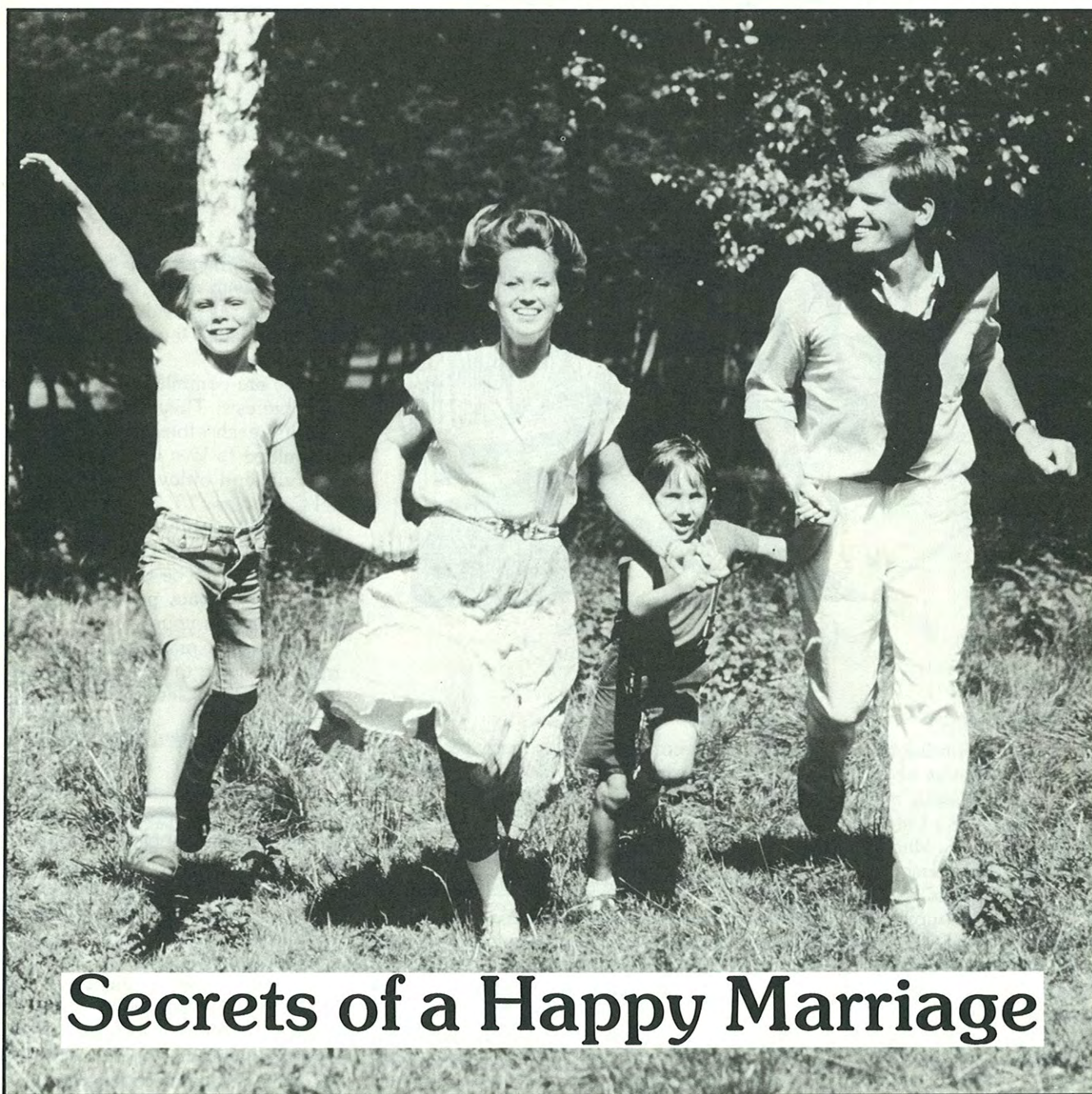


October 1987

# Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



## Secrets of a Happy Marriage



# The Best-Kept Secrets of a Happy Marriage

By June Critcher



**W**hen a husband and wife tell me they've been married 42 years, I sit up and listen. During the fall of 1985 I met such a couple, Harvey and Madge Crain, of Greeneville, Tennessee.

Just a few weeks ago my husband and I attended a couples' banquet with the Crains. I asked Mr. Crain, "What's the secret to your happy marriage?"

"We made a life commitment and have worked toward making the necessary adjustments to make it stick," came his concise reply.

Please read his response again and notice the key words.

Even though many marriages fold up annually, the good news is that most are not only surviving, some are actually alive and healthy. What keeps these couples together?

## 1. They have a sense of commitment.

Total commitment! That's what characterizes happily married couples. They are so committed to each other that they place their relationship above their own personal desires.

Even when they begin to sink in the muck of misunderstanding and anger, their sense of commitment keeps them together. They are committed to mak-

ing their marriage work. Sure, they get annoyed with each other, but they know God will provide the energy and wisdom needed to work through their problems.

They are committed to each other's best interests. They are committed to meeting each other's needs. They are committed to love God's way.

God's kind of love is best described in I Corinthians 13: I will be patient with you. I will be kind to you. I will not be rude to you. I will keep no record of wrongs. I will not be easily angered with you. I will always protect you. I will persevere with you.

A Christian marriage is a commitment involving three individuals: husband, wife and Jesus Christ.

## 2. They enjoy open, honest communication.

Next to the couple's commitment to Jesus Christ, the most significant ingredient to marital happiness is good communication. When husband and wife communicate effectively they use verbal and nonverbal means to express their ideas and feelings.

Happily married couples enjoy both small talk as well as times of sharing their innermost fears and feelings. They have so fine-tuned their own feelings that they are not afraid to risk the vulnerability that often opens the lid to a Pandora's Box.



The good listener listens without his motor running, is not thinking about what she is going to say, does not interrupt, accepts what is said without being critical or judgmental, listens patiently, maintains eye contact, listens with concern. The good listener is listening for feelings behind the words.

Couples must take time to communicate. Many couples plan a weekly date—that special time just for the two of them. They even mark it on their calendar to be sure nothing interferes with this important appointment.

As we speak the truth in love, we must be sure our love equals the truth we are speaking. Meaningful communication includes good listening, good timing, openness, honesty and a humble spirit.

### 3. They accept each other (with no strings attached).

Happily married couples do not put each other on a certain performance level. Instead, they unconditionally accept each other. As believers in Jesus Christ, they base their acceptance of each other on Christ's acceptance of them. Romans 3:21-22 is a forceful reminder that God accepts us just as we are.

Happily married partners accept differences in each other. The introvert accepts the extrovert while the outgoing partner accepts the one who is shy. The perfectionist accepts the sloppy mate (while desperately hoping for a drastic change). The take-charge sergeant accepts the calm, relaxed private. The detailed wife accepts her man of few words. They have learned that being different does not mean being wrong.

They talk about their differences, and in honest communication they learn to accept these differences. They take their weaknesses to the Holy Spirit and submit to His control so He will reproduce the character of Christ in their lives. The Holy Spirit offers a strength for every weakness if we only let Him dominate our lives (See Galatians 5:22-23).

### 4. They appreciate and affirm each other.

Rather than take each other for granted, happily married couples say, "Thank you," and they say it often. They base their appreciation for each other not on feelings, but as a matter of will and attitude they say, "Thanks."

"Thank you" is expressed in different ways—verbally, with a hug, with a small gift, in a note.

Hearts filled with gratitude always look for ways to encourage each other. One effective means of encouragement is for partners to affirm each other. To affirm is to tell our mate what we admire about him and about the things he does. "One of the things I admire about you is that you are such an understanding person." "I admire you for keeping your appetite under control." "I respect you for taking a stand for biblical principles on your job."

### 5. They work toward intimacy.

Becoming one flesh was God's idea. And when two people become one flesh, they know the real meaning of intimacy, oneness, togetherness.

Couples who work toward intimacy take pleasure in their mates. They enjoy each other's presence. They like each other so much they are best friends. Best friends have shared interests. Happily married couples enjoy both separate and shared activities. They find pain in being separated (even though these times are quite necessary to a happy marriage) and pleasure in being together.

Happily married couples find ways to share in relationships with each other; consequently their love deepens. But sharing has a high price tag—each mate must give of self, each listens lovingly to the other, each is aware of the other's needs and then acts in love to meet those needs. This intimacy must be what God had in mind when He directed the husband and wife to become one flesh.

### 6. They know what communicates love to their mate.

Each mate speaks a different language of love. Happy is the couple who knows what communicates love to each other.

A mother needs help with grocery shopping, the car pool, children's activities, house cleaning. The husband may need a backrub, help with typing, a helping hand on his basement project.

Sometimes a spouse has an emotional need: a shoulder to cry on, a word of encouragement, a treat out to dinner.

Most wives enjoy hearing their husbands verbalize their love for them. "I

## Contents

October 1987

**2 *Secrets of a Happy Marriage***  
June Critcher

**5 *Briefcase: Between the Bull and the Buffalo***  
Jack Williams

**6 *Do Money and Marriage Mix?***  
Clarence Burton

**8 *The Together Prayer***  
M. J. Pritchard

**9 *Living in the Eye of the Hurricane***  
Brenda Evans

**10 *Going Home***  
Alton Loveless

**11 *Don't Divorce!***  
James Ursrey

**12 *Reasonable Service***  
Floyd Wolfenbarger

**13 *Free Will Baptist Newsfront***

**15 *Currently***

**16 *The Department Pages***

**24 *Green Tree Bible Study***  
Robert E. Picirilli

**25 *Hymnal Committee Report***

**26 *Puzzles and People***  
Doug Little

**26 *Top Shelf***  
Thomas Marberry

**27 *On Little Lanes***  
Donna Mayo

**28 *Teen Scene***

**29 *Especially For Young Preachers***  
Dennis Wiggs

**30 *Religious Community News***

**31 *The Sovereign Speaks***  
Melvin Worthington

**Editor-in-chief:** Dr. Melvin Worthington

**Editor:** Jack Williams

**Editorial Assistant:** Marilyn Pritchard

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love you so much." Or "Thanks for ministering to my needs last week by being such a good listener."

Men, it seems, derive a tremendous amount of self-worth from being respected. They need to be admired for their skills, job performance, even the way they care for their bodies (by eating nutritious meals and exercising regularly). The thoughtful wife verbalizes respect in front of the children; her example teaches them to respect Dad.

Just being in each other's presence communicates love—walking in the park, jogging down the street, relaxing on the couch after dinner (or after the children are in bed), sitting by the lake or whatever.

Women like little gifts, too. Even though the wife wants her husband more than his gifts, she also enjoys those little gifts that say, "You are so special and I love you."

#### 7. They fight by the rules.

All marriage partners disagree (or argue, fight, whatever you want to call it), whether they've been married one year or 50. No two people will always see everything alike. In fact, it's unreasonable to expect two people, just because they are married to each other, to always want to do the same thing in the same way.

Happily married couples become skilled at fighting fairly: They deal with the conflict promptly, as soon as it raises its ugly head. They remember common courtesy while fighting. (The lower the voice, the more the other person hears.) They get to the root of the problem. (Overblown responses to small irritations are sometimes symptomatic of a more serious problem.) They stick to one problem at a time. They speak the truth in love (See Ephesians 4:15, 25). They are sure they can back up every statement or accusation with fact. They avoid making indirect statements.

They face each other as they discuss the problem. Some couples even agree to hold hands while fighting (which means the boxing gloves stay in the closet). Touching reminds the couple that they are more important than the problem.

They attack the problem, not their mate. By focusing on the problem, they can see the situation from their mate's viewpoint and consider a healthy compromise.

They even try humor. They don't laugh at each other; they laugh at the silliness of the situation.

Each accepts responsibility for his own attitude and actions and assumes responsibility for his contribution to the problem.

They work toward reconciliation. This is the goal—not to establish who's right, nor to change their mate. Each one says in attitude, "You are more important to me than establishing my rightness in this situation."

When conflict is resolved, there should never be a loser. If there is, the loser will grow resentful and determine to win the next fight.

#### 8. They are more concerned about meeting their mate's needs than having their own needs met.

Before each partner can meet the needs of the other, needs should be expressed. Some days the need will be physical, other days emotional. Open, honest communication is vital to having one's needs met.

Often, a mate will complain, "You never want to just sit on the couch with me anymore. You're always too busy to spend time with me." (Incidentally, "always" and "never" are deadly poison and kill any signs of communication that may have been blooming.)

Rather than criticize or complain, the more effective approach would be to admit, "I need to know that you care about my physical needs. Taking care of Mother the past two weeks was such a draining experience."

The more needs each mate meets in the other, the stronger the relationship becomes. (See Luke 6:38.)

#### 9. They trust each other.

In interviews with more than 100 couples for her book, *Married People*, Francine Klagsbrun noted that they mention trust more than love. "Love was a given for them," she observes, "but trust really says it all: It means you can open up to another person and not be hurt. In a good marriage there's so much trust that each partner can show his weakest side and know he'll still be loved."

Klagsbrun observed that most of the partners who spoke of trust also brought up the subject of fidelity. Almost without exception, the two went hand in hand. Absolute faithfulness is vital to a healthy relationship. Each mate must

determine to be faithful in his or her thoughts, attitudes and actions.

Nothing is more damaging to a marriage than sexual promiscuity. (The wife, particularly, needs the security that comes from knowing her husband is faithful to her.) Don't discuss your mate behind his back. Don't correct your mate in public. Don't criticize your mate. Don't put your mate down.

#### 10. They adjust to changes and use changes as a means of continued growth.

Neither trauma nor triumph makes couples sad or happy. Rather than say pressure causes one to act the way he does, it is more accurate to say pressure reveals the real person.

Happily adjusted couples face and cope with as many stress-filled situations as unhappy couples. But they know how to adapt to situations and work through them. A few common-sense principles help them survive—and even thrive on adversity:

Expect both highs and lows. Believe God is bigger than the problem and seek His solution. Maintain a good attitude. (Someone has suggested life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we react to what happens.)

Seek advice from someone who survived the same problem. Be willing to make adjustments in your budget, schedule or whatever needs adjusting. When possible tackle the problem in bite sizes. ("It's a cinch by the inch, but hard by the yard.")

