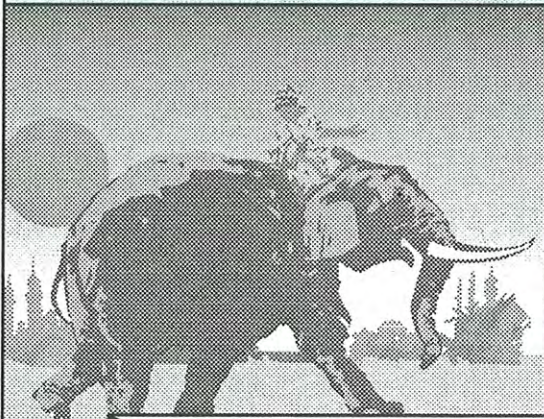
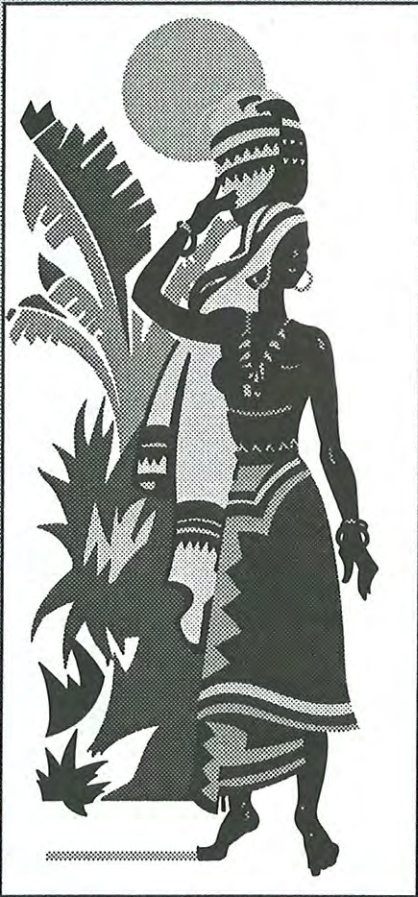


APRIL 1997

CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



.....
**Missionary
Who Came
Home**

.....
They're Here!

.....
**Accountable
Ambassadors**

.....
**The Resurrection
News**

INSIDE

APRIL 1997

VOLUME 44, NO. 4

ARTICLES

- 4 The Missionary Who Came Home**
After 28 years in Africa, the two missionaries suddenly had no place to go.
- 6 They're Here!**
Doing cross-cultural missions in 21st century America. There's a theological reason why so many immigrants are moving to the USA. There's also a unique door of opportunity to influence the world.

- 13 Convention Housing Form**
15 Convention Pre-Registration Form

COLUMNS

- 3 The Secretary Speaks**
Accountable Ambassadors
- 22 The Department Pages**
- 26 Especially for Young Preachers**
- 27 Green Tree Bible Study**
James the Martyr
- 28 Top Shelf**
- 29 Youth Update**
- 30 Our Readers Comment**
- 31 Briefcase**
The Resurrection News

NEWS

- 17 Free Will Baptist Newsfront**
College Presidents Meet
Arsonist Burns Church Bus
Reverend John Floyd Dies
FWBBC Enrolls 364
Foundation Delivers Endowment Gifts
North Carolina Women's Retreat
Master's Men Clarification
Pigeon Forge Preaching Conference
Instrumental Ensemble to Perform
Discount Air Fares to Convention
- 21 Currently**

Editor-in-chief: Dr. Melvin Worthington
Editor: Jack Williams
Editorial Assistant: Marilyn Pritchard
Circulation: Dari Goodfellow
Printed by: Randall House Publications

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

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

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

age paid at Antioch, TN and additional offices.

Copyright privileges, reserved © 1997. Member of the Evangelical Press Association. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CONTACT, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. USPS 130-660

Accountable Ambassadors



Melvin Worthington

The New Testament writers use a variety of terms to describe those who embrace the gospel. One such term is *ambassador*. The term is used in a figurative sense in the New Testament; it means a messenger or representative. No finer or more noble designation can be used to denote the followers of Christ.

Paul alludes to this when he declares, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" (II Corinthians 5:20). Paul describes himself as "an ambassador in bonds."

Ambassadors do not represent or speak for themselves but for the person they represent. As Christ's ambassadors, Christians represent and speak for Him.

Transformation

When Paul describes Christians as ambassadors, he says that they have become new creatures in Christ. This transforming experience is what we call salvation.

