

MAY 1994

CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



EXCELSIOR
HOTEL

.....
**Let's Go to
Little Rock**

.....
Mother's Laughter

.....
Mother Went to Work

.....
Tithing

.....
Oh, Mother!

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MAY 1994

VOLUME 41, NO. 5

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THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

Holy Hatred

Proverbs 6:16-19 details seven sins that God hates. Since God is the maker and giver of all our faculties, it displeases Him when they are plunged into lusts and employed as tools for Satan. Conversion sets us free from the bondage and slavery of sin and enables us to become servants to God.

The lawlessness which characterizes our society can only be remedied by returning to the ethics and morality of the Bible.

The Assertion

The writer of Proverbs asserts that seven specific qualities are especially odious, disgusting and detestable in God's sight. God hates them and they are an abomination to Him. While God hates all sin, there are some sins that He hates in a special manner.

We dare not take lightly God's attitude toward a proud look, a lying tongue and the other five members of the sinful seven. What God hates we must hate.

The Analysis

God hates a proud look. Pride is the basis for all other sin. Men who overvalue themselves usually undervalue all others. Haughtiness is an abomination because it implies irreverence and ingratitude.

God hates a lying tongue. Falsehood and fraud must not characterize us. We must speak the truth in love. God is Truth, and He will not tolerate any form of untruthfulness. He abhors lying.

Dishonesty is more prevalent than we realize. Cheating on one's taxes, deception in advertising, graft, perjury and misrepresentation of facts are all forms of lying. Although it may be standard business practice to some, God hates it.

God hates hands that shed innocent blood. This sin denotes a murderous and cruel disposition toward those who have done nothing worthy of injury. It further reflects a lack of sympathy with God's creatures. Those who cruelly inflict physical, emotional or psychological pain or injury on others are hateful to God and do the devil's service.

God hates a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations. This sin characterized the times of Noah when every imagination of the hearts of men was wicked. This phrase denotes thoughts of iniquity. Evil thoughts are in all human beings but the devising, fabricating of them reflects the depths of depravity and wickedness which God hates.

God hates feet that are swift in running to mischief. This phrase suggests feet that not only do mischief but do it eagerly and quickly. They swiftly carry out without delay what has been devised in their heart. They vigorously and diligently participate in sinful pursuits. There is no hesitation.

God hates a false witness. Slander remains one of the greatest social curses. There can be no greater affront to God nor a greater injury to

one's neighbor than knowingly to give a false testimony.

Arnot says, "Perjury may be employed, not only in ruining the innocent, but also in screening the guilty. . . . Perjury, too, destroys the security of communities. Truly speaking, he that lies as a false witness must be hateful to God."

God hates him who sows discord among brethren. How tragic when harmony and unity are disrupted by sowers of discord. These people use wicked means to alienate one from the other and irritate their passions against others. We must guard the reputation and integrity of those who hold membership in the Free Will Baptist family. We must not be guilty of disrupting the family.

The Appeal

God honors the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers and those who are persecuted for His sake. These qualities should characterize our lives.

God holds each of us accountable for our actions and attitudes. One day we shall give account to the Lord regarding how we fulfilled the responsibilities given us.

God helps us through His grace and power. We need to order our lives in light of God's Word and walk in the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Enough of this temperamental Christianity! We must be models of regeneration, redemption and reconciliation. The presence and power of the Holy Spirit makes the difference in our daily worship, walk and work.

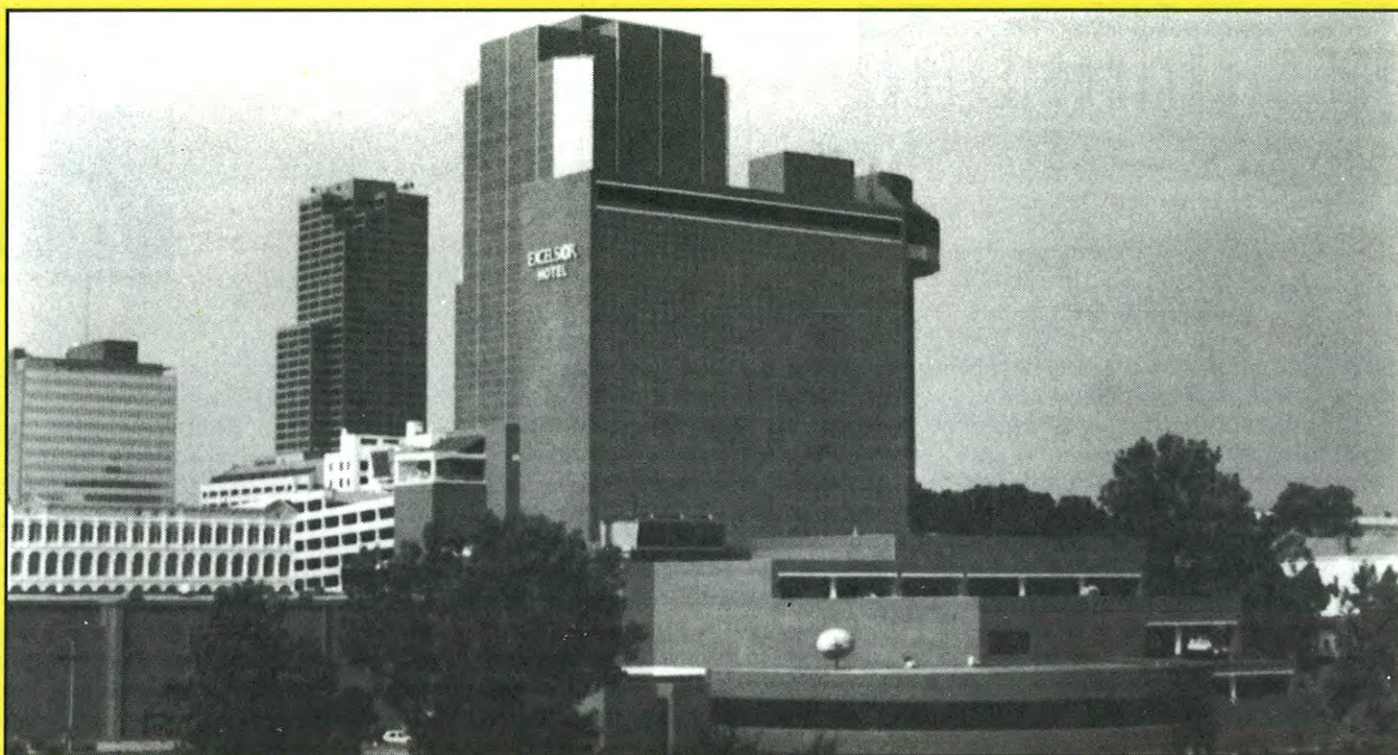
May God give us grace to hate what He hates and love what He loves. ■



Melvin Worthington

The Secretary's Schedule

May 1-4	First FWB Church Tucson, AZ
May 5-7	California State Association
May 7	Arizona State Association
May 13-14	Idaho District Association
May 15-16	Convention Liaison Council Tucson, AZ
May 17	Ministerial Restoration Meeting Antioch, TN
May 19-21	Michigan State Association
May 22-23	RCMA Board Meeting San Antonio, TX
May 24-27	Convention Planning Trip Little Rock, AR



Statehouse Convention Center and Arkansas' Excelsior Hotel.

Let's Go to Little Rock

By Marilyn Pritchard

Arkansas' best-known fact at the moment is that it's home to President Clinton. But did you know that Arkansas can also boast the only diamond mine in North America? Plus Razorback football and basketball teams bring organized excitement and a spirit of fiery competition to collegiate athletes. Famous Americans such as Glen Campbell, Johnny Cash, Hattie W. Caraway (the first woman senator), General Douglas MacArthur and poet Maya Angelou call Arkansas home.

More than half a million people live in Little Rock, the state capital, making it the largest city in Arkansas. Its location in the center of the state allows guests numerous opportunities for day trips or half-day trips to surrounding points of interest.

Little Rock is where the National Association of Free Will Baptists will gather for our annual meeting in July. We've been in Arkansas three times

before, in 1984, 1966 (both in Little Rock) and 1948 (in Pocahontas). Arkansas has 221 Free Will Baptist churches and 20,000 members who are waiting to welcome more than 6,500 delegates from across the country.

Look at Little Rock

With at least eight commercial airlines serving the city's airport and two major interstates serving the city, nobody has a problem getting to Little Rock.

There's a lot for visitors to enjoy in Little Rock. Since it is the state capital, Little Rock has a capitol building. What's unique about it is that it's a scaled-down replica of the nation's capitol building in Washington, DC. When it was impractical to use the Washington, DC, capitol building in films, the Arkansas state capital was used instead.

If it's museums and history you're

interested in, there are the Decorative Arts Museum, Arkansas Museum of Science and History, the Arkansas Arts Center, The Old State House (a museum of Arkansas history), Arkansas Territorial Restoration (frontier Arkansas history museum) and many historical sites all over the city. On the north end of Rock Street in Riverfront Park, you'll discover the "La Petite Roche," the landmark for which Little Rock got its name.

In North Little Rock you'll find The Old Mill, a re-creation of an old water-powered grist mill that was used in the opening scene of *Gone With the Wind*.

If your interests lie elsewhere, there's the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Planetarium and a riverboat named, "Spirit." We found brochures for three walking tours of the city. War Memorial Park includes a golf course, tennis courts, an amusement park, the Little Rock Zoo, Ray Winder Field where minor league

baseball games are played, and War Memorial Stadium which is home to the Arkansas Razorbacks.

If music's your thing, there is the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, performances of opera, jazz, cabaret and chamber music. Restaurants all over town cater to any kind of taste from specialty shops to fast food, from continental style to barbeque.

Getting Ready

When Free Will Baptists come to town, the host city anticipates big business. Each convention city since 1984 has gleaned more than \$1 million Free Will Baptist dollars. According to the Louisville Convention Bureau, Free Will Baptists spent more than \$1.9 million in Louisville during our 1993 national convention.

We ate more than 3,404 catered meals last year and 3,000 or more each year since 1985. Registration statistics for the last nine years explain why:

1993	Louisville, Ky.	6,946
1992	Indianapolis, Ind.	6,119
1991	Charleston, W.Va.	6,538
1990	Phoenix, Ariz.	4,352
1989	Tampa, Fla.	5,707
1988	Kansas City, Mo.	5,866
1987	Birmingham, Ala.	6,159
1986	Tulsa, Okla.	6,545
1985	Nashville, Tenn.	8,340

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

Steering Committee Chairman:	David Joslin
Ex-Officio Member / State Moderator:	James Forlines
Hospitality Committee Chairman:	Sidney Sawrie
Registration Committee Co-chairmen:	Frank Cope Will Harmon
Prayer Committee Chairman:	David Copeland
Ushering Committee Chairman:	Wendell Leckbee
State Woman's Auxiliary President:	Mary Kelton
NYC Planning Captain:	Jackie Brown

Four ministers and a medical missionary will preach on the convention theme, *We Preach Christ*. A guest lecturer will speak twice to pastors at the 1st annual Pastors' Conference Tuesday morning. Moderator Ralph Hampton will gavel his seventh convention business session. Others getting ready for July



**Gary
Fry**



**Kenneth
Frisbee**



**Dean
Dobbs**



**Don
Guthrie**



**Mark
Paschall**

include seminar leaders, banquet speakers and speakers for NYC and WNAC services.

Meet the Preachers

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

Sunday Morning

If you're an early bird, you'll find Pastor Daryl W. Ellis at the podium teaching Sunday School. Daryl pastors Butterfield Community FWB Church in Aurora, Illinois.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Daryl was saved in 1970. He received his B.A. from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1975 and his M. Div. from Covenant Theological Seminary in 1980.

Rev. Ellis has pastored four other churches in Tennessee, Illinois and Missouri. He serves on the Commission for Theological Integrity, the Executive Board of Illinois and as moderator of the Fox River District in Illinois. He served as Illinois state moderator in 1990.

Brother Ellis is known denomination-wide for his contributions to the *Randall House Commentary*. He wrote commentaries on Colossians and Philemon.

Reverend Gary Fry who pastors First FWB Church in Mountain Grove, Missouri, preaches the Sunday morning message. Brother Fry received two B.A. degrees from Free Will Baptist Bible College, one in Bible and one in Music.