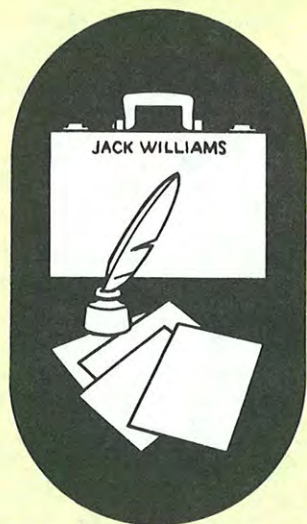
Keep reminding yourself that "marriage isn't so much finding the right person as being the right person," says happily married Charlie Shedd.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. June Critcher works with Family Ministries, Inc., in Nashville, Tennessee. She's a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville.



## Briefcase



Once in a while something goes so well that you just know you're living right. Like what happened that Wednesday in a Tulsa, Oklahoma, parking lot.

Four of us met all day with officials at Tulsa Convention Center planning a national convention. The other three left before I did so they missed it. As I strolled across the parking lot I saw a pair of wicked horns and a wall of brown shag carpet sticking out on both sides of a pickup truck.

My curiosity got the best of me, so I stepped behind the truck to see this great sight. I liked to died! There I stood nose to nose with a 2,000-pound Brahma bull and a buffalo the size of Rhode Island. The wicked horns belonged to the bull and the brown shag to you know who.

Got any idea how few hiding places you'll find in an asphalt parking lot when you're eyeball to eyeball with a bull and a full-grown plains buffalo? Where was the U. S. Cavalry? Where was John Wayne when you needed him? Better yet, where was the dummy who turned those brutes loose in a Tulsa parking lot?

**That's when I spotted** the short cowboy grinning next to the bull. I know you're curious how I missed the cowboy and his 10-gallon hat in an empty parking lot. Easy, that's how! The cowboy's hat barely reached the bull's shoulder. He held two small ropes in his hand—one attached to the bull, the other to the buffalo.

The cowboy grinned at me; I smiled back. (After all, what do you say to a

# Between the Bull and the Buffalo

guy who's holding 4,000 pounds of mean and ugly?) I nodded courteously to the bull and the buffalo, then scooted quickly to the nearest concrete building. The last thing I wanted to do was irritate something with that many hooves and horns.

I had just enough faith in the rope to believe it would hold the bull and buffalo unless they decided to move. Just enough faith in the cowboy to believe he wouldn't sic 'em on me if I turned my back. And just enough faith in myself to believe I'd make it to the corner before anybody got nervous. The rope held. The cowboy did his duty. And you'd be amazed how swiftly a man wearing a pin-striped suit can haul a briefcase across a parking lot.

**Of course, you're** wondering how that cowboy got the bull and the buffalo back in the barn. Frankly, I don't know. But I've got a suspicion that somewhere along the way the rope broke.

You see, both those beasts belonged to a rodeo. That night local television stations reported that some bucking stock got loose in downtown Tulsa near the convention center. It seems that one big bull in particular managed to put a hoof through the front door of the Department of Human Resources.

Took a posse of cowboys to round 'em up. I chortled from my 10th floor hotel room when I heard the news. One of the few times when I was perceptive enough to spot trouble before it happened and smart enough to walk away before the rope broke. Tell you right now, I had no intention of giving that Brahma bull a second chance to put a hoof through the front door of *this* human's resources.

**On the other hand,** I've got some brave friends who would've insisted on rubbing noses with those two plains denizens. The way they look at life, just because trouble's standing there

doesn't mean you can't stroke it. Kind of like David admiring Goliath before the incident at the valley of Elah.

Oh, I know that everything's beautiful in its own way and that there's a time and place for everything. That bull and buffalo may be beautiful in the wild or behind thick iron railings, but their time and place don't fit a tailgate party in Tulsa.

**Mind you, I've seen** smarter cowboys. The point being, some people seem determined to hold onto problems unnecessarily. They get a kick from the excitement and forget how dangerous it can be.

Anytime you throw a rope around a problem that big, even when it stands there meek as a bunny, you'd best remember one thing—the buffalo can't read and the bull, he just don't care. And all that rope does is give you one more place to hang onto when trouble starts. Which is also not the most brilliant thing you can do.

**The parking lot** episode was my first time to get up close and personal with a buffalo. No sir, he didn't raise a hoof at me, but then I didn't linger long on his turf.

On the other hand, that wasn't my first time to grovel before a Brahma bull. But it was my first and last time to be dumb enough to walk up on one with just a skinny cowboy and rope between us.

Yep, you know you're living right when you meet the bull and the buffalo, and you walk away with the joke on the cowboy.

**Some problems** get along very well without you, especially those that belong to somebody else. My advice to you the next time you get caught between the bull and the buffalo—be real courteous to the guy holding the rope; don't linger long; don't waste your time talking theology with the buffalo.



# Do Money and Marriage Mix?

H. Armstrong Roberts

By Clarence Burton

**An** usher was passing the offering plate at a large church wedding. One of those attending looked up, quite puzzled. Without waiting for the question the usher nodded his head and said, "I know it's quite unusual, but the groom requested it." Perhaps that's a good way to start the marriage. (Just joking.)

"Money! Money! Money! That's all I hear," Elvira said to the counselor as she and her husband sat in his office. Money problems are common to many families.

A survey was made of 100 families, with one of the questions asking, "What is the most common family problem?" Eighty-two out of the 100 stated, "Financial."

What's the answer to this problem? As simple as it sounds, "Spend less than

you make." If the outgo is more than the income, obviously there will be a problem.

Let's look at this from a realistic, practical viewpoint and note four statements that make sense.

1. All of us have limited resources. (Some families have larger incomes than others, but all have limited resources.)

2. There are more alternatives (uses of money) than money available. (A walk through the shopping mall describes this in picture form.)

3. Today's decision determines destiny. (When the item is purchased, the money is spent.)

4. Purchase only that which can be bought within your financial resources. (*Financial maturity is being able to give up today's desire for future benefits.*)

These four ideas can be formed into this one "Financial Planning is allocat-

ing limited financial resources among various unlimited alternatives." There are more things to buy than the money to buy with, so be wise in buying.

Some families never discuss money, or better, their financial problems. The quick answer is, God will provide. And with that, the house payment is made, the groceries bought, the insurance premiums paid and checks written until the bank account shows a debit. The well is dry!

Some folks may not say it, but unconsciously they may think, "God let us down." But we know that He did not. He always does His part. He always keeps His promises. In this vein of thought let's note some ways in which God can use money.

## God's Three Ways

1. God can use money to strengthen our trust in Him. Jesus makes a state-



ment and a promise in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

The Bible states in Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." These are irrevocable promises.

Illustration: A student is in college. He needs help with his tuition. Mr. Jones comes by and tells the student that he will pay the bill in one week. A week later Mr. Jones comes by and pays the bill. He does this for the next semester and the next. What does this do to the confidence the student has in Mr Jones? It strengthens it.

The Christian who has served the Lord for a number of years has seen this happen several times. When a Christian is where God wants him to be, doing what God wants him to do and living the kind of life God wants him to live, God will provide! This is an irrevocable fact. God's provisions strengthen our trust.

2. God can use money to prove His love. In Matthew 7:11, Jesus makes the father/family relationship clear. The father assumes the responsibility of providing for the family. And He states, in essence, as our earthly father would give us good things, surely our heavenly Father would assume the same responsibility and privilege.

3. God can use money to demonstrate His power over the resources of the world. Did the families of Israel leave Egypt empty-handed? Who moved upon the hearts of the Egyptians? It had to be God.

I can think of a classic example when an anonymous donor paid a large hospital bill for a Christian family in St. Louis, Missouri. To this day they do not know who paid it. God touched a person's heart to give, that a need for one of his children would be met. He assumed that responsibility. Now with these principles in mind we can be assured that God can provide and that He will provide.

But some reading this may say, "I love God and I am living for God. Why am I in such a financial bind?" It could be one of two reasons: God may be leading you through the valley to draw you closer to Him, to strengthen your faith. (Some flowers grow in the valley that will not grow on top of the mountain.) Or, it could be that you are not managing your finances properly.

This leads me to a money-management plan I saw that I like. It's called the ABC's of money management.

### A-Alert

Be alert to *how* you spend, *what* you spend and *why* you spend. This will help avoid impulsive buying and buying just to keep up with the Joneses.

In making purchases two things should be considered. (1) Is it God's will (Don't expect God to help meet the need to pay for an item that was purchased out of His will.) (2) Is the purchase necessary or is the motive selfish?

The credit card probably has as much to do with impulsive spending as any other thing. (Before you burn me in oil, I know the credit card has some strong benefits.) But most purchases that are made with the credit card should be made with the assurance that the item will be paid for shortly.

Most folks who work in money management discourage the use of the credit card, except for short-term purchases. Why? Because the concept behind the credit card is that the holder will buy more because of its convenience and easier buying. Many families have suffered unnecessary strain and frustration because of falling into the proverbial plastic pit. Be alert.

### B-Budget

The husband and wife should work together in planning the family budget. (If the children are at the age to offer mature suggestions, it is well to consider them also.) As family members work together, they should be able to tame the budget. I will offer a simple guideline or plan for the budget.

A composition book or ledger may be used. In one section of the book show



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Clarence Burton serves as executive secretary for the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists.

the income (weekly or monthly). In another section show the outgo or expenditures. Commonly these are called credit and debit. For the expenditures it would be well to use at least two columns, one for fixed and the other for variables.

For example, the tithe would come under fixed expenditure. (This is not normally thought of as an expenditure, but rather an expression of our love and respect to God. But it should be listed as a fixed outgo, for one cannot honestly claim Matthew 6:33 nor Philippians 4:19 if the tithe is withheld.) Fixed expenditures also include food, housing, utilities, taxes and such.

Under the variables would be clothing, furniture, medical, dental, savings and the like. What is often referred to as hidden expenditures should be considered in the budget (medical, dental, entertainment). In a period of a year, no matter how tight the budget, be realistic: some money will be spent for these things.

Now, if at all possible, some money should be put into a savings plan. It may be small, very small, but budget to do this. For as time goes by, this little seed savings can grow into a tree, and how glad you will be that you planted it several years ago.

The secret of preparing a budget is to make it balance. Don't plan the outgo more than the income. I can hear someone say, "Brother, that would take a magician at our house." It may appear that way, but we have someone greater than a magician and that is El Shaddai, The Great Provider.

Accepting the fact that God leads, guides and directs His children—within that context—it is logical and scriptural to believe that God will provide. And within this entire concept and context it is logical to believe that God, who is the Provider will provide the income to match the outgo. That is, the income the Lord has provided will take care of the Lord-directed expenditures.

### C-Commitment

This may be where the rubber meets the road. It can be difficult in the beginning to commit to follow the budget. But the benefits of being committed to the balanced budget will bring more lasting joy than temporary thrills that may come from impulsive and oftentimes unnecessary buying.



## The Together Prayer

By M.J. Pritchard

Father,

There's tension in our relationship, feelings of frustration because we misunderstand each other's needs and fears and thoughts.

We're trying, Lord, to work it out in love with Your help for our good and Your glory. Give us patience. With each other. With ourselves. Give us wisdom and love, and the desire and ability to feel with each other.

Give us the ability to empathize, to understand where the other one is coming from, and, Lord, to still love.

Teach us that difference isn't bad. Or wrong. But that it's, well, just different. You must approve of difference: No two snowflakes are alike, no two fingerprints.

Teach us, Lord, in our need to accept our differences.

Amen



## Money . . . (from page 7)

No doubt many couples would echo the words of this husband and wife, "Living within a disciplined budget has enriched our marriage. With freedom from unnecessary financial stress, we enjoy each other more and have more freedom in our service to the Lord." Commit yourselves to the balanced budget.

I can hear someone say, "How about those unexpected, sudden expenses?" And they may come. If they do, it will not shatter our confidence in God. The "unexpected" for us is always the "expected" for God. It could be that we may need a nudge, or perhaps a jolt, that our impossibilities lead us to God's possibilities.

What a joy to experience the Lord using a relative, a friend or perhaps someone unknown to supply a sudden, unexpected need. And we know that God can do that. But this does not eliminate the fact that when He provides an income through our place of labor or service, we should do our part in using that to meet our needs and enjoy living a life free from financial frustration.

Do marriage and money mix? Why sure, just like bread and butter or biscuits and gravy. The better the mixture the better the taste.



