

AUGUST 1992

CONTACT

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.....
**Appreciate
Your Pastor**

.....
**Your Pastor Called
Me Last Night**

.....
Pastor's Library

.....
Portrait of a Pastor

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AUGUST 1992

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Melvin Worthington

The Sovereign's Servant

Pastors occupy a unique office in the operation of the Church. Christ is described as the Chief Shepherd and pastors as under shepherds who give oversight to the congregation. Pastors tend, teach and train the children of God in order that they might do the work of the ministry.

"Pastor-teacher" describes the pastoral task as well as any term. Pastors hold the key to effective education in the church. They set the tone for teaching.

What kind of pastoral profile do you project? How does your congregation perceive you? The pastor occupies a unique office, has a unique obligation, unique opportunities and unique objectives. Let's look at the traits that characterize those called and commissioned by the living Lord to lead the Church.

God's servants must not strive (II Tim. 2:24) but exhibit gentleness toward all men. Meekness should surround every action and attitude as they engage in the teaching and preaching ministry.

Pastors must not stray. God's servants must flee sensual lusts and follow righteousness, faith and peace with pure hearts. How devastating when ministers stray and end up in disgrace. Paul addressed this issue, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away" (I Cor. 9:27).

The Sovereign's servants must not shrink from the work He has called them to do. Paul illustrates what it means not to shrink from the will of God in spite of persecution and problems. He said, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine" (II Tim. 4:2).

Paul also declared, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).

God's servants must submit themselves to Him. They must die to self. Their motto must be that of Paul who declared that whether he lived or died he wanted Christ to be glorified and magnified.

Pastors must serve. Jesus said that He came not to be ministered to but to minister and to give His life a ransom. We are servants of the Lord. Rather than being served we must serve. Paul described himself as a slave of Jesus Christ.

God's servants must stand. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:7). Again Paul said, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness" (Eph. 6:14). Pastors who please the Lord stand when and where He has spoken.

Effective pastors must be good students. Discipline in this area produces long-range blessings. Paul said, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). The hard work of study must take priority in the pastor's life if effective teaching and preaching are achieved.

The Secretary's Schedule

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| August 3-9 | Evergreen FWB Church
Iola, Texas |
| August 11-13 | Arkansas State Association |
| August 17-23 | Cuban FWB Association
Cuba |
| August 24-28 | International FWB Consultation
Panama |

God's servants must serve as samples of what they preach. They must practice what they preach. If God's grace is not sufficient for us then we need not hope to challenge our congregations that it is sufficient for them.

Pastors must set their affections on things above rather than things on earth. God's ministers must not get entangled with the things of this world. They must always remember they are pilgrims on a journey.

Pastors must slay some things. Paul asserts, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Col. 3:5). The biblical qualifications for ministers demand a life of holiness and purity. Ministers must exercise discipline over their minds, morals, motives and manners.

Pastors must support the Lord's work financially. Those who set the pattern and practice of sacrificial support through scriptural, systematic stewardship are pastors. One reason so many Christians do not support the Lord's work through tithes and offerings is that pastors have never set the proper example.

The Sovereign's servants must learn to salute those who are faithful in the Lord's vineyard where He has placed them. Paul does this in Romans 16. There are no insignificant Christians. All make a unique contribution to the Lord's work.

The pastor-teacher holds a unique position in the program of the church. How do we measure up? ■

How to Appreciate Your Pastor

By Mark H. Braisher



Pastor Appreciation—it's a difficult subject. Should the church officially show appreciation to its pastor? After all, many people go to work every day without feeling any appreciation.

Rewards

First, consider rewards. Sure, some employers do not go out of their way to show appreciation but others reward employees that do a good job. Usually with pay increases, benefit increases or bonuses of one kind or other. If we consider the pastor like any other employee, then perhaps consideration should be given for rewards when they are appropriate.

Calling vs. Occupation

Second, look at the pastor himself. Is the ministry just an occupation for him or is it a calling? If it is a calling (and most hold this opinion), the pastorate is more than a job, it is his life—consuming a major part of his time, attention and heart.

Seldom does a pastor walk out of the office and really leave his job. If this is the case, within reason, shouldn't the reward be from the heart? Shouldn't appreciation be shown in more ways than just cut-and-dried procedure?

Distance

Third, a pastor often lives miles from what used to be considered home. While this does happen in

other occupations, if our theology is correct concerning a "call," then a pastor limits his personal choices and follows God. Being hours from his extended family, a pastor, especially one with a family of his own, really appreciates the extra love and care given to his family. The adopted aunts, uncles, moms, dads and grandparents can be a gift from God. Consider the distance that God has called your pastor.

Ways to Appreciate

Now, let's turn our thoughts to what pastors see as a show of appreciation. Remember pastors are people, too. They have hobbies (or should); they have other interests (or should). One can show them appreciation the same way you

would anyone else.

I asked over 100 randomly-selected pastors from across the denomination what made them feel appreciated. Here are their top responses:

1. *For the church to show stronger commitment to service.*

2. *To have the church honor my weekly schedule and time.*

3. The third highest response was a tie between *Give increased vacation time* and *Give a love offering.*

4. Other answers included *give a gift* and *give a raise in salary.*

Consider a Sabbatical

There were other areas mentioned in the survey that a church can do for their pastor to not only keep him happy but also benefit the church by having a more qualified pastor. One idea is to provide the pastor with a sabbatical. A sabbatical is something rare among Free Will Baptists, but not rare throughout the history of the church.

For years, and still in some parts of the country and in some denominations, a pastor was expected to fill the pulpit from September through May. A radical idea? Perhaps, but imagine the impact such a schedule would have on a pastor's preaching if he spent most of his time through the summer preparing sermons for the coming year. The power of such preparation may produce results unfathomed in your church.

So, you can't give up your pastor every summer? Try giving him up once every five to seven years for two to three months. Encourage him to spend that time in renewal and personal revival. Giving him this time with enough salary to provide for him and his family could do several things for him and your church.

It will probably lengthen his tenure at your church. It will allow him the refreshment and renewal to carry on with greater zeal and diligence. It would allow and encourage greater depth in his preaching, teaching and pastoral care.

"Why give the pastor a sabbatical; I don't get one on my job!" Good question, and the answer goes back to his being on call 24 hours a day, and the emotional and spiritual stress it places on him. A sabbatical

Sermon in a Sack

By Bracken Mayo

I go to Good Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Pleasant View, Tennessee. Our pastor is Rev. John Gibbs. Every Sunday night he does "Sermon in a Sack." All the kids are on the stage with him. One of the kids brings an object in a sack. He reaches in and tells a Bible story about it.

Some of the kids brought a rubber snake, a toy dinosaur, a pair of mittens, a stuffed bobcat and a rock. When it is my turn to bring something, it will be hard.

The kids really like it. I think it's a good idea because it shows that Brother John is the kids' pastor too. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Ten-year-old Bracken Mayo is a member of Good Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Pleasant View, Tennessee.

will also help members of the church grow spiritually by expanding their personal ministries while the pastor is away.

Continuing Education

One final idea that will assist the church is continuing education. George Barna of the Barna Research Group was quoted in a January issue of the *National & International Religion Report*: "Many pastors are among the 'most occupationally frustrated people in America,' partly because 'the old strategies for ministry growth, and the usual assumptions about people's motivations, are no longer valid.'"

Your pastor needs to continually grow with the changes in the ministry. Allow him to do that while he serves you as pastor by instructing him to take the time and energies needed to attend quality classes, seminars and conferences that will instruct him how to better minister. In order to do this the church must assure him that it will assist by paying for educational events and by teaming with him in ministry to give him the necessary time to be part of these equipping events.

A learning pastor will be more

creative, possess more depth, and will be more competent to handle the situations that your church will face in the years to come.

Make a Choice

So, it's about time for that traditional *Pastor Appreciation Day* in September. What will you and your church do? Whatever you do, make an intentional choice and remember that what you invest in your pastor will probably allow you to reap dividends in the success of your church. Your pastor will be happier, you will be happier, and God will receive the glory! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Mark Braisher pastors Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri. He is a graduate of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

How am I Doing?

By David A. Joslin



Every pastor needs to know his standing with the congregation as viewed through the eyes of the members. The Scottish poet, Robert Burns, wrote for us in his poem, *To a Louse*:

"O would some Power the giftie give us,
To see ourselves as others see us!"

He was inspired to pen these thoughts as he sat behind a lady of high society in church and noted a louse clinging to a feather in her hat.

Often, the pastor ponders the statement: "*If only I knew what my members thought of me!*" Ministers, in haste to conceal their perception of failures and faults as viewed by the members, distort their own views of themselves. An honest, objective evaluation can help any pastor determine if his work and performance meet the expectations of both himself and his members.

An evaluation is not a threat and should not be considered as such by the pastor. An evaluation approach must have as its main ingredient, a self-appraisal. Self-appraisal is the

foundational ingredient of any evaluation.

At the Fork

Every pastor should evaluate his own performance. If there is too much dependency upon evaluation by others, it would be unacceptable as a good evaluation. However, the members can create an environment which leads to an effective self-appraisal.

An effective approach to a proper evaluation will encourage initiative, foster better performance and intensify a sense of responsibility.

Eventually, every pastor is destined to arrive at a fork in the pastoral road and ask, "Where do I go from here?" The very image of the fork is an indicator that a tough decision awaits. Generally, the signpost at the fork is marked by a grouping of arrows listing the various options.

Simply knowing that the fork lies ahead should prepare the pastor to know the options prior to arrival at the fork. The ability to discern prior

to the actual occurrence will ready the pastor for what lies ahead. Good leadership involves not only having the ability to make the right decision, but knowing when to make it as well.

Serious reflection, hours of agonizing prayer and a sincere introspection are a must at this pivotal point in his ministry. This fork decision will impact not only the rest of his life, but also his family's.

Far too many pastors are forced to leave their churches in the deepest depths of despair. Things have not gone right for a long while. Plan after plan has fallen apart. Critics from all levels of the church family have reminded him constantly of his failures and shortcomings. When the situation has reached this point, it may be too late for an evaluation.

Evaluation Guide

An evaluation need not be complicated. The following can serve as a guide:

(A) Set three short-range goals and at least two long-range goals.

Realistic, obtainable goals directed toward the improvement of your pastoral obligations should be considered.

All short-range goals should be clearly directed toward the ultimate goals for the church. These goals provide a clear-cut statement of the expectations for the pastor and will stimulate his performance.

(B) Periodically, note any progress movement towards your goals. Determine how well you are doing prior to the end of single, particular goals. If you should be off course, you will be able to alter directions and swing back on course.

(C) Figure methods to obtain accurate information about the amount of success you have obtained. At the finish of the time for which you set your goals, evaluate yourself and start the cycle for new and improved goals for the next period of time.

Keep in mind that the evaluation of a pastor's ministry cannot be fully measured or judged by a single snapshot of his life which may cover only a few seconds of time. The entire scope of his tenure must be considered. When judged in the aspect of total service, the results are vastly different.

The Right Questions

Every pastor will experience both highs and lows in his ministry. Neither pastor nor parishioner should ever gauge another's work based solely on one isolated incident.

These 10 questions will help evaluate the effectiveness of the pastor.

1. Have my objectives and goals remained unachieved?
2. Are my church members happier? Have they been enriched by my ministry?
3. Is the church stronger for having experienced me?
4. Do I experience the inability to concentrate on what is really important? Do I tend to major on minors?
5. Do I experience the tendency to cling to the status quo?
6. Do once faithful church mem-

bers now miss services without justifiable reasons?

7. Are the offerings lower than previously and still declining?
8. Is the music and singing alive, refreshing and enthusiastic?
9. Is my own family happy?
10. Would my church be better off if I resigned?

This is the time when the pastor may be standing alone. Standing alone is never easy. But even at this time in one's ministry, God can still give hope, encouragement and direction. Look to Him!

Self-Encouragement

David's work, while it was not the pastorate, does supply a good illustration of success followed by failure. "And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God," (II Samuel 30:6).

