

SEPTEMBER 1995

CONTACT

CHARLOTTE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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Convention Reviews

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Revive the Redeemed

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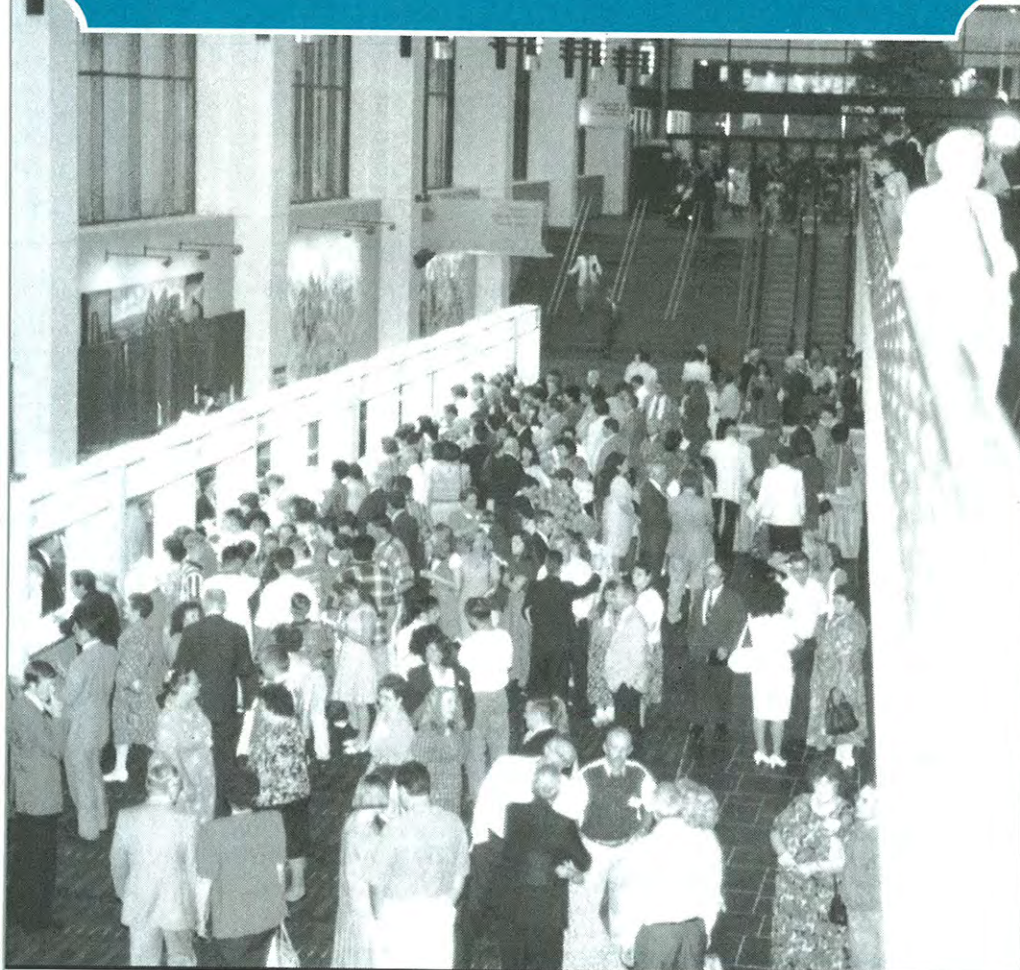
Great & Mighty Things Through Prayer

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Make a World of Difference

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Red-Faced Moments



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Melvin Worthington

Discussing Philosophical Differences

Philosophical differences within organizations are nothing new under the sun. Individuals within the same organization rarely agree on everything.

Philosophical differences about the role of government in society created a number of political parties. Differences in philosophy give birth to denominations and parachurch organizations. Philosophical differences in methodology contribute to the development of new organizations.

The Facts

The Church is compared to the human body—one body with a diversity of members. Individual differences, locations and experiences all contribute to philosophical differences within an organization—even the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

The early church discussed philosophical differences in Acts 15. The discernment which prompted that meeting brought a clear resolution to difficult problems in the early church. Meeting to discuss philosophical differences in our denomination can be a rewarding experience.

Misunderstandings and misinformation can be corrected and differences resolved. The facts are clear, philosophical differences exist in all organizations. The National Association of Free Will Baptists is no exception. We can resolve our differences through clarification, consideration and cooperation.

The Forum

Delegates attending the 1995 national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, recognized the need for a meeting of Free Will Baptists to discuss differences among us which fan the flames of dissension, distrust and division. Delegates voted that the December 1995 Free Will Baptist Lead-

ership Conference be designated a time to discuss those differences.

The conference is open to any Free Will Baptist who wishes to attend. (A modest registration fee will be charged.) This forum gives Free Will Baptists opportunity to confront, clarify and come to a biblical resolution regarding philosophical differences.

The Focus

The meeting will focus on three resolutions referred to the conference. The major resolution is the seven-point "Areas of Concern" adopted in June by the North Carolina State Association and passed on to the National Association for consideration.

The resolution includes guidelines which would have to be signed before any person could be considered as a National Association speaker, board member, department director or officer. The seven areas of concern include music, Sunday School, preaching, separation, missions, National Association employees, board members and speakers; and New Evangelicalism.

Two resolutions from the Virginia State Association were also referred to the December meeting. One concerned the Fellowship of Encouragement; the other was a request for an apology from the WNAC executive secretary and the *Co-Laborer* editor.

These resolutions along with other philosophical differences will be discussed. The conference will focus on communication and clarification of philosophical differences among us.

The Format

The meeting structure will allow participants to freely and fully discuss the issues. All will have opportunity to be heard. The meeting format will include:

1. Determine philosophical differences. What are the differences which cause dissension and division?
2. Define philosophical differences. Terms need to be defined in order to address differences.
3. Discuss philosophical differences. This is a time to express ourselves on issues where we differ.
4. Deal with philosophical differences.

What do we count as essentials? What can we embrace? What could we exclude?

The answer to these three questions could serve as a basis on which to resolve philosophical differences which perpetuate our denominational dilemma.

During this conference, Free Will Baptists will have opportunity to determine, define, discuss and deal with philosophical differences. I believe that fellowship with one another, forbearance of one another and forgiveness of one another will enable us to resolve differences.

The organizational structure of our denomination allows freedom and flexibility among its members—the local church, district and state associations and the National Association. During our discussions, we must keep in mind the autonomy of those individual entities which hold membership in the National Association.

Plan to attend the December 4-6, 1995, Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference at the Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. What we do in December will impact the denomination well into the 21st century. Make the financial investment to attend. Take the time to participate. Your denomination needs you now. ■

The Secretary's Schedule

Sept. 12-15 Convention Planning Trip / Fort Worth, TX

Sept. 10-20 Alcohol Problems Summit / St. Louis, MO

Sept. 24-27 Christian Stewardship Association
Chicago, IL

Revive the Redeemed

By Thomas Marberry



The Wednesday night crowd looks great from the choir. Missionaries walk across stage as they are introduced.

Free Will Baptists gathered in the beautiful city of Charlotte, North Carolina, located between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean to share in the 59th annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. It was a time of preaching, praying, singing, renewing friendships and transacting the Lord's business.

It was also a time of revival and rededication. Over 800 young people made some type of decision for Christ during the National Youth Conference activities. During the missions service Wednesday evening, many made decisions including two who answered the call to missions and one who answered the call to preach.

Convention '95 was large with a registration of 6,972 people. New convention facilities handled the large crowd

with minimal difficulties. For the first time in several years, all activities for youth and adults were housed in the same facility. The worship and exhibit areas adjoined each other with abundant room to visit with fellow believers.



Roger Harwell.

The theme this year, "Revive the Redeemed," was addressed in worship services and seminars. Participants were made conscious of the need for personal revival and personal rededication to the work of God. They understood that revival is something out of the ordinary—a transforming experience, a refreshing from Heaven which captivates Christians.

Revival also implies a time when changes take place in the lives of individuals and of institutions. Both were evident in Free Will Baptist life during

this convention.

Two national departments have new directors, and another retires this year. Free Will Baptist Bible College is beginning the process of relocation. New opportunities for both foreign and home missions are opening up.

Revival in Worship

Sincere worship is essential for God's people to experience genuine revival. Worship services at Convention '95 were some of the most meaningful we have seen in several years. Not all preachers addressed the topic of revival specifically, but they outlined the kind of relationship with God we must have if revival occurs.

Sunday Morning

Reverend Roger Harwell, who preached Sunday morning, pastors Beacon FWB Church in Raytown, Missouri. His primary text was Micah 6:8. From this text he discussed what God reveals, what God requires and how God restores.

Sunday Evening

Reverend Jim Turnbough from Greenville, North Carolina, preached Sunday evening. He preached on the subject, "I can't go home without my brother" from Genesis 44:17. He pointed out that Judah and his brothers could not return to Palestine without Benjamin because it was a matter of love, life and liability.

He then applied these truths to today, "We must love people because our Father does." We have people all around us who are destined for hell; they need the life which is available only in Christ.

Monday Evening

Monday evening's preacher was Reverend Keith Burden of Ada, Oklahoma. His topic was "How to Keep Revival Fires Burning;" the text was Psalm 107:1-3.

Following discussion of the background and setting of the psalm, Burden said that revival will affect the worship of the redeemed. They will have the same kind of attitude toward worship that the writer of this psalm had.

He emphasized that revival will affect our approach to worship, give the right volition and a determination to witness to the lost. He noted, "Vital worship and evangelism or witnessing go hand in hand."



Keith Burden.

Tuesday Evening

Reverend Bill Evans of Nashville, Tennessee, preached Tuesday evening. He preached on the importance of true biblical love in our lives and in our churches. Using I John 3:1-10 as his text, he reminded the congregation that "He who lives in righteousness must have biblical love also to be right with God." He challenged Free Will Baptists to love one another in spite of our differences.

Words Worth Remembering

- "A lot of good things are happening every year at NYC." —Jim McAllister
- "I may not be able to tell where God is, but He knows where I am." —Cliff Donoho
- "I got a new car for my wife. What a deal!" —Cliff Donoho
- "It would be a real dull world if all of us were identical." —Bill Evans
- "Let's be sure we pass on to the next generation a task more nearly completed than the one we inherited." —Ralph Hampton
- "Let's give God a chance." —Ralph Hampton
- "In the 19th and 20th centuries, a great deal has been learned about the meanings of Greek words in New Testament times." —Robert Picirilli
- "Christian schools and home schools right now are the hope of America." —Norman Geisler
- "We can't expect the world to repent if the church doesn't repent." —Norman Geisler
- "We can't be more Christian in America until we have more Christians in America." —Norman Geisler
- "Vital worship and evangelism or witnessing go hand in hand." —Keith Burden
- "I am of the opinion that God has more to do with revival than we do." —Keith Burden
- "Every need we have can be met just by reaching people for Christ." —Roy Thomas
- "I don't intend to quit preaching. I'm just going to quit working." —Roy Thomas
- "We must love people because our Father does." —Jim Turnbough
- "There is going to be a cost to pay if you serve God." —Wendell Leckbee
- "I have a God who knows and a Savior who cares." —Roger Harwell
- "It is true that we are not worthy to be His children, but we are His children." —James Munsey

Wednesday Evening

The Wednesday evening missions service found Reverend James Munsey, home missions coordinator for Mexico, in the pulpit. His sermon, taken from I Kings 19:4-9, related to one incident in the life of the prophet Elijah.

In that passage, the Lord found His prophet hiding in a cave and asked, "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

Munsey then asked the congregation, "What are you doing with the opportunity that God has given you?" He pointed out that Elijah was hiding in the cave because he had misunderstood himself, misdirected his anger and misjudged God.

This year's preaching was powerful, biblical and directly relevant to the needs of our denomination. It was clear that the Spirit of God was at work in each service. At the close of the Wednesday evening missions service, a large number of people went forward

to pray; two answered the call to missions and one the call to preach.

Revival in Music

Music has always been important at Free Will Baptist conventions and in the work of God in general. That was certainly the case this year. A variety of solos, ensembles, choirs and congregational music added to the spirit of revival felt during worship services.

It began Sunday morning with the Sadler family from Lincolnton, North Carolina. Their renditions of traditional gospel songs were warmly received.

It continued Sunday evening with the Florida Ministers Quartet and the Gospeliers Quartet. Lawrence Taylor from Bethel FWB Church in Kinston, North Carolina, also participated that evening.

Monday evening, the Mass Choir gave a moving performance of "I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb." A

men's trio composed of Scott Bullman, Mike Lewis and Tim Murfin roused the congregation with several numbers.

Tuesday evening, the music service included the Combined College Groups. The choir consisted of the New Life Ministry Team from Hillsdale FWB College, the Rejoice Ministry Team from FWBBC, and the Sounds of Praise from Southeastern FWB College. It was a joy to see young people from three of



North Carolina folk work hard to register the nearly 7,000 people in Charlotte.

our denominational colleges working so well together.

Prior to the sermon, Susan Hiltibidal from Northside Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, sang, making a deep impression on the congregation.

