

SEPTEMBER 1991

# CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



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**Spirit of West  
Virginia**  
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**The Key to 101**  
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**WNAC Review**  
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**NYC '91**



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SEPTEMBER 1991

VOLUME 38, NO. 9

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Melvin Worthington

## Victory In West Virginia

**G**od filled our cups to overflowing. "Glory to God! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!" Those expressions tell the story of the 55th annual national convention in Charleston. How we longed for His presence, and from the first service we sensed it.

Perhaps the revival we have prayed for has been ignited. This will be the standard by which we measure future conventions. I believe it was the best convention ever.

### The Media

The convention was covered by newspaper, television and radio during the entire meeting. In general the media coverage was positive.

In fact, I believe the position of Free Will Baptists on the inspiration of the scriptures made a distinct impression. As one reporter said, "How can you minister in a changing world without changing your doctrinal position?" My reply, "For us the Bible remains the final authority for what we believe and the way we behave."

The changing world does not alter our view of biblical truth. Rather, the changing trends of this world must be measured by the scriptures. Never have I been prouder to be a Free Will Baptist. Such a testimony makes this our finest hour.

### The Music

The diversity which characterizes us was evident in the music. The variety of musical tastes was satisfied through the balanced

music program. The spontaneous standing ovation for the Mass Choir was a unique experience. God's presence was evident in the music.

### The Messages

Every message spoke to my heart. How I was moved by the strong, scriptural and sound doctrinal emphasis of the messages. We rejoiced in the ministry of the Word. The preaching at this convention sets a high standard.

### The Meetings

The business meetings went well. Difficult issues were addressed, and yet a spirit of unity, harmony and understanding existed. Perhaps we have learned that business need not be mundane or meaningless. This is a responsibility our delegates did not take lightly. The business sessions were not dull. A sense of God's presence was evident as business was transacted.

### The Maturity

Free Will Baptists have matured. Difficult, diverse issues were han-

dled calmly, compassionately and correctly. Such maturity gives hope for the future. We can deal with the issues and still remain united in purpose and perspectives.

### The Manifestation

God's Spirit was evident throughout the meeting. How refreshing to see and sense God's movement in our midst. Never in all my years of attending national conventions have I experienced such a service as Wednesday night in Charleston. Heaven came down. We praise God for those who answered the call to Christian service, those converted and those who surrendered to God's will.

### The Money

God moved on the hearts of our people. Offerings for the convention, WNAC, NYC and missions exceeded \$45,000. Free Will Baptists abounded in the grace of giving during the convention.

### The Memories

This convention will go down in history as one of the best. Future conventions will be measured by it. God-anointed preaching, praying and praising met needs of Free Will Baptists attending the convention.

I believe history will reveal this convention to be a pivotal point. This gets Free Will Baptists out of the maintenance-mode mentality restoring that aggressive, pioneering spirit which dreams dreams and with vision and vitality goes forward seeing Him who is invisible. To God be the glory; great things He has done. ■

### Secretary's Schedule

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| September 8-13  | White Oaks FWB Church<br>Macon, Ga.                              |
| September 17-20 | Convention Planning Trip<br>Indianapolis, Ind.                   |
| September 22-25 | Christian Stewardship<br>Assoc. Conference<br>Minneapolis, Minn. |
| September 26-28 | Mississippi Laymen's<br>Retreat<br>Jackson, Miss.                |
| September 30    | Hendersonville FWB<br>Church<br>Hendersonville, Tenn.            |



## The 1991 National Convention

# The Spirit of West Virginia

By Thomas Marberry



*Home and foreign missionaries wait for the Wednesday night service to begin.*

**C**harleston, West Virginia, is a beautiful city, and the Free Will Baptists of that state welcomed with open arms the almost 7,000 ministers, missionaries, delegates, young people and visitors who attended the 55th annual Free Will Baptist national convention. Chairman J. L. Varney and members of West Virginia's Steering Committee devoted untold hours planning as they laid groundwork for the second coming of the National Association on West Virginia soil.

The general theme for this year's convention was, "Found Faithful."

### Faithful in Worship

This convention, like those before it, began with worship and study of God's Word. Sunday morning started with classes for adults and teens and a combined class for primaries and juniors.

Pastor Milton Worthington (Mich.) taught the adults leading an extensive study of the Jewish tabernacle based on Exodus 24-26. He explained the significance of the tabernacle, "The God who was distant

from His people is now going to dwell in their midst."

The teen class was taught by Allen Pointer, youth minister in Russellville, Ark. He showed how young people can take the Bible's moral teachings and practice them in their own lives. He noted, "Each of us is required by scripture to look out for our weaker brother. When you become a Christian, you give up living for yourself and start living for God."

The primary and junior class offered an effective approach to Bible study. The children had more than one teacher. The young people in Truth and Peace served as teachers. The children were divided into groups with each group taught by two or three members of Truth and Peace.

### Sunday Morning

At 11:00 a.m. three worship services met, each designed to meet worship needs of a particular age group. Rev. James Earl Raper, pastor of Horse Branch FWB Church in Turbeville, S.C., preached to the adults. Taking his text from Exodus

14:13-18, he warned of the danger of walking by sight and not by faith.

The preacher in the teen service was Jeff Nichols, youth pastor at Calvary Fellowship FWB Church in Fenton, Mo. He called on teens to spend time alone with God in personal devotions. He also warned them not to fall into the traps which destroy the lives of young people in today's society.

The primary and junior worship service featured Zany the Clown from Greenville, N.C. This young man had the attention of every child in the room as he shared with them about Christ.

### Sunday Evening

The spirit of worship continued in the evening worship service. The service began with a large youth choir and continued with the entire congregation singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

Pastor Will Harmon of Oak Park FWB Church in Pine Bluff, Ark., preached from Hebrews 12:1-3. He said that we must run according to the rules God laid out for us in His Word.



## Monday Evening

The remaining worship services of the week reflected a determination to seek the face of God. The preacher Monday evening was Pastor Keith Woody of Capitol Hill FWB Church in Oklahoma City. He spoke from I Corinthians 4:1-5 and called attention to the faithfulness of God. He reminded us that God has always been faithful to His people though God's people have not always been faithful to Him.

## Tuesday Bible Conference

The theme of faithfulness continued in the Tuesday morning Bible Conference. Pastor David Reece of Heritage FWB Church in Fredericksburg, Va., was the first of two preachers. He reminded us that, "Preachers belong to Christ, not to the church."

The second preacher was Pastor Howard Munsey of Peace FWB Church in Morristown, Tenn. He described the relationship between the tabernacle in the Old Testament and Christ in the New Testament, pointing out that the tabernacle symbolizes aspects of the atoning work of Christ.



Monday night speaker, Keith Woody

## Tuesday Evening

The Tuesday evening service consisted of music, drama and preaching designed to honor the 50th anniversary of Free Will Baptist Bible College. The service was planned and coordinated by Dr. and Mrs. Charles Thigpen and Joseph Jones.

The college ensemble, *Rejoice*, sang a medley of familiar hymns and gospel songs. A slide presentation documented the history and mission of the institution. The college's drama department presented



Speakers James E. Raper (L.) and Billy Hanna share a convention moment.

a play titled, "Mum's the Word" by Lawrence G. Enscoe. Charity VanWinkle and Carol Malone performed the drama demonstrating the difference Christ makes in life.

The preacher for the evening was Dr. Robert Picirilli, academic dean at Free Will Baptist Bible College. In his message from Philippians 2:12-16, he said that we live in a world in desperate need of the light of Jesus Christ. At the conclusion of his message, all present and former members of the college choir joined together to present a medley of Christian music.

At the end of this special service, all former students of the Bible College were invited to come forward and stand around the front of the auditorium. It was a beautiful and moving service.

## Wednesday Evening

The final worship service was the Wednesday night missions service. As it often is, this service high-

lighted the convention. It began with the introduction of home and foreign missionaries.

Then two officers from the Cuban Association of Free Will Baptists brought greetings. They described how the work begun by Mom and Pop Willey more than 30 years ago continues to bear fruit. They told how Free Will Baptists in Cuba have somewhat more liberty today than in recent years. They have taken advantage of this situation to begin 12 new missions and re-open the Cedros de Lebanon Bible Institute.



The evening's message was preached by Pastor Billy Hanna of First FWB Church in Albany, Ga. He preached on the will of God from Matthew 6:10. He challenged us to find, follow and finish the will of God. He reminded us that "not to do the will of God is rebellion against the Sovereign Ruler of the universe."

When the invitation was given, dozens of people, both young and



Carl Vallance welcomes the convention.



**Spirit ...** (from page 5)

old, responded immediately. For approximately one hour people continued to go forward and make decisions about serving Christ. At least three people were saved, 12 surrendered to do God's will, two answered the call to preach and 10 answered the call to missions.

### Faithful in Music

Music has always played an important role in Free Will Baptist worship; that was certainly the case at this convention. The congregational singing, special music and instrumental accompaniments contributed to the warmth that everyone felt. Several choirs sang including the Mass Youth Choir Sunday evening.

Monday evening, the Mass Adult Choir under the direction of Doug Little sang, "O What a Savior." Before the hymn was over, the auditorium filled with a chorus of "amens." When the hymn was finished, the choir received a standing ovation and repeated calls to sing it again. They did so and were greeted with another chorus of "amens."

Tuesday evening, groups from Free Will Baptist Bible College sang. It was a joy to see present and former choir members join in praise to God.

The Men's Chorale sang Wednesday evening. Because of other activities during the missions service, they were only able to sing one number, "Stand By Me."



*Convention musicians Teresa and Jonathan Snow.*

Several smaller ensembles contributed to the services. Sunday morning Rev. David Bates and his daughter, Jacque, sang. Sunday evening the young people from Truth and Peace and the National Youth Evangelistic Team provided music.

Music groups from our Free Will Baptist colleges were well received by the congregation. The *New Life Singers* from Hillsdale FWB College sang during the adult Sunday School class and again during the

Tuesday Bible Conference. Monday evening, the Men's Quartet from Southeastern FWB College brought a rousing rendition of "I'll Fly Away." Wednesday evening the *Sounds of Joy*, a mixed quartet from California Christian College sang a medley of favorite hymns.

Several individuals sang solos. Vernon Whaley and Kay Penn sang solos during the Bible Conference. Lisa Barnett of North Little Rock, Ark., sang at the Master's Men dinner. Doug Little sang a beautiful solo at the Wednesday evening service.

Instrumental music was much in evidence this year. Jonathan and Theresa Snow served as pianist and organist. During the Monday evening service, Recardo Deel played a saxophone solo as the offering was received. Wednesday evening the Instrumental Ensemble performed the offertory.

### Faithful in Missions

The fact that Free Will Baptists are a missionary-minded people was much in evidence at this meeting. Both home and foreign missions played prominent roles. Another evidence of this denomination's commitment to missions was the record missionary offering of \$33,538 received during the Wednesday evening missionary service.

#### *Foreign Missions*

Eugene Waddell gave an update on the current status of our foreign missions program. He noted that our medical facility in Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire, suffered a tragic fire June 5. The hospital facility was destroyed. The clinic suffered extensive damage to its interior as equipment was removed in haste from the building.

Fortunately, the clinic did not catch fire although it is only a few feet away from the hospital. The new surgical building was not damaged. No one was killed or injured during the fire. Final estimates have not been made, but it should cost approximately \$75,000 to rebuild the facility and repair or replace the equipment damaged or destroyed.

In many ways, 1990 was a good year for Free Will Baptist foreign



*New Life Singers from Hillsdale FWB College rehearse.*



missions. God opened doors to the gospel and 1,032 people professed faith in Christ during the year. Of this number, 424 were baptized and became members of 222 churches and missions overseas. Six new churches were organized in Côte d'Ivoire, and our Bible Institute there graduated its first class of eight students.

The department operates nine Bible institutes with a total of 155 students. Nine missionaries were appointed during the last year; seven were lost due to resignations. The present missionary force totals 111 in eight countries. There are 33 ordained pastors serving national churches.

