

JANUARY 1991

CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



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Single!

.....
The Jesus
Effect

.....
The Fourth
Degree

.....
Pistol Packin'
Preachers

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VOLUME 38, NO. 1

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Melvin Worthington

Focus on the Future

The National Association of Free Will Baptists was organized 56 years ago on November 5, 1935. Growth has not been spectacular, but it has been steady in local churches, district and state associations, and national agencies. At no other time in our history have we been as ready to contribute to God's work as in this hour. We have the means and message to make a difference.

The *design* of the denomination must be understood. Why did the movement come into existence? What are our goals? Our objectives? Unless we know the answers to these questions, we will be a movement wandering in the wilderness without purpose or directives.

The mandate of the National Association is found in the first paragraph of the preface in our *Treatise* which states, "The Free Will Baptist denomination is a fellowship of evangelical believers united in extending the witness of Christ and the building of His church throughout the world."

Beginning with the local church and extending through the district, state and national association, we see this design for world-wide outreach. Flowing from the individual to the world in an ever-widening circle, our structure is designed to extend the witness of Christ.

The *structure* of our movement is unique. It allows freedom and flexibility for pastors, local churches, district and state associations and national agencies to adapt to the

changing world. Local church autonomy is preserved along with voluntary affiliation in district associations. The denomination provides a framework which recognizes and respects individual differences.

The *support* of our movement is also unique. Free Will Baptists voluntarily support denominational ministries with their time, talent and tithe. We do this through the cooperative plan, designated gifts and special gifts—all or a selected number of ministries. Perhaps this is a weakness since some people choose which ministries they will support, but in reality this unique privilege has been preserved in our structure.

Total denominational support will increase as we accept responsibility as stewards. Honesty requires that every Free Will Baptist take a look at how he supports the work of the local church and other denominational ministries.

The *services* throughout our movement are not the same. Worship practices differ. This reflects the diversity of our movement.

There can be unity without uniformity. Some churches emphasize praise. Others emphasize preaching. Still others emphasize friendship and fellowship.

The *duty* to focus on the future demands that we preserve our doctrinal distinctives. Those doctrines which mark Free Will Baptists from others should not be denied, dismissed or discounted. When people want to know our distinctives, we should be prepared to express them clearly. We cannot afford to be ashamed, apologetic or apathetic regarding our distinctives.

We must perceive the Free Will Baptist *dilemma*. Our denomination is often racked by division, disagreement and tests of fellowship. Methods tend to divide us. Half-hearted loyalty by some and a spirit of independence by others compromise our potential.

Somehow we must be willing to change in order to minister effectively. At the same time all such change must follow the scriptures. Our methods, models and message must line up with God's changeless Word.

We need not copy other groups, though we can learn from them and perhaps adapt that which we learn. What worked in the 1950's and 1960's might not work in the 1990's. Some things that worked then will work now. It's up to us to learn the difference.

The future is here. Today. What a great day to be a Free Will Baptist!

Secretary's Schedule

January 7-9	Fund-raising Conference Hillsdale FWB College Moore, Oklahoma
January 15-18	Convention Planning Trip Charleston, West Virginia
January 29 - February 1	RCMA Conference Corpus Christi, Texas



Single!

By Cynthia Lines

I am through apologizing for being single. Oh, I don't verbally say, "I'm sorry," but many people give the impression that older single adults should be ashamed. That there must be something wrong with us.

It's bad enough to endure such nonsense from people who are *not* Christians, but when such behavior is exhibited by Christians . . . well, it grates on my very last nerve.

The people you think would give you their every support act like you are defective in some way. They seem to think that marriage should be the number one top priority for every single female from age 18 on up.

I have a news flash for them: Doing God's will is number one in

my life. If His will includes a mate, wonderful. If His will doesn't include a mate, wonderful. Other Christians are supposed to want God's will in *your* life as well as their own, but it seems that only applies if His will coincides with the norm when it comes to marriage.

I am 29 and single. (I hate that word. Are you double when you're married?) I was saved when I was 10 years old. I have had my arguments with God just like everyone else. However, on this issue we do not argue. If God wants me to marry someone, He will have to bring us together.

I refuse to marry just to make other people happy. I admit that I would love to have a special some-

one in my life. Someone to be happy, sad and just together with. Someone to give me a hug when I need it most. Someone to help me make decisions.

My point is, as much as I would like that, I want what God wants more. I find it incredibly insensitive to be treated like I haven't any brains because I don't have a husband. Some women have a lot of nerve treating me like *I'm* lacking in grey matter with the husbands *they* chose.

The Bible speaks about single women. In I Corinthians 7:8 Paul says it would be good for single women and widows to abide as he did. Those who know me will tell you that my favorite thing to do is debate or discuss something that has two sides. Something about choosing a side and trying to convince someone else you are right gets my juices flowing.

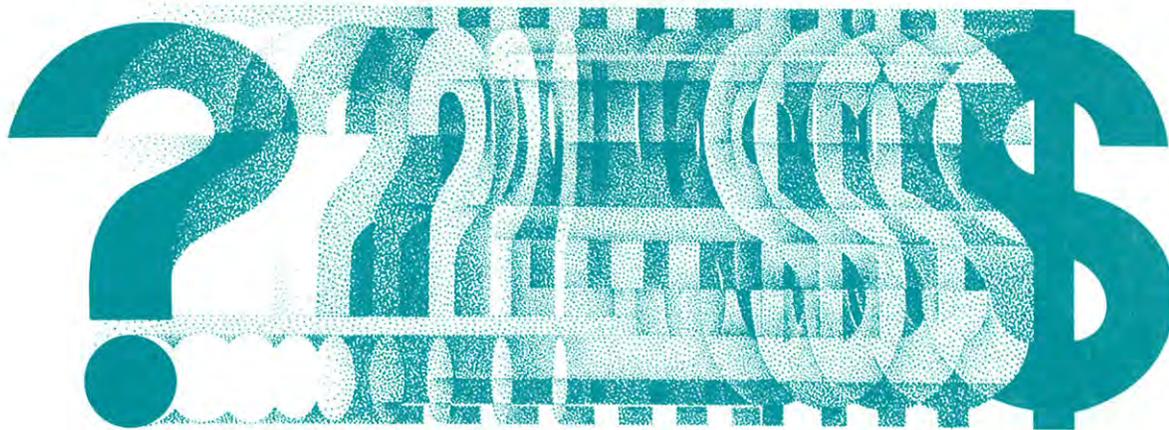
However, there isn't anything to debate on this verse. I know that the verse advises if they cannot contain, to marry rather than burn. But taking in the entire picture, to me, it says Jesus allows people to remain single. It isn't that I don't think *anyone* should get married. I don't think *everyone* should get married. I think that should be God's leading not people's prodding.

All single people aren't irresponsible and afraid of commitment. To my way of thinking it's more irresponsible to get married just because everyone else does. Marriage is such a big step I cannot imagine going into it with the haphazard attitude, "If it doesn't work, we'll just get a divorce!" I am a responsible person. I pay bills on time. I have a full-time job and work part-time also. I am active in my church.

It bothers me when the unsaved people where I work understand my viewpoint on marriage better than my Christian brothers and sisters. Maybe I expect too much. I know I am close to the subject. I live it. ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Cynthia Lines is a member of First Bible Free Will Baptist Church, New Castle, Indiana.



Do Master's Men Deserve Support?

By Wendell Leckbee

For 35 years the Free Will Baptist Master's Men organization has been an active part of our National Association. Like other organizations, the past years have seen both good days and bad. At times Master's Men flourished and at times they've floundered. Sometimes they've struggled for survival and identity.

While Master's Men as an organization has made substantial contributions to the growth and spiritual life of our denomination, most will agree that the full potential has never been realized.

Who are the Master's Men? What do they do? Master's Men are the men in every Free Will Baptist church. Some are organized as chapters. Some are not. Those who are not miss many of the benefits of having an organized chapter. For example, training. Growth for many men has come as a result of participating in study programs, working in developing projects, and enjoying warm fellowship with other men in the chapter.

Work. Master's Men have spearheaded such projects as "Books and Tools for Missionaries." At no cost to the missionary on a lonely post, needed tools have been provided for jobs requiring manual labor. Books for the missionary and his family likewise have been made available. While these excellent projects continue, maybe they have not been visible or dramatic enough to capture the attention of our denomination.

The going and growing project in recent years has been "Helping Hands." This project allows Free Will Baptist laymen to participate in constructing buildings for mission churches. Master's Men have worked manually in Brazil, Japan, Nebraska, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, Michigan and other places.

By the time you read this, Master's Men might have been permitted to enter Cuba and work on repairing or rebuilding "Cedars of Lebanon." They've certainly made their presence known in Virgin Islands where so much devastation was experienced from Hurricane Hugo. Master's Men efforts have resulted in savings of more than \$800,000 in construction costs for Free Will Baptist churches.

Those who are interested and informed agree that despite the good performance track record, Master's Men has not enjoyed the wide support that's necessary for sustained growth. With so many fine laymen chomping at the bits to go and grow, some are left wondering why such little encouragement and support come their way from state and national leaders.

Also, many local pastors have been reluctant to give support to Master's Men. Pastor, can it be that you are one of those still saying, "My men are not ready yet," "We have a men's fellowship," or simply, "No." You may be saying, "No," to a proven program that works all the way from the local church to the mission field.

The greatest untapped source of strength and support is found in the laymen of our denomination. If we ever become adequately organized and mobilized for the Master, what a difference will be experienced! Contact a member of the Master's Men Board and let him explain more fully the work of the Master's Men. Or speak with some of our pastors who have enjoyed the benefits of Master's Men. Contact General Director Jim Vallance for the address or phone number of a board member or pastor in your area.

Here's a sample of what you might hear: Ben Scott, North Little Rock, Arkansas, "Master's Men has been a vital part of our local church program for many years. I've personally been a supporter since the birth of Master's Men in 1955. It has been a thrill to see men grow in every area of their lives, because of their involvement in Master's Men!" ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Wendell Leckbee is chairman of the Master's Men Board. He serves as a deacon in First Free Will Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Jesus Effect

By Dennis E. Hensley



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During the 1980 Olympics an American athlete named Eric Heiden took all five gold medals in each of the events for men's speed skating. In the first four events Heiden set new Olympic speed records: 38.03 seconds for the 500-meters; 1 minute 15.18 seconds for the 1,000-meters; 1 minute 55.44 seconds in the 1,500-meters; and 7 minutes 2.29 seconds in the 5,000-meters.

In the final event, the 10,000-meter race, Heiden not only broke the Olympic record, he also set a new all-time world speed record for that race with a clocked time of 14 minutes 28.13 seconds.

Amazing as these victories were, they came as no surprise to observers. For years Eric Heiden had been winning every time he competed in an amateur race. He was recognized as the greatest men's speed skater who had ever lived. Sports writers knew it; coaches

knew it; even Heiden's competitors knew it. The plain and simple fact was, no one could equal Eric Heiden when it came to speed skating.

The Heiden Effect

Now, this might make you think that such knowledge would be demoralizing and deflating to people who had to compete against Heiden. After all, what was the point of entering a race when you knew in advance you had no chance whatsoever of equalling the champion? Depressing, right?

