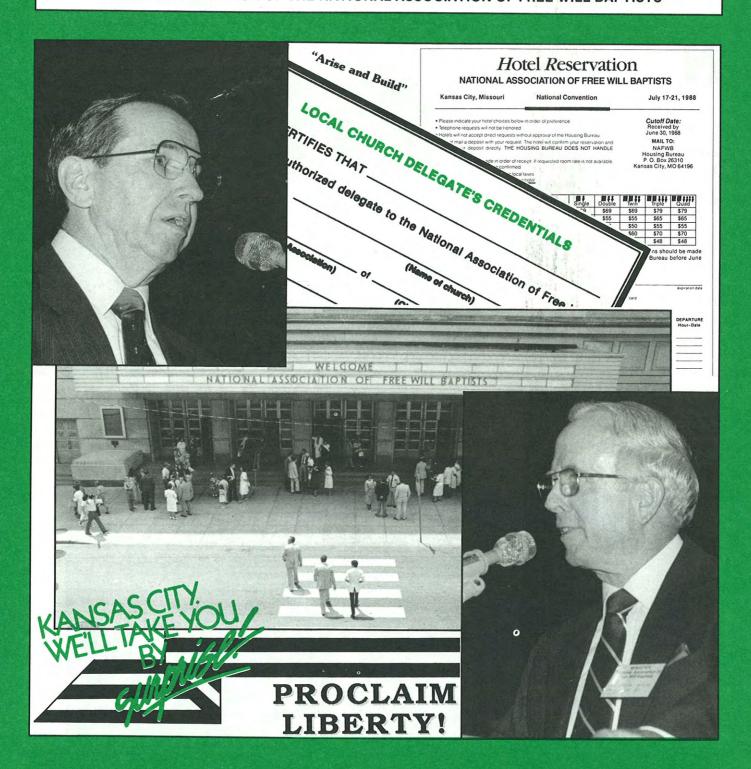
September 1988 Company of the compa

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



'Back to Basics' in Kansas City

By Thomas Marberry

ational conventions are more than just meetings. They are times when Free Will Baptists from across the country and around the world come together to worship, pray, sing, plan and hope. They are times of revival, renewal and rededication. That was certainly the case for the 52nd annual convention in Kansas City with its "Back to Basics" theme frequently mentioned in sermons and discussions.

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington explained the meaning of the theme, "This does not suggest that Free Will Baptists have left or forgotten the basics, but that we want to reflect, remember, reaffirm and respond positively to basic biblical tenants."

Free Will Baptists have always been a Bible-believing people. We have always adhered to the basic fundamentals of the Christian faith. During this meeting of the National Association, we reaffirmed our commitment to five basic principles of our heritage. We committed ourselves to praise and worship God, to pray in the will of God, to preach the Word of God, to participate in the work of God, and to perceive our welcome by God.



On the opening day of the convention, Moderator Ralph Hampton stated his goals for this session, "I pray that a new sense of unity, purpose and enthusiasm for the Lord's work will emerge from this convention. I look forward to exciting services."

As we look back on the services, meetings and activities of the convention, we can see that these goals were certainly realized. A sense of unity and a determination to move ahead in the work of Christ pervaded the entire meeting.



1988 National Convention analysis was written by Thomas Marberry, academic vice president at Hillsdale FWB College, Moore, Oklahoma.

All convention photographs are provided courtesy of Bert Tippett, director of publications at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The Contact staff is grateful to Brother Marberry and Brother Tippett for their assistance in this special convention issue.



Monday evening speaker Bob Thompson.

Back to Basics in Preaching

The proclamation of the gospel is central in Free Will Baptist life and worship. This was evident in Kansas City as we were challenged by one message after another from scripture. It began with worship services for children, teens and adults on Sunday morning.

Sunday Sermons

Rev. Wallace Malone, veteran pastor from Illinois, urged adults to praise God throughout their lives. Perhaps his words, "I want to give while I'm here," summarized the burden of his message. Allen Pointer of Hyde Park FWB Church, Norfolk, Va., preached to the teens on "Taking a Stand for God."

Gail Matthews from Bethel FWB Church in South Roxana, Ill., spoke to the primaries and juniors. She warned them to expect trouble from Satan. Then she reminded them that God would see them through all the trials and troubles that they will face in life.

Several Kansas City area churches dismissed their evening services so that their congregations could join in the services of the National Association. Rev. Larry D. Hughes, pastor of First FWB Church, Walnut Ridge, Ark., brought the evening message. He preached on "Prayer in the Will of God," using as his text I Kings 17:1-16 and 18:41-46.

He reminded us that Elijah was a man who prayed in the will of God. When he prayed, the power of God was demonstrated. Brother Hughes emphasized that it was not simply that Elijah prayed; the important thing was that he prayed in the will of God. He was where God wanted him to be and doing what

God wanted him to do. As Hughes explained, "Elijah would have starved to death if he had not been there where God wanted him."

Camp Meeting

The next convention sermon came Monday afternoon as a part of the Camp Meeting sponsored by the Home Missions Department. Home Missions Director Roy Thomas preached on "The Ministry of the Holy Spirit" from Genesis 8:6-12. He emphasized that we should not downplay the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit just because there is so much false teaching on the subject today. The Holy Spirit knows how to convict, to convert and to control.

Monday Keynote Service

In a convention where there was so much good preaching, it's difficult to pick one best sermon. Pastor Bob Thompson of First FWB Church, Poteau, Okla., gets my vote for the sermon he preached Monday evening. He used Matthew 3:1-2 as the text for his message on "Preaching the Word of God."

In his powerful, well-prepared sermon he examined the preaching ministry of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was a preacher who made a difference. He did not exalt himself. He had high moral values. He challenged people to repentance. He pointed people to Christ as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. We need preachers like that today.

One theme recurred throughout the sermon, that preaching is absolutely

Contents September 1988

- 2 "Back to Basics" in Kansas City Thomas Marberry
- 5 Briefcase: The Cookie Minister of Antioch
 Jack Williams
- 13 WNAC Wrap-Up Lorene Miley
- 14 NYC '88 Report Jim Lauthern
- 15 Free Will Baptist Newsfront
- 18 Currently
- 19 The Department Pages
- 26 Top Shelf Thomas Marberry
- 27 Green Tree Bible Study Robert E. Picirilli
- 28 Teen Scene
- 29 Especially For Young Preachers
 Dennis Wiggs
- 30 Religious Community News
- 31 Stewardship in September Melvin Worthington
- 32 Election Schedule

Front Cover (L-R): New Moderator Ralph Hampton, Municipal Auditorium, Missouri Executive Secretary Clarence Burton.

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

Volume XXXV, No. 9

CONTACT (USPS 130-660), published monthly by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Post Office Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Address all correspondence and subscriptions to this address. Phone 615/361-1010. Subscription rates: 1 year, \$9.50; church family plan \$8.00 per year; church bundle plan \$8.50 per year. Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee. Copyright privileges, reserved ©, 1988 Member of the Evangelical Press Association. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CONTACT, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. ISSN 0573-7796

Kansas City . . . (from page 3)

central to the work of the church. It was central in the ministry of Jesus and central in the outreach of the early church. It must be at the core of the Lord's work today. One statement from the sermon brought instant response, "If we will preach the Word, we will have deacons who will serve the tables for us."

Bible Conference

On Tuesday morning two excellent Free Will Baptist preachers united their preaching talents at the convention Bible Conference. Rev. Roger Duncan has pastored First FWB Church of Tampa, Fla., for 13 years. He spoke from I Kings 18:46a, "And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah." Pastor Duncan reminded us that Elijah was a man of prayer. He prayed earnestly, and God answered his prayers with an outpouring of divine power and grace. Elijah was not only a man of prayer; he was a man with a message. He proclaimed a message of judgment in a time when Israel was far from God. Duncan spoke primarily to preachers urging them to be men of prayer and men of passion.

The second Bible Conference sermon was preached by Evangelist Tim York, promotional secretary for Kentucky Free Will Baptists. He used as his text Philippians 3:7-14 on the subject, "Heaven's Championship." York pointed

out that Paul compares the Christian life to a race. He reminded us that we are champions in life not because of who we are and what we have done. "We are champions because Jesus is the Champion of the World."

Tuesday Sermon

On Tuesday evening, Rev. Glenn Rehkop spoke on the subject, "Participate in the Work of God," using as his texts Isaiah 6:1-9 and Ezekiel 22:30. He told us that the work of God is the greatest privilege of any person. The work of God cannot be done by the few. It is the responsibility of every Christian to be personally involved in the work of the kingdom. We cannot depend on every one else.

As Rehkop explained, "Passing the buck is the prime tragedy in the work of the Lord today." He also stressed that "the world has a right to see something from you and me as children of God."

Missionary Service

The final preaching service Wednesday evening was, without doubt, the highlight of the convention. Rev. Fred Warner, director of church ministries for the Foreign Missions Department, developed the theme, "Perceive Our Welcome by God." His text was a portion of Paul's final word to Timothy from II Timothy 4:6-8.

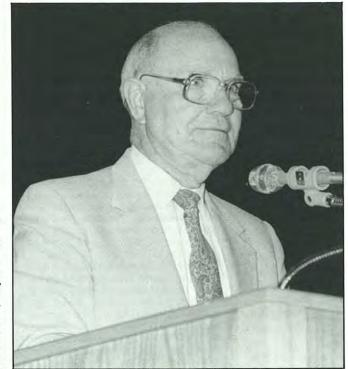
In this powerful sermon, Warner argued that the welcome we receive from God depends on our faithfulness to God. Paul could look forward to the future with hope. He could have confidence in the face of death because he had been faithful to God in life. Salvation is not a matter of doing good works; it is a matter of faith. Yet that faith must be a continuing faith. Our life before God must be one of constancy and commitment.

At the end of this service an invitation was extended and many decisions made. It was a joy to see men and women, boys and girls coming from all over the auditorium to make commitments to Christ. What a thrill to see pastors walk forward with young men and women from their congregations.

Since Wednesday evening was a special missionary service, home and foreign missionaries were at the front to counsel those who came to pray. In services like this, we see the greatness and power of God in a unique way. This kind of service makes a difference both here and in eternity.

All the sermons were well-planned and well-organized. They gave much attention to the explanation and interpretation of scripture. They focused on the practical lessons which we can learn from the Word of God.

Dr. Dan Parker, pastor of Victory FWB Church in East Wenatchee, Wash., summed up very well the preaching at this convention when he commented, "The messages have been centered on what the Lord has done rather than what the preacher has done."



Wallace Malone, Sunday morning speaker.

Illinois pastor Ernie Lewis and family.





The Cookie Minister of Antioch

he gets more love notes than any other married woman in town. And most of them don't come from her husband. I know, because that's me.

It all started rather innocently 12 years ago when we moved to Nashville and settled in Antioch, a 20-minute drive from Free Will Baptist Bible College. That's when J. J. (my special name for her) got called into the ministry, the cookie ministry, that is.

No, she's not ordained. But you can take it from me and the local Kroger store, J. J. takes the cookie ministry seriously. She never misses an appointment and never ever forgets a birthday, even in summer.

Twelve years ago when someone at church announced that "next Sunday is adoption Sunday," J. J. agreed to adopt two FWBBC students for the school year and mother them with goodie bags and other stuff. Before that first semester ended, she'd earned a reputation as the best surrogate mom in Music City.

Then those hungry college kids began following her home. Just any excuse would do—a Dallas Cowboys football game, a rumor of exams, a change in the weather, anything. I'd find them draped across the couch munching popcorn, propped up in front of the refrigerator ogling the black walnut ice

cream or sitting glassy-eyed at the kitchen table with a fork in each hand.

That's when I discovered that J. J. was a campus legend with her homemade cookies, fresh fruit and jelly rolls. Rumor has it that some junior students would *kill* for a slice of J. J's jelly roll.

Before long, the law of the harvest caught up with us. Those college kids began multiplying. The two became three, then four, until she was "ministering" to half a dozen or more. What was J. J. doing to get all that attention? Very simple, mothering someone else's son or daughter.

She writes notes to them. She calls when they're sick. She buys presents at Christmas. She remembers birthdays. She bakes cookies by the dozens and jelly rolls twice a week. She loves them as only a mother can.

It never ceases to amaze me to see the twinkle in her eyes when the phone rings and a strange kid chirps, "Hi, Mom!" They cluster around her on campus and at church like she's Santa's favorite elf. Over the years, many of J. J.'s kids graduated and moved elsewhere. But they never really go away. Once the cookie minister of Antioch gets them, they always remember. They write; they call; they drop by when they're in town.

