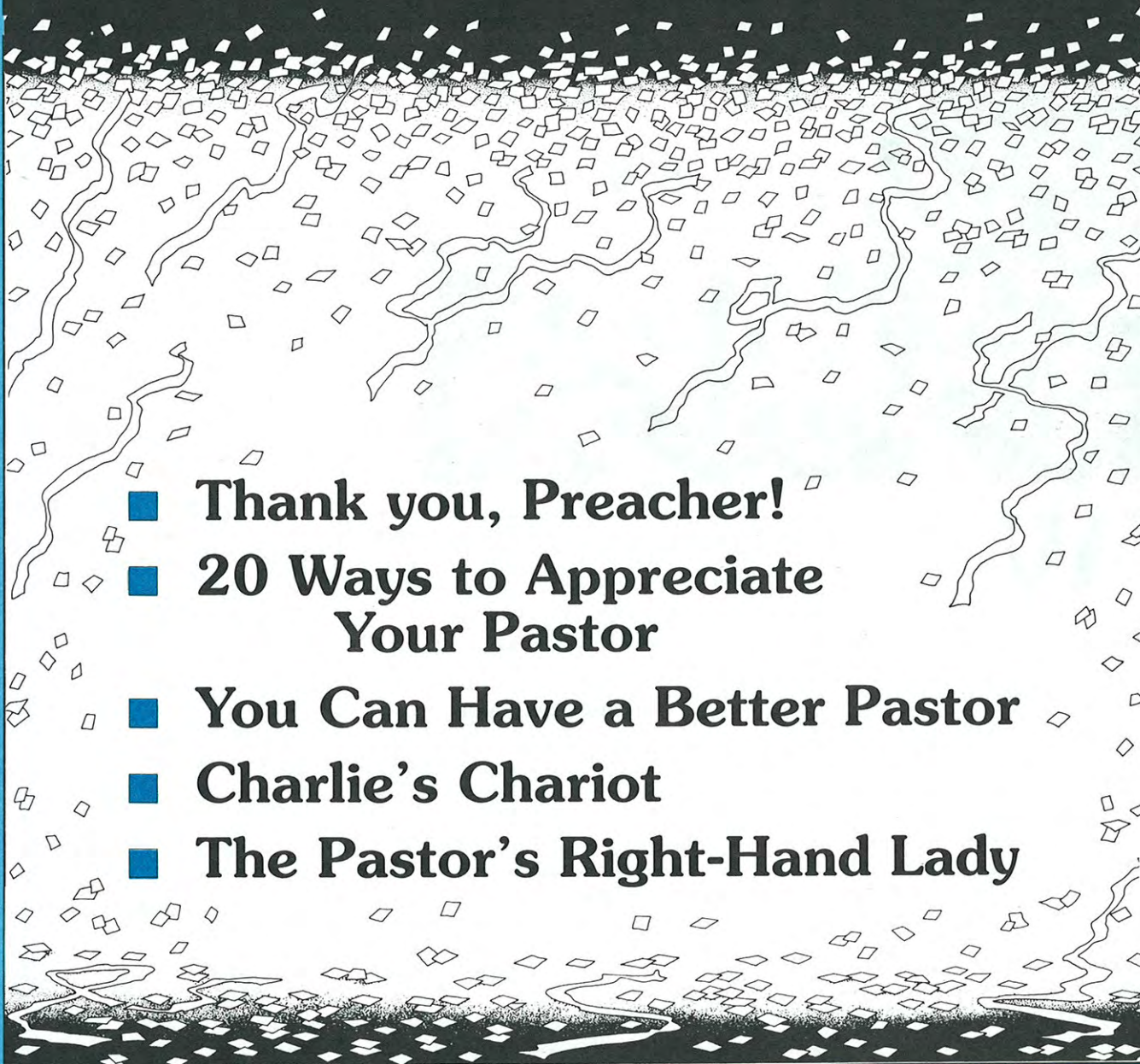


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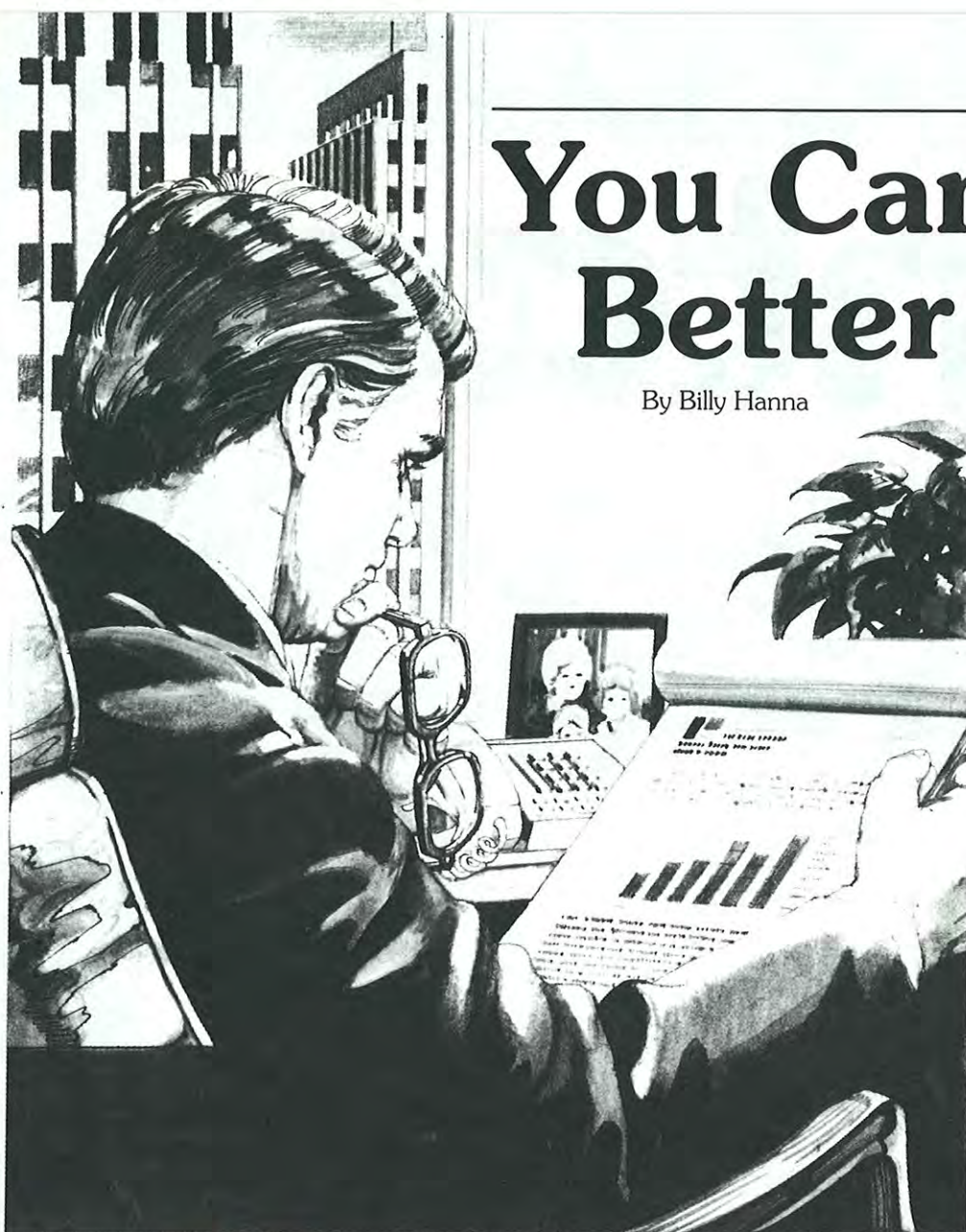
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Pastor Appreciation Issue

- 
- **Thank you, Preacher!**
 - **20 Ways to Appreciate Your Pastor**
 - **You Can Have a Better Pastor**
 - **Charlie's Chariot**
 - **The Pastor's Right-Hand Lady**

You Can Have a Better Pastor

By Billy Hanna



We spent five years training you, and you up and leave us after we finally make a pastor out of you." Those words were spoken to a young minister as he left the first church he pastored after college. They were a simple statement of fact from the loving heart of one who had cherished the young man as her own son, and whose only ambition for him was to see him develop as a good pastor.

We are all products of life's experiences and of the people with whom we associate. We are all influenced by others. Pastors are not exceptions.

Do you want a better pastor? Don't dump him, develop him! Don't trade him, train him! Don't fire him, fashion him! You may be

better off. Many churches have longed for a former pastor, deficiencies and all, after the gleaming armor of their new leader became tarnished with his humanity.

What can you do to have a better pastor?

Know the Facts

Before we consider our part in having a better pastor, let's ask what is a good pastor? The answer is both simple and obscure. The minimum requirements of character and conduct are clearly defined in I Timothy 3, and the example of a good pastor is demonstrated by Jesus, the Good Shepherd. John 10 reminds us that He learns, leads, loves and never leaves His sheep.

Yet within these biblical guidelines, so much is obscured by personality,

maturity, gifts, interests, education, likes and dislikes that a practical definition of a good pastor, acceptable to all, eludes us.

Regardless of our preferences, there are some things that most people want in a pastor. They want a man who can preach, is spiritual, respectable, available, approachable, courageous, amiable, understanding, genuine and one who cares, reaches out and leads.

Did a flashing light just come on in someone's mind as you thought, that's the kind of pastor I want?

Sorry, but the only pastor who perfectly fits that description is now unavailable. He has pastored every church in our denomination and is usually referred to simply as "a previous pastor." While most of us "present pastors" are but shells of what he was, we struggle along content to walk in his shadow. Though we will never measure up, you can help us become *better pastors* in general, and your pastor in particular.

Cheer Him On

Start with obvious things such as attend church, listen to his sermons and inform him when someone has a need. You may be surprised how responsive he is to your involvement.

A parallel can be drawn from the boy who tries harder in the game when all his friends and family are watching. Isn't that human nature? While Hebrews 12:1 is open to various interpretations, we know that the involvement of others prods us to do better.

Pray for Him

Most of the ways you can help your pastor are simple, yet like the rain produce beautiful growth. For example, prayer changes both the "pray-er" and the "prayee." It

changes your outlook on him and his output for the Lord.

Never have I been as humbled and challenged as when a dear speechless brother—a stroke victim—scribbled on his note paper that he prayed for me every night beginning at midnight. It encouraged me to try to measure up to the expectations of his prayers.

Accept Him

One of the best things you can do for your pastor is allow him to feel at home in your presence, unthreatened, unmasked, unashamed and unassuming.

One of the sweetest memories from my first pastorate was the relaxing hours I spent in the home of a couple who had a son in the ministry. Their home was a peaceful oasis in a world where a young preacher walked with much uncertainty. In their home no pretense was necessary. I could be me.

Remind Him

That same couple was also responsible for giving birth to another great lesson in a young pastor's journey. After I failed to be by her side for prayer in the hospital before she had a frightening and dangerous test, she gently rebuked me by reminding me how important it was to her and how much it meant to have her "shepherd" in time of trouble.

That gentle rebuke still echoes in a grey-haired pastor's soul. No pouting, no grudge, no scolding, just gentle and loving rebuke.

Challenge Him

Much of a pastor's time is spent trying to challenge his flock, yet most pastors would be far better if their flocks also challenged them. You can imagine my shock when asked during an interview for a church if I was a dichotomist or a trichotomist.

I don't know what effect my answer had on the interview, but I do know it reminded me that I must always know both my theology and my subject. That little question and others like it challenge me to study and resolve that no one sitting in the pew of my pastorate will know more about my subject, the Bible, than I.

Pastors can be challenged to be better preachers. I have boxes filled with tapes of sermons by great preachers that members have given me. It's humbling, but at least I preached a few good sermons. One deacon board gave me a set of *Pulpit Commentaries*, and a friend reminded me that they were probably trying to tell me something. I think he was right; I hope I got the point.

Be His Friend

"The top of the hill is a very lonely place." Sometimes pastors are lonely people. They need friends. The idea of a pastor having friends in the church troubled me until I realized that Jesus called his disciples friends (John 15:15).

Develop a relationship with your pastor. Become a trusted friend. This enables the pastor to walk more securely and to reach out confidently.

Insist That He Relax

Insist that he do something as a diversion from his work. I remember the deacon who reminded me that sometimes my business was like his. Sometimes it was hectic and you had to keep your nose to the grindstone. Other times, if things are a little slow, you have to take advantage and not feel guilty.

I will always be indebted to the brother who persisted until I played what has become my favorite diversion, golf. Jesus often brought His disciples apart so they too could rest and be refreshed. Pastors need to be reminded of this practical truth. Temporary diversions clear the mind, relax the body and revive the spirit. Do your pastor a favor and your church a rewarding service—make him "come apart."

Love Him

Since entering the ministry, my wife and I have only seen our families a few times a year; this is common with ministers. The church must become a stand-in for the extended family. Help the pastor fill a big gap in his heart by loving him and his family like your own.

Sometimes he simply needs a big hug. After hearing that my brother had died, a brother in the church

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Miracle at Gate K-19

By Jim Mullen

I was between flights at Chicago's O'Hare Airport. The sign at Gate K-19 indicated that I had an hour to wait. Good. I could read some of that Garrison Keillor *Leaving Home* book I had brought along.

There was no one else in the departure waiting area as I took a seat. Dressed in casual slacks, plaid shirt and sport coat, I hoped to remain inconspicuous and uninterrupted.

Before long a well-dressed young man walked by 50 empty seats and sat beside me. About a minute later my reading was finished.

"That a good book?" he asked.

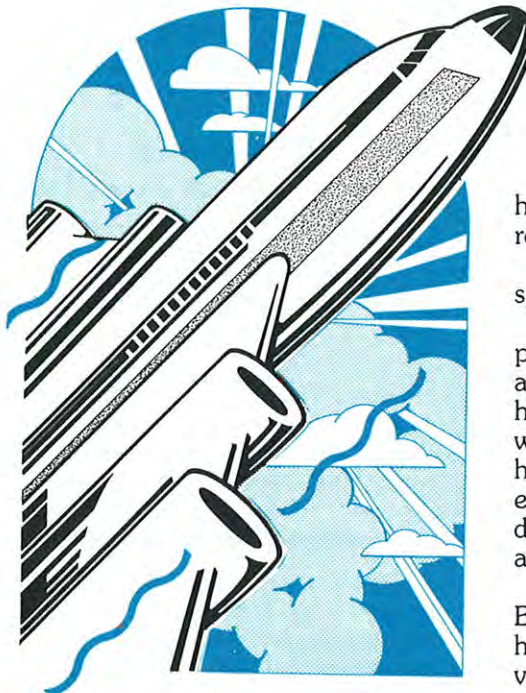
"Yes, very good," I replied. "Are you familiar with Garrison Keillor?"

After I explained about Keillor's background, he said, "You know, I left home too. I ran away from home over six years ago!"

