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CONTACT

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OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

FWBBC And Me

The Class of '81

Hither By Thy Help

1942 50 1992
J·U·B·I·L·E·E
FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

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July 1991

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Melvin Worthington

Molded for Ministry

Education remains a lifetime process. It provides a broad, comprehensive outlook that dispels bias and prejudice as it enlarges the individual's world-view. In molding His people for placement in ministry, God provides educational experiences designed to test, temper, teach and train.

Education frees us from those cultural, social, economical and psychological barriers that limit effectiveness as witnesses and ambassadors for the Lord. Molding Christians for ministry requires the following considerations.

The Context

Where does education occur? Who serves as teachers? When does education take place?

Two kinds of learning claim our attention—informal and formal. Informal learning takes place in the natural context of life—home, playground, shopping center, work place, visiting relatives and friends.

Formal education occurs in the context of church, school, workshop, conference and others. Since education is a lifetime process, we can expect to enroll in both formal and informal contexts.

The Curriculum

The educational curriculum must not be confined to academic theories. Life's practical occurrences provide a progressive learning experience in the development of

God's child. Daniel was molded by his life in Babylon; Moses by experiences in Egypt; David by encounters with the bear, the lion and the giant.

The educational process also involves systematic, academic instruction. For example, Daniel learned the language and literature of the Babylonians. Moses was skilled in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. Paul was a student of the Old Testament. Let us not discount the place of vigorous academic study.

Curriculum providentially designed and directed by God includes a balance and blend. His curriculum molds His children for ministry.

The Contributors

Parents play an important role in a child's educational process. The formative years provide a unique opportunity to instill vision, virtues and values. Values give us courage and confidence in the hour of temptation and testing.

Peers make a big difference in the molding process. Choice of friends is a key decision for young people. Friends either help or hinder, encourage or entice, undergird or undermine one's value system. Peer pressure is a potent motivational factor.

Pastors also play a key role in molding Christians for ministry. Pastoral preaching, teaching, counseling and training have far-reaching implications. The responsibility to equip children, young people and older adults basically resides with the pastor.

How tragic when young people go off to college, having been raised in the church, yet have no foundation to withstand temptations. They all too often become spiritual casualties. Pastors must seize the opportunities to fulfill their obligation in the molding process.

Problems serve as instruments to mold God's children for ministry. Trials, temptations and testings provide a seedbed for learning to cope with life.

The Challenge

Yes, education is a lifetime process. We all have our places to fill in molding Christians for ministry—parents, pastors, peers.

In order for a Christian college to have an opportunity to produce effective Christian servants, the education process must be emphasized at an early age. That's my job. That's also your job. ■

Secretary's Schedule

July 11	Truth and Peace Breakfast Free Will Baptist Bible College
July 15	Directors Annual Prayer Retreat
July 19-20	Executive Committee Meeting Charleston, WV
July 21-25	National Convention Charleston, WV
July 25-26	Post-Convention Meetings Charleston, WV

What Happened to the Class of '81?

By Rusty Russell

"We do not fear tomorrow, for we have seen yesterday and we love today."

No, that's not the last gasp logic of some eastern guru or the latest psychocybernetic saying of the New Age movement. It's the motto of the class of 1981. We may have done a lot of things right, but our class motto? ... Well, you be the judge.

Our motto does reveal our idealism when we invaded the FWBBC campus that hot August day in 1977. We were quite certain that once the faculty had received the benefit of our vast knowledge and sampled the wide range of our life experiences, they would certify us as "practically perfect in every way" and send us out to fight the devil with one hand tied behind our backs (just to make it fair).

While four years of educational and spiritual discipline may have dampened our bravado, it did little to conquer our idealism. We still believed we could defeat Satan—but maybe it would take *both* hands!

Ten years have passed since we began that battle. How did we do? What did we accomplish? What did we learn? Here are brief accounts from five of our classmates. While their experiences vary, they all share a common appreciation for the time they spent at FWBBC.



Kevin Lauthern

Kevin left FWBBC a single man but married Linda a year later. They have two boys: Jonathan (5)

**Taught
Him
How to
Live**

and Jarrod (3). Kevin served in a full-time ministry capacity in Hookerton, North Carolina two and a half years and in Tulsa, Oklahoma four years. He then moved to Nashville where he manages a word processing/printing company.

Kevin said that one thing he appreciates most about the last 10 years was his ability to enjoy ministry in a full-time, part-time and lay capacity. Talking to Kevin, you can sense his deep conviction about the importance of the lay ministry and his commitment to it.

The most important lesson he learned at FWBBC was how to apply biblical principles to everyday life. Dealing closely with the secular world, Kevin said it's a challenge to conduct business by biblical principles. He said FWBBC didn't teach him how to make a living as much as it taught him how to live.



John Neal

The last 10 years have been quite educational for John. When he graduated in 1981, he immediately began work on a graduate degree in music at Middle Tennessee State University. From there he went to Detroit, Michigan, where he served as full-time minister of music for two years. He returned to Nashville in 1986 where he completed his Ed.D. at Vanderbilt University.

John, Gwen, Abby (8) and Grant

**Set the
Tone for
Academic
Discipline**

(5) now live in St. Louis, Missouri, where he serves as associate vice president at Webster University.

He currently serves as part-time minister of music at Concord Baptist Church in St. Louis. He admits that being bi-vocational is a bit frustrating. The time constraints in part-time ministry mean that often "things need to get done that don't."

John mentioned that one of the most important lessons he learned at FWBBC was academic discipline. He felt that the work completed at FWBBC was more rigorous than any he encountered elsewhere.

He appreciated the emphasis FWBBC placed on public speaking and communication skills. He felt that FWBBC was good preparation for the academic studies he has since pursued.



Tim Coats

After graduation, Tim remained in Nashville while his wife, Kathy, completed her degree. They were then hired by the Home Missions Board. In July 1984 they arrived in Rapid City, South Dakota to start the only Free Will Baptist church in the state.

Being in a culture somewhat unaccustomed to fundamentalism and being isolated from other Free Will Baptist fellowship, Tim has, at times, found the going tough. Seven years of labor have yielded a church that is smaller than what he had hoped.

**Challenge
to
Dig Deep**

But while the quantity of new believers has been small, Tim related that he has seen converts discipled and grounded in the faith. One of his most rewarding tasks has been the opportunity to disciple his own brother.

Tim grew to appreciate the emphasis FWBBC places on the Bible. He specifically mentioned that Mr. Forlines' challenge to dig deep into the Word for life-guiding principles helped him sift through cultural differences in Rapid City and adjust to his situation without compromise.



Byron Deel

After completing his M.A. in physical education at Middle Tennessee State University, Byron returned to FWBBC to teach. Byron and Angie have two girls: Terri and Casey.

Since 1983, he has directed the physical education program at the school. Byron said one of his most rewarding accomplishments has been initiating a successful inter-collegiate basketball program at FWBBC.

In 1985 Byron added another dimension to his life when he joined

the Tennessee Army National Guard. He is a First Lieutenant and serves as aide-de-camp to Brig. General Jack Clark. Byron said that being in the National Guard has put him in touch with the "real world."

He has come to realize that full-time ministry is not limited to pastoring. He regards his work at the school and his work in the guard as his opportunity to be a full-time minister.



Susan Forlines

Susan is another member of our class who returned to work at FWBBC, although in her case, it took longer. She and husband, Jonathan, served Grace FWB Church in Greenville, North Carolina, almost 10 years. There Susan taught piano (as many as 62 students) and supported Jon's ministry. At FWBBC she serves as girl's dorm supervisor and directs the Rejoice Ensemble.

Looking back on the last 10 years, Susan related that her most appreciated lesson at FWBBC was how great God is and how much He cares for us. She came to this realization not so much by class attendance as by the people she

How Great God is; How Much He Cares

was around. She learned by the example of faculty and fellow students that we really do serve a great God.

Her faith was sorely tested when one of her children died in infancy. This experience, though difficult, was ultimately a time of faith building. She said it taught her to depend on the Lord as never before.

So there you have it—the accounts of five members of the class of 1981 a decade later. While the bravado may have disappeared, the idealism remains. But it is an idealism growing out of faith tempered by 10 years of ministry.

Talking to my fellow class members encouraged my own faith and left me with a deep sense of hope for the future. Who knows?...with some changes, there may even be hope for our class motto:

We do not fear the future,
for we have seen yesterday,
we love today
and we know *Who holds tomorrow!*

ABOUT THE WRITER: Rusty Russell is a 1982 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He is a member of Zephyr Hills Free Will Baptist Church in Asheville, North Carolina, where he serves as minister of music.

BEYOND BELIEF





FWBBC and Me

By Tom Malone

It was at Oak Grove FWB Church in Scheller, Illinois, that I bowed before Jesus and asked Him to be my Savior. No one really took note of me because I didn't go to the altar down front. I just knelt at the first bench of what was known as the Amen Corner. From that night God began a work in my life.

There were times of victory as well as times of doubt and defeat. I was constantly challenged during the next 10 years to find God's will for my life and to give myself to it. When I was 12, I went forward to surrender my life to God's will at our annual youth camp in Benton. That night I sensed God's first stirrings in my soul to be a preacher. I didn't tell anyone.

But one evening my father suddenly confronted me with the question, "Son, has God called you to preach?"

Without taking time to think, I answered, "Yes."

That "yes" was not only a "yes" to the will of God, but to the preparation that meant Free Will Baptist Bible College.

My coming to the Bible College was a whirlwind experience. I enrolled during the spring semester, about two-and-a-half weeks late. I had been a student at Southern Illinois University, planning to do what I wanted to do. I will always be thankful to the Lord for His mercy and for that special place in

Nashville—Free Will Baptist Bible College.

I did not—I could not—realize, as an 18-year-old boy, what surrender to the will of God would mean or where it would take me. But I have never regretted that decision.

Besides my education, Free Will Baptist Bible College gave me other important benefits. That's where I met my wife, Verna. It was at the college that God's will for my life took a definite direction—I was to be a pastor.

Sometime during those days I came to the realization that I was responsible to win lost people. Maybe it started when I was sent to downtown Nashville as my practical work assignment. I will always remember those times when, with a great deal of fear, I began witnessing to and praying with people on Church Street and in store fronts and parking lots.

I had been taught God-honoring standards at home, and the Bible College reinforced those standards.

One of my greatest treasures from Bible College days is the lasting friendships. I thank God for the many friends He brought into my life.

The doors of opportunity have been large and challenging. I can think of nothing more challenging than being a preacher of God's Word and a pastor of His people. Now the Lord has opened a new

and different door, one that demands my best.

I want FWBBC to be that place where students learn to know the Lord better, where they are challenged to love Him and a lost world, where they make life-long friendships, a place where every student can prepare to do God's will for his life, whatever that may be. I want it to be an enjoyable experience, full of memories they will treasure for life.

I challenge every young person and married couple to ask themselves this question: "Why *wouldn't* God want me at Free Will Baptist Bible College? Why *shouldn't* I go to FWBBC?"

Be honest enough with God and yourself to pray about this all-important decision. Where you attend college is one of the major decisions you will make in life. It is one that will influence your entire life. Take time. Hear what God is saying to you. All of us at FWBBC will be honored to have you join our Bible College family.