David's close associates gave serious consideration to stoning him. Their loyalty was the single hope upon which he could depend when

all else was gone. They had responded to his leadership through thick and thin. On numerous occasions, they had even risked their lives for him, but now, he was alone!

He could have allowed the doubts, the disloyalty, the sharp criticisms and the cynical ranting of his intimate friends to adversely affect him, "but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God."

Your pastor deserves the best from you. Help him to accurately evaluate his ministry. Be both objective and fair to him under all circumstances. Remember, even though he is God's man, he is still human. He bleeds also! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend David Joslin is promotional director for the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Outcast Among Outcasts

By Kris Shoemaker

An outcast among outcasts. Sometimes that's how I feel. I stand in a crowd of a hundred brothers and sisters, and still feel alone.

It seems I'm different from most of my brothers and sisters, often misunderstood, for being me—for Him. I thought we were all supposed to be different. Yet some expect us to be clones.

And I don't understand. We're supposed to be called out from among the world to be united as one in Christ. But we remain divided among our cliques.

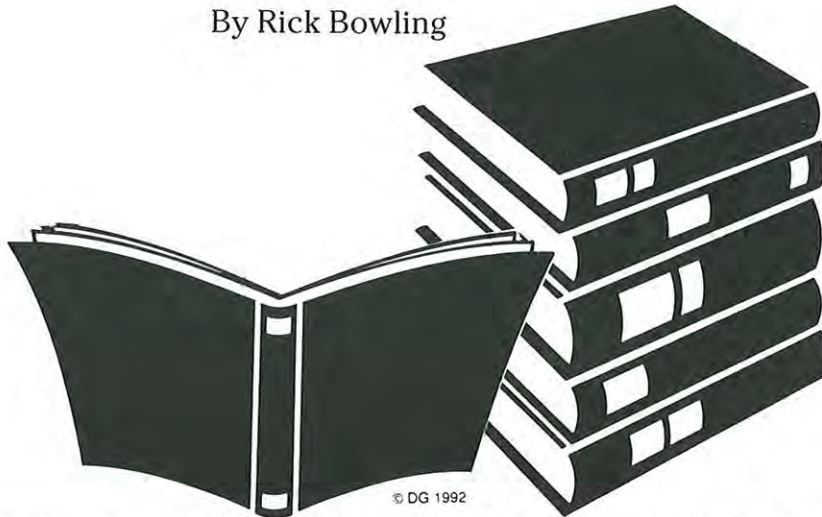
God made us all different—to be different parts of the body of Christ. Yes, we're all different, and that's okay!

What a paradox: Though we are different, we're to accept the differences and be united as one in Christ Jesus. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Kris Shoemaker is a Free Will Baptist Bible College student from Mansfield, Ohio

Build Your Pastor's Library

By Rick Bowling



Suppose you were in an emergency situation and were put in an ambulance and rushed to the emergency room. Upon arriving, you notice something different. There are no stethoscopes, no x-ray machines, no hypodermic needles, no bandages, no medicines. There's only an empty room with a bed. What if you found that the attending physician had not kept up with the latest techniques and methods of modern medicine? You would probably demand to be taken to another emergency room.

This illustration is dramatic and maybe unrealistic, but the truth is, we want out tax accountants, physicians and school teachers to keep up with the latest techniques and changes. Dare we expect less from the man who ministers the Word of God to us?

Paul exhorts in II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." The strength of Paul's words reach out to us as he parallels studying with receiving the approval of God.

Shake the Tree

Luther once said that he studied the Bible the same way he gathered apples. First, he shook the whole tree that the ripest fruit might fall;

then he climbed the tree and shook each limb; and when he had shaken each limb, he shook each branch and after each branch, every twig, and then he looked under every leaf. This is what a good library does for the pastor.

How enlightening and thought-provoking a commentary can be. How revealing a good concordance can be as you see how your subject relates to the whole of God's Word. How awakening can a word study be as it dives down to the root and meaning of the original word.

What the Pastor Can Do

How can a minister keep up with his studies if he does not have the right equipment? Most pastors cannot take several weeks or months out of their busy ministries to attend a semester of college or seminar, but there are enough good books available that any pastor can stay up with his studies.

Sometimes a pastor may feel he cannot afford the books and materials that he needs. What can he do? First, let your congregation know that you prefer books as gifts and that reading material is high on your priority list.

Second, the pastor may keep an active book list available to the congregation that they might know the specific books desired by him.

Third, put aside money each month from your own personal ac-

count specifically for books. This does not have to be a large amount of money but anything will eventually add to your library and by doing so, will show your people how important reading material is to you.

What the Church Can Do

How can the church help the pastor who is usually on a fixed income? Consider a book shower for that man who stands before you each week to break the Bread of life. We have baby showers, wedding showers and house warmings, so why not a book shower for the pastor? Let everyone participate by bringing a book that's found on the pastor's book list.

Another idea to consider is to add to the church budget a monthly book allowance for the pastor. An allowance of \$15 to \$25 a month may not seem like much to most churches, but to the pastor it would mean one to two new books a month. We make sure the missionaries and other denominational projects are taken care of, why not your pastor?

Have you ever thought of giving your deserving pastor a subscription to a monthly Christian magazine? Birthdays and anniversaries are excellent times to present your pastor with a new book. Consider a "Pastor Appreciation Day" with books as gifts or with gift certificates from your local Christian book store. Allow him to choose which



Part-Time Yet Full-Time

By Lloyd Plunkett



I wish I could be a "full-time minister," and I am. This church and its pay are small enough that I need to have a secular job to survive, but I don't.

Here is how that makes sense: I am a full-time minister of God wherever I am. Whatever I am doing, whatever the pay and from whatever its source.

As a genuine, blood-bought, born-again disciple of Christ, I represent Him all the time. Almost every morning as I park at my other job I pray, "Lord, let me represent You well today." To others working there, that job is strictly secular, but to me as His representative, it is sacred.

In my 27 years in the ministry, I have experienced only nine months of being a full-time pastor without severe financial hardship. That's not the way I planned it and, I confess, I have often chafed under that situation and longed to give my whole

time and energy to pastoring a church.

Maybe someday! But for now, reluctant as I am to face it, I believe God really needs me in the office there more than in an office in a church house. Where I work, out of nearly 30 employees, to the best of my knowledge, I am the only one who is a practicing Christian.

One or two may be closet Christians. Some others might consider themselves Christian because they think that is the same thing as being nice. Still others practice something else and consider it Christian because they think being religious is being Christian.

Such an environment has been mine for almost all of the eight years I have worked there. Other Christians have stayed short times or have been part-time for short times.

Being a lone Christian, or nearly so, has been my experience in all the supporting jobs I have held, whether driving a bus, working in construction, hauling freight, selling insurance or counseling the bereaved. My Father in Heaven has needed someone in those environments who knew Him personally, read His rev-

elation, thought His thoughts, valued His views, spoke His language, walked His walk and loved those people as He does.

Maybe when there are enough replacements and I am not needed there, God will let me be a full-time pastor. Maybe by then I can understand the working man in the pew. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Lloyd Plunkett pastors New Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Kent, Washington. In his "other job," he serves as a family counselor helping families make pre-need funeral and cemetery arrangements. This article is reprinted from the February 1992 issue of *New Hope News Notes*.

books he wants.

Specific Advantages

What are the advantages to the church that helps their pastor build his library? We must admit that we are programmed to find what benefit the program will give us. Consider what a blessing it would be for that pastor to know that he is loved and appreciated. This would probably give him the incentive to work harder for you.

It is logical that when he has more material available to him, he will be a more effective teacher and preacher. The congregation will find that teaching will be more interesting and messages more edifying. Everyone wins in the end.

Help your pastor be a man who studies and gives his best because he has the tools to work with. Help him be the very best he can be for the Lord. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Rick Bowling pastors Martin Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Booneville, Mississippi.

Portrait of a Pastor

By Dennis Wiggs

September						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Hospital Visits	Mid-Week Service	Visit Rest Home	Speak at School	Wedding
		Deacons Meeting	Counsel Couple	Visitation	Dentist	Visit Unsaved Family
			1	2	3	4
S. S. Class	Write Visitors	Home Missions Board Meeting	Funeral	Wife's Birthday	Meet with Businessmen	Visit Hospitals, Rest Homes, Unsaved
Preach Twice	Record Radio Messages	Funeral Home	Mid-Week Service/Church Business Meeting	Hospital Visits	Plan Missionary Service	Rake Yard
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Teen Fellowship	Church Board Meeting	Pay Off?	Mid-Week Service	Funeral	Counsel Family and Son	Mow Grass
S. S. Class	Record Radio Messages	Hospital Visits	Funeral Home	Meet with Zoning Board	Plan Area-Wide Meeting	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Preach a.m./ Guest Preacher p.m.	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Record Radio Messages	Attend Funeral	Go Shopping with Wife	Write Article	Prepare Revival Newsletter	Visit
S. S. Class	Write Visitors, Thank You Notes	Hospital Visits	Mid-Week Service	Funeral Home	Attend Funeral	19
Preach Twice	Record Radio Messages	21	22	23	24	25
Baptize	Radio Station	Visit in Homes	Counsel Mar	Visitation	Meet with Pastors	26
Revival Meeting Begins	TV Spot Ads	Counsel Boy	29	30		
Young Adult Fellowship	Hospital	28				
						Church Carpet Cleaned?

The calendar above could be a sample of a pastor's schedule. Besides these demanding responsibilities, it is necessary to also fulfill all the obligations to meet the daily needs of himself and his family.

The pastor can be spread awfully thin. He can become a slave to the many pressing demands and master of none. Frustration can set in. Changing churches may enter his mind. Leaving the ministry may tempt him.

What can the called man of God do? He wants to be as effective as possible. Fruitful. To feel as if he is accomplishing something.

The answer lies in the scriptures. Jesus was as busy as anyone. We can learn from His schedule.

Set Priorities

Jesus sent 70 disciples to prepare the way for His coming. The Master dispersed these ambassadors to major on the majors, not on the minors. The anonymous disciples invaded enemy territory, obediently

proclaiming God's message. Nothing else was to matter, Jesus declared.

The contemporary pastor must keep his ministry in the same perspective. The Early Church apostles finally accepted their main responsibilities of praying and preaching. Consequently, the Lord multiplied the spiritual fruit through the Church. The present-day pastor needs to learn this lesson. Everything should take a back seat except praying, sermon preparation and preaching.

Not required to punch a clock, the pastor must jealously guard his schedule. Sermon preparation demands time. Praying is hard work. Anointed preaching demands adequate heart and head readiness. The morning hours are best for the spiritual exercises of personal devotions, Bible study and intimate prayer. Visiting, going to the post office, reading, paying bills, counseling and administrative duties should be scheduled for the afternoon.

By planting quality seeds of Bible study from 8 to 12, four mornings a week, the young pastor can produce a bountiful crop of sermons. Typed and filed in notebooks, sermon material grows and deepens, providing the pastor with a wealth of material for the fruitful ministry.

Plan Ahead

After the Sunday evening church service or early Monday morning, designate one hour to plan the upcoming week. Write down everything you want to accomplish from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day. Then, reward yourself by checking off your accomplishments hour by hour.

Combine the activities of the days. For example, listen to a sermon by cassette tape while driving to the post office on the way home. Pray or memorize scripture while you walk that mile or two twice a week. Write thank you notes or letters of commendation to your church members while you watch the evening news on television. Use the time; don't become its servant.



Pray About It

It's too easy to conduct daily chores in the flesh. Jesus told His disciples that they could not cast a demon out of a child because they had not exercised prayer and fasting.

By approaching every responsibility, challenge and problem with believing prayer, the burdened pastor will accomplish far more much easier. Paul the Apostle declared the peace of God and productive work are ours through concentrated prayer (Philippians 4:6-9).

Work the Workers

Willing workers are available to assist the busy pastor if he only asks. Someone said that the test of a leader is not the one who does the work of eight men but one who gets eight men to do the work. The pastor is an overseer (Acts 20:28). The apostles ordained seven men to minister to the widows while they prayed and ministered the Word of God. God blessed that decision.

