

NOVEMBER 1994

CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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Home Missions

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Preparing for Winter

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American Macedonia!

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The Hammer

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Goin' Home



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NOVEMBER 1994

VOLUME 41, NO. 11

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Editorial Assistant: Marilyn Pritchard
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Melvin Worthington

Individual Integrity

One of the great needs today is individual and institutional integrity. People often ask, "What has happened to our society? Why are people so mean and dishonest?" It seems we have forgotten that the human race left to itself will manifest the wickedness and iniquity embedded in the human heart.

Family

Christians need individual integrity in the area of the family. The disruption in American homes would be greatly reduced if every individual in the family unit practiced individual integrity. Couples honest with each other. Children honest with each other and their parents. Grandparents honest with their grandchildren.

Personal integrity is a matter of choice not chance. No matter how others choose to live, Christians can live with integrity. As Christian parents and posterity, we have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty.

Finances

Christians need individual integrity in the area of finances. Honesty in personal and professional finances flows from personal integrity. Christians must not be greedy of filthy lucre. Materialism should not drive them.

Christians should pay their debts. Dishonesty in the area of finances has been the downfall of many individuals. We should carefully and correctly fill out our income taxes. We should demonstrate personal integrity when paying our taxes and tithes.

Some Christians never realize that when they do not give the Lord the tithe they reveal a lack of personal integrity. Stealing from God is a selfish, sinful, shameless and senseless practice. How long has it been since

you heard someone confess the sin of stealing from the Lord?

Free Will Baptists are plagued with those who have forgotten that individual integrity results in paying their honest debts, including their tithes and offerings. Personal integrity demands that individuals do the will of God as revealed in the scriptures. Finances remain a sore spot for those who do not deal with them with integrity.

How sad to hear of ministers who will not pay their honest debts. When this is true, ministers should be exposed and their ministerial credentials revoked. Church members who do not pay their debts should be confronted, and if they refuse to pay their debts, they should be dismissed as members. God can not and will not bless those who do not practice integrity in the area of finances.

Fellowship

Christians need individual integrity in the area of the fellowship. Membership in a Free Will Baptist church establishes a covenant relationship, responsibility and reality. It is a serious, solemn, sobering step to voluntarily request membership in a local Free Will Baptist church.

The key word in the relationship and responsibility is "voluntary." We voluntarily unite with a local Free Will Baptist church. In turn, local churches

voluntarily join district associations; district associations voluntarily join state associations; and state associations voluntarily join the National Association. We choose to join because we believe it to be the will of God.

Some care little about anything which they can not dominate and direct. They spend their energies seeking to disrupt, divide, discourage and derail denominational programs and policies.

Honest disagreements and dissent can be healthy and helpful. Debate the issues during business sessions at every level; when the majority speaks, get on board and participate in the program.

Refusal to support denominational enterprises reflects a lack of individual and institutional integrity. It is dishonest to remain a member of a movement and not honor the covenant commitment. Honesty requires that I honor the commitment I made when I joined the Free Will Baptist denomination.

One thing that has claimed my attention during my tenure as executive secretary is the lack of personal integrity on the part of some ministers and members when it comes to our covenant commitment. Lack of individual and institutional integrity holds back God's full blessings on us as a people. May there be a revival, renewal and reaffirmation of individual integrity in every area of denominational life.

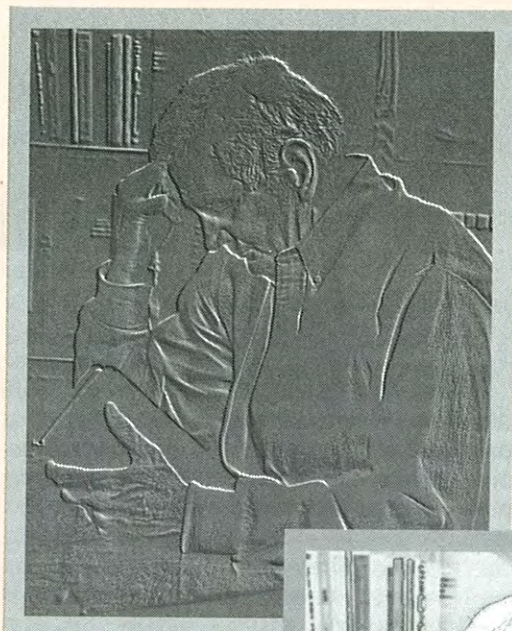
There is an individual integrity crisis in our movement which only can be remedied by a divine moving of the Spirit of the living God. We need to pray to this end.

"The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them" (Proverbs 11:3).

May it be said of Free Will Baptists that we are a people of integrity. ■

The Secretary's Schedule

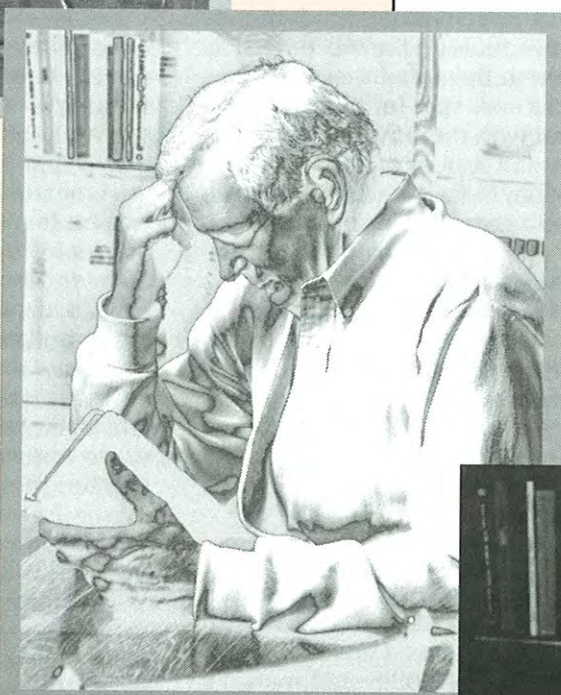
Nov. 4-5	Mississippi State Association
Nov. 10-11	Alabama State Association
Nov. 13-16	Cedar Springs FWB Church Blakely, Georgia
Nov. 17-19	Georgia State Association
Nov. 19	CMP Board Meeting Birmingham, Alabama
Nov. 20-21	Convention Liaison Council Mtg. Birmingham, Alabama



Preparing for Winter

By Billy Sharpston

Winter is a time that brings excitement for some and depression for others. When days and nights are cold, the ground freezes, the trees and bushes lay dormant, animals seek shelter, and in many places a blanket of snow covers the earth. Man has made preparation by winterizing his home, getting the car ready for the cold and wearing warm clothing for protection from the cold blast of winter.

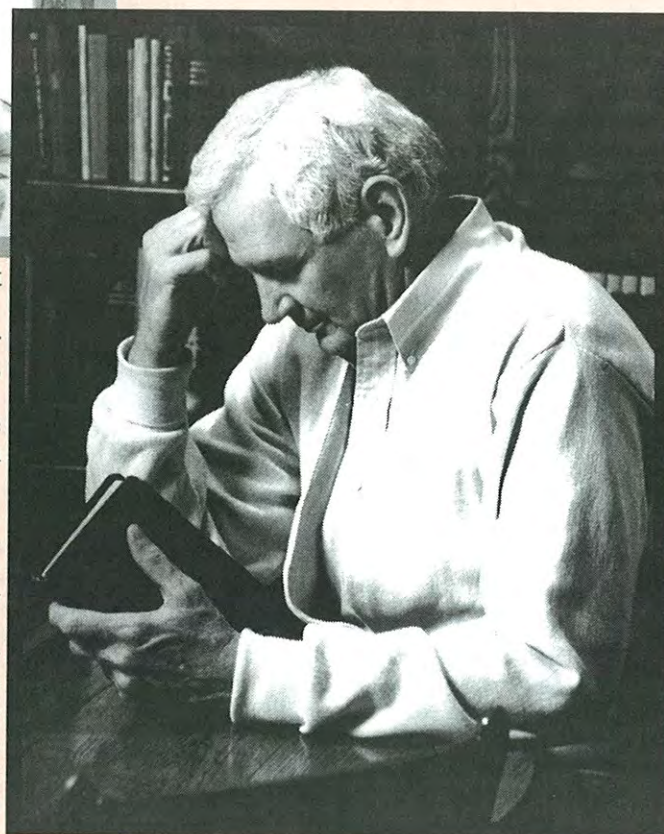


What then can be the comparison between the cold winter months and the winter of our lives, when hair turns snowy, and fires of life grow cold?

The stage of life we know as old age has been called the sunset years. To call these our sunset years is to give them a touch of class—they can be special.

This can be a significant chapter in our human pilgrimage. It can be a time for growth, for learning and for greater maturity. Sometimes, we get the idea that our later years must be that time when we are put on a shelf. That's not necessarily the case.

The sunset years are not a watertight compartment. They are not isolated from the rest of life. One is becoming now what he is going to be in the senior years of life. It is simply the evening of the same day. If you pollute a stream at its source, then you pollute the whole stream. But if you make it pure and sparkling at its source, then you have the potential



H. Armstrong Roberts

of keeping it useful throughout its flow.

General Douglas MacArthur wrote: "People grow old by deserting their ideas. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up interest, wrinkles the soul. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubts; as young as your hope, as old as your despair."

Age is a process from which none of us is exempt. It is one for which all of us might as well learn to be grateful. Some cultures honor age. They have a tradition of honoring those with snowy hair, those who have wisdom that comes from experience. But in our youth-oriented culture, it is the opposite. We glorify and turn the spotlight on youth, while we dread growing older. Denial of the aging process keeps the cosmeticians in business.

Older persons provide a balance to society. This segment of our society adds a continuing responsibility and wisdom which can only come from having lived a long time.

Lengthened life also provides one with previously unrealized opportunities for personal development. Prior to retirement, much of a person's formal and continuing education has been preparation for further education and/or enhancement of vocation. Now an older person may engage in learning just for the sake of learning.

Spiritual growth may well be at its highest in the later years of life. Certainly, the experiences of life provide more potential for understanding God and the teaching of His Word. As the Christian ages, he becomes more reflective and can see the moving hand of God throughout his life. Such memories add confidence and strength for the future.

There are more elderly among us than there have ever been, and there are going to be still more. In 1900, there were some five million Americans 60 years of age and above. They made up six percent of the population of our country, with a life expectancy of only 47 years. A woman could expect to live only two years after her oldest child left home. Currently, it is estimated that there are

36 million Americans who are 60 years of age and above, between 13 and 16 percent of the population.

The coming of age brings with it crises, as does every stage of life. One of these is economic.

Financial Planning

Many men and women have worked toward retirement as a special chapter in their life. They have made financial preparation for it and have made good investments, only to discover that as they retire on a



fixed income, that the cost of living doesn't remain anywhere near "fixed." They are finding themselves in an economic pinch, much greater than those still in the work force.

Health Needs

Aging may also bring health problems. There is much cause for concern in health plans for older individuals. What are the benefits going to be? What will it cost? Will we be able to afford good health care?

Many live alone in virtual isolation with little opportunity of being with others. They are not challenged by meaning in their lives. They likely practice poor nutritional habits and get little physical exercise. A pro-

gram of good health habits is important. Keep active, eat right, exercise, get the right amount of rest, get involved in your church, community and volunteer your time for good causes.

Housing For The Elderly

Planning for retirement is important, and housing is one of the most important of them. If you own your own home, you have a good investment and it can be a means of financial security, now and in the future.

It is true that many older people are selling their homes and moving into townhomes, apartments and retirement villages, because the upkeep may become too taxing, both financially and physically.

While it may free them from these burdens, it may not be feasible for everyone. A decision of this magnitude should never be made without careful consideration and much prayer. Planning early in life will eliminate many such problems in the future.

"Come grow old with me. The best is yet to be. The last of life, for which the first was made." The winter of life offers opportunity for an exciting and adventurous time. It can be a pilgrimage, open-ended, with purpose, direction and significance.

Even the sunset and the darkness to follow need hold no ultimate dread for those who are in Christ. Remember that every exit is also an entrance. The best, by far the best, is yet to be! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Billy Sharpston is senior pastor at Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio.

He took a gift from a friend and built
18 churches with it.

The Hammer

By James Munsey



In August of 1974, when Mitzi and I had been married only one year, I was ordained by the Union Association of Free Will Baptists, and subsequently answered the call to pastor Red Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Marshall, North Carolina.

This was my first pastorate, and the people were so kind to us. Each Sunday we would drive over the mountains from Newport, Tennessee, and stay with some family in the church who would also provide us with lunch and supper.

One such family we stayed with many times was Jack and Helen Ann Cole. They were fine Christians and expressed a genuine concern for their new pastor and his wife. I spent many hours sharing with them our vision for missions, and even took Brother Jack and his wife with us on a trip to Mexico to see the mission field first hand.

On Christmas that year, Jack gave me a hammer with my initials stenciled on the head, and told me that one day I would build a church with it. I took the hammer home, but never could forget his words. Each time I saw the hammer, I was reminded of his challenge, as well as his perception of what God was doing in my life.

I could not bring myself to use the hammer for anything, recalling that it was given to me with something akin to a divine commission. Occa-

sionally, Mitzi would get it to hang a picture, or do some other task beneath the purpose of such a special tool. I would remind her that Brother Jack had given it for the specific purpose of building a church, and it was not to be used for anything else.

