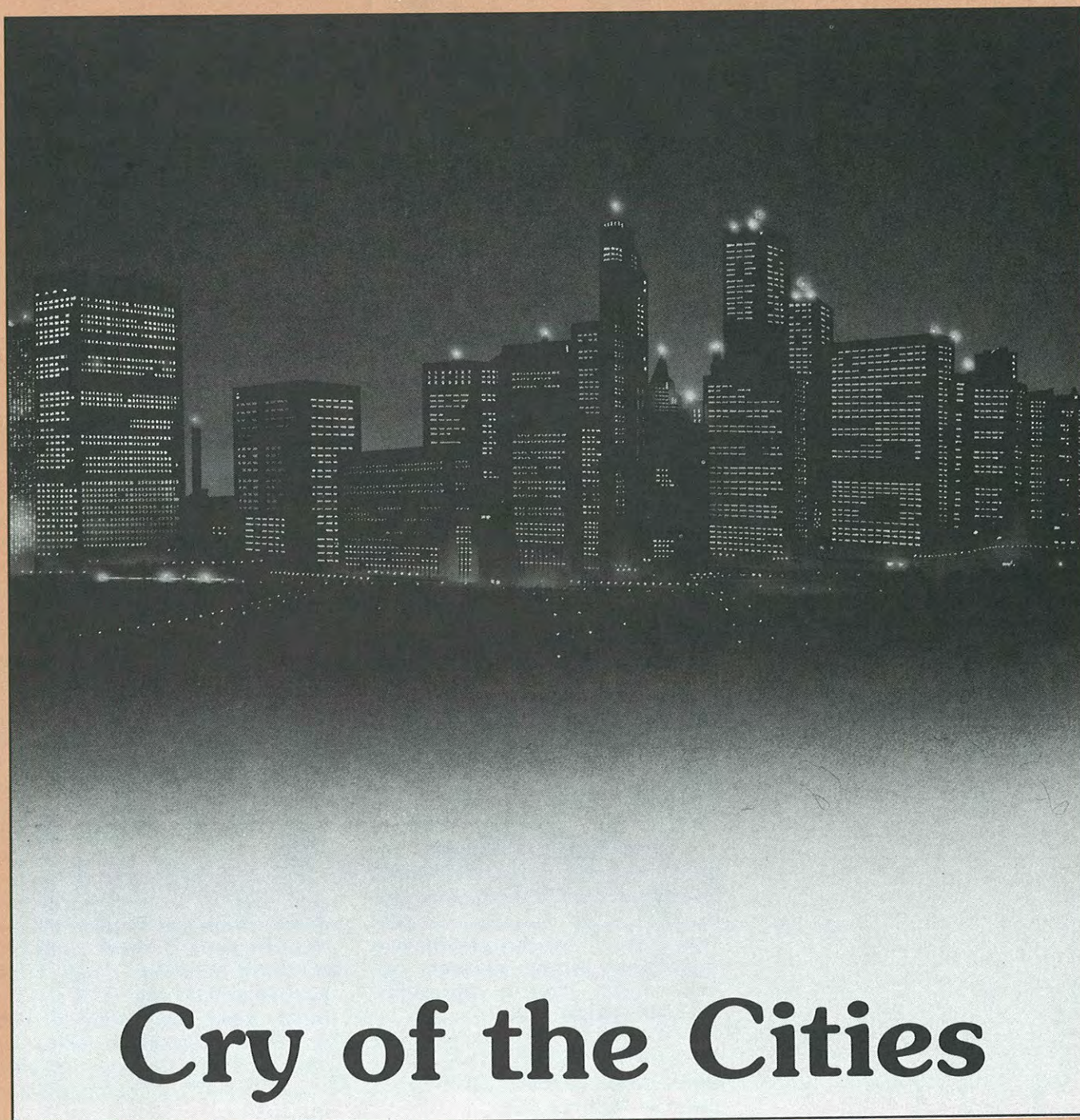


November 1990

Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



Cry of the Cities

The Great Need for Bi-Vocational Pastors

The need is urgent
because of
God's concern
for the cities.



Three Ways to Meet New Challenges

Establishing new churches in today's society is a slow, difficult and expensive process. How can Free Will Baptists meet these challenges to effectively minister and plant Bible-preaching, soul-winning churches in cities across our land?

First, we need a fresh commitment of our lives and resources to fulfill the Lord's last command in order to reach our homeland, Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria. This implies home missions.

Second, we need an all-out effort by each Free Will Baptist layman, preacher and church to get involved in planting new churches. This would fill our Bible colleges with students, our pulpits with preachers and missionaries, and also supply funds for both home and foreign mission accounts.

Third, we need every preacher to set an example of personal involvement through giving or going to plant a new Free Will Baptist church. I thank God for every associate missionary, tentmaker and pastor who earns his living with a vocational job while pastoring. I also thank the Lord for our full-time missionaries and pastors.

However, right now there is a great need for bi-vocational preachers with trades that will allow them to move to some of these cities and start new churches. Many could transfer and do the same kind of work in a new city that they do right now. I believe that in just about every preacher there's a desire or challenge to start at least one new church.

Bi-vocational. By this term I mean a preacher who works at a secular job and at the same time pastors or starts a church.

The Free Will Baptist denomination accepted the challenge to double in a decade. This is a noble goal that all of us should take seriously in light of our growing and changing society. *U.S. News and World Report* states that by the year 2,000, just 10 years away, 90 percent of all Americans will live in 25 huge metropolitan cities.

However, most Free Will Baptist churches are located in the country. The Home Missions Department target is to plant Free Will Baptist churches in cities. Our preachers are experienced in ministering to rural churches where people have a slower-paced lifestyle, while our mobile society lives a high-tech, executive lifestyle.

In spite of all the rush, people's needs are still the same. They need a life of peace, purpose and meaning that only Jesus can give.

By Trymon Messer

Five Bi-Vocational Advantages

1. Gives you a starting place.

You do not have to search the city for a place to start. Your secular job would accomplish that.

2. Provides contact with prospects.

Paul used this method in Acts 18:1-3 when he met Aquila and Priscilla. They were tentmakers by trade. They became pillars of the church and fellow travelers with Paul to Ephesus and other cities.

When I went to Salina, Kansas, to help a missionary start a church, I acquired a job driving a milk truck. One of the other drivers got saved, became a deacon, song leader and treasurer in our church. His wife was a Sunday School teacher. Thirty people were saved off the milk route and joined our church. The land on which to build the church was purchased from one of my customers. Your job can become your mission field.

3. Helps you learn the city, businesses and people of the area.

That can be a great help in starting

4. Supplies a salary and benefits without itinerary services.

I challenge you—talk to the Lord about this. Take a look at your vocation and at a city where we do not have many Free Will Baptist churches. Use your job, training and experience to plant a church there. Contact the Home Missions Department for information on the Tentmaker Program which will help provide moving expenses to the new city.

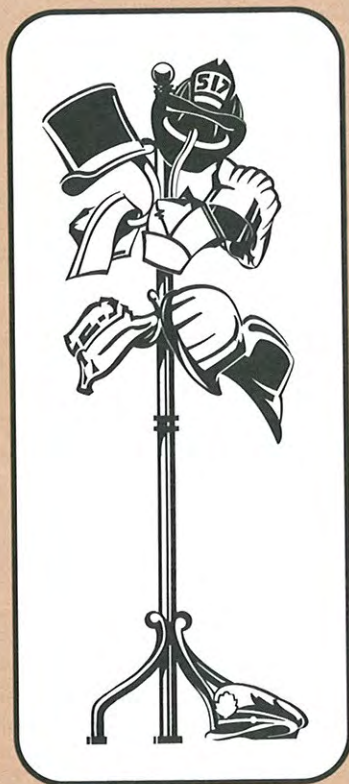
5. Allows your family to move into an apartment complex or condominium.

Some apartment complexes or condos contain more people than country communities where many of our churches are located. The complexes lock the people in and the gospel out! However, if you live in a complex, you have access to all the people. How else will they hear the gospel and be saved?

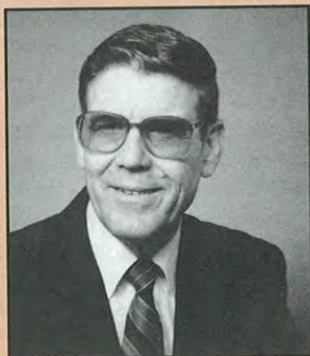
The Jonah Factor

Perhaps your skills, ability and experience have prepared you for such a time and project as this. Why not pray Paul's prayer, "Lord what would you have me to do?" The great frontiers of missions are now in our large metropolitan cities.

Will you consider going as Jonah did to Nineveh? The minister was received, the message was believed and the misery was stayed because the Lord went before him working in the hearts of people. God is concerned for the cities. Are you concerned enough to go as a bi-vocational preacher?



a new church. Some of the city officials in Salina, Kansas, are some of the best friends I have though I moved away more than 12 years ago.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Trymon Messer is associate director of the Home Missions Department.

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Out of Chaos

By Marilyn Pritchard



It started simply enough when the owners of the washer and dryer I'd been using came to retrieve their machines. My landlord decided that was the best time to spruce up the laundry room—while it was empty. That meant the room's usual occupants—laundry detergent, bleach and small appliances—had to relocate. Thus began the clutter.

He bleached the walls to kill the mildew then painted them and the ceiling a sparkling white. Soon my new washer and dryer gleamed from the laundry room. I didn't mind the inconvenience of doing without the machines for a week after I saw how nice the room looked.

One evening after the laundry room renovation, my landlord filled nail holes in the living room and kitchen walls. The next morning he and his wife arrived early—paint bucket, brush and roller in hand. We scooted furniture. They painted. I polished hardware. The living room soon looked as fresh and clean as the laundry room.

Refrigerator and table were moved. Before long the kitchen perked up as bright as the other two rooms with its new coat of paint.

Things were put back in place just in time to begin renovation in the study: remove a wall, reposition electrical outlets and heater, fashion a closet. But before it could begin, bookshelves and their heavy load of books had to be moved. Boxes multiplied in the living room. The path from the front door to the rest of the house became an obstacle course.

In preparation for new bathroom flooring a cabinet had to be emptied and moved. The bedroom sprouted boxes of medicines and toothpaste.

My apartment was a wreck! It looked awful. It felt awful. It *was* awful. I was embarrassed. Every way I turned things were out of place. But in order to get the work done, they had to be rearranged and out of place for a while. The place looked terrible in order that it might look beautiful later. One day it would be lovely. At

the time, however, it was anything but lovely.

Soon the bathroom flooring was laid and the toothpaste and medicines put back in the cabinet.


The study presented more problems than expected. The plan to piece in new ceiling wouldn't work. The old ceiling had to be replaced with sheet rock: more expense, more time. During the installation a screw punctured a hot water pipe. More repairs. Delayed completion date.

Finally it was time for the carpet layers which meant moving all the boxes and furniture from the living room, kitchen and study. The bedroom looked bad before. Now it looked worse.

That's the way it can be with us when God is working. Events seem disorganized, displaced, full of confusion. We get things put back just in time for the Lord to bring even bigger changes into our lives. As He rearranges precious parts of our lives, even more things seem out of place. But sometimes we must have chaos before God can create beauty in our lives.

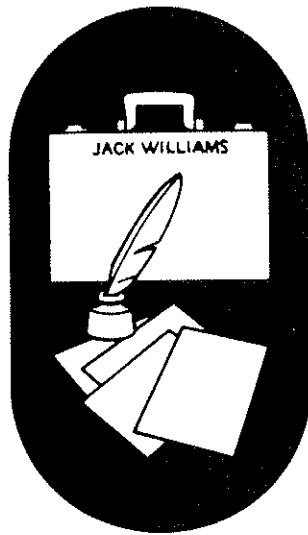
He may inconvenience us to get our attention. He may allow discomfort so He can perform a work of growth or grace in our lives. When the work is completed, the bits and pieces can be put back in place and loveliness will shine through. We must endure inconvenience and discomfort for a time in order to achieve something better.

The aggravation of stepping over boxes and stubbing my toes melted when I remembered the final goal for my apartment. I knew it would be lovelier than before. The frustration of inconvenience and discomfort from the Lord can likewise evaporate when we look ahead and remember the final outcome of God's work in our lives: a work of grace conforming us to the image of Christ.

I learned four valuable lessons about renovating apartments and restructuring lives. One, they take longer than planned. Two, they cost more than anticipated. Three, they create extreme chaos in a semi-ordered life. And, four, it's usually worth it. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Marilyn Pritchard is editorial assistant for *Contact* and a member of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

Briefcase



Questions Nobody Answers

Some questions irritate me. Others appeal to my sense of humor. They all require answers. Maybe you can help get me out of this revolving door.

Why are only destructive events like floods, hurricanes and earthquakes called acts of God? I always felt that rainbows and clear spring mornings did a lot for God's image.

Who decided that kids couldn't understand Bible stories until 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning when they learn math and geography at 8:00 a.m. every school day?

Do football players who kneel and pray in the end zone after scoring a touchdown also have family devotions when they get home?

Has Bible memorization increased now that we have translations in 37 flavors?

If AIDS is the judgment of God on homosexual lifestyle, does that mean crashing one's car into a tree is the judgment of God on drunkards?

When the pastor's phone rings at 8:30 a.m. why does the caller always ask if he got the good reverend out of bed?

Do all Christian books have 12 chapters, 144 pages, big price tags and dust jackets that outshine the contents?

Have you noticed that regular bookstores contain only books

while Christian bookstores resemble gospel junk yards with everything from leather crosses to holy water from Jordan?

When did we cross the line from tithes and offerings underwriting the work of the church to relying on bake sales, pie suppers, walk-a-thons, car washes and rummage sales?

Since there's been only one gospel message for mankind for 20 centuries, why is it that people in 1990 can't understand what God says unless we put them into separate worship services according to age, sex and marital status?

