

JULY 1993

# CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

## One in Spirit



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**Unity**

.....  
Reason to Live

.....  
Teen Viewpoint

.....  
Price of Freedom

.....  
The Calvary Riders

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JULY 1993

VOLUME 40, NO. 7

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**Editor-in-chief:** Dr. Melvin Worthington  
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**Circulation:** Dari Goodfellow  
**Printed by:** Randall House Publications

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

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

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

and additional offices.

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USPS 130-660

# THE SECRETARY SPEAKS



Melvin Worthington

## Take Care of Business

**I**t's that time again! The National Association convenes July 18-22 in Louisville, Kentucky. This is the most significant denominational meeting of the year—our annual business meeting. The business demands our best for we are preserving our history, perpetuating our heritage and producing our heroes.

Denominational business is big business. Those responsible for denominational ministries are called to accountability when the National Association meets.

The importance of denominational business was brought into clearer focus during my recent search through national convention minutes. I was amazed at the Temperance Committee reports (1943-1964) and by the resolutions adopted (1935-1992). My heart thrilled as I read the carefully crafted reports and resolutions. I was reading Free Will Baptist history. Three things captured my attention.

### *The Information*

The position of Free Will Baptists on issues such as separation, abortion, intoxicating beverages, homosexuality, education, dress, amusements and other issues surfaced in the reports and resolutions. When one wants to determine what position Free Will Baptists hold on issues, the records are available.

Reading our history provides the framework for flexibility, firmness and fairness when debate, deliberation and decisions must be made. Understanding our history provides insights which give direction to our denomination.

### *The Inspiration*

My heart overflowed with joy as I read reports and resolutions which reflect my Free Will Baptist heritage. We have a great heritage, one that we must not be ashamed of. From the beginning of my Christian experience in North Carolina, even before I was converted, my family attended Reedy Branch FWB Church and Ayden FWB Church. My Free Will Baptist heritage extends over 200 years.

I was converted in 1954, ordained in 1957 and entered the pastorate in 1959. The reports and resolutions prior to 1954 claimed my attention. What did I belong to? Where did the denomination stand on specific issues? I discovered that Free Will Baptists have a long and distinguished heritage. Understanding our heritage provides the inspiration to leave a legacy for those who follow.

### *The Individuals*

One intriguing element of the reports and resolutions was to notice

when various individuals surfaced. Each report and resolution is followed by a list of names. Some individuals were well-known, established leaders, while others were relatively unknown.

It seems that Free Will Baptists did not cater to big-name preachers or leaders but all were on equal footing. We did not bow at the shrine of some magnetic or charismatic personality but welcomed leadership at every level of the denomination.

Free Will Baptists have one hero—Jesus Christ. He has always been our focal point. Giving undue honor to human personalities has been the source of disharmony and division. The denominational structure provides opportunity for many to serve as leaders rather than a few elite. Nothing is more apparent when one reads our reports and resolutions.

Our denomination seeks to be Christ-centered.

The Temperance Committee reports and the Resolution Committee reports (1935-1992) proved to be more than I expected. I became more aware of our history, our heritage and our Hero.

Perhaps you have never enjoyed denominational business meetings. Remember that in the years to come others will read our reports and resolutions and find that you had a part in directing the denomination through your participation in the annual business meeting.

Join with me in Louisville, and let's take care of National Association business. Take advantage of this opportunity to make a difference. ■

### *The Secretary's Schedule*

|                     |                                                  |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| July 8              | Directors Prayer Retreat<br>Antioch, TN          |
| July 13-17          | Pre-Convention Meetings<br>Louisville, KY        |
| July 18-22          | National Convention<br>Louisville, KY            |
| July 22-23          | Post-Convention Meetings<br>Louisville, KY       |
| July 30 -<br>Aug. 1 | Mexican National Convention<br>Monterrey, Mexico |

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## Eleven ways to strengthen . . .

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# Free Will Baptist Unity

By Jeff Crabtree

**U**nity in diversity. This is a noble goal for any group with differences as diverse as those found among the constituency of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. A casual reading of *Contact* and responding editorials, a visit to our denominational meetings whether on the quarterly, state or national levels, or simply a friendly discussion with a fellow Free Will Baptist will illustrate that diversity reigns.

The same readings, meetings and conversations will also illustrate that in many instances unity is absent, for diversity has become division. Free Will Baptists can encourage unity by promoting diversity and abhorring division.

### Biblical Basis of Unity

#### *Conversion*

Free Will Baptists should recognize the relationship between conversion and unity. Biblically defined, unity is the state of oneness. It is both where we begin at conversion (Eph. 4:3-4) and where we end as the matured body of Christ (Eph. 4:13). Unity is not optional in the body of Christ. It is part of the salvation package.

#### *Diversity*

Free Will Baptists should recognize that unity does not deny diversity. Christ guaranteed diversity when He gave differing gifts. Rather than to divide, these gifts were Christ's method of bringing this multi-membered body into strong unity (Eph. 4:7-16).

#### *Forgiveness*

Free Will Baptists should recognize that forgiveness promotes unity. Bury the hatchet *and the handle*. Jesus concludes the model prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 by teaching the importance of forgiving others. If we refuse to forgive those who sin against us, God will not forgive us when we sin against Him. There's a fine line between hurt and hate. Be careful.

Admit that division in the body of Christ is a spiritual problem, whether between laity or leadership, and work to maintain unity in the body of Christ. Be forgiving.

#### *Love*

Free Will Baptists should recognize that love encourages unity. First Corinthians 13 was written in the context of "members in particular"

(1 Cor. 12:27) who needed to promote unity instead of division. Biblical love will go a long way in preventing division and healing wounds caused by division.

#### *Oneness*

Free Will Baptists should recognize that division in the body of Christ is never condoned in scripture. Do not use the Paul-and-Barnabas episode (Acts 15:37-40) as scriptural permission for division. Luke does not tell us who was right or who was wrong.

This passage is surely not intended to be normative for subsequent generations of Christians. It is mainly a record of historical fact, the same as much of the book of Acts. Would it not be hypocritical for Paul to write I Corinthians just a short time after this when he and Barnabas were themselves divided? Perhaps we need to reevaluate our understanding and proposed application of this Acts passage.

### Benefits for the Denomination

#### *Bury Old Issues*

Free Will Baptists should be willing to move past old issues. Bury the carcasses of past arguments

before the grave receives us. History is instructive and for that reason each generation needs to be informed of the past. However, animosities do not need to be passed on to successive generations.

### *Prepare the Next Generation*

Free Will Baptists should prepare the next generation for a unified effort. Children need to be taken to church meetings, church business meetings, quarterly meetings, yearly meetings, state association meetings and the meetings of the National Association. The lack of dedication seen in parents who will not bring their children to church on Sunday and Wednesday evenings is appalling. Why? Because it is true that more lessons are caught than taught.

Children are learning that one service a week is adequate for spiritual survival. They neither want nor feel that they need an entire day set aside for the worship of the Lord. They are learning that commitment to a school function is more important than commitment to the work of the Lord in and through the local church.

Young people show their own values and those of their parents when they give up church commitments for long blocks of time and then expect these positions back during school breaks and summer vacation. They have learned that what they want to do takes precedence over consistency in the work of the Lord.

Free Will Baptist youth are also learning that attending church conferences is not important and is not a binding part of the church covenant. The size, infrequency of meetings and great diversities require years of involvement for complete understanding of the workings of this Free Will Baptist denomination.

Who in the upcoming generation will understand the workings of the denomination enough to love it and keep it going? Who will work to keep Free Will Baptist efforts united?

Free Will Baptist children need to be raised in the Free Will Baptist organization. Attend the meetings. Take your children with you. Participate in the meetings in a positive

and informed manner so the next generation will want to serve the Lord in the Free Will Baptist ranks.

### *Worship Together*

Free Will Baptists should visit sister Free Will Baptist churches and conferences when possible, especially those that do things differently than you do. Visiting will show interest and concern for these fellow believers and it may show a godly sincerity which had not been recognized before. Traveling a distance to worship with someone breaks down many barriers to unity.

### *Listen to Others*

Free Will Baptists should be eager to hear the ideas of others. If each generation is responsible to reach its own generation, we must be willing to allow them to do that in their own way. Myopic vision is tolerable for the mule who needs to see only the single row, but it is an impediment for the farmer who needs to work the whole field.

The new ideas of the past are the old ideas of the present. The new ideas of today will be the old ideas of tomorrow. Effectiveness and efficiency in the Lord's work is our goal. Increase your visions. Allow the old and new ideas of others to sharpen your axe (Eccl. 10:10; Prov. 27:17). Your effectiveness might increase.

### *Accept People*

Free Will Baptists should learn to separate individuals from incidental issues. Allow the Lord to minister to you through preachers with whom you disagree and through singers from Christian ministries you do not personally support. Paul admitted late in life that John Mark had changed and now the apostle himself was in need of Mark's ministry (II Tim. 4:11).

### *Cooperate*

Free Will Baptists should be willing to cooperate with the efforts of others, even if their burden is different. Cooperation suggests teamwork, not sinful compromise. I like what J. Vernon McGee said. In a

November 2, 1992, broadcast of an earlier message, he said, "I need all the friends I can get. I will not separate from those who agree with me on the essentials but disagree on the incidentals."

Also, there must be some cooperation between believers whose standards are not the same. Conversion does not eradicate all traces of the old nature. Progressive sanctification as well as instantaneous, positional sanctification which takes place at conversion are both present in the lives of all believers. Progressive sanctification is present in varying degrees, positional sanctification is not.

We may not like it, but the Corinthians were addressed as "sanctified . . . saints" (I Cor. 1:2) and called immature, "babes in Christ" who were "carnal" (I Cor. 3:1, 3). In I Thessalonians 5:14 Paul mentions four types of believers in the church: the lazy, the discouraged, the spiritually weak, and the strong who are to be patient toward the others.

Weak believers are still in the body of Christ. Rather than try to excise them, the strong are to patiently minister to them and encourage them to grow.

Diversity is not a scriptural problem but disunity is. In fact, it is a spiritual problem. As Free Will Baptists, let us lovingly promote unity in diversity. ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Jeff Crabtree pastors First Free Will Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia. He also serves as Virginia's promotional director and General Board member.

Where will the Free Will Baptist denomination be 10 years from now?



# A Teen Point of View

By Jill Goodfellow



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**W**here will the Free Will Baptist denomination be in a decade? That's a difficult question to answer since none of us can predict the future. Yet, we must keep this question in focus if we plan to expand. A year ago *Contact* published an article by the moderator of the National Association expressing where he thought Free Will Baptists would be in 10 years and what we need to do to advance in that direction.

My assignment was to answer the same question from a slightly different point of view—the younger point of view. I knew what I wanted to say, and I had my ideas on paper. The problem was to catch the readers' eyes and hold them captive until I finished. What makes me interested in the future of our denomination? I want to see this denomination grow, but I feel like we really are not getting anywhere.

## Back to Basics

The idea that has been thrown around lately is that the future of our denomination has been placed

in our hands. I agree, however, before we begin to work on expanding our denomination and its influence, perhaps we should adopt a phrase that became popular last year: "getting back to the basics."

We have lost the power and drive that early Christians had when they began this country. Whatever happened to tithing regularly, prayer and fasting in times of need, and really having a burden for the unsaved? These practices are sharply declining among our churches. If we do get back to the basics with the right attitude, everything else will begin to fall into place.

Of course, that does not mean we can sit back and do nothing. On the contrary, I believe that God will open doors for us that we never dreamed possible. These basics are what we should instill in the hearts and minds of the younger generation. That's where the future of our denomination truly lies.

We youngsters will begin to take over the positions you all presently hold. Yet, it takes more than sharing the wonders of God; we must all live it. People learn best through example. Unfortunately, sometimes the

examples shown to the younger generation fall short of being Christ-like.

We, as the younger generation, are the first to spot and despise hypocrisy. Those in leadership positions must be careful how they live out their lives. Actions speak louder than words. In defense of our leaders now, I reprimand those of us in the younger generation who are so apathetic and quick to be judgmental. We need to be reminded that we will all make mistakes. If God can forgive, then certainly so can we.

## Push for Unity

To ensure the growth of Free Will Baptists in a decade, we must maintain unity. One of the hindrances to denominational unity is our differences. Because of our Protestant background, we believe in the commoner's right to read and interpret the Bible instead of a clergyman appointed over us. Occasionally, our standards (*not doctrines*, but standards) greatly differ. Instead of tolerating these differing opinions, we bicker with each other over nothing.

Sometimes I wonder if we truly

love each other, much less those who are unsaved and headed for an eternal life in Hell. We have the most incredible bond in all the world; we have accepted the love of Jesus Christ and are now attempting to give that kind of love in return. Should we not be encouraging our Christian brothers and sisters instead of tearing them down?

This is an area that we need to work on as Free Will Baptists. If not, 10 years from now, the non-Christians won't believe the agape love that we preach, because we will have little among ourselves. Observing how many in our denomination behave when confronted with differing opinions frustrates those of us who are the younger generation.

In contrast, how exciting in December 1991 when the first Free Will Baptist Classic basketball tournament was held between our four colleges. Finally, we had a chance to reconcile differences that had caused hard feelings in the denomination for years. Hopefully, the younger generations' eyes will be opened to see that we are all on the same team, working together to accomplish great things for the Lord.

