

SEPTEMBER 1996

# CONTACT

## Convention Analysis .....

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



National Convention ..... WNAC ..... NYC



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**Editor:** Jack Williams  
**Editorial Assistant:** Marilyn Pritchard  
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## Fellowship in Fort Worth



Melvin Worthington

**T**he 60th annual Free Will Baptist convention is history. Reflecting on the action in Fort Worth brings into focus some encouraging things. Leaving the convention in Fort Worth, I was again reminded of the wonderful heritage, history and hope of Free Will Baptists.

The convention provided me the opportunity to revisit our past, review our present and reassess our potential. Our potential is limited only by our vision. We can achieve mighty victories as we believe God and venture out in faith and obedience. I left the convention rejoicing in what God has done, is doing and will do through Free Will Baptists.

### Shape

The convention shaped my focus in a new way. The activities brought a fresh realization of what the Church is all about.

Reflecting on the mission and mandate given by Christ to the Church and the assertion that Christ would build His Church brought into focus why Christians are in the world. I was reminded afresh that Christ's Church is in the redemptive business.

### Sharpen

The convention sharpened my focus. Perhaps James' admonition not to be double minded reflects this fact. When we get bogged down with things and caught up with the complexities that characterize our world, our vision is blurred. Reflecting on the nature of the Church brought into focus the things that are really important.

I left the convention with a sharper focus regarding the directive to, distinctives of and direction for the Church. My attention was focused on the person, promise and power of the Church in the midst of perilous times.

### Strength

The convention strengthened my commitment to Christ, the Church and the Free Will Baptist denomination. We have been used of the Lord. Since 1985 Free Will Baptists have baptized 92,000 converts, added 137,000 members and lost 74,000 members, with a net membership increase of 60,000. God is using Free Will Baptists.

Thank the Lord for the privilege of being part of a denomination which remains true to the principles and practices embedded in the Word of God. We have not changed our doctrinal statement, church covenant nor articles of faith. Our doctrine, documents and deportment remain intact. We stand firmly on the Word of God.

This reassures me that we have not lost focus as a denomination. We remain committed to the mandate to extend Christ's kingdom to the ends of the earth. After 39 years as an ordained Free Will Baptist preacher, I can honestly declare that Free Will Baptists remain true to their heritage and history.

### Solidify

This convention solidified my focus. Listening to the music, reviewing the messages and reflecting on the meetings solidified my belief that Free Will Baptists remain committed to personal holiness of character. Free Will Baptists believe in the process of sanctification which progressively separates believers to God and from

sin. We are a conservative people—conservative in theology and lifestyle.

We are committed to principled, helpful change. Free Will Baptists show a willingness to change when that change is consistent with biblical precepts, principles and practices. Change which is inconsistent with biblical truth needs to be renounced and rejected.

We are committed to practical healthy cooperation. Our organizational structure provides maximum cooperation in order to achieve denominational goals. We can reach full potential only as we work together. Each member cooperating together will result in a sound, strong and stable denominational program extending from the local church, to the district and state associations, to the National Association and to the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches. Cooperation provides the foundation that enables us to achieve all our goals.

The focus in Fort Worth shaped, sharpened, strengthened and solidified the denomination's commitment to holiness . . . to ecclesiastical separation from false doctrine and teachers . . . to sound biblical preaching . . . to church music that has artistic craftsmanship, lyrical value and sound theology . . . to revitalization of Sunday Schools . . . to home and foreign missions . . . to servant leadership.

Leaving Fort Worth, I experienced a sense of peace, pride and pleasure regarding our denomination. Although we may not have accomplished all that we could or should have, God has blessed efforts since our beginning in 1935. I am filled with hope regarding the denomination's future. I have a renewed focus on what God can do in, for and through Free Will Baptists around the globe. ■

### The Secretary's Schedule

Sept. 3-6	Convention Planning Trip Cincinnati, Ohio
Sept. 8-15	North Spartanburg FWB Ch. Inman, SC
Sept. 21-25	Christian Stewardship Assoc.



# I Will Build My Church

By Thomas Marberry



Worship service in the Arena at Tarrant County Convention Center.

For 3½ days in July, the Tarrant County Convention Center in downtown Fort Worth became a place of worship and praise to God. The National Association of Free Will Baptists convened its 60th annual session which focused on the life and work of the church.

The convention theme, *"I Will Build My Church,"* was drawn from Jesus' response to the confession of Peter found in Matthew 16:18. Convention speakers developed a variety of ideas and concepts which explain what the church is and what it should be doing in the world.

Far too often, the model for the church is based on an educational, military or corporate model. The biblical model emphasizes that the church is a family, fellowship, body, building and bride. It is the earthly organization and organism through

which God has chosen to work for the redemption of the world.

This convention emphasized the uniqueness of the church and its ministry. It can proclaim the Word of God and challenge the hearts of believers as no other organization can. This article cannot describe everything that happened during convention '96. It will seek to explain the most important themes developed and the decisions that were made.

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## Building in Worship

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Worship is an important aspect of every meeting of the National Association, and this session was no exception. Every worship service from Sunday morning through Wednesday evening reflected the love and adoration which Free Will Baptists have for God. They also reflected the reverence and respect which our denomination has for the Bible

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### Sunday Morning

The first preacher was Rev. Gerald Fowler, pastor of Trinity FWB Church in LaGrange, North Carolina. He selected as his text II Timothy 2:1-3:3 and 4:1-5. The title was "Vessels of Honor—Our Need."

Fowler emphasized that the denomination is only as good as its pastors. If it is



to be built, as God wants it to be built, the church must have pastors who are men of godliness and integrity.

He said, "We need pastors whom God would classify as vessels of honor." He stressed that preachers and pastors must be careful not to repeat unsubstantiated information especially when that information is damaging to other believers.

### **Sunday Evening**

Reverend David Williford, pastor of First FWB Church in Chipley, Florida, preached Sunday evening. He chose as his text Matthew 16:13-18; the subject was "Building God's Church."

Williford stressed that Christ is the owner of the church and the one who builds. He said, "Church growth is not a human activity; it is a divine activity."

He also pointed out that church growth is spontaneous. He noted, "We cannot take credit for growth because it is God who gives it."

### **Camp Meeting**

A spirit of worship was also evident at the Camp Meeting sponsored by the Home Missions Department Monday afternoon. Rev. David Crowe, the agency's director of missionary assistance, preached a message of encouragement based on Hebrews 12:1.

He noted the difference between people who live in a spiritual basement and discourage others in God's work and those who live in the balcony and encourage others to go forward for God. He called for Christians to encourage one another, "If there has ever been a day when we need to encourage one another, this is it."

### **Monday Evening**

Rev. Tim Hall, pastor of First FWB Church of Owensboro, Kentucky, preached Monday evening on the subject, "What Doest Thou Here?" from I Kings 19:1-9. This text relates a time in the life of Elijah when he was



**New moderator Carl Cheshier (L) and new assistant moderator Tim York.**

filled with fear and ran from the wicked queen Jezebel.

In his sermon, Rev. Hall noted where Elijah was, why he was there and what he received by being there. He explained the parallels between what was going on in the time of Elijah in Israel and what is going on in our country today. He said, "We are seeing a great departure from basic doctrines in this country."

### **Leadership Forum**

The first portion of the Leadership Forum Tuesday morning was also a worship service. Rev. Bob Shockey, veteran pastor, home missionary and evangelist, preached on the subject, "Let the Fire Fall," from I Kings 18:1-8.

He discussed the enemies of revival, the elements of revival and the evidence of revival. He emphasized that "we need to stand up for God," and that "revival does not depend on how wicked the world is."

### **Tuesday Evening**

The Tuesday evening service was a special time of worship and praise.

A considerable portion of the service was devoted to recognizing the 40th anniversary of Master's Men, our Free Will Baptist laymen's organization. Members of the board gave brief presentations outlining different aspects of the Master's Men work.

A highlight of this service was the first public performance of a new song, "God's

Men," which was commissioned by Master's Men and composed by Dr. Vernon Whaley in honor of Free Will Baptist laymen.

Mr. Trymon Messer, director of the Home Missions Department, was the speaker for the service. His sermon, based on Acts 9:31, was a moving challenge to make church planting and church building our top priority.

He challenged the congregation to become personally involved in soul winning, assisting new church-



**Camp Meeting speaker David Crowe likes that point.**

**Home Missions director Trymon Messer.**



**Kentucky pastor Tim Hall preaches keynote sermon.**



es and building up existing churches. At the close of the service, a large number of men and women responded to the invitation and made commitments to involve themselves in the ministry of evangelism and discipleship.

### **Wednesday Evening**

The final worship service Wednesday evening was the highlight of Convention '96. It began with the introduction of home and foreign missionaries. Howard Gwartney and his crew of missionary builders received a standing ovation in appreciation for their years of service to our work in



**Counting the \$33,000 missionary offering.**

constructing new churches both at home and abroad.

The appreciation which was expressed for all our missionaries was evidence of our high regard for them and evidence of the denomination's commitment to missions.

The preacher for this final worship service was Rev. Will Harmon, pastor of Collin Creek FWB Church in Plano, Texas. His text was Numbers 13:26-33; the title of the sermon was, "Our Time Is Now."

Harmon presented two main ideas in the sermon. First he noted, "God wants us to see His vision of tomorrow." Second, "God wants us to take the land."

He noted that Free Will Baptists have a great opportunity to be involved in the work of God on earth and challenged us to take advantage of it. He said, "Every advance is in the face of facts which say it can't be done." He also stated, "Unbelief always waits for a more convenient season."

At the close of the service, a large number of men, women and young people came forward to dedicate themselves to greater involvement in God's work.

### **Building in Music**

Christian music is an important aspect of worship and a key part of every National Association. It is more than just an entertaining preparation for the sermon. It is an opportunity to instruct, motivate and inspire. The music at Convention '96, both congregational and special, contributed greatly to the overall message of the convention.

Congregational singing was unusually good this year. There was a mixture of familiar gospel songs and hymns

such as "Power in the Blood" and "Nothing But the Blood." Wednesday night's singing of "O Worship the King" was probably the high point of congregational singing.

Special music was rich and varied this year. The Music Commission has taken responsibility for planning and coordinating convention music services. They involved outstanding individuals and groups from churches across our denomination.

Some of these included the Adoration Trio from Farmington, Missouri; the Durbins from Fredericktown, Missouri; the Meadow Brook Quartet from Black Mountain, North Carolina; and the Music Commission itself who sang two numbers.

Combined college groups from Free Will Baptist Bible College, Hillsdale FWB College, Southeastern FWB College and California Christian College sang Tuesday evening. They performed well, and it was a pleasure to see so many young people from our colleges cooperating on a project of this type.

Monday evening, the Mass Adult Choir, under the leadership of Rev. Doug Little, ministered the Word in music. The Men's Chorale sang Wednesday evening.

Chris Truett, minister of music at Unity FWB Church in Greenville, NC, conducted the instrumental ensemble composed of instrumentalists from across the denomination. This group accompanied congregational singing and also played the offertory hymn Wednesday evening.

Several individuals contributed to worship services with special numbers. Jerry Pilgrim sang Sunday morning, Billy Fields that evening, Leanne Ledbetter Monday evening, and Nancy Copeland Wednesday evening. Randy Sawyer served as music coordinator, Carol Reid as organist, Jerry Carraway as pianist.

All these men and women used their talents in the Lord's service at Convention '96. It was an honor to worship God with them.

