

SEPTEMBER 1994

CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



National Officers

Waldo Young, Carl Cheshier, Ralph Hampton, Melvin Worthington, Keith Burden

.....
**We Preach
Christ**

.....
Guided By the Light

.....
**Be Strong
and Courageous**

.....
**Monday Morning
Attitude**

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Melvin Worthington

Action in Arkansas

The 58th annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists was a unique experience. Each year Free Will Baptists look forward to the biggest event on the denominational calendar—the national convention. This annual meeting brings together Free Will Baptists from around the globe for fellowship and the purpose of transacting the business of the National Association. Many came to Little Rock with great expectations and were not disappointed. The convention was one of the best ever with superb singing, pointed preaching, marvelous meals and blessed business.

This big event produces excitement, expectation and enjoyment for those who regularly attend. We review our history, rejoice and revel in our heritage, and renew and rejoice in our hope. The annual convention dispels the notion that Free Will Baptists are drying up and dying out.

The Attendance

The largest registration in our history occurred in 1985 in Nashville, Tennessee, when we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the National Association and registered 8,300. The second highest registration in our 58 year history occurred this year in Little Rock when we registered 7,640.

This large attendance made it necessary for the NYC conference to meet in separate facilities. In fact, the attendance has grown to the point that unless Little Rock expands the convention center they can no longer host our convention.

The Atmosphere

The Spirit of the Lord was present beginning with the Executive Committee meeting on Saturday. This

meeting was characterized by unity and understanding. This blessed spirit prevailed throughout the entire meeting. We came with an expectation that God would meet with us and speak to us, and He did.

Superb singing characterized the music of the convention both by the congregation, special groups and individuals. Attendees commented that the singing had never been better.

Practical, pointed, perceptive preaching characterized the convention and contributed to the atmosphere of expectancy and enjoyment. The preaching at this convention gives hope for the future. If the preaching this year is any indication of the ability of young and old men to articulate the message, the denomination has a bright future.

The Activities

Two special events galvanized this national. On Tuesday evening, General Board members marched into the auditorium with their state flags. Each flag was positioned in front of the stage as the association's gift to the Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign was announced. Offering gifts and pledges exceeded \$27,000, while total gifts reached \$243,000.

The second activity which stirred attendees was the presentation of a \$78,000 gift from the youth of Arkansas to the Foreign Missions Department. The Arkansas youth marched in and stood in front of the stage while foreign missionaries stood on the

stage for the presentation. The youth challenged convention attendees who gave them a standing ovation for a job well done. This significant event electrified the congregation and caused spontaneous praise and shouting.

The Action

The business sessions were characterized by a spirit of unity, understanding and unselfishness with few exceptions. Free Will Baptists do not always agree, but when the majority speaks it is usually settled. Reports and budgets were adopted in a spirit of harmony. The election of board, commission and committee members reflected greater interest than in previous years. More nominees were nominated from the floor than in any other convention.

A committee was appointed to study the possibility of ministering to the ethnic communities in our country. This suggests that Free Will Baptists are people of vision and concern for a lost world.

The Adjournment

Following the election of the general officers, the convention adjourned. A budget exceeding \$13 million had been adopted, offerings exceeding \$60,000 received, 7,640 attendees registered, competent board, commission and committee members elected and a generic version of *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* approved.

When the gavel sounded, I was already looking forward to the next time the Free Will Baptist family would convene. I can hardly contain myself. I look forward to July 16-20, 1995, when the North Carolina State Association hosts the 59th session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. ■

The Secretary's Schedule

Sept. 6-9	Convention Planning Trip Charlotte, North Carolina
Sept. 11	Shelby Free Will Baptist Church Shelby, North Carolina
Sept. 25-28	Christian Stewardship Association Louisville, Kentucky

1994 National Convention Report

We Preach Christ

By Thomas Marberry



The Norman Invasion takes the convention by storm Tuesday night.

The National Association of Free Will Baptists met July 17-21 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, to develop the theme, "We Preach Christ." This was the fourth time that the National Association had met in Arkansas. We met in Little Rock in 1966 and 1984; in 1948 we met in Pocahontas.

The National Association includes more than 200,000 members in some 2,500 churches in 40 states. The denomination supports 108 missionaries in nine foreign countries and more than 100 home missionaries in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Meeting simultaneously with the National Association were the 27th annual National Youth Conference (NYC) and the 59th annual Women Nationally Active for Christ Convention (WNAC). All these activities attracted a large attendance from across the denomination. A total of 7,640 people registered (4,421 for the National; 2,044 for the NYC; 1,175 for the WNAC).

The theme selected for this year's

convention reflects the commitment which Free Will Baptists have to the person and work of Christ. Free Will Baptists teach and preach that Christ is the only way of salvation. He is the Maker of all things; He is the Messiah; He is the only Mediator between God and man; He is the Master of the universe and the only hope of eternal life. It is our responsibility



Promotional Secretary David Joslin welcomes Free Will Baptists to Arkansas.

as Christian believers to bring all men, both at home and abroad, to personal faith in Him.

These days in Little Rock gave Free Will Baptists an opportunity to learn about our denomination, to understand something of its strengths and weaknesses, to evaluate its work, and to make important decisions about its future. It gave us the opportunity to renew friendships, encourage one another and recognize the contributions of those, both young and old, who have labored in the work of our denomination.

This article will share something of what we saw, felt and experienced in Little Rock.

Christ in our Preaching

Preaching is an important part of every National Association. That was especially true this year because of the theme which had been selected. Each of the preachers developed in different ways why it is important that Free Will Baptists preach Christ.

Sunday Morning

The first preacher was Rev. Gary

Fry of Mountain Grove, Missouri, who spoke on the sufficiency of Christ. His text was I Corinthians 1:17-23. In his sermon, he noted that "Christ crucified is the only thing that is going to make a difference in the lives of men." He noted that we do not have the power to change the hearts of men; only the gospel of Christ can do that. He also emphasized that Christ has given us all the resources we need to live for Him.

Sunday Evening

Rev. Kenneth Frisbee, pastor of Akron FWB Church in Ohio for 33 years, preached the Sunday evening message. He used as his text several verses from Psalms 103 and 104; his sermon focused on the greatness and majesty of Jesus Christ. He emphasized that God knows the location of every one of His churches and He is still taking care of each of them.



Pastor Kenneth Frisbee extends altar call.

Because we serve a God who is so great, we should not be afraid to go into the world and preach the Word.

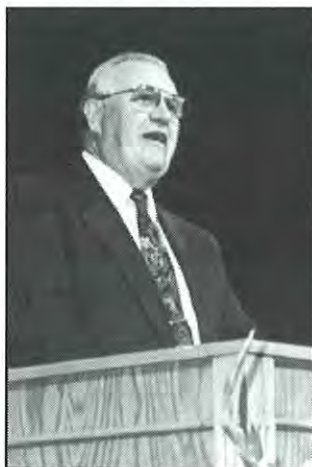
Monday Afternoon

Dr. Richard Adams of Nashville, Tennessee, preached at the Free Will Baptist Camp Meeting on Monday afternoon. He stressed that we live in a world which is filled with various types of sin such as pornography, child abuse, homosexuality and abortion. He pointed out that only Christ can redeem men and women from the sins which enslave them

and that Christians have the message of redemption.

Monday Evening

The preacher at the Monday evening service was Rev. Dean



Rev. Dean Dobbs fills the pulpit Monday evening.

Dobbs, pastor of Pleasant Acres FWB Church in New Bern, North Carolina. The title of his sermon was "We Must Preach Christ in his Preeminence." The text was I Corinthians 2:1-5. Pastor Dobbs emphasized that we must preach Christ in all His purity and power. We must also be sure that we preach Him in love.

Pastors' Conference

On Tuesday morning, the National Association held its first Pastors' Conference. The speaker was Dr. Glen McGriff, former director of Ministry of Crisis Support for the Arkansas Baptist Convention. For a number of years, Dr. McGriff served as a counselor and advisor to ministers and their families who were facing crisis situations. His subject was "Clergy in Crisis."

He noted that ministers and their families are facing pressures today which they never faced in earlier years. These pressures are causing ministers' families to break up in unprecedented numbers. More and more ministers today are becoming involved in sexual immorality and other forms of clergy misconduct.

McGriff emphasized that Free Will Baptists must recognize these problems and be prepared to deal with them. He made helpful and practical suggestions on how our denomina-

tion can minister effectively to pastors and their families in times of crisis.

Tuesday Evening

Rev. Don Guthrie of Plano, Texas, was the principal speaker at the Tuesday evening service. He preached on "The Missing Element in Evangelism." Using John 13:34-35 as his text, Guthrie argued that love is an essential element in evangelism which is often missing in the church today. He noted that love is a positive force, a unifying force, a freeing force and a motivating force. If our love for



Texas pastor, Don Guthrie, makes his point.

people is not sincere, we have little chance of winning them to Christ.

Wednesday Evening

Dr. Mark Paschall, Free Will Baptist medical missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, preached during the missions service Wednesday night. The missions service is often the highlight of the convention, and that was the case this year. Dr. Paschall preached on the subject "We Preach Christ to the World," from John 3:16-18.



Dr. Mark Paschall delivers the missionary message Wednesday evening.

In an outstanding doctrinal sermon, he stressed that since the fall of man in the garden of Eden, all men have been born in sin. Man without Christ is lost and separated from God. Those who have experienced the grace of God have a responsibility to share the gospel message with the lost men and women of this world.

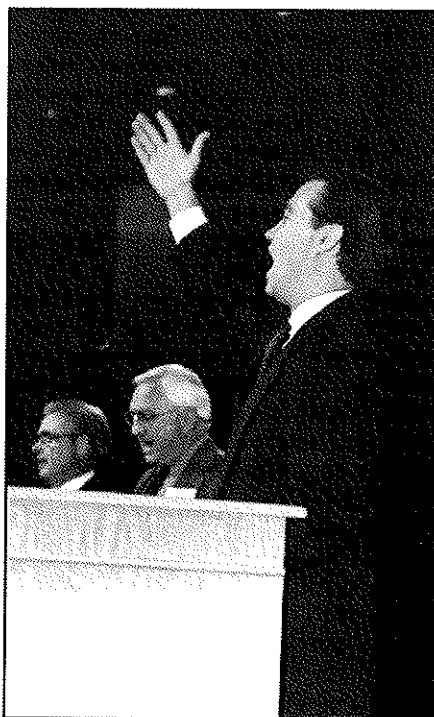
The theme of this year's convention, "We Preach Christ," presents well the commitment which Free Will Baptists have to the ministry of preaching. That commitment was evident in each of the sermons preached at this National Association. The sermons emphasized that we cannot preach ourselves; we have no power to save. It is only Christ who is the hope of the world.

Christ in our Music

Music is an important part of worship in Free Will Baptist churches and in our national conventions. We preach Christ not only in words which are spoken but in words which are sung.

The congregational singing was excellent at every service. We sang several familiar hymns and also sang a number of choruses which have become popular in recent years. Two choirs provided special music. On Monday evening, the Mass Adult Choir gave a stirring rendition of "We Shall See Jesus." On Wednesday evening, the Men's Chorale challenged our hearts with a moving arrangement of "I'm Just a Sinner Saved by Grace."

One of the musical highlights of the convention was the mini-concert presented Tuesday evening by the musical groups from our Free Will Baptist colleges. These groups included the *Rejoice Ministry Team* from Free Will Baptist Bible College, the *New Life Ministry Team* from Hillsdale FWB College, the *Sounds of Praise* from Southeastern FWB College, and the *Sounds of Joy* from California Christian College. Each group performed separately; they also sang two numbers together. It was a joy to see the young people of our denomination cooperating so beautifully and worshipping the Lord together.



Convention Music Coordinator Randy Sawyer.

Several ensembles and individuals from churches across the denomination provided special music for the various services. Some of the ensembles were the Stanley Jones Singers, Lange and Jamie Patrick, the Masterpeace Quartet, the New Covenant Quartet, and the Pruitt Family. Joy Henderson and Lisa McGee sang solos which added much to the Monday and Wednesday evening services.

