

APRIL 1991

CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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Growing Up a World Away

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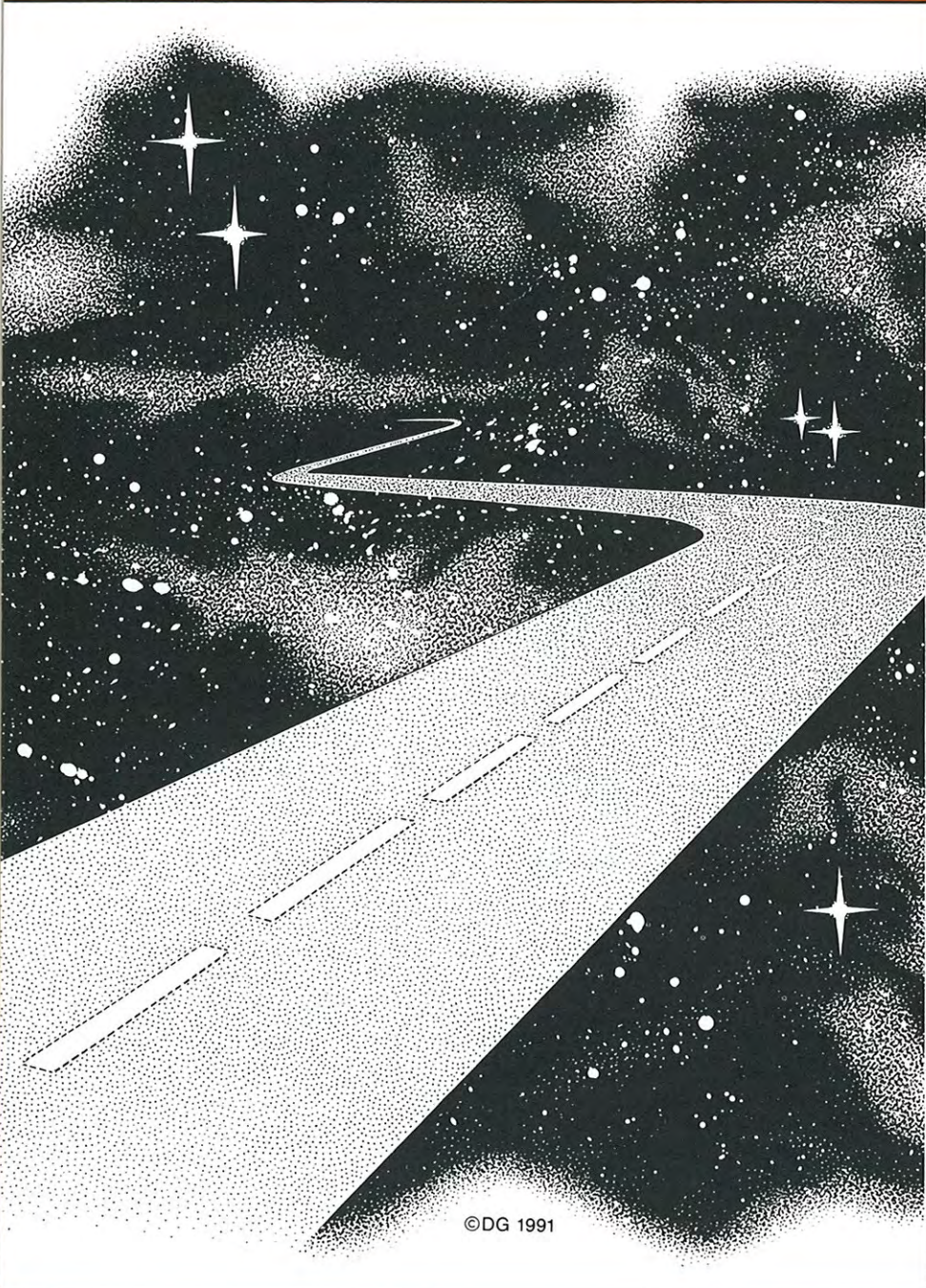
Reverse Culture Shock

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What Do Missionaries Really Need?

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Tijuana Taxi



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VOLUME 38, NO. 4

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Melvin Worthington

We're Moving to New Offices!

During the 1990 national convention in Phoenix, Arizona, delegates authorized renovating the present national office facility or relocating the national offices. The Executive Committee was authorized to act on recommendations from the Management Committee within parameters of \$1.4 million in short-term indebtedness or \$400,000 in long-term indebtedness.

After the convention the Executive Committee approved the Management Committee's recommendation to purchase a two-story facility in nearby Antioch, Tennessee. The 1.5-acre site was purchased September 26, 1990 for \$800,000. It came with a 91-space paved parking lot.

We plan to occupy the new facility before the 1991 national convention. The National Association serves as general contractor. The Management Committee gives general supervision to the project. Work on the building's interior is progressing on schedule.

After 25 years, we will move away from our 1134 Murfreesboro Road location in Nashville. This giant step suggests growth in technology, communication and constituency.

The Facility

The new national office complex provides 30,000 square feet of office and storage area, doubling our present space. This will allow continued growth into the next century for those agencies occupying the facility.

New construction materials and building design provide better and more efficient heating and cooling. This building is designed to include expanding computer technology.

Each agency will have a conference room and work room. The site of the new facility gives higher visibility and provides greater convenience for board meetings and conferences. The building is designed to house national agencies for the next 25 years.

The Focus

The new office complex is more than a building. It symbolizes our movement, a denomination committed to extending God's kingdom to the ends of the earth. It suggests preparation to serve a growing constituency. The new building is a resource hub for the churches, associations and agencies which comprise the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Our new offices symbolize sacrifice and service. National office personnel provide services for every member of the denomination. This building symbolizes the dedication and devotion, the vision and dreams of those who would propel the Free Will Baptist movement into the next century. It is more than bricks and mortar; it reflects the spirit, sacrifice and service of our people.

The Finances

The purchase price of the building was \$800,000. The cost of the entire project can not exceed \$1.4 million. We anticipate three ways to pay for the facility.

(1) The sale of our present prop-

erty, approximately 4.5 acres with two buildings. The property has been appraised at \$1.3 million. In light of Nashville's real estate market, we have put it up for sale at \$850,000. Pray with us about this matter—we need to sell this property to help pay for our new offices.

(2) Rent from agencies occupying the new office facility. Master's Men, Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, Board of Retirement, FWB Foundation, Home Missions, Foreign Missions and the Executive Office will pay rent to operate the facility. Agency budgets will include the additional rent.

The Future

The present national office facility served us well. When those agencies that needed more space suggested a new facility 25 years ago, they were viewed as dreamers. Time has proven them to be correct.

At the time this office facility was occupied, many believed the denominational agencies would never need any additional space. Thankfully, they were wrong. We have needed more space for a number of years.

There will come a time when the new facility we just purchased will not be big enough. God will bless. We will grow. And we will build again.

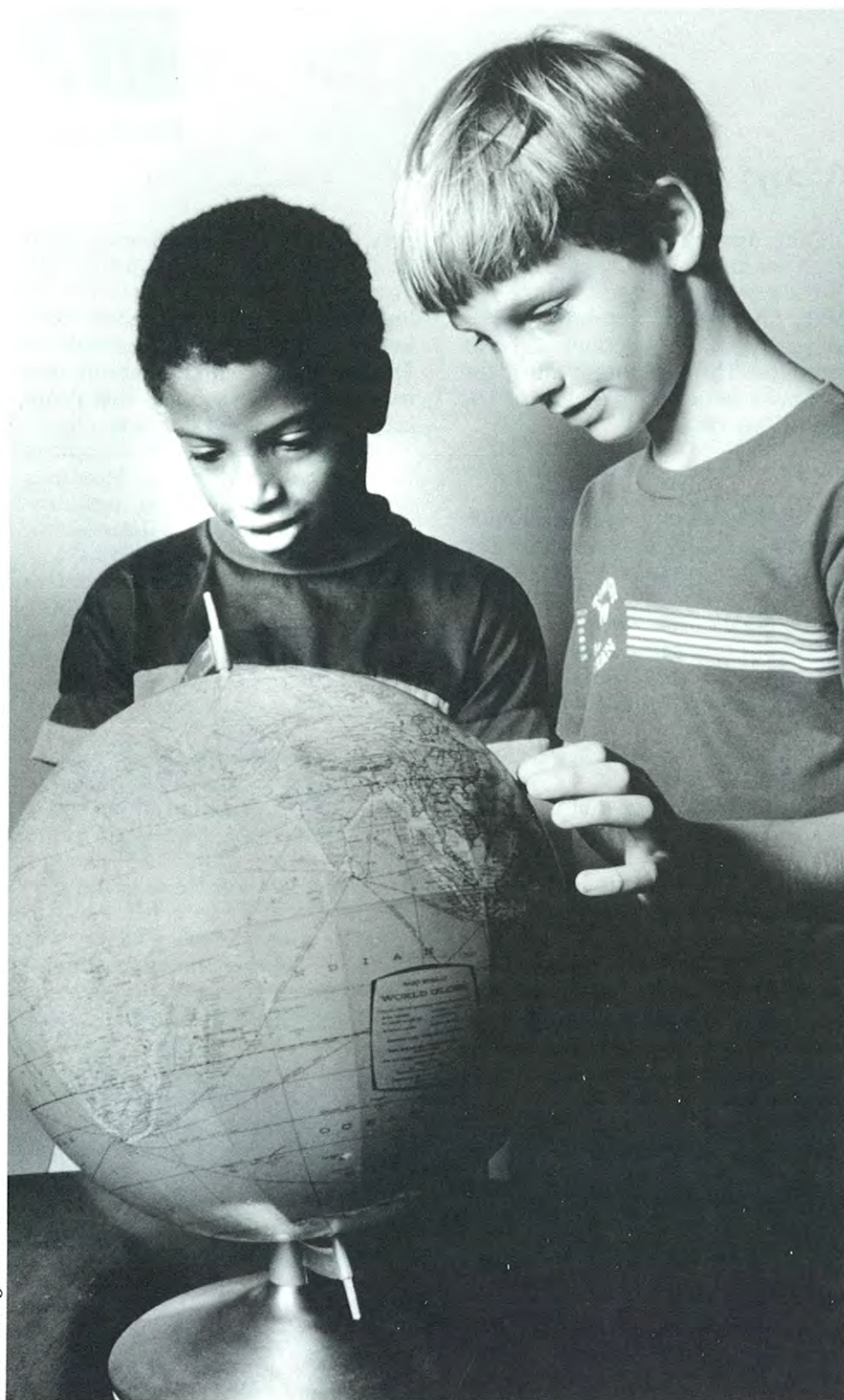
We praise God for the vision of those who made preparation for us. We have tried to prepare for the next century, the next generation. Those who follow us will have excellent facilities from which to effectively serve our denomination.

Join us in giving praise and glory to God for the great things He has done. ■

Secretary's Schedule

April 1-7	Central FWB Church Huntington, W.Va.
April 19-20	New Mexico State Assoc. Hobbs, N.M.

Growing Up ...



H. Armstrong Roberts

...a World Away

By Kenneth Eagleton, Jr.

One of the big challenges when moving to another country is learning to live and work in another culture. As an adult, all the props or familiar things that help one get through life suddenly get kicked out from under you.

There are two ways to react. One, try to keep old habits alive and not get involved in local culture any more than necessary. Two, immerse oneself in local culture and learn; identify with it as much as possible. American military and embassy personnel overseas usually adopt the first alternative.

How should the missionary react? Obviously, if he wants a fruitful ministry among them, he must immerse himself into the culture and learn as much of it as possible.

What about his children? Unless they are actively shielded against that culture, they will pick it up too, and much faster than their parents. They will learn the language quicker (and without an accent), pick up on body language and understand motives and reasoning of the host culture that will leave their parents amazed.

Special Problems

Having gone to Brazil with my parents, Ken and Marvis Eagleton, when I was only two years old and lived there 26 years as a "missionary kid" (MK), I experienced these very things.

Language

I grew up speaking both English and Portuguese fluently. I played with neighborhood children and went to school with them as

though I were a part of them. I understood them and was accepted by them.

But was I really like them? I was an American! I lived a double life. We spoke English in the home (not usually in front of Brazilians so they wouldn't think we were talking about them). We didn't eat rice and beans every day like my friends did. I had to do home schooling in English as well as go to Brazilian school (part time).

Culture

Every four years we returned "home," to the United States that is. Was I American as my passport said or was I Brazilian?

Why not both? My three younger brothers were born in Brazil and were legitimately both American and Brazilian citizens. Can you really belong to two cultures? The older I got the more I felt caught between the two. I actually belonged to a third culture. There were things I liked about both cultures and things I disliked about both of them.

School and Sports

Coming to the U.S. on furlough always required adjustments. The school year in Brazil goes from February through December because the seasons of the year are opposite from those in the northern hemisphere. This always put us either leaving Brazil in the middle of the school year or arriving in the U.S. in the middle of the school year.

