

SEPTEMBER 1993

CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



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Together in Louisville

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A Time of Grace,
A Time of Giving

.....

Take a Stand

.....

Lessons from
Louisville

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SEPTEMBER 1993

VOLUME 40, NO. 9

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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

Lessons from Louisville

As I left Louisville after the post-convention meetings, my thoughts returned to the convention which had just concluded. The business meetings were over and we would return to our regular routine. Did we accomplish anything? Was the convention necessary? How will the decisions made affect the denomination? I can not predict how the convention will alter the lives of others but it did the following things for me.

Refocusing

Some things are important while others are not. The denomination must focus on the mandate to evangelize the world. All our efforts must give priority to fulfilling Christ's commission to the Church. We must not allow the devil to cloud our focus. World evangelism is the engine which drives the denomination's program.

Refreshing

The music, messages and the business sessions were refreshing. I discovered that Free Will Baptists hold strong convictions which surface in discussion and debate. We are not ashamed of what we believe or who we are. While others drift toward compromise, we stand on the Bible as our final rule of faith and practice.

Reaffirmation

That includes personal reaffirmation and public affirmation by the denomination on a number of issues. Reaffirmation of Free Will Baptist documents declares that some things have not changed. Changes have taken place over the years in many areas, but those foundational beliefs which characterize Free Will Baptists have not changed.

Increased Respect

This convention increased my respect for the diversity which evidences itself when Free Will Baptists transact business. Meetings of committees, boards and the national convention reflect this diversity. It takes patience, persistence and perception to reach a decision. When decisions are made, all will not agree but the majority prevails. That is the Free Will Baptist way.

The business of this convention caused me to have greater respect for Free Will Baptists. We are not afraid to deal with issues. We do need to work on respecting those who hold different views within our fellowship. Respecting one another brings harmony and unity in the midst of our diversity.

Recommitment

I determined to make a difference. Personal rights must be sacrificed for the good of the denomination. I believe one person can make a difference. I want to leave for the next generation a strong, spiritual and progressive denomination.

We enjoy the legacy of our forefathers who were committed to preaching, promoting and preserving biblical principles as embraced by Free Will Baptists. We can do no less for our children.

The Secretary's Schedule

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sept. 14-17 | Convention Planning Trip
Little Rock, AR |
| Sept. 19-22 | Christian Stewardship
Assoc.
Denver, CO |
| Sept. 26-
Oct. 1 | Parkway FWB Church
Sedalia, MO |



Melvin Worthington

Rejoicing

The convention produced rejoicing in my heart for the Lord's blessing on us as a denomination. We have not reached all our goals but progress has been made. We rejoice in the souls saved, the churches planted at home and abroad, and the financial support for all denominational ministries. The number of young people attending the National Youth Conference gives reassurance and hope for our denomination's future.

Response

Finally, the convention prompted the following responses: I am going to be more cooperative. I have asked the Lord to give me a cooperative spirit. I want to learn how to be congenial when others disagree with me. As Daniel of old, I want to be known as a person with an "excellent spirit."

I also want to learn how to effectively communicate with compassion and consistency where I stand on the issues. In spite of differences, I can stand firmly without compromise and contrariness. I can be a gentleman in every circumstance. Free Will Baptists will always have differences of opinions, but that need not hinder denominational growth.

I do not know how the 1993 convention affected you, but for me it was a marvelous educational experience. Lessons learned will make me a better person, preacher and executive secretary. I have a renewed respect for Free Will Baptists and rejoice in the way God gives direction to our movement.

I am already looking forward to Little Rock, Arkansas, the site of the 1994 convention. Plan to meet me there next July. ■

1993 Convention Report

Together in Louisville

By Thomas Marberry



Wednesday night speaker Doug Little (l) and missionary Jerry Gibbs.



Everybody sing!



Full house at missionary service.

We came to Louisville, and it was quite a week. We prayed, sang, preached, worshipped and fought all week long. Most of the time during the week there was a spirit of love and unity. Much good was accomplished, and important decisions were made to further the work of our denomination. A few times, the atmosphere was tense and disagreements sharp. Several important votes during business sessions were very close and reflected a deeply divided voting body. Yet, a determination to confront the issues with frankness and honesty was everywhere evident.

This article cannot describe everything that happened; there is not sufficient space. It will seek to outline as fairly as possible the blessing we received, the work we did and the disagreements we faced.

The convention's theme was "Laborers Together," taken from I Corinthians 3:9 where Paul wrote these words to a troubled congregation, "For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington described the importance of the theme, "During this convention may we be reminded that we are laborers together. That's why we are here in Louisville. We labor together because of a common doctrine, a common goal, a common salvation and a common heritage."

Together in Preaching

Seven Free Will Baptist preachers brought gospel messages during this 57th annual convention. They represented a cross section of the different preaching styles which we have within our ranks.

Sunday Morning

The Sunday morning sermon was preached by Rev. Nathan Ruble, executive secretary of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists.

He chose as his primary text I Corinthians 3:1-9. He stressed that we are co-workers with God and with one another in God's work here on earth. We must be careful not to allow selfishness or jealousy or an

1993 National Convention analysis was written by Thomas Marberry, theology and Greek instructor at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, Oklahoma.

All convention photographs are provided courtesy of James Vallance, director of the Master's Men Department.

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

unhealthy spirit of competition to hinder our fellowship and the ability to work together.

Sunday Evening

The Sunday evening sermon was preached by Rev. Clifford Austin who has served for the past 25 years as pastor of First FWB Church in Prestonsburg, Kentucky. He preached on the subject, "Counting the Cost," and used as his text Luke 14:25-30.

As we labor in the cause of Christ, he challenged us to consider the Person who calls us, contemplate the greatest pursuit of life, calculate the potential for success, and take comfort in the prospects of heaven.

Both Sunday worship services were well attended, and a spirit of quietness and reverence was evident.

Monday Evening

Rev. Bailey Thompson, pastor of Woodcrest FWB Church of Catoosa, Oklahoma, brought the message Monday evening. His text was Luke 24:50-53.

In the message Rev. Thompson discussed the relationship which Jesus had with those who followed Him and what Christians today can learn from that relationship. Jesus called His disciples to leave the world in which they lived and depend upon Him. God calls believers today to a similar commitment.

Bible Conference

Two challenging messages were

preached at the Bible Conference on Tuesday morning. The first preacher was Rev. Curtis Lilly of Friendship FWB Church in Flint, Michigan. He preached on "Together with the Truth" from I Kings 13:1-22. He stressed that "the Word of God is always right: and should be believed and practiced by the Christian."

The second preacher was Rev. Wendell Walley, pastor of Zephyr Hills FWB Church of Asheville, North Carolina. He preached an outstand-



*Convention music coordinator
Vernon Whaley.*

ing expository message from Matthew 8:1-4. A considerable portion of the sermon was devoted to a discussion of faith. Rev. Walley noted that "faith is not demanding; it is modest and respectful." He also noted that "faith does not always know God's will in every situation." It was a well-prepared, insightful and challenging message.

Tuesday Evening

Rev. Bobby Ferguson of First FWB Church of Houston, Texas, preached Tuesday evening. His text was Matthew 16:13-18. In his message, Rev. Ferguson challenged the congregation to

storm the gates of Hell. In particular, he encouraged those present to involve themselves actively in combatting evil in their local communities.

Wednesday Evening

The final sermon of the convention was preached Wednesday evening by Rev. Doug Little of First FWB Church of Russellville, Arkansas. Rev. Little reminded us of the importance of laboring together in the work of evangelism. If we are to do this effectively, we must have a vision from God and power from God as did the early believers in Acts. Pastor Little noted that "our Father's greatest passion is the redemption of lost humanity."

The proclamation of the gospel is an integral part of our work as Free Will Baptists. Preaching is, and ought to be, an important aspect of every national association.

Together in Music

In my judgment, the music at this convention was the best in several years. It was truly a blessing. The *Mass Choir* under the direction of Rev. Doug Little sang Monday evening.

On Tuesday evening, for only the third time in the history of our National Association, the singing groups from all four Free Will Baptist colleges sang together. Their songs were well done, and they added greatly to the service.

During the Wednesday evening missions service, the *Men's Choral*



Oklahoma pastor Bailey Thompson preaches Monday night.

under the direction of Jerry Carraway brought the special music. Their rendition of "A Few Good Men" was well received by the congregation.

The *Resounding Praise Handbell Choir* from Donelson FWB Church of Nashville, Tennessee, played several selections during the Monday evening worship service. Since few Free Will Baptist churches have handbell choirs, this was a different type musical experience for many of those present.

All four of our Free Will Baptist colleges were represented by musical ensembles. These young people



Convention music coordinator Vernon Whaley (1), organist Richard McDonald, pianist Jerry Carraway.

sang at different times throughout the convention. They are a credit to our denomination.

Several other groups and ensembles sang during the convention as well. The Florida Ministers Quartet sang Sunday morning. Joe Jones and Ken Riggs sang a duet during the Wednesday evening service.

Solos were performed by several individuals including Jerry Carraway, Elton Wilson, Stanley Jones, Darryl Ferrington and Brenda Webb. Their talent and hard work contributed to the spirit of worship.

We also had outstanding congregational singing. There was a good mixture of hymns, gospel songs and contemporary choruses. A special vote of thanks to Jerry Carraway and Richard McDonald who accom-

panied the congregational singing and part of the special music of the convention on the piano and organ.

Music is an important and much-enjoyed part of worship in Free Will Baptist churches, and this was evident at Convention '93.

Together in Learning

A national convention is a tremendous learning opportunity for Free Will Baptists. On Sunday morning there are Sunday School classes for all ages which are taught by men and women with many years of experience in teaching. This year the adult class studied Psalm 72. The teacher was Dr. Thomas L. Marberry who has taught Bible at Hillsdale FWB College since 1975.

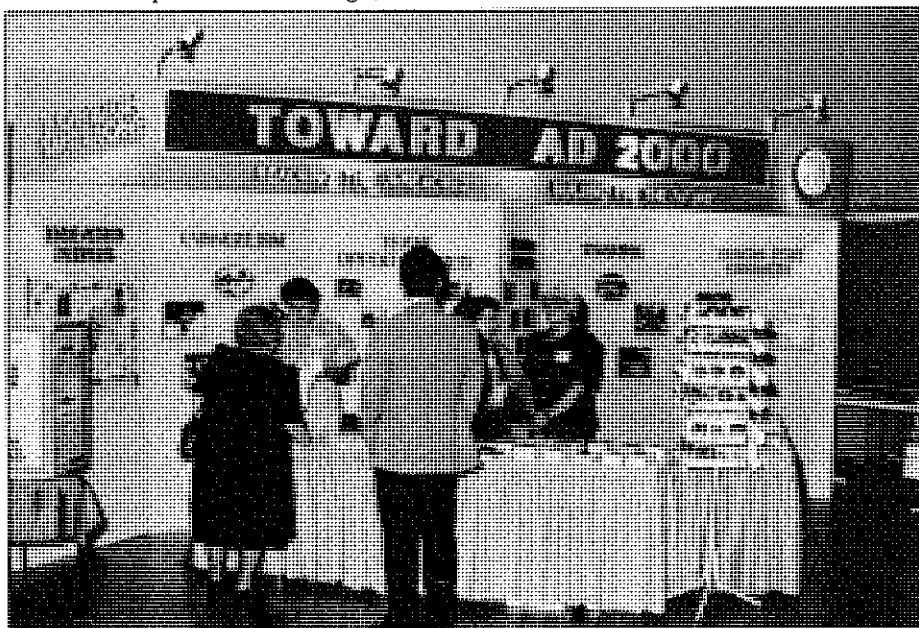
On Tuesday afternoon several commissions and agencies sponsor seminars which deal with a variety of interest to our people. This year the Commission for Theological Integrity sponsored a seminar on the doctrine of election. Dr. Robert Picirilli, academic dean at Free Will Baptist Bible College, con-

trasted the unconditional view of election which is found in Calvinism with the conditional view of election which is found in our ranks.

The Double in a Decade seminar dealt with church growth. The speaker was Rev. Claudie Hames, who has pastored First FWB Church



Former moderator, Ralph Staten.

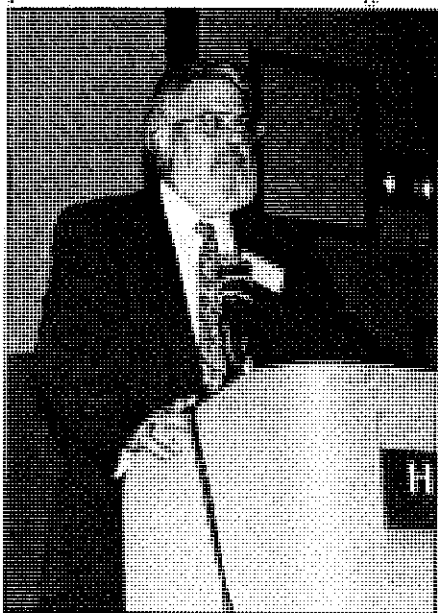


Foreign Missions booth attracts delegates to exhibit area.

of Bakersfield, California, for 29 years. During these years, Pastor Hames has given great emphasis to evangelism; he and his church members have led many souls to Christ. During the seminar he discussed how the man of God must be involved in church growth. He reminded us that there are three principles in growing a church. They are (1) work, (2) work hard and (3) work harder.

The Music Commission Seminar was a reading session. Those who attended the seminar had the opportunity to sing several new pieces of Christian music provided by the publishers. This gave these music directors and others opportunity to see first-hand some of the best Christian music being published today.