It was five years before I answered the call to be a missionary. Seven years after Jack gave me the hammer, I used it to build the Free Will Baptist Church in Weslaco, Texas, a Spanish-speaking church only seven miles from Mexico.

In 1983, I used it again to build the First FWB Church in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. Others followed in quick succession, until I lost count. I also lost the hammer somewhere along the way, and when I later mentioned it to Jack, he bought me another one with my initials stamped on the side. There was something special, almost mystical about those hammers. I sensed a great obligation to see that they were used as specified.

Even though Jack said, "Build a church with this hammer," both he and I knew that it could not stop with just one church. Somehow, God had given him a vision of my calling. God called Jack to give me the hammer. Of this I am sure, because that hammer was the inspiration for building 18 churches, all but the first in Mexico.

Sometime in 1993, Brother Jack Cole did not come home, and his family began searching for him. The next day his car was found in front of a clinic in Mars Hill. Apparently he had sensed that he was having a heart attack and sought help. When he was found, Jack had already been with his Lord for several hours.

About that time, we were planning the construction of the Free Will Baptist Church in Xayacatlán, Puebla. We decided that this church should be built in memory of our brother who helped inspire so much construction in Mexico.

On June 20, 1994, his widow, Helen Ann Cole, accompanied us to Puebla where she cut the ribbon to dedicate the 18th church building erected since that hammer 20 years ago. It was a great joy to be there and share this story with the humble people of Xayacatlán about a man of God who loved them even though he never knew them. He cared enough to give a hammer.

In a way, my own life can be divided into things that happened before the hammer and after. I cannot say what would have happened if he hadn't given me that hammer, but I do believe that God led him to do it.

I have since tried to "give a hammer" to our pastors and young people in Mexico. It doesn't really have to be a hammer. It can be a word of encouragement, a scholarship, a guitar or anything else. I have always tried to make it something tangible, so that they will be reminded of my challenge long after I'm gone. That way I can share in their ministry for years to come.

Somehow, I know that Jack is well aware today and is rejoicing in the collective success that was partly inspired by the timely gift of a hammer. I ask you to help us "give a hammer" to the people of Mexico in the hope that they will take it and build up the work of God. After all, that is why we are here. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend James Munsey is the Coordinator for Mexico missions.

A first-person account of the Home Missions Heritage Tour



The American Macedonia!

By Eleanor Grindstaff

Excitement mounted for days as my husband and I made our final plans in May 1994 for the Home Missions Heritage Tour. Our flying experience had been limited to short flights in small planes. As we flew from our home in East Tennessee toward our New England destination, we were thrilled with the beauty of God's creation. We flew over forests, mountains, valleys and farms until we arrived in Boston.

As we visited Boston's "Freedom Trail," the places became real and vivid to us where our forefathers had fought for the freedoms which many Americans now take for granted. I looked at the large stone taken from a prison wall in England, the prison in which many Pilgrims were held because of their love for God, and I was moved with conviction.

I have never been arrested or imprisoned. I have only been told that I can't hand out gospel tracts at certain store parking lots. I wondered, *"What has my religion cost me?"*

Standing on the deck of *The Mayflower II* in Plymouth Harbor, I was brought to a greater realization of what our founding fathers suffered. When we toured Plymouth (Plymouth) Village, I walked into thatch covered mud huts like those in which the Pilgrims lived. They had left all to serve God according to the dictates of their consciences.

I could hear Jesus saying to me, *"I gave, I gave it all for thee, what hast thou given for me?"*

Hostility to the Gospel

We saw few gospel preaching churches in New England. I looked at the great crowds of people that thronged the streets and historical sites of Boston, Plymouth and all points in between. I wondered how many would be ready to meet the Lord if he returned right then. We did see one man handing out gospel tracts.

I wondered, *"Do they care? Do they know what they are missing, both now and in eternity? Are their hearts so empty of God that they are in personal torture and don't know what is causing it? Are they silently crying out, 'Come over into Macedonia and help us?'"*

We visited with home missionary Ron MacMillan in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and met the home missionaries to Providence, Rhode Island—Terry and Tammy Miller—whose church is still in rented facilities. We

also met Joel Nason and his wife, Hope. They are starting a new church in Laconia, New Hampshire, and struggle to find a place to rent for church services because of city ordinances.

We heard about the only Free Will Baptist church in Maine, at Houlton, which at the time was without a pastor. These isolated churches in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire face tremendous problems, and the burdens are staggering. The New England churches are ministering among 25 percent of America's population, among millions upon millions of "Macedonians" who are hurting but don't realize why they hurt.

I thought of the bravery of these young home missions couples who left home and comfort for a "hostile land" that doesn't want them. In fact, there are existing city ordinances to prevent new churches from being established in many New England cities. As I visited this area, I heard the Lord say, *"I left, I left it all for thee, what hast thou left for me?"*

Free Will Baptist Beginnings

As great as the *Freedom Trail* was, and as much as I felt the Spirit of God on *The Mayflower II* and at *Plimouth Plantation*, it was nothing compared to going up to New Durham, New Hampshire, to visit Benjamin Randall country and our Free Will Baptist heritage. Having read of Randall's sufferings and the sacrifices he made, and then seeing the building in which a group of brave men met to organize the First Free Will Baptist Church in America, (and possibly in the world by that name) this made me have a time of soul searching.

These men and women had borne great and intense suffering for Christ in order to preach and teach their biblical doctrines. I heard the Lord say to me, *"I suffered much for thee, what hast thou borne for me?"* I had to hang my head in shame!

Church services in the new facilities of this captivating church in New Durham, and with the people in that congregation, were special. We were warmly welcomed by the

home missions pastor, Rev. Jim Nason. We heard a sermon during the Sunday School hour by Dr. Stanley Outlaw, and then another challenging message during the morning service by Dr. Lorenza Stox.

Later, as we stood by the graves of Benjamin Randall and his wife, we were deeply moved by the memorial message by Dr. John Edwards. The facts he revealed about Benjamin Randall and his followers brought great meaning to the sermon we would later hear at the old historical Church on the Ridge, which has been in existence for almost 200 years.

Brother Ronnie Adkins caused each of us to search our own hearts as he preached on "Making a Difference." Benjamin Randall certainly made a difference! His legacy spanned over 200 years to make a difference in my life. He preached salvation full and free, and he carried it to those in need. He preached Free Will, Free Grace and Free Salvation.

Without his knowledge of this important doctrine, some of us might still be bound in darkness. Benjamin Randall brought all he had to Jesus and preached the rich gift of salvation through Him. As I thought on this, Jesus was asking me, *"What hast thou brought to Me?"*

Road Less Traveled

As we drove by the New Hampshire woods and saw the dark thickets of white birch so unlike our East Tennessee mountains, I could almost see the New Hampshire poet Robert Frost as he was "Stopping by the Wood on a Snowy Eve." It is no wonder he was so intrigued by this place.

Then another of his poems written about New Hampshire came to my mind, a poem which ends, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and—I took the one less traveled by, And that made all the difference."

Benjamin Randall did this years before Robert Frost wrote about it. He had taken the "road less traveled by" and made a difference in New England, and in fact all over America and into many parts of the world.

Through the efforts of Benjamin Randall hundreds of churches were

organized and thousands of people saved. Free Will Baptists became one of the largest denomination in New England, and helped shape the early history of this great nation. However, through mergers with the American Baptists, much of this was lost to Free Will Baptists.

Through the decades, churches that once preached the gospel no longer do so. Many New England cities are now as void of the gospel as those in foreign countries. This area has become our "Macedonia" crying for help.

What Can I Do?

I discovered many things on the Home Missions Heritage Tour which have made me realize the great need for starting Free Will Baptist churches in these states. The Free Will Baptist people we met in New England may say their vowels differently from us, their houses may not be the same style as ours, nor their choices of food the same as our ethnic traditions, but the fellowship and love which radiated between them and us was mutual.

But what of the millions there lost without Christ who have never heard a clear-cut presentation of the gospel? In my mind I see them standing with outstretched arms crying, *"When are you coming?"*

I hear them crying, *"We are dying and we don't know how to live or how to die. When are you coming over to help us?"*

I believe the Home Missions Heritage Tour was well worth the effort. If just one pastor who went on the tour makes the decision to start a new church, or returns home with a greater burden to preach and support home missions, and in this way is able to influence another to go, all the money and time spent on the tour will not be in vain. For what is the price of a soul? Do we measure a soul in the amount of money spent, or do we measure a soul with eternity's values in view?

I ask myself, *"What can I do?"* God asks for what little I have to be yielded to Him, whether possessions, time, talent or money. "Little is much when God is in it." All I may

have is a needle. Look what Dorcas did with a needle. I can use what I have. God will do the multiplying.

I can pray that God will call one of my children or my grandchildren or one that I have taught. I can pray that someone will be influenced by something I write or I say, and they will hear the Macedonian Call. I can pray and support those who have answered the call and have gone to "Macedonia."

The Home Missions Heritage Tour helped me to realize that Macedonia is not just a far away place, but is also in New England. It is all over our nation and around the world. Our country is now so mobile and has become so small that "Macedonians" travel everywhere. They don't just live in Macedonia. They may live anywhere in the world, even next door to us, but they all cry with outstretched spiritual arms, "Come over and help us."

Jesus compared the Church to many things, among them were salt and light. And both of these make a difference.

My husband and I are grateful to the Home Missions Department for this trip to New England. We will never be the same as Americans, nor the same as Christians or as Free Will Baptists. Both of us want to make a difference. Our prayer is that all Free Will Baptists will open their ears and eyes and heed the Macedonia Call! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Eleanor Grindstaff is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church in Erwin, Tennessee. She is the author of *Stones of Remembrance*, a historical novel about early Free Will Baptists in America.

**Come to
Macedonia
and Help Us!**

Beauty and the Least

By Jim Mullen

Matthew 25:40, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the *least* of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

The best-selling video movie of all time is *Beauty and the Beast*. The movie opens with a haggard, ugly old lady knocking on the castle door. The spoiled selfish young prince opens the door and is immediately repulsed by her appearance.

She offers the prince a special rose in return for a night's lodging. He refuses her request. She implores him to reconsider because great beauty can be hidden by surface appearances. He insists on turning her away.

Then as the ugliness melts away she becomes the beautiful enchantress that she was all along. Then the prince begs her to stay but she refuses as she perceives he has no real love for others in his heart. She then transforms the prince into a beast.

In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus describes His second coming and the judgment scene. The sheep (Christians) are ushered into heaven with eternal life. The goats (non-Christians) are sent away to everlasting punishment.

Jesus says that the Christians fed Him, gave Him drink, clothed Him, took Him in and visited Him. When the Christians admit to not remembering having done this for Jesus, He has a startling reply. He says that when we do those things for the least of God's people it is just as if we did it for Him.

He also explains that when

we fail to minister food, drink, clothing and visits to the least of God's people it is just as if we refuse to do it for Him.

Often it is easier for us to do things for folks who are "like us." If they are not the same color, the same economic class or the same social class then we sometimes fail to minister as we should.

Certainly at Thanksgiving time we should remember to be thankful for all God has given to us. But, especially at Thanksgiving, we should show our thankfulness by giving to those around us who are in need, the people who are so easily forgotten, the least of God's people, so to speak.

Take the time to go to a nursing home and ask to visit someone who gets no visits. (You may be surprised how many choices you have.)

Buy groceries for a family that has little more than enough food for survival.