Pastor Fry first served as youth pastor at the church he now pastors. From there he went to Shiloh FWB Church in Bratt, Florida, as pastor. Then he went back to Mountain Grove to pastor.

While in Florida, Gary served as Florida's Home Mission Board chairman and as editor of the Florida state paper. In 1982 he founded Mountain Grove Christian Academy. He has served as moderator of the Missouri State Association from 1991 to the present.



Little Rock (from page 5)

Sunday Evening

Pastor Kenneth Frisbee from Ohio will preach Sunday evening. He pastors Akron FWB Church in Akron. Born to Roy and May Frisbee in Marion, North Carolina, Pastor Frisbee was saved at age 19. He attended Free Will Baptist Bible College and Malone College.

Brother Frisbee has pastored only one other church, Rocky Pass FWB Church in North Carolina, from 1951-1961. In 1961 he moved to Akron, Ohio, where he still pastors.

This 65-year-old pastor has been an evangelist during his 42 years pastoring. He has helped organize several churches in other states while encouraging other churches to see the need to become full-time and to set up retirement plans for their pastors.

He has served as moderator of two district associations and of the Ohio State Association. He has been a member of Ohio's General Board and Executive Board.

Monday Evening

Stepping to the pulpit Monday evening is Reverend Dean Dobbs, pastor of Pleasant Acres FWB Church in New Bern, North Carolina. Saved in 1951, he attended Free Will Baptist Bible College and received his B.A. degree in 1960.

Born the son of a minister, Dobbs has pastored seven churches in five states since 1957. He served on both Alabama's and North Carolina's state mission boards. At a national level, he has served on the Retirement and Insurance Board, Home Missions Board and presently serves on the Foreign Missions Board.

Tuesday Evening

Prior to the message Tuesday evening, a rally will be held to total funds received for the Victory Campaign. This time of celebration will highlight denomination-wide cooperation to pay off indebtedness on the National Offices Building.

The Tuesday evening message will be brought by Reverend Don Guthrie, a church builder who pastors Collin Creek FWB Church in

Plano, Texas. Born in 1953, Guthrie was saved in 1975 and ordained as a minister in 1982. He attended Arkansas Tech University before attending Hillsdale FWB College where he received his B.A. in Theology in 1984. He received his M.M. from Southern Nazarene University in 1988.

Brother Guthrie pioneered a church building effort in Harrah, Oklahoma, for five years, which resulted in the Harrah FWB Church. He then moved to Plano, Texas. He has served as president of Oklahoma's Ministers Conference, as a member of the Oklahoma C.E. Board and the Texas State Mission Board. He presently serves on three boards: Texas State Executive Board, Hillsdale Board of Trustees and the national Home Missions Board.

Wednesday Evening

Wednesday evening, the traditional missionary service, will find Dr. Mark Paschall at the microphone. Born in Detroit, Michigan, Mark was saved at age eight. He attended the University of Michigan, William Tyndale College and Columbia Bible College. He received a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences from University of Michigan in 1969 and his M.D. from the same school in 1983.

Dr. Paschall is a missionary appointee to Côte d'Ivoire and presently serves as senior staff physician at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He did his internship and residency at Washington Hospital and has had his own private medical practice.

At an early age, Paschall felt called to missions. Summer missionary experience with Dr. LaVerne Miley confirmed the call and he returned to Côte d'Ivoire as a short term missionary in 1990. He has been on deputation for the past year and plans to be a physician at the Doropo hospital and be involved in village evangelism.

Pastors' Conference

This year's program has one noticeable change: The annual Bible Conference has been changed to a Pastors' Conference. Dr. Glenn McGriff, director of the Ministry of Crisis Support for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will speak

twice to pastors about family and personal life.

Dr. McGriff has been an active minister since 1952 and has 25 years of pastoral experience. He received his B.S. degree from Samford University, his M.A. degree from University of Alabama and his D.Min. from Luther Rice Seminary. He also attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. McGriff is a frequent speaker at pastors' conferences and associational meetings. He is the president/founder of Christian Endeavors Foundation, Inc., where he planned and promoted a Christian counseling program specializing in marriage and family crisis and enrichment.

He presently directs Ministry of Crisis Support, "a ministry designed to support church staff members and their families in times of stress."

Rooms, Rooms, Rooms

Convention officials blocked 1,170 rooms in seven downtown Little Rock hotels for the 1994 convention. Arkansas' Excelsior (headquarters hotel) holds 350 rooms for our people. Camelot Hotel, (NYC headquarters hotel) has reserved 250 rooms and Riverfront Hilton Inn has set aside 175 rooms. Holiday Inn City Center has 150 rooms waiting for us, Masters Economy Inn has set aside 95 rooms. Best Western Inn Towne and Capital Hotel are reserving 75 rooms each for Free Will Baptists. Room rates range from \$35 to \$85 per night this year.

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

Parking

Six of the hotels offer free parking for guests. The Capital Hotel charges \$5 per day with in-out privileges.

The Riverfront Hilton offers complimentary RV parking, but there are no hookups. You must make your own arrangements.

No Nursery

There are no nursery facilities at the convention this year.

Registration

Pre-registration seems to be working. Almost 3,000 people pre-registered in 1993. Forms are available in this and following issues for conventioners to register in advance. This saves time in registration lines once you arrive in Little Rock. Pre-registration forms must be *received* before June 24.

Here's another good reason to pre-register. Those who pre-register can pick up their convention packets on **Saturday** from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Beat the crowd. Pre-register *and* pick up your packet early.

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

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

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

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

Exhibits

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

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

Soup's On!

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

agenda this year.

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

Be sure your order is mailed in time to be *received* by June 24. Just a reminder: some events sell out quickly. First come, first served!

WNAC hosts their Fellowship Dinner Tuesday evening. Lorene Miley will be the speaker for the dinner.

Master's Men host their annual dinner 5:00 p.m. Wednesday. During this event, Layman of the Year and Runner-up Layman of the Year are announced. Don Wagner will be their special speaker.

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

Business

Monday kicks off the first wave of business when the General Board meets at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast and then begins its meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the Excelsior Hotel. Moderator Ralph Hampton will gavel the convention business session to order 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning in Halls - II, III at Statehouse Convention Center.

Each national agency and com-

mission will submit an annual report to delegates. This year's voting delegation will consider board reports, departmental budgets and board elections. Delegates are expected to approve denominational budgets exceeding \$11 million and elect almost 40 board and commission members.

Camp Meeting and Seminars

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

This year's speaker will be Dr. Richard Adams, director of development of the Home Missions Department. Brother Adams pastored in Kannapolis, North Carolina, for four years. He left his pastorate at East Side FWB Church in Johnson City, Tennessee, where he had pastored 19½ years, to come to the Home Missions Department. He travels with the Home Missions Team to Free Will Baptist churches across the nation.

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

This year, three seminars fill Tuesday afternoon's agenda, beginning at

LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____
is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will
Baptists _____

(Name of Church)

_____ of _____ / _____
(District Association) (City) (State)

(Pastor)

(Clerk or Secretary)

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

Little Rock (from page 7)

1:30 p.m. The Theological Trends Seminar, meeting in the John Pope Room at the convention center will be led by Wendell Walley on the subject, *Grace & Morals*.

The Music Commission Seminar is scheduled to meet in the River Valley Room at Excelsior Hotel. The Master's Men Congress convenes in Fulton Room at Statehouse Convention Center.

WNAC Memos

WNAC's theme this year is *The Bible, Light On the Way*. Two seminars get their program started 1:30 Monday afternoon in the Arkansas' Excelsior Hotel.

At a seminar on the topic, "Light on the Way," Lila Faye Morgan from Tulsa, Oklahoma, will speak on "Methods of Bible Study," while Dawn Sweeney from Greeneville, Tennessee, will address "Personal Devotions." Carol Reid from Nashville, Tennessee, will discuss "Applying Bible Principles."

Concurrent with the WNAC Seminar will be a WNAC Ministers' Wives Seminar. Special speaker will be Winona Riggs.

The WNAC State Officers Meeting convenes Monday at 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday morning finds President Mary Neal (Ind.) moderating the business session in Halls - II, III at the convention center. Then at 11:10 a.m. Robert Bryan, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, delivers the WNAC missionary message.

Born in Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1944, Robert claims Virginia as his home state since he grew up there. He received his B.A. from Free Will Baptist Bible College, M.A. from Syracuse University. He and his wife Judy were appointed as missionaries in April 1968 and arrived in Côte d'Ivoire January 1971.

Late Tuesday afternoon, the WNAC Fellowship Dinner gathers in the Grand Ballroom at the Arkansas' Excelsior. The time: 5:00 p.m. Guest speaker: Lorene Miley.

Lorene received her Christian Worker's Certificate from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1947, her Physician's Office Assistant Certification from the University of Tennes-

see in 1959 and attended Northern Baptist Seminary for two years.

Mrs. Miley was a missionary to Côte d'Ivoire with her doctor-husband, LaVerne, from 1960 to 1979. When they returned from the field, they moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where she became editor of *Co-Laborer* magazine from 1979 to 1992. She published a book, *I Looked for a Man*, in 1981 about her husband's call to and service in missions. She has served in numerous Auxiliary positions in all levels from national to district to local.

Since her retirement, she says her present position includes, "Chief cook and bottle washer." She is active in her church, Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in Nashville, where she is on the Missions Committee and Calendar Committee.

NYC Notes

Be Strong and Courageous is this year's National Youth Conference theme. Beginning with Sunday School in the Camelot Hotel for the children,

Wednesday noon.

This year, NYC will have separate services for the youth every evening. Separate services for children's worship in the Camelot Hotel and teen worship in nearby Robinson Center will be geared to the special needs of our youth.

Sunday morning, Georgia youth pastor Joey Wilson speaks to the youth. Sunday evening's NYC keynote message will be delivered by FWBBC professor of youth ministries, Phil Nelson. Monday evening finds Junior Philips (Oklahoma); Tuesday evening, Allen Pointer (Arkansas); and Wednesday evening Neil Gilliland (Tennessee) speaking to the teens.

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

And Finally . . .

Convention preparations are nearly complete—speakers selected, programs ready to print, hotels wait-



Camelot Hotel—National Youth Conference Headquarters.

the Robinson Center for the teens and the Statehouse Convention Center for adults, and going through the awards ceremony Wednesday night, a full schedule is slated for the young people who attend. Check the June issue of *Contact* for program specifics.

Registration begins Sunday afternoon in the Caddo/Osage Room at the convention center and ends

ing, musicians rehearsing. What else needs to be accomplished?

