

April 1988

Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



Missionaries are Real People



By Janice Banks and Robert Bryan

"Look, up on the stage! It's a bird?! It's a plane?! No, it's a missionary!"

Strange creatures we are. Some think we're "super people." Others think we're just misfits. But those who really know us can verify the fact that we're just plain people.

Sure, we may be a little different. We don't really fit in anywhere. We may be likeable, pleasant and interesting. We may even be effective ministers of the gospel in the countries where we live.

But we'll always be foreigners there—and after a while we'll even seem like foreigners here in America.

Some people think we're "special" because we willingly leave our families for long periods of time when no one forces us to do it. "Sacrificing" home and loved ones becomes an admirable trait as people look upon our commitment as perhaps being deeper than theirs.

But in reality, we're just like you. Our commitment to the Lord is real, but no greater than that of the local pastor, school teacher or janitor who ministers as unto the Lord.

Because our fields of service are different we have to change, which usually involves learning a new language and adapting to a new culture. Our methods of evangelism are often different from those used in the U. S. A., and because of that we're often misunderstood and criticized by our American brethren. But our commitment and spiritual standards remain steadfast.



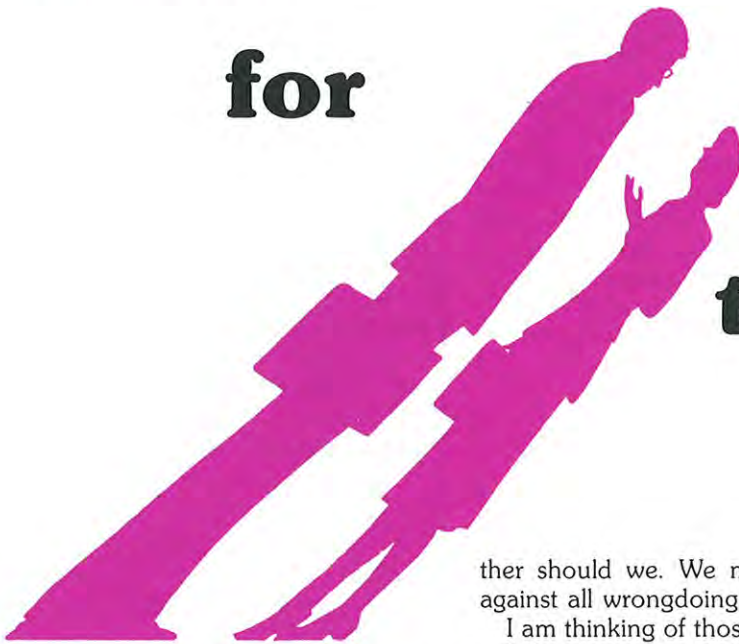
ABOUT THE WRITERS: Janice Banks and Robert Bryan are Free Will Baptist missionaries who serve in Japan and Ivory Coast, West Africa respectively.

Room

for

the Next Guy

By Larry Hampton



We Free Will Baptists tend to be intolerant. In fact, some will be quite intolerant of an article extolling the virtues of tolerance.

Our denomination (preachers in particular) need to practice tolerance toward one another. I have in mind what's meant by the biblical injunction "forbearing one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2). In one sense it could be said that we need to love one another more.

One definition of tolerance is "a fair and objective attitude toward opinions and practices which differ from one's own." Let me make it clear that when I say we need to be more tolerant, I do not suggest accepting a weak view of inspiration.

God's Word is inerrant. The Bible is infallible, our only rule of faith and practice. The Bible reveals that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin. It states that He was God in the flesh. That settles it.

There's only one way for any man to be saved. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

There's no room for difference of opinion on these or other fundamentals of the faith.

Lest I be misunderstood, rest assured I do not advocate embracing a light attitude toward sin. God declared in His Word that He will not tolerate sin. Nei-

ther should we. We must speak out against all wrongdoing.

I am thinking of those areas that we call the non-essentials. That is, they are not essential to salvation nor is there a clear-cut biblical statement that demands a particular position or interpretation.

Tolerance is not a sign of weakness. Rather, it's evidence of strength. Such strength only comes with maturity.

Often young people are most intolerant. They have not yet learned as much as they think they know. Unfortunately, many men (and women) never reach beyond that level of intellectual development. That's why they never outgrow the tendency to believe they have all the answers.

Undoubtedly, you know someone who fits this description. He has an opinion about everything and he doesn't mind sharing it. Trouble is, when he gets through talking, you feel like you've been told what you must believe or how you must act if you really want to be right or do right.

It's commendable to think and formulate an opinion on any subject. (The truth is, it's hard work. That's probably why so many folks don't do it.) However, other people have the same right to weigh the evidence and form an opinion as I do.

When a person examines the facts, there's a possibility he will not arrive at the same conclusion I did. If I am mature, I can handle divergent thinking. As much as I hate to admit it, my wife really doesn't have to agree with me on


eschatology. As long as she believes the Lord is coming back, she's free to be an amillennialist or a premillennialist regardless of which I am.

All of us enjoy tolerance at the hands of others. Parents bear with the immaturity of their children. Many women put up with the thoughtlessness of inconsiderate husbands. Churches everywhere graciously endure messages by young (and old) preachers who have not yet mastered the preparation and delivery of sermons.

Tolerance will make a man willing to compromise. Before you say, "I knew it" and head for the rock pile, let me remind you that compromise isn't necessarily bad. It's a way to get things done and keep families and churches together while doing them.

There has never been a successful marriage without compromise. No church has ever survived without compromise. Compromise is a give and take. It is "a settlement of differences by mutual concession." It's the wise decision not to insist on having my own way.

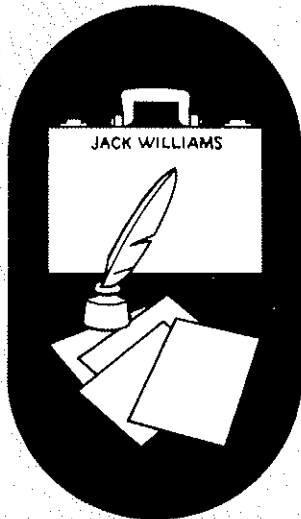
Again, I'm not talking about setting aside the biblical guidelines for marriage. I have in mind reaching an agreement on whether or not to buy a new car or keep the old one for another year. I'm not talking about shelving the cardinal doctrines but peacefully deciding what color carpet to put in the church sanctuary.

Tolerance is not a four-letter word but love is. If we truly love one another we will be tolerant of one another. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Larry Hampton is a member of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. He also serves on the Radio and Television Commission.

The Missionary Hobo

Briefcase



His name was John. He blew in from Butte, Montana, late one hot Wednesday afternoon. It was August in Fresno.

We spotted him from the second floor of an unfinished dormitory as the college president and I nailed fire blocks between two-by-fours. He crossed the football field and turned toward the sound of the hammers.

Road-weary and sweat-streaked, his clothes declared that he'd traveled some distance. He carried a small bag and wore a plain hat. But he walked like a man going somewhere.

The hobo stood in the parking lot and waited. I smiled when the college president climbed down to ground level for a handful of nails. Sure enough, off came the hobo's hat as he stepped up to tell his story. They moved to a sawhorse under the shade of a palm tree.

Before long the president whistled for me to join him. I figured it'd be another sad story. We got them frequently that dry summer in the San Joaquin Valley. They mostly wanted cash and a fast getaway. Five minutes with John told me I'd misjudged the man and the situation.

John didn't want a hand out; he wanted work. He wouldn't take a meal, said he always paid for what he ate.

Behind that sunburned face hummed an inquisitive mind. He spoke with the ease of a man used to handling truth.

John's eyes sparkled with humor. We discovered that he was university trained with a master's degree and had taught. He grew tired of life within somebody else's system, so one day he packed his dreams and started walking over the West.

John spoke without anger, without frustration and didn't know his two wide-eyed listeners under that palm tree were both preachers. Before long he guided the conversation to the heart of his story. John from Butte was a Christian. He gave a clear testimony.

He said he didn't argue with folks. Then he quoted Acts 4:20, the verse of scripture that he lived by, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

By this time I was hanging on every word as John in a quiet, well-modulated voice preached his four-point sermon from Acts 4:20. He said that as a witness for Jesus he had to (1) Speak, (2) Speak what he had seen, (3) Speak what he had heard, (4) Speak *only* what he had seen and heard.

A heartbeat later, John replaced his hat, grinned and disappeared through the olive orchard. We gave him a glass of cold water in Jesus' name, a kind word and bid him God-speed. He left a burning witness, an unforgettable afternoon in August, and a reminder that some of God's missionaries walk alone.

No, John's way is not my way, and probably not yours either. I need more structure in my life than that of a highway evangelist. Nonetheless, that afternoon replays itself every so often, especially on those occasions when I'm tempted to write off the different or the unusual. I've learned that it's best to let God be God, particularly with men like John.

I'm still not sure why a university-trained man with a pleasing personality and a work-ethic attitude tramps from Butte to Boise to Button Willow. John may never find what he's looking for in the American West, but one thing's for sure, he was straight about Jesus.

The point to all this is that 18 years later I can feel the impact of a few passing minutes with a man who used a sawhorse for a pulpit and told the old, old story with laughter in his voice. He came with no money, only a message. I never saw him again, and yet today I claim him as a brother in Christ.

Perhaps God does more with little than we think. Your passing smile, your casual remark lingers like fragrant perfume when given in Jesus' name. Be a witness in all that you do.

We expect God to confront men and sin in evangelistic rallies, in houses of worship where people meet to pray and sing. And He does, of course.

However, sometimes the unforgettable, the life-changing happens when a jogger asks a question (Acts 8:30), when a correctional officer checks on his prisoners (Acts 16:27-30), when a crippled man requests money from a stranger (Acts 3:2-6) or when a wet sailor places sticks on a fire (Acts 28:3-6).

The work of God moves wherever the people of God go. Take your faith to work with you. It's not necessary that you be a theological dynamo to speak up. If you know Christ and practice Acts 4:20, you can tell the story just like John.

Maybe in five or 10 years, someone will write about a "chance" encounter with you in a grocery check-out line or near the water cooler at work. Perhaps they'll say that you cared enough to speak what you had seen and heard about Jesus Christ. But if no one ever writes a word about it, just remember that God keeps the records.

Sure, we know that the work of God is a mighty, cooperative effort. History tells us that. But every once in a while the Lord sends by a missionary hobo in a sweaty shirt just to remind us Who's in charge.

All right, I admit that I envied John's freedom and pilgrim mobility that day in Fresno. Who knows, maybe there's a greying missionary hobo out West who chuckles as he recalls that hot August day when he sat under a palm tree with two Free Will Baptist preachers and shared a glass of cold water in Jesus' name.

Angels as Postmen

By Malcolm Fry

One of the most common responsibilities of angels is stated in Hebrews 1:14, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Angels are referred to as those who are "sent out." They are God's postmen or messengers.

The Old Testament records numerous examples of angels as God's postmen. To Abraham, God sent his postman with a message regarding the impending destruction of the cities of the plain (Genesis 18:17-33).

To Samson's parents, an angel came with a message that Manoah's wife would give birth to a son who would deliver Israel from the Philistines. "And the angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive and bear a son . . . and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines" (Judges 13:3-5).

In Daniel we read, "And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God; Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision" (Daniel 9:20-23).

This was but one of several incidents wherein God's postman came to Daniel. Then followed the most detailed and amazing prophecies to be found in the Bible!