Tears coursed down his cheeks as he told me his sad story. He left home as a troubled teenager and came to Chicago from New York. He then got involved with the wrong crowd and ended up on drugs.

He had one socially redeeming quality—he was a computer whiz. He met someone from a large computer firm and the company helped him get in a rehabilitation center where he overcame his drug dependency. Now, in his early 20's, he had a bright future with the firm.

I then said, "That's great. Where do you attend church?"



"Well, I don't go anywhere although I know I should. I'm certain my mother prays for me every day."

He explained that he had not seen or talked to his mother since he left home. He kept up with her through his sister. His mother had taken him to church when he was younger. I could hear the admiration in his voice when he talked of her faithfulness.

"So then, you are a Christian?" I asked.

Once again tears flowed as he acknowledged his need for Christ but admitted he had never been saved. I decided to be bold and go to the

heart of the matter. "Wouldn't you really like to be saved?"

"Yes, I would," he immediately responded.

I quoted several Bible verses, explaining how he could be saved. I asked if he believed those verses and he said that he did. So I asked if he was ready to pray and ask Jesus into his heart. He was not only ready but eager. We knelt by our seats in the departure waiting area at Gate K-19 and Bill Conley was born again.

When we returned to our seats, Bill was a new man. He told me that he would be in New York for a convention that week. He planned to see his mother and tell her the good news. He could hardly wait. I told him of a church in the area where he lived. He promised to go and make his decision public.

By this time the waiting area had begun to fill. Suddenly he looked at me and said, "Hey, we've spent all this time talking about me. What do you do?"

"Well, I am a Free Will Baptist minister," I replied.

"No-o-o-o!" he said. "I would have never guessed that."

"I assume that's supposed to be a compliment?" I replied.

"Oh, yes!" he hurried to say. "What I meant is that if I had even thought you were a minister I would never have sat down and talked to you!"

Oh, the wonderful ways of God. We never know when He may interrupt our day with an unexpected opportunity to witness. Be ready if a stranger sits beside you at Gate K-19. It may be another Bill Conley in need of salvation!

Better Pastor (from page 3)

came over and just hugged me. There is no substitute for love.

Before you rush into your pastor's office to help make him a better pastor, please allow him to do his work, and then share the burden of that work with him.

A young minister confessed to a pulpit committee that he was not a seasoned pastor and was unlearned in many areas. Still, he had the call

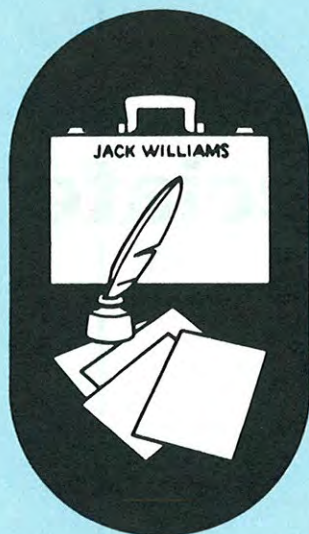
of God on his life and desired to be all God wanted for him. They called him with the attitude that this is our pastor—and by God's grace, we will do our best to make him successful.

The degree to which they succeeded will only be revealed in eternity. But one thing's for certain, when he left he was a *better pastor!*

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Billy Hanna pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Albany, Georgia.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Jim Mullen pastors First Bible Free Will Baptist Church, New Castle, Indiana.

Briefcase



Oh bother, here comes Charlie again, and it's two in the morning. Don't preachers ever sleep? That's the third time this week he's dragged me out of the carport before dawn.

Somebody better tell him that Chevrolets do not live on gas alone, but by regular lube jobs and a light boot on the pedal. Now, take Elmer the Ford over on Maple Street. His owner never hits the starter before 7:30 a.m. and even then it's a slow warmup and a quiet drive to the hardware store. Elmer's always back in the garage (not carport!) by 5:00 p.m. What a life that Ford lives.

Not that I'm complaining, mind you. At least Charlie doesn't turn me into a kennel. Buck the GMC across the street smells like he could use two weeks in Palm Springs. Those dogs he hauls around chewed the wiring off his tail lights.

On the other hand, Charlie never heard of a 40-hour work week. He must think I'm a taxi. Last Saturday when he drove 60 miles to a youth rally he stuffed the four wiggiest teenagers I ever saw in my back seat. One of them even wore baseball cleats!

When Charlie's wife drove me to the grocery store, I stood in the parking lot and talked shop. Marty the Mercury said if he were me he'd throw a rod the next time Charlie hung high center on his way down another muddy road. And Reginald

Charlie's Chariot

the Cadillac yawned that his white walls had never been scuffed by the Taylor twins.

Did I mention that Charlie's got this thing about working on Sunday? Well, he does. I mean there's just no rest for the weary. Charlie bounces out of the house at 7:00 a.m. every Sunday, jerks open my front door, throws a 12-pound Thompson Chain Reference Bible on the dash and zips down to First Church. All day Sunday it's run, run, run from choir practice to prayer meeting to wedding rehearsals. By 10:00 p.m. I'm about ready to blow a radiator hose.

Not long ago Charlie's deacons insisted that he go fishing. Something about pastor's day off. I've got to tell you, Charlie's not what you'd call a predator. He sat under a tree for two hours and threw rocks at turtles. Then he dumped a dozen minnows and a can of woolly worms in the river.

Charlie gets preoccupied with his pastoral work. Just last week I coughed and sputtered down Main Street to remind him to gas up. And of course he likes those low octane pumps. About a month ago when we were out in the serious boonies, I picked up a nail. My right rear tire pressure dropped to 18 pounds before Charlie noticed. My brakes sound like a cat clawing a tin roof, and my air filter's so clogged that I think I'm being choked by Mr. Goodwrench.

If it weren't for the fact that it rains on Chevrolets as well as Yugos, I'd have ring around the hood ornament. Charlie means well; it's just that his idea of a wash job is one of those 30-second drive-throughs. I can't remember the last time I had a hot wax and buff.

Charlie must think he can put me on autopilot. Sometimes late at night when we head home after a counseling session and he nods off, it's all I can do to keep us both out of the ditch. I usually slip one tire off the pavement and bang his head on the roof.

Charlie's way too trusting. Two weeks ago we were on our way to the hospital when he picked up a hitchhiker. I almost dropped my muffler! Anyway, we hadn't gone three miles before I heard somebody sniffling. Sure enough, Charlie had that fellow praying at 55 mph on I-40. I don't know if it was Charlie's driving or something he said.

Sometimes I'm convinced that Charlie thinks I was assembled by Philistines the way he practices his sermons on me. I've heard some of them five times. He'll pound my steering wheel and sometimes hit my horn. One Friday morning as Charlie preached away, a snooty Maxima in the passing lane beeped some unkind noise at us. Claimed he thought Charlie was having an attack. Sure. And if you believe that, I've got this little grease rack in South Pasadena....

Some of my friends have started calling me Charlie's Chariot behind my back. That's all right. I'd rather go on hospital visits with Charlie than peel out from a liquor store like that silver Mustang down the street.

Charlie says I'm like a member of his family. That's what he tells his wife. He says I'm more faithful than some of his church members because every time he turns my ignition I fire right up, rain or shine and no excuses.

A smart aleck Volvo down at the dry cleaners asked me what I'd be if I weren't Charlie's Chariot. And I honked, "Why, if I weren't a preacher's car, I'd be ashamed." Yep, I'm Pastor Charlie's car and proud of it.

See you in the church parking lot next Sunday!





20 Ways To Appreciate Your Pastor

By Jonathan Yandell

According to the *Gospel Herald*, one New Year's Day a millionaire who prided himself in never offering a tip for any service was forced to face an unforgettable tragedy—his chief accountant committed suicide. The only clue to his drastic action was a brief note left addressed to his employer: "In 30 years I have never had one word of encouragement. I'm fed up."

Of course, pastors don't kill themselves because of a lack of appreciation, but the truth is that more than one has left a church or even the ministry because he was "fed up" with what he perceived as a lack of appreciation. And so often that word "perceived" is the key. It's usually not that pastors are unappreciated, it's just that it appears that way to them.

With that in mind, here are 20 ways you can help change the perception. Three deal with his compensation package—they assume a liveable salary. If he doesn't have that...well, that's another article. The next 10 relate to his profession and can help make his work enjoyable. The last seven are personal. They may have more to do with keeping him around than you think.

Compensatory Appreciation

1. *Provide hospitalization insurance.* Get your pastor in a good group plan and pay the freight. It says, "We love you."

2. *Contribute to his retirement program.* Chances are he will outlive his ability to minister full time. Chances are his wife will outlive him. Don't ask him, don't give him the option...as Bo says, just do it.

3. *Purchase or lease a car for ministry use only.* You'll save him a lot of record-keeping headaches—and it's simpler than reimbursement.

Professional Appreciation

4. *Pay his (and wife's) way to the National.* They need to represent your church; they need to hear where your money is going; they need to know about new developments; they need the training and resources available there; they need the encouragement of fellowship and worship.

5. *Pay his way to at least one professional conference per year.* Your pastor can sharpen his ministry at short one- to three-day conferences on church growth, taxes, staff relations, counseling and countless other subjects, often with costs of under \$100. Businesses learned years ago the value of continued training; have we?

6. *Help him continue his education.* Perhaps you could underwrite all or part of the cost as he pursues his graduate or undergraduate degree, even if only for a class or two a year. Remember, any money you spend making him a better pastor

benefits both your church and the denomination. I wonder where we'd be if we had been doing this 25 years ago?

7. *Give him a resource allowance.* Consider budgeting a yearly sum for your pastor to use for periodicals, professional journals, tapes and teaching videos. No communicator is better than his tools allow him to be.

8. *Establish a pastor's library.* Charles Spurgeon suggested this years ago—it's still a good idea. Many excellent volumes for a preacher's library are expensive. The church could acquire such things a few at a time and keep them in a "pastor's library." By majoring on volumes the average preacher doesn't have the church could augment his personal library. When the pastor leaves, the library stays for the next one.

9. *Get him a credit card for ministry expenses.* In some communities the price of a pastoral call with a busy businessman is breakfast or lunch. Pastors usually hope the other guy pays. Consider getting a credit card in the church name for such occasions and for ministry-related trips. Again, it's simple and makes for accurate records.

Afraid he'll abuse the privilege? Sounds like you need a pastor you can trust, or vice versa.

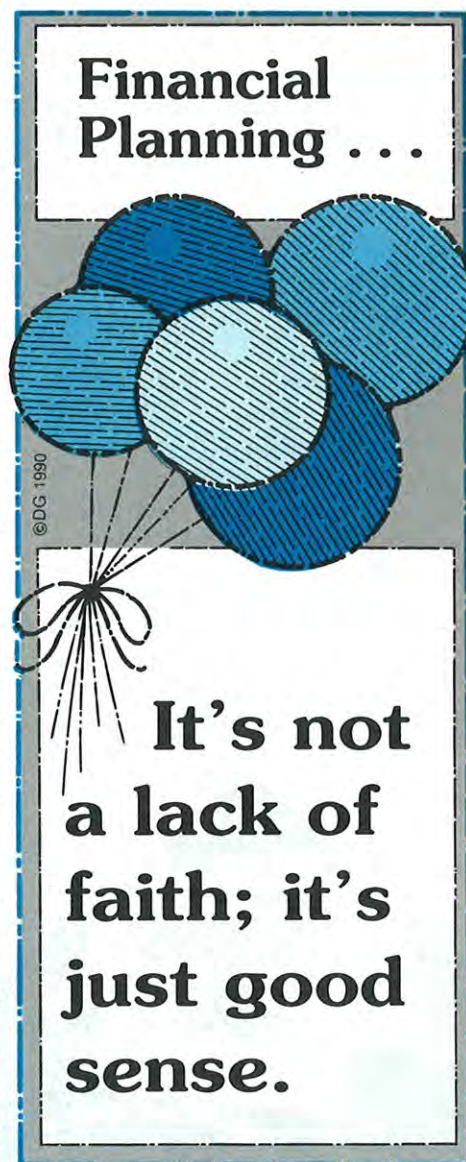
10. *Furnish his office nicely.* A nice desk, some good bookshelves, a little carpet and some nice chairs for those who come to see him don't seem like much, but they're more than most pastors have.

11. *Get him a personal computer!* This is not for everybody, but any pastor willing to invest the time to learn how to do simple word processing and various other functions will cut hours off his work.

12. *Buy him a pastoral record book.* This is a hardbound volume designed for him to use in recording baptism, weddings, funerals, sermons and various special events throughout his years of ministry. Ten minutes a week will keep it up to date and years down the road he will have a permanent record of his ministry activities. Don't you wish we had a completed one for each of our

forefathers? See your local Bible bookstore.

13. *Plan to enlarge his ministry.* Is your pastor a good preacher? I mean really good? Then help him get his ministry out to a wider audience. What preacher could resist a church saying to him, "Pastor, we think you're a great preacher. So we've purchased the equipment to record your messages and we are talking to a local radio station to see what we need to do to get you on the air." You'll have to kill him to get rid of him!



Personal Appreciation

14. *Buy him a suit.* It's an old standby, but a constant need.

15. *Purchase tickets to local*

sporting events. If he's a sports nut, he'll never forget this!

16. *Hire someone to cut the grass at the parsonage and the church.* Your preacher's not still mowing the church lawn, is he? He's got more important things to do than play custodian. Hire someone to do the church lawn, and while you're at it get someone for the parsonage too—his wife probably needs the break.

17. *Give him a "real" day off.* Award your pastor with a certificate guaranteeing him that one day a week you won't be calling, unless it is an emergency. Publicize it yourself (don't expect him to). He doesn't want a day off? (Is he sick?) Oh, well, let him use the day for study.

18. *Arrange for him to have time with a good financial planner, at no cost to him.* Preacher's finances can be tricky. The advice of a professional could make the difference between feast and famine in the years ahead. It's not a lack of faith; it's just good sense.

19. *Send him and his wife away for a night or two—alone.* Get them a room at a lover's hideaway. They may be more romantic than you think!

20. *Remodel the parsonage.* Tour the homes of all of your deacons and trustees. Then tour the parsonage. If it doesn't measure up it's time to shape it up. Let his wife pick the colors and offer suggestions. Every day when they come home it will say to them, "We care!" What is your parsonage saying now?



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Jonathan Yandell pastors Garden Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Garden Grove, California.

"Just a Country Preacher"

By Jerry Lewis

He often calls himself "just a country preacher." Born February 23, 1924, in Hugins, Missouri, to George and Oma Scott, he pastored rural churches before 1949. From 1949 to 1972, he pastored in Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas. In 1972, Benjamin Scott moved his family to First FWB Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas, and has just completed 18 years of pastoral work here.

I watched Brother Scott as he raised his sons, all of whom are now ministers, and was impressed with the way he taught them. First and most important, he was a godly father. Some of the basic things such as how to live, how to handle life, and what to do with life were taught by his father, a minister, and he passed it on to his sons.

