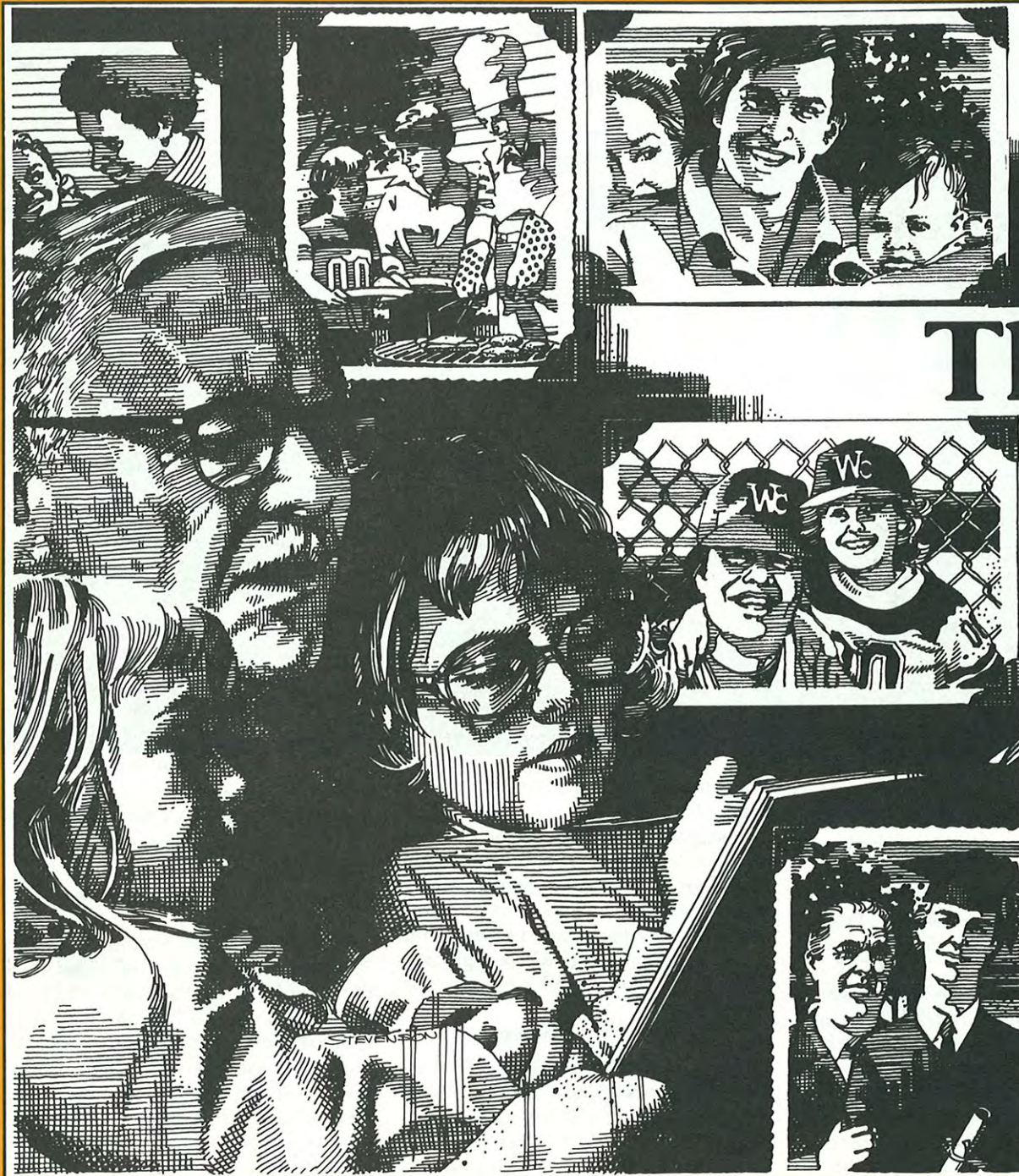


October 1988

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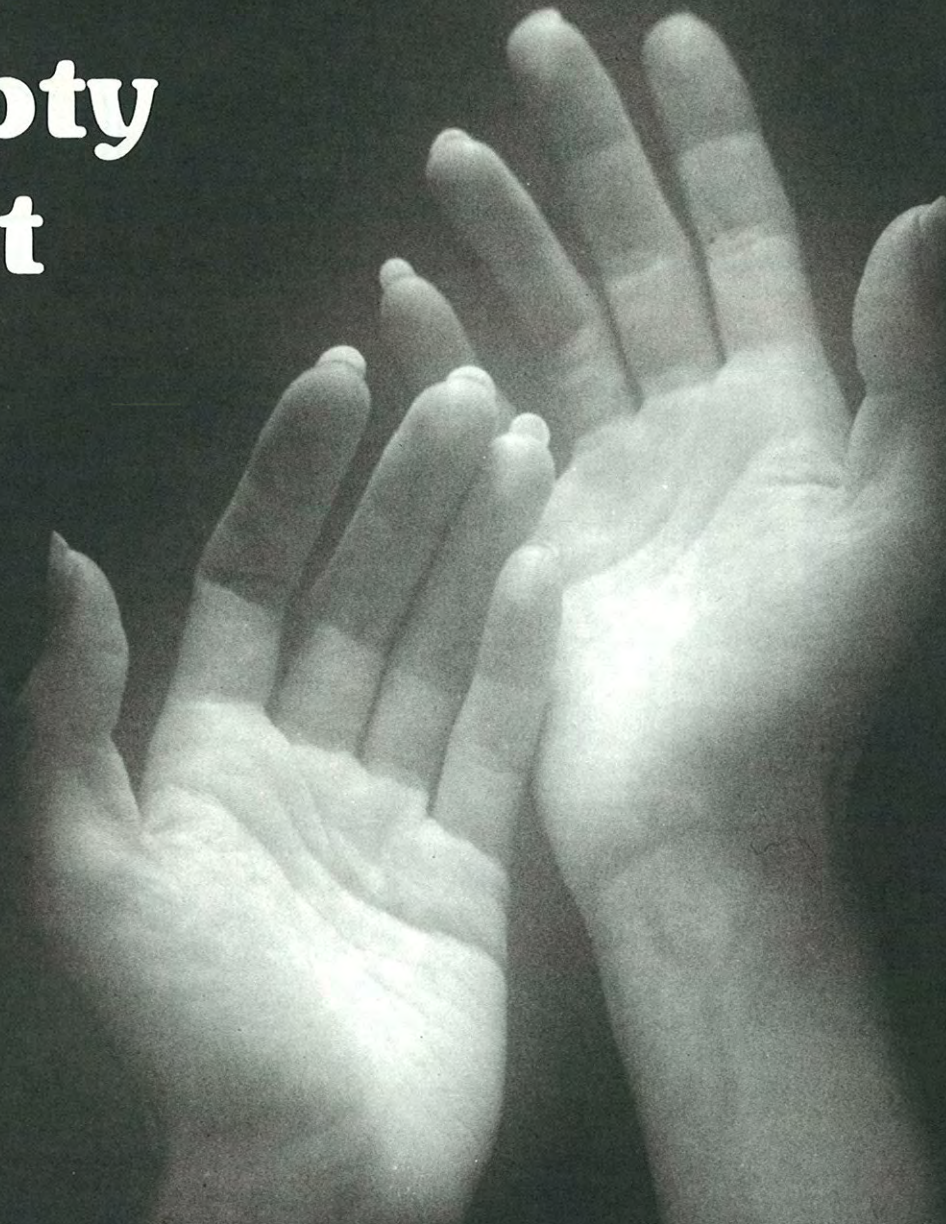
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



The Empty Nest

page 2

The Empty Nest



By Malcolm C. Fry

The home came not from the mind of man but from the heart and plan of God. Never underestimate the home's importance. It came before the Church and was the first of all institutions that came from the creative touch of God.

Home is where everything begins. Here life makes up its mind. It is not just the beginning place of biological life but of moral, ethical, mental, spiritual and emotional life as well. The establishment of a Christian home is neither easy nor automatic. Its achievement requires our best effort. Parents get first chance to

affect the feelings, the beliefs and the ideas of a child.

A scriptural base for this article comes from Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2, 6. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose . . . a time to be born, and a time to die: a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted . . . a time to keep, and a time to cast away."

A Time to Keep

The home marks a child for life. The compelling crisis today is the training and equipping of parents (that's right, *parents*) to do the job. Since scripture is replete with instructions for raising a

H. Armstrong Roberts

child, why is there such an overwhelming tendency among Christian parents to accept the worldly wisdom of letting children become self-determined? What happened to the admonition and nurture of the Lord?

Is foolishness not bound up in the heart of a child? Is not a self-willed child the "foolish" or "simple" child of Proverbs? Does the biblical covering or protection of the parent end at puberty? Too many of our children are emotional, spiritual orphans, and they must be rescued by their parents. The horse may be out of the barn, but the barn is still the place of shelter for the horse!

Parents should consider taking the following self-examination:

1. How often do I encourage and participate in my child's interest?
2. How often do I avoid proper correction and discipline of my child?
3. How freely do I apologize and seek forgiveness when I have failed my child?
4. Do I know my child's friends, and do I give final approval to all social activities?
5. When was the last time my child asked me to pray for a need in his or her life?

God, not society, has given parents charge of their children. Children are to be admonished and nurtured in the Lord by their parents. The behavior of the child will follow his or her attitude. Parents must shape that attitude. Parents must be willing to be an example for their children by modeling a spirit of meekness and surrender before the Lord.

A parent is authority with forgiveness, flexibility and understanding. There are no easy answers to parental questions in spite of hundreds of books and articles on child-rearing. But there is hope!

Parent: what is your goal? Is it simply doing one's duty, caring for the child until he can be put out on his own? Or is the goal to be a good steward of God's precious gifts to life, to be the child's covering, and to establish him in righteousness? The child who has not been established in honor and obedience to his parents is not prepared to leave his covering.

A Time to Let Go

This is the frightening part! Letting go is scary. Hanging on won't help. Releasing control is one of the most difficult acts of parenting. Yet it makes for the keeping of a good relationship with parents intact.

My eldest son was 20 in the summer of 1978. He wanted to travel from Nashville, Tenn. to Fresno, Calif. to spend the summer between college semesters. His request caused a great deal of soul searching on our part. Our so-called common sense would result in a denial of his request, but trust in the Lord and faith in our son won out. Was it worth the risk? Perhaps the following excerpt from a letter (colored with age and stained with tears) received that summer will tell you.

Dad:

I want to thank you for letting me come out here. It's the first time in my life I've really felt like I have to support myself. I want to thank you for letting me grow up, for giving me advice that I will never forget, and for showing concern for me. This trip is a good experience for me. Whether I fall on my face or not I'll learn a little bit more about life and myself. . . .

The main reason for this letter is to say I love you, Dad. It's hard for me to get close to you at times, but I want you to know that I'm proud to be your son. You're dynamite!

Love ya,
Craig

Do you think I'll ever dispose of that letter? Not for a moment! Was it worth it to let him go? You better believe it. The Bible says, "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children" (Isaiah 54:13).

Parents: You need to utter a prayer of relinquishment. It gives God the freedom He needs to work. Resign yourself to say, "Okay, Lord, he's yours."

We see this scriptural principle illustrated in the parable of the prodigal son. The father did not talk the son out of going, though he probably had apprehensions. In a deliberate act of releasing parental control, the father gave him his entire portion instead of doling it out a little at a time. Not once did the father rush to his aid—no pleading to come home, though sorely missed.

To allow our children to grow into adulthood, we must follow the example of our heavenly Father and learn how to let go. It isn't easy.

Here's what may help you to cope: (1) *Start the letting-go process early.* Encourage decision-making; reward work well done; provide opportunities to taste the realities of life. Allow them to earn their own spending money and make them responsible for how they spend it. Knowing you have completed your job makes it easier to let go.

(2) *Maintain a firm faith in God's sovereignty, goodness and faithfulness.* Lost to our reach, they are in His care. Realize that God is a much better trainer than we parents. God will be as faithful to them as He has been to us. "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children." Give God the freedom to work.

To Everything a Season, and a Purpose

They're gone—the nest is empty—things sure are different. The carport isn't as full—our two cars are parked

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

Volume XXXV, No. 10

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

Empty Nest . . . (from page 3)

neatly. No longer does that area look like a used car lot. There is no bench press in the way. No more weights on which to stub a toe.

The nest is empty and the kitchen is incredibly neat at last. No more sticky refrigerator handle. No more dishes piled high in the sink. Nothing boiled

over on the stove.

The nest is empty and my wife now has time to get dressed leisurely. She can take a long, hot bath without several interruptions. She has time to do her nails without having to answer a dozen questions.

The nest is empty and the telephone is actually available. It is free of lipstick, chips and toothpicks stuck in those lit-

tle holes. The receiver no longer feels like the sticky side of scotch tape. No longer does the instrument need to be held aloft in order for the cord to endlessly unwind.

The nest is empty and fingerprints, tongue licks, sneaker footprints are conspicuous by their absence from the car windows. The back seat is no longer a hard-hat disaster area. What do you know, the gas gauge reads something different than between empty and fumes.

The nest is empty and normal conversation has at long last returned, minus the numerous interruptions of "Gross," "Yuk!" and "B-a-a-a-d."

The nest is empty and we don't have to take a number to get a word in edgewise at the dinner table . . . or endure the pious pounding of a "religious" cassette just below the level of acute pain . . . and yes, there is still some tissue paper left.

Yes, the nest is empty and things sure are a lot different. One by one the four left our nest and the house began to resemble order, tidiness and perhaps even a slight touch of elegance. The house is quiet and calm and clean and empty and filled with memories and lonely . . . and we really don't like it after all.

Well, we'll console ourselves by reflecting, "The holidays will soon be here and we can spend some time with the grandchildren and get a little life back in this place for a change."

Yes, "to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose . . . a time to keep . . . and a time to cast away." Enjoy your children and they will enjoy and cherish those special moments which made their life so fulfilling. Learn to let them go and give God the freedom to work. He will do a much better job of teaching and caring—when the nest is empty.



