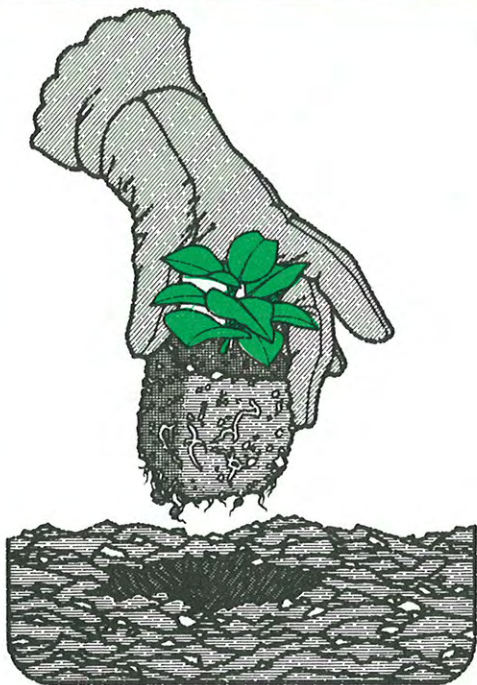


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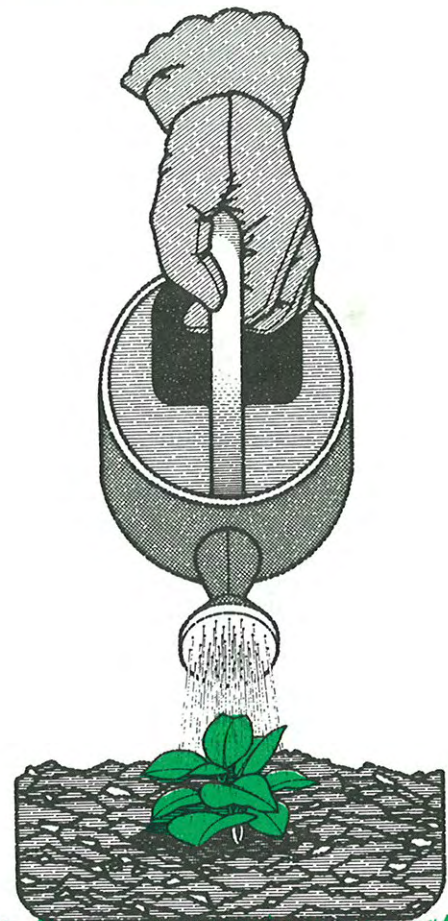
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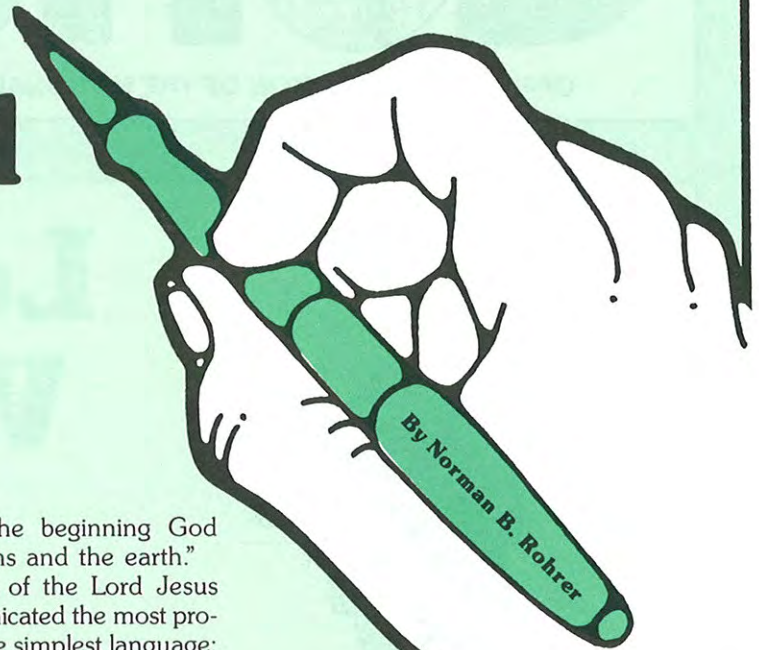


Let Your Writing Grow

Write ...
... to be read
... church news
... to your audience
... joy or agony?



Write to Be Read ... And Published



Words can make us laugh, cry, go to war, fall in love and find eternal salvation. Whether you're still in school, a homemaker or a corporation executive, the better command you have of words the better you can say what you mean and understand what other people say to you.

Writing is both the simplest act and the most profound. If you can think you can write, but saying precisely what you mean in print, with the proper mood, tone and attitude requires the discipline of study and practice.

The English language has more than 1 million words available for your pen. With it you can express shades of meaning that aren't possible in other languages. For example, you can differentiate between "sky" and "heaven." The Italians, Spanish and French cannot.

For my students in the Christian Writers Guild I often picture the writer as a prism. The analogy is quite appropriate: a prism is simple and uncomplicated; a prism is pure, reflecting light instead of originating it; a prism offers a fresh angle for the light to shine through; and a prism is "humble," for it is nothing without the light.

If you have an urge to communicate in print, look at the analogy more closely:

A prism is most profound when it is simple.

An interesting thing about writing is that simplicity best communicates truth. The world's greatest pen masters use sentences which are almost child-like to convey subjects that are profound. The Bible opens with a powerful declarative sentence within the writing skills of a

12-year-old: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Note the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. He communicated the most profound truth with the simplest language: "Follow me." "He that is not with me is against me." "The field is the world." "I and the Father are one."

A prism is pure.

John Milton wrote that "he who would not be frustrated of his hope to write well hereafter in laudable things, ought himself to be a true poem; that is, a composition and pattern of the best and honorablest things. . . ."

Put simply: One way to be a better writer is to be a better person . . . to live without unconfessed sin . . . to love the unlovely . . . to be at peace in adversity . . . to be a pure vessel which the Lord can use to serve the needy.

Live what you write. The late Dr. A. W. Tozer warned against putting style above substance: "The Christians of this generation must see and hear something for themselves if they are to escape religious stultification," he said. "Effete catchwords cannot save them. Meanings are expressed in words, but it is one of the misfortunes of life that words tend to persist long after their meanings have departed, with the result that thoughtless men and women believe they have the reality because they have the word for it."

A prism offers a fresh angle.

There is nothing new under the sun, yet ideas for writing abound. Old ideas with a fresh, modern twist make delightful reading. When you look for grist for your writer's mill, think of basic human interests:

We all need self assurance, so how about an article on achieving goals through possibility thinking coupled with spiritual and moral discipline.

We all want the best for our children, so direct us by discussing what parents can do to bring their offspring to full maturity.

We all want to live in freedom, so explain current political events.

We all want to be good hosts and hostesses, so give us the formula for confident and elegant entertaining.

We all want friendships, so tell us how to cultivate them.

We all want perspectives on political, economic and theological issues, so do your homework and provide them.

Your mental idea bank is like a checking account. As long as you keep putting material in, you'll be able to draw it out. Be alert. Your mind must never sleep.

To build an idea factory, (1) make a list of five things you understand well

emotion . . . to be entertained and informed. . . . The reader might not be as interested in your meritorious accomplishments and experiences as you think.

Writing is like learning to ski. As soon as you can snowplow down the mountain you can call yourself a skier. But it takes many years to perfect that skill and become a first-class skier.

The world needs the Christian message desperately, but the world will not



enough to teach, (2) list articles you yourself would consider to be irresistible reading, (3) use your newspaper as a source of article ideas, (4) look at every magazine as a potential market, and (5) when you find yourself strongly in disagreement with something you've heard or read, consider whether you could turn your reaction into an article.

To give your writing unity, emphasis and coherence, picture a train with cow catcher, engine, cars and caboose:

Up front at the cow catcher is where you get the reader's attention with a bright lead sentence. The engine focuses on the subject and makes certain the reader understands the theme. The cars carry statistics, anecdotes, facts, stories, personal experiences and quotations to make up the story. The caboose is the close where a few deft lines wrap it all up and leave the reader with a feeling that you've come full circle.

A prism is "humble."

Just as the prism reflects light but does not originate it, the best writer presents the Light without suggesting that all truth resides with him. Give each reader the most for the least amount of time. Your reader is looking for ways to solve problems . . . to more fully enjoy life . . . to laugh . . . to experience strong

be attracted to our snowplowing down the mountain.

You may be burning to write. You may find that there is no other suitable calling. Read widely. Build your files. Start to write.

If not you, who? If not now, when?



ABOUT THE WRITER: Norman Rohrer founded and directs the Christian Writers Guild at Hume Lake, California. He graduated from Wheaton College and Grace Theological Seminary. Norm served 14 years as executive secretary of the Evangelical Press Association, is the author of 19 books, and won the 1987 Sherwood E. Wirt award "For Outstanding Service to Christian Writing" at Decision's School of Christian Writing in Minneapolis.

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From Whence I Came

By Jayne Cash



As I struggled toward the side door of the church, laden with Sunday School books, a diaper bag and a three-month-old baby, I heard a noise behind me. With a muffled, "Excuse me," a 10-year-old boy pushed by me and was gone without even holding the door!

"Those bus kids!" I thought angrily. Then I stopped myself and remembered, "How can I think that? Not long ago I was one of 'those bus kids.'"

Every Sunday morning, the old red bus rambled through my neighborhood blaring hymns over a speaker so loudly that the songs were unrecognizable. Of course the music wasn't for enjoyment, but to get kids like me out of bed early enough to ride the church bus.

My oldest sister rode the bus every Sunday, but often when I heard the music I pulled the pillow over my head and snuggled back into the warmth of

my bed. Being from a moral (but non-Christian) family, we were neither encouraged nor discouraged from going to church, so I knew I wouldn't be disturbed.

I decided to attend Vacation Bible School that summer, because after all, VBS could be fun! During a service, the pastor spoke about our sins and how God could take them away and put them "as far as the east is from the west." Conviction gripped my heart, and that day I asked God to forgive my sins.

For many years after that I struggled as a lukewarm Christian. But, thank goodness for the church bus and the dedicated bus workers. On those Sunday mornings when I suddenly developed a stomach ache, I would recall the promise I'd made the day before. Saturday after Saturday, visit after visit, I promised I would come and eventually became a regular.

Because of a burdened bus worker's vision and persistence, I dedicated my life to God. Soon, a drop of oil from that red bus became mixed with my blood and I became a bus worker too.

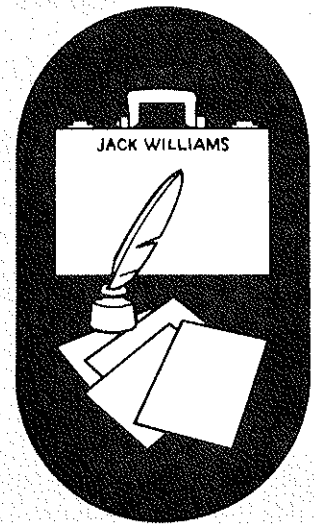
Even after leaving my home church and getting involved in other areas of Christian service, I was unable to get that grimy oil out of my blood. I'm now married to a "burdened bus worker" and my ministry is to encourage and support him in any way I can.

So, when I feel irritation toward the bus kids, I remind myself *from whence I came*. I once was a rude, rambunctious 10-year-old, yet someone looked past that and loved me just the same.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Jayne Cash is a member of Woodbine Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.



Agony The Joy of Writing



Journalist Gene Fowler quipped, "Writing is easy. All you do is sit staring at a blank sheet of paper until the drops of blood form on your forehead."

Several of my friends claim to enjoy writing. They do it rather well and barrel cheerfully through new assignments. They speak of publishing first-draft manuscripts. They explain how words gush from their pens like water from an artesian well. In short, they make me sick!

If you know somebody who writes with ease and who can't understand why anyone agonizes over mere words, throw a sack over his head and call the city pound.

A man said to me at a recent church gathering, "Jack, I suppose you really like to write, don't you?" He had the strangest look on his face when I replied, "No, I hate the hard work of writing. I like to have written."

Writing reminds me of a trip to the dentist. It hurts every time and usually costs more than you planned to spend, but there's no other way to flash that Pepsodent smile.

Three years ago a novice writer sent us her first manuscript, a well-oiled autobiographical piece which we published. She immediately volunteered to write again. "This was easy," she bubbled, "It all flowed so well."