I see in Brother Scott a pastor who cares deeply for his own family. I would not want a pastor who does not care for his own family. When one of his boys hurts, he hurts. Not only does he care for his family, but he cares for the church family in the same way. When one of the church members hurts, he hurts. When one rejoices, he rejoices.

What makes a good pastor? Is it the ability to preach? I have heard many a good sermon by Brother Scott. But I believe there are other qualities that make a good preacher a good pastor:

1. Love for family.

2. Love, compassion and concern for his church members. Available at any hour if someone needs him.

3. Spiritual direction to the unsaved and to those who may go or have gone into full-time Christian service.

4. A compassionate friend during the loss of a loved one, even for a non-Christian.

5. Leadership. Not only in spiritual matters but in building the church.

6. Manager. Doesn't overextend the church financially. Never makes a decision without praying and thinking about the situation carefully.

7. Patience with people.

8. Teaches by walk and talk.

9. Shows no partiality or favoritism to anyone in the congregation.

10. Supporter of all the agencies of the church—Woman's Auxiliary, Master's Men, etc.

11. Loves and puts God first.

In the years that Brother Scott has been with us, I have seen all of those qualities to some degree in his work. He has done an excellent job. He has often made the statement that "we need to use a little common sense." This "country preacher" does just that! (See page 9)

My Pastor

By Lorene Francen

I love and respect my pastor, Larry Powell. He is an encourager. His enthusiasm for life is contagious. He models his life view in the pulpit, in his pastoral ministry, and in his own positive way of seeing and interpreting life. There is almost always a bounce in his step. He boosts as he leads.

We got to know the Powells while they were serving as home missionaries in Saint Croix, Virgin Islands. Later they came to Puerto Rico for home missions and Larry became our pastor.

I was impressed with Larry's study habits when we got to know him. He was doing his personal devotional reading in the pastoral epistles just then. He studied a book devotionally for a year; then he would go back and study it again to prepare sermons from it. Each year he was feeding himself and preparing to feed us. Before he left Puerto Rico he had already prepared over 100 messages from these little New Testament books.

Most of Larry's pastoral work has been pioneering new churches. In Saint Croix, Puerto Rico and in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, the Powells began churches with little or no physical help from other Christians.

Larry has talent as a planner and builder. He made an impact for the Lord and for Free Will Baptists as he began the work in Saint Croix. He and his wife Wanda had opportunities for a wide ministry there. He



Thanks, Preacher!

made himself available whether the need was for the dedication of a building or a tragic death.

Once in Saint Croix 17 people were murdered in a commando-style raid on a golf course at a tourist hotel by a group of young black militants. The Powells ministered to the stricken, helped make necessary arrangements, and gave assistance to the shocked families and friends.

For some months after the deaths there was tension and fear on the island. Daily life was especially difficult for women and children from the U.S. mainland and other non-Cruisians. They were seldom outside their houses those first troubled weeks after the killings.

When things began to return to normal, Larry and another missionary planned a retreat for the women of the church and women from the Free Will Baptist church in Puerto Rico. They chose an empty resort with good security. He made arrangements for a missionary aviator to fly two loads of women from Puerto Rico.

Each of the visiting women was paired with a woman from Saint Croix. Lasting friendships and prayer partnerships were formed that weekend. I was one of the women who flew over for the retreat. We were refreshed and blessed by the program planned for us and by the sharing. It was one of the really special times in my life. Thanks again for all the work it took to make it possible, Pastor.

I have seen Larry Powell plan to visit every home in his community. He would set himself the task of knocking on 100 doors a week. He kept records of prospects and people with obvious needs for follow-up. He went back again and again. Churches were built with the efforts of a sincere and energetic young man who felt God had led him there to build a Free Will Baptist church.

Larry has the "fire in his bones" for preaching. While he was still struggling to preach in Spanish (the language of Puerto Rico) the Powells would sometimes come chugging up the hill to our house on the awful dirt track we called a road. We would bring out chairs, hymnals and everyone on the place would be called in to participate in a refreshing worship



time in English! We got to sample some of the messages God was giving him in his hours of study, and God's man was able to deliver his soul in his mother tongue.


My pastor is well-prepared when he goes into the pulpit. His good study habits are accompanied by hours of preparation. He does not feel that good preaching is necessarily done in long sermons. I appreciate his thought-provoking brevity.

We watched him win his first converts in Puerto Rico. He made friends with Henri Berthinet and his family. Henri was tri-lingual. He agreed to help the pastor prepare his Sunday messages in Spanish. As Henri coached and assisted he was hearing the gospel. His helpfulness led to his salvation. We watched the Powells use their contacts for witness.

The Powells directed a preschool as a part of the ministry of the Round Hill Church in Puerto Rico. The families and friendship groups of the students were the group from which the converts came. I still see him working his contacts.

Larry's ministry is enhanced by his family. He was wise in the choice of a wife. Wanda is a lady, a sweet Christian, a supportive pastor's wife and a good mother. Their home is warm and beautiful. She is a good speaker and Bible teacher. The three Powell children are grown now. They all work in the local church. They are a credit to their home.

My pastor is an encourager. He is enthusiastic about living the Christian life. He is a planner and doer. He works hard. He has good study habits and is diligent in his preparation to feed his flock. Over the years


I have seen him win and disciple converts who remain and grow. He and his family model what he preaches. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Lorene Francis is a member of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. She served as librarian at Free Will Baptist Bible College for nine years.

Country Preacher (from page 8)

Through these 18 years I have found that Brother Scott loves God, his family, his church and all people. I have found that he is respected throughout our denomination from Maine to California, and I know he earned that respect.

As a member of his flock, I believe I know how Brother Scott lives, how he works, and what things are important in his life. I have learned to love and respect deeply this man and his family.

May the Lord give the Free Will Baptist denomination more ministers with "Just a Country Preacher" qualities! 



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Jerry Lewis is a deacon in First Free Will Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas. He also teaches a Sunday School class.

The Pastor's Right-Hand Lady

By Leroy Welch

H. Armstrong Roberts

Over the past 23 years of ministry, it has been my privilege to serve in five Free Will Baptist churches. In those churches, I worked with 10 secretaries. While this hardly qualifies me as an expert on the subject of church secretaries, I do have some observations about this often unappreciated staff position.

Hire From Within

Opinions vary among pastors as to whether the church secretary should be hired from within the congregation. My personal preference is that she be from within the church family.

Advantages

A church member can better understand and appreciate the people with whom she is working. A feeling of family spirit prevails when everyone realizes they are part of a team effort with undivided loyalty. It is good for a church secretary to be included in the "we" and "us" of church planning. When the secretary is a church member, she sees her work as more than just a job; she sees it as a ministry of her church.

My second reason for preferring a church secretary from within the church family concerns her knowledge of needs and activities of the church. One of two things is usually true: either the pastor has to remind the secretary of those needs and activities, or she has to remind him.

That is especially important when preparing the church bulletin or publishing a church newsletter. It's a great relief when the busy pastor knows that his secretary is capable of producing both publications including pertinent announcements without input from him. Also, after hearing needs shared during worship services, she can better assist the pastor in keeping up with those members who face surgery or some other problem.

Disadvantages

There are disadvantages to the church secretary being hired from within the congregation. The first is to the secretary herself. She may have difficulty separating on-the-job hours from her worship experience and participation in church activities. Feeling she is "at work" may hinder

her from getting the most out of worship.

It is important for the church staff and membership to realize that she is not "on duty" Sundays or at other services. She's often so available that she is sometimes abused. But stop and think...Other secretaries do not want to be reminded of job responsibilities while trying to worship. Why should the church secretary?

The second disadvantage is to the pastor and church family. There is the unfortunate risk of offending the secretary, her family, relatives and friends if it becomes necessary to dismiss her. In that event, not only a secretary but one or more families could be lost from the church fellowship as well. While this can be a sensitive issue, offense can be avoided if both parties are mature in attitudes and actions, and practice biblical principles when dealing with relationships.

Valuable Employee

The church secretary can and should be invaluable to the active pastor. A pastor once told me that if he had to choose between an associate pastor and a good secretary, he would choose the secretary. To be quite truthful, that offended me at first, because I was an associate at

the time! Since I have become a senior pastor, I understand what he meant.

The church secretary assists the pastor in his work more than any associate ever could. She increases the pastor's ministering potential by handling routine matters that would otherwise consume hours of his time. Pastors are notorious for taking on denominational responsibilities and delegating them to secretaries. Then we get the recognition for the work they have done.

Special Qualifications

The qualifications for the church secretary include good clerical skills, dependability, efficiency, loyalty, a pleasing personality and genuine hospitality. However, an even more important qualification for the church secretary, though often overlooked, is spiritual maturity. There are at least two reasons why this is important.

Minister to Others

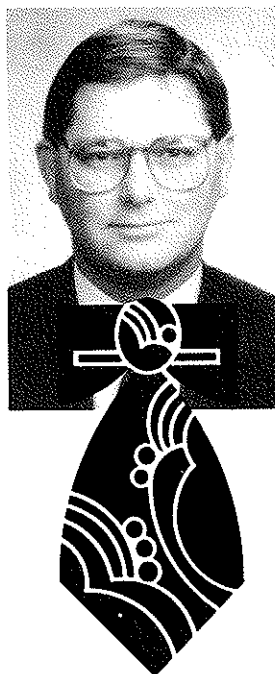
The first reason is that she must frequently minister to others. Church members who face crisis experiences and other hurting people call the church and she is the only person available. Her ability to give encouragement can make a difference in the hour of need.

Also she is often called on to comfort or entertain those waiting for appointments with a church staff person. Her knowledge of the Word and her close walk with the Lord are priceless tools as she deals with the public on a daily basis.

Maintain Balance

Her maturity keeps her from becoming disillusioned at the knowledge of others' inconsistencies. The church office is a place where church members express their grievances. The church secretary cannot escape the knowledge of church members' weaknesses, especially those of the pastoral staff. Few things happen in a local body of believers without her knowing of it.

Therefore, it is important for her not to be adversely affected by this knowledge in her own Christian life. She must be trustworthy and confi-



"You're not going to wear *that*, are you?"

Did you ever notice how your wife knows exactly what to say to get your jaw set? And she never hesitates to say it.

See, I've got this green tie—it was a gift from my mother. It's not that my wife doesn't like the tie—it's just that she never likes anything I wear with it.

I saw a guy on the news with a tie almost exactly like mine. He had a white shirt with red stripes and a blazer, and they let him on TV, so I figured it would look okay on me. I already had all that stuff—let's call it an "ensemble" (clothes that match)—and when I laid it out together on my bed it looked pretty good.

So the next Wednesday night I stayed in the bedroom until 6:30 (we leave for church around 6:35) and

dential with privileged information. A secretary with an eager ear and long tongue has no place in the church office.

Compatible Personality

Finally, the right secretary includes the idea of finding one whose personality compliments and blends with that of the pastor and other staff members. To determine that, I use a personality evaluation analysis

The Tie

By Greg McAllister


walked straight to the back door and said, "Let's go!"

The wife and kids followed me through the dark kitchen and I was almost home free when my wife said, "Wait a minute." She flipped on the light and said the magic words.

Well, I didn't tell her about the guy on the news because I was afraid she would use the line about, "What if he was jumping off a bridge?" (or something insulting, "Well, with *his* looks, he could wear *anything* and look good.")


Anyway, two weeks later it was Easter and my wife got me a light green shirt for my tie and told me what suits to wear with it. And suddenly everyone (even my brother-in-law who is looking for some formal sweats) was telling me how much they liked my tie.

That's like what Jesus does for me. "For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life" (II Corinthians 5:4).

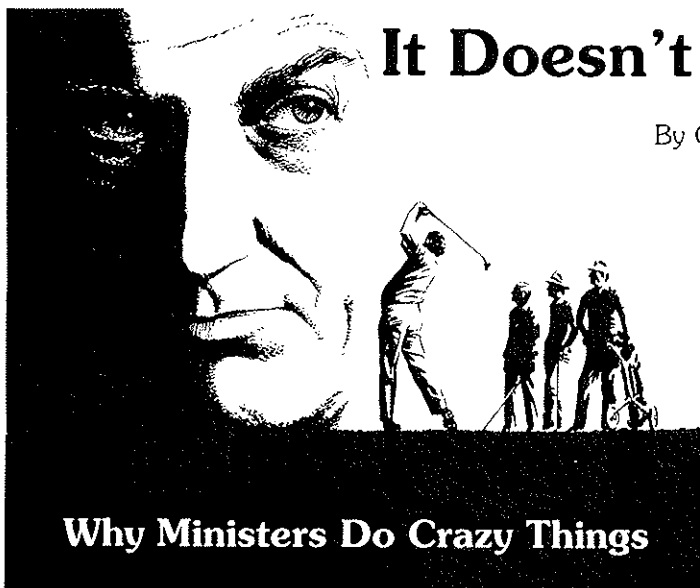
No matter what combination I made, my life just never looked good. Then Jesus came along and picked out something just the right color—His righteousness—and suddenly everything I was looked pretty good. As a matter of fact, it actually brought Him glory. It doesn't matter how I look to you as long as I please the One who loves me. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Greg McAllister is registrar at California Christian College in Fresno.

from Performax Systems International, Inc.

Who can find the right church secretary? Her price is far above rubies. The pastor can safely trust in her and she will do him good and not evil. Her pastor will praise her and her own works shall praise her also. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Leroy Welch pastors Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, North Carolina.



It Doesn't Make Sense!

By Garnett Reid

Why Ministers Do Crazy Things

A telephone call in the middle of the first fairway. I know, I couldn't believe it either. But sure enough, one of the guys in the foursome I had joined for a round of golf had a cellular phone in his golf bag. Golf and telephones—somehow those two things just don't go together in my thinking. I mean, that's one reason you play golf—to get away from telephones.

That particular incongruence sparked my thinking about some things pertaining to the ministry that don't seem to fit together—some “ministerial mismatches,” if you will. For example, it doesn't make sense...

...that men training for the ministry would give less than their best to their studies. If this is what God calls you to do, it follows that you prepare yourself as best you can.

...that a ministerial student would fail to take advantage of opportunities beyond the classroom to sharpen his tools. This means preaching workshops and other study opportunities.

...that any preacher would place more value on the material than the spiritual. Big bucks do not call the shots in the life of a man of God.

...that a ministerial student would care little about his influence on those around him, whether in his attitudes, values or standards of conduct.

...that a preacher would be less than honest with God, himself and the people to whom he ministers.

...that any preacher would let down his guard when it comes to maintaining personal integrity.

...that a preacher would ignore newspapers and news magazines, vital sources of information to help him keep up with the world in which he ministers.

...that a preacher would not be an avid reader, thereby missing out on the delight of good literature.

...that some preachers either cannot or will not think critically and with discernment about issues they confront. They “piggy-back” on what another preacher



thinks and seldom evaluate anything with their own brain.

...that many preachers depend on the sermons of other preachers when their people long for their own shepherd to tell them what God has said to him.

...that a preacher is so insecure he feels threatened if someone disagrees with him.