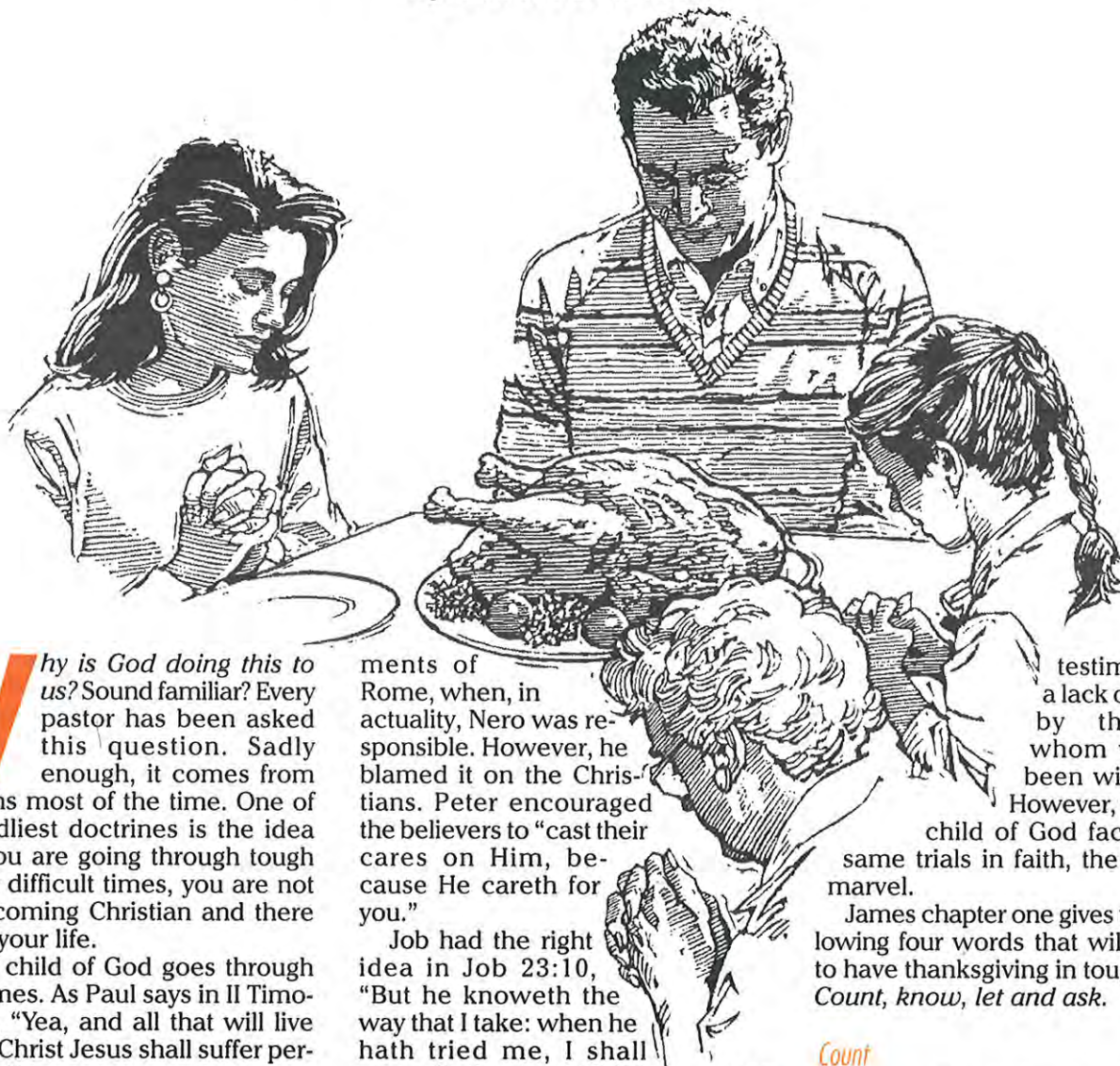
All around us are "the least of these" that need food, drink, clothing or a visit in the hospital or nursing home. All we have to do is look and we will find them.

During this holiday season let's determine to show our thankfulness by ministering to the "least of these" remembering that when we do it, it is as if we are ministering to Jesus Himself. You may just find out that beauty and the least are one and the same. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Jim Mullen pastors First Bible Free Will Baptist Church in New Castle, Indiana.

Thanksgiving in Tough Times

By Clifford D. Donoho



Why is God doing this to us? Sound familiar? Every pastor has been asked this question. Sadly enough, it comes from Christians most of the time. One of the deadliest doctrines is the idea that if you are going through tough times or difficult times, you are not an overcoming Christian and there is sin in your life.

Every child of God goes through tough times. As Paul says in II Timothy 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

While our faith in Jesus Christ enables us to go through the trials of life, we must understand that our faith is always tested. God tests us to bring out the best in us and to help us mature.

Peter wrote to a group of believers who knew what it was to go through trials and persecutions. "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ," (I Peter 1:7).

The Christians in Peter's day were blamed for burning the high tene-

ments of Rome, when, in actuality, Nero was responsible. However, he blamed it on the Christians. Peter encouraged the believers to "cast their cares on Him, because He careth for you."

Job had the right idea in Job 23:10, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." We can have the "peace that passeth all understanding" while facing trials if we turn them over to the Lord.

The invitation to bring our trials to Him comes in Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

It is interesting to read through the Psalms and note how the writers express thanksgiving and praise to God while severe persecutions surround them. The key is spiritual maturity. This seems to be missing in many believers. When Christians lack this maturity, they fall apart when trials and testings come.

A sad result will be damage to our

testimony and a lack of interest by those to whom we have been witnessing. However, when the

child of God faces those same trials in faith, the unsaved marvel.

James chapter one gives us the following four words that will help us to have thanksgiving in tough times: *Count, know, let and ask.*

Count

James 1:2, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations."

Note that James says "when" ye fall into divers temptations and not "if." It is our attitude while encountering these trials that is important. Realize that God's grace can carry us over any problem. We can have thankful hearts because we have counted or evaluated the trial, and we can have joy because Jesus is still in control.

Paul writes in Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the

Make the Iron Swim

By Wade Jernigan

The late Reverend John H. West was summoned to the hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he was pastor. An elderly mountain man from Kentucky had been admitted to the hospital, and asked that a Free Will Baptist preacher be called.

John, at the time, was as well known in Tulsa as any minister no matter what his denominational affiliation. So when the gentleman requested a Free Will Baptist preacher, John was contacted.

Pastor West said that the hospital visit truly humbled him. When he stepped through the doorway to the old man's room, a deep voice rumbled, "Be ye the man of God here?"

John responded, "Yes, I am the man of God here."

Then the old Kentuckian asked, "Be ye able to make the iron swim?"

At some point in his ministry, every man must answer that question. ■

.....
ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Wade Jernigan is a Free Will Baptist evangelist who resides in Lexington, Oklahoma.

cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Know

James 1:3, "Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

If we understand that our faith is always tested so that it will bring out the best in us and help us to mature in the Lord, we can face our trials with thanksgiving.

We believe and trust Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose." It is to our good as children of God and to His glory.

Let

James 1:4, "But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

We get into trouble and difficulties here. It is not easy to put aside our own will and simply trust God.

When my son was three, I would stand him on the coffee table, hold my arms up and say, "Jump!" Without a moment of hesitation, he would jump knowing that I would catch him.

That's how God wants us to trust Him. That's the child-like faith He wants us to have.

Ask

James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Why do we try to handle our problems ourselves? God has promised that He will give us wisdom to deal with any and all problems that come our way. Many are unable to claim the promises of God because they have not read the promises in the Word of God.

Warren Wiersbe said, "The greatest enemy to answered prayer is unbelief." The Bible instructs us to come boldly before the throne of grace. We are not to pray with a

doubting heart wondering if He is going to hear and answer our prayers, but through faith believing He is going to meet our needs.

Yes, tough times come to all Christians. However, it is because of this counting, knowing, letting and believing that we can have thanksgiving in tough times. Let us claim Philippians 4:7, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." ■



.....
ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Clifford Donoho is a home missionary to Davenport, Iowa.

An engine exploded at 30,000 feet!

Goin' Home

By Anne Worthington

The couple seated in front of me kissed. Three children on the way to Grandma's two rows up and across the aisle began to snuffle. "What will Mommy say? What will Mommy say?" whimpered the youngest. The flight attendants tried hard not to look and sound frightened.

"We've blown an engine," the pilot's voice came over the p. a. system, "and will have to return to the airport." As the plane slowly descended to 18,000 feet for the 20-minute flight back to the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, flight attendants prepared for an emergency landing.

I was anxious to get home after a trip to Mexico. I had an early morning flight from McAllen, Texas, to the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. There I changed planes for a short 90-minute flight to Nashville. The flight attendants went through their usual safety routine while I settled back to read.

The flight attendants started up the aisle with the refreshment cart. Just as the cart reached my seat, a loud bang jarred the plane. I thought the cart had struck the seat. However, one look at the terrified flight attendant let me know it was more serious than that.

As the plane slowly turned and made its descent, a hush fell over the cabin. I gazed out the window with a sense of utter helplessness and disbelief. "I can't believe this is happening, Lord," I said. "Is this the end? Will we crash? Will I die today?" Suddenly, total peace reigned.

"Take off your shoes," the flight attendants barked. "Tighten your seat belts as tightly as you can. Sit far back in your seats. Remove any sharp objects. Take nothing with you." The exits were pointed out.

"If you want to take a seat closer to an exit, you can, but do it quickly," shouted a flight attendant. I moved up several rows and sat down by a man I didn't know. Strangely, I wanted him to hold my hand.

"Lord, I'll be home today in one place or the other," I breathed as the runway reached up to swallow us.

"Brace! Brace! Brace!" screamed the pilot and flight attendants simultaneously.

It seemed that we held the brace position an eternity while the plane hurtled down the runway.

Everyone cheered. We had landed safely.

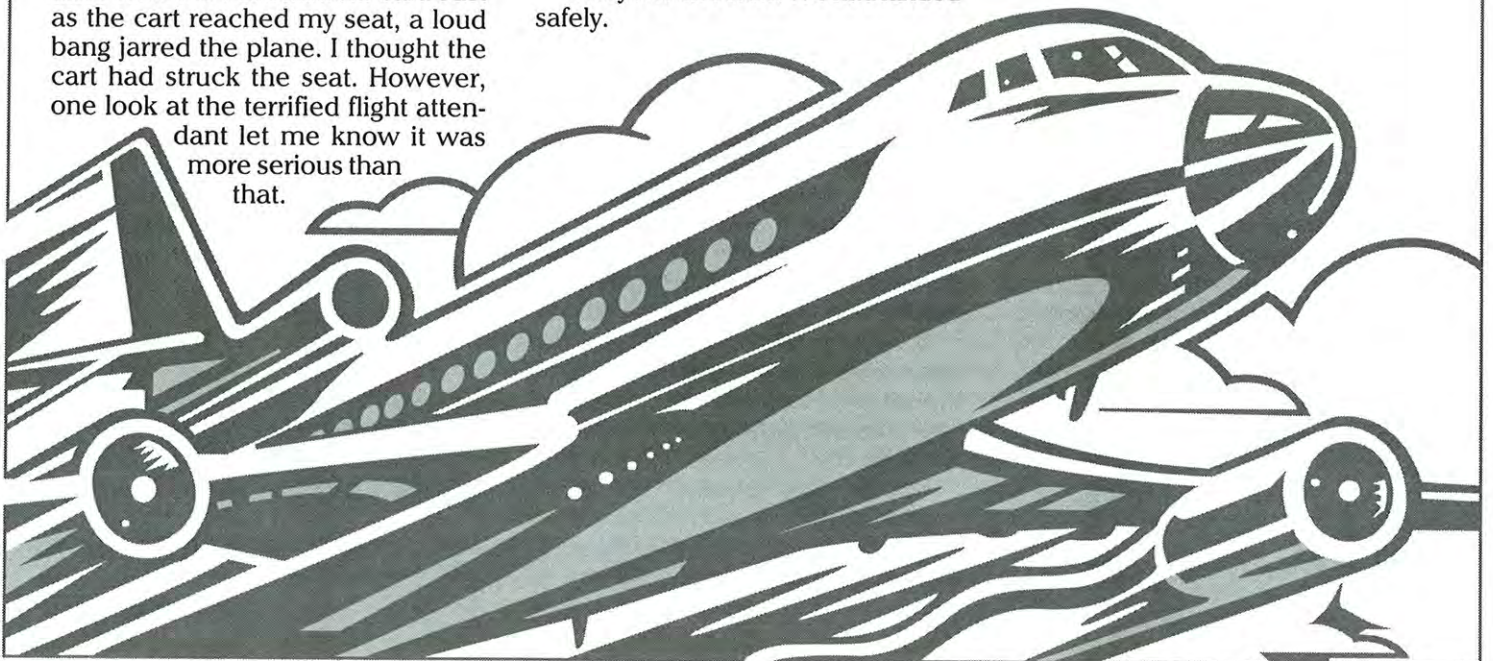
"We could have made it to Nashville on one engine," the man next to me was saying.

I turned away. I didn't want him to see the tears slowly trickling down my cheeks.

I didn't see angels, but they were there. After all, God's child was on board. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Anne Worthington is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.



Give me a Child's Heart

By Geneva Poole

Learn from a child?

Who me?
Not me, Lord!
Maybe.
Yes, I can!

This child had been in my prayers even before he came visibly into our lives.

He was cute, cuddly, loving, intelligent and all the other adjectives one might add when speaking of a grandchild.

God used this precious one to teach me a few lessons.

First about Heaven! The real place with streets of gold where Jesus is!

Evidently the Sunday School teacher gave a vivid lesson on Heaven which marked this four-year-old. He began to talk about Heaven as the greatest place and expressed a desire to go there without delay. It made you want to go with him.

In fact, one day he asked his mother, "Mommy, why can't I go to Heaven now?" Another day he asked why he could not die so he could go to Heaven to be with Jesus.

What did I learn? To my shame, sometimes Heaven is such a remote place. I do not think much about going there. Oh, yes, I am saved. I work for the Lord, but do I rejoice over the fact that Heaven is a real place and I am on my way there? Is my speech such that I would cause

others to desire to accompany me to the place called Heaven?

This same grandson had been spoken to about the need to receive Jesus as personal Savior. In fact, I personally had done so.

Then one day he evidently had been thinking. He went to his mother and told her he wanted Jesus to come into his heart. With a happy heart, she led her son to accept Jesus.

What grandmother is not thrilled to know of the salvation of even a four-year-old.

The greatest lesson came later.

Once saved, this sweet little boy began working on his two-year-old sister. He approached her saying, "Mel, let Jesus come into your heart."

You can already guess the answer that quickly came from the mouth of the two-year-old. "No."

What was good for him he wanted for his sister, so he did not give up easily, but each time came the negative response.

Preoccupied, he went to his

mother and asked her to please tell Mel to let Jesus come into her heart. The mother explained that Mel would accept Jesus when she understood like he did.

How ashamed I often become as I realized I have let an opportunity slip by to speak to someone about my Savior. As with the four-year-old, it should be the natural thing to speak to others about accepting Jesus.