A variety of music was presented during the Wednesday evening missions service: The Sadler family, the Men's Chorus, a trumpet trio, and Rev. Bill Gardner.

Perhaps the best part of the music services, however, was the outstanding congregational singing.



Come one, come all. Come short, come tall—and register!

Revival in Missions

The Christian faith is a missionary faith, and Free Will Baptists are a missionary-minded people. At every convention, including this one, home and foreign missions occupy much of the care and attention of the participants. Both departments gave reports of their mission work; both reported significant growth.

Home Missions

Nine new home missionaries and their families were sent out in 1994. Three home missionaries led churches to become self-supporting during the year. Income for 1994 was \$2.6 million. The Church

Extension Loan Fund grew to \$7.6 million.

Seven Free Will Baptist chaplains served in 1994; one new chaplain, Rev. Doyle Coffman has been approved as an army chaplain and will be inducted August 2 at Fort Hood, TX.

Roll Call Sunday continues to be a popular program of the Home Missions Department. On March 26, 1995, at least



Registration lines don't discourage our folks.

213,656 people worshipped in 2,525 churches which are affiliated with our National Association. We rejoice in the fact that 552 salvation decisions were reported that day.

Cornerstone FWB Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, pastored by Rev. Curtis Linton, had the largest attendance

1995 Convention Registration

National Convention	3,480
Ordained Ministers	895
Ordained Deacons	221
Licensed Ministers	21
Local Church Delegates	123
State Delegates	87
Home Missionaries	77
Foreign Missionaries	30
National Board Members	23
National Officers	4
Non-Delegates	1,999
National Youth Conference	2,288
WNAC	1,204
Total	6,972

with 2,108. Faith FWB Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina, pastored by Rev. Dann Patrick, came in second with 1,760. Eight churches had over 1,000 people in attendance that day.

Benjamin Randall Day is set for November 19. That day, special offerings for home missions will be received by churches of our denomination. This year's goal is \$200,000. Each pastor whose church sends an offering will receive a new book just published by the

department, *The Man from Idaho—His Story, His Service, His Sermons!*

The Free Will Baptist Camp Meeting Monday afternoon was well-attended. Roy Thomas, the principal speaker,



Roy Thomas gives his final report.

will retire December 31 this year. Roy has been an important part of our home missions work for more than 30 years. He has served as general director since 1978. He was honored by the association for his years of service to the denomination.

Mr. Trymon Messer will become general director on Sep-

tember 1. During this year's convention, he shared his goals for the Home Missions Department. He said, "I want to make our missionaries top priority." He announced a program of training and evaluation for home missionaries beginning January 3, 1996.

He discussed his desire to work with Free Will Baptist colleges to set up training programs specifically designed for church planters. He concluded his remarks, "We've got to get some new churches going."

Foreign Missions

The Foreign Missions Department reported an outstanding year. They reported that at the end of 1994, our denomination had 79 organized churches and 133 mission works in nine countries. They reported 1,231 converts, 806 baptisms and an average Sunday School attendance of 7,643.

During 1994 Free Will Baptists gave \$4.4 million to foreign missions. Forty-five churches each gave \$10,000 or more; 146 gave \$5,000 or more to this work. The top state was Tennessee with gifts exceeding \$780,000.

The Laura Belle Barnard World Missions Offering is scheduled for the last Sunday in April. The 1996 goal is \$100,000. Director Waddell urged all Free Will Baptists to support this offer-

Elected in Charlotte

The following were elected during the 59th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

General Officers

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

General Board

1996 Dennis Conley (N. Mex.)
1997 Richard Cordell (Ala.)
George Harvey, Jr. (Ariz.)
David Joslin (Ark.)
Dwayne Broad (Atlantic Canada)
Nuel Brown (Calif.)
Bob Thomas (Colo.)
Millard Sasser (Fla.)
Herbert Waid (Ga.)
Gene Kissinger (Id.)
Ernie Lewis (Ill.)
Robert Helms (Ind.)
Jerry Murphree (Kan.)
Tim York (Ky.)
Ron Parker (First La.)
Lester Horton (Md.)
James Munsey (Mex.)
Gene Norris (Mich.)
J. L. Gore (Miss.)
Nathan Ruble (Mo.)

Executive Committee

1997 Gene Norris (Mich.)
Nathan Ruble (Mo.)
David Joslin (Ark.)

Board of Retirement

2001 Jack Daniel (Ga.)
Waymon Fields (Ala.)
Bobby Bowers (S.C.)

Home Missions Board

2001 Richard Atwood (Md.)
Earl Hendrix (S.C.)
J. D. Norris (Ala.)

Master's Men Board

2001 Johnny Fowlkes (Ark.)
Jerry Atwell (Miss.)
Waymon Ray (Okla.)

Commission for Theological Integrity

2000 Daryl Ellis (Ill.)

Radio-Television Commission

2000 Doug Kite (Tenn.)

Music Commission

2000 Vernon Whaley (Tenn.)

Historical Commission

2000 Darrell Holley (Tenn.)

ing to help carry the gospel to those around the world who have never heard.

During his report, Waddell discussed the challenge our denomination faces in Russia and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Our mission board has approved several initiatives.

We can send tentmaker missionaries to the 55 million Muslim people of central Asia. We can begin new works among unreached people-groups in the Commonwealth of Independent States. We can also provide assistance and support to Baptist brethren of Arminian belief in Russia and the Ukraine.

Plans were announced to send Leroy and Fay Forlines to teach in a Russian seminary during the spring semester of 1996.

The organizational meeting of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists is set for October 16-21 in Brazil. One official delegate from each country where Free Will Baptists have planted churches has been invited to participate.

Waddell reported that 86 students in our colleges are majoring or minor-ing in missions.

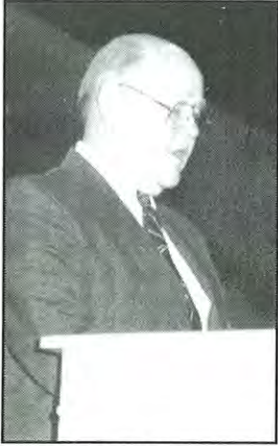
During the missions service Wednesday evening, home and foreign missionaries were presented, including a group of high school students who had just returned from a mission trip to Mexico under the leadership of Ken and Marvis Eagleton. The Foreign Missions Department is committed to giving young people of our denomination the opportunity to learn about missions first hand by visiting mission fields around the world.



Chairman Earl Hendrix (r) welcomes new Home Missions director, Trymon Messer.

Revival in Preparation

The national convention is not just a time of worship, fellowship and business. It is also a time of learning and preparation. There are many opportunities for convention participants to learn more about our denomination and how they can serve God more effectively.



Soloist Bill Gardner.

Sunday School

Wendell Leckbee, a member of First FWB Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas, taught the adult Sunday School

class Sunday morning. The lesson, based on Nehemiah 2:9-20 and 4:1-6, discussed some aspects of Nehemiah's rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.

Leckbee called attention to the way Nehemiah addressed these problems. He identified the problem, created excitement and included the workers in the planning and work. He pointed out how we need to do these same things in doing God's work today.

Pastors' Conference

One of the convention highlights was the Tuesday morning Pastors' Confer-



The Sadler Family sing.

1996 Together Way Allocations

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

1. Underwrite the Executive Office Administrative Budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 55% of cooperative gifts.
2. Disburse the balance of cooperative gifts to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

Free Will Baptist Bible College	23.0%
Foreign Missions	23.0%
Home Missions	18.0%
Retirement and Insurance	14.0%
Master's Men	14.0%
Free Will Baptist Foundation	6.0%
Commission for Theological Integrity	.5%
Historical Commission	.5%
Music Commission	.5%
Radio and Television Commission	.5%
Total	100.00%

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

ence. Dr. Norman Geisler, dean of Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina, spoke both sessions.

He discussed the moral crisis in our country. He pointed out that our country was founded on religious and moral principles, but since about 1960 it has abandoned many of these religious and moral principles.

He cited how society has become increasingly secular and relativistic. He argued that modern concepts of separation of church and state have created a hostility toward religion which was not intended by our country's founding fathers.

In his discussion, he pointed out that public schools have largely been taken over by liberalism and secularism. He went so far as to say, "The best thing we could do for the public school system in America is to destroy it." He urged a return to schools operated by parents and churches.

In order to combat the increasing secularization of our country, Geisler urged that we need a revival of our citizens, a reformation of our government and a reformation of our schools.

Tuesday Seminars

The Commission for Theological Integrity and the Music Commission conducted seminars Tuesday afternoon.

During the theological seminar, Dr.



The instrumental ensemble played small instruments . . .

Robert Picirilli discussed the issue of modern translations of the Bible. He pointed out how different groups of translators may translate the same Greek or Hebrew words in different ways.

He also discussed how our knowledge of the meanings of Greek words has increased dramatically in this century. He explained how the Bible has been translated into English many times over the years and how modern students of the Bible should be careful in selecting one particular translation or version and making it the final authority.

The Music Commission seminar was conducted by Dr. Vernon Whaley who was assisted by the Rejoice Ministry Team from FWBBC. This seminar was designed to acquaint music directors and other interested people with Christian music which has recently become available.

Several music publishers made copies of their music available free or

at reduced prices to seminar participants. It was a pleasure to sing fine new songs with an outstanding group of young men and women.

Exhibits

The exhibit area was also an important part of the ministry of Convention '95. Our national departments, colleges and other agencies along with companies and other ministries, had booths where attendees could receive information on a variety of subjects.

At the home and foreign missions booths, attendees could meet personally and talk with missionaries. Ran-

in 1994 totaled \$8.7 million. Some 6,972 people participated in the different ministries of Convention '95.

If our denomination is to have the revival we need, it is essential that the work of the denomination be carried on in a responsible manner. Several departments and agencies are devoted to providing necessary services to our denomination and its people. One of these is the General Board.



Music Coordinator Randy Sawyer.

and their local churches in the most effective manner possible.

The Master's Men Congress held its fourth conclave this year. The congress extends the ministry of the Master's Men Board through planning, ministry identification, leadership development and committee involvement. All churches can be represent-

ed in the congress held Tuesday afternoon at each convention.

Jim Vallance gave the Master's Men Department report during the business session. He reported that the organization now has 802 LifeMembers. Some of these have gone to glory, but their lifemembership continues to financially benefit the work of the department.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of involvement in church building projects. During these 10 years, volunteer workers sponsored by Master's Men have worked on 54 structures in this country and on mission fields. Estimates indicate that this work has saved Free Will Baptists over \$2.5 million in construction costs.

The 16th annual national Master's Men Conference was held at Camp Beaverfork in Conway Arkansas. It explored the theme, "I Sought For a Man."

Income for 1994 exceeded \$120,000 for the first time. The Build-A-House Campaign is presently constructing a house in Arkansas. When the home is completed and sold, profits from the sale will be used to help finance the work of Master's Men.

The department has faced serious financial problems in recent years and those problems have not yet been entirely resolved. Progress **Lange Patrick.** has been made, however, and the future certainly looks better than it did one year ago.

One convention highlight was the Master's Men Dinner Wednesday evening. Cliff Donoho, home missionary,



... and some not-so-small.

dall House Publications had a large display of books, Bibles and other materials. They made a large, attractive catalog which was recently produced available at no charge.

Revival in Service

The National Association of Free Will Baptists is a large organization. Contributions to national ministries

General Board

This board consists of elected representatives from various states and districts which comprise the denomination. It hears the reports of the departments and agencies and prepares business to be considered and discussed on the convention floor.

This year the General Board met Monday morning, heard reports from the agencies and approved proposed budgets for the various agencies. It recommended that Louisville, Kentucky, be selected as the site for the 2005 national convention.

Master's Men

This group is the national layman's organization for Free Will Baptists. Master's Men is designed specifically to meet the needs of laymen and provide avenues for men to serve Christ

1996 Budgets Adopted

Executive Office	\$ 544,696.00
Free Will Baptist Bible College	3,644,500.00
(Includes \$1 million in unrestricted gifts)	
Foreign Missions	4,509,132.00
(Does <i>not</i> include \$667,850.00 Vision Projects)	
Home Missions	2,750,000.00
Master's Men	145,000.00
Retirement and Insurance	318,194.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation	89,500.00
Sunday School and Church Training	2,654,604.60
Commission for Theological Integrity	2,100.00
Historical Commission	2,725.00
Music Commission	3,725.00
Radio and Television Commission	9,350.00
Total	\$14,673,526.60



Lange Patrick.



Moderator Ralph Hampton.

spoke to attendees. After the meal, Master's Men recognized the contributions of two outstanding laymen.

The Runner-Up Layman of the Year was Orel Creech from Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Layman of the Year was David S. Coombs from Hampton, Virginia. Both men have given outstanding service to our denomination for many years.

Executive Office

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington and his staff bear the responsibility for planning and coordinating many aspects of Free Will Baptist work. Among other things, this agency publishes *Contact* magazine and coordinates the annual convention each July.

Dr. Worthington reported that he had represented the denomination at several professional organizations as well as attending 25 state and district associational meetings.