## Cooperative Channel Contributions July 1987

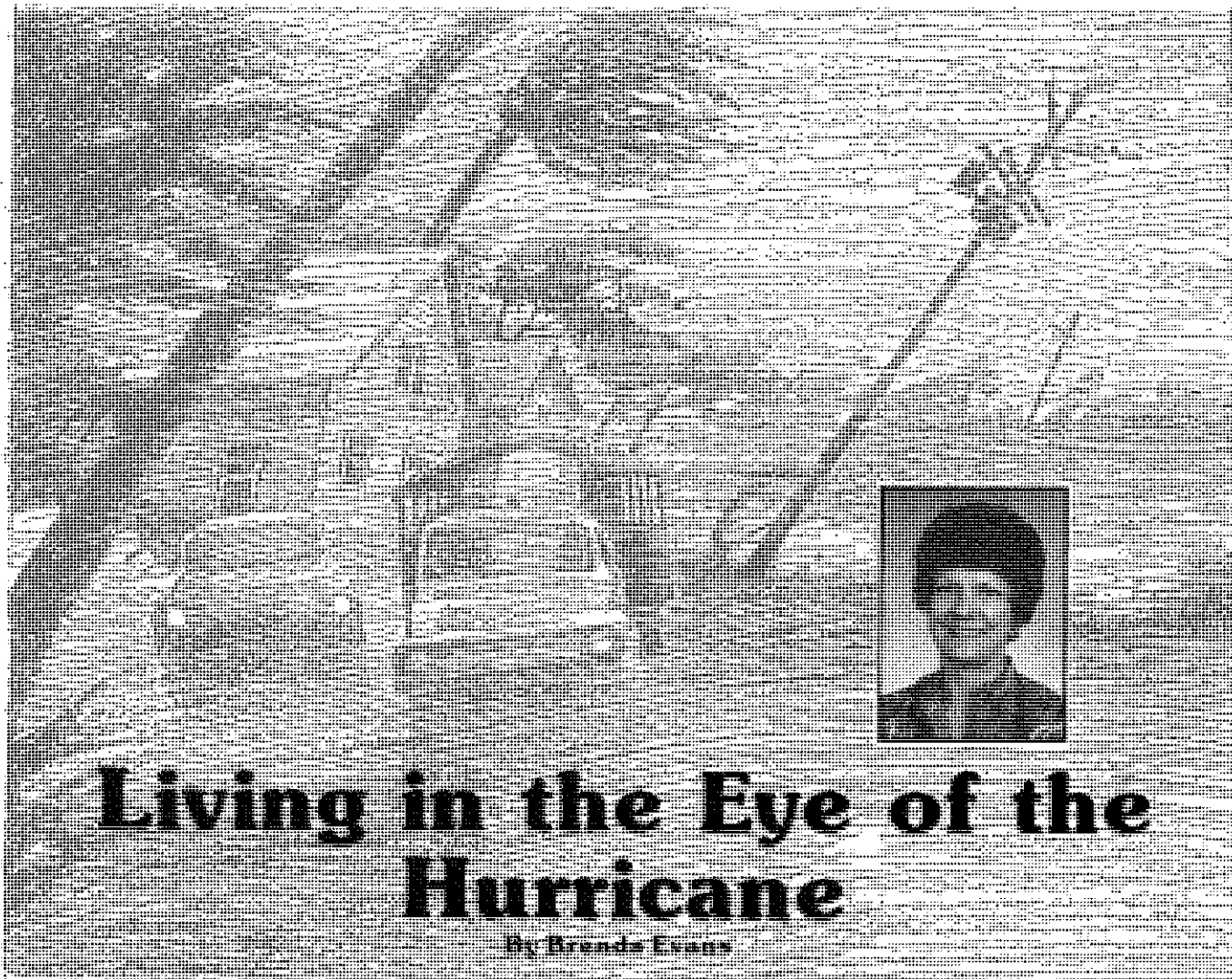
### RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	July '86	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$ 234.53	\$ 20.00	\$ 254.53	\$ 1,289.11	\$ 1,615.71
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Arkansas	.00	5,101.32	5,101.32	2,974.92	30,031.89
California	.00	881.30	881.30	592.56	6,084.93
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	10.00
Delaware	.00	367.47	367.47	.00	2,242.95
Florida	.00	1,823.34	1,823.34	2,579.36	14,787.00
Georgia	7,935.05	1,258.31	9,193.36	3,835.19	55,978.60
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	340.48
Illinois	10,482.10	1,614.69	12,096.79	4,300.38	61,337.53
Indiana	444.09	.00	444.09	689.91	4,079.19
Kansas	.00	41.56	41.56	69.93	293.26
Kentucky	522.50	100.00	622.50	503.00	2,007.82
Maryland	.00	156.00	156.00	.00	1,925.78
Michigan	5,804.16	1,750.00	7,554.16	2,412.07	33,594.68
Mississippi	31.86	406.64	438.50	763.74	2,517.84
Missouri	15,311.90	.00	15,311.90	9,725.25	59,863.21
New Mexico	7.68	3.84	11.52	.00	99.24
North Carolina	345.00	1,007.79	1,352.79	1,714.03	10,289.35
Ohio	1,431.20	2,240.00	3,671.20	5,626.97	17,851.89
Oklahoma	23,299.31	5,051.23	28,350.54	43,585.88	254,672.53
South Carolina	8,524.39	.00	8,524.39	1,281.34	47,860.32
Tennessee	560.04	1,722.39	2,282.43	1,707.74	13,021.93
Texas	4,910.62	571.52	5,482.14	8,074.51	56,247.84
Virginia	365.00	1,189.63	1,554.63	1,183.10	3,926.69
West Virginia	6,633.82	183.48	6,817.30	4,369.65	21,914.81
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	33.94
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$86,843.25</b>	<b>\$25,490.51</b>	<b>\$112,333.76</b>	<b>\$97,278.64</b>	<b>\$702,629.41</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 3,154.15	\$14,627.92	\$ 17,782.07	\$14,786.94	\$123,003.64
Foreign Missions	55,162.11	2,498.36	57,660.47	50,925.10	367,601.47
FWBBC	7,252.05	2,498.36	9,750.41	5,700.70	44,527.39
Home Missions	16,592.06	1,955.25	18,547.31	17,693.21	124,765.20
Retirement & Insurance	215.31	1,520.77	1,736.08	2,563.05	9,453.10
Master's Men	550.40	1,412.24	1,962.64	2,329.56	10,119.07
Commission for Theo.					
Integrity	104.98	108.59	213.57	192.46	1,049.17
FWB Foundation	12.06	651.84	663.90	1,070.35	4,618.85
Historical Commission	102.67	108.59	211.26	192.10	1,042.30
Radio & TV Commission	187.67	108.59	296.26	222.10	1,669.35
Hillsdale FWB College	3,140.57	.00	3,140.57	1,475.86	14,019.14
Other	369.22	.00	369.22	127.21	760.73
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$86,843.25</b>	<b>\$25,490.51</b>	<b>\$112,333.76</b>	<b>\$97,278.64</b>	<b>\$702,629.41</b>





# Living in the Eye of the Hurricane

By Brenda Evans

**B**ill Cosby says in *Fatherhood* that God's punishment on Adam and Eve for taking their "apple break" was that they should have children of their own—just so they could see how it feels to be defied and disobeyed.

Sometimes parents of teenagers feel like Mark Twain. When a child is young stick him in a barrel, Twain said, and feed him through a knothole. When he turns 16, plug the hole.

Living with teens can be unnerving, all right, like the eye of a hurricane. When there's calm, you are merely waiting for the next big wind. After the storm there's cleaning up to do.

Whatever the tension of living with teens, the periods of pleasure—those golden moments of enjoying our children as fellow human beings, our own flesh made over, perhaps made better—make it worth the storm. The joy of parenting teens is greater, I think, than the joy of parenting toddlers.

The problems are greater, too, of course. When they are, I look for expert help. Prayer is my first resource. Four years before I became a parent, I took Psalm 32:8 as my life verse: "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

After my three sons became teenagers, I began harassing the Lord with James 1:5 on my lips: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God..."

I also consulted godly advisors. Charles Swindoll warns that experts, new or ancient, give mere human opinion unless they are giving divine, Bible-based counsel. A few principles that help me maintain more calm and less storm while living with teenagers have emerged.

Avoid continuous ultimatums or threats that attempt to control by overpowering. Dr. Bruce Baldwin, a practicing psychologist, warns that "as the ante in ultimatums keeps going up . . . so

does adolescent defiance." His warning sounds like Paul's: "... provoke not your children to anger."

Charles Haddon Spurgeon advises, "With children you must mix gentleness with firmness; they must not always have their own way, but they must not always be thwarted."

Avoid being too permissive. While we shouldn't be tyrants, neither can we operate a democracy. Voting works fine for some decisions—what restaurant or mall to go to or where to spend a three-day vacation. It does not work in moral choices, safety or the way teens are allowed to treat other people.

Living by rules and demands gives structure, confidence and accountability. Dr. James Dobson in *Love Must Be Tough* insists that accountability for behavior is basic to responsible human relations: "... the psychological consequences of sinful behavior should be experienced by the guilty. There's nothing



# Going Home

By Alton Loveless

**He** lifted his head and slowly opened his eyes after a brief but sincere prayer. I had never met the man, but his first words to me with tear-filled eyes were, "I'm going home!" So was I, but I had only been away three weeks. He had been gone more than 30 years.

Little did I realize that this small oriental man had suffered so much, so long. The Brazilian Air Line flight from Sao Paulo to Rio De Janeiro would hold many interesting minutes as he opened up to me after finding out I too was a believer.

He was a missionary-pastor from Korea. Nothing about his conversation seemed unusual until he said, "I wish I could see your homeland, but I can't. I'm a North Korean. I have to change planes in Rio. Brazil was open to some of us after the war, and for all these years now I have served the Lord here in Brazil. But now I'm going home!"

He had been led to Christ during the war in a refugee village where he had sought safety after escaping from his own detachment. In time, he left the country seeking freedom which he found in South America where his love for Jesus Christ grew and his desire to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ prevailed.

I thought, both of us are preachers, but what a difference. He was born in a captive society and I in a free one. He came to know Christ kneeling in the mud and water of a smelly crowded village, and I in a small but nice church. He sought for freedom from captivity to preach while I have freedom to preach Him of whom I am captive. He longed for home, but until now felt he dared not go, while I can go, but cares of my own keep me away.

Yes, two different men, two different worlds. But because of the same Christ, we both will enter the world prepared for us by Christ where governments, ideologies or race will not make a difference. People from the four corners will gather together when sea and graves give up their dead and life gives way to change with all of us going home!

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Dr. Alton Loveless is executive secretary for the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists

## Hurricane . . . (from page 9)

ing quite like a dose of reality to awaken a dreamer from his fantasies." A misbehaving teen needs to be called into accountability; he should have to face the consequences of his behavior.

Insist on meeting your children's friends. One counselor says assume you will have trouble if you "know friends' names but have never seen or met them" or if your child "always insists on going to meet friends somewhere else."

Allow your teen to be different within limits. When one of my teen sons wanted a flattop haircut, I told him I had always disliked flattops, even as a teenager in the '50's, that they were universally unflattering and geeky—in my opinion.

And so we negotiated a mutually agreeable settlement. He would wait until *after* school pictures were made, and then he would get only a *moderate* flattop the first time around. I would pay, and I would not complain or act as if he had embarrassed me when we were in public together.

We were both surprised. I disliked it only mildly. He liked it only mildly. Within two months he was back to normal—more or less.

Resist asking so many questions. Teens are of all people most insistent on privacy. It is their way of gaining independence, and independence is a priceless commodity to a teen. Any adolescent dislikes being regularly questioned about thoughts, actions, feelings and plans. As a matter of fact, so do I and other adults.

My friend Nancy who is the mother of three teens advises uncritical listening and tons of patience. And I suggest discriminate tongue-biting and loads of casual dinner-time conversation.

Although there is a hierarchy in the home with parents at the top, around the dinner table there should be equality in conversation. It is not a good time to teach or preach. It is the best time families have for sharing ideas from the mundane to the profound, from nuclear war to the latest zit lotion, from promiscuity to why pepper is hot.

Freedom to lead a dinner-table conversation gives a teen confidence that parents care what he says and what he thinks. Sometimes it helps a teenager to break out of his self-imposed silence on other important issues.

Be an example. The greatest power I hold over my teenagers is my exam-

ple. A recent television poll put report cards into the hands of teens. Forty percent gave parents an A on everything. The remainder gave A for allowing freedom, B+ on teaching right from wrong, but a C for setting an example.

At my house if I complain about the "stuff" stashed under my sons' beds—*Hot Rod* magazines, sweaty tennis shoes, moldy banana peels—I am apt to hear a rebuttal. "Mother, what about that 'stuff' stacked on the dining room table. That's not exactly food, you know."

And so I know that example matters. In the serious things example matters, too. Thomas Merton said, "We learn to live by living together with others, and by living like them."

My youngest son is learning to drive. He told me last week, "I've been watching you and Dad shift, use the clutch, brake. I can do it, too." And he did.

He is also watching how I solve problems, handle frustrations, trust or distrust the Lord, ignore or help suffering Christians. He is even watching how I survive living in the eye of the hurricane with him.

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Mrs. Brenda Evans, wife of a Free Will Baptist minister and mother of three sons, lives in Ashland, Kentucky, in the eye of the hurricane.

## Directory Update

### CALIFORNIA

Jonathan Yandell to Garden Grove Church, Garden Grove

### FLORIDA

Edward Green to Mt. Carmel Church, Perry from Truth Church, New Oxford, PA

### ILLINOIS

Randy Clem to Webb's Prairie Church, Ewing

Howard Flota to First Church, Mt. Vernon

### OKLAHOMA

George Lynn to Skiatook Church, Skiatook

Roger Bomar to Duncan Church, Duncan

### TENNESSEE

Eddie Hodges to Hendersonville Church, Hendersonville

### TEXAS

Mike Parrot to First Church, Odessa from First Church, Haskell, OK

Morris Proctor to First Church, Bryan

### OTHER PERSONNEL

Jeff Nichols to Eastside Church, Muldrow, OK, as youth director



# Don't Divorce!

## Stay Married

By James Ursrey

**G**od gave man marriage while man was in a state of innocence, so says the Bible and marriage ceremonies in most ministers' manuals. God designed marriage for the happiness of man (woman too), and the propagation of earth's human family.

Since God gave marriage, it is subject (or should be) to His purpose, direction and discipline. Marriage unites two members of separate families into a unique family of one. Marriage is more than a civil contract. When the two marriage partners omit God from their relationship, then problems, real problems, arise.

I well remember the evening I asked my wife's parents for her hand in marriage. When I finally mustered up enough courage, her mother gave us some good advice, "Children, marriage is a give and take proposition. Sometimes it is all give and other times it is all take. Whatever the situation calls for, the both of you must be willing to do, and things will work out with the Lord's help." That was 30 years ago. It works.

Yes, marriage in America today is in trouble. The home as a God-designed institution is under attack from Satan. The media—tv, radio, newspapers, magazines, movies—glorifies infidelity, wife-swapping, going to bed with whomever. This leads to a loss of respect for spouses and, all too often, to divorce.

The reality of a popular song, "Who's seeing who, who's being true, and



H. Armstrong Roberts

whose car is parked next door," has become commonplace. This thing called divorce is a real problem, and in this generation it's rampant.

**T**here was a time when divorce stayed primarily outside the church. But now, even the church has been invaded on a large scale.

When a couple gets married and starts a life together, the odds are that it won't last long. They probably won't make it. By the time they reach age 50 many are married to their second, third, even fourth spouse. Children from such marriages, statistically, end up the same way.

My heart hurts as I see couples, who have reared their children, split up after 20, 30 or 40 years together. What's the problem? I'm no expert, although I have been dealing with this matter for nearly 30 years. Let's take a look at the problems.

The Bell System's logo is, "Every Problem is a Communication Problem." The truth of the matter is that most marital problems are communication problems.

Marriage is not always a utopia. Problems arise. However, if ever there was love in a marriage, I believe love



## Divorce . . . (from page 11)

remains. That is, unless it has been destroyed by infidelity. Love is not something made in the back seat of an automobile. That's lust.