Someone recently said, "The best days for Free Will Baptist Bible College are yet to come." May God make it so! ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Tom Malone is president of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Directory Update

ALABAMA

Brent Vickery to Free Will Chapel, Sulligent from Holly Grove Church, Marianna, FL

ARKANSAS

Mike Phillips to Greenbriar Church, Greenbriar

CALIFORNIA

Norman Colcleasure to Olivehurst Church, Olivehurst

Archie Mayhew to Modesto Church, Modesto

FLORIDA

Joe Cutler to Lake Jackson Church, Tallahassee

GEORGIA

James Bruce to Christian Hill Church, Rochelle

Charles McNeese to Perry Mission, Perry

Robert Travis to Cross Roads Church, Cochran

Tony Trott to First Church, Glennville

Kenneth Driggers to Mt. Gilead Church, Brinson

Pete Minor to South Georgia Mission, Kingsland

Roy Harris to First Church, Savannah from FWBBC as dean of students

ILLINOIS

Randy Corn to Bethel Church, South Roxana from First Church, Savannah, GA

INDIANA

John Dickerson to First Church, Rolling Prairie from Waipahu Church, Waipahu, HI

MISSISSIPPI

Jerry Smith to First Church, Booneville from Free Will Chapel, Sulligent, AL

NORTH CAROLINA

Nathan Eason to Oak Grove Church, Elm City from First Church, Louisville, KY

Tony Massey to Five Points Church, Washington from Faith Church, Kansas as associate pastor

Thad Boyd to Stacy Church, Stacy from Fairview Church, Spartanburg, SC

Tim Osborne to Davis Church, Davis
Ferrell Osborne to Grace Church, Rocky Mount

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

Lorenza Stox to Parker's Chapel Church, Greenville from Southeastern College

David Thomas to Unity Church, Smithfield from First Church, Glennville, GA

FWBBC Prayer Calendar

The most critical form of support for Free Will Baptist Bible College is not monetary. It doesn't arrive in envelopes and it isn't solicited with checkbooks.

For nearly 50 years the college has urged Free Will Baptists to support the college daily in prayer. In keeping with that tradition, we offer this monthly Prayer Calendar. Clip it out and keep it with your Bible or posted where you pause for daily prayer.

1



Pray for President and Mrs. Tom Malone. Also remember the college's nine trustees. These people carry a heavy responsibility for the ministry of FWBBC.

2



Pray for Dr. Robert Picirilli, dean; and Dr. Charles Hampton, registrar. Also pray for students as they go out to preach, witness and minister in the name of Jesus Christ.



3



Pray for Dianne Tippet, student deans' secretary; and Margaret Hampton, cashier and assistant librarian. Pray also that financial support will be sufficient to meet the college's present needs.

4



Pray for Peggy McElhinney, assistant treasurer; and Rebecca Deel, business teacher. Ask the Lord, also, to guide the seniors as they approach the end of their studies.



5



Pray for Tom Sass, treasurer of the college; and Peggy Hampton, acting director of student financial aid. Also pray for the Sunday night services on campus.

6



Pray for Neil Gilliland, recruitment director; and Wanda Powell, the registrar's secretary. Ask the Lord to guide young people to FWBBC this year.



7



Pray for Ronald Creech, development director; and Sherry Anderson, receptionist. Ask the Lord to provide corporate and foundation gifts for FWBBC.



8



Pray for Eddie Payne, missions teacher; and Marjorie Workman, dean of women. Pray that God will call many students to the mission fields this year.



9



Pray for Joseph Jones, speech/drama teacher; and Sara Steele, the dean's secretary. Pray for the ministry of the college's touring drama teams.



10



Pray for Bob Shockey, public relations director; and Wanda Perry, his secretary. Pray for the Jubilee Celebration of the college's 50th anniversary.



11



Pray for Garnett Reid, Christian Service director; and Clara Picirilli, his secretary. Pray for students who are pastoring churches while they study.



12



Pray for Rodney Whaley, music teacher; and Sandy Goodfellow, physical plant director. Ask the Lord to bless the ministry of the College Choir.



13



Pray today for Bruce Bilbrey, campus maintenance supervisor; and Katy Chasteen, the president's secretary. Also pray for revival on campus this year.



14



Pray for Byron Deel, physical education teacher; and Margaret B. Hampton, library assistant. Ask God to be with students who are studying to be teachers.



15



Pray for Johnny Carter, teacher education teacher; and Yvonne Wolfenbarger, student supervisor. Especially remember members of the sophomore class.

16

Pray for Ann Pate, teacher education teacher; and Fay Thompson, music teacher. Thank the Lord for His faithfulness to FWBBC since 1942.



17



Pray for Dr. Robert Woodard, Bible/pastoral training teacher; and Dean Jones, student supervisor. Ask God to bless the ministerial students.

18

Pray for Dr. Stanley Outlaw, Bible teacher; and Ann Beach, cook. Also pray that God will call many preachers from among the students.



19



Pray for Loyce McVay, computer center operator; and Laura Thigpen, who is on sabbatical. Remember the weekend traveling groups—quartets, trios, drama, etc.

20

Pray for Dr. Ken Riggs, teacher education teacher. Ask God's blessing on the "Debt Free By Jubilee" drive.



21



Pray for Harrold Harrison, external studies director; and Susan Forlines, student supervisor. Ask God to provide for students with financial needs today.

22

Pray for Carol Reid, librarian; and Rebecca Gibson, Spanish teacher. Ask the Lord to give us a greater burden for the unsaved around us.



23



Pray for Dr. Charles Thigpen, chancellor; and Randy Skaggs, business teacher. Also pray for members of the junior class.

24

Pray for Bert Tippet, publications director; and Laura Hampton, library assistant. Pray also that churches will generously support the college.



25



Pray for Dr. LaVerne Miley, Bible/science teacher; and Lowell Sturgill, the college's new business teacher. Also pray for the student body officers today.

26

Pray for the dean of students; and Genevieve Waddell, English teacher. Especially remember the freshmen today.



27



Pray for Ralph Hampton, dean of the Graduate School; and Jean Whitaker, cook. Also remember the families of our married students.

28

Pray for Leroy Forlines, theology teacher; and Barbara Riddle, physical education teacher. Pray for the "Together We Can" fund-raising campaign.



29

Pray for Jonathan Snow, music teacher; and Mary Belle Creech, mailing list maintenance. Pray also for the students who are awaiting God's leading to a place of service.



30

Pray for Rev. Fred Hall, president of the FWBBC Alumni Association; and Alan Thomas, student worker supervisor. Also pray for the more than 5,000 Bible College alumni who are serving the Lord today.

31

Pray for Peter Wilson, psychology/counseling teacher; and Jimmie Brown, maintenance assistant. Also remember alumni who are preachers and missionaries.



Dale McCoy to Fellowship Church, Dunn from Oak Grove Church, Greenville, TN

Ted Reynolds to Ahoskie Church, Ahoskie from Parker's Chapel Church, Greenville

OKLAHOMA

Buddy Drake to Southeast Church, Tulsa from Northwest Church, Oklahoma City

SOUTH CAROLINA

Donnie Miles to Peace Church, Florence from Parker's Chapel Church, Greenville, NC

Daggert Duncan to Pine Grove Church, Jefferson

Danny Keen to Lockhart Church, Lockhart from Lake Jackson Church, Tallahassee, FL

John Suttles to First Church, Greer

WEST VIRGINIA

Jack Reeves to Mt. Tabor Church, Beckley

OTHER PERSONNEL

Jerald Bass to Allen Church, Sapulpa, OK as youth pastor

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



**Tomorrow's Leaders
are at Free Will
Baptist Bible College
TODAY!**

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

3606 West End Avenue
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“Hither By Thy Help”

By Charles A. Thigpen

When Free Will Baptists came together to form a national body in 1935, two interests loomed large in the minds of delegates. One was the cause of world-wide evangelization, getting the gospel out to those who had never heard. That interest was immediately addressed by electing the Foreign Missions Board and adopting Miss Laura Belle Barnard as missionary to India.

The other interest, establishing an educational institution, took more time to come to fruition. In mid-July of 1942, at the national meeting in Columbus, Mississippi, action was taken to open a college in Nashville, Tennessee, in September of that year. The educational board chose a young Georgia pastor, L. C. Johnson, to be president of the new college.

Quiet Beginnings

The denomination had lost many prospective church leaders to other groups, especially from among those who attended other denominational schools. Therefore, the main thrust of the new college was to train ministers, missionaries and other church workers.

A few of the ministers involved in this undertaking had been trained at Moody Bible Institute, therefore, the idea of a Bible college format for the new college was adopted. The curriculum included Bible, general studies and professional studies. At the beginning, this was to be a two-year school.

After a few weeks of school passed, there was a deep desire on the part of faculty and students alike to take the gospel to others. Arrangements were made to go to nearby county seats (Franklin, Dickson, Ashland City) on Saturdays, and have open air services. The entire college family was involved in these. Even though the name has changed, this was the beginning of the Christian Service Department.

Today, every student is involved in regular Christian outreach, which is a distinctive of FWBBC.

World War II was in progress when the college began. Miss Barnard was home from India on furlough and could not return to her mission work at that time. She joined the college faculty and through her influence Mission Prayer Band began. Students met daily to pray for missionaries and world outreach.

This prayer ministry continues today, and there is also a Foreign Missions Fellowship organization for students with special interest in world evangelization.

First Degrees

The college remained a two-year institution from 1942-48. There was growing interest in enlarging programs of study and becoming a four-year, degree-granting institution. By this time, many students wanted college degrees. A goodly number of graduates were going to other colleges to earn degrees. The decision was made that a third year of studies would be added in 1949-50. Interest continued and the Board of Trustees added a fourth year of study (1950-51).

Because of limited personnel and finances, it was determined that the third-year curriculum would be laid aside for just this one year and that the juniors and seniors would be taught the senior-level curriculum.

The following year, all four years of curriculum would be offered simultaneously. (In this way, there were two years when only three years of subjects were taught, enabling the college to enter into the entire four-year program more easily.)

Graduation at the end of the 1950-51 school year was a time of great excitement. Memorial Audi-



torium had just been completed for this historic occasion. President Johnson announced that these four-year baccalaureate degrees were the first offered by a Free Will Baptist college in 40 years. There were five graduates.

Academic Recognition

The matter of recognition of academic credits and accreditation was of greater concern to the administration. Two fine Christian men were a special help to the young, growing school. In the year 1949-50, the college registrar enrolled in a graduate course at Peabody College. The course was entitled, “The College Registrar” and was taught by Dr. William H. Vaughan, director of admissions and registrar at Peabody.

The Bible College registrar requested that Dr. Vaughan study FWBBC’s catalog and determine how much of the three-year program would be accepted by Peabody College and how long it would take a student with these three years of work to graduate at Peabody College. In a few days the answer came from Dr. Vaughan that Peabody would accept all the work and that a student could then graduate in one year—or at the most, one year and a summer.

Contact was then made with the dean of records and admissions, Dr.

By Thy Help (from page 9)

Floyd Thomason, at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Just as Dr. Vaughan, Dr. Thomason was a devout Christian and sympathetic to our cause.

When he learned about the evaluation from Peabody College concerning the program of work at FWBBC, he stated, "The University of Tennessee will do the same as Peabody College." It was asked that this decision be put in writing, and the request was granted.

Several years later, FWBBC became a member of the American Association of Bible Colleges (AABC). The Council on Postsecondary Accreditation (COPA) is the organization that "accredits" all regional and professional accrediting bodies in the United States. AABC is fully recognized by COPA, as an institutional accrediting agency.

FWBBC is also recognized by the United States Office of Education for the training of veterans and their orphans, for foreign students and for Civil Service employees.

Expanded Curriculum

In the early 60's, it became evident that offerings in the field of business were needed. Associate degrees in business were added with an emphasis either in secretarial work or in accounting. (Next year, a four-year degree in business administration will be added).

Other degree programs were added to meet the needs of students with varying interests. In addition to majors in church music, pastoral training, missions and Christian education, other majors were added. One of the first was a major in English.

A field of special interest is that of teacher education. The administration realized in the late 60's that some of our churches had begun Christian day schools. This area was studied thoroughly and the Board of Trustees approved a teacher education program to begin in the fall of 1972. The college trustees also determined that the teacher-training program should be one that would be approved by the Tennessee State Department of Education.

However, certification would not be available until the first group of prospective graduates had been graduated. The college followed very carefully the requirements of the Tennessee State Department of Education but also held to the basic thrust and ministry of the college. Education majors would also earn the regular 30 hours of Bible and meet the other expectations of all graduates of the college.

Teacher Certification

In the spring of 1976, an intensive examination of the college was conducted to determine whether the State Department of Education would recommend the college for certification approval. Representatives on this evaluation team were chosen by the Tennessee Department of Education from both Christian and secular colleges and universities. All of these educators were favorably impressed with FWBBC and recommended the college for consideration by the Board of Education of the State of Tennessee.

One of the visiting educators was enthusiastic about the college and especially the students. She said to the team and college administration that she was so impressed with the college that she called her mother in another state to say to her, "All is not lost! With a college like this, there is still hope for America!"