This transforming experience is essential to be an ambassador for Christ. As God's ambassador, Paul continually referred to his experience on the road to Damascus which transformed his life.

Training

Another characteristic of an ambassador is training. From the time of one's birth, God providentially prepares one for service. Paul is described as a chosen vessel who would preach the gospel to the Gentiles. The years before his conversion, God was preparing Paul for ministry.

Daniel was trained providentially before he was captured and taken to Babylon. God's training of His chosen

servants is a continual experience. Nothing just happens in the life of an ambassador. Those ambassadors who respond to God's training program are effective regardless of where they serve.

Testing

Ambassadors are tried and tested. The three Hebrew children (Daniel 3) present a gripping illustration of how God tests His ambassadors. Having passed the test, they were promoted. Abraham was tested when God commanded him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham passed the test.

James says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:2-3). Ambassadors develop strength, stability and steadfastness through divine testing.

Testimony

Ambassadors must carefully guard their testimony. They dare not give the enemy an occasion to blaspheme the Lord Jesus. Daniel 6 details the story of Daniel in the lion's den. Upon his promotion to leader in the kingdom, charges were made against him. He was thoroughly investigated, and his accusers came to the conclusion that they could find no fault or error in the performance of his duties.

The Secretary's Schedule

April 1997

- Mar 30- First FWB Church
- Apr 2 Darlington, South Carolina
- 6 Central FWB Church
Royal Oak, Michigan
- 10-12 New Mexico District Association
- 25-26 CMP Board Meeting
Snowbird, Utah

They did discover that on every occasion when there was a confrontation between the god of Babylon and the God of Israel that Daniel always chose to obey his God. One of the most effective tools that God's ambassadors have is a gracious, gentle and godly life.

Task

God's ambassadors must have the right concept and commitment to their task. Ambassadors do not appoint themselves or develop their own agenda. They present someone else's agenda. In the case of the Christian ambassador, Christ has established the agenda.

Ambassadors are to be witnesses. They persuade men to be reconciled to God. They have the message of reconciliation. They have been charged with the ministry of reconciliation. They serve as models of reconciliation.

Triumph

Paul reminds us that victory is ours when he says, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of our Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:57-58).

Again Paul declares, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place" (II Corinthians 2:14).

May we never forget that there is victory in Christ. That wonderful assurance gives comfort and courage to God's ambassadors. As an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ, remember who you represent and reflect His likeness in every aspect of life and labor. ■

The Missionary



Who Came Home

By Norman and Bessie Richards

The doctor's words struck us with unexpected, knockout force. "Norman, due to your present medical condition, I can no longer recommend your continued missionary service in the tropics. Do you have any questions?"

Any questions? Yes, multitudes of them, but in our state of shock we couldn't formulate them. Bessie and I had anticipated our own version of good news that historical day in June 1994.

Confident that I was sufficiently recuperated from surgery and the life-threatening crisis that followed, we expected my doctor to smile and tell us to pack our bags for Côte d'Ivoire. Instead, we had just heard indirectly from our Commander-in-Chief, "Transfer Stateside; effective immediately."

Change of Orders

Family and friends could never resist asking us soon after our arrival in

the States for furloughs, "Are you going back to Africa?" Without hesitation, we always replied, "Oh, yes! God hasn't put out a stop sign yet."

When, as teenagers, we answered God's call for missionary service, we promised to go wherever He led for as long as He wanted. And for 28 years, He assigned us to front-line duty in the Agni speaking region of Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa.

To be honest, now that our transfer had come, we questioned God's timing. Why now? We were ready to begin construction of the new church at Agnibilekro, the hub of our ministry in the area. (Thanks to Arkansas youth and the Norman Invasion project.) Who would take my place as coordinator of the construction?

So much remained to be done in leadership training and reaching unevangelized villages. "Lord, can't we please stay just a while longer?"

God lovingly reminded us that the future of the work is in His hands, not

ours. We had faithfully completed our assignment. Maybe in eternity God will answer the whys.

The Foreign Missions Board and General Director Eugene Waddell recognized our need to return briefly to Côte d'Ivoire to say our farewells and close that chapter of our lives. We had lived, loved and learned in this land for more than a quarter of a century. Here we had raised our two sons to adulthood.

It was hard to say goodbye to our missionary family and African Christians with whom we had shared so much. Yet, in the midst of our sadness, we had perfect peace that God would complete the work He had begun in the hearts of the African Christians.

