

October 1989

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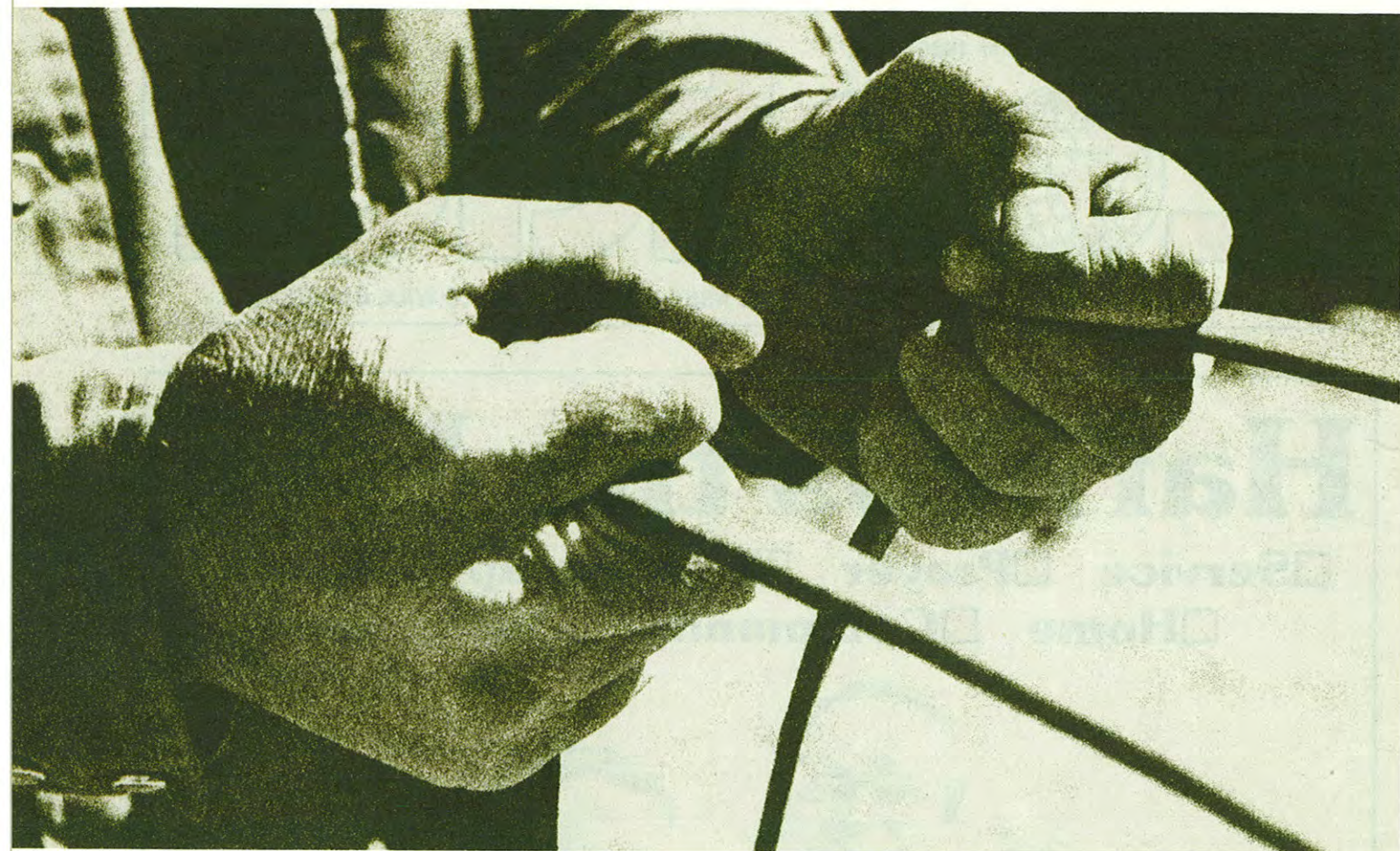
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

## Harness the Men

■ Service ■ Prayer ■ Leadership ■ Church  
■ Home ■ Community ■ Visitation







**Harnessing Men for the Local Church**

# Help Wanted— Help Needed!

By Billy Bevan

**M**ost of us are aware that newspapers carry a "Help Wanted" section. This is a listing of businesses or individuals in need of someone to assist them with their daily operations or special projects.

Most of our church papers could carry the same kind of "Help Wanted" section, urging people to help with the Lord's work.

There never seems to be enough help when it comes to getting things done in our churches. This is especially true when it comes to helpers of the male species.

There are few among us who do not need more help. No man in a leadership role is so capable that he does not need others to help him.

We are reminded of this in two Bible passages. In Exodus 18:17-18, Moses'





father-in-law, Jethro, came to Moses and said to him, "... The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone."

Acts 6:1-4 records a similar situation. The apostles needed help, and they chose men, "... whom we may appoint over this business" (v. 3).

In each case, one thing is clear. They needed help. The cry of the hour in most of our churches is, "More help!"

Sometimes we get frustrated or discouraged when we observe others who seem to be so successful in their ministries. However, one thing will usually be true of any man and ministry we admire and hold in high esteem. When you analyze those ministries closely, you will find that none of them are one-man shows. Great men and ministries are surrounded by a cast of great men—great "helping men."

Where do they get these helping men? I often come away after observing a successful ministry and say to myself, "I wish I had some men like those to help me."

One day it dawned on me. Those men were not purchased from the "Helping Man Department Store." No, they were taken right out of the church congregation and trained to be helpers.

Pastors must come to grips with the fact that God did not call us to be successful nor to build great ministries. Ours is the task of building lives. A pastor is a leader, and as a leader he is to build men.

God has placed in each of our ministries the men we need to accomplish a work for Him. True, they may not be in finished form. They may be diamonds in the rough. But it becomes our challenge to shape and mold them into qualified helpers. How do we do it?

## Enlist

First, we must *enlist* people. It seems apparent that people do not volunteer to do things like they did in the past. It becomes necessary to personally enlist people. Ask them one-on-one to become helpers.

It is easy not to volunteer because most appeals are so general they assume someone else will respond. But when you personally ask someone to help you with a job, it is difficult for them to say, "no."

## Encourage

Second, we must *encourage* those we enlist. Often people do not volunteer because they do not feel capable or qualified to do the job. We must convince them they do have the ability to do the job. It becomes a source of self-confidence to individuals to know that their pastor has confidence in their ability to perform a certain task.

## Educate

Third, we must *educate* those we enlist as helpers. No man (nor ministry) has all the people he needs, fully-trained and equipped to do the job. Neither is it feasible to hire Bible college graduates to fill every vacancy.

But from our present congregations we can choose those whom God has strategically placed on our path who are capable of doing a great work. All they need is training and guidance.

## Expect

Finally, we must *expect* great things from those we enlist as helpers. Once we have enlisted, encouraged and educated them, we should expect them to do the best job they can do with the Lord's help.

Give them space and freedom to perform the tasks assigned to them, allowing them to learn as they go and to make mistakes. Praise them for a job well done, and help them through their mistakes. You will be pleased with the results of taking time to train a helper.

Pastor, do you need some helpers? Look around—the woods are full of them. That is, the woods of your congregation.

Spend time building men, not ministries. Ministries have a way of disappearing, but a man built for God will last forever!



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Billy Bevan is president of Southeastern Free Will Baptist College, Wendell, North Carolina.

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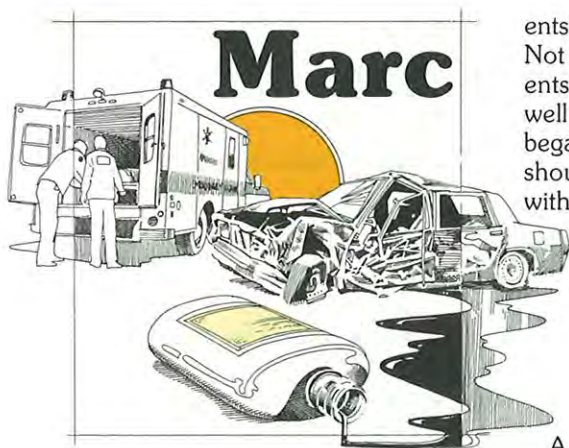
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By Mark Braisher

**"M**ark, I hate to ruin your Sunday afternoon, but. . . " My wife and I had just arrived home from a visit with a church member. As I settled down for my Sunday afternoon nap the phone rang with pastoral duty.

Marc, the 19-year-old boyfriend of Tammy, one of our high school members, was in an automobile accident. He had been drinking, had totaled his car and was lying in the hospital leaving parents, family and friends to wonder. All four limbs had been broken in at least one place. He was in surgery now, and doctors did not give him much chance to live.

My mind began pacing. There was no doubt where I stood on drinking. And even more deeply embedded in me was the spite I felt for inconsiderate selfish people who not only wanted to destroy themselves, but felt it necessary to destroy others with them. Now I must try to comfort a family who had raised such a son. What would I say? Would I betray my attitude? Would my true feelings surface through my attempt to comfort?

Before I arrived at the hospital, others informed me that the accident may have killed a victim in the other car. Although I had met the young man, I did not know his parents. What kind of parents could raise such a son?

I found Marc's parents in the empty surgery waiting room. Strangely enough, they looked normal, people you might see anywhere. As I was introduced to them, I began to know them.

Throughout the 15-hour surgery I met two people, by name and heart. Not as a part of the mass of failed par-

ents in the world, but as Sally and Glen. Not two failures, but two struggling parents who had raised their eldest son as well as they could. Their guilt feelings began to show. They wondered if they should have done something different with the boy. Their pain was evident.

A doctor came out to explain the intended and already underway procedures. Marc would lose his left leg just below the knee. He was a tall, nice looking man with a great future before him, a son sure to make his parents proud. Now he would live with a prosthesis, if he lived.

After a long silence, Marc's parents talked about their shortcomings, their joys, their pains. These were real people, whose son would at best be painfully reminded of this day for the rest of his life, at worst would never awake from the night-long surgery.

The hours passed and Tammy's father showed up after being notified by a relative of the accident. I went out to meet him; he was hot with anger. "This kid who dated my daughter could have killed her! She could have been in that car with him. She could be in that operating room."

I tried my best to talk him to calmness before he entered the waiting room. Tony, Tammy's father, went in, made the usual greetings, sat for a while and left.

I stayed with Tammy, Glen and Sally (Marc's parents), and Patty (Tammy's mother). The night wore on and the tension had just about eased when a phone call came into the waiting room. Sally answered; her expression was not good. When she hung up she told us that a woman had died in the accident. Immediately Glen's temper level exploded. How could Marc do such a thing?

Thoughts raced through my head. This is the type thing you read in the newspaper or see on TV, the kind of situation that us hard-nosed, hell-fire and brimstone preachers blast. This type of story adds fuel to the fire.

But somehow, a sermon was not in order. Criticism was not needed at the moment.

What would my church members think? The preacher spending all his time with that drunk driver. What would outsiders think? "Well, if that's the kind of people that church helps, I don't know if I want to go there."

Finally, the right thought hit home. What would Jesus think? Would He condemn them and leave them in their well-deserved pity? No, Jesus would bend down, maybe write in the sand and then confidently stand and say, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone. . . ."

I had no choice. The conscience, the people and maybe even the church may say leave them. But the Master said, "Stay and minister."

Marc made it through the night, and at about 4:00 a.m. I arrived home tired, confused and wondering if I did what was right, if I counselled effectively. Only time and God would tell.

Through follow-up ministry we eventually saw Marc at church. Later, I heard Marc profess Christ. Last week I baptized him. His father even came to the baptism.

As Marc walked down the aisle at the close of service to join the church, I glanced at his father. No, he did not accept Christ, but with tears coursing down his face, I saw a tough, hard man move one step closer.

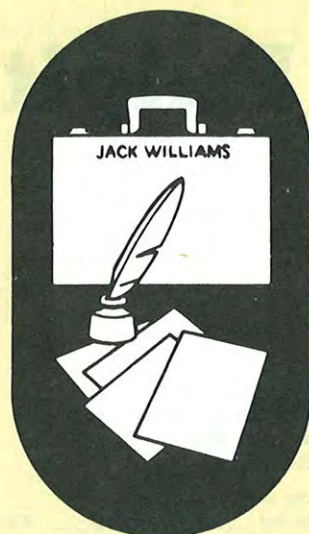
The problems are not over. There is rehabilitation, court trials and possibly a prison term. But Marc is growing and by the grace of God he will one day get control of his life. This time with Christ in his life, a song in his heart and a witness on his lips.

*Writer's Postscript.* Marc is currently serving a sentence in the state penitentiary where he has quite a ministry. Oh, Marc's father accepted Christ.

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Reverend Mark Braisher pastors Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri.







# Revenge

**E**verybody had seen one except me. They would tell me what kind of car they saw it on and laugh. Then I saw my first one last week glowering from the bumper of a low-slung muscle car in bold black type: "I don't get mad; I get even."

Getting even may be tolerated in mean-eyed little boys, but that philosophy of life turns boys into emotionally unstable adults with chips on their shoulders who prowl the streets in 3,000-pound automobiles.

**People who go** through life getting even are like children who never grow up, and should be told to stand in the corner till they cool off. Adults who careen through society getting in the last lick leave a trail of tears, scarred lives and possibly a rap sheet at the police station.

Getting even creates a mean spirit. Sadly, it sometimes surfaces in the Christian community.

Cain got even with Abel after God accepted Abel's sacrifice and rejected his. The price was high. Cain got even in secret, but God told everybody about it. And Cain wore the mark of getting even till his dying day. The dirty business of revenge started on the front porch of paradise. It seems that we never learn.

**When the men** of Judah confronted Samson about why he burned the Philistines' wheat fields, the strong man replied, "... As they did unto me, so have I done unto them" (Judges 15:11).

I suppose that Samson's was the first chariot to sport the bumper sticker, "I don't get mad; I get even." In his case, however, after Samson got mad and got even, then he got in big trouble. The story does not end with Samson getting even; it runs like a blood feud through four chapters in the book of Judges.

In my opinion, God intended better things from Samson's strength than killing 30 Philistines for their clothes, capturing 300 foxes to use as living torches and slaying 1,000 men with a donkey's jawbone. Samson fought all his battles alone when he could have led an army.