Volunteers enjoy folding the bulletins, visiting if told where to go, delivering cassette tapes of Sunday's services to the shut-ins, addressing envelopes, etc., while the pastor "watches for souls" (Hebrews 13:17).

Get Some Rest

Jesus received a report from the ministering disciples in Mark 6:30. Then He said to them, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while."

Burning the candle at both ends may impress some people. However, where are they going to be when your broken health no longer allows you to preach? The pastor must learn to take care of his own well-being. It is also spiritual to sleep late occasionally, take a vacation, go fishing, sit in the back yard and meditate, take a 30-minute nap, or date your wife and take her out to a restaurant.

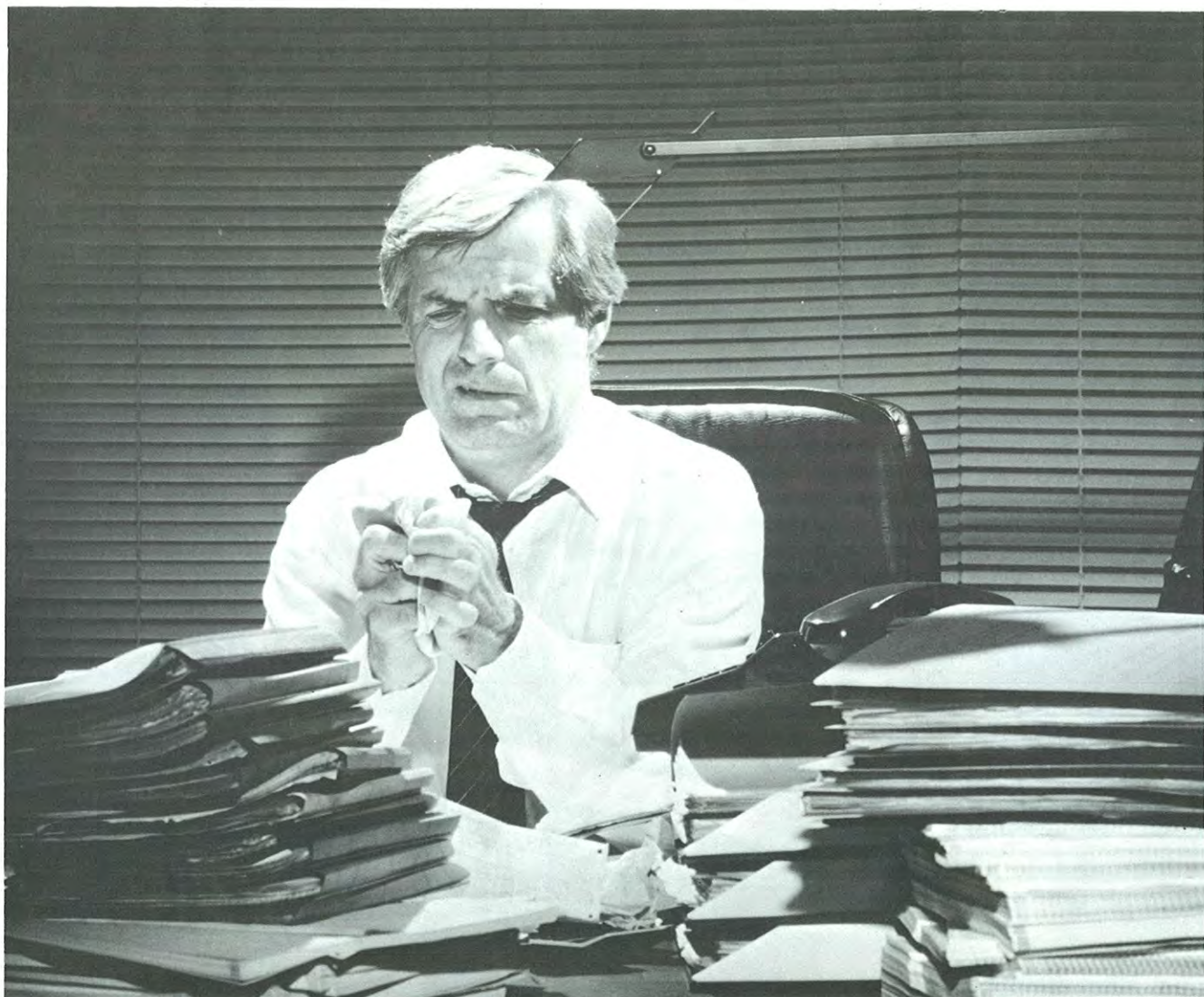
Jesus often departed to a mountain top or into a desert place to talk to His Father. The preacher must spend quality time with His Lord.

Re-charging his spiritual battery allows him to function more effectively. We don't need lazy preachers, but we do need Spirit-filled men of God who have been with the Lord, sitting at His feet, learning of Him as Mary did (Luke 10:39).

When the pastor stands before the Lord to give an account of his ministry, the Lord will not ask him if he kept his calendar filled. The Judge will evaluate the man of God's faithfulness to ministering God's Word.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Dennis Wiggs pastors Ruth's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in New Bern, North Carolina.



H. Armstrong Roberts

Your Pastor Called Me Last Night

By Joseph Ange

Sometimes people seem to think that the pastor is free from problems and troubles. They act as if the pastor is always on cloud nine. When I was young in the ministry, I thought that if I could keep the finances coming in and the church growing that my troubles would be non-existent. I thought that most folks would love me and my family and show their appreciation for us.

I had a rude awakening. While being a pastor and building churches is one of the most rewarding and exciting things anyone can do, I soon

learned that trials and problems come to pastors. This is true of your pastor.

Opposition

Your pastor called me last night and was concerned about the opposition that had arisen in the church. Since he is young and inexperienced, he didn't know how to cope with the problem. He was finding it easy to look for greener pastures.

After counsel, he decided to be more faithful, keep winning souls and turn the matter over to God. Will you encourage your pastor? Will

you be more patient and faithful? Most of the time opposition turns out to be temporary irritations that are usually overcome.

Disappointment

Your pastor called me last night. He was crushed by disappointment. Some of those he trusted the most had backslidden. They forgot the promises they made to God and their pastor. Your pastor's dreams were shattered and his plans drastically changed. He felt alone because key people had failed.

I told him that Abraham had his

Lot. Paul had his Demas. Jeremiah had his dungeon. I pray that your pastor will not let backsliders and those that disappoint him rob him of his joy and effectiveness in the work. Perhaps your pastor needs a call from you today. I know he needs your prayers and faithful support. Can he depend on you?

Discouragement

Your pastor called me last night. He shared with me his discouragement and his wife's discouragement. He even said his children were discouraged.

I found out that he had worked hard. He had been faithful to his pastoral duties. Nevertheless, the people's lack of response, their coldness and the failure of the church to grow were troubling him. His family also was troubled. Quite frankly, he was at the point of resigning.

He needs to seek out the real needs of the people and address those needs. Like Elijah and David, he needs to encourage himself in the Lord. And I think, like Elijah, he may just need some sleep, food and a new vision from God.

A good worry-free, all-expenses-paid vacation may be all your pastor needs to dispel the discouragement and depression. You see, your pastor has no pastor to go to when he is burdened. God may want you to meet that need today.

Financial Neglect

Your pastor called me last night. He was deeply hurt. He felt neglected by the people he loves the best—his own church. He and his growing family are in an unreal financial crunch. Medical bills have piled up. He is not able to pay his bills when they come due. No one seems to care.

Unreasonable demands in the face of financial difficulties, the rising cost of living and unexpected bills with an inadequate salary have almost driven him and his family to despair. The board and church need to carefully review your pastor's financial needs. This worthy man of God could be greatly helped by a timely raise in salary now.

Also, a well-planned *Pastor Ap-*

preciation Day with bountiful food, glowing fellowship, generous funds and extra love would go a long way to alleviate the burden and financial stress. He just might be able to get the car repaired, buy some needed clothes and even take a vacation if adequate attention was given to his financial needs.

Forgiveness

Your pastor called me last night. He was concerned that some of the members had been offended and their feelings hurt. He sincerely wanted to know what to do. According to God's Word, I said that the pastor and people need to learn how to say, "I am sorry. Please forgive me."

The pastor and the people, I said, must realize that offenses will come. These offenses must be settled by the scriptures. This means that loving, personal contact must be made between your pastor and the offended church member. Love and forgiveness will prevail when applied.

As I said to the pastor, "Problems will come. Expect them. Please don't create them. By God's grace, solve them."

The Other Side

Your pastor called me last night. His exuberance, joy and excitement blessed me. The church had surprised him and his family with a *Pastor Appreciation Day*, honoring his faithfulness to God and his leadership to the church. He told me about all the wonderful things the church had planned for that day.

These included a "This is Your Life" presentation and heart-warming testimonies from many friends, old and new. They also presented gifts from various departments of the church, including the keys to a new automobile and a trip to the Holy Land. They flooded him with cards, letters and personal gifts. Your pastor and you will profit from such an outpouring of gratitude and love.

The pastor went on to extol the church for their spirit of cooperation, faithfulness and steadfastness. He emphasized the great help that

the second-milers, the prayer warriors and the soul winners had been to him. The conversation didn't end without him sharing the ministry of two faithful deacons who had held high his hands during his entire ministry there. They were his Aaron and Hur.

Four Principles

Your pastor called me last night. He is your pastor. You are his people. There are four outstanding aspects that make the pastoral ministry effective. These four apply to both pastor and people.

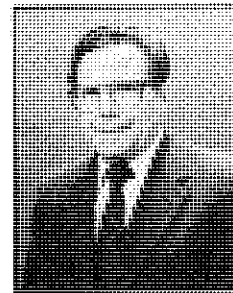
First, the pastor must love his people. The people must love their pastor.

Second, the pastor must respect the congregation. The people must respect their pastor.

Third, the pastor must be a responsible man in word and deed. The church members must respond to the pastor's leadership lovingly and faithfully.

Fourth, there is the matter of faithfulness. A faithful pastor will stay true and will not desert his people when hard times come. Faithful members, likewise, will stand the test and be loyal to God, their church and their pastor at all seasons.

Your pastor called me last night. Think seriously about what he had to say. You can help make him a better pastor and your church a better church through prayer and your loving response to the needs of your pastor and his family. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Joseph Ange is a full-time evangelist who resides in Knightdale, North Carolina.

It's Your Money!

By Eddie Ary



Take a snapshot of your current financial situation by preparing a personal balance sheet and an income and expenditures statement.

The result is called your net worth and represents your ownership in the assets. If you are successful financially, the net worth figure will grow as you prepare each successive balance sheet.

Keep in mind your net worth will increase as you spend less than your income, and as your assets appreciate in value. Wise investing will hopefully result in asset appreciation, but the key to a growing net worth is a deliberate, dedicated savings plan.

Prepare your income and expenditures statement on a cash basis. List all sources of income over the past year. W-2's and Form 1099's may have to be consulted.

Next list all of your expenditures over the past year. If you paid most of your obligations by check, a review of your checkbook can be a means of discovering where your money was spent. If you failed to keep receipts or pay obligations by check, keep track of your income and expenditures over a two to three month period in order to determine your current spending flows.

Hopefully, your income and expenditures statement will reveal that your income exceeds your expendi-

Interest rates fall to the lowest level in years; unemployment remains high; the federal deficit sets a new record; consumer confidence plummets to its lowest level in 10 years.

For many, the present is truly a time of great financial stress. The unemployed worry about how they will put food on the table for their families. Elderly watch the income from their savings and time deposits shrink. Consumers wonder if they will be able to make payments on mountains of debt accumulated in the 1980's.

What does the future hold? No one knows except God, of course, but there are some steps we all can take to insure that our futures will be brighter regardless of whether the economy improves or stagnates further.

Before you can plan effectively for the future, you must get an idea of the financial progress you have made thus far. A personal balance sheet and an income and expenditures statement can provide valuable insights into your present financial health.

To begin preparation of the personal balance sheet, list your assets. Assets include liquid items such as checking and savings account balances, personal property (furniture, clothing, appliances, etc.), real property (cars, your home, etc.), and investments (for example, stocks, bonds and mutual funds.) Record your assets at their current fair market value.

