

NOVEMBER 1996

CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



.....
**Mission Field:
America**

.....
Witness at Work

.....
**Lonely Church
Planter**

.....
**From the Top of the
Windmill**

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NOVEMBER 1996

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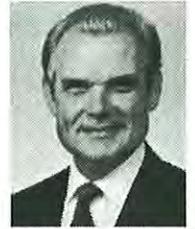
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Melvin Worthington

Without A Word

A word from God is essential to the well-being of individuals and nations. The Bible declares, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he," (Proverbs 29:18). The word "vision" means the revelation of God's will. One writer translates the verse, "Without a revelation a people becomes ungovernable . . ." Unrestrained people lose their sense of balance and purpose.

The *Biblical Illustrator* says, "Where there is no vision the people go backward. They leave their first love, their first ways in religion; they fall into spiritual decay and apostasy. The people are drawn away: from their God and their duty. The people are idle—they give over their work."

The Precepts

The Bible is God's divine revelation. The Psalmist declares, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes," (Psalm 19:7-8).

Paul asserts, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect throughly furnished unto all good works," (II Timothy 3:16-17).

The Bible alone reveals a Savior and a salvation adapted to man. It alone is associated with spiritual power to deliver man from the bondage, misery, guilt and doom of sin. The vision of God to them that possess it is a precious thing.

Without a word from God, mankind would be ignorant of what produces the degeneracy of humanity. God's revelation clearly, concisely and convinc-

ingly gives people the proper perspective regarding earthly and eternal things.

The Peril

Where there is no word from God, people become ungovernable and holiness declines. It is a terrible calamity to be without a word from God.

Without a word, we have no message. The Bible alone tells the wonderful story of redemption provided in Christ.

Without a word, we have no ministry. We would not be able to find the will of God. It is in God's Word that we find direction for our lives and labors.

Without a word, we have no mission. God's marching orders for the Church are found in the Bible. Christians have a world-wide responsibility to circle the globe with the gospel. Those who follow the Lord's command have been given all power, among all people, in all places with the assurance of Christ's abiding presence.

Without a word, we have no methods. Preaching and teaching remain two timeless methods to fulfill our mission. Private and public preaching and teaching remain the most effective means of bringing people to a saving knowledge of Christ.

Without a word, we have no direction regarding money. Stewardship of one's treasure is embedded in the fabric of the Word of God. Through diligent and discerning

study of the Bible, Christians come to understand the purpose, perils and potential power of money.

Without a word, we have no ministers. God calls and gifts men to preach. Through reading the Word and prayer, individuals sense and surrender to God's call to preach. Throughout the scriptures are recorded accounts of individuals whom God called to a particular work.

Without a word, we have no miracle of conversion. Those who hear the Word and believe on Christ are saved. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. The new-creature experience would not be possible without a word.

The Practice

Without a word from God, we have nothing to regulate, restrain or remind us of what is required of us. God's Word confronts, convinces, convicts, corrects, cleanses and changes us.

The writer of Ecclesiastes declares, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man," (Ecclesiastes 12: 13).

The Peace

Genuine happiness flows from obedience to the Word of God. Outward privileges do not make men happy. People may have the Bible but not derive any benefit from it. It is only those who are ruled by the Bible who are made happy. It is not the hearers of the law who are just before God, but the doers of the law.

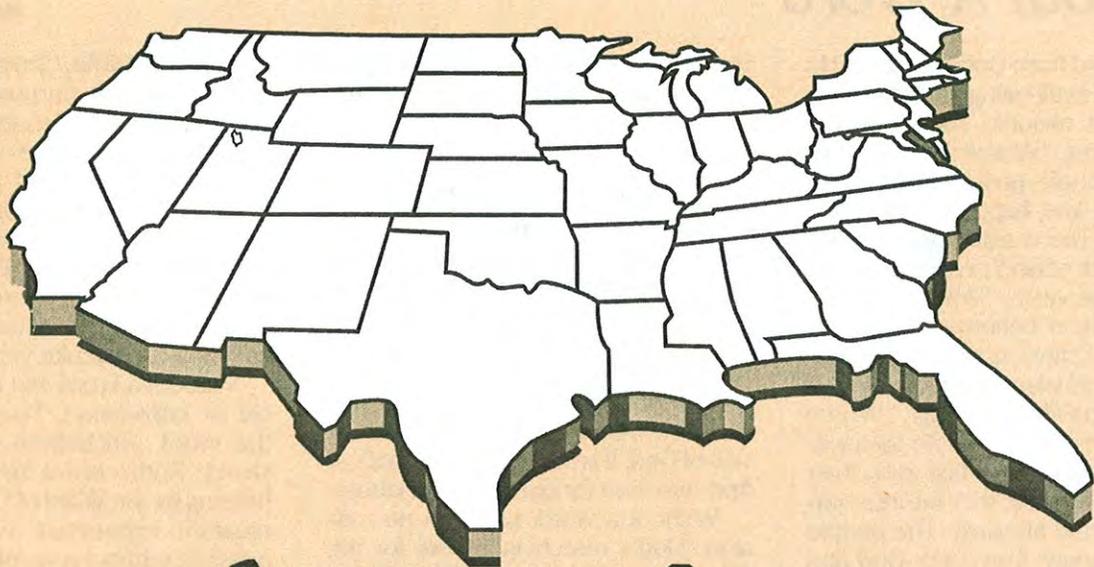
Who is the happy man? Not the man who has the "vision" and does not study it, nor the man who studies it and never reduces it to practice: it is the man who translates the "vision" into his life. ■

The Secretary's Schedule

| | |
|------------|--|
| Nov. 1-2 | Mississippi State Association |
| Nov. 7-8 | Alabama State Association |
| Nov. 11-13 | Tennessee State Association |
| Nov. 13-16 | Georgia State Association |
| Nov. 15 | CMP Board Meeting Fort Worth, TX |
| Nov. 16 | Convention Liaison Council Fort Worth, TX |

An evangelist looks back at 45 years of revival meetings.

Mission Field:



America

By Bobby Jackson

No one could claim all of America as a mission field. There are too many groups that make up the population. Cultural, educational, social, financial, geographical and religious divisions make it impossible for any evangelist to evangelize all America. Yet, America has been the mission field for me.

When you minister primarily to one religious body, Free Will Baptists, with only 250,000 members, and limit that further to one segment of that group, about 300 churches, one realizes how little impact he has had on America in the last 45 years. Even so, there has been some fruit with a small group of ministers and churches over these years.

Maybe the easiest way to approach any period of time is using the tenses—past, present and future.

Revival: As It Was

It began in the winter of 1950 at Nason, Illinois. I was a young preacher, a college freshman, in Illinois to visit my girlfriend. (In three years she would become my wife.) Her father was the pastor. He asked me to preach Sunday morning and night.

With no particular preparation, the people suggested beginning revival services on Monday. With one or two sermons repeated, rearranged and repeated again, the services continued all week. That was the first series of meetings.

In the 1950s many Free Will Baptist churches were part-time. That meant services on one or two Sundays each month. Most pastors were bi-vocational. One suggested to me, "It is good to go to Bible College, but you had better learn a trade to earn a living."

That Nason pastor drove 30 miles three times each week to his church; he was paid about \$15 per week. Many pastors preached at two or three churches. A pastor in Mississippi preached to six at one time. Most lived outside the church community.

In one such church, I preached all week, led singing, took up offerings, did the praying. The pastor never attended. Sunday, the pastor showed up to preach, not knowing the church had been in meetings all week.

When he was told by the men of the church that the young evangelist would be preaching that Sunday, the pastor became angry and went home. He didn't stay for the service nor return that night.

Most churches planned a week of meetings each year, usually summer or fall. Many rural churches had two services each day, morning and evening. For as many as eight consecutive weeks in the summer, my wife and two little boys went with me to two services each day, two different homes for meals, and to someone's home to stay at night.

In those days, Jane and the boys loaded the car the day after school was out for the summer and never came home until the day school began in the fall.

Prior to this, we lived in the car and in homes of church people for three years. No apartment, no house. Our out-of-season clothes were packed in boxes and stored in a friend's garage.

These annual revival meetings in part-time churches had the largest crowds and greatest response of all my years of evangelism. It was not unusual to have 200-500 in attendance and 30-60 candidates for baptism at the close of services. Many meetings lasted two weeks. Some continued three to five weeks.

This doesn't mean that folks were more spiritual then, nor that they attended church more often. In fact, in a quarter-time church, a man could go to church every time the doors were opened and be recognized as a spiritual giant by attending once a month, on the fourth Sunday.

Churches didn't have full weekly programs. People didn't hear that man preaching at church, on TV, radio or tapes. That may have been the reason for such crowds and response in the meetings. There were so many fields ready for harvest.

The point is: church life, revival meetings, social and family circumstances were different 45 years ago.

Revival: As It Is

Things have changed. Few spontaneous meetings, like the one in Nason, happen any more. In fact, week-long revival meetings or evangelistic services are not a regular part of the

program for many churches. These have been replaced with other outreach ministries, social activities or athletic events. Some churches still plan a week of evangelistic preaching, some three days, some three services in one day, some none at all.

Most churches are now full-time with three services each week and other activities on two additional nights. The average active church family is at church ten hours for every hour a quarter-time family was in 1950.

The pastor is paid more today, lives in the community and is expected to give more time to the ministry. Still, the vast majority of Free Will Baptist pastors subsidize their income with other work or the wife's job outside the home.

The evangelist flies to meetings more often, stays in motels part of the time and has an offering income of about half that of the pastor of the larger church. In 1995, my total church love offerings were \$27,469. Out of this came housing, all travel expenses, convention expenses and insurance. This is the total package. And 1995 was a good year. The top year in the 45 years was \$29,000. Most years, income is between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

The number of meetings now is about 40 per year. In times past, services have been 52 full weeks, 365 days. That schedule would not be good for a 64-year-old man, so maybe the Lord is cutting back to slow down the pace.

Attendance during week nights is much below what it was 30 years ago. There are so few unprofessed, unbaptized adults attending evangelistic meetings that often that number will be zero. Most Free Will Baptist churches have a limited outreach.

"People are busy," they say. That seems to be true. Most are doing two things—making money and having fun. It is the most materialistic, pleasure-seeking generation of the last four decades.

Revival: As It Will Be

I am no prophet and don't trust those who claim to be. Most religious prophets are like Winston Churchill's politicians. Once asked what made a good politician, Mr. Churchill replied, "It is a person who can tell you for

sure what will happen during the next four years, and then give you an intelligent explanation as to why it didn't."

Where we are headed and what the next 45 years hold for Free Will Baptists is not very clear. Most of that will depend upon decisions that will be made as those years come and go.

It does seem that evangelists and church revivals as they were, will pass. This is sad. Something will be gone that cannot be replaced. Preaching night after night deepened conviction in the hearts of saints and sinners. Consecration services after a week of preaching always produced a greater response. There are no other programs that are good substitutes.

There are other methods of attracting people, building churches, drawing crowds. "Determine what people want in a church and provide that for them," some say. "Make it more convenient and fitting to their lifestyles."

