

February 1989

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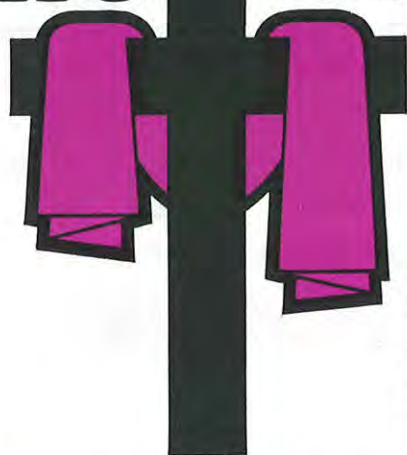
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

**This
We
Believe**



- The Christ Event
- Inspiration of Scripture
- Salvation Experience
- Destiny of Men

The Christ Event



By Jim Shepherd

struggle reached the point of great physical distress, yet again, and finally, Christ emerged victoriously (Matthew 26:36-46).

His Substitutionary Death

As sin cannot be pardoned without a sacrifice, and the blood of beasts could never wash away sin, Christ gave Himself a sacrifice for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2), and thus made salvation possible for all men (Titus 2:11; Hebrews 2:9). He died for us, suffering in our stead, to make known the righteousness of God, that He might be just in justifying sinners who believe in His Son (Romans 3:25-26). . . . The atonement for sin was necessary (Hebrews 9:22). For present and future obedience can no more blot out our past sins than past obedience can remove the guilt of present and future sins.

—*Treatise*, pp. 19-20.

1. His death was vital. Scholars and skeptics have questioned the historical fact of Adam and Eve in general and their sin in particular. However, the depravity of man is found everywhere and adequately verifies that something went wrong in the garden.

God's immediate response to man's sin provides the first messianic prophecy (Genesis 3:15). Man is fully responsible for his sin (Romans 14:10), but he is incapable of removing his guilt through renewed effort (Isaiah 64:6), religious observance (Romans 3:20) or religious sacrifice (Hebrews 10:4). Man's situation appeared to be hopeless.

2. His death was vicarious. The initiative for man's salvation found its source in the heart of God even before the week of creation (1 Peter 1:19-20; Revelation 13:8). Sinless though He was, Christ bore our sins in order to purchase our salvation (Isaiah 53:6; II Corinthians 6:21). As His blood was shed He obtained our redemption and removed our guilt (Hebrews 9:12, 22). Perhaps the most remarkable element of Christ's substitutionary death is seen in the fact that He willingly chose to suffer in man's behalf (John 10:15, 17, 18).

made, condescended to a state of humiliation in being united with human nature and becoming like us, pollution and sin excepted (John 1:14; Philippians 2:6, 7). In this state, as a subject of the law, He was liable to the infirmities of our nature (Hebrews 2:17), was tempted as we are (Hebrews 4:15), but lived our example (1 Peter 1:21), perfect obedience to the divine requirements (Matthew 5:17).

—*Treatise*, pp. 16-17.

1. He was sinless in His conception. Gabriel's announcement to Mary provides our first insight into the nature of Christ (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-31). The eternally existent Christ would be made flesh (John 1:1, 14) as the result of God's miraculous decree. Christ would share the physical qualities of man for He was truly man, but He would not share man's spiritual qualities for He was truly God.

2. He was sinless in His character. Man's spiritual nature was tragically altered by the sin of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3; Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12), but his sinful nature and spiritual separation from God were not transferred to Christ (John 10:30). Christ's sinless character resulted in the perfect performance of His mission (John 17:4; 19:30).

3. He was sinless in His conduct. The spiritual warfare waged between God and Satan escalated during Christ's earthly ministry. Temptation was presented by both friend (Mark 8:33) and foe (Matthew 4:1-11), yet He resisted (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 1:19; 2:22).

As Christ prayed in Gethsemane He struggled with self-will—a foe known to all of God's children. The intensity of this

To understand Jesus Christ, the Bible must be read with two purposes in mind. First, the reader must become familiar with the life of the Nazarene in order to become acquainted with the historical, personal facts surrounding Him. Second, the student must interpret the doctrinal teachings which give His life unique significance.

If Christ is limited to historical facts, He is reduced to mere manhood. If the Savior is nothing more than doctrinal truth, then Christianity ceases to be a new relationship between God and man and becomes just another religious philosophy.

The story of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ may be described as an event because, in Him, God interrupted and redirected history. This event begins and ends with Christ, but it receives fulfillment when He indwells the believer's life as Lord and Savior.

The gospels provide the historical data surrounding this event and the epistles (Colossians and Hebrews in particular) and Revelation interpret this event. A unified understanding of the Christ Event is gained when the New Testament is studied in its entirety.

What do Free Will Baptists believe about Jesus Christ? A careful reading of scripture, God's divinely inspired Word, will provide the answer. The serious Bible student will quickly realize that this article is limited in its scope. However, four facts provide a broad picture of the life and ministry of Christ.

His Sinless Life

The Word, which in the beginning was with God and which was God, by whom all things were



Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
—Charles Wesley

3. His death was victorious. The instigators of Christ's death considered Him a religious criminal whose crime demanded death. God saw Him as a spotless lamb whose death satisfied the demands of righteousness and provided the gift of forgiveness and life. One perfect sacrifice for sin was made and man could know full fellowship with God. Christ was restored to His place of honor in God's presence and man was offered freedom from spiritual death (Hebrews 9:26; 10:12).

I need no other argument,
I need no other plea;
It is enough that Jesus died
And that he died for me.

—Lidie H. Edmunds

His Bodily Resurrection

Our Lord not only died for our sins, but He arose for our justification (Romans 4:25).

—Treatise, p. 20.

1. His resurrection was the proof of His lordship. Tragedy turned into triumph when Christ was raised from the dead. God had accepted His death and thus vindicated the Savior by raising Him to life. He is no paper lion! He was locked in the grip of death, man's final enemy, yet He was victoriously released, showing that He is the lord of life (I Corinthians 15:55-57). God's powerful interruption of the laws of nature would forever change the history of mankind.

2. His resurrection is the promise for our life. The resurrection of Jesus has a profound impact on the life of the believer both now and forever. The disciples were transformed into bold witnesses after the resurrection (Acts 4:19-20). The preaching of the early church focused on the resurrected Savior (Acts 2:24, 32). In Christ spiritual death is displaced by life (Ephesians 2:1, 5-7).

Beyond the present, Christ's resurrection is the promise and proof of the life to come (I Corinthians 15:20-23). Sadly, the resurrection is the forgotten doctrine of the 20th-century church. When the church rediscovers the significance of the resurrection she will experience the power of the resurrection.

His Second Coming

The Lord Jesus, who ascended on high and sits at the right hand of God, will come again to close

the Gospel dispensation, glorify His saints, and judge the world (Acts 1:11; Matthew 25:31; I Corinthians 15:24-28; I Thessalonians 4:15-17; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; II Peter 3:3-13; Matthew 24:42-44).

—Treatise, p. 39.

What do Free Will Baptists believe about the second coming? Perhaps the wise choice would be to leave this portion blank so each reader can accurately answer this question. However, the centuries-old debate over the details of this doctrine does not overshadow the basic agreement that has always existed among conservative students of the Bible.

1. His second coming will be physical. As Christ ascended into the presence of God, heaven's first words to the church provided reassurance of His physical return (Acts 1:10-11). This message was consistent with Christ's testimony of a personal, visible return (Matthew 24:26-27).

Man's natural curiosity about prophecy and its fulfillment must be tempered with a caution that is instructed by scriptural truth (Matthew 24:4-8, 24-25, 36, 42). While the signs of the time make for interesting study and conversation, it is a constant spiritual readiness that will result in the believer's glorification (Matthew 24:42-46).

2. His second coming will be powerful. While humility clothed the first coming of Christ, glory will adorn His second coming (Matthew 24:29-31; Titus 2:13). Then all things shall be brought into submission to him (I Corinthians 15:24-28). Satan shall be eternally punished; man shall stand in judgment before God (Revelation 20:10-15). Creation shall finally be re-created, and believers shall experience eternal bliss (Revelation 21:1-4). This powerful appearance and the events surrounding it will culminate the Christ Event.

Conclusion

Two scriptures stand as the banks of a great river to channel our understanding of the Christ Event. First Jesus said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

Second, Paul wrote, "For it pleased the Father that in him [Christ] should all fullness dwell. . . . For in him [Christ] dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 1:19; 2:9).

The Christ Event is experienced at two levels. The believer discovers for-
(continued on page 7)

Contents

February 1989

- 2 The Christ Event**
Jim Shepherd
- 4 The Inspiration of Scripture**
Charles Thigpen
- 5 Briefcase: Win 'em Now or Pay Later**
Jack Williams
- 6 The Salvation Experience**
Nate Ange
- 8 The Destiny of Men**
Earl Hendrix
- 10 30 Years of Excellence**
Richard Terry
- 12 Who Qualifies to Serve?**
Doug Little
- 12 Free Will Baptist Newsfront**
- 16 Currently**
- 16 Tough on the Lottery**
Alton Loveless
- 17 The Department Pages**
- 25 Top Shelf**
Thomas Marberry
- 26 On Little Lanes**
Donna Mayo
- 27 When it Snows**
David Copeland
- 28 Green Tree Bible Study**
Robert Picirilli
- 29 Teen Scene**
- 30 Religious Community News**
- 31 Living with Leanness**
Melvin Worthington
- Editor-in-chief:** Dr. Melvin Worthington
Editor: Jack Williams
Editorial Assistant: Marilyn Pritchard
Circulation: Geneva Trotter

Volume XXXVI, No. 2

CONTACT (ISSN 0573-7796), published monthly by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 1134 Murfreesboro Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37217. Address all correspondence and subscriptions to Post Office Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. 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 ©, 1989 Member of the Evangelical Press Association. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CONTACT, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.
USPS 130-660

The Inspiration of Scripture

By Charles Thigpen

Free Will Baptists are a Bible-believing people. Many of us have been taught from childhood that "whatever the Bible says is so." While other groups are enmeshed in battle over whether or not the Bible is inerrant, we can rejoice in the fact that the Bible is accepted by Free Will Baptist clergy and laity alike, as being the very Word of God.

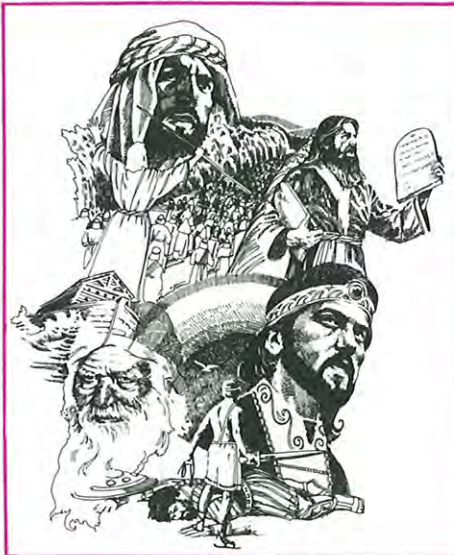
The *Free Will Baptist Treatise* makes it clear that the inspiration of the Bible is unique. The Bible is a "God-breathed" book. It is fully and completely inspired. This inspiration covers all parts and all subjects of the Bible. The scriptures are without error, trustworthy, infallible and authoritative.

The Bible is a miracle book. The composition of it stretched over about 1,500 years with approximately 40 human authors—yet there is no error or contradiction in it. To account for this, Peter tells us that "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21).

The Holy Spirit so directed the minds of the writers that their writings were the very words that God wanted us to have. And yet, we see the personalities, literary styles and feelings of the human authors in their writings. God the Holy Spirit supernaturally led these men so that their writings were God's infallible revelation to mankind.

Writers of both the Old and New Testaments claim the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In the last words of David, he said, "The spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue" (II Samuel 23:2). Over and over again in the Old Testament, the writers said, "Thus saith the Lord." In addition to Peter's statement above, Paul says that the Holy Spirit spoke by Isaiah (Acts 28:25). Paul further quotes from Deuteronomy and Luke as being scripture, in the same verse (I Timothy 5:18). Paul's writings are declared to be scripture by Peter (II Peter 3:16).

While some of the Bible was dictated by God—such as the Ten Commandments—most of it was not. But even the parts not dictated are still God's Word. As someone said, "If God Himself had done the writing, the written Word would be no more accurate and authoritative than it is."



The Apostle Paul reminds Timothy (II Timothy 3:15-17) that he has known the holy scriptures from a child and that they have provided him with the knowledge that salvation in Christ may be received by faith. What makes the scriptures holy? Surely it takes more than a printer inscribing "Holy" on the cover of a book to really make it holy.

The Origin

Four reasons come to mind. First, the scriptures are holy because *they originated in the Holy God*. God is a holy God and He has spoken in His Word. Over and over again the nature and character of God are shown forth as being perfect holiness.

Two of the great statements of God's Word pointing to God's holiness are, "Be ye holy, for I am holy," and "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts." In Psalm 60:6, the writer says, "God hath spoken in his holiness." Twenty-five times in Isaiah, God is called "The Holy One of Israel." He is the source of this holy book. Because God is a holy God, His Word must, therefore, be holy.

The Communicator

Second, the scriptures are holy because *they were communicated by the Holy Spirit*. Whether in the Old or the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is the One who controlled and guided the minds of the Bible writers. Paul declares, "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teach-

eth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth. . . ."

Jesus said in John 16:12, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." He further declared that when the Holy Spirit came, He would "guide you into all truth." The Holy Spirit would "bring all things to your remembrance" (John 14:26)—referring to *the historical*. He would also "teach you all things" (John 14:26)—referring to *the doctrinal*. In addition, the Holy Spirit would "shew you things to come" (John 16:13)—referring to *the prophetic*.

The Writers

Third, the scriptures are holy because *they were written down by holy men*. God carefully chose these "holy men of God" to relay His truth to men. Most of these men did not know each other. Their vocations, training and backgrounds were varied, but all were holy men. One was a physician, one a tax-collector, two were fishermen, one a herdsman—some were prophets and others were kings. These are the "holy men of God" who were "moved" or "carried along" by the Holy Spirit as they wrote the Bible.