You are the important one here. You need to pre-register, make reservations and meet us in Little Rock in July. Mark your calendar—July 17-21—and make plans to go to Little Rock. ■

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

Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign
February 1994
Update

State	Goal	Gifts	Balance
Alabama	\$ 76,397.63	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 75,197.63
Arizona	1,228.93	1,800.00	(571.07)
Arkansas	76,860.94	28,591.44	48,269.50
Atlantic Canada	1,570.51	.00	1,570.51
California	17,216.76	5.00	17,211.76
Colorado	789.18	1,105.00	(315.82)
Florida	20,703.30	2,516.36	18,186.94
Georgia	38,179.19	17,620.46	20,558.73
Hawaii	184.54	500.00	(315.46)
Idaho	353.37	.00	353.37
Illinois	16,176.29	945.00	15,231.29
Indiana	7,868.27	1,200.00	6,668.27
Iowa	266.99	.00	266.99
Kansas	1,287.82	.00	1,287.82
Kentucky	35,454.34	2,877.29	32,577.05
Louisiana	94.23	1,220.00	(1,125.77)
Maryland	6,812.10	150.00	6,662.10
Michigan	15,116.19	1,690.00	13,426.19
Mississippi	15,559.86	1,040.35	14,519.51
Missouri	60,484.40	28,882.34	31,602.06
Montana	27.48	50.00	(22.52)
Nebraska	102.08	.00	102.08
New Mexico	596.80	.00	596.80
North Carolina	59,118.06	1,270.00	57,848.06
Northeast Assoc.	883.41	.00	883.41
Northwest Assoc.	1,087.58	.00	1,087.58
Ohio	40,923.66	8,600.61	32,323.05
Oklahoma	92,271.60	3,028.58	89,243.02
South Carolina	18,335.75	100.00	18,235.75
Tennessee	78,557.09	22,514.93	56,042.16
Texas	11,547.20	5,155.52	6,391.68
Virginia	24,323.33	405.00	23,918.33
West Virginia	46,204.51	320.00	45,884.51
Other	.00	2,978.85	(2,978.85)
Totals	\$766,583.39	\$135,766.73	\$630,816.66

Directory Update

GEORGIA

Rollin Rathal to Hebrew Church, Donalsonville
 Harvey Henderson to Highway Church, Brinson
 Terry Hennecke to Brunswick First Church, Brunswick
 Duane Cassidy to Piney Grove Church, Bristol

ILLINOIS

Kent Dunford to Harmony Church, West Frankfort

KENTUCKY

Joe Roysden to First Church, Glasgow

SOUTH CAROLINA

Stuart Snow to High Point Church, Lancaster from
 Thomas Memorial Church, Huntington, WV

TENNESSEE

Roy Lester to Doran Addition Church, Kingsport

TEXAS

Fred Bailey to Bible Church, Odessa from Skiatook-
 Landmark Church, Skiatook, OK

THE TOGETHER WAY

February 1994

RECEIPTS:

State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Feb'93	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 5,499.56	\$ 83.19	\$ 5,582.75	\$ 12,953.81	\$ 15,123.48
Arizona	.00	10.00	10.00	.00	20.00
Arkansas	17,794.28	7,826.38	25,620.66	24,755.60	54,908.49
California	25.00	.00	25.00	1,017.96	707.48
Colorado	100.00	.00	100.00	250.00	6,325.83
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	745.45	745.45	2,380.88	745.45
Georgia	10,237.57	1,614.36	11,851.93	10,628.20	21,882.86
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	6,310.72	1,906.48	8,217.20	93.31	27,745.35
Indiana	.00	.00	.00	1,220.16	583.49
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	90.00
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	37.15	10.89
Kentucky	578.48	505.04	1,083.52	1,547.52	1,375.41
Louisiana	80.00	20.00	100.00	.00	220.00
Maryland	.00	75.00	75.00	.00	1,187.71
Michigan	10,713.10	2,354.79	13,067.89	10,092.41	15,386.73
Mississippi	177.85	172.53	350.38	1,011.00	1,235.26
Missouri	15,771.96	26.00	15,797.96	10,231.87	27,217.00
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	435.50	9.50	445.00	.00	566.88
North Carolina	266.47	275.00	541.47	1,503.92	6,546.34
Ohio	1,030.30	2,279.55	3,309.85	5,548.63	8,422.79
Oklahoma	46,029.84	203.46	46,233.30	51,561.32	84,985.00
South Carolina	14,572.42	.00	14,572.42	17,460.42	33,796.29
Tennessee	9,017.25	1,233.13	10,250.38	1,820.38	17,294.81
Texas	10,498.51	502.22	11,000.73	.00	18,717.45
Virginia	2,260.54	25.00	2,285.54	299.17	2,731.47
West Virginia	3,018.15	145.14	3,163.29	4,317.15	5,954.55
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	16.77	.00
Other	.00	.02	.02	20.03	.05
Totals	\$154,417.50	\$20,012.24	\$174,429.74	\$158,767.66	\$353,781.06

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 9,767.21	\$17,434.50	\$ 27,201.71	\$ 25,323.08	\$ 54,403.41
Foreign Missions	87,518.75	592.87	88,111.62	79,334.93	171,080.24
FWBBC	9,927.95	592.87	10,520.82	9,331.58	26,367.87
Home Missions	31,844.48	463.99	32,308.47	30,662.70	71,822.74
Retirement & Insurance	897.04	360.88	1,257.92	2,477.59	4,167.84
Master's Men	2,413.49	360.88	2,774.37	2,515.46	6,281.31
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	80.63	12.90	93.53	189.57	272.82
FWB Foundation	789.87	154.65	944.52	1,339.55	2,584.59
Historical Commission	77.23	12.90	90.13	174.32	249.31
Music Commission	80.61	12.90	93.51	153.78	240.95
Radio & TV Commission	78.61	12.90	91.51	165.80	258.97
Hillsdale FWB College	1,889.46	.00	1,889.46	707.84	3,758.77
Other	9,052.17	.00	9,052.17	6,391.46	12,292.24
Totals	\$154,417.50	\$20,012.24	\$174,429.74	\$158,767.66	\$353,781.06

Mother Went To Work

By Diana Bryant



Depending on your age, memories of your mother's daytime activities will vary greatly. Most "thirty-somethings" and older remember Mom being at home when they finished the school day, probably with a snack waiting and time to hear a recap of the day's events. She was usually available to chaperon field trips, and when you were sick she "doctored" you at home with slight interruption in her normal routine.

Today's children face a different reality. Mom probably drops them off at school on her way to work. Some fortunate mothers secure a job schedule that allows them to pick up their children as school dismisses, but many have to make other arrangements for the safekeeping of

their kids until the workday ends.

School teachers report that it's the same few mothers who chaperon school trips and parties. A child's unexpected sore throat or chicken pox can test a mother's skill at juggling responsibilities.

Reality Check

The argument about mothers working outside the home is usually an emotional one, but in today's world it is more often than not a reality. Some women choose to work outside the home. They have skills and abilities they feel are helpful to the world we live in—nursing and teaching, for example. They believe they can be light in a dark world serving in these capacities. Other women

enjoy the sense of accomplishment they feel in a job well done.

However, according to most surveys, the overwhelming reason Mother goes to work is to supply needed finances for the family's well-being. Families are simply not able to make one income provide all the necessities. Some need the second income if there is any hope of buying a home, sending offspring to college or retiring without depending on the government for support.

Time Crunch

Mom's employment has changed more than just the look of things at school functions. The biggest difference Mom's job makes at home is *time*. You have probably heard the

saying, "If Momma ain't happy-ain't nobody happy!" There's another verse: "If Mom is in a hurry-everyone is rushed!"

When Mom's at work all day, there are no fewer things to be done at home, just less time to do them. When Mom's gone all day, there are no fewer values to teach the children, just less time to teach them; no fewer thoughts on a child's mind, just less time to listen to them.

With more labor-saving devices than our grandmothers ever dreamed possible, we have less time simply because we are doing more. Everything is harder when you are tired, and fatigue is a by-product of "doing it all."

Church Factor

The difference is also felt in the church. Busy women are much more selective about what they attend when time is at a premium. Meetings that don't start on time, end on time, and offer something of substance and relevance may not be attended regularly, if at all.

With fewer women at home during the day, churches need to be creative in scheduling events like Vacation Bible School and other special meetings. Many WNAC groups note decreased involvement due to lack of time on the part of women. Sunday School superintendents know all too well the difficulty in filling volunteer teaching positions at times.

Another area that has suffered is the amount of time women have to disciple one another. Titus' admonition for the "older women to teach the younger women" often goes unheeded for lack of time and availability.

Will of God

While many agree that Mom being at work all day is not ideal, nonetheless, for many it is a fact. So how do we make the best of the situation? The decision to seek employment must first be laid before the Lord and His wisdom sought. If the Lord does not give peace about working outside the home, don't be deceived by the world's insistence that it is the only choice.

God honors obedience and can

provide in any way He chooses. Recognize that there are options. Honestly define "necessities" and the cost of working. With clothing, transportation, child care and lunches out, we may not realize as much financial benefit from the job as expected.

Consider Options

Staying at home, at least until the children are in school, allows for precious time necessary to teach the children by example. Many moments in a child's life cannot be planned—they will happen whether we are there to share them or not. They learn much not by spoken words but by watching our reactions to daily events, and by discovering what things are a priority to us.

Part-time work can be found, jobs that allow Mom to be home when the kids leave for school and back home when they return. Perhaps there's work you can do from home.

Computers provide an excellent opportunity for this, either tied in to a system at an office or on your own. Possibly there's a talent you can teach, or maybe you can care for other children. This decision can only be made with the guidance and creativity of the Lord.

Devotional Life

If you do go to work, remember that time alone each day with God is a necessity, not a luxury. Even if some things have to be dropped due to lack of time, your devotional life must not suffer. Careful attention to your spiritual life will spill out into your daily activities. God can and will give wisdom when you ask for it, enabling you to better organize and manage your day, and delegate responsibilities.

Some women say that working has forced their families to become more accountable in tasks at home. Ephesians 5 teaches the concept of submitting to each other; if you are helping your husband support the family, he can help you care for the family. Women in the workplace can also have a ministry. Contact with needy, unsaved people will be constant, with continual opportunities to model the love of Christ.

Life is a series of choices, and all

choices have consequences whether good or bad. There are only 24 hours in a day, and a decision to go to work consumes a big portion of that time. A decision not to be employed outside the home often means less money, perhaps a delay in major purchases until another season in life. If the decision has been made honestly before the Lord, seeking His guidance, He will be faithful to take care of the consequences whatever they may be. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Diana Bryant is the working mother of two children, Rachel (10) and Paul (12). She works on a computer in her home. Her husband, Randy, pastors Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church in Vero Beach, Florida.

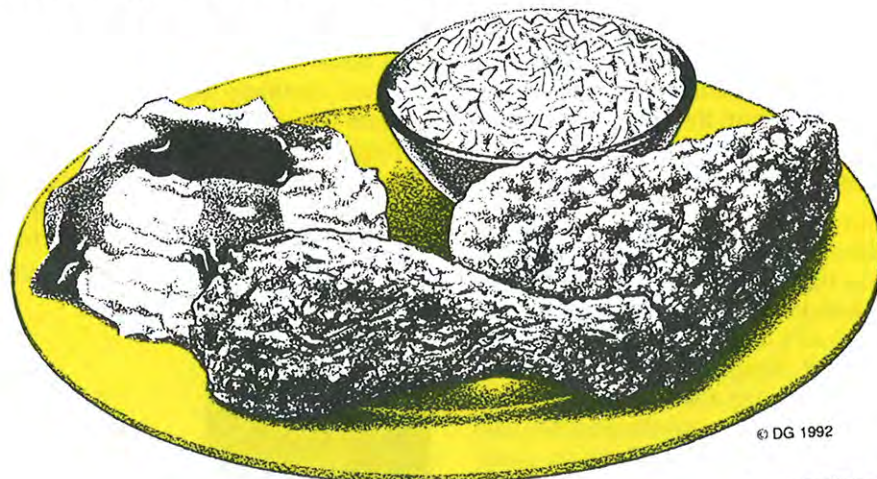
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Tithing—That's God's Way



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The Meat and Potatoes Offering

By Keith Fletcher



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Have you ever hung around the church kitchen just before one of those wonderful potluck dinners? Watch the people bring in the covered dishes.

"Here comes Sister Ethel with her famous coconut cream cheese cake. And look, there's the pastor's wife with a million dollar pie. Make more room on the dessert table, and loosen your belt!"

Have you noticed how meat and potatoes—and other "ordinary food"—don't get as much attention as the luscious desserts? We might go back for seconds on a special casserole, but the dessert table *always* gets our

undivided attention.

Giving is that way too. A special offering, a crisis that threatens a ministry, a one-time appeal for victims of a natural disaster—these get our attention rather than the every week, meat-and-potatoes tithe. Nobody seems to notice that without the regular tithes of God's people a church's ministry goes hungry, not to mention the minister and his family.

Who Thought Up Tithing?

Who came up with the idea of the tithe in the first place? Could it be the One who served Adam his first square meal? At first, God gave no

explicit command to tithe, or for that matter to give. Godly men like Abel, Noah and Abraham simply expressed gratitude to God with offerings and sacrifices. These gifts were natural expressions of their worship of an awesome God.

Our first biblical example of someone giving a tithe was Abraham. The recipient was Melchizedek, a mysterious priest in the area where Abraham lived. After defeating five kings in battle, Abraham gave him a tithe of the spoil (Gen. 14:20, Heb. 7:6).

When God gave the Law, He detailed various procedures for giving tithes and offerings. In Levitical teachings, a "holy tenth" emerged.

"And all the tithe of the land is the Lord's... the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD" (Lev. 27:30, 32). Since the tribe of Levi received no physical inheritance in the Promised Land, these temple servants depended on the faithfulness of God's people to tithe. Additional tithes were received every third year to help the needy (Deut. 14:28-29).