The problem with convenient religion is that it is foreign to the sacrifice and self-denial found in the teachings of Jesus. Christ gives men what they need, salvation from and victory over self and selfishness.

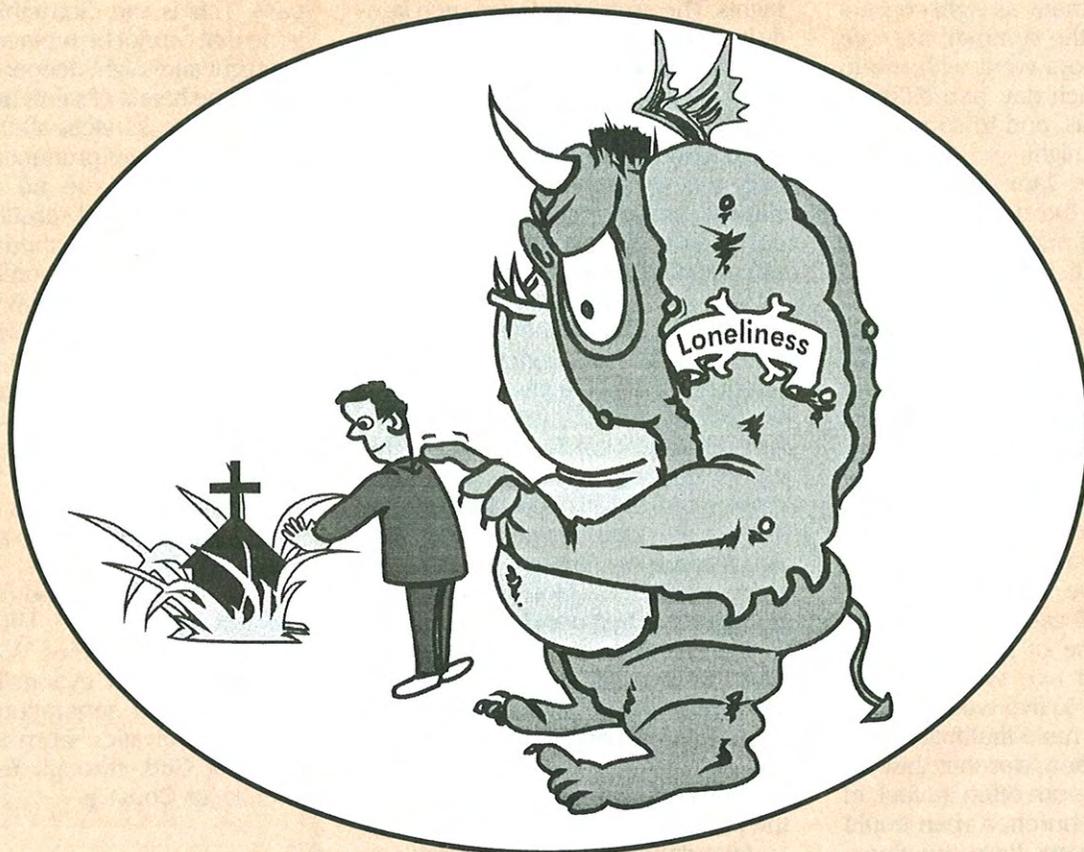
This will be the need of every individual in the future. Whatever direction we take as Free Will Baptists, may our goal in evangelism be to reach the next generation with this gospel of salvation from sin, by the grace of God, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Bobby Jackson is a full-time Free Will Baptist evangelist who makes his home in Greenville, North Carolina. He served 10 years as moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

The Lonely Church Planter

By J. L. Gore



A rented moving van is no strange sight at the Free Will Baptist church parsonage. After a hard day of sorting, stuffing boxes, packing, loading, placing and throwing away, everything is loaded. Some come and say their goodbyes. Hugs are shared and tear-filled eyes glisten in the evening sunset. The night is restless and filled with thoughts about leaving people we love, the unknown future we now face, and the uncertainty of an uncharted course. Loneliness of that night becomes a constant companion.

My Itinerary

There I waited, on a rainy night, at a strange church, in a place I had nev-

er been. It was time for a missionary service and I was the only person there. About five minutes past time for service to begin, the pastor, his wife and five others arrived. A couple of songs, the missionary appeal, a brief message and all left. My companion, loneliness, shared time with me again that night. Loneliness shared with me in many such services.

New Property

Looking for a place to begin services had reached a dead end. A few people, about five adults and six children met once a week in my home. Buying property or leasing a building with our limited resources seemed impossible. Bankers and realtors

openly laughed at our circumstances.

After many days of searching, we were no nearer to finding a meeting place than when we started. Walking away from many failed prospective sites, my companion, loneliness, was close by my side.

Four acres! Never mind that it was grown up in weeds and small trees. It was now ours. All I had was a 20-inch power mower, the push type. Day after day I worked with the mower, a sling blade and ax.

An accident with the mower, a large piece of wire thrown through one side of my foot, brought the realization that I would never get it cleared myself. In bed, with my foot elevated, I communed with my companion, loneliness.

Facing the Bank

"I'm truly sorry. We would like to help, but the bank board feels your church group is too small and your finances are too limited for us to consider the loan."

Rejection is never pleasant. Finances to build on the property again denied, we would have to wait a little longer. My companion, loneliness, was always with me as I sat alone before bank loan officers.

"You have a mobile home on that property; that's against the city ordinance," I was told by the city planning commissioner. The commissioner was a friendly man and explained, "I can write you a temporary permit, but you will have to appear before the board of aldermen to get a variance on this ordinance."

The board room was packed the night I was to appear before the board of aldermen. Several serious, unsmiling faces looked across the table. By now you know who was with me—my companion, loneliness.

Community Outreach

The sidewalk radiated near 100° temperatures that summer as I walked down the street handing out the homemade mission church brochures. House to house visitation is never easy for me. Few things really scare me, but going to strange houses to meet strange people is one of them. Knocking on door after door, I gave a witness and left invitations.

Each Sunday morning standing at the front door of the mobile chapel, I thought, "This is the day some of these families contacted will choose to come." Time for services would come and go without any showing up. I think it was then that my companion, loneliness, added another companion called frustration.

Family Affair

Loneliness is a family affair. You see, our family left a thriving church with many loving people. We were involved in community and school projects. Our children never did feel they were at home any more. They had grown up in another town. This was a strange place to them.

My wife enjoyed her own success-

ful career which she left behind. Now we were struggling to get something started. She always worked faithfully by my side in everything. Now, she saw my frustration and was frustrated because she knew of no way to help. Hugs help, but sometimes loneliness is so deep it lingers on.

You Can Help

Don't just pity the lonely missionary, pray for him and his family. Write a note of encouragement. Help provide the funds and the tools needed to effectively minister in a new area.

Mission boards now recognize the advantage of giving not only salary support, but also help in providing funds for property acquisition and building. This reduces a great load on the missionary and brings together a self-supporting Free Will Baptist church much quicker. It makes the missionary feel he is not in this thing alone.

God's Victory

Loneliness is and always will be part of mission endeavors. But it is also a time of drawing closer to our Lord Jesus and having sweet communion with the Holy Spirit. Loneliness becomes a minor irritation, not a crippling injury. God is faithful. With that knowledge, much prayer and spiritual determination causes us to always triumph in Jesus' name.

Oh, by the way, it isn't lonely there any more! A strong and thriving Free Will Baptist church is now there touching the community for the glory of God. ■



.....
ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend J. L. Gore pastors Cross Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Olive Branch, Mississippi. He serves as moderator of the Mississippi State Association. He writes from long personal experience as a home missionary.

Pray for
the
December
2-3
Leadership
Conference
to be held
at the
Regal
Maxwell
House
Hotel
in
Nashville,
Tennessee



Witnessing in the Workplace

By Dan Farmer

“Who, me? Witness where I work? You’ve got to be kidding! You don’t know the people I work with. Why, they would laugh if I tried to witness to them!”

Sound familiar? We have all been burned at times by an unfortunate experience in witnessing. When we had our first bad witnessing experience, we probably said, “Never again.”

When Christ said, “Ye are My witnesses,” we think, *He certainly wasn’t talking to me. Why, I work with peo-*

ple who do all sorts of things, from telling dirty jokes to making fun of televangelists. The Lord saved me out of doing the things they do, but they surely wouldn’t listen to me.

We live in a society of hurting, sinful, dying people who know suffering in various ways. Somehow, after conversion, we draw ourselves away from those who may need our friendship, love and witness the most. And, to many, religion is a private thing, like politics, and if discussed, may end in a dispute and hard feelings.

It’s true that some are sensitive and quick to tell us so. But there are those ready to listen, especially if they feel it will make their lives better, homes happier and help resolve personal problems.

The Business Man

I’d like to share with you responses from some of the leaders in my church regarding their witness in the workplace. The first is a young business man. He stated that his strategy is this:

- Live right and practice my faith with uncompromising principle.
- Develop a respectful relationship with a person.
- Gradually, as opportunities present themselves, share my beliefs and personal relationship with Christ.
- Ask the other person to share their beliefs.
- Ask the other person if they would like to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

This man said that we should live a consistent Christian lifestyle with uncompromising principles, holding firm to our Christian convictions, and we should be able to respond in a Christ-like way in times of crisis. He suggests that we first gain a person's trust, confidence and, above all, their respect.

For him, living a Christian life presents the greatest challenge. It seems that so many unsaved people are angry with God and with Christians in general. They seem to be looking for any reason to justify their feelings. Any sin or moral failure on the part of a Christian makes it that much more difficult to see results in our witnessing.

The School Teacher

This response is from another layperson, a young lady who is a public school teacher. She says that she follows a more subtle approach in witnessing at work. She tries to be prayed up before getting to school, then always tries to put on a happy face (a good attitude) regardless of what personal or family problems she may have.

"God helps me leave my problems at home, and I'm better able to give attention to those who depend on me at school." She states that the children in her classes need her full attention and depend on her for more than reading and writing.

Her co-workers have commented that she seems so happy all the time, and in this she has opportunity to witness to them.

In her classroom she has a special shelf on which she displays a collection of gifts given to her by the children or her "secret pals." Many of the gifts bear scriptures, spiritual sayings or poems. Students often go to the display to admire the collection and, even with the little freedom she has to openly witness, they will ask her such questions as, "Are you a Christian?" or "Do you go to church?"

One thing she feels is very important is to share lots of hugs and love with her students. To her, this way of witnessing is using what God causes to come naturally to her and is the most comfortable way for her.

When It's Tough

One man stated that his reluctance to witness to people he doesn't know well has caused him quite a dilemma. On one hand he has gotten to know some Christians well, but people who need to be witnessed to are the ones he feels least comfortable talking to about Christ. When he brings up the subject of Christ, he finds many are resistant to share their own beliefs. Some are uncomfortable discussing God and salvation, while most become evasive and the conversations grow awkward.

All believers are called to serve or be a minister. It would be impossible to hire enough professionals or pastors to evangelize the world. This was never Jesus' plan anyway. The Bible gives us many examples of those we call "laymen" doing evangelism.

Mark 2 tells of men who brought a paralytic to Jesus and had to overcome many obstacles and objections to do so. Some methods of evangelism may seem unorthodox, but sometimes drastic measures are necessary to bring the hopeless cases to Jesus.