William Evans examines a report.

He reported that Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign contributions from January 1992 through December 1994 totaled \$260,969.02. This campaign, designed to raise funds to pay off the remaining debt on the National Offices building, continues through December 31, 1997.

Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book has now been revised. Copies may be purchased from Randall House Publications. A generic version of this hymn book has also been published which will be sold to churches outside our denomination.

Worthington reported that contributions to national ministries in 1994 totaled \$8,750,684.37 or \$40.78 per capita. He expressed thanks to the people of our denomination for their

1995 National Convention analysis was written by Thomas Marberry, theology and Greek instructor at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, Oklahoma.

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

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

financial support of denominational endeavors.

His report also included the report of the Budget Committee. It recommended that funds received through the Together Way Plan be used to underwrite the Executive Office administrative budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 55% of cooperative gifts. Remaining funds received through this plan will be distributed to various agencies according to the Together Way formula.

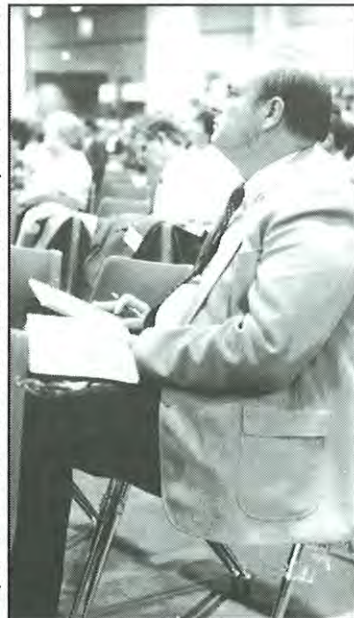
Free Will Baptist Bible College

This is an important year for Free Will Baptist Bible College. President Tom Malone reported that 377 students attended the college during the 1994 - 95 school year. These students

came from 27 states and eight foreign countries. He reported that 65 students were studying for the ministry and 42 for missions.

In recent years, enrollment at the college has increased approximately nine percent per year. Increasing enrollment as well as the inability to expand at its present location has caused serious problems for the college. If present trends continue, the college must either relocate to a new campus or limit enrollment.

After prayerful consideration, the Board of Trustees recom-



Thomas Marberry takes notes.

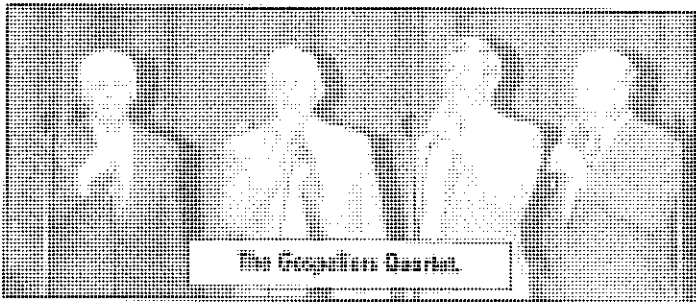
mended that the present campus be sold and the college be relocated to a new 123-acre site near Joelton, Tennessee. The college presented a plan to finance this relocation which was approved by the voting body.

A fund-raising campaign is already underway to repay college funds used to purchase the land near Joelton. In the future, the present campus will be sold and proceeds applied toward construction of buildings at the new site.

A fund-raising campaign will be launched to raise a major portion of the difference between the selling price of the present campus and the cost of new facilities. It is possible that some funds will be borrowed to complete construction, but the Board of Trustees made a public commitment that neither the



Master's Men speaker Cliff Donoho.



The Executive Board.

college nor the denomination will be saddled with a huge load of debt.

This plan to relocate Free Will Baptist Bible College was discussed on the floor of the convention and passed with a near unanimous vote. It was a historic time in the history of the college.

Mr. Tom Sass, treasurer, reported that unrestricted revenues during 1994-95 totaled \$3.3 million and that the college operated in the black with a surplus of \$28,387.

President Malone reported that the college had received candidate status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and was working toward full accreditation.



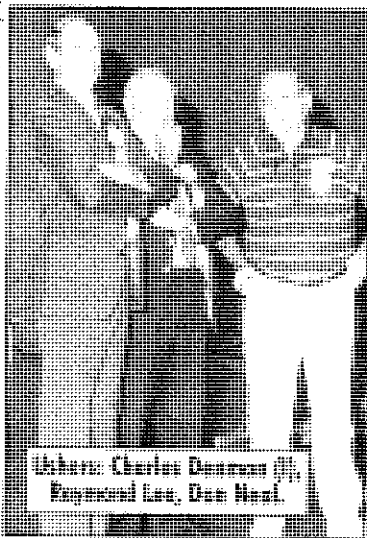
Layman of the Year David Coombs.

Free Will Baptist Foundation

The Free Will Baptist Foundation exists to help Free Will Baptists manage their financial resources more effectively and use them to benefit the Lord's work. At the end of 1994, the Foundation was managing a total of \$1.5 million in current and future gifts for the benefit of a number of national, state and local agencies.

Sunday School and Church Training Department

This department exists to assist the denomination in training and education. Operating under the name Randall House Publications, it publishes books, Sunday School literature and



Members: Charles Denson III, Financial Sec., Dan Neal.

Board of Retirement

The Board of Retirement exists to provide

other materials which reflect the doctrinal position taken by our denomination. During the past year, several changes have been implemented under the leadership of Director Alton Loveless.

CTS materials are now printed with full-color covers. Materials for some age groups have been reformatted. *Depth* has been reformatted and a sample copy mailed to every pastor in the denomination.

Two new volumes of the *Randall House Commentary* are being written and will be published as soon as writing and editorial work are completed.

Dr. Loveless reported that sales and other revenues for the department totaled \$2.3 million for the year ending November 30, 1994. Considerable progress has been made in reducing the department's indebtedness.

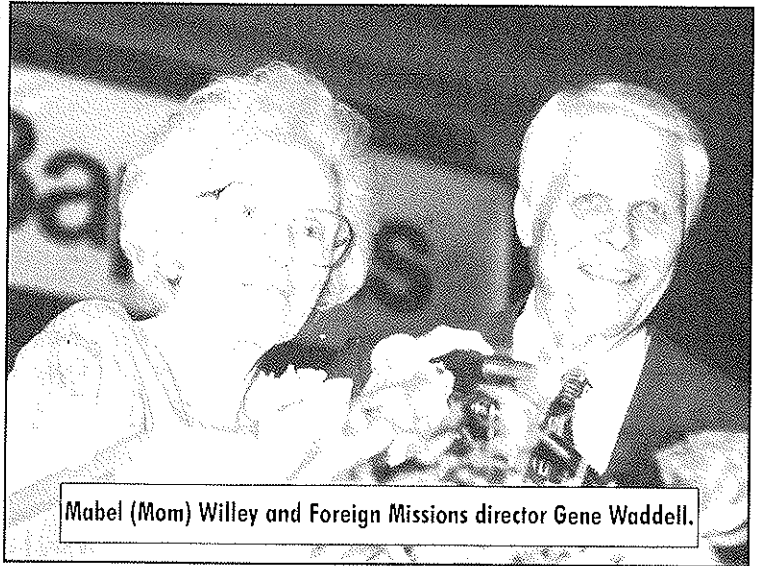
The National Youth Conference is another important activity of this department. Dean Jones, conference director, and Jim McAllister, chairman of the board, gave a report on current youth activities.

They noted that members of the board are attending various youth activities and becoming more actively involved in these activities. The goal is to provide a wide variety of Christ-centered activities which help young men and women of our denomination grow and mature in the faith.

appropriate retirement plans for pastors and other denominational employees. Low interest rates during much of 1994 helped hold down fund earnings. During 1995, however, the situation improved dramatically.

Bill Evans, director, reported that so far in 1995, 20 new participants have joined the plan and 11 have taken settlements. New deposits to the plan continue to be strong with deposits exceeding outflows by \$162,000 during 1994.

The retirement fund contained \$11.6 million at the end of last year. This is money that has been set aside by churches and individuals to help insure a more adequate retirement income for pastors, missionaries, denom-

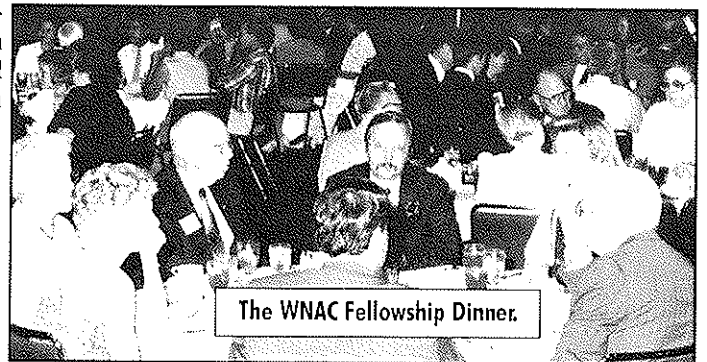


Mabel (Mom) Willey and Foreign Missions director Gene Waddell.

inational employees and others who are covered by the various plans available.

Commissions

The denomination has four commissions to provide specialized services. Each presented reports of their activities and proposed budgets which were approved by delegates.



The WNAC Fellowship Dinner.

The *Commission for Theological Integrity* exists to inform Free Will Baptists about theological trends that might tend to undermine the doctrinal foundation of our movement. They do this by conducting seminars and publishing materials.

Reverend Leroy Forlines, commission chairman, announced plans for a theological seminar to be held at FWBBC October 25-26, 1996. Interested Free Will Baptists are invited to attend the seminar and read papers. Those who wish to read papers should contact Mr. Forlines at FWBBC as soon as possible.

The *Radio and Television Commission's* purpose is to help Free Will Baptist churches spread the gospel through the airwaves. It currently produces a 15-minute radio program, "Victorious Faith," which features announcer Jim Vallance and speaker Bob Shockey.

In the future, the commission plans to test 30- and 60-second commercial public service announcements which can be broadcast in different areas. The commission is compiling a mailing list of interested friends across the denomination.



When did Ralph Hampton get that halo?

It also has plans for a quarterly newsletter. Those who wish to be on the mailing list should contact the Radio and Television Commission at P. O. Box 5002,

Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

The *Music Commission* provides a variety of services to the churches and individuals of our denomination. During the past two years, much of its time has been devoted to revision of *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn*



Jim Turnbough.

Book and publication of a generic version called *Rejoice* which will be sold to churches of other denominations. The work is now complete and these hymnals are available for purchase.

Dr. Vernon Whaley, commission chairman, outlined in his report a five-year plan of action to provide increased services to churches of our denomination both at home and

abroad. This includes publication of music in foreign languages, development of children's music, music seminars and other activities.

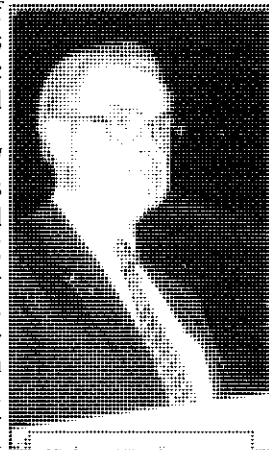
The *Historical Commission* is concerned about preserving important historical information, encouraging historical research and writing, and informing our people about our history.

Commission members agreed to write 25 historical sketches for the 1995-96 Free Will Baptist Bulletin Service sponsored by Randall House Publications.

The commission allocated \$2,000 to purchase fire-proof cabinets for materials in the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection housed in Welch Library at FWBBC. Commission members participated in "Heritage Week" at FWBBC, and encouraged other Free Will Baptist colleges to host heritage week activities as well.

Committees

Delegates to Convention '95 reviewed reports from three committees created to study specific areas and make recommendations to the National Association.



Melvin Worthington.

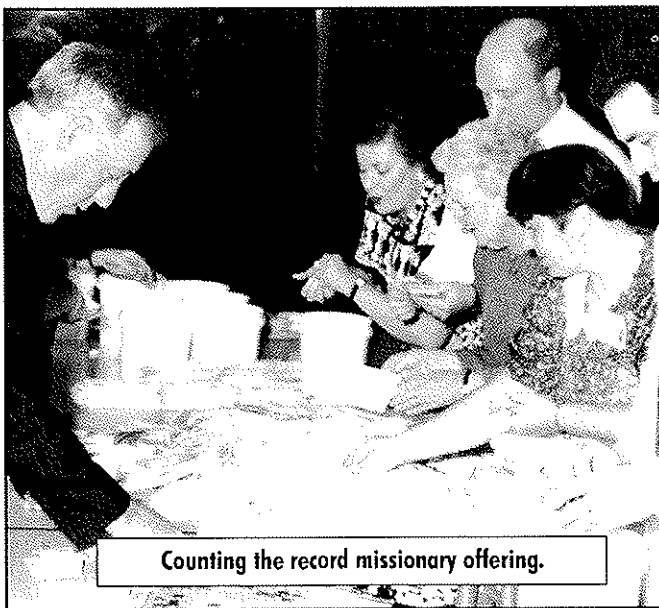
The first was the *Special Investigative Committee on Alcohol and Drug Addiction Rehabilitation*. Dr. LaVerne Miley, chairman, reported that the committee had completed a survey of 3,000 randomly-selected Free Will Baptist leaders.