...that a preacher will ridicule the use of Hebrew and Greek when God chose those languages to give us His Word.

...that a preacher will parade the Hebrew and Greek he knows as if they solve all exegetical questions or as if such knowledge makes him appear intellectual.

...that a man of God will not say “I don't know” or “I'm sorry; I was wrong” when he needs to.

...that a preacher has no vision beyond the parking lot of his own church building.

...that a preacher's concept of worship is so deficient he views everything before his sermon, especially the music, as “preliminary.”

...that an undershepherd would insist on having his way and legislating his own opinion even if he has to hurt the work of God to do it.

...that some veteran pastors look down their noses at their earlier days in the ministry as though they have now “arrived.” Consequently they have little interest in helping to equip younger ministerial students or pastors. They may even look with disdain on their alma mater.

...that a pastor would badmouth the laity, especially lay leaders, in his church.

...that some pastors in our country evaluate a missionary's ability on how loudly he preaches when in reality that missionary may be very effective in a culture where communication depends more on content than excited delivery.

...that some preachers don't look at you when you talk to them. You seem to be an interruption to them, they don't listen, and their minds are on something else, apparently.

...that many preachers give little thought to their appearance. They haven't a clue as to what is appropriate, depending on the setting and occasion.

A Young Pastor describes...

The Death of a Saint

By Kevin Jackson

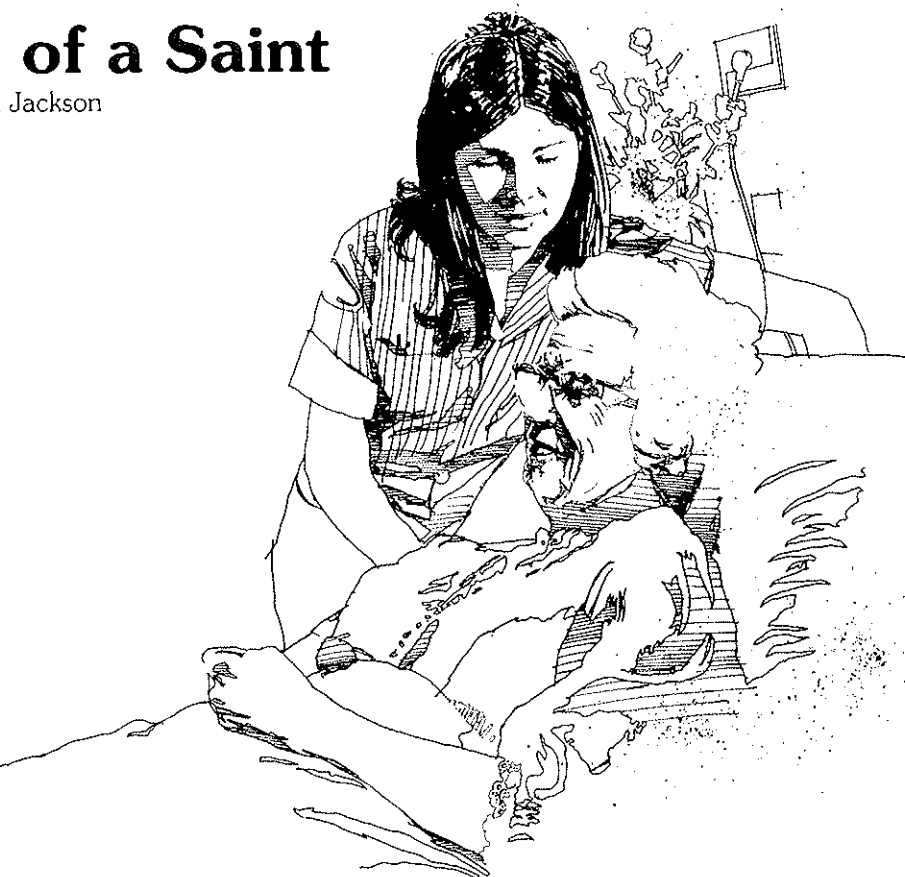
The day had not been a good one. It was now 5:30 p.m. I had gotten the phone call early that morning, "Preacher, the doctor just left. It looks like Mama won't be around much longer. Can you come over?"

Death. Though I had been at the bedside of those dying, I still found it hard to say the right things. I hated these times. But the family was expecting me.

When I entered the tiny apartment I could feel the sorrow and grief all around. Sister Mannie was barely alive. I intended to say a few comforting words, have prayer and then leave, but Sister Mannie began grasping for breath. I tried to leave but the family wanted me to stay with them. Frightened and unsure of what to say or do, I stayed and waited for death to come.

Ten minutes later Sister Mannie died. I had never been present when someone died. I felt helpless. The family was in tears and all I could do was stand there. After 103 years Sister Mannie was gone.

Suddenly, like a burst of light in my soul, I could almost hear angels singing. I thought I could feel her soul as it passed on before us. I saw in my mind Jesus standing at the gates of Heaven welcoming this saint home.



Then I realized something. Even though I knew it theologically, she was home and receiving her reward for 103 years of faithful service. My heart soared. I could not feel bad; I bowed my head and began praying and thanking God for taking another saint home. She was in a better place, and to be honest I wished I could be there too.

When it came time to leave I turned aback and saw her body lying on the bed. A saint who for 103 years served God, raised a family, loved her husband, witnessed for Jesus and sang His praises daily. I

wondered how many people she had led to the Lord, how many lessons she had taught.

Sister Mannie, thank you for the final lesson you taught me. Death is but a doorway to a greater place when you know the Lord.

No longer am I afraid to deal with death and see someone who knows the Lord die.

She had not died, she had just begun to live.

See you soon, Sister Mannie. 🌐

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Kevin Jackson pastors Harmony Free Will Baptist Church, Parkville, Missouri.

...that a preacher would take scripture out of context. To do so raises the preacher's authority to that of the biblical writer, and no man can speak with that kind of voice.

...that a preacher would convey the impression that it is wasting time to read a lengthy passage of scripture in the worship service.

...that a preacher has to be either a slave or a

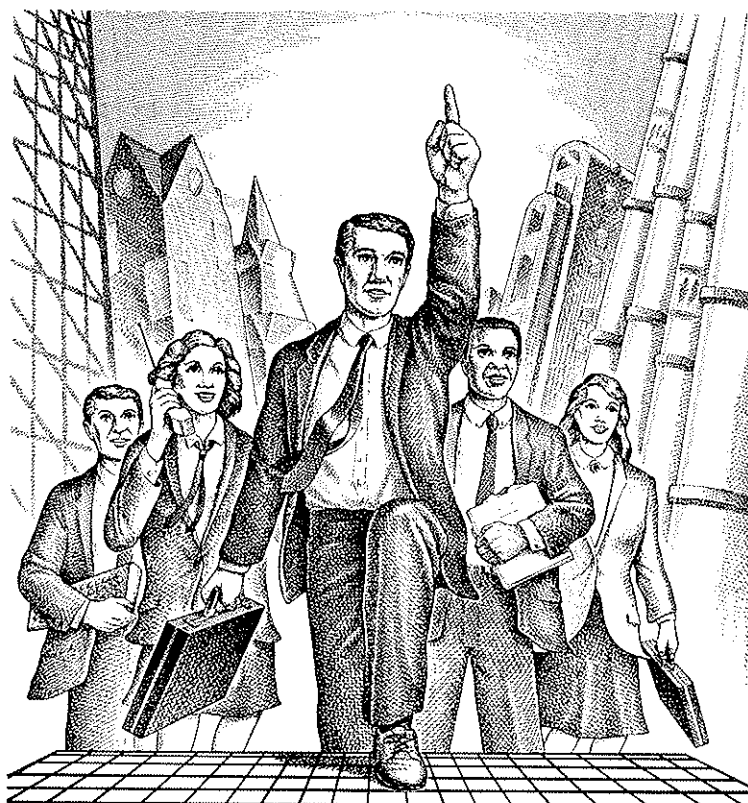
stranger to the appointment book.

...that a preacher will constantly see the worst in people rather than looking for the best and encouraging the potential they have. 🌐

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Garnett Reid teaches Bible and directs Christian service at Free Will Baptist Bible College. This article is reprinted from the April 1990 issue of Newsletter for Ministerial Students.

Let Your Preacher Preach

By Vern Gunnels, Jr.



The called and dedicated man of God who takes the sacred stand week after week, month after month, year after year needs your support. Let him preach.

Some argue, "Well, that's ridiculous! We want him to preach; that's why we hired him." But there's more. "Let him preach" means more than allotting him 30 minutes of prime time twice on Sunday and once on Wednesday.

Make it possible for him to be alone with God and his Bible. Let him hear from Heaven before he ascends the pulpit. Let him set himself on fire with a message from the throne.

No church responsibility is more important than the preacher's sermon preparation. He may not be a great administrator, a social mixer or an expert counselor, but he has a divine mandate to preach and to do it well. There is no substitute.

Granted, the man of God will be called on to perform in other areas, but the scriptures make the ministry

of the Word the Church's primary concern. If the sheep and lambs are not adequately fed, strengthened and equipped, they are in serious trouble (Ephesians 4:14).

Here are five things your church can do.

1. Provide for him.

Regularly enquire about his place of study. Is it adequate, properly lighted, cooled and heated, furnished, etc.? Make sure he has the financial means to buy good books to study, to attend seminars or classes that can assist him.

This might involve some time away from the church if he has to travel. Let him visit another church if he knows the preacher/evangelist can really deliver. He can learn if you'll help him.

2. Protect him.

Some men use their mornings to study, while others find the evening hours better. Safeguard those precious hours for him. Try not to dis-

turb him with phone calls, committee meetings or visits unless it is an emergency. Ask him what your church can do to protect his most serious hours alone with the Lord.

3. Promote his progress.

When he appears to be apprehensive or nervous, let him know that you're praying for him like two men did for Moses. If his sermon was mediocre, reassure him that he is making progress. Use your sense of humor and tell him he can practice on you as long as necessary. If the sermon is a blessing or a challenge, don't hesitate to follow Paul's admonition to honor him.

4. Procure your friends.

That is, brag on your preacher to your friends and neighbors. Encourage them to come hear him, especially if you know he will speak on a relevant issue or popular current event. The preachers that I know prefer preaching to people rather than pews. A friend of mine once said, "It's a pretty poor frog who won't croak over his own pond." Invite others to come. Your preacher will love you for it.

5. Pray for him.

All the studying in the world, promoting and procuring will be in vain unless you pray for the Holy Spirit to have His way. Pray not only for your preacher but also for yourself and your congregation. Pray that the message will convict the sinner, convert the backslidden and comfort the hurting.

Your preacher needs special anointing as he speaks to all the needs in the audience. Prayer can provide and overcome even if he struggles, babies cry, the air gets stuffy and the inconsiderate walk out.

The Lord expects your preacher to do the best he can. He also expects you to help him do his best. Remember, the preacher must give an account of his messages to the God who called him. Let him preach. Help him all you can. You'll be glad you did, here and hereafter. ①

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Vern Gunnels, Jr. pastors Pearce Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Smithville, Mississippi.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

RANDALL HOUSE LAUNCHES FALL ENLARGEMENT

NASHVILLE, TN—The fall Sunday School enlargement campaign scheduled for October will use the "Count on Me, Lord" theme. The contest is based on Matthew 9:37, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."

The campaign will begin Sunday, October 7 and end Sunday, October 28. This contest is open to all churches in the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Enlargement campaign officials said, "The present size of your church does not limit your chances of winning this contest." The divisions used for this competition are as follows:

- Division A over 500 average
- Division B 400-499 average
- Division C 300-399 average
- Division D 200-299 average
- Division E 150-199 average
- Division F 100-149 average
- Division G 50-99 average
- Division H under 49 average
- Division I newly established (works established since April 1990)

Sunday Schools in each division experiencing the greatest percentage of increase over the average attendance for Spring quarter (March, April, May) 1990 will be declared winners. Awards will be presented to the first and second place finishers in each division.

Order campaign materials from Randall House Publications, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217. All campaign entry blanks must be received no later than October 5.

FWBBC GRADUATES 59 STUDENTS



Masters of Ministries degree recipients Roy Harris (L), Jim Marcum, Jay Tilson

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College graduated 59 students in commencement exercises held in the college auditorium on Thursday, May 17. The graduates, from 15 states and two foreign countries, completed five different degree programs.

Five students—Dickey Anderson, Debbie Robertson, Wayne Miracle, Nancy Thomas and Joey Wilson—shared testimonies with more than 600 assembled friends, parents and other guests. The testimonies spoke of the Lord's faithfulness, the support of parents and friends, and the impact of FWBBC on their lives.

Dr. Ken Riggs, chairman of the Teacher Education Department, gave the challenge to the graduates.

Rev. Tom Malone, newly-elected President of FWBBC, challenged the graduates to always live for Jesus and to love Him supremely.

Three students received scholarships during commencement exercises. The \$4,000-William Henry Oliver Scholarship, awarded to a student preparing to teach, was given to Terri Wilson, a junior from Russellville, Alabama. The \$1,000-Homer

E. Willis Music Scholarship was awarded to Nathan Snow, a junior from Decatur, Georgia. Sherri Hughes, from Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, accepted the \$350—D.L. Whaley Music Scholarship.

A number of special awards always accompany graduation at Free Will Baptist Bible College. In addition to the degrees awarded, the following special presentations were also made.

Yearbook Editor's Medal

Beth Forrest

Best All Around Students

Crystal O'Neal

Dickey Anderson

Outstanding Student

Tim Campbell

SB President's Medal

Cameron Lane

Society Sports Trophies

Rossettis, Bryans

Class Scholarship Medals:

Freshman—Travis Penn,

Kevin Scott

Sophomore—David Kilgore,

Kathryn Lee,

Larry Shipp

Junior—David Trogon

Senior—Rhoda Creech

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT IDAHO DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

RUPERT, ID—Eighty delegates and visitors registered for the 18th annual Idaho District Association, according to Clerk Patty O'Donnell. "This was our best attendance ever," she said.

The May 18-19 session met at First FWB Church in Rupert with host pastor Bill Phillips moderating. Buhl FWB Church reunited with the

association.

Home Missions Department staffers Roy Thomas and Richard Adams preached four times on the "Old Time Revival" theme. Delegates shared a fellowship dinner together.

The 1991 session will meet May 17-18 at First FWB Church in Rupert.

OLDEST FWB PASTOR DIES AT 89

NASHVILLE, TN—The oldest active Free Will Baptist pastor died of a heart attack May 22, 1990, at his home in Nashville. Reverend Carlos Craft, 89, was pastor of Grace FWB Church in Nashville at the time of his death.

Rev. Craft had pastored 27 years at Grace FWB Church. Prior to that he pastored 17 years at West Nashville FWB Church. Brother Craft also served other churches in

Tennessee's Cumberland Association during his lengthy ministry. He chaired the Cumberland's Superannuation Board for many years.