Friendship Factor

Friendship can play an important role in evangelism as well as the role of kinship. When Andrew met Jesus, he went and found his brother Peter. When Philip met Jesus, he found his friend Nathaniel.

The most natural person to lead your relatives and friends to Christ is you, a Christian. Some studies show that a majority of people in an average church are there because of friends and relatives who invited or witnessed to them.

Matthew invited his friends to a dinner with Jesus.

Impromptu Evangelism

Jesus was a master at impromptu evangelism, ready when the opportunity presented itself. He was a

friend of sinners, while today, after being a Christian for a while, many have little contact with those who aren't Christians.

One of the great witnessing lessons is found in Acts 8, regarding the conversion of an Ethiopian government official. When Philip met him, he was reading Isaiah. When he asked the Ethiopian if he understood what he read, the official answered that he couldn't without someone to help him.

Philip took time to explain to the Ethiopian who was reading from Isaiah, and this man found Jesus. Many today read the Bible and have the same kinds of questions. Philip did as he was told, a good example to each of us. When told to join the Ethiopian's chariot, he did as he was told, overcoming a racial and cultural barrier.

The Preparation

God often prepares both the one to be converted and the one to be used as His instrument to guide the person. Seldom does anyone come to Christ without the help of others.

Be prepared, be prayed up, have a good attitude, be ready to help, show a personal interest and win friendships before trying to evangelize and do soul winning.

Let's be guilty, guilty that is, of being friends to sinners so we may in turn win some in our workplace, wherever it may be. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Dan Farmer pastors First Free Will Baptist Church in Moore, Oklahoma.

Leading the Church into Together Way Plan Giving

THE TOGETHER WAY Is My Way

By Roger Childers

It is surprising how many people have no idea what it costs to operate the local church. An even larger number have no idea what is involved in maintaining denominational ministries. If our people fail in the stewardship of giving, it's because they don't have the facts. That's the pastor's job.

I believe the pastor is the key to any successful giving program including The Together Way plan. To be successful, he must be kind and informative in his approach. He must understand and explain the function of our denominational agencies. *The Digest of Reports* distributed at the national convention is a good tool to use. It defines the function of each department and details its budget. Another informative piece of material is *The Together Way Plan*, a 10-page booklet published by the Executive Office.

One quarter in 1994 I taught "The Cost of Operating and Maintaining Ministries" to the adult Sunday School class. We studied the budgets and financial reports of our local church and those of our district, state and national associations. I gave each class member a copy of our National Association's *Digest of Reports* and *The Together Way Plan* booklet.

Sometimes we have not because

we ask not. During January our church starts planning, presenting and promoting the four Together Way plan special offerings. On the last page of our church budget, we list the special offering dates for the year. Then it's just a matter of keeping our people informed through bulletin inserts, announcements and reminders from the pulpit.

On the Sundays of the four special offerings, we first receive the regular weekly offering. Then, before we leave the service, I ask members to give their special offering above their regular gifts.

As for overall giving, our church gives through our state Cooperative Plan. We limit our designated giving to emergency appeals from denominational agencies. We do sometimes give to these appeals, but we prefer to give undesignated through our state Cooperative Plan.

In our church, giving programs are occasions of great joy and anticipation. An air of excitement is felt throughout the church. At times, however, it is also an occasion for conflict. Not everyone is committed to The Together Way plan. Some members have special interests.

I find the best way to handle these conflicts is not to scold, reprimand,

accuse or even interpret motives. Instead, I respond in love, teaching them that no one agency is more important than another. I challenge them to understand that as a denomination, we are a family, and the whole family needs and deserves our support. Our budget committee helps me in handling conflicts of interest.

Again, let me say: The pastor is the key to any successful giving program in the church. I encourage each pastor to become more knowledgeable about The Together Way plan and our denominational ministries. Let's teach our people. Remember, Brother Pastor, we are the key. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Roger Childers pastors Urbana Free Will Baptist Church in Urbana, Ohio.

THE TOGETHER WAY

August 1996

Receipts:

| State | Design. | CO-OP | Total | August '95 | Yr. To Date |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Alabama | \$.00 | \$.00 | \$.00 | \$ 7,045.60 | \$ 4,291.38 |
| Arizona | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | 3,601.66 |
| Arkansas | 14,434.36 | 11,483.92 | 25,918.28 | 22,887.70 | 202,462.13 |
| California | .00 | 986.05 | 986.05 | 962.08 | 8,262.71 |
| Colorado | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| Delaware | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| Florida | .00 | .00 | .00 | 1,200.79 | 20,776.88 |
| Georgia | 13,148.00 | 2,937.78 | 16,085.78 | 19,302.47 | 134,531.57 |
| Hawaii | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| Idaho | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| Illinois | 9,003.91 | 2,184.74 | 11,188.65 | 9,775.58 | 89,265.92 |
| Indiana | 2,737.37 | .00 | 2,737.37 | .00 | 7,257.43 |
| Iowa | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | 360.00 |
| Kansas | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | 353.15 |
| Kentucky | 328.90 | 472.20 | 801.10 | 769.40 | 6,424.16 |
| Louisiana | 20.00 | .00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 90.00 |
| Maryland | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | 2,309.47 |
| Michigan | 11,275.54 | 2,735.89 | 14,011.43 | 19,827.64 | 119,048.44 |
| Mississippi | .00 | 470.34 | 470.34 | 525.34 | 3,843.97 |
| Missouri | 10,757.13 | .00 | 10,757.13 | 12,353.58 | 95,151.57 |
| Montana | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| Nebraska | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| New Jersey | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| New Mexico | 421.30 | 55.66 | 476.96 | 301.80 | 5,933.10 |
| North Carolina | 2,604.66 | 490.49 | 3,095.15 | 710.14 | 14,747.54 |
| Ohio | 6,485.48 | 3,774.93 | 10,260.41 | 10,517.42 | 86,851.79 |
| Oklahoma | 49,549.02 | .00 | 49,549.02 | 44,003.36 | 435,881.79 |
| South Carolina | 20,127.59 | 98.59 | 20,226.18 | 22,670.04 | 166,272.37 |
| South Dakota | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| Tennessee | 10,506.65 | 1,856.00 | 12,362.65 | 5,998.92 | 85,583.76 |
| Texas | 5,138.93 | 427.38 | 5,566.31 | 6,752.36 | 55,696.05 |
| Virginia | 1,001.43 | 25.00 | 1,026.43 | 870.41 | 11,414.39 |
| Virgin Islands | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 | .00 |
| West Virginia | 6,805.68 | 81.73 | 6,887.41 | 4,379.61 | 45,824.66 |
| 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 | .09 | .09 | (0.03) | .51 |
| Totals | \$164,345.95 | \$28,080.79 | \$192,426.74 | \$190,874.21 | \$1,606,278.33 |

Disbursements:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Executive Office | \$ 9,922.70 | \$15,444.39 | \$ 25,367.09 | \$ 26,850.80 | \$ 212,831.63 |
| Foreign Missions | 87,184.83 | 2,906.36 | 90,091.19 | 95,969.49 | 784,781.52 |
| FWBBC | 13,693.58 | 2,906.36 | 16,599.94 | 15,313.59 | 127,631.02 |
| Home Missions | 46,379.29 | 2,274.56 | 48,653.85 | 41,742.36 | 386,316.52 |
| Retirement & Insurance | 1,085.49 | 1,769.09 | 2,854.58 | 2,410.20 | 22,530.24 |
| Master's Men | 1,464.72 | 1,769.09 | 3,233.81 | 3,577.84 | 27,920.53 |
| Commission for Theological Integrity | 135.52 | 63.19 | 198.71 | 150.54 | 1,400.89 |
| FWB Foundation | 857.44 | 758.18 | 1,615.62 | 1,491.91 | 13,012.18 |
| Historical Commission | 105.97 | 63.19 | 169.16 | 140.09 | 1,262.20 |
| Music Commission | 75.09 | 63.19 | 138.28 | 140.09 | 1,213.18 |
| Radio & TV Commission | 297.69 | 63.19 | 360.88 | 150.53 | 1,509.35 |
| Hillsdale FWB College | 1,263.26 | .00 | 1,263.26 | 1,386.07 | 10,965.74 |
| Other | 1,880.37 | .00 | 1,880.37 | 1,550.70 | 14,903.33 |
| Totals | \$164,345.95 | \$28,080.79 | \$192,426.74 | \$190,874.21 | \$1,606,278.33 |

**Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign
August 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 | 28,980.88 | 9,198.31 |
| 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 | 0.00 | 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 Assoc. | 883.41 | 270.00 | 613.41 |
| Northwest Assoc. | 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 | .00 | 175.00 | (175.00) |
| Tennessee | 78,557.09 | 59,204.11 | 19,352.98 |
| Texas | 11,547.20 | 7,291.52 | 4,255.68 |
| Virginia | 24,323.33 | 2,027.93 | 22,295.40 |
| Virgin Islands | .00 | 200.00 | (200.00) |
| West Virginia | 46,204.51 | 998.00 | 45,206.51 |
| Wisconsin | .00 | 61.00 | (61.00) |
| Other | .00 | 2,978.85 | (2,978.85) |
| Totals | \$766,583.39 | \$274,876.54 | \$491,706.85 |

The 100-man march on Mexico to build a Bible Institute.

From the Top of the Windmill

By James Munsey



Hot subtropical sun beat down mercilessly as a southeasterly wind blew choking clouds of fine dust from parched northern Mexico ranchlands. The temperature neared the century mark. Stinging sweat rolled down my forehead into my eyes, blurring my vision. But I didn't mind—because I was watching a miracle.

From my 45-foot-high vantage point, on top of the windmill, I could see young people digging water lines and carrying concrete blocks, men mixing mortar and concrete, block layers and concrete finishers hard at work. Electricians were laying out an endless series of electrical wires, installing switches, plug and light sockets and underground cables. Someone was cutting out concrete block for the trademark cross window on the Seminary of the Cross in Reynosa, Mexico.

Here, so close to the U.S. border that I could see the tallest building in McAllen, Texas, we all came together for the much talked about work week for the new FWB Seminary campus on 25 beautiful acres adjacent to the Reynosa International Airport.

Americans from eight states and Mexicans from Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Estrado de Mexico, Veracruz, Hidalgo and Jalisco came together in response to Home Missions director Trymon Messer's call for a 100-man march on Mexico. From May 20-25, we registered 104 Americans and 79 Mexicans. What we saw and accomplished was unprecedented in Free Will Baptist missions history.

Never had so many U. S. Free Will Baptists gathered on foreign soil to carry out a building project. In spite of logistical problems and a lack of ready materials so common in Third World countries, we placed some \$40,000 in building materials in two structures in those few days. At times, I felt like the building superintendent for the tower of Babel, as an endless line of skilled and unskilled workers waited to ask for instructions or clarifications.

Several facts stand out as remarkable about our week in Reynosa.

Numero Uno—The Work

First, I have never seen so much work accomplished in a volunteer work project, especially since one half could not communicate with the other without an interpreter. Our 100-man march started May 16 with the arrival of builder Howard Gwartney with some of his helping hands crew. We spent Thursday hooking up their RVs and getting power, water and other essential services in place.

