

#### **National Convention Review**

# **Convention** '89

By Thomas Marberry



uly in Florida! The weather was hot and humid. But we enjoyed good preaching, excellent singing and outstanding fellowship.

The Tampa National Association was a rather large convention. We registered more than 5,700, including 703 ministers, 96 state delegates, 134 local church delegates, 62 home missionaries, 27 foreign missionaries, 8 lay board members and 2,324 nondelegates. The National Youth Conference registered 1,380; the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention registered 970.

Two words soon came to the forefront in Tampa: "fellowship" and "stewardship." We proved once again that we are a group of like-minded people who share a common commitment to Jesus Christ. We have our differences, to be sure, but we are united on essentials. We are considerate of one another and we enjoy being together and working together.

We are also stewards. God has placed a great responsibility in our hands. We want to be faithful stewards who discharge this responsibility wisely.

# **Stewards of our Message**

#### Sunday Morning

Preaching the gospel is central to Free Will Baptists. This centrality was evident from the first worship service Sunday morning. Pastor Larry Montgomery of Hollywood FWB Church in Hollywood, Florida, used Hebrews 11:5 as the text for his sermon on "Stewardship of our Testimony." He reminded us that "we need exceptional Christians today."

We live in a world where youth have few good role models, and Christians have a responsibility to present a good testimony to them. We gain a good testimony by consistency and faithfulness; we also keep it by consistency and faithfulness. Montgomery reminded us that "a good testimony is not an ornament to be admired; it is a tool to be used for the glory of God." We do not obtain a good testimony in order to be seen of men but in order to be of service to God.

#### Sunday Evening

Sunday evening, Pastor Kent Hubbard of Central FWB Church in Grandview, Missouri, preached the National Youth Conference keynote message using as his text Matthew 5:16.

Pastor Hubbard gave three reasons why many young people today are not letting their lights shine as Matthew 5:16 instructs. First, Satan blinds the eyes of many through ignorance and unbelief. Second, sin slips in and does its work. Hubbard pointed out that we do not sin intending to make sin our way of life, but "sin does not stand in the corner of our soul." It always comes out. Third, many young people walk in darkness because they are spiritually satisfied and complacent.

#### Monday Evening

Rev. Waldo Young, pastor of Northeast FWB Church in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and long-time clerk of the National Association preached the Monday evening sermon from Genesis 43:23. His subject was "Stewardship of 1989 National Convention analysis was written by Thomas Marberry, academic vice president at Hillsdale FWB College, Moore, Oklahoma.

Convention photographs are provided courtesy of Bert Tippett, director of publications at Free Will Baptist Bible College and Herbert Waid, executive secretary of Georgia State Association of Free Will Baptists.

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

our Treasure." He reminded the congregation of the treasures God has placed in our hands individually and collectively as a denomination. He has given us a great heritage. We have our faith, our fervor and our fellowship. We also have our time, our talents, our material possessions and our bodies.

These treasures that God gave us pay great dividends. All the blessings of God are ours, both now and in the future. These dividends do, however, require an investment on our part. We must invest the time and talents that God has given us. We cannot squander them on ourselves, we must use them to build up the work of God. We must also be patient because God pours out His blessings in His own good time.

#### **Tuesday Evening**

The Tuesday evening message was preached by Rev. Delmar Sparks, pastor of Westerville FWB Church in Westerville, Ohio. He preached on the "Stewardship of our Text." He reminded us that the Bible, God's inspired and inerrant Word, is absolutely central to the life and work of the church.

He preached on the Product of the Word, the Progress of the Word, the Purity of the Word, the Power of the Word, and the Preaching of the Word. It is only the Word of God that has power to transform the lives of men and women, to change the sinner into the saint, and to alter the wicked heart of



Tuesday evening speaker Delmar Sparks.

mankind. Man has always sought to stop the progress of God's Word, but he has never been able to do so. It continues to go forth in all its purity.

#### Wednesday Evening

The final convention message was delivered by Pastor Milburn Wilson of Sherwood Forest FWB Church, El Sobrante, California. He preached on "Stewardship of our Territory" using as texts Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15, 20. He noted that the basic commission which the church received is not just to win converts; it is to make disciples. He said that "we have focused on decision-making rather than disciplemaking."

Wilson did extensive analysis of the evangelistic ministry of early Christians as described in Acts. He stressed that early believers saw their territory as the world. They went everywhere preaching and teaching the gospel. They lived in a world which was needy; we live in a similar world today. Our country faces serious problems which only the gospel of Christ can solve.

These five sermons occupied a central place in the activities of this convention, but they were by no means the only sermons preached.

### **Camp Meeting**

Monday afternoon the Home Missions department sponsored a Camp Meeting which featured two veteran pastor, Rue Dell Smith and Richard Adams. Rev. Smith used a variety of scriptures in his sermon on the Second Coming of Christ. He inspired us with his ability to quote passages from memory and fit them neatly into his sermon. Rev. Adams preached on the subject, "Bad Decisions Our Churches Have Made," from Joshua 7:10-12. In his sermon he emphasized four simple yet important truths, all beginning with the words, "We have decided to have...."

- 1. Our possessions over His presence.
- 2. Our prominence over His power.
- 3. People over His promises.
- 4. Our peace over His purpose.

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### **Bible Conference**

#### Norwood Gibson

The Tuesday morning Bible Conference provided another opportunity to hear fine preaching. Rev. Norwood Gibson preached on aspects from the life of David based on II Samuel 22. He explained how David found himself in trying circumstances. God delivered him from these difficulties and filled his life with joy.

Gibson challenged us to remember that God alone has the answer to the problems which we face in life. He also reminded us that the promises of God are always conditional. God blessed David only when David met His conditions.

#### Garnett Reid

The second sermon of the Bible Conference was delivered by one of our outstanding younger preachers, Rev. Garnett Reid. He used as his text passages from Ecclesiastes and drew from those passages important lessons about Christian stewardship and life.

First, we must understand that we will never find ultimate satisfaction in this life. Second, we need to admit that the pursuit of fulfillment does bring *some* satisfaction. Third, God has set eternity in men's hearts. We can find ultimate fulfillment only in our relationship to God. This was a fine example of an expository sermon.



Master's Men director, Jim Vallance.



Outgoing Master's Men chairman, Raymond Lee.

## **Master's Men Speaker**

This convention included a number of excellent messages, but one of the finest was not delivered by a preacher. It was delivered by an attorney, Mr. Ron Barber, at the Master's Men dinner. Mr. Barber practices law in Tulsa, Oklahoma and comes from a long-time Free Will Baptist family.

He spoke on "Finishing the Task" from Luke 14:28-30. He stressed that obedience to the law can never make us what we need to be. Only the Spirit of God can do that. He pointed out seven qualities that characterize the person whose life has been transformed by the Spirit:

1. He does not get hung up on material possessions.

2. He is not self-sufficient.

3. He knows the mind of God.

4. He knows that there is only one answer to our problems—Jesus.

5. He consciously includes God in every aspect of his life.

6. He keeps his eyes on the work and never looks back.

7. He forsakes all for the cause of Christ.

Free Will Baptists are committed to the ministry of the Word of God. That Word was proclaimed at this convention.

# **Stewards of our Music**

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Throughout Christian history, music has been one of the most important expressions of Christian faith. That was certainly the case at the national convention this year. All the music (including congregational singing, ensembles and solos) contributed to the spirit of worship and commitment.

Blaine Hughes did an excellent job coordinating the music program. That is a big job, and he handled it well. Jerry Carraway served as organist, Rebecca Williams as pianist. Their hard work added to this year's convention.

#### **Congregational Music**

Congregational singing is often the

best part of our worship of God in music. Monday evening Doug Little led an old-fashioned sing along from the piano as the entire congregation joined with him in a medley of familiar hymns and choruses. What a joy to lift our voices in song with several thousand Free Will Baptists from across the country.

#### College Music

The special music this year was outstanding. Three Free Will Baptist colleges provided convention ensembles. The New Life Singers from Hillsdale FWB College sang at the Monday evening worship service and again at the Tuesday Bible Conference. "Rejoice," a mixed ensemble from Free Will Baptist Bible College sang at several activities. They were superb on the song, "His Word Will Stand" at the Tuesday evening worship service. The men's quartet from Southeastern FWB College also sang several times. They were well received whenever they sang.

#### Choir Music

Doug Little coordinated the Mass Choir that sang for the evening services Monday and Tuesday. These men and women from across the denomination

#### (continued on page 6)

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# What Makes the Difference?

#### Briefcase



Two strangely-connected events that occurred in 1865 impact American lives today. General William Booth founded the Salvation Army, and now legions of former drunks and ex-bums rise up to praise him. John Wilkes Booth (a distant cousin) assassinated President Abraham Lincoln that same year and became one of the most despised men in American history.

One cousin blessed the nation, the other cursed it. The gospel made the difference.

**Two famous men** faced death and left behind words worth repeating. The renowned Indian leader, Ghandi, said as he neared death: "My days are numbered. For the first time in 50 years I find myself in the slough of despond. All about me is darkness...."

In contrast, Ira Sankey, beloved hymn writer, lived in Brooklyn the last few years of his life, and after years of blindness died in 1908. But out of his blindness and frailty, he dictated a farewell message to his friends: "I have only a little longer of earthly darkness, and then the sunshine of the Father's throne. God is love. Good night, good night."

Ghandi led a nation while Sankey only led singing. But Sankey's blind eyes could see God when it mattered the most. The gospel made the difference.

**Some years ago** a young minister with no money for bus fare and

a preaching appointment a hundred miles from home walked to a service station hoping to catch a ride with a generous-hearted motorist. The station owner, aware of his predicament, asked a drummer on his way to the next town if he would mind giving a preacher a ride. The drummer agreed and with an oath said, "Makes no difference. Liar, thief, preacher—they're all the same to me."

The young minister, grateful for the lift, climbed in the drummer's truck and listened to 100 miles of bitterness. When the drummer dropped him off and pulled away, the preacher said as he watched the truck disappear down a twisting highway, "There is a difference."

No one knows what happened to the drummer. The young minister graduated from Bible college, earned his doctorate, became a full-time evangelist and a college president. The gospel made the difference.

#### For months drug pushers

in New Orleans used five abandoned buildings as crack houses and created nightmare problems for the neighborhood. Gunfire frequently interrupted worship services at Third Shiloh Baptist Church as drug dealers did business across the street. The drug dealers saw no difference in what they were doing than what other businessmen did.

But the 293-member Third Shiloh Baptist Church saw a difference and did something about it. The church had enough of drug terror on their doorstep. They put down \$80,000 to buy five houses used by the drug dealers and proceeded to renovate the buildings. They plan to rent them out to families who can stabilize the neighborhood. The gospel made the difference.

**The answer** to every drug problem is not buying up crack houses and converting them into low-rent housing. Something more basic is needed. That "something" is the gospel's influence in people, communities and cities—the one common denominator that ignites good and holds evil in check.

The difference between a community exploding with crime and violence and one with safe streets is that church building sitting on the corner. Its members carry hope where there is none and bring light into human darkness. The message of that church talks of new beginnings, changed lives, responsible citizens, strong families and the power of Spirit-directed living.

The local church champions human dignity, values and God's love. It calls the young to something more noble than drug money and fast cars. It promises contentment to harried businessmen and a peace that passes understanding to busy mothers. The local church speaks of sacrifice for others, accountability for deeds and words, a way of life that faces whatever comes with faith, the assurance that there is more to existence than surviving.

**Syndicated columnist** Cal Thomas related a conversation he had with the editor of the Los Angeles Times. The publisher, amazed that Thomas had so much to say on moral, ethical and political issues said, "Everyone I know has run out of answers."

Thomas, a Christian, said, "My mission field is the editorial pages of the nation's newspapers."