He was a native of McEwen, Tennessee, and moved to Nashville when he was 13. His first job, at age 15, was as a fireman on the railroad. For 47 years he operated Craft Grocery in West Nashville until it closed in 1970.

Ministers from the Cumberland

Association served as pall bearers at the funeral. Faculty and staff members from Free Will Baptist Bible College were named honorary pall bearers. Evangelist Homer Willis and one of Reverend Craft's grandsons officiated.

He is survived by his wife, Emma Craft; a daughter Kathleen Erwin and a son, Carl Craft, all of Nashville.

MICHIGAN ESTABLISHES EXECUTIVE OFFICE, THREE BOARDS

TAYLOR, MI—Delegates to Michigan's 34th annual state association adopted four recommendations proposed by the General Board. The far-reaching votes authorized officials to establish an Executive Office and hire a promotional secretary. The promotional secretary, when employed, will be accountable to the General Board.

Delegates also elected three five-member boards to coordinate state

work—Youth Board, Home Missions Board and Christian Education Board. The decisions took place May 18-19 at Kirby FWB Church in Taylor with some 250 attendees, including 34 ministers.

Assistant Moderator J. B. Tolbert moderated the session. Four Michigan ministers preached during the meeting—Rick Locklear, Eugene Glisson, William Reagan and Joseph Wilson.

The Michigan State Master's Men organized May 17 at First FWB Church, Hazel Park. General Director James Vallance spoke to the group. Eleven chapters form the new state organization. The group elected Gary Wilson as president.

The 1991 Michigan State Association will meet May 17-18, hosted by New Hope Association.

CALIFORNIA TARGETS 1,000 NEW MEMBERS

EL SOBRANTE, CA—Delegates to California's 47th annual state association gave their Harvest 94 Committee the green light to proceed with plans for a decade of church growth, according to Clerk Rick Scroggins. The first phase of the campaign is a three-year increase of 1,000 new members.

Some 300 delegates, ministers and visitors gathered at Sherwood Forest FWB Church near San Francisco for the May 17-19 meeting. Moderator Paul Kennedy was re-elected.

In other action, delegates voted to issue a plaque to Porterville FWB

Church which celebrates 50 years of service to the state of California. The church, established in 1940, is California's oldest in the modern Free Will Baptist movement.

Four California ministers preached sermons developing the theme, "A New Decade of Progress." The speakers included Rick Scroggins, Steve Shaw, Sam Hensley and Carl Young. Home Missions Department general director Roy Thomas spoke during the California Christian College banquet.

The 1991 session meets May 16-18 in Fresno at California Christian College.

ARIZONA ELECTS CHARLES MARSHALL MODERATOR

GILBERT, AZ—The second annual Arizona State Association met May 5 at Heritage FWB Church in Gilbert. Delegates elected new officers, including a new moderator, Pastor Charles Marshall of First FWB Church in Phoenix. Marshall chaired the Registration Committee at the July National Convention.

Delegates also elected Reverend Larry Reynolds as assistant moderator. Reynolds pastors Cathedral of the Cross FWB Mission in Chandler. Mrs. Pat Atchley of Tucson was elected clerk.

Pastor David Taylor of First FWB Church, Tucson preached from Acts 19 as keynote speaker.

In other action, delegates authorized Home Missionary Howard Gwartney to begin publishing a state newsletter. They also voted to form a historical committee to be chaired by Phoenix layman Eugene Bryant. Delegates named October 27, 1990 as the first State Fellowship Day.

The 1991 session will meet May 4 at First FWB Church in Phoenix. ☛

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION UPS LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATES

EAST WENATCHEE, WA—The 67 delegates and ministers attending Northwest District Associations's May 18-19 meeting voted to change their constitution in order to get more lay representation. Future sessions will include four local church delegates per church instead of two per church as in past years.

Meeting at Victory FWB Church in East Wenatchee, delegates heard two pastors preach on the association theme, "Let's Go On." Terry

Motte, pastor of First FWB Church in Salem, Oregon, teamed with Lloyd Plunkett, pastor of New Hope FWB Church in Kent, Washington, to share speaking duties.

Moderator Mike Criswell said, "This was the best association meeting we've ever had. Our churches are growing, and two of them purchased property during the year."

The 1991 session will meet May 17-18 at First FWB Church in Yakima, Washington.

Currently...

The Cuyahoga-Lorain Conference in Ohio named April 14 **John Jeffrey Day**. The conference honored Brother Jeffrey who pastors **United FWB Church** in **Cleveland**, and celebrated 43 years in the ministry this spring.

Members of **Dogwood Ridge FWB Church, Wheelersburg, Ohio**, voted to put the parsonage up for sale, according to Pastor **Rick Arthur**.

Pastor **Bruce Beal** reports six conversions and nine baptisms at **First FWB Church, Youngstown, Ohio**.

Pastor **Troy Miller** was kidnapped but nobody called the police. The youth at **Coalton FWB Church, Wellston, Ohio**, kidnapped Pastor Miller and held him for ransom. They demanded 150 cans of food for the church food pantry. It worked—members paid 250 cans for the pastor. Hmmm. Wonder how many cans your pastor is worth?

Members of **Divine FWB Church, Cleveland, Ohio**, are having a bumper year. The church reports 17 conversions, 13 baptisms and eight new members. **Bobby Hudnall** pastors.

Pastor **Freddie Ray** says that members of **New Bethel FWB Church, Cleveland, Ohio**, remodelled the Sunday School class rooms. Officials report eight baptisms and six new members.

Pastor **Wylie Perkins** reports 10 conversions and eight baptisms at **Samantha FWB Church, Leesburg, Ohio**.

Members of **New Gauley FWB Church in Calhoun City, MS**, celebrated their centennial anniversary this year, according to Pastor **J. V. Mills**. Former member **George C. Lee** (who pastors in North Carolina) compiled a 20-page booklet tracing the church's history. The document includes letters of congratulations from denominational officials as well as the governor of Mississippi, a U.S. senator and a letter from The White House.

Reverend **Neal Moore** preached the 50th anniversary sermon at **Porterville FWB Church, Porterville, CA**, in June. Brother Moore conducted a revival in a tractor shed in 1939 before the church was organized in 1940. **Jack Craven** pastors.

Has your child or grandchild said something cute or funny? Mrs. **Mae Fry** is compiling a book of prose and poetry and would like to include quotations from children all over the country. Send any sayings from your child or grandchild to Mrs. Fry at Randall House Publications, P.O. 17306, Nashville, TN. 37217.

One year ago fire destroyed **First FWB Church, Waynesville, MO**. Pastor **Gary Parker** and members conducted dedication services for new facilities this spring. Missouri Executive Secretary **Clarence Burton** delivered

the dedication message.

Pastor **Boyce Williams** said members of **Marshfield FWB Church, Marshfield, MO**, burned the \$40,000 mortgage note on the sanctuary and fellowship hall. The church is now debt free.

Jones Creek FWB Church, Dittmer, MO, reports 11 new members. Thanks to member **Otha Duing** the church now own its parsonage, a 12-foot by 65-foot mobile home which Sister Duing donated. The St. Francois Association made it possible for the Jones Creek Church to secure a church van.

Pastor **Ron Palmer** reports four conversions and four baptisms this year at **Cross Roads FWB Church, Billings, MT**. One of those converts has a special place in pastor's heart—his 21-year-old son. Attendance increased from 21 to 28 last quarter.

Pastor **Eugene Deaton** reports 22 conversions, 19 baptisms and 26 new members at **First FWB Church, Johnson City, TN**. Attendance average surged from 234 to over 300. A grandfather, son and grandson who were saved during the campaign were baptized on the same night—three generations in one baptism!

Members of **Oak Grove FWB Church, Oak Grove, AR**, dedicated their new sanctuary, according to Pastor **Wayne Writer**. The new sanctuary includes 2,650 square feet of space and seats 225 people.

First FWB Church, Walnut Ridge, AR, honored all its members who were 62 and older. Pastor **Larry Hughes** reports 100 senior citizens at the church.

A record 502 people attended dedication services at **First FWB Church, McAlester, OK**. Pastor **Homer Young** said the church spent approximately \$500,000 on the new building. The group owes just over \$100,000 for the project.

Pastor **Paskel Bevan** reports a gift of 7.5 acres to **Hilltop FWB Church, Wewoka, OK**. The church will relocate and build on the land just outside Wewoka on Highway 59. Members Mr. and Mrs. **Albert Reich** gave the land to the church.

Attendance at **Hawkins FWB Church, Alex, OK**, swelled from 22 one year ago to 107. Pastor Muril Wilson said a recent Sunday offering topped \$1,000.

Members of **First FWB Church, Idabel, OK**, conducted dedication services for a new building. A record crowd of 64 attended; four were saved. **Al Jacoe** pastors.

Funeral services were conducted April 24 for Reverend **Lloyd Reddick**. Brother Reddick preached in the Free Will Baptist denomination 40 years. He pas-

tored churches in California and Oklahoma.

Reverend **Elmer Dye**, a Free Will Baptist minister for 37 years was buried March 10. He pastored churches in Arkansas and Oklahoma during his ministry.

Members of **Cofer's Chapel FWB Church, Nashville, TN**, gave more than \$2,600 to Free Will Baptist Bible College in May on Bible College Day. **Larry Powell** pastors.

Pastor **Jackie Cabaniss** reports a 53 percent increase in Sunday School attendance at **Pine Level FWB Church, Norman Park, GA**.

Members of **First FWB Church, Lexington, KY**, celebrated their 10th anniversary this year. **Dennis Kizzire** pastors.

Pastor **Mark Barber** said that members of **Monterey FWB Church, Monterey, TN**, broke attendance records with a high of 355. In less than two years the church logged 35 conversions and baptisms. The church also conducts home Bible studies Monday nights to disciple new and maturing Christians.

Pastor **Charles Beasley** reports a first-ever layman's revival at **Friendship FWB Church, Twin City, GA**. Nine churchmen spoke during the five-day revival.

Quick thinking by **Nadine Chenoweth** saved the life of a three-month-old baby girl in Santa Paula, CA. Chenoweth, who operates a licensed day care center, administered life saving CPR to the infant. The mother of two daughters teaches a Wednesday night children's class at **Santa Paula FWB Church, Santa Paula, CA**. **Dave Bates** pastors.

Twelve members from **Macedonia FWB Church, Purdy, MO**, and **First FWB Church in Monett, MO**, completed an 11-day trip to Israel. Two group members toured Israel's top dairy farms and reported that their methods and production were superior to those in the United States.

Members of **First FWB Church, Decatur, IL**, voted to spend \$8000 to renovate the church. **Ed Hollis** pastors.

Pastor **Jim Mertz** reports 74 attended ground-breaking ceremonies for a new building at **Wentzville FWB Mission in Wentzville, MO**. When completed the new building will seat 170 and include a full basement.

Members of **Black Oak FWB Church, Marshfield, MO**, dedicated a new bell tower and steeple. Funds for the project were provided by a gift in the will of Sister **Georgia McNabb**. Brother McNabb was a deacon in the church, and Mrs. McNabb served as church pianist for many years. **Jack Day** pastors.



Herman L. Hersey
Director



Board of Retirement

AT YOUR SERVICE

Choosing a Tax Seminar

Make Sure the Leader is Qualified

A number of persons conduct tax seminars for clergy and church leaders. Some of the seminars are worthwhile, but many are not. It is important to investigate before attending any seminar, since some leaders are not qualified and others falsely represent themselves as attorneys or CPA's in an effort to lend legitimacy to their questionable services and to justify their excessive fees.

Here are some tips to follow in selecting a tax seminar:

1. Check with your denominational officials regarding a particular seminar speaker. Have they heard of the person? Do they recommend him? Has the person ever published articles in any of the denomination's publications?

2. Call the telephone number included with the seminar advertisement and ask who the seminar speaker will be and whether the speaker is an attorney or CPA. If you are informed that the seminar speaker is an attorney or CPA, ask for the state in which the speaker is licensed and obtain his or her license number (every attorney or CPA has such a number).

Since some seminar leaders falsely claim to be attorneys or CPAs, call the state bar association or board of accountancy in the state where the person claims to be licensed. These offices are located in the state capi-

tal, and their telephone numbers can be obtained by calling directory assistance for the appropriate city. These offices can quickly confirm whether or not the speaker is in fact licensed.

If the seminar office refuses to disclose whether the speaker is an attorney or CPA, or refuses to tell you in what state the speaker is licensed, then do not attend the seminar. Legitimate professionals having "nothing to hide" will gladly provide you with this information.

Be careful when calling seminar offices—don't be deceived or misled by confusing double-talk ("we don't know who is going to lead the seminar") or by alleged "endorsements" from unknown organizations. Unscrupulous organizations will do all they can to deceive you in order to make money, so be prepared.

Because of the complexity of clergy tax issues, Church Law & Tax Report ordinarily does not recommend that persons attend clergy tax seminars that are not conducted by attorneys or CPA's

3. Call the telephone number included with the seminar advertisement and ask whether the seminar leader has published tax articles in major publications (such as denominational and professional journals). Ask for review copies of such articles. Legitimate speakers often will have published articles and will be happy to send a review copy of one or more of their articles.

4. Call the seminar office and request endorsements from major clergy publications or from denominational officials. Unscrupulous seminar leaders seldom are able to provide such endorsements.

Again, be careful. Don't let the seminar office mislead you with an "endorsement" from some unknown organization. If you have never heard of the endorsing organization, then it may not exist.

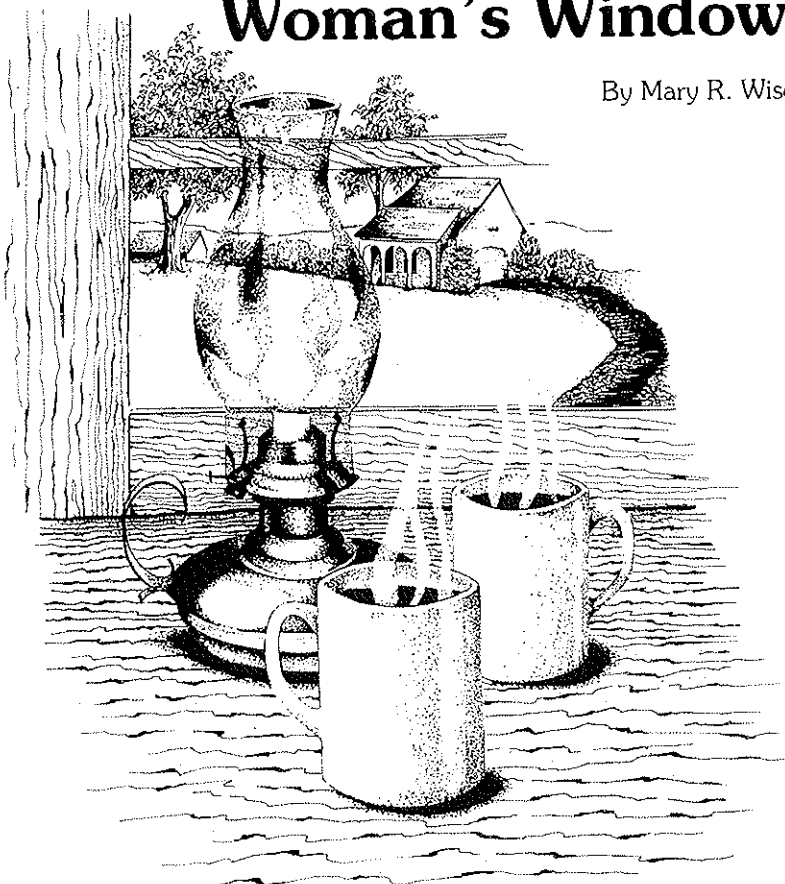
5. Finally, consider calling the Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability (ECFA) at 703/938-6006, the National Association of Church Business Administrators at 404/876-5535 or the Christian Ministries Management Association at 714/861-8861, about anyone you have questions about.