A total of 632 surveys were returned. These indicated that alcohol and drug addiction is a problem Free Will Baptist pastors and laymen frequently encounter. When asked if the National Association should develop a program to assist pastors and churches in confronting this problem, 80% of respondents said, "Yes."

The committee recommended that our denomination develop a program within one of our existing agencies to provide support, counsel and assistance to local churches that wish to minister in this area. The recommendation was accepted by the voting body; a committee will be appointed to work with department heads to develop such a program.

The report of the *Ministerial Family Life Committee* was given by Dr. Melvin Worthington. This committee has been charged with several responsibilities. It began its work by examining how ministers who have fallen into sin can be restored to the Lord's work. The focus of its work this past year was on prevention. An article, "Maintaining Sexual Purity in the Ministry" by Leroy Forlines, included with the committee's report, specifically addressed one of the most common areas in which ministers fail.

During this next year, the commit-



Counting the record missionary offering.

tee will study the legal ramifications of ministerial discipline and restoration. At the conclusion of this study, the committee plans to publish information it has collected in booklet form so it can be used by churches and associations across the country.

The *Cross-Cultural Study Committee* presented the final report. This



James Munsey.

committee, appointed in 1994, is to assess denominational resources and talents in light of present need to evangelize various ethnic groups in this country.

During the past year, the committee compiled

information on cross-cultural ministry. It also compiled a list of Free Will Baptist churches presently involved in some type of cross-cultural ministry.

The committee proposed to continue its work by developing a plan to evangelize cross-culturally. It will work with churches, district and state associations to determine feasible locations to begin cross-cultural ministries. Another consideration is a survey of all Free Will Baptist pastors to gather information on trends, opportunities and needs in their communities.

Revival in Business

As is the case with most denominations, a great deal of the actual



Allen Hill during Wednesday night services.

work of the denomination is handled through boards, commissions and departments. The primary responsibility of the National Association is to supervise their work.

Elections

During Convention '95 voting delegates heard reports from each agency and approved budgets for 1996. They also approved relocation of Free Will Baptist Bible College to its new campus. They honored Rev. Roy Thomas for his years of service to Home Missions.

They tabled for one year the amended and revised charters for several departments and agencies. These will come up for final approval in 1996 in Fort Worth, Texas. They also selected Louisville, Kentucky, as the site of the 2005 national convention.

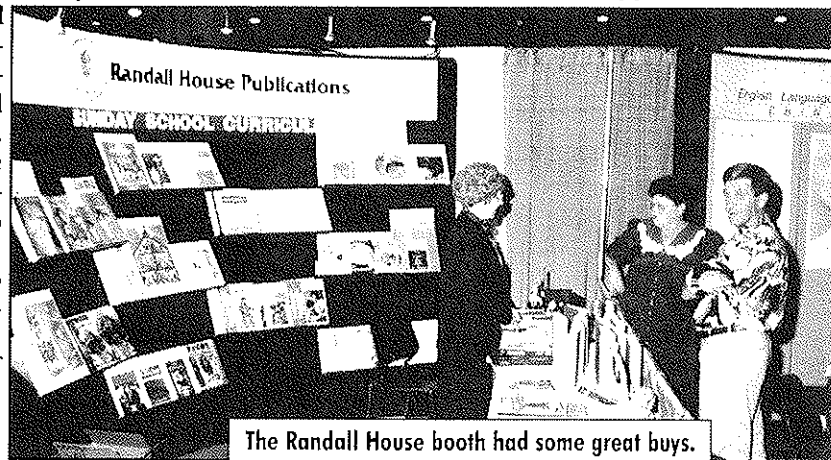
Election of officers and board members is also a major responsibility of the convention. This year members were elected to the Home Missions Board, Master's Men Board, Board of Retirement, Commission for Theological Integrity, Radio and Television Commission, Music Commission, Historical Commission, General Board and Executive Committee.

Delegates are responsible to select general officers to serve the denomination for the next year. A list of those elected is included with this article.

Resolutions

The convention considered several resolutions this year, one of which proved to be controversial. The body approved a resolution expressing Free Will Baptist opposition to a 25-page document, "Evangelicals and Catholics Together; the Christian Mission in the Third Millennium." In this resolution, delegates affirmed that Free Will Baptists continue to recognize Roman Catholics as a mission field and that we encourage every local church to preach the gospel to them.

The voting body also approved a



The Randall House booth had some great buys.

resolution condemning racism in any form and reaffirming our commitment to preach the gospel to all men of every race.

The convention approved a resolution expressing thanks to the North Carolina Association of Free Will Baptists for hosting the 59th session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Two resolutions were presented from the Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptists. One dealt with the Fellowship of Encouragement; the other dealt with a statement concerning the book *Of Mice and Men* which was published in *Co-Laborer*. The body referred both resolutions to the Leadership Conference to be held December 4-5.

One resolution proved quite controversial. It came from the North Carolina Association of Free Will Baptists and was titled, "Areas of Concern to Call Us Back to God." This resolution included seven guidelines which must be signed before anyone can be considered as a National Association speaker, board member, department head or officer.



The General Board met early on Monday.

at a major turning point in its history. Facing a multi-million dollar relocation project that will cover several years, it has no other choice. Unable to purchase additional land or construct buildings at its present location, the college must relocate in order to meet the needs of a growing student body. Our denomination faces a major undertaking in this relocation.

Randall House Publications and Master's Men are taking important steps to improve their financial positions. Several commissions, especially the Music Commission, have rendered outstanding service to our denomination in recent years.

The Resolutions Committee recommended that this resolution be referred to the December Leadership Conference. (This year's conference

the Leadership Conference in December. It will be considered there

will be open to all who want to attend. Attendees may participate in discussions on philosophical differences existing within our movement.)



LaVerne Miley (l) reports to the General Board.



The General Board met all day long Monday.

and a report probably given in July at the convention in Fort Worth.

Conclusion

Convention '95 is now history; in many ways it was an important convention. Leadership is changing in our denomination. Two new department directors gave their first reports; another one retires later this year.



Resolutions Committee chairman Millard Sasser.

Considerable discussion on the floor of the convention revealed diversity of opinion regarding the referral. While many wanted to consider the resolutions immediately, others wanted to refer it to the Leadership Conference as the Resolutions Committee recommended.

When the vote was taken, delegates voted to refer the resolutions to

Both home and foreign missions continue to report growth. They are sending out new missionaries, planting new churches and people are being saved. New mission fields are being opened. The Wednesday evening missions offering totaled \$48,522.

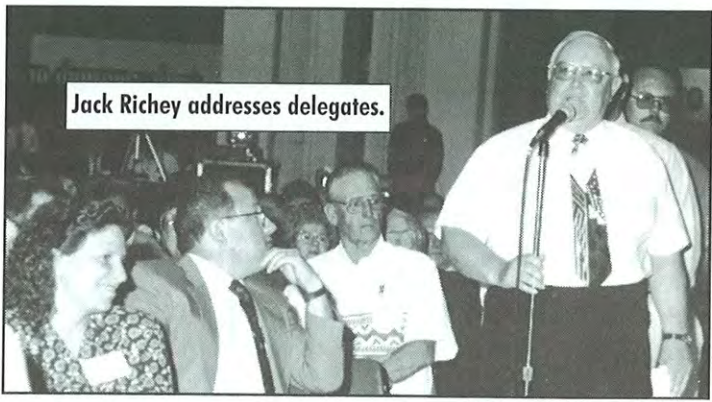
Our youth programs are continuing to grow.

Free Will Baptist Bible College stands



Delegates stand in line to speak Thursday morning.

A crisis in confidence could have defined our thinking a few years ago. Many voting delegates did not feel that boards were managing their departments adequately. That problem seems to have been remedied. All boards are closely involved in the



Jack Richey addresses delegates.



Delegates make their points.

work of their departments and monitoring closely the work of administrative personnel.

Our denomination has appointed special committees to work in areas such as alcohol and drug addiction,

ministerial family life and cross-cultural ministry. We are moving into new areas to meet the needs of Free Will Baptists more adequately.

We take more seriously the need to evangelize the unreached peo-

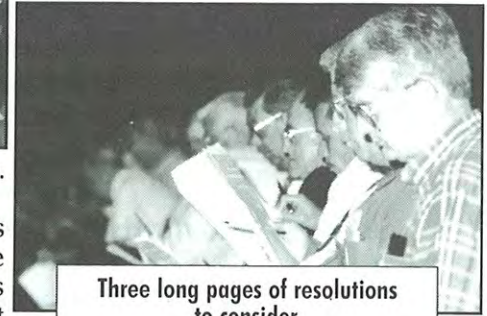


methods of operation will change. Change is difficult.

Some philosophical differences divide us; it is difficult to decide just how serious those differences are. Statements made in the heat of debate on the convention floor may not necessarily be a true reflection of the situation.

The calmer atmosphere of the Leadership Conference may provide an appropriate forum to discuss some of these issues.

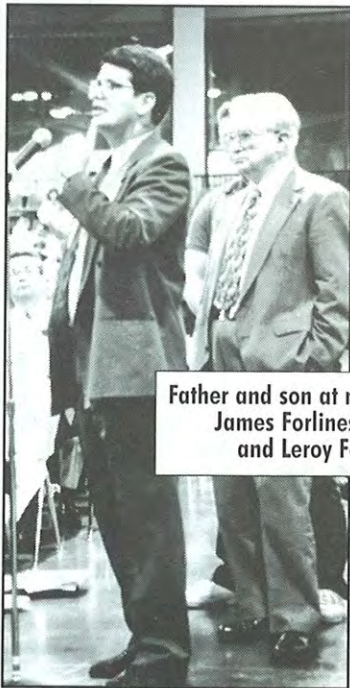
Free Will Baptists need revival, and we want revival. Perhaps Convention '95 has helped move us toward that goal. ■



Three long pages of resolutions to consider.



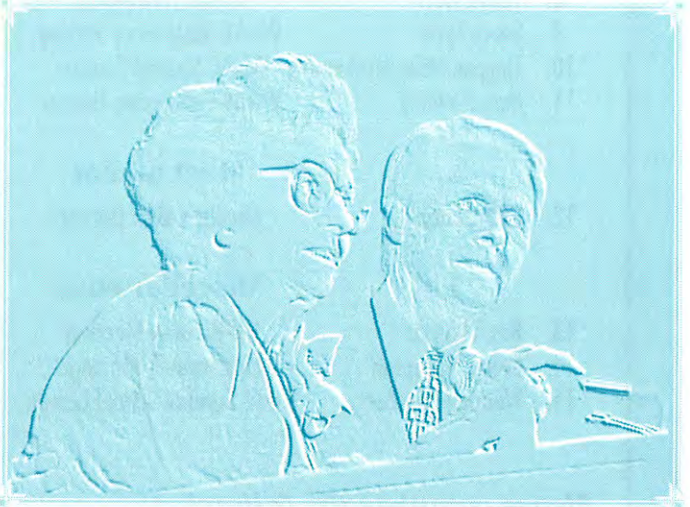
North Carolina pastor Randy Cox.



Father and son at microphone—James Forlines (at mic) and Leroy Forlines

ple groups in our own country. We are developing a burden for the cities.

We will face problems, however. We are growing, and we are having growing pains. Several departments have budgets of more than \$1 million, and as they grow larger, their



Learning from the past, let us go forward into the future with optimism telling the world about the Lord.



Former missionary to India, Daniel Cronk.

1995 Convention Tapes Available
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

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

<i>Tape Number</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Convention Messages		
1. Roger Harwell	Sunday Morning	_____
2. Jim Turnbough	Sunday Evening	_____
3. Keith Burden	Monday Evening	_____
4. William Evans	Tuesday Evening	_____
5. James Munsey	Wednesday Evening	_____
Seminars		
6. Robert Picirilli	"Are Modern Translations the Word of God?"	_____
Women Nationally Active for Christ		
7. Pam Wood	WNAC Seminar	_____
8. Tanya Hart	WNAC Devotional	_____
9. Steve Lytle	WNAC Missionary Service	_____
10. Thigpen/Miley/Missionaries	WNAC Special Feature	_____
11. Mabel Willey	WNAC Fellowship Dinner	_____
Meet 'n' Eat		
12. Cliff Donoho	Master's Men Dinner	_____
Miscellaneous		
13. Roy Thomas	FWB Camp Meeting	_____
14. Ralph Hampton	Moderator's Message	_____
15. Wendell Leckbee	Adult Sunday School Lesson	_____

Please complete the following:

Name _____ Quantity Ordered _____
 Address _____ Total Tape Cost _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Plus Postage **\$2.00**
 Total Amount Enclosed _____

Please Send **Check or Money Order**
 Do **Not** Send Cash

Order from: **Sandy Goodfellow** — 500 Wilclay Drive — Nashville, TN 37209
 Make Checks Payable to Sandy Goodfellow

Have
 YOU
appreciated
 YOUR
 pastor
 lately?
 ? ? ? ?
 Have
 YOU
told
 him?

