

MAY 1995

CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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Carolina in the Morning

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Convention Information

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Dealing with Disillusionment

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Do You Really Hate Conventions?



Charlotte, North Carolina

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MAY 1995

VOLUME 42, NO. 5

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

Contact (ISSN 0573-7796), published monthly by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233

Mt. View Road, Antioch, TN 37013-2306. Address all correspondence and subscriptions to Post Office Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Phone 615/731-6812.

Annual subscription rates: Individual—\$12 per year, Church Family Plan—\$12 per year, Church Bundle Plan—\$12 per year. Second

Class postage paid at Antioch, TN and additional offices.

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USPS 130-660

THE SECRETARY SPEAKS



Melvin Worthington

Annual Accountability

Jesus declared that individuals would give account of every idle word (Matthew 18:23). Paul reminds believers at Rome of their accountability before God (Romans 14:12). Peter reinforces this truth when he tells readers that all would give account to the Lord who is ready to judge the quick and the dead (1 Peter 4:5).

The national convention provides the forum in which national agencies face annual accountability. To the measure that we are responsible, we are also accountable.

The Agencies Denoted

The national convention business meeting calls for individual and institutional inventory. National agencies are charged with the responsibility of preparing annual reports which accurately reflect their yearly operations.

Agencies accountable to the National Association include: Executive Office, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Foreign Missions Department, Home Missions Department, Master's Men Department, Retirement and Insurance, Free Will Baptist Foundation, Sunday School and Church Training Department, Women Nationally Active for Christ, Historical Commission, Radio/Television Commission and the Commission for Theological Integrity.

The Accountability Described

The Executive Office is accountable to the Executive Committee of the General Board. This committee makes a written report to the General Board and is responsible to that body for all its actions. It does not have power to commit the denomination to any course of action or policy not authorized by the National Association, nor to reverse any ac-

tion of the National Association.

The General Board reviews annual reports and budgets of all agencies before they are presented to the National Association. This board makes a written report of its work at each annual session of the National Association and is responsible to that body for all its actions.

The National Association also has other standing boards. These include: Board of Trustees of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Foreign Missions Board, Home Missions Board, Retirement and Insurance Board, Master's Men Board, Sunday School and Church Training Board, and Board of Trustees of the Free Will Baptist Foundation.

These boards are responsible to supervise operations in their respective fields and are responsible to the National Association for all their actions. Each operates under its own constitution (or charter) and by-laws which must be approved by the National Association.

Each standing board prepares a budget of its proposed financial expenditures at the beginning of each fiscal year and presents it for ap-

proval by the National Association, along with an audit by an independent certified public accountant. This audit must express an unqualified opinion on the financial statements.

The four Commissions prepare annual budgets and financial reports each year for distribution at the national convention. Each is responsible to the national for all its actions.

The Women Nationally Active for Christ is a subsidiary organization, subordinate to the National Association, with authority to organize at its own discretion and with power to create and adopt a constitution and by-laws and maintain complete management of the work for which it is constituted.

The scope and character of the WNAC work must conform to the general program and promotional plan of the National Association. WNAC gives an annual report of its accomplishments and financial operations to the National Association.

The Association's Decision

Agencies of the National Association, individually and institutionally, face an annual inventory of those responsibilities assigned to them. In one sense, each employee of the National Association faces an annual audit.

Attendees at the national convention are given a *Digest of Reports* which provides detailed reports of the work of all national agencies. During the business sessions, these reports are discussed. Following discussion, delegates decide whether to accept or reject the reports and adopt the budgets recommended in the General Board report.

I, for one, look forward to the annual accountability of our work. Preparation for this annual denominational accountability will enable me to better prepare for my ultimate accountability when I face the Almighty's audit. ■

The Secretary's Schedule

May 4-6	California State Association
May 6	Arizona State Association
May 12-13	Northwest District Association
May 12-13	Idaho State Association
May 18-19	Michigan State Association
May 21-22	Convention Liaison Council Meeting Pittsburgh, PA
May 23-26	Convention Planning Trip Charlotte, NC
May 24-25	Florida State Association
May 28	First FWB Church Gastonia, NC
May 30-31	RCMA Board Meeting Charlotte, NC

Carolina in the Morning, Afternoon and Evening



By Marilyn Pritchard

Discovery Place, Mint Museum of Art, Toontown Gallery, Vietnam War Memorial Park, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Overstreet Mall, Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary, Blue Ridge Mountains, historic tours, shopping galore, golf, food and more food, Free Will Baptist National Convention.

What are we talking about?

The annual meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Mark your calendar for July 16-20, make your reservations, pre-register and join us in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Checking Out Charlotte

With 1.2 million people in the metro area, Charlotte is one of America's fastest growing cities. Over 5 million people live within a 100-mile radius of the city. Two hours to the west

you'll find the Blue Ridge Mountains; three and a half hours east lies the Atlantic Ocean.

Driving? Interstates 77 and 85 link Charlotte to most of the eastern United States. I-40, only an hour to the north of the city, brings even more of the nation within easy reach. (See page 9 for North Carolina traffic laws.)

Flying? American, Delta, Northwest, TWA, United and USAir all service the Charlotte/Douglas International Airport. Each of the six hotels we've booked rooms in offer transportation between the hotel and airport. Or you might choose a limousine, taxi, an airport shuttle or even the official transportation for the NFL Panthers (Queens Airport Transportation).

Looking for amusement? Try out the Ice Capades Chalet, Carowinds, one of eight art museums/galleries, one of the nearby botanical gardens. You will also find historical sites, three science museums and at least a dozen

side trips available for sight-seeing.

Like to shop? Whether it's antiques, outlet stores, department stores, furniture, malls or specialty stores, you'll find a plethora of stores to meet your needs.

Are sports your bag? Charlotte is home to the NFL team, Carolina Panthers, NHL-affiliated Charlotte Checkers hockey team, Charlotte Hornets basketball team, Charlotte Knights triple-A baseball team.

There's always the Charlotte Motor Speedway, a NASCAR facility famous for its Winston Cup Race in May. You might even want to try the race car driving school in nearby Concord: the Richard Petty Driving Experience.

Over half a dozen golf courses beckon duffers to try out the links. If you're into the outdoors but not into golf, you'll find 14,000 acres of parks along with 17 recreational centers in Charlotte. You'll discover everything from playgrounds to picnic areas,

Sunday Morning July 16

Special Note!

Pre-Registration Packet Pick-Up
3:00 p.m. Saturday
1:00 p.m. Sunday
New Charlotte Convention Center
College Street Concourse



Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

Teacher: Wendell Leckbee

Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 a.m.

Speaker: Roger Harwell



Sunday School / Morning Worship
Sunday 10:00 a.m. / 11:00 a.m.
New Charlotte Convention Center
Adults: Hall-C
Teens: Ballroom A/D
Primary/Juniors: Room 213

nature trails to a model airplane flying field, tennis courts and athletic fields to an equestrian center.

Planning on bringing a camper or RV? Several campgrounds in the area might be what you're looking for:

Carowinds Campground, P. O. Box 410289, Charlotte, NC 28241. Phones: 704/588-3363 or 704/588-2606. Facilities: 207 sites, water, sewer, electricity hook-ups.

Duke Power State Park, Route 2, Box 224-M, Troutman, NC 28166. Phone: 704/528-6350. Facilities: Tent and trailer camping, no hookups. Central wash house, picnic table and grill at each site. 45 miles from uptown.

McDowell Park Campground, 15222 York Road, Charlotte, NC 28217. Phone: 704/588-5224. Facilities: On Lake Wylie, 88 campsites. 12 miles south of uptown.

New Heritage USA Campground, 3000 Heritage Parkway, Fort Mill, SC 29715. Phones: 803/548-

7800 or 1-800/374-1234. Facilities: 396 campsites with bathhouses, laundry facilities, electric hook-ups, phone and cable TV.

Preparations

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

Tom Lilly: Steering Committee Chairman

William Calvert: Ex-Officio Member/State Moderator

Doug King: Hospitality Committee

Eugene Hales: Registration Committee

Jim Marcum: Prayer Committee

Harold Blankenship: Ushering Committee

Joanne King: State Woman's Auxiliary President

Lange Patrick: NYC Advisor

Five ministers will preach on the convention theme, *Revive the Redeemed*. A guest speaker will address pastors twice at the 2nd annual Pastors' Conference Tuesday morning. Moderator Ralph Hampton will gavel his eighth convention business session. Others getting ready for July include seminar leaders, banquet speakers and speakers for NYC and WNAC services.

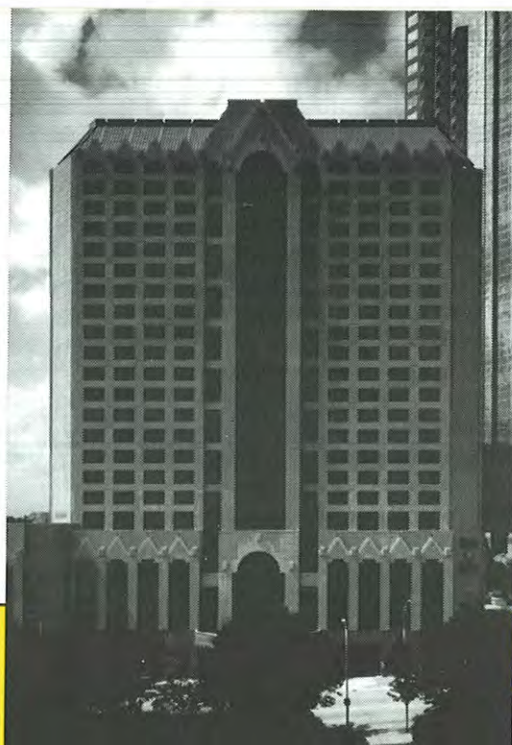
This year is special because we will meet in the New Charlotte Convention Center. We aren't the first group to meet there, but we're among the first. Take time while you're at the convention to check out the new facilities.

Charlotte offers three electric

20 Things to Do Before the Convention

- ☐ 1. Pre-register.
- ☐ 2. Reserve a hotel room.
- ☐ 3. Purchase meal tickets for catered events.
- ☐ 4. Pack your sneakers.
- ☐ 5. Pay your tithes before you leave home.
- ☐ 6. Pray.
- ☐ 7. Make sure your pastor attends the convention.
- ☐ 8. Get refills on necessary prescriptions.
- ☐ 9. If you drive, service the car, air the tires, include a trash bag.
- ☐ 10. If you fly, book your ticket *now*.
- ☐ 11. Stop the mail, hold the paper, hire a kid to mow the lawn, find suitable shelter for Rover.
- ☐ 12. Bring enough cash for emergencies.
- ☐ 13. Plan to buy your favorite speakers' tapes.
- ☐ 14. Rehearse your sunniest smile.
- ☐ 15. Catch up on your sleep.
- ☐ 16. Go on a diet.
- ☐ 17. Clean your sunglasses.
- ☐ 18. Pack a toothbrush; don't forget mouthwash.
- ☐ 19. Make a list of items to take, then mark them off as they are packed.
- ☐ 20. Take the packed suitcase with you.

shuttle buses running weekdays uptown. They operate from 7:00—9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., and 4:00—7:00 p.m. They are convenient to each hotel where we've booked rooms. (You'll find a list of hotels on page 7 and on the housing form.)



Omni Charlotte — Headquarters Hotel

Registration Begins
Sunday 3:00 p.m.
New Charlotte Convention Center
College Street Concourse

Sunday
Evening
July 16

Sunday Evening Worship
7:00 p.m.
Speaker: Jim Turnbough



Monday Morning July 17

NYC Competitive
Activities Begin
8:30 a.m.

General Board Meets
9:00 a.m.
Radisson Plaza Hotel

25 Things to *DO* at the Convention

- ☐ 1. Register (if you didn't pre-register).
- ☐ 2. Attend Sunday School.
- ☐ 3. Stay for Sunday Morning worship.
- ☐ 4. Be an usher.
- ☐ 5. Sing with the Mass Adult Choir.
- ☐ 6. Visit the exhibits.
- ☐ 7. Walk/shop in Overstreet Mall.
- ☐ 8. Talk with a missionary.
- ☐ 9. Match wits with youth in Bible competition.
- ☐ 10. Check out a Tuesday seminar.
- ☐ 11. Hear some good preaching.
- ☐ 12. Eat your heart out at a catered event.
- ☐ 13. Attend to business Wednesday and Thursday.
- ☐ 14. Appreciate service personnel in hotels and restaurants.
- ☐ 15. Refresh an old friendship.
- ☐ 16. Buy a book.
- ☐ 17. Attend the Camp Meeting.
- ☐ 18. Worship nightly with a whole crowd of Free Will Baptists.
- ☐ 19. Join WNAC for their Tuesday morning missionary service.
- ☐ 20. Enjoy the North Carolina beauty.
- ☐ 21. Subscribe to *Contact*. (Check out the specials.)
- ☐ 22. Sit closer to the front.
- ☐ 23. Ride the free trolley.
- ☐ 24. Read the *Convention News*.
- ☐ 25. Chaperone your children.

