

MAY 1992

CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



.....
Motor Up to
Indy

.....
Before You Judge

.....
Stop the Clock

.....
The Terror of Success

.....
Piece of Trash

INSIDE

MAY 1992

VOLUME 39, NO. 5

ARTICLES

4 Motor Up to Indy!

Everything you need to know about hotels, parking, Indianapolis restaurants and museums, speakers, tutorials and more.

10 Before You Judge . . . Consider

Dr. Peter Wilson knows that we are quick to believe the worst in others.

15 Coping with the Terror of Success

Some people feel guilty when they succeed. Dennis Hensley explains why.

17 Stop the Clock!

Somewhere between frogs and sleepy-eyed talks, a mother realizes that her children are growing up. Suzan Hutchinson wants time to enjoy the moments.

18 His Eleventh Hour

Pastor Larry Russell waited in a hospice for a dying man's prayer to be answered.

18 Fishing With Grandpa

19 A Piece of Trash

The church claims to love teenagers. David Messer learned that a careless act can crush the most beautiful words.

29 Deacons or Demons?

COLUMNS

3 The Secretary Speaks

What About Safe Sex?

19 Our Readers Comment

24 The Department Pages

28 Green Tree Bible Study

A Strange Witness

29 Top Shelf

31 Briefcase

The Indy 6,000

NEWS

20 Free Will Baptist Newsfront

Church Grows 500%
South Carolina State Association
Jamaican Crusade
Softball Tournament
Yearbook Late to Press
Convention Air Fares
Convention Music
Convention Housing/Pre-Registration Forms
Local Church Delegate Form

22 Currently

30 Religious Community News

Editor-in-chief: Dr. Melvin Worthington
Editor: Jack Williams
Editorial Assistant: Marilyn Pritchard
Circulation: Dari Goodfellow

Contact (ISSN 0573-7796), published monthly by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt. View Road, Antioch, TN 37013-

2306. Address all correspondence and subscriptions to Post Office Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Phone 615/731-6812.

Annual subscription rates:
Individual—\$12 per year, Church Family Plan—\$12 per year, Church Bundle Plan—\$12 per year. Second Class postage paid at Antioch, TN

and additional offices.

Copyright privileges, reserved
© 1992 Member of the Evangelical Press Association. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CONTACT, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

USPS 130-660

THE SECRETARY SPEAKS



Melvin Worthington

What About "Safe Sex"?

The media feeds a steady diet of promiscuous and perverted messages about sex. The distorted message lodges in the minds of many Americans. The biblical view of sex is all but lost through such disinformation. Attacks on traditional family values are causing alarm among religious and political leaders.

Can this media blitz be reined in? What options do Christians have? What does the Bible say about sex? Is purity, chastity and holiness in body and mind possible today?

Sanctity of Sex

God made man and woman for each other. Genesis 2 records the first marriage which implies that sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage. Hebrews 13:4 and I Corinthians 7 confirm this fact.

Safeguards for Sex

"Thou shalt not commit adultery" provides a timeless safeguard for sexual propriety. Marriage ceremonies contain a promise to forsake all others. When married persons engage in sexual activity with anyone other than each other they commit adultery.

Adultery is a sin against the Sovereign and one's spouse. Galatians 5, I Corinthians 6 and Revelation 21 declare that those who engage in adultery shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Adultery is deceptive, disruptive, destructive. Social diseases raging out of control, broken homes, incest and emotional problems suggest that those who ignore "Thou shalt not commit adultery" pay a high price.

Fornication, sexual intimacy between unmarried persons, is also forbidden by God. We can be guilty by actions—fornication, by attitude—impure thoughts, by association—reading or viewing materials which champion immorality and chumming with those who do such things. The Bible warns us to flee fornication and reminds us that the body was made for the Lord, not fornication.

Sexual impurity both desensitizes man and disregards and defies God who is holy and righteous. No sin can be more dehumanizing than adultery or fornication, none with more lasting consequences. Those who engage in sexual relations before marriage find that it affects them in marriage while those who break their marriage vows find, to their dismay, that psychological and emotional problems linger.

Satisfaction of Sex

One of the strongest biological

drives is the sexual drive. Sex is not sinful, but holy and beautiful within the marriage bond. The Bible frequently addresses the joy of sex in its proper context. But sex outside marriage remains a sin. No one engages in extramarital or premarital sex without the judgment of God.

Sexual, spiritual and social oneness should be the goal of every married couple. The sexual relationship between husband and wife illustrates the relationship between Christ and the Church. This unique, unselfish, unconditional intimacy brings spiritual and sexual satisfaction. Satan always seeks to distort the beautiful and holy view of sex.

Suggestions Regarding Sex

To the unmarried, abstain from sexual intimacy. Save yourself for the person you marry. You will be glad you did. To the married, give allegiance to your partner. Do not engage in sex with any other. Watch your actions, attitudes and associations.

Safe, satisfying and scriptural sex can only be found in the context of God's will—marriage. The Bible truth is abstinence before marriage and allegiance in marriage. God gives us grace for both.

No more precious gift can be given to a marriage partner than purity when entering marriage. No greater gift can be given than for a husband and wife to remain loyal to each other in marriage.

Abstinence before and allegiance in marriage remains the only safe sex.

■

The Secretary's Schedule

May 2	Arizona State Association
May 3-6	First FWB Church Tucson, AZ
May 7-9	California State Association
May 10	Harmony FWB Church Fresno, CA
May 15-16	Michigan State Association
May 17-20	First FWB Church Norman, OK
May 24	Bethlehem FWB Church Ashland City, TN
May 26-29	Convention Planning Trip Indianapolis, IN
May 27-30	Florida State Association
May 29-30	RCMA Board Meeting Chicago, IL

Motor Up to Indy!

By Marilyn Pritchard



Indiana Convention Center and Hoosier Dome

Vrrrm! Vrrrm! Vrrrm! The exciting sounds of Indianapolis. More interstates converge on this heartland city than any other U.S. city. Ten interstates and state highways converge in Indianapolis. Eighteen major airlines fly into Indy's International Airport which is just 12 minutes from downtown. Buses and trains offer daily passenger service from around the country. Nicknamed "Crossroads of America," Indy's within a day's drive of more than half the nation's population.

And once you get there, moving around is easy because the street plan is logical (when's the last time you experienced *that?*). Traffic is managed well. You can easily find your way in the family car, or if you prefer, you may take a taxi, flag a limo, hop a trolley, ride a bus, or even whistle for a horse and carriage. One writer said limos were so plentiful on

Indianapolis streets that it was cheaper to take a limo than an airport shuttle!

Meet the City

Indy has it all. Whether it's shopping or sports, zoos or museums, historic or state-of-the-art, recreation or dining, there's always something jumping in Indianapolis. Of course, everyone knows about the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the Indy 500. The Hall of Fame Museum's also at the Speedway.

The downtown zoo houses the world's largest, fully-enclosed whale and dolphin pavilion and offers underwater viewing along with aquatic shows. The Children's Museum is the largest in the world with exhibits that appeal to the kid in everyone.

Speaking of museums, here's something unique: Ieteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western Art or

Conner Prairie, a "living" museum that's a recreated, working, 1836 village that lets you taste life as it was. Indy also boasts President Benjamin Harrison's Home, the Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis Museum of Art, the James Whitcomb Riley Home and the spectacular Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument.

Sports! Let's see, there's NBA basketball with the Pacers, NFL football with Eric Dickerson and the Colts, world-class swimming, diving, ice skating, tennis, baseball, hockey, soccer, rugby and PGA golf. (Golfers beware: This city has more than 40 public and private golf courses.) They even host track and field, BMX cycling and equestrian events.

Downtown malls, Union Station, City Market, Claypool Court and the newly-renovated Monument Circle area along with individual stores and restaurants offer creative eating and shopping opportunities.

Getting Ready

When Free Will Baptists come to town, the host city expects big business. Each convention city since 1984 has gleaned more than \$1 million from our visits. According to the Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau, that city collected three million Free Will Baptist dollars in 1991!

We ate more than 3,000 catered meals at each of the last seven convention. Registration statistics explain why:

1991	Charleston, W.Va.	6,538
1990	Phoenix, Ariz.	4,372
1989	Tampa, Fla.	5,707
1988	Kansas City, Mo.	5,866
1987	Birmingham, Ala.	6,159
1986	Tulsa, Okla.	6,545
1985	Nashville, Tenn.	8,340

A national convention requires careful advance planning. Indiana's Steering Committee began preparing last September. Each member chairs a specific committee responsible for different areas of preparation:

Jim Mullen: Steering Committee Chairman

Dan Runion: Hospitality Committee

Richard Byers: Registration Committee

Ivan Asbury: Prayer Committee

Don Neal: Ushering Committee

Other members on this year's committee include:

Mary Neal: State Woman's Auxiliary President

Jason Nelis: NYC Planning Captain

Three ministers will address the convention theme, "Witnessing to the World." Two more will preach at the 11th annual Convention Bible Conference. Moderator Ralph Hampton prepares to gavel his fifth national convention. Others getting ready for July include seminar leaders, banquet speakers, as well as speakers for NYC and WNAC services.

Preparations continue with hotel, catering, convention center and convention bureau personnel. Staff must lease equipment; purchase supplies; print programs, song sheets and digests; authorize telephone service and attend to many more details.

Meet the Preachers

Attendees look forward to great preaching at national conventions.



Richard Bowers



Archie Ratliff



Randy Sawyer



James Forlines



Ronald Creech

This year will not disappoint them. Preaching services start Sunday morning and continue through Wednesday evening's missionary service.

Sunday Morning

Early birds will find Richard Bowers in the pulpit. He is senior pastor at First FWB Church in Northport, Alabama. Born in 1944, Pastor Bowers was saved in 1953 and ordained to preach in 1964. He graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1967.

Bowers has pastored four churches in two states. He served 10 years on the Arkansas Executive Board and four years on the Christian Education Board. He moderated Central Association in Arkansas two years and served as assistant moderator of Alabama's Progressive Association.

Richard and Carolyn Bowers have one son, Jason, who is 17.

Sunday Evening

NYC hosts the Sunday evening service with Archie Ratliff as keynote speaker. Archie was born in 1949 and saved at age 8. He graduated with a B. A. from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1972 and was ordained to preach in June of that year.

Brother Ratliff pastors Bethel FWB Church in Kinston, North Carolina. He has pastored three churches in Georgia, Indiana and North Carolina. He moderated the South Georgia Association two years and the Indiana State Association seven years.

Archie and Portia have three daughters: Kim (21), Michelle (18), Jennifer (16).

Monday Evening

Reverend Randy Sawyer delivers Monday night's National Association keynote message. Randy chairs the music department at Southeastern FWB College. Born in 1956, Randy was saved at age 7. He received his B. A. degree from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1978 and was ordained in 1980.

Brother Sawyer was associate pastor at First FWB Church in Amory, Mississippi, two years and at Trinity FWB Church in Greenville, North Caro-



Headquarters Hotel—Hyatt Regency

Motor Up . . . (from page 5)

lina, three years. He pastored West Duplin FWB Church in Warsaw, North Carolina for three years before moving to Southeastern College in 1985. He teaches both music and Bible courses at the college.

Randy served on the Palmer District Youth Board three years and the North Carolina Youth Board four years.

Brother Sawyer's great-grand father, grandfather and father were all FWB deacons. His great uncle founded numerous Free Will Baptist churches in South Carolina.

Tuesday Evening

Reverend James Forlines, pastor of Allen Chapel FWB Church in Batesville, Arkansas, preaches Tuesday evening. He was born in 1958 and saved at age 18. He graduated with a

B. A. in Bible and Pastoral Training in 1980 from FWBBC where his father, Leroy Forlines, has taught 36 years. He also attended the FWB Graduate School. He was ordained in 1980.

James has pastored in three states: First FWB Church, Gastonia, North Carolina, two years; First FWB Church in Chesterfield Indiana, four years; and at Allen Chapel FWB Church since 1986.

He has held state and district offices in all three states. He was director of KZLE radiothon for Arkansas Children's Hospital in 1991 and 1992. Brother Forlines has written Bible Bowl Questions for five years, been a Teen curriculum outline writer for Randall House and the High Teen curriculum writer for summer quarter 1992.

James and Anita Forlines have three children: Daniel (12), Rachel (8), and Rebekah (7).

Wednesday Evening

Traditionally known as the missionary service, the Wednesday evening sermon will be brought by Ronald Creech, director of development at FWBBC. The North Carolina native was born in 1928, saved in 1944 and ordained to preach in 1951. He received his B.A. from FWBBC in 1952.

Brother Creech has pastored churches in North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina. He moderated the North Carolina State Association in 1966, served on the National Association Executive Committee, and was North Carolina's promotional officer 1966 to 1977.

Brother Creech, a member of Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee, says that when he's not traveling for the school, he's a "pew warmer."

Ronald and Mary Belle Creech have five children: Ruth Creech Mullen

(Ind.); Elizabeth Creech Hodges (Tenn.), Lois Creech (N.C.), Rebecca Creech Tart (N.C.) and Paul Creech (Côte d'Ivoire).

