

November 1987

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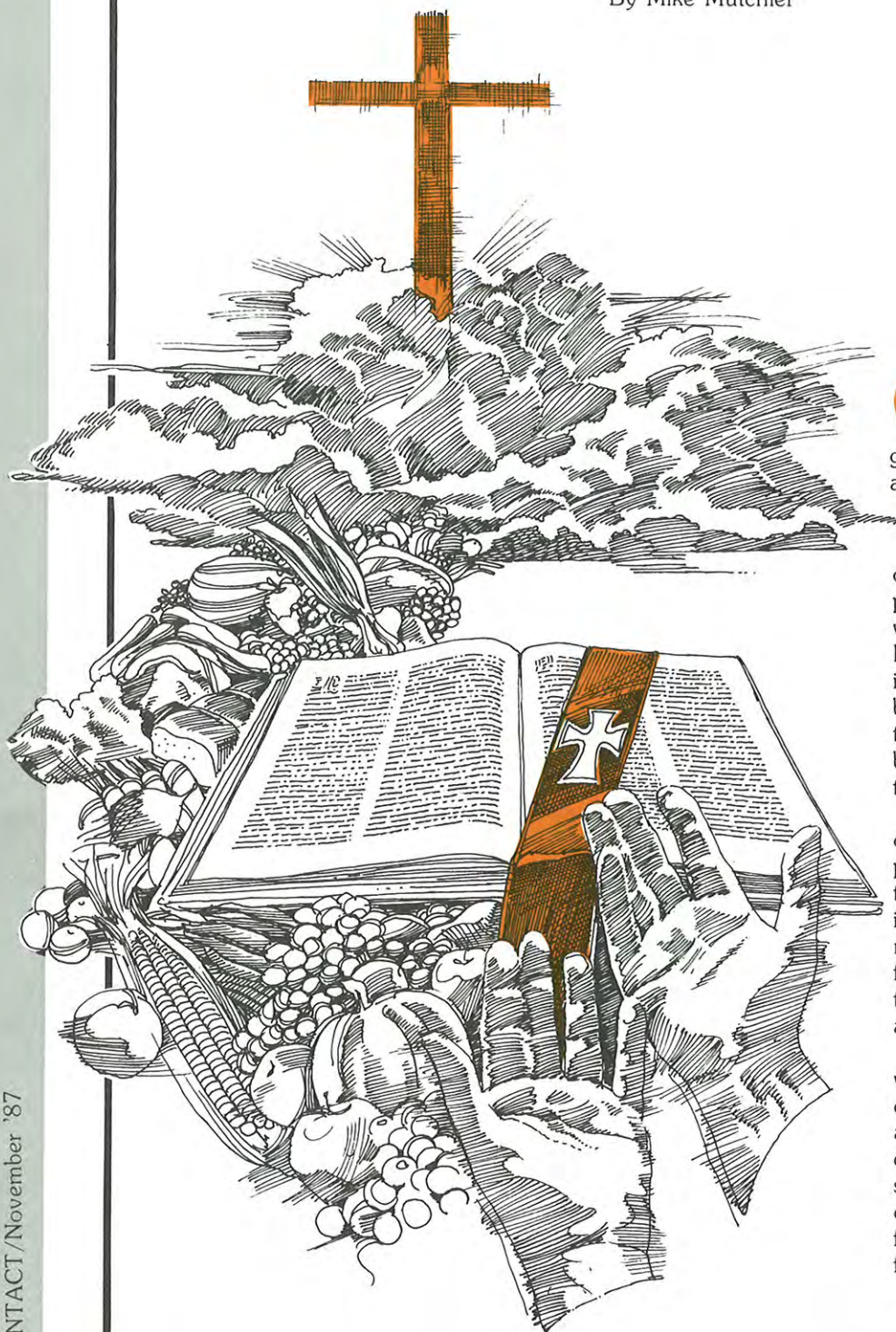


OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



A Home Missionary Gives Thanks

By Mike Mutchler



Of all people, a home missionary ought to be thankful to God for His blessings. Let me give you six reasons why I am thankful as a home missionary.

Prayers

I am thankful for the faithful prayers of churches and individuals who support me on a regular basis. The only way that anyone can become a national home missionary in our denomination is to visit scores of churches, share the burden and enlist financial support. This takes months and numerous services, but one great blessing out of all this is that you enlist much prayer support.

The missionary frequently hears from other churches and individuals who pray for him, his family and his work though the missionary has never been in their churches. This prayer support makes all the labors effective. It's a great feeling to know that you're lifted up by the prayers of hundreds of people across the denomination.

Paul said that his preaching was not with the enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. This "power of the Spirit" comes through prayer. As a home missionary, I realize that my prayer support energizes my efforts in building a church for the glory of God. I thank God often for those who lift me up in prayer.

People

I am thankful for the people who have stood with us. These are people who stand with the missionary by sup-

porting his account while he is busy at work on the mission field. A missionary becomes very thankful to people whose names or churches appear each month on his computer printout, those who give to his account.

The missionary remembers many of these people from his services and is thankful for every name and church listed. The missionary also rejoices for churches and individuals who occasionally send notes, a little gift or something special. Birthday cards, letters, postcards, a short note add that personal touch that says, "I care." To a family that's many miles away working hard to build a new church, these little things that show concern, support and affection mean much.

Privilege

I am thankful for the privilege to be a national home missionary. Sure, it's hard work, but the joy of knowing your labors have built up a body of believers is worth the effort.

There must be thousands of hours visiting the area over and over again, hundreds of hours following up on prospects, visitors and those who are absent. Then there's time spent in preparing every detail for the new church, time spent discipling the converts. . . . but what a privilege to be a part of something that brings life out of nothing! The overwhelming feeling of satisfaction that floods your soul each time you see God's hand in the church you're building. To see how God puts together lives of men and women, turns teens toward purity and spares children from growing up in unsaved households—that's reason aplenty to be thankful.

The joy of winning precious souls to God in a needy area is what a missionary experiences each time another comes to the Lord. The missionary is thankful for the privilege of being a part of what God is building.

Church

I thank God for my church. They are young in the Lord, maybe immature at times, but they are excited, and the church is alive. One recent visitor called our service, "a breath of fresh air."

I am thankful that I can enjoy my church because of its people, its vitality and its spiritual blessing. Our church is making an impact on this area, and I am thankful that God's working allows this to happen.

Family

Of all pastors, a missionary is thankful for his family. I thank God for a family that's willing to leave parents miles behind to minister in a needy area of our country. Yes, we miss our loved ones, but we are confident of God's will for our lives being in this ministry. Not many are willing to make this sacrifice, and I thank God for families that are willing.

Missionary families must sacrifice, and that's more than missing parents. A wife who works in Sunday School, children's church, Sunday evening nursery, Bible study, teaching children or keeping nursery, and seldom getting to sit in the adult service. A wife who paints my banners, arranges my fellowship meetings and prays for me as I go out night after night visiting other families.


Solomon was right when he said, "He who findeth a wife, findeth a good thing." Now the load is shared and others take over responsibilities, but the first year or more a missionary's wife constantly gives herself in ministry to others.

I thank God for children who are at church helping "set up" and "set down" church in a rented building. Who do their best to help other children come to Christ and help "their" church grow.

I thank God for the parents of the missionary couple who pray for them, call them and keep close to them. I thank God most of all for a loving, supportive family that stands with the home missionary and encourages him.

Denomination

Last, I thank God for my denomination. Free Will Baptists are not the same all across our nation, but all of us love the souls of men. I am thankful to be part of a denomination that preaches the Word, stands strong for God's truth without apology, and desires to reach this world with the gospel. Without our loving denomination, none of our missionaries could be on the field. I thank faithful Free Will Baptists who believe in missions, in prayers and finances.

These are a few of the things for which this home missionary is thankful, and I believe that every home missionary could say the same. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Home Missionary Mike Mutchler pastors Grand View Free Will Baptist Church, Oregon City, Oregon.

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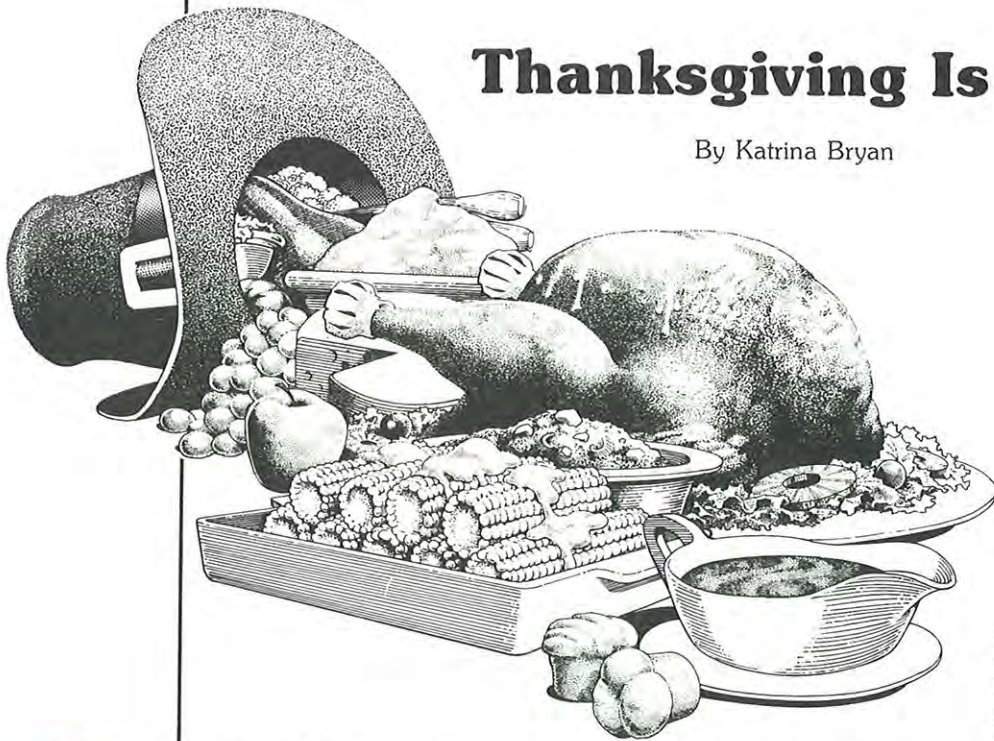
Editor-in-chief: Dr. Melvin Worthington
Editor: Jack Williams
Editorial Assistant: Marilyn Pritchard
Circulation: Geneva Trotter

Volume XXXIV, No. 11

CONTACT (USPS 130-660), published monthly by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Post Office Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Address all correspondence and subscriptions to this address. Phone 615/361-1010. Subscription rates: 1 year, \$9.00; church family plan \$7.50 per year; church bundle plan \$8.00 per year. Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee. Copyright privileges, reserved ©, 1987 Member of the Evangelical Press Association. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CONTACT, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. ISSN 0573-7796.

Thanksgiving Is . . .

By Katrina Bryan



Is Thanksgiving really when turkeys were born? No, not really, but at first thought this would seem feasible. Turkeys get so much attention on Thanksgiving that you might think the day was set aside entirely to honor them.

However, Thanksgiving is actually a day of giving thanks and feasting, a day which commemorates the pilgrims' celebration of a bountiful harvest in 1621. This annual U. S. holiday, observed on the fourth Thursday of November, is marked in the United States by feasting on such foods as turkey, dressing and pumpkin pie.

Thanksgiving is food. Thanksgiving is the aroma of home-baked bread and rich pumpkin pie. Families all over the United States spend the entire Thanksgiving day stuffing themselves with delicious white-meat turkey, savory stuffing, creamy mashed potatoes and gravy, delightful deviled eggs, warm bread, and, of course, pumpkin pie with lots of whipped cream. After the main meal, the remainder of Thanksgiving Day is spent in the kitchen, picking and choosing bite-sized morsels of leftovers. Thanksgiving is gorging yourself until you're miserable, but still eating more.

Thanksgiving is also color. Brilliant golds, oranges and yellows proclaim the

festivities of this holiday. Bright cornucopias overflowing with the products of a plentiful harvest seem to shout with bold, rich shades of color. Thanksgiving is a refrigerator covered with a first-grader's pictures made from dried Indian corn. Thanksgiving is neat black and white construction paper pilgrims. Thanksgiving is an Indian's headdress and a turkey's tail feathers.

Thanksgiving is also family. Families of all races and sizes gather to give thanks for the mercies and blessings of God on Thanksgiving Day. And they share a time of fun, fellowship, good food and conversation. Thanksgiving is having your cheeks pinched by Aunt Emily, who hasn't seen you since you were three. Thanksgiving is being squashed like a bug when Uncle Al greets you with a bear hug.

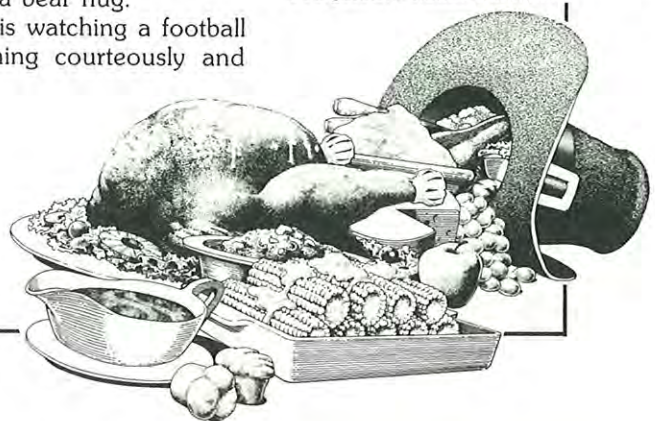
Thanksgiving is watching a football game, yet listening courteously and

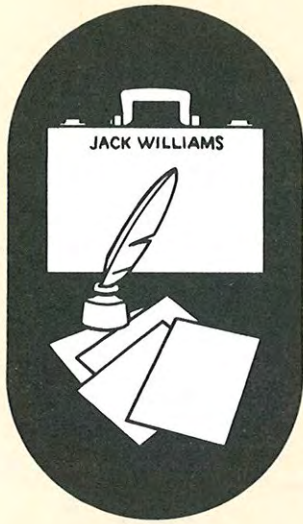
attentively to Granddad's fishing tales, which you could repeat more accurately than he could, for you have heard them a thousand times. Thanksgiving is the warmth of love and family.