The fall semester at FWBBC began a few days ago. I know what that means. Every Saturday night during my favorite detective show we'll have the rattling of the bags as J. J. fills paper sacks with apples, grapes, home-made cookies, a slice of pound cake, and other secret ingredients. (She never rat-

tles bags during commercials for some reason.)

A year ago my son enrolled as a freshman at FWBBC. He could hardly wait, mumbling something about getting adopted by J. J., since he and I both had been summarily rebuked by the cookie minister for snooping in her Saturday night bags.

If your son or daughter attends FWBBC, selects Fellowship FWB Church and has the good fortune to be adopted by the cookie minister of Antioch, you can stop worrying. The cookie kids will be cared for and fed by a pro. In fact, your son will get his goodie bag before I get my supper.

Of course, I wouldn't change her for the world. She knows what it means to love somebody else's children as if they were her own. She worries when they run fevers. She frets when their grades waffle. She wants to know who they're dating and how things are at home. She reminds them to be careful and stay out of the rain.

In a word, she does for your kids exactly what you'd do if you were here. Except that you get the tax deduction, and we get the dirty socks. A workable but sometimes smelly arrangement.

I long ago quit wondering why men all over the country write notes to my wife, the cookie minister. She has no credentials except love, no pulpit except the kitchen stove, no congregation except her cookie kids.

Now, if I can manage to sneak my name onto the list of available boys at Antioch, maybe the cookie minister will adopt me. Then I'll get inside one of those Saturday night brown bags!

Kansas City . . . (from page 4)



Unloading at Americana Hotel.

1989 Budgets Adopted				
Executive Office	\$ 365,587.52			
Executive Church Bonds	6,650.00			
Free Will Baptist Bible College	2,006,000.00			
Foreign Missions	3,279,414.00			
Home Missions and Church				
Extension	1,900,000.00			
Master's Men	78,400.00			
Retirement and Insurance	219,060.00			
Free Will Baptist Foundation	28,500.00			
Sunday School and Church				
Training	2,533,568.00			
Radio and Television Commission	11,780.00			
TOTAL	\$10,428,958.52			



Waiting outside Municipal Auditorium.

1988 Registration				
National Convention		3,572		
Ministers	658			
State Delegates	103	Dr.		
Local Church Delegates	129	200		
Lay Board Members	12			
Home Missionaries	70			
Foreign Missionaries	30			
National Officers	4			
Non-Delegates	2,566			
National Youth Conference		1,402		
Woman's National Auxiliary Convention				
TOTAL		5,866		



Counting the record missions offering.

1989 Co-op Allocations

The Budget Committee recommended that gifts received through the Cooperative Plan be allocated to the national ministries* on the following basis:

- 1. Underwrite the Executive Office administrative budget above those gifts received directly.
- 2. Disburse the balance of undesignated funds to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

Free Will Baptist Bible College	23%
Foreign Missions	
Home Missions	18%
Board of Retirement and Insurance	14%
Master's Men	14%
Free Will Baptist Foundation	6%
Commission for Theological Integrity	1%
Radio and Television Commission	. 1%
TOTAL	100%
IOIAL	100 /0

* All national ministries receive funds through the Cooperative Plan except for Executive Church Bonds and the Sunday School and Church Training Department which are sulf-sustaining.

Back to Basics in Music

usic is a vital part of the worship of God, and it played a key role in this convention. The special music was outstanding at every service, beginning with the Sunday morning worship service when Carol Gokey and Melton Francis of Hillsdale FWB College sang. Before the morning message, Mrs. Gwen Aylor of the Hillsdale music faculty sang "Broken and Spilled Out."

Sunday evening, the young men and women of Truth and Peace presented the call to worship. Tom Mercer of Greenville, N. C., presented a moving rendition of "In the Image of God."

The Mass Choir directed by Doug Little sang Monday evening. Their performance of "Majesty" was well received by the congregation. Witness, a quartet composed of pastors and music directors from Oklahoma churches, sang several songs including "Glad Reunion Day" and "Sitting at His Feet." The offertory presented by the Southeastern Quartet from Southeastern FWB College included "Sing Me a Song About Jesus" and "Restore My Soul." Then Bobby Lee Thomas sang a moving rendition of "Heaven Will Surely Be Worth it All."

Outstanding special music continued Tuesday evening. The Mass Choir presented a spirited performance of "Great is Thy Faithfulness." The offertory was presented by the Hillsdale Duet. Vernon Whaley sang before the evening message.



The Mexican Quartet.





Mass Choir rehearses.

Wednesday evening the musical part of the service was shortened to allow time to introduce home and foreign missionaries. The Men's Chorale under the direction of Vernon Whaley sang "Heavenly Love" and "Peace in the Storm." The Mexican Quartet sang two numbers which brought a chorus of "amens" from the congregation. Rejoice, a musical ensemble from Free Will Baptist Bible College, presented an excellent medley of songs about redemption. Just before the final message of the convention, Diann Henson sang the beautiful missionary hymn, "In My Father's House."

A special vote of thanks goes to Randy Carr and Clint Lewis, both from First FWB Church, Beaufort, N. C., who served as organist and pianist. Their excellent work added so much to the atmosphere of worship. Their instrumental arrangement of "Onward Christian Soldiers" was one of the highlights of the Sunday morning worship service.

The musical high point of this convention was the congregational singing. There is something special about several thousand Free Will Baptists joining their voices together in the worship and praise of God. From the first ("Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" on Sunday Morning) to the last ("People Need the Lord" on Wednesday evening), the spirit and enthusiasm of the congregation was evident. A hearty thanks goes to Music Coordinator Blaine Hughes and all those who led in congregation singing.

Back to Basics in Missions

ree Will Baptists are a missionary-minded people. They take seriously Christ's commission to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. This missionary emphasis was evident in every aspect of this National Association. The Budget Committee reported that 51.3 percent of the money spent by FWB national agencies is invested in foreign missions. Twenty-nine percent is

Foreign Missions Director R. Eugene Waddell gives his report.

invested in home missions. We have our priorities where they need to be.

Advance

Monday evening, a dinner was held by the Foreign Missions Department to recognize the contribution of those working on the Advance Celebration. State Advance leaders and their wives from 16 states came together to praise God for the projects which had already been completed in six countries and for the \$421,000 raised.

The funds have made it possible to underwrite Bible institutes in Ivory Coast, Brazil and Uruguay. They have purchased needed equipment and provided funds to help build church buildings. General Director Gene Waddell challenged these leaders with open doors for assistance to our emerging churches in several countries.

Foreign Missions

Waddell also reported on the work of the Foreign Missions Department, first to the General Board on Monday and then to the entire convention on Wednesday. During 1987 Free Will Baptists gave \$2.8 million toward regular mis-



Missionaries to Ivory Coast Robert and Judy Bryan.

sionary expenses and \$190,000 in Advance Celebration gifts.

God blessed Free Will Baptist foreign missions during 1987. Missionaries in Ivory Coast reported 153 professions of faith. A new church building was constructed in Ai No Sato, Japan. Our missionaries in Panama have been protected and preserved throughout the political unrest of recent months. Bible institutes are now operating in Ivory Coast, Brazil and Uruguay.

There have been no FWB missionaries in Cuba for many years, but national Christians reported 91 conversions and 40 baptisms. General Director Waddell challenged Free Will Baptists in the United States to raise \$36,000 to help remodel and enlarge the chapel at the Cedars of Lebanon Seminary. This chapel was first constructed in the 1940's by the late Rev. Thomas "Pop" Willey.

The association also received the report of the special committee which went to Ivory Coast to investigate charges which had been made against our missionaries by former missionary Lonnie Palmer. The committee reported



Former missionary Neil Gilliland (L) talks with deputational missionaries Don and Billie Sexton.



Home Missionaries Chaplain and Mrs. Bill Conlon.

that they found no evidence to sustain the charges which had been made. On the final day of the convention, the body passed a resolution commending this special committee for its work and expressing confidence in the work of missionaries in the Ivory Coast, the foreign missions staff and the Foreign Missions Board.

Home Missions

Denominational commitment to home missions was also evident in this national association. Roy Thomas, Home Missions director, reported that income for 1987 was \$1.8 million. During the year 62 families of missionaries and associate missionaries represented Free Will Baptists; seven "tentmakers" planted churches; 22 national pastors in Mexico organized and pastored churches; and eight Free Will Baptist chaplains served in the military forces. The Church Extension Loan Fund grew to \$1.6 million; missionary builder Howard E. Gwartney assisted in constructing four church buildings.

On Monday afternoon the department sponsored a Home Missions Camp Meeting. A special choir of home missionaries and their families sang for

the service. The Mexican Quartet shared its testimony in song. Missionary Mike Mutchler reported on the work in Portland, Ore. The meeting closed with a message on "The Ministry of the Holy Spirit" by Roy Thomas.

During the Home Missions Camp Meeting, a report was distributed on Roll Call Sunday held March 27, 1988. On that Sunday, 226,231 people worshipped in Free Will Baptist churches, an increase of 1,329 over the previous year. Attendance reports were turned in by 2,622 churches, an increase of 28 over the previous year. These churches reported a total of 571 conversions on that Sunday.

March 26 will be Roll Call Sunday for 1989. Our goal for that day is 229,000.

Target 90

Tuesday afternoon, the Target 90 Committee sponsored a Church Growth Seminar. Pastors from three rapidly-growing Free Will Baptist churches shared how God is working in their churches.

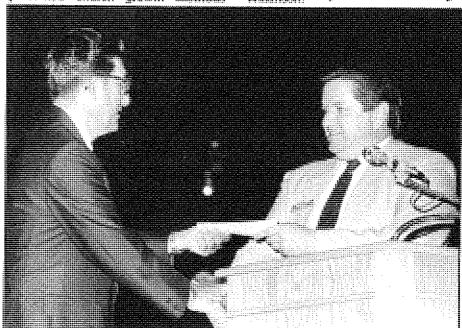
Pastor Brian Atwood of Emmanuel FWB Church, Wabash, Ind., described how he took a small church and led it to become the leading soul-winning church in that state. Rev. David Crowe of Cookeville FWB Church, Cookeville, Tenn., outlined how growth can be attained in an old and established church. Rev. Claudie Hames of First FWB Church, Bakersfield, Calif.,

which can be used in a large urban church.

Missionary Night

The missionary highlight of every national is, of course, the Wednesday evening service. At that service all missionaries, both home and foreign, are introduced to the congregation. Their work and faithfulness are recognized with a standing ovation. Special recognition was given to the young men and women of the National Youth Conference for raising more than \$15,000 for the Bible institute in Uruguay. A record missionary offering of \$23,133.18 was received; all undesignated funds received in this offering will be divided equally between home and foreign missions.

Special tribute was paid to Rev. Sam. Wilkinson who died suddenly in April. Sam and his wife June served as missionaries to Brazil for 19 years. After returning home, he pastored in Georgia before joining the faculty of Hillsdale FWB College. Shortly before his death, Sam expressed an interest in raising funds for our mission work in Mexico. After his death, the students, faculty and staff of Hillsdale held a walk-a-thon to complete this project. Wednesday morning of the convention, Rev. Richard Terry, director of public relations for the college, presented a check for \$2,217. to Home Missions Director Roy Thomas in memory of Sam Williamson.



-Cichard Tarry (17) prominate check; to Morey Albaniana Climater May Disprice Profesiolate P149 Callege in memory of Som Wilhinson

Back to Basics in Education

arly Christians were committed to teaching and training. They realized that prepared Christians were effective Christians. Today, our denomination also attaches great importance to Christian education. At the national level this is accomplished primarily through two agencies, Free Will Baptist Bible College and the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

Randall House

The Sunday School and Church Training Department does business under the name Randall House Publications. It is the publishing arm of the denomination and is responsible to provide books, literature and other printed materials. It is also responsible for the denomination's youth ministry.

Randall House receives no allocation of cooperative funds. Its needs are met entirely through sales. For the fiscal year ending February 29, 1988, revenues of \$2.1 million were generated. Assets as of the same date were \$1.1 million. The total budget for 1989 is \$2.5 million.

During the convention, Dr. Roger Reeds, general director, reported that the department now produces undated Sunday School literature in the Spanish language as a service to the denomination. It also has available a Spanish

edition of the *Treatise* and some other materials.

During this past year, Randall House published an additional volume in the Randall House Commentary series. This volume includes Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. It also published in loose-leaf format a new Discipleship Manual written by Greg McAllister.

Dr. Reeds announced that several changes are being made in the Sunday School curriculum. In adult literature, the department is moving to a nine-year cycle. This means that the entire Bible will be studied in Sunday School every nine years rather than every seven years as in the past.