Bible Conference

Two pastors, Rick Bowling and David Archer, are scheduled to bring the Bible Conference messages Tuesday morning at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Rick Bowling is first in the pulpit for the 9:00 a.m. starting time. A former missionary to Uruguay, Rick pastors Martin Hill FWB Church in Booneville, Mississippi. The 43-year-old Hamilton, Alabama, native graduated from FWBBC in 1983 with a B.A. He and his wife Linda served as missionaries to Uruguay from 1984 to 1990. The Bowlings have two children: Michelle Gray and Chris Bowling.

At 10:00 a.m. David Archer steps to the pulpit. This 41-year-old pastor of Faith FWB Church in Glenpool, Oklahoma was saved in 1967, received his A.A. from Oklahoma Bible College in 1971, served in the U.S. Air Force 1971-1973, was ordained in 1973 and earned his Th.B. in 1975 from Hillsdale FWB College.

Archer served as associate pastor in two Oklahoma churches, and has pastored three churches in Texas and Oklahoma. He has served on the Oklahoma CTS Board and the Texas Christian Education Board.

David and Kathi Archer have two children: Sara (13) and Zack (12).

Rooms, Rooms, Rooms

Convention officials blocked 1,325 rooms in six downtown Indianapolis hotels for the 1992 convention. Hyatt Regency (this year's Headquarters Hotel) holds 375 rooms for our people. Omni Severin (WNAC Headquarters) has reserved 250 rooms. Westin Hotel, adjacent to the convention center, blocked 200 rooms, Hilton-at-the-Circle 175 rooms, Embassy Suites 175 rooms and Courtyard by Marriott 150 rooms. Room rates range from \$77 to \$115 per night this year.

Hotel reservations must be made on the official housing form printed in April, May or June *Contact* or in one of the Free Will Baptist state papers. One word of advice: Hurry! Rooms go quickly.

Parking

Embassy Suites and Courtyard by Marriott offer free parking for guests. (Embassy Suites also provides *free breakfast* for guests.) Other rates include: Hyatt Regency—\$7/day with in/out privileges; Hilton-at-the-Circle—\$4/day with in/out privileges; Omni Severin \$4/day-self, \$12/day-valet; Westin (adjacent to the convention center) \$5.75/day-*without* in/out, \$6.75/day *with* in-out privileges.

Parking at the Convention Center is \$5/day with NO in/out privileges. Buses can park in the lot located at South and Senate. RV's may park in the West Parking Lot at the convention center—this includes hookups. Prices for RV parking are \$20/day

without electricity or \$30/day with electricity.

No Nursery

There are no nursery facilities at the convention this year.

Registration

This is the third year we begin with pre-registration. Forms are available in this and following issues for conventioners to register in advance. This saves time in registration lines once they arrive in Indianapolis. Pre-registration form must be *received* by June 19.

Also for the second year, registra-



WNAC Headquarters Hotel—Omni Severin

Motor Up . . . (from page 7)

tion is combined for all three conventions: National Convention, WNAC and NYC. This again saves time for those who pre-register because they will have to stand in line only once to receive their packets.

For the second time, NYC registration will be in the same location as the other two, making for more convenience.

Those who choose not to pre-register need to take time to complete registration procedures once they arrive. Only one badge will be issued per person, no matter how many conventions that person registers for.

Registration begins 3:00 p.m. Sunday in Rooms 104-108 at Indiana Convention Center. If you pre-register you won't have as long to wait because you may pick up your packet in a designated area. Registration closes Wednesday at noon.

Exhibits

This year's exhibits can be found in Hall-A of Indiana Convention Center. Nearly 50 exhibitors will display educational and denominational literature and programs.

Monday 3:00 p.m. marks the exhibit opening. Booths are open daily 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. except during evening worship services (7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.). Exhibits close at 12:30 p.m. Thursday or 30 minutes after the final business session's conclusion.

Soup's On!

Nineteen catered events ranging from a seven-member WNAC Executive Committee luncheon to the 1,000-seat Youth Banquet dot the agenda.

Use the ticket request portion of the Pre-Registration Form in this issue to order advance tickets for events of your choice. Tickets will be in pre-registration packets to be picked up in Indianapolis. **Tickets will not be mailed in advance.**

Be sure your order is mailed in time to be *received* by June 19. Remember, some events sell out quickly. First come, first served!

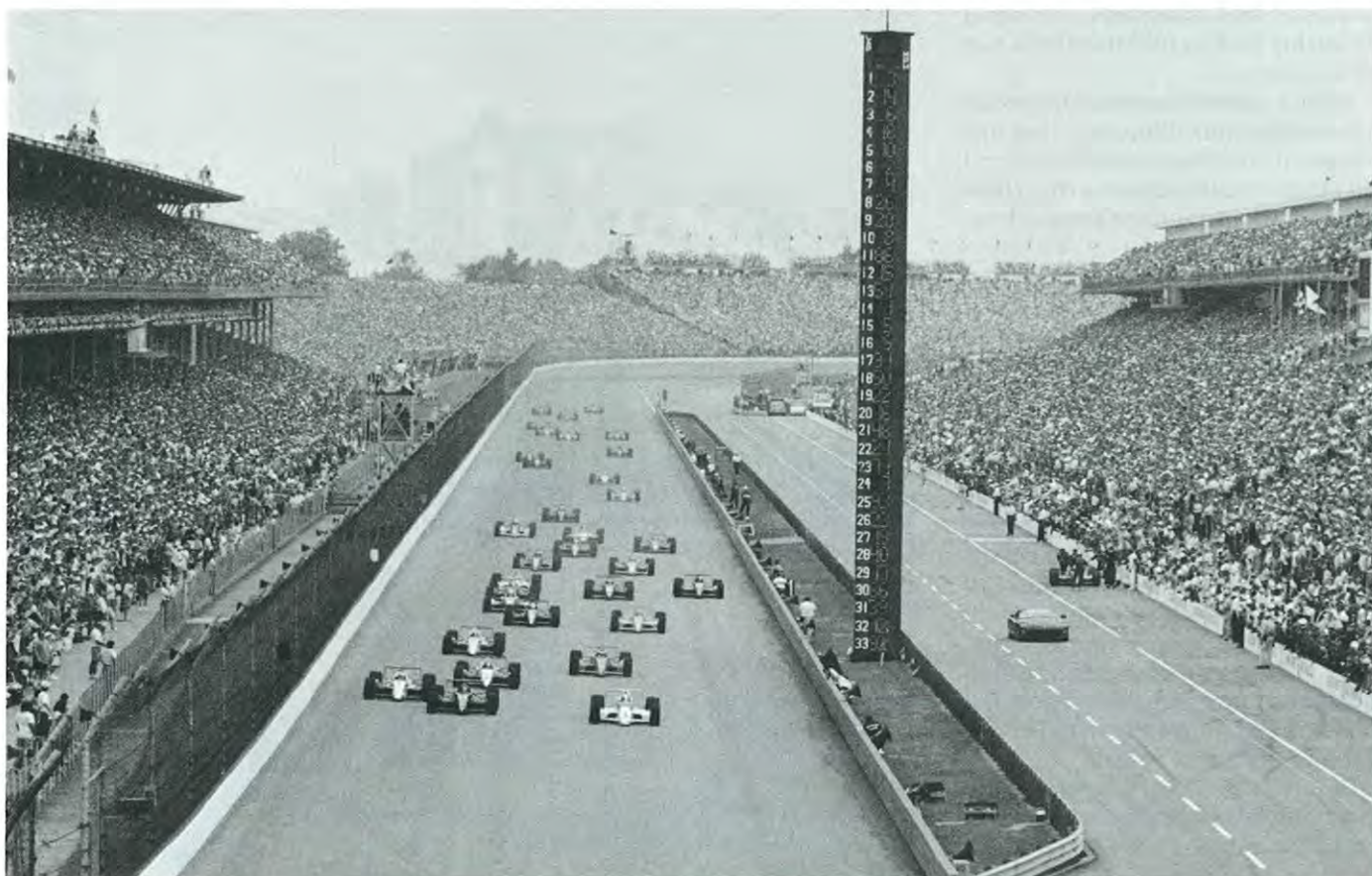
Trula Cronk, retired missionary to India, will speak at WNAC's Fellowship Banquet Tuesday evening.

Master's Men will host their annual dinner 5:00 p.m. Wednesday evening. This is the event where the Layman of the Year and Runner-Up Layman of the Year are announced.

Other special meals include the Children's Banquet Monday afternoon, Music Ministries Breakfast Tuesday morning, Hillsdale College Luncheon on Tuesday, Youth Banquet Tuesday evening (this year in the Indiana Roof Ballroom!) and the Free Will Baptist Bible College Luncheon on Wednesday.

Business

Monday 8:00 a.m. marks the beginning of the annual business meeting. The General Board convenes at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Moderator



The World-Famous Indy 500

Ralph Hampton gavels the convention business session to order 9:00 Wednesday morning in Halls B - C at Indiana Convention Center.

This year's voting delegation will consider board reports, departmental budgets and board elections. Delegates are expected to approve denominational budgets exceeding \$11 million and elect more than 31 board and commission members. Each national agency and commission will submit an annual report to delegates.

Seminars

Four seminars fill Tuesday afternoon's agenda, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Double in a Decade Seminar meets in Rooms 210 - 212 at Indiana Convention Center. The Music Commission Seminar will be in Rooms 226 - 227. Master's Men Seminar / Congress convenes in Rooms 123-124.

The Commission for Theological Integrity sponsors "The Bible, Science and the Age of the Earth," a tutorial by Robert Hill. Mr. Hill teaches science at Heritage Hall Christian School in Muncie, Indiana. This 31-year-old Sunday School teacher was saved in 1972. He attended FWBBC and received degrees from two other colleges: B.S. in Geophysics and B. S. in Biology from Christian Heritage College; and an M. S. in Physics from Ball State University. Hill is a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers and of the Creation Research Society.

WNAC Memos

The WNAC program kicks off Monday at 1:30 p.m. with a seminar, "A Woman's Priorities," in Omni Severin Hotel's Allison Ballroom with June Critcher as special speaker. June graduated from FWBBC and received her M.A. from Middle Tennessee State University. She is a popular writer and speaker. She and her husband Harold founded Family Ministries, Inc. which provides seminars and counseling for families in crisis.

Also at 1:30, the WNAC Ministers' Wives Seminar meets in the Fisher Ballroom at Omni Severin. A panel of five women will speak on the topic, "Teachers of Good Things." Panel members include: Teresa Runion (Ind.), Sandra Atwood (Del.), Winona

Riggs (Tenn.), Louise Vandivort (Ariz.) and Mary Bullard (Okla.).

The Presidents and Field Workers Meeting begins at 3:00 p.m. in Allison Ballroom and will meet with the Study Committee appointed in 1989. Committee members include June Rolen (Calif.), chairman; Peggy Outland (Ill.), secretary; Diana Bryant (Fla.), Diane Thomas (N.C.); and Marguerite Kern (Okla.).

President Mary Neal (Ind.) moderates the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention business session Tuesday in the Indiana Convention Center, Halls B - C.

Then at 11:10 a.m. Steve Riggs, missionary to France delivers the WNAC missionary message. Steve, born in Nashville, Tenn., in 1958 received his B. A. from FWBBC. He married Becky Thomas in 1978 and was appointed as a missionary in 1983. He and his family departed for the field in 1984.

The WNAC Fellowship Dinner gathers in the beautiful 500 Ballroom at Indiana Convention Center 5:00 p.m. Tuesday. Trula Cronk, writer and retired missionary to India, will be guest speaker.

NYC Notes

Meeting with the theme, "A Call to Excellence," NYC begins with Sunday School in the Indiana Convention Center. Primary and Junior classes meet together for Sunday School and

morning worship. The Teen class meets separately. Both classes and the adult class then meet in Indiana Convention Center for morning worship.

NYC hosts Sunday evening worship with its keynote service in Halls B - C at Indiana Convention Center. Archie Ratliff will speak. Monday through Wednesday mornings begin with devotions for NYC participants in the White River Ballroom at Indiana Convention Center.

NYC competition in both Bible and music and arts begins at 9:00 a.m. Monday morning. The art gallery will be set up in Room 144 at the convention center. Two awards ceremonies conclude NYC's agenda: one at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday and the other after the evening service.

And Finally ...

Convention preparations are nearly complete—speakers selected, programs ready to print, hotels waiting, musicians rehearsing. What else needs to be done?

You need to pre-register, make reservations and meet us in Indianapolis in July. Mark your calendar—July 19-23—and make plans to motor on up to Indy 500 country. ■

.....
ABOUT THE WRITER: Marilyn Pritchard is editorial assistant of *Contact*.

LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____
is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will
Baptists _____
(Name of Church)
_____ of _____,
(District Association) (City) (State)

(Pastor) (Clerk or Secretary)

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

Before You Judge . . .