One of the most difficult hurdles was to convince the 14-member Tennessee Board of Education that FWBBC should be approved for certification. The dean of the college was questioned relentlessly for almost two hours concerning the college, its philosophy of education, educational standards and such like.

One member in particular seemed to be prejudiced against colleges like this being approved to prepare school teachers. His questions reflected his views. But as the questions and answers continued, this man asked for permission to speak.

This is what he said: "Mr. Chairman, when I came here today I was opposed to granting approval to this school, but my mind has been changed. I like the answers that I have heard. I now believe that graduates from this school will make

better teachers than those trained in our state universities! Mr. Chairman, I'm voting for approval."

In a few moments the vote was taken granting state approval. This was in the summer of 1976 and the action was retroactive to include the 1976 graduates.

Since that time, other programs in teacher education have been added to the college offerings. State certification is now available for elementary and kindergarten education, physical education and secondary education. The majority of the graduates with teacher-education degrees are teaching in Christian day schools, while some are teaching in public schools.

Innovations

Another event of interest was the opening of the graduate school in 1982. The master of ministry degree is available through a modular approach. Three courses of intensive study, one week in length, are offered each year. Eight courses are required for the degree.

An event of special interest to many young people was adding basketball as an intercollegiate sport. In addition to being on the college team, each member shares in Christian service in our churches where the team goes to compete.

It is evident that the hand of the Lord has been on the college since its beginning. In addition to the events recounted here, and in an even greater way, is the evidence of God's providence in providing a faculty and staff composed of some of His choice servants.

Another outstanding evidence of God's hand is that of the students—both present and former—who have been a vital part of the college family through the years. This school has been used by the Lord to train hundreds of faithful Christians who are active for Him throughout the world. ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Charles A. Thigpen is chancellor at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Peace in the Desert Storm

By Chaplain Terry Austin

There have been many storms in my life but none so appropriately named as the Persian Gulf War: Desert Storm. It was my privilege to serve our Lord, our country and Free Will Baptists during this critical time in history. As always, our God showed Himself strong, even in a Muslim-dominated culture, by giving peace during Desert Storm.

When we first arrived in Saudi Arabia, we built barricades and set up M-60 machine guns to guard the entrances of American compounds. Ships and planes arrived carrying every kind of machinery to wage war—weapons, trucks, cranes, tanks and armored personnel carriers. The situation became more critical as each day passed.

Every soldier knew the possibility of a terrorist attack as well as a Scud missile attack with the possibility of chemicals. Protective measures were taken, such as carrying a weapon with ammunition at all times (the chaplain does not carry a weapon, he has a chaplain's assistant for protection). Protective masks were carried and ready for use at all times.

Each day that passed brought a new level of stress to every soldier as the certainty of war was recognized.

January 17, 1991, President Bush informed the nation that the United States was now at war with Iraq. If ever there was a good time to go to war it had to be now. On this date churches were gathered for Wednesday night prayer meeting. With the declaration of war, thousands of Americans asked God for victory and protection for American soldiers.

These were tense, stressful days. They blended together as one, only Sunday remained different. Ameri-

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can and Allied Forces fought an outstanding air battle. However, the days drew near when we knew a ground war would begin, and it did.

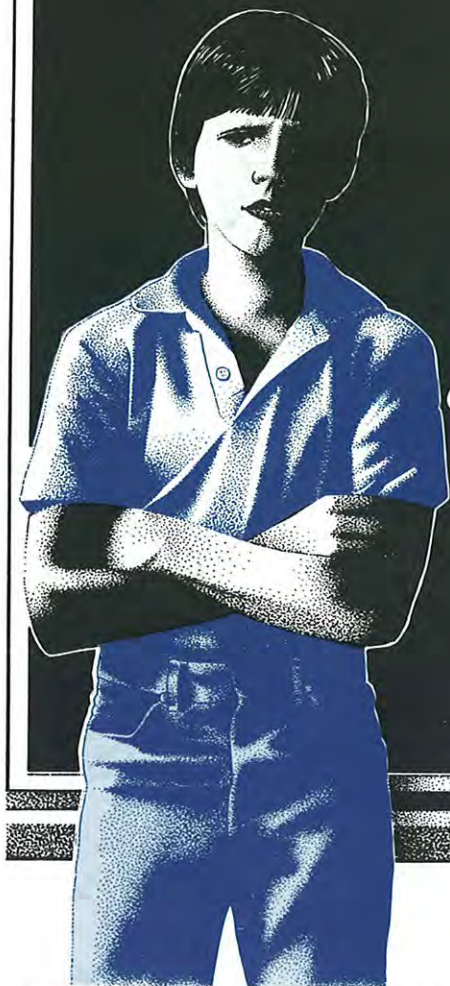
On Sunday, January 24, the ground war began. Again churches across America were praying for God's intervention. One hundred hours later the ground war stopped with a cease fire. The "mother of all wars" had virtually stopped. The Jihad, or religious war, was over and our God triumphed. God had fought this war, and won!

In the midst of Desert Storm, as well as in the beginning of the war, the peace of God ruled my heart. There was so much happening around me but I always knew my Lord was there. Even as Jesus

calmed the storm in Matthew 8:23-27, our God calmed the "Desert Storm" and gave us peace. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Terry Austin is a Free Will Baptist chaplain serving with the United States Army. He is a 1983 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College.



The Faithful "Monster"

By Mal King

I was a teenager; Frankie Laine was my favorite singer and I wanted to stay home to watch him on Ed Sullivan's program. But it was Sunday night and my dad was a "narrow-minded monster."

"Daddy, I want to stay home to watch Frankie Laine."

"No, Son. It's Sunday night and you're going to church with us."

Please, Daddy. I always go to church; I don't drink or do anything like that (more than a little self-righteous). I'll keep going to church; just let me stay home this one time."

"Son, we're Christians and the church never takes a back seat to TV."

Knowing how much I wanted to see Frankie Laine for the first time, my mother tried to ease my disappointment: "Mal, you're precious to us; you're a gift to us from God, and we're responsible for seeing that you realize how important it is to walk faithfully with God."

"But, Mother, how important can one service be to a Christian?"

My mother answered quietly, thoughtfully (and probably prayerfully), "How important can one breath be to life?"

The result of those discussions? I went to church. That night, I'm sad to say, a grumpy teenager sat in the pew but was as far away from the church mentally as he could be. Time long ago removed the disappointment of not seeing my favorite singer, but the lesson my parents taught by their example remains.

Some parents of other children I went to church with at that time were a little more understanding. Not only did they permit their children to stay home for special occasions, they stayed home with them. While they talked about being more faithful to God than to one's job, the kids were quick to pick up that parents who often didn't feel like going to church Sunday morning were always able to work come Monday.

Children have a love for truth, and an innate wisdom that enables them to see through what parents preach to what they practice. And research shows that where teachers teach one thing but practice another, students almost invari-

ably do what their teachers do.

Today, the children of those unfaithful parents don't come to church at all. The ribbons some of them earned for faithful attendance when their parents were faithful have faded along with their faith.

I no longer have any of those ribbons or medals. But each Sunday and Wednesday I look around my church and see three lovely daughters, two sons-in-law and seven grandchildren. And I weep. I weep because I'm grateful to a "monster" who long ago went to be with the God he loved—grateful for his example, his courage in saying no to the son he loved.

I weep because I'm grateful that my children see the need to be faithful. I weep because I'm thankful to a God who keeps His promises and who keeps His children. I weep because I know that one or more of them could leave the church and the faith. And I weep because I see Christian parents whose attendance is sporadic.

The wise know what will happen when parents aren't faithful. But all of us have seen the promise of Proverbs 22:6 demonstrated over and over: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Knowing this the wise have always called for setting right priorities. Socrates, for example, said, "You people of Athens, why do you scrape every stone to gather wealth and pay so little attention to the children to whom one day you must relinquish it all?"

Is this Christian faith not of more value to us and to our children than the wealth we attempt to scrape? ■



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

Strength in the Cards

By Randy Ragsdale

I thought it was just the start of another church softball game in Farmington, Missouri, but God had an unscheduled lesson to teach me that day. The other team had runners on first and second bases with one out. The batter hit the ball to our third baseman who picked it up, stepped on third for a force out and then threw to first base for the double play. When the runner was called safe at first, the first baseman noticed the runner rounding second base had gone too far. He threw the ball to me. That's when the action started.

I made a sweep tag trying to catch the ball and make the tag in the same motion. The strong wind caused me to misjudge the ball. It struck me on the left jaw next to my ear. It did not knock me down but I knew something was not right.

The shortstop trotted over to check on me. Blood poured from my mouth. When I put my teeth together, they did not line up right.

I left the game and headed for the emergency room. After examination and several x-rays, I learned I had broken my jaw in two places. Because of the type injury and my being an insulin-dependent diabetic, I was directed to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis for a specialist to operate. Several softball team members came to see me off; my wife drove and family members came along for moral support.

Saturday night and Sunday passed and I felt good except for a sore jaw. I finally saw the specialist Monday. He told me he would operate Tuesday. The surgery took four hours; I was in recovery two hours.

Wednesday night was a nightmare! I got sick and the full headpiece I wore made me extremely hot. I could not get comfortable and could only lie on my back. I lay there from 1:00 a.m.

until 6:00 a.m. waiting for anybody to come in; I even looked forward to the "blood" nurse coming in for morning samples.

This was my soul searching time. I was so lonely, and when I prayed it seemed that God did not hear. Depression set in and I felt like nobody cared. I was wide awake and all alone. I thought those five hours would never pass.

Thursday morning finally arrived and my parents came in with a handful of cards. Physically, I did not feel like looking at the cards so I asked Dad to read them to me. I wanted to know who sent them.

As he began to read them, I could feel my spiritual strength returning. The cards helped as much as the medicine. My parents told me that many people had called to check on me. My doubt was over. God had blessed me with many Christian friends.

What did I learn through this ordeal? First, God's family is plentiful. I have so many people praying for me I do not believe I could stay sick if I wanted to.

Second, God's family is support-

ive. Whatever we needed help with, they were there.

Third, God's people are dependable. All my duties at church were taken care of.

Fourth, God's people are caring. All the prayers, cards and phone calls proved this.

I received over 100 get-well cards in two weeks. The cards did not make me well, but they sure helped my morale and boosted my faith. I knew my friends were thinking about me. For me, the cards were God's reminder of how blessed I really am.

Just like my jaw is important to my body, every person in God's service is important! Do not take anyone for granted. If someone is discouraged, send a card of encouragement. There is strength in the cards! ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Randy Ragsdale, 35, directs music and serves as senior high department Sunday School superintendent at First Free Will Baptist Church in Farmington, Missouri. He is also editor of the church's monthly newsletter, *Youth-News*.



When Men Forget God

By Douglas J. Simpson

Understandably, most of us would like to forget some, if not many, experiences. We have all tried to suppress memories of childish behavior, carnal remarks, unchristian attitudes and social blunders. We try to forget these experiences because we are ashamed of our behavior, embarrassed by actions that reflect negatively upon us and God. More serious than wishing to rid ourselves of unpleasant memories is the desire to purge from our minds the truth of God, the wish to eradicate the influence of the conscience and the canon.

An example of this kind of intentional forgetting is mentioned by Paul (Romans 1:18; "hold" in the KJV is better translated "suppressed the truth of God in this case preferred greed, envy, murder and arrogance to recalling and obeying God's moral code.

Desire to Forget

Equally, if not more, tragic than stymieing the candle of the Lord and the scriptures is the urge to ignore, forget or suppress the fact that we have been "purged from (our)...old sins" (II Peter 1:9). How, we may wonder, could a Christian possibly forget that he has been cleansed by the atoning work of Christ? Is it even possible for a true believer to forget the beautiful experience of being born into the family of God?

Peter's answer is clear: the possibility is real and the reason is sin. Briefly stated, the Christian forgets because he *wants* to forget and therefore, pushes the conversion experience out of consciousness. But why, we may continue, would anyone *want* to forget the lovely experience of meeting Jesus Christ?