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

Cooperative Channel Contributions July 1988

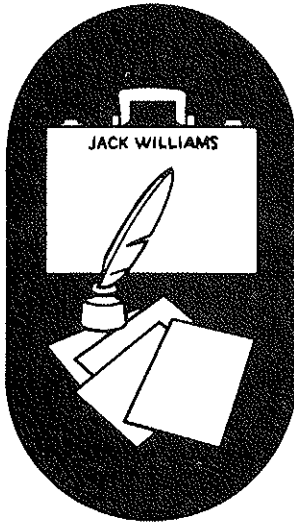
RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	July '87	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 120.88	\$ 50.75	\$ 171.63	\$ 254.53	\$ 4,367.97
Arizona	173.00	.00	173.00	.00	264.17
Arkansas	.00	5,383.49	5,383.49	5,101.32	31,809.21
California	226.00	1,385.15	1,611.15	881.30	9,260.19
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	932.87	932.87	367.47	3,009.86
Florida	132.26	649.00	781.26	1,823.34	14,112.54
Georgia	8,094.18	1,156.50	9,250.68	9,193.36	59,914.06
Idaho	68.71	.00	68.71	.00	394.43
Illinois	7,083.88	973.70	8,057.58	12,096.79	56,013.46
Indiana	416.69	59.55	476.24	444.09	3,792.90
Kansas	.00	85.74	85.74	41.56	585.09
Kentucky	.00	.00	.00	622.50	838.32
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	156.00	2,730.79
Michigan	3,301.91	2,000.00	5,301.91	7,554.16	43,679.76
Mississippi	1,037.93	192.95	1,230.88	438.50	4,055.84
Missouri	14,799.49	.00	14,799.49	15,311.90	52,541.10
New Mexico	103.19	10.39	113.58	11.52	192.10
North Carolina	699.30	1,020.39	1,719.69	1,352.79	12,465.94
Ohio	426.00	2,499.00	2,925.00	3,671.20	21,445.06
Oklahoma	29,964.41	7,456.66	37,421.07	28,350.54	256,970.17
South Carolina	5,708.86	.00	5,708.86	8,524.39	63,877.78
Tennessee	921.34	1,500.10	2,421.44	2,282.43	15,410.06
Texas	5,127.89	596.85	5,724.74	5,482.14	55,148.85
Virginia	236.00	10.00	246.00	1,554.63	2,989.51
West Virginia	2,898.01	78.33	2,976.34	6,817.30	17,810.85
Canada	.00	530.98	530.98	.00	530.98
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	124.61
Other (Computer)	.00	.15	.15	.00	.32
Totals	\$81,539.93	\$26,572.55	\$108,112.48	\$112,333.76	\$734,335.92

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 2,970.71	\$15,175.04	\$ 18,145.75	\$ 17,782.07	\$127,020.25
Foreign Missions	54,021.31	2,621.42	56,642.73	57,660.47	396,081.57
FWBBC	5,205.52	2,621.42	7,826.94	9,750.41	52,659.36
Home Missions	14,486.70	2,051.54	16,538.24	18,547.31	107,837.07
Retirement & Insurance	137.13	1,595.65	1,732.78	1,736.08	12,117.24
Master's Men	503.54	1,481.67	1,985.21	1,962.64	13,059.12
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	96.69	113.98	210.67	213.57	1,197.38
FWB Foundation	208.91	683.87	892.78	663.90	5,487.60
Historical Commission	94.81	113.98	208.79	211.26	1,177.96
Radio & TV Commission	119.15	113.98	233.13	296.26	1,448.77
Hillsdale FWB College	3,296.96	.00	3,296.96	3,140.57	13,514.92
Other	398.50	.00	398.50	369.22	2,734.68
Totals	\$81,539.93	\$26,572.55	\$108,112.48	\$112,333.76	\$734,335.92

Briefcase



Guess whose autograph sells for \$12,500 in Kansas City at The Legacy, a fancy Crown Center gallery? If you need a hint, it's not favorite son Harry Truman's—his costs a paltry \$600.

Indian fighter George Armstrong Custer, the legend created by Sitting Bull's warriors at Little Big Horn would be a good guess, good but wrong. You can scalp General Custer for \$2,750.

Remember Francis Scott Key, composer of the national anthem? The Key signature plays for \$3,800. Albert Schweitzer can be yours for \$1,160, while \$2,750 lands 19th century author Nathaniel Hawthorne.

So who's the mystery man with the high price tag? None other than notorious Missouri bank robber, Frank James!

What a crazy world—125 years ago Frank James couldn't raise enough cash to buy the horse he rode without his brother Jesse and a fast gun. Today, Frank's signature on a handwritten letter sells for more than the James gang stole in many of their bank heists. Frank would get a big laugh outta that.

But maybe the laugh's on us. We're the ones who allow frauds to change the price tags in life without raising a finger of protest. We write songs immortalizing outlaws and turn them into folk heroes. We pay too much for what we

That's True Value!

get when we exchange human dignity for paper dandies.

Why do we criticize the good and praise the trivial? We convince boys that football is more important than biology. Now the college football coach pulls down \$90,000 a year for slapping campus jocks on the rump with a wet towel while the history professor with a Ph.D. earns \$34,000 before taxes. Maybe that's why we graduate high school seniors who bench press 400 pounds but can't identify George Washington. The laugh is still on us.

A few years ago I caught a flight from Detroit to Lansing. My seatmate was hurrying to Lansing to open the Playboy Club. We talked and disagreed about Playboy philosophy. The young executive beside me was convinced that he had a blank check from an entire generation of red-blooded American males. He grinned and invited me to the Playboy opening.

Last summer newspapers noted the closing of the USA's last Playboy Club. Ironically, the last one to close was the Lansing club about which my seatmate spoke so glowingly. I didn't get invited to the closing. The laugh's on Hugh Hefner this time.

Chicago restaurant consultant John Lanahan said the Playboy demise came as no surprise: "It was a fad they tried to perpetuate. They thought bunnies could sell food forever." No, Mr. Lanahan, it was no fad. It was another example of someone swapping the price tags on life's true values.

Scott Stanley of the *Conservative Digest* recently described a political candidate: "He's like a drugstore cowboy: He glitters and shines, but he's all hat and no cattle." It's not necessary

to agree with Stanley's evaluation of that candidate to apply the lesson to ourselves and learn from it.

Our generation doesn't need drugstore cowboys. We need men of substance who make a difference, who recognize value and give mankind an honest chance.

God expects no less from us. The antediluvian world in Genesis 6 ignored God and ridiculed the righteous, but Noah gave mankind a chance—he built an Ark. Organized religion in A. D. 33 killed the King and buried the evidence, but Jesus rose from the grave and marked new price tags on everything. That's our message, our power, our right to speak, our purpose for existence.

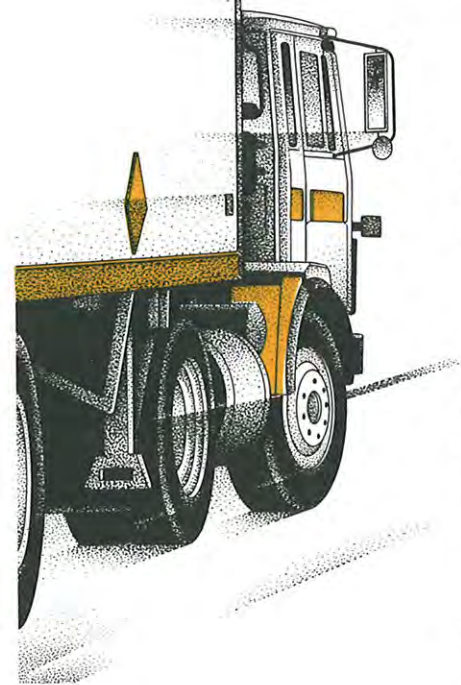
By the way, the reason men pay \$12,500 for the signature of an outlaw like Frank James is because it's so rare. Can you imagine what collectors would pay for the signature of Jesus, the Man who rose from the dead? Jesus' signature is available, but not at the Legacy in Kansas City.

Where do we see God's signature? We see it in a child's face when he prays. In a pastor's eyes when he preaches. In a deacon's steps when he carries food to the elderly. In a mother's voice when she sings a hymn.

God places His signature on the deeds we do in His name, the words we speak for His glory, the lives we live by His power. Is God's signature really for sale? Sure, but the price is high: Deny self, take up the cross, and follow Jesus.

Does God have a message for man today? Yes! Who has the message? The Church. What is that message? "Who-soever will, let him come. . . ." Now that's true value!

Spared!



By Dan Farmer

Like many others, I grew up with a fear of dying. As a young boy I waded too far out in the farm pond with my brother. Since neither of us could swim, I thought I came close to drowning, a fear that has stayed with me. Then came that day on the interstate when death crawled in the front window of my car and I got another perspective on dying.

I had taken my Ford Tempo to Oklahoma City to have the motor worked on and returned later to pick it up. I drove to the I-40 and I-35 junction to take the interstate south to Moore. As I pulled into the junction an 18-wheeler barreled around from the other direction making his turn south.

I saw him coming and thought, "I sure hope he doesn't run over me." We were

gaining speed after the turn, the truck on the inside lane and my car on the outside lane as I pulled by to pass him, when I heard a strange noise. I looked back over my left shoulder at a giant tire rubbing against my back door not two feet from me.

I tried to pull away from the tire, but the force of it turned my Tempo across the right front corner of the truck. My car was caught on the truck and the truck was pushing it sideways down the interstate! I fought to regain control and get away, but a Tempo's no match for a 70,000-pound truck.

"This isn't the way I'm supposed to die," I thought. As the truck shoved my car in front of it, the headlight began breaking out the car door window only inches from my head. Pieces of glass fell across my lap and down inside the car door.

When I heard the noise of the truck tire rubbing the car door, my first impulse was to get away from it so that the truck could not hit me. Now I wondered when and how he would run over my car and me. I prayed a simple prayer that went something like, "Well, Lord, I may be coming to Your house today."

I struggled to no avail to turn my car and get away from the truck hurtling down the interstate with me on its front bumper. I considered what might happen if I ran off the interstate down the deep embankment in front of me. I didn't care much for that idea but thought it would be better than that truck tire crawling in the window to crush the car with me inside. I had few options. It looked like I would either be squashed by the truck or get loose and

tumble down the embankment between the north-south interstate lanes.

During the seconds that passed I felt a deep calm, no fear of dying, and was almost amused that I'd allowed myself to get caught in this kind of life-death situation. If I had been a few seconds earlier or later . . . or if the truck driver had not changed lanes just when he did . . . or if he had seen my car.

Then suddenly, some way, somehow, my car careened off the front of the truck and lined out down the interstate! I pulled off on the right shoulder and parked, an impossible escape from being shoved sideways down the interstate.

Oh, sure, after hearing the noise, the truck driver began slowing down. And when he reached a certain speed my car broke away and straightened out so that I was able to control it and park along the interstate.

Sure! The driver got his truck stopped and came back to see if I was all right. He said he never saw me until I came off the front of the truck. He said when he heard the wheel rubbing he knew he must have hit something when he started changing lanes.

I sat in my car and thought of others who had died and wondered why I had not. Danny, a young man in our church died an untimely death from cancer. I could have been killed but was not. Sam, a missionary friend, died of a heart attack while mowing his lawn. I was hit by a truck and not even seriously hurt. Why?

At prayer meeting that night as our Bible study began, I asked the people if any of them had prayed particularly for me that day. None apparently had.

Then I related the details of the accident.

A few minutes later one of the men asked, "What impact is this going to have on your life?" I answered that I hoped to keep my scheduled appointments and go on living as I normally would. But I had an unanswered question, "Why was I spared?"

I have tried to analyze the incident. A minister friend said jokingly that he might be hard-headed but at least he knew better than to tackle a truck with his car. One friend who spent nine months in bed after a head-on collision and is unable to work again says he's alive by the providence of God. Another friend who hit a car stopped on the interstate at night said he had no time to pray, but God spared his life. Why?

We read daily of accidents and tragedies. If we know and love any of the victims we usually want to know why. The Bible gives an account of people asking Jesus about a tragedy. Certain Galileans had been massacred while they worshipped and prayed. Jesus tells of 18 on whom the tower of Siloam fell. Were they greater sinners than others? "No!" Jesus said. "But unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

Crises come. Sickness comes. Sometimes even the righteous seem to be indiscriminately killed. Why?

Have you ever thought about what it means when tragedy does not come? Tragedy or lack of tragedy does not necessarily indicate God's disapproval or approval. The absence of life crises may be nothing more than time to repent. The unfruitful tree, spared after years of unproductivity, had "one more year" before it was to be cut down.

God graciously spared my life. He also spares others who travel, like ministers as they drive through traffic (hurriedly) to visit hospitals, to conventions or wherever. Why?

Everyone's life is said to be shaped by a story, something good or perhaps something bad that happened. God takes all the events and weaves them into a coherent pattern, bringing order to the disorder of our lives.

Many could tell of being spared and, like me, instead of taking life for granted now, turn themselves over to God and thank Him for sparing them. Spared, yes, but spared for a reason. ☺

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Dan Farmer pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Moore, Oklahoma.

The Albany Sluggers

By Tim Jordan



Do you have an opinion of church league softball? Just like people, opinions differ.

When your fellows enjoy a good time together, you call it fellowship. When they share one another's burdens, you call it fellowship. They grow up in the same church, raise families and have that same fellowship. Like yours, our church is different. Our unique group of young people play softball for fellowship—year round.

They have a knee-slapping good time, share burdens of a sick wife, an unsaved father, a recently unemployed married couple or a struggling premature newborn—and they play softball like a well-tuned machine.

A few years ago a young pastor named Melvin Worthington laid some stiff ground rules for the "boys" who played softball. Most pastors do the same thing. The uniqueness of this group has been their obedience to the hard and fast rules. They practice in the dead of winter and stay fit. They have filled many trophy cases. They make all of us feel like winners.

The most rewarding efforts of our softball teams are the young converts at the altar. There a host of players gather, praying with those who just walked the aisle to give their hearts and lives to Christ.

Our team may have the right stuff, as some say, but when you are around them you sense the kindred spirit that prevails, the obvious compassion for each other.

The major question asked when they travel to out-of-town tournaments: Do they all go to *that church*? We say, "Yes," with pride, all year round.

When they put on those uniforms and take the field, they play with the efforts you expect from someone getting paid 10 grand a game. The local owner of McDonald's expended megabucks to put the golden arches on our uniforms next to the Free Will Baptist logo.