A few weeks later, Andrew was standing by the crib of his one-month-old sister. His mother walked by the door, stopped long enough to check to see what he was doing. He was talking to his baby sister. "Stephanie, would you like to go to Heaven?"

Just at that moment Stephanie moved her head. A little heart was thrilled. He ran to his mother saying, "Stephanie wants to go to Heaven. Oh, Mommy, Stephanie wants to go to Heaven."

How often I get bogged down with good things, but forget to ask those I speak to, "Do you want to go to Heaven?"

Give me a child's heart, O God!



ABOUT THE WRITER: Geneva Poole is a Free Will Baptist missionary to Brazil, South America.

What better way to be remembered?

Mary's World

By James Pittman

Alert mind, bright eyes and radiating warmth wrapped in a frail, bent body. "Aunt" Mary May wheeled her chair in my direction when she heard me ask for her by name. "You must be my new preacher," she said as she held out her hand.

So I met one of the greatest people in my life. I had just graduated from Bible College and was beginning my pastorate at Mt. Olive Free Will Baptist Church near Guin, Alabama.

Aunt Mary May was saved and joined that church when she was a little girl. I listened intently as she joyfully told about it. It seemed as thrilling to her then as when it happened more than 80 years before.

All her life she had served God in that church. Everyone knew and loved Mary May. Half the church counted her kin. Without exception, talk about her was in a kindly, reverential manner. She was a saint in the biblical sense. Often in conversation, someone's eyes would pool with tears as they remembered something wonderful about her.

Mary May walked with God. There was never a question in my mind about that. She was so filled with Him that He just naturally spilled over. Her talk about Him was so real. Her love for Him so genuine. Aunt Mary always gave more than she received. When you went to visit, you left a better person. She turned discouragement into excitement.

Once I visited her after my brother was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Someone had told her, and she sensed my brokenness. We prayed and wept together, and I left stronger because I knew Sister May was praying for us.

When I would visit, we would read the Bible and pray. I never read a passage she was not familiar with. It was wonderful to her. She would smile, as giddy as a child in her excitement and love for God's Word. Never any time for complaints or to discuss her ailments, she had more important things to talk about. She talked about

her wonderful Lord.

Sister Mary May was going blind. "Please pray with me that God will give me back my vision so I can read my Bible." We prayed and in a few days she could read again. How thankful she was.

She always found something kind to say about everyone. Once after a funeral, I stood beside her wheelchair. I pointed to a little cluster of men who always helped dig the graves. "These fellows," I said, "may drink too much and cuss too loud and they seldom go to church, but they are always here to help dig the grave when someone dies."

Aunt Mary smiled and replied, "Pastor, there's some bad in the best of us and some good in the worst of us."

The day she went home, I stopped by the hospital. They'd called in the family. I stepped into her room where tearful loved ones stood. Beside her bed I read some scripture and prayed. We talked briefly and I started to leave.

Suddenly, I was aware of God's presence as I'd never been before. She held on to my hand. I looked questioningly into her face so wrinkled with age and stressed with pain. Still, there was glow of Heaven there.

"Preacher," she said, "I never had a better preacher and I've prayed for you every day since we met. Thank you for being my preacher." She paused and continued. "This is the last time we will be together here, but it's not goodbye."

Aunt Mary May has been with the Lord more than 20 years now. She touched my life as few have. She knows now what a blessing she was to me and many others in that North Alabama community. Many remember her with warm tenderness. They remember most her wonderful capacity to love others.

What better way to be remembered? ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend James Pittman III pastors Linneus Free Will Baptist Church in Houlton, Maine. He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Helping Hurting People

By Paul V. Harrison

We live in an age burdened by emptiness. Modern-day man tires himself out with the trivial, all the while wondering why he is so weary with life. Even Christians sometimes suffer from purposelessness and boredom.

Jesus addressed this problem with a divine paradox: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. . . ." The way to rest, Christ said, is to work. The way to fill a life with purpose is to pour it out for others. But just how are we to launch out on these missions of mercy?

Recognize Their Pain

The first step in helping others is to recognize their pain. Our non-Christian friends may present themselves as trouble-free, but we must remember that "the way of the transgressor is hard."

"The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." Many a pumped-up exterior only conceals a shriveled spirit.

In fact, those with the highest of attainments often plunge to the lowest of despair. Boris Becker, in spite of world-wide fame as a tennis star, nearly took his life. He confessed:

"I had won Wimbledon twice before, once as the youngest player. I was rich. I had all the material possessions I needed: money, cars, women, everything. . . . I know this is a cliché. It's the old song of the movie and pop stars who commit suicide. They have everything, and yet they are so unhappy. . . . I had no inner peace. I was a puppet on a string."

We must recognize the pain that inevitably makes its way into the heart of every unbeliever.

Hurting, of course, is not limited to those outside the church's walls. Sin with its resultant suffering creeps into every life. Every Sunday our pulpits and pews are occupied by bruised if not crushed spirits. Death or disease has struck the family of one. Divorce threatens another. A rebellious child breaks the heart of yet another. Simply put, life is hard.

Satan has left no one's soul free of his claw marks, and the first step toward helping is to realize the presence of this pain.

Relieve Their Suffering

To recognize suffering, however, is not to relieve it. A physician must do more than identify illness; he must cure it. And this is precisely where Christianity flexes its muscles for all to see, for Jesus is the Great Physician.

We can point the grieving spouse to One who conquered death. We can direct the disintegrating husband-wife team to the One who created and can re-create the family. Far from powerless, the Christian is able to introduce the one who hurts to the One who heals.

We must be careful, however, not to merely say, "Be warmed and filled." The bridge that connects the hurting with the Healer is made up of human flesh—ours. This, of course, means we must be committed, for bridges are walked upon, they get dirty, they strain under the load they carry.

I think of the Reformed ministers of London in the 1660's. They had been ousted from their pulpits by law and replaced with hirelings. But when the Great Plague entered the city in 1665, the preachers-for-hire made a hasty exit, leaving their diseased and dying people without pastors to provide spiritual counsel.

So what would the Reformed preachers do? Since they no longer had any formal responsibility, would they too leave town to avoid the plague? The St. Giles Cripplegate burial register for just September of that year provides their answer:

September 6	John Askew, minister, plague
September 15	Samuel Skelton, minister, plague
September 16	Abraham Jennaway, minister, plague
September 28	Henry Marley, minister, plague
September 30	John Wall, minister, plague.

For these noble men as for their Lord, helping was spelled D-E-A-T-H. It cost their all. Let me ask you, would your commitment to serve God and help others lead you to stand in harm's way?

While the selfless example of these ministers inspires us, it's amazing how much God can do with just our little offerings. Little is much when God is in it.

For example, I'll never forget the help my family received when serious illness visited our home. When I was fresh from graduation and just one month into pastoring, my wife was stricken with systemic lupus, a serious and debilitating disease. Six times during that first year of ministry she was hospitalized. Our family stretched to the breaking point. But it's amazing how God used His people to strengthen us.

In the midst of one of Diane's hospital stays our song leader simply hugged me and said: "This too will pass." I don't know how to explain it, but that hug injected my soul with much needed strength.

Another day, a little curly-headed five-year-old boy showed his concern by saying: "I'm sorry your mama's sick." The little fellow couldn't spell compassion but he surely could show it, and God used it. And in a hundred other ways, God took the expressions of love by His people and transformed them into a mighty healing instrument.

So are you struggling to find fulfillment in life? Try enlisting in the Lord's work of helping hurting people. They are all around you, and God would love nothing more than to make you a bridge of mercy by which the hurting might cross over to the Healer. ■



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

Miriam

By Carolyn Johnson

My name is Miriam. I want to tell you something of my life and how God used me in His service. I would also like to tell you how I erred and how God punished me.

I was born the eldest child of godly Hebrew parents, Amram and Jochebed, during the time of Israel's captivity in Egypt. I am the sister of two of Israel's greatest figures, Moses and Aaron. My story begins when I was just a girl of about 12 years old.

You know the story of my famous brother, Moses, how the Egyptian Pharaoh ordered the death of all baby boys born to my people because we were growing in number and strength, and he feared our uprisal from slavery and oppression. You know how my mother hid Moses in a basket placed in the Nile River, and how she put me nearby to watch over him.

When Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to bathe, she found him and I was so afraid of her reaction!

But when I saw that the princess was pleased with Moses, I thought quickly and stepped out of the bushes and acted innocent and puzzled at seeing the crying baby.

I asked the princess if she would like for me to find a Hebrew nurse for the baby, knowing that if she said yes, I would bring my mother and she would care for Moses for a few years before she had to give him back to the princess.

My mother was pleased at what I had done and told me I was a clever, resourceful and courageous child. I was grateful for the part I had in saving the life of Israel's greatest leader and law-giver.

After a few years under my mother and father's care and tutelage in the ways of our people, Moses went to live at the palace. I scarcely saw him for nearly 80 years.



Midian. I understand he lived there for the next 40 years and married a Midianite woman named Zipporah, a gentile woman, who was one of the daughters of Jethro, the priest of Midian. But I was still in Egypt living with my family and had become close to my brother, Aaron.

During that time, God heard the anguished cries of His people because of our bondage. God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and told him to return to Egypt to lead his people out of bondage into the Promised Land. God told Moses that he would be the one to speak to Pharaoh about releasing the children of Israel.

Moses was reluctant to do this (and told God so), because he feared he was not eloquent and his speech was slow. So Aaron was chosen by God to be the spokesman for Moses. God spoke directly to Moses, and Moses told Aaron what to say.

God told Moses about all the plagues He would inflict on Egypt and Moses delivered the message to Pharaoh. After all God's plagues had been fulfilled and we were told that we could leave Egypt, oh the joy that filled our hearts! We were finally free of Egyptian bondage and God was again blessing His people.

When we reached the shores of the Red Sea, however, we realized that Pharaoh's army was in pursuit and we had no place to go. The people began to murmur and lament because we were trapped: the sea in front and the army behind us. But again, Jehovah God showed His people His mighty power and strength.

With my own eyes I witnessed the parting of the sea with a wall of water on either side, and we were allowed to walk through on dry ground to the other side. What an awesome sight to behold! When Pharaoh's army tried to follow, God put the

The Victories

For the first 40 years of his life, he had everything his heart desired, all the luxuries that were a part of being the adopted son of a princess. I was illiterate; he was well educated. I worked hard in the merciless Egyptian sun just to keep the slave-drivers from beating me, and he only had to lift his hands in manual work when he felt like it. He really had a wonderful life, compared to mine.

Even when he killed the Egyptian for beating a Hebrew, he didn't stay around to endure punishment like I always had to, but he ran away to

waters back. The army, horses and all, were drowned. This is where I was first mentioned in the Holy Book as a prophetess (Exodus 15:20-21).

After seeing God destroy Pharaoh's army, I was filled with the wonder of God's love and mercy toward us. I took a timbrel in my hand, gathered all the women together and led them in singing and dancing, saying, "Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea." I was also known as the first poetess in the Bible and I led the joyous cheering with the "Song of Moses."

After we sang the praises of God, we set out for the Promised Land with Moses as leader, Aaron as high priest and me, as Moses' chief singer. We were a team, my brothers and I. As the first of the sweet singers of Israel, I sang for God and used my gift for uplifting the people.

A dismal wilderness was facing the children of Israel. I knew that they would march better if they sang. My song was one of good cheer, full of the memory of all God had accomplished for His people. What better incentive for us to cross Jordan since we had already crossed the Red Sea?

The Defeat

Because God's Word is like a mirror, showing the blemishes as well as the beauty, I now tell you of my failures and the imperfections in my character. What a position in Israel God had allowed me to attain. How far I fell from His grace after He had elevated me so high.

You see, I was, above all things, a faithful patriot, with a love of my country greater than the love I had for my acclaimed brother. While we were still in the wilderness, I rebelled against Moses. He was chosen emissary of God to lead Israel out of bondage into freedom, and I felt he didn't deserve that honor. He did not have to endure all Aaron and I had to. He had a completely different life than we had.

It wasn't that I didn't love Moses... I saved his life; he was my brother. But I rejected him, first of all, because of his position as leader and secondly, because he married the Midian woman, and then married his next wife, a dark-skinned Ethiopian,

a Cushite, from the African country south of the Nile cataracts.

I was fiercely opposed to his marrying the woman, not because of the color of her skin, but because she was a foreigner. We were of the Hebrew race and I was against any foreign alliance. Her blood was that of a people who hated the worship of the true God. I feared her influence upon my brother.

I, with Aaron's help, began to complain to the people about both Moses' leadership and also his Cushite bride. I was trying to get the people to turn from Moses' leadership and listen to me and Aaron. Numbers 12:1 records what we said, "Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us?"

God heard these words. I wish now I had never uttered them, because he called Moses, Aaron and me to the tabernacle. When we arrived, God came down in a pillar of the cloud and told Aaron and me to come forward. He told us that although He had given us spiritual gifts, power and status, we were not in the same category as Moses.

He gave me visions and dreams as prophetess, but that was not the case with Moses, his faithful servant. With Moses He spoke face to face. Moses would see an image or likeness of God as they were talking. God asked us why we were not afraid to speak against his servant, Moses. God was very, very angry with us, and so He departed. I was so ashamed and I hung my head in despair.