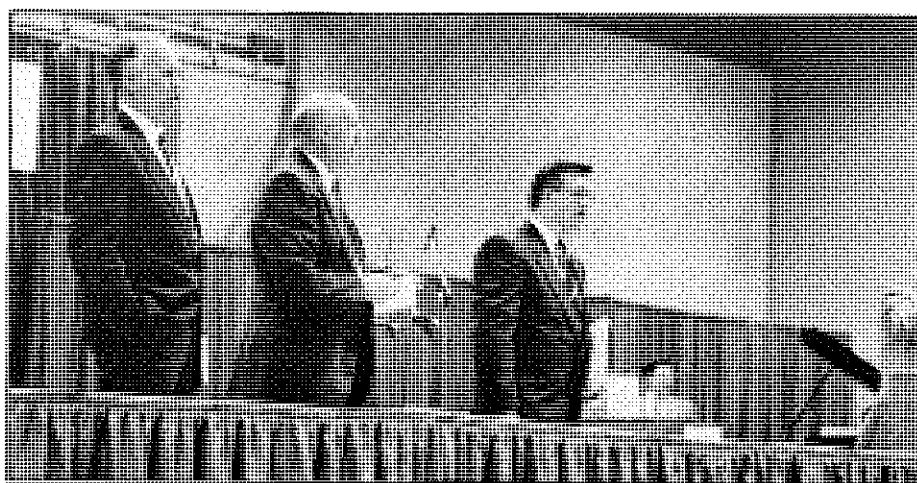
The Master's Men Congress also met Tuesday afternoon. This is an organization of laymen from every part of our denomination. Its goal is



Layman of the Year—Richard Byers.

to involve laymen more in the work of God and our denomination. It also serves as an advisory body to the Master's Men Board. The officers of the Master's Men Congress are: Roy Copeland, moderator; Howard Price, assistant moderator; Harvey Crain, clerk; and Ken Nabors, assistant clerk.

There were also 33 exhibitors with 62 booths in the exhibit area of the convention. All national departments staffed booths where delegates and visitors could learn more about their work and meet some of their personnel. All four of our denominational



Speaker Clifford Austin (l). Co-chairmen of the Kentucky Steering Committee—moderator Richard VanHoose and promotional director Tim York.

colleges and several other Free Will Baptist organizations (such as children's homes) maintained booths.

We need to know more about the work of our denomination. Convention '93 gave us the opportunity to learn more about what God is doing among us.

Together in Fellowship

In my opinion, one of the most valuable aspects of a National Association is the opportunity to fellowship with other Free Will Baptists from across the country and around the world. The General Board Breakfast on Monday morning brought together those who had been chosen by the various states to help transact the business of the denomination.

The Music Ministries Breakfast on Tuesday morning brought together those who have a special interest in music. The speaker for this year's breakfast was Rev. Joe Grizzle. He discussed how a greater emphasis on worship and praise changed his own life and the life of his church. He reminded

us that "worship involves participation, not observation."

The Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon met at noon Tuesday. Rev. Randy Wilson challenged the group to value and support Christian higher education in a time when Christian colleges are facing increasing problems in the areas of finances, enrollment and accreditation. President Shepherd also gave an update



One month after open-heart surgery, Home Missions director Roy Thomas wheels to convention services.

on the current status of Hillsdale.

The State Leaders Breakfast met Wednesday morning. There was no program. It simply gave an opportu-



Foreign Missions director Eugene Waddell reports to the General Board.

nity for informal discussion and fellowship among those who occupy positions of leadership in our state associations.

At noon on Wednesday the alumni and friends of Free Will Baptist Bible College gathered for their annual luncheon. Dr. Robert Picirilli, academic dean, gave an update on the college's efforts to obtain regional accreditation. Dr. Ken Riggs gave an overview of the current fund-raising project sponsored by the Alumni Association. It calls for alumni and friends of FWBBC to raise \$75,000 to fund for two years the position of alumni director at the college.

One of the highlights of the convention every year is the Wednesday evening Master's Men Dinner. Rev. Jerry Gibbs, missionary to France, was the speaker this year. He talked about some of the men, both laymen and ministers, who had been important influences in his life. In his message he reminded us how important it is to be a good example of Jesus Christ in our everyday lives.

Each year at this dinner, our denomination recognizes two laymen who have rendered outstanding service during the past year. This year Richard H. Byers of Indiana was selected as Layman of the Year. Lester White of Oklahoma was selected as

Runner-Up Layman of the Year. These men have given generously of their time and talents both to their local churches and to the work of our denomination as a whole.

Together in Missions

All Free Will Baptists share the commitment to carry the gospel to lost men and women both at home and abroad. We may disagree on methods and strategies, as we did at this convention, but there is no disagreement on our desire to carry out the Great Commission. As they do every year, both the Home Missions and Foreign Missions Departments gave reports on their activities and invited questions from those attending the convention.

Home Missions

The Home Missions Department reported that 87 families of missionaries, associate missionaries, tent-makers and Mexican national pastors served with the department in 1992. Seven missionary families were appointed in 1992. Missionary

field, California, had the largest attendance with 1,703 people in attendance. The goal for Roll Call Sunday in 1994 is 270,000.

On Monday afternoon of the convention, the Home Missions Department sponsored a Free Will Baptist Camp Meeting. There was much good singing at this service. The principal speaker was Trymon Messer, associate director for the department. He challenged the congregation to remember that soul-winning is the main thing, and that they must always be careful to keep the main thing the main thing.

During the business session, the proposed budget of the Home Missions Department was approved. It totals \$2.6 million for 1994.

Foreign Missions

The Foreign Missions Board report was presented by General Director Eugene Waddell. He reported 120 missionaries were serving Free Will Baptists in 10 countries as of January 1, 1993. These figures do not include Cuba where the ministry has been maintained by national



Delegates stand at every microphone during business sessions.

Builder Howard Gwartney and his "Helping Hands" crew of volunteer workers erected eight new church buildings in 1992. Eight Free Will Baptist chaplains ministered to the men and women in our armed forces.

Roll Call Sunday was March 28, 1993. Some 224,547 people worshipped in 2,650 reporting Free Will Baptist churches. There were 706 salvation decisions made that day. The First FWB Church of Bakers-

pastors since 1960.

As of January 1, 1993, the department reported 34 ordained pastors, 184 licensed and lay preachers, 8 Bible Institutes with 97 students, 69 organized churches, 156 mission works, 810 converts, and 326 baptisms. Average Sunday School attendance in our churches and mission works was 6,329.

Rev. Waddell gave brief updates of the status of several different

fields. He reported that the Christians in Cuba are having a difficult time due to shortages of food and other necessities. The church in Panama continues to grow in spite of strong opposition in some areas. The annual conference in India last February registered an attendance of 700 believers.

During 1992, total income to the department was \$4.5 million which is up almost 3% from 1991. The recommended budget for 1994 is \$4.48 million.

During the business session the Foreign Missions Department report was approved and the budget adopted. There was, however, considerable discussion over the situation in Spain. For the past 14 months there has been controversy over the status of our Free Will Baptist mission work in Spain, and this article does not allow sufficient space to discuss all the history of the development of the controversy.

In summary, some within the denomination have argued that missionaries in Spain have not adequately enforced the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant, especially the section which concerns the use of intoxicating beverages. The contention became so sharp that two missionaries to Spain resigned. Considerable division here at home has also been produced.

The controversy began to surface early in the convention and cast a shadow over the proceedings for the entire week. The business sessions became quite heated at

times as people expressed deeply-held feelings on this issue. While the issues are too complex to be adequately summarized here, some analysis of what happened should be made.



Bible College president Tom Malone makes a point.

All those who spoke on the floor during the business sessions reaffirmed their commitment to the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant and to its statements concerning the use of alcoholic beverages. *No one* wished to condone the use of alcohol; everyone wanted believers in Spain and everywhere else to abstain from the use of alcohol. The main disagreement centered on how to accomplish this goal.

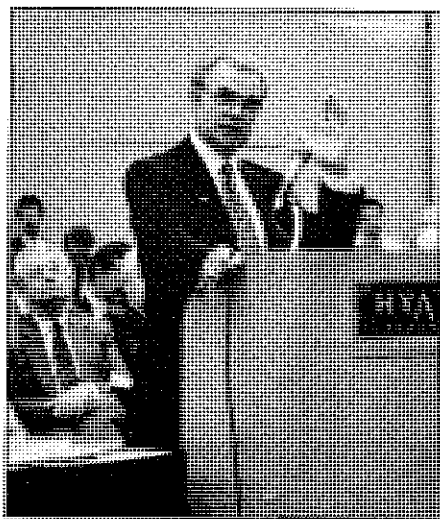
First of all, it must be stated that our missionaries in Spain have encountered some resistance from Spanish believers in this issue. Drinking wine is very much a part of the culture of Spain, and some Spanish Christians see nothing wrong with it. The evidence presented at the convention indicated that most Spanish Free Will Baptists do not drink alcoholic beverages, but there are a few who did on one occasion at

a wedding banquet conducted at a restaurant in Spain.

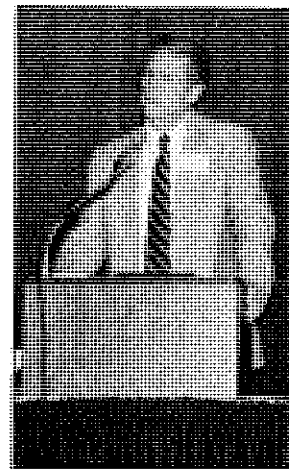
The evidence presented at the convention indicated that all Free Will Baptist missionaries who have ever served in Spain, and all who are serving there now, practice, teach and preach total abstinence. These Free Will Baptist missionaries have endeavored to bring all Spanish Free Will Baptists to a position of total abstinence, but the missionaries believe that this will require time, teaching and patience.

A number of those at the convention believed that missionaries in Spain had not taken sufficient steps to bring our churches and missions in Spain into conformity with the statement of the Church Covenant on this issue. Others believed that the missionaries in Spain were dealing with the situation in an appropriate manner and their efforts should be encouraged and commended.

On the final day of the convention, a resolution was presented to reaffirm our commitment to the Church Covenant and "requiring those in their departments responsible for evangelism, Christian growth and church planting to teach the principles and precepts of the Church Covenant (or an accurate



Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington.



Board chairman Wendell Leckbee addresses Master's Men Congress.

translation thereof) beginning early in their mission work."

This resolution was amended on the floor by adding the words that "our mission boards and missionaries be required to bring our mission works and organized churches into

conformity with the Covenant as soon as possible." This amendment was passed by a close vote. The closeness of the vote indicates something of the difficult and controversial nature of this subject.

These are difficult and divisive issues. Pray that the Lord will give wisdom to Free Will Baptists here and to Free Will Baptists in Spain as they seek to resolve these problems.

Together in Service

The Free Will Baptist denomination is a big operation. Several agencies help to carry on the work of the denomination in various ways. Each of these agencies gave reports at the convention.

Executive Office

Dr. Melvin Worthington, executive secretary, gave a report on the status of his office. He noted that contributions to the Capital Stewardship Campaign totaled \$57,212 during 1992. Total contributions from the beginning of the campaign through April 1993 totaled \$98,812. He also noted that sales of *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* totaled approximately 86,000 as of December 31, 1992. Contributions to all national agencies of the denomination in 1992 totaled \$1.7 million, \$243,000 undesignated and \$1.4 million designated.

Bible College

Free Will Baptist Bible College was created in 1942 to help meet

educational needs of the denomination. President Tom Malone and Board of Trustees Chairman Ken Walker gave the convention an update on the current status of the college. They reported that enrollment during the past school year increased almost 12% over the enrollment of the previous year. A 16% to 17% increase is expected for the next school year.

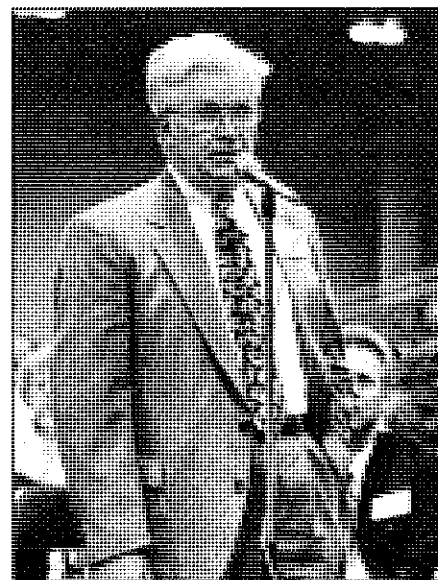
Several new programs of study are being inaugurated on the campus such as accounting, sports medicine, and education/youth ministry. Each of these programs is designed to provide a greater variety of educational opportunities for Free Will Baptist students.

The college enrolled 300 students for both fall and spring semesters. There were 83 ministerial students, 46 missions students and 70 married students.

Rev. Malone and Rev. Walker both shared the need for additional funds to make repairs on several college buildings. They asked for continued prayers and support from Free Will Baptists across the country.

Sunday School

Dr. Roger Reeds presented the report of the Sunday School and Church Training Department. He noted that this department does not receive any funds from the Cooperative Plan. It is supported entirely by the sales of Sunday School literature, books and other materials to our churches and bookstores. Total sales for the nine-month period end-



Leroy Fortlines, chairman of the Commission for Theological Integrity.

ing November 31, 1992, were \$1.69 million. Total expenses were \$1.58 million.

Dr. Reeds noted that he is retiring from the department as general director on December 31 this year. The new general director will be Rev. Alton Loveless.