### Learn to Care

Once old wounds begin to heal, we may concentrate more on outreach to the unsaved. Just exactly where are we headed? Statistics show that within a few years, our present missionaries, pastors and other denominational leaders will retire into other forms of Christian work. The younger generation will take their places. I believe there should be a push here and now to disciple and train those of us who will follow in order to carry on the heart of what this denomination stands for.

The problem lies not only in lack of training, but lack of interest on our part. Apathy has begun to set in among our young people. Interest in outreach falters because we as young people do not receive the ministry to ourselves that we need. In turn, we have nothing to share.

We live in a cruel world, and our Christianity does not make us impermeable to problems life throws our way. The pain that Christian

teenagers go through often seems immeasurable. It also goes unnoticed. Teenagers today hide their fears well.

Take time out to pray for the young people at your church. Take time out to stop and ask them how they are doing, and be sincere about it. They probably will not open up to you, but just to know that someone cares enough to ask will mean a lot to them. You may never know what an impact you have made on someone's life.

Trust me, I will never forget those who prayed for me and are continuing to pray through the difficult times in my life. Make sure there is a strong youth group in your church. Push youth activities that will bring the group closer. That is just one more place for a young person to go where he knows people care about him and his needs.

Young people face problems now that were not prominent 10 years ago. If we do not minister to their needs, it will only get worse. Once this generation has its needs met, they will be better equipped to minister to the needs of their unsaved peers.

Help teens see that good can come out of a bad experience. One day, they may be able to help another who goes through a similar ordeal—whether it be a Christian brother or an unsaved friend.

### Practice Biblical Stewardship

Another problem that will affect the ministry of the younger generation in years to come and that is beginning to affect Christian ministry now, is lack of financial giving. Our Christian organizations are in great financial need, and it is only through our giving that these institutions continue.

We need our Free Will Baptist colleges; we need to continue supporting our missionaries; we especially need to keep giving to our churches. The less we give, the greater the burden on the individual trying to do God's work.

It's heartbreaking to hear of missionaries whose accounts are in the red. It's discouraging to those of us interested in the mission field. The same goes for those in college. The

less you give to the institution, the more the student is forced to pay. Quite a few students are unable to pay their school bills. How sad that such potential for the Lord goes to waste because we will not give.

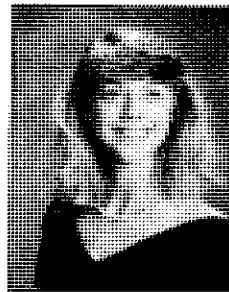
Remember the widow who gave everything? Do not be satisfied with giving only 10 percent. Pick a missionary or college student to support. Your gift now could make a great impact on our future. It is through these institutions that our young people are being instructed and disciplined on how to effectively minister.

We are not only receiving Christian training but an education in other areas. If we are not careful, our ignorance will be our downfall.

Many laity ask: what can I do that will make a difference? Maybe the question should be, what can you *not* do that will *not* make a difference? Do you want to feel good about the youth of the denomination? Then give some of your time. Our denomination could be doing amazing things 10 years from now, for God's glory, not our own.

Never close doors that are not in line with our traditions; it could be God's opening for us to walk through. Always be willing for change, but approach it with caution. Reach out to those in need; love each other like Christ loves us. Pray without ceasing, and continue to set goals for our denomination. We will work harder if there is something specific to be obtained.

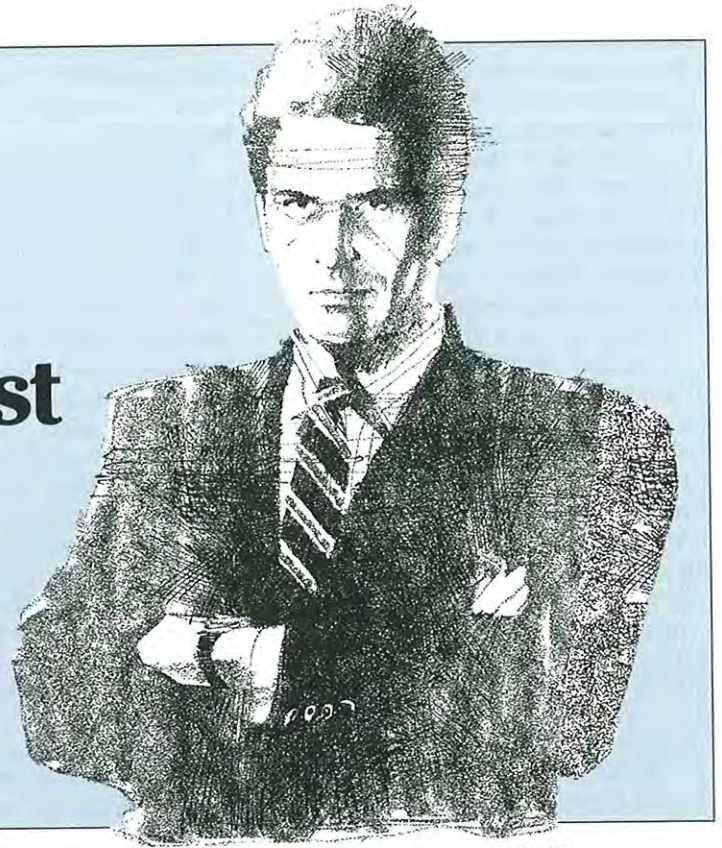
I am casting my lot with the Free Will Baptist denomination. I want to do my part to make the dream a reality. I plan to be here 10 years from now. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Jill Goodfellow is a rising junior at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee.

# I Am a Free Will Baptist Because . . .

By Damon C. Dodd



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**W**hen I united with the Free Will Baptist church in my Missouri hometown in 1932, I had a completely new experience. Brought up in a non-church going family, I was not versed in what I should or should not do.

It all started just before my junior year in high school when a friend asked me if I were a Christian. When I tried to evade the issue, he pressed me for an answer. He was a young Free Will Baptist minister and I had deep respect for him, so I told him I had never accepted Christ. He invited me to the revival at his church, and I accepted his invitation.

## Conversion

The first night I was not impressed with the preaching, but I returned the next night and went forward to kneel at the altar to receive Jesus into my life. As I knelt there I was surrounded by people I had never known. As they prayed silently for me, an older lady knelt by my side and with an open Bible pointed out the way to salvation step by step.

Before long I stood before the congregation to give my testimony.

Those who had knelt in prayer with me stood around me and gave me courage and support.

The next Sunday morning I went forward at the pastor's invitation to unite with the church. Again my group was with me shaking my hand, smiling, hugging and giving me a lovely welcome into their church.

## Caring People

From that day on I was one of them. They taught me the Word of God through a well-prepared Sunday School teacher. I was encouraged to read the Bible and set aside regular prayer time. It was the most beautiful relationship I had ever known.

When they learned that my mom was backslidden, they went to her and invited her into their fellowship, and soon she joined the church. I talked to my younger brother and he came to church and was saved. Each time that same group poured out their love and joy upon them and received them as lovingly as they had received me.

As I grew in the Lord, my church found a place for me to serve. I was assigned to a junior boy's Sunday

School class, and how I loved it. The music director asked me to sing in the choir and I did my best.

If I had been asked then why I was a Free Will Baptist I would have answered quickly, "Because they led me to Christ, showed their love and concern and adopted me into their church family."

## Spiritual Growth

After more than 60 years of service and fellowship in the Free Will Baptist denomination, that would be my answer today.

But that's not all! As I have grown in the Lord, many things come to mind that provide further grounds for my Free Will Baptist persuasion and connection. As I continued my service in the church, doors continued to open for me to help me mature in the faith.

I learned about tithing and began to practice it. World missions was my next discovery, and I was fascinated with the idea of the church going out with the message of salvation. The doctrines of the church were so clearly stated in terms of biblical authority, and I was amazed that they were so plain and simple.



I hesitated at the ordinance of feet washing. But when I finally took part in the quarterly service at our church I had a feeling of really being in the family of God and having the respect and love for my brothers in the church like never before.

Where could I ever have had such positive experiences of growth in spiritual things and love for my Lord as in the Free Will Baptist denomination and through the wonderful people there.

### God's Call

So I am a Free Will Baptist today because I feel that this is God's choice for me. I believe it was and is God's will for me to be a Free Will Baptist churchman.

Near the end of my first year in the church I began to deal with something I could not understand. Deep down in my soul I felt the urging of the Holy Spirit to surrender my life for a greater, more personal service. I prayed earnestly for the courage to respond to this moving in my heart and for some kind of a hint as to its direction.

One Sunday morning my former Sunday School teacher asked me if I felt called to the ministry. The same Sunday morning a dear saint of God who was a spiritual mother to us all asked me the same question. I went to the pastor with my dilemma, and he told me the Lord had been dealing with him about my call to the ministry.

I prayed and wept trying to get the courage to admit my calling. And then exactly a year from the Sunday on which I had joined the church, I stood before the congregation of First Free Will Baptist Church in Flat River, Missouri, and confessed my calling. The church responded by voting to license me to preach the gospel.

I say with new emphasis and thanksgiving that I am Free Will Baptist because through the ministry of a caring, sharing, loving church family, a Free Will Baptist church family, God opened the doors and called me into the ministry of the gospel preaching and impressed upon me the world as my parish.

### Miracle People

Our denomination is small as national church organizations go. I do not particularly love smallness in itself, but our being small has given God a greater chance to work through us. We have neither the numbers nor financial assets to operate on our own.

We have learned that God's miracles have for us taken the place of numbers. We have seen His miracles in bringing our scattered remnants together in 1935 to form our National Association. There was a miracle again in 1942 when Free Will Baptist Bible College became a reality.

Our world missions program had not functioned since 1910 until 1935

when God's hand on a south Georgia young lady resulted in her going to India to once more get us into world missions. Recently, we witnessed and had part in the greatest financial miracle we have seen among us—\$400,000 given in three months to meet a serious crisis in our college in Nashville.

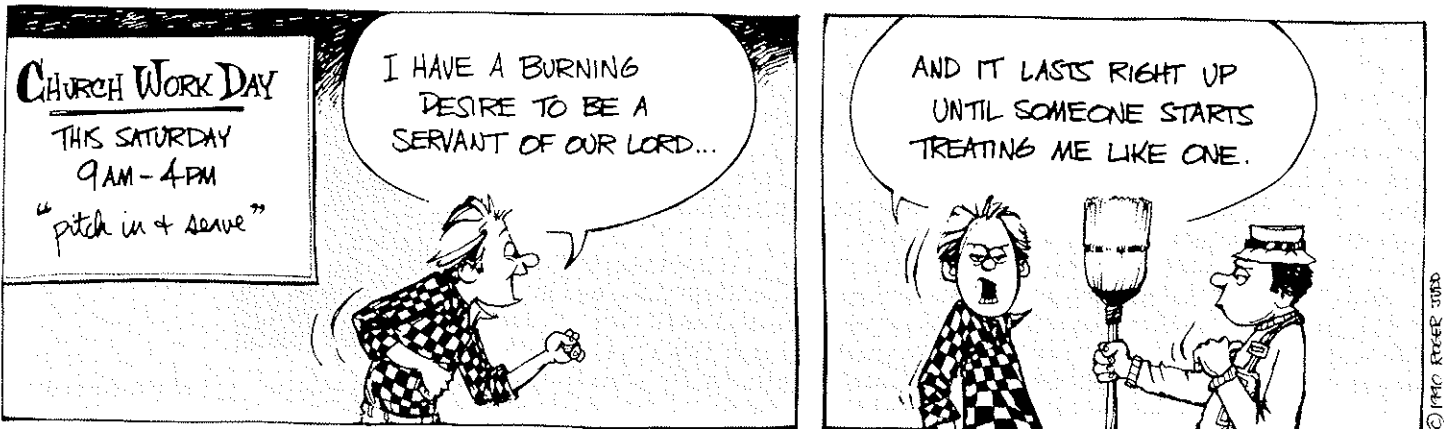
We are truly a denomination of miracles. We'll see many more of the same as the need arises.

I'm honored and blessed of God to be both on the believing and receiving side of these wonderful happenings. I'm glad to be a Free Will Baptist because the miracles of God have revived and sustained us over the years. Soon He is going to make us part of the greatest miracle of all—raising us from this mundane, insufficient state in which we now find ourselves to the fullness and perfection of eternal and heavenly glory. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Damon C. Dodd is a retired Free Will Baptist minister who resides in Colquitt, Georgia.

## BEYOND BELIEF



# Fire Burns

By Paul Harrison



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## Freedom's Boundary

**O**ur government is in the process of changing its stance on homosexuality. While there are many practical considerations in this matter, not the least of which is the raging AIDS epidemic, it should be noted that the root of America's negative attitude toward homosexuals is embedded in the soil of morality. Sodomy, as well as other aspects of homosexual behavior, has been considered immoral. On this basis, it has been listed as a violation of law for a long time. For good or bad, it appears that we are about to change this.

Of course, other laws with obviously moral foundations have been wiped off the books. Abortion on demand, since 1973, is now legal. What many consider to be obscene materials, whether on TV, radio or in *Playboy*, are now legal. Once they were not. Now they are.