Friday, Howard and the crew formed the foundation slab for the boys' dorm. Saturday, they roughed in plumbing and poured the concrete slab. In a place where only a grass field existed, Howard "Hap" Gwartney and his helping hands dug and poured the foundation, erected the frame walls, put on the trusses and half of the sheet metal roof.

Don Allen and his crew of electri-

cians roughed in the wiring, including plugs, switches and light receptacles, all with electric current. This 33' x 60' building will be our boys' dorm, along with a separate apartment for a dorm supervisor.

The main building will be our combination administration, classroom, chapel, dining room and kitchen, with the girls' dorm upstairs. This building was on the property when we bought it. It had been used as a barn, but it had a concrete floor, block walls and was reinforced with concrete beams throughout. An inspection of the foundation confirmed that it would support a two-story structure. In all, it will encompass 7,072 square feet under one roof.

Our work crews designed, constructed and erected two-thirds of the roof trusses for this main building before leaving Saturday, May 25. They could have finished the roof if we had been able to get lumber on time.

Workers streamed in from everywhere. We had three people on call to pick up those arriving at the airport. As new workers arrived, they integrated themselves into the work, joining Hap's crew or starting new projects. I had several pages of individual projects we could start as skilled workers became available.

By Monday, with 75 American workers present, things really began cooking. Even so, by noon, I was beginning to think that a 10-man march on Mexico would have been more appropriate. I wasn't sure I would survive the day. It seemed that disaster was imminent and I would go down in history as the grand marshal of the 100-man fiasco in Mexico.

Seeing my plight, my dad, Howard Munsey, my friends Berton Perry, Chuck Wood and David Bigger, offered to look over my list of projects and help coordinate workers for the next day. By Monday night, I called Mitzi and said, "Honey, I think we might survive after all."

Tuesday, with the help of capable friends, things went much smoother. Mexicans and Americans cast themselves on the assignments with a fury, and order began to rise from the chaos of Monday.

Numero Dos—The Fellowship

The second thing that stood out was the fellowship. Out of a polyglot of people, cultures, cuisine and languages (we had English, Spanish and the Indian dialect, Nahuatl), it was amazing to see God's hand as we worked, worshiped and dined together. Things that now seem mundane to me were a marvelous delight to those who had never been to a foreign country.

Some had never been on a plane, some had never traveled beyond their own region of the U.S. God opened their eyes to the great mission field of Mexico, and this, beyond the work accomplished, was the main purpose of having them visit.

God welded together the hearts of Mexicans and Americans. Friendships began that will last a lifetime. People came together from drastically varied backgrounds: college professors, Mexican pastors (two of them from Indian churches deep in the Mexican interior), teenagers, retirees, men, ladies, electricians, plumbers, carpenters and preachers.

Numero Tres—The Preaching

From Sunday, May 19, till the following Saturday, we met together in various places for services. This aspect of our fellowship brings to my

mind the third outstanding element about the week: the preaching.

We began Sunday morning at the church in Weslaco where I pastor. During Sunday School we had an English service. Berton Perry preached a great message. During the worship service, the Mexican quartet sang and Felix Zúñiga preached. Mitzi, my wife, cooked brisket for the noon meal.

Tuesday evening, we all stopped work at the school long enough for a brief service. There under the roughed-in opening of the cross window, Wade Jernigan preached to the workers. Missionary Ruth Bivens translated since I was away getting building materials.

Wednesday night, we met at First Church in Reynosa for the Seminary graduation. Three young people graduated from the three-year program: Rigoberto Lumbreras, Esteban Gonzalez and Carmen Zúñiga. Over 300 people attended.

The pastor of the church, Salvador Serrano brought the graduation message. As president of the school, it was my privilege to present each graduate with a new guitar for use in his ministry. Trymon Messer presented diplomas to the graduates. Academic dean Ramón Zúñiga presented Brother Messer with a bound copy of his master's thesis, a study used as the basis of our new four-year program of study.

Graduation marked clearly in our minds why we were struggling in subtropical heat to build a school. These were the young men and women who would go to their own people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Numero Cuatro—The Impact

Finally, I was blessed by the impact this trip had on so many people. Their lives will never be the same. Some of our Mexican pastors had never been involved in a work project and had no idea how much American Christians cared for them and the work. They have been changed forever.

Former missionary to Japan, Janice Banks said, "We enjoyed being with all of you and the others working on the project . . . Jerry and I are both thinking about starting Spanish lessons. . . . We hope to visit again before long and we both want to be able to communicate."

Walters State professor Harold Hayes, who worked so hard that everyone noticed, wrote to say, "Just a note to thank you for your wonderful hospitality. I don't know when I have had so much fun and received such a blessing. Just observing your family and the mission work in Mexico was most inspirational. It is obvious that God has richly blessed you with many friends and achievements. May you and your work continue to prosper and glorify God's name."

Dr. Thomas Marberry said of the Hillsdale FWB College group, "It was an honor to participate in this important event in the history of our work in Mexico. I have talked with all our students since we left Mexico. The trip made a deep impression on them. They not only learned a great deal about missions, they also developed a burden for the work in Mexico."

The accomplishments were many. God did beyond what I dreamed possible. For our own personal reasons, each of us will carry the memory of this wonderful time that God let us share in His work.

I still climb the windmill over the well, and as I survey the weekly progress of the construction, in my mind I can still see them, my beloved friends, the Indian pastors from the mountains of Hidalgo, my dad, long past retirement age, laying blocks. I see Wade preaching in front of the cross window, Felix and Chuy, Kelly Caudill, Heather, Lynn Pickle, Harry Watt, Jimmy Lowe, Carlos Rubio, Trymon Messer and David Crowe, Shane, A.V. and Ruth, Ed and Marjorie. And I know they must be thinking of us too. ■



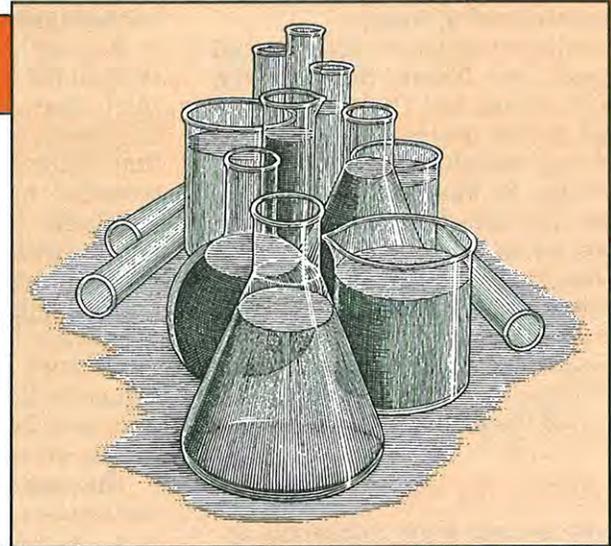
ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend James Munsey is coordinator for the Free Will Baptist work in Mexico.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

It's the Law!

(for all CDL drivers)

By Joe Haas



All church bus drivers and Christian school bus drivers must now meet the new drug and alcohol testing requirements. The new Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations went into effect January 1, 1995, for all vehicles (vans and buses) designed to carry 16 or more passengers. These regulations applied to churches and schools and included requirements of U.S. DOT numbers on all "covered vehicles" and commercial drivers' licenses (CDL) for the drivers of these vehicles.

The regulations also required compliance with new drug and alcohol testing requirements by January 1, 1996. These new testing requirements apply to *all* CDL drivers including those who drive only within one state. They also apply equally to paid CDL employees and volunteers.

Drug Testing Requirements

Under the regulations, the types of drug tests that are required are the fol-

lowing: pre-employment, post-accident, reasonable suspicion, random, return-to-duty and follow-up. In most incidences, your testing program need only include pre-employment, post-accident and random drug testing.

Random drug testing does not have to be conducted in immediate time proximity to performing driving functions. The number of random drug tests conducted each year must total at least 50% of the drivers. Each organization can join a consortium or "pool." When you join a consortium, all your drivers are put in a "pool" of which 50% will be selected for testing on a random basis.

According to the law, each organization is responsible for implementing a drug testing program. Each person selected for the test will be required to provide a urine specimen for analysis. The test will be performed at a certified lab, with the results verified by a medical review officer (MRO). Therefore, it will be necessary to work with a physician, pri-

vate service or lab collection site to comply with the requirements.

Testing is done in such a way to ensure that over-the-counter drugs or prescribed medications are not reported as positive results. The results of the tests are confidential and may be released only to the organization, the drug testing laboratory and the MRO. The person tested must give consent for any other distribution of the test results.

Alcohol Testing Requirements

The regulations require the same types of alcohol tests that are required for drug testing. However, it is likely that your organization will primarily be concerned with post-accident and random alcohol testing. Drivers who went to work after January 1, 1996, may submit to a "pre-employment" alcohol test if dictated by the employer. Drivers who began working for you before January 1, 1996, are not required to go back and take a "pre-employment" alcohol test.

Random alcohol tests must be conducted "just before, during or after performance of" any driving duties. The number of random tests required each year must total at least 25% of the CDL drivers. As with drug testing, each organization can join a consortium where your CDL drivers are put in a "pool" of which 25% will be selected for alcohol testing on a random basis.

What Should You Do to Comply With the Law?

Every organization has the option of setting up an individual in-house program or joining a consortium or "pool" to be in compliance. In most instances, an individual in-house program will result in higher annual administrative fees and higher drug and alcohol testing fees. This is primarily true because 50% of your total number of drivers must be tested.

In a consortium, the annual administrative fees are lower. Fifty percent of your drivers are placed in a pool and will be randomly selected for testing. In both instances, an on-site policy manual is required which outlines your drug and alcohol testing program. The regulations also require that each organization must provide regular information to their drivers on drug abuse and each driver must attend at least one hour of training on the signs and symptoms of drug abuse.

National Drug and Alcohol Testing Program

The National Drug and Alcohol Testing Program has been developed for churches, Christian schools, private schools, colleges, universities, vocational schools, kindergartens, day care facilities and other religious, charitable and educational organizations. This program provides the means to meet all the federal drug and alcohol testing regulations that apply. All participants of the program will be placed in a single pool for purposes of random selection for drug and alcohol testing.

The National Drug and Alcohol Testing Program is administered by NTA, Inc. NTA is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nationwide Truckers Association, Inc., a leader in the implementation of workplace drug and al-

cohol testing services. The parent company, Nationwide Truckers Services, Inc., has been providing technical and regulatory compliance services as mandated by the federal government to trucking companies and motor carriers for more than 44 years.

NTA provides drug and alcohol testing services, information and training on a national basis. NTA is a North Carolina-based corporation servicing more than 4,000 client companies in the United States and Puerto Rico. NTA's substantial investment in highly sophisticated, state-of-the-art computer and telecommunication systems coupled with long-term electronic record storage capability assures that program participants meet all DOT regulations.