On Sunday morning of the National Association, adults, children and teens met for respective Sunday School classes just as they would in their home churches. It was a great inspiration to see several hundred adults gather in the Municipal Auditorium Arena as Dr. Milton Fields taught from John 10:1-29 using Free Will Baptist Sunday School literature.

Free Will Baptist Bible College

The report of Free Will Baptist Bible College was given by Dr. Charles Thigpen, president. He reported that the



President Charles Thigpen (L) presents plaque to outgoing board chairman Tom Malone.



Clara Picirilli and Mary Belle Creech in FWBBC booth.

1987-88 school year (which they had designated the "year of rejoicing") was indeed an outstanding year in the history of the college. Total enrollment for the year was 349 (329 undergraduate and 20 graduate).

Dr. Thigpen reported that student morale as well as faculty and staff morale had never been better. He noted that "the college has always sought to combine a commitment to holy living and academic excellence. This two-fold thrust has not always been easy to achieve, but the record will show that hundreds of graduates, throughout the 46-year history of the college, will testify to both influences molding their lives while students here."

The National Association noted that the college ended the year with a surplus of \$842. It also approved a budget of \$2 million for 1988-89.

During this past school year, the Board of Trustees of the Bible College approved by a vote of 8-0 the proposal to allow the men's basketball team to wear regulation basketball uniforms for practice and games. Some question was raised concerning this policy decision in the General Board and again on the floor of the convention.

A motion was made on the floor to rescind this action of the Board of Trustees and order that regulation basketball uniforms not be worn. This motion was debated for some time with strong feelings being expressed on both sides. After considerable discussion, the motion was adopted by a vote of 252 to 208.

Back to Basics in Business

There is nothing unspiritual about business. The Lord's work is important, and it deserves the same degree of care and consideration which we would give to our own personal business. The General Board met on Monday morning, and the meeting was well attended. Everyone present reflected an intense desire to see the work of the denomination go forward.

General Board

The General Board heard reports from each department of the National Association. It also heard from three special committees, the Hymn Book Committee, the Benevolent Committee, and the Foreign Missions Study Committee which examined the situation in Ivory Coast.

The General Board approved the proposed budgets for all national departments and sent them to the floor of the National Association for consideration. The General Board made several recommendations to the body.

They recommended that October 2 be designated as Dedication Day for the new Free Will Baptist Hymnbook, Rejoice. They also recommended that the denomination establish a Music Commission which will assist in preserving and promoting Free Will Baptist hymnody. This commission will also publish and produce choral music and related recordings for use by choirs, youth groups and music ministries.

The General Board recommended that the Benevolent Committee continue its work until all unpaid medical claims are settled. It also recommended that the 1998 session of the National Association be held in Tulsa, Okla., July 12-16.

Considerable time was devoted to discussing the report of the Study Committee which had visited Ivory Coast. The General Board accepted the report of the committee that there was no evidence to sustain the charges which had been made against certain missionaries serving in that country. The Board also recommended that the Executive Secretary of the National Association be authorized to inform the government of Ivory Coast and other governments involved that Lonnie Palmer is no longer affiliated with the Board of Foreign Missions of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

The 1987 session of the National Association directed the General Board to consider establishing a separate Youth Department. The General Board studied this matter carefully and recommended that no changes be made. It was the opinion of most present that the youth ministry is adequately handled by the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

These recommendations from the General Board were presented to the National Association at its business sessions on Wednesday and Thursday.

Stewardship

The question of stewardship was thoroughly discussed on the convention floor. The body voted to designate September as Stewardship Month each year. Churches are encouraged to use this time to teach and train our people about stewardship so that all the work of Christ can be supported.

Agencies

On the last day of the National Association, the body received reports from several of the commissions and agencies of the denomination. Jim Lauthern reported on the National Youth Conference. He shared with the convention that 1,402 young people registered with 643 entries in the competitive activities.

Dr. Mary Wisehart presented a report on the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention. She noted that 892 women had registered for WNAC activities. She announced that the fifth annual WNAC Retreat will be held September 8-10.

Chairman David Joslin presented the report of the Historical Commission. He explained that the major project of the Commission for the past three years had been the writing of *The Fifty-Year Record of the National Association of Free Will Baptists*. This project has now been completed, and copies of the book are being distributed.

Resolutions

During its final session, the convention heard the report of the Resolutions Committee. Several resolutions were considered and approved. The first expressed the concern of the denomination concerning a film entitled *The*

Last Temptation of Christ being produced by Universal Studios. Since the film portrays Christ in a manner which is unbiblical and offensive to believers, Free Will Baptists were encouraged to express their opposition to it. They were also encouraged to boycott products and services being marketed by this corporation.

In another resolution, Free Will Baptists were encouraged "to register to vote and to support those candidates that they feel best stand for Christian ideals and freedom." The convention expressed its appreciation to the Free Will Baptists of Missouri who hosted the 52nd annual convention with a resolution calling for a a standing vote of thanks.

The association also passed a resolution expressing thanks to the men who served on the Foreign Missions Study Committee. This resolution also expressed the National Association's confidence in Ivory Coast missionaries, the foreign missions staff, and the Board of Foreign Missions.

One final resolution was approved from the floor. It expressed the confidence of the National Association in all the boards to make policy decisions in their areas of responsibility.

During its business sessions Wednesday and Thursday, the National Association elected members to various boards, commissions and agencies of the denomination. The work of these men and women is vital to the ongoing work of the denomination.

Directory Update

GEORGIA

Jackie Barnard to Liberty Church, Waycross

MISSISSIPPI

Joseph Buttgen to Fellowship Church, Richton from Christ's Church, Corpus Christi, TX

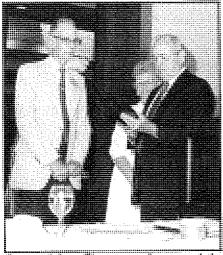
NORTH CAROLINA

Talmadge Brown to Meadow Brook Church, Black Mountain from Horse Branch Church, Turbeville, SC

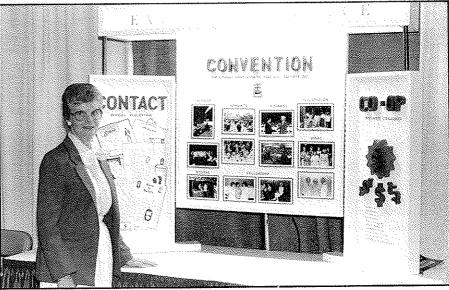
Back to Basics in Information

The annual meeting of the National Association is not only a time to worship God and transact the business of the denomination; it's also a tremendous learning opportunity. It gives every pastor, delegate and visitor the chance to see first hand what is happening across the country and how God is at work in other areas.

Each national department set up information booths staffed by men and women involved in the operation of that department. Visitors could go by the Foreign Missions booth, meet several missionaries and pick up literature about our foreign missions program. The Home Missions Department booth contained materials about church growth,



Regimend Line (M) problems Layrous of the Your August to Charge Kimbrons.



Geneva Trotter operates Executive Office booth.

church extension, pioneer missions and other important subjects.

All our colleges had information booths at this national (Free Will Baptist Bible College, Hillsdale FWB College, and Southeastern FWB College). College personnel were available to distribute literature and explain the different programs of study available in each college.

The Commission for Theological Integrity had a display of recent publications. This commission also sponsored a Theological Trends Workshop which focused on "Facing the Cults" and "Facing the New Age Movement."

The Executive Office booth contained a variety of materials about the work of the denomination. Free Will Baptists from California and Missouri had booths to make people aware of what we are doing in those areas.

Several private companies had information booths this year. Convention visitors were able to obtain information about Bibles, church directories, church furniture and a variety of other products.

The most impressive booth was set up by Randall House Publications. A wide variety of Bibles, books, commentaries and other materials were available including several recent publications by Free Will Baptist authors. Many good ideas and suggestions were available for Sunday School teachers and other local church workers.

In Summary

The National Association meeting is a special time in the life of the denomination. It's a time of revival, learning, worship, prayer and involvement. It's a time to see what has been done and to catch a vision for what can be done in the future.

The best thing about the national is the opportunity to meet new people and renew old friendships. The Lord's work here on earth must be done by people, and Free Will Baptists are the finest.



Farmer Maderator Bobby Juckaon (K) accepts united from Expositive Secretary Melan Worthington

WNAC Wrap-Up

s the heat waves simmered over Kansas City, Missouri, a great assembly of women met in Municipal Auditorium July 18-19 for the 53rd session of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.

The 892 women came from California to West Virginia, Michigan to Florida. The came from north and south, east and west to participate in WNAC's conclave strong with missionary flavor.

"Arise and Build" echoed the words of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:20) from Monday's opening seminar to the fellowship dinner on Tuesday. "Why should we do this?" the women wondered, and they were shown.

"Build for eternity," exhorted Helen Sanders (Texas) as she stressed purity in our personal lives. "Pray, plan, prepare and persevere to build strong homes," added Wanda McClary, home missionary to Nebraska. Finally, Jane Bailey, Tennessee's president, demonstrated how the work of an Auxiliary can count for eternity.

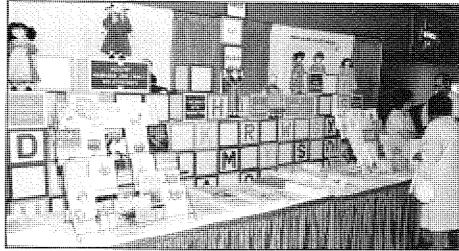
"With what shall we build?" someone asked. And the Presidents and Field Workers seminar offered concrete building blocks basic to any good Auxiliary. Maurine Lee (N. C.), Marguerite Kern (Okla.) and Delois Loveless (Ohio) left the challenge: "Go now to your local areas. Tell your women what you have heard. Arise and build new Auxiliaries!"

And the women knew they could.



Executive Secretary Mary Wisehart.

By Lorene Miley



WNAC Booth.

On Tuesday morning, from all over the city, the women began assembling their building blocks of love and faith, hope and courage, joy and praise. President Mary Neal called the delegates into session to increase the national dues from \$1.50 to \$2, and to delegate Foreign Student Scholarship Funds (formerly National Student Fund) to three Mexican students enrolling in Free Will Baptist Bible College this fall.

As the women questioned about building instructions, missionaries Marvis Eagleton (Brazil) and James Munsey (Mexico) gave detailed help.

In the afternoon, Barbara Fletcher (Ga.), with a corps of furloughing missionaries, challenged women to support the Eunice Edwards Loan Fund for establishing churches abroad. In 1986, the women adopted this five-year \$50,000 project. The \$1,748 offering following the presentation gave a healthy boost to the existing \$13,000.

By Tuesday evening the women thought they knew all about building with eternity's values in view.

It will take our silver and gold.

It will take our sons and daughters.

It requires our time and talents.

We must adjust our priorities.

But at the Fellowship Dinner, as Laura Thigpen, speech teacher at FWBBC, vividly dramatized the martyrdom of missionaries Betty Olsen and Hank Blood in Vietnam, the women knew.

It may take our very lives. We build for eternity by life or by death.

So the women returned to Arizona and Delaware, Texas and Ohio with the words of Nehemiah ringing in their ears. "Yes, yes," they responded. "We have heard and believed. Come now, let us rise up and build."

ABOUT THE WRITER: Lorene Miley is editor of Co-Laborer magazine.



Laura Thigpen speaks at the Fellowship Dinner

14/CONTACT/September '88

NYC'88 Report

By Jim Lauthern

ed, white and blue were the official colors for the 1988 National Youth Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The "Proclaim Liberty" theme taken from Isaiah 61:1 permeated the conference.

The Stars and Stripes Gallery displayed the Creative Arts entries. Liberty Square provided conference souvenirs for youth.

Kevin Riggs (Nashville, Tenn.) began the conference each morning with a devotional time emphasizing spiritual responsibilities. He utilized the colors of the flag to represent the qualities needed for effective Christian service.

Sunday morning began with children and youth gathering in the ballroom at Allis Plaza Hotel. *Rejoice*, the musical ensemble from Free Will Baptist Bible College, and Allen Pointer, youth minister from Norfolk, Va., ministered to the teens. Dean Stone (Nashville, Tenn.) and Gail Matthews (South Roxana, Ill.) conducted the children's services.