Making friends here was always difficult. Other children already had their cliques formed and no one was going to invite an oddball who looked like he had just arrived from Mars. By the time I got to know others better and gain their confidence, it was time to go back to "the field"; so what's the use in making friends?

Sports was always a problem, especially in high school. The sport I had grown up with and knew well was soccer, but my high school didn't have a soccer team. I didn't know how to play football, baseball, tennis and other sports, I certainly didn't have a chance to make

a team; I didn't even know the rules.

Divided Loyalty

Suppose you were born in Tennessee and raised in Texas. Who would your root for if your favorite college team from each state played in the championship finals? Or suppose two of your children entered a competition as opponents. Which one would you root for?

This divided loyalty is something I had to face often. Fortunately, no major issues arose, such as war between the two countries, that forced me to make crucial patriotic decisions. There were important decisions to make though: Where should I go to college? Who should I marry? Where should I live after getting training?

Unique Advantages

Despite some disadvantages, being bicultural and speaking two languages fluently had many advantages.

Socially

I felt pretty important when as a teenager I was asked by college students and professional people to give English conversation classes or to translate articles out of technical magazines. It gave me an opportunity to make a few extra bucks, too. Many times I translated for visitors from the U.S.

Twice I was given the responsibility of helping new missionary families get settled in Brazil during their first two weeks until they could start language school. I showed them how to get around town, how to catch a bus, where to buy bread and milk, what their money was worth and other everyday chores.

Spiritually

MK's can also be an asset to their parents' ministry. As teenagers, my brothers and I attracted many young people to our church. We had a vibrant youth ministry and our house was like Grand Central Station. I helped out in the music, passed out literature

in evangelistic campaigns, helped in Christmas plays and other drama presentations, filled in sometimes for my dad in mid-week prayer services when he had to be gone, etc.

Coping Factors

Looking back over my experience, I think there are at least three factors which helped me cope with my unique bicultural situation.

Universal God

God wants us all to be Christians, but not necessarily Americans. God created all people, regardless of their race, color or nationality. "For God so loved the world...." There is nothing wrong with being of another culture or belonging to two cultures.

Understanding Parents

I think my parents understood the dilemmas we faced. They did not try to force their own culture on us or shield us from local culture. They allowed us to make responsible choices, and this avoided much potential rebellion.

Caring Churches

Even while making awkward adjustments while on furlough in the States with my parents, there were loving and caring people from churches who made special efforts to include us in their activities and give us a sense of belonging. Not all MK's are that fortunate.

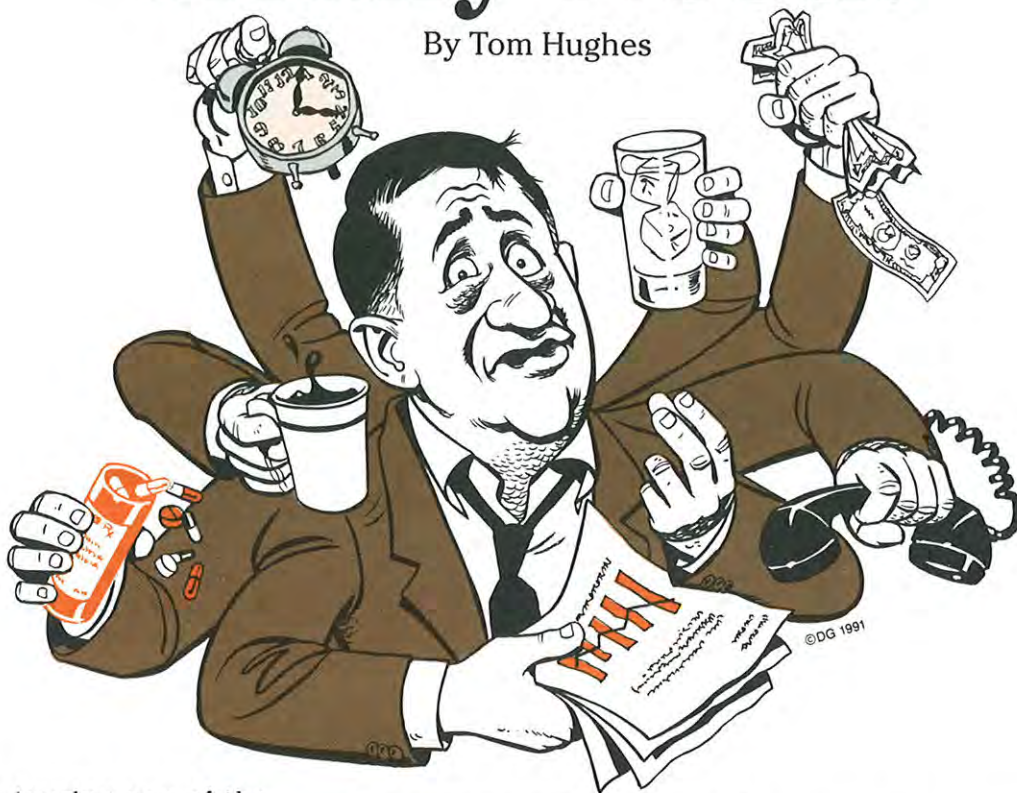
My experience as an MK was overall a positive one and I would not have had it any other way. I now have 4 MK's of my own. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Kenneth P. Eagleton, Jr. is a Free Will Baptist medical missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa.

What Do Missionaries Really Need?

By Tom Hughes



While touring one of the mission fields, the general director asked a missionary if there was anything that he really needed.

"Yes," came the quick reply, "I need a chest of drawers that will open and shut."

The missionary was half joking, but he was showing some of the pent-up frustration that results from living with third-world quality.

Yes, missionaries do have needs. Some are more basic and important than others. Let's talk about four of them.

Solid Preparation

Missionaries need good preparation before arriving on the field. Ideally, this preparation begins in his home church while the missionary candidate is young. He should become accustomed to church services centered around Bible preaching.

Part of his normal church experience should include evangelistic outreach with people regularly won to the Lord. His pastor should be a good role model for him to follow.

Thankfully, our Foreign Missions Board requires that the missionary be prepared academically and with practical experience before he reaches the field. While I was in Bible College I was asked by an interested layman why I needed a college education if I might be going to work with primitive people.

While that may appear to be logical reasoning, some reflection on the matter will show that it is not. Many missionaries, including those who work with primitive cultures, have felt the need for graduate studies so that they can be better equipped to minister.

Some candidates are so anxious to get to the field that they view the pastoral experience require-

ment as an unnecessary hurdle. This is a case where haste may make something worse than just waste. It might cause the candidate to become a mission field casualty.

One young missionary, just out of language school, moved into a situation with a full church schedule plus a weekly 30-minute radio broadcast. His testimony is that it was rough going, even though he had pastored in the States and had experience preparing sermons and Bible studies.

Prayer Support

Another need of the missionary is prayer support. Jonathan Goforth testified that his comprehension of Chinese greatly increased when a group back in Canada decided to pray that God would bless his language study.

As he traveled on deputation before going to China, Goforth related

a story to encourage people to pray for him. The story was of a missionary family who returned from the mission field physically broken and spiritually defeated. Since it was before the days of rapid communication, his home church did not know the missionary was returning. He arrived after prayer meeting began, slipped in quietly and sat at the back of the church. At the close of the service he stood and spoke to the congregation.

"During our time on the mission field I could not understand why we had so many health problems and experienced so many difficulties. Tonight I learned why. Not once were our names mentioned in your prayers."

I vividly remember an incident in one church where I was speaking while on deputation. After the service a lady approached and introduced herself. I had heard of her husband, an outstanding layman in the area, though I had never met him. You can imagine my emotion as she told us that her husband prayed for me every day.

Consistent Funding

A third thing the missionary needs is faithful, consistent financial support. It is sad to read about appeals for financial support for missionaries who are overdue to return to their fields. Some missionaries remain in the States for up to two years, twice the normal time for furlough, because of inadequate support.

During our first term the name of a church in Tennessee where we have never been for services began to appear on our monthly donor list printout. We thanked the church and added them to our newsletter mailing list. We later learned that the offerings came from a couple who had been supporting us through another church.

Some time later the name of that church disappeared from our donor list, but a North Carolina church where we had never been began appearing. We thanked this church, added it to our mailing list and scheduled a service there during our next furlough. We learned

that most of the support from that church came from one couple, the same couple who had given in Tennessee.

After the services we thanked the family for their faithful giving. The wife said that when they pledged support to our account years before, it was to support our ministry as long as we were on the field.

Time Apart

A final need is for "time apart." I remember a professor stating in class that Jesus said to the disciples, "You need to come apart and rest, before you come apart."

Of course, the most important time apart is daily quiet time with the Lord. With so many things clamoring for his time and attention, the missionary must jealously guard his time apart or it will be snatched from him.

The missionary also needs time away from his post of service for spiritual, mental and physical refreshing. Here in Brazil we have an organization for evangelical missionaries that brings in outside speakers, usually from the States, for an annual retreat. This is time apart for spiritual renewal, rest and fellowship.

Occasionally, the time apart that a missionary family needs requires a leave of absence. Missionary families face unique circumstances in areas of health, children's educa-

tion, and separation from children and other family members.

When a missionary requests a leave of absence or an extended furlough, a sympathetic and supportive constituency may make the difference in a short time apart or a departure from the field. We are on the field today because of an understanding director, board and constituency when our circumstances required special consideration.

Yes, missionaries have needs. But they are not bigger than our God and Free Will Baptist people can supply. By the way, some chest of drawers can be repaired or made to open and close more easily with soap. However, the one the late Sam Wilkinson had trouble with never found a solution. It remains in the Foreign Missions apartment, a humorous reminder of a missionary who gave a down-to-earth answer when asked what a missionary really needs. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Tom Hughes is a Free Will Baptist missionary to Brazil.

LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATES'S CREDENTIALS

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____

is a duly authorized delegate to the national Association of Free Will

Baptists from _____

(Name of church)

of _____

(District Association)

(City)

(State)

Pastor _____

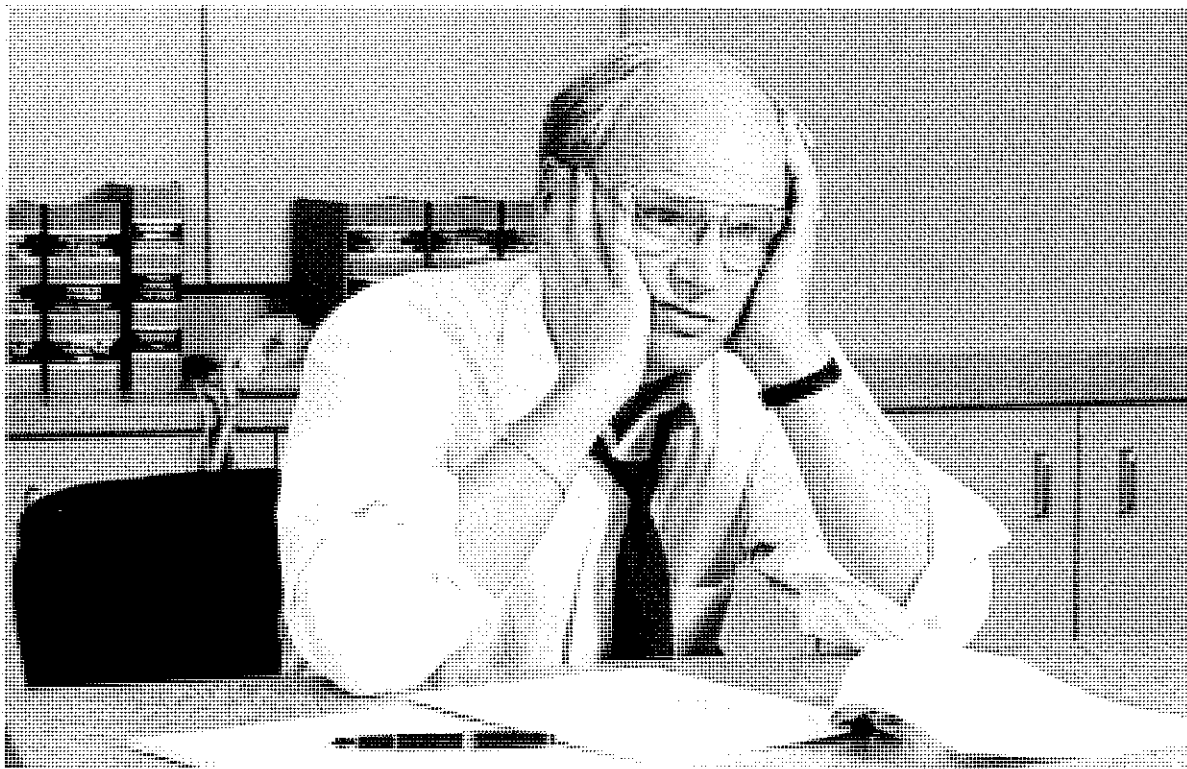
Clerk or Secretary _____

IMPORTANT: This form properly signed and accompanied by a \$10 registration fee entitles a local church delegate to register for voting privileges.