Great and Mighty Things Through Prayer

By Suzanne Franks

People gathered for business, worship and fellowship. Most importantly, they prayed. They prayed to begin and end each meeting. Friends and acquaintances enveloped each speaker in prayer before and during each message. All prayed for missionary requests. The theme, *Great and Mighty Things Through Prayer*, permeated each part of the WNAC Convention. The Registration Committee, chaired by Betty Hill, reported 1,204 registered.

Seminar

More than 300 attended WNAC's Monday afternoon seminar. Pam Wood spoke on how Jesus taught the disciples to pray in Luke 11. Jesus didn't teach them the correct posture, place or time to pray. The prayer the Lord gave as a model contains praise, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. Pam expounded on these four.

We begin with praise—acknowledging who He is. Confession follows so we will have a clean heart before the Lord. Then comes thanksgiving—thanking God for every good thing. In supplication we take our requests to God. The speaker filled her message with examples and practical suggestions on prayer.

General Assembly

Music

Music coordinator, Pat Zeigler, led the group in worship through music. Carolyn Riddick played the piano and

Susan Ervin, the organ. Cramerton Ladies Handbell Choir played the offertory. Jamie and Lange Patrick challenged us with their special music.

Devotion

Tanya Hart brought the devotion titled "Things about Prayer." Through prayer every Christian can get involved in world evangelization. Prayer can and will penetrate any area. According to Matthew 24:14 Jesus said that He intends for all the world to hear before the end or the age.

Tanya Hart brought three animals



(not live, of course) to illustrate three kinds of missionaries. *Beavers* work in a single location, alone or in a group. They are the senders working in the local church to build a strong base.

Mallards have a pattern of migration. These are missionaries who work for a term then come home for a furlough. Their job involves crossing cultural boundaries to share the gospel.

Eagles have the keenest eyesight of all animals. Eagles are the visionaries. They swoop down at the time of need. Visionaries she mentioned were Laura Belle Barnard, Morn and Pop Willey, Dr. and Mrs. Miley and WNAC.

Creative Arts Contest Awards

One judge confessed that she prayed most of the night before making her final selection of winners for the 1995 Creative Arts Contest. No doubt other judges prayed as well.

Eight of the 16 winners were present (some sent proxies) to receive their awards. *Co-Laborer* editor, Suzanne Franks, presented the awards. First place winners for the five categories include the following:

Program — *Carolyn Franks* (MS), "The Check-up: A Self-Examination"

Article — *Vicki Turner* (MO), "The Fisherman"

Poetry — *Betty Kittle* (IN), "My Child"

Play — *Pat Franks* (Brazil), "Serving at God's Table"

Art — *Ruth Bivens* (OK/Mexico), "Hands at Home."

Business

President Mary Neal (IN) presided over the business session. Executive Secretary Mary Wisheart read her report which was approved. The Resolutions Committee

chaired by Yvonne Brown (CA) presented this resolution:

Be it resolved that the executive secretary research the feasibility of producing a video of the new officers and staff and report back to the Executive Committee in December 1995. If approved by the Executive Committee, make the video available for sale during the 1996 national convention for the WNAC emphasis program.

The resolution passed.

Everyl Getz (TX) was elected to succeed Mary Neal as president of WNAC. The women expressed appreciation for Mary Neal's 12 years of service. The new vice president elect

is Marjorie Workman (TN). Jo Ann Wood (OK) was reelected secretary. Delegates elected three new members to the executive committee:

Judy Lytle's car was ushered to safety when she found herself in an anti-gringo (anti-American) demonstration just before the US invasion of Panama.

each table got to keep a magnolia-adorned centerpiece, compliments of North Carolina women. All shared in the celebration of 60 years together for WNAC and Mrs. Mabel Willey's 60-year love affair with Free Will Baptists.

As Mrs. (Mom) Willey approached the microphone, the crowd of almost 800 people gave her a standing ovation. Mom Willey delivered a powerful message from John 17, enumerating seven definite things Jesus asked His Father for in His high priestly prayer.

Jesus asked . . .

- . . . that He may be glorified as His Son, who has glorified the Father (v.1)
- . . . for restoration to the eternal glory (v.5)
- . . . for safety of believers from the world, "that we might be one" (v. 11)
- . . . for sanctification of believers (v.17)
- . . . for spiritual unity of believers (v.21-22)
- . . . that the world may believe (v. 21)
- . . . that believers may be with Him in heaven to behold and share His glory (v. 24)

Mom Willey concluded with stories demonstrating God's love and power to transform people in Panama and Cuba where she and Pop Willey worked.

And Finally . . .

Every part of the 1995 WNAC Convention pointed women toward prayer. WNAC was founded in prayer. Free Will Baptist men and women sent and still send missionaries in prayer.

Workers are buoyed through prayer. Evangelism and discipleship are accomplished only when powered with



President Mary Neal (center) leads WNAC Executive Committee.

Annette Aycock (SC), Diana Bryant (FL) and Barbara Chaffin (OH).

WNAC Missionary Service

Steve Lytle's message challenged us all to pray for ourselves and to intercede for others. Based on Jeremiah 33:1-3, he spoke of God's invitation to pray and His affirmation that if we pray He will do great and mighty things.

Nothing we do is more important than praying. Without prayer there is a form of godliness but no power. Lytle compared Israel's impending doom with America today, exhorting us not to give up on America, but to pray. He also urged us to have an international perspective in prayer.

God's part is to move. Some answers come only from God through prayer. We must get in tune with the Person and His plan. We don't pray to get God to do what we want, we pray so we will want what God wants.

Special Feature

Prayers of the Saints: Incense on the Altar

Tuesday afternoon's meeting featured stories of answered prayer. Lorene Miley introduced the speakers and read Revelation 5:8, it speaks of the golden vials where God preserves the prayers of His people. Laura Thigpen narrated dramatic stories, some taken from *First Fruits: Answered Prayer on the Mission Field* (Miley). All were true stories of Free Will Baptist missionaries.

After each of Mrs. Thigpen's presentations, a missionary told a personal experience of answers to prayer.

The Lord provided a way for Lynette Morgan's family to live in Columbia, SC, and for her husband and son to attend Columbia International University for a year.

Ruth McDonald spoke of dependence on the Lord for financial support in the world's most expensive country. The same Lord that provides dollars, answered Katie McDonald's prayer to save her classmates. One of Katie's classmates accepted the Lord (and her classmate's mother, too).

Ruth Bivens told the gripping story of God's transforming power to save a Mexican woman and her abusive husband.

Mrs. Miley concluded, "These are a few of the prayers that God has preserved in golden vials." All read Psalm 103 in response.



WNAC Nominating Committee.

Fellowship Dinner

Two days of blessings culminated with the Fellowship Dinner. North Carolina women under president Joanne King's leadership, provided a lovely cross-stitched book mark and prayer journal for each guest. One person at

prayer. Steve Lytle's words could well sum up this year's meeting, "Prayer: that's where the power is." ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Suzanne Franks is editor of *Co-Laborer* magazine.

NYC
'95

Make a World of Difference

By Dean Jones

Make a World of Difference was the 1995 theme for the National Youth Conference in Charlotte, NC, July 16-20. Rev. Mike Trimble, Taylor, MI, started the conference rolling Sunday morning with the theme, "Making a Difference at School." Rev. Christian Powell, Goldsboro, NC, spoke during the teen morning worship service challenging young people to "Make a Difference at Home." Mark Stripling, North Little Rock, AR, was music coordinator for teen services.

Each teen worship service featured music by various Free Will Baptist youth groups. A special continuous drama, "The Fool," was presented during each worship service by the youth group from Kirby FWB Church, Taylor, MI. Sunday evening, Rev. Toby Youngblood, Fort Smith, AR, challenged young people to "Make a Difference at Church."

The Hall of Adventure met with

over-whelming success as hundreds of young people lined up for the after-service activity. The second floor hallway at Charlotte



Convention Center was filled with adventure games and activities including Sumo wrestling, a Velcro wall, indoor miniature golf, a recording booth, bouncy boxing, bungee running and human bowling.

Monday

Bible Competition and the Music and Arts Festival started Monday morning and continued through Wednesday morning. Of the 2,288 registered for the conference, there were 931

entries in these areas.

Monday evening's teen worship service message, "Making a Difference in Your Community," was presented by Rev. Terry Van Winkle, Overland Park, KS. The afterservice activity was a M.A.D. Concert. This 90-minute concert of prayer conducted by Neil Gilliland quickly became the highlight of the entire National Youth Conference and changed the lives of many young people.

Tuesday

Another day of competition, Tuesday, saw Bible competition winding down to the semi-finalist rounds. Instrumentalists, puppeteers, ensembles and choirs filled competition rooms.

Tuesday evening's teen worship found Rev. Rick Amato, Lincoln Park, MI, challenging young people to "Make a Difference in Your World."

Stirring messages from each speaker along with the moving of God's Spirit brought over 800 young people to a point of decision in their lives.

After the service, over 900 young people and sponsors attended the Youth Banquet in the Grand Ballroom. Rev. Duane Laffin, a Christian illusionist, presented a powerful message on making a world of difference.

Wednesday

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

Turning Point and Horizon, the two individual competitions, proved to be exciting. Two pre-testing times determined finalists. Top finalists in each

level competed in the final rounds. **Amy Brewer** (KS) won Turning Point and **Jason Yount** (MO) won Horizon. Study packets for 1996 competition are available from Randall House.

Wednesday evening's worship service combined adults, teens, tweeners and children in Hall-C for the closing service of the 1995 convention.

After the service, the Awards Celebration began. Bible Competition winners were recognized first. The 1995 national Youth Evangelistic Team was introduced and commended for their successful summer ministry this year.

The 1996 National Youth Evangelistic Team was announced. These 12 high school youth were top scorers in the 1995 Music and



Arts

Festival.

Special awards presented were:

Youth Group of the Year
First FWB Church, Russellville, AR

Youth of the Year
Aaron Baker, Nashville, TN

Youth Workers of the Year
Jim and Linda Hutchinson, Huntington, WV

Children and Tweeners

Worship services for children and tweeners were conducted Sunday morning and each evening by Bruce Bennett, Rolling Prairie, IN, Brad Hanna, Duncanville, TX, Greg Cleveland, Fort Smith, AR, and Joey Wilson, Norman, OK. Music coordination was provided by David Huett, Springfield, MO, and Bruce Bennett.

Services included many types of programming—storytelling, puppetry, music and clowning as well as a gos-

Bible Competition Winners

Bible Memorization

- 1st Grade: Mary Chaffin, FL
- 2nd Grade: Lindsay Keith, MO
- 3rd Grade: Emily Whitley, MS

Bible Sword Drill

- 4th Grade: Megan Gandy, AR
- 5th Grade: Erika Monday, AL
- 6th Grade: Cherry Butler, AL

Bible Tic Tac Toe

Hartville FWB Church, MO

Bible Bowl

New Home FWB Church, MO

pel message. The program for the Monday afternoon Children's Banquet was presented by James Sadler, a.k.a. *Zany the Clown*, Greenville, NC.

Working it Out

Workshops and seminars were conducted daily to better equip teens, children and youth workers to "Make a World of Difference." Each challenging session was well-attended.

Some provided spiritual guidance such as "Science and the Bible," and "How to Be a Missionary Without Leaving Home;" while others were practical such as "Introduction to Photography," and "Basic First Aid."

One of our goals for NYC '95 was to leave Charlotte different when we left. In cooperation with Charlotte's Housing Authority, we offered three days of service assisting elderly and handicapped Charlotte residents.

During the week, over 150 young people visited, sang, worshiped and cleaned. They truly helped make a difference in Charlotte!

Special Recognition

It would have been



Looking toward the future with hope.

impossible to conduct a conference of this magnitude without the assistance of the Truth and Peace Leadership Conference. These 80 young people gave life to the planned activities.

Participants had been in leadership training two weeks prior to the National Youth Conference. For more information about participating in the 1996 Truth and Peace Conference, write to: P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

At the conclusion of the conference, several awards were presented. Youth selected **Jeff Elder** (OK) and **Brianna McMillian** (MS) for Best All-Around awards. The NYC staff selected two individuals for Outstanding Leadership awards: **Jeff Elder** (OK) and **Suzanne Roy** (MI).

Special appreciation is due to all pastors, parents, youth leaders and coaches who work with our youth.

1996 YET Team

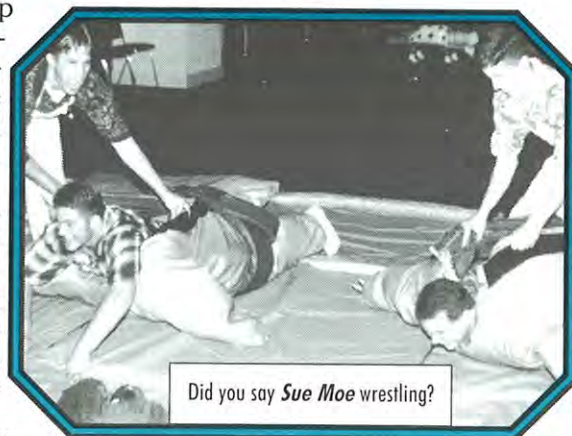
- Jonathan Turnbough, NC
- Jason Tackett, MI
- Chad Webb, IL
- Laura Mullen, IN
- Katie Anderson, TN
- Kaycee Roberts, IL
- Brian Scott, MO
- Jennifer Waltrip, OK
- Melissa Courson, GA
- Kenny Knight, MI
- Jeff Treadway, KY
- Holly Hobbs, GA

and special thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who helped in past years at the National Youth Conference.