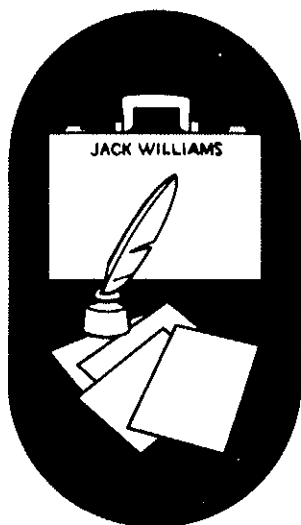
The Result

Fourth, the scriptures are holy, because *they produce a holy life*. There is no way that this book could produce a holy life if it were not a holy book. The will of God for every Christian is "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:17). The holy scriptures provide the means for this spiritual growth, development and maturity. The person whose life pleases God is the one who lives according to the teachings of the scriptures.

Mankind's most outstanding possession is God's Word. It is "forever settled in heaven." Though heaven and earth pass away, "the word of the Lord endureth for ever" (I Peter 1:25). May we as God's believing children never doubt or disbelieve God's Holy Word.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Charles Thigpen is president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee.

Briefcase



Win 'Em Now or Pay Later

Jerem Futterman ran a one-room stockade on Lost Mule Creek in Alan Lemay's sprawling novel about the American West titled *The Searchers*. Futterman appears in the book briefly, but the cold-eyed killer starts a chain of events that stains the rest of the adventure.

Lemay draws a terse word picture of Futterman as he stares across a plank-and-barrel counter at the two heroes. "Had he been born a cow-horse you might have bought him, if you liked them mean, and later shot him, if you didn't like them treacherous."

After that description, the reader is not surprised eight pages later when Futterman and a couple of hired guns try to ambush the good guys while they slept. Needless to say, he got what was coming to him during a midnight shootout in a gully.

Perhaps Jerem Futterman or one of his close relatives lives near you. What makes the Jerem Futtermans of this world easy to remember is that they're so different from most people. There are remarkably few (though they get a lot of publicity) who exist in order to cheat, steal, kill, deceive, lie or take advantage of others.

For instance, Nashville newspapers ran numerous stories about the crime

increase last fall. Baffled police finally got a break when one cocaine addict admitted to more than 250 burglaries.

No, the city didn't have 250 new burglars. What it had was one real bad, real active coke head with a \$500-a-day monkey on his back. And he gave a lot of good people a bad name.

My first reaction was, why didn't some Sunday School teacher reach that young man when he was six or eight? We either spend time winning them to Christ or we spend more time and money arresting them. We either go after them with the gospel or send a cop after them with a gun.

On the other hand, just because a person starts out wrong doesn't mean he has to stay wrong for the rest of his life. Take the 6th grader's report card issued in 1884 that's now in a Fullerton, Missouri museum.

The frustrated teacher wrote on the report card about the boy, "He cannot be trusted to behave himself anywhere." He had been late for school 20 times. Another place on the card the teacher wrote, "Very disgraceful," and "Very Bad." The teacher also penned a note to the boy's parents, "...conduct has been exceedingly bad. He is not to be trusted to do any one thing."

And just who was that 6th-grade terror? Take heart, parents, for the bad boy was none other than Winston Churchill.

Here's the point. If we lose a "good boy" out of Sunday School at age six, he may become a one-man crime wave by the time he's 20. If we reach a "bad boy" with the gospel who can't be trusted in the 6th grade, he probably won't become Winston Churchill, but he can become a good citizen, a Christian

father, a godly influence in the community.

Can God, the Bible, Sunday School, prayer and Christian teaching really make that kind of difference today? You bet your life!

D.L. Moody was preaching in a southern city about the value of the Bible in a person's life when he was interrupted by the loud voice of a man from the audience.

"Mr. Moody," he mocked, "I do not believe a word of that collection of old wives' tales you call your Bible."

"My dear brother," Moody replied, "there is one verse in the Bible you are forced to believe—'Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.' If a man sows wheat, he does not reap potatoes or peanuts. Take the saloon keeper, for example. He sows drunkards, and he will reap drunkards."

The audience broke into applause as the man sat down. Mr. Moody did not know the man. But the audience knew he was a notorious, long-time atheistic saloon keeper. All his children, both sons and a daughter, were drunkards.

What will it be for us? Do we spend our time ambushing the Jerem Futtermans and chasing cocaine addicts? Or do we invest our time taking the gospel to 6th graders?

Those we win to Christ build churches, establish Christian homes and provide the fabric of a nation. Those we miss steal our cars, burgle our homes and jeer at us through drunken stupors.

God makes losers winners. The Bible changes the hateful to the grateful. This is a great day to take the truth and set them free.



The Salvation Experience



By Evangelist Nate Ange

Many people think that one day God will weigh all our good deeds on one side and all our bad deeds on the other. If the good outweighs the bad, then we go to Heaven, but if the bad outweighs the good, then we are sentenced to Hell. But that's wrong according to the Bible. No one can earn Heaven by good works (Titus 3:5). The good news is that God's gift of salvation has already been paid for through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Salvation includes forgiveness of sins and the guarantee of an eternal home in Heaven. It can be yours as you place your faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior. Confusion results when we misunderstand the commonly used Bible word "believe." Most people believe in God, and multitudes believe everything the Bible says about Jesus Christ. But many of those same people are unsaved.

There are two kinds of faith—an intellectual faith and saving faith, which is believing with the heart. The difference between the two is about eight inches, the distance from the head to the heart.

God is interested in your heart. Listen to the Bible, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." Christianity is a matter of the heart. Unlike

all other religions of the world, Christ works from the heart on the inside to the life on the outside. In the scriptures, the heart means the whole man. It includes the mind, the emotions and the will.

In 1858, Charles Blondin, the world's greatest tightrope artist, attempted to walk an 1,100-foot tightrope stretched over Niagara Falls. Crowds from Toronto and Boston gathered to watch as he balanced a 40-pound pole in his hands and crossed the rope to the other side. The crowd cheered. But then Charles Blondin proposed that he carry someone on his back on the return trip. The crowds grew silent. Only one man, Henry Colcord, was willing to trust him.

To receive God's gift of eternal life in Heaven, you must not only give mental assent to the facts about Jesus Christ, but you must trust Him as your only hope of Heaven.

Five simple Bible facts are all you must know and understand in order to be saved. Act on these truths from the Bible and you can know for sure that you will go to Heaven when you die. The Bible is a road map that clearly marks the way to Heaven.

All Have Sinned.

The first truth: All men are sinners. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." "All" means that every man is a sinner. "Sinned" means to disobey God or not be as good as God. The "glory of God" means God's perfection and holiness.

Let's suppose that you sin three times a day—one thought, one word, one action. The average person sins more than three times a day. Three sins a day times 365 days per year multiplies to more than 1,000 sins per year. If you are 20 years old, that totals 20,000 sins. How would you like to stand before a judge being guilty of 20,000 crimes? But today you stand before God guilty of thousands of sins.

Penalty for Sin.

The second truth: There is a penalty for sin. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

"Wages" means something earned such as a penalty. "Death" means separation. Physical death means separation of the body from the soul. Spiritual death means separation of a person from God. This death took place when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden (Romans 5:12).

Eternal death is referred to in contrast to eternal life. Eternal death is described in the last book of the Bible, Revelation 21:8, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." This horrible punishment begins when a person dies as a sinner.

When a criminal breaks the law, if brought to justice, he must pay the penalty. Because God is holy and just, He must punish sin. However, God loves us so much that He in His wisdom provided a way for sinners to be pardoned.

Jesus Died for You.

The third truth: Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for your sins. Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

"Commendeth" means to demonstrate or to prove. "Christ" means the Anointed One. Jesus was God in the flesh, born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life. When He died on the cross at Calvary, He was not paying for His sins (for He had none), but suffered for your sins and mine. God the Father approved the sacrifice of Christ by raising Him from the dead. Christ is alive and in Heaven!

John Griffith at one time was controller of a great drawbridge that



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Nate Ange is a full-time Free Will Baptist evangelist based in Knightdale, North Carolina. He graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1977.

spanned the Mississippi River. He operated levers which raised the bridge to allow ships to pass beneath and which lowered the bridge to permit the trains to cross over. One day John brought his little boy, Greg, to work with him, and was telling him exciting stories about the Mississippi. Suddenly they heard the whistle of a train. John had forgotten the passenger train from Memphis.

He rushed across the catwalk to the control tower. As John glanced down to make sure there were no ships in passage beneath the bridge, he saw something that caused his heart to leap into his throat. His son, Greg, had fallen off the catwalk and into the gears that moved the drawbridge. With 400 passengers aboard the approaching train, John knew what he had to do. He threw in motion the levers that lowered the bridge so the train could pass. His son was crushed to death between tons of grinding steel. The train passed and the passengers saved. In a much greater way, God sacrificed His Son on Calvary so that you might be saved.

Gift of Eternal Life.

The fourth truth: God wants to give you the gift of eternal life. Romans 6:23b, "But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Salvation is a gift. You can't earn it and don't deserve it. You must take it as God's gift. Just as you would receive a gift from a loved one, you must by faith receive God's gift of eternal life through His Son, Jesus.

Trust Jesus.

The fifth truth: Trust Jesus Christ as your Savior. Romans 10:9 says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

To "confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus" means to acknowledge Him as the Son of God and the rightful Master and Ruler of your life. To "believe in thine heart" means that with your whole self—mind, emotions and will—you make the decision to turn from sin to complete trust and obedience in Jesus Christ. "Thou shalt be saved" means that God will, without a doubt, save you when you put your faith in His Son.

Trusting Christ is like the man who wants to swim but cannot until he first trusts the water to hold him up. You cannot save yourself by effort. You must

trust Christ alone to save you, and He will give you power to live a new life.

Trusting Christ is like the young bride who, believing the love and promises of her groom to be true, on her wedding day commits her life and future to him at the marriage altar. It is not enough to believe the facts about Jesus; you must be willing to commit yourself to Him. Jesus Christ wants you to trust Him today. He waits at the door of your heart (Revelation 3:20).

Will you today trust Him with all your heart? Will you receive Him as the One who can forgive and cleanse from sin, and who alone can give you eternal life?

If you will trust Him, you can seal that commitment in prayer. Romans 10:13 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." By a definite act of your will, put your trust in Christ. Ask Him to save you, and He will!

My Decision

Dear God,

Realizing that I am a sinner and believing that Jesus Christ the Son of God died and rose for me, I now receive Him as my personal Savior, and turning from all else, I put my trust in Him alone to save me.

Name _____

Date _____

Christ Event . . . (from page 3)

givenness and life when the confrontation of sin is transformed into the commitment of faith. Then the glorious experience of life in Christ flowers as the believer begins to delve into the mysteries of the gospel and finds that life, truth and hope are wrapped up in Christ Jesus.

Yogi Berra's statement, "It ain't over until it's over," takes on special meaning for the person who walks with and lives for the Lord. While He is the eternal, unchanging Christ, He is eternally new for the child of God, and the ancient event is forever current.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Jim Shepherd is president of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, Oklahoma. He holds an M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Th.B. from Hillsdale FWB College. He also serves on the Sunday School and Church Training Board.

The Destiny of Men

By Earl Hendrix



Does death end all? From the world's earliest morning, the thought of man was linked to a longer chain of time than that between the cradle and the grave. There is a strange fascination about the question, "After death, what?" And not simply because death is the universal experience; there are deeper reasons.

The Bible teaches that God made man and He made him for Himself. God is eternal. He has no limitations. He made man in His own image, to

think His thoughts. If we are His children, we shall dwell with Him forever. God placed in man a permanent tendency to believe in immortality. There has never been an age or condition in which man has not given evidence of this tendency to believe that we shall live after death.

Life After Death

Job, in perhaps the oldest book in the Bible, asked questions about death and the destiny of his soul. "If a man die,

shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come" (Job 14:14). Since the sin of Adam and Eve and their banishment from the Garden of Eden, the human race has been seeking answers.

Recent years brought a rash of books about people who died and came back with glowing testimonies about life after death. This is not a point of agreement or disagreement; the point is that there seems to be a keen interest in life hereafter.

The question before us, as thoughtful people, is "Shall I live again—being myself and not another?" How do we find an answer to this? We must go to the source and find the answer.

God, who made man and brought him into existence (Psalm 100:3) also gave man a Book that gives "... doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Job asked the question in 14:14, but he had the answer in 19:25-27, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me."

Every person, according to the Word of God, will live in one of two places after death. Jesus said to the Christian, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3).

Then Jesus said, "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:43-44).

According to Jesus Christ, there are only two places a person can go when he dies—Heaven or Hell. There is no scriptural teaching of purgatory or soul-sleep.

Heaven

The Bible teaches that saved people—those who trust Christ as Savior, who confessed that they are sinners and need Jesus Christ to come into their hearts, who ask forgiveness, who by faith become the children of God—will go to a place called Heaven.

The Place

Some general ideas held about Heaven are not found in the Word of God. Because Heaven is beyond the limits of our vision, many regard it as merely a sphere of life or a state independent of locality.

But Heaven is a place. It was the dwelling place of Christ before His incarnation (John 6:38). Heaven was also the place to which He ascended after the resurrection (Luke 24:51). It is where the glory and power of God are set forth. Jesus is there now (Hebrews 8:1; John 14:2).

The Location

The Bible mentions three heavens: the aerial, the siderial and the celestial. The first heaven mentioned is where the birds fly. The second is the stellar or sidereal heavens from which shine the stars and constellations. Finally, there is a third Heaven, the celestial or "the Heaven of heavens" (II Chronicles 6:18; Hebrews 9:24; Matthew 5:16).

The Inhabitants

The society of Heaven will be select. If anything ought to make Heaven near to Christians, it is knowing that God and all their saved loved ones will be there. What is it that makes home, home?

Kathryn Lee, daughter of missionaries Sherwood and Vada Lee, said in an article written for the South Carolina state paper, *The Informer*, "Home for me is Doropo, Ivory Coast." There are many things that make home, home. The one that was important to Kathryn Lee was where her parents lived.

Heaven will be cherished because Jesus is there. The book of Revelation describes the beauty, riches, happiness and rewards of Heaven. Is it not strange that Christians do not take up the Bible

to study more about the abode of the blessed dead who die in the Lord? We can know the truth about Heaven from God's Word, and we can be certain that the descriptions of the Christian's future home are accurate.