Many of them came from far and near to reassure us of their love and total commitment to God. We could step forward into the next phase of our life knowing that God's plan is always right.

A New Direction

Although we returned to our homeland, we soon found that the United States is a rapidly changing culture. Furloughs had kept us in touch only superficially with American society. And there is no denying that we had changed personally.

Yes, we are Americans, but we had absorbed more of the European and African culture than we realized. Praise God for family and friends who prayed, loved and encouraged us through those months of reverse culture shock and adjustment.

When the news had circulated that the Richards were home to stay, various opportunities for service opened before us. However, after much prayer, we felt God leading us to a home missions ministry.

Our hearts were burdened for the vast number of immigrants coming to the States from every corner of the globe. Having lived as foreigners ourselves, could we not reach out to them in love and understanding and, most important, with the gospel?

Brother Roy Thomas, who was Home Missions director at that time, challenged us with church planting and cross-cultural ministry in the New Orleans area which has French, Spanish and African heritage. Once again God gave us His "Go" sign.

The Crescent City

A few weeks after settling on the north shore of the Greater New Orleans area, we were shocked to see, via a local television newscast, a voodoo ceremony taking place in the streets of New Orleans to combat the crime epidemic.

Was this America? Time and further investigation revealed that voodoo is strongly practiced in this area. We are thankful that our years in Africa helped prepare us for this mission field.

The spiritual warfare here is as fierce as any we fought overseas. Religion abounds, predominately Roman Catholicism, but many people boldly declare, either verbally or by actions, "I have no time for God."

The biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah have nothing on the Big Easy, New Orleans. Residents and

the constant stream of tourists are enticed by the Enemy into the beckoning sex clubs, gambling operations, drugs and alcohol.

Perhaps a popular slogan sums up the lifestyle of many: "Let The Good Times Roll."

Meeting Neighbors

Do we plunge into the bars or stand on the street corners condemning those people to Hell? No, we don't, even though we abhor every sinful act and speak against the degradation around us. Call us cowards if you wish, but we've chosen other ways to communicate God's message.

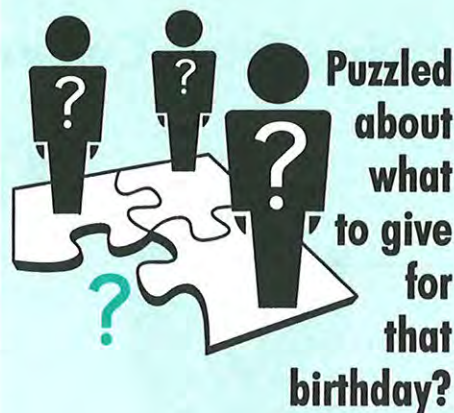
We're busy building relationships with those around us—neighbors, business acquaintances, anyone possible. As they get to know us, opportunities come to introduce them to Jesus and share His word through Bible classes and counseling.

Neighborhood kids stop by to play and tell us about their escapades. They've found a listening ear, a filled cookie jar and someone who cares.

For these two missionaries who came back, that's what life is all about. Loving God with all our heart, letting Him love others through us, and keeping a suitcase ready for His assignments. ■



ABOUT THE WRITERS: Norman and Bessie Richards are serving as home missionaries to the New Orleans area. They have begun the New Hope Free Will Baptist Mission in Slidell, just across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans.



How about a subscription to Contact?

Just fill out the coupon below, clip and mail to

Contact
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

- Please sign me up for *Contact*, too
 Payment Enclosed (\$12 / year)
 Bill Me

Please send a gift subscription to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Doing Cross-Cultural Missions in 21st Century America

They're Here!

By Eddie Payne



I guess you have noticed by now. They're everywhere! In my local grocery store, they speak a Babel of languages. One of the evening managers is Kurdish. Some of them are short and stocky with dark hair, shiny black eyes and a very different skin color from my own. Others are tall and thin. They buy strange and exotic foods.

And their clothing; have you ever seen anything like it? Some wear sandals. The women often have colorful scarves and wraps on their heads. Even the ones who don't look so different and speak English are hard to understand. I'm sure some of them are Muslims. Is it safe to be around them with their reputation?

Why are there so many of them? Why do whole clans live in one house? Why do they look frightened or disoriented? Why do they have so many children? Are they taking jobs that "real Americans" need? Have they brought their own religions to try and convert us?