In Conclusion

We implemented many changes during the 1995 NYC in Charlotte, NC. Some worked, others didn't. We appreciate your input and patience as we work to develop a program which will better meet the needs and present a challenge to our young people. It is with great anticipation that we begin preparing the 1996 program for Fort Worth, Texas — "Takin' It To The Streets!"

When people think back on the 1995 NYC, some will remember the heat, others the beautiful facilities; still others will remember what they looked like in a Sumo suit!



Did you say Sue Moe wrestling?

I will remember the hundreds of young people who shared their lives with us for a week. Lives which hopefully returned home different and more prepared to "Make a World of Difference!" ■

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

Statement of the Sunday School and Church Training Board

The Sunday School and Church Training Board met at the Charlotte Convention to review the 1995 NYC. We were very excited and pleased to see the progress made with our youth program this year. Our board members attended the youth services and activities to have a first-hand knowledge of this year's youth convention.

We found the services to be very effective. There were hundreds of decisions made by our young people. The activities were enjoyable and the competitive program was well-attended. The youth sponsored a special prayer meeting after one of the evening services that was most profitable. Several young people had the opportunity to minister to the less fortunate in the Charlotte area. Our board saw what was being accomplished at this year's NYC and left with a favorable impression.

We would like to take this opportunity to commend Dean Jones and his staff for the excellent job they did in planning and executing the 1995 NYC.

We are aware of a problem with the dress of some of our young people at the Youth Banquet. You may rest assured that we will do all within our power to address this problem. We solicit your help in improving our National Youth Conference to make it as spiritually profitable as possible.

Edwin Hayes
Clerk, Sunday School and Church Training Board

FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Messer Named Home Missions Director



ANTIOCH, TN—The Home Missions Board announced that Trymon Messer has been selected as the new director for the Home Missions Department. Mr. Messer, 62, will succeed retiring director Roy Thomas in September.

Known as a leader in evangelism and soul winning, Messer has served as Home Missions' associate director since 1978. He came to the office after 13 years as lay pastor of First FWB Church in

Salina, Kansas, where he led a growth surge from two families to a record 964 attendance.

In a statement to the board, Messer said that his first priority will be the missionaries. "My first year, all the missionaries will be visited ... starting with those who are struggling."

The new director said that he would like to schedule an annual training and evaluation conference for all missionaries.

Messer said, "We are in need of peacemakers, direction and leadership in our denomination. We desperately need each other. I'd like to see the Home Missions Department preach, practice and promote a revival of appreciation for all our denomination. Home Missions should be doing our best to be part of the solution to our problems."

Another goal targeted by Messer is to zero out all deficit accounts by December 1996. "This will give the missionaries and the department one year to get their accounts out of the red."

He continued, "I'd like to see

us do a better job screening missionary applications. There is no reason to approve a missionary who cannot raise his support."

The matter of encouraging pastors will be one of his main concerns, Messer added. "I would like to address the pastor's salary and benefits. There seems to be low self-esteem, a spirit of discouragement and apathy among pastors. I don't think we will see much growth in our denomination until our pastors start feeling better about themselves."

Prior to his years as associate director, Messer won two lay awards. Oklahoma Bible College (now Hillsdale FWB College) named him layman of the year in 1964. The Master's Men Department named him layman of the year in 1969.

Messer has chaired the Kansas Home Missions Board and served on both the national Home Missions Board as well as the Hillsdale FWB College Board of Trustees. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Trymon and Opal Messer have three children.

Kentucky Creates Two New Boards

PIKEVILLE, KY—Two new boards composed of 10 members each were voted into existence by delegates at Kentucky's 56th annual state association. Clifford Austin, clerk, said that the June 16-17 session created a state Master's Men Board and Seniors Board.

The purpose of both boards will be to "plan, promote and implement" activities that concern men's work and senior members

in local churches. Both boards will elect their own officers.

Moderator Tim Hall was elected to his second term during the two-day meeting at Pikeville FWB Church. Among the 240 who attended were 42 ministers and 45 lay delegates.

Delegates authorized officials to further develop the state office for a full or part-time promotional secretary. The Executive Board

will pursue this project.

Friday evening, Inez pastor Clyde Waller preached on "Displeasing the Lord." Southeastern FWB College staffer Jack Lassiter preached Saturday morning on "The Napkin is Still Folded."

The 1996 state association will meet June 14-15 at Faith FWB Church in Rush.

Indiana State Attracts 150

WABASH, IN—The 35th annual Indiana State Association met June 16-17 at First FWB Church in Wabash. Promotional secretary Jim Mullen said that some 150 people attended the two-day session.

Tennessee minister Howard Munsey preached during worship sessions developing the theme, "Launch Out Into The Deep." He

also gave information regarding Free Will Baptist work in Mexico where James Munsey (his son) serves as director.

Moderator Robert Helms led business sessions. Delegates rejoiced when they learned that three new churches had joined the association through the White River and Kosciusko Quarterly

Meetings. The new churches are First FWB Church, Waltonville, Burlington Drive FWB Church, Muncie and First FWB Church, Claypool.

This brings the total churches in Indiana to 24.

The 1996 state association will meet June 14-15 at a site to be determined.

Gregory Begins 'Renewal Ministries'

GLENPOOL, OK—Rev. Frank Gregory, staff evangelist at Faith FWB Church in Glenpool, announced the starting of "Renewal Ministries." Renewal Ministries' purpose is to "call the church to personal holiness and equip people in discipleship and evangelism."

After graduating from Hillsdale FWB College in 1984 with a B.A. degree, Gregory pastored nine

years in Arkansas and Oklahoma. He then enrolled at Wheaton Graduate School and in 1995 earned a master's degree in evangelism.

Born in Russellville, Arkansas, Frank Gregory graduated from Hector High School (Ark.) in 1980. The Gregorys have three children.

Rev. Gregory can be reached at Faith FWB Church in Glenpool or at 918/291-4804.

West Virginia Celebrates 50 Years

CHARLESTON, WV—Three hundred people registered for the West Virginia State Association's golden anniversary meeting. Some 81 ministers, 61 lay delegates and 22 deacons participated in the June 9-10 session which met at the University of Charleston, according to clerk Norwood Webb.

Moderator Dan Kelly led business sessions. Special recognition was given to ministers who had been preaching 30 or more years. Delegates authorized a \$1,000 expenditure for promotional director J. L. Varney to promote new conference fees to the state association.

The state Mission Board gave \$4,000 to the Foreign Missions Department and \$1,000 to the Home Missions Department for West Virginia missionaries. Delegates voted to delete Foreign and Home Missions Boards as standing boards in the state, and insert "Mission Board" in their place.

Three ministers preached sermons developing the theme, "Jubilee: Sound the Trumpet." Dr. James Cox, Sophia, delivered the keynote address. Retired pastor Carl Vallance, Huntington, and FWB executive secretary Melvin Worthington also preached.

The 1996 state association will meet June 7-8 at Sunshine FWB Church in Huntington.

Texas Spotlights FWB Distinctives

AUSTIN, TX—Three seminars and two sermons on Free Will Baptist history and distinctives greeted 200 delegates and visitors at the June 7-9 Texas State Association. Clerk Thurmon Murphy prepared a unique *Digest of Reports* featuring historical photographs as well as reports from state agencies.

The 81st annual session met for day services at Holiday Inn South, and at Lakehills FWB Church in Austin for evening worship. Moderator David Sutton was re-elected to his second term.

The association's theme, "Free Will Baptists: Who We Are," formed the background for the three-day meeting. Arkansas pastor Carl Cheshier and foreign missionary Mike Cousineau addressed evening sessions on loyalty and missions respectively.

Three seminars focused on specific denominational areas. Texas pastor Luther Sanders spoke on footwashing. State clerk Thurmon Murphy spoke on the possibility of apostasy. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington addressed Free Will Baptist history and heritage.

Delegates adopted a \$61,000 state budget with funds allocated: State Office—40%, national Co-op—25%, State Home Missions—23%, Christian Education Board—12%. Delegates also approved constitutional changes eliminating the General Board and the position of parliamentarian from the Executive Board.

Moderator David Sutton recognized H. Ray and Asa Berry for their part in providing funding for the state mission project which resulted in establishing the Lakehills FWB Church in Austin. Brother Berry released \$80,000 from the sale of property in San Antonio.

The association endorsed (but did not take responsibility for) a project to raise \$10,000 library book purchases for the Bible Institute in Mexico.

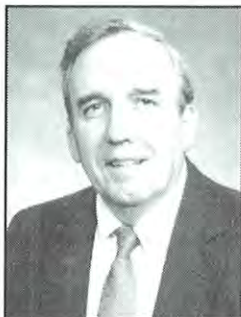
The 1996 state convention will meet June 5-7 in Austin at Lakehills FWB Church and the Holiday Inn South.

Burden Ends 30-Year Pastorate

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—After 30 years at the helm in Gateway FWB Church, Reverend Dale Burden announced his resignation as pastor effective September 30. He told Sunday night worshipers, "With the church and school ministry doing well, with no divisions nor financial problems, this decision will probably not make much sense to many."

Since few pastors stay 30 years at one church, Dr. Burden's resignation ends a three-decade era at Gateway FWB Church. He gave the church four months notice in order that the pastoral search could develop without undue rush.

Concerning future plans, Burden said, "If it please the church and the new pastor, I am available to continue in a secondary position doing things like working more with our senior citizens. I need to do more writing, and I'd



like to visit the mission field." The 61-year-old Oklahoma native has been a Free Will Baptist minister for 45 years. He pastored four churches in four states in nine years (1956-1965)—South Carolina, Louisiana, Tennessee and Florida. However, his greatest ministry role has been in Virginia at Gateway FWB Church (1965-1995).

Sunday School attendance at the church has climbed to 750, with morning worship around 900, according to staff minister Howard Bass. Although the bus ministry has been scaled back somewhat, the church still oper-

ates seven bus routes.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Brother Burden has had an influential ministry among Free Will Baptists as a writer, conference speaker, national board member and state moderator. For many years, he wrote the adult Sunday School quarterly and served as a member of the Sunday School Board and Church Training Board.

He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, earning the B.A. and M.A. degrees. He founded Gateway Bible College and served as president.

Burden commended the Gateway Church in his resignation, "You have been so good to me and my family. I know of no pastor anywhere who has had the love and support of his people like I have. It has been an honor to serve here."

Ohio Adopts \$230,000 Budget

COLUMBUS, OH—When the two-day Ohio State Association ended on June 24, the 150 delegates attending had adopted a \$229,500 state budget, according to Clerk Mike Stokes. The funds will be allocated: Cooperative—\$105,000, National Ministries—\$45,000, State Missions—\$12,000, State Office—\$60,050 and State Paper—\$7,500.

The 57th annual state association met June 23-24 at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus. Moderator Robert Prichard presided and was elected to his third term.

Some 73 ministers were among attendees who heard three sermons by state pastors addressing the theme, "The 20th Century Church." Roger Childers, Urbana, preached on the church's purpose. Forest Valley pastor James Price preached on the church's power. Don Hix, Woodstock, preached on the church's progress.

The 1996 state association will meet June 21-22 at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus.

Missouri Elects Ken Dodson Moderator

KIRKSVILLE, MO—Delegates to Missouri's 82nd annual state association elected Monett pastor Ken Dodson as moderator. Reverend Dodson pastors First FWB Church in the Indian Creek Association. He succeeds Gary Fry who led the state association three years.

Executive Secretary Nathan Ruble said that 271 people, including 69 ministers and 71 lay delegates registered for the June 5-8 meeting which caucused in Kirksville at the junior high school.

Four men preached sermons developing the theme, "Bearing the Burden." Cuba pastor Rick Dablemont preached the keynote message. Dr. Elmer Towns, vice-president of Liberty University, preached and conducted a Tuesday afternoon Sunday School workshop. Wolf Creek pastor R. E. Helsley and Evangelist Jerry Pilgrim completed the preaching program.

Delegates adopted a \$375,000 cooperative plan budget. Officials presented plaques to churches with the greatest attendance increase on Roll Call Sunday.

In other action, delegates voted to increase the yearly allocation to participants in Missouri's retirement to \$600. They also voted to raise funds in 1996 to host the 2004 national convention.

The 1996 state association will meet June 3-6 in Lebanon.