Simply put, we forget because we *desire*—yes, desire—to sin. We want to satisfy the old person, and we cannot easily do so without suppressing our knowledge of the



new person. Our depraved minds enable us to subdue the truth that we are children of God while our corrupt natures draw us toward forbidden fruit. Sadly, we are capable of forgetting—behaviorally, experientially, intellectually—the greatest of all human experiences.

Road to Apostasy

Peter expresses this thought when he implies that Christians can *fall*, spiritually speaking, (1:10) if we do not *keep adding* (1:5ff) to our faith the qualities of virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. He warns that if we fail to keep adding these qualities we may become spiritually barren, unfruitful and shortsighted (1:8-9), fall from our steadfastness or commitment to Christ (3:17), and get entangled in and overcome by the world (2:19-20).

Ultimately, we may deny that Christ the Lord is God (2:1). When we are overcome by the world, we are, according to Peter, like the dog and the sow who, respectively, return to their vomit and mire (2:22).

How does a Christian get started walking down this road? No doubt, there are numerous ways, but Peter speaks only in general terms. If we summarize what he says on

the broad topic, it appears that a believer may turn on the road to apostasy by listening to destructive heresies that undermine faith (2:1), believing lies about Christian thought and conduct (2:3), pursuing ideas and practices that lead to a false freedom (2:19), carousing (KJV "feast") with religious leaders who are only interested in themselves (2:13), neglecting activities that contribute to our growth in Christ (3:14), accepting scriptural distortions we hear or read (3:16), failing to remember the truth that established us in the faith (1:12), and being led away by erroneous teachings of religious teachers (3:17).

Most Likely to Fall

Who are those most susceptible to the enticements of religious leaders, the flesh and the world system? Who are those most likely to follow the road that leads to unfruitfulness, unrighteousness and unbelief? Peter implies that unstable Christians (2:14), untaught believers (3:16) and newborn babes (2:18) may be easy prey for pseudochristian teachers.

Naturally, any believer, regardless of how long he has been a member of God's family, can, if he stops growing, become unstable, but perhaps, young believers and stagnate believers are most at risk. No one, of course, should naively or carelessly think he is totally or unconditionally secure.

Security in Christ

On the other hand, believers are secure as they live in Christ. Life and security in Christ, however, involves practicing the truth that we understand (1:10), relying upon God's divine power (1:3), and becoming partakers of His divine nature (1:4).

Naturally, if we possess and progress in the virtues mentioned earlier, we are secure in Christ (1:8). Likewise, studying and observing the truths of the Scriptures

provide a solid foundation for us (3:2). Living in light of the coming day of judgment stimulates godliness and, thereby, security in Christ (3:11).

Furthermore, diligently pursuing intimate fellowship with Christ (3:14), growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ (3:18), and guarding against the error of unprincipled people (3:17) also ensure that we are securely rooted in the truth and the Christ. This is not to say that our security depends basically upon us. Only God's divine power can enable us to live in Christ (1:3).

Still, we are responsible for choosing to rely upon Him as we live in Him (1:10). Even our choices, however, should be empowered by Christ.

Peter's discussion of apostasy serves as a clear warning to those of us who have "escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" that not just any behavior and beliefs are acceptable to God. We, nevertheless, are secure in our faith when we possess as believers and progress as learners in the qualities of the divine nature. These truths, all that we have mentioned about apostasy and growth, are consistent with our enjoying the grace and peace of God (1:2).

Thus, we ought not to live with an irrational fear of the error and evil that exist in the world and church, but, instead, enjoy everything that God promises us and that pertains to the Christian life (1:2-3). While enjoying our lives in Christ, we not only escape the corruption of the world (1:4), but we trust Him to deliver us from our temptations (2:9).

A relationship with Christ that relies upon His divine strength, involves partaking of His divine nature, and thrives upon His promises is not one we will be prone to forget. ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Douglas J. Simpson is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. He lives in Fort Worth, Texas, where he is writing a book-length manuscript titled *The Apostate*. The material in this article is drawn from this future volume.

Cooperative Channel Contributions April 1991

RECEIPTS:

State	Designated	CO-OP (Undesignated)	Total	April '90	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 147.74	\$ 60.19	\$ 207.93	\$ 146.96	\$ 1,844.18
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	318.95
Arkansas	.00	9,428.63	9,428.63	6,238.29	22,353.11
California	.00	797.38	797.38	1,036.20	4,495.57
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	140.72	.00	140.72	3,050.59	4,406.07
Georgia	6,960.80	1,148.00	8,108.80	8,301.72	37,493.20
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	219.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	59.78
Illinois	6,804.67	1,990.66	8,795.33	8,788.01	28,991.84
Indiana	1,047.53	155.91	1,203.44	487.74	2,992.06
Kansas	.00	84.19	84.19	.00	225.70
Kentucky	10.00	50.00	60.00	.00	367.67
Maryland	.00	1,104.57	1,104.57	450.31	2,266.61
Michigan	2,965.58	433.33	3,398.91	6,373.61	19,928.89
Mississippi	.00	475.00	475.00	249.08	2,086.42
Missouri	8,988.66	.00	8,988.66	6,780.21	26,234.67
New Mexico	77.62	12.64	90.26	13.04	171.76
North Carolina	722.57	700.00	1,422.57	1,577.21	9,951.46
Ohio	623.00	1,978.00	2,601.00	2,822.60	11,014.00
Oklahoma	30,936.92	7,037.09	37,974.01	47,153.53	149,819.01
South Carolina	12,418.20	86.39	12,504.59	14,724.20	50,339.95
Tennessee	929.90	1,170.28	2,100.18	1,962.27	10,412.93
Texas	8,249.55	580.55	8,830.10	15,427.84	32,448.02
Virginia	233.55	197.77	431.32	1,104.11	1,399.21
West Virginia	2,963.84	71.45	3,035.29	2,148.60	10,639.01
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Association	.00	46.37	46.37	37.53	71.77
Other (Computer)	.00	.02	.02	.09	.25
Totals	\$84,220.85	\$27,608.42	\$111,829.27	\$129,092.74	\$430,332.09

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 5,823.73	\$15,797.54	\$ 21,621.27	\$ 20,166.64	\$ 86,485.11
Foreign Missions	55,581.81	2,716.50	58,298.31	69,345.70	221,322.32
FWBBC	7,099.56	2,716.50	9,816.06	8,899.90	31,281.94
Home Missions	11,938.46	2,125.95	14,064.41	20,966.88	63,416.17
Retirement & Insurance	540.58	1,653.52	2,194.10	3,125.22	7,159.95
Master's Men	570.24	1,653.52	2,223.76	2,741.06	7,396.01
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	56.04	59.06	115.10	104.66	397.80
FWB Foundation	739.31	708.65	1,447.96	1,541.03	5,611.31
Historical Commission	50.58	59.06	109.64	94.24	377.55
Music Commission	18.39	59.06	77.45	105.74	260.14
Radio & TV Commission	33.60	59.06	92.66	170.32	417.49
Hillsdale FWB College	1,357.32	.00	1,357.32	1,432.98	3,592.17
Other	411.23	.00	411.23	398.37	2,614.13
Totals	\$84,220.85	\$27,608.42	\$111,829.27	\$129,092.74	\$430,332.09

Coming Next Month:

Pastor Appreciation Issue

FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Arkansas Pastor Retires After 53 Years in Ministry

FORT SMITH, AR—The Reverend Rupert E. Pixley, 71, announced his retirement April 28 after 53 years in the ministry. He invested his entire pastoral ministry in five Arkansas churches, the last 44 years pastoring First FWB Church in Fort Smith.

In addition to his pastoral work, Pixley served 23 years on the Arkansas CTS Board, was a member of the state Executive Committee and state moderator. He also moderated Zion Hope and Unity Associations, and served five years on the national Home Missions Board. His leadership responsibilities included local church, district, state and national duties.

More than 500 people attended the day-long appreciation celebration. Arkansas Promotional Director David Joslin congratulated Reverend Pixley on behalf of the state association. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington brought greetings from the



National Association of Free Will Baptists. Long-time friend Lawnie Coffman recalled their years together in the Lord's work.

The congregation gave Brother Pixley a watch, a book filled with letters of appreciation and the title, "Pastor Emeritus."

Pixley said that on his first Sunday as pastor at First FWB

Church in 1947 only 43 people attended. The Sunday School offering was 27¢, the church offering \$4.35. He was 27 years old then.

Since that time he led the group through seven major building programs. The 700-seat auditorium was built in 1957. In 1984 the church built a 16,000-square-foot multi-purpose building known as the R. E. Pixley Family Center. The church presently is appraised at more than \$1 million. The church's annual budget tops \$250,000.

Widely used as an evangelist, Rev. Pixley has baptized more than 3,000 converts in his ministry and performed more than 2,000 marriages. In addition to his on-going radio ministry, he served as director of personnel for three nursing homes.

Rupert and Gladys Marie Pixley have five children, four of whom live in Arkansas and one in Tennessee.

Reverend Earl Stevens, Alabama Minister, Dies

MIDLAND CITY, AL—The Reverend Perry Earl Stevens, 57, died unexpectedly January 18. He had been a Free Will Baptist minister for 30 years. He was licensed to preach in March 1961.

For the past 17 years, Rev. Stevens pastored in Alabama's State Line Association. Prior to that he pastored in Florida. His pastorates include two Florida and five Alabama churches. Florida: Holly Grove FWB Church, Marianna; St. Johns FWB Church,

Bonifay. Alabama: Slocumb FWB Church; Magnolia FWB Church, Midland City; Pleasant Hill FWB Church, Headland; Shiloh FWB Church, Columbia; and interim at Corinth FWB Church.

Funeral services were conducted at Corinth FWB Church with Revs. Danny Smith and Bill George officiating. Burial was at the church cemetery.

Rev. Stevens was born and reared in the Christian Hill community near Echo, Ala. A veteran

of the Korean Conflict, he was employed by Wex-Tex Manufacturing Co. in Headland and Ashford since 1954. He was a member of the Choctawhatchee Volunteer Fire Department.

He is survived by his wife, Eunice Tidwell Stevens; a son, Perry Stevens; his mother, Annie B. Stevens; a brother, William O. Stevens; a sister, Niria Ammons; and three grandchildren.

Mississippi Church Dedicates New Building

SOUTHAVEN, MS—In what was called "the first of its kind among Free Will Baptists," more than 186 people gathered April 6 to dedicate a debt-free mission church in Southaven. The Cross Creek FWB Church began services March 10, 1991, under the leadership of mission pastor J. L. Gore, and dedicated a new building four weeks later.

The church is sponsored by the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists. Pastor J. L. Gore praised the Mississippi Home Missions Board for its leadership. Through the Board's influence and Mississippi's "March for Missions" program, the Cross Creek congregation moved into new facilities without indebtedness.

State Home Missions Board members were active in the two-hour Saturday morning dedication. Board members include Bill Van Winkle, Steve Nichols, Jack Jones, Gerald Gann and Glenn Jones. National Home Missions Director Roy Thomas preached the dedication message, "Why Should There Be a Free Will Baptist Church in Southaven, Mississippi."

After conducting only four services, Pastor Gore reported a high attendance of 46. The 13 members of the church joined Pastor Gore in a special responsive reading of thanks and dedication.

Brother Gore distributed 40 certificates of appreciation and a plaque to individuals who assisted in the building construction. Mission Board Chairman Gerald Gann presented a check and the keys to the church to Pastor Gore.

Gore then invited the 1992 session of the Mississippi State Association to meet with the Cross Creek FWB Church. Twenty-three Mississippi and three Tennessee pastors attended the dedication ceremonies.

Five Sermons Spur New Mexico Meeting

HOBBS, NM—Delegates to the 23rd annual New Mexico State Association heard five sermons developing the association theme, "Is There Not a Cause?" The April 19-20 session met at First United FWB Church in Hobbs. Approximately 50 people registered for the two-day gathering.

All five association sermons were preached by visiting ministers. Wichita Falls, Texas pastor Thurmon Murphy spoke about fellowship. Home Missions Director Roy Thomas addressed evangelism. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington spoke on reading the Bible. Hillsdale FWB College director of development Richard Terry spoke on youth. Randall House Publications sales

manager Billy Brown spoke on Sunday School.