In actuality, just the opposite proved true. When Heiden won the 500-meter race, silver medal honors went to Evgeni Kulikov of the USSR, who turned in his personal fastest time ever for the 500-meter race. When Heiden won the 1,000-meter race, the runner-up was Gaetan Boucher of Canada, who clocked his personal fastest time ever in the 1,000-meters.

And so it went in every race. The silver and bronze medalists who lost to Heiden actually achieved greater personal speeds than ever before, simply because they were doing their best to be the equal of Eric Heiden.

This phenomenon became known as "the Heiden Effect," which now is defined as "achieving new personal victories by striving to equal a competitor one knows he can never be equal to or surpass."

The Christian Race

As Christians, we are to run a good race and finish our course (II Timothy 4:7). But like the Olympic skaters, we need someone to hold up as the ultimate example so that we can rise to the challenge and turn in our best possible performance.

We have such an example in Jesus. Just as "the Heiden Effect" motivated the Olympians, "the Jesus Effect" can motivate dedicated Christians.

Whereas it is true we can never equal Jesus on any plain, just making the effort to be like Him will raise us to new levels of purity. We are admonished to "be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless" (II Peter 3:14).

Naturally, there is only One who truly is without spot and blameless. Try as we may, we'll never equal Him. But try we must, nevertheless. The effort will bring out the best in each of us.

Gauging the Pacesetter

In our race through life on the road to eternity, we are instructed to run flat-out, putting forth a championship effort. Paul wrote, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain" (I Corinthians 9:24).

If you feel weary or weak, as though you need to fall back and slow down, look ahead to Jesus. He will be out front, setting the pace. Strive to draw up behind Him.

Consider some of the specific ways in which you can strive to equal Jesus:

Love

Jesus gave everything to prove His love for us—even His life (John 3:16). Surely in comparison to this, we should be able to show patience, friendship, affection and brotherly concern for our fellow man. Jesus has not called us to sacrifice our lives as He did, but He *has* called us to love one another as He loved us (John 15:12, 17).

Endurance

Jesus never quit. He endured 40 days of deprivation, fasting in the desert and still defeated Satan. He endured the scourge of the whip and the nails of the cross, yet still completed His holy mission on earth. In light of this, do we dare say that *anything* He calls us to do is too difficult or too demanding? Surely not. We must learn to "endure hardness as a good soldier" (II Timothy 2:3). Jesus set the example for ultimate endurance.

Boldness

Jesus was never fearful of proclaiming the truth. At age 12 He debated the elders in the temple. As a grown man, He upset the money-changers' tables and drove them from the house of God. As an evangelist, He met challenges from lawyers and priests and council members and rabbis. He spoke the truth, lived the truth, defended the truth. With this as our example, we too can boldly proclaim the truth to those we meet in this world.

Compassion

Jesus came to save all people. When He looked over Jerusalem and considered how many people would choose to die in sin and spend eternity in Hell, it broke His heart and He wept (John 11:35). His deepest desire is always for everyone to repent and not perish in sin (II Peter 3:9).

His ministry reaches out to the sick, the blind, the young, the morally corrupt, the poor, the outcasts, the weak. They are all precious in His sight. His compassion knows no limits. Such an example should melt our hearts, humble us

and give us a burden for a lost world.

Forgiveness

Jesus was asked by Peter how often an offender should be forgiven. Peter suggested seven times at a maximum. Jesus suggested 70 times seven as a starting point (Matthew 18:22). It is a good thing for Peter that Jesus had such a great range of forgiveness, for Peter offended the Lord far more than seven times.

Are we any better than Peter? Certainly not. Then how can we expect to gain God's forgiveness for our continual sins? There's only one way: we must try to be as forgiving as Jesus was and is. Jesus taught, "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven" (Luke 6:37).

So it is then that whatever virtue of Christianity we wish to enhance in ourselves, all we need to do is emulate Jesus. He was perfect in every way. To be even "similar" to Him is to be more noble and sincere than we could ever have imagined possible.

The philosopher Henry David Thoreau wrote, "In the long run, men hit only what they aim at. Therefore, though they should fail immediately, they had better aim at something high."

How true, how true. And what more righteous goal can a Christian aim for than to be like Jesus. The *effect* a Christ-like walk can have on a person is miraculous . . . for "the Jesus Effect" is the miracle of God working in us. ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Dennis E. Hensley is a free-lance writer who lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The frequently-published author also speaks at writers conferences.

What it takes to put four children through Bible College, mostly without scholarships.



Getting the Fourth Degree

By Chuck Snow



My wife, Fleda, and I met at Free Will Baptist Bible College. While normal students studied hard in Greek class, I was accused of studying Zeta, Eta, Theta and *Fleda*. I cannot deny the accusation.

We have four children, all of whom have been or are now enrolled at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Sometimes we laugh about it. And cry. And wonder. And marvel. And praise God.

From time to time Fleda and I are asked how we could afford to send four students in and out of FWBBC without high-dollar scholarships, grants or the key to Fort Knox. What advice do we have for others with one or more children who are also Bible College prone? People wonder if like Atlanta's Coca Cola, do we have a secret formula. And, if so, will we please share it with them?

As we see it, there's no set-in-concrete answer for the question. Each family unit must act and react in accordance with its own situation.

While we did not unravel any unsolved mysteries, we did learn to apply some square-one basics. They worked for us. They might work for you. These down-to-earth ground rules work mainly because they're so simple. We call them the Six Commitments.

But before listing them, I have a confession. We fudged before the actual college challenge. We practiced 13 years on our oldest son, sending him, K-12, to a local Christian school. Then we practiced on the younger three as well. It was tougher than it sounds, because I was laid off when the first one's school bill came due.

But by God's grace, for 22 consecutive years (1967-1989), the four Snow children plowed through Christian school. Let's see, that came to 44 semesters, more than 18,000 pupil days and about 200,000 ball games!

So much for the dry run.

Confessing that we weren't 100 percent faithful to our task, but God was, and we didn't always know how, but we did Who, here are our Six Commitments:

1. Pray for Wisdom.
2. Perceive Their Accomplishments.
3. Prepare Yourself Financially.
4. Prioritize Steps Accordingly.
5. Pursue Challenges Relentlessly.
6. Praise God Continually.

That's about it. Simplicity personified. But, folks, it worked. Let me explain:

Pray for Wisdom.

What could be more basic than divine wisdom? The Book says to "seek her." I have *never* known how to rear children, and I don't know now. We've had to beg God all through these nearly three decades of parenthood for His leading and

His answers. We prayed. He answered.

Perceive the Accomplishments.

Context it how you will, but "where there is no vision the people perish." Visualize the end before attempting any project and that task will come about much more easily. See those four mortarboards out in the future and they will one day become a reality.

Prepare Financially.

Money? Better teach your children a trade. We did. Our three boys are fix-it men. Our daughter married a fix-it man. They can repair lawn mowers, tinker with engines or, if groceries get low, they know how to fish and hunt. Common sense works.

Humorous on the surface, but when that first 18-year-old submits his application to Bible College and cash is not there to accompany it, the humor vanishes under the dust of reality. Don't become the *Loan Ranger*. There is no substitute for early-as-possible financial planning. Prepare. Prepare. Prepare.

Prioritize Steps.

All higher education hoopla aside, life must go on at the home front while one or more children are away at college. Non-college family members have their needs also. The roof will not cease to leak when Number One Son changes hats from high school senior to college freshman.

The old Olds still thirsts for petrol. Camp fees and heating bills and Sears and life still happen. So, early on, place in proper order the educational rungs. But make unfailingly sure those family supportives bracing the ladder are not forgotten.

Pursue Challenges.

As one famous orator said, "Never give up. Never, never, never, never, never give up!" Flint your eyes toward that goal and don't look back. Challenges will come, but you will beat them if you keep at it. There is an end to it although you can't see it now.

Praise God.

Live in the pulse of praise. Devour God's Word. Meditate on it. Talk about it when you rise, retire, go in and out. Praise Him and love Him. An attitude of praise will be the backbone of your commitment strategy.

Pray, perceive, prepare, prioritize, pursue, praise. Structure these ideas into your Bible college preparatory plans. Deploy them as you see fit. Adapt them to your family situation. You and yours will eventually earn the fourth degree! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Chuck Snow is a 1961 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, has been a bus / train operator for Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) since 1975. He won MARTA's 1989 Bus Rodeo, an award for expertise

Cooperative Channel Contributions October 1990					
RECEIPTS:					
State	COOP		Total	Oct. '89	Yr. To Date
	Designated	(Undesignated)			
Alabama	\$ 72.84	\$ 63.00	\$ 135.84	\$ 1,124.51	\$ 3,642.40
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	65.33	50.00
Arkansas	.00	6,172.06	6,172.06	5,081.43	54,579.21
California	.00	1,064.31	1,064.31	941.07	14,525.42
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	146.98	3,612.17	3,759.15	2,551.81	20,828.78
Georgia	6,844.84	735.00	7,579.84	8,376.33	89,614.06
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	269.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	99.45	287.99
Illinois	.00	80.00	80.00	10,643.59	86,708.77
Indiana	582.97	.00	582.97	558.75	5,441.79
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	40.66	792.84
Kentucky	.00	.00	.00	.00	2,261.23
Maryland	.00	1,132.00	1,132.00	.00	4,799.31
Michigan	1,880.01	800.00	2,680.01	.00	47,433.88
Mississippi	.00	811.77	811.77	672.84	4,980.14
Missouri	7,759.27	.00	7,759.27	.00	76,200.58
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	.00	377.18
North Carolina	283.00	1,281.89	1,564.89	950.10	17,308.13
Ohio	300.00	1,951.00	2,251.00	3,505.48	27,024.44
Oklahoma	31,996.70	9,559.51	41,556.21	39,159.19	415,007.04
South Carolina	13,280.20	159.05	13,439.25	8,799.48	124,197.99
Tennessee	1,796.00	862.18	2,658.18	2,616.01	22,744.35
Texas	5,665.64	837.63	6,503.27	9,365.05	73,351.22
Virginia	258.92	200.73	459.65	472.09	3,702.99
West Virginia	2,444.47	.00	2,444.47	3,152.35	32,105.06
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	365.31
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	23.64	197.21
Other (Computer)	.00	.00	.00	.06	.27
Totals	<u>\$73,311.84</u>	<u>\$29,322.30</u>	<u>\$102,634.14</u>	<u>\$98,199.22</u>	<u>\$1,128,796.59</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:					
Executive Office	\$ 5,960.94	\$14,205.73	\$ 20,166.67	\$18,787.37	\$ 201,666.65
Foreign Missions	49,393.85	3,476.80	52,870.65	57,341.87	607,164.76
FWBBC	2,472.77	3,476.80	5,949.57	4,414.90	68,366.53
Home Missions	11,626.81	2,720.98	14,347.79	13,518.01	173,194.42
Retirement & Insurance	363.19	2,116.32	2,479.51	1,197.32	22,476.83
Master's Men	500.16	2,116.32	2,616.48	1,277.08	22,415.75
Commission for					
Theo. Integrity	47.86	75.57	123.43	96.88	1,042.14
FWB Foundation	1,550.73	906.99	2,457.72	912.75	14,504.76
Music Commission	20.86	75.57	96.43	2.60	804.79
Historical Commission	45.74	75.57	121.31	14.17	1,013.45
Radio & TV Commission	36.94	75.57	112.51	87.71	1,015.61
Hillsdale FWB College	858.97	.00	858.97	387.31	9,600.63
Other	433.02	.08	433.10	161.25	5,530.27
Totals	<u>\$73,311.84</u>	<u>\$29,322.30</u>	<u>\$102,634.14</u>	<u>\$98,199.22</u>	<u>\$1,128,796.59</u>

in handling buses in challenging road tests. His fourth child is a freshman at Free Will Baptist Bible College.



