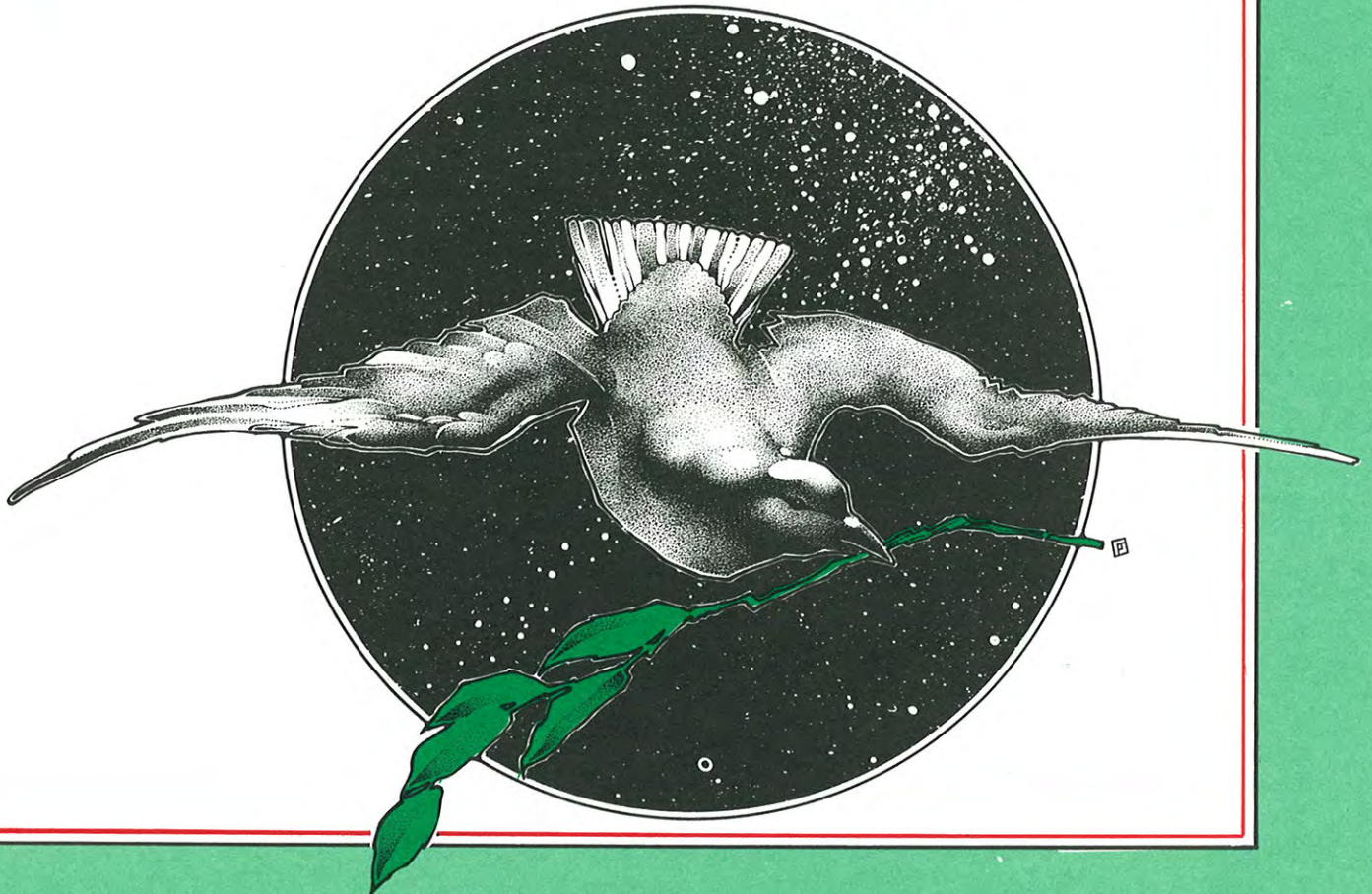


December 1987

# C ntact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

## The King of Christmas- The Prince of Peace



# The King of Christmas

By David Copeland



**T**he Gospel of Matthew is often referred to as the Gospel of the King. Chapter two describes the birth of Christ.

Surrounding the Advent of Christ we meet individuals with varied responses to the news of Christ's birth. Their responses illustrate the many different ways that people respond to the message of Christ and His birth today.

Consider King Herod. He had no natural claims, because, although king of the Jews, he wasn't a full Jew. He was the puppet king appointed by Rome to rule Judea. He had been in power about 34 years when Christ was born.

Herod was known for his ruthless cruelty and for his insane jealousy over those he considered a threat to his posi-

tion as king. His jealousy led him to eliminate all actual or possible candidates for the throne. He killed five Maccabean princes and princesses, including his favorite wife Mariamne and his two sons borne by her. He saw Christ as yet another threat to his dominion.

Is this not a picture of many today? Within the heart of every person is a throne and upon that throne each person sits with his own set of values. his own plans for his life and his own ambitions and desires. Men see Christ as a threat to their dominion.

When a person accepts Christ, he must accept Him as Lord and Savior. To accept Christ he must turn the throne of his heart and life over to Christ. That

means accepting Christ's set of values, His plans, and His ambitions and desires.

**L**ike Herod, some seek to destroy the competition. They try to destroy the King of Christmas by perverting the message of Christmas. Generally speaking, one would never learn the true meaning of Christmas from the mass media.

On a recent tv program the question was asked, "What is Christmas about?" The answer followed that Christmas was a celebration of the birth of Jesus, who was a *good man*, and he went about teaching and doing good. Close, but not good enough. It's tragic, but at this time of year it's rare to find the clear, true message of Christmas.

**O**thers try to destroy the competition by preventing the Christmas message from being proclaimed. Just read the newspaper. Many lawsuits are filed every year at this time because a nativity scene is located on public property or some Christmas carols such as "Away in a Manger" or "Silent Night" is sung in a public school assembly.

Let us as believers be encouraged by the fact that while these people, like Herod, try to thwart God's plan, we all know that God's plan cannot be stopped. They may attempt to pervert and prevent the message of Jesus' birth, but be assured that as long as there's life on this earth the true meaning of Christmas will be proclaimed.

**A**nother group in the Christmas story is the chief priests and scribes. These men had made a lifetime commitment to study the scriptures. It's to them that Herod turned to inquire about the birthplace of Christ. These experts in the Law quoted Micah 5:2 and declared that the Messiah's birth would take place in Bethlehem.

Tragically, the record never reveals whether they investigated the Wise Men's claims that the King of the Jews had been born. These men who knew what God said concerning Christ and who had pointed others to the Savior never traveled the five-mile journey from Jerusalem to Bethlehem to worship Him themselves. They were but blind guides. "Their religion was a lifeless theology, a dead orthodoxy." They knew the scripture, but did not know the Savior.

If you ask people to give you the Christmas story details, most could do

it. But if you ask people if they personally know the Christ of the story, most would have to say that they do not. As Christians, let us be careful this season to do more than present the Christmas story. Let's include the *Christ* of the Christmas story to those around us.

**M**atthew's Gospel brings out another thought concerning the scribes. It tells us that Christ received homage from the Magi who were Gentiles, while at the same time Christ was ignored by His own people the Jews, in particular the scribes.

As God's people, we too can be guilty of ignoring Christ during this holy season. How? By allowing Christ and the message of Christmas to get lost in the tinsel and jingle, the hustle and bustle that accompanies Christmas.

This season don't wait until Sunday before Christmas when you flop down on a pew and breathe a sigh of exhaustion from all your running, to contemplate the story of God becoming man in order to save His people from their sins.

Slow down and understand that the child Mary rocked in her arms held the world in Her hands. Slow down; meditate on the message of Christmas, and then worship the King of Christmas!

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend David Copeland pastors Chapel Lane Free Will Baptist Church, Searcy, Arkansas.*

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## The Wrapping Paper's Story

By M. J. Pritchard

Right now it's Christmas morning,  
Here's the children from their beds.  
They're ripping me to pieces  
And tearing me to shreds.

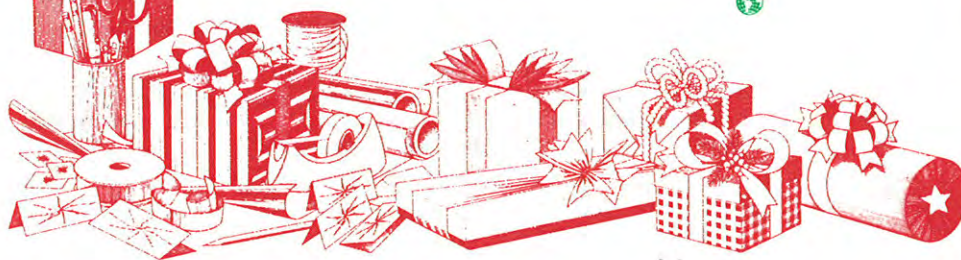
And now they're opening boxes  
And trying hard to peep  
Inside and see what's in them.  
I'm in a great big heap.

They've forgotten our dear Jesus  
Who was born on Christmas morn.  
And just a few years later,  
His body, pierced and torn,

Was hanging on a rugged cross,  
There for all to see.  
He was torn and ragged  
And rejected just like me.

I'm here to brighten packages  
Beneath the Christmas tree;  
He came to save the wicked world  
And set the people free.

I have been rejected  
To be ripped and thrown away,  
But don't reject the Jesus  
Who was born on Christmas Day.



## SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

Tax returns due after 1987 must include the social security number of every dependent age five (5) or older.

The penalty for failing to comply will be \$5 for each missing number.

This law is part of the Tax Reform Act passed by Congress in 1986.

Contact your local Social Security office for application forms. Social Security law requires that you furnish evidence of your age, identity, and U. S. citizenship or lawful alien status.

## Directory Update

### ALABAMA

Mark Barber to Eastside Church, Tuscaloosa

Jerry Montgomery to Tabernacle Church, Northport

Harvey Luke to Corinth Church, Midland City from First Church, Auburndale, FL

### ARKANSAS

Everett Keffer to Rose Hill Church, Monticello from Blue Bell Church, Sapulpa, OK

Earl Stapleton to Mt. Vernon Church, Russellville from Ranger Church, Danville  
Arlie Atchley to Ranger Church, Danville

### MICHIGAN

David Kirby to West Wayne Church, Wayne from First Church, Ypsilanti

### MISSOURI

Perry Brake to Hannon Church, Liberal  
Gary Elder to First Church, Monett  
Fred Harris to Merle's Chapel Church, Cassville

Gary Parker to First Church, Waynesville  
Mike Turner to Belton Church, Belton  
George Nooman to Myrtle Church, Myrtle

### OKLAHOMA

Reece Murray to Central Church, Muskogee

Willard Kiper to Hawkins Church, Alex  
Rex Hendrickson to Valley Heights Church, Salina

Melvin Moon to Grace Church, Oklahoma City

### TEXAS

Greg Rucher to Lubbock Church, Lubbock

Richard Rust to Faith Church, Wichita Falls

Richard Wright to Cross Church, Iola  
James Marecle to First Church, Waco  
Raymond Getz to First Church, McAllen  
Roger Yates to Trinity Church, Arcadia  
Arnold Shrewsbury to First Church, Carthage

Larry Monday to Faith Church, Nacogdoches

Harold Teague to Union Arbor Church, Beckville

Leroy Anderson to Youngblood Church, Beckville

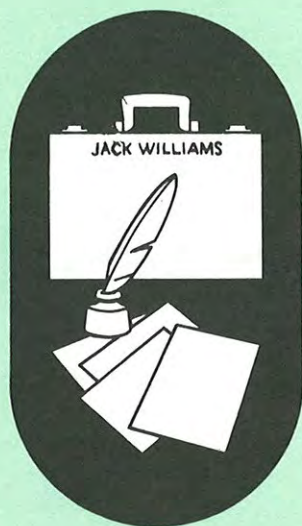
Stephen Hutchinson to Zion Church, Corpus Christi

Kenneth Brandon to Chapel Hill Church, Brownwood

### OTHER PERSONNEL

Dean Stone to Donelson Church, Nashville, TN, as minister of church growth

Randy Hill to Ambassador Church, Cincinnati, OH, as minister of music and youth from East Nashville Church, Nashville, TN



# Stressed for the Holidays

**Ed** Dayton wrote in one of his witty columns that stress adds spice to life. Hmmm. Ed must've penned that just after an IRS auditor apologized for questioning his green fees as tax deductions.