After 10 years a missionary comes home to a "foreign" country.

Reverse Culture Shock

By Clint Morgan



H. Armstrong Roberts

Preparation for furlough can be as important as cross-cultural training for the missionary. The longer he's on a foreign field the more of a foreigner he becomes in his homeland. This leads to what's called "reverse culture shock" when the missionary family furloughs to the States.

I recall the first time I heard a missionary "pretend" to forget an English word. It did not seem possible that one could forget his mother tongue.

However, after three terms in Africa, I find myself "pretending" to forget certain words. Now I see that one does not truly forget; a substitute word comes to mind quicker than the original.

This overriding process occurs in many areas of missionary life. He often "pretends" to be uncomfortable in his mother culture. The missionary has not forgotten his

mother culture. He has adapted to another one and feels as comfortable in his adopted culture as he did with the original.

Tips for Coming Home

The missionary family begins furlough preparation months before boarding the plane to go home. Here's what our family does to diminish the shock:

- Open discussions about the necessity of furlough.
- Dialogue about fears and hopes of furlough experience.
- Present biblical principles that guide us through times of change.
- Learn where we will live and where the kids will attend school.
- Obtain information about current stateside trends and styles.
- Be realistic about constituency expectations.
- Contact the local church we plan

to attend about their programs (youth, Sunday School classes, youth leaders, etc.).

- Show pictures / videos so the children will recognize our stateside family.
- Make plans for stateside living:
 - Sports and special-interest activities for the children.
 - Plan sightseeing spots.
 - Examine job opportunities for teens.
 - Plan family night (or day).
 - Discuss entertainment (how much TV to watch, music to listen to, etc.).
- Pray!

Why Reverse Culture Shock?

When we came stateside after our first term in Africa, I was still American enough that re-entry was exciting and America was home. This time I felt more awkward. Why this difficulty? Why would I be

shocked by my mother culture?

- I'm older and more set in my ways (nah, couldn't be that).
- I'm a "third culture" person, no longer only of my mother culture nor truly of my adopted culture.
- My mother culture changed so much that I no longer recognize it and therefore reject it.
- I'm more analytical and see the culture through different eyes.
- After 10 years, I feel more comfortable in my adopted culture.
- I am socially uncomfortable. Old friends block me out. I no longer fit.
- This is the way missionaries are "supposed to feel," therefore I feel it.

Perhaps the difficulties are a combination of everything above. One thing for sure, there's a shock taking place. In spite of that, furlough can be fun.

Re-entry, Morgan Style

With heads spinning, eyes burning and bodies fatigued from 20 hours of traveling, we awoke to hear the pilot say, "Please prepare for landing."

Adrenalin kicked all systems into high gear; we were finally home. Or were we? Is "home" here in the U.S.A. or across the Atlantic in arid, war-torn, disease-infested, beautiful Africa?

Family

I knew that my family waited at the end of that deplaning corridor.

I heard Mom repeating, "There they are! There they are!" Then she changed to, "There he is! There he is!" Her son was home. The pain of four years' absence replaced by the joy of presence.

Many friends accompanied them; they shared in the emotional emptying. That mountain peak of joy will never be more than a nerve ending away in my treasure chest of golden memories.

Baggage

The reunification party moved to the baggage claim area. For a moment my mind swept back to Africa. Where were all the porters

clamoring to take my bags, tugging, arguing, pushing, all trying to lay claim to this mountain of luggage? Here, this mass of white faces were fending for themselves.

Partly from necessity and partly from habit, I snagged the one lonely porter. A willing helper, he gracefully received the tip. Strange, though, no one tried to take it from him or argue that they were entitled to a share because they touched the bags. That's the African way.

Transportation

We loaded the luggage into several vehicles and settled into what seemed like a limousine-length American car. The plush interior was overwhelming.

No customs officials waited along the road to stop tourists and demand unreasonable duty tax that could be sidestepped with a smile and a "tip." No police or gendarmes (highway patrol) flagged us down with imagined traffic violations. No demands for passports, car papers, identification papers from law officers at impromptu stops.

No honking horns when traffic lights turned green. Thousands of cars! Where could they be going at 1:00 a.m.? We saw more vehicles in the two-hour trip to my parents' home than we had seen in three terms traveling to our village in the northeast corner of Côte d'Ivoire.

Styles

After a short night's sleep we prepared to reunite with our mother culture. The first element of change, and perhaps the most obvious, was in styles: hair, clothes, language. I was awed by the radical haircuts.

One was called a "bear claw." It resembled a man bushwhacked by a bear that left a print on his head the F.B.I. could read 100 yards away. I wonder if some people get up every morning, look in the mirror and ask, "Does my hair look bad enough to go out in public today?"

Style changes run in cycles, but they are also unpredictable and appear more casual now. More people

seem to wear shorts in everyday situations: in restaurants, malls and even in airports.

The color schemes seemed more African. We left behind several African outfits thinking they might look strange. We should have brought them; they could put us in the mainline of casual fashion.

My wife had several African dresses made so she could show American women how African women dress. But, upon arrival, she saw that the patterns were exactly the same.

The price of clothes does not seem much higher. What a relief. But, for our children expensive brand names are the demand of youth culture.

Wide ties have rebounded. But who needs ties? Oh, for the days in Africa when a knit shirt and khaki slacks would do it.

Food

Going to restaurants was a shocker. The human mind dreams up so many wild concoctions and names for foods. Fast foods seem to have lost their names. Everything's in code. Step up to a counter and you are bombarded with 101 possibilities, all in code.

"Hello, would you like a BQM, BDS or our special MUD?"

At that point I wasn't sure if I was in a restaurant or the C.I.A. office. Maybe re-entry missionaries need a course in Restaurant 101.

Phones

Setting up housekeeping caught us off guard: Like when I tried to order a phone. I went to our local church and called the phone company. I told the lady that I wanted a phone. Just a simple phone.

She rattled off a list of options that I needed, each preceded by questions like, "Do you have teenagers in your home?"

"Yes."

"Well, you need our ATT, TT special...."

Frustrated and embarrassed, I handed the phone to the church secretary and asked, "Would you please order a phone that works



Tijuana Taxi

By Barbara Hicks

My first experience outside the United States began in a Tijuana taxi. After attending the national convention in Phoenix, we decided to visit Mexico. We walked across the border and boarded a taxi. It was then that I discovered there is no right of way in Mexico.

Taxi drivers have no regard for other cars. The driver with the most intestinal fortitude or the biggest vehicle takes the right of way. I held on to my three children in the back seat and prayed for our safety. My husband was hanging out the window taking pictures, oblivious to the fact that we were all about to perish!

As the driver drove across the interstate, the thought raced through my mind that he was going the wrong way. What if he beat us and took all our money?

We spent a few hours in Mexico. It seemed strange to be in a place where few people spoke English. I held onto my children and my purse as we had been warned to do before we entered. I thought of all the missionaries who go to a foreign land where the language is different and the Lord is the complete source of their safety.

My mind drifted back to the national convention where the Lord touched my heart concerning missions. During the Wednesday night



service a young man from Spain sang a song, "Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am a life that was changed." He had been saved as a result of our missionaries to Spain. There were not many dry eyes in the service that night as he sang with his Spanish accent.

I also met and talked with Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, our medical missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. As a nurse, I was especially interested in his work. I learned that some of the needs of the clinic are simple ones such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen (Nupren, etc.), Band-aids and gauze sponges.

I was amazed to think that if each lady who is a member of our

Woman's Auxiliary would donate a box of Tylenol or Ibuprofen or Band-aids, we could supply the needs of the clinic for a year. What a small sacrifice this would be for each individual, yet such a blessing to the clinic. Our local Woman's Auxiliary decided that next month each member will bring an item for the clinic.

I spoke to a pharmacist in our area and explained our project to him. He offered to give us one product free for each that we purchase. Perhaps Auxiliaries across the nation could adopt similar projects.

Upon leaving Mexico, we once again rode in a Tijuana taxi. When we came back to the United States' border, a little Mexican boy with a dirty face opened the taxi doors.

"Teep for me," he said, "Teep for me."

As my husband reached into his pocket for a tip, I thought of all the faces of those across this world who are reaching out to us. They are not just reaching out for physical needs but for a knowledge of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I pray that God will burden each of us for missions that those of us who stay behind will do our part to send those who go. ■

.....
ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Barbara Hicks is a member of Ina Free Will Baptist Church, Ina, Illinois.

Shock (from page 9)

for me?" She got quite a laugh out of it.

Television

Television rattled our cultural walls. Is it unheard of to promote something on the basis of honesty, sobriety and faithfulness? Programs and commercials are laced with sensual motivators.

Have my mother culture's values changed that much? Will this trend move our world from immorality to amorality? Maybe living without T.V. is not so bad after all.

Commitment

One last thing that shocked us is

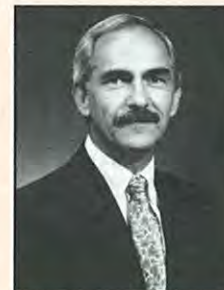
lack of commitment by Americans. I mean lack of commitment to things that should guide our lives like family, local church and biblical values.

Marriages of church leaders die because of adultery. Greying churches can't tap into the lives of the upwardly mobile.

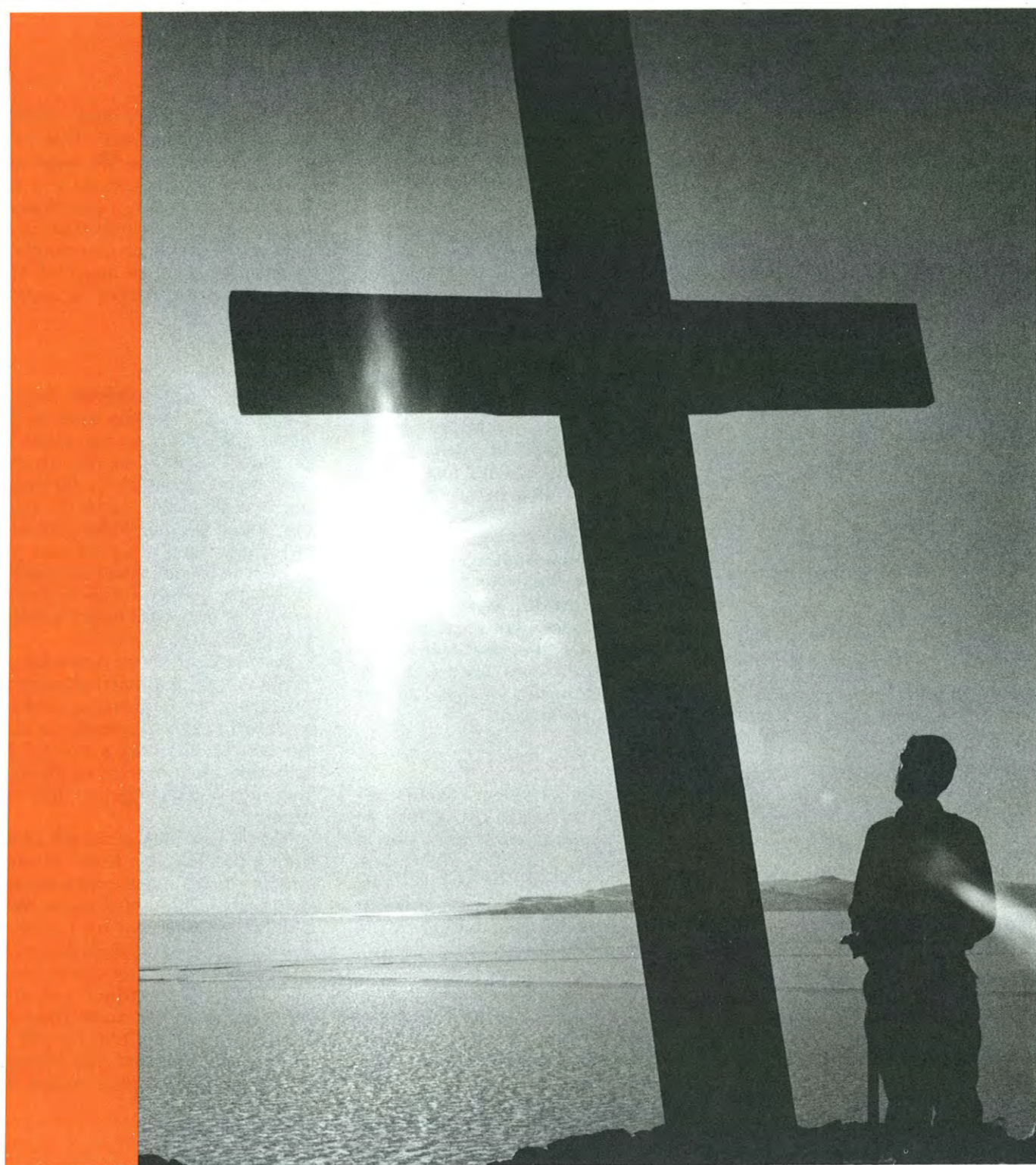
Does this mean that one day my adopted culture must send missionaries to my mother culture? Will an African missionary to America one day grapple with missiological principles that call for cultural transformation?