D. L. Moody told of a man whose only child died. The accompanying sorrow almost broke his heart. Before he suffered the loss, he had never given serious thought to life after death. Shortly after the child was buried, the man's friends were surprised to see his deep interest in the Bible. He read it continually. When asked about his sudden interest, he answered that he was trying to find out something about the place where his boy had gone. He had gone to the only source of reliable information.

An instant after death, the departed saint will know more about Heaven than all of the saints here on earth. But until we are called home to be with the Lord, our knowledge is confined to what the Holy Spirit has revealed in the Bible.

Hell

As surely as there is a Heaven for the redeemed, there is a literal Hell for those who reject God's love gift to mankind. The eternal punishment of the unsaved is one of the most solemn doctrines in the Bible. Furthermore, we are aware of the fact that this subject is unpopular. Since those memorable days when Jonathan Edwards preached that moving sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," the doctrine of eternal retribution has gradually gone into obscurity.

The Theories

According to J. Patterson-Smyth in his book, *The Gospel of the Hereafter*, there are three theories which people hold today: (1) the theory of everlasting torment; (2) the theory of universalism; and (3) the theory of conditional immortality.

The Explanations

Free Will Baptists believe that "the wicked will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" with the Lord Jesus Christ. So we believe the first statement or theory by Dr. J. Patterson-Smyth is not a theory but is what the scriptures teach.

The second theory holds the idea of universal redemption, that Christ died

for all men alike. Therefore, they conclude, all men alike will be saved in the end.

The third theory is built on the error that all who do not receive everlasting life with Christ will die as the animals and be annihilated or wiped out of existence. It contends that immortality is conditional upon receiving the gift of everlasting life with Christ.

Another theory popular since liberalism made its way into some churches is the restoration or restitution theory. This view appeals to the universalist, in that it does not deny that all men are lost, but that sometime, somewhere, all creation (including Satan and the fallen angels) will be restored or reconciled to God after a time of restitution.

We hear it said that God is too loving, merciful, kind and good to allow people to suffer in Hell. But often, those who make that statement do not base it on the Bible but on emotions. God has given every person ample opportunity to accept His Son as Savior and be delivered from Hell.

The Counsel

To use an old phrase that still has true meaning: "You and I have Heaven to gain and Hell to shun." To every believer in Christ, there is something that God puts within that quickens our hearts as we look to our blessed hope.

However, believers are also saddened by the thought of people rejecting Jesus Christ and realizing their ultimate destination is that place called Hell. That is why we continue to share the gospel with those who are lost, whether they want to hear or not.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Earl Hendrix pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Inman, South Carolina. He serves as moderator of the South Carolina State Association.

30 Years of Excellence

By Richard Terry

Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College was born 30 years ago out of a need to provide trained leaders for hometown Free Will Baptist churches in Oklahoma. That goal has not changed through the years except that the boundaries have expanded well past the state lines of Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma State Association, while convened at Ada in October 1958, voted unanimously to establish Oklahoma Bible College which was later to become Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

The name change reflected both the increased curriculum and the regional nature of the institution. Instead of being a college designed primarily for those preparing for full-time Christian service, it became a college of arts and sciences emphasizing both biblical and general education studies.

Historic Start

A brief look at that 1958 convention as reported by *The Ada Evening News* reveals that some legendary names in Free Will Baptist history participated in this monumental event.

Rev. Delbert Akin was host pastor at the Ada Church; Harry Staires of Drumright was moderator; Rev. Bob Duncan was clerk. Dr. I. W. Yandell, Rev. W. S. Mooneyham and Rev. E. E. Morris were keynote speakers.

Rev. John West, who became the college's first president was chairman of the state Christian Education Board that recommended to the convention the formation of Oklahoma Bible College.

The doors opened for the first time February 3, 1959, at First Free Will Baptist Church in Tulsa with 54 students enrolled and the pastor Rev. John West as president.

After a short time, the school moved to the South Grand River Association campground at Wagoner, and became more centrally located when it moved to the educational facilities of Northwest Free Will Baptist Church in 1961.

After a brief sojourn at Capitol Hill Free Will Baptist Church, the state Christian Education Board began negotiating for the sale of four lots in south Oklahoma City and the purchase of 39 acres located south of Moore.

Permanent Campus

Rev. Wade Jernigan was instrumental in locating and obtaining the land. He was one of the pioneers in efforts to establish a college for Oklahoma Free Will Baptists. This noted evangelist and pastor served the college in numerous capacities through the years and remains dedicated to providing quality education for Free Will Baptist young people and adults.

The college began operating on its permanent campus during the fall of 1966, and by 1970 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education had issued accreditation for the A. A. program. On July 1, 1971, the name of the college was changed to Hillsdale. The original 39-acre site now has 14 college buildings and the state headquarters in addition to athletic facilities for softball and baseball.

Included are the John H. West Administration Building, the activities building which houses the gymnasium, cafeteria, student center and music department. In 1985 the Geri Ann Hull Learning Resource Center / classroom building which includes the library was added to the complex. Yandell Hall, Barnard Hall and the Randall / Palmer complex provide housing for both married and single students.

Regional Flavor

Even though the college is owned and operated by the Oklahoma State Association of Free Will Baptists, it is truly a regional college by virtue of the fact that its 15 trustees are elected from Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Its students, however, come from across the nation

and around the world. The college has had an obvious impact on the entire denomination.

"The sun never sets on the alumni of Hillsdale."

Accreditation has become an ongoing project at Hillsdale. The two-year Associate of Arts degrees include business, pre-elementary education, Christian education, music, biblical studies, English, church music, missions and general studies.

The OSRHE granted approval in 1972 for the business program and the third year pastoral internship program. The B. A. in theology was added in the fall of 1972 and the first graduating class walked across the stage in May 1974.

A wide range of campus organizations contribute to the total educational experience and enhance college life. An intercollegiate athletic program exists for both men and women. Hillsdale is a member of the National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association.

Creative Education

In addition to the traditional classroom programs, Hillsdale offers an external studies program, the purpose of which is to make available to non-resident students courses similar to those taken by students on campus. These courses may be counted up to one-fourth of the number of hours required to earn a degree.

Non-credit courses are also offered through the external program. Students not wishing to earn a college degree may earn a Certificate in Bible. This program has increased in popularity and nearly 100 students are enrolled at this time.

Hillsdale is dedicated to helping students afford a Christian education. A comprehensive program of financial aid has been structured consisting of such resources as federal and state government programs as well as supporting churches, foundations and individuals. In addition to the federal and state financial aid programs, there are 37 scholarship programs available to students with approximately \$175,000 disbursed annually to qualifying students.

Prime Directive

While all these qualities are important to the college student, they are not the focus of the college. The heartbeat of Hillsdale remains the three M's: ministry, missions and music.

Hillsdale has trained more than 100 pastors who now labor around the world. Some 26 Hillsdale alumni staff missions work in 11 countries on five continents. The college's graduates also serve as ministers of Christian education, youth and music. Others fill a variety of leadership positions in churches across the country, not the least of which is one vital to the future of Free Will Baptists—pastors' wives.

Hillsdale views itself as a support ministry for the local church while providing quality education in a distinc-

He is a 1975 graduate of Hillsdale with a B.A. in Theology and an M.Div. from Southwestern Theological Seminary in 1979. He has pastored in Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

To commemorate its 30 years of ministry to Free Will Baptists, Hillsdale plans a year of celebration with a number of special events. The *Hillsdale Founders Club* has been established as part of this special celebration. Even though the college was founded 30 years ago, people can still become founders through the Founders Club.



**Hillsdale alumnus
Jim Shepherd,
the college's
eighth
president.**

tively Christian environment. The Hillsdale experience has proven to be an opportunity for discovering God's will. The reinforcement of Christian values provides the stability needed to function in a rapidly changing secular society.

Hillsdale makes no apology for teaching Free Will Baptist doctrine and practice, and training young people to be leaders in Free Will Baptist churches.

At graduation, most students have a strong sense of direction and commitment to doing God's will in their lives. The college's graduates are characterized by a strong commitment to evangelism and church growth as evidenced by the number of missionaries, pastors and church leaders who have been trained.

New Leadership

A unique event in the history of the school occurred in January when an alumnus, Rev. Jim Shepherd, was inaugurated as the school's eighth president.

For a gift of \$30, representing one dollar for each year the college has been in existence, anyone can become a charter member, and receive a lapel pin, certificate of recognition and have his name recorded in a special register at the college.

Charter memberships will be available throughout the calendar year. Anyone wishing to participate may send a check to Hillsdale for \$30 earmarked Hillsdale Founders Club, P. O. Box 7208, Moore, OK 73153.

With modern facilities, new leadership, a growing and influential alumni and fresh commitment to denominational service, the future for Hillsdale looks even brighter as it prepares to enter the next century.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Richard Terry is director of development at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, Oklahoma.

Who Qualifies to Serve?



By Doug Little

Ability is not a high priority when God looks for someone to serve Him. In fact He seems to delight in selecting those least likely to succeed as instruments of His work.

What God does look for is availability and faithfulness. All the qualifications we possess are of no use to God if we refuse to get involved in ministry. Search the scriptures and you'll discover that the folks used of God weren't all that gifted; they were willing to let God use them. Capability is never the issue in serving the Lord, but availability is.

God doesn't look for people who are sure to be successful either. He'd rather use someone who's sure to be faithful. The scriptures describe our role as one of planting and watering the seed, assigning the responsibility of results to God. Anybody can be faithful to his assignment, and that's all the Lord expects.

Serving the Lord is everyone's privilege. He seeks those willing to be used and who follow through with their assignments. Are you serving the Lord in the local church? The greatest



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

DEPARTMENT SETS SPRING ENLARGEMENT CAMPAIGN

NASHVILLE, TN—The Sunday School and Church Training Department announced "Press for the Prize" as the theme for the Spring Enlargement campaign scheduled for March. Pastor Fred Hall of East Nashville Free Will Baptist Church authored the campaign based on Philippians 3:14.

The campaign will begin Sunday, March 5 and end Sunday, March 26. Each Sunday will feature a special emphasis:

Week one—"Vision Sunday"

Week two—"Vitality Sunday"

Week three—"Valiant Sunday"

Week four—"Victory Sunday"

Sunday School officials said, "If your church has never taken part in one of these campaigns, why not join with churches from across the denomination in this spring's campaign? The present

rewards will not be presented to those who best qualified for the job or those who got the most results, but to those whose availability and faithfulness allow God to use them to do His will for His glory.

If you are involved in local church ministry, I encourage you to serve in the Lord's strength. Accomplishing God's work cannot be done in the power of the flesh. Be faithful to your task and trust God to produce the harvest.

If you are not serving in a regular local church ministry task, I challenge you to make yourself available. Maybe you're not gifted, but you can be available. Maybe you're not sure you can get results, but you can be faithful.

size of your church does not limit your opportunity to win this contest." The divisions used for competition are as follows:

Division A over 500 average

Division B 400-499 average

Division C 300-399 average

Division D 200-299 average

Division E 150-199 average

Division F 100-149 average

Division G 50-99 average

Division H under 49 average

Division I newly established

Awards will be presented to the first and second place winners in each division.

Campaign materials are available from Randall House Publications, P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

All campaign entry blanks must be received no later than March 3, 1989.

HOME MISSIONS BOARD STATEMENT

NASHVILLE, TN—Rev. and Mrs. Bill Adkisson resigned as national home missionaries to Albuquerque, New Mexico, in May 1986. They were neither dismissed nor pressured to resign by the National Home Missions Board or staff.

The only funds they received from the National Home Missions Board were for salary, itinerate expenses and cost of moving to the field.

The church was closed when the Adkissons left. The property was sold and the money used to repay the National Home Missions Department for expenditures in the purchase of the property and to assist with the work of Home Missions. The Adkissons received no money from the sale of the property.

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

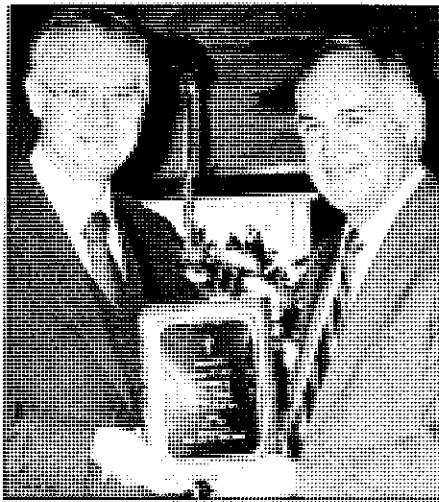
RADIO STATION HONORS NORTH CAROLINA PASTOR

GOLDSBORO, NC—Pastor George Lee received a plaque from radio station WGBR recognizing his 15-year radio broadcast. Station sales manager Bob Hill presented the plaque to Pastor Lee during the morning worship service at Victory FWB Church.

Reverend Lee began the five-minute daily broadcast October 1, 1973. The award came after 4,085 consecutive programs.

Pastor Lee was named "Pastor of the Month" by another local radio station, WFMC. That honor resulted in a 20-minute interview on the air and several gift certificates.

The 57-year-old minister graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College. He began pastoring in 1954 as a home missionary to Nebraska. He has since pastored in Tennessee and North Carolina. Lee has held numerous denomina-



George Lee (R), Bob Hill

tional positions including 12 years on the Sunday School Board and five years on the Historical Commission.

HYMN BOOK TO COST MORE

NASHVILLE, TN—The price of *REJOICE: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* will rise to \$9.98 per copy effective April 15, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington. The Executive Committee authorized the price increase during their December 6, 1988, meeting after the All-Boards Conference.

The hymn book sold for \$7.98 per copy during the first full year after its printing. However, effective April 15, the per copy price will be:

Regular Hymnal—\$9.98

Loose-leaf Hymnal—\$21.98

Leather Bound Hymnal—\$51.98

Dr. Worthington reported that 44,939 new hymnals had been sold as of November 28, 1988. In order to purchase copies of the hymnal at the original \$7.98 price, orders must be received by April 15, 1989.