For the rest of us, stress—especially holiday stress—can get a mite too spicy between Thanksgiving and New Year's. You never know when that next stress test may pounce.

**"Now look, Son,** I know your grandmother sent you the money. But if you buy those canary pants with seven zippers, I'll lock you in the hall closet until you're 37."

"Honey, it don't matter what you promised the program chairman. I ain't wearing that donkey suit again. I'm not carrying Baby Anybody to Egypt this year."

"Pastor, if we rehearse for the cantata one more Saturday, I'll strangle the choir director and tell his wife the CIA sent him to Pago Pago."

Any of this sound familiar? Still say it doesn't bother you? Bite your tongue! Holiday stress is here to stay; we might as well find a way to live with it.

**Plan ahead.** Put one sane adult in charge of buying batteries the week before Christmas. Kids never forget when the talking doll shows up but the size "C" batteries don't.

Stress test number two. Hire an engineer. You guessed it—somebody's gotta assemble Freddy's unassembled bicycle at 2:00 a.m. Christmas morning.

It's really not that difficult. And when you're finished, hide the extra parts behind the lawn mower.

Appoint an official guardian of the treasure list. You know, the list you made a year ago that tells where Billy stashed the icicles, where Molly hid the electric lights and where you put the box containing the disassembled Christmas tree. You can find it, can't you? You did make that list?

Better prepare for that inevitable question, "Can Ralph come over and play his drum?" Or, "But, Mom, it's Christmas. Do we gotta go to church?"

Most of it's simple generic holiday stress. Nevertheless, some stress is as unique as you. No need for a long list, since you're the only guy in town whose next door neighbor keeps a herd of reindeer in his front yard.

**Face the facts.** It's a stress point with me that I've never attended, pastored or visited the church where absent members all go for the holidays. When I pastored in Arkansas, they went to Missouri. When I lived in California, they drove to Oklahoma. Now I'm in Tennessee, and everybody but me goes to Ohio in December. There's bound to be a church somewhere with 10,000 cars in the parking lot on the Sunday before Christmas.

Some mothers tell me that holiday cooking for the big crowd throws them into stress arrest. Others whisper that they've got nobody to cook for anymore, and it crushes their spirits. Wish we could get the crowds and cooks together.

Many of us get stressed out at merchants who steal Christmas from the Church. On the other hand, perhaps if we were as sold on our product as Sears and K-Mart, we'd do a better job taking it to the streets.

**Accept yourself.** Don't be a victim of holiday stress. You can cope with the changes, the pressures. There's help available.

Don't expect quick-fix, no-hassle solutions to every problem. The reason you don't feel like a starry-eyed kid on Christmas morning is because you're not. Aren't you glad!

Okay, so some of the Christmas mystique disappeared with elves and a certain chubby chap. Replace the mystique with solid truth that gives you more than shiny tinsel. The Christmas experience that makes a child bubble may draw nothing more than a tired smile from an adult. Welcome to the real world.

You've changed. Your world has changed. The people you know have changed. Why fight it? Move through it unafraid. You'll discover the unchanging God and His changeless Word waiting to stabilize you.

**Reward yourself.** Maybe Ed Dayton was right. Problems do give meaning to life. One thing's for sure, you can reward yourself with the knowledge that the most well-balanced person on earth cannot boast of a trouble-free, unstressed life.

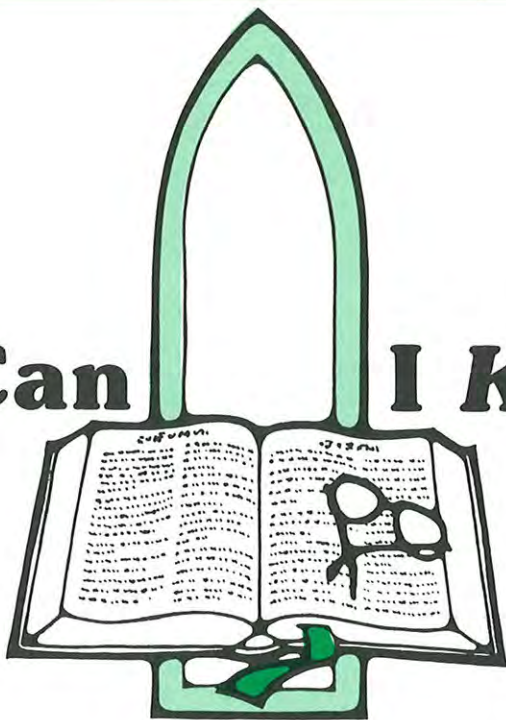
Congratulations. You're normal. For some reason God chose not to remove the problems of the world. That's especially true for Christians.

Keep searching. Keep questioning. Keep reading. Keep growing. You have every reason to stare down holiday stress. God loves you in spite of all He knows about you. Your friends love you because you walk where they walk. Your family loves you just because you exist.

**Remember, for you** a star appeared in the East. A Child was born. Angels sang. God kept His promise. The Holy Spirit came. The Church prevailed. Somebody explained it. And you believed it.

Now, if you're still wobbly with holiday blues after all this, here's one final suggestion: Belt out a hearty, "Bah, Humbug!" and wait for Monday.

# How Can I Know God?



By Harold Critcher

Several months ago I got a jolt like nothing I had ever experienced in my walk with the Lord. The Lord pierced my complacent heart with an accusation: "For years you have been putting a ministry ahead of Me, and what I really want you to do is to seek Me."

When He first spoke, I was startled. But I soon admitted it was true as the Holy Spirit began tearing down my defensive walls. I wept when I realized how I had neglected the Lord.

For years I had gone through the motion of Bible study (often getting excited over new discoveries) and prayer and regular meetings with other believers. But spending hours seeking God was a discipline designed for believers with more time than I could possibly spare—or so I thought.

God spun me around and told me to line up my priorities with His and to rediscover *who He is*.

One of the ways God reveals Himself to us is through His names. His names reveal who He is and how He deals with us.

"God is the incomprehensible One," says Louis Berkhof, "infinitely exalted above all that is temporal; but in His names He descends to all that is finite and becomes like unto man."

Names in biblical times usually described the character of the one who bore them.

Throughout scripture God uses His names to reveal His character—who He really is and what He desires to do in us and for us. Our response to Him is based on our concept of who He is. We trust Him in proportion to how well we know Him.

When we know God's name, we know Him.

"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee; for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee" (Psalm 9:10).

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Proverbs 18:10).

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God" (Psalm 20:7).

These verses underscore for us the importance of the name of the Lord. The word, "trust," in Psalm 20:7 means "to have confidence in."

The psalmist tells us to trust in God, not in material things we can see. Let's take a look at some of these names.

## ELOHIM

Genesis one uses the name *Elohim* repeatedly. This is the name for the Creator, the triune God, and comes from the word *el* meaning lord, mighty or powerful.

The many uses of this name establish who He is. He is the Mighty Crea-

tor of this universe. It is important that we see God as Mighty Creator.

## JEHOVAH-ELOHIM

Genesis two shows the emerging of compound names of God. The compound name appearing here is *Jehovah-Elohim*. How fitting for God to reveal Himself as *Jehovah-Elohim* when man comes on the scene.

*Jehovah* is the redemptive God. God wants man to see from the beginning that He is the God who redeems. He is the Creator-Redeemer in whom we can put our confidence.

## EL-ELYON

In Genesis 14 God reveals Himself as *El Elyon*—"the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth." This passage often is used to emphasize tithing. However, it is significant that verses 18-20, 22 have the designation "the most high God." Here we see God as Sovereign Ruler of the universe. He blesses Abram and delivers his enemies into his hand.

The Most High God still rules over the affairs of men. We need to recognize His rulership and worship Him for who He is.

## EL-SHADDAI

In Genesis 17 God reveals Himself as *El Shaddai*, the Nourisher, the All-Sufficient One, the Satisfier. This name

means “possessing all power” and emphasizes the greatness of God.

Abraham was 99 years old at the time, waiting for God to fulfill His promise. God came to him with a great revelation. If anyone ever needed to know God as the All-Sufficient One, it was Abraham.

The Hebrew word *shad* is often used to designate a nursing woman’s breast. The baby gets nourishment and is satisfied by the mother’s feeding. Researchers tell us that human milk is the best for babies. God told us this news thousands of years ago.

Our best nourishment and our only satisfaction comes from *El Shaddai*, just as Abraham’s did. Trust Him because of who He is.

### EL ROI

When a significant word is mentioned for the first time in the scriptures, the principles surrounding that word hold true throughout the rest of scripture. These are first-time revelations of God’s character and nature.

Sara had cast her arrogant handmaiden Hagar into the wilderness (see Genesis 16) when God revealed Himself to this rejected Egyptian woman as *El Roi*, “the strong God who sees.” Hagar desperately needed the strong God who saw her predicament. Perhaps you do too.

## **JEHOVAH**

Jehovah is God’s most common name. It refers to the Self-Existent One, the God of the covenant (Genesis 2:4). Nine compound names of Jehovah are used; let’s examine them.

### JEHOVAH-JIREH

A new revelation of God appears in Genesis 22, another of God’s compound names. “God will provide . . .” (Genesis 22:8, 13-14). This is the meaning of *Jehovah-jireh*.

Here we see a father offering his son on Mount Moriah. Later Solomon built the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah (II Chronicles 3:1). Down through the ages the temple sacrifices would repeat Abraham’s words, “The Lord will provide.”

At the appointed time in history God provided a lamb from heaven for the sins of the world. This lamb was the only provision of Jehovah-jireh. God provided. We need to often remind ourselves that “God is our provider.”

God still provides for His own. He provided a lamb and He provides our daily needs. We are instructed to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11).

Lay your “Isaac” on the altar. Worship God in obedience knowing that whatever you need, “in the mount of the Lord it will be provided.”

### JEHOVAH-NISSI

“And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it *Jehovah-nissi*” (Exodus 17:15). This event marked Israel’s first victory after being delivered from Egyptian bondage.

The Lord is our victory. We can depend on His victory because His character is behind every promise.

### JEHOVAH-RAPHA

In Exodus 15:26 God reveals Himself in still another way to His children: “I am the Lord that healeth thee.” This time He reveals Himself as *Jehovah-rapha*. “Rapha” means “heal.”

Psalms 103:3 declares He is the One “who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.” This is who God says He is and also what He will do.

When we are hurting and in need of physical healing, emotional healing and other kinds of healing, we need to come to Jehovah-rapha, the God who heals us. We must always remember that God is the Healer, not man.



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Reverend Harold Critcher is the director of Family Ministries, Inc. in Nashville, Tennessee, an organization that ministers through marriage enrichment seminars and counseling. He is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church.

### JEHOVAH-MEKODDISHKEM

For the first time, God, in Exodus 31:12-18, said to His people: “Verily, my sabbaths ye shall keep; for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.”

In this passage we have the revelation of *Jehovah-mekoddishkem*, the compound name of God which means, “the Lord sanctifieth thee.” Here we see the purpose and command of the sabbath. God would make the children of Israel holy and then set them apart unto Himself.

We must always remember we are sanctified by Him. We tend to overlook the purpose of our redemption: we are redeemed to be made holy for Him. We are not redeemed just to miss hell.

Notice the extreme punishment for those who did not observe the sabbath (Exodus 31:14-15). Those who profaned the sabbath would surely be put to death.

### JEHOVAH-SABAOTH

Another name appears in I Samuel. It is *Jehovah-sabaoth*, “the Lord of hosts.” The Lord of Hosts refers to the captain of heaven’s armies.

Strong’s concordance says sabaoth is “a mass of people or things, such as an army.” The word refers to a host of angels or heavenly bodies, a celestial army, or to all that the earth contains.

Hannah used this name of God when praying for a son (I Samuel 1:6-11). Another use of the name occurs when David faced the Philistine giant (I Samuel 17:42-47). David told Goliath, “I come to you in the name of Jehovah-sabaoth”—the Lord of hosts.

It is significant that both Hannah and David found deliverance in calling upon the name of the Lord of Hosts. This is another way in which God has revealed Himself.

Whatever the problem we are facing, we should use this name of God. His name is a strong tower. “The righteous runneth into it, and is safe” (Proverbs 18:10).