**There Will Be
NO
Nursery
This Year**

If you're an early bird, you'll find layman Wendell Leckbee teaching the adult Sunday School class.

Brother Leckbee is a deacon, treasurer and adult Sunday School teacher at his church, First FWB Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Wendell served on the Master's Men Board from 1981 to 1993, four years as chairman. He also served as Arkansas state clerk and Central Association District moderator.

In 1985, Brother Leckbee was elected Layman

In Charlotte

For the fifth time in 59 years, North Carolina's 20,000 members and 186 churches will host the national convention. More than 6,500 delegates and visitors from 40 states are expected at the New Charlotte Convention Center for the five-day meeting.

The National Association of Free Will Baptists has met in these North Carolina cities: Middlesex-1945, Asheville-1959, Raleigh-1965, Charlotte-1979.

This year's delegates are expected to approve denominational budgets exceeding \$11 million and elect 35 board/commission members. Each national agency and commission will submit an annual report during the two-day business session.

Meet the Speakers

Attendees look forward to great preaching at national conventions. This year's no exception. Preaching starts Sunday morning and continues through Wednesday evening.

Sunday Morning

Monday Afternoon July 17

WNAC Seminar
1:30 p.m.
Omni Hotel

of the Year. He continues to be active in Master's Men at all levels: local, district, state and national—and he's always available to usher at the convention.

Reverend Roger Harwell who pastors Beacon FWB Church in Raytown, Missouri, preaches the Sunday morning message.

This chaplain of the Raytown Police Department has pastored five churches in three states. He served two terms as clerk of Missouri's state association, one term as assistant moderator.

Other positions include secretary-treasurer of the Missouri State Home Mission Board, a member of Hillsdale College's Board of Trustees and on the Board of Retirement and Insurance at the national level.

Sunday Evening

Pastor Jim Turnbough from North Carolina will preach Sunday evening. He pastors Trinity FWB Church in Greenville.

Jim has pastored five churches in three states and was a home missionary to Enterprise, Alabama.

He was on the North Carolina State Bible Bookstore Board and moderator of North Carolina's Randall Association.

Monday Evening

Stepping to the pulpit Monday evening is Reverend Keith Burden, pastor of First FWB Church in Ada, Oklahoma. He has pastored five churches in two states.

Exhibits Open
3:00 p.m.

Camp Meeting
3:00 p.m.

**Children's
Banquet**
5:00 p.m.

Monday Evening Worship
7:00 p.m.
Speaker: Keith Burden



Monday Evening July 17

He presently serves in all levels: local-pastor; district-moderator of the Center Association; state-clerk of the Oklahoma State Association; national-assistant clerk of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Tuesday Evening

Tuesday evening's message will be brought by Reverend William Evans, director of the Board of Retirement and Insurance as well as the FWB Foundation.

Evans pastored six churches in four states. He worked with World Literature Crusade/Every Home for Christ for seven years.

He has also served as moderator of the Northeast Association; clerk, assistant clerk and moderator of the Mis-

souri State Association; and chairman of the Board of Retirement for 10 years.

Wednesday Evening

Wednesday evening, the traditional missionary service, will find Reverend James Munsey at the microphone.

Brother Munsey serves as coordinator of Mexico home missions efforts and president of the Seminary of the Cross in Altamira, Mexico. He has pastored four churches in three states. He founded First FWB Church, Weslaco, Texas, and helped build 18 churches in Mexico during his time as coordinator.

He has served as clerk for Tennessee's Union Association and presently serves on the National Association's General Board.

New Charlotte Convention Center



Special Note:

No hotel is designated
Youth Headquarters
this year.
Why?
Youth activities
will be held
in the
New Charlotte
Convention Center.

Hotel Stats

(Rate listed for each hotel is for Single, Double, Triple and Quad accommodations.)

Hotel	Rates	Parking	Rooms Blocked
Omni Charlotte Hotel (Headquarters Hotel)	\$89	\$6/day	250
Marriott City Center	\$85	\$5/day	200
Radisson Plaza Hotel	\$84	\$4/day	250
Adam's Mark Hotel	\$79	Free	375
Holiday Inn Center City	\$60	Free	175
Government House Hotel	\$59	Free	150

25 Things *NOT* to Do at the Convention

- ☐ 1. Play on the elevators.
- ☐ 2. Lose your badge.
- ☐ 3. Forget your Bible.
- ☐ 4. Wear high heels all day.
- ☐ 5. Dress for winter.
- ☐ 6. Fail to tip the waitress.
- ☐ 7. Create problems for hotel staff.
- ☐ 8. Get sick.
- ☐ 9. Avoid the exhibits.
- ☐ 10. Pick an argument.
- ☐ 11. Refuse to sing during services.
- ☐ 12. Ignore the Lord's voice in your life.
- ☐ 13. Misplace your camera.
- ☐ 14. Check out area emergency rooms with injuries.

Pastors' Conference

This year's Pastors' Conference features Dr. Norman L. Geisler, dean of Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Dr. Geisler received B.A. and M.A. degrees from Wheaton College and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Loyola University in Chicago.

Geisler has worn many hats in full-time ministry for over 40 years. Nine of those years he pastored. Professor Geisler has taught for 36 years at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Dallas Theological Seminary and others.

He is the author/co-author of 40 books including *General Introduction to the Bible*, *Is Man the Measure?*, *The Creator in the Courtroom*, *Christian Ethics*, *Origin Science* and *Christian Apologetics*.

Yet another hat is lecturer/speaker. Besides speaking on university campuses and engaging in debates on social issues, he has appeared on radio and television, including nationally televised news. He has traveled in 50 states and 24 countries on six continents.

Dr. Geisler was the lead expert witness for the defense of the famous "Scopes II" creation/evolution trial in Arkansas in 1981.

Rooms, Rooms, Rooms

Convention officials blocked 1,400 rooms in six uptown Charlotte hotels for the 1995 convention. Omni Charlotte (headquarters hotel) holds 250 rooms for our people. Adam's Mark Hotel has reserved 375 rooms and Radisson Plaza has set aside 250 rooms. Marriott City Center has 200 rooms waiting for us, Holiday Inn Center City has set aside 175 rooms and Government House Hotel is reserv-

**Tuesday
Morning
July 18**



**Pastors' Conference
9:00 a.m.
Speaker: Norman Geisler**

Hillsdale College Luncheon

**12:00 Noon
Omni Hotel**

WNAC Missionary Service

**11:10 a.m.
Speaker: Steve Lytle**



**Tuesday
Afternoon
July 18**

- ☐ 15. Knock your tea over at the luncheon.
- ☐ 16. Go to sleep during a seminar (at least, don't snore if you do).
- ☐ 17. Be rude to hotel staff.
- ☐ 18. Drag into services late.
- ☐ 19. Pretend the offering plate doesn't exist.
- ☐ 20. Leave the convention early.
- ☐ 21. Forget to bring a good attitude.
- ☐ 22. Be a litterbug.
- ☐ 23. Expect to stay on your diet.
- ☐ 24. Wait too late to purchase tickets to those special catered events.
- ☐ 25. Omit the Lord from convention activities.

ing 150 rooms for Free Will Baptists. Room rates range from \$59 to \$89 per night this year.

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

Parking

Three hotels offer free parking for guests. The other three have a per-day charge. See the chart on page seven for specifics.

Registration

Pre-registration is working. Over 3,000 people pre-registered last year. Forms are in this and following issues. Advance registration saves time in registration lines. Pre-registration forms must be *received* by June 23.

Here's another reason to pre-register. Pre-registrants may pick up their packets 3:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m. **Saturday**. Beat the crowd. Pre-register, *then* pick up your packet early.

Those who do not pre-register must be prepared to register in Charlotte. One badge is issued per person,

even if you register for all three conventions.

Registration begins 3:00 p.m. Sunday in the College Street Concourse at the convention center and closes Wednesday noon.

Exhibits

Conferees can find exhibits in Hall - B at the convention center. Nearly 50 exhibitors display educational and denominational literature and programs.

Exhibits open 3:00 p.m. Monday. Booths are open 10:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m. daily except during evening worship services (7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.). Thursday, they open 9:00 a.m. and close 12:30 p.m. or 30 minutes after business concludes.

Soup's On!

Twenty catered events ranging from a seven-member WNAC Executive Committee luncheon to the 1,000-seat Youth Banquet fill the menu this year.

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

Be sure your order is mailed in time to be received by June 23. Just a reminder: some events sell out quickly. First come, first served! *Bon Appetite!*

Business

Monday kicks off the first wave of business when the General Board gathers for breakfast at 7:30 a.m., then begins its meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the Radisson Plaza Hotel. Moderator Ralph Hampton will gavel the convention business session to order 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning in Hall-C at the New Charlotte Convention Center.

Camp Meeting and Seminars

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

This year's speaker will be Dr. Roy Thomas, director of the Home Missions Department. The event usually attracts more than 1,000 participants.

This year, three seminars dot Tuesday's agenda, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The Theological Trends Seminar, meeting in the Omni Hotel, will be led by Robert Picirilli on the subject, *Are Modern Translations the Word of God?*

The Music Commission Seminar is also scheduled to meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Omni Hotel.

Master's Men Congress convenes 2:00 p.m. in the Radisson Plaza Hotel.

Seminars

- Theological Trends Seminar
- Music Commission Seminar
- Master's Men Congress



**WNAC
Fellowship Dinner**
5:00 p.m.
Speaker: Mabel Willey



Tuesday Evening Worship
7:00 p.m.
Speaker: William Evans

Tuesday Evening July 18

Youth Banquet
9:00 p.m.

North Carolina Traffic Laws

Minimum Speed Limits: Passenger vehicle, 40 mph in 55 mph zone.

Speed Limits: Fixed maximum limits: interstate 55 mph (65 mph on designated and posted rural sections); open highways 55 mph; inside municipal corporate limits, 35 mph unless otherwise posted.

Child Restraints: Mandatory for children three years of age and younger. \$25 fine for noncompliance. (Does not apply to out-of-state drivers.)

Seat Belts: Mandatory for driver and front seat passengers. \$25 fine for noncompliance. (Also applies to out-of-state drivers.)

Headlights: Sunset to sunrise and when light conditions restrict visibility to 400 feet or less. The state requires that if weather conditions dictate that windshield wipers be used, headlights must be used also.

Right Turn on Red: Permitted after complete stop, unless otherwise posted.

Motorcyclists: Must wear a helmet and burn headlight at all times.

WNAC Highlights

Women Nationally Active for Christ comprise one of three conventions meeting in July. This year's theme is *Prayer: Great and Mighty Things Through Prayer*.

Activities begin with a 1:30 seminar Monday afternoon at Omni Hotel; Pam Wood is featured speaker.

Preceding business Tuesday morning at the New Charlotte Convention Center, Tanya Hart will bring the devotional. Following that and special music, Joanne King welcomes the ladies to North Carolina. *Co-Laborer* editor Suzanne Franks will recognize creative arts winners.

Women and men alike look forward to the annual missionary service which begins at 11:10 a.m. Steve Lytle is this year's guest speaker.

After lunch, WNAC reconvenes at 1:30 p.m. to continue business. A special feature including Lorene Miley, Laura Thigpen and missionaries await afternoon attendees.

Ballroom-C is where WNAC's Fellowship Dinner gathers. The time is 5:00 p.m. Tuesday. Seven hundred people will hear veteran missionary Mabel Willey, guest speaker for this event.

WNAC Personalities

Mary Wisheart, executive secretary/treasurer for this body of women nationwide, is former professor of literature at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Suzanne Franks, the newest member of the WNAC staff, edits *Co-La-*

borer magazine. Suzanne grew up on the mission field where her parents served (and still serve) in Brazil as missionaries.

Another new member of the WNAC team is Martha Burtram, bookkeeper for the organization.

Yvonne Wolfenbarger serves as assistant to Dr. Wisheart.

Lorene Miley, part of the special feature Monday afternoon, is a former missionary to Côte d'Ivoire.

Laura Thigpen, also part of the special feature, is a former professor of speech and drama at Free Will Baptist Bible College. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

Tanya Hart, Tuesday's devotional speaker is missionary appointee to Côte d'Ivoire. She is a member of Trinity FWB Church in Greenville, North Carolina.

Joanne King serves as president of the North Carolina WNAC. She is a member of Cramerton FWB Church in Cramerton, North Carolina.