Why did they leave their homeland? What is it about America that attracted them? Why did they come to my town? What will this do to the school system? Will we have to learn and teach their languages too? Are these people a threat to our lifestyle? Are we in danger of being overrun by their increasing numbers?

Removing Cultural Blinders •

As Christians we face today's rapidly changing ethnic and social realities head-on. We dare not allow ourselves to become reactionary.

All humans everywhere are prejudiced. We look out on the world and judge everyone else by ourselves, our values, standards, worldview, socio-economic conditions and a multitude of other qualities. Our Adamic nature pushes us to feel superior to those who differ from ourselves.

My family worked in Ivory Coast for many years among the Lobi people. In that part of the world, they are seen by all others as the lowest on the cultural, social and economic totem pole. Ironically, the name they call themselves means literally "The People."

Bob Sjogren says that we all have a tendency to talk about "us" and "them," implying that "we" are supe-

rior to "them."

We, as believers, want to see our changing society through God's eyes and understand His perspective. We struggle to lay aside our biases and ask: What does God think about "us" and "them?" Why has He permitted them to be here? How does God want us relating to them?

Scriptural Principles

A brief look at scriptural principles will help adjust our thoughts and actions toward our new neighbors.

Why Are They Here?

The Apostle Paul, while doing cross-cultural evangelism in Athens (Acts 17:26-27), addressed the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers and said that God had . . . "made of one blood all nations of men. . ."

The same passage from the NIV states, "From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us."

Three striking truths are found in this passage. 1) We humans are all kinfolk! 2) God places people where they are according to His sovereign purpose. 3) God's reason for placing people has redemptive overtones. Their geographical locations play a role in their potential redemption. Wow! That means that *they are here because God worked it out for them to be here!*

Deuteronomy 32:8 is interesting in that light. "When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided up mankind (separated the sons of Adam) he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel."

The implication seems to be that if the Jews ever had revival, there would always be enough of them to evangelize the other nations (peoples) of earth.

How Are We to Treat Them?

Leviticus 19:33-34 states, "When a

stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong [KJV 'vex', NIV 'not mistreat']. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you [KJV 'as one born', NIV 'one of your native born'], and you shall love him as yourself; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God," NASV. Note three impacting principles in this passage.

- 1) Do not vex, wrong, mistreat the "stranger" among you.
- 2) Treat them as if they were native born.
- 3) Love them as you love yourself.

Hebrews 13:2 implies that we should be careful not to overlook an angel by being inhospitable to strangers. Foreigners (non-Jewish) were permitted to pray at the Temple in Israel. Isaiah said, ". . . my house shall be called a house of prayer for all people," (56:7b). Jesus empha-

What You Can Do

- ◆ Friendship partners with international students. ISI - InterFace - etc.
- ◆ Volunteer language helpers for adult immigrants.
- ◆ Classroom volunteers in ethnically diverse situations.
- ◆ Refugee resettlement.
- ◆ Help recent arrivals learn how to shop, get drivers license, go to the doctor, etc.
- ◆ Be a friend to new arrivals.
- ◆ Invite "strangers" to visit in your home and be ready to respond to their return invitations.
- ◆ Become a learner when you find out what cultures and languages are around you. Read about the people themselves. Learn about their country, its political and religious history, the main means of livelihood and anything else that will show your genuine concern for your new friends.
- ◆ Be a good listener. Listen to their stories (everyone has a story) and learn how to tell them our stories.
- ◆ Be prepared for dialogue about religion.
- ◆ Accept them as they are with genuine hope of seeing them transformed by the power of Christ.
- ◆ Help retired and older members of our churches see the importance of "elders" in other cultures. Encourage them to become involved as "elders" in cross-cultural outreach.
- ◆ Build a solid prayer base.

sized this fact when He cleansed the Temple twice during His ministry.

How Are We to Invite Them?

In Acts 26:18, Paul's job description as Apostle to the Gentiles (foreigners) may give us a clue. God said, that He was sending Paul to the Gentiles, "... to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

We are to actively strive for their salvation by: 1) Opening their eyes (give truth to expose error); 2) Turn them from darkness to light (deal with their spiritual blindness); 3) Turn them from the power of Satan to God (let the power of God unmask the counterfeit king, Satan the usurper). In doing this we; 4) Make available their forgiveness, and; 5) Make possible their sanctification.

If God places the "nations" (people groups) from many inaccessible parts of the earth next door to us, we must acknowledge this as part of His great strategy to bring salvation to the nations.