Don't forget to show your pastor that you appreciate him and his ministry on
Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

**Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign
June 1995
Update**

State	Goal	Gifts	Balance
Alabama	56,397.63	\$4,981.15	\$71,416.48
Arizona	1,228.93	2,883.71	(1,654.78)
Arkansas	76,860.94	41,497.13	35,363.81
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	6,347.42	14,355.88
Georgia	38,179.19	28,313.88	9,865.31
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	3,843.23	11,716.63
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	201.00	886.58
Ohio	40,923.66	19,538.10	21,385.56
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	56,077.11	22,479.98
Texas	11,547.20	6,923.52	4,623.68
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	\$267,661.54	\$498,921.85

THE TOGETHER WAY

June 1995

RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	CO-OP	Total	June '94	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 7,243.44	\$.00	\$ 7,243.44	\$ 8,609.54	\$ 62,602.18
Arizona	1291.23	50.00	1,341.23	624.56	2,937.53
Arkansas	22,136.41	9,133.72	31,270.13	21,259.03	171,567.31
California	50.00	798.82	848.82	845.22	3,947.14
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	10.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	74.76	1,122.56	1,197.32	3,458.71	18,096.12
Georgia	10,669.21	2,721.49	13,390.70	13,787.68	89,076.73
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	227.26	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	7,720.40	2,197.06	9,917.46	21,821.43	71,001.28
Indiana	688.19	244.36	932.55	1,859.89	5,368.52
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	.00	359.95
Kentucky	.00	222.99	222.99	939.13	3,905.82
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	29.00	60.00
Maryland	.00	982.94	982.94	1,070.00	2,102.87
Michigan	18,472.44	6,654.04	25,126.48	32,893.83	82,839.62
Mississippi	134.00	304.45	438.45	2,044.93	3,140.74
Missouri	11,598.95	.00	11,598.95	13,404.29	73,020.39
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	119.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	653.24	21.62	674.86	.00	2,677.48
North Carolina	803.02	652.00	1,455.02	1,751.77	11,409.48
Ohio	4,234.53	3,101.10	7,335.63	10,439.69	53,788.13
Oklahoma	60,536.91	.00	60,536.91	52,941.00	322,219.94
South Carolina	24,992.74	110.46	25,103.20	19,334.97	147,132.45
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	25,875.00	2,118.21	27,993.21	10,500.34	58,863.44
Texas	5,045.43	191.47	5,236.90	20,672.73	58,344.14
Virginia	775.79	25.00	800.79	797.94	8,738.68
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	200.00	.00
West Virginia	5,610.85	72.15	5,683.00	3,377.09	33,357.63
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	.00	.00	.00	850.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	35.00	114.29
Northeast Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	(.02)	(.02)	.04	.02
Totals	\$208,606.54	\$30,724.42	\$239,330.96	\$243,904.07	\$ 1,286,671.88

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 10,858.90	\$18,434.66	\$ 29,293.56	\$ 27,201.69	\$ 168,434.07
Foreign Missions	124,883.91	2,826.64	127,710.55	117,456.35	669,683.47
FWBBC	16,115.35	2,826.64	18,941.99	11,449.48	96,871.45
Home Missions	47,563.23	2,212.16	49,775.39	39,359.51	279,551.80
Retirement & Insurance	1,025.17	1,720.56	2,745.73	2,226.95	15,293.12
Master's Men	1,842.42	1,720.56	3,562.98	2,957.55	20,252.43
Commission for Theological Integrity	113.77	61.45	175.22	151.28	1,032.01
FWB Foundation	1,303.88	737.40	2,041.28	1,080.21	9,447.90
Historical Commission	103.32	61.45	164.77	147.64	964.68
Music Commission	88.03	61.45	149.48	129.94	864.38
Radio & TV Commission	98.46	61.45	159.91	128.92	927.04
Hillsdale FWB College	1,296.38	.00	1,296.38	2,361.58	7,887.76
Other	3,313.72	.00	3,313.72	39,252.97	15,461.77
Totals	\$208,606.54	\$30,724.42	\$239,330.96	\$243,904.07	\$ 1,286,671.88

**1995
Pastor
Appreciation
Sunday**

September 10

There's a new Free Will Baptist church in **Springfield, TN**. **Victory FWB Church** organized March 5, 1995, as Dr. **Charles Thigpen**, Tennessee promotional director, presided and delivered the keynote address. The church averages 30 in attendance with 19 adults. **Thurman Lonas Page** pastors. The Cross Timbers FWB Church in Nashville provided hymnals for the new church.

Pastor **Mark Maddox** reports five conversions and 303 in Sunday School on his first Sunday at **First FWB Church in Guin, AL**. He also reported that 21 people participated in soul-winning / visitation. Maddox succeeds Dr. **Richard Cordell** who led the church 20 years and now serves as promotional director for the Alabama State Association.

Members of **Sylvan Park FWB Church in Nashville, TN**, celebrated their golden anniversary this spring. The church has served the West Nashville community for 50 years. Former pastor **Bob Jones** spoke during the morning service. Illinois pastor **Ivan Ryan**, who answered the call to preach while attending the church as an FWBCC student, preached the evening message. **Frank Owens** pastors.

Bethel FWB Church in South Roxana, IL, sponsored a two-day retreat for 18 couples at Camp Hope in Ewing. Missouri state moderator **Ken Dodson** led the teaching program. **Bill Crank** pastors.

Six converts at **Blue Point FWB Church in Cisne, IL**, followed the Lord in baptism. Pastor **Ernie Lewis** presented certificates to 14 youth who completed the New Converts Class.

Evangelist **Wade Jernigan** preached the 18th annual Mesa Redondo **Cowboy Camp Meeting** in Tucumcari, NM. The July 26-29 gathering featured the Oklahoma evangelist/pastor in four days of laid back sessions.

Pastor **Homer Ray Smith**, one of Tennessee's senior ministers, died March 4. Brother Smith had pastored **Liberty FWB Church in Chuckey** 16 years at the time of his death. Active in community and denominational outreach, the 67-year-old minister had pastored three other churches during his lifetime. He was a veteran of the U. S. Air Force.

The news is good after six months at **Victory FWB Church in Goldsboro, NC**, according to Pastor **Rick Cason**. He reports 22 new members, 15 baptisms (12 in one service) and a Master's Men project to erect a new sign.

Pastor **Larry Davis** reports 13 new members and three baptisms at **Bethany FWB Church in Norfolk, VA**. Davis, in his second year as pastor, also led the church in a special offering push that would enable members to pad the sanctuary pews.

Cross Roads FWB Church in Conway, MO, organized a Woman's Auxiliary with 11 members. The group elected **Judy Pierce** president. **Craig Perry** pastors.

Well, it finally happened . . . a church drove its pastor through the roof. But he's to blame. Pastor **Gene Robinson** told members at **Chapel of the Ozarks FWB Church** that if they broke the Sunday School attendance record he'd eat his dinner on the roof. They did and then made sure he did. Fifty-five people in the **Rocky Comfort, MO**, community smiled while the preacher climbed to the roof of the fellowship hall for Sunday dinner.

Pastor **Glenn Poston** said that the annual homecoming service was the highlight of the year at **First FWB Church in Savannah, GA**. Some 175 people attended the standing-room-only festivities. The church also raised \$1,000 for their youth group activities.

Congratulations to members of **New Home FWB Church in Tulsa, OK**. The group raised over \$6,300 for their World Wide Missions offering by filling more than 450 quarter folders. Pastor **Roy Dale Smith** said while that was good news, the even better news is that during the missions drive regular tithes and offerings increased also.

Spearheaded by a \$2,300 Rock-a-Thon

from its young people, members of **First FWB Church in Walnut Ridge, AR**, raised \$3,000 for Free Will Baptist Bible College. Former pastor and now dean of students at the college, **Terry Forrest** was on hand to accept the generous check. **Steve Trail** pastors.

It took them four weeks to do it, but KICK (Kids in Christ's Korner) raised \$250 for Hillsdale FWB College. The KICK group gave Oklahoma executive secretary **Jack Richey** the \$250 check. The youth are members of **Cavanaugh FWB Church in Fort Smith, AR**. **Carl Cheshier** pastors.

Members at **Harmony FWB Church in Eupora, MS**, dedicated their new sanctuary. Pastor **Richard Wright** said the old sanctuary has been remodeled into classrooms and a fellowship hall.

Pastor **Bobby Hudnall** wears a big grin these days. That's because members at **Divine FWB Church in Cleveland, OH**, burned the mortgage on their property.

Westerville FWB Church in Westerville, OH, celebrated their 35th anniversary this year. A special video was shown during afternoon activities highlighting the church's early days. Founding pastor **Delmar Sparks** was on hand to assist current pastor **Mike Mounts**.

A joint home missions project in **Aiken, SC**, took a giant step forward when the group purchased a five-acre tract to build a church. **Mark Barber** serves as missionary pastor.

Missionary pastor **Danny Keen** reports 12 conversions and 12 rededications at **Landmark FWB Church in Andrews, SC**. The church has 30 members and averages 50 in attendance. This is a joint project with South Carolina's Beaver Creek Association and the national Home Missions Department. ■

Investment



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HOME MISSIONS

Why Do We Need More Churches?

"Let Us Go Into The Next Towns . . ." (Mark 1:38)

By Roy Thomas

The scarcity of Free Will Baptist churches in America is obvious. There are about 2,600 churches affiliated with the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Of this number, 2,450 are in the eastern half of the country, and about 150 in the western half. Thirty of our 50 states have less than 10 Free Will Baptist churches in the entire state. Many of our largest cities have no Free Will Baptist churches at all.

I believe there should be at least one Free Will Baptist church in every city and town! Here are some of the reasons for that certainty:

- (1) Free Will Baptists believe in the inerrancy of scripture. Our annual convention is not in a dispute over whether the Bible is true or not, as with many mainline denominations. Every town needs a church which believes the Bible is the word of God, and which preaches and practices what the Bible says.
- (2) Free Will Baptists believe in the unlimited atonement of Christ, as contrasted to Calvinism. The original doctrines of John Calvin such as the limited atonement and eternal security are on the rise in America, but there needs to be a strong alternative voice in every community offering the biblical teachings on these doctrines. The Free Will Baptist name was given to us over two centuries ago out of ridicule for our position on the biblical truths of "free will, free grace, and free salvation for every man." We need to take pride in our name and in our doctrine, and proclaim effectively the truths of God's word. Indeed, every city needs a church which believes that Christ died for everyone in that city, and in fact the whole world.
- (3) Free Will Baptists are evangelistic in our methods. We give public invitations, and pray and counsel with people who are seeking salvation. We have evangelistic preachers who convincingly proclaim the gospel with the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and dedicated laymen who are effective soul winners. Our churches have revival meetings, soul-winning conferences, visitation programs, promotions for big attendance days, Bible studies, teaching and development programs, and outreach ministries to every age level in order to win souls in any way we can. There needs to be such a church in every city, a church that is concerned about the lost souls in that city who desperately need Christ.
- (4) Free Will Baptists believe in holy, separated Christian living. Some churches believe people can live worldly lifestyles with drinking, gambling, immodest dress, cursing, adultery, homosexuality, etc., and still be right with God. However, Free Will Baptists believe that Christian people are to separate themselves from sin and dedicate themselves to God. There needs to be a church in every city that teaches the truth that people can live victorious Christian lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- (5) Free Will Baptists reject the doctrine of eternal security, and believe in the possibility of saved people turning their backs on God and committing apostasy. Christian workers are plagued by people in every city who haven't been to church in years, who live worldly carnal lives, and have no spiritual aspirations at all, yet they believe they will go to heaven when they die because they have been taught all of their lives "once saved always saved." There needs to be a church in every city to tell people the truth, warn them to flee from the wrath to come, and rededicate their lives to Christ.
- (6) There needs to be a Free Will Baptist church in every city because denominational growth stems mainly from church planting. New churches have to evangelize because their existence depends on it. Many times we lose our own Free Will Baptist people because we have no churches in the cities where they move to find work. We must constantly start new churches if we are to keep the people we have and win others to Christ.
- (7) There are lost people in every city, and God expects us to help reach them. Thank God for any denomination that is winning people to Christ, but God does not expect others to do our work for us. Free Will Baptists must be up and about the Master's business of taking the gospel to a lost and dying world. There are many cities, towns and communities where new churches are needed. Please pray the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into the harvest. ■

Giving: New Method for Old Procedure

Endowments have their roots in an Old Testament mandate from God: Use the land, but do not consume it. In ancient Israel, the farmland God distributed among the Hebrew tribes was never sold. But in times of deepest poverty, a family could give up the land under a long term "lease." Under this law the "purchaser" bought the use and fruit of the land, not the land itself. During Jubilee, all lands reverted to the original family owners.

It is God's intention that His people become managers of the property He gives them. His law is, "live off the land, but do not consume it." Like the land of ancient Israel, endowment gifts are preserved so that the principal is never consumed. While earnings are harvested to support a variety of Free Will Baptist ministries, the original gift remains in place perpetually to earn income for those ministries.

An endowment is an uncommon gift, that is, an extraordinary one. A typical gift is a one-time outright transfer of funds in which the benefit is immediate. For example, when a church member places \$100 in the weekly offering, the gift is used immediately. It benefits the ministry once and only once.