Included in the drug testing services:

1. All services necessary to perform pre-employment, post-accident, reasonable suspicion, return-to-duty and follow-up and random drug testing.
2. Random selection.
3. EMIT screening.
4. G.C.M.S. confirmation.
5. 24-hour turnaround of negative results from the time the specimen is received at the laboratory.
6. Required documentation.
7. Notification of test results.
8. Tests performed by qualified laboratories.
9. Courier service from collection site to laboratory.
10. Specimen collection management.
11. Certified laboratory analysis.
12. Medical Review Officer (MRO) verification.
13. Collection site identification and management.
14. Quarterly/annual summaries.
15. Assistance in developing the required on-site policy manual.

Included in the alcohol testing services:

1. All services necessary to perform pre-employment, post-accident, reasonable suspicion, return-to-duty and follow-up and random drug testing.
2. Alcohol screening and confirmation.
3. Identification of third-party alcohol test providers.
4. Random selection for alcohol screening.
5. Alcohol test data collection/statistical reporting.

6. Record retention.
7. Quarterly/annual summaries.
8. Assistance in developing the required on-site policy manual.

Costs

Annual administration fee—\$35

Drug testing fee—\$24.95 plus collection fee (approximately \$5)

Alcohol testing fee—\$8 plus BAT (Breath Alcohol Technician) fee (approximately \$12-\$30)

Note: The annual administration fee is for each organization that becomes a program participant. The drug and alcohol testing fees are charged whenever a person has been selected to have a drug or alcohol test. All program participants will be placed in a single pool for random selection. The random selections will be computer generated quarterly from the social security numbers of the program participants.

Testing fees are also charged whenever a person requires pre-employment, post-accident, reasonable suspicion or return-to-duty test. Annual administration fees and all drug and alcohol testing fees will be billed by NTA.

Questions and Further Information

For information on how to participate in this program, please contact the plan sponsor and coordinator:

Rev. Joe Haas, Executive Director
North Carolina Christian School Association
 P. O. Box 231
 Goldsboro, NC 27533
 919/731-4844
 FAX: 919/731-4847
 E-Mail: Jhaas@mail.gld.com
 Home Page: www.gld.com/schools/nccsa/

Note: several Free Will Baptist churches and Christian schools are program participants. For references, please call 919/731-4844. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Joe Haas serves as executive director for the North Carolina Christian School Association.

Consider the Ant



By David Brown



While growing up, one of my favorite television programs was *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom*. The wild animal program aired in my area on Sunday afternoons just before church. This may explain my sometimes rowdy behavior in evening services. There were two reasons I liked this program.

First, I was hoping to see the host of the program, Marlin Perkins, actually get involved in the capture of one of these wild animals. It seemed to me that Jim, the co-host, did all the work. Marlin Perkins would say something like, "I'll stand behind this truck while Jim attempts to capture this tiger barehanded."

Second, and more practical, I liked the show because I always learned

something about the animals. Solomon, the writer of Proverbs, was quite a zoologist and liked to study the behavior of animals because he also believed we could learn a great deal from them. Let's see what Solomon might have us learn from a small insect, the ant.

Self-Starter



One quality I have observed is that ants are self-starters. No one tells the ant it is time to go to work. He just gets up and starts working. He does not wait for a bell to ring or a whistle to blow to start work. He does not wait for someone to tell him what he is supposed to do. He sees what needs to be done and does it.



Not Lazy

Another good quality in the ant is that he is not lazy. You never see an ant goofing off. You will not find him leaning on his shovel watching everyone else work. An ant is not lazy; he is always doing his job. You will never see an ant with a sign around his neck saying, "Will work for food." He seems to be in perpetual motion, always efficiently doing his particular job.

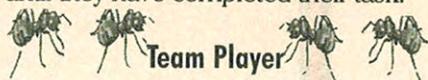
Shares the Load



An ant always carries his share of the load. It has been reported that an ant can carry up to 10 times its body weight. If a 250-pound man could do the same, he could carry a compact car on his back.

When ants are working on a big

project, you will never see one take one load back to the ant hill and say, "Whew! I think I'll rest after that load." No! They keep on working until the job is finished. Ants equally share the load until they have completed their task.



Ants are team players. You never see an ant off by himself building his own little ant hill. It is quite common to see two or more ants working together to get the job done. Many times you will see a whole line of ants passing a piece of bread or something from one ant to another until they get it back to the ant hill.

They are community oriented in that they all work together to provide for the good of the community at large. Wow! What a radical concept for Christianity. They do not take the attitude that they refuse to work with another ant because that ant may not see everything precisely the way he sees it.

Even Tempered



Ants are even-tempered. This does not mean you can not get them riled, but as a general rule, they stay fairly calm and do not get rattled easily. You hardly ever see a bunch of ants fighting with one another. They do not wear their feelings on their sleeves and are not easily offended.

Now when you see ants working, you may occasionally see one ant cut in front of another. When this happens, the ant who was cut off does not go home and come back with a .357 Magnum and blow the guy away. He does not stop all the other ants and say, "Did you see what he did to me?" He just ignores the offense and goes on working as if nothing happened.



Ants are persistent. If your yard has ever been infested with ant hills, you know they are almost impossible to get rid of. If you knock down an ant hill today, it will be rebuilt shortly.

When their ant hill is destroyed, they do not whine about it and talk about how nice an ant hill it was. They immediately begin rebuilding. They do not stand around getting mad at whoever destroyed it. They just start

all over again.

Ants are so persistent that about the only way you can get rid of them is to kill every one of them. Would to God that every Christian could say the only way you can stop me from serving God is to kill me.

Hospitable



Ants are friendly and hospitable to one another. I've been told that quite often ants will temporarily put their loads down and briefly greet one another. They do this to make sure that the ant they have met is not an enemy.

It seems to me Free Will Baptists should follow this example. None of us are too busy to at least greet one another. Perhaps if we took the time to get to know one another, we might discover like the ant that we are not enemies.



Provides Future Needs

Ants are very smart in that they provide for their future needs. They save up goods for the long hard winter. They have to save up enough food to get them through the winter because they will not be able to gather food when the weather turns cold.

We are wise if we follow their example and save now to provide for our retirement needs when we are old and unable to work.

Opportunistic



Ants are opportunistic. Just watch what happens to a piece of food that is dropped on the ground at a picnic. Before long, the food is covered in ants, all taking small pieces back to the ant hill. They take advantage of every opportunity placed before them.

A story is told of a unique teacher at a prestigious preparatory school who used unusual methods to motivate his students. He tried to help them see the importance of taking advantage of opportunities by showing them pictures of previous classes from the school that hung on hallway walls. He stated that if the men from these many classes that had gone on before, many of whom were now dead, could speak to them, they would say, "Carpe Diem—Seize the Day." Perhaps they might quote the words of Robert Herrick.

Gather ye rosebuds while you may,
Old time is still a flying:
And the same flower that smiles today,
Tomorrow will be dying.

In the context of Christianity, this is what we should be doing. Living each day as if it were our last and seize the day—take advantage of every opportunity that is placed before us. In our spiritual lives, we should not allow opportunities to serve God and witness for him slip by.

In our family lives, we should take every opportunity to spend time with our spouses and children. In our devotional lives, we should take advantage of opportunities to continue growing spiritually by studying God's Word and getting to know Him better.

Let us all take time to consider the ant. As we strive to have these qualities in our lives, we will indeed be wise. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: David Brown serves as member services manager for the Board of Retirement.



Politically: Connect!

By Sandy Adams, Jr.

Author Charles Dudley Warner once wrote that "Politics makes strange bedfellows." Most people would expand this statement by saying that "Politics and Religion make strange bedfellows." "Christian Politician," it almost seems to be an oxymoron, but Christian involvement in our nation's political process is more than just a right, it's a responsibility.

Consider some thoughts on the necessities and realities of Christians becoming politically connected.

The Necessities

Marshall McLuhan was a pioneering scholar in studying the influence of communications in the media. He is best known by his classic statement: "The medium is the message." The "medium" is the method or avenue of communication. I believe there are five main mediums in mainstream communications today:

- 1) Electronic Media
- 2) Printed Media

- 3) Motion Pictures
- 4) Religion
- 5) Politics

Christians have been behind in the implementation of the first three, but have made great strides in the area of politics in the past 30 years. The Pew Research for the People and Press, found that in 1965, some 53% of Christians said churches should stay out of politics. Today, 54% of conservative evangelicals want their church leaders to "express their views on day-to-day social and political questions."

This does not mean that pastors replace the preaching of the Word of God with a platform of their political views. However, it does show that Christians have taken an interest in national issues and have seen the necessity of being more active in the political process.

Twenty or 30 years ago, the involvement of Christians in national elections was limited to the voting booth, with the exception of a few Christians who ran for office. Today, we are a political force to be reckoned with.

Christian Coalition Director, Ralph Reed, commented at the Republican National Convention, concerning their role

in this year's presidential election: "The Republican party will not win with just our support, but they cannot win without us."

During the Monday evening session of the Democratic National Convention, Christian musician Phil Driscoll performed a beautiful rendition of "America, the Beautiful," live on national television.

Whatever your political affiliation, you can appreciate the influence and representation that Christians have in both major political parties. Even though politicians of all parties may not agree with us on various issues, and maybe even wish we were not around, they know they cannot ignore us any longer.

The Realities

Not everyone wants Christians to be active in politics, including some Christians. Those who are not believers and who oppose Christian involvement in politics, insist that we are just trying to impose our morality on everyone else. However, the reality is, if Christians are not involved in the political and policy-making process, we will allow others who have no Christian base or values to impose their *immorality* on us.

We Christians cannot arrogantly state that we are "too spiritual" to involve ourselves in political matters. Even though reaching people with the gospel is our primary objective, we are also called to influence our culture. The New Testament is silent regarding the involvement of Christians in government, except for our obedience and submission to law.

But remember that those who lived in the first century were under the dominance of the Roman Empire, where voting and political involvement were limited to the very elite. However, if it were possible, I can imagine Peter and Paul trying to be active in some capacity.

Was it not Paul who wrote, "I have become all things to all people, so that by all possible means I might save some" (I Cor. 9:22). I believe this can be applied to politics as well. We might call Paul a "grassroots activist" trying to influence the cultures in which he ministered, but I think Jesus had a better description: "salt and light."

As we become active in the political process, we must keep everything in perspective. Government, laws and politicians are not who we put our faith in. These are not the hope for the salvation of the world. Just because we may pass the "right laws" does not mean people will stop committing sinful behavior.

It is easy to think that if we had Christians at every level of government, then our problems would be solved, but let's not deceive ourselves. The hope for the world is in the life changing power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

When people's lives are changed, they want to help change the lives of others and combat the sinful worldviews in the culture they live. This is what Jesus meant by being "salt and light" to the world, but we cannot do this exclusively in our church buildings.

We must get our message out in the mediums where the people will hear. That means TV, radio, motion pictures and yes, government. If Marshall McLuhan was right and the medium is the message, then Christians must be involved in every form of communication to make sure

the right message is being sent.

In order for the laws of the one true God to be reflected in the laws of our nation and to insure for future generations the freedom to evangelize, we must be politically connected. Christians should not be involved in politics for the sake of Republicans or Democrats, but for the sake of truth and for the sake of the gospel. ■



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FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Fire Destroys Illinois Church



Fire gutted Bethel F.W.B. Church in South Roxana, Illinois.