Monday and Tuesday were packed with 643 entries in the Music and Arts Festival and Bible Competition. The final round of Bible Competition was conducted Wednesday morning. The first place winners were: Bible Bowl-Grace FWB Church, Broken Arrow, Okla.; Bible Tic Tac Toe-First FWB Church, Russellville, Ala.; Bible Sword Drill-Grade 6, Malissa Matlock, Tenn.: Grade 5, Paula Clay, W. Va.; Grade 4, Melissa McIntosh, Ky.; Bible Memorization, Grade 3, Katy Beam, Okla. and Carl David Varney, W. Va. (tie); Grade 2, Jared Mounts, Ohio; Grade 1, Lauren Wood, Texas.

The Monday evening youth service in Bartle Hall's Grand Hall started with a mass youth choir directed by Mark Stripling from Savannah, Ga. The National Youth Evangelistic Team presented a portion of their tour program, "Let Freedom Ring." Greg McAllister, pastor of New Life FWB Church, O'Fallon, Mo., keynoted the youth service.

Rain fell on the Liberty Parade Sunday evening. However, the enthusiasm of youth groups involved was not dampened as they marched in the rain



Ebernational Absolut Mario Africa.

around Barney Allis Plaza.

Monday evening's afterservice event featured two Missouri youth leaders, Curt Gwartney and Toby Jenkins, and their youth groups. Approximately 700 youth filled the Allis Plaza Hotel ballroom as they participated in the "Let's Make a Deal With the Wheel of Fortune Because the Price is Right" game show.

The Tuesday evening youth banquet theme was all-American with a menu of hamburgers, french fries and apple pie. The 50 high school youth of the Truth and Peace Leadership Conference



Ken Riggs records NYC activity.

presented a multi-media production titled "Liberty."

Learner/Adventurer activities featured Bronco West. Children from Beacon FWB Church, Raytown, Mo., presented a patriotic program at Monday afternoon's Learner/Adventurer banquet.

Seminars, initiative games and special sessions were conducted Wednesday afternoon for youth and youth workers.

For those interested in statistics: 1,402 youth registered, 643 total competitive entries, 900 attended the youth banquet, 439 attended the learner/Adventurer banquet.

Youth groups gave \$15,205.69 toward the AIM for Uruguay Bible Institute Project. The goal was \$10,000. The top youth group was from the Limestone FWB Church in Tennessee with a gift of \$4,200.

The 1988 conference ended with the Awards Ceremony in Municipal Auditorium following the Wednesday evening service. A special plaque was presented to Jack and Wanda Smith from Hartville, Mo., who have given hundreds of hours to assist youth in competitive activities. Over the past five years they sent at least 49 youth to the national, especially in Bible competition. They also volunteered their services to assist other churches getting started in competitive activities.

The major part of the NYC program was video recorded. This will be edited into an NYC highlights video and will be available for \$15 from NYC Video, P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

Competitive entries in NYC '88 were high quality, bonds of friendship established among the youth, spiritual decisions made . . . it was a most rewarding conference. Personnel from the hotels and convention facilities were very complimentary about the youth. Some even said that Free Will Baptist youth were the best they had ever had in their facilities.

Plans are already being made for next year when we celebrate "Sonshine '89" in Tampa, Florida.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jim Lauthern serves as coordinator for the National Youth Conference.





FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

LAY BIBLE STUDIES READY

MURFREESBORO, TN—A Tennessee woman, Mrs. Mildred Daniel, has written a series of Bible studies designed for the Free Will Baptist laity. Each study consists of an easy-to-follow outline format with a set of review questions. All studies are 3-hole punched for insertion in a standard notebook.

Eight studies have been prepared to date: 1. How Did We Get It? (Bible Background), 2. An Airplane View of All 66 Books (Bible Survey), 3. Foundation of the Faith (Romans), 4. Walking Worthy (Ephesians), 5. Joy Under Stress (Philippians), 6. Wisdom vs. Philosophy (Colossians), 7. Faith in Action (James), 8. God's Plan of the Ages (Revelation).

"These studies are suitable for teen through adult ages," Mrs. Daniel said. "They are used in Wednesday night Bible studies by the pastor/teacher who expands the facts given and utilizes the questions as homework. Others use them with teen Bible study groups, while many have expressed interest in pursuing a private study at home."

Mrs. Daniel, a member of First FWB Church in Murfreesboro, has served as a Sunday School teacher, CTS sponsor and auxiliary worker. She currently writes a continuing study on I, II Peter in Co-Laborer magazine.

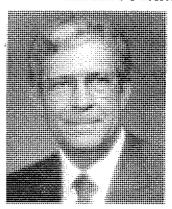
The studies cost \$2.25 each, including postage and handling, or, \$16 for all eight studies. Order from M. M. Daniel, Route 12, Washington Boulevard, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, specifying the study(ies) desired by number or name.

HILLSDALE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT PLANS

MOORE, OK—The Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College Board of Trustees announced the early retirement of President Edwin Wade, effective June 30, 1989. President Wade cited his personal health situation and the demands of the position as reasons for his resignation. The effective date allows sufficient time to conduct a search, select a new president, and provide an orderly transition.

President Wade has been affiliated with Hillsdale for 13 years. He initially served as academic dean and has been president for the past six years. During his tenure as president, several significant achievements were realized, including construction of the Learning Resource Center, development of a planned giving program, and re-establishment of the sports program.

The Board of Trustees expressed their gratitude for the years of faithful service Reverend Wade has rendered. His consistent biblical approach to administrative responsibilities and exemplary lifestyle exerted a great influence on the



lives of students, faculty, staff and associates of Hillsdale FWB College.

A Search Committee began receiving names for consideration by the Board of Trustees for selection of a new president. Selection of candidates will be completed by late summer with interviews occurring after that. The Search Committee consists of Frank Wiley, Del City, OK; Dale Smith, Tecumseh, OK; Clarence Hearron, Durrant, OK; Earl Scroggins, Ardmore, OK; and Richard Robinson, Joplin, MO.

WORTHINGTON SPEAKS AT VIRGINIA 50TH

ROANOKE, VA—Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington delivered the keynote address at Virginia State Association's 50th anniversary session June 16-17. Worthington preached on "The Obedience of a Servant" to the 85 delegates and visitors who gathered at First FWB Church in Roanoke.

Four other ministers were slated to speak during the Bible Conference and plenary worship sessions: Ralph Flanary, Dan Merkh, W. B. Hughes and Leslie Richie.

Delegates elected Pastor Danny Baer

(Heritage FWB Church, Williamsburg) as the new moderator. Baer follows former moderator Ronnie Floyd. Reverend Baer also spoke at the Thursday evening banquet.

In other action, delegates passed resolutions opposing parimutuel betting and gambling. Delegates paid special recognition to Wilton Dail for faithful service on the state Executive Board and his home missions work for more than 40 years.

The 1989 session meets June 15-16 at First FWB Church, Roanoke.

SERMONS, FELLOWSHIP KEY MARYLAND SESSION

BEDFORD, VA—Three ministers preached rousing sermons to the 175 attendees at the Maryland State Association, according to Clerk Richard Atwood. Preaching from the "Promise of Power" theme, the ministers created an atmosphere of worship and fellowship.

Pastor Ralph Weaver, who is also assistant moderator, delivered the opening address at the 22nd annual session which met June 23-24 in First FWB Church, Bedford, Va. Trymon Messer, associate director of the Home Missions

Department, and Joe Ange, president of Southeastern FWB College, joined Weaver on the preaching slate.

Moderator Lester Horton was reelected to lead the association. Delegates gave a special plaque to retired pastor Elzo Bevan for his work on the Home Missions Board. Alex Sekulich spoke during the Friday evening Awards Banquet.

The 1989 session will meet June 22-24 at Truth FWB Church, New Oxford, Pa.

newsfront

(continued)

MISSOURI CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

MOUNTAIN GROVE, MO—More than 700 Free Will Baptists gathered June 6-9 for the Missouri State Association's diamond celebration. Moderator Nathan Ruble said that while 525 registered at First FWB Church in Mountain Grove, the four-day meeting attracted 200-plus additional people.

Officials selected "Remove Not the Ancient Landmarks" as the 75th year theme. Wednesday night at least 65 people received certificates for 50 or more years of service in Free Will Baptist churches.

Four ministers preached messages on the theme: Grover Terry—"The Church," James Barker—"The Covenant," John Postlewaite—"The Christian Home," and Herman Hersey—"The Calling."

Missouri Executive Secretary Clarence Burton said that state churches gave \$292,000 through the Coopera-

tive Plan in 1987, exceeding the budget by \$32,000. The 1989 Cooperative Plan goal is \$275,000. He also reported plans to occupy new facilities for the state office and bookstore by November.

Delegates voted to change the name of the Retirement Village Board to "Adult Senior Ministries Board" in order to broaden outreach. The Missouri State Auxiliary adopted a \$5,000 project for missionary Ken Bailey and a \$4,000 project for the Hannibal home missions work.

In other action, delegates elected O'Fallon pastor Greg McAllister as the new moderator, Thayer pastor Cody Freeman as assistant moderator and Mountain Grove pastor Gary Fry as clerk.

The 1989 session will meet June 5-8 at Lebanon Community Center.

INDIANA PREPARES FOR '92

ROLLING PRAIRIE, IN—More than 150 delegates to the Indiana State Association heard state leaders encourage financial and verbal support for the 1992 national convention which will meet in Indianapolis. Officials urged each church to send \$92 for '92 in order to underwrite costs of hosting the national gathering.

Moderator Archie Ratliff led the June 17-18 business sessions at First FWB Church in Rolling Prairie. Reverends Bob Shockey and Jeff Little preached the two association messages on the Cross.

Delegates shared the excitement of a new mission work with Joint Project Home Missionary Tim Hackett. Delegates also adopted a \$5,000 state budget.

The 1989 session will meet June 16-17 at a site to be determined.

OHIO OBSERVES 'YEAR OF JUBILEE'

COLUMBUS, OH—The Ohio State Association conducted its 50th annual session June 23-25 at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus. More than 210 delegates, ministers and visitors registered for the three-day meeting.

Ohio Executive Secretary Alton Loveless prepared a 12-page historical program for each registrant. The program included a history of Ohio Free Will Baptists and a copy of the certificate from the state senate recognizing Ohio Free Will Baptists and their contributions to Ohio since 1805.

Dr. Alton Loveless said, "This has been the best year in the history of both the bookstore and state office. . . . Fourteen years ago our total giving to state and national causes was only \$49,000. This year we will be just short of \$1 million."

Three pastors preached sermons on the association theme, "Our Year of Jubilee." Pastor Hobert Ashby spoke on "A Review of Our Past." Pastor Carl Dunn spoke on "A Renewal of Our Covenant." Pastor Lester McMahan spoke on "A Reminder of Our Pledge."

Moderator Edwin Hayes gaveled delegates through business activities. The 1989 session will meet June 22-24 at Heritage Temple FWB Church.

SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE GRADUATES 18

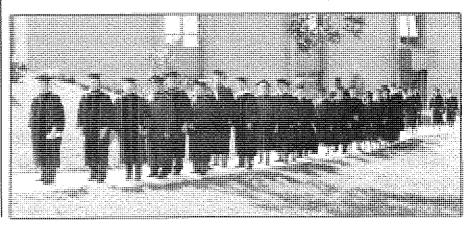
WENDELL, NC—Southeastern FWB College held its fourth graduation May 26 in the auditorium of First FWB Church, Raleigh, N.C. The college graduated 18 students from six states and Puerto Rico. Eight students received the Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies, eight received the Bachelor of Christian Education and two received the Christian Worker's Bible Diploma.

Rev. A. B. Brown, professor of Greek and Theology at Southeastern, brought the commencement message. He challenged graduates to set their course in life, determine that they are going to do God's will and be men and women who are leaders in a world that is destitute of leaders.

Five seniors graduated with honors: Kris Corbett (NC), cum laude; Raul Diaz (Puerto Rico), cum laude; Tim Odom (NC), summa cum laude; Jeff Pope (NC), magna cum laude; Laura Weatherford (SC), summa cum laude.

The Most Outstanding Student Award which is voted on by the faculty and administration was presented to Laura Weatherford from South Carolina.

Professor A. B. Brown was named the new academic dean of Southeastern relieving Dr. Lorenza Stox of one of his various responsibilities.



16/CONTACT/September '88

TEXAS URGES NEW MISSIONS

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX-The Texas Executive Committee recommended to the 74th annual state association that plans be set in motion to establish churches in San Antonio and Bandera. Delegates heard the recommendation and agreed with the committee. Officials said they expect a new church to start by 1989 in Bandera.

Moderator Bobby Ferguson, reelected to the post for 1989, guided 271 registrants, including 102 voting delegates through three days of business June 8-10 at the Ramada Inn in Corpus Christi. Delegates also voted to separate the CTS competitive activities from the state association. Future state CTS competition will meet on a Friday and Saturday in May.