### JEHOVAH-ROHI

The Psalmist declared, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1). *Jehovah-Rohi* (*Raah*) means “the Lord is my shepherd.” How comforting to know our Shepherd cares and provides for us.  
(continued on page 9)

# Merry Christmas

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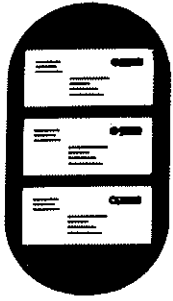
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## OUR READERS COMMENT

### WHAT A NICE READER!

I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy reading *Contact*. What a super job all of you are doing! Of course we all have our favorite articles and sections, and I have mine, also. I can't wait each month to read "Briefcase."

I never read "On Little Lanes" until a lady wrote in saying that she read those stories to her Sunday School class. What a great idea! I started doing the same thing in my 5th grade class. They enjoy them and are always very attentive when I read them.

Floyd Wolfenbarger's articles always seem so appropriate. It's unfortunate he's not still here to continue writing them.

I could go on and on, but I won't. Just keep up the great work. May God bless you all.

Mr. Gary C. Curry  
Ada, Oklahoma

### MAGAZINE 'MUST' READING

I am editor of our company monthly newspaper, *Heritage Happenings*. I would like to use the

verse and possibly a similar illustration that you used in December 1986 as a holiday greeting. I understand that this was likely a creation of your own, possibly a combination of several clip-art pieces. I thought the verse was so touching and truly appropriate feelings for the season.

*Contact* is a must in our household, as our entire family enjoys reading each issue.

Sandra Calvert, Editor  
*Heritage Happenings*  
Belmont, North Carolina

### 'YOU NEED CONTACT' CAMPAIGN

We just completed a brief "You Need *Contact*" campaign in Bellview Free Will Baptist Church and are happy to include with this letter the names and addresses of 10 new or renewed subscriptions.

Thank you and your staff for your continuing excellence in *Contact*. It improves with age and we look forward to each and every issue.

Our prayers are with you in this important ministry.

Reverend Damon C. Dodd  
Interim Pastor  
Bellview Free Will Baptist Church  
Colquitt, Georgia

### A LOT FOR A LITTLE

One of the pastors in Springfield mentioned that he read an article in the October issue. He said if he would follow the article's suggestions he knew it would help him and his wife. Maybe this will be multiplied.

I always enjoy *Contact*. It offers a lot for a little cost.

No one knows, except the editor, the amount of energy that goes into the preparation of a magazine.

Reverend Clarence Burton  
Executive Secretary  
Missouri State Association  
of Free Will Baptists

### EX-OKIE LIKES EDITORIAL

The October "Briefcase" was delightful and insightful.

As a former Oklahoman I could appreciate the setting. As a fellow editor I could identify with the message.

You have a keen eye for observing truth, a developed sense of survival and a knack for turning a clever phrase on your word processor. Thanks for brightening my day.

Leland Webb, Editor  
*The Commission*  
Foreign Mission Board  
Southern Baptist Convention

### PREACHER'S DAUGHTER WRITES

Bravo to you! You said some things in the September "Briefcase" that I've been thinking for the last few months. The piece as a whole was good, but the line that hit home with me was "The generation that rejects the ministry for whatever reason—fear or pressure—wanders without shepherds in a land of wolves."

I've been concerned about my generation—the so-called Yuppy generation. The obsession to succeed by worldly standards has taken over the desire to strive for spiritual maturity.

Do parents really care more about their child's financial future than their spiritual future? Years ago mothers were proud to have a son answer the call to preach. It was an honor, not an embarrassment.

Life in a parsonage wasn't unkind to me. I cherish the memories. Because my father is a minister I have met missionaries, evangelists, college groups, denominational leaders and hundreds of other people. I wouldn't have had these opportunities if he had not been a preacher.

Mrs. Verla Fletcher  
Fresno, California

## Know God . . . (from page 7)

### JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU

*Jehovah-Tsidkenu* means "the Lord our righteousness" (Jeremiah 23:6). Our works do not make us righteous. The Lord is indeed our righteousness. We should often thank Him because He is our righteousness.

### JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH

From bondage in Egypt to captivity in Babylon, the Israelites had to learn painfully and slowly some vital lessons. Through the dark clouds of captivity in Babylon, God broke through with, "I am the Lord who is there."

*Jehovah-shammah* is seen in the last verse of the book of Ezekiel and refers to Jerusalem. God promised His people He would be there. This word of encouragement gave hope to the discouraged captives.

Today God is *Jehovah-shammah* to all who have believed on His name, for

He indwells every believer. God is present. What a blessed promise—"I will be with you always. . . ."

Jesus demonstrated the character of the Father when He came to earth. "I have manifested thy name . . ." (John 17:6a). And in verse 26 of the same chapter, He prayed, "I have declared unto them thy name. . . ."

God revealed Himself to us in His names—not to satisfy our curiosity, but to reveal who He is and how He deals with us.

How can I really know God?

*By seeking Him with all my heart.*

And one of the ways I can seek Him is learning who He is and allowing Him to become to me all He desires to become.

The joy of discovering who God is, is without doubt the greatest joy in the Christian life. I can really know God—as I study His character and let Him be in my life and in my situations all He claims to be.

**You support your state  
university  
with your taxes.**



**How do you support your  
Bible College?**



FREE WILL BAPTIST

# newsfront

## 'ROCK' REVIVAL NETS 40 DECISIONS, STIRS IRE

URBANA, OH—A controversial four-day seminar and multi-media presentation on rock music resulted in newspaper headlines, record burnings and 40 public decisions at Urbana FWB Church, according to Pastor Roger Childers. Ohio-based evangelist John Muncy triggered the events with his September 13-16 seminar which exposed the evils of rock music.

Even though Pastor Childers called the meeting "the greatest spiritual revival our church has ever had," the Wednesday evening finale ended up "for members only" because of threatening phone calls and harassment of church members at their places of employment.

One member, Ron Horsley, burned a collection of Elvis Presley records that had been in storage for 13 years "as an example to his son." Horsley had been offered \$150 for the collection earlier that week. Others burned records by Run DMC, the Beastie Boys and more.

Steven Thornburg, church youth director, said about 17 teens had a Saturday night hot dog roast and then burned three 55-gallon drums full of records, tapes and books. Thornburg said the records were country and western and rock music, along with some romance books that members brought in.

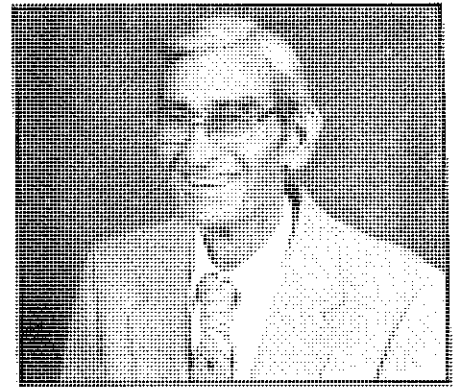
Pastor Childers said, "I don't see this as censorship because no one is telling them, 'You have to break your records.' These are people's possessions and they have a right to do with them as they please." He said he expects long-lasting awareness by church members of the negative side of the music industry because of the seminar.

## DR. JAMES HUCKS, 84, WITH THE LORD

CONWAY, SC—Dr. James Arthur Cranston Hucks, a Free Will Baptist minister for 50 years, died July 27. Funeral services were conducted July 29 at Oak Grove FWB Church, Conway. Pastors Roger Johnson (Oak Grove Church) and Jacky Godwin (Beaver Dam FWB Church, Clarendon, N.C.), and Evangelist Wade Jernigan officiated.

Brother Hucks, 84, born May 4, 1903, in Marion County, South Carolina, answered the call to preach in 1936 and pastored 12 churches in North and South Carolina during his 50-year ministry. His longest pastorate was 37 years at Beaver Dam FWB Church. When he retired from Beaver Dam Church in 1978, Sunday School attendance averaged 600.

Reverend Hucks led in organizing South Carolina's Central Association in 1949 where he served as moderator and member of the ordaining council for many years. He was also active in organizing the South Carolina State



Association and the Free Will Baptist Children's Home at Turbeville, S.C.

Brother Hucks and the late Reverend Malcolm Harrelson teamed to organize two churches—Mount Trolley FWB Church, Galivants Ferry, S.C., and White Savannah FWB Church in Conway.

Reverend Hucks is survived by his wife of 62 years, Hattie Jordan Hucks; 11 children; 43 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

## BREEDEN RESIGNS BIBLE COLLEGE STAFF

NASHVILLE, TN—Frank Breeden, director of student support for Free Will Baptist Bible College, resigned in October. The decision came "after much prayer, careful consideration and thought," he says. Breeden left the college to become director of church choral music marketing for Lexicon-Spectra Music Company of Nashville.

The Office of Student Support opened in January 1986, with Mr. Breeden as its first director. He also directed the Bible College's new \$3 million "Pass The Torch" campaign. He began his affiliation with the college, working as public relations assistant with the late Paul Kettelman, after graduating from FWBBC in 1978.

Mr. Breeden expressed his appreciation for the Bible College and for the confidence of President Thigpen during his time of service. "I pledge my friendship to this institution and will do what I can to lift her name high as I minister to the broader church in my new ministry," he said in his letter of resignation.

President Thigpen said, "I am grateful for the more than 10 years that Frank Breeden has been a part of the Public Relations team of the college." He went on to say, "He has traveled thousands of miles and conducted hundreds of services for the college. He has laid a good foundation for the 'Pass The Torch' campaign. I am confident that all of us here and our many friends will carry it through to victory."

## HILLSDALE ENROLLS 125 STUDENTS, ADDS TWO STAFFERS

MOORE, OK—Hillsdale FWB College enrolled 125 students for the fall semester, according to the Fall 1987 issue of *Insight*, the school's quarterly publication. The students came from 12 states and eight foreign countries. Sixty-eight students came from Oklahoma.

The college also added Wesley and Glenda Bigelow to the staff as dean of men and dean of women. The Bigelows assumed their new duties in August. They are graduates of Hillsdale College (Associate of Arts) and Free Will Baptist Bible College (Bachelor of Arts).

Reverend Bigelow has served as associate pastor at Fellowship FWB Church, Bryan, Texas; Farmington FWB Church, Farmington, Mo.; and Monett FWB Church, Monett, Mo. Mrs. Bigelow has taught kindergarten and third grade for 11 years in Christian schools.

*Insight* editor Richard Terry said, "Wes and Glenda have had a burden for the last several years for the students on campus regarding their spiritual well-being and preparation for the future."

**First FWB Church, Morehead City, NC**, honored Mrs. **Ruby Barker** for 38 years of service. For 35 years Mrs. Barker taught the Primary Sunday School Class. She's the mother of FWB missionary Molly Barker. **Mance Cason** pastors.

Three speakers highlighted the November 9-11 missionary conference at **Hillsdale FWB College, Moore, OK**. Speakers included **Robert Bryan** from Ivory Coast, **Jerry Banks** from Japan, and **Bob Lewis** from Colorado.

Pastor **John Smith** said attendance surged 133 percent in the past year at **Village Chapel FWB Church, Ceres, CA**. Sunday School attendance rose from 52 to 121.

More than 500 people gathered at **Grace FWB Church, Greenville, NC**, for dedication services. Former National Association Moderator **Bobby Jackson** brought the morning and evening messages. Pastor **Ed Walker** said the 25,000-square-foot facility includes a 500-seat sanctuary with a glass dome. The church received 33 new members this past year.

Members of **Gateway FWB Church, Norfolk, VA**, sent Pastor and Mrs. **Dale Burden** on an all-expenses-paid two-day vacation to Williamsburg in order to celebrate his 22nd year as pastor. Approximately 50 people present on Burden's first Sunday in 1965 were also present at the September anniversary Sunday.

**Good Springs FWB Church, Pleasant View, TN**, sponsored a three-generation Bible conference in October featuring six members of the **Riggs** family as speakers. Speakers included **Raymond, Dwight, Ken, Steve, Kevin** and **Charles. Randall Riggs** pastors.

Meanwhile, at **First Bible FWB Church, New Castle, IN**, Pastor **Jim Mullen** planned a three-brother anniversary celebration featuring **Ronald, J. M.** and **L. D. Creech** at the church's 80th anniversary celebration. L. D. Creech was unable to attend because of illness.