Steve Lytle, special missionary speaker Tuesday morning, serves in Panama with his wife Judy.

WNAC at a Glance

Monday: Seminar/Pam Wood
Tuesday: Devotional/Tanya Hart
Business
Missionary Service/Steve Lytle
More Business
Special Feature/Lorene Miley, Laura Thigpen, missionaries.
Fellowship Dinner

Mabel Willey, veteran missionary to Cuba and Panama works as deputational missionary for the Foreign Missions. She lives in Bryan, Texas.

This year's music coordinator for WNAC is Pat Carpenter Zeigler, a member of Cramerton FWB Church in Cramerton, North Carolina.

NYC Notes

The third convention meeting in July is the four-day National Youth Conference. This year's theme is, *We Can Make a World of Difference*.

Separate worship services for teens and primary/juniors will be conducted each evening except Wednesday. That night, youth meet with adults for the missionary service.

Speakers for the teens include the following: Michigan pastor Mike Trimble will teach the teen Sunday School class with North Carolina youth pastor Christian Powell preaching at the Sunday morning worship service.

Sunday night, Arkansas youth pastor Toby Youngblood will deliver the NYC keynote message. Monday evening home missionary to Kansas, Terry Van Winkle will address the teens. Tuesday evening's speaker had to cancel and no replacement had been announced as of press time.

Children's speakers include Bruce Bennett for Sunday School, Paul Allen for morning worship, Joey Wilson on Sunday evening, Brad Hanna on Monday evening and Greg Cleveland on Tuesday evening.

**Wednesday
Morning
July 19**

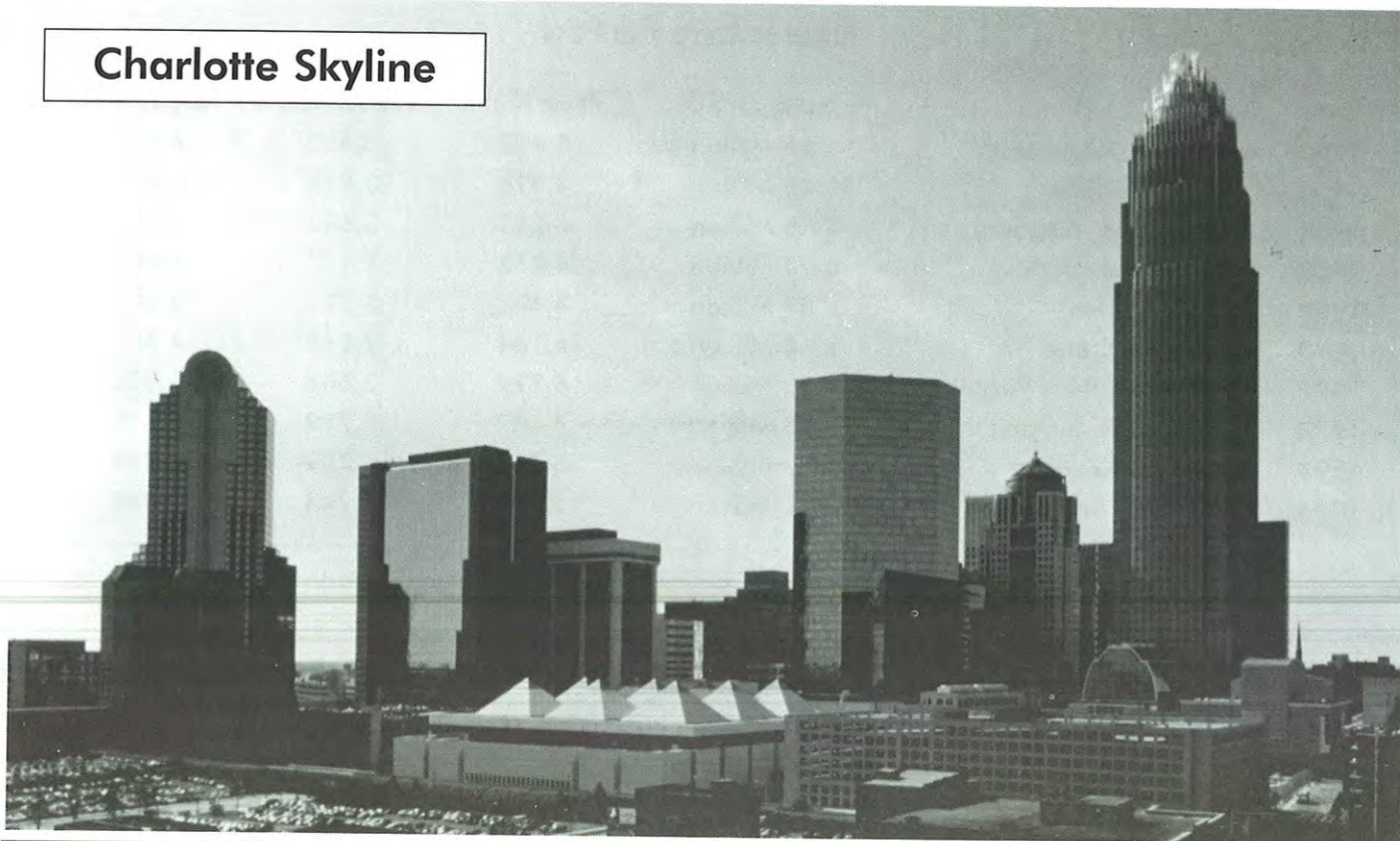
**Music Ministries Breakfast
7:00 a.m.**

**State Leaders Breakfast
7:30 a.m.**

**Convention Business Session Begins
9:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday
Afternoon
July 19**

Charlotte Skyline



Charlotte Bits and Pieces

Charlotte is the namesake of Great Britain's Queen Charlotte. Therefore, it is called the Queen City. It's the home of the NBA Charlotte Hornets. Discovery Place houses the *Charlotte Observer* OMNIMAX Theater and Planetarium. Overstreet Mall's pedestrian walkways link major uptown hotels and facilities. Overstreet Mall has more than 40 shops and service establishments.

Nearby attractions include Celebration Station, Ice Capades Chalet, Paramount's Carowinds, New Heritage USA, and the Winston Cup Tour. Nearby shopping includes antiques, malls, discount/outlet centers, specialty shops. Museums abound in the city: science, art, historical. Nature lovers can enjoy UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens & Sculpture Garden; and Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary.

**Free Will Baptist Bible College
Luncheon
12:00 noon**

**Southeastern College Dinner
4:30 p.m.**

**Master's Men Dinner
4:45 p.m.
Speaker: Cliff Donoho**

**Wednesday Evening Worship
7:00 p.m.
Speaker: James Munsey**



**Wednesday
Evening
July 19**

**NYC Awards
Ceremony
9:00 p.m.
New Charlotte
Convention
Center
Ballroom A/D**

Figures from the Past

Year	City	Convention Value	Room Nights	Catered Meals	Registration
1985	Nashville, Tennessee	\$1 Million	5,132	3,453	8,340
1986	Tulsa, Oklahoma	\$1.08 Million	4,596	3,815	6,545
1987	Birmingham, Alabama	\$1.5 Million	4,261	3,683	6,159
1988	Kansas City, Missouri	\$1.3 Million	4,212	3,157	5,866
1989	Tampa, Florida	\$3 Million	4,444	3,291	5,707
1990	Phoenix, Arizona	\$1.8 Million	4,164	2,812	4,352
1991	Charleston, West Virginia	\$3 Million	6,229	3,664	6,538
1992	Indianapolis, Indiana	\$3 Million	4,409	3,719	6,119
1993	Louisville, Kentucky	\$1.9 Million	5,742	3,389	6,946
1994	Little Rock, Arkansas	\$4.1 Million	5,163	3,743	7,640

**Thursday
Morning
July 20**

**Concluding Business Session
9:00 a.m.**

**Exhibits
Open at 9:00 a.m. Thursday
and
Close After Business.**

Let's Go Home!

LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE CREDENTIALS —1995—

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

Baptists from _____ FWB Church.

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

_____ or _____
(Pastor) (Church Clerk)

IMPORTANT: This form properly signed and accompanied by a \$25 registration fee entitles a local church delegate to register for voting privileges.

Please Note:

**Delegate
Fees
are now
\$25
per
Delegate.**

20 Things to Do *After* the Convention

- ☐ 1. Wash your clothes.
- ☐ 2. Go back on your diet.
- ☐ 3. Soak your feet.
- ☐ 4. Read that new book you bought.
- ☐ 5. Rejoice in the lives touched by the Lord.
- ☐ 6. Mark your calendar for July 21-25, 1996.
- ☐ 7. Make plans to go to Fort Worth in 1996.
- ☐ 8. Listen to the speakers' tapes you purchased.
- ☐ 9. Write a note to that friend you saw for the first time in 10 years.
- ☐ 10. Tell your church about the good things that happened at the convention.
- ☐ 11. Commend your church for sending your pastor.
- ☐ 12. Encourage the young people of your church to start planning now for Bible competition next year.
- ☐ 13. Give a report on the WNAC convention.
- ☐ 14. Congratulate the winners in the CTS competitions.
- ☐ 15. Check out the materials on that new product or agency in the exhibit area.
- ☐ 16. Write a note, better yet a check, to a missionary who needs encouraging.
- ☐ 17. Pay your tithes.
- ☐ 18. Encourage your church to participate in The Together Way.
- ☐ 19. Start a church family plan subscription for *Contact*.
- ☐ 20. Put your *Digest of Reports* with your reference materials: It has a lot of helpful statistics and information about Free Will Baptists.

What's the Weather Like in Charlotte?

July Statistics

Daily Maximum Temperature: 87°

Daily Minimum Temperature: 67°

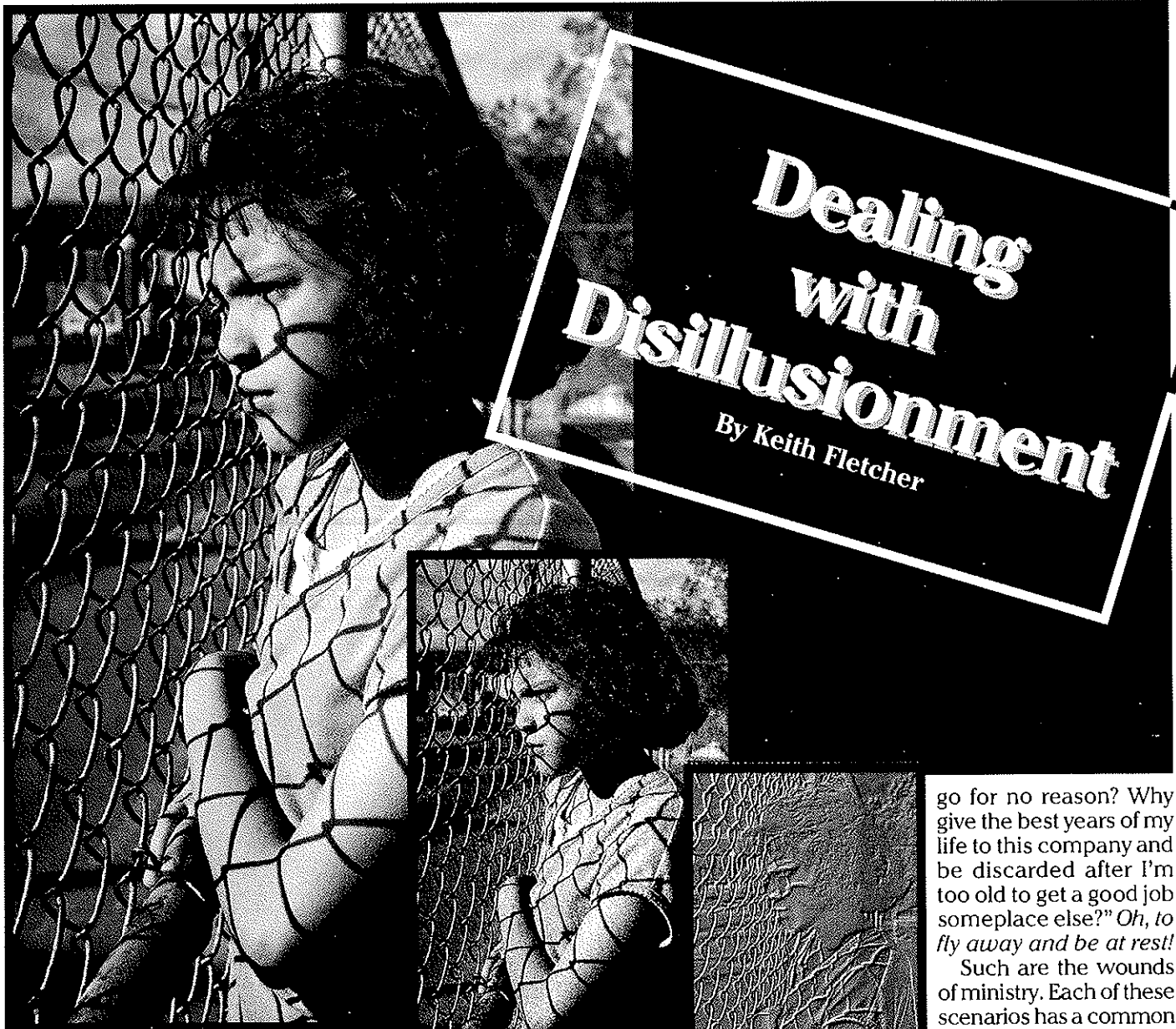
Average Number of Sunny Days: 21

***NOW IT'S OFF
INTO
THE
SUNSET....***

Meet us in
Fort Worth
July 21, 1996

Convention Speakers at a Glance

When	What	Who	Position	Where	Age
Sunday Morning	Sunday School	Wendell Leckbee	Deacon	Arkansas	54
Sunday Morning	Worship	Roger Harwell	Pastor	Missouri	58
Sunday Evening	Worship	Jim Turnbough	Pastor	North Carolina	46
Monday Evening	Worship	Keith Burden	Pastor	Oklahoma	41
Tuesday Morning	Pastors' Conference	Norman Geisler	Professor	North Carolina	n/a
Tuesday Morning	WNAC Missionary Service	Steve Lytle	Missionary	Panama	45
Tuesday Afternoon	WNAC Fellowship Dinner	Mabel Willey	Deputational Missionary	Texas	90
Tuesday Evening	Worship	William Evans	Director, Retirement/Insurance	Tennessee	55
Wednesday Evening	Worship	James Munsey	Missionary	Mexico	44