When I looked up, both Aaron and Moses cried out in anguish, looking at me as if they had seen something terrible! I looked down at my hands and could see that God had dealt with me swiftly and severely. My body was covered with leprosy, the most loathsome, dreaded disease known in this day.

How proud I had been of my position as a prophetess and high I held my head when I walked through the encampment. Now, my head was bowed, my humiliation evident for all to see. I fled from the camp holding a white linen cloth up to my lips, crying out to all who came near the words all lepers must declare, "Unclean! Unclean! Unclean!"

All those who had respected me

because of my position with Moses and Aaron, who had been in my company when we sang and danced with praises for the Lord now turned their faces away and did not come near me. I wondered why I was singled out for such severe punishment when Aaron had also been a part of trying to overthrow Moses' leadership.

I guess I knew the answer before I thought about it. Aaron was a susceptible man, which was evident at Mount Sinai when he let the people talk him into making the golden calf. I had been the ringleader in this; I was the stronger one, and God was clearly showing me who was to blame.

The New Beginning

Much to my surprise, the camp stayed where it was. No one wanted to move on. It was as if they still loved and respected me in spite of what I had done and the punishment I received. They waited.

In the meantime, my brothers, who still loved me, began to pray to God that my punishment might be lifted. God heard their prayers and after seven long, long days of reflecting on all I had done, both good and bad, I was healed of leprosy and came back into the camp, a repentant, but broken woman. ■

Author's Note: If there was just one lesson to learn from studying the life of Miriam (though several lessons were evident), I would attribute her rebellion against the leadership of Moses, God's chosen leader of Israel, as the most obvious. We are all given tasks to do in furthering God's work here on earth: in our church, in our homes and at our jobs.

We cannot all be leaders. Some of us have to be followers. In the Lord's work, all our jobs are important, and we should not undermine the leadership of others because we covet that position for ourselves. God will place us where He wants us. One of our responsibilities as a Christian is to work together in harmony as a team to accomplish the spreading of the gospel throughout the world until He comes.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Carolyn S. Johnson is a member of Woodcrest Free Will Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she is church clerk, a choir member and ladies' trio member.

Change: a Fact of Life

By Kevin Justice

Looking in the bathroom mirror, one thing becomes increasingly evident. I can't get around it. Reflections don't lie. I've changed. I can see my scalp where there was once thick blonde hair. What used to be a skinny face with protruding cheek bones is now a round countenance that says I'm well-fed. Yes, I know what people are talking about when they speak of change.

Of course, I'm not the only one changing. Everyone and everything of this world is a continuum of change. This is not necessarily good or bad, just a fact of life.

The church is not immune to change either. The people change, the pastors change, the services change and the ministries change. This is becoming more evident in the diversity of Free Will Baptists. Once again, this is not necessarily good or bad, just a fact of life.

The church's change is no doubt a product of our changing society. Once a culture of social norms, ours is now a conglomerate of alternatives and choices—choices meant to meet individual needs.

When I go to the grocery store, I can buy food, do my banking, rent a video, pick up office supplies and browse the latest book releases and magazines. There is a bakery, a butcher, a deli and a salad bar. I may not take advantage of all these in one stop, but I know where they are if I need them.

Growing churches are offering a diversity of "seeker friendly" ministries geared to meet needs and reach out to the community. Not long ago, one main service on Sunday, a mid-week prayer meeting, and perhaps a Woman's Auxiliary were the status quo for churches.

Now church-goers choose between multiple Sunday services, a

variety of adult Sunday School classes divided by age group and special concerns, a wide range of worship activities, thriving children's and youth ministries, senior citizens' gatherings, support groups, sports teams, Bible studies, singles' activities, and the list goes on. One may not take advantage of everything, but he knows where they are if he needs them.

The purpose behind this filling of schedules is to see lives changed by Jesus Christ. During His earthly ministry, Jesus met people's physical and social needs to cause them to have faith in His ability to meet their spiritual needs. We cannot minimize the power of our Lord to use diverse ministries to communicate His redeeming love.

The goal of the church has not changed, but the means by which we meet that goal will inevitably change. There's a difference in message and method, illustrated in the concepts of *form* and *substance*. Perhaps the best example is the change in the way we organize information.

Not too many years ago, businesses kept all important documents, letters and reports in files. Separate file folders for each subject were housed alphabetically in huge file cabinets that took up a lot of space. Now, corporate files are stored on disks. We pop the disk in the drive, press a few buttons and refer to the information shown on the monitor.

Two different systems that characterize different eras. Two different *forms*. The result, however, is exactly the same. Both are methods by which to store information. The same *substance*.

The substance of the mission of our churches is to communicate that Jesus meets needs. The forms are the various ministry methods we use to convey this truth.

Meanwhile, we must be sure that

the form does not damage the substance in any way. We cannot sacrifice the message we proclaim in the name of being a progressive church that attracts people.

The Apostle Paul realized this when he preached to the Athenians in Acts 17. Paul knew that in order for the Truth to reach the people of ancient Greek culture, he must deliver it in the context of something they understood—idol worship. He told listeners that their "unknown god" was actually *the* God of creation, the same God now calling them to repentance. The goal was achieved. Scripture tells us that "certain men clave unto him, and believed" (v. 34).

Likewise, our ministry method must be one people identify with, while conveying the truth about One who will change their lives. This means that churches will do things differently!

My hairline will continue to change. I may not like the result, but it is a fact of life. When our attention is turned to the diversity of Free Will Baptists, let's remember we have the same goal. When we are confronted with change we may not like, let's keep in mind that it's not necessarily good or bad, just a fact of life. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Kevin Justice is youth pastor at Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Antioch, Tennessee.

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FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Free Will Baptist Bible College Surges to 354 Students

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College posted a six percent enrollment increase over 1993, according to Dr. Charles E. Hampton, registrar. This is the fourth year of a fall enrollment spiral that began at the college in 1991. The college enrolled 354 students from 27 states and eight foreign countries for the fall semester.

States with the best representations are Tennessee (75), Illinois (33), Alabama (29) and North Carolina (25). Foreign students have come from Brazil, Canada, France, Korea, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama and Romania.

By states/foreign countries, the current student body breaks down as follows:

Alabama	29
Arkansas	18
California	3
Colorado	5
Delaware	1
Florida	11
Georgia	16
Illinois	33



FWBBC instructor Suzie Harris (r) assists Amy Hester with her fall class schedule.

Indiana	15	South Carolina	9
Kansas	2	South Dakota	1
Kentucky	12	Tennessee	75
Louisiana	1	Texas	7
Michigan	9	Virginia	19
Mississippi	10	Washington	3
Missouri	9	West Virginia	6
Nebraska	1	Foreign	19
North Carolina	25	Brazil (2), Canada (8), Korea (4),	
Ohio	12	France, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama,	
Oklahoma	2	Romania (1 each)	
Pennsylvania	1		

Mexican Convention Meets in Monterrey

MONTERREY, MEXICO—The 34th annual Mexican National Convention of Free Will Baptists met July 27-31 in Monterrey. Moderator Lázaro De La Rosa was re-elected to lead the delegates and visitors in business sessions. The conference theme was "Divine Call."

Delegates voted to expand the Executive Committee from three to five members, dissolve the

National Examining Committee, and shift their duties to the expanded Executive Committee. Mexican coordinator James Munsey was named ex-officio member of the Executive Committee which now serves as Board of Trustees for the Bible Institute in Altamira.

Four ministers preached sermons developing the conference

theme. Guadalajara pastor Gonzalo Cervantes preached "Called to Repentance." Altamira pastor Javier Calles preached "Called to be Holy." Coordinator James Munsey preached "Called to Service." Home Missions Director Roy Thomas preached the final sermon, "Called to be Faithful."

The 1995 association will meet in Monterrey.

Arkansas Teens Go to Washington

RUSSELLVILLE, AR—The youth missions team from First FWB Church in Russellville conducted an 11-day trip that included inner-city Washington, D.C., according to Allen Pointer, youth pastor. The 23-member team of high school juniors and seniors, as well as eight adults, fed the homeless, worked in soup kitchens, visited a nursing home and sorted food at a community food bank.

The team also served two inner-city churches by conducting a two-day Bible school where they ministered to more than 100 children. Mr. Pointer said a highlight of the July 24-August 3 trip included the True Love Waits rally on the mall in front of the Capitol with 25,000 other teens.

The team also met with Arkansas Congressman Tim Hutchinson on the steps of the Cap-



Russellville teens visit with Congressman Tim Hutchinson.

itol, and received a tour of the Capitol building from an aide in the Congressman's office. On the way home the team ministered at the Hyde Park FWB Church in Norfolk, Virginia.

The eyes of the team were opened to the serious problems in Washington, D.C., that usually escape the eyes of tourists. The team got to see everything the tourists did, but they also saw the real problems of the inner city. The team helped serve the physical need, but more importantly, shared the spiritual answer of Jesus Christ.

The group leaders plan to make this an annual effort. Team members worked in Chicago's inner-city in 1993 and plan a trip in 1995.

Reverend R. Douglas Little pastors First FWB Church in Russellville.

Southeastern Enrollment up 13%

WENDELL, NC—Total enrollment at Southeastern FWB College climbed to 108 this fall, including 51 new students, according to Dr. Jack Lassiter who directs the promotional department. This is a 13 percent increase over last year.

Seventy-eight students now live in campus dormitories—36 men and 42 women. Full-time student enrollment stands at 92, with another 16 enrolled on a part-time basis. The students came from 12 states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia.

Southeastern College also provides an Extension Studies Program as well as an on-campus program. Officials reported 74 students enrolled in the correspondence studies.

Dr. Billy Bevan is president of Southeastern FWB College.

Oklahoma Regents Extend Hillsdale College Accreditation

MOORE, OK—The evaluation team for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education met at Hillsdale FWB College in July, according to Tim Eaton, vice-president of academic affairs. The team's recommendation was to extend the college's accreditation and drop the conditional criteria previously imposed by the Regents.

Mr. Eaton said, "This good news in accreditation, coupled with the restoration of Federal Financial Aid (effective May 1994), will enable the college to begin the work of restoring the student body to its previous numbers."

Hillsdale College enrolled 134 students for the fall semester, not including the unduplicated pre-enrollment of 14 students for the new eight-week concentrated course which began in October.

Vice-president Eaton said the 134 students include 77 men and 57 women. Thirty-seven preach-

ers are in the ministerial program and 17 students in the missions program. Hillsdale's total cumulative enrollment for the fall is between 145 and 155.

CCC Enrolls 46

FRESNO, CA—Forty-six students enrolled at California Christian College for the fall semester, according to Academic Dean Greg McAllister. This marks the highest enrollment since the college re-opened in 1986.

Located in the heart of California's agricultural hub in the San Joaquin Valley, CCC is owned and operated by the California State Association of Free Will Baptists. The school draws most of its students from California Free Will Baptist churches.

Mr. McAllister cited a growing interest in the CCC business department, especially among Fresno's inner-city students.

Bible College Purchases 122 Acres

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College officials took the first step toward moving the campus by purchasing 122.8 acres on the outskirts of Nashville for \$265,000, according to President Tom Malone. The land, located between Interstate 24 and U.S. 41-A (Clarksville Highway) in the northwest part of Davidson County, is bordered by woodlands on three sides and suited to the construction of dormitories, a classroom complex, a library, a chapel and other necessary buildings. The contract was signed on September 1.

The college's growing enrollment has increased the urgency of considering a move. Fall enrollment left the college with few remaining rooms on campus in which to place students. At the present rate, the college will fill available dormitory space in the next year or two. At that point, the college will have to either build or move.

Zoning laws will not permit

the college to buy buildings in the area and convert them to dormitories. Also, property values in the West End area of Nashville, where the college is located, have increased dramatically in the last 10 years.

"We feel that God has given us this property," President Malone told members of the college family on the day of its purchase.