True, Samson got revenge. But in getting even he lost his purity to harlots, his eyesight to the Philistines, his freedom to prison and his life at the temple of Dagon. What a price to pay for lack of self control. Samson died blind, in chains, in a house of unbelief with people he despised. And all because he used his great strength to get even instead of something more noble.

**Jake De Shazer** found a different way to handle his hatred and urge for vengeance. Jake went to Japan as a missionary, but he got there via a Japanese prison camp in Shanghai, China. He was one of the B-25 pilots who flew on the famous Doolittle Raid to bomb the Japanese homeland.

Forced to ditch his plane, Jake was captured and later imprisoned in Shanghai. He and four fellow prisoners were tortured, beaten and put on starvation diets. Jake begged his captors for a Bible and became a Christian after reading it four weeks.

He then saw his captors through new eyes and prayed for God to forgive them. After the war, Jake returned to the U. S. where he attended Bible college. God sent him back to Japan in 1948 as a missionary.

One day Jake was outside Tokyo's Shibuya Station handing out leaflets entitled "I was a War Prisoner of Japan."

Mitsuo Fuchida, the only Pearl Harbor pilot to live through the war, received one. Fuchida had led the 360-plane attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. He began reading the Bible and became one of Japan's greatest evangelists.

Jake De Shazer's revenge was complete. He had turned a bitter enemy into a Christian brother.

**In his book**, *Dancing on the Strait and Narrow*, Stan Mooneyham tells an incident that happened to Dale Carnegie as he visited Yellowstone Park and watched rangers feed the grizzly bears.

"One night the ranger brought garbage to attract the huge creatures, who, it is said, can whip any animal in the West except perhaps the buffalo and the Kodiak bear. But Carnegie noticed that the bears would allow one little animal to eat with them. The others were sent scurrying with growls—all except the skunk!"

"Though it was obvious that the grizzlies resented the skunk for its brazen impudence and would have loved to have their revenge, they didn't. And, you can guess why. The cost of getting even was just too high!"

**Getting even**—no thank you. Every minute we spend plotting revenge robs us of peace of mind. Revenge can only humiliate or kill an enemy, and empty us of happiness. Forgiveness, on the other hand, releases both the hatred and the hated, and frees us to love instead of getting even.

Forgiveness is only for the strong. The weak can never forgive. German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemoller said after being a political prisoner in the Dachau concentration camp, "It took me a long time to learn that God is not the enemy of my enemies. God is not even the enemy of His enemies."

Vengeance is best left to God. He has His own ways of balancing the scales. 🌍



# Downwind from the Pulpit

By Mal King

*"Is it a sin to bore people with the gospel?"*  
—Question asked at writers' conference

It's hot. People in the pews start to nod. It's 12:00 noon Sunday in a typical church and the pastor has two points, a poem and the altar call to go. His listeners are finished, and so is he. But he doesn't quit.

It's 12:05 and he still has two points, a poem and the altar call to go. But his people quit listening after they heard the noon whistle and the children playing outside after junior church.

Mary worries what her small children will be doing in the next 15 to 30 minutes. She knows no two adults on earth can keep watch over 35 children who have been locked up for two hours. And the two junior church workers are thinking unkind thoughts about the pastor.

At 12:10 Jim's prayer becomes desperate: "Lord, please make him stop!" You see, Jim brought a friend who hasn't been to church since he was a boy. Why not?

"Because preachers never know when to quit." And his friend is now thinking, "This is worse than I remembered."

At 12:15 Barbara frets about her roast and about time to visit the rest home before 4:30 choir practice. Barbara's 6-year-old son (with her because he hasn't gotten over the flu) sighs, nudges her and whispers: "Mom, is this the only way to get to heaven?"

At 12:20 Professor Smythe thinks: "He preached for 45 minutes before noon, and he has now preached 20 more. In less than 20 minutes both of the greatest talks in history could be read: The Gettysburg Address and the Sermon on the Mount."

At 12:25 Jim Tyler, an oil man, thinks about the sign in his office: "If you haven't struck oil in the first 20 minutes, stop boring."

## Stop, Thief!

Just over two years ago, I interviewed Francis Boyle, known to many Free Will Baptists for his marketing of church bond programs. Francis' response to my question about what he would tell pastors follows:

Stop stealing people's time. They resent it. The service is a worship hour, so start your altar call when the church is in one accord and before they start worrying about all of the things Satan will put in their minds.

Pastors can say that people should be interested enough to stay beyond the noon hour. Well, they should be a lot of things, but they aren't. After all, people don't sit still for very long anymore and many of them have already been sitting for two hours.

I'm not saying not to go over if there are people in the altar. But when the church service lasts beyond the hour let it be God's doing, not the pastor's.

Francis said that most preachers violate the golden rule of speakers: "Leave them wanting more."

## 12 Steps a Pastor Can Take to Keep a Congregation With Him

Pastors have the world's most difficult yet most important job. The church is the old one-room schoolhouse, only worse. Ages range from a week-old baby to those in their 90's; education can range from none to a medical doctor with a degree in psychiatry; time as a Christian may range from one day to more than 90 years; interest in the sermon may range from none to intense.

Here are 12 ways a pastor can avoid the kinds of problems this article addresses.

### 1. Conduct a Survey.

A young pastor said that one of the most valuable things he did was to conduct this survey:

A. Do I preach too long?

\_\_\_\_ (Yes) \_\_\_\_ (No)

Results: All yeses.

B. Do my sermons help you?

\_\_\_\_ (Never) \_\_\_\_ (Sometimes) \_\_\_\_ (Often)

\_\_\_\_ (Always)

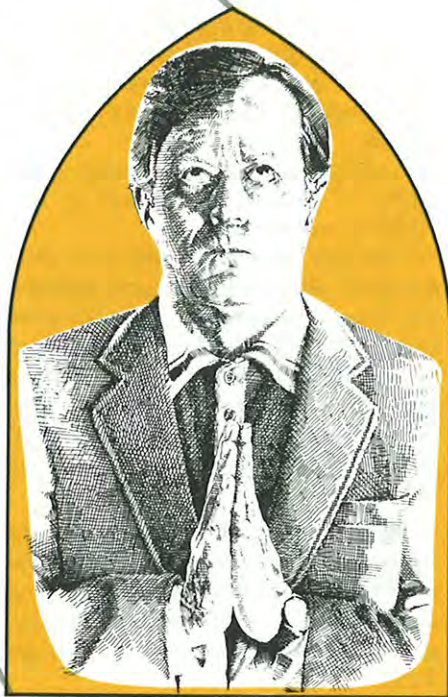
Results: About 10 percent "Always" and about 10 percent "Never," 60 percent "Sometimes" and 20 percent "Often."

C. How can I do a better job preaching?

This open-ended question gave a full range of responses: "Spend more time with God; follow the Master Teacher, show us by telling stories to make your points; simplify, simplify, simplify; join Toastmasters; vary your methods; tell us what you want us to do."

### 2. Nail Your Ego to the Cross.

If you plan to imitate the great preachers of the past and keep your congregation spellbound for an hour, forget it. You are preaching to a far different people.



Don't expect your ego to be stroked when you preach what might have been your best sermon in the eyes of God. Remember one of the best sermons—Stephen's—caused the congregation to gnash teeth and stone him (most preachers would prefer simple applause or an amen.)

### 3. Ask What One Thing You Want to Get Across.

The old preacher's response to the young preacher's question about how long he should preach—"About God and about 20 minutes!"—did not go far enough. He should also have told the young man to keep it simple. Most people can not digest, take away and apply more than one main idea.

Some preachers use a shotgun to hit everyone in the audience with buckshot rather than using a precision rifle. Nobody benefits.

### 4. Ask What You Want Them to Do After the Sermon.

Abraham Lincoln praised the preacher's delivery, his scholarship and his topic. When someone said, "Oh, you liked the sermon?"

Lincoln replied, "No, he didn't challenge us to do any great thing." Sermons should challenge us to do good things or at least equip and motivate us to do them.

So, have a purpose in mind. Keep it before you as you pray about the sermon, keep it before you as you preach the sermon, and keep it before you as you pray that the Holy Spirit will move people to act on the sermon.

### 5. Vary Your Methods.

Get out of your rut, it can become your grave. Some pastors read a verse and comment on it. Most commentaries your congregation can buy will do a better job than you can do. Don't misunderstand, this is a fine approach, but not every sermon. Unless you vary your methods, good as they might be, even your wife will tire of your sermons as the children of Israel tired of manna.

You can still preach about the prodigal son, but you can use something that happened last month or last week to illustrate it. Keep looking for fresh ways to present biblical truths.

### 6. Preach Meaningful Sermons.

Take clues for your sermons from the Holy Spirit and from things you know

by talking privately with people. Counseling lets you know where people hurt and how the gospel can help. A series of evangelistic sermons when people are hurting with problems ranging from divorce to death in the family might actually be harmful.

Do as Christ did, meet people at their point of need.

### 7. Be Unmerciful: Cut, Cut, Cut.

After a long sermon, a member asked a pastor what had happened to his face. He said, "Oh, I was thinking about my sermon while shaving and cut myself."

The member replied, "You should have thought about us and cut your sermon." The points of many sermons are submerged in a flood of words. Consider this:

- The Lord's Prayer contains 56 words.
- The 23rd Psalm, 118 words.
- The Gettysburg Address, 226 words.
- The 10 Commandments, 297 words.

An older preacher who used few words in his sermons, but made every one count, told this story. "When I was courting my wife-to-be, she sent me a one-word letter that thrilled me. It simply said: 'Friday.' I figured then that the fewer the words the deeper they burn and the longer they linger."

### 8. Join Toastmasters.

Any pastor would profit from being a Toastmaster. Toastmasters give you five minutes to make your point. Then you get instant feedback from people who can't fire you. Because you will be addressing a secular group you also get a chance to spread ethical ideas and attract people to church who otherwise might never hear the gospel.

Toastmasters will teach you to organize thoughts, to show rather than tell, and to structure your sermons. Too many sermons have no structure—at least they seem so to those of us downwind from the pulpit. Some talks, some sermons are like a man blowing up a balloon: filled with hot air until they are full or time runs out. Toastmasters deflate balloons.

### 9. Love Your People.

Long before one of my favorite pastors fills the pulpit, he sees himself in it, he sees his people and he feels love for them. He pauses as he enters the pulpit and thinks as he looks out at the congregation, "I love you." This softens his

countenance, warms his heart, and the congregation doesn't know why but they are drawn to him.

Love your people; feed them. And remember: you can't love them too much, but you can feed them too much—more than they can digest, and like physical fat it can weigh them down.

### 10. Use Stories.

Sometimes I am amazed to see what modern researchers come up with. Not that they are wrong, but that what they "discover" has been in the Bible for all these years. Dr. David Myers, at the University of Michigan, for example learned what Christ knew:

- A. People remember vivid stories.
- B. People connect these stories with a specific message so as to form an opinion; and
- C. Vivid anecdotes are more persuasive, more memorable than statistics.


Dr. Myers also found that many speakers rely on statistical "facts" to get a message across. Yet, as Myers says, "It is important to understand that facts merely support a point of view. They have no meaning on their own. People identify with people. The ideal is to marshal facts and reach people through the right balance of data and humanization."

### 11. Try for the Pulitzer Prize on Every Sermon.

Joseph Pulitzer deserved his own prize for this advice: "Put it before them briefly so they will hear it, clearly so they appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light."

### 12. Keep Your Two Wells Full.

To sum up, the preacher should continuously work on filling two wells: He should fill the well of the spirit by study, by prayer, by meditation, by doing everything with God. And he should fill the well of talent by reading, by listening, by practicing and by growing to full stature.

If you do these things, you will not commit the "sin" of boring people with the gospel. 

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Mal King is president of Mentor Consulting Group and a member of Santa Paula Free Will Baptist Church, Santa Paula, California.*





**D**o you know what Jesus values in His disciples more than anything, more than ability, and more than talent or culture? This question is answered in Mark 10:34-45. James and John had requested to sit on the right and left hand of Jesus when He came into His Kingdom. The other disciples became indignant with the two brothers. They all seemed to be concerned with personal greatness.

Jesus rebuked them by showing whom He considered great. He replied, "... but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister; And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all." Jesus values servanthood above all. The way to be great is to serve.

The disciples had the wrong idea about greatness, as many do today. They subscribed to the "I'm number one" philosophy. Number two doesn't matter. Only the successful count. The disciples mistakenly thought that God's standard of greatness was the same as the world's.

Jesus corrected this notion when He told them that in the Gentile world, great men rise to rule with authority, but in His Kingdom great men serve with meekness. Great men need to learn more about servanthood and less about ambition. Let's examine the four steps to servanthood.

### **Humility**

Interestingly, the first step is a downward step. The way up in God's Kingdom is down. If a servant would be effective, he must be humble. He acknowledges that his master is greater than he, a difficult pill for some men to swallow. But if he is going to be a usable servant, he must take that downward step of humility. There are two attitudes present on this step.

First, humility means possessing the right attitude about self. Men tend to

# **The Steps of Servanthood**

By Edwin Hayes



think too highly of themselves, as evidenced by James and John who thought they should sit in positions of honor in Jesus' Kingdom. In fact, all the disciples felt that they deserved this honor. They did not see themselves as weak, frail and prone to failure. But it's only when an attitude of humility is present that the servant is ready for useful service.

Second, humility means possessing the right attitude about the master. A good servant sees his master as greater than he. He promotes his master's name rather than his own. In the turmoil about their argument over who was the greatest, the disciples lost track of their Master's greatness. They were promoting themselves, and not Him. A servant has a humble heart and the right attitude about his master.

### Submission

The next step is submission. A servant is one who submits to his master's authority. Submission is not an easy thing. The disciples did not want to submit. In today's society, men do not want to submit, wives do not want to submit, children do not want to submit. But to be great in the Kingdom of God, submission to Christ's authority must be accepted. Submission involves two elements. Submission means saying no to our own desires. Frequently, the command of a master and the desires of a servant clash. The master wants labor and the servant wants rest. The master calls for sacrifice and the servant wants ease. Jesus wanted dedicated service, but His disciples were concerned with personal glory. It was decision time. Who would prevail?

Submission means doing what we do not want to do. A servant will be commanded to carry out a duty that he is reluctant to perform. Jesus once told Peter that he was going to be carried to a place where he did not want to go (speaking of his death), and He immediately followed this with the commandment, "Follow Me." While Peter did not desire to die, if he planned to be Christ's servant, he had to submit and follow.