Leroy Forlines, professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College, preached three messages on convictions, purity and the holiness of God. Texas pastor Morris Proctor preached Thursday morning. WNAC Executive Secretary Mary Wisehart keynoted the Texas Auxiliary program,

Bill Jones, editor of the Texas Challenge, said the meeting reflected good harmony and good optimism in the state work.

The 1989 session will meet June 7-9 at Templo FWB Church in Weslaco.

Ange

SOUTHEASTERN ANNOUNCES MISSIONS CONFERENCE

WENDELL, NC-Southeastern FWB College will host its sixth annual Missions Conference November 13-15. Since one of the major thrusts at Southeastern is world-wide evangelism and establishing strong, soul-winning churches, the conference will highlight that aspect of the ministry.

The conference speakers include Rev. Tim Hackett, home missionary to Bloomington, Indiana; Rev. Danny



Dwver





Hackett

Dwyer, chairman of the Department of Pastoral Theology at Southeastern College; Rev. Phil Ange, pastor of Jefferson Road FWB Church, Sumter, South Carolina; and Rev. Rick Bowling, missionary to Montevideo, Uruguay.

College officials urged friends not only to attend the Missions Conference but also see and tour Southeastern's new campus.

KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES A JOURNALISM SCHOLARSHIP?

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

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

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

Write now to:



250 ATTEND CANADIAN SESSION

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA-Some 250 delegates and visitors attended the annual meeting and Bible Conference at St. John's Valley Bible Camp, Hartland. The four-day session of the Atlantic Canada Association met June 30 - July 3.

FWB Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington and Michigan pastor Milton Worthington preached six messages from II Peter on "Grow in Grace" and "Responsibility of the Redeemed."

Delegates elected Moderator Fred Hanson to his 11th consecutive term. The 1989 session meets June 29 - July 2 at St. John's Valley Bible Camp.

BEYOND BELIEF

Bowling





TO THE RELIGION THAT PROMISES AN EASY YOKE AND LIGHT BURDEN

Roger Judd

Reverend **John Reel** will celebrate 60 years as an ordained Free Will Baptist minister in November. He ministered in Oklahoma churches until 1955 when he moved to California to pastor. The 83-year-old minister is a member of **Countryside FWB Church**, **Visalia**, **CA**.

The children of Reverend W. S. Isbell, the founding pastor of First FWB Church, Russellville, AR, presented a gift of \$450 to the church from their father's estate. Brother Isbell founded the church in 1947

Randall House Publications announced the availability of The Baptist Information System for Free Will Baptist Churches. The system, a computer program produced and supported by A. G. C. Corporation of Cleveland, TN, is available through Randall House.

Pastor J.C. Morgan of Lawnwood FWB Church, Tulsa, OK, delivered the commencement address at Hillsdale FWB College in Moore. Eight students received Bachelor of Arts degrees; another 21 students received Associate of Arts degrees.

Contact welcomes The Moore Messenger publication of Moore FWB Church, Berryville, AR. The church recently elected Doug Harris as associate pastor and youth minister. Pastor Bill Johnson said the group also completed a new church directory.

First FWB Church, Guymon, OK, reports four conversions, six baptisms and eight new members. The church logged a high attendance of 94. Chris E. Clay pastors.

Pastor **Brian Atwood** said that in 10 years as pastor of **Emmanuel FWB Church, Wabash, IN,** he preached 1,700 times, performed 50 weddings and 42 funerals, dedicated 47 babies, witnessed 883 conversions, started a Christian school, reinstituted a bus ministry, saw nine men answer the call to preach, led in one remodeling and two building programs, and saw the church annual budget multiplied by 10. Congratulations for a fruitful decade.

Some 35 students, faculty and staff members from **Hillsdale FWB College, Moore, OK,** participated in a walk-a-thon to raise support for Mexico mission works.

The 10-mile event was held in honor of the late **Sam Wilkinson**, missions instructor at Hillsdale. Officials reported more than \$3,000 raised.

Pastor **David Carter**, reports a \$220,000 building project at **Valley Falls FWB Church**, **Valley Falls**, **SC**. The 8,000-square-foot family life center contains a gymnasium, kitchen and storage area.

Victory FWB Church, Andrews, SC, dedicated its first permanent building since organizing in 1975. Valued at more than \$90,000, the 2,200-square-foot structure was constructed at a cost of \$40,000, according to Pastor Washington Miles. The facility includes an auditorium, four classrooms and church offices.

Pastor **Dennis Keen** says 91 people attended the opening service at **Landmark FWB Church**, **Charleston**, **SC**. Only six of the 91 were out-of-town visitors. The new church is a mission project of the **South Carolina Conference Missions Board** and the national Home Missions Department.

Pastor Herman Hyman founded Emmanuel FWB Mission Church in Santee, SC, in August 1986. After two years of work, the group purchased six acres three miles south of downtown Santee and conducted ground breaking services for a new church.

Pastor **Larry Cook** reports six baptisms at **Bear Point FWB Church, Sesser, IL.** More than 125 attended the baptismal service.

Members of Calvary Fellowship FWB Church, Fenton, MO, report 16 new members and 12 baptisms the first six months of 1988. Jerry Norris pastors.

Moderator **Fred Hanson** reported that construction began in May for a new kitchen/dining hall at St. John Bible Camp in **Canada**. Officials expect the **Atlantic Canada Association** to invest approximately \$60,000 in the project.

Members of **Grace FWB Church**, **Arnold**, **MO**, celebrated their 25th anniversary this year. Executive Secretary **Clarence Burton** delivered the afternoon message. Pastor **Glenn Rehkop** said more than 220 attended Sunday School and 278 morning worship for the anniversary Sunday.

Crossroads FWB Church, Wentz-ville, MO, celebrated its second anniversary with a homecoming day, according to Pastor Jim Mertz. Some 66 people attended worship services. Missouri State Home Missions Director Cliff Bowman spoke to the congregation. The church recently completed a 300-square-foot sign along I-70.

Members of **Davis FWB Church**, **Davis**, **NC**, did something in May they had never done in the history of the church.

They surprised Pastor **Reuben Cason** with a pastor appreciation day. Activities included a love offering for the pastor as well as a covered dish dinner after the morning service. Pastor Cason reports a new church sign and baptistry painting given as memorial gifts.

Contact welcomes the Ambassador Trumpet, publication of Ambassador FWB Church, Cincinnati, OH. Pastor Jerry McArthur reports several items given to the church including two-drawer file cabinets, kitchen stove, clip art for youth workers, tape player for the sound room and money to purchase chairs.

Mrs. Vendell Wise became a Christian in 1912 at the age of 21. Now, 76 years later, she still serves the Lord as a Free Will Baptist. She claims St. John's FWB Church near Lake City, SC, as her home church.

Mill Branch FWB Church, Johnsonville, SC, conducted 25th anniversary celebration activities. Mrs. Mary Lee Poston received a plaque for 25 years as ladies Sunday School teacher. Attendance pins were awarded to a number of people, including one to Roger Poston for 24 years of perfect attendance. Darrell Cartrette pastors.

Pastor **Billy Ray Cribb** said members of **Socastee FWB Church, Socastee, SC,** purchased 3.75 acres on which to build. Pastor Cribb also reports 10 conversions and five baptisms. The one-year-old church averages 25 in attendance.

Pastor **Kenneth Winningham** reports a new sound system and tape ministry which benefits the sick and shut-in at **Holomesville FWB Church**, **New Brunswick**, **Canada**. Pastor Winningham said that Christian reading is also available from the church library for interested people.



8/CONTACT/Sentember '88

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

Why A "Back To Basics" Conference?

by Dr. Robert Woodard Chairman "Back To Basics" Conference Planning Committee

- —Confused priorities.
- -Majoring on the minors.
- -Minoring on the majors.
- —Substituting what is good for that which is best.

Such things are evidences of our becoming so preoccupied with the mechanics of ministry that we lose sight of what is really most important.

As a college, we long to see our denomination become a dynamic, aggressive force for world evangelization. More souls being saved. More churches planted. More Christians built up in the faith. For this to happen calls for serious reevaluation of our priorities

and a renewed commitment to the lordship of Christ.

Hopefully, our "Back To Basics" Conference, scheduled for September 26-28, will help. Its purpose is to cause us to reflect upon those essentials so basic to Christian life and minstry. All eleven general sessions and twelve workshops share this common objective.

Four key areas to receive special attention are:

- -Renewing Personal Purity
- -Rebuilding Our Families
- —Revitalizing Our Outreach
- Restoring Biblical Preaching
 Prayerful consideration has gone

into selecting just the right people to lead us in each of these sessions. The conference program, designed with both preachers and lay workers in mind, will include topics of special interest to women and men.

Does this interest you, my friend? Are you concerned about our future as a denomination? Do you want to see us become a mighty force in God's hands in reaching our world for Christ?

If so, why not make your plans now to join us for this all-important conference. We think you will find it truly worthwhile.

Cost

All guests will be charged a \$20 Conference Fee. This will include a book and admission to all conference functions.

A \$55 comprehensive fee will include the above, plus a room on campus (double occupancy) and meals (Monday supper through Thursday breakfast). Couples may receive the above for \$95—a savings of \$15.

Area Motels

Hallmark Inn 6924 Charlotte Pike Nashville, TN 37209 615/356-6005 \$32.95—2 people \$36.95—4 people

White Bridge Inn 269 White Bridge Rd. Nashville, TN 37209 615/356-9100 \$38.00—2 people \$44.70—4 people Budgetel Inn 5612 Lenox Avenue (off White Bridge Road) Nashville, TN 37209 615/353-0700 \$45.76—2 people \$58.06—4 people

Days Inn (Trinity Lane) I-65 and Trinity Lane Nashville, TN 37207 615/226-4500 \$30.16—2 people \$33.28—4 people

Speakers

Dr. Walter Fremont—Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC

Mrs. Walter Fremont—Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC

Dr. Robert Picirilli—Dean, FWBBC, Nashville, TN

Mrs. Melvin Worthington—Nashville, TN Rev. Bob Shockey—Student Support Director, FWBBC, Nashville, TN

Rev. Leroy Forlines—Bible Teacher, FWBBC, Nashville, TN

Rev. Raymond Riggs—State Promotional Director, Algood, TN

Rev. Tom Malone—Pastor, Florence, AL

Rev. Garnett Reid—Bible Teacher, FWBBC, Nashville, TN

Dr. Robert Woodard—Bible/Pastoral Training Teacher, FWBBC, Nashville, TN

Dr. Ken Riggs—Education Teacher, FWBBC, Nashville, TN

Dr. L. C. Johnson—past President/ Chancellor, FWBBC, Nashville, TN

NOTE: Dr. Truman Dollar, who was scheduled to speak, has had to withdraw from the conference because of a personal problem.

For more information, please write or call the college.

PULSE of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions



Dare to Love Through Discipline

By Geneva Poole

od is love. The Collares family was familiar with this concept.

The family's Catholic faith and Spiritist practice led them to conclude that a God of love—a good God—would not, could not, send anyone to a place of punishment! Logically, they believed a way would be made for everyone to enter heaven.

The concepts of man as a sinner, eternal punishment for sin, and a personal Savior were all unknown to the Collares family. In fact, they had never even heard of God's grace.

My husband, Bobby Poole, had been reluctantly invited to the home of Dr. Luiz Collares. A family friend had arranged the meeting so Bobby could minister to the dentist, his schoolteacher wife, and their two daughters.

He couldn't deal with his feeling of importance. So, he took just one drink.

Dr. Luiz had a drinking problem. His wife tended to nag, and he was less successful than his two brothers and his sister; consequently he had a poor self-image. Combined with other factors, these had driven Luiz to alcohol. As a result, unhappiness permeated the household, making the situation almost unbearable for the entire family.

Bobby knew God could make a difference. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God," he assured himself as the words of Scripture flashed through his mind. He opened his Bible and began to explain how God showed His love by giving Jesus to die so sinful man could be saved.

Although it took many visits, all four members of the family finally professed faith in Christ. They began attending church and became quite active.

After much love, concern, counseling, Bible study, and time, Dr. Luiz gained victory over his drinking problem. He soon enrolled in the Bible institute and grew spiritually. It was a blessing to observe God working in and through Dr. Luiz.and his wife.

For about three years this couple had been in the young married couples' Sunday school class. Of all the men in the church, Dr. Luiz seemed the most qualified to teach the class when we left for furlough, so he was elected to that place of service.