Will God's Plan Work?

Let's take a peek at the future! In Revelation 5:9-10, the Lamb takes the book from the hand of God as all Heaven falls prostrate before Him. They sing a new song composed especially for this occasion and held in reserve for many earth years until the time set by God Himself.

"And they sang a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom of priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.' "

God's redemptive plan will work, and we have the opportunity to invite peoples from the nations to the heavenly praise party in honor of the Lamb of God who shed His blood for our redemption and theirs.

What Your Church Can Do

- ◆ Organize classes to teach English to non-English speaking adults, provide child care during the sessions.
- ◆ Share a worship facility with a non-English group.
- ◆ Adopt an unreached people group, begin prayer and planning to network with others to reach them.
- ◆ Get involved in refugee resettlement.
- ◆ Provide community services to ethnic groups in the area of the church (use church facilities).
- ◆ Provide Christian literature (Bibles, tracts, etc.) audio and video cassettes to ethnic groups.
- ◆ Encourage students in the church to study foreign languages and develop friendships with speakers of those languages.
- ◆ Do teen mission trips to urban centers and offer assistance to those ministering in culturally diverse environments.
- ◆ Network with other conservative churches to target special ethnic needs in your town or city.
- ◆ Get your youth involved in overseas mission trips.
- ◆ Develop work/ministry opportunities for the adults in your congregation. Urban projects, practical repairs and helps for immigrants, overseas work/mission trips.
- ◆ Provide clothes closet and pantry for newly arriving strangers or those you discover who have such needs.
- ◆ Provide practical helps for ethnics. How to fill out job applications, how to do the day-to-day things we all know how to do.
- ◆ Pray for some of your members to get a burden to do straightforward evangelism among the strangers among you.
- ◆ Win some and train them to reach their own. Provide a place and practical help to get them on their way.
- ◆ Offer your members opportunities to learn cultural awareness, anthropology, outreach methods to other ethnic groups. (Seminar/workshop format helpful.)
- ◆ Pray and look for any and all ways to impact all those around your church with the gospel.
- ◆ Recognize that all evangelism and soul winning is work. It becomes even more difficult when we must overcome cultural, linguistic and religious barriers.
- ◆ Learn the virtue of patience. Most cultures don't make quick decisions and they do not do it as individuals. Expect groups to decide together.
- ◆ Plan for involvement. Cross-cultural ministry normally doesn't just happen. It takes prayer, work, planning.

Unparalleled Opportunities

The nations on our doorstep today represent the greatest challenge and opportunity ever given us to play a decisive role in fulfilling the Great Commission by discipling the nations from our own homeland, even those that are closed to us as missionaries.

We are called upon—no, forced to make decisions. We may choose to reach out to them with God's love and redemption and see them become fellow members of the family of God.

We may, on the other hand, ignore or even reject them. Maybe

we are afraid because we really don't know and understand them. Maybe because of our racial prejudices. Maybe because we think they are unreachable. Maybe because of apathy.

If we choose the difficult path of building friendships and relationships with them, we will be amazed at how God honors and uses our feeble efforts. We may actually become the human instrument God uses to introduce another unreached people group to the heavenly King and their invitation to the forever praise party in Revelation 5.

Consequences of Failing

If, instead, we ignore or reject them, we may live to see God's heavy hand of judgment on us. God may use them as instruments of righteous judgment and wrath on our unfaithfulness to witness and evan-



gelize those He puts in our path.

Historical Footnote

When God's chosen people did not fulfill their missionary mandate to bless the peoples of the earth, God eventually sent them to the nations against their will. The horrors of the deportations and captivity were among the most fruitful missionary times for God's people.

They were scattered among the nations where the knowledge of Jehovah, the true and living God, was made known. By the time of the ministry of the Apostle Paul, there were Jewish settlements all over the Roman world with synagogues composed of both Jews, proselytes and God fearers. These became the initial launching pad for the expansion of the church in the first centuries.

When Christians in the Roman Empire failed to make serious efforts to evangelize their barbarian neighbors to the north, God permitted the barbarians to overrun the Roman Empire. The women and girls they

carried away as slaves and concubines were the instruments of introducing Christianity to these heathen hordes. Great sorrow and suffering came, but out of evil and disaster, the gospel was slowly introduced to other people groups.

When the barbarians in turn failed to take seriously the task of sharing the gospel, the fierce Vikings from further north came in wave after wave to overrun the Christianized barbarians. The cycle was repeated again.