### Thankfulness

The third step to servanthood is the step of thankfulness. A good servant is not just motivated by duty, but by his gratitude and devotion to his master. Paul is an excellent example of this. Paul

never got over the fact that Christ was willing to save someone like him, a blasphemer and persecutor of the church. Therefore, Paul felt that whatever Christ asked of him, it was not too much. He would do it gladly.

This is the kind of motivation that Christ desires in all His servants. This motivation evidences itself by offering Jesus voluntary, cheerful and permanent service. Thankfulness is an essential step to servanthood.

### Faithfulness

Now we approach the final step in servanthood, the step of faithfulness. A good servant is faithful to his master. Faithfulness addresses three areas.

First, a faithful servant has the right priority. The disciples learned this when they realized that they must put the Master's interest before their own. They faced situations when it would have been in their best interest to deny Jesus, but they put His interest above their own. They suffered, and most of them lost their lives because of their devotion to Jesus and His commands.

Second, a faithful servant is trustworthy. He can be counted on to do what he is commanded to do. His master can be assured that he will accomplish his mission. There is a beautiful story in Genesis 24 about Abraham's servant who was to obtain a bride for Isaac. He certainly was a trustworthy servant, diligent to fulfill the command of Abraham, and the Lord blessed him with success. He came home with a bride for Isaac.

Third, a faithful servant perseveres. He does not stop until his task is finished. He will endure any hardships that face him and continue until the job is done. Many today drop out under the tremendous pressure of the Lord's service, but not those who have taken the step of faithfulness.

Paul was one who was always under pressure to give up. He listed his great trials in II Corinthians II. But Paul wouldn't quit until he said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Timothy 4:7).

Faithfulness is the crowning step of servanthood.

These are the steps to servanthood. They will make us the kind of disciples that Jesus values. They are not easy, but they are the most rewarding steps you will ever take. Why not take them today?



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Reverend Edwin Hayes pastors Columbus First Free Will Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio. The Franklin University graduate serves as moderator of the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists. He is also a member of the Sunday School and Church Training Board.

## The Power of an Invitation

By Fred Hall



**O**n Monday a friend met me on the street. "I noticed you were absent from our civic club last meeting," he said. "Will you be there next Wednesday?"

"No," I replied. "I can't make it. Don't look for me."

Two men asked me on Tuesday if I could come. I said to the first, "I wish I could, but I can't this week." The next one I answered, "My schedule looks impossible, but I'll try to find the time to come."

Wednesday in the post office a fourth man asked if I would be at the meeting that day. "I'll try to come," I replied, "but I may not make it." Before I got to my car, a fifth man stopped me, and I promised I would be there for sure.

I don't know whose official duty it was to contact me, but I couldn't resist the invitation from five different men. We all like to go where we are wanted.

If you want the unsaved, the indifferent, the absentees to attend your church, you must let them know. They know that if you really want them to come, you will find the opportunity to invite them. This is a task for every member of the church.

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Reverend Fred Hall pastors East Nashville Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.



# Obstacles to Prayer

By Billy Sharpston



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

**C**ommunion with God meets a need in life that can be met in no other way. While many Bible verses urge men to pray, none is more pungent than James 5:16, "... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

If we believe this verse to be true, then why do we take prayer so lightly? Why do we do so little praying? Why do we allow obstacles to hinder our praying, and how do we overcome them?

## Why We Do Not Pray

### Health and Wealth Theology

The reason many Christians take prayer lightly is the widespread "health and wealth" theology. Some regard prayer as a kind of magic, just because we make a request, God must grant it. Others see God as a generous benefactor who hands out gifts right and left. Because there are so many requests given in spoken prayer, others believe that asking is all there is to praying.

### Coffee Break Mentality

Some approach praying like they do a coffee break. They give God five

minutes or so, then rush back to the important things like visiting, work, teaching, preaching, fellowship, committee meetings and such. While these things are important, the fact remains that we are more interested in *doing* than praying.

### Shallow Outlook on Life

Some, of course, are just too unconcerned and lazy to be faithful in their prayer lives. These same people are not faithful in reading their Bibles, much less praying. They are shallow in their relationship to God, and if they do pray, it is an afterthought. By their actions they declare that prayer is a waste of time, therefore, they seldom see God work in their lives.

The person who takes prayer lightly lacks consecration. When we neglect prayer, we cut ourselves off from His power. Small wonder that nothing seems to go right for us.

### Wrong Priorities

One major reason we do so little praying is that we have our priorities wrong. While many Christians faithfully attend every church service and partic-

ipate in tithing and visiting, they do not see prayer as a necessity. It is not that people get so bogged down with other commitments that there is no time to pray. Rather, they are not motivated to pray. It has been my experience that praying churches produce praying people.

### Self-Importance

Some have weak prayer lives simply because they are puffed up with their own self-knowledge, self-sufficiency and self-ability. They know it all, can do it all, so why pray? But apart from Christ, we are nothing, and can do nothing, as Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

## Examining the Obstacles

Prayer is a spiritual exercise that moves us closer to God. We know the Bible has much to say about prayer. The prayer lives of Abraham, Moses, Christ, Paul and others are held up as examples for today's Christian. It is not uncommon for a great gulf to develop between us and God when prayer grows stagnant. So why do we allow so many obstacles to hinder our praying?

### Lack of Faith

A lack of faith is high on the list of obstacles to an effective prayer life. Too much focus on this world reduces the intensity of our faith. Faith is essential for answered prayer, "... If ye have faith, and doubt not ..." (Matthew 21:21).

Faith is the means of communication with the invisible God, and it is essential to the offering and answering of prayer (see Hebrews 11:6 and James 1:6-7).

William Proctor said, "Many of our prayers fail to enter heaven for the same reason that a whole generation of Israelites failed to enter Canaan, 'because of unbelief.'"



The reasoning of some is, "My faith did not get me what I desired so why pray?" They come to believe that their prayers are unimportant, "After all, God cannot be interested in me."

### Selfishness

Another obstacle to prayer is selfishness. We often ask God for things that will benefit only us. Such a selfish attitude tends to dry up our prayer lives because those prayers are usually not granted.

A man expressed considerable anger when asked if he had sought an answer to his problem in prayer. Seems he wanted a particular position within his company. He prayed long about it, but someone else received it. "Why should I think my prayer will be heard this time?" he wanted to know.

### Unforgiving Spirit

An unforgiving spirit is a deadly attitude for one's prayer life. It is unfortunate that Christians sometimes develop a "holier than thou" attitude toward others. Such an attitude gives a

sense of righteousness that judges and condemns, more than loves and forgives. Prayer is difficult where an unforgiving or self-righteous spirit prevails.

### Laundry List

There's a laundry list of other obstacles to effective praying: impatience, dishonesty, ignorance, indolence, pride, formality, idols of the heart, jealousy and ruptured relationships. Prayer is a battlefield littered with the careless and the unconcerned.

### Overcoming Obstacles

The final question is, how do we overcome it all? If we really want to know the Lord, we must spend time with Him. That is the key to a successful prayer life. In order to have a successful prayer life, we must first want it, and then work at it.

Leonard Ravenhill says, "In this rush age we resent the time element in prayer and the time needed to wait for the answer, but God says, 'wait on the Lord . . . and He shall strengthen thine heart.'"

Have you forsaken the altar of prayer? Have success, love, business, home or the cares of life crowded prayer out of your days? Have you become prayerless?

"We will never pray as we should until we see it as a necessity," said Norman Harrison, "indispensable to the life we have undertaken to live."



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Dr. Billy Sharpston pastors White Oaks Free Will Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia. He also serves as moderator of the Georgia Union Association. He has been in the ministry 33 years.

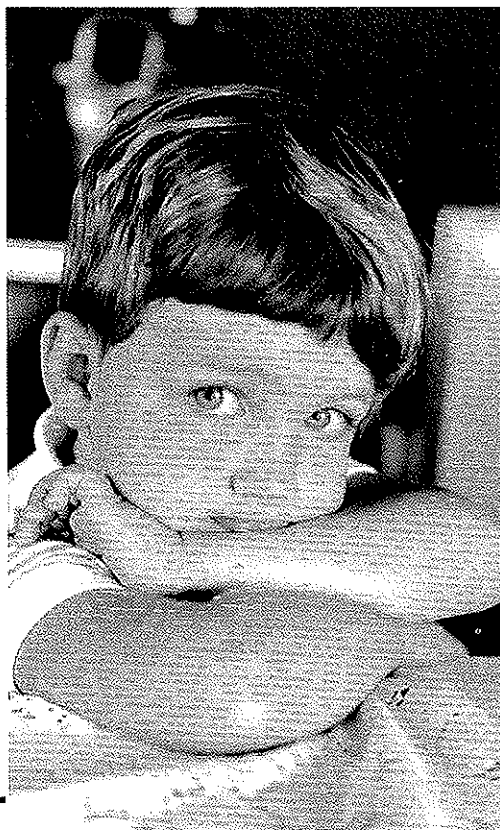
## King of the Front Row

By Garnett Reid

**H**e was up front that Sunday morning—like a king in his kingdom, right on the first pew, about a kitchen table's length from the pulpit. From my seat six rows back all I could see was this 9-year-old boy and the preacher framed between the two heads in front of me. The little guy had the first four pews all to himself.

Every now and then he would raise his head and give the preacher his attention. Sometimes he listened intently, but mostly he wrote and looked around and thought. I wondered what he was thinking. Maybe he was hitting the game-winning home run to beat the Yankees in the World Series. Or perhaps he mapped out a new video game strategy to defeat the invading aliens. The truth is 9-year-old boys live so many pretend lives that I couldn't begin to guess what escapades he enjoyed right there on that front pew.

What struck me, though, was simply the fact that he was there. He was there because his parents cared enough to



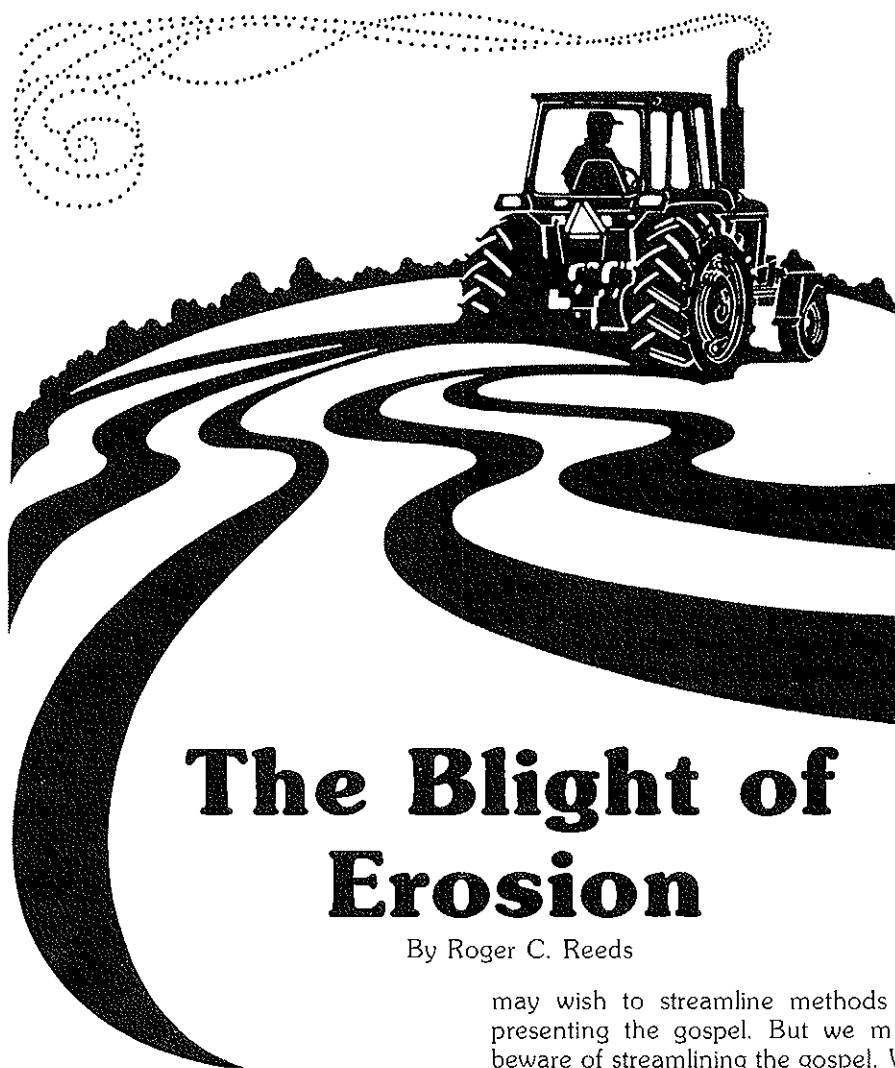
bring him to church, to see to it that he at least came in contact with an environment whose impact upon young people seems steadily declining. He was there when so many kids aren't.

I wondered what difference one Sunday could possibly make in that little boy's life. Though the sermon was good, he has forgotten it by now. And I'm sure he's accustomed to the singing, the praying and all those other church things that happen every Sunday. Yet who knows what he will catch from sitting there. How can any of us measure the force of an impression for good that may lodge somewhere inside that sharp young mind?

Years from now, perhaps miles and lives away, God may change someone's world just because one Sunday morning a little boy sat on the front row at church.

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Reverend Garnett Reid is a professor of Bible at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee.





# The Blight of Erosion

By Roger C. Reeds

**M**ost farmers will tell you that they fight a constant battle against soil erosion. Heavy rains can wash away good top soil that has been cultivated and fertilized. Those with hilly property sometimes practice terracing in order to retain the soil. Levees help hold the soil on level land.

Denominations also experience erosion, not in soil, but in convictions and doctrines. We have seen lowered convictions and changing doctrine in other denominations. Sometimes, in looking outwardly to observe erosion in others, we fail to look inwardly at the erosion of our own denomination.

Erosion is difficult to detect at first. It's usually a slow process. The best way to detect denominational erosion is by comparison. As we compare our denomination of today with our denomination of yesterday, do we detect change?

Some changes are healthy. It's all right to streamline churches with modern conveniences and techniques. We

may wish to streamline methods of presenting the gospel. But we must beware of streamlining the gospel. We must beware of streamlining our doctrine and our convictions. It's all right to change some things to meet the times, but some things must never change no matter what the times.

