
17. 18. 19.	18. McLeod Wilcox/Master's Men Breakfast				
	MISCELLANEOUS				
20. 21. 22. 23. 24.	20. Bobby Jackson/Moderator's Message 21. Home Missions Camp Meeting (2 tapes—\$4.00 per set) 22. Roger Reeds/Adult Sunday School Class 23. Target 90 Church Growth Seminar (2 tapes—\$4 per set)				
Plea	e Complete the Following:	Total			
NAN	1E	Quantity Ordered			
ADDRESS		Total Tape Cost			
CIT	/ STATE ZIP	Plus Postage Total Amount Enclosed			
	PLEASE SEND CHECK OR MONE DO NOT SEND CASH				
	ORDER FORM: Sandy Goodfellow / 500 Wilclay Drive MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Sandy G	: / Nashville, TN 3 Goodfellow	7209		

portion of the Wednesday evening youth service and provided special choir music for the Sunday evening service.

Youth groups left Birmingham saying they had a great time. Individuals had made commitments to the Lord. Participants in competitive activities rejoiced that they had done their best and had grown in the Lord as a result of their practice and discipline. "LifeQuest: Directions for the Journey" had been the central theme of all the activities during the week. The Landmarks for Living devotionals given each morning by Mark Hollis, youth pastor from Florida, set the spirit and pace of the conference.

Now the journey begins. Next stop: Kansas City, Mo., for the 1988 National Youth Conference.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

BIBLE COLLEGE DRAMA TEAM SEES 324 DECISIONS

NASHVILLE, TN—The Evangels Drama Team from Free Will Baptist Bible College counted 324 public decisions for salvation and rededication in services held in six states during May and June.

The Evangels presented a program that emphasized soul winning and family unity, according to Joseph Jones, who directed the group and wrote several of the plays.

Services were held in Free Will Baptist churches in Alabama, Mississippi,



Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia. The group traveled for four weeks and held 28 services.

Michael Gragg, a member of the Evangels from Nashville, said that as many as 35 people came forward in one service. He also told of a young man in Alabama who, on his way to take his own life, entered the church, heard the gospel and was saved.

Numerous reports from churches indicate that the Evangels made a sub-

FOREIGN MISSIONS APPOINTS STUDY COMMITTEE

Acting on the request of North Carolina pastors Bob King and Dann Patrick, supporters of independent missionary Lonnie Palmer, the Board of Foreign Missions formulated a special committee to look into allegations and accusations made by Palmer. The committee was also charged with evaluating the effects of Palmer's presence in the Ivory Coast and the attitude he displays.

The committee is composed of five men: Chairman Melvin Worthington, Dean Dobbs, Clarence Burton, Earl Hendrix, and Jack Richey. Here is the report on their first meeting:

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

NASHVILLE, TN—The Foreign Missions Study Committee met July 7-9, 1987, in Nashville, Tennessee. Lonnie Palmer and Jimmy Aldridge appeared before the committee and presented information relative to the Ivory Coast problem. The committee also interviewed other involved individuals and collected information relating to the problem.

The committee is in the process of studying and analyzing the information. A second meeting is scheduled in Nashville, Tennessee, October 5-7, 1987. During this meeting the committee will prepare a written report detailing its findings and plans for the completion of its task.

> Melvin Worthington, Chairman Clarence H. Burton Dean Dobbs Jack Richey Earl Hendrix

DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES ENLARGEMENT CAMPAIGN THEME

NASHVILLE, TN—The theme for the Fall Sunday School Enlargement Campaign is "Enlarge Your Vision." Sunday School Department officials expect participation among many Free Will Baptist churches.

The special Sunday School aid promotes a time of dramatic numerical growth as well as spiritual activity for students and teachers. It emphasizes witnessing and missionary vision.

The campaign dates are October 4-25. Sunday Schools in nine different divisions, based on average spring quarter attendance, will vie for increased attendance.

First and second place awards will be stantial impact. Rev. Bobby Sebastian, pastor of Great Bridge FWB Church, Chesapeake, VA, wrote that the program "was nothing less than powerful." He went on, "Thank you for preparing presented to declared winners in each division. Such awards go to the Sunday Schools experiencing the greatest percentage of increase over their spring average attendance.

- Division A over 500 average
- Division B 400-500 average
- Division C 300-399 average
- Division D 200-299 average
- Division E 150-199 average
- Division F 100-149 average
- Division G 50-99 average
- Division H under 49 average

Division I newly established

Order campaign materials from Randall House Publications. Entries for the campaign should be in by October 3. these young people for their task and thank God for His moving power in our lives."

Offerings for the four weeks surpassed \$7.660.

LEADERS ATTEND TWO-DAY PRAYER RETREAT

NASHVILLE. TN—Leaders from six Free Will Baptist national agencies laid aside administrative duties July 6-7 and spent two days in prayer and fellowship at Henry Horton State Park near Nashville.

The 48-hour prayer vigil focused on the national convention, specific agency needs and the future of the denomination. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington said each leader gave a 30-minute presentation of his area of responsibility which was followed by a season of prayer for the work.

Participants included Charles Thigpen—Free Will Baptist Bible Col-

CARIKER KEYNOTES INDIANA MEETING

WABASH, IN—Reverend Connie Cariker, Oklahoma executive secretary, preached both services at the 27th annual session of the Indiana State Association. Cariker, well-known revivalist and soul-winning spokesman, formerly served as director of evangelism with the national Home Missions Department.

Indiana Moderator Archie Ratliff said delegates retained all state officers in elections during the June 19-20 meeting. First FWB Church. Wabash, hosted the annual session.

Moderator Ratliff, commenting on the delegates' vote to sell the state camp facilities located in southern Indiana, said, "The state (now) has several options. It can either buy another camp, rent a camp or lease one. . . . We did reaffirm our intentions to stay in the camping program."

In other action, delegates voted to place \$1,000 each year into their "92 By 92" program to host the 1992 National Convention which will meet at Indianapolis. lege, Roy Thomas—Home Missions, Eugene Waddell—Foreign Missions, Mary Wisehart—Woman's National Auxiliary, Melvin Worthington—Executive Office, Roger Reeds—Sunday School and Church Training. Directors James Vallance (Master's Men) and Herman Hersey (Retirement) were unable to attend.

