

CONTACT

MAY 1993

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



River City Convention

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**Return to
Kentucky**
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AIDS and the Church
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Youth Evangelism
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Mother's Lessons
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Million-Dollar Letter

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May 1993

VOLUME 40, NO. 5

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Editor-in-chief: Dr. Melvin Worthington
Editor: Jack Williams
Editorial Assistant: Marilyn Pritchard
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THE SECRETARY SPEAKS



Melvin Worthington

Congenial in Conflict

Conflict and controversy are not new experiences for the human race. The Free Will Baptist denomination was born in conflict and controversy as it challenged the calvinistic theology of the 1700's.

Reading the Bible makes one keenly aware of conflicts in human relationships. While there are many superficial causes for conflict and controversy, the true source is the depravity of the human heart.

Paul's epistles deal with conflicts in the early church citing both causes and consequences. He urges readers to appropriate the work of Christ in their lives to cope with conflict and controversy.

Conflict and controversy need not produce defamation, division or discouragement. They are a part of life as long as we live in the flesh.

Controversy and conflict in the religious, moral and political arenas present a unique opportunity for Christians to manifest the discernment and disposition of Christ.

Controversy and conflict also present an opportunity for believers to operate on a different level than unbelievers. Christians should exhibit courage, compassion and competence when dealing with life's tensions. Consider the following challenges which conflict and controversy present.

Challenge of Confrontation

Confrontation is better than gossiping and griping about an issue. Those who hold differing views should have a confrontation. Get face to face and deal with the issues. If at all possible this confrontation should be private and personal before going public.

Challenge of Communication

Many conflicts and much controversy results from misunderstanding, misinterpretation and misinformation. When handled properly, conflict and controversy can increase our communication skills. Communication remains one of the great shortcomings of our denomination. We tend to talk about, talk down and tell off each other rather than talk to each other.

Challenge of Consideration

Resolving conflict requires consideration. We must learn to appreciate the view and position of others. There is always a reason for one's position.

For example, worship styles differ among Free Will Baptists. Some express more emotion and enthusiasm than others. Worship styles need not be divisive nor disruptive to our fellowship. Being considerate of others remains a lynch pin for harmony in family and denominational life.

Challenge of Contemplation

Sometimes we Free Will Baptists speak and stand for positions with-

out thinking them through. Resolving conflict and controversy requires serious thinking to ponder issues and pour over information and presentation of a specific position. We must think about immediate and long-term consequences. Education which does not produce thinkers shortchanges us all.

Challenge of Consensus

When conflict is properly handled consensus emerges. It may be a consensus to agree or to disagree. Consensus should be the objective when dealing with conflict and controversy which threaten to disrupt. Although our denomination operates by majority vote, careful attention should be given to coming to a broad consensus. When this principle is ignored, friction and factions occur even if the majority has spoken.

Challenge of Cooperation

It is never wrong to learn how to cooperate with others even though there may not be agreement in every detail. Cooperation brings rich rewards. Only the Lord knows how much more Free Will Baptists could have accomplished since 1935 had we developed, displayed and demonstrated a spirit of cooperation. Needless crises have arisen because of lack of cooperation.

While conflict and controversy are not always enjoyable, they are necessary. Growth, change and development of new programs and ministries often surface through conflict and controversy. So when conflict and controversy arise, let's view them for what they are—unique opportunities to get people together and resolve common problems. ■

The Secretary's Schedule

May 1	Arizona State Association
May 5-8	Florida State Association
May 6-8	California State Association
May 13-15	Michigan State Association
May 16-17	Convention Liaison Council Orlando, FL
May 23	Cavanaugh FWB Church Fort Smith, AR
May 24-25	RCMA Directors Meeting Birmingham, AL
May 25-28	Convention Planning Mtg. Louisville, KY

1993 National Convention Preview

Return to My Olde Kentucky Home

By Marilyn Pritchard



The Belle of Louisville

Things have sure changed in Kentucky! The winter I turned five, my grandmother took me on a long bus trip to visit her parents in the log cabin where she was born in Kentucky. There I learned about drawing water from a well, discovered the taste of freshly-churned butter and ate meals prepared on a wood-burning stove.

Times changed and Kentucky changed with it. The log cabin gave way to a new house. Running water replaced the old well. Electricity made the wood-burning stove obsolete. My grandmother went to Heaven. Even so, those sweet memories of life in Kentucky are part of my heritage and home.

This July the Free Will Baptist National Convention meets in my

olde Kentucky home. We're going to Louisville, the river city that's *up* on world events and *in* the high-tech revolution that's swept the nation for two decades. However, Louisville kept something important from yesterday—a down-home friendliness that personifies Southern hospitality. You're gonna love Louisville!

Look at Louisville

With 12 commercial airlines serving the city's airport and three major interstates crisscrossing the city, Louisville is an easy place to find.

When folks think of Louisville they usually picture the world-famous Kentucky Derby. But there's more, much more for visitors to enjoy. You will find indoor and outdoor performing arts centers, the Louis-

ville Orchestra, museums, historic sites, shopping galore, sports, parks and businesses ready to give you a tour.

Let's go back to the museums a minute. Louisville's Colonel Harland Sanders Museum documents the success story of the fried chicken restaurant founder. Egyptian and Near Eastern antiquities with artifacts from biblical times are housed in the Eisenberg Museum at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Coffee connoisseurs might enjoy the John Conti Coffee Factory/Museum. Admission to all three museums is free.

Then there's the Howard Steamboat Museum, Museum of History and Science, and Rauch Memorial Planetarium.

If shopping's your bag, jump in

your sneakers and explore: The Galleria, a downtown mall, houses more than 80 shops and restaurants including a third floor food court and a seven-story atrium. Starks Court is right next door. This historic building includes more than 30 retail shops and restaurants.

Like sports? Louisville offers ice skating, hockey, baseball, motor speedway and basketball.

History buffs can window-snoop at Thomas Edison's Butchertown House and Museum, Farnsley-Moremen Landing—a 19th century farmstead, the Main Street Cultural District, Cherokee Triangle, and Claudia Sanders Dinner House (named for Colonel Sanders' wife) where they serve the Colonel's famous fried chicken and traditional country-style food.

Wanna get back to nature? The Belvedere/Riverfront Plaza is the perfect place to catch a river breeze and watch the Louisville Falls Fountain go through its routine. Other recreational areas include E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park, Kentucky Kingdom Amusement Park, the Louisville Zoo, Louisville Nature Center and Otter Creek Park. Wait! There's more.

If you want to see how it's done, visit American Printing House for the Blind, the Hadley Pottery Company, the Hillerich & Bradsby Co. which manufactures the famous Louisville Slugger baseball bats, or the Louisville Stoneware Company. Admission's free.

Excursions could include Louisville Horse Trams, Inc. for a romantic ride downtown, McAlpine Locks & Dam, a ride on the Star of Louisville—a 130-foot yacht-style ship. For landlubbers there's the Tooner-ville II Trolley, 19th-century style streetcars featuring mahogany and brass which connects four major downtown hotels, shopping, restaurants and attractions. The trolleys are equipped with chairlifts and space for disabled passengers.

And nearby in Bardstown, you will discover the real "My Old Kentucky Home," made famous by Stephen Foster's song. The home greets visitors with the South's gentle and leisurely antebellum world evident before the Civil War.

The gift shop carries Kentucky crafts and Christmas cards year round.

Getting Ready

When Free Will Baptists come to town, the host city anticipates big business. Each convention city since 1984 has gleaned more than \$1 million Free Will Baptist dollars. According to the Indianapolis Convention Bureau, Free Will Baptists spent more than \$3 million in 1992.

We ate more than 3,700 catered meals last year and 3,000 or more each year since 1985. Registration statistics for the last eight years

explain why:

1992 Indianapolis, Ind.	6,119
1991 Charleston, W.Va.	6,538
1990 Phoenix, Ariz.	4,352
1989 Tampa, Fla.	5,707
1988 Kansas City, Mo.	5,866
1987 Birmingham, Ala.	6,159
1986 Tulsa, Okla.	6,545
1985 Nashville, Tenn.	8,340

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



The Hyatt Regency Louisville—Headquarters Hotel

Tim York and
 Richard Van Hoose: ..Steering Committee Chairmen
 Bill Roberts: Hospitality Committee
 Lincoln Varney: Registration Committee
 Dennis Kizzire, Sr.: Prayer Committee
 Tim Hall: Ushering Committee
 Phyllis York:State Woman's Auxiliary President

Five ministers will preach on the convention theme, "Laborers Together." Two others will preach at the 13th annual Bible Conference Tuesday morning. Moderator Ralph Hampton will gavel his sixth convention business session. Others getting ready for July include seminar leaders, banquet speakers and speakers for NYC and WNAC services.

Meet the Preachers

Attendees always look forward to great preaching at national conventions. This year will be no disappointment. Preaching services start Sunday morning and continue through Wednesday evening's missionary service.

Sunday Morning

If you're an early bird, you'll discover Dr. Thomas Marberry teaching adults during the Sunday School hour. Dr. Marberry, a professor at Hillsdale FWB College was saved at age 17 and ordained as a minister at age 22.

Marberry attended Sam Houston State University, Oklahoma Bible College (now Hillsdale FWB College) and Texas A & M University. He received his B.A. with a major in religion from Baylor University, his M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. from Baylor University.

Dr. Marberry pastored United FWB Church in Bryan, Texas, two years before he went to Prairie Bell FWB Church in Putman, Oklahoma, where he pastored 16 years. He is a member of the Free Will Baptist Historical Commission. He has written the commentary on Galatians in the *Randall House Bible Commentary*, and writes book reviews and articles for *Contact*.

Reverend Nathan Ruble, who is the newly-elected executive secretary of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists, will bring the Sunday morning message. Born



Ruble



Austin



Thompson



Ferguson



Little

in 1935, Ruble received his B.A. from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1970 and was ordained to preach in 1971.

This U. S. Navy veteran has pastored five churches in three states. From moderator of two different district associations to moderator of two state associations to member of the national Home Missions Board, Brother Ruble has been involved in all levels of denominational work. He also served as chairman of the Missouri Senior Adult Ministries Board from 1989-1992.

Sunday Evening

Usually, NYC has charge of the Sunday evening service. They changed their program this year to include separate services for youth every night except Wednesday. So this year's Sunday evening speaker will be Clifford H. Austin, minister of Highland Avenue FWB Church.

This 62-year-old Head Start director was saved at age 16 and ordained to preach at age 19. He has pastored full time and worked a full-time secular job for 35 years. He has pastored three churches in Ohio and Kentucky. He has served in his present pastorate, Highland Avenue FWB Church in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, for 26 years.

Austin attended Free Will Baptist Bible College, received an A.B. in biology and history from Marshall University and attended Morehead State University and Western Kentucky University. He has published two tracts (*Why Suffering?* and *Grieving Process*) and a lesson series based on the *Treatise*.

Monday Evening

Reverend Bailey Thompson brings Monday evening's message. He pastors Woodcrest FWB Church in Catoosa, Oklahoma. This Oklahoma native was saved in 1948 and ordained to preach in 1949. He attended Free Will Baptist Bible College and Odessa Junior College.

Thompson has pastored seven churches in three states since 1951. He has also served as dean of men and director of public relations for Hillsdale FWB College. He has been elected moderator of three differ-

ent state associations, served on Hillsdale's board of trustees, and has been chairman of Oklahoma's Executive Board since 1981.

He has been evangelist for 375 revivals and youth camps, served as director of Lefflore County Red Cross, director of youth programs and chairman of the United Way for the city of Poteau. Brother Thompson has also written Sunday School literature for FWB high teens.

Tuesday Evening

Reverend Bobby Ferguson, pastor of First FWB Church in Houston, Texas, preaches Tuesday evening. Saved at age nine, Ferguson received his B.A. from Free Will Baptist Bible College and was ordained to preach in 1959. He has pastored five Texas churches—Mt. Olive in Laneville, First in Dallas, Mission in Tyler, Good Hope in Henderson and First in Houston.

Ferguson has served in numerous district and state capacities in the state: state clerk, state assistant moderator, district moderator, state executive secretary, member of the state mission board and as the Texas state moderator. He received the outstanding contribution award from the Veterans Administration.