Mr. Waddell revealed that the greatest need is for additional missionary personnel. He noted that 25 missionaries will be eligible to retire in the next 10 years. More missionaries will be lost due to illness, resignations or other causes. Our field councils have requested 85 new missionaries to fill urgent needs.

Free Will Baptists not only support foreign missions verbally; they support it financially. Last year we gave \$3.6 million to share Christ in other countries. This makes the second consecutive year that the gift income budget for foreign missions has been met.

### *Home Missions*

Roy Thomas, director of home missions and church extension, brought the convention up to date on the status of home missions. He noted that we have 76 families of missionaries, associate missionaries and tentmaker missionaries serving in the United States, its territories and Canada. We have 17 Mexican pastors and their families who receive support through the Home Missions Department. During 1990, thirteen new missionaries were approved.

Sixteen home missionaries either started or finished church buildings. Many of these were constructed with the help of Howard Gwartney and his team of volunteer workers. Last year 13 mission churches received loans to help buy land and construct church buildings. The Church Extension Loan

Fund totals nearly \$2.9 million.

Wednesday morning, special recognition was given to our chaplains who served in Operation Desert Storm. Three Free Will Baptist chaplains (Terry Austin, James Bishop and Tim Sturgill) served in the Persian Gulf where they were able to lead many soldiers to Christ. Terry Austin and James Bishop attended the convention and received plaques from Roy Thomas.

This year 275,718 people worshipped in Free Will Baptist churches on Roll Call Sunday; there were more than 650 reported conversions. The goal for 1992 is 270,000. Total giving to home missions in 1990 topped \$2.1 million. Thomas noted that more general funds are needed. The general fund covers administrative costs essential to the operation of the department.

### **Faithful in Business**

Free Will Baptists run a large operation. Budgets for all national departments, commissions and WNAC surpass \$11.4 million. With an organization that size, we have a great responsibility to manage wisely the resources God has given us.

### *Sunday School Department*

Unfortunately, 1990 was difficult in some ways for our national departments. The Sunday School and Church Training Department suffered an operating deficit of \$98,000. The deficit was due to several factors including declining literature sales, rising costs of printing and production, and subsidizing the youth program.

Roger Reeds, general director, reported that the board ordered a series of measures designed to eliminate the deficit. The number of employees has been reduced from 46 to 31, and salaries frozen for remaining workers. An inventory reduction sale is in progress to reduce a \$500,000 book inventory. Relocating the Nashville bookstore from a shopping center to facilities owned by the department should result in approximately \$40,000 savings per year in rent and other expenses.

Dr. Reeds reported that the seven-year cycle of Spanish Sunday School literature is nearly complete.

This undated literature will be kept in inventory and sold to Spanish-speaking churches in this country and abroad. The department also set up a fund which allows Free Will Baptists to underwrite the cost of Sunday School literature for churches in Cuba and Mexico where poverty often makes it impossible for churches to buy literature.

When the report of the department was given, a considerable amount of discussion followed and a number of questions asked. Chairman of the Board, Milton Worthington, assured the convention that everything possible was being done to remedy the situation. During the floor discussion, delegates made suggestions about how the quality and sales volume of Sunday School literature could be increased.

### *New Office Building*

Several other important items of business also surfaced at this convention. The Management Committee presented its report on the status of the new National Offices Building which was authorized by the National Association last summer in Phoenix.

On September 27, 1990, the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the National Association, purchased a new facility in Antioch, Tenn., for \$800,000. Financing was handled by First American Bank of Nashville. National agencies planned to occupy the building August 21.

The Management Committee reported the total cost of the project (including building, furnishings, etc.) will be approximately \$1,475,000. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington noted that this is approximately \$75,000 more than authorized at the 1990 National Association.

The Management Committee recommended that a capital stewardship campaign be launched to pay the cost of the new facility in three years. It further recommended that any excess funds raised be placed in a trust fund to help provide for future repairs and renovations.





**Spirit ...** (from page 7)

### *Denominational Funding*

The third important item of business concerned the way in which denominational offices (especially the Executive Office) are financed. The budget for the Executive Office is now underwritten almost entirely from funds sent through the Cooperative Plan of Support. This formula has resulted in considerable inequity in funding.

The net result is that most of the expenses for the Executive Office are paid by Free Will Baptists in those states which strongly support the Cooperative Plan. The Budget Committee studied this situation and prepared a report outlining several methods whereby this inequity might be remedied.

The Budget Committee did not, however, recommend a solution. They suggested that a larger group representing a cross section of our denomination undertake that responsibility. The Budget Committee recommended that this issue be studied at the upcoming Leadership Conference in Nashville, December 2-3. This recommendation was warmly received by the National Association. The Leadership Conference will examine funding practices

and make recommendations to the National Association next summer.

### *Simpler Reports*

Another important item of business came up on the last morning of the convention. A motion was adopted to require that all boards include in their reports a written synopsis of their meetings, attendance and significant action taken.

### *Amend By-Laws*

Several other important but less difficult items of business were also passed at this convention. Section 31 of the By-Laws of the National Association was amended to allow the Executive Committee to determine the amount of honorariums paid to the moderator and clerk.

### *Ministers / Chaplains*

The body received from the Executive Committee a report indicating that our procedures for disciplining ministers seem to be legally sound if properly followed.

A motion was approved to create an Obituary Committee to collect the names of those deceased so that their names can be included in the national minutes.

Shortly before adjournment, two other motions were approved. The



*Michigan General Board member  
Charles Cooper.*

first commended Free Will Baptist men and women who served in the U.S. military during Operation Desert Storm. The second motion called for a study of the procedures followed when ministers move from one part of the denomination to another. This was referred to the Executive Committee for study.

### *Procedures*

Because of the amount of business to be transacted and the important nature of much of it, more time and attention was devoted to business at this convention than at most conventions. Even the most difficult issues, however, were handled in a spirit of Christian love and concern. The handling of these important matters demonstrated the desire of the delegates to be faithful in their handling of the business affairs of the denomination.

### **Faithful in Service**

The Free Will Baptist denomination is composed of men and women committed individually and collectively to serve Christ through our movement. Without their time, effort and support little could be accomplished. The National Association provides excellent opportunities for us to work together. There were many examples of the cooperative spirit at this convention.

### *Convention Offices*

Many men and women freely give of their time and talents throughout the year to make the denomination work. A special thanks goes to the convention officers, staff members





and volunteers who handle the thousands of details involved in running a convention of 7,000 people.

A special thanks goes out as well to those elected to serve on boards and commissions. They give their time and talents year-round to insure that the essential work of the denomination is carried on.

### Master's Men

Another group which renders unique service to our work is the Master's Men. The Master's Men Dinner on Wednesday was one of the convention highlights. At this dinner the Helping Hands Crew was recognized. This is a group of retired men and their wives who donate their time to help construct church buildings for mission churches at home and abroad.

A group of 14 men went to Cuba in February where they invested more than 1,500 hours to build the Willey Memorial Tabernacle at the Bible Institute. Another group of men labored from January through June to help complete our new National Offices Building.

In February 1990, a milestone was reached. The men and women who take part in this program topped the million dollar mark. They have donated one million dollars worth of labor to the Lord's work. They have served our denomination faithfully.

Two special men were recognized at the Master's Men Dinner. Gary R. Wilson of Michigan was selected Runner-Up Layman of the Year; Waymon Ray of Oklahoma was selected Layman of the Year. These awards recognize the significant contributions that these men have made over the years to the work of this denomination.

During his sermon at the Master's Men Dinner, Trymon Messer, associate director of the Home Missions Department, urged Master's Men to adopt evangelism as its primary ministry. He challenged them to reach out as the evangelistic arm of our movement.

### Commissions

There are four commissions whose members give their time to

perform vital tasks for our National Association.

The Commission for Theological Integrity keeps us aware of theological trends which might compromise the doctrinal integrity of our denomination. The Radio and Television Commission spreads the gospel through public media. The commission produces a weekly radio program called *Victorious Faith*.

The Music Commission assists local churches in developing their music ministries. The Historical Commission seeks to preserve our rich heritage as a denomination.

Each commission reports to the National Association. They are faithful in fulfilling the responsibilities which the denomination has entrusted to them.

### Free Will Baptist Bible College

One of the most important service agencies of the denomination is Free Will Baptist Bible College. President Thomas Malone expressed

places the college in its best financial position in years.

He also noted that the college expects an enrollment of 285 to 300 students this fall. The board, administration, faculty, staff and students of the college have been faithful in their service, and God is blessing.

### Foundation / Retirement

Two other agencies which have rendered faithful service are the Free Will Baptist Foundation and the Department of Retirement and Insurance. The Foundation stands ready to assist in stewardship education, family financial planning, estate planning and deferred giving. It showed a gain of approximately \$60,000 during the year.

Because of the difficult economic condition of the country, the retirement program did not receive as much in earnings during 1990 as it had during the previous year. Director Herman Hersey reported that earnings fell to five percent but that they are beginning to improve.



*FWBBC Alumni President Fred Hall (L.) presents check and book of letters to Dr. and Mrs. Charles Thigpen.*

thanks to the denomination for the response from our people a few months ago to pay off a major portion of the college's indebtedness. He reported that as of July 18, some \$455,500 had been contributed to the project. These gifts reduced the college indebtedness to \$81,528 and

### Double in a Decade

The Double in a Decade Committee was created as a result of action taken by the National Association in Tampa during its 1989 convention.



# The Key to Room 101

By J. L. Varney



It all started 10 years ago. Money was raised, questions asked, imaginations overworked, committees appointed. Then mounting tension, unsettled nerves, sweaty palms, gritting teeth, Excedrin headaches. Buses, vans, suitcases, boxes, computers, typewriters and people. People!

It's happening; it's really happening! The convention is here. What do I do now? Where's the rest of that Steering Committee—Roger Tolliver, Wayne Sisk, Carl Lilly, Ottis Hensley? Don't they know it's convention time?

I feel like I'm falling apart. Then from somewhere outside my feelings, the calm voice of convention coordinator Jack Williams says, "Now, Jim, this is the key to Room 101 and you must put it back each time you use it."

Little did I know as that key turned for the first time and the door to the supplies in Room 101 opened, what tremendous blessings were ahead for us. All those dreams of the previous year turned

into reality as the greatest denomination of the church in action came together in Charleston for a national association.

The unity of the Spirit. The fellowship of brothers and sisters. The professional yet charitable manner of our national moderator. The meek but decisive nature of the committees, boards and delegates in the business sessions. The dedication to our Lord and His Word seasoned with the charity of the Holy Spirit. The smiling faces. The friendly handshakes. The heart-felt hugs. What a time!

And then the power of God fell as we worshipped. Hands and hearts lifted in praise as the singing encouraged us to be sensitive to His presence. Souls were saved, commitments renewed, challenges for God's will accepted and sealed.

Yes, my brethren, you made us look so gracious when we felt so inadequate. The West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptists says to all of you: Thank you for giving us the privilege to be your host.

It's only been a few hours since I slid that key back in its case and with a lump in my throat and great admiration for the man to whom I spoke, I said for the last time, "Jack, here's the key to 101."

Room 101 is locked now, but the revival spirit that we unlocked in Charleston makes the West Virginia convention one of the finest in Free Will Baptist history. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend J. L. Varney chaired the 1991 National Association Steering Committee. He serves as moderator of the West Virginia State Association and pastor of Camp Creek FWB Church in Lavellette.

## Spirit ... (from page 9)

This committee was created to coordinate the activities of our denomination as we seek to double our church membership by the year 2000. During this convention it gave a report of activities and challenged every church to become involved in this effort.

The work of Christ is built on service. Jesus was a servant. He was faithful in His life and death for us. These departments, agencies and commissions seek to be faithful to the tasks which have been given to them.

## Conclusion

This convention was challenged to be faithful to our heritage as Free

Will Baptists. It was challenged to be faithful to hear and do the will of God and to be faithful to our denomination and its work. In the business sessions we were challenged to be faithful in our stewardship and use wisely the resources God has given us.