A Bible College junior stood gazing out the glass doors of the dormitory. As finals approached, the assignments were piling up—due to a combination of heavy class load, numerous extracurricular activities and routine procrastination.

The last few days had dealt a double whammy with the news that two respected leaders had fallen into sin—one, a nationally-known preacher and the other, the student's own beloved youth minister.

The disillusioned undergrad could not shake the thought: *What's going to keep that from happening to me?* The psalmist's words struck a chord, "*Oh, that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away, and be at rest.*"

God's will had seemed so clear. A young pastor and his wife had left family far behind to accept the call to a church in a distant state.

The vote had been "unanimous" less than a year ago. But now a sizable majority seemed to want a pastoral change.

With a wife who was five months pregnant, should the young pastor stay and fight, running the risk of splitting the church, or should he leave in peace and brokenness? *Oh, to fly away and be at rest!*

"I thought this was a *Christian* organization," thought a young worker. "How could they let my co-workers

go for no reason? Why give the best years of my life to this company and be discarded after I'm too old to get a good job someplace else?" *Oh, to fly away and be at rest!*

Such are the wounds of ministry. Each of these scenarios has a common element—an overwhelming sense of disillusionment, which results in the urge to flee from present circumstances.

Almost universally, college students, pastors and lay people experience such feelings. Some learn to deal with disillusionment and resist the urge to flee. They manage to go on, finding a certainty that rests on a sovereign God.

Others, who let feelings overwhelm them, take flight—finding not rest, but ceaseless wandering like the raven released from the ark. They fly away from their faith, their families and their dreams.

What can we do to help ourselves and others deal with disillusionment?

When disillusionment strikes, how can we keep our heads up and our feet planted firmly on the ground?

First, we need to recognize disillusionment for what it is—the shattering of an illusion. As the word itself suggests, at the center of *disillusionment* is an *illusion*, or an ideal based on a transient reality. When the bubble breaks, the dream is shattered, and disillusionment results.

Unless we carefully peel away the facade, we will see only the end result of disillusionment in the lives of the people we love. We will be disappointed when the Bible College student drops out, confused when the pastor leaves the ministry, and saddened when the employee retires early, bitter and unprepared.

Warning Signs

How can we tell when one of our friends is facing a big “D” on life’s report card? Here are three suggestions, which are by no means all inclusive:

1. Listen for signs of discouragement.

Sadly, many of our churches give no opportunity for discouraged people to express true feelings. Some wouldn’t, even if we did. Believers must really be comfortable with each other before they share deep-seated doubts and disappointments.

It’s much easier to express physical needs than emotional and spiritual needs. If we could just get past the small talk and glib phrases! For example, do you really mean it when you say, “How are you?” Do you squirm when someone gives you an honest answer?

Most of us need to cultivate the art of listening. I have a long-distance co-worker who listens carefully to my voice over the phone. If I sound worried, he probes until he finds out if I have a major problem or just a pile of little snags.

2. Watch for declining interest and participation in spiritual ministry.

Many people can go through the motions of ministry in spite of disillusionment, but only God knows if they do any good.

A disillusioned person will often appear resentful, or at least disinter-

ested, when called on to do spiritually demanding tasks, such as prayer ministry and evangelism.

A person’s church attendance will not always fall off, but be aware of chronic lateness and a telltale attitude that says, “I’d rather be anywhere but here.”

3. Check for changes in health and habits.

I’m not a doctor, and I don’t even play one on TV, but I have noticed a pattern in my own life. During times of disillusionment, I have experienced an increased susceptibility to colds, viruses, fatigue and other minor health problems. My body seems to require more sleep and my eating habits change.

These are signs of depression, which sometimes result from extended disillusionment. I am not alone in this struggle, but as Paul says, “We are cast down, but not destroyed” (II Corinthians 4:9).

So what are we to do when we find someone who is discouraged or disillusioned? Again, the list is not exhaustive, but hopefully it’s helpful.

Antidotes

1. Accept people for who they are in God’s kingdom.

We serve a God of variety, a God who cannot be put in a box. But why do we try to pigeon-hole God’s servants into certain ministries?

Yes, God calls preachers, missionaries and Christian school teachers, but are these the only openings in the kingdom? We set up people for disillusionment when we imply that true spirituality is found in a “full-time” Christian position.

Let’s broaden our view of ministry (with a lower case *m*) to include every person God has called to the harvest (and no true believer is excluded from that!). We need to help people discover their gifts and find their niches, not pigeon holes.

2. Focus on the truth in love.

Getting back to the root of disillusionment, we must deal with illusions by focusing on the truth. Because bubbles don’t burst painlessly, we need to lovingly lead the disillusioned

back to the unchanging truths of scripture.

Those who put their trust in man will be disappointed; those who put their trust in God will never be ashamed. No, life is not fair, nor is it easy. These two truisms are lessons we often learn *only* in the school of disillusionment.

3. Contribute solutions not activity.

The last thing we need to do for people who are suffering disillusionment (or outright burnout) is give them more to do. We tend to heap additional weight on the busiest, most burdened people.

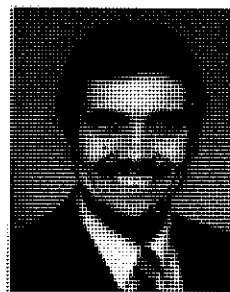
Activity is no substitute for spiritual renewal. If we don’t have fresh personnel to adequately staff a new ministry, let’s not add it to our church’s repertoire. Remember, God is the One who calls laborers, not us!

Let’s share the load by stressing relationships over programs and help the disillusioned find fulfillment in ministering to others. In ministry, let’s strive for a better fit between gift and function.

And never, never, never forget prayer support. Encourage some of the “sitters” in the church to become “kneelers” who can lift up the “workers.”

Can disillusionment be overcome? Certainly. Does it always lead people to flee the ministry or the church? Definitely not. How do I know for sure?

Do you remember the Bible College student, the young pastor and the employee at the Christian organization? That was me. And here I am—living in the real world of church and ministry. And I don’t plan to “fly away” until God calls me home. ■



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

CURRENTLY...

Pastor **Merel Guess** led members in a 45th-year homecoming celebration at **First FWB Church** in **Taft, CA**. Former pastors spoke during the day-long activities.

After years of waiting, **First FWB Church** in **Highland City, FL**, finally has a steeple. Everybody's happy. Especially Pastor **Charles Garrett** who also reports three conversions.

The day after he turned 90 years old, Reverend **J. E. White** was honored by Pastor **Ben Scott** and members of **First FWB Church** in **North Little Rock, AR**. Brother White retired after 62 years in the ministry, pastoring churches in Arkansas and Louisiana. He also organized three churches, conducted 700 funerals and "baptized too many people to count." He was ordained as a Free Will Baptist preacher in 1929.

Congratulations to the 22 members of **Faith FWB Church** in **Goldsboro, NC**, who read the Bible through in 1994. Double that for **William Corbett**. He did it twice. **Dann Patrick** pastors.

What does Pastor **Glenn Poston** know that the rest of us don't? He challenged members of **First FWB Church** in **Savannah, GA**, to raise \$7,500 for a major remodeling project. When the

special offering was counted, the total exceeded \$16,000.

Roger Hood, executive director for **Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, Inc.**, reported 33 conversions among the young people assisted this past year. The centerpiece of FWB Family Ministries is the Trula Cronk Home for Children in **Greenville, TN**.

Contact welcomes **Victory FWB Newsletter**, publication of **Victory FWB Church** in **Kansas City, MO**. Pastor **Mark Brashier** reports two new members and two baptisms. He also noted that the church provides 100 sack lunches each month for the City Union Mission.

Joe Blair Day at **Southwest FWB Church** in **Oklahoma City, OK**, marked a new dimension in the ministry of Reverend **Joe Blair** who pastored the church 19 years. He now serves as pastor emeritus for the congregation. After 47 years in the ministry, Blair chose not to retire but to continue to serve as he is able. **Richard Terry** pastors.

Almost 100 people attended the first Christian Living Class at **Townsend FWB Church** in **Townsend, DE**. The congregation also raised \$65,000 for their building fund, according to Pastor **Richard Atwood**.

Members of **Grace Chapel FWB Church** in **Chelsea, OK**, completed a 2,100-square-foot building on two acres donated by Deacon and Mrs. **Randall Scroggins**. The structure was built at a cost of \$25,000. Present indebtedness is less than \$10,000. The church is located on historic Route 66. **Johnie Hale** pastors.

Home missionary **Ken Doggett** reports 15 conversions and 12 baptisms at **Heritage FWB Church** in **Springfield, IL**.

Evangelist **Wade Jernigan** observed his 50th anniversary in the ministry on April 9. He returned to **Oak Grove FWB Church** in **Bladen County, NC**, where he preached his first sermon in 1945 from Matthew 4:19. He preached from the same text 50 years later; this time he had more to say.

Pastor **Bill Van Winkle** began his 13th year at **Fulton FWB Church** in **Fulton, MS**. Pastor Van Winkle said that while he sometimes felt guilty about serving such a great church, "I assure you that I can live with the guilt!"

Members of **Fairview FWB Church** in **Spartanburg, SC**, shocked Pastor **Tim Hackett**. They gave him \$3,600 on Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

The \$120,000 note on a family life center is gone at **First FWB Church** in **Chester, SC**. Members burned the mortgage after five short years. **James Sanders** pastors.

Bethel FWB Church in **Fort Mill, SC**, has experienced phenomenal growth since calling **Lester Hughes** as pastor two years ago. Attendance zoomed from 20 to 80; weekly offerings climbed from \$150 to \$1,000.

Pastor **Douglas Pate** led members of **New Vision FWB Church** in **Hemingway, SC**, in their 11th anniversary homecoming. The church began with 29 members, burned a \$15,000 mortgage in 1987 and a \$55,000 mortgage in 1994. They also paid off the parsonage.

Members of **FWB Bible Church** in **Darlington, SC**, honored Reverend **J. Newton Howle** for more than 20 years of faithful service. Pastor **Joe McKnight** presented a plaque of appreciation to Brother Howle.

Pastor **Earl Hendrix** led **First FWB Church** in **Inman, SC**, in a \$100,000 sanctuary renovation. The remodeled sanctuary seats 356 and includes a new sound system.

First FWB Church in **Berryville, AR**, broke ground last September on their new building. The 8,000-square-foot facility is located on seven acres near a Wal-Mart Supercenter. **Jimmy Morrison** pastors.

Some 176 registered for **Arkansas' Trailblazers** retreat at **Camp Beaverfork**. The retreat is sponsored by the state Christian Education Board. The **Oklahoma Ministers Quartet** led services.

Pastor **Roy Woods** reports 25 new members and 10 baptisms at **Bethany FWB Church** in **Hazlehurst, GA**.

Members of **Hazel Dell FWB Church** in **Sesser, IL**, celebrated 80 years of service to the community. Former pastor **Lloyd Crain**, who led the congregation 25 years, preached the anniversary sermon. **Gene Outland** pastors.