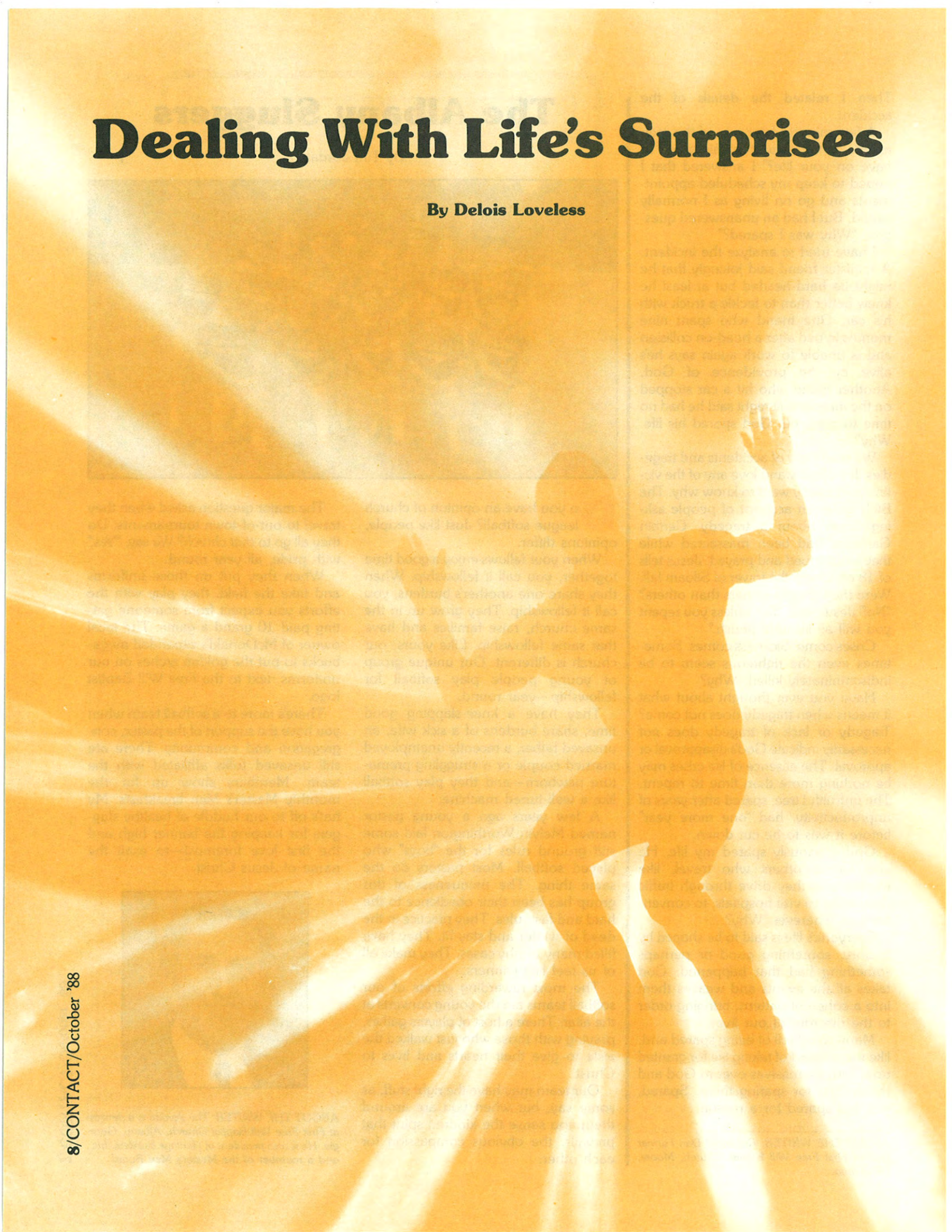
There's more to a softball team when you have the support of the pastor, congregation and community. There are still unsaved folks affiliated with the team. Members show up for the monthly Master's Men breakfasts. My hat's off to our huddle of healthy sluggers for keeping the banner high and the first love foremost—to exalt the name of Jesus Christ. ☺



ABOUT THE WRITER: Tim Jordan is a deacon at First Free Will Baptist Church, Albany, Georgia. He is also president of Heritage Builders, Inc., and a member of the Master's Men Board.

Dealing With Life's Surprises

By Delois Loveless



Amazing! Even before I knew Jesus Christ as Savior He loved me. I knew nothing of the Christian life. None of my family went to church. The Lord directed me to Pocahontas FWB Church in Arkansas and I was saved at age 13. They loved me and adopted me into many of their families. I could never repay them for the Christian values they taught me.

When I was young I felt that the Lord wanted to use my life. I wanted to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College but I couldn't. However, I determined in my heart to do my best in whatever I did.

Because we were poor and I lacked much formal education, I was surprised when God sent a young preacher into my life. Even as I prayed for guidance, it seemed that the Lord answered my questions. In six months that young preacher who pastored in a neighboring city and I were married. The marriage has lasted 30 years with joy, sadness, tough and good times. I'm proud to be a preacher's wife.

Many of life's surprises have come my way. Maybe you can identify with some of them. Life has presented me its bill and at times it has been hard to pay.

The Children

Soon after we were married we began to plan for a family. I went to several doctors and they gave the same diagnosis—no children. Exploratory surgery discovered a tumor. Now two sons, Randy and Steven are my living blessings. The Lord gave them to us, and they were given back to Him when they were born. We learned early that we can't live their lives for them.

While pastoring First FWB Church in Joplin, Mo., in 1968 we were expecting our third child. This son died and his grave is a reminder that life also has its hurts as well.

This was a bleak period in my life. I had many physical problems—the loss of my hair, jaundice, the loss of teeth on an entire side because of poison in my body. But there were blessings. One was a couple (the husband wasn't a Christian) who paid all my dental bills. He now is a believer in Christ. Another was our church that loved and cared for us.

The Necklace

My husband went to work for Scripture Press Publications. The moving van

came and trucked us to Atlanta, Ga. During this move all our jewelry was taken. The biggest loss was my wedding rings, so precious to me.

A short time after my husband started with Scripture Press, the company invited the wives to their annual sales conference in Colorado Springs. We were traveling somewhere close to New Mexico when we stopped at a small gas station.

While Alton got gas, I went to the restroom and saw a necklace on the sink. When I took it to the old unshaven gentleman who was the owner, he returned it to me saying he didn't know whose it was, "Probably some little girl's. Just take it." I put it in my purse and forgot it. Years passed.

We moved to Columbus, Ohio, and Alton wanted to get me a new ring to replace the one taken years before. He decided to examine closely the necklace I had found. He asked our neighbor who worked for a jewelry company to look at the necklace. The man said it was a good piece of jewelry. We then asked a jeweler in our church to examine it. I couldn't believe the surprise he found!

The large stone was a full carat, flawless, European cut diamond set in a platinum mount valued at several thousand dollars. Today I have a beautiful solitaire ring. Some ask how we can afford a ring like mine. I tell them we can't; it was a gift.

The Surgery

Sometimes, it's difficult to praise God and thank Him when tragedy stalks our lives. We forget His goodness when bad times come.

We have lived in Columbus almost 15 years. I have been a helpmeet with my husband. Working side by side. Feeling joy. Sharing hurt. On the very day of our first relocation of the Ohio State Office / Bookstore, I went into the hospital for major surgery. I felt I was not doing my part.

In less than two years doctors ordered more major surgery. I was asking the question, "Where are the things for which we are to be thankful?" I claimed I Thessalonians 5:18: "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God." I concluded that the Lord knew what I needed and He wouldn't let anything happen to me without a reason or purpose. The devastating and tragic circumstances of my life became stepping

stones to greater and more precious experiences with my Lord. Contentment descended again.

Then in 1980 doctors thought I had a heart attack. Every symptom pointed to that. However, they couldn't understand why the pain wouldn't go away. I was in and out of the hospital with numerous tests, therapy, and still they couldn't find the problem. A specialist did heart catheterizations, E.K.G.'s, echograms, nerve testings, the works. They concluded I had increased mitral valve prolapse, a problem I'd had since birth. The pain continued. Cardiologists tried different medications, pain pills and anything else they could think of, but nothing helped.

After three years and thousands of dollars, my specialist said I needed stronger pain medicine. We asked him to do new testing. He refused, said I would have to live with the pain and take the tranquilizers. Frustration and depression dogged my life.

The New Doctors

Then the Lord directed us to a Christian medical professor at Ohio State University who taught cardiology. Normally it takes months to get an appointment with him, but within a few days I was in his office. The Lord had prepared the way.

The doctor found the problem in the first series of tests—a pinched nerve between the fifth and sixth vertebrae. Something the other specialist had not found or failed to consider. He also thought therapy might help. But it didn't so after six weeks he sent me to a neurosurgeon.

Again the Lord went before me. This doctor, also a Christian, agreed that surgery was needed. He wanted to do it immediately. I refused since we had been invited by the European field council to come for the France-Spain retreat and were to leave in a few days. I was to teach missionary children in Vacation Bible School so their parents could attend seminars. The doctor understood and scheduled surgery after our return.

We were with the Callaways in Spain a few days. Then with the Sparks for a revival over Easter. By the time we arrived at the France retreat after a day and a half of traveling, my pain was so severe I had to stay in bed.

The Lord taught me a lesson. He doesn't always go by our schedules. I

Surprises . . . (from page 9)

prayed, cried and asked the Lord to help me teach those children. He had other plans. He wanted the missionary wives to conduct VBS and I was in the way.

The Woman with No Hair

We arrived home Saturday and I entered the hospital Sunday for spinal surgery. I was in the hospital 11 days. Things went well and I felt great. In fact, I became somewhat of a counselor for my surgeon friend. One case in point: My doctor had performed surgery on a young woman with a brain tumor. He had to shave her head. She was depressed. He asked me to speak with

told her where to buy a wig and what kind to buy. She was so excited, her eyes were shining as she left to call her sister. A few hours later she came by to show me her hair. It looked like her natural hair style in a picture she had. Her depression lifted. She didn't accept the Lord, but I had shared Christ with her. God had again showed me why I had suffered loss years before. I thank the Lord for the opportunity to share with women who have suffered hair loss.

The Lessons

My health problems have helped me grow. I have more compassion for those who hurt. I better understand how they feel and can pray more effectively. I am constantly learning the boundaries of

around I see that so many suffer more than I. Customers who come into the bookstore recount their physical problems. Sometimes I can help with words of comfort or even advice. Sometimes I just hug them and promise to pray. Sometimes a smile will do. I ask the Lord to allow me the privilege to minister to someone each day.

Suffering is not something I look forward to, but something I have learned to appreciate because of His will. With more than 15 surgeries and other medical problems, I have plenty of opportunities to draw nearer to Christ. I have tested Christ and Christianity and I know He is real and that Christianity works. It satisfies my longings and meets my needs. I know that I am unique and important and that I have a precious immortal soul and can live with joy and assurance no matter what the circumstances.

Just as in the past, my remaining years will involve a continuing conflict between my body and my spirit, but the Victor will be no surprise. That is settled!

Suffering is not something I look forward to, but something I have learned to appreciate...

her as soon as I could get out of bed. Before I could visit her, she came to me.

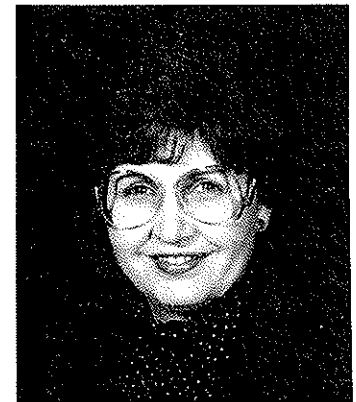
The Lord gave guidance in answer to my prayers. As she sat by my bed, she told me about herself; she was crying. She had two children, was divorced, in her 30's, and had a new job. She didn't know what to do. She found out about the tumor just days before the surgery. She felt ugly because she had no hair. The doctor had told her who I was and that she should talk with me.

As we talked she complimented my hair, commenting how nice it looked. I thanked her and told her I wore a wig. She didn't believe me, so I showed her and told her how I had lost my hair. I

my ability but ever grateful for every opportunity.

Thankfulness in the Christian life produces happiness. It is impossible to focus on those things for which you are thankful and to express that gratefulness to God and be gloomy at the same time. The Lord wants us as Christians to be joyful, full of unceasing prayer and constant thanksgiving. Romans 8:28 promises that the rocks of life can become stepping stones to greater maturity and blessings of God.

Suffering will always be part of life, so one has to prepare spiritually to accept it when it comes. I'm learning to take life one day at a time. When I look



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Delois Loveless is a member of Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio. She is married to Dr. Ailton Loveless, executive secretary for the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists.

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Preying Professionals

By R. F. Smith, Jr.

Professional con-artists prey on churches, church staffs and church people with regularity and efficiency.

Since becoming a pastor in 1953, I have observed hundreds working their trade with the flair of artists. And I doubt that more than five or 10 persons have come to me (off the street) with legitimate needs! The rest have been professional con-artists, preying on the emotions and love-giving of church members, fleecing them with their "sad stories" of human "tragedies" and "misfortunes."

Following are some marks of the professional con-artist's profile:

- (1) Approaches members about 20 minutes before worship service asking for the pastor. Makes an appeal to the pastor, complete with tears. Principle-at-work (PAW)? How can a pastor turn down "human need" just before going into the pulpit?
- (2) Seeks out pastor after the service when the congregation has gone. PAW? No resources or agencies open to which the pastor usually (and wisely) refers such people. Point? Only cash can solve the situation.
- (3) Appeals are often psychological masterpieces—canned, contagious and compelling. They seek to trap the benefactor in ethical or moral dilemmas. (Example: "We have been living together six months. Feel God does not like this. We want to get married.")
What minister can argue with that? Turn them down and you condone "living in sin." (But money is needed to fulfill this plan.)
- (4) Usually they produce well-worn documents to support whatever

claims their line of attack requires. (Example: job opportunities: "If I can just get to Capital City," which is usually hundreds of miles away. Or, welfare papers, prison release papers, *ad infinitum*.)

- (5) They usually claim to be members of churches in distant cities of the same denomination as yours. (One told me he was a member of First Baptist in Dallas. Went every Sunday. When asked the name of his pastor, he stumbled. "Is it Dr. Truett?" I asked. Yes, he told me. When asked when he last heard Truett preach he said two weeks ago. I then informed him Dr. Truett had been dead since 1943.)

The list goes on and on. Yet I know these people are God's children. Misdirected, off-course, yes. But still God's children and my fellow human beings.

But to encourage their con-artistry by glibly contributing money does not help them even though it may salve my conscience. I operate on a basic principle

discovered and established years ago: I will not give cash in any form. I will feed, clothe, house them, provide medical care and meet whatever basic physical needs they have. And, when possible, will minister to their spiritual and emotional needs. I will not be taken in (if I can help it) by their psychological masterpieces of deceit and deception; and I will confront them with what they are doing!

Jesus directs us to care for the needy, feed the poor, clothe the naked and provide for the general welfare of persons. But He also reminded us to be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves." And I think both injunctions merit equal implementation.

Churches in our community have concerted resources and a valid system of meeting human needs. I am committed to working within the framework of that structure, hoping thereby to relieve human suffering everywhere possible.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. R. E. Smith, Jr., is senior minister at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, Huntington, West Virginia.



Free Will Baptists and Slavery

Let My People Go!

By David Joslin

Historians have a way of taking a few decades, lumping them together and assigning them a unique role in the human story. Each decade has its own marks of identification, and it is as though, had one been there at the right time, the transition from one age into the next would have easily been detected. Not many recognize change in social attitudes when they occur. Most sleep through the changes as though they were not even there.

American society experienced drastic social changes between 1850 and 1915. During this time, the great Civil War was fought. Following the war, immigration, urbanization, educational reform and industrialization were the movements of the era.

These movements were problems not only within themselves but they magnified the country's social ills as well. Social reformers rose up during this time. The Free Will Baptist denomination became absorbed in various social reforms including the total emancipation of the Negro slave.

The *Free Will Baptist Hymnal* published in 1853 contained several songs relating to Free Will Baptist thought and position on slavery. One song was titled, "The Slave Made Free":

I saw him kneel in calm despair,
And lift his fettered hands to heaven:
No hope was blended in his prayer,
That slavery's chains would e'er be riven.