We assigned her another article that she tackled with gusto. A month later she called groaning, "You told me the second one would be harder, but I didn't believe you. I do now. This thing just won't write itself like the first one."

Her problem? The first article danced from the furrowed paragraphs of her

own experience. All she did was follow the yellow brick road. But the second one hid in the grass and bit her hand when she tried to collar it. By the time she mailed the second manuscript, she'd discovered a valuable lesson—not all articles are created equal.

Some writing's easier than others, but sooner or later it all bites back. Writers who chop out hunks of raw material to stack on blank pages apply the same formula that roustabouts use when clearing new ground—one part talent and three parts hard work.

What's the fun side of writing? Refining the roughage. We call it editing and rewriting. Every writer learns to weed his own material or he papers his study with rejection slips.

Editing reduces bulky research to streamlined paragraphs and couples sentences like boxcars to a locomotive. The skilled writer corners words that generate power and sidesteps those that only roll downhill. Word choice determines whether readers zip from paragraph to paragraph or yawn and turn the page.

How do you know which words do what? Never use a word without road testing it first. Polish it. Taste it. Turn it over in your mind. Stand it alongside your ideas. Feel its nose. If it comes when you whistle, point it to where it can do the most good.

Writing demands greater precision than speaking because the reader can't see the gleam in your eye or the shrug of your shoulder. He can only "see" through your word choice. Choose words that whisper, sing, nag or leap—

whatever's required to get the reader inside your thought with you.

Write in a simple, direct, conversational style. No one buys stuffy writing. Be friendly, open and honest with your readers; they can spot fluff with one eye closed.

Work at it until someone utters the six most beautiful words in the English language to a journalist: "You write just like you speak."

You'll hear those words after you do three things—practice, practice, practice. We know what happens to athletes who skip practice. The coach benches them. While no coach benches writers who refuse to practice, you can be sure that finicky editors will thumb them from the game.

Every writer starts with one shy sentence, then two, then a paragraph until he hears the throaty birth growl of an idea that came to life on paper.

The point is, you can write better. Take writing seriously; just don't take yourself too seriously. Be sure you've got something to say. Then put your best words forward. Technique and style add pizzazz to your writing, but only you can give it content.

Shirley Pope Waite advises writers who may be afraid to try: "When Pearl Buck mentioned her rejection slips, a listener exclaimed, 'I didn't think you ever got rejection slips!' Miss Buck replied, 'I'm a writer, aren't I!'"

Heard enough? Then jump in. Enjoy the agony of writing with us.

How to Write



Church News

By Bert Tippet

"I would rather people told me something 10 times than let me miss it once."

That was the response of Bob Bell, Jr., former religious news editor of the *Nashville Banner*, when I asked if he got tired of so many news releases that crossed his desk every day from the 750 churches in the city.

He reminded me that news is the life blood of newspapers. Without it, they have no existence.

Most editors recognize that churches are an important part of the community. Their activities are newsworthy and deserve inclusion in newspapers.

The problem arises from the fact that many Christians, even Free Will Baptists, have been extraordinarily reluctant to give newspapers the stories they crave. This grows from two false assumptions: That editors do not want our news and that we are incapable of giving it to them.

What Is Church News?

We must begin by recognizing what is and is not news.

The run-of-the-mill, week-to-week happenings of the church are not news. But the new, the special and the different are news.

A list of regular service times is not news. Attendance, when about average,

is not news. Monthly business meetings are not news. (However, if the business included something of community interest or a bold, new step by the church, it becomes news.)

A new pastor or the resignation of the current pastor is news. A revival is news. A church growth award is news. Groundbreaking for a building is news. Even a sermon series on youth conflicts can be news, especially if it's presented as an outgrowth of concern for the community.

Keep four rules in mind as you consider what to submit to newspapers.

First, the news must be current. Editors want to know about it *before* it happens. If that is impossible, tell them *immediately* after it happens. One day's delay may be too late.

Second, the more people it affects, the bigger the story. For that reason, the wise church reporter will look for ways to demonstrate his church's outreach to and interest in the entire community. A film series on the home may attract people from a wide area, if it is publicized.

Third, important people make news. An officer of the National Association or a representative of a national department, speaking at your church, is news.

So is a local politician or community leader. The community may not recognize his name, but it will respect his office.

Fourth, youth activities are news. (They are also great for attracting the attention of families with teenagers.) Rock-a-thons, walk-a-thons, trips, teens ministering in nursing homes, etc. would be considered newsworthy.

Who Will Write the Story?

Someone in every church should be designated the church reporter. It may be the pastor, although he's usually too busy to add another responsibility. The church secretary or clerk would have access to most of the information needed and would be a good candidate. Even a reliable high school/college journalism student might be used.

It should relieve some pressure to know that no church reporter actually writes the story. Every newspaper has a staff to handle that job. All the church reporter needs to do is gather all of the information that will be called for. The news may be written down and mailed, if it is in advance of the event, or even phoned in to the paper if the event is very near or has already taken place.

What Information Should I Get?

Regardless of the news you have to release, there is some information you should always have at hand.

First, get the names of all people involved, making certain they are spelled correctly. Titles are important, too.

Second, get dates and times.

Third, collect as many details as you can. How many people were there? How much will it cost? How long did he pastor the church? What was the previous record? This will take time to research.

Fourth, a good quote or two will spice up the story. Newspapers report facts, not opinions. But you can get opinions into the story via a quote.

For instance, you cannot turn in as fact that your revival speaker is a compassionate man with a burden for souls. However, you can include in your news release a quote: "Rev. Glasser, pastor of the church says, 'Evangelist Stanley Shore is the most compassionate man I have ever known.'"

The form in which you report news is not so important, but accuracy is. Use a Who, What, When, Where, Why outline, if it fits. Group your facts under those headings. Sentence structure does not matter. If your grammar is shaky, don't worry. Editors are like Sergeant Friday. They all say, "I want the facts, ma'am, just the facts."

How Can I Get My Foot in the Door?

Since most editors are busy people, swamped by news releases, do anything you can to give yourself and your story an edge.

Check your newspaper to see what kind of church stories are being run.

That will give you a clue as to what the editor is interested in.

The pastor, with the church reporter, would do well to invest time for a trip to the newspaper's office for a visit with the editor. Be sure you make an appointment. Ask him what he would like to be kept informed about. Assure him of your desire to cooperate with him. Invite him to your church, especially to special church functions.

This will do two things: First, it will give you a better idea of the kind of news you will want to send him. Second, it will cause him to look favorably on your stories since you were interested enough to pay him a visit.

Where Can I Find More Help?

A visit to any bookstore or library will put you in touch with resources on news writing. Here are a few books I have found helpful:

—*Informing The People*, by Charles H. Brown (Holt, Rinehart and Winston)

—*The Complete Reporter*, by Julian Harriss and Stanley Johnson (Macmillan)

Three other books are worth the price if you intend to do much writing. A style manual is a good investment. I recommend *The Elements of Style*, by William Strunk, Jr., and E. B. White (Macmillan). The paperback edition is inexpensive.

The Technique of Clear Writing, by Robert Gunning (McGraw-Hill), is the best book I have read on this subject.

For writing personal accounts and features, *Effective Feature Writing*, by Clarence Schoenfeld (Harper & Row), is excellent.

Free Will Baptists have a story to tell, and newspapers are ready to help us tell it. It's time we cranked up our courage

and jumped into the stream of church publicity. Actually, it isn't as cold as most people fear. Come on in; the water's fine.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Bert Tippet is director of publications at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Directory Update

ARKANSAS

Jesse Carothers to Plainview Church, Plainview

Robert Hidde to Ballew's Chapel Church, Grubbs from Madison Avenue Church, Tulsa, OK

H. A. Goodin to Rose Hill Church, Monticello

Dave Franks, Jr. to Faith Church, Corning

Dwayne Roper to Blackland Chapel Church, Oil Trough from Yorktown Church, Star City

John Redfearn to First Church, Mtn. Home from Modesto Church, Modesto, CA

GEORGIA

Roger Beecher to First Church, Hahira
Jerry Williams to Bellview Church, Bellview

ILLINOIS

Randy Eubanks to Webb's Prairie Church, Ewing

VIRGINIA

Tommy Street to Adwolf Church, Marion from Marvin Chapel Church, Marianna, FL

OTHER PERSONNEL

Mike Mize to First Church, Fort Smith, AR, as assistant pastor from Mt. Calvary Church, Conway, AR

Jeff Heath to Grace Church, Greenville, NC, as associate pastor



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Write for Your Audience

By Kathy Tippet Henderson

Ready . . . aim . . . fire! That's good advice for rabbit hunters. It's also on target for writers who want to know their readers and aim to hit their audience.

Most writers struggle to hit their target audience; they're *never* lucky enough to get this kind of letter:

Dear Old Mother Hubbard:

We'd like for you to write an article, 1,000 words in length, with the working title, "How to Scrimp When the Cupboard is Bare."

Many of our readers live on fixed incomes and trim their budgets to the bone.

Sincerely,
John Q. Editor

Now that's an assignment Old Mrs. Hubbard knows well; after all, she *lives* there! But what about that military wife, mother of five, with an article for truckers bouncing around in her brain? There's an audience that's a challenge to hit. Yet she's logged thousands of miles in her red VW and has something to say about the power of prayer on that ribbon of highway.

Ready . . . (Who Goes There?)

Select one magazine and write for its readership. Before the rough draft is fine tuned, the writer should already have a magazine targeted. Being familiar with that periodical, his writing will slant toward that audience. Who reads the publication? How big is the circulation?

Editors often supply writers with information about their readers such as:



general age bracket, occupation, geographic location, average salary. This can be a valuable tool in preparing an article. Some magazines employ someone just to research this area for them.

One sharp editor realized from this data, that a restaurant mentioned in an article submitted to her, was not frequented by her readers. Their salaries and lifestyles did not allow for French cuisine. Instead, a simple editing job took readers to the familiar golden arches.

An informed writer studies the stats on the typical reader as he works his article for a sure hit. Letters to the editor provide an excellent inside glimpse too.

Another way to learn about the potential reader of your piece is to choose a model. If you're a college student writing to pastors, seek out one or two and write as though you were addressing them. Actually "see them" and keep them in mind as you choose

thoughts, vocabulary and phrasing. I don't subscribe to *Pulpit Helps*, but I know several who do and they help me when I write for that publication.

These two objective ways can help prepare your manuscript to custom fit an audience: study the stats and publication, and choose a model from the readership.

Aim . . . (What Sayest Thou?)

This second step is more subjective and involves personalities. I once wrote about teen pregnancy. No longer being in either category, I had little information to go on. So I made a lunch date with a counselor who deals with this subject. Her insights focused my target clearly and loaded me with quotes and ideas of approach.

A step beyond the interview with an insider, is to participate with someone in the activity about which you are writing. Tag along for a typical work day.

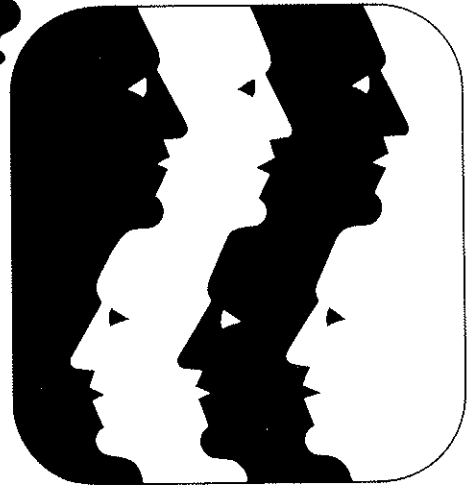
One author needed information about the elderly, so she *became old* via makeup artistry. Disguised as a bag lady, she lived the life for a while. Her sympathy became empathy far beyond anything she could have learned second hand.

Fire! (Right on Target.)

Finally, time to sit down and put those ideas on paper. Toss out preconceived notions and rely on fact-gathering from good research: library reading, interviewing, observing and participating with your audience. Include statements from the authorities.

History: Important or Impotent?

By Steven Hasty



Have Free Will Baptists forgotten God's blessings? The answer is yes, if we neglect and forget our 260-year-old heritage. Yes again, if we fail to pass on this important historical legacy to the next generation.

Lest we forget, God ordered Joshua to erect a stone memorial at the spot where Israel crossed over Jordan into the Promised Land (Joshua 4). God's purpose was to excite the natural curiosity of the younger generations still to come.

As they asked, "What mean ye by these stones?" their parents could pass on the wonderful story of God's bountiful blessings in the desert wilderness.