Next list the unpaid balances of all liabilities (debts) you owe. Include bills received but not paid and balances owed on credit cards, auto loans, your home loan and other debts.

Finally, subtract the total of your debts owed from your total assets.

tures, but if the opposite is true pay special attention to the next recommendation.

Develop a monthly budget which incorporates your short- and long-term savings goals.

Now that you have gotten a handle on your current financial situation, you are ready to chart a course for the future through the preparation of a budget.

The first step in preparing the budget is to estimate your monthly (or weekly) income. Use after-tax income (take home pay) and be conservative if you are not exactly sure of the projected amount. Be sure to include all sources of income such as dividends, interest, expected tax refunds, etc.

The next step in budget preparation is to estimate your expenses. A review of your checkbook (if you pay most of your obligations by check) or your income and expenditures statement will be helpful here.

Be sure to budget an amount for savings; 10 percent of your gross income is a good goal, but you may find that debt obligations prevent you from achieving this initially. Break down your savings allocation for your various savings objectives, such as saving for a child's education, retirement, a vacation, etc.

Review your actual income and expenses once a month and compare them to your budget allocations. You may find some of your budget allocations unrealistic; if so, reduce or raise them as needed, keeping in mind that if you raise one allocation you will have to reduce others.

Accumulate an emergency fund equal to three to six months living expenses.

This strategy will prove especially beneficial if you lose your job, develop a prolonged sickness or face some other major catastrophe.

Keep emergency funds in interest bearing checking accounts, money market deposit accounts which pay higher interest and offer limited check writing privileges or money market mutual funds (similar to money market deposit ac-

counts but normally paying an even higher interest rate).

Pay off credit card debt.

In spite of the dramatic drop in interest rates over the past year or so, credit card rates remain extremely high. The February 1992 issue of *Money* reports a national credit card interest rate average of 18.8 percent.

For a person in the 28 percent marginal tax bracket, paying off credit card debt on which the interest rate is 18.8 percent is equivalent to earning a pre-tax return of 26.1 percent on an investment. Since finding an investment that pays 26.1 percent is going to be extremely difficult, retiring credit card debt is one of the wisest moves you can make!

After reducing your credit card balances to zero, try to pay your balance off every month to avoid future finance charges. If your current credit cards do not have a grace period (a time span during which you can pay your charges without incurring interest), consider switching to cards that do.

Make one of your long-term goals to become completely debt free.

Some well-known Christian financial experts feel hard times are ahead as our economy reacts to the massive debt load of our federal government. (For example, see Larry Burkett's book, *The Coming Economic Earthquake*.) Hopefully, these experts will be wrong, but if they aren't, you will come through the crisis in much better shape if you are completely debt free.

As your finances permit, add an amount over and above your regular monthly payment on your highest interest rate loan. This extra payment will be applied to the principal balance which you owe. Over time try to double up on your payments.

As an illustration of the savings you can realize through the early retirement of a loan, let us assume you have a five-year \$10,000 auto loan upon which you are paying an annual percentage rate of 10 per-

cent. If you could pay this loan off in three years, you would avoid paying approximately \$1,133 in interest.

The interest savings from early retirement of longer term loans such as your home mortgage are even greater. For example, you could save a whopping \$91,868 in interest charges by paying off a \$75,000 mortgage with a 10 percent interest rate in 15 years instead of the scheduled 30.

Of course, one advantage mortgages (and home equity loans) have over auto and other kinds of consumer loans is the fact that you can claim the interest paid as an itemized deduction on your tax return. If you are in the 28 percent marginal tax bracket, this would reduce your after-tax cost on a 10 percent mortgage to 7.2 percent.

In spite of this favorable tax treatment afforded mortgage interest, you are still paying 7.2 percent, so planning for early retirement of mortgage debt is a wise strategy.

Review your finances carefully and set a time frame for becoming completely debt free.

If the prospects for paying off your mortgage any time soon are dim, consider refinancing.

Normally, it pays you to refinance if current mortgage rates are two percentage points below the rate you are paying. Be careful, however, refinancing may not be beneficial if you plan to move soon.

To determine whether you should refinance, find out from lenders what your monthly payments would be on each of the various mortgages they offer. Then ask them to itemize all the expenses involved in refinancing. These expenses (points, charges for title search, a credit report, etc.) may run as high as five percent of the loan amount.

Finally, divide the projected expenses of refinancing by the amount by which your monthly payment will drop under the new mortgage. This calculation will tell you how many months it will take you to recoup the refinancing costs; if you plan to live in your home longer than this time period, refinancing makes sense.



If you decide to refinance, another decision you will face is whether to take on a fixed-rate or an adjustable-rate mortgage. Your tolerance for risk is one factor which affects this decision. Another is how long you plan to live in your home.

Although there are no hard and fast rules, you should probably opt for a fixed-rate mortgage if you plan to live in the home for more than seven or eight years.

If you plan to move within the next few years, consider an adjustable-rate mortgage. Recently some lenders have offered a first-year rate of around five percent, compared to between eight and nine percent on fixed-rate mortgages.

Many adjustable-rate mortgages limit annual rate increases to two percent; lifetime caps are often six percent. Be sure you are aware of the annual and lifetime caps in any adjustable-rate mortgage you are considering.

One final observation that might be helpful in making your decision between a fixed-rate and adjustable-rate mortgage: the United States League of Savings Institutions concluded in a study that holders of adjustable-rate mortgages paid less

over the life of their loans than holders of fixed-rate mortgages.

Of course, since it is impossible to predict the direction of interest rates over the long term, this may not necessarily be true for the future.

Use stocks or stock mutual funds as a means of achieving long range objectives like saving for retirement.

Over long periods of time stocks have outperformed nearly all investments. During the 30 years ended December 31, 1990, stocks provided a compound annual total return slightly in excess of 10 percent. At 10 percent for 30 years, each dollar invested would grow to \$17.45.

Invest in stock mutual funds if you have neither the time nor inclination to pick individual stocks. Several periodicals (*Business Week* and *Money*, for example) provide information that will help you pick mutual funds. If you want to make sure your dollars are being invested in companies which are good corporate citizens and produce worthwhile products, consider a socially responsible (or ethical) mutual fund.

It might be wise to wait for a

correction in the stock market before buying shares in a mutual fund because at the time of this writing the market appears to be overvalued. After your initial purchase of mutual fund shares, consider investing a specific dollar amount at regular intervals (dollar cost averaging).

Although the above suggestions cannot guarantee you financial success, they should increase your chances of achieving it. And if times do get even harder, the probability of your survival should be greatly increased. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Eddie Ary is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. He is both a certified public accountant (CPA) and a certified financial planner (CFP). For the past 12 years he has served as assistant professor of business administration and economics at Ouachita Baptist University.

Preaching or Creaching?

By R. F. Smith, Jr.

In the minutes of an old church in New England, E. Stanley Jones reported, there was this entry: "A committee was appointed to examine the squeak in the pulpit."

"*The squeak in the pulpit!*" Ouch! I'm glad I found that before some wise wag of a layperson did. What the laity could do with that!

But what it does to me is more devastating than if it were in the kinder hands of sensitive members. Because I know that sometimes there is more of *squeak* in the pulpit than a *voice*.

The pulpit squeaks when the preacher fails to proclaim the eternal truths of God in a positive way, resorting rather to opinions conditioned more by his own negative vibes than by God's vi-

brant Spirit.

Are you a preacher or creacher? That's a question I must constantly ask myself when preparing, writing and reviewing my sermons.

What's a *creacher*? He's a preacher who *creaches* instead of *preaches*.

What is "creaches"? I hoped you'd ask that. It is the combination of two words that often get entangled and confused in pulpit proclamation: *criticism* and *preaching*.

Fact is, most people define preaching as criticism. "Stop preaching at me," shouts one family member to another in reaction to some criticism vividly pointed out.

"Let's discuss this matter sanely," one person says to another, adding, "Nobody likes to be preached at."

Unfortunately, preaching is defined and tied to criticism in the

minds of too many people. Even ministers sometimes defend *reaching* by calling it *prophetic preaching*. But that won't wash!

Preaching is not *creaching* in the New Testament understanding of the great act of preaching and the content of what is preached.

Preaching is the positive proclamation of the love of God, reflected so beautifully in the unsearchable riches of His Son.

Pray for the squeak in your pulpit that he will preach and not creach! (Your prayers can make the difference.) ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. R. F. Smith, Jr. is senior minister at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in Huntington, West Virginia.

Are Lay People Too Laid Back?

By Jim Townsend

If a modern Winston Churchill were to walk into the average Sunday worship, he might be tempted to say, "Never have so many been so bored by so few." Perhaps pastors and worship leaders are ignoring basic principles concerning lay involvement in worship.

Principles of Lay Involvement

A Practical Principle

It's hard to fall asleep while you're the one talking. And, if we want people to take anything away from worship, then they will have to put some effort into worship. If the worship program is boring, then an inner dial will be switched off by the participant.

A Pedagogical Transfer

Educators insist that maximum learning involves participation by the learner (by doing, moving, questioning, etc.). If that principle has tested validity for teaching, why not for worship?

A Psychological Principle

The golden rule says that I must treat others as I would want to be treated. One way to foster congregational self-esteem is by saying: "I value you and your ideas. That's why I ask you to participate verbally in worship."

A Theological Principle

Would any objective onlooker



gather that we believed in the priesthood of all believers by observing an average worship service? One priest does the majority of verbal worshiping, a few assist, and the silent majority remain mute.

Methods of Lay Involvement

Basically there are two styles of involving the congregation actively in the worship—preplanned and spontaneous.

Preplanned Methods

Verbal methods. Here are some suggestions: Arranged readings of Bible passages (such as four individuals reading verses on God's majesty); favorite selections of sacred poetry (for example, Luci Shaw's *Listen to the Green* or James Weldon Johnson's *God's Trombones*); shared experiences (on Father's Day, fathers volunteered one thing they had learned from their dads); meditations on hymns or hymn stories; life testimonies; etc.

Dramatic methods. Every Sunday one church has a few minutes of drama that raises some issue to be dealt with in that morning's sermon. Another church has used mimes acting to background music. One preacher was astounded at the youth's attentive participation when he simply changed suit coats several times in a service on Romans 7 as he spoke for God as supreme judge, Satan as prosecuting attor-

ney, and the average person as the accused party.

Sharing of skills. If a sermon were on Dorcas (Acts 9:39), why not invite some who sew, knit, etc., to display the results of their God-given skills? A sermon on the Tabernacle could allow those who have technical skills, make crafts, etc., to demonstrate how the Spirit still gives abilities, as He did to Bezalel and other craftsmen (Ex. 36:1-2).

Spontaneous Methods

One-sentence prayers. "If you would like to praise God for one of His attributes, stand where you are and voice your thankfulness in a single sentence."

Short answers. "Share with your neighbor what you might say to someone bewildered by pain or tragedy."

Fellowship starters. "Turn around and share with the person seated behind you your name and one thing you did this week."

Volunteer homework assignments. After the sermon is given ask, "How might someone apply this week's sermon?"

If people value being involved, surely God values it, too. ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Jim Townsend is the Bible editor for David C. Cook Publishing Co. He routinely applies these leadership principles in his own preaching and teaching. This article provided by David C. Cook Publishing Co., Elgin, Illinois.

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FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Alabama Church leads "Rock" Protest

DOTHAN, AL — Members of Eastside FWB Church spearheaded a city-wide protest in late January opposing a concert by heavy metal band, *Skid Row*, at the Dothan Civic Center. The protest was organized by the church's youth pastor, Michael Waddell.

During the week preceding the February 1 concert, Waddell and others began calling city officials informing them of their displeasure that such a group was allowed to use the Civic Center.

Waddell said, "I began to research the group. I looked up their lyrics and found them to contain themes of violence against women, immorality, suicide, incest, anti-religion and rebellion against the family."

Word spread to other churches and to the two Christian radio stations in town. Hundreds of calls flooded the Eastside FWB Church from parents and pastors eager to assist in the protest. City officials received thousands of calls. Pastor John Edwards and Waddell appeared on local television and radio stations answering questions.