I Fell in Love with ...



H. Armstrong Roberts

...Japan

By Sue Larson

The pilot announced a final cruising altitude of 37,000 feet, adding that descent into Tokyo would begin in 10 minutes. Exhaustion and exhilaration had me choking back tears. I would soon be with missionary family Don and Ruth McDonald and their two children. Ruth is my only sister and we had been apart for nearly four years. I anticipated the hugs, fellowship and conversation we would enjoy. I never expected to fall in love.

Time for one last prayer before I stepped into a new world: "Father,

I've always dreamed of visiting Japan, but I have no explanation for why I'm here. You gave me this unexpected blessing, even though I didn't ask for it or plan it. Whatever Your purpose, I thank You. I want to encourage those I meet and be a willing student in the lessons that lie ahead. Please watch over my family while I'm away. Amen."

I deplaned into a new world that would be mine for four weeks. I wanted to absorb it all—the sounds, sights and smells. Unfortunately, my entire Japanese vocabu-

lary consisted of one word—*Konichiwa*. There were limited occasions for saying, "Good afternoon," in everyday conversations.

Love for Another Race and Culture

I grew up in a homogenous American society where I was exposed to a melting pot of racial, ethnic, social, linguistic and religious groups, but only in a casual, distant way. My daily contact with those different from me had been brief and infrequent. I asked God to

open a window for me to catch a glimpse of Japanese life.

God began erasing my preconceived notions and misconceptions about the Japanese and allowed me to see them through different eyes—His eyes. Japan's 128 million people are part of the world for whom Jesus lived and died. While their technology and wealth make them key players in world games of high finance and commerce, reminders of their spiritual poverty are everywhere.

Their cities and villages are filled with Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples. They dedicate their buildings and lives to false gods during elaborate ceremonies and festivals. They are nearly 100 percent literate but most have never held a Bible.

I began to love the Japanese people as I sat on the floor and ate sushi with them. I fellowshiped with Japanese Christians in several churches and felt conspicuous rubbing shoulders with the masses in crowded department stores. Often the members of our little party were the only *gaijin* (foreigners) I'd see for days.

With missionaries to interpret, I scratched the surface on understanding a foreign culture and felt a bond with individual people and families. I can no longer think of them as faceless millions but as real people with feelings and needs like my own.

One evening I learned that embarrassment feels the same in any country. A Japanese family came to the McDonald home to visit. While Ruth tended the baby in another room, Don and I prepared cake and coffee. I filled the sugar bowl, placed it on the serving tray with other items and offered coffee to our guests.

Everything went well until Mrs. Yoshida suddenly choked and sputtered something I didn't understand. I had filled the sugar bowl with salt!

I learned what a difference salt can make—in coffee and in the world. That night for the first time since making their acquaintance, the Yoshidas quizzed Don and Ruth about Christianity and spiritual things.

I Fell in Love with the Missionaries

The missionaries I stayed with were family. I already loved them, so I was unprepared for new feelings of love and admiration I began to experience for them. I lived alongside them and observed their lives and ministries. Most of it was not glamorous, but it never failed to be interesting and challenging.

Although I understood nothing being said, I was spellbound when missionaries conversed and preached in Japanese. As I tried a few Japanese phrases myself, my respect for missionaries soared. It's a miracle that missionaries all over the world function and thrive in places where English isn't spoken. I tried to imagine myself as a new missionary with language study ahead. It was a terrifying daydream from which I was glad to wake up.

While missionaries in Japan do not experience the same hardships as those who serve in the Third World, life can be difficult. I always heard that just *living* in another culture produces stress, but I didn't quite understand.

I tagged along for three days while the McDonalds tried to register their infant son. We crossed the city a dozen times, shuffling from one government office to another through snow piled higher than I'd ever seen. Everything from buying groceries to mailing letters seemed different and confusing.

Most of all, I appreciate the missionaries for their commitment. They care and it shows. They are ordinary people doing extraordinary things. I won't be able to sit in a missions service or look at a prayer card in the same way again.

I Found a Renewed Relationship with God

My visit to Japan was the trip of a lifetime. My heart beats with two new loves—the people and missionaries there. But my greatest thrill was a renewal of my personal relationship with my Lord as God used my experiences in Japan to draw me closer.

God's Word became fresh and alive to me as I sat with a group of

ladies in a classroom at the Ai No Sato Church in Sapporo. Their purpose in attending the class was to learn English, but our missionaries always include a healthy dose of Bible.

That day they were reading the story of the Samaritan woman at the well. As they took turns reading the story in faltering English, it spoke to me. In this setting with non-Christians reading it for the first time, it sounded new to me, too. I want to keep that excitement when I read the Bible or share it with others.

My personal faith was strengthened as I was exposed to the non-Christian religions. Shrines, temples, idols and charms hold the Japanese people with rituals and fear. They don't believe it is possible to experience a personal relationship with God. By contrast, the love of my life is Jesus and our relationship is very personal.

God's greatest gift, salvation through His Son, became a fresh reality to me as I watched a Japanese family at worship. A father held his little girl to give her a drink of holy water, then approached the shrine to pray. Money was thrown into the offering box and a large bell was sounded to get the attention of the gods. My heart ached at the sight, but I rejoiced in my salvation.

Yes, I fell in love with Japan. I brought the love home with me and shared what I learned with others. Would I recommend such a trip to others? Absolutely. But only to those who are willing to fall in love!



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Sue Larson is a member of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Antioch, Tennessee.

Wanted: Lay Counselors

By David Burgess



The first step to lay counseling is listening. The second step is encouragement. From these simple steps the average Christian is on the way to becoming a lay counselor.

But isn't counseling a job for professionals? Is there really a need for lay counseling?

Psychologist Gary Collins comments in *How to be a People Helper*: "Several years ago a government-sponsored study discovered that when people had personal problems, only 28 percent of them went to professional counselors or clinics. Approximately 29 percent consulted their family physician, and 42 percent sought help from clergymen."

Christians rightly view their pas-

tor as a source of counsel for a variety of problems and concerns. However, this penchant for clergy guidance can lead to an overload in the pastor's work schedule. Lay counselors in the church setting can be part of the solution.

Scriptural Basics

The scriptural "one another" commands of the New Testament indicate God's design for meeting many needs. Apart from the Gospels we are commanded 58 times to love one another, serve one another, bear one another's burdens, forgive one another, exhort one another, pray for one another, admonish one another, confess sins to one another, comfort

one another or some other such action. These "one another" commands sound very much like counseling.

The scriptural teaching on spiritual gifts presupposes the Body of Christ helping one another. God has given the Church an array of spiritual gifts in order to accomplish the work of the ministry and the building up of the Body (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Scripturally, we are called to minister to one another. What could be more appropriate than counseling one another?

Results of Psychology

Another indicator of the need for lay counseling is the research results of psychology. This research

indicates that many people prefer to discuss their problems with lay people, and that they may be even better helped by them than by those trained to counsel professionally.

The Grande and Pollone research team found that clients counseled by laymen experienced a higher degree of rapport with their counselors than did similar clients counseled by clergy. Robert Carkhuff's studies demonstrate that lay persons with little training could be effective in bringing change to people with psychological problems.

The Practical Side

Lay counseling generates practical benefits. Gary Collins reports, "Lay counseling accomplishes many things: it involves members in the work of the church, it provides a fulfilling ministry for lay persons, it takes a load off the pastor."

All these benefits are positive side effects of solving people's problems. There's no doubt about the need for lay counseling.

The Training Process

While the first steps toward becoming a lay counselor may be simple, the training process needs to be thorough. The approach typically used to train lay counselors is usually limited to one seminar, one book or one audio or video cassette. This seems to suggest that all it takes is a few select hours to become a lay helper or counselor.

Although most Christians agree that what a person believes will affect how he helps people, there's more to it than that. Is a simple belief in Christ as Savior a sufficient foundation to ensure competence in helping people?

What an individual believes about the nature of God, the nature of man, the needs of man, views about pathology and mental health, the goals of counseling and the role of the counselor is also important in how he will help others. Yet, most training offered to lay counselors neglects these issues.

Why all the tension between psychology and theology? Psychology has pioneered much thought and research into the theories behind its techniques. At the same time theology offers the ultimate source of truth. These two disciplines are frequently in opposition to or in tension with each other.

Failure to look at the presuppositions of the two have led each side to reject the benefit of the other. These misunderstandings lead to suspicion, skepticism, mistrust, doubt and threatened insecurities.

Christians recognize that God has revealed His truth in His Word. We must develop philosophies and theories using that truth in order to build a foundation upon which techniques and strategies will naturally flow. We need not fear the truth.

A philosophical course of action such as this may appear to be an unlikely candidate for training lay counselors. Why does this seem to be true? While part of the answer is

the tension between psychology and theology, another part is society's attitude toward theory or philosophy. A pragmatic, activity-oriented society does not wish to think philosophically.

Only Christians have access to absolute truth. We must investigate and articulate these philosophies in order to develop a foundation on which to build theories of counseling. We must encourage Christians to ask the right questions and think the crucial thoughts. Counselors must struggle with the pertinent issues.

Most importantly, because what we believe will affect how we help others, Christians must not be afraid to identify and examine what we truly believe. Thinking Christians know that the more Christianity is tested, the more convincing and applicable it becomes.

As Dr. David Myers observes, "Sad to say, there are few theologically interested psychologists and few of these are also active scientists." We can change that by training competent lay counselors. ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. David L. Burgess is a home missionary to Bloomington, Illinois. He pastors Cornerstone Free Will Baptist Church.

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NEWSFRONT

FWB Layman Re-Designs Magazine

NASHVILLE, TN—For the first time in 14 years, *Contact* underwent a major re-design in order to give the magazine more unity and to update type style and column art. Ron Watson, a Free Will Baptist layman, led the re-design process and completed the work by mid-October 1990.



Mr. Watson, 35, is employed as art director at Bibb and Lott Advertising in Clarksville, Tenn. He worked as a graphic artist at Randall House Publications

1973-81 and 1983-85. Watson is a member of Pardue Memorial FWB Church in Clarksville where he teaches a young adult Sunday School class.

The extensive *Contact* re-design involved every aspect of the magazine from logo to column repositioning. The magazine shifts typeface for body copy from Souvenir to Cheltenham. Mr. Watson designed new art for all standing columns, the Department Pages, Free Will Baptist Newsfront, Currently and Teen Scene.

Watson said, "Re-designs for a magazine like this are usually good for at least four or five years. By that time you will want to adjust the overall design again."