For 400 years God was silent, then the "fullness of time" approached. A

godly priest was ministering in the Temple when "an angel of the Lord" appeared with a message from God (see Luke 1:11-17). By this message from God's postman the wheels of redemption were set in motion and resulted in Calvary, the empty tomb and every agent and agency involved today in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

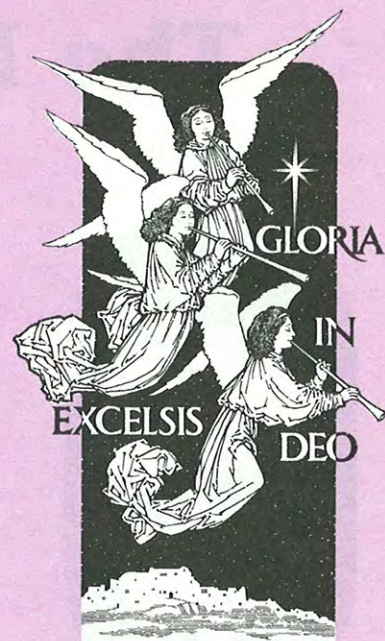
Five months later, God's postman appeared to Mary and said: "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS" (Luke 1:30-31).

Some months later, God's postman appeared to Joseph dispelling all his fears (Matthew 1:18-21; 2:13, 19, 20), forewarning of impending danger, and establishing a new itinerary and flight plan.

Heaven's postmen have been used through the ages to deliver divine messages of deliverance from death, birth notices, warning of impending judgment, prophetic previews of future incidents and ages, and the greatest of all messages, "Unto you is born . . . A Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

It would take an entire book to spell out in detail how the life of Jesus was intertwined with the attending ministry of angels. Before He came to earth they followed His orders. And since He ascended into heaven they have worshiped Him before the throne of God as the Lamb slain for our salvation.

After He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, "Behold, angels came and ministered unto Him" (Matthew 4:11). When He was in the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before His crucifixion—at the crucial moment, "And there appeared an angel unto Him from heaven, strengthening Him" (Luke 22:43). They were waiting at the cross, if needed. They were at the resurrection (Matthew 28:2-4) and they were present at His ascension (Acts 1:10-11).



Thus, angels escorted the resurrected Lord of glory back to be seated at the Father's right hand. Then, even the morning stars ascribed honor, glory and praise to Him as the Son of the Living God.

On the other hand, some angels remained behind to assure those early disciples that they would always be near, ready to help God's people throughout the ages to come—until Christ returns in person with the angelic host.

The certainty that angels witness how we walk through life should mightily influence the decisions we make. God is watching, and His angels are interested spectators too. The Amplified Bible expresses it, "God has made an exhibit of us . . . a show in the world's amphitheatre—with both men and angels (as spectators)" (I Corinthians 4:9).

We know they are watching, but in the heat of the battle, how wonderful it would be if we could hear them cheering! Paul said, "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality" (I Timothy 5:21).

In his book, *Though I Walk Through the Valley*, Vance Havner tells of an old preacher who worked into the night on a sermon for his small congregation. His wife inquired why he spent so much time on a message that he would give (continued on page 7)

Meeting the Original Mormons

By Steven Hasty



The date? Monday, March 29, 1830—one week after the birth of Spring, and one week before the illegitimate birthing of the Mormon Church.

The event? The providential encounter between a Free Will Baptist evangelist and eight of the original 12 men who were self-proclaimed "Mormon Witnesses."

The place? A little village in the finger lake section of west-central New York named Fayette, located about 20 miles southeast of Palmyra, where the Mormon cult was born.

No villains here. Only the duped who followed Joseph Smith. All were good yarn-spinners, however, especially when it came to telling the scenario about a mystical extra-terrestrial named Moroni.

Enter young David, a 25-year-old Free Will Baptist evangelist whose last name was Jewish—Marks. This remarkable young man, already a 10-year veteran in the ministry, did not encounter a giant, but the original nest of Mormons.

It was an interesting time in history. Palmyra, not unlike Mohammed's Mecca, lay along the shoreline of the Erie Canal, completed five years earlier in 1825. The westward trek of settlers to the Midwest and West had just begun in the New York of 1830, and would be aided by the first-laid railroad tracks the next year. Sixty years later and 40 miles south, Free Will Baptists would proudly build Keuka College under the direction of George H. Ball.

Joseph Smith moved his headquarters westward to Ohio in 1831, to Missouri in 1838, and (through his successor Brigham Young) to Utah in 1847. Could the strong FWB influence coupled with the flaming preaching of David Marks have been instrumental in pushing the sect West? How many early Free Will Baptists in west-central New York had once been Mormons?

Even more interesting is David Mark's recollections of his encounter with the

Mormons which he penned in his *Memoirs*. Not much impressed with their *Golden Bible* after reading 250 pages, he wrote:

... the style is so insipid, and the work so filled with manifest imposture, that I could feel no interest in a further perusal. . . . I thought it probably had been written originally by an infidel, to see how much he could impose on the credulity of men, and to get money.

Marks made an interesting comparison between the Bible and the Book of Mormon following his examination of the latter:

The Bible

- came down from Heaven.
- first preached openly, with power, in sight of all men and written afterwards.
- none of the words of Christ and the apostles were in secret, but open to examination by all.
- Gospel of Christ was confirmed by unnumbered miracles, wrought in the most public manner.
- Gospel confirmed by a thousand prophecies that preceded and pointed to it, and are still daily fulfilling.


The Book of Mormon

- dug out of the earth.
- first written secretly, out of sight of all men, except 12 and preached afterwards.
- the origin of this book is hid in the dark.
- Book of Mormon not confirmed by any miracles, but its authority rests on the testimony of 12 men whom we do not know.
- No biblical prophecies pointed to the Book of Mormon.

He concluded:

The Bible is a book of perfect harmony and unrivalled sublimity; the Book of Mormon is full of absurdity and too dull to charm the soul.

Will history repeat itself? Will God raise up among us some more flaming FWB evangelists who will, like David Marks, stand foursquare against the future Smiths, Russells and Moons while they are yet in embryonic stage?

Seems Someone is whispering, "Samuel. . . ." Dare you answer? 

Angels ... (from page 6)


to so few. To this the minister replied, "You forget, my dear, how large my audience will be!" Havner adds that "Nothing is trivial here if heaven looks on."

Our valleys may be filled with foes and fears, but we can lift our eyes to the hills to see God and the angels—heaven's spectators—who support us according to God's infinite wisdom as they prepare our welcome home.

Sources

1. *The World Book Encyclopedia*, © 1970, Chicago, Ill., articles on "Erie Canal," "Mormons," and "New York."
2. Marks, David, *Memoirs of David Marks*, edited by Mrs. Marilla Marks, 1846, Free-Will Baptist Printing Establishment, Dover, N.H., pp. 236-238.

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

Though not many books exist on the subject of angels and scripture references must be researched, God so loves His people that He has sent a convoy of special messengers (angels) as persons, as protectors and as postmen. How blessed are the children of the King of kings. 

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

God Help the Children

By A. J. Looper



H. Armstrong Roberts

This week we offered a 12-year-old a home, a bed with clean sheets and food to eat. But this was not enough to satisfy her. She wanted cigarettes, beer and sex. She became violent, attacked her houseparents, turned over furniture, demanded to be moved and refused to attend school.

Her mother and father are divorced and both remarried. Her father was not able to keep her at home. She constantly ran away.

I asked where she slept when she ran away from home. She said, "I sleep with my 15-year-old boyfriend."

"Did you have sex with him?"

"Yes."

"What if you had gotten pregnant?"

"I don't care."

When this took place the young girl was only 11. Since we were unable to discipline her, I took her to the East Tennessee Detention Center. This was her third time there. She had celebrated her 12th birthday in the Detention Center.

What will happen to her? She is scheduled to go to Riverbend, a mental health facility for an evaluation. She will receive sympathy and some psychiatrist will say, "Let her have her rights; let the government feed and clothe her." She told me she hated church and never went.

I ask myself this question: What's going to happen to this crowd? Dealing with young people of this type is a hard task. But we must understand that children are a "heritage of the Lord." They are innocent that the devil has put his mark on them, through the home involvement, tv, movies and a society that claims children have equal rights as adults.

We cannot turn our backs and think the problem will go away. We need to be bold. We must do what we can with the freedom we have. We must believe that changes can take place in the hearts of our young people.

Church denominations need to reach out to the hurting young people in our society. Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." If we get children to Jesus the Master, they can know Him and lives will be changed.

The children in this society don't have much of an opportunity to make anything out of themselves. Discipline has been tossed out the window, and we now have 11-year-olds saying I will do as I please and no one can do anything about it.

We need more Christian institutions to help meet the demand. I am thankful for what's being done, but we must do more.

The answer comes from Jesus. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Churches must care and do what we can to convert the neglected and have the patience to do that.

We must not forget we do have a responsibility to help change the lives of people. Do we still care? We know Jesus cares.

The next time you are where you can watch, not the young people in your church, but those at the mall and public places, ask yourself what we can do to help this group.



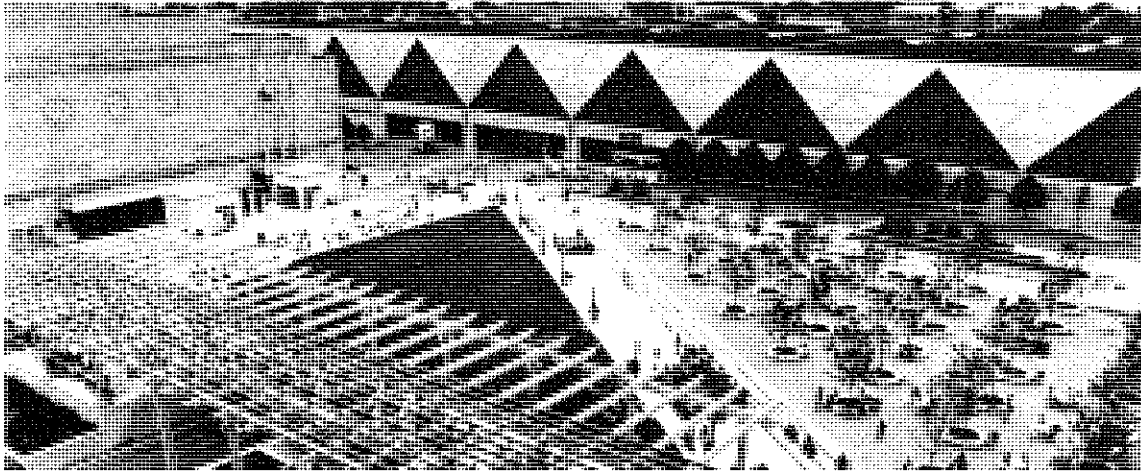
ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend A. J. Looper is superintendent at Free Will Baptist Home for Children in Greeneville, Tennessee.

52nd Annual Session

**NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

Kansas City, Mo.

July 17-21, 1988



Theme: "Back to Basics"



Wallace Malone
Pastor
First FWB Church
Decatur, Ill.



Larry Hughes
Pastor
First FWB Church
Walnut Ridge, Ark.



Bob Thompson
Pastor
First FWB Church
Poteau, Okla.



Glen Rehkop
Pastor
Grace FWB Church
Arnold, Mo.



Fred Warner
Director of
Church Ministries
Foreign Missions Dept.

REQUESTS FOR TICKETS TO MEAL FUNCTIONS 1988 National Convention

Number	Meal	Total
_____	Learner / Adventurer Banquet \$5.50 Monday, July 18 / 5:00 p.m. Allis Plaza Hotel / Count Basie A & B	\$ _____
_____	Music Ministries Fellowship Breakfast \$6 Tuesday, July 19 / 7:00 a.m. Americana Hotel / Fairway Room	\$ _____
_____	Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon \$7.50 Tuesday, July 19 / 12:15 p.m. Americana Hotel / Seville Room	\$ _____
_____	WNAC Fellowship Dinner \$13 Tuesday, July 19 / 5:00 p.m. Allis Plaza Hotel / Count Basie Ballroom	\$ _____
_____	Youth Banquet \$7 Tuesday, July 19 / 9:00 p.m. Allis Plaza Hotel / Count Basie Ballroom	\$ _____
_____	Master's Men Breakfast \$7 Wednesday, July 20 / 7:00 a.m. Allis Plaza Hotel / Count Basie Ballroom B & C	\$ _____
_____	Free Will Baptist Bible College Luncheon \$11.50 Wednesday, July 20 / 12:00 Noon Allis Plaza Hotel / Count Basie Ballroom C	\$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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Make checks payable to TICKET SALES. Mail requests to TICKET SALES, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202. Please send check or money order. Do not send cash. All requests must be received by **JUNE 30, 1988.**

NO TICKET REFUNDS AFTER JUNE 30, 1988.