Following these simple steps can help you avoid wasting your time and money attending seminars conducted by unscrupulous and self-proclaimed "experts" who are interested only in profiting from the desire of clergy and church leaders to receive accurate and timely tax information. Unfortunately, there are a number of such persons conducting seminars today, so church leaders must be prepared to do some investigating before attending such events. A little effort on your part will save you time and money.

Church Law & Tax Report
Christian Ministry Resources

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisehart



From My Window

It was a stormy, rainy night! The road narrow, winding and steep. The windows kept fogging up. We were already an hour late for the service. The brakes were not working and we carried a can of gasoline in the trunk of the car.

I was to speak that night at our church in Canasi, Cuba. I leaned back and relaxed. "Someone must be praying for us," I thought as we covered the road and came to the church.

The people were patiently waiting, singing songs and praising the Lord. The pastor's wife had prepared dinner for us. She didn't seem to mind that we were four hours late. We sat down at the table about 11:00 o'clock.

Our hostess, Anna Margarita Sanchez Pino, was president of the women's national organization in Cuba. You'd like Margarita. She obviously knows the Lord. She works with her husband who is responsible for more than one church. She keeps up with her household, including two children.

"Whenever I can't get into bed early enough at night," she told me, "I ask the Lord to let me rest as though I were getting eight hours of sleep."

"What can we do to help the women of Cuba?" I asked.

Their primary project now is helping rebuild the seminary. The women have already bought and installed lights for the women's dorm. They continue to work at raising money for the seminary and especially for rebuilding the temple there.

Although conditions are not the best in Cuba, economically or politically, the women are not discouraged. All reports were not in this year (sound familiar?) but they count about 200 women in the organization. One hundred fifty attended the annual convention. The women give \$1 a month toward the seminary and the women's work.

They are beautiful women with many abilities and talents. Remember to pray for our sisters in Cuba.

The Eunice Edwards Fund

June 4, 1990—\$27,558.59

August—Emphasis Month

Emphasis Month for WNAC is what the month of April is for Foreign Missions, the month of November for Home Missions. August is a special month for emphasizing Free Will Baptist women's work.

Take the opportunity to acquaint the whole church with something of the history and present work of WNAC. Give everyone in the church an opportunity to contribute to the work.

If you have not already done so, get an emphasis packet from WNAC (P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202). The packets are free and will help you plan a program, publicize it and receive an offering for WNAC.

If August is not a convenient month for you, plan an emphasis some other time. Just be sure to have an emphasis at some time and take a special offering for WNAC. ①





PULSE of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions



"The woman is dead!" blurted the young man at our front door in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire.

"What woman?" I cried in disbelief. My mind went blank as he announced the woman's death. I could not place the young man. I knew he attended church, but who was he? What woman was he talking about?

Then, painfully it dawned on me. He was talking about Bene (pronounced Benay), the young Lobi woman that Lynette Morgan and I had been going to see for the past two weeks. We knew she was very ill. We had encouraged her husband to take her 50 kilometers north to Doropo to see Dr. Kenneth Eagleton at the Free Will Baptist medical center.

Finally, just four days ago her husband consented to take her to the medical center. I had been at Doropo myself and had seen her and prayed with her. When the clinic personnel took a blood test, her hemoglobin was so low it didn't even register. I was more concerned than ever, but, thank God, Bene was a Christian!

Trusting the Lord

She became a believer about five years ago. Her typical role as childbearer had been painfully marked by a history of miscarriages. Only one child, a little boy, had survived and he was five years of age. When she became pregnant the last time, she placed her trust in the Lord for a healthy baby.

After only seven months the tiny baby was born in the Bouna hospital. He was sent home after a few days with no incubator nor any special treatment. All he could count on was the constant, tender care of a mother whose hope was in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Each time I went to see Bene she was inside her small cement room beside a small fire bathing,

From Death to Life

by Deleen Cousineau

nursing, and caring for that tiny new life.

Now, God, who is the author of life and death—the One who gave us that baby—had suddenly called the child's mother home.

Why? Was not the same God who protected this little life able to spare his mother? We knew He could, but for some reason He did not intervene.

God's Demonstration

Most people have faced similar situations when God did not do what they thought was best. But as I sat outside near that home the day Bene died, I realized what a vibrant, beautiful testimony her death revealed. God demonstrated through this incident the difference between a pagan's ties to his ancestors and a Christian's hope for the future.

The Christians had gathered together to sing. All the non-Christians sat nearby waiting for the proper funeral to begin—dancing, drinking, and invoking the ancestors as to the cause of death. But the proper funeral never began. Instead, the Christians sang praises to God and prayed for the comfort of Bene's family.

I saw Bene's baby in at least two other ladies' arms nursing. It was the least they could do for

their sister in Christ who had gone on before them. The little five-year-old boy looked bewildered, and when I had the chance, I took him on my lap just to hold him. Maybe it was more for myself than for him.

Believers Minister

Believers were busy ministering in a variety of ways. My husband, Mike, and our co-worker, Clint Morgan, had gone to check with the mayor about the possibility of burying Bene in the town cemetery.

Another Christian man was building a casket out of plywood. Christian ladies were bathing the body for burial. Others were going about to tell people in our church the sad news. Many were at the home offering silent support and grieving along with the family.

Bene's earthly body was finally laid to rest around 8:00 that night. But she was with the Lord!

A few days later one of the ladies in our church said, "Madame, I couldn't believe what I observed—all that the missionaries did for Bene's family. Thank you."

This was a special compliment! To the Africans a funeral is important. And while we only did what we considered right, our Christian actions deeply touched these people.

I share this comment with our fellow Christians in the United States for one reason—to express our thanks! Indirectly, each foreign missions supporter was there also. Without the love, support, prayers, and letters of Free Will Baptist people, we could not continue to serve in Côte d'Ivoire. Perhaps one day I can introduce Bene to those who made this ministry possible.



Missionary Deleen Cousineau serves with her husband, Mike, at Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), West Africa.

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

Prayers Never Prayed, Friendships Never Made

by Neil Gilliland
Director of Recruitment



1990-91 Welcome Days

If you would like to visit Free Will Baptist Bible College or if you would like to bring a group of high school juniors and seniors to see what FWBBC is like, plan to join us for either the fall or spring Welcome Days.

FALL

Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 1990

SPRING

April 4-6, 1991

Write or call for information.

Welcome Days

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

It's June as I write this.

Most of the doors are locked. The bells have escaped for a few months of well-deserved hibernation. Shelves of books eagerly await August, when the summer dust will be wiped away and they again will have some student sit in awe as he reads of the wonders within their pages.

The laughter of our students, filled with life, has drifted across America as they returned home or to special summer ministries, and they are filling each of those places with the delights of their lives. As I sit in my office, listening to the hum of the air conditioner, an echo of that laughter etches a smile across my face. I reflect on the marvelous times we spent here. Images of friends dance across my mind—gathered around the table in the student center, discussing the latest assignment or ball game, chatting about news from home or an experience on Christian service.

The truth is, we miss our students when they aren't here. We care about our students and love them. There is not merely an emptiness that hovers over 3606 West End Avenue when they are away. There is a brash emptiness that casts its somber shadow over our hearts as well.

But...there is more. That emptiness is intensified as we walk by rooms that *should* have been filled with students who did *not* come to FWBBC. They never gathered for prayer with our other students. They missed out on friendships that would have lasted for a lifetime. They just never came.

The question is, where are they, and why didn't they come?

We've been asking that question over and over. We have wrestled with the reasons that have been expressed. We honestly can understand and sympathize, to an extent, with some of the reasons given. We admit that, in certain cases, they are legitimate. Yet, a recent independent survey said that over 80 percent of our Free Will Baptist pastors recommend FWBBC. The same survey indicated Free Will Baptist young people are interested most in the programs we already offer—programs we are expanding and improving. Could it be that the *real* reasons they didn't come lie beneath a façade of logical excuses?

Could it be that the world has so infiltrated our Christian minds that an education that increases our salary potential takes precedence over service potential? Has convenience superseded commitment? Are we willing to trust God only when no risks are involved?

Free Will Baptist Bible College is *not* for everyone. But it is for many more than have enrolled in recent years. You see, FWBBC is for those who unreservedly trust God and serve Him with a commitment that extends beyond the parameters of convenience. FWBBC could be the place you spend four or five years preparing to be a pastor, missionary or teacher. Or, you could come for one or two years to receive a solid biblical foundation, before pursuing other careers.

For us, weeping may endure for a summer, but our joy comes again in August, when our entire college family returns.

Come, join us.

Or encourage someone you know to join the FWBBC family.



Foundation

Herman L. Hersey
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

People are More Important than Dollars Part II

These additional thoughts may help you avoid family interpersonal relationship problems which may arise in the transfer of assets at your death.

1. The guardianship of minor children is an important people-planning decision. Guardians may make the difference in the total lifestyle of children left behind.

2. In most states, the legal age for inheritance is 18 years. How much money can children receive at that age, without affecting their lifestyles? With an inheritance a child might drop out of school, buy that car or whatever else seems important at the moment.

For that reason it might be well to postpone "financial death" by establishing a trust in which all the property is maintained as one unit until the youngest child reaches an age of greater maturity, for example, 25.

If there are disabilities or handicaps the trust can be continued for the benefit of the disabled child. And, the remainder of the estate can be distributed to the family members in a series of payments, for example, one-third at age 25, one-half the remainder at age 28, and the remainder at age 30.

It is generally important that the trustee be someone other than the guardian because money takes on a different complexion at the death of a parent. For example, to my son, my money is my money, and I have the privilege of using it for his benefit as I deem best.

But at my death, to my son it becomes his money even though it is in trust. If a guardian serving as trustee restricts the use of that money for his benefit it may lead to conflict. A bank or trust company is an excellent choice for trustee.

How do you give property to people in such a way that it will help them to become better individuals? There are several scriptures to consider.

God ordained man to earn bread by the sweat of his brow. Experience tells us there are few satisfied people who have or control wealth they have not earned or created.

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." What we reap but have not sown carries with it a great responsibility.

"I have given you much, so that you can give much," gives us insight into God's blessings and what He expects us to do with what we have. You can give your family:

- (1) A strong, spiritual heritage, based in the scriptures, confirmed by a Christian lifestyle.
- (2) A wide circle of friends and experiences.
- (3) An honorable and just name.
- (4) A good education.
- (5) Opportunity for success.
- (6) Protection—although the only true protection comes from understanding that God supplies all of our needs "according to His riches in glory," after we have sought first the kingdom of heaven, and are helping to build His kingdom.

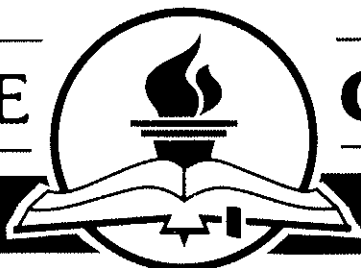
You must decide whether or not you can give anything more than this, or if anything additional will carry with it burdens or responsibilities which stifle initiative.

The greatest inheritance you can leave to your children's children, and the greatest inheritance you can leave to a hurting, lost and dying world is a strong church in which to worship; a Christian education system, teaching a child not only how to earn a living, but how to live a life, and a mission field on which to serve.

Write for our free "Trust and Will Planning Guide."



HOUSE



CALL

LifeQuest ... The Journey Begins

LifeQuest is an exciting, dynamic local church youth program. It is more than just youth curriculum (although curriculum is included); the total youth program includes several important components that can work equally well in the small, medium or large congregation. LifeQuest is...

...A new beginning.

LifeQuest is not merely a revision of existing materials; it is a totally new program designed from the ground up.

...Based on a clear philosophy.

LifeQuest was built on a Bible-based, seven-point philosophy of youth ministry. Every writer and contributor to the LifeQuest program supports this basic philosophy and keeps it in mind as materials are being developed. Twelve goals of youth ministry based on this philosophy have been developed. Each LifeQuest session seeks to promote one or more of these 12 goals.

...A total youth program.

LifeQuest is made up of several key ingredients. First, LifeQuest provides leadership training for youth leaders. Training is available on the national, state and local level.

Second, LifeQuest provides curriculum materials to be used in a

non-Sunday School setting. All new materials for leaders and students are published quarterly.


Third, LifeQuest includes a multitude of activity ideas, social suggestions, games, quarterly calender as well as announcements of district, state and national youth activities. These are all designed to assist youth leaders in planning every aspect of a youth program.

Fourth, LifeQuest includes a healthy denominational emphasis. This emphasis involves doctrinal distinctives, information about denominational programs, and prayer requests for Free Will Baptist missionaries at home and abroad. LifeQuest makes no apology for being written by and for Free Will Baptists.

...In tune with today—in touch with eternity.

LifeQuest is up-to-date and aware of the world of teenagers today. Current methodology, illustrations and activity suggestions are used. All LifeQuest materials are brand new. While seeking to relate to teenagers where they are, LifeQuest is fully committed to the unchanging Word of God and the unchanging God of the Word. LifeQuest is designed to bring teenagers into a right relationship with God and to encourage their continued spiritual growth.

...Coming soon to a youth group near you!

For ordering information, see your Randall House order blank. 