Through centuries of legalism and "fence building," tithing became deeply ingrained with the marks of human tradition. Jesus addressed the meticulous scribes and Pharisees, "Woe unto you... hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Matt. 23:23, emphasis mine).

Notice, Jesus did *not* say it was wrong to tithe. Instead of doing away with the tithe, He put it in the proper perspective.

We must admit that tithing in the New Testament is akin to sabbath keeping. The principle is still there, but the teaching has shifted from Law to grace. Far superior to strict formula tithing, the grace of giving liberates the believer to cheerfully give beyond an obligatory 10 percent.

Paul's teachings on giving, especially in II Corinthians 8-9, lay the foundation for cheerful, grace-based giving. This kind of giving, by implication, *begins* with the tithe.

What Good Is Tithing?

Tithing Works for the Church

Theoretically, a church of 10 tithing families can support a pastor with a salary that is the median income of the congregation. In a debt-free church, gifts over and above the tithe could cover the other ministry expenses.

Realistically, not everyone can or will contribute 10 percent. And the pastor's salary isn't the only major expense of a local congregation. But if more people gave what they could, and the church itself contributed a tithe to denominational ministries, the red ink would dry up like an over-baked chocolate cake. Calorie-rich

appeals from denominational leaders would be unnecessary, and meat-and-potatoes consistency would strengthen the body.

Tithing Works for the Individual Believer

Tithing is simple, equitable and relatively painless. God designed it that way. After all, everything we have truly belongs to God. Is it so hard to let go of that which is really not ours to hold?

Giving above the tithe is sometimes called *sacrificial* giving. True, the greatest blessings often come to those who "give till it hurts." If sacrificial giving requires great faith, tithing requires only bulldog tenacity.

What Could Go Wrong?

If we return to pharisaical legalism, we deserve the condemnation Christ gave the hypocrites. As we serve God and others, expressions of justice, mercy and faith always make greater impact than to-the-fraction-of-a-penny tithing. With a legalistic attitude, we lose the joy of giving. According to Paul, God despises cheerless charity (II Cor. 9:7).

We may also become misguided in our motives. It is true that God has promised to pour out the blessings as we fill the offering plate (Mal. 3:10). But if the main reason we give is so we can get something back, we've got the wrong menu. Don't ever swallow the line that getting is better than giving. You'll choke on your own selfish offerings.

Other problems develop if people use the tithe to control. "I'll stop tithing if our church supports that missionary."

"Since we don't agree with the pastor, we'll send our tithe to the TV preacher." Can you honestly believe this is the way to honor God? Our Bible and our bylaws give us Christ-like instructions for getting our point across.

The worst thing that can go wrong with tithing is when people don't. And many people don't! For whatever reason, churches often resort to bake sales, bazaars and carwashes.

Speaking from the perspective of a "seeker-friendly" church, I encourage you not to replace giving with fund raising. Our community needs

to recognize our church for its ministry of the gospel, not its carwash on the corner. In our city, the "Church" has degenerated to bingo, Las Vegas nights and raffles. Is this ministry or money-changing? Go figure!

How Can I Get Started?

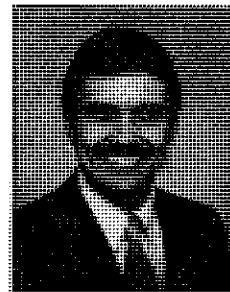
Here are some suggestions for first-time or recommitted tithers.

First, recognize that tithing is only a small part of a greater stewardship discipline. God is the owner—and you are the steward (manager)—of time, talents and influence, as well as money.

Second, get a handle on the other 90 percent of your income. If you have overdue bills, pay them and cut up your plastic! Your testimony is just as important as your tithe.

If you have to, begin gradually. Try giving one percent of your net income the first month. Add a percentage point each month until you are tithing on your gross income. When you arrive at 10 percent, don't stop! You may be one of those people who are blessed with the ability to give 20, 30 or even 50 percent.

If God's people are faithful, His work will never suffer "malnutrition." Anybody care for more meatloaf? ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Keith Fletcher is associate pastor at Northwest Free Will Baptist Church in Chicago and denominational editor at Scripture Press Publications.

This woman knocked a horse down in a graveyard!
(from *Bologna from Winona*)

Mother's Laughter

By Ken Riggs

"Raymond, tell them my name is Winona, not Wynona." Wynona is a Judd. Winona, well, she's something else. People often make the statement that when God made a particular person, He must have thrown away the mold. In Winona's case I'm not even sure there was a mold. By the way Winona is my mother, although I have never called her by her first name.

Neither she nor my dad would have stood for that. I do not know the times that people have said to me, "Your dad is a good preacher, but your mother, *she's something else.*" I can assure you that was always said as a compliment. In fact, I have half-heartedly told my dad that the reason he gets so many revival invitations is my mother's sense of humor not his preaching.

Unique Humor

I thought I knew what the word "unique" meant, but I decided to



Will the real Winona Riggs please laugh?



What did Winona really say at the 1984 national convention? Only her husband knows for sure.

look it up anyway. When I found it, I could have inserted the word "Winona" in its place. It means "one and only; single; sole; having no like or equal; unparalleled; highly unusual; extraordinary; rare." If you know Mother, you know she is unique.

My mother is the only daughter of a Free Will Baptist preacher and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. N. P. Gates. She and my father have been married for well over 50 years. She was 15 when they married.

Maybe one reason for her sense of humor today is because she didn't have long to laugh as a child or teenager. She has not only made up for what she may have missed, she has made others laugh as well. She has always been an adult. She was also a mother while still in her teens.

Unique Talent

I don't think I have ever met a person with so many abilities and talents. Her talents as a musician are unparalleled. For instance, I've seen

her, when asked to play a song she didn't know, merely look at it and play it without the music.

She's a song leader's dream. Whatever key you want, she can play it. If you need to change keys on the spur of the moment, she can do it without as much as a passing thought. No doubt, that ability came from her music-teacher father and preacher, Rev. N. P. Gates.

You don't want to challenge her in games either. She's an avid crossword puzzle worker and scrabble player. There will be few times you will be able to successfully challenge a word that she has used. I'm not sure what a photographic memory is, but she comes close to having one. She still remembers names and addresses of people from years ago.

If you have read her book, *Bologna From Winona*, you are aware of her sense of humor. She loves to laugh. If you get her started, she will begin to "snort" (but don't tell her I told you that).

Her humor is what makes her so

attracted to young people and they to her. She is the only grandmother I know who was elected to serve as a youth director in one of the churches my dad pastored. Several in the youth group competed at the National Youth Conference one year, you guessed it, in the field of music.

Unique Memories

Mother not only likes to tell good stories, she has been the object of many of them as well. One of my favorites is the time Dad was preaching on the subject of faith and knowledge. To illustrate the relationship between these two, Daddy actually said this: "Knowledge is Winona knowing she has had six children; faith is me believing they are all mine."

Daddy was quick to point out that he meant nothing derogatory about that. Actually, that's a good illustration because Dad was absolutely sure the six children are his. That's what faith is: absolute confidence in whom you are trusting.

My mother is anything but inactive. You would think that a person in her 70's would slow down a little, but not her. I'm somewhat embarrassed to admit it, but this past Thanksgiving I took my parents bowling. Would you believe it, I was beaten by a 73-year-old woman! I don't mean she won one game. She

won all three games, had the highest score and the highest average.

Of course, I could say that as a loyal son wanting to show respect I let her do that. I could say that, and would *like* to say that, but the truth is she beat me fair and square. And I think she gets real satisfaction from doing so.

The memories of my childhood are pleasant. I have no sad stories to tell. I can truthfully say that my parents were supportive of me. When I was in the 7th and 8th grades, I attended Richland Elementary School in Nashville. I went out for the basketball team and was fortunate to make the team.

My coach was a man named Eddie Arnold, not the famous one. This one was a Church of Christ preacher who also taught school. I vividly remember Mr. Arnold telling us that our team needed someone to help get us to our games. Our school had no bus for such events. Wouldn't you know it, Mother volunteered.

In fact, she did more than that. Everyone knows that basketball players need a towel to dry with during the game. Our school colors were green and white, and before long everyone on the team had his own white towel with a big green "R" embroidered on it. You can guess who was responsible for that. I have

often wondered if the R stood for Riggs instead of Richland, but no matter. It was my mother who did it.

Unique Life

For the past 23 years I have served on the faculty of Free Will Baptist Bible College. There have been many times when students have come to me to tell me they'd met my mother. They met her either in a camp somewhere or in their local church. Regardless of where they'd met her, the response was always the same: "Your mother is something else. She's a lot of fun."

They always remember her. Perhaps it was her ability to play the piano or organ so well; perhaps it was one of the choruses to which she had added her own sense of humor; or perhaps . . . well, you get the picture.

I doubt that Mother has ever met a stranger. I remember one time when several of our family had gone to dinner. It was one of those restaurants with live organ music playing as you ate. When the meal was over, we went out to the car and waited on mother. She didn't come to the car, so we went back inside to look for her. She had not only been talking to the lady who had been playing the organ, she was now playing the organ herself.

In my travels I have been to many churches. On more than one occasion I have had musicians say to me, "Your mother gave me some pointers and they were very helpful, but I still can't play like she does." Nobody can. Because that's my mother, and she's something else. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Ken Riggs is completing 24 years as an education instructor at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. He hopes he survives when his mother sees this article.



Winona eavesdrops at the 1991 national convention as husband Raymond confers with California pastor Carl Young (L).

Principles on Pain III: Comforting the Uncomfortable

By Tom McCullough



Today, maybe more than ever, every pastor, missionary, Christian counselor and church worker faces questions of ultimate importance concerning pain and suffering. Only those new to ministry or those intentionally disconnected from their flock have not been called on to comfort those struggling with the problem of pain.

The villain steals into our lives in any number of ways. He might come in the death of a loved one, the specter of a life-threatening disease, the unexpected tragedy of permanent disability, the emotional scarring of unwanted divorce, the gut-wrenching emptiness of childlessness, or you fill in the blank.

Finding help for life's pain is es-

sential for the Christian worker, not only to enable him to meet the needs of others, but also because sooner or later he will face the same pain himself.

Job's Way

Job, the patriarch, suffered an intense personal loss, the dimensions of which few of us will ever know. He came through the initial shock of this injury with flying colors. Yet, in addition to giving us spiritual insight into the handling of pain, his unique narrative reveals much concerning the ministry of comforting others.

Job's Wife

The lessons are of both a positive and negative variety. The first nega-

tive example is Job's wife. Instead of offering encouragement, she counseled him to "curse God and die." We are usually pretty severe in our judgment of Job's wife, forgetting that she had been subjected to as much pain as her husband, except, of course, his physical infirmity.

The family and fortune that were Job's also had belonged to her. While we do not want to use Job's wife as a model of proper counseling techniques, we must not be too quick to condemn her. Although she felt the same pain and could offer counsel from a position of understanding, her spiritual insight left much to be desired.

Job's Friends

It is also true that Job's friends his-

torically have received bad press. From chapter four until chapter 25 Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar tried to convince him that his problems were caused by his own sin. There exists, however, an often overlooked description of a sensitive and moving encounter when Job's friends first arrive to comfort him.

Job 2:11-13, "Now when Job's three friends heard . . . they came every one from his own place . . . to mourn with him and to comfort him. And when they [saw him] they wept, and they tore [their garments], and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven. So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and *none spoke a word unto him*; for they saw that his grief was very great."

In spite of everything they did poorly before Job's suffering was over, they at least started well and offer us an excellent model for the ministry of comforting. The narrative is clear. For seven entire days they did nothing but sit in silence with their friend.

Our Day

After over 20 years of ministry experience, I can say without reservation that what suffering people appreciate most in a comforter or counselor is his simple presence, not his profound pronouncements on the purpose of pain and suffering. There are probably several reasons for this.

Two Reasons

First, when people are hurting, their ability to process new information is seriously affected. All of one's attention is focused on the hurt, whether it be physical or emotional. Anything one says at that time is probably not even "heard."

Second, they usually already know, intellectually, everything you have to say. They have probably memorized Romans 8:28 as well as you. So, a sermon on the proper understanding of God's providence is truly unappreciated. This seems to be so because even the best Christians function on instinct during those first few hours or days of intense personal tragedy. Yet, even if they are unbelievers or new believ-

ers, the hospital waiting room is probably not the best classroom for giving lectures. There will be opportunities later when people are thinking more clearly.