He said the new design gives the magazine a feeling of more openness with better use of white space, especially in the Department Pages. The new format calls for expanded use of color.

Oklahoma Church Posts 'Praying' Sign

LAWTON, OK—Members of Brockland FWB Church in Lawton decided to do more than request prayer for U.S. military personnel serving in the Middle East. Clerk Martha Langford said the church posted a new sign on the front lawn: "This church is praying for our soldiers."

Langford said, "The majority of the population of Lawton has

some connection to the military. Nearby military base Fort Sill also employs civilian workers. The Brockland Church has many military members / family members in the congregation."

The newly-installed sign was painted by member Andrew Shelton. Reverend Dean Thompson pastors the church.

Florida Minister with the Lord

VERO BEACH, FL—The Reverend William (Bill) Collins, 76, died September 27, 1990, in Vero Beach. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in Georgia 24 years before his death. Brother Collins began preaching later in life than most ministers. He was licensed to preach in 1965 at age 52.

Funeral services were conducted September 29 in Vero Beach. Rev. Randy Bryant, pastor of First FWB Church in Vero Beach, officiated. He said, "Brother Collins was a faithful servant of the Lord and the Free Will Baptist denomination. He had a great love for Free Will Baptist Bible College and for foreign missions. We will surely miss him."

Reverend Collins was converted to Christ at age 19. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1975. He helped establish Immanuel FWB Church in Jacksonville and served as assistant pastor 1965-1975.

Collins pastored First FWB Church in Vero Beach 1975-1977, Grace FWB Church in Orange Park 1977-1981, then returned to pastor First Church in Vero Beach until poor health forced him to retire in 1981.

He is survived by his wife, Nellie, of Vero Beach; a daughter, Linda Rockeycharlie of Jacksonville; two sons, Floyd of Miami and Larry of Maccleny.

California Church Honors Founding Pastor

FRESNO, CA—Members of Ashbrook FWB Church in Fresno set aside two days in October 1990 to lionize founding pastor, Lonnie Rolan. The October 27-28 event included testimonials, letters of appreciation, a surprise gift and guest speaker, Dr. Malcolm Fry, who flew from Nashville, Tenn., to join the well-wishers.

Pastor Tim Mclain Rolan, son of Lonnie Rolan, spearheaded plans to honor his 65-year-old father. After a Saturday evening barbecue-under-the-bigtop in the church parking lot, some 160 friends cheered as men rolled out a 16-foot bass boat complete with motor and drive-on trailer and gave it to the surprised minister for his retirement years.

Sunday, members presented their founding pastor with a Silver Anniversary Memory Book containing letters from some of the many people whose lives he had influenced. More than 175 attended the two and one-half

hour Sunday morning service. Dr. Malcolm Fry preached both morning and evening services.

Sunday evening, Pastor Tim Rolan called his father to the pulpit for a special award. The church gave Reverend Lonnie Rolan a certificate conferring upon him the title, Pastor Emeritus, for 25 years of service.

In 1965, Lonnie Rolan met with 46 people in an American Legion Hall in Fresno. From that meeting the group organized Memorial FWB Church, subsequently re-named Ashbrook FWB Church. Pastor Rolan led the group through two major building programs at property purchased on Millbrook Avenue.

Though retired, Reverend Rolan still serves on staff at the church he founded 25 years ago. While his son, Tim, handles the preaching / teaching program, Pastor Emeritus Rolan functions in his favorite role, that of pastoral care.

Nashville Church Remembers 35 Years

NASHVILLE, TN—Members of Donelson FWB Church in Nashville celebrated 35 years as a congregation October 21, 1990. Pastor Robert Morgan presented a historical survey of the church founding and other events.

Morgan said that the Donelson Church grew out of a Ladies Bible Study in 1950. The group organized in 1955 and called Reverend Robert Owen as first pastor. Owen, now retired and living in Florida, sent taped greetings to the congregation.

Five other ministers served as pastor in the church's 35-year history—Rolla Smith (first full-time pastor), George Lee, Milton Worthington, Ed Cook, and Robert Morgan who has served since 1980.

The church first met in a Presbyterian Church, then rented a building in the Donelson area before purchasing property and constructing a basement where they worshipped for several years before adding the current facilities. During the pastorate of George Lee, the church started Donelson Christian Academy, now a leading area high school.

Former pastor Milton Worthington preached the keynote message at the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Members prepared a pictorial history of the church and displayed it on the foyer wall. A local television station taped interviews with three of the original charter members. The all-day service included both a breakfast and dinner-on-the-grounds.

Tennessee Church Celebrates 66 Years

NASHVILLE, TN—East Nashville FWB Church marked 66 years of service to the community October 21, 1990, when members and former members gathered for day-long services and activities. Pastor Fred Hall who is completing eight years with the church recognized two charter members who were present for services—Irene Coville and Nannie Smith.

The church's first pastor, Reverend Henry Oliver, was also a charter member. He was unable to attend because of ill health. Some 19 ministers have pastored East Nashville Church in 66 years, including former National Association moderator, John Welch.

Dr. Charles Thigpen, who twice served as interim pastor,

preached the anniversary sermon and brought an afternoon devotion. Thigpen is chancellor at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He told worshippers, "Every church ought to be a fellowship of forgiveness."

East Nashville Church traces its history back to January 10, 1923, when a group of 12 women met at the home of Mrs. Fannie Polston to discuss starting a Free Will Baptist church in the area. The first building was located at 12th and Woodland in East Nashville. The church organized November 2, 1924, with 19 charter members.

Six people gave testimonies Sunday afternoon about the influence of East Nashville FWB Church on their lives.



Bible College to Offer Student Aid Programs

NASHVILLE, TN—Students attending Free Will Baptist Bible College may now qualify for federal financial aid, according to Tom Sass, treasurer.

The college has been approved to offer Pell Grants, the largest direct aid program administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance. Students who demonstrate a definite financial need may qualify for up to \$2,300 per year.

The college awaits final approval for other Title IV student financial aid packages. These include the College Work Study Program (CWS), the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program (SEOG), the Stafford Loan Program, Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS), and the Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students Program (PLUS).

FWBBC officials are hopeful that the Stafford Loan Program, the SLS Program and the PLUS Program will be available by the time students enroll for the spring semester. The CWS and SEOG programs will be introduced in the fall of 1991.

The Board of Trustees began several years ago to investigate the possibility of securing federal aid for FWBBC students. Many students who attend the Bible College come from homes where college expenses put their

families in a financial strain. These financial aid programs will make federal funds available to these students and their families.

The college has been cautious about accepting federal funds, even in the form of student assistance. However, Chancellor Charles A. Thigpen says that the college's involvement in these programs will require no more than what the college has been doing for years by making GI Bill benefits available to veterans.

FWBBC President Tom Malone says, "We are offering these programs to help our students and their families. This aid is to our students, not to the institution." He added, "We do not see this as opening the door for government control of the college. In 1965, the college pulled out of these assistance programs because of attempts to impose guidelines we were not ready to accept. If we detect such attempts in the future, we have the right to do the same thing."

Anyone who would like information on the Pell Grants, and on other aid programs as they become available, may request them from:

Office of Student Financial Aid
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
615/383-1340

595 Attend Oklahoma Meeting

ADA, OK—The 82nd annual session of the Oklahoma State Association registered 595 attendees, reported Clerk Keith Burden. That included 140 ministers, 49 lay delegates, 44 deacons and 362 visitors. The Wednesday evening worship service counted 551 worshippers.

Moderator Bob Ketchum was re-elected to his fourth term during the October 15-18, 1990, session. Delegates met at First FWB Church in Ada to conduct business. They adopted a \$2.1 million budget which includes \$330,000 in cooperative plan funds and \$1.1 million for Hillsdale FWB College.

Four ministers preached sermons developing the association theme, "Understanding the Times . . . Knowing What to Do." Speakers included pastors J. B. Chism, Larry Haggard and Johnny Bilby and Hillsdale College's vice-president of academic affairs Tim Eaton.

Oklahoma Master's Men met Monday evening with 170 attending. Hillsdale College president Jim Shepherd gave the keynote address. The men adopted two projects. The first was to raise \$2,000 as a gift for the Master's Men general fund in Nashville. The second was to raise scholarship funds for laymen who attend Hillsdale College. They plan to award two \$500 lay scholarships each semester.

The 1,240-member strong state Woman's Auxiliary met Tuesday. They registered 201 people.

The Tuesday Ministers Conference registered 185 preachers. Michigan pastor Loyd Locklear and Home Missions staffer Richard Adams preached two sermons each.

The 1991 state association will meet October 14-17 at First FWB Church in McAlester.

Coming Next Month

- Help! I'm Aging
- Capturing the Silver Fox
- The Retired Minister
- The Emptying Nest

Frontline to Debut This Spring

BROKEN ARROW, OK—A new quarterly publication called *Frontline* will publish its first edition in March, according to David Messer, associate pastor at Bethany FWB Church in Broken Arrow, Okla., and one of the three editors. *Frontline* will target ministries in associate (non-pastoral) positions as well as volunteer leaders who work in local church music, youth and Christian education.

Frontline has a four-fold purpose, according to co-editors David Hewitt (director of Christian education at Lawnwood FWB Church in Tulsa), Daryn McGee (minister of youth at

West Tulsa FWB Church) and David Messer:

1. To encourage workers in music, youth and Christian education ministries, either on a paid or volunteer basis.

2. To provide assistance in planning new ministries or expansion of current ministries.

3. To provide a clearinghouse for sharing of creative approaches to ministry.

4. To serve as a resource for those needing additional information / material for ministry.

Frontline will be sent on a trial basis to anyone requesting a copy. The four-page format will include articles on music, youth

and Christian education, as well as editorials. Letters to the editor will be accepted, as will articles submitted for possible publication.

For additional information, or to place your name on the mailing list for the first publication, write:

Frontline
c/o Bethany Free Will Baptist Church
100 North Olive
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Southeastern Sets Spring Soul Winning Conference



Ange



Dwyer



Bevan



Steele



Cox



Adams



Cariker

WENDELL, NC—Southeastern Free Will Baptist College announced their annual Revival and Soul Winning Conference, March 24-27. This year's conference has been moved to one week earlier than in previous years. The conference will conclude at Wednesday noon.

Seven speakers will highlight the spring conference. The speakers are as follows:

Connie Cariker, Oklahoma executive secretary, who brings experience as former pastor of West Tulsa FWB Church and his years of travel with the Home Missions Department.

Dr. Richard Adams, known as the "mountain preacher," pastored 19 years at Eastside FWB Church of Elizabethton, Tennessee. He now serves as director of development for the Home

Missions Department.

Dr. Joe Ange, former pastor and past president of Southeastern, presently a full-time evangelist, will also speak. Dr. Ange conducts 30-40 revival meetings per year.

Reverend Danny Dwyer heads the Pastoral Theology Department at Southeastern and directs the Christian Service Department. He brings experiences as an educator and as pastor.

Dr. Randy Cox pastors First FWB Church, Raleigh, North Carolina. Cox, an outstanding Bible preacher, has led First Church for 17 years.