Everything went well for the first few months. Then people began to praise Dr. Luiz and his wife for their contributions. That praise was gobbled up and soon produced pride. After a time the dentist could not control or deal with his feeling of importance. So, he took just one drink. That was one too many! It led to another, and soon he was in

worse condition than at first.

When we returned from furlough and encountered the situation, it broke our hearts. Though it hurt deeply, Bobby and the church leaders faced the Sunday school teacher and relieved him of his class.

Bobby began an extensive counseling time. Every morning for months he spent an hour or more in Bible study with Dr. Luiz. Unfortunately, we saw no change. Actually, Dr. Luiz got worse—lying about his actions.

Finally, under my husband's leadership, the night came for the church to face the issue. Everyone, even the family, knew what had to be done. A lady (sister in the Lord) made the motion to give a grace period of three months and if no change were made, Dr. Luiz would automatically be excluded.

According to some, love would have made a way for Dr. Luiz to remain in the church without changing.

Much to our sorrow, no change came. The Collares family, plus four other families, left the church. These other good friends considered the action an injustice by not showing love. According to them, love would have made a way for Dr. Luiz to remain in the church without changing.

The church had taken a definite stand and had dared to discipline. God's stamp of approval upon this action was exemplified by a unity of the believers, a deeper spiritual tone, and an increase in attendance.

A new lesson had been learned. The church had dared to love through discipline.

Geneva Poole and her husband, Bobby, have served as missionaries in Brazil since 1960. They are currently starting a new church in Ribeirao Preto in the state of Sao

20/CONTACT/September '88

Foundation

Herman L. Hersey Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Giving for all Generations to Come

"... we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks forever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations" (Psalm 79:13 KJV).

with an ENDOWMENT GIFT you can have a part in winning and discipling this generation and all generations to come. For your endowment gift(s) is never spent nor will it ever be depleted. It will be invested, and only the earnings used for the Lord's work. It can benefit one or as many ministries as you designate.

Your gift may be made now. Or, your gift may be made later through several methods such as a bequest in a will. And, if you choose, you may give now, as often as you choose and later. You may give cash, bonds, stocks, paid-up life insurance, property, etc.

You may set up an endowment, or if you prefer, make a gift to one or all of the several endowments already established.

Cooperative Plan Endowment

Would you like to give to all national ministries? A gift to this endowment assures that you will give to every department: Executive Office, Foreign and Home missions, Master's Men, FWB Bible College, Retirement Board, FWB Foundation, Commission for Theological Integrity, Radio and TV Commission. Semi-annual earnings are

dispersed to each ministry by percentages set by the National Association according to proportionate needs.

Foreign Missions Endowment

Would you like the satisfaction of knowing that you have a part in carrying out the commission for missions for all time? This endowment makes that possible. And, your gift will undergird the support of every missionary on every field.

Master's Men Endowment

Would you like to give toward the building of a strong layman's organization and ministry? The Master's Men Department is dedicated to activating men to serve the Master. A gift to their endowment helps to insure a strong active laity today and tomorrow.

Metcalf Memorial Endowment

Do you have a burden for Brazil? This particular endowment is just what you want. All earnings generating from this gift go toward evangelizing Brazil. It was established by the family of Missionaries

John and Kay Metcalf who died in an automobile accident.

Oklahoma Church Extension, Missions & Evangelism Endowment

Are you burdened for evangelistic outreach in the state of Oklahoma? This is for you. You can have a part in evangelizing every generation of future Okies.

You may have other ministries you would like to support. Consider an endowment to benefit your: Local Church, Christian Day School, State Ministries, College(s), WNAC, Youth Camp, Children's Home.

Do you or will you need PERSONAL INCOME from your gift? You may arrange for a trust to give you a lifetime income with the stipulation that at your death the trust becomes an endowment to benefit the ministry(s) you name.

An endowment gift today is a gift for all the tomorrows. Contact us today:

FWB Foundation P. O. Box 1088 Nashville, TN 37202 615/361-1010

Master's Men Endowment Trust Fund

Enabling the Future

The Master's Men Board voted to establish an irrevocable Endowment Trust Fund in December 1985. The goal was to begin a long range plan to improve the department's financial status. Annual membership totals have remained static for over a decade. Financial needs continue to increase. At this point, the denomination does not completely underwrite the needs of the department.

The first thrust for building the Endowment Trust Fund came through the creation of LifeMembership in Master's Men. A deposit of \$100 per member is put in Trust with the Free Will Baptist Foundation when men choose to join. They can pay monthly installments to reach the deposit fee.

Deposits after 29 months total over \$25,000. LifeMembership status numbers 214 members. And 18 women are listed as LifeFriends. Another 50 men have made commitments to join by paying installments, and most will be fully paid this year.

New

A new method to encourage future large gifts was introduced this year. It's called the Endowment Builders Perpetual Gift Plan. This simple plan enables individuals to make a large donation to Master's Men Department each year . . . forever. Contributions to fund this perpetual gift are to be over and above the tithe and offerings presently given to the local church.

These sizable gifts will not diminish or dilute the family business interests or other estate holdings. How does it work? Each supporter purchases a life insurance policy on his or her life. The policy is for an amount that will develop enough cash value within a 10-year period so further contributions to the policy will not be necessary.

Each supporter assigns the policy to the Master's Men Department, which then becomes the policy owner and beneficiary. If a supporter dies before the end of the 10-year period, the department receives a check for the amount of the policy. If a supporter becomes disabled during the 10-year period, a waiver of premium clause completes the gift.

The Advantages

A substantial charitable gift can be made on the installment basis. The gift will probably be much larger than the supporter could give in any other way. A relatively small out-of-pocket cost produces a sizable gift. Under the Tax Reform Act of 1986, the premium may be deductible, if the supporter itemizes on his or her tax return. There are no adverse tax problems, probate or administrative fees, or other transfer costs. The gift is self-completing. Proceeds are paid to the Master's Men Endowment Trust promptly upon the supporter's death. The perpetual gift can be publicity free . . . if desired.

The department realizes some advantages as well. Future income is assured, and long-term commitments to minister can be made with complete confidence. The amount of the gift is certain. Future ministries can be planned. The department desires to benefit the entire denomination. That happens only when adequate funding is assured.

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

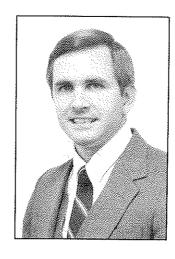
Paradise Found in Paradise!

By Mike Mutchler Home Missionary to Portland, Oregon

e went to Paradise so someone could go to Paradise! Let me explain. In January 1988 our home mission church in Portland, Oregon, began praying for the brother of one of our members. He had terminal cancer. Worse than having cancer, however, was the fact that he was unsaved. The man and his wife had visited our church on one occasion. He told his sister that if he lived in our area he would attend church every week. He was usually negative toward church and Christianity.

When I heard how much he enjoyed our services, we began to pray regularly for him in our church. One night after praying for the man, the Lord impressed me to say that I would be willing to travel to see him and talk with him about the Lord-if he would be willing for me to come. My church member could hardly believe that I would be willing to travel almost 500 miles to witness to just one person, but I assured her that one soul was more than worth the effort.

Telephone calls were made, and the man was agreeable for me to visit with him. When I announced to my church that on Friday I would be driving to Paradise, California, to visit with Eugene and Alice Dahl, two of my men said they would take off work and go with me. So Ben Weldon drove his fourwheel-drive Bronco across the mountain passes between Oregon and



California, and Merle White rode along

We left Friday afternoon and drove until 2:00 a.m. when we pulled over at a motel and rested until 7:00 that morning, then took to the road again toward Paradise. It took about six more hours of driving, but we finally arrived at the Dahl's home.

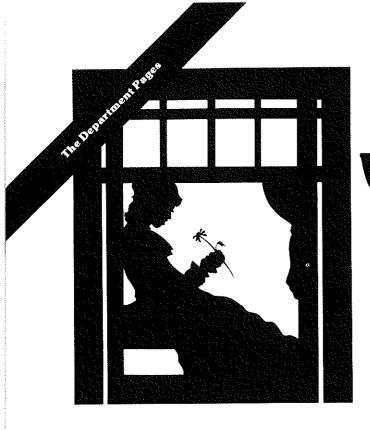
We entered their home, and after introductions and some small talk, I asked the question about salvation and talked with Eugene about his need to be saved. He was not willing at that time to accept the Lord, so I started silently praving.

Ben and Merle excused themselves so that Eugene and I could talk privately, and they went outside and started a prayer meeting. I shared with Eugene how much God loved him and wanted to save him. However, Eugene did not think it was fair of himself to accept salvation while having lived a wicked life and also having terminal cancer. But I reminded him of the thief on the cross who accepted Christ, and that Jesus really cares about people's salvation.

After pleading and sharing with him about 15 minutes, his wife Alice looked at Eugene with tears in her eyes and said, "Gene, why don't we both get saved right now?" That's all it took! With the three of us kneeling in a circle, they were both saved.

When Ben and Merle came back into the house, we all hugged and cried for 10 minutes while rejoicing together. Eugene and Alice were so happy, and all of us could tell it was real. After we'd stayed 45 minutes in Paradise, California, Eugene and Alice were both headed to Paradise in heaven with

Ben, Merle and I got in the car to head back and both men said, "Where do we drive to next week, Preacher? Have soul winner, will travel!" We arrived back home in Portland after midnight, having traveled 1,005 miles, tired but happy. The whole church rejoiced over the good news. Soul winning is certainly worthwhile, for Paradise was found in Paradise!



Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisehart

From My Window

"Look what I found," the boy said. He opened his hands to let me see the shells he had picked up on the beach. Then of course I shared my shells with him.

"God must love beauty and variety," I told him. "Otherwise, He wouldn't have made so many different and beautiful shells."

Just think about it. There is the chambered nautilus shell with its beautiful iridescent surface lying just under the brown markings. The coquina shells with their delicate beauty, looking like so many butterflies and all with different design and different pastel coloring. The conk shell may vary on the inside from a delicate pink to a deep red color, polished smooth and shiny by the conk which once lived inside it. The scallop shell, like the coquina takes a thousand different shadings and coloring. What variety of design! What delicate beauty! And some of these shells will be seen only by the Creator Himself.

Think, then. This is the God we serve. "And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life. . . . And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind" (Genesis 1:20-21).

He designed it all. The star fish with its crusty surface, the sand dollar with its five holes, five petal-like patterns, and five bony structures like little doves with wings spread. The seahorse clinging by its tail and the sea fan waving its fronds in the water.

Oh, my friend, He knows your name and the number of hairs on your head. Do you think He has any less a design for you? Surely, with infinite care and infinite variety, delicate beauty, He designed each one of us for Himself. And some day He will complete that design.

Memorial Student Loan Fund— September Emphasis

A return of students to school reminds WNAC members to give to the Memorial Student Loan Fund. The Loan Fund offers all members an opportunity to share in training Free Will Baptist young people for Christian service.

WNAC now has \$50,000 available for students at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Students may apply for a loan in their second year of college at seven percent interest.

Eunice Edwards Fund

July 1, 1988-\$13,151.74

Introducing . . . Yvonne Wolfenbarger

A perky redhead with a winning smile welcomes visitors to the WNAC office. Yvonne Wolfenbarger, executive assistant, joined the staff September 6, 1986.

She greets visitors, answers the telephone, does correspondence and presides over the computer. Computer work includes maintaining the Co-Laborer subscription list and running labels for mailing, helping with magazine manuscripts and billing.

Yvonne came to Nashville from Russellville, Ark., where she served with her late husband, Floyd, at First FWB Church until his death in 1985.

Born to Irvin and Dixie Sherman in Urbana, Ohio, Yvonne was the 12th of 15 children. She grew up in a Free Will Baptist pastor's home and moved into another Free Will Baptist pastor's home when she married Floyd in 1967.

Her daughter, Angela Dawn, is a sophomore at Woodbine Christian Academy. They both attend Woodbine Church.

Yvonne became a familiar figure to Free Will Baptist convention attendees, supervising registration from 1979-1986. She served at local, district and state levels in Woman's Auxiliary, holding the office of state president in Ohio for two years.

Yvonne loves teenagers, enjoys cross stitching, reading and any kind of ball games. She likes being where the excitement is.

Data

Born: September 18, 1946

High School Diploma: Mechanicsburg,

Ohio, 1964

Marriage: August 16, 1967

Daughter: Angela, born September 26, 1972





Herman L. Hersey Director

Board of Retirement

AT YOUR SERVICE

Test Your Knowledge

Choose the one correct answer.