Wednesday Evening

Wednesday evening, NYC will join the national convention for the traditional missionary service. The message will be brought by Doug Little, senior pastor at First FWB Church in Russellville, Arkansas. Son of a research analyst and an elementary school teacher, Doug was saved at age eight. He received his B.S. in Bible, music and Christian education from Free Will Baptist Bible College and his M.A. in music from Middle Tennessee State University.

Little has pastored two churches and served on the Free Will Baptist Bible College music faculty. He served on the Hymn Book Committee four years, the Oklahoma State CTS Board for three years, the Arkansas State Christian Education Board five years, and presently serves on the Arkansas State Mission Board, the FWBBC Board of Trustees and the Music Commis-

sion. He has written and published a number of songs.

Bible Conference

Two pastors, Curtis Lilly and Wendell Walley, are scheduled to bring Bible Conference messages Tuesday morning at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Curtis Lilly

Curtis Lilly is first in the pulpit for the 9:00 a.m. service. Lilly pastors Friendship FWB Church in Flint, Michigan. Born in 1942, he was saved and began preaching at age 14, and ordained to preach in 1960. He has attended Detroit Bible College, Great Lakes Bible Institute and Luther Rice Seminary.

Lilly has pastored four Michigan Free Will Baptist churches: West Side in Detroit, Mt. Olive in Avondale, Free Will Baptist Chapel in Madison Heights and Friendship in Flint. He has been active in his district associations, serving on the Executive Committee, Presbytery and Home Mission Board of the Liberty Association and on the Presbytery of the Wolverine Association.

Wendell Walley

At 10:00 a.m. Wendell Walley steps to the pulpit. This 51-year-old pastor of Zephyr Hills FWB Church

in Asheville, North Carolina, was saved at age five, baptized at age 10, and ordained to preach at age 22. Walley has pastored churches in Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and North Carolina. He was the founding pastor of the joint mission project in Greenville, Mississippi.

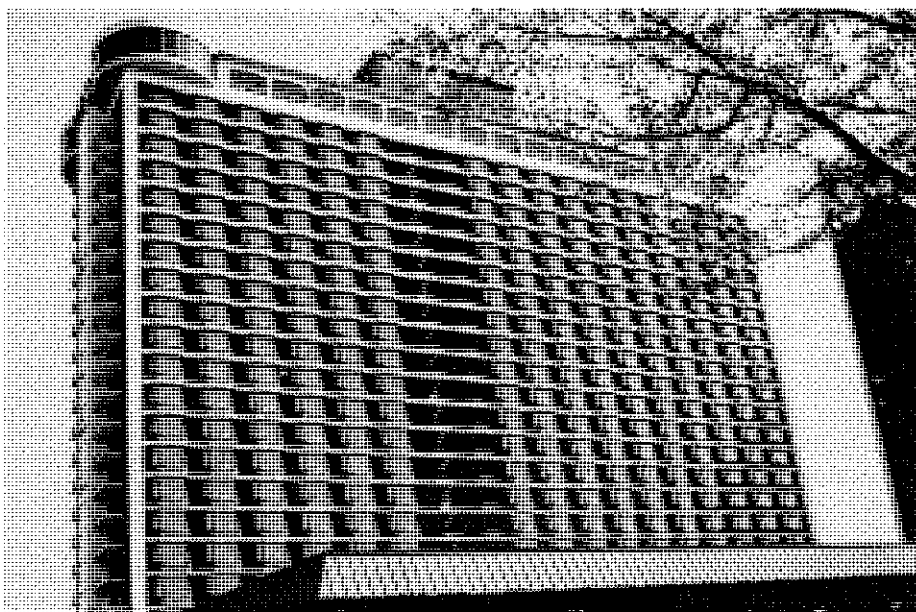
Walley has served on three missions boards: Tennessee for seven years, six years as chairman; Mississippi for seven years, chairman for six years; and the national Home Missions Board where he presently serves. He has also served on the national General Board and Executive Committee.

Walley served as editor of the *Lumen*, the Free Will Baptist Bible College yearbook. He has written articles for *Contact*, written for the adult CTS quarterly, *Focus*, for two years and is presently writing for the *Bible Teacher* for Randall House Publications.

Rooms, Rooms, Rooms

Convention officials blocked 1,250 rooms in three downtown Louisville hotels for the 1993 convention. Hyatt Regency (headquarters hotel) holds 300 rooms for our people. Galt House East, (NYC headquarters hotel) has reserved 350 rooms and Galt House has set aside 600 rooms. Room rates range from \$69 to \$79 per night this year.

Hotel reservations must be made



The Galt House Hotel

on the official housing form printed in April, May or June *Contact* or in one of the Free Will Baptist state papers. One word of advice again this year: Hurry! Rooms go quickly.

Parking

Galt House and Galt House East offer complimentary parking for guests. The Hyatt Regency Hotel charges \$5 per day with in-out privileges. Parking at Commonwealth Convention Center is \$4 per day with in-out privileges.

The Galt House/Galt House East offers complimentary parking for guest RV's but there are no hookups. For other RV parking without hookups, conventioners may use the flat parking lot across the street from the convention center. You must make your own arrangements.

If you need parking with hookups there are three in nearby cities:

Add-More Campground

Linda Edwards, owner
11 Surrey Lane
Clarksville, IN 47130
Phone: 812/283-4003

Louisville Metro KOA

Ernest E. Ringo, President
900 Marriott Drive
Clarksville, IN 47129
Phone: 812/282-4474

Louisville South KOA

Nicholas Costino, owner
2433 Route 44E
Shepherdsville, KY 40165
Phone: 502/543-2041

No Nursery

There are no nursery facilities at the convention this year.

Registration

Again this year we begin with pre-registration. Forms are available in this and following issues for conventioners to register in advance. This saves time in registration lines once you arrive in Louisville. Pre-registration forms must be *received* before June 18.

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

For the third year in a row, NYC registration will be in the same location as the other two, making for more convenience.

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

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

Exhibits

This year's exhibits can be found in Exhibit Hall - C at Commonwealth Convention Center. Nearly 50 exhibitors will display educational and denominational literature and programs.

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

Soup's On!

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

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

Be sure your order is mailed in time to be *received* by June 18. Just a reminder—some events sell out quickly. First come, first served!

WNAC hosts their Fellowship Dinner Tuesday evening. Darlene Spangler will be the speaker for the dinner.

Master's Men host their annual dinner 5:00 p.m. Wednesday. During

this event, Layman of the Year and Runner-up Layman of the Year are announced.

Other special meals include the following: Monday evening, the Children's Banquet. Tuesday, the Music Ministries Breakfast, Hillsdale College Alumni Luncheon and Youth Banquet. Wednesday, the State Leaders Breakfast and the FWBBC Alumni Luncheon.

Business

Monday marks the beginning of the annual business meeting. The General Board meets at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast at the Hyatt Regency Hotel then begins its meeting by 9:00 a.m. Moderator Ralph Hampton will gavel the convention business session to order 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning in Exhibit Halls A-B at Commonwealth Convention Center.

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

Camp Meeting and Seminars

The annual Free Will Baptist Camp Meeting sponsored by the Home Missions Department meets Monday at 3:00 p.m. in the convention center. This perennial favorite among convention-goers always features Southern gospel music and enthusiastic preaching.

This year's speaker will be Trymon Messer, associate director of the Home Missions Department. Brother Messer, a layman, has served as trouble shooter and missionary encourager for 15 years. He is welcomed in Free Will Baptist churches across the nation.

Home Missions Director Roy Thomas and the Home Missions staff will join Messer to lead Monday worshippers. The event usually attracts more than a thousand participants.

Once again this year, four seminars fill Tuesday afternoon's agenda, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Double in a

Decade Seminar meets in Rooms 107-108 at Commonwealth Convention Center. The Theological Trends Seminar, meeting in Rooms 105-106 at the convention center will be led by Free Will Baptist Bible College academic dean, Robert E. Picirilli on "Conditional vs. Unconditional Election."

The Music Commission Seminar is scheduled to meet in the Hyatt Regency's Park Suite. Oklahoma pastor Joe Grizzle will address the topic, "Getting in Step with Heaven's Parade." The Master's Men Congress convenes in Rooms 210-211 at Commonwealth Convention Center.

WNAC Memos

This year's WNAC program gets started 1:30 Monday afternoon with a seminar on "Giving Yourself" led by Gladys Gragg and June Wilkinson in Regency Ballroom South A-B at the Hyatt Regency. Gladys Gragg is a member of East Nashville FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee. June Wilkinson, a missionary to Brazil from 1959-1979, now works in the Foreign Missions Department and is a member of Donelson FWB Church in Nashville.

The State Officers Meeting convenes at 3:00 p.m. Monday also in the Regency Ballroom South A-B at the Hyatt Regency.

Tuesday morning finds President Mary Neal (Ind.) moderating the business session in Exhibit Halls A-B at the convention center. Then at 11:10 a.m. Ron Moore, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, delivers the WNAC missionary message. Born in Long Beach, California, in 1949, Ron received his B.A. from Free Will Baptist Bible College, M.A. from Bob Jones University and attended the Columbia Graduate School of Bible and Missions. He and his wife Linda were appointed as missionaries in December 1986 and departed for the field in 1988.

Later Tuesday afternoon, the WNAC Fellowship Dinner gathers in the Regency Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency. The time: 5:00 p.m. Guest speaker: Darlene Spangler.

Darlene has been a forerunner in the area of children's work. She has developed ministries for children such as Parables Under the Big Top

(a circus crusade for children), Walk-thru-Jerusalem, and Junior Service ministries.

Mrs. Spangler presently teaches at San Jose Christian College in California and leads Bible studies for mothers of young children at Blossom Valley Bible Church where she is a member. She has also developed a consulting ministry called Equipping for Excellence.

NYC Notes

"Take a Stand" is the theme for this year's National Youth Conference. Beginning with Sunday School in the Galt House Hotel for the children and the Commonwealth Convention Center for adults, and going through the awards ceremony Wednesday night, a full schedule is slated for the young people who attend. Check the June issue of *Contact* for program specifics.

Registration begins Sunday afternoon in the Main Lobby at the convention center and ends Wednesday noon.

Something new happens this year: NYC will have separate evening services for the youth every evening except Wednesday. Meeting in the Galt House Hotel, separate services for Children's Worship and Teen Worship will be geared to the special needs of our youth.

Kevin Riggs, pastor of Franklin FWB Church, Franklin, Tennessee, will bring the Sunday evening teen

message. Curt Gwartney, youth pastor at Fellowship FWB Church in Flat River, Missouri, will speak to them Monday evening. Jeff Nichols, youth pastor at Calvary Fellowship FWB Church, Fenton, Missouri, will address the teens Tuesday evening.

Special services are planned by the NYC staff for the children's services and will include more than one speaker/activity each evening.

Other speakers for NYC activities include Ken Eagleton who works with the Foreign Missions Department, Neil Gilliland from Free Will Baptist Bible College, Jim Lauthern who is teen editor at Randall House Publications and Dean Stone who is children's pastor at Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

And Finally . . .

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

You need to pre-register, make reservations and meet us in Louisville in July. Mark your calendar—July 18-22—and make plans to make my olde Kentucky home your home a few days this summer. ■

.....

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

LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

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

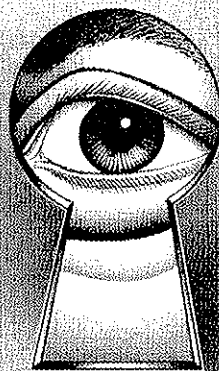
(Pastor) (Clerk or Secretary)

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

AIDS:



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Open Door to Ministry

By Paul Harrison

T rue or False: God hates homosexuals and fornicators. If you said *false*, you got it right. It's their homosexuality and fornication that He hates, not the people themselves.

In fact, God loves the sexually impure, and so should we. But you and I know that living the truth is a lot harder than just knowing it. A description of Christian love is easy to locate on the bookshelf, but try finding it dressed in a coat and tie.

This is especially true when it comes to loving those stricken with AIDS. But why is this so? The answer is found in realizing what we don't care about and what we do care about.