I wept in anguish thus to see,
A man, a brother, doomed a slave;
My native land, I blushed for thee,
And prayed indulgent Heaven to save.

I turned me to that slave again,
No longer lay he prostrate there;
He'd heard the word, "Thou'rt free," and then
He bounded light in freedom's air.

He wakes in new existence now,
Assumes the rank his Maker gave;
The marks of slavery leave his brow,
The boon is his he feared to crave.

Prior to the Civil War, the Free Will Baptists of the North were staunch abolitionists, actively involved in open defiance to all laws favoring slavery, and especially the Fugitive Slave Law signed by President Millard Fillmore in 1850. That law stated that any person aiding a runaway slave by giving him shelter, food or assistance was liable to six months imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000. Nonetheless, many Free Will Baptist churches and conferences passed resolutions stating their position on the abolition of slavery and opposition of obedience to the Fugitive Slave Law.

The Fifteenth General Conference of Free Will Baptists held at Rochester, New York in 1853, resolved:

That we re-affirm our opposition to the whole system of American slavery; holding it to be absurd

in the light of reason, infamous in the eye of justice, a deadly foe to human welfare, a libel to the Decalogue, and a reckless attack on the religion of Christ; and the only change we would recommend in our denominational attitude and policy on this subject, is, to take an advanced position in our warfare against the system, and to give a more open and public expression to our hostility. (Page 424, *Minutes of the General Conference of the Free Will Baptist Connection.*)

These efforts by white abolitionists to destroy the institution of slavery by defiance of all the laws upholding it constitute one of the stirring epics in American history. All the reform movements of the 19th century were overshadowed by the crusade of the abolitionists whose cause eventually merged with the march of brother against brother in the Civil War.

Many prominent Free Will Baptists became actively involved in the formation of the Republican Party. Dr. George Ball, Rev. Oren B. Cheney and Rev. George Day were delegates to the Republican Party Convention in 1856. When Abraham Lincoln became the 16th president of the United States in 1860, the Southern states seceded and the war followed. (Lincoln was reared by Free Will Baptist parents while they were living in Kentucky and later in Indiana.)

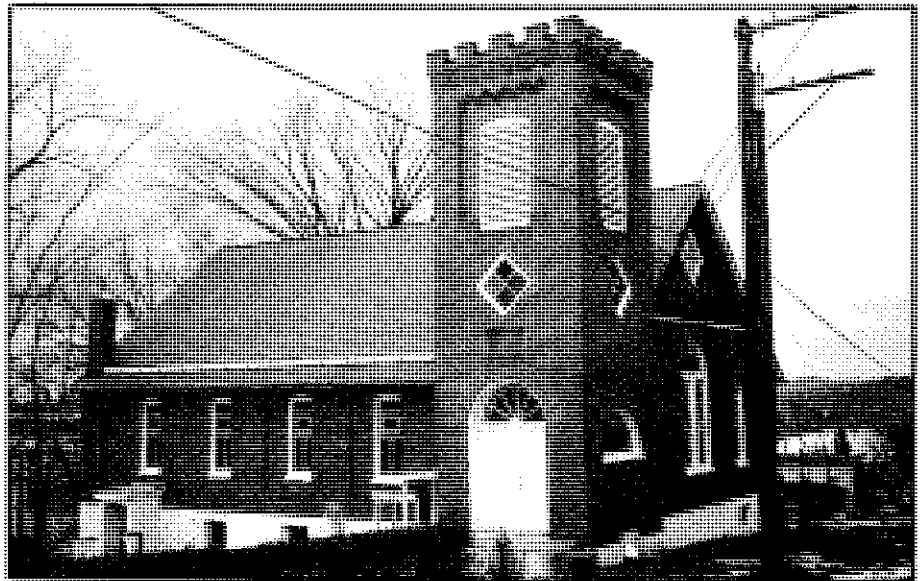
In 1867, two years after the war, Storer College was founded at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, through the cooperative efforts of Free Will Baptists, the Freedman's Bureau and the gift of \$10,000 from John Storer, a wealthy Maine businessman.

U. S. Congressman James A. Garfield from Ohio was instrumental in having the U. S. House of Representatives pass a resolution granting the government property at Harper's Ferry to Free Will Baptists. Garfield had earlier attended Geauga Seminary, a Free Will Baptist school in Chester, Ohio. He was destined to become the 20th president of the United States in 1880. Ironically, he was the second president to be assassinated. Abraham Lincoln was the first.

Within two years, Free Will Baptists were teaching over 2,000 freed black students in grade schools in the area of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Rev. O. B. Cheney and Rev. N. C. Brackett developed the work. In almost every place where the schools were taught, the gospel was preached, and Free Will Baptist churches were organized.

Makeshift classrooms were set up initially in the Lockwood House, one of the four former armory residences donated by the federal government to the school. These buildings became the nucleus for the new college. As more funds became available, the college expanded its facilities to make room for the growing student body. By 1889, the college claimed an enrollment of 273 students on the college level.

In August 1906, the second conference of the Niagara Movement met at Storer College. The Niagara Movement, forerunner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was the first national organization that aggressively and unconditionally demanded the same rights for their peo-



Curtis Free Will Baptist Church was considered the college church at Storer College in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. The church was named in honor of Rev. Silas Curtis, clerk of the General Conference from 1835 to 1868. (Kelley and Ashley Joslin in front of the church.) The church was a part of the property deeded to the National Park Service, and it is no longer utilized as a church.

ple as enjoyed by white America.

The first meeting was conducted at Niagara Falls, Canada, due to the nature of the movement and the fear of reprisals. During the second meeting of the Niagara Movement at Storer College, their purpose was stated as follows:

The men of the Niagara Movement . . . turn toward the nation and ask in the name of ten million the privilege of a hearing. In the past years, the work of the Negro-hater has flourished in the land. Step by step, the defenders of the rights of American citizens have retreated. The work of stealing the black man's ballot has progressed and the fifty and more representatives of stolen votes sit in the nation's capital. . . .

Against this, the Niagara Movement eternally protests. We will not be satisfied to take one jot or tittle less than our full manhood rights. We claim for ourselves every single right that belongs to a free born American, political and social; and until we get these rights will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America. The battle we wage is not for ourselves alone but for all true Americans. (From an "Address to the Country" issued by the second annual Niagara Meeting, held August 16-19, 1906, at Storer College at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia.)

The NAACP was founded in New York City in 1909 by sixty Negro and white citizens. The Niagara Movement dissolved itself that same year in favor of the NAACP, with many of its members uniting with the newer organization.

In 1955, following the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States regarding the issue of desegregation, Storer College closed its doors, and the property was deeded to the National Park Service.

In retrospect, it is not my intent to either condemn or condone the actions of our forefathers, or to reinterpret what they expressed, felt and believed. Rather, it is my sole purpose to state some facts previously unknown and unrevealed. The reader is at liberty to judge for himself the morality of their actions.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend David Joslin serves as chairman of the Free Will Baptist Historical Commission. He is also promotional secretary for the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists.



The Lockwood House was considered the main building since it was one of the original buildings donated to the college. Storer College Alumni have restored this building, both inside and out. It contains a completely restored schoolroom similar to the period of the post Civil War. (Kelley and Ashley Joslin at left of building.) The house is usually open to the public.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

BARNARD PREPARES 'INDIA JOURNAL'

GLENNVILLE, GA—Pioneer missionary to India Laura Belle Barnard has compiled a 575-page *India Journal* chronicling her 22-year career as a Free Will Baptist missionary. Working with free lance editors Bob and Georgia Hill, Miss Barnard assembled unedited letters, memos, articles and diary entries capturing the rebirth of modern Free Will Baptist foreign missions from 1935 until 1957.

Mr. Hill said that most of the materials "are presented in their original forms with inserted corrections still visible in Miss Barnard's personal handwriting." The oversized book weighs almost seven pounds and is not typeset.

This marks the third book by Laura Belle Barnard. She previously wrote *His Name Among All Nations* and *Touching the Untouchables*.

Miss Barnard said it was her purpose to place complimentary bound copies of *India Journal* with: Free Will Baptist Bible College, Hillsdale FWB College, California Christian College, Southeastern FWB College, Columbia Bible College, Mt. Olive College, FWB Foreign Missions Department, Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, FWB Historical Commission and the FWB Executive Office.

Bound copies may be purchased for \$60 each from:

Hillwood Ministries
250 Rutland Road
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122
615/754-7450

However, orders must be processed within 30 days of the date this news item appears in *Contact*.

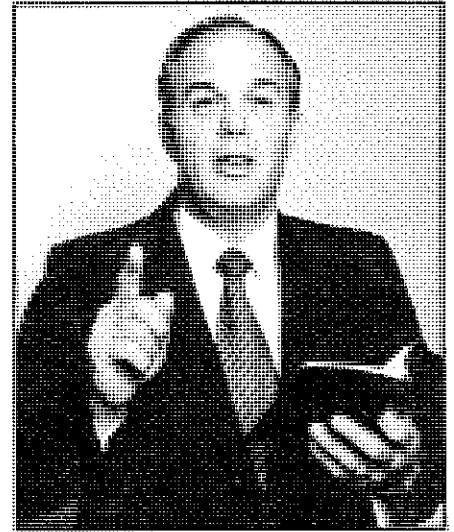
THOMPSON LOGS 40 YEARS IN MINISTRY

TULSA, OK—The Reverend Bailey Thompson celebrated 40 years as a Free Will Baptist minister in July. Rev. Thompson answered the call to preach July 1, 1948. The Lexington, Okla., native was ordained in October 1949.

Members of East Tulsa FWB Church where Thompson pastors scheduled special fellowship festivities July 10 honoring him and his ministry. During four decades of service to the Free Will Baptist denomination, Brother Thompson pastored churches in Arizona and Texas as well as Oklahoma.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Thompson has preached more than 300 revivals. Prior to pastoring the East Tulsa Church, he served as public relations director at Hillsdale FWB College in Moore.

Thompson was elected moderator of the Arizona and Texas as well as Oklahoma State Associations during his ministry in those states. He further served on Oklahoma's Sunday School Board and the Hillsdale College Board of Trustees. He currently chairs Oklahoma's Executive Board.



Bailey and Barbara Thompson have been married 38 years. They have three sons—Jerry, Bob and Von. Reverend Thompson attended Free Will Baptist Bible College and Odessa College (Texas).

CALIFORNIA GIRL WINS SCIENCE FAIR

FRESNO, CA—Jennifer Ryder, a 15-year-old sophomore at Edison Computech High School in Fresno, won first place at the International Science and Engineering Fair held last spring in Knoxville, Tennessee. Jennifer competed with 721 finalists from the United

States and other nations including Japan, Australia, England and Sweden. Her project is called, "Rotational Gel Electrophoresis using the DNA Molecule."

Reed Resinger, Jennifer's youth pastor, said, "In layman's terms she invented a technique to separate DNA." Her winning effort won national recognition as well as cash prizes and a patent.

Jennifer is a member of Harmony FWB Church in Fresno. She was converted in November 1987, brought to Christ by church classmates Andrea Barron, Holly Briscoe and Christy Wright.

Youth Pastor Resinger said, "Jennifer has been a real blessing to the youth department. Her faithfulness, sweet attitude and eagerness to serve her Lord have been a great testimony."

Jennifer participates in the bus ministry and the youth music ministry.



COFFMAN REPORTS ON WRIGHT CO.

SEARCY, AR—Reverend Lawnie Coffman, chairman of the Unsecured Creditors Committee for the Glen Wright Company Investors, provided payment information for claim holders.

Rev. Coffman said that the August 1987 payment was \$70,000. The February 1988 payment to creditors was \$35,000. The August 1988 payment was \$35,000. Mr. Wright believes he can raise the \$70,000 per year to \$100,000, paying \$50,000 in February and August.

Mr. Wright turned management of the Charles Chips Company over to

another manager and took the insurance company back from his brother, Guy Wright. He started managing it in March 1988, paying himself \$1,000 per month from company profits.

Rev. Coffman said, "Anyone desiring a copy of the Special Examiners Report on the financial affairs of Glenn Wright Company may send \$3 to me and I will mail the report. Or call me."

Rev. Lawnie Coffman
12 Blue Ridge Drive
Searcy, AR 72143

Home Phone: 501/268-0203
Lake House: 501/284-4022
Church: 501/679-2516

My Good Name

By David Copeland

Recently, I watched my wife and our exchange student clean the house. Our exchange student was dusting and when she came to my wooden name plaque she asked, "Do you want me to dust this?"

I replied, "Yes, I need my name to be as clean as possible."

Immediately Proverbs 22:2 sprang to mind: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches. . . ." This verse brought three thoughts to mind:

A Good Name is EARNED. Great riches can be inherited, but a good name cannot be handed down. The old saying is true, in that each one of us has to *make* a name for himself. What kind of name are you making?

A Good Name is CHOSEN. The Bible says that we have the choice of either having a good name or a bad name. And we choose the name we want by the choices we make.

For example, we choose to be either honest or dishonest, loyal or disloyal, and with each choice we build a name that is either good or bad. Do you want a good name? The choice is yours.

A Good Name is VALUABLE. It "is rather to be chosen than great riches. . . ." Our greatest source of wealth is not found in material things, but in what we are to God and to others, of which our name is a reflection.

Remember too, that things of great value are often fragile. So it is with a good name. It's frightening to know that all it takes is one careless moment and this priceless item can be forever ruined.

What does it take to have a good name? It takes hard work, making the right choices and being on our guard, so that this priceless, yet fragile gem is never ruined.

God grant us the grace and strength to make a good name, one that will glorify Him.

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

DIRECTORY UPDATE

ARKANSAS

Harvey Butler to First Church, Harrison
Andy Percy to Mt. Calvary Church,
Conway from First Church, Wichita, KS

Gene Cullum to Alice Brooks Church,
Pocahontas from Oak Grove Church, Lake
Village

Dale Kester to Calvary Church,
Springdale

Jim Spurlock to First Church, Huntsville
from Victory Church, Springdale

Ronnie Garrett to First Church, Lake Vil-
lage from Harmony Church, Warren

Arthur Galloway to Victory Church,
Springdale

David Gentry to Rose Hill Church, Mon-
ticello from Willoughby Church, Warren

Frank Matchett to Yorktown Church,
Star City

Tommy Tims to Faith Church, Jones-
boro from Rose Hill Church, Monticello

Jackie Brown to South Sebastian
Church, Mansfield

James Spears to First Church, Alma
from Independence Church, Natural Dam

Eustace Riggs to Trinity Church,
Hamburg

GEORGIA

Jerome McNease to Christian Hill
Church, Abbeville

Kenneth Faison to Deep Creek Church,
Midville

MISSISSIPPI

G. Gene Gilbert to New Lebanon
Church, Tishomingo from Fellowship
Church, Douglas, GA

MISSOURI

Ken Rieter to Mt. Olive Church, Blue
Eye from Greenbrier Church, Greenbrier,
AR

Michael Garner to Trinity Church,
Bridgeton

OKLAHOMA

Russell Payne to First Church, Drum-
right from Huntsville Church, Huntsville,
AR

Skip Heflin to Westgate Church,
Shawnee

TENNESSEE

John Gibbs to Sylvan Park Church,
Nashville

WASHINGTON

Dan Parker to Victory Church, East
Wenatchee

OTHER PERSONNEL

Tim Morgan to Cavanaugh Church, Fort
Smith, AR, as youth pastor from Weaver's
Chapel Church, Batesville, AR

Joe Cutler to West Tulsa Church, Tulsa,
OK, as youth minister and choir director
from Sherwood Forest Church, El
Sobrante, CA

Jeff Stegall to Southern Oaks Church,
Oklahoma City, OK, as director of youth
ministries

John Ailworth to Bethel Church, South
Roxana, IL, as youth pastor

Four years ago members of **Lower Corinth FWB Church, Oak Park, GA**, borrowed \$20,000 on a 15-year loan. They used all the money, but did not need the 15 years to pay it back. Pastor **Jimmy Smith** led the congregation in a note-burning service this summer, celebrating paying off the loan in four year's time.