The re-entry challenge. As I examine my mother culture, I put it to the same test that I put the

African culture. The principle that guided me there must guide me here: "When Christianity and culture come into conflict, Christianity must win out." ■



.....
ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Clint Morgan is a Free Will Baptist missionary to Cotê d'Ivoire, West Africa.



H. Armstrong Roberts

Motivation for Missions

By Joe Haas, Sr.

Needed: 82 missionaries! Our Foreign Missions Department projects that in the next few years we will need 82 missionaries to fill needs on our foreign fields. The Home Missions Department continually

calls for missionaries to open churches here in the United States.

We must face some serious questions about missions. Are we responding to present needs? Do we have 82 missions students in our colleges preparing for foreign ser-

vice? Is the Home Missions Department overrun with applications to work in needy areas here at home?

Sad to say, the answer to all those questions is a resounding, "No!" A renewed interest in missions is an absolute necessity

Motivation (from page 11)

among Free Will Baptists. We have lost our motivation. Missions is not as important to us as it once was.

With the help of the Lord, we must be motivated again to reach the millions who have never heard the gospel. I suggest four areas where we must focus attention.

Our Homes

Missionary interest must be re-established in our families if we expect an effective missionary program in our denomination. Our children must become acquainted with our missionaries and their needs. There was a time when in most every Free Will Baptist home there were missionary reminders present.

Missionary prayer cards were on the kitchen table reminding family members to pray for those laboring in faraway lands. *Heartbeat* magazine in our homes kept families in touch with missionaries they were supporting. Missions was important in our homes.

With the disintegration of families we must work harder than ever to regain this emphasis. Make praying for missionaries part of your daily devotions.

Write to the missionaries you support and send them cards on their special days. If missionaries come to your area, invite them to your home for the night or a meal and let them excite your children and family with stories of victory from their fields of labor. Let them help you prepare a meal typical of the country where they serve.

Our Churches

Second, missionary motivation must be recaptured in our local churches. During the 1960's our churches were buzzing for missions. Pastors were excited about missions and the possibility of having a missionary in their church thrilled them.

In those days prayer meeting could be changed to Tuesday or Thursday and it was not uncommon to have missionaries on Monday or Friday nights. Missionary conferences were conducted by associations and local churches. Church members were acquainted

with our missionaries, knew where they were working and what was happening in their ministries.

I suggest that pastors promote a missions Sunday in their churches. That Sunday preach a missions sermon, urge people to give a special missions offering and make that Sunday important in the eyes of the people. Invite missionaries to the church on a regular basis.

Don't be afraid to let them preach on Sunday when you have your largest crowd. Let your church know that missions is important to you. Let your people hear what God is doing around the world. Our young people must be challenged to give their lives to reaching the world with the gospel.

Schedule an annual missionary conference that you promote as much as you do revivals. During this conference plan something for every age group in your church. We can do it. Pastors, let's put missions back in the forefront of our great denomination!

Our Schools

Third, our Christian schools can certainly motivate our youth to consider giving their lives to God in reaching the unreached multitudes. Christian schools could have missionaries visit while in the area for services. Invite them to spend the day. Let them speak in chapel. Make it exciting to have a "real live" missionary at school.

Better still, invite a missionary to spend a week in your school. Let the missionary go to each class and tell about their work. Let them show items about the culture in which they work. Let them speak daily in chapel and spend time with the students. The week could close with a missionary banquet for teens. At the beginning of each year, assign a missionary to each class and let the class correspond with the missionary during the school year on a regular basis.

Missions must again recapture the spotlight on our college campuses. We who are involved in our colleges must keep missions before the college students.

Make every program an exciting experience, whether it be a retreat,

missionary conference, visiting missionary, missionary film or an international dinner. We must keep adding new programs to our missions departments. Make missionary prayer groups important in the eyes of the students. Our youth are looking for a cause in which they can invest their lives in serving Christ.

Our Missions Agencies

Finally, our missions departments must take the lead in promoting missions as the most important business of the church. New materials must be forthcoming, new slogans to catch the eye of our young people. Write a missionary chorus for the year and promote it in all our missions publications. Streamline our missions programs to appeal to the youth of this generation.

Re-evaluate requirements for students (single and married) who are preparing for the mission field and update the requirements to meet the needs of today's youth. Restructure our program of giving to help missionaries get to the field quicker.

Take a new look at length of service and furlough time. Modern transportation puts every mission field within 24 hours of home. What a great promotional tool to motivate youth to the regions beyond.

Yes, we must lift up our eyes and look on the fields which are white unto harvest. We must pray the Lord of the harvest that He will call us, our children and our students to reach this generation for Christ! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Joe R. Haas, Sr., chairs the missions department at Southeastern Free Will Baptist College in Wendell, North Carolina. He served three terms as a Free Will Baptist missionary to France.

That's a Good Deal!

By Doug Lance



The children poured into the fellowship hall as usual that Sunday morning. I stood at the door with my same "I'm-glad-you're-here-You-sure-look-nice-today" greeting. I got the usual handshakes, high-fives and, "Hey, Mr. Doug's" that I always get. But somehow I knew that today would be different.

As children's church began, I noticed many new faces. I remembered two years earlier when we averaged only 28 children on Sunday mornings. Now we average over 130.

After prayer, music, a puppet skit and the offering we sent the 4 through 6-year-olds to their classes. That's when I noticed John.

He sat in the middle row with his two younger brothers. He was a neat looking little guy. Nice haircut, rosy cheeks. I watched them during the missionary story. John and his brothers sat quietly and listened. I knew they were first-time visitors because they were drinking in every word.

Then it was time for the Bible lesson. John and his brothers never moved. Each time I glanced at them, I could see their little eyes get wider. It was time for the invitation. The children bowed their heads and I spoke to them softly about their need for a Savior. We invited those who wanted to know more about Jesus to the back of the room.

John and his brothers were in a group of 12 who responded. We took them outside and asked them why they had come. (We do this because sometimes youngsters are not sure why they have come.)

We then split the children into groups according to their answers. Some wanted to be counseled or talk to one of the adults about a problem. Some requested prayer for relatives or friends. Four boys

Good Deal (from page 13)

said that they had never asked Jesus into their hearts. This group, including John and his brothers, was taken to the sidewalk in front of the fellowship hall.

As we sat in the warm sunshine, I asked each one if he had ever been to our church. John and his brothers said they were from up north and had never been to church before today. The other boy had come to our church for three weeks. All four came on our buses.

I began to tell the boys about Adam and Eve. We talked about the Garden and how everything was as God planned it for them. We talked about how God made everything and placed them in charge. We talked about the only rule God gave them, not to eat the fruit off the tree. I explained to them that Adam and Eve disobeyed God and caused death for themselves and everyone who came after them.

I said, "This was the first sin; do you know what sin is?"

The boy who had come before said, "It's when you do something wrong."

I asked if he could give me some examples of sin. He named lying, stealing, cheating, cursing and disobeying parents. I told him that those were all good answers and the Bible says that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. (I showed them the verse.)

John's eyes got wide and he said, "Mr. Doug, I've done all them things." All the boys nodded in agreement that they had done those things too.

"We all have, John," I said, "and God loves you and me. But because we've sinned we are separated from God and can't be with Him."

I went on with the story. "For years people who lived after Adam and Eve sacrificed animals to cover up their sins. (I explained that the animal had to be perfect, without a spot on it in order for God to accept it.) But God knew that there had to be a sacrifice made that would not just

cover up man's sin, but do away with it completely.

"So God came up with a plan to save us from death and the place called Hell. But he needed a sacrifice, and it couldn't be an animal. In Heaven, Jesus, (God's Son) told God, 'Let me go to Earth and live as a man.' God loved us so much that he gave His only Son, that whosoever believed in Him should not die but have eternal life." (I showed them the verse.)

"So Jesus was born as a man with flesh and bones just like you and me. He lived 33 years but He was different from any other man who ever lived because He never sinned."

John's eyes really got big then, and he said, "Never?"

"Never, John. He never said what He shouldn't say, never did what He shouldn't do, never went where He shouldn't go, and He always obeyed his mother." All four boys looked at me in amazement.

I said, "He was perfect in every way. But instead of being recognized and loved, He was hated by the leaders of the people. At the end of His 33 years they took Him and beat Him until He didn't even look like a man anymore."

"That's not fair, Mr. Doug," said John.

"You're right, John, but that's not all."

I pulled out a picture of Jesus on the cross. "They took Jesus up on a hill called Calvary and drove nails through His hands and feet. They put a crown made of long thorns on His head and made fun of Him while He hung there bleeding and dying."

One of the boys said, "But He didn't do anything wrong."

"Right again, boys. But who has done wrong?"

"I have," answered John.

"Right! Boys, it should have been me and you on the cross that day, but Jesus went and took our punishment. The Bible tells us that He who knew no sin (Jesus) became sin to save us.

"But the cross isn't the end of the story. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. He showed

Himself to over 500 people. Then He went back to Heaven to make everyone who believes in Him a place to live. He said He will come back for us so that we can be with Him forever and never die.

"The Bible tells us that whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. What that means is that all we have to do to be saved is believe that He is God's Son and ask Him to save us.

"You can't do anything except that and it doesn't cost you anything because the Bible tells us that the wages (what we earn) for sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. It's a gift from God; all you have to do is accept it. Let me ask you, what do you think about what I've told you?"

John looked at his brothers and then grinned at me. "Mr. Doug, that's a good deal!"

I laughed and said, "It's the best deal ever. Would you boys like to get in on this good deal and ask Jesus to save you?"

All four nodded yes, and John added, "A guy would have to be dumb not to."

I never had thought of it like that before, but after we prayed and all four boys asked Jesus into their hearts, I began to ponder what John had said.

The buses pulled out full of children and came back empty. All day long I had felt God dealing with me. He had brought John and the other boys to our church by extraordinary means, so that He could offer them His Good News about a Good Deal.

The same Good News He gave us so long ago He shared again today. I felt that same joy I always feel when God has His way with a lost soul, but it was a little better this time. God had given the words of simple faith that only a child could express.

"Thank You, Lord, for John and the other children. But most of all, thank You for loving us all enough to offer us a Good Deal." ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Doug Lance serves as children's church director and bus captain at Goshen Free Will Baptist Church in Mt. Holly, North Carolina.

Hotel Reservation

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Charleston, West Virginia

National Convention

July 21-25, 1991

- No telephone reservations until after the cutoff date.
- All reservation requests will be made through the NAFWB Housing Bureau—NOT WITH INDIVIDUAL HOTELS.
- Complete this housing form selecting your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice hotels and mail to the Housing Bureau. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1991. Send one form for each room request—duplicate this form if necessary.
- Changes and cancellations must be made directly with the hotel before 6:00 p.m. the day of your arrival.
- The hotel will require a deposit. Complete the credit card information on this form or send a check directly to the hotel AFTER you have received your confirmation.
- Information and inquiries ONLY: 800/733-5469.