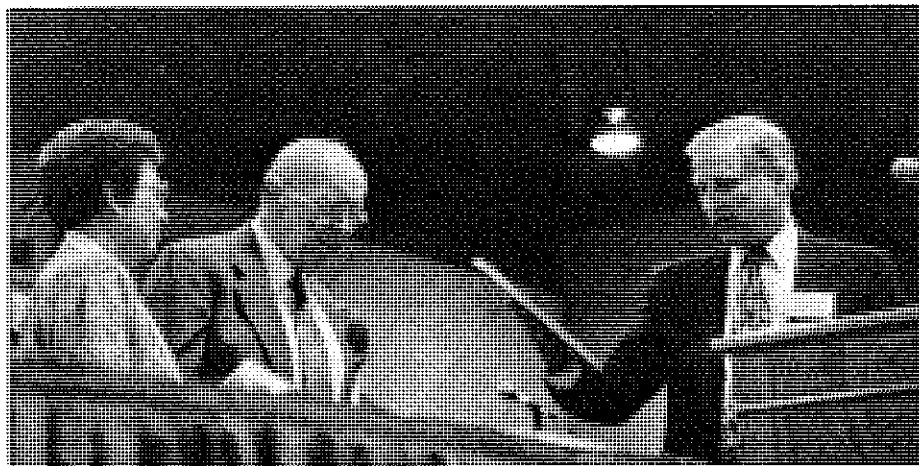
The department operates with a staff of 24 full-time employees and nine part-time employees. These employees have a total of 466 years of seniority with the department.

Master's Men

The Master's Men Department serves the needs of the laymen of the denomination. Through its Master's Hands Project, Free Will Baptist volunteers have saved the denomination more than \$1.8 million in construction costs. These men and women, at their own expense, help construct new church buildings (primarily for mission churches) both in this country and abroad.

At the end of 1992 there were 727 LifeMembers and 49 LifeFriends. Each of these individuals has helped to support the ministry of Master's Men financially by purchasing life memberships.

The department received a total income of \$107,910 during 1992. Of this amount, \$78,329 was available for ministry. This amount was insufficient to meet the financial needs of the department. There were not suf-



Board of Retirement honors Herman and Vernie Hersey upon their retirement for their years of service to the department. New director, William Evans, (r.) presents plaque.



Foreign Missions director Eugene Waddell applauds littlest missionary.

ficient funds to pay for the office space which the department occupies in the National Offices Building. The Executive Committee will meet with the Master's Men Board to work out a strategy for resolving this situation. Additional funds from local churches would greatly help reduce this problem.

Board of Retirement

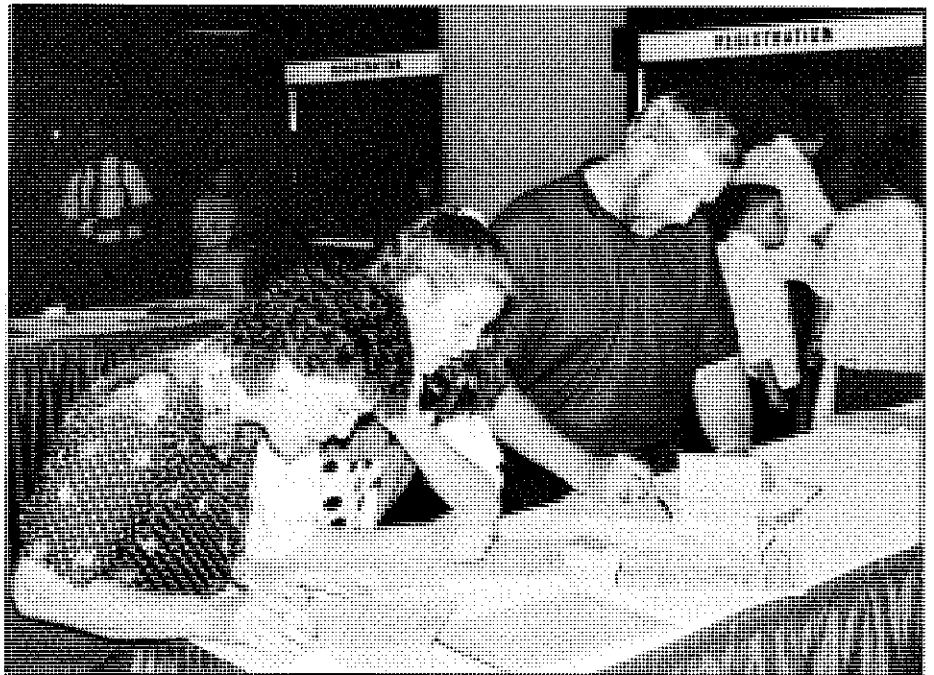
The Board of Retirement and Insurance seeks to provide a more adequate retirement income to those who have served our denomination. As of May 1993, there were 1,143 individuals participating in the retirement plan. About 120 individuals are receiving some type of retirement benefits from the denominational plan. The directors of the plan are careful to invest these funds in ways which do not violate our Church Covenant. Total income of the retirement fund during 1992 was \$1.5 million.

On Monday evening of the convention, a special award was given to Rev. and Mrs. Herman Hersey in honor of their years of service to Free Will Baptists. They will retire from the department on July 31 of this year.

Foundation

The Free Will Baptist Foundation

is one of our smaller agencies, but it provides a great service to our denomination. It serves as the custodian of funds which have been placed on deposit to benefit churches, agencies and individuals in our denomination. It was chartered in 1980 to assist Free Will Baptist families in financial planning. During 1992 the Foundation provided \$43,419.89 in income for ministries and individuals.



For those who do not pre-register, on-site registration can be a hassle.

Commission for Theological Integrity

The National Association has created four commissions over the years to provide specific services to the denomination. Each of these commissions gave brief reports at Convention '93.

The Commission for Theological Integrity exists to accomplish three purposes. They are: (1) to alert our people of theological trends that could threaten our theological integrity as a denomination, (2) to prepare materials that will contribute to the continued preservation of the theological integrity of the denomination, and (3) as need and opportunity arise, to conduct seminars on subjects which are pertinent to the purpose of this commission.

The commission accomplishes these objectives by publishing a variety of booklets dealing with areas of concern to our people. It also conducts a seminar each year during the national convention. The seminar this year taught by Dr. Robert Picirilli, dealt with "Conditional vs. Unconditional Election."

Radio-TV Commission

The Radio and Television Commission produces a 15-minute



Moderator Ralph Hampton.

weekly radio broadcast which can be used by churches in our denomination. The commission has no building and no full-time employees. It seeks to serve our churches in using the media to win men to Christ.

Historical Commission

The Historical Commission was created to help preserve important historical information and to encourage the study of our history. During 1993 and 1994, commission members will write 25 historical sketches which will be printed on church bulletins sold by Randall House Publications. The commission purchased all remaining copies of the *History of Free Will Baptist State Associations* from Randall House Publications. These are being distributed to our people through the clerks of the various state associations.

Through the efforts of Tim Thompson and Herbert and Geraldine Waid, the commission received the personal papers of Miss Laura Belle Barnard after her death. These materials were placed in the Historical Collection as well as with Free Will Baptist Bible College, WNAC and Foreign Missions. The Commission is also working with Free Will Baptist Bible College and other denominational colleges in the observance of a Free Will Baptist "Heritage Week" each year.

Music Commission

The Music Commission exists to

educate, encourage, promote and develop the music ministry among Free Will Baptists. The commission has investigated the possibility of a national music forum and music workshop to be held at Free Will Baptist Bible College in May 1994.

In recent years, the commission members devoted much time and effort to the production of *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book*. This hymnal was first published in 1988. Of the 100,000 copies originally printed, less than 9,000 remain to be sold. The supply of shaped-note copies is gone, and the round-note edition is selling out rapidly. At the request of the Executive Committee, the Music Commission has formulated a plan to correct the errors in the first printing and then reprint the book. This plan was submitted to the convention and approved.

Together in Business

One purpose for meeting every

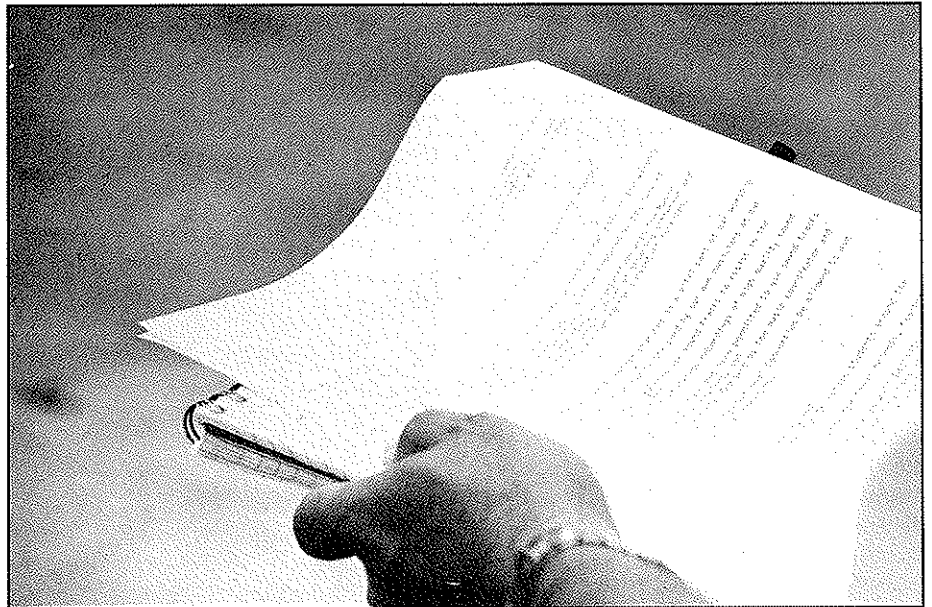
Will Baptist Hymn Book with all errors found in the earlier printing to be corrected.

3. Tampa, Florida, was selected as the site of the July 20-24, 2003, national convention.

4. The Tuesday evening service of the 1994 convention in Little Rock will be programmed to celebrate completion of the Capital Stewardship Campaign, "A Million More by '94." The body also voted that a special committee be appointed to coordinate fund-raising for the stewardship campaign.

5. The body authorized reduction of the percentage of undesignated funds used to underwrite the administrative budget of the Executive Office. This reduction is to begin in 1995 and end by 1998 when no more than 45% of undesignated receipts will be used for administrative purposes.

6. The report of the Financial Disclosure Committee was approved. This report lists the offices for which



Delegate considers three pages of resolutions.

summer is to make the decisions which must be made in order for our national ministries to function effectively. Here is a list of the major business items which came before the voting body in Louisville.

1. The convention heard reports from each of the national departments and approved their budgets.

2. The delegates approved a second printing of *Rejoice: The Free*

salaries and benefits should be reported to the National Association.

7. The convention approved a budget of \$15,000 for 1993 to pay for the design of materials for the Together Way Plan.

8. The convention voted to commend Rev. and Mrs. Lonnie Sparks and Rev. and Mrs. Mark Riggs for their years of service on the mission field in Spain.



The Stanley Jones Singers from Hartville, Missouri.

9. The convention also voted to commend Rev. and Mrs. Jeff Turnbough for their years of service on the mission field in Spain.

10. The convention received the report of the International Free Will Baptist Consultation Committee. On the recommendation of this committee, the body voted to participate in organizing an International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists in 1995.

Thursday morning, the National Association passed 12 resolutions expressing the views of the voting body on a variety of issues facing our country and our denomination.

Conclusion

It is difficult to determine the impact of a convention immediately after it adjourns. The importance of the events that transpired can be determined only after some thought and reflection. There is no doubt that Convention '93 in Louisville was a valuable one in many respects. Several important decisions were made which will affect the future of the Free Will Baptist denomination for years to come.

Steps were taken to correct and reprint our hymn book. The Together Way Plan and the Capital Stewardship Campaign are being brought to fruition. Our national departments are reporting progress in several different areas. Particularly commendable is the substan-

tial increase in enrollment at Free Will Baptist Bible College. The first steps were taken toward the creation of an International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists.

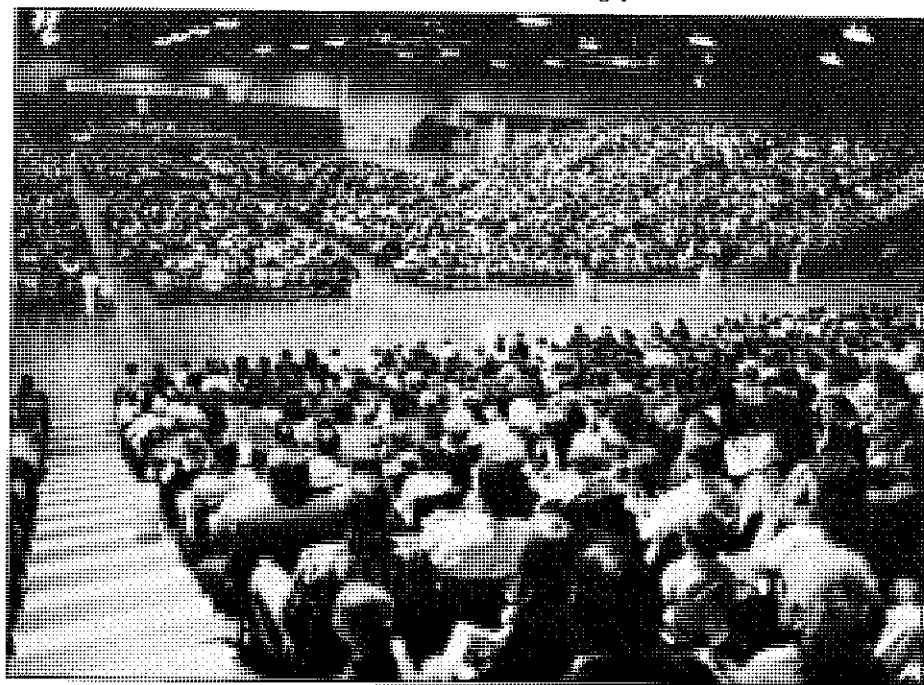
In spite of the controversy which was on everyone's mind during the week, there was a genuine spirit of worship and devotion. Attendance at the worship services was excellent. The preaching and singing were well received. There was determination to worship and praise God.