Everyone else has run out of answers. What better moment for Christians to step boldly into the confusion and contradictions of society with a message that makes a difference.

Politicians pass laws that don't solve problems. Sociologists invent new theories on human behavior, while psychiatrists walk on by shaking their heads. But the local body of believers builds a church, takes light into society's darkness, gets in the soup with people and radiates love that overpowers hate. What's the difference? The difference is the gospel.

#### **Convention** . . . (from page 4)

give of their time to join together in rehearsals and then in the worship services. They add so much to the spirit of worship.

In recent years, a Men's Chorale has been formed to sing for the Wednesday evening service. This year we did something different. We had a choir and instrumental ensemble composed of Hispanic Free Will Baptists from four churches in the Miami area. They sang and played traditional hymns from several Latin American countries. It was a great treat to worship with them.

#### Quartet Music

The Gospeliers Quartet sang Monday evening. This is a quartet composed of Bobby Jackson, Robert Picirilli, James Earl Raper and R. Eugene Waddell. One of the musical highlights of the convention came Tuesday evening when the Oklahoma Minister's Quartet sang a medley of old gospel songs. These four pastors (Delbert Akin, Jack Richey, Homer Young and Waldo Young) have been singing together for more than 25 years.

#### Solos

Several solos added to the atmosphere of worship. Scott Bullman of Garner, North Carolina, sang a song Sunday morning titled, "Arise." Monday evening Bill Gardner, chairman of the Music Commission, sang a medley of gospel songs on the name of Jesus. Wednesday evening Janis Williams of Nashville, Tennessee, sang, "Christians Arise," one of the outstanding solos of the convention.

#### **Music Ministries**

The Music Ministries Fellowship held its annual breakfast Tuesday morning. Bill Gardner reported on the work of the Music Commission. The new hymnal has been in use by many of our churches for one year. The churches seem to like the wide variety of hymns, gospel songs and choruses which it provides. Gardner reported that the Music Commission is considering a series of workshops across the denomination to train musicians and stimulate music programs in local churches.

Music is important to Free Will Baptists. The publication of our new hymnal *Rejoice* and the creation of a Music Commission to encourage the music ministry within our denomination represent great strides in developing more meaningful church music programs.

# **Stewards of our Mission**

Free Will Baptists are a missionaryminded people. The founders of our denomination were men and women involved in spreading the gospel both at home and abroad. This missionary emphasis was evident in Convention '89, especially during the Wednesday evening missions service.

Eugene Waddell, director of Foreign Missions, presented the foreign missionaries who were present. Roy Thomas introduced the home missionaries who were present. As we watched our missionaries walk across the stage, we were reminded once again that the missionary enterprise is the heart of the Christian faith.

Then the Hispanic choir under the direction of Tom Willey sang hymns

from several Latin countries. We listened to the beautiful but unfamiliar melodies and were reminded that Christ died for all the world, that all men need and deserve the opportunity to follow Him.

In his sermon that evening, Dr. Milburn Wilson challenged us to become personally involved in missions. He said, "I have no right to exist as a Christian if I am not leading other people to Jesus Christ."

During that missionary service a special offering was received to benefit the work of both home and foreign missions. The Free Will Baptists who were present gave a total of \$21,501.76.

The convention approved one important item of business which relates



Associate Missionary Paul Creech.

to missions. The body voted to invite one national representative from each of the countries where Free Will Baptists have mission works to attend the 1992 National Convention in Indianapolis. While they are here, the representatives will consult with representatives of our National Association concerning the establishment of an International Fellowship or Association of Free Will Baptists. If it can be brought to reality, such an organization could boost cooperation between Free Will Baptists around the world in missions and in other important areas.



Home and foreign missionaries wait to be introduced.

# **Stewards of our Business**

Free Will Baptists run a major operation. Convention '89 approved budgets exceeding \$11 million for the various national agencies. We must always remember that it is the Lord's money not ours and deserves the most careful handling.

God's business is the most important business, and this convention devoted a considerable amount of time and attention to it. Each national agency presented its report and proposed budget first to the General Board and then later to the entire convention. As each was presented those present had the opportunity to ask questions and obtain additional information.

#### **Executive** Office

Dr. Melvin Worthington, executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, reported that he had attended 18 state associations during 1988 and had found in each a spirit of unity, unselfishness and understanding. He announced that the biennial Leadership Conference will be held December 5-6 in Nashville.

Due to increased printing costs, subscriptions for *Contact* will increase in January 1990. The new rates will be: Individual \$10, Bundle Plan \$9 and Church Family Plan \$8.

Sales of the new hymn book *Rejoice* totaled \$52,353 as of December 31, 1988. Effective April 15, 1989, the price of the new hymn book increased to \$9.98 (regular binding), \$21.98 (loose-leaf) and \$51.98 (leather binding).

Worthington reported that the Executive Office continues to monitor the Target 90 Campaign. During 1988 Free Will Baptist churches reported 7,910 baptisms, 12,436 members added, and 6,454 members lost. Between 1986 and 1988 Free Will Baptists planted a total of 103 new churches, exceeding the Target 90 goal.

Giving through the Executive Office for 1988 topped \$1.2 million including \$323,000 in Cooperative Plan and \$945,000 in designated gifts.

#### Executive Church Bonds

The ministry of Executive Church Bonds has been drawing to a close in recent years. The executive secretary reported that it may be possible to com-



plete this phase-out by December 31, 1989. The body did approve a 1990 budget of \$6,650 in case it is not possible to complete all operations by December 31.

#### Foreign Missions

R. Eugene Waddell, director of Foreign Missions, shared with the convention that Free Will Baptists are now represented by a missionary family totalling 194 people including dependents. In several countries national Christians are assuming more responsibilities for evangelizing their own people.

In several ways 1988 was an outstanding year for Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. For the first time since 1981 the department was able to meet its gift budget. Total income for 1988 was \$3.3 million, including \$172,000 for the Advance Celebration. The Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Cuba reopened last September after being closed for 30 years.

Our Foreign Missions Department now operates 10 Bible institutes for training national workers with a total enrollment of 165 students.

During 1988 the department appointed its first missionary affiliates, Sgt. and Mrs. Dennis Heath. He is in the U. S. military and involved in establishing a Free Will Baptist church in Ramstein, West Germany.

The medical work in Cote d'Ivoire continues to carry a heavy load. Dr. Kenneth Eagleton reported 11,523 patients treated in the Doropo Clinic.

During his presentation, Rev. Waddell also recognized those churches which gave most generously to foreign missions last year. The leading church last year was the Central FWB Church of Royal Oak, Michigan, which gave more than \$50,000. He also recognized the contribution of WNAC to foreign missions. During 1988, WNAC channelled \$210,000 into the work of world evangelization.

#### Home Missions

Roy Thomas, director of Home Missions and Church Extension, reported that 1988 was a good year on the home front. Seventy families (including missionary families, associate missionaries and tentmakers) represented Free Will Baptists in the United States and Canada. Twenty Mexican pastors and their families represented us in Mexico. Eight chaplains ministered to men and women in the U. S. military.

The Church Extension Loan Fund made 23 loans to home mission



General Board meets in Curtis Hixon Convention Center.

#### Convention . . . (from page 7)

churches to assist them in building needed buildings. Howard Gwartney and his crew of dedicated volunteers assisted in constructing 16 buildings for home mission churches.

The work in Mexico grew last year. During 1988 all the FWB Churches in Mexico were united into one association. A beautiful new school building was dedicated at the Bible institute which provides space for dormitories, classrooms, offices, cafeteria, chapel, library and apartments for two teachers.

Roll Call Sunday saw a record attendance in Free Will Baptist churches of 226,231 on March 26. Roll Call Sunday for 1990 will be March 25 with a goal of 270,000.

Income for the Home Missions Department in 1988 totalled \$1.7 million, some \$125,000 below budget. This amount does represent, however, a substantial investment in this vital area. We are trusting that God will burden the hearts of Free Will Baptists to do even better next year.

#### Free Will Baptist Bible College

Dr. Charles Thigpen, president, reported that 345 students attended FWBBC during the 1988-89 school year. At the commencement in May, 66 students received degrees (including four who earned the first Master of Ministry degrees). In coming months the college will seek to increase its gift income and will devote considerable attention to recruitment.

He shared with Convention '89 that total income to the college from all



#### FWBBC President, Charles Thigpen.

sources for the year ending May 31, 1989 was \$1.9 million and that the college finished the year with income exceeding expenditures by \$14,000.

He noted that the Pass the Torch campaign ended May 31. This fund-



Analaran Clark Kath Burden (L) and Clark Walds Young

raising effort fell short of its goal, but it still raised \$1.7 million.

The college will sponsor a seminar on biblical preaching with Dr. Haddon Robinson February 20-21, 1990. Dr. Robinson is one of the leading authorities on preaching in the United States.

Dr. Thigpen also reported that the college is undertaking a major research study to gather information about the educational needs, goals and desires of the young people of our denomination. This study will be conducted by an outside firm at a cost of approximately \$25,000. He asked the help of the denomination in funding this important project.

#### Sunday School and Church Training

Dr. Roger Reeds, general director, presented the report of this denominational agency which does business under the trade name, "Randall House Publications." Randall House receives no funds from the Cooperative Plan; it depends entirely on revenues generated by the sale of materials.

A major responsibility of this department is producing Sunday School literature for our churches. Dr. Reeds said that major changes are coming in the winter quarter of 1989. In Nursery and Pre-School literature major changes will be made in teaching aids available for the teacher.

Primary and Junior literature will also include improved materials for the teacher. Teen and High Teen literature will be revised and move to a cycle of lessons designed to cover the entire Bible in a six-year period. Adult curriculum materials will move to a cycle which covers the entire Bible in nine years rather than seven as in the past. This new series of lessons will also devote a greater percentage of material to the study of the New Testament.

Another important part of the ministry of Randall House is the publication of books. Dr. Reeds explained that the fourth volume in the Randall House Bible Commentary has just been published. It covers the Gospel of John. The author of this volume is Rev. Jack W. Stallings, pastor of Collinswood FWB Church in Portsmouth, Virginia, since 1976.

#### <u>Master's Men</u>

Director Jim Vallance gave the report of the Master's Men Department, the agency which is charged with the responsibility of involving laymen in the work of the Lord and in the work of the denomination. During the last year he noted that 21 new Master's Men chapters were organized with a total of 216 members.

Since 1985 the department worked to develop a Master's Men Endowment Trust through the contributions of LifeMembers and LifeFriends. This trust now totals \$34,400, funds that will never be spent. The earnings which these funds generate will help underwrite the work of the department.

Since 1984 volunteers working under the sponsorship of Master's Men have helped to construct 23 new church buildings saving the churches of our denomination approximately \$500,000

#### in construction costs.

During 1988 the department received \$20,000 from Co-op. Gifts totalling \$45,500 were made by churches and individuals. Additional funds will be necessary in the future if this department reaches its full potential.

#### Board of Retirement and Insurance

According to Director Herman Hersey, this year marks the 20th anniversary of our retirement program. In January 1989 this program had 917 participants with assets of \$7.1 million. A portion of these funds are loaned to FWB churches for construction of new buildings. During 1988 some \$1.6 million was loaned for this purpose.

Rev. Hersey also noted that life insurance protection for those enrolled in the retirement program will increase to \$25,000 on August 1. The ministry of this department makes it possible for many ministers and denominational employees to look forward to a more secure future.

#### Free Will Baptist Foundation

Herman Hersey also serves as executive director / treasurer of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. This agency exists to serve as custodian of trust funds which are placed in its care. Individuals may make use of the services of the foundation when setting up a trust to benefit any FWB church, agency or department. Three gift annuities have been written. The donors are receiving regular checks and will continue receiving them until their deaths. Then the gift goes to the Lord's work as they have designated.