Cutoff Date:

Received by
June 20, 1991

MAIL TO:

NAFWB Housing Bureau
Charleston Convention Bureau
200 Civic Center Drive,
Suite 002
Charleston, WV 25301

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: (WK) _____ (HM) _____

CREDIT CARD TYPE _____ CC# _____ EXP. _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

HOTEL REQUESTED (Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices.):

HOTELS	Choice	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
Marriott Hotel (Headquarters)		\$68	\$68	\$68	\$68
Holiday Inn Civic Center		\$56	\$56	\$56	\$56
Elk River Town Center Inn		\$46	\$46	\$46	\$46
Holiday Inn Charleston House (NYC Hdqtrs.)		\$60	\$60	\$60	\$60
Holiday Inn Heart of Town		\$45	\$45	\$45	\$45

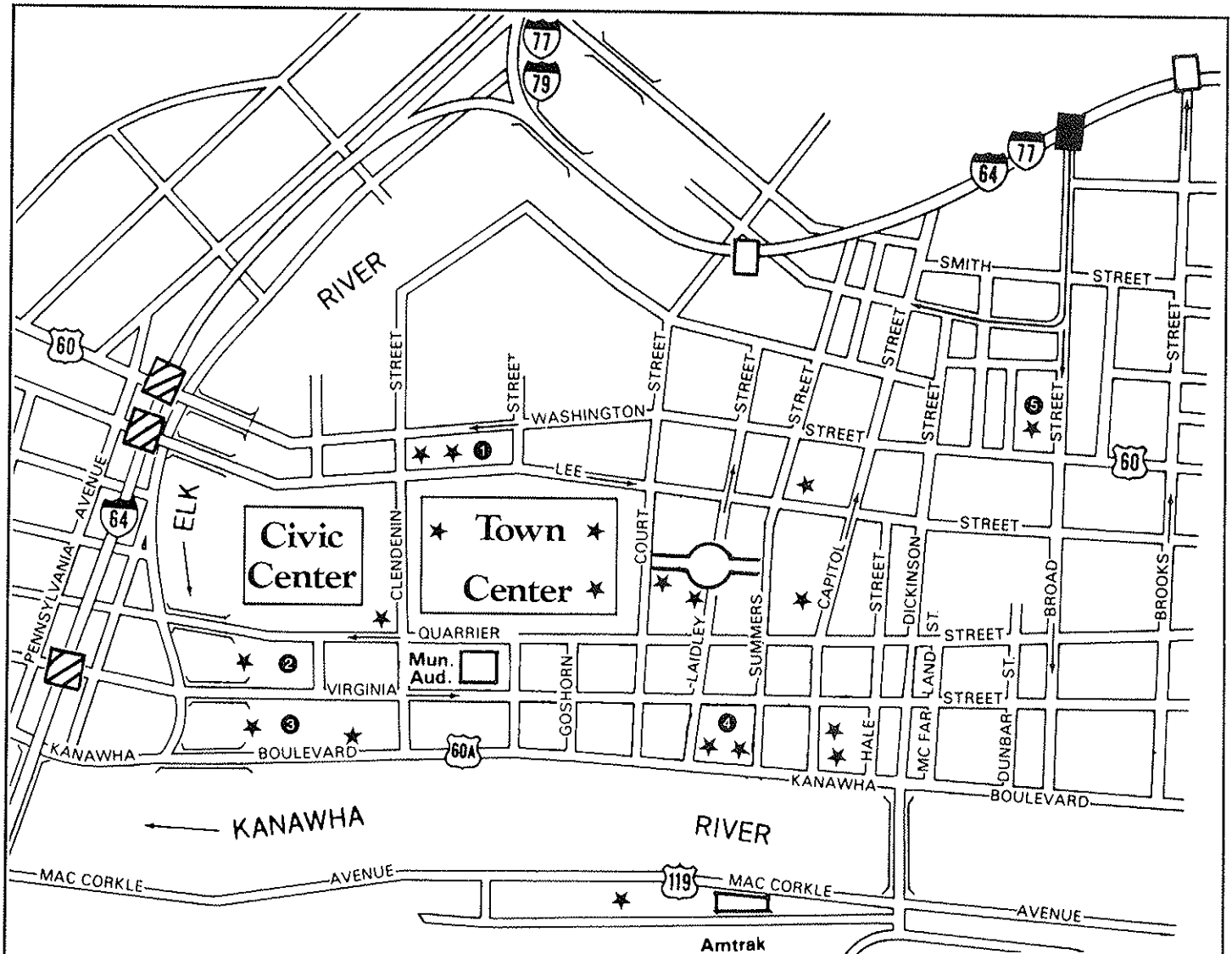
TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED:

SINGLE/1 PERSON _____ DOUBLE/2 PEOPLE _____

TRIPLE/3 PEOPLE _____ QUAD/4 PEOPLE _____

NUMBER OF BEDS IN ROOM _____

PLEASE LIST ROOM OCCUPANTS:



- ① Marriott
- ② Holiday Inn Civic Center
- ③ Elk River Town Center Inn
- ④ Holiday Inn Charleston House
- ⑤ Holiday Inn Heart Of Town

RESTAURANTS IN AREA

There are 19 full service (★) restaurants with over 2,500 seats within 1/2 mile of the Civic Center. In addition, there are 53 fast food or limited service and limited menu restaurants in the same area.

INSTRUCTIONS for Pre-Registration Form

By completing the Pre-Registration Form you will save **valuable** time at the convention. If you pre-register, proceed to a special registration area. There you receive a packet containing your name tag (pre-printed), meal tickets you have purchased, a *Digest of Reports* and a program.

Filling Out the Form

1. Fill out the top portion of the form. Please complete *all* of the information. You may register for one, two or all three conventions. You need to fill out only **one** form even if you register for more than one convention (National Association, WNAC, NYC).
2. Fill out the first block if you are registering for the **National Association**. Fill in your *District Association*. Check only *one* of the choices. Indicate the number of banquet tickets you wish to purchase (Enclose check payable to **FWB Convention**).
3. Fill out the second block if you are registering for the **Woman's National Auxiliary Convention**. Check only *one* of the choices. Indicate the number of banquet tickets you wish to purchase (Enclose check payable to **FWB Convention**).
4. Fill out the last block if you are registering for the **National Youth Conference**. Complete the other information in the block. The fees are as follows:
 - \$9.00 for an individual,
 - \$8.50 each if two from same family are registering,
 - \$8.00 each if three from same family are registering,
 - \$7.50 each if four or more from same family are registering,
 - \$10.00 if you do not register before June 25.

Adults over 24 do not have to register to attend the NYC.

Check only one of the payment plans. Indicate the number of banquet tickets you wish to purchase (Enclose check for registration and tickets payable to **FWB Convention**). **NOTE:** Before July 22, Youth Banquet tickets will be sold only to those in grades seven to age 24 and youthworkers. Others may purchase tickets at the convention after this date.

Additional Information

1. Mail completed forms by **June 25, 1991** to **Convention Registration~P.O. Box 1088~Nashville, TN~37202**.
2. Enclose one check to cover all fees and tickets.
3. Make additional copies of the Pre-Registration Form if they are needed. Only one person per form please.
4. You may purchase banquet tickets from any block even if you do not register in that block. No refunds mailed after June 25, 1991.

Children's Banquet/\$7.00

Monday, July 22/5:00 PM
Holiday Inn-Charleston House/Grand Ballroom

Music Ministries Breakfast/\$7.50

Tuesday, July 23/7:00 AM
Marriott Hotel/Ballroom Salon D

WNAC Fellowship Dinner/\$14.00

Tuesday, July 23/5:00 PM
Charleston Civic Center/North Hall

Youth Workers Fellowship Breakfast/\$7.50

Wednesday, July 24/7:00 AM
Holiday Inn-Charleston House/Suite II

Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner/\$15.00

Monday, July 22/5:00 PM
Holiday Inn-Charleston House/Lobby Ballroom

Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon/\$10.00

Tuesday, July 23/12:15 PM
Charleston Civic Center/North Hall

Youth Banquet/\$12.50

Tuesday, July 23/9:00 PM
West Virginia Belle River Boat

FWBBC Luncheon/\$11.00

Wednesday, July 24/12:00 Noon
Charleston Civic Center/North Hall

Master's Men Dinner/\$13.50

Wednesday, July 24/5:00 PM
Charleston Civic Center/North Hall

Pre-Registration Form

for
National Association of Free Will Baptists
Woman's National Auxiliary Convention
National Youth Conference
Charleston, WV / July 21 - 25, 1991

Please Print

Name: _____ Phone #: ____/____/____
LAST FIRST or NAME DESIRED ON BADGE

Address: _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Church: _____ City: _____

Hotel (if known): _____

Register me for the following: ☐ National Association
(You may register for more than one) ☐ WNAC
☐ NYC

Mail completed form(s)
by June 25, 1991 to
Convention Registration
P.O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202

If registering for the **National Association**, please complete the following information:

DISTRICT ASSOCIATION: _____

(Check only one of the following:)

MINISTER: ☐ Ordained(MIO) ☐ Licensed(MIL) (I certify that I am a member in good standing with the above named church and association which belong to the National Association.)

MISSIONARY: ☐ Foreign(MIF) (Country) _____

☐ Home(MIH)

DELEGATE: ☐ Ordained Deacon(ORD)

☐ State(STD)

☐ Local Church (\$10.00)(LCD)

☐ National Board Member(NBM)

☐ National Officer(NTO)

VISITOR: ☐ (VIS)

Banquet Tickets: (please indicate quantity)

_____ Music Ministries Breakfast **\$7.50**

_____ Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon **\$10.00**

_____ FWBBC Alumni Luncheon **\$11.00**

_____ Master's Men Dinner **\$13.50**

_____ Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner **\$15.00**

If registering for **WNAC**, please complete the following information:

(Check only one of the following:)

DELEGATE: ☐ Local (\$3.00)(WLD)

☐ District (WDD)

☐ State (WSD)

☐ WNAC Officer(WNO)

VISITOR: ☐ (AVI)

Banquet Tickets: (please indicate quantity)

_____ WNAC Fellowship Dinner **\$14.00**

If registering for the **National Youth Conference**, please complete the following information:

Grade just completed: _____ Age: _____ Birthdate: ____/____/____

Parent's (or Guardian's) name: _____

Youth Leader's name: _____

CHECK ONE:

☐ \$9.00 (Individual)

☐ \$8.50 Family Plan A

☐ \$8.00 Family Plan B

☐ \$7.50 Family Plan C

☐ \$10.00 (after June 25)

Banquet Tickets: (please indicate quantity)

_____ Children's Banquet (grades 1-6) **\$7.00**

_____ Youth Banquet (grade 7 - age 24) **\$12.50**

_____ Youth Workers Breakfast **\$7.50**

Are you participating in NYC competition this year? ☐ yes ☐ no

FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Missouri Churches Sponsor "Every Home" Crusade

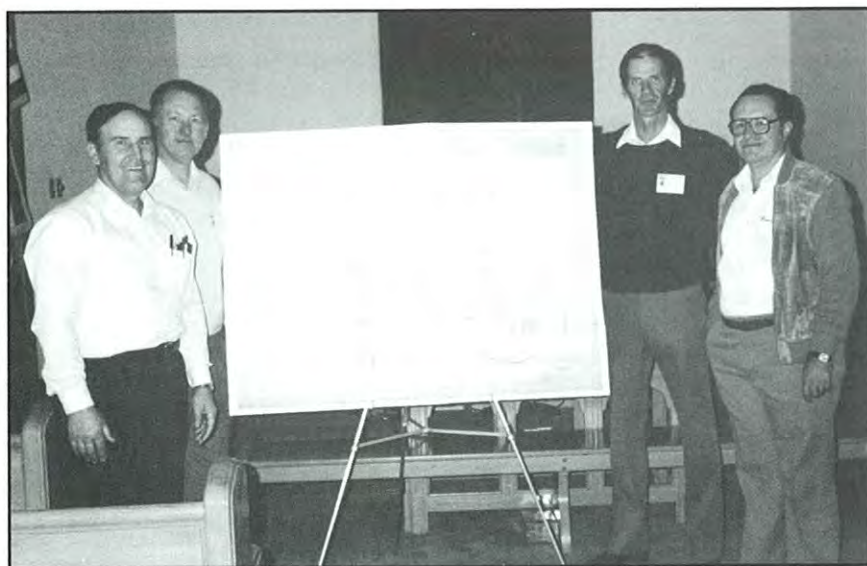
LEADINGTON, MO — Several churches in Missouri's St. Francois District and Bethel FWB Church in Festus participated in an "Every Home for Christ" crusade last fall. Almost 9,000 pieces of gospel literature were distributed, and churches are still doing campaign follow-up, according to area coordinator Vernon Long, pastor of Leadington FWB Church.

Prior to the campaign Reverend Long conducted training sessions for "home crusaders" who went door to door. The training videos helped generate worker enthusiasm.

The campaign started with a

September 28 Kick-Off Rally with Pastor Frank Guinta as the featured speaker. Guinta pastors First FWB Church in Scott City and serves as a field representative for "Every Home for Christ."

Some comments from pastors and workers included: "It opened a lot of doors." "The best thing our churches ever did together." "Many thought we were Jehovah's Witnesses." "It works just like the training video said it would." "Two who were involved in demonism were saved and delivered." "It was time we did such a crusade in the area."



"Every Home Crusade" leaders Dave Pinkston (L) of Desloge, Gary Sloan of Flat River, Vernon Wilfong of Leadington and Larry Allison of Bonne Terre with Lead Belt area map.

Oklahoma Church Dedicates \$500,000 Building

CATOOSA, OK — Members of Woodcrest FWB Church in Catoosa (formerly East Tulsa FWB Church) dedicated both a new address and a new building February 24, according to Pastor Bailey Thompson. The 9,800-square-foot structure includes auditorium seating for 300, Sunday School rooms and a large lobby/fellowship area.

Although the building is valued at \$500,000, the congregation owes less than \$150,000. Jim Gray served as construction superintendent.

The church relocated in October 1990. Since that time attendance has surged from 120 to 200.

Pastor Thompson said, "A number of people were saved and joined the church during the building program. Our future looks bright. The majority of members are in the 30-45 age bracket."