OUR READERS COMMENT

WHO IS 'US'?

Your January Briefcase said, "There are those among us who are not of us." It might be helpful if you could identify and reveal who the "us" are.

I've been pastoring Free Will Baptist churches since 1972. During these years I have met Free Will Baptist preachers who believe in unconditional security, repeated regeneration, the preterist and historicist view of the book of Revelation, second work of grace, speaking in tongues, and I'm afraid some who believe in salvation by works.

I neither believe, practice nor teach any of the above, yet most of these fellows like myself support almost all Free Will Baptist ministries.

I enjoy *Contact*. Keep up the good work.

Reverend Darrell Pickle, Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Bristol, Virginia

PASTOR DISTRIBUTES EDITORIAL

I am writing about the editorial, "Men Who Mislead," in the January issue. I, too, feel strongly about this matter of denominational loyalty and support.

Since many of our congregation do not subscribe to *Contact*, I took the liberty of making copies of the editorial and included them in Sunday's church bulletins.

We appreciate our denomination and the scriptural principles that it adheres to in a time of widespread religious liberalism and compromise.

Keep up the good work!

Reverend George Ritter, Pastor
Harmony Free Will Baptist Church
Leighton, Alabama



Directory Update

GEORGIA

Jerry W. Williams to Bellview Church,
Colquitt from Cedar Hill Church,
Asheville, NC

OKLAHOMA

John Staggs to First Church, Henryetta
Ron Gibson to Canadian Shores
Church, Indianola

Allen Moore to First Church, Wewoka
from North McAlester Church, McAlester
Lloyd Morris to Westside Church,
Checotah from First United Church,
Hobbs, NM

Ed Hollie to Hall Church, Antlers
R. D. (Rex) Hester to Calvary Church,
Claremore

J. R. (Dick) Shade to Collinsville
Church, Collinsville
Roger Arter to Crystal Hills Church,
Lawton

Wade Jernigan to First Church, Asher

SOUTH CAROLINA

Paul Ange to First Church, Florence
from Mt. Calvary Church, Hookerton,
NC



Hotel Reservation

National Convention

July 17-21, 1988

- Please indicate your hotel choices below in order of preference.
- Telephone requests will not be honored.
- Hotels will not accept direct requests without approval of the Housing Bureau.
- Do not mail a deposit with your request. The hotel will confirm your reservation and receive your deposit directly. **THE HOUSING BUREAU DOES NOT HANDLE DEPOSITS.**
- Reservations will be made in order of receipt. If requested room rate is not available, the next available rate will be confirmed.
- All accommodations are subject to local taxes.
- Confirmations will come directly from the hotel.

Cutoff Date:

Received by

June 30, 1988






MAIL TO:

NAFWB

Housing Bureau

P. O. Box 26310

Kansas City, MO 64196

HOTELS	Choice	 Single	 Double	 Twin	 Triple	 Quad
Allis Plaza (Headquarters)		\$69	\$69	\$69	\$79	\$79
Americana		\$55	\$55	\$55	\$65	\$65
Phillips House		\$50	\$50	\$50	\$55	\$55
Embassy on the Park		\$60	\$60	\$60	\$70	\$70
Howard Johnson's Central		\$48	\$48	\$48	\$48	\$48

Changes in your arrival and departure dates, name changes or any special instructions should be made direct with your hotel. Cancellations should be made in writing with the Housing Bureau before June 17; after June 17 make direct with your hotel.

Guaranteed Arrival yes ☐ no ☐

Credit Card		
card name	card number	expiration date

Reservations are held until 6:00 P.M. on the day of arrival unless you guarantee your first night payment by credit card

Rooms will be occupied by:

(Please bracket those who will share same rooms. List additional names on separate sheet.)

NAME	CITY AND STATE	TYPE OF ROOM	ARRIVAL Hour-Date	DEPARTURE Hour-Date

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Applicant _____

Company _____

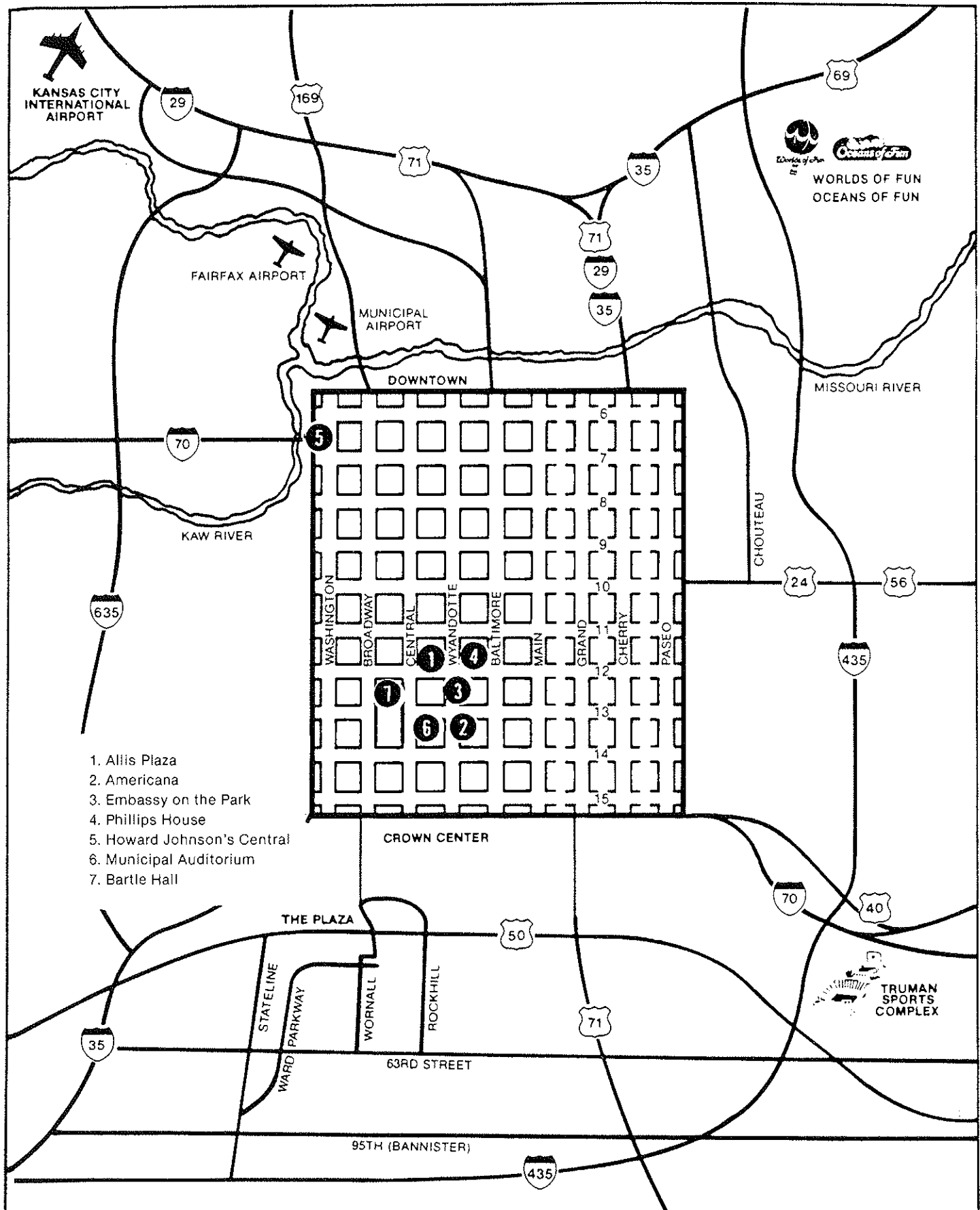
Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Date Submitted _____

HOTEL LOCATIONS





FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

BOARD APPROVES I. C. TRIP BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE

NASHVILLE, TN—The Board of Foreign Missions announced recently their approval of a trip to Ivory Coast by a special investigative committee appointed by them. Its task involves clarifying allegations against various Ivory Coast missionaries by former missionary Lonnie Palmer, examining Palmer's attitudes, and evaluating the effects of his presence in Ivory Coast. The men are scheduled to depart April 3 and return on April 26.

According to Dr. Melvin Worthington, chairman and spokesman for the group, the five men want to meet with Ivory Coast missionaries and the African leaders to discuss the charges made by Lonnie Palmer. He stated that the process of investigation would follow the same basic format as that taken during their July 1987 meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

"Upon completion of the probe in the Ivory Coast, the committee will draft a final report of its findings from the discussions and available materials," says Worthington. "Our report will be made to the Board of Foreign Missions during its May session."

The committee is composed of Worthington, Dean Dobbs, Earl Hendrix, Jack Richey, and Clarence Burton. Foreign Missions General Director R. Eugene Waddell expressed gratitude for the interest of several churches and individuals who have indicated they are going to help underwrite the expenses of some committee members.

The committee's preliminary reports have indicated that none of the Palmer charges were substantiated, but the group felt it necessary to go to Ivory Coast in order to adequately complete the three-fold task assigned by the board.

SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE SETS EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

WENDELL, NC—The sixth annual Southeastern FWB College Conference on Evangelism meets April 3-6 at First FWB Church in Raleigh, N.C., according to the college dean, Lorenza Stox. The conference will place strong emphasis on revival and soul winning.

Five men will deliver messages: Dr. Randy Cox, Rev. Dann Patrick, Rev. Brian Atwood, Rev. Willie Justice and Rev. Rick Cash. Dr. Cox, pastor of First FWB Church, Raleigh, will open the conference Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Patrick pastors Faith FWB Church in Goldsboro which houses one of the oldest Free Will Baptist Christian day schools. Rev. Justice recently moved to Crewe, Va., to establish a new church. Rev. Atwood pastors Emmanuel FWB Church in Wabash, Ind. Rev. Cash started a Christian school ministry in his pastorate in Fayette, Ala.

The college staff encourages pastors, staff members, church delegations and families to attend the conference to hear preaching, testimonies and music. For further information call the college office at 919/365-7711.



**Brian
Atwood**



**Randy
Cox**



**Dann
Patrick**



Willie Justice



**Rick
Cash**

LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____

is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will

Baptists from _____
(Name of church)

_____ of _____
(District Association) (City) (State)

Pastor Clerk or Secretary

IMPORTANT: This form properly signed and accompanied by a \$10 registration fee entitles a local church delegate to register for voting privileges.

newsfront

(continued)

PASTOR'S WIFE PUBLISHES BOOK OF POETRY

SMITHFIELD, NC—A North Carolina pastor's wife, Mae (Mrs. Malcolm) Fry published a 130-page book of poems on subjects ranging from religious to humorous. The attractive paperback book titled, *Life and Light in Poetry* contains 122 poems by Mrs. Fry.

Although she has composed poems since childhood, Mrs. Fry said there came a time when she thought her last poem had been put on paper.

"After a three-month illness that left me totally devastated, I had given up on everything," she explained. "In a state of depression, I thought I would never write again."

But through the encouragement of her husband and her personal faith in God, she battled through the depression and began writing once more.

A native of New York, Mrs. Fry has written articles, programs and poetry for Free Will Baptist publications for a num-

NASHVILLE, TN—This marks the third year of Target 90, a five-year growth strategy adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists in 1985. Target 90 is based on the belief that God desires for Free Will Baptist churches to grow. We are convinced that Free Will Baptists can—must—grow. By God's grace (and with your cooperation), we will grow.

The overall goal of this campaign is to increase our total membership by 50,000. We also plan to start 100 new churches before the end of 1990.

Our goal for 1988 is to gain 10,000 new members. To stay on target, we must plant 20 new churches this year.