## A Higher Law

So the question arises: Is there any basis for enduring laws? Or is what we allow as a society totally up to our national attitude at the time? We should also ask: Does legalization make something right? Or is there a higher law, a moral law, which supersedes our Supreme Court?

Dorothy Sayers, the outstanding Catholic thinker of earlier this century, explained moral law along these lines. If our legislators decide to put up a stop sign at Cross Timbers Drive and Sawyer Brown Road, this becomes law. If in five years they choose to change it to a yield sign, the law changes. Such matters fall within their range of authority.

However, if all the governments of the world get together and pass a law that fire doesn't burn, nothing will be changed. Fire will still inflict injury in spite of man-made laws to the contrary. Fire operates accord-

ing to a higher authority. Its nature is beyond our legislative process.

So it is in moral matters. We may pass laws and legalize all sorts of activity, as we once did with slavery. But if the activity is immoral, our law is like commanding fire not to burn. It is useless.

Actually, it's worse than useless, since issues of morality are not always as clear as the fact that fire burns, and some people act on our bad legislation and are burned morally. Moral burns, by the way, are often of the third degree.

## Lessons from History

The German Erich Honecker illustrates this higher law. This Nazi leader was following the laws of the land when he issued shoot-to-kill orders to his soldiers in East Germany. Or take the case of the German soldiers who escorted to the gas chambers millions of Jews whose only crime was to be born in the Semitic line.

Were they exempted from blame simply because they were following Hitler's orders? The world has said no, and well it should. We all recognize that a weightier law existed than that which the Fuhrer imposed.

Our founding fathers recognized that basic agreement on this higher law was necessary for our country to maintain peace, law and order. John Adams argued: "We have no government armed in power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. . . . Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people."

The recent L. A. riots portend the coming vacuum where this morality once resided. And rest assured, to dismiss basic morality is to embrace a riotist attitude in which the individual's desire for free expression strangles societal law.

Such talk may shock many in our individualist society where for some time personal rights have been enthroned, but it should not. Absolute freedom, though attractive in the world of rhetoric, may issue in the world of reality either in weal or woe.

As Edmund Burke warned: "The effect of liberty to individuals is, that they may do what they please; we ought to see what it will please them to do, before we risk congratulations."

This acknowledgment of the public's liability to error reminds us that restraint upon personal freedom is not necessarily evil.

Benjamin Franklin went to the heart of the matter when he analyzed the purpose of law: "Vicious actions are not hurtful because they are forbidden, but forbidden because they are hurtful." On this basis we would be remiss to legalize behavior that works against the well-being of our citizenry.

In the midst of changing attitudes and legislation, thoughtful citizens had better reflect on what holds a society together: a moral consensus. And before we throw to the wind what our fathers established, we'd better make sure that we're not commanding fire not to burn. ■



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

# The “Under-Wear and Tear” of Youth Ministry

By Michael Hollifield

Someone had been there. I was puzzled as I walked through the gate into our back yard. Why had the wheel barrow been moved from beside the gate into the middle of the yard? My wife and daughter were out of town, and I was tired from a two-hour drive. I shrugged and turned the key in the door.

I saw it . . . staring right at me . . . as if laughing. It was stretched from one side of the den to the other, over and around the ceiling fan to the entertainment center, over the baby’s playpen to the couch into the kitchen. Toilet paper! Toilet paper everywhere!

I burst into laughter as I further assessed the damage. Along with the toilet paper, our furniture had been inconveniently rearranged in three rooms. Shoes and towels were suspended from the ceiling and walls and the ceiling fan had donned four pair of my underwear. Each pair had its own blade!

Teenagers!

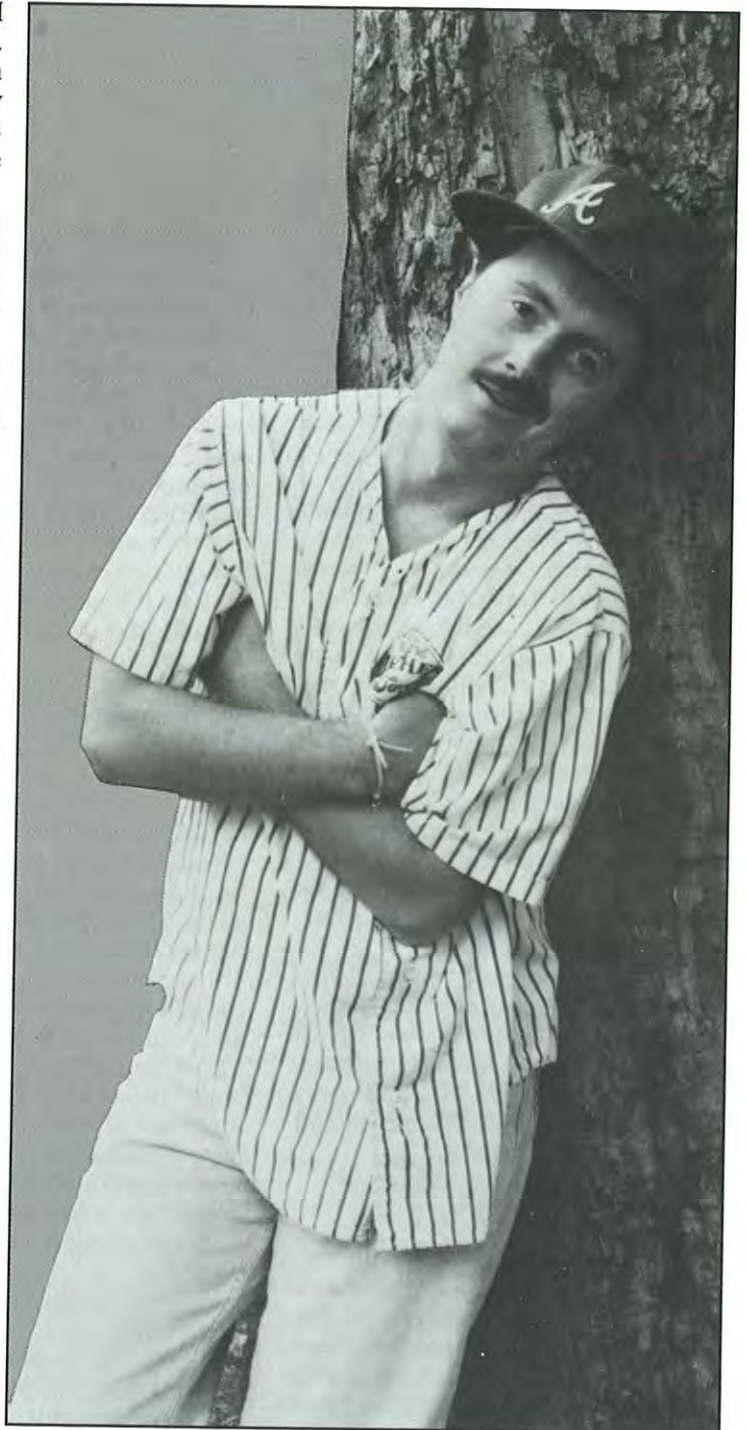
After investigating every other room and closet in the house, making sure no predators remained behind to scare the wits out of me later in the night, I gave my wife a call. She and our daughter were visiting her family in Arkansas. I wanted to share this joyous occasion with her.

Many people wonder why anyone would ever choose youth ministry for their vocation. On the surface, youth ministry is not all that glamorous. To many, it’s merely baby-sitting while the adults have their services and meetings. To others, it’s the step before “real” ministry—the pastorate.

To me, it is my life. It is “real” ministry. I am a pastor, a shepherd to a flock of teens that God has entrusted into my care. I intend to stay a youth minister as long as God lets me.

Amid the sea of toilet paper, upset furniture and spinning underwear, one other crime was evident. Money was taken from my daughter’s piggy bank and strewn on the floor. Dimes and nickels were arranged to read, “We love u Mike.”

Why am I a youth minister? I love teenagers. It’s that simple. But the icing on the youth ministry cake is when they love me back. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER Michael Hollifield is minister of youth at Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

Reprinted with permission from *The Donelson Dispatch*, April 1993 issue.

Today's youth search for  
God's unconditional love.

# A Reason to Live

By Jonathan Reeves  
As told to Marsha Gallardo



**T**he cool air tugged my jeans jacket as I rode my black Yamaha to a country convenience store outside Texarkana, Texas. I looked around the tree-lined countryside. I was 24 years old and uncertain about my future. My folks told me to pray about it. I rolled my eyes at the thought. I didn't bother with God and He didn't bother with me.

Growing up, I attended church every Sunday. My father was a newspaper pressman during the week and a Free Will Baptist preacher on the weekend. My parents were proud when I made a profession of faith when I was seven. But by 13, my hero was my older brother, Matt. He was seven years older and a cool high school senior.

One day, I was riding with him in his car and, like an initiation ceremony into manhood, he handed me a joint. From then on, I experimented with one drug after another, reveling in the euphoria.

I not only looked like Matt with my sandy blond hair and hazel eyes, I emulated him in every way. Drugs became my secret formula for success, too. I was part of the in-crowd in school, participated in sports and always had a girlfriend.

## Drug Overdose

My parents warned me of the dangers of drugs, and I saw their anxious faces when I stumbled in late each night. My father sat me down and told how he was an alcoholic until he gave his heart to God and started a new life. I nodded respect-

fully but couldn't see what there was to gain. Drugs provided adventure and social ease. My father's predictable life was far from enticing.

Once, after graduating from high school, I considered changing my ways. I had parked my car on a quiet road near home in Austin, TX, and my date and I injected cocaine into our arms. Trying to step out of the car to release the sudden rush of energy, I blacked out and fell face first in the dirt. My girlfriend ran around and dragged my limp body into the car.

She sped to the nearest house; her eyes darted from me to the road. I didn't look like I was breathing. Overwrought, she could hardly speak to the homeowners. The kind couple pressed ice packs on me and I gradually came around. I was lucky I survived the overdose. But remorse or thoughts about God were quickly dispelled the next time I got high.

I did try to lessen my drug use, though. I figured it would help to get away from home. I joined the Marine Corps and set out to prove I could stand shoulder to shoulder with the toughest of men. But soon, I was a heavy user again. Drugs were available wherever I was stationed. I concealed my drug use for four years and received an honorable discharge.

Back in Texas, I didn't know what to do with my life. I moved into a trailer 25 miles outside Texarkana, attended an odd assortment of college classes during the day and

worked at a farm feed warehouse at night. Drugs helped me forget the indecision plaguing me. I was taking life one high at a time.

## The Accident

I eased up on the throttle of my bike to take the wide curve in the road. It was a crisp Wednesday night, November 13, 1991. I'm just like Matt, I thought. That's all I care about. I can do just fine without God.

It would be three months after that spontaneous motorcycle ride before I came to my senses. At the hospital, my parents pieced together what happened on the flat, dark road and this is what they later told me.

When the man in a nearby house heard the loud noise, he rose from watching TV and stepped onto his porch. Just then, a car slowed in the road. It U-turned and stopped. The car door slammed. The man figured there must have been an accident that the driver was investigating. He paced the length of his porch then turned sharply and went inside to call 911.

The car the man saw was driven by 16-year-old Daniel Bilimek. He was driving his parents and brother home after a Wednesday night church service. His father, Bob Bilimek, an electrician and his church's youth director, had dismissed his group of teens right at eight o'clock. He knew his sons and the others yet had homework to tackle.

When the Bilimeks drove off the highway and onto a parallel road, the grass beside it looked like it was on fire. "Slow down, son," his father said. As they neared, the illumination shaped into beams—the amber and red lights of a vehicle. Daniel swerved the family car to search with their headlights.

His father jumped out. Stumbling over pieces of metal scattered in the grass, Mr. Bilimek came to a hissing, contorted hulk. He strained to see further out in the dark and spotted an elongated mound. He sprinted.

"Here he is! Over here!" Mr. Bilimek called. He'd found me face down and still. He made himself find his voice again. "It . . . it looks like he's dead."

Looking into the shield of my helmet, Mr. Bilimek could see I was young. He imagined one of his sons in my place. He paused a moment, turned his face upward and said, "God, don't let this boy die."

Not knowing if I had broken bones, he didn't dare turn me over. Instead, he improvised his CPR training and put his hand against my back. With a grunt, he pushed hard. Only the rhythm of crickets came from the shadows. Once again, he thrust his hand against my back. I lay motionless.

"Come on," he said through clenched teeth. For the third time, he pushed. Then, like a gurgling water pump, I suddenly gasped for air.

"He's alive!" Bob yelled at the white headlights of his car. "Go call 911."

The lights receded and blackness fell like a heavy blanket. Mr. Bilimek was alone with me. He put his left hand under my helmet. With each labored breath I managed, Mr. Bilimek twisted his head toward the barren road, hoping to see the whirling lights of an ambulance.

Local paramedic volunteers heard the neighbor's call on their scanners and were the first to assist Mr. Bilimek. They checked my vital signs and removed my helmet. My mouth was bruised and swollen. When the Texarkana ambulance arrived, I was cautiously turned over and placed on a stretcher. Mr. Bilimek had stayed by my side and

kept his hand under my head. Once he saw the driver was ready, he eased it out, patted my shoulder and backed away.

My wallet was found and my parents soon notified. "It looks bad," they were told. Fifteen minutes later they were backing out of the driveway. They avoided each other's eyes throughout the 400 mile drive from Austin to Texarkana.