Pastor **A. A. Sovine** reports 35 conversions at **Valley View FWB Church, Hurricane, WV**.

Pastor **Jim Spurlock** said that members at **Victory FWB Church, Springdale, AR**, conducted a note burning service after paying off indebtedness for a building constructed in 1978. Pastor Spurlock praised the 144 members for their faithfulness in giving. Victory Church was organized in 1967 with 21 charter members.

**Jonathan and Yvonne Thigpen** led the **West Virginia State Sunday School Convention** conducted at **Prince of Peace FWB Church** in **Huntington** this September. Pastor **Martin Corbin** (Calvary FWB Church, Belmont, WV) also spoke during the convention.

Pastor **Earl Hendrix** told **First FWB Church, Inman, SC**, that he needed 50 members who would sacrifice above their tithes and give \$200 toward a \$10,000 miracle offering in order to pay off classroom indebtedness.

Free Will Baptist churches in the state of **Washington** conducted a family camp at Camp Koinonia in August. The family camp registered 35 guests. Officials said the 1988 conference will be planned by the Evergreen (Washington churches) Conference Christian Education Board.

Pastor **Mike Mutchler** reports 40 conversions at **Grand View FWB Church, Oregon City, Oregon**.

Members at **First FWB Church, Yakima, WA**, purchased a new copy machine and a 15-passenger van. **Terry Stafford** pastors.

Pastor **Lloyd Plunkett** said, "During September our property actually became ours! We are now anticipating a building of our own." Plunkett's remarks were made regarding **New Hope FWB Church, Kent, WA**.

Twentieth anniversary festivities at **Hollywood FWB Church, Hollywood, FL**, also included dedication of a new church this year. Pastor **Larry Montgomery** said the church scheduled three celebration services over the weekend of September 12-13. **Kevin Riggs** spoke Saturday evening in a celebration of music. **Wilford Cathey** spoke Sunday morning at the dedication. Former pastor **John Gilliland** spoke Sunday afternoon at homecoming. The afternoon session also included a baptismal service.

The **St. Francois District Association** Missions Conference in **Missouri** featured five foreign and home missionaries. Pastor **Charles Miller** of **First FWB Church, Desoto, MO**, said the Sunday night missions offering at his church topped \$2,000.

Members of **Black Oak FWB Church, Marshfield, MO**, helped Pastor and Mrs. **Jack Day** celebrate 18 years of ministry at the church with a special pastor appreciation week. The week-long activities included flowers, a card shower, phone calls, a love offering, local newspaper coverage, and a huge banner telling the preacher how much the church loved him. During Brother Day's

ministry at Black Oak Church, attendance has risen from 10 to 126.

Pastor **Carl Vallance** said the Master's Men Chapter at **Central FWB Church, Huntington, WV**, voted to raise \$1,000 for Master's Men general fund in Nashville.

Contact welcomes *Love Notes*, publication of **First FWB Church, Duncanville, TX**. **David Sutton** pastors.

Members of **Cordova FWB Church, Cordova, AL**, celebrated 61 years of ministry in the community. Pastor **Jerry White** said the church recognized Deacon **Earl Richardson** for 51 years of service, Deacons **Wesley Carter** and **Jessie Ryland** for 43 years of service, and **Lovelle Short** for 51 years leadership in the music area.

Members of **North Side FWB Church, Pocahtontas, AR**, built a ramp to aid the elderly as they enter the church, according to pastor **Melvin Shelton**.

Each year members of **Urbana FWB Church, Urbana, OH**, participate in \$100 Sunday. Pastor **Roger Childers** says that one Sunday a year he asks people to give \$100 above their regular offering. This year 17 people gave \$100 above their regular gift. The total day's offering exceeded \$3,100.

Pastor **J. B. Chism** celebrated 20 years at **New Home FWB Church, Tulsa, OK**.

Pastor **Victor Cook** of **Hopewell FWB Church, Kenefic, OK**, reports seven conversions and six new members.

Pastor **Allen Wood** and members of **First FWB Church, Seminole, OK**, conducted dedication services for a new building. Pastor Wood said the new church is located one mile north of Seminole Junior College.

Pastor **Kenneth Edwards** reports 15 conversions and 15 baptisms at **Harmony FWB Church, West Frankfort, IL**.

Members welcomed six new additions to **Webbs Prairie FWB Church, Ewing, IL**. **Randy Clem** pastors.

Some 38 people were present for the first anniversary service at **Amador FWB Mission** in **Pioneer, CA**. **John Hibbard** pastors.

Members of **Butterfield FWB Church, Aurora, IL**, celebrated their 25th anniversary, according to Pastor **J. Reford Wilson**. Illinois promotional director **David Shores** spoke during anniversary activities.

Pastor **Allen Moore** reports Sunday School attendance averaging 150 at **North McAlester FWB Church, McAlester, OK**.



Herman L. Hersey  
Director

## Board of Retirement *AT YOUR SERVICE*



# Ministry with the Elderly

## Part II

### Do You Qualify?

■ Do you have the right attitude toward aging?

Do you see aging as a common human experience, not a disease?

■ Are you able to face your own aging and mortality?

Do you view yourself as just a "passer-by" along with everyone else?

■ Do you really listen?

Can you patiently listen and refrain from interrupting? Can you pay attention without thinking and planning what you will say next? Are you sensitive to what someone is really saying?

■ Do you lovingly accept people as they are?

Do expressions of bitterness, selfishness, anger, irritation or complaints disturb you? Are you prepared to help others work through such weaknesses?

■ Do you show affection with ease?

Touch is important for the elderly.

### Practical Guidelines for Visiting

1. Group visitation is not always best. A person to person ministry accomplishes more.

2. Visit each week or a minimum of twice monthly.

3. Set a pre-arranged time for visits and make sure you keep appointments.

4. Limit the length of your visit to about an hour. Longer visits may tire an older person.

5. Use common sense and depend on the Holy Spirit to guide you.

6. Be sensitive to the person's real needs.

7. Show affection. Touch is important.

8. Encourage him or her to reminisce.

9. Let the person you visit lead in the conversation when possible.

10. Really be present. Be a good listener

11. If the older person is able, help him or her to renew or develop hobbies or other interests.

12. Respect confidences.

13. Show the person that growing old is worthwhile.

14. Do not avoid the truth of a person's physical condition. Allow the person to express his or her feelings about death and dying.

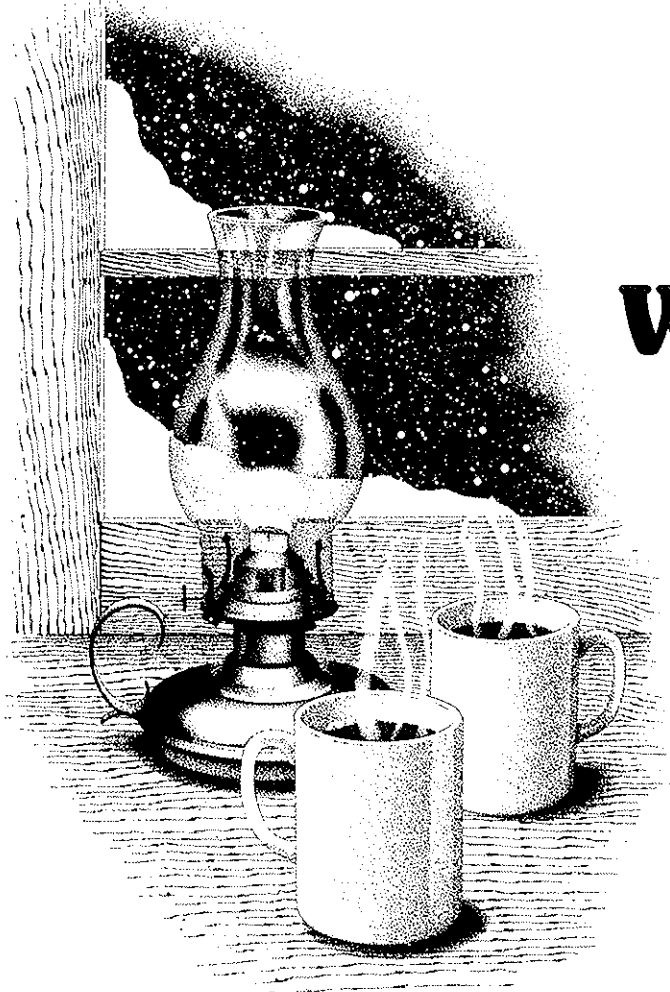
15. Do not avoid the older person's expressions of anger, bitterness, grief, etc. Help him or her to work through such feelings.

16. Share the Word of God. Share Christ with those who have not accepted Him.

17. Help to secure any community helps or services available for the person.

18. Learn from the older person. Grow personally through the relationship.

During this Christmas season, remember retired pastors or missionaries in your area. Perhaps a Sunday School class or CTS group, Master's Men chapter or Woman's Auxiliary can adopt some individuals to begin your church's ministry with the elderly.



# Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisheart

## From My Window

It comes right to you! Have you walked on the beach and noticed that wherever you walk, the light of the sun dances across the waves to you? Like this path of sunlight, God's light shines from the beginning right to us today.

In the beginning God said, "Let there be light," and that light makes a pathway all through the Bible, and all across the centuries to all men.

Time has not diminished the light, nor has the wickedness of men clouded it. It still makes a path from God to us today.

The Light led the Israelites of Egypt. God promised to David "a light to him and to his sons for ever" (II Chronicles 21:7). Isaiah saw the light coming, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined" (Isaiah 9:2).

As the Old Testament began with light, so it closes with the promise of light. "The Sun of righteousness shall arise" (Malachi 4:2).

The wise men from the East followed that star which Balaam prophesied of

in Numbers 24:17: "There shall come a Star out of Jacob."

And then came the wonder of the true Light. Simeon exclaimed when he saw the tiny baby, "A light to lighten the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32). John the Baptist witnessed of that Light, the true Light.

God has called us out of our "darkness into His marvelous light" (I Peter 2:9).

That future city, Revelation declares, has no need of moon nor sun, for the Lamb will light it, the offspring of David, the bright and morning Star.

The path of light from the beginning, to the cradle, to the cross, still comes to us. And the path leads to the Father's heart of love.

## What Happened to the Pre-Christmas Week of Prayer?

Once WNAC had a pre-Christmas week of prayer and an offering for state home mission projects, honoring Mrs. Alice Lupton, first president of WNAC. Since Thanksgiving and Christmas come so close together and the week before Christmas was so hectic for some women, the Convention voted to make

this week of prayer optional to the state conventions. The state conventions set the week to emphasize state home mission efforts.

The offering goes to state mission projects and honors Mrs. Lupton.

Alice Lupton was active in groups called Woman's Home Mission in North Carolina. She also promoted and served in the Free Will Baptist League, the youth organization. She was on the first youth committee established by the General Conference in 1922 and served as an associate editor of the League literature.

She also edited the woman's page in *The Free Will Baptist* for many years.

The time for this third week of prayer is not important. The week of prayer and the special offering are important to helping us reach people for Christ in our own state.

**Eunice Edwards Loan Fund**  
September 30, 1987  
\$4,971.57

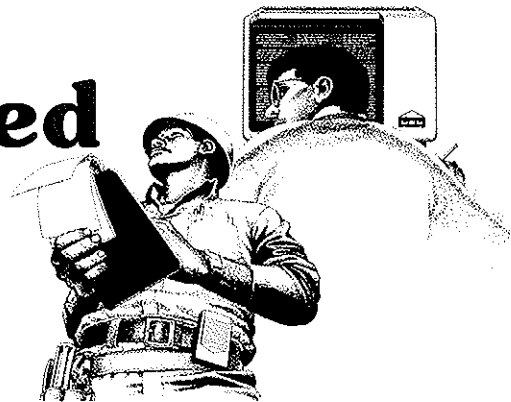
## Coming Next Month

Watch for the 1988 Retreat announcement in the next issue. Plan ahead. Use the reservation form on this page in the January issue and head for Ridgecrest, September 8-10, 1988.



# Tentmakers Needed Abroad

By Don Robirds  
Director of Communications for Foreign Missions



**W**hat is the solution to the constantly escalating costs in world missions today? And how do we keep up a witness in India when Carlisle and Marie Hanna can no longer return and the government says "no more missionaries"?