A record attendance of 163 helped Pastor **John Hollis** thoroughly enjoy his 25th year in the ministry. Hollis pastors **Crossroads FWB Church** in **Effingham, IL**.

They're calling it the **Oklahoma Land Run**, and it's sponsored by the Oklahoma FWB Youth for Missions. Their goal is to raise \$200,000 to build churches both in the U. S. and abroad. They plan to have those funds in hand when the national convention meets in Tulsa in 1998. ■

Did You Forget?

If you received a survey from the Needs Assessment Committee in late March — we need your help. If you still have the survey, please fill it out and return it in the business reply envelope.

We need to hear from you by May 10 in order to prepare our report for the National Convention.

Gratefully,

LaVerne D. Miley
Chairman

Hotel Reservation

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Charlotte, North Carolina

National Convention

July 16-20, 1995

1. Applications must be received no later than **June 16, 1995**.
2. **NO TELEPHONE CALLS:** Reservations **will not** be taken over the phone.
3. **IF SHARING A ROOM WITH OTHERS,** please send in only **one** application per room. Confirmations will be mailed from the hotel to the person who sends in the reservation request
4. **Deposit:** All housing applications must be accompanied by a deposit of one night's room rate for **each** room requested or credit card number and expiration date. Make checks payable to "Charlotte Housing Bureau." Send with remittance to: **Housing Bureau, Charlotte Convention & Visitors Bureau, 122 East Stonewall Street, Charlotte, NC 28202-1838.** You may FAX your form only if you are guaranteeing with a credit card to 704/347-1158. Please note: We do not FAX back our acknowledgement to you. These are sent to you through the mail. Also, when FAXing, please do not send a hard copy through the mail because this will cause us to duplicate your reservation.
5. **Cancellations** with the hotel will be taken up to 72 hours prior to arrival date.
6. **Changes** are to be made directly with the Convention Housing Bureau via mail or FAX up until one week prior to your arrival date. At that point you must make any changes or cancellations directly with the hotel assigned.
7. **Check-in** time: 3:00 p.m. **Check-out** time: 12:00 p.m.

Send Confirmation to:

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____





Telephone number at work: (____) _____ at home: (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____

☐ I wish to guarantee my room on my credit card: _____ or . . . ☐ Check enclosed. Check # _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ Discover Card

Hotel Requested (Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices.):

*Rates do NOT include 12% sales tax.						
HOTELS	Choice	 Single	 Double	 Triple	 Quad	Parking
Omni Charlotte Hotel (Headquarters Hotel)		\$89	\$89	\$89	\$89	\$6/day
Marriott City Center		\$85	\$85	\$85	\$85	\$5/day
Radisson Plaza Hotel		\$84	\$84	\$84	\$84	\$4/day
Adam's Mark Hotel		\$79	\$79	\$79	\$79	Free
Holiday Inn Center City		\$60	\$60	\$60	\$60	Free
Government House Hotel		\$59	\$59	\$59	\$59	Free

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Type of Room Requested:

- ☐ Single / 1 Person ☐ Double / 2 People
☐ Triple / 3 People ☐ Quad / 4 People
Number of Beds in Room _____

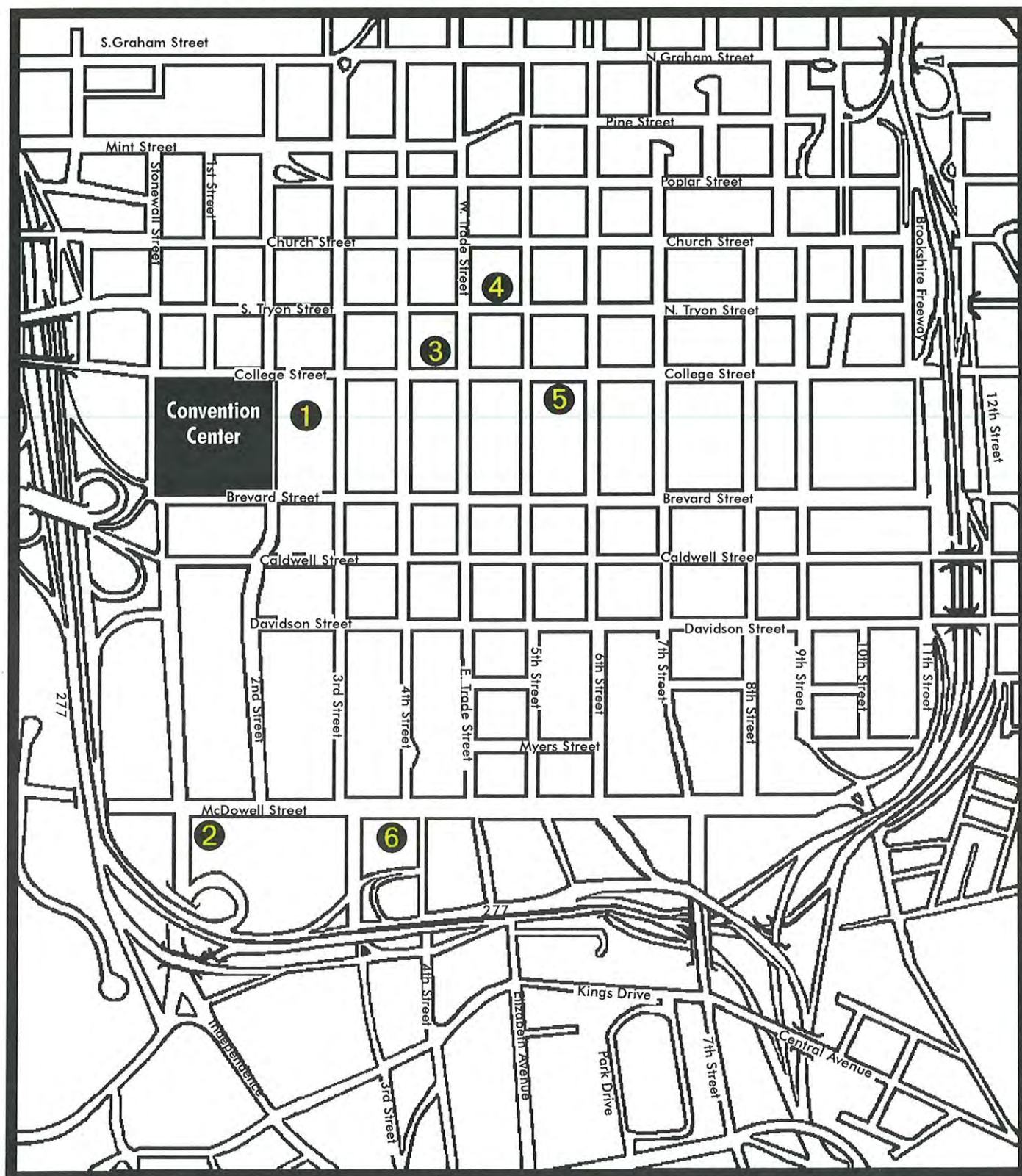
Please List Room Occupants

Special Requests (please check):

- ☐ Non-Smoking
☐ Disabled
☐ Rollaway
☐ Other _____

Note: Special requests are not guaranteed—They are given on a first come, first served basis. There is an additional charge for rollaway beds.

Welcome National Association of Free Will Baptists



- 1** Omni Charlotte Hotel (Headquarters)
- 2** Adam's Mark Hotel
- 3** Radisson Plaza Hotel

- 4** Marriott City Center Hotel
- 5** Holiday Inn Center City Hotel
- 6** Government House Hotel

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

Pre-Registration Form

for
National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Charlotte, NC / July 16 - 20, 1995

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

Please Print

Name: _____
First or Name Desired on Badge Last
Address: _____
City: _____
Church: _____
Pastor's Name: _____
Hotel (if known): _____

Phone #: (_____) _____ - _____
Area Code

☐ Male ☐ Female

State: _____ Zip: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Completed form(s) and fees must be mailed to

Convention Registration

P. O. Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011-5002

and received on or before **June 23, 1995.**

You may register for all three conventions on this form.

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

District Association: _____

Minister: ☐ Ordained ☐ Licensed ☐ Pastor

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

Missionary: ☐ Foreign (Country) _____
☐ Home

Delegate: ☐ Ordained Deacon
☐ State
☐ Local Church (\$25.00)
☐ National Board Member
☐ National Officer

Visitor: ☐ [Visitors can not vote]

Meal Tickets: Quantity

Youth Workers Reception _____ x \$6.00 = \$_____

Music Ministries Breakfast _____ x \$9.50 = \$_____

Hillsdale FWB College Luncheon _____ x \$15.00 = \$_____

FWBBC Alumni Luncheon _____ x \$11.50 = \$_____

Master's Men Dinner (before conv.) _____ x \$18.00 = \$_____
(\$20 at convention)

If Local Church Delegate _____ \rightarrow **\$25.00** = \$_____
(Must enclose signed credentials card.)

SUBTOTAL \$_____

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

(Check only one of the following:)

DELEGATE: ☐ Local (\$5.00)

☐ State

☐ State President or Field Worker

☐ National Officer

VISITOR: ☐ [Visitors can not vote]

Meal Tickets: Quantity

WNAC Fellowship Dinner _____ x \$15.00 = \$_____

If Local WNAC Delegate _____ \rightarrow **\$5.00** = \$_____

SUBTOTAL \$_____

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

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

Are you a youth worker? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grade completed Spring 1995: _____ Age: _____

Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____

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

Youth Leader's name: _____

Registration Fee

Pre-Registration Fee **\$15.00** = \$_____

On-site registration fee is \$18.00

Adults over 24 do not pay NYC fees. Competitors pay separate entry fees.

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

Meal Tickets: Quantity

Children's Banquet (grades 1-6) _____ x \$7.50 = \$_____

Youth Banquet (must be in grade 7 to _____ x \$15.00 = \$_____
age 24 or an accompanying youth worker)

(limited - 1 ticket per form)

SUBTOTAL \$_____

For Office Use Only

Rec _____ Ck/MO # _____ AMT \$ _____

CK _____

Make ALL checks payable
to FWB Convention.

**No refunds mailed after
June 23, 1995.**

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

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

Pre-Register by June 23 and Pick up Your Convention Packet on Saturday!

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

**Saturday, July 15
3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, July 16
1:00 p.m.**

Pre-Registration ends June 23, 1995

Coordinator Explains Pre-Registration Error

ANTIOCH, TN—National Convention pre-registration forms which were mailed to state editors on March 1 contained four errors in the National Youth Conference section, according to convention coordinator, Jack Williams. "The forms listed 1994 prices for NYC events instead of 1995 prices," he said.

Corrected pre-registration forms were shipped to state editors on April 6, along with a memo explaining the problem. However, many NYC participants had already pre-registered using the incorrect form and paid fees based on the 1994 prices.

Williams said, "We will contact all NYC participants who have pre-registered using the incorrect form, explain our error and request that they forward the additional funds needed."

Williams was asked to explain why pre-registration forms printed in April, May and June issues of *Contact* were correct while those mailed to state editors were incorrect. He said that a staffer discovered the error before forms were mailed and correct forms were then printed.

"As dumb as it sounds," Williams said, "Apparently, I then stuffed the wrong material in envelopes to state editors and threw the corrected forms in the trash. This is

going to inconvenience a lot of good people. I apologize to them for this confusion."

The price errors on the pre-registration form could be devastating to the National Youth Conference if not corrected, Williams said. "We're looking at potentially several thousands of dollars in uncollected fees and ticket prices."

Description of Fee/Price	Wrong Price	Right Price
NYC Pre-Registration Fee	\$13.00	\$15.00
NYC On-Site Registration	\$15.00	\$18.00
Children's Banquet Tickets	\$7.00	\$7.50
Youth Banquet Tickets	\$12.50	\$15.00

The one bright spot is that everything else on the pre-registration form was correct. Only NYC registrants will be affected by the form errors. Data for the National Convention and Women Nationally Active for Christ was right the first time.

FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Billy Melvin, Former Executive Secretary, Retires

WHEATON, IL—Former Free Will Baptist executive secretary Billy A. Melvin stepped down after 28 years at the helm of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE). The 53rd annual NAE convention held in Louisville, Kentucky, on March 5-7, concluded with a banquet honoring Dr. Melvin for his service as the association's executive director.

Dr. David Rambo, president of the Christian & Missionary Alliance and current NAE president, took note of the fact that Dr. Melvin's outstanding service had covered more than one-half of the association's history, during which time there had been significant numerical growth. During the decade of the 1980s, the association grew by more than 74% and today represents 50,000 local churches from 80 denominations, plus hundreds of educational institutions and Christian organizations.



New NAE president Don Argue (L) receives memento from retiring executive director, Billy Melvin.