These quotes substantiate your suggestions.

Zero in on the local fellows, the ones you walked and talked with. Quotes add color as well as validity. Whenever possible convince your readers with facts: percentages, polled numbers and survey finds.

When it's on paper and rewritten a few times, ask someone else to read it. Not your mother, husband or Aunt Grace. They love you. Choose someone like the readers of the magazine for



ABOUT THE WRITER: Kathy Tippet Hender-son is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church, Newport News, Virginia. As a free-lance writer, Kathy has been published in several Christian publications.

Thus, God cleverly used history as a tool to foster a greater trust in His providential leading of Israel.

If we ignore the importance of history, we will be ignorant of God and what He has done for us in the past. At the Centennial Convention of Baptists in Michigan in 1936, a once-prominent Free Will Baptist quipped,

any worthwhile movement which doesn't draw strength and inspiration from the memories of its origins, struggles, triumphs and defeats is a movement with shallow roots and doubtful fruitfulness. ("The Free-Will Baptists in Michigan" by Willfred Mauck, October 19, 1936)

Most of us are only interested in the present. But, wait a minute. Wasn't "just

whom you wrote. Ask him to be critical. Use his language and word choice when describing something technical or germane to the piece.

When writing to ministers, a "totally awesome sermon" might not quite grab them like "the message that altered my thinking and acting." Teens might finish the article on dating if you avoid words like "court" and "spoon."

The opening and closing paragraphs are especially important. Hook your reader immediately. The reading audience is hard to please, and rightly so. Time is valuable so they choose what they read selectively.

Leave your reader with a fresh idea. Make him want to do something about an old problem or rethink a common dilemma. When he finishes your article he should say, "Why I never thought of that! I can do that too." The worst verdict he can pronounce on your work is to shrug and sigh, "So what? What's that have to do with me?"

Avoid the temptation to preach, even to preachers. Folks are more likely to react favorably to suggestions that have been tested than to demands.

Know your subject. It's the foundation whether your writing target is easy or remote. When you have something to say, you're ready to aim and fire right into your readers' eyes.

caring about the present" Esau's problem? Shouldn't we conclude that history forms the basement upon which the upper floors (present and future) rest?

The Dark Ages did not end until someone discovered, dusted off and read the library books written over a thousand years before. God knows that we Free Will Baptists need a Renaissance, a rebirth, a new beginning.

I'm not suggesting that we deify our heritage. Rather, history may be personified as a kindly old schoolmaster who beckons us to gaze upon the gallery of gallant FWB men and women who led their world to Christ while standing foursquare against the evils of their day. He points to dusty bookshelves, loaded with various volumes collectively representing a formidable "FWB encyclopedia of knowledge."

These biographies are manuals full to overflowing with interesting anecdotes about methods other Free Will Baptists have successfully employed to turn their world upside down for Christ.

When will we trade in the mule for the tractor, the Model A Ford for the Lincoln? History is not something new, untried and worthless. It's "His-story." If we ignore it, we ignore Him.

A computer without a memory is useless. So are we, if we fail to clear and cultivate this virgin timberland in our movement. When history's importance is finally recognized and fully tapped, it will no longer be impotent. And with His help, neither will we.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Steven R. Hasty is a member of the Free Will Baptist Historical Commission.

Angels as Protectors

By Malcolm Fry

The most important characteristic of angels is not that they have power to exercise control over our lives or that they are beautiful, but that they work on our behalf. They are motivated by an inexhaustible love for God and are jealous to see that the will of God in Jesus Christ is fulfilled in us.

The promise of Psalm 91:11-12 is still valid today. "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."

Several years ago a minister led a group to tour the Holy Land. They ultimately arrived at the ancient city of Ephesus. While the minister attempted to get a photograph of those remarkable ruins, the marble slab on which he stood tilted and he fell backwards into a 10-foot deep excavation, the bottom of which was littered with jagged fragments of marble.

As he began to fall, there was, for a flashing moment, a sense of terrible fear. Then, instantly, the fear and feel of falling vanished and he seemed to be floating, rather than falling. It was as though strong hands were under him, gently lowering him to the bottom of the excavation. Apart from his arm hitting his glasses against his eyebrow, causing a slight laceration, he had no other injury. To the amazement of other tour group members, he continued the tour without pain or discomfort.

The minister said, "While I realize that Psalm 91 has Messianic application, I cannot help feeling that what happened to me at Ephesus was a definite fulfillment of God's wonderful promise in those verses."

Have there not been times when you wondered why a detour was necessary

in your route, or an inadvertent (supposed) time delay only to discover later that you just missed being involved in a collision or mishap of some nature? Could not such an experience be the work of the Lord through angels on your behalf?

Charge or Command

"He shall give His angels charge over thee." Not just one guardian angel, but all angels are our bodyguards. They are commanded to take special note of the people of God.

We have the example of Hagar who ran away from Sarah's abusive treatment and had the first of two encounters with an angel: "And the angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur" (Genesis 16:7).

Fifteen years later, Hagar again was in the desert, not as a fugitive this time, but as an outcast from Sarah. Her son Ishmael was dying of thirst, "... and God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad a drink. And God was with the lad. ..." (See Genesis 21:14-20).

Constant

Psalm 91 relates further, "... to keep thee in all thy ways. ..." A classic example is that of Elijah after the Mount Carmel experience as recorded in I Kings 19:1-8. For God's distraught, dis-



couraged and exhausted prophet, the angel provided super vitamins that kept him going 40 days.

"And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God" (vv. 5-8).

He went from defeat to victory as a result of God's intervention through angelic beings.

Concern and Protection

Psalm 91 reminds us that angels "... shall bear thee up in their hands ..." [just as nurses carry little children] lest thou dash thy foot. ... Even minor ills

are warded off by angelic beings. God sends them to bear us up above the loose pebbles.

What examples of concern and protection are evidenced in the book of Daniel. First, regarding the three Hebrews thrown into the fiery furnace. God honored their faithfulness, showed His concern and sent angelic protection. The experience convinced the king that Jehovah was the only true God.

"Then Nebuchadnessar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God" (Daniel 3:28).

Second, regarding Daniel in the den with starving lions as companions. That was a long night for the king, a longer night than it was for Daniel. Strange isn't it—or is it? A king reposing in his luxurious bed chamber and Daniel, the servant of God, cast in a lion's den.

The next morning, the pagan king said, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?"

Then Daniel replied, "O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me . . ." (See Daniel 6:16-23).

To Hagar, in the latter encounter, the angel gave assurance and life-sustaining water, and then promised a divine covenant of prosperity and blessing.

When Elijah wished to die, the angel didn't tell him to pray and confess his sin. He made two hot meals for him and gave him a cool refreshing drink.

As for Daniel, the angel knew just what he needed, so he gave all the lions temporary lockjaw and the prophet a good night's rest. In Daniel's situation, as well as that of the three Hebrews, unusual testimonies were elicited from the mouths of pagan kings.

One day we may stand amazed at the multiplied services which the unseen hands of angels have rendered to us. "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them" (Psalm 34:7).



Iraised my camera to photograph John Wesley's grave and noted that the founder of Methodism had been buried under the second leader of that denomination as well.

That thought lingered as I visited in the narrow three-story home and prayed in his small prayer room. What tremendous impact this small man made on Christendom with his sermons, writings and leadership. He influenced the British and American church and fathered Sunday Schools in America through the new Methodist movement.

Before I left for the underground subway, the tube as it is called in London, I stopped to ask where Mrs. Wesley was buried. The caretaker pointed to a tiny cemetery across the busy street, and in pure British said, "He's ma'ther ees over thar."

My wife and I debated the dangerous crossing, but found our way safely into the small graveyard known as Dunkirk. While looking for Susanna Wesley's grave, I discovered the unexpected in

this cemetery not much bigger than a large lot for a house.

I first spotted the tomb of John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim's Progress* and noted preacher. Then I found the tombs of author Daniel Defoe who wrote *Robinson Crusoe*; Isaac Watts, noted hymn writer; John Owen and John Gill, both remembered as writers and preachers of note.

And not far away in another small plot lay George Fox, the founder of the Quakers.

Darkness fell before we could visit more; besides we were drenched from the London drizzle. But I have never forgotten the impact those little graveyards made on me as I pondered the millions who have been saved and blessed by those who left their legacy. Their graves were simple, but the grants of faith and fervor are still felt and remembered.

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

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Malcolm C. Fry pastors Unity Free Will Baptist Church, Smithfield, North Carolina.

A Marriage Made in Heaven?

By David Copeland

There are many ways to describe the relationship between pastor and congregation. Some say that it's a shepherd/sheep relationship, and certainly that's biblical.

Tragically, some ministers see it as a king/servant relationship. They think that what they say, as pastor, ought to be the law of the land. I don't agree.

True, the Bible says that the pastor is the earthly leader of the church, and that he is to be honored, respected and obeyed. (Only if he is standing on scriptural grounds.) But nowhere is the pastor authorized to act as a dictator, one whose words are to be followed without question.

There's a better way to look at this relationship—as a marriage. Each one has a different role, but each is equal in worth. Both are committed to be faithful and true to the other. The main desire of both is to see that the needs of the other are met.

To take this analogy further, the pastor/congregation relationship goes through stages just like a marriage. Marriage counselors tell us there are three stages a marriage can go through that I think pastors and congregations do as well.

First, there's the *honeymoon stage*. This stage is marked by feelings of being on Cloud 9. Everything's perfect. Both partners fascinated, thrilled and captivated with each other. Nothing could be better! The church feels they have the perfect pastor, the pastor feels he has the perfect church.

Then there comes the second stage known as the *disenchantment stage*.

This stage is marked by feelings of being trapped, upset, bitter and uncomfortable with each other.

Both partners have realized that the other is definitely not perfect. They begin to see each other's weaknesses and faults. *They attack each other instead of the problem.* One or both may feel that they want to give up on the other and that the relationship will not survive.

This stage is very important because only one of two things will happen during this stage.

Either the relationship will grow stronger or it will be destroyed. It takes love, commitment, communication, patience and forgiveness to survive this stage.

When this stage is handled properly, it leads to the third and best stage. The *maturity stage* where both partners have their feet on the ground.

During this stage phrases like, "I need you," "How do you see it?" "Let's work it out," "I'll help you," and "Together we can make it" are heard. Each is thankful for the other. Each encourages and refreshes the other. Yes, problems still arise. But when they do, they look at each other and say, "With God's help, together we can and will handle it."



This article was written from the honeymoon suite at Chapel Lane FWB Church.

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



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

FOUR FROM BIBLE COLLEGE APPROVED AS STUDENT MISSIONARIES

NASHVILLE, TN—Four Free Will Baptist Bible College students were approved for service as summer missionaries when the board of foreign missions met in Nashville in December, according to General Director R. Eugene Waddell.

The students are Michael Gragg, a junior from Nashville; Joan Warner, a junior from Nashville; Barbara Warner, a junior from Fredericktown, Mo.; and Lovenia Childress, a junior from Louisa, Ky. Miss Childress has been assigned to serve in Panama. The others will assist missionaries in Ivory Coast.

General Director Waddell says, "Our student missionary program has proven very successful in recent years. And its importance is magnified by the prospect that we may have six missionary families retiring within the next seven years." He added, "We are pleased with the four fine young people who have been appointed to serve as student missionaries next summer."

The students will raise their own expense funds and will serve about 10 weeks on the field to which they have been assigned. Gifts to their funds may be designated and sent to the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department.

REVEREND JERRY DUDLEY, FORMER OKLAHOMA MODERATOR, DIES AT AGE 60

STRATFORD, OK—More than 400 people gathered at Stratford FWB Church January 5 to attend funeral services conducted in honor of Reverend Jerry Dudley, former Oklahoma State Association moderator. Brother Dudley died January 2 in an Oklahoma City hospital. Reverends Jack Richey, Keith Burden and Meryle Erickson officiated. Burial followed at McGee Cemetery near Stratford.

Born October 2, 1927, the 60-year-old Stigler, Okla., native was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1951. During his 36-year pastoral ministry, Dudley pastored seven Free Will Baptist churches in Oklahoma and California.