This department also assists FWB families in estate planning. It does a great deal for a department whose expenditures in 1988 were less than \$15,000.

#### Commission for Theological Integrity

This specialized agency exists 1) to alert our people to theological trends that could threaten our theological integrity as a denomination, 2) to prepare materials that will contribute to the continued preservation of the theological integrity of the denomination, and 3) to conduct seminars on subjects which are pertinent to the purpose of the commission.

Leroy Forlines, chairman, reported that the commission recently published

another in its ongoing series of informational booklets. This one is entitled, "The Charismatic Movement: A Survey of Its Development and Doctrine" by Harrold Harrison and Leroy Forlines.

#### Radio and Television Commission

Larry Hampton, chairman, reported on the work of the Radio and Television Commission. The major project of the commission is the production of a weekly 15-minute radio program entitled, "Victorious Faith." Rev. Bob Shockey has been the speaker for this program for several years. Each program is taped and provided to local churches for broadcast. It is the responsibility of local churches and individuals to pay the cost of air time. During 1988 this program was broadcast over nine different stations.

#### Music Commission

This is our newest denominational agency, created in 1988 to perform a



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variety of tasks designed to foster the ministry of music in our denomination. Bill Gardner, chairman, gave a report on the activities of the past year. Most of the work its first year was devoted to overseeing the new hymnal *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* which is now in use in many of our churches. The Commission sponsored a Tuesday workshop on using the new hymnal effectively in worship.

This commission should make an important contribution to Free Will Baptist work in future years. Under active consideration is a proposal to conduct a series of music seminars in different locations around the denomination.

#### Historical Commission

David Joslin presented the report of the Historical Commission. The basic purpose of this agency is to locate, col-



Chairman Classid Joniin gloss Hatanical Commission report.

lect and preserve important information about our history. Their major project during 1988 was the publication of an index of the state and district minutes in the archives of the Historical Commission. Copies of this index were distributed at the convention. Free Will Baptists who have copies of minutes not presently held in the collection are invited to donate those copies to the collection. A complete set of these minutes would be an invaluable historical resource.

Copies of the 50-Year Record of our denomination are still available at a cost of \$2 each. During 1988, the Historical Commission authorized \$1,500 in building repairs and up to \$1,000 in cemetery maintenance and highway signs for the First FWB Church of New Durham, New Hampshire. This is the mother church of the Randall movement, and it is an important historical landmark for our denomination.



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# **Stewardship Month Report**

Each church is encouraged to observe Stewardship Month. September is the recommended month, but a church is free to select whatever month is most appropriate. Churches are urged to include the ministries of the National Association in this stewardship emphasis.

Every member of every FWB church is urged to give an offering of \$32.37 this year to help underwrite the expense of these important national departments. The last Sunday in September has been designated National Ministries Sunday. This would be an excellent time for your church to share in this important effort.



Herman Hersey, director of Board of Retirement.

# **Important Decisions**

The business of Convention '89 consisted of much more than just hearing reports from the different departments. Delegates were called on to make important decisions which will affect the course of our denomination for years to come. Given below is a summary of the major decisions:

1. Recommended budgets for each national department and commission were approved.

2. All four general officers were reelected. members were also elected to the various boards and commissions.

3. Delegates voted by a substantial majority to affirm the decision of the Board of Trustees of FWBBC concerning the dress code for the men's basketball team. This means that the FWBBC Flames will be permitted to compete in regulation basketball uniforms.

4. The convention approved a slight change in the dress code for NYC competition. Men and boys will now be required to wear slacks, dress shirts and ties. Coats are now optional.

5.Delegates defeated a proposal to mail *The Free Will Baptist Yearbook* only to those churches requesting it. Randall House Publications will continue to provide one copy to each church within the denomination at no cost.

6. One important change was approved regarding the Charter of Incorporation of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. The Board of Trustees of the Free Will Baptist Foundation was expanded to include additional members. The membership of this Board now consists of: the members of the Board of Retirement, the Foreign Missions director, the Home Missions director, the Master's Men director, the Sunday School and Church Training director, the president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, the WNAC executive secretary and the executive secretary of the National Association.

7. A proposal was presented to limit the non-elected members of the Executive Committee to no more than two consecutive terms. After some discussion, the body voted to refer this back to the General Board for further study. A number of the delegates present felt that this proposal would deprive the Executive Committee of the valuable experience of several members.

8. The body voted by an overwhelming majority to recognize all ordained deacons as standing delegates at future sessions of the National Association.

9. The convention voted to invite representatives of the various fields where Free Will Baptists have works to attend the 1992 National Convention in Indianapolis. While they are here, these representatives will consult with representatives of our National Association concerning the establishment of an International Fellowship or Association of Free Will Baptists.

10. On Thursday morning, the delegates approved a resolution inviting unaffiliated groups of Free Will Baptists to send representatives to our meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, July 15-19, 1990.

11. The voting delegates approved with little debate a resolution supporting the action of the Home Missions Department in protecting the investments which Free Will Baptists have made in establishing new churches. The convention affirmed most strongly that it considers using FWB money to start a non-FWB church to be a violation of the eighth commandment.

12. Convention '89 authorized the Historical Commission to develop a procedure for providing appropriate recognition of deceased ministers and missionaries.

13. The delegates directed that a 10-year growth campaign be launched and set up a committee to coordinate this project.

14. The body voted that the 1999 convention be held in Atlanta, Georgia.



Ushers distribute reports during business session.

# **Stewards of our Fellowship**

A spirit of unity and fellowship flooded every aspect of Convention '89. Both ministers and laymen seemed genuinely concerned to work together in an atmosphere of harmony. It was a pleasure to see so many friends and fellow workers sharing together about the work of God.

This spirit of unity and fellowship was evident in the business sessions, in the worship services and in the Sunday School classes. Mrs. Bob Thomas remarked, "I am honored to be in the biggest Sunday School in Free Will Baptists."

The evening services were well attended. The Bible Conference speakers preached to a standing-room-



Delois and Alton Loveless.

only crowd. A desire to worship God was evident in every service.

Information and learning are important parts of our fellowship. The national meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn about our denomination and the people in it. A number of seminars were available.

The Board of Retirement sponsored a series of 20-minute workshops on "Retirement Planning," "Basic Estate Planning," and "Ministering to Older Adults." The Commission for Theological Integrity sponsored a workshop conducted by Rev. Edwin Wade on "Christianity and Humanism." The Target 90 Committee sponsored an excellent workshop on church growth in which several experienced church planters and soul-winners shared their ideas and suggestions.



Miami pastor Benito Rodriguez (R).

In the display area of the convention, exhibits were available to share information. All of the national departments were there to distribute literature and answer questions. All of our colleges were represented with literature and personnel. Three children's homes



Florida pastor Larry Montgomery.

information about this important aspect of our ministry. In addition, a number of private companies presented information about their products and services.

The national convention is many things. It gives us the opportunity for worship, learning, fellowship and growth. Each of these is important to us both individually and collectively.

#### <u>Conclusion</u>

Convention '89 is now over. The days were too long; the nights were too short. The weather was too hot, and the meetings were too many. But it was a special time.

It was a time when we could hear the Word of God preached by men who know it and love it. A time when we could rejoice at what our young people are doing for the cause of Christ. A time when we could review the work of our denomination and see where we are doing well and where we need to try harder. A time when we could meet other Free Will Baptists from across the country and around the world.

It was a great convention even if Jack Richey was late to Sunday School.



Jack Richey explaining why he was late for Sunday School?



Office staffers Melody Hood (L) and Marilyn Pritchard.

#### **1989 Registration**

National Convention	3,354
Ministers	703
State Delegates	96
Local Church Delegates	134
Lay Board Members	8
Home Missionaries	62
Foreign Missionaries	27
Non-Delegates	2,324
National Youth Conference	1,380
Woman's Nat'l. Auxiliary Convention	
TOTAL	5,707



Wednesday night missionary offering.

#### **1990** Co-op Allocations

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

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

Free Will Baptist Bible College
Foreign Missions
Home Missions 18%
Board of Retirement and Insurance 14%
Master's Men 14%
Free Will Baptist Foundation
Commission for Theological Integrity 0.5%
Historical Commission
Music Commission 0.5%
Radio and Television Commission
TOTAL
* All national ministries receive funds through the
Cooperative Plan except for Executive Church Bonds and
the Sunday School and Church Training Department
which are self-sustaining.

FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION

Convention hero James Osborne.

#### **1990 Budgets Adopted**

Executive Office Executive Church Bonds Free Will Baptist Bible College Foreign Missions Home Missions Master's Men Retirement and Insurance Free Will Baptist Foundation Sunday School and Church Training Commission for Theological Integrity Historical Commission Music Commission Radio and TV Commission	6,650.00           2,204,300.00           3,527,152.00           1,900,000.00           80,506.00           249,316.00           30,000.00           2,603,935.00           2,700.00           2,000.00           1,500.00
TOTAL	\$11,008,113.26

#### **ELECTED IN TAMPA**

The following were elected during the 53rd annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

Tape

#### **General Officers**

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

#### **General Board**

1990 Mike Criswell (N.W. Assoc.) Joe Cagle (S.C.) Thurmon Murphy (Texas)

1991 John Edwards (Ala.) Paul Thompson (Ariz.) David Joslin (Ark.) Oral McAfee (Canada) Doice McAlister (Calif.) Bob Thomas (Colo.) Herbert Waid (Ga.) Tommie Carlson (Idaho) Wallace Mallone (III.) Archie Ratliff (Ind.) Warner Collier (Kan.) Tim York (Ky.) Lester Horton (Md.) Fred Jones (Mexico) Charles Cooper (Mich.) J. L. Gore (Miss.) Dale Skiles (Mo.)

#### **Executive Committee**

1991 Charles Cooper (Mich.) J. L. Gore (Miss.) Bob Thomas (Colo.)

#### **Home Missions Board**

1995 J. D. Norris (Fla.) Fred Hanson (Canada) Earl Hendrix (S.C.)

#### **Master's Men Board**

- 1991 Thurman Pate, Jr. (Tenn.)
- 1995 Johnny Fowlkes (Ark.) James Orr (Ky.) Waymon Ray (Okla.)

#### **Board of Retirement**

1995 Jack Daniel (Ga.) Waymon Fields (Ala.) Wilburn Beasley (S.C.)

#### **Commission for Theological Integrity**

1994 L. C. Johnson (Tenn.)

#### **Radio-Television Commision**

1994 James Vallance (Tenn.)

#### **Music Commission**

1994 Blaine Hughes (N.C.)

#### **Historical Commission**

1994 Robert Picirilli (Tenn.)



#### **1989 Convention Tapes Available** NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

The cost of tapes is \$3.00 each. Payment must accompany order. Select the tapes you wish to order by circling the number and place the quantity desired in the appropriate lines.