If your church has not yet become

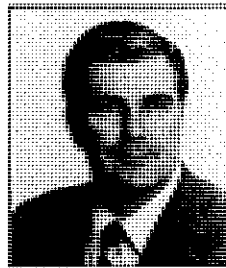
involved in Target 90, it's not too late. Encourage your church to join with churches from across the nation in this endeavor. Be sure to notify the Target 90 Committee of your participation in this campaign.

If your church is to grow, you must want to grow. Set growth goals for this year as well as the next two years. Make concrete plans which will enable you to reach your goals. Above all, pray for God's help as you strive to grow for His glory.

At the end of the year, report your growth to Dr. Melvin Worthington, chairman of the Target 90 Committee at P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

TARGET 90 COMMITTEE UPDATE

HUDSON NAMED DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



WENDELL, NC—Southeastern FWB College announced the appointment of Evangelist Van Dale Hudson as Director of Development. Evangelist Hudson, who resides in Guin, Ala., will continue his revival meetings while overseeing the fund raising program for the newly-built college campus.

Now in its fifth year of service, Southeastern College recently occupied new campus facilities consisting of five buildings situated on 60 acres near Raleigh, N.C.

Reverend Hudson, a native of Mississippi, pastored three churches in Mississippi and Tennessee before entering full-time evangelism in 1966. He served on the General Board (1970-1974), the Executive Committee (1970-1973) and the Commission on Theological Liberalism (1972-1976).

The 44-year-old evangelist began preaching in 1959 at the age of 15. Van Dale and Sandra Hudson have two sons.

Brother Hudson founded Printed Power Publications. He edits the *Evangelist*. He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

NC TEAM WINS BIBLE COLLEGE TOURNAMENT

NASHVILLE, TN—The Trinity Tigers, from Trinity FWB Church, Greenville, NC, won Free Will Baptist Bible College's high school invitational basketball tournament held on campus January 7-9. This marks the third year the Tigers have won the tournament, notes Byron Deel, director of physical education.

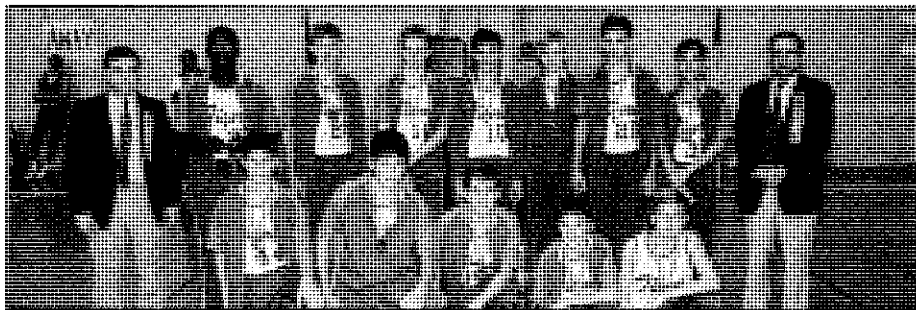
Second place went to Mingo Christian School from Laurel, WV. Third place was taken by Florence Christian Academy, Florence, AL. Trinity also won the cheerleading competition.

Other participants in the tournament were: Bethel Christian, South Roxana, IL; Van Buren Christian, Van Buren, AR; and Woodbine Christian, Nashville.

The competition was probably the keenest of any in the nine-year history of the tournament, observed Coach Deel. There were four overtimes during the 11 games played and seven games ended with a spread of four points or less.

Eight participants were selected for the All-Tournament Team: Mark Colegrove (MVP, Mingo), Brad Ryan and Darren Portell (Bethel), Carter Reed (Florence), Kreston Welch and Kirk Welch (Trinity), Chuck Lennier (Van Buren), and Bryan Guy (Woodbine).

Next year's tournament is scheduled for January 12-14.



The Trinity Tigers, Greenville, N.C.

Southeastern FWB College Director of Development **Van Dale Hudson** set March 27 as Second-Mile Sunday. The Second-Mile Campaign asks every friend of Southeastern College to pledge \$120 above regular giving to the college in 1988. The school hopes to enroll 2,500 participants in the crucial debt-reduction program.

Members at **First FWB Church, Brunswick, GA**, dedicated a new sanctuary and fellowship hall, according to Pastor **Preston Bryan**. Designed to accommodate the church family and adjacent Christian school, the new site marks the fourth location for the church since it began as a mission in 1965 under the Georgia State Mission Board.

Dr. and Mrs. **LaVerne Miley** spoke at the **Georgia Minister/Wife Retreat** February 26-27 at Norman Baptist Assembly, Norman Park. This year's theme focused on the Christian family and moral issues. The Mileys spoke on subjects ranging from abortion to pornography to divorce.

Former pastor **Lewis Williams** preached the dedication message for the new sanctuary at **Cedar Springs FWB Church, Cedar Springs, GA**. After termites destroyed the old building, members rebuilt the sanctuary and included carpet, padded pews and stained glass windows. **Walter Baxley** pastors.

Sunday School attendance at **Enterprise FWB Church, Blakely, GA**, increased 91 percent in the past year. Offerings increased 50 percent. Pastor **W. E. Brown** said the church began new classes to house the growth.

Contact welcomes *The Messenger*, publication of **East Nashville FWB Church, Nashville, TN**. One news item cited a Woman's Auxiliary project to collect more than 100 pounds of dried beans for Nashville's Union Rescue Mission. **Fred Hall** pastors.

Got a church bus for sale? Pastor **Walter Sumerlin** said the **Park Lane FWB Church, Charlottesville, VA**, is searching for a bus or van. They're willing to purchase one or accept one as a gift! Interested parties may call Pastor Sumerlin at 804/977-6591.

Southeastern Free Will Baptist College will observe Spring "Get Acquainted Days" April 14-16, according to the college dean, Lorenza Stox. High school sophomores, juniors and seniors as well as graduates will arrive on campus Thursday and leave by Saturday noon. The college will house groups that want to stay longer. For further information call Southeastern College at 919/365-7711 or write to P. O. Box 1700, Wendell, NC 27591.

New Home FWB Church, Tulsa, OK, celebrated their 60th anniversary. Pastor **J. B. Chism** delivered the dedication message.

Pastor **W. C. Hamilton** reports a record-breaking attendance of 360 at **North Heights FWB Church, Sapulpa, OK**.

The new director at **Camp Jacob** in Clintwood, VA, is a Clintwood native and a member of Valley View FWB Church. Director **Gary Hill** paid special thanks to the Woman's Auxiliary of Esserville FWB Church, Esserville, VA, for a \$900 gift to the camp.

Four ministers spoke at the February 11-14 Bible Conference sponsored by **Indian River District Association** in Florida. The conference met at Cocoa FWB Church, Cocoa, FL. Speakers included **Stanley Outlaw, J. D. Norris, Raymond Riggs** and **Willard Wilcox**.

Pastor **Wylie Perkins** reports nine conversions, four baptisms and three new members at **Samantha FWB Church, Leesburg, OH**.

Fourteen new members joined **Hillsboro FWB Church, Hillsboro, OH**. **Keith Perkins** pastors.

It's not unusual for Pastor **Franklyn Harness** to lead a man to Christ. However, when Pastor Harness led **Clay Henthorn** to Christ there was something unique about it. Mr. Henthorn is 82. Brother Harness pastors **Long Run FWB Church, Lucasville, OH**.

The youth group at **Puritan FWB Church, Hamden, OH**, averages 65 per week in attendance. They divide into nine learning groups for instruction. Youth Director **Jim Eberts** reports 15 conversions among the youth. **David McKnight** pastors.

Evangelist **Cloviss Vanover** reported 266 conversions and 40 revival meetings in

his 1987 appointment book. He resides in Columbus, OH.

Members of **Forest Valley FWB Church, Springfield, OH**, celebrated 16 years with the same pastor. The pastor's name—**Robert Mead**.

Four Ohio ministers joined with Foreign Missions Director of Church Ministries **Fred Warner** to spark the 14th annual **Ohio Minister-Layman's Retreat** February 2-4 at Big Prairie. The four Ohio pastors preaching on the program were **Robert Prichard, Delmar Sparks, David Boggs** and **Hobart Ashby**.

Bethel FWB Church, South Roxanna, IL, adopted a \$103,000 budget for 1988. **Ivan Ryan** pastors.

The **California State Men's Retreat** met February 4-6 at Koinonia Conference Grounds near Watsonville. **Herman Hershey** and **James Vallance** from Nashville, TN, joined four California ministers to speak on the program. The California ministers included **Osmundo Corrales, Dean Long, Doice McAlister** and **Jim McAllister**.

Church Clerk **Reba Peterson** reports that **Hanford FWB Church, Hanford, CA**, voted to send \$1,000 to Home Missionary **Tom Hunt** to aid in purchasing property. The church also reports three conversions.

The **Mid-South Pastor's and Worker's Conference** met February 8-10 at First FWB Church, Dothan, AL, according to Conference Chairman **Dickie Dees**. **Connie Cariker** (OK), **Nate Ange** (NC), **J. D. Norris** (FL) and **Richard Adams** (TN) led more than 20 sessions during the three-day event.

The **Grace Chapel FWB Church, Collinsville, OK**, met for their first services in rented facilities. The 34 people present gave an offering of almost \$1,300. Pastor **Mark Turrell** said the group designated Wednesday offerings for the **Jim Combs** missionary account.

The **Board of Conferences and Itinerate Ministries** of the **Mississippi State Association** conducted their first statewide missionary conference last November, according to spokesman **Terry Booker**. More than 35 churches participated in the event. Some 18 Free Will Baptist missionaries shared in the services. Booker praised Foreign Missions and Home Missions staffers **Fred Warner** and **Trymon Messer** for assistance in arranging speakers.

A one-week graduate course at **Free Will Baptist Bible College** attracted 12 pastors, two missionaries and a Christian school principal, according to **Ralph Hampton**, dean of the Graduate School. **Ken Riggs** and **Jonathan Thigpen** taught the course on Christian education.



Send your best
to Free Will Baptist
Bible College.

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisheart



From My Window

"Bad night for driving," I thought as I approached an intersection where two highways blended. Once through the intersection, I looked for the white line, thinking, "Even though I can't see well, if I keep my eyes on this line and drive right beside it, we'll be okay." I wondered why my friends seemed so nervous. One said, "It's hard to see."

"I know," I answered. "But I'm driving right beside the white line."

Frantically, my friend exclaimed, "But it's on the wrong side of the highway!"

I checked the situation and saw that she was exactly right. My eyes were fastened on a line, but it was on the left of the yellow line dividing the highway. Because I was concentrating only on that white line, I was unaware that I was driving facing oncoming traffic.

Sometimes it's difficult to negotiate the highway of life. We need a line, a standard to keep us straight on the right road. But we need to be sure that it is the right line.

We may be concentrating on a line, trying to reach a destination. Our eyes

are fixed on it to the exclusion of all else. But whose line is it?

The Word says, "But they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

Do you have your eyes on God's line, the line established by the Word? Then "Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:7).

Growing by Knowing

Eager to learn—that's always characterized the women of Woman's Auxiliary.

This eagerness is encouraged by study books suggested each year.

The goal for each Auxiliary is at least two mission studies for all the women.

The books suggested for 1988 are *Second Mile People*, Kuhn; *A Vision for Missions*, Wells; and *Missions USA*, Parvin. (These in addition to books written for or about Free Will Baptist missionaries).

The newest book is Parvin's *Missions USA*. It is a large expensive book, but

it relates especially well to our 1988 theme: "Them Also I Must Bring." Parvin is concerned about unreached groups in the United States.

Co-Laborer magazine carries a suggested study from the book in each issue. Using the study for March/April, for example, an auxiliary may challenge its members to reach out to women of other cultures and bring them to know Christ. Or women may choose a section of the book which is especially applicable to them.

Check for the book in your local bookstore or order from WNAC, \$14.95, plus postage and handling.