## Denominational Distinctives

Our denomination was born out of necessity. The founding fathers were convinced that there had been an erosion of scriptural positions. A study of our history will reveal that Benjamin Randall never intended to start a new denomination. His desire was to preach a doctrine that was true to the scriptures. His position on preaching freedom of the will gave birth to the name *Free Will Baptist*. (Some are embarrassed by this name and have ceased to use part or all of it.)

As a denomination we hold to and use the same doctrinal statement adopted by our founders. To my knowledge the only change made to our doctrinal statement was an addendum inserted in the late 1960's.

We must be on guard lest an erosion of doctrine lead us to a change in our doctrinal statements. We already have those among us who are in disagreement with our doctrine. They simply choose to ignore our position or they make their own substitutions as they desire.

Some of them led their churches out of our denomination. Others who could not lead their churches out in total divided their churches and have taken a portion of their church out. Still others remain among us and cause as much havoc as they can.

## Changing Convictions

While some scriptures can be interpreted privately, by and large most scripture is for public interpretation. Some things will always be black or white.

The problem with the New Testament Pharisees was that they chose to move both black and white into the grey areas. Modern Pharisees do the same thing. I could compile a long list of changes that I have witnessed in my 40 years of ministry. We now tolerate what was totally intolerable several years ago. We seem to have a strange sense of what is or is not sin.

Consider the prevalent "Robin Hood" philosophy. You recall how Robin Hood robbed the rich and gave to the poor. He became a hero for doing so despite the fact that the Bible says, "Thou shalt not steal."

There are those who believe that "it is all right to do wrong to do right." They believe the end justifies the means. Let me illustrate: Some people gladly make copies of copyrighted material even though they violate the law. The end is "they are saving the Lord's money."

## Erosion Elements

Scriptural erosion results from many light rains rather than one deluge. I suggest two elements that have led to a doctrinal and convictional backsliding.

### Other Schools

For some reason Free Will Baptists have been hesitant to develop a first-rate educational program for ministers and laity. We joined the Bible college movement and that was as far as we wanted to go.

There's nothing wrong with a Bible college education except for its limita-



tions. Designed for the ministry, not the laity, the four-year Bible college program combines liberal arts with a seminary program. The purpose is to get one into the ministry as soon as possible.

We have had an excellent Bible college program. It has helped us but also hindered us. Little provision has been made for training our laity. We send them off to secular schools where their faith is attacked and sometimes destroyed. Statistics will prove that few of our laity who graduate from secular schools return to us.

The second limitation of a Bible college program is its four years. Suppose someone wishes to further his education beyond the Bible college level. He must go to a secular school, another denominational school or an independent school.

There can be little doubt that his doctrine will come under attack. His convictions may change. Some who went to other schools never returned to us. Some returned with a change in doctrine or convictions.

This lack of an adequate educational program contributes to erosion. This lack destroyed other denominations and could destroy ours.

#### *Other Curriculum*

Some pastors and laity have the idea that it makes no difference what Sunday School literature they use. Some use literature published by independent publishers. Some use literature published by other denominations. We must keep in mind that "everybody's literature is going to champion somebody's doctrine."

One weakness of independent publishers is that they try to reach a broad market. To do so they hose down their doctrine in order to please their customers. The independent publishers also dilute their position on biblical standards so that they might please their clientele.

Independent publishers want to invade the Free Will Baptist market. They offer numerous perks including free or discounted literature for churches. Some Free Will Baptist pastors are employed as "consultants" to sell as much literature from the independent publishers as possible.

The result of using someone else's literature is a constant dilution of Free Will Baptist doctrines. No one else's liter-

ature champions our peculiar Free Will Baptist position on the security of the believer. You won't find any lessons on feet washing. You'll find little commitment to lessons on baptism by immersion.

If our doctrines are not taught in the Sunday School class nor preached from the pulpit, then we can expect doctrinal erosion. If our convictions are not championed in the classroom and the pulpit, we will see further erosion of biblical standards.

#### **Erosion Safeguards**

What can we do to terrace the slopes and build some levees to stop this erosion? First, I recommend that a committee be established to explore our educational possibilities. The future belongs to those who prepare for it. We must provide an educational system that is second to none. Could we develop a university to provide education for all Free Will Baptists?

Second, I assure you that our publishing house stands committed to champion our doctrine. We only employ Free Will Baptist writers and editors. Our intention is to provide quality literature.

We don't expect our people to have blind loyalty, but we do expect loyalty. We remain loyal to Free Will Baptists and we expect Free Will Baptists to remain loyal to us.

Let's beware of the dangers of erosion. We may have to plug some dikes and plow some ground. Are we willing?



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Dr. Roger C. Reeds is general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department.



## **'Free For the Claiming!'**

By Doug Little

**C**ongratulations! You have been selected to receive a valuable gift.

Every so often I get a notice in the mail that I've won a television, a microwave oven or maybe even a car. Usually it's one of three or four possible awards that have my name on it. All I have to do is go hear a sales presentation and I can claim my prize. No obligation, no strings attached.

I've never taken any of those companies up on their offer. If their information center isn't halfway to Kalamazoo, then their credibility is usually lacking. When something sounds too good to be true, I've learned that it usually is.

Unfortunately, that same attitude predisposes us to doubt God's promises to us. His Word plainly describes what riches have been reserved for us and how we can claim them for our own. Maybe we feel like it's too good to be true. Maybe we feel like we'd have to go too far out of the way. For whatever reason, we never possess the prize Jesus bought for us with His own blood.

But I remind us all that the Kingdom of God is no fly-by-night operation. God is not in the get-rich-quick business. There is no fine print, no hidden clauses, no tricky gimmicks. We worship an honest God. We can depend on what He says.

His Word promises rich blessings if we'll simply claim them. He's honest enough to tell us up front that it will require total surrender of all we have and all we are. But the rewards of abundant life are beyond our wildest imagination.

It's all there waiting for us. All we have to do is take possession of what God has declared is already ours. Go to worship and Bible study this week to learn more about how that can happen for you.

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



# The ABC's of Work

By Larry D. Hampton

**E**ver since God "hired" Adam and assigned him to the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it, men have been working for a living. Today the average worker spends a minimum of 40 hours per week at his job for 50 weeks each year. That's 2,000 hours of life's most precious commodity. During the typical person's work life, he will log at least 90,000 hours at the computer terminal or on the assembly line.

Anything that consumes so much of a person's time merits careful attention. Here are a few suggestions to help you make the most of your time on the job.

## SWOT

"Show up for work on time." Be punctual. If your work day begins at 8:00

a.m., don't show up for work at 8:01. Be at your desk or work station ready to start work when the day begins. Your employer is paying you for a full day's work so give it to him.

## WASU

"Work after showing up." Some people are never late for work. To be exact, they're even early. The only trouble is they don't work after they show up. You know the folks I mean. They are never at their desks. Or if they are, they're on the phone making a personal call. Or perhaps they are enjoying a lively conversation with a fellow employee.

Roger Palms writes of workers who didn't know "they couldn't read the newspaper for half an hour in the middle of the day. They didn't know they couldn't spend an hour writing letters to their friends on company time. They didn't know they couldn't leave the office and go for a walk downtown because 'it's warm and the sun is shining.'" And those are just the ones that have worked for him.

According to one survey, the typical worker begins his day nine minutes late. He stops for lunch three minutes early. He returns from lunch four minutes after he is supposed to resume working. He quits working seven minutes before the end of his shift.

This average worker shortchanges his employer 23 minutes a day. That's one hour and 55 minutes per week or 95 hours and 50 minutes per year (50 weeks). If the average worker was paid the minimum wage he would receive more than \$6.40 per week for doing nothing. That comes to approximately \$320 in a year!

Before you dismiss this as an insignificant matter, consider the total cost of wasted time. *Boardroom Reports* estimated that employees' misuse of time cost American industry \$200 billion in 1988.

Incidentally, work is not the time to share your faith. It is the time witness by being a diligent worker who uses his time doing what he is paid to do.

Surprise your boss. Show up for work on time. Work after showing up.

## RWTP

"Roll with the punches." No job is perfect. No matter where you work, you will discover distasteful aspects of the job. Perhaps your boss is disagreeable. Perhaps your equipment isn't state-of-

the-art. Perhaps your task is repetitious. Perhaps your fellow workers are the species of bird that make it hard to soar with the eagles. Perhaps it's time you learned that no one or no job is perfect. Work—life—will be much more tolerable if you will be more tolerant.

## BT

"Be thankful." After all, you could be unemployed. You could be one of those individuals who is physically disabled. You could have worked for that company that just laid off 175 employees. You could lack the skills to hold a job.

Thank the Lord for your boss. He allows you the opportunity to earn your daily bread. Thank the Lord for the strength to make it through each day.

Someone said every activity in life should be considered an adventure or an opportunity. Your job may not be filled with adventure, but it is brimming with opportunity. Your job gives you the opportunity to provide for your family. Your work allows you the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the lives of others. Most important, your employment is a life-long opportunity to "serve God acceptably."



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Reverend Larry Hampton is a free-lance writer who resides in Nashville, Tennessee. He also reports to work at Randall House Publications where he is sales manager.

# The Peace Prayer

By M. J. Pritchard

**L**ord, my mind is weary with the burdens of the day, my body exhausted with trying to keep up, my emotions frayed by frustrations and stress. My soul is worn and reaches for You.

The problems are mounting, Lord. Already they're higher than my head, but not higher than Yours. Help me to see them as opportunities to experience Your grace, Your power, Your love in the midst of my weakness.

O, Balm of Gilead, soothe my spirit, calm my fears, meet my needs. Grant Your peace that I may find calm amid turmoil, Your love in the midst of despair.







FREE WILL BAPTIST

## newsfront

### GEORGIA CHURCH VOTES \$950,000 EXPANSION

ALBANY, GA—Members of First FWB Church, Albany, voted to build a 26,000-square-foot facility costing more than \$750,000, according to Pastor Billy Hanna. The structure (the first of two planned) will house a sanctuary, educational wing, church office and recreational area.

Pastor Hanna said, "We paid \$140,000 for land several years ago, and we have nearly \$500,000 in our building fund. We will have \$950,000 invested in the building, furnishings and land. At completion, we plan to owe no more than \$275,000, and we want to pay this off in four years."

The new building will be located on a 15-acre site. Hanna explained that the July 12 vote to proceed with construction "is the culmination of several years of careful and patient planning and prayer."

Pastor Hanna said that he praised the Lord most for a spirit of unity. "Our vote to build was unanimous. Our lay leadership exercised unusual insight into the needs and feelings of our congregation, and a keen sensitivity to the leadership of the Spirit."

### NATIONAL OFFICE GETS FAX MACHINE

NASHVILLE, TN—The National Office building now has a FAX machine for the convenience of those who wish to use it. In just a few seconds, anyone can send a letter, make an inquiry or make a literature order.

The FAX number is 615/367-5769.

### BILLY BEVAN NAMED PRESIDENT AT SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE

WENDELL, NC—The Reverend Billy M. Bevan, 41, was elected as the third president of Southeastern FWB College on July 25. He assumed his new duties August 1, the beginning of the college's fiscal year. He succeeds outgoing president Joseph Ange who served four years.

Bevan said, "After five weeks of deliberating and prayer, I accept the invitation to be the next president of Southeastern in order to help perpetuate the cause that the college represents. I accept this responsibility because of long standing denominational ties."

Rev. Bevan brings 20 years of pastoral experience to the presidency. He has pastored in Georgia, Mississippi, and just completed more than 10 years at Hilltop FWB Church in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina. While at the Hilltop Church, Bevan started the Hilltop Christian School (day care through grade 12).

In addition to his pastoral role, Bevan has conducted more than 100 revivals. He graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1970, and served two years as president of the Alumni Associ-



ation. For the past seven years, he has served on the North Carolina State Association Executive Committee.

Brother Bevan was one of the original founders of Southeastern College. He has served on the college's Building Site Committee, its campus Construction Committee and the Board of Directors.

Billy Bevan is the son of Rev. Elzo Bevan, a well-known Free Will Baptist church planter. His two brothers are Free Will Baptist pastors, and his two sisters are married to ministers.

He is married to the former Gloria Clower of Arlington, Georgia. They have three children, Mischa (16), Billy Jr. (14) and Karla (7).

### NORTH CAROLINA PASTOR HAS HEART TRANSPLANT

CRAMERTON, NC—Reverend Bob King, pastor of Cramerton FWB Church in North Carolina underwent a heart transplant August 1. This marked the first time that a Free Will Baptist minister had undergone the surgical procedure.

The 51-year-old pastor is well known across the denomination. He preached the keynote message during the 1986 national convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was ordained in 1960 and graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1961.

Bob Wilson, chairman of the Cramerton Church's Official Board, said that the cost of the heart surgery exceeded \$80,000, including about \$70,000 for hospital expenses and more than \$10,000 in surgeon's fees. The medication that Pastor King will take to prevent rejection after surgery will range from \$800 to \$1,000 per month.

Wilson said, "We have begun an account for him at BB&T in Cramerton known as the Cramerton Free Will Baptist Heart Fund for Rev. Bob King."

### CHURCH SPONSORS CALLAWAY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

CLAYTON, NC—Members from Tippet's Chapel FWB Church in Clayton, sponsored a Ron Callaway Basketball Tournament to raise funds for the missionary to Spain, according to Pastor Wade Parker. Six teams participated in the single-elimination event which raised more than \$3,800.

The June 23-24 tournament attracted Free Will Baptist church squads from Smithfield, Dunn, Goldsboro and Garner. The tournament coincided with Callaway Day at Tippet's Chapel. The Garner FWB Church team took the championship game against the Unity FWB Church team from Smithfield.

Pastor Wade said, "The results and participation were so great that we will probably make this an annual event." By July, Tippet's Chapel congregation had given more than \$19,000 to the Ron and Linda Callaway account.



## TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOME CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

GREENEVILLE, TN—The Free Will Baptist Home for Children in Greeneville, Tennessee, celebrated 50 years in child care ministry on May 13 at their annual homecoming, according to Superintendent A. J. Looper. Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Stanley, the first superintendent and his wife, were presented with a plaque for their years of service to the home.