Numt	ber <u>Subject</u>		Quantity
	CONVENTION MESSAGES		
1. • 2. • 3. • 4.	<ul> <li>2. Waldo Young—"Stewardship of Our Treasure"</li> <li>3. Delmar Sparks—"Stewardship of Our Text"</li> </ul>		
	<b>CONVENTION BIBLE CONFRENC</b>	E	
5. 6.	Norwood Gibson Garnett Reid		
	SEMINARS		
7. 8. 9. 10. 11.	Home Missions Camp Meeting (2 Tapes—\$4 per set) Church Growth Seminar Theological Trends Workshop Music Commission Workshop Retirement Department Workshops (All 3 on One Tape) —Basic Estate Planning —Ministering to Older Adults —Retirement Planning	- - - - - - - - - - - 	
	WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION		
12. 13. 14. *15. 16.	WNAC Seminar—"To Ministers' Wives" WNAC Seminar—"To Women in General" (2 Tapes—\$4 Patty McCullough—WNAC Devotional Tom McCullough—WNAC Missionary Service Mabel Willey—WNAC Fellowship Dinner	per set)	
	MEET 'N' EAT		
17. 18.	Jim Shepherd—Hillsdale College Luncheon Ron BarberMaster's Men Dinner		
	MISCELLANEOUS		
19. 20. 21.	Ralph Hampton—Moderator's Message Sam Truett—Adult Sunday School Class Kent Hubbard—NYC Keynote Message		
Please	Complete the Following:		
NAMI	- -	Total Quantity Ordered	
ADDF	RESS	Total Tape Cost	
CITY.	STATE ZIP	Plus Postage	\$2.00
	Tota	Amount Enclosed	
"Thes and p	e sessions were also videotaped (message only). Write Sa rices.	andy Goodfellow for	information
	PLEASE SEND CHECK OR MONEY DO NOT SEND CASH	ORDER:	

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

# 13/CONTACT/September '89

# **WNAC Review**

By Lorene Miley

Florida Auxiliary members extended an invitation to their sisters and 973 responded at the 54th annual Woman's National Auxiliary Convention which met in Tampa, Florida, July 17-18.

From the moment of registration with Florida emblems attached to their badges—to booth favors, sand-dollar and sea shell table decorations, women were welcomed to the Sunshine State. The cut work in the palm tree program covers indicated that Florida women invested time and energy preparing to host the convention.

"The Great Invitation" theme permeated the convention which got underway Monday afternoon with two simultaneous seminars. President Mary Neal led the general seminar which featured Yvonne Wolfenbarger (Tenn.) who spoke on "Extending the Invitation to the Singles / Singles Again." June



Kay Hamton (R) interviews home missionary Mitzi Munsey.

Rolen (Calif.) addressed those in career places, and Vernie Hersey (Tenn.) the retirees.

A capacity crowd filled the Minister's Wives seminar led by Peggy Outland (III.). Lila Faye Morgan (Okla.), Nora McCarty (Calif.) and Maurine Lee (N.C.) spoke on "Come and See."

The Presidents and Field Workers meeting led by Mary Ruth Wisehart fea-



Banquet speaker Mabel Willey.

tured an informal session to discuss Auxiliary growth and the new report forms. For the first time, district presidents participated in this event.

The Auxiliary booth further promoted "The Great Invitation" theme with the word "Come" printed in different languages. A matching flag adorned each scroll.

The Tuesday morning session opened with creative arts contest winners on the platform ready to receive their awards. Carolyn Riddick (S.C.), convention music coordinator, got the convention underway with the "Woman's Hymn" theme song. Patty McCullough, missionary to France, led the morning devotion. Her husband, Tom, brought the missionary message which was open to all conventioneers.

In the business session, minor alterations were made in the Student Loan



WNAC president Mary Neal.

Fund guidelines and in the slate of officers. Mary Neal stays on as president with veteran June Rolen elected vice president. Peggy Outland was retained as secretary. Joining Kay Hampton as members at large are Marian Reece (Va.) and Delois Loveless (Ohio).

Bobbie Thomas' solo, "People Need the Lord," introduced the afternoon session led by Kay Hampton. Missionaries Shirley Combs (Brazil), Sandra Bishop (Japan), Mitzi Munsey (Mexico), Pam West (Cote d'Ivoire), and Lynn Midgett (Spain) responded to questions in a roving reporting type format.

Woman's Auxiliary activities ended with the Fellowship Dinner honoring Mabel "Mom" Willey, former missionary to Cuba. We clung to the words of this dear lady of missionary fame. For many, it would be the last time to hear her.

"The Great Invitation" should be a familiar theme. We plan to use it again in the 1990 convention at Phoenix. Meanwhile, let's obey the message of Revelation 22:17 in the months ahead.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Lorene Miley serves as editor of Co-Laborer magazine.

**ConShine** '89 was celebrated in

Tampa, Florida, July 16-19. Presenting Christ as the true Light and sharing that Light was the emphasis of this National Youth Conference.

It started Sunday morning during Sunday School and morning worship with the teens and children. It concluded Wednesday evening with the Awards Ceremony. Banners and programs in bright citrus colors set the mood for the conference.

This same vibrancy reflected the lives of the youth attending the conference. When the conference ended, representatives from various hotels stated that our young people knew why they were in Tampa. There was real purpose and dedication reflected in their lives.

Some 1,380 youth registrants participated in three days of intensive competition. Bible Competition entries numbered 109 and the Music and Arts Festival had 614 entries.

#### Services

Sunday morning services featured group sharing and discussion times around the theme of light during Sunday School. Morning worship was presented by the Evangels drama team from Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The Sunday evening youth service started with a mass youth choir of more than 100 voices. The 56 participants of the Truth and Peace Youth Leadership Conference also presented special music. Keynote speaker Kent Hubbard effectively presented the biblical challenge after the 1989 National Youth Evangelistic Team presented a program titled, "I Am Not Ashamed."

The National Youth Evangelistic Team also presented the SonRise devotional each morning during the conference.

#### Activities

Special group events each evening after the services provided social activities for the teens. Sunday evening featured Orange Mania with large group activities and refreshments of oranges and orange drinks.

The Monday evening activity included a variety show in Tampa's Amphitheater on the bank of Hillsborough River. Various acts and group involvement activities were presented as Mike Hollifield served as master of ceremonies. The event ended with a mini-concert by Teresa Runion from Michigan.

Tuesday evening's youth banquet in the Hyatt Regency Ballroom was a Disney Spectacular presented by Truth and Peace. There were 900 attending as Mickey Mouse balloons and beanies filled the room.

#### Learner / Adventurer Program

Children from grades one through six had a full package of programs planned for them. The Sunday morning Sunday School and worship were conducted by James Sadler from Greenville, N.C. Brother Sadler, an experienced children's program director, has developed a multi-game board that can be utilized in various children's and youth activities and learning experiences.

The Youth Evangelistic Team from the Camp Creek FWB Church in Huntington, W. Va., provided skits, music and magic for the children Sunday evening after the service.

Bud Hill and Curtis Alligood did some clowning acts for the children on Tuesday evening.

Youth from Tecumseh FWB Church in Oklahoma presented the Learner / Adventurer banquet titled, "Amazing Grace."

Various excursions, puppetry demonstrations and films rounded out the afternoon children's activities.

#### 1990 National Youth Evangelistic Team

During the Awards Ceremony the 12-member 1990 National youth Evangelistic Team was announced. These high school youth earned membership on the team by being the winners or top scorers in the Music and Arts Festival.

Nat'l Youth

By Jim Lauthern

Cont

Team members are Larae Clyatt, IL; Jamie Harris, TX; Paula Kring, OK; Diane Walls, MO; Melissa White, AL; Angie Wolfenbarger, TN; Greg Cavitt, OK; Donald Myers, CO; Donnie Price, IL; Chad Shockley, KY; Mark Stone, TN; and Eric Thomeson, FL. These youth from nine states will tour next summer into Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

#### **New Ministries**

Two new national youth ministries appeared during this conference. A Wednesday breakfast honored youth workers. A committee was appointed to study and report on the possibility of forming a national fellowship of youth workers.

Wednesday afternoon the junior and senior high youth met and organized into a national FWB youth congress. This youth ministry called TEAM will be featured in October's Teen Scene column.

Four Wednesday afternoon seminars focused on youth workers. These ministry seminars included: "Clowning" with Bud Hill, "Puppetry" with Dean Stone, "Youth Evangelistic Teams" with Danny Thomas, and "Junior Church Ministries" with James Sadler.

Three videos were made of the National Youth Conference. Information and order forms are available by writing the Youth Ministries Division, Randall House Publications, P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

A great conference! Special thanks to the staff and many volunteers who unselfishly gave time and support. Congratulations to the many youth involved in the competition. There were no losers.

Start planning now to be a part of the 1990 National Youth Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jim Lauthern is director of the National Youth Conference.





#### **80 ATTEND KANSAS MEETING**

EMPORIA, KS—The 28th annual Kansas State Association met June 15-17 at First FWB Church in Emporia. Moderator Warner Collier said 80 people gathered for the session, including six ministers. Delegates reelected Collier to a second term as moderator.

Home Missionary Mark Thomas preached a series of messages on "Discipleship" to the delegates. Dr. Mary Wisehart, executive secretary of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, spoke to guests at the Woman's Auxiliary Banquet.

The 1990 session meets June 14-16 at First FWB Church in Salina.

#### 'GOOD PREACHING' AT VIRGINIA STATE

ROANOKE, VA—Moderator Danny Baer said that five sermons highlighted Virginia's 51st annual state association. Two Virginia pastors, Tommy Street and Dale Burden, joined with national agency speakers—Bob Shockey, Roy Thomas and Gene Waddell—to develop the association theme, "What We Preach."

Fifty-six registered for the June 15-16 meeting at First FWB Church in Roanoke. Delegates adopted a new constitution during business activities.

Three state officers were cited for meritorious service: Wilton Dail for 20 years on the executive board, Lottie Cardwell for 12 years as clerk and Richard Myers for 20 years as assistant clerk and clerk.

The 1990 session will meet June 14-15 at First FWB Church, Roanoke.

#### REVEREND PAUL WOOLSEY, AUTHOR AND MISSIONARY, DEAD AT 80

GREENEVILLE, TN—The Rev. Paul Howard Woolsey, a Free Will Baptist minister for 59 years, died June 19, 1989. Licensed to preach by Tennessee's Union Association in 1930 and ordained in 1931, Rev. Woolsey excelled at church planting and organizing.

He pastored eight churches in Tennessee and one in North India. In addition to his pastoral ministry, Brother Woolsey wrote three books—God, A Hundred Years and A Free Will Baptist Family; A Modern Jonah and A Quack Doctor.

Rising above a speech impediment, Paul Woolsey graduated from Tusculum College in 1933, magna cum laude, and captain of the debating team. He taught for 19 years in the public school system and also served as a principal.

Rev. Woolsey was known for his exceptional memory, his love for youth work, his ability to unravel parliamentary problems, and his commitment to the Free Will Baptist people. He taught 22 years in youth camp, served on the national Sunday School Board and served 43 years on the Union Association ordaining council. He was instrumental in organizing the Tennessee State Association, the National Association of Free Will Baptists and the Free Will Baptist Home for Children in Greeneville.

Until Alzheimer's syndrome disabled him some 10 years before his death, he rarely missed a quarterly, district, state or national association meeting.

Brother Woolsey sailed to India in 1947 where he served one term. He learned to speak the Hindi language and spent his time both in evangelism



and giving first aid to people who had no other medical care. Long-time friend, Howard Munsey wrote, "When he left North India, thousands of Moslems offered to sign petitions if he would return."

Reverend Woolsey was born November 23, 1908, in Greene County, Tennessee, the second of five children born to Thomas H. Woolsey, M.D. He was the grandson of William Bonapart Woolsey, an early Free Will Baptist leader in East Tennessee who founded Woolsey College. He married Nelle Johnson on June 8, 1936, and for the next 50 years they were partners in ministry in Free Will Baptist churches.

He is survived by two sisters: Mrs. Pearl Morgan and Alice Woolsey of Greeneville; his foster daughter, Trula (Mrs. Daniel) Cronk of Nashville, Tennessee; one grandson, one greatgranddaughter and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted June 22 at Harris Memorial FWB Church, Greeneville. The Reverends Jerry Presley, Daniel Cronk, Ken Smith and James Earl Raper officiated.

#### WEST VIRGINIA GIVES \$6,000 TO MISSIONS

CANVAS, WV—The West Virginia Missions Board gave \$6,000 to Free Will Baptist missions outreach during the state association June 9-10 at Ward Road FWB Church near Canvas. Clerk Norwood Webb said the funds were allocated equally to home and foreign missions.