I believe that God intended marriage to be one man with one woman (the same one) for a lifetime. It takes two people to get married, and it takes two people to maintain or keep a marriage together. One person cannot make a marriage work.

It seems the philosophy of today is, "Let's get married. If it doesn't work or we don't like it, we'll split, we'll divorce."

**T**oo little value is placed on marriage vows today. Just the other day a lawyer advertised his services: "Divorces \$49.95 and Up." That's no bargain! That cheapens the marriage relationship. We could/should never measure in dollars the experience of those, especially the children, when in a courtroom the judge declares, "Divorce granted."

Divorce brings hurt and shame to so many, and precious couples become just another statistic. Everything—dreams, aspirations, emotions—fades away into nothing. Oh, those wasted years! This gives us some idea of where our values are with regard to the sanctity and sacredness of marriage.

Problems are part of every marriage. God gave us distinct personalities. Even though married to each other and the "twain have become one flesh," we are still different. This is good; it makes for variety in life.

But since we are different, problems will arise. When they do, pray; work at working them through. Remember, it's still for better or for worse. When the "worse" comes along, ask God's help. He is anxious to assist us in keeping our lives together. With His help and each one adding his own positive part, problems can be resolved.

I have known couples to marry, encounter a problem, refuse to work it out, divorce and later say, "What fools we were. We didn't give our marriage a chance."

**S**omeone says, "Don't divorce. Stay together for the sake of the children. There will be so much hurt." These and others may or may not be good reasons. However, with an exception here and there, I would say, "No! Never divorce." Stay married because you still love each other and the children, and are willing to work at making it work.

## Reasonable Service

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

**S**ome weeks ago I heard of someone who didn't want to be bothered about faithful church attendance or systematic giving of the tithe, reply: "Why, even the Bible tells us that God only expects our 'reasonable' service!" It belies a fear of being so zealous that one might somehow worship, pray or give too much. This person felt that we must discipline ourselves or we will overdo our "reasonable" service.

I suppose to some it's unreasonable to expect that folks relinquish their amusements to join with their fellow Christians in prayer meeting or Bible study. As a boy I don't remember bowling, playing cards, watching tv or any of the other "reasonable" pastimes while the church doors were open for prayer meeting or revival. I guess that's why I'm considered unreasonable.

I suppose to some it's unreasonable to expect people to give one dime out

of each dollar to the cause of Christ. We have so many needs. Video game cartridges are expensive you know! Is it reasonable for Abdul-Jabbar to make \$12 million, while missionaries can only look forward to an endless trail of hat-in-hand visits with churches? More thrift at the offering plate can be accounted to hard hearts than to hard times.

However, even a cursory glance at Romans 12:1-2 will clear up any delusion one might be under. Paul says that nothing less than the complete sacrifice of our living bodies to God is reasonable service. So now the shoe is on the other foot. The stingy, selfish, pleasure-crazed, stay-at-home crowd are the unreasonable ones. They consume an inordinate amount of God's blessings and offer Him pottage for His birthright.

Let's be truly reasonable about our service for God.

Approach marriage this way: This is for a lifetime; am I ready for that? Do I really love him (or her)? Do I have the approval of God? Am I willing to put Christ in the marriage? These simple steps would prevent most divorces.

I am convinced that marriage isn't for everyone! That's right. Some folks are never ready for it. On the other hand, God chooses for some to remain single for a time or for a lifetime. And I appreciate those who recognize such and act accordingly.

Dr. Dennis Gibson said, "Marriage is a commitment 'for better or worse, until death.' It is not for a period of time—not 'until my mood changes.' It is a long-term commitment for life regardless of compelling side roads discovered later

on." Today, commit yourself to stay on this highway. Obey the Bible. Stay married.

There are so many advantages to staying married. In addition to scriptural obedience there is lifetime companionship, friendship, family (not some with mother and some with dad), and grandchildren—best of all!

Marriage fails because people fail . . . succeed because people succeed. That gives us all hope. Don't divorce. Stay married. Set the example. God bless you and yours as you work at making it work.

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. James Ursrey pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Jesup, Georgia.*



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

**Please support them.**





FREE WILL BAPTIST

## newsfront

### 536 REGISTER FOR ARKANSAS STATE ASSOCIATION

CONWAY, AR— Clerk Wendell Leckbee said that 536 registered for the August 11-13 Arkansas State Association. The 90th annual session met at Camp Beaverfork near Conway.

Promotional Director David Joslin reported that Arkansas Free Will Baptists gave more than \$1 million to denominational ministries in 1986. That amount included \$282,000 to national outreach and more than \$800,000 to state outreach.

State CTS Director Jim Pursell noted that 962 campers attended sessions at Camp Beaverfork. Pursell called attention to the fact that 149 campers made salvation decisions, while 207 rededicated their lives. The state invested \$99,000 in the camp during 1986.

Moderator Carl Cheshier was elected to his 12th term. Reverend Cheshier also received a 13-year plaque of appreciation from the national Sunday School and Church Training Department. Cheshier resigned from the Sunday School Board in July after being elected assistant moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Delegates heard four ministers preach sermons developing the association theme, "Obeying the Lord." Arkansas pastors Ray Prince, Dwayne Roper and Fred Scott joined FWBBC professor Ken Riggs on the preaching program.

One convention highlight occurred Wednesday afternoon when officials dedicated the newly-constructed State Headquarters Building. Moderator Carl Cheshier preached the dedicatory message. Dr. Melvin Worthington and Rev. J. W. Blanks led dedication prayers.

The 1988 state association will meet August 16-18 at Camp Beaverfork.

### AKIN TO HEAD HILLSDALE MINISTERIAL PROGRAM

MOORE, OK—The Reverend J. Delbert Akin, 59, will lead the internship program for ministerial students at Hillsdale FWB College, according to President Edwin Wade. Akin will teach pastoral internship and pastoral leadership.

Akin resigned his pastorate at Westgate FWB Church in Shawnee to accept the position with Hillsdale College. He was saved in 1943 and ordained to the ministry seven years later. He received his B. A. in English and his teaching certificate from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1952. Later he attended East Central University and Oklahoma University.

Brother Akin has pastored Oklahoma churches for 36 years, served on the state mission board 20 years, the national Home Missions Board 11 years, and the Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College Board of Trustees 11 years. He served as Oklahoma state executive secretary-treasurer 1953-1955. The World War II veteran has written Sunday School lessons and articles for *Contact* magazine.

J. Delbert and Dorothy M. Akin have three children: Judith E. Randall, Jan



(Mrs. Billy) Roberts and James Philip Akin.

President Wade said, "With his (Akin's) experience as a pastor and denominational leader, we believe he will make an outstanding contribution to the ministerial program."

### NEW CLASSIFIED AD PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

NASHVILLE, TN—A new publication for Free Will Baptists made its appearance at the National Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, in July. *The Companion*, a monthly publication of classified advertising available to Free Will Baptists everywhere, won approval by many who saw the sample issue.

Editor Yvonne Thigpen says, "The one-page paper is designed mainly to network information among Free Will Baptist people regarding ministry positions, personnel, services and equipment."

Mrs. Thigpen said that such good response to the introductory issue prompted officials to offer *The Companion* free to all readers. For a nominal charge, Free Will Baptists can solicit inquiries for a pastoral position (confidentially when preferred) and other church staff positions. Likewise, people looking for places of ministry employment can list their availability, thereby taking advantage of a national audience.

Presently, state and national leaders provide the main assistance to agencies and individuals seeking each other. Already overworked and sparsely

funded, none of these agencies can provide the time and quality service needed to manage the task on a national scale. *The Companion* will seek to provide Free Will Baptists with a valuable tool of reference.

Other services offered to help support the paper's ministry include: Resume Rite (a professional resume writing service), Ready Reference (a resume sending service), and Speed Search (a service providing computer print-outs of specific personnel/job openings).

Additional classified advertising will be accepted from Free Will Baptists or those who provide goods and services which interest Free Will Baptists. FWB businesses, individuals, Christian schools, departments, institutions, organizations and agencies may use the paper as a quick information tool. The paper features line advertising, along with limited amounts of display advertising.

For a sample issue, information on advertising or inclusion on the mailing list, please write:

*The Companion*, Yvonne Thigpen, Editor, 3013 Delaney Drive, Nashville, TN 37214, or call 615/885-2081.



# newsfront

(continued)

## GEORGIANS HONOR EVANGELIST BOBBY JACKSON

DONALSONVILLE, GA—Members of Bainbridge FWB Church, Bainbridge, Ga., spearheaded an area-wide effort to honor Evangelist Bobby Jackson for 32 years of preaching and evangelism. Pastor and Mrs. Emery Corbett led the tribute to Jackson, planned in conjunction with a revival the evangelist was conducting at the Bainbridge church.

More than 80 people, including eight Free Will Baptist pastors, participated in the event at the Corbett home on their Double CC Dairy Farm. Mary Mallory provided music for arriving guests.

Mrs. Eleanor Sheffield of Cedar Springs FWB Church, Blakely, a probate judge of Early County, gave a response to the welcome. The Dewey White singers provided music, as well as George Pyle and the honoree. Pastor Ken Faison (New Home FWB Church) gave an oral tribute to Reverend Jackson. Pastor Corbett presented Jackson with a plaque citing 32 years of service.

Evangelist Jackson completed 10 years as moderator of the National Association in July. He will continue to serve one year as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

## OKLAHOMA SINGLES RETREAT ATTRACTS 55

DRUMRIGHT, OK—Fifty-five single adults ranging in age from 19 to 60, from 25 churches gathered at First Mission Campground near Drumright for the first Oklahoma FWB Singles Retreat, according to information officer Sue Mullins.

Oklahoma pastors Joe Grizzle and Kent Hubbard presented a cluster of seminars on spiritual growth, time management, sexuality/relationships and marriage/remarriage.

Mullins said, "God granted us an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness. In response to an evaluation statement respondents confirmed that the three things they enjoyed most were seminars, fellowship and food."

The group plans a 1988 retreat. Mullins concluded, "The great response to this retreat indicates that it is time to concentrate on the untapped resource of single adults in our denomination."

## TEXAS CHURCH HONORS PASTOR

DUNCANVILLE, TX—Reverend H. Z. Cox retired after 42 years in the ministry and nearly 40 years at First FWB Church, Duncanville. The church under the leadership of new pastor David Sutton honored Reverend and Mrs. Cox with a trip to the holy land.

Before pastoring First Church, Reverend Cox served as a chaplain's assistant in the U.S. Army; associate pastor at Pleasant Mound Church, Bellevue, Texas; and as pastor of New Salem FWB Church, Decatur, Texas.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Bible and church administration from Dallas Bible College and a master's degree in theology from Bible Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth.

First Church relocated three times and each time went through a major building program with Brother Cox serving as superintendent, saving the church thousands of dollars. The church sits on seven acres southwest of Dallas at Duncanville.

In addition to pastoral duties, Rev. Cox has been active in denominational work. He has served on the national Home Missions Board as well as state



and district positions, including Texas Executive Secretary, Texas State Moderator, member of the State Mission Board and the State Executive Committee. Past honors include "Texas Pastor of the Year." He's currently state parliamentarian and moderator of the Westfork District Association.

Brother Cox enters retirement with more than 7,600 sermons preached. He will continue to live in Duncanville and be active in the Duncanville church.

## CCC ACTIVATES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FRESNO, CA—The California Christian College Alumni Association started compiling an updated alumni directory this summer, according to alumni secretary Mae Wood.

Officials want to keep alumni members informed about college news and campus events. Dr. Larry Condit, pastor of Capitol FWB Church in Sacramento, serves as the new alumni association president.

Mrs. Wood said, "The rebirth of California Christian College also signalled the reactivation of the CCC Alumni Association." She asked that all CCC alumni write and send current address and phone number to:

Mae Wood, Alumni Association  
California Christian College  
4881 E. University Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93703

## SOUTHEASTERN FWB COLLEGE MOVES TO NORTH CAROLINA

RALEIGH, NC—Southeastern FWB College relocated from Norfolk, Va., to Raleigh, N.C., this summer, according to President Joe Ange. The college board signed documents in May purchasing 60 acres for relocation and development.

College Dean Lorenza Stox said the school will begin fall semester classes October 1 because of the move and construction of new facilities. The campus will be located east of Raleigh between Knightdale and Wendell off U. S. Highway 64.

Dr. Ange said, "The Raleigh area is listed among the top 10 cities as one of the fastest growing areas of our country. With new development in the Wen-

dell are, Southeastern will be right in the hub of this gigantic growth."

Since 1983 the college met in facilities at Gateway FWB Church in Norfolk. When asked about student employment, Dr. Ange said, "Job opportunities in this area should be plentiful for our students. A number of great Free Will Baptist churches in the area will give Southeastern students many opportunities for Christian service."

The new address for Southeastern College is:

532 Eagle Rock Road  
P. O. Box 1700  
Wendell, NC 27591  
919/365-7711



**Trinity FWB Church, Okeechobee, FL**, held dedication services for its new building in July, according to Pastor **Thomas Dees**.

**Florida's Central Association** Youth Camp reports 19 conversions and 17 rededications. **Bud Hill** served as camp evangelist.

Pastor **Gene Parton** and four teenagers from **Harper Road FWB Church, Joelton, TN**, began a 24-hour "Rock for Missions" July 10. The \$375 raised during the missions rock made it to the National Association in Birmingham, AL, in time for the Wednesday night missions offering.

Members of **Red Bay FWB Church, Red Bay, AL**, presented a plaque to deacon **Oliver Hardin Mink** for 56 years of service. Deacon Mink joined the Red Bay Church in 1929 under the ministry of **M. L. Hollis, Phil Bozeman** pastors.

Pastor **Walter Baxley** said members of **Cedar Springs FWB Church, Cedar Springs, MO**, began construction on a new sanctuary this summer. Termites destroyed the old one. Baxley said he expects the sanctuary to be completed in October.

Burglars struck **Calvary FWB Church, Columbus, GA**, according to Pastor **Russell Horne**. Losses included a microwave unit and the church bus. Pastor Horne said the church also recently paved the parking lot.

On his last Sunday as pastor at **Cofer's Chapel FWB Church, Nashville, TN**, **Gene Outland** received a money tree from members. The tree, in full bloom, yielded \$1,051. Brother Outland now pastors in Illinois.