Reverend Elzo Bevan, father of Southeastern's president, has been preaching 38 years. He has helped establish three churches. He began and pastored Bethel FWB Church, Woodbridge, Vir-

ginia for 16 years. He is a past member and secretary of the Home Missions Board and presently pastors Sulphur Springs FWB Church, Northport, Alabama.

Reverend William Steele pastors First FWB Church of Bedford, Virginia. He built the church from scratch into self-supporting status and has pastored for 14 years. Brother Steele is active in the Maryland State Association. He serves on the Southeastern Board of Directors.

President Billy Bevan extends an invitation to pastors and laymen to attend the conference. All the services will be held at First FWB Church of Raleigh, North Carolina. ■

CURRENTLY...

Members of **Chapel Lane FWB Church, Searcy, AR**, surprised Pastor **David Copeland** with an appreciation day. The effort resulted in nine sacks of groceries and \$137 in cash on a money tree.

First FWB Church, Raleigh, NC, celebrated its 42nd anniversary last October. During the month of October, 27 people were saved. The church averaged 585 in Sunday School the first 10 months of 1990. Dr. **Randy Cox** pastors.

Calvary Fellowship FWB Church, Fenton, MO, sponsored a three-day evangelism conference with five speakers and 16 sessions. Speakers included Dale Burden, Clarence Burton, Connie Cariker, Tom Malone and Bob Shockey. **Jerry Norris** pastors.

Here's a different kind of "thon." Teenagers at **Gateway FWB Church, Virginia Beach, VA**, sponsored a work-a-thon to raise \$3,000 for a new travel bus. Some 30 teenagers hired themselves out to work at the church and at homes of elderly members. **Dale Burden** pastors.

Some 200 people attended the fall Bible Conference at **California Chris-**

tian College in Fresno. President **Jim McAllister** reported six speakers for the conference: Dan Minkler, Sam Hensley, Ralph Dell, Charles Roam, Bill Burgess and Doice McAllister.

Dr. **Wade Jernigan** heads up an evangelistic association called Grassroots Evangelism. Jernigan returned to his own grassroots last September and October when he conducted revivals in seven North Carolina churches, including Oak Grove FWB Church in Bladenboro where he was converted in 1944.

The Reverend **William Raymond Morris** died August 27, 1990, at age 81. He was a Free Will Baptist minister for 31 years and pastored churches in California and Arizona. Brother Morris was a native of Tucumcari, NM.

Cavanaugh FWB Church, Fort Smith, AR, celebrated its 27th anniversary last November. Pastor **Carl Cheshier** said former pastors and associate pastors participated on the anniversary program. Wade Jernigan, Bob Thompson and Raymond Chronister were guest speakers.

The library at **California Christian College in Fresno** is undergoing changes in an accreditation effort with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, according to President Jim McAllister. He said the school needs about 500 volumes in a variety of subjects in order to bring it up to accreditation standards.

Pastor **Ronnie Mitchell** baptized three converts at **First FWB Church, Mount Vernon, IL**.

Blue Point FWB Church, Cisne, IL, celebrated its 93rd anniversary in October. Former pastor **Cliff Donoho** preached the anniversary sermon. **Ernie Lewis** pastors.

The Woman's Auxiliary at **Bear Point FWB Church, Sesser, IL**, honored Pastor **Larry Cook** with a pastor appreciation service. Each member of the congregation was asked to sign up for a job or favor to be done for the pastor and his family. The results included mowing the yard, taking the children shopping, a maid for a day, a new suit for Pastor Cook and a night out for Pastor and Mrs. Cook. They have served the church seven years.

Members at **Calvary Chapel FWB Church, Buffalo, MO**, celebrated 10 years of community service. Pastor **Doug Earls** led the day-long activities

which included the dedication of their new auditorium.

Missouri Executive Secretary **Clarence Burton** delivered the centennial sermon at **New Harmony FWB Church in Green Top, MO**. The congregation observed its 100th anniversary last fall. **Archie Cooper** pastors.

Pastor Appreciation Day at **Midway FWB Church, Moultrie, GA**, focused on the love the congregation felt for Pastor and Mrs. **Glenn Thomas**. The day included a surprise party for the Thomases. The church gave Pastor Thomas a new Thompson Chain Reference Bible, \$230 in cash and \$300 worth of groceries and other gifts.

North Carolina pastor **Sam Truett** was guest speaker at **Georgia's** third annual couples retreat. The retreat was conducted at Norman Baptist Assembly at Norman Park, GA.

Five former pastors were present to help **First FWB Church, Norman, OK**, celebrate their 40th anniversary. Pastor **Joe Grizzle** said the event focused on "past foundations, the present family and a promising future." Testimonies, special music and a narrated slide presentation highlighted the day.

There's a new name in **Texas**. Plano East FWB Church in **Plano** changed its name to **Collin Creek FWB Church**, according to Pastor **Don Guthrie**. He said, "The new name will more accurately reflect the area the church serves and not limit it to the east of Plano."

Pastor **Grady Linebaugh** baptized six adults in Spring River. The six united with **Coffman FWB Church of Portia, AR**.

The Arkansas Executive Board announced establishment of a fund to assist Reverend **J. W. Blanks** in defraying surgery costs that exceed \$35,000. Brother Blanks pastors **Eastvale FWB Church in Blytheville**. His Blue Cross-Blue Shield hospitalization insurance was cancelled after a previous heart surgery.

The **White River Bible Institute** sponsored by the Polk Bayou Association in **Arkansas** invited Dr. **Robert Woodard** as guest lecturer to speak on "Principles of Preaching." The October session was conducted at **First FWB Church in Tuckerman**. The institute averages 50 students in attendance. Dr. Woodard directs pastoral studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College. ■

KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES A JOURNALISM SCHOLARSHIP?

The 325 periodical members of the Evangelical Press Association are vitally interested in the future of religious journalism.

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Write now to:

Executive Director
Evangelical Press Association
P.O. Box 4550
Overland Park, Kansas 66204



FOREIGN MISSIONS



A Letter to U.S. Free Will Baptists

From Maria Lucia Garcia in Villalba, Spain, May 30, 1990

More than anything, I want to say "thank you" to my brothers and sisters in Christ in the USA for seeing the need for missionary work. You have given money so the Word of God could be extended to the ends of the earth. And if you are not physically here with us in Spain, you definitely are spiritually.

We are Christians and humans. As humans, sometimes we rebel against things, such as missionary work. We may even think about stopping our gifts to missions because it is money we could really use to buy a new car, to change our living room furniture, etc. That is a human doubt we all have to deal with from time to time. However, I want to testify personally to the good you have done by reaching out to a town called Villalba. You are indirectly participating in this ministry by sending Jeff and Susan Turnbough.

I don't believe I'm wrong in saying Jeff and Susan are the ideal couple for our church. It is very important for missionaries to identify and enter into the culture of their host country. They definitely have done this!

The whole church waits expectantly for Sunday to arrive to be able to listen to Jeff preach the Word of God. This church is alive; it is growing numerically and spiritually.

God's Power Shown

To open a storefront building in a working class barrio and put a sign out front that says "Free Will Baptist Church" could be very difficult for people to accept. When this new "priest" is an American, married, and says he is a "pastor," it is even tougher. This effort had all the makings for the biggest flop of the century. But through the power of God and the wisdom He imparted to Jeff, who unashamedly preached the gospel, it hasn't turned out that way!

In such a strong Roman Catholic country as Spain, the general public could have considered our church a cult—but that has not happened! If they thought that in the

beginning of the work, they certainly do not feel that way now. One significant fact proves this: every year our local newspaper asks Jeff to include some reflections on the significance of Christmas and Easter in the religious world. Our pastor gladly takes advantage of this to proclaim the most important truth in the world: Jesus Christ, the only Savior of mankind. An invitation of this kind in Roman Catholic-dominated Spain is unprecedented.

The Practical Gospel

The more "social type" work in the church is carried out largely by Susan. She has learned very well how to express herself the way we Spaniards do. She knows how to capture the interest of children, teenagers, and adults. Her willingness to help anyone with anything is admirable. She is the "practical version" of the gospel.

The church in Villalba appreciates you and thanks you for your economic support and prayers. We hope to continue maturing spiritually during this time that Jeff and Susan must be away from us (on furlough).

Ever present in our minds is Hebrews 13:7: "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."

I believe the same principle Paul used in the church at Corinth has been followed in Villalba: "And I, brethren, . . . came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. . . . And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

May the Lord bless you all.

Extending a strong embrace,

Maria Luisa Garcia ■

The whole church waits expectantly for Sunday to arrive.



Maria Luisa is a 26-year-old single woman who is a member of the Villalba Free Will Baptist Church in Spain. She has an earned title as a psychologist from the University of Madrid.

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Paying For Bible College In Tough Times

By Tom Sass, Free Will Baptist Bible College Treasurer

Let's face it. For many, these are tough times to make ends meet. And obtaining a Bible College education seems to be a mighty tall order, financially. Is there any hope that families can afford the cost of Free Will Baptist Bible College?

Yes, there is! More help than ever before is available—in the forms of grants and scholarships, low-interest loans, and part-time work on and off campus. Where does it originate? Two sources: The first (still in the development stage) is through Title IV student aid programs administered by the Department of Education. The other source is a formidable institutional financial aid program developed over the past 20 years. The combination of the two makes a tremendous support base for financially needy students.

Look first at the brand new federal aid programs which are directly available to eligible students:

Pell Grant Program: Available now, this program ranges in value from \$100 to \$2,300 per year (depending on need) in funds which are not repaid.

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) Program: (Available in 1991-92) The SEOG program will be available to students with both exceptional need and academic promise. Awards range from \$100 to \$4,000 annually, depending on funding and need. This award is not to be repaid.

Stafford Loan Program: (Available in Spring 1991) Formerly the Guaranteed Student Loan Program, loans issued by lending institutions with interest paid by the federal government while student is in college. Annual limits are \$2,625 for first and second year students; \$4,000 for third year and beyond.

Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS): (Available Spring 1991) Designed mainly for independent students, loans are issued by lending institutions. Interest rate varies, but has 12% ceiling, with repayment normally beginning 60 days after award. Annual limit per award year is \$4,000.

Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS): (Available Spring 1991) Parents of dependent students may borrow up to \$4,000 per year from lending institutions. Interest

rates vary with 12% as the ceiling, with repayment normally beginning 60 days after award. **College Work Study Program (CWSP):** On-campus work with a portion of funds provided by federal allocation direct to student. Workers paid at least minimum wage.

Free Will Baptist Bible College has developed an extensive network of institutional financial aid. This network includes scholarships, loans, on and off campus work, and specialized payment plans. Here is a brief overview of the samplings.

Scholarships: Privately funded gifts of aid are provided by individuals and churches, with awards ranging from \$100 to \$4,000. Institutionally funded scholarships are also available for recruiting new students.

Loans: Over a half-million dollars in low-interest loans are available. Students may borrow up to \$2,600 per year, with a \$4,550 aggregate ceiling. Repayment begins 90 days after termination of full-time FWBBC schooling, with up to 60 months to pay.

On and Off Campus Work: Work on campus averages \$1,500 per year, with many areas of employment. (FWBBC uses student labor extensively.) Off-campus work is available in abundance with the average wage about \$4-\$5 per hour. The college maintains a source book called the Job Bank for direct hookup with employers.