Thanksgiving is prayer. It is giving thanks to God for all He has done, thanking Him for food and family, and praising His goodness. Many families who never pray together at meal time, pause to say a blessing on Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is festive and bountiful through the grace of God.

Thanksgiving is remembering the true spirit of the day and remaining in a prayerful attitude. Thanksgiving is a sweet spirit that lasts long after the following weeks of cold turkey sandwiches. Thanksgiving is a crackling fire in the heart with never-dying embers.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Katrina Bryan is a junior at Free Will Baptist Bible College. She is a member of Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Georgetown, South Carolina.





The Difficult People

Last Thursday I attended a six-hour seminar at Opryland Hotel on how to deal with difficult people. The instructor, a psychologist from Syracuse, gave me my \$48 worth before lunch.

Apparently I wasn't the only one needing relief from human bulldozers who leave tracks on everybody else. At least 300 others paid good money to be entertained, informed, badgered, even threatened.

The man was a pro, no doubt about it. He punched the audience hot buttons and frolicked in the feedback. He pranced and dramatized and sweated. Reminded me of an old-time revivalist running a tent meeting.

Nevertheless, my warning lights flashed about 9:15. Code words that spell trouble peppered his lecture: behavior modification, manipulation, end justifies the means, Skinner box, avoid the Golden Rule.

Like I said, the shine wore off by noon. Probably should've left then, because the wheels came off after lunch. I drove home convinced that I knew a better way to deal with difficult people.

Everybody's difficult sometime. Maybe that's why the Bible tells us to bear one another's burdens. When life gets heavier than we can bear, we turn surly. We need one another when the car breaks down, the kids get sick,

the job sours, the money runs out and a hundred other times.

The best of us are difficult sometime; the rest of us are difficult more frequently. Flat tires still irritate the righteous. Life always looks neater on paper than it does on Monday. That's why we must be there to help one another—to listen when it hurts, to put it back together when it falls apart, to bandage it when it gets scraped.

You don't have to make it on your own; it gets lonely doing a one-man show. We need someone there who cares about us when we're so frustrated that we'd like to cut and run. When you hit the wall, a Christian friend can lend a hand, look beyond your weakness, smile and lighten the load. That's what the Bible means by, "Bear ye one another's burdens."

Pray about them. Maybe psychology's best is manipulating difficult people to get your way. But that robs both parties of human dignity. You for misusing him and him for being exploited like a laboratory rat. As Christians, we can do more—we can pray.

Prayer puts you and the problem person on the same ground at the feet of Jesus. Do all you can to stay out of life's mud holes, and then remember that only prayer changes some things. Prayer means that it's not just me and thee and the problem in the boat. Now God's there with us.

If I'm the problem person in your life, I'd rather you pray about me than manipulate me. When we pray, we tap a resource far superior to behavior modification. God's people know that prayer goes beyond mental gymnastics. Prayer makes the impossible possible, fills the empty and changes the unchangeable.

God's Golden Rule. Never mind that the smart psychologist from Syracuse thinks it's of no consequence. God's Golden Rule works quite well, thank you. It hasn't been tried and

found wanting. More, it's been found hard and left untried.

Search the world's great literature. Probe the wise men. Examine principles that motivate men to rise above barbarism. Nothing written or said works better on problems and problem people than these words: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

The law makes me treat you right or else. The Golden Rule makes me *want* to treat you right. Plant the seed, water it, fertilize it, try it—this touches people because it's God's unexpected way. There's nothing so irresistible as love in action.

Use common sense. That means pray first and apply the Golden Rule before you consider Plan B. Still, dealing with difficult people is a painful business. Their words cut, their attitudes grate, their timing's terrible. They bruise us spiritually and psychologically, and sometimes physically.

Be flexible. Stay balanced. Jesus always found the open door to a man's heart; He never bulldozed the walls. God's way reminds us that man is created a little lower than the angels and worthy of our best rather than our manipulation.

Got a difficult person in your world? If you manipulate him, you create an enemy for life. True victory turns your enemy into your friend. Change difficult people God's way. Yes, it takes longer to make a friend than to make an enemy. But ask around. You'll discover that it's worth the effort.

Oh, one more thing. When the six-hour seminar started, we were asked to complete this sentence: "The most important thing I want to get out of this seminar is . . ." The best answer came from the back of the room: ". . . to learn how not to be a difficult person."

Wish I'd said that!



Have Tools, Will Travel



By Howard E. Gwartney

Little did I know back in 1954 while stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky, that the first Sears table saw I purchased (on credit) would some day lead me to a job as missionary builder for the Home Missions Board. That beginning started my love affair with tools, lumber and working with my hands.

While in the army I did carpentry work for the entire battalion at Fort Knox just for the experience, aside from my soldiering duties. Upon separation from the army in January 1955, I went to work as a trim carpenter for six months, then started a contracting business on my own at the ripe old age of 23. I built and sold houses until 1961.

From 1961 to 1979, my tools got rusty from non-use. I went from carpenter to truck body manufacturer,

truck dealer, farmer, grocery store owner and operator, auto parts dealer, etc.

In late 1979 while our son Howard Ray Gwartney was pastoring Central FWB Church in Kansas City, Missouri, the building committee there asked if I would oversee construction of a new church plant. They were relocating in Grandview, Missouri. In April 1980 they dedicated their new church. What a great joy to work with my tools, wood and my hands again as a carpenter, especially building a house for the Lord.

After the Central Church came the remodeling and addition at Lowery FWB Church near Locust Grove, Oklahoma. In 1981 the Oklahoma State Mission Board employed me to go to Lawton and build a new building for the mission church there pastored by Curtis Linton. I also had some part in constructing churches at Henderson, Texas;

Stratford and Lawnwood, Oklahoma; and also the Oklahoma State Association Office Building in Moore.

In the past two years while serving the Home Missions Department as missionary builder, my tools and I have assisted pastors Bob Lewis at Colorado Springs, Colorado; Mike Lake, Elkhart, Indiana; Albert Rollins, Gainesville, Florida; and Steve Trail, Alexandria, Louisiana in getting their buildings roughed in. These structures were built with help from Master's Men over the country, many traveling great distances to help.

In 1985 I led construction of a mission church in Harrah, Oklahoma, where Don Guthrie pastors. This building had 7,500 square feet, full-brick construction at a cost of \$105,000.

On January 9, 1986, we pulled our travel trailer to our next project—Oklahoma City, where the Kingsview

FWB Church was built. Rev. Jerry Pilgrim is the missionary there. This was something quite different—a geodesic dome building with 9,200 square feet, containing a sanctuary seating 300, 10 classrooms, plus an unfinished upstairs that could later become a balcony and additional classrooms. This project was built at a cost of \$130,000. This church and the Harrah FWB Church were sponsored by the First Oklahoma Association in the Oklahoma City area. We received volunteer help from several Master's Men chapters.

At the time of this writing I was in Phoenix, Arizona, helping Home Missionary Paul Thompson construct a new building. In May 1987, I went to New Durham, New Hampshire, to help Pastor Jim Nason with the construction of their new building. Several other home missionaries plan future building programs, and we hope to gather teams of Master's Men groups to assist on these projects.

If any of you reading this article can help us on future projects, it would be greatly appreciated. Perhaps you would like to take part of your vacation time to help with a mission project. Or maybe you're retired and could drive your RV or pull your travel trailer to the job site. If so, please contact me at P. O. Box 217, Locust Grove, OK 74352. Telephone 918/825-1360. Or contact the national Home Missions Department.

Yes, I do "have tools and will travel" to where the Lord leads and where there's a need for Free Will Baptist church buildings. *But I cannot do this alone. I need the help of men all across our denomination!* All Master's Men who have "helping hands," please allow us to use them for Him. 🌐



ABOUT THE WRITER: Missionary Builder Howard Gwartney is a deacon at Locust Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Locust Grove, Oklahoma.

The Sins of Others

By Larry Hampton

Remember the Pharisee who thanked God that he wasn't like other men? Frankly, I have to guard against the same self-righteous attitude. After all, I don't smoke, drink or go to the movies. Since I grew up in a preacher's home, I never did.

An infamous actress wrote her autobiography and called it "Past Imperfect." While some of us may not have been as wicked as this well-known Hollywood personality, the title of her book is descriptive of us all. As Bruce Larson noted, there are no sinners emeritus; we all need a large measure of God's grace daily. Personally, I'm uncomfortable discussing the sins of others. I know all too well my short comings. Believe me, I'm far from perfect. Ask my wife.

Several years ago a couple befriended a preacher's daughter who had fallen into sin. They sincerely desired to minister to her. They longed for her restoration to a life of fruitful service. Nonetheless, they were plagued by the fear that fellow Christians would not understand. Unfortunately, they were right. Some mistook their acceptance of the young lady for approval of her sinful lifestyle.

Accepting a sinner as a person is not the same as approving his sinful actions. Consider the case of the woman taken in adultery. The Lord was perfectly aware of her sinfulness. Yet, according to John 8:11, Jesus accepted the woman ("Neither do I condemn thee"). However, He did not condone her wickedness ("Go, and sin no more").

I'm convinced that no one doubted that Jesus disapproved of the woman's behavior. Certainly she never had any question of His regard for her as a person. Jesus demonstrated that it isn't necessary to stone a sinner to stand against sin.

David Seamonds wrote: "It is possible to hold the highest moral standards and at the same time be accepting and loving toward those who have violated those standards. The person who feels shock and shows rejection toward those whose behavior he disapproves is not revealing his own high moral standards. Instead he is revealing a fearful and insecure area of his own emotions

which he has never dealt with. He desperately needs to put away childish confusion and grow up into Christ."

We will only do this when we learn the difference between accepting people and approving of their sin. The same course of action is applicable to both sinner and sinning saint. I'm not thinking of those who've been put out of the church (I Corinthians 5). Even there the aim is restoration. Rather, I have in mind the backslider or the one Raymond Riggs characterizes as "living a guilty distance from the Lord."

Recently I learned of two divorces. The parties involved in each instance were personal friends. I abhor divorce. I believe it's wrong. I can think of no greater personal tragedy. I do not intend to denounce my friends for ending their marriages. Why should I make a bad situation worse by rejecting these individuals who already hurt so terribly? They know my position. They're aware of the wrong they've done. To withdraw from them would only eliminate any chance to minister to them.

When I was in high school, one of the coeds got pregnant. She left town for the duration of her pregnancy. When she returned to school, her friends welcomed her back as though nothing had happened. While no Christian could condone or even overlook her promiscuity, there's much to be said for her friends' acceptance of her as a person. She was well aware of her wrongdoing without their constantly reminding her of it.

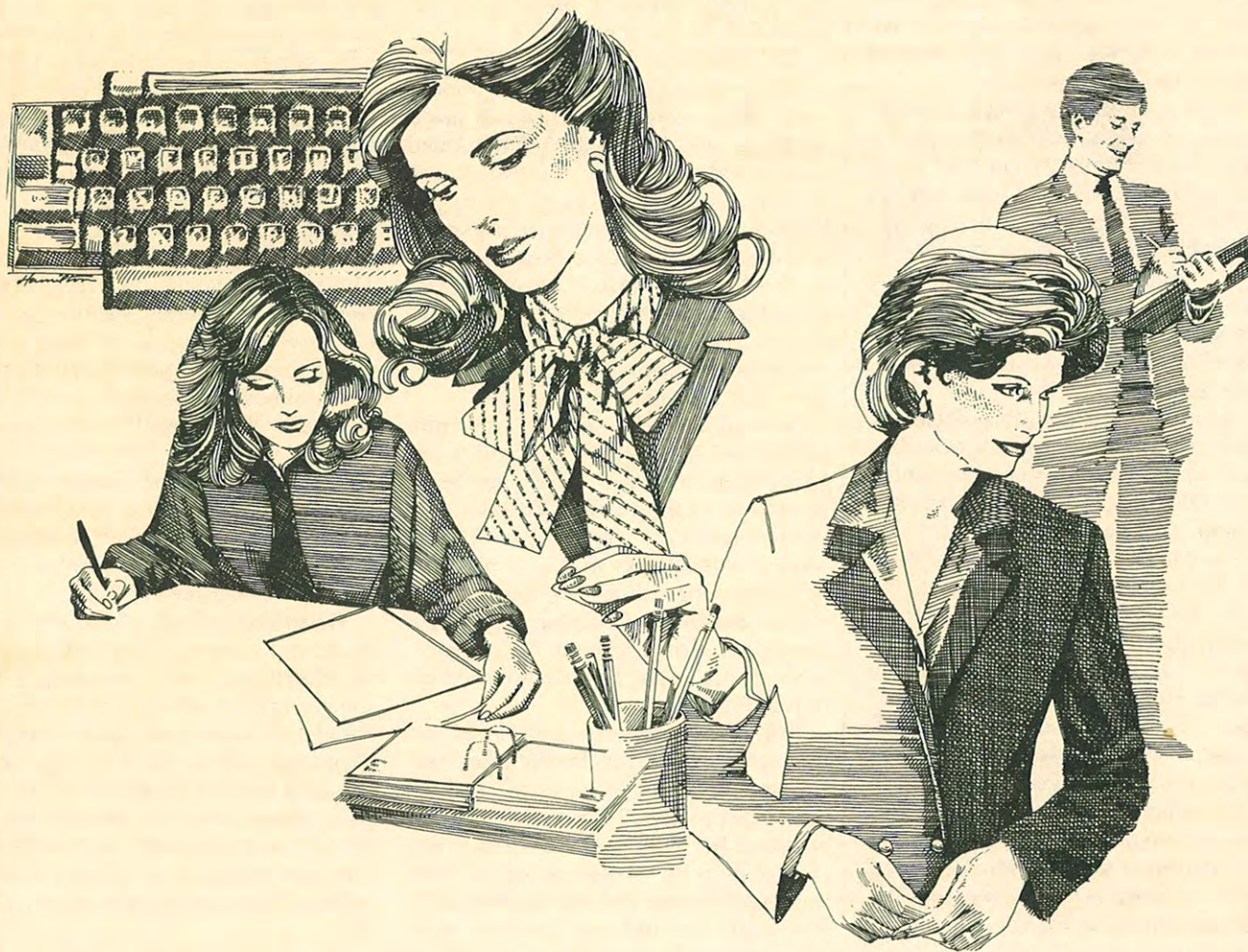
The Christian community must resist the temptation to turn from sinners in disgust for their wickedness.