Order from:

Randall House Publications

P. O. Box 17306

Nashville, TN 37217



CHURCH HONORS CHARTER MEMBERS AT HOMECOMING

MARION, VA—More than 200 people attended homecoming activities at Adwolfe FWB Church in Marion, according to Pastor Tommy Street. The highlight of the church's 35th anniversary focused on honoring the homecoming king and queen—Luther Farmer and Hazel Wyatt.

Pastor Street said, "We chose these two precious people because they are charter members of Adwolfe FWB Church. Both are in their 80's, and each has been faithful for over 35 years."

The church prepared special plaques and flowers for the honorees. Pastor Street said, "Our homecoming dinner was in honor of Luther Farmer, Hazel Wyatt and their families."

The Adwolfe Church is a member of

Virginia's John Wheeler Association in the Northeastern Quarterly Meeting.



Pastor Tommy Street (L), Luther Farmer, Hazel Wyatt, Jeanette Street

EVERGREEN CONFERENCE REPORTS PROGRESS

EAST WENATCHEE, WA—The Evergreen Conference of Washington state met October 28-29, 1988, in East Wenatchee, Wash., at Victory FWB Church for their annual meeting. The conference, a member of the Northwest Association, includes churches in Washington and British Columbia, Canada. Registration reported 43 delegates, pastors and visitors attended the meeting.

Moderator Terry Stafford said, "In just over a year there have been two new Free Will Baptist churches started and one reopened in the conference. The conference meets three times a year and also sponsors a family camp. Dr. Daniel Parker and Rev. Tom Hunt spoke at this year's meeting."

Moderator Stafford further reported that Rev. Lloyd Plunkett went full time at New Hope FWB Church in Kent, Wash.

Rev. Mike Gaggia reopened the Vancouver FWB Church in Vancouver. The church, under the direction of the Northwest Mission Board is called the City FWB Church.

Rev. Charles McKinney is working to open the only Free Will Baptist church in the western two-thirds of Canada. He lives in Surrey, British Columbia, a suburb of Vancouver, B.C.

340 ATTEND ALABAMA MEETING

DOTHAN, AL—Ninety-six ministers registered at the 69th annual Alabama State Association. They were joined by 52 lay delegates, 24 deacons and 168 non-delegates at the November 10-12 gathering hosted by first FWB Church in Dothan. Delegates re-elected Moderator John Edwards.

Four sermons, three by Alabama pastors, focused the state association emphasis on preaching. Pastor Tom Malone delivered the keynote address Thursday evening. Other sermons by Pastors Donnie Hussey and Jack Rollins, and FWB Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington completed the agenda.

The Thursday Ministers and Deacons Meeting featured theme messages by Richard Hendericks (*The Preacher—His Preaching*), Ron Edgil (*The Preacher—His Practice*), and Milton Fields (*The Preacher—His Prohibition*).

The 1989 state association will meet November 9-11 at First FWB Church in Florence.

115 ATTEND ALL-BOARDS CONFERENCE

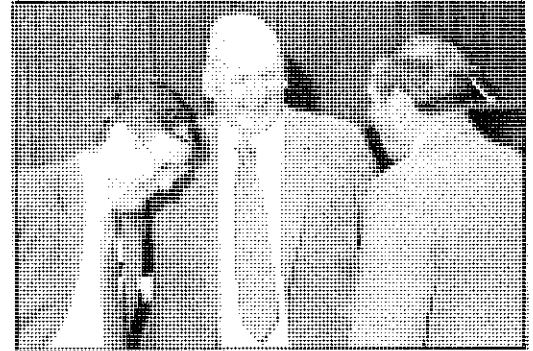
NASHVILLE, TN—The second biennial Free Will Baptist All-Boards Conference met December 5-7 at the Days Inn Executive Center in Nashville, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington. More than 115 board and commission members as well as staff personnel gathered for the conference.

National Association Moderator Ralph Hampton chaired the five plenary sessions before the individual boards and commissions met to conduct business. The conference theme focused on "Relationships and Responsibilities." Board members' relationships to the denomination, the department and the director highlighted the Monday evening session. Tuesday morning board members' responsibilities to read and understand audits, and to grasp legal obligations concluded the plenary addresses.

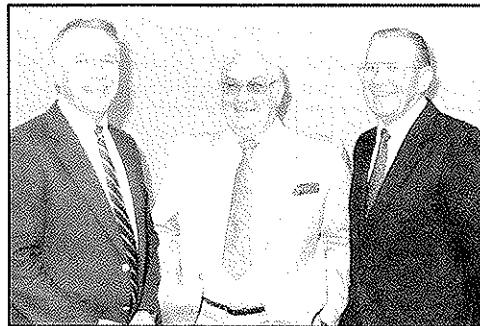
Foreign Missions Board Chairman Bill Jones told the group, "Board members do not run the denomination. They are accountable to the denomination in their far-reaching decisions."



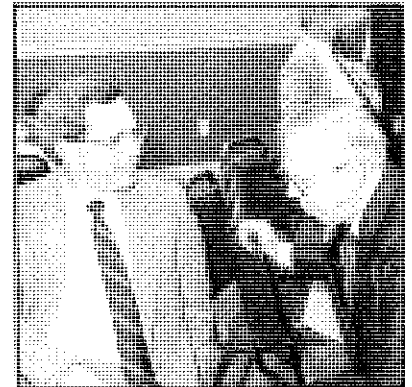
Moderator Ralph Hampton



Trymon Messer, Rue Dell Smith, Connie Cariker



Joe Grizzle, Doice McAlister, Paul Kennedy



Hillsdale President Jim Shepherd, FWBBC President Charles Thigpen

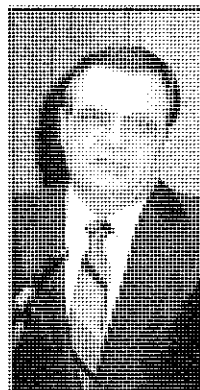


Malcolm Fry

Rue Dell Smith, chairman of the Home Missions Board, said, "As board members we need to guard the doctrines and the distinctives of the denomination. We are Free Will Baptists. We do not need to masquerade under another name."

Malcolm Fry, member of the Sunday School and Church Training Board, urged conferees to put an end to the misconception that "the board includes numerous first-rate people doing a second-rate job."

Tuesday morning, accountant Terry Hill led the board members step-by-step through an audit, and explained how to interpret the professional language.



Bill Jones

Later, Ron Barber, a lawyer and a member of the Board of Retirement, fielded questions from the assembled board members as he clarified their legal obligations.

Ten denominational boards and commissions participated in the December meeting including the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention Executive Committee. Most of the boards completed their business by Wednesday.

Executive Secretary Worthington said he hopes the stimulating conference will result in serious orientation sessions for board members.



General Session

GEORGIA ADOPTS \$440,000 STATE BUDGET

NORMAN PARK, GA—Delegates to the November 17-19 Georgia State Association approved a \$440,000 budget proposal for 1989 that will distribute funds equally between Georgia state ministries and national ministries.

Most of the \$220,000 budgeted for in-state work will be channeled through three ministries: State Missions (\$97,000), Camp Mt. Bethel (\$30,000) and State Office (\$60,000). Three ministries will also receive most of the national outreach funds: Foreign Missions (\$82,000), Free Will Baptist Bible College (\$70,000) and Home Missions (\$47,000).

Moderator Ron Wallace led 175 registrants through three days of activities at Norman Baptist Assembly which

included 11 sermons and devotionals, four major resolutions and a Bible Conference. Six men spoke on the association theme "The Growing Church"—Larry Powell (Nashville, Tenn.), Preston Bryan (Brunswick), Glenn Thomas (Moultrie), Bud Hill (Lake Butler, Fla.), Jack Lysaker (Dublin) and Charles McNeese (Cochran).

Mrs. Mabel Willey keynoted the Woman's Auxiliary worship session. National Master's Men Board member Tim Jordan spoke at the Master's Men Breakfast. Marty McWilliams and Ralph Lightsey joined Larry Powell on the Bible Conference program.

In other action delegates voted to "register our dissatisfaction" over the materials selected by the state of Georgia for students in mandatory sex-education classes. Delegates also resolved to stand in silent prayer in memory of the late Rev. Samuel Wilkinson, former missionary to Brazil from Georgia.

The 70-page *Digest of Reports* included a three-page appendage on "Free Will Baptist Church Autonomy." The appendage addressed the autonomy of local churches in contrast to mission works' dependency on parent bodies. The appendage also decried the trend among some mission works to repudiate their denominational responsibilities.

The 1989 state association will meet November 16-18 at Norman Baptist Assembly.

The 1989 state association will meet November 16-18 at Norman Baptist Assembly.

1989 State Association Meetings

STATE	DATE & TIME	PLACE & ADDRESS	STATE	DATE & TIME	PLACE & ADDRESS
ALABAMA	Starts: November 9 Closes: November 11	First FWB Church 2701 Florence Blvd. Florence, AL 35630	MISSISSIPPI	Starts: November 3 Closes: November 4	Martin Hill FWB Church Route 5, Box 111-A Booneville, MS 38829
ARIZONA	Starts: May 13 Closes: May 13	Heritage Temple FWB Church 919 E. Guadalupe Road Gilbert, AZ 85234	MISSOURI	Starts: June 5 Closes: June 8	Lebanon Community Center Lebanon, MO
ARKANSAS	Starts: August 15 Closes: August 17	Camp Beaverfork P. O. Box 1404 Conway, AR 72032	NEW MEXICO	Starts: April 20 Closes: April 21	Faith Memorial FWB Church 403 North 8th Street Carlsbad, NM 88220
ATLANTIC CANADA	Starts: June 29 Closes: July 2	St. John Valley Bible Camp Route 5, Hartland N. B., Canada E0J 1N0	NORTH CAROLINA	Starts: June 5 Closes: June 6	Swannanoa FWB Church 200 Park Street Swannanoa, NC 28778
CALIFORNIA	Starts: May 18 Closes: May 20	Village Chapel FWB Church 1825 North Central Ceres, CA 95307	NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION	Starts: May 26 Closes: May 27	Linneus FWB Church Route 4, Box 221 Houlton, ME 04730
FLORIDA	Starts: November 1 Closes: November 3	Ebenezer FWB Church 4111 S.W. 4th Miami, FL 33130	NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION	Starts: May 12 Closes: May 13	First FWB Church 1390 45th Avenue N.E. Salem, OR 97301
GEORGIA	Starts: November 16 Closes: November 18	Norman Baptist Assembly Norman Park, GA 31771	OHIO	Starts: June 22 Closes: June 24	Heritage Temple FWB Church 2295 S. High Street Columbus, OH 43207
IDAHO	Starts: May 12 Closes: May 13	Airport Road FWB Church 800 Washington Street South Twin Falls, ID 83301	OKLAHOMA	Starts: October 16 Closes: October 19	West Tulsa FWB Church 930 West 23rd Place Tulsa, OK 74107
ILLINOIS	Starts: March 17 Closes: March 18	Butterfield FWB Church P. O. Box 981 Aurora, IL 60507	SOUTH CAROLINA	Starts: February 16 Closes: February 17	First FWB Church 90 Blackstock Road Inman, SC 29349
INDIANA	Starts: June 16 Closes: June 17		TENNESSEE	Starts: November 13 Closes: November 15	Oak Grove FWB Church 604 Vance Drive Greeneville, TN 37743
KANSAS	Starts: June 15 Closes: June 17	First FWB Church 1720 East 6th Avenue Emporia, KS 66801	TEXAS	Starts: June 7 Closes: June 9	Templo FWB Church P. O. Box 90 Weslaco, TX 78596
KENTUCKY	Starts: June 16 Closes: June 17	Auxier FWB Church FLOYD County Auxier, KY 41602	VIRGINIA	Starts: June 15 Closes: June 16	First FWB Church 1019 Gus Nicks Blvd. N.E. Roanoke, VA 24012
MARYLAND	Starts: June 22 Closes: June 24	Truth FWB Church 150 Little Avenue New Oxford, PA 17350	WEST VIRGINIA	Starts: June 9 Closes: June 10	Ward Road FWB Church Canvas, WV 26662
MICHIGAN	Starts: May 19 Closes: May 20	Woodhaven FWB Church 26191 Allen Road Woodhaven, MI 48183			

The **Whaley Memorial Scholarship** has been established at Free Will Baptist Bible College in memory of the late Reverend **Lee Whaley**. The scholarship, to be funded by friends and family of Lee and Ethel Whaley, will be awarded annually during graduation exercises to a student or students in missions and/or music. The recipient will be selected by the chairmen of the music and missions departments at the college and based upon merit, scholastic achievement, Christian character and financial need. Although the amount of the scholarship may vary from year to year, it will not be less than \$300.

The **Oklahoma State Mission Board** announced that **Mike Fields** began work in January to build a new church in **Hugo**. Brother Fields previously pastored the Lake Area FWB Church, Cleveland, OK.

Pastor **Wayne Bookout** reports 29 conversions, 15 new members and 11 baptisms at **Blackwell FWB Church, Blackwell, OK**.

Members of **Lafayette FWB Church, Stigler, OK**, celebrated their 75th anniversary. **Dale Wendlandt** pastors.

Frank Young called for the Oklahoma State Mission Board to organize a new church in **Okemah** last October. **Berton Perry** led the organizational meeting. **Wade Jernigan** preached the afternoon message. The first act of the 33 charter members was to call Frank Young as pastor. Members had already adopted the Cooperative Plan.

Pastor **Joe Blair** celebrated his 13th year at **Southwest FWB Church, Oklahoma City, OK**. He also notched his 40th year in the ministry while the Southwest Church celebrated 30 years of service to the community.

Pastor **John Meade** reports a tent revival to end all tent revivals at **Southwest FWB Church, Columbus, OH**. The four-week meeting resulted in 73 salvation decisions. The church started two new choirs.

Members of **Trinity FWB Church, Columbus, OH**, surprised Pastor **Clifford Ball** with a fellowship dinner in his honor. The church also reports 10 conversions and four baptisms.

A new converts class began at **Wyandotte FWB Church, Mansfield, OH**, for good reason. The church reports 24 conversions, 18 baptisms and 17 new members. **Hertis Stone** pastors.

Pastor **Gerstel Dickenson** reports 14 conversions and seven baptisms at **Divine FWB Church, Cleveland, OH**.