Attitude of Apathy

Let's examine the don't-care attitude, otherwise called apathy. Some ask: Why should I bother to help people with a "sinner's disease" anyway? Such a question reveals several misunderstandings.

First, it ignores the fact that AIDS strikes many innocent victims. Hundreds of infants suffer from the disease. Half of America's hemophiliacs carry the virus, and many faithful spouses have contracted the killer-disease from unfaithful partners.

But this apathy toward suffering reveals a deeper problem than overlooking these innocent victims. It represents a radical departure from the gracious character of God. When we say, "Let sin take its course. Let's not interfere with divine judgment," we, through a twisted theological operation, surgically remove the very heart of Christianity.

At the core of God's message is the fact that He is a friend of sinners, that He showed love toward us while we were yet sinners, that Jesus came not to the healthy but to the sick. After all, without this overflow of Heaven's grace, where would any of us be?

Thankfully, as William Amos, Jr. observed, "There are no 'throwaway people' in the economy of God."

Facing our Fears

If apathy closes our eyes to AIDS victims, fear of the disease opens them, but with the same results—a failure to minister. If there's anything we do care about, it's personal danger, and with AIDS, danger is spelled with all caps.

Our fears often take two forms. On one hand is a concern that our ministering to the openly sinful might appear as condoning evil behavior. And this might even lead to our falling under suspicion.

It's not hard to see where the focus lies in such thinking: self. Ministry to the sexually impure may indeed lead to false accusations against us, but that's a risk we must be willing to take. Christian signs rarely point to the "safe road."

Remember Jesus and the woman taken in adultery? Or His experience with Mary Magdalene? Innuendos were repeatedly launched at Him because of His ministry to sinners, and yet this didn't stop Him. To follow Jesus' steps is to accept this risk.

The second fear we have looms even larger than the first. The terror of contracting the dreaded disease, a fear some have called AFRAIDS. Once again, self raises its ugly head. Does God want *me* to risk *my* life?

Doctors Hoffman and Grenz well answer this question: "Even if AIDS were highly contagious (which medical evidence indicates is not the case), the Christian mandate would require that we risk our lives for the sake of ministering to the needs of others."

In other words, proper theology teaches us to get knee-deep in the hurts of sinners, alleviating suffering in the name of Christ wherever possible, even when it means self-sacrifice.

The early church knew this well. Dionysius, a third-century defender of the faith, told how believers in Egypt transformed a deadly plague into a brilliant spotlight on Jesus' love. "Most of our brethren . . . visited the sick without thought as to the danger . . . Most gladly departed this life along with them, being infected with the disease from others."

Such attitudes may not fit well with modern church growth strategies, but Jesus' way never was one designed to insure big numbers. He always has been more concerned with commitment than with crowds.

Motivation for Ministry

So how might we approach a ministry to AIDS victims? First, the church needs to be thoroughly educated about the disease. Second, there must be a frank discussion within the congregation of areas of concern. Pushing people will not work, even if the push is in the right direction.

Finally, "in-church" ministries require a careful examination of procedures, especially in the nursery and children's classes. Forming a committee of mature Christians to study these issues would serve the church well.

Admittedly, there are obstacles to AIDS ministries, but a negative emphasis on such an effort is misplaced. We should not view ministry in this crisis as an unfortunate obligation, mined with life-threaten-

ing booby traps. Rather, we should see it as an opportunity, lined with life-giving potential. God can use tragedy for good. For instance, the AIDS crisis helps us in presenting the beauty of sexual purity, the beauty of God's laws. Faithful Christians can approach the marriage bed without guilt or anxiety. Let us announce to the world with renewed vigor that holiness is healthy, that God's way works.

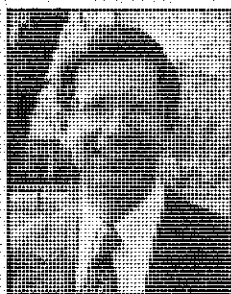
Even those with no moral interest now trumpet the practical benefits of faithfulness in sexual relationships. Let believers take up this message from a Christian perspective.

This disease can also help us teach the crucial link between private acts and the public good. The unchristian "it's my life; I'll do as I please" attitude is now quite open to attack.

To use the analogy of C. S. Lewis, how each individual operates his privateship is of public interest since we sail in a fleet. If one fouls up, he will crash into others. We can either legislate private morality or deal with wholesale mortality. AIDS is prying the world's eyes open to this teaching.

But perhaps the church's greatest opportunity in this crisis is the chance to mirror God's love. Calamity is to the church an open door. Our selfless example of helping the hurting preaches more eloquently and persuasively than our most polished sermons.

Sinners may not come to church, but they go to hospitals. What would they think to see Jesus' love on display room by room? How might God use such service to open hearts? ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Paul Harrison pastors Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

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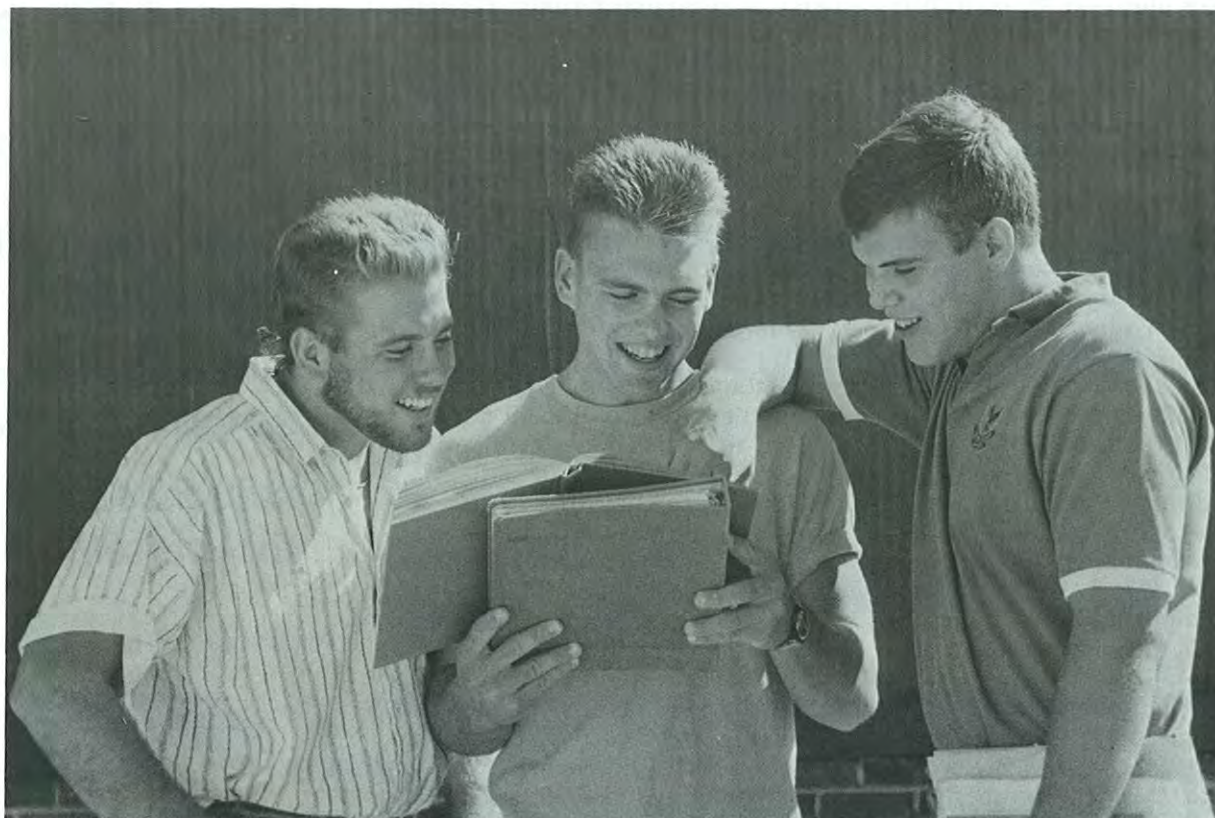
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Strategies for Youth Evangelism

By Billy Bevan



H. Armstrong Roberts

Byond our stained glass windows, walking in the shadows of our steeples is a mission field of precious souls known as America's youth.

According to 1990 statistics which reported the population of the United States at 248,709,873, the breakdown in various age categories is as follows:

Under 5 years	18,354,443
5-17 years	45,249,989
18-20 years	11,726,868
21-24 years	15,010,878

Ninety to 100 million young people between the ages of birth to 24 populate this nation of ours.

Further statistics reveal the following information concerning the youth of America:

- Suicide is America's second greatest teenage killer.

- ½ million teenagers run away every year.
- By age 20, more than 80% of today's unmarried males and 67% of unmarried females have had sexual intercourse.
- More than 90% of America's young people have tried alcohol.
- By the end of high school, 66% of America's teenagers have used illicit drugs.

What alarming statistics! And they do not stop there. Young people die, too. It is imperative that we reach them with the message of Jesus Christ. There must be a new urgency among us to reach the youth in *our* mission field. Jesus is not only the answer to life's problems for older adults; He is the answer to the problems that plague America's youth.

But the pressing question is, "How do we effectively reach them?" While that is not necessarily a simple ques-

tion to answer, and my credentials in no way qualify me as an expert, I do want to warn about three "turn-offs" and then suggest three positive ideas.

The Turn-Offs

As in any ministry, there are negatives and positives. There are some unnecessary negatives that serve as "turn-offs" to youth. As we try to reach them, we need to avoid these turn-offs at all costs:

Duplicity

Young people have seen enough deception and hypocrisy in politics, business and even religion. Young people can spot a phony a mile away. There must be a heart-felt genuineness in our efforts to reach them for Christ. It must be more than a job if

we are to effectively reach them. It must become a burden.

Duplication

Those involved in ministries geared to reach youth frequently fall into the trap of making their activities much like what young people already find themselves participating in. Young people are looking for something different. When we resort to the world's tactics, all we do is muddy the water. The trumpet we sound must not make an uncertain sound, but rather it needs to be clear and distinct.

We cannot slip Christ over on young people. We must be open and honest as to what our intentions are and what we are trying to accomplish. We do not have to become like the world to reach the world. In fact, it is my opinion that young people don't want us to.

Disposition

Our "holier-than-thou" attitudes turn off young people. It is true that we should be more mature as adults, but it is also true that most young people have not "arrived" yet. (But neither have we.)

We must get off our lofty perches and leave the halo polishing to someone else. Be approachable, down-to-earth, adult Christians who genuinely care about reaching young people for Christ. Looking down long, pharisaical noses will do nothing more than alienate them.

What Will Work?

We have looked at some negatives to avoid. Let's consider some positives to employ.

Be Concerned.

Psalm 126:5-6 vividly reminds us that we do not come "rejoicing" until we have gone "weeping." This, of course, introduces the idea of concern and compassion. I love the definition I heard years ago of compassion: "Feeling *their* hurt in *my* heart."

Can anyone deny that the young people of America, in large part, are hurting and frustrated? The only person who can make a difference is a concerned, compassionate person.

Please, we must stop making snap judgments about young people based on the way they dress, the way their hair looks, and the kind of music they play.

If we reach them, we've got to accept them for who they are, what they are and where they are. Then by God's grace and a concerned heart, we can get them to where they ought to be.

Be Consistent.

Matthew 5:16 tells us to let our lights shine; people will see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven. That takes consistency!

Reaching young people is as much a matter of "being" something as "doing" something. This is so vitally important to them. Young people love deeply, but they also hurt deeply. They are tired of us saying, preaching and teaching one thing, then doing another.

They do not expect us to be perfect, but they do expect us to be consistent. They have seen enough smooth-talking, flim-flamming and double-dealing in religious circles to last them a lifetime. We cannot talk "cream" and live "skim milk." Our talk and walk must match if we want an effective outreach to youth.

Be Creative.

In I Corinthians 9:22, Paul said, "... I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." Paul was willing to do whatever he could to reach people for Christ as long as it was honest and did not go against the teachings of scripture.

Don't be afraid to break the mold. A refusal to make some positive changes in order to reach people for Christ may be the biggest hindrance facing the church today.