Jerry Carraway served as convention organist; Deena Armstrong

played the piano. Several people assisted in the music ministry by directing congregational singing or by conducting one of the choirs. These included Tim Murfin, Daron Dwyer, Scott Bullman, Doug Little, Randy Sawyer, Jerry Carraway and Vernon Whaley. Randy Sawyer served as music coordinator for the convention. He and his staff are to be commended for their fine work.

Christ In Our Mission

We preach Christ in order that men and women might come to know Him as personal Savior. For this reason, missions has always occupied an important place in the work of the Free Will Baptist denomination. At Convention '94 both home and foreign missions reported considerable success in sharing the gospel.

Home Missions

The Home Missions Department reported that five missionaries completed itinerate and moved to their fields of service in 1993. Three home missionaries led their churches to become self-supporting during the year. Several mission churches completed building projects with assistance from Missionary Builder Howard Gwartney and his crew. The mission church in Rapid City, South Dakota, under the leadership of Tim Coats, purchased the building it had been renting.

Fred and Barbara Jones resigned as missionaries to Mexico after 10



Foreign Missionaries Jim and Vicki Sturgill (L), Bobby and Geneva Poole (C) and Dave and Pat Franks (R).



Convention Registration Coordinator and Home Missionary to Phoenix, Arizona, George Harvey, his wife Linda and daughter Cindy.

years of service at our Bible Institute there. They are now in Alabama where they will be starting a church in Prattville.

The work in Mexico is going well. Missionary James Munsey was named president of the Bible Institute after the departure of Fred Jones. Brother Munsey also coordinates the Free Will Baptist mission work in Mexico. He has led in the construction of 18 church buildings in Mexico.

Dr. Roy Thomas, general director of Home Missions, reported that the Build My Church campaign exceeded \$500,000 during 1993. More than \$197,000 was received for home missions on Benjamin Randall Day, November 21, 1993. The 10th annual Roll Call Sunday recorded a total attendance of 224,547 in 2,640 churches with 706 conversions. Roll Call Sunday for next year is March 26, 1995; our attendance goal is 230,000.

The National Association reviewed the audit of the Home Missions Department and approved a total budget of \$2.7 million for 1995. This represents an increase of \$100,000 over the 1994 budget.

Foreign Missions

Rev. R. Eugene Waddell, general director of Foreign Missions was unable to attend this year's convention. He was recovering from recent sur-

gery. The department report was presented by Fred Warner, Jimmy Aldridge and Mike Johnston. They noted that 1993 was a year of many victories for Free Will Baptist foreign missions.

At the end of the year the department reported a total of 108 missionaries, 32 ordained pastors, and 175 licensed and lay preachers serving on 10 different fields. There were 77 organized churches and 213 mission works. They reported 1,433 converts and 511 baptisms in 1993. The average Sunday attendance was 7,397.

Several mission fields experienced revival in 1993. There were 747 converts in Cuba, 300 in India, 125 in Côte d'Ivoire, 102 in Panama, and 88 in Brazil. Free Will Baptist people responded to the great commission by providing \$4 million in

1993. These gifts came from 1,714 churches.

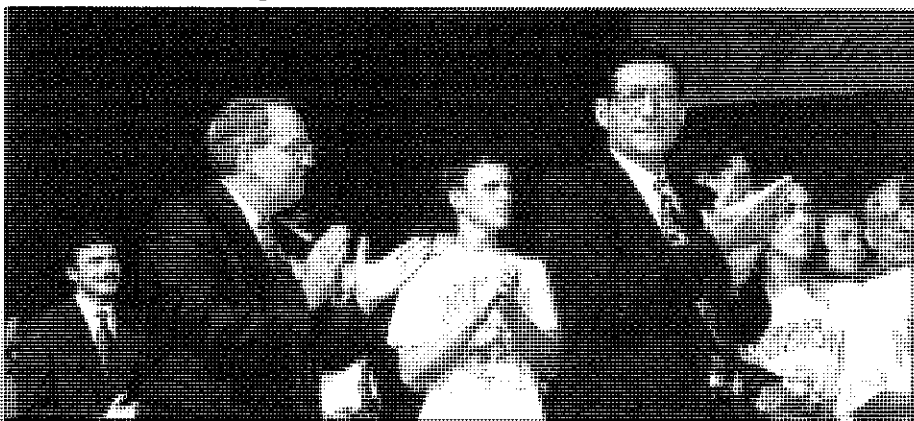
During the year the board voted to investigate the possibility of opening a mission work in the former Soviet Union. It was also reported that the mission work in Germany has been closed due to the transfer of our missionary affiliates from Germany by the U. S. military.

The delegates reviewed the financial status of the department, accepted the audit and approved a total budget of \$4.7 million for 1995. During the Wednesday evening service a special offering of \$24,891.77 was received. These funds will be divided equally between home and foreign missions.

The young people of the state of Arkansas have been working on a special project which they have called the "Norman Invasion." This is a project to raise funds for the construction of two church buildings, one in Brazil and one in Côte d'Ivoire. These young people received a standing ovation from the congregation when they presented a check for \$78,486.78 to missionaries Norman Richards and Norman McFall. The \$100,000 project is still ongoing; additional funds are still being raised.

During the business session Thursday morning, delegates approved the formation of a special committee to study ministry to ethnic groups in the United States. This committee is to assess denominational resources and talents and make recommendations for the development of denomination-wide outreach to various ethnic minorities in this country.

All these efforts both at home and



Both Foreign Missions and Home Missions representatives applaud the Norman Invasion.

abroad indicate that Free Will Baptists take seriously the command to preach Christ to all the peoples of the earth. We are doing much, but we should be doing much more.

Christ in Our Service

Our denomination's commitment to Christ should be evident in every facet of its work. At Convention '94 all national departments and agencies reported on their activities and how those activities contribute to the work of Christ.

Master's Men

Director James Vallance discussed the work of the Master's Men Department. This department seeks broader involvement for the laymen of our denomination. During the past 10 years, the Helping Hands crew has helped construct 51 places of worship in this country and on mis-



Master's Men smilingly serve as ushers during the convention.

sion fields. In 1993 they helped to construct five new churches. In February 1994 a group of eight men traveled to Cuba to work on a church near Pinar del Rio.

The Master's Men department also provides other activities to assist men in local churches. It provides curriculum materials and supporting services for local Master's



General Board members march with their state flags to celebrate the Victory Campaign.

Men chapters. It also sponsors such activities as retreats, golf tournaments and the National Free Will Baptist Softball Tournament.

The last few years have been difficult financially for the Master's Men Department. Income received from dues and other sources has not been sufficient to meet the needs of the department. It has been unable to pay rent for the space the department occupies in the National Offices Building. In some cases, funds given for LifeMemberships have been used to pay operating expenses of the department.

During the business sessions of Convention '94, the Master's Men Board announced that action had been taken to address the situation. LifeMembership funds which had been used to pay operating expenses will be repaid by the members of the Master's Men Board within 30 days. The operating budget for 1995 was reduced to \$106,500. Board members will work closely with the general director to insure that the department operates within its income.

One of the highlights of the convention was the Master's Men dinner on Wednesday. The principal speaker was Don Wagner who is a member of the Bethany FWB Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He challenged the men of our denomination to listen to the Holy Spirit, be more involved in the work of their churches, and to be more tolerant of one

another. He also suggested that each church give careful consideration to its mission and should adopt a written mission statement which clearly outlines its goals and objectives.

Board of Retirement

The Board of Retirement is another agency providing important services for our denomination. The primary objective of this department is to provide dependable retirement income for pastors and other denominational employees. Director Bill Evans reported that 951 people were participating in the retirement program. Twenty-six new participants enrolled during 1993. At the end of 1993 the total fund balance in the retirement fund was \$11.2 million. This represented an increase of approximately \$1.2 million over the previous year.

During the past year, the Board of Retirement has sought to improve the quality of the services which it provides. It now can offer direct deposit of settlement checks. It also now offers 10-year and 15-year Guaranty Joint and Survivor Annuities. These combine the need for lifetime income and an assurance that early deaths will not adversely impact individual participants.

FWB Foundation

While meeting in Little Rock, the National Association also received the report of the Free Will Baptist

Foundation. The Foundation was created to assist Free Will Baptists in managing their estates in such a way that their support for the work of Free Will Baptists can continue even after death.

The Foundation can administer trust agreements which insure that



Bill Evans, director of Retirement and Insurance and FWB Foundation, reports to delegates.

the wishes of the donor are carried out. At the present time, this department is managing trusts which will benefit every national department as well as a number of other Free Will Baptist agencies.

Sunday School and Church Training

Dr. Alton Loveless, who became director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department on January 1, presented his first report to the national association. He noted that the department had continued its debt-reduction program. The total indebtedness of the department was reduced by \$175,000. During this report, Dr. Loveless shared something of his philosophy and his goals and objectives for the department.

During the business session Wednesday, the department showed an excellent video which summarized the 30 years of service which this department has given to the denomination. At the end of this presentation, Dr. Roger Reeds, former director of the department, was presented a gift by the board for his 35 years of faithful service to Free Will Baptists.

The Sunday School and Church Training Department does business under the trade name Randall House

Publications. Randall House provides a variety of services to the denomination. It is responsible for publishing Sunday School and CTS literature, books, pamphlets and other materials which can be used by our churches. It also coordinates the youth activities which take place every summer at the National Association.

Bible College

President Tom Malone reported on the work of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He reported a total undergraduate enrollment of 359 during the 1993-94 school year. He also noted that FWBCC is expecting about a 10% increase in enrollment this fall. The Christian Service Department of the college is involved in a variety of ministries. Bible College students were responsible for 150 first-time decisions for Christ through their involvement in Christian service.

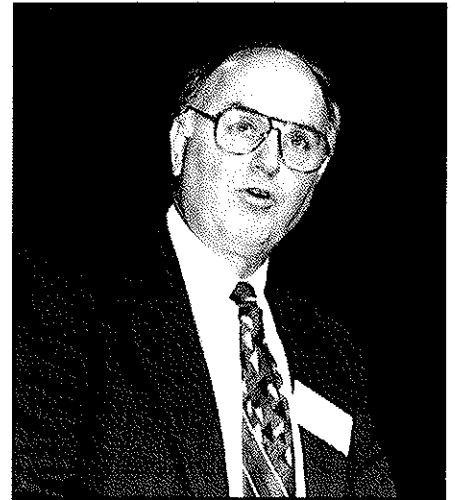
The faculty, staff and administration of the college devoted much time and effort during the past year to matters of accreditation. The college completed a self-study which was submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). A visiting team from SACS spent April 12-15, 1994, on the campus of FWBCC. They reviewed rec-



Courtesy car driver Ron Whitten (L) greets visitors with Hospitality Committee chairman Sidney Sawrie (R) and Shirley Sawrie.

ords and talked with employees and students.

The college will find out in December whether or not its application for candidacy status with SACS has been accepted. If this status can be obtained, it will make it easier for Bible College students to transfer their work to other colleges and uni-



President Tom Malone details Free Will Baptist Bible College's progress.

versities. It will also make it easier for them to obtain certification to teach.

President Malone expressed his thanks to several individuals and groups for their faithful support of FWBCC. He commended the women of WNAC who contributed \$5,000 to the library. He expressed his thanks to several pastors and church members who came to campus and helped put on new roofs and make needed repairs to several buildings. Malone also paid special tribute to Ken Walker and Bob Ketchum for their years of service on the Board of Trustees.

Theological Integrity

During Convention '94, delegates heard reports from the four commissions which Free Will Baptists have created to perform specific functions. The Commission for Theological Integrity exists to alert our people to theological trends which could threaten the theological integrity of our denomination and to help educate

our people about those trends. One of the projects of this commission is to sponsor a seminar at the National Association on Tuesday afternoon.