Where did the champions of communism go when the Berlin walls all over Europe came crashing down a few months ago?

Does anyone seriously think God doesn't know who's getting stroked when some name-it-and-claim-it speaker tells his audience to give God a hand as he prances across a stage waving a hand-held microphone?

Why does the media make one atheist protesting a cross painted on a water tower sound sane and sensible while 25,000 citizens who like it come across as insensitive, uneducated and irrational?

Do evolutionists ever print retractions when a 20-million-year-old fossil turns out to be a horse's leg that got badly burned in the Civil War?

When faith healers come to town for a crusade, why don't they start in intensive care units at local hospitals instead of the arena at the convention center?

If bigger is better, then why aren't we all Roman Catholics since

they number more than 53 million in the U.S. alone? On the other hand, if smaller is more spiritual, does that mean we should become Albanian Orthodox who sport two churches and three ordained clergy?

Why is it that people whose dogs look like Godzilla with an attitude always say, "He won't bite," just after I beat him off with a radio aerial?

Have you ever wondered why the most comfortable seat in church is on the back pew nearest the door?

Am I the only person who stifles the urge to stuff a sock in the song leader's mouth when he tells the congregation to hold hands while we sing, "We are one in the Spirit"?


Why does one hour in church Sunday morning seem twice as long as a three-hour football game Saturday afternoon?

Is there some theological significance to the fact that most Bibles have black covers while dust jackets on other books look like an explosion in a paint factory?

Do salaries of sports stars and rock musicians truly reflect their value to the community in contrast to that of school teachers and police officers?

What does God do with all the prayers that people pray in a time of crisis and forget when the boat stops rocking?

Wouldn't it have been simpler if God had put most of the world's oil reserves in Los Angeles and New York where most of the cars live rather than in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia where camels outnumber cars 10 to 1?

Maybe Jonathan Swift was correct: "A fool will ask more questions than the wisest can answer." 

The Cry of the Cities

By Alton Loveless

I live in the 19th largest city in America. Less than a mile from my office is a Hungarian-speaking church. Go another mile and there is a German church. Drive home with me and we will pass Bangkok Center, a shopping center for immigrants from Thailand. Visit our Toledo churches and you will pass one of the world's most beautiful Muslim mosques. Less than an hour north in Detroit, at least 110 ethnic groups exist, each group separated from others by invisible boundaries.

This picture is common to those who live in America's cities where 58 million culturally distinct people reside. Only about 14 million are church members.

Of the more than 160 million unchurched Americans, 100 million live in our cities. This number approximates the population of Japan or Brazil. The number of unchurched Americans is surpassed by the populations of only four countries in the world—China, India, Russia and Indonesia.

Is it wrong to send missionaries around the world while our fields are ripe? Of course not! We are commanded to do so. People from most of the world's mission fields are coming to the United States in unprecedented numbers, and they remain nearly as unevangelized as they were in their native countries.

Our Past

Our denomination continues to be rural or small-town people. Half our churches are in larger towns and some in major cities. Our people moved to the city but our churches failed to follow them.

The cities of America are the mountain peaks of society. Everything runs downhill from the cities. If we are to reach the nation for Christ, we must develop a plan for the cities. Our denomination has changed, as society has, from rural to where we

have many town and city churches. Our people move at the rate of 20 percent each year into cities. They move where the gospel is needed and where the masses live.

Free Will Baptists have churches in some major cities, but we have reached only our own who moved there for employment. We have failed to reach the outsider wherein lies our growth. Is it surprising that the largest churches of our denomination in Miami and Los Angeles are ethnic, foreign-language churches rather than English-speaking?



We have a Problem

How strange that Free Will Baptists who are so missions-oriented are unready to reach out to the urban mission field of America, especially when one realizes that it is in fact foreign missions.

Take Los Angeles as one example. With 4.5 million Hispanics, Los Angeles is now the second largest Hispanic city in the world. It is also the second largest Chinese city outside Asia, the second largest Japanese city outside Japan, the largest Korean city outside Korea, the largest Vietnamese city outside Vietnam and the largest Philippine city outside the Philippines. This city has a population greater than 47 of our 50 states, the exceptions being California, Texas and New York.

American Christianity struggles with the misconception that all Americans could hear the gospel if they wanted to, or the equally false idea that no one should hear twice before all have heard once. How disquieting that many Americans live and die without hearing the gospel, sometimes within eyesight of a church or living next door to a born-again believer.

We have become reactionary, believing we are where missions starts and not a field ourselves. America is a mission field for many reasons, not the least being that we are a part of the "world" mentioned in John 3:16. We prefer to call what we do in America *evangelism* and what we do everywhere else *missions*.

Many may say that America is over-evangelized. This clearly misses the point. America is not nearly as evangelized as it may at first appear. *Missions USA*, suggests there are 130 million Americans attending 343,000 churches:

70 million Protestants attend 300,000 churches.

49.7 million Catholics attend 23,500 churches.

6 million Jews attend 5,000 synagogues.

2.8 million Mormons attend 6,900 wards.

1 million Orthodox attend 1,600 churches.

500,000 Jehovah's Witnesses attend 6,000 halls.

Perhaps 60 percent of Americans are religious, however all but the 70 million Protestants (32 percent of the populace) are a mission field of 60 million. If that 28 percent is added to the 40 percent unchurched, then 68

percent of Americans are a mission field.

This assumes that all Protestants are saved, which few will accept. Even George Gallup, the noted pollster, indicates that the evangelical church includes only about 20 percent of all Americans. He notes that only 68 percent of these attend church regularly. Therefore, active evangelicals number only about 35 million or 15 percent of the populace, which leaves a mission field of 85 percent or around 210 million souls.

Where are the Prospects?

Christians seem unaware that 28 million Black Americans are only 30 percent evangelized, whereas Black Africa is 50 percent evangelized. There are more than one million Chinese in the U.S., yet less than five percent have been touched with the gospel. Ten percent of the world's Spanish speakers live in the U.S. Where do these unevangelized people groups live? In urban America! Nearly 80 percent of all Americans live in cities of 50,000 or more.

The city is a place of paradox. Historically, the center of economic and trade functions, it is also a place where great poverty co-exists with great wealth. The crucible of much of man's culture, it seems also to be the focal point of social deterioration. It is a place that fascinates and a place that is feared. It is a place where the most overt forms of evil flourish, yet continuing acts of human courage, kindness and sacrifice are commonplace.

We must have a new vision of Christian service. Missions has always had a romance to it, with visions of primitive tribes and palm trees in the setting sun. We need to plant another dream in the hearts of our young pioneers. We must fill their minds with a more realistic and compelling picture. Our new vision of Christian missions must focus on cities. If we want to bring nations to Christ we must win cities both here and abroad.

Today's church is much more comfortable sending missionaries from suburban churches to the rural villages of other countries. Too many Christians feel alienated by the city

and see it only as a dark and evil place to be avoided. But this is not God's attitude.

Consider His words to the Jews held captive by pagan Babylon. "And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace" (Jeremiah 29:7 NKJV).

Many prefer to raise their children in rural isolation or suburban convenience. I tried that, but God led me here anyway. Jesus has always been attracted to the dark places. But remember, "Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more" (Romans 5:20 NKJV).

The urbanization of the United States demands that churches become innovative in their methods. As a denomination we need to examine new areas and new opportunities for reaching people. The church that reaches different peoples will require a minister with a unique call as well as training. He will need to speak another language, be cross-cultural without prejudice and feel as much a call as a foreign missionary. In reality he is one, but without a visa or leaving his homeland.

Our schools need to revise their curriculum and add programs, courses and laboratory-type experiences that relate to the dynamics of urban life.

We need to answer many questions such as these:

1. Should our denomination concentrate on its traditional support base? If so, we will find ourselves relegated to smaller proportions of the population and alien to the city where people continue to move.

2. Should our churches, especially those in the city, maintain their present traditional worship form? Is this appropriate in a rapidly changing, highly mobile society which involves young people whose style is different and citizens to our country who do not understand our form of worship?

3. What needs should the church address? The call for souls is obvious but can we leave the hunger of man's body unfed? The broken unmended? The homeless unattended? The wayward unloved? The foreign unapproached?

Cry (from page 7)

I do not mean to imply that what we have done is wrong. Absolutely not! It reached countless souls. But we have not heard the cry of the American city. We plant churches but not where the people are. While we need churches everywhere, the city can be the most fruitful reaching more in less time.

Are We Planning for the Unavoidable?

Cities call for a comprehensive and cooperative strategy. It will involve a minimum of three phases: Dedication, Discovery and Design.

Our dedication involves whether we affirm that only God is worthy of our time, our talents and all we are. It is both individual and corporate.

The discovery phase will focus on the total environment, demographics, assessment of past history as well as future trends. We must research and analyze the context of a city and see what God is already doing there.

Many mayors, housing commissioners, social service administrators and law enforcement officials are eager for Christian people to share their expertise and compassion, helping them in their human dilemmas. Evangelism is our best hope for bringing a cooperative unity to Christ's fragmented body in the city.

The church in the city is changing. We must design our plan prayerfully. Old downtown churches are failing or their congregations fleeing outside giving over to minority groups. The traditional church could be set into the following types: 1. The cathedral; 2. Downtown old first; 3. Ethnic-language church; 4. Storefront congregation.

New categories of churches have come into existence: 1. Regional church; 2. Rural-urban; 3. Megachurch; 4. Base-satellite church; 5. House churches; 6. Campus-related congregations; 7. Multi-congregational churches; 8. Multi-ethnic churches; 9. Life-style church; and 10. Ecumenical church.

Sadly, there is already a decline from traditional Sunday School, reduction of children's ministries, erosion of denominational loyalty. There's also substitution of clergy by video instruction or cable programs

in house churches. This leadership loss could produce anarchy.

Almost every conceivable type of social service can be found in many churches. Feeding programs, tutoring, language classes, senior's ministries, clinics, counseling, legal aid, job placement, food pantries, clothing, sewing classes, craft instruction, auto mechanics, music lessons, drama groups, friendship groups, referral services, coffee houses, halfway homes, street theaters, prayer breakfasts, thrift shops and bookstores in addition to religious services weekly.

Our churches in Norfolk, Virginia, have won sailors to the Lord for years and sent preachers and missionaries around the globe. Churches in Cuba, Mexico, Texas and California are by-products of our denomination's efforts to reach our Hispanic brethren.

In a country where we need no visas, we can minister to nearly every nation. We can reach those hungering for a new start, ready for a new life and whose conversions could spread the good news here in their community and back to their homelands. We can reach that student whose return launches a new way of life for his family and country.

Every human concern is a concern of God. The person who wants to reach the world can do so in the American city. But he will begin with human concerns. Christians cannot be good interpreters of the gospel of Jesus Christ or good representatives of His concerns if they remain indifferent to any of the human problems that exist here or anywhere. The Word must be proclaimed, but it must also become flesh and be demonstrated.

As we approach the future, let me suggest three things:

First, the future for us does not exist; we must invent it. Creative dreams will have to be translated into powerful ideas. They will take time, education and labor. The rural area and village cannot be forgotten, but the city will have to be addressed.


Second, time is important. What we decide to do now will affect what will happen to our denomination and the direction we take.

Third, all of life is intercon-

nected. A child born in Spain affects the price of groceries in Dallas. A family that moves to Columbus from Denver affects the tax structure of two cities. A convert to Christ or a departing from the faith begins a new set of values which affect all relationships.

If we commit ourselves to evangelizing urban America, we are challenging strongholds of principalities and powers. They are entrenched and aggressive in our cities.

The mission of the church is to reach all mankind everywhere. There should be no home-foreign dichotomy. New designations might be necessary to encourage us to the work before us. Perhaps "domestic missions" to indicate areas where there is already an established church and "frontier missions" where no work exists.

Whatever the terms, let us arrive at only one conclusion: Win the world's people for Christ. 



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Alton Loveless is executive secretary for the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists. He has conducted seminars in 44 states and 30 foreign countries and published more than 350 articles.

Recommendations for Study

Missions USA, Earl Parvin, Moody Press
The Clustering of America, Michael Weiss, Harper & Row
Cities; Mission's New Frontier, Roger Greenway, Baker Book House
The Urban Challenge, edited by Larry Rose and Kirk Hadaway, Broadman Press
A World of Difference, Thom Hopler, InterVarsity Press
The Urban Mission, Craig Ellison, Eerdmans Publishing Co.
Taking Our Cities for God, John Dawson, Creation House
Evangelizing the Hard-to-Reach, Robert Dale, Broadman Press
The Search for America's Faith, George Gallup, Abington, Press.



Greg's Glossary

By Greg McAllister

Big words seem to come with the turf in theology. My personal favorite is supralapsarianism. My only regret is that the fall of man doesn't come up in more conversations at the Seven-Eleven so I have a chance to use it.

That's the problem: Theology isn't really what we talk about anymore—even at church. The big subjects are budgets, Michael Jordan's hang time and why Monday Night Football should be broadcast four times a week.

What we need are 12 new definitions to cover the really current church topics. Here are my 12 . . . you can find your own.

Ecclesiectomy: The removal of teenagers from the back pew of the sanctuary.

Dorm Criticism: Why today's Christian college students are less spiritual than students when you were in college.

Pretribulational Petitionism: The perpetual belief that church form letters are needed to keep Madelyn Murray O'Hair from eliminating religious broadcasting.

Decanonicus Cartoonicus: The belief that toy action figures usually promote demonism.

Alliteral Interpretation: The tendency to avoid preaching on verses which cannot be interpreted by using a thesaurus (see "The Secretary Speaks" in any issue of *Contact*).

Third Downs Syndrome: The attempt to smuggle miniature televisions into church on Super Bowl Sunday.

Sankatification: A minister ordering coffee the week after his yearly physical.


Irresistible Grapes: Little kids eyeing the leftover juice after communion service.