The Missions Board also presented a plaque to out-going promotional secretary Billy Samms for his outstanding work among West Virginia Free Will Baptists. Delegates elected Arthur Frye to succeed Reverend Samms. Nearly 400 attended the 44th annual session which saw Moderator Jim Varney reelected to his second term. Three ministers preached during the meeting—Ottis Hensley, Jerry Castelle and Guy Owens.

The Missions Board organized the Wheeling FWB Mission into a selfsupporting church during the state association. J. D. McCormick pastors the newly-organized church.

The 1990 state association meets at Parsley Bottom FWB Church in Lenore.

MCALLEN, TX—The 75th annual session of the Texas State Association met June 7-9 at First FWB Church in McAllen with one service also meeting at Templo FWB Church in Weslaco. Clerk Thurmon Murphy said that although only 153 registered, many more attended the three-day celebration.

Delegates elected Bill Jones as moderator for 1989-1990. Revered Jones pastors Fellowship FWB Church in Bryan. He also chairs the national Foreign Missions Board.

In other business, delegates endorsed a \$54,000 state budget which included \$18,000 for the State Office, almost \$31,000 for the State Mission Board, and more than \$5,400 for the Christian Education Board. The Missions -Church Extension Board recognized Reverend Roy Norie for 20 years of faithful service.

Thursday activities included an afternoon tour of Free Will Baptist churches and missions in Mexico. Murphy said, "Many called this moving and touching tour the highlight of the state association. Brief services were conducted in two of the churches we visited."

The association adopted a 10-year program (1990-2000) theme, "Together We Grow: A Decade Dedicated to Discipleship and Development." The twofold program focus aims to establish three English-speaking and three Hispanic churches, as well as help existing churches by printing special literature designed to motivate and train members. An annual fall "Call In" Sunday will boost attendance.

Three ministers preached messages on the association theme, "Faithfulness," Pastors Arnold Shrewsbury, David Sutton and Roy Wilson shared pulpit duties. Mrs. Helen Sanders, former missionary to Hawaii, spoke to Woman's Auxiliary lunch guests on "Doors of Opportunity."

The program also featured a Pastor's Conference with Pastors Joel Kircher and James Munsey speaking.

The 1990 session will meet June 6-8 at First FWB Church in Duncanville.

#### INDIANA 'ADOPTS' DR. EAGLETON

NEW CASTLE, IN—Delegates to the June 16-17 Indiana State Association said the highlight of their annual meeting came when they voted to adopt missionary doctor Kenneth Eagleton. Delegates formally invited Dr. Eagleton who is serving in Cote d'Ivoire to live in Indiana when he goes on furlough. Moderator Archie Ratliff said that 10 churches agreed to underwrite housing for the Eagleton family while they are in the states.

More than 100 attended the two-day session at First Bible FWB Church in New Castle. They heard Fred Warner, director of church ministries for the Foreign Missions Department, preach two sermons on the Great Commission.

Moderator Ratliff said that more "foundation work was laid to host the 1992 national convention in Indianapolis." Officials are stepping up efforts to raise the \$10,000 host state funds for the convention.

The 1990 state association meets June 15-16 at a site to be determined later this year.

#### **59 ATTEND BIBLE COLLEGE SUMMER CAMP**

NASHVILLE, TN—A record 59 young people from 12 states attended Free Will Baptist Bible College's Summer Camp '89, held June 19-25 on the campus in Nashville.

The camp was actually four camps that ran concurrently, featuring basketball, music, drama and leadership training. More than half of the campers (32) attended the basketball camp directed by Byron Deel, FWBBC's physical activities director. The highest state representation (20) was from West Virginia, due to the fact that the entire basketball squad from Mingo Christian School, Lenore, WV, came. Tennessee contributed 10 campers, and eight came from Illinois. Other states included Alabama (4), Arkansas (4), Georgia (1), Mississippi (2), North Carolina (2), Ohio (2), Oklahoma (1), Texas (2) and Virginia (3).

At least eight campers accepted Christ as Savior and a number of others made commitments during the week. Following the final Sunday night rally, one young man announced God's call to the preaching ministry.

Chris Truett, a camper from Smithfield, N.C., said, "I've been to FWBBC's music camp for four years, and it just gets better! The spiritual emphasis is stressed to the utmost and I thank the Lord for the ministry it has been to me."

Another camper, Jody Doyle from Tuckerman, Ark., said, "This camp is great for a Christian basketball player. It is the best camp I've attended."



Summer Camp '89 Campers and Staff.

# newsfront

#### KENTUCKY MEETS FOR JUBILEE SESSION

AUXIER, KY—Despite mud slides and wide-spread flooding due to heavy rain, more than 500 Kentucky Free Will Baptists gathered June 16-17 for the state's 50th annual session. Moderator Dick Van Hoose gaveled the historic session which met at Auxier FWB Church.

Promotional Secretary Tim York said that in keeping with the tribute to the state's history, the Friday evening worship featured two speakers, much like the sessions 50 years ago. The two oldest ministers present preached— Henry Crider and Scott Castle. The youngest minister present preached Saturday morning—Tim York.

Delegates stood for a moment of silence honoring past moderators since 1939. All past moderators still living and present stood before the assembly and received a vote of appreciation.

The 1990 state association will meet June 15-16 at First FWB Church in Louisville.

#### OHIO ADOPTS \$650,000 BUDGET

COLUMBUS, OH—Delegates to the 51st annual Ohio State Association heard reports from state and national agencies, and then adopted a 1990 budget of almost \$650,000, according to Promotional Secretary Alton Loveless. More than \$525,000 of that amount will be channeled through state bookstore operations, with another \$125,000 disbursed via cooperative plan allocations.

In addition to the adopted state budget, Ohio churches will give more than \$250,000 to national agencies for worldwide outreach.

Moderator Edwin Hayes, elected to his fourth term, led the business sessions during the June 23-24 meeting at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus. More than 400 people attended, including 67 ministers who registered.

Delegates adopted a constitutional change allowing officers to succeed themselves indefinitely by annual vote of the delegates. Two ministers received

#### N.C. CHURCH RAISES NEARLY \$8,000 FOR FWBBC

NASHVILLE, TN—Canton FWB Church, nestled in the Smoky Mountains of western North Carolina, raised nearly \$8,000 for Free Will Baptist Bible College in its annual walk-a-thon / college day in June.

About 30 people, many of them retirees and one of them legally blind, walked a five-mile course at Pisgah High School on June 3. Others in the church sponsored them.

Bert Tippett, director of publications for the college, and his wife attended the walk-a-thon and afternoon picnic where Rev. Bill Robinson, pastor, led in games. Rev. Tippett also preached at the Sunday morning service. "These are some of the most precious people I have ever been privileged to meet," he said later.

Many of the church people work for or are retired from Champion International Paper Company. Champion matches every gift they make to FWBBC and other educational institutions.

This is the 14th consecutive year the church has sponsored a walk-a-thon / college day weekend.



plaques for service—Herman Hersey for 50 years in the ministry and Edwin Hayes for three years as moderator.

Dr. Alton Loveless, completing 15 years as promotional secretary, said the Ohio churches gave more than \$911,000 to Free Will Baptist ministries in 1988-89. The major divisions included \$6,100 for state youth, \$53,000 for state missions, and \$852,000 for national cooperative plan, state office and bookstore.

Three ministers preached sermons developing the association theme, "Reaching a Lost World for Christ." Former Ohio moderator Wendell Combs preached, "The Power of the Witness;" Cleveland pastor Robert Prichard preached, "The Place of the Witness;" Herman Hersey, Board of Retirement director, preached, "The People of the Witness."

The 1990 association meets June 22-23 at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus.

# Where Do You Go?

By M. J. Pritchard

Where do you go when there's no one, absolutely no one to go to?

One friend's too busy. Another's away. One is insensitive. That one is wrapped up in other things; this one, too immature. And that one's burdens weigh so much that you can't add more.

So where do you go when there's no one, absolutely no one to go to?

The Lord. He's your friend if you're His child. Always. Any time. No matter what your other "friends" do.

### Currently ...

The Home Missions Department **Roll Call Sunday** indicated an increase in attendance of 43,194 over 1988. The March 26 attendance blitz registered 269,425 attending Free Will Baptist churches that day, including 569 conversions.

Pastor Kenneth Winningham and four deacons from Holmesville FWB Church, New Brunswick, Canada, took communion to four shut-in members of the church. Oh, and the men's hockey team won the church league trophy.

A new 12-page Bible study written by **M. M. Daniel** on the book of I John has been completed. The study, written for lay persons and teens, focuses on "Blessed Assurance." Mrs. Daniel also has eight other studies from Bible Background to Revelation available. The cost is \$2.25 per set or \$19 for all nine. Write M. M. Daniel at Route 12, Washington Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129 to order the studies or obtain a list of titles.

Parkway FWB Church, Spartanburg, SC, relocated in a new building on a five-acre tract at 3615 Paris Bridge Road. Pastor Jimmy Miller delivered the dedication address for the 8,000-square-foot building. Completed in March at a cost of \$450,000, the structure houses a 400-seat sanctuary, baptistry, sound room, balcony, two nurseries, 11 classrooms, a church office and pastor's study.

After two years and two months of prayer and hard work, members of **Cypress Fork FWB Church, Manning, SC,** moved into a new building. South Carolina promotional director **Norwood Gibson** preached the dedication service. With members doing 90 percent of the construction work, the 2,600-square-foot building valued at \$100,000 cost \$45,000 to erect. The structure consists of a fellowship hall which can be used for classrooms, a 200-seat sanctuary with choir loft, large foyer and storage area. **W. D. Jones** pastors.

Reverend **Paul Eugene Clayton**, a Free Will Baptist minister for 40 years, died March 7. Funeral services were conducted at **Mill Branch FWB Church, Johnson**ville, **SC.** Although Brother Clayton pastored three churches in North Carolina, most of his ministry was invested in the South Carolina churches. The 66-year-old minister was saved September 13, 1947, and began preaching shortly thereafter.

Members of **Sand Hill FWB Church**, **Coward**, **SC**, completed nine months of renovation and then conducted a dedication service for their new sanctuary. Pastor **Charles Brown** delivered the dedicatory message for the new sanctuary with the \$55,000 face lift. The church's existence dates back to October 25, 1857.

Thanks to an appreciation gift drive spearheaded by board chairman **James Earl Raper**, every full-time employee at **Free Will Baptist Bible College** received a \$160 check this summer. Raper noted that college employees had only received three raises in the past six years.

When something happens only once every 30 years, it's worth celebrating. Members of **Manteca FWB Church**, **Manteca, CA**, celebrated homecoming for the first time in 30 years on July 30. Former pastor **Tex Gentry** preached the homecoming message, according to church reporter **Helen Kisner**.

**David Thomas** jumped into a swimming pool fully clothed on June 13 in order to save a 21-year-old man from drowning. Thomas, a member of **Victory FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC,** had gone to the motel for a business appointment. When a motel housekeeper came running for someone to help, Thomas jumped into the pool, pulled the victim out and proceeded to administer CPR. Dave Thomas is director of health and safety for the Wayne County schools. His pastor is **George Lee.** 

Contact welcomes The Witness, publication of **Chesterfield First FWB Church, Chesterfield, IN.** The fourpage publication includes a brief editorial by Pastor **Ken Murphy.** In the June 1989 issue, Pastor Murphy called for members "to be tougher Christians. Let us be Christians who never give up, who never quit."

Reverend **W.T. Roberts** retired after pastoring Free Will Baptist churches for 58 years. The 79-year-old minister last pastored the Cincinnati FWB Church in Tulsa, OK. He says that if it were not for failing health, he would still be pastoring.

Bear Point FWB Church, Sesser, IL, honored Flo Farris for being a member of the church for 75 years. Larry Cook pastors.