Things are not as they sometimes appear. Humpty Dumpty was pushed." So read the bumper sticker attached to a beat up '72 Chevy in the parking lot in Atlanta, Georgia. As I sat in my car waiting for my wife to complete her shopping, I pondered the message of the bumper sticker. "Things are not as they sometimes appear" As a counselor, I found this message applicable to several clients I was seeing in therapy.

Paul and Sarah* called to set an appointment for marital therapy. Sarah was a Christian. She had come to a knowledge of Christ five years earlier. During the time since her conversion, you could count on one hand the number of times Paul darkened the door of the church. Paul was in many respects a good husband and father, but he had no interest in spiritual matters.

The members of Sarah's church were faithful in praying for Paul. When the word circulated that Paul and Sarah were having marital problems, it was assumed the problem rested primarily in Paul. If only he would give his heart to Christ, the marriage would be saved.

What was not known to the church was the fact that Sarah failed to guard her heart and became involved with another man. Paul, recently aware of the affair, was devastated but willing to go to therapy with Sarah in hopes of reconciling their marriage. Paul still had spiritual needs for which prayer was appropriate, but the problem was much more than his spiritual condition.

Ron and Nina* appeared to have the perfect marriage. Ron was a successful pastor who in three years at his present church had seen attendance steadily increase from 60 members to 150. A dynamic preacher in the pulpit, Ron knew how to motivate and challenge people with the message of Christ.

Nina was very supportive of Ron's ministry, but her temperament tended to be quiet and passive. One



. . . Consider

By Peter Wilson

can only imagine the shock of the church people when word leaked out that Nina was leaving Ron. How could Nina leave Ron knowing that his ministry and the cause of Christ would suffer as a result?

What the church did not know was the number of times Ron would come home stressed after a difficult day and displace his frustration on Nina by physically abusing her. Nina's decision to leave Ron came after he beat her in the church basement following a Wednesday night service. Angered at what he felt was Nina's failure to "properly" greet the church people, Ron grabbed Nina, took her to the furnace room, and physically beat her.

Nina decided she had withstood enough abuse. She separated from Ron in hopes he would realize his problem and seek help. Not knowing the big picture, the church membership was mistakenly critical of Nina for "destroying" a man of God.

What these cases and many others that could be cited have in common is the fact that things are not as they sometimes appear. As individuals and as churches we frequently fall into the trap of taking sides. We judge one person as more righteous, or place blame on one rather than the other. In fact, we don't have the necessary information to make these judgments.

As a therapist who ministers daily with people like Paul, Sarah, Ron and Nina, I have come to appreciate the

complex nature of human relationships. In most cases it is a true statement that things are not as they sometimes appear. In view of this fact, let me offer four suggestions:

1. Be slow in judging situations.

People who are dealing with personal problems need love and support, not hasty judgments based on incomplete data.

2. Place yourself in the situation.

Consider how you would want others to respond to you if you were having to deal with the issue at hand.

3. Recognize that some situations are beyond an individual's control.

In relationships, individuals are often at the mercy of decisions made by significant others. As much as we desire to be in control of life, there are times when our options are limited by the decisions of others.

4. Pray effectively.

Pray for those who are faced with difficult life situations. In praying, however, don't assume you know the answer. It's better to give the situation to God, Who knows the details. Ask that His will be accomplished in the lives of those for whom you pray.

The next time you think you know the situation faced by a friend or loved one, remember: Things may not be as they appear. Humpty Dumpty could have been pushed. ■

* Names have been changed.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Peter Wilson is a counselor based in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a member of Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville.

This article first appeared in Quarterly Newsletter, Spring 1992 issue, a publication of Christian Counseling Services. Reprinted by permission.

Hotel Reservation

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Indianapolis, Indiana

National Convention

July 19-23, 1992

- No telephone reservations until after the cutoff date.
- All reservation requests will be made through the NAFWB Housing Bureau--NOT WITH INDIVIDUAL HOTELS.
- Complete this housing form selecting your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice hotels and mail to the Housing Bureau. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1992. Send one form for each room request. Duplicate this form if necessary.
- Changes and cancellations must be made in writing to the NAFWB Housing Bureau in Indianapolis.
- The hotel will require a deposit. Complete the credit card information on this form or send a check directly to the hotel AFTER you have received your confirmation.
- FAX 317/684-2492

Cutoff Date:
Received by
June 19, 1992

MAIL TO:
NAFWB Housing Bureau
Indianapolis Convention &
Visitors Association
One Hoosier Dome, Suite 100
Indianapolis, IN 46225

YOUR NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE (WK) _____ (HM) _____
CREDIT CARD TYPE _____ CC# _____ EXP. _____
ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

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

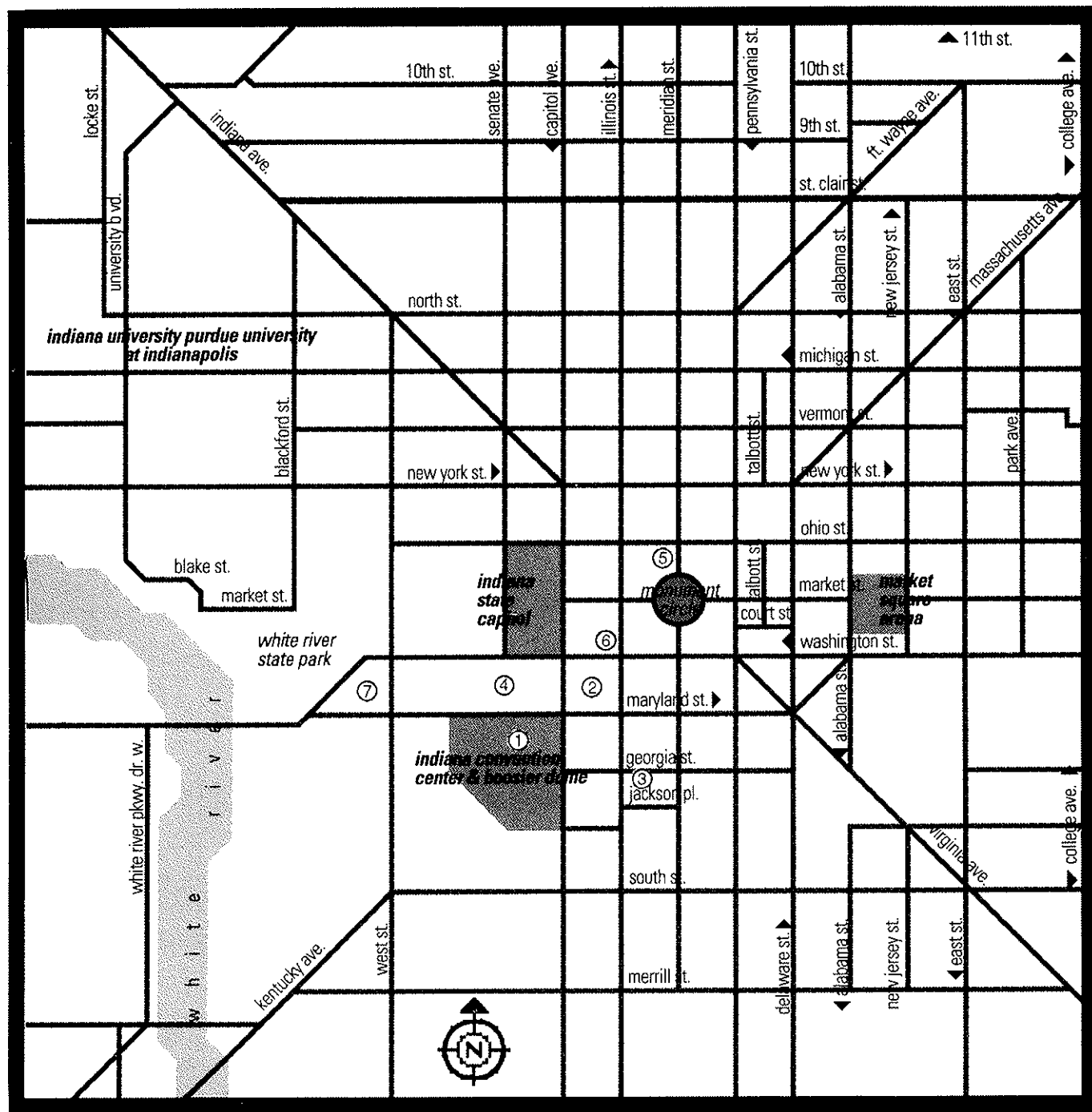
HOTELS	Choice	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
Hyatt Regency--Headquarters Hotel		\$80	\$80	\$80	\$80
Omni Severin--WNAC Headquarters		\$79	\$79	\$79	\$79
Westin Hotel--Adjacent to Convention Center		\$85	\$85	\$85	\$85
Hilton-at-the-Circle		\$79	\$79	\$79	\$79
Embassy Suites--Free breakfast/parking		\$105	\$105	\$115	\$115
Courtyard by Marriott		\$77	\$77	\$77	\$77

TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED:

SINGLE / 1 PERSON _____ DOUBLE / 2 PEOPLE _____
TRIPLE / 3 PEOPLE _____ QUAD / 4 PEOPLE _____
NUMBER OF BEDS IN ROOM _____

PLEASE LIST ROOM OCCUPANTS:

Indianapolis Downtown Area



- 1 Indiana Convention Center
- 2 Hyatt Regency (Headquarters Hotel)
- 3 Omni Severin
- 4 Westin
- 5 Hilton at the Circle
- 6 Embassy Suites Downtown
- 7 Courtyard by Marriott

INSTRUCTIONS for Pre-Registration Form

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

Filling Out the Form

1. Fill out the top portion of the form. Please complete *all* of the information. You may register for one, two or all three conventions. You need to fill out only **one** form even if you register for more than one convention (National Association, WNAC, NYC). Fill out one form for each person.
2. Fill out the first block if you are registering for the **National Association**. Fill in your *District Association*. Check only *one* of the choices. Indicate the number of banquet tickets you wish to purchase (Enclose check payable to **FWB Convention**).
3. Fill out the second block if you are registering for the **Woman's National Auxiliary Convention**. Check only *one* of the choices. Indicate the number of banquet tickets you wish to purchase (Enclose check payable to **FWB Convention**).
4. Fill out the last block if you are registering for the **National Youth Conference**. Complete the other information in the block. The fees are as follows:
\$11.00 per person, or
\$12.00 if registering on-site.
Adults over 24 do not pay NYC fees.

Indicate the number of banquet tickets you wish to purchase (Enclose check for registration and tickets payable to **FWB Convention**). **NOTE:** Before July 20, Youth Banquet tickets will be sold only to those in grades seven to age 24 and youthworkers accompanying their group. Others may purchase tickets at the convention after this date.

Additional Information

1. Completed forms must be mailed to **Convention Registration~P.O. Box 5002~Antioch, TN~37011-5002** and received on or before **June 19, 1992**.
2. Enclose one check to cover all fees and tickets.
3. Make additional copies of the Pre-Registration Form if they are needed. Only one person per form please.
4. You may purchase banquet tickets from any block even if you do not register in that block. No refunds mailed after June 19, 1992.

Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner/\$19.50

Monday, July 20/4:45 PM
Westin Hotel/Grand Hall 4

Music Ministries Breakfast/\$9.50

Tuesday, July 21/7:00 AM
Indiana Convention Center/Room 226

WNAC Fellowship Dinner/\$16.00

Tuesday, July 21/5:00 PM
Indiana Convention Center/500 Ballroom

Youth Workers Fellowship Breakfast/\$9.00

Wednesday, July 22/7:00 AM
Marriott Hotel/Keystone Room

Master's Men Dinner/\$18.00 (\$19.00 on-site)

Wednesday, July 22/4:45 PM
Indiana Convention Center/Rooms 210-212

Children's Banquet/\$7.00

Monday, July 20/5:00 PM
Indiana Convention Center/500 Ballroom

Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon/\$15.00

Tuesday, July 21/12:15 PM
Hyatt Regency/Mountain Suites

Youth Banquet/\$12.50

Tuesday, July 21/9:00 PM
Indiana Roof Ballroom

FWBBC Luncheon/\$13.00

Wednesday, July 22/12:00 Noon
Indiana Convention Center/Rooms 210-212

Fellowship of Fundamentalists Dinner/\$16.50

Wednesday, July 22/4:45 PM
Indiana Convention Center/Rooms 123-124

Pre-Registration Form

for
National Association of Free Will Baptists
Woman's National Auxiliary Convention
National Youth Conference
Indianapolis, IN / July 19 - 23, 1992

Only one person per form

Please Print

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

Address: _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Church: _____ City: _____

Hotel (if known): _____ Completed form(s) must be mailed to

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

Convention Registration
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

and received on or before June 19, 1992.