Waddell was featured in front page newspaper articles. The heavy metal rock magazine, *Vox Metallum*, interviewed Waddell and reported favorably on the conversation in its March 1992 issue.

The concert went on as scheduled and was filled with vulgarity and profanity, according to security guards who worked the show. Reports of drug use and sexual activity in the audience also surfaced.

Tuesday after the concert, Waddell spoke before the mayor and city commissioners. He complained about the double standard of spending tax dollars to fight drugs and violence, and then giving a city facility over to a group which promotes that lifestyle. He distributed lyrics used by *Skid Row* showing them to be in violation of Alabama's obscenity laws.

Mr. Waddell said, "At the end of my speech, the mayor assured me that the city would research groups in the future and would not allow a group that endangers the city's youth to use a public facility again."

Fire Destroys Illinois Church

THEBES, IL — Fire destroyed Rock Springs FWB Church near Thebes on Memorial Day, May 25, according to Illinois promotional secretary David Shores. The blaze was apparently set by arsonists, fire department officials said. Intruders disconnected gas lines from a stove, turned on the gas from outside creating a gas-fed fire that burned the building to the ground.

The 50-year-old church including Sunday School rooms, sanctuary and a newly-constructed fellowship hall were all destroyed. Pastor Robert Feezor said the congregation, which averages about 40 in attendance, had \$74,000 in insurance coverage. Nothing was salvaged, not even the pews.

The group met outside for services on May 31. Construction is underway to rebuild the church. Rock Springs FWB Church is a member of Illinois' West Central Association.

Murfreesboro Road Property Sold

ANTIOCH, TN—The Free Will Baptist National Offices property at 1134 Murfreesboro Road in Nashville was sold May 21, 1992, to a local business, A C Service and Installation, Inc., according to Executive Secre-

tary Melvin Worthington. The \$725,000 purchase price will be paid in 60 monthly payments of \$8,400 beginning August 15, 1992. On August 15, 1997, the unpaid balance of \$403,160 will be due. Interest rate over the

term of the contract will be 6.3 percent.

The National Offices relocated from Nashville to Antioch in August 1991 after more than 25 years at the 4.5-acre Murfreesboro Road location.

Bill Foster, Lay Leader, Dies



POPLARBLUFF, MO—William R. (Bill) Foster, a layman who served as shipping manager 20 years at Randall House Publications, died May 19 after an extended illness. He was 61. Mr. Foster was ordained as a Free Will Baptist deacon in 1961. He helped organize Fellowship FWB

Church in Antioch, Tennessee.

Funeral services were conducted May 21 at Fellowship FWB Church. Dr. Tom Malone, who preached the sermon the night Mr. Foster was converted in 1959, officiated. Reverend David Shores and Dr. Roger Reeds assisted.

Dr. Malone said, "Bill Foster is proof that if you give God whatever is in your hand, He will multiply it." Malone also called Mr. Foster "a good man, a great man of God."

Bill Foster grew up in Granite City, Illinois. He quit school at age 13 and went to work to support his mother and two younger brothers. He served with the 101st Airborne Division in Korea, promising God on the front lines, "If You just get me home,

I'll go to Sunday School."

Six years later Bill was married to Barbara Hill and working in St. Louis. On the Sunday after Christmas in 1959, he attended Bethel FWB Church in South Roxana to hear Pastor Wallace Malone's son, Tom, preach. After hearing the sermon titled, "No Room for Jesus," Bill was saved. Ten years later he was invited by Dr. Roger Reeds to work in the shipping division at Randall House Publications.

Mr. Foster took disability retirement in August 1989 due to kidney failure. During his 20 years at Randall House, he served as shipping manager and in sales.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; two sons, David and Mike; and one daughter, Ginger.

Whaley, Carraway Join FWBBC Music Faculty

NASHVILLE, TN—Dr. Vernon Whaley will return to Free Will Baptist Bible College this fall to head the music department, according to Robert Picirilli, academic dean. He will be joined by Jerry Carraway, a 1984 FWBBC graduate.

Dr. Whaley brings with him a six-year proposal for expanding FWBBC's music department. It includes offering new programs and enlarging the faculty. His

goal is to assure that the college will play a leadership role in the denomination's musical training. He has also mapped an aggressive strategy for recruiting Free Will Baptist young people for a music ministry.

Dr. Whaley served the college 1979-85, part of that time as chairman of the music department. After leaving the faculty, he served as minister of music in Oklahoma Free Will Baptist

churches and in the music department at Hillsdale FWB College. He recently completed his Ph.D. in music education at the University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Carraway has served as music minister in Free Will Baptist churches in Tennessee and Oklahoma. He earned his master's degree at Scarritt College in Nashville, with emphases in church music and choral conducting.

Cumberland Association Sets Retreat

NASHVILLE, TN—The Cumberland Association Presbytery will sponsor a two-day retreat in September focusing on "Desiring Christlike Character," according to presbytery clerk Eddie Hodges. The September 14-15 retreat meets at Hillmont Camp near White Bluff, Tenn.

Five sessions, overnight lodging and three meals are included

in the \$20 registration fee. Opening sessions feature former Bible College president L. C. Johnson and New Hope FWB Church pastor Barry Simpson. Johnson will speak on "Convictions Then and Now," Simpson on "Convictions Now and Tomorrow."

Tuesday, Evangelist Raymond Riggs will speak on "Compassion Then and Now," Rich-

land FWB Church pastor William Preston on "Compassion Now and Tomorrow."

Tennessee promotional secretary Charles Thigpen will lead the final session, "Our Challenge."

Association officials invite pastors, deacons, denominational leaders and students to participate in the retreat.

Florida State Meets in Hotel

Ocala, FL—The 48th annual Florida State Association did something that none of the previous 47 sessions had done—meet outside a local church. Clerk Randy Bryant called the new format a success and said that “even those who were skeptical were singing its praises.”

The session met May 27-30 at the Ocala Hilton in Ocala and also included another first. The Florida Woman's Auxiliary and the State Youth Competition scheduled concurrent meetings.

Attendance topped 160 with 35 ministers, 11 deacons and 24 associational delegates registered. Moderator Leroy Cutler led the business sessions. Gene Waddell, director of the Foreign

Missions Department, spoke three times. Former missionary to Brazil, Ken Eagleton, also spoke.

Delegates voted to purchase a computer system to produce the state paper, *The Coordinator*. In other action, delegates voted to send five percent of state cooperative funds to the pastor's retirement account as it is received from each local church. The association also adopted a committee report to promote the Cooperative Plan within the state, and help raise the \$70,000 Co-op goal.

Finally, delegates voted to receive a special offering on Roll Call Sunday for the next two years to meet Florida's part of

the Capital Stewardship Campaign to pay for the National Offices building.

State Auxiliary officials reported that 60 people attended their Thursday meeting. Auxiliary president Peggy Hutto said the group gave almost \$9,000 to mission causes this year. Marvis Eagleton, former missionary, spoke to the delegates.

More than 300 people attended the Friday and Saturday youth competition. The State Youth Board hosted a trip to a local horse farm.

The 1993 state association will meet May 5-8 at the Ocala Hilton.

Church Burns Bonds

MUSCLE SHOALS, AL—Members of South Highland FWB Church in Muscle Shoals celebrated the pay-off of their sanctuary with a bond-burning ceremony on April 5, according to Pastor Duane Taylor. The day was marked by a record attendance and visits by former pastors as well as dinner on the church grounds.

Pastor Taylor said, “The highlight of the day was the burning of the 15-year bond program.”

South Highland Church has built and paid for four other building projects in the past six years. The South Highland FWB Church is a member of Alabama's Progressive Association where Pastor Taylor serves as moderator.



Former pastor Hoover Lewis (L) assists Pastor Duane Taylor and Chairman of the Trustee Board, John Lawler, in burning bonds.

Southeastern Begins 10th Year

WENDELL, NC—Southeastern FWB College will begin its 10th year with opening services August 24 at 7:30 p.m. at First FWB Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. Rev. Dann Patrick will

preach the opening message.

Patrick pastors Faith FWB Church in Goldsboro. He has served on Southeastern's Board of Directors since the school's beginning and is vice-chairman

of the board.

President Billy Bevan invites everyone to attend the 10th year kickoff services.

California Wants Registration Fee

FRESNO, CA—Delegates to California's 49th annual state association adopted a resolution recommending a \$25 National Association registration fee, effective 1993. The two-part resolution to be sent to the General Board encouraged each state to review its Cooperative Plan allocations. The purpose of the \$25 National Association registration fee is to "underwrite the Executive Office budget."

Layman Paul Kennedy moderated the May 7-9 session which

met on the California Christian College campus in Fresno. He was re-elected to his seventh term.

The 200-plus delegates and visitors heard four sermons on the association theme, "Basics That Accompany Salvation." Speakers included Pastors Joe Govreau (Tulare FWB Church), Larry Condit (Capitol FWB Church, Sacramento), Holt Seawell (Greenfield FWB Church) and FWB Hospital Chaplain Adrian Condit.

In other action, delegates accepted the Mineral King Association into fellowship (formerly Southern Association #1). They also voted that the state Woman's Auxiliary president be an ex-officio member of the state General Board.

Norwalk pastor Robert Riddle spoke at the Friday afternoon California Christian College Banquet.

The 1993 state association will meet May 6-8 on the CCC campus.

Evangelist Preaches in Russia

PEDRO, OH—Free Will Baptist evangelist Calvin Evans conducted a 10-day preaching mission in Russia May 11-21. Evans, president of Evangelistic Outreach Ministries, spoke four times in meetings at St. Petersburg and Tula. He also spoke in open-air meetings in Moscow.

Evans was invited to meet with church pastors and leaders in St. Petersburg, Moscow and Helsinki, Finland to discuss plans for future missionary projects.

During the past several months Evangelistic Outreach has provided over 15,000 Bibles for the Russian people.

The Russian pastors were surprised to learn that there was a group of Baptists in America who were not Calvinistic in doctrine, but held beliefs similar to their own.

Rev. Mike Carter, a Free Will Baptist evangelist from Kentucky, assisted Evans on this mission.



Evangelist Calvin Evans preaches to worshippers crowded into a house serving as a temporary church building.

Directory Update

ALABAMA

Gary Bevan to Wattsville Church, Wattsville

GEORGIA

David Harper to First Church, Brunswick
Dennis Keen to Spring Grove, Jesup

KANSAS

James C. Barlow, Jr. to First Church, Hutchinson
from Calvary Church, Salem, IL

OKLAHOMA

Colin Fitzsimmons to Westgate Church, Shawnee
Roger Ballard to Tecumseh Church, Tecumseh
Richard Terry to Trinity Church, Oklahoma City
from Hillsdale College, Moore

SOUTH CAROLINA

Douglas Pate to New Vision Church, Hemingway

TEXAS

Robert Posner to Lifegate Church, Tyler
Jimmy Howell to First Church, Nacogdoches

VIRGINIA

Bill Fulcher to Faith Church, Carrolton
from Southeastern FWB College, Wendell, NC

42 Complete FWBBC Programs

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College graduated 42 students on May 14, according to Dr. Robert Picirilli, academic dean. The graduating class included students in five degree programs.

Rev. Don Walker, pastor of Pardue Memorial FWB Church, Clarksville, Tennessee, challenged graduates to endurance in their service to Jesus Christ, using Exodus 18 as his text.

Four graduates—Kenny Simpson, Beth Forrest, Rodney Goodman and Randy Skaggs—shared their testimonies with schoolmates, family and visitors.

President Tom Malone honored three members of the faculty and staff for their service. Rev. Joe Jones and Mrs. Jean Whitaker have served for 25 years at the college. Mr. Jones has taught speech and English. Mrs. Whitaker has worked in

Food Services.

Dr. Malone also recognized 37 years of dedicated service by Rev. F. Leroy Forlines. He also announced that the college will hold annual lectures to be named the F. Leroy Forlines Lectures. Mr. Forlines retired from full-time teaching at the end of the school year.

Two students received Associate of Science in Business degrees; two received the Associate of Christian Ministries degrees; 22 received Bachelor of Science degrees; 15 received Bachelor of Arts degrees; and one student, Manuel R. Larraga of Weslaco, Texas, received the Master of Ministry degree.