Three ministers spoke at the **Arkansas' Tribute to Trailblazers Conference** in September: Pastor **Jimmy Bundy**, Wilson FWB Church, Belleville; Pastor **Carl Cheshier**, Cavanaugh FWB Church, Fort Smith; Pastor **J. W. Russell**, Poplar Valley FWB Church, Bono. The Trailblazers Conference was sponsored by the **Christian Education Board** and open to adults 55 and older. The three-day conference met at Camp Beaverfork near Conway.

Oklahoma pastor **Keith Burden** will speak three times at the state-wide **Sunday School workshop** November 5 at Cavanaugh FWB Church, Fort Smith, AR. During his three messages, Burden will examine past traditions, present trends and future technology. The workshop is sponsored by the **Arkansas Sunday School Board**.

Calvary FWB Church, Union, SC, began construction this spring for an 11,000-square-foot sanctuary. The two-story structure includes eight classrooms on the ground floor with pastor's study, nursery and a 300-seat sanctuary on the upper floor. Pastor **Howard Johnson** said the \$150,000 project will take a year to complete. Members will do a major portion of the work.

Members of **Community FWB Church, Florence, SC**, plan to move into a 28,000-square-foot auditorium in September. The \$45,000 building project also includes two classrooms, choir loft and baptistry.

After completing remodeling in 1984, members of **First FWB Church, Chester, SC**, were left holding a \$138,000 mortgage. Three years later, under the direction of the late Reverend **J. B. Smith**, the 25-year mortgage was paid off. Pastor **Leroy Lowery** now shepherds the debt-free congregation.

Henry Justice, that's the name of the man at **Bethel FWB Church, Fort Mill, SC**, who wears the long string of Sunday School pins. Brother Justice, Sunday School superintendent and deacon, hasn't missed Sunday School in 23 years.

Reverend **H. J. Sawyer** was honored at **Bethel FWB Church, Fort Mill, SC**, for 50 years in the ministry. The 86-year-old minister was instrumental in organizing 12 Free Will Baptist churches. He pastored 15 churches during his active ministry. His son **Alvin** and one grandson, **Junior Justice**, are both Free Will Baptist ministers.

Construction will begin October 1 for a new sanctuary at **First FWB Church, Walnut Ridge, AR**. The 52,080-square-foot sanctuary will seat 425. Pastor **Larry D. Hughes** said that the existing sanctuary built in 1977 will be used as a fellowship hall and children's church. The Sunday morning worship service is aired live over Station KHOX FM in Hoxie.

Tentmaker missionary to **Rupert, ID**, **Bill Phillips** reports 40 in worship services on three out of four Sundays in the month of June. Brother Phillips pastors in an area that is overwhelmingly Mormon. He requests the prayers of Free Will Baptists everywhere.

Lake View FWB Church, Sapulpa, OK, has a new name. The congregation moved to facilities at 734 North Ridgeway in Sapulpa and now goes by the name **New Hope FWB Church**.

Oklahoma laymen **Howard Gwartney**, **Harvey Jones** and **Waymon Ray** left June 18 to help construct a church building in **Omaha, NE**, for home missionary **Jerry McClary**.

Members of **Allen FWB Church, Sapulpa, OK**, took pledges and cash topping \$38,000 one Sunday in June to refurbish and enlarge their church sanctuary. **Johnny Bilby** pastors.

The **Oklahoma State Mission Board** reports that one association, the **Southeastern Association**, gave \$8,000 toward the \$20,000 goal needed to purchase property in **Hugo**. Another group, **First Oklahoma Association**, voted to give \$100 per church for a total of \$2,600 toward the purchase of property.

Members of **First FWB Church, New Castle, DE**, plan to start another church. Pastor **Richard Atwood** says the group plans to do it this way: Hire an assistant pastor; buy property; start a land and building fund; begin services in early 1989; build a new church.

Pastor **Jim Summerson** reports Sunday School attendance at **Mount Calvary FWB Church, Hookerton, NC**, up 10 percent over 1987. The group averaged 346 in the month of June for Sunday School attendance.

The 1988 fall Sunday School enlargement campaign gets underway the first Sunday in October using the "Lift Him Up" theme. The five-week campaign will spotlight Sunday School growth in churches under nine different categories ranging from newly established to those averaging more than 500. The campaign is sponsored by **Randall House Publications**.

First FWB Church, Lake Village, AR, organized on March 20 with 29 people present and called **Ronnie Garrett** as pastor. The group was presented a clear title to the church building and property by the local Missionary Baptist Association. Two months later the church had received 56 members and had 94 in attendance. Among the first items of business was the adoption of the Cooperative Plan of Support.

Ted Patton recently retired from his Sunday School class at **Easley's Chapel FWB Church in Comanche, TX**. Brother Patton taught the same class for 60 years. Even more remarkable, that class was the teenage class!

Contact welcomes *Missions*, a bi-monthly publication of the **Texas FWB Mission and Church Extension Board**. **David Sutton** chairs the board.

John and Cindy McNay led their Sunday School class to construct a model of Noah's Ark. The model is approximately one-seventy-fifth of the size described in Genesis. After completing the project, the Sunday School class put the balsa wood and paper ark on display in the lobby at **Southern Oaks FWB Church, Oklahoma City, OK**. **James Puckett** pastors.

Pastor **Wade Parker** said members of **Tippett's Chapel FWB Church, Clayton, NC**, raised more than \$4,300 for missionary **Ron Callaway**. The June 26 offering was raised above regular tithes and offerings, according to Pastor Parker.

Pastor **Larry Cook** reports five new members at **Bear Point FWB Church, Sesser, IL**. The group also purchased a second church van.

Members of **First FWB Church, Mt. Vernon, IL**, celebrated 58 years of continuous service in their community. **Howard Flota** pastors.

The **Southeastern FWB College Tip-Off Tournament** is scheduled December 1-3 at Raleigh Christian Academy in **Raleigh, NC**. Competing this year will be returning champion Cramerton Christian, Cramerton, NC, and runner-up Faith Christian from Goldsboro along with six other teams.



Stewardship of Possessions

What is your attitude toward money and possessions?

Do you love money? What will you sacrifice, risk or endanger to get wealth? To what lengths will you go to get possessions? Below are short summaries of biblical principles. Test your attitude. (Keep in mind that Americans are rich compared to other people in the world.)

Do you love—trust in or rely on—riches? Then, you are not devoted to God. It is impossible to serve or to rely on God and money simultaneously. You are servant of one or the other. A camel can pass through the eye of a needle easier than you can enter God's kingdom—if you place your confidence in money and possessions (Luke 16:13; Mark 10:24-25).

If your riches increase and you set your affection on them, you will surely fall. Both income and riches are uncertain (Psalm 62:10; Proverbs 11:28; I Timothy 6:17).

Are you rich? Don't be proud and look down on others who have less.

God makes rich and He makes poor. He is the Creator of both (I Samuel 2:7; Proverbs 22:2; I Timothy 6:17).

Be careful. Don't even entertain the thought that you get wealth by your power and might. Remember God gives you the power to earn (Deuteronomy 8:10-17).

Learn a lesson from Solomon who sought and gained great wealth and possessions: If you love money, you will never have enough; if you love abundance, you will never be satisfied with your income (Ecclesiastes 5:10).

Are you eager to be rich? The desire to get rich will cause you to fall into temptation and a trap. Ultimately it leads to harmful desires, ruin and destruction (I Timothy 6:9).

For, the love of money is the root from which all evil grows. A craving for money causes you to stray from God. To love money is to invite grief, sorrow and mental anguish (I Timothy 6:10).

It is far better to have less and be in right relationship with God than by unjust gain to have great riches and the trouble that comes with them (Proverbs 15:16).

Don't work so hard to be rich. Stop thinking about it. Why pursue riches? Just when you think you have wealth, it suddenly disappears. Like an eagle that flies off into the skies, riches take wings and fly right out of your grasp (Proverbs 23:4-5).

Free yourself from the craving for wealth and possessions. Be satisfied with what you have. Learn to be content with your circumstances and your earnings. God will never forsake you, and He knows what you need even before you do (I Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 6:8).

Give up the illusion that money can buy your real needs. It is just your imagination that wealth is security (Proverbs 18:11).

No amount of money can ransom you from death and corruption in the grave. Neither can riches buy redemption for yourself or your family. Silver and gold provide no security in the day of judgment. Only faith in Christ assures eternal life with God (Psalm 49:7-8; Proverbs 11:4; Zephaniah 1:18).

Fear the Lord and delight yourself in following His commandments. Then, His true wealth and riches will be in your house, and your righteousness will endure forever (Psalm 112:1-3).

"... lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:20-21).

Enclosed is \$ _____ as a gift () in memory of () in honor of _____

Acknowledge to _____

Donor _____

Occasion (if in honor of) _____ birthday, anniversary, holiday, etc.

- () Cooperative Plan of Support Endowment—for all national ministries
- () Foreign Missions Endowment—for all foreign missions ministries
- () Metcalf Memorial Endowment—for Brazil missions
- () Master's Men Endowment
- () FWB Foundation Endowment
- () Other _____

A minimum of \$100 is required to establish a new endowment.

Clip and mail to: FWB Foundation, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

MASTER'S ANDATE



Attack

Master's Men Endowment Trust Fund Enabling the Future, Part 2

The Broad View

Fund raisers note that non-profit institutions (hospitals, colleges, etc.) receive nearly 60 percent of their funding through endowment giving. The Free Will Baptist denomination receives only minimal funding in this manner. Few members have been challenged to consider this method of giving.

Endowment giving usually results after the death of an individual. This occasion has been almost totally ignored as an opportunity to give to the Lord a portion of an individual's estate. Yet this method can provide a sense of satisfaction to a person contemplating the end of this physical life.

Elderly men and women with no dependents or with self-sufficient children may extend their stewardship beyond this life by considering many methods of giving from their estates. Some methods can even lessen the burden of caring for property and resources during the years of declining health and vitality. Space will not permit listing or explaining these methods. If more information is desired, contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation for material already available.

Younger people sometimes believe they cannot give large gifts to a ministry because their incomes are limited or obligated to other needs. This article

addresses one manner of giving major sums to any ministry . . . including Master's Men for only modest monthly investments.

Perpetual Gifts

Now there's a way almost every average lay person can give a large sum to Master's Men. The gift will go on giving each year, forever, until the Lord returns. This perpetual gift will allow you a new way to become involved in the Lord's work.

You can help change Master's Men. Your participation in this future financing becomes a beautiful testimony telling how God uses laymen in mighty and lasting ways. A modest monthly investment for 10 years results in a perpetual gift to the Lord's work.

Men are already using this method to eventually give a large cash gift to Master's Men Endowment Trust. Here are some "shared blessings" among our Master's Men right now:

—A man has included the Department in a Living Trust for a portion of his estate.

—A family included the Department in their will for one-fourth of their estate.

—A man and his wife (a LifeFriend!) included Master's Men in their will for a life insurance settlement of \$25,000 each.

—Two men have begun \$25,000 policies in the Endowment Builders perpetual gift plan.

One man can make a difference . . . a group can make a miracle! You can change Master's Men. Will you make a difference?

Write to Master's Men Department for more information. A complete prospectus is ready to mail when we receive your request.

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



MINI GRAMS

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

The Department Pages

Historic Church Builds Again!

By Roy Thomas

On June 30, 1780, a preacher by the name of Benjamin Randall and a layman, Mr. Robert Boody, met in the latter's home with three other people and organized a church with the "Free Will" persuasion of doctrine. This marked the beginning of the first Free Will Baptist church in the northern United States that 200 years later would be designated a National Historical Landmark by the Federal Government.

The church prospered through the years and an auditorium was built on a

ridge outside the community. Later, a second building was constructed in the downtown area of the community. For years the congregation used the ridge church during the summer months and the town church during the winter months. Because of the quaint and serene beauty of the old ridge church, and because of its historical importance to both New Hampshire and to the Free Will Baptist denomination, it was set aside as an historical landmark.

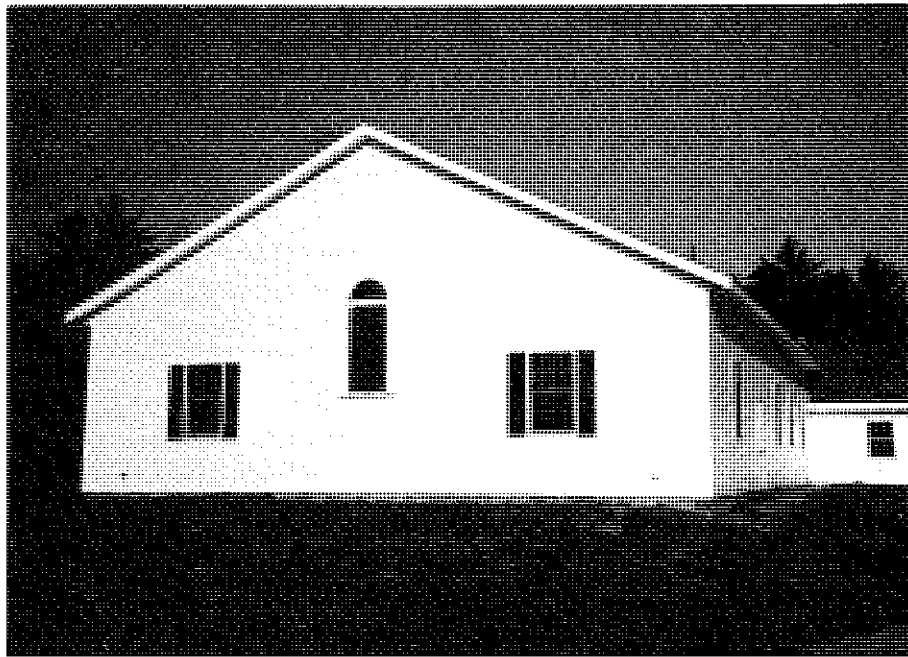
The 1910-11 merger of many Free Will Baptist churches with the (now)

American Baptist Convention placed this historic church with that group. However, on March 25, 1981, the church voted to affiliate with the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

This church, believing that together with the Home Missions Board's assistance, a vibrant, solid, Bible-preaching church could be built, then requested a home missionary pastor to come lead the group. Since this was the only church of any kind in the community of New Durham, and since there could be no finer monument to the memory of Benjamin Randall, the Home Missions Board sent Jim and Pat Nason to work with this group.