The Free Will Baptist Home for Children began its ministry on May 10, 1939, when it was formally dedicated and opened its doors to receive children. The orphanage, as it was called prior to its recharter in the 1970's, had been a dream of the Cumberland and Union Associations in Tennessee for over 15 years. Property was purchased in Greene County from the United Presbyterian Church to begin the orphanage. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley along with several hundred people from Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia and Texas attended the dedication.

The original structure, known as "The Big House," housed many children until it was torn down in 1968 because it no longer met state fire and safety standards. It was replaced with French Cottage. At the present time three cottages are in operation: French Cottage, Jane Brown Cottage and Woolsey Memorial Cottage.

Other buildings added since 1939



Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Stanley

include Virginia Cottage, built and financed by Free Will Baptists in Virginia; West Virginia Cottage, built and financed by Free Will Baptists in West Virginia; Stanley Cottage, named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley; Kilgore-Parker House; the Rock House; the Administration Building; the Superintendent's Home; and the James E. Raper Activity Building.

The home's first child, Trula Gunter Cronk, arrived June 3, 1939. The first boy, Hubert, followed shortly. Since its beginning in 1939, more than 600 children have passed through its doors. Today, approximately 20 children reside at the Free Will Baptist Home for Chil-

dren. Their average length of stay is 6-12 months. The children served are referred by parents, churches and friends as well as local, state and private agencies.

Twelve superintendents have served since 1939. They are: I. L. Stanley, 1939-1942 and 1946-1955; Paul Woolsey, 1942-1944; Hubert Burgess, 1955-1962; Ray C. Turnage, 1962-1967 and 1970-1973; Don Ellis, 1967-1969; James E. Raper, 1973-1986, and A. J. Looper, 1987 to present. Interim superintendents: Andrew Johnson, Zenis Stanton, Gerald Medsker, E. M. French and Hazel Hutsell.

## MISSOURI DEDICATES NEW OFFICE BUILDING AT STATE ASSOCIATION

LEBANON, MO—Delegates to Missouri's 76th State Association helped officials dedicate the new \$265,000 State Office and Bookstore in Lebanon, according to Clerk Tim Eaton. The 8,000-square-foot building was completed with an indebtedness of less than \$85,000.

The Tuesday evening dedication service included testimonials from civic and government officials, as well as recognition of Missouri Free Will Baptists who made the event possible. Moderator Greg McAllister prayed the dedication prayer. Former moderator Nathan Ruble preached the dedication message.

More than 325 registered for the June 5-8 meeting at Nelson Community Center in Lebanon. Four ministers developed the association theme, "Church Leading." Sermons were preached by Stanley Jones, Nathan

Ruble, Jim McAllister and Jim Shepherd. Another 237 registered for the Missouri Woman's Auxiliary meeting.

In other action, delegates adopted a \$725,000 state budget for 1990, including a \$295,000 Cooperative Plan budget. Delegates renamed the Sunday School and Church Training Board, now the Youth Ministries Board.

Two men received plaques of recognition: Ken Goff in behalf of First FWB Church in Flat River contributing 11 percent to the Cooperative Plan for three years, and Nathan Ruble for service as state moderator, 1985-1988.

Delegates also elected Pastor Cody Freeman of Thayer as moderator for 1989-1990, and Pastor Joe Braddy of Fredericktown as clerk.

The 1990 state association will meet in Lebanon, June 4-7, at the Nelson Community Center.

## SOUTHEASTERN TO HOST MISSIONS CONFERENCE

WENDELL, NC—The seventh annual Southeastern FWB College Missions Conference gets underway November 12-14, according to Registrar Lorenza Stox. The three-day conference will meet in the auditorium at First FWB Church in Raleigh.

Five speakers will highlight the conference theme, "Carest Thou Not?" They include Fred Hersey, missionary to Japan; Bobby Aycock, missionary to Brazil; Tim Trimble, home missionary to Alabaster, Ala.; James Walden, pastor of Mt. Harmony FWB Church in Vernon, Ala.; Lorenza Stox, Southeastern College registrar.

Dr. Stox said, "Excitement always builds on campus as we look forward to this event. Southeastern has always been committed to training workers for worldwide evangelism and establishing soul-winning churches."



Reverend **John Reel**, a Free Will Baptist minister for 62 years died in Visalia, Calif., in July. The 84-year-old minister was ordained in 1927. Since 1955, Brother Reel served churches in **California**. He is survived by his wife Elsie, four sons, one daughter, 17 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Pastor **J. Malone Cobb** says that for more than a year **Victory FWB Church** in **Russellville, AL**, has televised their Sunday services on the local cable channel.

The new Arkansas state mission at **Wynne, AR**, reports 22 conversions, 12 baptisms and seven rededications. **O. D. Winfrey** serves as missionary pastor.

The **United FWB Church** and **First FWB Church** of **Dickson, TN**, challenged each other to an attendance contest. The United Church won the friendly contest by a score of 238-219. United pastor **James Carrington** had the honor of feeding "crow" to First Church pastor **Wayne Bess**.

Some 66 charter members joined **Friendship FWB Church, Branson, MO**, during its organizational service, according to Pastor **Bud Arnold**. The Missouri State Home Missions Board sponsored the service. Executive Secretary **Clarence Burton** read the constitution and by-laws after missions board member **Dale Skiles** delivered the dedication message.

Missouri Executive Secretary **Clarence Burton** was guest speaker for the 35th anniversary homecoming celebration at **Thayer FWB Church, Thayer, MO**.

Members of **First FWB Church, DeSoto, MO**, celebrated their 23rd anniversary, according to Pastor **Charles Miller**. The church began as a mission in March 1966 with two Free Will Baptist families—the **Theoford Riders** and the **Henry Stephenses**. **Charles Moyers** was the missionary pastor. Since 1967, Brother Charles Miller has served as pastor.

Home Missionary **David Burgess** reports three conversions at **Cornerstone FWB Church, Bloomington, IL**.

After the deaths of **Allene Basso** and **Laura Bond**, their families contributed funds from their estates to establish the Hazel Dell Home Missions Trust Fund. Interest from the trust fund will make regular contributions to the Illinois FWB Home Missions projects. Pastor **Gene Outland** said that both women were members of **Hazel Dell FWB Church, Sesser, IL**.

Pastor **Howard Flota** reports four baptisms at **First FWB Church, Mt. Vernon, IL**.

A two-hour seminar for ministers and wives was conducted September 22 at **Westerville FWB Church, Westerville, OH**. Ohio Executive Secretary **Alton**

**Loveless** said that Christian counsellor **Anthony Mosley** spoke on two subjects—Living in the Parsonage Fishbowl and Survival Techniques for a Pastor's Spouse.

Pastor **David Schug** reports 22 conversions during Vacation Bible School at **Woodland Chapel FWB Church, Ironton, OH**. The church also baptized nine converts and started a youth choir.

Ohio Executive Secretary **Alton Loveless** said that the **Ohio Bible Institute** began residence classes in September at **Heritage Temple FWB Church, Columbus**. The institute discontinued residence classes a few years ago although they continued correspondence courses and enrolled more than 270 students.

Pastor **Leroy Lowery** reports that **First FWB Church, Chester, SC**, completed construction on a \$100,000 family life center. The 4,850-square-foot metal building includes a basketball court, mezzanine for spectators, conference room, kitchen and storage area. Pastor Lowery said construction took seven months to complete the facility which is centrally heated and cooled.

After more than 30 years of ministering to **Rock Hill, SC**, from its Izzard Street location, **First FWB Church** relocated on a four-acre site on Springsteen Road, according to Pastor **Joe Faile**. The five-month construction project which cost \$199,000 plus an additional \$30,000 for land, resulted in a 4,400-square-foot facility. The building consists of a 256-seat auditorium, baptistry, soundproof nursery, five classrooms, fellowship hall, kitchen and pastor's study. The church also constructed a 1,000-square-foot parsonage on the property.

**Wilson** and **Doris Faulkenberry** were named "Parents of the Year" by **High Point FWB Church, Lancaster, SC**. Wilson, a deacon, teaches an adult Sunday School class. He is a former church treasurer and trustee. Doris is active in the auxiliary and a former teacher. **James Wilhide** pastors.

Missionary pastor **Billy Vanderford** led the **Gaffney FWB Mission Church, Gaffney, SC**, from rented facilities to a new building with an average of 75 in attendance in eight months. The Gaffney work is a project of the **Beaver Creek Home Missions Board**. Some 61 people attended dedication services at the new 5,200-square-foot church. The church is located on a five-acre tract costing \$50,000, while the building was completed at a cost of \$110,000. The church has a 275-seat sanctuary, seven classrooms, pastor's study, nursery, fellowship hall and kitchen.

Retired FWB minister **Rashie**

**Kennedy, Sr.** preaches every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in **Baton Rouge, LA**. Brother Kennedy speaks at the Golden Age Nursing Home where his wife resides due to ill health. Kennedy formerly served on the Foreign Missions Board. He said that although he enjoyed attending national associations for many years, he is unable to do so at this time. Those who wish to write him may contact him at 2440 Larry Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726.

Home Missions pastor **Tim Coats** serves in **Rapid City, SD**, at **Harvest Time FWB Church**. He said he just finished three weeks of itinerate in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia where churches gave \$4,000 and pledged \$400 in monthly support to his account. Last summer the **Glamorgan Chapel FWB Church, Wise, VA**, sent \$2,500 dollars to the South Dakota church's land fund. Later the **Adwolfe FWB Church, Marion, VA**, sent \$700. Recently another \$2,000 arrived from **Black River FWB Church, Andrews, SC**.

Pastor **J. L. McAlister** was selected as Grand Marshal for the 35th annual Memorial Parade in **Farmersville, CA**. The parade committee chairman said, "We wanted a person who had done the most for our community, and we found that in Pastor McAlister." McAlister has pastored the **Farmersville FWB Church** since 1970. One businessman said, "Reverend McAlister has done more for youth in our city than any other person."

**Ray Martin** retired as manager of the **Oklahoma FWB Bookstore** on June 30 after 18 years of service. Friends gathered June 24 in an appreciation reception in Brother Martin's honor. State Executive Board Chairman **Bailey Thompson** presented him with a love-appreciation gift from the board.

Members of **Cavanaugh FWB Church, Fort Smith, AR**, raised \$5,400 for the **Heritage Temple FWB Mission** in **Gilbert, AZ**. The Cavanaugh congregation also raised \$16,000 in bonds and gave the mission their 1981 Ford van to use in day care and church work. Pastor **Carl Cheshier** celebrated 20 years with the Arkansas church.

Pastor **Ben Scott** celebrated 45 years in the ministry this summer. Scott, who pastors **First FWB Church, North Little Rock, AR**, said his first sermon lasted seven and one half minutes.

Pastor **Meryl Erickson** of **First FWB Church, Sulphur, OK**, has been appointed chaplain at the Veterans Hospital in Sulphur. Now Pastor Erickson wears two hats!



# MINI GRAMS

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



## 'Aim for the Target' Campaign Let's Help Phoenix Mission Churches Get Land!

By Roy Thomas

**I**n the heart of the sunbelt is one of the fastest growing areas in the world—Phoenix, Arizona. The population doubled in the last 10 years and projects a 60 percent increase by the year 2000.

The Home Missions Board and the National Association of Free Will Baptists named Phoenix as a "Target City" and set a goal to start five churches in the Phoenix Valley by 1990 when the National Association meets there. Four couples have already been sent, and the Home Missions Department is praying for the fifth family to complete this missionary team.

The largest hurdle the missionaries face in this huge metropolitan area is the expense of property and buildings. Rent for small rooms for church services

begins at \$1,000 a month, and much of the land sells for at least \$50,000 or more per acre. Land is at a premium because of the rapid growth of the area.

In view of the high cost of rent and land, it will be difficult for our Phoenix missionaries to accumulate funds for the most inexpensive property necessary to establish self-supporting churches. They must have some help!

This enormous problem prompted the Home Missions Board to launch the "Aim for the Target" campaign at the National Association in Tampa. The goal is to raise \$100,000 which will be divided among Target City missionaries for purchasing land on which to build churches.

The department is asking pastors, churches, auxiliaries, Master's Men

organizations, youth groups and individuals to begin now to "Aim for the Target."

A special account has been set up in the Home Missions office to receive gifts. The offerings will accumulate until the National Association convenes next July. At that time a check will be presented to each Target City missionary to be used toward land purchase.

Every Free Will Baptist is urged to begin now to get involved in the "Aim for the Target" campaign. Plan to be a part of the celebration in Arizona as these gifts are presented to our Phoenix Valley missionaries. For information on how your church can help, contact the Home Missions Department, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.



### Directory Update

#### ILLINOIS

Keith Fletcher to Webbs Prairie Church, Ewing from Ina Church, Ina as assistant pastor

#### MISSOURI

Roger Hogan to First Church, Farmington from First Church, Cape Girardeau  
Gary Mitchener to Rock Chapel Church, Norwood

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

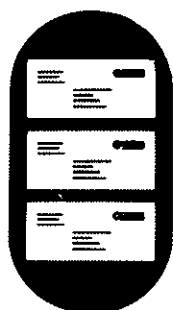
Billy Wayne Baker to Damascus Church, Conway

#### TEXAS

Owen Barger to First Church, Weatherford from First Church, Bowie

#### OTHER PERSONNEL

Timothy W. Eaton to Hillsdale FWB College as academic dean from First Church, Farmington, MO



### OUR READERS COMMENT

#### NEED BROADER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The July article by Dr. Ken Riggs (Teacher Education at FWBCC) was long overdue. Contact needs to publish more articles like this that raise more questions than they answer.

Yes, the field of education is crying for values to return to the classroom. Those same values need to be returned to the everyday job market by people who live and have been taught those values. FWBCC is one place that instills those values.

I agree that the primary purpose of the Bible College is to train preachers, missionaries and church musicians, but most of our young people do not fall into that category. Our denominational colleges need to offer a wider variety of programs.

Why can't people be trained as store managers, scientists, bankers, etc. at FWBCC? What better place to do it than the Bible College? We lose far too many young people every year to secular schools.

As a public school teacher, I pray that the leaders of our denomination will get together and ask themselves, "Are we doing as much as we can to meet the educational needs of our young people?" We can and must do more.

Mike Armstrong  
Collinwood, Tennessee





## LifeMember List Grows

The exciting concept of LifeMembership shows fast growth this year. In the first seven months 67 men added their names to the list: 341 LifeMembers, 32 Life-Friends and 67 LifeCommitments made up the list on July 31. The last group are making monthly payments to achieve LifeMember status.