The spirit of worship at this convention was outstanding. The preaching was excellent throughout the week. The congregational singing and special music added much to the atmosphere of worship. The Wednesday missions service was the high point of the meeting. During an hour-long invitation, dozens committed their lives to greater service for Christ. Testimonies from two Cuban Free Will Baptist leaders remind us that God

is faithful even in the most difficult of circumstances.

During our 55th annual convention we saw once again just how faithful God is and just how faithful we need to be. ■

**1991 National Convention analysis was written by Thomas Marberry, theology and Greek instructor at Hillsdale FWB College, Moore, Oklahoma.**

**All convention photographs are provided courtesy of Bert Tippett, director of publications at Free Will Baptist Bible College.**

**The Contact staff is grateful to Brother Marberry and Brother Tippett for their assistance in this special convention issue.**



## Elected in Charleston

The following were elected during the 55th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

### General Officers

Moderator Ralph Hampton (Tenn.)  
 Assistant Moderator Carl Cheshier (Ark.)  
 Clerk Waldo Young (Okla.)  
 Assistant Clerk Keith Burden (Okla.)

### General Board

1993 John Edwards (Ala.)  
 Howard Gwartney (Ariz.)  
 David Joslin (Ark.)  
 Hazen Burlock (Atl. Canada)  
 Nuel Brown (Calif.)  
 Bob Thomas (Colo.)  
 Randy Bryant (Fla.)  
 Herbert Waid (Ga.)  
 Tommie Carlson (Idaho)  
 Wallace Malone (Ill.)  
 Robert Helms (Ind.)  
 Nick Hollis (Kan.)  
 Tim York (Ky.)  
 Steve Trail (First La.)  
 Lester Horton (Md.)  
 Fred Jones (Mexico)  
 Charles Cooper (Mich.)  
 J. L. Gore (Miss.)  
 Dale Skiles (Mo.)

### Executive Committee

1993 Charles Cooper (Mich.)  
 J. L. Gore (Miss.)  
 David Joslin (Ark.)

### Home Missions Board

1997 Milburn Wilson (Calif.)  
 Glenn Thomas (Ga.)  
 Larry Russell (La.)

### Master's Men Board

1997 Howard Gwartney (Okla.)  
 Tim Jordan (Ga.)  
 Thurman Pate, Jr. (Tenn.)

### Board of Retirement

1997 Ron Barber (Okla.)  
 Roger Harwell (Ark.)  
 Milton Hollifield (N.C.)

### Commission for Theological Integrity

1996 Lonnie Skiles (Mo.)

### Music Commission

1996 David Bates (Mo.)

### Radio-Television Commission

1996 Sandy Goodfellow (Tenn.)

### Historical Commission

1996 Thomas Marberry (Okla.)

## 1991 Convention Tapes Available

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

The cost of tapes is \$3.00 each. Payment must accompany order. Select the tapes you wish to order by circling the number and place the quantity desired in the appropriate lines.

| Tape Number                                  | Subject   | Quantity |
|--|---|----------|
| <b>CONVENTION MESSAGES</b>                   |   |          |
| * 1.   | James Earl Raper—Sunday Morning                     | _____    |
| * 2.   | Will Harmon—Sunday Evening (NYC Keynote Service)    | _____    |
| * 3.   | Keith Woody—Monday Evening                          | _____    |
| * 4.   | FWBBC Jubilee—Tuesday Evening (Message and Remarks) | _____    |
| * 5.   | Billy Hanna—Wednesday Evening                       | _____    |
| <b>CONVENTION BIBLE CONFERENCE</b>           |   |          |
| 6.   | David Reece   | _____    |
| 7.   | Howard Munsey                                       | _____    |
| <b>SEMINARS</b>                              |   |          |
| 8.   | Master's Men Seminar                                | _____    |
| 9.   | "Double in a Decade" Seminar                        | _____    |
| <b>WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION</b> |   |          |
| 10.  | WNAC Seminar  | _____    |
| 11.  | Charolette Tallent—WNAC Devotional                  | _____    |
| * 12.  | Steve Lytle—WNAC Missionary Service                 | _____    |
| 13.  | Mary R. Wisheart—WNAC Fellowship Dinner             | _____    |
| <b>MEET 'N' EAT</b>                          |   |          |
| 14.  | R. Kent Hughes—Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner   | _____    |
| 15.  | David Joslin—Hillsdale Luncheon                     | _____    |
| 16.  | FWBBC Luncheon                                      | _____    |
| 17.  | Trymon Messer—Master's Men Dinner                   | _____    |
| <b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>                         |   |          |
| 18.  | Milton Worthington—Adult Sunday School Lesson       | _____    |
| 19.  | Home Missions Rally (Camp Meeting)                  | _____    |
| 20.  | Ralph Hampton—Moderator's Message                   | _____    |

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# WNAC Review

By Lorene Miley



*WNAC Executive Secretary Mary Wisehart speaks at Fellowship Dinner.*



*Susie Elliott (L.) presents coal figurine to Mary Wisehart.*



*Devotional speaker Charolette Tallent.*

**T**he convention in Charleston, West Virginia, will go down in history as one of the greatest Free Will Baptists have ever known. God met with us and we rejoiced in His blessings.

- If it wasn't a record attendance, it was a near-record, as 1,016 registered for WNAC's 56th session led by Vice-President June Rolan. President Mary Neal experienced a brief pang of divided loyalty when her husband, Don was injured in a motorcycle accident just days before the convention. Mary put the convention in the hands of her veteran vice-president and chose to nurse her husband. Delegates extended love and prayers to their absent president.
- Home missions took the emphasis in the convention. "Ladies, we need to wake up! We've isolated ourselves from the world around us," said Debra Hansen (N.C.) as she addressed the 250 who attended the Monday afternoon seminar. Mrs. Hansen is involved with her county's Crisis Pregnancy Center.  
Stacey Rakes, a Huntington, West Virginia nurse, spoke about drug and alcohol problems related to her profession. Joy Worrell, formerly with the Nashville Rescue Mission, addressed the problem of the homeless.
- Twenty-five foreign missionaries, with twice that many home missionaries, registered, but we only heard from two of them. Charolette Tallent, France, (morning devotions) and Steve Lytle, Panama, (morning message) both developed the theme, "Until He Comes."
- The WNAC Executive Committee received an injection of fresh





*Vice-president June Rolan presides.*

blood as delegates replaced four of its six members. Mary Neal (Ind.) was retained as president. Delois Loveless (Ohio) was elevated from member-at-large to vice-president. Delegates chose Joanne Wood (Okla.) as secretary and three members at large: Pam Wood (Calif.), Everyl Getz (Texas) and Gwen Hendrix (S.C.).

The new committee has their work cut out for them: balancing the budget. After slashing every area possible, WNAC still lacked some \$15,000 to balance. The committee suggested deducting five percent of all designated funds channeled through the office.

When Mary Ruth Wishart, executive secretary-treasurer, included this in her financial report, Mary Alice Bridgman, Oklahoma's president, suggested an alternate solution—raising the representation fee. She moved that dues be increased from \$2 to \$5. The motion failed (156-86), so the report stood.

Several pointed out that if everyone boosted the Emphasis Fund and the Co-Laborer Offering Fund, such a move would not be necessary. Can we work on that this year, ladies?

The study committee, two years into their evaluation of Woman's Auxiliary, asked for a two-year extension. Let's all help them out by completing the evaluation form.

- Lorene Miley recognized 20 winners in the creative arts contest. Over 100 women from 23 states and two foreign countries submitted 247 entries. First place winners were Alice Grant (Ohio), Sue Winchester (Mo.), Cheryl Riley (Ark.) and Anne Worthington (Tenn.).
- The Evangel Players of Free Will



*Worship speaker Steve Lytle.*

Baptist Bible College, directed by Joseph Jones, presented the afternoon program.

- The 780 guests attending WNAC's Fellowship Dinner were puzzled to find a couple of fragile potato chips among West Virginia's attractive table centerpieces. They served as an object lesson for speaker Mary Ruth Wishart who spoke on the Potato Chip Collection syndrome. Some of the things we value are just as foolish and futile.

Women left the convention in expectancy. Next year we are going to be "Teachers of Good Things" as we reach out to the young woman. See you in Indianapolis! ■

.....  
 ABOUT THE WRITER: Lorene Miley is editor of *Co-Laborer*, official publication of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.



*1989-91 WNAC Executive Committee: (L.) June Rolan, Mary Wishart, Peggy Outland. (Standing) Delois Loveless, Marian Reece.*



# NYC '91

By Jim Lauthern

**C**ome Celebrate Jesus!" was the theme of the 1991 National Youth Conference in Charleston, W.Va. The celebration began with Sunday School in the Charleston Civic Center. Mike

day School session for children. This group activity placed the children in various learning stations as they were involved in celebrating Jesus.

James Sadler, a gifted children's worker from Greenville, N.C. led

music and invitation blended into a great service.

Sunday evening afterservice activities were in the Holiday Inn Charleston House. Mike and Deanna Hollifield led the youth activities and Dean and Lisa Stone led the children's activities. It was a special celebration of "Christmas in July" with all the decorations and refreshments of the season.

## Competition Kickoff

Competition began early Monday and continued through Wednesday morning. There were 812 entries in the Bible Competition and the Music and Arts Festival. This compares to 570 entries in 1990. Rooms overflowed as competition was conducted in seven simultaneous sessions Monday and Tuesday.

Creative Writing and Multi-Media entries had been judged prior to the conference. The Festival of Arts room filled with Creative Art entries.

Monday afternoon, 450 children gathered at the Charleston House Ballroom for dinner. Balloons, confetti and ribbons set the festive atmosphere. The Camp Creek youth from Huntington, W.Va., presented a program featuring the West Virginia Hatfields and McCoys. The program also involved all the children in special activities.

## TEAM News

Monday evening the TEAM Congress met in the Little Theater. They elected Philip Ledgerwood from Missouri as president; Rhonda Davis (Okla.) as vice-president; and Stephani McElhaney (Fla.) as secretary.

TEAM presented the individual youth award to Mark McCraney, a graduating senior from Decatur, Ala. Mark has been active in his

## National Association of Free Will Baptists



*Mass Youth Choir sings Sunday evening.*

Wheeler, lay youth leader from Tulsa, opened the conference with a challenge to celebrate life in Christ. Mike led devotional times each morning.

Allen Pointer, youth minister from Russellville, Ark., brought the Sunday School lesson for teens. The Sunday morning message for teens was delivered by Jeff Nichols, youth minister from Fenton, Mo.

Mike, Allen and Jeff spoke to the needs of today's teens. The 750-seat Little Theater was almost filled with youth for Sunday morning services.

The 56 teens who were a part of the Truth and Peace Leadership Conference were involved in leadership roles during the conference. They were responsible for the Sun-

the Sunday worship time for children.

## Keynote Service

Sunday evening the youth service in the Civic Center Coliseum began with Terry VanWinkle directing over 150 youth in a mass choir, followed by music from Truth and Peace and the National Youth Evangelistic Team. Jarrod Chapman, the NYC Planning Captain from West Virginia, also brought special music.

Will Harmon, pastor from Pine Bluff, Ark., delivered the keynote message. His minister of youth and music, Mark Brawley, presented a song that he had written especially for the service. The message,



local church and high school as he served in many capacities. Because of his involvement and achievements, Mark received more than \$750,000 in scholarships including acceptance into West Point. He chose to attend the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

The TEAM youth group award was presented to the Camp Creek youth from Huntington, W. Va. This group has been active in many local areas of ministry. They have also led in developing youth ministry across the state of West Virginia. Jim Varney pastors this church.

The TEAM Congress concluded with the 1991 National Youth Evangelistic Team presenting their musical drama, *Name Above All Names*. The service ended with many youth coming forward for prayer and rededication.

### Riverboat Cruise

Tuesday activities continued the competition. Afternoon activities for the children were conducted each day. The Tuesday evening afterservice activity for the children



*James (Zaney the Clown) Sadler.*



*Members of the 1992 National YET Team*

was a visit with Grandma and Grandpa featuring Raymond and Winona Riggs. The kids loved it.