Lockbourne FWB Church, Lockbourne, OH, reports nine conversions and 11 new members. **Bert Miller** pastors.

Pastor **Robert Nelson** has a new desk, thanks to members of **Amherst FWB Church, Amherst, OH**. Members gave Pastor Nelson the desk at a pastor appreciation day.

The **Ohio Minister / Layman Retreat** January 31 - February 2 featured eight speakers, according to Ohio Executive Secretary **Alton Loveless**. Speakers for

the Big Prairie Retreat include **Tom Dooley, Willie Booth, Roy Roach, Lucian Baker, James Lilly, Wayne Keith, Danny Widdig** and **Keith Perkins**.

Eleven seniors at **Free Will Baptist Bible College** were selected for inclusion in the 1989 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*, according to Robert Picirilli, dean. The 11 included five students from North Carolina, three from Tennessee and one each from Virginia, Kentucky and Illinois. Criteria for the nominees included spiritual maturity, academic performance, leadership, extracurricular activities and potential for future success.

Pastor **Bill Johnson** said the church board at **Moore FWB Church, Berryville, AR**, approved the purchase of a church van. The van, to be used in the church's outreach ministries, will supplement or replace the larger church bus.

The 13th annual **Mid-South Pastors and Workers Conference** is set for February 13-15 at **South Highland FWB Church, Muscle Shoals, AL**. Conference speakers include Evangelist **Van Dale Hudson**, Oklahoma pastor **Rue Dell Smith**, FWBCC staffer **Bob Shockey**, and assistant director of Foreign Missions **Fred Warner**.

Pastor **Rick Cason** said three good things happened at **Bethany FWB Church, Timmonsville, SC**. First, the church paid cash to pave the parking lot. Second, their revival resulted in three conversions, five new members and 30 other decisions. Third, the church started printing a monthly newsletter titled *The Bethany Beacon*.

Five laymen spoke to the congregation at **Hazel Dell FWB Church, Sesser, IL**, on Layman's Sunday. The speakers included **Danny Kirk, Bill Cockrum, Larry Eubanks, David Harrison** and **Jim Robbins, Gene Outland** pastors.

Pastor **Dan Martin** reports nine new members at **Waltonville FWB Church, Waltonville, IL**.

Contact welcomes *The Voice*, publication of **Red Bay FWB Church, Red Bay, AL**. **Tom Scott** pastors.

Super Sunday at **First FWB Church, Guin, AL**, resulted in 799 in attendance and 21 conversions. **Richard Cordell** pastors.

Members of **Arbor Grove FWB Church, Hoxie, AR**, conducted their first service in their new building last fall. The 50 x 100 - foot metal building contains 11 Sunday School rooms, a fellowship hall, baptistry, a 192-seat sanctuary and an overflow area. Pastor **Glynn Campbell** reports 19 conversions and a record attendance of 174.

Tough on the Lottery

By Alton Loveless

Ohio's lottery had reached its highest jackpot with more than \$31 million luring residents. The excitement of sudden wealth was even taking a toll on church people.

The day before the drawing a young man visited my office to seek my opinion about what he had just done. "I only bought a one-dollar ticket," he said, defending his action, "I waste more than that every day."

He told me he had promised God that if God allowed him to win the \$31 million he would give half to the Lord's work and even assured me our office would be on his list. He finally came to the point of why he wanted to talk to me. He wanted me to ease the guilt he had for doing what he had and asked if I thought God approved.

I began my response by asking, "You want to know if God condones the lottery?"

"Well, yes!" he supposed.

I said, "What you really mean is that if you win, you believe this would be God putting His stamp of approval on the lottery."

Again, "yes."

Since I knew his chances of not winning the lottery were far greater than him being struck by lightning, I answered by asking "Will you also accept the fact that if you don't win that God is against the lottery?"

Astonished, he turned and said, "You sure make it tough."

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Alton Loveless is Promotional Director for the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Stewardship of Possessions

Part IV

Giving to the Poor

"... I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink ... I needed clothes and you clothed me ..."
(Matthew 25:35-36 NIV).

God is concerned with your attitude toward possessions: how you earn money, how and why you give, and how you care for the poor. Here are short summaries of biblical principles. Check out your giving to the needy.

Be careful of your attitude toward the poor, of any feelings of hostility toward them. Do not harden your heart toward them. Do not sin by giving to them grudgingly. Give freely and God will bless you in all you do (Deuteronomy 15:7-11).

For the rich and the poor have one thing in common: God made them both. When you oppress or mistreat the poor, you are mocking and insulting God, their maker. When you are kind and gracious to them, you are honoring God, their maker (Proverbs 22:2; 14:31).

Whenever you give to the hungry and needy it is the same as giving to Christ. Whatever you withhold from them, you withhold from Christ. If you fail to give to the poor, you fail to give to Him. You will be held accountable

(Matthew 25:35-46).

Therefore, don't sin against God by closing your eyes to their needs. Be kind and merciful to them, and share your food generously. You will be blessed and happy. You will never lack (Proverbs 14:21; 22:9; 28:27).

Do you prefer giving to the rich, to those who have? Beware, you will surely come to want (Proverbs 22:16).

If you have two coats, share with a person who has none. Do you have food? Share with those who are hungry (Luke 3:11).

Do you have a relative who is without support or in need? Share what you have with him. God considers that your obligation. If you do not, you are worse than an unbeliever (I Timothy 5:4, 8, 16).

Are any fellow believers in need? Never neglect to do good and contribute to their needs. God is pleased with those kinds of sacrifices (I Timothy 5:16; Hebrews 13:16).

In God's sight this is pure and faultless religion, an evidence of true belief. For, it is not exhibiting true faith when you tell the needy who lacks clothes and food to keep themselves warm and

well fed without providing what they need (James 1:27; 2:15-16).

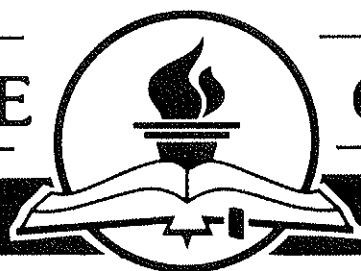
Don't just love in words. For how can you say you have the love of God in your heart when you see a fellow believer in need and will not share what you have (I John 3:17-18)?

You will always in every circumstance and need be able to have enough for yourself and an abundance for the needy. For as you give to the poor, God multiplies your resources for giving (II Corinthians 9:8-12).

For when you are gracious and generous to the poor, you are lending to the Lord. What you have given He will return to you (Proverbs 19:17).

Great blessings come to you when you pity the poor and give to them. God promises to deliver you in times of trouble, to preserve and keep you, to bless you, to strengthen you upon your sickbed, to bring good to you.

He promises you will never be shaken; you will be remembered forever; you will have no fear of bad news; in the end you will look in triumph on your foes; your righteousness will endure forever (Psalm 41:1-3; 112:5-9).



Available on Video

A Sunday School Revival

For 26 years Dr. Roger C. Reeds has traveled across the country conducting Sunday School Revivals and training institutes. He has visited hundreds of churches. Many have wished that there were some way that he could visit all our churches. At last, there is a way that he can do so, by means of the video tape.

Two tapes are now available. Each tape contains a sermon and a workshop. Tape number one has a sermon titled, "Why I Believe in Sunday School." In this sermon Dr. Reeds presents his convictions about the benefits of the Sunday School.

Following the sermon, he presents a workshop titled, "Components of

Teaching." He uses visuals extensively to present information about the teacher and the pupil. Teachers will benefit greatly from watching this topic.

Tape number two begins with a sermon on church growth called "Vital Vitamins for Sunday School Victory." This is a different approach to some tried and proven methods of growth.

This sermon is followed by a workshop on "Methods of Teaching." Ten different methods are presented and discussed. Primary discussion is given to coverage of the two most popular methods of teaching—the lecture and discussion methods.

These tapes are available from Randall House Publications for \$19.95 each or both for \$37.95. Take advantage of this presentation and bring Sunday School Revival to your church.

Teaching Techniques

Now you can have dynamic training for your teachers and leaders in the privacy of your own home or church.

To hear is good. To see is better. To hear, see and then discuss is even more beneficial. You can have these added

benefits with the new Randall House Training Videos.

Observe, listen and interact with Rev. Harrold D. Harrison in this video series on Teaching Techniques. He develops a sound biblical philosophy of Christian education and explains the basics for profitable teaching and learning.

The series was videotaped before a live audience during actual teacher-leader training sessions. This six hours of in-depth, experience-oriented training costs \$37.95.

The instructor has travelled extensively among Free Will Baptist churches during the past quarter of a century engaging pastors, teachers and other leaders in training sessions.

You and your church can benefit from the use of these power-packed training videos.

Decide today to call on the toll-free WATS line (1-800/251-5762, in Tennessee: 1-800/624-6538) and order your videos.

Tell Barbara or Helen that you want the series by Rev. Harrold Harrison on Teaching Techniques or the Sunday School Revival videos by Dr. Roger C. Reeds.



Directory Update

FLORIDA

Tommy Dubose to First Church, Panama City from Townley Church, Townley, AL

GEORGIA

Terry Pierce to First Church, Thomaston
Thomas Kirkland to Corinth Church, Iron City from First Church, Headland, AL

Mike Nelson to Landmark Church, Phenix City, AL

ILLINOIS

Clarence Porter to Oak Grove Church, Scheller

Burt Hall to Arnold View Church, Creal Springs from Loudendale Church, Charleston, WV

KANSAS

J. A. Barton to First Church, Wichita

OKLAHOMA

Willard Kipper to Watermill Church, Valliant

Bill Haynes to Central Church, Tulsa
C. L. Thomas to First Church, Weleetka
Mike Parrott to Murry Spur Church, Spiro

Muril Wilson to Hawkins Church, Alex

SOUTH CAROLINA

Ricky Walker to First Church, Emoree

OTHER PERSONNEL

Danny Conn to Maranatha Church, Ardmore, OK, as youth minister

Donnie Horne to First Church, Inman, SC, as bus pastor and youth pastor

Jeffrey Hart to Peace Church, Florence, SC, as assistant pastor



Ninth Annual Writers' Conference

May 19, 20, 1989

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MINI GRAMS

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

The Department Pages

... And One to Go!

Phoenix, Arizona—Target City Update

By Roy Thomas

The first city for the Target City Project adopted by the National Association was *Phoenix, Arizona*. The goal was to send five couples to start five new Free Will Baptist churches in Phoenix by the time the National Association meets there in July 1990. So far, four couples have been employed as home missionaries to the fast growing Phoenix Valley. We need one more couple.

Paul and Marilyn Thompson, the first Target City missionaries, have begun a day care at Heritage Temple FWB Church in the Phoenix suburb of Gilbert. This special ministry has enabled their church to win several new families to Christ.

Howard and Patsy Gwartney, the second couple, have faced opposition from city officials in this Mormon stronghold. Their church, the East Valley FWB Church of Mesa, was evicted from the rented building by the fire marshall. The congregation finally found another meeting place and had to spend \$3,000 to bring it up to city approval for occupancy.

Alvis and June Paul have moved into a larger meeting place in Glendale. Their church, the West Valley FWB Church, also rents because property is so expensive in the Phoenix Valley. They recently had a record attendance of 98.

Larry and Sherry Reynolds, the fourth couple, are now raising support to move to the Phoenix suburb of Chandler. They will be fortunate to have an "Aquila and Priscilla" couple who plan to move with them. Carlos and Becky Perkins from Phenix City, Alabama, will assist the Reynolds with the establishment of this new Free Will Baptist church.

One more couple is needed to complete the Target City Project. Will you pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth this couple?



Howard and Patsy Gwartney



Paul and Marilyn Thompson



Larry and Sherry Reynolds



Alvis and June Paul

ABOVE ALL

More Men

Master's Men provides a unique organization for Free Will Baptist laymen. Its purpose and program appeal to men. The organization is designed to help laymen find their niche in the Lord's work. Many Free Will Baptist churches do not have Master's Men chapters. Others sponsor men's fellowship groups which meet regularly but have not been organized into official Master's Men chapters. Every Free Will Baptist church needs an active Master's Men chapter. The benefits are well worth the effort for the men and the ministers of the local church, district, state and national association.

Master's Men provides opportunity for Free Will Baptist laymen to be included, involved, instructed and inspired to fulfill their potential. The need for fellowship, friendship and functioning with other laymen can be useful in spiritual development. Team work guarantees advances in the Lord's work. Master's Men provides unlimited opportunities for Free Will Baptist laymen to develop leadership skills and encourage laborers in the Lord's vineyard. Church construction, ushering and security during national conventions, local church outreach all call for the resources of Master's Men.

Master's Men needs Free Will Baptist men and Free Will Baptist men need Master's Men. The work is worthy. I believe in Master's Men. Men need an organization which provides opportunities for them to fulfill their obligations to the Lord's work extending from the local, to district, to state to the national and around the world. Master's Men can be that organization. Pastor, lead your church to start a chapter. You will be pleased with the results. Master's Men can become a valuable, visible, and viable force in the National Association of Free Will Baptists with your prayers, promoting and participation.

—Melvin Worthington
Executive Secretary

National Association of Free Will Baptists

The 1987 Layman of the Year ...

- ... is faithful in church visitation.
- ... is a consistent witness at his place of work.
- ... is faithful to support evangelism through personal involvement.
- ... is an Adult Sunday School teacher.
- ... is church song leader.
- ... is a deacon.
- ... is secretary / treasurer of his Master's Men chapter.
- ... is program chairman of his state Master's Men.
- ... is assistant moderator of his quarterly meeting.
- ... is a member and treasurer of the Board of Conference and Itinerate Ministries in his state association.
- ... served as recreation director for Christian Camp.



- ... assisted in conducting state Pastors and Workers Conference.
- ... helped plan and conduct the state Master's Men retreat.
- ... travels across his state to help organize other Master's Men chapters.
- ... coaches a city league boys baseball team.
- ... attends First Free Will Baptist Church, Pearl, Mississippi.
- ... is George A. Kimbrow. His wife is Kay.

TAKE THE SHIELD!