Two things must never change—our message and the method of preaching. Our message is always Christ. And while preaching is not the only method of reaching people, it is hard to improve on this method. Of course, there is still the problem of getting them to attend the preaching.

Something "new" is not always better, but something "old" is not always best either. Creativity and

spontaneity excite and challenge young people. Remember, we must reach them before we can win them.

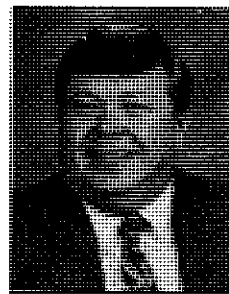
We dare not compromise our convictions. But one thing's for sure, we'll never reach young people until they trust and respect us. We must get their attention before we can effectively communicate with them. This does not diminish the Holy Spirit's part in ministry.

Paul would have used many of the avenues available to us today to reach people for Christ. Let's get away from the same old things. If it is not working, let's ditch it. Try something else and let's reach these kids! An all night lock-in at the fellowship hall or a basketball marathon is a small price to pay for the privilege of presenting the gospel to teenagers. Go for it; be creative.

Some of the finest people I have ever met and some of the best Christians I know are young people. Yes, they will frustrate you at times and disappoint you, but so will adults. There is so much potential represented in the life of a young person. We must do our best to reach this segment of our population with the message that Jesus saves.

When I was a youngster I heard preachers make this statement, "The youth of today are the church of tomorrow." My concern is this, "If we don't reach the youth of today, there will be no church tomorrow!"

May God give each pastor, associate, youth director, youth sponsor, Sunday School teacher, professor and bus captain a new urgency and burden to reach the young people in our mission fields. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Billy Bevan pastors Hilltop Free Will Baptist Church in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina. He also serves as president of Southeastern Free Will Baptist College in Wendell.

Lessons Mother Taught Me

By David Copeland

Mother's Day is special. For some it's a day of rejoicing with their mother, and mothers with their children. A day of togetherness. For others, like me, it's a day of reflection. Reflecting on the memories of mothers now deceased. It's a day for thought.

My mother died when I was 19. Although our time together was brief, she taught me valuable lessons in that short time that I shall never forget.

She Taught Me Goodness and Kindness.

Mother could always see good in others. She looked for people's virtues instead of their vices. I never remember her being rude or critical.

Her warmth attracted others. When she was in a nursing home, the nurses and aides always took their breaks in her room. My mother's life was a fire of goodness and kindness that others wanted to warm themselves by. Many did.

She Taught Me Christian Service.

By watching her life, I learned that Christianity was not a life confined to a pew or one day of the week. She was neither idle nor indifferent.

She taught Sunday School and VBS. She prepared meals for those who had lost loved ones. She listened to others' heartaches. She opened her home to those in need both day and night.

She Taught Me About Faith.

Faith under fire! The last two



and one-half years of Mother's life she spent as a quadriplegic.

There were tears, but I also remember the smiles. Though times were often dark for her, her light of faith never stopped shining. And it shined in and on the lives of others.

Dad once took a couple experiencing marital problems to see Mother. They left her presence knowing that they could work out their problems.

One pastor told us, "I used to visit your mother often. Instead of me encouraging her, she encouraged me." Another pastor said that he had often used Mother's faith as an example in his sermons.

Her doctor told me, "Your mother has forever changed the way that I perform my duties as a doctor. I'll never forget her."

What was the reason for those people's kind words and changed lives? My mother's faith and the One in Whom she had placed her faith.

Mother was not perfect. But her life causes me to seek God's help in using the lessons she taught me. ■

.....
ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend David Copeland
pastors Chapel Lane Free Will Baptist Church in
Searcy, Arkansas.

The Loving Wife

1. Give up your dreams of a "perfect marriage" and work toward a "good marriage." There are no perfect marriages for the simple reason that there are no perfect people. Marriage is the most difficult and complex of all human relationships, and it requires practice, skill, tact, emotional and spiritual growth. You can "grow a good marriage" if you are willing to work at it.

2. Keep personal attractiveness. Keep yourself looking nice. What husbands see is important.

3. Reading good books keeps you thinking, creative. It keeps you interesting and alive.

4. Discover your husband's personal, unique needs and try to meet them. He is not like any other person on earth. He, like you, is unique.

5. Welcome his romantic advances.

6. Become actively involved in lovemaking. Your husband's positive feelings about himself and your romance depend a lot on your active participation.

7. Be creative in initiating lovemaking. God intended for you to enjoy this aspect of marriage as much as your husband.

8. Give praise and appreciation instead of seeking it. Reassure him of his manliness. His manliness is very important to him.

9. Abandon all hope of changing your husband through criticism and attack. The "now look here!" stance never works. It breeds hostility, and often a counterattack. We can change no other person by direct action. We can change only ourselves; and when we change, others tend to change in reaction to us.

Love changes people. Hostility breeds hostility, but love begets love. Love does not demand, it gives.

10. Love cannot take distance. A husband and wife need time together enjoying life and sharing. Be a good listener, sensitive to his mood and interested in his interests. ■

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Article excerpted from *A Course for Mid-Life Parents*,
the Family Ministry Series (David C. Cook Publishing
Co.). Used with permission of David C. Cook.

Hotel Reservation

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Louisville, Kentucky

National Convention

July 18-22, 1993

- Requests for reservations made after 6/18 will be returned to you with a list of availabilities.
- All reservation requests will be made through the NAFWB Housing Bureau--NOT WITH INDIVIDUAL HOTELS.
- Complete this housing form selecting your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice hotels and mail to the Housing Bureau. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1993. Send one form for each room request. Duplicate this form if necessary.
- Changes and cancellations must be made in writing to the NAFWB Housing Bureau in Louisville.
- The hotel will require a deposit. Complete the credit card information on this form or send a check directly to the hotel AFTER you have received your confirmation.

Cutoff Date:

Received by
June 18, 1993

MAIL TO:

NAFWB Housing Bureau
400 South First Street
Louisville, KY 40202
or FAX to
502/584-6697

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

By signing below, I authorize the hotel confirmed to charge my credit card for one night's deposit, which is non-refundable 48 hours prior to arrival.

NAME ON CREDIT CARD _____ SIGNATURE _____

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

HOTELS	Choice	 Single	 Double	 Triple	 Quad
Hyatt Regency—Headquarters Hotel		\$79	\$79	\$79	\$79
Galt House East—NYC Headquarters (All-Suites Tower)		\$79	\$79	\$79	\$79
Galt House		\$69	\$69	\$69	\$69

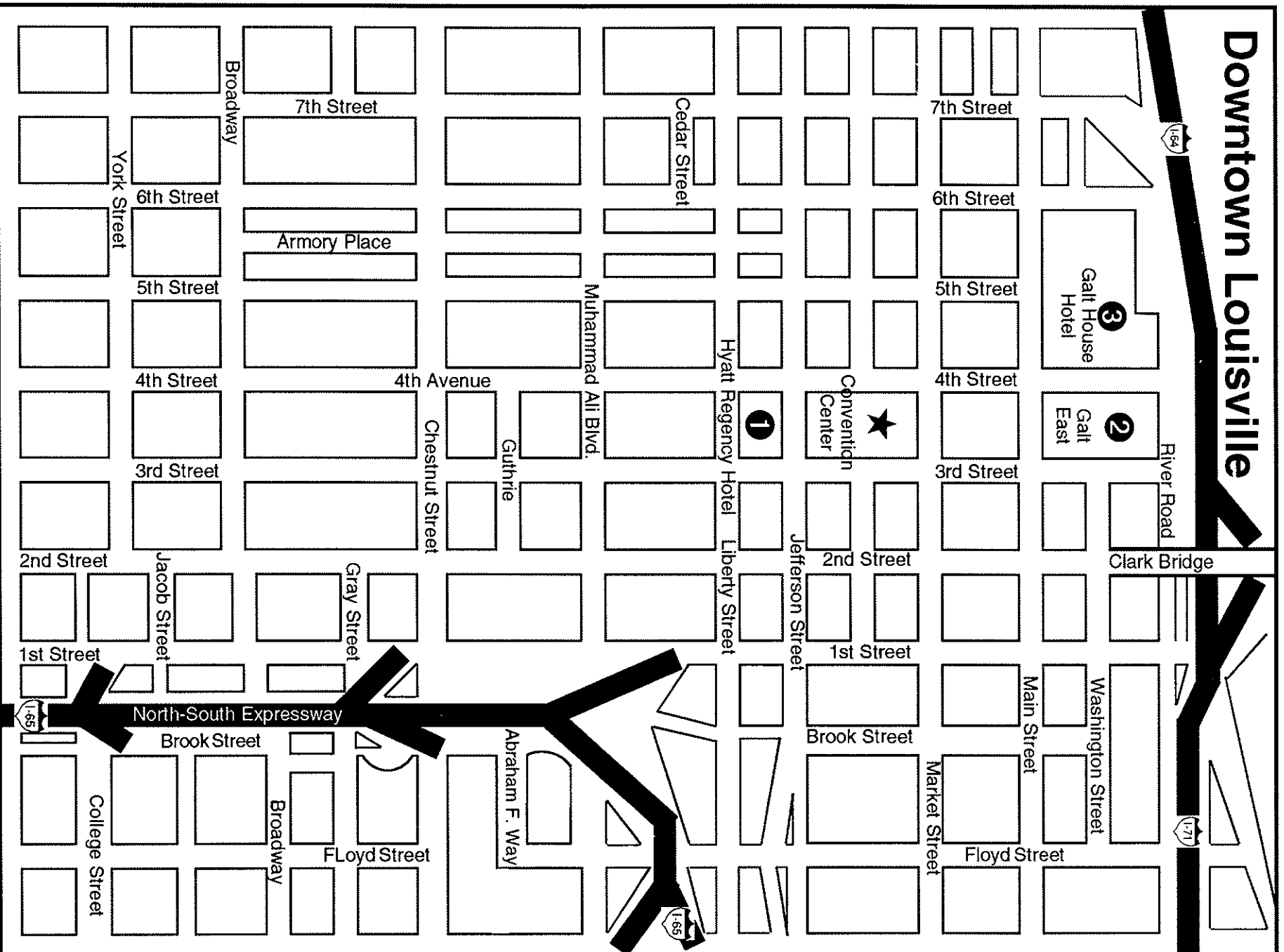
ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED:

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

PLEASE LIST ROOM OCCUPANTS:

Downtown Louisville



INSTRUCTIONS for Pre-Registration Form

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

Filling Out the Form

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

Indicate the number of meal tickets you wish to purchase (Enclose check for registration and tickets payable to **FWB Convention**). **NOTE:** Before July 19, Youth Banquet tickets will be sold only to those in grades seven to age 24 and youthworkers accompanying their group. Others may purchase tickets at the convention after this date.

Additional Information

1. Completed forms must be mailed to **Convention Registration~P.O. Box 5002~Antioch, TN~37011-5002** and received on or before **June 18, 1993**.
2. Enclose **one check** to cover all fees and tickets.
3. Make additional copies of the Pre-Registration Form if they are needed. **Only one person per form please.**
4. No refunds mailed after **June 18, 1993**.

Children's Banquet/\$7.00

Monday, July 19/5:00 PM
Convention Center/Room 117

Music Ministries Breakfast/\$9.50

Tuesday, July 20/7:00 AM
Convention Center/Room 208

WNAC Fellowship Dinner/\$15.00

Tuesday, July 20/5:00 PM
Hyatt Regency/Regency Ballroom

FWBBC Luncheon/\$13.00

Wednesday, July 21/12:00 Noon
Galt House East/Weatherby Room

Youth Workers Reception/\$5.00

Monday, July 19/9:00 PM
Convention Center/Room 116

Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon/\$12.00

Tuesday, July 20/12:00 Noon
Convention Center/Rooms 207-208

Youth Banquet/\$12.50

Tuesday, July 20/9:00 PM
Galt House East/Grand Ballroom

Master's Men Dinner/\$18.00 (\$20.00 on-site)

Wednesday, July 21/4:45 PM
Hyatt Regency/Regency Ballroom

Pre-Registration Form

for
National Association of Free Will Baptists
Woman's National Auxiliary Convention
National Youth Conference
Louisville, KY / July 18 - 22, 1993

Only one person per form.