Warren Wiersbe has prescribed the proper approach to the sinful—"contact without contamination." While we despise wickedness, we love the wicked. If we expect to win the lost or restore the fallen, we must not isolate ourselves from them. We must reach out to them in love "pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh" (Jude 23). 🌐

ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry Hampton is a Free Will Baptist minister who resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

A view from one who works behind the scenes

Am I Still a Missionary?



By Pat Thomas

Home Missions! What thrilling, exciting, challenging work! What a tremendous way to spend a lifetime—in the never ending, stimulating, inspiring labor of love called home missions.

Immediately after marriage, my husband Roy and I served as "Tentmakers" starting a new Free Will Baptist church in Artesia, New Mexico. Then came four years of study at Free Will Baptist Bible College before we were sent by the national Home Missions Department to open the state of Colorado for

Free Will Baptists. I will never forget those precious, wonderful years we spent as home missionaries—and would do it again and again, if God gave opportunity and time would stand still so that the aging process would slow down.

While serving in Denver, one day the national Home Missions Board called us at the parsonage and said, "Would you consider coming to Nashville to work in the home missions office?" What? Leave beautiful Colorado?

We did not want to leave Denver. We did not want to leave the people we had

won to the Lord and the church we had established there. But as we prayed and sought the Lord's will, we became convinced that this was God's will for our lives.

For several years now, Roy and I have worked in the home missions office in Nashville. He serves as general director and travels extensively in services. I work in the office as publications editor, doing secretarial work and anything else that needs doing. Is this the work of a home missionary? Am I the witness for the Lord I was while serving as a missionary on the field? I would hope so.

My job now involves long hours of hard work and mountains of assignments that never seem to get done, even though I work 50 hours some weeks. There are many lonely nights when Roy is gone from home for evangelism conferences and missionary services. But I love our work with home missions, and I praise the Lord for the opportunity we have to serve the Lord, our denomination, our missionaries and the Home Missions Board.

My work in the office involves the publication of the missionaries' newsletters, assisting them with their church publications, getting out *Mission Grams*, assisting with publishing over 130 different missions and soul winning materials, and doing secretarial tasks.

Sure, I miss the front line action of being a home missionary, but I believe my work now helps free missionaries from spending endless hours printing and stuffing newsletters, maintaining mailing lists, getting permit mailings to the post office, and hundreds of other things which would take up their valuable time.

I work with some wonderful people on the home missions staff. Not only do I work with my husband as his secretary, but I work with Trymon Messer and John Gibbs. These three men make up the Home Missions Traveling Team and spend long hours traveling for the department.

I also work in the home missions office with some of the most cooperative women I have ever known. Our bookkeeper, Iva Mae Bracey, and secretaries Kathy Brown, Ida Lewis and Joan Gardner are dedicated, hard-working women. I believe those women can turn

out more work than a threshing crew!

Then I am blessed to work with Bill Daniel, our printer, a conscientious, hard-working man. Bill takes great pride in our publications and wants everything that goes out from the Home Missions office to be top quality.

I think it's important to help our home missionaries with their church publica-

Some of my favorite times are when our pastors visit the home missions office and bring church groups with them. During those times we drop what we are doing and roll out the red carpet, for these are important people to us. After all, they are in reality our bosses and the ones who pay the bills and keep the work going.

**We did not want
to leave the people
we had won to the
Lord . . .**



tions and newsletters. I want them to get excited about advertising their new churches. I want every brochure, every newspaper ad, every radio announcement to vibrate with the thrill of work being attempted.

I teach the missionaries in orientation to rescue their people from nonchalant, drab, ill-prepared attempts at publicity. I want the missionaries to never take it for granted that people will somehow find out by accident where their churches are and what they are doing in their cities.

I want their newsletters to supporters filled with victorious happenings, praise items and prayer requests so that they will generate faithful prayer and financial support. Deliver me from boring newsletters that contain no news!

Each morning the staff gathers for scripture reading and prayer in my husband's office. We pray for our home and foreign missionaries, for lost people, for the other departments, our churches and pastors, and our denomination. We also gather with personnel from other departments Wednesday mornings for a worship service in the conference room. Through the years I have come to appreciate the people who work in the National Offices for their dedication to the Lord and His work.

Even though I no longer work as a home missionary, I try to be faithful with my devotions, prayer life and church attendance. At my local church in Nashville (Woodbine FWB Church), I have worked bus routes, sang in the choir, visited absentees and taught classes. I still attend every service, teach a class, and go out on visitation and soul winning. My work as a faithful Christian witness has not changed simply because I changed locations.

I have so much I want to get done in the work of the Lord and so little time to do it. I have no time to sit around and feel sorry for myself and be lonely. I won't waste my time wishing for the good old missionary days. God placed me in an important place to assist a wonderful group of people—the missionaries.

With each new couple we send out, I shed a few tears and pray, "Lord, bless their efforts. Use them to win many souls, and help them to build a strong soul winning church." I feel as if I am going back to the field through them. Yes, I feel as if I am still a missionary!

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Pat Thomas is publications editor for the Home Missions Department. She also serves as secretary to Home Missions Director Roy Thomas.

Another Look at Measuring Church Growth

By Joe Grizzle

Church growth—every preacher's ambition. This holy desire sometimes produces unhealthy pressure that dogs our trail every week, becomes our highest expectation Sunday morning, and our deepest discouragement after Sunday evening worship. Church growth seminars and conferences echo the same message—if you succeed the numbers must be there.

Colleagues question, "How's attendance?" "Finances holding up?" "What's your annual percentage of increase?" Strange as it seems, these are unscriptural questions.

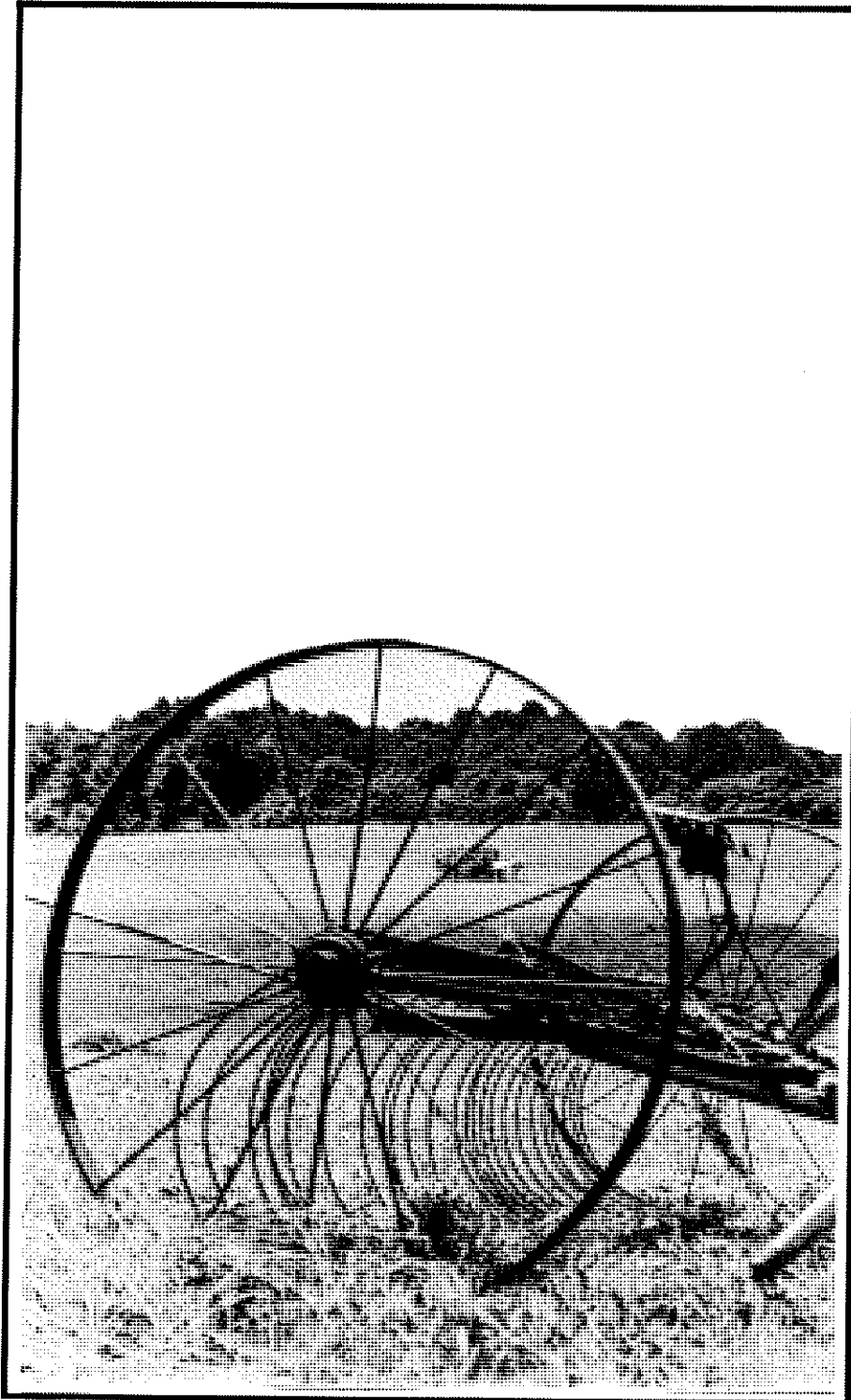
Many lose out to stomach disorders and heart disease because of unnecessary pressure expectations from our peers. Paul warned the Corinthians that we are not to "compare ourselves among ourselves, or measure ourselves by ourselves."

Yes, numbers are important; they represent people. Apparently the apostles counted noses. They knew that 5,000 were fed, 120 prayed in the upper room, and 3,000 were saved at Pentecost.

But notice the apostles' goal attendance for their meetings. They never stated a goal for a specific number of baptisms. The numbers were a RESULT, not a goal.

Acts 6:3-4 clearly states their goal. The leaders agreed to "give [themselves] to prayer and the ministry of the Word." Growth occurred spontaneously as the natural work of the Holy Spirit.

The gospel did not go forth in methods, techniques or organization, but in power, the Holy Ghost and much



H. Armstrong Roberts

assurance (I Thess. 1:5). We must cease seeking growth and begin seeking God!

Denominationally, we've launched a growth campaign. This is good and worthy, but it will never be achieved by making growth itself our primary aim. Other things, other biblical imperatives, must come first.

Prayer

Jesus purged the temple, proclaimed it a house of prayer, performed powerful miracles, and was praised by the little children who observed (Matt. 12:12-16). We're God's temple and this temple shall be called the house of prayer.

Observe the pattern in Christ's ministry. He prayed often—in public, in gardens, on mountains and all night. He went for prayer, then walked on the water; went for prayer, then healed the multitudes; went for prayer, then spoke marvelous words; went for prayer, then faced crucifixion.

His ministry was simple, not cluttered with busy schedules, administrative duty and social expectation. He spent time with His Father and then did His Father's will.

Prayer has lost its priority to the average layman and minister. Personal frustration and discouragement typify a tragic number of spiritual leaders. The answer, though simplistic, is to pray.

Pastor, why not consider one hour a day. "What, could you not watch with me one hour?" (Matt. 26:40). When pastors pray as first priority, when we grow hungry for God, when our hearts pant for God like the deer for a mountain brook, we will experience fresh anointing, restoration, freedom, spontaneity and boldness in our ministries.

We will not fear to relinquish unprofitable tradition for the liberty of praise, expressive worship and the exaltation of God's name. Preacher, get involved with God. Your people will follow, and you'll be on your way to growth.

Praise

The central activity of heaven is praise. The 24 elders, the four beasts, the angelic host and all created things raise unceasing praise. The epitome of worship is praise. (Rev. 4:1-11; 5:8-14; 7:9-12; 19:1-7; Isa. 6:1-3)

The New Testament church practiced praise. Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God. Jehosophat destroyed

his enemies through praise (II Chron. 20:1-26). People were created for praise (Isa. 43:21). God inhabits the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3).

We triumph in God's praise (Ps. 106:47); our spirits are uplifted through praise (Isa. 61:1-3, Ps. 30:11-12). Praise is commanded (Phil. 4:4, I Thess. 5:18). The Psalms offer a continual flow of praise. All we do in word and deed must be for God's praise (I Cor. 10:31).

At Christ's triumphal entry He said that except the people praise Him the stones would cry out. Amazing that the bricks and mortar of many churches don't cry out the praises of God amid the cold silence of the congregation.

Public worship needs change. Surely we can enter into a more meaningful worship experience. There are ways to transform the average church attender from spectator to participant.

Consider a few suggestions: Change the order of worship weekly; drop the order of service from the bulletin; organize services but allow flexibility for spontaneous response; preach the sermon at the beginning of worship with the music and testimonies to follow.

Want more? Have altar prayer on Sunday mornings; encourage people to pray aloud (Acts 4:24); open Sunday morning worship to congregational praise and testimony; take prayer requests and pray for them one at a time; sing choruses from memory with eyes closed while focusing attention on God.

There's more: Encourage verbal responses such as "Amen," "Hallelujah," "Praise the Lord," consider a welcome that encourages people to move about and greet guests with a warm handshake.

Private worship offers undefinable joy when we enter into the praise life. The model prayer begins with praise ("Hallowed be thy name") and concludes with praise ("Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory").

Praise is not simply giving thanks. Thanksgiving requires a gift or some personal benefit. Praise is motivated by love and directed at the goodness and beauty of God's character and actions.

Test this thing. Praise God seven times a day. Memorize a praise passage and speak it to God several times through the day. (Example: Rev. 4:11, Ps. 63, Ps. 150, I Chron. 29) Fill your prayer with praise; sing to God; tell Him how much you love Him. In this prac-

tice we approach the fulfillment of our highest purpose for being.

Focus on the Word

Television, newspapers and busy schedules crowd out scripture study for the average person. We desperately need renewal of love for God's law. How can Bible study cease to be a drudgery, a dry duty performed to forestall guilt? Is there a way for believers to fall in love with God's written word again? Yes, indeed!

Consider this practical suggestion—incorporate the reading and study of scripture into your prayer life. Find a private chamber where you will be undisturbed, where you can kneel with the scriptures before you. Pray, read and praise.

