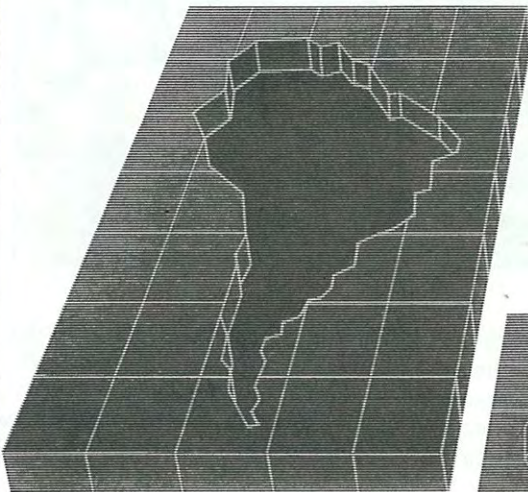
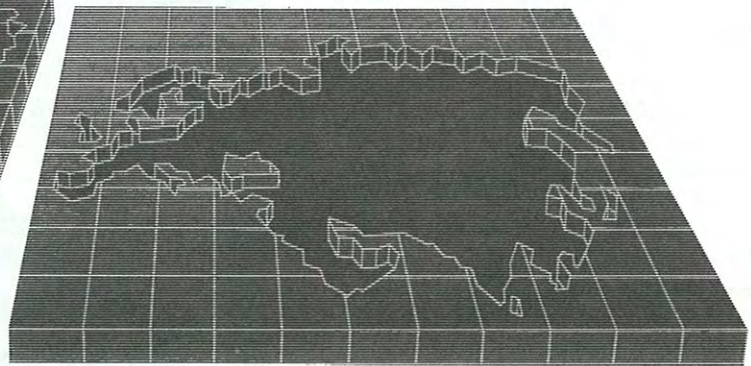
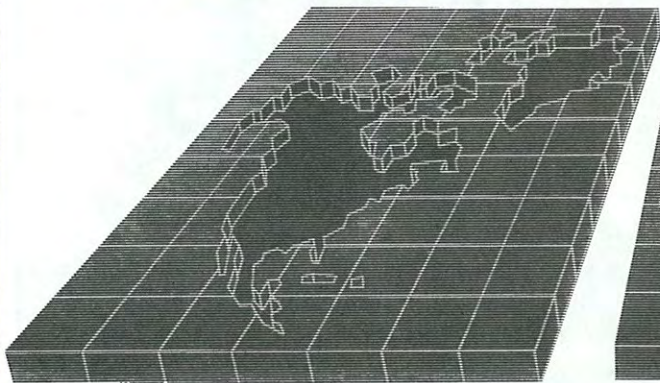


April 1989

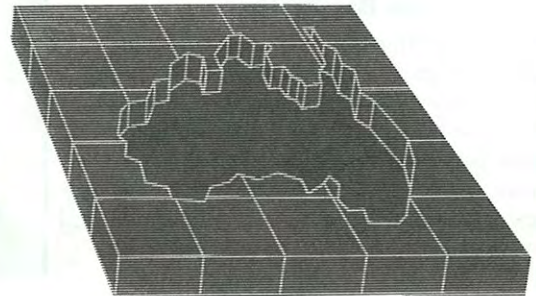
Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

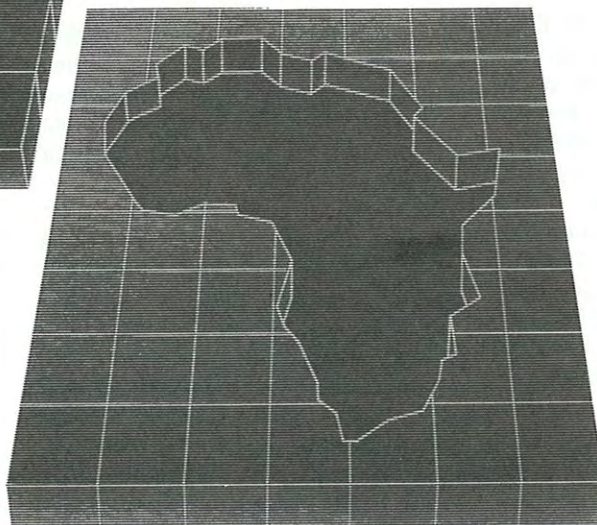
Foreign Missions Issue



**Is
God
Calling
Me?**



**Who Will
Replace
Them?**



**The
Real
Thing?**

Who Will Replace Them?

By Jimmy Aldridge

Doomsday figures predict a decline in North American protestant missionary personnel in the next decade. Missionaries who left our shores in the great period of missionary expansion during the 50's and 60's will soon approach retirement.

Free Will Baptists also face this greying of the missionary force. Several couples will retire in the next 10 years. Who will fill the gap?

Let's examine ourselves as a mission. Where do we fit in God's picture of worldwide evangelization? Let's look at the overall picture of North American protestant agencies.

The Big Picture

In 1985, the last year in which data was gathered, there were 764 protestant missions agencies in North America. Only 421 of these agencies send personnel overseas. Most agencies have fewer than 30 missionaries. Six agencies have more than 1,000 career missionaries; 76 others have more than 100. Only 155 mission agencies have more than 30 missionaries.

Delete from this protestant list the non-conservative agencies and those not committed to church planting, and Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions ranks in the top 75 agencies according to size.

Not only that, but in 1985, the year of our 50th anniversary as a sending agency, 60 percent of all missionaries we had ever appointed were still on active duty overseas. A comparative study of other agencies reveals this to be a phenomenal record. This record shows the high level of commitment of our missionary personnel.

Hard Decisions

One couple recently told us, "We're going back!" They were leaving their

children in the U. S. and committing their aging parents to the Lord. They were also committing their reputation to the Lord (some did not understand their not staying in the U. S. to care for their parents).

All missionaries who stay with the job face difficult decisions. These decisions become more complicated as missionaries advance through years of service.

According to Robert T. Coote, who wrote the interpretive essay to the 13th edition of the *MARC Mission Handbook*, the major personnel problem for U. S. evangelical missions is not recruiting replacements for retiring missionaries, but rather finding replacements for those who drop out. A major category

of resignations is first-term casualties. For some missions this has been as high as one-half of their new missionaries. For these missions, if they anticipate five retirements they must recruit 10 new missionaries to stay even.

How do these personnel figures impact us as Free Will Baptists? Are we affected by the greying of the missionary force? Certainly. Let's look at our general situation.

A Sending Church

First, we are a sending church. That means that God called from among us those He directed to serve in overseas countries. We tested their call, approved it, sent them out to preach the gospel,



H. Armstrong Roberts

and are sustaining them in their ministries.

The preached Word of God, backed up by holy lives and compassionate hearts, and made alive by the Holy Spirit, is working. The proof is that people are being saved, disciplined and brought together in local churches. Local churches are fellowshipping together and national churches are being formed. They are coming out of Buddhism, Hinduism, Animism, Catholicism and Spiritism to follow Christ.

New Missionaries

Second, we now have receiving churches in all our fields. Older mature missionaries are necessary to minister in many ways. The new, inexperienced church leaders must be taught and encouraged. This is a slow process. New missionaries must be committed to working with both missionaries and the national church. Requests for skilled new missionaries are already arriving from our fields. This trend will continue as our national churches develop.

In order to meet the challenge, Free Will Baptists in America must deepen their commitment for world evangelism. Missions education in the home and in the church is the keystone to increasing the number of candidates for overseas service. Children need to hear their parents offering them to the Lord for missionary service. Young people need to hear their pastors and spiritual leaders praying for a lost world and asking God to call missionaries from their congregation.

Here is God's prescription for missionary recruitment . . . "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2). It was to a church fasting and praying that the Holy Spirit spoke to call the first missionaries (Acts 13:2—Saul and Barnabas). God hasn't changed the plan. A lack of missionaries on the fields of the world indicates, among other things, a lack of concern and prayer for the lost of the world.

Special Preparation

Third, those called must be ready to get the needed preparation in order to serve productively. The Apostle Paul was a highly educated scholar when he met Christ on the road to Damascus. Yet the Holy Spirit gave him three years of theological training in Arabia plus 11 years of evangelistic experience before

He sent him on his first missionary journey.

Some people seem to think that if you can't do anything else, you can always be a missionary. The truth is almost the exact opposite. If you haven't prepared well enough to succeed in ministry at home in your own language and culture, it is highly unlikely God wants to use you abroad. (Studies show . . . the drop out rate of 33.3 percent for missionaries whose formal education ended with college: but 14.7 percent for those with graduate education.)

We are looking for candidates who have prepared themselves for ministry and who have proven themselves at home before being sent overseas to prove themselves among strangers.

Only the Best

Fourth, Free Will Baptist students need to hear their teachers interceding for a lost world and asking God to call students to the missionary task. This needs to start in our Christian schools and be reinforced in our colleges. Young people must be challenged to prepare themselves for service.

Dr. Warren Webster, general director of the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society, stated, "Some missionaries have been seriously limited in their effectiveness because they had less education than the nationals they supposedly came to teach."

Jesus Christ was God's best. God gave Him to us, and we need to prepare and send the best dedicated Christian scholars we have to confront the lost world. It would be sad if one day Free Will Baptists deserve Nehemiah's reproach: "Their nobles put not their necks to the work of the Lord" (Nehemiah 3:5). There is no such thing as being too good a preacher or too highly qualified to serve the Lord as a Free Will Baptist foreign missionary.

Return to Sacrifice

Fifth, Free Will Baptists must again accept the principle of sacrifice in serving the Lord.

Missionary candidates must have biblical motives in order to succeed. Those who would go for "self fulfillment" or "satisfaction" must be taught the truths of spiritual warfare.

The degree to which God will use us in the future, and this will impact the number of candidates God will call from

Contents

April 1989

2 Who Will Replace Them?
Jimmy Aldridge

4 Ministry to Missionaries
Douglas Little

5 Briefcase: Stranger at the Door
Jack Williams

6 Is God Calling Me?
James Combs

8 The Real Thing?
Allan Crowson

9 He Needs Me
Richard Terry

10 Beat the Juniper Tree
David Copeland

10 Take a Cooler
Ruth Creech Mullen

15 Free Will Baptist Newsfront

17 Currently

18 The Department Pages

26 Teen Scene

26 Top Shelf
Thomas Marberry

28 On Little Lanes
Donna Mayo

29 The Second Chance
Alton Loveless

30 Green Tree Bible Study
Robert E. Picirilli

31 In His Image
Melvin Worthington

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

Volume XXXVI, No. 4

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

Replace Them? . . . (from page 3)

among us, will depend upon our willingness as Free Will Baptists to send those He calls. All the sacrificing is not done by the missionary. We must be willing to avoid extravagant consumptive lifestyles here in the U. S. in order to give so that those who have never heard the gospel can clearly understand the message of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Dr. David Hasselgrave, professor of missions at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, illustrates the problem, "One of my students must raise 13 times as much support and 46 times as much outfit allowance as my family when we went to Japan in 1950."


That should not scare us too much. North American protestants spent \$1.3 billion for all costs for 39,309 "career" and 27,933 "short-term" missionaries in 1986.

One person noted that Southern Baptists (over 14 million members) could have funded the whole enterprise if they had given \$100 per member. They gave \$10 per member.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance churches gave \$150 per member. Free Will Baptists gave about \$15 per member.

Thank God for the improvement. But we have many (at least 1,000) of our churches who give nothing. Our future is as bright as the promises of God. He will use us to the degree we are submitted to Him and open to His leading.

Our concern is not necessarily the number of missionaries we have. Foreign missions is a spiritual work. To the extent that the denomination submits to the Holy Spirit and the will of God, God will use us (and will call from among us).

Our problem is not so much the greying of the missionary force as the commitment of our denomination to obeying the Lord's command. 



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Jimmy Aldridge is overseas secretary for the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department.



Ministry to Missionaries

By Douglas Little

If you're like me, you often feel a sense of awe around missionaries. These choice servants of God deserve our respect for the unique ministry to which they have been called.

Over the past several years I have gotten to know several missionaries on a more personal basis. I discovered that they are just like the rest of us. They look grumpy first thing in the morning; they must discipline themselves to pray; they get angry at people and feel lonely at times—just like we do.


We can help our missionaries. What's more, they really want and need us to.

We can pray for them. Missionaries work at the front lines of spiritual warfare dealing with opposition that we don't know much about. While America is a hothouse of faith, missionaries struggle against onslaughts of the Enemy. They need our prayers—specific, urgent pleading with God on their behalf that their work will prosper.

We can write them. Few things mean more to a missionary than a card or letter from home. It is such an encouragement to them to know that we are thinking of them and praying for them.

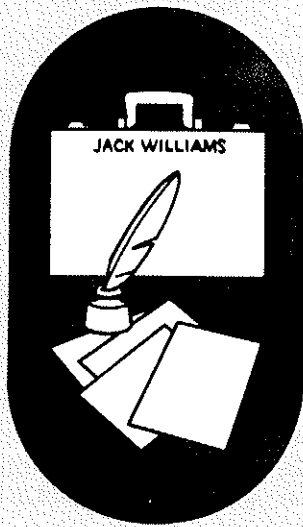
We can learn about them. The common courtesy of knowing their names and which country they serve in is often more than the average Free Will Baptist extends to his missionaries. When they come to your church, be ready to welcome them. Be sure you know their names. Read the information the church gives you before they come. Know about their children and where they're living. Learn how to pronounce the name of the city or village in which they work.