Please Print

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

Address: _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Church: _____ City: _____

Hotel (if known): _____

Completed form(s) must be mailed to
Convention Registration

P.O. Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011-5002

and received on or before **June 18, 1993.**

You may register for all three conventions on this form.
Check the appropriate boxes.

☐ Register me for the **National Association**. I have completed the following information.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATION: _____

(Check only one of the following:)

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

MISSIONARY: ☐ Foreign(MIF) (Country) _____

DELEGATE: ☐ Home(MIH)
☐ Ordained Deacon(ORD)

☐ State(STD)
☐ Local Church (\$10.00)(LCD)
☐ National Board Member(NBM)
☐ National Officer(NTO)

VISITOR: ☐ (VIS)

Meal Tickets:

	Quantity	
Youth Workers Reception	_____ x \$5.00 =	_____
Music Ministries Breakfast	_____ x \$9.50 =	_____
Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon	_____ x \$12.00 =	_____
FWBBC Alumni Luncheon	_____ x \$13.00 =	_____
Master's Men Dinner	_____ x \$18.00 =	_____

Delegate Fee

Local Church Delegate _____ 1 x \$10.00 = _____

SUBTOTAL _____

☐ Register me for **WNAC**. I have completed the following information.

(Check only one of the following:)

DELEGATE: ☐ Local (\$3.00)(WLD)
☐ State(WSD)
☐ State President or Field Worker(WPF)
☐ National Officer(WNO)

VISITOR: ☐ (WVI)

Meal Tickets:

	Quantity	
WNAC Fellowship Dinner	_____ x \$15.00 =	_____

Delegate Fee

Local Delegate _____ 1 x \$3.00 = _____

SUBTOTAL _____

☐ Register me for the **National Youth Conference**. I have completed the following information.

(Only those in 1st grade to age 24 need to register for NYC.)

Grade just completed: _____ Age: _____

Birthdate: ____/____/____

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

Youth Leader's name: _____

Are you a youthworker? ☐ yes ☐ no

Registration Fee

Pre-Registration Fee _____ 1 x \$11.00 = _____

On-site registration fee is \$12.00.

Adults over 24 do not pay NYC fees.

You must register for NYC to purchase meal tickets (unless age 25 and up).

Meal Tickets:

	Quantity	
Children's Banquet (grades 1-6)	_____ x \$7.00 =	_____
Youth Banquet (must be in grade 7 to age 24 or an accompanying youthworker)	_____ x \$12.50 =	_____

SUBTOTAL _____

For Office Use Only

Date _____
Rec'd _____ CK/MO # _____ AMT \$ _____
CK _____

Make Checks payable to
FWB Convention.

**No refunds mailed after
June 18, 1993.**

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Check/Money Order MUST accompany this form.

FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Georgia Church Honors Damon Dodd

COLQUITT, GA—Dr. and Mrs. Damon Dodd were honored February 14 for almost 60 years of service to the Free Will Baptist denomination. Pastor J. M. Creech and members of Bellview FWB Church in Colquitt planned an afternoon celebrating the lives of Damon and Sylvia Dodd.

Activities included a profile of Dr. Dodd by Pastor Creech, light-hearted remembrance by the Dodd's two daughters, Marilyn Hudson and Barbara Tucker; correspondence from national officials as well as

special presentations. Executive Secretary Herbert Waid brought greetings from the Georgia State Association. FWBBC staffer Ronald Creech gave a Bible College overview, "Then and Now."

Bellview Church members raised \$2,800 for Free Will Baptist Bible College in honor of the Dodds. The church also presented a new pulpit to the college in their honor. The oak pul-

pit was installed in Memorial Auditorium in time for the March Bible Conference.

Dr. and Mrs. Dodd were members of the first graduating class at FWBBC in 1944. Dr. Dodd has enjoyed one of the most varied

including the denominational standard, *The Free Will Baptist Story*. His pulpit excellence and his prolific pen have endeared Brother Dodd to the Free Will Baptist people.

Mrs. Sylvia Dodd served as a member of the denomination's Church Training Service Board and as president of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention. She also served as pianist for the McAdams Evangelistic Team.

Both Damon and Sylvia Dodd were born in Missouri. He was converted at age 15

under the preaching of Lizzie and Hiram McAdams, and began pastoring at age 20. Sylvia Dodd was converted at age 10, also during a McAdams crusade.

This tribute to the Dodds came on Dr. Dodd's 77th birthday. Pastor J. M. Creech said, "The Dodds have touched the lives of all of us in this church and many others throughout the world."



(L) Barbara Dodd Tucker, Sylvia Dodd, Damon Dodd, Marilyn Dodd Hudson

ministries among Free Will Baptists. He served five years as executive secretary, four years as Home Missions director and two years as a missionary to Cuba. He also served on the Bible College Board of Trustees and pastored 12 churches in Missouri, Tennessee and Georgia.

One of Dr. Dodd's most well-known skills is that of a journalist. He has written seven books,

Discount Air Fares to National Convention Available

NASHVILLE, TN—Ambassador Travel has secured discounts for air travel to the 1993 FWB National Convention in Louisville. These fares cannot be purchased through another travel agency or with the airlines.

To book airspace at the offered discounted rates, call Ambassador Travel toll-free at **1-800/489-2004**. Ask for **Janice Jakobik** and identify yourself with the Free Will Baptist National Convention.

Advise the Ambassador agent of your name, number of passengers traveling, city of originating flight, correct mailing address, telephone number (home and business).

South Carolina Adopts 'Covenant' Resolution

FLORENCE, SC—Delegates to South Carolina's 51st annual state association passed a six-part resolution regarding use of the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant on the foreign mission field, according to Clerk David Aycok. The resolution requested that the Foreign Missions Board require missionaries to "teach, preach, practice and implement" the *Treatise* and Church Covenant. The resolution extended to accurate translation of the Covenant into foreign languages, with special attention paid to references concerning abstinence from all "sanction of the sale and use of intoxicating beverages."

Copies of the resolution were

sent to each Foreign Missions Board member. Delegates instructed that the resolution be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee at the July national convention in Louisville.

The February 4-5 session met at First FWB Church in Florence. Moderator Earl Hendrix was elected to his 10th term. Eighty-six ministers were among the 142 people who registered for the session.

In other business, delegates passed resolutions reconfirming their opposition to abortion and homosexuality. They also changed the state association constitution and moved the annual state meeting from the first Thursday to the last Thursday

of February. Representation fees were increased to \$95 per church.

Delegates heard five sermons during the two-day meeting in addition to the moderator's message. Speakers included South Carolina pastors Johnnie Bullman, Jimmy Brown and Bobby Bowers, as well as FWBBC staffer Bob Shockey and missionary Ron Moore.

Mr. Robert Lee, an attorney, conducted a seminar on incorporation. He defined the term, explained the steps to take, and discussed both advantages and disadvantages.

The 1994 state association will meet February 24-25 at Parkway FWB Church in Spartanburg.

Ohio Retreat Breaks Record

BIG PRAIRIE, OH—The 18th annual Minister/Layman retreat broke an all-time attendance record with 178 in its January 21-23 meeting at Big Prairie, Ohio, according to Ohio executive secretary Alton Loveless. The meeting attracted key laymen and pastors from every area of the state.

Participants heard Melvin Worthington, executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, and Pastor Larry Powell of Cofer's Chapel FWB Church, Nashville, Tennessee. The conference theme was "The Person and Work of the Man of Prayer."

The men also viewed a video of the new national offices building in Antioch, Tennessee, and received an offering of \$729.18. An additional \$1,100 was added from the registration fees.

The next retreat is scheduled January 20-22, 1994.

Christian Schools Meet in Tennessee

PIGEON FORGE, TN—The Annual Fellowship of FWB Christian Schools met January 11-13 at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, according to President Dennis Wiggs. Fourteen schools were represented. Speakers included Dann and Brenda Patrick, Tag Kilgore, Grant Endicott, Randy Cox, Mickey Kirkland, Tim Rabon and James Pauley.

The meeting also included seminars for women and men, preaching, sightseeing, fellowship and a banquet. All attendees gave a testimony of their conversion and how the Lord has worked in their lives.

The officers were re-elected

to serve another year: Dennis Wiggs, president; Archie Ratliff, vice-president; David Thompson, secretary-treasurer. The 1994 meeting will be conducted in Pigeon Forge January 10-12, 1994. President Wiggs said, "Pastors and principals and their mates who minister in a Free Will Baptist church that sponsors a Christian school are encouraged to attend."

For additional information, contact:

Dennis Wiggs
2709 Oaks Road
New Bern, NC 28560
Phone: 919/638-1297



See the June issue for
convention details about
Contact!

Capital Stewardship Campaign February 1993 Update

State	Goal	Gifts
Alabama	\$ 97,290.00	\$ 1,000.00
Arizona	1,565.00	1,800.00
Arkansas	97,880.00	20,125.52
Atlantic Canada	2,000.00	.00
California	21,925.00	.00
Colorado	1,005.00	1,005.00
Florida	26,365.00	20.00
Georgia	48,620.00	8,785.30
Hawaii	235.00	.00
Idaho	450.00	.00
Illinois	20,600.00	100.00
Indiana	10,020.00	1,000.00
Iowa	340.00	.00
Kansas	1,640.00	.00
Kentucky	45,150.00	923.27
Louisiana	120.00	1,020.00
Maryland	8,675.00	150.00
Michigan	19,250.00	1,553.00
Mississippi	19,815.00	338.00
Missouri	77,025.00	18,854.75
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	2,424.17
Oklahoma	117,505.00	150.50
South Carolina	23,350.00	100.00
Tennessee	100,040.00	20,182.05
Texas	14,705.00	4,185.00
Virginia	30,975.00	405.00
West Virginia	58,840.00	320.00
Other	<u>23,780.00</u>	<u>1,898.85</u>
Totals	\$1,000,000.00	\$87,640.41

FWBBC Offers Tape Series

NASHVILLE, TN—A set of four tapes featuring a study of *Philippians* is available from Free Will Baptist Bible College. The series was preached in chapel in January by members of the Bible faculty.

The series includes:

- Chapter 1: Praying, Preaching, Proceeding with Joy—Stanley Outlaw
- Chapter 2: Joy Through Imitating Christ—Robert Woodard
- Chapter 3: In Christ: Life's Greatest Joy—Ralph Hampton
- Chapter 4: Got Problems? Rejoice Anyway!—Garnett Reid

RECEIPTS:

State	Designated	CO-OP (Undesignated)	Total	Feb. '92	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 12,953.81	\$.00	\$ 12,953.81	\$ 198.14	\$ 31,482.29
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Arkansas	14,784.54	9,971.06	24,755.60	8,434.08	49,584.67
California	.00	1,017.96	1,017.96	1,291.46	2,430.50
Colorado	250.00	.00	250.00	.00	250.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	2,380.88	2,380.88	1,834.03	4,016.51
Georgia	8,889.50	1,738.70	10,628.20	9,247.16	21,641.00
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	73.21	.00
Illinois	.00	93.31	93.31	63.33	6,234.64
Indiana	1,069.59	150.57	1,220.16	450.86	1,872.96
Kansas	.00	37.15	37.15	166.33	86.25
Kentucky	892.27	655.25	1,547.52	327.00	1,647.52
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	150.00	225.00
Michigan	7,907.28	2,185.13	10,092.41	11,228.26	23,652.04
Mississippi	73.19	937.81	1,011.00	145.18	1,819.57
Missouri	10,231.87	.00	10,231.87	8,875.49	21,000.18
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	.00	24.46
North Carolina	1,112.67	391.25	1,503.92	1,401.00	2,226.34
Ohio	3,197.43	2,351.20	5,548.63	2,674.33	9,054.10
Oklahoma	51,561.32	.00	51,561.32	45,103.16	92,831.00
South Carolina	17,237.24	223.18	17,460.42	14,309.90	34,346.95
Tennessee	904.38	916.00	1,820.38	6,675.81	11,158.51
Texas	.00	.00	.00	9,493.21	16,688.67
Virginia	274.17	25.00	299.17	297.51	1,737.80
West Virginia	4,147.28	169.87	4,317.15	6,667.05	8,119.31
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	16.77	16.77	49.46	47.22
Other (Computer)	<u>20.00</u>	<u>.03</u>	<u>20.03</u>	<u>(.05)</u>	<u>20.03</u>
Totals	\$135,506.54	\$23,261.12	\$158,767.66	\$129,155.91	\$342,197.52

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 10,531.15	\$ 14,791.93	\$ 25,323.08	\$ 25,323.10	\$ 50,646.17
Foreign Missions	77,387.02	1,947.91	79,334.93	61,037.73	172,223.47
FWBBC	7,383.67	1,947.91	9,331.58	6,242.05	19,382.23
Home Missions	29,138.25	1,524.45	30,662.70	25,386.26	68,649.32
Retirement & Insurance	1,291.91	1,185.68	2,477.59	2,355.20	5,073.64
Master's Men	1,329.78	1,185.68	2,515.46	2,321.78	5,046.82
Commission for					
Theo. Integrity	147.22	42.35	189.57	111.47	368.50
FWB Foundation	831.39	508.16	1,339.55	1,304.32	2,768.67
Historical Commission	131.97	42.35	174.32	108.89	334.33
Music Commission	111.43	42.35	153.78	83.11	313.79
Radio & TV Commission	123.45	42.35	165.80	102.23	344.70
Hillsdale FWB College	707.84	.00	707.84	834.62	5,210.62
Other	<u>6,391.46</u>	<u>.00</u>	<u>6,391.46</u>	<u>3,945.15</u>	<u>11,835.26</u>
Totals	\$135,506.54	\$23,261.12	\$158,767.66	\$129,155.91	\$342,197.52

The series is available in both audio and video formats—two audio cassettes and/or one video cassette. The audio series costs \$6, plus 10% postage/handling; the video version, \$15 plus 40% postage/handling. All or-

ders must be accompanied by payment.