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

DISTRICT ASSOCIATION: _____
(Check only one of the following:)
MINISTER: ☐ Ordained (MIO) ☐ Licensed (MIL)
(I certify that I am a member in good standing with the above named church and association which belong to the National Association.)
MISSIONARY: ☐ Foreign (MIF) (Country) _____
☐ Home (MIH)
DELEGATE: ☐ Ordained Deacon (ORD)
☐ State (STD)
☐ Local Church (\$10.00) (LCD)
☐ National Board Member (NBM)
☐ National Officer (NTO)
VISITOR: ☐ (VIS)

Banquet Tickets:

	Quantity	
Music Ministries Breakfast	_____ x \$9.50 =	_____
Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon	_____ x \$15.00 =	_____
FWBBC Alumni Luncheon	_____ x \$13.00 =	_____
Master's Men Dinner	_____ x \$18.00 =	_____
Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner	_____ x \$19.50 =	_____
Fellowship of Fundamentalists Dinner	_____ x \$16.50 =	_____
Delegate Fee		
Local Church Delegate	_____ x \$10.00 =	_____
SUBTOTAL		_____

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

(Check only one of the following:)
DELEGATE: ☐ Local (\$3.00) (WLD)
☐ State (WSD)
☐ State President or Field Worker (WPF)
☐ National Officer (WNO)
VISITOR: ☐ (WVI)

Banquet Tickets:

	Quantity	
WNAC Fellowship Dinner	_____ x \$16.00 =	_____
Delegate Fee		
Local Delegate	_____ x \$3.00 =	_____
SUBTOTAL		_____

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

Grade just completed: _____ Age: _____
Birthdate: ____/____/____
Parent's (or Guardian's) name: _____
Youth Leader's name: _____
Are you a youthworker? ☐ yes ☐ no
Are you in NYC competition this year? ☐ yes ☐ no

Banquet Tickets:

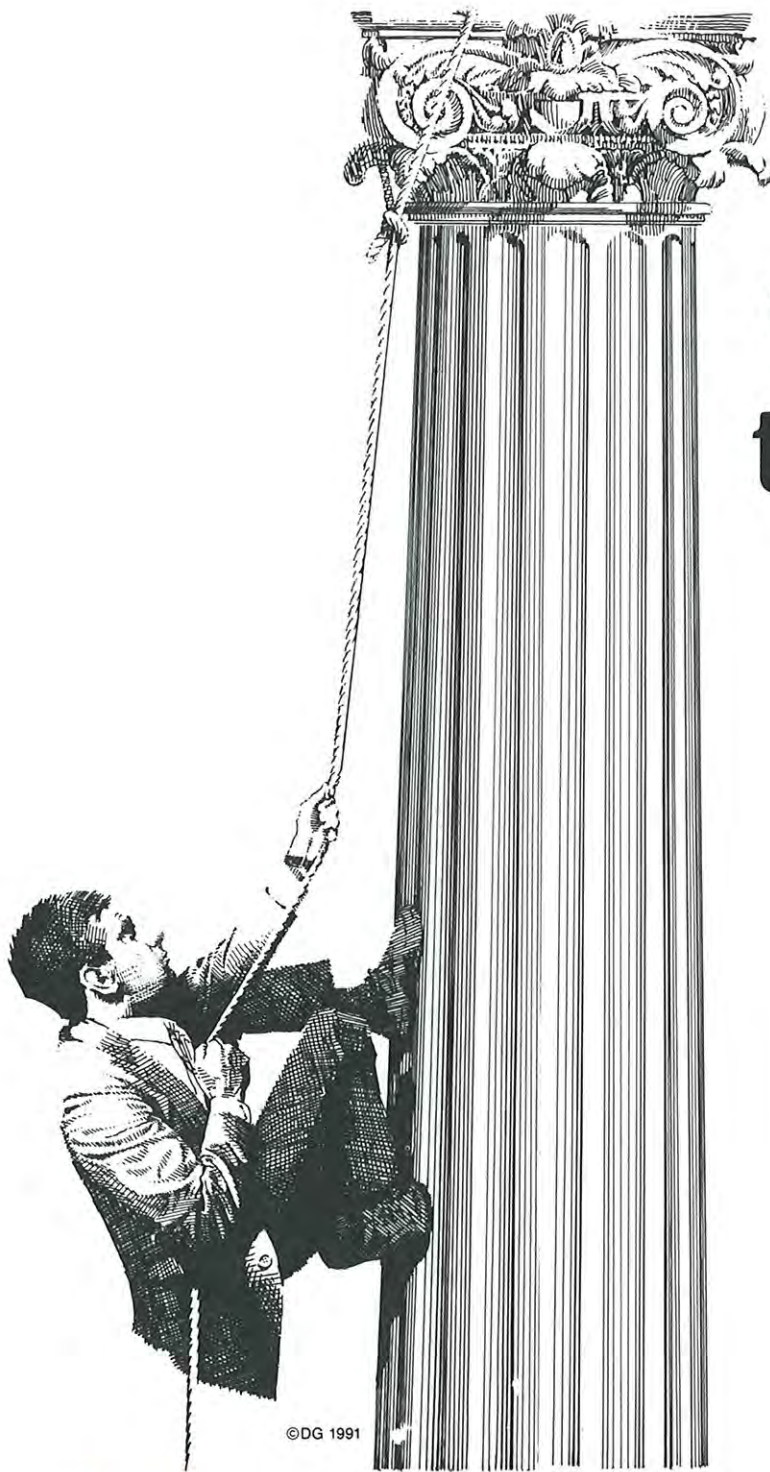
	Quantity	
Children's Banquet (grades 1-6)	_____ x \$7.00 =	_____
Youth Banquet (must be in grade 7 to age 24 or an accompanying youthworker)	_____ x \$12.50 =	_____
Youth Workers Breakfast	_____ x \$9.00 =	_____
Registration Fee		
Pre-Registration Fee	_____ x \$11.00 =	_____
On-site registration fee is \$12.00. Adults over 24 do not pay NYC fees.		
SUBTOTAL		_____

For Office Use Only

Date _____ CK/MO # _____ AMT \$ _____
PERS. CK _____ CH. CK _____

Make Checks payable to
FWB Convention. No
refunds mailed after June
19, 1992.

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____



Coping with the Terror of Success

By Dennis E. Hensley

success cannot cope with it.

Christ taught us to be successful in all that we do. He wants us to be committed to excellence, not content with mediocrity. Success, however, must be defined first by peace of mind. Jesus did not criticize Zacchaeus for being wealthy, but He showed him that his wealth would never give him the peace of mind he was seeking.

Similarly, Jesus did not criticize Peter, James and Matthew for being fishermen and a tax collector; He merely called them to something more challenging and demanding.

How about you? Do you have the talent and opportunity to be successful, yet perhaps lack the grit and determination to accept it? Let's take a moment to see why this may be so and how you can deal with it.

Whoa to Success Woe

Some people are guilty of self-sabotage. It happens like this: Just as a person is about to be promoted or about to win a sales contest, he or she will suddenly become ill and will miss a week of work... or will purposely do something to aggravate the boss... or will even turn in a resignation.

It doesn't make sense, does it? Look—



Have you ever wondered why people run from success when it, at last, seems so close to them? Even the Bible is filled with such people. After God promised to make Moses a strong spokesman before Pharaoh, Moses shied away and let the gift of oratory go to Aaron. After the children of Israel reached the border of the Promised Land, they refused to cross over into it.

In truth, success can sometimes be so terrifying we choose to flee from it. Avoid success? At first, it may seem ludicrous to even consider such a situation.

Upon closer examination, however, we find that the fear of success can take two forms: *pre-success anxiety*, in which a person is so fearful of succeeding he or she does something to prevent it, and *success status guilt*, in which a person who has achieved

... Success (from page 15)

ing from the outside, perhaps not. But from the inside, it has a logic all its own. In doing research for my book *Uncommon Sense*, I logged more than 50 so-called "good reasons" people had for thwarting their own success.

"... and if I won the sales contest once, I'd be expected to win it again ..."

"... if I got promoted and my older sister didn't, she would be humiliated ..."

"... if I accepted the new position, I would have to transfer to Detroit, and I'm terrified of big cities ..."

Such pre-success anxiety, whether real or imagined, exaggerated or correct, keeps hundreds of people in all walks of life from reaching their full potential.

Equally as damaging is success status guilt which can often cause a person to topple himself or herself from a position of success after working years to get there. Sometimes, the memories of what was done in the struggle to attain success prove so embarrassing or confusing, feelings of guilt or self-doubt arise.

One man shared with me, "I became Outstanding Teacher of the State, but I can't forget that I broke my mother's heart when I didn't become a doctor."

A woman told me, "In college I bragged that I was going to become a famous portrait artist, but then I had a chance to become an ad designer with a major magazine. So, now I'm rolling in money, but I still feel like a failure."

Handling Success

There are several ways in which "fearful" Christians can learn how to cope with and accept success:

(1) If your success has been attained by the violation of any of God's laws, seek His forgiveness, correct your ways, and make restitution to those you've hurt or alienated. If you feel you cannot handle this alone, seek the help and guidance of a member of the clergy (Proverbs 15:16).

(2) Discard guilt over situations out of your control. If you were promoted because you were better qualified than your sister, it was your employer's choice, not yours. You cannot hold yourself responsible for your employer's needs nor your sister's limitations. Just be gracious in your new status. Love conquers all.

(3) Remind yourself that as you mature, your goals will change. Maybe you now *prefer* to be an ad designer rather than a portrait painter. Fine! Both are legitimate and worthy occupations. It's your life, remember (Ecclesiastes 7:8).

(4) Be realistic about your accomplishments. It is better to be an outstanding teacher than a terrible doctor, no matter what your mother thinks. (If she complains, tell her you wish she had married J. Paul Getty since it would have made your life a lot easier, but you're willing to live and let live, if she is.) (Ecclesiastes 9:3).

(5) If the strain is too great, quit your job. Really. Let's face it, you

aren't successful if you are miserable. Don't give yourself headaches and ulcers by compromising your principles. Get into a line of work you can be proud of. You made it to the top once, and you can do it again.

(6) Keep in mind that some people are prone to jealousy. So, if someone tries to tell you that you don't deserve to be where you are, just consider the source. Maintain your confidence. You're on top because you worked for it.

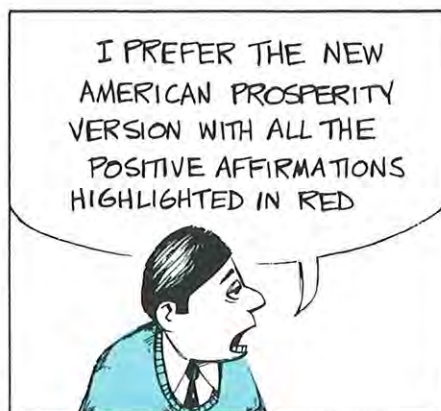
Although the word *success* appears nowhere in the King James Version of the New Testament, the apostle John offers a perfect definition of success when he writes to Gaius, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in good health, even as thy soul prospereth" (III John 2)

What then is success? — a prosperous life, good health and a righteous soul. In short, nothing to be terrified about. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Dennis E. Hensley is a freelance writer who resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is also the successful president of Denehen, Inc.

BEYOND BELIEF



Stop the Clock!

By Suzan Hutchinson

Tears sting my eyes. A lump forms in my throat. I want to wake my children and hug them.

Sometimes I rebel at the responsibilities of motherhood. I tire of the noise and constant demands.

Scattered toys. Dirty dishes. Strewn school work. Muddy tracks. Bathtub rings. Spilled Koolaid. Dirty clothes left on a wet, sandy floor. Fussing and fights. Complaints and tears. Bedtime struggles and dark night fears.

The constant questions, "Momma, I need . . ." Clay on the sofa. Gum on the rug. Band-aids and boo-boos. Outgrown clothes and ragged shoes.

But then I remember:

Sleepy grins. First morning hugs. Cold feet in my warm bed. "Momma, I'm hungry—please get up!" Bouquets of wild flowers. Pet toads. Tadpoles and crayfish. Moss in pockets. A flattened penny. A dinosaur egg. Bicycle chains. Neighborhood friends. A goodbye kiss. A hello hug. Angels sleeping. Sleepy talk. A kleenex and a thumb.

"Dream Stream." "Maya the Bee." "He hit me!" Michelangelo, Donatello, Raphael and Leonardo. "No, I want to be Donatello!" "Artists? No, they're turtles!"

"Jesus Loves me," "Count Your Blessings," "Footsteps of Jesus." "Is God married? Then how could He have a son?" Hard questions. Gotta make the answers simple.

"But, I just have a hard time believing that." Learning about faith. Simply trusting. Knowledge increases. Jesus calls. Both answer. Jesus saves!

Uncle Remus—Br'er Rabbit. Jokes and tall tales. "Do I have to use toothpaste?" Scrambled eggs with syrup. Oatmeal with chocolate sauce. Snakes and flat-head worms.

Sandy hair. Frogs in the sand box. Sand in the bathtub. Snores. Talking

in his sleep. Blue slush puppies. Saturday morning beat on Daddy. Garfield. Bike riding. Bully Marco.

Motherhood! Wonderful. Fulfilling. Time consuming. Headache. Heartache. Teach. Be taught. Nurture. Protect. Pull away. Watch. Pray. Hugs. Kisses. Smile.