SOUTH ROXANA, IL—A Friday afternoon fire that apparently started on the roof where repairs had been made swept through Bethel F.W.B. Church August 16, according to Pastor Bill Crank. The million-dollar building, including the South Roxana congregation's Christian school, was a total loss.

Pastor Crank said that he left the church at 2:30 p.m. to run an errand. The group had just finished a week of teacher in-service training preparing for the new school year to begin the following Monday. Crank returned at 4:30 to find the church surrounded by fire-fighting equipment, the street cordoned off and hundreds of people watching the building burn.

Sunday morning after the fire, the congregation met in a tent erected on the property. A large crowd gathered to worship in the rain. Two people were converted that morning, two more that evening.

Pastor Crank said, "Our immediate goal is to find a place for our school which has grades K4-12, and a place for Sunday School and worship services."

Crank confirmed that the church did have insurance, but that so many things need replacing that "even the insurance amount seems small."

"We lost most of our school books, office equipment, hymnals and over half of my library," Pastor Crank continued. "A lot of

our records are now only memories. All our supplies and school equipment, computers, typewriters and desks were destroyed."

Re-building plans are underway. The group plans to build a single story facility with two buildings. One will house the Christian school and Sunday School rooms; the other will be the sanctuary.

Pastor Crank said, "We made many mistakes from which we will try to learn. We will keep better inventories and records. We will protect those records better and make duplicates of everything we have. We will not take for granted the building we worship in and will make sure that we are adequately insured."

Florida Church Begins \$475,000 Project



Ground-Breaking Ceremony for First FWB Church, Winter Haven, Florida

WINTER HAVEN, FL—Members of First FWB church in Winter Haven gathered in the Florida sunshine June 9 for their long-awaited ground-breaking ceremony that kicked off a six-month building program, according to Pastor Danny Ryals.

The entire church family of 150 people turned out to help leaders turn the first spade of dirt on the \$475,000 project. Central Florida Association moderator Roger Duncan preached the ground-breaking message. Florida executive secretary Millard Sasser led in prayer.

The 10,000-square-foot metal building will include 12 rooms, pastor's study, fellowship hall

and sanctuary seating for 300 when completed. The new building will be located at the corner of Jersey Road and Highway 92 West, five miles from their old property which the group sold earlier. They now meet in a middle school.

Randy Brooks, who chairs the deacon board, and church treasurer Tom Collins assisted Pastor Ryals in the ground-breaking. Contractor Mitch Lind and the entire Building Committee participated as well.

Construction began June 10. Officials expect to conduct the first service in the completed structure no later than Christmas.

Texas Pastor, Owen Barger, Retires

WEATHERFORD, TX—The Reverend Owen L. Barger, pastor of First FWB Church in Weatherford, retired September 1 after 40 years in the ministry. He invested four decades of his life pastoring Texas Free Will Baptist churches.

The 81-year-old minister was converted in 1949 at Parsley Bottom FWB Church in West Virginia, licensed to preach in 1956 and ordained in 1957. Before he was called to preach, Barger joined the U.S. Navy (1941-1947) and served three years in combat areas in the South Pacific during World War II.

Brother Barger made his greatest contributions in Texas' West Fork District where he served as moderator, member of the Credentials Committee and pastored. He organized Western Hills FWB Church in Fort Worth and was elected assistant moderator of the Texas State Association.

Though declared totally disabled in 1971, Brother Barger refused to quit and continued to pastor another 25 years. Wearing his trademark cowboy hat, he has been a mainstay at national conventions serving behind the scenes wherever there was work to be done.

Barger reminded friends at his retirement that he was retiring only from the pastorate, not from the ministry.

Leadership Conference Set for December

ANTIOCH, TN—The annual Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference will meet December 2-3 at the Regal Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington. Some 150 state leaders are expected to participate in the two-day conference.

Conference registration begins Monday, December 2, at 2:00 p.m. After an opening dinner at 5:00 p.m., attendees will

gather for a two-hour session in the hotel's Grande Ballroom.

The 1996 conference theme will be "Facing the Cross-Cultural Challenge." Eight one-hour sessions will be planned around the theme. At press time, speakers were being selected to develop cross-cultural opportunities.

National Association moderator Carl Cheshier and assistant moderator Tim York will preside

during the eight sessions.

Tuesday afternoon will feature a three-hour Leadership Forum with Melvin Worthington presiding. The forum will address a number of issues as determined by attendees.

The Leadership Conference will conclude Tuesday evening at 9:00 p.m. National boards will then meet separately to conduct the business of each agency.

Free Will Baptist Bible College Enrolls 340

Nashville, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College enrolled 340 students from 26 states, eight foreign countries and the U.S. Virgin Islands for the fall semester, according to Dr. Charles Hampton, Registrar.

One hundred ten students are attending FWBBC for the first time, joining 230 returning students.

By classes, they number:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Freshmen | 101 |
| Sophomores | 92 |
| Juniors | 74 |
| Seniors | 59 |
| Special Students | 14 |

State totals are:

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Alabama | 25 |
| Arkansas | 1 |
| Arizona | 2 |
| California | 2 |
| Colorado | 2 |
| Florida | 16 |

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Georgia | 14 |
| Illinois | 46 |
| Indiana | 13 |
| Kentucky | 12 |
| Maryland | 1 |
| Michigan | 9 |
| Missouri | 18 |
| Mississippi | 7 |
| North Carolina | 17 |
| Nebraska | 1 |
| New Mexico | 2 |
| Ohio | 13 |
| Oklahoma | 11 |
| Pennsylvania | 1 |
| South Carolina | 10 |
| South Dakota | 2 |
| Tennessee | 66 |
| Texas | 2 |
| Virginia | 12 |
| Washington | 2 |
| West Virginia | 3 |
| Virgin Islands | 1 |
| *Foreign | 19 |

*Canada, Spain, Korea, Russia, France, Romania, Panama and Brazil

CCC Enrollment Up 40%

FRESNO, CA—California Christian College reported a 40% increase in student enrollment for the fall semester. President James McAlister said that enrollment reached 65 this fall; the college enrolled 39 students this time last year.

Two major renovation pro-

jects have been completed on the Fresno campus. Both the student center and the library underwent extensive improvements and upgrades.

The college also added three new full-time faculty members and two full-time staff members.

Southeastern Enrollment Jumps 20%

WENDELL, NC—Fall enrollment at Southeastern FWB College jumped 20% to 152 students, according to president Billy Bevan. The total includes 84 returning students and 68 new students.

Enrollment statistics reflect 136 full-time students and 16 part-time students. Further numbers include 49 men and 51 women students on campus, with 52 off-

campus students.

Hurricane Fran left the campus without electricity from September 5 until September 13. Students who lived in nearby states were allowed to go home September 8. Students who lived farther away stayed with staff members or went home with other students. Classes resumed September 16.

Hillsdale College Enrolls 120 Students

MOORE, OK—After overcoming almost insurmountable difficulties this summer with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education regarding accreditation, Hillsdale FWB College opened the fall semester with 120 students. That number includes 38 first-time students, 70 returning students and 12 transfer students.

College officials reported 35 ministerial students, 13 missions students, 10 church music students and three Christian education students.

By classification, the fall enrollment lists:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Freshmen | 63 |
| Sophomores | 23 |
| Juniors | 11 |
| Seniors | 15 |
| Non-degree students | 8 |

Students by states include:

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Alabama | 1 |
| Arkansas | 9 |
| California | 2 |
| Georgia | 1 |
| Illinois | 2 |
| Kansas | 2 |
| Missouri | 12 |
| Oklahoma | 79 |
| Tennessee | 1 |
| Texas | 9 |
| Japan | 1 |

Eighty-one percent of the students are Free Will Baptist.

College officials said, "We lost three large trees on campus. The worst loss was \$3,000 worth of food in our freezers."

No students were injured during the hurricane which has been called the worst disaster to ever hit North Carolina. The Southeastern College campus was spared major damage.

500 Attend WNAC Retreat

RIDGECREST, NC—Some 501 women from 18 states braved hurricanes and flooding on the east coast to register for the September 12-14 retreat, according to WNAC executive secretary Mary R. Wisheart. The retreat met at Ridgecrest Conference Center in the Blue Ridge mountains.

Five speakers brought messages around the theme, "Brighten Your Corner." Speakers included Marjorie Workman (My Corner—My Family), Kathy Coats (My Corner—The Church), Tammy Gentuso (My Corner—The Workplace), Patsy Vanhook (My Corner—the World) and Angie Outlaw (My Corner—The Community).

Speakers emphasized the woman's responsibility to teach her children and younger women. Several speakers charged godly women to be teachers and surrogate mothers to children and young women who don't receive Bible teaching at home.

Music coordinator Camille Scott led music for the retreat. Beverly Riggs, Mary Neal, Camille Scott, Betsy Karounos, the Cross Timbers Sextet and a choir provided a variety of special music. Number one on the top 10 music hits for the retreat was Beverly Welch's song, *We Will Shine*, composed for the 1996 retreat.

The missionary offering topped \$3,600 and was divided among the 12 missionaries who attended the retreat. WNAC president Everyl Getz led the candlelight service Friday evening, demonstrating how individuals are lights in a dark world.

The 1997 WNAC retreat will meet October 10-12 at Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico. The next Ridgecrest retreat will meet September 17-19, 1998.

Tapes of all five speakers are available at \$4 each from WNAC.



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CURRENTLY . . .

Members of **Fulton FWB Church** in **Fulton, MS**, voted to begin a \$50,000 fund-raising project for their future family life center. Pastor **Bill Van Winkle** said cost estimates on the finished product range near the \$285,000 mark for the 14,000-square-foot structure. They expect a 15-year mortgage.

The next time that **Mississippi** evangelist **Van Dale Hudson** schedules a family vacation, it probably won't be in the Smokey Mountains. The Hudsons entertained an unexpected furry guest on the front porch of their chalet near midnight. A huge black bear stood nose to nose with the evangelist with only a plate glass window between them. The bear left. The Hudsons stayed the night.

A suspected arson fire did over \$30,000 damage to the P.A.T.H. Shelter at the **FWB Family Ministries** in **Greeneville, TN**, according to Director **Roger Hood**. The July 21 fire occurred while everyone was at church. Local businesses responded with cleanup assistance and more than 80 gallons of paint. Insurance will cover most of the fire damage, but another \$20,000 to bring the entire building up to codes will not be covered.

Dr. **Milton Fields**, chairman of the Teacher Education Department at **Free Will Baptist Bible College** in **Nashville, TN**, was elected executive director of the Tennessee Association of Teacher Educators. He was also recently elected secretary of the Tennessee Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education.

Another **Bible College** note—FWB-BC enrolled 68 campers from 13 states for Summer Camp '96 program in June. That included 37 for Basketball Camp, 15 for Drama Camp and eight each for Music Camp and Missions Camp. Alabama sent 15 campers. Camp director **Kenny Simpson** said, "We witnessed six rededications and four others responded to a call for full-time Christian workers."