Additional awards made during graduation week included:

Robert Picirilli Flames Trophy:

David Outlaw

Special Drama Award:

David Outlaw

Student Body President's Medal:

Kenny Simpson

Yearbook Editor's Medal:

Michelle Laughlin

Best All Around:

Beth Forrest and

Kenny Simpson

Outstanding Student:

Kenny Simpson

Class Scholastic Medalists:

Freshman: Tim Lewis (3.91)

Sophomore: Charity Van Winkle (4.0)

Junior: David Kilgore (3.95)

Senior: Larry Shipp (3.93)

Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society:

Larry Shipp (3.95) and

Sherri Gragg (3.82)

Homer Willis Music Scholarship:

Kevin Scott (\$1,000)

William Henry Oliver Education Scholarship:

Lea Southwell (\$1,000)

Leah Plunkett (\$1,000)

Wendy Burgess (\$2,000)



1992 Free Will Baptist Bible College Graduates

CURRENTLY...

Pastor **Gary Mitchner** baptized nine converts at **Rock Chapel FWB Church** in **Norwood, MO**. He also reported three new members. Church attendance is above 90.

FWB minister **Arnold Woodlief** conducted open-air evangelistic services at **Marianna Garden Apartments** in **Marianna, FL**. The Marianna police chief had suggested to a group of city ministers that they establish a ministry at the apartment complex after outbreaks of violence involving drugs, alcohol and disorderly conduct. A number of residents requested prayer and others made decisions during the services.

Members of **Faith FWB Church** in **Nashville, TN**, conducted a "We Love Sister Love Day." Interim pastor **Homer Willis** presented a plaque of appreciation to **Mrs. Love** for 34 years of faithful service as a pastor's wife and servant of the Lord. She and her late husband, **Rev. J. W. Love, Sr.**, founded the church in 1958. Since that time Mrs. Love never missed a service except when she was hospitalized for surgery.

There's a new mission work in **Nampa, ID**. **Delmar Hopkins** moved to the **Boise** suburb and began conducting services in the American Legion Hall. The **Nampa FWB Church** conducts services twice on Sunday and also a Wednesday Bible study. Hopkins previously pastored in Idaho as well as California, Alaska and New Mexico.

After final exams at **Free Will Baptist Bible College**, some 63 students made the Dean's List of honor students. Three students finished the semester with perfect "A" grades. The Dean's List included 13 seniors, 22 juniors, 12 sophomores, 15 freshmen and one special student.

Pastor **Brad Tabor** said members of **Webbs Prairie FWB Church** in **Ewing, IL**, will celebrate its centennial anniversary in August.

Here's one for the record books. FWB missionary to Japan **Dale Bishop** was ordained by telephone this spring. The ordaining counsel from Georgia's Little River Association gathered in America around a telephone while missionaries **Jim McLain** and **Don McDonald** laid hands on Dale and **Sandra Bishop** in Japan. The phone hook-up through the church sound systems al-

lowed all members present to hear. The ordination service was conducted during the Little River District Association's quarterly meeting at Homerville, GA.

Pastor **Jim Blankenship** reports seven conversions at **Antioch FWB Church** in **Mt. Sterling, OH**.

Heritage Temple FWB Church in **Columbus, OH**, reports 11 baptisms and 14 new members. **Bill Sharpston** pastors.

Pastor **Wylie Perkins** led members of **Samantha FWB Church, Leesburg, OH**, in remodeling the church to accommodate handicapped members. Perkins also baptized five and received two new members into the fellowship.

Pastor **Larry Joseph** reports six converts and five new members at **Pleasant Valley FWB Church** in **Pedro, OH**. One member donated a piano to the church.

Pastor **Roger Tillis, Sr.** reports a record-breaking Sunday School attendance of 76 at **Cornerstone FWB Church** in **Asheville, OH**. The previous record was 57. The church reports nine baptisms and nine new members.

More than 500 people attended dedication services at **Gahanna FWB Church** in **Gahanna, OH**. Pastor **Curtis Booth** led members in the dedication service for the new sanctuary and education wing. During that day the church reported five converts, a number of rededications and three baptisms.

Beaver Creek Bible Institute in **South Carolina** graduated 12 students this spring. The institute includes two branches—the **Spartanburg** branch at **Valley Falls FWB Church** and the **Lancaster** branch at **High Point FWB Church**. The Lancaster branch averaged 72 students in 1992. The Spartanburg branch averaged 44 students.

Pastor **Ray Cribb** and members at **White Savannah FWB Church** in **Conway, SC**, burned the note on their \$100,000 mortgage. The 10-year note was paid off in six and one-half years. The funds were used to construct a 7,000-square-foot sanctuary.

Members of **Sweet Home FWB Church** in **Socastee, SC**, constructed a 1,600-square-foot fellowship hall at a cost of \$36,000, according to Pastor **Buster Benton**. The Socastee Construction Company donated some of the

work and donated materials at cost.

Members of **Unity FWB Church** in **Johnsonville, SC**, moved into their new fellowship building this spring. Pastor **Dale Yarborough** said the 1,560-square-foot building was completed in six months at a cost of approximately \$45,000. The appraised value is \$85,000.

Pastor **Dann Patrick** said **Faith FWB Church** in **Goldboro, NC**, broke all attendance records when 1,448 people showed up for services. Of that number, 13 were saved that Sunday. The church also raised \$18,000 for Southeastern FWB College.

Collin Creek FWB Church in **Plano, TX**, reports 20 conversions in two months. Home Missionary **Don Guthrie** pastors. The group reported a high attendance of 210 with tithes and offerings averaging about \$7,500 per month.

Reverend **Ruel Conner**, a Free Will Baptist minister since 1939 died in a **Bowie, TX**, nursing home on March 18, 1992. He had pastored 11 churches, organized three churches and served as a Texas home missionary. His funeral was conducted at the church where he was ordained—**Pleasant Mound FWB Church** at **Buffalo Springs**.

Pastor **Joe Wilson** reports that **First FWB Church** in **Tulsa, OK**, celebrated its 72nd anniversary in June.

Pastor **Jerry Copeland** said **Way of the Cross FWB Church** in **Sallisaw, OK**, broke their attendance record of 122 when 137 attended services.

Tecumseh FWB Church, Tecumseh, OK, celebrated 75 years of service to the community. **Roger Ballard** pastors. The group had a record 264 in attendance.

Westgate FWB Church in **Shawnee, OK**, received 13 new members. Pastor **Colin Fitzsimmons** also reports the church built an 800-square-foot addition to their educational building.

The congregation at **First FWB Church** in **Morehead, KY**, took a step of faith and purchased three acres to build the new church. The property is located near I-64 in one of the fastest growing areas of town. The church has been located on West Main Street for 40 years. Pastor **Larry Davis** said the church youth group raised more than \$2,000 to assist in the land purchase. The primary class raised another \$200. The Woman's Auxiliary raised \$650. ■

Capital Stewardship Campaign

May 1992

Update

State	Goal	Gifts
Alabama	\$ 97,290.00	\$ 1,000.00
Arizona	1,565.00	1,800.00
Arkansas	97,880.00	12,852.21
Atlantic Canada	2,000.00	.00
California	21,925.00	.00
Colorado	1,005.00	.00
Florida	26,365.00	.00
Georgia	48,620.00	4,776.00
Hawaii	235.00	.00
Idaho	450.00	.00
Illinois	20,600.00	.00
Indiana	10,020.00	500.00
Iowa	340.00	.00
Kansas	1,640.00	.00
Kentucky	45,150.00	.00
Louisiana	120.00	1,020.00
Maryland	8,675.00	.00
Michigan	19,250.00	1,553.00
Mississippi	19,815.00	.00
Missouri	77,025.00	.00
Montana	35.00	50.00
Nebraska	130.00	.00
New Mexico	760.00	.00
North Carolina	75,285.00	1,250.00
Northeast Assoc.	1,125.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	1,385.00	.00
Ohio	52,115.00	.00
Oklahoma	117,505.00	.00
South Carolina	23,350.00	.00
Tennessee	100,040.00	17,575.00
Texas	14,705.00	3,110.00
Virginia	30,975.00	.00
West Virginia	58,840.00	20.00
Other	23,780.00	1,100.00
TOTALS	\$1,000,000.00	\$46,606.21

Cooperative Channel Contributions

May 1992

RECEIPTS:

State	CO-OP		Total	May '91	Yr. To Date
	Designated	(Undesignated)			
Alabama	\$ 144.42	\$ 60.00	\$ 204.42	\$ 327.22	\$ 2,009.04
Arizona	1800.00	.00	1,800.00	.00	1,850.40
Arkansas	10,949.88	.00	10,949.88	6,617.04	45,695.35
California	.00	.00	.00	.00	4,274.86
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	.00	.00	3,813.91	6,608.22
Georgia	.00	.00	.00	10,982.69	55,239.55
Hawaii	.00	221.00	221.00	.00	221.00
Idaho	16.65	.00	16.65	.00	89.86
Illinois	7,282.25	2,052.78	9,335.03	8,185.16	35,684.63
Indiana	603.79	94.50	698.29	523.46	3,720.12
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	59.86	322.68
Kentucky	.00	295.69	295.69	160.00	845.69
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	.00	900.00
Maryland	.00	75.00	75.00	200.00	2,429.47
Michigan	11,472.96	2,655.81	14,128.77	4,685.04	57,754.22
Mississippi	45.00	216.22	261.22	823.87	2,282.16
Missouri	10,161.30	.00	10,161.30	18,548.98	48,211.32
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	30.00
New Mexico	19.53	7.25	26.78	.00	71.08
North Carolina	470.00	1,576.65	2,046.65	1,151.39	7,888.68
Ohio	233.00	2,639.00	2,872.00	3,142.00	13,404.69
Oklahoma	30,732.83	8,447.98	39,180.81	52,151.00	232,092.54
South Carolina	27,343.05	79.20	27,422.25	8,773.83	88,981.41
Tennessee	7,853.80	1,829.69	9,683.49	2,894.56	44,218.85
Texas	6,039.83	388.09	6,427.92	13,620.57	26,934.89
Virginia	248.46	25.00	273.46	600.21	1,829.86
West Virginia	4,767.16	187.75	4,954.91	3,889.29	23,112.42
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	64.55	64.55	39.46	149.81
Other (Computer)	.00	.04	.04	(.01)	.08
Totals	\$120,183.91	\$20,916.20	\$141,100.11	\$141,189.53	\$706,852.88

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 7,377.84	\$ 17,945.26	\$ 25,323.10	\$ 21,621.27	\$ 126,615.47
Foreign Missions	71,060.46	683.31	71,743.77	72,853.38	361,349.77
FWBBC	6,116.02	683.31	6,799.33	9,688.76	38,801.37
Home Missions	19,859.06	534.77	20,393.83	21,785.28	114,764.06
Retirement & Insurance	1,543.41	415.91	1,959.32	4,123.59	10,646.99
Master's Men	1,500.00	415.91	1,915.91	4,192.82	10,846.88
Commission for					
Theo. Integrity	67.77	14.87	82.64	162.07	483.96
FWB Foundation	949.99	178.25	1,128.24	1,916.91	6,241.01
Historical Commission	64.95	14.87	79.82	159.44	464.92
Music Commission	52.84	14.87	67.71	148.67	372.54
Radio & TV Commission	52.84	14.87	67.71	155.17	418.09
Hillsdale FWB College	1,865.44	.00	1,865.44	2,922.87	4,813.84
Other	9,673.29	.00	9,673.29	1,459.30	31,033.98
Totals	\$120,183.91	\$20,916.20	\$141,100.11	\$141,189.53	\$706,852.88

Appreciate Your Pastor on Pastor Appreciation Sunday
September 13, 1992



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisheart

From My Window

How much time do we have left? Do you feel, as I do, time rushing by like a passing breeze against your cheek?

It's the end of July. Then suddenly, it's August 15. Time flashes by as we turn from one task to another. Before we know it, there's not much time left.

Those things we intended to do, those things we put off for another day—what happened to them? We lost them in the passing of time.