Pastor Leroy Teel (First FWB Church, Hobbs) was elected moderator succeeding outgoing moderator Earl Jenkins. Delegates passed two resolutions. The first authorized rewriting the state association constitution. The second formally adopted *The Roadrunner* as the state association's official publication.

Pat (Mrs. Roy) Thomas was the keynote speaker at the Auxiliary banquet. Anne (Mrs. Melvin) Worthington brought a devotional message during the Auxiliary business session.

The 1992 New Mexico State Association will meet April 24-25 with the Artesia FWB Church.

Southeastern College Sets Fall Opening

WENDELL, NC—President Billy Bevan and the Board of Directors at Southeastern Free Will Baptist College announced opening services for the 1991-92 college year Monday, August 26 at 7:00 p.m. The service will be held at First FWB Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

This opening service will mark

the beginning of Southeastern's ninth year. Rev. Randall E. Sawyer, a member of the Southeastern faculty, will preach the opening message.

President Bevan said the invitation is extended to pastors, parents, alumni and friends to attend.

Worthington Thanks Arizona for 1990 Convention

PHOENIX, AZ—Free Will Baptist Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington preached the keynote message at the May 4 Arizona State Association and thanked the churches for hosting the 1990 national convention in Phoenix. That first-ever convention to meet in Arizona registered more than 4,000 delegates last July and showcased the state work among Free Will Baptists.

Moderator Charles Marshall

was re-elected by delegates. Home Missionary pastor Howard Gwartney was recommended to the National Association as Arizona's General Board member.

More than 50 people attended the one-day session at First FWB Church in Phoenix. The theme for the meeting was "United in Service."

The 1992 session will meet May 2 at First FWB Church in Tucson.

CURRENTLY...

More than 340 people attended a two-day **Arkansas** youth retreat at Camp Beaverfork near Conway in April. The Hillsdale Players and New Life Singers from Hillsdale FWB College provided music and drama. **Tim Morgan** (Fort Smith) and **Jim Harris** from Hillsdale preached. State CTS Director **Jackie B. Brown** coordinated the retreat.

We have a national champion! **Hillsdale FWB College** in **Moore, OK**, won the National Bible College Athletic Association Division II basketball championship this spring. Hillsdale had a 23-win, 11-loss season. Congratulations to Coach **Tim Lisenbee** and his team.

Missouri's Senior Ministries Board sponsored a retreat at Stonecroft Conference Center in Branson May 14-16. Guest speakers were Evangelists **Gilbert** and **Rupert Pixley**, 71-year-old twin brothers from Fort Smith, AR.

Oklahoma Executive Secretary **Connie Cariker** keynoted the second annual conference for pastors and laymen at **Shafter FWB Church, Shafter, CA**. **Dean Long** pastors.

Pastor **Patrick Palomo** said **South Union FWB Church, Bakersfield, CA**, had an attendance surge. Members made 114 call backs inviting people to church that they had met through door knocking. The effort resulted in 143 in Sunday School and 156 in worship service. Eight-year-old **Jayda Oaks** won a trophy for bringing eight people to church with her.

The Reverend **Walter H. Godby**, a Free Will Baptist minister who helped start a mission work in West Palm Beach, FL, died April 7 at age 64. Brother Godby had retired from active ministry in 1979. His son, Greg, pastors Truth FWB Church in New Oxford, PA.

Home Missionary **David Burgess** said he baptized the first new convert at **Cornerstone FWB Church** in **Bloomington, IL**. Burgess, a former U.S. Navy chaplain, is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in **Nashville, TN**, declared April 7 **Mary Elizabeth Griffith Day**. Pastor **Larry Powell** said Sister Griffith was on the job 55 years as church clerk, secretary, Sunday School teacher and committee worker. The church gave her a plaque of appreciation, letters of commendation and a money tree.

Members of **Freedom FWB Church,**

Ladson, SC, wanted to honor Mr. and Mrs. **Bill Stone** for their years of service to the church as secretary, clerk and treasurer. But instead of accepting the \$50 check of appreciation for themselves, the Stones requested that the money be sent to the South Carolina promotional office. **Johnny Evans** pastors.

First FWB Church, North Charleston, SC, raised more than \$2,400 to aid burn victims in India. Pastor **David Das**, a Free Will Baptist pastor in Islampur, North India, was severely burned last year. **Dena Jagers**, wife of Pastor **Rick Jagers**, headed up the fund-raising project.

Members of **Rains FWB Church, Rains, SC**, plan to occupy their new sanctuary this summer, according to Pastor **Tony Miles**. Costs for the 3,200-square-foot structure will exceed \$60,000. Plans are under way to convert the old auditorium into classrooms.

Pastor **David Taylor** reports 19 conversions, 11 baptisms and 17 new members at **First FWB Church Tucson, AZ**. The congregation also gave a \$400 missions offering.

Bear Point FWB Church, Sesser, IL, reports five new members and two baptisms. **Larry Cook** pastors.

Pastor **Ernie Lewis** said, "Our children's churches average 55. Our two vans are overflowing and we are considering purchasing a third." Lewis pastors **Blue Point FWB Church, Cisne, IL**.

Pastor **Kent Dunford** reports attendance so good at **Rescue FWB Church, Whittington, IL**, that the church added a new Sunday School class this spring.

Home Missionary **Gerald Fender** reports 65 people present for the first service at **West Knoxville FWB Church, Knoxville, TN**. The church began in November 1990 and averages 40 in attendance.

When outreach ministries at **Roan Street FWB Church in Elizabethton, TN**, required the purchase of a church van, the congregation borrowed \$16,000. Pastor **Ray Stockton** said the group paid off the entire note in nine months.

Cross Roads FWB Church, Billings, MT, reports 40 in attendance this spring. Pastor **Ron Palmer** said a woman was converted who had been prayed for 23 years. The convert was his wife's sister.

Pastor **Roger Tillis, Sr.** reports nine new members and a record attendance of 65 at **Cornerstone FWB Church, Columbus, OH**.

Lockbourne FWB Church, Lockbourne, OH, reports 11 conversions and two new members. **Bert Miller** pastors.

Pastor **Bobby Lee Hudnall** reports 13 conversions and 14 baptisms at **Divine FWB Church, Cleveland, OH**.

Church reporter **Shirley Carpenter** said 10 people were saved from the home visitation program at **Friendly FWB Church, Columbus, OH**.

Evangelist **Clovis Vanover**, headquartered in **Columbus, OH**, preached 39 revivals in 1990 and reported 251 conversions.

New Light FWB Church, Morgan, GA, conducted groundbreaking ceremonies for a fellowship building. The 1,800-square-foot structure will be able to seat 130 in the dining area. **Ralph Lightsey** pastors.

Executive Secretary **Melvin Worthington** was keynote speaker at the Ministers Retreat in **Georgia**. Four Georgia pastors joined him on the program: **Robert Travis, Gerald Brown, Wayne Miracle** and **Mike Edwards**.

Members of **First FWB Church, Berryville, AR**, gave a \$5,000 offering to the Home Missions "Build My Church" campaign. **Richard Adams** directs the project. **Larry Montgomery** pastors.

Emmanuel FWB Church in Jacksonville, NC, completed a 375-seat sanctuary, according to Pastor **Harold Moore**. The church began construction on the \$200,000 sanctuary in 1990.

Members of **Shelby FWB Church, Shelby, NC**, dedicated a \$200,000 family life center, according to Pastor **Ed Hutchinson**. The 6,000-square-foot structure was built with volunteer labor. The group broke an attendance record with 307 present. They also added 66 new members and baptized 45 converts. Three young men answered the call to preach in the past 12 months.

Pastor **Harold Blankenship** reports 53 children and two adults saved during a five-week attendance campaign at **Goshen FWB Church, Mt. Holly, NC**. Attendance topped out at 502. Blankenship baptized 10 teenagers and, the church received 20 new members.

■



HOME MISSIONS

Life After Hurricane Hugo

By Roy Thomas

I experienced an exciting weekend April 26-28 as I went to St. Croix, Virgin Islands and preached the dedication service of the new auditorium and classroom building for Missionary Ron Dail and the Free Will Baptist Church on the island.

Hurricane Hugo had destroyed both the church auditorium and the school building. Last fall, however, missionary builder Howard Gwartney and his volunteer crew constructed a new church and school, and both are beautiful! The church is carpeted, air conditioned, has a baptistry, piano, organ, padded pews and furniture to match. A lady in the church painted a beautiful inspiring baptistry scene. The church is white, trimmed in brown on the outside. The carpet is blue and the pews are burgundy, which creates a beautiful decor for this island church.

The congregation averages 125 for Sunday morning services. There were 211 present for the dedication services. People were saved that Sunday which added to the several new converts already won since the Dails have been on the island.

Brother Ron Dail is doing an outstanding job leading the church and Brother Joe Postlewaite, school principal, has seen the Christian school grow to 440 pupils in grades 1 through 12. The enrollment is expected to increase for next semester, as there is a large waiting list of prospective students.

Although many buildings on the island have not been repaired, all facilities at the Free Will Baptist Church in St. Croix are either new buildings or completely renovated.

I also visited missionary Miguel Vera on the island of Puerto Rico. The rented quonset hut the church was using for services in the San Juan area was destroyed by Hurricane Hugo. Brother Vera and the men of the church have erected a large shed, open on three sides for their services. It has lights, pulpit, altar and chairs. It looks as

nice as a shed can look. They had 49 people present last Sunday and 52 the Sunday before, with a man and his wife converted. There is a desperate need for this church to have its own facilities.

The church has located a piece of property they hope to buy this summer and erect a church building. The congregation has received permission from the owner to disassemble and remove the quonset hut and erect another shed for classrooms in its place. The material from these sheds will be used in the new church building, so that nothing will be wasted.

I believe anyone would be impressed with the Free Will Baptist work in these U.S.-owned islands and the excellent job our home missionaries are doing. Yes, there is life in the Caribbean since Hugo! ■

July 14 National Convention Day of Prayer and Fasting



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisheart

From My Window

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood," Frost wrote, "And I, I took the one less traveled by, / And that has made all the difference."

So it is with choices in our lives, and my choice of Free Will Baptist Bible College shaped my life different from what I could have thought or imagined.

At our Missouri Youth Camp I made the decision to go at least one year to our Bible College. I wanted to be a teacher, and I planned to attend a state teachers' college nearby. One year, I said, and that year changed the shape of my life.

The one year became four and then I began to work full time at the College. My work stretched to 30 years, 29 of those in the classroom.

I came a timid Ozark girl from the farm in Missouri. I was accepted and loved. Encouragement to know God and spend time in prayer and the Word made these a vital part of my life. My view of missions expanded as I met and heard God's servants from different parts of the world. I made friends that continue still my friends, prayer partners and encouragers.

I thank God for FWBBC. As we come to its 50th year, I feel like celebrating. God has blessed us through FWBBC. I rejoice that it has remained true to Him and His Word. I celebrate the women and men who have taught and worked, counseled and prayed, wept and encouraged. I rejoice in the women and men trained there and now serving Him. I joy in what God has done in the past. Together let's celebrate FWBBC and give it a new thrust toward the next century and the next 50 years.

WNAC Emphasis Month

August is Emphasis Month for WNAC. Most Auxiliaries present the work of the women to the whole church and give everyone a chance to support WNAC with an offering.

Emphasis packets are available from the WNAC office. You may order as many quar-

ter folders as you can use for the offering.

Last year WNAC received \$16,589.53 from the Emphasis Offering. The 1991 goal is \$20,000.

The emphasis offering helps WNAC meet regular monthly expenses.

Eunice Edwards Fund

April 30, 1991 — \$33,597.32

The Gift Goes On

Would you like to give a gift to benefit the women of tomorrow? Have you considered WNAC in your will? If you remember WNAC in your will, you can keep giving to the women in the future. Check with the Free Will Baptist Foundation about wills and trusts.

Today you can help WNAC by contributing to an endowment fund held by the Free Will Baptist Foundation. WNAC has only a tiny beginning endowment fund. Free Will Baptist women can help make it bigger. The endowment funds will be held by the Foundation and WNAC will receive the interest from the fund for operation expenses.

Send your endowment gift through the usual channels marked "WNAC Endowment." Even small gifts can add up quickly when we all contribute to the endowment fund.