A Better Way

I used to think that it was my duty to make some appropriate spiritual comment during times of distress. I've learned, through experience, a better way.

It was about 1:00 a. m. when the phone woke my wife, then me. As I struggled to consciousness, I could hear Patty responding to an unheard voice on the other end of the line. She would tell me the situation, and "Yes," she assured the caller, we would pray.

Making sure I was fully awake before she began, she recounted the story of Germaine and Anne France, a mother and daughter in our French church. The mother, Germaine, was calling from the hospital waiting room where she and her son-in-law Bernard were anxiously awaiting news from the surgical block. Anne France, pregnant with their third child (the first was stillborn), was having another difficult delivery and serious complications had arisen. Not only were they in danger of losing the baby, but Anne France as well.

In a split second of selfish sleepiness I said, "Well, then, let's pray." Patty wisely said, "I'll pray while you get your clothes on and get to that hospital."

I don't know if it was the early morning hour, the language barrier (I had only finished language school a few months previously) or divine inspiration, but I didn't have much to say during that long morning. We simply sat, conversed quietly, prayed and consumed large quantities of vending machine coffee. We were finally told that, although there were some very terrifying moments, both baby and mother were safely resting in their room.

To this day, Germaine refers to that morning in the hospital as a defining moment in my ministry, as far as she was concerned. One day, in private, I finally asked her what I had said that had been so profound and comforting. She laughed out loud. "Oh, you didn't say anything!" Seri-

ously now she continued, "You were just there."

In her mind and the mind of her daughter I will be inextricably linked with little Sarah who first saw light that day. It is not because of my finely tuned pastoral counseling techniques but simply because I was present when they were hurting.

Unanswered Questions

Rare is the pastor who has looked into the eyes of a suffering church member and has not wished to be able to answer all his questions relating to disease, disaster and dying. Isaiah's pastoral imperative to "bind up the brokenhearted . . . to comfort all that mourn," is part and parcel of the call to ministry from which we would not shirk but for which we need great help from God's Word and His Spirit.

It is every pastor's supreme desire to be able to, "give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." We desire that every believer come through the valley of the shadow of death victoriously, "that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."

Though no one has responses for the "whys" that even God chooses to leave unanswered, we should not let that discourage us from the ministry of comforting the brokenhearted. In the final analysis, each Christian is personally responsible for his reaction to pain and suffering, but he who can be of help along the way has earned an eternal reward.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Tom McCullough is a Free Will Baptist missionary to France.

The New Macedonian Call

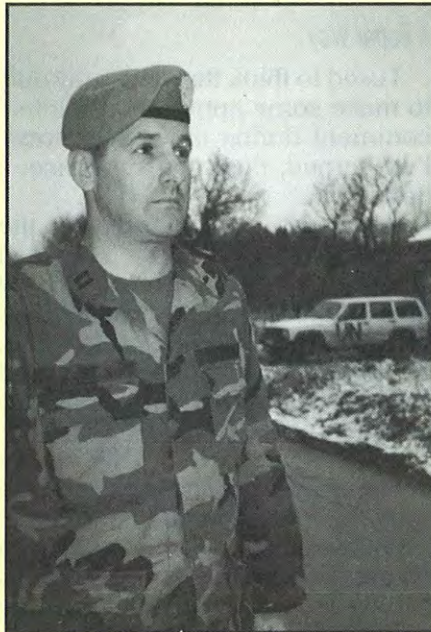
By Terry Austin

Brother Terry, where are you?"
"Macedonia."
"Is that where the Apostle Paul was?"

No, but I don't blame you for not knowing where the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is because this country is relatively new in its existence. Although it has been around for a long time, you would know it better as Yugoslavia.

As an Army chaplain I am sent where the soldiers are sent. This time it happens to be a United Nations peace keeping mission to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia called Operation Able Sentry. The goal is to keep the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina from spilling into Macedonia by patrolling the Serbian-Macedonian border.

It is in this setting that I find myself for the first six months of 1994. I left my family on the 6th of January in Germany where I am currently stationed in order to do what God has



called me to do: minister to soldiers.

Every Sunday I conduct a worship service at the base camp known as Camp Able Sentry. From there, I visit

the observation posts along the border from Monday through Wednesday. I find myself sleeping in different places, using different means of transportation, eating different food and a host of other things unique to normal human living.

But, it's great to get to a place and hear the soldiers say, "Hey, Chaplain, good to see ya." I conduct worship services at each observation post and spend time with soldiers helping them with problems or issues they may be facing.

Deployments are usually hard on soldiers, and they do a lot of thinking. They find themselves with much more time on their hands and willing to sit down and talk for a while. I let them know that being a peacemaker is important and that the greatest Peacemaker lived and died some 2,000 years ago. His name is Jesus Christ. ■

.....
ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Terry Austin is a Free Will Baptist chaplain serving with the United States Army.

Faith-Confirming Discord

By Jason Arlin Balthazor

I often fail to understand why that which I believe in is so strongly rejected by others. I speak here of spiritual matters: the Holy Bible, the Church, Heaven, Hell, the Trinity, righteousness. If I am so fully convinced that these things are true, needed, real and attainable, then, why cannot others believe and accept them as I? Why must they be argued against, and why can't they be accepted? What is so difficult in believing in these things?

When I consider this, I am reminded that since time's beginning these things have been rejected. The opposition that I often see and hear is nothing new. So, then, the mystery is, "Why is this so?"

When I explore that mystery, I discover, "... because God. ..." My faith is confirmed by the fact that opposition is not new. Proof of that can be found in the scriptures. God has created us like Him, and has given us minds with which to choose: to accept or reject, to practice free will. What we believe shapes our minds—and if we believe the truth, then what treasures we have gained.

So, one might say that since man has free will to do as he pleases, opposition is ordained by God. Perhaps not ordained, but allowed. Truly, Utopia cannot exist on Earth, for that wonderful harmony is reserved for Heaven. Nonetheless, things would be a bit simpler, maybe

not so discouraging at times, if people believed in the things I earlier described.

Nonetheless, I must trudge through discord—not only that between myself and strangers, but that between myself and my brothers, and also discord observed between others. When I pass through it, maybe scarred, I must remember that in this world, the holy fulfillment of the sacred book, the Bible, is being carried out, and that discord is confirming my faith. ■

.....
ABOUT THE WRITER: Jason Balthazor is a freshman at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Hotel Reservation

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Little Rock, Arkansas

National Convention

July 17-21, 1994

- Requests for reservations made after 6/17/94 will be returned to you with a list of availabilities.
- All reservation requests will be made through the NAFWB Housing Bureau--NOT WITH INDIVIDUAL HOTELS.
- Complete this housing form selecting your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice hotels and mail to the Housing Bureau. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1994. Send one form for each room request. Duplicate this form if necessary.
- Changes and cancellations must be made in writing to the NAFWB Housing Bureau in Little Rock.
- The hotel will require a deposit. Complete the credit card information on this form or send a check directly to the hotel AFTER you have received your confirmation.

Cutoff Date:

Received by
June 17, 1994

MAIL TO:

NAFWB Housing Bureau
c/o Little Rock Convention Bureau
P. O. Box 207
Little Rock, AR 72203
or FAX to
501/374-2255

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____





PHONE _____ (WK) _____ (HM) _____

CREDIT CARD TYPE _____ CC# _____ EXP. _____

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

NAME ON CREDIT CARD _____ SIGNATURE _____

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

*Rates do <u>NOT</u> include 10% sales tax.						
HOTELS	Choice	 Single	 Double	 Triple	 Quad	Parking
Arkansas' Excelsior-Headquarters Hotel		\$76	\$76	\$76	\$76	Free
Camelot Hotel-NYC Headquarters		\$61	\$61	\$61	\$61	Free
Capital Hotel		\$85	\$85	\$85	\$85	\$5/day
Riverfront Hilton		\$62	\$62	\$62	\$62	Free
Holiday Inn City Center		\$61	\$61	\$61	\$61	Free
Best Western Inn Towne		\$52	\$52	\$52	\$52	Free
Master's Economy Inn		\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35	Free

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

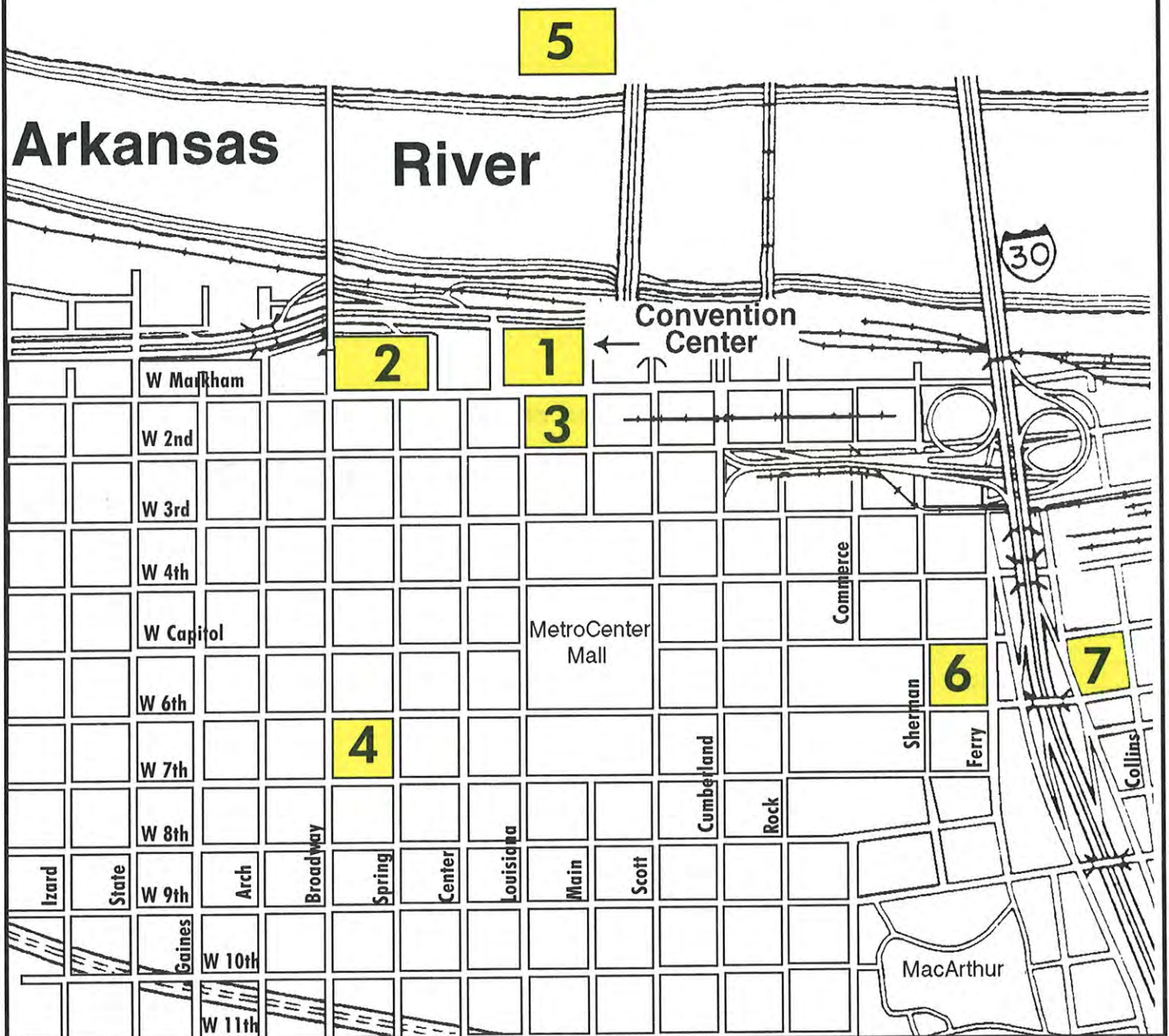
TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED:

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

PLEASE LIST ROOM OCCUPANTS:

1. Arkansas' Excelsior (headquarters)
2. Camelot Hotel (NYC headquarters)
3. Capital Hotel
4. Holiday Inn City Center
5. Riverfront Hilton
6. Best Western Inn Towne
7. Master's Economy Inn

North Little Rock



Pre-Register by June 24 and Pick up Your Convention Packet on Saturday!