Brewercrimination: The guilt experienced by church members when they laugh at light beer commercials.

Commentosis: The condition of a pastor who comes right out and reads Swindoll's books to the congregation instead of just quoting him in every sermon point.

Thon-a-tology: The doctrine of teenage fund-raising.

Margie de Sade: The deacon's wife who decided that preachers have to wear ties.

While these definitions probably won't guide you through heavy theological debates, perhaps you can sneak up on an unsuspecting friend and drop one on his foot. Who knows, that very act may add a sudden new definition to your vocabulary! 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Greg McAllister is registrar at California Christian College in Fresno, California. At least he was until he wrote this article.

Plant the Seeds!

By Tom Forehand

When dealing with those in the cults, one learns from experience the biblical truism that "one plants, the other waters, but God brings the increase."

This simply means that the Christian must learn to be prepared and learn to be patient in seeing God work in the lives of people in the cults. With this in mind, let your goal in sharing with those in the cults be to plant seeds of truth and let God do the rest.

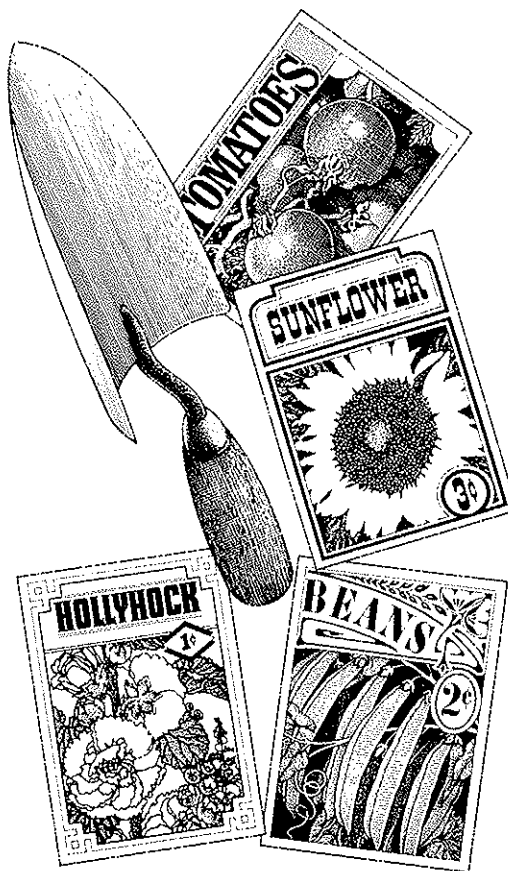
Several months ago, a long distance call came from a young lady who asked: "I have a friend who has just joined the Mormons (the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints); will you please help me get him out?"

Accurate, appropriate and pertinent material was immediately sent to Lisa. Much of the material sent consisted of copies of materials and quotes taken from early Mormonism (remember—when in Rome, do as the Romans do; when witnessing to Mormons, it is helpful to have copies of their old books, which show the false nature of the group. You see, your Mormon neighbor will probably refuse to look at a book which is written by someone outside of his organization; but it is difficult for him to refuse to read material written by someone inside his organization).

Lisa was told to share the material with her Mormon friend. She did, and as in most cases, after her friend saw what she had to share with him, he shrugged it off as being "untrue."

She urged him to investigate the material. He called in several Mormon missionaries who also gave the same verdict—"This stuff can't be true!"

Lisa felt bad because she hadn't gotten an immediate, positive reaction from her friend.



Most Christians feel this way—but they forget that this is a spiritual war not simply an intellectual battle.

Prayers continued to go up for the young man, who by now was so excited about Mormonism that he was planning to go on a mission for the Mormon church.

Several months later, Lisa was contacted to ask how everything was going with her Mormon friend. She related that she had been out of work (having a baby) and hadn't seen him for a while but she promised to check on him when she went back to work after the Christmas holidays.

Some surprises are pleasant, especially when we remember that God alone can bring the increase. When Lisa returned to work, she learned that her young "budding Mormon missionary" friend had flown the coup—not on a Mormon mission,

but back at home and out of the Mormon church.

He had quit his job, moved out of his apartment (owned by a Mormon landlord) and had gone back home to another state. His last message was that he had found out that the Mormons had not told him everything!

This story had a happy ending though all stories of this kind do not. What are the points we need to learn from this incident which will help us in the future in dealing with those in the cults?

First, Lisa acted quickly. If you can get the appropriate information to those who are planning to join or who have just joined a group like the Mormons, often they will come out before they are too deeply entrenched.

Next, Lisa shared the appropriate information. Some might ask, "Why not just use the Bible?" Of course, there are some things which needed to be shared from God's word, but Mormonism is notorious for teaching its members that the Bible cannot be trusted. So other materials were also used.

Third, Lisa was a friend. Her friendship opened up the door for sharing (lifestyle evangelism).

Fourth, many prayers went up for what appeared to be a lost cause—but this is spiritual war, remember!

Keep these things in mind when God opens up an opportunity for you to share with those in these groups.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Tom Forehand serves as Tennessee Director of Watchman Fellowship, a counter-cult ministry. He is one of the top authorities on Mormonism in the country.

Watchman Fellowship (A Christian Counter-Cult Ministry)

Learn to Love (those in the cults)
Learn to Know (the important doctrinal differences)
Learn to Share Christ (and His love with cultists)

Ministry Goals:

I. To Educate the body of Christ (and the public at large).

We point out the vast doctrinal differences between the Christian church and the cults (Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, the New Age movement, Christian Science, The Way International, the Moonies, etc.). Also, there is a great need to teach Christians to love the people in the cults while at the same time learning how to point out their doctrinal errors.

We work toward this goal by:

1. Showing films on the cults in large congregational meetings.
2. Teaching in Sunday School and training sessions (in large and small churches).
3. Offering a monthly newspaper on the cults (*Watchman Expositor*) to those who desire it. It has been our goal to offer it free of charge. We also write, publish and provide tracts concerning cult doctrine compared to Christian doctrine and how to evangelize those in the cults.

4. Counseling people concerning their contacts with friends, relatives and strangers in cults (intervening and exit counseling). Also we have many videos concerning the cults and their activities which are very appropriate for home Bible studies.

5. Appearing on radio and television shows answering questions about the cults.

II. To Equip Christians concerning the vital doctrines of the faith.

For those Christians who are eager to learn how to defend the Christian doctrines of the Trinity and the Gospel of Grace, we hold free seminars and other free classes. We show Christians how to tactfully teach the truth to those in the cults concerning these doctrines and how to correct the cultist's misunderstanding of certain verses in the Bible. Such verses are often taken out of context by cultists.

III. To Evangelize those in the cults.

According to Craig Branch, Alabama Director of Watchman Fellowship, "Those in the cults represent the largest undesignated mission field in our country. The body of Christ has no plan to reach these people and, unfortunately,

most pastors have too many other duties to spend special time training their members how to share with cultists. So the average church member often treats cultists coldly and rudely instead of showing the love of Christ and sharing the truth of Christ with them."

We charge no fees for our teaching and counseling (though there are standard fees set on the films we show). Our desire is to carry out these goals primarily by working as a resource for you, your local church, your pastor and his staff.

If we can help you and your congregation (even just answering your questions about the various cult groups), please contact us especially for film showings, teaching sessions (including working with your evangelism programs), personal counseling and/or written materials concerning the cults.

Rev. Tom Forehand
Tennessee Director of
Watchman Fellowship
P. O. Box 1156
Franklin, TN 37065-1156
Phone: 615/790-6622

Watchman Fellowship, Inc.
P. O. Box 19416
Birmingham, AL 35219
Phone: 205/942-4004

Directory Update

GEORGIA

Wayne Price to Patmos Church,
Leary from Converse Church, Converse, SC

David Sanderson to First Church, Douglas

Wilford Harden to Bethany Church, Hazlehurst from Corinth Church, Alma

MISSISSIPPI

Glenn Jones to Mt. Pisgah Church, Booneville from Antioch Church, Burnsville

Leonard Ball to Antioch Church,

Burnsville from Smith Chapel Church, Booneville

TENNESSEE

Terry Booker to Victory Church, Jackson from Martin Hill Church, Booneville, MS

OTHER PERSONNEL

James Osborn to First Church Seffner, FL, as assistant pastor from Seffner Christian Academy as administrator

Joel Lauckner to First Church, Seffner as youth pastor

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION			
NAME OF PUBLICATION		DATE OF FILING	
Watchman Fellowship, Inc.		11/12/90	
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P. O. Box 19416		Birmingham, AL 35219	
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Grandpa's Buddy

By Dean Jones



It was a cool Illinois afternoon in the middle of October when my grandfather and I climbed into his old green Ford and started out to the local grocery store. We always took the long way so I could honk at friends on the way. Grandpa lived in a small town of about 800 people and everyone seemed to know everyone else.

We stopped in front of Hill's Grocery Store. I jumped out of the car and ran in the front door as Grandpa slowly unfolded his 6'3" frame and 225 pounds. I rushed over to the candy counter and looked eagerly at all the selections, as any 7-year-old would do. But I knew what I was getting. We always got the same thing.

"We'll take two Smooth Sailings. They're still a dime, aren't they, Roger?" Grandpa would say.

He would drop a quarter on the counter. Twenty cents for the candy bars and a nickel for two cigars called Swisher Sweets. They had a funny odor. He would light one up on the

way home and I would cough as the car filled up with smoke. He always saved the other cigar for early the next morning.

After we got home we would sit out in the backyard under the trees in a hard chair and eat our candy bars. I'd watch Grandpa's thick, grey hair which he combed straight back and feel his big, strong, calloused hands.

Every summer during school vacation I spent a week or so at my grandparents' house. We began each morning with a 9:00 o'clock trip to the post office to get the morning mail. Grandpa taught me the combination to the box, so I usually got the mail while he went inside to talk with someone he saw.

Since I could barely reach the box, I had a hard time trying to get it open. When I didn't succeed, I'd go to the postmaster and ask for Box 204 and he would hand me the mail. It was seldom more than a salebill or something else unimportant, but it

was fun. We usually stopped by the grocery store to pick up something Grandma had forgotten. I think she forgot things so we could make a trip to the store.

Our day ended with a drive through the country. We would all get in the green Ford and head out to the "old homeplace" for a tour of the place where he grew up. This was always accompanied by stories and details about life back then. He told me how he walked to school. He always told me how good I had it compared to the way he had to do things.

Grandma, a school teacher, was gone most of the day. That left Grandpa with the job of watching after me. He was a house painter. I thought I could help him, but I usually ended up taking a nap in a corner somewhere. After a day of painting, we would wait in the school parking lot for Grandma.

As we sat in the car waiting, Grandpa would say, "Are we still buddies?"

"Yep," I would say, "we'll always be buddies." Then I'd reach up and kiss his unshaven face, and he would look down at me and smile.

Years have passed since I was that young, and things have changed. The old Ford is not around anymore and the store is gone. Candy bars aren't a dime and neither are cigars. But some things are the same. The mail still comes to Box 204 and I still remember the combination. The stories and tales about life "back then" still ring fresh in my mind.

The friendship my grandfather and I had was unique. We both knew the Creator of this world and enjoyed His creation. After a long struggle with a stroke, tuberculosis and cancer, Grandpa spent his last day on this earth May 1, 1990. He was 82.

Some say his last words were, "See Jesus." He now lives with his best Buddy!



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dean Jones is program coordinator for the National Youth Conference.

Haunted by Love

By Mal King

The small southern town was barren of leaves and green grass for it was winter and the cold wind blew. But a colder wind haunted that Sunday and froze everything but the emotions, for it was the day that would live in infamy: December 7, 1941.

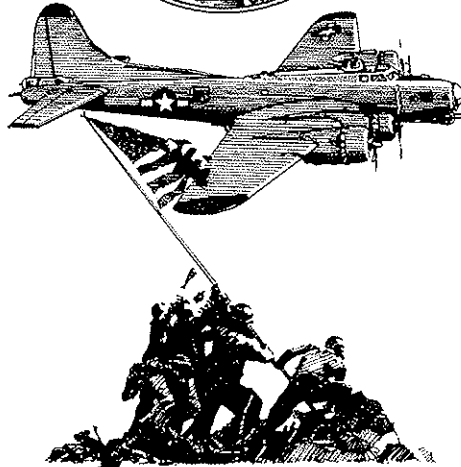
West of town, farther west than a little boy's imagination could reach, nestled a lovely island where trade winds blow. In this paradise, mornings rise in beauty and days flow along with minimum abrasions to the spirit. This was such a morning. Then the bombs came. Men died, and palm trees cried.

That day I had just returned from church when I heard that some place overseas had been bombed. Eight years old and no world traveler (I had gone to Fort Smith, Arkansas, about 25 miles from Charleston a few times), Pearl Harbor meant nothing to me.

Yet I sensed that Pearl Harbor would change my world. It did. At age 34 my dad went to war for two years, and all my uncles volunteered or were drafted. The youngest died in the D-Day invasion and left behind a little girl who never remembers seeing her father. And one of them—my dad's youngest brother, Leland—is the subject of this story.

Leland looked like a movie star. A real lady's man. It was said of him that he changed shirts and girlfriends twice a day. A playboy. A carefree young man who had money and looks and girls. He seemed as remote to me as the movie stars I paid a dime to see each Saturday. But that changed with the cold wind that chilled us all.

One day, shortly after Pearl Harbor, the school principal called me out of my third-grade class. There in



the hall stood Uncle Leland. He thanked the principal and then turned to me. Placing his hand on my shoulder, he said, "Son, I've got to go to war tomorrow, but I wanted to come by to tell you I love you."

He hugged me with a desperation that shocked me: maybe he wasn't coming back. Then with tears in his eyes he turned and walked out of my life.

Five years later he came back but something had gone out of his life. His carefree ways. His tour of duty in the South Pacific war zone reminded him how fragile life can be. And there he remembered the promise he had made to his mother on her death

bed: that he would accept Christ and live so that he would meet her in Heaven.