Dirty faces. Sticky hands. Muddy shoes. Dirty clothes. Messy hair. Sparkling eyes. Grinning mouth. Popsicles. Snow cone—red tongue. Nutty Buddy—chocolate lips. Squeals. Laughter. Bicycles. Gone.

Yes, gone. All too soon they will be gone and I will wonder where the time went and why I didn't put everything on hold and enjoy my kids. I wish I could recall those years past when they were small, but they're gone.

I must begin now enjoying every minute. I want to be content when my motherhood days end and my kids are adults. I want to remember the way their hair smells and how fresh they are after the grime is left in the bottom of the tub.

I want to recall bedtime stories and

hear the giggles. Remember the kiss and the squeeze I always get when I tuck them in and lean over to kiss them goodnight.

Time races by so quickly. Slow down, please slow down. All too soon they will be grown and gone.

I love you, Timothy! I love you, Amy! I love you much more than either of you will ever know . . . until you become parents yourselves. ■

Richard West



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Suzan Hutchinson is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church in Dublin, Georgia. Her little memory makers are 9 (Timothy) and 7 (Amy).

His Eleventh Hour

By Larry Russell

He had been a guard in one of the toughest prisons in America. But he was dying. He brought the disease upon himself because he had neglected his body. In his youth he spent his health and money on things, sure that he would live to whenever.

There came a day when the things that at one time seemed so valuable lost their glitter. The things he had neglected most of his life had become extremely valuable.

He had just retired from his lifelong occupation. He dreamed of fishing and caring for his garden. He was just 63 years old. Then the word came—*cancer*. For the first time in his life, meeting his Maker was no longer a foggy dream but clear, cold reality.

Instead of being bitter about his fate, he was thankful for the time to get his spiritual and physical house in order.

He called me to his home and asked for my assistance in praying for his three adult children. He wanted assurance before he departed this life that they were all saved.

The call came at one in the morning, "Pastor, please pray for Dad; he'll not make it through the night."

The family had decided to use the hospice program of dying at home. When I arrived he was semiconscious. As I tried to comfort the family during this man's dying hour, the Holy Spirit impressed me with his prayer request that all his children be right with God before he died.

During the night I had a chance to speak with the oldest daughter. Her response was positive about her spiritual relationship with God. Along in the wee morning hours the son and I were together, and I asked him about his salvation. Again a positive response.

Not long before daybreak the youngest daughter was in a room by herself. I happened to walk by. With her father's prayer request fresh on my mind, I asked her the same ques-



tion I had asked her siblings. This time the response came back negative.

I did not want this to be just an emotional decision during a time of duress, but I assured her that if the Holy Spirit was dealing with her about her soul I would like to see her pray

the sinner's prayer. Her response was positive and the youngest daughter poured out her heart and voice to the Lord and asked Him to be her personal Savior.

As soon as she finished praying and had assurance of her salvation, someone stepped into the room and said, "*Dad just went home to be with the Lord.*"

I will always feel that God had this dear man waiting at the gate of Heaven until all his children were in, then He said, "Enter into the joy of the Lord."

What a home-going to know that all his children were safely in the fold and that God had answered his prayer even at the eleventh hour! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Larry Russell pastors First Free Will Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Fishing with Grandpa

By Michael Bowen

My grandpa used to take me fishing every time I visited him. I hated fishing, but I loved Grandpa and the time with him. He died when I was 14.

Since the funeral, I often think of how many family members do not go to church and may not be saved. I love them and enjoy spending time with them. Why is it harder to witness to family members than to strangers? Shouldn't family members be some of the first ones we

make sure we will see in Heaven?

O, Lord, help me to accomplish that task.

I love fishing now that I'm older. And I know I can spend eternity fishing with my grandpa if I wish. Maybe we can make it a family reunion. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Michael Bowen is a Free Will Baptist Bible College student from Raleigh, North Carolina.

A Piece of Trash

By David Messer

Hello! I'm a teenager. No, I don't give much to the church. Missions? No, it's not really a subject that I think about too much. After all, I'm just a kid. I don't have time for all that religious stuff. I'm too busy being concerned about *me*. I've got my own problems, you know.

Like my boyfriend, the octopus. He's got one thing on his mind, and it's not algebra! He pressures me all the time to have sex. It's so hard to say, "No." I get tired of being the goody-goody all the time. My other friends think I'm crazy, too. Have you ever been to a party when you were the only one who wasn't passed out drunk? It's sorta lonely.

But I did come to the Birthday Banquet you guys had at your church with Mom. It was pretty cool—all the tables decorated for the different months and stuff. And don't tell anyone, okay, but I thought it was a pretty neat idea when everyone took a slip of paper with a teenager's name on it—you know, to *pray* for us.

I got a lump in my throat just thinking about it. Imagine, someone who really knows God is going to be praying—just for me. I looked around the room trying to guess who it was. I don't know, maybe there is hope for me. Maybe someone does care if I live or die. Maybe church is okay. Maybe these people do love me. I mean, you have to love someone to pray for them, right? If they can pray, maybe I can too.

Well, after the banquet, Mom and I left to go to the car. On the way, I saw a piece of trash in the flower bed. I reached over and picked it up. It was just a little slip of paper. With a name on it. I opened it up. It was my name.

Nobody cares. Prayer is a joke. So are Christians. Why should I care? Nobody else does. After all, I'm just a piece of trash.

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).



This is a true story. The slip of paper was found at our church. No, the teenager didn't find the paper, but she could have. We sometimes think of missions as something across the sea, something distant. But missions starts in our own backyard. If we can't pray for our teens, can we really pray for anything? ■

.....
ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend David Messer is associate pastor at Bethany Free Will Baptist Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

OUR READERS COMMENT

Evangelist Cites Holy Spirit Article

Mal King is ever fresh and new in his writing style. He's quite a writer on most any subject. However, he seems to be at his best if it has to do with spiritual things.

Being from the old school, he would give us the remedy. That remedy comes under the portion of the writing, "Be what God wants you to be." Here it is: "Obedience is not only better than sacrifice, it is the pre-condition to true worship."

Obedience used to be the watchword of Free Will Baptists. Mal King well recalls that. That's the preaching he grew up under. None of his pastors ever spoke of saving faith without saying that such faith is obedient.

However, the idea of "Let's just praise the Lord," has created an illusion of worship. What

some call a spiritual service today is a whoop, a hype, a commotion, a youth camp atmosphere (chorus after chorus, over and over again) with cheerleaders of a sort.

In the last three months I have traveled 20,000 miles by car from east coast to west coast, Mexico and points in between. During that span I did not find one FWB church without a warm, hospitable, spiritual atmosphere. Winds of change are blowing. That's a fact. Maybe it will sweep clean the plain of our souls.

But let it be said—motion, emotion and commotion are not necessarily worship. Yet one should know that true biblical worship will include a bit of all three.

Evangelist Wade Jernigan
Lexington, Oklahoma

Pastor Knows 'Pete'

I really enjoyed "Pete's Fire," the article about your friend who had a fair jump shot and a heart devoted to the Lord and His work. Seems like I've met him somewhere along the way, or many like him.

Men like Pete are the backbone of our denomination. Those of us who pastor smaller churches can identify with him.

Pastor Tommy Street
Hurricane Chapel FWB Church
McEwen, Tennessee

FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Jamaican Crusade Reaches Thousands

PEDRO, OH—Free Will Baptist evangelist Calvin Evans led a team of 38 pastors, evangelists and Christian workers on a five-day evangelistic blitz to Jamaica, West Indies, February 2-6. The group conducted 112 services in 18 churches and 16 schools in a 60-mile radius of Ocho Rios.

Dr. Calvin Evans, president and director of Evangelistic Outreach Ministries based in Pedro, Ohio, reported 3,292 professions of

faith. The team distributed more than 1,000 Bibles to students and new converts.

Fifteen Free Will Baptist pastors and workers from six states participated in the joint evangelistic effort. They came from Kentucky, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

For a number of years, Dr. Evans has conducted widely-received television and radio programs.

Church Grows 500% in Three Years

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO—Members of First FWB Church in Cape Girardeau saw worship attendance leap from 20 in 1989 to 120 by January 1992, according to Pastor Wesley Rider. The group began 1992 by adopting an \$84,000 budget, an increase of \$11,000 over 1991.

By early February, Pastor Rider reported two conversions, two baptisms and six new members. The church Advisory Board is at work formulating plans to construct a multi-purpose building and additional classrooms.

Church reporter Peggy Rider said, "You can feel excitement in the air as young people prepare for state competition, Sunday School teachers purchase additional chairs for already crowded classrooms and decisions are made around the altars."

Missionary to France Charlotte Tallent came to First FWB Church for a service on February 9 and received \$526 from the Woman's Auxiliary, plus \$264 from the church and \$65 in monthly faith promises. The 30-member Woman's Auxiliary also gave \$400 to Ken and Judy Bailey, missionaries to Japan.

Discount Air Fares to National Convention Available

NASHVILLE, TN—The National Association of Free Will Baptists has made special travel arrangements for all attendees and their families who will be flying to the 1992 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 19 - July 23, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington. Veeson International Travel Agency in Nashville has again been selected the agency of record to provide members attending the convention with discount travel services.

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

Veeson Travel has contracted for travel dates starting two days

prior to the convention and two days after the convention.

To book your airspace at the offered discounted rates, call Veeson Travel at 1-800/377-7270. (This is a different 800 number than last year.) This is a toll-free number to Veeson Travel. Please identify yourself with the Free Will Baptist National Convention.

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

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

South Carolina Re-Elects Hendrix

SPARTANBURG, SC—Delegates to South Carolina's 50th annual state association re-elected Reverend Earl Hendrix to his 10th term as moderator. Hendrix pastors First FWB Church in Inman and also serves on the national Home Missions Board.

State clerk David Aycock said 168 registered for the February 6-7 meeting at Peace FWB Church in Spartanburg, including 89 ordained ministers. Six South Carolina ministers and Southeastern FWB College staffer Randy Sawyer preached messages. The S.C. ministers included Moderator Earl Hendrix, Buddy Seay, James Wilhide, Ray Cribb, Daggett Duncan and Rick Jagers.

Delegates passed four resolu-

tions during business sessions. The first instructed local churches to purchase CTS and Sunday School materials directly from Randall House Publications until the state bookstore could gear up to provide the service.

Other resolutions adopted a human life protection act and encouraged members to become informed voters. Delegates tabled until 1993 a motion requiring more accountability from national agencies.

Delegates also gave recognition to Harry Cooper who served 12 years as clerk.

The 1993 state association will meet February 4-5 at First FWB Church in Florence.

Calling All Singers, Instrumentalists

The National Association of Free Will Baptists meets July 19-23 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Free Will Baptist singers and instrumentalists have an opportunity to play a unique role. The Mass Choir directed by Doug Little, the Men's Chorale directed by Vernon Whaley and the instrumental group conducted by David Messer, offer channels for musicians to become active participants in the worship services at the convention.

Are you interested?

For those interested in Mass Choir/Men's Chorale: attend the rehearsals listed in the conven-

tion program. The Mass Choir will sing Monday evening, July 20, and the Men's Chorale will sing Tuesday evening, July 21. (Music distributed at rehearsals.)

Instrumental group participants should send their names, addresses and instruments played to:

Executive Office
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Let's pray that the 1992 convention music program will glorify the One Who is worthy of praise.

Blaine Hughes
Convention Music Coordinator

Yearbook Late to Press

ANTIOCH, TN—The 1992 *Free Will Baptist Yearbook* will be off the press late this year because the Executive Office staff was unable to get the contents prepared for Randall House Publications to print as soon as planned.

"We regret this inconvenience and thank you for your patience in

this matter," said Jack Williams, executive assistant. "We plan to have a firmer handle on this project for 1993."

Randall House officials said they expect the *Yearbook* to be off the press and ready for mailing around the first of May.

Softball Tourney Set

ANTIOCH, TN—The 12th annual Free Will Baptist slow-pitch softball tournament will be played August 21-22 at Cane Ridge Park. Director Jim Vallance announced, "This tournament was formerly sponsored by Randall House Publications. The Master's Men Department assumes the role as sponsor with the 1992 Tournament. I am excited about the addition of the sports activity to the expanding ministry of Master's Men. Glenn Harlinger, Jr. is our Tournament Coordinator."

Space is limited to 40 teams in the 12th Annual National Invitational Tournament. The tournament begins with the round-robin pattern introduced several years ago. Team pairings will be determined by a drawing open to the public at the Free Will Baptist National Offices Building. The date of the pairings will be announced.

The tournament begins Friday morning, August 21 at 8:00. Games will be played by the ASA rules with additional rules as formulated in the past years from Randall House Publications.

Cane Ridge Park is a new complex and features the best playing fields offered in the Nashville area. It is located off Interstate 24 and Old Hickory Boulevard (Exit 62) southeast of Nashville.

Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. The registration fee is \$225 per team.