**Early pick-up available at
Statehouse Convention Center
for those who pre-register:**

***Saturday, July 16
3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.***

***Sunday, July 17
1:00 p.m.***

Pre-Registration ends June 24, 1994

Meal Information

Children's Banquet / \$7.00

Monday, July 18 / 5:00 p.m.
Robinson Center / Exhibition Hall

Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon / \$15.00

Tuesday, July 19 / 12:00 noon
Excelsior Hotel / Ballroom / Salon C

Youth Banquet / \$12.50

Tuesday, July 19 / 9:00 p.m.
Robinson Center / Exhibition Hall

Note: Until June 24, Youth Banquet tickets will be sold only to those in grades seven to age 24 and youth workers accompanying their group. Others may purchase available tickets at the convention.

Music Ministries Breakfast / \$9.50

Wednesday, July 20 / 7:00 a.m.
Riverfront Hilton / Silver City III, IV

Youth Workers Reception / \$6.00

Monday, July 18 / 9:00 p.m.
Camelot Hotel / Plaza West

WNAC Fellowship Dinner / \$15.00

Tuesday, July 19 / 5:00 p.m.
Excelsior Hotel / Grand Ballroom

FWBBC Luncheon / \$11.00

Wednesday, July 20 / 12:00 Noon
Excelsior Hotel / Ballroom / Salons A-B

Master's Men Dinner / \$18.00

Wednesday, July 20 / 4:45 p.m.
Excelsior Hotel / Ballroom / Salons A-B

Only one person per form.
Make additional
copies if needed.

Pre-Registration Form

for
National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Little Rock, AR / July 17 - 21, 1994

By completing the Pre-Registration Form, you will save **valuable** time at the convention. If you pre-register, proceed to a special registration area where you will receive a packet containing your pre-printed name tag, tickets and materials.

Please Print

Name: _____
First or Name Desired on Badge Last

Address: _____

City: _____

Church: _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Hotel (if known): _____

Phone #: (_____) _____ - _____
Area Code

☐ Male ☐ Female

State: _____ Zip: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Completed form(s) and fees must be mailed to

Convention Registration

P. O. Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011-5002

and received on or before **June 24, 1994.**

You may register for all three conventions on this form.

I If you want to register for the **National Association**, complete Section I.

District Association: _____

Minister: ☐ Pastor ☐ Ordained ☐ Licensed

(I certify that I am a member in good standing with the above named church and association which belong to the National Association.)

MISSIONARY: ☐ Foreign (Country) _____

☐ Home

DELEGATE: ☐ Ordained Deacon

☐ State

☐ Local Church (\$10.00)

☐ National Board Member

☐ National Officer

VISITOR: ☐

Meal Tickets:

Quantity

Youth Workers Reception _____ x \$6.00 = _____

Music Ministries Breakfast _____ x \$9.50 = _____

Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon _____ x \$15.00 = _____

FWBBC Alumni Luncheon _____ x \$11.00 = _____

Master's Men Dinner _____ x \$18.00 = _____

If Local Church Delegate _____ → \$10.00 = _____

SUBTOTAL _____

II If you want to register for **WNAC**, complete Section II.

(Check only one of the following:)

DELEGATE: ☐ Local (\$5.00)

☐ State

☐ State President or Field Worker

☐ National Officer

VISITOR: ☐

Meal Tickets:

Quantity

WNAC Fellowship Dinner _____ x \$15.00 = _____

If Local WNAC Delegate _____ → \$5.00 = _____

SUBTOTAL _____

III If you want to register for the **National Youth Conference**, complete Section III.

(ALL those in 1st grade through age 24 must register to attend NYC.)

Are you a youth worker? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grade completed Spring 1994: _____ Age: _____

Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____

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

Youth Leader's name: _____

Registration Fee

Pre-Registration Fee \$13.00 = _____

On-site registration fee is \$15.00

Adults over 24 do not pay NYC fees.

You MUST register for NYC to purchase meal tickets/attend banquets (unless age 25 and up).

Meal Tickets:

Quantity

Children's Banquet (grades 1-6) _____ x \$7.00 = _____

Youth Banquet (must be in grade 7 _____ x \$12.50 = _____

to age 24 or an accompanying youth worker)

(limited - 1 ticket per form)

SUBTOTAL _____

For Office Use Only

Rec _____ Ck/MO # _____ AMT \$ _____

CK _____

Make ALL checks payable
to FWB Convention.

**No refunds mailed after
June 24, 1994.**

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Check/Money Order MUST accompany this form.
Enclose ONE check to pay all fees and tickets.

FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Rev. Richard Gallant With the Lord



POTEAU, OK—Reverend Richard H. Gallant died January 30 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Funeral services for the 48-year-old minister were conducted February 2 at First FWB Church in Poteau where he pastored more than seven years. Reverends Carl

Cheshier, Paul Thompson and Jim Cook officiated.

Brother Gallant was converted in 1966 and ordained as a Free Will Baptist minister in 1969. He pastored four Oklahoma Free Will Baptist churches—Weleetka FWB Church (1 year), Healdton FWB Church (4 years), First FWB Church, Cushing (3½ years) and First FWB Church in Poteau (7½ years).

Reverend Gallant served as director of development at Hillsdale FWB College 1985-1987. Prior to that, he had served on the college's Board of Trustees from 1977-1985.

Richard was born in a Roman Catholic family in Massachusetts. He was a Roman Catholic until 1966 when Rev. Albert Collier

who then pastored Sunnyslane FWB Church in Del City, Oklahoma, led the 21-year-old Air Force veteran to the Lord.

He enrolled in Oklahoma Bible College (now Hillsdale College) in 1967 and went to school on the G.I. bill. He did summer missionary work in Trenton, New Jersey, in 1968.

Rev. Gallant was a strong advocate of Sunday School, and the churches he pastored won numerous attendance campaigns. He was well-known for his keen insights and sunny sense of humor.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Young Gallant, two sons, five sisters, three brothers and four grandchildren.

South Carolina to Incorporate

INMAN, SC—Delegates to the 52nd annual South Carolina State Association voted to incorporate the state association, according to Clerk David Aycock. The Executive Committee was instructed to proceed with details of the incorporation. The Executive Committee and the treasurers of each state ministry will study and implement the proper financial structures to comply with incorporation requirements.

The February 24-25 session met at First FWB Church in Inman. Officials reported that 144 people registered, including 77 ministers. Moderator Earl Hendrix was elected to his 11th consecutive term.

Promotional Director Norwood Gibson was directed to prepare a plaque and write a letter of appreciation from the state association to the Howell family. Reverend Danny Howell died in 1993 from injuries he suffered in a fall. He had served as state treasurer.

Delegates passed a resolution opposing the use of Christian rock music as an avenue of worship. The resolution will be sent to each member of the Sunday School and Church Training Board and to the resolutions committee at the national convention.

In other action, delegates dissolved their standing Public Mor-

als Committee since its work was duplicated by other committees. Delegates also created the College Loan Fund to assist South Carolina students.

Four South Carolina ministers preached—Pastors Ansel Smith, Austin Martin, William Jacobs and Billy Jackson—during the meeting. They were joined on the preaching platform by Roy Thomas, director of Home Missions, who spoke Thursday night.

The 1995 session will meet February 23-24 at White Savannah FWB Church in Conway.

Discount Air Fares to National Convention Available

NASHVILLE, TN—The National Association of Free Will Baptists has made special travel arrangements for attendees and their families who will be flying to the 1994 National Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, July 17-21, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington. Ambassador Travel, Inc. in Nashville has been selected as the agency of record to provide members attending the convention with discount travel services.

Ambassador Travel, Inc. has secured discounts for air travel

to Little Rock. These fares cannot be purchased through another travel agency or directly with the airlines. These are contracted group airfares. First class tickets may also be booked if desired.

Ambassador Travel, Inc. has contracted for travel dates starting two days prior to the convention and two days after the convention.

To book your airspace at the offered discounted rates, call Ambassador Travel, Inc. toll-free at 1-800/489-2009. This is a dif-

ferent number than last year. Ask for **Janice Jakobik** and identify yourself with the Free Will Baptist National Convention.

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

All services from Ambassador Travel, Inc. are free.

Free Will Baptist Christian Schools Meet

NEW BERN, NC—The Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Christian Schools conducted its annual meeting at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, January 10-12, according to President Dennis Wiggs. Dr. Bob Wood, vice-president of Bob Jones University delivered the keynote address.

Speakers from Free Will Bap-

tist churches that sponsor Christian schools included Pastor Randy Cox and Principals David Thompson, R. L. Tippet, Richard Barnard and Tim Odom. Mrs. Sharon Rabon spoke to the ladies. Fourteen schools represented.

The group re-elected its present officers: Dennis Wiggs, presi-

dent; Archie Ratliff, vice-president; David Thompson, treasurer.

The next meeting is scheduled at Pigeon Forge, January 9-11, 1995. More information may be received from Dennis Wiggs, 2709 Oaks Road, New Bern, NC 28560.

Youth Workers "Build Kids Together"

BRANSON, MO—Over 140 part-time and full-time youth and children's workers landed at Stonecroft Conference Center in Branson, Missouri, February 18-20 for the first National Youth Workers Retreat, according to Dean Jones, conference director. *Building Kids Together*, the retreat theme, provided resources for spiritual, physical, mental and emotional development of young people. The program was filled with practical, take-home ideas to fit all types of ministries. Fellowship and training highlighted the retreat and provided an up-lifting, encouraging atmosphere.

Seminars addressed "Adding Adventure to Your Youth Minis-

try," "Turning Your Children's Ministry from a Circus to a Service," and "Working With Your Pastor in Youth Ministry." Other highlights included a concert by Lisa McGee, idea sharing times and an impromptu variety show featuring retreat attendees.

Dean Jones said that plans are being made for two retreat locations in 1995. One attendee said about the 1994 retreat, "It's the best thing Free Will Baptists have ever done for youth workers . . . and youth!"

Another said, "My head is so full, it's spinning with new material and thoughts. Thanks so much for your time to renew us as workers!"

1994 Yearbook Mailed

ANTIOCH, TN—The *1994 Free Will Baptist Yearbooks* were mailed to district association clerks in April. District clerks are responsible to distribute one copy of the *Yearbook* to the pastor of each church in the association.

Pastors who have not received a copy of the *1994 Yearbook* should contact their district association clerk.

The *Yearbook* contains the minutes of the 1993 National Association which met in Louisville, Kentucky, as well as listing of all churches and pastors.

CURRENTLY...

Looking for a debt-free church? You'll find it at **Victory FWB Church** in **Goldsboro, NC**. Pastor **George Lee** said the congregation paid off the last loan that the church owed in February. The group also installed a \$1,200 emergency backup light system.

The **Black Oak FWB Church** near **Marshfield, MO**, celebrated 100 years of service in January, according to Pastor **Jack Day**. Members and visitors braved an ice and sleet storm to attend the centennial services. Missouri executive secretary **Nathan Ruble** delivered the morning message. The Black Oak Church was organized January 13, 1894. They erected their first building in 1895. It stood until 1940 when it burned and a new building was constructed. A 1,500-square-foot fellowship hall was built in 1991. Some 24 pastors have served the congregation. Two great revivals have fueled church growth. A 1926 revival saw 56 people saved. A 1966 revival saw 126 conversions. Current pastor Jack Day has served 25 years.

Pastor **Charley Carmack** reports five baptisms and eight new members at **Bethlehem FWB Church** in **Ashland City, TN**.

Members of **Fellowship FWB Church** in **Bryan, TX**, voted to construct a 1,500-square-foot pre-fab building to provide space for classrooms, youth activities and a fellowship area. **Bill Jones** pastors.

Texas missions in action. That's what they call the **Lakehills FWB Church** in **Austin**. Missionary Pastor **Keith Woody** began the church in 1991. On February 12 of this year, members dedicated a \$224,000 sanctuary. The 7,600-square-foot building will seat 240 people. A paved parking lot will accommodate 70 vehicles. Texas Central District moderator **Dale Smith** delivered the dedication sermon.

Pastor **Gordon Sebastian** has challenged members of **Peace FWB Church** in **Wilson, NC**, to pray, plan, prepare and construct a new auditorium within three years. The church recently welcomed nine new members.