Send orders with payment to:

Philippians Tapes
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205

CURRENTLY...

Pastor **Hugh Stogsdill** reports 15 conversions at **Bourbon FWB Church** in **Bourbon, MO**. He baptized 11 and received 15 new members into the church.

Members of **First FWB Church** in **Thayer, MO**, dedicated their 10,000-square-foot facility with an all-day service. **Clarence Burton** preached the dedication message. The new auditorium will accommodate 400 people. The old auditorium was remodeled into classrooms and a pastor's study. **Cody Freeman** pastors.

Contact welcomes **Cornerstone**, publication of **Garner FWB Church** in **Garner, NC**. Pastor **Jim Turnbough** reports nine baptisms and 31 new members in three months. The church also increased attendance 20% over the same period a year ago. The congregation's area ministries outreach provided food and clothing for more than 35 families in an ongoing effort to meet immediate emergency needs.

Eighteen months ago only one young person attended Wednesday night services at **Grace FWB Church** in **Broken Arrow, OK**. That has changed and now more than 20 young people participate in Wednesday night activities. **Bob Ketchum** pastors.

Peace FWB Church in **Augusta, GA**, celebrated its seventh anniversary and dedicated its new building. The church is a mission project of the Ogeechee District Association with associate status with the national Home Missions Department. Pastor **Larry Dale Williams** reports 12 conversions.

Members are busy at **Double Branch FWB Church** in **Unadilla, GA**, according to Pastor **Paul Smith**. The group is renovating their fellowship hall into four new classrooms. They plan a \$61,000 construction project on a new fellowship hall/kitchen addition. Pastor **Smith** reports nine new members and six baptisms. The church also purchased a van to use in bus ministry and outreach.

Reverend **Hoyt Findley**, 68, died December 14, 1992. He had been a Free Will Baptist minister 40 years and pastored several churches in middle

Georgia. He helped start two churches in the Georgia Union Association—**Dublin FWB Church** and **New Hope FWB Church**.

Pastor **Dale Burden** reports 162 couples attended the 11th annual Couple's Retreat sponsored by **Gateway FWB Church** in **Virginia Beach, VA**. **Ron** and **Shelly Hamilton** were featured during the retreat. The next couples' retreat will feature **Dickie** and **Deborah Dees** as guest speakers.

The last Sunday in February, Colorado pastor **Mark Thomas** began a revival at **First FWB Church** in **Bakersfield, CA**. Pastor **Claudie Hames** reports 16 conversions during the morning service and four that night. That's a great way to kick off a revival.

Missionary appointee to Bouake, Côte d'Ivoire, **Lloyd Plunkett** may be smarter than the rest of us. During the first two months of 1993 he was in 110 parsonages in 22 states, and it only cost \$70.20 to do all that traveling. How did he manage to do it? He traveled by telephone. The Plunketts pastor **New Hope FWB Church** in **Kent, WA**, and are raising funds for a two-year stint as dorm parents to 20 students at the International Christian Academy at Bouake. The Plunketts leave for Africa in August.

Contact welcomes **News and Views**, publication of **White Oak Hill FWB Church** in **Bailey, NC**. Pastor **Tim Stout** reports Wednesday night service attendance up 20% over a year ago.

After 40 years in the Lord's work, Reverend **E. B. Ledlow** reports a change in his status. He resigned as pastor of **Cooper FWB Church** in **Detroit, AL**, and moved to **Sylacauga** where he will serve as associate pastor and minister to senior citizens at **First FWB Church**. Ledlow pastored Free Will Baptist churches 10 years and spent 10 years in home missions work. He is available for revival meetings and special services in connection with missions and association meetings. Contact him at 801 Magnolia Drive, Sylacauga, AL 35150. Phone 205/245-0017.

Oklahoma evangelist **Wade Jernigan** conducts a radio program titled,

"Grass Roots Evangelism" on a 50,000-watt station. He can be heard Sundays at 1:30 p.m. on station KOLX. The program is underwritten by a Free Will Baptist layman.

Reverend **Harvey Hill** ministers as senior servants pastor at **First FWB Church** in **Winter Haven, FL**. While this is not unusual for Harvey Hill, the fact that he is 80 years old and still does it is unusual. He has been senior servants pastor since 1975. During his ministry, Brother Hill has done it all—youth pastor, associate pastor and 40 years in full-time ministry among Free Will Baptist churches in Florida, Tennessee and Missouri. Pastor **Danny Ryals** and members gave Brother Hill a special love offering for his commitment to the congregation.

The congregation at **First FWB Church** in **Owasso, OK**, really appreciate their pastor, **Leonard Pirtle**. When Brother Pirtle completed his 20th year as pastor at the church, the congregation presented him with a \$10,000 check. Congratulations to both pastor and people.

Guess who is 50 years old! The answer is **First FWB Church** in **Columbus, OH**. Pastor **Edwin Hayes** said that during the church's half-century of service, no fewer than 16 preachers have been ordained from its membership. Another 19 ministers were members at the church and four members became preachers after they left the church.

Pastor **Paul Payne** reports 19 conversions and seven new members at **Westside FWB Church** in **Springdale, AR**.

Jack and **Babe Ferrell** were recognized for 20 years of perfect Sunday School attendance at **Calvary FWB Church** in **Salem, IL**. **Len Scott** pastors.

■

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Flames Enjoy Best Season

By Bert Tippet, Publications Director

Basketball gives FWBBC chance to show off more than court skills.

Do grandparents like to brag about their grandchildren?

Are fishermen proud of a record catch?

Well, that's how we, at Free Will Baptist Bible College, feel about our Flames basketball team.

Here we are, at the close of our seventh season, enjoying our best year to date: 21 wins and five losses, overall. The Flames finished in first place in their division in NCCAA (National Christian College Athletic Ass'n) competition with eight wins and just two losses. Two FWBBC players were chosen for the All-District Team: Coy Gammon of Nashville, and Darin Gibbs of Pleasant View, Tennessee. All of this in a season that saw the Flames on the road more than any year to date, according to Coach Byron Deel.

One of those road trips was to Moore, Oklahoma, where the Flames brought back the trophy from the Free Will Baptist Classic.

The Nashville media have picked up on the team and have given the Flames good coverage, both on the air and in print. Jim Wyatt, a reporter for Nashville's largest newspaper, *The Tennessean*, did a feature on the team, but focused as much on what the guys do off the court as on their accomplishments on the court. For instance, he noted, "Their outlook on life reflects the view of a team that is prouder of its lifestyle than its winning record."

He's right. The Flames have made ministering a vital part of the basketball program. In their travels this year from North Carolina to Florida to Oklahoma, they have worked hard to be good ambassadors for the college and for the Lord. Mr. Wyatt pointed that out to the Nashville community. "On road trips, the players sing, preach and give testimonies at churches," he wrote. "Basketball simply provides the opportunity to enter communities and spread the word of the Lord."

Gammon, a sophomore center, says, "The Lord definitely comes first." Junior Ben Evans, of Nashville, says, "When we lose, we don't like it. But basketball is not our top priority. For me, it probably ranks third here at school. But that doesn't mean I still don't give 100 percent."

Coach Deel is reluctant to brag on his guys, but he can't hide his pride in this year's team. "This has been an enjoyable year," he said re-

cently. "This is a great group of fellows to work with."

Mrs. Deel—Mom, to the team—is *not* reluctant. At the first opportunity, she will tell you how great "my boys" are. She travels to virtually all of the away games and is clearly their most dedicated fan.

President Tom Malone recognizes the contributions of the Flames. He says, "The basketball program has been a good rallying point for the whole school." The college will field a new intercollegiate baseball team this spring and is considering other sports as well.

New Physical Education Programs

The Flames program has been accompanied by the development of new physical education programs at the college. Right now, the school offers a four-year program for physical education teachers and another for athletic trainers.

The program for teachers is structured specifically for those who will teach in Christian schools, but also meets certification requirements for those who elect to minister in public schools. Coach Deel says it prepares a teacher to go into a school and prepare a comprehensive program from scratch.

The new Sports Medicine program for trainers meets the certification requirements set by the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA). In presenting the new program, the Bible College has found an ally in Baptist Hospital, the largest sports medicine center in Nashville and one of the largest in the southeast. Baptist Hospital has given FWBBC access both to its staff and to its facilities.

Present and prospective students have shown a great deal of interest in these programs.

Coach Deel, with all modesty, will have to confess that this has been a good year for the Bible College's sports program. He probably will not betray any optimism about next year, but all of us who know him and have seen what he has accomplished in the past are convinced that the sky's the limit. ■

If you would like a copy of the *Tennessean's* article on the Flames, request one from the college. Write or call. We will be glad to send it to you.



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

When Does a Woman Need a Will?

Check each of the following circumstances or situations in which a woman needs a will.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> She has only one heir. | <input type="checkbox"/> She is a lifetime homemaker with no outside income. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Her assets and property are held jointly with her spouse. | <input type="checkbox"/> She is unmarried. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> She plans to leave a monetary or property gift to the Lord's work. | <input type="checkbox"/> Her husband has a will. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> She has no living relatives or heirs. | <input type="checkbox"/> She is elderly and terminally ill. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> She is a single parent. | <input type="checkbox"/> There will be debts and taxes due at her death. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Her heirs need an estate tax break at her death. | <input type="checkbox"/> She is young and healthy. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> She is a career woman and expects to earn a large salary. | <input type="checkbox"/> Her husband is honest and trustworthy. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Her assets are placed in a Living Trust. | <input type="checkbox"/> Her children can be trusted to do right by each other. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> She is a widow. | <input type="checkbox"/> She expects her assets to total less than \$100,000. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Her children are minors. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> All of her children are grown up and on their own. |

You should have checked all of the above. Regardless of a woman's age, circumstances or status, she needs a will. If she is married both she and her husband need individual wills.

A will assures that her wishes regarding the distribution of her personal or joint held assets and possessions are carried out after death. If she dies intestate (without a will) there is a strong possibility the state will make the decision for her. But, even if there is only a remote possibility, wouldn't she rather be sure? ■

In Honor Of

By

Larry Hawkins

Sand Hill FWB Woman's Auxiliary
Coward, SC

Claudia Coker

Horse Branch FWB Woman's Auxiliary
Turbeville, SC

HOME MISSIONS



First "Together Way Plan" Effort Succeeds!