We can support them. Free Will Baptist missionaries depend on Free Will Baptist support. You as an individual can invest in what God is doing overseas by giving offerings for missionaries. In these days of the dollar's loss of value overseas, our mission work is seriously threatened by financial needs.

Venture into some new involvement in missions. Whether it's prayer, communication or giving, you'll find it a rewarding ministry. 

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

Briefcase



A Stranger at the Door

The Hyatt Corporation designated 1989 "The Year of the Customer." That's what Darrel Hartley Leonard, Hyatt's president, told meeting planners in Milwaukee. "Innovation, not gimmickry, attracts and holds guests," Leonard said.

Hotels spend big bucks to discover what guests want and how to make them feel welcome. They research consumer markets, devise advertising campaigns and place carefully-chosen amenities in each room. All in the name of hospitality and service.

It's a good investment, because a discerning traveler only needs about five minutes to sniff out which hotels want his business and which want his money. John Q. Customer may take the complimentary shampoo home with him, but what he really prefers is hassle-free check-in and check-out, a clean room and fluffy towels.

I suggest that we send all that research to Sunday School. Let's find out what the customers want when they visit the local church and how we can make them feel welcome.

The amenities list gets long in a hurry—graded curriculum, central heat and air, trained choir, convenient location, blue carpet, you name it. But let's

cut to the essentials and shelve the gimmickry. People who visit churches want four things: courtesy in the parking lot, information at the door, a smile in the pew, fire in the pulpit.

Courtesy in the parking

lot. I drove to a large metropolitan church in Nashville the first Sunday in 1989. When I saw several hundred cars jamming the parking lot, I wondered where I'd park on that raw, wet morning.

At the front door, that's where! In a reserved parking space. Yep, a sign said, "Reserved for Visitors." And wonder of wonders, no church member parked there. I appreciated that nice touch.

You say that's not much. True, but it's sure a great start. I felt good toward that pastor and people while I was still in the parking lot. They did more than talk about wanting visitors. They let me park at the front door while they walked in the rain.

Information at the door.

That big church resembled a rabbit warren with corridors angling off in all directions. Even though I've attended church 30 years, I was confused by the unfamiliarity, the vast building and no knowledge of where to go or who to ask for help.

Not to worry. An informed greeter stepped up to me, introduced himself and directed me where to go. I walked down the corridor feeling confident and welcome because someone met me at my point of confusion and gave clear, informed answers.

A smile in the pew. I picked up a bulletin and found an unoccupied pew down front. As I previewed the morning worship services, I felt a tap on my shoulder.

"Come sit with us," he said smiling. And I did. The one man I knew out of the hundreds there found me and offered a smile and friendship. While I

would have been content to sit alone, most visitors feel out of place and need the kind of reception I got.

Fire in the pulpit. A distinguished-looking man with a red rose in the lapel of his dark suit stood behind the pulpit. His name was Willie Epps, and did he have a story to tell.


He began, "You're looking at a man who has been an ex-con, an ex-bank robber, an ex-dope addict and an ex-fool!" Willie had my attention.

He told how 10 years ago he robbed a Nashville leather store and stole some coats. During the robbery as Willie held a gun on the owner, she turned and witnessed to him about the love of God. Later he was caught for another crime and spent six years in prison.

Willie found God in prison, unable to escape the store owner's words. Two years ago after being released, he called and told her what God did in his life because of her testimony. She forgave him, and sat not more than three feet from me while Willie spoke. It was difficult to know who was happiest—the converted robber or the woman who told him about Jesus.

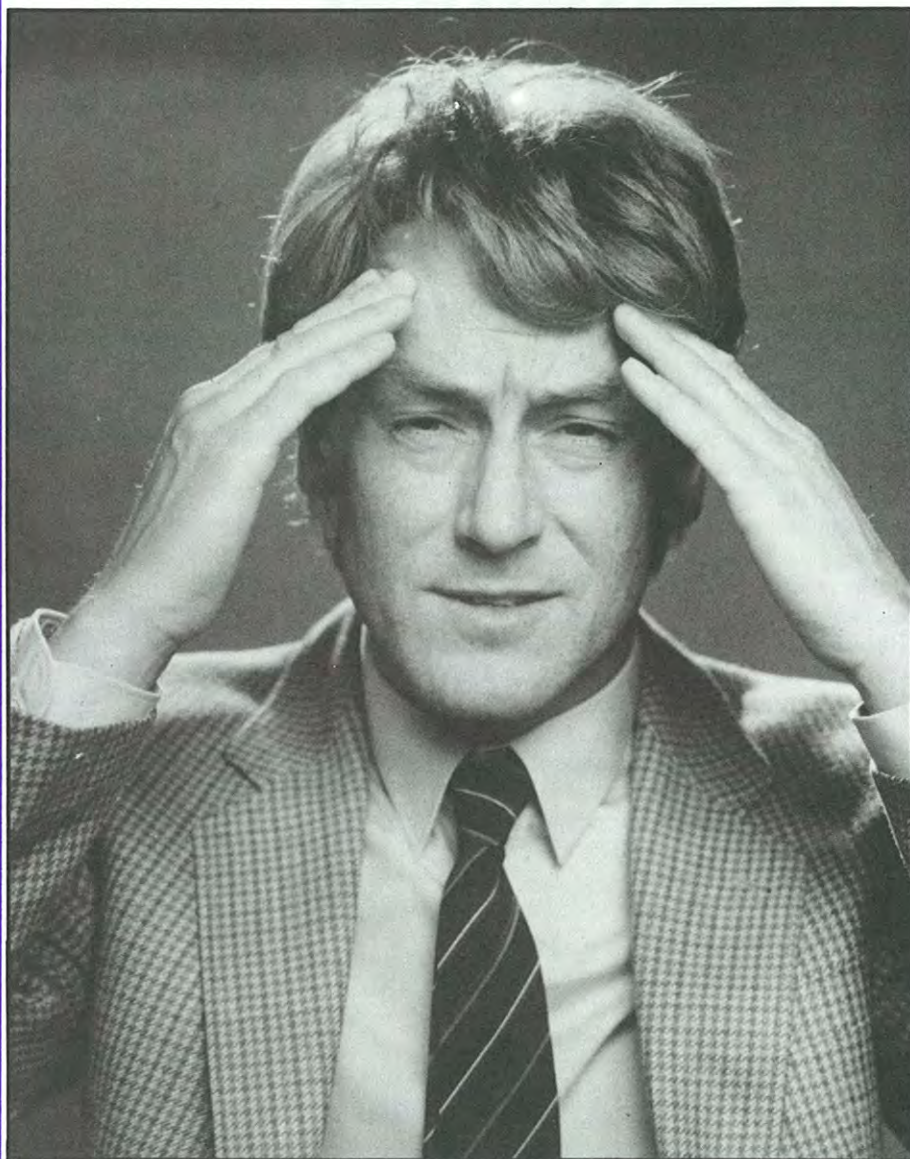
Year of the visitor. Perhaps we should baptize Hyatt Corporation's idea and declare 1989 "The Year of the Visitor" in our churches.

The best that Hyatt can do is provide guaranteed reservations, temporary rest and the bill at check-out. The local church beats that by a mile—eternal reservations, peace with God and our sin-debt cancelled at Calvary.

We can attract and keep church visitors. It's simple: Hook 'em in the parking lot; inform at the door; smile in the pew; put fire in the pulpit. Do that and the local church can regain its reputation as the place where everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord. 

Is God Calling Me?

By James Combs



H. Armstrong Roberts

Maybe the question should be "Is God calling me to foreign missions?" The answer may not be easy to determine. Nonetheless, the question is valid and every Christian should make an honest attempt to answer it. After all, everyone who is an integral part of any functioning organization must know his place and what is expected of him in order to properly evaluate his attitude and actions. Thus, one can either "accuse or excuse" himself as the case may be.

The proper attitude of every born-again person is "since Christ has trans-

formed my life, I am subject to Him in every respect." No longer is one at liberty to plan and decide without considering, "What would He have me do?"

For the Christian all of life must now be reevaluated and rerun through the thought processes with an additional factor to consider: "What does God expect of me?" To do otherwise is to be disobedient to the already clearly revealed plan of God for all His children (II Timothy 3:16).

The "What wilt thou have me do?" of the Apostle Paul is applicable to every Christian today. Any mindset other than

openness and willingness toward anything God might want is disobedience.

The Facts

Assuming that one meets this prerequisite, the second most important consideration for knowing God's will is based upon information. The best decisions are generally those which consider the multi-faceted consequences. Hence, more information would naturally result in a wiser decision.

The specific areas one should examine to honestly answer the matter of God's call should include: (1) The place of foreign missions in God's plan, (2) The status quo of the overall practical outworking of His plan today, (3) The availability of resources, (4) One's personal involvement in world outreach.

God's plan has always been global—all inclusive. He called Abraham to be a blessing to "all nations." Israel was to be a channel through which all nations would come to know Jehovah, the only true God. In most respects they failed, but God's goal remained "His name among all nations" (Luke 24:47).

"God so loved the world. . . ." "Not willing that any should perish. . . ." "That . . . he might gather together in one all things in Christ . . ." (Ephesians 1:10). If there remains any doubt, look to Revelation 5:9 and 7:9 where God reaffirms that all nations will be among the redeemed.

The Lopsided Truth

As to the actual outworking of His plan, as one analyzes the situation today, the picture appears to be rather skewed. An uninterested, uninvolved bystander, if assigned to analyze the status quo as compared to the proposed plan, would doubtless determine that at some point in time the plan either changed or inadvertently was sidetracked.

A glance at demographics—the world's population as compared to the proportion of the world's Christians—reveals that an overwhelming proportion of God's people are heavily concentrated among a relatively small number of the nations of the world. Some might

conclude that God loves Americans more than He loves Asians. This would be an erroneous conclusion. Jesus said, "... Go ye therefore, and teach [disciple] all nations. ..."

Missions research agencies are constantly at work attempting to inform the church of its lopsided activities. For the most part it appears that the church adopted its own plan without seriously considering that God's plan dictates a different strategy. This in no way exonerates the individual's responsibility as a vital member of the body to personally determine, "Are my objectives in line with God's?"

Dr. Oswald J. Smith once stated that if 10 men were carrying a log and nine were at one end with only one at the other end and you desired to help, where would you go? To the end with the nine or the one? This may be an oversimplification, but it rather closely approximates the present situation regarding the world's need and the churches' efforts.

God's Resources

This leads one to a serious inquiry relative to the availability of resources. Who has the means to effect any significant change upon the status quo? Can anything be done about the unbalanced efforts of the people of God? Or is the Christian church by nature selfish?

Must it have air-conditioned auditoriums, padded pews, fleets of buses, robed choirs, gymnasiums and heaven only knows what other host of superfluous items at the expense of an anemic foreign missions outreach? Sounds

a little like the father who spends disproportionately on a luxurious home, fancy car and boat, but howls that mother spends too much on groceries. What is real priority with God? With the church? If the answer to the second is different than the first, then the church must assume responsibility for the unbalanced situation.

This is not to imply that foreign missions is any more important than the other biblical ministries of the church. It does imply, however, that each Christian, as a part of the body, is to some degree responsible for the body's actions. If one determines that any biblical mandate is not given its proper biblical perspective in the overall scheme, then to say or do nothing to rectify this situation is in effect to approve it.

Clearly those places and peoples where the highest concentrations of Christians are located have the most available resources. For the most part this is true both in terms of workers and the wherewithal to send these workers.

My Place

Naturally, this brings every Christian truly interested in God's overall plan of world evangelization to the matter of personal involvement. Opportunities abound in the United States to reach foreigners who are there as students, immigrants, refugees, visitors and a host of other reasons. Many have lamented the fact that they spent several months or years in the United States and were never befriended by the American people. God loves these people and is not willing that any should perish. But how shall they believe without hearing? If

every Christian did as much to reach the world as I am presently doing the net effect would be (greater, less, the same—underline one in your mind) in my opinion.

Is God calling me for foreign missions? Undoubtedly! It may not necessarily be as a foreign missionary. Nonetheless, you are called for personal involvement in the total plan of God which includes the blessing (salvation) of people from all nations.

Lord, what would you have me to do? Inform yourself by talking with your pastor; contact the Foreign Missions Department; ask questions of missionaries; pray for more laborers for the fields; stay willing and open before God. You are responsible. Seek to make friends with foreigners.

If the above suggestions are followed, you will sense that you are already involved in foreign missions. And, through this involvement should God impress upon you to leave your own country to serve Him on foreign soil, He, the Lord of the harvest, will no doubt make this clear to you.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend James Combs is a Free Will Baptist foreign missionary serving in Brazil. The West Virginia native is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

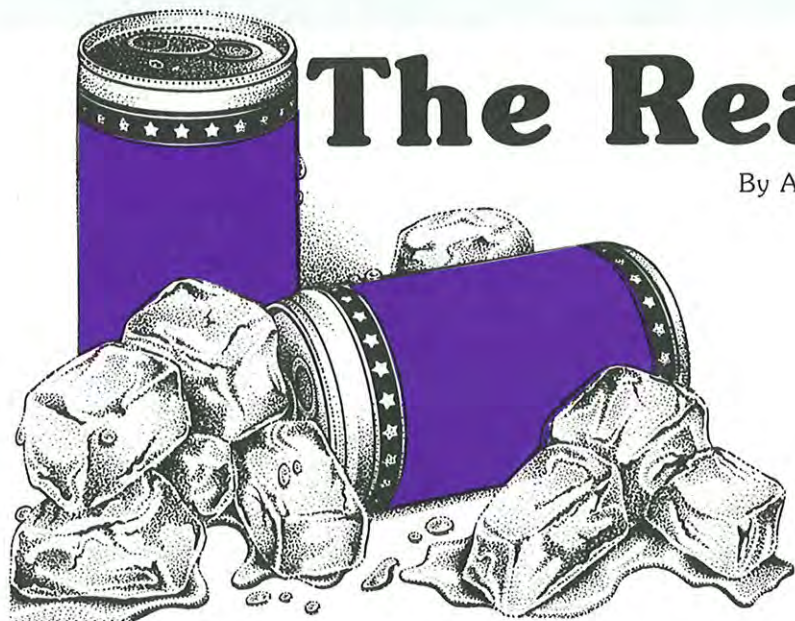
BEYOND BELIEF



© 1988 ROGER JUDD

The Real Thing?