The Vacation Bible School at

Lebanon FWB Church in **Effingham, SC**, raised \$872 for home missionary Mark Barber's land fund. Pastor **Reedy Saverance** said the church presented Barber with a \$1,000 check. During revival services a few months earlier, the church raised another \$4,400 for the land project.

Fortieth anniversary celebrations highlighted the summer at **Hillside FWB Church** in **Florence, SC**. Pastor **Todd Smith** said plaques were presented to three charter members—**Julia Dubose, Ben Stone** and **Gertrude Cribb**. The church organized July 15, 1956, with nine charter members, six of whom have died.

Pastor **John Hudson** and members of **Black River FWB Church** in **Andrews, SC**, raised funds to purchase 864 Bibles for Mexico. The Bibles will be used by members of Ebenezer FWB Church in Reynosa and for door-to-door visitation outreach. The Olive Branch Book Store (owned by Black River members **Marshall** and **Jennifer Beasley**) donated 250 Bibles and paid all shipping expenses.

Say "Thank You," Pastor **Buddy Seay!** Members at **White Savannah FWB Church** in **Conway, SC**, surprised him with a Pastor Appreciation Day. Gifts included a 10' x 10' storage building for the pastor, a dishwasher for his wife and \$1,000 in cash for the two of them.

The third Sunday in July marked the beginning of Dr. **Damon Dodd's** 64th year in the gospel ministry. The **Georgia** preacher is 87 years old and maintains a busy schedule with fill-in work for local pastors and interim-pastoral roles.

Members of **Cool Springs FWB Church** in **Norman Park, GA**, dedicated their just-completed addition this summer. Pastor **Steve Hughes** said the work includes two educational rooms, two multi-purpose rooms, a pastor's study and a baptistry. On dedication day, Pastor Hughes baptized five converts.

Pastor **Barry Simpson** reports 10 new members at **New Hope FWB Church** in **Joelton, TN**.

After 62 years in the pastorate, Reverend **R. E. Hensley** retired from full-time ministry on June 30. Brother Hensley resigned **Wolf Creek FWB Church** near **Mansfield, MO**, after a 28-year pastorate. He had previously pastored **Union Grove FWB Church** and **New Home FWB Church** for 34 years. He has been active in Missouri's Mission Association and the state association.

Pastor **Troy Burney** led **Happy Home FWB Church** near **Ava, MO**, in their 90th anniversary celebration in May. Three former pastors attended the celebration—**Raymond Haden, Bob Epperson** and **J. W. O'Neal**.

Attendance at **Western Hills FWB Church** in **Fort Worth, TX**, doubled from 20 to 45, according to Pastor **Louis Nettleton**. The church added 12 new members.

Members of **Friendship FWB Church** in **Fort Worth, TX**, sold their old building . . . again. The first group to purchase the building defaulted on the loan. The second group put down \$15,000, and the church is carrying the note for the balance. **Jack Bankhead** pastors. (Brother Bankhead drove the courtesy car 16 hours a day during the 1996 national convention.)

Pastor **Don Friend** reports six new members, two baptisms and an 80th anniversary celebration at **Pleasant Valley FWB Church** in **Pedro, OH**.

The **First FWB Church** in **Zanesville, OH**, has gone self-supporting. The church conducted mortgage burning and dedication on June 9. Pastor **Talo Teo** said the church organized with 30 charter members.

Keith Kenemer, consultant for Evangelical Training Association, conducted a Sunday School Revival at **Calvary Fellowship FWB Church** in **Fenton, MO**. **Jerry Norris** pastors. ■

FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Check it Out

By William W. Evans

Smart people may make dumb decisions about money.

Fortunately one person will not generally make all the dumb decisions. In financial matters every decision has dangers. So what should a person do? Consider these five frequently made mistakes and avoid them as often as possible.

1. *Doing nothing or Status quo.*

This is probably the most frequent mistake. The uncertainty of the future, fear of making a mistake or simply being overwhelmed with information may contribute to this indecision. Whatever the cause, it results in money sitting in a checking or passbook savings account earning as little as two percent. What's wrong with that? It is safe? Yes, but investments earning rates less than inflation causes purchasing power of your principal to decline.

The alternative for some is making a hasty, principal-risking decision.

A better solution is to park funds in a Money Market account while you research your options. This generally increases earnings while providing FDIC protection and accessibility. It also gives time to find a better solution to your needs...cash flow, earnings, liquidity and safety. Before committing to anything, determine what time frame your funds have—short term or long term.

Do nothing and you lose every time.

2. *Investing in things you don't understand or with people you don't know.*

The news media is full of stories about the Wal-Marts and Netscapes and the easy millions being made, and they are true stories. But every investor doesn't make it big. Some don't even make it; they lose. This is not to discourage investments but rather to remind us to know what we are investing in, or be willing to trust the person guiding those decisions.

Doing a little homework before you put your money down is important concerning both the company and salesman. There are a lot of good investments and advisors but there are some of the other kind—it is your responsibility to know the difference.

Remember the saying, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!" Neither a sales-

man's hype nor the strong conviction of a business man make up for a poor investment. Both may need your money but not necessarily to benefit you.

3. *I'll get out of debt and then start saving.*

Harry S. Brock, a CRF, says 95% of families he works with practice this approach. However honorable it may sound it has a two-fold danger. First, it locks in past spending habits. Second, it loses the growth factor added by time.

Gaining control of your budget is important. But it should not be an "either, or" situation. Long term savings, not just something to spend next year, is an important part of financial freedom.

4. *I can't save enough to make it worthwhile.*

This is close kin to the first mistake mentioned. The actual amount you begin saving isn't the most important factor. Saving even a small amount accomplishes two things: first, it immediately means you are spending less than you make, that is good discipline. Second, it means you have something working for you! Consider the figures in the following chart.

| Length of Time | Monthly Savings | Rate of Earnings | Total Saved | Interest Added | Total Value |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| 10 years | \$50 | 6% | \$ 6,000 | \$ 2,284.94 | \$ 8,284.94 |
| 20 years | \$50 | 6% | \$12,000 | \$11,267.55 | \$ 23,267.55 |
| 30 years | \$50 | 6% | \$18,000 | \$32,526.88 | \$ 50,526.88 |
| 40 years | \$50 | 6% | \$24,000 | \$76,122.41 | \$100,122.41 |

Starting early is important.

5. *Other people find saving easier than I/we do.*

One of the overworked sales pitches we hear is, "Buy *this* (whatever it is) and save." This is never true even if you get a rebate. You don't save what you spend.

Most of us need some help getting started. It may be an automatic deduction from our pay or checking account or the enticement of a matching contribution by our employer to a retirement account. Whatever it takes to get started, continue and it will reward you handsomely.

Bad decisions with money are one of the ways Satan hinders Christians. Your challenge is not to make the *one* best decision; it is to make better ones from the multitude of options before you. ■



HOME MISSIONS

The Benjamin Randall Day Offering

November 24 is the most important day for the Home Missions Department. The offering received on this day determines the many programs, plans and outreach of this department. For this special day, the Home Missions Department is making available a book titled, *The Life of Elder Benjamin Randall*, by John Buzzell.

Elder Buzzell was the man who picked up the torch when Benjamin Randall passed off the scene. When Randall died in 1808 there were 51 plus churches, 30 preachers and 2,000 members in the Free Will Baptist movement. A strong man was needed to wear the mantle passed on by Benjamin Randall.

Many believe that man was John Buzzell. He was converted at age 24 under the ministry of Randall and ordained by him two years later with Randall preaching the sermon before 2,000 people. Buzzell became an early leader in the rising denomination. He was an itinerate preacher and spent seven years traveling with Randall.

In 1798 he became pastor of the Parsonsfield, Maine, church. He preached Randall's funeral sermon and also wrote his biography. If Benjamin Randall had a successor, it was John Buzzell. By 1830 there were 450 churches, 375 preachers and 21,497 members in the movement.

This book by John Buzzell will conclude the books published by the Home Missions Department on the early history of Free Will Baptists. Other books offered were *The Journal of Benjamin Randall*, *David Marks . . . What a Preacher! What a Man!*, *Stones of Remembrance*, along with a Benjamin Randall video.

The purpose for offering these historical books has been to make available early historical facts and interesting anecdotes, and to bring to remembrance the precious doctrine of the Free Will Baptist people as well as their struggles and the great price they paid in establishing this denomination. The basis—*Free Will, Free Grace and Free Salvation*.

Second, we want to instill a pride in our doctrine that allows us to preach all of God's Bible. We don't have to tiptoe through, around or over any scripture. We can boldly preach the whole Book.

Third, we want to challenge Free Will Bap-

tists with a new vision of planting churches and spreading the precious gospel that has been committed to our trust.

This continues to be the goal of the Home Missions Department. Your gift to the Benjamin Randall Day Offering helps to make this possible. ■

Services offered by the Home Missions Department

- ▶ Church Planting
- ▶ Missionary Training and Evaluation
- ▶ Assisting Missionaries on the Field
- ▶ Cross-Cultural Ministry
- ▶ Evangelism and Church Growth
- ▶ Seminary of the Cross Bible Institute in Mexico
- ▶ Missionary Building Team and Helping Hands



RANDALL HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

Don't Short-Change the Church!

By Alton Loveless

One of the first things I do when I visit churches is to look at their walls for pictures, teaching resource material and the type of Sunday School literature they use. On one occasion my wife asked why I did this. My response was not even clear to her when I said, "Our churches short-change their people when they use material that does not promote our doctrine or convictions."

Every Sunday you can see them: young people heading for their classes, Bibles in hand, but with a curriculum that does not teach our beliefs. They are at risk of not being taught the whole counsel of God.

Of course, this is not deliberate on the part of our churches. Many carefully evaluate what is taught. Most leaders would assert, "We check carefully to make sure that none of our materials contain anything contrary to what the Bible teaches."

The problem is not what *is* being taught as much as what *is not* being taught. This screams loudly that some key elements of scripture are not worth studying.

As a former pastor, I have learned the importance of fairly presenting the whole Word of God. I also learned from an independent publisher and their curriculum developers about the necessity of leaving out numerous doctrinal subjects in order to sell to different denominations. They would lose business if certain teachings were included.

Many people do not know that *all* publishing houses have theological agendas. Many believe in eternal security and baptism as the door to the church. They teach against open communion, require taking the Lord's supper every Lord's day and oppose feet washing.

Most doctrines that Free Will Baptists hold dear are opposed by many publishers. Little by little, churches who use these materials become indoctrinated. Often the end result is doctrinal confusion or a departure from the denomination.

Some are now teaching different positions concerning the role of the Holy Spirit. Their doctrines regarding the baptism of the Spirit, the Spirit's filling and the gifts of the Spirit do not agree with ours. Some even advocate an abuse of the Holy Spirit and His power.

After 26 years in curriculum development or marketing, I see more unexpected changes in publishing houses today than ever before. This is not only in doctrinal shifts, but in selling of good publishing houses to firms that deny the fundamentals of the blessed Word of God.

Most independent presses pay royalties to the National Council of Churches. If the company masthead states that they use the International Lesson Series, then that company pays three percent of their gross sales to the National Council of Churches for that product. Many members of this group blatantly deny the inspiration of scripture.