The Wednesday evening missions service was a special time. Many people, both young and old, went forward to commit themselves to serve God in whatever capacity He might choose.

The controversy surrounding our mission work in Spain has, however, left Free Will Baptists with several important questions with which we will deal in the future whether we want to or not. Some of these questions are: What is the Covenant? What is its role in the life of our denomination both at home and abroad? What is the relationship between Free Will Baptists in this country and those in other countries? What degree of control can Free Will Baptists in this country exercise over Free Will Baptists in other countries? What degree of control should we seek to exercise?

These are not easy questions to answer. They demand the very best, most prayerful consideration that Free Will Baptists can give them.

On the first day of Convention '93, our moderator, Rev. Ralph Hampton, reflected upon our situation in these words, "I hope that through our denominational struggles and difficulties we can grow into the people God wants us to be. The difficulties are a part of the maturing process." ■



Every seat filled for Wednesday night missionary service.

Convention Resolutions

1. Ministerial Family Life

Whereas, the breakup of the home is a special target of Satan aimed at all believers including ministers, and
Whereas, all Free Will Baptist homes, including ministers', come under attack, and

Whereas, God in His Word clearly commands in Galatians 6:1, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself lest thou also be tempted;"

Therefore, be it resolved

- (1) That we be careful to pray for each of our families, especially the ministers';
- (2) That the moderator appoint a committee of five (5) to develop a ministry of restoration for our leaders to be initiated as soon as possible.

2. Natural Disasters

Whereas, many people of our nation are facing tremendous loss because of natural disasters such as floods and droughts;

Therefore, be it resolved that our local churches and associations be encouraged to express Christian compassion through prayer and tangible support for the victims of these tragedies.

3. Homosexuality

Whereas, homosexuality and the teachings of alternate lifestyles have invaded many segments of our society, and
Whereas, the Bible strongly condemns homosexuality, and because of our strong commitment to biblical truth;

Therefore, be it resolved that we as Free Will Baptists go on record as

- (1) opposing the lifting of the ban on homosexuals in our armed forces; and
- (2) as opposing the government's condoning or accommodating homosexual practices in any manner.

And be it understood that neither our resolute opposition to the potential change in national military policy nor our continued belief in the sinfulness of homosexual practice should be construed to deny our historic evangelical beliefs about God's love for the sinner while hating the sin. God is full of grace, as well as truth. We thus reaffirm that homosexuals, like the rest of humanity, are fully the objects of God's redemptive love. By faith and repentance, all may obtain full forgiveness through the renewing of their minds by Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:22-24). We welcome all who receive forgiveness and wholeness in Jesus Christ as fellow believers in the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

4. Political Values

Whereas, there is great need for Christian influence in government

Therefore, be it resolved that we strongly encourage our constituency to communicate with their government officials urging them to support Judeo-Christian values,

And be it resolved that our people become personally involved in government at all levels.

And be it resolved that we instruct our clerk to send a copy of Resolution #3 to President William Clinton.

5. Pro-Life

Be it resolved that we reaffirm our 1992 resolution supporting our pro-life stance.

6. Sound Systems

Whereas, the music ministry at the convention has always

played a vital role in the worship services of the convention, and

Whereas, the preparation and presentation of the music is often hindered by the lack of quality equipment designed for music performances;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Executive Committee, in conjunction with the Music Commission, be instructed to investigate the possibilities of securing different and improved sound systems for our musicians to use during the convention services.

7. Sound Tracks (defeated)

Whereas, the music ministry in our Free Will Baptist churches is a vital part of our worship and praise services, and

Whereas, music is used as an expression of praise to the Lord by our own musicians at our conventions, and

Whereas, many of our musicians in our local churches use sound tracks to assist in the presentation of their music ministries, and

Whereas, many of our musicians are involved in producing recordings of high quality sound tracks and audio recordings, and

Whereas, for better than 15 years our musicians have not been permitted to use sound tracks in any of the official national convention services, and

Whereas, all the music of the convention is already approved by the music coordinator and Executive Committee before presentation;

Therefore, be it resolved that the musicians at the national convention be allowed to use pre-recorded sound tracks during the official services.

8. "See You at the Pole"

Whereas, our nation's schools stand in need of prayer, and
Whereas, "See You at the Pole" involves over one million Christian students around the world, and

Whereas, "See You at the Pole" challenges students to pray for their friends, teachers, schools and communities;

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Association of Free Will Baptists support "See You at the Pole" and encourage all Free Will Baptist teens to take part in "See You at the Pole" September 15, 1993, 7:00 a.m., at their schools' flagpoles.

9. Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation

Whereas, alcohol and drug problems have invaded every level of American society, and

Whereas, the National Association of Free Will Baptists has not addressed itself to an ongoing rehabilitation program for those addicted to alcohol and drugs;

Therefore, be it resolved that the moderator appoint a study committee to study the feasibility of such a ministry through our denomination and that the committee report back to the National Association in 1994.

10. Church Covenant (amended)

In light of recent questions of concern among some of our brethren regarding adherence to the Covenant on the use of intoxicating beverages, we offer the following resolution:

Whereas, in the first of our articles of faith we place our confidence in both the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and "our infallible rule of faith and practice," and

Whereas, we have adopted the Church Covenant as one instrument binding us together in fellowship and ministry, and

Whereas, the Church Covenant is in harmony with, and not

contrary to, the inspired Word of God;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

- (1) This National Association of Free Will Baptists reaffirm our commitment and submission to the Word of God as our only ultimate rule of faith and practice, and
- (2) We reaffirm our dedication to teaching, preaching and living all the precepts of our Church Covenant, and
- (3) We reaffirm our historic position that the consumption of intoxicating beverages is sinful and therefore believers are to be total abstainers, and
- (4) The various departments of the National Association reaffirm their commitment and submission to the Holy Scripture as our only rule of faith and practice, and
- (5) Our various departments reaffirm their dedication to our Church Covenant by:
 - (a) Bringing into their ministries only those persons who are so committed, and
 - (b) Requiring those in their departments responsible for evangelism, Christian growth and church planting to teach the principles and precepts of the Church Covenant (or an accurate translation thereof) beginning early in their mission work.
- (6) Our mission boards and missionaries be required to bring our mission works and organized churches into conformity with the Covenant as soon as possible.

11. Christian Watchcare

Whereas, our Church Covenant is not just a one-dimensional document but reflects many areas of our lives, such as the study of the Scriptures, prayer, worship, etc., and

Whereas, it includes the watchcare over one another with love, "to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation," and

Whereas, it is sinful to disregard these;

Therefore, be it resolved that every facet of our beloved Covenant be reaffirmed and adhered to by:

- (1) refraining from personal attacks, and
- (2) refraining from spreading rumors and malicious gossip, and
- (3) first adhering to the principles of Matthew 18 in instances of personal offense, and
- (4) using established denominational channels to achieve a fair hearing and a scriptural settlement of differences, and
- (5) appealing to the Executive Committee when there are grievances between national board members within the framework of their boards, and
- (6) encouraging one another in good works.

12. Support for Foreign Missions Department

Whereas, the integrity of our Foreign Missions Department, its General Director and certain missionaries have been called into question, and

Whereas, all of our missionaries personally believe in, practice, and teach total abstinence from alcohol,

Therefore, be it resolved that we affirm our confidence in our Foreign Missions Department, our General Director and our missionaries;

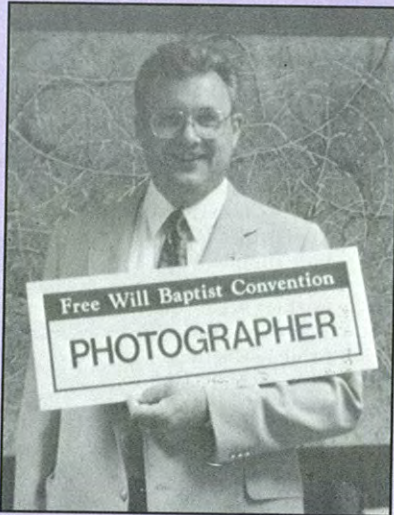
Be it further resolved that we encourage our people to continue supporting the ministry of our Foreign Missions Department.

13. Appreciation

Whereas, the Kentucky State Association has done a marvelous job hosting the 57th National Association,

Therefore, be it resolved that we give them a standing vote of appreciation.

Behind the Convention Scenes



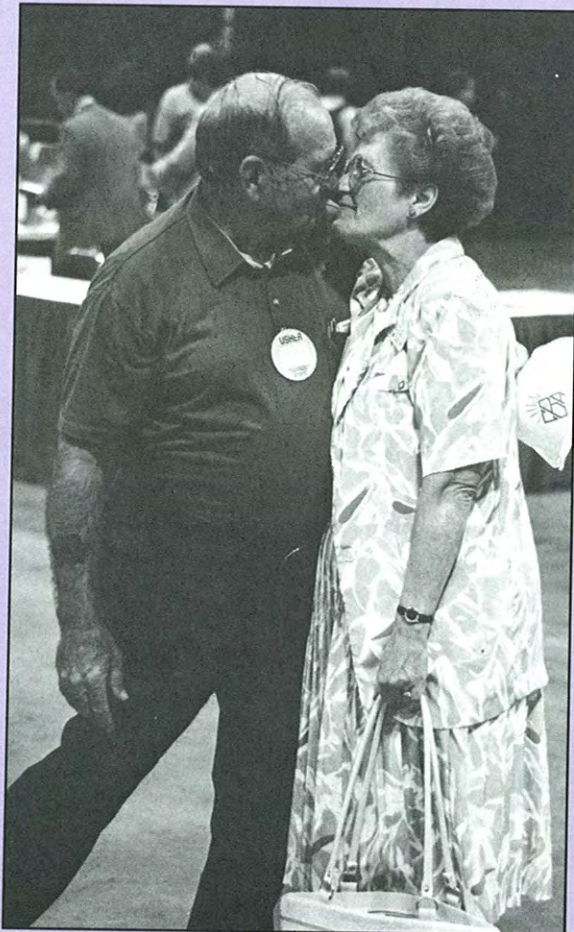
Convention photographer James Vallance.



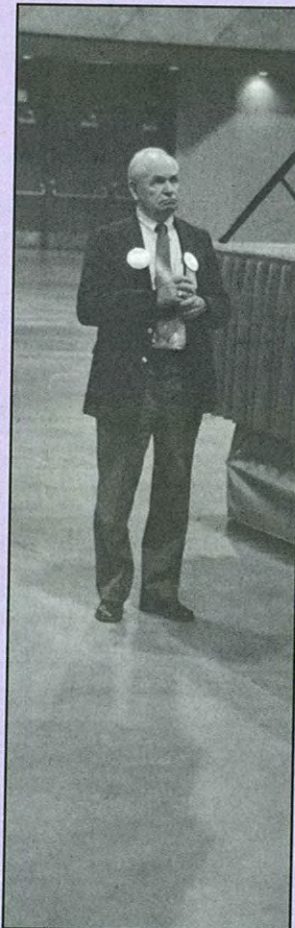
Convention press officer Thomas Marberry.



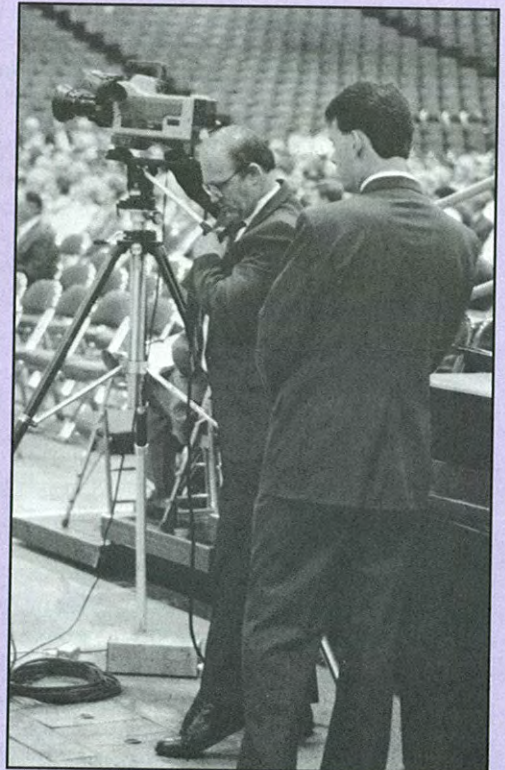
Registration coordinator George Harvey, Jr. answers three questions.



How sweet it is!