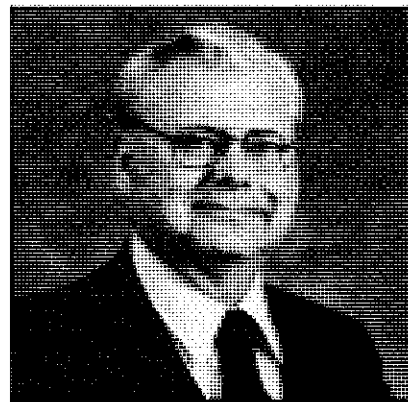
He pastored 13 years in California: First FWB Church, Bakersfield (1952-54); First FWB Church, Tulare (1954-56); Concord FWB Church (1957-61, 63-66); First FWB Church, Stockton (1961-63).

He pastored 19 years in Oklahoma: Southern Oaks FWB Church, Oklahoma City (1966-76); Choctaw FWB Church (1978-83); Stratford FWB Church (1976-78, 86-88).

Known for his faithfulness to sound doctrine and his commitment to the Free Will Baptist denomination, Brother Dudley filled numerous denominational posts on local, state and national levels.

He served the Oklahoma State Association as moderator (1984-87), clerk (1972-83), and chairman of the Church Training Service Board (1966-71). His leadership in the California State Association is reflected in his service as state moderator (1963-66), chairman of the California Bible Institute Board of Trustees (1956-57) and clerk of the state mission board (1954-57).

The National Association of Free Will Baptists elected Reverend Dudley assis-



tant clerk (1969-72) and a member of the Radio-TV Board (1955-58).

Brother Dudley frequently contributed articles to denominational publications. Two of his recent articles which appeared in *Contact* drew widespread praise from denominational leaders as he called for brethren to accept one another—"Let Me Call You Brother" (February 1986 issue) and "The Philippiian Ethic" (May 1983 issue).

Reverend Dudley studied at four colleges: Free Will Baptist Bible College (1950-51), San Jose Bible College (1951-52), College of the Sequoias (1954-56), and the University of California at Berkeley (1957-59).

He married Beatrice Elam in 1950 at Modesto, Calif. He was a member of the American Legion and a World War II veteran.

He is survived by his wife, Beatrice; three daughters, Brenda Webb of Oklahoma City; Debbie Burden and Carla Williams, both of Ada; two sisters, Christine Fletcher of Corvallis, Ore., and Freida Fox of Oregon City, Ore; and seven grandchildren.

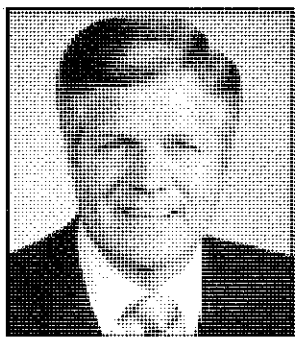
He was preceded in death by his parents Elbert W. and Giulia Chastain Dudley, and his daughter Kay Metcalf.



Michael Gragg (L),
R. Eugene Waddell,
Joan Warner,
Barbara Warner,
Lovenia Childress.

JOHN GIBBS LEAVES HOME MISSIONS

NASHVILLE, TN—Reverend John Gibbs, director of development for the Home Missions Department, announced that he was leaving the agency after more than eight years to



pursue other ministry outreach. His future plans were indefinite on December 31, 1987, his final day with Home Missions.

The 49-year-old Missouri native came to the Home Missions Department after 16 years pastoring churches and serving as Tennessee Promotional Director. While with the Department he introduced the "Highway Helpers" program designed to raise monthly support for the Home Missions staff as they traveled more than 500,000 miles in conferences and revivals.

Gibbs also introduced the "Investment Program," a means whereby Free Will Baptists across America can invest in the CELF Program and earn interest. Under his guidance, the loan fund grew to \$1.5 million. In addition, he handled wills and estate planning.

Brother Gibbs designed and planned the annual November Home Missions Appeal developing themes, slogans and

gift ideas. He correlated Roll Call Sunday promotion and tabulations, and initiated the first teaching/preaching video tape ministry on a national level through Home Missions.

Known widely for his singing ability, Reverend Gibbs has performed in six foreign countries and many states in the U. S. He said, "When I came on board at Home Missions, I had a goal to make three records. I surpassed that goal by making four records and one music video. After eight years of singing, the records generated over \$170,000 for Home Missions."

Two responsibilities showcased Brother Gibbs' versatility at the National Convention each year. He planned music for the annual Camp Meeting service, and designed and built the Home Missions exhibit displayed in the booth area.

However, most people met him through Home Missions Evangelism Conferences. Brother Gibbs arranged all the conference music, led singing and sang the specials. Records, cassettes and videos by John Gibbs are still available and may be ordered directly from him.

Records/Cassettes by John Gibbs
\$7 each/3 for \$20/4 for \$25
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FLORIDA CHURCH HONORS OFFICERS

LAKE BUTLER, FL—Members of Harmony FWB Church, Lake Butler, Fla., honored several officers for faithful service, according to Pastor Bud Hill.

The church gave a plaque to Robert Clyatt when he retired after 50 years as a deacon. His wife also received a plaque for her faithfulness as a deacon's wife for 50 years.

Church treasurer Myrtice Dukes was cited for 13 years of faithful service as she received a plaque.

The church sponsored a reception in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Brown for their years of service. Brother Brown has been a member of the Harmony FWB Church for 70 of its 75 years of existence. He served as a deacon, music

director as well as other positions.

During Mrs. Annie Brown's 69 years as a church member, she served as a Sunday School teacher and other responsible positions. Pastor Bud Hill presented a plaque to the Browns commemorating their service.



Mrs. Annie Brown (L.), Carl Brown, Pastor Bud Hill.

REV. ELMER KEENER WITH THE LORD

HOT SPRINGS, NC—The Reverend Elmer F. Keener, pastor of Meadow Fork FWB Church in Hot Springs, N.C., died of heart failure November 7, 1987.

Rev. Keener, 72, was ordained at age 40. Born September 12, 1915, in Mountain View, Ark., he was orphaned in 1918 during a flu epidemic. He later moved to Canton, N.C., and married Irene Ward. She prayed for him until he was saved.

Every evening, after working at Champion Paper Company all day, Elmer would go to church somewhere, then return home and read his Bible until midnight. He began personal soul winning in a jeep with Bible tracts in a rack on the sides, then jail services, street services and brush arbor services.

He traveled to Hot Springs, N.C., and began a church in the Meadow Fork Community of Madison County. With the help of friends, he built and paid for a church building with space for Sunday School classes in the basement. The deed for the property states, "To be used for a Free Will Baptist Church only." Without the help of a mission board, he became a missionary. For most of 28 years he pastored the Meadow Fork FWB Church.

Pastor Keener lived in a 40-year-old house on a small city lot; the only other property he owned was 3.5 acres in Buncombe County. He donated this land to the North Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists where they built the Western Carolina Free Will Baptist Rest Home near Asheville.

Later, Preacher Keener began pastoring Sulphur Springs FWB Church in Waynesville, N.C. He was pastoring two churches, driving 100 miles on Sundays, preaching at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., plus working a full-time job at Champion Paper Company.

At age 62, Keener took early retirement from Champion Paper Co. to go full time in the ministry. His years as an orphan had given him a heart of compassion for those who suffer. He hauled clothes and toys by the car loads, in addition to the gospel he preached, to the people in Madison County, N.C.

His three children are Gary Keener, minister of music in Greenwood, S.C.; Anita Messer, wife of Rev. Howard Messer who pastors First FWB Church in Erwin, Tenn.; and Marcia Moran, wife of Rev. Jack Moran who pastors Shady Grove FWB Church in Durham, N.C.

Never let it be said that 61 is too old for college. Deacon **Edward Richey** of **Southern Oaks FWB Church, Oklahoma City, OK**, does more than support Hillsdale FWB College financially. Brother Richey enrolled in a night class on the life of the Apostle John. He continues working full time as sales manager at Lewis Manufacturing Company. This brings up an interesting question—why shouldn't the people who build our Free Will Baptist colleges benefit from them educationally?

This may be a first! The children at **Oak Valley FWB Church, Geff, IL**, conducted a jump-a-thon and raised \$150. **Mike Neuman** pastors the energetic youngsters.

Pastor **Kenneth Edwards** reports six new church members, two baptisms, one rededication and one teenager converted at **Harmony FWB Church, West Frankfort, IL**.

Seven new members joined **Calvary FWB Church, Salem, IL**. Pastor **Cliff Donoho** was elected to the Salem school board. Members recently surprised the pastor and his wife by carpeting the parsonage.

Church reporter **Janice Cherry** noted nine baptisms at **First FWB Church, Mt. Vernon, IL**. **Howard Flota** pastors.

Members at **Butterfield FWB Church, Aurora, IL**, did more than celebrate their 25th anniversary. After rejoicing over 25 years of community witness, members promptly went out and collected non-perishable food items for the local rescue mission. Church youth under the direction of **Chad Newman** remodeled and repaired a church building in downtown Chicago. Members also target providing \$1,500 to dig a well in Burkina Faso, West Africa. **J. Reford Wilson** pastors.

Pastor **Raymond Capps** said members of **New Hope FWB Church, Ina, IL**, set a goal of 60 in attendance. As they reached that number they also added three members to the church.

The **Tennessee** Ministers, Laymen and Christian Workers Retreat is set at Smokey Shadows Conference and Retreat Center in **Pigeon Forge** on March 17-19. This is the first year that the retreat is open to anyone except ministers, deacons and men.

Pastor **Ray Stockton** and members of **Roan Street FWB Church, Elizabethton, TN**, paid off an \$84,000 church mortgage two years ahead of schedule. Because members gave \$2,000 above the church indebtedness, they also paid off the church van. Tennessee promotional director **Raymond Riggs** brought the morning message.

Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN, announced that 91 stu-

dents made the dean's list for the fall semester with grades of B or higher. Nine were straight-A students. By classes, the dean's list students numbered 18 seniors, 25 juniors, 23 sophomores 22 freshmen and 3 special students.

Missouri pastor **Greg McAllister** conducted the January 4-8 Master's of Ministry Seminar at **California Christian College, Fresno, CA**. He developed a number of messages with the seminar theme "Discipling, Closing the Back Door." In addition, California ministers **Rodney Whaley** and **Joe Cutler** presented a music seminar.

Hold on there! We misidentified the pastor at **Mt. Carmel FWB Church, Perry, FL**, in October's "Currently" column. Our apologies to Pastor **Edward Green** and thanks for his understanding and his good sense of humor. Pastor Green said, "It is thrilling for me to know that mistakes are a common bond that bind us all together." (Even editors need editors.)

Reverend **James W. Roberts**, 83, a Free Will Baptist minister for more than 40 years, died October 13, 1987, in Marianna FL. Brother Roberts had pastored in Florida, Alabama and Georgia.

Reverend **Henry Killen, Sr.**, 85, died in Florence, AL, December 23, 1987. The Tennessee native was a Free Will Baptist minister for 62 years.

Members of **Holmesville FWB Church, New Brunswick, Canada** began CTS activities in October. **Kenneth Winningham** pastors.

Pastor **Hazen Burlock** reports an enlarged parking lot, new siding, thermo windows, casings and vertical blinds installed at **Bristol FWB Church, New Brunswick, Canada**.

Some 128 students enrolled for the fall semester at **Southeastern FWB College** in **Wendell, NC**. Officials reported students from 13 states and one foreign country. The number includes 83 dormitory students. The school recently completed five buildings with 30,000 square feet of usable space. Cost for the first-phase land and building program topped \$2.2 million.

Pine Level FWB Church, Chester, GA, honored retired minister **W. L. Amerson** with a special day. Deacon **J. F. Register** presented Brother Amerson with a plaque citing 35 years in the ministry.

Pastor **Ben Scott** reports a record offering of \$5,447 at **First FWB Church, North Little Rock, AR**.

Funeral services for Reverend **W. S. Isbel** were conducted December 15, 1987, in Russellville, AR. Brother Isbel, 96, served as historian and statistician for the **Arkansas State Association** for a number

of years. He led in organizing and establishing **First FWB Church, Russellville**.

Although it's early in the year to talk about Christmas trees, this one's unique. The first annual Living Christmas Tree presented by **Grace FWB Church, Greenville, NC**, in 1987 attracted 2,600 people to three performances. Pastor **Ed Walker** said 65 people sang in the tree while more than 200 helped prepare and present the program.

Contact welcomes *Church Life*, monthly publication of **Demaree FWB Church, Visalia, CA**. The first edition noted that the church adopted a \$45,000 budget for 1988. **L. A. Yandell** pastors.