Executive Secretary Worthington praised the compassionate and cooperative spirit that prevailed. He said the group plans to make the prayer retreat an annual event preceding the national convention.

O'DONNELL TO MODERATE IDAHO

TWIN FALLS, ID—Pastor James O'Donnell (Twin Falls FWB Church) was elected moderator of the Idaho District Association May 15-16 during the annual business meeting at Twin Falls. O'Donnell succeeds outgoing moderator Tommie Carlson.

Some 50 delegates met for the twoday meeting. Reverend David Carlson and Moderator O'Donnell preached messages on praise and commitment to service.

The 1988 session meets May 20-21 at Twin Falls.

MARYLAND ELECTS ATWOOD EDITOR

ARLINGTON, VA—Delegates to Maryland's 21st annual state association elected Delaware pastor Richard Atwood to edit the Maryland Newsletter. Rev. Atwood pastors New Castle FWB Church.

Moderator Lester Horton, elected to a sixth term, led delegates through the June 25-27 meeting at Bloss Memorial FWB Church in Arlington. Delegates voted to re-emphasize their position regarding abortion, AIDS and television.

Reverends Raymond Coffey (Virginia Beach, Va.) and Ray Goode (Big Island, Va.) preached sermons on the association theme, "Declaring Sound Doctrine." Home Missionary James Sasser spoke at the Friday Fellowship Dinner. Foreign Missionary John Murray (France) preached during the state Woman's Auxiliary worship hour.

Maryland officials awarded a plaque in special recognition to Eugene Wampler for 21 years of service as state treasurer.

Moderator Lester Horton reported that heavy traffic congestion in the Washington, D. C., area forced starting delays for the sessions.

The 1988 association will meet June 24-25 at First FWB Church, Bedford, Virginia.

TEXAS MAKES PLANS FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ODESSA, TX—The Texas State Association adopted a four-step proposal from the Executive Board to secure a fulltime executive secretary for the state's 64 churches. The plan includes moving from volunteer work by state officers to an unpaid executive secretary to a parttime and eventually full-time executive secretary.



Pleasant View Christian School Bible Club presents \$50 check for Christian service materials to FWBBC Christian Service Director Bob Shockey.

Moderator Bobby Ferguson gaveled 200 delegates and visitors through the June 17-19 session which met at the Odessa Hilton. Three ministers preached sermons developing the conference theme "Exalting Christ." Pastor Ron Parker (Life Gate FWB Church, Tyler) preached "Christ in You, the Hope of Glory." Dwain Crosby (missionary appointee to Japan) preached "The Preeminence of Christ." Pastor Frank Cope (United FWB Church, Bryan) preached "The All-Sufficiency of Christ."

Free Will Baptist Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington spoke at a Thursday evening fellowship dinner on the subject of church growth.

In other action delegates passed a \$52,000 budget for state ministries. They also accepted an agreement on the disposition of church property at Longview, since the church closed.

The 1988 session meets June 8-10 in the Mission District.

8

CALIFORNIA VOTES CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

FRESNO, CA-The California State Association voted two major constitutional changes in its 44th annual session June 25-27, according to Executive Secretary Nuel Brown. The votes expanded the constitution to create a Historical Commission and to include members of the Hispanic Association on all standing boards.

Some 300 delegates and visitors gathered at Memorial FWB Church in Fresno for the three-day session. Executive Secretary Brown called the music "outstanding" and praised delegates for a "spirit of unity and harmony." Paul Kennedy moderated the meeting.

The association theme, "Principles of Balance," included four sermons by California ministers: Jim McAllister (Fresno), E. B. Condit (Campbell), John Aranda (Lompoc) and Doice McAlister (Turlock).

The 1988 session meets May 19-21 at First FWB Church in Bakersfield. Delegates moved the state meeting back five weeks on the calendar in order to avoid the June heat of the San Joaquin Valley,

ROANOKE, VA-The 49th annual session of the Virginia State Association adopted a resolution expressing opposition to the state lottery. Delegates instructed officials to write letters to the governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general stating that they would not vote for anyone in the state election who supported a lottery.

The June 18-19 session met at First FWB Church in Roanoke. Clerk Lottie Cardwell said 96 registered at the two-

MISSOURI FOCUSES ON CHURCH GROWTH

CARTHAGE, MO-Delegates to Missouri's 74th annual state association heard four sermons on church growth. The session, which attracted almost 700, met June 8-11 at Carthage Memorial Center. Nathan Ruble moderated.

Four ministers developed the theme. Pastor Darrel Strain (Royal Oak FWB Church, Alton) preached, "The Man for Growth." Jonathan Thigpen, manager of the editorial division at Randall House, preached, "The Method for Growth." Pastor Ron Edgil (First FWB Church, Flat River) preached, "The Means for Growth." Pastor Millard Sasser (Trinity FWB Church, Bridgeton)

VARNEY ELECTED KENTUCKY MODERATOR GRAYSON, KY-Delegates elected

Rev. Lincoln Varney, pastor of First FWB Church, Louisville, as moderator of the Kentucky State Association, according to Promotional Secretary Tim York.

Rev. Varney, 64, was ordained as a Free Will Baptist minister in 1955. He pastored 20 years in Michigan before moving to Louisville to pastor First Church. Brother Varney has served on the national Board of Retirement, as moderator of the Michigan State Association and other associational ministries.

Promotional Secretary Tim York said more than 200 attended the 48th annual session which met June 19-20 at Grayson FWB Church. Registrants included 38 ministers.

Pastor Keith Crum (Brush Creek FWB Church, Naples) and Pastor Howard Kimble (Union FWB Church, Wheelersburg, Ohio) preached during the worship services.

The Boyd County Conference will host the 1988 state association.

moderator to encourage unity and har-

mony within the state. We want to build

new churches and see growth. We need

to promote spiritual and emotional

ing state association worship services;

Rev. J. B. Varney (Kirby FWB Church,

Taylor) and Rev. John Vick (First FWB

13-14 at a site to be determined.

The 1988 session will meet May

Two Michigan pastors preached dur-

NEW ASSOCIATION HOSTS MICHIGAN STATE

maturity."

Church, Comstock).