The Nasons arrived in New Durham in November 1982 and launched an evangelistic ministry at the place where so much history was made for Free Will Baptists. Because of gradual growth, the church outgrew both the old ridge church and the downtown building. The congregation then purchased eight acres on the outskirts of town to build a third, larger building.

In May 1987, missionary builder Howard Gwartney and a group of volunteer workers went to New Durham to construct a new building for this historic church. The present congregation of the First Free Will Baptist Church now occupies a new 6,500-square-foot building which is not only a memorial to the past but a testimony of God's power today and a promise of His provision in the future.



First Free Will Baptist Church, New Durham, New Hampshire

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wishart



From My Window

Spring? Summer? Fall? What's your favorite season? When it's October, my favorite is fall.

The sky is that deep October blue. The air has just a touch of winter's breath. And the colors! In Middle Tennessee we are surrounded with gorgeous colors. Some leaves look as though, if you put them in your mouth, they would melt there.

It may be a dark, cloudy day, but you turn a corner, and suddenly the world seems to light up. It's the sunny gold of maple trees all in a row. It's fall with all its beauty and delight.

Aren't the seasons wonderful? Fall, winter, spring, summer—they all have their beauty and delights.

And so it is with the seasons of life. God has given us youth, middle age and old age to enjoy.

My German tutor, a retired teacher, used to say, "Miss Wishart, every age has its compensations. Now, my compensation for being old is that I can say whatever I wish. People just say, 'Oh, well, she's just a little old lady.'"

What is your compensation just now?

In youth we're ignorant of life and therefore sometimes foolish. Yet our youthful resilience compensates for that.

Then we struggle with the middle age slump, but freedom to breathe and think and take stock of our lives may com-

pensate for the empty nest and nagging questions about values.

Then comes old age. One compensation for old age is the recognition that we are putting off in order to put on. Are we losing hearing, vision, strength? As these decline, remember we are approaching that season when all will be made new. We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (I John 3:2).

God has given us beauty and delights for each season of life. Ecclesiastes 3:11: "He hath made everything beautiful in his time."

What season are you experiencing? Don't miss God's beauty for this time.

Good News from Cuba

Roberto Perez and Gilberto Diaz visited the WNAC office August 4.

They report that La Sociedad de Las Damas (the National Women's Convention) in Cuba is 400 strong and doing a great work.

Each woman, besides her tithes and offerings to the church, gives \$1 per month to the convention.

Right now the women are especially concerned about reopening the Free Will Baptist training center, Cedars of Lebanon, in Pinar del Rio.

When the school opens this fall, one of the five students will be a woman.

The Cuban women meet in their annual convention in May.

Pray for our sisters in Cuba.

Eunice Edwards Fund

August 8, 1988—\$15,434.56

Meeting the Goal

Before December 31, we need \$20,000 in order to meet the goal of \$10,000 a year for \$50,000 in the Eunice Edwards Funds by 1991.

The amount above includes the \$1,748.75 given in a special offering at the convention in Kansas City.

Make sure your Auxiliary is among those giving to the Eunice Edwards Fund, a loan fund to help build churches on our mission fields abroad.

Mexican Students Receive Scholarships

Edelmira Anaya, Ramon Zuniga and Carlos Rubio from our Free Will Baptist work in Mexico, entered Free Will Baptist Bible College this fall.

The Convention voted in July to divide among these students the funds coming into WNAC's Foreign Scholarship Fund (formerly National Student Fund) through February 1989.

Presently the fund has only \$690. Can we make it \$1,000 each by February 1989?


Here's your opportunity to help train Mexicans to work in Mexico.

National Dues Increased

One of the resolutions adopted at the convention in Kansas City raised national dues from \$1.50 to \$2 annually.

Dues help pay expenses of the WNAC office in Nashville.

Some Auxiliaries have already sent their dues for 1989 to the district treasurer. Next year, however, each local Auxiliary should collect \$2 national dues in addition to the district and state dues.

The reports coming to WNAC for the convention in 1990 should include \$2 per member for national dues. 



Herman L. Hersey
Director



Board of Retirement

AT YOUR SERVICE

Book Of Remembrance

**In Remembrance Of ...
By ...**

- Ivan E. Baker
Mrs. I. E. Baker
Langley, OK
- Charles Barker
Mrs. Ruby Barker
Morehead City, NC
- Clyde Bennett
Pine Level Church Auxiliary
Alma, GA
- Charles A. Carpentier
Howard and Myrna Carpentier
Oklahoma City, OK
- Mary Lou Ennis
Head's Church Auxiliary
Cedar Hill, TN
- Bessie Essex
First Church Auxiliary
Louisville, KY
- John B. Ewing
First Church Auxiliary
Royal, AR
- James Frazier
Mrs. Agnes Frazier
Nashville, TN
- Jasper G. Harris, Sr.
First Church Auxiliary
Newport News, VA
- Odell Harris
Head's Church Auxiliary
Cedar Hill, TN
- J. W. L. Johnson
Pine Level Church Auxiliary
Alma, GA
- G. C. Joyner
N C Woman's Auxiliary
Raleigh, NC
- Leslie George Ketron
Bloss Memorial Church
Arlington, VA
- Minnie Belle Ketron
Bloss Memorial Church
Arlington, VA
- J. B. Parsons
Olivet Church Auxiliary
Clarksville, TN

- Mrs. Dora Pennington
Wilson's Chapel Auxiliary
Norton, VA
- Buford Pierce
Marvin Chapel Auxiliary
Marianna, FL
- G. W. Reynolds
N C Woman's Auxiliary
Raleigh, NC
- Owen Thomas
Mrs. Owen Thomas
Smithfield, NC

**In Honor Of ...
By ...**

- Homer Arrowood
William H. Herms
Belmont, NC
- Gerald Brown
Pleasant Hill Church Auxiliary
Vienna, GA

- Bruce Clark
Faith Church Master's Men
Morganton, NC
- Free Will Baptist Ministers
White Plains Church Master's Men
Blakely, GA
- Joe Jones
Sulphur Springs Church Auxiliary
Northport, AL
- Mrs. Eva Mitchell
Cove City Church Auxiliary
Cove City, NC
- Mrs. Ruby Nobles
Howard Grove Church Auxiliary
Cottonwood, AL
- Charles Powell
Bethel Church Auxiliary
Ashland City, TN
- J. D. Ramsey, Sr.
Oak Grove Church Master's Men
Greeneville, TN
- R. P. Ritch
Alabama Woman's Auxiliary
Vernon, AL

- Roger Russell
New Salem Church Auxiliary
Colquitt, GA
- Adam Scott
Myrth Blackman
Smithfield, NC
- Billy Sharpston
White Oaks Church Auxiliary
Macon, GA
- James R. Smith
Esserville Church Auxiliary
Wise, VA
- Ralph Staten
Wooddale Church Auxiliary
Knoxville, TN
- Anne Thompson
Faith Church Auxiliary
Morganton, NC
- Jerry Watson
First Church Auxiliary
Visalia, CA
- Wade Webb
Kilsyth Church Auxiliary
Mt. Hope, WV

A Living Memorial

There is a special way in which the Board of Retirement can help you. The next time you wish to honor a departed friend or loved one you may do so by sending a memorial gift (in any amount you like) to the Board of Retirement. Families of those whose memories you have honored will be notified by an appropriate card and the names will be listed (without mentioning the amount given) in one of our publications.

YOUR DOLLARS DO DOUBLE DUTY with memorial giving. 1.) You properly care for a personal obligation and 2.) at the same time help our ministry with retired ministers and missionaries.

IT'S PRIVATE AND NON-COMPETITIVE. You don't have to "keep up with the Joneses." The amount of your gift is confidential and the same acknowledgement card is sent regardless of the size of the gift.

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“Whew! What A Summer!”

by Bert Tippet
Publications Director

It's graduation day—May 12. After degrees are handed out, students and visitors rush to their cars, and the “exodus” begins—everyone heads home. But someone in the crowd turns and says to a staff member, “I guess you're looking forward to a quiet summer.”

Quiet? You must be kidding! The summer of 1988 was one of the busiest in FWBBC history! We had people

dorms to keep open. We also taught two graduate school courses last summer, one in May and another in August, running five days each.

In June, the college was host to 150 CTS competitors from across the state for two days. What a lively group!

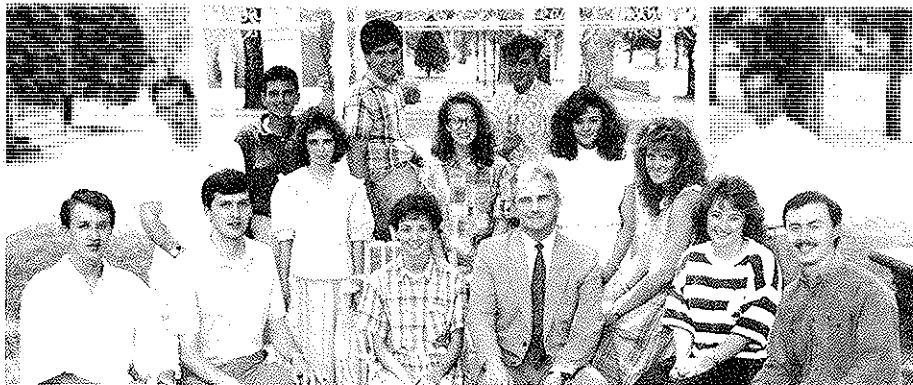
Two Summer Camp '88 programs were held on campus. In June, high school students who were interested in music and drama were on campus for

missionaries held their retreat with us. The atmosphere was saturated with their quiet dedication. We tiptoed into the cafeteria for lunch, finding them at prayer.

The national YET team visited us in June, and so did a youth group from Hyde Park FWB Church, Norfolk, VA, in July.

We were also pleased to host meetings for non-Free Will Baptist groups. Child Evangelism Fellowship held a nine-day camp on campus in June. Fifty-five staffers and high school students spent the time sharing means of reaching children with the gospel. They were intense and enthusiastic. We were glad to have them.

But the trophy for enthusiasm would have to go to the cheerleaders! In July, we had 78 rompin', stompin' cheerleaders from the Middle Tennessee Christian Athletic Association to hold their camp on campus. In spite of blistering heat, they had the spirit (“Oh, yeah.”)!



The national YET team was one of FWBBC's visitors last summer.

staying on campus for 70 nights between May and August—everyone from missionaries to cheerleaders!

It seems that some people assume the folks at the Bible College just take the summer off and relax for three months. Not so. Many of the teachers use the summer to hold revivals, pursue further studies, and stay busy doing a host of other things.

The campus? It buzzes like a hive all summer.

It begins with Summer School, right after graduation, running for five weeks. We had 67 students enrolled, and that meant meals to serve and

a week. They learned and practiced all week, and then displayed their talents in area Free Will Baptist churches on Sunday. Later, in August, we held our first basketball camp on campus, and were impressed with the need to air condition our gym!

Truth and Peace, the leadership program sponsored by Randall House, met here for a week in July—56 young people and sponsors. What a group! Talent and energy in perpetual motion! We long to see the Lord use every one of them.

What a contrast, in August, when 122 of our Free Will Baptist foreign

Many of us will never forget the summer of '88, when we had 645 guests (345 overnight in the dorms), served them 5,100 meals, and washed hundreds of sheets, pillow cases, towels and wash cloths for them!

Are we complaining? Not at all. We loved every minute of it.

But it's nice to have some 300 students back on campus so we can settle back into the quiet routine of training the finest young people to be found anywhere.



“Off Night” Services— What’s the Answer?

By Fred Warner
Director of Church Ministries for Foreign Missions

The telephone rang! The pastor grabbed the receiver. A missionary on the other end greeted him: “I’m calling to see if I can schedule a service in your church on Monday evening, November 23.”

After a long pause, the pastor replied, “We would like to have you in our church for a service, but Monday is not a good time for us. However, if you can come on a Sunday morning or Sunday evening, we will be delighted to have you.”

This typical response characterizes the average church during these days. More and more our missionaries and staff encounter difficulty in seeking to schedule missions services on “off nights” of the week. As a rule, pastors would like to have a missionary on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, or Wednesday evening because regular services are better attended. But if a missionary is in an area away from home and has services only on Wednesday and Sunday, he is more or less idle for five days even though the expense of lodging and meals goes on. Such a practice is poor stewardship.

Believe it or not, something can be done about this problem.

Some Possibilities

First, if area pastors and churches would be flexible and willing to move their Wednesday evening service to either Tuesday or Thursday, then the missionary could easily have services Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday as well as twice on Sunday. This would mean five services per week.

But that still leaves the missionary with Monday, Friday, and Saturday open. If a pastor feels a service on Monday or Friday evening would not produce positive results in terms of attendance and exposure for the missionary and missions, then let me suggest that he gather his church leaders together with some missions-minded families or individuals at someone’s home. Then, allow the missionary to share the burden of his heart via videotape, slides, or whatever. Make it somewhat informal but spend some time getting acquainted.

Monday and Friday evenings can also be utilized by having a service with an auxiliary of the church such

as Master’s Men or Woman’s Auxiliary or even a young people’s rally. Such meetings need to be suggested in plenty of time to allow for adequate preparation.

Missionary Banquet

Another approach might be a missionary banquet with an international dinner. The missionary could be given time on the program to present his ministry and field of service. This type meal not only provides an excellent setting for presenting missions but gives the opportunity to get personally acquainted with the missionary.

An afternoon tea with non-working women might be profitable and would be another means of getting people personally acquainted with a missionary.

Perhaps the youth in the church or other church members could offer other suggestions to make the missionary’s time meaningful and practice good stewardship. One thing is certain: Something must be done to “redeem the time” of the fruitless “off nights.”



Green Tree Bible Study



Robert E. Picirilli

Psalm 119 (Part Two)

The Beauty of the Word of God

Regardless of the identity or date of Psalm 119, God's Spirit inspired the human author to pen some mighty words about the Word of God. As noted in the previous column, God's Word is His law (in the broadest and best sense), what He has spoken in revealing His will.

I. One of the themes of this dramatic hymn to the Word of God is straightforward admiration of that law. Over and over the psalmist attributes first one wonderful characteristic and then another to God's Word. As we read through the psalm these perfections shine like varicolored sparkles from the facets of a diamond we turn in our hands.

Thus God's judgments are *good* (v. 39)—good because God Himself is the essence of goodness. And they are good because the keeping of them is for man's good.