A riverboat cruise was planned for 1,000 youth Tuesday evening after the service. Around 6:30 p.m. the skies darkened and it rained for over an hour. Around 8:30 the skies cleared and a full crescent rainbow framed the riverfront. The cruise up Kanawha River featured pizza and a program by Truth and Peace. The four levels of West Virginia Belle were filled with Free Will Baptist youth, a few clowns, a gorilla and other characters.

### Awards Ceremony

Wednesday morning was the time for the final round of Bible Competition. Alabama won both Tic Tac Toe and Bible Bowl. A full listing of winners is available from the NYC office.

Wednesday afternoon activities introduced two new individual Bible competitions. Turning Point is for junior high youth and Horizon is for senior high youth. A demonstration of both games proved exciting and challenging. The games contain information from the Bible, other books, Free Will Baptist history and distinctives, and missions. Study kits and information are available from the Youth Ministries Division of Randall House Publications.

Tim York, assisted by David Bates, conducted a youth evangelism conference Wednesday afternoon.

There was also an informal presentation of the revised Guidelines. This new edition will govern the 1992 competitive activities.

The concluding event for the 1991 NYC was the Awards Celebration Wednesday night after the service. All the Bible winners were lined across the stage and given special recognition.

The 1992 National Youth Evangelistic Team members were announced. These 12 high school youth represent 10 states and were selected by winning categories of music and oral communication.

Awards were presented to first place winners in all categories.

Registration for the youth conference totaled 1,412. It was a very good conference with many decisions in various services. It was much more than just competition. It was a time of celebration. The focus was on Jesus and the abundant life that He provides for us.

The 1992 NYC will be in Indianapolis. The theme will be, "A Call to Excellence." Plan now to involve your youth in this annual conference. ■

.....  
*ABOUT THE WRITER: Jim Lauthern is director of the National Youth Conference.*



## Words Worth Remembering

"The new building symbolizes more than just bricks and mortar. It symbolizes a spirit of anticipation for the future."  
—Melvin Worthington

"God is far more interested in what we are than in what we do. If what we are does not please Him, nothing we do for Him can please Him."  
—Milton Worthington

"I am ashamed of some Free Will Baptists, but I am not ashamed to be one."  
—James Earl Raper

"I would like for this convention to be a source of great inspiration and encouragement to our people"  
—Ralph Hampton

"There is a race to be won. We can only win it if we keep our eyes on Jesus."  
—Will Harmon

"Buildings aren't the church; people are."  
—Connie Cariker

"Don't you wish you were on the program to preach."  
—John Edwards

"We've got the real thing, folks."  
—Howard Munsey

"What do you really want your children to be, Pastor?"  
—Tom Malone

"Making money is not where it's at."  
—Robert Picirilli

"After spending some time in the Persian Gulf, I am just glad to be anywhere."  
—Chaplain James Bishop

"The ability of a pastor to work with his people will determine the success or failure of his ministry."  
—Trymon Messer

"Whatever God has called you to do, you need to get off your seat and do it."  
—Billy Hanna

## 1991 Registration

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| National Convention .....                   | 4,140        |
| Ministers .....                             | 896          |
| Foreign Missionaries .....                  | 25           |
| Home Missionaries .....                     | 56           |
| Deacons .....                               | 195          |
| State Delegates .....                       | 87           |
| Local Church Delegates .....                | 102          |
| Non-Delegates .....                         | 2,779        |
| Woman's National Auxiliary Convention ..... | 1,016        |
| National Youth Conference .....             | 1,412        |
| <b>Total .....</b>                          | <b>6,568</b> |

## 1992 Budgets Adopted

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Executive Office .....                     | \$ 472,578.32          |
| Free Will Baptist Bible College .....      | 985,000.00             |
| Foreign Missions .....                     | 4,440,006.00           |
| (Includes \$150,000.00 Advance Budget)     |                        |
| Home Missions and Church Extension .....   | 2,400,000.00           |
| Master's Men .....                         | 109,500.00             |
| Retirement and Insurance .....             | 334,722.00             |
| Free Will Baptist Foundation .....         | 38,500.00              |
| Sunday School and Church Training .....    | 2,481,224.00           |
| Commission for Theological Integrity ..... | 2,700.00               |
| Historical Commission .....                | 2,350.00               |
| Music Commission .....                     | 1,600.00               |
| Radio and Television Commission .....      | 15,100.00              |
| <b>Total .....</b>                         | <b>\$11,283,280.32</b> |



## 1992 Co-op Allocations

The Budget Committee recommended that gifts received through the Cooperative Plan be allocated to the national ministries\* on the following basis:

1. Underwrite the Executive Office Administrative Budget above those gifts received directly.
2. Disburse the balance of undesignated funds to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Free Will Baptist Bible College .....      | 23 %         |
| Foreign Missions .....                     | 23 %         |
| Home Missions .....                        | 18 %         |
| Board of Retirement and Insurance .....    | 14 %         |
| Master's Men .....                         | 14 %         |
| Free Will Baptist Foundation .....         | 6 %          |
| Commission for Theological Integrity ..... | 0.5%         |
| Historical Commission .....                | 0.5%         |
| Music Commission .....                     | 0.5%         |
| Radio and Television Commission .....      | 0.5%         |
| <b>Total .....</b>                         | <b>100 %</b> |

\* All these ministries receive funds through the Cooperative Plan except the Sunday School and Church Training Department which is self-sustaining.



# FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

## Kentucky Gives Deacons Vote

SALYERSVILLE, KY—For the first time in the history of the Kentucky State Association, deacons will have a standing vote at next year's state meeting. Delegates to the 52nd annual session adopted a constitutional change that makes ordained deacons standing delegates. The vote brought Kentucky in line with the National Association which adopted a similar constitutional change in 1989.

The June 14-15 session met at Salyersville FWB Church. Promotional Director Tim York estimated 250 attendees. Moderator Richard (Dick) Van Hoose was elected to his fifth term.

Delegates also adopted a second constitutional change that authorizes the election of a 14-

member state Executive Board. Among other duties the board will plan the annual state program and review items of business to come before the state association.

When delegates arrive for the 1992 session, they will consider another constitutional change which was tabled in 1991. The proposed change will create a 10-man state youth board.

Two Kentucky pastors preached during the meeting: Pastor Dennis Kizzire (First FWB Church, Lexington) and Pastor Dewey Conley (Cliff FWB Church, Prestonsburg).

The 1992 session will meet June 19-20 at Bell's Chapel FWB Church in Ulysses.

## Sermons Top North Carolina Meeting

MARION, NC—Four sermons highlighted North Carolina's 29th annual state association June 3-4 at Rocky Pass FWB Church in Marion. Pastor Frank McQuage of Maple Street FWB Church in Rockingham gave the keynote address Monday morning. This marked one of McQuage's first speaking engagements after open-heart surgery.

Two pastors spoke Monday evening when more than 200 people attended. Chocowinity pastor Henry Horne and Oklahoma pastor Curtis Linton preached the altars full, according to Clerk Mike Trimble.

United States Army Chaplain Captain Terry Austin delivered the final message on Tuesday. Austin served six months in the Desert Storm operation.

Moderator Dann Patrick led delegates through the business sessions. Three plaques were presented for faithful service to Pastor Steve Pryor for leading Peace FWB Church (Henderson) to self-supporting status in six years; to Rev. and Mrs. Tom Lilly for 10 years' service in the promotional office. Tom and Loretta Lilly also received checks for \$500 and \$100 respectively.

In other action delegates passed a resolution asking the National Association to refrain from negotiations with the N.C. State Convention, since that group still practices connectional church government.

The 1992 state association will meet June 8-9 at Shady Grove FWB Church in Durham.

## Maryland Re-Elects Horton

MARTINSVILLE, VA—Moderator Lester Horton was re-elected by delegates at the silver anniversary meeting of the Maryland State Association. The 25th annual session met June 20-22 at Woodland Heights FWB Church in Martinsville, Virginia. Delegates also recommended Horton to the National Association as its General Board member.

In other action delegates elected Pastor Murray Southwell clerk. Southwell pastors Bloss Memorial FWB Church in Arlington, Va.

The association adopted a revised constitution and by-laws

which will be printed in the minutes. Delegates also voted to discontinue the *Quarterly Newsletter* and replace it with a letter from the moderator to pastors as news develops.

Four ministers preached sermons developing the association theme, "Heralding Our Heritage." Moderator Lester Horton and Newcastle, Delaware, pastor Elmer Turnbough joined Home Missions Director Roy Thomas and FWBBC staffer Bob Shockey.

The 1992 state association which meets June 25-27 will be hosted by the Maryland / New Jersey Conference.



## Hensley Named WV Promotional Director

BRADLEY, WV—West Virginia Free Will Baptists launched a new era with the appointment of Pastor Ottis Hensley as promotional director in June. The promotional director's office will be appointed and governed by the state Executive Committee, a decision which required a constitutional change.

This action took place June 7-8 during the 46th annual session of the West Virginia State Association which met at Bradley FWB Church. The new promotional director pastors Kilsyth FWB Church in Kilsyth. He chaired the registration committee at the 1991 national convention in Charleston.

Clerk Norwood Webb reported 225 who registered for the meeting, including 88 ministers, 66 lay delegates and 26 deacons. Mod-

erator Jim Varney guided the business session.

Delegates voted the following allocations for 1992 Cooperative Plan monies: General Fund State Association (28%), Missions (30%), State Paper (10%), C.E. Board (4%), National Co-op (3%)

Three ministers preached sermons on the association theme, "Keys to the Kingdom." Pastor Carl Cooper of Springdale FWB Church in Hurricane brought the keynote message. FWBBC president Tom Malone and home missionary Russell Wright also spoke. Reverend Wright was commissioned as a missionary to the eastern panhandle of West Virginia.

The 1992 session will meet June 12-13 at Hope FWB Church in Parkersburg.

## 700 Attend Missouri State Meeting

ARNOLD, MO—Some 700 people attended Missouri's 78th annual state association June 3-6, according to Clerk Joe Braddy. The total registered included 80 ministers and 73 lay delegates. The session met at Grace FWB Church in Arnold.

Delegates adopted a \$325,000 Cooperative Plan budget for 1992, some \$25,000 more than 1991. The Cooperative Plan funds will be disbursed by this formula: 60.5 percent to state ministries, 30.5 percent to national ministries and 5 percent to the conference center.

Seven plaques were awarded to Missouri churches with the greatest percentage increase in attendance in 1990. Winners included Bourbon FWB Church (308%), Hurryville FWB Church (234%), Houston FWB Church (182%), Trinity FWB Church—Bridgeton (95%), Belton FWB Church (69%), First FWB Church—Mountain Grove (75%) and First FWB Church—Desoto (49%)

Four sermons and a seminar on the creation/evolution controversy highlighted the meeting. Four pastors developed the association theme, "Lift Up Your Eyes—Look on the Fields." They included Pastors Lloyd Durbin (Fredericktown), Max Courtney (Springfield), Gary Mitchener (Norwood) and Roger Hogan (Farmington). Bob Farwell delivered the workshop on creation/evolution.

Delegates elected Moderator Cody Freeman to his third term. The 1992 session will meet June 8-11 at Nelson Community Center in Lebanon.

## Indiana Elects 1992 Steering Committee

CHESTERFIELD, IN—Two laymen, a home missionary and two pastors were named to the 1992 national convention Steering Committee by delegates at the Indiana State Association. The 1992 convention will meet July 19-23 in Indianapolis.

Indiana promotional secretary Jim Mullen will chair the committee. Other members include laymen Don Neal and Richard Byers from New Castle, Bloomington home missionary Ivan Asbury and Indianapolis pastor Dan Runion. They will be joined by an Indiana youth representative and state Auxiliary president Mary Neal to help coordinate Woman's National Auxiliary Convention and National Youth Conference activities.

Eighty-five people attended the June 14-15 meeting at First FWB Church in Chesterfield. Assistant Moderator Robert Helms moderated the 31st annual session. He was then elected as moderator for 1991-92. Other new officers for next year include Don Neal (assistant clerk).