SOUTH HAVEN, MI-The newly formed West Michigan Association hosted the May 15-16 session of the Michigan State Association at First FWB Church, South Haven. Approximately 150 attended the 31st annual meeting. The West Michigan Association includes four churches.

Delegates elected Pastor Gene Norris as moderator for 1987-88. Rev. Norris pastors Philadelphia FWB Church, Mt. Clemens.

Norris said, "I see my task as the

VIRGINIA OPPOSES STATE LOTTERY

day meeting. Pastor Ronnie Floyd (Kingsport, Tenn.) moderated.

Meeting under the association theme, "Spiritual Growth Brings Revival," delegates heard five sermons during the Friday Bible Conference and Saturday business session. Speakers included Raymond Coffey, Joe Haas, Walter Statzer, Dale Burden and Jeff Crabtree.

The 1988 state association will meet June 16-17 at First FWB Church in Roanoke.

preached, "The Message for Growth."

Missouri Executive Secretary Clarence Burton announced that the state exceeded cooperative giving goals by \$37,000 and raised more than \$285,000. Burton also reported more than 500 conversions in 1986 through Target 90 outreach.

Tom Sherwood of the Christian Financial Service conducted a Tuesday tax seminar, sponsored by the Christian Education Board. Missionary Ron Moore spoke at the Tuesday Auxiliary session.

The 1988 session meets June 6-9 at First FWB Church in Mountain Grove.

300 ATTEND OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION

COLUMBUS, OH-Some 300 delegates, ministers and visitors met June 26-27 at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus for the 49th annual session of the Ohio State Association, according to Executive Secretary Alton Loveless.

Delegates passed a \$900,000 budget for state ministries. They also adopted an AIDS-related resolution. Rev. Edwin Hayes, pastor of Columbus First FWB Church, moderated his first state association.

Officials presented former moderator Wendell Combs with a plaque of appreciation for his years of service.

Three ministers developed the association theme, "The Fullness of the Holy Spirit." Host pastor David Boggs preached, "His Work in Redemption: Regeneration." President Charles Thigpen (FWBBC) preached, "His Power in Living: Sanctification." Retired Ohio minister Franklyn Harness preached, "His Mission Accomplished: Glorification."

The 1988 session will meet June 24-25 at Heritage Temple FWB Church.

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200 ATTEND CANADIAN SESSION

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA— Some 200 delegates and visitors attended Annual Meeting and Bible Conference at St. John's Bible Camp, Hartland, according to Fred Hanson, moderator of the Atlantic Canada Association of Free Will Baptists.

The seventh annual session met June 25-28 to conduct business and hear FWB Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington and North Carolina pastor Malcolm Fry preach. Dr. Fry and Dr. Worthington preached three sermons each.

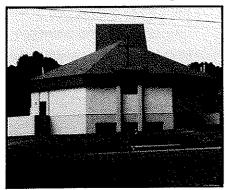
Delegates elected Reverend Hanson to his 10th consecutive term as moderator. The 1988 session meets June 30 - July 3 at St. John's Bible Camp.

ARKANSAS CHURCH DEDICATES NEW SANCTUARY

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR-Dedication services were conducted Sunday afternoon, May 31, at First FWB Church, North Little Rock, according to Pastor Ben Scott. The church recently completed a \$300,000 project which included renovation and a new sanctuary.

Ground-breaking ceremonies were conducted in October 1986. Construction began immediately; the congregation met for services in the new facility Easter Sunday, April 19.

The sanctuary, designed by Keith Miller and Associates of Little Rock, features a vaulted window, laminated beam construction and elongated octagonal design. In addition to seating for more than 300, the building includes



a nursery, pastor's office, light and sound room and a large foyer.

First FWB Church supports the total denominational program, including Sunday School, CTS, Woman's Aux-

Currently . . .

Pastor Paul Thompson and members at **Heritage Temple FWB Church, Gilbert, AZ**, conducted dedication services on the first phase of their building program in June. Reverend **Carl Cheshier**, moderator of the Arkansas State Association, preached the dedication sermon.

Members of **Calvary FWB Church**, **Norman**, **OK**, celebrated their 10th anniversary this summer. **Mike Wade** pastors. The church organized with 31 charter members in June 1977. Four months later the church purchased five acres on which to build.

Foreign Missions Director **Eugene Waddell** presented a "plaque of honor" to Pastor and Mrs. **George Lee** at **Victory FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC.** The plaque was awarded to the Lees because their son, Dr. **Thomas Lee,** contributed financially to missionary work in Ivory Coast, West Africa, which resulted in construction of a residence for the Robert Wests.

Members of **First FWB Church**, **Desoto**, **MO**, distributed a number of awards for Sunday School attendance. **Susan White** received an award for attending church 14 years (728 Sundays) without a miss. **Charles Miller** pastors.

The Alabama Bible College (formerly Alabama Bible Institute) changed from a two-year to a four-year institution this summer. The college operates out of **First FWB Church, Guin, AL.** President (and pastor) **Richard Cordell** said, "We put together a quality college program that is well within the geographical and financial grasp of hundreds of students in the mid-south."

Pastor Gordon Sebastian led ground breaking ceremonies in June for the new activity center at Peace FWB Church, Wilson, NC.

Congratulations to Pastor **Doyle Pruett.** Members of **First FWB Church, Greeneville, TN,** decided that Pastor Pruett's car had enough miles on it when the speedometer topped 173,000. They presented Pastor Pruett with a \$12,000 check to buy a new car. How many miles does your pastor's car have on it?

A congregation of believers near Sapulpa, OK, invited FWB minister **Ray Hawkins** to pastor their church. He went with the understanding that the church would affiliate with the FWB denomination. That's how **Lakeview FWB Church, Sapulpa, OK**, got its name. Pastor Hawkins says the debt-free church has a number of meeting rooms, central heat and air, and plans to join

iliary, Master's Men, the Cooperative program, and special projects. During the past year, six of the church's young people enrolled at Free Will Baptist Bible College. the Arkansas Valley Association in Oklahoma.

North Carolina Promotional Director **Tom Lilly** preached the dedication message at **Nowlings Chapel FWB Church** in **Morgantown**, **NC.** The church completed work on a brick veneer sanctuary. Pastor **Roy Shehan** has served the congregation 14 years.