Members of **Cofer's Chapel FWB Church, Nashville, TN,** enjoyed an unusual singing group at the evening service June 11. Four generations of the **Eugene Waddell** family formed a singing ensemble. Brother Waddell serves as general director of the Foreign Missions department. **Larry Powell** pastors.

Arkansas promotional director **David** Joslin preached the dedication message at First FWB Church, Wainut Ridge, AR. Pastor Larry Hughes said the \$140,000 construction was completed in five months. The auditorium seats 425. The old sanctuary was converted to a fellowship hall and will also be used as a children's church.

Two landmark events occurred this summer at **First FWB Church, Arkadeiphia, AR.** The financial note on the property was burned and Pastor **Walter Clinton** was ordained on the same day. The Arkadelphia church began in 1970 as a state mission project.

Pastor **Terrell Holland** reports 18 rededications and conversions, 12 baptisms and 31 new members at **First FWB Church, Haskell, OK.** 

Pastor Allen Wood celebrated 25 years at First FWB Church, Seminole, OK, this spring. Members gave him a big birthday cake and a record attendance of 200.

Mrs. Eunice Miller died May 25 at age 89. She was the widow of the late James F. Miller who passed away in 1965. Brother and Sister Miller served churches in Missouri. Texas, North Carolina and Tennessee. Brother Miller served 11 years as moderator of the Missouri State Association and 16 years on the Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees. He moderated the Western Conference of Free Will Baptists and helped in organizing the National Association in 1935. Sister Miller's funeral was conducted at First FWB Church, Flat River, MO. Reverends James Barker and Ken Goff officiated. 0



PULSE of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions



# The Best Goal\* of My Life

By Baltazar Maria de Morais

am very happy to be able to play soccer with the Madrid Athletic Team (Athletico de Madrid)), after playing for other great teams, including the Brazil all stars (Selecao do Brasil). But my greatest joy is knowing and following Jesus Christ. This is what I call "the best goal\* of my life."

#### The better I played, the less interested I became in God and His Word.

I was reared in a Christian home. My parents loved me and taught me the Bible. However, at a very early age I began to play soccer, and the better I played, the less interested I became in God and His Word.

When I entered adolescence, I was carried away by all kinds of things. The world offers pleasures and happiness; friends talk about the things that they do; and, of course, a person wants to be like his peers. He tries to enjoy himself with all of this the best he can. He goes out at night, takes a few drinks, gets involved with girls, cars, money, etc.

Yes, I tried everything that most people believe a person needs in order to be happy. And I was happy, but only temporarily.

Every time I came home, I sensed a tremendous emptiness inside of me. Sadness, lack of purpose, and guilt feelings bothered me. I thought I had everything necessary to be happy: money, fame, and success in soccer. But all of these worldly things didn't fill the emptiness in my heart. My life was going from bad to worse.

At that point I remembered God. I recalled these words from the Bible: "Whosoever commit-



teth sin is the servant (slave) of sin" (John 8:34). But it adds: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

#### Every time I came home, I sensed a tremendous emptiness inside of me.

Immediately, in the privacy of my room, I fell to my knees and I asked the Lord to forgive me for my sins, to change my life, to give me His peace, and to give me lasting happiness.

Right then I experienced His peace. I felt the forgiveness of God and a happiness that I had never known until that moment.

Of course, that doesn't mean I no longer have problems or difficulties. But now there is a difference: the Lord is at my side. He helps me, He guides me, and He strengthens me through the difficulties.

The Department Page

Baltazar, a Brazilian, is a center forward for his team in Spain. At the time of this article, he had made more goals than anyone in Europe. He and his wife, Myrna, attend the Villalba Free Will Baptist Church in Villalba (Greater Madrid), Spain.

3606 WEST END AVENUE P.D. BOX 50117 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37205-D117 (615) 383-1340

Free Will Baptist

ible College

# "We Owe FWBBC."

FPOF

by Rev. R. Douglas Little Pastor First Free Will Baptist Church Russellville, Arkansas

(The following was published in Rev. Little's church paper, Cross Currents. It is reprinted here with his permission.)

Our church owes Free Will Baptist Bible College. Since its inception in 1942 the school has existed for the primary purpose of serving the local church. How has the Bible College served us in Russellville? Three immediate and significant responses to that question come to my mind.

First, the Bible College has provided our church with trained pastors. Every pastor and associate pastor serving our church since 1970 received training at FWBBC. Brothers Ellis, Little, Ledbetter and Dunbar are all graduates of the school. Brothers Warner and Wolfenbarger (former pastors) studied there, although not receiving a degree. The men who have led this church for the past two decades were molded and challenged through the ministry of the College. Our church is indebted to the school for that.

Second, the Bible College has provided our church with a place to send our young people to pursue God's calling on their lives. FWBBC is not just a school where one learns how to make a living, but where one learns how to live as well. Several who have gone to the Bible College from our church now serve the Lord across the nation. Others have returned home to help us meet the challenge of local ministry. Free Will Baptist Bible College is not the only Christian college available to our youth, but it is the one that has had the most significant impact on their lives. And our church owes the College for that.

Third, the Bible College provides our church with a promise that the future will be bright for the work of the Lord. As our church grows, more staff will be needed to lead special areas of ministry. Today's teens and elementary children will soon be choosing the educational institution that will mold them into adulthood. FWBBC promises us that Bible-based, God-centered, ministry-focused education will be available to our youth tomorrow. We'll have a place to look for future pastors of music and children's and church growth ministries. We parents will have a school to which we can send our children, confident that they will receive an excellent education in a faith-developing environment. And I believe we owe the College for that.

What is it that we owe? We owe it to the Bible College to pray for its ministry and the godly people who serve there. We owe it to the school to urge our youth to consider it as first option in choosing a college. We owe it to our school to support it financially. The Bible College depends solely on what students pay and the gifts of Free Will Baptists to stay open. A commitment to keeping costs to the students as low as possible *and* to expanding course offerings requires that Free Will Baptists—like you and me—give faithfully to the school.

TRE DEDRITHERICS

**F**ree Will Baptist Bible College has served us well through the years. Behind the scenes, it has made a profound impact upon the direction of the ministry of this church. I expect that to continue in years to come. And I say we owe the College for all of that.

Rev. Little is a 1977 FWBBC graduate. He has had a rich pastoral and music ministry, and now serves on the college's trustee board.

Free Will Baptist Bible College's Workshop on Biblical Preaching February 20-21, 1990 Featuring Dr. Haddon Robinson President, Denver Conservative Baptist Seminary Author of Biblical Sermons and Biblical Preaching Write or call for details or information on local motels. Free Will Baptist Bible College 3606 West End Avenue Nashville, TN 37205 615/383-1340 rree|will baptist

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The Departme

# Foundation

Herman L. Hersey Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Your Congregation is invited to observe National Ministries Sunday September 24, 1989 in celebration of God's work through the church's extended ministries of the National Association

#### **Remember and Recognize ...**

#### ... What God Has Done In:

- Christian education through Free Will Baptist Bible College.
- World missions outreach through the Foreign Missions Department.
- Evangelism and church extension through the Home Missions Department.
- Lay discipling and training through Master's Men.
- Ministers' care through the Retirement and Insurance Board.
- Stewardship and planned giving through the FWB Foundation.

### ... National Ministries as an Extended Ministry of the Local Church.

Over the past half century the National Association has established each national ministry to assist in carrying out the total mission of the church. Only through such a united effort can world outreach, Christian education and other ministries be accomplished.

All national departments are extensions of the local church ministry, functioning under the auspices of the National Association and carrying out their duties under the direction of elected boards.

### ... The Interdependency of the Local Church and National Ministries.

Just as the local church is vital to the ministry of the national departments, the national departments are vital to the local church. Each undergirds the other. The churches provide leaders and financial support. The departments in turn exist only to serve the local church providing services. Each feeds into the other.

- Young people called out of the local body to full-time Christian service must receive preparation and training in a Christian college (I Tim. 2:15; II Tim. 2:2).
- The lost must hear if they are to be saved. If they are to hear, someone must go. If laborers are to go, they must be

trained and sent (Rom. 10:14-15; Matt. 28:19-20).

- Those who go out to evangelize, pastor, disciple, minister and teach must be provided for now and later (I Cor. 9:13-14).
- Lay members must be discipled and exhorted to rally to the cause of Christ if the church successfully carries out its mission (Heb. 10:24, 25b).
- Believers must grow in stewardship if the church fulfills its ministry (I Cor. 4:1-2; I Peter 4:10).

### ... The Urgency and Need to be Faithful in Support.

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

"Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

"Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish" (Luke 14:28-30).

The cost has been counted and the foundation laid. We must continue to the finish.

The work of the Lord is not carried on by organizations but by people ministering individually and collectively. Financial support of the Lord's work comes not from organizations but from God's people, individual believers.

Therefore, every member of every congregation is invited to join Free Will Baptists around the world in the annual National Ministries Offering on National Ministries Sunday, September 24, 1989.

Each member giving \$32.37 would underwrite the annual budget of all departments. Your offering will be divided according to the Cooperative Plan of Support adopted by the National Association based on the proportionate need of each department.

#### Total 1989 Budget \$6,616,602 Each Member's Share \$32.37

CALL

# Christian Education and the Local Church

The aim of all Christian education is contained in Ephesians 4:12—"the perfecting of the saints." According to Paul, spiritual gifts have been bestowed on pastors to enable them to equip the believers—perfect the saints—to do the work of the ministry. In other words, the work of the pastor is to prepare church members to employ their spiritual gifts.

HOUSE

This aim is carried out by numerous church agencies specializing in various aspects of Christian education. The church must provide worship, fellowship and instruction for its constituency. These areas of the church program are all preparatory to service.

Numerous agencies are involved in the preparation of God's people. Free Will Baptists employ preaching, church music, Sunday School, Church Training, Master's Men, Woman's Auxiliary, Vacation Bible School, week day classes, day schools, camps, Bible institutes and children's church.

Randall House Publications exists to help the local church educate its constituency. Randall House produces Sunday School curriculum for every member of the church family from nursery to senior adults. We also publish Church Training literature, camp curriculum and children's church materials. We distribute Vacation Bible School curriculum from other publishers. Several of our books are suitable for use in Bible institute classes. We even have a manual telling how to start a Bible institute.

In countless churches the pulpit ministry is the weakest link in the educational program. Expository preaching is too rarely found in Free Will Baptist pulpits. Yet nothing is more direly needed. An explanation of God's Word would provide new knowledge for church members which is needful for growth in grace.

Many overlook the value of the music ministry. Church music can be most effective in teaching the truths of God's Word. *Rejoice! The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* is a valuable Christian education tool.

Dr. Paul Loth states four purposes for Sunday School. The Sunday School provides an opportunity to teach the Word as Christ did. It offers the means to fulfill His command to "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep." The Sunday School affords a place for dedicated service by godly men and women. Sunday School enables a church to reach the people of a city.

Mavis L. Anderson challenges teachers. "You have a high and holy calling! You are laboring with apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastors for 'the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.' You are obeying the Great Commission. You are investing your talent for eternal dividends. 'Walk worthy.'"

Isadore Garsek warns, "The church can preach, the schools can teach, but the home must convert sermons and lessons into a way of life." Christian education is best accomplished in the family unit.

Moses gave sound advice to parents genuinely interested in fulfilling their duty. His suggestion, which is found in Deuteronomy 6:6-9, is to make God a part of daily life. Avoid the pitfall of a one-day-a-week religion.

Solomon urged parents to give careful attention to the proper training of their children. Josh Billings has updated this sage's philosophy. "Train up a child in the way he should go—and walk there yourself once in a while." THE DERAFTER ON DER

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

MINI GRIMS

# **Let's Disciple Those Converts!**

Home Missions has 130 items for use in evangelism and church growth. By Roy Thomas

An important part of the ministry of the Home Missions Department is its literature. Bill Daniel has served as director of communications for the past 11 years. In spite of over-crowded conditions, he keeps the printing room clean and neat while turning out thousands of printed items.