### **Building in Outreach**

If the Church of God is to be built up, there must be outreach. Churches must be planted at home and abroad. People must be won to Christ and then disciplined. The



**Just back from Russia: Fay and Leroy Forlines.**



theme of this conference led naturally to discussions about missions and evangelism.

### **Double in a Decade**

During the final business session Thursday morning, Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington gave a report on the Double in a Decade campaign. He said that since 1985, Free Will Baptist churches have baptized 92,680 converts, added 137,137 members, and lost 76,422 members. During this 10-year time span, our churches have had a net increase of 60,715.

Worthington noted that our biggest problem is not winning people, but keeping them. He challenged the denomination to develop and implement better discipleship programs which will enable churches to retain more converts and help them become active participants in the work of the Church.

### **Home Missions**

Mr. Trymon Messer, our new general director of Home Missions, gave his first report to the denomination. He said that during 1995, nine new home missionaries were appointed and two new chaplains were assigned. Several Aquila and Priscilla workers and a number of tentmakers also served under the Home Missions Department during 1995.

Messer also reported a number of personnel changes. Ida Lewis was



**Chaplain Gerald Mangham.**

## **Things to be Thankful For**

- ☆ The 6,771 Free Will Baptists who participated in the National Convention, the National Youth Conference, and Women Nationally Active for Christ.
- ☆ The excellent worship services.
- ☆ The good singing.
- ☆ The warm fellowship.
- ☆ The excellent hospitality of Texas Free Will Baptists.
- ☆ The new missionaries who have gone out for Free Will Baptists.
- ☆ The opportunity to minister in Russia and the Ukraine.
- ☆ The Wednesday evening missions offering of more than \$33,000.
- ☆ The fervent preaching.
- ☆ The record number of young people who came to this convention.
- ☆ The 42 men and women whose names were read by the chairman of the Obituary Committee. They have their reward.
- ☆ Gerald Mangham and Ralph Hampton.
- ☆ The members of our various boards and commissions who give so freely of their time and talents.
- ☆ The grace and mercy of Almighty God.
- ☆ Rev. Ralph Staten who has attended all but three meetings of the National Association.

employed to replace Pat Thomas and David Crowe was employed as director of missionary assistance.

During 1995, the Church Extension Loan Fund grew to \$9.1 million. Some 109 loans have been made to new churches and missions to help buy property and build buildings. On Roll Call Sunday, March 25, 1995, a total of 213,656 people worshiped in Free Will Baptist churches. There were 552 conversions that day.

Director Messer told delegates that he had talked with representatives from each of our denominational colleges and urged them to develop special training programs for church planters. All colleges responded favorably to his request and are working to develop these programs. He outlined his desire to work more closely with state and district mission boards to plant new churches.

During the business session Wednesday, Messer introduced Chap-

lain and Mrs. Gerald Mangham. Col. Mangham will retire from the U.S. Army February 1, 1997, after 30 years of faithful service. He was honored with a standing ovation from delegates and a plaque from Home Missions.

It was also announced that former director Rev. Roy Thomas was recovering from an accident where a horse fell on him. Delegates had special prayer for his recovery.



**Convention cricket.**

### **Cross-Cultural Study**

The Cross-Cultural Study Committee presented its report to the convention Thursday morning. This committee had met three times "to discuss and determine the structure and strategies needed to implement a cross-cultural ministry

among Free Will Baptists."

The committee recommended that the Home Missions Department have primary responsibility for implementing, directing and supervising the denomination's cross-cultural ministry. The committee will continue functioning in cooperation with the Home Missions Department to facilitate involvement by all national departments in this ministry.

The committee also distributed a Cross-Cultural Ministry Questionnaire to be completed by all churches that have cross-cultural ministries or have interest in developing them. This will help the Home Missions Department determine what our churches are doing now and what the needs are.

### **Foreign Missions**

Rev. Eugene Waddell, general director of the Foreign Missions Department, gave the foreign missions report Wednesday afternoon. He re-



ported considerable progress in several areas.

In June 1995, the Ivory Coast Bible Institute held its second graduation. Ten students finished two years of classroom instruction and one year of internship. These graduates have gone into villages of northeastern Côte d'Ivoire preaching the gospel and nurturing believers.

Waddell reported that the Lord continues to bless our medical work in Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire. During 1995, some 15,069 patients were treated, 367 hospitalized, 332 babies delivered, and 5,412 vaccinated.

The work continues to go forward in Brazil, Uruguay, Panama, Spain and other countries. God continues to bless Free Will Baptist work in Cuba in spite of severe shortages of food, medicine and other commodities. Cuban Free Will Baptists reported 379 conversions last year.

### **Russian Outreach**

The Foreign Missions Department broke new ground by sending short-term missionaries Leroy and Fay Forlines to serve in Russia and the Ukraine. They spent approximately 4½ months preaching and teaching in several areas. Three pastors,



**Missionary Dub Ellison (C) introduces Malcolm Fry (R) in the exhibit hall.**

James Forlines, Randy Wilson and Jim Turnbough, traveled to Russia with overseas Secretary Jimmy Aldridge where they participated in a pastors' conference in Chelyabinsk.

Free Will Baptists in the United States have been assisting Pastor Pasel Rodak to establish a new church in Noyabrisk. With the help of four other Russian pastors, Rev. Rodak has developed an outreach to several villages in the far North Arctic Circle area of Western Siberia.

Director Waddell also reported on events in several other areas. Young people from the U.S. had just returned from three weeks of ministering and witnessing in Brazil. The North India Free Will Baptist Conference has accepted a challenge to plant 100 new churches by the year 2000.

Free Will Baptists in the United States continue to increase their support for foreign missions. Department income in 1995 topped \$4.3 million. Some 142 churches gave more than \$5,000 each and 47 churches gave more than \$10,000 each.

Again in 1995, WNAC generously supported missions and met the needs of missionary families through the provision closet. WNAC also channeled nearly \$200,000 monetary gifts to foreign missions in 1995.

### **International Fellowship**

October 16-20, 1995, was an historic week for Free Will Baptist foreign missions. The International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches was organized with the following countries represented: Brazil, Cuba, France, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Spain, Panama, Uruguay and the United States.

Plans call for this fellowship to meet every three years.



**The James Munsey family from Weslaco, Texas.**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 12-16, 1998, in Uruguay.

The first Executive Committee elected by the International Fellowship includes John Poole, president (Brazil); Ramon Sanchez, vice president (Cuba); and Melvin Worthington, secretary-treasurer (U.S.).

The theme, "I Will Build My Church," was appropriate for Convention '96. During this meeting the denomination reflected a continued dedication to winning converts and planting churches at home and in other countries. Progress is being made in both areas, but there is much more to be done.

## **Building in Education**

Education and training are important aspects of church growth. Christians must be trained and discipled if they are to be used effectively in building up the church. Every session of the National Association is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the work of Christ and the work of our denomination. Convention '96 was no exception.

### **Sunday Morning Class**

It began with an excellent Sunday School class taught by Ron Barber, an attorney who is a member of Bethany FWB Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. The lesson was based on Hebrews 8 which contrasts the old covenant based on law

**Thomas Marberry, theology and Greek instructor at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma, wrote the 1996 National Convention analysis.**

**Convention photographs are provided courtesy of James Vallance, director of Master's Men Department.**

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



with the new covenant based on faith in Christ.

Mr. Barber emphasized that Christ is a high priest who is far superior to any high priest available to men under the Levitical system. He pointed out, "The only High Priest now acceptable to God is Jesus Christ Himself."

### Exhibits

Other opportunities to learn about our denomination at Convention '96 presented themselves at the large exhibit area in the convention center. Our national agencies and other groups had displays of material and representatives who could answer questions and provide information. Randall House Publications had a large display of books, commentaries and other materials available for purchase by attendees.

### Leadership Forum

Tuesday morning, a Leadership Forum was chaired by executive secretary Melvin Worthington. The first portion of the forum was a worship service. The second part was an open discussion for those present to discuss any issue pertaining to the work of the denomination. Several issues were discussed.

A considerable portion of time was devoted to discussion of a recent decision by the board and administration of Free Will Baptist Bible College that allows women students to wear slacks when not involved in classes, chapel or similar activities. All who spoke on the issue reflected a desire to maintain biblical standards of modesty in dress. There was difference of opinion on what constitutes modest dress in specific circumstances.

Two agencies of the denomination are specifically devoted to education and training: the Sunday School and Church Training Department,

and Free Will Baptist Bible College. Both agencies gave reports of their activities to delegates.

### Sunday School Department

Dr. Alton Loveless, general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department since January 1994, has been actively streamlining the organization, stabilizing its financial growth, improving literature, promoting Sunday School growth and revival in our churches. He announced plans to hire someone within the next year to work in the areas of Sunday School growth and outreach.

Dr. Loveless reported that the department has made considerable



Cutest little fiddler in Texas.

progress in several areas. The financial situation continues to improve. Sales during 1995 reached \$2.4 million. Indebtedness has been reduced to approximately \$398,000, most of which is owed on the building and a printing press.

Improvement has been made in the quality of literature produced by the department. Children's literature

## 1997 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 50% 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 .....	0.5%
Historical Commission .....	0.5%
Music Commission .....	0.5%
Radio and Television Commission .....	0.5%
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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



## Elected in Fort Worth

The following were elected during the 60th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

### General Officers

Moderator Carl Cheshier (Ark.)  
Assistant Moderator Tim York (Ky.)  
Clerk Waldo Young (Okla.)  
Assistant Clerk Keith Burden (Okla.)

### General Board

1997 Doice McAlister (Calif.)  
1998 Vergel Maness (N.J.)  
Len Blanchard (N.M.)  
Dann Patrick (N.C.)  
Jim Nason (N.E. Assoc.)  
Darrell Smith (N.W. Assoc.)  
Delmar Sparks (Ohio)  
Jack Richey (Okla.)  
Joe Cagle (S.C.)  
Charles Thigpen (Tenn.)  
Thurmon Murphy (Texas)  
Glen Johnson (Va.)  
Carl Vallance (W. Va.)

### Executive Committee

1998 Jack Richey (Okla.)  
Glen Johnson (Va.)  
Charles Thigpen (Tenn.)

### Bible College Trustees

2002 Archie Ratliff (N.C.)  
Larry Montgomery (Tenn.)  
Gene Outland (Ill.)

### Foreign Missions Board

2002 Bill Jones (Okla.)  
David Williford (Fla.)  
Bill Van Winkle (Miss.)

### Sunday School and Church Training Board

2002 David Sutton (Texas)  
Nuel Brown (Calif.)  
David Reece (Va.)

### Commission for Theological Integrity

2001 Paul Harrison (Tenn.)

### Radio-Television Commission

2001 Ron Hunter (Fla.)

### Music Commission

2001 David Bates (Mo.)

### Historical Commission

2001 Thomas Marberry (Okla.)

is being rewritten. Several covers are now produced in full color.

## Bible College

President Tom Malone gave the Free Will Baptist Bible College report. He thanked the denomination for its continued support of FWB-BC and noted that the "Claim the Land" campaign was an overwhelming success, with all 123 acres sold. Plans to relocate to the new campus are ongoing. The college board and administration are developing a strategy to raise necessary funds to complete the project.

Dr. Malone reported that the college continues to be accredited by the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges (AABC). Academic dean Robert Picirilli serves as president of AABC. The college continues efforts to obtain accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). A team of educators from SACS recently visited campus, and the college will receive a report of that visit later this year.

During the 1995-96 school year, a to-

deficit of \$140,418. The board and administration recognize that this situation cannot continue. Steps are being taken to increase revenues and reduce expenditures.