- 1. In the U.S.A. retirement is
 - a. mandatory at age 55
 - b. mandatory at age 70
 - c. no longer mandatory
- 2. Life expectancy today is
 - a. age 60.2 for men; 65.5 for women
 - b. age 79.6 for men; 83.6 for women
 - c. age 80 for men; 85 for women
- 3. The FWB Pension Fund was established in
 - a. 1975
 - b. 1969
 - c. 1937
- 4. Membership in the pension plan is open to
 - a. all licensed or ordained ministers
 - all lay employees of churches, schools and denominational agencies
 - c. both of the above
- 5. The pension program offers
 - a. one plan for both ministers and laypeople
 - b. one plan for ministers, another for laypeople
 - c. a plan for ministers only
- 6. Contributions may be made by
 - a. the employer (church, school or denominational agency)
 - b. the employee
 - c. either or both the employer and employee
- 7. Members may choose to contribute on
 - a. both a before-tax and after-tax basis

- b. a before-tax basis onlyc. an after-tax basis only
- 8. Employer contributions are
 - a. never tax-delayed
 - b. tax-delayed until withdrawal
 - c. tax-free
- 9. A Salary Reduction Agreement
 - a. allows the employer to withhold a certain amount of the employee's salary each pay period
 - allows the employee to contribute up to 20% of his pay on a before-tax basis
 - c. both of the above
- Employer contributions may be withdrawn
 - a. anytime
 - b. after 10 years
 - c. only at death, disability or retirement
- An employee may withdraw or borrow from personal contributions and earnings with
 - a. certain restrictions
 - b. certain restrictions and penalties
 - c. certain penalties
- 12. Special life insurance benefits are available
 - a. provided a certain level of contributions are made
 - regardless of the level of contributions made
 - c. under no conditions
- In the event a member is disabled while covered by the life insurance benefit, his coverage
 - a. remains in force without additional costs
 - b. is canceled

- c. remains in force but with additional costs
- If a member moves to another church, school or agency
 - a. his membership is canceled
 - b. he may continue to participate and loses no benefits
 - c. he loses all benefits
- The entire account balance is payable to a member or to his estate upon
 - a. death
 - b. disability
 - c. retirement
 - d. all of the above
- 16. Upon distribution of an account, benefits may be paid
 - a. in a single cash lump sum
 - b. in one of several types of annuities
 - c. in either or both of the above ways
- 17. Contributions to a pension fund should be
 - a. for investment purposes
 - b. for savings
 - c. solely for retirement income
- Assets of the pension fund are held and invested
 - a. by the Board of Retirement and Insurance (trustee)
 - b. for the exclusive benefit of plan members
 - under the direction of the FWB National Association
 - d. in all of the above ways

1.c. 2.b 3.b 4.b 5.a 6.c 7.a 8.b 9.d 10.c 11.b 12.a 13.a 14.b 15.d 16.c 17.c 18.d

James Braga, How to Prepare Bible Messages, Revised Edition (Portland, Oregon: Multnomah Press, 1981, 257 pp., paperback, \$6.95).

Preachers today are indeed a fortunate lot. We live in a time when there are many excellent resources for preaching, and this volume deserves a place among them. The author has taught preaching for more than 20 years. The clarity of his presentation shows that he has assisted many young preachers in developing the art and craft of preaching.

The book divides into two major divisions. The first part analyzes the three basic types of sermons (topical, textual and expository). Preachers must have a clear conception of each of these sermon types. The author gives sample outlines for each type. He stresses that the preacher must not get in a rut. He must have sufficient variety to maintain the interest of his hearers week after week.

The second major division examines the mechanics of sermon construction. Braga believes that sermon development must begin with exegesis. Correct biblical interpretation is essential in preaching. The preacher must understand his text before he can hope to preach on it.

The introduction is often the biggest stumbling block for the preacher. The author presents an excellent analysis of the different ways of introducing a sermon.

The conclusion is often the most poorly developed part of the sermon. Many preachers hope to "wing it" through the conclusion. This book points out the fallacy of such an approach and offers helpful suggestions in developing effective conclusions.

The major divisions (or points) of the sermon must be clearly and correctly stated. Dr. Braga presents a number of sermon outlines which can serve as models for effective sermon development.

There are two things I like very much about this volume. First, the final chapter is not just a summary of what has been presented in the book. It outlines a seven-step process which the pastor

may follow in his office as he develops his sermons. The average pastor does not have a disciplined approach to sermon preparation. If he will follow the process outlined in this chapter (or one like it), he will be a better preacher.

Second, the author has included dozens of good sermon outlines which the preacher may use. He may not only

use them for preaching, he may use them as models for the development of his own sermon outlines.

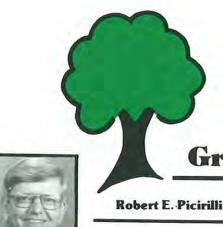
This is not just a book of theory; it is practical. At the end of each chapter is a series of most helpful exercises. Speaking as one who has taught preaching for several years, this is a good book. It is money well spent.

Cooperative Channel Contributions June 1988

RECEIPTS:

ILCLII 13.		0000			
State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	June '87	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 157.57	\$ 75.25	\$ 232.82	\$ 226.34	\$ 4,196.34
Arizona	.00	91.17	91.17	.00	91.17
Arkansas	.00	3,077.42	3,077.42	2,337.86	26,425.72
California	250.00	374.00	624.00	805.39	7,649.04
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	557.18	2,076.99
Florida	.00	2,657.88	2,657.88	1,148.78	13,331.28
Georgia	5,943.57	839.00	6,782.57	12,630.86	50,663.38
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	325.72
Illinois	4,941.38	970.32	5,911.70	7,677.31	47,955.88
Indiana	557.38	.00	557.38	1,249.34	3,316.66
Kansas	.00	78.57	78.57	.00	499.35
Kentucky	.00	124.75	124.75	100.00	838.32
Maryland	.00	127.50	127.50	58.00	2,730.79
Michigan	3,196.11	1,815.27	5,011.38	3,031.10	38,377.85
Mississippi	49.08	669.25	718.33	463.03	2,824.96
Missouri	6,376.10	.00	6,376.10	6,559.38	37,741.61
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	.00	78.52
North Carolina	1,078.22	1,140.58	2,218.80	1,653.40	10,746.25
Ohio	412.00	2,859.00	3,271.00	4,253.78	18,520.06
Oklahoma	28,152.13	6,540.44	34,692.57	38,043.87	219,549.10
South Carolina	9,547.01	.00	9,547.01	13,709.77	58,168.92
Tennessee	930.12	994.08	1,924.20	1,956.07	12,988.62
Texas	7,707.13	630.62	8,337.75	9,825.91	49,424.11
Virginia	214.36	1,246.19	1,460.55	105.00	2,743.51
West Virginia	1,712.94	62.79	1,775.73	.00	14,834.51
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	23.90	23.90	33.94	124.61
Other (Computer)	.00	.05	.05	.00	.17
Totals	\$71,225.10	\$24,398.03	\$95,623.13	\$106,426.31	\$626,223.44
DISBURSEN	MENTS:				
Executive Office	\$ 1,919.37	\$16,226.38	\$18,145.75	\$ 17,782.07	\$108,874.50

DISBURSEME	INTS:				
Executive Office	\$ 1,919.37	\$16,226.38	\$18,145.75	\$ 17,782.07	\$108,874.50
Foreign Missions	49,825.97	1,879.48	51,705.45	58,760.42	339,438.84
FWBBC	4,601.92	1,879.48	6,481.40	6,404.89	44,832.42
Home Missions	12,197.14	1,470.92	13,668.06	18,907.65	91,298.83
Retirement & Insurance	112.96	1,144.02	1,256.98	902.28	10,384.46
Master's Men	320.36	1,062.30	1,382.66	1,012.57	11,073.91
Commission for					
Theologial Integrity	58.74	81.72	140.46	113.84	986.71
FWB Foundation	11.93	490.29	502.22	386.82	4,594.82
Historical Commission	55.54	81.72	137.26	111.15	969.17
Radio & TV Commission	77.71	81.72	159.43	206.74	1,215.64
Hillsdale FWB College	1,630.30	.00	1,630.30	1,760.57	10,217.96
Other	413.16	.00	413.16	77.31	2,336.18
Totals	\$71,225.10	\$24,398.03	\$95,623.13	\$106,426.31	\$626,223.44
			_		



Green Tree Bible Study

Psalm 119 (Part One)

A Hymn to the Word of God

salm 119 is one of the most beautiful poems in the Bible, extolling the beauties of the Word of God. Many Christians, although appreciating this fact, know little more than a few of its "special" verses by memory; they are inclined to think it repetitions—and impossibly long! More's the pity: its marvelous detail will repay careful study.

We don't know for sure the writer of the psalm or his circumstances at the time. We gather that the writer was a young man (v. 9) in affliction (v. 71). Indeed, he was apparently being persecuted by others who rejected the ways of God, perhaps even by government officials (vv. 23, 46, 161); he might have been in bonds (v. 61).

Keil and Delitzsch suggest that it was written during the Maccabean period by a devoted Israelite who was persecuted as a result of the Seleucid rulers' efforts to enforce Greek culture on the Jews; but we cannot be certain of this. Regardless, he found God's Word to be his comfort and wisdom.

One should understand its structure as an acrostic psalm. When the ancient Hebrews wrote "poetry," they did not rhyme lines as we often do. One of their poetic devices was to start lines with words that begin with the same letter of their alphabet.

Psalm 119 is one of several such psalms, and that's what the funny little squiggle over each section of verses means. In the Hebrew language, the first word in each verse in section one (vv. 1-8) begins with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, aleph. Then the first

word in each verse of the next section (vv. 9-16) begins with the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet, beth. And so on, until there are eight verses each for all 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, thus 176 verses.

But the main thing about Psalm 119 is its content. It is a powerful tribute to God's Word, and we must start by asking what the psalmist means by the "word" of God (as in vv. 9, 11, 16, 17, etc.). When he write, not even the Old Testament was complete, so he did not mean "the Bible."

By "the word of God" the psalmist means what God has spoken. Specifically, he means what God has said about His ways. This is essentially the same as the law of God, in its broadest sense. While we often use "the law" to mean the Mosaic law, God's law ultimately means His ways as He has revealed them, what He has said about what He requires of men. In other words, the word of God is the law of God in God's revealed will. And in a similar way, the psalmist uses a variety of words to identify God's Word.

Thus God's *Word* is His *law* (vv. 1, 18, 34, etc.): His will as revealed for the government of men. The Hebrew word (*torah*) literally means instruction.

God's Word contains His testimonies (vv. 2, 14, 24, etc.): His own witness, His attestations of Himself and His will in the word of revelation.

Again, these are His judgments (vv. 7, 13, 20, etc.): the pronouncements God has made about His own decisions about right and wrong. These "deci-

sions" express His will; they have issued from His mouth (v. 13).

Further, these can be called God's *statutes* (vv. 5, 12, 23, etc.): His fixed (literally "engraved") ordinances that express man's obligations to Him.

And this is not far different from His commandments (vv. 19, 21, 32, etc.): rules of conduct established by the decreed will of God.

Once more, these are God's precepts (vv. 4, 15, 27, etc.): His ways as revealed and set them before man as a trust and responsibility to observe. The Hebrew word, at root, means to place in trust.

These seven words for God's word/law occur over and over in the 22 sections—180 times or so. Perhaps God's "way(s)" is meant as yet another name for His Word, but this is infrequent (vv. 3, 37). Otherwise, every verse except for vv. 84, 90, 121, 132 has at least one of these names that reveal the many-faceted meaning of the Word of God.

Given the deliberate alphabetic structure of Psalm 119, we may say that God's Word is the A to Z, the whole alphabet of God's revelation of Himself and His will to us. In that it is like the incarnate Word, our Lord Jesus, who is the alpha and omega (Revelation 1:11: the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet). God's Word provides everything man needs for knowing and living for God and with Him forever.

National **Youth Evangelistic Team**

It was a first and it was great! The National Youth Evangelistic Team conducted a 10-service tour into Illinois and Missouri during June. They also ministered at the National Youth Conference in July during the Monday evening youth service.

The 12 high school teens were selected for participation according to their scores in the 1987 Music and Arts Festival. They represented seven states.





Andrea McKenzie



Tamra Ragsdale



Chris Spradlin



Eric Anderson





Kelli Lauthern



Craig Cook



Melissa Smedley



Dana Roach

Heather Smith

Jarrod Chapman



Selections were made from the following categories: male and female vocal soloists, instrumentalist, keyboard, vocal ensembles and oral communications.

After being selected they began working on the program on their own. They arrived in Nashville, Tenn., June 13 to rehearse for one week. They began their nine-day tour June 18. The tour consisted of local church services, youth rallies and youth camp.