Since the war, he has remained faithful to that promise. Now a deacon in a Free Will Baptist church in Fort Smith, Leland uplifts everyone with his singing and by his example.

Last week, almost 48 years after Uncle Leland came by my school, a college professor and I were at lunch talking about people who had influenced our lives for good. He had just told me about how the great Julius Sumner Miller had motivated him to go back to school to get his Ph.D. I told him about a professor who had motivated me to continue my education.

Then I told him about my uncle's coming by my school. As I got to the part where Leland had driven 25 miles from Fort Smith to tell a little freckled-faced boy in overalls that he loved him, I couldn't go on for a time. The tears came. I had no idea when I started the story that this act of love—his sacrifice—was still powerful enough to move me so. I wept.

Such love travels full force across the decades and the centuries to touch us, to soften our hearts and to enrich our spirits. Love like that lasts for a lifetime . . . and beyond. But love is like manna, it is only good if used. Share it. Share it so that other little boys and girls in other times and places will remember—remember and be touched.

And being so touched, perhaps they will remember the greatest love: "For God so loved . . . that He gave . . ."



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mal King is president of the Mentor Consulting Group. The free-lance writer is a member of Santa Paula Free Will Baptist Church, Santa Paula, California.

I'm A Survivor!

By Fay Ratcliff

My turmoil began with a stroke in 1983. My left side was paralyzed. Four months I spent in hospitals. A nurse brought a wheelchair into my room and I hated it. It was ugly and awkward looking. Thoughts of having to use one the rest of my life made me shudder. However, I had it to do, and as time passed, my attitude changed.

One week after I was allowed to return home my husband of 44 years died suddenly of a heart attack. Now with grief added to my poor physical condition I was unable to care for myself. My home, my car and most of my belongings had to be sold. My only child, Mary Ann, with the help of her husband, took care of my business and moved me to a nursing home.

My faith in God, my family, my church and other friends helped me through these difficult times. I found that living in a nursing home is not the end of the road and that life can continue to be productive.

Prayer was and is an important part of my life; I could not live without it.

In order to keep my sanity through the trials, my daughter suggested I take a correspondence course in creative writing. So I started a new life, physical therapy, taking medicine, studying and writing.

For two and a half years I worked to finish my writing course. It was quite a challenge, and my instructor demanded the best of my ability. She would send me an assignment that I worked on diligently. When I decided it was ready I sent it in. My instructor returned it with red marks all over it. The good part was that I could see my mistakes and after re-writing would have an improved piece of work.


My first essay was published in 1986 in *Mature Living*, a religious magazine for senior adults. I told about my stroke and how my feelings changed about my wheelchair. I called it my chariot. One of my goals was to help others in the same condition.

All my hard work was rewarded with the publication of that first article. My niece cut it out, mounted it on green art paper and framed it for a wall hanging.

One of my most rewarding experi-

ences came later when my story about a slave woman went on permanent display at the River Walk in New Orleans. It is one of many stories called "Legends of Louisiana." On my 81st birthday my family took me to New Orleans to see my work on display.

My advice to stroke victims and others with crippling disabilities is to find a hobby to keep you busy and thank God every day for your blessings.

Don't dwell on what you lost but remember what you have left and use it to set an example for others. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Fay Ratcliff is a freelance writer who resides in the Golden Age Nursing Home at Denham Springs, Louisiana. The 82-year-old writer prepares her manuscripts on a portable manual typewriter that a friend found in a pawn shop. She types with one finger on "my good hand."

Cooperative Channel Contributions August 1990

RECEIPTS:

State	Designated	COOP (Undesignated)	Total	Aug. '89	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 580.57	\$ 37.00	\$ 617.57	\$ 98.22	\$ 3,425.07
Arizona	.00	50.00	50.00	.00	50.00
Arkansas	.00	4,489.03	4,489.03	5,444.78	42,050.78
California	.00	1,048.33	1,048.33	1,334.94	13,461.11
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	744.43	744.43	3,562.13	13,650.30
Georgia	6,982.60	.00	6,982.60	8,622.60	74,052.78
Hawaii	50.00	.00	50.00	.00	269.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	287.99
Illinois	7,047.19	1,271.07	8,318.26	13,266.15	76,377.23
Indiana	493.51	176.87	670.38	565.26	4,384.52
Kansas	.00	88.60	88.60	70.00	713.26
Kentucky	725.50	.00	725.50	855.46	1,918.11
Maryland	.00	75.00	75.00	.00	3,517.31
Michigan	1,849.92	101.50	1,951.42	3,708.69	44,583.87
Mississippi	15.00	210.50	225.50	728.72	3,874.46
Missouri	9,678.39	.00	9,678.39	7,186.42	68,341.31
New Mexico	9.49	4.75	14.24	.00	346.82
North Carolina	1,070.41	.00	1,070.41	2,616.23	14,893.24
Ohio	255.00	1,798.00	2,053.00	2,057.00	21,412.44
Oklahoma	38,715.27	8,598.35	47,313.62	49,500.12	333,862.14
South Carolina	11,451.72	61.86	11,513.58	10,024.69	91,866.58
Tennessee	859.68	881.21	1,740.89	1,970.34	17,681.83
Texas	9,083.93	1,169.48	10,253.41	2,953.27	57,019.48
Virginia	345.90	30.00	375.90	382.75	2,942.96
West Virginia	2,385.21	.00	2,385.21	1,677.87	26,974.34
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	365.31
Northwest Assoc.	.00	47.95	47.95	.00	184.51
Other (Computer)	.00	.00	.00	.03	.26
Totals	\$91,599.29	\$20,883.93	\$112,483.22	\$116,625.67	\$918,507.01

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 8,827.35	\$11,339.31	\$ 20,166.66	\$18,787.36	\$161,333.30
Foreign Missions	63,513.01	2,195.25	65,708.26	60,114.95	491,425.71
FWBBC	3,249.75	2,195.25	5,445.00	8,286.59	57,818.63
Home Missions	13,542.05	1,718.02	15,260.07	20,700.34	143,654.41
Retirement & Insurance	242.56	1,336.25	1,578.81	2,127.98	19,112.25
Master's Men	295.78	1,336.25	1,632.03	2,300.40	18,833.48
Commission for					
Theo. Integrity	21.92	47.70	69.62	196.89	839.19
FWB Foundation	289.49	572.66	862.15	1,506.10	11,147.71
Music Commission	5.91	47.70	53.61	2.59	670.74
Historical Commission	15.97	47.70	63.67	46.07	814.96
Radio & TV Commission	11.30	47.70	59.00	186.58	833.44
Hillsdale FWB College	620.29	.00	620.29	1,720.70	8,169.78
Other	963.91	.14	964.05	649.12	3,853.41
Totals	\$91,599.29	\$20,883.93	\$112,483.22	\$116,625.67	\$918,507.01



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

627 ATTEND ARKANSAS STATE ASSOCIATION

CONWAY, AR—The 93rd annual session of the Arkansas State Association met August 14-16 with 627 people crowding into Camp Beaverfork near Conway, according to Clerk Wendell Leckbee. Registration Committee personnel reported 110 ministers, 8 missionaries and 40 deacons among the attendees.

Moderator Carl Cheshier, pastor of Cavanaugh FWB Church in Fort Smith, gavelled delegates through harmonious business sessions. Evening worship sessions attracted more than 500. Combined attendance at the State Association (627), Woman's Auxiliary (195), Master's Men (97) and the Second Annual Youth Conference (160) surged to 1,079.

Statistician Bob Isbell confirmed that all 15 district associations reported with delegates and letters. The 220 Arkansas churches reported 630 baptisms and a 20,325 membership. The state has 70 full-time and 140 part-time pastors.

Delegates adopted a 1991 budget topping \$890,000 which will be disbursed to state and national agencies. Moderator Carl Cheshier and Clerk Wendell Leckbee were re-elected.

Four ministers preached sermons developing the association theme, "The Challenge Before Us . . . Confronting the 90's." They were Pine Bluff pastor Will Harmon, Batesville pastor Bobby Shepherd, Jasper evangelist Lonnie Burks and Yorktown pastor Frank Matchett.

The 1991 session will meet August 13-15 at Camp Beaverfork.

TWO OLD SOLDIERS REUNITED IN PHOENIX



Rev. Lawnie Coffman (L) reminisces with World War II buddy Rev. Freeman Edwards.

PHOENIX, AZ—Two old soldiers from Company L, 137th Regiment, 35th Infantry Division were reunited after 40 years at the Free Will Baptist national convention in Phoenix, Arizona, last July. Lawnie Coffman (Sgt.) and Freeman Edwards (PFC) served together in foxholes from the English Channel to Germany in World War II, then lost contact with each other for four decades.

Both men were wounded during the war—Coffman three times and Edwards once. Coffman eventually received seven citations, was named the most decorated Arkansas soldier in World War II, and wrote a book of war memories titled, *The Promise*.

Both men answered the call to preach and were ordained as Free Will Baptist ministers—Coffman in 1951 and Edwards in 1960. Both attended Free Will Baptist Bible College and went immediately into the pastorate. They served in the same denomination for 40 years, unaware

that they had shared the same foxhole in World War II.

Reverend Freeman Edwards (a North Carolina native) pastored churches in Florida and North Carolina. Reverend Lawnie Coffman pastored in Arkansas. Both men were elected to positions of responsibility by their local and state associations.

Forty years after saying goodbye to one another on the battlefield, the two old soldiers met again in the Phoenix Civic Plaza at the National Association.

Rev. Coffman said, "The army taught us to hate, fight and take lives. We got transferred to the Lord's Army. The Lord had to reprogram us to live, preach and save lives."

Ex-Sergeant Lawnie Coffman (68) now pastors Harmony FWB Church in Russellville, Arkansas. Ex-PFC Freeman Edwards (67) pastors First FWB Church in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

GEORGIA CHURCH REVIVES YOUTH OUTREACH

COLUMBUS, GA—One year ago only two young people attended Wednesday evening services at First FWB Church in Columbus. Today, thanks to the cooperation of concerned members and the efforts of Pastor Willie Martin, some 24 youth regularly attend.

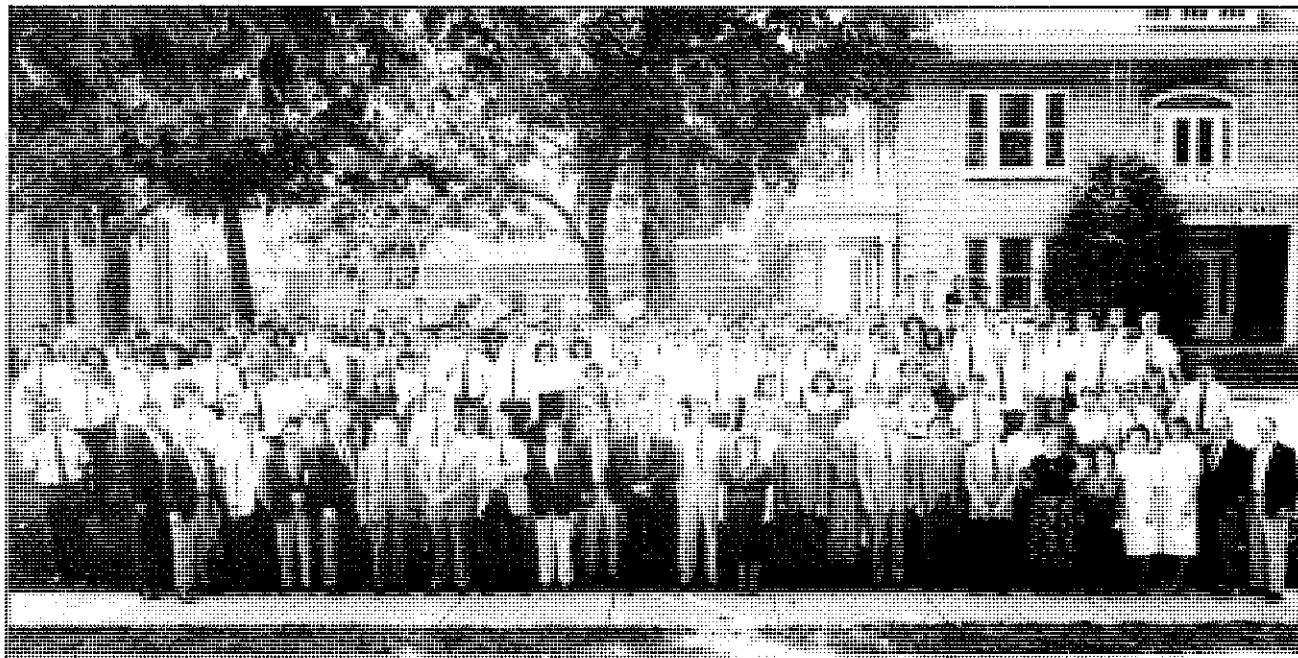
In September 1989 Pastor Martin gave his Wednesday night responsibilities to another member in order that he and his wife could concentrate on getting community youth to

prayer meeting. A few months later they had 12 young men and women who attended. Today the church averages 24.

Pastor Martin said, "But the good news doesn't end there. Our children's church had a resurrection at the same time. Thanks to David and Lorrie Lix our Sunday morning youth ministry has soared also."

First FWB Church in Columbus is a member of Georgia's Twin Cities Association.

BIBLE COLLEGE PRELIMINARY ENROLLMENT HITS 250



Fall 1990 FWBBC Student Body and Faculty

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College Registrar Charles E. Hampton announced a preliminary enrollment of 250 students from 25 states and four foreign countries. Night class enrollment was still open at the news release deadline, so the final figure could be higher, he said.