By Allan Crowson



CLICK! On goes the television. I have just a few minutes before church time this evening. What have we here? It's a Pepsi Cola commercial. Yes, let's hear it for the new generation, but no thanks, not for me.

CLICK! I change the channel. We have more commercials—Sprite, Dr. Pepper, Coca Cola. Now that's more like it! Give me the real thing. Coke is it, brother. In fact, I'll have just a quick one before heading off to church.

CLICK! I change the channel again. Oh, no, it's the news. So what happened today? A war flared up in some far-off place with a name no civilized person can pronounce. Now they're showing where a bomb exploded. Was that in the same place? Seems like all they know how to do in those foreign countries is blow each other up in the name of God or some revolution. Why can't they just be like us normal people?

Oh my, that bomb made a mess, didn't it? Dust settles down onto everything, people running in all directions, emergency vehicles waltzing in and out of the picture. Now the tv reporter is trying to explain something. But wait! What was that behind him? It can't be . . . but I'm sure it was. Yes, there it is again. I saw it.

It was off in the background, and the air was hazy (what with all the dust and stuff), but I just know that was a sign for Coca Cola back there. I saw it when the camera was moving from all the rubble to zoom in on the face of the reporter. So what do you know? They're not so different from us after all. They like to stop and take a Coke break, too.

CLICK! Off goes the television. I have to hurry now or I'll be late for church. Well, at least it will be something different tonight. Tonight we have a real live missionary. I hope he shows *lots* of slides. I just love it when they show slides or sing songs and bring weird-looking souvenirs. I usually drop in a dollar or so when they pass the plate around after the slides. Yes, indeed, I believe in showing concern for starving people in strange, far-off places.

CLICK! On goes the light bulb in my head as I walk into the church. We're almost out of Coke. That means I'll have to stop off at the convenience store after church and stock up. And that means . . . oh that means I won't be able to give that money to the missionary. No problem . . . next year I'll double it to two dollars or even more.

CLICK! Out go the lights. On come the slides. But I was not listening well during the introduction, and I do not know where this missionary works. I can't tell by the slides—the pictures are mostly of faces, and the people don't really look that different to me.

Hey, where are the palm trees? And the adoring, smiling natives? Is this guy a real missionary or is he just putting us on? He doesn't look like he's ever been to Bongo-Bongo or any other exotic place. On my left, Mary Lou thinks he's from South America. On my right, Bill says Spain or maybe France. I wonder if he's ever been anywhere.

CLICK! On go the lights again, and off go the slides. What a disappointment—no palm trees, no beautiful sunsets, no starving children, and it didn't even last that long. Well, maybe he will

sing for us. No, apparently not, and I don't see any souvenirs up there, either. Now he's talking about how his work is a spiritual warfare—breaking up new ground, pulling up the weeds of false beliefs, planting the good news of the gospel, watering with continual prayer and concern, harvesting in due time.

He says they may speak a different language and eat different food (Do they drink Coke?), but the hunger of their souls is the same as with lost people here. Well, I can see it's going to be downhill from here on out. He does not know it, but my mind is going to change channels on him.

CLICK! What was that he just said? Something he said just brought my mind back down from orbit. "Coke." That's what he said. I'm sure he said it. What is a missionary doing talking about that? Hey, fella, if you can't show some decent palm trees and sunsets in your slide show, you could at least not torture me by bringing up the subject of Coke, especially since it is so dry in here.

CLICK! So let's adjust the fine tuning, and see what's up. Well, I heard it, but I don't like it. The nerve of this guy, wondering aloud if we love our favorite soft drinks more than we care about the souls of people for whom Christ died. But he has the figures to prove it, apparently.

CLICK! The 1987 Free Will Baptist digest reported 205,546 members. The foreign missions budget adopted that year was \$3,358,900. That works out to an average foreign missions giving of \$16.34 per member. That's not so bad, is it? But he's going further. That works out to just a nickel a day, 35 cents a week! That's less than the price of a Coke from the average vending machine.

Now he's asking how many Cokes most of us drink in a week's time. The nerve of this guy. He means to tell us that we spend the equivalent of less than a Coke a week, per Free Will Baptist, to send the gospel to people dying in sin. Yes, I should have stayed home.

CLICK! Now he's trying to turn the tables on us. He says to put myself in the place of those other people in that

foreign country. If I were living in a country where there were practically no Bible-preaching churches, with practically no one to tell me how to be saved, how much Coke would my soul be worth? Well, I don't know, but I'm sure it would be worth more than one Coke a week per member.

Now he's talking about missionaries who have not been able to return to the field from furlough because they cannot raise enough support. Some have had to leave their field of service early because their support has dropped so much. Some of those still on the field labor under the heavy weight of a deficit account on their shoulders.

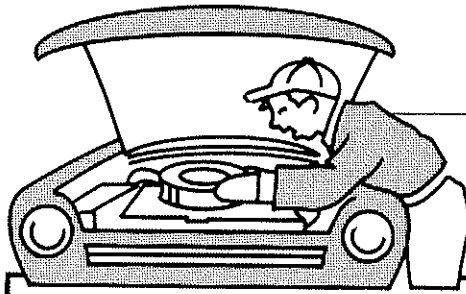
CLICK! Welcome to reality—no screen, no reporters, no commercials. How much Coke is my soul worth? How much Coke are their souls worth? In God's eyes, there must not be a big difference, since Jesus died for *all*. To bring the Water of Life to thirsty souls requires a long-term sustained effort, not just a few dollars here and there, or a special project now and then.

It will take week-in, week-out, year-in, year-out support. It will take more than the price of one Coke per week. Which will be more important to me—quenching the thirst of my body or sending the good news of Christ the Living Water to those who do not know? Will I throw in a little something now to ease my conscience, or will I join in the battle and support missions *regularly*, no matter what the slide show looks like?

CLICK! Around comes the faith promise cards and the offering plate. How much Coke are their souls worth? How much Coke would my soul be worth? How much Coke is your soul worth?



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Allan Crowson is a Free Will Baptist foreign missionary to France. He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Allan is home on furlough because there were not enough funds to keep his family on the field. He hopes to return in August.



He Needs Me

By Richard Terry

The other day my buddy's car broke down, so I went by his house and picked him up for work and took him back home that night. Since his car was not repaired immediately, this continued for several days. We worked at the same place, and it was convenient for me to also take him places on personal business. He became rather dependent on me.

Self-reliance has become an important virtue in our modern culture. In fact, self-anything seems to be the hallmark of American society. Individual rights have been pushed until husbands and wives are suing one another, children are suing parents, and parishioners are suing churches.

This attitude has led to the development of an extreme self-interest syndrome. David McKenna calls it "radical self-interest." It is tantamount to self-worship. The watch words of our day are hedonism, materialism and consumerism.

Dependence on others is viewed as a sign of weakness. That's to be expected in a nation whose most revered document is the Declaration of Independence. If properly understood, however, that document amounts to a declaration of *dependence* on God and one another.

The independent spirit in our country may also be due to the fact that we have achieved such a high degree of individual freedom through technology. Our automobiles, appliances, single

dwelling houses, communications and education have not only made us free of other nations but free of each other as well. Unfortunately, the idea that we can be totally independent of one another is an illusion at best, and no more true for us than for Adam who was incomplete without Eve.

No wonder pastors have such a difficult time pulling together a group within the church who are willing to work together, pray together and witness together. Today's worship service must intentionally program a time of "community." Our spirit of independence has almost precluded the possibility of cooperation.

Jesus put the emphasis upon servanthood. He came to minister to rather than be ministered unto. Paul reminds his readers of their responsibility to one another. In Pauline theology, the church is pictured as a "body" of individuals compactly joined together. Christ summarized the Old Testament law with the statement that we are to love God with all of our being, and our neighbors as ourselves.

We, in this generation, have witnessed the fragmenting of the Body of Christ, with so many denominations, para-church organizations and individual ministries vying for support. No wonder the public is turned off. The church is infected with the spirit of the age. Only a return to the practice of biblical cooperation can mend the division. That, essentially, was Paul's message to the splintered fellowship at Corinth.

It is not a sign of weakness to need others or to be needed. I suspect that Zacchaeus was motivated by the thought that the Lord needed him. I know being needed makes me feel good. By the way, I need to run. I have to go pick up my buddy. His car is still broken down. He needs me, and I love it.

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

Beat the Juniper Tree

By David Copeland



The preacher lay beneath the tree sleeping the sleep of sorrow. Earlier that same day God had used him to bring a great revival in the land and to see that 850 false teachers were put out of business. Because of this preacher's prayers it rained for the first time in three and a half years. What did this individual get for his services? A death threat!

Feeling rejected, useless, tired and scared, he was depressed and ready to quit. I speak of Elijah and his juniper tree experience. Are you having a juniper tree experience? If so, you'll want to

read on and test the biblical formula for overcoming depression.


The Lord Will Meet Your Need. God sent an angel to minister to Elijah, and He will minister to you as well in your dark hours (I Kings 19:5-8). In times of despair the first thing to do is ask God for help and then allow Him to give it (Philippians 4:6-7).

Rest, But Don't Quit. Depression is often caused from physical and mental exhaustion. Elijah had certainly put in a long three and a half years, and God saw to it that he got the proper nourishment and rest (I Kings 19:5-8). You may need to do the same, with the understanding that you are not retiring but refueling so that you can minister again.

Think Positive, Not Negative (Philippians 4:8). Elijah wallowed in self-pity (I Kings 19:10). When depressed we tend to focus on the dark side of things. This makes depression darker. God helped Elijah to see things realistically, that circumstances were not as bad as he thought. In reality, things were looking pretty good (I Kings 19:18).

Help Others. A person who is

depressed wants to quit, but God told Elijah to get back to work helping others. This is one of the most effective tools that can be used in overcoming depression. By helping others our attention becomes focused on their needs, not on our needs and problems. Plus, it gives positive feeling knowing that you have ministered to someone else.

Find a Friend To Help Share Your Burdens. The Lord sent Elijah to find Elisha. And Elisha became a close companion to the great prophet, someone with whom he could share both his joys and his sorrows (I Kings 19:21). There are many people who could become this type of friend to you—your spouse, your parents, your pastor, your fellow church member. It always helps to have someone who will be there to listen. One word of caution: Make sure that the person you choose to help share your burdens is a Christian. 

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

Take a Cooler

By Ruth Creech Mullen

I stand at my kitchen sink washing out my cooler. This is part of my preparation for the trip the national convention each summer. Yet I am startled for a moment by the memories that cooler evokes. What am I doing? I detest coolers.

I well remember when the cooler first bothered me. As I grew up, we took one along each year to the convention. But I was so embarrassed when we unloaded the car in Fresno—a Heinz-57 variety of luggage, grocery sacks and the cooler. Even the bellman seemed mortified as he surveyed our "stuff."

It was 1970. As a rising high school senior, I knew money was tight. Isn't it always for the preacher's family? I appreciated Dad's sacrifices to take a family with four kids on a three-week trip across the U. S. A. It was our last big vacation as a family.



I understood the cooler saved on food costs of such a trip. Eating at rest stops on the road was acceptable. Taking grocery sacks and a cooler into a fancy hotel in California of all states was not cool.

Oh, how I wished we could go to a national convention and leave that thing at home where it belonged.

My other gripe with the cooler over the years was the crowd it drew. Dad's many friends were all invited to eat lunch or a midnight snack with us. Though they were too classy to bring a cooler themselves, they always eagerly accepted his invitation to share ours. Many denominational issues were discussed and settled over that cooler's contents.

Now the tables are turned. We take the cooler and Mom and Dad come to our room for the food. (Another bene-

fit of old age, I suppose.)

Why do I, an adult with freedom to choose, take a cooler to the convention? That's what I asked myself while standing at the kitchen sink.

It still saves money.

My 20-cent Coke is a lot cheaper than the one in the machine for 75 cents. That's a big plus for the cooler.

It saves energy.

We like not having to rush out to eat three times a day during the hectic convention week. Often restaurants are not conveniently located and it takes time to drive, park, order, wait, eat and get back for the meetings. We aren't nearly as tired as our non-cooler friends.

We eat one meal out each day, usually dinner. If we go to a banquet, that counts as our meal out. Then we eat breakfast in the room and make sandwiches for the other meal. Bologna sandwiches contrast with the expensive meal to make it taste better. Eating out is wonderful, but gets old three times a day for a week.