The same \$100 given as an endowment provides a gift for the current year, but also continues to provide an annual income until the Lord comes. If \$100 earns 7.5% yearly, after 14 years this single gift of \$100 will have contributed \$105 to ministry. However, the original \$100 will still be there to continue giving. At this same 7.5% rate, an endowment gift of \$1,000 given in 1935 (the date of our denominational reorganization), would have given \$4,500 to denominational ministries by 1995 and still be giving.

Almost any asset may be used to fund an endowment. Real estate, stocks, valuables, cash, an insurance policy, etc. Trusts may also fund an endowment after providing lifetime income for the donor.

Endowment gifts made during your lifetime are deductible as charitable gifts the year they are made. Endowments may be funded through a will so that after death you may continue giving to Free Will Baptist ministries. It is also possible, through special trust arrangements, to provide for your family and then fund an endowment.

An endowment can perpetuate your support

of the Lord's work. The ministries you loved and supported during your lifetime will miss both your prayers and your gifts after your death. However, by funding an endowment you can make your gifts perpetual. If you give \$600 a year to a ministry, the tithe from an \$80,000 estate could create an endowment to continue that gift level. That tithe, or \$8,000, earning 7.5%, generates \$600 annually to that ministry until Jesus comes again.

$$\$80,000 \times 10\% = \$8,000 \times 7.5\% = \$600$$

An endowment gift is flexible in the goals it achieves. The endowment may be funded anonymously or it may publicly memorialize or honor a loved one. In addition, the gift may be large or small, according to the donor's goals and resources. A contribution of \$1,000 or more can create a new endowment. Smaller gifts may be added to endowment funds that are already established.

Endowments provide continual income for a broad range of Free Will Baptist ministries. The Foundation currently manages endowments for these national departments: Foreign Missions, FWB Bible College, Foundation, Home Missions, Master's Men, Retirement and Insurance, and Women Nationally Active for Christ.

The Foundation also operates endowments for regional and state ministries such as Hillsdale FWB College and state mission boards. We also benefit district ministries and local churches.

The Foundation can create a new endowment for any Free Will Baptist ministry, or one endowment can be designed to benefit several ministries. In addition, gifts may be added to existing endowments. For more information, call or write the Free Will Baptist Foundation. ■

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

Lionel Parr
Hammond, IN

Samuel and Vivian Dersu
Nashville, TN



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Many Hands Make Light Work and Joyful Hearts!

By Bert Tippett, Public Relations Director

June
Volunteers
as
refreshing
as
summer
shower!

Free Will Baptist Bible College is blessed with many friends. Friends who give. Friends who pray. Friends who encourage.

Some of the friends for whom we are especially thankful are those who came to the campus in June and served as volunteers. Among the projects they undertook were:

- A new roof for Boyce Building,
- Converting a storage area to an office,
- Classrooms painted,
- Offices painted,
- Wiring for smoke alarms, and more.

Some 40 volunteers came from Arkansas, Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina. They included teens and retirees, men and women, preachers and laymen. Nearly every category was represented. A youth group from First Free Will Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas, was a special blessing to everyone. Led by their youth director, Allen Pointer, this industrious group painted several classrooms in the Johnson Academic Building. They were a delight!

Here are some of the notes they left as the week drew to a close:

I was very glad to get the opportunity to come back to FWBBC. I got to relive some of my great memories! Some of the best years of my life were spent here. I appreciate the college and what it stands for. It will always have a special place in my heart.

Cindy Ellis
Dover, Arkansas

I made a promise to God that if He worked out my schedule, I would do my best to come to work days. I feel that the work I did helped me as much as it helped the college.

John Kirkpatrick
Hampton, Virginia

I have been coming for the last three years. I have seen this grow from a handful to more than 40 people. The volunteers have saved the college thousands of dollars and we have been treated like kings!

Tim Austin
Yorktown, Virginia

I enjoyed helping with our youth group. We appreciate the college and have seen the influence on our former teens who have come as students. It seems a small thank you for the terrific staff of FWBBC alumni we have at our church.

Donna Olson
Russellville, Arkansas

We really enjoyed ourselves this week. God has to be in this project. We came from varied backgrounds, but had a common bond, working for the same God. What began as a dream in my heart six years ago is finally coming together. Thank God for those who came, and thank God for the college staff. You are the best!

Steve & Kay Faherty
Newport News, Virginia

I really enjoyed the fellowship that we shared as we worked! I would really encourage others to come. Not only are you working to benefit the college, but you are working for God and His ministry.

Rhonda Faherty
Newport News, Virginia

I came as a volunteer with my youth group. We painted classrooms. I feel that we did a fairly good job, for being teens. The college made us feel real welcome.

April Millsaps
Russellville, Arkansas

Fellowship, fun, work, and worship—sounds like a great vacation. That's work days at FWBBC. The group was larger than the first year when we roofed Davidson Hall. It is good to see more concern for the college.

David Kirkpatrick
Hampton, Virginia

This week has been great, being around all my friends and helping out the college. I'd do it again anytime.

Matt Olson
Russellville, Arkansas

I was here!

Scotty Erwin
Delbarton, West Virginia



They Deserve a Second Chance

By Shirley Roberts Combs

(Nashville: Jim and Shirley Combs, ©1995, 126 pp., paperback, \$6.50).

This book is the work of a veteran missionary who has served Christ in the Free Will Baptist denomination since 1964. For most of those years, she and her husband labored in Brazil. The book contains the story of outreach to one of the most neglected mission fields in all the world, the street children of Brazil.

Many children in Brazil are on the streets; they literally have no place to go. Their families, for whatever reason, cannot or will not care for them. There is not sufficient space for them in orphanages or other facilities.

They are often dirty and diseased. They survive by stealing, selling themselves or going through garbage cans. In some cases, street children have become such a menace to society that they have been killed by death squads.

Free Will Baptists in Brazil had never seriously considered the possibility of evangelizing these children until several members of the Araras Church participated in an evangelism class. After taking the class, they

sought opportunities to meet people, make friends and share Christ.

As they began looking for ways to serve their community, they met with the director of the Department of Human Services to discuss opening a child care center. The director told them that the city already had a sufficient number of child care centers.

Then one of the church representatives mentioned that they had also considered working with the elderly or with street children. The director then asked the church to consider working with street children. There were so many of them. Their needs were so great, and there was no one to care for them.

After serious consideration, the church in Araras accepted the challenge. Shirley Combs was selected as director. They knew the work would be hard, but they had no idea just how hard it would be. They could hardly imagine how difficult it would be to provide food, clothing, shelter, education, medical care and Christian love to children who had lived on the streets of Brazil.



Thomas Marberry

The founding and growth of New Life Children's Home in Araras is a testimony to the grace and power of God. When a facility was needed, God provided it. When they were almost out of rice to feed the children, they prayed and God met their need. When the juvenile judge almost removed the children from the home to send them elsewhere, they prayed and God answered their prayer.

Because of the faithfulness of God and the labor of Brazilian Free Will Baptists, children like Eduardo, Alex, Catarina and Zico can now attend Sunday School at a Free Will Baptist church. They can come to know Christ as personal Savior. They have hope for the first time in their young lives.

If you love children, this is a book you will want to read. It can be ordered from Rejoice Ministries International, P. O. Box 50, Owasso, OK 74055. The price is \$6.50 plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling. It can also be purchased from several Free Will Baptist bookstores, from WNAC or from the Foreign Missions Department. ■

Beyond Belief



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Standing Alone

By Dean Jones

The sun shone down, gently warming the cheeks of the young girl as her feet drew diagrams in the grass surrounding the school's flagpole. The birds chirped in the trees nearby—the only sounds around the school yard, as many children were still home eating breakfast or making their beds. Some were packed in bright yellow buses, laughing and talking as the buses wound through the town's streets. But none were there with their friend at this early hour.

It was early for one so young—only eight years old—to be standing alone in the school yard. She had invited many friends to join her this day, this hour . . . some promised, but none followed through. She had heard that this special time was for the older ones, the teens, to take a stand; to join hands with their classmates as they

prayed for their friends, their school, their country.

Her mind couldn't comprehend why there had to be an age limit. Did the older generation not understand that kids love God? . . . loved their friends? . . . their school? . . . their country? As cars and buses arrived, unloading kids her age, she began to wonder if these older people were right.

As tears of loneliness and disappointment filled her eyes, she seemed to hear a voice coming from somewhere inside. "Why are you here? To have a big crowd? To be the leader of an elementary-age 'See You At The Pole' rally? Or to pray?"

Slowly, she dropped her head as tears still freely flowed and a broken eight-year-old heart prayed for her friends, her school and her country.

Inside the school's cafeteria, where students gathered before the first bell, teachers and students asked the question, "Where's Casey Gwartney?"

Almost in unison her friends spoke up, "She's at the flagpole . . . praying!"

One eight-year-old Free Will Baptist girl standing alone, wanting to make a difference. Will you join her? ■





Jack Williams

Life's Most Embarrassing Moments

I was standing in line at 7:00 a.m. waiting to vote on election day when a woman's voice behind me purred, "I almost didn't recognize you with your clothes on." Every conversation in that line stopped. Thirty heads swiveled toward me as I turned and faced a smiling blue-eyed blonde.

"I've been watching you for a year," she said mysteriously. The other voters leaned toward the conversation, enjoying my obvious discomfort.

The blonde let me twist in the wind a couple of beats, then with impeccable timing said, "You *are* the man I see every morning on Tusculum Road at 5:30, aren't you? That's when I leave home for my workout, and I see you puffing up the hills in our neighborhood."

She turned out to be a body builder with an early morning workout schedule and a good sense of humor. I was still punchy when I was motioned to the voting machine. I *think* I voted for the candidates of my choice.

One man's embarrassment provided an election day laugh for 30 good-natured voters. No harm. No foul.

The year was 1933. Shortly after Albert Einstein arrived at Princeton University to teach, a call came to the dean's office.

"May I speak with Dean Eisenhart?" a voice asked.

When told that the dean was out, the caller said, "Perhaps you can tell me where Dr. Einstein lives."

The receptionist explained that university officials had agreed to tell no one where the great mathematician lived in order to protect him from inquisitive callers.

The voice on the phone dropped to a near whisper, "Please do not tell anybody, but I am Dr. Einstein. I am on my way home and have forgotten where my house is."

The forgetfulness of that preoccupied genius entertained a generation of readers. Even Einstein's self-image could be pricked by embarrassment. Again—no harm, no foul. Einstein made it home before dark.

But some people have no sense of humor. The King of Persia promoted a guy like that. His name was Haman. The last thing Haman needed was what he got, sweeping political power (Esther 3:1).

Powerful men bowed before Haman in reverence. One man did not, a Jew named Mordecai. The infuriated Haman then sought to kill every Jew in the kingdom . . . because he could not live with the fact that one man considered him a pompous buffoon.

Haman had it made—power, influence, wealth, the praise of men in high places. But it wasn't enough. He so focused on the one man who refused to bow before him that he poisoned everything else in his life (5:13). He finally built a gallows 65 feet high for the specific purpose of hanging his nemesis.

Overnight, God intervened and Haman, to his horror and profound embarrassment, found himself leading Mordecai through the city astride the king's horse wearing the king's crown and clothes (6:10-11). In a matter of hours, his obsession with Mordecai led to Haman's death—by hanging on the very gallows he'd built for Mordecai (7:10).

Perhaps the only humor in this story is a Divine chuckle as the wrath of man bends to praise God. If it's true that those who dig a pit for others usually fall into it (Proverbs 26:27), it's just as true that those who erect scaffolds for others from their own fears or anger frequently hang themselves.

What causes men like Haman to crash and burn while others manage to keep their balance and sense of humor

when they encounter life's bumps? There's probably no one answer. What unravels one man does not seem to bother his colleagues. But men who can not tolerate differing opinions, who sweep through life with an arrogant stride tend to take themselves and their own opinions far more seriously than others do. The Hamans of the world can not live with being ignored.

Perhaps Lucy was righter than she knew in the *Peanuts* cartoon when she admitted to Charlie Brown, "I hate everything. I hate everybody. I hate the whole wide world!"

Charlie says, "But I thought you had inner peace."

Lucy replies, "I do have inner peace. But I still have outer obnoxiousness!"

If that cartoon philosophy hits too close to home, perhaps we need to rearrange our priorities. Are you a modern-day Haman? Do you know someone who is? Or someone about to be invited to his own hanging?

The problem with the original Haman was his absolute arrogance. He could have been helped by the man he wanted to hang. But there came a point in Haman's life when his attitude placed him beyond the help of his friends. That point came on the day he angered the king.

No one wants to pattern his life after Haman. He refused to listen to anyone but himself. While the Hamans ride high for a time, sometimes even in the work of God, they eventually cross the line and build a false scaffold of accusations against others.

It's an embarrassing but grandly satisfying fact that Mordecai rarely hangs from the gallows built by Haman. ■

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Second class postage paid at Antioch, Tennessee, and additional offices.

The Rest of the Family Offering

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

Ten national ministries share in the special offering:

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

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

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