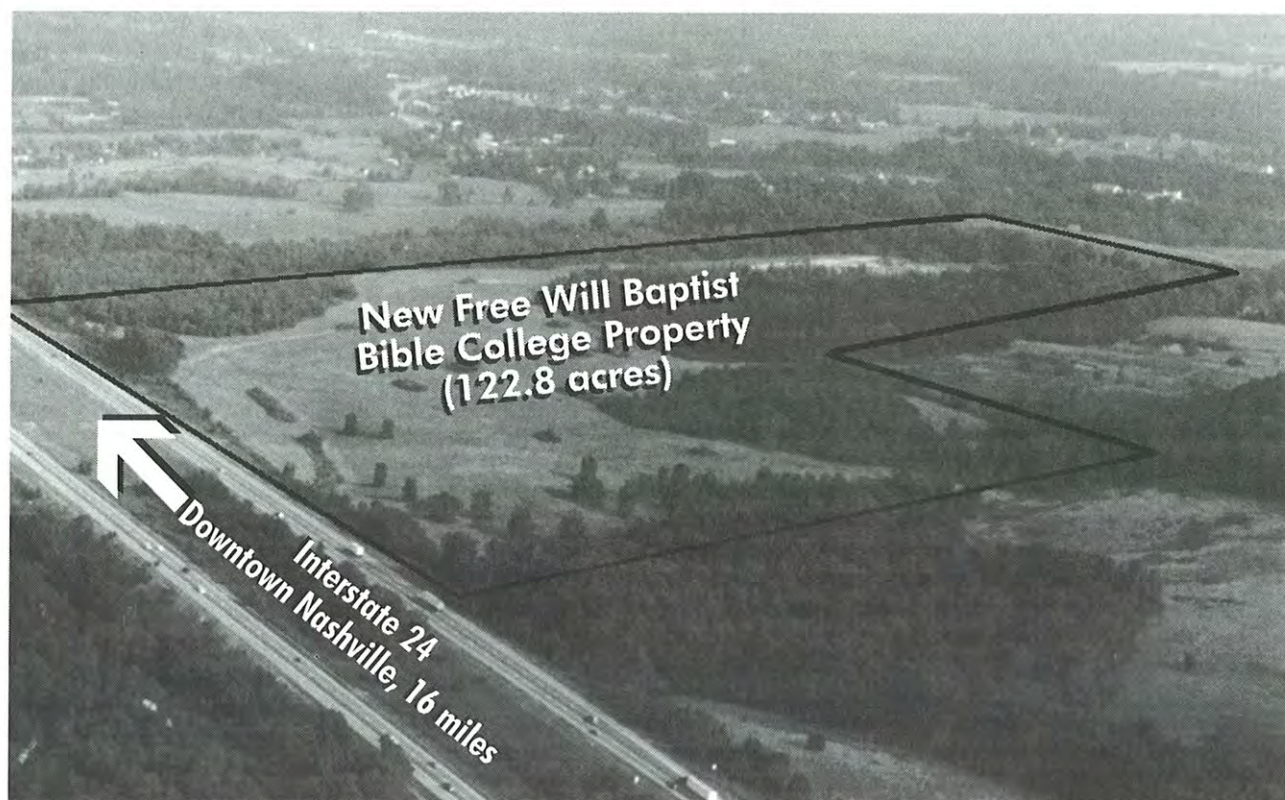
The land is in the Joelton area of Nashville, approximately 16 miles from downtown, in a growing part of the city. Gas and water are already available on the site and sewer lines are less than half a mile away. It has a frontage of 1,250 feet on Clarksville Highway and approximately double that bordering the Interstate.

Residents of the Joelton area held a town meeting August 30 to express their feelings about FWBBC locating in their area. The response was overwhelmingly favorable. "They understand the kind of college we are," says Dr. Malone. "They see us as

an asset to their community and a positive factor in attracting the businesses they want."

The new property will be either partially or totally paid for when four recent bequests to the college are settled. However, there will be expenses for developing the property and, eventually, for building. The college will not begin a fund-raising campaign to move or make a final decision concerning relocation without denominational approval.

Several inquiries have been made expressing interest in buying the college's present campus. Dr. Malone is awaiting proposals to see what will be the best approach to securing the maximum price for what Free Will Baptists have spent more than 50 years acquiring. One of the key factors in determining if and when the college can be moved will be how much the present campus is worth.



CURRENTLY...

Six colleges and 26 years later, **Kentucky** minister **Richard Crisp** earned his degree in biblical studies. The 64-year-old minister was 38, married with two children and just called to preach when he decided he wanted more than an eighth grade education. He passed the GED exam, enrolled at Moody Bible Institute, went summers to FWBBC, Bob Jones University and two other colleges before earning his bachelor of theology degree at Bethany Bible College in Dothan, AL, this June. Now he wants to pursue the doctor of ministry degree.

Pastor **Bill Van Winkle** said five officers with 128 years combined service at **Fulton FWB Church** in **Fulton, MS**, rotated off boards. For the first time in 45 years, **Lucy Grimes** will not be the church pianist.

Members of **Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church** in **Vero Beach, FL**, observed their 25th anniversary in October. **Randy Bryant** pastors.

Evangelist **Vernon Barker** led an association-wide camp meeting in **Florida's West Florida Association** August 7-10. Morning and evening services featured quartets, choirs and soloists. Three other ministers also preached—**Rudolph Outlaw**, **Len Scott** and **Frank Willis**.

We now know that 100 people can keep a secret. At least they can keep it from Pastor **Richard Robinson** at **First FWB Church** in **Joplin, MO**. Members planned festivities in honor of Pastor Robinson's 10th anniversary with the church. From creative banners to bulletin boards strewn with pictures, the Robinsons were feted, fed and handed gift certificates and love offerings.

Missionary pastor **Gary Mitchener** completed his first year with **First FWB Mission** in **Ozark, MO**. The group reached their first year plateau with worship services averaging 70 and Sunday School averaging 50. They reported four baptisms and a relocation to the northwest corner of the square in Ozark.

Reverend **Jerry Pilgrim** announced that he was entering the ministry of evangelism through preaching and music. After 17 years as a pastor, Pilgrim resigned at **New Life FWB Church** in **St. Peters, MO**, to pursue full-time evangelism. He plans to conduct revivals, concerts and pulpit supply as needed. Con-

tact **Jerry Pilgrim Ministries** at 407 Eagle Ridge Drive, **St. Peters, MO 63376**. Phone 314/281-1110.

Seventeen conversions and 35 rededications highlighted **California's Southern Association Family Camp**. Camp evangelist **Mark Thomas** preached to 205 campers, according to **Fred Session**, camp director.

"Old preachers never die; they just go out to pastor." That's the way it's working for **Texas** minister **Owen Barger**. The 79-year-old minister was re-elected as pastor of **First FWB Church** in **Weatherford**. What an example to younger ministers!

Members of **Friendship FWB Church** in **Mt. Vernon, IL**, voted to sell the church building and give the proceeds to the Illinois State Youth Camp. Member, Mrs. **Neva Kehrer**, presented a \$12,000 check to Camp Hope treasurer, **Ernie Lewis**.

Pastor **Jim Marcum** baptized 19 converts one Sunday in August, including six Hispanic believers. Members of **Highland Drive FWB Church** in **Lincolnton, NC**, paid off an \$80,000 note for 10 acres of property. Construction began in August for a 14,000-square-foot, two-story church building.

Contact welcomes **Heritage Highlights**, publication of **Heritage FWB Church** in **Gilbert, AZ**. Editor **Marcia Contreras** mailed the first issue in August. **Paul Thompson** pastors.

Pastor **Ralph Byers** led ground breaking services for a 5,140-square-foot sanctuary at **Tabernacle FWB Church** in **Coward, SC**. The building includes a 255-seat sanctuary, pastor's study, church office, nursery and three classrooms. The Sunday after ground breaking, Byers reported two conversions, nine baptisms and 16 new members.

The wait was worth the savings. That's the word from Pastor **Odell Morgan** regarding the 26-month construction period at **Cypress Fork FWB Church** in **Manning, SC**. Their 1,100-square-foot addition includes three classrooms and a nursery. Members donated their labor and adopted an economical pay-as-we-go financial plan.

Who's that man driving the burgundy 1994 Royale LS Oldsmobile? He's **Earl Hendrix**, happy pastor of **First FWB**

Church in **Inman, SC**. Members gave Pastor **Hendrix** the new car and gave his wife, **Gwen**, the car he had been driving. This is the sixth new car the church has given their pastor.

When **Floyd "Buddy" Seay** became pastor at **White Savannah FWB Church** in **Conway, SC**, members gave him a welcome party which included an auto license plate inscribed with the church name and "God Loves You." Six weeks later, members voted to purchase him a new car to go with his license plate. After the morning service, Pastor Seay found a big red ribbon with a Buick LeSabre under it.

Calvary FWB Church in **Lancaster, SC**, recently built a fellowship hall, complete with additional classrooms. The church, begun in the home of Pastor **John Pressley**, is located 10 miles north of Lancaster adjacent to Andrew Jackson State Park.

Members of **New Life FWB Church** in **Lancaster, SC**, burned their \$350,000 mortgage which they paid off in nine years. The 7,000-square-foot church sits on a 16.5-acre tract. While Pastor **David Anders** is ecstatic about paying off the indebtedness, he's just as happy that while the church was doing that, outside giving continued as well.

Forty members of **First FWB Church** in **Kingstree, SC**, also belong to the "All 66 Club." That means they read the 66 books of the Bible through each year. Pastor **Wayland Owens** loves the "All 66 Club," and the Chevrolet Caprice that the church purchased for him.

Pastor **Waldo Young** walked around **Shawnee, OK**, on Labor Day praying all 18 miles. The **Northeast FWB Church** pastor says that on his prayer walk he carries written requests and prays about them as he skirts the city. It's also a time to raise funds for a new church building, since members sponsor the sneaker-clad reverend on his excursion.

Members of **Fellowship FWB Church** in **Kingsport, TN**, gave more than \$50,000 to denominational causes in the past 12 months. More than \$45,000 went to foreign missions, home missions, children's home and FWBBC. **Winston Sweeney** pastors. ■

Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign
August 1994
Update

State	Goal	Gifts	Balance
Alabama	\$76,397.63	\$4,471.15	\$71,926.48
Arizona	1,228.93	2,883.71	(1,654.78)
Arkansas	76,860.94	37,690.83	39,170.11
Atlantic Canada	1,570.51	897.00	673.51
California	17,216.76	1,440.20	15,776.56
Colorado	789.18	1,165.00	(375.82)
Florida	20,703.30	5,318.01	15,385.29
Georgia	38,179.19	26,809.88	11,369.31
Hawaii	184.54	727.26	(542.72)
Idaho	353.37	.00	353.37
Illinois	16,176.29	3,756.47	12,419.82
Indiana	7,868.27	1,846.75	6,021.52
Iowa	266.99	.00	266.99
Kansas	1,287.82	280.00	1,007.82
Kentucky	35,454.34	4,794.29	30,660.05
Louisiana	94.23	1,875.00	(1,780.77)
Maryland	6,812.10	1,355.00	5,457.10
Michigan	15,116.19	16,004.22	(888.03)
Mississippi	15,559.86	3,798.23	11,761.63
Missouri	60,484.40	33,679.91	26,804.49
Montana	27.48	100.00	(72.52)
Nebraska	102.08	119.00	(16.92)
New Mexico	596.80	630.55	(33.75)
North Carolina	59,118.06	7,025.40	52,092.66
Northeast Assoc.	883.41	235.00	648.41
Northwest Assoc.	1,087.58	135.00	952.58
Ohio	40,923.66	18,226.69	22,696.97
Oklahoma	92,271.60	9,728.15	82,543.45
South Carolina	18,335.75	2,102.00	16,233.75
South Dakota		175.00	(175.00)
Tennessee	78,557.09	50,602.89	27,954.20
Texas	11,547.20	6,623.52	4,923.68
Virginia	24,323.33	1,932.93	22,390.40
Virgin Islands		200.00	(200.00)
West Virginia	46,204.51	973.00	45,231.51
Wisconsin		61.00	(61.00)
Other		2,978.85	(2,978.85)
TOTALS	\$766,583.39	\$250,641.89	\$515,941.50

Directory Update

GEORGIA

Matt Pinson to Colquitt Church, Colquitt

Mississippi

Tommy Street to Pearce Chapel Church, Smithville from Hurricane Chapel Church, McEwen, TN

Missouri

Bill Gilkerson to First Church, Buffalo from Longview Church, Purdy

Oklahoma

Clarence Hearron to Mt. Zion Church, Durant

Tennessee

Greg Hollifield to Randall Memorial Church, Memphis from First Church, Mobile, AL

Other Personnel

Michael Garner to Hillsdale College, Moore, OK, as director of pastoral internship

Tim Murfin to Fulton Church, Fulton, MS, as minister of music

THE TOGETHER WAY

August 1994

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	CO-OP	Total	Aug. '93	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 8,303.19	\$.00	\$ 8,303.19	\$ 7,727.77	\$ 72,354.19
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	2,550.41
Arkansas	19,135.63	8,528.55	27,664.18	30,616.46	232,172.74
California	.00	937.42	937.42	512.82	6,424.80
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	160.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	110.00
Florida	.00	730.17	730.17	664.69	20,955.56
Georgia	8,521.45	1,665.88	10,187.33	21,825.87	93,721.30
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	227.26
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	5,815.76	1,917.09	7,732.85	8,276.99	87,888.89
Indiana	672.10	87.58	759.68	.00	6,553.57
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	270.00
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	.00	353.24
Kentucky	.00	274.85	274.85	1,913.91	5,936.59
Louisiana	.00	20.00	20.00	.00	954.00
Maryland	20.00	75.00	95.00	.00	4,495.42
Michigan	13,698.38	1,584.21	15,282.59	6,337.83	118,238.28
Mississippi	124.75	278.41	403.16	857.83	7,159.32
Missouri	11,946.36	.00	11,946.36	8,517.38	98,718.54
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	50.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	119.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	.00	25.45	25.45	118.90	2,445.22
North Carolina	1,562.98	855.00	2,417.98	3,071.00	21,504.39
Ohio	10.00	10.00	20.00	3,576.32	55,323.03
Oklahoma	37,243.95	.00	37,243.95	34,256.44	374,175.68
South Carolina	18,784.77	88.46	18,873.23	13,715.89	158,279.04
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	175.00
Tennessee	9,145.00	1,286.54	10,431.54	8,154.01	89,716.41
Texas	3,526.44	86.25	3,612.69	3,159.97	82,262.50
Virginia	954.54	50.00	1,004.54	852.56	12,476.41
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	200.00
West Virginia	3,673.72	152.68	3,826.40	4,268.22	34,805.58
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	61.00
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	897.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	135.00
Northeast Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	225.00
Other	.00	.13	.13	.04	.32
Totals	\$143,139.02	\$18,653.67	\$161,792.69	\$158,424.90	\$1,592,094.69

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 9,823.81	\$17,377.90	\$ 27,201.71	\$ 25,323.10	\$ 217,613.71
Foreign Missions	87,286.89	293.41	87,580.30	75,589.17	794,658.76
FWBBC	7,663.71	293.41	7,957.12	10,989.45	94,794.22
Home Missions	26,813.43	229.62	27,043.05	28,299.10	278,498.30
Retirement & Insurance	775.38	178.61	953.99	1,997.58	15,413.55
Master's Men	1,450.14	178.61	1,628.75	2,414.07	23,353.48
Commission for					
Theo. Integrity	97.82	6.39	104.21	109.63	1,093.48
FWB Foundation	1,081.97	76.55	1,158.52	1,385.17	10,490.38
Historical Commission	85.34	6.39	91.73	97.45	972.27
Music Commission	73.95	6.39	80.34	99.67	920.72
Radio & TV Commission	83.96	6.39	90.35	109.63	1,014.76
Hillsdale FWB College	1,162.07	.00	1,162.07	1,209.82	19,752.93
Other	6,740.55	.00	6,740.55	10,801.06	133,518.13
Totals	\$143,139.02	\$18,653.67	\$161,792.69	\$158,424.90	\$1,592,094.69



THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Family Budgets

By David L. Brown

All types of organizations use budgets. Federal and state governments spend a great deal of time developing budgets. Businesses create budgets to keep expenses in line with expected income. Churches and Christian organizations establish budgets to be good stewards. Every family should have a budget.