Delegates recommended Robert Helms to the National Association as Indiana's General Board member.

Reports from the state treasurer (Richard Byers) and promotional secretary (Jim Mullen) indicated that Indiana's 21 churches lacked less than \$500 raising the \$10,000 necessary to host the 1992 national convention.

Mr. Mullen said, "We have not worked together well in the past 10 years, but there's a new spirit of cooperation in our state."

Home Missionary Ivan Asbury preached the keynote message Friday evening and called on the Association to be men of prayer. Speaking from Jonah 2:1-10, Asbury developed the theme, "The God Who Speaks in the Storms of Life." After Asbury's sermon, he was commissioned as a home missionary to Bloomington.

Contact editor Jack Williams spoke Saturday morning.

The 1992 session will meet June 19-20 at First Bible FWB Church in New Castle.



## Canada to Begin Radio Program

SOMERVILLE, NB, CANADA—Delegates to the June 26-29 Atlantic Canada Association passed a resolution to sponsor a Free Will Baptist radio program on a local Christian station. The resolution came after delegates voted to withdraw financial support from that same station because of charismatic tendencies.

Delegates also adopted a resolution to not "support, cooperate with or attend an area crusade due to Pentecostal-Charismatic tendencies."

A third resolution authorized that "pastors be examined for ordination only after an acceptable period of faithful, full-time service in their church." Ordained clergy will serve as the Examining Committee for licensing and / or ordaining pastors.

Several hundred attended the annual Bible Conference preceding the Saturday business meeting at Saint John Valley Bible Camp. Moderator Hazen Burlock led the business session. Dr. Tom Malone, president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, spoke five times during the conference.

Delegates commended Lavergne Hanson for her work in organizing the Ladies Retreat, and appointed her as director for the 1992 retreat.

Moderator Burlock and the Executive Committee were authorized to study details for an annual Fall Crusade with target implementation in 1992.

The congregation gave a record \$9,925 offering to offset expenses for roof repair and construction at the camp.

The 1992 session will meet June 25-28 at Saint John Valley Bible Camp.

## Jim Bowman, 82, Named Tidewater's Top Layman

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—Members of Gateway FWB Church in Virginia Beach honored 82-year-old ex-Marine Jim Bowman, "Tidewater's Most Outstanding Christian Layman," on June 16, according



to Pastor Dale Burden. That Sunday was "Jim Bowman Day" at Gateway Church.

Converted at age 40, Mr. Bowman has been on staff at Gateway Church for the past 19 years, a member of the church for 42 years. He is also an ordained Free Will Baptist deacon.

Reverend Burden said, "Jim

Bowman has more friends than anyone. He has personally talked to more people about Christ since he was converted at this church 44-plus years ago than anyone I've known."

Mr. Bowman was born in a dirt-floor cabin in Kentucky, raised by relatives and moved to Detroit where he was a gang member. At age 16 he joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he spent the next 10 years. He then operated a bakery in Norfolk (1941-1947).

Bowman said, "I was a dead man for 40 years until Jesus gave me a new life and I was born again."

At age 62 Bowman retired and joined the church staff to head up the church's growing bus ministry. Over the years the bus ministry brought an average of 500 people each week to the church.

A local newspaper ran an article on Mr. Bowman in 1984 calling him, "a one-man social service bureau." His influence reached far beyond the church walls into the city.

## Ohio Addresses 'Fundamentals'

COLUMBUS, OH—The 53rd session of the Ohio State Association focused on the theme, "Fundamentals of the Faith." More than 300 delegates and visitors gathered at Heritage Temple FWB Church to hear three sermons developing the theme.

Pastor David McKnight of Puritan FWB Church in Hamden preached, "The Precepts of Our Faith." FWBCC president Tom Malone spoke on "The Person of Our Faith." Rev. Steve Ashby who serves on the pastoral staff at Dayton FWB Church and as pro-

fessor at Ball State University spoke on "The Product of Our Faith."

Moderator Edwin Hayes, a Columbus pastor, was elected to his fifth term. Delegates adopted a \$950,000 state budget, including \$90,000 in Cooperative Plan funds. Allocations for Co-op receipts call for 60 percent to fund state outreach while 40 percent will underwrite national ministries.

The 1992 session will meet June 26-27 at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus.



## Murphy to Edit *The Texas Challenge*

AUSTIN, TX—The state Executive Board named Wichita Falls pastor Thurmon Murphy as editor of *The Texas Challenge*, the official publication of the Texas State Association. Reverend Murphy pastors First FWB Church in Wichita Falls and serves as state clerk. He will also edit *Parson to Parson*, a bi-monthly newsletter for pastors.

The Executive Board's decision was announced at the June 5-7 Texas State Association which met in Austin. Clerk Murphy said, "The State Association met in the state capitol where there are no Free Will Baptist churches in order to focus attention on Austin as the target city for a new mission work."

Moderator Bill Jones gaveled delegates through business meetings at the 77th annual session of the Texas State Association. Some 133 registered for the meeting, including 31 ministers.

Delegates passed a resolution encouraging Texas Free Will Baptists to pray for President George Bush as he stands against federally-funded abortion clinics and

for prayer in public schools.

In other action delegates adopted a \$64,000 Cooperative Plan budget and specified the following 1992 allocations: State Office (40%), National Co-op (25%), State Missions (23%), State Christian Education (12%). They also authorized purchase of a Macintosh desktop publishing system to print state publications.

The "Church Growth and Evangelism" theme was addressed by three pastors in worship sessions. Pastor Bobby Ferguson (First FWB Church, Houston) delivered the keynote address. Arkansas pastor Doug Little and North Zulch interim pastor Luther Sanders completed the theme development.

Reverend Little also conducted two workshops on making worship more meaningful and the adult role in developing youth for ministry. Former missionary Mabel Willey addressed the Auxiliary Banquet.

The 1992 session will meet June 10-12 and will be hosted by the East Texas District churches.

## Northwest Elects Stafford Moderator

YAKIMA, WA—Delegates to the May 17-18 Northwest Association elected Washington pastor Terry Stafford as moderator, according to Clerk Betty Plunkett. Stafford pastors Victory FWB Church in East Wenatchee.

Twenty-nine delegates met at First FWB Church in Yakima to conduct business and fellowship. The Executive Board recommended that the Association move its annual meeting to the first Friday and Saturday in May. The item was tabled until 1992.

In other action delegates unanimously authorized the Missions Board to investigate Seattle First National Bank's support of homosexuals through the Pride Card. The Board was instructed to "act on their findings as they deem necessary with regard to the Northwest Trust Fund."

The 1992 session will meet May 15-16 at First FWB Church in Eugene, Oregon.

Pray For The  
**Leadership Conference**  
December 2-3  
Nashville, Tennessee

**First-ever Free Will Baptist Stewardship Summit**



## CURRENTLY...

**Alva McCarty** was named layman of the year at **First FWB Church** in **Lexington, KY**. His activities include ushering, active in Master's Men, Sunday School superintendent, transports handicapped to church, leads singing and mows the church grounds every Friday! **Dennis Kizzire** pastors.

When a CTS group at **First FWB Church**, **Waynesville, MO**, studied the Tabernacle, they did more than memorize facts. Pastor **Gary Parker** said the group built a wooden and cloth scale model of the Tabernacle, courtyard and furnishings.

The final service at **First FWB Church** in **Berkeley, MO**, was conducted March 17. The St. Louis Airport purchased the church property. **Jerry Fields** pastored the group during the transition. Church reporter **Linda Walls** said, "Members of the Berkeley church are now serving the Lord in other St. Louis area churches."

**First FWB Church** in **Bakersfield, CA**, hosted the junior convention for Accelerated Christian Education, according to Pastor **Claudie Hames**. During the ACE convention, Home Missionary **Mark Thomas** conducted a revival at the church, with 23 people saved.

Work on **First FWB Church** in **Eugene, OR**, continued through the summer, according to Pastor **Mike Criswell**. By mid-July the new building was framed and the trusses up. Pastor Criswell said, "Our goal is to be in the building by November 1."

**New Hope FWB Church** in **Kent, WA**, hosted a creation / science seminar, according to Pastor **Lloyd Plunkett**. The seminar was presented by Thomas Hoyle, a Tacoma resident who speaks full time on the Bible and science. Mr. Hoyle has given the presentation more than 800 times in 300 churches, schools and colleges.

Members of **Victory FWB Church** in **East Wenatchee, WA**, celebrated their 35th anniversary. Founding pastor **John Postlewaite** sent a taped message while former pastor **John Warren** gave the morning message. **Terry Stafford** pastors.

Pastor **Bill Van Winkle** said members of **Fulton FWB Church** in **Fulton,**

**MS**, had 24 families on their prayer list prior to revival with Evangelist **Fred Warner**. Thirteen of those families attended the meeting. Two young fathers and a mother were saved, baptized and joined the church.

Members of **Pierpoint FWB Church** in **Maben, WV**, gave a plaque of appreciation to Pastor **Dallas Adkins** for 23 years of service. They also presented Pastor Adkins with a money tree in full bloom.

**Illinois** layman **Kenny Orr** traveled to Cuba with 14 other Free Will Baptist laymen where he saw the desperate need for Sunday School literature among Cuban FWB churches. Orr had raised \$1,700 more than was needed for his travel and expenses; he wanted the extra funds to go toward providing literature. One quarter's literature for all the churches costs \$3,000. The Illinois Executive Board voted to provide the balance.

The **Illinois** Mission Board presented a plaque to members of **First FWB Church** in **Springfield** for paying off their property note. The church began as a mission outreach of Illinois State Association. Board member **Sam Henderson** presented the plaque to Pastor **David Turner** and church member **Marion Spann**.

State moderator **Carl Cheshier** delivered the keynote address as 75 registered for Sunday School revival at Camp Beaverfork in **Conway, AR**. Principal speakers for six teaching sessions were **Garry** and **Donna Richey** from Oklahoma City. The Board selected Mrs. **Willie Bohannon** as teacher of the year; she teaches the teen Sunday School class at Clifty Chapel FWB Church in Rogers. **Adrian Spinks** was selected Sunday School superintendent of the year. He serves at Fawn Grove FWB Church in Knobel, AR.

**Akron FWB Church** in **Akron, OH**, celebrated their 30th anniversary with founding pastor **Kenneth Frisbee**. Half the original charter members attended. To express appreciation the congregation gave Pastor Frisbee a \$75 weekly raise and a \$5,000 cash gift, and voted to pay Pastor and Mrs. Frisbee's supplemental insurance after retirement

for as long as they live.

*Contact* welcomes *Living Sacrifices*, a publication of **Donelson FWB Church Woman's Auxiliary** (**Nashville, TN**). The paper includes a book review, recipes from some good cooks and a guest editorial about missions.

Pastor **Roy Hutchinson** baptized eight as a result of the children's church outreach at **Reynoldsburg FWB Church** in **Reynoldsburg, OH**.

Members of **Hillview FWB Church** in **Reynoldsburg, OH**, report a 35 percent increase in church attendance. Pastor **Belve Barger** baptized 18 converts and received 32 members.

Members of **Coalton FWB Church** in **Wellston, OH**, dreamed of building a new church. Pastor **Troy Miller** said, "Praise God, we are seeing this dream of a new building become reality."

Pastor **Densil Wright** reports 13 conversions at **Mt. Sterling FWB Church** in **Mt. Sterling, OH**.

Two great events happened at **Campbell FWB Church** in **Ironton, OH**. Member **Roscoe Scott** received a 34-year perfect attendance pin. Pastor **Danny Cline** reports 10 conversions among the church's young people.

**Samantha FWB Church** in **Leesburg, OH**, baptized five and received seven new members. **Wyle Perkins** pastors.

Pastor **Hertis Stone** welcomed seven new members at **Wyandotte FWB Church** in **Mansfield, OH**.

Pastor **John Castle** reports 11 new members at **Sterling FWB Church**, **Sterling, OH**.

Members of **Trinity FWB Church** in **Bridgeton, MO**, purchased a 15-passenger 1991 Ford van for outreach ministry. **Michael Garner** pastors.