Dr. Picirilli emphasized that the college has always operated on a limited budget. Campus buildings need additional maintenance and repairs. Computers and other equipment need to be purchased. Curriculum needs to be expanded. He summed up the situation, "Free Will Baptists have not yet faced up to the high cost of quality Christian education."

In his report, President Malone challenged every church to increase its financial contribution and encourage its young people to attend FWBBC.

Rev. Malone also recognized the contributions of two men who have played important roles in developing FWBBC. Rev. Sam Truett was recognized for 12 years of service on the board. Dr. LaVerne Miley, who retired at the end of the school year, was recognized for his outstanding teaching and service to the institution.

Education and training are important parts of the growth and development of the work of God on earth. They received a good deal of attention during Convention '96.

## Building in Service

As Free Will Baptist churches grow, they will need the support of the denomination. There are several denominational commissions and agencies which are designed to assist the ministry of the local church.

### Executive Office

One of these, the Executive Office, arranges for the annual convention, publishes *Contact* and provides overall coordination for the work of the denomination. Dr. Melvin Worthington, executive secretary, reported that 1995 was a busy year for the Executive Office. Sales of both editions of the new hymnal totaled 11,323. The Executive Office and Randall House Publications are working on a companion to the hymnal to be published in 1997.

The Executive Office contributed to planning and organizing the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches which was established October 16-21, 1995, in Brazil.

Our national publication, *Contact*, published monthly by



Finally! My turn to register.

tal of 373 students attended FWBBC. These students represent 26 states, the Virgin Islands and seven foreign countries.

Tom Sass and Robert Picirilli reported on the college's financial situation. While it is not yet critical, the current financial picture is certainly cause for concern by the denomination. Last year the college sustained an operating



the Executive Office, provides current information regarding denominational life. Subscriptions totaled 5,625 in December 1995. A subscription costs \$12 per year; a lifetime subscription is available for \$500. Complimentary copies are provided for students at our denominational colleges during the school year.

The Capital Stewardship Campaign is designed to pay off remaining indebtedness on the National Offices Building in Antioch, Tennessee. Contribution to this effort through December 31, 1995, totaled \$27,233.82.

Contributions to all national ministries in 1995 totaled over \$8.7 million. Together Way Plan contributions totaled \$2.49 million, the highest in history. Of this amount, more than \$362,000 was cooperative and \$2.9 million was designated. Dr. Worthington encouraged each church and association to support all aspects of the national work through the Together Way Plan.

Dr. Worthington also presented the Leadership Conference Committee Report that addressed several im-



**Dr. Arthur Yandell reads resolutions.**

portant issues raised in a resolution submitted to the National Association at the 1995 convention in North Carolina. This report was discussed at the Leadership Forum and a few changes in wording were suggested.

### **Board of Retirement**

Rev. Bill Evans presented the report of the Board of Retirement. He reported that 53 new participants joined the retirement plan in 1995. Several state associations have adopted programs to assist pastors in their states to participate in the retirement plan.

In April of this year, assets of the retirement program passed \$13 mil-

lion. These funds are invested in a diversified portfolio of U.S. government securities, church loans, stocks and bonds. Since the founding of the program in 1969, earnings have averaged 8.59% per year.

### **FWB Foundation**

Rev. Evans also presented the report of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. The Foundation exists to manage gifts which benefit Free Will Baptist churches and agencies. These gifts can include revocable trusts, charitable remainder unitrusts, charitable remainder annuity trusts, charitable gift annuities and endowments.

The FWB Foundation presently manages \$842,000 in endowments and \$727,000 planned future gifts. These funds benefit all the national agencies as well as local churches, colleges and other agencies.

### **Master's Men**

Convention '96 was a special time for Master's Men, the agency which promotes, assists and encourages laymen's ministries in our denomination. In past years, Master's Men suffered serious financial problems, but 1995 brought considerable improvement.

The 1995 audit showed total income of \$166,462, the highest in the department's history. This was due to hard work of the denomination's laymen. Several men built and sold a house in Arkansas. The profit of the sale, \$20,000, was donated to Master's Men.

The national Master's Men conference was conducted for the third year at Camp Beaverfork in Arkansas. Sports fellowship activities showed

tremendous growth in 1995. The 16th annual softball tournament had 48 teams competing, six of them women's teams. Over 900 players participated in the competition.

Three regional Pastors and Laymen Conferences are planned this fall. These will occur in Illinois at Camp Hope September 5-7; West Virginia at Ripley October 3-5; and Georgia at Statesboro October 10-12.

The Master's Men Department cel-

## **Words Worth Remembering**

“The future is up to us. The Lord is not limiting us. Circumstances are not limiting us.”  
—Ralph Hampton

“Some people live with the illusion that you can go home again.”  
—Will Harmon

“Jesus has given us His definition of greatness.”  
—Will Harmon

“What we need today is preachers who will preach against sin.”  
—Robert C. Hill

“We are a chosen generation regardless of what that includes.”  
—Robert C. Hill

“Free Will Baptist Bible College is about people.”  
—Tom Malone

“We can do only what you enable us to do.”  
—Tom Malone

“There it is. Read it. If you have any questions, write me.”  
—Trymon Messer

“The more he realizes his wife is not around, the braver he gets.”  
—Gerald Mangham

“1995 was a wonderful year.”  
—Bill Evans

“When we share God's Word, He builds His Church.”  
—Trymon Messer

“Show us a glimpse of the Master.”  
—Jim Vallance

“It is amazing what God can do.”  
—Buddy Drake

“We will train those who have willing hearts and surrendered minds.”  
—Jim Shepherd

“Revival does not depend on how wicked the world is.”  
—Bob Shockey

“Taking a stand for truth in a world full of lies will bring retaliation.”  
—Tim Hall

“At the end of the day, what people really need is Jesus.”  
—Erwin W. Lutzer

“We love Him not just because He was compassionate but because He is the Savior.”  
—Erwin W. Lutzer

ebred 40 years of service to the denomination at Convention '96, and several events marked this milestone. Dr. Vernon Whaley, commissioned to



write a special song about men in service to the Master, wrote a hymn titled, "God's Men," which debuted at the convention.

This year's speaker at the Wednesday evening Master's Men Dinner was Dr. Robert C. Hill, the primary founder and first director of Master's Men. During his speech he shared interesting incidents from the early

James only controversy. This seminar proved to be so popular that another seminar examining a different aspect of the issue was planned for this year's convention.



Layman of the Year, John Fowlkes.



Vernon Whaley (R) accepts Director's Award.

days of the department including its early ministry in Cuba.

Each year the Master's Men Department honors two laymen who have made outstanding contributions to the work of local Free Will Baptist churches. This year the Runner Up Layman of the Year was J. P. Seley from Tippetts Chapel FWB Church in Clayton, North Carolina. The Layman of the Year was John Fowlkes from Centerpoint FWB Church in Vilonia, Arkansas. Both men have contributed years of service to our denomination.

Two special awards were presented during this year's dinner. Honorary Life Membership in Master's Men was presented to Dr. Robert C. Hill for his service in the founding and early development of the department. A special Director's Award went to Dr. Vernon Whaley for writing and producing the hymn, "God's Men."

### **Theological Integrity Commission**

Four special commissions render valuable service to the denomination in specific areas, and each commission presented a report on its activities to the convention.

The Commission for Theological Integrity conducted several seminars on various theological issues. At the 1995 convention, Dr. Robert Picirilli conducted a seminar on the King

The commission also sponsored a seminar on F W B B C c a m p u s

which was held in conjunction with the college's Bible Conference. Dr. Garnett Reid spoke to students and guests on the usefulness of the Old Testament to the Christian believer.

Reverend Leroy Forlines, commission chairman, announced plans for a Theology Seminar to be held at Free Will Baptist Bible College October 24-26. Papers on significant theological issues will be read at this seminar.

### **Radio-TV Commission**

The Radio-Television Commission seeks to use the media to spread the gospel. It provides a 15-minute radio

program, "Victorious Faith," with speaker Rev. Bob Shockey. It can also provide 30- or 60-second commercial announcements to advertise events in local churches.

The Radio-Television Commission has no paid staff. All five men are volunteers, and the budget is minimal. Steve Faison, chairman, reported that the commission is currently reviewing its ministry in an effort to determine how it can serve the denomination in the most effective manner possible given its limited resources.

### **Music Commission**

The Music Commission enjoyed an exciting and eventful year in 1995. In cooperation with Prism Music of Brentwood, Tennessee, the commission produced CD and cassette sound tracks which may be used to accompany congregational singing, choirs, Bible studies, nursing home services, Sunday School class meetings or youth activities. At present, these sound tracks are available to accompany 20 songs and hymns from *Rejoice: The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book*.

The commission is working with the Executive Office and Sunday School and Church Training Department to produce a companion to the *Rejoice* hymnal. This book, co-authored by Drs. Vernon M. Whaley and Tim Sharp, will contain stories, historical data and short devotional thoughts about each hymn.

## **1997 Budgets Adopted**

Executive Office .....	\$ 565,050.00
Free Will Baptist Bible College .....	3,675,650.00
(Includes \$1 million in unrestricted gifts)	
Foreign Missions .....	4,451,766.00
(Does not include \$493,850.00 Vision Projects)	
Home Missions .....	2,800,000.00
Master's Men .....	131,900.00
Retirement and Insurance .....	334,904.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation .....	93,000.00
Sunday School and Church Training .....	2,792,816.00
Commission for Theological Integrity .....	2,400.00
Historical Commission .....	2,875.00
Music Commission .....	3,725.00
Radio and Television Commission .....	8,350.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$14,862,436.00</b>



This commission conducts a workshop each year at the convention. These workshops give musicians from across the denomination the opportunity to preview and sing some of the best new Christian music available.

In recent years, the Music Commission has accepted a new responsibility. It works with the music coordinator for the national convention to plan the music program. The commission invites comments and suggestions from Free Will Baptist people. It is gathering names, addresses and phone numbers of individuals and groups interested in participating in the music program at the convention.

### **Historical Commission**

The Historical Commission collects and preserves important historical information about Free Will Baptists. It also encourages historical research and writing which relates to the history of our movement.

In 1995, the commission gave \$2,500 to First FWB Church of New Durham, New Hampshire, to assist with improvements (painting, etc.) in the historic Ridge Church. It also allocated \$2,000 to purchase fireproof file cabinets to store materials from the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection housed in Welch Library at FWBBC.

The 1996-97 project is to bring the inventory of minutes in the Historical Collection up to date. The last inventory was done in 1989. This project is to be completed in time for the 1997 national convention.

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## **Building in Business**

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The National Association of Free Will Baptists is a big operation. Convention '96 approved budgets for all national departments and agencies for 1997 totaling \$14,862,436. An operation this size demands good stewardship and accountability.

Each department operates under the direct supervision of a board elected by the National Association. These boards are responsible to administer their departments under the guidelines of the National Association. They are required to submit annual reports on budgets and activities to the National Association. Convention '96 delegates heard reports from each national department and approved its proposed budget.

Elections are the most important part of business at the national convention. Convention '96 elected members to the Foreign Missions Board, Sunday School and Church Training Board and the Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees. It also elected general officers and one member to each commission.

Each year the Budget Committee submits a proposed breakdown of cooperative gifts received through the Together Way Plan.

Several items of business were handled during business sessions on Wednesday and Thursday. Delegates voted that Birmingham, Alabama, will be

site of the National Association meeting July 16-20, 2006.

The body voted to ask the Commission for Theological Integrity to research Promise Keepers and prepare a report to be presented to the next session of the National Association. The body also approved a motion to ask the Executive Committee to study the issue of term limits for the moderator and assistant moderator.