The theme for this year's seminar was "Grace and Morals." The speaker was Rev. Wendell Walley. The commission also makes available a

variety of informative booklets which address some of the important theological issues of our day.

Radio-TV Commission

The Radio and Television Commission seeks to preach Christ through the broadcast media. The amount of financial support which the commission receives does not allow it to maintain a comprehensive



We are brothers all, but some more than others: Pastors Jerry (L) and Gene Norris.

ministry in this area, but it does provide a variety of media services to Free Will Baptist churches and associations.

It is currently producing radio spot announcements, three- to five-minute gospel messages, and 15-minute gospel programs. It can prepare special programs for broadcast in different areas. Local churches and associations can broadcast these Free Will Baptist programs in their areas.

Music Commission

The Music Commission has been quite busy during the past year preparing a new edition of *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book*. More than 1,000 man hours have already been devoted to this project. This new edition will sell for \$12.95 per copy; it should be ready in early November. It has been checked carefully, and errors have been corrected.

Delegates approved the use of a

different binding for this edition. This new binding is more durable than the one used on the first edition. It will also make it possible to produce a book which is somewhat smaller and lighter without reducing the number of hymns.

The Commission has also been working with Tempo Music of Leawood, Kansas, to produce a generic version of *Rejoice*. This special version will be designed to meet the needs of Christians of a number of different denominations. Several denominations have already expressed an interest in using the book when it becomes available.

For several years, the Music Commission has announced plans to sponsor an official music workshop for the purpose of bringing together well-known gospel music publishers, artists and theologians in music training for Free Will Baptists. Plans are being developed for such a workshop sometime in the early part of 1995. The precise dates and location are still to be decided.

The Music Commission works closely with the Music Ministries Fellowship, an informal organization of music directors and others in the denomination who have a special interest in the ministry of music.

On Wednesday morning of the National Association, the Music Minis-

tries Fellowship sponsored a breakfast. The principal speaker was Dr. Vernon Whaley, chairman of the music department at FWBBC. He discussed how Free Will Baptist musicians can incorporate new ideas and new music into our worship without forsaking important parts of our heritage of worship. Those who attended the breakfast also had opportunity to sing new music which is now available for use in our churches.

Historical Commission

The last of these four commissions is the Historical Commission. Members of the commission have agreed to write 25 historical sketches for the 1994-95 Free Will Baptist Bulletin Service sponsored by Randall House Publications. Each member will prepare material for the back covers of the bulletin. These will be edited by Jack Williams, one of the members of the commission.

At its last meeting, the Commission commended Free Will Baptist Bible College librarian Carol Reid and academic dean Robert Picirilli for their work over the years in cataloging historical materials for the Historical Collection. The Commission has allocated \$2,000 to help defray labor costs by the FWBBC library staff as they continue their



The Norman Invasion, sponsored by Arkansas youth, raised more than \$78,000 to build churches in Brazil and Côte d'Ivoire.

work to organize and catalog the Historical Collection.

The Commission is encouraging all Free Will Baptist colleges to observe a "Heritage Week" each year; Free Will Baptist Bible College has already begun to do this.



An 8' tall Contact magazine greeted attendees in the exhibit hall.

Special Committees

During its 1993 session, the National Association created two special committees which presented their reports to the 1994 session.

Addiction Recovery

The first of these special committees dealt with addiction to alcohol and other drugs. The committee did an extensive study of the materials available. They concluded that Free Will Baptists could be involved in several ways in ministry to addicts. Our denomination could provide information to local churches to help them minister to addicts; it could assist in the formation of congregational recovery and support groups; it could operate a full-fledged rehabilitation center or centers.

The committee proposed a survey of a representative group of Free Will Baptist pastors and laymen to help determine the needs, interest and denominational support for participation in such programs. This recommendation was approved by the voting body, and funds were appropriated to conduct the study. The committee will report the results of the study at a future National Association.

Ministerial Family Life

The second special committee

focused on the need to restore leaders who fall into some type of sin. The committee did an extensive study of the literature available on the subject. It also did some analysis of how Free Will Baptists have traditionally dealt with leaders who

become involved in sexual immorality or other types of sin.

This committee presented a series of observations and recommendations to the denomination. There is not sufficient space in this article to detail all of these observations and recommendations. They emphasize that a leader who becomes involved in sin must admit his guilt and desire to receive help before the restoration process can really begin.

The committee recommended a series of steps which are designed to protect the integrity of the church and, at the same time, bring healing and recovery to the fallen leader. The committee requested a one-year extension of its mandate in order to continue examining the subject of restoration, to address the need of

prevention, and to investigate the legal ramifications of this type of activity. This request was granted by the delegates.

The work of all these commissions, boards, and committees illustrates something of what it means to preach Christ. Christ saw Himself as a servant, a servant of God and a servant of His people. If we are to preach Christ, we must see ourselves the same way. We must become servants to one another and servants to the world in which we are called to minister.

Christ in our Business

We preach Christ not only by what we say but by what we do as well. Our denomination can enhance or inhibit the spread of the gospel both by the business we transact and by the manner in which we transact it. The delegates to Convention '94 are to be commended for interest and concern which they demonstrated during the business sessions. The business sessions were well attended; there was much discussion, debate and participation.

Executive Office

Our executive secretary, Dr. Melvin Worthington, presented his report. He outlined the work of his office and presented an overview of the status of our denomination. He noted that *Contact* subscriptions totaled 6,043 in the December mailing. Complimentary copies of *Contact* are provided to students at our Free Will Baptist colleges.

He advised the delegates that contributions to Capital Stewardship/Vic-



Everybody sing!



Master's Men speaker, Don Wagner.

tory Campaign to pay off the indebtedness on the new National Offices Building totaled \$125,583.39 through December 31, 1993. On Tuesday evening of the National Association, special recognition was given to Free Will Baptists who had contributed to this campaign. A special offering was received to help retire this indebtedness. This special offering totaled \$20,442.96 in cash and \$6,832.50 in pledges for a total of \$27,275.46 in cash and pledges.

Dr. Worthington discussed the financial situation of the denomination. He noted that in 1993 Free Will Baptists gave a total of \$7.8 million to national ministries. He pointed out that 93¢ of every dollar given to national ministries goes to missions or Free Will Baptist Bible College.

In 1993 Free Will Baptist churches reported 8,828 baptisms, 12,246

members added, and 6,011 members lost. This gave us a net gain in membership of 6,235.

The budget committee also presented its report to Convention '94. It recommended total budgets of \$13,924,027.33 for all departments and agencies. A breakdown by department is given at the end of this article. These budgets were approved by the delegates as submitted.

General Board

The General Board presented several items of business for consideration at Convention '94. It recommended that the Hymn Book Committee be authorized to utilize the "Bust" binding in the new edition of the hymn book.

It recommended that the Master's Men Department be required to present an independent outside audit of their finances. It also recommended that Kansas City, Missouri, be the site of the 2004 convention.

The final recommendation was that a statement on Ministry to Ethnic Groups in the USA be approved. All these recommendations were approved as submitted. A copy of the statement on Ministry to Ethnic Groups in the USA may be found at the end of this article.

Double in a Decade

The Double In A Decade Campaign presented a report of its work.



Roger Reeds (L) and General Board members Milton Worthington, Charles Cooper and John Edwards brace themselves for a long day of business.



Oklahoma pastor DeArthur Yandell addresses the moderator and delegates.

This campaign began January 1, 1991, with a two-fold goal: to promote the planting of 250 new churches and to stimulate denominational membership to double by A.D. 2000. As of December 31, 1993, the churches of the denomination had reported 26,814 baptisms, 37,300 members added, and 20,474 members lost. This gave our denomination a net increase of 16,827 during the first three years of the campaign.

Elections

The election of officers is one of the most important items of business at every National Association. There was much interest in all of these elections. The nominating committee presented a nomination for each position to be filled. Nominations were also accepted from the floor, and several of those nominated from the floor were elected.

At the request of the General Board, the Executive Committee is reviewing the nomination procedures which are used at the National

Association. This committee is asking for ideas and input from men and women across the denomination.

Resolutions

The voting body received three resolutions from the Resolutions Committee. The first encouraged Free Will Baptist people to contact their representatives in Congress and express their opinions on morally objectionable provisions which might be included in the National Health Reform plan.

The second resolution reaffirmed Free Will Baptist opposition to all forms of abortion. The third resolution called for a standing vote of thanks to the Arkansas State Association for the marvelous job they did in hosting the 58th National Association. All these resolutions were approved as submitted.

Summary and Conclusions

It was a pleasure to work and worship with more than 7,000 other Free Will Baptists in Little Rock on five hot muggy days in July. This convention was, on the whole, quite peaceful and harmonious. There was none of the bitter debate and sharp disagreement which we confronted in 1993. It seemed that everyone realized the need to work together in order to preach Christ to the whole world.

Several departments and agencies of the denomination are showing real growth and progress. Both home and foreign missions are con-

1994 National Convention analysis was written by Thomas Marberry, theology and Greek instructor at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, Oklahoma.

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

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



Pre-registration coordinator Nancy Smith assists visitors in the pre-registration area.

tinuing to expand their ministries and their ability to reach people with the gospel. In fact, 1993 was one of the most rewarding years we have seen in foreign missions in some time. Several of our mission fields are seeing large numbers of converts for the first time. The work that our missionaries have been doing is beginning to produce a significant amount of fruit.

Two of our departments are making significant strides in improving their financial situations. Randall House Publications is continuing to reduce its debt. It is also working diligently to improve the literature which it makes available to our churches. The Master's Men Department has taken significant steps to bring its expenditures more in line with its income. It is a department which is doing a great deal for Free Will Baptists. It deserves our support.

Free Will Baptists are taking a greater interest in the business of the National Association today. That is a most positive step. The business sessions were well attended, and many questions were asked. The delegates reviewed the audits and the proposed budgets carefully.

There was much interest in the elections, particularly in the election of board members. Board members are being held accountable for the operation of their departments, and they are expected to know what is going on and why. The work of the

department heads and other administrative personnel is being reviewed more carefully.

Important events are taking place on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible college. The enrollment is rebounding; the financial situation is improving slowly. Some much-needed work has been done on campus buildings. There is still, however, much to be done if Free Will Baptists are going to provide adequate educational opportunities for your young people.

The movement toward regional accreditation will be troubling to



Delegates prepare to vote.

some Free Will Baptists, but in reality the college has no choice. The educational environment which exists in this country today makes it difficult for colleges and universities to operate successfully without regional accreditation.

According to denominational leaders, the biggest challenge our denomination faces today is maintaining a spirit of unity and cooperation in our work. In a pre-convention interview, Dr. Melvin Worthington, executive secretary, said that he hoped Convention '94 would ". . . help to build a greater spirit of toleration of different opinions regarding personal preferences." He went on to say, "Dissent is healthy. What we don't need are unsubstantiated accusations against the character of others."

In a post-convention interview, Rev. Ralph Hampton, moderator of the National Association, gave his analysis. He said of Convention '94, "I thought it was a good convention. The preaching was positive. The Lord is working to get us back on track. There is a new concern for unity and love. The work of the Holy Spirit in our midst gives hope for genuine revival."

Rev. Hampton did call attention to one issue which needs to be considered by the voting delegates at the National Association. In his opinion, there is a tendency to discuss on the floor of the National Association issues which are not really national in scope. There are some issues on which no national consensus exists. Debate and discussion of such issues on the floor of the National Association may serve only to divide.

Concluding the interview, Hampton stated, "We are desperately in need of revival. We need to encourage and strengthen one another in the work of God."

Free Will Baptists have accomplished much and are accomplishing much in the Lord's work. We must not, however, allow ourselves to become complacent. We live in a world which is hostile to the gospel, and there is still much to be done. Let us work together, pray together, serve together, and witness together in order to preach Christ to all the world. ■

Recommendations Regarding Ministry to Ethnic Groups in the USA

Recent years have brought immigrants to this nation from Latin America, the Pacific Rim nations and the Middle East in unprecedented numbers. This has presented churches in our nation with an unparalleled opportunity and obligation for reaching multitudes from other nations with the gospel without leaving our own shores. We are also provided unique opportunities for the training of workers for cross-cultural ministries at home and abroad. In the U.S.A., cross-cultural evangelistic/church planting efforts of the National Association of Free Will Baptists have been limited to Hispanics. Meanwhile the numbers of unevangelized coming to our shores continue to swell.