The problem of keeping food cold is solved by using a block of ice. It lasts longer than bags of ice chips. Also only store a minimum of items in the cooler. Pop tarts and instant oatmeal eliminate the need for milk. Individual packets of mustard and ketchup from fast food restaurants don't have to be kept cold. Lunch meat, cheese, lettuce and tomatoes all squeeze into a small cooler with room left to chill juice or drinks overnight.

It promotes fellowship.

A few years back I asked Dad not to invite all his friends to share from the cooler. After all, our extended family pretty well filled up a hotel room with meals served at the tables, on the beds and the floor. However, I missed the fellowship over food with Dad's friends.

Now we invite friends just like Dad before us (and allow him to bring a few of his own). Fellowship with friends accentuates the enjoyment of those sandwiches.

Well, the cooler is clean and ready for a trip to Tampa.

Now, where is that lid?



ABOUT THE WRITER: Ruth Creech Mullen is a free lance writer who lives in New Castle, Indiana, where her husband, Jim, pastors First Bible Free Will Baptist Church.

REQUEST FOR TICKETS TO MEAL FUNCTIONS 1989 National Convention

Number	Meal	Total
_____	Learner / Adventurer Banquet \$7 Monday, July 17 / 5:00 p.m. Holiday Inn Downtown / Crown Ballroom	\$ _____
_____	Music Ministries Fellowship Breakfast \$6 Tuesday, July 18 / 7:00 a.m. Days Inn Downtown / Grand Ballroom III	\$ _____
_____	Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon \$7.50 Tuesday, July 18 / 12:15 p.m. Days Inn Downtown / Grand Ballroom II, III	\$ _____
_____	WNAC Fellowship Dinner \$13.50 Tuesday, July 18 / 5:00 p.m. Hyatt Regency / Regency Ballroom	\$ _____
_____	Youth Banquet \$8 Tuesday, July 18 / 9:00 p.m. Hyatt Regency / Regency Ballroom	\$ _____
_____	Youth Workers Fellowship Breakfast \$7 Wednesday, July 19 / 7:00 a.m. Hyatt Regency / Esplanade Suite	\$ _____
_____	Free Will Baptist Bible College Luncheon \$10 Wednesday, July 19 / 12:00 noon Tampa Hilton / Bayshore Ballroom	\$ _____
_____	Master's Men Dinner \$12.50 Wednesday, July 19 / 5:00 p.m. Days Inn Downtown / Grand Ballroom	\$ _____
	Total Enclosed \$	_____

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to TICKET SALES. Mail request to TICKET SALES, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202. Please send check or money order. Do not send cash. All requests must be received by **JUNE 30, 1989.**

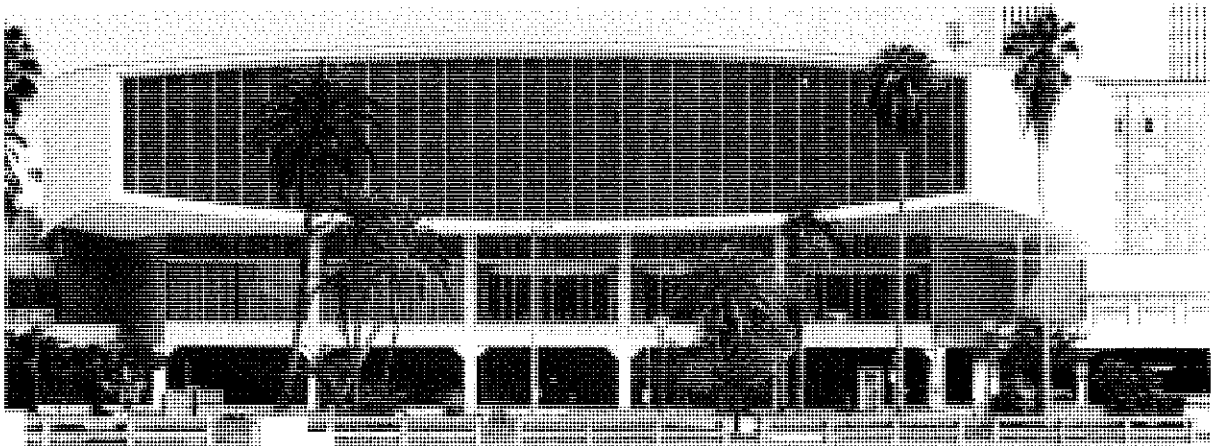
NO TICKET REFUNDS AFTER JUNE 30, 1989.

53rd Annual Session

**NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

Tampa, Florida

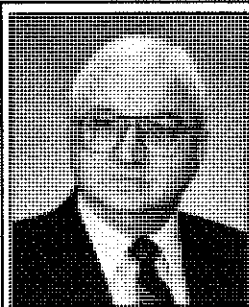
July 16-20, 1989



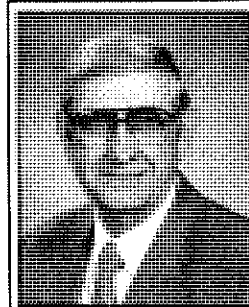
CURTIS HIXON CONVENTION CENTER



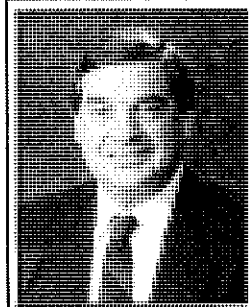
Larry Montgomery
Pastor
Hollywood FWB Church
Hollywood, Florida



Waldo Young
Pastor
Northeast FWB Church
Shawnee, Oklahoma



Delmar Sparks
Pastor
Westerville FWB Church
Westerville, Ohio



Milburn Wilson
Pastor
Sherwood Forest FWB
Church
El Sobrante, California

Hotel Reservation

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Tampa, Florida

National Convention

July 16-20, 1989





- All reservation requests will be made through the NAFWB Housing Bureau—NOT WITH INDIVIDUAL HOTELS.
- Complete this housing form selecting your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice hotels and mail to the Housing Bureau. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1989. Send one form for each room request—duplicate this form if necessary.
- Changes and cancellations must be made directly with the hotel before 6:00 p.m. the day of your arrival.
- The hotel will require a deposit. Complete the credit card information on this form or send a check directly to the hotel AFTER you have received your confirmation.
- Information and inquiries ONLY: 800/826-8358.

Cutoff Date:
Received by
June 30, 1989

MAIL TO:
NAFWB
Housing Bureau
100 S. Ashley Drive, Suite 850
Tampa, FL 33602

YOUR NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE: (WK) _____ (HM) _____
CREDIT CARD TYPE _____ CC# _____ EXP _____
ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

HOTEL REQUESTED (Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices.):

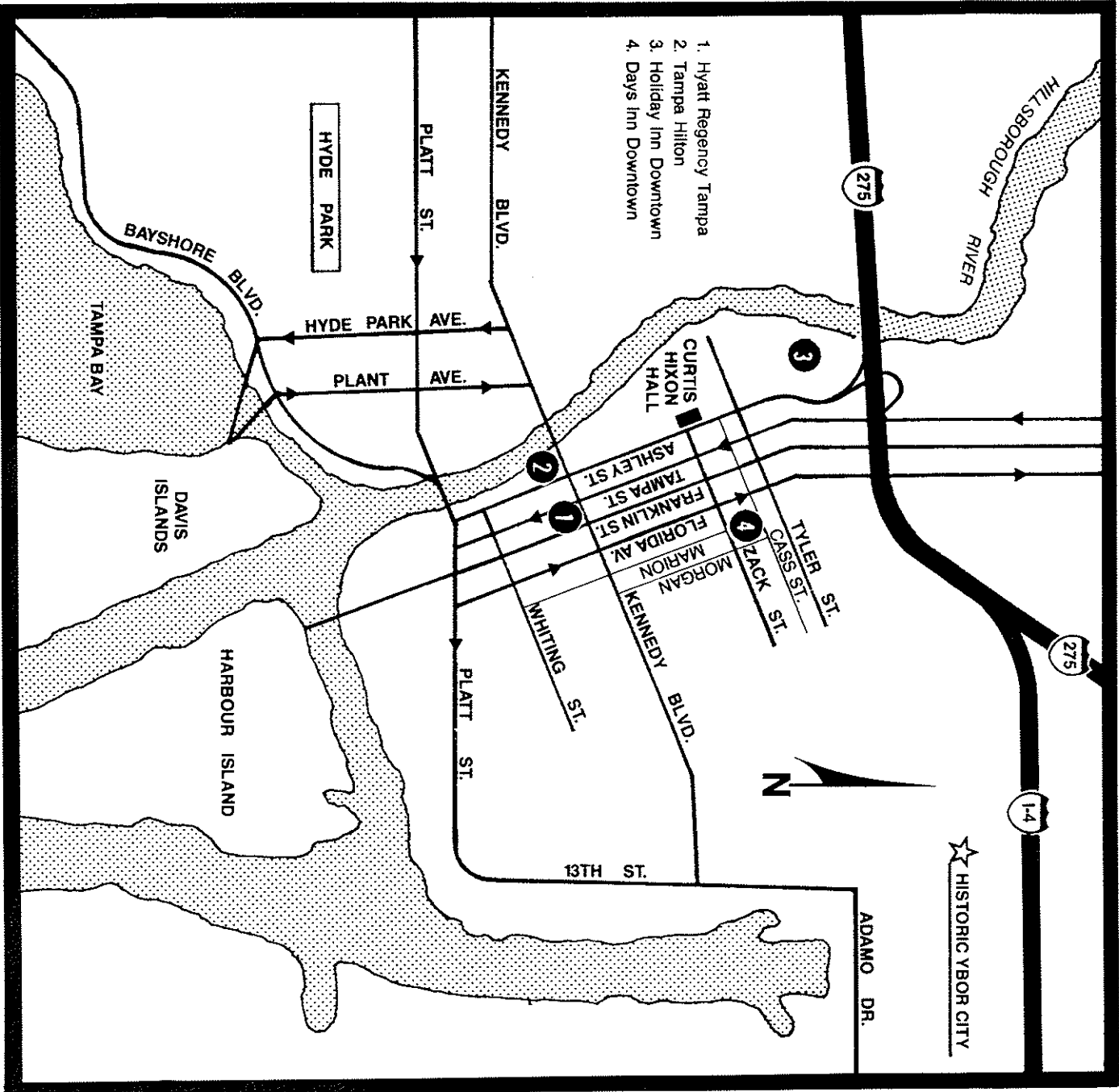
HOTELS	Choice	Single 	Double 	Triple 	Quad 
Hyatt Regency Tampa (Headquarters)		\$70	\$70	\$80	\$80
Tampa Hilton		\$55	\$55	\$55	\$55
Holiday Inn Downtown		\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Days Inn Downtown		\$45	\$45	\$52	\$52

TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED:

SINGLE/1 PERSON _____ DOUBLE/2 PEOPLE _____
TRIPLE/3 PEOPLE _____ QUAD/4 PEOPLE _____
NUMBER OF BEDS IN ROOM _____

PLEASE LIST ROOM OCCUPANTS:

HOTEL LOCATIONS



WORTHINGTON NAMED PRESIDENT OF RCMA



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

VOLUNTEERS SPUR NEW CHURCH SIGN, RENOVATION

CINCINNATI, OH—Members of Ambassador FWB Church, Cincinnati, poured more than 80 hours of volunteer labor into sanctuary renovation and building a new sign, reports Pastor Jerry McArthur.

Six members erected and painted the new double-sided sign which stands 13 feet tall and almost nine feet wide. The wooden structure features fiberglass lettering and an unbreakable lexan covering. The sign is valued at more than \$1,000.

Pastor McArthur said the volunteer work also included paint for the 60 x 80-foot sanctuary which seats 467 people. Two members, Mark Eubanks and Mike Fields, invested 60 hours on that task.

The church expects to install new lighting later this year.

MILWAUKEE, WI—The Religious Conference Management Association (RCMA) elected Dr. Melvin Worthington president of the organization during its 17th annual session which met January 24-27 in Milwaukee. This marks the first time that a Free Will Baptist has been asked to serve as RCMA president. Dr. Worthington was also re-elected to the RCMA Board of Directors. Dr. Worthington is the Free Will Baptist executive secretary.

RCMA is the only international association composed of religious meeting planners and those who provide facilities and services within that specified field. Current RCMA membership

stands at 1,002 with 401 members and 601 associate members.

Founded in 1972 at Louisville, Kentucky, RCMA is dedicated to promoting the highest professional performance by its members through mutual exchange of ideas, techniques and methods.

The Indiana-based association impacts cities around the world, but especially the United States. Most of the 2,000 annual meetings scheduled by RCMA members meet in the U.S. They generate more than \$100 million in revenue for host cities and attract more than 1.4 million people.

MARY WISEHART WINS CMP DESIGNATION

MILWAUKEE, WI—Dr. Mary Wisehart, executive secretary and meeting planner for the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, was awarded the Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation in January during the Religious Conference Management Association's annual session at Milwaukee.

Dr. Wisehart joined six other RCMA members as a recipient of meeting planning's highest honor. She has served as WNAC's meeting planner for three years. She sat for the CMP exam in December 1988.

The CMP designation, introduced in 1985, is earned through application and examination. It recognizes those professionals who have achieved a high level of experience and expertise in meeting planning.

The CMP exam is administered by the Convention and Liaison Council, a

confederation of 20 associations representing the convention, meeting, trade show and exposition industries, and travel and tourism generally.