A motion was made to ask the Nominating Committee to publish a list of its nominees for various positions to-



**"Next year . . . it's Carl's problem."—outgoing moderator Ralph Hampton.**

gether with a brief biography of those being nominated. After some discussion, the body voted to refer this motion to the Leadership Conference for further study.

The final item of business was a motion to give a rising vote of thanks to Rev. Ralph Hampton who is stepping down after nine years of service as moderator of the National Association.

Several resolutions were considered by the voting body this year. Four were approved with little controversy. The first encouraged Free Will Baptists to boycott products of the Walt Disney Corporation because of its support for homosexuality.

The second condemned President Clinton's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban. The third encouraged Free Will Baptists to support prayerfully and financially those Christians whose churches have been destroyed under suspicious circumstances.

The final resolution expressed thanks to Texas Free Will Baptists for hosting Convention '96 in Fort Worth.

Two resolutions dealing with the Promise Keepers organization were submitted. The first condemned the organization; the second commended it. The Resolutions Committee sent both resolutions to the floor without any recommendation, and the body voted to table both of them.

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## **Conclusion**

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Convention '96 was a special time in the history of our denomination. It was a harmonious convention with a minimum of controversy. Moderator Ralph Hampton described it as "positive in many ways."

Executive secretary Melvin Worthington gave his analysis in these words, "This convention has sharpened our focus. We are learning to deal with controversial issues."



**Music director Randy Sawyer.**



The Leadership Forum Tuesday morning was something new and different. It gave Free Will Baptists the opportunity to discuss important issues in a non-threatening environment. There are many issues that cannot be resolved by a vote during the business session. What is needed is an open and free exchange of views and ideas. The Leadership Forum gave us that.

Several of our departments and agencies are making significant progress. New mission fields are being opened. There is a new commitment

to church planting and church growth. The Master's Men is celebrating 40 years of service to our denomination, and its best years lie ahead. The denomination is taking its first small steps to develop cross-cultural ministries to carry the gospel to some of the ethnic groups in this country.

In an interview shortly after the convention adjourned, Dr. Melvin Worthington gave our denomination a challenge. He said, "Let's get serious about the mandate the church has to reach a lost world and develop strong biblical disciples. We need

to stop losing the people we win."

Shortly before adjournment, Rev. Ralph Hampton who has served as moderator the past nine years announced that he would not be a candidate for re-election. The convention expressed its thanks for his years of service with a standing vote. Many individuals also expressed their thanks and appreciation to him.

Being moderator of the National Association is a difficult and often thankless job. Ralph Hampton has led us with kindness, fairness and tact; and we thank him for it. ■



**Melvin Worthington (L) answers questions.**



**Wednesday night altar service.**



**Chris Truett directs Instrumental Ensemble.**



## Did You Know . . .

- ... 53 new participants joined our retirement program in 1995.
- ... that the Home Missions Department held its first Missionary Training and Evaluation Conference this year.
- ... that our home mission churches averaged 90 in attendance on Roll Call Sunday.
- ... that the Mexico Bible Institute (El Seminario de la Cruz) is being re-located to Reynosa.
- ... that the Free Will Baptist Foundation had assets of \$3.2 million as of June 30, 1996.
- ... that Master's Men endowment trusts exceeded \$100,000 in 1995.
- ... that 11,323 copies of both editions of the new hymnal had been sold by December 31, 1995.
- ... that the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists was organized October 16-21, 1995 in Brazil.
- ... that *Contact* subscriptions totaled 5,625 in December 1995.
- ... that contributions to national ministries totaled \$8,777,067.71 in 1995.
- ... that 455 people attended the Leadership Conference last December.
- ... that nine new home missionaries were appointed last year.
- ... that Ray Thomas is recovering from an accident: a horse fell on him.
- ... that total income for the Master's Men was \$166,462 in 1995; this represents an increase of more than \$46,000 over 1994.
- ... that 358 people were saved at Curtis Linton's church in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Roll Call Sunday.
- ... that a total of 1,234 people were saved in Free Will Baptist churches on Roll Call Sunday.
- ... that the First FWB Church of Decatur, Illinois, sends more students to Free Will Baptist Bible College than any other local church.
- ... that 47 churches gave more than \$10,000 to Foreign Missions in 1995.
- ... that Free Will Baptist Bible College is moving ahead with its relocation program.
- ... that the proposed budget for this convention totals \$115,050.
- ... that the Free Will Baptist Foundation is managing a total of \$842,881.49 in current endowments to benefit national, state and local agencies.
- ... that two new military chaplains were assigned during 1995.
- ... that a total of 373 students attended Free Will Baptist Bible College during the 1995-96 school year.
- ... that Free Will Baptists in Cuba reported 379 converts during 1995.
- ... that our denomination is sponsoring church planting efforts in Yekaterinburg, a city of nearly two million people in Russia.
- ... that 10 young people have just returned from Brazil where they ministered and witnessed for three weeks.

— Taken from Monday and Tuesday editions of the 1996 *Convention News*

Did you say  
lunch?  
I'm ready!



FWBBC president Tom Malone.



Jimmy and Janie Aldridge



## 1996 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 tape number and placing the quantity desired in the appropriate lines.

Tape Number	Subject	Quantity
<b>Convention Messages</b>		
1. Gerald Fowler	Sunday Morning	_____
2. David Williford	Sunday Evening	_____
3. Tim Hall	Monday Evening	_____
4. Trymon Messer	Tuesday Evening	_____
5. Will Harmon	Wednesday Evening	_____
<b>Seminars</b>		
6. Robert Picirilli	"The King James Version: The Manuscript Side"	_____
<b>Women Nationally Active for Christ</b>		
7. "How Can I Help My Pastor's Wife?"	WNAC Seminar	_____
8. "Parsonage Responsibilities"	WNAC Ministers' Wives Seminar	_____
9. Marie Hanna	WNAC Devotional	_____
10. Carlisle Hanna	WNAC Missionary Service	_____
11. WNAC	Special Missionary Feature	_____
12. Marcia Ellison	WNAC Fellowship Dinner	_____
<b>Leadership Forum</b>		
13. Bob Shockey	Session I	_____
14. Discussion	Session II (2 tapes — \$4)	_____
<b>Meet 'n' Eat</b>		
15. Robert Hill	Master's Men Dinner	_____
16. Erwin Lutzer	Fellowship of Encouragement Meeting	_____
17. Erwin Lutzer	Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner	_____
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
18. David Crowe	FWB Camp Meeting	_____
19. Ralph Hampton	Moderator's Message	_____
20. Ron Barber	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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Have you  
appreciated  
 your  
 pastor  
 lately?  
 When was  
 the  
 last time  
 you  
told  
 him?**

**Pastor  
 Appreciation  
 Day**



**September 8**



## 1996 WNAC Review

# Hold the Light High

By Suzanne Franks

**T**exas supplied Free Will Baptist women with enough warm weather and friendly people to make everyone feel welcome. According to Registration Committee chairman Bettie Ferguson, 951 women registered for the Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC) convention.

### Seminars

Monday afternoon, WNAC attendees chose between two seminars—one for pastors' wives, the other "How can I help my pastor's wife?" Annette Aycock presided over a panel of three pastors' wives asking Sue Aycock (BRAZIL), Ruth Mullen (IN) and Christine Roysden (KY) questions designed to in-



Seminar speakers Ruth Mullen (R), Christine Roysden, Edra Saverance.

form the audience about who a pastor's wife really is and what they appreciate.

WNAC President Everyl Getz (TX) spoke specifically to pastors' wives. Ruth Bivens prefaced Getz' speech by relating a humorous conversation between an unappreciated pastor's wife and an imaginary friend. Mrs. Getz spoke to pastors' wives about their jobs using information from a survey of FWB pastors' wives. She talked about the privileges and responsibilities of the pastor's wife's job.

About 100 people attended each seminar.

### State Officers Meeting

The 60-person WNAC State Officers Meeting was led by executive secretary Mary R. Wisehart. She presented the new Manual using transparencies and the Study Guide she compiled to give a Manual study. In addition to instructions, the Study Guide contains several pages that can be made into transparencies.

### General Assembly

Debbie Burden lead congregational singing with Sharon Bearn at the organ and Marian Pilgrim at the piano. Nancy Copeland brought special music singing, *Shepherd of My Heart*.

On behalf of Texas Women Active for Christ, Brenda Doffing (TWAC Secretary) welcomed everyone with a short vocabulary and pronunciation lesson on Texas talk.

### Devotion

Marie Hanna, missionary to India, spoke from Acts 13:44-49 comparing physical lights with spiritual lights. She challenged us to let our lives be mirrors for the Lord Jesus Christ, reflecting His image in us so that day by day we may

be more like Him.

### Creative Arts Contest Awards

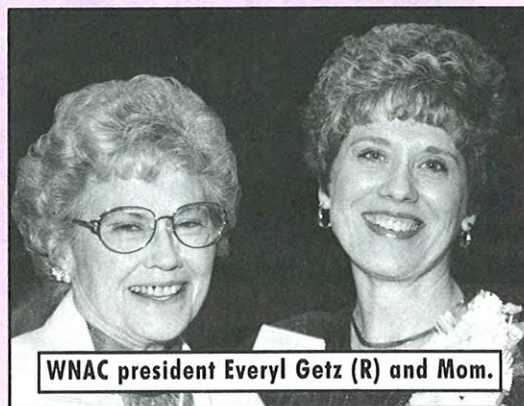
*Co-Laborer* editor Suzanne Franks presented the 1996 WNAC Creative Arts Contest awards. This year's first place winners are:

<b>Program</b>	Ruthann Hall (TN), <i>The World at My Front Door</i>
<b>Article</b>	Patricia Collins (NE), <i>The Sneaker Story</i>
<b>Poetry</b>	Vicki Turner (MO), <i>There is Music</i>
<b>Play</b>	Linda Key (FL), <i>The Birth of Baby Jesus—According to the Animals</i>
<b>Art</b>	Carolyn Franks (MS), <i>Faithful Post</i>

### Business

WNAC President Everyl Getz presided over the business session. Executive secretary-treasurer Mary R. Wisehart announced WNAC Retreats at Ridgecrest (September 12-14, 1996) and Glorieta (October 10-12, 1997).

The Resolutions Committee presented two resolutions. One called for WNAC to publish materials for young



WNAC president Everyl Getz (R) and Mom.



WNAC executive secretary Mary Wisehart.

girls (ages 9-12) and teen women when a writer for such material has been secured. The second awarded the Foreign Student Scholarship of \$1,000 to Yao Koyassi N'Guettia (Silas) in Côte d'Ivoire.

### Missionary Service

"You sent us to be lights where there were no Christians." These were Carlisle Hanna's words as he delivered the missionary message. He had reference to the district in In-



dia where Free Will Baptists sent them as missionaries over 40 years ago. There were no churches and no believers in the entire district when they arrived.

Using four passages from Acts and Isaiah, Brother Hanna spoke of God's call on his life to become "all things to all men." When the Hannas arrived in India, they were young American Christians. For the sake of the gospel, they have become very much Indian.

The Hannas set a goal to have 100 churches in this district by 1997. Presently, there are 84 churches. In spite of the spiritual darkness in India,



**Missionary Carlisle Hanna.**

ground and share around an open pot while they cook for their families. The pot and the stool teach us about reaching others. We must get on their level and we must get close so they can see even a small light.

Patsy Van Hook's (France) walking

considered more serious thoughts from WNAC Fellowship Dinner speaker Marcia Ellison. This veteran missionary to Brazil and Uruguay shared her experiences of personal witnessing.