The magnitude of the opportunity as well as faithfulness to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ demands a major, concerted effort on the part of Free Will Baptists. We therefore recommend the following:

1) That the National Association of Free Will Baptists reaffirm our conviction that the gospel is to be preached to every creature by committing ourselves and our resources in every way possible to the task of cross-cultural evangelism within the boundaries of our own nation

2) That the National Association of Free Will Baptists authorize a study committee to be chaired by the Executive Secretary and composed of the General Directors of the Home Missions Department, the Foreign Missions Department, the Sunday School/CTS Department, the President of Free Will Baptist Bible College and three additional members to be selected by the committee members named above.

3) That the study committee assess the dimensions of the challenge and identify those peoples and cities to which Free Will Baptists might most readily minister as well as those that may be of highest priority.

4) That the study committee assess denominational resources and talents in light of needs.

5) That the committee propose plans, strategies and necessary structures for a united cross-cultural ministry of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

6) That the committee determine denominational educational and training needs that will be required for this kind of ministry.

7) That the study committee offer suggestions for the development of cross-cultural ministries by local churches and district or state associations.

1995 Together Way Allocations

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

1. Underwrite the Executive Office Administrative Budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 60% of Cooperative gifts.
2. Disburse the balance of Cooperative gifts to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

Free Will Baptist Bible College	23.0%
Foreign Missions	23.0%
Home Missions	18.0%
Retirement and Insurance	14.0%
Master's Men	14.0%
Free Will Baptist Foundation	6.0%
Commission for Theological Integrity5%
Historical Commission5%
Music Commission5%
Radio and Television Commission5%
Total	100.0%

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

1994 Registration

National Convention	4,421
Ordained Ministers	913
Ordained Deacons	226
Licensed Ministers	13
Local Church Delegates	169
State Delegates	96
Home Missionaries	72
Foreign Missionaries	57
National Board Members	12
National Officers	4
Non-Delegates	2,859
National Youth Conference	2,044
W N A C	1,175
Total	7,640



Ushers Owen Barger (L) and Raymond Lee confer with Billy Walker.

1995 Budgets Adopted

Executive Office	\$ 514,860.88
Free Will Baptist Bible College	3,341,125.00
Foreign Missions	4,312,150.00
(Does not include \$396,500 Advance Projects)	
Home Missions	2,700,000.00
Master's Men	106,500.00
Retirement and Insurance	336,028.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation	53,000.00
Sunday School and Church Training	2,540,038.45
Commission for Theological Integrity	2,700.00
Historical Commission	2,725.00
Music Commission	4,000.00
Radio and Television Commission	10,900.00
Total	\$13,924,027.33

Words Worth Remembering

- "Christ crucified is the only thing that is going to make a difference in the lives of men." —Gary Fry
- "Don't be afraid to preach the Word." —Kenneth Frisbee
- "We have good news for a day that doesn't have much." —Ralph Hampton
- "God has blessed Free Will Baptists with enough assets to do everything He wants us to do." —Bill Evans
- "If we are not in your church budget, please put us in there." —Tom Malone
- "The biggest threat facing us is not theological liberalism. It is not neo-orthodoxy. It is secularism." —Leroy Forlines
- "Homosexuality is not a preference. It is a perversion." —Richard Adams
- "I've collected a lot of hush money from him over the years." —David Joslin
- "If things don't go well, don't blame me. I didn't ask to be up here." —Dean Dobbs
- "God gives to us the prerogative of making choices." —Glen McGriff
- "We all need each other." —Glen McGriff
- "Being leader of your church means that you love your people." —Terry Stafford
- "When you are asked to preach on an occasion like this, you put on the best humility you can." —Don Guthrie
- "My wife is the greatest person I have ever met." —Don Guthrie
- "We are accountable to God for what we do." —Ralph Hampton
- "We are cautiously optimistic." —Dr. Robert Picirilli
- "Every curriculum house has its agenda." —Alton Loveless
- "We have eight grandchildren. They are gifted, as you might expect." —Don Wagner
- "We spend more money on cat food that we give to missions in America." —Milton Worthington
- "Calvary is the strongest testimony we have of the lostness of man." —Mark Paschall
- "The greater the light, the greater the responsibility." —Mark Paschall

1994 WNAC Convention: Guided By the Light

By Melissa Riddle



WNAC Executive Committee. Left to right: Mary Wisehart, Diane Thomas, Jo Ann Wood, Marjorie Workman, Mary Neal, Everyl Getz.

The 1994 WNAC Theme, "The Bible: Light on the Way," echoed in every service, seminar, banquet and business meeting of the 1994 Women Nationally Active for Christ in Little Rock. The 1,175 women who registered for the convention responded with overwhelming support for WNAC, its staff and its mission.

General Assembly

In the Tuesday morning devotional, Deleen Cousineau, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, shared the story of Kikua, an African convert won through the sacrificial giving of Free Will Baptists. His faith and obedience led to the salvation of his family. That missionary work continues today. Deleen emphasized the important role each one plays in reaching those who've never heard the gospel, and she encouraged us to keep supporting Free Will Baptist missions.

WNAC President, Mary Neal, presided over the business session wherein the committee reports were presented for approval. The Resolutions Committee, chaired by Brenda Evans of Tennessee, presented three resolutions:



1994 WNAC Nominating Committee.

1. Whereas Pastor Neto of Brazil is still in graduate school and is still in need of funds, be it resolved that the Foreign Student Scholarship of \$1000 be given to help him with his expenses.
2. Whereas the Eunice Edwards Loan for Churches Abroad was a five-year project and whereas the funds are now being used in other countries, be it resolved that any funds designated to that project after July 1994 go into the WNAC Co-Laborer Fund (general fund).
3. Whereas unjust personal attacks and criticism of job per-

formance have been made against Dr. Mary Ruth Wisehart, Melissa Riddle and Yvonne Wolfenbarger, be it resolved that this body give a standing vote of support for these women.

The resolutions were passed.

The Nominating Committee

The following women have been appointed to oversee the election process for next year's convention: Shirley Sharpston (OH) chairman, Annette Aycock (SC), Sheila Harris (IN), Dawn Sweeney (TN), Karen Ferguson (TX), Lottie Horton (VA), Betty Hill (NC), Janis Russell (VA),

Fredda Davis (OK), Elwanda Oakes (AL), Becky Gwartney (MO), Shirley Sawrie (AR), Hope Van Winkle (MS), Sammie Montgomery (FL), Frances Varney (KY) and Sandy Hollis (IL).

Seminars

Some 281 women attended WNAC Seminars on Monday, July 18.

Winona Riggs, a FWB pastor's wife from Sparta, Tennessee, presented "Questions for Pastor's Wife." In a style and humor uniquely her own, Mrs. Riggs discussed the importance of work, service, patience and sharing in the life of the pastor's wife.

Lila Faye Morgan, pastor's wife from Tulsa, OK, spoke on "Methods of Bible Study" from Joshua 1:8: "The Bible is our plan for success, but it's up to you." There are many resources for studying the Bible, many books on innumerable subjects, but Mrs. Morgan encouraged us to "look in the Book first."

Dawn Sweeney, field representative for the Tennessee FWB Children's Home, shared six reasons to have personal devotions: to know God better; because God commands us to; to understand and not be ashamed; to meditate on the Word; because it is our only offensive weapon—shield; and because God wrote it. She encouraged us to revere the Bible as divine, personal and essential to knowing God.

Carol Reid, FWBBC Librarian,



A song in the 11:00 a.m. service gets the meeting off to a good start.

spoke on "Applying Biblical Principles." Using directions from consumer products, she aptly demonstrated how God's Word is to be used: "Apply generously to painful areas and repeat as necessary. Our goal is to allow God's Word to permeate those painful areas of our lives and make changes, to give healing, to develop Christ-likeness. We need to think, respond, and then act as Christ would." She emphasized that to apply it, you have to know it: Whether verse by verse, through character studies, studying principles and promises, its truth is unending. "Application is a heart-matter."

State Officers' Meeting

With 53 in attendance, Mary R. Wisheart, executive secretary for WNAC, spoke on "The Christian's

Fragrance," from the book of Proverbs. She also introduced a new chorus written especially for WNAC by Beverly Welch, titled "Women Nationally Active for Christ" and announced the publication of Lorene Miley's book of missionary stories, titled *First Fruits: Answered Prayer on the Mission Field*.

Creative Arts Contest Winners

Co-Laborer editor, Melissa Riddle, presented awards to 17 winners in the 1994 Creative Arts Contest. There were over 220 entries in five different categories. This year's 1st place winners were Eleanor Grindstaff (TN) for her program, "Entering the Gates"; Barb Eubanks (IL) for her article, "Secure Within His Keep"; Annette Aycock (SC) for her play, *A Tear In Your Eye*; Mary Ann Hays (AR) for her poem, "A Gentle Reminder;" and Barbara McLeary (OK) won with artwork titled "Thy Word."

Robert Bryan Speaks at Missionary Service

One of the highlights of this year's conference was the Tuesday morning missions service. Robert Bryan, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, used various kinds of light to dramatically demonstrate this year's theme: The Bible, Light on the Way. He opened with an emotional word of thanks to Free Will Baptist women for their generosity, particularly the Provision Closet: "You're not just giving coffee makers. You're giving us your heart, and it makes all the difference."

Expanding on Psalm 119:105-106, Robert shared how the true light of the Bible shows us "where the trail is, the



Mary Neal initiates a rousing version of "Happy Birthday" to speaker Robert Bryan.

next step and every step" of our lives.

He continued by explaining that we need the Light of the Bible, but it has to be the right kind of light. All too often, people mistake culture and tradition as the light. Culture is ineffective, even dangerous, as a light to live by; the light of tradition tends to shine sideways or head-on, blinding us to the true path.

He finished by emphasizing the importance of using the Light the right way: "Shine it on your feet, on

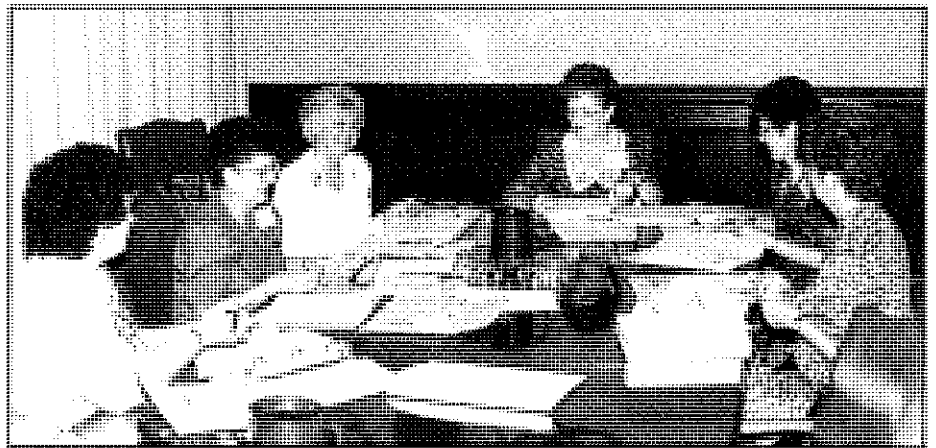


Missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, Robert Bryan.

the path. Don't shine it on others in judgement." The spotlight should not be turned on others except in loving direction and help. The Light is worthless if it is not applied to our lives. He challenged us to stay true to the light of God's Word and to let it be the true guiding light in our lives.