Specialized Payment Plans: FWBBC provides two plans for paying your semester bill during each term. The Deferred Payment Plan allows a \$1,150 down payment at registration, with three equal payments thereafter. The Ten-Payment Plan spreads the entire year's expenses from July 1 to April 1.

In summary, Free Will Baptist Bible College is more affordable than ever before. If the Lord is leading you our way, do not allow finances to keep you from enrolling. Write to the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Financial Aid Office
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205
615/383-1340 ■



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Can My Will be Contested?

By Bill Evans

One of the concerns people have about their will is, "Can it be contested?" The answer is a simple yes. But the person contesting the will must have proper legal grounds.

Grounds for Contesting a Will

There are six reasons legally recognized for contesting a will:

The *first* is that it was not properly executed because...

- ... there were not enough witnesses to the will.
- ... in some states a beneficiary cannot serve as a witness.
- ... the witnesses did not sign in the presence of the testator.
- ... the testator did not sign in the presence of the witnesses.
- ... in the case of a handwritten will (some states do not recognize handwritten wills), the testator did not write the will entirely in his own handwriting.

These are all situations of improper execution.

The *second* ground for contesting a will is lack of testamentary capacity at the time the will was made. This may be alleged if the testator is not of legal age, did not know the nature or extent of his property, nor the beneficiaries who would have a normal claim.

The *third* ground for contesting is that the will was executed under undue influence. In other words, when you sign your will, you must be doing what you want to do rather than what someone else wants you to do.

A *fourth* ground is fraud. You may be misled into creating a will based on the misinformation knowingly provided by another person.

A *fifth* ground for contesting a will is forgery. A will signed by someone purporting to be the testator or witness, who in fact was not.

The *sixth* ground is that the will has been revoked by the testator or by operation of law. State laws differ as to how an individual

revokes a will. In some states, making a new will revokes an old one, or purposefully destroying an existing one will revoke it. Divorce revokes a will in some states.

When a will is contested it does not automatically revoke the entire document. It does mean that the probate court system will control the process of discovering either the testator's or the state's "will."

When to Review Your Will

Is your will up-to-date or could it use a review? Some of the people I have worked with over the past several years could not remember what their will stipulated.

A will should be reviewed if...

- ... you have moved to another state since it was drafted.
- ... your personal representative is no longer able to serve, either because of distance or physical disability.
- ... your distribution wishes have changed.
- ... tax laws have changed or the value of your estate has increased significantly.
- ... your charitable interest has changed.
- ... your estate contains assets that require management in the event of your disability or death.
- ... there are new ways to protect your assets from unnecessary tax expenses.

Your answers to these and other questions will indicate if you need to update your estate plan. Or, if you do not have a will or trust in existence, today is the correct time to begin. ■



RANDALL HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

Crushing Katzenjammer

By Billy Brown

I do a magic trick where I borrow a dollar from a person in the audience, tear off a corner and give it back, place the dollar in an envelope and burn it. I then materialize a lemon, cut it open and produce the dollar from inside. The secret of this trick is knowledge, preparation and practice. You can employ these same three elements.

This process arises out of your sense of purpose, your life goals. Many people advise others to set goals but they never tell them how. Here's a simple goal-setting formula that works.

Goal setting begins by clearing your vision. First, write down all your wants and wishes. Now rewrite them according to priority. You must continually update this list.

Second, take a blank sheet of paper and write across the top your dream, "I want _____." Do this for the first five items on your priority list. These sheets are your goal planning sheets.

Third, at the left margin write today's date. Decide when you want to see this item accomplished; write that date on the same line in the center of the paper. Move to the right margin, draw a short line and write the completion date.

Fourth, draw a line down the center of the page. Name the left column "Obstacles." Write down all the reasons you can't accomplish your dream.

Fifth, label the right column "Steps to Victory." List all the steps necessary to overcome each obstacle. Don't worry about your talent, skills or finances. Remember, every obstacle can be overcome.

Sixth, turn the sheet of paper over and about one-fourth of the way down draw a horizontal line across the sheet of paper. Divide this section in half with a vertical line. Label the left half "Personnel." In this space list the qualified people who can help you.

Seventh, label the right section "Personal Benefits." Write down all the ways this accomplishment will benefit you. This will be your personal motivation.

Eighth, in the lower three-fourths section draw a line down the center. Label the left column "My Plan of Action." It's time to put

your thinking into action. Number the left column from top to bottom 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. Look back to the "Steps to Victory" column and arrange those steps in an orderly progression. If you need help with a step, select names from your personnel list and write them next to that step.

Divide the right column into three columns. Label the first "Beginning Date," the second "Date to be Completed" and the third "Date Completed." Now on the same line with each action step draw a line to place the appropriate date. Place a beginning date in position number one and follow this procedure through the entire plan of action.

The purpose of this exercise is to break the katzenjammer of confused thinking. You will begin to see that things once thought too difficult are possible as you concentrate on one step at a time.

It is now recruitment time. If you know where you are going, it's easier to get people to follow and help. But you must ask and keep on asking. Once you have the help, give precise instructions and check the work of your helpers.

Remember, this is your dream. If God gave you the dream then He holds you responsible to see it accomplished. "Whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord." ■

Now you can buy TBIS 500 for the same low price as TBIS 300*

TBIS 300, a computer system designed for churches with less than 300 members, has been upgraded. Its capacity has been increased but not its price.

TBIS 500 can track membership, contributions, and attendance for churches with less than 500 members.

For a good deal on a good deal more, contact Randall House Publications, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

*TBIS 500 does not include the Personal Management Module for Ministers.



HOME MISSIONS

Dare to Double in a Decade!

By Roy Thomas

The National Association of Free Will Baptists has adopted a goal to "Double in a Decade." This means that the denomination will attempt to double its membership by the year 2000. The campaign begins January 1, 1991, and will conclude December 31 in the year 2000 if the Lord tarries His coming.

The Double in a Decade Committee has been appointed consisting of one representative from each national agency to promote and monitor this campaign. Materials are being written to assist pastors and churches in reaching their goals.

The Goal Defined

The goal adopted by the National Association is two-fold. The first part of the goal is for a dramatic attendance increase in each existing Free Will Baptist church. The second is planting 250 new Free Will Baptist churches.

Each of these 250 new churches will need to average 50 in attendance by the year 2000. Each existing church will need a seven percent increase each year for 10 years for our denomination to double in a decade.

The following chart shows what this

seven percent increase would yield. Beginning with round membership figures of 200,000, with each church increasing in membership seven percent each year, and beginning 250 churches averaging 50 would result in a membership of 405,932 at the end of the year 2000.

Seven Percent Growth Increase Chart

Year	Increase	Total
1st year — 1991	14,000	214,000
2nd year — 1992	14,980	228,980
3rd year — 1993	16,029	245,009
4th year — 1994	17,151	262,160
5th year — 1995	18,351	280,511
6th year — 1996	19,636	300,147
7th year — 1997	21,010	321,157
8th year — 1998	22,481	343,638
9th year — 1999	24,055	367,693
10th year — 2000	25,739	393,432
250 New Churches, 50 members each =		12,500
Total		405,932

This two-fold goal is a gigantic challenge to excite and unite Free Will Baptists. I believe the denomination has the dedication, determination and *esprit de corps* to reach our goal to "Double in a Decade." ■

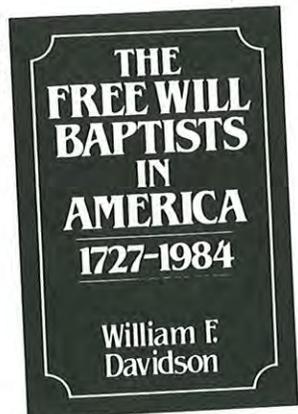
**Where and when did Free Will Baptists begin?
Who were our early leaders and what were they like?
How did our brothers of the last century react to issues like
slavery and temperance?**

These and many other questions are answered in the pages of *The Free Will Baptists In America (1727-1984)*. Dr. William F. Davidson traces the denomination's roots from colonial days to the present time. This hardbound volume, containing over 450 pages, is filled with interesting and sometimes dramatic accounts.

\$16.95



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MASTER'S MEN

1985—Decade of Discipleship—1995

1991 Study Theme: Disciple Relations

The Master's Men study lessons for the calendar year center around relationships of a man in his family, church, denomination and community. "Many people prepare all their lives to live in the future, forgetting that life is now." In the hurry of daily routine, we do not enjoy the life God has given. Study lessons will develop the interrelated aspects of joy, fulfillment, duty and love in human relationships which Christians experience.

An acronym designed for this year's study is Love, Involvement, Fellowship and Encouragement, or LIFE. As the year progresses, the lessons will incorporate these concepts into different relationships experienced by a man.

A change in publishing schedule for ATTACK magazine was made to include all 13 lessons from the studies in 1990. January's lesson was about the apostle Paul. H. S. Vigeveno's book, *13 Men Who Changed the World*, was the basis for the study lessons last year. Master's Men who completed the entire year profited greatly from these studies. The 1991 lessons will bring the men back to basics again.

Join in the study of "Disciple Relations" during 1991. Your study, with prayer will make you a better man.

For men who missed the exciting studies in the past year, back issues of ATTACK magazine are available at a cost of only \$2.50 each. All four issues will cost \$10.

Master's Men Experiences Money Woes

The summer months of 1990 brought an income loss for Master's Men. The drought extended into September with less than \$3,000 given to the ministry. The department needs over \$7,000 monthly. Director Vallance noted, "Our pleas for assistance from the denomination go largely unheeded. We desperately need our churches to have an awareness and concern for this ministry. I appreciate those who have given, some even sacrificially. Many, however, seem to over-

look the needs of this work."

A deficit of over \$10,000 was recorded in the summer months. This, coupled with needs for increased funding in 1991 place the department in financial jeopardy.

"I believe God's people care," Vallance noted. "Master's Men have already saved this denomination over \$1 million in construction costs through Master's Hands Projects. These projects were completed in less than six years. 1990 saw five projects, with savings exceeding nearly \$400,000 during the year. Surely this ministry is worthy of support"

Layman of the Year Nominations Invited

Beginning January 1, pastors can send in nominations for the 1990 Layman of the Year. Nomination forms may be obtained from Master's Men Department. Each pastor may nominate one layman from his congregation. The award will honor some layman for the accomplishments for the Master during the 1990 calendar year. Nominations will be received until April 30, 1991. The award will be presented during the national convention in Charleston, West Virginia, in July. ■





BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Those Phone Calls!

By Bill Evans

Phone calls. They sure can have different effects. As a pastor I received some that really frustrated me. Some made me mad. Others brought news that filled my heart with sympathy and pain. Some provided much needed information or encouragement.

After hanging up the receiver I could be seething with anger or wrapped in a warm emotional blanket of love and joy. Recently I experienced one of those calls that made me praise the Lord. It happened like this:

I was busy in my tiny office area (I really look forward to the new office building) working on requests for information. I was trying to be careful of facts and our legal guidelines. Then our receptionist buzzed me on the intercom and said I had a phone call on line three.