He noted that eight states increased their student enrollment including Tennessee, which has 50 students at FWBBC this semester. Other states well represented are North Carolina (21), Illinois (21), Missouri (18), Alabama (17) and Arkansas (17). State totals are:

Alabama	17
Arkansas	17
California	3
Colorado	1

Delaware	2
Florida	6
Georgia	13
Iowa	1
Illinois	21
Indiana	4
Kentucky	14
Louisiana	1
Michigan	7
Missouri	18
Mississippi	6
North Carolina	21
New Mexico	1
Ohio	9
Oklahoma	3
South Carolina	12
Tennessee	50
Texas	5
Virginia	7

Washington	1
West Virginia	4
Foreign	6

Foreign countries represented are Canada (2), Ivory Coast (1), Mexico (1) and Panama (2).

President Tom Malone preached the opening services. He asked that Free Will Baptists remember him and the college in prayer this year, when the fields are so white, but the laborers so few.

The unofficial theme of the year seems to be, "A New Spirit," as reflected by banners on campus and tee-shirts worn by students and employees. Excitement has been contagious and quickly caught by new students.

NATIONAL CONVENTION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS IN CHARLESTON

CHARLESTON, WV—The West Virginia Steering Committee met September 7 at Marriott Hotel in Charleston to make plans to host the 55th annual Free Will Baptist national convention July 21-25, 1991. Plenary sessions of the National Association will convene in downtown Charleston at the Civic Center.

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington said he blocked more than 1,100 rooms in five hotels to house

delegates. The convention housing form will be printed in the April 1991 issue of *Contact* and in state papers.

The West Virginia contingency includes the Steering Committee, Auxiliary president and youth coordinators:

J. L. Varney—Chairman
Wayne Sisk, Jr.—Hospitality Committee
Otis Hensley—Registration Committee
Carl Lilly—Prayer Committee
Roger Tolliver—Ushering Committee

Arthur Frye—Advisory Member
Carl Vallance—Advisory Member
Susie Elliott—Auxiliary President
Brian Williams—Youth Representative
Jarrod Chapman—NYC Planning Captain

The Steering Committee personnel met 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. gathering information, reviewing committee assignments and touring convention facilities. Committee members will meet twice in 1991 (January and May) to expedite convention plans.

TENNESSEE CHURCH MARKS SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

CEDAR HILL, TN—Some 368 people stood in line to register for the September 9 sesquicentennial celebration at Head's FWB Church, according to Pastor Wayne Wagner. The 150-year-old church is the oldest Free Will Baptist church in Tennessee.

Organized in 1840, Head's FWB Church is a member of Tennessee's Cumberland Association. The church is such an integral part of local community history that it sits on a road named for it—the Head's Church Road.

Pastor Wagner and members planned a six-hour gathering which was videoed for posterity. All registrants received a 48-page history of Head's Church and a commemorative address book.

Keynote speakers for the 150-year celebration included Free Will Baptist Executive Secretary Melvin Wor-

thington and Free Will Baptist Bible College Dean Robert Picirilli. Dr. Picirilli preached during the afternoon session and gave a historical review of the early church founders.

Four former pastors brought 10-minute greetings. William Mishler, the church's first full-time pastor, presented a clock he had made from one of the original church timbers. Mishler pastored the church 1946-1951. Three other former pastors—Bill Robinson (1959-1962), Nedo Eddy (1968-1970) and Robert Wilfong (1952-1954) spoke to the assembly as well.

Pastor Wayne Wagner said that six members have been called to preach from the church membership. One of those men, Evangelist Hughes Ellis, brought greetings to the congregations.

Bobby Poole, missionary to Brazil, and Dr. Mary Wisheart, WNAC exec-

utive secretary, also spoke briefly during the day's activities.

The first church building constructed by the Head's Church congregation was made of plank and brush. The group then built a log church and used it for 35 years.

Until 1941, Head's Church conducted preaching services on the third Sunday of each month. Records indicate that the church's unbroken history may be older than 150 years. Prior to 1840, the group was associated with Separate Baptists.

A church group organized in 1798 near Turnersville, Tennessee. That organization lapsed but was later revived into what is now Head's FWB Church.

The present congregation completed an \$80,000 sanctuary renovation in 1982. Church membership stands at 273.

HILLSDALE COLLEGE ENROLLS 170 STUDENTS

MOORE, OK—The fall semester dormitory housing crunch at Hillsdale FWB College is good news to college officials, according to Registrar Tim Eaton. A 26 percent surge in student enrollment left only five empty beds in the women's dorm and put four per room in some of the men's housing.

The 170 students enrollment breaks down in the following categories: men—98, women—72. By academic classification: Freshmen—74, Sophomores—56, Juniors—21, Seniors—12, Special—7. The enrollment includes 43 ministerial students, 11 missions students and 10 students in the college's first-ever nursing class.

"This marks the fourth semester in a row that we have had an increase in students," Mr. Eaton said. Hillsdale was the only college in Oklahoma to increase student enrollment in the spring semester 1990 over the previous semester.

The college plans to add a four-year music major and a two-year math major.

The Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education identified Hillsdale as the fastest growing college in Oklahoma.

FIRST LOUISIANA DISTRICT ORGANIZES

PINEVILLE, LA—Twenty-four delegates participated in the organizational meeting of the First Louisiana District Association on June 9 at Victory FWB Church in Pineville. The district association organized with two churches—Victory FWB Church in Pineville and First FWB Church in Baton Rouge. Both churches began as projects of the Home Missions Department.

Delegates elected four district officers: moderator—Steve Trail; assistant moderator—Ron Parker; clerk—Tom Kemble; promotional director—

Larry Russell.

The National Association accepted the new association into fellowship at the national convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Pastor Steve Trail (Pineville) was elected General Board member.

Promotional Director Larry Russell said, "One of the main goals of this association is to establish churches across the state in the coming years."

Three other Free Will Baptist churches located in North Louisiana are affiliated with the Arkansas State Association.

ENROLLMENT UP 24 PERCENT AT SOUTHEASTERN

WENDELL, NC—Fall semester enrollment at Southeastern FWB College hit 140, according to school officials. This marks a 24 percent increase from last year.

There are 101 dormitory students, including 45 men and 56 women. The total enrollment includes 39 off campus students. Sixty-nine enrolled

as new students.

By student academic classification, the enrollment breakdown is: Freshmen—63, Sophomores—33, Juniors—25, Seniors—15, Special—4.

Officials report the campus buzzing with excitement as new students adjust and returning students settle back into their study routines.

**Did you read, "The Cry of the Cities"
on pages 6, 7, 8?**

Fire heavily damaged the educational building at **First FWB Church, Monett, MO**, according to Pastor **Ken Dodson**. Police and the fire marshall determined that arson was the cause of the fire. Suspects have been apprehended. In addition to damage in the educational building, water and smoke damaged the corridor joining the auditorium. The auditorium also had some smoke damage.

Members of **Bethany FWB Church**,

Norfolk, VA, honored retiring pastor **W. B. Hughes** with a \$1,000 gift. Hughes pastored the church 10 years.

Ordaining a man to the gospel ministry is business-as-usual in many areas, but that's not true in Free Will Baptist churches in **Colorado**. With only seven churches in the state, Pastor **Glen Hood** considered it a milestone when **Kerry Gandy** was ordained as a Free Will Baptist minister at **Mile High FWB Church in Northglenn**. The newly-ordained minister will pastor a church in **Pocahontas, AR**.

Pastor **Jeff Gaskins** reports nine new members at **Grant Avenue FWB Church, Springfield, MO**.

Calvary FWB Church, Salem, IL, celebrated their sixth anniversary and dedicated a new building. Pastor **Cliff Donaho** said the mission church is on schedule to be self-supporting next March.

Know someone who needs 60 choir robes for 8th and 9th grade students? The gold choir robes were worn at six concerts a year for the past 12 years. The robes are in **Imperial, MO**, and they're yours for \$25 each. Call **Debbie** at 314/464-7405 or 314/296-5707.

First New Mexico Association has recalled the ministerial license of **Charles Caudell**, formerly a member of **Faith Fellowship FWB Church** in Roswell. This action was taken at their August 11, 1990, quarterly meeting. Pastor **Delmar Hopkins** of Faith Fellowship FWB Church cited "doctrinal differences" requiring the vote.

Pastor **Lawnie Coffman** would like to purchase \$25,000 worth of 11 percent church bonds. Rev. Coffman pastors **Harmony FWB Church in Russellville, AR**. He can be reached at 501/268-0203.

Something's happening at **First FWB Church, Seffner, FL**. The church built a new 1,000-seat auditorium with eight classrooms and offices. They just completed a landscaped 100-space paved parking lot, and began construction of a gymnasium/classroom building and a 300-seat cafeteria this fall. Pastor **Roger Duncan** said the church also employed **James Osborn** as full-time assistant pastor. Osborn formerly served eight years as administrator of the Christian school. The church also elected **Joel Lauckner** as youth pastor.

Pastor **Bobby Shepherd** said members of **First FWB Church, Batesville, AR**, "turned a page of history and adopted a budget for the first time." The

new budget requires \$1,800 weekly to underwrite church outreach ministries.

Tim Helton donated a 100-cup coffee maker to **Donelson FWB Church, Nashville, TN**. Pastor **Rob Morgan** is all smiles.

Members of **Columbus First FWB Church, Columbus, OH**, honored Pastor **Edwin Hayes**. They stuffed his mailbox full of cards expressing their appreciation. Someone mowed his grass and washed and waxed both his cars. Then followed a cookout in his honor, a plaque for 10 years of service, a gift certificate for dry cleaning, flowers and more gift certificates. The church also provided cash gifts for the surprised pastor. Congratulations Pastor Hayes.

Pastor **Jack Lassiter** and members of **First FWB Church, Washington, NC**, moved into a new 4,500-square-foot auditorium which will seat 400. Attendance surged from 145 to 300 before the congregation renovated and expanded their facilities.

Pastor **Robert Durham**, founder of **Grace FWB Church** and **Grace Christian School** in **Rocky Mount, NC**, retired after 30 years. The Grace Church began in a tent meeting in 1960. Durham founded the Christian School in 1966. For 20 years he conducted a radio program in Rocky Mount. He served two terms as moderator of the North Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists and six years as moderator of the Palmer Quarterly Conference.

Fourteen years ago **First FWB Church of Hubert, NC**, was organized in the living room of one of its new converts. Then the church moved to a trailer purchased by the North Carolina Mission Board. The church honored founding pastor **Rudolph Outlaw** for his faithfulness in leading the congregation to an average attendance of 350.

Members of **Hope FWB Church, Scotland Neck, NC**, purchased a 5.6-acre site four miles east of the city to build a new church. The \$150,000 facility will include a 158-seat sanctuary, four classrooms, fellowship hall, office, baptistry and multi-purpose room.

Paul D. Boyd served as treasurer at **Five Points FWB Church, Washington, NC**, for 27 years. Pastor **Joe Wallis** presented a plaque to Brother Boyd for his service to the church community.

The South Central District of the **Illinois** State Association revoked the ordination credentials of **Grady Runyon**. This action was taken July 28, 1990, according to Moderator Larry Clyatt. ☪

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MINI GRAMS

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

The Department Pages

Why Do Free Will Baptists Have Home Missions Month?

By Roy Thomas

November, for more than 50 years, has been designated by the National Association of Free Will Baptists as Home Missions Month, and the Sunday before Thanksgiving as Home Missions Sunday. This special month when farmers celebrate completion of a bountiful harvest is an excellent time to remember the whitened harvest fields of our own country and continent.

We are Thankful

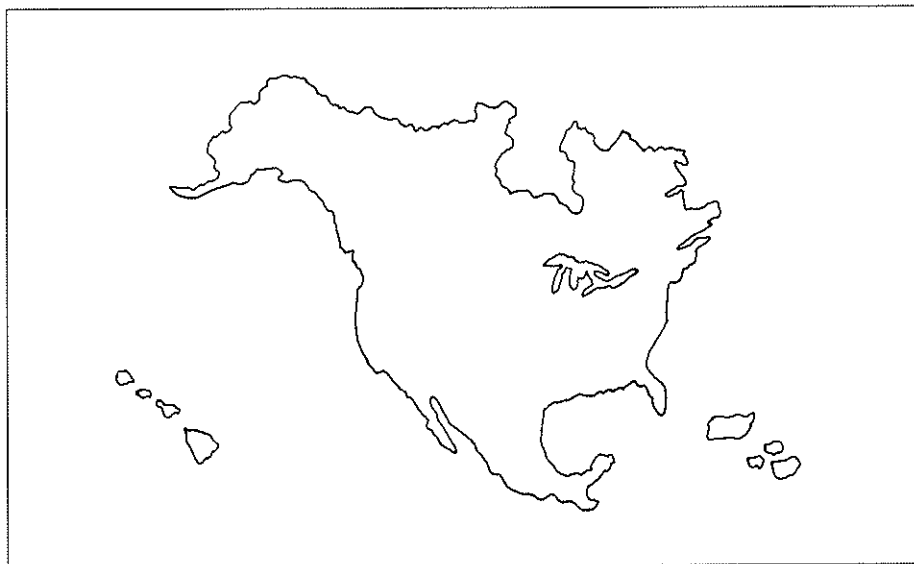
The pilgrims began what has become a national holiday known as Thanksgiving Day as they sat down at the table to thank God for the wonderful land He had given them. In this new land they could enjoy the freedom to worship and have liberty to earn a decent living and save for the future.

It is good for God's people to set aside this special time to thank God for our health, our homes, our families, our jobs, our churches and our freedom. Americans enjoy the highest standard of living of any people because our ancestors were willing to sacrifice so they could pass on to us this wonderful country.

November is a good time to thank God that the Free Will Baptist denomination believes that God loves everyone, Jesus died for all and that He commissioned the church to preach the gospel to everyone. We rejoice that we have no modernists within our ranks, hold to high standards, live separate lives, and we believe our doctrine is what the Bible teaches.