Tuesday Afternoon

San Dee Stone, Gideon representative, spoke at the general session on Tuesday afternoon. She shared her testimony of coming to accept Christ out of a Jewish heritage. With a Gideon Bible in hand, in a Las Vegas hotel room, she read the New Testament for the first time at age 19. There she understood Jesus' sacrifice for her, that He was her Messiah. Later she would meet Lester Arnold who placed that Bible in the Fremont Hotel. Now, she is a minister's wife, mother of six, and grandmother of 14, all strong Christians. San Dee's testimony inspired and confirmed the importance of making the Bible accessible.



WNAC Executive Committee meets Monday morning in the Excelsior Hotel.

WNAC Fellowship Dinner

It was a sellout crowd that gathered at the Excelsior Hotel Grand Ballroom with over 740 guests attending WNAC's Fellowship Dinner on Tuesday night. The tables were beautifully decorated with hand-crafted wooden Bibles and oil lamps provided by the Arkansas Auxiliary women. The Fellowship Dinner is often the highlight of our convention, and this year was no exception.

Retired missionary and former

story of the King's subjects in search of the lost pearls, each one finding a different treasure in the pearls. God's Word shows us God's reflection to help us radiate Christ; it is full of promises to live by and to hope for; it is full of rich, historical knowledge to help us better understand Him and ourselves; and the Bible offers pearls of prophecy, a glimpse at the glories of Heaven.

Mrs. Miley's special ability to evoke both laughter and tears, while challenging us to treasure God's Word, made for a memorable evening. No one walked away empty-handed.



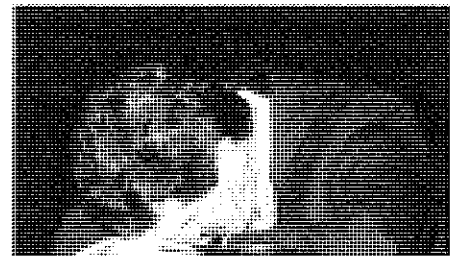
Lorene Miley speaks of pearls and hope.

Co-Laborer Magazine editor, Lorene Miley, shared "A String of Pearls," an allegory she had written to demonstrate the essential and beneficial qualities of God's Word in our lives. The audience was intrigued by the

Moving Ahead

More than anything else, this year's WNAC Convention made it clear that Free Will Baptist women are ready, willing and able to follow God's Word and reach out to a lost world. They are ready to move on and get busy in His work, following the light on the way. ■

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



*Oh no. I'm up next. What have I done?
What will I say?*

Elected in Little Rock

The following were elected during the 58th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

General Officers

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

General Board

1995

James Munsey (Mexico)

1996

Vergel Maness (N.J.)
Earl Jenkins (N.M.)
Tom Lilly (N.C.)
Jim Nason (N.E. Assoc.)
Terry Stafford (N.W. Assoc.)
Delmar Sparks (Ohio)
Jack Richey (Okla.)
Joe Cagle (S.C.)
Charles Thigpen (Tenn.)
Thurmon Murphy (Texas)
Glen Johnson (Va.)
Carl Vallance (W. Va.)

Executive Committee

1996

Tom Lilly (N.C.)
Thurmon Murphy (Texas)
Charles Thigpen (Tenn.)

Bible College Trustees

2000

Richard Barnes (Va.)
Gary Fry (Mo.)
Howard Price (Ga.)

Foreign Missions Board

2000

William Reagan (Canada)
James Forlines (Ark.)
Milton Worthington (Mich.)

Sunday School and Church Training Board

2000

Jeff Crabtree (Va.)
Billy Hanna (Ga.)
Dennis Wiggs (N.C.)

Commission for Theological Integrity

1999 Jeff Manning (N.C.)

Radio-Television Commission

1999 James Vallance (Tenn.)

Music Commission

1999 Randy Sawyer (N.C.)

Historical Commission

1999 Robert Picirilli (Tenn.)

1994 Convention Tapes Available National Association Messages on Cassette Tapes

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

Tape Number	Subject	Quantity
-------------	---------	----------

Convention Messages

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Gary Fry--Sunday Morning | _____ |
| 2. Kenneth Frisbee--Sunday Evening | _____ |
| 3. Dean Dobbs--Monday Evening | _____ |
| 4. Don Guthrie--Tuesday Evening | _____ |
| 5. Mark Paschall--Wednesday Evening | _____ |

Pastors' Conference

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| 6. Glen McGriff--Session I | _____ |
| 7. Glen McGriff--Session II | _____ |

Seminars

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 8. Theological Trends Seminar--Wendell Walley | _____ |
|---|-------|

Women Nationally Active for Christ

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 9. WNAC Seminar | _____ |
| 10. Winona Riggs--W N A C Ministers' Wives Seminar | _____ |
| 11. Deleen Cousineau--W N A C Devotional | _____ |
| 12. Robert Bryan--W N A C Missionary Service | _____ |
| 13. San Dee Stone--W N A C Special Feature | _____ |
| 14. Lorene Miley--W N A C Fellowship Dinner | _____ |

Meet 'n' Eat

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 15. Vernon Whaley--Music Ministries Breakfast | _____ |
| 16. Terry Stafford--Hillsdale Luncheon | _____ |
| 17. Don Wagner--Master's Men Dinner | _____ |

Miscellaneous

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 18. Richard Adams--FWB Camp Meeting | _____ |
| 19. Ralph Hampton--Moderator's Message | _____ |
| 20. Daryl Ellis--Adult Sunday School Lesson | _____ |

Please complete the following:

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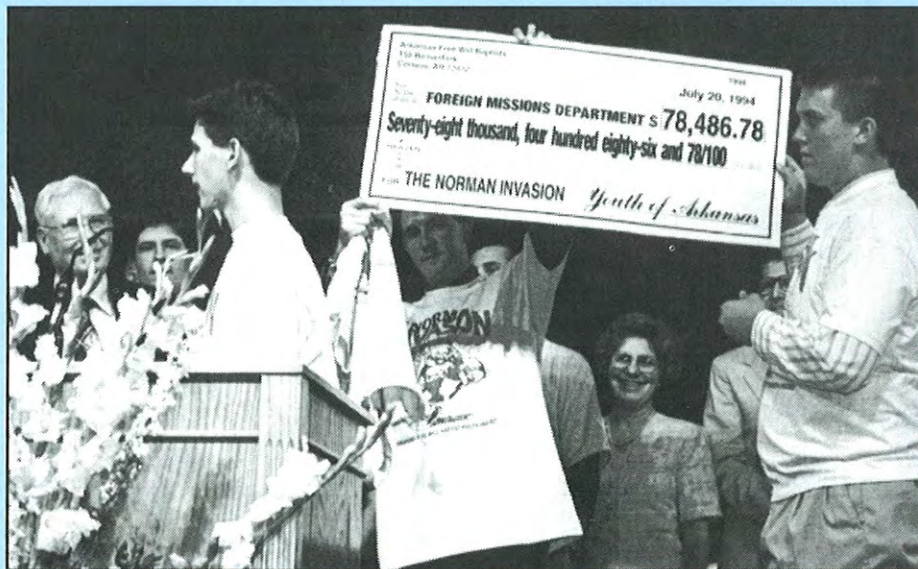
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Make Checks Payable to: Sandy Goodfellow

NYC Convention Be Strong and Courageous

by Dean Jones



Arkansas youth prove the Norman Invasion a successful venture.

Be Strong and Courageous was the theme of the four-day 1994 National Youth Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, July 17-21. Cameron Lane, Russellville, AR, started the conference rolling on Sunday morning, using Horizon curriculum for his Hebrews 12 Sunday School text. Rev. Joey Wilson, Albany, GA, spoke during the morning teen worship service. He challenged the young people to "Go the Distance." Scott Bullman, Garner, NC, served as music coordinator for the teen worship services.

Sunday Kick-Off

The Sunday evening teen worship service featured special music by the Arkansas mass youth choir, under the direction of Mark Stripling, Little Rock, AR. A special continuous drama about the life of Jonah was presented during each worship service by the youth group from Kirby FWB Church, Taylor, MI. Phil Nelson, FWBBC professor and technical rock climber, rappelled from the Music Hall heights to gain the attention of

his Sunday evening audience. He challenged the young people to choose between life and death. Dozens responded during the invitation.

Monday Action

Bible Competition and the Music and Arts Festival started Monday morning and continued through Wednesday morning. There were



Allen Pointer (R), speaker for Tuesday night's teen worship service, pauses for a discussion.

1,025 entries and 2,044 registrants.

Monday evening's teen worship service message was presented by Junior Phillips, Poteau, OK. The after-service activity presented the introduction of TEAM (Teens Equipped and Active in Missions). TEAM '94 Brazil and Ivory Coast presented their summer mission programs. Their ministry impacted lives not only on the foreign field but also during NYC.

Tuesday Highlights

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

During the conference, attendees visited the art gallery where some 175 entries were displayed. They also picked up conference souvenirs and their favorite T-shirts at the NYC sales booth.

Tuesday evening's teen worship service featured Allen Pointer, youth pastor at Russellville, AR. Allen encouraged young people to take their faith to the limit, to allow it to dominate their possessions and money.

After the service, 1,130 young people and sponsors attended the Youth Banquet in the Robinson Center Music Hall. The 1994 Truth and Peace Leadership Conference presented "America," a patriotic musical.

Wednesday Finals

Wednesday morning featured Bible Competition Finals. A full listing of all winners may be obtained by writing to: NYC Office, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

The Red Bay, AL, team won the Bible Tic Tac Toe competition. Lori Presley, Valley View FWB Church, TN, was a member of the 2nd place TTT Team. She dedicated her medal in memory of her uncle, Rev. Jerry Presley. The Keenburt, TN, team won the Bible Bowl competition.

The two individual competitions, Turning Point and Horizon, proved to be exciting. Two pre-testing times determined finalists. The top eight finalists in each level competed in the final rounds. Carl Varney (WV) won Turning Point and Sarah Moore (MI) won Horizon. Study packets for the 1995 competition are available from Randall House.

Wednesday evening's teen worship service featured a special presentation by the youth of Arkansas—the Norman Invasion. They presented a check for nearly \$79,000 to Norman and Bessie Richards, Ivory Coast. This represents a year-long effort to raise money for the construction of two churches—one in Brazil and one in Ivory Coast. Neil Gilliland, Nashville, TN, continued the missions emphasis, as he challenged the young people. Several hundred responded during the invitation.

Wednesday evening's Awards Celebration convened after the evening service. All Bible Competition winners were recognized at the beginning of the celebration. The 1994 National Youth Evangelistic Team was introduced and commended for their successful ministry during the summer.

1995 YET Team

The 1995 National Youth Evangelistic Team was announced. These 12 high school youth were top scor-



The Norman Invasion lands the troops to present nearly \$79,000 to Foreign Missions.

ers in the 1994 Music and Arts Festival. They are: Jonathan Turnbough (NC), Melanie Copeland (AR), Jason Tackett (MI), Jermi Anderson (MI), Chad Webb (IL), Jennifer Sykes (NC), Aaron Baker (TN), Suzanne Roy (MI), Jill Hayes (IL), Laura Mullen (IN), Corrie Coker (SC) and Jason Stephens (MO).

Special Awards

Special Awards were given to the following: Youth Group of the Year—the Youth of Arkansas, for their Norman Invasion Project; Youth of the Year—Corrie Coker, Turbeville, SC; and Youth Worker of the Year—Sam McVay, Nashville, TN.

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

Children's worship services were conducted Sunday morning and each evening by Gary Bigelow, Sedalia, MO; Dean Stone, Englewood, CO; Bruce Bennett, Rolling Prairie, IN; Jeff Nichols, Nashville, TN; and Paul Allen, Tulsa, OK. Services included many types of programming: storytelling, puppetry, music, clowning, as well as a gospel message. The Monday afternoon Children's Banquet was presented by the youth group from the First FWB Church, North Little Rock, AR.

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

pants had been in leadership training two weeks prior to the National Youth Conference. For more information about participating in the 1995 Truth and Peace Conference, please write to:

P.O. Box 17306
Nashville, TN 37217.