We have the unsaved peoples of the earth among us today. How will we react? Are we Christian enough to recognize God's hand in this and become pro-active in evangelistic outreach? Or will we withdraw into our culturally secure shells and bemoan our fate of being overrun by "them?"

What Are Free Will Baptists Doing?

Last July the National Association voted to assign the responsibility of developing and coordinating our Free Will Baptist cross-cultural ministry outreach in the United States to the Home Mission Department. Home Missions, already engaged in Hispanic ministries both in Mexico and here in the lower 48, is developing plans to move us as a people into the difficult arena of cross-cultural ministry and church planting.

Complete and accurate research has not yet been done, but some bits of information are available. The March 1995 issue of *Contact* (p. 27) detailed the then known ethnic ministries.

They were located in nine states and involved 27 churches—12 are designated Hispanic churches; 8 are noted as sponsoring Hispanic ministries; one sponsors a Native American ministry; one sponsors a Taiwanese ministry; one sponsors a Korean ministry; one has a Korean church using their facilities; two are multi-racial congregations.

Those figures do not include the 37 churches in Mexico pastored by national pastors, nor the staff at the *Seminary of the Cross Bible Institute* in Reynosa.

Since the 1995 report in *Contact*, other efforts by home missionaries have indicated developing ministries to people of other languages. There are, no doubt, other congregations and individuals involved in various

What States Can Do

- ◆ Research the most needy areas in your state for ethnic ministry.
- ◆ Develop a plan to find and send capable ministers (both lay and clergy) to do the work.
- ◆ Target urban centers.
 - Look at the decaying inner city. That may be the only place ethnic groups may be able to live.
 - Seek concentrations of ethnic groups.
 - Find felt needs to meet that may open the doors to evangelism and church planting.
 - Plan for the long-haul.

kinds of outreach to non-English speaking peoples.

Ongoing Ethnic Ministries

Mexico

The current home missions works in Mexico are largely U.S.A. coordinated and funded using nationals to train and reach their own people. The efforts have proven fruitful and promise an even greater harvest in the future.

Cuban Refugees

Many of the works in Florida and California are the results of Cuban Christian refugees coming to our shores who established their own churches, largely without our help. They have planted and nurtured successful churches.

Hispanic

Cooperative efforts in California between Hispanics and Anglos are commendable. Especially encouraging have been the transfer of church properties to Hispanic congregations as the ethnic balances have changed in many communities in the Los Angeles area. This will perhaps serve as a model for other areas of the denomination as similar ethno-linguistic balances shift.

Some Hispanic ministries are outgrowths of MK's or returned missionaries from countries where Spanish is spoken.

One work in North Carolina is the direct result of a teen visitation min-

What Districts Can Do

- ◆ Plan as a group to target unreached ethnic peoples within your area of responsibility.
- ◆ Spend much time in prayer seeking the mind of God.
- ◆ Research your area and find those who have the least chance of genuine biblical witness.
- ◆ Don't duplicate what other Christian groups are doing and compete for the same people.
- ◆ Cooperate to find capable workers and plant ethnic churches.
- ◆ Develop local resource centers for all your churches to use in ethnic outreach ministries.
- ◆ Provide educational opportunities for your constituency to learn cultural dynamics, cross-cultural communication and ministry skills, basics of the religions of your target people(s).
- ◆ Don't be discouraged if you do not see quick results. It takes time to do good cross-cultural ministry.
- ◆ Provide frequent and current information about what is going on in your cooperative efforts.
- ◆ Don't sell off unused church facilities. Seek to make them available for ethnic ministries.

istry and their spontaneous witness to people in their neighborhood which included Hispanics living there.

Nashville Mix

Here in Nashville there are five levels of cross-cultural ministry being done by Free Will Baptists.

First, there's a Hispanic church as a separate entity within a local church (Woodbine FWB Church) having their own pastor and sharing facilities. Second, a Chinese church uses Horton Heights FWB Church facilities.

Third, a member of Donelson FWB Church is working with an organization to reach Kurdish refugees in town. Several have been led to the Lord. Just recently the first Kurdish preacher led to the Lord and discipled by a FWB church member returned to Europe to do evangelism and church planting among his own people.

Fourth, Free Will Baptist Bible College students serve as English language helpers and friends to internationals here attending a special institute to study the English language. One Bible college graduate teaches at this institute.