One incident concerned a woman who pulled Marcia aside to say, "I'd like to believe, but I don't think you understand the sins I've committed."

As she started listing her sins, Marcia listened and replied, "Yes, exactly those are the sins for which He died."

She admonished everyone to take advantage of opportunities that they have. "You don't have to have a Ph.D. to evangelize. If you have one, use it. . . . We need to get ourselves together, focused and on our knees. Don't hang out with Christians all the time."

### Ready for Service

This year's convention strengthened the reality that holding the light high and serving are synonymous in the Lord's work. Free Will Baptist women are shining the light of the gospel in their homes, churches, communities and around the world through the ministries of WNAC. ■



**WNAC Nominating Committee.**

the future for the gospel is brighter than ever.

At Hanna's request, his message ended with the congregation singing, *He is Lord*.

### Special Feature / Time Capsule

Marjorie Workman, with the assistance of several missionaries, disclosed the contents of an imaginary time capsule that WNAC could leave

shoe is a reminder that an invitation to walk around a lake can give a chance to share the one and only hope for life. Health walking opens opportunities for a ministry of listening and encouraging.

Mary Holland's (Brazil) Portuguese language book stands for the need to learn the language of Portuguese and the language of love in order to shine the light of God's love for sad hearts to see.

Susan Turnbough's (Spain) coffee pot symbolizes hours and hours spent around cups of coffee sitting, sipping and sowing the Truth.

Pam Jones' (Pittsburgh) brochure represents one person who came to church and found Christ after thousands of brochures were distributed.

### Fellowship Dinner

Nearly 650 people dined, laughed and



**Dinner speaker Marcia Ellison.**

behind for the women of 2096 to open. Each object in the time capsule told a story of how women are holding the light high in 1996.

Elaine Holland (Côte d'Ivoire) told of how women sit on a stool or the



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



**WNAC Executive Committee in session.**



## 1996 National Youth Conference

# Takin' It To The Streets—The Gospel

By Dean Jones

***Takin' It To The Streets — The Gospel*** was the theme of the 29th annual National Youth Conference, July 21-25, in Fort Worth, Texas. Keith Fletcher, editor-in-chief at Randall House Publications, started the confer-



Youth swell Wednesday night attendance.

ence Sunday morning using Horizon curriculum. Rev. Mike Garner (Moore, OK) spoke during the morning teen worship service. Mark Stripling (North Little Rock, AR) served as music coordinator for teen worship services.

The Sunday evening teen worship service featured special music by Truth and Peace youth leadership conference under the direction of Deanna Hollifield, conference co-director. Rev. Ken Cash (Kinston, NC) challenged the teen audience to *Take The Gospel To The Streets*.

Bible Competition and the Music and Arts Festival started Monday morning and continued through Wednesday morning. There were 912 entries and 2,531 registrants. The National Youth Evangelistic Team sang selections from their summer tour program and AnnaGee Harris charmed the audience during the offertory as she played the harp.

The after-service activity met in Times Square Ballroom at Ramada Downtown. Over 200 young people joined together in a Concert of Prayer. They upheld their churches, pastors, peers and their world before the Lord.

Tuesday marked another day of competition with Bible Competition winding down to semifinal rounds. Instrumentalists, puppeteers, ensembles, choirs and chorales packed competition rooms.

During the conference, attendees visited the art gallery where some 150 entries were displayed. They also picked up conference souvenirs and their favorite T-shirts at the NYC sales booth.

Tuesday evening combined evening meal, worship service and Texas Showdeo, as 1,400 teens and adults ventured northwest of Fort Worth to Texas Lil's Dude

Ranch for a true taste of Texas life. James Forlines (Batesville, AR) compared the life of a secret service agent to that of a Christian, willing to give his life for his master. Hundreds of young people responded to invitations during the week.

Wednesday morning featured Bible Competition Finals. The Red Bay, Alabama, team won Bible Bowl competition. The Hartville, Missouri, team won Tic Tac Toe competition. The two individual competitions, Turning Point and Horizon, proved to be exciting. Two pretesting times determined finalists. The 1996 winners were Turning Point—Troy Bannerman (AL) and Horizon—Jason Yount (MO).

Bible Memorization winners were: 1st grade—Caleb Dickerson (TN), 2nd grade—Amy Prince (AL), and 3rd grade—Seth Botkins (WV). Bible Sword Drill winners were: 4th grade—Brooke Dickerson (TN), 5th grade—Meagan Gandy (AR), and 6th grade—Valorie France (TN).

During the course of the four-day conference, over 20 workshops and seminars were presented on various ministry and practical subjects for children, teens and youth workers. Our Stormin' the Streets of Fort Worth project allowed some 250 students to take the gospel to the streets.

They volunteered their mornings at the Fort Worth Union Gospel Rescue Mission helping with landscaping, sorting donated clothing, and working with homeless children and adults. Afternoons were spent working at the Fort Worth Area Food Bank. These volunteers helped sort four tons of donated food during their experience.

Special *Takin' It To The Streets* tracts were printed for young people to share with those they met during their stay in Fort Worth. Individuals and youth groups also brought over 2,500 "Love Boxes" to NYC. The boxes, containing school supplies and



Praying for guidance.





One sacked out, one ready for action.

personal hygiene items, will be distributed to children in Bosnia and needy areas of the United States.

Children's (grades 1-3) and Tweeners' (grades 4-6) worship services were conducted Sunday morning and each evening by Johnny Miller (AR), Todd Parrish (NC), Jeff Dallen (OK), Trent Walley (GA), Rod Goodman (GA), Marcia Lightsey (TX), Debbie Chesser (OK), and Donnie Burke (OK).

Services included many types of programming: storytelling, puppetry,



Is there a violinist in the family? At least three in this one.

music, clowning, as well as gospel messages. Monday afternoon's Children's Banquet was sold out with 460 children and parents gathering to see Gerbert.

Wednesday evening concluded with a joint worship service in Tarrant County Convention Center Arena with Will Harmon (Plano, TX) speaking. Some 3,500 people gathered for the Awards Celebration after the service. All Bible Competition and Music and Arts Festival winners were recognized.

The 1997 national Youth Evangelistic Team was announced. These 12 high schoolers were top scorers in the 1996 Music and Arts Festival. They are: Matthew Turnbough (SPAIN) Katie Beam (OK), Seth McKinney (NC), Jason

Harbeck (FL), Hugh Reid (TN), Joni Thomas (GA), Brian Scott (MO), Leah Chamberlin (TN), Leyda Munoz (KY), Jared Mounts (OH), Melissa Courson (GA), and Kori Cagle (AL).

Trophies, ribbons, medals, certificates and scholarships were awarded. These awards were given to the following people:

Lauthern Award (for three consecutive years on the National Youth Evangelistic Team) to Jonathan Turnbough (NC); Youth Group of the Year to First FWB Church, Norman, OK; Youth of the Year to Philip Long (MO) and Katie Beam (OK); and Youth Worker of the Year to Marlin Saint (AL) for 20 years of dedicated Bible Bowl coaching.

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

It would be impossible to conduct a conference of this magnitude without the assistance of Truth and Peace Leadership Conference. These 72 youth gave life to the planned activities. They were divided into various areas of responsibility. They did a super job. Participants had been in leadership training two weeks prior to the National Youth Conference.

For information about participat-

ing in the 1997 Truth and Peace Conference, please write

**NYC**

**P. O. Box 17306**

**Nashville, TN 37217.**

At the conclusion of the conference, several other awards were presented. The youth selected Philip Long (MO) and Emily Wood (OK) for Best All Around Awards. NYC's staff selected the same two individuals for Outstanding Leadership Awards.

Special appreciation is due to all pastors, parents, youth leaders and coaches who work with our youth. We give a special thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who helped make the 29th annual National Youth Conference a success.

We have implemented many changes and hope to see more in the future. We are eager for your input. If you have ideas or suggestions for speakers, seminars or changes, please mail them to the above address.

When people think back to the 1996 NYC in Cowtown, Texas, some will remember soaring temperatures or maybe the long lines. I will remember the hundreds of young people who shared their lives with us for a week. Lives which returned home different than when they arrived. Lives which will lead us to the 30th youth conference in Cincinnati where we will "Walk In The Light Of The Lord!" ■

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



Nobody is too young to register.



# FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

## FWBBC To Sponsor Church Growth Conference

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College will conduct a conference on church growth featuring church growth specialist Kenneth Hemphill on September 18-20.

Dr. Hemphill is president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Among the several books he has written are *The Bonsai Theory of Church Growth* and *The Antioch Effect: Eight Characteristics of Highly Effective Churches*. Dr. Hemphill is former director of Center for Church Growth in Atlanta, Georgia, and has taught evangelism and church growth at Southwestern Seminary.

He will conduct six sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, including topics such as "Setting the climate for church growth," "Developing leadership for growth" and "The biblical mandate for growth."

The final morning will be set aside for informal discussions on how to implement what has been learned in the conference. Several denominational leaders will join FWBBC officials and pastors of growing Free Will Baptist churches in the session. Time may also be spent discussing the philosophies of church growth that are embraced within the denomination and methods that are working in today's culture.

Sessions will be held in the college's Memorial Auditorium on the Nashville campus.

The conference begins with an evening service on Wednesday, September 18, and concludes at noon on Friday, September 20. The cost is \$20 per person, or \$15 per person for couples and for three or more from the same church. A limited number of "scholarships" are available for pastors who cannot afford the fee.

For full information, write or call:

**Church Growth, '96**  
c/o Free Will Baptist Bible College  
3606 West End Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205  
615/383-1340

## North Carolina Elects Stout

BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC—Pastor Tim Stout of White Oak Hill FWB Church in Bailey was elected moderator of the North Carolina Association of Free Will Baptists during the June 3-4 state meeting. Reverend Stout succeeds Reverend William Calvert as moderator.

The 35th annual session met at Meadow Brook FWB Church in Black Mountain. Ninety-nine ministers registered for the meeting in addition to lay delegates and visitors.

Delegates adopted a \$72,975 promotional department budget, according to Clerk Gerald Fowler.

Two ministers received special recognition during the meeting. Rev. Randy Stone was cited for leading the Fayetteville mission work to self-supporting status. Rev. Johnny Pike concluded 12 years of service on the Home Missions Board.

Four preachers delivered sermons during worship services. They included North Carolina pastors Doug King (Cramerton), Van Mitchell (Grifton), Johnny Pike (Kinston) and Oklahoma evangelist Wade Jernigan.

The 1997 state association will meet in June at Emmanuel FWB Church in Jacksonville.



## Morgan To Lead West Virginia

HUNTINGTON, WV—Some 269 people registered for the 51st annual West Virginia State Association, including 102 ministers and 63 lay delegates. Reverend Dan Kelly moderated his final session.

As the June 7-8 meeting at Sunshine FWB Church in Huntington drew to a close, delegates elected a new moderator. He is Pastor Luther Morgan who leads Trinity FWB Church (Huntington).

The theme for the 1996 gathering was "By All Means, Save Some." Three men preached sermons developing that theme. Pastors G.W. Mounts (Parsley Bottom FWB Church) and Ivan Asbury (Central FWB Church) shared pulpit duties with FWBCC president Tom Malone.

In other action delegates changed the clerk's term of office from one to three years. They also allocated state cooperative funds: General Fund (20%), Mission Board (28%), Promotional Director (29%), State Paper (15%), C.E. Board (4%) and National Co-op (4%).

Reverend F.A. Giles received a plaque in recognition of his years of service on the Mission Board.