Members of **Hollywood FWB Church, Hollywood, FL**, celebrated the church's 20th anniversary in September. They also conducted open house and dedication for a new church building. Former pastors **Wilford Cathey** and **John Gililand** attended the festivities. **Larry Montgomery** pastors.

Pastor **Bill Robinson** said members of **Canton FWB Church, Canton, NC**, raised \$8,450 for FWBBC through a 10-mile walk-a-thon. Fifteen people participated. Robinson said that much of the funds raised came through the matching gift program at Champion Paper Company which includes company retirees as well as active employees.

Pastor **Glen Hood** of **Mile High FWB Church, Denver, CO**, tells of the July "Summer Jump." Hood said the church averaged 73 in Sunday School and 101 in morning worship, up 25 from one year ago. The church also received nine new members, baptized eight and witnessed several rededications.

Members at **New Vision FWB Church, Hemingway, SC**, burned the

\$15,000 mortgage, according to Pastor **John Suttles**. At the same time, Pastor Suttles and the deacons announced the launching of a new building program to construct an auditorium. State Promotional Director **Norwood Gibson** spoke at the mortgage burning ceremony. The New Vision Church organized on July 2, 1983, with 29 charter members. In less than four years the church doubled attendance and is debt free.

Pastor **Howard Kimble** said youth from **Union FWB Church, Wheelersburg, OH**, participated in a missions walk-a-thon which raised \$1,390. The funds were divided between Home Missionaries **Tom Dooley, Willie Booth** and **Roy Roach**.

The **Missouri State Association** conducted its Preachers Seminars—All Boards Meeting September 14-15. The All-Boards Meeting was designed for the five standing boards of the state association. Speakers for the Preachers Seminar included **Greg McAllister, Ken Goff, Glen Rehkop, Cliff Bowman, Philip Munn**, and **Nathan Ruble**.

The **Missouri Christian Education Board** sponsored a family life seminar at Stonecroft Conference Center. The seminar attracted 88 couples to hear Oklahoma pastor **Joe Grizzle** speak on the role of the husband and wife in successful marriages. **Steve Hale**, a member of the C.E. Board, said, "The only problem encountered was when we had to go to outside motel rooms to accommodate everyone. We had no idea the response would be so overwhelming."

Pastor **Ron Edgil** said members of **First FWB Church, Flat River, MO**, celebrated 107 years in the community. First Church began in 1880 under the leadership of three ministers—**J. H. Gulley, Jerry Wood** and **John Wood**. One older member, recalling struggles from mining camp days, said, "They wouldn't allow us to ring the church bell because it would awaken the night crew."

Pastor **Levan Hubbard** and members of **Woodlawn FWB Church, Russellville, AR**, conducted ground breaking ceremonies for a 2,000-square-foot addition. The construction includes Sunday School rooms, nursery, Sunday School office and pastor's study. The church reported five conversions, five baptisms and three new members. A \$5,500 "Miracle Offering" helped boost their building fund.

There's a happy Free Will Baptist pastor in **Desoto, MO**. His name is **Charles Miller**. Members of **First FWB Church, Desoto**, purchased a new Buick LaSabre for the pastor. The church decided his Oldsmobile with 161,000 miles on it had gone far enough.

Pastor **Vernon Long** reports 17 conversions and nine rededications during a revival with Evangelist **Darvin Oakes**. Pastor Long praised the church youth for making

more than 3,800 contacts in the community during six days of intense visitation.

Members of **Felker FWB Church, Valiant, OK**, raised more than \$1,000 during the Home Missions Walk-A-Thon. Pastor **George Harvey, Jr.** said the church averaged 75 during Vacation Bible School.

**Enid FWB Church, Enid, OK**, poured an asphalt parking lot, thanks to a donation from one church family. **Waldo Young** pastors.

Pastor **J. R. Hall** of **Blanchard FWB Church, Blanchard, OK**, built a willow branch and cedar pole brush arbor in an effort to help unite churches in the community. It worked. Pastors from 12 churches cooperated in a two-week outdoor revival.

About 140 people attended the organizational service at **Victory Chapel FWB Church, Bartlesville, OK**, according to Pastor **Danny Hester**. The three-year-old Victory Chapel Church averaging 85 in attendance, constructed a 6,000-square-foot building and sits on property valued at \$150,000.

Pastor **James Munsey** of **Templo FWB Church, Weslaco, TX**, reports that he baptized more than 50 converts this year. As Home Missions Coordinator for the Spanish work in Texas and Mexico, Munsey said he expects a growth rate of 15 percent this year with four or five new churches established.

Members of **Calvary Fellowship FWB Church, Fenton, MO**, voted to install a \$6,800 sound system. **Jerry Norris** pastors.

Members of **Tippett's Chapel FWB Church, Clayton, NC**, held a "Ron and Linda Callaway Day" this summer. Ron Callaway spoke twice and made a slide presentation during the evening service. Members gave \$3,416 to the Callaways' account. That amount included \$500 received in quarter folders. The men's fellowship of the church presented the Callaways with a set of American Tourister luggage. **Wade Parker** pastors.

Members of **Philadelphia FWB Church, Folkston, GA**, celebrated the church's 100th-year homecoming, according to Pastor **Amos McMillan**. Former pastor Dr. **L. C. Johnson** brought the morning message. The church presented a bound history of the church to Georgia Executive Secretary **Herbert Waid** representing the Georgia State Historical Society.

Pastor **David Shores** reports that eight boys accepted Christ during the Vacation Bible School at **Ina FWB Church, Ina, IL**. **Mikah Watts** directed the VBS. More than 200 attended the closing night celebration.

Pastor **Ernie Lewis** reports six conversions and an average attendance of 75 during VBS activities at **Blue Point FWB Church, Cisne, IL**.





**Foundation**

Herman L. Hersey  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

## Groucho Marx' Accidental Disinheritance

Groucho Marx had a long and illustrious career as one of America's favorite comedians. First with his brothers . . . and then alone, his name became synonymous with laughter.

But Groucho's final years were anything but funny.

They were filled with hatred, bitterness and lawsuits among his heirs and friends.

### Groucho's Old Age

When Groucho grew older, there was a difference of opinion between his natural heirs, on the one hand, and his friend, Erin Fleming, on the other.

Fleming, who claimed she was properly caring for Groucho, thought she should have the continuing responsibility of his legal affairs.

His son, Arthur, on the other hand, claimed that Fleming was not looking after his father's interest . . . but, was taking advantage of Groucho's affection for her. Arthur was concerned that his father's estate would be wrongfully spent by the friend and that nothing would be left for Groucho's care . . . and nothing would be left in the estate.

### The Lawsuit

So, Arthur went to the Santa Monica Superior Court and asked the court to declare Groucho to be incapable of caring for his affairs. Arthur then asked the court to place his father under a conservatorship. That is, to take away his power to

decide his own affairs and to appoint him, Arthur, to write Groucho's checks, sign his legal papers, etc.

In effect, he asked that his father be treated as a child. Just as the law does not let a minor care for legal affairs, Arthur asked that Groucho be treated as a child and dictated to by the State of California.

The court agreed. And Groucho was placed under a conservatorship. His personal rights were completely taken away and he was treated as a child.

### Avoiding Conservatorship

If you have any concern that you might, someday, be placed under a conservatorship, you may want to consider a plan to avoid those unhappy circumstances.

Talk to your lawyer about your concerns. He can show you some ways that you can begin the process whereby conservatorship will be highly unlikely.

### Lessons From Groucho

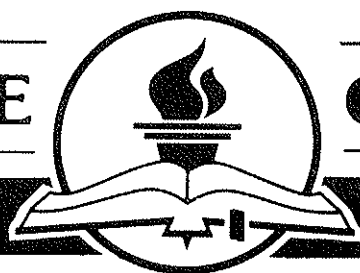
All of us laughed a lot at Groucho's many jokes and antics. He probably contributed a lot to our mental well being by giving us a good laugh. Hopefully, his unhappy conservatorship might also contribute to our mental and financial well being by demonstrating to us that we need to take appropriate action to be sure we do not end up in like circumstances.



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.



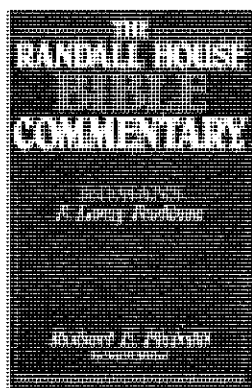
# HOUSE



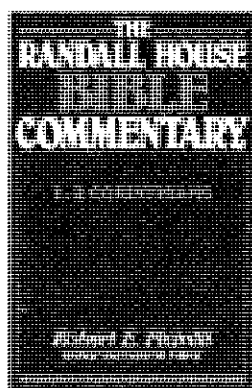
# CALL

The Department Pages

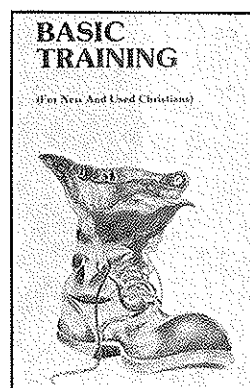
## New Products To Help You And Your Church Grow



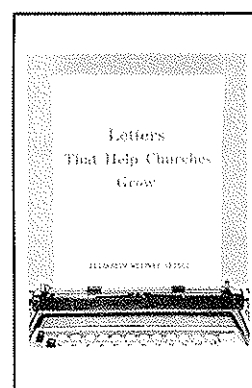
Wade out into the deep with this fountainhead of theology.  
\$19.95



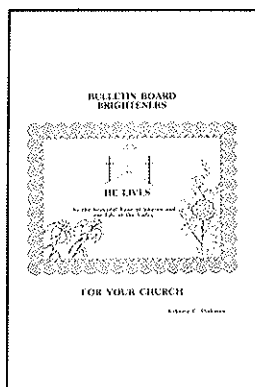
Glean from keen insights into the Corinthian Epistles.  
\$19.95



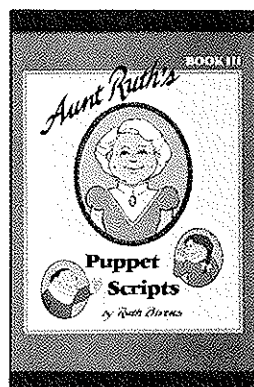
Practical training for new converts, workbook format.  
\$12.95



140 different letters plus "How To" on church newsletter.  
\$14.95



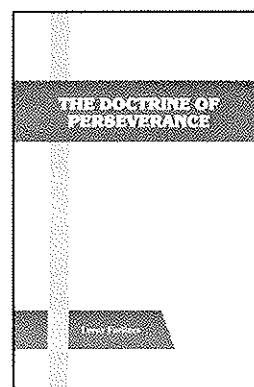
A wealth of new ideas for bulletin boards fully illustrated.  
\$9.95



Volumes III and IV now available. 13 scripts per vol. Cassette narration included.  
\$19.95 each



September release. A guide to successful retirement planning.  
\$7.95



New size 5½ x 8½, large type.  
\$.95

# MINI GRAMS

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

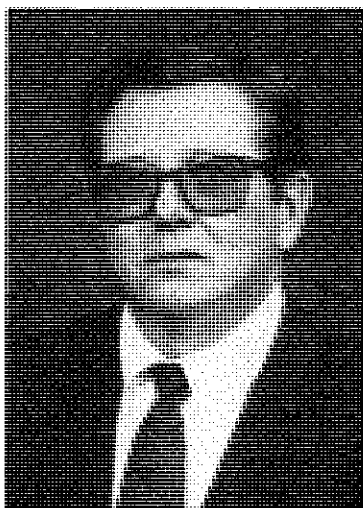
## The Tentmaker—A Home Missionary!

By Roy Thomas

**W**ho are "tentmakers" in Home Missions work? These men start Free Will Baptist churches on their own, without sponsorship of state mission boards or the national Home Missions Board.

However, the national Home Missions Board believes these men deserve special recognition and appreciation for this tremendous labor of love. Therefore, the "Tentmaker Program" was created to express gratitude to these dedicated men of God who work at secular jobs in order to plant churches in their cities.

Many of them have gone to difficult and isolated areas to start churches. Some have their income secured and

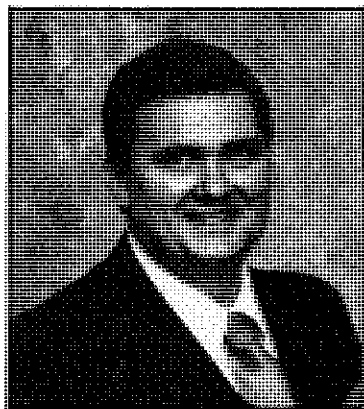


Rev. Warner Collier, Garden City, Kansas

**Rev. James Perry**, Wilmington, OH  
**Rev. Don Robertson**, Mt. Holly, NC

There are many others who work at secular jobs while starting churches who are not enrolled in the national Home Missions Tentmaker Program. However, this program enables the national Home Missions Board to help almost any man who wants to begin a new church.

Inquiries about this program should be directed to the General Director, Roy Thomas, at P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202. Telephone 615/361-1010.



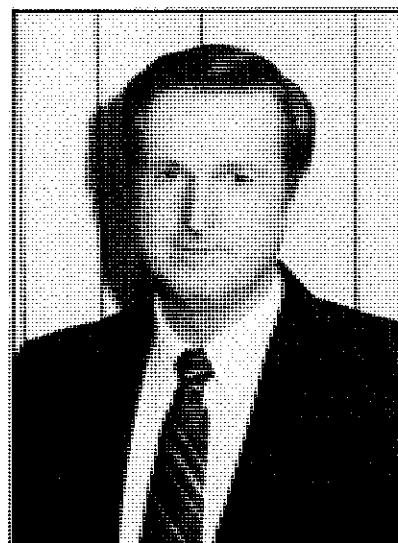
Rev. Carlos Kelsey, LaVergne, Tennessee

craft, he abode with them and wrought: (for by their occupation they were tent-makers)." Many Free Will Baptist churches have been started by men as tentmakers who have worked at secular jobs to earn their livelihood.

The tentmaker fills out an application from the national Home Missions Department to enroll in the program. After acceptance into the Tentmaker Program the tentmaker and his church will be publicized and prayed for by the national Home Missions office. He is eligible to receive free tracts, new convert packets, follow-up lessons and other materials printed by the Home Missions Department.