Fifth, members of local congregations serve as friendship partners with university students through a ministry dedicated to reaching international students (ISI, InterFace).

All cross-cultural efforts are to be commended and encouraged. We must acknowledge, however, that we are just scratching the surface of what could be done. Only now are we seeing the full magnitude of what it will mean to become a truly missionary people and understand the importance of our role in reaching out to the "strangers" among us.

Where Do We Go from Here?

Here are some practical observations to help us seek the mind and will of God in this critical matter.

Let's find out where God is going and go there with Him. We must order our priorities—Seek first to build the Kingdom of God; maintain biblical honesty and integrity; be loyal to our denominational expression of the body of Christ.

Our significance as a denomination is directly related to our effective-

What the Denomination Can Do

- ◆ Research and discover the most needy areas of concentrated ethnic groupings.
- ◆ Seek out groups that we are most likely to effectively reach.
- ◆ Realize that in cross-cultural ministry one size does not fit all. Every group is deserving of a strategy tailored especially to their needs.
- ◆ Get all our denominational training institutions on the same page in preparing students to face post-modern 21st century America. Make sure that good programs are available which address the unique problems of ministering cross-culturally.
 - Foreign languages
 - Cultural anthropology
 - Cross-cultural communication and church planting
 - Developing strategies
 - Spiritual warfare
 - Teaching English as a second (or foreign) language
- ◆ Provide seminars and workshops in strategic areas to train and equip our people for doing cross-cultural ministry.
- ◆ Utilize the national convention for workshops and seminars to help motivate, challenge and prepare our people for effective cross-cultural ministry.
- ◆ Provide a clearing-house of information and resources.
- ◆ Develop an Internet network of resource sharing.
- ◆ Ask Home Missions to put together a comprehensive package of goals, information, instructions to facilitate and help efforts at the local level.
- ◆ Plan a week of prayer and fasting for the leadership of all denominational agencies. Break the perception of competition by developing a unity among executives, staff and board members.
 - Sit down together and put the puzzle on the table. See where each piece for each department and agency fits for purposeful cooperative ministry.
 - › Roles of our training institutions
 - › Role of Randall House
 - › Role of WNAC
 - › Role of Home Missions
 - › Role of Foreign Missions
 - Strategize as a body, not just individual components.
- ◆ Make wise use of our resources.
 - Incorporate those with cross-cultural experience on foreign fields into homeland cross-cultural ministries.
 - Make better use of our denominational schools as centers for short-term training for persons desiring to do cross-cultural ministry.
- ◆ Make priority intent statements as a corporate body.
 - Give up individual petty agendas.
 - Stop playing trivial pursuit.
 - Stop the deadly infighting that has sapped our strength for decades.
 - Ask God what He is doing and how we can do it with Him.
 - Set a course of action and ignore the critics.
 - Learn to trust one another.
 - Spend time, energies and resources fighting the devil, not one another. Stop jaunting with windmills.
 - Be men and women of integrity who are concerned first and foremost with the kingdom of God.
 - Determine to build one another up, not tear down, affirm rather than criticize.

ness in filling God's place for us in His kingdom work. Let us correct our sinful attitudes and prejudices. Let's look around at our mission field and discover what peoples we need to reach.

It's time to stretch ourselves to learn languages and cultures in order to do effective evangelism. Let's overcome the fear of man and learn to radically obey God. Let's ignore the naysayers and critics. Don't stop for barking dogs—Acknowledge their presence by ignoring them; don't retaliate in kind, they may bite if you do.

Network as never before to help and encourage one another. Don't stop any current outreach efforts. Don't reinvent the wheel. Learn from those who have done and are doing cross-cultural ministry.

Let's examine the levels of devel-

opment at which this ministry must take place.

- 1) Local church
- 2) District associations
- 3) State
- 4) Nationally (denominationally)

Local Congregations: survey your neighborhood and find those who are not being ministered to. Plan and do something.

Let us be health and healing to our land and to her peoples. Let us be portable artesian wells (John 7:37-39) overflowing with rivers of life to this parched wasteland of a world in which we live. Let's not become garbage heaps of vile things to the strangers among us.

The church dare not fail in this crucial hour. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Eddie Payne serves as a consultant with the Foreign Missions Department.

This article adapted from a seminar presented at the 1996 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference.

Suggested Reading

Numbers 1-7 are by Christian authors. Numbers 8-10 are secular but have helpful insights for the serious student.