How much time do we have left? We have the golden hours of every dawn, the tranquil time after sunset, the heat of midday. We have all the hours that God has allotted us.

But only He knows how many of those hours we have left. Jesus may return today. Today I may see my last sunrise or slip silently away in the calm of twilight.

How much time do we have left? This day, this moment. Lord, I pray, help me fill it with the most important things, the most worthwhile, the most enduring.

Psalm 90:12, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

It's About Time

"Well, it's about time," Karen said when she stepped into the WNAC office suite at the National Offices Building.

It's about time to give workers a pleasant place to work and furniture and equipment to do the work.

It's about time to give Free Will Baptist work a lift.

It's about time to support the national ministries and the administrative operations in Nashville.

It's about time to recognize the contributions of all the Free Will Baptist national ministries to our mission—to extend the influence of Christ in society.

It's Time for WNAC Emphasis

August is WNAC's emphasis month. Once a year our churches have an opportunity to contribute to the operational fund for the women's work.

It's about time to recognize the women's contributions through the years.

It's about time to support generously the work of WNAC and Free Will Baptist women.

It's about time for women to rally to the needs of their own national office and staff.

It's about time to make possible advances in WNAC's ministry.

If your Auxiliary or church did not receive WNAC's special mailing for Emphasis Month, request materials from WNAC at P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002, or telephone 615/731-6812. ■

**Join Us at Ridgecrest
September 17-19**

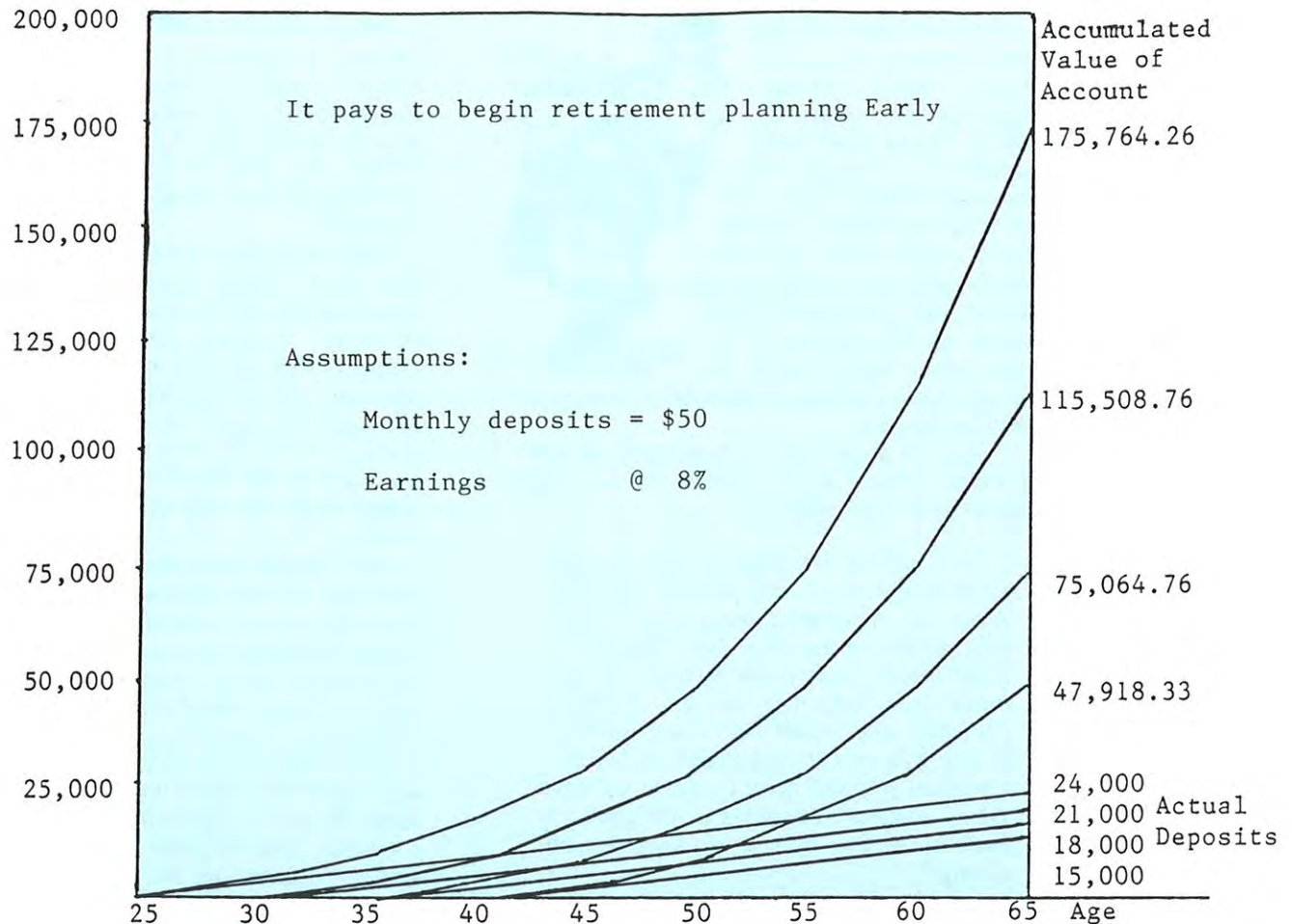
Meet:

Laura Thigpen, Angela & Lumpsey



The Power of Compounding

By William Evans



It is important to start retirement planning early because of the time value of money or compounding interest. Money invested over a period of time with compounding interest will grow to an astonishing amount.

The chart printed above shows that in a striking way. An investment of \$50 per month begun at age 25 and earning an average of 8% will produce over \$100,000 more at age 65 than the same investment begun at age 35. An investment of only \$6,000 earns \$94,000 in compounded interest. That is phenomenal growth. To achieve the same results beginning at age 35 would require contributions of \$116 per month.

Compounding interest and the growth of funds is not the only reason to start retirement planning. It is important to begin the discipline

of putting back a small amount regularly for future needs. This is even more true for those who have opted out of Social Security.

Contributions to the Free Will Baptist retirement plan can be as small as 3% of base salary. That excludes such items as housing and car allowances. Although not required, it is recommended that the church match that amount.

The account always belongs to the individual. It moves with the individual from church to church as God moves that individual.

You can never start planning too early. On the other hand even if you have delayed your planning, it is better late than never. "The sooner you start, the more time you give the power of compounding to work for you." ■



Source of Light Blesses Many

By Bobby Poole

"I have learned that being a Christian is not just receiving Jesus as Savior but also loving Him."

We have been sending out "Source of Light" home Bible study courses for over 10 years. These have been handled through the Seminary-Bible Institute of Ribeirão Preto, Brazil. They have gone to hundreds of people throughout Brazil, and we have had as many as 700 students at one time. Even some in Mozambique, Africa, have ordered and studied the lessons.



I want to share one of hundreds of testimonies which have come to us from "Source of Light" students:

I am writing this letter to give my complete testimony. I had already received Jesus into my heart about a year before I first wrote requesting the "Source of Light" home Bible study lessons. My husband was opposed to my being a Christian and would say, "Our marriage is going to end. If you insist on being a Christian you will have to leave me first. When someone becomes a Christian it's because he has done something terribly wrong."

I could not openly declare that I had received Jesus as my Savior. I had to read my Bible secretly, and when I commented to someone about Jesus, my husband would become furious. He would change beyond recognition, and it was as if I could see a demon in him. He would say horrible things, his eyes would light up with hate, and I even thought, at times, he was going to crush me. He didn't even seem like the same person.

Because of all of this, I would call out to Jesus, and I would cry when nobody was around. I often felt like abandoning Jesus and no longer being a Christian to see if things would get any better. But how could I ever do that? I knew that Jesus was my only way; if I abandoned Him, to whom could I go?

After a day of much anguish for both me and my children, I looked for a place where I could be alone. I told Jesus from the bottom of my heart everything that was bothering me. I put my life in His hands and said, "I don't have understanding of Your Word; teach me, and I will do it."

Right after that, I turned on the radio and heard Pastor Oscar de Barros announcing the Bible study course "Source of Light." I wrote and requested the course even though my husband was against it. He threatened to tear up all of the mail that came in before I could receive it. He is the one who brings in all the mail to the farm. "Those Christian things make me sick at my stomach," he said.

Even though he is the one in charge of the mail, for two months the lessons did not fall into his hands. Other people brought them to me. I was already in my third month of the course when he came into the house one day with an envelope in his hand. Praise the Lord, he was not angry. Instead, he was as calm as I've ever seen him. Somehow, from that day forth, he has accepted the fact that I'm a Christian. Now he even tells people, "My wife is a Christian. She reads the Bible and receives Christian literature." Praise God! Now my husband is openly confessing this to the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus.

During these two years that I have been receiving "Source of Light" I have been blessed very much spiritually. I have learned that being a Christian is not just receiving Jesus as Savior but also loving Him, always obeying Him, and giving ourselves to Him.

God bless you.

Sônia M. Carmanhan

Bobby Poole is a veteran missionary serving with his wife, Geneva, in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil.



Thomas Marberry

The Family: A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home

By Jack O. Balswick and Judith K. Balswick

(Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989, 325 pp., hardback, \$24.95)

Jack and Judith Balswick are husband and wife as well as colleagues on the faculty of Fuller Theological Seminary. Both have earned doctorates and years of study, research and teaching in the field of marriage and family ministries. Their level of expertise is evident in this book.

This is not an easy guide to having a happy family although the authors do examine several factors essential in the development of happy, stable families. While this work is not simply a long discussion of all that is wrong with the American family today, the authors do point out pressures and challenges which modern families face. It is a serious piece of research and writing in an important area.

The authors have done a serious examination of the Christian family today (particularly in this country) in light of the Bible and in light of the excellent research on the home and family which is available today. Few

authors have done as good a job bringing together good biblical scholarship and contemporary research on the family.

In the view of Drs. Balswick, families have always grown and developed; they have always faced problems and difficulties. We should be careful not to idealize the past. Not all families in biblical times were happy; not all families in the last century were stable ones.

If a family is to be strong and able to function effectively, it must begin on the right footing. One of the most valuable chapters in the book deals with establishing a Christian marriage. It should be read carefully by every newlywed couple and their families.

Another portion of the book deals with parenting and empowering children to become responsible, mature adults. This work also contains excellent chapters on developing intimacy within the family and improving communication skills be-

tween family members.

One chapter examines the issue of stress in family situations. In recent years considerable research has been done on how different families deal with stress. The authors draw appropriate conclusions about how families today can deal with stressful situations such as divorce. Every family will face stressful times and needs to develop the ability to deal with them in an effective way.

There have been many books written on the Christian family in recent years; a number of them have made significant contributions to the field. Unfortunately, too many books on the Christian family contain eloquent descriptions on what a Christian family ought to be, but give little help in getting there. One of the strengths of this book is that it brings to the Christian community a helpful analysis of where we are today and what we can do to make our families stronger tomorrow. ■

BEYOND BELIEF



South Carolina Arrests Street Preachers

BEAUFORT, SC (EP)—The streets of Beaufort, South Carolina, have become a battleground between members of Calvary Baptist Church and merchants who say the church's street preaching ministry is too loud.

In a series of confrontations, police arrested at least 13 people, including six women who were standing silently on city streets with protest signs wrapped around their bodies. The women were wearing signs that said, "First Amendment vs. Beaufort City Council," and "Beaufort Law Unconstitutional."

The women were protesting the jailing of eight members of their church who refused to pay fines for violating a city ordinance against "loud and unseemly" noise. Beaufort Police Chief Jesse Altman said city ordinances forbid demonstrations without a permit. The women had applied for a permit, but were turned down because they did not apply two weeks in advance.

Pastor Karl M. Baker and other church members who were jailed refused to pay their fines after downtown merchants rejected a compromise. A judge had asked the church, city and merchants to negotiate on the question of street preaching. The church offered to limit street preaching to 30 minutes once a week, between noon and 1 p.m. on Saturdays, to preach at a single location away from the storefronts, and to monitor sound levels. The merchants rejected the offer.