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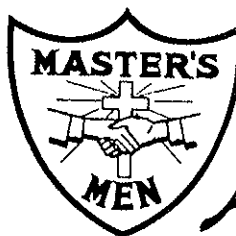
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MASTER'S ANDATE



Attack

It's Time for the 10th National Conference!

April in Tennessee . . . new life springs from the ground . . . the weather warms . . . the Master's Men gather for their 10th annual National Conference.

It's homecoming time for the men, many of whom have been influenced by the annual conference. Everyone who ever attended is invited back for the 10th anniversary.

"Continue . . . In the Faith" banners the theme as men travel to Linden, Tenn. Four laymen will develop the theme in worship sessions. Over a dozen others will lead workshops during the April 21-23 meeting.

The 10th anniversary homecoming celebration is for all males 12 years of age and above. Reservations can be made by any Free Will Baptist male; but there's only room for 300. Send in the reservation form on this page to receive a descriptive brochure.

Time for worship and learning as well as sports and relaxation are included. Canoe the Buffalo River . . . fish its depths . . . hike woodland trails . . . play volleyball or basketball . . . enjoy a catfish dinner . . . and a late-night testimony time!

Master's Hands Projects

Here are several opportunities to get your hands dirty working for the Lord! Pick one; call to schedule a time to work and go. Then let us know.

Home Missions Churches:

Georgia—Liberty Church, Gainesville.
Pastor Billy McKinney 404/532-4671
Frank Hepler of Hollywood, Fla., gave a week of work in January.

Illinois—Calvary Church, Salem.
Pastor Cliff Donoho 618/548-6369
Ground breaking scheduled Easter

Sunday. Brother Donoho hopes to have the building ready for worship by June 26, the church's fourth anniversary.

Howard Gwartney to help with construction.

Nebraska—First Church, Omaha.
Pastor Jerry McClary 402/896-1850
He hopes to have the foundation and floor poured by early April.

Howard Gwartney to help with construction.

Foreign Missions Churches

France—Work scheduled March 14 - April 4, in St. Nazaire. Work has begun on exterior structure.

Japan—Ai-no Sato (near Sapporo). Work has begun for their new church. Building permits require the parsonage portion of the building to be ready for occupancy by March 15.

Workers approved to go: Galen Dunbar, Kan.; Robert Trimble, Mich.; James Vallance, Tenn.; James Orr, Ky.

Tentative departure date: February 23. Length of trip: 3 weeks.

"The challenge to grow in service is an opportunity every Free Will Baptist layman deserves."



clip and mail

"CONTINUE IN THE FAITH"

Tenth Annual Master's Men Conference

Title: (Mr., Rev.) Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church: _____ City _____

Special dietary needs: _____

Fees:	Pre-registration	\$ 5.00	Local attendance for
	Conference Costs	50.00	Friday session only:
	*Total	\$55.00	Pre-reg. & \$20.00

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Send this registration with check to: Master's Men Conference, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

MINI GRAMS

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

The Department Pages

Roll Call Sunday is Coming!

Roll Call Sunday is March 27 (Palm Sunday).

By Roy Thomas

The fifth annual Roll Call Sunday to be held March 27 has an attendance goal of 228,000. The push for the final Sunday of the Spring Enlargement Campaign represents an increase of less than 4,000 over Roll Call Sunday attendance in 1987.

Attendance climbed from 198,239 in 1984 to 224,902 last year. If we all work together, we should have no problem reaching the 228,000 goal.

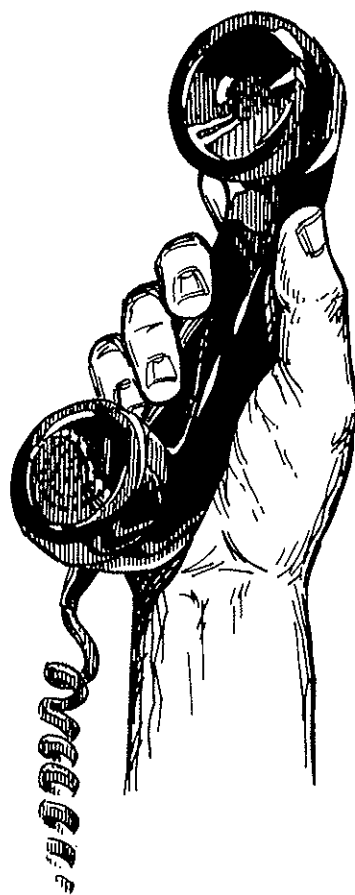
The Target 90 Committee, composed of one representative from each national department, is writing to urge all pastors to enter every church in the Sunday School Department's Spring Enlargement Campaign, "Soldiers of the Cross" or use a campaign of their choice. This will mobilize our churches to work the entire month of March to build to a record crowd on Roll Call Sunday.

Hymn Book Dedication Sunday for *Rejoice*, the new Free Will Baptist hymn book is scheduled for Roll Call Sunday. This will add to the thrill and excitement of a great day.


Last year, 866 salvation decisions were reported on Roll Call Sunday. Praise the Lord for these new names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Because of the emphasis of Roll Call Sunday, they came to church where they heard the gospel and were saved.

On the first Roll Call Sunday in 1984 our largest church had 1,728 in attendance. Last year it had 1,987. The first year a church needed 441 in attendance to be listed in the top 10. Last year a church needed to have at least 735 to make the top 10. It took 247 in attendance to be listed in the top 100 churches last year.

The Home Missions Department is going all out to have a record Roll Call



Sunday attendance for March 27. Every pastor has been written concerning it. About 300 contact men have been enlisted to call the 2,594 pastors in the National Association to secure the Sunday morning church attendance and number of people saved in every church on Roll Call Sunday.

The Home Missions staff is excited about the prospects of record crowds and souls saved on Roll Call Sunday, March 27. I hope you are too! 

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisheart



From My Window

In November my friend gave me a green plastic, upside-down-looking flower pot. Just a brown, dead looking lump showed at the top. But the special instructions assured me that if I followed them, my brown bulb would produce red blooms for Christmas.

Sure enough, with water and light, the plant began to grow. Blades appeared. Then slowly out of one side grew a bud pod. One day it was about three inches high, the next, six or more.

The days just before Christmas were dark and rainy. Even though I watered the plant and opened the draperies every day, the pod didn't open. No red bloom for Christmas.

Now it's almost New Year's Day.

The pod has opened, and I can see at least three flower buds. I can tell the blooms will be red. But they have not opened.

The pot sits on the corner of my desk, making an emphatic statement, "When it's time."

The sun pours over it now and the stalk is 24 inches high. The blades are a healthy, bright green.

I water it, talk to it, and give it lots of special attention.

But I can't force the bloom.

Patience!

Perhaps tomorrow those tightly closed leaves will uncurl and reveal all the beauty of a red amaryllis—fairest of all flowers!

Eunice Edwards Fund

We prayed and hoped for \$10,000 by December 31, 1987.
January 4, 1988—\$10,021.07!

Pre-Easter Week of Prayer

Matthew 18:18, "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." What an awesome responsibility we have as God's servants. Read the verses following this passage and note the conditions and the power of prayer. What a privilege!

Jesus bought it for us on the cross. "Behold, the veil of the temple was rent

in twain from the top to the bottom." Ever since then because of His intercession and the Holy Spirit's work within us, we may boldly enter God's presence.

Participate in this privilege and responsibility this year in WNAC's pre-Easter week of prayer for Foreign Missions. See the *Co-Laborer* for program suggestions and special needs. Check *Heartbeat* and the Missions Hotline (615/361-5005) for current requests.

Laura Belle Barnard Offering

Easter is the season for offering special gifts of praise to God.

Joyfully, we may give to help get the gospel to a woman in India who hasn't heard the resurrection news. A child in South America who has not met the living Christ. A student in Japan who has not yet believed in his heart. An African woman burdened with her sins. The European, searching for the Truth.

Join with thousands of Free Will Baptists and give to further the cause of Christ.

The Annual Convention

In 1935 women from at least eight states met at Black Jack FWB Church in North Carolina to organize into a national woman's group. On June 13, 1935, WNAC was born.

Since that time, the Convention has met annually to transact business, hear reports and rejoice together in God's blessings.

Plan to attend the convention July 19, 1988, in Kansas City, Missouri.

WNAC could have as many as 1,500 voting delegates. Usually about 300 delegates register.

Every state convention should have 15 delegates, and each local Auxiliary should have one delegate at the meeting.



Herman L. Hersey
Director



Board of Retirement

AT YOUR SERVICE

I Am a Free Will Baptist Minister's Widow

A true experience written anonymously

I am a Free Will Baptist minister's widow. My husband evangelized and pastored for 25 years before a debilitating stroke forced him to early retirement at the age of 51. He was not eligible for government disability since he lacked a few quarters in social security payments. At that time, our denomination which he served so faithfully had no adequate retirement plan.

I recall, in years past, vague discussions in the state associations concerning the need for such a plan but invariably someone would say:

"We should invest our money in youth."

"We need to build a state Bible college."

"Let's begin an orphanage."

And so they did. And yet, I could not escape the queasy feeling that such an important subject should not be passed over so lightly.

For 16 years, my husband struggled with feelings of worthlessness because he was unable to assist his family financially in even a small way. In spite of my constant reassurances that I did not mind being the "breadwinner," it did something to his self-respect. I could not help but wish, for his peace of mind, that he had some source of income that he could call his own.

At his death, there were no widow's benefits or insurance to help defray

funeral expenses. Had there been small children the situation could have been far worse.

In just a few years, many Free Will Baptist ministers will be 65 or older. Heart attack, cancer or some other terminal disease may shorten some of their lives, leaving their widows "on their own."

For some unknown reason, women live longer than men. More than one third of women 65 years or older live alone.

Many ministers' wives have always stayed at home, working as housewives and mothers. If their husbands die prematurely, they will pay the funeral expenses and possibly wind up on welfare before too long. Or the family savings will go to finance the husband's long illness. They are terrified that their children will have to take care of them or that some illness will incapacitate them.

Widowhood is enough of an adjustment to make without having these additional worries. Adequate preparation for retirement can mean the difference between a happy, contented

retirement and one filled with resentment and frustration. Thank God our denomination now has a plan whereby ministers' widows may secure help from the denomination their husbands served so long.

Ministers' wives—do encourage your husbands to take out retirement benefits now. Any licensed or ordained minister or employee of a church or denominational agency may participate.

I feel churches should be willing to bear a part of the expense. David Lloyd-George once said, "The true test of a civilization is the way it treats its old people." To paraphrase Lloyd-George it may be said, "A true test of the Christian church is in the way it treats its aged ministers."

Free Will Baptist Bible College **REPORT**

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

Living Testimonies

Everyone loves a good testimony!

The people at FWBBC are no exception. That is why they love the testimonies from the friends below. We trust that you will enjoy them, too.



Free Will Baptist Bible College holds a special place in my heart. It was there I first learned a real love for God's Word.

To go with that love, I also gained a desire to make my life fit God's Word, whatever the cost. I highly recommend FWBBC as a place of preparation, not only for preachers and missionaries, but anyone wanting to learn how to live for Christ.

Rev. Gary Fry
First FWB Church
Mountain Grove, Missouri



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

R. Eugene Waddell
General Director
Foreign Missions Department
Nashville, Tennessee



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

Rev. Tom Malone
First FWB Church
Florence, Alabama



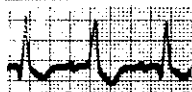
I believe in Free Will Baptist Bible College. It belongs to every Free Will Baptist. We started it. We own it. We support it. Thank God for the return on our investment—pastors, missionaries, Christian workers, denominational leaders.

Dr. Melvin Worthington
Executive Secretary
National Ass'n of FWB
Nashville, Tennessee



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

Rev. Bobby Jackson
Evangelist
Greenville, North Carolina



Do They Ever Come Back?

Eight-year-old Rosangela was "bem educada," as the Brazilians put it. That is, she was well-mannered. Her beauty, serenity, and love would have awed the average Christian.

We first met the polite, bright, decisive little girl shortly after we opened the congregation in the Pauliceia suburb of Campinas, Brazil. Before long she was attending all our church services—prayer meeting, youth meeting, business meeting—you name it. She obviously enjoyed being with God's people.

Rosangela's parents forbade her to return to our church.

Although Rosangela was not in my class, I soon realized she was unusually bright by the way she learned the choruses we sang. And the night of our Christmas play her daddy even came and stood just outside the church door to hear her say her poem.