WOODBINE TEAM WINS FWBBC TOURNAMENT

NASHVILLE, TN—The Eagles basketball team from Woodbine Christian Academy, Nashville, upset the favored Trinity Christian Tigers from Greenville, NC, at Free Will Baptist Bible College's 10th Christian Schools Tournament, held January 12-14 in Nashville.

Trinity had won the tournament for three years and was favored to win it for an unprecedented fourth year. Woodbine was forced to play Trinity twice on the closing day of the tournament, after beating them earlier. Trinity won the first game, giving each team one win over the other. But three of Trinity's starting players were unable to continue in the second game because of illness.

Each of the eight competing teams had a player on the All-Tournament Team. The Most Valuable Player was Woodbine's Darin Gibbs, of Nashville.

FWBBC Coach Byron Deel noted how evenly matched the teams were, evidenced by the fact that every team in the tournament lost at least one game. "It's encouraging to see the caliber of basketball played at these schools," he said. "Some of these young men will have the opportunity to attend the Bible College and participate in our program."

The 1990 tournament is scheduled January 11-12. Any Christian school interested in competing should contact Coach Deel, in care of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____

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

Baptists from _____

(Name of church)

_____ of _____

(District Association)

(City)

(State)

Pastor

Clerk or Secretary

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

newsfront

(continued)

FWB CHURCH DAY SCHOOLS MEET IN ATLANTA

ATLANTA, GA—The Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Church Day Schools met for its 17th annual Pastors' and Principals' Conference January 9-11, in Atlanta, Georgia, according to President Tag Kilgore.

Dr. Lee Roberson addressed the conferees on building successful church and school ministries. Mr. Kilgore said, "Dr. Roberson's 61 years in the ministry, with over 40 years at Highland Park Baptist and Tennessee Temple in Chattanooga, equipped him to share with our leaders."

Mrs. Roberson spoke to the wives attending. The ladies also joined her in a time of shopping and dining Tuesday afternoon.

Officers elected included:

President: Tag Kilgore

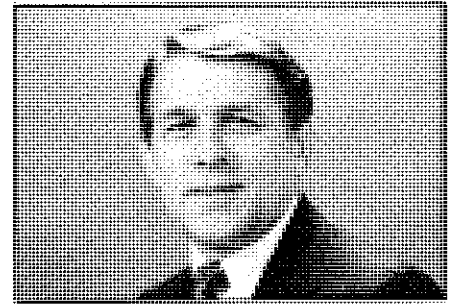
Vice President: Richard Cordell

Secretary-Treasurer: Doug Henderson

SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE TO GRADUATE 18

WENDELL, NC—Southeastern Free Will Baptist College will graduate 18 students May 18. Eight of the 18 are ministerial students, three teacher education majors, three music majors, two missions students and one graduating with an Associate of Arts in business.

Dr. Lorenza Stox will be the commencement speaker. Dr. Stox is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College with a B.A., and of Middle Tennessee State University where he earned an M.A. He was also awarded the D.D. degree by Midwestern Baptist College.



Graduation services will be conducted at First FWB Church in Raleigh at 10:00 a.m.

The 1990 meeting will be held January 15-17 near Gatlinburg, Tenn., at Pigeon Forge's Grand Hotel. For additional information and to be placed on the mailing list, write:

Tag Kilgore

First Free Will Baptist Church
6148 Jefferson Avenue
Newport News, VA 23605

One attendee commented, "God has used this meeting to touch my life and ministry in a special way every year, and this year was no exception."

CHURCH HONORS TWO CHARTER MEMBERS

LAWTON, OK—Members of Brockland FWB Church, Lawton, declared a "Bailey Appreciation" Sunday to pay tribute to Billie and Chester Bailey, according to church clerk, Martha Langford.

Pastor Dean Thompson presented a hand-carved plaque to the Baileys. The plaque, depicting the Brockland Church building, was made by former associate pastor Rodger Arter.

Billie and Chester Bailey were charter members when Brockland Church organized in 1962. Brother Bailey served as an ordained deacon. Both Billie and Chester have taught classes and held numerous officers in the church. They also participated in district, state and national outreaches.

Oklahoma City Pastor DeArthur Yandell preached the morning message. After lunch served in the Baileys' honor, tributes and testimonies about the Baileys filled the afternoon.

Clerk Martha Langford said the group also presented a church photo album to Billie Bailey. The Baileys recently retired and moved to Ada, Okla.



CALLING ALL FREE WILL BAPTIST SINGERS!

Do the words *Tampa in July*, ring your chimes? When you consider the blessing of singing with Free Will Baptists from across the globe, do you experience a crescendo in your spirit?

If you answer, "yes," to one of the above questions, we need you at this year's National Association of Free Will Baptists. The 1989 meeting convenes July 16-20 in the Curtis Hixon Convention Center in Tampa. The Mass Choir, conducted by Doug Little, will lead a great host of Free Will Baptists in musical worship on both Monday and Tuesday evenings of the convention.

Rather than harp on this issue, let me invite you to harmonize with the choir. Rehearsal times will be announced in the June issue of *Contact*.

Blaine Hughes
Convention Music Coordinator

Pastor **Russell Wright** of **First FWB Church, Booneville, MS**, reports the dedication of an 8,750-square-foot education and recreation building valued at \$150,000. The structure will also be used by the Little Brown Creek Association.

Pastor **Larry Hughes** said giving at **First FWB Church, Walnut Ridge, AR**, increased more than \$26,000 last year. The church voted to build a new sanctuary and to broadcast morning worship services live.

The **Free Will Baptist Mission** in **Midwest City, OK**, meets in the Campus Corner Shopping Center, according to Pastor **Tom Drake**.

The **Tulsa Missions Conference** meets October 19-20 at **First FWB Church, Tulsa, OK**. The conference goal is to raise \$10,000 to construct a building and pay one year's salary for a pastor in Mexico. Speakers include **Howard Gwartzney** and **James Munsey**.

Emmanuel FWB Church in **Columbus, GA**, changed its name after 35 years. Pastor **Willie Martin** said the new name is **First FWB Church**. The group also began a children's church.

According to Pastor **Larry Powell**, members of **Cofer's Chapel FWB Church, Nashville, TN**, gave more than \$36,000 to Free Will Baptist Bible College in seven years.

Pastor **Shelva Hart** led dedication services at **Liberty FWB Church, Phillipsburg, MO**. Members celebrated the enlarged and remodeled sanctuary and educational buildings. The sanctuary accommodates 350 and includes new pews, carpeting and platform furniture. Space was doubled in the educational building.

The new 5,000-square-foot building at **Arbor Grove FWB Church, Hoxie, AR**, includes 11 Sunday School classrooms, fellowship hall, baptistry and a 250-seat auditorium. **Glen Campbell** pastors.

Following mortgage burning ceremonies at **Richwoods Chapel FWB Church, Richwoods, MO**, Pastor **Travis Harrison** presented certificates of recognition to five members of the church for their special efforts in paying off the church loan in one year. Church trustees **Arthur Vest** and **Junior Lewis** assisted the pastor with the mortgage burning.

Five months after they began construction, members of **Willow Springs FWB Church, Mountain Grove, MO**, moved into their new church sanctuary. Pastor

Charles Crenshaw said the 63 x 32-foot sanctuary includes a baptistry and nursery. Former pastor **Ollie Wright** delivered the dedication message.

The **Arkansas Ministers Retreat** met February 20-22 at Degray State Park and Lodge and Convention Center in Bismarck, AR. The sessions included three sermons each from speakers **Billy Hanna** (Albany, GA) and **Robert Woodard** (professor of Bible and pastoral training at FWBCC).

Pastor **Dale Burden** of **Gateway FWB Church, Norfolk, VA**, wrote a stirring article in the January 19 issue of *The Arrow*, a bi-weekly publication of the church. The article titled "Why Not Join the Church? All of It!" urged members to assume responsibility for every activity in the church. Pastor Burden puts his finger on a problem that exists in many churches.

Pastor **Ben Scott** says he has an active group of retired persons at **First FWB Church, North Little Rock, AR**. One man, **Max Hargett**, gives classes and instruction on the art of driving 18-wheel trucks.

A record 24 elementary and secondary school teachers will complete the teacher education program at **Free Will Baptist Bible College** this year, according to **Ken Riggs**, chairman of the teacher education department. Fifteen are completing the elementary program and nine the secondary major.

Garry and **Donna Richey** led February 17-18 workshop sessions for teachers to develop lay ministry at **First FWB Church, Russellville, AR**. The Richeys from Oklahoma City, OK, discussed lesson preparation, class caring and getting students involved in lessons. **Doug Little** pastors.

Contact welcomes *First Fruits*, publication of **First FWB Church, Erwin, TN**. **Ronnie Adkins** pastors. The four-page publication includes a sermon by the pastor as well as a series of focuses on ministries within the church family.

Truth FWB Church, New Oxford, PA, conducted its first foreign missions conference, according to clerk **Lois Becker**. The group raised more than \$800 and had a high attendance of 120. They also pledged more than \$1,300 in annual faith promises. **Gregory Godby** pastors.

Pastor **Russell Lowe** reports 23 new members, nine conversions, eight baptisms and 35 rededications at **North McAlester FWB Church, McAlester, OK**. This

occurred in Lowe's first year as pastor. The Vacation Bible School averaged 138 attendance. The group also sponsored a special day to honor founding pastor **Jess Henson** who started the church 22 years ago with 10 charter members.

Pastor **Cliff Donoho** reports six conversions at **Calvary FWB Church, Salem, IL**. A special \$5,500 offering was applied to the church's loan balance.

Members of **Crossroads FWB Church, Effingham, IL**, set 2,500 contacts as a goal for February. Pastor **John Hollis** said members also cut and split 17 loads of firewood for needy people.

Pastor **Charles Miller** reports that **First FWB Church, Desoto, MO**, purchased a 60-passenger Chevrolet bus.


Reverend **Lonnie Hale** died December 31, 1988. The 82-year-old Free Will Baptist preacher was one of the founding fathers in the **Maryland State Association**. He served the Lord faithfully and provided consistent leadership for the Free Will Baptist work in Maryland.

Pastor **James Pittman** said members of **Freedom FWB Church, Havelock, NC**, began construction of their first-unit facility with the sanctuary element in one end and an educational-office area in the other. Pastor Pittman started the work with the assistance of 20 churches on a non-committal basis.

Contact welcomes *The Cross Roads Newsletter*, publication of **Cross Roads FWB Church, Billings, MT**. Pastor **Ron Palmer** edits the multi-page publication.

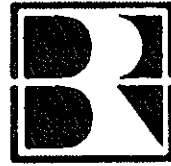
Trinity FWB Church, Mauk, GA, honored Pastor and Mrs. **Warren Wyatt** for 16 years of service to the church and community. In addition to the many testimonies shared, the group presented Reverend and Mrs. Wyatt with an engraved silver tray.

Pastor **Charles McNeese** said members of **Cross Roads FWB Church, Cochran, GA**, completed a \$27,000 educational wing. The new addition houses five Sunday School rooms, a pastor's study and fellowship facilities to seat 60 people. Georgia Executive Secretary **Herbert Waid** spoke at the dedication service.

Pastor **Lloyd Plunkett** decided he would do something different for 1989. In addition to reading the Bible through once, Pastor Plunkett says he intends to memorize 12 great chapters in the Bible. He pastors **New Hope FWB Church, Kent, WA**. 



Herman L. Hersey
Director



Board of Retirement

AT YOUR SERVICE

Housing vs. Parsonage Survey Report

In a recent survey we asked a number of pastors and lay people to indicate their preference for pastors' housing benefits.

1. Parsonage—housing provided rent-free by the church.

2. Parsonage plus equity—housing provided rent-free with a cash amount set aside as the pastor's equity that would have accrued in buying a home.

3. Housing allowance—a budgeted cash payment directly to the pastor for housing.

Only 33 percent of the pastors surveyed prefer a parsonage, but those over age 55 prefer a parsonage by 63 percent. Pastors with 20 or more years experience and those who pastored five or more churches tend to prefer a parsonage.

A majority, 77 percent, of pastors feel they have adequate space for their families. But, only 44 percent report the upkeep as satisfactory.

Of those pastors receiving a housing allowance, only 40 percent think it is enough. Allowances range from \$100 to \$918 monthly.

Of the laity responding, 62 percent feel a parsonage is best. Their reasons are summed up in a few words:

"For the church, a parsonage is more economical. Inflation increases the amount necessary for housing, while parsonage payments remain the same. A parsonage means less hassle and makes the transition smoother during pastoral changes."

Pastors who prefer parsonages point out:

—A parsonage, regardless of inadequacies, is one problem solved.

—House hunting is eliminated, and the church provides maintenance.

—In a small town, it is not always easy to find housing.

—The church can afford better housing than the pastor.

—Changing pastorates is easier.

Other pastors see disadvantages:

—The pastor's and the church's idea of "home" may differ.

—Every church member is his landlord.

—In his old age the pastor has no home or should he die his family has no home.

—If he loses his church, he loses both a job and a home.

—Repairs may be slow and substandard.

—A parsonage may be too small to entertain evangelists without disrupting the family.

—Some members feel the pastor gets something for nothing.

—Living long-term in a parsonage and accepting it as part of his compensation, the pastor, in effect, gives his equity or housing compensation back to the church when he leaves.

should be a consideration in setting the pastor's salary. Yet, only 20 percent feel their church should provide housing equity in addition to the parsonage.