"It is clear that the merchants have no intention of allowing us to preach, no matter what level of volume we use," said Baker.

Pro-Life Journalists Win Settlement

FAIRFIELD, IA (EP)—Owners of a newspaper admitted in a settlement April 21 that the firing of two editors was based on their pro-life activities.

"Newspapers with rules against journalists participating in outside activities cannot apply those rules in a judicious manner toward pro-life employees," said Larry Crain, the Rutherford Institute attorney who handled the case.

The *Fairfield Ledger*, a 5,000-circulation daily newspaper in Fairfield, Iowa, which has since been sold, fired feature editor Terry Lambertsen and news editor John Kennedy after the two met at their church with other pro-life activists and assumed leadership roles in Jefferson County Right to Life.

The past publisher and editor of the paper contended that the firings were justified because Lambertsen and Kennedy had violated the newspaper's policy on outside activities in a way that threatened its reputation for objective reporting on the abortion issue.

However, the newspaper, in a statement signed by its prior owners, admitted that the newspaper's conflict of interest policy unconstitutionally infringed on the religious beliefs of the editors. The two editors attend a church which teaches its members that Christians have a moral duty to oppose abortion.

"Pro-life journalists have substantial protection under federal discrimination laws when their jobs are threatened because of their pro-life activities," said Crain.

Native Americans Bring Gospel to Mongolia

ULANBAATAR, Mongolia (EP)—Native Americans believe they once inhabited the land of Mongolia, and that some of their ancestors crossed the great "Ice Bridge" to North America, fanning out across the North American continent.

Tom Claus, founder and president of CHIEF (Christian Hope Indian Eskimo Fellowship) told British journalist Dan Wooding of the work CHIEF is doing to become a new bridge to help Mongolians find Christ.

"The Mongolians have a legend that thousands of years ago some of their tribes left the country, crossed the Ice Bridge and never returned," Claus said. "They believe the Native Americans are their descendants. Many North American tribes have that same legend."

Now a group of those descendants have returned to the land once ruled by Genghis Khan, influenced for seven centuries by Buddhism and later controlled as an atheistic Soviet satellite.

"Our group, who made their first visit nearly two years ago, found that many of the people there live just like our people on the reservations," explained Claus. "They make silver and turquoise jewelry like our people, eat much of the same food and live in teepees."

"We have visited the native people in their 'hogans' (circular houses), who are just like our Navajo, and live out in the Gobi Desert in southern Mongolia. We talked with them and discovered that they had never heard the name of Jesus Christ before. One of them asked, 'Does He live in the United States?'"

"As we shared our testimony, the people saw for the first time that Christianity was not just a European religion or a white man's faith. They understood that Jesus Christ was for all the people. During our time in Mongolia, we felt we had finally come home."

"The way I see it is that we became God's Bridge to the Mongolian people. Our forefathers came over on the Ice Bridge, but we went back on God's Bridge because He had opened a door for us."

Abortion Marchers Not Mainstream

WASHINGTON, DC —A crowd estimated by police at 500,000 marched from the White House to the Capitol Mall April 5 in support of legal abortion. Though the size of the crowd may be seen as indicating broad support for legal abortion, a *Washington Post* poll found that the attitudes of the marchers were far removed from the American mainstream.

For instance, 70 percent of the marchers described themselves as "liberal" or "very liberal," while only 30 percent of the general public sees themselves that way. One-third of the marchers said they had attended previous marches for gay rights, as well as protests against the Persian Gulf War (which was supported by 90 percent of the general public).

The *Washington Post* poll also found that 95 percent of the protesters thought abortion should be legal for parents who simply "don't want another child," while only 32 percent of the general public approves of this use of abortion as birth control. And while 80 percent of the general public approves of a law requiring minors to notify parents before having abortions, only five percent of marchers questioned supported parental notification.

Family Entertainment Linked to Mormons

ATLANTA, GA (EP)—Videos produced by Family Entertainment Network have direct links to Mormonism and are not appropriate for Christians seeking wholesome entertainment, according to leaders of a Mormon watchdog organization.

Mike Reynolds, director of Utah Missions, Inc., says two of the four owners of Family Entertainment Network are Mormons. Artists for the animated videos as well as screenplay and music writers also have been identified as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) or Mormons.

The Family Entertainment Network tapes are sold as sets from the New Testament, Old Testament and "heroes classics." Though the videos are marketed as Christian material, Reynolds said they introduce LDS concepts.

For example, lyrics from one of the videos says Jesus paid for sins as he sweat drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. Reynolds says Mormons teach that Jesus' death at Calvary is not essential for salvation.

Another example is the video's portrayal of Jesus' birth. The video portrays the angel Gabriel telling Mary that her child will be the son of God but it obscures the teaching that Mary was a virgin. ■



Jack Williams

Above the Snake Line

The late A. L. Clanton edited the *Pentecostal Herald* for 20 years. One of his printed sermons titled, "A Pulpit of Wood," had 12 points, packed a wallop and included this biting illustration:

"When the New England settlers first colonized that area, they built their houses, schools and churches in the lowlands. But when they went to church, snakes crowded into the buildings. They learned that on the hills there was a certain height above which the snakes would not go. They called this the snake line. They built their schools, churches, and as many homes as possible above the snake line."

Clanton wrote that as a minister he wanted to "live above the 'snake line.'"

He went on to say, "One cannot climb so high that he will not be tempted and tried, but he can live in the heights so that a lot of the things in the lowlands will not bother him. He will be above them and they cannot reach him."

That's good advice. While every minister works in the dangerous lowlands, the stuff from which he builds his life must come from above the snake line. The snake line is real. It's not clearly marked and it reaches a lot higher than you might think.

We want our cars loaded with extras and juiced on high-tech wizardry from Detroit or Tokyo. But we want our religion grounded on the Rock of Ages and powered by unchanging truth. That's the pastor's job and he can't do it if he's snake bit.

The things that matter most for a minister never change. The building blocks, the elemental pieces

remain unmovable. For instance, pure doctrine is to the minister what pure water is to a community. It must be a given unless we want to spend untold hours and energy filtering out impurities to make the product fit for consumption.

Pastors may get their technology from the latest IBM or Macintosh update, but their doctrine must be hammered out on the anvil of study. God help the pastor who checks with the latest Gallup poll to determine his theology.

That's also true for the pastor's morality and ethics. Sheep do not long follow a wounded shepherd who can only whine, "I have sinned." But they will march anywhere with a man who stands and declares in a clear voice from personal experience, "God's grace is sufficient."

The pastor who ignores God's agenda must contend with hucksters from below the snake line hawking self-made agendas. When Jesus said, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost," He forever set the pastor's agenda.

How does a pastor determine what originates below the snake line? If an idea elevates personal experience above biblical authority, listen for the hiss. Programs that replace preaching with *anything* speak with forked tongues. Doctrine that waffles on the deity of Christ will wrap its coils around a church and squeeze out the spiritual life.

Henry Ford said, "You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do." The minister trades in truth, honesty and integrity. Anything less reeks of snake oil.

Most people, including pastors, are too eager to hitch their wagons to the latest "can't miss" fad or method and baptize it with God's

name. Erma Bombeck put it in humorous perspective when she said, "Don't confuse fame with success. Madonna is one; Helen Keller is the other."

The pastor is like the pilot light on gas stoves, says Ohio pastor Billy Sharpston. "You never cook a meal with it; you use it only to light a burner that cooks the meal." The pastor with the right stuff can ignite a blaze in the hearts of his people.

Kenneth R. Heer wrote in his article, "In Search of Effective Ministers" (*The Wesleyan Advocate*), that effective ministers "pay their bills on time, have good reputations in the community and are not afraid to be audited by the IRS."

Mr. Heer then said, "Effective ministers are ecclesiastically responsive. Blind denominational loyalty does not build the kingdom of God, but neither do ministers who thumb their noses at the need to be accountable—listening to counsel, supporting the larger enterprise and being a part of the team. Effective ministers are not Lone Rangers but receive from and contribute to the church which has credentialed them and provided them with a place in which to minister."

It's hard to build a ministry in the high and holy place above the snake line. Resist the temptation to erect a sand-castle ministry based on popular polls. Remember, the rains and winds are coming. The choice is ours. So are the consequences.

There's more to success than making a good start. Margaret Thatcher said, "You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it."

That's always true when living above the snake line! ■

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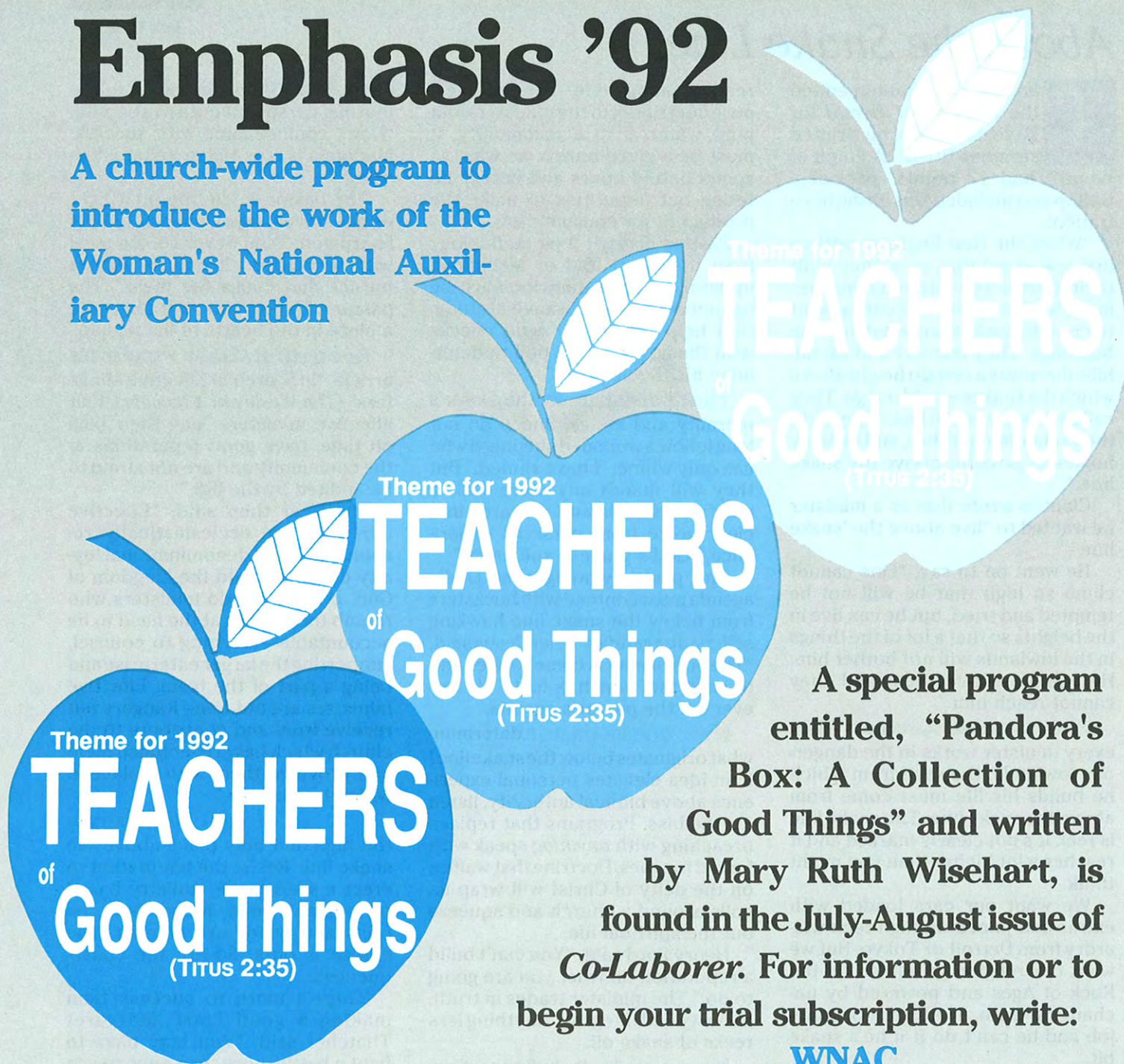
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