A group of Free Will Baptists interested in **Christian camping** met for the first time in an informal fashion during

the 1993 national convention in Louisville, KY. The group plans another informal meeting of the Christian Camp Network among Free Will Baptists at the national convention in Little Rock, AR, this July. **James Evans**, senior instructor with Benchmark Ministries will serve as contact person for the group.

Neal Johnson is on a roll. The 26-year-old usher and children's church worker has just completed 16 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. He is a member of **Little Brown FWB Church** in **New Site, MS**. **Russell Clouse** is his happy pastor.

Reverend **David D. Powers, Sr.**, pastor of **Tacoma FWB Church** in **Tacoma, VA**, died September 3, 1993. The 72-year-old minister was chaplain of VFW Post Number 4301. He was a World War II veteran and served as chaplain of North Community Hospital.

The **San Joaquin Association** of Free Will Baptists in **California** asked that the following statement be published: "The San Joaquin Association of Free Will Baptists while in session in February 1994 received the ordination certificates of **Don R. Pegram** and **Jerry Crews** and declared them null and void as of February 5, 1994. The above-named are no longer recognized as ordained ministers of the National Association of Free Will Baptists."

Reverend **Chester A. Huckaby** celebrated 55 years as an ordained Free Will Baptist minister. Brother Huckaby was ordained January 7, 1939, and served as pastor at 28 churches. He organized five Free Will Baptist churches. He now resides in Columbus, GA.

Contact welcomes the **Aloha News**, publication of **Waipahu FWB Church** in **Waipahu, HI**. At press time, the church was still seeking a pastor. Church leaders report attendance at 55, eight conversions and six rededications. The congregation also voted to purchase a Ford bus to bring worshipers to church. The first run for the bus picked up 16 teens for a church youth rally. The next week 23 people rode the bus.

Congratulations to Pastor **Jerry Norris** and members of **Calvary Fellowship FWB Church** in **Fenton, MO**. It has

been a great 16 years of growth. In January 1978 the church averaged 50 in attendance. In January 1993 they averaged 247. Membership climbed from 51 to 472 in that same 16 years. During that time, the church won first place seven times in the Sunday School enlargement campaign.

For the first time since 1972, the **First FWB Church** in **Walnut Ridge, AR**, is debt-free. Pastor **Steve Trail** said the group received a \$13,000 offering and paid off the last remaining mortgage debt. The church also received 16 new members and witnessed eight baptisms.

Home Missionary **Frank Owens** reports nine conversions, 11 baptisms and 35 wonderful people who attend **Waldorf FWB Church** in **Waldorf, MD**. The congregation ended 1993 with the highest attendance on record for them—74 people.

When **White Plains FWB Church** needed a place to baptize members last winter, they called on nearby **First FWB Church** in **Blakely, GA**, to supply the baptistery. White Plains pastor, **Hollis Herndon**, asked First Church pastor, **Joe Buttgen**, to do the baptizing. Brother Buttgen reported that he was delighted to baptize five converts—a mother and her four children, ages 5-13.

Pastor **Mike Trimble** reports 11 conversions, five baptisms and seven new families have joined **Kirby FWB Church** in **Taylor, MI**. Sunday School attendance averages 180 and morning worship 225. The Kirby Church was started by Rev. **J.B. Varney** who retired after 39 years at the helm.

Reverend **Frank McQuage** retired after serving 41 years as a Free Will Baptist minister in **North Carolina**. The last 40 years he served the congregation at **Maple Street FWB Church** in **Rockingham**. More than 20 men have answered the call to preach under his leadership. During his last year as pastor at the Maple Street Church, 91 people were added to the church rolls. Brother McQuage also served as chaplain to the sheriff's department and the Rockingham police department. ■



HOME MISSIONS

Benjamin Randall Day and the FWB Heritage Tour

By Roy Thomas

Is Benjamin Randall Day a success? Does it pay to sponsor the Free Will Baptist Heritage Tours?

Benjamin Randall Day on November 27, 1993, was a tremendous success. Over 600 churches, plus numerous auxiliaries and individuals pooled their resources to make this special day a great blessing. The receipts at press time totaled over \$190,000, which is more than \$25,000 above gifts the year before. The Home Missions Department expresses heartfelt thanks to all who prayed for and participated in this denominational effort.

For years the Sunday before Thanksgiving has been designated by the National Association as *Home Missions Sunday*. We have always promoted it extensively, but received only \$20,000 to \$40,000 as a result. We realized that something needed to be done in order to increase the giving on this special day.

To try to challenge Free Will Baptists to give more on Home Missions Sunday, we renamed it *Benjamin Randall Day*, and decided to sponsor the *Free Will Baptist Heritage Tour* to New England for pastors of churches receiving the largest offerings in their respective Sunday School categories. We have some special reasons for wanting to conduct this tour each year.

1. To turn the eyes of Free Will Baptists toward New England, a heavily populated section that is as void of the gospel as many foreign countries.
2. To give Free Will Baptist preachers an increased burden for planting churches across America as they visit places where the gospel began in America (especially for Free Will Baptists) but are now void of the gospel.
3. To reinforce faith in Free Will Baptist doctrine among our pastors and churches, and instill pride in who we are.
4. To rekindle the fires of evangelism which caused the Randall movement in a century to plant nearly 1,500 churches which swept multitudes into the kingdom of God.
5. To provide the momentum to enable Free

Will Baptists to start 250 new churches in this decade.

6. To help build Benjamin Randall Day into such a special day among Free Will Baptists that a large portion of Home Missions' General Fund budget can be raised on that day each year.

The 1992 Free Will Baptist Heritage Tour cost \$12,500. But we believe it paid us to have it, for the 1992 Benjamin Randall Day offering increased to \$162,000. This was an increase of \$130,000 over what the offering had been in previous years. The 1993 offering has reached over \$190,000 and is still coming in.

The general rule among both non-profit and for-profit organizations is to spend around 20% of campaign receipts for promotions. However, in Home Missions, instead of spending funds to print expensive promotional materials, we decided to use those funds to help our own pastors, for they have been so good to promote our work in their churches. We believe this was a wise choice, and it has been successful. In fact, the churches of just those going on the tour this year gave \$55,961.20 to Benjamin Randall Day. This is *not* money taken from Home Missions. It is money we would not have received without the Heritage Tour.

The past two years we have published something special for pastors and individuals who gave. In 1992 we gave the *Benjamin Randall Journal*. In 1993 we gave the book, *Stones of Remembrance*, written by Eleanor Grindstaff who is a member of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Irwin, Tennessee. We believe both of these books will inspire the readers and instill pride in our denomination.

Sunday, November 20, 1994, is the next Benjamin Randall Day. This special appeal is part of the *Together Way Plan* of support which has been adopted by the National Association. I challenge you and your church to get involved in this denominational effort for Home Missions each November. Mark your calendar and plan now for this special day. ■



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Financial Aid Can Make A Difference!

By Peggy Hampton, Director, Financial Aid



*Ask us
your
questions
about
financing
a Bible
College
education.*

"I want to come to Bible College next fall, but I can't afford it."

"Can you get a Pell Grant at Free Will Baptist Bible College?"

"I will need a loan to help pay my bill. How do I get one?"

"I don't have any money. How can I pay my bill?"

These questions are answered almost every day by personnel in the Financial Aid Office at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Some are more difficult than others, but all must be answered.

Unfortunately, most parents make no financial preparations for educating their children at the college level. One day the child finally graduates from high school, college expenses are looming and neither the child nor parent has any idea how to finance this expensive undertaking. I assure you, it can be done, but it will take a firm commitment from both the parent and the student.

Since the 1990-91 school year, the Title IV Federal Aid package has been available to students at Free Will Baptist Bible College and has been a tremendous help to a large number of them. One student who recently completed his course work and will graduate in May told me more than once that Federal Aid made the difference in his college education. He could not have stayed in school without benefit of the Federal Pell Grant and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG).

Federal Aid includes more than grants. In addition to the Federal Pell Grant and the Federal SEOG, there are several loan programs if the student needs to borrow. These include the Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan, Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan and, for the parents of an eligible student, the Federal PLUS Loan.

In addition to Federal Financial Aid, Free Will Baptist Bible College administers an institutional loan program. Beginning with the 1994-95 school year, students may borrow \$1,500 per semester with a cumulative total of \$5,250. These funds are repaid after a student graduates or terminates schooling at FWBBC.

Loans should be considered only when all other means of financing college costs have

been exhausted. However, a student should remember that some things are worth going into debt for and a college education is one of those. Cars and trucks fall apart before the last payment is made, but a college education—especially a Christian education—will last a lifetime. It is the best investment you will ever make.

It is the philosophy of both Free Will Baptist Bible College and the Federal Government that the parents are primarily responsible to fund a student's education. Parents are encouraged to save toward college or to budget a monthly amount when the student begins college. The student should help if possible by working during summers and during the school year. Most students can work 8-10 hours per week and still do a good job in the classroom.

In planning for college, a prospective student should also avoid indebtedness of all kinds. Many students struggle with college costs because they come with automobile debt and credit card debt. Students who fare the best in paying college expenses are those with little or no personal debt, who have worked and saved as much as possible.

Attending Free Will Baptist Bible College is possible! Below are some suggestions to help prospective students.

- 1. Apply for Federal Aid at the earliest possible date.
- 2. Ask your high school guidance counselor about scholarships given by local civic organizations or corporations for which you may apply.
- 3. Apply for an on-campus job by the May 31 priority deadline.
- 4. Save as much as possible.
- 5. Keep debt to a minimum.

The staff in the Financial Aid Office at Free Will Baptist Bible College is always available to answer your questions. Please call us with your questions or to request our Financial Aid packet. We would like to hear from you. ■

Financial Aid Office

1-615-383-1340

Ext. 2250



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Flowers That Fade Not!

By William W. Evans

Our veteran missionary, Evelyn Hersey, went home to be with the Lord last year. A large number of friends shared with the Hersey family the sorrow of the funeral and the comfort of faith.

Evelyn's husband, Fred, requested that some of the friends not just send flowers. He said, "Flowers fade so soon, please do something that will last in Evelyn's memory." As a result,

a Memorial Endowment was set up to provide support for our missionary efforts in Japan. The "arrangements" blossom every six months providing a sweet fragrance through income earnings and good memories of Evelyn. Heaven may reveal eternal benefits as well.

The following family and friends have contributed \$4,856.39 to a Memorial Endowment bouquet that will not fade.

Abashiri Church
Japan
Kimiko Arai
Japan
Rev. and Mrs. Proctor Barker
Joelton, TN
Bihoro Church
Japan
Bihoro Sunday School
Japan
Martha Burttram
Springville, AL
Bill and Sandra Campbell
Laverne, TN
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Carrow
Chocowinity, NC
Bill and Brenda Evans
Nashville, TN
William and Anita Ferguson
Troy, MI
First FWB Ladies Auxiliary
Guin, AL
Five Points FWB Church
Washington, NC
Mr. and Mrs. Hanszawa
Japan
Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Hart
Ayden, NC
Fred Hersey
Antioch, TN
Herman and Vernie Hersey
Nashville, TN
C. B. and Judith Hingst
Cottontown, TN
Mildred Hinkle
Marion, IL
Hokkaido Assoc. of Churches
Japan
Holmesville FWB Miss. Group
Canada
Lucy and Irvin Hyman
Albany, GA
Esther K. Kennerly
Bonnie, IL

James and Mildred Kollbaum
Sun City West, AZ
Kurosaka Family
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Stones of Remembrance

By Eleanor Grindstaff

(Antioch, TN: The Home Missions Department of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 1993, 118 pp., paperback, \$10.)



Thomas Marberry

To the best of my knowledge, this is the first novel to examine the early period of Free Will Baptist history. It is written by a veteran school teacher who is a member of the First FWB Church of Erwin, Tennessee.

Benjamin Randall, the principal character in the book, was the father of Free Will Baptists in New England. His devotion to preaching the message that Christ died for all men and not just for the elect led him to found this new denomination in 1780. He then devoted the remaining years of his life to preaching and teaching the gospel of free grace and free salvation.

Several influences worked in the life of Randall to bring him to salvation. One of the most important of these influences was the preaching of George Whitefield, the most famous preacher in colonial America. Whitefield was a Calvinist, but he taught the necessity of conversion and of a personal relationship with God. The preaching of Whitefield had a great impact on Randall; the news of Whitefield's death prompted him to become a Christian.