The LifeMember Trust contains over \$35,500 in deposits. The fund is held in trust by the Free Will Baptist Foundation. Interest earned helps Master's Men general fund income.

## New LifeMembers

Rev. James (Ed) Hollis, IL  
William O'Mary, MI  
Mario Hendricks, KY  
Kelly Douglas, IL  
Bob Lane, TN  
Ernie Rayburn, MI  
Rev. Barney Chaney, MI  
Don Hamby, OK  
Danny Thomas, GA  
Kenneth Hancock, OK  
Rev. Fred Hersey, Japan  
John Fontaine, TN  
Aaron T. Fowlkes, AR  
Anthony Deason, AR  
Dale Smith, MS  
Steve Nichols, MS  
James Presley, OK  
Roy Vogt, OK  
George Blackburn, MI  
George Snelgrove, AR  
Rev. Eddie Hodges, TN  
Randy Alan Boggs, TX  
Paul Fritz, TN  
Harry Moore, OK  
James A. Mayo, MI  
Rev. Ray J. Wilson, MI  
Johnny Helms, GA  
Walter Vining, GA  
Billy James, GA  
Rev. Tommy Wright, MS  
Rev. A. J. Looper, TN  
Russell H. Ray, OK  
Ronald L. West, NC  
Arlie Fagan, MO  
Rev. David Joslin, AR  
Jerry Suitor, OK  
Charles Lomenick, OK  
David Leaver, TX  
Rev. Frank Cope, AR  
Nen Freeman, AR  
Keith Bianchini, MI  
Bob Lester, AR  
Bobby Lester, AR  
Rev. Billy Samms, WV  
Donald Burris, AR  
Jerry Burris, AR  
Bill Duvall, AR  
Dwayne Helton, AR  
Richard Helton, AR  
Jim Martin, AR

## New LifeFriends

Vernie Hersey, TN  
Kimberly Bianchini, MI

## 1988 Layman of the Year

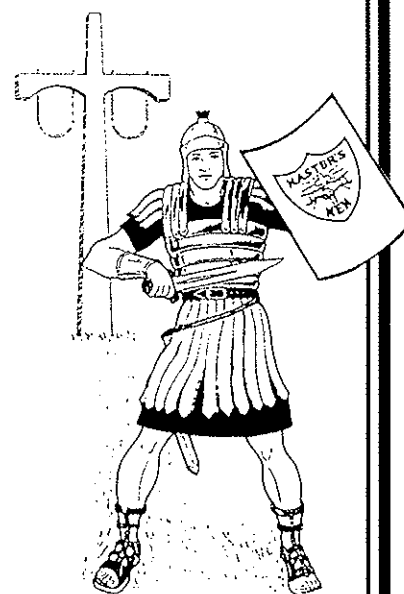
Raymond Lee, Master's Men Board chairman, in his last official duty introduced our new Layman of the Year at the Master's Men Dinner in Tampa, Florida. In his remarks Lee stated, "One of my greatest pleasures as Board chairman has been introducing the Layman of the Year and Runner-up Layman of the Year. This year is no exception since I've known both men a number of years."

## The Layman of the Year 1988 is . . .

- an assistant Sunday School teacher.
- Adult Extension Class assistant for aged and shut-ins.
- instrumental in organizing church visitation.
- treasurer of church building committee.
- chairman of the church Board of Deacons.
- program chairman for Tennessee Master's Men.
- a Master's Men LifeMember.
- active in organizing new chapters.
- moderator in his church while acquiring new pastor.
- president of his quarterly conference.
- a speaker for Gideons International, serving as Scripture Secretary for his local camp.
- president-elect of local Kiwanis Club, with 15 years perfect attendance.
- a retired merchant.
- a member of Wooddale FWB Church, Knoxville.
- husband of wife, Arlene.
- Elbert S. Farley.

## The Layman of the Year 1988 Runner-up is . . .

- a man of God, with a godly family.
- a witness to his fellow workers.
- an ordained deacon.
- a member of his local church Advisory Board.
- assistant Sunday School superintendent.
- helping support several missionaries.
- assistant church treasurer.
- program chairman in his Master's Men chapter.
- director of children's church.
- a Master's Men LifeMember.
- a lay speaker for Master's Men in his local area.
- a member of Harmony FWB Church, Kansas City, Missouri.
- an executive in Sealright Corporation.
- husband of wife, Sharon.
- Phil Ledgerwood.



# TAKE THE SHIELD!



Herman L. Hersey  
Director



Board of Retirement

# AT YOUR SERVICE

## Book Of Remembrance

### Living Memorials

IN MEMORY OF ...  
BY ...

**Charles Barker**  
Mrs. Ruby Barker  
Morehead City, NC

**Willie Branton**  
Mrs. Alice Branton  
Cottonwood, AL

**Gordon Boyd**  
Five Points Auxiliary  
Pinetown, NC

**Charles Carpentier**  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carpentier  
Oklahoma City, OK

**Harold Coble**  
Mr. and Mrs. Delmer Priest  
Glendale, AZ

**James E. Frazier**  
Mrs. Agnes Frazier  
Nashville, TN

**Edward Hargis**  
Mr. Butch Dubois  
Anderson, NC

**Samuel F. Hersey**  
Rev. and Mrs. Herman Hersey  
Nashville, TN

**Violet Hood**  
Rev. and Mrs. Herman Hersey  
Nashville, TN

**Walter Hood**  
Rev. and Mrs. Herman Hersey  
Nashville, TN

**Edna C. Jones**  
Cypress Fork Auxiliary  
Manning, SC

**Hetty Jones**  
Mr. Harvey Jones  
Tulsa, OK

**Paul Ketteman**  
Mrs. Ruby Hunt  
Nashville, TN

**Arch McMaster**  
Mrs. Mary McMaster  
Atkins, AR

**Wayne Mead**  
Cabool Auxiliary  
Cabool, MO

**Elsie Miller**  
The Rudy Family  
Nashville, TN

**J. H. Oliver**  
William Henry Oliver  
Nashville, TN

**Roy Player**  
SC Woman's Auxiliaries

**Frank Rudy**  
The Rudy Family  
Nashville, TN

**Eugene Sanford**  
Semirah Springs Auxiliary  
Uriah, AL

**Elbert Wallace**  
Five Points Auxiliary  
Pinetown, NC

**Tom Wallace**  
Five Points Auxiliary  
Pinetown, NC

**Jarvis Waters**  
Five Points Auxiliary  
Pinetown, NC

IN HONOR OF ...  
BY ...

**Homer Arrowood**  
Mr. William Henry Herms  
Belmont, NC

**Don Dungan**  
Good Springs Auxiliary  
Pleasant View, TN

**The Fathers of Pleasant Hill  
FWB Church, Vienna, GA**  
Pleasant Hill Auxiliary  
Vienna, GA

**John E. Floyd Sr.**  
First Church Auxiliary  
Jacksonville, NC

**Willie E. George**  
Salem Auxiliary  
Cottondale, FL

**Ray Lewis**  
Mrs. Sally Chason  
Rocky Mount, NC

**Norman Nowell**  
Pleasant Grove Church  
Thaxton, MS

**James Potter**  
White Oaks Auxiliary  
Macon, GA

**Charles Powell**  
Bethel Auxiliary  
Ashland City, TN

**Robert Thompson**  
Kilsyth Auxiliary  
Mt. Hope, WV

**James R. Smith**  
Esserville Auxiliary  
Wise, VA

**Wade Webb**  
Sophia Auxiliary  
Sophia, WV

**Allen Wood**  
Seminole Auxiliary  
Seminole, OK





# Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisheart

## From My Window

Have you noticed how lavish God is with nature's beauty? In October His bounty is especially evident.

Everywhere you look color is splashed across the hills. Eyes cannot take in all the beauty.

Here's a tree in a delicate orange, looking good enough to melt in your mouth. Next to it a red one blazes with all its glory. A group of maples, all gold, glow like the sun even on a cloudy day. Evergreens interspersed with the colors provide a fitting background for such splendor.

In the hills of Tennessee not one place seems neglected. Fall has touched every field and street with its flaming beauty.

How like God to spare nothing in His painting of the landscape.

Isn't it the same in His provision for us?

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).

Now is a time to pause and praise Him for all He has lavished on us.

Then we can sing with David, "Let the fields rejoice, and all that is therein. Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the Lord" (I Chronicles 16:32-33).

## WNAC Office Needs

Gifts to the equipment fund for the national office now amount to \$612.50. Still needed:

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

## Eunice Edwards Fund

July 26, 1989—\$22,391.64

## How is the WNAC Office Financed?

Finances for the WNAC office are provided entirely by the Auxiliaries that make up the organization.

These funds come monthly in the Co-Laborer Fund offerings. Every Auxiliary should designate some monthly

amount to the national work. Some Auxiliaries make it a tithe of their income. Some give a designated amount each month. Some churches put WNAC into their budgets for a certain amount.

The Emphasis Month offering also goes to help support the national work. Emphasis Month gives everyone in Free Will Baptist churches an opportunity to support WNAC.

The dues and magazine subscriptions also help pay WNAC expenses. The sale of literature helps pay printing, postage and handling costs.

Various miscellaneous sources, such as interest on checking and savings accounts, sale of used stamps (designated for office supplies and equipment), and memorial gifts also help pay expenses.

WNAC does not receive any funds from the Cooperative Plan since the organization does not have a board elected by the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Free Will Baptist women have always taken care of the needs in the WNAC office. The work depends entirely on them.



## Looking for a Missionary

By Don Robirds

Director of Communications for Foreign Missions

**W**here do we find missionaries? And **how** do we find missionaries?

These are very relevant questions!

To the point, missionaries come from the local church as God calls in answer to the sincere prayers of burdened hearts (Matthew 9:37, 38). Even so, God expects His servants to equip themselves to serve effectively wherever He directs.

In evaluating the **successful missionary**, these characteristics generally came into focus:

1. **A high degree of spiritual maturity** showed up in good interpersonal relations and exercise of spiritual gifts.

2. **A strong conviction of God's call to foreign service** was proven by persistence, including the meeting of educational and experiential requirements for missionary service.

**Success as a soulwinner marked the ministry with a fruitful harvest.**

3. **A healthy self-image** brought emotional stability when facing difficulty.

4. **Good physical health** gave strength to endure the stress of a foreign climate and culture.

5. **A spirit of sacrifice** was demonstrated in giving up home, comforts, conveniences, etc.

6. **A wholesome family relationship** provided open doors of opportunity to minister to those of unstable homes.

7. **Success as a soulwinner**, with an ability to employ various methods according to circumstances, marked the ministry with a fruitful harvest.

**The successful missionary had a warm, friendly, outgoing personality.**

8. **The ability to teach and preach the Bible** in a clear and simple manner was a vital part of the ministry.

9. **Discipling those who were won**, then motivating, training, and involving them in the work, proved significant in the missionary's success.

10. As a person lacking constant supervision or regular prodding, the successful missionary was a **self-starter**, one who planned his schedule and followed through.

11. By and large, the successful missionary had a **warm, friendly, outgoing personality** and showed a real sense of hospitality—essential in many parts of the world.

12. Working in a strange culture with a different language and new customs, the effective servant demonstrated **great adaptability**.

13. The **cooperative spirit** of the successful messenger also showed up in a genuine evidence of team work and the ability to accept constructive criticism.

14. The most fruitful overseas worker was generally one who had **the aptitude and the determination to complete language school** and to get a good grasp of the language of the people to whom he or she was ministering.

15. Not only did he learn the language, he also **learned how to effectively communicate the message** to those in the new culture.

16. His **clear communication with the sending church** also made his ministry a regular prayer item as he contacted them with vital news from the work.

In light of these evident qualities and characteristics seen in successful overseas witnesses, the *Official Handbook of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions* now reflects these items as guidelines for the prospective missionary candidate.

**The most fruitful overseas worker was generally one who had the aptitude and the determination to complete language school.**

Yes, we are looking for missionaries to meet the challenge of reaching the world for Jesus before He returns! Has God been speaking to you about missionary service? If so, contact R. Eugene Waddell, general director for foreign missions, or Jimmy Aldridge, overseas secretary, at P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.



# Free Will Baptist Bible College **REPORT**

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

The Department Pages

## Student To Student:

## More Advice To High School Students

These are "words of wisdom" students from Free Will Baptist Bible College would like to offer high school students. The students below are members of Rejoice! and The Evangels—FWBBC's summer touring teams.



Trust in God early! Make up your mind that you are going to sell out to God and stick to it. You will never regret living for God, only for failing to follow Him.

Todd Parrish  
1989 Graduate  
Smithfield, NC



Follow God's will for your life, or you will never find true peace and joy. Put your trust in Him; He will never let you down.

Dottie Shores  
Senior  
Pleasant View, TN



God loves us and wants to guide our lives. He does not promise that life will be easy, but He does promise that He will be right with us each step of the way.

Kelly Carnes  
Sophomore  
Decatur, AL



Living for the Lord can be very easy, and the rewards are great!

Alisa Clyatt  
Sophomore  
Benton, IL



You should consider Free Will Baptist Bible College for at least a year, if for no other reason than to experience the love that revolves around the college. As soon as you walk onto the campus, you will

experience the love and friendliness that I identify with the school.

Steve Greenwood  
Sophomore  
Pine Bluff, AR



Make it a daily habit to spend quality time with the Lord. Without establishing a quiet time, you cannot grow in your walk with Jesus.

Prudence Clyatt  
Senior  
Lake Butler, FL



You can really have an influence on your friends by standing up for what you believe, believe it or not! I would strongly recommend coming to FWBBC for at least your first year of college.

Nathan Snow  
Junior  
Decatur, GA



It's hard to stand against the crowd, but God provides the strength. It may not seem like you're getting anywhere, but there are people your life is making an impact on. Hang in there; it's worth it!

Merinda White  
Junior  
Cordova, AL

## WELCOME DAYS

Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 1989  
and  
April 5-7, 1990

Come To See Us!



**FOUNDATION**

Herman L. Hersey  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

## An Endowment Gift Today is a Gift for All the Tomorrows

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

**A**n endowment trust is a permanent fund set aside for a specific use, with the income providing contributions continually to the ministry designated by the donor.