*The loneliest usher—
Raymond Lee*



*Convention tapes courtesy of
Sandy Goodfellow and Doug Kite*

1993 Convention Tapes Available National Association Messages on Cassette Tapes

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

Tape Number	Subject	Quantity
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CONVENTION MESSAGES

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------|
| * | 1. Nathan Ruble—Sunday Morning | _____ |
| * | 2. Clifford Austin—Sunday Evening | _____ |
| * | 3. Bailey Thompson—Monday Evening | _____ |
| * | 4. Bobby Ferguson—Tuesday Evening | _____ |
| * | 5. Doug Little—Wednesday Evening | _____ |

CONVENTION BIBLE CONFERENCE

- | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------|
| | 6. Curtis Lilly | _____ |
| | 7. Wendell Walley | _____ |

SEMINARS

- | | | |
|--|--|-------|
| | 8. Claudie Hames—Double in a Decade Seminar | _____ |
| | 9. Robert Picirilli—Theological Trends Seminar | _____ |

WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION

- | | | |
|---|--|-------|
| | 10. June Wilkinson/Gladys Gragg—WNAC Seminar | _____ |
| | 11. Susan Turnbough—WNAC Devotional | _____ |
| * | 12. Ron Moore—WNAC Missionary Service | _____ |
| | 13. WNAC Special Feature | _____ |
| | 14. Darlene Spangler—WNAC Fellowship Dinner | _____ |

MEET 'N' EAT

- | | | |
|--|--|-------|
| | 15. Joe Grizzle—Music Ministries Breakfast | _____ |
| | 16. Randy Wilson—Hillsdale Luncheon | _____ |
| | 17. Jerry Gibbs—Master's Men Dinner | _____ |

MISCELLANEOUS

- | | | |
|--|--|-------|
| | 18. Trymon Messer—FWB Camp Meeting | _____ |
| | 19. Ralph Hampton—Moderator's Message | _____ |
| | 20. Thomas Marberry—Adult Sunday School Lesson | _____ |

- | | | |
|--|--|-------|
| | 21. Mass Choir—"I Bowled on My Knees and Cried Holy" (only \$2 ⁰⁰) | _____ |
|--|--|-------|

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Elected in Louisville

The following were elected during the 57th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

General Officers

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

General Board

1995 John Edwards (Ala.)
David Taylor (Ariz.)
David Joslin (Ark.)
Darryl Crain (Atl. Canada)
Nuel Brown (Calif.)
Bob Thomas (Co.)
Randy Bryant (Fla.)
Herbert Waid (Ga.)
Tommie Carlson (Id.)
Ernie Lewis (Ill.)
Robert Helms (Ind.)
James Mize (Kan.)
Tim York (Ky.)
Ron Parker (First La.)
Lester Horton (Md.)
Fred Jones (Mex.)
Charles Cooper (Mich.)
J. L. Gore (Miss.)
Nathan Ruble (Mo.)

Executive Committee

1995 Charles Cooper (Mich.)
Nathan Ruble (Mo.)
David Joslin (Ark.)

Foreign Missions Board

1996 Bill Jones (Texas)

Home Missions Board

1999 Lynn Wood (Okla.)
Don Guthrie (Texas)
Wendell Walley (N.C.)

Master's Men Board

1999 Don Neal (Ind.)
Dwight Fletcher (Ga.)
Gary Wilson (Ala.)

Board of Retirement and Insurance

1999 Robert Morgan (Tenn.)
Lincoln Varney (Ky.)
Henry Van Kluyve (N.C.)

Commission for Theological Integrity

1998 Fred Hall (Tenn.)

Radio and Television Commission

1998 Steve Faison (Tenn.)

Music Commission

1994 Randy Sawyer (N.C.)
1998 Bill Gardner (Tenn.)

Historical Commission

1998 Mary Wisehart (Tenn.)

Words to Remember

- "Don't fly off the handle when you are full of baloney."
—Nathan Ruble
- "The tie that binds us as Free Will Baptists is the blood of Christ."
—Nathan Ruble
- "We must not lose sight of the fact that it is God's work, not our work."
—Ralph Hampton
- "Because Jesus is Lord, He has authority to call and to demand obedience to that call."
—Clifford Austin
- "We cannot succeed in the world today without the hand of God upon the church of God."
—Bailey Thompson
- "I wish we would love God as much as we love football, baseball and basketball."
—Curtis Lilly
- "I want to thank my friends who pray for me. Both of you are very special."
—Wendell Walley
- "When I got saved, I lost half my vocabulary."
—Claudie Hames
- "I am a fanatic on soul winning."
—Claudie Hames
- "If you think you can preach the pure, unadulterated Word of God and not make a few enemies, you are crazy."
—Bobby Ferguson
- "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing."
—Trymon Messer
- "Many things have gone undone. We must have your help."
—FWBBC president, Tom Malone
- "I want to be a good missionary."
—Jerry Gibbs
- "50,000 people die around the world every day."
—Doug Little
- "I will never become what I want to be by remaining what I am."
—Doug Little
- "There are cities that need a Savior."
—Jim Nason
- "Sometimes it's hard to serve Free Will Baptists."
—Ralph Hampton
- "I am not sure we have always appreciated the value of Christian higher education."
—Randy Wilson



Mabel (Mom) Willey advises Vernon Whaley.

1994 Budgets Adopted

Executive Office	\$ 495,304.61
Free Will Baptist Bible College	3,100,000.00
Foreign Missions	4,485,676.00
Home Missions and Church Extension	2,600,000.00
Master's Men	178,779.60
Retirement and Insurance	344,882.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation	45,900.00
Sunday School and Church Training	2,412,358.60
Commission for Theological Integrity	2,700.00
Historical Commission	2,350.00
Music Commission	1,500.00
Radio and Television Commission	10,900.00
Women Nationally Active for Christ	181,871.00
Total	\$13,862,221.81

1993 Registration

National Convention	3,702
Ordained Ministers	912
Ordained Deacons	197
Licensed Ministers	20
Local Church Delegates	184
State Delegates	89
Home Missionaries	61
Foreign Missionaries	31
National Board Members	12
National Officers	4
Non-Delegates	2,192
Woman's National Auxiliary Convention	1,116
National Youth Conference	2,128
Total	6,946

1994 Together Way Allocations

The Budget Committee recommends that gifts received through the Together Way Plan be allocated to the national ministries* on the following basis:

1. Underwrite the Executive Office Administrative Budget above those gifts received directly.

2. Disburse the balance of undesignated funds to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

Free Will Baptist Bible College	23 %
Foreign Missions	23 %
Home Missions	18 %
Board of Retirement and Insurance	14 %
Master's Men	14 %
Free Will Baptist Foundation	6 %
Commission for Theological Integrity	0.5 %
Historical Commission	0.5 %
Music Commission	0.5 %
Radio and Television Commission	0.5 %
TOTAL	100 %

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

1993 WNAC Convention

A Time of Grace, A Time of Giving

By Melissa Riddle

The 1993 WNAC Theme was "The Grace of Giving," and it echoed in every service, seminar, banquet and business meeting of the 1993 Woman's National Auxiliary Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. More than 1,100 women registered for the convention, and they responded with renewed support and dedication to WNAC and its mission.

General Assembly

Susan Turnbough, missionary to Spain, presented the Tuesday morning devotional on "The Grace of Giving," jumpstarting the WNAC convention with a spirit of willingness and encouragement.

WNAC president, Mary Neal, presided over the business session. The Resolutions Committee presented four resolutions:

1. To encourage each local Auxiliary to donate one or more books to the Welch Library at FWBBC during 1993-1994.

2. To raise representation fees (dues) from \$2 to \$10 per member per year to WNAC and delegate fees from \$3 to \$5, effective in January 1994.

3. To amend Article IV, Section II

of the Woman's Auxiliary Constitution and By-Laws to read that all officers and delegates of Auxiliary on national, state, district or local levels be members in good standing of a Free Will Baptist church in good standing with the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

4. To request that Home and Foreign Missions Departments share with WNAC the rent of the provision closet each in the amount of one-third the total cost.

Seminars

An almost capacity crowd attended the Monday afternoon seminars on "Giving Yourself."

— Gladys Gragg, a Nashville businesswoman, presented practical suggestions about how to give to missions.

— June Wilkinson, veteran missionary to Brazil and Foreign Missions Department staffer, challenged women to "make giving an attitude toward life," allowing it to become a priority in every facet of our lives.

State Officers' Meeting

— Mary R. Wisehart, executive secretary for WNAC spoke on "The Pearl of Great Price" from Matthew 13, relating the parable and the price-



Outgoing WNAC Executive Committee. Standing: Everyl Getz (l), JoAnn Wood, Delois Loveless, Gwen Hendrix. Seated: Mary R. Wisehart (l), Mary Neal.

lessness of pearls to WNAC's need for sacrificial giving. True discipleship does cost everything we are and everything we have.

— Lucille Steward, Michigan Auxiliary field worker, challenged the women to remain faithful in and increase their support of WNAC. She emphasized the need for older women to look toward a "New Era" for WNAC and be willing to accept positive change.

Creative Arts Winners

Co-Laborer editor, Melissa Riddle, presented awards to 17 winners in the 1993 Creative Arts Contest. There were over 200 entries in five categories. This year's 1st place winners were Diane Mitchell Thomas (NC) for her program "Spend-ing the Gift"; Barb Eubanks (IL) for her article "Keep Practicing"; Suzy Virden (IL) for her play *The Preacher's Wife*; Katy Taylor (MI) for her poem *Patterns*; and Terri Cooper (MI) won with artwork titled "Calla Lily."

Honoring Mrs. Miley

Mrs. Lorene Miley was not at the



June Wilkinson leads WNAC Seminar.

national convention this year, but during the Tuesday afternoon session, Mary R. Wisehart read a tribute to her.

It read: "Mother, wife, grandmother, missionary, nurse, writer and editor of *Co-Laborer* magazine for 14 years, and president of WNAC from 1955-1959, Mrs. Miley is an example of one who serves and who gives her best to the Lord. She loves, showing that love through sacrifice, missions, missionaries and the cause of Christ, and we thank her. Thank you, Lorene, for walking among us. Thank you for your example of love and dedication to our Lord, His work and to Free Will Baptist women."

This tribute prompted another. The entire audience stood in a rousing ovation for Mrs. Miley.

Missionary Service

One of the highlights of this year's conference was the Tuesday morning missions service. Ron Moore, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, contin-



Debbie Burden presides at Nominating Committee Meeting.

ued the theme of giving. He encouraged us to give ourselves first to God and then commit ourselves to both being and sending missionaries to share the gospel. He emphasized the importance of individual and church involvement in missions and challenged Free Will Baptists to produce more fruit for the kingdom of Christ.

Tuesday Afternoon Business

The WNAC Study Committee, elected in 1990 to reevaluate Woman's



WNAC Executive Secretary Mary Wisehart.

Auxiliary, presented seven recommended changes, and all passed.

These changes include changing WNAC's name to Women Nationally Active for Christ; making WNAC an umbrella name for local, district and state Auxiliaries that can choose their own names; refocusing WNAC's purpose as a missionary service of the church; changing the theme song to "People Need the Lord"; changing the officers' titles; publishing a yearbook to supplement the magazine; and revising current manuals to include all officers' guides.

All these changes reflect a vision for greater service from our denominational women, now and in the future.

WNAC Fellowship Dinner

It was a sellout crowd that gathered at the Hyatt Regency, with over 720 guests attending WNAC's Fellowship Dinner on Tuesday night. The tables were beautifully decorated with handmade crafts provided by the Kentucky Auxiliary women, and the Derby pie added to the ambiance of the evening.

Christian educator and consultant, Darlene Spangler, challenged the crowd to give out of love for God's Son—His gift of love to us. She said, "Giving and serving are actions of faith and worship. Giving should include the weak and needy, serving the church, and worship itself." She also emphasized the need to reach our children for Christ before they become engulfed in apathy, with no concern for the things of God.

Renewed Vision

Now, more than ever before, WNAC is changing to redefine and sharpen its focus on ministering, serving and giving, around the corner and around the world. These are exciting times, and we anticipate God's continued blessing on us and our work for Him.

Now is the time to get involved, to get on with the Lord's work. Women, join us. We want to see even more of you next year at the convention in Little Rock, Arkansas. ■

.....
ABOUT THE WRITER: Melissa Riddle is the editor of *Co-Laborer* magazine.



WNAC Fellowship Dinner.

Take A Stand

By Dean Jones

The theme, "Take A Stand," was emphasized throughout the four-day National Youth Conference in Louisville, July 18-22. Jim Lauthern started the conference Sunday morning, using Horizon curriculum for his Sunday School text. The 1993 National Youth Evangelistic Team presented their program during the morning worship service.

Sunday

The Sunday evening teen worship service featured music from the Tom's Creek FWB Youth Choir (KY) and a drama selection from the West Virginia YET team. The message was presented by Franklin, Tennessee, pastor Kevin Riggs. Kevin's pointed message about "Taking A Stand for Purity" ended with hundreds of teens pledging themselves to purity and abstinence until marriage.

Monday

Bible Competition and the Music and Arts Festival started Monday morning and continued through Wednesday morning. There were 997 entries compared to 919 in 1992. There were 2,128 youth registering, compared to 1,826 in 1992.

Monday evening's teen worship service message was presented by Curt Gwartney, youth pastor, from Flat River, Missouri. Curt's message ended with dozens of young people flooding the altar to make commitments to stand for Christ in our society.

The afterservice activity brought the introduction of TEAM (Teens Equipped and Active in Missions).

After several opportunities for mission service were explained, TEAM '93 Panama and Uruguay presented their summer mission program. Their ministry impacted lives not only on the foreign field, but also during NYC.

Tuesday

Tuesday was another day of competition with Bible Competition down to semi-finalists. Instrumentalists, puppeteers, ensembles and choirs filled competition rooms.

encouraged teens to "Take A Stand" despite circumstances. Numerous decisions were made by teens.