Photo courtesy National Association of Evangelicals. Photo by Cecil Cole.

Several speakers, representing NAE's board, staff, member denominations and para-church organizations spoke about the diligence of Dr. Melvin in the pursuit of his responsibilities and the gracious Christian spirit with which he had served.

His staff characterized his life as one of faithfulness—faithfulness to the NAE Statement of Faith and

integrity of the association; faithfulness to his responsibilities through proficient administration and precise attention to detail; faithfulness to the Christian faith in practice; faithfulness to his local church; faithfulness to his wife and family.

Prior to his service with NAE, Dr. Melvin served for eight years

(1959-1967) as the executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. He is an active member of the Butterfield Community FWB Church in Aurora, Illinois.

Dr. Melvin and his wife Darlene, will move to Englewood, Florida, in mid-April where he will continue to serve NAE as Vice President At Large.

Discount Air Fares to Convention Available

NASHVILLE, TN—The National Association of Free Will Baptists has made special travel arrangements for attendees and their families who will be flying to the National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, July 16-20, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington.

Ambassador Travel, Inc. in Nashville has been selected as the agency of record to provide members attending the convention with discount travel services.

Discounts for air travel to Char-

lotte have been secured on two airlines: American and USAir. Each airline offers a 5% discount on excursion rates and 10% discount on full coach fares. These fares cannot be purchased through another travel agency or directly with the airlines. These are contracted group airfares. First class tickets may also be booked if desired.

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

To book airspace at the offered discounted rates, call Ambassador Travel, Inc. toll-free at 1-800/489-2009. Ask for **Janice Jakobik** and identify yourself with the Free Will Baptist National Convention. The agent will need the following:

- your name
- correct mailing address
- number of passengers
- city of flight origin
- home phone no.
- business phone no.

For easy billing, have a **current credit card** ready at the time of booking. Ambassador Travel will process and mail the tickets to you.

South Carolina Honors Carlisle Hanna

CONWAY, SC—Delegates to the February 23-24 South Carolina State Association honored missionary to India, Carlisle Hanna, for 42 years of service. In addition to a banquet celebrating Hanna's more than four decades in India, the association received a \$2,000 love offering for the Hannas.

Congratulatory plaques from the Foreign Missions Department and the State Association were presented. Governor David Beasley and the South Carolina State House expressed appreciation for the Hannas' work. South Car-

olina churches raised \$66,000 for the Hannas' account and to build churches in India.

The 53rd annual session of the state association met at White Savannah FWB Church in Conway. Moderator Earl Hendrix was elected for his 10th term. Clerk David Aycock reports that 144 registered for the meeting, including 76 ministers and 32 lay delegates.

Five sermons and the moderator's message highlighted worship services. Missionary Carlisle Hanna shared preaching duties with four South Carolina pastors:

Joe Cagle (Pamplico), Mike Haynes (Galivants Ferry), Douglas Pate (Hemingway) and Donnie Miles (Florence).

Delegates passed resolutions opposing Henry Foster's nomination as Surgeon General for the United States, and commending the Foreign Missions Department for their decision to not reappoint missionaries who fail to implement the Free Will Baptist Covenant in their respective fields.

The 1996 state association will meet February 22-23 with the Eastern Conference.

Bible College Sets Spring Graduation

NASHVILLE, TN—Reverend John Hollis and Reverend John Gibbs will speak at Free Will Baptist Bible College's May graduation events.

Rev. Hollis will bring the baccalaureate message Sunday evening, May 7, at 7:00 p.m. He pastors Crossroads FWB Church in Effingham, Illinois. He is a 1973 FWBBC graduate and, in addition to his pastorates, has served as moderator and assistant moderator of the Illinois State Association.

Rev. John Gibbs will give the graduation address at commencement exercises Thursday, May 11, at 10:00 a.m.

He and his wife, Doris, have a son, Darin, in the graduating class. Gibbs pastored 20 years, served as promotional director



Hollis



Gibbs

for Tennessee Free Will Baptists, and was director of development for Home Missions Department. He has a national ministry of conferences, retreats and revivals. He is a member of FWBBC's Class of 1964.

Both services will be held in the college's Memorial Auditorium and are open to the public.

Youth Workers Attend Retreats

NASHVILLE, TN—More than 190 youth workers met in Missouri and Tennessee for three days of workshops and networking, according to coordinator Dean Jones. The second annual National Youth Workers Retreat sponsored by the youth ministries division of Randall House Publications used a double-barreled approach.

Youth directors, youth pastors, teachers and pastors from 15 states met in two locations focusing on "Building Kids Together." Keynote speaker Craig Fry led four sessions February 17-19 at Stonecroft Conference Center in Branson, Missouri.

A week later on February 24-26, Phil Nelson, keynote speaker for the Tennessee meeting led five

sessions in Pigeon Forge. Both locations featured eight workshops, two general sessions, meals and activities.

Coordinator Dean Jones said that participants selected from topics including counseling, ministry goal setting, active learning, clowning, children's church programming, women in youth ministry, recruiting volunteers and others.

One retreat participant said, "This is the most outstanding retreat we've ever attended. We went home pumped up and ready to win lost souls for Christ."

The youth ministries division staff is at work on the February 1996 retreats.

Reverend Jack Ledbetter with the Lord

WICHITA, KS—The Reverend Willis Jackson (Jack) Ledbetter, pastor and church planter, died February 24 after 44 years in the ministry. He was licensed as a Free Will Baptist minister in 1951 and ordained in 1952.

Reverend Ledbetter, 81, pastored four churches, three in Arkansas and one in Kansas. However, most of his pastoral energies were invested at Westside FWB Church in Wichita, Kansas, the church he founded and pastored 24 years.

Brother Ledbetter helped start the first Free Will Baptist work in Kansas. In addition to conducting numerous revivals, he was also a leader among Kansas Free Will Baptists. He served 16 years on the state Executive Board and chaired the Examining Board 16 years.

Under his leadership, the Ledbetter family caravanned across America in gospel music concerts. "The Singing Ledbetters" have recorded more than 30 albums and tapes.

Jack Ledbetter's ministry was unique among Free Will Baptists. Trymon Messer, associate director of Home Missions, said, "Brother Jack knew the Lord as few men do and had wisdom

this world knew nothing of. He loved God's Book; he learned to read after his conversion. He could preach Heaven down."

Messer continued, "He was a great man of prayer, a true prayer warrior. It was an honor to know him. Jack made his mark on this earth and on my life."

Oklahoma evangelist Wade Jernigan recalled that Jack Ledbetter's close preacher friends nicknamed him "Tig," short for Tiger, because of his boldness for Christ. His lack of formal training was more than offset by a tenacity to always stand for God, regardless of circumstances.

Jernigan observed, "Jack's prayer life gave him power with God. He prayed often, loudly and unashamedly. His sternness was always accompanied with a keen sense of humor. To not have known Jack Ledbetter is to know that you missed one of the more colorful preachers who walked among us."

Jack Ledbetter married Nadine Stone in 1932. They had eight children—Christine, Glenn, Betty, Kay, Garry, Judy, Danny and Twila. The Ledbetter family now numbers 62 members, eight of whom are ministers.

California Church Turns 50

KERMAN, CA—Members of First FWB Church in Kerman gathered February 18-19 to remember the church's 50-year ministry to the central San Joaquin Valley. Five of the 45 charter members attended the golden anniversary celebration.

State moderator, Mr. Paul Kennedy, presented a plaque to the church from the California State Association of Free Will Baptists. Pastor Dave Molter brought the anniversary message.

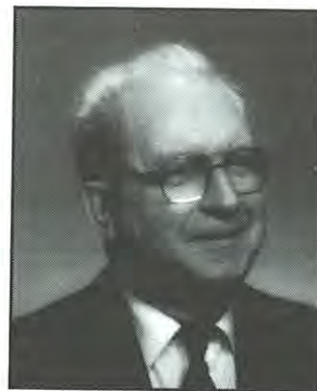
Founding pastor, the late Reverend George McLain rallied a group of 45 believers in what was then a dusty, wind-blown desert town west of Fresno.

Long-time member Arlie Miller said, "This was the fourth Free Will Baptist church organized in the state of California, notwithstanding reports of Free Will Baptist churches existing prior to the 1906 San Francisco earthquake." He continued, "The church has been blessed with strong, God-called pastors and members who had vision to work, many of whom are now serving the Lord throughout the world."

Miller concluded, "We were proud that our founder's widow, Winnie McLain, and his daughter, June Rolan, were present."

Cossie Meade, Maryland Organizer, Dies

WOODBIDGE, VA—The Reverend Cossie Meade, 82-year-old Free Will Baptist minister, died February 2. Brother Meade was a



key figure in the organization of both the Northern and Virginia Quarterly Conferences and the Maryland State Association. He also assisted in organizing and building mission churches in northern Virginia.

Brother Meade was a charter member of Bethel FWB Church in Woodbridge. Pastor Dave Nobles said, "He was a friend to preachers and everyone with whom he came in contact."

Nobles continued, "While not perfect, Cossie Meade was a faithful steward for Jesus Christ. The legacy he leaves behind is not one of wealth or fame but of a more enduring kind. He has passed on to . . . all of us privileged to know him an eternal legacy, a godly heritage."

A neighbor once told Cossie Meade that he would never have any grass in his yard as long as the boys ran and jumped and played football there. Brother Meade responded to the neighbor, "I can either raise grass or boys. I choose to raise boys."

World Relief Honors Darlene Melvin

LOUISVILLE, KY—Mrs. Darlene Melvin received the 1995 Helping Hands Award from World Relief,



Board Chairman John H. White presents Helping Hands Award to Darlene Melvin.

the humanitarian arm of the National Association of Evangelicals. Mrs. Melvin, a member of Butterfield FWB Church in Aurora, Illinois, received the award in Louisville, KY, on March 5 at an NAE-World Relief luncheon which featured a video presentation depicting some of her humanitarian accomplishments.

Darlene was pivotal in forming an English language training program for refugees in Wheaton, Illinois, linking together Christian volunteers with newly-arrived refugees who had fled to America from around the world during the 1980s. As a result, thousands of individuals not only received the language help they needed, they came into a relationship with Christians and with local churches. As a result, many developed relationships with Christ.

Whether she was helping to care for a blind woman in a nursing home, lending aid to a handicapped refugee from Cuba, tending to the senior citizens of her church or reaching out to a Cambodian refugee family who found themselves alone in a strange new country, Darlene seemed to be a constant whirlwind of compassion and generosity.

Throughout the 80s, Darlene

adopted many refugee families and also found time to reach out to handicapped widows or single women often overlooked by others. Whether shopping or visiting the sick or offering to babysit or simply praying for and encouraging others, Darlene has been known to literally give "the coat off her back" in a spirit of love.

Her husband recalled an incident at a picnic for refugees the Melvins attended near their home. As evening fell and the weather turned cool, the refugee families had no warm coats to wear. "Darlene drove home, cleaned out one of her closets, came back to the park and gave all her coats away," Dr. Billy Melvin recalled.

While no one knows for certain how many miles Darlene logs on the family car in her outreach to the needy, "If I come home and the engine is cold, I know something's not right," Billy said.

Hillsdale Receives \$100,000 Gift

MCALISTER, OK—Long-time Oklahoma preacher, Reverend Harry Lee, gave a \$100,000 gift to Hillsdale FWB College last fall to establish a scholarship fund for ministerial students. Harry and Imogene Lee have regularly supported Hillsdale over the years.

The Lees are members of First FWB Church in McAlester. Harry pastored Free Will Baptist churches in southeastern Oklahoma. Imogene has been an educator in public schools and the local church. They both participate in the church's outreach to young people, sponsoring activities in their home.

Pastor Ernest Harrison, Jr. said, "We appreciate the Lees for their generosity, for their faithful support of Hillsdale and of Free Will Baptist work in general. Their vision will help ensure that Hillsdale can continue to take a vital role in the denomination by training young men. . . ."

Missouri Assoc. Supports Together Way

CUBA, MO—The South Central Association in Missouri presented a \$3,000 check for the Together Way to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington. The check was presented during the Association's Leadership Conference on February 18.

Melvin Worthington (L) receives \$3,000 check from Clerk David Brawley and Moderator Don Strauser.



Conference Coordinator Rick Dablemont, who pastors Cuba FWB Church, said, "Each year the South Central Association plans to support the Together Way plan utilizing this format. The funds will be divided equally between the four designated target areas of [Together Way] ministry.

Dr. Melvin Worthington accepted the \$3,000 check in behalf of the several Free Will Baptist ministries funded through the Together Way. Worthington also preached three times at the Leadership Conference.

The South Central Association consists of eight local churches.

Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign
February 1995
Update

State	Goal	Gifts	Balance
Alabama	\$ 76,397.63	\$ 4,981.15	\$ 71,416.48
Arizona	1,228.93	2,883.71	(1,654.78)
Arkansas	76,860.94	41,022.13	35,838.81
Atlantic Canada	1,570.51	897.00	673.51
California	17,216.76	1,444.20	15,772.56
Colorado	789.18	1,165.00	(375.82)
Florida	20,703.30	5,927.42	14,775.88
Georgia	38,179.19	28,308.88	9,870.31
Hawaii	184.54	727.26	(542.72)
Idaho	353.37	25.00	328.37
Illinois	16,176.29	4,949.47	11,226.82
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	5,409.29	30,045.05
Louisiana	94.23	1,925.00	(1,830.77)
Maryland	6,812.10	1,539.38	5,272.72
Michigan	15,116.19	16,004.22	(888.03)
Mississippi	15,559.86	3,798.23	11,761.63
Missouri	60,484.40	33,789.91	26,694.49
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	7,131.40	51,986.66
Northeast Assoc.	883.41	270.00	613.41
Northwest Assoc.	1,087.58	135.00	952.58
Ohio	40,923.66	19,513.10	21,410.56
Oklahoma	92,271.60	10,259.08	82,012.52
South Carolina	18,335.75	2,102.00	16,233.75
South Dakota		175.00	(175.00)
Tennessee	78,557.09	52,677.90	25,879.19
Texas	11,547.20	6,798.52	4,748.68
Virginia	24,323.33	2,027.93	22,295.40
Virgin Islands		200.00	(200.00)
West Virginia	46,204.51	998.00	45,206.51
Wisconsin		61.00	(61.00)
Other		2,978.85	(2,978.85)
Totals	\$766,583.39	\$263,101.33	\$503,482.06

THE TOGETHER WAY

February 1995

Receipts:

State	Design.	Co-op	Total	Feb. '94	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 18,096.79	\$.00	\$ 18,096.79	\$ 5,582.75	\$ 28,837.16
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	10.00	.00
Arkansas	18,528.64	13,807.86	32,336.50	25,620.66	59,275.74
California	.00	794.48	794.48	25.00	1,468.75
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	100.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	1,316.35	1,316.35	745.45	5,403.64
Georgia	9,443.96	2,789.34	12,233.30	11,851.93	29,426.33
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	8,057.10	2,264.58	10,321.68	8,217.20	21,649.38
Indiana	1,707.05	.00	1,707.05	.00	1,707.05
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Kansas	.00	55.59	55.59	.00	312.91
Kentucky	442.00	945.03	1,387.03	1,083.52	1,858.97
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	100.00	20.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	75.00	75.00
Michigan	6,810.10	2,215.74	9,025.84	13,067.89	13,024.61
Mississippi	127.50	208.69	336.19	350.38	879.23
Missouri	11,673.69	.00	11,673.69	15,797.96	23,704.15
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	311.80	25.90	337.70	445.00	751.40
North Carolina	2,008.00	250.00	2,258.00	541.47	4,097.61
Ohio	2,739.46	4,504.72	7,244.18	3,309.85	19,991.74
Oklahoma	35,632.77	14.84	35,647.61	46,233.30	93,946.25
South Carolina	24,694.40	112.20	24,806.60	14,572.42	54,994.92
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	10,101.35	1,303.66	11,405.01	10,250.38	19,549.78
Texas	14,698.73	1,004.52	15,703.25	11,000.73	20,833.94
Virginia	543.90	25.00	568.90	2,285.54	2,963.92
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	3,559.70	54.47	3,614.17	3,163.29	7,232.09
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	(.04)	(.04)	.02	(.05)
Totals	\$169,176.94	\$31,692.93	\$200,869.87	\$174,429.74	\$412,004.52

Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$9,750.44	\$19,015.77	\$28,766.21	\$27,201.71	\$57,406.08
Foreign Missions	96,056.18	2,915.75	98,971.93	88,111.62	206,523.41
FWBBC	12,444.81	2,915.75	15,360.56	10,520.82	32,768.18
Home Missions	43,576.83	2,281.89	45,858.72	32,308.47	92,016.36
Retirement & Insurance	843.51	1,774.79	2,618.30	1,257.92	5,269.24
Master's Men	1,589.72	1,774.79	3,364.51	2,774.37	6,776.98
Commission for Theo. Integrity	119.60	63.39	182.99	93.53	349.25
FWB Foundation	734.24	760.63	1,494.87	944.52	3,178.51
Historical Commission	119.60	63.39	182.99	90.13	323.72
Music Commission	85.11	63.39	148.50	93.51	293.85
Radio & TV Commission	85.10	63.39	148.49	91.51	314.73
Hillsdale FWB College	1,297.06	.00	1,297.06	1,889.46	2,671.32
Other	2,474.74	.00	2,474.74	9,052.17	4,112.89
Totals	\$169,176.94	\$31,692.93	\$200,869.87	\$174,429.74	\$412,004.52



**Have
You
Prayed for
Your
Missionaries
Today?**

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

"Preacher, tell me about Jesus!"

By Johnny Thompson

As a Christian and a preacher, I believe that God will save anyone who asks (Romans 10:13). Growing up in Detroit, I saw people in all kinds of sin: drugs, alcohol, stealing, etc. Seeing them in their sins placed a burden on my heart for them to know God. I know how some of them feel and I want to tell them of Someone who can take away their pain.

I have been acting upon that burden since I came to FWBBC. I am a chaplain at the Davidson County Jail. In the six months that I

and some others from the college have been having services at the jail, we have seen 44 men make decisions for Christ.

One night in one of our services, a man walked in. His hair was long and dirty. His face was scarred and his arms covered in tat-

toos. He sat down and listened to the message, but his eyes were empty and cold. I preached from Second Corinthians, chapter five, explaining how Jesus could fill the empty heart, change the unchangeable, save the unsavable, and love the unlovable. I shared with them how my life used to be and all that Christ had forgiven in me.

After the service, I sat next to this man.

"Preacher," he said, "I tried to kill a man. I am a drug addict and a beer drinker. I even killed a man in Michigan and was never caught. Just yesterday, I started to stab a man for putting an open Bible on my bed. But he said you could help me, Preacher, just like you helped him. Preacher, tell me about this Jesus, please!"

I shared the story of Saul and talked with him about Jesus. He received Jesus Christ as his personal Savior that night. He confessed all he had done, even the murder in Michigan. He was there for three or four more services before they took him to state prison. During those weeks, he told us that he did not feel the need for drugs or cigarettes. He even had no desire for beer. He testified that God had taken away those desires. He claimed to be a new

man, and he was.

That is just one story. I have 43 more, all unique.

It is hard to comprehend the power of the Holy Spirit until you experience and see it for yourself. Helping these men brings joy to my soul and tears to my eyes. It all comes from the confidence that I am doing the work of the Lord! ■



Johnny is a freshman ministerial student from Madison Heights, Michigan, where he attended Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church. He plans to complete his training at FWBBC, then go into an urban ministry.

John Murray, FWBBC Christian Service Director, says Johnny and others on his group have also been active in follow-up lessons to help these new converts

become grounded in the faith. The transfer and release of inmates has made it difficult for many to complete all 13 lessons, but efforts are being made to take the men through the full plan.

June Is Volunteer Month At FWBBC



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FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

May We Help You?

By David Brown

Some folks are intimidated by our formal name, "The Free Will Baptist Foundation." They have never considered what the Foundation can do for them. Actually, our purpose is simple—to serve Free Will Baptist churches and organizations by setting up, servicing and managing trusts and planned giving arrangements. With this in mind, perhaps we could help your church with a revocable trust.

Revocable trusts operate a lot like savings accounts or certificates of deposits. Funds placed with the foundation may be withdrawn by written request.

Revocable trusts are carefully managed to give you a better rate of return than simple passbook savings accounts. The actual rate of return will be the net earnings that the trust pool receives. This rate fluctuates, but over the last 14 years the return on revocable trusts has been higher than passbook savings rates.

Another advantage a revocable trust enjoys is that you do not have to commit your funds for long periods of time. Revocable trusts do not assess the penalty for early withdrawal. Present policy is to deliver funds in seven days after we have received written notice of the request.

A number of our churches, state and district associations have already expressed confidence in the Foundation's ministry by setting up revocable trusts benefitting their ministries. We manage trusts accumulating funds for church building projects. We are helping a state association manage long-term funds they are accumulating for a special project.

Several churches and associations have placed their excess operating funds in trusts. These excess funds may or may not be earmarked for any particular project, but the prudent church or association has placed the funds in a revocable trust to grow until they decide how or when they will use these funds.

The Foundation is accountable to the Free Will Baptist body at every national convention. The Free Will Baptist Foundation currently manages over \$1 million in revocable trust funds for individuals, churches and other Free Will Baptist organizations. Perhaps your church should consider adding their funds to this total by establishing a revocable trust.

When you establish a trust through the

Foundation, you are both giving and receiving at the same time. You receive better rates of return than your current savings account, and you give a small service fee to the Foundation. The Foundation generates funds to operate its ministry by taking a portion of the total earnings of the revocable trust pool.

The revocable trust pool is invested in a laddered portfolio of fixed-rate instruments either issued by or directly backed by the United States government. The laddering process allows us to provide a fairly stable rate of return. As market rates rise, our rate of return slowly rises; as rates fall, our rate of return again falls slowly. We have spread the maturities of these investments over a period of several years to make it possible to keep the rates stable.

Since 1980 we have been doing our best to let everyone know what our ministry is and how we can help them. If your church or organization has excess or long-term funds, consider the services of the Foundation by establishing a revocable trust to increase returns and retain easy access to the principal.

Don't let our name confuse you. We are simply a national Free Will Baptist organization that stands ready to serve local Free Will Baptists in any way we can. Please call or write if you would like more information on our ministry. ■



**Ready to Serve
Free Will Baptists.**

Write us at:
**P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002**

or call:
615/731-6812



HOME MISSIONS

1995 Heritage Tour Winners!

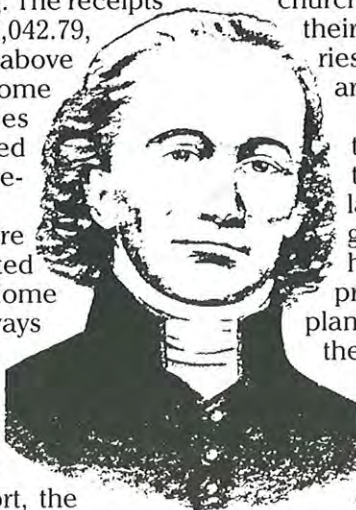
(A Report on Benjamin Randall Day, 1994)

By Roy Thomas

I believe Benjamin Randall Day—November 20, 1994, was a tremendous success! Almost 600 churches, plus numerous auxiliaries and individuals pooled their resources to make this special day a great blessing. The receipts at press time totaled over \$184,042.79, which is more than \$25,000 above gifts in preceding years. The Home Missions Department expresses heartfelt thanks to all who prayed for and participated in this denominational effort.

For years, the Sunday before Thanksgiving has been designated by the National Association as Home Missions Sunday. We have always promoted it extensively, but received only \$20,000 to \$40,000 as a result. However, since the adoption of Benjamin Randall Day as part of the Together Way Plan of denominational support, the gifts have amounted to five times that amount.

It is the prayer of the Home Missions Department that Benjamin Randall Day will become such a special day among Free Will Baptists that a large portion of Home Missions' General Fund budget can be raised on that day each year.



To challenge Free Will Baptists to give more on Benjamin Randall Day, the Department decided to sponsor the Free Will Baptist Heritage Tour to New England for the pastors of the churches receiving the largest offerings in their respective Sunday School categories. Winners of the tour for May 1995 are listed in the chart below.

The Heritage Tour has helped turn the eyes of Free Will Baptists toward New England, a heavily populated section that is as void of the gospel as many foreign countries. It has also given Free Will Baptist preachers an increased burden for planting churches across America as they visit the places where the gospel began in America, especially for Free Will Baptists, but are now void of the gospel. The tour is also reinforcing faith in Free Will Baptist doctrine among our pastors and churches, and instilling pride in who we are.