## Brain Damage

Once at the hospital, Mom peered through the ICU door. Her knees buckled. *Surely they are mistaken*, she thought. That bruised boy with the tubes going in and out of him could not be her son. The solemn nurse allowed them to come to my side. A raised knot above my right eye added to their emotional jolt.

Dad reached out his strong hand and clutched my limp one. With his other hand, he held Mom's. Together, Mom and Dad thanked God I was alive and prayed I would continue to live. Mom's body trembled with sobs.

When I came out of the coma three days later, the doctor was able to treat my broken right arm. But they could do little for the brain damage. My brain hit my skull when I crashed. Memory capabilities were damaged. I didn't know who I was nor could I identify anyone else. I tried to stand up and walk right away. My father caught me just before I fell on my face.

Gradually, motor skills did return. I could function as if I were on automatic pilot, except my wires frequently crossed. After using a tissue for my nose, I put it in my mouth and started to chew it. I called elevators trains and TV's libraries.

My parents said my recovery was like a chance to raise me again. My father took a leave of absence from his newspaper job and, until I advanced to outpatient care, he was my constant companion.

My mother came often. When I was released from the hospital she delighted in seeing me walk back in my old bedroom. Still, my memory was so impaired, Mom would have to post notes on the bathroom mirror that said, "Jon, brush your teeth."

Prompted by my therapist, I wrote out daily plans to organize my thoughts. My ability to read was quick to spring back. But I slammed down books after reading one or two pages. I couldn't comprehend what was being communicated.

## Dangerous Depression

At times, though, my childlike-ness expressed needs I never previously exposed. One morning my father asked me if I was hurting anywhere. "Yes," I said. "I'm hurting in the heart."

And I was. Progress was slow. I was depressed. I was supervised and pampered every hour of the day. I had lost my independence, my status. The tough Marine hidden within me was humiliated. I made plans to make it end.

"Man, I'm going to kill myself," I said, standing before my therapist six months after the accident. Jerilyn's grin fell. She pushed aside her papers. Taking my memory notebook from me, she flipped to the success section where we had noted every improvement I made.

"Look at all you've accomplished," she pointed. I sat down hard. She continued, "Think of all you've survived—the drug overdose, the accident. God obviously has a special purpose for your life. Did you know that the Bible says that God made us to do good works, which he planned for us to live our lives doing?"

I straightened in my seat. She pulled out an index card and wrote a contract. I signed, promising I would not commit suicide. She later cautioned my parents. But the thoughts of ending my life were gone. Her words about God having a purpose for me resounded in my mind until I felt numb.

## The God of Mercy

Sitting in church the next Sunday, the service appeared ordinary but my hearing had changed. As the minister spoke of God's mercy, the many kind faces of nurses, therapists and family members flashed in my mind.

(Continued on Page 15)

# The Price of Freedom

By David Taylor



**O**n a warm, mid-summer late afternoon in 1976, I stood in awe under the shade of the majestic elm trees that quietly guard one of our nation's treasures, the old Pennsylvania State House; better known as Independence Hall. This was the place I had so often read about; this was the place where men of courage, vision and noble ideas met to confer and chart a nation's intention to be independent.

When you compare it to the surrounding phlegmatic steel and glass multi-storied modern buildings, the old State House looks quite small. Not at all what you expect from a treasured historic landmark. Do not be fooled by its diminutive size, for the measure of its greatness is less in the ruler and more in the cause.

## Measure of Freedom

For more than 250 years, this building has been a stage from which, even today, the echoes of freedom's cry can be heard. In this building the certificate that announced, acknowledged and authenticated America's birth was framed, written and sealed with the signatures of our founding fathers.

Freedom is remarkable in that it reveals privileges, possibilities and

potential, while also demanding that we exercise responsibility, liability and accountability. If anyone understood the scope and sphere of freedom, those 56 men did whose names adorn this most precious American document.

The 1,262-word declaration drafted by the Congress of representatives of the 13 colonies was not some high sounding political rhetoric. It was not written to impress and influence the vote of the masses.

These men understood that if they succeeded, the best they could expect would be years of hardship and labor struggling to nurse an infant nation. If they lost, they faced the very real prospect of a hangman's noose as traitors of the Crown.

These 56 men were not hungry, poor peasants or wild-eyed mercenary soldiers and pirates. They were men of means; rich men, most of whom already enjoyed a life of ease and luxury. Twenty-four were lawyers or jurists, eleven were merchants, and nine were plantation owners. They were 56 of our finest, best educated, wealthiest and most influential people.

In 1776, the colonists were declaring their independence from a British nation whose monarch was a calloused tyrant, and whose government condoned him. These

founding fathers were absolutely convinced that "all men are created equal." Therefore, a fledgling nation was born in the courageous hearts and handiwork of men who valued freedom more than their own lives.

## Men of Freedom

So I stood in that courtyard on a warm, humid late Sunday afternoon, thinking about what one building, and the events which occurred within its walls 200 years earlier, meant to me. Every freedom I hold and enjoy, I have done nothing to secure; neither have I made any real sacrifice for them. Oh, but those 56 men in 1776 certainly did.

What kind of sacrifice did these men make? It's old news to some, but consider it again.

### *Carter Braxton*

A wealthy Virginia planter and trader, one by one his ships were captured by the British. To pay his debts he sold his plantation and mortgaged his properties. He eventually lost everything he owned.

### *Thomas McKean*

This representative of Delaware was so hounded by the British that he and his family were forced to

move five times in five months. He served in the Continental Army without pay. He lived out his life in poverty.

*Thomas Nelson, Jr.*

This Virginian raised \$2 million on his own signature to provide supplies to the French fleet, America's ally. He personally paid the debt after the war, wiping out his entire estate, and was never reimbursed by Congress. During the war, when the British made his home their headquarters, he asked General Washington to open fire, destroying it. He died bankrupt.

*Francis Lewis*

The British jailed his wife, where she died. His home was destroyed in the war.

*John Hart*

He was driven from his wife's death bed, and his 13 children were scattered. His grist mill and fields were destroyed. Throughout the war he lived as a fugitive from the British. Returning home in December 1777, he found that his wife had died, and that his children had vanished.

*The Others*

Vandals or soldiers, probably both, looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnet,

Heyward, Rutledge and Middleton. Of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence: five were captured by the British; 12 had their homes ransacked and burned; two lost their sons in the Continental Army; two had sons captured by the British; nine fought and died from wounds or the hardships of the war.

John Quincy Adams said, "Posterity—you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you make good use of it."

Thomas Payne said, "What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything value. Heaven knows how to put a price upon its goods, and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated."

### The Greatest Freedom

These men had security in life. They knew the taste of success. They possessed good fortune, ease and influence. But they valued liberty even more.

Much like our colonial ancestors, we too have pledged our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor to a cause . . . the cause of Christ, the salvation of men. Jesus said, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33).

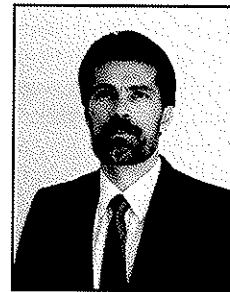
When you stand by faith at the foot of the cross—the Christian's

liberty—it does not look like much by man's standards. But if you stand there long enough, look deep enough, listen close enough, you'll sense the presence of a freedom that came at the highest of all costs, the blood of God's only begotten Son.

All other freedoms of any size, kind or cost, pale in comparison to Calvary's freedom. They are but imitators of God's freedom in Christ.

At the foot of Calvary, the words of freedom still ring out loud and long. There is no restriction of nationality, language, color of skin, sex or heritage.

Have we esteemed our freedom too cheaply? Have we failed to make good use of our freedom? Have we de-valued freedom? Maybe it's time to visit the old landmarks, the scenes where freedom's price tag was bought and paid for. It may be time to go back and see, feel, learn and know what freedom truly means. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend David Taylor pastors First Free Will Baptist Church in Tucson, Arizona.

(Reason to Live from Page 13)

Like a gentle rain after a dry summer, my thirsty soul was finally receptive to the spiritual nourishment it needed. I looked over at my father sitting next to me on the pew. *This is why his smile comes easy*, I thought to myself. This was why he could put my needs above his own. He trusted a merciful God.

After the church service, Mom prepared lunch and I hurried to change into a sweatsuit. "Dad," I asked, coming into the living room, "could we take a walk?"

It was a warm spring day. We walked to the end of the street and continued down a less traveled road. I told him what my therapist Jerilyn

had said. "It really started me thinking that God has a purpose for my life. I think I'm ready to come back to Him."

My father brightened. "Son, that's wonderful. Would you like to pray right here?"

I looked around me, turned and faced my father, amazed. It was the exact spot where I overdosed.

When we prayed, my chest felt filled to capacity, so real was God's love.

Every day since has been a drug-free adventure. Matt has also made big changes. He's now a regular church attender, too.

I have my driver's license again. Last summer I took several college courses and worked a part-time job.

Today, I'm a full-time student at my father's alma mater, Free Will Baptist Bible College, in Nashville, Tennessee. I'm training to be a missionary/nurse. I want to help others like I have been helped. I want others to know that God has a plan for each of us, a reason to live. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Jonathan Reeves just finished his first semester at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Marsha Gallardo is a freelance writer who resides in Franklin, Tennessee.

## From Preacher's Kid to Gang Leader

# Stanley

By Roger C. Reeds

**T**he ball bounced over the fence and interrupted the one-man game of catch I was playing. I climbed over the fence to retrieve the ball. Someone called out. "Hi, Rodge!" I turned to see a young boy seated in the kitchen of his home. The back door was standing open to allow cool air to enter. The unusual position of the boy in the chair caught my attention.

He was seated on the back of the chair with his feet in the seat. Though he didn't appear to be much older than I, he was smoking a cigarette and drinking a cup of coffee. I was about 10. I learned later that this backyard neighbor of mine was two years older than me. I recognized the boy. He was Stanley M\_\_\_\_, a classmate of mine at Hodgen School.

Something clicked between us that day and we became close friends. We went everywhere together. Stan already had a bike. When I got mine a whole new area of the city of St. Louis opened up to us.

### Gang Leader

It never dawned on me to question why Stan was in the same grade at Hodgen that I was. We graduated from the eighth grade together. I was 13. Stan was 15. We enrolled in McKinley High School together. We didn't like it. We began playing hooky and eventually dropped out.

We both went to work at Con P. Curran Printing Company. Stan worked in the shipping area. I worked as a mail clerk for awhile and later went upstairs to offset printing. I had lied about my age to secure a job.

The small wages we earned opened new avenues to us. Our bicycles were left behind and we rode trolleys and buses. We became a part of a gang known as the Rangers

A.C. We sponsored ourselves in city softball leagues and played fast pitch softball. Stan was quite a pitcher.

Stan was more than a pitcher. He was a leader. There was no question but that he was the leader of our gang. Everyone looked up to him. He was always our choice as club president.

As our gang grew older we became interested in girls and parties. We usually partied at someone's house every Saturday night. We would roll up the linoleum, put on a stack of 78 RPM's, and dance the night away. We began bringing liquor into our parties. Drinking became common to us. Stan and I got drunk together on more than one occasion.

### Preacher's Kid

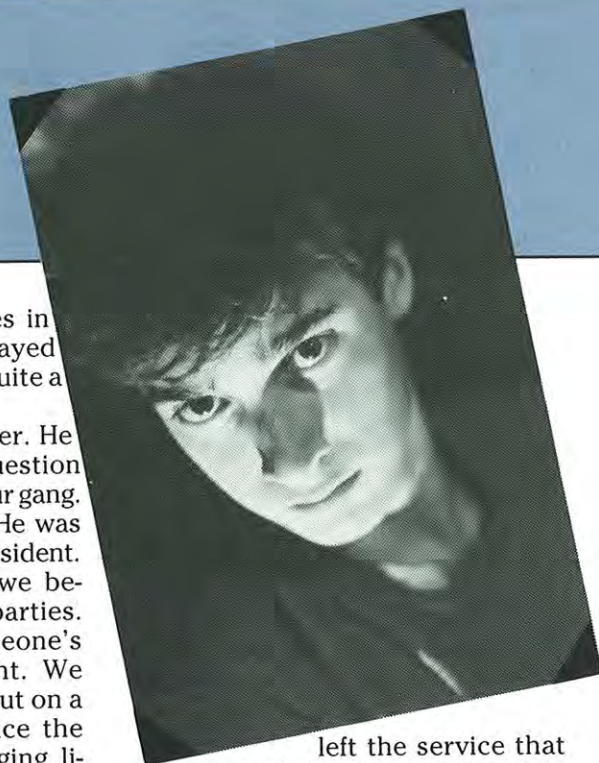
There is another factor about Stan that I need to introduce at this point. His dad was a Free Will Baptist preacher. Once in a while Stan and I would go to church together. There was no evidence of Christianity in Stan's life.

How it happened I can't remember, but Stan, his uncle and I attended a revival meeting at a Free Will Baptist church located in a store building in St. Louis. It was the first night of the revival. The evangelist was Reverend O. T. Allred.

Somewhere in his sermon that night Brother Allred said, "I dare any of you who are unsaved to come back to this revival three times and I believe you'll be saved."

I folded my arms and decided I was going to prove this preacher wrong. I was going to come back to that revival two more times and not be saved.