About two months after we started the Sunday school at Pauliceia, I began an evangelistic story of Madugu. The Lord blessed the children as they learned the Wordless Book verses along with Madugu. Several children accepted Christ as Savior.

Rosangela was among the converts!

Six months later as we ran through the Wordless Book again, the eight-year-old could still present the gospel with the corresponding verses. But most important, she had assurance that Jesus lived in her heart.

Then came the heartache that prodded our daughter Valerie to

by Vicki Sturgill



ask, "Do they ever get to come back to church?" You see, Rosangela's parents forbade her to return to our church. This is a common occurrence in Brazil around February each year.

February is the month in which the Catholic Church makes a big push to get children into catechism classes. Sometimes the priests and nuns work through the schools and sometimes they approach people on a one-on-one basis.

Of the 30 or 40 cases we were acquainted with, not one had ever returned.

Mothers who go to enroll their children in school are asked if the children have taken the First Communion and if they are attending mass. If their response is negative, they are told that past experience has taught school authorities that such children are usually the cause of problems in the school, etc. Unsaved parents are moved to



enroll the children in the catechism classes.

Rosangela was no exception! Soon she was forbidden to attend our church services. And she had to obey her parents.

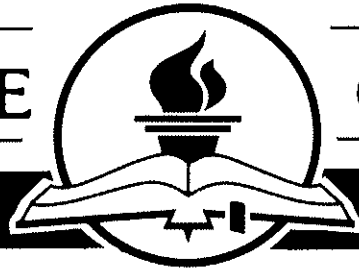
Valerie was sad! Rosangela was one of her best friends.

"Do they ever get to come back to church?" she asked.

As Jim and I mulled over the list in our minds, we had to admit that, of the 30 or 40 such cases we were acquainted with in Campinas, not one single person had ever returned to be faithful in church.

Big tears rolled down Valerie's cheeks as she blurted, "Let's pray that Rosangela will be the first." ❧

Vicki Sturgill is the wife of missionary Jim Sturgill, who works in Campinas, Brazil. The Sturgills are currently on furlough from the field.



Motives For March

Harrold D. Harrison

March 20 ushers in Spring this year, ready or not. March 27 is Roll Call Sunday, and March 6 dates the beginning of the Bible Conference at Free Will Baptist Bible College, the Spring Sunday School Enlargement Campaign, and other important events.

Each of these events cries out for *motivation*. That is an interesting word and one frequently used. A casual look at it reveals the root *motive*. Motive comes from a Latin verb meaning "to move."

A motive comes from *within* a person rather than from without. We say it is *intrinsic*, not *extrinsic*. It can be a need, an idea, an emotion, a loyalty which moves one to action. To say it another way, one is motivated by his own will and not that of another.

This does not mean that outside influences are not a part of the equation. They are. One role of leadership is to provide individuals with a motive or motives which will continue to inspire them from within. One's behavior is seldom a response to a single motivating need.

The implied truth is that the leader is a self-starter, an inspiration. One whose life is seen as a worthy example to imitate and follow. The reward-punishment (carrot stick) approach when exercised by the leader may deliver temporary activity or conformity, but will not usually continue to inspire the individual to act on his own initiative. Ultimately, the individual must develop his own motive to act.

Appropriate principles for motivation are found in the Scriptures. Let us examine two of them.

The principle of judgment. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:10, 11 that we *all* must appear in

judgment before Christ. The thought of such judgment for Christians and the terror of the Lord were strong *motives* for him to persuade men to Christ.

We cannot enforce this principle as a motivation to others, but we can continually expose them to it in hope that it will become a *motive* for them.

We have tried all kinds of gimmicks and gimmickry to motivate our people without much success. Let us furnish them with Scriptural motives.

The principle of Christ's love. In 2 Corinthians 5:14 Paul indicated it was Christ's great love for him which thrust him forth to tell others that they were "dead" and that He died for all so they might live.

I recently edited a manuscript about a person afflicted with a degenerative disease. The illness became so acute that every day was a struggle just to survive. To hold up the head, to be able to stand, or even walk was not always possible. Every minute, every hour, every day was spent in an effort to survive. This person's world had shrunk to very small proportions; to the four walls of one room. All efforts, energies, and medications were expended just to keep the patient alive and free from pain.

The right kind of "motive"ation on the part of individuals in the church can prevent the tragedy of a church spending all its efforts and energies "within its four walls" just to stay alive.

Enlargement time is here. Bible Conference is coming. Spring is on the wing. Roll Call Sunday will soon be here.

Find your motives for March and march to the beat of His drum.

Stewardship Education . . .

. . . can be exciting. Proper planning and preparation are the keys. Stewardship principles should be taught to every member of the congregation from the cradle up. The church is responsible to help believers find fulfillment as stewards.

Every church should keep an active stewardship file with clippings and ideas for developing a year-round program through the Sunday School, church and auxiliaries. Here are a few ideas to add to your file or to start one.

Involving the Congregation . . .

. . . is the first step to effective stewardship education. Elect or appoint a permanent committee to work with the pastor and to enlist helpers. Someone once said, "people seldom support what they do not have a hand in planning."

A Stewardship Emphasis Center . . .

. . . can be a good educational tool. Set aside a bulletin board or a definite area for a permanent stewardship emphasis center. Post information, pictures, meditations, scripture verses, articles, financial reports, budget, etc. Keep postings current. Always allot some space for

materials that appeal to children and youth.

Use the Music Program . . .

. . . to assist in stewardship education. Suggest that the choir director or minister of music include songs with a stewardship theme periodically and particularly during special emphasis times. Ask the choir to present a musical program on stewardship.

Sing stewardship choruses. They may be hard to find, but any age group can write their own to known tunes. Set scripture verses to music. For example, rewrite "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam" as "Jesus Wants Me for a Tither."

Stewardship and Missions Emphasis . . .

. . . go hand in hand. During missions conferences stress stewardship and use some of these suggestions.

Let the Church Library . . .

. . . promote stewardship. Feature stewardship magazines, articles, books and materials in a special display in your library. Prepare a suggested list of books available through your library. Recommend books on stewardship to be purchased and added to the library.

Personal Stewardship Testimonies . . .

. . . motivate members to tithe and give faithfully. Be sure to include younger members who work, and children who tithe their allowances.

Offering Envelopes . . .

. . . make a difference. Give every member of the church and Sunday School, including children, a box of offering envelopes. Order convenient check-size envelopes. Studies show that the larger the envelope the larger the offering. For special offerings use colorful theme envelopes. Children enjoy banks and coin cards.

Stewardship Promotion . . .

. . . is important. Feature a continuing stewardship column in your church newsletter or a small spot in your church bulletin weekly. From time to time use inserts.

Direct Mailings . . .

. . . furnish information to the congregation and help to keep them involved. Write personal letters to share stewardship goals and needs of the church. An informed congregation is a giving congregation.



(Next month: Planning a Stewardship Emphasis Month)

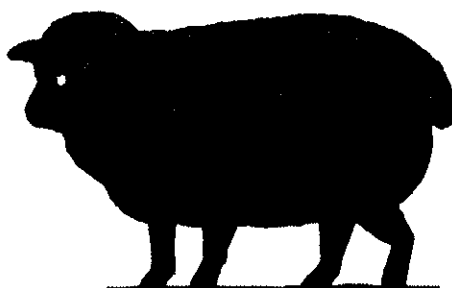
A friend of mine recently made a comment that continues to nag at me. We were talking about church and what makes people want to attend a particular church. My friend does not claim to be a believer, but she has some strong opinions about religion.

She said to me, "You know, I'm looking for a church that has that picture of Jesus as the Shepherd with the lamb in His arms. Only the lamb is black. I'm looking for the Shepherd of the black sheep."

How deeply her words pierced me! Oh, if she only knew that Jesus loves the black sheep of his family, too. Obviously she feels that churches are for "good" people—folks with their lives all together, their problems all figured out.

Is that the image we give about our church? Does a sinner have to get his act together before he comes to church? Must he get well before he meets the Great Physician? Of course not. All of us know better than that.

But there's the root of the problem. All of us know that Jesus loves the sin-




Black Sheep Welcome Here

By Douglas Little

ner just as he is, but the sinner often is led to believe otherwise. Jesus spoke strongly about this when he told the Pharisees: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

We must never forget that God's love for us isn't based on how good we are. We must learn to accept the unsaved with open arms just as Jesus did. No, we can't compromise on sin. But that's not the issue. We've got to help folks see that God loves them in spite of who they are, not because they've earned it.

I'm not giving up on my friend. Someday soon she'll understand and believe. I know she will. Meanwhile, I'm looking for a picture of the Good Shepherd carrying a black sheep. I'm anxious to give it to her. I hope when she comes to our church she'll sense that black sheep are what we all are—and that they're very welcome here. 

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

Top Shelf



Larry Hampton



Vada Lee Barkley, *Survive and Thrive After Fifty-Five* (Randall House Publications, 1987, 151 pp., paperback, \$7.95).

Census Bureau statistics indicate that the number of Americans age 65 and over has doubled during the past 30 years. For the first time in our nation's history, the number of people over 65 outnumbers teenagers. It's estimated that by the year 2010 the number of Americans over 65 will increase from 26 million to 39.3 million. That's 14 percent of the total population.

Randall House Publications recently published a practical book targeted for this segment of the population. *Survive and Thrive After Fifty-five* was written to help retirees make the most of the


rest of their lives. The author, Vada Lee Barkley, 68, is a retired school teacher.

Barkley's book is based on the premise, "The more thoroughly we plan for retirement, the more likely we will be to enjoy it. Retiring to something rather than from something brings greater satisfaction."

The author takes her readers on a creative tour of "Golden Acres" in 12 brief chapters. She covers such topics as planning for a safe and crime-free environment, coping with changing relationships, housing possibilities for senior citizens, meeting the physical

needs of older adults, and making funeral and burial arrangements.

Survive and Thrive After Fifty-five is a hopeful book which presents a realistic picture of the retirement years. If you are 55 or older, you will find this book exceptionally helpful. If you are in your 20's or 30's, this book will enable you to understand senior citizens better as you see life from their perspective.

Some churches are already gearing up to minister to the senior citizens in their area. If you would like for your church to do something for its older members, why not consider buying a copy of Barkley's book for each person in your congregation over 55? 



Green Tree Bible Study



Robert E. Picirilli

John 17:1-5

Paul, A Clear Conscience about the Character of His Ministry

In this series of studies, we first saw that Paul experienced considerable discouragement; perhaps depression would not be too strong a word. Then we saw that he also had victory in spite of things that could easily have broken his spirit. So we've been looking at some passages in the letter that reveal how he kept going regardless of circumstances.

One of the important things is that he understood precisely what the nature of his responsibility to God was, in his ministry, and was confident that he was fulfilling that responsibility. Several parts of II Corinthians display this clear conscience about his ministry.

Take 1:12, for example. Paul speaks of his rejoicing (Greek *kauchesis*, which means a grounds of confidence or of glorying) in the "testimony" (that is, *witness*) of a clear conscience. In other words, he "glories" in the witness of a clear conscience as to his dealings with the Corinthians. His "conversation" includes not just his formal ministry but his whole way of life.

He has conducted himself, he says, in (1) simplicity and (2) sincerity. The first of these (Greek *haplotes*) means singleness, openness, without duplicity or hidden motives, "the virtue of one who is free from pretence or dissimulation" (Thayer).

The second (Greek *eilikrineia*) originally meant to be judged by sunlight, thus transparent, pure, having purity of motive. Notice that Paul calls this (literally) "sincerity of God," that is, a purity or genuineness that can stand the test of the all-knowing gaze of God.

Paul adds that he conducted his ministry "not in carnal wisdom but in God's grace." This shows what he

depended on as the method and power of his ministry.

Take 2:17 for another example. On the negative side, Paul says he did not carry on his ministry as a "corrupter." This word (Greek *kapeluo*) refers to a huckster, peddler—probably one who sold adulterated goods. Paul did not minister for money; he certainly didn't pawn off shoddy goods on folks.


On the positive side, he says he ministered: (1) in "sincerity"—the same word we've just seen in 1:12; (2) as of God—that is, as sent from God and preaching the message of God; (3) "in the sight of God . . . in Christ," meaning that he was conscious of God's watching presence and of his union with and dependence on the power of Christ.