Eunice Edwards Loan Fund

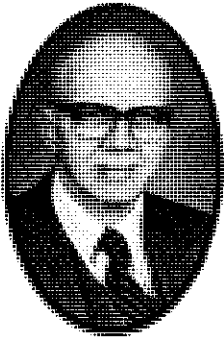
January 31, 1988—\$10,371.85

Look to Tomorrow

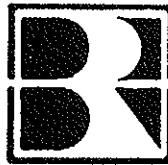
Woman's Auxiliary needs good leaders. To build for the future, today's leaders must train others. The president is responsible for leadership training.

WNAC has several helps available, such as officers' guides, *Time for Everything*, a guide to manual study with transparency masters, and leaflets describing the purposes and projects of Woman's Auxiliary.

A district, state or an area of the country may work together to arrange leadership training sessions. Officers of the state, district or national convention may help with these sessions. Staff members are also available from the national office.



Herman L. Hersey
Director



Board of Retirement

AT YOUR SERVICE

WANTED:

Calvin Franklin Barber
Jenita Casilla Benjamin
Ralph Stephen Bevan
Dana Booth
Kathleen Buchanan
Anne A. Crookham
Randy Dean Durham
H. Curtis Hogue
Paul C. Hopson, Jr.
Ronn Dale Jackson
Michael Ray Kidd
Susan Judd
Robert Wayne Lee
Lucille Maynard
Linda Dianne McCarter

James Calvin Mosley
William Roscoe Pitts
Pamela Quinones
George Walter Ray
Cecil E. Rose
James Harold Sadler
Norma Sankitts
Peggy W. Scroggs
George Lawrence Short
Patricia E. Skinner
Edward Lee Turnage
Peggy Kennedy Wade
Dotty Williamson Waters
Jim Junior Wood
Ronald James Young

Help us locate these people. Please send us their addresses or ask them to contact the Board of Retirement office.

When an employer or employee makes deposits to the pension plan, those funds are maintained in a personal account

until retirement, disability or death. At that time the employee (or his estate) has access to the funds. Statements of the account are mailed every six months.

It is important that pension plan members notify us of any change of address.

At Your Service would like to know what your local church, quarterly meeting, district association and state association do for retired ministers and their wives or widows. (For example, is financial support available or provided; are they honored or remembered during holidays or on other special occasions; is retirement housing available; do they have to meet certain qualifications to be considered?)

Please mail the information to *At Your Service*, c/o Board of Retirement, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.



Free Will Baptist Bible College REPORT

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

Back To The Bible In Our Preaching

by Ralph Hampton

"Survey Shows Church Attendance No Factor in Teen Sex Activity."

That is how a headline writer for the *Nashville Banner* summed up the results of a survey of teens in eight evangelical denominations. The study, commissioned by Josh McDowell Ministry, revealed that "churched" teens were almost as sexually active as their pagan peers.

If that does not shock you, consider this: In response to a survey conducted by *Leadership* journal, 12 percent of the reporting pastors admitted they had committed adultery while in the pastorate! Broadened to include other types of improper sexual conduct, the number jumped to 18 percent.

A poll of lay readers by *Christianity Today* found that 45 percent admitted to improper sexual activities; 23 percent confessed to actual adultery.

What has gone wrong?

It is easy enough to lay it to the world, the flesh and the devil. But when people who attend "Bible-believing" churches behave like pagans, there has to be a reason, a basic problem somewhere. Could it be that the church has failed to teach and preach the Word of God?

Elmer Towns says that topical, practical studies are what adults want in their Bible studies today. They do not want a teacher, just a discussion leader. Is it possible that there is too much popular psychology and not enough of the Word in what passes for preaching/teaching? A great deal of popular preaching is *about* the Word, rather than the Word.

Long ago the world rejected any notion of final authority or absolute truth. The result has been moral chaos and the kind of insanity that prescribes clean needles and "safe sex" as answers to AIDS. Has the church now boarded that same toboggan to disaster?

The idea that every person must decide for himself what is right and wrong is as old as sin, but it has never been more popular than now. How many times have you heard someone say, "I don't believe in abortion for my family, but I also believe it is a matter for every woman to decide for herself."

The truth is, Christians are commanded to accept the authority of God's Word for their

lives. The facts are, the evidence indicates church members say one thing and practice another. When life-styles—not to say morals—are prescribed by society or self, rather than the principles of God's Word, the church is in the midst of a crisis.

Are we failing to preach the Word plainly and powerfully, or is it a matter of stubborn refusal to submit to the authority of the Word on the part of the hearers? Perhaps it is some of both. In either case, God's answer for the pastor is "preach the word...in season and out," especially to people whose ears itch to hear something else.

There is a growing corruption of the doctrine of grace, coupled with a rejection of the practical authority of the Scriptures that threatens to undo us. The modern understanding of grace often has no place for the law of the Lord. R. C. Sproul says that the perverters of grace have as their theme song:

Freed from the law,
O blessed condition;
I can sin all I want,
And still have remission.

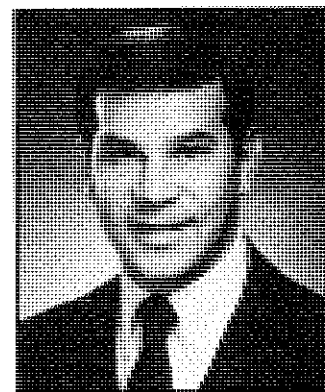
It is true that justification is by faith alone, but it is not by a faith that stands alone. Obedience to the law of the Lord is the fruit of justification.

Free Will Baptist Bible College is committed to the Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God. As such, it is to be believed, practiced and preached. The whole counsel of God must be preached—all the Word. If a pastor needs to know how to do anything, it is to preach the Word clearly and faithfully. That kind of preaching takes courage; it also takes prayer and hard study. Only a growing preacher can produce a growing people.

We want to help Free Will Baptist pastors who are in this spiritual battle. Dr. Terry Rude, professor of Old Testament at Bob Jones University School of Religion, will be conducting a course on "Teaching and Preaching the Old Testament" the week of May 16-20. Dr. Rude is widely known for his Bible preaching, as well as for his knowledge of the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy was selected for this study because of its practical and doctrinal significance. It is a book with a powerful message for our day. Of it, Henrietta Mears wrote:

"Nothing in literature matches the majesty



Dr. Terry Rude

of its eloquence; nothing in the Old Testament has any more powerful appeal for the spiritual life. No book in the word of God pictures better the life which is lived according to God's will, and the blessings showered upon the soul who comes into the richness and fulness of spiritual living along the rugged pathway of simple obedience."

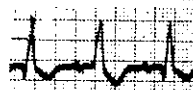
This course is the latest in Free Will Baptist Bible College's Master of Ministry graduate program. It may be taken for credit or non-credit.

If you are interested, write or call at the address/phone number above.



Ralph Hampton is Dean of the Free Will Baptist Bible College Graduate School. He is also Moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. He has taught Bible, pastoral studies and history at FWBCC for 30 years.

He received his B.A. at FWBCC, his M.A. at Winona Lake School of Theology, and his M.Div. at Covenant Theological Seminary. He is a candidate for the D.Min. at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.



Opportunity = Urgency

By R. Eugene Waddell
General Director of Foreign Missions

Olga was one of a half dozen people who rededicated their lives to Christ at Santa Teresa, Uruguay, January 10, 1988. After the service, she told me through interpreter Amy Robinson that she was saved when I preached there in 1969. She proceeded to relate the illustration I used in concluding my message that Sunday 19 years ago. I was grateful that this fruit from my previous visit was still remaining.

Nationals have caught evangelistic zeal from our missionaries.

I especially recall some other things about my visit to Uruguay, Brazil, and Panama in January of this year. I was impressed anew by the dedication of our missionaries. Out of their own pockets several have purchased lots, built buildings, and helped to educate nationals. Praise God for such a committed, hard-working staff of missionaries!

I am particularly encouraged by the way nationals in Latin America are taking the initiative. The Brazilian Association of Free Will Baptist Churches has elected a board of directors which is responsible for governing the central Bible college.

Local churches are mothering mission congregations in the Panama City area of Panama as well as in Campinas and Ribeirao Preto in Brazil.

Nationals in Uruguay have caught

the evangelistic zeal from our missionaries. Missionary Rick Bowling and several young preachers hold evangelistic services every week. At times, they are forced to compete with the communists at the main plaza in Montevideo.

Everywhere I went I could see needs. One need most obvious was the demand for more missionaries. Two missionaries are scheduled to retire at the end of their current terms. Several others will be following suit in a few years. More missionaries are needed in Latin America now!

More funds are also required to finish paying for the Uruguay Bible institute facilities in downtown Montevideo.

Because it is virtually impossible to get a loan for a church building in these countries, revolving loan funds are desperately needed to assist our brethren in Brazil, Ur-

guay, and Panama.

This is a crucial hour of opportunity in Latin America! I am deeply convinced of this for several reasons. The continent is undergoing great social change. I sensed unprecedented openness for preaching the gospel. This makes unusual circumstances for establishing churches.

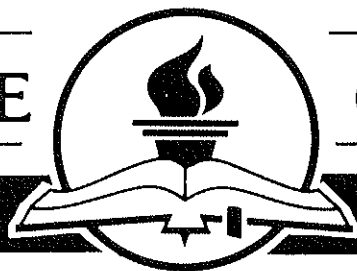
Everywhere I went I could see needs.

Some countries are noticeably passing through political crises. This always poses the threat of closed doors and missed opportunities.

But most of all, the urgency I feel stems from our Savior's statement, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

Pastor Mario da Conceicao of Rivera, Uruguay, travels by motorbike to preach in towns around Rivera. His wife and daughter often accompany him.





What Makes A Church Grow?

H. D. Harrison

Much more is known today about the causes of numerical growth of churches, or the lack thereof, because of research in this area.

Changing demographics, the swing to the conservative in morals and religion, and a renewed emphasis for cause and effect have generated a host of fact gatherers in the religious realm.

The results of such research have been variously interpreted. Some have attributed growth to innovative methods used by skilled leaders. Others have explained such growth by applying a purely scientific strategy for a planned positive outcome. Still others claim that growth is entirely a spiritual phenomena produced by the Lord Himself. They would argue, "Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (see 1 Cor. 1:6).

Surely, no Christian would debate the fact that ultimately it is God who through the "new birth" gives the true church numerical increase.

Perhaps there is some aspect of truth in each of the conclusions drawn. Let us examine the matter of church growth from a negative point of view first.

Listed are some certain ways to keep your church from growing.

1. Don't send your pastor or lay leadership to church growth seminars or encourage him to read new books on church growth.
2. Change pastors about every two years. This will maintain the *status quo* of the group in power.
3. Emphasize *quality*, not quantity.
4. Don't be friendly to visitors.
5. Don't set goals for growth. Say goal-setting is worldly.
6. Build small buildings on small lots so you will be hemmed in on both sides.
7. Keep new members off the board. They may have some input that would create growth and change things.
8. Say that growth is the Holy Spirit's ministry and that when the Lord wants your church to grow, He will do it.
9. Don't train, staff, or budget for growth.
10. Above all, do not witness or pray for growth.
11. Don't keep accurate records or do follow-up on visitors or absentees.

Research can show why people come to church, why they are converted, and why they choose to keep coming.

One study involved over fourteen thousand lay persons. They were asked, "What or who was responsible for your coming to Christ and your church?" Their responses follow:*

Special Need	1-2%
Walk-in	2-3%
Pastor	5-6%
Visitation	1-2%
Sunday School	4-5%
Evangelistic Crusade	½ of 1%
Church Program	2-3%
Friend/Relative	75-90%

*(Quoted from *The Master's Plan For Making Disciples*, Arn and Arn)

Another study from a single large congregation indicates that the influence of friends, neighbors, or relatives ranked first and third in a field of nine choices.

Though the reasons given for the salvation experience point overwhelmingly to the influence of friends and relatives, the reasons stated for *continued attendance* were ranked as follows:

<u>Rank</u>	
Pastor's sermons	1
People's friendliness	2
Music/Choir	3
Personal friends there	4
Sunday School program	5

It seems evident to me that Biblical principles, innovative leadership, and scientific use of gathered information all play a part in church growth.