The 1997 state association will meet June 6-7 at Bonds Creek FWB Church in Ellenboro.

## Russell Elected Virginia Promotional Officer

ROANOKE, VA—Reverend Larry Russell, 53-year-old pastor of First FWB Church in Richmond, was named state promotional director by delegates at Virginia's 58th annual state association. Russell, a former home missionary, has pastored in five states. He serves on the national Home Missions Board.

Seventy-one people registered for the June 13-14 meeting at First FWB Church in Roanoke. That included 26 ministers and 13 lay delegates. Moderator Karl Sexton led business sessions.

The focal point of the meeting was seven sermons preached developing the association's theme, "The Purpose of the Local Church." Two Virginia pastors, David Neitch (Liberty FWB Church, Marion) and John Reed (Heritage FWB Church, Williamsburg), joined national agency staffers David Crowe (Home Missions) and Alton Loveless (Sunday School Dept.), and North Carolina pastor Danny Dwyer to preach the theme.

The 1997 state association will meet June 12-13 at First FWB Church in Roanoke.

## Kentucky Re-elects Hall Moderator

ASHLAND, KY—Delegates to Kentucky's 57th annual state association elected Owensboro pastor Tim Hall to his third term as moderator. The 39-year-old minister pastors First FWB Church in Owensboro.

More than 180 people registered for the June 14-15 session which met at Rush FWB Church in Ashland.

Delegates approved four constitutional changes. One change called for an annual ministers and workers conference to be planned by the state Executive Board. The intent was to provide opportunity for fellowship and edification. The conference will meet prior to the state association each year.

Two men preached during worship sessions—Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington and Foreign Missions Department staffer Fred Warner.

The 1997 state association will meet June 20-21 at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Ashland.

## Bevan Keynotes Kansas Meeting

SALINA, KS—Four times during the June 6-8 Kansas State Association, Rev. Billy Bevan preached to the 48 registered attendees. Bevan, president of Southeastern FWB College, preached sermons answering questions: "Do You Know What Time It Is?", "Where Is the Fire?", "Why Do We Not Have the Fire?" and "How Do We Make It

Through the Storms of Life?"

The 35th annual session met at Faith FWB Church in Salina. Moderator Robert Brown was elected to his third term.

Jalayn Martens, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, addressed the Friday evening Woman's Auxiliary Banquet.

Clerk James O. Brewer said that the June meeting was char-

acterized by a good spirit, good preaching and smooth business sessions. Delegates expressed deep commitment to seeing souls saved and vacant pastorates filled.

The 1997 state association will meet June 5-7 at Bethel FWB Church in Kansas City, Kansas.



## Maryland Elects Reece Moderator

WOODBIDGE, VA—Delegates to Maryland's 30th annual state association elected Reverend David Reece as moderator during the June 20-22 session. Reece pastors Heritage FWB Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He succeeds moderator Lester Horton who stepped down after 20 years behind the gavel.

The three-day meeting gathered at Bethel FWB Church in Woodbridge, VA. Some 225 people registered according to Clerk Jay Baines. This included 21 ministers.

Delegates adopted three resolutions. One resolution recommended the association to conservative and fundamental practices. Another resolution reaffirmed opposition to abortion. The third resolution encouraged pastors to urge members to vote in the November elections.

Three men preached sermons developing the association theme, "Declare Sound Doctrine." Speakers included Pastors Lonnie Salyers (Yorkshire FWB Church, Manassas), Dave Nobles (Bethel FWB Church, Woodbridge) and Home Missions Department general director Trymon Messer.

In other action, delegates adopted a \$51,000 state budget. They also paid tribute to Reverend Lester Horton whose health necessitated that he decline future responsibility as moderator.

The state auxiliary met June 20-21. Foreign Missions general director Eugene Waddell and his wife both spoke to attendees.

The 1997 state association will meet June 19-21 at Woodland Heights FWB Church in Martinsville, Virginia.

## Idaho State Association Meets

JEROME, ID—Moderator Delmar Hopkins led business sessions at the third annual Idaho State Association which met May 17-18 in two churches. The Friday session convened at Buhl FWB Church, the Saturday session at Jerome FWB Church.

Clerk Tom Barton said that 62 people attended Friday activities and 56 the Saturday finale. This included eight ministers.

Home missionary to Utah, Bill Phillips, and Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington preached during the two-day gathering.

The 1997 association will meet May 16-17 at Nampa FWB Church in Nampa.

## California Gives \$361,000

FRESNO, CA—Delegates to California's 53rd annual state association heard agency officials report that their 64 churches gave more than \$361,000 to outside causes this past year. This was an outside giving record, according to Executive Secretary Nuel Brown.

The May 9-11 session met on the California Christian College campus in Fresno. Moderator Matt Upton led business sessions.

California Christian College reported plans to remodel the school library. The state Mission Board plans to begin two new churches. The state office introduced a program to repair and modernize the State Auditorium on the CCC campus.

Four men employed by agencies of the National Association preached during the three-day session: Melvin Worthington (Executive Office), Alton Loveless (Sunday School Department), Trymon Messer (Home Missions Department) and Eugene Waddell (Foreign Missions Department).

The 1997 state association will meet June 5-7 on the CCC campus.

## Texas To Refocus Mission Support

AUSTIN, TX—Delegates to the 82nd annual Texas State Association adopted a resolution authorizing the Executive Board and the Texas Home Mission Board to formulate a plan for supporting foreign missionaries from Texas. Clerk Thurmon Murphy said the intent of the resolution was to develop a plan similar to the one adopted by the Arkansas State Association.

The June 5-7 meeting gathered at Lakehills FWB Church in Austin. More than 225 people registered for the sessions. Moderator David Sutton was elected to his second term.

The Texas Home Mission/Church Extension Board announced that Lakehills FWB Church would go self-supporting in August. Another mission project will be started in the Conroe area.

Delegates adopted a \$58,833 state budget. Funds will be allocated: State Office (40%), National (25%), State Home Missions (23%) and Christian Education Board (12%).

The association theme, "Every Day With Jesus," was developed in five sermons. The speakers included Texas pastors Robert Posner (Tyler) and David Ferguson (Katy), as well as Mexico Coordinator James Munsey, Hillsdale College staffer Thomas Marberry and medical missionary Ken Eagleton.

The Texas Women Active for Christ met June 6. Elaine Holland, missionary to Africa, and Ruth Bivens who serves in Mexico, addressed the TWAC attendees.

The 1997 Texas State Association will meet June 4-6 at Fellowship FWB Church in Bryan.



# Remember Pastor Appreciation Sunday September 8

## Directory Update

### GEORGIA

Carl Miller to Double Branch Church, Unadilla  
Steve Dowless to Deep Creek Church, Midville  
Terror Stonecypher to Sylvester Church, Sylvester

### OKLAHOMA

Frankie Hill to Mt. Zion Church, Durant  
David Province to Straight Street Church, Norman

### SOUTH CAROLINA

Norwood Gibson to Southoak Church, Florence  
Doug Mathis to Williams Hill Church, Hemingway from  
Way of the Cross Church, Shelby, NC  
James Pierce to Beulah Church, Pamplico

### OTHER PERSONNEL

Mark Braisher to First Church, Owasso, OK as associate  
pastor of church growth and adult education, and private church  
growth consultant, from Victory Church, Kansas City, MO as pas-  
tor.

# THE TOGETHER WAY

June 1996

## Receipts:

State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	June '95	Year To Date
Alabama	\$ 148.83	\$ .00	\$ 148.83	\$ 7,243.44	\$ 3,116.61
Arizona	1,118.02	69.90	1,187.92	1,341.23	3,601.66
Arkansas	12,229.74	8,835.43	21,065.17	31,270.13	156,347.90
California	.00	1,127.00	1,127.00	848.82	6,075.67
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	65.95	.00	65.95	1,197.32	17,053.93
Georgia	9,435.17	2,119.58	11,554.75	13,390.70	102,675.73
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	7,837.80	2,199.20	10,037.00	9,917.46	69,690.99
Indiana	.00	390.22	390.22	932.55	4,520.06
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	270.00
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	.00	353.15
Kentucky	294.00	83.00	377.00	222.99	4,596.40
Louisiana	20.00	.00	20.00	.00	70.00
Maryland	.00	225.00	225.00	982.94	1,259.08
Michigan	11,277.19	2,769.24	14,046.43	25,126.48	97,497.94
Mississippi	259.13	296.61	555.74	438.45	3,056.46
Missouri	9,281.99	.00	9,281.99	11,598.95	71,208.03
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	905.26	77.62	982.88	674.86	4,174.76
North Carolina	315.00	1,283.23	1,598.23	1,455.02	10,117.93
Ohio	18,418.23	6,509.95	24,928.18	7,335.63	67,591.95
Oklahoma	42,816.17	.00	42,816.17	60,536.91	327,846.26
South Carolina	19,679.27	120.08	19,799.35	25,103.20	125,245.72
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	6,775.14	946.23	7,721.37	27,993.21	57,098.58
Texas	8,662.97	528.93	9,191.90	5,236.90	44,667.10
Virginia	838.54	25.00	863.54	800.79	7,491.68
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	8,245.75	127.56	8,373.31	5,683.00	38,937.25
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	41.93
Northeast Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.16	.16	(0.02)	.39
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$158,624.15</b>	<b>\$27,733.94</b>	<b>\$186,358.09</b>	<b>\$239,330.96</b>	<b>\$1,224,607.16</b>

## Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 8,025.83	\$15,253.59	\$ 23,279.42	\$ 29,293.56	\$ 161,181.47
Foreign Missions	90,477.60	2,870.44	93,348.04	127,710.55	595,536.25
FWBBC	9,637.32	2,870.44	12,507.76	18,941.99	97,441.55
Home Missions	43,194.76	2,246.45	45,441.21	49,775.39	298,576.92
Retirement & Insurance	718.19	1,747.23	2,465.42	2,745.73	16,896.28
Master's Men	1,479.40	1,747.23	3,226.63	3,562.98	21,177.59
Commission for Theo. Integrity	95.87	62.43	158.30	175.22	1,050.89
FWB Foundation	726.37	748.84	1,475.21	2,041.28	9,723.80
Historical Commission	66.75	62.43	129.18	164.77	945.62
Music Commission	72.82	62.43	135.25	149.48	919.74
Radio & TV Commission	95.89	62.43	158.32	159.91	997.15
Hillsdale FWB College	1,112.00	.00	1,112.00	1,296.38	8,223.42
Other	2,921.35	.00	2,921.35	3,313.72	11,936.48
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$158,624.15</b>	<b>\$27,733.94</b>	<b>\$186,358.09</b>	<b>\$239,330.96</b>	<b>\$1,224,607.16</b>



They had to go all the way to Florida to get it, but it was worth the effort. The new sign at **Pamplico FWB Church in Pamplico, SC**, is a highly visible landmark that includes the church name, the Free Will Baptist logo and a space for messages. All for \$4,600. **Sigbee Dilda** pastors.

The **Pee Dee Bible Institute**, sponsored by **Southside FWB Church in Darlington, SC**, graduated three students with Bible Diplomas. The students also received the Advanced Church Ministries Certificate from Evangelical Training Association. Pastor **Leroy Lowery** directs the institute.

Congratulations to Pastor **Danny Hester** and members of **Faith FWB Church in Bartlesville, OK**. The congregation dedicated their new church building on May 5. Oklahoma executive secretary **Jack Richey** preached the dedication sermon.

Before he died in March 1996, Reverend **Carl Hembree** pastored 12 Free Will Baptist churches in **Oklahoma**. Brother Hembree was 83. He preached his first sermon November 4, 1929. Those who knew him said that Hembree was "a man who loved the study and the preaching of the Bible."