Goals of Youth Ministry

Youth ministry should lead each teenager to:

1. Know Christ
2. Have a daily quiet time
3. Share his faith
4. Grow in Christ-likeness
5. Study and memorize scripture
6. Enjoy a proper home life
7. Participate in his church
8. Find and do God's will
9. Consider a Christian college
10. Meet the needs of others
11. Develop his spiritual gift
12. Make wise choices

Philosophy of Youth Ministry

Youth ministry should be:

1. Christ-centered
2. Bible-based
3. Local church-oriented
4. Home-focused
5. Activity-balanced
6. Thoroughly evangelistic
7. Holy Spirit empowered and controlled

MINI GRAMS

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

Home Missions Adopts "Build My Church" Campaign

By Roy Thomas

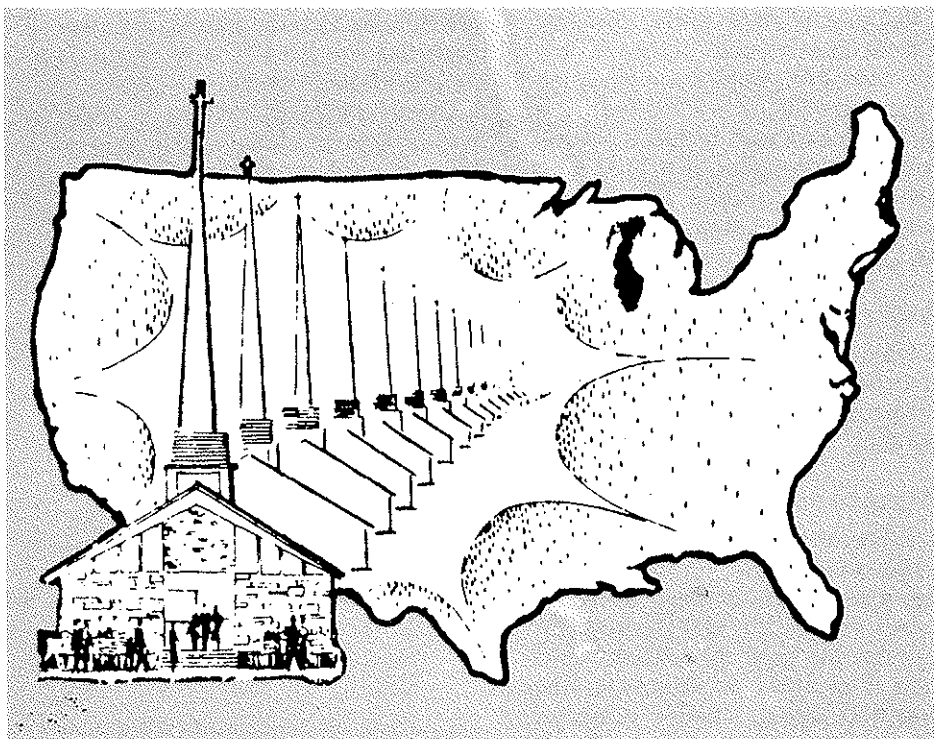
At the National Association in Phoenix, Arizona, the Home Missions Board launched the "Build My Church" campaign. The campaign, based on Matthew 16:18, has a goal to raise \$1 million dollars in gifts to be placed in the Church Extension Loan Fund of the Home Missions Department.

Funds from the "Build My Church" campaign will be loaned to churches sponsored by the Home Missions Department to finance land projects and building programs. As soon as one church pays the money back, it will be loaned to another, so that the money once accumulated will build church after church until the Lord comes. The money will never be spent, but will always be used.

"Build My Church" campaign funds will be repaid by the borrowing churches at the same rate of interest as other loans from the Church Extension Loan Fund. This interest will be used to assist missionaries with the purchase of land.

The most difficult obstacle that missionaries face in large cities today is the high cost of land. The cheapest property in some cities is \$25,000 to \$50,000 per acre. Most cities now require a church to have at least five acres before they will allow a church to be built.

If the mission church can get into a building on its own property soon after the missionary goes to the field, it will cut years off the time required to establish a self-supporting church. Thousands of dollars in rent and missionary salaries will be saved.



The interest earned by money from the "Build My Church" campaign will be used to purchase land for Home Missions churches. Funds will then be loaned to the church to erect its building. The building will be constructed by missionary builder Howard Gwartney and His "Master's Hands" volunteer building crew.

The "Build My Church" campaign will succeed by churches and individuals becoming "one of a thousand." It will take 1,000 churches and indi-

viduals donating \$1,000 each to reach this goal. Once the goal is reached, it will greatly speed up the process of establishing churches in large cities which are home for the majority of American people.

Please pray for the success of this campaign. Pray for Director of Development Richard Adams as he leads this campaign. Contact the Home Missions Department for more information.



Top Shelf



Roger J. Magnuson, *Are Gay Rights Right?: Making Sense of the Controversy* (Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1990, 150 pp., paperback, \$7.95).

The author of this frank and hard-hitting volume is a Christian layman and a practicing attorney in Minneapolis. He is a leading expert in various legal issues which surround homosexuality in this country.

In recent years homosexuals have become one of the most outspoken and active minorities in our society. They have campaigned for special protection under civil rights laws. Their efforts have resulted in a number of local ordinances which prohibit discrimination against homosexuals in employment, public accommodations, housing, real estate, education, etc.

These ordinances can have far-reaching effects. For example, under a city ordinance in Washington, D. C., a Roman Catholic University was forced to accept and provide facilities for homosexual organizations on campus.

University officials argued that homosexuality is contrary to the moral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, and, thus, their opposition

to it was based on sincerely-held religious convictions. The courts ruled that the District of Columbia's interest in protecting homosexuals outweighed the religious freedom of the university.

The consequences of such ordinances are devastating for all Christians, churches and religious organizations which takes seriously the biblical statements on homosexuality. Such legislation is potentially the greatest threat to religious liberty in this country today.

The author argues that homosexuals do not need or deserve such special protection under the law. Traditional civil rights laws have protected people against discrimination based on status (such as race or sex). Gay-rights ordinances are entirely different. They protect against discrimination based on conduct.

Magnuson argues that homosexuality produces too many negative results in society to merit such special protection. Homosexual behavior is a primary contributing factor to the

Directory Update

DELAWARE

Elmer Turnbough to Free Will Baptist Church, New Castle from Bayshore Church, St. Petersburg, FL

GEORGIA

Albert Rollins to First Church, Dublin

Ricky Wilson to First Church, Augusta

Tony Trott to Glennville Church, Glennville

ILLINOIS

Clifford Buchanan to Pleasant View Church, Walnut Hill

SOUTH CAROLINA

Ralph Byers to Tabernacle Church, Coward

OTHER PERSONNEL

Herman Beverly, Jr. to Camp Jacob, Clintwood, VA as assistant director

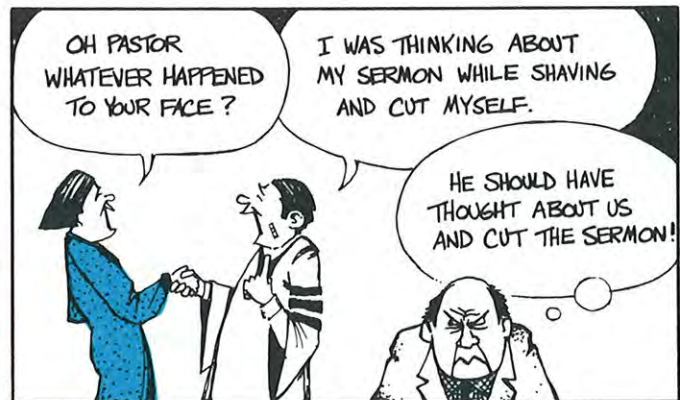
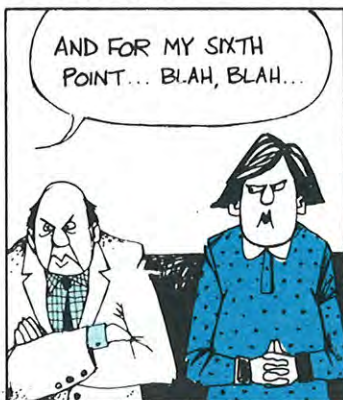


AIDS epidemic. Homosexuals also contract a majority of the cases of syphilis each year.

This will, no doubt, be a controversial book; the homosexual community will oppose it strongly. Yet, it contains the kind of information which people need to have in order to get a balanced picture of the situation. It is commendable that our nation opposes discrimination, but gay-rights ordinances and laws go too far in protecting those that neither need nor deserve such special protection.



BEYOND BELIEF





ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

A Higher View

We will be making our final descent in five minutes." The voice of the captain was loud and clear. "Please buckle your seat belt."

Marty and Megan buckled up and peered anxiously out the window. It was dark and all they could see were the lights of the city. As the plane lowered, the twins recognized buildings and read signs. Their stomachs felt funny for a few seconds, and then the plane landed with a bump. They sped down the runway which was outlined with blue lights and soon came to a stop.

It took the passengers a few minutes to gather their things and begin moving toward the door. At last, Marty and Megan were inside the airport. There to meet them were Grandma and Grandpa Lane.

"Hello, dears," cried Grandma giving them hugs. "My, how you've grown."

"How was your flight?" asked Grandpa.

"Super," answered Marty. "I love flying."

After claiming their luggage, they found Grandpa's green pick-up truck in the huge airport parking lot. Then they

started the long ride to the farm. Marty and Megan were staying two weeks with their grandparents. They had looked forward to this for a long time. They both loved Grandpa's farm.

"I can't wait to go fishing," said Marty.

"And see all the baby animals," added Megan.

"And go horseback riding," said Megan.

"I want to hike through the woods," said Marty. "Maybe we could take just a short walk tonight?"

"It's too dark," answered Grandpa Lane.

"There's plenty of moonlight," pleaded Megan.

"And we know that path by the barn like our own back yard," said Marty.

"Not tonight," said Grandpa. "It's too dark."

Soon they arrived at the farm, surrounded by familiar sights and smells and sounds. The old, two-story farmhouse was white with a green roof and green shutters. Grandma's lilac bushes perfumed the air. Crickets chirped loudly. An occasional "ribbet" came from the pond, followed by a gentle "moo" from the pasture.

"The sky's even bigger here," said Marty.

"And you have more stars," added Megan quietly.

Then the twins dashed up the wooden steps to the back porch and sat down in the swing. But just for a minute.

"I bet Grandma's got..." began Megan.

"Come on," interrupted Marty. Sure enough, in the middle of the round oak table which was always covered with a red and white checked tablecloth sat a pitcher of lemonade and a plate of Grandma's homemade sugar cookies.

After their snack, the twins went upstairs to the bedroom that had been their daddy's when he was a boy. Marty climbed into one of the twin beds, but Megan went to the window for one more look at the farm. In the bright moonlight she could see the back yard and beyond, it the barn. And past the barnyard, the woods.

"I didn't realize how tired I was," said Megan turning from the window and sliding into bed. But Marty didn't hear her. He was already sound asleep.

The twins awoke to sunlight streaming through the lace curtains, a rooster crowing and the smell of bacon frying.

"I've got something special to show you kids," announced Grandpa at the breakfast table.

"Is it a new calf?" asked Marty.

"Or a lamb or colt?" asked Megan.

"Nope, just wait and see," answered Grandpa.

After breakfast Grandpa Lane and the twins headed for the barn. But whatever it was that Grandpa wanted to show them wasn't there. He helped them saddle three horses and soon they were galloping through the pasture.

When they reached the edge of the woods and slowed their horses, Megan asked, "Why did we come this way? It's shorter to take the path on the other side of the barn."

"I'll show you in a minute," answered Grandpa. He climbed down from his horse and showed the twins how to tie their reins to a tree branch. Marty and Megan followed Grandpa through the woods for several minutes.

"Hey, what's that?" cried Marty looking up into the high branches of an elm tree. "A tree house?"

"No, it's not a tree house," answered Grandpa. "It's a deer stand. And that's what I wanted to show you."

Megan looked up. In the tallest tree around, way up high, an old door had been

laid flat and nailed. Someone had nailed boards all the way up the trunk forming a ladder.

"What's a deer stand?" asked Megan.

"There are so many deer around here that they're making a nuisance of themselves. In the summer they eat from my garden, and in the winter they eat the cows' hay. I gave some hunters permission to hunt on my property. They built this tree stand so they could spot deer. The view from up there is great," said Grandpa.

Marty and Megan began climbing at once. Grandpa was close behind them.

"Wow!" said Marty when he reached the top. The twins turned around slowly to take in the spectacular view from every angle. The countryside was beautiful.

"Look, I see the farmhouse," said Marty. "And the barn."

"They look so little from up here," said Megan. "Look at the corn field. You can see the whole field. It's a perfect rectangle."

Grandpa Lane, Marty and Megan admired the woods which were alive with summer. Rays of morning sun shimmered through the trees making dew drops on spider webs and blade so grass sparkle like diamonds. Birds scurried about their morning chores while squirrels chattered and played.

"We're on top of the world," said Marty.

"I didn't know there were so many shades of green," said

Megan looking at all the trees.

"Look at the creek," said Marty. "It looks like a rope winding through the woods."


"And look at the path by the barn," said Marty in surprise. "It's almost gone."

"That's one thing I wanted to show you," said Grandpa. "We had such heavy spring rains that the path was washed away." The twins saw jutting rocks, little gullies and uprooted trees. "That's why we took the long way," said Grandpa. "From up here you can see the danger."

"You can see the whole picture," said Marty. "Not just a little bit at a time."

"This must be how God sees the world," said Megan.

"You're right, Honey," said Grandpa. "God sees all the beauty and all the dangers—the whole picture. When you're up high you get a different perspective. I hope you young'uns remember that as you travel through life. When things come up that you don't understand, when you can't see clearly, try to get a higher view, God's view. Trust Him, because He sees the whole picture."

Marty and Megan visited the deer stand every day. Sometimes they took a picnic lunch. Sometimes they took books to read. Sometimes they talked to each other. And sometimes they just sat quietly and listened to God. For God seemed close when they were on top of the world. 

Have a Need?



By Trymon Messer

We had just finished our third building program, but had run out of funds before we could pave the parking lot. I always did my praying and studying early in the morning, and started visiting around 10:00 a.m. After visiting the rest of the morning and afternoon, I decided to stop by a restaurant for coffee where I had been witnessing to the owners, Gary and Bonita.

I was surprised to learn that they had sold the business and were going to retire, so I stopped by their house on the way home. After visiting just a few minutes, I said, "Well, Gary, you just sold the last excuse you had for not coming to church." (The business was open seven days a week.)

He said, "Yes, I guess I did."

I noticed a quiver in his voice, so I said, "Gary, God is dealing with you right now, isn't He?"

He and his wife both began to cry, and in less than five minutes they had accepted Christ and were both citizens of the kingdom of God.

What a change! They started attending church faithfully. Gary read the Bible completely through in one month. After being saved just a few days, he called and asked me to come over.

I visited with them and had prayer. As I was leaving, he gave me an envelope. Since it was just about Thanksgiving Day I thought it was probably for a turkey, but it felt a little thick for that. After going about a block away, curiosity got the best of me. I opened the envelope and found it full of \$100 bills.