My immediate thought was, "Not another interruption. Can't people realize that I'm busy and need to get this done?" But duty demands some things. I answered. There was an immediate change in my outlook.

One of the kindest gentlest voices you will ever hear, said, "I'm...." He gave his name and explained the reason for his call.

If I told you his name, you would recognize it. He has faithfully served our churches for many years outside the spotlight. He will soon turn 71 and just recently left his full-time pastorate. He has taken another full-time ministry but without full salary—little if any according to my understanding.

He wanted to talk about his pension. What, besides his calm soft voice, was so encouraging about this call? Let me share the thoughts that come to my mind.

1. Right off I was glad we have a retirement pension plan. For most of our denomination's history we did not have one. We do now. It has been in place for 21 years. That isn't long, but it has established a track record.

2. This dear brother has made the effort to contribute toward his retirement from his own income. He had not always served the best paying churches, but somehow he had managed to make regular deposits.

3. Some of his churches joined in this retirement plan with him. That means they ac-

cepted and followed his leadership. It means they loved and respected him enough to make some provision for his older years.

4. He called us. Some participants fail to give us the chance to talk with them about their retirement. A few have made all their plans before any contact at all. Others call us but they have their minds made up as to what is best—sometimes based on misinformation from others.

5. This man expressed trust in our department. He asked about the options available to him and what we thought about each. He asked our advice and listened to our counsel.

6. He called us early. He gave himself and us several months to consider and plan. Since few retire more than once in a lifetime, that is really important. Legal and financial affairs concerning retirement are complex and none of us can undo some things.

7. He allowed us to become part of his team. We really want to do whatever is best for him. Only he can decide that, but we can help with answers and pose questions, because there are some pitfalls we can help him avoid.

I hung up the phone feeling good. Challenged, but feeling really good. ■

In Memory Of...

By...

J. C. Hubert Carter
Brunswick First Auxiliary
Brunswick, GA

Grady Cawley
Brunswick First Auxiliary
Brunswick, GA

O. L. Fields
Mt. Moriah Auxiliary
Gordo, AL

Eva Henderson
Brunswick First Auxiliary
Brunswick, GA

Lewis Henderson
Brunswick First Auxiliary
Brunswick, GA

Carlton R. Horne
Providence Auxiliary
Hampton, VA



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisehart

From My Window

"As long as I do live, I'm going to live with purpose." I heard her voice ring out loud and clear over the speaker telephone. The words seem to sum up the life of Laura Belle Barnard, former teacher at Free Will Baptist Bible College, former missionary to India, speaker, writer, counselor, friend.

We needed her help with a project and called that afternoon to ask if she could help us. She purposed to do it, and we set a time.

A few months earlier when the doctor told her she had cancer, she said to me, "I'm not worried. If this is the way God wants to take an old, tired servant home, then so be it."

Now in October she is undergoing chemotherapy treatments. But above all she wants to keep on living with a purpose.

Living with a purpose! A fitting challenge for us all. We're beginning a new year. Whether our days in it will be long or short, we don't know. The important thing is to live with purpose based on our knowledge of God and what He would have us do with our time in 1991.

Enlist More Women in 1991

January is WNAC's month for enlistment emphasis. The beginning of a new year is a good time to invite women to become participants in the Auxiliary.

Some Auxiliaries have enlistment luncheons or brunches. Some have a special program at regular meeting time. Choose whatever method best suits you. If January is not a good month, use some other time for enlistment.

Now perhaps as never before, we need more women to help in the work. In our own society and in our own communities, we need to reach out to women, to teenagers and to children. All around us there are needs that we can meet as a group of women in the name of Jesus.

"Until He Comes" Theme for 1991

The convention chose a decade theme for the last 10 years of this century: "Our Faces Toward Tomorrow." We must face the future, and we must prepare for changes and challenges in the years ahead.

For 1991 the theme is "Until He Comes." We know He is coming, but in the meantime, we want to be doing His work in our world.

Eunice Edwards Fund

October 30, 1990—\$30,340.33

Executive Committee and Study Committee Meet

December is the time for the annual meeting of the executive committee. This year the study committee met just before the executive committee in Nashville at the Doubletree Hotel.

The executive committee considers the 1992 budget and makes plans for the convention and national retreat at its December meeting.

The study committee sent out survey forms and is studying literature from WNAC and examining other women's organizations in groups similar to Free Will Baptists. It will report to the convention in July. ■



Thomas Marberry

We Can Change America

Darylann Whitemarsh

(Hannibal, Missouri: Hannibal Books, 1990, 188 pp., paperback, \$9.95).

Christians are citizens of this country, and, as citizens, they have every right to join together with other citizens to influence public policies. That is the American way.

Unfortunately, in recent years misunderstandings about separation of church and state have been used to intimidate Christians and keep them out of the political process. That's not right. Christians need to be involved in government, and the country needs for them to be involved.

The author explains how Christians can organize or join citizens groups and make a difference. In particular, they can make a difference in the kind of moral issues (such as drugs, abortion, gay rights) which are of great interest to Christians.

She explains how citizens can

lobby city councils, state legislatures and even Congress. Local, state and national representatives are responsible to the citizens; citizens should monitor their performance and vote them out if it is unsatisfactory.

This book examines such issues as selecting good candidates and supporting those candidates while they are in office. Sadly, many Christians are quick to complain when their legislator does not vote the way they want him to vote, but they do nothing to help that legislator get in office or stay in office. We must realize that legislators tend to vote with those who support them.

The most helpful section of the book addresses communication and publicity. Citizens groups must of necessity deal with the press, and the author makes many helpful suggestions in this area.

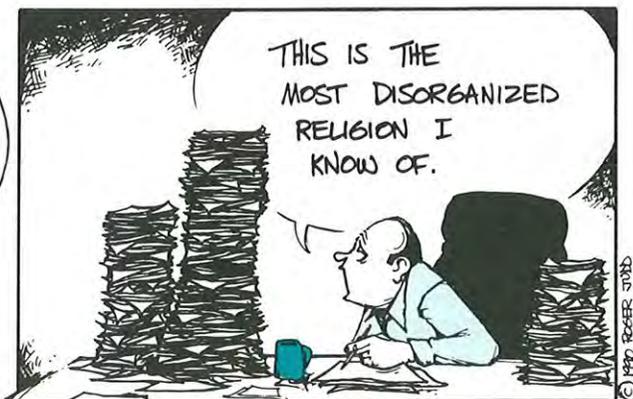
The author suggests that Chris-

tians should become involved in a political party and work to influence the party's candidates and platform. Voting is important, but voting alone may have little impact on the stands taken by political candidates.

In this country, churches and other tax-exempt organizations may not become involved directly or indirectly in politics. This means that churches should not endorse candidates for office, and church funds should never be donated to a political candidate. Individual Christians, however, can and should join with others to influence the direction of our country.

This is a most helpful book. It includes a great deal of practical information about how our country works. It even includes a list of citizens groups already involved in a number of important areas. I enjoyed the book; you will too. ■

BEYOND BELIEF



TEEN SCENE

Ohio Youth Retreat

Some 185 youth and youth workers attended Ohio's annual Youth Retreat at Camp Swoneky last October. The retreat was sponsored by the Ohio Youth Conference and featured Free Will Baptist Bible College students and the Youth Ministries Division staff from Randall House Publications. The theme was "Come Celebrate Jesus!"

The two-day retreat started with a time of communication and fun as youth participated in games and choruses, with a skit performed by Jim Lauthern. Singing was provided by Kevin Scott and Jodi Yount of FWBBC. Dean Jones then gave a message on commitment.

Saturday activities included seminars on caring. After the seminars, the Youth Ministries Division, assisted by Darlene Dove, a FWBBC student, performed the comedy sketch, "The Super-Deluxe Christian Life Success Kit."

Kevin Scott gave the closing challenge on servanthood.

Three girls from Union FWB Church were saved during the retreat.

Manuel Lopes, chairman of the Ohio Youth Conference, points out the effectiveness of personal evangelism at the Ohio retreat. "The year before last, two girls from the Union Church were saved at the retreat. Those two girls asked two more girls to come the next year and they were saved. Again, those two girls asked two more girls to come to the retreat this year and they were saved. No one can tell me personal evangelism doesn't work."

New Staff Member

Eddie Bowerman joined the staff of the Youth Ministries Division at Randall House Publications under a new student intern program. The program allows a college student to work part time during the school year and full time during the summer months. The intern serves for one year.

Eddie, a junior, majors in missions at Free Will Baptist Bible College. While attending the University of Arkansas for two years, he studied computer programming.

Eddie, from Springdale, Arkansas, brings knowledge and experience in the areas of drama and creative writing. He is a



member of Phillip's Chapel FWB Church where he helped start a local Youth Evangelistic Team.

He will work with both the National Youth Evangelistic Team and the National Youth Conference, and conduct conferences with the Youth Ministries staff.

Michigan Youth Conference

One hundred Michigan youth workers from 10 churches gathered at the Woodhaven FWB Church on Saturday, October 13, for a conference.

The conference began with balloon games to get the youth acquainted with each other and the conference theme, "Come Celebrate Jesus!" This included a devotional on care by Eddie Bowerman.

Several youth took part in a seminar on commitment. Then Jim Lauthern gave a character study on Moses, encouraging youth to cultivate their relationships with the Lord.

At a TEAM meeting held at the conference, Michigan youth elected Chris Howard as their state TEAM representative.

Dean Jones gave the closing message on caring. ■



**Make the Bible College
your next move!**

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



Robert E. Picirilli

Parable of Two Brothers (Part II)

Luke 15:11-32

Part one is about the “prodigal son” (vv. 12-24). Part two in this drama is about the elder brother (vv. 25-32). It conveys an entirely different lesson.

We are struck by the tragedy. The longed-for younger son, apple of his father’s eye, given up for dead, has returned at last. The father has decreed merriment and festivity. Whereupon the older brother arrives to find music and rejoicing. Informed as to the glad reason, he has a marvelous opportunity to open his heart to the joy of all the rest, to rush to embrace the prodigal, to share the relief and love of his father.

Instead, there squeezes from his shriveled soul the bitter dregs of jealousy and resentment. The opportunity is missed; his heart, instead of being flooded with light, is kept closed to the darkness of anger and merciless justice. What a tragic, loveless, selfish service is revealed in his protestations: how long he had served, how never a commandment had been transgressed, and yet how he had never rejoiced in the assurance that all the father’s goods were his own!

Jesus implies no criticism that he was lazy: he was in the field, hard at work. Or of his behavior: he had not broken his father’s laws. Or of his service, which had been faithfully rendered for so many years.

The problem was in his *heart*. You see it in his attitude toward himself: “You never gave *me*.” (Self-centeredness and jealousy always go hand in hand.)

It shows, again, in his attitude toward the sins of his brother: “He devoured your living with *harlots!*” (Can you hear the curl of his lips?) You remember what the Pharisees

said about Jesus and Zacchaeus: Your master will be guest in the house of a sinner.

And there it surfaces again, in his attitude toward people: “You’ve killed for him *the fatted calf!*” (People like this brother always confuse the value of things and souls.)