For several reasons an endowment gift is advantageous for a ministry:

- (1) The gift is reliable income which helps in budget planning.
- (2) Endowment income decreases fund-raising costs.
- (3) Even if a donor becomes financially unable to continue giving, or dies, the endowment gift continues.

An endowment trust can be established through the FWB Foundation by:

**1. A Cash Gift.** Your gift can be made either in a lump sum or in installments. This is a good way to continue a faith promise and to assure your continued support to the Lord's work even if your circumstances should change.

**2. A Gift of Life Insurance.** The proceeds of a policy can be given during life or after death with the provision that it establishes an endowment to benefit a named ministry. An existing policy can be assigned as a gift.

Premiums paid on the policy assigned are deductible as a charitable contribution when the FWB Foundation

is named as irrevocable beneficiary. As beneficiary the Foundation establishes the endowment and distributes the income as instructed by the donor.

**3. A Bequest.** Through his or her will a donor can give a named cash amount or a percentage of an estate to establish an endowment. A percentage is preferable since the value of the estate may change from time to time.

**4. A Trust.** Assets left in any type trust, revocable or irrevocable, may be designated as an endowment gift.

All endowments managed by the FWB Foundation are open-ended and anyone may add gifts at any time. To establish a new endowment a minimum gift of \$100 is required. All gifts are tax deductible.

Below is a list of ministries to consider as beneficiaries. We furnish endowment gift cards which you may keep on hand as an efficient and easy way to designate your gifts. Our office will be happy to send a supply to you or to your church upon request. The cards are designed to fit in your tract rack.

An endowment gift is a meaningful way to honor a loved one or a friend at death. Each gift is recorded in our Book of Remembrance which is reverently displayed in our offices. The names are listed in *Contact* magazine. The amount of your gift is confidential.

### National Ministries Endowments

- ( ) Cooperative Plan of Support  
(to benefit all national ministries)
- ( ) Foreign Missions
- ( ) Metcalf Memorial Endowment  
(to benefit Brazil Ministries)
- ( ) Free Will Baptist Bible College
- ( ) Free Will Baptist Foundation
- ( ) Master's Men
- ( ) Retirement Ministries
- ( ) Woman's Auxiliary

### Other Endowments

- ( ) California Christian College
- ( ) Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College
- ( ) State Cooperative Plan of Support  
State \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) State Home Missions  
State \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Local Church Ministries  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
Free Will Baptist Foundation  
P. O. Box 1088  
Nashville, TN 37202





HOUSE



CALL

## Partners in Ministry

By Larry D. Hampton

**R**andall House Publications is more than a post office box in Nashville, Tennessee. It is more than a three-story building containing 50,000 square feet located at 114 Bush Road. Randall House Publications is 40 dedicated believers busy preparing materials for you to use in your church.

Over the years Randall House has sought to meet the needs of Free Will Baptists for quality Christian education materials. Our best known product is our Lifeline Curriculum. This Bible-based Sunday School material has been used by hundreds of churches with God's blessing for more than 25 years.

In Winter quarter, some major changes will be unveiled. We will launch a new nine-year through-the-Bible cycle. Sixty-one percent of the lessons will come from the New Testament. The other 39 percent of the lessons will be taken from the Old Testament.

A new six-year teen cycle will also be initiated on the first Sunday of December. The quarterlies for junior high and senior high students and teachers have been given new names—*Turning Point* and *Horizon*. The format of each book has been redesigned. Their appearance has changed but the solid Bible teaching remains the same.

Randall House also publishes Church Training materials for toddlers to retirees. We are especially pleased that Lifequest has been used with great profit by youth groups in churches across our denomination. If you are searching for Bible-based, life-related materials for your youth group, you are looking for Lifequest.

Randall House also has produced numerous books which can help you be a more effective servant of Jesus Christ. Recent releases include two booklets about the Bible. Raymond Riggs wrote a faith-building booklet entitled, "Why I

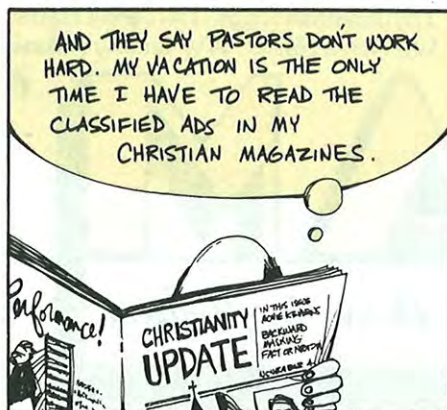
Believe God's Inspired Word." Robert E. Picirilli authored an illuminating volume about Bible translations. "Should We Use the King James Only?" contains a sensitive discussion of a critical issue.

The largest non-curriculum project ever undertaken by our department is the Randall House Commentary. To date, four volumes have been released, Romans, I and II Corinthians, Galatians—Colossians, and John. These commentaries are unique in that they steer a middle course between the highly technical and the devotional commentaries now on the market.

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## BEYOND BELIEF



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# TEEN Scene

## TEAM Congress Elected

On Wednesday afternoon, July 19, during the 1989 National Youth Conference, teens gathered to form a national Free Will Baptist youth organization. TEAM (Teens Equipped and Active in Ministry) is the name of this national organization.

The teens rallied together in state groups. Each state group selected its own state representative and submitted that individual to the national organization.

Representatives from 20 states lined up on stage. This was the TEAM Congress. The teens proceeded to elect officers from this representative body.

Chris Truett, a senior from Smithfield, NC, was elected as the charter president. He led the teens in the election of Vice President Donald Myers, a senior from Colorado Springs, CO, and Secretary Charity VanWinkle, a senior from Tulsa, MS.

The Youth Ministries Division of Randall House Publications sponsors this national youth organization. They selected four teens to serve as TEAM captains: Program Captain Angie Wolfenbarger from Nashville, TN; NYC Planning Captain Roger Marshall from Phoenix, AZ; Missions Captain Tim Lewis from Colorado Springs, CO; and Publications Captain Greg Cavitt from Tulsa, OK.

The three elected officers and the four captains will serve as the TEAM Executive Council for 1989-90. This Executive Council with the state representatives forms the TEAM Congress.

The officers, captains and state representatives attended a reception hosted by the Youth Ministries Division staff. State representatives shared how they could serve in their state and district youth organizations.



Chris Truett



Donald Myers



Charity VanWinkle

It was obvious to the youth that the potential was great, but also the responsibilities were great. They realized their need for prayer support from each other. They selected Oklahoma Representative Mike King to serve as a prayer coordinator for the group.

The youth left with a determination to serve the youth of the denomination and to rally them together to minister for the Lord.

Now, what can you do? Be a vital part of TEAM. Some states were not represented at the organizational meeting. Perhaps you can serve as a representative from your state until your state youth can assemble to elect a representative.

Contact your state representative and offer your assistance in getting TEAM active in your state. You can get the address and phone number of your representative by writing to TEAM, P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217. You will also be sent other information about TEAM, and then you can be involved!

The state representatives are AL/Melissa White, AR/Scott Bowerman, CO/Donald Myers, FL/Amy Carraway, GA/Brad Hanna, IL/Larae Clyatt, KS/Marcus Brewer, KY/Jason Taylor, MD/Chris Hamm, MI/Jonathon Hohn, MO/Kyle Baker, MS/Charity VanWinkle, NC/Chris Truett, OH/Lee Frye, OK/Mike King, SC/John Keen, TN/Jonathan Riggs, TX/Jamie Harris, VA/Debra Navrat, WV/Tammy Adkins.







## Green Tree Bible Study



Robert E. Picirilli

I Corinthians 14

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

In the first article in this series we saw that I Corinthians 14 was intended by Paul to be an exposition of what he meant in 12:31, "Covet earnestly the best gifts." His point is that the "best" gifts are those which do most for the edification of the church. In the first five verses of the chapter, Paul began to make the point that "the gift of tongues," when measured by this standard, was decidedly less important than the gift of prophecy.

### *The Folly of Language without Meaning*

Now we look at vv. 6-11, where Paul makes another comparison, this time between speaking in tongues and certain other kinds of "communication" not understood. As C. K. Barrett has observed, one might expect the discussion to end at verse 5: "Paul has made his point. That he takes it up again probably means that the importance of tongues was being so warmly pressed in Corinth that he felt it necessary to emphasize his opinions as strongly as possible."

(1) Paul's main concern was for people's profit (v. 6), but speaking in tongues would not do that. This makes especially clear Paul's understanding that real edification required the communication of understood truth.

Paul contrasts with speaking in tongues four things that *will* communicate to hearers and profit them: revelation, knowledge, prophesying and doctrine. Revelation (Greek *apokalupsis*) is a removal of a covering, here apparently

direct revelations of truth given by God. Knowledge and prophesying, as Paul uses them here, probably also involved revelations. Doctrine is teaching, instruction, based on revelation already given. (If special revelation has ceased, and if the first three in this verse are revelatory, then teaching is the one method, of these four, that remains for us.)

(2) Illustrations of fruitless communication (vv. 7-8). Paul draws two illustrations from inanimate objects. The first is musical instruments: the flute and the harp (or lyre). For such instruments to "communicate," they must use a variety of different tones in some kind of meaningful pattern and rhythm. "A melody finely played speaks to a man's very soul. An aimless jangle means nothing" (Morris 192). Even music must obey the laws of "language" to communicate.

The second illustration is a trumpet, used here as a bugle. In military situations, there are a number of recognizable bugle calls that mean various things: reveille, mess call, etc. Among them is a call to battle. But if the bugler blows some unrecognizable notes, the call to battle cannot be communicated.

(3) Application (v. 9). "Likewise ye" is emphatic: the Corinthians, like instruments and bugles. Speaking in a language not understood is no better than musical instruments or bugles that play no recognizable melody. It does not communicate any knowledge to the profit of the hearers.

"Easy to be understood" translates one word (Greek *eusemos*) which sim-

ply means well-marked, clear. Here it is the opposite of indistinct or uncertain (vv. 7-8). The one who speaks a "language" that is not understood is not communicating at all; he is speaking "into the air" rather than to people.

(4) Another analogy (vv. 10-11). Barrett's translation helps make this illustration clear: "There are I don't know how many kinds of language in the world, and nothing is without its own language. If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to the man who is speaking, and in my eyes the man who is speaking will be a foreigner."

"Voices" means languages. Paul does not care how many such languages there are in the world, he simply refers to the fact that there are many. "Without signification" (Greek *aphonos*) actually means "without voice" and is thus a play on words. Nothing in need of voice (for communication) is left voiceless.

Even so, says Paul, if someone attempts to communicate with him in a "voice" that he does not understand, the two parties will be like barbarians to one another. This word (Greek *barbaros*) was coined by the Greeks to describe what other languages sounded like to them: bar-bar-bar. In other words, no communication goes on. Speaking in (untranslated) tongues is the same thing. Speech not understood is useless.

As in vv. 1-5, then, Paul has made clear that speaking in tongues is relatively fruitless for the important purpose of edifying the church. Because such speech is not understood, it communicates nothing at all.







## ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

# No Greater Love

**W**ashington D.C. Can you believe we're really here?" asked Mrs. Lane. Mr. Lane had come on business, and much to the delight of the little Lanes, he brought along his family.

"I can believe it," said Megan. "There's the Washington Monument and there's the Capitol. Did you know the Capitol takes up three and a half acres?"

"My feet believe it," groaned Marty. "I bet we've walked 10 miles since we got here."

"Quit complaining," said Megan. "The Lincoln Memorial is just ahead. Isn't it beautiful?"

"I don't think I can make it," said Marty. "My feet hurt. I think my new tennis shoes are rubbing blisters on my toes."

"It'll just take a few minutes," urged Megan. "You can make it."

"I'm tired too," agreed Jeff.

"How can you be tired?" asked Marty. "You've been riding on Daddy's shoulders most of the time." Mr. Lane chuckled as he swung Jeff off his shoulders and down to the ground.

"I don't know about Jeff," said Mr. Lane, "but I'm tired. You're getting to be a big boy, Jeff."

"Maybe we'd better head back to the hotel," said Mrs. Lane.

"I can't believe you guys," said Megan. "We come all the way to Washington, D.C., and you don't

want to see the Lincoln Memorial."

"I do too want to see it," said Marty, "but my feet hurt real bad."

"We've got two more days in Washington," said Mr. Lane. "We can see it later."

**M**egan took one last look down the grassy mall. The Lincoln Memorial stood majestically at the end. Its reflection in the pool of water made it doubly impressive. She was disappointed at not being able to go up close and inside today. But Megan joined her family on the sidewalk and headed back down 17th Street.

"Carry me, Daddy," pleaded Jeff holding up his arms.

"Do we have to walk all the way back to the hotel?" asked Marty.

"Isn't that a bus stop on Constitution Avenue?" asked Mrs. Lane. "Maybe we can catch a bus back to. . . ." The wail of sirens suddenly interrupted Mrs. Lane. Motorcycle policemen appeared and began blocking the road.

"There must have been a wreck," said Marty.

"No, look. It's a motorcade," exclaimed Mrs. Lane. Just then about 20 policemen on motorcycles drove down the street past the Lanes. Then they saw three black limousines approaching.

"Look inside," said Mr. Lane. "Maybe we'll see the President."

**T**he Lanes peered into the first car. They didn't see anyone they recognized. Then, for just a second, the second car was in front of them. "That's him!" screamed Marty. "That's the President!"

The President of the United States turned his head to look at the Lane family standing on the sidewalk. He waved to them and smiled.

"Wave," said Mrs. Lane. And the children, who were staring after the huge limousine, waved back.

"Wow," said Megan. "We saw the President. And he waved to us."

"Unbelievable," remarked Mr. Lane. "Just unbelievable. And if it had not been for Marty's aching feet, we would have been up at the Lincoln Memorial. We would have missed him."

"Yeah," said Megan grinning at her twin, "I'm sure glad you've got blisters."

"Thanks a lot," said Marty.

"Did you see all those motorcycles?" asked Jeff.

"And who were all those other men in the cars?" asked Marty.

"Secret Service men," answered Mr. Lane.

"Secret Service? What do they do?" asked Marty.

"They are special agents who go everywhere with the President



to protect him," answered Mr. Lane. "Whenever the President travels in his limousine, Secret Service agents go before him and follow after him to watch for danger."