Who will spread the news when mission agencies can no longer pay the exorbitant costs for rent, gasoline, and vehicles? Will the church be stymied and the message squelched just because prices are too high or some government declares a moratorium on missionaries as we know them?

I don't believe God intends for us to pack it in. We dare not abandon ship! And we cannot afford to say, "We just can't pay any longer."

When the Apostle Paul was commissioned, he had no board to back him and no promise of support. And although he admitted he had a right to support from his spiritual beneficiaries, he chose to offer the gospel freely. Professionally a tentmaker, Paul worked with his hands to sustain himself so he could work with his head and mouth to proclaim the Good News where it had never been heard.

Today we would call such laborers "self-supporting cross cultural witnesses"—modern day tentmakers. These are people with special skills, the biblical knowledge, and the spiritual standing to be effective in sharing the gospel of Christ wherever they live and work. Employment opportunities abound overseas for qualified people. These witnesses are needed today!

The "professional missionary" or "full-time missionary," as the fully supported servant abroad is usually called, cannot be eliminated by any means. We need

as many as we can get and can support. And we are nowhere near our saturation point in either category. If we loved the Lord to the maximum, hated sin completely, and really believed that sinners are doomed without Christ, we would have an adequate amount of money and many, many more candidates today.

The tentmaker or "self-supporting witness" is no cop-out for the responsibility we have to "send forth laborers." But it may be a means of fulfilling a task which at the present is going wanting.

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***The tentmaker or "self-supporting witness" is no cop-out for the responsibility we have to "send forth laborers."***

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This means of foreign witness has its drawbacks, of course. The tentmaker often lacks the opportunity to learn the language. Time to do spiritual work is very limited. And many times employers forbid such ministries on the grounds that evangelistic efforts could jeopardize the company's progress and profits.


In spite of these drawbacks, a living witness radiating Christ's love can make a lasting impact. We must explore the possibilities because such places as India, China, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, etc., may only be reached by such people.

Free Will Baptists are presently falling short of the support needed to keep the current missionary force on the field. Deficit accounts are greater today

than at any time I can remember and they are getting worse daily! Yet, we are only scratching the surface in the area of meeting needs abroad.

To date we have only two "tentmakers," associate missionaries, with the Department of Foreign Missions and both are women. I praise God for what Miss Mirial Gainer and Miss Vivian Waller are doing to advance the gospel ministry in Japan. They are fully employed by the schools they serve as teachers and they faithfully help in the Free Will Baptist churches in Hokkaido.

But where are the men who have teaching skills? What has happened to the technicians in the high tech field? Where are the medical personnel and the scientists? Surely God has some within our ranks!

Such "tentmakers" could make a tremendous contribution to Free Will Baptist outreach today. The "Official Handbook of Operational Policies and Procedures for Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions" makes provision for both **associate missionaries** and **overseas affiliates** to allow for such ministry opportunities. Why not ask God to open such doors to you? Then, trust Him to guide you through them. And the foreign missions staff will seek to assist in any way possible. 

For information on tentmaking opportunities, the associate missionary program, or the overseas affiliate plan, please contact the

**Department of Foreign Missions**  
P. O. Box 1088  
Nashville, TN 37202

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

## **"Three Reasons I Am Happy I Teach At Free Will Baptist Bible College"**

by Rev. Ralph Hampton

The first reason is a very personal one. God used this college to transform my life. God became real to me. I learned here how to study the Word, how to pray and how to witness and preach. My family has been greatly influenced and blessed through Free Will Baptist Bible College, those who attended and those who did not. Of more than a dozen of my family connection who attended FWBBC, several surrendered to God's call of service while students.

As a teacher, I am constantly challenged and motivated spiritually and intellectually, so the Bible College continues to shape my growth. I want every student to get what I got from FWBBC. I feel a sense of debt. God has placed me here and I have learned that God's will is "good and perfect." It is a joy to teach at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Second, and very important to me, I am happy to teach at Free Will Baptist Bible College because of the pupils God leads here. Have you ever considered how remarkable it is that a young person in 1987 would choose to study at a Bible college to prepare for the Lord's work? It is nothing less than

a miracle of God's grace. It is exciting to be in the midst of young people who have been saved from sin and have turned their backs on the pleasures, possessions, positions and popularity of the world to follow Jesus Christ. It is a great delight to know them and a greater joy to contribute just a small part to their lives and education.

Third, and most significant, I am glad to teach at Free Will Baptist Bible College because of the purpose of the college. The school has always been dedicated to building Christian character in the lives of students. I believe in the Christ-centered, Bible-based curriculum of the college. I appreciate the Bible emphasis on godly living. The emphasis on evangelism and missions is also my concern.

I believe in what FWBBC is doing. I am committed to it. I love it and have given much of my life to it. The school's purpose is fulfilled in her product—hundreds of faithful missionaries, pastors, teachers and other dedicated alumni faithfully serving the Lord. They bring honor and glory to the Lord.

How can I not be happy to have a part in this noble ministry?



Rev. Ralph Hampton

—Ralph Hampton, a native of Blanchard, Oklahoma, graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1958 and returned that fall to begin a teaching ministry that has spanned nearly 30 years at the college. While a student, he was elected student body president and Outstanding Student.

He has continued his studies, earning his M.A. at Winona Lake School of Theology and his M.Div. at Covenant Theological Seminary. He is a candidate for the D.Min. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

He is Dean of the Free Will Baptist Bible College Graduate School and Chairman of the Pastoral Studies Department.

# The Free Will Baptist Foundation

Herman L. Hersey  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

**W**ith the new year just a month away, it's a good time for a personal stewardship reassessment. Look back to the start of 1987. Did you give more to the Lord? About the same? Less? Are you better off financially? About the same? Worse off?

Has inertia kept you from planning your budget to assure proper management of your finances? If so, you should feel uneasy. You're one of the many Christians who is content to handle income, giving and payouts on a month to month, week to week, even a day to day basis.

If you feel twinges of guilt because you haven't paid enough attention to your finances, fine. Perhaps you're ready to do something about the situation.

Sure, budgets can be a bother, both to set up and to follow conscientiously. Many are reluctant even to talk about budgeting. They say they can't anticipate needs and don't want to be tied down.

Those who don't plan come to the close of each year worse off financially. Impulsive buying or unanticipated expenses eat into their tithes and offerings.

Budgeting is basic to good stewardship and financial planning. It must be done by husband and wife. Better still, it should be done as a family project with input not only from parents but also from older children; all will be affected.

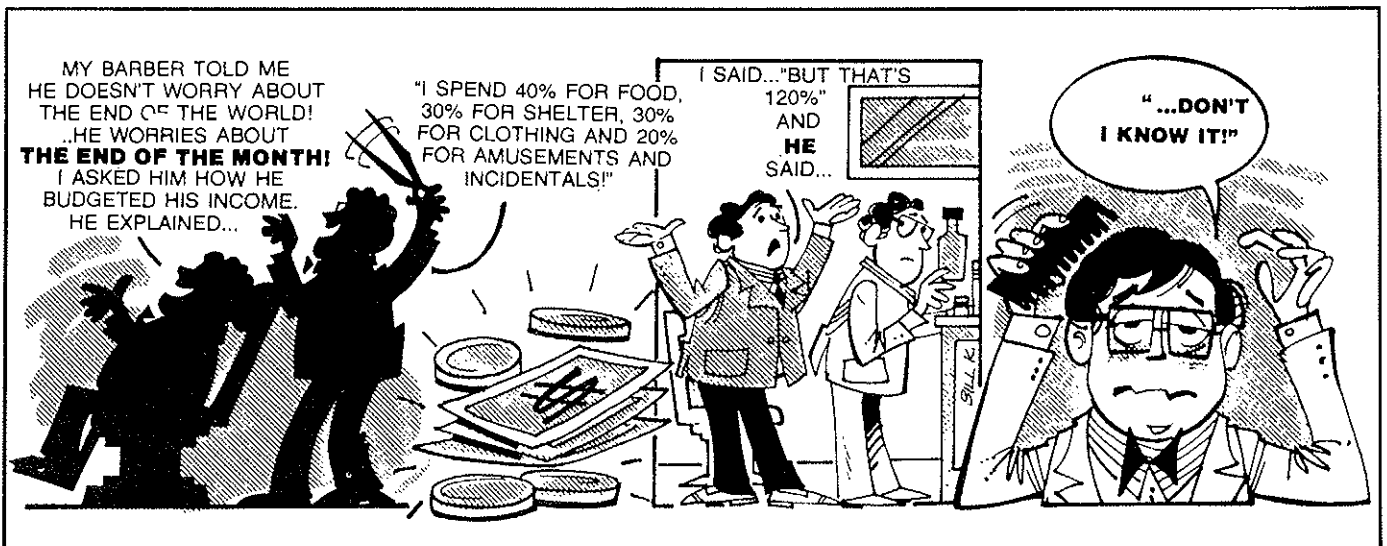
Start out with projections of the family income from all sources. Set your stewardship goals for the year. Then undertake estimates of essentials—housing, food, clothing, car costs, recre-

ation and the like. Add costs for insurance, taxes and possible medical and dental emergencies. Use the past year's expenditures as a guide.

After you have worked out a rough draft of such essentials, consider longer-range goals—school and college costs for children, a savings program for your retirement years, replacement costs for appliances and cars, and home maintenance.

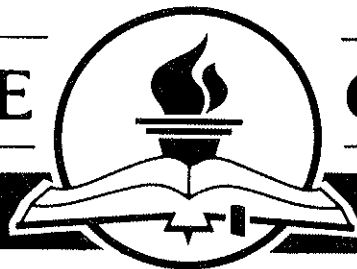
Then comes perhaps the hardest part: You must fit your budget to your anticipated income, trimming here and there if necessary.

Analysts say this can be the most difficult exercise most couples go through. However, if the budgeting—taking control over money coming in and going out—avoids financial woes and makes you a better steward, it is well worth the effort.





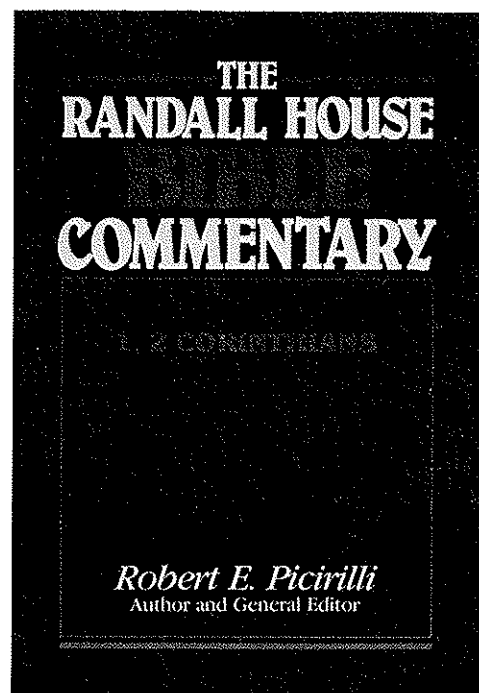
**HOUSE**



**CALL**

The Department Pages

**JUST IN TIME  
FOR CHRISTMAS**



The second volume of the Randall House Bible Commentary, *1, 2 Corinthians* by Dr. Picirilli, is off the press and ready for shipment.

This 434 page commentary is chock full of helps for the serious student of Scripture.

Preacher  
Teacher  
Deacon  
Lay Person

Doctor  
Lawyer  
Merchant  
Chief

The author, Dr. Robert E. Picirilli, serves as Academic Dean at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN.

\* \$19.95

\* Please add 5% for postage and handling if cash accompanies order—10% otherwise.



# MINI GRAMS

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

## Qualifications for National Home Missionaries

By Roy Thomas

About 80 men serve under the auspices of the Home Missions Department starting new churches throughout North America and the U.S. - owned islands. Who are these men? How did they become home missionaries? What qualifies men for service as Free Will Baptist national home missionaries? They must be:

- Saved men—Must know they are saved.
- Spirit-filled men—Must be controlled by the Holy Spirit.
- Straight men—Cannot be divorced.
- Separated men—Cannot use tobacco, liquor or drugs, or partake of worldly habits.
- Schooled men—Must have at least two years Bible college. (In some cases where older, more mature men apply who have several years pastoral experience in churches that saw significant growth, this requirement is waived.)
- Sound men—Must be ordained Free Will Baptist preachers in good standing with the National Association.
- Soul-winning men—Must be proven soul winners.
- Successful men—Must have at least two years pastoral experience in ministries that saw significant growth.
- Surrendered men—Must be willing to go where God sends.