Begin with the Lord's prayer (Matt. 6:9-12). Move slowly through the passage, thinking about each phrase. Be ready for a new world of illumination. Rather than a monologue, prayer will become a dialogue.

Concluding Considerations

The prerequisite to numerical growth is prayer, praise and Bible study. Growth without these is empty and meaningless, something produced by well-oiled organizational machinery but devoid of God's presence and power.

Growth in our churches will begin with a few preachers willing to be used as kindling to ignite the fires of prayer, praise and Bible study. God creates growth not through methods but through men who pray.

Vance Havner told of a community named after hot springs which supposedly contained curative waters. Thousands visited the springs; some settled there; a city sprang up. Growth brought progress and economic development.

In the process of constructing new homes, shopping malls and financial centers, the springs were lost. Years later when tourists inquired about them, no one knew their whereabouts. They were covered over by progress.

Perhaps we've done that. Shelved the basics—prayer, praise and Bible study for the machinery, methods and mechanics of religion. I suggest we rediscover and re-open the springs.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Joe Grizzle pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Norman, Oklahoma. He also serves on the Foreign Missions Board.

The Homecoming

By Carol Lane

Wednesday, November 26, 1986; it was 5:30 in the morning. The faithful alarm clock woke me as usual.

How did I know it was November 26? The date had been circled on my calendar for weeks. Today my oldest son, Cameron, was coming home from Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville. Oh, he had surprised us with a short weekend visit, but this was his first planned trip home.

I hurried to silence the alarm before it woke my husband. In a few short minutes I dressed and was on my way to the jogging trail to meet other ladies from my church. We had been walking together for several months and found that the early morning routine worked better for us since our families were still sleeping.

The walking was great, but the fellowship was the greatest! Today, I had something special to share—today my son was coming home. After walking our usual three miles and saying our goodbyes, I hurried home to begin preparations. Tomorrow would be Thanksgiving and our family would spend the day with relatives in Fort Smith. But I wanted today to be Thanksgiving at our house.

I sat down on the couch to catch my breath, and with pen and pad I began planning the menu. It was obvious that

I would spend most of the day in the kitchen.

The rest of the household began to wake up and share in the excitement. Chad, Cameron's mentally retarded brother, almost drove me crazy saying, "I can't believe today is the day. I can't believe my brother's coming home." With the exception of talking too much, Chad spent most of his day watching television and listening to records.

Clark, Cameron's other brother, got into the picture and did things that brothers just don't do for each other—like cleaning the bedroom.

The house smelled of yeast bread rising, turkey baking together with all the smells of a Thanksgiving feast. Courtney, Cameron's sister, couldn't seem to help enough with the meal. Courtney, along with my husband Collins, cleaned the bathrooms and vacuumed.

As the day wore on, I became so anxious for his arrival. I looked around, wanting everything to be perfect. After all, my son was coming home and I wanted him to know how much I loved him.

During a quiet moment while washing dishes, I prayed, "Lord, bring him home safe. Don't let him take the wrong road. Please don't let an accident happen. Don't let him decide not to come at all. I want him to come home because, Father, if he doesn't, he will never know how I have prepared for his homecoming."

As I finished praying and looked around the room at the evidence of all our work, I cried as the Lord reminded me that He, too, is making preparations for my homecoming. He is excited about His child coming home. He knows the dangers that might prevent me from coming home and what a tragedy should I choose the wrong road and never get to see and enjoy all the things He has prepared for me. How it must grieve Him when I take my eyes off Him.

The hour was finally approaching and oh, the overwhelming joy when I saw the lights of his car. My son was almost home, but the greatest joy of all was the new understanding I had of John 14:2, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Carol Lane is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas.





FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

CONVENTION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS IN KANSAS CITY

KANSAS CITY, MO—The Missouri Steering Committee met September 11 at the Allis Plaza Hotel (formerly Vista International) in Kansas City to make plans for Missouri Free Will Baptists to host the July 17-21, 1988, National Convention. Plenary sessions of the National Convention, National Youth Conference and the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention will meet in Municipal Auditorium and Bartle Hall.

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington said he had blocked more than 1,100 rooms in four downtown hotels for Free Will Baptist delegates and visitors. The convention housing form will be printed in the April 1988 issue of *Contact*.

The Missouri Steering Committee includes:

Clarence Burton—Chairman/State Executive Secretary

Mark Braisher—Hospitality Committee Chairman
Jim Shepherd—Registration Committee Chairman

John Bullard—Ushering Committee Chairman
Nathan Ruble—Prayer Committee Chairman

Rose Mertz, president of the Missouri Woman's Auxiliary serves with the Steering Committee to coordinate the women's activities.

The Steering Committee personnel met from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. gathering information, reviewing committee assignments and touring convention facilities. The committee will meet twice in 1988, January and May, to finalize convention plans.

BIBLE COLLEGE CONFERENCE TO FEATURE HOME MISSIONS

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist College's annual Missionary Conference, to be held on campus November 1-4, will feature Home Missions staff and missionaries, according to President Charles Thigpen.

Chaplain Kerry Steedley, and missionaries Glenn Poston and James Munsey will represent the work on the field. Staff members Roy Thomas, Trymon Messer and John Gibbs will also speak.

Major Steedley, a 1970 graduate of the Bible College, was ordained in 1974 and has been a chaplain in the U.S. Army for nine years. The Georgia native is now stationed in Alabama.

Rev. Poston, founder of a Free Will Baptist church in Millington, Tennessee, now serves as a Joint Project Missionary in Memphis. The 1974 FWBBC graduate is originally from South Carolina.

Rev. Munsey is a 1981 FWBBC graduate and now pastors the Templo FWB Church in Weslaco, Texas. He is Coordinator of Mexican Ministries for the national Home Missions Department.

The conference will include 10 major services, as well as prayer band messages and student interviews with missionaries and home missions staff members.

The college holds a major missions conference each year, alternating between home and foreign fields.



Munsey



Poston



Steedley



Messer



Gibbs



Thomas

BIBLE COLLEGE ENROLLS 300 FOR FALL SEMESTER

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College enrolled 300 students for the fall semester, according to Registrar Charles Hampton. Students came from 24 states and two foreign countries, he says.

The number divides evenly between men and women, with 150 of each in school. Ministerial students number 69, and there are 26 missions students. Of the total, 291 are Free Will Baptists and nine are from other denominations.

By states, the enrollment breaks down as follows:

Alabama	15
Arkansas	17
California	4
Delaware	2
Florida	6
Georgia	13
Idaho	1
Iowa	1
Illinois	17

Indiana	8
Kentucky	15
Louisiana	2
Massachusetts	1
Michigan	18
Mississippi	5
Missouri	20
North Carolina	33
Ohio	11
Oklahoma	3
South Carolina	17
Tennessee	63
Texas	9
Virginia	12
West Virginia	4
Foreign	3

The year's opening services featured Home Missions Associate Director Trymon Messer and FWBBC Campus Pastor Robert Shockey. President Charles Thigpen designated 1987-88 *The Year of Rejoicing* at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

SOFTBALL TOURNEY ATTRACTS 29 TEAMS

NASHVILLE, TN—Twenty-nine teams played 88 games before the winner emerged in the seventh annual softball tournament sponsored by Randall House Publications, August 14-15. Teams competed at the Cedar Hill softball complex. Rev. Milton Worthington, chairman of the Sunday School and Church Training Board, threw out the first ball.

Even though the teams played in 95-degree heat, the umpires said it was one of the best tournaments they had ever called.

The tournament consisted of two sections: a round-robin and a double-elimination play-off. In the round robin each team was placed in a division and played to determine a first and second place winner in their respective divisions. This advanced them to the double-elimination play-off.

The final 10 teams went head to head to determine the first four places. The outcome was as follows:

1st Place: First FWB Church, Albany, Ga. (first team)

2nd Place: West Tulsa FWB Church, Tulsa, Okla.

3rd Place: Central FWB Church, Detroit, Mich.

4th Place: 15 Mile FWB Church, Sterling Heights, Mich.

Each team was awarded a handsome trophy. In addition the first place team received sleeve patches declaring them national champions.

The 1988 tournament will be limited to 28 teams. Entrance to the tournament will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE TO MEET IN NASHVILLE

NASHVILLE, TN—The bi-annual Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference will meet November 30 - December 3 at Executive Inn in Nashville, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington.

Dr. Worthington said he expects more than 150 leaders from 20 states to participate this year. In addition to the Leadership Conference, nine national boards and commissions will meet following the conference.

State moderators, clerks and promotional officers will converge on the Murfreesboro Road site for nine sessions and workshops. Newly elected National Association moderator, Reverend Ralph Hampton, will preside.

ARKANSAS ADDS 170-MEMBER CHURCH

BERRYVILLE, AR—The 170-member Moore FWB Church near Berryville joined Arkansas' Northwest Association earlier this year, according to Promotional Director David Joslin. The church, located five miles south of Berryville on Highway 21, voted to change from United Baptist to Free Will Baptist on March 25. They then called Reverend Bill Johnson as pastor.

The church organized as Pleasant Valley #1 Church in the early 1900's. After the original building burned, the congregation rebuilt in 1950 on land given by Clyde and Claude Newberry. Volunteer labor constructed that building.

Two expansion programs in 1975 and 1985 resulted in adding a full basement, seven classrooms and a large upper level room for children's church. The property is now valued at \$200,000.

Promotional Director Joslin said the church already supports a full-time pastor, the Cooperative Plan and several foreign missionaries.

Where and when did Free Will Baptists begin?

Who were our early leaders and what were they like?

How did our brothers of the last century react to issues like slavery and temperance?

Why are we celebrating a 50th anniversary when we have a 250 year history?

These and many other questions are answered in the pages of *The Free Will Baptists In America (1727-1984)*. Dr. William F. Davidson traces the denomination's roots from colonial days to the present time. This hardbound volume, containing over 450 pages, is filled with interesting and sometimes dramatic accounts.

This year Free Will Baptists are celebrating 50 years as a national association. To commemorate this anniversary a special **limited edition** of this history is being offered as a collector's item. Each volume is encased in a beautiful gold cover and is numbered. The purchaser's name will be recorded and a certificate of authenticity issued.

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**THE
FREE WILL
BAPTISTS
IN
AMERICA
1727-1984**

**William F.
Davidson**

Alvin Keon, an **Iola, TX**, philanthropist, handed over the keys to a 1987 Ford Club Wagon to a representative of **Cross FWB Church, Iola**. **Richard Wright** pastors.

Pastor **Jack Rollins** celebrated 25 years as pastor of **Forestdale FWB Church, Birmingham, AL**.

Members of **Wooddale FWB Church, Knoxville, TN**, celebrated homecoming festivities with a flair. Reverend **Ralph Staten** compiled a brief historical sketch of the church. The eight-page compilation covers the organization in 1905 through current activities, 1987. Staten included a delightful section titled "Highlights of Our Heritage," in which he traces Free Will Baptist doctrines back through the centuries to Christ. **Phil Kimbrough** pastors.

Pastor **Glen Hood** said, "We were up in conversions, rededications and baptisms. We had a summer jump instead of a summer slump." He made those comments about **Mile High FWB Church, Denver, CO**, after they averaged 85 in Sunday School and 117 in worship during late summer months.

Four lay members of **Bethany FWB Church, Timmonsville, SC**, gave testimonies in a Sunday morning service on what work means to them. One man said he used work as an opportunity to witness. A woman witnessed to a man at work and saw him saved. Another man asked special prayer that he would be an example for unsaved co-workers. **Rick Cason** pastors.

On his first Sunday as pastor of **Park Lane FWB Church, Charlottesville, VA**, Pastor **Walter Sumerlin** said attendance surged from 20 to 46. He said the church is out of debt and looking for a parsonage.

Bethany FWB Church, Eton Park, FL, sponsored a two-day Bible conference September 25-26 featuring three speakers from Free Will Baptist Bible College. The speakers included **Stanley Outlaw, Robert Picirilli** and **National Association moderator, Ralph Hampton. Dwight Spears** pastors.

Pastor **Mike Wade** of **Calvary FWB Church, Norman, OK**, praised the junior CTS group for raising \$67 toward the building fund Victory Day offering.

Members of **Peace FWB Church, Wilson, NC**, voted unanimously to enter a \$283,000 building program. Pastor **Gordon Sebastian** said the 16,000-square-foot building project includes four offices, seven classrooms, kitchen, two dressing rooms and a full-sized gymnasium. The church received 79 new members in the first

eight months of the year.

A home missions church moving into new facilities in December needs a number of 12-foot oak pews and a piano. Interested parties may contact **Steve Cannon** of **Good News FWB Church, Chesterfield, VA**. Call him collect at 804/794-8542.

The September 11-12 **Oklahoma** Christian Education Convention met at **West Tulsa FWB Church** and featured 22 sessions. The principal speaker was **Robert Picirilli**, dean of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The summer Children's Crusade program at **Faith FWB Church, Glenpool, OK**, concluded with 25 decisions for Christ, an average attendance of 193 and a missionary offering of \$150 which went to Jalayne Martens and Glenda Leatherbury. **David Archer** pastors.

Contact welcomes *The Prophet's Voice*, publication from **Mt. Carmel FWB**

Church, Perry, FL. Duane Harvey pastors.

Director **James Cox** reported that **Camp Caleb** finished its eighth summer of activities with 97 decisions, 40 of which were for salvation. Camp Caleb is located near **Paintsville, KY**.

Pastor **Gene Outland** reports four conversions at **Hazel Dell FWB Church, Sesser, IL**.

Teenagers from **Bear Point FWB Church, Sesser, IL**, were auctioned off as slaves in order to raise funds for their trip to the National Youth Conference last July. Pastor **Larry Cook** said the teens brought \$600.

Salem FWB Church, Wayne City, IL, erected a new sign on Route 15 directing people to the church. **Byford Campbell** pastors.

Pastor **John Hollis** reports seven conversions at **Crossroads FWB Church, Effingham, IL**. 

It's Still the Same

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

At our Thanksgiving dinner I couldn't keep from thinking about the fellowship of the apostles. Did the early church enjoy fellowship as we do? I imagined them sitting under the starry canopy of heaven and talking about what feeding the multitude had meant to each of them.