This is a work of historical fiction. Benjamin Randall and George Whitefield are the only two of the book's characters who are historical figures. Some of the incidents in the book are based on actual events in the life of Randall, but most of them are developed by the author.

The dialogue which the author has created gives the reader some idea of what life was like in colonial America. It was not an era of religious freedom and toleration. Dissenters were often mistreated by the governing authorities and shunned by their neighbors. The New England churches took their Calvinistic faith very seriously and had little sympathy for Randall and others who preached a general atonement. Many church members gave little evidence of a personal relationship with Christ and lived worldly lives. This book describes how early Free Will Baptists suffered at their hands.

This work illustrates the kind of conflict and division which was produced when some members of a family gave their lives to Christ and others did not. It also presents the

suffering, pain and division which the Revolutionary War produced in many areas of New England.

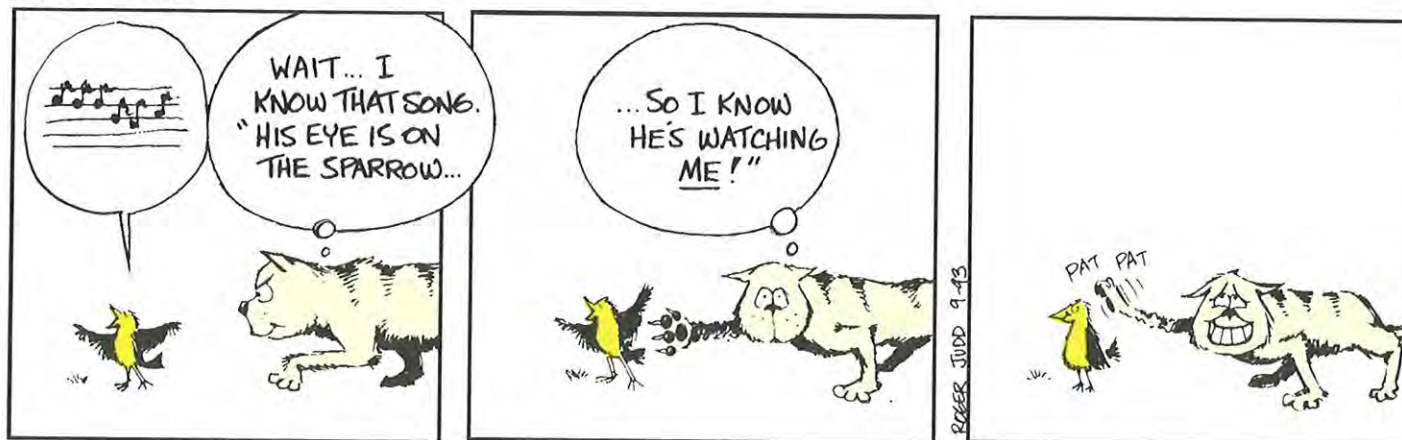
This is an enjoyable book to read. The characters are quite realistic and well developed for a book this size. The dialogue is revealing and develops the suspense which is so much a part of good fiction.

I do have two suggestions. First, since this is a work of historical fiction, more detail about how people lived and worked, what they ate, what they wore, and what they thought would have made the book more enjoyable and more valuable.

Second, Benjamin Randall was the most important leader of this group of Free Will Baptists, but he was not the only leader. Others also made significant contributions, and perhaps some of them could have been woven into the story.

Eleanor Grindstaff has done a great service to Free Will Baptists in writing this historical novel. I hope that this will not be the end of her efforts to help us understand the early history of our movement through the vehicle of fiction. ■

WINGTIPS



OUR READERS COMMENT

Appreciates Public School Article

I read the article in February *Contact* titled, "Macedonian Call for Public Schools." Although I do not know Dr. Ken Hancock personally, I must give him my rousing applause and honest accolades for sounding the missionary bell so clearly.

It is not my perception that this article's intent was to diminish or strike out against the Christian school movement but, indeed, address the larger need for Christians to become militant as we mount an offensive against the gates of hell which have taken root in our public school system. I am convinced that his arguments were valid and that the primary catalyst for change will be young, godly Christian men and women entering the teaching profession and boldly taking their life convictions to the public school room.

I appreciate your willingness to publish this article, especially as you endeavor to balance the eclectic views of a phenomenally diverse denomination.

Reverend Joe Grizzle, Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Norman, Oklahoma

Cancel My Subscription!

I no longer want *Contact* magazine because you printed this article praising Clinton about signing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Anybody who knows this draft dodger knows that he speaks out of both sides of his mouth for abortion and other immoral issues. He should not have any praise from Christians.

Anybody who keeps up with political news knows he would sign or do whatever to get the so-called Religious Right to swing to his side. I've been a strong Free Will Baptist for 44 years and still believe we have the best interpretation of the whole Bible. And will still be a Free Will Baptist as long as I live.

But I'll send this \$12 to Jerry Falwell, Pastor James Kennedy or any one of six or seven Baptist ministers I listen to on T.V. I will still give my tithes at my Free Will Baptist church but can't support my denomination after this praise of Clinton who's the biggest fraud to come along in my lifetime.

I'm so sorry that whoever decided to print this article in our *Contact* magazine was allowed to do so. I love my denomination and will pray for it. But I no longer feel so proud of my magazine.

Fay Adkins
Warren, Michigan

Another Side of Leaving

In the February issue you wrote of "Two Who Left." One brother thought Free Will Baptists were too liberal while another thought the denomination too conservative. That there are some in the connection who are too loose is a fact. But liberal? Hardly. That there are others to the right of the mainline conservative Free Will Baptists is true. But too conservative? Doubtful. Of course, if anyone wants to leave us, it's no problem to find an excuse or a justification. Just don't blame self.

Certainly there should be concern when brethren choose to pull away. Those who say they don't care if others go must be themselves questioned. For as Abraham said when problems developed between his and Lot's herdsmen, "We be brethren." It always hurts to see brethren separate from the family.

There is another side of the issue. It concerns those who have left us but are still among us. Those who have in fact left are a bit more honest than those who have left but are still with us. Just as Israel had strangers and a mixed multitude among them, so do we. A careful reading of biblical history will reveal that almost every incident of rebellion involves these groups.

As hard as it may seem to say, some just may need to walk.

There are three examples of departure in scriptures that may help sort this out. Christ had preached on bread, blood and belief. Many of His disciples said, "This is a hard saying, who can hear it." Then "many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him."

Christ did not call the Church into conference to elect a grievance committee, but said to the 12, "Will ye also go away?" Just think, it was Christ who said that. Had they come back, there would have been no compromise. It would have been bread, blood and belief. Hard saying. Too conservative?

Paul handled a departure rather matter-of-factly when he wrote, "Demas hath forsaken me." Those who left Christ complaining about the hardness said why they were leaving. Here, Demas says nothing. But Paul, being quite honest about it said, "... having loved this present world." Too liberal?

Then there's John's statement about some who left. "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us," (1 John 2:19). Too liberal? Too conservative?

Evangelist Wade Jernigan
Lexington, Oklahoma

New Subscriber Writes

I would like to subscribe to *Contact*. I have been reading someone else's magazine, and I look forward to getting my own monthly copy.

I thoroughly enjoy reading *Contact*. As a young, recently licensed minister, I find its articles exciting and informative.

James M. Smith
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Too Many Headings

I read *Contact*, at least I read the little topic headings. Can anyone around there write an article without topic headings for each paragraph? It's so easy to read the headings and go to the next one.

I appreciate and pray for you. You have come a long way with the magazine.

Bob Huckaba
Batesville, Arkansas

Applauds Public School Article

We appreciated the article, "Macedonian Call for Public Schools," by Dr. Ken Hancock (Feb. '94). We have long had a burden regarding public schools. We know that the Lord would not have the public school system void of Christian witness. It is our earnest desire to see our Christian colleges and our pastors encourage young Christians to respond to this much-needed field of service.

Our granddaughter recently had opportunity to witness to a girl who was awaiting her 18th birthday so that she could go to work in a local night club. Because of her witness, the girl has been convicted of her lifestyle and indicated a desire to attend church with our granddaughter.

We also have a daughter who teaches in a local high school. Her opportunities to be a witness to and counsel troubled teens have been many. What happens to these opportunities if there is no Christian witness in our public schools? It is her prayer and ours that more Christian young people will listen as God gives "The Macedonian Call" for this neglected mission field.

Byron and Zelmodean Mallory
Midland City, Alabama ■

Oh, Mother!

Back in the 1950's when I struggled to master the logistics of a hoe handle, the most guilt-ridden question any adult could hurl at me was the dreaded, "Boy, does your mother know what you're doing?" Somehow, the possibility of publicly embarrassing my mother was far worse than humiliating the President of the United States. After all, the president was way off in Washington. Mother was almost omnipresent.

To 12-year-olds mothers carry more clout than a SWAT team. They also heal bruises and scrapes better than doctors. They believe the best about you even when they know the worst. They're better at reading minds than fortune tellers.

Maybe it's that way because mothers personify all that's good and gentle and decent in the world.

Mother's influence doesn't stop when Junior leaves home. Some months ago, *Reader's Digest* printed Thomas Stave's reminder of who's really in charge.

"The hard-bitten commander of my infantry company in Vietnam was frustrated in his efforts to make a soldier out of one particular PFC. The young man lagged behind on patrols, feigned illness and managed to spend most of his time at headquarters.

"One day, though, he changed his ways, and we asked the commander why. 'Threats and punishment didn't work,' he admitted, 'so I had to use the ultimate weapon. I wrote his mother.'"

What is this strange power that mothers wield over the rest of society? Believe me, it's potent, quite real . . . and while it's frequently amusing, sometimes it causes problems.

You see, there's a dark side to motherhood. Some mothers never

learn that children mature into adults. They want the same control over their 45-year-old son with three children and a mortgage that they had when he was in grade school. Instead of taking pride in a job well done when their daughters become professionals, these confused mothers feel abandoned because their little girls (translation: mature women) don't call home for permission to change jobs or addresses, or don't spend every holiday with Mom.

What gives me the right as a 51-year-old male to speak about mothering? Maybe more than you think. After all, I've had a mother for more than half a century. I'm married to a woman who is a mother. And most of the women I know are mothers. In addition to which, I've got "mothers" scattered from Saratoga to Sacramento.

A mother is at her best and in her element when she's surrounded by the walls of her own home. Unchallenged, she rules this domestic domain because her subjects love her and need her, and she very well knows it.

One of the saddest lessons we learn is that mothers grow old. When that happens they sometimes grow cranky and hard to please. Maybe that's why God reminds us, "Despise not thy mother when she is old," (Prov. 23:22). By the way, it's my experience that cranky old women were probably cranky young women.

We have a love/hate relationship with our mothers. It's somewhere between *The Talmud's* worshipful, "God could not be everywhere, so therefore he made mothers," and Woody Allen's irreverent, "When I was born my mother was terribly disappointed. Not that she wanted a girl—she wanted a divorce."

Thirty years ago modern society

tossed aside William R. Wallace's noble principle, "For the hand that rocks the cradle . . . rules the world." Only to discover, to their horror, that they were stuck with Kin Hubbard's cutting observation, "The old-time mother who used to wonder where her boy was now has a grandson who wonders where his mother is."

We want to believe in the sanctity of motherhood that James Barrie describes, "The God to whom little boys say their prayers has a face very like their mothers'."

Unfortunately, too many have found out too late that a Proverbs 15:20 son can never rise above his own anger, "A foolish son despiseth his mother . . ."

On the other hand, it is possible to love Mother too much. Mom-worship is at least as repugnant as Mom-abuse. Jesus warned, "He that loveth . . . mother more than me is not worthy of me," (Mt. 10:37).

In Christ, women regain all they gave up to be mothers. She who gave up her virginity becomes the virgin bride of Christ. She who gave up her name to become Bob's wife and Sarah's mother has her name written in the Lamb's Book of Life. She who wept in the night has her tears wiped away. She who forsook father and home for love's sake has an eternal home with the Heavenly Father.

Not all women want to be mothers. But I've never met a woman who deliberately set out to be a *bad* mother. Most mothers know a lot about the cost of unconditional love, the kind of love they bestow on wiggly newborns. A mother's unconditional love for her children is the nearest to perfect love that exists, other than the Love that so loved the world that it gave . . . ■



Jack Williams

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