Members of **Bethel FWB Church** in **Baxley, GA**, dedicated a social hall and four Sunday School rooms. Pastor **Gary Page** paid special tribute to **D. C. Orvin** who chaired the building project.

Pastor **Willie Martin** reports attendance up at **First FWB Church** in **Columbus, GA**. Sunday School increased 17 percent when the teen class tripled. Worship services increased 43 percent and Wednesday youth meetings doubled with a high of 40. ■



## FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

*The "D" Word and Its Consequences*

By Harrold Harrison  
Director, External Studies Department

*Divorce is  
crushing  
the life  
out of our  
families.*

What would you give to enrich your marriage?

Recent polls reveal that one out of every two marriages ends in divorce. Is there someone in your immediate family who has not experienced the devastating "D" word?

Divorce is crushing the life out of our families. The tragic trauma takes its toll on both spouses, saps the strength and stamina from our youth, worries and frets the in-laws on both sides, and devastates the younger children.

Its negative effects will be felt in every segment of our society for generations to come.

What can be done to reverse the trend and to salvage its victims? The solution is not easy or painless. It demands discipline, determination, and dedication. Many will not be salvaged. Others may be helped. All will suffer pain, guilt, shame, and remorse. The unborn and unmarried may reap great benefits.

The principals in such cases—the spouses—feel they are the real victims. But are they? Most have had to be resilient in other areas where problems existed and can bounce back more easily.

The children of divorce are the real victims. Check the crime rate, drug abuse victims, suicides, and divorce statistics. A huge majority of those will have come from broken homes.

Reversing the trend of the "D" word in our society has no simple solution. It insists on a reprogramming of the individual as it relates to happiness, values, a commitment to the permanence of marriage, an early resolution of marital problems, and a balanced growth together in Christian maturity.

In the same way that a computer can only respond consistent with its programming, so it is with everyone who has adopted the world's value system.

The concept of happiness depicted by soap operas, TV in general, many romantic novels (both Christian and secular), Hollywood movies, and other media has been impressed upon the minds of the last several generations. When one's "happiness" does not measure up to such hype, divorce is seen

as a viable alternative.

The value system of a society is never static. The pressure for conformity exerted through peer groups is uncompromising and merciless. Thus, many, rather than be inundated by such a tidal wave, yield to the pressures and conform.

The unchanging, God-breathed principles of the Bible, when understood, internalized, and adhered to, guide the Christian through troubled waters.

The wedding vows, "Forsaking all others, in sickness and in health, in poverty or in wealth, 'till death do us part," should be an act of commitment to the permanence of the marriage institution.

No two individuals are totally compatible. Making a marriage successful requires some "give and take" on both sides.

The early resolution of looming marital problems is essential. If a couple cannot successfully work out such difficulties, they should seek competent Christian counsel.

Unresolved problems are like Bermuda grass: it puts down new roots every few inches, thus ensuring its continuance. If not attended to early, problems multiply.

Then there needs to be a programming as it relates to a balanced growth toward Christian maturity on the part of both spouses. This not only includes a study and understanding of the Bible, but of yourself, your spouse, your environment, and the world in which you live.

This demands that you be an avid reader, a student, a good listener, and one who makes it his business to know what is transpiring in his church, his city, state, nation, and world.

The External Studies Department of Free Will Baptist Bible College offers a home study course, "Creating A Successful Christian Marriage," for your enrichment. Dr. LaVerne Miley does the video lectures for this course.

Contact the External Studies Department for further information about this and other helpful courses. ■





## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

### National Ministries Sunday—September 29, 1991

The gift budget for all Departments and Commissions of the National Association for 1991 is \$8,040,302.40....a lot of money compared to \$40.77. But what is \$40.77?

Well, it wasn't enough for one night's lodging at any one of the hotels in Charleston during the National Association this past summer.

Nor enough for one person to attend the three main dinner meetings at the same convention.

\$40.77...just enough for a family of four to have dinner, dessert and leave the tip at Shoney's or Bob's Big Boy (it would help if one ordered a simple hamburger, too.)

Or probably enough for the same four to eat twice at McDonalds.

BUT if each Free Will Baptist member gives \$40.77 to the work of our National programs we can....

- Finance every foreign missionary in our denomination, in every country of their ministry, in every program approved by their Board, and all the office expenses too.
- Sustain every home missionary and support the office staff.
- Underwrite Free Will Baptist Bible College's total gift budget.
- Fund the Executive Office
- Credit all of the Retirement Plan's income to participants' accounts instead of what remains after operational expenses.
- Free the Master's Men and Woman's Auxiliary to focus on ministry instead of fund raising.
- Make provision for the Theological, Historical, Radio-Television and Music Commissions to achieve their mission objectives.

This is possible. How? By you and your church along with me and my church, determining to meet our goal of an average gift of \$40.77 per member.

This is our denomination but the work is the Lord's. And His work is worthy of our total allegiance. Can He count on you? ■

#### In Memory Of...

By...

##### Rev. T. B. Mellette

G. J. Ward  
Dothan, AL

##### Dixie Atkinson

Melia Earnest  
Winfield, AL

##### Alice Winkle

Haskell Winkle  
Checotah, OK

##### Ben Wright

Harrison Auxiliary  
Minford, OH

##### Paul Pursell

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Turnage  
Greeneville, TN

##### Sister Elaine Hone

1st Church Auxiliary  
Louisville, KY

##### Ben Rooks

Ray and Ida Lewis  
Nashville, TN

##### Robert Chason

Ray and Ida Lewis  
Nashville, TN

##### Rev. Fred Wynn

Carl and Pansy Cravens  
Pomona, CA

##### James Emmett Frazier

Agnes Frazier  
Hermitage, TN

##### Reverend Charlie Porter

Bear Point Auxiliary  
Sesser, IL

##### Viva Wright

Carl and Pansy Cravens  
Pomona, CA

##### Charles Barker

Ruby Barker  
Morehead City, NC

##### Samuel and Ruth Hersey

Herman and Vernie Hersey  
Nashville, TN

##### Walter and Violet Hood

Herman and Vernie Hersey  
Nashville, TN

##### Rev. J. B. Parsons

Goodsprings Auxiliary  
Pleasant View, TN

##### J. Owen Thomas

Beth Hall and  
Mrs. Owen Thomas  
Four Oaks, NC

##### Guy Milton Hampton

William W. Evans  
Nashville, TN

##### Silas L. Williams

Edna Williams  
Garner, NC

##### Mr. and Mrs. Samuel R.

##### Brinkley

Agnes Frazier  
Hermitage, TN





## RANDALL HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

### *Managing the Affairs of God*

There is a deep sense of timidity on the part of Christian leadership that keeps the Church from fulfilling the purpose for which it was called and exists: managing the affairs of God on earth.

Churches have vast programs of teaching and music and evangelism and buildings and missions. But churches don't have great programs in these areas because too few people are involved in them. Eighty percent of resident memberships do little toward helping the church be the church it was commissioned to be.

Timidity comes at the point of preaching and teaching biblical stewardship. Most Christians are not mature stewards, and everything the church is supposed to be doing falls 80 percent short of its potential. There is an underlying, subtle belief that an inherent evil exists in material things. That's not said, of course. But belief surfaces in such statements as: "We don't talk about money in our church," and "We keep our emphasis on the spiritual." Such a concept is not Christian, but it is the concept most Christians hold.

In the beginning God created this universe in which we live. We are not told when He did it or how he did it; just the fact that He did, and that He did it well. God was pleased with His creation.

He created man in His own image, and gave him the unique responsibility and privilege of management. Man was appointed God's representative in this world; he was to manage God's affairs on earth. Not only was man made in the image of God, but he is "to image" God. He best images God by giving himself for the world.

The church's role in this matter is to develop mature Christian stewards so it can get on with its business. And this means doing something differently from anything previously done. Business as usual has created something in church with which we cannot continue to live: its giving commitment! Churches are doing an excellent job with the membership commitment they have—giving from 10 percent to 35 percent (a few as high as 50 percent) of their local budgets to causes beyond themselves. This seems good! But, the problem is that most churches are

satisfied with "Making the budget." They measure outside ministries against the local ministries rather than measuring both against their potential. This gives a warped sense of fulfilled values.

The church, through all its teaching apparatus, must strive to develop members as stewards. It's much easier to "preach the gospel" than it is "to teach to observe" the gospel.

There are some deep, nagging questions that hinder the giving of most members. Churches are answering questions that are not being asked, and completely unaware of the real hindering causes. The Church must get to the bottom of these if it is to do any more in this world than is being done.

This article is the preface to the book *Managing the Affairs of God On Earth*. Douglas G. Brown has spent over 15 years in stewardship development. His book includes the chapters on what's wrong with our giving?, why members don't give, ministry-design budgeting, how to live on your income, letters to lost members, ministering the church's money, how to plan to give and other developing helps. The book costs \$10 per copy.

Mr. Brown has also written a pamphlet titled, "How to Increase Church Revenue Without Really Trying." This pamphlet is free. Order the book or the pamphlet from Randall House Envelope Service 1-800/627-9900. ■



## HOME MISSIONS

*Traveling the Oregon Trail!*

By Roy Thomas

Have you ever been to scenic Oregon? It is an exciting experience to see magnificent salmon jumping waterfalls on rivers which flow from majestic, volcanic snow-covered mountains. Oregon, a state on the Pacific Coast, is known for its vast forests of ever-green trees, cascading streams and beautiful mountain scenery. Forests cover almost half the state, and every large Oregon city has factories that make wood products. Oregon has nearly a fifth of the nation's timber, and it leads in lumber production.

The rugged beauty of Oregon's mountains, seacoast and forest lands attracts more than 7.5 million tourists a year. Deer, elk and other wild animals roam Oregon's wooded regions. The state has many outstanding natural wonders, such as Crater Lake in the Cascade Mountains, the Columbia River Gorge, Hell's Canyon on the Snake River and Oregon Caves National Monument.

In the early days, Oregon meant the end of the trail for many pioneers. During the 1840's and 1850's thousands of settlers traveled by covered wagon on the Oregon Trail to fertile farmlands in the mountain valleys of Oregon. When white men entered the Oregon region, they found many Indian tribes living there. For hundreds of years the Indians had speared the salmon which swam upstream to spawn each year. Many wars were fought between Indians and white men before they learned to live in the same beautiful region peaceably.

The mighty Columbia River forms most of the boundary between Oregon and Washington. Huge dams on the Columbia supply electric power for homes and industries, improve the river for shipping and provide water for irrigation. The Columbia River was once called the Oregon, or "Ouragon" which means "hurricane" in French. Oregon is also known as "The Beaver State" because the region supplied thousands of beaver skins during fur-trading days.

Religiously, Oregon and Washington are virtually unreached with the gospel. These two states lead the nation in the number of unchurched families on a percentage basis. Many families who used to be involved in the Lord's work in other states moved to Oregon and abandoned their religion at the state line. Millions of people in this beautiful state have

never heard a clear-cut presentation of the gospel of Christ. They never attend church or read their Bibles. Gospel-preaching churches are desperately needed in the cities of Oregon to reach people with the good news of salvation.

Oregon's three largest cities, Portland, Eugene and Salem, all lie in the rich Willamette Valley in the northwestern part of the state. Portland, the largest city, is the commercial, industrial and cultural center of the state.

This huge city, which is close to the Columbia River and Mount St. Helens in Washington, is the 14th fastest growing city among the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the United States. Fifty percent of the greater Portland area's 1.4 million population is unchurched. Therefore, an aggressive, soul-winning, Free Will Baptist church is needed in this area. Portland is set in the midst of one of the most beautiful parts of our nation, one hour from either the Pacific Ocean, snow-covered mountains or scenic deserts.

A 12-acre tract of vacant land which belongs to Free Will Baptists is located in Portland one mile from a sign which says, "The End of the Oregon Trail." Home missionaries Darrell and Sandy Smith soon will travel the Oregon Trail, but not in search of furs, fish and farming as did the first pioneers. Theirs will be a search to find lost souls in the Portland area, win them to Jesus Christ and establish a Free Will Baptist church. Soon after their arrival in Portland their goal is to erect a Free Will Baptist church building on this choice piece of property.