In a few days he called again, and as I was leaving this time he handed me another envelope. I opened it this time before I got to the car. The envelope contained several thousand dollars of mature bonds! After total-

Cooperative Channel Contributions May 1990

RECEIPTS:

State	COOP		Total	May '89	Yr. To Date
	Designated	Undesignated			
Alabama	\$ 171.79	\$ 20.00	\$ 191.79	\$ 218.77	\$ 1,599.47
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Arkansas	.00	5,979.06	5,979.06	4,570.37	28,416.74
California	.00	1,161.64	1,161.64	1,702.76	10,300.68
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	2,762.99	2,762.99	2,497.18	11,107.20
Georgia	7,179.58	883.00	8,062.58	9,585.33	49,355.45
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	219.00
Idaho	90.52	.00	90.52	111.13	197.47
Illinois	8,971.26	1,535.10	10,506.36	21,693.94	48,243.38
Indiana	531.20	189.07	720.27	510.57	2,736.34
Kansas	.00	134.93	134.93	47.26	513.87
Kentucky	274.00	.00	274.00	1,008.93	1,021.28
Maryland	.00	400.00	400.00	.00	2,165.41
Michigan	50.00	3,218.91	3,268.91	2,974.50	33,349.59
Mississippi	29.91	456.49	486.40	542.42	2,337.55
Missouri	9,847.13	.00	9,847.13	5,921.08	43,261.18
New Mexico	291.01	1.51	292.52	55.22	332.58
North Carolina	300.00	1,504.69	1,804.69	2,535.29	10,283.76
Ohio	329.00	2,098.40	2,427.40	2,636.00	13,320.44
Oklahoma	42,061.66	9,095.03	51,156.69	43,469.55	226,561.93
South Carolina	10,158.75	48.97	10,207.72	6,765.61	56,189.30
Tennessee	1,447.06	1,126.92	2,573.98	1,847.26	11,134.87
Texas	.00	.00	.00	9,098.33	33,013.30
Virginia	221.82	111.03	332.85	165.00	2,143.21
West Virginia	2,943.43	70.55	3,013.98	1,754.72	13,155.01
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	80.06	114.99
Other (Computer)	.00	.11	.11	.00	.26
Totals	\$84,898.12	\$30,798.40	\$115,696.52	\$119,791.28	\$601,074.26

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 6,635.58	\$13,531.09	\$ 20,166.67	\$ 18,787.35	\$100,833.34
Foreign Missions	52,734.02	3,971.46	56,705.48	71,422.51	318,878.85
FWBBC	3,321.96	3,971.46	7,293.42	6,966.57	40,737.01
Home Missions	19,421.55	3,108.11	22,529.66	14,801.48	94,595.58
Retirement & Insurance	457.13	2,417.42	2,874.55	2,070.63	14,044.35
Master's Men	510.39	2,417.42	2,927.81	2,234.91	13,728.33
Commission for					
Theo. Integrity	46.21	86.35	132.56	192.67	601.72
FWB Foundation	599.29	1,036.04	1,635.33	1,076.94	7,803.69
Music Commission	21.90	86.35	108.25	3.00	492.26
Historical Commission	44.67	86.35	131.02	48.70	588.76
Radio & TV Commission	33.66	86.35	120.01	184.18	626.05
Hillsdale FWB College	641.84	.00	641.84	1,670.63	6,209.31
Other	429.92	.00	429.92	331.71	1,935.01
Totals	\$84,898.12	\$30,798.40	\$115,696.52	\$119,791.28	\$601,074.26

ing it all up, it was just what we needed to pave the parking lot.

God uses soul winning to provide every need that the church has, whether that need is teachers, tithers, preachers, bus workers, singers or whatever.

Do you have a need? The answer lies in those doors around your church.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Trymon Messer is associate director of the Home Missions Department. This article reprinted from the March-May 1990 issue of *The Witness*.



Green Tree Bible Study

Robert E. Picirilli

Luke 14:16-24



The Parable of the Excuse-Making Dinner Guests

While this parable is similar to the one in Matthew 22:1-14, it isn't quite the same. Like that one, though, its setting was very familiar in the culture of Jesus' day. Eating together bound people in a special way. For a man to host a "great supper" (v. 16) and invite many guests was an occasion of great significance, representing an important relationship.

Consequently, the excuses of the invited guests meant more than merely begging off for another time. What they were really doing was rejecting the relationship offered by the host. Indeed, they were rejecting the host.

Worse still, the host did not even learn of their attitude until he sent out his servant to announce that things were ready. That, too, was part of the custom of the times. The original invitation would have given information about the general time planned for the festivities. Then a servant would go to each house and call the guests to dinner when things were about ready, probably providing transportation for them.

But when he arrived, those who had been invited began to "make excuse." What seems reasonably clear is that they had talked among themselves and deliberately decided to reject the host's hospitality. Any of a number of real reasons may have been involved. (We must not forget that this is a parable using real-life illustrations.)

But their "excuses" were just that, not real reasons. They knew—and they knew that the host would know—that they were merely giving flimsy stories to justify their refusal.

One said he had bought a "piece of ground"—a field (Greek *agron*). He "must needs," that is, he was constrained, to go inspect it. Another said he had purchased five yoke (pairs) of oxen and was going to "prove" (to test) them. A third man said he had just recently married and for this reason could not come.

We probably shouldn't spend much time wondering about the validity of the excuses. Some have suggested that the first two situations, at least, were very unlikely, that men wouldn't buy fields or oxen without first inspecting and testing. Perhaps, although that may not be exactly what they meant. Others suggest that the third man had the only legitimate excuse, since marriage in those days was considered reason for severely curtailed activities for as much as a year.

But none of that is the point; for all we know, all three represented things that might have been real in the culture of the time. The point, however, is that these were deliberate rejections of the host's dinner. Not any of the three sets of circumstances really needed to keep the guests away.

This is the reason, then, that the host was angry when the servant returned and reported. And it is the reason he decided to offer his hospitality and personal relationship to a substitute group.

At this point the parable takes a significant direction. Obviously the previously invited guests had been the kind of people that were expected to be guests at such a dinner.

But now the ones who finally became guests were the very opposite:

the poor, maimed, blind and crippled; people from the streets and side paths. These were people who understood that they had no social standing, no "right" to expect to be invited to such a dinner; many of them had to be "compelled"—pressed—to come.

This way, Jesus' one main point in the parable becomes clear. He often said that He did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. That idea includes, of course, the fact that the Jews—who were expected to be the people of God—would reject Him and the doors of opportunity would be opened wide for Gentiles. That seems to be the special point of the similar parable in Matthew 22.

But here the idea is broader than that. The point is that anyone who thinks he doesn't need God is doomed. At the same time, He offers Himself and a special, personal relationship with Him, to anyone who will simply accept His invitation regardless of personal sinfulness and lack of merit.

People make excuses of all sorts. Campbell Morgan suggests that the three in this parable suggest people's possessions, their business affairs and their natural affections. Whether that was Jesus' point or not, such things do keep people out of the kingdom of God.

But vile sinners do sit down with Jesus in the kingdom of God, graciously invited there to sit where self-righteousness men do not sit, having accepted the invitation by faith. And that is where each of us finds himself in this parable: outcast sinners who have been made God's dinner guests.





NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

CHURCH HELD LIABLE FOR MISCONDUCT OF MINISTER

ST. LOUIS PARK, MN (EP)—A jury awarded \$246,000 to a woman who was sexually abused as a teenager by a former pastor at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park, a suburb of Minneapolis. The jury found both the church and the minister liable for the woman's emotional suffering.

The woman's attorney, Jeffrey R. Anderson, tries clergy malpractice cases around the nation. He said this case was the first in which a church has been held liable for the conduct of a minister; other states have held that a church is not responsible for the behavior of its employees.

Sam Ericsson, senior counsel for the Christian Legal Society, emphasized that the case involved clergy misconduct, not clergy malpractice.

"Sexual abuse is what's known as an 'intentional tort,'" explained Ericsson, who was the defense attorney in a landmark California clergy malpractice suit. "It's an intentional act. Counseling malpractice is generally where the allegation is that they didn't meet a professional standard. There's a difference between negligence in counseling and in doing something that is intentionally an evil act."

The jury held the church liable after hearing testimony that a youth pastor's misconduct had been brought to the attention of another staff member. It was the church's alleged failure to act on reports of misconduct that led to its liability in the case. The incidents took place in 1983, when the woman, then 15, was being counseled by a youth pastor for various family problems.

Ericsson said the mere fact of holding a pastor and church responsible for misconduct should not alarm religious freedom activists. "I'm not troubled that a pastor who is found liable for misconduct is required to make restitution," he said. "That doesn't bother me where there's been an intentional act of some kind. I am troubled when the church, the corporate body, is held liable because of the intentional misconduct of one of its employees. When the employee does something like that it is certainly outside the scope of his employment. But if the church leadership was on notice that this pastor was involved in misconduct, and did nothing about it, then arguably, some would say, there should be liability because the church failed to act. That's different than a case where the church is totally unaware of the misconduct."

ACLU SUES JUDGE WHO PRAYED IN COURTROOM

CHARLOTTE, NC (EP)—A North Carolina judge who is being sued by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) for praying in his courtroom will be defended by attorneys for the Rutherford Institute, a non-profit Christian legal organization specializing in religious liberty cases.

Mecklenburg County District Judge H. William Constangy is being sued in federal court by the North Carolina chapter of the ACLU and five Charlotte lawyers. The suit charges that Constangy's practice of making a brief plea to God for justice at the start of each court session is an unconstitutional government endorsement of religion.

The attorneys bringing the lawsuit say they'd had to go out of their way to avoid the prayer, and some claim they've felt compelled to bow their heads, even though they did not wish to do so. They claim Constangy's prayers have caused them "irreparable harm."

The suit against Constangy was filed six months after he acquitted six proliferators charged with trespassing during an abortion protest. Pro-abortion lawyers complained to the North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission, but a state investigation found no evidence of misconduct. A week after the results of the investigation were announced, the state ACLU chapter filed the lawsuit over Constangy's prayers.

Rutherford Institute President John Whitehead sees nothing unconstitutional about a courtroom prayer. "Imposing an absolute restriction on any acknowledgement of deity would itself violate the Constitution's establishment clause by imposing a standard that fosters hostility by the state toward religion," he said. "The ACLU lawsuit is a typical attempt to impose a version of secular intolerance and win a forfeiture of religious freedom through legal intimidation."

LAST OF THE MOHICANS GET THEIR BIBLE BACK

STOCKBRIDGE, MA (EP)—A historic Bible presented to the Mohican tribe in the 1700s will be returned to the tribe by a museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

"We are pretty elated," tribal chairman Reginald Miller told the Associated Press. "And the trustees know that we will take even better care of it than they have, because it means so much more to us."

The two-volume, gold-embossed folio Bible was given to the tribe in 1745 by the Prince of Wales. It was purchased from the tribe in 1930 for \$1,000 by heiress Mable Choate, who willed it to the Mission House Museum in 1948.

Museum spokesman Frederic Winthrop said he feels the return will be in keeping with the late Choate's wishes. "We feel that it would be what Miss. Choate would want," he said. "She bought the Bible as a good-faith gesture to help the tribe."

The Mohican tribe fought beside Massachusetts farmers in the Revolutionary War, and embraced Christianity. The remnants of that tribe became known as the Stockbridge-Munsee after being driven from the Berkshires.

HOMOSEXUAL CHURCH ACCEPTED AS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MEMBER

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (EP)—An openly homosexual congregation was approved for full membership in the Eastern Association of the Minnesota United Church of Christ (UCC) on April 28. This is the first time any Christian denomination in the U.S. has extended membership to a homosexual church.

The Spirit of the Lakes Church in Minneapolis had been given provisional membership as a "growth congregation" in the UCC last year with the approval of 85 percent of the delegates to the annual business meeting. Permanent membership was granted by a vote that appeared to be about 70 percent in favor.

Part of the decline in support for accepting the homosexual congregation may be due to a public appeal by the Rev. Arthur Rouner of Colonial Church of Edina, a suburban Minneapolis church whose 4,000 members make up about 10 percent of the state's 45,000 UCC adherents.

Rouner's reason for opposing full membership for Spirit of the Lakes Church is based in his belief that homosexual activities are sinful. In a statement approved by his church council, Rouner explained that his church views homosexual relationships "as entirely adulterous, being carried on outside of marriage. Gay and lesbian practices appear to us to be largely an expression of addictive sex, to be by and large selfish and to be specifically defiant of monogamous marriage."

Rouner acknowledged that his congregation includes people who are involved in such sexual sins as adultery and fornication. He said that such sins, whether committed by heterosexuals or homosexuals, should be hated, but the people committing the sins should be loved. "Colonial Church in its own life includes gay and lesbian people who have joined with us in a pilgrimage toward healing," he wrote. "We affirm them as people and dearly loved children of God, but do not in any way affirm the brokenness shown in their homosexuality."

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THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

The Pastor as Educator



Pastors hold the key to the church's educational program. The Great Commission requires evangelism, education and edification. The pastor's role in the educational program of the church must not be underestimated. Every church is an educational institution with the pastor as chief educator.

The existence of Christian education as a distinct area of study rests upon the assumption that the Church has a teaching ministry. Teaching belongs to the Church. When the Church neglects this function, it loses something inherent in its nature. Christian education seeks to stimulate the birth, growth and maturation of believers.

The office of pastor finds its source in the Bible. Christ exercises a special care for the Church by appointing pastor-teachers. The term pastor denotes the head of a local congregation and it literally means "herdsman, shepherd." The leadership role for the Church's educational program belongs to the pastor. The pastoral office requires both preaching and teaching.

The pastor's obligation includes preaching, teaching, supervising, administering, counseling and leading. Successful pastors recognize that their role as leaders in Christian education influences its development in the Church. Christian education remains a vital part of church life. Pastors serve as chief leaders and carry the great responsibility of the

Church's Christian education program.

The objectives of the pastor as an educator include developing the right perspective of himself as a person, pastor and preacher, obtaining knowledge of where to secure help and learning needed to do the job, and visualizing the possibilities, problems and potential through pastoral ministry. The pastor serves as the equippier of the congregation for ministry.

The opportunities of the pastor include ministering to the felt and un-felt needs of the congregation. He can help people satisfy the desire for recognition, friendship, new experiences and security through preaching, teaching, praying and administering. The spiritual education of a church need not be viewed as an additional burden of the pastor's time but a blessed holy opportunity to function as leader, teacher and counselor.

The obstacles faced by every pastor include the complexity of the local church, multiplied responsibilities

and congregational disinterest. These obstacles may be overcome by viewing their ministry from an educational point of view. The principles and assumptions of Christian education provide the framework through which pastors view their ministry if they expect to attain any degree of lasting success.

The observations regarding pastoral ministry as it relates to Christian education confirms the pastor's leadership role, the church's teaching ministry, and involvement by the entire church membership in the Christian education program. The urgency of the hour demands ministers capable of equipping members for ministry by undertaking the task of training, tending and teaching in the church. Without a strong, spiritual and scriptural educational program no church can accomplish its mission.

The outlook for the role of the pastor in Christian education remains bright. Every seminary, Christian college, Bible college and institute training ministerial candidates needs to emphasize the role of the pastor as an educator. The church's education program must be organized, administered, supervised and evaluated by a competent pastor who understands his role.

Pastors have unlimited outreach through the education program of the church. They hold the reins and determine the success or failure of any Christian education program. 🌐

The Secretary's Schedule

- August 3-5** Mexican National Association
- August 6-12** Evergreen FWB Church
Iola, Texas
- August 14-16** Arkansas State Association

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