The following is an explanation of these qualifications adopted by the Home Missions Board. The home missionary generally goes to a city that is strange to him, where Free Will Baptists are usually unknown. Many times he starts with no prospects, no place to live,

and no facilities in which to meet. For him to begin and establish an indigenous church under those circumstances, he must be a man of unusual faith and dedication.

Because of the need to minister to all kinds of people, the home missionary should prepare himself with at least two years college training, preferably at one of our Free Will Baptist colleges. He must be a consistent student of the Word of God and faithful in his prayer life to maintain him and his family spiritually in the city where he labors.

The missionary must raise and maintain his support under the direction of the Home Missions Department. In order to do this he must distinguish himself as a capable pastor, as an ordained Free Will Baptist preacher and by pastoring successfully for at least two years. The churches he has pastored must have experienced substantial growth under his ministry.

He must be able to give evidence to the Home Missions Board that he has a divine call to build a church in this city. In most cases, a self-supporting church cannot be established from scratch in a year or even two. There will be more excuses to leave a mission work than an established church. But if God has called a man to a place to do a job, he is not free to leave that place until the job is done.

Home Missions is not looking for men who want to be missionaries because they can't find churches to pastor, nor men who want to be missionaries so they won't have to work at secular jobs. Home Missions exists to

help men do what God has called them to do.

Since the missionary will not have a congregation to pastor unless he wins one, he must distinguish himself as an ardent visitor and soul winner. He will build a church only as he pours himself into the lives of people to get them saved and trained for service in his church.

He must be a self-motivator. There will be no one to tell him what to do and when to work. So he must be willing to put many hours into visiting, praying, studying and working with his hands to get the facilities needed for the church.

If he is easily discouraged, he should seek another line of work, for there will be plenty of times when it's easier to quit than to go on and finish the job.

His family must also be convinced that this is the will of God. God calls the preacher, and the family goes on that calling. But if they go with resentment or bitterness, they will be an albatross around his neck. The man whose family holds back should wait and pray until they are convinced, so that all can enter the work wholeheartedly.

The missionary must have a plan he can present to the Board explaining how he will build an indigenous church. He can't wait for someone to tell him what to do. He must know what to do, get in and do it.

It takes an unusual man to go to a large city and establish a self-supporting church. I suggest that you look at these qualifications seriously. If I can answer any questions, call or write the Home Missions Department.



# M MASTER'S AND DATE Attack

## '87 in Review

### Master's Men Conference— Strengthen Thy Brethren

Nearly 110 laymen and pastors gathered for the Ninth Annual MMC. Strongman Paul Wrenn addressed the men and showed several feats of strength. Three Free Will Baptist "strongmen" laymen and missionary Ron Calloway developed topics around the Luke 22:31-32 theme verses.

Jim Lambert, mayor of Woodhaven, Michigan, and member of Woodhaven FWB Church, spoke on the topic, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

### Breakfast in Birmingham— Dr. Mac Wilcox

Wednesday morning wake-up call was just early enough to catch the best meeting in Birmingham . . . Master's Men Breakfast. Chapters provided tickets for nearly 40 missionaries and guests. Special attenders included four men from Canada and four from Mexico.

Dr. Mac Wilcox challenged listeners to be the kind of parents God expects and children need. His insights came from years of counseling in Albany, Georgia. Wilcox is founder and executive director of Vision Foundation Counseling Center.

### Building for the Master

In three years, eight structures for worship have been erected with the help of Master's Men. This labor, guided by Board member Howard Gwartney (Oklahoma), has saved an estimated quarter-million dollars in building costs for the churches.

In addition to the physical efforts, over \$1,000 in tools have been donated

through the Missions Projects funds. Our laborers on foreign fields will find their jobs aided by the tools already purchased and delivered.

Requests for tools valued at over \$500 have been received from missionaries Jerry Banks and Jerry Pinkerton.

### A Day in October—Master's Men Sunday

The first Sunday in October was designated Master's Men Day/Laymen's Day. Every church and pastor was asked to help on this one day by contributing to the ministry of Master's Men.

## '88 in Preview

### 1985—Decade of Discipleship— 1995

Year 4 Theme: Homestyle Discipleship

First quarter theme: The home, cradle of theology

January 1, Friday

Time of prayer for ministry of Master's Men Department

April 21-23, Thursday—Saturday

Tenth Annual National Master's Men Conference

Theme: "Continue in the Faith"

Registration fee \$5

Total cost \$55

Earl Larson, Conference Director  
Publicity, Loyd Olson

May 22—Servicemen's Sunday

July 20, Wednesday—Master's Men Breakfast

Kansas City, Missouri

October 2, Sunday

Master's Men/Laymen's Day

### Master's Men at First Church, Houston

This Texas chapter under direction of President Robert G. Yost set some worthy goals for this year. The men estab-

lished a food bank for the needy of the church. In the future they hope to branch out in the neighborhood.

The chapter has a grounds maintenance group that meets weekly to work on church facilities. They are also establishing an automobile maintenance program for widows and elderly in the church. Small repairs will be handled by the men. Services such as oil changes, light replacements, tune-ups and other jobs will help increase safety for church members.

### LifeMember Goals Stated

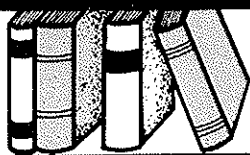
Director Jim Vallance released a goal for total LifeMembership for 1987. On October 1, he stated, "We hope to achieve a total of 200 LifeMembers by the end of this year. The Board members and I are thrilled at the response already. Today we have 161 LifeMembers and 10 LifeFriends. This growth has occurred in less than two years.

"We have 25 commitments from other men who are paying the enrollment fees by time payments. Most of them will complete payments by the year's end. When they are counted, we will be 186 LifeMembers. So, we hope to reach the 200 level this year.

"I've challenged every layman and pastor to consider this means of helping Master's Men. If a man intends to go to heaven . . . live 14 more years . . . and be a Free Will Baptist . . . he ought to be a LifeMember."

The \$100 fees are placed in the Master's Men Endowment Trust Fund held by the Free Will Baptist Foundation. Those funds will produce revenue for our General Fund until the Lord returns.

**Season's Greetings**



Thomas Marberry



**Bill Alexson with Terry Hill, *Reaching For the Rim* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1987, 116 pp., paperback, \$5.95). Terry Hill, *Batting a Thousand* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1987, 119 pp., paperback, \$5.95).**

**T**hese two books contain the personal testimonies of 36 leading professional athletes. These men share how they came to know Christ and how their relationship with Christ changed their lives.

It's a pleasure to read how the Lord worked in so many different ways in their lives. Frank Tanana grew up in Detroit. He did not come to know Christ until after he played two years in the major leagues. He was converted as a result of chapel services conducted for southern California sports teams.

Tim McCormick of the Philadelphia 76ers presents a different testimony. He grew up in a Christian home and came to know Christ at an early age because of his parents' witness. During his college years injuries sidelined him, and it

seemed that his basketball career was over. He did recover, and during his recuperation he got his relationship with the Lord straightened out.

The stories contained in these books demonstrate how the Holy Spirit works in different ways to bring people into a personal relationship with Christ. Most of the time, however, the Holy Spirit works through other people. Almost all these professional athletes give credit for their conversion to friends, wives, parents, pastors or teammates.

We should recognize that today there are groups of professional athletes in baseball, football, basketball, golf and other sports who actively share their faith in Christ. They work to win their

fellow athletes to Christ. Chapel services have become a regular feature of several professional sports.

One thing jumped out at me as I read these testimonies. Most of these men stress that athletic competition is great, but it cannot have first place in one's life. That place must be reserved for Christ and for Him alone.

Many young people in our churches have an interest in athletics. They should be encouraged to read books like these. Young people need positive role models like the ones they find in these volumes.

There are two things we ought to watch. First, we must never conclude that God blesses only the most outstanding athletes. God loves those who never make the major leagues just as much as He loves those who do. Second, we ought never think that just because an athlete loves the Lord he will become outstanding. A personal relationship with God is no guarantee of earthly success.



## What to Give Jesus for Christmas

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

**H**ow can mortals expect to give Jesus anything? He now dwells in heavenly splendor and His every bidding is the commission of angels. What could you possibly give to Him who is the true giver of every good and perfect gift?

*You could give him a pair of shoes.* I don't think you realize how thankful He would be. Shoes are practical and personal, but the problem is to find the right size. Well, the best way is to find a little barefoot boy or girl whose eyes reveal that they have known poverty. Take the child to the shoe store and find out what size he wears. Buy the shoes; give them to the child. It will be just like giving them to Jesus.

*You could give Him a bowl of soup.* Which of us can long be unmoved by the scenes of hunger in Ethiopia? We can rationalize that such hunger is more the result of the Marxist government than the elongated drought, but you'll never convince the children with the bloated bellies. As often as we feed the hungering, we are feeding Him. To give

so much as a cup of water insures a reward.

*You could give Him a set of keys.* How common it is to give Christ only limited access to our lives. We want to restrict Him to the religious domain where we are on our best behavior while the secrets in the closet of our heart remain hidden. He will never be satisfied until He is given admittance to our social life, thought life and business life as well as our religious life.

*You could give Him a set of weights.* I don't mean to imply that He's into body building. However, nothing could please Him more than for us to get rid of the weight we already have. He wants us to cast our burdens on Him and lay aside every weight. Do you have some care that follows you through each day? Lay it upon Him and be restored to victory and joy.

These are but a few suggestions. In fact all that you do as a Christian should be aimed at giving Him glory.

Merry Christmas and God bless us everyone!



### 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





## Green Tree Bible Study

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Robert E. Picirilli

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John 17:1-5

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# Paul, Looking at Things Not Seen

If we ask ourselves what kept Paul going when things got tough, there are word pictures in II Corinthians that give us an answer. They show Paul's unique viewpoint. In the last two studies, we've already seen two of these picture passages: Paul saw himself as walking in Christ's victory parade (2:14-16a), and he saw himself as minister of the new covenant (3:6-18).

In 4:16-5:8 we find another of these: Paul had the habit of looking at things unseen—as contradictory as that may sound. And he connects that inseparably with the fact that “we faint not” (4:16). Indeed, this passage has a lot to say about the way we view things.

1. To begin with, there is always the natural perspective, seeing things as they are in the here and now. Paul calls this “the things which are seen” (v. 18). Looking at things this way, some facts are undeniable. (a) The “outward man” is perishing (v. 16), even now in process of dying (vv. 10-12). This is the physical body, which Paul has already called an “earthen vessel” (v. 7)—a clay pot, as someone has put it, and pottery deteriorates rapidly, is easily broken. (b) There is “affliction” (v. 17). This is that Greek word *thlipsis* again, meaning the pressure of trial or trouble. Paul was on a first name basis with trouble, as we've already seen in the first of these studies.

2. But there is an altogether different way of viewing the very same circum-

stances. Only you have to look at the things which are not seen (v. 18). These are “eternal” things rather than “temporal” (v. 18; temporal is *proskairos*, literally, “for time”). (a) This way, the affliction is seen (literally, in Greek) as “the momentary lightness of our affliction.” Paul could regard his severest trial as both light and short-lived. (b) But he could do so only by comparing (literally, in Greek) “an exceedingly exceeding, eternal weight of glory.” The two phrases are precisely balanced: *lightness* is in contrast with *weight*, *momentary* stands opposite to *eternal*, and *affliction* compares with *glory*. But the contrast is more than exact; to the last phrase he adds the emphatic “exceedingly exceeding”: the glory far exceeds the affliction.

Only with this perspective can one regard earthly trials as light and momentary. Paul's word, “while we look” is a Greek present participle (*skopounton*) that conveys continued action and close examination. He had a steady perspective on eternity.

3. And this gave him firm hope for a new body (5:1-5). The present body he calls a dwelling made of earth, a tent (vv. 1, 4). It is even now being dissolved (v. 1). Existence in it is a groaning, burdened existence (v. 4). In direct contrast with that, we will have (note the affirming, possessive present, “we have”) a *building* (not a tent), one that is eternal, not made by human hands (v. 1), from

heaven (v.2), one characterized by life rather than mortality (v. 4).