Darrell Smith, brother of Home Missions Board chairman Rue Dell Smith, is an ordained Free Will Baptist preacher with several years of pastoral and evangelism work. He and his wife Sandy inspire listeners with their heartwarming gospel singing and his fervent preaching. They have traveled extensively the past several months in deputation work raising their support as national home missionaries and are now ready to travel the Oregon Trail.

The Home Missions Department is praying for lay couples who have the dedicated pioneer spirit to go with the Smiths on this exciting adventure to win souls to Christ and build a Free Will Baptist church "at the end of the Oregon Trail." ■



Darrell and Sandy Smith





## BOARD OF RETIREMENT

### *Why Choose An Annuity? (Part II)*

In our retirement plan, annuitants share in extra benefits since they remain in the program for life. The purpose of our retirement plan—any retirement plan, including the Individual Retirement Annuity (IRA)—is primarily to provide a monthly income for retirees and their spouses. That's why all plans emphasize the annuity options and why some plans make provision only for annuities.

And that's why our experience and that of other denominational plans show that people leave rather large sums through wills or trust to benefit church retirees who receive monthly benefits.

Several years ago a woman in Oklahoma left a cash bequest to our Board to benefit our retirees. Another woman from Virginia left property designated the same. The Board placed the gifts in a Memorial Endowment Fund. From the earnings, annuitants will receive added benefits.

Another practical reason for choosing an annuity option regards brotherly care for others. One helps himself and perhaps another brother or sister. One could possibly leave funds in the pool at death just as with life insurance and retirement annuities from major corporations across America.

In a real sense we ought to feel that we are our brother's keeper. Some will die early; others will live into their 80's and even into their 90's. Regardless, annuity payments continue for lifetime. That's the reason for the annuity pool where all funds remain forever.

I celebrated my 65th birthday last January. I'm not yet ready to retire, but when that time comes I plan to receive an annuity. Should my wife and I die early, we will have the satisfaction of knowing that any remaining funds will help someone else.

Participants may choose freely any option the trust provides for, whether cash or annuity. But we do ask each one to pray and consider the advantages of the annuity program for themselves and their spouses. ■

#### **In Honor Of...**

By...

#### **Homer Arrowood**

William H. Herms  
Belmont, NC

#### **George Lee**

David Thomas  
Goldsboro, NC

#### **Fred Hersey**

Grace Yow  
Raleigh, NC

#### **Herman Hersey**

Grace Yow  
Raleigh, NC

#### **Rev. Jack Ward**

1st Church Auxiliary  
Marion, NC

#### **Rev. Donald Moore**

White Oaks Auxiliary  
Macon, GA

#### **Rev. John C. Moran**

Tony Bazen  
New Bern, NC

#### **Andy Campbell**

Faith Auxiliary  
Morganton, NC

#### **Wade Webb**

Sophia Auxiliary  
Sophia, WV

#### **Rev. and Mrs. C. J. Kettelman**

Benton 1st Auxiliary  
Benton, IL

#### **Rev. Clifford Myers**

Pocola Heights Auxiliary  
Pocola, OK

#### **William Lee Evans**

William W. Evans  
Nashville, TN

#### **Jakie Creech**

Viola Messer  
Jesup, GA

#### **Kenneth M. Walker**

2nd Church Auxiliary  
Ashland, KY

#### **Paul Robinson**

North Warren Auxiliary  
Warren, MI

#### **George Johnson**

North Warren Auxiliary  
Warren, MI

#### **Rev. James Blair**

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Crum  
Cocoa, FL

#### **James L. Christian**

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Crum  
Cocoa, FL

#### **Rev. G. C. Lee**

Harry and Phyllis Thorpe  
Torrington, CT

#### **Rev. Wayne Miracle**

Pine Level Auxiliary  
Alma, GA

#### **Rev. F. A. Giles**

Alice Smith  
Cote d'Ivoire, Africa

#### **Charles Powell**

Bethel Auxiliary  
Ashland City, TN

#### **Delsie Waters**

Five Points Auxiliary  
Pinetown, NC

#### **Daisy Latham**

Five Points Auxiliary  
Pinetown, NC





## WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

### *Woman's Window on the World*

By Mary R. Wisheart

#### *From My Window*

School days. I was shocked recently when I asked an elementary teacher to start the song, "School Days." She didn't know the song. Someone spoke up and said, "She's too young."

Remember? "School days, school days,  
Good old Golden Rule days.  
Readin' and 'ritin' and 'rith-  
metic,  
Taught to the tune of a hickory  
stick."

Many things have changed since those days, haven't they? Yet we still send students off to school at this time of year.

They have great opportunities for learning. Those of us who remember the song never had access to so much knowledge. Our world was a much smaller world.

Today, as students acquire knowledge and get acquainted with the larger world, let's remind them of the true wisdom.

God says, "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding" Job 28:28.

If the student, elementary, high school or college misses knowing God as who He is, then he has missed the most important knowledge of all.

Psalm 53:1: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

If we educate our young people without the fear of the Lord, then we have educated only knowledgeable fools.

#### *September is Student Loan Month*

Since 1956 WNAC has emphasized the Memorial Student Loan Fund in September. This fund helps students in the second or following years of their training at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

If you wish to help students in a special way this month, give a gift through your Woman's Auxiliary to the Memorial Student Loan Fund.

#### *Will We Reach the Goal?*

October, November, December—we are counting down for the Eunice Edwards Loan

Fund for Churches Abroad.

Our goal—\$50,000 by December 31, 1991.

At the end of June the fund had received a total of \$35,201.64, just \$14,798.36 to go.

Can we reach our goal? Surely we can.

Perhaps your Woman's Auxiliary has not given its \$5 per member. If it has, perhaps you can give again.

Let's reach the goal.

#### *Study Committee*

The Study Committee selected by the convention in 1990 continues to work. They have studied other organizations for women, the surveys turned in by Free Will Baptist women and the work of Woman's Auxiliaries through the years.

Remember to pray for the Study Committee. If you have suggestions for them, write the committee members or send your ideas and suggestions to WNAC, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

#### *A New Address*

WNAC has a new address.

No, we have not separated from the other National Offices. We are in the new office building with the other national agencies.

No, we have not moved away from Nashville. We just have a different post office.

Yes, we want you to come and visit us anytime. You are always welcome. You will be thankful for the new offices and appreciative of the Lord's provision.

#### *Subscribe to the Co-Laborer Magazine*

In October WNAC sends out bills for the *Co-Laborer* magazine. If you already subscribe, please renew and send in the subscription price.

If you are not a subscriber, why not begin with 1992? Encourage all the women in your church to subscribe to the magazine. Even if they do not attend Woman's Auxiliary, they may enjoy the magazine and keep up with the missions and Free Will Baptist women across the country. They can profit from the articles and programs in the magazine.

Request a subscription from WNAC at the address given above. ■



## Parable of the Ten Pounds

Luke 19:11-27

**W**ith this study our series on the parables unique to Luke ends. Jesus gave this one as He approached Jerusalem for the last time. His teachings during this period indicate a mixture of concerns. For one thing, He spoke often about rejection He would experience at the hands of official representatives of the Jewish people. For another, He was conscious that He would soon depart this earth and leave His followers with responsibility.

Verse 11 adds to the sense of context for the parable: Jesus gave it *because* (literally) "it seemed to them that the kingdom of God was immediately going to appear." "Appear" (Greek *anaphaino*) is used only one other time in the NT, in Acts 21:3 when Luke says that Paul and his companions "came in sight" of Cyprus.

Jesus' hearers, at this point, were probably mostly followers, some of them, at least, thought that He was about to bring the kingdom of God into visible manifestation.

One theme of the parable, then, grows out of this. Whatever one thinks about the inner, invisible, spiritual aspect of the kingdom of God (and I, for one, think that is very real, and present), the visible aspect of it was not about to be manifested. Jesus was not going to Jerusalem for an enthronement, but for rejection and death.

His position, then, was very much that of the first figure in the parable, the "nobleman" (Greek *eugenes*, "well-born") who went abroad for the purpose of receiving a kingdom and who would return later (v. 12). Such a thing was a part of the culture of the times. In Judea, for example, some of the Herods had gone to

Rome to be appointed king by the Roman Caesar.

That leads to a second theme, the fate of those who would reject Him. Thus the parable indicates (v. 12) that the citizens of the land where He was to become king sent to indicate their unwillingness in the matter. The "message" (Greek *presbeia*) is, specifically, an embassy.

The final words of the parable (v. 27) indicate the royal appointee's intentions: those who resisted him would be executed. The point is obvious: those who persist in their rejection of Jesus' lordship will face destruction. The Jewish officials of His day were prime examples.

The main theme of the parable, however, is seen in the interplay around the 10 pounds and the accounting that resulted. Ten servants were given a "pound" each—the Greek silver ("money" in vv. 15, 23 is "silver") *mina*, 18.2 troy ounces whose then current value we might best express as being at least 100 days' wages, possibly much more than that.

Each was told to "occupy" with this until the nobleman's return and coronation. This verb (Greek *pragmateuomai*) means to do business. They were expected to engage in business or trade to increase the money for their master.

When the accounting came (v. 15), some had done so. One who had gained 10 times the original amount was given authority over 10 cities in his master's kingdom (vv. 16-17). One who had multiplied it five times was given corresponding authority as his reward (w. 18-19). But one had gained nothing, fearfully setting the money aside for safekeeping (w. 20-21).

Did he secretly hope that his mas-



Robert E. Picirilli

ter would not return and he could keep the money, quietly, for himself? We can't be sure. Regardless, his master rebuked his (apparently false) motives and took from him the pound that had been idle, assigning it to the one who had done the best (vv. 22-24). And when some raised a question, the new king uttered a principle that precisely matches what our Lord himself said elsewhere (Matthew 13:12; Mark 4:25; Luke 8:18).

I take it, then, that this principle puts us on the main point; and, since it occurs again in a similar parable (Matthew 25:14-30; note v. 29), we probably have to raise the question about the difference between the two parables. In the other one, the servants are given different amounts, "each according to his ability." In this one, they are given equal amounts. The other one, therefore, indicates that there are varying gifts and responsibilities for different servants of the Lord.

This one, regardless of that, indicates that we all have equal responsibility to serve Him with what He has given us. And the extent to which we effectively do that will bear on what we hear from Him at the accounting of stewards. Those who have done well may expect a reward (in recognition, if nothing else) that is added to. Those who have done nothing will receive no credit at all.

We had best be about our Master's business. What He has given to us calls for us to use it in His service. As stewards, we will give account. We want to be able to present to Him the multiplied fruits of investing our energies and abilities in His work. This is the "business" we are to be about until He comes. ■



# A Mind for What Matters

F. F. Bruce



Thomas Marberry

(Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990, 325 pp., paperback, \$19.95).

**T**he death of Dr. F. F. Bruce in September 1990 was a tragic loss to the Christian world. He was for many years one of the truly outstanding Bible scholars of the English-speaking world. It has been my pleasure to read many of his books and review several for "Top Shelf."

This is Dr. Bruce's final book, completed a short time before his death. It is a collection of 18 of his most significant essays and articles, several of which were revised and updated to include in this volume.

As I read this collection of essays, three things came to stand out.

*First*, they reflect the tremendous range of this man's scholarship. He was a serious student of the Old Testament, the New Testament and church history. His interests range

from the significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls to the earliest commentary in the Latin language on the Book of Revelation. Few scholars, living or dead, have reflected such a broad range of interests.

*Second*, these articles display not only great range but also great depth. Bruce's understanding of these various fields was neither shallow nor casual. He reflects in this book an intimate and detailed knowledge which can only come from years of research, study, reading and careful reflection.