When the invitation was given, Stan raised his hand for prayer. I refused to raise mine. I was going to prove this preacher wrong. As we



left the service that night I told Stan I wanted to come back. He said he would come back with me.

Night after night I tried to get Stan to return to that revival with me. He wouldn't go. On Saturday night I went on without Stan. I wanted to prove that preacher wrong.

I went back to church the next morning. It was Sunday, November 27. By now I had forgotten all about that preacher's dare. I was under conviction! When the invitation was given I went forward to receive Christ.

It was my third visit to that revival. The preacher was right. I came to that revival meeting three times as an unsaved lad and left as a saved one.

### Breakaway

The next Saturday night my gang was having their usual party. The whiskey flowed freely. When I refused to drink, some of my friends tried to pour the whiskey down my throat. I finally pushed these fellows away from me and went out on the front porch.

I remember praying, "Lord, it's got to be You or them." I got into my first-car-that-I-had-ever-owned and drove off. I never went back.

I rarely saw Stanley again. My



new friend, Jesus, had taken the place of my old friend, Stanley. Stan and I traveled two distinctly different paths.

About four years ago I felt a deep burden for Stanley. I determined that my next trip to St. Louis I would go see him. I wanted to talk to him about the Lord.

When I rang the doorbell, Stan came to the door. I couldn't believe the wreck of a human being that I found. He was a member of the "zipper" club. He had just undergone open heart surgery for the second time. He still had the staples in his chest. He was skin and bones.

I was not successful in leading Stan to the Lord that night. I left discouraged but with the intention of going back again. Somehow I never found the time. Two years ago I heard that Stan died. I don't know if he ever came to know the Lord. I hope he did.

I do know that Stan made a choice on that cold November night years ago. I also made a choice. I chose Jesus. Oh, how I wish that Stan had chosen this same Jesus. The two of us then could have walked through life as close friends.

You see, the Bible says, "Can two walk together unless they are agreed?" Stan and I no longer agreed. We could no longer walk together. Unless Stan was saved, I'll never see him again.

I have told this story for one reason. If you have an unsaved friend, don't fail to pray for him. Don't fail to witness to him. I know that I did not pray enough for Stanley. I know that I didn't witness enough to him. May God forgive me for my laxity. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Roger Reeds is general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

## Cooperative Channel Contributions April 1993

### RECEIPTS:

| State            | CO-OP               |                    | Total               | April '92           | Yr. To Date         |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                  | Designated          | (Undesignated)     |                     |                     |                     |
| Alabama          | \$11,953.08         | \$ .00             | \$ 11,953.08        | \$ 174.33           | \$ 43,674.69        |
| Arizona          | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | .00                 | 858.25              |
| Arkansas         | 19,806.52           | 7,357.96           | 27,164.48           | 10,481.98           | 102,688.97          |
| California       | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | 1,127.28            | 3,742.35            |
| Colorado         | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | .00                 | 250.00              |
| Delaware         | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | .00                 | .00                 |
| Florida          | 1,703.75            | 1,458.51           | 3,162.26            | 2,239.28            | 8,734.87            |
| Georgia          | 13,469.70           | 1,495.44           | 14,965.14           | 21,759.63           | 45,513.19           |
| Hawaii           | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | .00                 | .00                 |
| Idaho            | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | .00                 | .00                 |
| Illinois         | 5,096.27            | 1,757.50           | 6,853.77            | 6,680.03            | 28,015.11           |
| Indiana          | 887.43              | 125.05             | 1,012.48            | 1,439.15            | 2,885.44            |
| Iowa             | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | .00                 | 90.00               |
| Kansas           | .00                 | 21.10              | 21.10               | 64.00               | 155.38              |
| Kentucky         | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | 50.00               | 2,010.66            |
| Louisiana        | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | .00                 | 40.00               |
| Maryland         | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | 1,124.20            | 375.00              |
| Michigan         | 14,198.26           | 2,521.91           | 16,720.17           | 5,954.83            | 55,471.06           |
| Mississippi      | 12.00               | 385.47             | 397.47              | 754.64              | 2,593.75            |
| Missouri         | 10,842.08           | .00                | 10,842.08           | 10,522.62           | 41,605.62           |
| Montana          | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | .00                 | .00                 |
| New Jersey       | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | .00                 | .00                 |
| New Mexico       | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | .00                 | 72.30               |
| North Carolina   | 453.31              | 650.00             | 1,103.31            | 1,134.86            | 5,372.35            |
| Ohio             | 389.62              | 2,786.00           | 3,175.62            | 1,977.00            | 16,267.60           |
| Oklahoma         | 46,876.79           | .00                | 46,876.79           | 49,112.86           | 185,211.73          |
| South Carolina   | 14,047.78           | 196.05             | 14,243.83           | 17,658.31           | 64,062.43           |
| Tennessee        | 5,498.81            | 831.87             | 6,330.68            | 11,826.19           | 27,759.13           |
| Texas            | 18,284.86           | 1,128.25           | 19,413.11           | .00                 | 47,270.60           |
| Virginia         | 336.67              | 1,253.59           | 1,590.26            | 602.16              | 3,603.63            |
| West Virginia    | 4,711.19            | 269.96             | 4,981.15            | 3,764.67            | 16,252.38           |
| Canada           | .00                 | .00                | .00                 | .00                 | .00                 |
| Northwest Assoc. | .00                 | 45.85              | 45.85               | .00                 | 93.07               |
| Other (Computer) | .00                 | (.14)              | (.14)               | .00                 | 19.89               |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <u>\$168,568.12</u> | <u>\$22,284.37</u> | <u>\$190,852.49</u> | <u>\$148,448.02</u> | <u>\$704,689.45</u> |

### DISBURSEMENTS:

|                        |                     |                    |                     |                     |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Executive Office       | \$ 14,174.69        | \$ 11,148.40       | \$ 25,323.09        | \$ 25,323.10        | \$101,292.36        |
| Foreign Missions       | 90,004.85           | 2,561.29           | 92,566.14           | 80,499.50           | 355,172.24          |
| FWBBC                  | 12,506.96           | 2,561.29           | 15,068.25           | 8,861.21            | 45,764.29           |
| Home Missions          | 38,772.81           | 2,004.50           | 40,777.31           | 21,194.01           | 140,986.37          |
| Retirement & Insurance | 931.41              | 1,559.06           | 2,490.47            | 2,350.44            | 10,139.34           |
| Master's Men           | 2,189.68            | 1,559.06           | 3,748.74            | 2,618.22            | 12,520.32           |
| Commission for         |                     |                    |                     |                     |                     |
| Theo. Integrity        | 148.72              | 55.65              | 204.37              | 106.45              | 722.05              |
| FWB Foundation         | 879.29              | 668.17             | 1,547.46            | 1,368.56            | 5,940.80            |
| Historical Commission  | 118.84              | 55.65              | 174.49              | 100.89              | 652.36              |
| Music Commission       | 99.09               | 55.65              | 154.74              | 83.87               | 617.71              |
| Radio & TV Commission  | 129.01              | 55.65              | 184.66              | 85.98               | 678.54              |
| Hillsdale FWB College  | 2,362.82            | .00                | 2,362.82            | 772.30              | 9,029.19            |
| Other                  | 6,249.95            | .00                | 6,249.95            | 5,083.49            | 21,173.88           |
| <b>Totals</b>          | <u>\$168,568.12</u> | <u>\$22,284.37</u> | <u>\$190,852.49</u> | <u>\$148,448.02</u> | <u>\$704,689.45</u> |

## Christian motorcyclists "Riding with a Purpose"

# The Calvary Riders

By Tom Carlson

**T**he drone of the motor filled the cool spring air. The big motorcycle carried me toward home with such ease we seemed to become one with our surroundings.

People find special release in a number of ways—fishing, hunting, a good book, woodwork, mechanics. My relaxation is to climb on my motorcycle and ride. The power in the twist of the throttle and the wind whistling around me releases tension and brings calmness I can't find anywhere else.

I had been a Free Will Baptist pastor for 30 years. I resigned the church in Jerome, Idaho, in 1990 after more than 13 years as their pastor. Gloria, my wife, and I prayed continually about where God would have us in another pastorate. I served as interim pastor in two Idaho churches while waiting on God's instructions.

### Voice in my Helmet

This day's ride seemed little different than the others I had taken. It had been a year since I'd left the pastorate at Jerome FWB Church. About two miles from the Jerome off ramp of I-84, I became aware that I wasn't alone.

Words filled my mind as though they were spoken aloud in the helmet on my head. "Tom, it's time."

I thought, "All right, Lord! You finally have a church for us to go pastor."

Of course, our thoughts are not always His thoughts. "Tom, it's time to use this cycle and these boots in my service."

Ten years had passed since I joined the Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA), a national non-denominational organization with an outreach toward motorcyclists. Problem! There were only two other



*Tom and Gloria Carlson ready to ride their 1983 Kawasaki Voyager.*

CMA's in Southern Idaho, and we had never met.

Two days after the incident on the highway the phone rang. The voice from the other end said, "Tom, this is Jim, a CMA-er. The Lord said I should talk with you."

### Rounding up Riders

Jim, Arthur and I ran radio and newspaper ads for anyone interested in a Christian motorcycle riding group to meet on a specified date. Fourteen people came to that meeting in 1991. We were chartered in June 1992 as "Calvary Riders" of CMA. To date, we have 31 members.

The national slogan of CMA is "Changing the world one heart at a time." Calvary Riders adopted as their local slogan, "Riding with a Purpose." God has used the Calvary Riders in the past year (1992) to see 22 people change their lives for the Lord.

Christian Motorcyclists Association or Calvary Riders are not a church nor do we intend to take the place of church. We are an evangelistic missionary arm of the church to a culture in our country which has been left untouched. Not too

many churches are prepared to welcome a group of guys in black leather, beards, earrings, chains and their "women" in halter tops with tatoos indicating to whom they belong. But they are part of the world Jesus said to reach with the gospel.

In the cycle world people wear vests with their chapter or organization logo on their back. This is called wearing your colors. You wear your colors because you belong and are not ashamed. You are willing to identify or be identified with something or someone. Jesus said it this way, "Take up your cross daily and follow me."

### The Door Opens

We kept running ads and announcing rides, and new people came. Some stayed and others moved on. We wanted desperately to reach into the secular bike world with the gospel and it seemed we were getting nowhere. Many groups in our area welcome all cyclists to ride upon special invitation.

Finally! A door opens. While in a cycle shop, wearing my colors, a biker approached me. "You're a new organization in the area, aren't you?"

We meet this Tuesday. Come join us."

Praise the Lord! From this invitation has grown a relationship which has opened other doors of service in the secular bike world in our area.

Much of the riding of secular organizations is done on Sundays. We have been invited to join many of these rides. The progress has been slow, but steady. From just an acquaintance to a relationship and friends we were there, wearing our colors.

Then came the first time we were asked to pray, then church service in the mountains, then three were saved. The presence of Christians was a first at these rides and camp outs. No one had ever dared attend or approach these cycle groups with a gospel witness.

Our chapter was invited to participate in the three-day Oregon Trails Sweepstakes Camp Out, a fund

witness of Christ's love for him. All of us expected never to hear from him again. He was going from Oregon to Texas.

Two months later we received a letter from him explaining his trip. His best friend had died. He planned to go to the funeral and then commit suicide. The Lord used our few minutes with him to cause him to think and pray as his trip continued. Now he was back in Oregon with his life straightened out and serving God.

### Helping Uncle Sam

God has continued to open doors for service to the motorcycle crowd. Last fall, a cycle bunch from Mountain Home Air Force Base invited us to participate in a fund raiser with them. This was for food baskets for Air Force families during Christmas. We met at the appointed time.

Their leader, Nix, called every-

and ride with them in 1993 and a request from their riders to join us.

Most important, two families gave their lives to God and we have had the opportunity to start Bible study with some of the staff.

### The Payoff

Bikers, from weekend joy riders to hard core outlaws, need someone to cross the cultural lines and tell them about Jesus. It means sleeping in tents, since motels are much too expensive. It means lots of riding, not having a fine pulpit or a carpeted church to pastor.

One Sunday morning after service on a mountainside with a bunch of bikers, I felt an arm slip around my shoulder. A fellow with longer hair than acceptable in most of our churches, three earrings, chains on his boots, and tears streaming down his cheeks, said, "Preacher Tom, Jesus changed me today. I been tryin' to change, but He did it for me. Thank you."

A walnut pulpit and the finest carpet can't produce a reward such as that! ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Tom Carlson is a Free Will Baptist minister who resides in Jerome, Idaho.

### Biker Prayer Requests

1. Our witness among these groups —IMC-GWTA-5th Chapter.
2. Safety as we ride.
3. Open doors for motorcycle ministry.
4. Calvary Riders.
5. Finances—it takes \$250 a month, and we have no outside support.

For more information, please contact:

**Rev. Tom Carlson**  
**831 E. Avenue C**  
**Jerome, ID 83338**  
**208/324-4685**



*Church service with bikers from Nevada and Idaho.*

raiser for handicapped children. We also were asked to conduct a church service Sunday morning. For a Christian motorcycle group to be there was a first and a church service too, wow! A 13-year-old event and never a Christian witness. Three were saved.