Philip said, "You should have seen Thomas when he took bread and fish to his 50. Why, he started off pinching little bitty pieces. He just couldn't imagine the Lord expecting us to feed so many with such small morsels. But the more people he fed, the bigger his eyes got and those little bitty pieces kept getting bigger and bigger until at the last. By then he was running through the crowd throwing big chunks of fish and bread!"

All the apostles laughed at Philip's story about Thomas, and no one laughed louder than Thomas. What a great time they had. *The Christian's humor is rooted in joy and not just frivolity.*

Andrew told about taking the fragments into town, "Can you believe, even now, that there were 12 baskets full? Peter and I took some to town, and we met this widow and her three small children. They had no disease but were nearly dead from hunger. We gave her food for herself and her children. They didn't smile; she never even said, 'Thank you.' They just cried when they saw the bread and fish. Peter acts tough, but when we left he was crying too."

Andrew's voice quivered, and everyone turned to look at Peter. Tears furrowed his dusty face, and the other disciples cried too. *The Christian's tears are shed in compassion and not just in self-pity.*

I came back to reality and looked at the faces of people in our own fellowship. I saw the same thing I had seen in my momentary daydream. I saw true fellowship. I saw laughter mingled with tears.

It's still the same! 

MINI GRAMS

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

Telling the Homeland . . . Time Well Spent!

By Roy Thomas

The continent of North America is a part of the Great Commission field which Jesus commanded to be evangelized. Some believe it's a waste of time to plant churches in America, for they feel this nation is already evangelized. However, anyone who holds this view has not worked a church bus route lately or done much visitation and witnessing. When a person goes after sinners in modern America, he soon comes to the conclusion that this nation is filled with heathen who have never heard a clear presentation of the gospel.

A close scrutiny of America will prove that this nation is unevangelized. There are less than 60,000 gospel preaching churches on the continent, and all church buildings of all kinds would not hold one fourth of the population.

The majority of gospel preaching churches are located in the Bible Belt. Ninety percent of all Free Will Baptist churches are located in this section. This leaves vast areas filled with huge cities that are unevangelized.

Three-fourths of all Americans now live in the city, yet many fundamental churches are located in rural areas. Of those churches that do preach the gospel, few are aggressive in trying to reach people for Christ. I have lived in Nashville, Tennessee almost 17 years, and in all those years only one fundamental church has knocked on my door in the interest of my soul. How long has it been since someone from a fundamental church came to your home? Of course, we are saved and go to church, but churches all around us don't know these facts.

There are over 80 million people in America who claim no religious affiliation. There are only six other nations in the world with a population in excess of 80 million, so America is one of the world's leading mission fields!

Young people of America are searching for what only Christ can give. Their lives have been crowded into corners by drugs, liquor, sex and rebellion until the second most frequent cause of death among teenagers is suicide. The average young person comes from a broken home. His parents have too many personal problems to influence him correctly. He goes to a school where the Bible and prayer are forbidden by law, yet drugs, sex information and contraceptives are readily available. He listens to music that mocks God, country and morality, yet he has no church, pastor or Christian student to make one effort to reach him with the gospel.

Wouldn't it be time well spent to put a Bible-preaching, soul-winning Free Will Baptist church in his city that would give him the gospel? Perhaps that church would win him to Christ, he would go to Bible college, and God would call him to preach. Wouldn't that be time well spent? I think it would.

November is Home Missions Month, and November 22 is Home Missions Sunday. The Home Missions Department calls on every church to receive a special offering on Home Missions Sunday and every Christian to send a special gift during Home Missions Month to help tell our homeland about Jesus. Yes, Home Missions . . . telling the homeland . . . time well spent.

MASTER'S ANDATE Attack

LifeMember List Lengthens Includes Youngest, Oldest Members

Through August 158 LifeMembers and 10 LifeFriends registered. The 1987 goal is 200 by year's end.

Eleven-year-old Bert Jordan became the youngest LifeMember when his father sent in his deposit in July. Bert attends First FWB Church in Albany, Ga. His pastor is Rev. Billy Hanna.

Bert's father, Tim Jordan, is on the Master's Men Board and an officer in the Georgia State Master's Men.

A 70-year span separates the youngest and oldest LifeMembers. The oldest member is 81-year-old I. L. Stanley from Greeneville, Tenn. Stanley suffered a heart attack in July while preparing to attend the National Convention. He did attend the Tennessee state retreat and led the group in the song, "Prepare to Meet Thy God," written by his father.

The additions in the last four months include:

- Edsel S. Hagar, OH
- Bert Jordan, GA
- Roy Smith, AR
- Charles P. Wilson, AR
- Ernest Joyce, TN
- Lon Carden, TN
- Hurb L. Adams, MI
- Ronald J. Rakes, WV
- Rick Mayo, TN
- G. E. Melton, TX
- Larry Melton, TX
- Loyd C. Olsan, TN
- Dolph Ramsey, TN
- John B. Wolfenbarger, TN

The second four-month period of 1987 added five LifeFriends. LifeFriends now number 10. Marie Felts was given a LifeFriend Certificate by the Master's Men of New Hope Church in Joelton, Tenn. They wanted to honor her in memory of her husband, H. M. Felts. Brother Felts was an active member of their chapter.

During the sixth annual Tennessee Master's Men Retreat in August, the

men received a love offering to complete the deposit for Mrs. I. L. Stanley. General Director Jim Vallance made the presentation. The assembly of over 40 showed their love by giving her a standing ovation.

The LifeFriend list added the following women:

- Marie Felts, TN
- Lucy Hyman, TN
- Sharon Ledgerwood, MO
- Stacie D. Rakes, WV
- Mary Frances Stanley, TN



Endowment Trust Receives Memorial Gift

A deposit has been received for the Master's Men Endowment Trust in memory of Mr. Henry Jordan by Mr.

and Mrs. Albert T. Jordan. This is the seventh memorial gift received for the Trust Fund.

Limestone, Tenn., Chapter Receives Plaque

Men of the Limestone FWB Church received a plaque honoring their chapter as the most outstanding chapter in the state. Ed Hall, state president, presented the plaque to Pastor Alfred Cutshall and the Master's Men during the sixth annual state retreat.

Among their activities during the past year, the chapter purchased a computer for missionary representatives Don and Billie Sexton. They also helped their church raise a gift of \$5,000 for the Home Missions Department to build another church in Mexico City, Mexico. This church will be part of the Target 90 growth plan.

Director Makes Plea For Financial Help

Master's Men Director Jim Vallance appealed for financial help during his report to the National Association in July. Master's Men Department, the smallest in the denomination, receives less than one-half of one cent from every dollar given to national Free Will Baptist ministries.

The drop this year in cooperative receipts caused an \$8,000 shortfall the first eight months in 1987. Vallance reported, "Our ministry cannot achieve the desired results when funds are nonexistent. It is impossible even to pay a secretary full time this year. Master's Men needs financial help. The Department is part of the National Association and deserves adequate financing."



Herman L. Hersey
Director

Board of Retirement AT YOUR SERVICE



I delivered the poor who cried,
the fatherless and him
who had none to help.
I caused the widow's heart
to sing for joy.
I was eyes to the blind,
and feet was I to the lame.
I was a father to the poor and needy,
The cause of him I did not know I
searched out.

Job 29:12-16

Ministry With the Elderly

Why?

- People are living longer. The percentage of the elderly population increases yearly. By 2003 the percentage in institutions will increase by 57 percent.
- Middle-aged women who once cared for the elderly are at work.
- In today's mobile society, families find it more difficult to meet the needs of their elderly.

Purpose

- To develop a caring relationship between you, the elderly, the congregation and the community.

"Our first question is not how to go out and help the elderly, but how to allow the elderly to enter into the center of our lives, how to create the space where they can be heard and listened to from within with careful attention."^{*}

- To meet their real needs.

Someone has said, "The elderly do not want distraction and entertainment. They want to be heard and sustained."

Their real needs are: love and understanding, reaffirmation of God's constant love and care, to re-establish a sense of worth, acceptance, approval, an opportunity to reminisce, to share burdens and troubles, help in confront-

ing suffering and death, to share fears and hopes, to resolve guilt, salvation.

- To allow them to give.

Let them become teachers again. The elderly often are not teachers because we are unwilling to listen and learn from them. An old Balinese legend speaks to the point.

*It is said that once upon a time the people of a remote mountain village used to sacrifice and eat their old men. A day came when there was not a single old man left, and the traditions were lost. They wanted to build a great house for the meetings of the assembly, but when they came to look at the tree trunks that had been cut for that purpose no one could tell the top from the bottom: if the timber were placed the wrong way up, it would set off a series of disasters. A young man said that if they promised never to eat the old men any more, he would be able to find a solution. They promised. He brought his grandfather, whom he had hidden; and the old man taught the community to tell top from bottom.**

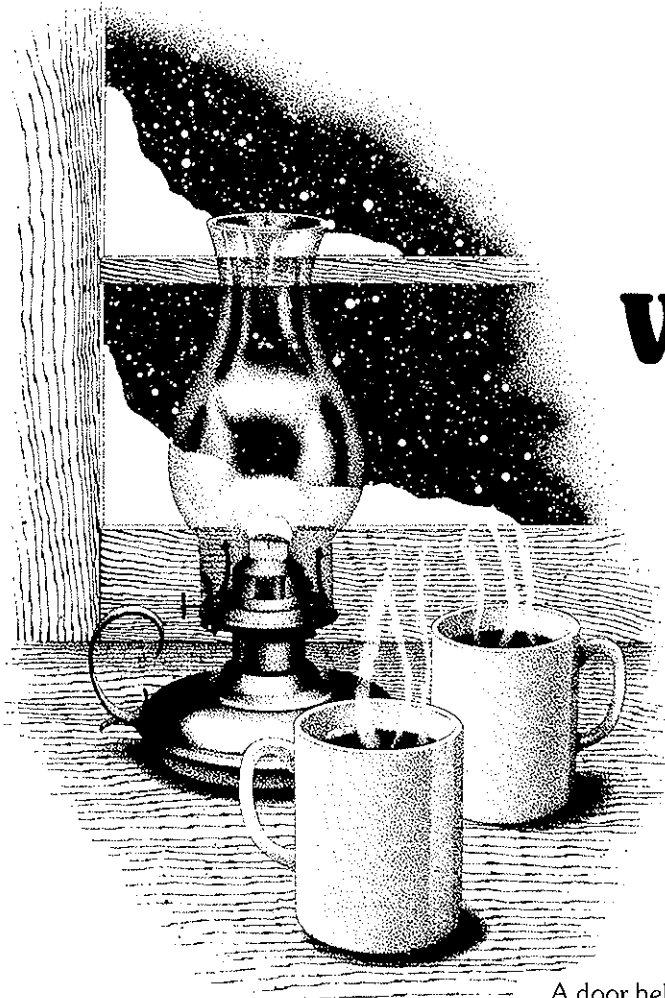


^{*}Henri J. M. Nouwen and Walter J. Gaffney, *Aging* (New York: Doubleday & Company, 1976) pp. 23, 101

Next Month: Qualifications/Guidelines

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wishart



From My Window

Magic words. Did someone once tell you that there are magic words and that if you use them, something extraordinary will happen? Of course you know now that there's really no magic in the words themselves. Still, as some linguists remind us, language may seem magic because of the effects it has, both on the speaker and the listener.

Please and thank you—magic words, and words we seem to forget too easily today.

Like the queen in *Alice in Wonderland*, we're running just to keep in place, it seems. And in our haste we forget to cultivate the grace of gratitude.

How easy it is to simply accept and take for granted the blessings which we enjoy everyday.

Today decide to be awake and aware of all God's blessings in your life. Then turn to Him with thanksgiving. As we say thank you to Him, our spirits lift. The more thank yous, the more blessings we discover. And suddenly, we're singing.

How often we expect people to do those *little* things for us and forget the please and thank you.

A door held open as we struggle with bundles, a package retrieved, a courteous word from a store clerk—how many ways people serve us every day.

Suppose we say please and thank you, beginning at home. We begin feeling better about ourselves. The magic words also lift the spirits of those around us. They begin feeling better about themselves.

Please and thank you. Magic words? Yes, in the way they affect both speaker and listener.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful" (Colossians 3:15).

Create a bit of magic in your world. Try the grace of gratitude. Use the magic words, please and thank you.

National Home Missions—November Emphasis

Before Thanksgiving each year, WNAC calls for a week of prayer on behalf of national Home Missions.

During that week the Lizzie McAdams Offering is collected.

Elizabeth Lawliss McAdams was born near Troy, Alabama, in 1884. Saved at 7, by 13 she wanted to be a mission-

ary. She and her husband, Hiriam, did serve in Barbados in 1918.

Mrs. McAdams was a member of the first Home Mission Board constituted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, and she sent a monthly contribution to the work as long as she lived.

She and her husband worked four years as home missionaries. They also served as a traveling evangelistic team. Her records show that they preached in 17 states, held about 300 revivals, had about 10,000 professions of faith, organized 11 churches, and numerous Auxiliaries and Leagues.

Lizzie McAdams died in 1964.

The pre-Thanksgiving offering in her honor helps spread the gospel in the United States.

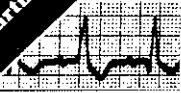
Last year Woman's Auxiliaries contributed \$17,640.84 to the offering, according to state treasurers' 1987 reports.

Eunice Edwards Fund

August 31, 1987
\$4,040.89

Provision Closet Needs

- Washcloths
- Hand Towels
- Matching sets of twin-size sheets (for use on two beds)
- Terry cloth dish towels
- Rib cord bedspreads
- Full-size bedspreads
- Queen-size sheets and mattress pads



The Gospel in African Robes

By Robert Bryan

"I am the chief fetisher in my village," began the letter. "I am responsible for offering all the sacrifices which keep the spirits from harming us. I read in one of your CPE books that Jesus is stronger than the fetich and the spirits. Please tell me more about Jesus."

This letter from a reader in Togo indicates the breadth and importance of this unusual literature ministry in French-speaking Africa.

CPE stands for the Centre de Publications Evangeliques or Evangelical Publications Center. In French-speaking Africa it is the only publishing center in which Bible-believing churches and missions work together to produce needed literature for soul-winning and church planting. Free Will Baptists join more than 30 missions and churches as members of CPE.