Members of **Ciyde FWB Church**, **Ciyde**, **NC**, broke ground for a new sanctuary/educational facility, according to Pastor **Carl Cook**. The church was organized in 1984.

Pastor **Johnny Taylor** led members of **Gethsemane FWB Church, Elm City, NC,** in a bond burning. The all-day festivities celebrated the elimination of a \$50,000 bond program indebtedness. Gethsemane Church organized in 1972.

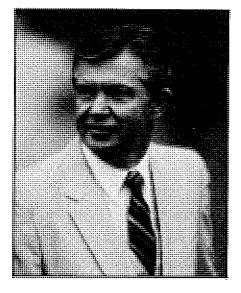
Santa Paula FWB Church, Santa Paula, CA, reports four conversions and five new church members, according to church reporter **Pam Hatwig**. The group increased Sunday School attendance from 81 to 143. They installed new carpet and plan to add six Sunday School rooms. Jerry Barron pastors.

Pastor Luther Sanders of Waipahu FWB Church, Waipahu, HI, conducts preaching and counseling services each month at Oahu Community Correctional Center (state prison). He preaches to as many as 150 inmates. Helen (Mrs. Luther) Sanders works in the chaplain's office at the women's prison each Friday where she counsels and shares the Word of God with inmates.

Ohio Executive Secretary Alton Loveless preached three sermons at the Oklahoma FWB Ministers Conference which met at Kingsview FWB Church, Oklahoma City, OK. The one-day conference attracted 70 ministers. The conference was conducted with the theme: The ABC's of Leadership. Pastor Bob Ketchum of Grace FWB Church, Broken Arrow, OK, preached once during the conference.

Joe Halling came from Sweden to the United States as an exchange student. Joe was an atheist. But after spending time with members of **Goshen FWB Church**, **Mt**. **Holly**, **NC**, he turned to Christ and was baptized in June. Pastor **Danny Howell** said that Joe had only attended church twice in his life before coming to America. Joe was led to Christ by the example of **Tony** and **Geri Rikard** and the **Charles Crisp** family.

The church has produced and given to the denomination several preachers, a missionary and other Christian workers. Reverend Ben Scott has pastored the church for 15 years. **PULSE** of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions



A Little Church With A Big Heart

By Fred Warner **Director of Church Ministries**

or many, the annual local church missions conference is the "centerpiece" for raising support for foreign missions. It is a time when people make faith promises, give a cash offering. receive new inspiration, and have their vision of a lost world enlarged.

But for many pastors it is lamented as a time when only a handful of people seem to be concerned and get involved. It is often a time when crowds are small in comparison to anything elseembarrassingly small.

What can the pastor do? He must not allow small crowds to deter him or the faithful few from making an investment in the souls of men!

After all, the size of the average congregation across our denomination is somewhere between 70 and 80. And the records will show that some of the best supporting churches are those with only average or somewhat above average attendance!

Thank the Lord for those churches across our denomination who are blessed with large congregations, but let's also thank the Lord for those smaller congregations who are "large-hearted."

Numerical size is not the sole governing factor of what a church is capable of doing. The real control factor is the size of her heart for missions.

It is not the size of the congregation that is critical, but the size of the church's heart.

We are constantly amazed at how much a smaller man or woman can contribute in the sports world even though teammates surpass him or her in physical stature and strength. The "little" person must make up for his physical limitations in other ways. Often it is quickness or the ability to read the opposing offense or defense. But more often than not, it is just a driving desire to play the game. All he needs is a "heart" big enough to play.

Recent figures show that some of the most faithful supporters are from small churches. Among the top 27 supporting churches, nine had an attendance on Roll Call Sunday of less than 150.

We need to stop running interference against ourselves by constantly citing our littleness as an excuse for not being involved in world missions. Remember, it is not the size of the congregation that is critical. but the size of the church's heart. All we need is a "heart" for missions.

AR

Fred Warner joined the foreign missions staff in May as director of church ministries. He has pastored in Arkansas for many years and most recently started and pastored a home missions church in Siloam Springs. He served on the Board of Foreign Missions for 12 years.

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SPECIAL OFFER-**"TOUCHING THE UNTOUCHABLES''**

By Laura Belle Barnard

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Free Will Baptist REPORT Bible College REPORT

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

Physical Education Major Offered This Fall

Free Will Baptist Bible College is offering a major in Physical Education, beginning this fall, for teachers of grades K-12, according to Dr. Robert Picirilli, Dean. The B.S. degree program will require 30 semester hours of physical education courses and 25 hours in teaching methods, in addition to the Bible major and general education courses required of all students.

Dr. Picirilli says, "The addition of this program represents our continuing commitment to prepare school teachers."

Many Christian schools need a qualified teacher of physical education to work with all grades. This course will prepare such teachers.

Some of the courses that will be required for the program are Personal and Community Health, Health and Safety Education, Lifetime Fitness, Administration and Supervision of Physical Education, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Physical Education for the Handicapped, and Kinesiology and Motor Learning.

Dr. Picirilli notes, "Mr. Byron Deel and Mrs. Barbara Riddle of the FWBBC faculty, have master's degrees and will teach most courses." He added that this year's juniors will be the first to be able to complete the degree.

If you know of a young person who is interested in serving the Lord as a physical education teacher, please tell him or her about this new Bible College program.

First New Scholarships Awarded This Semester

Free Will Baptist Bible College's new scholarship programs are benefiting students this semester as never before in the college's 45-year history. A series of new tuition scholarships was implemented as part of the Pass The Torch campaign, which was launched in March.

In addition to tuition discounts that could total as much as \$200 per student, per semester as Pass The Torch goals are reached, the college is also offering these scholarships:

Pastor's Dependents Scholarships—Full-time dormitory students who are dependent children of full-time Free Will Baptist pastors will receive tuition credit scholarships totaling \$3,000 during four years at FWBBC—\$500 the first year, \$700 the second year, \$800 the third year and \$1,000

the fourth year.

Academic Honors Scholarships—Students who do well academically in high school will receive tuition discounts based on their high school grade point average and ACT scores. These are awarded on three levels, ranging from one-eighth to one-half of tuition.