Pastor **Jim Christian** reports a 30% attendance increase at **First FWB Church in Stroud, OK**. Members recently witnessed four conversions and eight baptisms.

Attendance at **Chickasha FWB Church in Chickasha, OK**, dropped to four people. But that was before **Darrell Smith** who was serving as youth minister at a nearby church stepped in to lead the congregation. Smith moved from Midwest City, took a job to feed his family and started to work. The church now averages 40 in attendance. Oklahoma's Dibble Association responded with funding and prayers to aid the struggling church.

They're still in need of 25 hymn books, but the **Mt. Zion FWB Mission in Blacksburg, SC**, is up and running. The

group began meeting on West Pine Street in Blacksburg on March 3. Pastor **Leroy Sexton** said the group has a lot, a house and a new sign.

Members of **Lockhart FWB Church in Lockhart, SC**, honored **Bill Adams** who taught the Men's Bible Class (and other classes as well) for 25 years. They gave Mr. Adams a certificate of recognition, and a coat, shirt and tie. **Tom Bryson** pastors.

South Carolina's **Beaver Creek Bible Institute** graduated 21 students. Seventeen received the Graduate of Theology diploma. Five students received the Bachelor of Theology. The institute is sponsored by the Beaver Creek Association which, many years ago, voted that all ministers without formal biblical training must attend the institute before being licensed.

**First FWB Church in Drumright, OK**, observed its 75th anniversary on July 28. **Russell Payne** pastors. The National Association met in Drumright in 1941 when the church was barely 20 years old.

The preacher wearing the biggest smile in **Mississippi** is Pastor **Dennis Kizzire, Sr.** Members of **First FWB Church in Smithville** gave him a check for almost \$4,000 to replace his family car that was damaged by fire. He's happy. They're happy. We're happy.

**Arkansas** promotional director **David Joslin** accepted an \$8,700 check from Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company, the result of 85 Free Will Baptists enrolling in the company's insurance group. The state Executive Board allocated \$4,200 for remodeling the state office, \$1,500 to Camp Beaverfork remodeling, and \$1,000 each to the Norman Richards' account, and debts on the Rolling Oaks Church in Maumelle, and the Lake Hills Church in Hot Springs.

Great news from **Southside FWB Church in Wabash, IN**. Pastor **Cledies Holbrook** reports 21 new members, 12 conversions and 10 baptisms. Six

church youth spearheaded a successful walk-a-thon to raise funds for missionary doctor, Kenneth Eagleton. The youth presented Dr. Eagleton with a \$1,000 check.

Thirty men attended **Indiana's** first-ever men's retreat May 10-11 at Lake Placid Conference Center in Hartford City. The retreat theme was "Leadership." Pastors **Jim Mullen** and **Steve Ashby** led the sessions.

Home missionary **George Harvey, Jr.** reports three conversions and three rededications at **North Valley FWB Church in Phoenix, AZ**. He also expressed gratitude for \$3,421 for a new church sign from the **Oklahoma Women Active For Christ**, funds raised during their spring retreat.

Home missionary **Joel Nason (Heritage FWB Church in Laconia, NH)** returned home from a 10-day preaching campaign out of state to discover a foot of water in his basement. The water ruined much of the family's furniture and belongings, including 400 books. The motors in numerous appliances burned out.

Pastor **Paskel Bevan** preached Sunday morning as the organizational day for **Friends FWB Church** got underway on June 23. That afternoon **Oklahoma** mission director **Berton Perry** preached the organizational message. Canadian Association moderator **Randall Miller** presided over the service.

Mrs. **Darlene Adams**, member of **First FWB Church in Albany, GA**, was voted "Favorite Principal" in a readers' choice award sponsored by the **Albany Herald** newspaper. Mrs. Adams is principal at Lark Park Elementary School. Her pastor is **Billy Hanna**. ■



## FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE



## Training Preachers: Our Top Priority

By Dr. Robert E. Woodard, Pastoral Studies Coordinator

Preaching is serious business.  
The Bible declares it.  
Church history confirms it.  
And we believe it.

Growing strong, healthy churches calls for competent, committed preachers. The kind who stand above the crowd, as men of vision, passion, and conviction.

No denomination will, in fact, rise above the level of its preachers. Indeed, our future as a denomination will depend to a great degree on how well we train our preachers and motivate them to action.

### *We're still committed!*

Preacher training is a high priority at FWBBC, just as it has always been. The program is alive and well with more than 60 ministerial students enrolled during the 1995-96 school year.

This May, we graduated nine ministerial students (somewhat less than usual)—including three in Pastoral Training, two in Youth Ministry and four in Missions—plus one special student having graduated from college before coming here to be trained as a preacher. In short, one of every five in this year's graduating class was a ministerial student.

As a college, we take our responsibility very seriously when it comes to the matter of training preachers. We are committed to providing the best training possible for those God has called to preach.

The training of preachers (and missionaries!) has always been a major concern at FWBBC. During the past two years, especially, it has received far more attention than usual. Countless hours have been spent analyzing, evaluating, and updating our curriculum. The result has been an expanded program, with two degree options, that includes several new and exciting courses with a greater ministry emphasis than ever before.

Our passion is to produce a host of godly and gifted preachers to lead our denomination into the 21st Century.

We long to see revival and growth in our churches. But we're also interested in the planting of new churches. Church planting will no doubt prove to be a key factor in our future growth and survival. This conviction is prompting

us to include a Church Planting course as part of next year's curriculum.

### *Emphasis on the practical*

A major focus of our training program is on practical experience. Thus, our students are involved in such things as:

- *Internships*—which enable students to gain valuable, hands-on experience in a local church setting.
- *Preaching Trips*—a total of five this year, with 37 students preaching in 73 churches in four states.
- *Visiting Pastor Seminars*—providing motivation and challenge from experienced pastors fresh off the field.
- *Christian Service*—provides preaching and witnessing opportunities in places like jails and rescue missions.

### *Pastor, we care about you, too!*

Our interest in preachers and preaching doesn't stop with our students. We want to help our pastors as well.

That's why, for example, we've hosted numerous preaching and church growth-type conferences. Our latest offering is the Church Growth '96 conference with Dr. Kenneth Hemphill scheduled for September 18-20. We hope many pastors will join us for this all-important event, including the special Consultation with local, state and national leaders on Friday morning.

In the future, we intend to do more to make our preacher training program more visible. We want to keep you abreast of what we're doing. And we want to know what you think. So don't hesitate to tell us. We are listening! ■



## Church Growth '96

Sept. 18-20

**Featured Speaker:**  
**Dr. Kenneth Hemphill**

**For a brochure,  
call: 615/383-1340**





## FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

### Creating A Cash Flow

By Frank Giunta

A number of special benefits go along with giving to the Lord's work. The joy of knowing you are part of a special ministry, a nice tax break and the possibility of a cash flow.

One plan that provides this cash flow is a Charitable Remainder Trust. (Don't let the name frighten you; it's really quite easy to understand.)

#### *Here's how a charitable remainder trust works:*

An individual donates an asset (usually a highly appreciated asset) to a charitable trust. The asset is sold by the trust and reinvested in an income-producing portfolio. The individual receives cash flow based on a percentage of the fair market value of the transferred asset.

In a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, the payment is based on a stated percentage of the principal of the trust as revalued annually. In a Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust, the payment is established as a fixed dollar amount for the life of the agreement.

In either case, the individual also receives an immediate tax deduction equal to the fair market value of the asset minus the present value of the estimated future income stream, determined by IRS approved computations.

There are no capital gains taxes due upon the sale of the asset inside a charitable trust. A portion of the income stream may be used to purchase life insurance to replace the asset value to benefit the heirs. The donor designates the ministry which receives the principal of the trust at final termination.

#### *A charitable remainder trust accomplishes five goals.*



First, it provides an opportunity to assist a favorite charity.



Second, it may turn a low income or non-income producing asset into an income producing asset.



Third, it may reduce income and estate taxes.



Fourth, it adds diversification to a personal portfolio.



Fifth, capital gains taxes are avoided. Five very good reasons to create a charitable remainder trust.

#### *Let me illustrate.*

Consider John, age 60 and Sue, age 58. They have reached the place where they wish to retire and move to a warmer climate.

They have property worth \$50,000, with a cost basis of \$20,000 which isn't producing any income. An outright sale would produce a capital gain of \$30,000, generating capital gains taxes of \$8,400 if they are in the 28% tax bracket. They would actually realize only \$41,600.

Instead of a direct sale, they give it to the Free Will Baptist Foundation to fund a Charitable Remainder Unitrust paying five percent. The trust then sells the property for \$50,000 totally avoiding the capital gains tax. Assume the trust earns 8%, payments would begin at \$2,500 and increase annually paying a total income to John and Sue of \$118,939 over their expected life times. After the death of both John and Sue, the trust would pass \$117,828 to the charity.

The heirs receive the proceeds of the insurance policy purchased from the stream of income paid to the donors from the trust. Everyone benefits!

If you would like information regarding this type agreement or any other "Deferred Gift Plan," please contact

**Frank Giunta**  
**Free Will Baptist Foundation**  
 P. O. Box 5002  
 Antioch, TN 37011-5002  
 or call 615/731-6812. ■





## HOME MISSIONS

*Look At Who Has Moved In!*

By Trymon Messer

We as Free Will Baptists are facing one of our greatest challenges. Our denomination has always been concerned and committed to missions. However, world missions has traditionally been seen as *somewhere over there*, outside the United States. More than 40,000 Japanese students study at American schools. Some 45,000 men and women from the People's Republic of China study in communities across America.

At present, there are 523,000 international students representing 237 different countries currently attending American colleges and universities. The international student population representing virtually every nation of the world has brought world missions *right here* to our own communities, so says I.S.I. (International Students, Inc.).

There are 58 million culturally distinct people living in American cities. Many of them are in our communities, on your block or possibly right next door. God has placed these people right at our own doorstep. The Home Missions Department is making an all-out commitment in several different ways to challenge Free Will Baptists to reach as many of these people as possible with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

First, attention is being brought to these opportunities. The next time you go to the grocery store, Wal-Mart, stop at a motel or eat out, just look around at the many people from other lands and cultures who are there.

Second, our department is presently involved in a cultural outreach within many of our own new churches. Home Missionary Miguel Vera is planting a church in Puerto Rico. Ron and Barbara Dail are ministering to nationals in the Virgin Islands. Jose Rodriguez is ministering to the Cuban population in Miami, Florida. Norman and Bessie Richards are planting a church in the New Orleans area and ministering to the French-speaking people around them.

Mark and Louise Vandivort are ministering to the American Indians in Arizona. Jeff and Sherri Sloan in Fort Wayne, Indiana, are working with a Taiwanese family with a far reaching potential. Carlie and Margaret Lloyd, Madison, Wisconsin, recently purchased a special low frequency transmitter. With an interpreter, they translate to

four prospects each week in their services.

Tim and Kathy Coats, Rapid City, South Dakota, had six students from Africa and four students from China in their Roll Call Sunday service. David and Pam Potete, Chicago, Illinois, are ministering in an area with 57 identifiable people groups speaking over 26 different languages. Several of our home missionaries are reaching people from varying cultural backgrounds.

In addition, the Home Missions Department has relocated The Seminary of the Cross (Bible Institute) to the Mexican border city of Reynosa. This new location will aid in training Mexican and American students to reach out to the Spanish-speaking people in both countries.