Playoffs to determine rankings will follow the round-robin portion of the tournament, and are scheduled to begin near noon Saturday, August 22. Trophies will be awarded to the top four teams. Regardless of rankings, every team will receive a Participant's Trophy.

For further information write or call:

Master's Men Department
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
615/731-6812

CURRENTLY...

Retired FWB minister **Robert Sanger**, 81, died February 21 in **Ft. Meyers, FL**. During his ministry he pastored numerous churches in the **Beckley Conference** in **West Virginia**. A newspaper account indicated that Reverend Sanger had held membership in the Beckley Conference longer than any other minister.

The growing **Fellowship FWB Church** in **Bryan, TX**, began early services at 8:30 a.m. Sunday in March. **Bill Jones** pastors.

Members of **Parkway FWB Church** in **Sedalia, MO**, dedicated their new building, according to Pastor **Gary Bigelow**. Missouri Executive Secretary **Clarence Burton** preached the dedicatory message.

Hurricane Chapel FWB Church in **McEwen, TN**, set an all-time high attendance record with 252 worshipers, according to Pastor **Tommy Street**.

Members of **St. James FWB Church** in **Phenix City, AL**, called a new pastor in January. What's unusual about that? This pastor is 74 years old. Pastor **Chester A. Huckaby** was ordained as a Free Will Baptist minister in 1939. During his first month at St. James, the church received nine new members.

The **North Warren FWB Church** in **Warren, MI**, sent \$500 to Free Will Baptist Bible College and items valued at more than \$1,100 to the WNAC provision closet. **George Johnson** pastors.

Pastor **Larry Condit** reports 31 new members and 56 baptisms at **Capitol FWB Church** in **Sacramento, CA**. The group also finished their church library.

The **West Tennessee Association** of Free Will Baptists sponsored the first annual World Aid Golf Tournament May 30 to raise funds for rebuilding the Free Will Baptist hospital which burned in Côte d'Ivoire, Africa. **Jerry and Bea Presley** serve as host and hostess for the tournament.

Pastor **Fred Hall** began a five-minute daily radio broadcast in January. The program, "Truth for Today," airs at 8:55 a.m. Monday through Friday and is sponsored by **East Nashville FWB Church**, **Nashville, TN**.

Members of **Faith FWB Church** in **Lemay, MO**, purchased a Plymouth Voy-

ager to transport people to church. **Elvus Reed** pastors.

Crossroads FWB Church in **Wentzville, MO**, conducted the first service in their new building December 1991. Pastor **Jim Mertz** says the two-story building appraised at \$330,000 was erected for approximately \$140,000. One of the unique features of the church is their Prayer Garden, built and given by **Norman and Ethel Patterson Edwards**.

The second annual **Oklahoma Young Ministers' Retreat** attracted 28 people for the two-day session in January. The group met in Oklahoma City. Pastor **Keith Burden** (First FWB Church, Ada) spoke on the struggles of the ministry with peers, power and priorities. His wife Debbie spoke to the ministers' wives on the subjects of loneliness and bitterness. The Young Ministers' Retreat is a ministry of the Oklahoma FWB Education Board.

A Sunday School teacher at **Phillip's Chapel FWB Church** in **Springdale, AR**, presented a long list of needs to his class concerning FWB Home for Children in Greeneville, TN. That's when 12-year-old **David Edward** took the list, added his own enthusiasm and stirred an entire church to action. The result: a Sunday School classroom filled with boxes of dishes, towels, paper products, kitchen utensils and more. The church and local businesses also gave \$1,000 to the Children's Home. **Rue Dell Smith** pastors.

Pastor **Marvin Castle** reports more than \$45,000 in renovations to the **Macedonia FWB Church** in **Colquitt, GA**. Members remodeled the sanctuary, added new carpet and padded the pews. They also remodeled the fellowship hall and Sunday School rooms. Then they erected a new steeple atop the church.

Members of **Ebenezer FWB Church** in **Glennville, GA**, honored Pastor **Galen Dunbar** for 40 years in the ministry. Members presented Pastor Dunbar with a scrapbook containing pictures of the nine churches where he had served, congratulatory letters, personal gifts and a leather briefcase from the church.

The remaining members at **First FWB Church** in **Springfield, IL**, voted to turn church property over to the Illinois Mis-

sion Board. The property is debt-free. What an opportunity for a preacher with a vision!

The 16th annual Mid-South Pastors' and Workers' Conference met in February at **Madison FWB Church** in **Madison, AL**. The three-day session included 12 messages by four preachers: **Curtis Linton** (Tulsa, OK), **Tom Malone** (president of FWBCC), **Billy Bevan** (president of Southeastern FWB College), **John Gibbs** (Pleasant View, TN).

Pastor **Kenneth Kirby** reports seven conversions and five baptisms at **Victory FWB Church** in **McMinville, TN**. Worship attendance surged from 60 to over 100.

Donald Bailey had a vision. He reopened the **Forest Park FWB Church** in **San Angelo, TX**. He also began a 15-minute radio program each Sunday. The group has been averaging 15 in attendance.

A new Hispanic work began at **First FWB Church** in **McAllen, TX**, according to Pastor **Raymond Getz**. **Manuel Larraga** started a Spanish-speaking service at the church on Thursday evenings. The Hispanic group averages 30 in attendance.

Members of **Black Oak FWB Church** in **Marshfield, MO**, deserved a dedication service. After church attendance surged from 20 to 154, Pastor **Jack Day** led a dedication service for a new fellowship area and classrooms.

Calvary FWB Church in **Conway, MO**, dedicated their new church furniture which included padded pews. **James Crawford** pastors.

New Prospect FWB Church in **Pamplico, SC**, celebrated their centennial under the banner of "100 Years for Jesus." Pastor **Joe Cagle** has led the church since 1967. Members purchased land on which to build in 1981 for the princely sum of \$10. They underwent four building programs/expansions. In 1976 the church added a Christian school which enrolls 150 students. ■

Cooperative Channel Contributions February 1992

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	CO-OP (Undesignated)	Total	Feb.'91	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 168.14	\$ 30.00	\$ 198.14	\$ 775.02	\$ 376.92
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Arkansas	4,318.55	4,115.53	8,434.08	6,422.98	16,607.78
California	5.00	1,286.46	1,291.46	2,286.56	2,022.00
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	1,834.03	1,834.03	2,339.32	2,459.18
Georgia	7,856.49	1,390.67	9,247.16	10,058.45	24,945.70
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	73.21	.00	73.21	.00	73.21
Illinois	.00	63.33	63.33	127.68	9,159.77
Indiana	392.36	58.50	450.86	627.65	1,063.34
Kansas	.00	166.33	166.33	.00	182.10
Kentucky	151.00	176.00	327.00	100.00	377.00
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Maryland	.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	1,155.27
Michigan	7,876.21	3,352.05	11,228.26	388.50	21,822.92
Mississippi	.00	145.18	145.18	596.09	839.77
Missouri	8,875.49	.00	8,875.49	.00	20,083.09
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	30.00
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	24.74	15.78
North Carolina	491.00	910.00	1,401.00	2,022.25	2,529.17
Ohio	362.25	2,312.08	2,674.33	2,446.00	5,018.69
Oklahoma	34,568.81	10,534.35	45,103.16	34,799.80	95,267.29
South Carolina	14,149.12	160.78	14,309.90	10,480.44	26,877.74
Tennessee	4,169.63	2,506.18	6,675.81	1,274.56	14,319.62
Texas	8,622.49	870.72	9,493.21	9,259.45	9,493.21
Virginia	272.51	25.00	297.51	347.48	666.52
West Virginia	6,582.54	84.51	6,667.05	3,410.91	9,378.98
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	49.46	49.46	25.40	85.26
Other (Computer)	.00	(.05)	(.05)	.09	.04
Totals	\$98,934.80	\$30,221.11	\$129,155.91	\$87,963.37	\$264,850.35

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 9,378.07	\$ 15,945.03	\$ 25,323.10	\$ 21,621.27	\$ 50,646.18
Foreign Missions	57,754.23	3,283.50	61,037.73	44,527.44	134,314.46
FWBBC	2,958.55	3,283.50	6,242.05	4,193.52	12,605.61
Home Missions	22,816.55	2,569.71	25,386.26	12,434.37	45,026.83
Retirement & Insurance	356.56	1,998.64	2,355.20	1,333.89	4,356.41
Master's Men	323.14	1,998.64	2,321.78	1,321.66	4,445.02
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	40.09	71.38	111.47	74.94	198.31
FWB Foundation	447.75	856.57	1,304.32	754.63	2,514.09
Historical Commission	37.51	71.38	108.89	74.94	190.29
Music Commission	11.73	71.38	83.11	45.35	154.34
Radio & TV Commission	30.85	71.38	102.23	64.31	178.66
Hillsdale FWB College	834.62	.00	834.62	423.99	1,041.58
Other	3,945.15	.00	3,945.15	1,093.06	9,178.57
Totals	\$98,934.80	\$30,221.11	\$129,155.91	\$87,963.37	\$264,850.35

Capital Stewardship Campaign February 1992 Update

State	Goal	Gifts
Alabama	\$ 97,290	\$.00
Arizona	1,565	.00
Arkansas	97,880	4,542.50
Atlantic Canada	2,000	.00
California	21,925	.00
Colorado	1,005	.00
Florida	26,365	.00
Georgia	48,620	2,385.00
Hawaii	235	.00
Idaho	450	.00
Illinois	20,600	.00
Indiana	10,020	.00
Iowa	340	.00
Kansas	1,640	.00
Kentucky	45,150	.00
Louisiana	120	120.00
Maryland	8,675	.00
Michigan	19,250	1,553.00
Mississippi	19,815	.00
Missouri	77,025	.00
Montana	35	50.00
Nebraska	130	.00
New Mexico	760	.00
North Carolina	75,285	1,250.00
Northeast Assoc.	1,125	.00
Northwest Assoc.	1,385	.00
Ohio	52,115	.00
Oklahoma	117,505	.00
South Carolina	23,350	.00
Tennessee	100,040	14,175.00
Texas	14,705	3,010.00
Virginia	30,975	0.00
West Virginia	58,840	20.00
Other	23,780	800.00
TOTALS	\$1,000,000	\$27,905.50

Pre-Registration

**Deadline
for
National
Convention:**

June 19, 1992

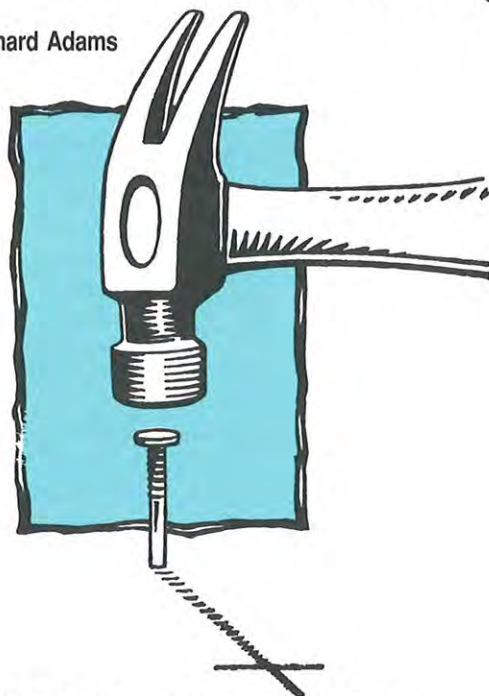
Coming next month:
National Convention Program



HOME MISSIONS

We're Off and Running!

By Richard Adams



A Build My Church Campaign Update

At the exciting 1990 National Association of Free Will Baptists which convened in the Target City of Phoenix, Arizona, delegates endorsed a Capital Stewardship Campaign for the Home Missions Department to raise \$1 million in gifts to the Church Extension Loan Fund. The Home Missions Department's goal is to plant 250 new churches during the decade of the 1990's. The theme of the campaign, "Build My Church," was adopted. As Director of Development for the Home Missions Department, I was appointed campaign coordinator.

1991 Update

By December 31, 1991, we had reached our first year's goal of \$250,000 toward the million dollar challenge. I would like to thank every church and individual for the wonderful response both with financial gifts and prayer support.

A tribute program was adopted where donors' names are honored and memorialized on beautiful plaque boards. These are on permanent display at the Home Missions office. The plaques are as follows: Golden Plaques—\$10,000; Silver Plaques—\$5,000; Precious Stones Plaques—\$1,000.

Estate Planning

Some people have remembered the campaign through trusts and wills. This is an important part of our plans to continue planting churches in the future. If you have remembered Home Missions in your will, please let us know so we can thank you. If you would like to include Home Missions in your will or need help in your estate planning, please feel free to contact me.

1991 GOAL

\$1,000,000
Challenge



\$250,000
\$200,000
\$150,000
\$100,000
\$50,000



Build My Church
Campaign

The Goal for 1992

We have set a goal for 1992 to raise \$200,000 more toward the \$1 million objective. This money will never be spent, but will always be used in a perpetual land fund to purchase property upon which we will build Bible-believing, soul-winning Free Will Baptist churches. We want you to have a part in this great effort to help our mission churches get out of rented facilities and into their own property. ■



Be a Sunday School Hero

By Billy Brown

There is a strange omission in I Samuel 17. The armies of Israel and the Philistines had come to Shochah to do battle. The result of this battle determined the freedom or servitude of God's people. The two armies positioned themselves on either side of the valley, the Philistines sent out their champion, and Israel sent out their . . . well, you get the picture.