Herman L. Hersey
Director



Board of Retirement

AT YOUR SERVICE

Pension Fund Contributions Salary Reduction Agreement Contributions

There are three ways contributions may be made to an individual's retirement account:

- (1) Employer
- (2) Employee—salary reduction agreement
- (3) Employee—personal

The following questions and answers deal with employee Salary Reduction Agreement (SRA) contributions. Questions on employer contributions were answered in the January 1989 issue. Questions on employee personal contributions will appear in a later issue.

1.) What is an SRA?

It is an agreement signed by the employee and the employer that reduces the employee's salary by a stated amount. This amount is sent to the employee's retirement account.

2.) Who sends the money?

It must be an employer check. Employee checks cannot be credited to the salary reduction agreement.

3.) What is the purpose of an SRA?

It gives the employee the option to lower his taxable income now. Another purpose is to build up his retirement account.

4.) When are taxes paid on SRA contributions?

They are usually paid when received at retirement. However, the annuity check of an ordained member is designated

housing allowance and is tax-free income at retirement. Any lump sum withdrawal is taxable the year it is received.

5.) Does the employer list the amount on a W-2 or 1099 form?

No.

6.) Does the employee list the amount of SRA on his 1040 income tax form?

No.

7.) Can an employee have an SRA if his employer is also making contributions?

Yes. The combined total of SRA and employer contributions may not usually exceed 20 percent of salary. The Internal Revenue Code makes provisions for "make-up" contributions for older employees who did not have the advantage of a pension plan in their younger years. Write the retirement office for a form to determine if you may have an SRA that exceeds 20 percent of salary.

8.) May the employee withdraw SRA funds before retirement?

Yes, but there is a substantial penalty. The funds are taxable immediately, and the employee may not make additional tax-deferred contributions for a period of three years.

9.) May the employee borrow on SRA funds?

Yes. After three years as an active member of the pension plan, he may borrow up to 50 percent of the accumulated member contributions or \$50,000, whichever is less. The loan must be repaid in five years with regular payments.

10.) How often should an SRA be completed?

Under a new internal revenue ruling, the agreement remains in force until it is terminated or amended.

11.) How is an SRA terminated?

The employee signs a form that the agreement is no longer in force.

12.) How often may it be amended?

It may be amended only once every calendar year.

13.) How do I get an SRA form?

Request a form from Board of Retirement, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisheart



From My Window

"Earth, air, water, fire—these are the ingredients of pots and human beings alike. And each formula contains also the elements of chance.

"Do not seek perfection in pots or people, for your search will go unrewarded, and you will miss knowing many good pots and many good people."

Titus and Euple Riley, owners of Peppertown Pottery, near Tupelo, Mississippi, use this saying on their business cards.

In each human being there is something lovely and wonderful—hints of God's design and purpose for mankind. Well, of course, in some of us, you may have to scratch down deeper to find the beautiful. Still, it is there.

Often, though, I'm tempted to write people off without even bothering to look below the surface.

"I can't stand the way she dresses." Discard. "His voice grates on my nerves." Forget him. "She is too quiet."

Makes me feel nervous. "He talks too much." I can't carry on a decent conversation with him. "They're not like us." Write them off.

At what point do you discard people? Is there really a person who should be discarded?

Perhaps I'm missing out on a jewel of a person simply because I've crossed her off my list.

What are my expectations for those I let into my circle?

Amy Carmichael wrote in *His Thoughts Said. . . His Father Said*: "Do we expect sand to be rock? Iron to be steel? Cane to be oak? To do that is to expect what we cannot be. It is to be unjust."

Why overlook a jewel searching for perfection?

WNAC's February Project: Foreign Student Scholarship

Last semester \$1,134 went to Ede, Ramon and Carlos, students from Mexico enrolled at Free Will Baptist Bible

College. All money coming to this fund before May 10 will also be applied to these students' accounts.

**National Project
Eunice Edwards Loan Fund**
November 30, 1989—\$18,185.19

Provision Closet Now Receiving

The Provision Closet has had missionaries enough so that any of the usual items will be welcome now.

Women responded well to the plea for deficit accounts, but needs still exist both in home and foreign missions accounts.

You Have a Special Invitation

All district Auxiliary presidents and field workers have a special invitation to the president and field workers meeting, Monday, July 17 in Tampa, Florida.

The meeting is usually planned for state leaders. This year, however, district leaders are also included. See that your district is represented, either by these two officers or their representatives. Officers will gain new insights and ideas, hear about future plans and receive new challenges.

Co-Laborer Back Issues Available

The first issue of the new-look Co-Laborer came out in January 1987.

Did you miss out on some issues?

A limited quantity of back issues for 1987 and 1988 are available. Contact WNAC, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202 to ask about prices and request issues.



PULSE of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions



Advance Receipts Top \$500,000!

By Jimmy Aldridge
Advance Coordinator

It was a great blessing to all of the foreign missions team to see receipts to the Advance Celebration go over the \$500,000 mark in October 1988.

A dream is coming true and Free Will Baptists from across the United States and overseas are making it happen. God is enlarging our vision toward helping to develop the churches we have planted in nine countries of the world.

Three Bible institutes have been established with help from Advance funds.

Already, three Bible institutes have been established with help from Advance funds. Films, copiers, projectors, and other tools have been supplied and are at work reaching people for Jesus and discipling believers. These are also being used in training national leaders.

Thirteen missionaries have been sent, two are on deputation, and five couples are under consideration as we go toward our goal of 30 new missionaries by the end of 1990. Advance funds will help to get them there.

New church buildings have

been built in St. Nazaire, France, and in the Ai No Sato suburb of Sapporo, Japan. Property and a building have also been bought in Betania, Panama. And many projects, such as the Willey Memorial Chapel in Cuba, are awaiting our help.

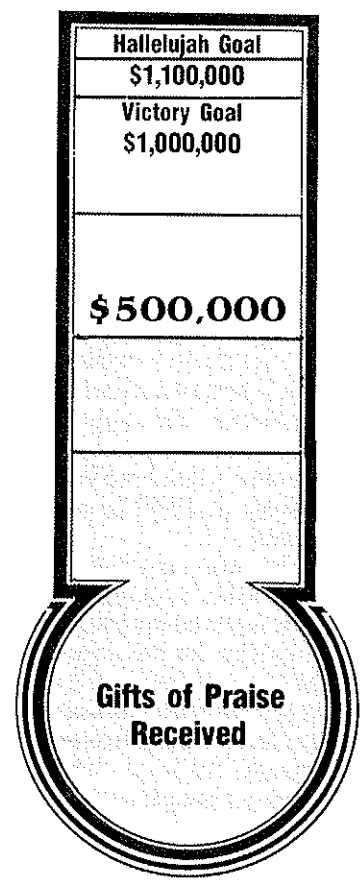
North Carolina is presently launching its state-wide Advance Celebration. A steering committee headed by state Advance coordinator Sam Truett has been selected. Other members include Dennis Wiggs, Tom Lilly, Bill Robinson, Frank McQuage, and William Calvert. These are assisted by state moderator Dann Patrick and foreign missions board member Dean Dobbs. Two planning sessions have already been held.

North Carolina is presently launching its state-wide Advance Celebration.

Five regional training sessions are set for the week of January 8-14, 1989. The actual celebration will begin in North Carolina churches February 12 and Victory Sunday will be March 26.

Our aim is to help all Free Will Baptists praise God for His bless-

Three Year Goal



ings over the past 50 years of overseas ministry. We also want to express our gratitude by giving \$1,000,000 to help our emerging national churches put down roots in their culture.

All gifts are important to this tremendous celebration! The nickels, dimes, and quarters being given by children in their Sunday school classes are significant. But some people have been able to make large contributions. One family has made a \$16,500 gift. So, as we do what we can in honor of our Lord, each of us plays an important role in reaching our goal.

And we will reach the mark if each person who has made a praise promise will faithfully seek to fulfill his commitment.

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

Personal Evangelism 100

One on One Witnessing

"The biggest fear in soulwinning is 'How do I get down to asking people the serious, spiritual questions?'," says Rev. Roy Harris. He ought to know. He served as a soulwinning pastor before he returned to Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1987 to serve as a student dean.

But he also teaches Personal Evangelism 100, a course in soulwinning that is required for every student. In that capacity, he has concentrated this semester on helping each of his 88 students get over their fears of witnessing. "Just knowing the Romans Road is not enough," he says. "There must be a plan to get people to the Romans Road."

Rev. Harris calls the plan "One on One". He developed it from several programs of soulwinning and church building. It consists of four basic steps:

1. Engage in small talk. Pay a sincere compliment. "You have a lovely home."
2. Inquire about the person's church background in a non-critical way. "Do you attend a church in this neighborhood?"
3. Inform them about your church.
 - a. If he has already attended your church, ask his impressions.
 - b. Ask, "Did you notice anything different about our people?"
 - c. Ask, "Do you mind if I tell you what is different about them?"
 - d. Describe the Christian's relationship to Jesus Christ.
4. Ask the important questions.
 - a. "How are things between you and the Lord?"

- b. "Have you come to the place in your life that you know for certain that, if you should die now, you would be with the Lord in Heaven?"
- c. "Would you mind if I show you how you can know for certain?"

From that point, the Romans Road or any similar outline of the plan of salvation could be used naturally. "I am sold on the One on One approach to soulwinning," Mr. Harris says.

Personal Evangelism 100 has made a significant impact on the students.

At the beginning of the semester, Mr. Harris had every student place the names of two unsaved people in an envelope. He told them to make these people a matter of daily prayer and to look for an opportunity to witness to them. Kelly, a freshman from Decatur, AL, wrote down the name of a friend who desperately needed the Lord. She wrote to or talked to him on the phone frequently. One night she told him that she was praying that he would be saved. He responded, "I knew someone was, because I gave my heart to the Lord last week."

Billy, who has pastored for 15 years, says that he learned how to witness in "the school of hard knocks," but that the Evangelism course has been outstanding. He holds a monthly service in the Clarksville County Jail. He led six men to the Lord one Sunday afternoon and three more at his next visit. He says that, upon release, they have been attending church as well. "One comes to my church every Sunday, even though it is more than 10 miles from where he lives," he says.

Dana, a freshman from Sesser, IL, had never led a person to Christ and admits she was nervous about it. She is a member of a group that goes each week to hold a Bible club for children at the Women's Rescue Mission in Nashville. Several weeks ago, Joe, an eight-year-old boy, came to her after the Bible club and asked her to show him how to be saved. "I almost cried," she says. Within a few minutes, she won Joe to the Lord. The next week, she won two more children, including Joe's older brother. "I'm not scared to witness anymore," she says.

Sammy, a sophomore from Houston, TX, was on his way back to the dorm when he saw a Public Works employee working his way along the median that runs the length of the campus on Richland Avenue. "At first, I just passed by," he recalls. "Then, the Holy Spirit prompted me to go back and talk to him." He struck up a conversation and, before long, presented the plan of salvation. The worker prayed with Sammy and asked the Lord to save him. Sammy says, "Evangelism class has done two things for me. It has made me more aware of lost people and it has given me more confidence when I witness."

Steve, a freshman from Missouri, led a backslidden friend back to the Lord on the telephone. "Evangelism class taught me the scripture verses I needed," he said. "I just used what I learned from Mr. Harris."

Personal Evangelism 100—it's more than just another course. It's changing lives at Free Will Baptist Bible College—and beyond.



William M. Pinson, Jr., *Ready to Minister* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1984, paperback, 131 pp., \$4.95).

More Christians in recent years have recognized the importance of good leadership. Churches must have good leadership if they are to win souls, evangelize the world and edify the saints. Likewise, denominations and other religious organizations must have good leadership if they are to be successful.

Effective leadership does not come easily. It requires maturity, experience, the ability to solve problems, and a variety of other elements. It comes through training, study, growth and development.

Broadman Press published this volume in the Broadman Leadership Series. The books are designed to assist ministers and others in leadership positions in churches and religious organizations in developing their own leadership skills.

This volume is the first in the series. It examines the kinds of attitudes, skills, talents and abilities which Christian leaders need. Dr. Pinson begins by examining the leader's relationship with God. He concludes this portion of the book with these words, "Knowing and responding to his written Word, believing in and patterning life after our Heavenly Father, trusting and obeying God's Son, being open and responsive to God's Spirit provide much of the base on which our ministry should rest."

In the second part Pinson's book reviews ways in which a leader acquires the necessary knowledge. Good leadership cannot be built on ignorance; good leaders must always be good learners. Learning skills such as studying, observing, experiencing, listening, remembering, contemplating and praying are essential for the Christian leader.

The author reminds us that many skills needed for leadership are also needed for life. Thinking, planning, organizing and managing, cooperating, decision making and communicating are essential in life as well as in leadership. Leaders in God's work must

develop appropriate skills in these areas.

This volume also points out that good leadership is largely a matter of attitude. An effective leader must have a healthy attitude toward God, toward himself and toward those with whom he works. As Pinson explains, "Generous, hospitable, trusting ministers are more useful in God's service than those who are

greedy, selfish, and suspicious." Leaders who are positive, optimistic, joyful and confident are much more effective than those who are negative, pessimistic and apprehensive.

Many excellent Christian books are published each year. Once in a while a real gem comes forth, and this is one of them.