Sunday, November 19, 1995, is the next Benjamin Randall Day. I challenge you and your church to get involved in this denominational effort for Home Missions each November. Mark your calendar and plan now for this special Together Way Plan emphasis. ■

Attendance Category	Church	Pastor	Offering
A (C)	First FWB, Florence, AL	Rev. J. D. Norris	\$3,330.69
A (D)	First FWB, Erwin, TN	Rev. Ronnie Adkins	6,379.16
B (D)	Parkers Chapel FWB, Greenville, NC	Rev. Lorenza Stox	6,329.00
B (D)	Cramerton FWB, Cramerton, NC	Rev. Doug King	6,000.00
C (D)	First FWB, Inman, SC	Rev. Earl Hendrix	3,500.00
C (D)	Goshen FWB, Mount Holly, NC	Rev. Harold Blankenship	3,002.67
D (F)	Woodbine FWB, Nashville, TN	Dr. Stanley Outlaw	2,948.87
D (F)	Mount Olive FWB, Mount Olive, NC	Rev. Terry Hardison	2,775.66
E (F)	Grifton FWB, Grifton, NC	Rev. Van Mitchell	2,042.14
E (G)	First FWB, Duncanville, TX	Rev. David Sutton	3,221.00
F (G)	Eastside FWB, Dothan, AL	Rev. John Edwards	4,511.15
F (G)	First FWB, Richmond, VA	Rev. Larry Russell	2,723.26
G	Harmony Fellowship, Wheatridge, CO	Rev. Charles Harris	2,372.00
G	First FWB, Jasper, AL	Rev. Roger Raper	2,123.91
H	Bethel FWB, Montevallo, AL	Rev. Albert Pickett	1,035.44
H	Heritage FWB, E. Panhandle, WV	Rev. Russell Wright	1,003.00



Robert E. Picirilli

The Man Born Blind

John 9

Lots of issues percolate through the account of Jesus' gift of sight to the man born blind. First is *the issue of sin*: everybody thought he was blind because of some specific sin.

Jesus' disciples raised this question up front: who sinned, the man himself or his parents, to cause this tragic mishap (v. 1)? At the end, the Pharisaic investigators sharply rebuked him: You were wholly born in sins; dare you teach us (v. 34)?

But everybody was wrong. Sure, all physical defects are ultimately traceable to sin and the curse, but Jesus freed His disciples from the mistaken judgement that every such problem is the result of a given person's sin.

In this case, the problem provided opportunity for God to work and be glorified. But self-righteous folk find it all too easy to assign blame for a person's misfortune.

Then there's *the issue of the Sabbath* (v. 14). That was one of the Pharisees' main concerns; Jesus had technically violated the Sabbath. Isn't it strange how people can become so concerned for the ways of God that they can't see His works? That they have a higher regard for His law than for those for whom the law was made?

Jesus' answer on another occasion fits here: The Sabbath was made for man, not vice-versa. If keeping the law of God rules out demonstrating compassion for others, we've wrongly understood His law.

There is also *the issue of the saliva and Siloam* (vv. 6-7, 15). Jesus could easily have spoken the word and given the man sight. Why then make clay and put it on his eyes? Why send him to the pool to wash before he could see?

The answer is that there is no answer. Jesus healed in any number of ways. What we learn is that we can't

box up God according to our own limited understanding. He works in mysterious and marvelous ways, and we never really figure Him out.

What's important is not His method but His power and grace. We mustn't try to make one person's experience fit everyone else.

Another thing is *the issue of signs*, which runs throughout. Some said Jesus was a Sabbath-breaking sinner; others wondered if a sinner can do such signs (v. 16).

When they tried to convince the man himself that Jesus was a sinner, he first tried to sidestep their trap: All I know is that I was blind and now see (v. 25)!

On further prodding he affirmed, just before they excommunicated him from the synagogue (if I may paraphrase): Seems like you should know where he's from, given that he's opened my never-seeing eyes! This is something never heard of before; surely the man is from God!

Do signs *always* indicate that the worker is serving God? No. Sometimes startling satanic power is demonstrated—but always in support of that which deceives people, that which is false. When signs support the teaching of the Word of God and the true good of people, we can be secure in assigning them to God.

The point is, we have to be discerning and we have to use the revealed Word as a means for doing so. We mustn't be naive.

Finally, there is *the issue of the Son of God* (v. 35). Ultimately, that is what all this was about: who, really, is Jesus? He understood that He was sent from God to do His works (vv. 3-5).

The Pharisees understood Him to be a sinner, in spite of the evidence to the contrary, because of their closed minds (vv. 16, 24-25).

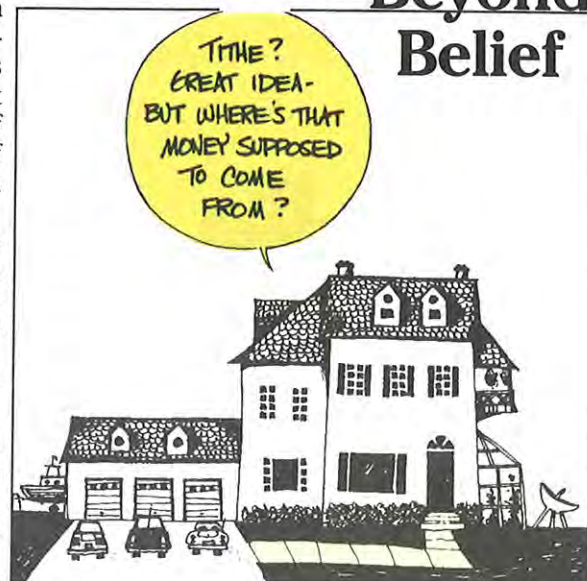
The man born blind at first only understood that He was a man named Jesus (v. 11), and his parents avoided the issue altogether (vv. 18-23), even though they understood what was at stake (v. 22).

At last the man born blind learned the truth (vv. 35-38). And when he understood that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, he put all his confidence, his faith, in Him (v. 38).

And isn't that what the Gospel of John is all about, after all? Who is Jesus, and what is the proper response to Him? He is God's Messiah, God's Son who is One with Him. And all He said and did, including the signs that John selected to tell us about, have as their purpose to beget faith in Him.

The interesting thing is that the man who started out blind ended up seeing everything. The Pharisees, whose eyesight was ever so good, were the truly blind ones!

Beyond Belief





Thomas Marberry

Calling America and the Nations to Christ

Luis Palau with David Sanford

(Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994, 199 pp., paperback, \$8.99)

Luis Palau was born and raised in Argentina where his ancestors had emigrated from Spain, Scotland and France. While Luis was a child, his parents accepted Christ as a result of the ministry of a British tentmaker missionary. They both became actively involved in the evangelical church in their hometown. His father often faced severe persecution because of his faithful witness for Christ and his efforts to win those around him to Christ.

Luis' parents prayed for him faith-

fully, and he accepted Christ at the age of 12 during youth camp. The death of his father some three years previous was a major factor in his decision to become a Christian.

During his teen years, he sometimes wandered away from the Lord. That came to an end in 1952 when he rededicated his life and became an active witness for Christ. Within a short time he was preaching and participating in evangelistic crusades in different parts of Argentina. God blessed his evangelistic ministry and people

began to accept Christ in significant numbers. It was during these years that Palau developed a burden for mass evangelism which has never left him.

It was also during these formative years that he developed a strategy of going into a community and working with the local churches in planning and conducting city-wide crusades. This strategy has resulted over the years in the founding of many churches and in the addition of significant numbers of converts to existing churches.

As a young man he emigrated to the United States, attended Multnomah Biblical Seminary, married, began a family and continued his evangelistic ministry. He served as a missionary to Costa Rica and Columbia under the sponsorship of OC International. He later served as a missionary to Mexico.

In recent years he has organized the Luis Palau Evangelistic Association and developed a world-wide ministry of evangelism. He has preached in most countries of Latin America, the United Kingdom, the United States and several other countries. Large crowds have attended his crusades and thousands have accepted Christ.

Luis Palau is one of the most successful crusade evangelists in our world today. He is responsible for winning more men and women to Christ in Latin America than any other person.

This book is a well-written analysis of his life and ministry. It is remarkably frank and honest for an autobiography; it documents his faults and failures as well as his successes. There are many lessons we can learn from this book. The most important of these lessons relates not to the work and ministry of Luis Palau, but to the grace and power of Almighty God. ■

Directory Update

MISSISSIPPI

Early White to Antioch Church, Randolph

NORTH CAROLINA

Larry Ball to Shady Grove Church, Durham, from Community Church, Corinth, MS

David Young to Homer's Chapel Church, Black Mountain

Jerry Smith to Jesus First Church, Rockingham, from Maple Street Church, Rockingham

Don Mabe to Maple Street Church, Rockingham

SOUTH CAROLINA

Galen Dunbar to Bethany Church, Timmonsville, from Ebenezer Church, Glennville, GA

TENNESSEE

Charley Carmack to Smyrna Church, Smyrna, from Bethlehem Church, Ashland City

VIRGINIA

Gary Hill to Central Church, Norton, from Camp Jacob, Clintwood, as director

WEST VIRGINIA

Ivan Asbury to Central Church, Huntington, from Cedar Grove Church, Parkersburg

OTHER PERSONNEL

Brad Williams to Red Bay Church, Red Bay, AL, as youth minister and music director from Harmony Church, Fresno, CA, as youth minister and music director



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Jack Williams

Do You Really Hate Conventions?

A friend of mine has attended every national convention since 1985, but always responds with this standard answer when asked about the annual meeting: "I hate conventions!" No matter how pleasant the weather: "I hate conventions!" Even if worship services resemble camp meetings: "I still hate conventions!"

My suspicion is that the "I hate conventions" attitude reflects more "I hate the long hours standing in uncomfortable shoes on concrete floors." Or "I hate 10 nights away from my friendly waterbed back in Tennessee." Or schedules that demand presence as well as input from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Or *maybe* those crowds of slightly loud but happy people all rushing for the same elevator.

What about you? Before you answer, remember that the convention may have changed since you last attended. In the past 25 years, attendance has exploded from 2,500 in 1970 to 7,600 in 1994. The significance of those numbers?

It means that more people participate in denominational business. More families vacation at the national convention. More youth groups pre-register for conference events. More pastors take a personal interest in the denomination's national and international outreach.

Some people seem to get more out of the convention than others. Who gets the most from the convention? Maybe those who live in isolated areas and rarely see more than 30 or 40 in worship. Once a year, they can look out over a sea of shining faces and hear singing that lifts the soul. That's a sight and sound to weather the Idaho winters.

Who gets more out of the convention? Maybe it's that gray-haired preacher who remembers how things

used to be when the entire national convention could assemble in one church that seated 400 people. Today, our largest church would be overfilled three times just to seat the attendees. And that would leave no room for the 100 separate meetings in the women's and youth conferences. To say nothing of 22 catered events, some of which seat 1,200 or more for dinner.

Who gets more out of the convention? Maybe it's that older deacon who recalls how the host church used to scramble to provide homes for people to sleep in every night. Today, we use 1,400 hotel rooms nightly—no local church has enough Baptist pallets to handle that load.

Why do people attend the national convention? Not everybody goes for the same reason. Some come right out and confess that they're there for the fellowship and could not care less about the business sessions. They gather in convention center hallways, caucus on street corners and rally in hotel lobbies to talk and laugh and get re-baptized in the river of Christian warmth.

Some go to catch the excitement of the youth conference. Some spend most of their time in the exhibit hall grazing through the various displays. Others are there only for the women's meetings. That's why we're there. There's something for everybody at the national convention.

Oh, yes, some go for the controversy. Some of us *cause* controversy. Some of us try to *resolve* controversy. Don't be surprised. When this many leaders gather in one place, there will be disagreement. For the record, disagreement is not a bad thing. It can be healthy, a way to sharpen focus, a time to more closely examine issues, a reminder that one size does not fit all.

What will happen in Charlotte, North Carolina, this July? There'll

be enough preaching to declare it a national revival meeting. More than 20 speakers in five days during three concurrent national conventions will remind hearers to keep first things first.

There's more. Afternoon seminars, morning pastors' conference, catered meals with speakers. And four days of dawn-to-dark, high-energy music and arts competition for youth. Plus a two-day women's meeting that culminates with a Tuesday dinner date for 700 to hear missionary pioneer Mabel Willey.

And business! When Moderator Ralph Hampton gavels the convention to order on Wednesday morning for business, delegates will conduct big business in a big hurry. They'll average more than a million dollars an hour from 9:00 a.m. Wednesday until Thursday adjournment. Now that's worth watching.

Somewhere between the preaching, budgeting and reporting, delegates will also elect 35 board and commission members for national agencies. Come early and get a front seat. You don't want to miss it.

Now, I ask you—what's not to love about a Free Will Baptist convention? It's a meeting to encourage the discouraged, to refocus the unfocused, to tune up the tuned out and to fire up the faint-hearted.

Speaking for myself, I'm grateful that the work of God among Free Will Baptists is such that when we come together to talk about it we can call it a convention instead of a going-out-of-business sale.

I checked. My friend who hates conventions will be in Charlotte this July. So it appears there will be 7,000 happy campers and at least one grump in the New Charlotte Convention Center. That's all right. If they register, even grumps get to vote. ■

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