For this new body we have an “earnest desiring” (v.2); the word (*epipotheo*) suggests an intense longing. Someone has aptly paraphrased: “yearning with homesick hearts.” Nor is this an empty passion. We know God has made us for such a permanent “home,” and He has already put within us His Spirit as down-payment and pledge that it will be ours (v. 5).

4. And so, finally, Paul was expecting to be “at home with the Lord” (5:6-8). The reader of the King James may miss the fact that “absent” and “present” are translations of the same Greek words as “away from home” and “at home.” Thus we might render v. 6 thus: so long as we are “at home” in the body we are “away from home” from the Lord; and v. 8: our will is, rather, to be away from home from the body and at home with the Lord.

In other words, this present existence is not our true home. We will not be at home until we are with Him in our new and permanent dwellings.

You can see how a man with this perspective wouldn't be turned aside by present opposition and physical pain.



**Merry Christmas!**



## ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

# Jeff's Christmas Prayer

**M**ama!" cried Jeff. "Look at that tractor!" Mrs. Lane and Jeff were Christmas shopping at the mall. As they passed a toy store, a shiny red tractor—big enough to ride on—caught Jeff's eye.

Jeff dashed to the tractor and climbed on. It was too crowded to ride around, but Jeff pretended to drive the tractor. He turned the steering wheel and made the sound of the engine.

"Can I get it? Please, Mama, can I get it? It's just like Grandpa Lane's," begged Jeff.

"We'll see," answered Mrs. Lane. "Let's go now. We've got lots of shopping to do."

That night at supper, Mr. Lane asked Jeff to say the blessing.

"Thank you, Jesus, for my hot dog, and could I get that red tractor for Christmas, please? Amen."

Marty and Megan giggled. "You can't pray about something like that," said Megan.

"Can, too," argued Jeff.

"Can not," said Marty, "'cause it's a selfish prayer, and Dad said that God doesn't answer prayers when we're selfish. Didn't you, Dad?"

Mr. Lane had to admit to saying that.

"But I want that tractor so much," pleaded Jeff.

Mrs. Lane changed the subject before Jeff started crying.

**C**hurch was special the next morning. The congregation sang Christmas carols. The church had been decorated with wreaths and poinsettias and, best of all, the nativity scene had been set up in front of the pulpit. Every-

one loved the nativity scene. The hand carved figures were each about two feet tall. The pastor, Brother Bill, thought that to teach children the true meaning of Christmas, children should come to see Jesus, not Santa Claus.

So the choir sang, "O Come, All Ye Faithful," and all the children filed down the aisle to get a good look at the animals, angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph and especially Baby Jesus. It was a precious moment—a moment to feel the warmth of God's love, and reverence the beauty of the simple stable scene. The children walked quietly back to their seats, all except Jeff. Everyone watched as Jeff stood on tiptoe to whisper something in the ear of Baby Jesus. Then Jeff walked back and sat down with his parents.

The weeks scurried by, and the magic of Christmas filled the Lane home. Christmas Eve finally arrived, and so did Grandma and Grandpa Lane. The children were excited, but they tried hard to sit still and be quiet while Grandpa Lane read the Christmas story from Luke 2. They sang, "Silent Night," and then Mr. Lane suggested that they all think of something to thank Jesus for.

"I'm thankful that we're here, all safe and sound," said Grandma Lane sitting between the twins on the couch. She gave them each a squeeze.

Grandpa Lane said, "I'm thankful that Jesus came to earth as a baby that first Christmas night so many years ago."

"I'm thankful," squealed Jeff, "that I gonna get my tractor tomorrow."

**O**n Christmas morning, Megan was the first one awake. "Merry

Christmas!" she called from her bed. "Merry, merry Christmas."

Pulling on robes and slippers, everyone rushed to the den. And there, under the twinkling Christmas tree was Jeff's shiny red tractor.

"I got it! I really got it," shouted Jeff. "Look, Grandpa, it's just like yours!"

"Why it surely is," Grandpa chuckled. "And you've even got a wagon on the back to haul things."

Jeff rode his tractor around the den while the others opened their presents.

Soon it was time to eat breakfast, and since Christmas came on a Sunday this year, get ready for church.

The service was joyful, and afterward everyone was so busy wishing everyone else a merry Christmas that no one saw Jeff slip back into the sanctuary. The Lanes were walking to their car before they missed him.

"Where's Jeff?" asked Mrs. Lane.

"I'll go back and look," said Marty.

Marty found Jeff coming out of the sanctuary. He was carrying a brown paper sack.

"What's in the sack?" asked Marty.

"Just stuff," said Jeff. "My present from my teacher, some candy, my Bible—just stuff."

**A**fter Christmas dinner, Grandma and Grandpa Lane played a game with the twins. Jeff rode his tractor in the garage, and Mr. and Mrs. Lane washed the dishes.

As Mr. Lane was drying the last dish, the phone rang.

"I'll get it," said Mrs. Lane. "Hello. Why, I never! Can you imagine? . . . Yes, thanks for calling."

"Can you believe it?" said Mrs. Lane when she hung up the phone. "Someone broke into the church and stole Baby Jesus from the nativity scene. They haven't discovered anything else missing—just Baby Jesus. Why on earth would somebody do that?"

"Beats me," said Mr. Lane settling down in his recliner to watch football on television.

Mrs. Lane tried to read, but she was so upset by the bad news, she couldn't concentrate.

"I think I'll go check on Jeff," she said as she put down her book.

Mrs. Lane opened the door to the garage. There was Jeff, pedaling his tractor round and round the garage while singing, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," at the top of his lungs. And there, lying in the tractor wagon, was Baby Jesus.

**M**rs. Lane quickly stepped back inside. "Peter, come here," she called. "You'll never believe it!"

"What is it?" asked Mr. Lane.

Mrs. Lane opened the door. "Look," she whispered. Mr. Lane's mouth dropped when he saw Baby Jesus riding around in Jeff's tractor wagon.

"Son, what are you doing? Baby Jesus belongs to the church. Don't you know that it's stealing to take something that doesn't belong to you?" asked Mr. Lane.

"Oh, I didn't steal it, Daddy," said Jeff. "I just wanted to take Baby Jesus for a ride."

"But why?" asked Mrs. Lane.

"'Cause He gave me this tractor," said Jeff. "And I told Him that first Sunday He was at church that if He would give me a tractor I wouldn't be selfish, I would share, and He could be the first to ride in my wagon."

"Honey, you should have asked us," said his mother. "Everyone was worried. They thought someone stole Baby Jesus."

Tears filled Jeff's eyes. "I didn't mean to be bad."

Mr. Lane picked up his son and hugged him. "No, Jeff, you weren't bad. In fact, you were very good. I wish everyone realized that all their gifts are really from Jesus. And I wish everyone would use their gifts for Jesus."

Then Mrs. Lane went inside to call Brother Bill. Mr. Lane sat down on the steps to watch Jeff carry Baby Jesus around the garage in his tractor wagon.



**COOPERATIVE** Free Will Baptist  
CHANNEL *lan*

## Cooperative Channel Contributions September 1987

### RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	Sept. '86	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$ 224.21	\$ 40.00	\$ 264.21	\$ 327.96	\$ 2,060.44
Arizona	.00	50.00	50.00	.00	50.00
Arkansas	10.00	3,055.05	3,065.05	3,646.89	38,402.10
California	.00	1,017.35	1,017.35	826.12	7,828.20
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	10.00
Delaware	.00	335.46	335.46	.00	2,578.41
Florida	.00	.00	.00	2,220.76	16,974.99
Georgia	5,845.43	1,006.57	6,852.00	4,327.00	71,507.94
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	340.48
Illinois	5,831.44	1,097.47	6,928.91	7,579.24	75,760.75
Indiana	521.04	.00	521.04	556.02	5,494.38
Kansas	.00	56.49	56.49	62.21	416.53
Kentucky	.00	107.60	107.60	452.50	2,503.59
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	1,966.78
Michigan	5,116.19	1,900.00	7,016.19	4,058.54	41,080.38
Mississippi	47.42	529.29	576.71	420.53	3,487.87
Missouri	8,155.91	.00	8,155.91	7,890.28	68,019.12
New Mexico	11.61	5.81	17.42	.00	116.66
North Carolina	1,047.37	325.00	1,372.37	1,989.83	12,935.35
Ohio	619.07	1,933.00	2,552.07	10.00	23,111.71
Oklahoma	23,212.78	5,309.77	28,522.55	35,038.64	318,263.50
South Carolina	8,556.44	.00	8,556.44	2,707.80	63,102.19
Tennessee	542.23	1,269.89	1,812.12	1,545.58	16,221.77
Texas	4,861.37	379.72	5,241.09	7,452.32	69,504.38
Virginia	115.00	10.00	125.00	.00	4,051.69
West Virginia	1,848.61	82.63	1,931.24	2,816.80	25,585.02
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	76.63
Other (Computer)	.00	.02	.02	.00	.02
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$66,566.12</b>	<b>\$18,511.12</b>	<b>\$85,077.24</b>	<b>\$83,929.02</b>	<b>\$871,450.88</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 1,950.05	\$15,832.02	\$17,782.07	\$14,786.94	\$158,567.79
Foreign Missions	43,624.04	616.19	44,240.23	36,829.31	458,667.13
FWBBC	6,194.45	616.19	6,810.64	5,248.75	55,570.53
Home Missions	11,696.41	482.22	12,178.63	20,522.67	148,621.03
Retirement & Insurance	264.92	375.08	640.00	2,454.94	11,130.95
Master's Men	416.16	348.27	764.43	1,294.89	11,862.75
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	62.26	26.80	89.06	108.15	1,219.39
FWB Foundation	11.91	160.75	172.66	587.56	5,223.91
Historical Commission	59.72	26.80	86.52	109.78	1,207.91
Radio & TV Commission	164.71	26.80	191.51	139.78	1,969.95
Hillsdale FWB College	1,718.53	.00	1,718.53	1,715.01	16,175.82
Other	402.96	.00	402.96	131.24	1,233.72
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$66,566.12</b>	<b>\$18,511.12</b>	<b>\$85,077.24</b>	<b>\$83,929.02</b>	<b>\$871,450.88</b>

# TEEN Scene

## LifeQuest Conference

Approximately 100 youth and youth workers attended the LifeQuest Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, at the Cleveland FWB Church. The conference was sponsored by the Ohio Youth Committee and the Youth Ministries Division of Randall House Publications. Robert Prichard was host pastor and Mark Leonard served as conference coordinator.

The conference began Friday evening with a youth service. The service included a skit, choruses, special music by youth and a challenge for youth to surrender their lives to God.

During the conference adults were involved in seminars dealing with Finding Your Place in Youth Ministry, Youth in Ministry and Leadership, Characteristics of a Youth Worker, Competitive Program and Guidelines, and Teaching Teens. The youth learned about the requirements and rewards of service to God and how to improve their prayer life. They also blended their voices and provided special music in the concluding service. The conference concluded Saturday afternoon with a creative lesson about the problems and necessities of communication.

Ohio Promotional Secretary Alton Loveless was the guest speaker for the conference. He challenged youth and adults to consider their heroes.



The conference provided moments of inspiration, instruction and interaction. One attendee said he felt God was leading him into youth ministry as a result of the conference.

## Youth Evangelistic Teams

Two Youth Evangelistic Teams are being formed in the state of Ohio. The first is in Cleveland. It will be a ministry extension of the Spring Valley Christian School. Mark and Myra Leonard will be directing the group as they develop programs to minister to shut-ins and teens in their community.

The second team is being formed in the Portsmouth area. This team will involve 10-12 youth from four churches. Under the direction of Ron Henthorn, the team plans to minister in local high schools, camp retreat services, retirement homes, etc. Their first service will be an area-wide youth service scheduled December 12.

Interested in starting a Youth Evangelistic Team? Write:

Youth Evangelistic Team  
P. O. Box 17306  
Nashville, TN 37217



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## Volume XXXIV

### Jan.-Dec. 1987

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—Compiled by *Contact Staff*

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**BEYOND BELIEF™**



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For Young  
Preachers

## What if You're Voted Out?

The young preacher's often called to an older church. Sadly, some churches don't keep preachers long, for a number of reasons. These suggestions will help you leave the church as gracefully as possible.