Parsonage plus equity is a new concept to most respondents. Laity opinions are divided:

—I feel we pay our pastor well; he should be able to save for future housing.

—The church should set aside equity for the pastor or put funds in his retirement plan.

Pastors' opinions are divided also. But several see this option as ideal for the future:

—I prefer receiving an adequate income and making my own arrangements.

—Since rising costs may make it difficult for many pastors to secure adequate housing in the future, the parsonage plus equity may be best.

—Churches with parsonages may need to keep them and to consider housing equity put in escrow for the pastor when he leaves. This makes his total equity dollars directly commensurate with his years of service.

(continued next month)

Of the laity responding, 38 percent say the rental value of the parsonage

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wischart



Jesus came to give beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. He can cause the sun to break through the clouds in your heart, no matter what the circumstances around you.

Provision Closet Needs

The Provision Closet needs the following items:

- King size sheet sets, mattress covers, bedspreads
- Coffee makers
- Blenders

Eunice Edwards Fund

January 31, 1989—\$18,575.31
 Needed: \$11,424.69 in 1989
 for \$30,000

WNAC Office Needs

Want to lend a helping hand? The WNAC needs the following (prices approximate):

- Computer and software for bookkeeping \$2,000
- Chair at light table for editor 100
- Typewriter 500
- Copier 1,500

Can you help by taking one of these needs as a project? Just designate the money for office equipment and furnishings and then it can be used where needed most.

Special Opportunity

You have a special invitation to hear Mrs. Mabel Willey speak at WNAC's Fellowship Dinner, July 18, 5:00 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the Hyatt Hotel in Tampa.

Watch for ticket sales in *Contact* and in the *Co-Laborer*.

Get your tickets early. The caterer must have an exact number by Tuesday morning, July 18.

From My Window

"I want the rain to stop," Jason complained that morning. Personally, I like rainy days. Something about them lifts my spirits. But not everyone feels exhilarated when it rains. To them rain outside is a symbol of inward turmoil and even despair. The grey skies, the wetness dull and dampen the spirit. It's grey and rainy inside and out.

That morning Jason was on vacation and had special plans for the afternoon. He kept coming into the kitchen complaining about the rain.

Finally his frustrated mother said, "Jason, don't come to me fussing about the rain. I can't do anything about it. Only God can control the rain."

Jason left the kitchen. I thought he was simply obeying his mother.

I don't know how long he waited, but after a while, he came back into the kitchen. His eyes sparkled and his face lighted with a smile.

"I asked Him," he said, "And He did it."

We hadn't even noticed, but now looking out the window, we saw the sun breaking through the clouds. The rain stopped.

Perhaps the rain of despair is falling in your life. With the childlike faith of Jason, ask God to restore the sunshine.



A World Missions Offering

*By R. Eugene Waddell
General Director*

I was amazed to hear a local Nazarene pastor announce that his congregation gave \$44,917 in their Easter foreign missions offering! I learned that, in addition, the members of the congregation gave faith-promise offerings of \$250,000 last year. When I heard that, I felt compelled to challenge Free Will Baptists to a deeper commitment to world missions.

We are grateful for the various means through which our denomination supports missions. We have seen our missionary program grow especially through faith-promise support. Some churches have also included foreign missions in their budgets.

The April Foreign Missions Month emphasis has been changed from Call-a-thon Sunday to Foreign Missions Sunday. The offering on that day, April 30, 1989, is now designated "World Missions Offering."

Last year 96 churches participated with gifts totaling \$33,811. We hope to see the number of churches and the size of the offerings grow until this special event makes a very significant contribution to our world evangelism ministry.

The idea of a large foreign missions offering has met with wide approval. Pastor John Turner from Pochontas, Ark., wrote: "I am pleased to see the department heading in this direction. Our method of raising funds must be improved, and I think this approach will be beneficial."

A whopping World Missions Offering can help shift the responsibility for fund raising from our missionaries. It can be a step toward eliminating deficits by providing funds for some projects now covered by missionary accounts. For example, this offering can assist our growing younger churches overseas in leadership training programs, church loan funds, and evangelism.

A whopping World Missions Offering can help shift the responsibility for fund raising from our missionaries.

Several other reasons could be set forth as to why every church should plan ahead and receive a generous World Missions Offering on April 30. For one thing, some members who are reluctant to make a monthly faith commitment would probably participate in a special offering.

As Pastor Vergel Maness, Vineland, N.J., said, "This is a first step for the continued involvement of our church here in the outreach to the regions beyond."

Participation can make a lasting impression on a congregation. Pastor Kenneth Pell from Bradley, Ill., wrote about his church's participation in 1988. "It has been beneficial in our get-

ting a clearer focus on world evangelization."

Last year, Pastor Gary McKinney from Chipley, Fla., sent a \$1,131 offering from the First Church and wrote: "We emphasized that we would give a week's offering to foreign missions needy accounts. We gave a full week's offering. Our leadership was at first reticent at giving a week's offering. It was a step of faith. God blesses a missions-minded church. Our people felt good about doing it."

Another advantage to receiving a large World Missions Offering is that it costs so little when compared with deputational travel expenses. The action is taken by a pastor and a local church as prompted by the Holy Spirit. This glorifies God and promotes good stewardship.

When asked about his church's involvement in 1988, Pastor David Archer from Faith FWB Church in Glenpool, Okla., wrote that they used the quarter folders in their childrens' churches, teen classes, and with the adults. He wrote, "We plan on taking part each year. Think of it, if 2,600 churches would average giving \$1,000 each, we would raise 2.6 million dollars!"

I want to urge every pastor and church to plan now to participate in Foreign Missions Sunday, April 30. I hope every church can catch the vision of doing something to help reach some of the 2.3 billion unevangelized people in our world. That would cause great rejoicing in heaven. 🌍

Free Will Baptist Bible College **REPORT**

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

The Department Pages

Free Will Baptist Bible College's **SUMMER CAMP '89**

For Grades 9-12
June 19-25, 1989

Free Will Baptist Bible College is continuing its effort to minister to Free Will Baptist young people through its Summer Camp program.

For several years the college has invited young people to the campus for a week to develop their skills in various areas. At first, music was the only Summer Camp emphasis. It was followed quickly by adding a drama emphasis. Then came basketball.

This year, the college has added a fourth emphasis—one that has the people at FWBBC especially excited. It is called SALT camp: Scriptural Action and Leadership Training. It will be targeted at those who already sense God's leading to Christian service.

Here is a brief summary of what each camp will offer.

Music Camp—

Young people who have a yearning to use their music talents for the Lord will enjoy a week of intensive training under the skilled direction of the FWBBC music faculty and some

of the school's most gifted music students. This will include both group and private lessons. Both singers and instrumentalists will find a place at Music Camp. The week of training will climax with a special program on the closing Sunday night of the camp.

Drama Camp—

Drama teams from the Bible College have convinced many of the power of drama in presenting the gospel. Some churches are producing their own plays for Christmas and other occasions. Drama Camp will teach young people both play production and on-stage performance. The college Speech Department faculty and several especially skilled students will conduct sessions on make-up, lighting, costuming, scenery, etc. Campers will also receive special instructions on how to improve their stage presentation. All of this will culminate in a final performance at the college.

Basketball Camp—

This camp, for boys, will include

a video analysis of each camper, 3-on-3 competition, shooting contests and other special features. The camp staff, which will include members of the FWBBC Flames basketball team, will stress fundamentals and team play. A heavy emphasis will be placed on a Christian philosophy of competition, which honors Jesus Christ in victory or defeat. The aim of Basketball Camp will be to improve every young man's court skills and Christian commitment.

SALT Camp—

Bible study, devotional habits, witnessing skills, etc. are just a few of the areas that will be stressed at SALT Camp. This camp is for young people who are serious Christians. It does not require that you be a preacher or have your sights set on the mission field—although it is for those, too. Rather, it is for those whose main desire is to go back home from camp stronger in the Lord and better prepared to live for Jesus Christ.

Of course, every camp will include devotional times and challenges to full commitment.

All four camps will begin on Monday afternoon, June 19. Departure should be scheduled for after the Sunday evening service on June 25, or on Monday morning, June 26.

The total cost is \$145. This includes room and meals, activities and camp T-shirt.

A brochure is available. Write or call:

Summer Camp '89
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205
615/383-1340



FOUNDATION

Herman L. Hersey
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Glossary of Terms

The following terms are common in wills and estate planning. You should be familiar with their usage when talking with your attorney or estate planner.

Administrator. The personal representative appointed by the probate court to settle the estate of a person who dies without a will.

Annuity payment. The payment of principal and interest at fixed intervals to an annuitant or beneficiary.

Charitable estate planning. Estate planning which includes a provision for a charitable agency to receive a portion of a person's assets.

Charitable remainder annuity trust. A trust providing for the transfer of property to a trustee subject to the donor's right to receive a fixed percentage of the initial fair market value of the property for as long as he lives. At the donor's death the remainder of the trust becomes the property of the beneficiary agency.

Codicil. An addition or amendment to a person's will.

Common Disaster. A situation in which husband and wife die under circumstances where it is impossible to determine who died first.

Deferred Gift. A gift made now whereby a charitable organization benefits sometime in the future according to conditions stated in a contract.

Endowment. Property held by a charity (FWB Foundation, for example) and invested to provide an annual income for a named agency or agencies.

Estate. The fair market value of all property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, wherever situated, which is owned by an individual or in which he has some interest.

Estate Analysis. The collection and study of data about a person's property to be used in developing an estate plan.

Estate Planning. Planning the management of all an individual's assets for the benefit of the owner and / or heirs.

Executor (trix). The personal representative named in a will to settle the testator's estate.

Fair market value. The amount a willing buyer will pay a willing seller for property.

Federal estate tax. The tax imposed on the transfer of property to others at death. This tax is paid from the assets of the estate.

Federal gift tax. The tax imposed on the transfer of property during the lifetime of a donor. This tax is paid by the donor.

Guardian. A person appointed or approved by the court to look after the personal interest of another person.

Intestate. Dying without a will.

Laws of descent and distribution. State laws which control distribution of property when a person dies without a will.

Life estate agreement. An agreement in which a donor deeds real estate to a charitable agency but reserves the right to use or reside on the property for life.

Planned giving. The making of gifts to a charity, resulting from a planning process which considers the effects of the gift upon the donor's estate.

Probate. The "proving" of a will. When a person dies, the will is taken to the probate court to prove the will is indeed that person's last will and testament.

Residue. Property left for the final beneficiaries named in a will after all other bequests have been paid.

Revocable living trust. A trust which may be revoked at any time by the trustor (with a reasonable advance warning of the intention to revoke the trust.)

Settlement cost. The cost of settling an estate.

Testamentary gift. A gift made through a will.

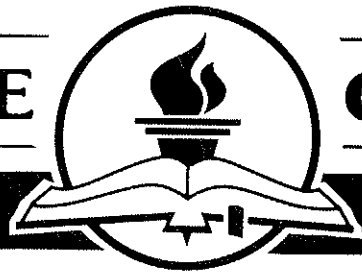
Testator. The person who makes a will.

Trust instrument. The legal document which provides operating instructions for a trustee in carrying out the terms of the trust.

Will. A person's statement to the public regarding the disposition of his property at death.

The Foundation is not engaged in rendering legal service or advice. Advice from legal counsel should be sought.

HOUSE



CALL

Coming Curriculum Changes

By Roger Reeds
General Director

Expect some sweeping changes in your Sunday School literature this year. It's about time. Some of the changes are long overdue.

Nursery and Preschool Levels

Improvements will be made in both teachers' quarterlies. Additional helps and how-to's will be added. The teaching pictures and flannelgraph stories will be expanded to sets of 13 each. The teacher will have an either / or choice. A memory verse packet will be added.

Primary and Junior Levels

Materials will be added to the teachers' quarterlies. Look for more helpful ideas. The Snow-N-Tell packet will be expanded to give the teacher a choice of 13 teaching pictures or 13 flannelgraph lessons. Of course, the teacher may wish to use both.

Teen Levels

Both teen levels will be placed on their own six-year cycles. The teen quarterly will receive a new name. It will be called "Turning Point." The High Teen quarterly will become "Horizon." All new teachers' quarterlies are being prepared for both levels. A visual packet will be available for the teachers. The Teen

Mates I & II will become tear-out work sheets.

Adult Levels

Both levels of the adults will be placed on a new nine-year cycle. More extensive coverage will be given to the New Testament.

The young adult quarterly called "Challenge" will receive a new name and new size. It will appear as the "Bible Challenge" in our new series.

The adult quarterly will continue to

appear in both large print and regular print.

Advances will be made in the "Bible Teacher." The Visual Instruction Packet will continue to present visual concepts of the lesson.

All of the changes are made to continue our commitment to give Free Will Baptists the best literature available anywhere. You can keep your church in the mainstream of Free Will Baptist theology by using Free Will Baptist literature.



Introducing TBIS
The Baptist Information System
For Free Will Baptist Churches
Now Available From Randall House
A powerful
Computer program
customized for
Free Will Baptist Churches

**Pastors
Treasurers
Superintendents
Organize for
Growth**

1-800-251-5762
In Tenn.
1-800-624-6538

MINI GRAMS

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

The New Missionary Contract

A Working Agreement Between Board and Missionary

By Roy Thomas

For many years home missionaries have signed contracts which give a working arrangement between the Home Missions Board and the missionaries. Before the days of written contracts, the missionary just shook hands with Home Missions Board members and vowed to work hard in building a new Free Will Baptist church. Later, as more benefits and responsibilities were added, a more complete job description was adopted.