At the conclusion of the conference, several awards were presented. The youth selected Brent Hutsell (AR) and Kristy Douglas (IL) for Best All-Around Awards. The NYC staff selected the same two individuals for Outstanding Leadership Awards.

Special appreciation is due to all pastors, parents, youth leaders and coaches who work with our youth. A special thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who helped during the past years at the National Youth Conference.

We have many changes in mind for the 1995 NYC in Charlotte, NC. We are eager for your input. If you have ideas or suggestions for speakers, seminars or changes, please put them in writing and mail them to the above address.

When people think back to the 1994 NYC, I'm sure some will remember the heat, others the tight squeeze. I will remember the hundreds of young people who shared their lives with us for a week. Lives which hopefully returned home different than when they arrived. Lives which will lead us to next year's NYC in Charlotte—"We Can Make A World of Difference!" ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Dean Jones is director of the National Youth Conference.

NEWSFRONT

Texas Centralizes State Meeting

WICHITA FALLS, TX—For the next three years, the Texas State Association will meet in Austin at the Holiday Inn South, according to Clerk Thurmon Murphy. The vote to centralize the location was an experiment to stabilize attendance which fluctuates widely when the group meets in the extreme north or south of Texas.

The 80th annual session met June 8-10 at the Sheraton Inn in Wichita Falls. Officials said that 89 people registered, including 18 ministers.

Delegates adopted a \$72,000 state budget and elected a new moderator. He is Reverend David Sutton, who pastors First FWB Church in Duncanville.

Delegates honored former moderator Bill Jones who served the state association for many years before moving to Oklahoma to pastor.

Dr. Alton Loveless, general

director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department, preached three times during the state association. He spoke on the "ABCs of People Management."

In other action, delegates passed a resolution opposing funding of abortions in the president's health care plan. They also adopted a plan proposed by the State Executive Board to pay the clerk \$500 monthly. The Texas clerk also edits the state paper, *The Texas Challenge*, and functions as promotional officer to coordinate the work of the state.

Other activities included a state Auxiliary breakfast attended by 43 people, and a workshop by Plano pastor Don Guthrie on "The Seven Most Important People in Church."

The 1995 state association meets June 7-9 at the Holiday Inn South in Austin.

West Virginia Elects Dan Kelly Moderator

SOD, WV—Delegates to West Virginia's 49th annual state association elected Rev. Daniel Kelly to a two-year term as moderator. Kelly pastors Chesapeake FWB Church. He served as moderator pro-tem for the June 10-11 session.

Almost 300 people registered for the two-day gathering at McCorkle FWB Church. Clerk Norwood Webb reported 80 ministers and 22 deacons among the voting delegation.

Rev. Ricki Holstein, pastor of Winifrede FWB Church, preached the keynote sermon titled, "The Lord is My Shepherd." FWB Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington spoke on the subject, "Leaving the Ninety and Nine."

Delegates adopted a Together Way budget with the following allocations specified: State General Fund—20%; Promotional Director—29%; State Paper—15%; Mission Board—28%; Christian Education Board—4%; National Co-op—4%.

Each visiting Free Will Baptist missionary was given a check of equal amount by the State Mission Board. The Sophia Woman's Auxiliary received a plaque of appreciation for raising \$1,000 for the state bookstore.

Special preparations are already underway to celebrate the state's 50th anniversary session. That session meets June 8-10, 1995, at the University of Charleston.

Ohio Names Robert Prichard Moderator

COLUMBUS, OH—Delegates to the 56th annual Ohio State Association elected Cleveland pastor Robert Prichard as their new moderator. Reverend Prichard succeeds Edwin Hayes who now serves as Ohio's executive secretary. He ministers in Ohio's Cuyahoga-Lorain Association.

Executive Secretary Edwin Hayes said 388 people attended the June 24-25 meeting at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus, with 87 ministers and 47 lay delegates.

Three ministers preached on the conference theme, "The Year of Renewal." Ohio evangelist

Clarence Newman, Gahanna pastor Curtis Booth and FWBCC staffer Bob Shockey shared pulpit duties.

Delegates approved a constitutional change raising church fees for state and national representation from \$20 to \$40.

Six Victory Campaign plaques were awarded to churches, who gave the largest offering statewide and who gave the largest per capita offering. The Cuyahoga-Lorain Conference was recognized as giving the largest offering as a conference.

The 1995 state association meets June 23-24 at Heritage Temple FWB Church.

Tree Planted to Honor Minister

FLINT, MI—A tree grows in Michigan to honor the memory of a Free Will Baptist minister. Members of Harmony FWB Church in Burton, Michigan, planted a tree in the church yard on June 5, five months after the death of Reverend James C. Powell.

Rev. Powell died January 4 in Flint after 35 years as a Free Will Baptist minister. Converted in 1945, ordained as a deacon in 1955, Brother Powell was ordained to preach the gospel in 1958.

That same year he became

pastor of Friendship FWB Church in Flint, the church where he was one of 11 charter members in 1953. He pastored Friendship Church 23 years, retiring in 1981 because of heart problems. At the time, the church had more than 200 members.

After he retired from pastoring, Powell helped start Harmony FWB Church in Burton and invested the last years of his ministry in that work.

He is survived by his wife, Sally Powell and twin daughters.



Tree planted in memory of Reverend James Powell.

Preaching Highlights Indiana Meeting

INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Three strong sermons buoyed delegates at Indiana's 34th annual state association which met June 17-18 at Peace FWB Church in Indianapolis. Officials experimented with a new two-sermon format during Friday evening's kickoff service.

Pastor Vinny Van Hoose (Wabash) and Pastor Arnold Minix (Knox) both preached Friday evening. The dual worship services were peppered with specially prepared music. The Saturday morning worship speaker was Chesterfield pastor Steve Ashby. He preached from Ephesians 4 on "Putting the Christian Life in Perspective."

Moderator Robert Helms led

the business sessions. Delegates authorized two constitutional changes involving local church fees to finance the state association and the election schedule for Missions Board members.

Promotional Secretary Jim Mullen reported positive signs in the state work including a home missions project in Fort Wayne and plans for a fall retreat for pastors and their wives. He also called for denominational unity, not criticism and said that while the fields are ripe, "the key to all this is prayer. Our weakest meetings are our prayer meetings."

The 1995 state association will meet June 16-17 at a site to be determined.

Kentucky Elects Tim Hall Moderator

MARION, OH—Delegates to Kentucky's 55th annual state association elected Owensboro, Kentucky, pastor Tim Hall as their new moderator during the June 17-18 meeting. Reverend Hall, who pastors First FWB Church in Owensboro, served on the national convention steering committee in 1993.

Promotional Director Tim York confirmed that 196 people attended the two-day gathering which met at First FWB Church in Marion, Ohio. The state association usually meets in Kentucky, but they occasionally meet in Ohio to accommodate the 20 churches that belong to the Northern Ohio Conference.

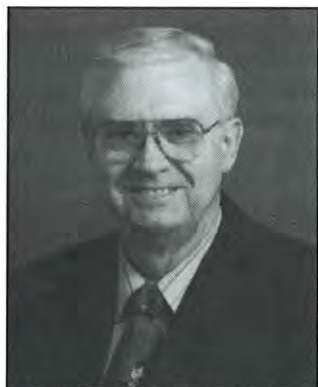
Delegates honored two ministers who died recently—Rev. Jay Preston of the Lawrence County Conference who preached 74 years and died at age 101; Rev. Hager French of the Boyd County Conference. The state association also stood in honor of the World War II veterans who were present.

In other action, delegates tabled a proposed constitutional change for one year which will create a state Master's Men Board and a Seniors Board. They voted to give the state Youth Board \$500, and to give \$100 to each national ministry represented. Delegates gave a standing vote of appreciation to out-going moderator Dick Van Hoose and clerk James Hayes.

Ohio executive secretary Edwin Hayes preached the keynote message on the subject, "God's Mighty Men." Newly-elected assistant moderator Lincoln Varney preached on "The Church."

The 1995 state association will meet June 16-17 at Pikeville FWB Church in Pikeville, Kentucky.

Rev. George Lee Retires after 40 Years



GOLDSBORO, NC—Reverend George C. Lee delivered his final sermon as pastor of Victory FWB Church in Goldsboro on August 28, completing 40 years as a Free Will Baptist pastor. The 63-year-old Mississippi native has pastored seven churches in four states, held numerous denominational offices and earned a national reputation as an avid antiquarian Free Will Baptist book collector.

Brother Lee retired after serving 21½ years in his last pastorate in Goldsboro. During that time he conducted twice-daily, five-minute radio programs on station WGBR in Goldsboro. He logged more than 5,000 radio programs.

Although born in Calhoun, Mississippi, in 1931, Rev. Lee

never pastored in his home state. He was ordained to preach in 1952 while a student at Free Will Baptist Bible College. After graduation in 1954, the Lees were commissioned as home missionaries to Shelton, Nebraska, where he pastored one church and organized another.

Three years later the Lees moved to Memphis, Tennessee, to work with another mission outreach, the Randall Memorial FWB Church. From there, Brother Lee pastored Shady Grove FWB Church in Durham, North Carolina (1958-1961), First FWB Church in Albany, Georgia (1961-1967), and Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee (1967-1973), before moving to Goldsboro.

He remained active in broader denominational work serving 12 years on the Sunday School Board and three years as chairman of the Radio-Television Commission. He also moderated the Tennessee State Association and served as assistant moderator of the Georgia State Association.

Brother Lee says that while he has retired from pastoring he has not retired from preaching. He plans to serve as pulpit supply where needed and do more traveling.

Missouri Sets \$350,000 Budget

WEST PLAINS, MO—The 1995 Missouri state budget will send \$350,000 into denominational outreach ministries, according to Executive Secretary Nathan Ruble. Reverend Ruble confirmed that 69.5% of the proposed budget will remain in Missouri while 30.5% will be invested in national outreach. This budget was voted by delegates to Missouri's 81st annual state association which met June 6-9 at the West Plains Civic Center.

Moderator Gary Fry was elected to his third term. Clerk Rick Dablemont reported that 447 people registered for the four-day session. Eighty-six ministers and 114 lay delegates participated in the business sessions.

Officials presented plaques to those churches which had the greatest increase on Roll Call Sunday. Hillsdale FWB College also gave plaques to churches which contributed \$400 or more to the "Have a Heart for Hillsdale" campaign.

Four sermons on prayer called delegates to a spirit of worship; three of the sermons were preached by Missouri pastors; Glenn Murray (West Plains), Bob Thebeau (Desoto) and Wayne Phillips (Park Hills). Dr. Melvin Worthington, FWB executive secretary, preached the fourth sermon.

Dr. Alton Loveless, director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department, gave a workshop on "Trends in American Society." The workshop was sponsored by the state Christian Education Board.

The 1995 state association will meet June 5-8 at Kirksville Junior High School in Kirksville.