Youth Banquet

After the service, 1,078 attended the Youth Banquet in the Grand Ballroom of the Galt House East Hotel. The 1993 Truth and Peace Leadership Conference presented "My Old Kentucky Home." This lively musical portrayed the Free Will Baptist version of the Hatfield and McCoy feud. Rave reviews were heard from



Foreign Missions director Eugene Waddell (r) recognizes members of TEAM Uruguay and TEAM Panama.

During the conference attendees visited the art gallery where entries were displayed. They also picked up conference souvenirs and their favorite T-shirts at the NYC sales booth.

Tuesday evening's teen worship service featured Jeff Nichols, youth pastor from Arnold, Missouri. Jeff

attendees. At the conclusion, long lines waited for the horse-drawn carriage service.

Bible Finals

Wednesday morning featured Bible Competition Finals. A full listing of all winners was sent to state

paper editors. You may obtain the list by writing to NYC Office, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

First FWB Church in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, won the Bible Tic Tac Toe competition. The Red Bay, AL, team won the national Bible Bowl competition for the fourth straight year!

The two individual competitions, Turning Point and Horizon proved to be exciting. Two pre-testing times determined finalists. The top three finalists in each level competed in the final round. Dale Johnson (FL) won Turning Point and Marcus Brewer (KS) won Horizon for the second year. Study packets for 1994 are available from Randall House.

Wednesday Workshops

Wednesday afternoon programming provided training for youth and youth workers. Neil Gilliland spoke to teens about establishing a daily quiet time and cultivating a devotional life. Mike Hollifield and Dean Stone presented seminars to aid youth and children's workers.

Awards Celebration

Wednesday evening's Awards Celebration convened after the evening service. All Bible Competition winners were introduced by the national competition leaders. The 1993 National Youth Evangelis-

tic Team was introduced and commended for their stand in ministry during the summer.

The 1994 National Youth Evangelistic Team was announced. These 12 high school youth were top scorers in the 1993 Music and Arts Festival. They are: Courtney Gray (TX), Tyler Brown (IL), Amanda Lowery (AL), Kory Boudreau (IL), Jennifer Ange (SC), Jonathan Turnbough (NC), Kristie Coker (SC), Justin Thomas (GA), Carmen Montgomery (FL), Jermi Anderson (MI) and Heather Hasty (TN).

Special awards were given to the following: Youth Group of the Year—Peace FWB Youth Group, Indianapolis, Indiana; Youth of the Year—Brent Hutsell, Arkansas; and Youth Workers of the Year—Curt and Becky Gwartney, Missouri. A new award, The Lauthern Award, was presented to two young ladies, Larae Clyatt and Regina Henry, for being eligible and participating three consecutive years on the National Youth Evangelistic Team.

One by one, winners were announced and walked across the stage for special recognition. Congratulations to all the youth who entered the competitive activities. You are all winners!

Children's Activities

Children's activities, coordinated by Lisa Jones, used the theme of T.A.S. Mania (Take A Stand Mania). Children's Worship Services were conducted Sunday Morning and each evening by Dean Stone (TN), Darryn McGee (OK) and Paul Allen (OK). Daily activities featured games, storytelling, videos, singing, crafts and other types of programming. The Monday afternoon Children's Banquet was presented by Characters for Christ, Donelson FWB, Nashville, Tennessee. Their program was "Skip's Dilemma."

Truth and Peace

It would have been impossible to conduct a conference of this magnitude without the assistance of the Truth and Peace Leadership Conference. These 72 youth gave life to the planned activities. They were divided into various areas of respon-

sibility and did a super job. Participants had been in leadership training two weeks prior to the National Youth Conference. For more information about participating in the 1994 Truth and Peace Conference, please write to: Truth and Peace, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

Special Awards

At the conclusion of the conference several awards were presented. The youth selected Casey Cariker (OK) and Gina Henry (OK) for Best All-Around Awards. The NYC staff selected Marcus Brewer (KS) and Chrisann Duvall (CO) for Outstanding Leadership Awards.

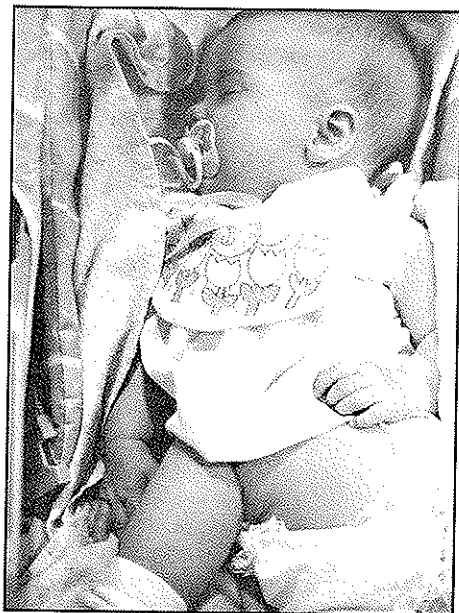
Thanks

Appreciation is given to all pastors, parents, youth leaders and coaches who work with the youth. Thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who helped during the past years at the National Youth Conference.

My first year as director is over. I appreciate the support and encouragement you have given me. Our kids are our future. I hope the progress we are seeing will stimulate them to growth and ministry. Great things are in store for us! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dean Jones directed the National Youth Conference in Louisville.



Some folks just can't take the competition.

NEWSFRONT

Fred Taylor, "Country Parson," Dies

TOLEDO, OH—The Reverend Fred T. Taylor, pastor of First FWB Church in Toledo, died June 14. The 61-year-old Free Will Baptist minister had pastored the same church 32 years. He conducted a widely-heard radio program, *Sunday Meeting Time with the Country Parson*, for 28 years on Toledo's WIOT-FM station. His radio listeners referred to him as "The Country Parson."

Pastor Taylor was a charter member of First FWB Church where he served as a deacon (1956-1959). He was ordained to preach in 1959.

Mr. Taylor was one of the founders of WPOS-FM, a gospel station based in Holland. He served as general manager of

Maumee Valley Broadcasting. He worked 12 years for the Toledo Board of Education. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War.

In 1969, while his program was on WMGS, Mr. Taylor led a five-week campaign urging listeners to sign and circulate petitions commending the crew of Apollo 8 after atheists had criticized the crew for reading the Bible aloud while orbiting the moon on Christmas Eve 1968.

The atheists were demanding that Col. Frank Borman be reprimanded and that further reading of the scriptures in space be prohibited.

Mr. Taylor collected 138,000 signatures on behalf of the as-

tronauts and carried them to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Houston in three suitcases, his daughter Becky Haas, recalled.

His only formal training came through correspondence courses taken from the Moody Bible Institute, Mrs. Haas said.

Since March, Mr. Taylor had suffered two heart attacks and also had undergone heart bypass surgery. Since his illness, his son, Mark, had taken over the radio program.

Also surviving are his wife, Cheryl; daughters, Debra Slusher and Patricia Kleeberger; mother, Martha Taylor; and sisters Shirley Loveday and Linda Reep.

Ohio Accepts Loveless' Resignation

COLUMBUS, OH—Dr. Alton Loveless, 55-year-old Ohio executive secretary, announced his resignation at the June 25-26 state association. Dr. Loveless has served 18 years as Ohio's promotional officer. He will assume duties as general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department in January 1994.

During Loveless' years of service, Ohio's giving to state and national outreach rose from \$49,000 to exceed \$1.1 million. Officials plan a special day to honor Alton and Delois Loveless on October 10. The Board of Directors are searching for a new executive secretary and for a new state bookstore manager.

Mrs. Loveless had served as manager of the bookstore.

Moderator Edwin Hayes was re-elected to his eighth term during the 55th annual state association which met at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus. More than 450 people registered for the meeting, including 84 ministers.

Three ministers preached sermons developing the association theme, "Walking with Christ." The speakers included host pastor Billy Sharpston, Dr. Roger Reeds—director of the Sunday School and CTS Department, and Dr. Alton Loveless.

Delegates approved a \$788,000 state budget for 1994 and changed the state reporting

schedule from a fiscal year to a calendar year. They also changed the state constitution to allow the Board of Directors to employ additional personnel as the executive secretary's office expands.

In other action, delegates adopted a four-part resolution of support for the Foreign Missions Department, staff and board. The resolution also affirmed acceptance of the Church Covenant by missionaries.

Columbus pastor Clifford Bell received a plaque of appreciation for 17 years' service on the Board of Directors.

The 1994 state association will meet June 24-25 at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus.

Texas Meeting Tours Mexico

MCALLEN, TX—The 79th annual Texas State Association included a guided bus tour across the border into Mexico, according to Clerk Thurmon Murphy. Fifty of the 125 registrants joined the Thursday afternoon excursion into Reynosa where they conducted brief services at three Free Will Baptist churches in Mexico.

The June 9-11 session met at McAllen's Airport Hilton Inn using the association theme, "Stewardship: You Can Make a Difference." Three Texas pastors—Dale Smith (Bryan), David Sutton (Duncanville) and Keith Woody (Austin) preached sermons developing the stewardship theme. Deacon Ken Harris of Plano also spoke on the joy of giving.

Two Thursday morning workshops complemented the stewardship emphasis. Plano pastor Don Guthrie discussed how to develop a giving church, while Executive Secretary Melvin

Worthington explained the Together Way Plan.

Moderator Bill Jones was elected to his fifth term. Delegates passed two resolutions—one that opposed lifting the ban on gays in the military, and another encouraging local churches to name the district or state association as the recipient of their property in the event the church disbanded. Delegates also voted to adopt and implement the Together Way Plan.

In other action, delegates approved a \$79,000 cooperative plan budget allocating 40% to the Texas state office, 25% to national ministries, 23% to state home missions and 12% to the C. E. Board. They also opened discussions on the possibility of centralizing the annual state meeting because of the long distances involved when the meeting rotates across the state.

The state Woman's Auxiliary presented a \$10,000 check to

missionaries Ken and Marvis Eagleton, which will be placed in their retirement account.

This year's state meeting included a Wednesday morning golf tournament. Clerk Thurmon Murphy published a colorful 64-page, spiral-bound *Digest of Reports* which included state reports, listening guides, workshop and sermon outlines, program and music sheet.

The 1994 session will meet June 8-10 in the West Fork District.

Directory Update

OKLAHOMA

Stanley Konopinski to Trinity Church, Oklahoma City from Southwest Church, Oklahoma City

PENNSYLVANIA

Steve Corbett to Truth Church, New Oxford from Shady Grove Church, Whitesburg, TN

SOUTH CAROLINA

Keith Bartlett to North Spartanburg Church, Spartanburg

Marty Cox to Mill Branch Church, Johnsonville

Jack Lassiter to High Point Church, Lancaster

TENNESSEE

Doyle Pruett to Canah Chapel Church, Erwin from North Spartanburg Church, Spartanburg, SC

Steve Faison to Oak Grove Church, Charlotte

TEXAS

Jerry McArthur to Cornerstone Church, Denison

Graeme Savage to Eastside Church, Houston

WEST VIRGINIA

Tom Blake to Hope Church, Parkersburg

OTHER PERSONNEL

Tim Thompson to Trinity Christian School, Greenville, NC, as principal from Glennville Christian Academy, Glennville, GA

Missouri Adopts \$342,000 Co-op Budget

KANSAS CITY, MO—Delegates to Missouri's 80th annual state association passed a \$342,000 Cooperative Plan budget for 1994. State ministries will receive 69.5% of the funds while 30.5% will be distributed to Hillsdale College and national outreach.

The June 7-10 session met at Victory FWB Church in Kansas City, with 305 people registered. That number included 98 ministers, 67 lay delegates and 140 visitors. Moderator Gary Fry was elected to his second term. New officers included assistant moderator Ken Dodson and clerk Rick Dablemont.

Dr. Stephen Olford, president of Encounter Ministries, preached during the association and also led a seminar on expository

preaching. Three Missouri pastors developed the theme, "Great Expectations"—Cody Freeman (Thayer), Vernon Maggart (Stewartsville) and Richard Robinson (Joplin).

Delegates adopted three major resolutions. The first affirmed confidence in the foreign missions staff, board and missionaries. The second opposed using women in combat roles in the U. S. military. The third resolution opposed lifting the ban on homosexuals serving in the military.

Former moderator Cody Freeman received a plaque in recognition of his service.

The 1994 state association will meet June 6-9 at the Civic Center in West Plains.

Kentucky Honors Centenarians

INEZ, KY—The 54th annual Kentucky State Association passed resolutions honoring two Free Will Baptist ministers who reached 100 years old this year. The centenarians honored are the late Fred Rowland of the Martin County Conference who died this spring at age 100, and Jay Preston of the Lawrence County Conference who is now 100 years old.

Moderator Richard Van Hoose led the June 18-19 business sessions at Inez FWB Church in Inez. Promotional Director Tim York said 147 people attended the Friday evening service, while 300 gathered Saturday for worship and business. Brother Van Hoose was elected to his fifth term as moderator.

In other action, delegates elected a 10-man state Youth Board, and voted to continue the annual youth conference in Lexington. Harry Frisby presented a \$2,500 check to the association from the Master's Bookstore, the state book store.

Two sermons keynoted the association. Pastor Larry Sparks (Bradley Gap FWB Church) preached on revival. Rev. Mike Carter (Martin County Conference) preached on being good stewards.

The 1994 session will meet June 18 in Ohio at Marion FWB Church.