### Death Ride

On one of our chapter rides we stopped at a truck stop for a break. Four of us guys walked down to meet another biker who was obviously traveling as he had a sleeping bag and rain gear strapped to his bike. We befriended him and left a

one together. "Listen up, guys, we got this Christian bunch here and we are going to have a prayer before we ride." This was another first.

I heard someone say, "I hope he doesn't preach, too." Well, we didn't preach, but after the ride, Nix asked us to come in December to help box the food. A letter followed the verbal invitation with an itinerary for the day.

Breakfast with the general and his staff, work with the Air Force personnel boxing food, an organized tour of the base—in other words, red carpet treatment all day. Our chapter has an invitation to work

# FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

## Church Honors Pastor Summerson



Pastor Jim Summerson (center) and wife, Jan, accept check from Don Holland.

HOOKERTON, NC—Members of Mt. Calvary F.W.B. Church in Hookerton set aside March 14, 1993, as a day to honor Pastor Jim Summerson for 10 years' service as their pastor. After a day-long celebration, including testimonials, plaques and poetry written in his honor, members presented Summerson with a \$5,000 check.

The check was given to help the Summersons purchase a home or to be placed in a retirement plan. Assistant Pastor Don Holland said, "Just as they [the Summersons] have been such a positive influence in our lives, we want to be a positive influence in theirs."

The 10th anniversary celebra-

tion had been four months in the planning stage, according to Rev. Holland. "Letters had been mailed, calls made, flowers ordered and friends arrived from as far away as Iowa."

Pastor Summerson was unaware of the church-wide event in his honor until he entered the sanctuary with the choir and saw banners hung and furniture rearranged.

Don Holland, who has worked with Summerson six years, observed, "He loves his ministry as deeply as any shepherd could love his flock."

The day ended with a reception for Pastor Summerson in the gymnasium.

## Family Establishes Scholarships

MOUNTAIN GROVE, MO—The family of the late Joe Braddy has established the Reverend Joe Braddy Charitable Trust to provide scholarships for Free Will Baptist college students. Rev. Braddy, 52, was killed in an automobile accident January 20, 1993. He was pastor of First F.W.B. Church in Fredericktown.

Pamela Hedgpeth, named trustee for the charitable trust, said funds "will be used for the sole purpose of administering scholarships to Free Will Baptist students." Four scholarships will be awarded initially.

One scholarship each will be awarded to students at Hillsdale F.W.B. College (Moore, OK), Free Will Baptist Bible College (Nashville, TN) and California Christian College (Fresno, CA). A fourth scholarship will be awarded to a child of a Free Will Baptist minister who attends one of the three colleges.

Mrs. Hedgpeth said, "Scholarships will be based on academics and financial need." Applications and guidelines may be secured by writing:

The Rev. Joe Braddy Charitable Trust  
c/o Pamela Hedgpeth, Trustee  
1201 Frederick  
Mountain Grove, MO 65711

This is a charitable trust, and contributions to it are tax deductible.

Coming Next Month:  
Pastor Appreciation Issue

## Reverend Thomas Hamilton With The Lord

HOMERVILLE, GA—The Reverend Thomas G. Hamilton, 77, died April 12 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was a retired Free Will Baptist evangelist and pastor. Funeral services were conducted April 15 at Homerville FWB Church in Georgia. Reverends Herbert Waid, Kenneth Jones and Kent Barwick officiated.

In 1957 at age 41, Reverend Hamilton left his Georgia pastorate and entered full-time evangelism. He enjoyed a widely-acclaimed ministry in the Southeast, but also conducted revivals in Michigan, Illinois, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma.

Hamilton's early pastoral ministry focused in Georgia at

Corinth FWB Church and Cool Springs FWB Church. After graduating from Free Will Baptist Bible College, Columbia Bible College (bachelor's degree) and Bob Jones University (master's degree), he returned to Georgia to pastor the Glennville and Ebenezer FWB Churches.

During his 10 years in the pastorate, Brother Hamilton held numerous denominational offices including terms as moderator of Georgia's State Association, assistant clerk and clerk of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

He retired from full-time evangelism but continued to serve Georgia churches on an interim basis. In 1989, the Homerville

FWB Church called him as pastor at age 73. He served three years and then retired a second time in 1992.

Mr. Hamilton was born in Atkinson County, Georgia, on December 23, 1915. He grew up on a South Georgia farm and was named valedictorian of Pearson High School's 1933 graduating class. He attended South Georgia College and managed a grocery store before answering a call to the ministry.

Reverend Hamilton is survived by his wife, Ouida, of Homerville; one daughter, Jo Ann Wilson of Homerville; one brother and two sisters.

## Hersey Keynotes Arizona Meeting

CHANDLER, AZ — Reverend Herman Hersey, general director of the Board of Retirement, preached the keynote address at Arizona's fifth annual state association. Hersey spoke on the association theme, "The Reality of Victory." He was joined on the program by Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington who also preached.

The May 1 gathering met in Chandler at Cathedral of the Cross FWB Church. Thirty-five people registered for the association. Moderator Charles Marshall in his address urged delegates to "challenge tradition and challenge politics."

Delegates passed a resolution affirming their commitment to the Free Will Baptist *Treatise* and Covenant, and instructed the clerk to so notify the National Association.

Host pastor Larry Reynolds was elected as the new moderator. The 1994 state association will meet May 7 at First FWB Church in Tucson.

## Tennessee Church Breaks Ground

GOODLETTSVILLE, TN—Members of Goodlettsville FWB Church broke ground Easter Sunday for a 5,000-square-foot worship center, according to Pastor Malcolm Fry. The church has met for several years in a renovated house on two-plus acres off Dickerson Road just north of Nashville.

Under the guidance of a building committee, plans were drawn and approved for the 70' x 40' structure. The new bi-level worship center will include a sanc-

tuary on the upper level and educational and fellowship hall on the lower level.

Dr. Malcolm Fry said, "The new structure will be located nearer to the highway and easily accessible to traffic." Pastor Fry also serves as editor-in-chief at Randall House Publications.

A group of six men worked closely on the project—Bobby McKinney, Scott McKinney, Hank Welch, Robert Michael, Frank Deeter and Jerry Neuschwander.



Pastor Malcolm Fry (center, with shovel) leads groundbreaking.

## Arizona Church Turns 40

TUCSON, AZ—Members of First FWB Church in Tucson combined a debt retirement celebration and 40th anniversary on April 4, according to Pastor David Taylor. Some 132 people signed the registry that day. Former pastor Malcolm Fry preached twice.

Seven charter members were present for the occasion. In addition to day-long services, feasting and music, the church also burned the mortgage.

First FWB Church began in a revival in a Tucson garage conducted by the late George McLain, Free Will Baptist evangelist and pastor. The church was organized December 10, 1953, and called Burdlett Hutchinson as their first pastor.

For a time the church met in the home of an Air Force sergeant, at the Tucson Woman's Club and the Amphitheatre Men's Club until Pastor Hutchinson led them to purchase property on East 18th Street.

While meeting in the small church the congregation erected a Sunday School building. The building, completed in 1957, included six classrooms. In 1961, the congregation met for worship in the Sunday School building while renovating the church auditorium.

The new enlarged auditorium was built around the smaller one. Labor was donated for the construction of the Sunday School building and the enlarged auditorium. In 1966 the church entered a bond building program to construct a new auditorium and moved into it on Easter Sunday of 1967.

Fifteen ministers have served the congregation. Pastor David Taylor assumed his duties in March 1990.

## Pastor Retires; Church Burns Mortgage



Margaret and Dan Merkh

RICHMOND, VA—The First FWB Church of Richmond combined two important events during one weekend on April 10-11—the retirement of Pastor Dan Merkh and a mortgage burning that set the church free financially.

A six-person committee planned the two-day celebration and kept everything secret from Pastor Merkh. The committee, chaired by Brenda McPeak, rented the West End Community Center in Richmond for a three-hour retirement reception Saturday evening.

Dan and Margaret Merkh were taken by limousine to the center where 150 people, including their five children, clapped them inside. Members presented Rev.

## Preaching Sparks New Mexico Meeting

ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Six sermons and devotions provided plenty for the 25 attendees to consider at the 25th annual session of the New Mexico State Association. The April 15-17 association met at First FWB Church in Albuquerque.

Speakers from Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee and New Mexico developed the association theme, "Help." Wichita Falls, Texas pastor Thurmon Murphy delivered the opening address. He was followed by San Angelo

Merkh with a scrapbook of his 18-year ministry at First FWB Church, compiled by Mary Smith. They also presented the Merkhs with a \$1,500 love offering.

The mortgage burning took place Sunday morning, led by M. E. Howard, whose vision started the church. The event paid off \$13,000 indebtedness to repair the parking lot, install a new roof and paint the church.

Pastor Merkh turned 65 on Easter Sunday, the day of his retirement service. He and Margaret served as Free Will Baptist missionaries to Africa and France before assuming pastoral duties at the church in 1975.

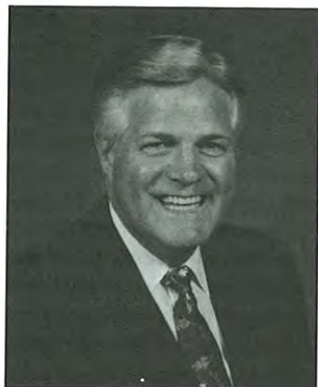
The Merkhs moved to Fort Pierce, Florida, where they own a double-wide mobile home. Their home in Richmond, Virginia, sold 10 days before they retired, after being on the market two years.

pastor Don Bailey, Oklahoma minister Wayne Bookout, FWB Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington and two New Mexico pastors Earl Jenkins (Artesia) and Dennis Conley (Hobbs).

Jim Pollock was appointed moderator for the session and then elected to a two-year term. The state Woman's Auxiliary met in conjunction with the association.

The 1994 state association will meet April 7-9 at Faith Memorial FWB Church in Carlsbad.

## Gibbs Launches Evangelism Ministry



PLEASANT VIEW, TN—Veteran Free Will Baptist pastor and singer John Gibbs announced plans to launch a full-time ministry of evangelism, revivals and special services. For 35 years Reverend Gibbs has pastored churches in Tennessee and Virginia, served as Tennessee's first full-time promotional director, and worked more than eight years as director of develop-

ment with the Home Missions Department.

Gibbs describes his plans effective September 1, 1993, "My wife, Doris, and I have been praying and seeking God's leadership for some time now about getting a motor home or travel trailer and spending the rest of our ministry in services across our denomination.

"Doris and I will be available to accept invitations to conduct couples retreats, conferences, concerts and banquets. The heart of my ministry will still revolve around revivals. I will preach as hard as I always have with a strong appeal for rededication, salvation and revival. In churches where it is acceptable, I plan to highlight one service as 'Message in Music,' using good heart-felt songs and a multimedia presentation to touch hearts.

"I also have a great love for kids, so I plan to encourage a pre-service children's time, us-

ing singing and object lessons. We are willing to serve in whatever capacity we are needed. In order to conserve as much physical, mental, vocal and spiritual strength as possible, I will limit most of my meetings to Sunday through Wednesday night."

The 54-year-old minister has recorded five gospel tapes and one music video. He traveled more than 500,000 miles while with the Home Missions Department and arranged all their evangelism conference music. He was pastor at Good Springs FWB Church outside Nashville when he announced his decision to move into a broader evangelistic ministry.

Brother Gibbs can be contacted at his home:

John Gibbs Ministries  
2120 Pinnacle Circle  
Pleasant View, TN 37146  
Phone 615/746-8000



Sunday  
July 11, 1993  
National Convention  
Day of Prayer  
and Fasting

## CURRENTLY...

Ten people were saved and two baptized at **Rogers FWB Church in Rogers, AR**. **Loy Counts** pastors.

The tallest lady in Tennessee came to church on Mother's Day. She's 6' 10" tall, plays center for the Vanderbilt women's basketball team, challenged the teenagers to beat her shooting one-on-one. Her name is **Heidi Gillingham**. Pastor **Rob Morgan** interviewed her at **Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, TN**.

After 54 years, **Bailey's Chapel FWB Church in Alton, MO**, has a new sanctuary. The 4,000-square-foot structure was completed at a minimal cost thanks to the efforts of the members who did most of the work themselves. Members still talk about a 1973 three-week revival when 100 people were saved or rededicated. **C. R. Thompson** has pastored the church for 13 years.

Members of **Pine Level FWB Church, in Norman Park, GA**, conducted a note-burning service and paid off a \$35,000 indebtedness on their new parsonage. **Jackie Cabiness** pastors.

Pastor **Wayne Price** reports a dedication service at **Patmos FWB Church in Leary, GA**. The group remodeled the church, including new carpet, pulpit furniture, pews, lights and other fixtures.

The past 10 years have seen a giving miracle at **Fulton FWB Church in Fulton, MS**. In 1982, outside giving averaged less than 4% in the congregation. In 1992, the church gave more than 30% to outside causes. Pastor **Bill VanWinkle** said that in 1992, the congregation gave \$21,000 of its \$69,000 income to outside causes.

Members of **Blue Bell FWB Church in Sapulpa, OK**, surprised Pastor **Glen Hood** for his 30th anniversary in the ministry. The occasion was an April 25 Pastor Appreciation Day. Festivities included congratulatory letters from across the denomination, gifts, a plaque from the church and a special morning that Pastor and Mrs. Hood will remember the rest of their lives. Their four children, grandchildren and other family members were present. A fellowship dinner in their honor concluded

the day's activities.