Take 4:2 as one final example. Again the negative comes first. (1) He has renounced the hidden things of "dishonesty" (*aischune*), which means base, shameful, disgraceful. Paul had no hidden motives he would have been ashamed to have brought out in the open. (2) He did not walk in "craftiness" (*panourgia*)—a manipulator's skill. (3) He did not handle the Word of God deceitfully; he did not use tricky methods to entrap.

Positively, there are three that answer to these. (1) He commended himself to every man's conscience. That is, he behaved himself in such a way that no one could conscientiously speak against the character of his ministry. (2) He manifested the truth. One can be open and forthright when he knows he is doing this. (3) He ministered "in the sight of God." This is what we have already seen in 1:12 and 2:17. Paul was conscious of God's watchful eye, and

that he would finally stand before the bar of God.

Consequently, he was determined—as we may summarize—to stand there having presented a pure message, having ministered with true motives, and having used honest methods. That's why his conscience was clear.

And a clear conscience can keep one going when nothing else can. 

Eighth Annual Writers' Conference

May 13, 14, 1988

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ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

Thank You, Lord, for Everything

Hurry up everybody," ordered Marty. "The game starts in 30 minutes."

The Lanes were eating supper but not eating fast enough to suit Marty. He crammed a whole roll in his mouth and jumped up.

"Whoa, Son," said his daddy. "We're going to read a verse of scripture before we go. You kids will probably be asleep when we get home."

Mrs. Lane pulled a memory verse card from the box in the center of the table and read I Thessalonians 5:18. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

"I am thankful," said Marty, "thankful that we're going to a professional basketball game. Now, is everybody ready?"

"Me all through," said Jeff.

"Oh no, you're not," said his mother. "If you want popcorn at the ball game, you're going to finish your green beans and carrots."

Marty groaned.

Megan finished eating and went to get ready. "Mom, I can't find my purple jacket. Do you know where it is?" she called from her bedroom.

"Look in the den," answered Mrs. Lane as she cleared the table. "And brush your teeth."

Marty stood in front of the door, tapping his foot impatiently.

The rest of the family scurried around and were just about to walk out the door when the phone rang.

Marty moaned, "We'll never get there."

"You go ahead and get in the car," said Mr. Lane. "I'll get it."

Mrs. Lane and the three children got in the car and waited.

"What's taking him so long?" asked Marty.

After five more minutes Mr. Lane jumped into the car and took off. "Sorry," he said, "It was business."

The ball game was across town, and the traffic was heavy.

"Can't you drive any faster, Daddy?" asked Marty.

"No, Son, not unless you want to see a 10-car pileup," he answered.

"Simmer down, everybody," said Mrs. Lane. "Fussing isn't going to get us there any earlier. Why don't we think about that memory verse we read. . . ."

Mrs. Lane was interrupted by a loud noise.

"What was that?" cried Megan.

"Was it a gunshot, Daddy?" asked Marty.

Mr. Lane brought the car to a bumpy halt. "I'm afraid we've had a blowout." He got out to inspect. He walked around the car, and just as he suspected, the left rear tire was flat.

"Everybody out," ordered Mr. Lane. "I've got to change a flat."

"We'll miss the tip-off," said Megan.

"We'll miss the first half," wailed Marty.

"Hold on, now," said Mrs. Lane. "What did that verse say? 'In everything give thanks: for. . . .'"

"Come on, Mom" said Marty, "how can we give thanks for a flat tire?"

"Well, I'm not exactly sure," said Mrs. Lane, "but the Bible does say to do it, so I'm going to. 'Thank you, Lord, for this flat tire.'"

Fifteen minutes later the Lanes were back in the car, zooming through

yellow lights and wheeling in and out of traffic.

"Peter, slow down," warned Mrs. Lane. "Don't you see that truck?"

"I see it all right," answered Mr. Lane. "I can't believe he pulled out in front of me."

"Well, you were pretty far down the road," said Mrs. Lane. "I'm sure he didn't realize how fast you were driving."

"Look, Jeff," said Megan. "See the big farm truck in front of us. It's full of chickens."

"Now we've got to poke along behind this old farmer," groaned Marty. "I wonder what the score is." He could almost hear the clock ticking off the seconds at the basketball game.

"We're almost there," announced Mr. Lane. "Now, if we just don't get stopped by a train," he said spotting a railroad crossing just ahead.

The farm truck was crossing the tracks when the Lanes heard the unmistakable roar of a train. The next few seconds were a nightmare. With its bright round headlight shining and whistle blowing, the train smashed into the truck's bed.

The truck bed, knocked loose from the cab, landed 50 yards down the track. Chickens were squawking and flying through the air. The huge train engine screeched to a stop. The truck driver brought the cab to a stop and got out unharmed.

For a few minutes the Lanes were too shaken to speak. Then they all talked at once.

"The warning bell and flashing lights weren't functioning," said Mr. Lane.

"That could've been us," cried Megan.

"If we had been a few seconds earlier

Cooperative Channel Contributions December 1987

RECEIPTS:

State	Design	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	Dec. '86	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 339.41	\$ 320.80	\$ 660.21	\$ 349.04	\$ 4,181.06
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	50.00
Arkansas	.00	2,384.02	2,384.02	2,506.43	50,874.30
California	.00	868.28	868.28	775.54	10,409.32
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	10.00
Delaware	.00	396.67	396.67	.00	3,465.50
Florida	.00	.00	.00	.00	21,467.39
Georgia	4,699.93	750.00	5,449.93	4,641.28	94,454.81
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	682.88
Illinois	7,201.50	1,124.51	8,326.01	8,428.21	100,247.39
Indiana	589.36	.00	589.36	740.20	8,808.64
Kansas	.00	60.51	60.51	.00	613.23
Kentucky	.00	.00	.00	353.00	2,679.78
Maryland	.00	134.00	134.00	.00	3,124.74
Michigan	9,097.03	.00	9,097.03	3,151.35	57,188.27
Mississippi	137.93	614.23	752.16	621.91	4,735.24
Missouri	14,067.65	.00	14,067.65	7,554.93	97,484.30
New Mexico	18.61	9.31	27.92	21.38	144.58
North Carolina	100.00	965.00	1,065.00	1,140.00	16,622.96
Ohio	391.00	2,389.00	2,780.00	3,886.54	34,396.30
Oklahoma	25,656.39	7,562.37	33,218.76	33,534.67	418,890.13
South Carolina	6,567.97	.00	6,567.97	10,972.88	82,338.13
Tennessee	710.22	2,032.59	2,742.81	674.49	24,065.56
Texas	7,443.88	618.46	8,062.34	7,435.02	93,604.74
Virginia	115.00	110.00	225.00	5.00	4,846.69
West Virginia	1,700.46	131.83	1,832.29	1,941.69	30,312.86
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	62.57	62.57	.00	227.01
Other (Computer)	.00	.02	.02	1,043.85	.04
Totals	\$78,836.34	\$20,534.17	\$99,370.51	\$89,777.41	\$1,165,925.85

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 3,063.70	\$14,718.37	\$17,782.07	\$14,724.94	\$ 211,913.99
Foreign Missions	52,691.44	1,337.64	54,029.08	46,889.36	615,802.65
FWBBC	4,770.73	1,337.64	6,108.37	4,352.60	74,832.46
Home Missions	13,079.37	1,046.85	14,126.22	18,419.03	191,177.73
Retirement & Insurance	326.61	814.22	1,140.83	1,325.95	16,564.57
Master's Men	702.17	756.04	1,458.21	1,244.84	16,816.97
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	98.10	58.15	156.25	115.15	1,720.90
FWB Foundation	14.94	348.96	363.90	1,060.84	6,932.64
Historical Commission	95.68	58.15	153.83	117.09	1,703.34
Radio & TV Commission	170.68	58.15	228.83	147.09	2,600.38
Hillsdale FWB College	3,284.27	.00	3,284.27	1,311.28	23,384.79
Other	538.65	.00	538.65	69.24	2,475.43
Totals	\$78,836.34	\$20,534.17	\$99,370.51	\$89,777.41	\$1,165,925.85

Why I'm Thankful

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

A man was once trapped by a flood. A neighbor came by in a small but sturdy boat and offered help. He refused to get in the boat saying that he was trusting God to help him. Later a National Guard helicopter lowered a rope; he waved it off saying to himself that God would surely help him soon.

Suddenly he lost his footing and slid into the now raging torrent. When the hapless fellow appeared before God, he accused God of failing to help a most trusting disciple. To his accusation God replied, "I sent you a boat and a helicopter and you refused them both."

It's a grave error to separate the providence of God from the compassionate helpfulness of men. We should learn that God is often the motivation for true kindness.

I try to think of the things that God has done for me in order to thank Him. He has certainly painted brilliant sunsets for me to see. He has created lovely symphonies in bird song. He has offered the sweet fragrance of a honey-suckle spring. These are a few of the common gifts He gives to humanity.

But nearly all His special gifts are inseparably linked to people. Your helpfulness when you repair my car or prepare a meal during revival is an expression of God's providence. Your testimonies or special songs are the voices of God's inspiration. When you smile as you shake my hand or grant me an enthusiastic "Amen," you are a channel of encouragement.

In fact, the best way to see the hand of God in my life encouraging, inspiring and providing is to look to you who have made your members His instruments for helping others. When I think of you I know that God is good to me.

A young preacher once remarked to Brother W. S. Isbel, an older preacher, "The Lord sure has been good to me." A smile flashed across the old preacher's face and with a sparkle in his eye he replied, "Name me one person He hasn't been good to!" The younger preacher had no answer.

Thanksgiving is universal because He has been good to everyone.

... " said Mrs. Lane. "Just think."

In a few minutes the police arrived. They asked Mr. Lane some questions, and once more, the Lanes headed for the basketball game. They arrived at the game with 10 minutes left in the last quarter.

Later that night Mr. Lane tucked a sleepy Marty into bed, "It has been some night, hasn't it?"

"Yes, sir," said Marty. "I never thought I'd say it, but, 'Thank the Lord for that flat tire.' You know, it might have just saved our lives."

TEEN Scene

Guideline Revisions

Effective for 1988 National Youth Conference
in Kansas City, Missouri
July 18-20

Category Two—Vocal Ensemble (page 22)

When two different age levels compose the ensemble, competition must be on the higher age level. When three or more different age levels compose the ensemble, competition must be on the any-combination level. (Examples: Trio composed of two Heralds and one Crusader would compete on the Crusader level. Trio composed of one Herald, one Crusader and one Ambassador would compete on the any-combination level.)

Category Three—Chorale and Choir (page 23)

When two different age levels compose the chorale or choir, competition must be on the higher age level. When three or more different age levels compose the chorale or choir, competition must be on the any-combination level. (Examples: Choir composed of Herald and Crusader levels would compete on the Crusader level. Choir composed of Herald, Crusader and Ambassador levels would compete on the any-combination level.)

Category Four—Instrumental Solo (page 22)

Instrumental soloists will compete in the following separate instrumental divisions: Division I: Stringed (Bowed), Division II: Stringed (Fretted), Division III: Woodwinds, Division IV: Brass, Division V: Percussion. They will continue to compete in their respective age level division.

Category Eight—Oral Communication (page 26)

The time limits have been changed for the following divisions of Oral Communications:

Division VII—Puppets/Ventriloquism (group entry), 5-10 minutes.

Division IX—Readers' Theatre, 5-10 minutes.

Division X—Skits, 3 or more persons, 5-10 minutes.

Category Eight—Oral Communication (page 27)

NOTE in middle of page should read as follows:

NOTE: All selections must be memorized EXCEPT DIVISIONS I, VI, AND IX. An APPROVED LIST of selections is available. Other selections or personal compositions must be submitted for approval to the National Youth Conference Office by March 1.



Category Eleven—Creative Arts (page 29)

The limitations on the size on entries has been removed from Divisions I-V. Size restrictions are still in effect for Divisions VI and VII.

Entry Requirements

To be consistent, each listing of the entry requirements throughout the Guidelines should read:

Each participant must be an active attendee of the local Free Will Baptist church that he/she represents.

Official Judging Sheet (page 35)

The points for judging should read as follows:
4=Poor/Below Average, 5=Fair, 6=Average, 7=Good,
8=Above Average, 9-10=Excellent.

Registration Form (page 37)

Under Category Four: Instrumental Solo the division level should be entered. (See change regarding Category Four).



Especially
For Young
Preachers

How to be a Blessing to Church Members

"A faithful man shall abound with blessings" (Proverbs 28:20).