1. Accept the fact that you must leave. You may not consider it God's will, but be satisfied that the church has spoken and that you must abide by the decision.
2. Be kind. Lashing out at those who want you to leave will accomplish nothing.
3. Contact fellow pastors and denominational leaders to inform them of your leaving. Pastor friends can inform churches of your availability.
4. Continue to function as pastor. Visit with a spiritual purpose. Pray and study faithfully. Don't sit home and pout.
5. Stay optimistic around your wife and children. A move is more difficult on them than you. Assure them that God will open the right door in His own timing.
6. Do not speak critically of church members.
7. Do not try to settle church problems from the pulpit. Preach the Word of God as effectively as possible.
8. Study the life of Christ during this time of crisis. Preach all your messages from this study.
9. Evaluate opportunities that come to you. An open door does not always mean you should walk through it.
10. Leave the church gracefully. Be kind, even to those who may not be kind to you or your family. Thank them publicly for the good things they have done. Write thank you notes (send them by the Postal Service) for gifts that are given.
11. Be sure that all bills are paid in the community. If necessary, borrow money from a bank and pay off all local debts.
12. Remember that the way you leave the church may determine your future ministry. If you love them in spite of your hurt and disappointment, they will remember your kind spirit.
13. If you have been wronged, remember that the Lord exercises vengeance, not you.

Next Month: How to Conduct a Business Meeting

*Dennis Wiggs*



## NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

### PAN AMERICAN GAMES ARE OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (EP)—Indianapolis and the Pan American Games were the scene of a coordinated outreach by a number of Christian organizations and local churches. Representatives from Bible Pathway Ministries, Lay Witnesses for Christ, Pilots for Christ and over 80 churches were on hand at the games to share their faith in Christ with athletes, coaches, trainers, journalists and spectators during the two-week event.

Bible Pathway Ministries provided copies of *Bible Pathway* and *The Winning Way Gospel of John*. Eighty thousand copies of a special commemorative *Spanish/English New Testament* were printed by Living Bibles International for Sports Service Ministries to be distributed during the games.

Jerry Wiles, executive president of Bible Pathway Ministries, said many of the athletes who witnessed for Christ at the Pan Am Games would be at the Olympics next year in Seoul, South Korea. Wiles noted that world sporting events provide an effective way of penetrating areas of the world normally closed to the gospel. "These international sporting events bring together a broader representation of various countries from around the world than any other event that takes place," said Wiles. "This presents a unique opportunity to reach people in many countries which have limited religious freedom."

### SIM INTERNATIONAL COMPLETES PHASE IN CHURCH PLANTING PROGRAM

MONROVIA, Liberia (EP)—SIM International missionaries at the Firestone Rubber Plant near Monrovia have entered the second phase of SIM's church planting program. The missionaries will leave 11 villages where churches have been established to put responsibilities of local evangelism, disciplining new believers, and church growth in the hands of the local churches.

To be recognized as a church, a congregation must have at least 10 baptized members, its own leaders, and hold regular services. The missionaries will continue to work with the church leadership by visiting them on a regular basis and encouraging the leaders by providing weekly Bible instruction and lessons which they can use in church the following Sunday.

The church planting program began in late 1983 when SIM International was asked by Firestone officials to develop a chaplaincy and church ministry among nearly 100,000 workers and their families who live near the company in 94 surrounding villages. The team's program begins by evangelistic outreaches to form interested people into Bible study groups, then develop them into fellowships which eventually become churches.

### CLEAR-TV DROPS BOYCOTT; MAZDA WILL CLEAN UP ACT

TUPELO, MS (EP)—Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLEAR-TV) ended its boycott of Mazda Motors of America. The action follows an agreement by Mazda to reduce the amount of sex, violence and profanity the company helps sponsor on network television.

CLEAR-TV began a boycott of Mazda after the automobile maker refused several requests by the coalition to reduce their sponsorship of sex, violence and profanity. CLEAR-TV monitors the content of network television programs, and calculates the number of offensive incidents sponsored per commercial for each sponsor.

"We are pleased to announce that Mazda has made a commitment to improve their sponsorship practices," said Dr. Billy Melvin, chairman of CLEAR-TV. "We are happy that we have reached an agreement with Mazda."

### POLLS SHOW ROLE OF RELIGION IMPORTANT WHILE CHURCH INVOLVEMENT PLATEAUS

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—Most Americans say religion is very important in their lives, and attendance in U.S. churches has reached a plateau, according to separate polls conducted by *USA Today* and Louis Harris.

The *USA Today* poll, prepared in anticipation of Pope John Paul II's visit to the United States, found that 61 percent of Americans said religion was "very important" in their lives, while only 12 percent said religion was "not very important." The poll also found that 63 percent of the nation prays regularly, while only seven percent say they never pray. Over half (55 percent) read the Bible at least monthly. Religion is more important now than it was five years ago to 35 percent of those polled.

*USA Today* also examined church attendance patterns, and found that more than half of those polled attend church services at least several times a month; of those 45 percent go "because it's good for you," nine percent attend out of duty, and 26 percent attend for pleasure. Couples were more likely than singles to attend, people with children more likely than childless individuals.

More than eight in 10 (81 percent) of people with children say raising their offspring with religion is "very" or "extremely" important. The polls found that 72 percent of Americans have kept the same religious affiliation with which they were raised.

According to survey results cited in *Inside America* by Louis Harris, the proportion of Americans involved in weekly religious services has reached a plateau around 40 percent, falling from its 1958 peak of 49 percent. Though a nearly unanimous 95 percent of people polled by the Harris organization say they believe in God, a majority of those people are not involved in church services on a regular basis.

Harris also found large differences in church attendance patterns by race, sex, age, region of the country, and denominational affiliation. Older people tend to attend church more regularly than their offspring. Of women, 46 percent attend church regularly, far more than men (33 percent). Southerners are more likely to attend church regularly (43 percent), followed by the Midwest (42 percent), the East (39 percent) and the West (35 percent).

### CHRISTIAN CAMP IN HONG KONG PREPARES FOR COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER

VICTORIA, Hong Kong (EP)—In an effort to combat impending Communist power take-over of Hong Kong, leaders of a Christian camp in that area are aiming to lead 100,000 people to Christ by the year 1997 and are preparing a strategy for the church to move underground.

The Suen Douh ('To proclaim the truth') Camp, a 15-year-old camp which operates year round and features 3-day programs from various schools to teach students about citizenship, family life, ethics and religion, has seen nearly 10,000 conversions in the last 18 months.

Associate Director John Tsang said, "The communists will eat us up like a big shark, but we will be alive and witnessing inside the shark." He added, "We're not afraid."

In 1997 China will take over control of Hong Kong, a British crown colony comprising the island of Hong Kong (about 32 square miles) and the adjacent mainland bordering southeast China. Britain has been leasing the area from China but the lease will expire in 1997.

### WILKERSON BLASTS MYLON LEFEVRE

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—Christian musician Mylon LeFevre's performance is "an overt manifestation of Satan," according to David Wilkerson of "Cross and the Switchblade" fame.

In the article, "Driven to Darkness," which Wilkerson distributed in a newsletter, the evangelist describes meeting with a "star performer" (referring to, but not specifying, LeFevre) before a Christian music festival. After seeing the musician's "heart" Wilkerson says he wondered if he had been wrong in his condemnation of Christian rock music, but had his worst fears confirmed later that evening as LeFevre performed "Crack the Sky," the title cut from his new album.

"At first, I couldn't believe what I was seeing on stage," Wilkerson wrote. "Suddenly I was on the ground, on my back, weeping and sobbing and groaning in the Spirit. I sat up and took another look at the stage. I WAS HORRIFIED BY WHAT I SAW IN THE SPIRIT! [Wilkerson's caps] I SAW DEMONIC IMAGES RISING FROM THAT STAGE! I HEARD SATAN LAUGHING! It was an overt manifestation of Satan—worse than anything I've ever seen on the streets of New York."

### FLOODS DESTROY RICE CROPS; MENNONITES TRY TO HELP

NOAKHALI, Bangladesh (EP)—Nearly a million people were left homeless in Bangladesh and India due to unusually severe monsoon rains in early August, and more than 625,000 acres of rice were destroyed in what has been described as the worst flood in recent memory.

The lost crop is the main rice crop of the year for many farmers and for some it is the only crop they can grow during the year. Rice is the staple food in Bangladesh. The floods destroyed seed beds and newly transplanted rice in a large area of Noakhali District in southern Bangladesh, where Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) representative Mark Nord said MCC will provide enough rice seed for one acre of land to each of 400 farmers.





**THE SECRETARY SPEAKS**  
By Melvin Worthington

# Read the Record



**T**he Target 90 campaign launched in 1985 contains a two-fold thrust—50,000 net membership increase and planting 100 new Free Will Baptist churches by 1990. Each year the national convention uses the “Growing for God’s Glory” theme to remind Free Will Baptists what we can do.

The campaign set realistic and reachable annual goals for membership increase and planting new churches. The Target 90 Committee is authorized to monitor, motivate and measure campaign progress. Remember the annual goals? Net membership increase: 5,000 (1986), 7,500 (1987), 10,000 (1988), 12,500 (1989), and 15,000 (1990). Planting new churches: 10 (1986), 15 (1987), 20 (1988), 25 (1989), 30 (1990).

## The Confession

Have we reached the 1986 and 1987 goals? Frankly, we do not know. Statistical data sent to the National Association paints a distorted picture. For example, 1985 statistics tallied 2,548 Free Will Baptist churches; 1986 stats showed 2,483—a loss of 65 churches; 1987 stats indicate 2,540 churches—an increase of 57. Did we lose 65 churches in 1986 and plant 57 in 1987? I doubt it, for the 1987 Home Missions Roll Call Sunday reported 2,595 churches. How confusing!

Membership statistics are even more puzzling. We reported 217,836 members in 1985, then declined to 205,546 in 1986 and dropped to 200,387 in 1987. While these statistics suggest that

the denomination is not growing, they do not present the total picture.

Here’s why—We added 12,858 members in 1985; 12,052 in 1986 and 12,134 in 1987 for a total of 37,044. We lost 7,765 members in 1985; 7,314 in 1986 and 6,581 in 1987 or 21,660 over the same three-year period. Subtracting members lost (21,660) from members added (37,044) leaves a net increase of 15,384 for 1985-1987. And yet total membership declined 17,451. How can this be? The figures indicate *both* a net increase of 15,384 and a net decrease of 17,451. We have a statistical problem.

Take the matter of combined income reported from all churches. The 1985 combined income reached \$31.8 million. Then in 1986 it soared to \$64.8 million, an increase of over \$33 million! Can this be possible in one year? Maybe, but it’s not likely. The 1987 income figure stood at \$34.7 million which reflects a decrease of \$30 million. Our statistics are disturbing, distorted and discouraging. Though readable, they’re far from reliable.

## The Contention

Our statistics, as is the case with most statistics, can be used to prove growth

or lack of growth, depending on which figures you use.

Honestly, we are poor record keepers. We can do better. We *must* do better. Because we keep such frightful records, we’re at the mercy of anyone who picks up a handful of inaccurate statistics and lashes us with them.

Let’s stop making denomination-wide judgments based on our individual situations. The church where I hold membership is not dying. It’s growing by leaps and bounds—a new building program, bountiful prospects, bold programs and burdened people. If I view the denomination by my church, it’s a positive, progressive denomination.

On the other hand, if I belonged to a church which could not keep a pastor, that was filled with bickering and backbiting members, my tendency would be to transfer this characteristic to our entire movement. We must exercise caution lest we make denominational generalizations based on our personal situation.

## The Challenge

Let’s do three things. First, reach people for Christ. Second, record those we reach. Third, report our statistics correctly, consistently.

Accurate reporting of statistical data will help future generations better evaluate our denomination. Let’s leave a lasting legacy. The Target 90 campaign provides a vehicle to reach, record and report statistical data which shows our love for sinners and saints.

### The Secretary’s Schedule

- Dec. 1** Leadership Conference  
Nashville, TN
- Dec. 2-3** Executive Committee  
Meeting  
Nashville, TN
- Dec. 30-Jan. 14** Ivory Coast, West Africa  
Foreign Missions Study  
Committee

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