Families often see budgets as a restraining force. This does not have to be the case. Your budget should free you to discover God's special purpose for your family finances.

The first step in preparing a family budget is to write down everything you spend over a period of time. One month may be sufficient but three months is better to be sure you cover any quarterly bills the family may have. This step alone may be the most enlightening thing you do. You will discover exactly where your money is going. This step also helps determine figures for the items in your budget. Instead of guessing how much the family spends on gasoline for the car or groceries, you will know how much you have spent.

The next step is to set priorities, determining what is necessary and what is optional. Necessities include house payments, utilities, tithes, gasoline, groceries and bills outstanding. The remainder is available for discretionary spending. Sometimes the amount of money in this category will surprise you. Deciding how to use discretionary money is the real test of stewardship.

During this process you should consider what kind of monthly commitments you will make to the Lord's work. Many times we are unable to make a commitment to a missionary or other ministries because we think we cannot afford it. The truth is that in many cases we have placed other optional items in our budget at a higher priority.

While considering optional items in your budget, think about the future. Do you have an adequate retirement plan through your employer? If not, take personal responsibility to provide for this need. Consider the future need you will have to help children with college expenses. In each case a little money saved today for these items will make a huge difference in the future. A long-term personal savings plan is also a good idea.

After you have made commitments to the Lord's work and preparations for the future, set spending levels for immediate family matters. It is important that you set aside both time and money for family entertainment. Children's allowances as well as parents' allowances should be set up in the budget. Consider weekly or monthly accruals to cover birthday and Christmas gifts. This money should be literally set aside in a separate savings account or perhaps a Christmas club account. It is important that you recognize in a family budget that some of the money must be set aside for fun things. To ignore these areas is unrealistic.

Make an emergency fund part of your budget. Most financial planners recommend that you have from three to six months of your monthly budget set aside for emergencies. An emergency fund will help you avoid having to borrow money every time a household appliance breaks or when you have to make major repairs to your automobile. Emergency funds will help you stay within your budget.

Preparing a budget can be rewarding in that it identifies your priorities. However, preparing a budget and then ignoring its guidance will be of no use. Remind yourself of your priorities and commitments, and adjust your budget accordingly. Without a budget we are all prone to waste money on things that are not important.

A good family budget will help you meet your lifetime goals. The Free Will Baptist Foundation helps families by managing trusts for long-term goals such as college savings or emergency funds. Please feel free to call or write if we can help you meet a long term need. ■

In Memory Of . . .

By . . .

Rev. Albert Bays

Bear Point FWB Women's Auxiliary
Sesser, IL

Evelyn Hersey

Ina FWB Church
Ina, IL

In Honor Of . . .

By . . .

Harold Pitts

WNAC

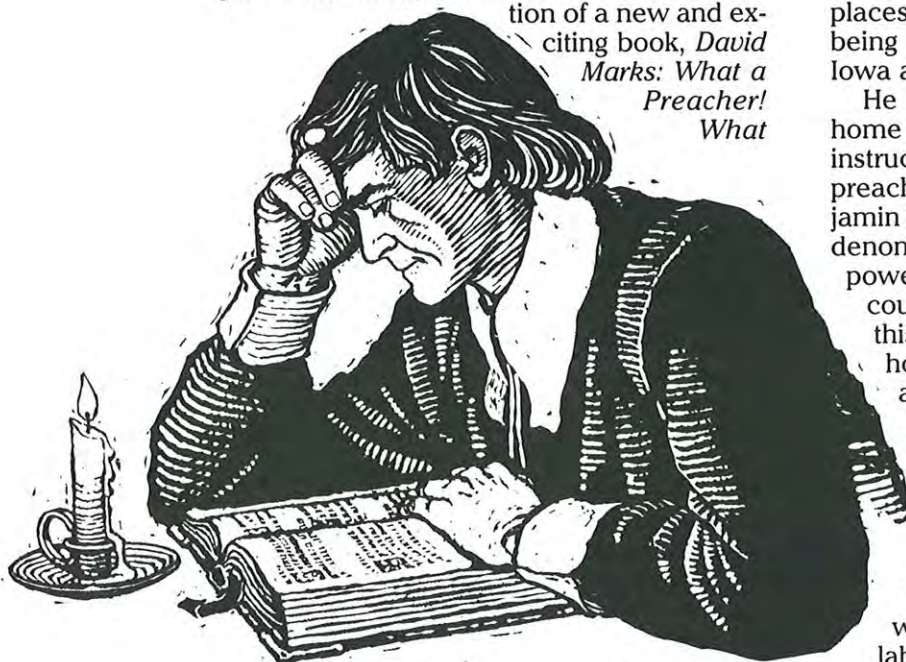
HOME MISSIONS

*David Marks: What a Preacher!*

By Roy Thomas

The Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department is happy to announce the publication of a new and exciting book, *David Marks: What a Preacher!*

What



a Man! The book is written by Mrs. Pat Thomas, publication editor for the Home Missions Department. This inspiring publication is based on David Marks' journal and memoirs of his life and ministry.

David Marks was a great pioneer Free Will Baptist evangelist of the 1800s who began his ministry a few years after the death of Benjamin Randall and continued it to a few years before the Civil War. His unbelievable trials, sufferings, endurance and faithfulness helped bring a new and struggling denomination into prominence in America. His extraordinary life, deep dedication and exciting ministry serve as an example to Christians everywhere. Every Free Will Baptist should have a copy of this book for the home and library.

This great Free Will Baptist forefather grew up and was converted not far from where Benjamin Randall was reared. He accepted Christ at an early age, and by the time he was 17 years old he was recognized as a very gifted preacher with an unusual grasp of the scriptures.

His ministry took him all over New England and into the wilderness of Ohio, Kentucky and

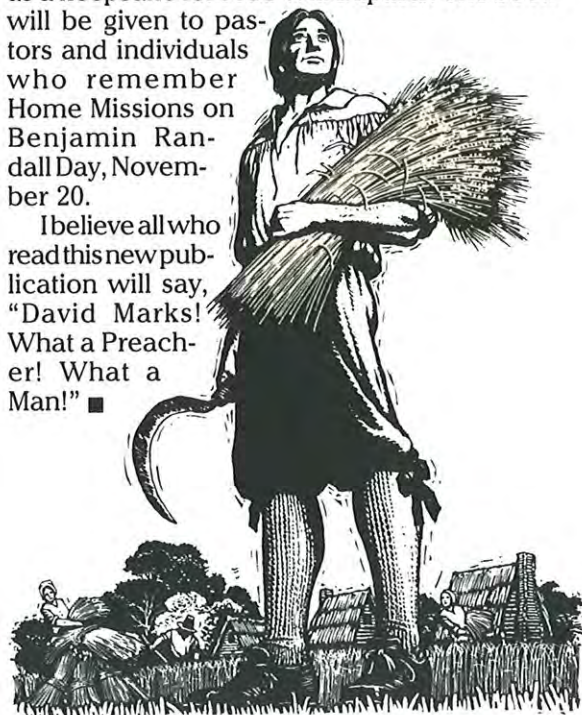
Michigan, and to Canada. He established several Free Will Baptist churches in all these places. He was also responsible for churches being established in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska.

He served as a pastor, an evangelist, a home missionary to New York, and was an instructor in several schools and colleges. He preached in many of the churches where Benjamin Randall preached. He led a floundering denomination which had lost its leader into a powerful force for God which shook this country for Christ. What a thrill to read of this great man of yesterday who rode a horse or walked over half of this continent at great hardship and sacrifice to himself and his family to take the gospel to the lost and establish Free Will Baptist churches.

My wife Pat has carefully studied and researched David Marks' memoirs which have been out of print for over 100 years. She has spent many hours writing of this man's inspiring life and labors so this new book could be available as a keepsake for Free Will Baptists. The book

will be given to pastors and individuals who remember Home Missions on Benjamin Randall Day, November 20.

I believe all who read this new publication will say, "David Marks! What a Preacher! What a Man!" ■





FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Moving FWBBC: The First Step

By Bert Tippet, Publications Director

*Is it
time to
move
FWBBC?*

*We
want to
know
what
you
think.*

Send your
opinion to:
Public
Relations
Department,
Free Will
Baptist Bible
College,
3606 West
End Ave.,
Nashville, TN
37205

Free Will Baptist Bible College has taken the first steps toward moving the campus. The college has bought 122.8 acres just 16 miles from downtown and is drawing up plans for a new campus.

The move has been precipitated by the college's enrollment growth for the past four years. The student body has grown at an average rate of nine percent per year. But it is the need for dormitory space that is making a move essential. During the same four-year period, the number of dormitory students has grown by an average of more than 30 per year.

"Build more dormitories," someone says.

"Buy another old building and renovate it for dorm use," adds another.

The truth is, we can't

The first factor is the price of property in the West End area, where the college is located. It has gone out of sight. Buildings that would have sold for \$80,000-\$120,000 a few years back are now commanding prices of \$300,000+. One piece of property adjoining the campus went for nearly half a million! Of course, the inflated value of property is a two-edged sword. While it makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the college to buy more, it also makes the value of what the college owns much greater. College officials are working now to determine what the school can get for the land and buildings it owns. While we know it will not pay for the move, we hope it will be enough to help substantially.

The second factor is zoning. The city no longer permits the college to designate old buildings for dormitory use. We continue to use those buildings that have traditionally been dorms, but face restrictions on such in the future.

Some people will remember that the college operated here with a fall enrollment of more than 500 at one point. Naturally, they wonder why, with an enrollment of under 400, it can't still do so.

Again, the factor is the number of dorm students. In the early 1980s, only two-thirds of the student body lived on campus. A much higher proportion of students were married. Today, three-fourths of the student body must be housed and fed on campus.

Moving is not a luxury. The college must

either move or begin turning away students. We don't believe our people want us to cap our enrollment and turn away young people who want to come. Of course, the college will not make formal plans to relocate until the National Association approves. But we are trying to do what we think Free Will Baptists want us to do.

Now, concerning the new property, it is in the Joelton area, northwest of downtown. It rolls gently between I-24 and Clarksville Highway (U.S. 41-A). It is more than adequate for the college's needs.

The people of Joelton held a town meeting to consider the presence of the college in their community. They made it very clear: they want us there. No one spoke in opposition to us being their neighbor. Quite the opposite. They know what kind of school we are and they see us as an asset to the community. They seem to be as anxious for us to move as we are!

A news release in this issue of *Contact* will give you much of the essential information. Briefly, the cost of the land is \$265,000. While four bequests the college is processing will help to pay for the land, there will be many other expenses incurred as we prepare to build. The Public Relations Department is asking people to help by underwriting the purchase of one-acre (or more) lots for \$3,400. The first commitments in the drive have already been received. If your family or church wishes to help, please contact the Public Relations Department.

We know this is of major importance to the denomination. Financially, the college has barely kept up with its needs for several years. Teachers have gone without raises. Building repairs have been delayed. If worse comes to worse, the college can easily sell the property at a profit. However, that is not what we intend. "We feel God has given us this property," says President Tom Malone.

It will be up to you, as Free Will Baptists, to decide whether the college can afford to relocate. We want to hear from you. Please write and let us know how you feel. If you think it is time, tell us. If you feel such a move is unwise, say so.

We trust that as you speak and as God directs, we will know how to take the next step. ■

YOUTH UPDATE

**TO BE LIKE JESUS, TO BE LIKE JESUS!
ALL I ASK TO BE LIKE HIM!
ALL THROUGH LIFE'S JOURNEY
FROM EARTH TO GLORY,
ALL I ASK TO BE LIKE HIM.**

No doubt this chorus is one we have all sung before, yet how sincere are we when we say those words? As children we are taught to be Christlike and follow His way. As parents we stress to our children the importance of following Christ. We are taught from our earliest days to be examples because people are watching our lives. No doubt this is true.