1. Pray for your church members by name daily. If the list is too long, divide it up into days.
2. Speak to each person who enters or leaves the church.
3. Do not show partiality. Treat everyone equally.
4. Remember birthdays or anniversaries with a card or telephone call.
5. Be especially kind and loving toward children and older people.
6. Express sincere sympathy to those who lose loved ones in death. Visit them; send cards; pray for them.
7. Love the church members. Ask the Lord to increase that love.
8. To those who oppose you, be kind and friendly. You will be glad in years to come that you spoke, waved, shook hands, treated kindly those who oppose you.
9. Listen! Talk less than they talk. (Two ears and one mouth should give large enough hint.)
10. Preach the Word of God. Preach against sin, but love the sinner.
11. Encourage and challenge people, especially on Sunday and Wednesday nights. You are preparing them to face the works of the devil.
12. Write them love notes. Express appreciation to those who labor in church with you.
13. When you leave a church, leave it. As much as you love those you gave your life to, allow their new pastor complete freedom to minister without your interference.

Next Month: Your Relationship with the Woman's Auxiliary

Dennis Wiggs



NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

CRUSADE ATTRACTS RECORD NUMBERS AS COMMUNIST TAKEOVER DRAWS NEAR

HONG KONG, China (EP)—Record crowds attended the Luis Palau Hong Kong crusade, with many making commitments to the Christian faith. A broad-based coalition of churches invited Palau to Hong Kong for "The Hope of Man" crusade, which jammed the national Hong Kong Stadium with record crowds averaging 45,000 per night. Nearly 250,000 people heard the evangelist speak during his two-week visit. Some 28,000 reportedly made public commitments to Christ and thousands more rededicated their lives to the faith.

Stadium manager S. W. Tai said, "This was the largest crowd to ever attend an event in the stadium." Nearly 30,000 filled the seats while more than 15,000 stood on the soccer field.

However, the event may be the last evangelistic crusade in Hong Kong, says Peter Chu, a local organizer of the Palau crusade.

Hong Kong's political structure is expected to enter a transition to Communism in 1997 when the British crown colony will revert back to China. Residents of the area are facing a lack of financial and political security. Like many international financial centers, Hong Kong's stock market index plummeted this fall; many personal fortunes were wiped out.

Billy Graham, who cancelled a trip to Hong Kong after suffering an injury in Tokyo earlier this year, wrote Palau before his departure, saying, "You are going at a very strategic time."

Hong Kong pastors agree that the 1997 issue, coupled with the stock market crash, has created a uniquely receptive environment for evangelism.

The Rev. Dr. James Cheung, senior pastor of Kowloon's largest church, explained that "Hong Kong is going through the crisis experience of having to face the issue of 1997. People are perplexed about their future, and the future of Hong Kong itself."

During the next 12 months, experts estimate about 10,000 will make their exodus from Hong Kong. Palau encourages Christians to remain, however, saying, "Many of the young people have the sense that the Lord is preparing them and they are committed to staying. They're looking at these transitional years as preparation to then remain and be a part of the big republic, and that the Holy Spirit will use them to evangelize this great land."

EVANGELIST BUYS AIR TIME ON MTV ROCK VIDEO STATION

COPPELL, TX (EP)—Conservative Christian evangelist William J. Murray has been purchasing time on MTV, a hard rock music video network condemned as "Hell's TV network" by many Christians.

Why? "Because I am as concerned about the spread of the killer virus AIDS just as most other Americans are and because I am concerned that the people who need warned most about the spread of AIDS are not getting a proper warning about it," says Murray.

"The answer of the liberal establishment and the school systems of this nation to the threat of AIDS is to advertise or even pass out condoms in the schools. The problem with that concept is that condoms even if used correctly work in stopping the spread of AIDS only 80 percent of the time," adds Murray, who speculates that most teens don't use condoms properly.

"Someone has to tell the kids of the nation the truth. The truth is that there is only one way to stop this killer virus and that is to follow the plan God gave us for our sex lives. That plan is one life, one partner."

Murray's TV commercials, now appearing on local Dallas TV stations and on MTV, make that point. The spot opens with a box of condoms in view and a voice saying, "Good news: condoms work in the prevention of the spread of the killer AIDS virus 80 percent of the time." The picture then shifts to a tombstone and the announcer says, "The bad news is that AIDS is fatal 100 percent of the time." Later in the commercial a Bible is shown and the viewer is told that only God's plan can protect a person from AIDS.

"The object of the commercial is to sell God's plan the way Ford Motor Company sells cars," says Murray. "It is the only plan which will save America from social and economic destruction if the spread of AIDS continues. I wanted to reach teenagers of the United States in a way and in a place that other evangelists and even [children's] teachers and families cannot."

"These kids are not going to tune in to a three-hour AIDS special put on by Ted Koppel or watch an hour-long sermon by Jerry Falwell on the subject," Murray continues. "But they are going to watch late night movies and MTV and that is where I want these commercials to air. I want to shock the kids into realizing that any plan other than God's is death."

Murray does not ask for money, or for people to write for more information. "The commercial speaks for itself," he concludes.

HOMOSEXUAL SENTENCED FOR SPREADING AIDS

NUREMBERG, Germany (EP)—A judge sentenced a former U. S. Army cook to two years in prison recently for practicing unprotected homosexual sex although he was aware that he carried the AIDS virus.

The judge said that the right to freedom from injury must be considered higher than the right to free sexual practice.

The law under which he was charged prohibits causing bodily harm with a weapon or "dangerous treatment," a term normally used in cases of poisons. Although the evidence uncovered during the nine-day trial did not prove that the man had infected any of several sex partners, the judge ruled that he had, in effect, threatened them with grievous injury.

The 46-year-old offender, whose name was withheld, is appealing the sentence to the Federal Supreme Court.

Bavaria, a state in southwest Germany, is known for its strict anti-AIDS policies under the state governing authority of the conservative Christian Social Union of Franz Josef Strauss. The government there has a broad range of new health regulations including mandatory blood tests for prostitutes, drug addicts, prison inmates, civil servants and some foreigners seeking residence in Bavaria.

LOST TRIBES FOUND IN BURMA; OVER 75 COMMIT TO CHRIST

RANGOON, Burma (EP)—Tribal missionaries from Rakhine and Chin states recently discovered nomadic people believed to be lost tribes of Le Lu Chin, and have had the opportunity to teach the gospel among them, which they are eager to accept.

No missionaries have ever visited the people, but local native missionaries paddled 13 hours in dugout canoes to reach three of the Le Lu villages hidden deep in the jungle rain forest. Missionaries plan to visit more of the villages which have not yet been reached, according to a report from Gospel for Asia.

Native evangelist Ronald Lalthanlina said that the team of seven native missionaries found the people "starved for the Gospel" and eager to accept Christ. So far 76 people from the three villages have made professions of faith and asked that their names be recorded as Christians.

Missionaries taught the people about God, heaven, hell, salvation, and about Jesus Christ, a name none of them had heard before.

The Le Lu have no formal religion but are practicing animists, believing in demon spirits that inhabit rocks and trees which they worship.

Foreign missionaries were expelled by the Burma government in 1966, but about 1,000 native missionaries still work to reach the people with the gospel, particularly the tribal peoples. The country, cut off from surrounding nations by a horseshoe ring of mountains, is one of the most isolated nations in Asia.

CONVENTION HOTELS

Look For Reservation Form in April



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS
By Melvin Worthington

Minister with Money



The major complaint from members regarding denominational ministries is the unending bombardment of financial appeals. But we must not overlook the fact that money has a ministry.

Christians can minister through giving. Ministry through money honors the Sovereign, helps the saints and heralds the story of God's marvelous love.

The Occasions

The Bible glows on occasions when God's people ministered with money. David wanted to build a house of worship, but because he had been a man of war God used his son, Solomon, to build the Temple. Nonetheless, David prepared abundantly before his death. He amassed gold, silver, brass, timber and stone—an example of ministering through money and materials.

The tribe of Levi could not own land in Israel. Support for the priests and Levites came from the tithes and offerings of God's people.

Acts 4 records the early church's generosity—believers sold their houses and lands and brought their money to the apostles who distributed to those with needs.

The Observations

God's amazing grace enables us to give. Just as we grow in faith, utterance, knowledge and love, so we must grow in the grace of giving.

The Bible teaches the giving of tithes and offerings. God demands the tithe and deserves the offering. Giving should be proportionate, planned and practical. A lack of biblical stewardship generally results in constant cries for financial support.

Giving flows from a desire to be obedient to scriptural admonition and to discharge our obligation within the

group to which we belong. Giving should come from a willing and worshipping heart. God still loves a cheerful giver.

We gladly minister through our money when we reflect on the example of Christ who was rich but became poor that we through His poverty might be made rich. Giving brings glory to God and provides a way for us to honor the Lord.

Paul describes giving as a gift (Romans 12:6-8) and encourages Christians with this gift to exercise it regularly. He also told Ephesian believers to work in order that they might have to give to those in need. The ability to minister with money is woven into the fabric of the entire Bible. Every believer can minister with his money.

The Opportunities

We have opportunities to minister with money by supporting the ministries of the National Association. During the July 1987 national convention our denomination adopted a \$6.5 million gift income budget for 1988. The budget breakdown includes: Executive Office \$235,748; Free Will Baptist Bible College \$740,000; Foreign Missions \$3,336,036; Home Missions \$1,900,000; Master's Men \$85,750; Retirement and Insurance \$199,710; Free Will Baptist Foundation \$23,100; Radio/TV Commission \$11,980.

According to the adopted gift income budget for 1988, each dollar given to national ministries will break down as follows: Executive Office 3.34 cents;

Free Will Baptist Bible College 11.36 cents; Foreign Missions 51.20 cents; Home Missions 29.17 cents; Master's Men 1.32 cents; Retirement and Insurance 3.07 cents; Free Will Baptist Foundation .36 cents; Radio/TV .18 cents.

Our denominational gift dollar priorities are correct. Almost 92 cents out of every dollar goes to missions and education—Foreign Missions (51.20 cents), Home Missions (29.17 cents) and Free Will Baptist Bible College (11.36 cents). All the other national ministries operate on the remaining 8.27 cents. Now that's impressive! Plus, that's good stewardship.

Based on 1987 membership figures of 200,000, each Free Will Baptist should give \$32.57 to underwrite the \$6.5 million 1988 national ministries gift budget. That's less than \$3 per month per person. This gift should be given above the tithe and offerings to your local church, and gifts to district or state association. A \$32.57 gift in 1988 by every Free Will Baptist to national ministries will underwrite all our budgets. We can do that.

The Options

Although the responsibility to give that \$32.57 to national ministries is an obligation, every Free Will Baptist has the option of which way the gift is given—designated or undesignated. The Cooperative Channel can be used to give both designated and undesignated gifts. The Cooperative Plan provides a simple, systematic, scriptural way to support your denomination.

Let's not quibble over the means or methods of support. Let us quickly write our \$32.57 check to underwrite the 1988 National Association gift income budget.

Here's my check for \$32.57. Please join me in this great undertaking.

Secretary's Schedule

March 12	Arizona District Assoc.
March 13-15	Central FWB Church Grandview, MO
March 16-18	Beacon FWB Church Raytown, MO
March 25-26	Illinois State Assoc.

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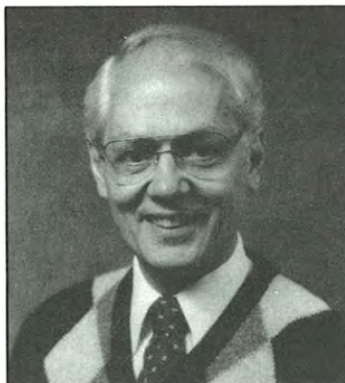
Eighth Annual

Randall House Writers' Conference

Sponsored by Randall House Publications

May 13, 14, 1988

Norman B. Rohrer



Norman Rohrer is director and senior instructor of the Christian Writers Guild of Hume, California. He served as executive secretary of the Evangelical Press Association from 1965 to 1978.

He has authored eleven books; worked as a free lance writer; served as an instructor in writing to be published; traveled to every state in the nation and in sixteen foreign countries.

Norman Rohrer has been "firing" writers for more than two decades. In 1987 his "Write to be Read" Workshops took him to Seattle; Colorado Springs; Denver; Laramie; Hume Lake; Tulsa; Houston; Benton Harbor; Anaheim; Lexington, Massachusetts; Washington, D.C.; and Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

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