*Contact* welcomes **Fish Line**, a publication of **First Dayton FWB Church, Dayton, OH**. The publication is produced by the church's youth ministry. **Hobart Ashby** pastors. **Mark Leonard** serves as youth minister.

More than 200 people surprised Pastor **Tommy Street** at **Hurricane Chapel FWB Church in McEwen, TN**. The occasion was his 26th year in the ministry. The church sponsored a pastoral lunch in his honor and gave a plaque to Brother Street. He said, "It was a highlight in my ministry."

Pastor **Eddie Foster** baptized nine converts after the morning worship services on Easter Sunday. Foster pastors **Macedonia FWB Church in Sparta, NC**. A record 111 people attended Sunday services, 60 attended sunrise services. This marked Foster's fifth year anniversary at the church.

Congratulations to Pastor **Dann Patrick** and members of **Faith FWB Church in Goldsboro, NC**. The congregation set a new record with 1,454 people attending one service. Sixteen were saved that day. Patrick said that more than 200 parents and children from the daycare outreach attended. The church had such a crowd that it took three police cars and officers to direct traffic. What a wonderful problem!

Nine members of **First FWB Church in Booneville, MS**, read the Bible through in 1992, according to Pastor **Jerry Smith**. He presented the group a plaque in honor of their achievement.

**Gulf Coast FWB Church in Gulfport, MS**, added 14 new members. The church's new goal is to have a full-time pastor before 1993 ends. **Robert Dykes** is the pastor who is cheering for them to reach that new goal.

Ten Free Will Baptist churches in a 100-mile radius came together for a Teacher Training Workshop at **Fawn Grove FWB Church in Mantachie, MS**. Pastor **Charlie Charles** said that FWBBC professor Ken Riggs presented the Sunday School teacher's workshop in a one-day blitz this spring.

Pastor **Winston Sweeney** reports a

\$6,000 Easter offering at **Fellowship FWB Church in Kingsport, TN**.

**First FWB Church in Deerfield Beach, FL**, reports 10 conversions, 10 baptisms and 10 new members. Pastor **Paul Oppy** said attendance has doubled in five months.

Reverend **James O. Brown, Jr.**, 71, died March 31, 1993, in Columbia, TN. He was a retired Free Will Baptist minister. Brother Brown was the founding pastor of **Woodbine FWB Church in Nashville, TN**. The Alabama native attended Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Pastor **Paul Payne** reports 20 baptisms at **Westside FWB Church in Springdale, AR**. Members recently completed the second of three phases of their building program. The church was organized in 1985.

**First FWB Church in Poteau, OK**, sponsored a Christian Leadership Conference this spring. Dr. **Billy Melvin** was the keynote speaker.

Pastor **Leonard Pirtle** said members of **First FWB Church in Owasso, OK**, voted to set up a missions study group to explore giving procedures and effectiveness. He said the committee was chosen to "lead our church into an effective, balanced and far-sighted program for external ministries such as foreign missions, national missions and Christian education. It will educate us in the biblical and practical philosophies of education and missions in regard to our church, the great commission and the world."

Members of **First FWB Church in Blakely, GA**, gave Pastor **Mark Barber** a 15-day leave beginning in September in order that he might minister with an evangelistic team in Russia. Pastor Barber will be sharing the gospel in schools, orphanages, prisons, hospitals, churches and local home Bible studies. He will be going with the John Guest Evangelistic Team. ■



## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

### *What is Estate Planning?*

By William W. Evans

Estate planning is a term used rather loosely by most of us. We generally give it a limited definition referring to plans transferring assets at death. That is an important part of estate planning, but only a part.

Ideally, estate planning involves these four areas—the production of, protection for, provisions from and passing of assets. Success in the first three produce the need and opportunity for the fourth area.

In the production stage, planning involves the methods of acquiring and growing assets. It then moves to consideration of how those assets will work together to accomplish other goals of the estate plan.

Early in this stage it is important to consider some financial goals. This should not be pie in the sky but some basic goals for achievement—such as home ownership, savings, retirement benefits, family needs of health, freedom from debt and education for the children. All these are personal and should reflect your personality and lifestyle as stewards under God.

People starting their earning years without a general goal may quickly find themselves in financial bondage. Without guidelines or goals, each decision will be made on the basis of an immediate need or want. Do I have the money now rather than does it fit into my overall plan. This vulnerability is the basis for most advertising. The result can best be described as crisis management.

Definite goals help you make good day-to-day spending and investing decisions. Your plan should be adjusted occasionally to reflect changes in your needs, values and purpose. Any adjustments should reflect those long-term goals and not just immediate gratifications.

These basic long range goals act like the bone structure of our bodies. It gives a stable framework upon which the details are added to fill out and complete our estate development.

As your general estate plan develops, you then make decisions and take appropriate steps to protect the plan. This action may involve various forms of insurance and investment advisors.

Use these considerations when weighing life insurance selections. How much is needed

to protect your obligations? Should I use permanent or term coverage? Which company provides the best policy for me? Premiums do vary and not all insurance companies are equally sound from a financial point of view. Does this policy provide protection, investment or a combination of the two? Can I achieve my goal in this decision a better way?

Insurance may be involved in other areas also. What protection do I need, and can I afford, in the event of my disability? What kind of health insurance should I carry? How should I protect my estate from liability?

Goals help you to be reasonable and balanced in providing needed protection instead of just being a prospect for salesmen.

An estate plan should also include consideration of how each part fits together to provide for you and your lifetime goals. Estate planning is not a matter of anyone becoming independent of the Lord. It is an emphasis on being the best steward you can possibly be and making wise choices today.

Finally, your estate plan should deal with how your assets will be transferred and to whom. Various legal arrangements are available to achieve this, such as wills, trusts, contracts and direct outright gifts. Only attorneys are able to provide you with legal documents. A variety of counselors are available to help you consider various options available to achieve your goals. Make use of several for safety and assurance.

Estate planning is a process frequently requiring attention, adjustment and revision, so continue to fine tune your plan. ■

#### **Caution:** Always ask these questions when seeking counsel.

1. What interest does this advisor have in my decision?
2. How does this product or service achieve or protect my long range goals?
3. Does this decision complement my other estate goals?

## HOME MISSIONS

*Home Missions Promotes Evangelism*

By Roy Thomas

Several years ago the Home Missions Department was designated by the National Association of Free Will Baptists to be the evangelism division of the denomination. Although no funds were allocated for the work of evangelism, the Home Missions Department has promoted soul winning, evangelism and church growth with monies from its general fund.

Home Missions maintains a strong literature program to provide tools to be used in evangelism. Bill Daniel, director of communications for the department, publishes most of these materials in the printing room of the Home Missions office. There are gospel tracts, new convert packets, follow-up lessons for converts, videos and cassettes, as well as study courses on church growth and soul winning, enlargement campaigns, plus other materials the department provides the churches.

The men on staff, who are called the Home Missions Traveling Team, have conducted more than 300 evangelism conferences among the Free Will Baptist constituency to promote church growth and soul winning. In these conferences pastors and laymen are inspired and instructed in effective evangelism and church growth methods.

The department also conducts an Old Time Camp Meeting during the National Association each year. These camp meetings feature heart-warming singing and preaching that are so necessary for growing churches. These Old Time Camp Meetings, usually held in the auditorium arena of the convention center, attract large crowds.

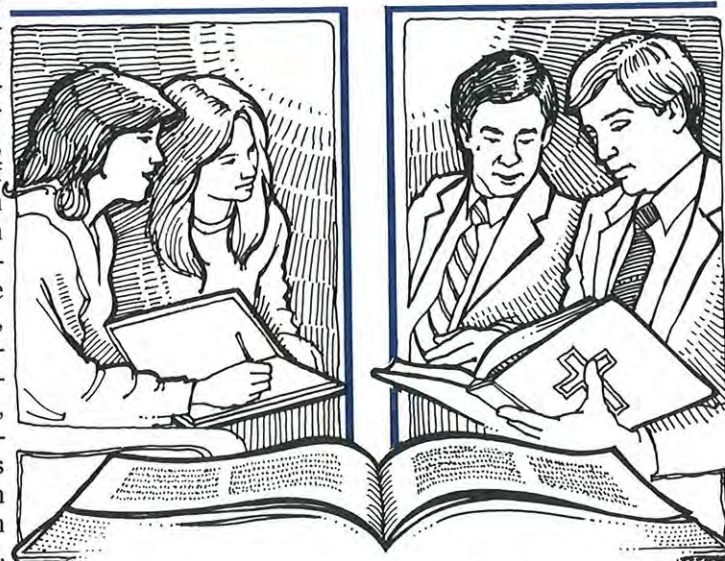
Another successful and effective program is conducted annually on the last Sunday of March when the department sponsors Roll Call Sunday. This is a denominational "big day" where all churches are urged to bring as many people to church as possible. The roll is taken by contact men and women, and then the Home Missions Department works diligently to tally results. The total attendance, the number of people saved, the top 100

churches in attendance, and other pertinent statistics are published in a booklet that is distributed to all pastors and churches. Testimonies from pastors verify that Roll Call Sunday produces thousands of prospects for soul winning and visitation programs in local churches.

In addition to these efforts, the Home Missions office proudly displays on a special

plaque the names of those who have brought 100 or more people to church on church buses. Special award certificates are given to those who bring 50 or 75 on buses. These efforts encourage evangelism and church growth through the bus ministry.

These methods and tools are being utilized by the Home Missions Department as it carries out the mandate of the National Association to promote the work of evangelism. Since no funds are allocated for this work, churches are urged to give generously to the Home Missions general fund to help finance these programs. If your church needs assistance in church growth, soul winning and evangelism methodologies, contact the Home Missions Department at P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. ■





## RANDALL HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

### *Meeting Your Sunday School Needs*

A Sunday School teacher asked little Willie who was the first man in the Bible.

"Hoss," said Willie.

"Wrong," said the teacher. "It was Adam."

"Ah, shucks!" Willie replied. "I knew it was one of those Cartwrights."

This joke is humorous until you realize how many adults know nothing about Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, David, Elijah or Jonah. One teen teacher in Missouri told me she had students who had never heard about Jesus.

According to George Barna, "49% of American adults are likely to attend a church worship service in any given week," and 23% attend Sunday School or religious classes on the weekend. The 77% who do not attend Sunday School reveals the need for systematic Bible teaching.

One of the new trends in Sunday School is the creation of new classes. Elmer Towns in *Towns' Sunday School Encyclopedia*, writes, "Growth oriented Sunday Schools that want to reach young adults should create special classes for them. New young classes, unlike established classes, produce growth, and it is difficult for new members to penetrate into older fellowship circles.

"In a recent study of why people choose a Sunday School class, it was shown that they first looked for fellowship, or they attended with friends. Second, they go where they can receive specific help for a felt need. In the third place, they choose a class because of a topic, the personality of the teacher or a specific teaching technique, such as films or discussion groups."

Your denominational publishing house is now producing several excellent products to help meet these educational needs. We want to meet all your needs. We offer a through-the-Bible program of study for teens and adults, several topical studies, and books written and produced by Free Will Baptists.

*Adult Focus* offers a great variety of topical studies for Sunday School. The current issue has two separate units. The first unit is "Cults and other False Religions," and the second is "Music in the Church." The fall issue will contain studies on "Remarkable People of the

Bible." The winter issue will address "You and Christian Education in the Church." The spring issue will focus on "The Family."

*Contemporary Topical Studies* offers 10 months of studies. Available topics include the following:

- "Christian Growth"
- "Christian Home"
- "Christian Marriage"
- "Christians and Emotions"
- "Devotional Life"
- "The Eternal Word of God"
- "Keys to Christian Living"
- "Prayer"
- "Questions Jesus Asked"
- "Stewardship"

In November, Pastor Tim Trimble told me the book *Biblical Ethics* proved to be a tremendous boost to his church's spiritual growth. Brother Trimble also uses it in every new convert discipleship study. Through Randall House you can obtain a host of books and booklets that provide rich studies for Sunday School classes. Our order blank lists books and booklets by subject:

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Randall House can meet all your Christian education needs! If you need a free order blank or more information, please call 1-800/877-7030. We are ready to serve you. ■

**FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE**

*Give Your Children What They Need*

by **Kenny Simpson, Recruitment Department**

His tears caught my attention. I couldn't close the invitation. I sensed the Lord was really working in his heart.

Finally, on the last verse, he stepped out. Although he was just a little boy—probably around age 12—it was obvious he had a big problem. He walked slowly down the aisle, his head bowed and tears falling from his chin.

I knelt beside him and asked, "Is there something you need to pray about?"

"I'm not doing so well in school," he replied. He didn't have much to say, but his emotional state told me a lot. So we prayed.

After the service, I couldn't help thinking about him. Then I saw him making his way over to me.

"Can I talk to you?", he said.

"Sure," I answered quickly. "Let's sit down over here."

I was not prepared for what he told me in the next 30 minutes.

"Dad came home last weekend and brought me some presents. He gave me a weightlifting set and all this other neat stuff."

Then he started to cry again. I was stunned. Most boys would have been thrilled with the gifts.