Cooperative Channel Contributions November 1988

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	Nov. '87	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 133.27	\$ 20.00	\$ 153.27	\$ 189.19	\$ 6,028.92
Arizona	.00	580.70	580.70	.00	1,291.56
Arkansas	61.00	3,810.15	3,871.15	5,109.04	50,642.93
California	.00	1,844.46	1,844.46	667.39	15,811.51
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	490.42	3,348.36
Florida	16.52	587.65	604.17	2,157.10	20,947.74
Georgia	5,405.85	1,508.98	6,914.83	9,835.14	91,053.02
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	342.40	490.15
Illinois	5,324.18	808.23	6,132.41	6,319.89	96,685.11
Indiana	.00	.00	.00	2,295.08	5,454.28
Kansas	.00	50.68	50.68	72.03	907.56
Kentucky	.00	197.65	197.65	161.19	1,406.86
Maryland	.00	267.50	267.50	119.00	4,500.54
Michigan	4,914.65	3,563.75	8,478.40	4,924.47	61,576.69
Mississippi	49.20	659.48	708.68	.00	6,564.83
Missouri	8,741.77	.00	8,741.77	7,134.41	76,901.01
New Mexico	6.76	3.38	10.14	.00	257.30
North Carolina	1,025.77	1,138.35	2,164.12	1,599.81	20,224.86
Ohio	828.00	2,070.00	2,898.00	6,184.40	47,727.10
Oklahoma	25,861.26	7,877.49	33,738.75	34,552.68	389,187.33
South Carolina	7,989.84	.00	7,989.84	12,609.26	113,981.86
Tennessee	1,159.35	884.18	2,043.53	2,385.92	24,987.61
Texas	6,868.67	697.32	7,565.99	6,951.24	85,736.06
Virginia	209.71	10.00	219.71	425.00	4,452.38
West Virginia	1,365.49	74.44	1,439.93	1,789.38	25,247.11
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	545.98
Northwest Assoc.	.00	30.62	30.62	.00	223.64
Other (Computer)	.00	.00	.00	.00	.39
Totals	\$69,961.29	\$26,685.01	\$96,646.30	\$106,314.44	\$1,156,182.69

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 2,319.23	\$15,826.52	\$18,145.75	\$17,782.06	\$ 199,603.24
Foreign Missions	46,118.62	2,497.46	48,616.08	58,006.13	633,039.66
FWBBC	4,133.57	2,497.46	6,631.03	6,736.91	78,790.60
Home Missions	13,142.75	1,954.53	15,097.28	16,196.32	166,485.49
Retirement & Insurance	299.58	1,520.19	1,819.77	2,582.03	18,604.65
Master's Men	519.66	1,411.62	1,931.28	1,678.58	19,768.01
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	60.45	108.56	169.01	168.20	1,822.73
FWB Foundation	438.07	651.52	1,089.59	645.91	9,838.43
Historical Commission	53.22	108.56	161.78	166.31	1,782.24
Radio & TV Commission	137.62	108.56	246.18	196.31	2,149.20
Hillsdale FWB College	2,210.39	.00	2,210.39	1,734.13	20,202.15
Other	528.13	.03	528.16	421.55	4,096.29
Totals	\$69,961.29	\$26,685.01	\$96,646.30	\$106,314.44	\$1,156,182.69



ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

Bye," said Grandma and Grandpa Lane as Daddy, Mama, Marty, Megan and Jeff left in the station wagon.

"Drive carefully, Peter," called Grandma Lane. "There's a storm brewing."

"I will," answered Mr. Lane. "But the skies are clear—perfect day for traveling." The Lanes had enjoyed a good visit with their grandparents, but now it was time to go home.

After about an hour of traveling, the blue skies clouded, then turned grey. "Look!" cried Jeff. "It's snowing."

At first it was fun to watch the snow swirling past the windows as the car sped down the highway. But before long a real storm was underway.

"I'm having trouble seeing," said Mr. Lane squinting his eyes. He slowed the car.

"Is this a blizzard?" asked Megan.

"I'm not sure," said Mrs. Lane. "Whatever it is, though, I don't like it. Peter, don't you think we ought to find a place to spend the night?"

"Let's see what the weatherman says," said Mr. Lane.

He turned on the radio and through the static heard the weather report. "Sleet and snow are expected to last through the

day and into the night for the entire state with possible accumulation of six inches. All roads are dangerous and the current temperature is 10 degrees."

"We'll stop at the next motel," said Mr. Lane.

"Fredericktown—one mile," said Marty, reading a sign. "Maybe there's a motel there."

There was.

"Your name, sir?" asked the desk clerk.

"Peter Lane, but . . ." stammered Mr. Lane.

"Lane . . . Lane . . . Lane. . . I don't seem to be able to find your name," replied the clerk as he glanced down his guest book. "Don't you have a reservation?"

The Lanes drove on in silence.

Graffenville, the next town, was only 12 miles down the road. But it took the Lanes an hour to get there. A neon sign blinked on and off from the only motel in town, "NO VACANCY."

"I'm tired," moaned Megan.

"I'm hungry," added Marty.

"I scared," said little Jeff, about to cry.

An hour and a half later Mr. Lane pulled into the town of Ogden. He tried their third motel.

"I'd like a room for five, please," he said.

"What's the name?" asked the desk clerk, reaching for his guest

book. "Do you have a reservation?"

"Well, no," answered Mr. Lane, "but I didn't plan on a blizzard. We've got to have a room."

"I'm sorry. If your name's not in my book, I can't help you," replied the clerk.

"Where's the next motel?" asked Mr. Lane reaching for the telephone.

"Pleasant Hill," answered the clerk. "But the phone's dead."

Mr. Lane plodded wearily through the snow to the car. The children were tired and fussy. Mr. and Mrs. Lane were tense. But they had no choice. On they trudged, slow as turtles.

After two hours they came to the town of Pleasant Hill. Mr. Lane spotted the motel and turned into the parking lot.

"Do you have a room?" he asked the desk clerk.

"Do you have a reservation?" asked the clerk.

"No, I tried to call, but the phones were dead in Ogden," said Mr. Lane. He was getting desperate.

"If you don't have a reservation, I don't have a room," said the clerk. "But you're welcome to use the phone. The Pine Cove Resort over in Bigsly may have a room."

Mr. Lane called. Soon he was smiling. "I'll take it," he said into

the receiver. "The name is Lane. We'll be there in about an hour."

The Lanes headed for Bigsly. A couple of times the car slid on the slick roads, but Mr. Lane managed to keep it on the road. The twins saw four collisions, six abandoned cars and seven vehicles stuck in ditches. The "hour" they had expected it to take to get them to Bigsly turned into two, then three.

At last they turned into the Pine Cove Resort.

"I'm sorry," said the desk clerk. "Since you weren't here by five o'clock, we had to let your room go."

Mr. Lane stomped through the storm back to the car. He told the others what had happened.

"We'll have to keep going."

"Let's at least get something to eat," suggested Mrs. Lane. "The children are starving."

There was one small cafe in the town of Bigsly. The Lanes ducked their heads into their coats and fought the snow and wind. The owner, a lady named Flo, was the only one inside.

"Well, I'm glad you stopped in. I wasn't looking forward to spending the night here all alone."

"What?" gasped Mrs. Lane.

"Haven't you heard?" asked Flo. "The highway department has closed the roads. You'll have to spend the night here."

Flo cooked them some hamburgers and then listened as Mr. Lane asked the blessing. "Thank you, Lord, for keeping us safe. Thank you for providing this food and this shelter. And thank you most of all for Jesus who died to reserve us a home in Heaven. Thank you that our names are in the Book of Life and that when

we get to Heaven, we won't be turned out. Amen."

"Amen!" echoed three hungry little Lanes. "Let's eat."

During the night Mrs. Lane had trouble sleeping. She heard a noise in the kitchen and went to investigate. It was Flo crying.

"What's wrong?" asked Mrs. Lane, putting her arms around Flo's shoulders.

Flo told her, "I can't sleep. I'm not ready to die. When I heard your husband praying tonight, it scared me. I haven't made my reservations for Heaven, and I don't know how."

Mrs. Lane got a Bible from her

purse and showed Flo how to be saved. Then they prayed. Flo asked Jesus to forgive her sins and live in her heart.

Mrs. Lane and Flo talked through the night and watched the sun rise over the snow-covered town. Soon salt trucks and snowplows were out and the roads were clear enough for the Lanes to travel home.

"Bye, Flo," called the children.

"Bye, Flo," said Mrs. Lane, giving her a tight hug. "If I never make it to Bigsly again, I'll see you in Heaven."

"You sure will," answered Flo with a smile. "I've made my reservations!"

When it Snows

By David Copeland

For those occasions when we receive enough snow that it's unsafe to venture outside, here are four suggestions for those who suffer from cabin fever.

Use it as a time for rest. In our hustle and bustle world there are rare times when things slow down enough to allow for resting and refreshing. If we don't take advantage of them we will pay a heavy physical toll.

"All work and no play" will not only make Jack a dull boy, it could also make him a *dead* boy. Rest is commanded by God. We'll do well to follow His advice.

Use it as a time for recreation. For younger couples this could be a great opportunity for spending time with your family. Build a snowman; go sledding; start a snowball fight. Anything that you can do together as a family, do it. Remember, parents, to kids, love is spelled T.I.M.E.

Use it as a time for reaching. Reaching out to help others. Calling on the elderly. Picking up their groceries. Shoveling snow for them. Not only should we reach out to senior citizens, but also to sinners. A kind deed for that lost neighbor or friend might just be the open door through which you can reach them with the gospel.

Use it as a time for reflection. Reflect on the forgiveness and grace of God. The winter landscape is ugly and dead.



There's nothing appealing or attractive about it. But snow transforms that dreariness into picture postcard scenes.

So it is with the life of the sinner. Sin has caused him to be spiritually unappealing and unattractive. But Psalm 149:4 says that the Lord "will beautify the meek with salvation." How will God do it?

Like snow, the blood of Jesus causes the scenery of his soul, which was once the picture of ugliness and sin, to become something beautiful. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...."

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



Green Tree Bible Study



Robert E. Picirilli

Hebrews 6:4-6

Hebrews 6:4-6 and the Possibility of Apostasy (Part 1)

Naturally, those who do not believe that a genuine Christian may depart from the faith ("apostatize") have their way(s) of responding to a key passage like this. Many of them say that the people described here were not really saved, not truly regenerated.

F. F. Bruce, for example, compares these to people "immunized against a disease by being inoculated with a mild form of it . . . something which, for the time being, looks so like the real thing that it is genuinely mistaken for it." How do we answer that approach?

By careful exegesis of the passage. There are four clauses that describe positive experiences that the people had. The question whether they were truly saved depends on the meaning of those clauses.

(1) *They were "once for all" enlightened.* The Greek verb (*photizomai*) means to give one light or bring him into light. The very same description is used again in 10:32, where (as here) there is no reason to doubt that it is deliberately used as a synonym for being converted. The enlightenment referred to is spiritual enlightenment, the movement that the Bible often calls from darkness to light (cf. II Corinthians 4:4).

Note also the "once" (Greek *hapax*), which is used throughout Hebrews in the sense of "once for all" (9:7, 26, 27, 28; 10:2; 12:26, 27). It always points to something complete, not something partial or inadequate.

(2) *They tasted of the heavenly free-gift.* Right off, you will hear someone point out that the verb "tasting" may be something less than a full experience.

They may also observe that, in Greek, it is followed here by a *genitive* rather than an *accusative* object, which—they insist—can mean that they only tasted of the gift rather than experiencing it fully.

The trouble with this objection is that it overlooks the way the Greeks used the words. Even for full-fledged eating, they could use this verb (see Acts 10:10, for example). More important is the way the writer of Hebrews used the construction: in 2:9, using the same verb and the same kind of genitive object, he says Christ *tasted* death. And no one would wish to say that Jesus only partly or incompletely experienced death.

And what is the "heavenly free-gift"? Interpreters give different answers: salvation, eternal life, forgiveness of sins, the Holy Spirit, Christ Himself. But all of them are ways of referring to the genuine conversion experience.

(3) *They became partakers of the Holy Spirit.* Partakers (Greek *metochoi*) literally means "to have together with." It refers to sharing in common, participating in. The writer of Hebrews uses the word several times, throughout the work, to refer to Christians' common possession of, or participation in, things related to their salvation: in 3:1, "partakers" of the heavenly calling; in 3:14, "partakers" of Christ Himself; in 12:8, "partakers" of the discipline that distinguishes true children of God from bastards.

To have the Holy Spirit in common with other Christians certainly marks one as a true Christian. (See Acts

2:38-39 and Galatians 3:14 for just two of many passages that indicate that receiving the Spirit means to become a Christian.)

(4) *They tasted God's good word and the powers of the coming age.* Here is the verb "tasting" again, used in the same way as above (only this time with an accusative rather than a genitive object). Those thus described have experienced the good effects of the Word of God in their lives. They have likewise experienced the "powers" (Greek *dunamis*)—the supernatural workings—that are characteristic of the age to come in the here and now. Certainly this includes regeneration and the gift of the Holy Spirit, the initial powerful works of God that give Christians a present taste of the age to come.

Whether we take any one of these clauses by itself, or all four of them together, there can not be any real doubt that genuine Christian experience is being described. Indeed, even many Calvinists recognize this: Homer Kent, for example, is frank to say that he "doubts whether the same description if found elsewhere would ever be explained by these interpreters in any way other than full regeneration." He personally believes in unconditional security, but he has wisely realized that trying to deny the genuine Christianity of the people described by these four clauses is the wrong way to respond to Hebrews 6:4-6.

(Next month: another way of interpreting the passage.)



Missouri Youth Conference

The weather might have been cloudy and cold, but spirits were bright and warm at the first annual Missouri Youth Conference. The November 11-12 conference unfolded at the Assembly of God Camp near Lake of the Ozarks.

Officials registered 350 (280 youth, 70 adult sponsors). The "In The Center Of His Will" theme flowed through seminars, skits, music and special youth services.

Jonathan Thigpen, the featured speaker, shared with the youth in four sessions and also spoke to the adult sponsors.

Curt Gwartney, Neil Gilliland and Richard Vickers conducted seminars relating God's will to the family, everyday living and using talents. Toby Jenkins and Michael Walker conducted seminars for the adults.

Richard and Christie Vickers began the conference Friday evening with a musical concert. They also provided special music throughout the conference.

An air of excitement kept the youth involved in various conference activities. The agenda also included the usual late night fellowship time in the dormitories when none of the youth wanted to sleep.

Attendees took home imprinted souvenir tee shirts, but they took home more than that. Many spiritual decisions had been made; some for salvation, some for recommitment, others for acceptance of God's will. Already there's eager anticipation for the next conference.

The Missouri Sunday School/Church Training Board members did a

thorough job planning and promoting the conference. Board members include Chairman Edwin Bowden, Michael Walker, Curt Gwartney, Jeff Gaskins and Jack Keesling.

Board treasurer Jeff Gaskins said, "This is Co-op money at work." The conference was financed basically through the cooperative giving program of the Missouri churches. They made an investment in their youth and youth workers. Plans are underway for the second annual youth conference.