The organization is strongly conservative, holding the Bible as the infallible, authoritative Word of God. The doctrinal statement points to God as the Trinity. Jesus is God incarnate, virgin-

born, sinless, the redeemer of sinners. All men are sinners and need redemption through the new birth. The Holy Spirit indwells believers and helps to keep the church pure and unified, excluding all compromise with theological liberalism. Finally, the statement holds to the resurrection of all people: those saved to arise to eternal life and the unsaved to arise to eternal damnation.

"CPE is in the front line of a united defense against the ecumenical movement," according to one Ivory Coast missionary. Indeed, a statement in the bylaws of the publications center condemns the modern ecumenical movement and excludes from membership any church or mission which is a part of it.

CPE publishes more than 230 titles. The center's goal is to present the gospel in African robes, not in a western suit and tie. Free Will Baptist Sunday schools, as well as others, depend on CPE quarterlies for their training programs. Many lay leaders have received

training through study books for Theological Education by Extension. Bible institute students also study from the doctrinal and theological books edited and published by CPE. More than 70 percent of the books in the Free Will Baptist youth center at Tanda come from CPE.

I joined the CPE staff in 1984. The member missions and churches elected me as director for three-year terms in 1984 and again in 1987. I am in charge of a team of 22 people, 11 missionaries and 11 Africans, from six different countries. Together, we produce more than 10 million pages of Christ-honoring literature every year.

More than 70 percent of the books in the Free Will Baptist Youth Center at Tanda come from CPE.

Publications from the center are used in 17 different countries in Africa which claim French as their national language. Churches in more than 15 other nations also use CPE publications.

As director of CPE, I am ultimately responsible for the content of the publications as well as for the administration of the organization. Even before the manuscript is given preliminary approval for publication, it is read by a committee of missionaries and African pastors and by church leaders to insure theological soundness.

I am happy to have a part in CPE. It is one of the most strategic ministries in French-speaking Africa today, and through our involvement, Free Will Baptists can be assured of doctrinally sound materials for evangelism and edification of the saints.



Robert Bryan is a veteran missionary to Ivory Coast. He and Judy, his wife, serve at the Evangelical Publications Center in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.



Free Will Baptist Bible College **REPORT**

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

The Department Pages

PRAY DAILY FOR YOUR BIBLE COLLEGE

One of the greatest needs at Free Will Baptist Bible College is the daily prayers of people.

Teachers, administrators, staff workers and students depend on an army of prayer warriors who will daily lift them and their needs to the Lord.

Below are 31 prayer requests, one for each day of the month, that span the entire college family. Please clip this page and keep it near the place you pray.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much—James 5:16.

Pray Today...

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 ...that God will call forth laborers from the student body and for President Charles Thigpen.</p> <p>2 ...for the FWBBC Board of Trustees and for Dr. Robert Picirilli, dean, and Dr. LaVerne Miley, science/Bible teacher.</p> <p>3 ...for the Pass The Torch campaign to raise \$3 million in two years and for Dr. Charles Hampton, registrar, and Leroy Forlines, theology teacher.</p> <p>4 ...for the ministerial students preparing to pastor churches and for Tom Sass, treasurer, and Ralph Hampton, dean of the Graduate School.</p> <p>5 ...for students with financial needs and for Roy Harris, dean of men, and Dr. Kenneth Riggs, teacher education teacher.</p> <p>6 ...for the ministry of the Concert Choir and for Ronald Creech, development director, and Peggy McElhinney, assistant treasurer.</p> <p>7 ...that God will speak to hearts during daily chapel services and for Bert Tippett, director of publications, and Fay Thompson, music teacher.</p> <p>8 ...that God will lead young people to FWBBC and for Peter Wilson, dean of students, and Diana Harris, acting food service director.</p> <p>9 ...for the safety of those who travel for the college and for Frank Breeden, director of student support, and for Dr. Stanley Outlaw, Bible teacher.</p> <p>10 ...for married students, who must study and provide for their families, and for Johnny Carter, teacher education teacher, and Sara Steele, secretary.</p> <p>11 ...that the Lord will provide the teachers and staff workers the college needs and for Bob Shockey, campus pastor, and Loyce McVay, data processing supervisor.</p> <p>12 ...for college promotional groups, as they travel, and for Helen Kettman, business teacher, and Genevieve Waddell, English teacher.</p> <p>13 ...for the freshman class and for Lorene Francen, librarian, and Rolla Smith, missions teacher.</p> <p>14 ...for the Evangel Players drama team and for Joseph Jones, speech teacher, and Dari Goodfellow, secretary.</p> <p>15 ...for all of the student leaders on campus and for Marjorie</p> | <p>Workman, dean of women, and for Byron Deel, physical education teacher.</p> <p>16 ...for seniors, as they discern God's will for their futures, and for Laura Thigpen, speech teacher, and Darla Jolly, secretary.</p> <p>17 ...for missions students, preparing to serve on foreign fields, and for Bruce Bilbrey, physical plant director, and Barbara Riddle, physical education teacher.</p> <p>18 ...for students who are preparing to be school teachers and for Ann Pate, teacher education teacher, and Margaret Hampton, assistant librarian.</p> <p>19 ...for the sophomore class and for Marcla Ellison, missions teacher, and Katy Chasteen, secretary.</p> <p>20 ...for student Prayer Captains and for Sandy Goodfellow, physical operations business manager, and Richard McDonald, music teacher.</p> <p>21 ...for students who are studying business and for Ruth Slaten, music teacher, and Debbie Miracle, secretary.</p> <p>22 ...that God will call more preachers and missionaries and for Jimmie Brown, maintenance worker, and Connie Smith, cashier.</p> <p>23 ...that souls will be saved as students go out on Christian service and for Clara Picirilli, secretary.</p> <p>24 ...for members of the junior class and for Susan Armontrout, business teacher, and Wanda Powell, secretary.</p> <p>25 ...for music students, who will serve in schools and churches, and for Dr. Robert Woodard, Bible teacher, and Tim Campbell, student supervisor.</p> <p>26 ...that God will especially bless the campus service this Sunday night and for Peggy Hampton, secretary, and Janie Campbell, student supervisor.</p> <p>27 ...that God will lead fine Christian young people to FWBBC and for Linda Moore, student supervisor, and Jaki Good, physical education teacher.</p> <p>28 ...for the unsaved relatives of FWBBC students and for Mary Belle Creech, secretary, and Susan Ramsay, music teacher.</p> <p>29 ...for Christian education majors, who will serve as youth pastors, for Margie Patton, receptionist, and for Jean Whitaker, cook.</p> <p>30 ...that every student and employee will be sensitive to the Lord's leading and for Ann Beech, cook.</p> <p>31 ...that God will meet the college's financial needs today.</p> |
|--|---|



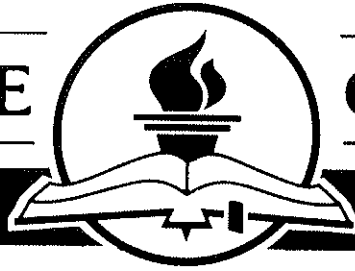
FOUNDATION

Herman L. Hersey
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

My Giving Worksheet

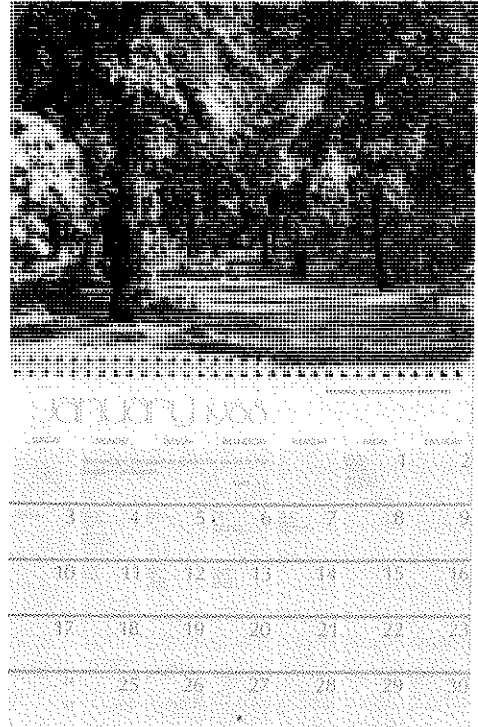
Name of Ministry	Gifts in 1987	Planned Giving For 1988		
		Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
My Local Church _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
District				
Auxiliary	_____	_____	_____	_____
Camp	_____	_____	_____	_____
Master's Men	_____	_____	_____	_____
Missions	_____	_____	_____	_____
Youth Ministry	_____	_____	_____	_____
State				
Children's Home	_____	_____	_____	_____
College	_____	_____	_____	_____
Missions	_____	_____	_____	_____
Special Emphasis	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
National				
Benevolent Fund	_____	_____	_____	_____
Bible College	_____	_____	_____	_____
Board of Retirement	_____	_____	_____	_____
Co-op	_____	_____	_____	_____
Foreign Missions	_____	_____	_____	_____
Foundation	_____	_____	_____	_____
Home Missions	_____	_____	_____	_____
Master's Men	_____	_____	_____	_____
W N A C	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other				
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____

HOUSE



CALL

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR AVAILABLE



Randall House Publications is taking a new approach to publishing a denominational calendar for 1988. Next year's calendar comes alive with brilliant color photos throughout the calendar. Many of the scenes will be worthy of framing.

The calendar will contain over one hundred date designations for Free Will Baptists. In addition, there are Scripture verses based on Matthew 5:3 through Matthew 5:15, the Beatitudes.

Several extra pages have been added that include calendars for 1987, 1988, and 1989. In addition there is a page for important phone numbers and important days to remember.

The calendar is bound together with a metal coil binder. This makes for easier turning of the pages. The calendar will also lie flat upon a desk or be suitable for hanging on the wall.

This is one of those rare kind of calendars that you will want to keep even after 1988 expires.

You may purchase this calendar from your convenient bookstore or from Randall House Publications. The price is \$3.95. Why not order a quantity today?

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Quantity	Item	Price Amount	10% Postage & Handling	Grand Total
	FWB Calendar	\$3.95 each		

Place in an envelope and mail to: Randall House Publications, Post Office Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217 or your local Christian Bookstore.

Top Shelf



F. Leroy Forlines, *Romans, The Randall House Bible Commentary*. Ed. Robert E. Picirilli. (Nashville: Randall House Publications, 1987, 381 pp., hardback, \$19.95).

This commentary is the first in a series to be published by Randall House, the publishing arm of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. These commentaries are designed to meet the needs of both pastors and laymen within the denomination. Because this is the first major set of commentaries to be published by Free Will Baptists in modern times, the publication of this volume is an event of no small importance.

The author is no stranger to God's work or to the Book of Romans. He has read, studied and taught the book for 30 years. This book is the outgrowth of these years of careful study and preparation.

Few commentaries contain more documentation than this volume. The bibliography of 100 sources includes almost all major works on Romans published in the English-speaking world. Careful research is evident on every page.

Paul's thought is so profound that no commentator can fully exhaust his meaning, and every writer must seek to isolate what seems to him to be the key element in Paul's thinking. For Forlines, Paul's burden for the Jews occupies a central place in the Roman letter. Paul was an apostle to the Gentiles, but he never lost his desire to see his own people come to Christ.


There are many areas of disagreement in the study of Romans. Mr. Forlines is never hesitant to state his own views, but he always does so with respect and understanding for those who differ with him. He tries to present the views of others fairly and accurately.

The book presents a dispensational approach to chapters 9-11, but it is a more moderate approach than is often found. His comments concerning election on pages 232-238 are most appropriate. Calvinists are not the only ones who believe in election.

Beginning on page four, the author presents some helpful material on understanding and interpreting the Bible. This section should be read carefully *before* reading the commentary. This section may expect more background in theology than the average reader has.

There are a few places where improvements could be made. Dispensational commentaries seldom give adequate attention to Paul's immediate reasons for writing the book. More discussion of this area would have helped. The writer is deeply interested in theology and sometimes includes material on various theological issues. This is valuable, but it would have been easier for the reader to follow if it had been set off from the commentary.

At the end of each section there is a brief summary which helps the reader follow the progress of Paul's thought. The author regularly includes suggestions for preaching and teaching from Romans.

This is a commentary which should be on your shelf. Mr. Forlines has set a high standard for the remaining volumes in the series. 

Directory Update

ARKANSAS

Larry Russell to Vista Church, Van Buren from First Church, Baton Rouge, LA

Larry Cox to Bethlehem Church, Van Buren from Pleasant Mound Church, Bellevue, TX

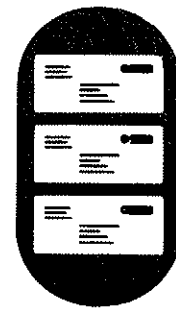
L. B. Steele to First Church, Booneville Terry Latham to Pioneer Church, Ash Flat from Zion Church, Clarkridge

Tom Jones to First Church, Harrison from Pleasant Valley, Berryville Russell Payne to Huntsville Church, Huntsville

Glen Faulkner to New Sulphur Church, Prairie Grove from Huntsville Church, Huntsville

Glen Campbell to Arbour Grove Church, Hoxie from Myrtle Church, Myrtle, MO

Tommy Tims to Faith Church, Jonesboro from Rose Hill Church, Monticello Gene Cullum to Oak Grove Church, Lake Village from Arbour Grove Church, Hoxie



OUR READERS COMMENT

PRAISES JULY ISSUE

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know how much I enjoyed the July 1987 issue of *Contact*. The issue dealt with Law Enforcement.

I, like some of the writers, was in law enforcement before entering the ministry. I spent over three years in law enforcement. I learned a lot in the field and found it a good place to minister for our Lord.

Thanks for the articles.

Reverend Rick Cason, Pastor
Bethany Free Will Baptist Church
Timmonsville, South Carolina

PASTOR LIKES DEPARTMENT PAGES

While sending in my subscription for another year, I want to express appreciation for the present format of *Contact*. I find the allotting of space for each department helpful in locating or relocating specific material.


May God enable you and your staff to be a great force in enlightening and inspiring *Contact* subscribers.

Reverend Robert R. Helms, Pastor
Faith Free Will Baptist Church
Chandler, Indiana

CAN'T SEE TO READ

I can't recall how many years that I have taken the magazine and enjoyed it. But the time has come that I will have to cancel it.

I'm sorry; I cannot see to read. I am more than 91 years old, and I am sure my eyesight will not improve.