"Kenny, I like the gifts, but I just wish he would take them all back and tell me—just once—that he loves me."

What do you say to a 12-year-old who is weeping uncontrollably because he longs for his dad to love him?

Before I could speak, he looked up, wiped away his tears, and said, "Even though Dad has been divorced four times and is leaving me again, Jesus has been a 'dad' to me."

My thoughts ran to the many memories I've shared with my Dad, fishing and hunting; all of the times he sat beside Mom at my football games and yelled for #54.

As a graduate of FWBBC, I'm more thankful today than I have ever been for a dad who loved me enough to let me go and to find God's will for my life. He could have brought me lots of expensive gifts, but he released me to do what God had planned for me—to be about my Father's business.

Dads? Moms? Perhaps it's a good time for you to rededicate your children to the Lord. Please, love them enough to encourage them to seek God's will for their lives.

We, here at Free Will Baptist Bible College, are committed to train your children to love God and to do His will.

Let us help your children. ■



Kenny, a native of Missouri, is a 1992 FWBBC graduate and now works in Student Recruitment.



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## Marriage: Questions Women Ask

Gloria Gaither, Gigi Graham Tchividjian and Susan Alexander Yates

(Portland: Multnomah Press, 1992, 151 pp., hardback \$14.95)



Thomas Marberry

**T**his volume marks the latest contribution to the Today's Christian Woman series, and it is a worthy addition to the set. Like the other books in the series, this one raises different practical issues which most Christian women face at some time in their lives. Previous volumes have dealt with such issues as parenting, the workplace, spiritual life, friendship and emotions.

Marriage is the single most important human relationship. It binds together a husband and a wife in a relationship which is intensely personal and challenging. This type relationship will not always be easy even when both partners are Christians.

These three authors are uniquely qualified to contribute to this book. They have all been married more than 20 years; they have established stable Christian homes in the midst of circumstances that demanded considerable travel and public exposure.

The first six chapters deal with the issue of expectations. The authors note that it is possible to enter into a marriage relationship with somewhat unrealistic expectations. Even when both husband and wife are believers, one's relationship with spouse, children and inlaws will not always be perfect.

The authors present several helpful ideas on making expectations more realistic and then helping those expectations to become reality.

One chapter examines how much a wife should expect her husband to do around the house.

The next five chapters address the important question of communication in marriage. Happy marriages are built on communication, but

good communication is not easy to attain. People communicate differently, and both husbands and wives need to give attention to fostering good communication within the relationship. Communication can never be forced, but the authors present practical suggestions on how to create an atmosphere conducive to it.

The final three chapters examine the issue of spirituality. Susan Yates discusses how couples can grow spiritually in spite of the fact that men and women do have somewhat different spiritual needs and different ways of expressing those spiritual needs. The last chapter confronts the most difficult situations which Christian wives encounter, dealing with a non-Christian hus-

band.

No book can offer quick and easy steps to building a strong Christian marriage because such marriages come neither quickly nor easily. This book does provide useful information and guidance from three experienced Christian wives. The authors examine the marriage relationship from the standpoint of the wife, but there is much to help Christian husbands as well. ■

### Directory Update

#### ARKANSAS

Steve Mayhew to Hillside Church, Mansfield

#### CALIFORNIA

Dan Steigman to Liberty Church, Anderson

#### MISSISSIPPI

Bennie Burrow to Antioch Church, Burnsville

#### NEW MEXICO

Dennis Conley to First United Church, Hobbs

#### OKLAHOMA

Orvel Romine to North McAlester Church, McAlester

Ward Fellabaum to Keota Church, Keota

Tom Smith to Arkoma Church, Arkoma

Mark Coyner to Hawkins Church, Alex

Phillip Wiley to Rock Island Church, Cameron

### Capital Stewardship Campaign

April 1993

Update

| State            | Goal                  | Gifts              |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Alabama          | \$ 97,290.00          | \$ 1,000.00        |
| Arizona          | 1,565.00              | 1,800.00           |
| Arkansas         | 97,880.00             | 22,461.52          |
| Atlantic Canada  | 2,000.00              | .00                |
| California       | 21,925.00             | .00                |
| Colorado         | 1,005.00              | 1,005.00           |
| Florida          | 26,365.00             | 2,040.30           |
| Georgia          | 48,620.00             | 9,662.03           |
| 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             | 370.00             |
| 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            | 924.50             |
| South Carolina   | 23,350.00             | 100.00             |
| Tennessee        | 100,040.00            | 20,890.55          |
| Texas            | 14,705.00             | 4,280.00           |
| Virginia         | 30,975.00             | 405.00             |
| West Virginia    | 58,840.00             | 320.00             |
| Other            | 23,780.00             | 2,218.85           |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <b>\$1,000,000.00</b> | <b>\$94,802.94</b> |

## OUR READERS COMMENT

### Article Prompts Good Memory

I got my copy of the May *Contact* this morning and saw Billy Bevan's article on youth evangelism. Naturally, it was one of the first things I read. For two reasons: because of the author and because of the subject.

He did an excellent job. I was especially glad to see him saying some things about honesty and compassion in our evangelistic efforts directed to youth. My concern has been—for a long time—that we expect unsaved kids to adopt a Christian appearance before we evangelize them.

He reminded me about the most memorable service I have ever been in. The FWBBC Evangels drama team was invited by a youth director to do their summer program in his church on a Wednesday night several years ago. I was shocked at his kids. They were wild! Smoking just outside the church door; outrageous appearance; loud and "worldly" in the worst ways. I doubted we had anything to offer them and was ready to "get it over with." When I asked about giving an invitation, he said, "Most of these kids are unsaved. [As if I couldn't tell!] Let me decide at the end of the service."

The Evangels did their program and the kids (about 125-150 in a small room) were attentive. At the end of the service it was obvious the Lord was at work. I have never felt conviction so evident in a room. The youth director stood and without an invitation hymn, said, "The Lord is here tonight and you know what you need to do." With no more than that, I watched about 40-50 kids flood the altar.

After waiting about 15 minutes, he stood and said, "Now tell what God has done for you." For the next half hour they testified to being saved and rededicating their lives. One girl said she had tried repeatedly to commit suicide, and had completed suicide therapy that afternoon. "But I found what I've really needed here, tonight," she said.

I have never forgotten that night. I hope I never do. I wrote the pastor of that church and told him that it must take a lot of courage to let a young man bring kids like that to church, but that I admired him for it.

I just hope I can see it happen again someday. In the meantime, I want the Lord to help me to love the ugliest, most rebellious kid that ever crosses my path. I know Jesus would.

Reverend Bert Tippett  
Director of Publications  
Free Will Baptist Bible College  
Nashville, Tennessee

### This Time You Goofed!

Generally, I have found articles in *Contact* to be at least somewhat informative and occasionally brilliant. This time you goofed! As other denominations uplift, respect and find responsible roles for women, you print this little ditty, "The Loving Wife," May 1993. Once again you have failed half the congregation.

I am a wife (32 years), a mother (four children), diligent to God's Word and submissive to my husband and church leaders. I am also a retired professional.

For years I have searched your magazine in vain for articles for women, not about women but for women. All of us aren't Eves you know. Many women have led their husbands to God. Many women hold their families together in the church now. Yet, for these good women, you print this piece of fluff.

This article is a classic example of misguided teaching. You didn't see it that way, but it assumes a woman should manipulate a man by sexual favors, i.e., dressing up, catering, creative lovemaking, undeserved or false praise and "Honey, it's okay," when it's not phrases.

Do I see this differently than other women? I don't think so. Surely the man I follow is more than that. If not, then why must I follow him? This is just one more chauvinist example of why modern young women bring their families to church and then leave never to return.

God's Word is full of women's intelligent good works. Write about them. I doubt the woman in Proverbs 31 would be impressed with your "Loving Wife" teachings. Frankly, gentlemen, she, as we do, would probably gag.

I suggest less self-serving, condescending and patronizing writings for future issues. You would add much to our faith and give us true direction that serves God, not man.

Maybe you ought to leave marriage counseling to the pros.

Mrs Barbara Bailey  
Ontario, California

### Responds to Editorial

Boy! Wouldn't it be great if that businessman gave that \$1 million. (See May issue, "Briefcase.") I'm sure there would be a lot of shouting among Free Will Baptists.

Here's my \$10 check for the Capital Stewardship Campaign for my wife and me.

Reverend Paul Long  
Tupelo, Mississippi

## A Smile and a Petunia

By M. J. Pritchard

Who was he, the man I met on the sidewalk outside the hotel?

My friends and I were waiting to board the chartered bus to the mall, the biggest mall in the country. He was homeless, or so it appeared.

But there we stood for a brief moment, looking at each other, smiling. He reached a hand out to me. In his fingers, held with delicacy, was a limp white petunia. And he offered it to me.

He smiled a wide toothy grin. I returned his smile and accepted his gift with "Thank you!" and a nod of my head.

He touched my shoulder as he passed. Then he was gone. He and his two ragged friends.

My colleagues and I were going to the mall, not for necessities, but for pleasure and to buy things we probably didn't need. I gave him nothing. He was homeless, yet he gave me what he had and asked nothing in return.

Was he young or old? I don't know. Was he black or white? I'm not sure. Whatever or whoever he was, he touched my day with a smile and a petunia. And he left me wondering, *What have I given lately to another who crossed my path?* ■

### Another Responds to May Editorial

I suppose we all wish we could write a million-dollar letter, but in the meantime, here's my \$5 check enclosed.

Hopefully, your businessman will respond with a check of a much greater amount and not a million-dollar "You-gotta'-be-kidding!"

Oretha Hamlin  
San Pablo, California



Jack Williams

## The Green Bird Escape

**O**ne Sunday morning before church I stopped at a traffic light in south Nashville. I heard barking and turned my head to the left where I stared at two big dogs barking nonchalantly at the world from the back of a red pick-up truck. Then I glanced at the driver and discovered a young blonde-haired woman in an animated conversation with a green bird perched on her shoulder.

When the light changed the truck pulled ahead of me, the driver and her green friend still chatting at one another. That's when I saw the bullet hole in the tailgate of the truck and a bumper sticker.

I wondered who had taken a shot at the tailgate, but the bumper sticker didn't need explanation: "I tried to contain myself, but I escaped."

Somehow that philosophy seemed to fit the driver, the truck and her three sidekicks.

### Escaping from ourselves.

What a splendid idea. Open closed doors; erase artificial boundaries; color outside the lines of society.

Jesus invites us to lose ourselves in Him, to spend ourselves in His cause. Not many accept His invitation, but those who do light a fire in themselves and others that forever changes all they touch.

Lewis Timberlake describes an incident concerning David Livingston who had already escaped himself and was working in Africa. When a group of friends wrote to Livingston, his response explains how he escaped. "We would like to send other men to you. Have you found a good road into your area yet?" they asked.

According to a member of his family, Dr. Livingston replied, "If you have men who will only come if they know there is a good road, I don't

want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all."

**There's another quality** about those who escape themselves that most of us overlook: Curiosity. The curious person turns rocks over just to see what's underneath. He takes an untraveled road in order to discover where it leads.

Nicodemus' curiosity drove him to Jesus by night. He left that meeting the first man in the world to hear the salvation formula: "Ye must be born again."

Zacchaeus and his curiosity climbed a sycamore tree in Jericho. What did it get him? An extra Guest at his dinner table and a salvation experience so dramatic that he gave half his goods to feed the poor and restored fourfold anything he had ever taken by false pretenses.

Einstein's curiosity about time and space eventually led to nuclear power. Henry Ford's curiosity about horseless carriages now causes traffic jams worldwide. The Wright brothers' curiosity about human flight propelled men to the moon and back. They all had one thing in common—they escaped into a bigger world.

**A third characteristic** of those who escape themselves is the ability to see what is there, but to see it through different eyes. The greatest escape artists in the world are children because they see ordinary events through fresh eyes. Adults spend a lifetime trying to recapture the child's perspective.

Mom and Dad may think those neighborhood boys spent the afternoon crawling through the petunias and over the back fence. Hah! Those rugged trailblazers actually rode horses to Arizona after lunch, fought a band of hostiles and helped Kit Carson on a daring rescue. Then

they rode home in time for dinner. And it all happened between the front porch and the flower garden.

Adult poets do that when they escape into another dimension. How else do we explain a description of God's protection as "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust?"

**A final quality** of those who escape themselves is the ability to see what's not there but could be. Is that what made King David hound God to let him build a temple? Solomon may have built the great Temple, but David dreamed it.

David dreamed of something more permanent than the tent of animal skins. He longed for something more beautiful than a dirt-enclosed court. Solomon built in Jerusalem what David saw in his mind.

Indiana basketball coach Bobby Knight said, "The will to win is not nearly as important as the will to prepare to win."

David prepared the gold and silver to finance his dream. Solomon took David's preparations to the market place, and lived his father's dream.

**Last Sunday morning** I stopped at that same traffic light in south Nashville. I listened but did not hear the dogs barking. I looked to my left and could not find the red truck. There was no green bird chattering with a blonde-haired driver.

Instead, I saw only my reflection in the car window. I had contained myself. I had not escaped. Maybe it's time I bought a bumper sticker to remind myself of what could be.

And I know what I want it to say: "Honk gently. I'm somewhere else."

■

## CONTACT

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