Third, we are challenging all our people and churches to reach out to the different cultures in our own neighborhoods. Many of these people are away from their homes, families and friends and are hungry for friendship and acceptance in our culture. Some are definitely open to the gospel. I recently spoke in one of our churches where two Islamic ladies had just accepted Christ and were baptized.

How will you and your church respond to the foreign missions opportunities who have moved into your community? ■



## The Ninth Commandment

**T**hou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor, (Exodus 20:16; cf. Deuteronomy 5:20).

Maybe we ought to start with a quick history of dishonesty. The Devil is the original source (John 8:44). As far as the human race is concerned, he told the first lie in Eden (Genesis 3:4), and that explains Eve's response to God (Genesis 3:13).

That's what Paul means in 1 Timothy 2:14: Satan deceived Eve. So we read, at the end of the story, that "the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone" (Revelation 20:10).

We see, then, where lying puts us. It means we share Satan's nature, that we are of our father the devil. The liar likewise shares his destiny (Revelation 21:8).

Deceit and dishonesty are against the law of God and against the true nature of man in God's image. They reflect the character of the great deceiver. Those who practice them are doomed to eternal destruction, while honesty, uprightness and integrity reflect the character of God and those who practice them are destined for eternal blessedness with Him.

Let's be practical: What does it mean to bear false witness? The ninth commandment probably had as its primary concern the need for truthful witness in any kind of judicial proceeding. Maintaining law and order, securing justice under any system of government, absolutely depend on having people testify truthfully and thus not perjure themselves or help pervert justice.

But God's law against deception is broad and deep. Any intentional deception is a lie, whether of words or of silence when words ought to be spoken. Consider the principle in James 3:9 and know that any person

I encounter stands before me in God's image. How then can I lie to such a person? Even when the truth hurts, deception is a deeper hurt because it betrays our obligation to love one another and rejoice in the truth.

Lying includes slander, gossip, false accusations, unjustified judgment, false flattery, hypocrisy, representing yourself one way to one person and another way to someone else, withholding truth that's needed (even unpleasant truth), equivocation, suppressing the truth, misstating things on your income tax return (or anywhere else), careless use or interpretation of another's words or action, pretending the problem is one thing when it's another or remaining silent when you know someone is being falsely accused. Indeed, failing to come to that person's defense implies consent to the falsehood.

All of these can be shown from scripture, in precept or example, to be wrong. Indeed, lying can even include a wink, a shrug, a shuffling of the feet, a signal with the hand. If you don't think so, check out the book of Proverbs.

Not long ago I spoke to our students in chapel about this subject. A classroom setting provides some special temptations to dishonesty.

Cheating in any form, including plagiarism, is lying. It's far better to fail than to cheat. Our students are also tempted to lie in order to protect themselves or others. Lying to avoid getting caught, or to keep someone else from getting caught, is still a lie and every lie is against God's law.

For all of us, it's a lie to claim credit for something we didn't do or don't deserve.

Finally, not keeping one's word is a lie. When you make a promise or an appointment, when you take on an obligation, you've bound yourself by



Robert E. Picirilli

your word. And the Bible makes plain that our lives must be such that people can count on our word so much that nothing is needed but Yes and No. Oh for Christians who will do what they say, even when it's costly.

I have an idea that relationships among Christians would be entirely different if we all practiced scrupulous honesty. Then maybe we'd model the character of our Lord in a way that would powerfully attract others. ■

### Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign June 1996 Update

State	Goal	Gifts	Balance
Alabama	\$ 76,397.63	\$ 4,981.15	\$ 71,416.48
Arizona	1,228.93	2,883.71	(1,654.78)
Arkansas	76,860.94	43,062.13	33,798.81
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	28,940.88	9,238.31
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	5,674.29	29,780.05
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 Association	883.41	270.00	613.41
Northwest Association	1,087.58	201.00	886.58
Ohio	40,923.66	19,588.10	21,335.56
Oklahoma	92,271.60	10,432.08	81,839.52
South Carolina	18,335.75	3,102.00	15,233.75
South Dakota		175.00	(175.00)
Tennessee	78,557.09	58,678.11	19,878.98
Texas	11,547.20	7,241.52	4,305.68
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	\$274,260.54	\$492,322.85



## Luke in The IVP New Testament Commentary Series

By Darrell L. Bock, Edited by Grant R. Osborne

(Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994, 412 pp., hardback, \$15.99)



Thomas Marberry

**D**arrell Bock holds a Ph.D. from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland; he serves as professor of New Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary and associate pastor of Trinity Fellowship Church in Richardson, Texas. He has devoted a considerable portion of his academic career to the study of Luke's Gospel. This is the second of three major commentaries he has written on Luke in 10 years.

Bock argues that Luke, like the other Gospels, has a real interest in theology. While he defends the historical reliability of the Gospel of Luke, he does not see history as the primary emphasis of the Gospel.

In his view, Luke's Gospel contains certain theological truths about Christ which it wishes to present. Bock contends that Luke presents a unique view of the life and teachings of Christ, that that view was needed by the early church, and that it is equally important for us today.

A number of valuable commentaries on Luke have been written in recent years, and this work deserves

a place among them. Three words which accurately describe this commentary are "historical," "theological" and "practical."

It is historical in that it sets the events and teachings of Jesus' life in their historical context. One cannot correctly interpret the message of Jesus without understanding the time in which He lived.

Bock does a particularly good job of describing how the Jews of Jesus' day viewed their relationships with God, each other and their Roman rulers. This commentary reflects a detailed understanding of life in ancient Palestine.

This commentary is theological in that it examines the lessons which Jesus taught. Jesus did not tell parables just to entertain the crowds; He had a message. He did not perform miracles just to gain a following; He wanted to show His mercy and persuade people that He was all He claimed to be. Bock does a good job uncovering the meaning and message which Jesus wanted to convey.

Bock's commentary is also practi-

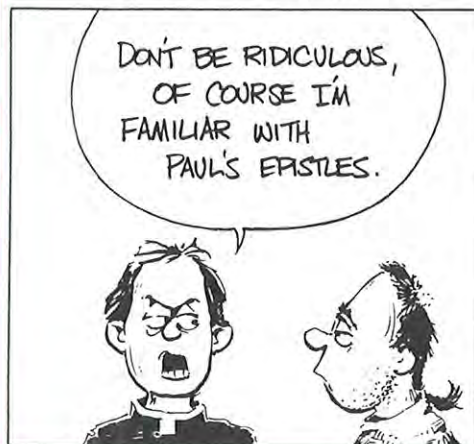
cal. It is the kind of commentary that can help a pastor prepare a sermon or a Sunday School teacher a lesson. It does not view each teaching or miracle in isolation as many modern commentaries do. It shows how the different events of Jesus' life fit together as parts of a whole.

The author discusses the key ideas presented in each section of Luke in an understandable way. He notes where there are significant differences in interpretation, but his discussion does not become so technical that it is hard to follow.

The commentary is based on the *New International Version*, but the author does not consider himself bound to that version alone. He often refers to other translations and to the original Greek text whenever necessary.

This is a commentary I can recommend. It defends a high view of the inspiration and authority of scripture. It seeks to interpret the miracles, not explain them away. The author is a Calvinist, but his Calvinistic presuppositions are only evident in a few places in the commentary. ■

## BEYOND BELIEF





## If We Could Live Again . . .

**W**hat would you do differently if you could live your life over again? Sooner or later, we all face this question. All of us would probably do some things better, later, earlier or not at all.

Of course, most of us don't lose sleep over what would have happened if we had detoured around Waterloo—that was Napoleon's problem. We weren't there and the choice wasn't ours.

Hundreds of people have told me they wish they had become Christians sooner. But I've never met a Christian who wishes he'd stayed in sin longer. That's certainly no surprise.

Recovering alcoholics regret wasting money on liquor. They don't miss the hangovers. They didn't enjoy waking up in some alley.

I was there the day a 73-year-old man surrendered to preach, and then wept like a whipped child as he told how he had fought the call 50 years. I could only shake my head.

**Most people's lives** turn on decisions far less dramatic than missing Waterloo or fighting the call to preach half a century. For us, it's the simple things—worrying less, specializing in one trade rather than dabbling in 20, being kinder to strangers and family, reading more and finishing that degree.

Life is more often the result of numerous small choices unwisely made than one horrible blunder that unhinges everything.

**That's why I like** one fellow's down-to-earth advice. "If I had my life to live over," Don Herold said, "I would try to make more mistakes. I would relax. I would climb more mountains and swim more rivers. I would go barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would ride more merry-go-

rounds. I would pick more daisies."

He concludes with this zinger, "I would have more actual troubles and fewer imaginary ones."

**Make friends** with machines. If I could start over, I'd learn to operate something more complicated than a shovel. Around our house, if a faucet leaks or the mower breaks or the car backslides, I'm in big trouble. We either get a new one or call in some fix-it wizard to work his magic.

I've tried kicking the lawn mower, beating the faucet with a hammer and staring in disbelief at the car. It doesn't seem to help. Machines hate me, and they tell all their friends.

**Learn to type.** Every instinct told me to take typing in high school. But well-intentioned folk advised me not to try it because I had cut off my trigger finger. I listened to them. That mistake has cost me every day since.

No, I wouldn't have won any speed tests, but I think I could have passed the course. And I know I would now be able to type without looking at the keys. The skill to type well is more marketable than the ability to shoot free throws—which I learned to do in spite of being too short, too slow and too timid.

I suspect that if I'd practiced as hard at typing as I did shooting free throws, I'd now be surfing the Internet instead of hiding behind a yellow legal pad.

**Write more** "Thank You" notes. No one has more to be thankful for than me. Looking back, I'm right ashamed of myself for waiting so long to learn the value of a few written words of gratitude.

I now know how precious a gift it is to receive a brief note of thanks from anyone—friend or passing acquaintance. Fortunately, I'm more



Jack Williams

thankful than I've acted or said or written. Unfortunately, some mighty fine folks died before they received that note of thanks from me.

**Financial stability.** I'd like a better balance between "take no thought for tomorrow" and "leaving an inheritance for your children's children." I've been long on taking no thought and short on laying up for a rainy day.

It's becoming increasingly clear that my retirement years will be quite an adventure. That's because I never expected to live this long. And because I've invested more in tithes and tuition than in T-Bills.

Life should get interesting in another 10 years.

**So, laugh often** and smile every chance you get. Overlook the faults of others. Live boldly. Be quick to lend a hand. Hug your kids and tell them you love them. Take a long walk in the rain. Introduce yourself to a puppy.

Catch a snowflake on your tongue. Drop a pebble in a creek. Wrap your arms around a pony. Tickle a two-year-old.

Buy a hotdog at a Little League game. Go to a rodeo. Attend the opera. Sing in your car. Smell the early morning aroma of fresh coffee.

**Perhaps the best** advice on the subject of yesterdays, todays and tomorrows still comes from the pen of the Apostle Paul when he wrote in Philippians 4:11, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

It seems that Brother Paul had found the secret of living life well. Have you? ■



# CONTACT

P. O. Box 5002

Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002

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## The Rest of the Family Offering

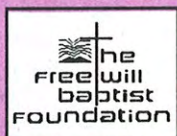
Historical Commission

Retirement  
Department



Commission  
for Theological  
Integrity

Free Will  
Baptist  
Foundation



Women  
Nationally  
Active for  
Christ

Radio-TV  
Commission



Music  
Commission

Master's  
Men



CONTACT  
CONVENTION  
DENOMINATIONAL DIGEST  
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
CHURCH DIRECTORY/YEARBOOK



National  
Youth  
Conference

Executive Office

*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. Each of these 10 ministries 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*.