West Virginia Reaffirms Documents

SOPHIA, WV—Delegates to the 48th annual West Virginia State Association adopted a resolution reaffirming their commitment to the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant and the *Treatise*, according to Clerk Norwood Webb. The resolution also included reaffirmation to the cause of worldwide evangelism.

Sophia FWB Church in Sophia hosted the June 11-12 session which included more than 100 ministers and lay delegates, and 163 visitors. Moderator J. L. Varney gavelled the business meetings.

Three ministers preached sermons developing the asso-

ciation theme, "O Come, Let Us Worship." Reverend Kenneth Samms gave the keynote message. Huntington pastor Carl Vallance and Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington completed the preaching program.

Delegates allocated cooperative plan funds with 4% sent to national outreach. State ministers will be funded: Promotional Office - 29%, Mission Board - 28%, General Fund - 20%, State Paper - 15%, and Christian Education - 4%.

The 1994 session will meet June 10-11 at McCorkle FWB Church in Sod.

Southeastern Sets Missions Conference



Thomas



Patel



Baer



Gwartney Family

WENDELL, NC—Dr. M. A. Thomas, founder of Christ for India, will be the featured speaker at Southeastern FWB College's annual missions conference. "If you want to be challenged toward a deeper commitment to world missions and to Christ, you don't want to miss hearing Dr. Thomas," said Southeastern president, Billy Bevan.

The October 21-22 conference

will focus on the theme, "Great Doors are Open to Us."

In addition to Dr. Thomas, attendees will hear Southeastern College professor Daniel Baer and Southeastern graduate Herman Patel who is preparing to serve in India.

The Howard Gwartney family, home missionaries to Phoenix, Arizona, will also be featured on the conference program.

Coming in October . . .

- . . . How to Handle Conflict
- . . . When Parents Divorce
- . . . Why God's People Are Stressed Out
- . . . No Second-Class Christians

CURRENTLY...

Pastor **Walter Baxley** baptized 16 converts at **Mt. Gilead FWB Church** in **Bainbridge, GA**.

Members at **View of the Cross FWB Church** in **Prague, OK**, moved from the Citizens Club Building where they had been meeting to their new facility south of town on Highway 99. **Wade Jernigan** pastors.

Members of **First FWB Church** in **Tecumseh, OK**, paid off the note they had signed in order to put a new roof on the church. Pastor **Roger Ballard** said they immediately voted to borrow \$7,500 in order to purchase new FWB Hymn Books and a 15-passenger van.

Pastor **Jim Ragsdale** is a happy man. He led **Seymour FWB Church** in **Seymour, MO**, in a victory celebration when they burned the mortgage on their property. Former pastors **Zachary Williams**, **Gene Terry** and **Bruce Moore** were present to assist in the celebration.

When **Crossroads FWB Church** in **Wentzville, MO**, celebrated seven years of service in the community, more than 140 people showed up to worship. Founding pastor **Jim Mertz** said the group purchased five acres near Interstate 70 on which to build. After an 18-month building program, the group moved into new facilities.

Fulton FWB Church in **Fulton, MS**, hope to be in their new family life center early this fall. Pastor **Bill VanWinkle** led the membership into purchasing property for future expansion earlier this year.

Pastor **Dan Farmer** is all wet. But there's a good reason for that—he baptized 15 converts at **First FWB Church** in **Moore, OK**. The church also received five new members.

Reverend **Marvin Bryant**, a Free Will Baptist minister in California for 43 years, died May 25. The 75-year-old minister had pastored four churches in California. He was forced to retire because of ill health in 1986 after serving **Winters FWB Church** in **Winters, CA**, for more than 14 years. Brother Bryant was a decorated soldier who served in the U. S. Army during WW II.

Thomas Memorial FWB Church in

Huntington, WV, reports five conversions and two new members. Pastor **Stuart Snow** said the group also completed more than \$5,000 in renovations to the sanctuary which included new carpet, a new altar and lighting.

Pastor **Patrick Palomo** reports 37 conversions and 15 baptisms at **South Union FWB Church** in **Bakersfield, CA**. The church broke an attendance record with 276 in Sunday School and 293 in worship services. The pastor attributes the growth to consistent knocking of doors and a Sunday School bus route which includes 127 children and adults.

Selma Christian Academy opened its doors for the first time this fall. The academy is an outreach of **First FWB Church** in **Selma, CA**. Pastor **Charles Roam** said the school is affiliated with Accelerated Christian Education.

Pastor **Alfonso Martinez** heads up a Spanish-speaking Free Will Baptist church in **Lamont, CA**. In just over two months, attendance increased from 37 to a high of 105.

Now that 911 service is in place for the **Free Will Baptist Home for Children** in **Greeneville, TN**, the home has a new address. It is now located at 90 Stanley Lane. No, the Children's Home has not moved. But it has renamed the road on which it is located in honor of the first superintendent of the home, **I. L. Stanley**. **Roger Hood** serves as executive director.

Dr. **Ken Riggs** conducted a family life conference at **Heritage Temple FWB Church** in **Columbus, OH**. Pastor **Billy Sharpston** said 19 couples participated in the first annual family life conference. The occasion was such a success that they have tentatively set May 1994 to do it again.

Freedom FWB Church in **Marion, IL**, added six new members, according to Pastor **Jason Jean**.

Members of **Mascoutah FWB Church** in **Mascoutah, IL**, celebrated 19 years of service to the community. Pastor **Chuck Walker** said 80 people attended the anniversary celebration. **Barbara Schmidt** presented a reading of the church's history.

Pastor **Burt Hall** is all smiles now

that **Arnold View FWB Church** in **Creal Springs, IL**, averaged 100 in Sunday School attendance this spring.

Oops! We mistakenly reported in the May issue that **Rev. E. B. Ledlow** had pastored Free Will Baptist churches for 10 years. That was supposed to be 30 years. Brother Ledlow is now serving as associate pastor and minister to senior citizens at **First FWB Church** in **Sylacauga, AL**. We are delighted to print this correction.

Members of **Faith FWB Church** in **Glenpool, OK**, approved a three-year capital stewardship program to raise \$200,000 for a new auditorium. **David Archer** pastors.

Pastor **Edwin Hayes** and members at **Columbus First FWB Church** at **Columbus, OH**, compiled a 28-page historical record of the church's service to the community. The occasion was the church's 50th anniversary celebration this spring. The church was organized in February 1943 with 11 charter members. Seven pastors have served the church since 1943. During that time, 16 ministers were ordained from the church's membership. Today the church averages more than 200 in attendance.

Members of **Hillview FWB Church** in **Bastrop, LA**, celebrated their 40th anniversary this spring. Pastor **James Bullock** was also honored at the same time for 25 years in the ministry. He has served the Hillview Church for 12 years.

Capital Stewardship Campaign

June 1993

Update

State	Goal	Gifts
Alabama	\$97,290.00	\$1,000.00
Arizona	1,565.00	1,800.00
Arkansas	97,880.00	23,009.14
Atlantic Canada	2,000.00	.00
California	21,925.00	5.00
Colorado	1,005.00	1,005.00
Florida	26,365.00	2,278.36
Georgia	48,620.00	11,637.03
Hawaii	235.00	500.00
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	1,077.65
Louisiana	120.00	1,020.00
Maryland	8,675.00	150.00
Michigan	9,250.00	1,553.00
Mississippi	19,815.00	556.00
Missouri	7,025.00	18,854.75
Montana	35.00	50.00
Nebraska	130.00	.00
New Mexico	760.00	.00
North Carolina	5,285.00	1,250.00
Northeast Assoc.	1,125.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	1,385.00	.00
Ohio	52,115.00	3,424.17
Oklahoma	117,505.00	1,556.50
South Carolina	23,350.00	100.00
Tennessee	100,040.00	21,046.91
Texas	14,705.00	4,305.00
Virginia	30,975.00	405.00
West Virginia	58,840.00	320.00
Other	23,780.00	2,438.85
Totals	\$1,000,000.00	\$100,442.36

BEYOND BELIEF



Cooperative Channel Contributions

June 1993

RECEIPTS:

State	CO-OP		Total	June'92	Yr. To Date
	Designated	(Undesignated)			
Alabama	\$6,756.11	\$0.00	\$6,756.11	\$218.37	\$54,362.15
Arizona	513.72	91.94	605.66	50.90	1,463.91
Arkansas	24,085.36	5,114.32	29,199.68	7,504.10	162,635.13
California	100.00	1,859.06	1,959.06	2,337.08	6,748.01
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	505.00	250.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	59.17	2,326.27	2,385.44	1,419.27	13,738.64
Georgia	9,568.17	1,932.78	11,500.95	16,420.87	65,117.66
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	500.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	93.62
Illinois	5,518.09	1,916.15	7,434.24	7,613.40	45,934.93
Indiana	499.83	187.21	687.04	842.65	4,136.22
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	180.00
Kansas	.00	23.03	23.03	172.00	178.41
Kentucky	55.00	604.32	659.32	486.37	3,458.34
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	.00	40.00
Maryland	.00	150.00	150.00	1,077.07	600.00
Michigan	16,081.84	1,893.04	17,974.88	13,940.69	87,056.59
Mississippi	186.00	820.33	1,006.33	968.01	3,600.08
Missouri	11,804.88	.00	11,804.88	21,208.16	61,846.77
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	.00	299.20
North Carolina	250.00	350.00	600.00	3,546.00	8,287.20
Ohio	1,416.97	3,114.31	4,531.28	2,657.11	25,271.69
Oklahoma	49,053.44	.00	49,053.44	40,282.49	275,647.74
South Carolina	18,063.60	82.82	18,146.42	16,199.76	110,275.02
Tennessee	14,470.99	1,681.52	16,152.51	6,003.85	53,171.83
Texas	.00	.00	.00	14,496.56	56,725.18
Virginia	656.11	50.00	706.11	335.08	4,821.86
West Virginia	2,440.23	166.32	2,606.55	4,027.35	24,609.66
Canada	.00	26.88	26.88	80.51	26.88
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	50.00	93.07
Other	.00	.00	.00	(.01)	19.90
Totals	\$161,579.51	\$22,390.30	\$183,969.81	\$162,442.64	\$1,071,189.69

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$11,372.63	\$13,950.44	\$25,323.07	\$25,323.09	\$151,938.52
Foreign Missions	103,880.35	1,941.15	105,821.50	76,283.41	562,916.70
FWBBC	10,888.72	1,941.15	12,829.87	10,058.41	68,658.60
Home Missions	28,905.86	1,519.16	30,425.02	27,851.68	200,101.91
Retirement & Insurance	1,140.07	1,181.60	2,321.67	3,092.06	15,377.68
Master's Men	1,277.07	1,181.60	2,458.67	3,114.64	18,436.51
Commission for					
Theo. Integrity	108.19	42.18	150.37	129.19	1,045.44
FWB Foundation	822.39	506.38	1,328.77	1,886.52	9,176.33
Historical Commission	105.01	42.18	147.19	125.61	968.23
Music Commission	96.94	42.18	139.12	113.91	919.01
Radio & TV Commission	96.95	42.18	139.13	113.91	981.36
Hillsdale FWB College	661.79	.00	661.79	1,677.69	12,016.71
Other	2,223.54	.10	2,223.64	12,672.52	28,652.69
Totals	\$161,579.51	\$22,390.30	\$183,969.81	\$162,442.64	\$1,071,189.69

It's Never Too Late to

**Appreciate
Your Pastor.**



HOME MISSIONS

Heritage Tour Winners Enjoy Trip

By Roy Thomas

A hallowed hush fell over the group of Free Will Baptists May 16 at the foot of Benjamin Randall's grave as Dr. Charles Thigpen preached a classic memorial message. Those gathered were the winners of the Heritage Tour provided by the Home Missions Department for pastors and their wives in the eight Sunday School divisions whose churches gave the largest offerings on Benjamin Randall Day, November 21, 1992.

The tour winners visited the historical First Free Will Baptist Church of America in New Durham, New Hampshire which was founded by Benjamin Randall. There they were met by home missionaries Jim and Pat Nason and their congregation who graciously provided them with a New England meal after Sunday morning messages preached by Home Missions Board members J. D. Norris and Earl Hendrix. A visit that afternoon to Randall's old historical Church on the Ridge was moving and emotional as board member Rue Dell Smith preached.

The tour also included a trolley ride along the Freedom Trail in Boston where tour winners saw the Old North Church of Paul Revere's fame and many other historical buildings. They met home missionaries Ron and Sue MacMillan of Plymouth, Massachusetts, and visited Plymouth Plantation Village, the replica of the Mayflower in the harbor where the pilgrims landed. They had stirring prayer services conducted by Rev. Talmadge Brown at Plymouth Rock and Rev. Robert Mead at the Manomet FWB Church.

Even the bus ride was enjoyable as Rev. John Edwards conducted a testimony service, and Rev. Archie Ratliff brought inspiring devotions. Tour photographer was Rev. Norwood Gibson. Also accompanying the tour group were staff members Roy Thomas, Trymon Messer, Richard Adams and their wives.

Rev. J. D. Norris said, "Of all our trips, this

was the greatest and most spiritual. I pray that every Free Will Baptist can take this trip some day!"

Dr. Charles Thigpen commented, "This trip gave us a much greater insight and appreciation of our heritage. We are deeply grateful to the Home Missions Department for including us on this tour."