We are Challenged

However, while we are thanking God for the good church we attend,



the fine pastor who preaches the Word and the wonderful saints we fellowship with, let us remember that only six other nations in the world have a larger number of lost people than the United States. Thousands of small towns in our country have no gospel-preaching churches. Many small towns and villages have only one church which is either Catholic or Mormon.

November is also a good time to remind ourselves that the states of North Dakota, Nevada, Utah, Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York, Connecticut, Vermont and Massachusetts have no Free Will Baptist churches. Most of the people who live in American cities with a population of 50,000 or more could not attend a Free Will Baptist church because there is not one located near them.

November is a good time to reflect on the progress of Home Missions.

More than 90 families of home missionaries, associate missionaries and tentmakers will sit down at the table to eat Thanksgiving dinner in distant cities where God has called them to establish Free Will Baptist churches. They will thank God for their supporters and ask Him to touch the hearts of those who have discontinued their support.

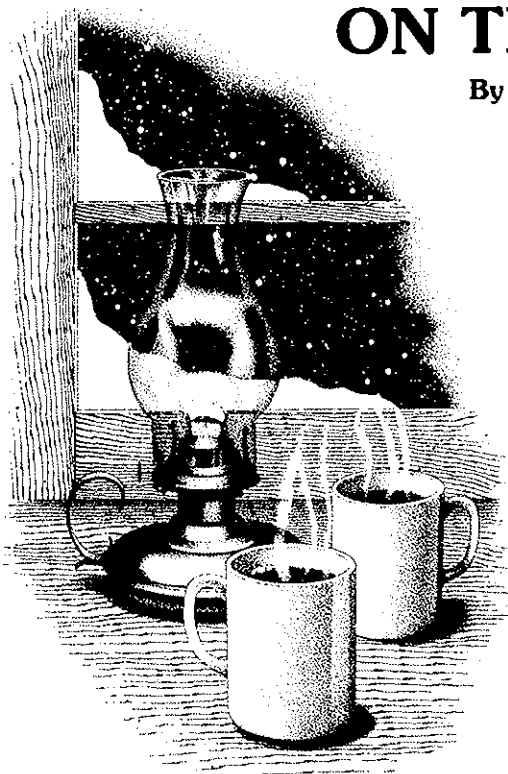
The Home Missions Department relies heavily on the special offerings received during November to erase deficit missionary accounts and the deficit in the general fund. Every Free Will Baptist is given an opportunity to give. Every pastor is contacted with materials for a special offering on Sunday, November 18, Home Missions Sunday.

I hope you and your church will see the importance of Home Missions Month and observe it with us.



WOMAN'S WINDOW ON THE WORLD

By Mary R. Wisehart



Materials are also available from the Home Missions Office.

Subscribe to the CO-LABORER

The CO-LABORER is a Free Will Baptist magazine for women. Its emphasis is carrying out the Great Commission.

The 32-page bimonthly magazine is a bargain at \$5.75 a year for single subscriptions or \$5 for bundles of 5 or more sent to the same address.

If you get your subscription in before November 15, you can begin with the January/February issue of the magazine.

Request a subscription or a free sample from WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202.

Eunice Edwards Fund

We're approaching the end of the fourth year for the Eunice Edwards Fund.

The fund now has received a total of \$29,349.03 including interest.

Our plan was that all Auxiliaries would contribute one dollar per member each year or \$5 per member for the five-year project. Some women have given much more than \$5. Some can give still more. Some can give for the first time so that we can reach our goal and go over the top with this national project.

We can do it. Before the end of 1991, let's have \$50,000 plus in the Eunice Edwards Fund for Building Churches Abroad.

From My Window

The grace of gratitude! Sometimes it takes grace to be grateful.

Too often we take blessings for granted and think gratitude is unnecessary. Perhaps we're embarrassed by a good deed done for us. We needed it, but we resent the burden of gratitude. Sometimes we are grateful and we do want to express gratitude, but we put it off or we forget. We just don't get around to it.

The Thanksgiving season is a good time to remember all that God has done for us. "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

It's good to revive the grace of gratitude to our fellow men also. We didn't arrive where we are without a great many helping hands reaching out to us along the way.

"I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers."

This season remember some of those you may have forgotten or overlooked. A former teacher, a classmate, a fellow worker, a family member—someone who contributed to your life. Tell them you are grateful they reached out a hand to you.

And give thanks to the Lord for all those He has sent across your path.

Week of Prayer and Lizzie McAdams Offering

The week before Thanksgiving, Woman's Auxiliaries across the country observe a time of prayer for missions outreach in the United States.

Along with the week of prayer, women receive offerings for national home missions. These offerings honor Lizzie McAdams, one of the first officers of WNAC and a member of the Home Mission Board in the early days of the National Association.

Check the CO-LABORER for a suggested program and helps for promoting prayer and the offering.



Herman L. Hersey
Director



Board of Retirement

AT YOUR SERVICE

Retirement System is Like a Three-legged Stool

It is a cliché that the American retirement system is, in form, like a three-legged stool: One leg is the Social Security system, a second is private pension plans and the third—and an important third to assure stability—is private savings.

Social Security: A Supplement

Social Security is considered the country's most important financial program. When it was adopted more than a half-century ago it was drafted to provide little more than basic need for survival in older non-working years. It was drafted with optimistic expectations that, in time, it would be only a supplement for retirement income, not a mainstay.

Your Social Security checks will vary according to the years you have worked and paid into your account,

the amount you have earned and the time you retire. Alone, Social Security benefits won't be enough to make possible a continuing pre-retirement lifestyle.

Pensions: Make Up Part of the Difference

Private pensions must make up part of the difference. Pension income added to Social Security probably provides 65 percent to 75 percent of anticipated needs. Keep this in mind: Private pensions, with few major exceptions, have never been expected to provide more than 50 percent of retirement income.

Savings: The Third Leg

No matter at what level of Social Security alone or Social Security and

private pension money is to be available at retirement, there will be a need for more to fill gaps—the third leg, savings. Savings become a cushion for a better life in retirement and, perhaps more important, reserve for medical and other emergencies in later years.

—Ready or Not

IN MEMORY OF...

By...

Carlton R. Horne
Providence Auxiliary
Newport News, VA

Neil Long
New Hope Auxiliary
Midland City, AL

Roy Player
Temple Auxiliary
Darlington, SC

IN HONOR OF...

By...

Nathan Eason
First FWB Auxiliary
Louisville, KY

Earl Huff
Providence Auxiliary
Newport News, VA



THE RIGHT MIXTURE



Free Will Baptist Bible College REPORT

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

"New Spirit" Is Theme For 1990-91

From t-shirts to banners, the college is trumpeting the theme of "A New Spirit" for the current school year.

The theme is rooted in reality. At all levels—from the students through the administration—the college is feeling its effect. One former student who came back to visit for the weekend caught the new spirit and reenrolled for the semester.

If you know someone who should consider enrolling at the Bible College, send their name and address to the college and let us share with them some of the excitement.

Final Fall Enrollment Is 252

The Bible College enrolled 252 students from 25 states and four foreign countries for the fall semester, according to Dr. Charles Hampton, Registrar.

He noted that eight states increased their student enrollment, including Tennessee, which has 50 students at FWBCC this semester. Other states well represented are North Carolina (21), Illinois (21), Missouri (18), Alabama (17) and Arkansas (17).

Foreign countries represented are Canada (2), Cote d' Ivoire (1), Mexico (1) and Panama (2).

"Adult Ministry" To Be Featured In Next Graduate School

The next course the Bible College will offer in its Graduate School series will focus on Adult Ministry, according to Ralph Hampton, Dean. The dates are December 31, 1990 through January 4, 1991.

"The course will address the special needs; the interests of various

ages; ministries to young married adults, singles, and senior adults; reaching and enlisting the 'baby boom' generation; the great opportunity for adult evangelism; use of small groups for adult ministry; and enlisting adults in the work of ministry," he says.

The course will begin on Monday at 1 p.m. and conclude at noon on Friday.

Teachers will be Harrold Harrison, FWBCC's External Studies Director; Herman Hersey, Director of the Department of Retirement and Insurance; and Dr. Ken Riggs, Chairman of the college's Teacher Education Department.

Tuition for graduate courses is \$250, if taken for credit; \$125 for non credit. Room/board for the week is just \$75.

The program leads to a Master of Ministry Degree.

Additional information is available from the college.

NC Fellowship Dinners Are Great Success

As this goes to press, several FWBCC representatives have just returned from North Carolina where they spent a week hosting fellowship dinners and visiting with the college's friends.

President Tom Malone was there for most of the week. With him were Ronald Creech and Bob Shockey. Dr. Charles Thigpen joined Mr. Creech and Mr. Shockey for the final dinner.

In a preliminary report, Mr. Shockey estimated that more than \$35,000 was raised for the college. "But we did far more than raise money," he adds. "It was a tremendous time of fellowship with our friends across North Carolina."

Mr. Shockey added that he appreciates all the work done by people across the state to help arrange and promote the dinners.

Pocket Calendars Available Free From FWBCC

The Bible College has 1991 pocket calendars available—free. These attractive ice blue and gold vinyl-clad calendars will help you keep track of your appointments and special days. Each one also contains a calendar of prominent school events for the year.

To receive yours, write to the college's Public Relations Office.

Next Welcome Days Nov. 29-Dec. 1

One of the best ways to influence a young man or woman to attend FWBCC is to get them to the college for a visit. And Welcome Days, held twice each year, is the best time to plan for such a visit.

The next Welcome Days is scheduled for Nov. 29-Dec. 1, according to Neil Gilliland, Recruitment Director.

All kinds of special events will be added to the college's regularly scheduled activities. In addition to visiting classes, attending chapel and meeting students and teachers, guests will be treated to a concert by the Concert Choir, a performance by The Evangelists Drama Team and an intercollegiate basketball game featuring FWBCC's own *Flames*.

To make Welcome Days reservations, or to have Welcome Days materials sent to a prospective student, please write or call:

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

A NEW SPIRIT!



PULSE of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions



Visits from missionaries provide a great resource for cultivating a missions mindset in the local congregation. Maximum effectiveness is achieved, however, when local church leaders work in partnership with visiting missionaries to help them do their best.

We must start by understanding the tensions missionaries are under during furlough. Local church leaders can help them in at least three ways: with their appearance, their presentations, and their rapport with people.

Appearance

When we think of physical appearance, we are prone to quote from 1 Samuel 16:7: ". . . Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Both parts of this verse are true. People look at outward appearance; God looks at the heart. Our goal is to bring people to the place where they too can judge others by their heart, their motivation, and their godliness.

Franklin Graham of Samaritan's Purse describes his youthful judgment of missionaries by their outer appearance: "My understanding of missions was only what I observed: . . . if narrow lapels were in style, they had wide lapels; if narrow ties were in style, they wore wide ties; . . . That was my impression of missionaries—they were always out of style."

Our church is trying to take several practical steps to help:

1. **A clothing allowance** for furloughing missionaries assists them in looking their best.
2. Some missionaries appreciate a **shopping escort**, a man or woman who helps the

Helping Missionaries Do Their Best at Home

By Paul Borthwick

missionary shop for clothes.

3. Providing a **comfortable place to sleep** enables them to be rested and ready for church meetings. Balanced meals help them be alert.

4. **Briefing** also helps. At Grace Chapel, we produce a two-page memo entitled, "How To Do Your Best at Grace Chapel." This explains something about our people, their socio-economic background, and the culture of our church.

Presentation

Local church leaders can help missionaries do their best:

1. **Advise them on the time.** When a pastor says, "Take as long as you'd like" to a missionary from a country where services last three or more hours, he is not helping that missionary adjust. It is better for parishioners to walk away saying, "I wish she had spoken longer; it was so interesting," than mumbling, "I thought he would never stop."

2. Most missionaries welcome a **critique of their presentations**, if it is given in love with a genuine desire to help them improve.

3. **Encourage a presentation that suits the missionary.** Don't expect every missionary to preach. A few will prefer that their visual presentation speak for them. The best way to insure effectiveness is to know the missionaries and play to their strengths.

4. **Assisting the missionaries with their audio-visuals** provides more support. Providing no assistance can leave a missionary running about in a dither minutes before the meeting starts.

5. **A pastor who enthusiastically introduces a missionary family** provides an effective bridge between the missionary and the congregation.

Rapport with People

By seeing it as our responsibility to introduce our missionaries to others who can help them, we can help churches become an integral part of the missionary's ministry.

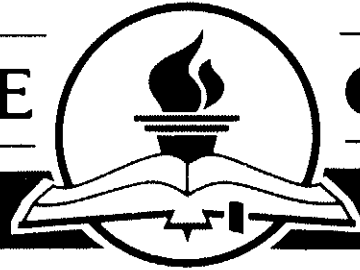
1. **We can put them in touch with praying people.**

2. **We can put them in touch with resourceful people** such as computer experts, or people of financial means.

3. **We can put them in touch with willing people.** One of our roles as leaders is to put visiting missionaries in touch with those who are considering missionary service.

Most missionaries welcome this extra help because they want to do their best, not simply in reporting on past ministry but also in gaining more prayer and new workers.

Adapted with permission from an article published in the April 1990 issue of *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*. The author, Paul Borthwick, has been minister of youth and missions at Grace Chapel, Lexington, Mass., since 1983. He has coordinated over 40 youth and adult teams on short-term missions projects.



The New Curriculum Cycle

The Good and the Bad

By Roger C. Reeds, General Director

Randall House Publications began a nine-year cycle on the adult level in December 1989. We started with Matthew for the first two quarters then shifted to Genesis for the summer and fall quarters of 1990. The Matthew studies were well received. The Genesis studies are another story. There have been many complaints about the studies in Genesis.

Our lesson planners decided that a different approach in studying Genesis would be to follow a character study. Evidently this different approach has not been a good one.

The advantage of being on a cycle is that you can always change it. We


will red flag these studies in Genesis and take a different approach when we repeat the cycle.