Repeated confirmation of these percentages and rankings have come from a show of hands in scores of seminars I have conducted among our own churches.

Let me suggest that you give some thought as to why your church is or is not growing.

Stewardship Month ...

... should be an annual event on the church calendar. Some churches choose the month the budget is adopted. Others prefer the month the church year begins.

Furnish ...

... teaching materials and helps such as handwork, coloring sheets, memory cards and visuals for Sunday School classes and CTS groups. Ask auxiliaries to stress stewardship during the month.

Sponsor ...

... a stewardship poster contest. Award a winner from every class or group. Display the posters throughout the educational facilities or in one location with colored ribbons designating winners. Ask the younger members to prepare essays or declamations and feature them in the services.

Learn ...

... stewardship Bible verses as a congregation and recite them together at services. Set scripture verses to music or sing to known tunes.

Schedule ...

... stewardship films, family financial planning sessions, a will clinic or

planned giving seminar. Ask a representative of the FWB Foundation to present giving options to further support local and world outreach.

Invite ...

... the congregation to a sit-down stewardship banquet. Present a special speaker or program; introduce the annual budget; show a film; launch a missions conference, a building program or a talent search.

Climax ...

... the month's emphasis with a stewardship program similar to your VBS or Christmas programs. Enlist every class or group to take part with readings, skits, special music, etc. Be creative. Write plays or pantomime Bible teachings such as "The Widow's Mite."

Challenge ...

... every member, young and old, to make a commitment of time, treasure (tithe) and talent.

Plan ...

... ahead, promote well, involve everyone, include the music ministry, use the church library, take advantage of direct

mailings and file your ideas and evaluations for future reference.

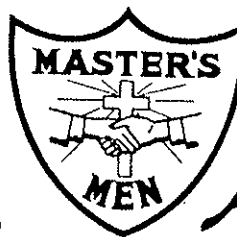
Stewardship units for teaching, promoting and maintaining consistent stewardship principles through the entire year are available through Stewardship Promotion Associates in Irving, Texas. The units are complete with all the materials needed for a campaign and can be used by churches of any size.

Each unit includes a pastor's guide, sample printed materials, suggested plans, educational material such as lessons and devotional guides, graphics and art work, object lessons, projects, coloring sheets, memory verse cards, charts, sample promotional letters, etc.

Several separate units are offered at reasonable costs. Contact Dr. Earl Murphy, P. O. Box 154265, Irving, TX 75015.

"Discovering The Grace Of Giving"
"Learning To Give"
"Growing Through Giving"
"The Joy Of Stewardship"
"Teach Me Lord"





An Open Letter to Pastors

Laymen are making history! For 26 years Master's Men has sponsored the Layman of the Year award. Since 1962 many outstanding men have been honored.

This is an opportunity to recognize faithful laymen. Pastor, nominate a man from your church. He doesn't even have to be a member of Master's Men.

Your nomination will be reviewed with all other nominees by the Master's Men Board. Each board member will select the man he feels has best demonstrated devotion to our Master and His work. Then the votes will be compiled to select the 1987 Layman of the Year.

To nominate a layman, complete and sign the nomination form. Your nomination should be based on the accomplishments for the 1987 calendar year. Do not nominate a minister. He will be disqualified.

Two awards are presented: Layman of the Year and Runner-Up Layman of the Year. The men will be introduced at the annual Master's Men Breakfast, Wednesday, July 20, in Kansas City, Missouri. The recipients will be given a special plaque and certificate. Their names will become a part of our history. They will be introduced to the National Convention.

A Certificate of Recognition will be given to each layman nominated. These certificates will be available at the Master's Men booth in Kansas City. If a nominee cannot attend, we will mail his certificate for presentation.

We must have your nomination form returned by April 30. If returned later than that date, we will not be able to process the entry. Please use the form along with additional pages. Mail completed nomination to:

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

LAYMAN OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

Sponsored by the Master's Men Department

(Please **print or type** all entries.)

Nominee's Name _____

Age _____ Birthdate _____ - _____ - 19 _____ Telephone (____) _____ - _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occupation _____ Wife's Name _____

Name of Church _____

(Use extra pages if needed. You don't have to comment in each space. These are suggested areas to aid your preparation of the nomination form.)

Here are my reasons for nominating this layman: Offices held during the last calendar year in the local church, District/Quarterly Meeting, and State/National work:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4, _____

5. _____

Accomplishments, work performed, honors received (church or civic) during the last calendar year:

1

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Evanglistic efforts in local church, District, State and National levels during the last calendar year:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4

5. _____

Pastor's Signature _____ Date _____

Telephone Number () - -

MINI GRAMS

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

The Department Pages

Vacation on a Home Mission Field!

By Roy Thomas

How would you like to vacation in a state where its history reads like an adventure story? Imagine a state whose history is spiced with tales of daring fur traders, battles between Indians and settlers, and stampedes for gold. That's South Dakota! What a wonderful place to vacation.

Included in the state's history are such colorful names as Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickock (both buried at Boot Hill Cemetery in Deadwood) along with George Custer, Sitting Bull, Chief Crazy Horse, Chief Red Cloud and Wounded Knee. In fact, the name "Dakota" is what the Sioux Indians called themselves. It means "friends."

Free Will Baptists have no established churches in this state and none in the sister state of North Dakota. However, home missionaries Tim and Kathy Coats have begun a new work in Rapid City, a growing city of 80,000 people in the heart of the Black Hills near Mt. Rushmore.

Tim, a native of South Dakota, has a burden for his home state. There are few gospel-preaching churches in this area. These faithful missionaries, serving in one of the most isolated home mission fields, would certainly enjoy a visit from Free Will Baptist families who, in return, would experience the vacation of a lifetime.

Millions of tourists visit South Dakota every year, for the Black Hills are one

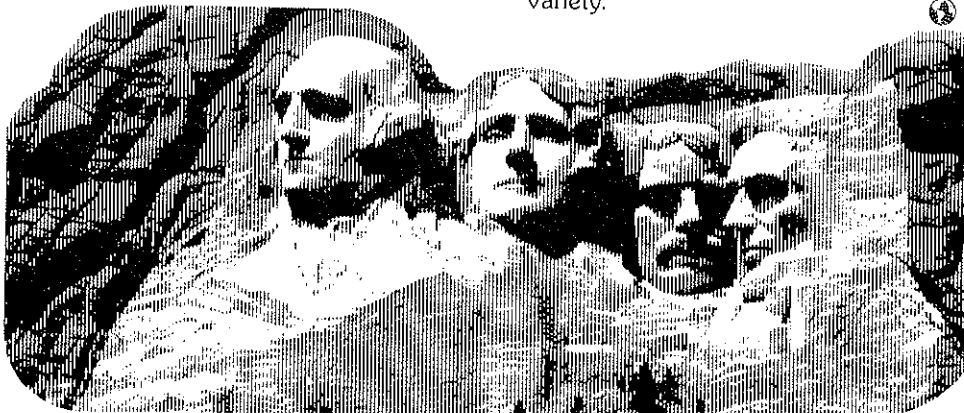


Tim and Kathy Coats

of the nation's most popular vacationlands. Attractions include Mt. Rushmore National Memorial, also called "The Shrine of Democracy." Sixty-foot-high faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln gaze from a carved granite mountain.

This beautiful state has many startling contrasts. The eastern part of the state includes vast stretches of fertile farm land, but the western part boasts deep canyons and the enchanting Black Hills which rise abruptly. Southeast of the Black Hills lie the strangely beautiful Badlands.

Do something different for your vacation this summer, and at the same time be an encouragement to some home missionaries. Take your vacation to South Dakota, "The Land of Infinite Variety."





Green Tree Bible Study

Robert E. Picirilli

Psalm 73

Meditation on the Circumstances of Sinners

Asaph was in deep trouble. "My steps had well nigh slipped," he says. He was discouraged, perhaps enduring some severe trial. He got to thinking about the lot of many of his ungodly acquaintances, and he contrasted their joys with his own tensions. His faith began to waver.

He wasn't the first one to struggle with this. Or the last. Job considered the same contradiction. Socrates said that good men are vexed by the prosperity of bad men. But that didn't help Asaph; he had to work through it himself. Then the Holy Spirit led him to set down a record of his ponderings, to give us a word. See what he saw, as God guided his meditation about wicked men.

(1) He saw, first, their *prosperity* (vv. 3-5, 12). The picture he paints is enough to make anyone drool. Sinners have good fortune (v. 3). They are always at ease (v. 12a). They have wealth and the power that goes with it (v. 12b). They don't have the troubles and trials that others have (v. 5). The "bands" in v. 4 (Hebrew *hartsubah*) are bands of constriction, of pain or agony (translated "pangs" in many versions). The wicked don't die of broken hearts!

Asaph saw their ease, and he was envious. His faith was tested, and he almost fell.

(2) Side by side with their prosperity he saw their *pride* (vv. 6-16). Look how he describes them (vv. 6-9). They wear their pride like a jeweled necklace; like a beautiful garment they parade their unjust oppression of others (v. 6). Their eyes bulge out, they are so fat (v. 7).

They brag how they stuff their purses at the cost of weaker men (v. 8). They look down on everything and everybody, respecting neither law nor God (v. 9).

And they get converts (vv. 10-11): "his people" are probably God's people. Even some of the saints drink the cup of deception handed them by such wicked boasters (v. 10), swallowing their line. "Obviously God doesn't know, or care," they say (v. 11).

Consider how Asaph responded (vv. 12-16). Right off, he was tempted to join them. "Here are the ungodly," he says (v. 12); "Obviously I have tried to do right for nothing. They boast in their wickedness and get rich; I find new troubles with each new day" (vv. 13-14).

But no sooner had he thought this way than he knew it wasn't the truth; to speak such a rash conclusion would infect other godly people with doubt (v. 15). As Spurgeon put it, it "smelt too strong a lie to be tolerated in a good man's soul." Still, he didn't have the answer (v. 16). He had seen their pride, and the puzzle was painful for him.

(3) But then he saw their *end* (vv. 17-28). Human reason couldn't provide him a solution, and so he got God's perspective (v. 17). Heaven's view is always the better one. Asaph saw where the wicked are headed, and then he understood. Up to now we've seen his spiritual illness; now he begins his recovery.

The picture is clear (vv. 18-20, 27). The footing of the wicked only *seems*

firm; they are headed for eternal ruin (v. 18). All they labored for will vanish as in the snap of a finger (v. 19a). Their trouble-free lives will be replaced with consuming terrors (v. 19b). Their present prosperity is nothing more than a dream; when God awakens to judgment, reality will rule (v. 20). And eternal death is their end (v. 27).

So Asaph learned two lessons (vv. 21-28). First, he realized the folly of envying evildoers (vv. 21-22). Thinking the way he did was as dumb and stupid as mindless beasts who live by impulse and instinct, sensible only to animal needs.

More important, he learned to rejoice in his relationship with God (vv. 23-28). This is the true treasure and joy, and he has it. The Lord, after all, is the one who guides and provides (vv. 23-24a), who will receive him into glory (v. 24b). Indeed, the Lord Himself is the saint's delight (vv. 25-26). "Without you," he says, "heaven is nothing; and with you, there is nothing else on earth to desire" (v. 25).

Martin Luther said it in a hymn:

The whole wide world delights me
not;

For heaven and earth, Lord, care
I not,

If I may have but thee.

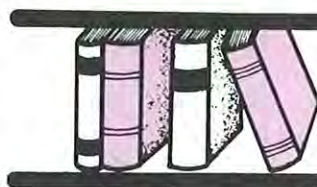
No longer, then, does Asaph slide. He has staked his faith on God (v. 28), and he knows that is good. He has seen the destiny of the wicked, and his delight is in the Lord.



Judy Osgood, editor, *Meditations for the Divorced*. (Sunriver, Oregon: Gilgal Publications, 1987, 70 pp., paperback, \$5.95).

Cleo Pursell, *Facing Death and Dying* (Nashville: Randall House Publications, 1982, 19 pp., paperback, \$1.50).