Your gift will keep on giving and giving. ■



BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Settlement Options at Retirement

The Free Will Baptist Retirement Plan Trust Agreement is being amended to allow settlement at age 62 or anytime thereafter at the member's request or at actual retirement. The change will be effective January 1, 1992. Below is a summary of the options.

1. A Cash Lump Sum

- The member receives the full account balance in one cash lump sum.
- Income taxes are due the year of withdrawal.
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS) allows no lump sum payment as housing allowance.

2. Sixty Equal Monthly Payments

- The member receives the full account balance in 60 equal monthly payments.
- Payments cease after 60 months.
- IRS allows designation of payments as housing allowance. (IRS qualifies only retirement payments from church plans as housing allowance and tax free for ordained members. Their regulations determine the amount that qualifies.)
- Rate of earnings during the withdrawal period equal 75% of the rate active plan accounts earn. At the end of the 60-month period, the member receives the accumulated earnings.
- In the event of the member's early death the payments continue to the spouse (beneficiary) or estate for the remainder of the 60 months.

3. One of Three Annuities

(All annuities assume 5% earnings and any earnings above 5% increase the monthly annuity. IRS qualifies annuity payments only from church retirement plans as housing allowance.)

(1) Joint Life Annuity

- The member and spouse receive a guaranteed set monthly payment for their lifetime.
- The payment remains the same after the first death.
- Payment ceases only after the death of both member and spouse.

(2) Single Life Annuity

- The member receives a guaranteed set monthly payment for his or her lifetime only.
- Payment ceases at member's death.

(3) Single Life Annuity with a 10-Year Guaranty

- The member receives a guaranteed set monthly payment for his or her lifetime only.
- In the event of the member's death before the end of 10 years, payments continue to the spouse or estate for the remainder of the 10 years.

4. Combination Cash Lump Sum and Monthly Annuity

- The member chooses a partial cash lump sum and the remaining balance in either 60 equal monthly payments or a monthly annuity under any one of the three listed above.
- All regulations apply as stated under each option.

At the time a member chooses an annuity option his or her funds are pooled with other annuitants' funds to be used exclusively for the benefit of all annuitants. All funds placed in the pool remain there permanently or irrevocably.

That makes it possible to guarantee lifetime payments for all annuitants and their beneficiaries. Some will die early; others will live far beyond their life expectancy. Some will not use up all the funds they placed in the pool. Others will receive more funds than they placed in the pool. In other words, a pooled annuity fund works similarly to social security funds.

All retirement account funds are held exclusively for the individual member. Annuity pool funds are held exclusively for the benefit of all annuitants and their beneficiaries.

Under no circumstances do any member's funds ever go to the Board of Retirement. The Board pays operating expenses from gifts and from service fees received from earnings of the retirement fund. ■

Memorial Gifts

In memory of ...
By...

Seldon Bullard
First Church Auxiliary
Darlington, SC

Bessie Melette
Horse Branch Auxiliary
Turbeville, SC

W. J. Lee
Sand Hill Auxiliary
Coward, SC

Rev. H. L. "Roy" Player
Temple Auxiliary
Darlington, SC

Mr. Charles E. Mullaney
Mrs. Charles E. Mullaney

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

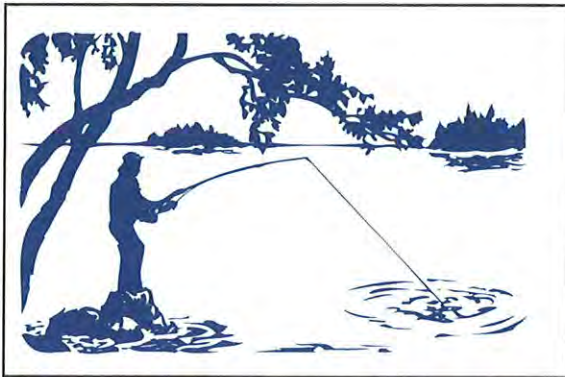
No Time to Fish!

By Bert Tippet, Publications Director

Summer Vacation. After nine months of school, that conjures up visions of kicking off your shoes and relaxing under a magnolia tree with a glass of lemonade.

Or snoozing away the afternoon on a riverbank with a cane pole across your leg and a cork bobbing unnoticed in the water.

Slowing down. Easing off. Laying back. Whew, now we can enjoy a little peace and quiet at FWBBC.



Think again! As seniors hugged, flipped their tassels and took off for home, the Bible College staff caught a quick breath, then hit the ground running. No time for thoughts of cane poles and lemonade. We had a full summer of activities stretching before us.

First there was summer school. It started right after graduation and stretched for five weeks into late June. The pace was a little slower. Not as many students (about 50). But classes still met, we held daily chapel, and those involved, students and teachers, knew vacation had not started yet.

Later in May, the Graduate School held its summer session. A number of pastors met and spent a week studying how to preach on prophecy. They said Dr. Stanley Outlaw and Dr. Garnett Reid did a tremendous job helping them to organize prophetic passages from the Old and New Testaments into homiletical form.

Then there were summer tours to plan, for three groups this year: the Rejoice! ensemble, the Evangelists drama team and a men's quartet. That involved lots of phone calls from Neil Gilliland, Recruitment Director. And there were programs to print and transportation to arrange.

Both of our Free Will Baptist missions departments have included FWBBC in their summer plans.

We began, in May, with 54 home missionaries who met on campus for four days to hold their annual retreat with the Home Missions

Department. It was great to have them here!

Later, in August, we will have our foreign missionaries here in a similar meeting.

We are reminded, again, of what an outstanding group of people these are, many of them our own alumni.

FWBBC seems to appeal to people of all ages. We enjoyed visits from a group of senior saints from Oklahoma for three days in June. We also hosted several events for young folks.

The Tennessee State CTS youth competitions were held at the college for two days in late May. Scores of our finest young "Volunteers" scurried from building to building to compete and to check up on how their friends were doing.

The national YET team, sponsored by Randall House, visited us in mid-June. "Outstanding" is the only word for these young people, who are among Free Will Baptists' finest.

Truth and Peace, Randall House's leadership training program, brought 56 boys and girls and six staff workers to the campus for two weeks. Not only has FWBBC been honored to have Truth and Peace on campus for several years, the group has been fertile recruiting ground for new students. It was certainly a privilege to have them back.

The college's *Summer Camp '91* was exciting, as young Free Will Baptists improved their talents in music, drama, basketball and Christian witness.

Is that all? Not quite. About 50 people from Child Evangelism Fellowship of middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky held a nine-day conference at the college in June. Our hearts beat in unison with theirs in a concern for the souls of children. CEF is a regular, welcomed visitor at FWBBC.

As August nears, we wonder, "What happened to summer vacation?" Actually, we are tired, but happy. What a privilege, to be able to minister to all of these people during the summer!

The new school year will begin in a few weeks. Maybe there will be time for fishing then.

But not likely. ■

FOREIGN MISSIONS

She's Made the Grade

By Judy Smith

My English-teaching ministry in Japan has provided many opportunities to share the gospel.

The simple message inside a birthday card was neatly written. It contained a few common grammatical errors, but the letter, written in English and printed in labored handwriting, held a special meaning for me. It was from Miki Deguchi.

I was introduced to Miki through a Filipino friend whom I met in the Kita Hiroshima post office a couple of years ago. Miki was definitely nothing special to look at. In fact, the first time I talked to her I had trouble easing the squeamish feeling that welled up inside me.

The girl wore a white patch over one eye, constantly cupped a gnarled hand over her mouth and blackened teeth, and spoke with a squeaky voice not much above a whisper. But I felt drawn by compassion toward Miki and sensed God had directed our paths to cross.

In the weeks after our first meeting Miki often came to my home to visit. I began picking her up each Sunday morning for church after she had attended early morning mass at the Catholic church.

Miki appeared much younger than her 28 years despite all her pain and suffering. During those 28 years she had undergone 27 major surgeries to correct serious physical problems. When I met her, she still needed an artificial eye, extensive dental work, a hearing aid, and much more to give her at least a semblance of normality.

Abandoned

She was born at the Catholic hospital at Sapporo, Japan, where she spent most of her childhood. Her parents had abandoned her when they saw her deformities. At the age of nine, Miki was transferred to the orphanage in Kita Hiroshima.

Miki had no family and no friends. Even her last name, given to her by some hospital official, seemed a burden to her. It meant "exit" or "way out." Miki must have felt trapped in her world of misery.

In the two years I have known her, I've discovered a beautiful, bright, and talented young lady behind this self-conscious, lonely, misshaped being.

Miki had never been loved or given a chance to learn. She was mostly ignored by the nuns. The other children were told not to ask her any questions because she was too dumb to answer them. She was never allowed to attend school.

Miki had been kept busy at the orphanage washing dishes, cleaning, and doing menial tasks to earn her board and keep. Her caretakers thought that was all she could do. Yet, my house is full of dolls and fine needlework this young lady's gnarled hands have produced with fingers which were surgically separated after her birth.

One of Miki's greatest strides occurred at Kita Hiroshima Chapel where I have taught English classes for the past 12 years. Her limited ability to read and write in Japanese was gained entirely by her own effort. I was taken by surprise one day when Miki asked if she could join one of my conversational English classes.

Accepted

Although the Christians at our church had always accepted Miki with loving, open arms, I had reservations about her joining any of the classes I taught there. However, the special group of young people who invited her into their class on Sunday afternoons soon dispelled my fears. They patiently waited, encouraged, smiled, and applauded the courage and determination they saw in Miki.

My English-teaching ministry in Japan has provided many opportunities to share the gospel. It is not just a job. It is a door which God has swung wide open for missionaries to reach the lost. Coupled with love, it can reach even the unloveable.

Miki Deguchi will probably never give a magnificent speech in English for anyone. She'll never be an interpreter and probably will never be able to read a book from cover to cover. But as far as I'm concerned, she's made the grade and writes a great letter: "Dear Miss Judy Smith. I am pleased to say have Happy Birthday. May God protect you. Sincerely, your friend, Miki Deguchi." ■



Judy Smith is serving in her third term as missionary to northern Japan.



RANDALL HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

Positive Reasons for the Competitive Program

By Jim Lauthern

There will be more than 600 entries in the competitive program at the National Youth Conference. Some 1,500 youth will participate in either Bible Competition or the Music and Arts Festival on the national level. Prior to this conference thousands of our young people will be involved in local, district and state competition.

Is competing at the national level, especially winning, the ultimate goal? No! Then why encourage youth to be involved in competitive programs?

There are three primary goals for the competition. First, to give glory to the Lord. Whether it is a first grader quoting memory verses or a high school senior singing a vocal solo, praising the Lord has top priority. The Lord gives the ability. Using that talent pleases Him.

The second goal is ministry. This was the primary goal in formatting the youth evangelistic team ministry across our denomination. Youth have a great potential for ministry. We often make them wait until they are adults to serve and minister. This is why we lose many of our youth.

When they can and want to be used by the Lord and we don't allow it in our local churches, we either discourage them or force them to go where they can be effective in serving and ministering to others. The youth evangelistic team ministry combines music, drama, testimonies and preaching into an effective program. Youth are reaching out to others youth in this type of ministry.

If you don't have enough youth to form a team, you could join with other area churches and form a district team. A handbook is available from the Youth Ministries Division of Randall House Publications to assist in starting a youth evangelistic team ministry.

The third goal of competition is personal growth and development. Through competition many talents have been discovered, developed and used for the Lord. It gives a sense of accomplishment, a sense of personal worth.

I remember one first-grade girl who entered competition in the Bible Memorization program. When she stood before the small assembly at district competition she froze. She stood there and cried. Her father came to her and encouraged her. She started again and completed the memorization program. This was a first for her.

Eleven years later I watched this same young lady, a senior in high school, stand before thousands at the National Association. She was poised and confident as she shared in ministry through drama. Today she has graduated from college and is a kindergarten teacher.

I've seen this repeated many times. Young lives are transformed as they discover they have the potential to be used of the Lord.

Attitudes about the competitive activities are largely determined by adult coaches who work with young people. Devotional times with prayer and explaining reasons for competition should be included in practice time.