Don’t forget the context. Jesus found many despised publicans and outcast sinners attracted to Him. The self-righteous scribes and Pharisees made that a matter of criticism: “This man receives sinners and eats with them!” In response, He told these three stories: about a lost sheep, a lost coin, a lost son. And about the rejoicing that took place when they were found. Rejoicing that can’t compare with the rejoicing that goes on in heaven when a sinner repents.

That’s where the elder brother comes in. He corresponds to the Pharisees and scribes who, for the life of them, couldn’t understand how Jesus rejoiced when sinners came to Him. The joy of heaven over misbegotten, lost people who come to God wasn’t shared by these pillars of the religious establishment. Their heart attitude was like that of the elder brother: they were self-righteous, self-stroking, condemning, unloving, so careful of all the rules.

The tragedy of the elder brother is that he had been so many years with his father, and had learned so little of his heart. The tragedy of the Jewish leaders was the same: they rigidly guarded God’s law, but experienced nothing of God’s love.

And if we don’t watch it, we can get like that. Getting our values confused, more concerned about things than people. Living without compassion, shrinking from contamination by sinners. Serving

without love for the One we serve or for those He loves. Missing out on the joy of heaven over the sinner who repents.

When that happens, the tragedy of the elder brother, and of the Pharisees and scribes, has become ours. Then we, too, need to hear our heavenly Father’s invitation to share the joy of heaven. And His reassuring affirmation: “You are always with me; all that I have is yours.” ■

Directory Update

ALABAMA

J. D. Norris, Jr. to First Church, Florence from Lake Jackson Church, Tallahassee, FL

GEORGIA

Wayne D. Price to Patmos Church, Leary from Loyal Chapel Church, Columbia, TN

NORTH CAROLINA

Linwood Ipock to Oak Grove Church, Durham from Stacy Church, Stacy

SOUTH CAROLINA

Tony Hargett to Cornerstone Church, Whiteville, NC from New Hope Church, Woodruff

Austin Martin to Windsor Park Church, Cheraw

Travis Harrison to Lebanon Church, Effingham from Richwoods Church, Richwoods, MO

Danny Ramey to First Church, Anderson
Joseph Wallace to South Avenue Church, Lancaster from Five Points Church, Washington, NC

TENNESSEE

John Gibbs to Good Springs Church, Pleasant View from Sylvan Park Church, Nashville

Malcolm Fry to Goodlettsville Church, Goodlettsville

Terry Booker to Victory Church, Jackson
Earl Langley to Smithville Church, Smithville ■

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY NEWS

Militant Gays Break Up Youth Rally

SEATTLE, WA (EP)—A group of militant gays became hostile and violent, disrupting a major event organized by Youth With a Mission (YWAM) last September to celebrate the end of the organizations' world-wide Torch Run.

YWAM's youth rally, the International Goodwill Games in Seattle, Washington, was meant to celebrate the end of the Great Commission Torch Run, which began two years ago on Israel's Mount of Ascension where the original torch was lit on Easter Sunday as a symbol of the gospel, and later used to light several torches which were run across every major continent of the world and finally around the city of Seattle during the "friendly Olympics."

But the picnic and celebration intended to mark the torch's arrival at Volunteer Park in the city's Capitol Hill district was abandoned when some 300 militant gays, members of the militant gay group ACT-UP, arrived, shouting obscenities and hurling condoms, according to a YWAM news report, and complaining that the event was "gay bashing."

A few days previous to the rally, ACT-UP leaders had warned YWAM officials that they intended to disrupt the event if it was not cancelled. Organizers prayed and deliberated before deciding to go ahead as planned, but far fewer people turned out for the rally than expected; participants were outnumbered three-to-one by demonstrators.

When they arrived, the demonstrators, including men dressed as nuns, took over the stage and turned off the public address system. Others surrounded the picnickers, many of them young people and children, and began to shout and swear at them. Police on hand did not make any arrests, the report stated.

"It must have been quite scary at first for some of the younger ones," said Sherry Lorentzen, organizer of the Torch Run. "I don't think I have ever witnessed such hatred before. Some of the things they were screaming were incredibly abusive. But we really sensed God's grace and presence."

Court Throws Out RICO Action Against Pro-Lifers

WEST HARTFORD, CT (EP)—A federal appeals court ruled that the Town of West Hartford, Connecticut, cannot use federal racketeering laws to sue pro-life protesters who blocked entrances to an abortion clinic during two civil disobedience demonstrations.

The three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit held two-to-one that the town had not shown that the protesters' actions amounted to "extor-

tion" and "racketeering" as asserted in a lawsuit filed against the national pro-life group Operation Rescue and others on June 29, 1989.

The appeals court vacated a preliminary injunction issued against the proliferers by U.S. District Judge Peter D. Dorsey and sent the case back to the lower court with instructions that it be dismissed.

"We feel extremely vindicated by this new ruling," said Rutherford Institute attorney Joseph P. Secola, who represented the pro-lifers. "Not only have Connecticut proliferers won their day in court, but this opinion carries significant ramifications for the numerous other racketeering lawsuits facing pro-lifers across the country."

The town's lawsuit, filed under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO), claimed that demonstrations at the Summit Women's Center amounted to an "extortion" of town services because they forced the police to divert their attention from other duties.

The appeals court's 32-page decision called the claims "bizarre" and said the town's reasoning "affronts common sense."

Bible Distributors Join Efforts to 'Saturate the World with Bibles'

HORSLEY'S GREEN, England (EP)—Eight Bible distribution organizations held a conference in England to release a joint communique calling upon the Christian Church to use the Bible as "the indispensable tool for evangelism."

Leaders expressed concern that emphasis on the Bible itself as the center of worship, ministry and outreach has been lost in recent years, according to a report from The Bible League, one of the organizations which attended the meeting.

In the joint statement issued by the conglomerate, concern was expressed over "an erosion of commitment to the authority of scripture in some sectors of the Church." The statement added, "More recently, increased reliance upon the sharing of experience rather than scripture has been observed, and together these trends are in danger of seriously undermining the Church's reliance on God's Word for teaching and guidance."

The document stressed the importance of making God's Word central to missions, worship and ministry, and issued a challenge to give "higher priority than ever to prayer and financial support of the worldwide ministry of Bible translation and distribution, in order to make it possible for the Word of God to be provided to each and every person who now waits to receive it."

At the meeting the agencies agreed to "combine their various strengths and fo-

cus to virtually saturate the world with Bibles," the report stated. Ethiopia will serve as the starting point for this joint venture which includes Wycliffe Bible Translators, Open Doors, United Bible Societies, Living Bible International, Scripture Union, International Bible Society, Bibles for the World and The Bible League.

Study Finds Giving to Churches Down

CHAMPAIGN, IL (EP)—An update on a 1988 study of church giving patterns brought discouraging news: the negative trend found in the study has continued, and may be increasing.

Church analysts John and Sylvia Ronsvalle used new data from the just-released *Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches* to prepare an update of their 1988 study for the 19th North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy, held at the end of September in Minneapolis.

Their earlier study found that as U.S. per capita income went up between 1968 and 1985, the portion of income donated to churches by their members went down. The updated study confirmed that trend.

"If anything, this additional data indicates people are giving less than expected," said Sylvia Ronsvalle. "In this update, we not only look at past patterns, but also project ahead to the beginning of the century. Based on our earlier 1988 study, we estimate that giving to churches will represent 2.53 percent of members' incomes by the year 2002, down from 3.05 percent in 1968. However, adding in the data for 1986 through 1988, we now project that giving may be as low as 1.94 percent in 2002, if the present trend holds constant."

One laywoman, active in her church's efforts to increase giving, was discouraged. "Church members have changed from stewards into consumers," she reported. "They no longer return a portion of their incomes to God. They 'buy' certain services—like a youth program or a place to have ceremonies—from the church."

In related news, a Gallup Organization study commissioned by Independent Sector, the country's largest philanthropic coalition, found that "baby boomers" are donating more money and time than before. Americans in the 25-to-44-year age group have substantially increased the amount of money and time they give to charities, the survey found.

"The dramatic increase in charitable behavior by these baby boomers is particularly encouraging because the sheer size and youth of this group likely forecasts two generations of continuing growth in giving," said Brian O'Connell, president of Independent Sector. ■



Jack Williams

Pistol Packin' Preachers

I hail from a long line of hunters. One of my uncles, who shall be nameless to protect him from game wardens, hasn't been without venison on his table since World War II. My brother spent so much time in the woods with a .30-.30 that he grew moss on the north side of his boots.

I've done my share of shooting with everything from pistols to shotguns. I like guns and men who know how to use them. Which brings me to my subject....

Pistol packing preachers.

Should preachers pack guns as they make pastoral calls? Some do, probably more than you'd think.

Is it legal for a minister to pack a pistol or carry one in his car? And if it's legal, is it ethical. More, is it right?

An Ohio pastor who was having church trouble announced from the pulpit that he had guns and knew how to use them to protect "his church."

Don, a 46-year-old pastor, said he carried a loaded pistol in his car with the endorsement of local police. He said he's on the road at all hours and needs the protection.

Well, does he? Do pastors in a tight spot waffle between save 'em or shoot 'em? Preachers who pack iron don't always talk to people, they sometimes interrogate them.

The U.S. military forbids chaplains to bear arms. They reason that the man who carries a Bible doesn't need a .38 special to enforce it. The military sees a contradiction between "God loves you" and "Go ahead, make my day."

While there's no epidemic of preachers shooting parishioners, it happens. One such case involved

Fort Worth pastor J. Frank Norris who shot a man in his study. Norris pleaded self-defense, but no one ever forgot. Nor should they.

It's difficult to picture Jesus pointing a .357 magnum at Pilate. His teachings called for men to beat their swords into plowshares. As far as we can determine, New Testament ministers did just that. How did they survive?

Acts 3 explains how two former "gun-totin'" preachers kicked the habit. Peter told one man: "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee...(v. 6).

That's a good example for any pastor who finds himself cornered by Satan's bullies. Learn to say, "Smith & Wesson have I none, but such as I have...."

God requires ministers (as well as other Christians) to go fully armed in this world. Their weapons: shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit, breastplate of righteousness and girded with truth (Ephesians 2:14-17).

There's nothing wrong with the ministerial hunter keeping firearms in his home—if he practices gun safety. But it's another matter to pack a hawg leg or carry a gun in his vehicle. Does your pastor carry a pistol?

When a minister reaches inside his coat, people expect him to pull out a Bible, not a Beretta. A man trained theologically may not be emotionally prepared or physically qualified to handle firearms.

Missionary to Peru, Bernie May, kept a .22 caliber pistol for 10 years but never fired it. When he left the jungle, he decided to fire the gun before he got rid of it. He squeezed off the first shot. Instead

of an explosion, the only sound he heard was a "click." Apparently moisture had seeped into the casings, ruining the powder. Every shell was a dud.

Bernie May said, "For 10 years I had put my trust in a gun that wouldn't shoot."

Pastor, your gun may shoot, but remember the lesson that young David taught Goliath: "You come against me with a sword and spear..., but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty..." (I Samuel 17:45, NIV).

That same David later wrote: "I do not trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory..." (Psalm 44:6, NIV).

Take your pistol with you to the firing range; take God's truth when you step into the dark night of sin. ■

Happy New Year!

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