Cleo Pursell, *Triumph Over Suffering* (Nashville: Randall House Publications, 1982, 21 pp., paperback, \$1.50).



Larry Hampton



Our world is filled with pain. Sometimes emotional distress is greater than physical suffering. The book and booklets reviewed this month are designed to comfort those in pain. They are also handy resources for comforters.

Meditations for the Divorced is the third book in the Gilgal Meditation Series. This series is aimed at those "coping with stress and resolving grief."

The 39 men and women who authored the brief selections share one common thing. They have all felt the pain of divorce. Some are young; others are senior citizens who were married for decades. Some were wronged by their mates; others wronged their mates. All speak from first-hand experience. This is the book's greatest strength.

Editor Judy Osgood observed "The end of a marriage is like any other life-shattering event; you can't understand it on a gut level unless you've been through it. That's why all the contributors to *Meditations for the Divorced* are men and women who entered a court-

room as married persons and walked out as singles."

One author told of reading many books on divorce. She observed, "They offered no step-by-step solutions, but somehow it helped to see the words in print, to know someone knew how I felt." These words may as easily be applied to the selections in this book.

This brief book (70 pages) glows with insights which can help a divorced person get on with life. Problems addressed include learning to live alone and to think like a single, establishing a new life style, and accepting responsibility for the past as well as the future.

I recommend *Meditations for the Divorced*, a most helpful book. The divorced will find comfort in its pages. Those ministering to the divorced will gain a better understanding of what it's like to live through the breakup of a marriage.

Cleo Pursell's writing also has a ring of authenticity. Mrs. Pursell is acquainted with death (Her husband died several years ago after a lengthy illness) and suffering (She has undergone cancer surgery).

Facing Death and Dying answers the question "what is death?" Other topics covered include Coping With Death, How Can We Help?, Spiritual Death, A Christian's Death, Explaining Death to a Child, and Preparing for your own Death.

Triumph Over Suffering examines "Reasons for Suffering" (punishment for sin, discipline and training, a world in pain, and fruit-bearing). It also discusses "Our Response to Suffering" (self-pity, faith, patience, humility and glorifying God).

Both booklets are practical. They provide satisfying answers to tough questions. They are inexpensive enough that you can keep a supply on hand to share with those who need their counsel.

Both manuscripts have been put on a single cassette which sells for \$6.98.

Meditations for the Divorced, *Facing Death and Dying* and *Triumph Over Suffering* may all be ordered from Randall Bookstore, P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

The High School Graduate

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

Several events seem suited for memories. Christmas, Mother's Day, Decoration Day all rekindle memories. High school graduation in many respects holds that same impact. It's a time I will never forget. It was more than a crossroad; it was a hub, a merger and a scattering of so much of my life.

Graduation—A Transformation. Friends I had laughed with every day and some who had been classmates for nearly 10 years seemed to disappear into separate worlds. Some were promptly drafted and died in Vietnam. We had made promises to stay in touch

but life pulled us quickly into its swift currents.

Graduation—An Accomplishment. Finally, all the homework, quizzes, lectures and exams are over. The final sheepskin didn't come easily in a world of auxiliary verbs, definitive pronouns, logarithms and microchips. When one thinks of the thousands of information bits needed to bring a person to graduation, it reminds him that everyone who graduates should be commended.

Graduation—A Challenge. Until now the graduate has been told what to do by others. Tomorrow's agenda was set

by the Latin teacher, the basketball coach or his parents. Now he must begin setting his own agenda. He must accept the challenge of choosing for himself as well as face the consequences unprotected.

That's why it's critical to have a deep and abiding faith. As the world spasms in sudden and unexpected change, the graduate must cling to Him who changes not.

My personal congratulations to all of you who will soon be graduating seniors.

The Anniversary Insects

By Alton Loveless

After 32 years in the ministry and 29 years of marriage, my wife and I have celebrated anniversaries in some interesting ways and places.

On our 24th wedding anniversary, we were in Vacation Bible Schools teaching and directing more than 1,100 for Evangelism Outreach in the forest regions of Jamaica. To our surprise the leaders and older youth of Bethelphil Church decorated one of the back rooms of the large stone church (built in the late 1890's) and prepared a cake from the natives' meager resources.

At the appointed time they ushered us in and sat us down at the small round table in the middle of the room. We were soon encircled by about 30 of the hosts who planned the celebration. The cake was placed before us with a large knife standing vertically in the center.

A leader said, "You must both take hold of the knife and put it down toward you and give each other a piece of cake to eat." My wife and I looked down and saw every imaginable type ant and bug crawling over the cake and knife.

I noticed that she closed her eyes as she took her bite. While not much braver, I did manage to keep my eyes open. She later said to me, "I knew every eye was looking down on us and that they went to so much trouble and expense that we just couldn't refuse."

This was so totally out of character for her! We have left motels and cafes after she saw any foreign item to her disliking.

But those churches deep in the countryside, where many outsiders fear to visit, have a special place in our hearts. We remembered the miles most had to walk just to be in a service. Faces from that day's gathering still flash into our minds now and then. That insect-laden cake wasn't worth much by American standards, but we considered it one of the most precious anniversary gifts in all our marriage.



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

Cooperative Channel Contributions January 1988

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	Jan. '87	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 181.98	\$ 1,060.00	\$ 1,241.98	\$ 211.28	\$ 1,241.98
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	0.00
Arkansas	.00	5,951.41	5,951.41	4,298.44	5,951.41
California	.00	1,207.58	1,207.58	916.32	1,207.58
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	0.00
Delaware	.00	597.52	597.52	.00	597.52
Florida	128.48	2,750.44	2,878.92	3,281.13	2,878.92
Georgia	13,171.15	1,087.50	14,258.65	13,589.59	14,258.65
Idaho	.00	130.00	130.00	.00	130.00
Illinois	3,736.30	750.48	4,486.78	5,343.19	4,486.78
Indiana	.00	113.70	113.70	553.34	113.70
Kansas	.00	74.01	74.01	43.80	74.01
Kentucky	.00	.00	.00	254.08	.00
Maryland	.00	1,107.75	1,107.75	.00	1,107.75
Michigan	8,324.22	1,750.00	10,074.22	5,809.54	10,074.22
Mississippi	39.28	175.64	214.92	310.71	214.92
Missouri	.00	107.93	107.93	8,336.04	107.93
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
North Carolina	1,228.00	1,245.92	2,473.92	1,956.70	2,473.92
Ohio	398.00	2,486.00	2,884.00	3,543.00	2,884.00
Oklahoma	29,398.12	8,005.56	37,403.68	41,519.13	37,403.68
South Carolina	9,776.42	.00	9,776.42	8,032.00	9,776.42
Tennessee	1,366.90	1,741.03	3,107.93	3,324.03	3,107.93
Texas	8,018.23	539.63	8,557.86	6,618.65	8,557.86
Virginia	125.00	110.00	235.00	1,088.06	235.00
West Virginia	1,519.02	43.83	1,562.85	4,563.45	1,562.85
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other (Computer)	.00	.09	.09	.00	.09
Totals	\$77,411.10	\$31,036.02	\$108,447.12	\$113,592.48	\$108,447.12

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 870.72	\$17,275.05	\$ 18,145.77	\$ 16,916.67	\$ 18,145.77
Foreign Missions	60,189.74	3,165.02	63,354.76	59,222.84	63,354.76
FWBBC	3,568.67	3,165.02	6,733.69	6,823.48	6,733.69
Home Missions	11,349.54	2,476.99	13,826.53	21,484.91	13,826.53
Retirement & Insurance	160.15	1,926.53	2,086.68	2,821.30	2,086.68
Master's Men	184.43	1,788.89	1,973.32	2,665.51	1,973.32
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	13.01	137.61	150.62	219.40	150.62
FWB Foundation	130.00	825.69	955.69	1,401.53	955.69
Historical Commission	10.79	137.61	148.40	222.08	148.40
Radio & TV Commission	30.79	137.61	168.40	252.08	168.40
Hillsdale FWB College	519.79	.00	519.79	1,506.30	519.79
Other	383.47	.00	383.47	56.38	383.47
Totals	\$77,411.10	\$31,036.02	\$108,447.12	\$113,592.48	\$108,447.12

Coming Next Month: Convention Preview



ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

Marty Pays, But Still Profits

Marty dumped the piggy bank contents on his bed and began counting. "Six dollars and 63 cents," he said. "Hey, wait just a minute. Mom, some of my money is missing. Yesterday I had six dollars and 73 cents."

"Calm down, Son," called Mrs. Lane from the kitchen. "I found a dime under your bed when I was cleaning this morning. It's on your dresser."

Marty found the dime and dropped it in the slot of the bank. "Whew, that was close."

"Good grief," said Megan. "It was just a dime."

"Every penny counts," said Marty. "Now I'm a dime closer to that baseball glove."

"Well," said Megan, "you're going to lose it all if you don't stop dumping your bank every day to count it."

It was true. Marty did count his money every day. But it was spring, and that meant baseball. During the day Marty and his buddies looked out the classroom windows and thought about baseball. In the afternoon they played baseball in Mrs. Douglas' field. And at night when they slept, they dreamed about baseball.

Marty's old glove could survive another season. But he had been eyeing a glove at Bracken's Sporting Goods, and Marty didn't think he could survive if he didn't get it.

There was a knock at the door. "Marty," called Tony Phillips. "Ready to play ball?"

Marty grabbed his bat, ball and glove and was out the door in a flash.

"Mike and Rob can't play today," said Tony. "They have to go to the dentist. And Ben is sick."

"Hugh's mom won't let him play until he finishes his book report," added Marty, "so I guess it's just us today."

The sky was grey and the wind gusty. "It will probably start raining about time we get to Mrs. Douglas'," said Tony.

"Let's just stay in my yard," said Marty. "Dad says it's not big enough to play baseball in, but since it's just the two of us today, I think it will be okay."

Marty and Tony threw some balls back and forth for a while. Then they decided to get in some batting practice.

Marty pitched the ball to Tony, and he hit it all the way to the peach tree at the back of the yard.

"Good hit!" called Marty. "Way to go."

Next Tony pitched to Marty. Marty kept his eye on the peach tree. He didn't want to be outdone. He swung with all his might, but instead of hitting the peach tree, he popped a foul right through the kitchen window. Crash! The glass shattered and Mrs. Lane screamed.

She fished the baseball out of her dishwater as the boys came sheepishly through the back door.

"Does this belong to you?" she asked.

"We're sorry, Mom," said Marty. "It was an accident."

"Yes, ma'am, we're really sorry," added Tony.

"I know it was an accident," said Mrs. Lane, "but that doesn't fix my broken window. You shouldn't have been playing baseball in the backyard anyway. Your dad has told you there isn't room."

"We thought since there were just two of us, and we really weren't playing a

game, that it would be all right," said Marty.

"And since it looked like rain," added Tony, "we thought we'd hang around close."

"You fellas start cleaning up this mess. Marty, you get the glass out of the sink. Tony, you sweep it up off the floor," said Mrs. Lane. "Be careful. And I'll figure out what I'm going to do with you."

Mrs. Lane went in her bedroom and thought for a few minutes. Then the boys heard her on the phone. She came back in the kitchen just as they finished cleaning up the broken glass.

"I'm not going to punish you," said Mrs. Lane, "because I know it was an accident." The boys sighed. They were about to smile, but Mrs. Lane continued.

"But I am going to teach you an important lesson. When you break something—you are responsible. I called the hardware store, and a glass to fit this window will cost \$5.95. I think you should pay for it, Marty."

"But, Mom, I've only got \$6.73. That will just about wipe me out."

"I know, Marty," said his mother sympathetically.

"Do you know how long it took me to save that much money?" asked Marty.

"I know, Honey, and I really am sorry," said Mrs. Lane.

"But what about my baseball glove?" wailed Marty. He was about to cry.

"I'm sorry," said Mrs. Lane. She was about to cry also.

Little Lanes ... (from page 27)

Marty emptied the contents of his bank one more time. Then, with his mother's help, he measured the window. They went to the hardware store and bought a piece of glass to fit. That evening when Mr. Lane came home, he and Marty replaced the broken glass with the new one.