One factor about our denominational literature is that our people can express themselves about their likes and dislikes. We will listen! When enough people speak to us about a problem we correct it.

From time to time we receive letters about our writers. Some like one while others dislike another. We try to give writers as much freedom as possible. However, we also restrict them in some areas. These restrictions have caused some writers to leave our employment. We never like to lose a good writer. Sometimes it

cannot be helped.

We are always searching for good writers who can meet the needs of our people. If any reader would like to apply for a writing responsibility, we would be happy to receive your application and resume. All curriculum writers must be approved by the Sunday School and Church Training Board.

Free Will Baptists should always feel free to write about their likes and dislikes in our curriculum. We do try to change our curriculum from time to time. Changes always bring response. Please let us hear from you about your opinions. 

Four Prayer Foundations

By Mark Barber

Have you ever reached the point in your prayer life where you felt you were just going through the motions? You might want to try four principles from Joshua 24:14 that really work.

1. When you pray, fear the Lord.

Even though Christians have been redeemed, we are still tempted to rule ourselves. We must acknowledge that God is Lord and joyfully submit ourselves to His rule. Don't try to make God your servant. Glorify, honor and please Him.

2. Root your prayer in service to God.


Go to Him for instructions. Ask Him for power to do as He commands. Commit yourself to obeying Him.

3. Pray with sincerity.

Be completely honest with God. He knows all our thoughts and feelings anyway, but we must open ourselves to Him. We have nothing to fear from opening ourselves completely to Him, showing Him everything wicked that is buried in the depths of our hearts.

And keep your prayers simple. Big words don't count any more than little words with God.

4. Pray according to truth.

Be guided in your prayers by the Word. For example: Instead of complaining that God seems far away, call him "Father" and thank Him that He is always near those who seek Him. Don't worry; He'll be listening. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mark Barber pastors Monterey Free Will Baptist Church in Monterey, Tennessee.

What Can We Do?

That must have been the question of many of the Children of Israel as they looked at the Red Sea and heard the approaching chariots of Egypt. It is certainly the origin of the old saying, "between the devil and the deep blue sea." There have been times when we all felt that way.

Many generous donors face a similar situation as they approach retirement. They know their income will be down and the cost of living seems to always to go up. Caught between these two realities there seem to be only two options, quit giving or quit living. Neither option is very attractive to most lifelong donors, and raises the question, "What can we do?"

The Children of Israel received an answer from the Lord through Moses. The FWB Foundation may very well be the source of an answer for you today. Consider a Gift Annuity Agreement which will provide

three benefits to resolve this dilemma.

A Gift Annuity Agreement provides a fixed income for the life of the beneficiary/beneficiaries. The income may be paid to the donor or some other individual. As an example this agreement can be used to provide for parents. The income rate will be determined by the age/ages of the income beneficiary/ beneficiaries. Some examples are given below:

Single Beneficiary		Joint & Survivor Beneficiary	
Age	Rate	Ages	Rate
45	6.4%	45/43	6.1%
55	6.7%	55/53	6.4%
65	7.3%	65/63	6.7%
75	8.5%	75/73	7.5%
85	11.4%	85/83	9.0%
90+	14.0%	90/88	10.6%


A portion of the annual income is received as tax-free income.

A Gift Annuity Agreement pro-

vides a tax deduction for the donor in the year of the gift. The amount of the deduction is determined by a formula established by the IRS. It is generally about 50 percent of the agreement amount.

A Gift Annuity Agreement will also provide a direct gift to the ministry of Free Will Baptists. The gift will be delivered following the death of the beneficiary/beneficiaries and may be directed by the donor.

Children can provide income to parents, a gift to the denomination and get an income tax deduction too. Donors facing retirement can guarantee an income and continue to give also. Gift Annuity agreements have been used this way for over a century. The Foundation can provide Gift Annuities for an amount of \$1,000 or above.

"What can you do?" Consider a Gift Annuity Agreement to assist you in answering this question. 

BEYOND BELIEF





ON LITTLE LANES

BY DONNA MAYO

When Winning is Everything

Before the bell rings," said Mrs. Curtis, "I have an announcement. One student from our class will compete in a county-wide spelling bee. Students from every school in the county, grades three through five, will compete. The winner will receive a new bicycle. As you leave I'll give you a word list to begin studying."

Marty and Megan stuffed the word lists into their notebooks and hurried out the door.

"What do you want to do this afternoon?" asked Marty. "Wanna go over to Mrs. Douglas' and see if Bossie Maude had her calf?"

"No, I think I'll start studying for the spelling bee," said Megan.

"Megan, you don't have a chance at winning," said Marty. "Even if you win in our room, what about Amber Sullivan in 4th grade? She wins everything."

"I forgot about her," admitted Megan.

"She won the reading contest last year and the speech award this year," said Marty.

"And the talent show," added Megan. "And the poster contest."

"And don't forget the beauty contest at the fair," continued

Marty.

"She must think she's pretty smart," groaned Megan. "I don't really have a chance, do I?"

Marty shrugged his shoulders.

When the twins got home they sat at the kitchen table with their mother for a snack and told her about the spelling bee.

"You have as much chance as anybody," said Mrs. Lane.

"But I forgot about Amber Sullivan," said Megan. "She wins everything."

"Well, Amber might win this, and she might not. Besides, who says you have to win? Just do your best," encouraged Mrs. Lane.

"Do you really think I can do it?" asked Megan.

"I sure do," said her mother with a smile.

"Then I'll try," answered Megan. "I guess I'd better start studying."

"You just got home from school," said Mrs. Lane. "You need a break. Mrs. Douglas called and said that Bossie Maude had her calf. I think she'd like to show it off."

"Let's go!" cried Marty. But Megan wasn't sure.

"You can study tonight," said Mrs. Lane.

"Okay," said Megan grinning. And the twins took off for Mrs. Douglas' farm.

When Amber Sullivan got home from school that afternoon, she told her mother about the spelling bee. "Do you think I'll win?" she asked.

"Of course," answered her mother. "You're a winner. Now you start studying right now, and later we'll go shopping and buy you a new dress to wear for the big night."

Amber could feel knots in her stomach. "You'd think by now I would be used to these silly contests, and I wouldn't get so nervous," sighed Amber to herself. "But this is just so important. I've got to win."

Almost every day for the next two weeks Mrs. Curtis and her third graders practiced spelling bees in their classroom. Finally the day came for the representatives from Broward Elementary to be announced. In an assembly in front of the whole school, the principal announced the contestants.

"When I call your name, please

come up on stage and receive your certificate," said Mr. Mangrum, the principal. "Representing third grade will be Megan Lane. From fourth grade, Amber Sullivan. And our contestant from fifth grade is Aaron Rogers."

Megan was smiling inside and out as she took her place on stage and received her certificate. Amber smiled sweetly at Mr. Mangrum as she took her certificate. Then she turned to Megan and whispered, "I'm going to beat the socks off you."

Megan felt like a popped balloon. But after that, she was more determined than ever to win the spelling bee. She studied hard, but her parents kept reminding her that they would be just as proud if she did or didn't win. They just wanted her to do her best.

The night of the spelling bee arrived. Before Megan took her place with the other contestants, she went to the restroom. She found Amber kneeling over a commode throwing up violently.

"Are you okay?" asked Megan with concern. Then Megan wet some paper towels and put one on Amber's forehead and one on the back of her neck. "This will help you feel better," said Megan.

"Thanks," said Amber weakly.

"Are you sick?" asked Megan.

"No, not really," said Amber. "I always throw up when I'm nervous."

"Nervous?" asked Megan with surprise. "Why you win everything. You're a pro. I can't believe you're nervous."

"I just want to win so bad," explained Amber.

"But why?" asked Megan. "It's

just a spelling bee. My parents always say winning isn't everything. Doing your best is what counts."

"Ha," jeered Amber. "My parents think winning is everything. I have to win so I don't let them down."

Suddenly Megan saw Amber in a new light. She wasn't the self-assured enemy Megan had pictured in her mind. She was a frightened little girl under pressure to prove herself. A little girl who had given up many afternoons of play to study spelling words.

Mrs. Curtis announced, "Girls, five minutes until starting time. Take your places." Amber took a deep breath and marched out of the restroom like she was going to a firing squad.

There were 21 contestants in the spelling bee. When one missed two words, he was out. "Megan, your word is 'emergency'," said one of the judges.

"Emergency," repeated Megan nervously. But when she looked out into the audience and saw her parents and brothers smiling at her, Megan calmed down.

"E-m-e-r-g-e-n-c-y," spelled Megan with confidence.

After 30 minutes there were only 10 students left, Megan and Amber among them. The words got harder and after 10 more minutes, only three contestants were left. Megan and Amber had each missed one word.

"Megan, your word is 'gargoyle'," said the judge.

Megan gulped. She didn't even know what a gargoyle was, much less how to spell it. But she repeated the word slowly and tried to sound it out. "G-a-r-g-o-i-l,"

said Megan hesitantly.

"I'm sorry," said the judge.

Megan shrugged her shoulders and smiled. Then she took her seat with her parents. Mrs. Lane put her arm around Megan's shoulders. Her daddy gave her a wink, and Megan knew that it didn't matter that much. Then she listened to Amber try to spell "gargoyle."

"G-a-r-r-g-o-y-l," said Amber.

"I'm sorry," said the judge, "but that is incorrect." Amber burst into tears and ran off the stage.

Megan found her in the restroom crumpled on the floor crying. Megan knelt beside her and put her arm around Amber's shoulders. "I'm sorry you didn't win," said Megan.

Amber stopped crying long enough to look at Megan. "But you didn't win either," she said. "Aren't you sorry you didn't win?"

"Well, sort of," admitted Megan. "But it didn't mean that much to me. It was so important to you, and I'm sorry you're so sad."

"At first," said Amber, "I thought you were just somebody to beat, but you've been a . . . a friend to me. Thanks." Megan sat on the floor, held Amber's hand and listened to her cry.

Then Mrs. Sullivan came in. "Amber, how could you miss such an easy word? And get off that dirty floor in your new dress. Oh well, I guess it's not the end of the world. But you know you won't be getting that new bike," she said.

"That's okay," said Amber squeezing Megan's hand. "I've got something better." 🍌

TEEN Scene

Arkansas Youth Conference

Arkansas youth gathered August 14 at First FWB Church in Conway for their second annual conference. The church sanctuary was filled and chairs lined the aisles as 151 youth and 23 adult youth leaders registered.

Mark Brawley, youth pastor at Oak Park FWB Church in Pine Bluff, was the featured speaker. He conducted three challenging sessions on peer pressure.

Mark Stripling, youth pastor at North Little Rock FWB Church, presented a mini-concert.

Bobby Edwards, Arkansas TEAM youth representative, organized the youth on district levels for the statewide TEAM program. Youth were challenged to assist in raising funds for the new home mission work in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Jackie Brown is Arkansas' CTS Director and plans quality events and programs for Arkansas youth.

Illinois Youth Project

On a national level the Free Will Baptist youth have been organized into TEAM (Teens Equipped and Active in Ministry). Illinois youth decided to be named the I-Team.

The youth have organized TEAM within the state and elected their own state officers and captains. Christy Cockrum, Illinois TEAM representative, recently involved the state youth in a missionary project. Twenty-five youth participated in a walk-a-thon at Camp Hope August 25.

The group raised more than \$2,000 for the George Harvey account. The Harvey family serves as home missionaries in Phoenix, Arizona.

TEAM Representatives

The following is a listing of the TEAM Congress State Representatives elected by the youth of their state during the National Youth Conference in Phoenix:

Alabama—Jonathan Miley, Arizona—Roger Marshall, Arkansas—Bobby Edwards, California—Marty Ehler, Colorado—Denise Killings, Florida—Stephanie McElhaney, Georgia—Julie Merritt, Illinois—Christy Cockrum, Kansas—Marcus Brewer, Missouri—Diane Walls, North Carolina—Holly Burnette, Ohio—Lee Frye, Oklahoma—Regina Henry, Tennessee—Brent Jones, Texas—Andy Gray, West Virginia—Brian Williams.

If your state is not listed and the youth from your state would like to be represented, please contact TEAM, P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217. Find out how you and your state can be a part of the TEAM.



Bookstores!

By Larry Hampton

What is the greatest untapped educational resource available to Free Will Baptist churches? Christian bookstores.

Is your church short of qualified teachers? Your local Christian bookstore has books and videos designed to help you equip believers for a more effective teaching ministry.

Are you considering starting a ministry to singles? To find out what to do (and what not to do!), visit your nearest Christian bookstore.

Do you need Sunday School curriculum? You can find it at your favorite Christian bookstore.

Do you need a new Bible? A

nearby Christian bookstore is sure to have one that's just right for you.

Do you need help putting today's most critical issues in biblical perspective? Then head for a Christian bookstore where you'll find authoritative books written by today's leading Christian spokesmen.

The shelves of Christian bookstores are lined with unmined gold. Visit your local Christian bookstore and dig in!



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Larry Hampton is managing editor at Thomas Nelson Communications. He is a member of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.





Robert E. Picirilli

Green Tree Bible Study

Luke 15:3-10

Parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin

On one occasion Jesus said He came to seek and save that which is lost (Luke 19:10). The three parables in this chapter portray that mission of the Master in a powerful and dramatic way. We look at two of them in this article.

And if one will get the message Jesus intended, he must look at the parables in light of the immediate context—as always. Here, the context is vv. 1-2. Tax collectors and “sinners” were thronging Jesus, hanging on His words.

The self-righteous religious establishment were contemptuous. They despised the tax collectors among them as having sold out to the foreign Roman overlords. And they thought that in order to maintain God’s law they had to ostracize “sinners.” So they used this as an occasion for biting criticism of Jesus.