Mrs. Phil Wood
Huntsville, Texas 

Alton Wall to Oliver Springs Church, Rudy from Pleasant Grove Church, Hamburg

Faber Hall to Liberty Hill Church, Rose Bud

Don Gentry to Gravel Hill Church, Romance

ILLINOIS

David McGowan to Faith Church, Milan


MICHIGAN

Dan Runion to Grace Church, Taylor from First Church, N. Charleston, SC

TENNESSEE

Victor Neuenschwander to Oak Grove Church, Charlotte from New Hope Church, Collidge, GA

VIRGINIA

Walter Sumerlin to Park Lane Church, Charlottesville from Liberty Church, Waycross, GA 



Green Tree Bible Study



Robert E. Picirilli

Paul, Minister of the New Covenant

We're looking at verbal vignettes in II Corinthians that show how Paul kept going in spite of "fightings without and fears within" (II Cor. 7:5). The man constantly "snatched victory from the jaws of defeat." As we saw in the previous column, one thing that accounts for this is that he saw himself as marching in Christ's victory parade.

Another picture of how Paul saw things appears in II Corinthians 3:6-18. He understood that he was a minister of the new covenant, and that gave him great confidence.

First, Paul contrasts the old (Mosaic) and new covenants (vv. 6-11). The key words paint the picture in broad strokes. As a covenant of law, the old covenant was expressed in *letter*—externally written on tablets of stone. The new is a covenant of the *spirit*, internally written in the heart.

The old ministers, serves, for *death* and *condemnation*. But the new ministers *life* and *righteousness*; it brings justification from the guilt and death sentence pronounced by the law.

The old was *temporary*: As Paul puts it, it was "done away." The new, however, is *permanent*, "that which remains." Even the old was *glorious* (vv. 7, 9, 11), so much so that the face of Moses, as one who ministered it, shone. But the new is far *more glorious* (vv. 8, 9, 10, 11).

Such is the contrast between the law and the gospel. The law confronts man as external ordinances commanding sinful men to behave righteously, offer-


ing no help and condemning the inevitable disobedience, thus showing man his guilt and spiritual death. By the gospel, the Holy Spirit regenerates the one spiritually dead, gives him a heart for the law of God along with a new will and ability. As William Tyndale put it, "When . . . the promises which God hath made in Christ are believed, the Spirit entereth the heart, and looseth the heart, and giveth lust to do the law, and maketh the law a lively thing in the heart."

Then Paul shows how the *ministry* of the gospel is thus superior to the ministry of the Mosaic covenant (vv. 12-18). How much better to dispense the cure than diagnose the illness!

Moses, as minister of the law, veiled his face (vv. 13-15). That alone shows that there was something partial about it, something hidden. Israel did not have a full capacity, a full appreciation, for God's glory. Consequently, there was a distressing result: they did not see that the glory on Moses' face was temporary. Spiritually, that veil is still in the minds of those who put their confidence in the law rather than in the gospel; they do not understand that the glory is no longer there.

Paul, as a minister of the gospel, stands in stark contrast (vv. 12, 16-18). There is no hidden transience there; the veil has been taken away. He speaks openly and plainly. By the Spirit of the Lord there is the dynamic liberty of those who have the law in their hearts. Those who receive the gospel behold, with open face, the glory of God (in Jesus Christ, 4:6); and by that vision

they are being transformed into His glorious likeness. ("Are changed" is the Greek *metamorpheomai*, the source of our "metamorphosis." It is on-going action: "We are transformed.")

Anyone, like Paul, who understands that this is what he is doing in ministering the gospel can stay with it when it isn't easy. The first verse of the next chapter follows immediately: "Therefore, seeing we have this ministry . . . we faint not." 

KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES A JOURNALISM SCHOLARSHIP?

The 325 periodical members of the Evangelical Press Association are vitally interested in the future of religious journalism.

The Association offers \$500 to \$1,200 scholarships each year to Christian college juniors and seniors, and graduate students, committed to a career in print journalism.

Further details and application forms are available. Forms must be completed and returned by April 1.

Write now to:

Executive Director
Evangelical Press Association
P.O. Box 4550
Overland Park, Kansas 66204





ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

Little Lambs

“**J**ust three more days until our Sunday School class’s hay ride and weenie roast,” said Megan as she and Marty ate an after-school snack with their mother and Jeff. “I can’t wait.”

“Aren’t they having the Bible memorization contest then too?” asked Mrs. Lane.

“Yes, ma’am,” answered Megan. “I know 32 verses. How many do you know, Marty?”

Marty didn’t answer. He dipped his cookie in his milk and pretended not to hear.

Mrs. Lane repeated the question. “How many verses have you learned, Marty?”

“Well, none,” admitted Marty. “I’ve been sorta busy.”

“With what?” asked Mrs. Lane. “What could be more important than learning Bible verses?”

“Basketball practice kept me busy,” said Marty. “Besides, I can’t go to the hay ride anyway. We have a game that night.”

Just then Tony Phillips knocked at the door and yelled, “Hey, Marty, you ready for some one-on-one?”

Marty gulped his milk, grabbed his basketball and was on his way out the door when Mrs. Lane called, “Marty, have you finished your homework?”

“Don’t have any,” answered Marty as he ran down the porch steps two at a time.

The next afternoon Marty looked sheepish as he handed his mother his spelling test to sign.

“An ‘F!’ Marty, I am shocked at you,” cried Mrs. Lane. “Didn’t you study?”

“I thought I knew them,” said Marty.

“Now I remember,” said Mrs. Lane.

“You and Tony played basketball yesterday until dark. And you said you didn’t have any homework. I want you to go straight to your room and write each spelling word 25 times.”

Marty went to his room and started writing, while Megan went outside to skate with Sally and Jenny. Marty had only written five words when he saw Tony and Rob and Mike Johnson playing basketball in the Johnson’s back yard. “They need one more to make the teams even,” thought Marty. “I can finish this later. Mom won’t mind.” But just in case, Marty slipped quietly out the kitchen door when his mother was busy with Jeff in another room.

The boys had only been playing about 10 minutes when Marty took a shot from about 10 feet out, missed it and ran for the rebound. Marty grabbed the ball, but when he landed, Rob, who had also jumped for the rebound, landed on his ankle. Marty cried out in pain as he rolled on the ground holding his ankle.

Megan heard Marty’s screams and ran in the house to get her mother.

“Mama, Mama, come quick! Marty’s hurt!” cried Megan.

A trip to the emergency room and an x-ray showed that Marty’s ankle was not broken, but badly sprained. “He’ll be on crutches for at least six weeks,” said the doctor.

“What about basketball?” asked Marty, alarmed at the doctor’s news.

“Never mind basketball,” said Mrs. Lane. “Is it going to be all right, and will Marty be able to travel? We’re supposed to leave next week to spend Thanksgiving with their grandparents.”

The doctor assured Mrs. Lane that Marty would be all right and able to travel, but as for basketball—no way.

Marty felt like a deflated basketball. He was sad and confused. He had worked so hard to make the team. Basketball had been fun and made him happy. But he had not known it would take so much time. He had neglected his schoolwork, church activities, and most nights he was too tired to read his Bible and pray. Basketball had even made him tell a lie and disobey his mother. And Marty didn’t feel happy about that.

The next week the Lanes loaded up and began the long trip to Grandma and Grandpa Lane’s farm. The children were all asleep when Mr. Lane whispered to his wife, “You know, I still don’t think Marty has learned anything from this—even after that spanking and good talking I gave him.”

“You’re right,” said Mrs. Lane sadly. “Marty isn’t sorry—he’s just sad he’s going to miss out on basketball.”

As always, the family had a super time at Grandpa Lane’s. One morning Grandpa said that he was going to the back field to check on the sheep. Megan was busy helping Grandma bake cookies, but Marty hobbled along behind him and climbed into Grandpa’s pickup. The two bounced along over the farm, and finally came to a huge field where a flock of sheep gathered around a big roll of hay. Grandpa counted the sheep and discovered that two were missing.

“And I bet I know which two,” said Grandpa shaking his head. Then he heard the loud bleating of a ewe from far across the field. When Grandpa and Marty got to her, they saw the problem.

She was standing on the edge of a deep ravine; her little lamb was caught in the thicket, bleating helplessly. The mother looked down, but she was unable to help. Grandpa gently pulled the

lamb free and set him beside his mother. The frisky lamb nursed his mother hungrily and then skipped off to play.

"I call him 'Peppy,'" said Grandpa. "'Cause he's certainly got 'pep in his step.' It's all I can do to keep up with him. I've rescued him three times from that ravine, twice from the creek, and once I had to search the woods for hours before I found him. I've tied him, but he either chews the rope or breaks loose. I've penned him twice, for a week each time, but he's as frisky as ever when I set him free."

Grandpa, Marty and Peppy got back into the pickup. "I've got to teach that little critter to stop wandering away from the flock," said Grandpa. Soon they reached the barn, and Grandpa laid Peppy in a bed of clean hay. Marty watched in silence as Grandpa took the front leg of the little lamb in his two strong hands and broke it. The lamb bleated in pain, and tears filled Grandpa's gray eyes.

"Grandpa!" screamed Marty. "What on . . ." but he hushed as Grandpa started setting the broken bone. He put a splint on the leg, wrapped it with soft cloths and taped it firmly in place. Then Grandpa gave Peppy a bottle of warm milk and wrapped him in a blanket.

Late that night Grandpa and Marty walked out to the barn to check on the lamb. In the warm lantern light, Grandpa cuddled the soft lamb close, stroked his head and whispered, "I'm sure sorry I had to do that, little fella, but it was for your own good. It's the only way you'll stay where it's safe."

"Will he be all right?" asked Marty hesitantly.

"Why sure, Son," answered Grandpa. "Tomorrow I'll bring his mama to the barn to keep him company, and in a few days he'll be hobbling around in the field with the flock. In a few weeks Peppy will be as good as new. I hated to hurt him, Marty, but if I hadn't, he could have been hurt a lot worse or even killed. This will teach him that the best place to be is where he's supposed to be."

Grandpa put his arm across Marty's shoulders. "This reminds me of the Good Shepherd, Jesus, taking care of His own lambs, like you here with the crippled foot."

The truth of what Grandpa was saying hit Marty. Why he had been a little wandering lamb—wanting to have fun, forgetting what was important and right.

"Do you think Jesus let me hurt my

Cooperative Channel Contributions					
August 1987					
RECEIPTS:					
State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	August '86	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$ 160.52	\$ 20.00	\$ 180.52	\$ 1,056.10	\$ 1,796.23
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	150.00	.00
Arkansas	.00	5,305.16	5,305.16	4,995.24	35,337.05
California	.00	725.92	725.92	970.72	6,810.85
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	10.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	2,242.95
Florida	.00	2,187.99	2,187.99	2,022.18	16,974.99
Georgia	7,374.16	1,303.18	8,677.34	5,373.39	64,655.94
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	340.48
Illinois	6,928.29	566.02	7,494.31	9,362.77	68,831.84
Indiana	440.83	453.32	894.15	453.76	4,973.34
Kansas	.00	66.78	66.78	45.11	360.04
Kentucky	.00	388.17	388.17	574.77	2,395.99
Maryland	.00	41.00	41.00	.00	1,966.78
Michigan	197.00	272.51	469.51	6,027.06	34,064.19
Mississippi	127.21	266.11	393.32	29.59	2,911.16
Missouri	.00	.00	.00	9,519.45	59,863.21
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	64.66	99.24
North Carolina	963.63	310.00	1,273.63	1,160.92	11,562.98
Ohio	648.75	2,059.00	2,707.75	2,473.00	20,559.64
Oklahoma	27,004.64	8,063.78	35,068.42	42,417.28	289,740.95
South Carolina	6,685.43	.00	6,685.43	3,889.20	54,545.75
Tennessee	257.19	1,130.53	1,387.72	721.46	14,409.65
Texas	7,405.33	610.12	8,015.45	7,301.59	64,263.29
Virginia	.00	.00	.00	80.00	3,926.69
West Virginia	1,645.26	93.71	1,738.97	2,527.48	23,653.78
Canada	.00	.00	.00	500.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	42.69	42.69	.00	76.63
Totals	\$59,838.24	\$23,905.99	\$83,744.23	\$101,715.73	\$786,373.64
DISBURSEMENTS:					
Executive Office	\$ 1,082.68	\$16,699.40	\$17,782.08	\$ 14,786.94	\$140,785.72
Foreign Missions	45,167.94	1,657.49	46,825.43	53,424.14	414,426.90
FWBBC	2,575.01	1,657.49	4,232.50	7,307.51	48,759.89
Home Missions	10,380.01	1,297.19	11,677.20	16,880.83	136,442.40
Retirement & Insurance	28.93	1,008.92	1,037.85	2,936.84	10,490.95
Master's Men	42.39	936.86	979.25	2,286.92	11,098.32
Commission for Theo.					
Integrity	9.09	72.07	81.16	191.68	1,130.33
FWB Foundation	.00	432.40	432.40	1,040.35	5,051.25
Historical Commission	7.02	72.07	79.09	194.37	1,121.39
Radio & TV Commission	37.02	72.07	109.09	279.37	1,778.44
Hillsdale FWB College	438.15	.00	438.15	1,865.74	14,457.29
Other	70.00	.03	70.03	521.04	830.76
Totals	\$59,838.24	\$23,905.99	\$83,744.23	\$101,715.73	\$786,373.64

foot to teach me to obey?" asked Marty.

"I can't say for sure," said Grandpa, "but I do know that we can learn from everything that happens to us. And that sprained ankle, though it's not good, can work for good. It can keep you from wandering farther and getting into more trouble. And believe me, Marty, nothing hurts like sin. The Good Shepherd

may have allowed this little hurt to keep you from a much bigger hurt."

All too soon it was time for the Lanes to go home. During the next few weeks Marty's ankle and Peppy's leg both healed nicely. And best of all, the two little lambs had learned their lesson—the best place to be is close to the Shepherd.

TEEN Scene

California Blasts Into School Year

The youth group at Northside FWB Church, Stockton, California, hosted their fourth annual back to school retreat August 21-22: "Youth Blast '87." The two-day retreat brought 89 youth from churches in the San Joaquin Valley and the San Francisco Bay area.