**Don't Forget
Pastor Appreciation
Sunday
September 11**

**Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign
Update
June 1994**

State	Goal	Gifts	Balance
Alabama	\$ 76,397.63	\$ 2,589.65	\$ 73,807.98
Arizona	1,228.93	1,930.00	(701.07)
Arkansas	76,860.94	31,032.89	45,828.05
Atlantic Canada	1,570.51	850.00	720.51
California	17,216.76	482.86	16,733.90
Colorado	789.18	1,115.00	(325.82)
Florida	20,703.30	5,162.01	15,541.29
Georgia	38,179.19	22,336.97	15,842.22
Hawaii	184.54	727.26	(542.72)
Idaho	353.37	.00	353.37
Illinois	16,176.29	1,798.93	14,377.36
Indiana	7,868.27	1,824.75	6,043.52
Iowa	266.99	.00	266.99
Kansas	1,287.82	.00	1,287.82
Kentucky	35,454.34	3,741.29	31,713.05
Louisiana	94.23	1,370.00	(1,275.77)
Maryland	6,812.10	1,245.00	5,567.10
Michigan	15,116.19	14,351.72	764.47
Mississippi	15,559.86	3,446.23	12,113.63
Missouri	60,484.40	31,390.59	29,093.81
Montana	27.48	50.00	(22.52)
Nebraska	102.08	119.00	(16.92)
New Mexico	596.80	610.55	(13.75)
North Carolina	59,118.06	4,443.77	54,674.29
Northeast Assoc.	883.41	.00	883.41
Northwest Assoc.	1,087.58	135.00	952.58
Ohio	40,923.66	17,334.69	23,588.97
Oklahoma	92,271.60	6,695.14	85,576.46
South Carolina	18,335.75	1,651.00	16,684.75
Tennessee	78,557.09	38,172.19	40,384.90
Texas	11,547.20	6,285.52	5,261.68
Virginia	24,323.33	1,358.93	22,964.40
Virgin Islands		200.00	(200.00)
West Virginia	46,204.51	790.00	45,414.51
Wisconsin		55.00	(55.00)
Other		2,978.85	(2,978.85)
Totals	\$766,583.39	\$206,274.79	\$560,308.60

Directory Update

ILLINOIS

Roger Bennett to Calvary Church, Salem from Ethelsville Church, Ethelsville, AL

TENNESSEE

William Johnson to Good Springs Church, Pleasant View
Glenn McReynolds to Pardue Memorial Church, Clarksville
Mike Gillock to Ashland City Church, Ashland City



June 1994

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	CO-OP	Total	June '93	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 8,609.54	\$.00	\$ 8,609.54	\$ 6,756.11	\$ 56,678.06
Arizona	547.34	77.22	624.56	605.66	1,576.70
Arkansas	14,965.12	6,293.91	21,259.03	29,199.68	168,117.04
California	125.00	720.22	845.22	1,959.06	3,600.55
Colorado	10.00	.00	10.00	.00	110.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	100.00
Florida	1,524.45	1,934.26	3,458.71	2,385.44	16,943.96
Georgia	11,816.64	1,971.04	13,787.68	11,500.95	72,760.05
Hawaii	227.26	.00	227.26	.00	227.26
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	17,174.21	4,647.22	21,821.43	7,434.24	69,200.34
Indiana	1,569.96	289.93	1,859.89	687.04	4,335.51
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	270.00
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	23.03	60.94
Kentucky	655.00	284.13	939.13	659.32	4,436.66
Louisiana	29.00	.00	29.00	.00	419.00
Maryland	995.00	75.00	1,070.00	150.00	3,393.29
Michigan	28,296.93	4,596.90	32,893.83	17,974.88	95,432.06
Mississippi	1,888.76	156.17	2,044.93	1,006.33	5,879.81
Missouri	13,378.29	26.00	13,404.29	11,804.88	74,927.01
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	119.00	.00	119.00	.00	119.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	.00	2,377.89
North Carolina	1,476.77	275.00	1,751.77	600.00	16,202.46
Ohio	6,636.00	3,803.69	10,439.69	4,531.28	49,499.27
Oklahoma	52,382.23	558.77	52,941.00	49,053.44	283,352.27
South Carolina	19,242.02	92.95	19,334.97	18,146.42	122,153.18
Tennessee	9,461.03	1,039.31	10,500.34	16,152.51	62,672.17
Texas	19,462.58	1,210.15	20,672.73	.00	78,311.81
Virginia	772.94	25.00	797.94	706.11	8,058.01
Virgin Islands	200.00	.00	200.00	.00	200.00
West Virginia	3,191.56	185.53	3,377.09	2,606.55	25,093.82
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	55.00
Canada	850.00	.00	850.00	26.88	850.00
Northwest Assoc.	35.00	.00	35.00	.00	135.00
Other	.00	.04	.04	.00	.11
Totals	\$215,641.63	\$28,262.44	\$243,904.07	\$183,969.81	\$1,227,548.23

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 9,438.94	\$17,762.75	\$ 27,201.69	\$ 25,323.07	\$ 163,210.28
Foreign Missions	115,041.42	2,414.93	117,456.35	105,821.50	616,540.48
FWBBC	9,034.55	2,414.93	11,449.48	12,829.87	77,861.12
Home Missions	37,469.57	1,889.94	39,359.51	30,425.02	221,240.39
Retirement & Insurance	757.00	1,469.95	2,226.95	2,321.67	12,697.77
Master's Men	1,487.60	1,469.95	2,957.55	2,458.67	19,142.75
Commission for					
Theological Integrity	98.78	52.50	151.28	150.37	839.48
FWB Foundation	450.22	629.99	1,080.21	1,328.77	8,237.25
Historical Commission	95.14	52.50	147.64	147.19	753.24
Music Commission	77.44	52.50	129.94	139.12	736.24
Radio & TV Commission	76.42	52.50	128.92	139.13	800.25
Hillsdale FWB College	2,361.58	.00	2,361.58	661.79	17,573.11
Other	39,252.97	.00	39,252.97	2,223.64	87,915.87
Totals	\$215,641.63	\$28,262.44	\$243,904.07	\$183,969.81	\$1,227,548.23

When Pastor **Lowell Baggett** began his ministry at **Portland FWB Church in Portland, TN**, he was welcomed by 37 people that first Sunday in 1991. That soon changed. The first year, 72 members were added to the church. The next year another 29 members were added. Pastor Baggett said the church has had a baptismal service every month in the last three years.

Dedication services were conducted at **First FWB Church in Batesville, AR**, on July 24, according to Pastor **Bobby Shepherd**. The four-month long project completes phase one of the church building program. Shepherd said, "The cost was more than expected, but the finished project will be enjoyed by all." In addition to refurbishing the fellowship area, the church now enjoys new prophet quarters, more office space, a new classroom and new carpet.

Home missionary **George Harvey, Jr.** says he expects architect charges to be about \$20,000 for a new building at **North Valley FWB Church in Phoenix, AZ**. The church owns 2.1 acres on which to build. Pastor Harvey said he recently baptized four converts.

Members of **Fairfield FWB Church in Fairfield, CA**, witnessed 16 conversions recently, according to Pastor **Sam Hensley**. He said the church now has double services, is running out of meeting space and averages more than 200 in attendance.

The **Santa Paula FWB Church in Santa Paula, CA**, celebrated its 45th anniversary in June, according to Pastor **Rick Scroggins**.

South Carolina home missionary **I. Bennie Turner** said the state's **Eastern Conference** voted to give the church title deed to members of **Fellowship FWB Church in Manning**. The church celebrated its homecoming August 21. Pastor Turner prepared a history of the church and called it, "Miracle in Manning."

When the **Arkansas Master's Men** gathered for their annual retreat, they did more than fellowship with each other. Some 35 men brought hammers, saws and an assortment of other equipment to work on the pavilion at **Camp Beaver-**

fork near Conway. State CTS director **Jackie Brown** said, "They hoisted the rafters, nailed the decking and shingles, did some plumbing and some back-breaking brush clearing."

For the past 30 years, **Anthony Deason** has been easy to find. He was awarded a 30-year perfect attendance pin at **Blackland Chapel FWB Church in Oil Trough, AR**. Deason has served as a Sunday School teacher, CTS director, usher and officer in the district Master's Men. **Orville Berg** pastors.

Pastor **Andy Theisen** baptized seven converts at **Ashland FWB Church in Hayward, CA**. The church reported a record 52 in attendance and nine conversions.

Juveniles burglarized **Fulton FWB Church in Fulton, MS**. They stole the public address system, some books and \$35 in cash. Pastor **Bill Van Winkle** said that quick work by the police and sheriff's departments resulted in the recovery of the P.A. system in time for Sunday services. The young burglars were from Lee County and were starting a band. Pastor Van Winkle said the group also stole a set of drums from the American Legion hut on their local crime spree.

After 21 years as clerk-treasurer of **Michigan's Wolverine Association**, **William F. Ferguson** has passed the association records on to new hands. He praised the work of association leaders who promoted a spirit of cooperation among the brethren. For the past two years, Ferguson has served as treasurer of the Michigan State Association, a position he continues to hold.

The home missions work in **Waldorf, MD**, would be a huge success if Pastor **Frank Owens** could prohibit moving vans from the community. Last year 26 people relocated from the Waldorf area. By summer's end, he expected 12 more to relocate. Still, the group reported a high attendance of 103 during morning services.

New members are always welcome in churches. That's especially true when the members are full of energy and creativity. Pastor **Ernie Lewis** reports five teenagers joined **Blue Point FWB**

Church in Cisne, IL.

Members of **Charity FWB Church in Laurel, MS**, borrowed money in order to brick their church. Pastor **Gerald Henderson** said the group paid off the note early and celebrated with a note-burning ceremony.

Immanuel FWB Church in Richton, MS, completed a major addition that houses a number of classrooms and a fellowship hall. **Tim Riggs** pastors.

The engine blew up on a van belonging to the **Free Will Baptist Home for Children in Greeneville, TN**. Not to worry. A few days later the **Cookeville FWB Church** delivered a van, title and keys to the children's home, according to executive director **Roger Hood**.

Contact welcomes the **Church Newsletter**, publication of **Ruth's Chapel FWB Church in New Bern, NC**. **Dennis Wiggs** pastors.

Pastor **Alan Wright** reports seven conversions and a number of rededications at **Friendly FWB Church in Columbus, OH**.

What a celebration they had at **Open Door FWB Church in Lancaster, OH**. Pastor **Willie Booth** burned the \$58,000 mortgage thanks to the support of members and the Ohio State Mission Board. The church became debt-free on May 1. State Mission Board chairman **Roy Hutchinson** presented a plaque of appreciation to Pastor Booth and his family.

More than 20 new members have been received at **Philadelphia FWB Church in Folkston, GA**. It started when deacon **Danny Dinkins** invited a U.S. Navy couple to church. That couple in turn brought eight more people. Soon 10 people were converted during a youth revival. **Amos McMillan** pastors.

The **El Reno** home mission work in **El Reno, OK**, averages more than 50 in morning worship. Mission pastor **Homer Young** said the mission along with the state mission board purchased five acres on which to build. ■

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

June Volunteers, Second Year

By Bert Tippett and FWBBC Staff

June is "Volunteer Month" at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

For two consecutive years, men and women took their vacation time, came to Nashville, and donated their skills and services to the college.

Last year (June 1993), volunteers from Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee re-roofed Davidson Hall, the original building in which the college began. They saved the college thousands of dollars.

This year, more than twice as many volunteers came to the campus in June. Another building, Ennis Hall, was re-roofed. Work was done in the swimming pool area. Ladies papered the walls in some offices. Even their young people got involved by cleaning offices and emptying waste cans. In addition, several local alumni volunteered their time, tools, and talents to help the college. They are such an encouragement to us!

"What a way to spend your vacation," you may think. But when you talk to the volunteers, you get nothing but enthusiasm and compliments. They not only say they are glad to be on campus, they say they actually enjoy the work together. Amazing!

This delightful group from Virginia and North Carolina worked on the roof of Ennis Hall and in campus offices.



These men from North Carolina repaired the roof of the pool in the college gymnasium.

the work so much more pleasant for everyone at the college. One FWBBC employee said, "They forged strong friendships under a blazing sun. I am already looking forward to having them back next summer!"

Does that sound like we are planning another "Volunteer Month" for next June?

You bet!

So, if you do electrical work, know plumbing, do carpentry, can mow yards, or just make a good helper, we need you. Just let us know you are coming as next summer approaches. You can be sure that your work will be appreciated, both on earth and in heaven.

We love volunteers! ■

These three friends from the West Virginia Master's Men spent a week working on campus in late June.





THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Dual Purpose Gift Annuities

By David L. Brown

People often think of gift annuities as a tool for estate planning. However, gift annuities can be used at younger ages to meet other needs. Observe the following applications:

To Supplement Retirement Income

Consider a deferred gift annuity. Deferred gift annuities work like other annuities except the payments are deferred. A 40-year-old could arrange a deferred gift annuity that would not make payments until age 65. The donor would receive an immediate charitable gift deduction and when payments began, a portion of the payment would also be tax free income.