Some men now working under the Tentmaker Program include:

**Rev. James Chapman**, Pikeville, KY  
**Rev. Warner Collier**, Garden City, KS  
**Rev. Herman Hyman**, Santee, SC  
**Rev. Carlos Kelsey**, LaVergne, TN  
**Rev. Billy Maynard**, Pikeville, KY  
**Rev. Charles McKinney**, Clearbrook, B.C., Canada



Rev. Herman Hyman, Santee, South Carolina

don't need a salary. Others have trades or professions that lend themselves to church planting. The national Home Missions Board through its Tentmaker Program can show its appreciation to these men of God and assist them with the work of starting new Free Will Baptist churches.

This program gets its name from Acts 18:3, "And because he was of the same



# MASTER'S ANDATE Attack

## Arkansas Man Named Layman of the Year 1986

For the second year in a row a layman from First FWB Church, North Little Rock, Ark., has been selected Layman of the Year. Pastor Ben Scott nominated Jerry D. Lewis after his chapter chose him as their layman of the year.

A partial listing of services performed by Lewis, 48, easily explains his worthiness for this special honor by his peers. The 1986 Layman of the Year is . . .

- ...President of his local Master's Men chapter.
- ...Adult Sunday School teacher.
- ...Chairman of local church Trustee Board.
- ...Ordained deacon.
- ...Chairman of church Finance Committee.
- He handled all work with contractors on \$247,782 church building program, meeting with builders daily for six months.
- ...President of Arkansas State Master's Men.
- ...Active in church visitation.
- ...Strong family man. His entire family is actively involved in serving the Lord.
- ...Leader and organizer of men's prayer group meeting every Monday morning.
- ...Layman of the year in his local chapter.
- ...AE Leader, Pass the Torch Campaign (FWBBC).
- ...Strong supporter of complete church program.
- ...Member of the Arkansas Builders & Contractors Association.
- ...Member ASPE (Contractors Association).

Raymond Lee, Master's Men Board Chairman, presented a plaque to surprised, emotional Lewis at the annual breakfast Wednesday morning during the National Convention in Birmingham. Over 300 attendees applauded his selection.

## Illinois Layman Runner-Up Layman of the Year

Home Missionary Cliff Donoho nominated 34-year-old, father of three, Timothy E. Hayes as his selection for

Layman of the Year. The Master's Men Board voted by private personal ballot on all nominees. When the votes were tallied, Hayes was honored with the runner-up selection.

His nomination form included the following personal data.

The Runner-up Layman of the Year 1986 is . . .

- ...Usher in his local church.
- ...Altar worker.
- ...Church treasurer.
- ...Visitation captain.
- ...Adult Sunday School teacher.
- ...President of local Master's Men Chapter.
- ...Dynamic leader in church work.
- ...Leader of Wednesday night prayer service, speaking seven times last year, in addi-

tion to speaking five times in worship services.

- ...Involved in state youth camp activities.
- ...Treasurer of District Association/Quarterly Meeting.
- ...According to his pastor, "a soul winner and on fire for the Lord."
- ...Member of Calvary FWB Church, Salem, Ill.

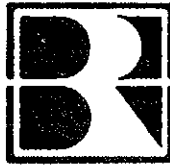
Congratulations to these men and the other faithful laymen nominated by their pastors for this annual honor. The Layman of the Year award began in 1963. Twenty-four men have received this honor. The award next year will be based on the accomplishments of the laymen during this calendar year.



Jerry Lewis (R), Layman of the Year



Herman L. Hersey  
Director



Board of Retirement

AT YOUR SERVICE

## MEMORANDUM

TO: FWB Ministers, Missionaries and Employees

Don't join the Pension Plan if. . .

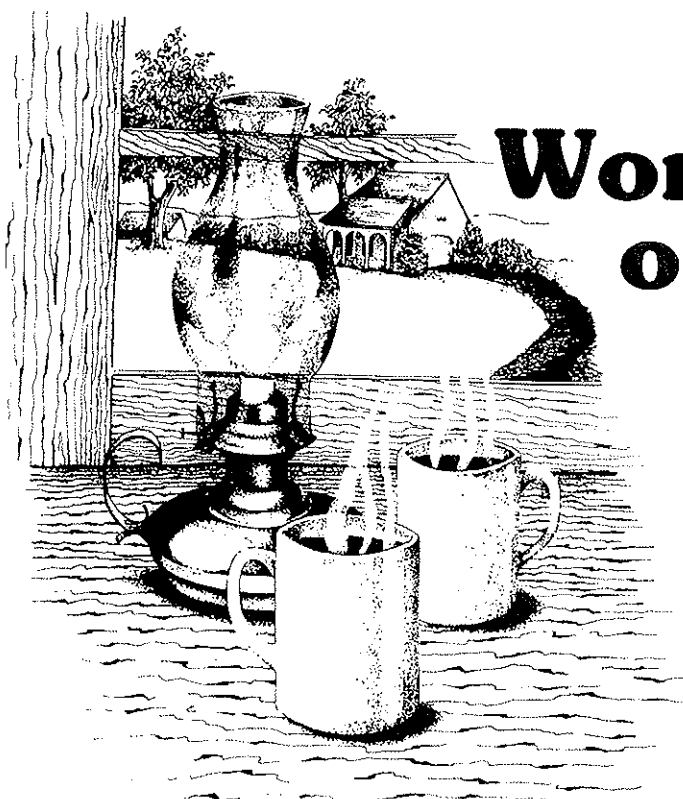
- (1) You consider retirement funds investments or savings. (It is neither. Pension funds are for retirement income.)
- (2) You already have more funds than you will ever need.
- (3) You plan never to grow old, become disabled or have to slow down.
- (4) You do not care what happens to your wife should she be left a widow.
- (5) You feel no responsibility for minor children should you die early.
- (6) You plan for the government to supplement your social security in retirement. (In a few years there will be millions of you.)
- (7) You plan to let it be your children's problem.
- (8) You plan for the denomination to support you and your spouse or widow as it presently supports our "old servants of the cross." (There is little concern shown for them and even less financial help going to them. In fact the token gifts all of them receive from local, district and individual sources would not meet the needs of one of them for more than two to three months.)



Herman L. Hersey  
Director

P.S. Do join if you care. Call or write: Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202 (615) 361-1010





# Woman's Window on the World

## From My Window

Sad, depressed, dismayed, down in the dumps, blue—how many expressions we have to describe a state we all seem to experience at times.

But have you noticed how many times joy is related to the experience of God's people.

Just to mention a few: they dedicated the house of God with joy, kept the feasts with joy, sowed in tears but reaped in joy, joyed in temptation, and the fruit of the Spirit is joy.

In our joy, we bring joy to the heart of God. Zephaniah 3:17, "The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing." Wouldn't you like to hear that song?

And why shouldn't we rejoice. Think of all the reasons we have for joy. God is our Father, and He owns everything. Jesus has provided us salvation. We have the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to give us light. We know the end of the story, and we are on the winning side.

Psalms 27:6, "And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will

sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord."

Have you offered your sacrifice of joy today?

## New Officers

New officers for WNAC began a two-year term in July:

President . . . . . Mary Neal, Ind.  
Vice President . . . . . Maurine Lee, N.C.  
Secretary . . . . . Peggy Outland, Ill.  
Members-at-large . . . Kay Hampton, Tenn.  
                                    Nora McCarty, Calif.  
                                    Lila Faye Morgan, Okla.

The new officers will meet for their first executive committee meeting December 2-3 in Nashville.

## Eunice Edwards Loan Fund

July 31, 1987  
\$3,938.89

## Women Leaders Invited to Share in Conference

Woman's Auxiliary state presidents and field workers have an invitation to participate in the national Leadership Conference held every other year in Nashville. This year the conference meets November 30 - December 1.

Delegates at the July convention urged state conventions to help their

presidents and field workers with their expenses to the conference.

## Plan for 1988 Retreat

Start planning now to participate in WNAC's national retreat, September 8-10, 1988, Ridgecrest, North Carolina.

## Give Generously to General Fund

"We want all our money to go to missions," some women say. They don't seem to realize that since WNAC is a missionary organization, all its funds are dedicated to missions.

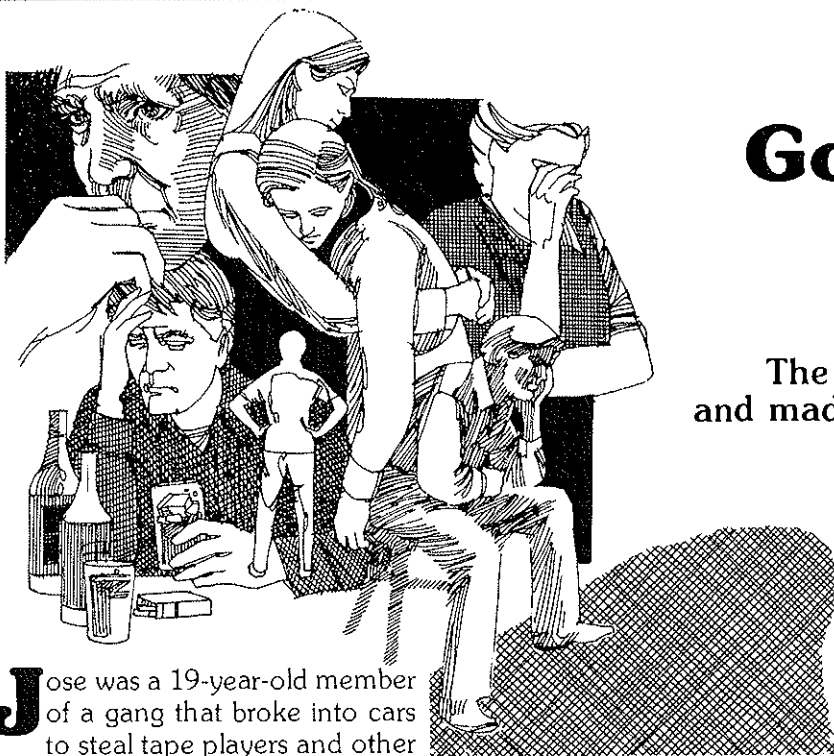
Of course, in order to publish and distribute missionary information, disburse funds, plan meetings and fulfill speaking engagements, the national office must have funds.

Where do these funds come from? From Free Will Baptist women, mostly, although the Emphasis Month offering gives the whole church an opportunity to participate.

WNAC is not a board constituted by the National Association and therefore does not get any funds from the cooperative plan of support. Free Will Baptist women have always supplied the needs of the general fund by offerings to the Co-Laborer Fund, a monthly plan of support; the Emphasis Month offering, a once-a-year gift, and membership dues.

In July, the delegates voted to encourage each Woman's Auxiliary member to give at least \$5 annually to the general fund of WNAC.

Give generously to support the WNAC national office.



## God Changed Him

By Shirley Combs

**The Lord took a Brazilian thief and made him a trusted church leader.**

**J**ose was a 19-year-old member of a gang that broke into cars to steal tape players and other items. He was hooked on alcohol and cigarettes and the world's entertainment. And he was always involved in fights!

In spite of it all, God changed him. Now, Jose Laurito Jr. is saved, he is pastoring a mission church, and he serves as president of the Brazilian Association of Free Will Baptists.

Our first contact with the young man came years ago when Jose Laurito Sr. and one of his sons came to our home at Evangelandia in Jaboticabal, Sao Paulo, Brazil. They were strangers to us. They walked around the camp property talking with my husband, Jim. *Senhor* Jose came to the conclusion that he and his whole family needed to start to church together. He felt his family's needs could not be taken care of in the spiritist center he attended or in the Catholic church where his wife went to mass. However, Jose didn't understand what his needs really were.

It was strange that someone like this would come to us. We felt somehow that God had something

for that family. We prayed that they would be at church the following Sunday before Satan could snatch the seed away. God answered! Jose Sr., his wife Neusa, daughter Isabel, and three sons—Jose Jr., Carlos, and Luiz—were there to hear God's Word. They continued attending services, and the last Sunday before

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***Jose is a barber by trade. When I visited his shop, his Bible was usually open. He always sent his clients away with gospel tracts and an invitation to the Free Will Baptist church.***

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we left Brazil for furlough, Jim baptized four out of this family. The mother was baptized soon after that by missionary Jim Cowart.

While we were in the States, the family struggled but the Cowarts sought to help them grow. Some were in and out of the church, and

some "fell by the wayside." However, one son—Jose Jr.—felt called to preach. He started attending the Free Will Baptist Bible Institute and Seminary in Ribeirao Preto, about an hour from his home. When we joined Bobby and Geneva Poole on the teaching staff at the school in 1986, Jose was in his last year of study.

Jose is a barber by trade. When I visited his shop, his Bible was usually open along with some textbooks. He always sent his clients away with gospel tracts and an invitation to visit the Free Will Baptist church in Jaboticabal.

What a blessing it was for us to see this fine young man in his graduation robe as he completed his course of studies this past year.

In March of this year Jose Laurito, 26 years old, was elected president of the Brazilian Association of Free Will Baptists. He recently shared with us his vision and desire to help the association carry out their plans concerning theological education and mission expansion in Brazil. Then he said, "My old gang continued with their stealing and fighting and most are now hooked on drugs. Thank God, He led me to a Free Will Baptist church which helped me experience the transforming salvation in Jesus Christ."



Shirley Combs is the wife of missionary Jim Combs who has been selected to direct the new Bible college program scheduled to open in Jaboticabal in 1988.



# Free Will Baptist Bible College **REPORT**

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

The Department Pages

## Bible College? Christian Liberal Arts College? *What's the difference?*

### **All Christian colleges are not alike.**

Some are Christian liberal arts colleges. Others are Bible colleges. "What's the difference?" you ask.

**First, at a Bible college, all students major in Bible.** Of course, they may also major in other subjects, like missions, pastoral training, education, nursing, or whatever. But no student graduates from a Bible college without the thorough exposure to the Word of God that only a full major in Bible can give.

**Second, every Bible college student is prepared for Christian service.** A Bible college emphasizes service. For preachers and missionaries, yes. But also for teachers, insurance salesmen and homemakers. Bible colleges prepare people to serve Christ in their homes and churches, and in the vocations God has called them to.