So are His judgments or precepts *right* (vv. 75, 128). They reflect God's own righteous character and therefore show the right way for man to walk. To confess that something is right means, ultimately, to agree both in speech and conduct. God's commandments or testimonies are also *faithful* (vv. 86, 138). They reveal the unchanging steadfastness of God to His covenant promises and provide the framework for man to experience that faithfulness.

Furthermore, God's commandment is *broad*, exceedingly so (v. 96). As Keil and Delitzsch observe, the psalmist knows that the best things of earth have limits; God's law however, is "unlimited

in its duration and verification." Its truths and treasures are without bounds.

Then God's words are *sweet* (v. 103). Because they teach what is good and right and practical and wise, they are precious and pleasant.

Again, His testimonies are *wonderful* (v. 129): that is, they reveal things that one responds to in wonder and amazement. They contain things beyond natural understanding, things exalted above everyday life. We learn things there that we can learn nowhere else.

And His judgments are *upright and righteous* (vv. 137, 138). True, God's revealed will requires certain conduct from men, but all these reflect the holy and just character of God and His good will for men to be just and upright.

God's Word is likewise *pure* (v. 140). Like precious gold refined and re-refined in the fire until all imperfections are gone, it has no blemishes. It is without spot, and no fault with it can be found.

Finally (although this list is not exhaustive), the Word of God is *true* (v. 160)—as Keil and Delitzsch translate this clause, "The sum of Thy word is truth." Everything else God's Word is, it is that because it is this. One is never led astray by listening to God's revealed will. By His very character God can speak nothing false or misleading.

II. Because God's Word is so beautifully multi-faceted, man should do nothing less than respond to it with his whole being. Perhaps that is the reason the psalmist relates the law of God to every part of himself.

Thus God's Word corrects and guides man's *feet* (vv. 59, 105). It attracts his *hands* (v. 48). It directs his *eyes*, both in what to see and what not to (vv. 18, 37, 123). It provides pleasure and satisfaction for his *mouth* (vv. 103, 131)—which includes prompting his *lips* (vv. 13, 171) and *tongue* (v. 172). Then man's whole being is involved: the Word must be in his *heart* (vv. 11, 80, 112) and have the commitment of his *soul*—his very innermost self (vv. 20, 167).

One rejoices to give all of himself to a revelation so trustworthy and perfect.



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TEEN Scene



Aim for Uruguay

AIM (Active In Missions), a new program designed to involve Free Will Baptist youth in missions, is part of the LifeQuest youth training curriculum.

A national youth project was initiated to introduce the AIM program. At the conclusion of the 1987 National Youth conference in Birmingham, Ala., the youth were challenged to raise \$10,000 for the Sowers Bible Institute in Montevideo, Uruguay. The fund-raising project was named, "AIM for Uruguay."

Youth groups were to select a target pledge amount and begin making plans to raise their pledge. All pledges were due by the 1988 National Youth Conference.

Pledge cards began to come in. In early October 1987 some groups were already sending money. By the first of 1988 the pledge total was \$5,455. Inquiries, pledges and checks continued to arrive. By the first of May the last pledge had been received. The total pledges were now \$9,006.76. Would the goal be reached?

Some exciting things began to happen. The Low Teen Class from First FWB Church, Pocahontas, Ark., had pledged \$100. They sent a check for \$340. Bethlehem FWB Church youth, Ashland City, Tenn., pledged \$1,000 and raised \$2,000. However, some groups who pledged had been unable to reach their goal.

It was now the first of July. The deadline was near. Would we reach the \$10,000 goal? That question was answered when the phone call came in from Limestone FWB Church

in Tennessee. They had pledged \$1,000 and raised \$4,200.

By the time the official presentation was made during the Wednesday evening missionary service at the National Association, the figure was slightly over \$15,000. Checks are still coming in and the amount is \$16,135.48.

It is not too late to send your check. Mail it to AIM for Uruguay, P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

Here is the listing of monies received:

Howard Grove, Cottonwood, AL	\$ 36.00
Arkansas Youth Camp	1,063.12
First Pocahontas, AR	340.00
North Little Rock, AR	45.00
First, Vero Beach, FL	50.00
South Florida and Hispanic Youth Association	92.92
Tampa, FL	227.00
Lyon, GA	200.04
First, Savannah, GA	1,000.10
First, Thomaston, GA	125.62
Ina, IL	200.00
Salina, KS	20.00
Friendship, Flint, MI	880.00
Tupelo, MS	500.00
First, Berkeley, MO	260.17
Trinity, Bridgeton, MO	383.05
Fellowship, Flat River, MO	156.21
Canton, NC	500.00
Temple, Greenville, NC	320.10
First, Owasso, OK	500.00
Fellowship, Antioch, TN	181.60
Bethlehem, Ashland City, TN	2,000.00
Donelson, TN	100.00
Limestone, TN	4,200.00
Shady Grove, Whitesburg, TN	542.00
Woodbine, Nashville, TN	1,145.69
Bethany, Norfolk, VA	484.36
Hyde Park, Norfolk, VA	300.00
Brotherhood Youth Conference, WV	125.00
Springdale, Hurricane, WV	100.00
Cash (Anonymous)	57.50
TOTAL	\$16,135.48

A full accounting of the project with testimonies and explanations concerning how the various groups raised the funds will be available in the Winter issue of LifeQuest.



ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

The Small Giant

Marty got out of bed and stretched his arms above his head as far as he could reach. He walked over to the wall and saw a tiny black smudge where he had reached yesterday. Try as he might, standing on the tips of his toes and inching his fingers high up the wall, Marty couldn't reach any higher today.

"Mama, come here," called Marty. "I need you."

"What do you want?" asked Mrs. Lane. It was Saturday morning and she was still in bed. But she got up and went to Marty's room to see what he needed.

"I need you to measure me," said Marty.

"I just measured you yesterday," said Mrs. Lane. "I don't think you've grown any in 24 hours."

But Marty opened the closet door and backed up to the marks recording his growth through the years. Marty scooted his heels back, squared his shoulders and stretched his body and neck. Mrs. Lane put the ruler on the top of his head and held it steady as Marty wriggled from under it.

"It's in the same spot it was yesterday," she said.

Marty sighed. "I'm still short. I'll always be short."

"You're not short," said Mrs. Lane, "you're just right."

"Just right?" cried Marty. "What do you mean?"

"I mean you're just the size God wants you to be. Before you were born God designed you. He knew and planned how tall you would be, the color of your hair and how many freckles you would have. You're just right. Besides," concluded his mama, "it's being big on the inside that counts."

Marty wasn't so sure. He only knew that basketball tryouts were today, and

that he would have a better chance of making the team if he were taller. Marty wanted to make the Giants' team.

Mr. Lane drove Marty to the gym. "Son, remember that being tall isn't everything. Work hard, work together, give it all you've got."

Marty worked hard at tryouts that day. He remembered his dad's advice and put his all into everything. After two hours of drills, exercises, playing basketball and running laps, Marty was tired. But the worst part was waiting until Monday to see if he made the team.

The weekend passed slowly. At last, it was Monday morning. Marty was scared as he entered the school building and saw the boys gathered around the bulletin board. He quickly read the list of names, and there, third from the bottom was his.

"Yippee! I made it," he cried. "I'm a Giant!"

The basketball team was hard work. The coach was nice but tough. The boys practiced foul shots, lay ups, jump shots, dribbling, chest and bounce passes until they thought they would drop. They learned plays and reviewed them until they could run them in their sleep.

One day the coach said, "Fellas, we've got to work on our free throws. A lot of games are won or lost on the foul line. Each of you shoot 100 free throws. Then come back and tell me how many you make. We'll keep a chart in the locker room to see how much we improve."

Each day at the end of practice the team shot foul shots. The boys usually made 25 or 35 out of 100. But after a week there was not much improvement. No one had made more than 39 shots.

Monday at lunch some of the guys on the team were talking. "Coach is going to be mad if we don't improve this week," said Larry, the captain, and best player on the team. He was the tallest and the only player who had made 39 free throws.

"I've been thinking," said Matthew, "Coach doesn't know how many we make. We can tell him anything. He won't know the difference. He can't watch everybody at once."

"Yeah," said Sam, "I'm going to tell him I made 95 out of 100. I'll be first string for sure." Everybody laughed.

"You can't lie that big," warned Matthew. "Just add a few on your score. The next day—add a few more. Coach will be happy. We'll be happy."

Everybody looked at Larry. "What can it hurt?" he said, shrugging his shoulders.

So the team agreed to lie about their scores. Marty didn't want to do it. He knew that even if Coach didn't find out, God would know. Marty didn't think he could live with himself if he wasn't honest. But he didn't want to be the only one with a low score either. Marty wanted to fit in. Maybe this was how you did things when you were on a team.

Marty battled with his conscience all afternoon. At the end of practice he had still not decided whether or not to tell the truth. The boys shot their foul shots then gathered around Coach to tell him their scores.

"Fifty, 54, 61. Say, this practice is paying off," said Coach as he wrote the scores on the chart on the locker room wall.

Finally, the coach called Marty's name. Marty swallowed. He had only made 22 that day. He wanted the coach

to be proud of him. He wanted to say 42 or 52. "Fff . . . 22," he stammered.

"I think you need more practice, Marty," said the Coach. "Go back and shoot 100 more."

Marty turned red as he returned to the foul line. The other guys snickered.

At lunch the next day his teammates made fun of Marty.

"Only 22 out of 100," sneered Sam. "You need some practice, Shorty."

Matthew said, "I should have known a little goody-goody like you would be too chicken."

"Leave him alone," said Larry. "He might start preaching at us."

Marty didn't like being different. And he sure didn't like being made fun of. Maybe at practice that day he would lie along with the others. What could it hurt?

But Marty couldn't bring himself to lie. He listened as the other boys added 20 or 25 points to their scores. He watched them laughing as they left the gym, and he, once again, stayed behind to practice his free throws.

Marty might be the shortest player on the team. He might have the worst foul shot record, but he had made up his mind—he would be honest. And somehow Marty didn't feel quite so small anymore. In fact, he felt 10 feet tall.

The days and weeks of practice passed. Every day the team lied about their free throw records—all except Marty. And every day Marty stayed after practice and shot 100 more. Marty wanted to quit. But he wasn't a liar, and he wasn't a quitter either.

Finally, it was the day of the first game. The Giants had played hard but the Jonesboro Colts were good. And they were ahead by one point. There was one minute left on the clock when Larry fouled out.

The whole gym groaned. What would the Giants do without Larry?

"Marty, I'm putting you in," said the coach.

As Marty ran out on the court the Colt missed his first free throw. When he missed the second free throw, Marty rebounded the ball and dribbled toward the Giants' goal. The Giant fans went wild. A Colt ran up to Marty and fouled him.

"Oh no," groaned Coach. "Marty's got the worst free throw record on the team."

The coach and the other Giants were surprised when Marty stepped calmly to

the line and sank his two shots.

The Colts got the ball, but the buzzer sounded before they got a shot off. The Giants won 46 to 45.

"Hooray!" shouted the Giants. "We won!"

After the excitement died down the coach said to Marty, "You really came through for us, Shorty. I have to admit I was scared when you went to that foul line. Your free throw record is not the best on the team, you know."

The other players heard the coach's words.

They hung their heads. They were ashamed of lying and they were ashamed of the way they had treated Marty.

Top Shelf



Thomas Marberry



Bernard Ramm, *Offense to Reason: A Theology of Sin* (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1985, 187 pp., hardback, \$15.95).

Sin is a tragic reality in the world in which we live. As Dr. Ramm explains, "Due to sin our judicial system is jammed; our penitentiaries are overcrowded; our police forces overworked. Every school system must wrestle with disobedience, violence on school grounds and the use of narcotics. Every family feels threatened by disintegration from without and within. War disturbs national and international life." In short, sin destroys everything that it touches.

This work is the first major theological study of the doctrine of sin to appear in many years, and it is a most welcome contribution. The author compares and contrasts the traditional Christian understanding of sin with the concepts of evil which are found in non-Christian religions and in writings of secular philosophers and psychologists.

Ramm presents detailed examinations of the thinking of such men as Blaise Pascal, Edward Westermarck, Thomas Hobbes, Baruch Spinoza, de

Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud. He also contrasts traditional Christian concepts of sin with those ideas found in the writings of liberal protestants such as Friedrich Schleiermacher.

Ramm points out that modern secularism rejects totally a Christian concept of original sin. Yet, he argues that secular approaches to life must still deal with the reality of evil. The author argues that the Christian doctrine of sin provides the most satisfying and comprehensive answer to the problem of evil. He defends his position in a variety of different ways including the careful exegesis of many important passages of scripture.

I do not agree with Ramm's analysis at every point, but I must recognize the contribution which he has made to the field of theology. This will be a landmark book on the subject of sin for many years to come.

"There's something I've got to say," said Larry.

The truth came out. The boys admitted lying.

"I'm real sorry for making fun of you, Marty," said Larry. "If it hadn't been for you, we would've lost."

"You know," said the coach, "We've given Shorty the wrong nickname. He's not so small. In fact, he's the biggest man on the team. Let's hear it for a real Giant!"

It seemed like Marty got punished for being honest. But in the end, was it really punishment?



OUR READERS COMMENT

NEED MORE LIKE IT

I would like to express my appreciation for the July issue. It was the best issue that I can recall in recent years. I feel that we need more Free Will Baptist writers addressing Free Will Baptist doctrine.

I especially appreciated the article by Bobby Jackson and the one by Wade Jernigan.

Bob Grindstaff
Erwin, Tennessee

ON PRESIDENTIAL BEHAVIOR

Sure enjoyed the story by Robert Roberg, "The Star Trap," (August issue). I was sorry to hear the president did such. I thought he knew better.

I was just reading about the son of Madalyn Murray O'Hair talking about his life while living with his mother when she got prayer out of school June 17, 1963, the case known as Murray v. Baltimore School Board in legal annals. Unsuccessful political attempts to have that decision overturned have been made ever since. Why one woman can have prayer taken out, and a thousand other people can't get it back in is amazing to me.

When President Kennedy was asked about it, he said people traditionally pray in their homes and in church and that they don't need to pray in public. William Murray said he thought it ironic that he (the President) was shot by an atheist less than three months later.

We need a president that will pray and look to God for help and advice. No way he could go wrong there.

Mildred Hall
Chester, South Carolina

LEAVE FWBBC ALONE!

The August issue was, in my opinion, one of the very best! Of special concern is Dr. Picirilli's article, "What Does Free Will Baptist Bible College Have a Right to Expect From Free Will Baptists?"

While I was growing up on a small rocky farm in the Missouri Ozarks, Mom would raise a few "hatchins" of chickens each spring. Often, for reasons I didn't understand, some of the chickens would start picking on (and pecking at) a fellow fowl. Once they drew blood, it was almost certain death to that defenseless little chick. Invariably he died, being pecked to death by members of his own flock.