Marty pouted most of the evening. Why couldn't his mother have helped him out? Five dollars and 95 cents wouldn't have been nearly as much to her. But it was almost all he had. It just wasn't fair.

At bedtime Marty told his parents goodnight. Mrs. Lane gave Marty a tight hug. Her heart was hurting for Marty. "I'm sorry, Marty," she said. "I really didn't want to make you pay for the window. But I had to."

Marty didn't understand. But he did know that his mother was sad. She looked like she was going to cry.

"I just kept thinking about Buster," continued Mrs. Lane.

Marty looked puzzled and Mrs. Lane explained. "When I was a little girl, Buster lived next door to me. We went to the same school and the same church. Sometimes our Sunday School teacher would give us candy bars if we learned our memory verses. Buster never learned any, but his parents always bought him candy bars so he would have one when the rest of us did. When he broke the teacher's globe at school, his parents bought her a new one. When he sneaked watermelons out of Mr. Greene's patch, his parents paid for them. Buster never learned to be responsible for his actions. And do you know what happened to him?"

"What?" asked Marty.

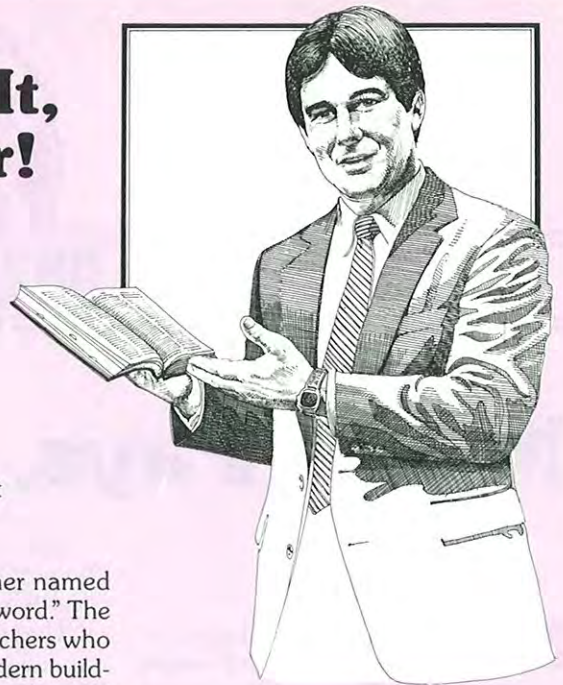
"Last I heard," said Mrs. Lane, "he was serving 10 years in prison for stealing a car." Marty's eyes got big.

"It may hurt a little to play with an old baseball glove this season," said his mother, "but it would hurt you much more to go through life thinking that your parents will always bail you out when you do something wrong." Mrs. Lane hugged Marty tight. "I love you too much to let that happen to you."

Marty didn't always understand everything his parents said or did, but he was sure of one thing—his mamma and daddy loved him. When Marty went to bed, he wasn't nearly as sad—and the baseball glove wasn't nearly as important.

Preach It, Brother!

By Len Davenport



Paul told a young preacher named Timothy to "preach the word." The church's greatest need is preachers who will do just that. We build modern buildings with state-of-the-art design and construction. We purchase top-grade audio-visual equipment. We schedule leadership conferences, seminars, retreats, films, slide shows and musicals for the staff. While all that's good, what we really need is strong biblical preaching.

What is preaching the Word? First, it's preaching that's truthful. People don't need to hear a sweet facade of wonderful words. They don't need weak-spined preaching that cuts corners. People need frankness and honesty. They need preaching that uncovers the mysteries of God's Word and sheds light to a darkened understanding.

Truthful preaching tells the truth about man and his wicked and sinful condition. It reveals the love and forgiveness that Jesus offers to a lost and dying world. It heralds the Christian's hope for the future. Preaching the Word means preaching the truth, because God's Word is truth.

Preaching the word is preaching that's pertinent. The Bible is not limited to one time period or group of people. It applies to all people of every era. People need to know what God's Word says about life. They want a message that relates to their personal living, not a public address. They want to hear how the Word of God will work for them on the job, in school and at home. Preaching the Word means drawing applications for life today, because God's Word is for today.

Finally, preaching the Word is preaching that's convincing. The message grips the preacher's soul. It burns in his heart and mind. He cannot wait to share his knowledge. He wants his entire congregation to experience what he has. Great conviction and intensity beam from his preaching. There's expectancy for response. He preaches in the power of the Spirit. People are convinced that he's pouring out the water of life and they need to drink.

How often we get caught up in the mechanics of worship. We become victims of routine. Complacency keeps us from growing. People attend church week after week, unchallenged to deeper commitment to Jesus Christ. What a pity!

People sitting in the congregation need to be pulled from mediocrity into the vibrance of excellence for Christian living. New vigor and vitality should radiate from their faces. They should leave ready to charge into their week with a gusto that says, "Victory is mine." Preachers must return to truthful, pertinent and convincing preaching.

They said of Jesus, "He taught them as one having authority." Those who preach Christ should do it like He did.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Len Davenport serves as activities coordinator for the National Youth Conference. He is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

Especially
For Young
Preachers

Your Relationship with the Woman's Auxiliary

"He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good" (Proverbs 16:20).

The Woman's Auxiliary is an effective organization in many churches. As they follow guidelines set by the national organization, they lend great support to the pastor, lead in missions support and information, and assist in community outreach. The wise pastor will work closely with this group.

1. Examine their materials, magazines, programs regularly.
2. Encourage them to pursue projects within the purpose and goals of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.
3. Announce their meetings with enthusiasm and interest.
4. Encourage your wife to participate, not lead, in this ministry.
5. Visit the meeting occasionally.
6. Enlist the women's cooperation in entertaining different associational meetings and guest speakers.
7. Encourage the women to present a program of information during the mid-week service at least once a year.
8. Do not encourage them to participate in fund-raising projects that solicit funds from the unsaved.
9. Publish the officers' names in the church bulletin and newsletter.
10. Attend their district, state and national services.
11. Participate in their weeks of prayer, including their prayer emphasis in the church programs, if possible.
12. Encourage the women in soul-winning activities, providing food and clothing to the needy, ministering in rest homes, distributing tracts and the scriptures, and other outreach ministries.

Next Month: How to Make Your Clothes Last Longer

Dennis Wiggs

TEEN Scene

A Children's Home and a Ministering Home

By Levy Corey, Superintendent

For years people have given to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Eldridge, Alabama. Something happened that turned us from an institution to a ministering home where the blessings of God are evident and abundant. It all hinges around a spiritual principle—giving.

Each Christian must give of his or her time, talent and treasure to be a power force. The crux of Christianity is giving, beginning with God's love. Our kids involve themselves in giving themselves to others through church services and exemplary community service.

Church. Our kids travel every weekend ministering in church services and youth rallies. This past year they held services in seven states: Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Illinois and Kentucky. Each service consists of singing by the staff and kids from the home, a slide presentation of the home's ministry, testimonies by some of the home teens and concludes with a black light chalk-art presentation.

Soul winning. Our kids participate in outreach. They carry Christian literature to school, give reports on Christian people and subjects, do oral reports that share a testimony and other projects that promote Christ.

School. The young people share many school activities. Some of their activities include basketball, volleyball and baseball.

Community. Seven of our kids were featured in a human interest story over the holidays. The project, spearheaded by one of our teen girls,



consisted of an enormous Christmas card made, illustrated and signed by our kids and others on their school bus. It was presented to their driver in recognition of 16 years of driving kids to school. The Jasper, Ala., newspaper picked up the story, took pictures and made it a feature item.

Our boys help the elderly and widowed ladies of our community break up their gardens and till their soil in preparation for spring gardens.

Deaf ministry. All our kids have learned to sign a number of songs. In each program, they sing and sign several songs. We set aside two weeks this year for intensive sign language study. Our goal is to open our home to deaf friends who also need a children's

home. Thus, upon their arrival, every child and staff member will be able to freely converse with them. It opens up a new avenue of service.

National Association. Our kids are making a number of craft projects, including wood work, which they sell to earn their way to Kansas City. They plan to enter a singing group in this year's National Youth Conference competition.

Tithing. Our kids receive an allowance, but they work for it. Each one has chores and duties to do every day. Out of that allowance, they are taught to tithe. To show how God blesses their little . . . out of what was left from their allowances, plus other gifts they saved, they were able to pay their own way, including expenses and spending money, to Disney World in Florida, and Opryland in Nashville. They are learning that you cannot out-give God.

Attitude. Our kids are taught to have a positive-faith attitude toward life. Frequently, people visit the home with plans to "cheer up" the kids, only to find that they instead have been cheered. Our children have their own theme song, showing the attitude of their hearts, "The Happy Day Express."



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

Accent the Ascension



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Free Will Baptists

Christianity rests upon clear historical facts. This makes it different from other religions which can only emphasize moral systems, philosophies and religious observances. The gospel is what God has done in history in the person of His Son for the salvation of the human race.

Christianity rests upon the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension and second coming of Christ. Although the ascension of Christ does not stand out like the resurrection in the biblical record, it is not without significance. As we accent the ascension, three things claim our attention.

The Record

Acts 1:9-11 records the dramatic ascension of Christ. The record is simple yet specific, leaving no one with the wrong impression. Christ ascended back to heaven in His resurrected body.

Mark speaks of the ascension, "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God." The ascension truth is further confirmed by Luke (24:50-51), John (20:17; 16:28), and by Paul (Ephesians 4:8-10; I Timothy 3:16). The early church regarded the ascension as a historical fact.

Acts 1 sets forth the ascension facts. Christ declared the facts about the Kingdom (1:6-7), defined the scope of the Church's responsibility in the world (1:8) and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit for the task. When He finished speaking, a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Albert Barnes observes, "It is not affirmed in the New Testament that they saw him rise from the dead, because the evidence of that fact could be better established by their seeing him after he was risen. But the truth of his ascension to heaven could not be confirmed in that manner.

"Hence it was so arranged that he should ascend in open day, and in the presence of his apostles; and that not when they were asleep, or were inattentive to what was occurring, but when they were engaged in a conversation that would fix the attention, and even when they were looking upon him."

The ascension provided the apostles with an explanation of where Jesus was and confirmed the truth of Christianity.

The Reasons

Why did Christ ascend? First, He ascended because He had completed His earthly ministry and was ready to begin His heavenly ministry. Christ's earthly ministry culminated when He died on the cross, atoning for the sins of the human race. He now continues the work He began on earth as our mediator, intercessor, advocate and high priest.

Second, Jesus ascended so that the Holy Spirit might come down and perform His part in the work of redemption.

Jesus addressed this when he declared, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 16:7).

While on earth Christ could be in only one place at one time, but as the ascended Lord now in the person, presence and power of the Holy Spirit, He is in every one of His people. He's with us in our testings, toilings and temptations. As the ascended Lord, He appears in God's presence for us presenting the merits of His blood and securing continued mercy and grace which we need.

Third, Jesus ascended in order to prepare us a heavenly home. Jesus said, "... I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself ..." (John 14:2-3).

The Revelation

While the disciples looked toward heaven, two angels appeared to comfort them and to clear up any misapprehensions regarding Christ. The angels emphatically declared that "this same Jesus" would return in the same manner He ascended.

He visibly, personally and bodily ascended into heaven and will return the same way. As we celebrate the Lord's resurrection, let us also accent His ascension and anticipate His second advent.

The Secretary's Schedule

April 3-26 Foreign Missions Study
Committee
Ivory Coast, West Africa

CONTACT

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Make a Big SPLASH

**on FOREIGN MISSIONS SUNDAY,
April 24, 1988!**

*April is FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH among Free Will Baptists,
so why not fill the month with missions emphases?*

**Make your BIG SPLASH by giving a sizeable offering
on Foreign Missions Sunday, April 24, 1988.**

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Report your gifts through Call-a-thon by dialing 615/361-1010 between 2 and 4 p.m.
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