This is so important that Bible colleges require all students to perform some type of supervised Christian service regularly, as part of their training.

**Third, Bible colleges emphasize Christian ministries.** Many Bible colleges have a broad variety of programs, for the laity as well as for those preparing for full time ministry. All Bible colleges feature special programs for preachers and missionaries and other kinds of ministry. If Bible colleges don't prepare these, who will?

**Fourth, at Bible colleges, every teacher and student must be a Christian.** Every teacher—not just those who teach the Bible—must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. And every student must testify to a saving experience with the Lord. How could they receive the truth of the Word without knowing the Living Word?

**Finally, every subject taught at a Bible college is related to the Word of God.** Since every teacher is a Christian and every student is majoring in Bible, this obviously follows. Education students are shown that all truth is God's truth. Journalism students learn how to use their skills to convey the gospel. Nurses catch the vision of sharing Christ with those they will serve. At a Bible college, you will see *every* teacher with a Bible in his hand, relating it to the subjects he teaches.

Some of these things may be found in other Christian colleges, but only a Bible college offers them *all*. That is why the founders of Free Will Baptist Bible College chose that direction when they began the school in 1942.

It was a good idea then.

It still is.



For more information on Free Will Baptist Bible College, write to the address above.



## Green Tree Bible Study

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Robert E. Picirilli

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# Paul the Victor: Studies in II Corinthians

**T**he previous study pointed out the considerable amount of material in II Corinthians that shows Paul's "dark side": perplexed, discouraged, afflicted, distressed, afraid. There were many periods when he felt defeated, humiliated, disappointed, crushed, pressed, with no way to turn. The question is, in all that, what kept him going? How did he get the victory?

It's obvious that he did. Nearly every passage in the previous study called attention to, showing the frustration and worries, the weakness and disability, has set beside it another picture, one of triumph and encouragement.

In 1:3-7, where tribulation-trouble-affliction occurs three times and suffering four, the word translated comfort or consolation (Greek *paraklesis*, encouragement) occurs 10 times. If sufferings abound (v. 5), the encouragement abounds in equal measure. God is the God of all—utmost—encouragement, with comfort adequate for every conceivable circumstance.

In 1:8-11, where Paul experienced such a trial that he despaired of life, he also experienced the deliverance of God. That gave him a settled hope that he could count on God for deliverance. (The Greek behind "we trust" means, literally, "we have placed our hope.")

In the picture developed in 2:1-13 and 7:5-8, when Paul was in heavy pain

because of the situation at Corinth, so that he had no peace of mind, we see also that "God, who encourages those who are downcast, encouraged us" (7:6).

In 4:8-12, all the bad words—troubled, perplexed, persecuted, cast down, dying—are offset by good ones that show the other side of his experience: he was not in utter hopelessness, not abandoned, not finally defeated, knowing the life of Christ as well as His death. In 6:4-10 the same two-sided experience is clear.

Several passages in II Corinthians present pictures that help us understand just how Paul kept going, how he managed victory when defeat seemed inevitable. One of them is found in 2:14-16a. The point of it is that Paul understood himself to be participating in Christ's victory parade.

The words used there reflect the ancient triumphal procession, when the victorious general and his army were welcomed home in a parade of celebration. The word translated "causeth us to triumph" (Greek *thriambeuo*) means "leads us in triumphal procession." (The same picture is in Col. 2:15; Eph. 4:7-10.)

Jesus is the triumphant King, marching His rejoicing troops—and His conquered enemies—home in celebration of victory. The world does not see that picture, only those who are tuned in to

truth in Christ do. Paul did, and he understood—regardless of the outward circumstances at any given moment—that he was part of Christ's troops, marching in His triumphal procession across the course of history and eternity.

In vv. 14, 16, "savour" (Greek *osme*) is fragrance, perfume. The triumphal procession was often accompanied by the release of sweet odors from the burning of the spices in the streets. To those rejoicing in the victory parade, the perfume would be sweet, signifying the victory and deliverance. But to the condemned captives, heading for execution, it would smell like the stench of death.

Thus Paul can say that the gospel he preached was like those odors. To those who reject Christ, the gospel is like the smell of death. But to those who receive Him, the gospel yields the sweet fragrance of life in the knowledge of God. He knows that he is making manifest the fragrance of His knowledge everywhere (v. 14).

A man who knows all that can put his down times in proper perspective. When you know you're really marching in a victory parade, you can keep going. When you know you're releasing the fragrance of life to those who listen to you, you can keep on giving out the gospel regardless who resists.







## Free Will Baptist Music Ministries

# Hymnal Committee Report

**R**ejoice, give thanks and . . . sing! The task's nearly complete. After years of waiting, a fresh, new comprehensive Free Will Baptist hymn book's finished and ready for the printers.

In July 1985, the National Association of Free Will Baptists appointed a seven-member Hymn Book Committee and charged them to provide "a hymn book that will meet the diverse demands of Free Will Baptists." More than 125 people across the denomination labored to fulfill that mandate.

We believe that *REJOICE: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* (1988) will serve as encouragement, worship, praise, testimony and outreach well into the 21st century. Publication is set for October with distribution to local churches by Randall House the last of November.

The Hymn Book Committee met in an extended series of meetings February 1-6, 1987, in Nashville. During those meetings we established a final plan of organization for hymnal compilation. We selected 556 songs from a variety of sources. It was decided that the book would be manufactured and marketed by MacKenzie and Associates, a music publishing firm in Nashville with experience in producing hymnals. Later, more than 150 more songs were selected by mail ballot.

The new hymnal will be approximately 728 pages with more than 600 selections—hymns, gospel songs, cho-

ruses, praise and worship songs, and more. Over 100 readings, including responsive readings of scripture, calls to worship, benedictions and the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant augment the diverse hymn tune selections.

The book's easy to read. Each selection has brackets to indicate instrumental introductions. The author's name, date of composition, metrical rhythm and tune name are provided with each selection. A scripture verse relating to the hymn text is included under each title. Plus, the book's divided into chapter-like headings and sub-headings. Seven indexes apply to the hymns and three to the scripture readings. The book is available in both round and shaped note editions.

The hymnal will be bound in a handsome wear-resistant, high-grade linen cloth cover with durable *Smythe-sewn* binding. Three colors—Sky Blue, Spring Green and Cardinal Red— will be offered in regular (pew), accompanist/loose-leaf and moroccan leather versions.

Securing MacKenzie and Associates has proven to be one of the most productive decisions the Committee has made. Not only has their company been responsible for manufacturing and marketing the book, but they have secured copyright permissions and obtained royalty agreements for hundreds of songs. Under their leadership, the Hymnal Committee will produce a book competitive with anything now available.

Initial printing of *REJOICE: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* (1988) will be

shipped to all participating churches during the week of November 23-27. All churches will receive their shipment on Thursday or Friday, December 3 or 4.

The Hymnal Committee requests that Sunday, December 6, be designated as *REJOICE 87: Hymn Book Dedication Sunday*. For the first time in 23 years—since the introduction of *Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* (1964)—all Free Will Baptists will raise one united voice of praise, worship and testimony to God simultaneously from the same book. Special bulletins and other materials will be supplied to each church participating in the celebration.

With a deep sense of gratitude and praise to God, a sincere commitment to the instructions for a diverse denominational book, a joyous excitement and anticipation for what this ministry tool can mean in the life of our Free Will Baptist family, a belief that this hymnal will be our denomination's most significant contribution to American hymnody in this century, and renewed appreciation for our heritage as "a singing people of God," the Hymn Book Committee presents to the denomination—*REJOICE: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* (1988).

Vernon M. Whaley, Chairman  
Doug Little  
Rodney Whaley  
Leroy Cutler  
Blaine Hughes  
Bill Gardner  
Ted Wilbanks



# Puzzles and People

By Doug Little

**J**igsaw puzzles are fun. I don't often have time to work them, but during the holidays I go digging through the closet to find one. This year was no exception. The exercise reminds me of some truths about the church and its ministry.

For one thing, working a puzzle requires concentration. You don't make much progress on a puzzle when you watch television. Church ministry is like that. Distractions abound, but success in God's work comes only as we focus attention on ministry.

Working a puzzle also requires the ability to see how individual pieces fit into the whole. You usually start by getting pieces of the same color together. One person may choose blues another reds. At first this seems limiting, but eventually the colors fit together to make a balanced picture.

So it is with the church. We start with individuals, some as different as blue from red. But when all the pieces come together, we learn that each is as important as the other. Each has its place. Church members are not all alike; they don't need to be. In the body of Christ we each have a unique place and contribution.

Puzzles are easier to work when you can look at the picture on the box. It lets you know that the pile of pieces in front of you can eventually form a beautiful picture. It helps identify where the pieces are supposed to fit. We have a "picture on the box" for the church, too. The Bible shows us exactly how the pieces should fit together and encourages us that even though there's a long way to go, the finished product will be a thing of beauty.

Nothing's more frustrating than to work a puzzle and discover one piece missing. It doesn't matter what color it is or how close to the edge, the puzzle is marred. How like the church! When one member is missing, one spot remains empty. All the talent and love of the others cannot make up for the one that's not there. No one is unimportant. Everyone has a unique place. Paul says in I Corinthians 12:18, "But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired."

It doesn't matter how odd your shape or how unusual your color, you are an important piece of the puzzle. The picture wouldn't be complete without you!



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Reverend Doug Little pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas.

## Top Shelf



Thomas Marberry



**William J. Murray, *My Life Without God* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982, 252 pp., paperback, \$6.95).**

**T**his is the autobiography of the son of the famous atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair. Bill Murray grew up in an atmosphere of profanity, alcohol, immorality, hatred and bitterness. His life is in many respects a sordid tale. Because of his mother's influence, as a young man he became involved in organizations which promote atheism and communism.

On one occasion, his mother tried to emigrate to the Soviet Union and obtain Soviet citizenship for herself and her children. The Soviet government refused to grant her request. She took her family to France because she thought Soviet officials in Paris would be more willing to approve her application. Once again she was refused and ultimately had to return to the U. S.

Upon their return from Europe young Bill enrolled in the Baltimore public schools. School activities at that time included prayer and Bible reading each morning. Madalyn objected to this and demanded that school authorities change the policy. They refused, and Bill was kept home from school.

This controversy culminated in filing a lawsuit which worked its way slowly through the courts. On June 17, 1963, by a vote of 8 to 1 the Supreme Court decided in favor of Mrs. O'Hair. The court ruled that prayer and Bible reading could not be prescribed by school officials.

Because of the tremendous publicity which surrounded these events, Bill Murray was denied any semblance of a normal childhood. It's little wonder that he had no foundation upon which to build a happy life.

His late teens and twenties were difficult years for Bill. He could not seem to find himself, and he had no help from home. His domineering mother made it impossible for him to grow and develop in a normal way. He married much too soon because his girlfriend was pregnant with his child.

He moved from job to job and from place to place. He was never able to establish a stable home; he turned from one woman to another. He was, however, successful in several business enterprises and developed a promising career in the airline industry.

Early in 1980 a most important event happened in Bill's life. He was saved through reading the Bible. Since that time, he has been involved in a ministry which seeks to counteract the influences of humanism and atheism.

This is not the kind of book you enjoy reading; it is a sad story indeed. Yet, it reaches out and grabs you. It shows that sin ruins everything it touches and renders a happy life impossible. It also shows that God has the power to transform a life that sin has wrecked.

*Note: The book, My Life Without God, is out of print. However, readers may order copies directly from William Murray. Send \$6.95 plus postage to Murray Faith Ministries, P. O. Box 319, Coppell, TX 75019.*





# Fire Prevention

## ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO



**N**ext week is Fire Prevention Week," announced Mrs. Curtis, "and our school is having a contest to see who makes the best poster promoting fire prevention and fire safety. This is Monday, and you will have until next Monday to turn in your posters. That gives you all this week and the weekend to work on them. Make your posters on big, heavy posterboard. Be creative and do your best, because the first prize winner will get to ride on the fire engine in the parade."

"Wow! Ooh, neat!" chorused the class. Then the bell rang and Marty, Megan and 23 other youngsters scurried out.

As soon as they reached home, Megan began gathering supplies to work on her poster, "Hey, Megan," called Marty, "want to go out and play softball?"

"Not now," she answered, "I want to get started on my poster."

"What's the rush?" asked Marty. "We've got a whole week."

"I know," she answered, "but I just thought of a good idea, and I want to get started."

Marty shrugged his shoulders. Sometimes he just couldn't figure out Megan.

Every afternoon Megan came home from school and worked on her poster. She made rough sketches on notebook paper, drew, cut, glued and tried again until she had everything perfect. And every afternoon Megan would ask Marty if he had started his poster yet. But Marty always seemed to have something else to do. Sunday afternoon came, and Megan put the finishing touches on her poster. She brought it into the den to show her family.

"Why, Megan, that's beautiful!" exclaimed Mrs. Lane.

"Honey, you did a super job," agreed her daddy. "You should be proud of yourself."

**M**arty stared at the poster. He couldn't believe it was so good.

Megan had cut out a fire engine from red construction paper and glued it on the poster board. She had drawn a blazing house and painted it with water colors. For the fire she had crinkled up red, orange and yellow tissue paper and glued it on.

She had made firemen from pipe cleaners, and they were each carrying out their different jobs. The chief shouted orders through a megaphone; one attached a hose to a fire hydrant; some doused the fire with hoses made from drinking straws; one climbed a ladder made from popsicle sticks; some held a rescue net, and one fireman held a little child as he jumped into the net.

The caption read, "Don't let this happen to you." In a box in the corner she had neatly printed the fire safety rules.

"Do you think I'll win the prize?" asked Megan hopefully.

"You've got a great shot at it," said her daddy.

"Where's your poster?" she asked Marty. "Let's see it."

Marty stammered and then finally confessed that he had not started on it. "I thought I'd do it tonight. Do you think it would be all right if I skipped church just this once?"

"No way," answered Mr. Lane. "How long have you known about this assignment?"

"Since Monday," admitted Marty.

"It's your fault for waiting so late to start," said Mr. Lane. "You'll just have to do it when we get home."

As the preacher began his sermon on the parable of the wheat and the tares, Marty thought to himself, "This will be a good time for me to plan my poster." He settled back and let his mind wander from one idea to the next.