Woodcrest FWB Church was organized in 1961 as East Tulsa FWB Church. Rev. A. A. Corsey began services in a chicken house. Eight ministers have served as pastor: A. A. Corsey, Bill Sample, Jim Haas, Cecil Bowen, Ron Carner, R. D. Hester, Herbert Rogers and Bailey Thompson.

Bible College to Offer New Business Program

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College will offer a new four-year business program this fall, according to Dr. Robert Pircilli, academic dean. The program will lead to a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

Mr. Lowell Sturgill, brother of Free Will Baptist missionaries Jim Sturgill and Pat Franks, will join the FWBBC faculty as Chairman of the Business Department and will direct development of

the new program. Mr. Sturgill, 57, received his B.A. and M.A. at the University of Maryland in business and economics.

He recently retired from the National Parks Service, where he worked for 19 years. His duties as Associate Regional Director of operations included responsibilities involving 32 national parks in the District of Columbia, Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia.

FWB Christian Day Schools Meet

PIGEON FORGE, TN—The 19th annual session of the Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Christian Day Schools met January 14-16 in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., according to Tag Kilgore, president of the organization. The annual gathering is a pastors' and principals' conference.

Tag Kilgore, a Virginia pastor, was re-elected president. Other officers include Alabama pastor Richard Cordell, vice-president, and Doug Henderson of Virginia, treasurer.

Keynote speaker, 81-year-old Lee Roberson, spoke at several plenary sessions. His wife addressed the women attending at one session. Other speakers included North Carolina pastors Randy Cox and Dann Patrick, and Alabama pastor Mickey Kirkland.

The group appointed a 20th anniversary planning committee to arrange for 1992 activities. They will determine the feasibility of printing a history of the movement, exhibiting at the Free Will Baptist National Convention and producing brochures.

Attendee Kathy Henderson said, "This is one of the high points of our year. My husband and I always come away fired up!"

Youth Conference Draws Record 534

RALEIGH, NC—The third annual Mid-Atlantic Youth Conference met January 2-4 with 534 people attending the first session, according to Tim Rabon, youth pastor at First FWB Church in Raleigh which hosted the three-day event. Some 295 teenagers and sponsors from 21 churches in four states participated.

Evangelist Nate Ange, Mark Maddox and Don Reilly preached to the conferees. Reverend Rabon noted, "The altars were full at every invitation." Thirteen young men answered the call to preach.

The theme of this year's conference, "War and Good Warfare" (1 Timothy 1:18), was carried out with posters from the armed services displayed throughout the building, and an Army camp scene on the front lawn complete with tent and vehicles. The theme was also emphasized through the skits featuring "Sergeant Do Right and the Forces of Right."

Rabon said, "We are planning for next year's conference and invite everyone to attend." The 1992 session will meet January 1-3.

Calling All Singers, Instrumentalists

The National Association of Free Will Baptists meets July 21-25 in Charleston, West Virginia. Free Will Baptist singers and instrumentalists have an opportunity to play a unique role. The Mass Choir directed by Doug Little, the Men's Chorale directed by Vernon Whaley, and the instrumental group conducted by Richard McDonald, offer channels for musicians to become active participants in the worship services at the convention.

Are you interested?

For those interested in Mass Choir/Men's Chorale: attend the rehearsals listed in the convention program. The Mass Choir will sing Monday evening, July 22, and the Men's Chorale will sing Wednesday evening, July 24. (Music distributed at rehearsals.)

Instrumental group participants should contact Richard McDonald for further information:

Richard McDonald
Hillsdale FWB College
P.O. Box 7208
Moore, OK 73153

Let's pray that the 1991 convention music program will glorify the One Who is worthy of praise.

Blaine Hughes
Convention Music Coordinator

Discount Air Fares to National Convention Available

NASHVILLE, TN—The National Association of Free Will Baptists has made special travel arrangements for all attendees and their families who will be flying to the 1991 National Convention in Charleston, West Virginia, July 21 - July 25, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington. Veeson International Travel Agency in Nashville has again been selected the agency of record to provide members attending the convention with discount travel services.

Veeson Travel has secured discounts for air travel to Charleston. The fares Veeson offers cannot be purchased through another travel agency or directly with the airlines. These are contracted group airfares. First class tickets may also be booked if desired.

Veeson Travel has contracted for travel dates starting three days prior to the convention and three days after the convention.

To book your airspace at the offered discounted rates, call Veeson Travel at **1-800/456-1360**. This is a toll-free number to Veeson Travel. Please identify yourself with the Free Will Baptist National Convention.

Advise the Veeson agent of your name, number of passengers traveling, city of originating flight, correct mailing address, telephone number (home and business). For easy billing, have a current credit card ready at the time of the airline booking. Veeson Travel will process and mail the tickets to you.

Ask for Janice Jakobik or David Foster for reservations. All services from Veeson Travel Agency are free.

Hillsdale College Students Attend Urbana 90

MOORE, OK—Three Hillsdale FWB College students and faculty advisor, Dr. Thomas Marberry, attended Urbana 90 missions conference in December. Students Traci Epps, Cheryl McCollough and Tim Dodson met with more than 19,000 young people from U.S. colleges and universities and over 80 foreign countries.

The Urbana 90 trip was sponsored by Hillsdale's Foreign Missions Fellowship (FMF). Daily ac-

tivities began at 8:00 a.m., included two plenary sessions each day, hundreds of seminars and concluded at 10:30 p.m. with an evening worship service.

Traci Epps, president of Hillsdale's FMF, said, "Urbana 90 was a life-changing experience for me. It provided a vast amount of information concerning missions and how I can be personally involved in God's missionary work."

Master's Men Set Annual Conference

NASHVILLE, TN—The 13th annual National Master's Men Conference will meet April 25-27 at Camp Linden in Tennessee, according to General Director James Vallance.

The 1991 conference theme is "Lay Ministry." The program includes seminars, worship sessions, testimony services, special music and sports competition.

Registrants may pre-pay with an All-Conference \$60 fee and save the \$10 pre-registration fee.

Pre-Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Conference Fees. \$60.00

Extra Activities not included in Conference Fees:
Canoeing, () Thursday () Friday \$15.00
Thursday Golf Tournament () \$15.00
Pre-registration fee \$10.00

Office Use:

Date _____
Rec't _____
Paid _____
Check # _____

CURRENTLY...

Pastor **Carl K. Young** is in his 35th year as pastor of **Eastside FWB Church in Petaluma, CA**. The church called Rev. Young as their pastor in September 1956. The church recently added 12 new members and baptized eight.

Construction began in January on a 3,200-square-foot educational building at **Harmony FWB Church, Fresno, CA**. Pastor **Jim McAllister** said the building will be named in memory of the late **Pat Wilbanks** who was a member of the church. Some 250 worshippers participated in the ground-breaking ceremonies.

Gateway FWB Church, Virginia Beach, VA, sponsored their ninth annual couples retreat in February, according to Pastor **Dale Burden**. Guest speakers for the two-day event were Pastor and Mrs. **Earl Hendrix** from Inman, SC.

Oak Park FWB Church, Pine Bluff, AR, sports a new look on their sanctuary. Pastor **Will Harmon** said renovations included putting rock on the front of the church as well as repainting the sanctuary and installing blue carpet.

Members of **First United FWB Church, Choctaw, OK**, participated in a "Pray for America" service, according to Pastor **Stanley Konopinski**. Guest speakers included State Representative **Bill Paulk**, U.S. Air Force Sergeant **Stephone Daffin** and Pastor **Konopinski**.

What a difference 13 years makes! When **Jerry Norris** came to pastor **Calvary Fellowship FWB Church in Fenton, MO**, the church averaged 50 people that January in 1978. Membership surged through the years and the church averaged more than 220 in attendance during 1990.

Pastor **Carl Cheshier** said members of **Cavanaugh FWB Church, Fort Smith, AR**, have a great problem. The church auditorium is so full Sunday mornings that the congregation voted to start two morning worship services.

Allen Mabra pastors **Woodward FWB Church in Woodward, OK**, a mission outreach of Oklahoma's State Missions Board. Under Pastor Mabra's leadership Sunday School attendance reached 54 and morning worship service reached 83. The group gave more than \$5,300 in offerings in one month recently.

Members of **Faith FWB Church,**

Johnson City, TN, dedicated a 3,200-square-foot addition to their church. The addition includes a pastor's study, seven classrooms and a library. Pastor **Ermine Butler** said the addition cost \$46,000 but was dedicated debt-free. Butler has pastored the church 23 years.

Reverend **Danny Dwyer**, faculty member at Southeastern FWB College in Wendell, NC, was keynote speaker at a statewide Kansas Sunday School seminar March 1-2. Moderator **Larry Collins** arranged for the conference to be conducted at **First FWB Church, Topeka**.

Pastor **Mike Trimble** reports 20 conversions at **Emmanuel FWB Church in Washington, NC**. The group averages 80 in attendance on Sunday. They also gave a Christmas offering exceeding \$6,000.

Mile High FWB Church in Denver, CO, increased attendance even though 17 members moved away in 1990. Pastor **Glen Hood** said the church averaged 123 in morning worship in 1990, an increase of 26 over 1989.

Pastor **Skip Heflin** reports seven families united with **Westgate FWB Church in Shawnee, OK**. The group also recorded a record attendance of 141.

Pastor **Leonard Pirtle** reports 65 new members at **Owasso FWB Church in Owasso, OK**. He baptized 32.

Pastor **Wayne Patton** reports 22 conversions and 20 new members at **Memorial FWB Church in Sulphur, OK**.

Pastor **Jeff Sloan** reports 52 conversions in 1990 at **First FWB Church in Ardmore, OK**. Attendance jumped from 75 to 130.

Members of **Hillside FWB Church in Florence, SC**, completed a \$31,000 sanctuary renovation. **Floyd Seay** pastors.

Pastor **Dale Yarborough** reports two special events at **Unity FWB Church in Johnsonville, SC**. The church burned the mortgage to make them debt-free. Then they broke ground on a 1,500-square-foot fellowship building.

Pastor **Leroy Sexton** began the **Grace FWB Mission Church** near **York, SC**, in January. The congregation averages 20 in attendance and meets in a house renovated for an auditorium. They conduct classes in a mobile

home. The mission is a member of South Carolina's True Life Association.

Less than two years ago Pastor **Wes Rider** assumed leadership at **First FWB Church in Cape Girardeau, MO**. The church reported 17 conversions, 20 baptisms and 24 new members. The group also added four Sunday School classes, CTS groups and a Woman's Auxiliary. They set a record attendance of 202.

Members of **Victory FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC**, are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. **George Lee** pastors.

Each month three members of **Ina FWB Church, Ina, IL**, distribute food baskets to about 20 local families. Members **Tom Lowry, Allen Joy** and **Everett Pierce** spearhead the work. **David Shores** pastors.

A bus was donated to **Norwalk FWB Church, Norwalk, CA**. During a Sunday School drive 84 people rode the bus each Sunday. Pastor **Robert Riddle** said, "The best part about the Sunday School drive was the 45 conversions."

Members of **Eastgate FWB Church in Siloam Springs, AR**, purchased a van and began a bus ministry. They also plan to start a church library. **Deryl Hodges** pastors.

Pastor **Garvin Reid** reports eight conversions and baptisms at **Midway FWB Church, Rogers, AR**.

Pastor **Loy Counts** reports 10 conversions, eight baptisms and seven new members at **Rogers FWB Church, Rogers, AR**.

Ambassador FWB Church, Cincinnati, OH, began a daily radio program New Year's Day. The program airs Monday through Friday at 3:30 p.m. on station WCNW. It is called, "Take Five with Pastor **Jerry McArthur**."

Pastor **Roger Childers** reports six conversions, four new members and three baptisms at **Urbana FWB Church, Urbana, OH**.

Members of **First FWB Church in Youngstown, OH**, did more than celebrate their silver anniversary, according to Pastor **Bruce Beal**. The church also witnessed 16 conversions, 15 baptisms and 11 new members.

Pastor **Roy Bennett** reports four conversions and six baptisms at **Anti-och FWB Church, Wheelersburg, OH**. ■



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisehart

From My Window

In my notebook, I carry a photograph of a gravestone. Morbid? No. The stone marks the spot where Elnora O'Neal Ballance was buried. I never met the woman nor any of her friends or family. I know only that she was born April 14, 1882, and died July 11, 1969.

But her stone suggests a great deal about the woman. It reads:

She was as good as goodness is.
Her acts & all her words were kind.
& high above all memories
I hold the beauty of her mind.

The thought is a beautiful one, but I carry it to remind me that some day someone will write my epitaph. Oh, maybe not on a stone, but in their minds the epitaph will be there. What will it be?

What would you like people to remember most vividly about you? What, I wonder, do people see as my outstanding characteristic? When I'm gone, will I leave a fragrance behind? What will they write on my memory stone?