David Outlaw

Not only were the voices and talents of the group blended, but also their personalities and their commitment to serve. Many lives were touched during the tour. Decisions were made, young people strengthened and adults inspired. The program consisted of music, drama and a challenge. The program, "Let Freedom Ring" was both patriotic and evangelistic.

There are numerous local youth evangelistic teams across the denomination. They minister through music, drama, testimonies and preaching. If you would like to contact a team for a service or if you would be interested in starting this type of youth ministry, write to: YET, P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

Be Careful, Young Preacher!

"Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning" (Proverbs 9:9).

The young preacher must learn to be careful of certain temptations that can destroy his ministry. You may trip on some faults and survive; however some failures (sins) can rob you of a fruitful ministry. Pay careful heed to these matters from Proverbs.

- 1. Pay your bills. "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it" (3:27).
- Be faithful to your wife. "Drink water out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well" (5:15).
- 3. Control your tongue. "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction" (13:3).
- 4. Refuse to drink any kind of alcoholic beverages. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (20:1).
- 5. Don't play church or denominational politics. "Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him" (26:27).
- 6. Control your temper. "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" (25:28).
- 7. Take care of your own church, not another preacher's responsibility.

 "Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to the herds" (27:23).
- 8. Don't be lazy. "The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets. As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed" (26:13-14).
- 9. Don't unmercifully lord over people. "Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife" (30:33).

May you experience a most fruitful ministry as you obey the scriptures and accept the challenge of faithfulness.

Next Month: Preparing Your Congregation to Face the World

Dennis Wiggs



Tape

Number

NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

CHURCHES WARNED TO WATCH FOR WOMAN POSING AS FORMER MORMON

ATLANTA, GA (EP)—A woman pretending to be a disillusioned Mormon missionary is trying to con Baptist churches around the country into giving her money, according to Gary Leazer, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department.

A Baptist Press article by Mark Wingfield said the woman, Bobbie Dintino, was last seen in Pennsylvania, where she was confronted by the pastor of Berkshire Baptist Church and by police. Leazer said police did not detain her because she had not received money from the church.

Dintino, who allegedly escaped from jail in Utah, has been identified in incidents with Baptist churches in Pennsylvania, Florida, Georgia, West Virginia, Kentucky and Indiana. In each case she is said to have made contact with a Baptist church, claiming to be a former Mormon missionary who wanted to know more about becoming a Christian. She made public professions of faith in public services, reportedly conning Christians into supporting her by appearing to be in need.

Dintino called Lee Bolton, pastor of the Reading, Pennsylvania's Berkshire Baptist Church. After hearing her story, Bolton arranged for Dintino to stay with a neighbor. Dintino attended the church the next day and made a profession of faith. But later two converted Mormons from the church who had counseled with her expressed skepticism about her conversion.

Bolton's wife had heard a story of another church that had an experience with a "former Mormon," and through that contact was led to Scott Burns, county attorney in Cedar City, Utah. Burns worked to convict Dintino in 1987 of theft by deception and fraud. At that time she had received financial assistance in Utah by claiming to be interested in Mormonism.

Dintino's claims to be a former Mormon are partially true; apparently she was baptized into at least 50 Mormon churches, and received food, money, furniture, an apartment, and medical assistance. She has used at least five aliases, including Laurie Maxwell, Shelly Babbitt, Jennifer Dunn, Francine Jenson and Stephanie Andrews.

In Reading, Pennsylvania, Dintino left behind a suitcase of Southern Baptist literature and Bibles that traced her path through several states and many conversion experiences.

Leazer says church workers who encounter strangers who claim to be former cult members should ask for identification, gather information, and contact their denominational headquarters to see if anything is known about the person.

Subject Quantity CONVENTION MESSAGES

1988 Convention Tapes Available

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

The cost of tapes is \$3.00 each. Payment must accompany order. Select the tapes you wish to

order by circling the number and place the quantity desired in the appropriate lines.

- - Fred Warner—"Perceive Our Welcome by God"

 CONVENTION BIBLE CONFERENCE
- 6. Roger Duncan—"God's Hand on Elijah"
- 6. Roger Duncan—"God's Hand on Elijah"
 7. Tim York—"Heaven's Championship"

 SEMINARS
- 8. Home Missions Camp Meeting
 9. Target 90 Church Growth Seminar (2 Tapes—\$4.00 per set)
- 10. Theological Trends Workshop (2 Tapes—\$4.00 per set)

 WOMAN'S NATIONAL
- AUXILIARY CONVENTION

 11. WNAC Seminar—"Building for Eternity"

 12. Marvis Eagleton—WNAC Devotional

 WNAC Microscopic Services
- 12. Marvis Eagleton—WNAC Devotional

 13. James Munsey—WNAC Missionary Service

 14. Laura Coker Thigpen—WNAC Fellowship Dinner
- 14. Laura Coker Thigpen—WNAC Fellowship Dinner
 15. Presidents and Field Workers—"Building Your Auxiliary"

 MEET 'N' EAT
- 16. Jack Richey—Hillsdale College Luncheon
 17. Bobby Jackson—Master's Men Breakfast
- MISCELLANEOUS

 18. Ralph Hampton—Moderator's Message _______
- 19. Greg McAllister—NYC Keynote Message
 20. Milton Fields—Adult Sunday School Class

Please Complete the Following:

Total

NAME ______ Quantity Ordered ______

ADDRESS ______ Total Tape Cost _____

CITY ______STATE ____ZIP ____Plus Postage ___\$2.0 Total Amount Enclosed _____

PLEASE SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER: DO NOT SEND CASH

ORDER FROM: Sandy Goodfellow / 500 Wilclay Drive / Nashville, TN 37209 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Sandy Goodfellow

GRANDMOTHER HEARS GRANDSON'S VOICE FIRST TIME ON CHRISTIAN RADIO

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R (EP)—A missionary who specializes in spreading the gospel through radio broadcasts recently heard from his 82-year-old grandmother in the Soviet Union, who tuned in to a shortwave radio program and heard his voice for the first time.

Daniel Enns, who works with the U. S-based World Radio Missionary Fellowship, HCJB, was raised by German-speaking missionary parents in Paraguay. Shortly after arriving in Quito, Ecuador with his family to serve with the mission, he was interviewed for a German shortwave radio program.

Unexpectedly, his grandmother in the Soviet Union, whom he has never met, tuned in to the program and determined from information given about Enns and his parents that she was listening to her grandson's voice for the first time.

Separated from her son, Daniel's father, since World War II, she was able to locate and write to him and his wife, Albert and Anne Enns, in Paraguay. Albert received the letter just as he was finishing 30 years of service with the Mennonite Brethren and was about to leave to a new assignment in Columbia.

"Someday I'd like to visit my grandmother in Russia," said Enns. "It was thrilling to know HCJB's broadcasts reach the Soviet Union."





THE SECRETARY SPEAKS By Melvin Worthington

Stewardship September



he 1987 National Association authorized the Budget Committee to study the denomination's financial structure and report its findings to the General Board. The committee discovered that one of our greatest needs is stewardship education, and subsequently recommended that September be designated Stewardship Month each year. The committee also recommended designating the last Sunday in September National Ministries Sunday with the day's special offerings given to national ministries to be distributed according to the Cooperative Plan formula.

The recommendations were adopted by the National Association during its July 1988 convention in Kansas City. We now have a special stewardship emphasis which provides the basis for scriptural, systematic and sufficient stewardship education.

The Purpose

The September stewardship emphasis has a five-fold purpose. One, to provide teaching and training materials. Two, to motivate by suggesting ways to develop scriptural stewardship. Three, to provide methods to implement stewardship ideas. Four, to focus on national ministries as they relate to the entire denomination. Five, to provide members with individual gift goals for national ministries.

Ambitious idea? Yes, but our situation calls for bold stewardship education.

The Program

September Stewardship Month will provide an opportunity for every Free

Will Baptist to participate in stewardship education. The program will focus on all national ministries the last Sunday of the month. Rather than underline one particular national ministry, all will share the spotlight.

The 1988 gift goal for national ministries tops \$6.5 million. In order to meet the goal, each Free Will Baptist should give \$32.51 above regular gifts. The \$32.51 will be distributed: Executive Office-\$1.09, Foreign Missions-\$16.65, Free Will Baptist Bible College-\$3.69, Home Missions—\$9.48, Retirement and Insurance—\$1.00, Master's Men—\$.43. Free Will Baptist Foundation-\$.12, and Radio and TV Commission-\$.06.

All National Association ministries could be funded by a single gift on National Ministries Sunday. Such an approach, if successful, would reduce the need for crisis appeals and prolonged missionary itineraries. While we have never done it this way, the time has come to try a more balanced approach.

Our financial priorities as a denomination are correct. For example, every dollar budgeted for national ministries is divided: Foreign Missions—52 cents. Home Missions-29 cents, Free Will Baptist Bible College—11 cents. That's 92 cents of every dollar channelled to missions and education.

The Secretary's Schedule

September 11 Harvest FWB Church Bloomington, IN

September 13-16 Convention Planning Trip Tampa, FL

The remaining national ministries-Executive Office, FWB Foundation, Retirement and Insurance, Radio and TV Commission and Master's Men operate on eight cents. Again, our priorities are in order.

Some say the project is a pipe dream, that not everyone will give \$32.51 on National Ministries Sunday. Maybe, but let's try it first. It can work. In fact, it must work if Free Will Baptist national ministries ever fulfill their potential.

Missionaries are ready to go-no funds. Students need collegiate education—no accredited liberal arts college. Preachers need training—no seminary with ministerial programs. Laymen ask for direction—Master's Men struggles to survive. What a tragedy! And for \$32.51 each, we could remedy this situation.

The Potential

We expect this stewardship program to make a difference. The potential is unlimited. It can become a rallying point as we study, share and support. Perhaps in time the national ministries offering can be given on Wednesday night of our national convention when we adopt the denomination's budget and underwrite it at the same time.

Biblical stewardship is not for just a select few. It is for every believer. Wherever you are on September 25, 1988, remember to give your \$32.51 on National Ministries Sunday.

CONTACT

P. O. Box 1088

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

ELECTED IN KANSAS CITY

The following were elected during the 52nd annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

General Officers

Moderator Ralph Hampton (Tenn.) Assistant Moderator Carl Cheshier (Ark.) Clerk Waldo Young (Okla.) Assistant Clerk Keith Burden (Okla.)

General Board

1989 Dale Skiles (Mo.) Warner Collier (Kan.)

1990 Earl Jenkins (N. M.)
Tom Lilly (N. C.)
Mike Mutchler (N. W. Assoc.)
Jim Nason (N. E. Assoc.)
Jack Richey (Okla.)
Earl Hendrix (S. C.)
Raymond Riggs (Tenn.)
Ron Parker (Texas)
Jeff Crabtree (Va.)
Carl Vallance (W. Va.)

Executive Committee

1989 Dale Skiles (Mo.)

1990 Raymond Riggs (Tenn.) Jack Richey (Okla.) Carl Vallance (W. Va.)

Foreign Missions Board

1994 William Reagan (Canada) Robert Trimble (Mich.) Norwood Gibson (S. C.)



Pastors Daryl Ellis and Randy Bryant check out other business.

Bible College Trustees

1994 Ken Walker (Ky.) Bob Ketchum (Okla.) Howard Price (Ga.)

Sunday School and Church Training Board

1994 Milton Worthington (Mich.) Billy Hanna (Ga.) Jim Shepherd (Mo.)

Radio-Television Commission

1993 Terry Boyd (Tenn.)

Music Commission

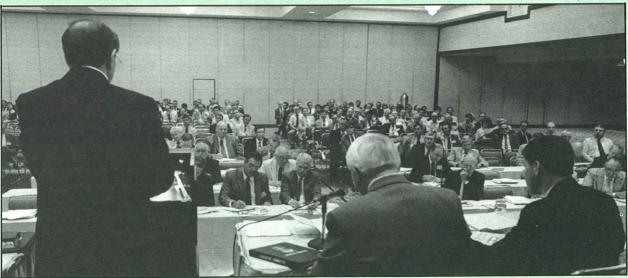
1989 Bill Gardner (Tenn.) 1990 Douglas Little (Ark.) 1991 Rodney Whaley (Tenn.) 1992 Vernon Whaley (Okla.) 1993 Blaine Hughes (N. C.)

Commission for Theological Integrity

1993 Fred Hall (Tenn.)

Historical Commission

1993 Mary Wisehart (Tenn.)



Ralph Hampton moderates General Board meeting.