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Sibling Scholarships—Additional full-time dependent children from the same family, after the first child, who are in school at the same time, may be eligible for a 25% tuition discount. (This is available to everyone except those who also claim the Pastor's Dependents Scholarship, listed above.)

Spouse Scholarships—The husband or wife of a full-time student will receive a 50% tuition credit for classes they take.

R.O.T.C. Scholarships—Students who plan for a career in the U.S. Army should investigate the R.O.T.C. scholarship. Write the college for details.

Ministry Scholarships—One rising senior in each of the fields of pastoral training, missions and church music will receive a \$500-tuition scholarship to be used during his senior year. These scholarships are named The L.C. Johnson Preacher Scholarship, The Laura Belle Barnard Missions Scholarship, and the I.L. Stanley Church Music Scholarship.

National Youth Conference Scholarships—All first place winners in the National Youth Conference competition who have competed in certain music, arts and Bible categories on the Crusaders level, will receive a \$500-tuition credit for their freshman year at FWBBC.

Recruitment Scholarships—Any FWBBC student who is responsible for recruiting a new student will receive up to \$400 in tuition credit during the new student's first year.

If you want more information on these scholarships, please write or call the college. The descriptions above are only brief outlines of these programs. However, college officials are confident that these scholarships will help many worthy students underwrite the cost of their training at FWBBC.

Free will baptist

Foundation

Herman L. Hersey Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Vic Morrow's Accidental Disinheritance

Not long ago, actor Vic Morrow was killed in a flaming helicopter crash while making a television film.

After recovering from the initial shock of the tragedy, his family and attorney went through his papers, looking for his will.

They were somewhat surprised to find that this will was written, apparently in his handwriting, on the back of an envelope.

His handwritten will was very simple. It mentioned his two daughters and a friend. He noted his first daughter's name and said he was leaving her absolutely nothing. Then, he said he was leaving \$50,000 to his good friend. Finally, he said, he was leaving the balance of his estate to his second daughter.

The Probate

Because California law recognizes a person's right to have a handwritten will, the will was presented to the court for probate. Of course, the attorney for the daughter who was named to receive most of the estate wanted the court to recognize the will as Vic Morrow's last will and testament.

But, the "disinherited" daughter's attorney filed suit to have the will invalidated. He told the judge, "California law states that a handwritten will is valid only if it is written entirely in the testator's handwriting. According to the law, no other marks may appear on the page. "My client submits that this 'handwritten will' is invalid because two words in it are printed. Those two words invalidate the will because they are not in the testator's handwriting. They are printed instead of being handwritten."

The Court's Decision

The court agreed with the second daughter's attorney. The judge said, "Because the will is not entirely handwritten, it is invalid."

He then ordered the estate divided equally between the two daughters.

Nothing went to Morrow's friend. His friend was completely disinherited. Even though the disinheritance was accidental, it was final and absolute.

It seems strange that a person who has participated in the making of many complicated legal contracts regarding the entertainment industry would depend on his handwritten (and partially printed) will to convey his estate. Mr. Morrow's friend would have been properly cared for if he had gone to the trouble to have a will properly drawn.

If your will is handwritten, show it to your attorney to be sure it complies with the laws of your state.

If you have no will . . . or if your will is out of date, write down how you want your estate divided and then take that piece of paper to your attorney so he or she can draft it in proper legal form and language.

The Foundation is not engaged in rendering legal service or advice, but we can give you information which will help in your planning. Mr. Hersey or a representative of the Foundation is available to assist you. Just call or write.



THE CHALLENGE TO REACH ADULTS

The total ADULT population of the U.S. according to 1983 figures was 169.1 million. The median age was 30.3 years.

Of the four geographic regions in the nation the greatest percentage was in the area of our heaviest membership.

Northeast	49 million
North Central	59 million
South	78 million
West	45 million

Urban population was 167 million; rural 59.5; central cities 72.4; suburban areas 99.3; nonmetropolitan areas 54.8.

The average family unit measured 3.27 persons. One-person house-holds were 19.4 million.

A Gallup Poll taken in this decade indicated that 40% of adults attended a church or synagogue. Church membership was claimed by 69%. Approximately 70 million adults were unchurched. Adults to the tune of 56% said religion was very important to them while 57% said they were more interested in religion now than 5 years previously.

Bible study involvement by youth was 41%; 26% for adults. Daily Bible readers were 13% with 24% never reading it. Once a month or more Bible readers were 45%.

The black population in America is 27 million or 11.9% of the national population. Hispanic population was 14.6 million in 1980 and is projected to be 47 million by the year 2020. Immigration from Asia and Latin America is extraordinary.

The Lord has brought the world to our front door. It is easier and less expensive to reach them here than abroad. What a mission field we face. What an opportunity! What a challenge!

The adult population of the U.S. comprises 72% of the total and by the year 2000 will be 75%, or 201 million of the 268 million persons.

With such millions of *unsaved* adults within our grasp we must reach out to them. When we reach the adults we get the children.

Creating new adult classes and enrolling adults in them is a proven method of reaching and ministering to them.

In addition to ethnic groups, another segment of the adult population is the senior citizen. In 1940 only 6.8% of the population was 65 or over. By the year 2000 the figure is projected to be 13%.

Those persons in the age bracket 35-64 (73 million in '82) will increase

to 94 million by 1995 and to 105 million by the year 2000. That's just 13 years from now!

During this same period the 18-34 bracket will be declining. It will drop from 68 million to 61 million. This change demands effective programs of ministry for senior adults.

Multiplying the opportunities to reach and minister to adults is the high divorce rate with the ultimate break-up of families. In 1982 alone 1.2 million divorces were issued. Women now head one family in seven.

The number of single parent families headed by never married women rose by 367% between 1970 and 1982. They seek fulfillment of "motherhood" without the fear of a broken home.

Never have the fields been riper to harvest. The mandate is clear. It comes from the highest Authority. The message is ours to bear. It has the greatest power. The motivation is available. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers..." (Luke 10:2b). The mission is ours. "Here *am* I; send me" (Isa. 6:8c). The consequences are enormous. "Well done" or "their blood will I require at thine hand."



Wanted: Aquila and Priscilla Workers

Remember Aquila and Priscilla? What a fine lay couple; they rendered great service as helpers in the ministry of the Apostle Paul. They're first mentioned in Acts 18:2, "... a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla."