The problem increased even more when one of the users of the International Lesson Series recently purchased two other companies who were once good companies. Both organizations believed the opposite of the parent company, but the buyout gave the richer company more of the Sunday School market. No longer is the Bible or doctrine as important but how much profit can be made if the curriculum is made more palatable to a larger number of churches.

The problem of leaving out the scripture and doctrinal teachings which we believe must not be underestimated. If we do not teach our doctrinal distinctives and cherished biblical truths to our children and converts, we can expect the next generation to lack commitment and loyalty. This loss of loyalty could potentially extend to the Word of God.

I am committed to printing what we believe and making our products better than any of the competition. Don't cheat your people. Even if it looks better, it probably isn't. ■

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Carpe Diem *For Our Teens!*

By Brad Sneed
Youth Ministry Teacher, FWBBC

The world is on the edge of a new millennium. It is looking the 21st Century in the face. Parents and youth of our denomination and the world are looking for some kind of hope, not just for the future, but for here and now. Recently, a teenager in a Free Will Baptist church was asked what question he most wanted answered. He said, "What reason can you give me to get up in the morning?" He, like many, wants hope. We have the answer. We have the real Hope. Now is the time to share it. *Carpe diem!* Seize the day!

Hula Hoops, bell bottoms, The Partridge Family, poodle skirts, and avocado green appliances have come and (for most folks) gone. A parent's greatest fear is no longer peer pressure from someone like Eddie Haskell. Teens are different. Having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ ranked 14th on a list of important things in today's teens lives. Behind good health, close friends, and living comfortably. Nine of 10 Christian teens say that what is right and wrong depends on the individual and the situation. Some 57% of teens say that lying is sometimes necessary. The monumental issue of reaching this generation with the gospel is, "How?"

We need to understand teens and their culture. We need to impact teens by building relationships with them and encouraging other adults to do the same. We must walk our talk. We must pray for their salvation, development, and safety. We must share the love of Christ in ways that are relevant to them. Free Will Baptist Bible College is equipping men and women to do that.

In a society where the top three concerns among teens are education, relationships, and emotional pressures, the Youth Ministry graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College will be prepared to minister in a way that will nurture them spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Leading experts say that the breakdown of families is the leading cause of America's moral decline. We are developing youth ministers who will reach out to whole families. We believe that our graduates will be seen as those who come along side parents to help them with their children.

We are teaching our students the importance of building relationships with teens and adults. Jesus Christ built his earthly ministry on relationships. If Jesus chose to spend so much of His precious time building relationships with people,

then we should build our ministries by the same pattern.

The Bachelor of Science program will prepare our students to plan and operate a total youth program and to assist the pastor and his staff in all areas of church life. Each student will participate in a youth ministry internship, either for two semesters during the school year or for 10 weeks during the summer. This must be done under the watchful eye of an experienced pastor or youth minister. (If you would like to have a youth minister intern at your church, please call FWBBC at 615/383-1340.)

FWBBC is also developing a Youth Ministry Team to work in camps, hold retreats, conduct youth revivals, and more in churches and associations.

We, at FWBBC, want to carry the burden for this generation to our churches and to the world. That is why we encourage our students to *carpe diem*. ■



Mr. Sneed joined the FWBBC faculty this fall. He attended the Bible College in 1985-86, graduated from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, and earned his Master's at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



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YOUTH UPDATE

PENNIES (4.5 OUNCES/ROLL): 150 LB (2400 OZ.) PERSON = \$266.66

(3200 OZ.) PERSON = \$901.41 250 LB (4000 OZ.) PERSON = \$1126.76 EACH 1 REACH 1

You Want To Know My What?!!

**EACH
one
REACH 1**



200 LB (3200 OZ.) PERSON = \$355.55 250 LB (4000 OZ.) PERSON = \$444.44 NICKELS

The Youth Ministries Division has announced the first stage in our denominational youth effort to raise \$100,000.00 to rebuild our destroyed mission church in Puerto Rico. We must raise \$30,000.00 by Thanksgiving Day, 1996.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO IT?

Pick out a person (your pastor, youth pastor, S.S. Teacher, etc.) and get them to divulge their weight...then raise their weight in Pennies or Nickels. See the scale of amounts in the border of this page to find weight/amount comparisons!

If your youth group and 84 others will raise their 200 lb youth pastor's weight in pennies, we would raise \$30,221.75

If your youth group and 44 others will raise their 150 lb youth pastor's weight in nickels, we would raise \$30,422.70

**We CAN Reach Out Together!
DON'T FORGET...**

THANKSGIVING DAY OFFERING!

Please send Check or Money Order to: Youth Ministries Division
P.O. Box 17306 • Nashville, TN 37217

(7.1 OUNCES/ROLL): 150 LB (2400 OZ.) PERSON = \$676.06 200 LB

And Nothing But The Truth

By Jay Sekulow and Keith Fournier

(Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996, 276 pp., hardback, \$19.99.)



Thomas Marberry

This book is a description of the work of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), a public interest law firm and educational organization devoted to the protection of religious liberty. The organization supports pro-liberty, pro-life and pro-family causes; it defends the rights of people to express their religious faith in the public sector.

Sekulow and Fournier are the founders of ACLJ. They began the organization when they observed that people are often denied the right to express their religious faith in public schools and other public settings. In this book, they give many specific examples.

One story is about a second-grader named Aimee who lives in Tempe, Arizona. One morning in March 1995 she was working in her school's computer lab learning the key board. She typed the word "Jesus" on the screen, and the teacher immediately came over and told her that it was unacceptable to type such a word in the school computer.

She was given a disciplinary warning because of the incident.

Aimee's mother wrote a protest letter to the superintendent and contacted the ACLJ. The ACLJ wrote a letter to the school reminding its administrators that the Supreme Court in the case of *Shelton v. Tucker* in 1967 specifically upheld the free speech rights of students in public schools. The school was forced to destroy all disciplinary records and apologize for its handling of the case.

The authors cite other examples of the denial of religious freedom. In a number of areas, students have been denied the right to form Bible clubs or other religious organizations while other non-academic clubs are allowed to use school facilities. Such actions are specifically prohibited by the Equal Access Act which was passed by Congress several years ago. ACLJ attorneys assist students and their families in protecting their constitutional rights.

As the authors write, "Christian students can't be treated like second-class citizens or marginalized in the public sector. Religious faith doesn't prevent Christian groups from gaining

access to normal means of public expression."

The ACLJ confronted an unusual situation in Canada in 1992. The Canadian government seized the transmitting equipment of several Christian television stations alleging that they were operating without proper permits. They were operating without them because the government refused to issue permits to religious broadcasters.

The operators of the Christian stations argued that this refusal violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which guaranteed freedom of conscience and religion. On October 14, 1994, the agency of the Canadian government which regulates broadcasting reversed itself and began issuing permits to Christian broadcasters.

It is sad when Christians and other religious people must go to court in order to defend their freedom of expression, but that is the reality of the world in which we live. In a world like this, we need organizations like the ACLJ. ■

BEYOND BELIEF



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How to Feel Really Awful

Early one morning when Oklahoma evangelist Wade Jernigan was president of California Christian College, I saw him walking slowly across the outdoor basketball court headed to his office. With his corduroy coat bunched up around his shoulders, Wade looked like nine miles of bad road. But it was Monday and I had to ask.

"Morning, Wade!" I chirped in my brightest tone, "How are you today?"

He lasered bloodshot eyes in my direction and said, "I feel awful, thank the Lord."

His answer surprised me so much that I forgot to ask why he felt that way. Whatever the problem, he moved past it. Wade always knew how to feel awful and then throw it in the corner when he got done with it.

That's not true with everybody. Some people raise feeling awful to an art form. No matter what's out of whack in your life, theirs is worse.

Two months ago, an attorney handed me a three-page document with, "Here, Jack, I've read enough of your writing to know that you could benefit from this."

The evil document was titled, "How to Feel Really Awful." The 16 tightly-written suggestions demonstrated how to become more proficient in gathering misery on one's plate.

I commend to you suggestion #4: "Constantly Criticize Others—Have high standards for others. Nag others so that they will improve."

Suggestion 14 gets right to the point. "Interpretation—Whatever happens, whatever is said, interpret it to mean that you are incompetent, stupid or unlovable. Be creative. Distort. Feel rotten!"

Amplifying on that theme, suggestion #9 advises, "Mistakes—Call yourself 'stupid' every time you discover you have made a mistake. If

your mistake is pointed out to you, take it as a rejection of you personally. Be offended. You're under attack, so act defensive. Also, be angry that you weren't told sooner, before you 'made a fool of yourself.'"

Practicing these three and the 13 other suggestions will guarantee you lifetime membership in the "victims of society" club.

Near midnight Monday in Fort Worth during our July national convention, I encountered 20 or more teens as I walked the eight blocks from Tarrant County Convention Center to my hotel. Loud and posturing as tough guys, they obviously were not part of our youth conference.

Three young men dashed across the street directly at me. I paused. At the last moment, they veered away. One wore a black T-shirt that screamed its printed message, "This is your world in which we grow and we will grow to hate you."

The trio made sure I saw the bold words. They let me know that I didn't impress them scurrying along with my suit and briefcase. Already, they were blaming others for the misery in their lives.

Three days later, the convention closed, and we wrapped up an afternoon of post-convention meetings. My boss and I stopped at a shoe repair shop on Main Street. While he purchased shoe strings, I began writing down words from a sign which caught my eye.

An elderly black man saw what I was doing and said, "If you like that sign, I'll just give it to you. We've got an extra one." He pulled it off the wall and handed it to me.

The sign said, "*If you are grouchy, irritable or just plain mean, there will be a \$10 charge for putting up with you.*" Wish I could have given it to

those three hard cases with the fiery eyes on Monday.

We all experience tough times.

The solution to tough times more often than not is our attitude toward adversity. Some call it the Tea Bag Syndrome. Here's how it works.

It takes hot water to bring out the real color in tea. The tea bag is made for hot water. And the hotter the water, the better the tea.

James Snyder said, "Likewise, the Christian is tempered by adversity, the hotter the better. For it is in the adversity that the real qualities of Christianity come to the surface."

Perhaps that's why Stephen, as he was stoned to death, pleaded for mercy on his assailants, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge," (Acts 7:60).

Perhaps that's also why Joseph, even after his envious brothers conspired to kill him and lie to their father about his disappearance, gathered them in his arms and forgave them with the words, "... ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good..." (Genesis 50:20).

Perhaps that's why the Captain of our salvation, at the worst moment in human history, lifted His voice on behalf of those who crucified Him, "... Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." (Luke 23:34).

Better or bitter. Those are the two alternatives when life gets awful. While Paul was locked in a Roman prison, he felt awful and wrote half the New Testament. While John Bunyan was locked in the Bedford prison, he felt awful and wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*. While Adolph Hitler was locked in Landsberg prison, he felt awful and wrote *Mein Kampf*.

Do you feel awful? What are you writing in your prison of circumstances? Whatever you write, it will change your world . . . and mine. ■



Jack Williams

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