New programs of individual Bible competition will be introduced at the National Youth Conference this year. There will also be a presentation of the revised guidelines for competitive activities. The new guidelines will govern the 1992 competitive program. Both sessions will be conducted Wednesday afternoon in the Charleston Civic Center.

Let's take a new approach to competition. It can and should be a positive influence in the lives of our young people. ■

Correction

We printed the wrong "800" number for ordering Randall House Publications VBS curriculum. We apologize to Randall House and to the churches who were unable to get their VBS materials on time because of our error.

The correct toll free number to order VBS curriculum is **1-800-877-7030**.



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Wills: just plain vanilla

By William Evans

With 31 flavors at the local ice cream store, some quite exotic and a new one every month, why do they continue to offer plain vanilla? Even more surprising, why does it continue to be one of the top choices among ice cream aficionados?

Sure, there are many answers to these questions depending on who is asked. But without doubt one reason is simply that people have tried vanilla and like it.

Looking at the options and recommendations for estate planning sometimes seems like a visit to the ice cream parlor. But regardless of the fancy opinions, the most frequently used method is the plain old fashioned will. Why?

Wills are familiar. Every attorney and most citizens are familiar with the will concept. It has been the instrument of choice for estate planning for most of our country's history. We read about wills in the paper, we have personal experience in our families. Being familiar with the concept helps calm our fears of the unknown in dealing with legal matters.

Wills are simple. Most wills are written simply. The average reader understands the directions contained in them. The attorney who draws them can easily explain any questions we have.

Wills are inclusive. The will can control all personal assets not otherwise titled. No additional steps are necessary to assure proper control. Other estate planning tools often require special steps to change the title, and any change must be carefully supervised. No special steps are required for the will to control the various assets. However, it is important to remember that a will does not direct distribution of assets held in joint tenancy or insurance proceeds when the policy names a living beneficiary.

Wills are effective. The "probate process" is often given a bad image, but it really serves an important function. It is the

state's way of protecting the beneficiaries and creditors of the estate. Yes, it does cost, but generally not as much as incompetent management that may occur with other plans. No transfer process is free, but the will process works as evidenced by thousands of settled estates across the nation every week.

Wills are economical to draft. The cost for an attorney drawn will varies with each lawyer. But a simple will can generally be obtained for \$50 to \$100. It is proper to ask your attorney what he charges for drafting a will. Generally an attorney will give an initial interview of about 30 minutes without charge or obligation. There are additional costs associated with the probating process, such as bond fees that may be avoided by directions in the will itself.

Wills are flexible. A will can be changed, by a simple codicil, or a total rewrite as your needs and wishes change. As a rule, an estate plan should be carefully reviewed every two or three years. In the event of a major change in beneficiaries or assets, don't wait for a regular review. Make the change immediately. ■

Items for consideration in your will:

1. Give a brief statement of faith.
2. Name guardians and alternatives for minor children.
3. Waive bond requirement.
4. Name personal representative (Executor/Executrix) and alternate.
5. Include a gift to the Lord's work either as an outright gift or an endowment.



Thomas Marberry

The Puzzle of the Soviet Church

Kent R. Hill

Portland, Oregon: Multnomah Press, 1989, 417 pp., hardback, \$15.95)

This is the most comprehensive treatment of Christianity in the Soviet Union published in several years. Author Kent R. Hill is executive director of The Institute on Religion and Democracy and a leading expert on church-state relations in the Soviet Union. He is an able defender of Christians in the Communist world.

The first section of the book includes a history of Christianity in Russia since 1917. He examines the status of Orthodoxy and Protestantism at the time of the Communist Revolution. He analyzes relationships between the church and a Marxist state as they developed under Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev and Gorbachev.

The author devotes considerable attention to the policies of Glasnost and how they have affected the church in the Soviet Union. He notes that there have been definite improvements in recent years.

Fewer prisoners are in Soviet jails because of their faith. Bibles and other Christian literature are more readily available (especially in larger cities). There is somewhat more freedom to worship and evangelize.

While these improvements are significant, we must not think that Soviet believers enjoy real religious freedom. They do not. Thousands of churches were closed after the Communist Revolution. Some have been permitted to reopen, but most have not.

Building new churches is only rarely possible. Congregations are required to register with the government, and heavy fines are often levied against those who participate in unregistered churches.

The most valuable part of the book is the author's discussion of how Christians in the West can and should relate to believers in Russia. Many Western Christians fall into one of two camps.

On one hand, there are those who say that there are no true Christians in the registered churches of the Soviet Union. Hill presents convincing evidence that many true believers worship in both registered and unregistered churches in the Soviet Union.

On the other hand, some Western Christians accept at face value the propaganda claims made by the Soviets. Leaders of Soviet churches are often forced to parrot the Soviet line and tell Western Christians that Soviet believers enjoy complete religious freedom.

Christian leaders from the West who visit the Soviet Union are often presented with similar statements. Such information cannot be taken at face value; it is heavily influenced by Soviet propaganda.

Hill argues that Western churches and Western governments have often failed Soviet believers. The National Council of Churches and many protestant denominations in this country have (with few exceptions) failed to speak out in defense of Christians in Russia. The U.S. government has often failed to take seriously its commitment to human rights regarding Christians in Communist countries.

This book explains how individual Christians in the West can assist Soviet Christians by participating in organizations which aid and defend Christians who are persecuted. It is a balanced and well-researched treatment of a difficult area. I recommend it. ■

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.

OUR READERS COMMENT

Pistol Packin' Preacher Writes

I enjoyed the January article, "Pistol Packin' Preachers." In 1983 I began employment with the Van Buren Police Department. In 1989 I answered the call to preach. Since 1989 I have been one of those pistol packin' preachers.

To me, it's like American Express, "Don't leave home without it." I have, on several occasions, carried my pistol with me to the pulpit, on visitation and to other church functions. The town in which I live has only 15,000 population, so I can imagine what other preachers go through in larger towns when they are in high crime districts.

I hope that the Lord will lead me out of law enforcement and into the ministry full time. I'm sure that it will be hard to put my pistol up, especially if He leads me to a large metropolitan area. My prayers are with you and all of those other men who might be pistol packers.

Officer Kevin Ray Johnson
Police Department
Van Buren, Arkansas

Mother of Two Commends Editorial

I just received the March *Contact* today. I like the new format.

I re-read the first six paragraphs of "None Dare Call it Murder" three or four times before it dawned on me what the writer was doing and where he was going. Although a somber thought, it was still fantastic.

Having had six pregnancies and only two babies, I know the pain of losing a "future person." Both my children are miracle babies and I thank God for them daily. I wonder what I would do and who I would be without them.

Thanks so much for a timely article.

Mrs. Sandi Cosentino
Sanger, California

Magazine Keeps Military Family in Touch with Roots

I want to thank all of you who have a hand in printing *Contact*. I have been a Free Will Baptist all of my life. My Dad is a deacon, music minister, Sunday School teacher, etc. My mom has been or is Auxiliary president, C.T.S. teacher, Sunday School teacher, choir member and more. As you can see, my family is active in our local FWB Church in Dothan, Alabama.

I love my denomination so very much. One of the hardest aspects of military life is not always finding a FWB church to attend. In Virginia the Lord blessed us with a loving church family (FWB of course). But now in New York City finding a good church seems virtually impossible sometimes. We continue to support the FWB denomination with our tithes. We know how the money is spent and don't have to worry about our denomination contributing to ungodly causes.

Your magazine keeps us in touch with what's going on in our denomination. Familiar names and faces pop up with every issue we receive. The articles challenge and inform us.

I found the March article, "None Dare Call it Murder," very thought-provoking. I cried after reading it. I have been against abortion and will continue to be. But it didn't really mean anything to me until I became pregnant and found out that the child I'm carrying is indeed a living being from the moment of conception.

Contact keeps me in touch with my roots. Being a FWB is my very life. I may have to attend and be an active part of the base chapel while we are stationed in New York, but one day we will leave this area and I can be an active part of the FWB denomination again.

I can't wait for our children to learn about Christ in Sunday School and C.T.S. and all the activities offered to them. Hopefully, they will have memories of visiting missionaries and Bible College students and youth camps and youth pastors that I have now as an adult.

Mrs. Starla Franklin
Governor's Island
New York, New York

Reader Praises New Format, Articles

I love the new *Contact* format. It reaches out and grabs you. I for one can't understand why every Free Will Baptist doesn't subscribe.

I especially like the March article by Daryl Ellis, "Give Young Leaders a Chance." I'm glad he presented both sides of the issue. He gave hope and sound advice to the young, and admonition and encouragement to the seasoned leaders.

Because of my contact with prospective leaders at FWBNC and due to the fact that I am approaching the "seasoned leader" stage in my own life, I am thrilled to see a proper perspective presented.

As for "Briefcase," I like the fresh approach. "None Dare Call it Murder" was a

reminder of your belief in God's plan for every human, as well as an indication of your writing skills. Your untiring commitment to excellence in the job God has called you to inspires me.

Mrs. Yvonne Wolfenbarger
Executive Assistant
Woman's National Auxiliary Convention

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TEEN SCENE

The eighth annual Truth and Peace Youth Leadership Conference will meet July 8-24 on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Fifty-six high school youth from 16 states have been selected to participate in this conference.

"Celebrate the Life" is the conference theme. The teens will be involved in seminars, special services, video training programs,

small group projects and other types of training sessions. Denominational input and local church involvement will also be featured.

Special events and fellowship activities will allow participants to develop life-long friendships.

The first two weeks of the program will be on the college campus. The teens will plan and direct a weekend retreat at a camp facility.

For the final week of the conference the teens will be transported to Charleston, W. Va. The youth will assume leadership roles in the 1991 National Youth Conference.

This conference is sponsored by the Youth Ministries Division of Randall House Publications. Now meet the youth participants and the staff of the 1991 conference.

Truth 1991

Mike Baccus
Bixby, OK
Aaron Bagwell
Springdale, AR
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Robert E. Picirilli

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

(Luke 18:9-14)

Among the parables unique to Luke's gospel, this is one of the most well-known. Brother Henry ("Pop") Melvin used to preach this as "A Good Man Lost and a Bad Man Saved." I can't think of anything any more appropriate.

The passage is neatly arranged in three parts: Jesus' audience (v. 9), the parable itself (vv. 10-13) and Jesus' application (v. 14).

We can summarize His audience in three ways. First, they "trusted in themselves." "Trusted" isn't the typical word for faith, but one that indicates a settled confidence (Greek perfect tense of *peitho*). That confidence rested upon (Greek *epi*) themselves rather than upon God.

Second, and following from this, they were self-righteous, and this was the source of their confidence. We know, of course, that their confidence was misplaced.

Third, they scorned others. "Others" is, literally, "the rest"—everyone but them and their crowd. "Despised" (Greek *exoutheneo*) means to consider as nothing and thus to look down on with contempt.

To such a proud, self-righteous group Jesus gave this parable of two men who ascended the temple hill to pray. One, He said, was a Pharisee; and the chests of his hearers swelled with pride. The Pharisees were their kind: strict scrutinizers of the Mosaic code and preservers of the traditions developed by the rabbis.

The other He introduced as a tax collector; and their lips curled. The tax collectors were especially held in contempt, regarded as traitors

who served the hated Roman overlords and cheated everyone else in doing so.

In the parable, the Pharisee prayed first—if expression of self-righteous pride is prayer. Holding his head up confidently, he recited what he did and didn't do, all of which set him apart from "the rest" he looked down on (the same "the rest" mentioned in v. 9)—and especially from the tax collector slipping in the back.

He was not guilty of extortion, injustice or adultery: He faithfully kept the twice-weekly fast and paid tithes on everything that came into his possession.

The tax collector also prayed—lingering hesitantly at a distance, his head bowed with a sense of shame, beating his chest like the mourner he really was. "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

He had no righteousness to offer God. He could plead no deeds as basis for forgiveness. He could only cast himself on the mercy of God.

"Be merciful" isn't the word most often rendered that way; it (Greek *hilaskomai*) has the same root as "propitiation." "Be propitious to me," he was saying; "be appeased regarding my sin." And of that sinfulness he was especially conscious: the Greek literally reads "the sinner." He knew not what others were, but understood all too well what he was.