The Deverment Pas

Verse three identifies Aquila as a tentmaker by trade. They left Rome and moved to Corinth because the Roman government banished the Jews. Apparently they were Christians when Paul came to Corinth, so they must have been saved in Rome. When Paul came to Corinth, he lived with Aquila and Priscilla and worked with them in tentmaking. They were "charter members" of the Corinthian Church.

When Paul went to Ephesus to start a church, Aquila and Priscilla went with him. They stayed in Ephesus while Paul went on to Jerusalem. It was Aquila and Priscilla who "expounded the way of God more perfectly" to Apollos. They were a strong influence in founding the church in Ephesus.

Paul greeted 38 people in the book of Romans. The first of these were Aquila and Priscilla. He said, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus—Likewise greet the church that is in their house." They had moved back to Rome and were helping to start churches there.

Taking inspiration from this dedicated biblical lay couple, the national Home Missions Board adopted the Aquila and Priscilla Program to aid in planting Free Will Baptist churches. This program gives recognition and assistance to dedicated lay couples who leave their homes and move to help home missionaries establish Free WIII Baptist churches in needy cities.

These couples raise their moving expenses and receive designated funds. By Roy Thomas



The Steve Cooper Family

Gifts to aid them are sent to the National Home Missions Department and then disbursed to Aquila and Priscilla workers.

Over the years, several couples have served as Aquilas and Priscillas, and they have been a great help in establishing churches. The most recent of these is Steve and Teri Cooper from Glasgow, Kentucky. While attending Free Will Baptist Bible College, Steve served in the music department of Woodbine FWB Church in Nashville. After graduation, God laid on their hearts to go to South Dakota and help the Coats family.

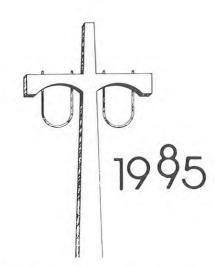
This couple, who had never lived in a western state, raised their moving expenses through the National Home Missions Department, and now live in Rapid City, South Dakota. Steve directs the music at the church and is employed as a prosthetic and orthotic technician. Teri teaches Sunday School and works with the nursery. What a blessing they are to this isolated new church!

The Home Missions Board hopes other lay couples will follow the example of Aquila and Priscilla, and go help a missionary start a new church. If the Lord speaks to your heart about this, contact the national Home Missions Department.

You may send offerings to help Aquila and Priscilla workers to:

> National Home Missions P. O. Box 1088 Nashville, TN 37202





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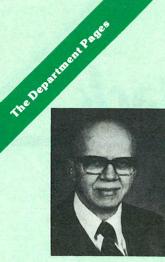
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Board of Retirement AT YOUR SERVICE

Herman L. Hersey Director

Consider These Facts

(1) After living in a parsonage for 30 years, an aging pastor who must slow down or retire has no home.

Review your pastor's housing situation. Would it be possible to pay him a housing allowance to help him buy a home in case of disablement or retirement?

(2) A pastor's widow must vacate the parsonage and enter the job market to support herself and her children.

Write for information on our insurance and pension plan. Examine what it offers for your pastor and his family. Enroll him today even if the church can make only small contributions. They can be increased as the church is able.

(3) Numerous pastors pay all car expenses to carry out the ministry of their churches.

Ask your pastor to keep a record of his car expenses for a month or two. With an open mind, consider the results and determine the car allowance he needs. Share these expenses with him.

(4) Many pastors entertain visiting missionaries and evangelists out of their own pockets without reimbursement from the church.

Plan for the church to pay entertainment expenses. Keep in mind that the pastor's wife gives her time and services too. (5) Even after 25 or more years in the ministry, most pastors get only one or two weeks vacation. During vacation they must visit their families and squeeze in a day or two of rest.

Schedule a longer vacation for your pastor. He will be a better pastor when he returns. Consider a bonus to help him finance a week of rest.

(6) The average pastor is in debt. When his children reach college age, his financial situation often becomes critical.

Review your pastor's salary regularly and compare it to the average income of the families in your church. Ask him what his needs are and if they are being met. Based on current information, provide an adequate income for him and his family.

(7) Most pastors carry insufficient insurance. They simply cannot afford more.

Ask your pastor about his life insurance, health insurance and social security. Does he need help meeting these obligations? If he does, help him. Even a token start is a beginning.

(8) The Bible lays down guidelines for fair compensation.

"... The labourer is worthy of his hire ... " (Luke 10:7). Read I Timothy 5:18; James 5:4; Proverbs 3:27; Jeremiah 22:13 and Malachi 3:5.

Voman's Window on the World

From My Window

"We have taught our children to conjugate the verb to have and not the verb to be," I once heard an evangelist say.

I wonder, are we guilty of basing the quality of our lives on having instead of being.

We must have a newer car, a bigger house, a VCR, a compact disk player and the list goes on.

But who are we?

The Christian life must begin with being. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

Then the Spirit of God himself indwells us. We are the temples of God.

The Spirit produces fruit in us. Notice how many of the fruits are concerned with being: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. God acts in love because He is love. We act like Christians because we are. Our lives are guided by Christian principles because we have become.

Jesus says, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

Our quality of life is not measured by the verb to have, but by the verb to be.

Hebrews 13:5, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as you have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Are you teaching your children to conjugate the verb to have or the verb to be?

Eunice Edwards Loan Fund June 30, 1987—\$3,787.72

September Emphasis: Memorial Student Loan Fund

September is the month for gifts to the Memorial Student Loan Fund.

In 1957, Helen Sanders, youth chairman for WNAC, recommended that the women establish a student loan fund for students at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The fund was named in honor of the women "who worked so faithfully in the early days . . . to get our National body organized."

This loan fund continues to help students train for Christian service. For the school year of 1986-87, two students received loans totaling \$1,408.40.

Students in their second year at FWBBC may apply for a loan. As long as the student is in college, he pays only seven percent interest once a year. After he graduates or leaves college, he must make monthly payments on the principal.

At the end of 1986, the audit shows \$40,211.06 available for loans to qualified students.

The women of WNAC have made this fund possible by their gifts through the years.



Summer Camp '87

Twenty-seven campers from eight states participated in music and drama training at Free Will Baptist Bible College, June 22-28.