To this preacher it seems that the object of the most peevish, pitiless pecking in our denomination (at least during this decade) is our Bible College. This child of our denominational family, which never claimed to be perfect, has come in for more than her share. Once she began to bleed, the self-appointed preservers of purity have pecked away. Her head at times has been bloody.

Free Will Baptist Bible College is the only educational institution we've got that's owned, controlled and operated by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. She's part of us! She's our offspring! Her glorious past is written in sacrifice, sweat and tears.

Our college will survive, and some day even thrive. Till then, I wish we'd quit pecking and let her regain some strength and health. My wife and I have trusted her with each of our three sons. She's got my support.

Reverend Ben Scott, Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
North Little Rock, Arkansas

WHO LIVES IN A P. O. BOX?

As a home missionary I truly appreciated your helpful tip in July's "Briefcase" on an economical meeting place for the new church. Cornerstone Free Will Baptist Church of Bloomington, Illinois, has rented a Post Office Box!

However, it is much more difficult for me to understand how our denomination is run out of P. O. Box 1088.

Reverend David L. Burgess, Pastor
Cornerstone Free Will Baptist Church
Bloomington, Illinois



**Make the Bible College
your next move!**

Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205
615/383-1340

TASTLESS NEWS

You showed poor taste in July printing the article about Brother Lonnie Palmer.

Josephine Patterson
Levelland, Texas

EDITORIAL REMINDER

Your July "Briefcase" reminded me—The church in Columbia, Missouri, is on the corner of Rock Quarry Road and Grindstone. We used to joke that we were "between a rock and a hard place!"

Enjoy your articles.

Earl Larson
Treasurer-Administrative Assistant
Foreign Missions Department

Beyond Belief



JUDD

c. 1987 Roger Judd

Especially
For Young
Preachers

Preparing Your Congregation to Face the World

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

Christians come to church services to be edified, not entertained. It is the pastor's responsibility to arrange meaningful services.

- Prepare prayerfully.
- Select hymns that complement the message.
- Begin on time.
- Begin with scripture and prayer.
- Vary the program.
- Adequately prepare the message.
- Ask some men to pray with you before the service.
- Plan special music.
- Recognize visitors.
- Prepare a bulletin worth taking home.
- Recognize members for jobs well done.
- Include children in the service (choir, usher, testimony).
- Make announcements interesting.
- Use men to read scripture.
- Invite individuals to give testimony about specific achievement.
- Be optimistic, enthusiastic.
- Smile.
- Pray for the people by name (sick, college students, etc.)
- Include older people in the service.
- Read a letter from a missionary.
- Take prayer requests. Pray for specific requests in the service.
- Ask for testimonies.
- Sing one stanza of several songs without using the hymn book.
- Let those who have birthdays request their favorite song to be sung.
- Place your offering in the offering plate.
- Ask the congregation to stand when scripture is read.
- Distribute paper slips with scripture on them for some to read aloud.
- Announce chapters of scripture to be read; each person read a verse.
- Ask for questions on the sermon after the message.
- Always give an invitation.
- Conclude at a reasonable time.

Next Month: Things You Can Do That an Older Minister Cannot Do

Dennis Wiggs



NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

SWINDOLL'S \$2 MILLION HOME IRKS SOME FOLLOWERS

FULLERTON, CA (EP)—Few would deny that renowned Christian author and speaker Charles Swindoll needs a place to get away from the pressures of ministry and be alone with his family. But a number of his followers are publicly questioning whether that need is best answered by the \$2 million 8,000-square-foot "mountain getaway" Swindoll is building at California's Lake Arrowhead.

Follower Grace Sewell of La Mesa wrote to Swindoll complaining that the minister's sermons espousing humble Christian living seemed at odds with his luxurious spare home.

Sewell received a response from Cynthia Swindoll, who wrote, "We prayed much about this project and have been pleasantly surprised at how God has so obviously paved the entire way. It is being built from our own personal resources. Not a dime has come from any ministry . . . as that would be in conflict with everything we stand for."

Sewell told the *Fullerton Register*, "I say build an A-frame, lay down your head and enjoy the outdoors. Instead they're building Camp David. I feel it's hypocritical."

The wood-paneled, seven-bedroom, five-bathroom, English Tudor-style home sits on a \$230,000 lot in the exclusive Cedar Ridge Estates private resort development. The house will not be assessed until it is completed in mid-July, but a house next door—which is half the size—is on the market for \$750,000.

Church member Mary Ann Mooney complained, "It screams poor taste to me. It embarrasses me. In a Christian sense it's not how much money you have, it's what you do with what you have. I think Chuck Swindoll may have become larger than life in this area and is not considering what the local people might think of this."

But church trustee Connie Gowen argued, "I'm sure there are lots of us who feel they have worked hard and deserve whatever they can afford to do for themselves."

Swindoll, who is widely known for his 21 books, 24 booklets, two films, and sermons carried on 600 radio stations worldwide, is reluctant to talk about his new home. He told the *Register*, "I have a personal and private life. As soon as you make it public, you've lost the whole purpose of a place to be alone and to get away. We've longed and worked for this place for years. We've saved for years. The final fulfillment of it all is this house."

CHRISTIAN SPEAKER NORA LAM GETS PROGRAM ON CHINESE TV

DALLAS, TX (EP)—The first "Christian" broadcasts since the Communist revolution in China were made in June by China's powerful Central Television Network. As many as 600 million Chinese are expected to view a new series of programs featuring inspirational author and speaker Nora Lam, who was born in China and escaped to the U. S. during Mao Tse Tung's administration.

The programs, recorded in her native Mandarin Chinese dialect, are limited to "cultural affairs" by Chinese television executives, but Lam believes the door has "been opened by the Lord" and says, "there are many exciting opportunities for Christians in China today."

Lam explains, "Religion is part of culture, and it is only a matter of time until we see even more freedom on television in the new China."

Lam's program is produced by the Trinity Broadcasting Network, and was tentatively titled "America Today" in pilot versions. The 15-minute program takes Chinese viewers on a tour of the United States as seen by Nora Lam, who makes no secret of her strong evangelical faith in God.

But Chinese officials have made it clear that they are not ready for religion on Chinese television. "This is not a political or religious show," explains Lam. "I want to cover everything. I really hope that I can be a living bridge between the two nations I love."

Nora Lam China Ministries works to assist Chinese believers in China and around the world through Bible printing, weekly Christian broadcasts, evangelistic crusades, assistance to China's house church movement, and missionary witness tours that bring North American visitors to China.

KENYA'S PRESIDENT ATTENDS CRUSADE

NAIROBI, Kenya (EP)—The President of Kenya, Daniel Arap Moi, and eight cabinet ministers attended the most recent gospel crusade of Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke and his Christ For All Nations team. The rally was held in Nairobi June 4-12. Local newspapers estimated the attendance at the final meeting of the crusade to be close to 200,000, making it one of the largest public gatherings ever held in Kenya.

President Moi also ordered that the last two meetings of the crusade be broadcast live by the Voice of Kenya on both radio and television. In addition to reaching hundreds of thousands across Kenya, the broadcasts were beamed into parts of Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia.

The Nairobi outreach brought together 211 churches from 45 different denominations. Tens of thousands responded to the gospel message. Local police reported that crime dropped dramatically during the crusade, and many thieves turned in stolen loot as an act of repentance. National newspapers carried front-page testimonies of people who were physically healed during the crusade.

Moi received Bonnke and his entourage at the State House, and urged him to return to Kenya for more outreaches in the future. He also commented on the positive impact such crusades have on the morality of his country.

CHRISTIAN LOSES JOB FOR STAND ON GAMBLING

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (EP)—Parimutuel racetracks are often lauded as sources of new jobs for a community, but Oklahoma City's Remington Park took away a job. Keith Swezey, a Baptist deacon and 15-year radio news veteran, was fired by WKY radio for his refusal to coordinate promotion of horse-race gambling.

Swezey had been employed by WKY radio for 12 years, and was news director for the past four years. When WKY became the official radio station of the track, Swezey refused to participate in announcing race results, or producing "how-to" features on betting designed to increase gambling.

When Swezey told his employers that promoting the track would violate his religious beliefs, he was fired.

"I never had an illusion that I was going to stop the station's plans because of my beliefs," Swezey explains. "I gave them my biblical reasons for my stand and tried to use the situation to witness to my co-workers."

Faced with the loss of his job, Swezey says he and his wife "prayed about the situation and believed the Lord would work it out." Within a month he secured a teaching position at Central State University and began studies toward a master's degree.

MEXICAN NEWSPAPER ATTACKS EVANGELICALS

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (EP)—A May editorial in Mexico's leading newspaper, *Excelsior*, is one of a number of attacks on evangelical churches. The editorial, headlined "Religious Sects Gaining Ground," claims that "sects" use "economic power" to gain followers.

The attack against Protestant denominations alleges that evangelicals use a U. S. economic power base to draw the poor away from the Roman Catholic Church, according to a report from News Network International. "The Protestant sects, generally coming from the country to the north of us, take strength from their economic power to conquer an ever greater number of followers. . . . In places where there are still great sectors of indigenous people, such as [the states of] Chiapas, Guerrero, [and] Oaxaca, [their] goal is to break down, erase, the national identity," states the editorial.

Although evangelicals are spreading their faith, "the faith of the Mexican is solid and strong," according to the editorial. "He may accept, for now, a change in religion, but deep down he will always continue praying to the Virgin of Guadalupe and asking his God for his salvation."

Evangelical church and missions leaders contend that their growth does not come from U. S. dollars, and argue that most groups are completely independent and funded by Mexicans. They also point out that since much of their effort goes to teaching Mexican people to read and write, the result has not been a contribution to the "break-down" of the "national identity," but has helped make them an asset to their nation.

The *Excelsior* conclusion that Mexicans "will always continue praying to the Virgin of Guadalupe" is precisely why, evangelical leaders say, Protestants need to continue biblical teaching, since "people need to learn that praying to . . . the Virgin of Guadalupe is not Christianity." 📖



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS
By Melvin Worthington

Hymn Book Dedication Day



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Free Will Baptists

God's people worship and praise Him in song. *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* acknowledges the place that Free Will Baptists give to music. We have always been a people of song. From our 1727 beginning, we delighted in praising God in song.

Delegates to the National Convention in Kansas City set October 2 as dedication day for the new hymn book. Previous dedication days (December 6, 1987 and March 27, 1988) were postponed due to publication delays. The hymnal has been released and is in use by our people. As we celebrate the new hymnal, four ideas claim our attention.

The History

Initial work on the new hymnal began as a dream in the mind of Dr. Vernon Whaley in 1977 while he served as minister of music at First FWB Church in Albany, Georgia. A hymn book feasibility committee was appointed in 1984 to investigate denominational music needs. In 1985, the National Association, during the 50th anniversary session, appointed a seven-member committee and charged them to provide a "hymn book that will meet the diverse demands of Free Will Baptists."

The hymnal committee met seven times. By September 1987, a tune list for *Rejoice* was finalized and the hymnal scheduled for release in December. Printing errors delayed the original delivery date five months. Finally, in April 1988, eight tractor trailer trucks arrived at Randall House Publications with 100,000 copies—all editions, colors, round and shape note versions of *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book*.

More than 35,000 hymnals were sold from April 15 to June 30. Over 17,000 round note and 15,400 shape note books have been shipped. Loose leaf and leather bound editions account for the remaining sales. We believe these numbers indicate a positive response to the book.

The Hymnal

The hymnal is a *diverse* book. It reflects our commitment to the broad needs of all our people. It further provides a worship tool to help unify our diverse Free Will Baptist family. Hymns and gospel songs from every tradition of Christian hymnody have been included. The contents of *Rejoice* are drawn from the Western European, American-Folk, singing convention, scripture-song, youth chorus, and gospel hymn traditions.

The hymnal is a *distinctive* book. Its purpose is to meet the challenge of a new decade for Free Will Baptists. In addition to traditional songs sung by Christians around the world, the book includes songs which promote Free Will Baptist doctrine. This hymnal contains more songs that address our commitment to missions, evangelism, edification, the gospel ordinances and fundamentals for Christian living than have ever before appeared in our denominational hymn books.

The Secretary's Schedule

- October 2-5** Center Point FWB Church
Center Point, Ala.
- October 9-14** Ebenezer FWB Church
Glennville, Ga.
- October 16** Enid FWB Church
Enid, Okla.
- October 17-20** Oklahoma State Association
- October 23-26** First FWB Church
Johnston City, Ill.

The hymnal is a *designed* book. All current standards of accepted hymnody have been met. This book is well organized and easy to read. The author's name, date of composition, metrical rhythm and tune name are provided with each selection. Nine indexes catalogue materials into practical areas of research. A scripture verse relating to the hymn text is included under each title as well as brackets to indicate instrumental introductions.

The hymnal is a *denominational* book, evidenced by the title *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book*. Make no mistake. This hymnal was developed and designed with Free Will Baptists in mind. We want to preserve and perpetuate our history and heritage.

The Hope

For the first time in 200 years, Free Will Baptists have a representative hymn book that we all can use.

The preface of one early hymnal states: "Seeing the needs of enlightened Christians and the challenges that face us in this decade, we offer to the saints that call themselves Free Will Baptists this book of worship." We hope this hymnal will bring a spirit of unity and understanding among us.

The Hour

The hymn book has arrived. Many churches and individuals have purchased copies and many more will purchase them in the future. Now with gratitude and praise to God, we as a denomination have scheduled a day to dedicate this new hymn book—October 2, 1988. Every church and each individual can participate.

Join with us on October 2 when Free Will Baptists around the world dedicate the new hymnal to God.

CONTACT

P. O. Box 1088

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

Wanted! Men!

By Bobby Poole

Wanted! Men!

Men BIG enough to admit that they need God just as much as their wives and children do.

Men BIG enough to take upon their shoulders the spiritual leadership of the home.

Wanted! Men!

Men SMALL enough to be dependent upon God, the source of all strength.

Men SMALL enough to weep because of their sins against a holy God.

Men SMALL enough to kneel humbly at the foot of the cross and ask forgiveness.

Men who see themselves as God sees them.

Wanted! Men!

Men who know how to love.

Men who know how to love God with all their heart, soul and strength.

Men who know how to love their wives, children and the people of the world as God loves them.

Wanted! Men!

Men with right values.

Men who put things of God above transient pleasures.

Men more concerned about building character and righteous living than building empires of silver and gold that perish.

Men who take time to teach their children by word and example because they put God first in their lives.

Wanted! Men!

Men who know where they are going (to heaven) and want to take as many as possible with them.

Men with a vision of a lost world who feel their responsibility to reach the world for Christ.

Men willing to give themselves, their children and their money to win the world to Christ.

Wanted! Men!

Yes, men!

Holy men!

Men born of God's Spirit.

Men who walk humbly with God.

Men who will be spiritual leaders in their homes.

Men who will be spiritual leaders in their church and community.

Men who will say, "Here am I, Lord, send me."

Wanted! Men!

Do You Qualify?

Will You Volunteer?



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Bobby Poole is a Free Will Baptist foreign missionary serving in Brazil.