By Roy Thomas

Free Will Baptists observed *Benjamin Randall Day* on November 22, 1992, with a special offering for the general fund of the Home Missions Department. A total of 545 churches and many individuals gave more than \$154,000 on that special Home Missions Sunday. The department had set a goal of \$100,000 for this first "Together Way Plan" effort. The largest gift of \$3,696.11 came from First FWB Church of Florence, Alabama, where Home Missions Board member, Dr. J. D. Norris pastors.

The pastors and their wives whose churches received the largest offerings of any churches in their Sunday School divisions will go on a *Free Will Baptist Heritage Tour* to New England on May 14. The tour will be paid for by funds given for that purpose. The department hopes the tour will help Free Will Baptist pastors become burdened for the New England area which is so void of gospel-preaching churches. The winning pastors and churches listed here have Home Missions' hearty congratulations:



Benjamin Randall Day is part of the "Together Way Plan" of finance which the denomination has adopted. The Sunday before Thanksgiving each year has been designated as a special day in a united denominational effort to raise a generous offering to underwrite the Home Missions Department general fund expenses.

A copy of *Benjamin Randall's Journal*, published by the Home Missions Department, was sent to every pastor and individual who gave an offering of \$25 or more on Benjamin Randall Day, 1992. The journal gives Free Will Baptists information about the man who began the Free Will

Baptist movement in the northern part of the United States and about the first Free Will Baptist churches in that section. Journal entries reveal the followers of Randall were called "free willers" because of their emphasis on "free will, free grace, and free salvation." Subsequently the new churches adopted the name "Free Will Baptists." They rejected the doctrines of Calvinism and infant baptism that were so prevalent and popular in that day. The newly-formed denomination preached holy, separated living and practiced total abstinence and strict church discipline.

The journal makes for exciting reading as it reveals both the struggles and blessings of Benjamin Randall and his followers. It is the prayer of the Home Missions Department that the journal will help Free Will Baptists appreciate our rich heritage and the biblical system of theology that these early church leaders left for us. May we learn from their early example of cooperation that denominational efforts can succeed if we unite and labor in a common cause. The "Together Way Plan" will work, as the successful 1992 Benjamin Randall Day proves! ■

Category	Pastor/Amount	Church
A (over 500)	Archie Ratliff \$1,500.00	Bethel FWB Church Kinston, NC
B (400-499)	J. D. Norris \$3,696.11	First FWB Church Florence, AL
C (300-399)	Rue Dell Smith \$2,929.01	Phillips Chapel FWB Church Springdale, AR
D (200-299)	Earl Hendrix \$2,200.00	First FWB Church Inman, SC
E (150-199)	Talmdage Brown \$2,272.41	Meadowbrook FWB Church Black Mountain, NC
F (100-149)	Robert Mead \$1,841.00	Forest Valley FWB Church Springfield, OH
G (50-99)	John Edwards \$2,009.91	East Side FWB Church Dothan, AL
H (1-49)	Gene Peak \$2,153.10	N. Orlando FWB Church Apopka, FL



RANDALL HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

The Bible and You

By Herbert Waid

It seems the practice of some is to read and study only the New Testament. The rationale for this practice is sometimes expressed: *The Old Testament is too hard and uninteresting; it is not relevant; and besides, it teaches tithing. If I ignore it, maybe it will go away.* One will have only a superficial understanding of the New Testament if he is not well-grounded in the Old Testament. Most New Testament truths are rooted in the Old Testament.

The Old Testament was the only Bible our Lord read while He was on earth. Whenever the apostles and other early church preachers referred to the scriptures, they meant the Old Testament.

The Old Testament is integrated into the New Testament text. The New Testament writers sometimes quoted, sometimes paraphrased and sometimes alluded indirectly to Old Testament scriptures. An example of an Old Testament text indirectly referred to rather than quoted is Matthew 12:40. Jesus said, "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Please keep in mind the difficulty of counting Old Testament references in the New Testament text. For instance, I chose to count only 107 Old Testament references in the Book of Revelation. Another person counted over 230. Do you count Old Testament verses or passages when more than one verse is used in a reference? I chose to count passages. Do you count paraphrased texts and indirect quotes?

When I perused the 260 chapters of the New Testament, I found 516 Old Testament references. This is almost two Old Testament references for each chapter. Even with a conservative count, it seems evident that New Testament writers under inspiration thought the Old Testament was of great importance and relevant to our time. The point is, if one plans to master the New Testament he also must master the Old Testament.

In the mid-1960's the National Association of Free Will Baptists began writing our own Sunday School literature. Others use the International Sunday School study format that ignores the whole Bible. We chose to be consistent with the Free Will Baptist *Articles of Faith* that begins, "1.

The Bible. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice."

The Free Will Baptist Sunday School adult curriculum recently finished the third cycle of seven years. This means that we have studied through the entire Bible three times in 21 years. We are currently in the first cycle in the new format studying the whole Bible in eight years. The slower pace will allow for more study time in the New Testament while retaining our goal of studying the whole Bible.

Some of our people do not use our denominational Sunday School literature. I hear the excuse from lazy teachers that it is too hard. What is too hard, the Bible? Our Sunday School literature is Bible-saturated.

Our Sunday School literature is true to Free Will Baptist doctrine. Generic Sunday School literature will not teach our church members to be loyal Free Will Baptists. One publisher prints a cover that says, "Free Will Baptist," then puts it on out-dated Southern Baptist Sunday School literature. This deception is even more dangerous than straight generic literature. We have our own Sunday School literature and loyal Free Will Baptists will use it.

We visit our churches and study their statistical reports. It seems that many think the regular study of God's Word is worthless. Is Saturday late night fun better than the Sunday School hour? What are our values?

Are you a diligent student of the whole Bible?



Reprinted by permission from the Georgia *Promotional Bulletin*, official publication of the Georgia State Association of Free Will Baptists.

TEEN SCENE

National Youth Conference

Join us in the river city of Louisville, Kentucky, for the 26th annual National Youth Conference. The Galt House East Hotel will serve as the backdrop and headquarters for this year's event. Our conference theme is "Take a Stand." Sunday morning services will kick off with a service featuring the National Youth Evangelistic Team. New changes will revolutionize the 1993 program. Our evenings will include two new worship services.

Special Worship Services

Children's Worship will be provided each evening for those in grades 1-6. Special programming has been arranged to allow our children to worship in their own special way. Exciting techniques and activities will surprise every young person who attends.

Teen Worship services will also be provided each evening. These services will feature a special worship leader, music and testimonies provided by our teens. Large screen video projection will give everyone a front row seat and allow teens to participate in a worship service designed especially for them. Speakers will address tough topics to help teens "Take a Stand." Evening speakers include Kevin Riggs, Curt Gwartney and Jeff Nichols.

Wednesday evening all ages will join in Exhibit Halls A-B of



the Commonwealth Convention Center for the final conference service.

Competition

Of course no National Youth Conference would be complete without the national finals competition. If reports prove to be true, 1993 will again be a record year for competition entries. Competition will begin Monday morning and conclude with the Wednesday evening Awards Ceremony. The 1994 National Youth Evangelistic Team will be announced at that time.

Special Activities

Our Sunday evening after-service event will feature "America's Funniest Free Will Baptists." Video entries submitted by Free Will Baptist youth groups will be viewed and judged by the audience to determine the "funniest" Free Will Baptist!

Monday evening you'll discover a new missions program

designed for teens and youth groups. Be sure to attend this evening to find out how you can be part of our missions program next summer.

The Youth Banquet will feature fine Kentucky cuisine and a program, "My Old Kentucky Home," presented by Truth and Peace.

The Youth Workers Fellowship will join for a reception Monday evening. This is a change from the usual Wednesday breakfast. Youth workers will share strategies and fellowship as they are introduced to the newly-organized Youth Worker Network sponsored by the Youth Ministries Division.

Wednesday afternoon will be full of seminars for teens and youth workers. The Foreign Missions Department will host an information session on the summer TEAM program. You can find out how you can serve on one of our foreign mission fields.

The Youth Ministries Division will sponsor a Youth Worker Resource Review. This fast-paced session will introduce youth workers to the latest in books, media and curriculum. Other seminar topics include: Creative Children's Ministry, Youth-Based Youth Ministry, and the No. 1, Most Important Thing You Can Do in Your Christian Life!

Join us in prayer and in person for the 1993 National Youth Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. ■

The Randall House Bible Commentary, James; I, II Peter; and Jude

Paul V. Harrison and Robert E. Picirilli

(Nashville: Randall House Publications, 1992, 359 pp., hardback, \$19.95)



Thomas Marberry

This month we will review the latest volume in the Randall House Bible Commentary, a set designed to meet the needs of pastors and others in the Free Will Baptist denomination. This volume marks Dr. Paul V. Harrison's first contribution to the commentary set.

The first portion of this volume examines the book of James. Dr. Harrison confronts the problems of date and authorship in a straightforward and traditional manner. Here recognizes that James is the best example in the New Testament of a type of ancient literature known as paranesis. He includes a helpful analysis of the major features of this type literature.

Harrison examines the canonicity of James in a fair and reasonable manner. He notes that some in the early church questioned including James in the canon because the author was not an apostle and because of the Jewish nature of the book. Some of these same questions were raised in the time of the Protestant Reformation, but the vast majority of Christians recognized the value of this book and wisely chose to include it.

The commentary on James is quite valuable. The author explains the meaning of important words and grammatical constructions; he also demonstrates that when it is correctly understood, the message of James does not contradict Paul's emphasis on salvation by faith.

The commentary on I and II Peter is done by Dr. Robert Picirilli, a veteran writer for Free Will Baptists and the general editor of the series. He analyzes the issues of date, au-

thorship, purpose and destination of these epistles in a fair and comprehensive way. He first calls attention to various possibilities; he then concludes that I Peter was written by Peter from Rome about A.D. 66-68.

In my opinion, it is in the introduction to II Peter that Picirilli makes his greatest contribution. He has devoted years of study and research to the background and interpretation of II Peter, and the fruit of this research is evident. He notes that there was some reluctance by the early church to accept II Peter into the canon. In fact, it was the book which was most disputed.

In his introduction to II Peter, Picirilli demonstrates conclusively that the book was known and used more widely than many writers recognize. He also includes in this introduction an extensive discussion of the book's authorship.

He notes the significant differences in grammar, vocabulary and writing style between I and II Peter. He also notes, quite correctly, that there are significant similarities. He

concludes that the arguments in favor of Petrine authorship outweigh arguments against it.

The final section of the volume is devoted to Dr. Harrison's readable and enjoyable commentary on Jude. The main problems confronted in the study of Jude center upon questions of authorship, the relationship between Jude and II Peter, quotations taken from extrabiblical books, and the identity of Jude's opponents. Each problem is dealt with in a clear and concise manner.

One of the strong points of the entire volume is the quality of the exegesis. Both authors demonstrate considerable facility with the Greek language and how the original language can and must be used if a book is to be correctly interpreted. This commentary comes to no novel conclusions. It is, however, an effective presentation of the traditional Protestant interpretation of these important books.

This is a book of which Free Will Baptists can be justly proud. It deserves a place in every pastor's library. ■

Directory Update

GEORGIA

Russell McAlister to Highway Church, Brinson
Horace Herndon to White Plains Church, Blakely
Henry Bennett to Athens Church, Nicholson
W. G. Turner to First Church, Cairo

TENNESSEE

David Outlaw to First Church, Memphis

MISSISSIPPI

Samuel Nickles to Bethel Church, Richton
Benny McKinney to Bethlehem Church, Pontotoc

OTHER PERSONNEL

E. B. Ledlow to First Church, Sylacauga, AL, as minister to senior citizens from Cooper Church, Detroit, AL, as pastor

Kelly Burcham to First Church, Amory, MS, as principal of Amory Christian Academy

Qualifications for a Pastor

I Timothy 3:1-7



Robert E. Picirilli

What should you look for in a pastor? "Hail, fellow, well met"? Someone who can be anything to anyone? Have you ever wondered how ordaining councils decide whether a person who says he's "called to preach" should be ordained or not? To be frank, they don't—and we don't—always look at the biblical qualifications. Here's what God's Word says.