Staff workers included (music) Ruth Slaten, Deanna Greenwood, Rusty Russell, Debbie Mouser; (drama) Joseph Jones, Laura Thigpen, Jeff Stegall, Patti Bumpus, Michael Gragg. Their training included group and private coaching, especially for those preparing for competition at the National Youth Conference in Birmingham.

Other activities included an afternoon at Opryland, a picnic, worship/devotional services, public performances at local churches and a final performance at the college.

Director Charles Hampton said, "The campers were a very talented group and seemed to enjoy the week. We tried to help them meet personal goals in their areas of emphasis (drama or music). We tried to speak to the spiritual needs of these young people who are trying to live for Christ in a pagan society. They left the Bible College better prepared to live for Christ than when they came."

The Wednesday evening service, a discussion drama, proved to be the most moving session of the week. Many campers and staff commented on the Holy Spirit's working in their lives.

"Coming to this camp gives me a chance to sing in a very organized choir with other members my age. I really enjoyed that because my church does not have that many young people."

> Amy Pitts Mantachie, Miss.

was never a dull moment. The staff made you feel at home."

Gretchen Lewis Beaufort, N.C.

"FWBBC's Summer Camp has been the greatest spiritual musical uplift of my life. The Word of God is emphasized to the utmost, and I have grown greatly." Chris Truett Smithfield, N.C.

"The Christian atmosphere that you are surrounded with is great!"

Rae Puckett Pine Bluff, Ark.

"The Summer Camp is awesome! I wouldn't change a thing about it. It helps you make friends for life."

> Jill Gilliland Pine Bluff, Ark.

"This year's music and drama camp has been truly inspirational and I felt that I have grown much closer to God. It also offered a great opportunity to meet other Free Will Baptist young people." Charles Shierling, Jr.

Columbus, Ga.

"Summer Camp has been the best thing that has happened to me in a long time."

> Tammy Zegelien Jacksonville, N.C.

"I loved FWBBC's Summer Camp! It gave me friends for life, not just among the other campers, but from the staff also."

> Denise McClintock Wood River, Ill.

The 1988 Summer Camp meets June 20-26. FWBBC will offer music and drama again, and plans to add basketball to its camp program, according to Dr. Hampton.



"I really liked Summer Camp '87. I

"I loved Summer Camp because it

was so exciting and so much fun. There

Kimberly Russell

Baton Rouge, La.

felt close to God, especially during the

evening worship."

Free Will Baptist Bible College Music and Drama Camp

Especially For Young Preachers

Pastoring College Students

"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" 1. Write each college student a personal letter at least once a semes-(Proverbs 17:17). ter, even those in local community colleges. 2. Send a gift each year to the students-a \$2 bill, gift certificate to a fast food restaurant, discount coupons, etc. 3. Provide stamps for someone in the church to mail church bulletins 4. Mail cassette tapes of church services to one student at each college who can distribute the tapes to other students from your 5. Include each college student on the church/school mailing list. 6. Request that the Woman's Auxiliary remember the students with a gift on their birthdays. 7. Send a birthday card to each student. 8. Designate a certain amount in the church budget for students who attend Free Will Baptist colleges. 9. Sponsor a back-to-college fellowship Wednesday night before students return to college. Ask church members to bring soap and toothpaste for each student. 10. Pray for the students by name from the pulpit. 11. Visit the college students. Take them out to eat. 12. Use college students to read scripture and pray in church services during college breaks and summer vacations. Let them teach Sunday School and Vacation Bible School classes, and assist in church pro-One test of a preacher's ministry is how many young people he directs to Christian colleges. Next Month: Operating a Church School Dennis Wiggs

29/CONTACT/September '87



By Floyd Wolfenbarger

What do we mean when we ask God for revival? The oft recited, occasionally urgent, sometimes passionate plea for revival may be sending an uncertain message. Our prayers sound like frustrated nagging which tries to stir God to do His duty. Often the problem exists because we don't know what revival is, and if we did, we may not desire it after all.

Revival is a Time of Soul-Searching. Charles Finney said that revival was the beginning of a new obedience to God. When we pray "send a great revival in my soul," we are saying to God, "Create in me a clean heart."

Revival does not come and go without consuming the brushpile of chaff in our lives. It isn't pleasant to think that God wants us to discard our cherished sins. We're too accustomed to our bitterness, jealousy, gloating, pride, snobbery or selfishness to let them go.

Revival is a Time of Soul-Seeking. It's no wonder that the prayer for revival sometimes goes unanswered. In fact our prayer for revival is sometimes downright sinful. We pray as if we could expect God to send a great harvest of souls, while in fact there is no reaping without sowing.

When you pray, "Lord send a revival," you are saying, "Lord, send me out on visitation." or "Lord, be with me as I speak with my neighbor about Christ." Only the hypocrite would pray for the harvest when he has no intention of "going forth with weeping, bearing precious seed."

So God spurns our prayer. That's okay with us because we didn't mean it anyway. We only pray for revival because it's October. We really have no intention of changing our ways or charging our witness. Until we do, we'll see no revival in our town, in our church, in our homes or in our hearts.