The Department Pages

Bill prints and packages approximately 25,000 missionary newsletters each month. He prints the missionary prayer cards and more than 30 other pieces of material to acquaint Free Will Baptists with home mission fields and missionaries.

Since the Home Missions Department is also the Division of Evangelism, a large part of its literature concerns evangelism, soul winning and church growth. Bill prints three gospel tracts, Do You Know The Facts Of Life?, Have You Traveled The Romans Road? (which is available in both English and Spanish), and Believe It Or Not.

New Convert Packets for use in dealing with people who come forward during the invitation are also available. The most widely used item the Home Missions Department supplies is its *Thirteen Follow-Up Lessons For New Converts* (available in both English and Spanish). Numerous other pieces are kept on hand for use by our churches.



Several enlargement campaigns, big attendance day manuals and visitation program manuals are also printed. The department makes buttons for use in big days and enlargement campaigns. A library of evangelism and church growth sermons on audio cassettes is maintained in the Home Missions office. These are messages preached by the Home Missions Traveling Team in the Revival Time Meetings on evangelism and church growth. Fifteen videos have also been prepared by the staff on Home Missions, Church Growth, Today's Christian Woman and other subjects.

The order blank which Bill prints lists more than 130 pieces of material which can be ordered from the Home Missions Department. The important work of evangelism and discipleship can be accomplished by our churches through the use of these materials. Thanks, Bill, for making all of this possible.

# ABOVE ALL

#### Above All ... Take the Shield

Campaign results—25 weeks

New Chapters — 20 New Members — 216 Total LifeMembers — 329 New LifeCommitments — 55 New LifeMembers — 55 New LifeFriends — 6 Info packets mailed — 428

#### **Long Distance Fellowship**

Here's a great idea for getting to know other churches and their facilities: The North Little Rock, Arkansas, chapter enjoyed a VCR tape from the Master's Men at Ada, Oklahoma. Rev. Ben Scott pastors the North Little Rock chapter. The film showed the facilities at Ada and some activities of their men's groups. Master's Men president John Williams headed up the correspondence with the Ada chapter.

The Ada church has an active chapter with 30 members. Eight men are now working toward LifeMembership. James Presley is chapter president, and Rev. Keith Burden pastors at Ada.

If your chapter wishes to correspond with the Ada chapter, write: First Free Will Baptist Master's Men, 421 South Ash, Ada, OK 74820.

#### **ATTACK Magazine in Production**

The new ATTACK magazine went to press in July. Printing the magazine again is possible thanks to offerings from commitments made by men at the National Master's Men Conference in April.

Director Jim Vallance states, "ATTACK has proven to be a vital link between our office and the men in local churches. I believe we need the communications it provides. ATTACK was the vehicle for news, ideas, promotion and study lessons for our monthly emphasis. I am pleased our men have sacrificed to provide funding for the magazine. It will be a blessing to have it again."

The magazine has a new format and size. Materials will continue to be supplied by chapters and men. Current information about activities and accomplishments will be needed.





#### **Georgia District Meets**

The Midway District Master's Men met in May, hosted by Berean FWB Church in Albany. The program was presented to the 67 attendees by a deacon of the host church, Lieutenant Frank Sumner. His work is law enforcement. His topic: "Devil Worship and Drugs."

Master's Men Board Member Tim Jordan reported the presentation was "very fascinating."



25/CONTACT/September '89

The Department Pages



Herman L. Hersey Director

# B

Board of Retirement

AT YOUR SERVICE

# **Thinking of Retiring?**

Part II

# Do you really have good reasons for wanting to

retire? Is it just a whim?

Have you worked a long time and just want to quit if you can?

Do you really dislike what you're doing now or is it becoming too arduous as years pile on?

Many begin thinking about retiring because the end of a work day finds them tired out, spent; they are willing to keep working at some other easier job, perhaps with shorter hours, perhaps more conveniently located, closer to home.

Others think they want a job change from a job that's become too monotonous.

Others are unhappy with employers and their policies, particularly at a time of mergers and takeovers or other changes.

Some might worry about being passed over for better jobs as they grow older or being otherwise victimized. You hear talk of "getting out" as discontent builds up.

Be realistic in deciding whether you have a valid reason to retire—whether it's good enough to justify giving up wages or salaries to live on less in austerity. **Can you afford to retire?** To answer that you must consider how much you will receive, if you retire, from your employer's pension plan (or, we would say, from any pension plans that cover you because the average American may be employed under as many as five or six plans during a working lifetime) and from Social Security.

You must also know what supplementary income you can count on from savings, investments and other sources.

A good rule of thumb is that you should have monthly income amounting to at least 80 percent of your present income if you are to continue living at your present lifestyle when you retire.

You can, of course, do as many retirees do if your anticipated income is short of what you need: You can try working part time, not only for the added money but also to fill those newly-idled hours.

However, before you make definite plans to retire, work out your expected living costs in retirement (ordinarily you can cut your budget a bit because you no longer will have work-related costs), and balance them with expected income. This will give you a better idea of what retirement can mean for you.

It's a good idea to do this from time to time even if retirement isn't being con-

sidered; it gives you a better idea of your needs in retirement planning at any age.

What does your spouse think about this? Do you both have the same plans for retirement years? Be sure plans for retirement are jointly made—and are accepted happily by both spouses.

#### There is also a health question. Will you be better off

**retiring?** The answer depends on your fitness, the stress involved in what you do and whether you are mentally ready to accept the many changes involved. The answer also can depend on whether you have something to retire to—or just retire from.

In the American ethic, work for most is more a way of life than play.

-Ready or Not-

The Ready or Not Retirement Planning Review—a handbook examining major retirement subjects: Finances, Wills, Leisure Time, Second Careers, Maintaining Your Health, and many other topics—has been published. To order send \$7.95 to: Manpower Education Institute 715 Ladd Road Bronx, NY 10471



# Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisehart

#### **From My Window**

How was your lawn in June? The grass in ours seemed to spring up as soon as it was cut down. The one who cared for it seemed almost apologetic about cutting it so frequently.

Why the lush growth of grass? It was a combination of rain and sunshine. The storms came with a lot of rain. Then the sun came out and the grass sprang up.

II Samuel 23:4 gives a description of it. "As the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain."

Sometimes the dry times come in our lives when our very souls seem parched and we long for God's gentle rain.

Sometimes the storms come with violent winds and heavy washing rains.

Sometimes our world may stay gray for such a long time that we think the sun will never shine again.

But then after the long rain comes the clear shining. The grass grows, the flowers bloom and we remember the rainbow.

#### **Response to WNAC Needs**

Since the first request for funds to help with office needs, women have sent \$412.50.

Here's the want list.

Copier	\$1,000
Computer and bookkeeping software	\$2,000
Typewriter	\$500

#### **Eunice Edwards Loan Fund**

June 27, 1989-\$21,444.36

#### September-Memorial Student Loan Fund Month

In the 1988-89 college year, WNAC was able to help 15 students at Free Will Baptist Bible College. The money loaned totaled \$17,030.50.

September is the month for special giving to the loan fund. Your money is well invested in the lives of young people preparing for Christian service.

#### **Building for the Future**

Who will take your place in Woman's Auxiliary when you are gone?

You don't want to think about it?

We need to be winning and training younger women to be leaders. They need to be prepared to go on fulfilling the purpose of WNAC.

WNAC has materials available for young women, 13-18. Write and request the suggested constitution and by-laws for *Actionettes*.

Four different yearbooks are available: Pattern for Missions, Key to Missions, Open Door to Missions, and Spotlight on Missions (\$2 each). A leader's packet is prepared for each yearbook (\$2.50 each). **Green Tree Bible Study** 

**Robert E. Picirilli** 

**I** Corinthians 14

### I Corinthians 14 and the Gift of Tongues (Part I)

ne of the questions that has vexed the church at different times concerns the gift of the "unknown tongue." What was that gift? Is it still given today? Is it essential to the fullness of the Spirit?

One of our problems is that we sometimes forget to deal directly with the biblical text when such issues are discussed. The gift of tongues is discussed (more than anywhere else) in I Corinthians 14. The purpose of these studies is to examine what the biblical text says about the subject.

#### Background of I Corinthians 14

Apparently the Corinthian church had some questions about spiritual gifts (see 12:1). Given what we know (from the rest of the epistle) about their divisions, we can guess that there were differences of opinion about the practice of one or more of the gifts.

In chapter 12, then, Paul emphasizes the unity of the gifts: oneness of source (12:4-11) and oneness of function (12:12-21). In chapter 13, Paul draws out the truth that love is the context for the exercise of the gifts. This background further confirms that there was division at Corinth over the use of the gifts.

In chapter 12, v. 31 is a key: "Covet earnestly the best gifts," says Paul, "and yet I show you a more excellent way." The "more excellent way" is *the way of love* as treated in chapter 13. Then, in 14:1, Paul returns to what he meant when he urged, "covet earnestly the best gifts." "Desire spiritual gifts" uses the same word as was translated "covet earnestly" in 12:31. Comparison of Prophecy and Tongues

But what are "the *best* gifts?" As we go along, we will see that Paul's answer to this is, the gifts which contribute most to edifying the church. Verse 12 more or less says this outright. Further, notice the emphasis on edifying the church in vv. 3, 4, 5, 12, 17.

Paul approaches this in an indirect and interesting way: he shows us how one gift is "better" than another by making a direct comparison between the gift of prophecy and the gift of tongues (vv. 1-5). The gift of prophecy is superior to the gift of tongues precisely because it is more useful for edifying others in the church. Note the words "but rather that ye may prophesy." Thus does Paul set the tone for showing how one gift is better than another.

As the comparison starts, Paul first introduces the gift of tongues and remarks about its nature (v. 2). The record of the first speaking in tongues, in Acts 2, makes clear that this was a supernatural and sudden ability to speak in a human, foreign language not already known or understood by the speaker—not an ecstatic, "heavenly" language. The word tongue (Greek glossa) was often used to mean "language." The KJV translators supplied "unknown," of course; but even in that they may simply have meant unknown to the speaker.

The point of v. 2 is that the tonguesspeaker said things that only God understands. Is this meant to be complimentary? If so, the best that can be said is that this person spoke something devotional to God. The implication, already, is that speaking in tongues had no public value; that point will become clearer as we go along.

Just as v. 2 introduced the gift of tongues, so v. 3 introduces the gift of prophecy for comparison. The message of the prophet was presented in the language of the people. Consequently, Paul says, the prophet spoke to men; therefore this gift had public value.

Paul uses three words to describe what the prophet could communicate to to others. The first is the broadest and most important: *edification* (Greek *oikodome*). Literally, it means the activity of building, thus the spiritual growth of believers.

The second word is *exhortation* (Greek *paraklesis*). It has a variety of meanings, sometimes more like urging, sometimes more like encouraging. The open-ended use in this verse should probably be taken to include all its meanings.

The third word is *comfort* (Greek *paramuthia*). It can suggest either consolation in distress or a strengthening comfort given to the discouraged. All these functions can be performed by the one who speaks for God to believers in a language they can understand.

Verse 4 expresses the difference in a succinct way: while the tongues-speaker edified (only) himself, the prophet edified the church. It is difficult to tell whether the first half of this was meant to be a compliment or a criticism—or both. The best thing that can possibly be meant is that the experience of speaking in tongues was in some measure spiritually edifying to the speaker—though not

because of any *understood* truth, since the one speaking in tongues did not understand his own words (as later verses in this chapter clearly show). This "mystical" experience is certainly limited edification.