First there's good reason for thinking that the New Testament often uses the terms *pastor*, *elder* and *bishop* interchangeably. "Pastor" (Greek *poimen*) looks at the role metaphorically: the word means shepherd. "Elder" (*presbuteros*) uses the term the Jews had already grown accustomed to in their synagogues; it indicates a need for maturity. "Bishop" (*episkopos*) literally means overseer, one who watches over. Clearly, this passage is describing that person we call pastor. And the requirements for the job can be subdivided into five categories.

1. Uprightness of character (vv. 2a-3).

a. The general qualification, of which the following are specific manifestations, is "blameless" (*anepileptos*): irreproachable, with nothing in his life that will provide a reason for people to reject his ministry.

b. The six positive characteristics of blamelessness are:

— "Husband of one wife" apparently rules out polygamy and remarriage after divorce. (I don't agree with those who think it also prohibits remarriage of a widower.) At root, this emphasizes the moral blamelessness that would not lead to divorce. Marriage vows are unbroken.

While the Bible may well permit the remarriage of a person "divorced on biblical grounds" (and

isn't that a thorny issue!) without moral guilt, a pastor in such circumstances will experience too many problems to be a candidate for ordination.

— "Vigilant" (*nephalios*) actually means sober, serious-minded, in full possession of one's faculties.

— "Of good behavior" (*kosmios*) suggests well-ordered and so attractive for that reason: respectable, honorable.

— "Given to hospitality" (*philoxenos*) literally implies kindness to strangers and so the quality of being hospitable. This kind of person is quick to lodge and provide for travelers in need.

— "Patient" (*epieikes*) means possessing the virtue that Trenchard called "sweet reasonableness": in other words, being forbearing and easy to work with.

c. The five negative characteristics of blamelessness include:

— "Not given to wine." The Greek word (*paroinos*) literally means "beside wine," thus tarrying in drinking (cf. Prov. 23:30). The pastor must not be "a drinking man"—as we sometimes put it.

— "No striker," not one who strikes out or back (*plektes*) at folks, not pugnacious. (This should probably include striking back with words as well as with one's fists.)

— "Not greedy of filthy lucre" prohibits fondness for gain obtained dishonestly or shamefully (*aischrokerdes*).

— "Not a brawler" (*amachos*) literally means not fighting, thus one who is peaceable rather than contentious and always scrapping with others.

— "Not covetous" (*aphilarguros*): literally, not loving silver or money. A pastor must not be out for money.

2. *Ability to teach (v. 2b)* is what is meant by "apt to teach"—having an aptitude for teaching. In Ephesians 4:11, "pastors and teachers" refer to the same office. Pastor expresses the role metaphorically as that of a shepherd; teacher refers to the primary responsibility. Acts 20:28 indicates that "overseers" (bishops) must feed the flock of God.

The pastor is, first and foremost, a preacher-teacher of the Word of God. In order to carry out that responsibility, he must know it well, be able to apply it to life, and be able to communicate effectively to others. In doing this, he will warn, encourage and instruct.

3. Successful leadership in his family (vv. 4-5).

"House" is household, family. "Rule" (*proistemi*) is literally "stand before" and so to lead, give guidance. A pastor who fails to give successful leadership at home will not be able to "take care of" (*epimeleomai*) the church. And the very switch from "rule" to "take care of" implies that the pastor's leadership is one that grows out of loving concern.

4. *Maturity (v. 6)*. That the pastor must not be a "novice" means he must not be "new": the Greek word is the source of our English "neophyte." In verse 10 below, the idea that one must first be "proved" expresses the same truth.

Before being ordained, a candidate for the ministry of pastoring should be tested and tried and prove himself. If he is given responsibility too soon, he may swell up in pride (literally, "be puffed up") and thus fall under the very same judgment the devil himself fell under.

5. *Respected by unbelievers (v. 7)*. Always in the New Testament, "those without" refers to those outside the

OUR READERS COMMENT

Reader Appalled at Article

I was appalled after reading "Where No Angels Tread" (January issue). I really have trouble believing that anyone would think this sort of behavior from any Christian leader—much less from an associate pastor—would be correct.

The first question that struck me was, "How did they get in?" I assume they purchased tickets, which of course brings to mind the thought of stewardship of our money. Was this the way God's money should have been used?

Then I asked the question, "What did the wives think?" I would have been upset if my husband had been in an arena where girls were exposing themselves and where "T-shirts by the thousands emblazoned with the pictures of nude women" were being sold and worn. If this is proper behavior, then all our pastors and associates should be attending strip bars in their local areas so they can "find out first-hand" what sinners face.

I'm still shocked both at this brother's actions and the printing of these actions, which I refused to let my sons read for fear they would think this was the correct way to minister to teens.

I was pleased that Brother Messer asked the logical question, "Do I advocate getting intoxicated in order to know how the drunk feels?" However, his actions spoke louder than his answer.

I am a firm believer that we cannot cut ourselves off from sinners. We have to be friends with unbelievers in order to reach them for Jesus. I not only believe this, but I practice it. However, I do not have to attend the "sinful" places my sinner friends attend in order to be a true friend to them. In fact, a

Christian is a better testimony when he explains why he does not do the things a sinner does.

I, too, attended the same national convention that Brother Messer attended in Indianapolis. However, I witnessed that night what was probably one of the *best* examples of Christian love and truth presented to a pair of the Guns 'n Roses fans. While many were hurrying to get past "those people" and reach their destination of safety and worship, I was blessed to be walking with my mother-in-law.

As we strolled to the convention center, a young man turned to her and asked, "Are you a fan of Guns 'n Roses?"

She smiled and kindly said, "No, I'm going to church. Want to come?"

He was visibly taken aback and responded, "Uh, no, I've already spent a lot of money on tickets—but maybe some other time."

To which she retorted with the sweetest grin and a twinkle in her eye, "Well, you'd be welcomed."

I asked the Lord to make me more like her, more accepting of everyone no matter what they look like or where they're going. I even prayed for the couple that God would send someone their way to water that seed that she had planted.

We do not have to see "first-hand" all the evils of the devil or go to his places of debauchery in order to wage war against him.

Mrs. Diane Harrison
Nashville, Tennessee

Teacher Says ETA Ideas Work

I just finished reading "Beyond the Yawn" (March issue). It was a very needed article. It was also good to learn that Jonathan Thigpen is working with ETA.

As I read the article, I thought of our own perceptive pastor who recognized the beginning of this problem in our church. Attendance in our worship services was growing but our Sunday School seemed to be sitting still. We were becoming stagnant.

Pastor Jim Turnbough (Garner FWB Church) and associate pastor Scott Bullman are both Bible College graduates and approved teachers for ETA. They suggested some of these classes for present teachers or those who might like to teach in the future. There was good response. We met each Monday night and covered eight study books over a period of two years.

We are now in the third year of having a Christian Education Committee at our church. This committee assists all our departments of education. They have examined literature, classrooms, teachers' needs, problems and solutions.

We don't use gimmicks, not even a lot of contests. We try to concentrate on biblical teaching, using different techniques for teaching, meeting needs, promoting the cause of Christ. Finally, during the last year we have seen remarkable increase. During January 1993 we averaged 152.

I wonder if you would consider following articles to this one by the Thigpens.

Shirley Lee
Junior High Teacher
Garner Free Will Baptist Church
Garner, North Carolina

(Green Tree . . . from page 29)

Christian fellowship. The pastor must have a good reputation in the eyes of the unsaved community about him. This too implies that a new convert is not ready. He must have time to earn respect for his Christian consistency and changed life. Otherwise, he will be a target for discrediting accusation and fall into Satan's trap.

These, then, are the biblical

qualifications, and the ones we should look for. Furthermore, according to verse 1, a person with these qualifications is encouraged to seek the office. "Desire" (*orego*) is a strong word meaning to stretch or reach out for. In so seeking this responsibility, a qualified person desires—another strong word meaning to have a passion for—a good work.

God give us men who qualify.

■

Use a Better Word

I am writing with reference to the article on "Apostasy" in the March issue.

To use the word "lose" in connection with salvation is a misnomer. You never make a deliberate choice to "lose" something. If you do you have not lost it because you know when it left your possession, where it is, and you can recover it at will.

To "lose" takes on the idea of unknowingly, accidentally or unwillingly being separated from something. That could never be the case should a saved person commit apostasy. If a believer becomes an apostate it would be by design, knowingly, and by deliberate choice. Maybe "forfeit" would be a better word.

Reverend Randy Cox, Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Raleigh, North Carolina



Jack Williams

The Million-Dollar Letter

Yesterday I did something I've never had the nerve to do before. I asked a man for \$1 million. No kidding. I put those words in a letter in plain English and mailed it to a local businessman.

Will he give me the million dollars? I don't know. But I suppose the worst he can do is say no. I hope.

What prompted me to ask such a thing of such a man on Monday morning? I asked on behalf of a project that's too big for me to handle alone. I asked for \$1 million to help fund the National Offices Building, the new Free Will Baptist ministry center in Antioch, Tennessee.

Mind you, for years I've made financial arrangements to buy cars and pay college tuition. And even buy a house. But this project is way out of my league. When the dollars get to seven figures, it's time to call in the heavy hitters.

Why did I ask him specifically? Because he has the resources to do it. I don't know anybody else who could give \$1 million even if they wanted to do it. Do you?

If I'd wanted \$20, I could've asked my brother the policeman in Gravette, Arkansas. He'd probably send me \$20 if I asked nice and told him why I wanted it. But I need a truck load of \$20-bills. No need to ask for that much from somebody on a cop's salary.

That's why I asked this businessman. I also asked him because he's a Christian and understands the cost of worldwide outreach. He knows something about the urgency of this matter.

I asked him because it's the right thing to do. That is, it's the right thing for a Christian businessman to consider doing. It's the right time, the right cause, and he's the right man with the resources to do some-

thing about it.

You're wondering what gave me the nerve to ask a man for \$1 million. The answer's simple—it's the \$1.4 million Capital Stewardship Campaign that we adopted at the national convention. How many people am I asking for \$1 million? Just one.

What about everybody else? What do we ask Free Will Baptists to give? Get ready for a shock because you're not gonna believe it. We're only asking \$5 each from ourselves!

I think I can handle that. In fact, I know I can. Hold it a minute. There. I just wrote a \$10 check. It's number 3855 if you want to verify it with the bookkeeper. That check pays my fair share for my wife and me on the Capital Stewardship Campaign.

Now it's your turn. Since most of you are like me, I know you can't give \$1 million. No need to feel guilty about that; I don't. But you can do two things.

First, you probably know some businessman who needs a tax write-off. This is the perfect tax write-off. Receipts from the National Association of Free Will Baptists make accountants smile through the most meticulous IRS audits.

Ask a business colleague to give \$50,000 or \$10,000. They won't give if you don't ask. Write or call the Executive Office and we'll send you a 12-minute professionally-produced video about the new ministry center and a 12-page brochure explaining the Capital Stewardship Campaign.

All the materials you need are here. And they're free. They're ready to be used in your home, your church or wherever you may wish to distribute them.

The other thing you can do, and this is important, is to write a personal check to pay your fair share

of the \$1.4 million Capital Stewardship Campaign. Don't expect somebody else to do what you won't do. Do it now while you're thinking about it.

Remember, this is our vision, our new ministry center, our financial obligation, our opportunity. Do something today that will make a big difference tomorrow.

Eleven years ago I wrote an editorial titled "The Million-Dollar Preacher." So many publications reprinted it that we saw "million-dollar preachers" for months afterward in other magazines and newsletters.

Last year I wrote an information piece about the national convention for the back cover of the Free Will Baptist bulletin service titled "The Million-Dollar Meeting." You'll probably see that one sometime this summer.

And yesterday, I wrote "The Million-Dollar Letter" to a businessman. Just one person will read it. Which writing will have the most far-reaching impact? No one knows.

We don't expect a million-dollar letter from you today. But we do need something more important—your \$5 check that says you're doing your part in the Capital Stewardship Campaign. That's all I'll say on the subject. Now it's up to you and your checkbook.

Uh oh. I just had an uncomfortable thought about that letter I sent yesterday. A man with enough resources to give a million dollars can do something a lot worse to me than say no. I'll keep you posted. Or somebody will. ■

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P. O. Box 5002

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