The Blast was coordinated by Rodney Whaley, minister of music and youth at Northside Church. A team of adult youth workers helped in responsibilities ranging from registration to providing meals. Reverend Frank Breeden, Scott Bullman and Michael Hollifield were invited to Youth Blast to direct activities, entertainment and the three rallies in which Breeden brought messages challenging the young people.

The first rally got under way Friday after registration and the evening meal. Each rally consisted of games, fun-time activities, choruses and a message from the Word. After the first rally, the teens viewed a film and went to the Lodi Racquetball Club where they participated in a wide variety of activities.

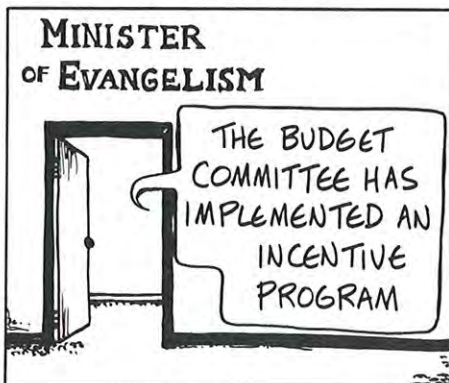
They returned to the church after midnight and went to local homes for a few hours sleep. Two Saturday rallies met at Oak Grove Park. By 7:45 p.m. the teens headed home. Officials reported two salvation decisions and numerous rededications by young people.

Albany in California

The Youth Evangelistic Team from Albany, Georgia, spent six days in California with the Sherwood Forest FWB Church in El Sobrante. The team took their three programs and conducted four services while there, including a Friday night youth service. Danny Thomas, director of the YET ministry, and minister of music at First Church in Albany, said the tour went very well and that a number of people made commitments to Christ. The team toured San Francisco, Yosemite National Park and attended an Oakland Athletics baseball game.



BEYOND BELIEF



Especially
For Young
Preachers

Decisions a Young Preacher Must Face

"In the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14).

The young preacher should determine his beliefs, practices and convictions early in his ministry. These should be established before decisions must be made. As you face decisions: Pray while you search the scriptures; seek counsel from older ministers; use common sense.

1. Will I conduct a wedding ceremony for a Christian and an unbeliever? A divorced person? A couple of different races? Will I conduct a wedding on Sunday?
 2. How will I handle the funeral of one who belongs to a fraternal organization?
 3. Will I purchase insurance? How much? Should I establish a retirement program?
 4. Had I rather live in a parsonage or purchase my own home?
 5. Will I join a ministerial association?
 6. Will I secure employment outside of pastoring?
 7. Will my wife work outside the home?
 8. Should I wear conservative black or blue suits most of the time?
 9. Can I run for political office? How much will I cooperate with local politics?
 10. Should I accept an honorary doctor's degree?
 11. Should I travel on Sunday? If I do, will I be sure to attend church services while traveling? Should I eat at restaurants on the Lord's Day?
 12. Should I patronize a business that sells alcoholic beverages?
 13. What version of the Bible should I use from the pulpit?
 14. Can I take a vacation to the ocean? If so, can I take it with another couple?
 15. Should I continue in the ministry if my wife or children rebel against the Lord?
 16. Should I own a television?
 17. Should I send my children to a Christian school or public school?
- Next Month: What if You're Voted Out?

Dennis Wiggs



NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

MORE CHRISTIANS DIE FOR THEIR FAITH THAN EVER BEFORE

LONDON, England (EP)—David Barrett, religious statistician and publisher of the World Christian Encyclopedia, reported that in the 20th century Christian martyrdom has reached a higher level than ever before in church history. Each year an average of about 330,000 Christians lose their lives because of their faith, he said, citing his own research, interviews and about 1,000 missions periodicals as the sources for his figures.

Generally speaking, persecution of Christians is most intense under totalitarian-ruled nations, but Christians also suffer under "young democracies" such as Latin American or African countries, for example. Barrett reported that about one in every 200 pastors, evangelists or missionaries was killed during his or her ministry. Around 95 percent of these deaths are never made public, he said.

Barrett's findings are part of a long-term study beginning with the early church.

BIBLES TO BE SENT TO THE SOVIET UNION

SOVIET UNION (EP)—The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and Mennonite organizations plan to ship 118,000 Bibles to the Soviet Union where they are in short supply, especially among independent churches that refuse to register with the government.

The shipment will consist of 100,000 Russian Bibles, 10,000 German Bibles and 8,000 Moldavian Bibles, which is the language spoken in north-east Rumania, a constituent territory of the Soviet Union in the southwest part.

Mennonite Central Committee agreed to fund two-thirds of the \$60,000 total cost of shipping the German Bibles, and the Mennonite World Conference, along with BWA, is overseeing the printing, binding and shipping of the Bibles.

TRANSLATORS FOR 'JESUS' FILM KILLED IN GUERRILLA ATTACK

KAMPALA, Uganda (EP)—A truckload of Christian workers were fired on by anti-government guerrillas July 30; two died and two were injured.

Moses Ogiel was killed instantly, the other, John Aluru, who was the voice of Jesus in the Ugandan version of the gospel film, died the following day. Aluru's body was returned to his village for burial where he is survived by a widow and eight children.

The two were part of a team bringing "Jesus," a two-hour docu-drama based on the gospel of Luke, to two Ugandan tribes numbering 1.2 million people who speak the Ateso language.

"Jesus" was produced in the late 1970's by the Genesis Project and Campus Crusade for Christ International. More than 315 million people in 110 countries and 107 languages have seen the film since the first translation was released in 1980.

BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF GLEANING CONSIDERED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, DC (EP)—The biblical concept of gleaning is under consideration by a congressional committee as a way to combat domestic hunger in the 1980's. In gleaning projects, volunteers "glean" food from farmers' fields—food that is left behind by modern harvesting methods; the food is used to combat hunger.

According to Baptist Press, Rep. Tony P. Hall (D-Ohio) told members of the Domestic Task Force of the House Select Committee on Hunger that current gleaning projects are a success and should be expanded. "There is nothing new about gleaning," said Hall. "It's not only ancient, but biblical."

Hall told the committee about a major gleaning project in his state. During the first year hundreds of volunteers from 37 church, civic, school and other groups, donated more than 3,000 hours of time and took in almost 21 tons of food. The project's goal for this year is to double that tonnage.

Hall cited a General Accounting Office estimate that 60 million tons of food rot in farm fields every year, and observed, "Even if a fraction of that food could be salvaged and distributed to the needy, we would go a long way toward helping to feed the hungry of this nation."

Hall noted that gleaning would provide an abundant source of food that is clean and healthy, requires no massive bureaucratic regulation, educates people about hunger, and provides a grass-roots opportunity for fighting hunger.

State and local governments can help, he said, by removing barriers to gleaning: limiting liability of food donors, and offering incentives for gleaning, such as tax incentives for donated food.

This is not the first time Congress has heard about the benefits of gleaning; in 1979 Senator Mark Hatfield introduced a bill that would have allowed a tax credit for farmers who contributed certain crops to tax-exempt organizations.

ANIMAL SACRIFICE CHURCH OPENS IN HIALEAH, FLORIDA

HIALEAH, FL (EP)—Animal sacrifices will be part of the worship experience at the new Santeria church which opened in Hialeah, Florida. The Santeria faith is a combination of Catholicism and an African religion, which was created by slaves in Cuba. Blood offerings, generally birds and small animals like goats, are offered to various deities during worship in hope of receiving good luck, prosperity or revenge on enemies.

The Hialeah City Council granted a building permit for the church facility, but also passed a non-binding resolution opposing animal sacrifice. Animal cruelty laws apparently exempt slaughter by a church, but the practice may be illegal if the animals are not eaten, according to the state attorney general.

"This is a freedom of religion issue," said the Rev. Ernesto Pichardo, who said he will perform an animal sacrifice as soon as he gets a spiritual message to do so.

Hialeah, a city of 150,000 about five miles from Miami, has the first Santeria church in Florida. An estimated 60,000 Santeria followers in Dade County worship in private residences.

GOOD RESPONSE TO CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING IN CHINA

HONG KONG, China (EP)—Kenneth Lo, Chinese program consultant for Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC), based in Hong Kong, reported that over 9,000 letters have been received in response to gospel programming beamed into China.

"Many listeners wrote to tell that they want to know how to become a Christian," Lo reported, adding, "Many tell us how they became a Christian by listening to our radio programs."

Since the Communist takeover in 1949, FEBC has had little confirmation that its gospel programming was having any impact or even that anyone was listening, but when postal restrictions were eased by the Chinese government in 1979, listener response was greatly increased. FEBC's Hong Kong office reported receiving 3,000 letters in March 1979, and the amount of mail has steadily increased. Today, mail from China averages about 1,000 pieces monthly, according to FEBC.

CHRISTIANS, INMATES TEAM TO AID TROUBLED TEENS

WALLKILL, NY (EP)—For the past six months inmates at one of New York state's major maximum security facilities have been laboring in a small print shop, producing a handbook on teenage problems. Edited by the Hutterian Brethren, a pacifist, Christian communal society, the handbook is called, *A Straight Word to Kids and Parents*.

Jeff Rubin, volunteer services supervisor for the Shawangunk Correctional Facility in Wallkill, heard of the Hutterian project in 1986 and offered the prison's print shop for the job of printing 10,000 copies of the booklet. "I saw in that project a unique opportunity to link useful, creative employment with honest restitution to society," explained Rubin.

The finished booklet addresses problems such as substance abuse, teen pregnancy, abortion, sexuality, crime and suicide. The book has been acclaimed by Loren Cunningham, president of Youth With A Mission International (YWAM) for presenting "sound answers for serious problems."

ATHEISTS SUE TEXAS OVER JURY EXCLUSIONS

AUSTIN, TX (EP)—The Society of Separationists, also known as American Atheists, sued the State of Texas, claiming atheists have been systematically excluded from jury duty because they refuse to swear an oath to God.

Madalyn Murray O'Hair, founder and president emerita of the group bringing the suit, said, "There is no need to call upon an imagined god to assist one in civic duties."

The suit charges that the juror's oath, which includes the phrase, "so help me God," violates the constitutional principle of church-state separation. The suit also challenges the application used for prospective jurors because it requires a person who is being summoned to state their religious preference.

O'Hair said she has been summoned as a prospective juror six times in the last decade but has been dismissed as a juror each time. The jury selection process generally excludes people who are considered likely to pre-judge cases.



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

Here's Your Hymnal



Music has always been a part of worship among God's people. Free Will Baptists have been characterized as a singing people. The Psalms can properly be called the hymn book of the Hebrews.

Paul cites the place of music in worship, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19).

Value

Music is more than entertainment, more than emotional expression of feelings, more than an educational medium. Music is part of worship. Through music the word of God can be taught. Music provides a scriptural means for teaching theological truths.

Music also provides a *time* for the entire congregation to participate in worship. Just as giving affords opportunity for all to worship God with tithes and offerings, so congregational singing provides a time for all to worship together.

Music may also be used to *testify* of the mighty works of God. Moses, following the crossing of the Red Sea, burst out in song to praise God. The song of Moses appears in Exodus 15:1-2, after he viewed the great work which the Lord did.

Thus we conclude that music has value for it affords a time for worship, provides a time for teaching the Word and a timeless testimony of the works of God.

Variety

To meet the needs of people, music must have variety. Sameness is not

necessary for music to be spiritual or scriptural, since the musical tastes of people vary. This must be considered when planning music programs for local churches or denominational gatherings.

Variety in music means that some songs emphasize theological doctrines. Other songs can be testimonials, and still others can express thanksgiving. The variety needed includes a difference in style and content.

Variety in any music program can be justified by the scriptures. For example Paul speaks of singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. This suggests variety. Good music programs include the breadth, balance and blends of musical tastes which acknowledge the diversity, affirm the doctrines and accent the distinctiveness of that group.

Vehicle

Music must have a vehicle. *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* (1988), is that vehicle designed to meet the musical tastes of Free Will Baptists.

Remember December 6. That's National Hymn Book Sunday, the day when thousands of Free Will Baptists will sing from our new hymn book for the first time. We want every church to participate in the celebration.

Secretary's Schedule

Nov. 5-7 Alabama State Association
Nov. 9-11 Tennessee State Association
Nov. 12-14 Georgia State Association
Nov. 15-18 Fellowship FWB Church
Albany, Ga.

Let me suggest four simple things you can do. First, *browse* the book. This hymn book was compiled and organized by Free Will Baptists for use in our churches. It fits our people and our worship styles better than any other hymnal on the market today. But don't take my word. Get a copy and see for yourself.

Second, *buy* the book. The price is \$7.98. Randall House Publications serves as distributor. Brochures are available from the Executive Office. Each family could buy two books—one for the church and one for personal use. Every Free Will Baptist needs a copy.

Third, *bring* the book to church December 6 and participate in the denomination-wide celebration and dedication of *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* (1988). Don't miss this milestone among Free Will Baptists. Rally with us as we unite our hearts, heads and hands in extending the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Many significant days have been observed by Free Will Baptists but none will have more lasting influence than December 6, 1987, when we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving for the great things God has done for us.

Fourth, allow God to *bless* through the book. As a participant in the hymn selection process, I was continually blessed by the texts and tunes, by the eternal truths which echoed throughout the songs. The hymn book committee presents this work with the prayer that it will glorify God and encourage God's people.

I bought my book. Will you? See you in church on December 6. Bring your new hymn book!

CONTACT

P. O. Box 1088

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee



November is National Home Missions Month

YOUR GIFTS HELP MAKE POSSIBLE:

1. A total of 60 Home Missions families working to establish Free Will Baptist churches and win people to Christ.
2. The support of 20 national workers in Mexico building Free Will Baptist churches, operating a Bible Institute and winning Mexican people to Christ.
3. A Division of Evangelism which sponsors over 30 Revival Time Conferences on Evangelism and Church Growth yearly, the printing of soul winning and church growth materials, plus sponsoring Roll Call Sunday.
4. The ministry of eight chaplains in the armed forces, plus many services and materials provided to assist Free Will Baptist pastors and people in building soul winning churches to evangelize a lost world.

We challenge your church to give a special offering, and you as individuals to give a sacrificial offering on National Home Missions Sunday. These gifts will help build Free Will Baptist churches in the North American continent and U.S.A.-owned islands.

November 22: National Home Missions Sunday

**NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT
P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202**