If there is that much compliment in 4a, there is also criticism. The overall impact of the verse is that a certain level of selfishness was involved in preferring tongues-speaking. The order of the sentence, in Greek, places special (and ironic?) emphasis on "himself," coming as it does in front of the verb. By contrast, the one who used the gift of prophecy was interested, as all should be, in edifying the entire church.

Paul proceeds to make his preference clear in v. 5. While he desired that all speak in tongues, he desired *more* that they prophesy. This certainly acknowledges the validity of the gift (at that time, anyway), and if it stood alone would recommend that all seek that gift. In fact, however, Paul's clear meaning is that they should seek prophecy *in preference to tongues*, and that is the clear point of the rest of v. 5 (and of the whole passage).

Then giving prophecy is better than speaking in tongues, and the reason is edification. The last clause in v. 5 presents the only way tongues-speaking could be edifying to the church: if translated. Obviously, if the (foreign) language were translated into the language of the congregation, then the message might very well give the same edification as one given by prophecy. As will be seen again, Paul's firm rule was that there should be no tongues-speaking in the church without translation.

Already, then, it is clear that speaking in tongues has only relative value. A gift that is more useful for the edifying of the church is better.

#### **BEYOND BELIEF**





Tetsunao Yamamori, God's New Envoys (Portland, Oregon: Multnomah Press, 1987, paperback, 190 pp., \$7.95).

etsunao Yamamori was born in Japan and raised in a home where Buddhism and Shintoism were the family religions. Through the influence of a U. S. Air Force chaplain and his family, Tetsunao came to Christ while in his early teens. He answered God's call to full-time service while a student at Nanzan University in Japan. Since 1981 he has served as president of Food for the Hungry, a Christian relief and development organization. He is a leading authority in the field of missions and church growth.

In this volume Yamamori strongly defends the sending of missionaries to carry the gospel to other countries. He affirms that there is a need for the fulltime professional missionary in our world today. He believes that we need missionaries and more of them.

At the same time, however, our author recognizes that more countries are closing their doors to traditional missionaries. He estimates that by the year 2000, approximately 3.5 billion non-Christians will live in countries closed to traditional missionaries while 700 million will live in open countries. Are these 3.5 billion people to be left with no gospel witness just because they live in countries closed to missionaries?

The author reminds us that we are facing another serious problem in world evangelization, rapid population growth. The total population of the world is estimated to be about 6.2 billion



in the year 2000. There is simply no way that a sufficient number of professional missionaries will be available to evangelize that number of people.

The Christian church should, of course, continue to send missionaries as rapidly as possible, but it cannot be content with that. It must develop new strategies for carrying the gospel to these multitudes of people.

Yamamori suggests that one answer lies in sending what he calls "new envoys." These "new envoys" are men and women who can support themselves while living in another culture by practicing some trade or profession. At the same time they can share the gospel, win converts, train these converts and assist in the development of national churches.

These men and women must be welltrained and deeply committed. They must have the necessary skills for the trade or profession which they will practice. At the same time, they must have the biblical and theological training necessary for the difficult task which is before them. They must speak the language of the people among whom they serve and understand their culture. They must also understand how to build churches within that culture.

Space forbids giving a detailed summary of this book's contents. That is unfortunate because it is one of the most insightful missions books I have read in a long time. It ought to be required reading for missions students everywhere.





29/CONTACT/September '89

#### **Directory Update**

#### CALIFORNIA

David Bates to Santa Paula Church, Santa Paula

#### ILLINOIS

Mike Neuman to Alexander Church, Thebes

#### KENTUCKY

Dennis Kizzire to First Church, Lexington from Cooper Church, Detroit, AL

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Bo Dunford to First Church, Simpsonville

Don Kivett to Oates Church, Oates Jerry Franklin to Happy Home Church, Andrews

#### TENNESSEE

Robert Hobbs to Wooddale Church, Knoxville from First Church, Holdenville, OK



READERS COMMENT

#### **'OOPS AWARD' TO EDITOR**

In printing my letter in the July issue, a mistake was made by placing the title, "Reverend," before my name. Though I have spent four years as a youth pastor in a local church, I do not feel called to a preaching ministry and have thus not been ordained by our denomination.

I do not know who is responsible for this mistake, but I feel it reflects the common misconception that one must be ordained in order to be a true minister. As Christians we are all part of a priesthood of believers.

Let me compliment the July issue. I have been crying out that our denomination has failed to be relevant in addressing the needs of our times. Thanks for showing me that the scene is changing.

In one issue you dealt with the New Age Movement, the teenage drug problem, the issue of legalism, and the questions facing the future of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Now that is relevance! Thanks for addressing the issues in a bold and honest way.

> Mark D. Hollis, Student Asbury Seminary Wilmore, KY

#### Cooperative Channel Contributions June 1989

#### **RECEIPTS:**

State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	Apr. '88	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 109.34	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 1,129.34	\$ 232.82	\$ 4,148.33
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	91.17	1,191.87
Arkansas	.00	6,034.37	6,034.37	3,077.42	29,249.54
California	.00	1,858.94	1,858.94	624.00	9,723.98
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	275.44	2.340.95	2,616,39	2,657.88	11,441.65
Georgia	7,972.98	1,046.50	9,019.48	6,782.57	66,791.80
Idaho	.00	23.89	23.89	0.00	298.86
Illinois	3,985.05	771.32	4,756.37	5,911.70	63,077.98
Indiana	.00	.00	.00	557.38	2,768.25
	.00	54.09	54.09	78.57	330.15
Kansas		879.90	879.90	124.75	3,582.79
Kentucky	.00			124.75	1,618.42
Maryland	.00	.00	.00		29,914.66
Michigan	3,277.37	929.59	4,206.96	5,011.38	
Mississippi	121.91	463.05	584.96	718.33	2,676.68
Missouri	9,095.62	.00	9,095.62	6,376.10	46,634.79
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	.00	84.70
North Carolina	557.20	300.00	857.20	2,218.80	10,609.77
Ohio	771.00	3,057.00	3,828.00	3,271.00	18,219.00
Oklahoma	33,101.24	7,497.23	40,598.47	34,692.57	249,599.12
South Carolina	14,021.40	.00	14,021.40	9,547.01	64,619.56
Tennessee	798.25	968.11	1,766.36	1,924.20	13,025.5
Texas	9,283.41	608.94	9,892.35	8,337.75	47,155.75
Virginia	139.00	1,397.78	1,526.78	1,460.55	2,943.9
West Virginia	8,779.95	80.39	8,860.34	1,775.73	17,263.06
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	23.90	536.58
Other (Computer)	.00	.01	.01	.05	.13
Totals	\$92,289.16	\$29,322.06	\$121,611.22	\$95,623.13	\$697,506.84
DISBURSEME	ENTS:				
Executive Office	\$ 2,199.02	\$16,588.36	\$18,787.38	\$18,145.75	\$112,724.14
Foreign Missions	62,269.76	2,928.75	65,198.51	51,705.45	387,477.8
FWBBC	5,876.81	2,928.75	8,805.56	6,481.40	47,776.7
Home Missions	18.832.30	2,292.06	21.124.36	13,668.06	103,565.6
Retirement & Insurance	60.90		1,843.62	1,256.98	10,715.2
Master's Men	386.70	1,782.72	2,169.42	1,382.66	11,906.0
Commission for	360.70	1,102.12	2,107.42	1,002.00	11,200.0
	47.74	127.33	175.07	140.46	1,053.8
Theological Integrity	212.17	764.04	976.21	502.22	6,930.2
FWB Foundation			46.39	137.26	345.4
Historical Commission	46.39				
Radio & TV Commission	48.82		176.15		1,157.3
Hillsdale FWB College	2,014.91	.00	2,014.91	1,630.30	11,798.5
Other	293.64		293.64		2,055.7
Totals	\$92,289.16	\$29,322.06	\$121,611.22	\$95,623.13	\$697,506.8

#### **ANY MORE BRIGHT IDEAS?**

Concerning your "Church of the Bake Sale" editorial in the July issue, I don't believe anyone is trying to improve on God's plan of support for the local church or missions. If folks are not already paying their tithes and giving, it is unlikely that they would bake you a cake, walk in a walk-a-thon or give up a Saturday to help with a car wash.

My experience in Woman's Auxiliary and youth camps shows that folks have a lot of fun getting together and accomplishing a goal that has been set. It helps kids appreciate camp more if they have to work for the money. Smaller churches in the inner city seem to have more children going to camp than most of the bigger churches, so it is helpful to raise money in some way.

Your article covered about all the ways I know. Any more bright ideas?

> Teresa Brown Garden City, Michigan

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THE SECRETARY SPEAKS By Melvin Worthington Big Sunday!



Free Will Baptists

et ready for National Ministries Sunday on September 24. Our target for the day is to underwrite the denomination's \$6.6 million 1989 gift goal budget. Can it be done? Sure! And it's easier than you think.

All it will take to reach the goal is for each Free Will Baptist to give a one-time gift of \$32.37 above his regular giving. The \$32.37 will be divided among national ministries according to the Cooperative Plan formula. I'm preparing to give \$129.48 above my regular giving on National Ministries Sunday that's \$32.37 for each of my four family members.

#### **The Observation**

Three types of giving will help us get the job done as we support National Association ministries: systematic, special and sacrificial.

Systematic giving suggests regular giving through the Cooperative Plan and includes designated gifts. Systematic giving provides a stable financial base for and undergirds all ministries. We need more individuals and churches to practice tithing.

Special giving suggests giving which is above the tithe. It provides funds to enlarge existing ministries and initiate additional ministry needs which arise. Tithing Christians can be counted on to give special offerings above the tithe.

Sacrificial giving suggests giving beyond systematic and special offerings. This giving enables the Christian to grow in stewardship of giving developing the ability, attitude and action to abound in the grace of giving. The Bible is our guideline here (see II Cor. 8-9).

#### **The Obligation**

We want every Free Will Baptist to accept the obligation to give sacrificially through National Ministries. We believe that tithes and offerings will provide the funds to finance the Lord's work.

The \$32.37 per person gift goal recognizes our proportionate share of an obligation to be fulfilled. Some can give more than \$32.37, but all can trust the Lord for a National Ministries Sunday offering.

#### **The Opportunity**

Ministers have the opportunity to provide their churches with information regarding this special Sunday. Given the opportunity, Free Will Baptists will participate in the sacrificial offering.

Ministers can also contribute their \$32.37. By giving sacrificially above

Secretary	's Schedule
September 5-8	Convention Planning Trip Phoenix, Arizona
September 10-15	First FWB Church Oak Ridge, Tenn.
September 17-20	Good Springs FWB Ch. Pleasant View, Tennessee
September 28-29	Houston FWB Church Houston, Missouri

regular giving, they can teach stewardship by example.

Throughout September emphasis can be given to stewardship. What a wonderful opportunity to challenge sacrificial giving by precept, practice and participation.

Members can share in every national ministry by giving \$32.37 on National Ministries Sunday. They can do something sacrificially beyond the ordinary.

Money received in the National Ministries offering will be divided according to the Cooperative Plan formula: Free Will Baptist Bible College— 23 percent; Foreign Missions—23 percent; Home Missions—18 percent; Board of Retirement—14 percent; Master's Men—14 percent; Free Will Baptist Foundation—6 percent; Commission for Theological Integrity—1 percent; Radio and TV Commission—1 percent.

As this offering grows, the necessity for crisis appeals will diminish. We need not choose one plan over the other, but combine all three—systematic, special, sacrificial.

The doctrine of tithes and offerings to support the Lord's work must be reemphasized. The annual stewardship emphasis in September will reaffirm, reenforce and renew this doctrine in the minds of our people.

Join me. Write your \$32.37 check and support National Ministries Sunday. Let our attitude be: My only regret is that I do not have more to give in this offering.

#### CONTACT

P. O. Box 1088 Nashville, Tennessee 37202 Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