**S**uddenly he sat up straight. "Hey, what was that the preacher said?"

"As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." The preacher read from Matthew 13.

As soon as the Lanes got home from church Marty went straight to his room to begin his poster. He finally came out at 10:30, tired but triumphant.


"Marty, what a good idea," said Mrs. Lane.

"I got my idea in church tonight," answered Marty, "when the preacher was talking about the wheat and the tares."

At the bottom of the poster Marty had colored a blazing fire with red and orange markers. It was a picture of hell. At the top he had drawn heaven—mansions, streets of gold and cotton ball clouds. In the middle he had glued a big, brown construction paper cross. In big letters he had printed, "The Only Real Fire Escape."

"I've learned my lesson," yawned Marty. "I won't ever put off any assignment until the last minute."

"I'm just glad you haven't put off the most important decision in life," said Mr. Lane. "You weren't too prepared for Fire Prevention Week, but I'm thankful that you are prepared for eternity. I'd say fire prevention from hell is the most important lesson anybody can learn."

"Yes, sir," agreed Marty, "and maybe somebody else will get the message when they see my poster." 

**Read Matthew 13:24-30, 37-43. Are you securely tied in a sheaf of wheat, or in a bundle of tares? Are you ready for Jesus to come back? If you died today, where would you spend eternity?**



# TEEN Scene

## Youth Aim

**AIM (Active In Missions)** is a new program to involve denominational youth in missions. AIM will also be used in basic elements of the program: AIM—**A**ctivities, **I**nvolve and **M**aterials. AIM will be part of the new youth training curriculum, LifeQuest, now available from Randall House Publications.

The introduction of the AIM program begins with a challenge to the youth.

Begin praying now about your involvement. October is designated as AIM Commitment Month. Youth groups will be asked to pledge how much they will raise toward the \$10,000 goal. That commitment will be sent to the Youth Ministries Division at Randall House. The youth will then have until July 17, 1988, to raise the funds.

Can \$10,000 be raised by our youth? Yes, and much more if we challenge them to get involved.

*Introducing. . .*

## AIM FOR URUGUAY



Between now and the 1988 National Youth Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, there will be an intensive drive to raise \$10,000 for the Sowers Bible Institute in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The need and potential are great! Free Will Baptist youth can meet this challenge. The Ellisons will remain in the states until funds are raised for this project. Let's unite our youth, rally behind this project, and return the Ellisons to Uruguay where they are needed to carry on the Bible Institute work.

## Truth and Peace Youth Leadership Conference

The 1987 Truth and Peace Youth Leadership Conference started July 6 and ended July 22. The three-week conference involved 50 (25 girls, 25 boys) high school youth from 14 states.

At the conclusion of the conference, the staff selected the Most Outstanding Leadership participants. They were Brad Savage from Fort Smith, Ark., and Merinda White from Cordova, Ala. The



youth selected the Best All-Around participants. These awards went to Keath Storm from Duncanville, Texas, and Elisabeth Sizemore from Dayton, Ohio.

The conference featured 17 seminar leaders dealing with the subject, "Relationships . . . to God, to self, to others." The first week was housed at a camp facility, the second week on Free Will Baptist Bible College campus, and the final week involved the youth in leadership roles at the National Youth Conference in Birmingham.

Conference attendees were selected from approximately 150 applicants. Plans are now being made for the 1988 Leadership Conference. Applications are available to high school students currently in grades 10, 11 or 12. Write to: Truth and Peace Youth Leadership Conference, P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.



Especially  
For Young  
Preachers

## Operating a Church School

The young preacher may inherit a church school or he may help establish one. Principal and teachers must be qualified spiritually and academically in order to produce quality education in a Christian environment.

Here are some suggestions in operating the school with efficiency and progress.

1. Meet with the principal at a specific time each week for prayer. While meetings to discuss the school's operation are vital, prayer time is even more important.
2. Schedule a regular prayer time with teachers and staff. Perhaps half for 15 minutes Tuesday and Thursday mornings before teachers are due in their classes. The other half could meet Wednesday and Friday. They should meet even if you are out of town.
3. Be generous to your school personnel. Recognize their birthdays with a card (mailed through the postal service). Use the bulletin board in the office or teachers' workroom to place a picture of the Teacher-of-the-Week. Put small gifts in the teachers' boxes occasionally--red-leaded pencil, booklet, letter of commendation, coupons to a restaurant, etc.
4. Arrange for the entire school family to eat together once a quarter. If the school can't afford to take them to a restaurant, then schedule a potluck supper.
5. Give them a Christmas bonus and a financial gift at their birthday.
6. Give compliments, commendations, words of encouragement. Occasionally write a personal note and include it in their paycheck.
7. Visit each classroom. Sit in the back of the room and observe the class. It benefits both pupils and teachers.
8. Pray for the principal, teachers, school from the pulpit. Always be available to counsel or pray with any teacher. Never reveal the nature of their problem or prayer request.
9. Attend school conventions with the principal and teachers.
10. Provide adequate financial provisions and benefits.
11. Speak in chapel regularly. Speak to the students on how to respect and show kindness to teachers.
12. Use the school to minister to souls who will live somewhere forever. The school can produce eternal benefits.

Next Month: Some Decisions a Young Preacher Must Face

*Dennis Wiggs*





## NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

### EDUCATORS PANEL CITES 'NEGLECT' OF RELIGION

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—"The curricular silence on religion," which has permeated public school classrooms since the Supreme Court banished school prayer, must end, says the 80,000-member Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD).

The nonpartisan professional organization of school personnel deplored the "benign neglect" of the role religion has played in shaping the world, assailed "bland" textbooks that "virtually ignore religion," and called on educators to get over their fear "that matters of religion are simply too hot to handle in public schools."

The report was the latest in a series of critiques from liberal and conservative organizations alike who say public schools are downplaying the significance of religion. Liberal organizations including People for the American Way and Americans United for Separation of Church and State, as well as conservatives including U. S. Secretary of Education William J. Bennett, have faulted public schools for slighting religion.

The ASCD report notes, "The quest for religious freedom that fueled the establishment of this nation receives scant treatment at best in many textbooks."

It also observed, "An elementary student can come away from a textbook account of the Crusades, for example, with the notion that these wars to win the Holy Land for Christendom were little more than exotic shopping expeditions." Studies of conflicts in Lebanon, Northern Ireland, and between Iran and Iraq often ignore the religious basis for the disputes, according to the report.

To adequately present the role of religion in world affairs, said the report, art classes should explain the impact of Christianity on Michelangelo; literature students should read from the Bible and other religious works, such as the Talmud and the Koran; and history courses should include discussions of the rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire, the Crusades, the Reformation and the Spanish Inquisition.

### DESIRE FOR BIBLES DISCUSSED ON SOVIET TV

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R. (EP)—A discussion of the desire for Bibles took place during the Soviet tv series, "Religion and Politics," according to the United Bible Societies. The tv host closed the program saying, "If the public want Bibles, they will have to be published."

The subject of Bibles was also discussed late last year in the official Soviet youth newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, which said Bible reading should be allowed because it was needed to understand such aspects of Russian culture as works by Pushkin and Dostoyevsky. The article's author also said atheism was not a positive source of morals, and should be a matter of free choice for the individual.

### GIVING TO RELIGION HIT ALL-TIME HIGH IN 1986

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—Americans donated a record \$40.9 billion to religious organizations in 1986, an increase of 9.2 percent from the \$37.46 billion given a year earlier, according to the AAFRC Trust for Philanthropy, which measures charitable giving.

Of total philanthropic giving in 1986, 46.9 percent was to religious organizations, about the same as 1985's 47 percent. Giving to religion is generally about half of total philanthropy each year.

The group's report of philanthropy is based on reports from gift-supported organizations, which are asked to report increases or drops in income.

Giving to religion has increased sharply over the last two decades, from \$9.34 billion in 1970 to the present figure of \$40.9 billion.

### CHURCH GROWTH FIGURES CAN BE MISLEADING

PASADENA, CA (EP)—Deputy general director of SIM International, W. Harold Fuller, cautioned delegates to an Asian missions convention in Pasadena that often-quoted figures for conversions in Africa can be misleading.

Fuller said that British statistician David Barrett claimed that the Christian community is growing by 16,000 per day and said, "I've even heard 20,000 per day," but explained that Dr. Barrett was including an estimated 12,000 births per day in communities which call themselves Christian, as opposed to Muslim or pagan. "Those aren't conversions," he said. "Those are people who will need to respond to the gospel as they grow up. We need to beware of misinterpreting statistics or we'll mislead evangelicals about the enormous task yet before us," he said. "The task is by no means done."

### REAGAN SAYS BIBLE SHAPED OUR REPUBLIC

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—"Certainly the Bible is one of the most profound of all the forces that have shaped our own Republic," President Ronald Reagan said in his message for National Bible Week. "That is especially clear this year, when we celebrate the bicentennial of the Constitution, because we know of the enduring place of the Bible in the intellectual and spiritual lives of the founders of our country, including those who framed our great charter of liberty."

National Bible Week will be celebrated Nov. 22-29; this will be the 47th consecutive such non-sectarian observance, with the purpose of increasing public perception of the value of Bible reading and study and to promote appreciation of the Bible in the history and culture of America.

Reagan added, "I salute the efforts of the Laymen's National Bible Association to recall our national spiritual heritage during National Bible Week and to encourage reexamination of the priceless and timeless message of the Scriptures. The theme for the 47th annual observance, 'To Know Where You're Going, Read the Bible,' should inspire us to become increasingly familiar with what John Adams called, 'the best book in the world.'"

Since 1941, each president has issued an annual National Bible Week message.

### IDEA THAT HALF OF MARRIAGES END IN DIVORCE IS MISTAKEN

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—The widespread idea that half of American marriages will end in divorce is completely wrong, according to a Harris poll.

Calling the expected doom of half of American marriages "one of the most specious pieces of statistical nonsense ever perpetrated in modern times," pollster Louis Harris asserted that actually only one of eight marriages will break up, according to government statistics, and in any single year only about two percent of all existing marriages will end in divorce.

The misconception comes because of a 1981 report by the U. S. National Center for Health Statistics that there had been 2.4 million new marriages and 1.2 million divorces during the year. Using those statistics in isolation fails to account for the 54 million marriages that "just keep flowing along like Old Man River," said Harris.

"Ever since then, an indelible message has been chorused in church pulpits, academic broadsides and political prophecies of doom for the American family," he added.

Harris said that recent Census Bureau statistics show that the divorce rate peaked in 1981 and has declined since then.

## BEYOND BELIEF™



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## THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

# The Sovereign Speaks



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
Free Will Baptists

**G**od communicates to the human race. He speaks verbally and visually to every person. There are no exceptions, no exemptions. As God speaks, man is accountable for hearing and heeding that Word.

The Sovereign speaks through creation. The Psalmist writes, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork" (Psalm 19:1).

This truth booms from Romans 1:20, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made...so that they are without excuse."

The Sovereign speaks through composition. Although one can know there is a God by viewing creation, God cannot be known in a redemptive relationship without special revelation—the Bible. The Bible is God's infallible, inerrant, inspired message for mankind. It provides information mankind needs to be saved.

The Bible sets forth man's sinfulness and God's salvation. God's Word presents itself as a lamp to our feet and a light for our path.

Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

The Sovereign speaks through man's conscience. The Psalmist alludes to this in 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord..." Paul hits the same note in Romans 1:19,

"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them."

That God speaks through man's conscience is evident in John 8 when men who accused a woman taken in adultery were convicted by their own consciences and went out one by one. God placed within us all a conscience, and He speaks to us through it.

The Sovereign speaks through the Comforter. The Spirit of God convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:9). He also bears witness with our spirit that we belong to Jesus Christ. The Spirit teaches and leads the Christian. The Spirit draws people to Christ and convicts them of sin. The Spirit identifies, indwells, infills, instructs and illuminates the Christian.

The ministry of the Spirit must not be ignored. He gives direction, discernment and deliverance to the Christian. He calls, converts and convicts the sinner.

The Sovereign speaks through Christ. The writer of Hebrews puts the matter strongly, "God, who in sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son..." (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Jesus said that if He be lifted up, He would draw all men to himself. Throughout the Bible we find evidence that God speaks to man through Christ.

Perhaps no greater text expresses this truth than John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The Sovereign speaks through circumstances. Examples abound in the scripture affirming this truth. God spoke to Jonah, Peter, Jacob, Paul and others through circumstances. Caution must be exercised when viewing the circumstances of others lest we judge wrongly. Here's why.

Jonah knew why the storm came. Jacob knew why Esau sought to kill him. Daniel knew why the hand wrote on the wall. Joseph understood why his brothers treated him unjustly.

Through circumstances the Sovereign gets our attention and addresses our conscience and will. God's providential dealings allow circumstances to bring us to the place we will trust and obey.

The Sovereign speaks through Christians. Jesus compared Christians to light and salt. Paul described Christians as witnesses, ambassadors and servants. Christians communicate their Christianity by their life, lips, loyalty, labor and love.

Today God uses human beings, redeemed by His grace to speak to others. Let us be sensitive to the Lord as He speaks to us. God speaks; we obey. That's the Bible way.

### Secretary's Schedule

<b>October 5-7</b>	Foreign Missions Study Committee Nashville, Tenn.
<b>October 11</b>	First FWB Church Poteau, Okla.
<b>October 12-15</b>	Oklahoma State Association
<b>October 18-21</b>	Victory FWB Church Goldsboro, N.C.
<b>October 28-30</b>	Florida State Association
<b>October 30-31</b>	Mississippi State Association



**CONTACT**

**P. O. Box 1088**

**Nashville, Tennessee 37202**

Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

*"No, don't!  
No one will  
ever know."*



*"Go ahead!"*



Giving to God's work is more than a matter of conscience. It's life or death to the ministry of this department.

Master's Men serve Free Will Baptists. In the past two years eight new churches were built through the "Master's Hands Project," saving \$250,000 in construction costs.

Now the men need your help. You can give life. Help Master's Men Department serve by giving an offering or gift on Master's Men Layman's Appreciation Day . . .

**Sunday, October 4**

Give with a clear conscience. Master's Men, a part of the Free Will Baptist ministry.



**Master's Men Department**  
**P. O. Box 1088**  
**Nashville, TN 37202**