Georgia State Youth Retreat

The second annual Georgia State Youth Retreat met November 24-26 at Camp Mount Bethel south of Cordele, Georgia. Approximately 50 young people plus their sponsors attended.

The weekend extravaganza began Thursday evening with registration and supper. Following supper some zany activities gave everyone an opportunity to loosen up and get to know each other. Len Davenport, featured speaker, then talked to the young people about the body of Christ and their relationship to it. After the service a film was shown that revealed some comical bloopers and

blunders made in many sport activities.

The following day began with a group devotional time. The morning was filled with exciting learning times led by Len Davenport from the Youth Ministries Division of Randall House and Mark Stripling, youth pastor at First FWB Church in Savannah.

The afternoon was filled with group games and crazy sporting events. The highlight of the afternoon was the campers versus the sponsors basketball game.

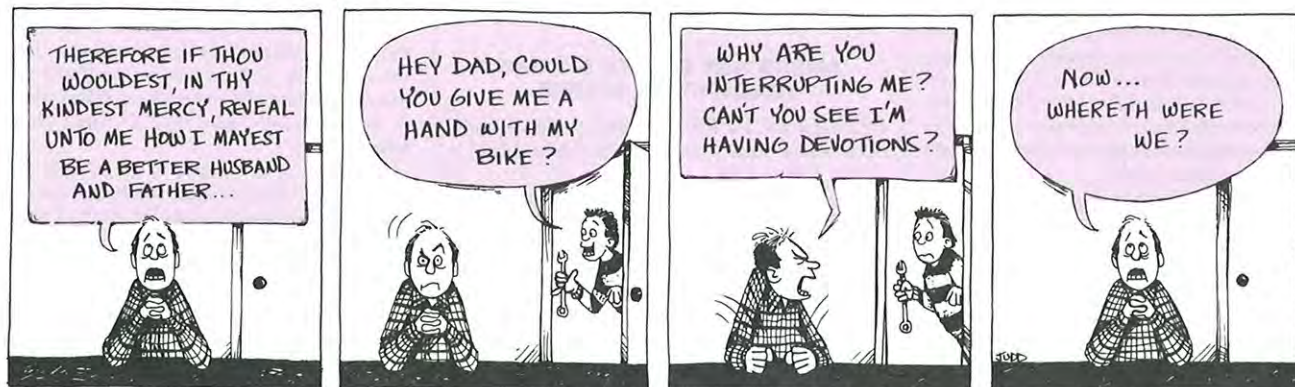
The evening service was a time of challenge and commitment to unity within the body of Christ. A bonfire service followed. The young people sang and gave testimonies of how Christ was working in their lives and how much He meant to them. It was a time of fresh renewing for each one who participated.

The retreat ended Saturday morning with a creative worship service led by Lisa Wallace of Marietta.

Billy McKinney, director of the retreat, indicated that this would be an annual event. McKinney said that he wants to see more youth participate and have quality programming.



BEYOND BELIEF



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NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

STUDY FINDS CHARITY STILL DEPENDS ON WIDOW'S MITE

WASHINGTON, DC (EP)—Christ's parable contrasting a wealthy man giving from abundance with a widow who gave the mite she had still holds true, according to Independent Sector, a Washington-based non-profit organization which conducted a study on private giving to charity.

"Contrary to popular opinion, the well-to-do in America cannot be described as generous," explained Brian O'Connell, Independent Sector's president. "People of means cannot be described as particularly caring. For that primary category of humaneness it is the poor and struggling who generally lead the way."

The study found that households with incomes below \$10,000 give away an average of 2.8 percent of their income, while households with income between \$50,000 and \$100,000 give away only 1.5 percent.

Nearly half of the total contributions to charity in the U. S. comes from households with incomes below \$30,000, the study found. Religion, health and education are the main categories of giving. Last year over half of those surveyed had made donations to a religious organization, with an average gift of \$715 per household; the average total giving to charity per household was \$790.

TOUGHENED ECFA LOSES MEMBERS

OAKTON, VA (EP)—The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) recently expelled two organizations for failure to comply with ECFA standards.

Calvary Temple in Fort Wayne, Indiana, lost its ECFA membership for failure to follow the organization's standards regarding makeup of governing boards.

Christian Aid Mission, based in Charlottesville, Virginia, was dropped for violations of four of the ECFA's seven standards. Violations were in the areas of board structure, fund-raising practices and ethical integrity.

ECFA won't allow member organizations to be controlled strictly by family members but insists that power be spread further. According to ECFA's executive director, Arthur Borden, Christian Aid Mission is controlled by a smaller group within its board that includes only the president, his wife and one other staff member.

Christian Aid Mission had applied for reinstatement in ECFA, but that request was denied.

ECFA, a watchdog organization for evangelical agencies, has gained increased visibility since scandals rocked national television ministries. Membership in ECFA is considered a sort of "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval" for a non-profit organization. Over 75 organizations have joined ECFA during 1988, and membership currently stands at about 500.

WILDMON SAYS 'LAST TEMPTATION' WAS HUMILIATING FINANCIAL LOSS

TUPELO, MS (EP)—Christian activists who protested the movie *The Last Temptation of Christ* won a tremendous victory, according to the American Family Association (AFA). The AFA says Universal Pictures suffered a humiliating financial loss of \$10-13 million because of a successful boycott effort.

About one percent of the roughly 13,000 theaters in the country have shown the movie, and so far Universal has reportedly recovered less than \$4 million of their \$15-17 million investment.

"The Christian community has won a tremendous victory," claims the Rev. Donald E. Wildmon, executive director of the AFA. "We joined hands and worked together and accomplished what appeared to be impossible. Against tremendous odds—millions of dollars in promotion by MCA / Universal, all the support MCA / Universal could rally in the Hollywood community, and hundreds of articles and broadcasts praising the movie and criticizing those who protested—the Christian community succeeded. It shows what we can accomplish when we join together in a common effort."

Wildmon, a United Methodist minister, says it was hypocritical of MCA / Universal to defend the release of the movie as an exercise of First Amendment rights when they had put a "gag rule" in effect for their theater managers, forbidding them to speak about the movie to the media, and thus denying their own employees the same First Amendment rights they claimed to be protecting.

"AFA joined other Christian organizations—broadcasters, para-church ministries, denominations, etc.—in protesting the movie," notes Wildmon. "The secular critics, and many Christian media, reported that the protest ensured success. Christians should have said nothing about the movie, the critics said, all the protest did was help ensure the movie's success. But it didn't happen. AFA distributed radio spots to about 900 Christian radio stations and most stations used the spots repeatedly. AFA also produced a television special which was shown on more than 50 Christian tv stations. Thousands of pastors in local churches called their people to action, and the members responded. Millions of Christians signed petitions and sent them to their local theaters, and hundreds of thousands of others called and wrote. Their efforts were successful."

AFA expects that "Last Temptation" will be nominated for some Oscar awards. "That is one way Hollywood has of rewarding its own," explains Wildmon. "Just remember that all the nominations and voting are done by people in the industry, people who for the most part want to help MCA / Universal save face."

AMERICANS PREFER STRONG TRADITIONAL VALUES

PRINCETON, NJ (EP)—Americans desire traditional social values, according to the results of a recent Gallup Poll.

The poll found that 94 percent of Americans would welcome an increased societal emphasis on family ties, up from 91 percent in 1978. The poll also found that the percentage of Americans desiring greater sexual freedom had declined to 22 percent, down from 29 percent a decade ago.

In the greatest change in the survey, the percentage of Americans desiring more acceptance of marijuana dropped to eight percent, from 20 percent a decade ago.

FORMER BUDDHIST PRIEST CHOOSSES CHRISTIAN SERVICE

VENICE, LA (EP)—A former Cambodian Buddhist priest took a giant step when he was ordained as a Baptist minister in the U. S., saying that the greatest change had to do with Christian service to others. The former Buddhist told *Baptist Press* that his native religion is based on ruling others.

The Rev. Thy Sith converted to Christianity in a Thai refugee camp. He later became a Bible teacher in the Koa-I-Dang Camp in Thailand.

Today, Thy serves a congregation of about 45 Cambodians in Venice, about 70 miles south of New Orleans. He came to the U. S. with his family seven years ago to become assistant mission pastor for the Cambodian Baptist Fellowship of Lynn, Massachusetts, before moving to Venice.

Thy says he has no plans to return to Cambodia but hopes "Christianity can be taken there," he said.

RELIGIOUS WORDS BANNED IN MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (EP)—A series of religious words and expressions commonly used by Moslems have recently been banned from usage by non-Muslim religious groups in Malaysia. The new law outlaws the selling of several Christian books in the Malay language, including the Malay translation of the Bible.

The enactments, passed by nearly all State Assemblies in Peninsular Malaysia, will make it "an offense for a person to use the words or expressions to express or describe any fact, belief, idea, concept, act, activity, matter or thing of, or pertaining to, any non-Islamic religion," said Daniel Ho of the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship in Malaysia.

Words such as Allah (God), Firman Allah (God's Word), ibadat (worship), iman (faith), injil (the Gospels), and nabi (prophet), are included in the list of 25 banned words.

Christian leaders have voiced their concern in the form of letters to several local newspapers. A delegation from the Christian Federation of Malaysia, including Bishop Anthony Selvanayagam, the Rev. George Vergis, Daniel Ho, and others, met with the Chief Minister concerning the matter.

THOUSANDS OF BIBLES SOLD OPENLY IN CHINESE BOOKSTORES

HONG KONG (EP)—Chinese bookstores are carrying thousands of copies of the Bible which have been printed in the Communist country on the Western-sponsored Amity Press. It is believed that this is the first time this has happened since 1949.

Purchasers are not required to register their names or sign any documents to obtain copies of the Bible, as was previously believed. And though the availability of the Bible has not been advertised, the entire first shipment of Bibles was sold in its first month, according to News Network International.

The sale of the Bibles is an historic breakthrough, according to Peter MacInnes, the newly-appointed general manager of Amity Press. "In the long term, the most efficient avenue for distributing Bibles in China is not through church agencies, but through bookstore chains, and I hope this will become a more common method of distribution in the future," he said.

Amity Press has printed about 100,000 cross-reference Bibles and 300,000 non-cross-reference Bibles since its inception in October 1987.



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS
By Melvin Worthington

Living with Leanness



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Free Will Baptists

Numbers 11 records the Lord's dealing with Israel regarding manna and meat. Both Psalm 106:13-16 and Psalm 78:25-31 allude to this same experience. The Bible declares, "And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul."

What lessons can be learned from this experience? Can Christians be successful, prosperous and productive, accomplishing great things and accumulating a string of successful works, and yet have leanness of soul?

They Despised Manna

God had delivered them from the Egyptians. They walked through the Red Sea, but three days into the wilderness they murmured for water. Six weeks later they were complaining, crying and criticizing the provision from God's hand.

They had forgotten the providence of God. They loathed the manna and lusted after meat. They seemed eager to remove memories of the Lord's mercies from their souls, to have their own way, and prone to trust in themselves. They were ungrateful, unkind and dissatisfied as they rebelled against the God who had delivered them and provided daily for them.

This desire became an obsession, and for a meal of meat they were ready to curse God and renounce the land which flowed with milk and honey. Their contempt angered and vexed the Lord, and in a place where they had to depend on Him and were fed every day by the provision of manna, they provoked the Lord.

They Demanded Meat

They longed for the food enjoyed in Egypt and attached an undue importance to it, refusing to wait for God's will. Though manna was abundantly supplied, it did not please them. They scorned, sniffed and snubbed God's provision while crying for meat.

Not satisfied with God's provision, they clamored and called for the food to satisfy their sensual gratifications. They determined to have better food than the manna that God continually provided. They would have it no other way.

They Discovered Misery

God gave them their request. God often gives us what we demand in our carnality, and then let's us pay the penalty in spiritual malnutrition. Some scholars suggest that God answered their request with a curse resulting in leanness of soul, uneasiness of mind, terror of conscience, self reproach and a great plague even while the flesh was between their teeth.

God's goodness cannot be measured by the degree to which He satisfies our cravings. Securing bodily gratifications, unhallowed ambition and unfavorable friendships may at times be detrimental.

God's withholding of the objects we highly regard may bring the greatest blessings. He often breaks our schemes of earthly joy that we may find our all in Him and His service.

Leanness of soul is similar to the effect on the body when it deteriorates due to disease or lack of food. Prayer for temporal prosperity should be accompanied by prayer for grace to properly use it. Few Christians have been able to handle continued success in life.

Man's free will is respected and recognized by God at all times. When our hearts are set on something we think we must have at all costs, God will say, "You can have it, but the consequences of your choice will be upon your own head."

Christians have no difficulty discovering the wisdom of God's dealing when it harmonizes with their wishes, but are equally ready to denounce its injustice when it crosses their plans.

James Hastings concludes, "It is well to pray that God should put into our minds good desires, and that we should use our wits to keep ourselves from dwelling too much upon small and pitiful desires, for the fear is that they will be abundantly gratified."

Israel despised the manna, demanded meat and discovered misery. We must always pray, "Not my will but thine be done." Praying according to God's will results in living with full souls. Selfish, stubborn praying according to our desires without considering the will of God may get what we request, but also results in leanness of soul. Then we have to live with it.

Secretary's Schedule

- February 15, 19** First FWB Church
Inman, South Carolina
- February 16-17** South Carolina State
Association
- Feb. 27 - March 1** Bible Conference
Hillsdale FWB College
Moore, Oklahoma

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June 19-25, 1989

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No matter which emphasis you choose. No one will go home the same. **Summer Camp '89** is designed to give you a great summer break while you make friends and grow in the Lord!

Here's what will be available:



MUSIC CAMP

Develop your gift for music under the guidance of FWBBC's music faculty and their assistants. For vocal and instrumental musicians.



DRAMA CAMP

Both stage performance and play production will be taught by the college's speech and drama teachers, who have produced many outstanding programs.



BASKETBALL CAMP

This camp, for boys, will build on the foundation of basketball fundamentals and help young men develop their personal court skills.



SALT CAMP—New!

This new, exciting camp focuses on Scriptural Action and Leadership Training. It is for those who want to sharpen Bible study skills, develop themselves as disciples and secure their Christian foundations.

For more information, write or call:

Summer Camp '89

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