Directory Update

ARKANSAS

Gary Mitchener to Eastgate Church, Siloam Springs from First Church, Salina, KS

GEORGIA

Marty McWilliams to First Church, Blakely

Cooperative Channel Contributions June 1987

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Tota	June '86	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$ 206.34	\$ 20.00			
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	C 1 C 1 C 2 C 2 C 2 C 2 C 2 C 2 C 2 C 2
Arkansas	.00	2,337.86	2,337.86		
California	.00	805.39			
Colorado	.00	.00	1		in the president
Delaware	.00	557.18			
Florida	87.84	1,060.94			
Georgia	10,948.86	1,682.00			46,785.24
Idaho	.00	.00			
Illinois	6,918.91	758.40			
Indiana	1,249.34	.00			0.000
Kansas	.00	.00			
Kentucky	.00	100.00			
Maryland	.00	58.00			-1
Michigan	2,778.68		1	A	1,769.78
Mississippi	48.79	252.42 414.24	-,		26,040.52
Missouri			100100		2,079.34
New Mexico	6,559.38	.00	C1010.775		44,551.3
North Carolina	.00	.00		2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2	the second second
	628.40	1,025.00	-1		8,936.56
Ohio	757.78	3,496.00	-)		14,180.69
Oklahoma	30,776.32	7,276.55	38,043.87	the second s	226,321.99
South Carolina	13,709.77	.00			39,335.93
Tennessee	447.83	1,508.24			10,739.50
Texas	9,350.00	475.91	9,825.91	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	50,765.70
Virginia	95.00	10.00	105.00	160.00	2,372.06
West Virginia	.00	.00	.00	2,503.86	15,097.51
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	33.94	33.94		33.94
Totals	\$84,563.24	\$21,863.07	\$106,426.31	\$92,696.08	\$590,295.65
DISBURSEME	NTS:				
Executive Office	\$ 2,086.27	\$15,695.80	\$17,782.07	\$14,786.94	\$105.221.57
Foreign Missions	57,341.96	1,418.46	58,760.42		309,941.00
FWBBC	4,986.43	1,418.46	6,404.89		34,776.98
Home Missions	17,797.47	1,110.18	18,907.65		106,217.89
Retirement & Insurance	38.89	863.39	902.28	The contract of the second sec	7,717.02
Master's Men	210.74	801.83	1,012.57	2,469.68	8,156.43
Commission for Theo.		001.00	1,012.07	2,409.00	0,100.40
Integrity	52.22	61.62	113.84	208.30	835.60
WB Foundation	16.73	370.09	386.82		
Historical Commission	49.53	61.62	111.15	1,140.31	3,954.95
Radio & TV Commission		61.62		212.88	831.04
Hillsdale FWB College	1,760.57		206.74	242.88	1,373.09
Other	77.32	.00	1,760.57	1,697.37	10,878.57
fotals		.00	77.31 \$106,426.31	90.81	391.51
lotais	\$84,563.24	321 863 07	\$106 426 31	\$92 696 08	\$590 295 65

Michael Barton to White Plains Church, Blakely

OKLAHOMA

Rue Dell Smith to Straight Street Church, Norman from Bethlehem Church, Van Buren, AR

Buddy Drake to Northwest Church, Oklahoma City from Cheyenne Mission, Cheyenne, WY

TENNESSEE

Larry Powell to Cofer's Chapel Church, Nashville from First Church, McAllen, TX W. L. Kell to First Church, Morrison City, Kingsport

TEXAS

C. W. Sanderson to 7th Street Church, Abilene



Business in Birmingham



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF Free Will Baptists

THE SECRETARY SPEAKS By Melvin Worthington

"The best ever! The best yet! The best I ever attended!" That'show conferees described the 51st annual national convention in Birmingham, Alabama.

Maturity

The maturity of our denomination surfaced during business sessions when delegates discussed and debated with dignity and diplomacy. A sense of unity prevailed even while addressing sensitive issues. It's not necessary that all think alike or agree on everything for unity to prevail.

Someone said that a church or denomination is not measured by whether it has problems but by how well it resolves those problems. Perhaps Free Will Baptists are learning to deal with the problems which arise without needless strife and division.

Spiritual growth is taking place. How we long to see every Free Will Baptist conformed to the image of Christ. The maturity of Free Will Baptists is exciting and encouraging. Maturity enables us to deal with issues in positive, practical ways.

Music

The music reached new levels of excellence. Choirs, quartets, ensembles, soloists, pianists, organists and song leaders did outstanding jobs. The broad, balanced music program reflected the musical tastes of Free Will Baptists. There's a new maturity among our musicians. We commend those whose music searched, stirred and strengthened our hearts. The presentation of *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* (1988) gave us occasion to praise God. This hymn book provides Free Will Baptists with a valuable tool for worship and praise. It perpetuates Free Will Baptist distinctives and promotes our doctrines and practices. We commend the Hymn Book Committee for a job well done.

Messages

The messages provided food for the soul. The prayer, preparation and perception were evident as each minister preached the Word of God. The messages were clear and concise. Listening to them caused me to praise God for calling men to preach the Word. From California to Oklahoma to Tennessee to Michigan, each came with his distinctive style and demonstrated his divine calling.

Good preaching reflects another encouraging level of maturity among us. The preachers demonstrated aptitude, ability and adaptability in their presentations. They were instructional, inspirational and interesting. It's obvious from the sermons in Birmingham that the brethren had given themselves to preaching.

God ordained that through the foolishness of preaching mankind should be

Secretar	y's Schedule
September 8-12	Convention Planning Trip
September 21-27	Kansas City, Mo. Garner FWB Church Garner, N.C.

saved. I'm glad I belong to a denomination which believes that God calls preachers. We still give the proper place to preaching the Word.

Moderator

The moderator, Evangelist Bobby Jackson, served with distinction from 1977-1987. His competent, compassionate, cooperative leadership helped us mature as a denomination. Through turbulent times his unique and unselfish attitude defused many potential problems.

Observing Bobby Jackson's expertise as a moderator gave me a greater appreciation of what leadership contributes to the well-being of a group. His patience, perception and practical insights calmed troubled waters during his tenure. We commend him for the outstanding contribution he made to the National Association.

As a high school student, I heard Bobby Jackson when he and the Gospeliers Quartet conducted revival services in Winterville, North Carolina. He had a profound effect on my life. During the years since then I observed his faithful allegiance to his calling. The fervency which marked his preaching in those early days still remains. His example has been an encouragement through the years.

Yes, sir, it was a pleasure doing business with the Free Will Baptists in Birmingham. Was it our best convention ever? Ask those who attended. They were there when it happened. CONTACT P. O. Box 1088 Nashville, Tennessee 37202 Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee



The following were elected during the 51st annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.



ational Association of Free Will Baptists

GENERAL BOARD

1989 John Edwards (Ala.) Mark Vandivort (Ariz.) David Joslin (Ark.) Fred Hanson (Atl. Canada) Doice McAlister (Calif.) Bob Thomas (Colo.) Robert Owen (Fla.) Herbert Waid (Ga.) Tommie Carlson (Idaho) Wallace Malone (III.) Archie Ratliff (Ind.) Andy Pearcy (Kan.) Lester Horton (Md.) Fred Jones (Mexico) Charles Cooper (Mich.) J. L. Gore (Miss.) Millard Sasser (Mo.)

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