And then Jesus gives the application, stunning those who listened: The tax collector, not the Pharisee, went home justified, righteous before God!

The lesson is clear: one does not plead his own righteousness in order to stand justified before God.

Instead, he must confess his sins and plead the propitiation God Himself makes.

Which isn't very different from the second half of v. 14, both a specific declaration about justification and a general principle. The one who lifts himself up will be brought low. The one who lowers himself will be lifted up.

It was exactly the opposite of their thinking. Ours too, if we don't watch it. ■

Q: What should you do if a prospect says, "I've never heard of Free Will Baptists"?

A: Give him a copy of "The Free Will Baptist Church in Your Community."

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Most Americans Disapprove of Most Abortions

CHICAGO, IL (EP)—A nationwide survey on abortion and moral beliefs released by Americans United for Life shows that most Americans do not know the extent to which abortion is legal in the U.S. The survey also found that a majority of Americans disapprove of abortion in most circumstances.

The Gallup Organization conducted what is believed to be the most comprehensive study ever undertaken on public attitudes toward abortion and related issues. More than 2,100 adults were asked some 200 questions in face-to-face surveys.

The study found that nine out of 10 Americans could not accurately describe the circumstances under which abortions are permitted under *Roe v. Wade*. That 1973 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion for any reason throughout pregnancy.

The survey found that 26 percent of Americans identify themselves as "strongly pro-life," while only 17 percent called themselves "strongly pro-choice." The labels "moderately pro-choice" drew 16 percent each with "neutral" and "don't know" making up the balance.

When individuals were questioned about specific scenarios in which abortions might occur, an even clearer picture emerged, with Americans lining up in one of three camps: consistently opposed to abortion (25 percent), often disapproving of abortion (49 percent) and seldom disapproving of abortion (26 percent).

Schwarzkopf Thanks Bible Society for Bibles

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—U.S. Army General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, head of the U.S. Central Command, wrote a letter of appreciation to the American Bible Society (ABS), expressing his thanks for Bibles that ABS provided for U.S. military personnel in Operation Desert Storm.

"In times of greatest stress, soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coastguardsmen have always looked to their God for strength, help and deliverance," the general wrote.

Schwarzkopf said enthusiasm generated by the camouflage-covered Desert Storm edition of the Good News Bible "is proof that today's young men and women are as hungry for spiritual nourishment as were those of any previous generation."

The ABS, at the request of the U.S. Armed Forces Chaplains Board in Washington, D.C., provided the military with 300,000 of the compact Bibles. The Bibles were distributed to troops via military channels. A feature article in the March 11 issue of *People* magazine noted that General Schwarzkopf "kept in his spartan bedroom...[a] camouflage-covered Bible" among other personal items in Saudi Arabia.

"I am gratefully aware of the special attention, labor and resources which went into the production of these Bibles," General Schwarzkopf wrote. "Please accept my sincere thanks on behalf of all those who have been beneficiaries of your generosity and good work."

Churches Resolve Conflict By Ousting Pastors

NASHVILLE, TN (EP)—When Southern Baptists come to blows, it's the pastor who usually goes, according to a study released by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

According to Baptist Press, the survey of 1,000 directors of missions found that nine out of 10 pastors in churches which experience serious conflict are forced to leave.

Norris Smith, forced termination consultant in the board's church administration department, said pastors could avoid that fate by establishing better relationships with people in the church.

"One difficulty comes with the perception of being pastor of the church instead of pastor of the people," Smith explained. "For the first few months a pastor should spend time finding out who it is he has been called to lead, especially in the areas of economics, culture and emotions. When church members get the idea the pastor accepts them as they are and is not trying to reshape them into some image he got in a classroom, they start to trust him."

When asked about factors that led to a serious conflict in a church, survey participants mentioned personality conflicts 58 percent of the time, followed by failure of a pastor to measure up to congregational expectations (46 percent), battles over who's going to run the church (42 percent), leadership styles that are too authoritarian (41 percent) and leadership that is too weak (34 percent).

Conflicts were resolved by forcing a pastor out in 90 percent of the cases. Church members left in 84 percent of the cases, and church members withheld tithes and offerings in 54 percent of the cases.

CLear-TV to Boycott S.C. Johnson/Pfizer

TUPELO, MS (EP)—Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLear-TV) called for a one-year boycott of S.C. Johnson & Sons, Inc. (Johnson Wax) and Pfizer, Inc., two leading sponsors of prime-time network TV sex, violence and profanity during the fall 1990 sweeps monitoring period. Both companies refused invitations to meet with CLear-TV in an effort to resolve the matter without a boycott.

Both companies were alerted twice prior to the monitoring period about the concerns of CLear-TV and the possibility of a boycott. Each was asked that, if they shared the concerns of CLear-TV, they not sponsor programs with excessive or gratuitous sex, violence and profanity. Both ignored that request.

S.C. Johnson had been the number two sponsor of sex, violence and profanity in the spring 1990 monitoring period, and had indicated to CLear-TV that they would adjust the placement of their advertising. Despite that indication, S.C. Johnson made no change.

CLear-TV Chairman Dr. Billy A. Melvin again wrote both S.C. Johnson and Pfizer stating that CLear-TV was considering a boycott of their products, inviting them to contact him if they wished to discuss the matter. Dr. Melvin set aside the time period of February 4-15 to meet with the two companies. Again, neither company responded.

Dr. Melvin wrote both companies again, stressing the potential boycott. In that letter he stated, "If you are interested in a meeting to discuss our concerns and why there is a possibility of a boycott, I need to hear from you by February 1." Again, neither company responded.

Since they were left with no alternative to address the sponsorship of sex, violence and profanity by S.C. Johnson and Pfizer, the Executive Committee of CLear-TV voted to call for a one-year boycott of the two companies beginning March 15. CLear-TV is a coalition of approximately 1,600 Christian leaders including the heads of more than 70 denominations.

Products of Pfizer include Airspun Pow-

der Essence mousse, Barbasol shaving cream, Chateau fragrance, Coty perfumes, Emerald perfume, Exclamation perfume, Hai Karate cologne, Iron cologne, Lady Stetson Cologne, Nuance perfume, Preferred Stock cologne, Shape 'n Shadow eye kit, Sophia perfume, Stetson cologne, Ben-Gay rub, Desitin skin products, Plax mouthwash, TZ-3 athlete's foot ointment, Unisom, Visene eye drops.

Products of S.C. Johnson include Agree shampoo, Aveeno bath products, Curel skin lotion, Edge shaving cream, Enhance perfume, Halsa shampoo, L'envie perfume, Skintastic body gel, Soft Sense lotion, Bravo wax, Brite floor wax, Carnu polish, Clean & Clear wax, Duster Plus cleaner, Favor polish, Fumigator, Future floor coating, Glade room deodorizer, Glo Coat floor coating, Glory rug cleaner, J-Wax, Johnson Wax, Klear floor coating, Off insect repellent, Pledge wax, Pride wax, Raid insecticide, Rain Barrel fabric softener, Shout stain remover, Step Saver cleaner. ■

The Family Place



Jack Williams

Every member of my family earned a diploma from Free Will Baptist Bible College. The last one picked up his degree 30 days ago. It started in 1962 when my wife got one. Four years later I got mine. Twenty years later my daughter walked out with hers.

The college has made history for 50 years. For 32 of those years my family has helped write the history, sing the songs, teach the classes and pay the bills. For better or worse, that school is stuck with us.

What a great place to find a wife or husband. I did. So did my daughter. And my son has his eye on a dark-haired girl from Kentucky. If you want to start a Free Will Baptist family, shop here first.

FWBBC is a learning place. They taught my wife how to sing, me how to read Greek, my daughter how to turn on a computer and my son the virtue of changing oil regularly in his 1978 Pinto. They also taught us philosophy, new math, modern business principles, several kinds of history, Bible doctrine and the doxology.

Friends. Where did you get your friends? I found a memory-full at FWBBC in 1961, most of whom still speak to me. Dorms and classrooms teem with friends waiting to be discovered. FWBBC students get a crash course on why it's important to practice the biblical mandate, "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly."

My FWBBC friends now live in Japan and Africa, in Brazil and Uruguay, in Odessa and Columbia, in Baton Rouge and Goldsboro. Who are they?

Pastors. Missionaries. Executives.

Journalists. Teachers and farmers. They feed the hungry and win the lost. They care about their neighbors and let God use them to warm a cold world.

What was the most important thing I learned at FWBBC? That I didn't know everything. Mind you, I was smarter than my professors when I arrived on campus at age 19. I expected to round out my knowledge in a few months. That delusion lasted about three weeks.

FWBBC introduced me to the world of good books. The kind you use to build a church, establish a home and give direction to life. That fact alone made my time at FWBBC the most valuable five years of my life.

Now, 30 years later, the walls of my office and home bristle with books that matter. FWBBC taught me to discern between books that take up shelf space and books that chart a course.

FWBBC taught me how to study the Bible. The teachers led me through the Bible's rich valleys and across its peaks. They pointed out where to stand so I could hear the cries of Israel in Egypt and see Moses on Sinai. They introduced me to the prophets, the law, the epistles. They put the sword of truth in my hands.

The college gave me a bigger world. They taught me to take pride in a denominational heritage that reaches back to 1727 and pre-dates the United States of America. I learned why we are different from other Baptists, and why we practice feet washing as a gospel ordinance.

The college taught me that the Free Will Baptist denomination is one big family. They told us to

depend on one another because we'd need each other some day. They were right.

My first roommate went to Africa as a missionary. The slow-talking guy who sat next to me in Ancient History earned a Ph.D. and now teaches there. The funny kid who lived on the floor above me now heads up the school's education program. And the tall fellow who threw me across the basketball court was just inaugurated as the college's fourth president.

The Bible College caught me as the tide was turning in my life. They were there for me when it counted. I'm one of thousands who trace the spiritual mother lode in their lives back to FWBBC.

I have no more children to give FWBBC. I made my final tuition payment in April. But if I had 10 more sons and daughters . . . Well, if I had 10 more children, I'd probably need my head examined.

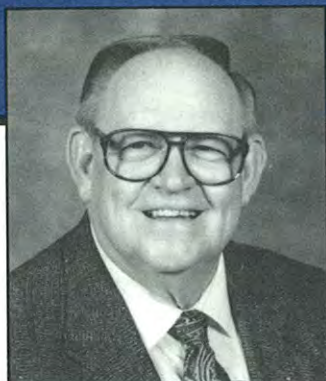
But then, I'd want them all to earn degrees from Free Will Baptist Bible College. ■

CONTACT

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The Radio/Television Commission

In 1983 the Free Will Baptist National Convention established the Radio and Television Commission. Our main goal is to broadcast plainly and powerfully the Word of God with a view to winning the lost, strengthening believers and encouraging active involvement in our Free Will Baptist churches.

The first fulfillment of this responsibility has been to produce a 15 minute broadcast where Jim Vallance opens the 15 minute broadcast with a musical selection from one of our Free Will Baptist musicians. He then turns the microphone over to the Rev. Bob Shockey, speaker for *Victorious Faith*. The program moves briskly with compassionate preaching and an urgent invitation to respond to the call of Christ.

The radio/TV ministry is funded by one-half percent of undesignated gifts sent through the National Cooperative Program. We receive a very small amount of support from churches and individuals. The Commission pays all costs for the production of the *Victorious Faith* broadcast and local churches and sponsors only have to pay for the air time.

I would like to make some suggestions to our pastors and churches that would help us in our responsibility to our Lord and Free Will Baptists.

1. I would like to encourage our churches to buy radio time in their areas of service.
2. Perhaps churches that are on the radio daily could give us one day a week.
3. If a church has a 30 minute program they could share 15 minutes with us once a week.
4. Churches could use our tapes before and during revival time.
5. Pastors could substitute their radio time with our tapes during vacation time.
6. Churches who want special tapes made could call and we will produce special services or advertisement tapes.
7. We would be glad to send tapes that help explain Free Will Baptist doctrine and our belief.

We would like to challenge every FWB pastor and leader within our fellowship to please make room for us in your system of giving. Please put us in your church and state budgets. Give a gift at the convention and let God use you to spread the gospel—until He comes!

Bob Shockey, Chairman