The point of the parables, then, stands in frank contrast with the attitude they displayed when they said, sneering and self-righteous, that Jesus was “receiving sinners and eating with them.” The Greek word translated “receives” (*prosdechomai*) implies receiving gladly. They couldn’t understand why Jesus *welcomed* the company of people who should so obviously be shunned.

So Jesus tells about a man who loses a sheep and a woman who loses a coin. He couches the para-

bles in the same question-expecting-a-negative-answer form of several others. No shepherd would lose a sheep and not go out to search; no homemaker would lose a coin and fail to look until she found it.

The first thing in both parables, then, is the *seeking*. Just as the man and the woman seek diligently for the lost sheep and coin, so Jesus seeks lost sinners. No surprise, then, that He is in the company of publicans and other outcasts.

The next thing in both parables is the *finding*. The seeking was not futile. The sheep and the coin were found. Jesus’ efforts in seeking lost sinners are likewise successful.

The next thing in both parables is the *rejoicing*. You can’t miss the importance of that word as it appears in vv. 5-7, 9-10. The shepherd calls his friends and neighbors together to rejoice when he has found the lost sheep.

The homemaker likewise summons hers to rejoice with her over the coin she has found—in this case, the *drachma*, a Greek silver coin of considerable value, often considered the price of a sheep, probably about two days’ wages. (Consider also the rejoicing in the third parable.)

So Jesus is clearly rebuking the Pharisees and scribes who have been criticizing Him. Instead of sneering at the welcome He extended to sinners, they should have been rejoicing that

sinners were hearing the very words that could reclaim them from Hell.

And that leads directly to the final thing in both parables: *the attitude of Heaven*. At the conclusion of both parables Jesus makes essentially the same interpretive observation: “There is joy in heaven, joy in the presence of the angels of God, when one sinner repents.”

This is the real point of the parables, and it serves to confirm for us what God’s own attitude is. In the Jews’ usage, “Heaven” was often used as a reverent way of referring to God Himself. That is also the implied meaning of “in the presence of the angels,” for God is the One whose bidding and glorification are carried out by angels in Heaven.

It also serves to confirm Jesus’ attitude. These parables, then, say in story form the same thing Jesus said on another occasion when the situation was similar: He came “not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

God loves sinners and sent His Son to seek and save them. He welcomes them when they come to Him.

We are glad it is so. Were it not for that we would still be lost. As G. Campbell Morgan put it, the theme of the parables is, after all, the grace of God. So it is: the seeking, finding, rejoicing grace of God.





NEWS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

HIGH ADVENTURE RADIO SYSTEM BRINGS GOSPEL TO MILLIONS

BEIRUT, Lebanon (EP)—Just days after Iraqi troops stormed Kuwait, High Adventure Ministries erected a huge, reversible shortwave antenna system 400 miles (650 kilometers) from Saddam Hussein's borders.

High Adventure Ministries, which operates the Voice of Hope World Network, has been reaching over 50 countries from its strategic position in Southern Lebanon for over 10 years.

The new Kintronics reflector curtain will enable the Voice of Hope to expand its radiation factor 20 times. According to transmitter engineer Roy Shantz, "The antenna will provide more than enough signal to cover most of the Soviet Union and Africa."

High Adventure is already reaching the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe with programs in a dozen languages. "The Church must try to anticipate geo-political changes and be ready to respond to the spiritual vacuum left by corrupt or crumbling regimes," said Don Otis, vice president for the organization.

Since the project nears completion as tension in the East is on the rise, High Adventure's 18 Arabic-speaking staff have geared their efforts toward relieving stress in the region through a unique combination of prayer, humor, music and news.

The project could not have come at a better time, says Otis. "According to studies among Arabs and Jews in the region, 97 percent have radios," he said. "Shortwave radio, in particular, is their primary source of international news. By using this medium, we can tap into the hearts of people who can only be changed through an internal transformation."

CLear-TV CALLS FOR BURGER KING BOYCOTT

TUPELO, MS—Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLear-TV), a coalition of approximately 1,600 Christian leaders, has called for a one-year boycott of Burger King, a leading sponsor of sex, violence and profanity during the Spring sweeps.

In the monitoring period, Burger King helped sponsor 18.85 incidents of sex, violence and profanity with every 30-second commercial placed.

Burger King helped sponsor the high amount of sex, violence and profanity despite being asked on three separate occasions prior to the monitoring period not to do so.

The CLear-TV Executive Committee voted in early August to call for the boycott of Burger King. CLear-TV is asking those con-

JEWISH ECCLESIASTICAL COURT EXCOMMUNICATES BARNEY FRANK

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—Though his colleagues in the House of Representatives let him off with a mild reprimand, Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.) received harsher treatment from Jewish leaders. Frank was formally excommunicated according to Jewish law by the High Rabbinic Ecclesiastical Court on June 27 in New York City.

Presiding Rabbi Joseph Friedman declared that Frank was excommunicated for "desecrating the name of God and the Jewish people, for bringing dishonor and disgrace upon the high office of congressman, and for promoting and encouraging the moral corruption of society." The statement added, "A prominent Jewish public official, to our deep embarrassment, Frank has been a blatant promoter of moral depravity."

Frank openly homosexual, has been under investigation for incidents related to a live-in homosexual partner and former male prostitute whom Frank first met on a "professional" basis while soliciting paid sex. Frank reportedly used his influence to "fix" numerous traf-

fic tickets for his partner, who ran a gay prostitution ring from Frank's Washington apartment. Members of the House did not penalize Frank for the prostitution ring, saying Frank had no way of knowing that his roommate was running a large-scale criminal operation from his home.

Two major national Orthodox rabbinic bodies, the Rabbinical Alliance of America and the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, expressed approval of the excommunication, but did not participate in it.

Asked about similarities to John Cardinal O'Connor's recent statements concerning Catholic excommunication, Friedman explained, "We can only comment that from the standpoint of his religion, the Cardinal is obviously correct. In general, we support the Cardinal's pronouncements on moral and family matters. Religion is not a democracy. Either one accepts or rejects its authority. If one accepts its authority, then it is not proper to pick and choose only the things one likes and finds easy and convenient."

AFRICAN WITCH DOCTOR CONFESSES CHRIST

KAMPALA, Uganda (EP)—A prominent African witch doctor who trained spiritual leaders converted to Christ during an evangelistic rally in July sponsored by a U. S. - based ministry.

"Yesterday was a great day when we collected and burned strong satanic fetishes of Patrick Kigozi, a renowned witch doctor," stated the Rev. Peterson Sozi, director of Back to God (BTG), an evangelism effort in Uganda. Sozi wrote of the incident in a letter to the Rev. Don Dunkerley, director of Proclamation International in Pensacola, Florida, which supports BTG. Sozi, pastor of Kampala Reformed Presbyterian Church where BTG is based, explained that the witch doctor "has been training witch doctors and his customers come from all levels of Ugandan society."

Sozi said that the relatives and all the villagers of the witch doctor were invited to the burning, "and it was a grand bonfire service. Many people were scared thinking that Patrick would die after burning his powers," Sozi continued. "All the witch doctors in and around Kampala are scheduled to meet to plead with Patrick not to reveal all their tricks."

THOUSANDS TURN TO CHRIST IN KENYA

MOMBASA, Kenya (EP)—Southern Baptist evangelism efforts are experiencing phenomenal results in Kenya, according to a *Baptist Press* news report, and "the launching of an innovative follow-up and discipleship program promises even greater results in the coming months as new believers are trained and begin spreading their faith," the report stated.

A four-week "Kenya Coastal Crusade," which targeted four areas along the Kenyan coast and one inland location reports 56,323 people making commitments of faith in Christ and 84 new congregations organized. "The mammoth evangelistic effort united some 540 Southern Baptist volunteers from the United States, 60 Southern Baptist missionaries in the African country, and scores of Kenyan Baptist pastors and lay workers" for a pair of two-week campaigns, according to the report.

Enos Weswa, a Kenyan man who teaches at the Kenya Baptist Theological Seminary, took a four-month leave of absence to head the 14-week follow-up program, which will bring literature to new converts in their villages and lead home-based Bible studies.

A Kenyan pastor observed, "My biggest problem is getting new Christians to walk long distances to church. This time we are going to take the spiritual food to the people rather than immediately asking them to 'come and get it.'"

Coming next month:

"I Met Jesus
at
Christmas"



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

Time to Be Thankful



One of the Bible's recurring themes is thanksgiving. The spirit of gratitude should characterize all believers. In light of what God has done for the believer, every heart should be alive with praise and thanksgiving.

Our national Thanksgiving holiday includes the spiritual and physical blessings God has given us. An ungrateful, unthankful spirit is out of place in the life of any Christian.

We can be grateful for the *Book*. The Bible provides us with God's divine message. Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. Every word of the Bible is God-breathed. The Book is the authority for what we believe and the way we behave. It is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

We can be grateful for the *Blood*. Without the shedding of blood there could have been no redemption. We have not been redeemed by silver and gold but by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. His death paid the ransom for our sins. He became sin for us and once for all shed His blood to purchase eternal redemption for us. The blood atonement surfaces in Genesis 3:15 and climaxes at Calvary.

We can be grateful for the *Body*. All believers make up the Body of Christ, the Church. Sinners who repent become members of the Body of Christ, baptized by the Spirit into one Body. The Body has many members, each uniquely gifted by

God. Although there is only one Body, it is characterized by distinctiveness and diversity. One day Christ will return for the Church.

We can be grateful for the *Blessings*. Paul addresses this in Ephesians 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." God gave us everything in Christ at the moment of conversion. Progress in Christian development occurs when we understand and appropriate those resources. Gradual growth in Christ guarantees steadfastness and stability in our Christian walk.


We can be thankful for our *Bonds*. Paul told the Philippians that his bonds contributed to the spread of the gospel. He declared that although he was in bonds the Word of God was not bound. Paul's imprisonment did not silence his thanksgiving but rather intensified his rejoicing.

We can be grateful for our *Burdens*. Life will always have trials and burdens. James instructs us to count it a joy when we have burdens, for they produce patience and result in character development. Paul's bur-

dens were not a hindrance as he went about the ministry God had for him. Philippians 3 declares that the loss of all things do not matter if we focus on Christ.

We can be grateful for *Buffetings*. Persecution, beatings and pain marked the ministry of Paul and others throughout the pages of the Bible. The disciples counted it a privilege to suffer for Christ. Paul considered his thorn in the flesh a special blessing though he acknowledged it as a messenger from Satan to buffet him. God's grace remains sufficient to satisfy us when buffetings come.

We can be thankful for *Battles*. Physical, emotional, social and spiritual battles can not be escaped. Christians live in a hostile world that hates God. We must not marvel if the world despises, discredits, deceives and denounces us. We are in the world but not of the world, yet we must minister to the world. God has provided us the armor necessary to endure the conflict. The final victory is God's business. Our business is to remain faithful in the battle.

We can be grateful for the *Beloved*. Paul declared, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." We should be filled with praise and thanksgiving for the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world. All that God has done for us is through Christ. He is the only mediator between God and man. He is the author and finisher of our faith. How can we not be thankful? 

Secretary's Schedule

November 1-2	Florida State Association
November 2-3	Mississippi State Assoc.
November 8-10	Alabama State Association
November 12-14	Tennessee State Assoc.
November 15-18	Georgia State Association

CONTACT

P. O. Box 1088

Nashville, Tennessee 37202

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November Is National Home Missions Month!

November 18: National Home Missions Sunday!

55 Home Missionary Families

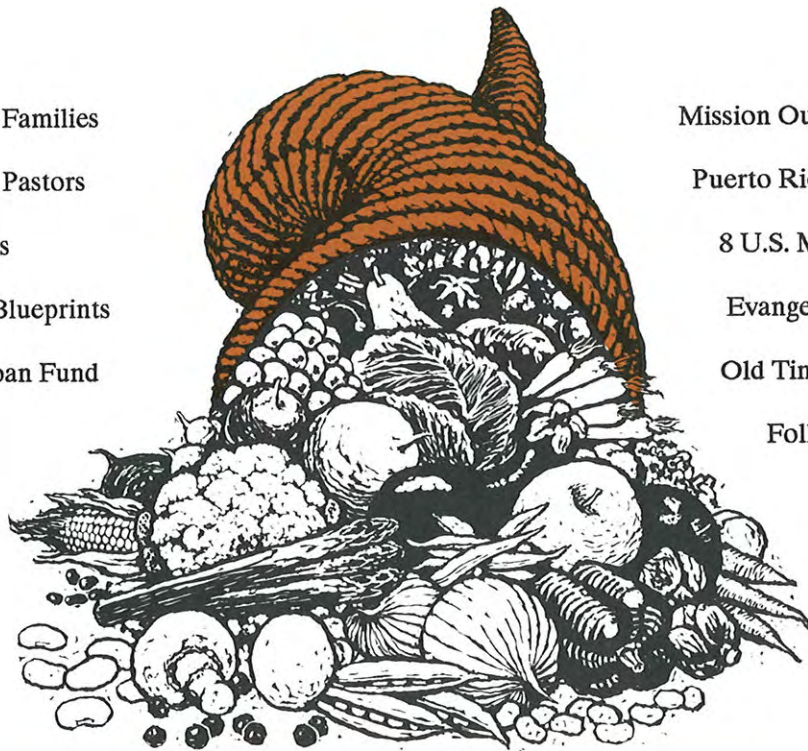
15 Mexican National Pastors

8 Tentmaker Families

Missionary Builder, Blueprints

Church Extension Loan Fund

Roll Call Sunday



Mission Outreach to Canada

Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

8 U.S. Military Chaplains

Evangelism Conferences

Old Time Camp Meeting

Follow Up Literature

Your gifts and prayers help build Free Will Baptist churches in the North American continent and U.S.A.-owned islands. The National Home Missions "General Fund" especially needs your help at this time. We challenge your church to give a special offering, and you as individuals to give sacrificially during November - National Home Missions Month.

*National Home Missions Department
P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, TN 37202*