The 1994 Truth and Peace Leadership Conference participants were touched by some of your lives in a very positive way. They even related specific blessings they received by working with some of you. On the other hand, they also had this to say about encounters with some adults during the 1994 National Youth Conference in Little Rock.

- "Some of the people were kind of rude. . . ."
- "... I think a lot of people forgot who they represented and some got downright rude. . . ."
- "... some of the people were very rude and uncooperative."
- "Some were very understanding but some were not too nice."
- "I learned that just because someone is a Christian doesn't mean they're going to act like it."
- "There was a usual mix of especially sweet people and equally nasty ones. . . ."
- "There were times when attitudes got the best of some people. . . ."
- One young man told how he was struck by a man demanding to enter a closed room.

Perhaps we could blame these actions on the searing July heat or the overcrowded hallways, but our testimony is supposed to be maintained regardless of our surroundings or our situation.

It is easy to reprimand young people for their actions and behavior, but before we do, perhaps we should look in a mirror and live the words above. ■

1994 NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE TAPE ORDER FORM

QTY

- _____ #1 - Sunday AM - Joey Wilson
_____ #2 - Sunday PM - Phil Nelson
_____ #3 - Monday PM - Junior Phillips
_____ #4 - Tuesday PM - Allen Pointer
_____ #5 - Wednesday PM - Neil Gilliland

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

QTY Ordered _____ x \$3.50 = _____

All tapes are \$3.50 each (postage included). Payment must accompany order. Please send check or money order only. **Mail orders to: Youth Ministries Division • P. O. Box 17306 • Nashville, TN 37217.**



Thomas Marberry

The De-Valuing of America

By William J. Bennett

(Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family Publishing, 267 pp., hardback, \$17.99)

This is not a religious book, but it confronts issues of vital interest to society today. The author is a leading conservative thinker who holds a bachelor of arts in philosophy from Williams College, a doctorate in political philosophy from the University of Texas, and a law degree from Harvard. He served as director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy during the Bush administration and as Secretary of Education and chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities during the Reagan administration.

The basic thesis of Bennett's book is that our country has prospered economically in recent years while we have witnessed a steady erosion of moral values such as goodness, justice and mercy. He argues that those institutions which traditionally have shaped and molded the character of children and young people have, to a considerable extent, failed. The answer to this dilemma, in his view, is not greater government involvement but greater involvement by parents, communities and concerned citizens.

Much of the book is devoted to the issue of education. Bennett argues that a considerable part of our educational system is simply not doing its job. It is producing too many young people who are lacking in basic skills. They cannot read and write at an acceptable level; they score consistently below students from other countries in math and science. The author cites research by Finn and Ravitch which indicates that two-thirds of high school seniors polled in the study did not know in which half-century the Civil War took place.

In Bennett's view, the answer to this problem is not greater government control, larger expenditures and more bureaucracy. It is more local involvement, tougher standards, better classroom discipline, and a sound curriculum which emphasizes English, history, geography, math and science. It is an approach to education which focuses on reading great literature, thinking creatively about it and responding appropriately to it.

Bennett notes, however, that all is not lost. He cites examples of schools,

both public and private, which are doing a good job of education at reasonable cost.

The book also deals with several other issues including drugs and church-state relations. The author argues that we are winning the war on drugs. It will be a long and difficult battle, but we should not succumb to the temptation to legalize drugs.

Bennett devotes one brief but insightful chapter to the battle over separation of church and state. In his view, the First Amendment has been overinterpreted and misinterpreted by courts, government officials, school personnel and others. This has introduced a disdain for religion and a failure to recognize the important role which religion has played in our nation's history.

Every reader will not agree with Bennett's presuppositions or his conclusions. He has, however, raised significant social issues which merit serious consideration by thinking people from all walks of life. This is a book which deserves to be read. ■

BEYOND BELIEF



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RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY NEWS

Drug-Related Murders Slow Evangelism of Street Children

BOGOTA, Colombia (EP)—World Cup soccer star Andres Escobar's violent murder on the streets of Medellin has given many potential missionaries to Colombia's street children one more reason to stay away.

According to one missionary recruiter, people are being frightened away from ministry to Columbia's thousands of abandoned children because of the many killings linked to the nation's narcotics industry.

Escobar was gunned down after he made a fatal error that cost him this year's World Cup. It is speculated that his death was linked to drug lords' anger over lost bets.

"There are very few Westerners working with street children in the country," said Danish missionary Flemming Kjaer, who helps raise money and manpower for groups working with homeless children and youth. "In some cases it is fear putting people off. There have been many cases of young Christians who wanted to come for help, who have not been allowed to by their parents because of their concern for what might happen."

With his own family having received an anonymous bomb threat at their home, Kjaer said that he "understands their feelings," but stated, "I think that sometimes the Western Church has forgotten that as Christians we are already sacrificed to God's purposes. That can mean the risk of losing one's own life."

He added, "That is an enormous statement, and I am not saying it should be the norm. I would say to people that if they believe God has spoken to them to come, they should."

Kjaer has lived with his family in the capital city of Bogota since 1989. As the director of the support-raising organization Pan de Vida (Bread of Life), he has been attacked and robbed. But, he says, the greatest dangers are faced not by workers, but the street children themselves. Kjaer helps to manage Youth With A Mission's ministry to street children there.

Pan de Vida is an umbrella group for more than 20 Christian organizations working with street children in the country. It raises overseas funds for projects and helps organize training programs for new workers.

Scripture Booklets Sent to Rwanda

NEW PARIS, IN (EP)—*Help from Above*, a scripture booklet produced by World Missionary Press, is being sent to Rwandan refugees who are in desperate need of help from above.

Nearly 900,000 topical scripture booklets will be distributed by teams with the African Christian Church in Kenya. Working from a base in Kigali, Rwanda, teams will distribute booklets within Rwanda and in several refugee camps. Arrangements have been made to set up a mission team in Kagera camp in

northern Tanzania, where there are more than 300,000 refugees.

An additional shipment of 600,000 booklets has already been sent to International Aid for distribution among refugees.

"There are many spiritual and psychological needs among the millions of Rwandan refugees," said Hal Olsen, Africa Desk Officer and Disaster Relief Director for International Aid, "and we're happy to send along these booklets. If anyone needs help from above, it is these desperately-needy people."

Groups May Use Intimidation Tactics to Keep Christians Out of Politics

WASHINGTON, DC (EP)—Churches have a right to educate their members regarding political candidates and issues, and many Christian organizations provide educational materials for church use.

But political organizations which are threatened by an active Christian citizenry have begun striking back, filing last-minute ethical complaints and lawsuits in an effort to keep churches and Christian organizations from distributing voter's guides and similar materials. Even though the complaints and lawsuits may have no chance of succeeding, the threat of legal action by itself has a chilling effect.

Attorney James Bopp successfully defended Concerned Women for America and the Family Foundation, an affiliate of Focus on the Family, against a lawsuit last year that challenged the Christian groups' right to distribute a voter's guide in Virginia. A local judge halted distribution of one million voter's guides just 10 days before the election, but a federal court ruled that it is "indisputable" that church distribution of voter's guides are protected by the First Amendment, and the Virginia Supreme Court unanimously overturned the injunction.

"The other side hoped that even if they didn't have a good legal case, the practical effect of the lawsuit would be to cripple the effort," says Bopp. "It was effective in part, because a number of voter's guides were not distributed, but the elections turned out very well, with conservative candidates winning two of three statewide elections."

Bopp, who serves as general counsel for the National Right to Life Committee, says churches and Christian organizations need to be aware of the threat posed by last-minute intimidation tactics. "We want people to be aware that there are people that are so reckless and have such little regard for other people's rights that they would do that, just because the practical effect may be to benefit them politically."

What can a church or Christian organization do to address concerns about distributing

a voter's guide or other political educational material?

"We have to have the courage of our convictions to do what is right, and understand that we're in a period of repression," says Bopp. "There are people who want to deprive us of our rights, and if we don't stand up for them we will lose them by default. If we're not willing to fight, like the people in Virginia were willing to fight, we'll not only lose on the moral issues we're concerned about, but will be excluded from the political process completely."

School District Reinstates Employee Who Was Fired Because of Her Beliefs

LAKE ARROWHEAD, CA (EP)—A non-teaching classroom employee who was fired because of her religious beliefs has been reinstated by the Rim of the World Unified School District.

Judy Wright was fired after stating that her goal in life was to share her religious faith with others. When questioned about her statement, Wright assured her supervisor that she did not intend to proselytize school children, but was still dismissed from her position.

"This act is an example of the type of religious apartheid that is increasing rapidly in our country," said Brad Dacus, western regional coordinator for the Rutherford Institute, which intervened on Wright's behalf.

Wright, who works one-on-one with elementary school children, was reinstated to her former position and awarded back pay in a settlement with the school district. The school district also promised to train all of its employees in religious tolerance.

"We salute the school district's decision to act quickly and responsibly and are optimistic that their decision to provide training to every administrator will prevent future intolerance toward religious persons," said Dacus. ■



Jack Williams

The Bridge that Buddy Built

The day I met Buddy he parked a D-9 Caterpillar on the front page of my theology and started building a bridge 12 months long. A man who couldn't be bluffed, he believed in himself and relied on his own two hands to move what had to be moved. He never whined nor blamed others when life didn't go like he wanted.

He respected men who worked to feed their families. He despised hypocrisy, dreamed his own dream and paid the price to make it happen. He had no time for loafers, deadbeats or those who imagined themselves better than others because they wore big white shirts.

I felt that I should call him, "Sir," but he insisted that I call him, "Buddy." He counted the people he trusted on one hand. I was honored to be on that hand.

He embodied the American work ethic. If he had lived 200 years earlier, he may well have been a frontier hero. He was that to me.

Buddy rode tall in the saddle, so to speak. He lived by his own personal code of honor, a high and shining set of principles that would have done Moses proud.

No matter where he worked, he drove home at night to his wife and children, even if that meant rising at 4:00 a.m. and not returning for 16 hours. But that was his decision, and he gladly did it.

Buddy smoked a pipe. His pauses to puff the flame to life added a spark of mystery to our conversations. He used his pipe as a prop while fashioning verbal responses.

A big man, he stood six-feet-four-inches tall and moved softly among people. He pounced like a mountain cat when prodded.

He could drive anything that rolled or crawled. He treated machinery

with respect, both from the viewpoint of safety and the price of replacing it. He was a Caterpillar philosopher, and much of what he knew about life came from the muddy end of the log.

He read people like a prospector reads rocks in gold country. He understood the lines in a face, the glint of an eye, the timbre in a voice. Short on formal education, he was a near-genius at spotting the veins of character in men.

When he was about 40 years old, he invested his life savings in his own business, a small construction company. At the time, I didn't realize what courage it took for him to go from employee to employer.

Maybe that's one of the reasons we had those late night conversations where I did most of the learning. He needed to talk, and I needed to hear what he said. He believed in me bigger than I believed in myself.

We didn't talk much theology. Mostly we spoke of concrete and draglines, about hanging iron and working hard for what you wanted. And being an honorable man in dishonorable times.

Buddy's theology came wrapped around dirt movers, wearing work boots, greasing backhoes and pushing pickup trucks. He got more of his theology from Mt. Sinai than from Mt. Calvary, but what he had was solid, honest and worth the ride.

He arrived on the job at 7:00 a.m. No excuses. Others might lay out with the sniffles, but Buddy put his shoulder to the day, everyday, at 7:00 a.m.

Don't misunderstand. He was no workaholic. At 4:00 p.m., he shut the job down. He gave a full 40 hours and got the same from his crew. Then he sent everybody home, saying that if they couldn't do the job in 40 hours, they probably couldn't do it in 50.

That Caterpillar philosopher

touched something in the deep of me. Maybe it was his dogged honesty or his no-nonsense work habits. We met at one of life's crossroads and he began hanging iron in my soul, imprinting me with his philosophy.

Don't ask me why, but he liked to hear me preach. He sat Sunday after Sunday, never taking his eyes off me when I stood in the pulpit. He'd invite me home with him and analyze what I'd said. With Buddy, the sermon never ended at the back door.

One Sunday I preached twice on tithing. He followed me to a friend's house, stuck out his big work-worn hand and said, "A man can't talk to me that way and then just walk off."

A flurry of activity preceded my departure from that church-meetings, goodbyes, last meals. But the July Monday morning came when my wife and I packed the U-Haul trailer.

We were alone when it happened. I heard a heavy footstep on the front porch and opened the screen door to a surprise. Buddy did something that he had not done in all his adult life. It was 7:00 a.m. and he was not at work.

It was a magic time for me. He took me to meet the man who had influenced him the most, his get-to-work-at-7:00 a.m. mentor. Then we returned to the parsonage and locked down the U-Haul.

Buddy's voice grew husky and big tears puddled in his eyes. He wrapped me in a quiet bear hug that almost broke my heart, because he rarely touched men. I knew that moment was golden.

Buddy finished the bridge in my soul that morning. It spans a quarter-century and still holds firm. I haven't seen him in more than 10 years, but every day I walk out on the bridge that Buddy built. ■

CONTACT

P. O. Box 5002

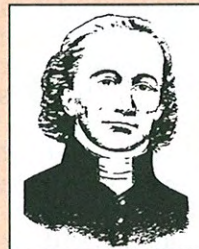
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