Today I'm writing that epitaph and so are you.

Get Tickets for WNAC Fellowship Dinner

The Fellowship Dinner in July is set for the Charleston Civic Center. West Virginia women are planning for 1,000.

Get your tickets early. See the preregistration form in this issue. Be sure to mark the quantity needed and enclose your check. Mail your form by June 25.

If you wish to order tickets for missionaries, include them in your quantity and send a note with the missionaries' names. If you wish, you may send a note and your check for missionaries' tickets directly to WNAC.

Important Nominating Committee Meeting

Every nominating committee meeting is important, but on Monday, July 22, 1991, the national nominating committee selects a slate of officers for WNAC. The convention delegates have an opportunity to nominate others from the floor and vote for the nominee of their choice.

The nominating committee, composed of representatives from each state, meets at 9:00 a.m. in the Kanawha Room of the Marriott Hotel. The same members who served in 1990 should be serving on the 1991 nominating committee.

Report Those Statistics

Every year a statistical report of WNAC is printed in the *Free Will Baptist Yearbook*. The only way it can reflect a true picture of Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliaries is for reports from the local, district and state to be filled out accurately and completely.

Sometimes it is trying to get those reports filled out and in on time. Remember, though, that 50 years or 100 years from now, the story of Woman's Auxiliary will exist as it appears in print.

That history depends largely on secretaries, treasurers and presidents at the local, district and state levels. ■

Eunice Edwards Loan Fund

January 30, 1991—\$31,472.98

FOREIGN MISSIONS



Securing the Harvest

By Don Robirds, Director of Communications

Does it make sense for a farmer to spend thousands of dollars on cultivating land and planting seed only to watch a harvest rot in the field? And what about a crop that is harvested but not processed and preserved? Is that any less disastrous?

Jesus made the analogy of the harvest field when he spoke of world evangelization. The goal of the church should be to win people to Jesus Christ, then integrate them as active Christians into a local church.

One Out of Six Integrated

After evaluating the effectiveness of one large evangelistic church, statistics showed that over a 10-year period approximately 600 conversions were recorded. During that same period of time church membership increased less than 100. This means that only one out of six converts could be accounted as being integrated into the local church.

What a shame to spend so much time, money, and energy to win people only to have them slip through the cracks and disappear. But the sad part of that picture is that it is repeated over and over again across the country and around the world.

On the mission field this situation has the potential of being even more critical. Coming from a pagan background with no idea of Christian practices or principles, new converts can easily be led away into cults or confused by the conflict of their past religious practices. Few converts have the benefit of family, friends, or relatives to offer moral and spiritual support.

Spiritual Development

At least five areas of spiritual development must be addressed to make sure the harvest is secured*:

- 1) New believers must receive assurance of salvation.
- 2) Consistent devotional lives must be developed.
- 3) A clear understanding of at least the basics of abundant Christian living must be grasped.

4) Integration into the life of a local congregation or church is essential.

5) Believers must be disciplined and nourished so they learn to share their faith with others.

Special efforts of discipleship, training, fellowship, etc., are essential. And an identifiable **place of worship** is very important in such circumstances.

Renting a Building

Missionaries take all of these into account when they set their evangelism and church-planting budgets. Renting a building, furnishing it with some type of seating, a pulpit, and a musical source become very important and often costly.

Literature, song books, films, Bibles, and training materials in addition to rent on public meeting places form part of the missionary field budget. To help in securing the harvest, the **World Missions Offering** goal in April has been set at **\$140,000** to meet the combined evangelism and church-planting budgets for 1991. This will relieve all missionary accounts.

Sensing the Burden

To help churches sense the burden and see the opportunity to do something really

significant toward church planting, the foreign missions department has prepared a special video production: "Securing the Harvest."

Churches, pastors, and individuals can rejoice at what God



is doing through the cooperative efforts of Free Will Baptists. It is indeed a partnership—between the churches, God, the missionaries, and the foreign missions staff—together we are building His church around the globe! ■

*From "The Dynamics of Personal Follow-up" by Gary W. Kuhne, copyright 1976 by The Zondervan Corporation.

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Sound The Jubilee Trumpet!

By Bert Tippet, Publications Director, Free Will Baptist Bible College

God said, "Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound....And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year....A jubile shall that fiftieth year be unto you;" (Leviticus 25:9,10,11).

This fall, Free Will Baptist Bible College begins its Jubilee—50 years since the time of its founding.

Any 50th anniversary is significant. In this day of short courtships and shorter marriages, we are wise to celebrate good things that last.

Remember Where We Started

Many Free Will Baptists remember the days when education was not treated kindly within our ranks. It took courage in those days for men to speak out for the cause of education. And they had to do more than speak out. They had to coax support from skeptical people in order to scrape together enough to buy one house on Richland Avenue in Nashville. Then they had to find qualified people, who weren't too security-conscious, to administrate and teach at this infant school.

Then they had to pray that God would get hold of the hearts of a few bold young people who would hazard their futures at a school with no basketball team, no recruitment program, and no alumni!

They also had to criss-cross the denomination and beg support, lest the infant enterprise starve.

With the evident blessing of God, they succeeded against all odds.

But that was 50 years ago.

50 Years Later

Today the land abounds with colleges, universities, institutes and trade schools. And Free Will Baptists have lost their fear of them.

Nearly every church has a young person or two off somewhere preparing to do something. With community colleges so near, they don't even have to leave home. In fact, the recent denominational survey on education revealed that a significant number of young people choose other schools over Free Will Baptist Bible College simply because they are nearer to home. How do we respond? We say, "At FWBBC, the difference is worth the distance!"

Attitudes are different. Fifty years have changed us.

Have we forgotten why our fathers thought it was important 50 years ago for Free Will Baptists to have their own college? There were other Christian colleges then, good ones. Were those founders of FWBBC just keeping up with the (Bob) Joneses, or were they driven by deeper motives?

Actually, they were convinced that our doctrinal distinctives were important enough to teach to our children. They concluded that the best way to build and to grow as a denomination was to keep our young people within our ranks. For many of us, including this writer, it worked. We came to love our denomination more because of the exposure we got to its length and its breadth, its "pre's" and its "a's," and its universal passion to win the lost. Many of us learned it at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Cause For Celebration!

Fifty years have seen a lot of change for Free Will Baptists. We have indoor baptistries. We have an army of missionaries, where there used to be so few. We have full-time pastors, youth directors, Church musicians and Christian schools.

And we still have Free Will Baptist Bible College. We still have young people who are falling ever more deeply in love with the denomination. We have young men with a passion to preach and a longing to serve Jesus. We have young women dedicating their lives to serve God in the home, in the classroom and on the mission field.

So let's sound the Jubilee trumpets. Let's blow a fanfare for something that lasts and improves with age.

Let's proclaim a great year of Jubilee as we thank God for His faithfulness to Free Will Baptists and to Free Will Baptist Bible College. ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Tippet, a native of North Carolina, has been Director of Publications at Free Will Baptist Bible College for 25 years. He graduated from FWBBC in 1962 and pastored in New Hampshire for three years before returning to the college. He and his wife, Dianne, are members of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville.



HOME MISSIONS

Chaplains in Operation Desert Storm

By Roy Thomas

James Blaine Bishop, Tim Sturgill and Terry Austin had no idea when they answered God's call to be Free Will Baptist chaplains that it would take them across an ocean to the deserts of Saudi Arabia. At the time of their induction they had never heard of military maneuvers and strategies called "Operation Desert Shield."

However, all three since last August have been involved in the daily bedlam of military maneuvers in that distant Islamic land. Other Free Will Baptist chaplains may also be called to duty in Operation Desert Storm.

These three chaplains, like all service personnel on the front lines, live in tents. Their furnishings consist of an army cot, foot locker, another small locker for uniforms. All three men are dedicated Free Will Baptist preachers who have left behind friends, a wife and children.

Captain Tim Sturgill was probably the first Air Force chaplain in Saudi Arabia. He ministers to those brave young men flying missions over Iraq. He writes, "The ministry here is terrific. We are experiencing a revival of sorts. Three men have accepted the Lord, and many others have rededicated their lives. We are averaging over 100 in our Sunday services, and have prayer meetings and Bible studies every night of the week."

Army chaplain Terry Austin says, "Things are tight. We are under severe threat level. Mona and the children back home are doing well spiritually and mentally, but she is confined to bed with a back injury. But the ministry here is great. Presently I have five people to baptize. I found a place in the Persian Gulf where we can do it. Ministry here is very exciting. I have been privileged to lead seven people to Christ. I preach three times every Sunday, hold Bible studies every night and have scores of counseling sessions."

James Blaine Bishop, also an Army chaplain, mentioned in one letter that 21 men were baptized at one time and 15 at another. The fear of war and death, homesickness and separation from family have worked to soften the hearts of many service men and women and have caused them to think seriously about their relationship to Christ.

It is heartbreaking that it takes such perilous times to make people realize their needs of God. However, I am thankful there are some Free Will Baptist chaplains on the cutting edge of Operation Desert Storm to lead men and women to Christ. Brethren, pray for them! ■



Cooperative Channel Contributions January 1991

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	CO-OP (Undesignated)	Total	Jan.'90	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 115.35	\$ 56.89	\$ 172.24	\$ 97.06	\$ 172.24
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Arkansas	69.62	6,431.88	6,501.50	5,434.66	6,501.50
California	.00	1,411.63	1,411.63	1,344.62	1,411.63
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	191.84	900.59	1,092.43	3,362.74	1,092.43
Georgia	11,390.75	903.00	12,293.75	14,262.32	12,293.75
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	7,876.04	1,855.35	9,731.39	13,896.89	9,731.39
Indiana	511.97	75.39	587.36	.00	587.36
Kansas	.00	75.99	75.99	109.96	75.99
Kentucky	.00	.00	.00	72.63	.00
Maryland	.00	1,012.04	1,012.04	1,165.10	1,012.04
Michigan	7,517.33	650.00	8,167.33	11,304.40	8,167.33
Mississippi	149.43	634.78	784.21	638.15	784.21
Missouri	9,190.27	.00	9,190.27	10,291.79	9,190.27
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
North Carolina	1,257.74	3,048.90	4,306.64	2,872.61	4,306.64
Ohio	389.00	2,499.00	2,888.00	2,612.00	2,888.00
Oklahoma	26,436.88	6,958.72	33,395.60	47,889.29	33,395.60
South Carolina	15,410.89	154.82	15,565.71	10,616.43	15,565.71
Tennessee	1,580.40	1,314.65	2,895.05	1,786.36	2,895.05
Texas	6,154.42	1,016.36	7,170.78	6,699.19	7,170.78
Virginia	315.66	30.00	345.66	233.60	345.66
West Virginia	2,364.35	155.72	2,520.07	2,069.56	2,520.07
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	48.66	.00
Other (Computer)	.00	.04	.04	.05	.04
Totals	\$90,921.94	\$29,185.75	\$120,107.69	\$136,808.07	\$120,107.69

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 7,588.36	\$14,032.92	\$ 21,621.28	\$ 20,166.67	\$ 21,621.28
Foreign Missions	61,267.64	3,485.15	64,752.79	81,022.76	64,752.79
FWBBC	4,339.97	3,485.15	7,825.12	10,102.51	7,825.12
Home Missions	14,138.31	2,727.49	16,865.80	16,238.54	16,865.80
Retirement & Insurance	512.38	2,121.40	2,633.78	2,853.32	2,633.78
Master's Men	555.18	2,121.40	2,676.58	2,858.86	2,676.58
Commission for					
Theo. Integrity	68.34	75.77	144.11	113.69	144.11
FWB Foundation	648.55	909.16	1,557.71	1,407.14	1,557.71
Historical Commission	56.19	75.77	131.96	109.56	241.52
Music Commission	20.99	75.77	96.76	103.01	199.77
Radio & TV Commission	56.44	75.77	132.21	113.69	132.21
Hillsdale FWB College	1,007.48	.00	1,007.48	1,390.02	1,007.48
Other	662.11	.00	662.11	328.30	662.11
Totals	\$90,921.94	\$29,185.75	\$120,107.69	\$136,808.07	\$120,107.69

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TEEN SCENE

You have been asking for it, so here it is!

The Youth Ministries Division of Randall House Publications announced that a new Bible-related individual competitive program for teens will be ready for 1991-92. This project has been under research and development for several years.

The new program will be demonstrated Wednesday afternoon, July 24 at the National Youth Conference in Charleston, W.Va. Bring your youth leader and get in on the first year of competition.

For several years, youth leaders reported difficulty getting enough youth interested in forming Bible Tic Tac Toe or Bible Bowl teams. The new individual competition will allow one or the entire youth group to be involved. You will be able to obtain your basic packet of information at or anytime after the 1991 National Youth Conference.