"If they spot someone with a gun they are trained to push the President down or get in front of him to protect him," added Mrs. Lane.

"But they might get shot!" exclaimed Megan.

"Yes, but they keep our President from getting shot," said Mrs. Lane.

"Ooooh, I wouldn't want that job," said Megan. "It sounds dangerous."

"It is dangerous," said Mr. Lane as he led his family down the sidewalk to the bus stop.

"What would make anyone want to do it?" asked Marty.

"Love," said Mr. Lane. "Love for the United States of America and devotion to what our country stands for—freedom."

"I think it's exciting," said Marty. "Secret Service men are very brave. I think I'll be one when I grow up."

"I think I'll be President," said Megan. "Imagine being so important that you have special men who are always with and even willing to die for you."

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends," quoted Mrs. Lane.

"You are that special, Megan," said her daddy.

"What? You mean you think I can be President?" asked Megan.

"Maybe," said Mr. Lane. "But you are special. So special that Someone has already died for you. In fact, a King, God's own Son died for you. And He goes

with you everywhere you go to guide and protect you."

"That's neat," said Megan.

"Here comes a bus," cried Marty. "We don't have to walk."

The Lanes climbed aboard and settled back in their seats to enjoy

the ride back to the hotel.

"Washington is a neat city," said Jeff.

"America is a neat country," said Marty.

"And Jesus is a neat Savior," said Megan.

## Cooperative Channel Contributions July 1989

### RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	Apr. '88	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 367.40	\$ 55.25	\$ 422.65	\$ 171.63	\$ 4,570.98
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	173.00	1,191.87
Arkansas	.00	2,949.83	2,949.83	5,383.49	32,199.37
California	.00	1,346.76	1,346.76	1,611.15	11,070.74
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	932.87	.00
Florida	.00	.00	.00	781.26	11,441.65
Georgia	8,201.81	709.00	8,910.81	9,250.68	75,702.61
Idaho	87.42	40.72	128.14	68.71	427.00
Illinois	.00	80.42	80.42	8,057.58	63,158.40
Indiana	784.20	.00	784.20	476.24	3,552.45
Kansas	.00	44.89	44.89	85.74	375.04
Kentucky	.00	81.24	81.24	.00	3,664.03
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	1,618.42
Michigan	3,080.65	1,954.82	5,035.47	5,301.91	34,950.13
Mississippi	208.16	271.51	479.67	1,230.88	3,156.35
Missouri	7,969.81	.00	7,969.81	14,799.49	54,604.60
New Mexico	9.28	4.64	13.92	113.58	98.62
North Carolina	1,102.20	477.00	1,579.20	1,719.69	12,188.97
Ohio	514.00	1,915.00	2,429.00	2,925.00	20,648.00
Oklahoma	24,964.41	5,569.05	30,533.46	37,421.07	280,132.58
South Carolina	10,726.46	.00	10,726.46	5,708.86	75,346.02
Tennessee	1,044.41	1,422.43	2,466.84	2,421.44	15,492.35
Texas	10,352.07	445.39	10,797.46	5,724.74	57,953.21
Virginia	135.98	20.00	155.98	246.00	3,099.89
West Virginia	4,340.85	38.52	4,379.37	2,976.34	21,642.43
Canada	.00	525.31	525.31	530.98	525.31
Northwest Assoc.	.00	44.42	44.42	.00	581.00
Other (Computer)	.00	.05	.05	.15	.18
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$73,889.11</b>	<b>\$17,996.25</b>	<b>\$91,885.36</b>	<b>\$108,112.48</b>	<b>\$789,392.20</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 1,794.91	\$ 16,992.45	\$ 18,787.36	\$ 18,145.75	\$ 131,511.50
Foreign Missions	51,571.76	230.86	51,802.62	56,642.73	439,280.46
FWBBC	4,399.25	230.86	4,630.11	7,826.94	52,406.81
Home Missions	12,310.39	180.70	12,491.09	16,538.24	116,056.73
Retirement & Insurance	175.67	140.53	316.20	1,732.78	11,031.49
Master's Men	332.61	140.53	473.14	1,985.21	12,379.16
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	75.74	10.04	85.78	210.67	1,139.58
FWB Foundation	627.90	60.24	688.14	892.78	7,618.43
Historical Commission	74.55	.00	74.55	208.79	419.98
Radio & TV Commission	60.27	10.04	70.31	233.13	1,227.67
Hillsdale FWB College	2,065.69	.00	2,065.69	3,296.96	13,864.24
Other	400.37	.00	400.37	398.50	2,456.15
<b>Totals</b>	<b>73,889.11</b>	<b>\$17,996.25</b>	<b>\$91,885.36</b>	<b>\$108,112.48</b>	<b>\$789,392.20</b>





## NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

### CHINESE CHRISTIANS USED DEMONSTRATION TO SPREAD GOSPEL

BEIJING, China (EP)—Pictures and camera footage seen in the U.S. of the thousands of demonstrators that jammed Tiananmen Square in Beijing in June did not capture the image of a large white banner with the sign of the cross and Chinese characters proclaiming "God Loves the World!" on it. Christian students had joined the demonstration and were openly witnessing to their faith, according to a Christian journalist based in the U.S.

One church leader led his congregation into Tiananmen Square carrying a 10-foot cross. Instead of shouting political slogans, the Christians sang hymns of praise. Students explained to other demonstrators that Christianity is the only foundation for true democracy, leading to animated discussion, according to Dan Wooding, a Christian journalist who has done extensive reporting on churches in countries that are closed to the gospel.

When the Chinese government ordered the military to take control of Tiananmen Square, killing hundreds, perhaps thousands in the process, Christian demonstrators were scattered along with the rest of the demonstrators. It is uncertain how many were killed or injured in the attack.

It is not known what impact June's events will have on the future of the Chinese Church. Analysts agree, however, that if the present government remains in control there will probably be some kind of clamping down on house churches, many of them independent congregations which have not registered with the government. If a more liberal government comes to power, however, the individual freedoms that are gained will make it possible for Christians to spread the gospel more easily there.

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### CHILD IN ROE V. WADE CASE FOUND; SHE'S A PRO-LIFE COLLEGE STUDENT

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (EP)—In all that has been said and written about the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision which legalized abortion, one question has remained unanswered: What happened to the baby?

Norma McCorvey, the Texas woman who was the "Roe" in *Roe v. Wade*, gave birth to her child before the Supreme Court issued its decision permitting her to have an abortion. The child was put up for adoption.

An adoption search consultant in San Francisco claims to have met the child, now 19, who is allegedly the biological daughter of McCorvey. The pro-life college student lives in suburban Seattle with her adoptive mother, according to Toby Hanft, who heads a San Francisco firm that unites people who have been adopted and their birth parents.

Hanft got involved in the case after the *National Enquirer* located the girl, and asked him to help facilitate a reunion between the girl and McCorvey. Hanft said he dislikes the newspaper, but decided to help in order to cushion the shock for the girl.

Hanft met the girl in a hotel restaurant and told her about her birth mother. The story upset the girl, Hanft told Gannett News Service. "It was horrible. Imagine your mother not wanting you so much that she went to the Supreme Court to get rid of you."

### SOVIET ATHEISM FACING CRISIS

WHEATON, IL (EP)—Perestroika and glasnost are not Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's doing, a Russian church leader told delegates at an international conference recently. The reforms that have come to the Soviet Union are the work of God, he said.

"This is God's timing for our country," said the Rev. Yakov Kuzmich Dukhochenko, superintendent of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians - Baptists of the Ukraine.

Dukhochenko addressed the participants of the Slavic Gospel Association's international conference in Wheaton. Atheism in the Soviet Union is going through a crisis, he said, and the church in the Soviet Union needs help from the West to meet the resulting increase in spiritual hunger. "It is our vision that we want to do as much as we can today, so if the door closes, we will have accomplished something."

Scientific atheism in the Soviet Union is in a time of confusion, Dukhochenko said, and atheists are in disagreement over what teaching materials should be published. As a result, the required scientific atheism course that was previously required in all universities will no longer be offered. Instead, an elective introduction to religion course will include lessons on both atheism and Christianity. Dukhochenko also pointed out that a course on the Bible is already being presented at the University of Kiev by an Orthodox priest.

Dukhochenko appealed for Christians in the West to continue to send Bibles and Christian books to the Soviet church. "Our problem is no longer how to get the literature into the country," Rev. Komendant, another Ukrainian pastor, said, "It is now how to get all of the literature that we need and how to get it into the country at a faster pace. We need at least two million more Scriptures for the Ukraine alone."

### CHRISTIAN LEADERS ANNOUNCE BOYCOTT OF MENNEN, CLOROX

WHEATON, IL (EP)—Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLear-TV) announced a one-year boycott of the Mennen Company and Clorox Corporation. CLear-TV said the two companies were among the leading sponsors of sex, violence and profanity during the spring sweeps period.

"Results from the monitoring, done by approximately 3,000 monitors in 33 states, showed that Mennen and Clorox ignored CLear-TV's request not to advertise on programs high in incidents of sex, violence and profanity during the monitoring period," said CLear-TV Chairman Dr. Billy Melvin, executive director of the National Association of Evangelicals.

"We hope that concerned Americans will join us in this boycott and in our efforts to preserve the quality of life we enjoy in this country," Melvin added.

CLear-TV is a coalition of approximately 1,600 Christian leaders, including the heads of over 70 denominations and scores of bishops and leaders from nearly every denomination in America.

In explaining the action of CLear-TV, Melvin said that their broadly-based coalition had sent letters to all companies advertising on network television—including Mennen and Clorox—telling them of plans to monitor network programming and CLear-TV's intention to ask for the one-year boycott of one or more leading sponsors of sex, violence, profanity and anti-Christian stereotyping.

"Both companies acknowledged that they received our correspondence," said Melvin. "We asked that, if they shared our concern, they not sponsor programs containing those elements during the monitoring period. CLear-TV gave ample notice of their intentions to Mennen and Clorox. We offered to work with them every way we could. We offered them a list of programs with ratings for sex, violence, profanity and anti-Christian stereotyping during the monitoring period. But they ignored our requests. Both Mennen and Clorox were fully aware of our concerns, requests and intentions. They decided, however, to ignore them."

Melvin stated that CLear-TV will continue their efforts and will be monitoring television programming during another selected period this fall.

### FRENCH OPEN WINNER OPEN ABOUT HIS FAITH

THOUSAND OAKS, CA (EP)—Tennis standout Michael Chang, who upset Sweden's Stefan Edberg to become the youngest Grand Slam event winner and the first U.S. winner of the French Open since 1955, attributes his success to the Christian faith.

Discussing his French Open win, Chang said, "Every time I bring it up I see the pens and heads dropping. I know people are getting sick of it a little, but if I really want to tell the truth, it is Jesus Christ. I give Him all the credit for all the things that happen in my life."

Chang was baptized last October at the Chinese Christian Church of Thousand Oaks, Calif., a church his grandfather helped begin a decade ago. He is supported by the prayers of the church's youth group, and is known for holding Bible studies with friends while on the tennis circuit.





## THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

# Lay Leaders



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
Free Will Baptists

**T**he lack of lay involvement hinders Free Will Baptist growth. And it's our own fault, since lay input and inclusion have been overlooked and even opposed.

We emphasize the role of the pastor/teacher, missionary and professional Christian worker and disregard the army of Christians who feel the obligation and cry for the opportunity to make a difference in the local church and national association. When we neglect the laity we forfeit the following:

**Their Expertise.** Many lay members have expertise in areas where the professional Christian worker does not. Most ministers, youth workers and music directors have narrow, though essential, areas of expertise. They are specialists.

However, because of our diversity, laymen have expertise in education, business, building, organization, management, insurance and others. Greater lay involvement would put that expertise in the decision-making process of our denomination.

**Their Experience.** Laymen have a wealth of experience in the various disciplines of life. Full-time Christian workers do not have that range of experience, since their training and responsibility are narrow in focus—as it must be.

For instance, I took the Graduate Records Exam to enter graduate school and did not do well on the math section. I mentioned this to the president of Albany State College while we were traveling. He said it was because my educational experience had not prepared me to take the test. He was abso-

lutely right. My training prepared me to teach and preach the Bible, not lecture on math or business management.

Many ministers elected to leadership roles in the district, state and national associations have little if any training in the areas where they serve. Most of us were elected and had to learn by trial and error.

**Their Efficiency.** Laymen work on jobs where the bottom line is efficiency. I often wonder how efficient our organization is in its operation.

For instance, why can't all national agency publications be incorporated into *Contact* magazine with each agency's editor serving as contributing editor? Why can't we have one denominational mailing list? Why must we duplicate efforts? It seems to me that laymen could give valuable input regarding denominational efficiency.

**Their Energy.** Laymen possess a high level of energy. They give themselves to Little League, softball, golf, civic clubs, fishing, hunting. Why not channel some of that energy into denominational life?

Pastors, youth workers and music directors are ready to throw in the towel. They are worn and feel that nobody cares. Perhaps the secret is to give responsibility to the laity who have energy to spare but do not feel needed or wanted.

**Their Education.** Laymen have broader educational experiences and backgrounds than pastors. This educational experience can be used for the good of the denomination and the glory of God.

For too long preachers have been quick to censure, criticize or condemn education which was different from theirs. The denomination must train Christian workers, but at the same time other educational needs must be addressed and programs implemented to prepare Christians for other areas of service.

We must not fight laymen nor fear them, but channel them. Get them involved in the educational enterprises of our denomination. We need more than their money. We need their constructive criticism and input.

**Their Enthusiasm.** Laymen begin their religious experience with enthusiasm. It's time to channel that enthusiasm into all levels of denominational life, not squelch it. Just as new converts fire up the local church, new people in denominational life will provide that same fire to keep us moving as a denomination.

Laymen live in the real world and it does not dampen their enthusiasm. Those who pay the bills deserve a voice in the decision making, policy and planning process. Nothing could spark revival in our midst like the involvement of enthusiastic lay people.

Laymen, seize this opportunity to make a difference and make a contribution to the cause of Christ through a Free Will Baptist church.

### The Secretary's Schedule

<b>October 6-7</b>	State Line Assoc. Dothan, Alabama
<b>October 12-14</b>	Columbia Bible College Columbia, South Carolina
<b>October 16-19</b>	Oklahoma State Assoc.
<b>October 29-31</b>	First FWB Church Dothan, Alabama



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