Israel had no champion, no one on whom to call. Saul used to be the champion, but now he was the king. The man who stood head and shoulders over the other Israelites didn't want to risk his life style to certain death. What about Saul's mighty warriors? They would fight regular soldiers, no problem. But a giant? That's a different story. They didn't like the odds. If Saul wouldn't do it and the mighty men of Israel wouldn't try, then a common man didn't stand a chance. So the battlefield remained empty except for the giant of a man, Goliath.

The strange omission: Israel had no champion. Saul offered riches, royalty and relief from taxes. But no one was willing to become the champion.

Life is more than physical, mental, financial and emotional. It is also spiritual! David realized this when he volunteered as champion of Israel. David faced Goliath with the most powerful weapons ever created: courage, confidence, character and the power of God. These were his weapons, not the sling and stones. With these he became a hero. And so can you.

Bud Reese's Invitation

I have my own personal hero. There's nothing special about this man's appearance, ability, talent or intellect. But there was one thing: He showed enough interest in me to invite me to Sunday School. Until that time in my life, I seldom went inside a church and don't ever remember attending Sunday School. To me church was a strange and unusual place.

I still remember Bud Reese inviting me to attend the Sunday School class he taught. I thought it would be great, so I said, "Okay, let me ask my dad." I went home and asked my parents if it was all right to go. Sunday morning came and I was nervous. I'd never been to Sunday School. Mom laid out my best clothes and I dressed for the big event.

Turning Back on Sunday

It was a beautiful day as I walked the half block to church, the sun shining warm and the birds singing. But as I approached the building I could hear the piano and organ playing. I stopped and remember saying to myself, "They've already started. If I go in now everyone will turn and look at me." So I turned and fled for home. No Sunday School that day.

The next week Mr. Reese said, "I looked for you Sunday. Why didn't you come?" I told him what happened and he said, "It's okay, they hadn't started yet. They were only practicing and no one's going to turn and look at you."

So when the next Sunday rolled around I got dressed and headed for Sunday School the second time. I reached the same spot, heard the same piano and organ, felt the same fear, and made the same flight back home. Sunday School had eluded me again.

Walking with My Hero

Again Mr. Reese wanted to know why I hadn't come. And again I told him. Again he invited me back to Sunday School and I agreed to go. But on this third Sunday there was a slight difference. Mr. Reese came to my house and walked me to Sunday School. Now, 25 years later I'm still attending Sunday School.

You may be saying, "So what! What's special about this story?" Well, it's my story and that's special enough for me.

Mr. Reese showed initiative, courage, determination and resolve. Because he cared enough to invite me to Sunday School and see that I came, I was eventually saved and answered the call to preach. In my eyes Mr. Bud Reese is a Sunday School hero.

You, too, can become a Sunday School hero. There are millions of boys and girls just like me who have never been to Sunday School and will never go unless you go to their homes and personally bring them. And in their eyes you will become their Sunday School hero. ■

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

More Testimonies: From The Heart

**Allen Bowen,
Raleigh, NC**



In the Fall of 1990, I was planning to attend the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, knowing that God was dealing with me about FWBBC. A week before school started, I applied to the Bible College and I have been here ever since. Mine is a story of God's long suffering and patience. He never gave up on me, even when I was running. He knew what I needed before I could be what He wanted me to be.

I answered the call to the mission field a few months ago. The first year I was here, I started having a quiet time and God has never been so real to me. God is awesome! People wonder why I am usually so "hyper." I guess it is because God has given me much more than I deserve.

**Lisa Edgmon,
Denison, TX**



A year ago, about this time, I had major reconstructive surgery on my foot. It was quite serious. The thought of surgery scared me, but I knew everything would be okay if I prayed about it. Then I got word that the people at FWBBC had a special prayer for me in one of their services. It really meant a lot to know that I had people who didn't know me praying for me. This incident had a lot to do with my coming to the Bible College. FWBBC is a place you'll always have people who will pray for you.

I have found peace and happiness since I came. I feel that God has directed me here, both to receive my education and to enjoy the fellowship of close friends.

I find myself communicating more with God each day, whether through my prayer journal, devotions, or simply reading His word.

**Rejyna McClure,
Saltillo, Mexico**



I have totally enjoyed being here. The Lord has strengthened my faith in Him and shown me time and again that He supplies my every need.

God has provided for me since the beginning, starting with a grant. Then

He provided me with two jobs and a Stafford Loan.

I would encourage anyone to come here. I would tell them not worry about finances because God will provide. If some student is worried about being too far from home, don't worry, because God gives you a new, bigger family when you get here.

**Kevin Hester,
Russellville, AL**



I love FWBBC! Since coming, I have grown mentally, spiritually, and socially. I am preparing for my career while growing in Christ and making lifelong friends.

There is no better place for a Christian to prepare for a life of ministry or fulfilling Christ's will in his life than FWBBC.

God is using the college in the community, in the denomination, and in the world. But, most important, God is using FWBBC in the lives of Free Will Baptist young people who are preparing to impact the world for Jesus Christ. ■

—Missions Camp
—Music Camp

—Drama Camp
—Basketball Camp

June 14-19, 1992

SUMMER CAMP '92

3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

*"Why
wouldn't
God want
you at
Free Will
Baptist
Bible
College?"*

*John Weaver
Junior
Coats, NC*



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Your Annual Spring Checkup

You may be healthy, but how fit is the arrangement of your affairs? Most of us fail to prepare ahead for an accident, illness or emergency, using the "Oh, that can't possibly happen to me!" syndrome.

But it will happen to you. Catastrophes—like rainy days—pour down on everyone. Young or old, responsible men and women should establish contingency plans for immediate operation when such an unfriendly event arises.

Be ready when trouble pays its call. Have sufficient cash on hand . . . three to six months of living expenses. Arrange for quick access to your cash and borrowing or redemption privileges from pension or profit-sharing plans. Buy decreasing term life insurance for housing protection.

Cope before crises such as serious incapacitation or death. Financial planner Robert E. C. Wegner advises "spouses to give each other durable power of attorney if they are younger than 60." For those older or in ill health, he suggests the power of attorney be given to an adult child or trusted friend or business associate. It alleviates turmoil and trauma when a cool head is critical.

Anyone who wishes to avoid extra ordinary life support in a clear case of irreversible loss of mental life must preplan. Authority should be given in writing.

Then there is the matter of anatomical donations. Arrange for these through regular wills or in a special codicil or statement duly signed and witnessed.

It's wise to make lists.

1. Names, addresses, account numbers for every bank, mutual or money market fund, brokerage account, stocks, bonds, CDs, IRAs, military and/or company benefits, etc.
2. Policy numbers for your health, disability and life insurance policies.
3. Registration and title number for your car, boat, farm equipment, etc.
4. Credit card numbers, employer pension account numbers, prepaid funeral or burial contracts, business partnerships and investments.
5. Location of important papers: copies of insurance policies, deeds, real estate, jewelry, silver-

ware, paintings and other valuables.

6. Location of significant documents such as birth certificate, social security card, marriage or divorce records, mortgage payments, contracts, tax returns.

Give copies of the list to your attorney, executor of your will, and a member of the family. Don't keep wills, insurance policies and crucial documents in a safety deposit box. Under New York State law, according to finance writer Carole Gould, the box is sealed at death and cannot be opened except by court order and in the presence of a state tax department official. Buy a three-drawer fireproof cabinet to keep in garage or den.

First and foremost: make a will and make it now. To die intestate (i.e., without a properly executed will) is irresponsible and unpardonable. For a parent, it is akin to child abuse. If you and/or your spouse should die without naming a guardian, the court will appoint one. That individual might well be someone of whom you do not approve.

Be certain your will reflects your wishes. Place it with an executor, banker or attorney. Retain a copy in your files.

Think over carefully all that is discussed above, then get to it. ■

—adapted from *Ready or Not*

In Honor of . . .

By . . .

Reverend Gene Norris
Philadelphia Auxiliary
Mt. Clemens, MI

A Strange Witness

Joshua 22

The first 14 chapters of Joshua have told us the major part of the story of Israel's conquest of the land promised to Abraham and his descendants. Chapters 15-21 give details about the division of the land among the 12 tribes. When we come to chapter 22, therefore, we are nearing the end of this historic and critical time.

And chapter 22 strikes a somewhat strange note. The heading over it (in the uninspired notes in my study Bible) says, "The schismatic altar of Reuben and Gad." But is the altar schismatic? The text doesn't say so; indeed, there is no apparent criticism in the account. What lessons are there in this for us?

What happened is fairly clear. After the conquest was completed, Joshua gave the troops from the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half-Manasseh the liberty to return to their settlements on the eastern side of Jordan (vv. 1-8), to the land called Gilead.

He commended them highly (vv. 2-3): they had faithfully fulfilled their obligations to help the other tribes in the hot battles in Canaan proper. He also charged them seriously (v. 5): they must be careful to keep all the law of the Lord. Furthermore, he blessed them with a generous portion of the spoils of the war in the land (v. 8). That part alone is a good lesson for us about duty and faithfulness and reward.

And so the representatives from the two and a half tribes departed to return to Gilead (v. 9). But when they reached the Jordan, they did a strange thing: before crossing the river they built a huge altar by the Jordan, one "great to see to"—big enough to see from a distance (v. 10).

Well, it wasn't long before word got around among the Israelites in Canaan (v. 11). And they were horrified! This

altar seemed to be a direct violation of God's command that no place of worship be built anywhere among the Israelites except where the tabernacle was. And so the Israelites, appropriately zealous, assembled to make war on those of Reuben Gad and half-Manasseh (v. 12). You can find the basis in Deuteronomy 13:12-18.

In preparation, they sent Phinehas and 10 princes to confront their wayward brethren (vv. 13-20). And confront them they did, reminding them of the awful consequences of disobedience already experienced in the case of wickedness at Peor.

There, as seen in Numbers 25:1-9, some 24,000 Israelites had perished; Phinehas had been zealous there, too, finally stopping the Lord's plague with a bold act. They also reminded them of the consequences of Achan's sin. They didn't intend for God's wrath to fall on Israel any more as a result of the sin of some group.

The people of Reuben, Gad and half-Manasseh were suitably sobered. Quickly they explained (vv. 21-21). They had not violated God's commands after all, they insisted. They did not *ever* intend that the big altar be a place of worship. They built it *not* to be schismatic or have a rival place of sacrifice, but to avoid that very kind of thing.

They were afraid that the time would come when the Israelites on the western side of the Jordan, in Canaan proper, would consider that those on the eastern side, in Gilead, were not really part of them and worshippers of Jehovah. So they had built the altar to serve as a *witness* to the fact that they, the Gileadites, really were brothers with the rest of Israel in the worship of God (vv. 24-29).

Phinehas and those with him were relieved. They rejoiced that their brethren had intended no evil. They

were pleased that no war was necessary. They blessed the people of Gilead and went home in peace (vv. 30-33). And so the great altar was named "Ed," from the Hebrew word meaning *witness*.

Were the Gileadites wrong? My feeling is that we should be cautious in labelling something wrong when the account does not criticize them. There is no record that this altar ever created a problem. Regardless, there are certainly some good lessons here.

We ought to be zealous, like Phinehas and his companions, for the ways of God. When our brothers seem to have done wrong, we should confront them—*before* we go to war! And such confrontation can often lead to an understanding. Intentions are not always clear from actions.

After all, there is a place for things that are put in place to serve as a "witness." Whether the Gileadites were right in building the altar or not, they were right in wanting something to remind their brothers on the western side that they were part of them. In human relationships, we sometimes have to put something in place to testify to our oneness. That unity is important enough to justify it. ■



Robert E. Picirilli



Thomas Marberry

A History of the New Testament and Its Times

By Robert L. Cate

(Nashville: Broadman Press, 1991, 348 pp., hardback, \$19.95)

It is impossible to correctly interpret the New Testament books without some understanding of their social, religious, political and economic background. These books did not originate in a vacuum, and they must be understood against the background of the first century.

This volume is designed to assist the beginning student in understanding the New Testament background. Dr. Cate begins by discussing the canon. He outlines the forces which led early Christians to set apart this important collection of ancient Christian writings.

He discusses the relationship between sacred history and secular history and how each helps one to understand the other. He calls special attention to early Jewish writings and to archaeological discoveries. These are often overlooked, but they are important resources for our knowledge of this time period.

In my opinion, one of the most

valuable contributions of this book is the author's analysis of the problem of dating ancient events. He demonstrates how information from various sources must be brought together in order to determine the dates when important events happened in the ancient world.

Modern systems of dating were unknown, and chronology was much less important in the ancient world than it is today. The modern student is often forced to make do with such information as is available.