However, the lack of loyalty by a few missionaries who severed churches from the denomination after becoming self-supporting made it necessary to revise the contracts. Here are some of the additions in the new contracts:

The City. The name of the place to which the missionary is going is spelled out so that the church will be started in the city the board has approved, rather than a "surprise" city selected by the missionary.

The Church Name. The contract states that the missionary is free to name his church whatever he desires, but the name must include the words, "Free Will Baptist Church." This name must be used on all church signs, legal documents, publications and advertisements.

The Church Affiliation. The missionary agrees to place a dissolution clause in the articles of incorporation and in the constitution and by-laws of the new church stating that if the church chooses to sever its affiliation with the National Association of Free Will Baptists, it shall pay back all funds expended in the establishment of the Free Will Baptist church.

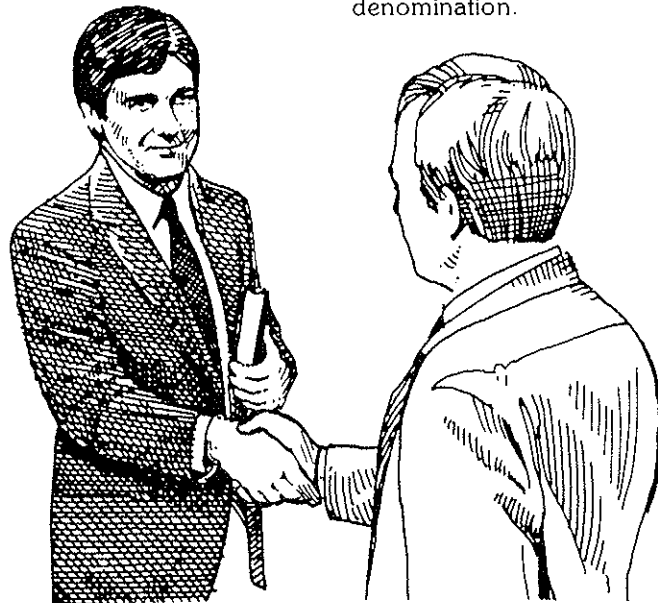
The National Home Missions Board holds no titles or liens on property. The church, which is autonomous and owns its own property, is free to change to any denomination it may desire, but it must repay the money Free Will Baptists have invested in the project.

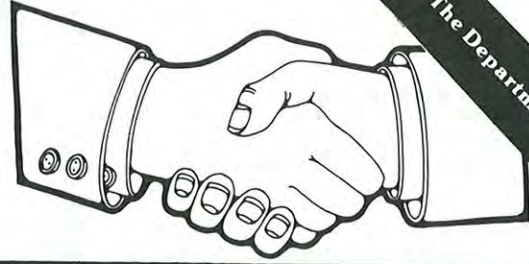
The Creed. The contract has a doctrinal statement the missionary must sign which says, "I certify that I am an ordained Free Will Baptist minister in good standing, and that I believe and teach the Free Will Baptist doctrines such as the possibility of apostasy, the baptism of the Holy Spirit at conversion, the ordinances of baptism, the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saints' feet, and all other doctrines and practices as stated in *A Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the Original Free Will Baptists*, and will teach them to the church I am establishing under this contract."

This new contract has already been adopted by several state associations and state mission boards, and has been eagerly accepted by the home missionaries.

Almost all past and present home missionaries are loyal, dedicated, faithful servants of Christ and the Free Will Baptist denomination. They are anxious for people to know that they intend to be true to their denomination and build loyal Free Will Baptist churches. They also want the mission church, which takes such a large part of their lives to establish, to continue to preach and teach the same doctrines which won the congregation to Christ and grounded it in the faith.

With the new contracts, people who support national Home Missions can be sure the money they give will be used to establish Free Will Baptist churches which will be loyal to our Lord and our denomination.





M MASTER'S ANDATE

Dear Pastor:

Since 1962 Master's Men has sponsored the Layman of the Year award. This is your opportunity to recognize faithful laymen. Nominate a man from your church. He doesn't have to be a member of Master's Men.

Your nomination will be reviewed by the Master's Men Board. Each board member will select the man he feels best demonstrates devotion to our Master and His work. Then the votes will be compiled to select the 1988 Layman of the Year.

Your nomination should be based on accomplishments for the 1988 calendar year. Do *not* nominate a minister.

Two awards are presented: Layman of the Year and Runner-Up Layman of the Year. The men will be introduced at the Master's Men Dinner Wednesday, July 19, in Tampa, Florida. The recipients will be given a special plaque and certificate. A certificate of recognition will be given to each layman nominated.

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

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

January Membership Results

Three new chapters, nine info packets mailed; Director spoke to three men's groups.



LAYMAN OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

Sponsored by the Master's Men Department
(Please **print or type** all entries.)

Nominee's Name _____
Last First M.I.
 Age _____ Birthday ____ - ____ - 19 ____ Telephone (____) _____ - _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Occupation _____ Wife's Name _____
 Name of Church _____

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

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Pastor's Signature _____ Date _____

Telephone Number (____) - ____ - _____

TEEN Scene

Positive ID

What better thought could be emphasized to Christian youth than being identified with Christ, to have a new identity, to become a new creature, to have a Positive ID. Sixteen members of the youth choir from Tupelo FWB Church in Tupelo, Mississippi, performed the musical, "Positive ID."

The program presented positive aspects of being a Christian through music and drama. The youth choir, under the direction of Randy Settle, gave the program four times—in their home church, at an area youth rally, at Tupelo Children's Home, and then in Winfield, Alabama.

The church also purchased a 26-passenger shuttle van to be used in church ministries, including a trip to Tampa in July.

SONSHINE '89

On July 16 more than 1,500 teens from across America will converge in Tampa, Florida, for the National Youth Conference. Join us in sunny Florida for

activities and shining events to make your stay unforgettable.

Registration (for those not preregistered) will take place on the second floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. That's where you will also find The Sunshine Shop (our souvenir store), and The Lighthouse Art Gallery (the display area for creative art competition). The Hyatt will also serve as headquarters hotel and the site of all CTS competition.

Sunday night will be hosted and conducted by NYC. The program will feature a Mass Youth Choir (which you can be part of), music by Truth and Peace, a musical program by the National Youth Evangelistic Team, and a special youth speaker.

Sunday night activities also feature after-service functions, including a gathering on the banks of the Hillsborough River at the Tampa Amphitheatre. Don't forget the Youth Banquet Tuesday night and a special Youth Meeting Wednesday afternoon.

Join us July 16-20 in beautiful Tampa and enjoy the fun and fellowship of Sunshine '89!

If you would like to participate in the Mass Youth Choir Sunday night, please write us for a free copy of the music.

NYC Music
Youth Ministries Division
P. O. Box 17306
Nashville, TN 37217

Top Shelf



Thomas L. Marberry, Robert E. Picirilli, and Daryl Ellis, *Galatians through Colossians, The Randall House Bible Commentary*, Edited by Robert E. Picirilli (Nashville: Randall House Publications, 1988, hardback, 451 pp., \$19.95).

This review will be somewhat different from what we normally do in Top Shelf because it was my privilege to do part of the writing for this volume. I will not seek to evaluate or analyze our work. I will simply share with you something of where our research led us and what we encountered along the way.

Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians are four of Paul's shorter epistles. The fact that these letters are relatively short does not, however,

make them any less valuable. The early Christians saw in them such a store of valuable teaching that they were circulated, preserved and ultimately included in the canon of the New Testament.

The fact that these books are short does not make them any easier to interpret; sometimes it makes them more difficult. If they were longer, the modern interpreter would have more information to work with. These letters grew out of Paul's work as a missionary, evangelist and teacher. Two of them, Galatians and Colossians, represent Paul's attempts to deal with serious moral and doctrinal problems which arose in the early church. The fact that we do not have all the information about these churches and their problems occasionally make it difficult to be sure of Paul's precise meaning.

In Galatia, Paul's opponents were the Judaizers who taught that simple faith in Christ was not sufficient for salvation. They encouraged the Christians to observe certain aspects of the Jewish law such as circumcision. Paul recog-

nized immediately the danger of this position, and he responded with appropriate indignation.

The problems which Paul faced in Colosse were more subtle but just as dangerous. Daryl Ellis recognizes the difficulty in identifying the precise source or sources which lie behind the Colossian heresy. He suggests that a combination of Jewish teachings with certain pagan concepts could have produced the kind of doctrinal problems which Paul seeks to correct in this letter. Ellis asserts (quite correctly, I think) that an early form of the Gnostic heresy may have been at work in Colosse. In later years, Gnosticism would become the most dangerous heresy which the early church would face.

In one respect, Ephesians is more difficult to interpret than Galatians or Colossians. As Robert Picirilli notes, this book is "relatively impersonal." Its teachings are more general; they do not seem to refute some specific doctrinal error which can be easily identified.

Cooperative Channel Contributions January 1989

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	Jan. '88	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 409.43	\$ 55.25	\$ 464.68	\$ 1,241.98	\$ 464.68
Arizona	.00	367.86	367.86	.00	367.86
Arkansas	.00	5,549.77	5,549.77	5,951.41	5,549.77
California	.00	1,192.08	1,192.08	1,207.58	1,192.08
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	597.52	.00
Florida	.00	604.57	604.57	2,878.92	504.57
Georgia	19,022.14	704.63	19,726.77	14,258.65	19,726.77
Idaho	.00	29.00	29.00	130.00	29.00
Illinois	15,045.69	3,571.51	18,617.20	4,486.78	18,617.20
Indiana	465.87	.00	465.87	113.70	565.87
Kansas	.00	100.86	100.86	74.01	100.86
Kentucky	.00	97.68	97.68	.00	97.68
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	1,107.75	.00
Michigan	2,276.00	3,221.00	5,497.00	10,074.22	5,497.00
Mississippi	45.30	217.25	262.55	214.92	262.55
Missouri	7,332.42	.00	7,332.42	107.93	7,332.42
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
North Carolina	687.40	897.97	1,585.37	2,473.92	1,585.37
Ohio	771.00	1,575.00	2,346.00	2,884.00	2,346.00
Oklahoma	29,415.39	8,830.64	38,246.03	37,403.68	38,246.03
South Carolina	.00	.00	.00	9,776.42	.00
Tennessee	684.41	1,353.57	2,037.98	3,107.93	2,037.98
Texas	8,641.24	513.14	9,154.38	8,557.86	9,154.38
Virginia	175.80	10.00	185.80	235.00	185.80
West Virginia	1,985.56	151.56	2,137.12	1,562.85	2,137.12
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other (Computer)	.00	.00	.00	.09	.00
Totals	\$86,957.65	\$29,043.34	\$116,000.99	\$108,447.12	\$116,000.99

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 1,918.04	\$16,869.32	\$18,787.36	\$18,145.77	\$ 18,787.36
Foreign Missions	67,340.58	2,800.01	70,140.59	63,354.76	70,140.59
FWBBC	4,818.28	2,800.01	7,618.29	6,733.69	7,618.29
Home Missions	9,189.37	2,191.33	11,380.70	13,826.53	11,389.70
Retirement & Insurance	310.77	1,704.37	2,015.14	2,086.68	2,015.14
Master's Men	488.37	1,704.37	2,192.74	1,973.32	2,192.74
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	76.28	121.73	198.01	150.62	198.01
FWB Foundation	224.28	730.44	954.72	955.69	954.72
Historical Commission	73.54	.00	73.54	148.40	73.54
Radio & TV Commission	143.33	121.73	265.06	168.40	265.06
Hillsdale FWB College	1,955.43	.00	1,955.43	519.79	1,955.43
Other	419.38	.03	419.41	383.47	419.41
Totals	\$86,957.65	\$29,043.34	\$116,000.99	\$108,447.12	\$116,000.99

Picirilli recognizes that Ephesians may be a circular letter, but he does not consider that a likely possibility. He suggests that the book shares a common historical setting with Colossians and Philemon.

Philippians stands alone as one of the crown jewels of the New Testament. It

is more personal and autobiographical than the other Pauline letters. It has little in common with the other prison epistles. Many writers have noted that this epistle seems to grow out of Paul's close personal relationship with this group of Christians. Picirilli notes (quite correctly, I think) that there is no single

Directory Update

ALABAMA

Phil Kimbrough to Hamilton Church, Hamilton from Wooddale Church, Knoxville, TN

ARKANSAS

Russell W. Wright to First Church, North Crossett from First Church, Booneville, MS

CALIFORNIA

Edward Johns to Taft Church, Taft from Hanford Church, Hanford

GEORGIA

Irvin Hyman to Bethlehem Church, Cordele

Galen Dunbar to Ebenezer Church, Glennville

Leroy Lafferty to Warner Robbins Church, Warner Robbins

ILLINOIS

Ed Hollis to Decatur First Church, Decatur

OKLAHOMA

Delbert Akin to Tecumseh Church, Tecumseh

Wayne Bryant to New Hope Church, Lone Grove

Tommy Brown to Crossroads Church, Stigler

Don Jones to Madison Avenue Church, Tulsa

John Redfern to Mineral Springs Church, Muldrow

Robert Sharry to Lowery Church, Twin Oaks

Berneil Rogers to First Church, Tahlequah

Ollie Wright to Hillcrest Church, Wagoner

Bill Adcock to Eastside Church, Muldrow

theme which ties the book together. Joy is, perhaps, the one idea found most often.