For example, take a 40-year-old who arranges a \$2,000 deferred gift annuity each year. The first annuity would be deferred for 25 years. The second would be for 24 years and so on. The donor receives a total of \$25,894 in immediate tax deductions over the 25-year period. At age 65, this individual would begin receiving annuity payments of \$5,852 a year. A portion of this (\$927) would be tax free income.

This is not recommended to be a substitute retirement plan. The truth is, if you invested the same money over this 25-year period, you could receive a substantially higher retirement benefit. This is a way to make a significant gift to Free Will Baptist ministries and at the same time, receive a benefit during retirement. Deferred gift annuities offer the individual who can afford to make a significant gift an opportunity to give a gift and yet receive a lifetime income.

To Benefit An Elderly Parent, Friend or Relative

Some elderly parents need financial support from their grown children to make ends meet. However, needing support does not mean they are anxious to accept help. They do not want to burden their children, or perhaps pride will not allow them to accept help. A gift annuity benefiting the elderly parent could be one answer to this problem. Since the gift annuity will ultimately benefit a favorite Free Will Baptist ministry, it may be easier for the parent to accept. Another advantage is that the

check would come from the Free Will Baptist Foundation instead of the child. The annuity could be established anonymously so that the parent would never know who had benefited them.

Here is an example of how such an arrangement would work. Assume that the elderly parent is 70. The age of the grown child is irrelevant since all gift annuity calculations will be based on the parent who is the beneficiary. The grown child funds a gift annuity of \$20,000 to begin paying immediately. The child will receive a charitable deduction of \$9,912. The elderly parent will receive \$115.00 a month for the rest of his life. When the parent dies, their favorite ministry will benefit from the residue of the gift annuity. A similar arrangement could be adapted for a friend, brother, sister or perhaps a missionary or pastor. It is a tremendous way to help an elderly person during their lifetime and also ultimately benefit a Free Will Baptist ministry as well. A large portion of the gift also provides a charitable tax deduction as a bonus to the donor. Outright gifts to an individual are never tax deductible, but giving the proceeds of a gift annuity to an individual generates a tax deduction for the donor.

A number of variations are possible, so please call or write the Free Will Baptist Foundation for additional information.

The following friends have contributed to the Evelyn Hersey Memorial Endowment:

Central FWB Church
Royal Oak, MI

Cofer's Chapel FWB Church
Nashville, TN

Heritage Baptist Church
Johnson City, TN

Johnston City FWB Church
Johnston City, IL

Kiamichi Association
McAlester, OK

Rev. and Mrs. William L. Morris
Statesboro, GA

WNAC
Antioch, TN

If you would like to add to this memorial endowment, please send your gift to the Free Will Baptist Foundation. ■



Learning From the Mistakes of Others!

By Roy Thomas

Why are many churches in mainline denominations dying? Why are churches not reaching the "baby boomers" or the "now" or "x" generation? What can be done in order to see lasting church growth? Ever since the National Association of Free Will Baptists designated the Home Missions Department to be the evangelism and church growth division for our denomination, I have gathered and studied church growth statistics and trends to find answers to these questions. Other denominations have made such studies, and have found some startling results.

Ken Hemphill, director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth, did an in-depth study on factors causing decline in mainline denominations. He published his findings in *Missions, U.S.A.*, a publication of the SBC Home Missions Board. His findings revealed the following:

1. The amount of formal education has no impact on a person's religious involvement.
2. Baby boomers do not drop out of church because it has become socially irrelevant.
3. Baby boomers do not leave because of denominational problems or political agendas.
4. People do not leave because they feel they are not being fed spiritually where they are attending.

The startling discovery of the in-depth study revealed that 95% of those who dropped out of mainline denominations did so because they do not believe in the necessity of salvation through a personal faith in Jesus Christ! Many of these spiritual dropouts came to embrace a theology of "lay liberalism" which teaches that it is not important what one believes or how one lives in order to be a Christian or go to heaven. These people come from churches whose pastors failed to preach the fundamentals of the faith. Their pastors began to fashion sermons and conduct church services to appease. They preached standards acceptable to the world instead of Christian commitment.

The declining denominations cut back on evangelism, missions and outreach ministries. The study revealed that these same shrinking denominations, as interest waned, abandoned Sunday night and midweek services. The conclusion of the study on the reasons for decline was the weakening of Christian doctrine and

convictions on the part of the churches.

The warning Mr. Hemphill issued to Southern Baptists was to avoid the process of theological compromise that undermined those denominations. He urged their ministers to keep the pulpits aflame with fervent Bible preaching. He stated they should insist on repentance, faithfulness of the members and maintaining high standards of separated Christian living. He urged them to guard against trends of theological liberalism being brought in by outside influences such as the modern day church growth movement which de-emphasizes Bible doctrine, confrontational evangelism and separated living. He warned that these trends might sometimes result in short term gain, but in the end will bring decline and defeat.

The exhortations given to Southern Baptists as the result of this study are these:

1. Call for deep levels of commitment and dedication.
2. Place a stronger emphasis on Bible preaching and doctrinal instruction.
3. Give a higher priority to evangelism and missions.
4. Strengthen Sunday night and midweek services.

His concluding statement is, "I believe the greatest days of Southern Baptist ministry and outreach are yet before us, but we cannot compromise the scriptures nor our unique distinctives lest we find ourselves joining those many groups who are declining during a time of escalating world opportunity."

There is a lesson here for Free Will Baptists. I challenge our churches to preach repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation. I exhort our churches to preach and teach high standards and biblical separation from the world. I entreat our churches to maintain aggressive soul winning and outreach ministries, and to give priority to evangelism and missions. I beseech our pastors to preach and teach Free Will Baptist doctrinal distinctives. I admonish and challenge our children, young people and adults to deeper commitment, obedience, allegiance, dedication and sacrifice. We need to learn from the mistakes of others and avoid the decline experienced by mainline denominations. If we do this, Free Will Baptists will win people to Christ and see lasting church growth. ■





Thomas Marberry

When Heaven is Silent

Ronald Dunn

(Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994, 212 pp., hardback, \$14.99)

The author of this book served as the pastor of McArthur Boulevard Baptist Church in Irving, Texas, for a number of years. During his ministry there he and his wife Kaye suffered the greatest tragedy that any couple could face; their son committed suicide. This book is the story of their struggle, their sorrow and their victory. Yet, this book is more than just their personal testimony. Dunn is an outstanding student of the scriptures, and he includes in this work a careful analysis of the biblical materials which deal with loss, pain, suffering and sorrow.

In some ways this is a difficult book to read; it is a book about people who struggled with God. The author discusses the lives of such biblical characters as Jacob, Job and Jeremiah whose greatest struggles were with God. As Dunn noted, "Jeremiah's greatest struggles were not with the stiff-necked people who rejected his message and wanted to kill him; his

greatest struggle was with the God who had called him." Even Jesus struggled with the will of His heavenly Father when He prayed in Matthew 26:39, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will but as You will."

The fact of the matter is that sometimes God is silent. He does not always speak a word of comfort in our times of distress. He does not always deliver us from the trials and the pain which we face. The author calls attention to how many times he and his wife prayed that God would deliver their son from the mental illness which finally drove him to take his own life. This prayer God did not see fit to answer with a "yes."

About the same time, several families in the church were having serious trouble with their teenage children. Some had been arrested on drug charges. These parents formed a prayer group to pray regularly for their wayward children. They believed that God would answer their

prayers and restore their children. The only one who wasn't restored was the pastor's son.

This book challenges many of our pious platitudes and traditional assumptions about how God works in our world. It reminds us that the rain falls on both the just and the unjust. We cannot make judgments about the spiritual condition of people based on their outward circumstances.

The author makes several suggestions on how Christians can deal with tragic events. He emphasizes that the focus of thought should not be on "Why me?" but on "What now?" He stresses that the process of healing is a long and difficult one. There will be many setbacks along the way.

Christians will face many trials and difficulties in life. Some of them will be truly terrible. This book can help us through those times. It can also help us to minister more effectively to those who are experiencing great tragedies. ■

BEYOND BELIEF





Jack Williams

Monday Morning Attitude

A framed and matted sign hangs on the wall about three feet from where I usually work. The sign says: "Mondays Are the Pits." The sign belongs to someone else. And so does the attitude. I wish every week had two Mondays, and one of them was rainy.

There aren't many of us Monday lovers left these days. We're constantly harassed by office grumps who'd rather sleep late than bounce into a new work week. I figure that the Good Lord is a Monday person also; that's why He put it so close to Sunday.

Attitude isn't everything, of course, but it's often the difference between success or failure. We can all benefit from an occasional attitude adjustment. As Dr. Ronald Carrier observed, "People catch our spirit just like they catch our colds—by getting close to us."

Some months ago I was in a meeting in another city discussing their need for larger convention facilities. A community resource person explained how a certain element in the city opposed all efforts to fund a convention center expansion even though it would pump millions of dollars into the local economy.

"I call them the PAVE group," the resource person said. Naturally, I took the bait and asked what PAVE meant.

"That stands for **People Against Virtually Everything**," came the reply.

We got a big laugh because it hit so close to home. Every organization has its PAVE group who take pride in their bad attitude and opposition to everything. Some folks seem determined to wake up snarling at the world, daring anyone else to enjoy it.

Victor Frankl, a psychiatrist

who was confined in the notorious Auschwitz concentration camp, wrote a powerful book titled, *Man's Search for Meaning*. One of his memorable thoughts was: "Ultimate freedom is the right to choose your own attitude."

This principle is worth taking to the wall—the right to choose your own attitude toward issues and people and events. Others may determine *what* we go through, but we determine *how* we go through it. Attitude is not based on circumstances or people but on choices.

Did you ever watch a bulldog try to bluff a mirror? The bulldog finds exactly what he brings to the mirror. If he growls, the dog in the mirror growls right back at him. If he barks, the dog in the mirror barks back at him. If he kicks dirt, the dog in the mirror kicks dirt back at him.

Life's a lot like that. We generally find what we bring to the mirror of life. If we bite the bulldog, he bites us back. If we rain on Monday, Monday rains on us.

Charles Swindoll said, "Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company . . . a church . . . a home."

During the crucifixion event, attitude swept one man to the crossroads of history while another slipped into the darkness to weep alone. Peter's attitude caused him to watch from afar at Jesus' trial. John's attitude, on the other hand, placed him at the point of destiny when time and eternity touched on Golgotha.

Both men had heard the same words for three years. They saw the

same miracles and drank from the same cup. But attitude made such a difference when the crucial moment came that Peter found himself listening for the crowing rooster while John was looking at the dying Savior.

The good news is Jesus forgave Peter's actions and attitude, and gave him a second chance. If you wonder what difference a changed attitude makes, compare Peter's denial in John 18 with his Pentecost sermon in Acts 2.

William James said, "The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitude."

Yes, bad things do happen to good people. But that's no reason to develop a "why me?" syndrome and feel that you've been singled out of all people on earth for a special dose of misery.

One football coach advised his players, "Love your opponent. He's the guy who makes you as good as you can be."

Sometimes the only motivation we need to adjust our attitude is a suggestion on how to do it.

Here's what John C. Maxwell suggests: "Say the right words; read the right books; listen to the right tapes; see the right people; do the right things."

That's good advice. Maybe if I check my attitude I can persuade the right people to put the right words on that awful anti-Monday sign hanging near my light table. ■

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The Rest of the Family Offering

The Rest of the Family Offering in September provides opportunity for Free Will Baptists to focus on the smaller denominational ministries and their financial needs.

Ten national ministries share in the special offering:

- Executive Office
- Retirement & Insurance Department
- Free Will Baptist Foundation
- Master's Men
- Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC)
- National Youth Conference
- Historical Commission
- Commission for Theological Integrity
- Radio-Television Commission
- Music Commission

Each Ministry receives a percentage of the special offering based on its budget.

Join with the denominational family in September and give a generous offering for The Rest of the Family.