Rev. Rue Dell Smith said, "I had heard about Boston and the Freedom Trail, but



Dr. Charles Thigpen preaches from the foot of Benjamin Randall's grave.

visiting them brought history alive. I learned more about the pilgrims by visiting the Plymouth Plantation. Visiting our Free Will Baptist church in Plymouth, the city where the pilgrims landed, was a real blessing. The highlight for Ozella and me was visiting New Durham, the home of the first Free Will Baptist church organized in America. It was a thrill to visit places where Benjamin Randall preached, the Boody House and the Town Hall, and to visit the cemetery where Benjamin Randall is buried. It was an honor to preach in the Church on the Ridge. The fellowship was wonderful. A special thanks goes to the Home Missions staff."

It is the prayer of the Home Missions staff that each one on the tour will have a greater burden for New England and the millions of precious souls in that neglected area of America. ■

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

The Power of A Verse

By Bert Tippet, Publications Director

Psalm 43:3 is more than a motto.

It is a commitment

I don't recall that I had ever seen this verse before. But, there it was. Not in my Bible. Not in a daily devotional.

I saw it set in tiny type on the cover of a book: "O send out thy light and thy truth."

The book was the catalog from Free Will Baptist Bible College that arrived at my home in Newport, Rhode Island, over 35 years ago. The verse was set around the inside perimeter of a shield that bore the name of the school and the image of a torch. The reference, Psalm 43:3, was there, too.

I was impressed. But, at the time I was considering another college, in New England, nearer where my family was living. After all, if I attended that small Christian college in Massachusetts, I could come home on weekends. That sure sounded better than a two-day train ride to Nashville, where I would be lucky to make it home once a semester.

I reasoned that, as long as the school was Christian, there couldn't be much difference. I knew some students and alumni of the Massachusetts school, and they were good people. Not Free Will Baptist, of course. But really good people.

And it was so much closer to home.

But the verse had hooked me. The Nashville college had lived up to its verse. I knew that because I knew some of its students and alumni, too. They were the kind of people I hoped to be like in a few years. Some were young preachers, who traveled in the college quartet and had come to the church I used to attend in Virginia. They were sending out the light, like the verse said.

At the time, I was unsure about what to do with my life. There had been no call to preach. The mission field was a possibility, but, again, no call had come. However, in my immature, idealized way, I knew I wanted to be part of sending out the light.

Finally, I had to choose. One was close to home. The other wasn't. But that wasn't such a big deal anymore. I wanted to go where they talked about sending the light. I wanted to be part of doing that, wherever God decided to

use me.

So, my family drove me to Providence and put me on the train. I waved goodbye while Mama blotted tears and Daddy stood erect and thin-lipped.

That decision has turned out to be one of the most important of my life. Virtually every day I have lived since then has been impacted by that choice. For instance:

- I won my first soul to Christ while I was a student.
- I met the girl who would be my wife.
- I met people who are still my dearest friends.
- Teachers and upperclassmen became my examples.

Today, I work at the college that still embraces Psalm 43:3 as its motto. I have worked here for 27 years. Nearly a generation has passed through these halls in that time and I am still seeing young people being challenged, just as I was, to send out the light. Missions is impacting more of our students than ever. Preparing preachers is still close to our hearts. Teachers, business majors, youth directors, musicians—all are still being challenged to be light bearers.

Last week I sat in a meeting of FWBBC administrators. President Tom Malone opened the meeting by asking us to relate something the Lord had spoken to our hearts about that morning. After several of us spoke, Dr. Robert Picirilli, our Academic Dean, said, "This morning I read Psalm 43:3, 'O send out thy light and thy truth.'" He went on to tell what a powerful reminder that was to him of our purpose.

It certainly brought back some precious memories to me, too. And I thanked God for the choice I made 35 years ago. ■

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

National Ministries Offering (in other letters, NMO)

By William Evans

A gift to the National Ministries Offering benefits every ministry of our Free Will Baptist National Association dependent on gift income. Of course you could write a check to each department, office and commission. Or you could make a gift through the Cooperative Channel which still might not reach them all. To be positive you are supporting every phase of our national program, the National Ministries Offering is the most simple, direct way.

I was recently asked, "What advantage is there for me, as a member of the national, to give to the NMO? What advantage for my church?" My answer was not exhaustive, but here are some of my reasons.

1. It is an achievable level of accountability. With a gift to the NMO, I know I have met the minimum level of accountability. Each year I personally vote to adopt the budgets of our national work, and this enables me to know that I have given responsibly toward

those budgets.

2. It provides better stewardship of our resources. Long range planning can be more effective and energies can be directed toward ministry rather than raising support. For example, no missionaries are delayed in returning to the field. This does not mean that all visits or appeals to your church would end. Information about prayer support for each ministry and missionary are still absolutely necessary. But the stress of deficit accounts and budgets would be relieved from us all.

3. It is only a goal and not a tax. We have members who are young and old, interested and uninterested, affluent and poor, employed and unemployed. Some may not be able to give, many simply will not give, but many will give more than a personal share. Together, it is a reachable goal.

God provides adequately for the support of His work by what He puts in the hands of His people. Join our national effort for 1993. ■

In Memory Of . . .

By . . .

Charles H. Barker

Ruby Barker
Morehead City, NC

Edward Bishop

Harrison FWB Woman's Aux.
Wheelersburg, OH

Alma Biggs

Five Points Women's Aux.
Pinetown, NC

Steve Bush

Patmos FWB Women's Aux.
Leary, GA

William Caldwell

Westerville FWB Woman's
Auxiliary
Westerville, OH

Ronnie Davis

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Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Waid
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Mrs. June Trimble
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FWB Women's Auxiliary
Lindsay, OK

Betsy S. Williams

Silas L. Williams
Edna E. Williams
Garner, NC

James (Bill) Williams

Helen P. Williams
Durham, NC

In Honor Of. . .

By . . .

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William and Mary Herms
Belmont, NC

Jack Ashby

Mt. Pisgah FWB Woman's
Auxiliary
Booneville, MS

Ernest Fuller

Malvern FWB Ladies Aux.
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**Those Who Have Served
Faithfully Through the Years**

James E. Whitehurst
Newton, AL

A Faith that Endures

J. Dwight Pentecost

(Grand Rapids: Discovery House Publishers, 1992, 237 pp., paperback, \$9.99)



Thomas Marberry

J. Dwight Pentecost is a professor emeritus at Dallas Theological Seminary; he is one of the leading Calvinistic interpreters of scripture of our day. In this volume he seeks both to expound the meaning of the book of Hebrews and apply the teachings of that book to the issues which Christians face in their everyday lives.

Pentecost does much of this practical application in the text of the book. There are also some excellent notes by Ken Durham which point out how Hebrews can be of special value to modern Christians.

The author begins his work by discussing the background of Hebrews. After careful analysis of different possibilities, he concludes that the book was written by an unnamed writer to a group of Jewish believers, probably in Palestine, about 65 A.D.

He notes that the book has much in common with the writings of Paul, but he declines to name Paul the author of the book because the author of Hebrews chose to remain anonymous. According to Pentecost, these believers were undergoing a period of intense persecution and were in danger of abandoning their faith in Christ and slipping back into

the familiar ways of Judaism.

Hebrews was written to remind them of all they have in Christ and to encourage them to remain faithful through the persecution. Pentecost also notes that these Christians had not matured in the faith as they should have. Hebrews exhorts them to grow in the Lord, reject false doctrines, and continue in unbroken fellowship with other believers.

This is a good general commentary. It explains the meaning of key terms and concepts in a clear and straightforward manner without using a large number of technical terms. Pentecost argues, quite correctly in my view, that the recipients of the letter were true believers in Christ.

Many other Calvinistic interpreters argue that this letter was written to people who had experienced something of the grace and power of God but who had not been truly converted. Pentecost points out that the various terms and expressions used in Hebrews to describe the recipients of the letter are always used in the New Testament to describe Christians.

The author does a particularly good job of explaining the Old Testament background of many of the

terms used in Hebrews. This is most important because the message of the book cannot be appreciated without an understanding of Jewish beliefs and practices.

There is one area where the author, in my opinion, has gone astray. He asserts that such passages as Hebrews 6:4-6 and 10:26-31 teach that the penalty for leaving Christ and returning to Jewish forms of worship will consist of no more than a loss of spiritual and temporal blessings. According to Pentecost, these believers may turn from salvation by faith in Christ back to Judaism and this will not affect their eternal salvation.

Frankly, I find such an interpretation hard to swallow. The book of Hebrews emphasizes repeatedly that Christ is the only way of salvation; the Levitical law is simply not adequate. How can he argue that these believers can forsake the only true way of salvation and this will not affect their eternal destiny?

If you can overlook this one serious flaw, you will find this to be an enjoyable and profitable commentary. It contains a great deal of good material on Hebrews and the lessons we can learn from it. ■

OUR READERS COMMENT

Praises July Issue

The July issue is good material. For the most part, everything stacked up tall. Melvin Worthington's article made some of that historical business that I was a part of sound rather exciting. In Jill Goodfellow's writing I saw distinctive threads of yesterday, harking back to parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Sounded good to me.

David Taylor came through again. Some-

how when he enters a subject he walks through a different door. However, when he enters he has presence.

Damon Dodd's "Just thank you, Lord, for the Free Wills" approach was refreshing. Seems that he had stopped and smelled the roses along the way. Those roses gave off the fragrance of Free Will. So good to have another preacher arrive in the glow of the sunset with a smile on his face and glory in

his soul.

What a joy to ride with Carlson's Riders. Oh! I know they are called Calvary Riders, but even so I rode with Carlson. With the inroads they are making, one would be tempted to tag them Carlson's Raiders. They seem to be doing that.

Evangelist Wade Jernigan
Lexington, Oklahoma

The Seven Secrets of Leadership



Jack Williams

What makes some men natural leaders while others can't lead a horse to water? Leaders come in all sizes and from all backgrounds. Napoleon barely topped five feet. Winston Churchill was classically trained. Harry Truman was a Missouri haberdashery clerk. Jesus of Nazareth was a carpenter. They all changed history.

Leaders step up at crunch time. A few years ago Chrysler Corporation stared down the barrel of a loaded gun called bankruptcy. Everybody in middle and upper management ran for cover pointing the finger of blame at somebody else. Then something happened that startled the automotive industry. Lee Iacocca took charge.

He made sweeping changes from the front office to the assembly line, from public relations to dealership show room. Everybody gave up on Chrysler, except Iacocca. He took over. He took responsibility. Slowly, Chrysler Corporation rose from the ashes and moved forward on creative ideas, changes and the vision of a leader who refused to quit.

When crunch time came at Chrysler, Iacocca stepped to the plate and hit a home run. Anyone could have done it? Not on your life. As Publilius Syrus said, "Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm."

Leaders learn from mistakes, their own as well as others'. General Norman Schwarzkopf in a speech given at the United States Military Academy tells how some of the best leadership lessons he ever learned as a young officer came from terrible officers. "I mean, absolutely morally bankrupt officers who had no redeeming qualities. People followed them out of sheer wonder for

what they would do next."

Schwarzkopf said, "You learn far more from negative leadership than from positive leadership. Because you learn how not to do it. And, therefore, you learn how to do it."

David watched Saul demonstrate how *not* to lead an army as Goliath cursed Israel. Then the shepherd boy went out and did it right.

Leaders know when not to fight. Principles are worth going to the wall over, regardless of the consequences; personal opinions are not. A good leader knows the difference. It sometimes takes more courage to walk away from controversy than confront it.

There's an amusing maxim worth noting about picking the right fight. "Never wrestle with a pig—you both get dirty and the pig enjoys it."

Leaders recognize the power of cooperation. Take this story of a horse pull in Canada. One horse pulled 9,000 pounds, another 8,000. Together, you'd expect them to pull 17,000 pounds. In fact, when teamed together, they pulled 30,000 pounds!

That's the principle called synergism—the simultaneous action of separate agents working together to produce a greater total effect than the sum of their individual efforts. More can be done in team effort than going solo.

Leaders respect change. Know-it-alls refuse to change. Leaders, on the other hand, recognize that while political revolutions can unseat governments overnight, and industrial revolution can retool economies in a decade, the key to everything is patience. As Arnold Glasgow reminds us, "You get the chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it."

Leaders look for ways to change.

The best leaders are like the famous poet, Longfellow, who when asked how he managed to have a long and happy life, pointed to an apple tree and remarked, "The secret of the apple tree is that it grows a little new wood each year. That's what I try to do."

Leaders use diplomacy. Saying the right thing at the right time is important. But the real art of conversation, as Dorothy Neull writes, may be to "leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

D. L. Moody had it right when he observed, "The beginning of greatness is to be little, the increase of greatness to be less, and the perfection of greatness is to be nothing."

Leaders make enemies carefully. Antisthenes advised, "Pay attention to your enemies, for they are the first to discover your mistakes."

Leaders seize the moment. Shakespeare's haunting verse reminds us of lost opportunities. "There is a tide in the affairs of men, Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries."

The ability to read events, to know which moment is *the* moment distinguishes leaders who change the course of history from those who disappear in history. Good leaders seem unerringly gifted to be in the right place at the right time in order to make the right decision.

Some leaders, like skittish colts, dump their riders at the bark of a camp dog. Great leaders, like well-trained war horses, step toward the sound of the cannon.

Ours is a day of cannon fire. How leaders respond determines whether we get tossed in the mud or swept into the front lines where we can make a difference. ■

CONTACT

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September 26, 1993

A gift of
\$43.01 per member will underwrite these ministries
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Foreign Missions	4,379,322.00
FWB Bible College	1,025,000.00
Board of Retirement	371,979.00
Foundation	38,500.00
Master's Men	146,440.00
Radio-TV Commission	10,900.00
Theological Commission	2,700.00
Music Commission	1,600.00
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