For example, three articles deal with the Qumran community and how their writings (commonly known as the Dead Sea Scrolls) have helped us to understand more completely both Judaism and early Christianity. In these articles, the

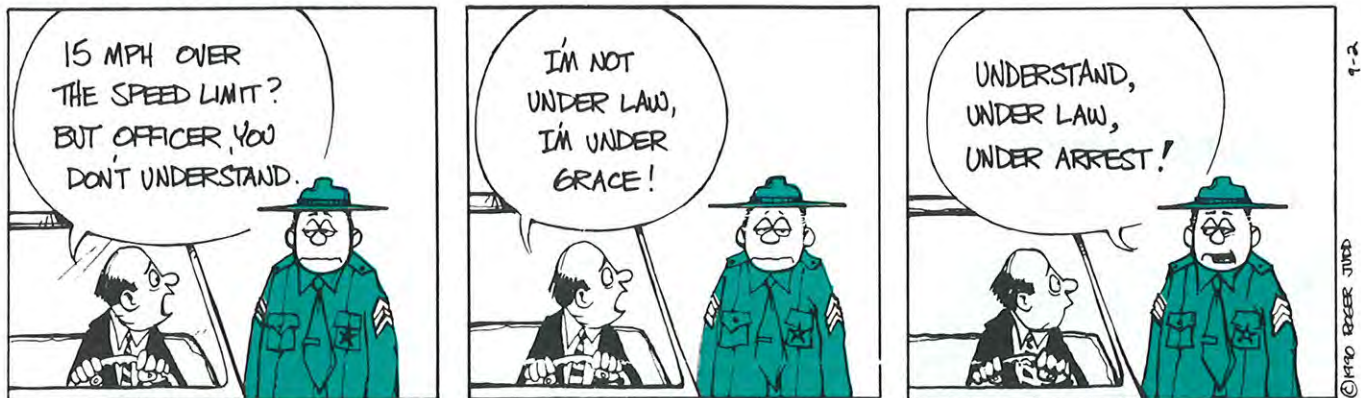
author demonstrates an incredible understanding of life and thought in the ancient world.

*Third*, these essays demonstrate once again Dr. Bruce's commitment to the Bible and the church. Every article demonstrates the high regard which he had for the scriptures. For him, the Bible was truly the Word of God.

Three of the articles deal with issues relating to the Christian Brethren, the denomination to which he devoted his life and service. He not only loved Christ, he also served Him as a faithful member of his church.

This last major work is a fitting close to an outstanding career of Christian service. It reminds us that the things of God are truly the things that matter. ■

## BEYOND BELIEF



### Directory Update

#### GEORGIA

Ken Murphy to First Church, Jesup from First Church, Chesterfield, IN

J. Malone Cobb to Liberty Church, Waycross

#### INDIANA

Dan Runion to Peace Church, Indianapolis from Grace Church, Taylor, MI

#### VIRGINIA

Billy D. King to Elkton Church, Elkton

Delmas Meadows to Stanley Church, Stanley

Houston Mullins to Manassas Church, Manassas ■



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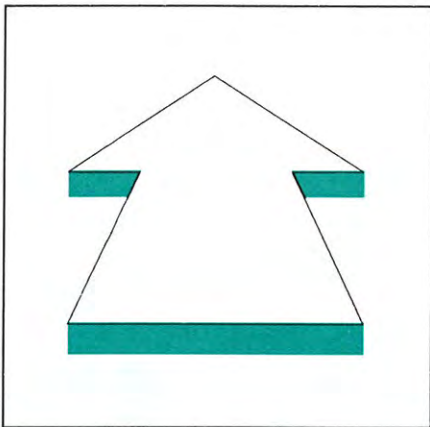
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## Cooperative Channel Contributions September 1991

### RECEIPTS:

| State                 | Designated         | CO-OP<br>(Undesignated) | Total              | June '90            | Yr. To Date         |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Alabama               | \$ 264.85          | \$ 61.63                | \$ 326.48          | \$ 60.89            | \$ 2,497.88         |
| Arizona               | 338.15             | 35.80                   | 373.95             | .00                 | 692.90              |
| Arkansas              | .00                | 4,838.85                | 4,838.85           | 4,810.77            | 33,809.00           |
| California            | .00                | 2,176.42                | 2,176.42           | 1,202.12            | 6,671.99            |
| Colorado              | .00                | .00                     | .00                | .00                 | .00                 |
| Delaware              | .00                | .00                     | .00                | .00                 | .00                 |
| Florida               | .00                | 1,194.50                | 1,194.50           | 1,504.89            | 9,414.48            |
| Georgia               | 7,178.79           | 836.50                  | 8,015.29           | 9,749.76            | 56,491.18           |
| Hawaii                | .00                | .00                     | .00                | .00                 | .00                 |
| Idaho                 | .00                | .00                     | .00                | .00                 | 59.78               |
| Illinois              | 6,472.70           | 1,360.83                | 7,833.53           | 6,929.82            | 45,010.53           |
| Indiana               | 461.00             | 70.10                   | 531.10             | 473.71              | 4,046.62            |
| Kansas                | .00                | 35.21                   | 35.21              | .00                 | 320.77              |
| Kentucky              | 183.70             | 126.96                  | 310.66             | 161.33              | 838.33              |
| Maryland              | .00                | .00                     | .00                | .00                 | 2,466.61            |
| Michigan              | 2,473.27           | 481.66                  | 2,954.93           | 4,733.90            | 27,568.86           |
| Mississippi           | .00                | 215.55                  | 215.55             | 493.72              | 3,125.84            |
| Missouri              | .00                | .00                     | .00                | 7,770.90            | 44,783.65           |
| New Mexico            | 1,240.69           | 17.35                   | 1,258.04           | .00                 | 1,429.80            |
| North Carolina        | 350.00             | 910.24                  | 1,260.24           | 1,561.00            | 12,363.09           |
| Ohio                  | 220.00             | 2,988.00                | 3,208.00           | 3,234.00            | 17,364.00           |
| Oklahoma              | 31,719.54          | 8,335.13                | 40,054.67          | 41,406.58           | 242,024.68          |
| South Carolina        | .00                | .00                     | .00                | 11,586.95           | 59,113.78           |
| Tennessee             | 2,518.15           | 1,219.94                | 3,738.09           | 1,599.66            | 17,045.58           |
| Texas                 | 10,557.81          | 718.80                  | 11,276.61          | 11,275.33           | 57,345.20           |
| Virginia              | .00                | .00                     | .00                | 218.72              | 1,999.42            |
| West Virginia         | 1,231.34           | 166.04                  | 1,397.38           | 8,415.32            | 15,925.68           |
| Canada                | .00                | .00                     | .00                | .00                 | .00                 |
| Northwest Association | .00                | .00                     | .00                | .00                 | 111.23              |
| Other (Computer)      | .00                | .03                     | .03                | .00                 | .27                 |
| <b>Totals</b>         | <b>\$65,209.99</b> | <b>\$25,789.54</b>      | <b>\$90,999.53</b> | <b>\$117,189.37</b> | <b>\$662,521.15</b> |

### DISBURSEMENTS:

|                        |                    |                    |                    |                     |                     |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Executive Office       | \$ 396.39          | \$21,224.89        | \$21,621.28        | \$ 20,166.65        | \$129,727.66        |
| Foreign Missions       | 45,280.26          | 1,049.86           | 46,330.12          | 65,689.59           | 340,505.82          |
| FWBBC                  | 1,921.46           | 1,049.86           | 2,971.32           | 6,009.33            | 43,942.02           |
| Home Missions          | 14,377.80          | 821.62             | 15,199.42          | 19,319.89           | 100,400.87          |
| Retirement & Insurance | 95.93              | 639.06             | 734.99             | 1,751.11            | 12,018.53           |
| Master's Men           | 74.72              | 639.06             | 713.78             | 1,729.51            | 12,302.61           |
| Commission for         |                    |                    |                    |                     |                     |
| Theological Integrity  | 32.57              | 22.83              | 55.40              | 94.31               | 615.27              |
| FWB Foundation         | 336.15             | 273.87             | 610.02             | 1,137.92            | 8,138.24            |
| Historical Commission  | 30.02              | 22.83              | 52.85              | 90.70               | 589.84              |
| Music Commission       | 2.55               | 22.83              | 25.38              | 62.15               | 434.19              |
| Radio & TV Commission  | 21.51              | 22.83              | 44.34              | 84.59               | 617.00              |
| Hillsdale FWB College  | 2,177.52           | .00                | 2,177.52           | 741.51              | 8,692.56            |
| Other                  | 463.11             | .00                | 463.11             | 312.11              | 4,536.54            |
| <b>Totals</b>          | <b>\$65,209.99</b> | <b>\$25,789.54</b> | <b>\$90,999.53</b> | <b>\$117,189.37</b> | <b>\$662,521.15</b> |



## Change!

**H**ave you ever wondered why so many people sleepwalk through life snug in routine and sameness? The answer is agonizingly simple. We get bored with ourselves, our programs, our ideas and assume that all is well simply because nothing changes.

You've heard the catch phrases: Change with the times; change is coming; get ready for change. People in the business world who can't or won't change get stranded in the backwaters of technology and culture. That's true in the church also.

The Bible warns against feeling that everything's okay when it isn't: "...Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God" (Psalm 55:19).

**Why fear something** that's as normal as night following day? Most things don't get better until change occurs. Henry Ford had a great idea in the Model-A, but hard-won changes built the Lincoln Towncar. The Wright brothers did it first, but what a difference in that bumpy Kitty Hawk flight and cruising at 35,000 feet in a Boeing 747. It's called change.

Of course, there's a dark side to change. The same nation that legislated God out of public schools in 1963 can't understand why drugs, violence and teenage pregnancy now dominate school agendas. That's also called change...and cause and effect.

**What about change** in the church? We study from an unchanging Bible about an unchanging God and His unchanging doctrine. Guess who created a world filled with amazing changes? While the message of hope remains the same, packaging God's truth changes to fit the times and culture.

The same God who walked with Adam in a garden paradise spoke to a nation through animal sacrifices and symbolically-attired priests. The part of God that never changes is His character. Just when we decide that God only speaks through stone tablets, He inserts a leather-throated John the Baptist or a still, small voice in a cave or a star that slices the night sky over Bethlehem.

**Free Will Baptists** face change today. The most dramatic change is leadership. Ready or not, in 10 years, our denomination will be firmly in the hands of another generation. Maybe sooner.

Hundreds of pastors in their late 50's and early 60's will be unable to carry heavy pastoral loads into the 21st century. We'll see a new generation of faces in Free Will Baptist pulpits, new district moderators, new state promotional officers.

**The leadership change** won't stop there. Our greying foreign missionary force will return stateside. New missionaries will face the cultural adjustments.

Our national agencies will be in younger hands. New minds will set Home and Foreign Missions Department policies. A new director will guide our publishing house. New academics will hood Bible College graduates.

Oh, and new editors will guide *Heartbeat*, *Mission Grams*, *Co-Laborer* and *Contact*. Are we ready for change?

No leader can do more than David, of whom it was written: "...he served his own generation by the will of God..." David prepared so that Solomon could build what he could not; our current leaders have that same responsibility.



Jack Williams

**New leaders are not** the enemy. They are the future. They are here now. They already pastor the churches and are beginning the transfer of leadership from older, tested hands to younger (but trustworthy) hands.

New eyes will see what we have not seen. New minds will explain what we do not understand. New vision will take the denomination through doors that did not exist a few years ago.

Let us not resist change. The people weren't ready for Joshua to replace Moses. But God was. The sons of the prophets weren't ready for Elisha to replace Elijah. But God was.

**Sometimes the last people** to know when change is needed are those in charge. When God is ready for change, we either cooperate or fossilize. How ironic that men whose vision can lead a generation seldom recognize when it's time to fold their own tents and welcome new leadership.

It's time we passed the baton to those with stronger legs and keener eyes. Tomorrow's new methods demand new leaders. Rather than oppose new leadership, let's encourage it, direct it, prepare for it.

**Change!** The next generation of leaders will hear the same voice of God that we did. They will not fear the things that frighten us. They will build God's Church in a high-tech world.

We taught them how to study. We taught them how to pray. Now let's teach them how men of God respond to change. ■



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# National Stewardship Month

September 1991



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