This new approach will *not* have any district or state competition. Each teen has equal opportunity to enter the national competition during the National Youth Conference. At the 1992 conference there will be a time of pre-testing of all competitors. This pre-testing will determine the highest nine competitors on both the junior high and senior high levels.

These nine will advance to the semi-final rounds. They will compete in three sets of three. The winner of each set will advance to the final round which will determine the first, second and third place national winners. All who enter competition will receive certificates and recognition.

This new competitive program does not replace Bible Tic Tac Toe or Bible Bowl. A teen can be on a team and still be involved in the individual program. We encourage involvement in existing Bible compe-

tion because it adds dimensions of teamwork and direct Bible knowledge.

Now let's look at the individual program content. There are two programs, one for junior high and one for senior high youth. The basic content of the program is the new Sunday School curriculum. Turning Point is the program for junior high and Horizon for senior high.



The Turning Point program format features 12 categories of information. These include four quarters of Turning Point Sunday School curriculum, Free Will Baptist home and foreign missions, LifeLine devotional, TEAM Congress and publications, Bible survey booklet, a selected issue of *Contact* magazine, *LifeQuest* and *Free Will Baptists Today*. The game board will allow the contestants to decide their "turning points" as they select categories and point values.



Horizon will feature 14 categories. There will be two rounds of seven categories each with the second round being more difficult. The format will be similar to Jeop-

ardy where the contestants select categories and point values as they reach for the "horizon."

The Horizon categories will include four quarters of Horizon Sunday School curriculum. Horizon will have some of the same basic categories as Turning Point but will be more in-depth. There will also be the addition of Free Will Baptist history and distinctives. The booklet, *The Maturing Christian*, will also be included.

The national competition will feature an elaborate and large game board with electronic control, score keeping and special effects. Visual questions will be involved, such as identifying a missionary. Bonus spots on the board will not give extra points but prizes such as Bibles, booklets, etc. There may even be a few blooper spots on the board. A quick response buzzer system will be used in both programs.

Game boards suitable for a table game or even wall-sized will be made available for youth groups to practice and enjoy during the year.

Michael Walker, youth pastor at First FWB Church in Mountain Grove, Mo., will be quizmaster for the junior high Turning Point. Michael Hollifield, youth pastor at Pardue Memorial FWB Church in Clarksville, Tenn., will host the senior high Horizon program. These two energetic quizmasters will add a lot of excitement to this program.

This new competitive program will challenge you while it involves you in Bible learning activities. It will also thoroughly acquaint you with the history, distinctives, missionary programs and current activities of Free Will Baptists.

Be sure your pastor and youth leaders are aware of this new program. Decide now to get involved. It could change your life. ■

Abortion: A Christian Understanding and Response

James K. Hoffmeier, editor



Thomas Marberry

(Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987, 260 pp., paperback, \$12.95).

Abortion is the most divisive, difficult and frustrating social problem which our country faces today. This excellent volume results from the labors of 17 scholars representing a variety of disciplines. All but two contributors are faculty members at Wheaton College, one of the most outstanding evangelical institutions of higher learning in the United States.

Conservative Christians see the widespread practice of abortion in this country as a tragedy of the greatest magnitude. These authors argue that Christians can mount an effective challenge to powerful pro-abortion forces only through a better understanding of abortion and its consequences for individuals and for society as a whole.

The first portion of the volume examines the issue from a historical and biblical perspective. Available evidence indicates that abortion was known in the ancient world, but it does not seem to have

been widely practiced.

There is no evidence to indicate that it was practiced in Jewish or Christian ranks during the early centuries. The Old and New Testaments have little to say on the subject because it does not seem to have been an issue at that time.

The authors note, however, that the silence of the Bible on abortion should not be interpreted as support for it; the Bible has much to say on the value of life.

The remaining portions of the book examine the phenomenon of abortion from theological, ethical, psychological, sociological and practical perspectives. The authors examine the impact of abortion on the woman who has one, the family and on society as a whole.

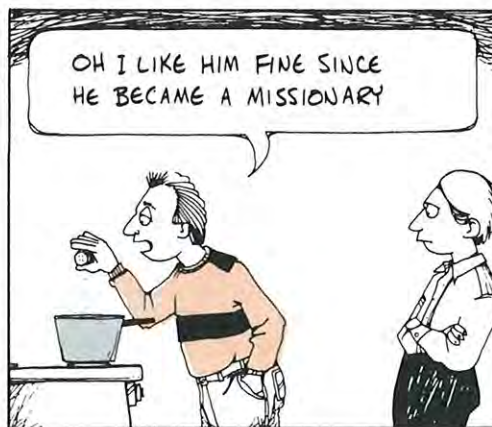
One insightful article describes how abortions are performed at different stages in the pregnancy. One brief article deals with the pain which the unborn child experiences during the abortion procedure.

Two articles struck me as most outstanding. One dealt with the issue of abortion in the political process. The author reminds us that there are powerful pro-abortion forces in this country and that a high percentage of our people are, in fact, pro-abortion. It will require much organization and political expertise to defeat them.

The other outstanding article describes how Christians can give practical help and assistance to women contemplating abortions through crisis-pregnancy centers. This article reminds us that eliminating abortion will require more than just passing laws. It will demand time, effort, money and personal involvement to assist those who are often caught up in tragic circumstances.

Abortion is too important to be ignored; Christians must be involved. This work can help us understand the issues and act in a wise and responsible manner. ■

BEYOND BELIEF™



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Robert E. Picirilli

Parable of the Importunate Widow

Luke 18:1-8

With this parable we have the advantage, up front. Even before He gives the parable, Jesus tells the point He wants to make (v. 1): that people should always pray and not faint. Not “men” in general, of course, but those Jesus was teaching—his disciples. Unbelievers have little interest in, or grounds for, prayer. God’s people ought always to pray.

Surely, the “not to faint” means “not to faint in praying.” The word (Greek *eqkakeo*) means “become weary, tire out, lose heart, despair.” I said, in an earlier study on Luke 11, that the parable about the friend at midnight probably wasn’t meant to teach the need for persistence in prayer at all. Maybe not, but this one certainly is.

The parable—two characters only—illustrates the point. First was a judge described as having no “regard” for man. This suggests that he had no sense of shame before man; he didn’t care what men thought. He wasn’t a respecter of persons, and that’s good; but he had no respect for persons, and that’s bad.

Even worse, a biblical fear of God played no role as he filled his judicial office. (A very unlikely character to parallel God! But that would be making too much of the details of a parable; remember, a parable usually has just one main point.)

The other character is a widow, and widows had no protectors in that culture. She had been wronged by some antagonist. (The word “enemy” need mean nothing more than an adversary in a lawsuit.) And what she wanted was justice, for the matter to be set right. (The word rendered “avenge” can include the idea of punishment, but it need mean nothing more than vindication.)

With the characters introduced, we come to the main action. For some time, the judge ignored her pleas. After all, the injustice done to the widow didn’t move him (v. 4). But he relented—even if for purely selfish reasons (v. 5). First, she was causing him (Greek) *kopon*: “trouble, difficulty”—a means to punch someone in the eye and give him a black eye! Maybe he was over-dramatizing; or maybe he thought she’d really attack him in her desperation.

There’s some uncertainty, also, about the “continual”: the Greek can be read “in the end”—“she’ll get to me in the end!”—or “to the end”—“she’ll keep on coming forever!” Either way, his motive for finally deciding to give her justice doesn’t earn our respect.

Which makes it all that much easier for Jesus to make His point. If a crusty, shameless old judge would hear a helpless widow’s persistent plea, how much more can we expect our righteous Father in Heaven to respond when we cry out to Him—remembering, especially, that He is long-suffering with us? If we need a wrong done to us righted, He will hear and care and act (vv. 7-8).

And not only setting right injustice; in view of verse 1, as commented on above, I have to think that Jesus meant this parable to apply to all kinds of prayer where persistence is called for, where God does not act immediately.

What we need to do, then, in many matters, is keep on praying. No, God does not move in our behalf in order to get us off His back or to avoid being wearied by us. He is not like that judge at all. But some times the vindication—or other objects—of our prayers are not immediately granted. In those times, we must persist.

And even in those times, God will respond speedily (v. 8). Maybe not “speedily” as we would like to read it, but God’s timing is not ours. Even if we wait until judgment day—and the “vindication” may indeed wait until then—still His response is a speedy one.

God does not have to be cajoled or worn down by our pleadings, then, but we have to be faithful in our prayers. And “faithful” includes being confident in His response as well as persistent. No wonder Jesus closes with a heart-searching question: When He returns, will He find us faithful? ■

Directory Update

GEORGIA

Ed Whatley to Bethany Church, Mauk

Robert Vickers to First Church, Hahira

James Ursrey to New Home Miller County Church, Colquitt from First Church, Jesup

SOUTH CAROLINA

Darrell Cartrette to New Vision Church, Hemingway

Eddie Riddick to Eastside Church, Florence

Norris Hawkins to Little Bethel Church, Johnson from First Church, Anderson

Joe Beville to Hope Church, Spartanburg

Donnie Miles to Peace Church, Florence

TENNESSEE

Bud Beverly to First Church, Church Hill from Camp Jacob, Clintwood, VA, as assistant director

OTHER PERSONNEL

Howard Bass to Gateway Church, Virginia Beach, VA, as business manager from Ahoskie Church, Ahoskie, NC, as pastor ■



Jack Williams

High-Octane Samaritan

For the first time in a long time I escaped the office before 6:00 p.m. Terrorist Tuesday, I called it: somebody highjacked my schedule, kidnapped my secretary, exploded deadlines at my door—and the evening shaped up as a track meet.

My wife expected me to move a hide-a-bed couch that weighed a ton, then escort her on a two-mile walk before we sprinted across town to attend missionary conference.

One exit before my exit on I-24 I saw a well-dressed woman walking away from a late-model Oldsmobile, its emergency lights flashing madly. She was in trouble.

"Go on by," a mean little voice barked. "You're already late. It's rush hour. And if you stop to help it'll cost you money. It always does."

Then I remembered the man who helped my daughter when she had car trouble on that same highway. I pulled over, geared down, stepped from the Volkswagen and introduced myself to a scared young woman. Her story had a familiar ring to it.

Out of gas. Rented car. I volunteered to take her to the nearest gas station. She said, "When my car quit I promised myself that I wouldn't get in a car with a man. But when you stopped, got out and let me see you, I thought I could trust you."

Her name was Julia. She worked as a psychologist at a mental health center in a Nashville suburb. Naturally, she wanted to know what kind of work I did. That's when I had to choose which hat to toss in the ring.

Since I'd fought magazine manuscripts and deadlines all day, I decided to be an editor. That was the right choice. She relaxed. She asked about the magazine's focus. When I mentioned "Free Will Baptist," Julia relaxed more. She even offered to write an article for me.

We stopped at a Shell station. That mean little voice nagged, "Go on. Leave it alone. If you stay, you'll just get more involved. It *will* cost you money."

I decided to make sure that Julia got back to her vehicle. She explained her problem to the attendants, said she had no gasoline container and asked if they could loan her one. Sure they could, for a \$10 deposit and \$3 for gas.

You guessed it. Julia had \$4. The attendants shook their heads sadly when she offered her Gulf card as collateral. With that mean little voice screaming in my ear, I poneyed up \$10 and pumped the gas for her. She told me that her boyfriend was in Saudi Arabia serving with the U.S. Army, which made me glad I'd stayed and helped.

On the way back to her car Julia said she went to church in nearby Antioch. Turned out that her church was located two miles from my church, on the same road. She had graduated from a local Christian high school and college.

"You're not out of it yet," that mean little voice whispered.

When we reached her rental car, Julia got in and I poured the gasoline—one gallon on my coat, boots and trousers and two gallons into the gas tank. I smelled like the Shell Answer Man.

That mean little voice sneered, "You're a dummy, Jack."

Her car probably won't start, and if it won't you're stuck with her. And remember, you're late."

Julia's car wouldn't start. Of course. Finally it did and she took off for the Shell station. I dripped into the Volkswagen, rolled down all the windows and hurried to retrieve my \$10 deposit.

Julia was pumping gas when I arrived. The attendants returned my \$10 while Julia waved and said a big smiling thanks.

When I got home my wife made me wash my hands—twice with soap, once with baking soda and once with alcohol (the rubbing kind).

Let's cut to the chase. We whipped the hide-a-bed into submission, postponed the two-mile walk and made it to missionary conference on time. I won't mention the college student who sat down beside me at missionary conference then moved over one seat after sniffing fumes.

That mean little voice still nagged, "I told you not to stop. This thing is not over yet; just you wait."

Helping Julia did cost me. A cleaning bill for the corduroy coat and arriving late for work Wednesday morning because I stopped at the cleaners. But that's less than the Samaritan in Luke 10 paid. Besides, it felt good knowing I did not pass by on the other side.

That mean little voice almost cost me a chance to help one of God's children. I'm glad I didn't listen to it. Just call me the high-octane Samaritan! ■

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