The author deals extensively with how one seeks to determine when Christ was born and when He was crucified. He also analyzes the chronology of Paul's life in considerable detail. I don't always agree with his conclusions, but his analysis of available evidence is valuable.

Cate devotes considerable attention to political conditions which prevailed at the time. He presents important information about emperors who

ruled the Roman Empire and the governors and kings who ruled Palestine or parts of Palestine. He does an insightful analysis of the complex relationship which existed between Jewish leaders and Pontius Pilate.

The last portion of the book deals with the Church's missionary expansion as described in Acts and other New Testament writings. He analyzes Paul's travels in light of prevailing social, political, religious and geographical conditions.

Throughout the book Dr. Cate demonstrates the greatest confidence in New Testament writings. In his view, they present an accurate picture of the founding and early development of the Christian faith. The book contains a welcome combination of good scholarship and high regard for New Testament books. The book is enjoyable to read and not difficult to understand. It is a pleasure to welcome such a book to the market. ■

Directory Update

Alabama

Chester Huckaby to St. James Church, Phenix City

Georgia

Steve Cannon to White Oaks Church, Macon from Woodbine Church, Nashville, TN

Steve Hughes to Cool Springs Church, Norman Park

Larry E. Williams to Lyons Church, Lyons

J. M. Creech to Bellview Church, Colquitt from Tupelo Church, Tupelo, MS

Tim Hutchinson to Mt. Olive Church, Reynolds

Illinois

Brad Taylor to Webb's Prairie Church, Ewing

Charles Walker to Mascoutah Church, Mascoutah

Oklahoma

Billy Walker to Felker Church, Valliant

Texas

Wayne Tiggerman to Liberty Church, Comanche

Eugene Richards to Easley Chapel Church, Comanche

Bobby Jo Davis to Northcrest Church, Victoria

Deacons or Demons?

By Dawn Bullock

During a business meeting at our church, my four-year-old cousin, Josh, grew restless. Hoping to satisfy him, one of the deacons sitting nearby gave him a piece of bubble gum. After the meeting ended, I told Josh that he should thank Deacon Jones for the gum.

He responded, "Yeah, we've got some really nice demons in our church." ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dawn Bullock is a Free Will Baptist Bible College student from Bastrop, Louisiana.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY NEWS

Pakistani Christians Want Justice

FAISALABAD, Pakistan (EP)—The Christian minority community in Pakistan is calling for strict legal action against a Muslim extremist who allegedly murdered a Christian teacher, Naimat Ahmer, News Network International reported.

The assailant repeatedly stabbed Ahmer, then shouted that he had killed him because Ahmer had insulted the Prophet Mohammed. While authorities called it "a clear murder case," and are holding the assailant without bail, the case is not expected to be tried for several months. Christians want the assailant to be punished to the full extent of the law in order to discourage such attacks.

Pakistani Christians told NNI that reactionary Muslims have begun to use false charges against Christians to settle political or economic rivalries. Under Islamic law, insulting the Prophet Mohammed requires the death penalty, and desecrating the Koran requires life imprisonment.

Several Christians have been falsely charged with one or the other of these offenses. In one case, a Christian shopkeeper had a minor dispute with a neighboring merchant. He was arrested later that day on charge of insulting the prophet. His accusers have failed to appear at court hearings, postponing the judicial process each time.

Pakistani Christians report a number of such incidents over the last nine months, even though Pakistan's 1973 Constitution states that Islamic law cannot be applied to minority religious groups.

Scriptures Now in 1,978 Languages

READING, England (EP)—During 1991 the number of languages in which at least one book of the Bible has been translated rose to 1,978 according to the United Bible Societies (UBS).

Thirty-two new languages received at least one more book of the Bible during 1991, the largest one-year increase since 1987. The number of languages with complete Bibles increased to 322, with the addition of two languages from Zaire, one from Guatemala and one from Yugoslavia.

More than 80 percent of the world's population has access to at least a portion of the Bible in a language they can understand. But illiteracy, geographical isolation, political and social problems and the difficulty of grasping meaning in a language other than one's mother tongue makes this figure misleading, American Bible Society reported.

There are between 3,000 and 6,000 languages in the world, and UBS currently is involved in 608 language projects, 412 of which are first-time translations for that language. Yet sheer numbers are not the most important

thing, said Dr. John D. Erickson, UBS General Secretary.

"What is it that keeps a translator working day and night to produce a translation of the Bible?" Erickson asked. "Certainly not statistics! It is his or her desire to have God's Word available for people to read in the language of their heart, their mother tongue. Then, people can know that 'God speaks my language.'"

ICR Wins Creation Court Battle

SANTEE, CA (EP)—In a victory with implications for all private schools in California, the Institute for Creation Research (ICR) announced February 4 that it has reached a settlement with Bill Honig, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Department of Education (DOE) in California, which will allow ICR's Graduate School of Science to operate without DOE interference.

As part of the settlement, Honig agreed with ICR that private colleges in California may still meet educational standards while teaching from a Christian perspective. Honig also acknowledged that private K-12 schools are not under the jurisdiction of the DOE as far as approval of their curriculum is concerned, except as otherwise provided by law.

"This was a significant victory not only for our ICR Graduate School of Science, but also for all private schools in California, particularly those that teach creationism," said Dr. Henry Morris, ICR president. "For almost four years, Bill Honig and the State Department of Education have been trying to close down our unique science program primarily because we did not teach evolution as a fact. This ruling should prevent the state from harassing other private schools that refuse to teach evolutionary dogma as fact."

Dr. Paul Kienel, executive director of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), which represents 3,000 Christian schools in the U.S., echoed Dr. Morris' comments. "Creationism was on the verge of being outlawed in California to the point where Christian schools would have been forced to teach evolution as a fact, especially in science courses," he said.

"This could have had far-reaching implications for the nation, for as California goes, so often goes the country. I believe Christian education would have been in jeopardy everywhere if Bill Honig had succeeded in shutting down the ICR Graduate School. Even more significantly, the judgment applies to curricula in general, not just science curricula."

In 1990, Honig issued a final notice denying the school permission to operate. Morris charges that Honig was motivated by his "personal disagreement with the creationist perspective of our school." ICR responded with three lawsuits. Late in the year the school won a state administrative procedure and a state

superior court suit, forcing Honig to reinstate ICR as a fully approved school. ICR pursued its federal suit to obtain a declaratory judgment.

Barna Says Pastors Frustrated

GLENDALE, CA (EP)—A recent Barna Research Group survey of church pastors asked them how Jesus Christ would probably assess the effectiveness of the Church in America today. Less than one half of one percent felt Christ would say churches are doing tremendous, highly-effective work; while 43 percent felt churches are doing a respectable, if not wholly successful, job. A majority—53 percent—said they felt Christ would rate churches as having little positive impact on souls or society. Three percent rated the Church as failing miserably at every turn.

Pollster George Barna, president of the Barna Research Group, said that while some pastors are fulfilled and satisfied, others are frustrated in their role. Barna pointed to the emphasis on church growth as a leading source of frustration.

"More than 25 billion dollars are spent in this country every year by churches, with much emphasis upon reaching the unchurched and non-Christians," Barna noted. "Yet, we still see that more than 80 percent of all church growth that occurs in the U.S. is transfer growth—people moving from one church to another, instead of unchurched people coming into church."

Barna continued, "This frustrates pastors in a number of ways. Some get frustrated because their idea of success is a large church. Unfortunately, they feel that leading a small church means that they're doing something wrong. Others feel intense pressure to grow from various sources: their denomination, their congregation, or even other pastors. Others are frustrated because they see how badly people in their community need what the Church has to offer, but they really don't know how to reach these people effectively."

Barna said his research indicates that while there is no cut-and-dried, fail-proof approach that a church can implement, there are some general principles at work in growing churches.

"First, pastors can't do it all themselves," he noted. "Too many congregations sit back and wait for their leaders to bring people into the church. The pastor should function as a trainer and cheerleader, so that the laity can be effective in reaching out to their neighbors through the church. It's just like a football team—the coach formulates the game plan and teaches the players how to execute it; he isn't expected to score the touchdowns, too." ■



Jack Williams

The Indy 6,000

You know about the Indy 500. It attracts worldwide attention. But do you know about the Indy 6,000? It meets in Indianapolis five days this July and will also attract worldwide attention. And it's an all-Free Will Baptist event.

The Indy 6,000 is better known as the Free Will Baptist National Convention. That's because 6,000 Free Will Baptists from 40 states and 10 foreign countries will drive, fly, bus, thumb and maybe walk to the Indiana Convention Center July 19-23.

The event will deliver just as many thrills and spills as the Indy 500. From the thunder of pounding gavels to the harmony of orators and clear-voiced tenors, Convention '92 will blend the excitement of three concurrent conventions into five days of July magic.

You can count on the Indy 500 to produce fender benders and 180-degree turns. So will the Indy 6,000. After rising early and staying late, some of us need body work, a few will pivot 180 degrees in business sessions.

And the payoff! The Indy 500 winner gets his name in the record books and a big check for his trouble. But the Indy 6,000 is an event with no losers. We make history and plan the future. The question is: *Should you attend the Indy 6,000?* The answer is Yes, if . . .

. . . If you can handle the unexpected. Like the Indy 500, once the starting flag drops the convention takes on a life of its own. No one can script how delegates will vote, what speakers will say or who will be elected to which board.

While the Indy 500 may be postponed by a sudden shower or slowed by a stubborn fuel line, the national convention never runs under a caution flag. Rain or shine, conferees race from breakfast to seminar to business to worship. Everything is *now*. Noth-

ing waits and we only return to pit row after 11:00 p.m.

. . . If you like kids. Free Will Baptist kids, that is. We bring our kids to the convention. We have the best children in the world, and that's not just proud parents talking. Every year at post-convention meetings when we settle up accounts, hotel personnel always, *always* tell us what wonderful kids we have.

Our 2,000 kids compete in Bible competitions, in music and arts. They eat stacks of pizza and shop till they drop. They also punch every button on elevators and can't resist escalators. But they're still the best kids on earth.

. . . If you take care of business. The Indy 500 is more than entertainment, it's a huge business that combines sponsors, research crews and drivers. The Free Will Baptist National Convention is, at the bottom line, a business meeting. But what a business meeting!

This is God's business, and that makes it big business. In less than 10 clock hours Wednesday and Thursday, convention delegates will direct how to spend \$11 million. That's a million dollars an hour! They will also elect 31 board and commission members, critique reports from 12 national agencies and examine more than 125 pages of audited reports.

. . . If you enjoy preaching and singing. There's no music better than Free Will Baptist National Convention music. From quartets to choirs to soloists, we'll sing down the glory in Indianapolis. There's nothing like it anywhere else. It's us.

Free Will Baptist convention preaching has something for everybody. That's by design. Our speakers will address the needs of the day in the language of the people. Solid Bible

Conference exposition, Camp Meeting messages, sermons for youth, for women, for pastors.

. . . If you want to be part of something bigger. One over-worked pastor told me: "What I like best about the convention is the fact that I'm not in charge of it."

Another said, "I want my people to be part of something that doesn't stop at the local church."

The convention reminds us that some things cost more than one church can afford. Some ministries require more talent than one church can supply. Some tasks are too big for one church to accomplish. That's why each July we renew our vows to each other as a denomination.

When the checkered flag waves at Indy 500, the race is over for another year. One winner. Everybody else loses. But that's not the case when the gavel falls at the Free Will Baptist convention.

It means the presses keep rolling another year publishing Bible-based literature. That missionaries keep preaching the gospel around the world. That students continue training at Free Will Baptist Bible College. And much more.

When the checkered gavel falls on the Indy 6,000 this July, everybody wins. The hotels win because our people stayed there. The restaurants win because we bought their food. The city wins because Free Will Baptists gently touched everyone from gas station attendants to newspaper vendors.

The track is clear. We're ready to follow the convention pace car all the way to the Indiana Convention Center. Start your engines! ■

CONTACT

P. O. Box 5002

Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002

Second class postage paid at Antioch, Tennessee, and additional offices.



Free Will Baptist Bible College

Carrying The Torch Into the 21st Century



For more than 50 years, Free Will Baptist Bible College has held the torch of the gospel high. It has been faithful to the task of illuminating the world with the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

The flame carried by its alumni has burned in local churches, homes, businesses, classrooms and to the far corners of the earth.

The 21st Century is perched on the horizon. Free Will Baptist Bible College is mobilizing an army of torchbearers to move boldly into this new era with the light. We invite you to join us as we light the way for others to follow.

Join our family. Free Will Baptist Bible College is just that—a family. We are characterized by people who care.

Join us along the beautiful tree-lined streets of west Nashville, where we are located.

Join us on a campus where you are more than just a number on an ID card.

Join our student body in pursuing a variety of academic programs that will prepare you to meet the challenges of today—and tomorrow.

Join us as we carry the torch into the 21st Century!



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

3606 West End Avenue

Nashville, Tennessee 37205

For a free
Catalog,
call
1-800-76-
FWBBC