After writing the commentary of Galatians, I can affirm that writing a biblical commentary is the most challenging writing project which an author can undertake. We hope you like it. We did our best.



ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

The Checker Champion

After I hand out your math tests, we'll have recess," said Mrs. Curtis. "But we'll have to stay in our classroom since it's raining."

Marty, Megan and 20 other children groaned.

Mrs. Curtis walked up and down the aisles, handing out tests. Marty reached for his test.

"Oh, boy! A 92," he thought as he spotted the grade on top of the paper.

Matt Stevens sat in front of Marty. He turned around when he got his paper. "What did you make?" he asked Marty.

"A 92," answered Marty proudly.

"I made 100," said Matt. Marty felt like a leaky balloon. Matt always made the best grades. In fact, it seemed like Matt was the best at everything.

"I thought it would be fun," said Mrs. Curtis, "if we had a tournament in here—maybe a checker tournament."

The children were all excited. Especially Matt. "I was checker champion at summer camp two years in a row," said Matt.

"Well, you won't be checker champ in here," said Marty, "because I'm going to be."

"Didn't you hear me, Marty?" said Matt. "I said I was champ for two years."

"Big deal," said Marty. "I've got five blue ribbons for playing checkers."

Megan couldn't believe what she was hearing. Marty didn't even like to play checkers. And as for the five blue ribbons, that was just a lie.

Mrs. Curtis had four checker boards, and she quickly divided the class into four groups. The children began playing games, and at the end of recess, there were four who had not been eliminated from the tournament—Marty, Matt, Kelly Gibson and Rachel Stewart.

"We'll have to finish the tournament tomorrow," said Mrs. Curtis.

"And I'll be crowned checker king," bragged Matt.

"No you won't," said Marty.

"Everybody knows I'm the best checker player in Mrs. Curtis' room," said Matt.

"So, I'm the best checker player in the world," boasted Marty.

On the way home from school that afternoon, Megan was the first to mention the tournament. "Marty, what made you say those things?" she asked.

"I don't know," admitted Marty. "I guess I was just tired of Matt always being best. And I was sick of his big mouth."

"Well, you sounded just like him," said Megan.

Marty had not realized that. He was just trying to shut up Matt, but maybe his bragging had sounded as bad.

At home Marty and Megan played checkers most of the afternoon. "What is this sudden interest in checkers?" asked Mrs. Lane as she cooked supper.

"I need a little practice," said Marty.

"You need a lot of practice," corrected Megan. "I've beat you five out of the eight games we've played. If you're going to be checker champ tomorrow. . . ."

"Champ?" questioned Mr. Lane, looking up from his newspaper.

"We're having a tournament," answered Megan. "And Marty sorta needs to win."

"Why?" asked Mr. and Mrs. Lane.

"Because Marty said that he was the best checker player in the world," answered Megan. "He also said he had five blue ribbons for playing checkers."

"Marty, is that true?" asked Mr. Lane.

"Yes, sir, uh, no, sir. Well, I mean I did say that, but it's not true," said Marty. "Oh, Dad, what am I going to do? I'm really in a mess."

"Son, you know that your mother and I have always told you to watch your words—you may have to eat them some day." With that, Mr. Lane returned to his newspaper. And Marty knew that this was another fix he would have to work out on his own.

I believe we have four finalists," announced Mrs. Curtis at recess the next day. "We'll let Rachel and Kelly play, Marty and Matt play, and then the winners will play each other." Kelly and Rachel sat down quietly to play.

"Are you ready to lose, Marty?" sneered Matt.

"No way, man," answered Marty. "I never lose."

Megan rolled her eyes, remembering the five games she had beat Marty just last night. But she knew that Marty did not feel confident. Marty was nervous.

The boys played several minutes. They both made mistakes because they were so busy criticizing each other and bragging about themselves. The game was almost over. Matt had two checkers left and Marty had one king.

"You're dead now," said Marty jumping both of Matt's pieces in one move and winning the game. Marty jumped up from his seat. "I did it!" he yelled.

"Hush up," said Matt. "You're not champion yet." And he walked over to his desk to sit and pout.

Rachel had won the girls' game. "This will be a piece of cake," said Marty as he eyed the shy little girl. "After you," said Marty gallantly, letting Rachel move first.

Throughout the game, Rachel was quiet. She studied every move carefully. "I've already got a spot cleared on my bulletin board to hang that blue ribbon," boasted Marty.

But after six minutes, Rachel had four checkers left and Marty had only one. Marty's classmates were laughing. Tony Phillips said, "I thought this was going to be a 'piece of cake,' Marty."

"Ha, the 'best checker player in the world,'" laughed Mike.

Megan felt a little sorry for Marty, but even she was pleased when Rachel beat him.

"Our new champion," announced Mrs. Curtis, raising Rachel's arm toward the ceiling.

"Hip, hip hooray!" shouted the class.

"And now, Rachel," joked Mrs. Curtis, "just a word for your fans. Tell us, how did you do it?"

"Well," answered Rachel quietly, "unlike my opponent, I kept my eyes open and my mouth shut."

Have you ever been around a person who bragged a lot? Do you enjoy being around that kind of person? Are you ever that way? Read Proverbs 27:2.

The Second Chance

By Alton Loveless

I don't know who wrote the article you submitted to me. But I know it was not written by Alton Loveless," my journalism teacher said as she handed back our papers.

I was afraid to look knowing the grade would represent more powerfully the feeling she had already expressed. Well, an "F" looks bigger and redder, especially if you have never seen one before.

"Alton, I want to see you after class," she said just before the bell. "I'm surprised at you. You have never done this before. I believed you to be above this. I'm hurt at you." Boy! Did I feel like a heel. I could hardly face her the next day.

That night my sister and I planned to attend a little Free Will Baptist church where a revival was in progress. The evangelist was very demonstrative and ran the aisles from time to time. If he had a message title it would range between "Man, his sin, and where he is going if he doesn't repent," or "Boys, what you did this week is a sin and you better get God's forgiveness."

How did he know? He couldn't know, I rationalized. But the Holy Spirit did, and conviction set in. My sister and I

were among others at the altar that night.

I walked into that high school the next morning clean and witnessed my new-found faith. To my amazement many sought answers to questions I had often wanted.

Before the week ended, my journalism teacher, whom I still feared because of my guilt, said, "Alton, please stay after class today." Every eye was on me. Had I done something else? I could not think of anything.

The session was brief, but the stress lifted immediately when she told me she had heard I had accepted Christ as my Savior. She said, "I am willing to do something He has done for us all. I'm going to give you a second chance. An opportunity to change your grade, but this time it must be your own composition."

When she handed back my poem I wrote about the Bible, the "F" had become an "A." Thank God for a second chance.

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



Green Tree Bible Study



Robert E. Picirilli

Romans 8:28-30

Predestination and the Believer— Romans 8:28-30

As Christians on the “Arminian” side of a long-standing debate, we often encounter arguments in favor of (unconditional) *predestination* to salvation. This passage is one of the crucial ones involved in that doctrine (ranking right along with Ephesians 1 and Romans 9-11). Like any other passage of God’s Word, it demands careful exegesis. The relationship of the main ideas in the passage is as follows.

1. The overall subject is the fact that the circumstances of a believer’s life “work together” for good. In fact, the Greek original can be read in either of two ways: “All things work together for good,” or “He [God] works all things together for good.” The truth is essentially the same.

2. That “good” equals God’s “purpose.” And that purpose is seen in the words, “to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first-born among many brethren.”

3. This purpose of God is being worked out for “them who are the called according to his purpose.” And these are identical with “them that love God.”

4. The order of God’s working in their lives, toward this purpose, is:

- He *foreknew* them,
- He *predestinated* (foreordained) them,
- He *called* them,
- He *justified* them,
- He *glorified* them.

The first two of these look back to eternity, the last three to time.

Calvinists often insist that predestination is prior to foreknowledge, but this passage is against that view. Verses 29-30 set a deliberate order: foreknowledge, then predestination, then calling, then justification, then glorification. (Compare I Peter 1:2: there also foreknowledge precedes election.)

The first of the five clauses—that God “foreknew” them—appears to me to mean, simply, that God *foreknew them as His*. Not so much that He foreknew some fact about them as that He personally (and lovingly) foreknew them. In eternity, He recognized them as His own.


The “predestination,” then, rests on that. (By the way, to translate the Greek word — *proorizo* — as “predestinate” tends to prejudice the word as though it specifically involves destiny. It doesn’t: all it means is to ordain or purpose something in advance. “Foreordain” is a better translation.

The point, therefore, is that the *identity* of the person as God’s is settled before the foreordination. The foreordination speaks of God’s predetermined plan for those already foreknown as His. And, as we have seen, this plan / purpose is that these—by calling, justification and glorification—be brought into final and full conformity to the image of His Son.

“Predestination,” therefore, does not

deal with *whether* a person is saved or not, but with *what* salvation leads to, with an eternally settled purpose that God keeps in mind as He works in the circumstances of believers’ lives. By the way, the same thing will be found true in the other key passage that discusses “predestination,” Ephesians 1:3-14. Predestination / foreordination does not speak of who is saved but of what their salvation entails.

All this leaves one crucial question: Clearly, from eternity, God has “foreknown” His own; but on what basis? Paul does not say—at least not here. But from other passages we learn that He foreknew them *as believers*: in other words, that faith is the condition that the individual must meet in order to be known by God as His. For example, I Corinthians 1:21 tells us that God’s eternal good pleasure was to save those who believe. Indeed, all the passages that speak of faith as the condition for salvation implicitly tell us that faith is the condition for God to identify any as His own.

We need not fear the idea of “predestination,” then. Indeed, we can rejoice in it. It tells us that God has an eternal plan for those who are His, by faith. And he works together the circumstances of their lives toward the accomplishment of that plan, toward bringing them, as sons, into the full likeness of the One who is His Son in a unique way (Compare Romans 8:17-19). 



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS
By Melvin Worthington

In His Image



God wants every Christian to be conformed to the image of His Son. He designed salvation to touch man's past (justification), present (sanctification) and future (glorification).

Being conformed to His image suggests that we are to be like, to resemble Jesus Christ. The word literally means, "a likeness," i.e. statue, profile or figurative representation. In Romans 8:29 it refers to the process of sanctification—Christian growth.

Man's Creation—Created by the Sovereign. God created the heaven and earth, animal life and human life. Only man was created in the image of God.

The fact that man was superior to animals is illustrated by the fact that God could find no animal to be a help meet for man (Genesis 2:20). Created in the image of God, man had dominion over the animals. He also had immortality, moral consciousness and the privilege of fellowship with God.

The Bible clearly states in Genesis 2:7 that God made man out of the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. To those who want to know where man came from and what makes man different from animals, the only answer which satisfies the human heart and mind is that the Lord God created him.

Man's Corruption—Corrupted by the serpent. Genesis 3 records man's tragic fall into sin. Satan deceived Eve, but Adam deliberately disobeyed God (I Timothy 2:14).

Paul alludes to this tragic experience when he contrasts the first Adam and

the second Adam (Jesus Christ) in Romans 5:12-21. The first Adam's disobedience brought spiritual and physical death to mankind. The second Adam's obedience provides redemption for fallen humanity.

God pronounced a curse on the serpent, Eve and Adam. Sin affected creation, the human family and society. None escaped the judgment of God. Man made in the image and likeness of God was now marred by sin's disobedience. The image was not erased, but marred.

Paul describes the sinful nature and plight of mankind, "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Romans 3:14-18).

Man's Conversion—Converted by the Savior. God visited Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden following their disobedience and provided a remedy for their sin. Forgiveness came through the promise in Genesis 3:15 and the provision in Genesis 3:21.

Salvation today comes through redemption provided by the death, bur-

ial and resurrection of Christ. He was the propitiation for our sins. Repentance of sin and reliance on the Savior bring about regeneration, the new birth, conversion.

Salvation has a threefold purpose: (1) Salvation from the guilt of sin. This deals with the past. We have been saved from the penalty of sin (justification). (2) Salvation from the grasp of sin. This deals with the present. We are being saved from the power of sin (sanctification). (3) Salvation from the germ of sin. This deals with the prospect. We will be saved from the presence of sin (glorification). So we may correctly say, "I have been saved, I am being saved and I will be saved."

Man's Conformation—Conformed by the Spirit. The Spirit's work in us produces the character of Christ. He was holy, pure, just, patient, kind, merciful, honest, righteous and obedient. The Spirit's work also produces in us the conduct of Christ. He always pleased His Father. He followed His will and accomplished the work He came to do. He went about doing good.

The Spirit's work produces in us the compassion as well as the concerns of Christ. He was concerned about the lost, the unrepentant, the intemperate, the indifferent.

The Spirit works in us the commitment of Christ to the will of God, the Word of God and the way of God. We are part of God's great design. We fell and God found us. We shattered and God remade us. We died in sin and He raised us. What a Savior!

The Secretary's Schedule

- April 2-5** First FWB Church
Locust Grove, Okla.
- April 6-8** Master's Men Conference
Linden, Tenn.
- April 17-18** U. S. Church Leaders Annual
Conference
Nashville, Tenn.

CONTACT

P. O. Box 1088

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

*Give
to World Missions...
It Pays!*



**April is
Foreign
Missions
Month**

**A month-long emphasis will help
you reach out to a lost world!**

**Send your gifts to
World Missions Offering**

**P.O. Box 1088,
Nashville, TN 37202**