1. ***Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally***, David J. Hesselgrave.
The definitive text by a great missionary communicator and teacher. For the serious student.
2. ***Ministering Cross-Culturally***, Sherwood G. Lingerfelter and Marvin K. Mayers.
Practical insights into cross-cultural ministry.
3. ***Christianity Confronts Culture***, Revised Edition, Marvin K. Mayers.
An anthropology text worth consideration and reading.
4. ***The Church is in a Stew***, Jerry Appleby.
Short, simple, practical, helpful—by a Nazarene brother who has "been there and done it" and continues to do so in Orlando, Florida.
5. ***Peace Child and Eternity in Their Hearts***, Don Richardson.
If you love a good story, don't miss *Peace Child* (watch the 30-minute video). But if you really want your world turned upside down, take the time to read *Eternity in Their Hearts*.
6. ***Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, A Reader***, A Revised Edition, edited by Ralph D. Winter and Steven C. Hawthorne.
Section C. The Cultural Perspective, *Culture*, articles 1-3, *Cross-Cultural Communication*, articles 5, 7-11, 13, 15-16, "The Gospel and Culture" article 17.
If you can purchase only one book, by all means make this the one. This is a rich treasure house of wisdom, not only in the areas cited, but also in other critical matters of outreach.
7. ***Anthropological Insights for Missionaries***, Paul G. Hiebert.
One of the best available for deep insight.
8. ***The Art of Crossing Cultures***, Craig Storti.
A short but practical guide to the problems encountered in understanding and crossing cultural barriers.
9. ***InterCultural Communication, A Reader***, Sixth Edition, edited by Larry A. Samovar and Richard E. Porter.
A comprehensive look at the problem of communication across cultures with helpful case studies. Some sections may not be suitable to your Christian convictions. Please use with discretion.
10. ***InterCultural Interactions, A Practical Guide***, Richard W. Brislin, Kenneth Cushner, Craig Cherrie, Mahealani Young.
Especially interesting for the 100 Critical Incidents cited and the interactive questions to understand how to deal with them.

**Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign
January 1997
Update**

State	Goal	Gifts	Balance
Alabama	\$76,397.63	\$ 5,001.15	\$71,396.48
Arizona	1,228.93	2,883.71	(1,654.78)
Arkansas	76,860.94	43,302.13	33,558.81
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	29,020.88	9,158.31
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	5,949.29	29,505.05
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	33,794.91	26,689.49
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		175.00	(175.00)
Tennessee	78,557.09	62,037.07	16,520.02
Texas	11,547.20	7,441.52	4,105.68
Virginia	24,323.33	2,027.93	22,295.40
Virgin Islands		200.00	(200.00)
West Virginia	46,204.51	1,023.00	45,181.51
Wisconsin		61.00	(61.00)
Other		2,978.85	(2,978.85)
Totals	\$766,583.39	\$278,464.50	\$488,118.89



January 1997

Receipts:

State	Design.	CO-OP	Total	January '96	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 336.83	\$.00	\$ 336.83	\$ 1,152.22	\$ 336.83
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Arkansas	11,843.03	12,120.91	23,963.94	32,214.12	23,963.94
California	.00	852.16	852.16	1,086.24	852.16
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	.00	.00	3,622.68	.00
Georgia	23,158.00	3,935.52	27,093.52	23,431.10	27,093.52
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	9,334.27	2,695.37	12,029.64	14,227.94	12,029.64
Indiana	732.16	390.67	1,122.83	691.35	1,122.83
Iowa	40.00	615.90	655.90	90.00	655.90
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Kentucky	50.00	553.80	603.80	459.52	603.80
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	20.00	.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Michigan	7,218.60	911.00	8,129.60	10,595.33	8,129.60
Mississippi	60.50	368.57	429.07	432.62	429.07
Missouri	29,976.74	.00	29,976.74	13,466.52	29,976.74
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	382.06	31.04	413.10	1598.64	413.10
North Carolina	1,235.33	1,612.37	2,847.70	1,805.01	2,847.70
Ohio	5,666.43	2,461.73	8,128.16	11,573.62	8,128.16
Oklahoma	53,752.01	169.00	53,921.01	43,590.42	53,921.01
South Carolina	29,442.19	98.90	29,541.09	19,435.77	29,541.09
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	8,963.44	3,077.35	12,040.79	16,815.45	12,040.79
Texas	13,934.49	674.70	14,609.19	.00	14,609.19
Virginia	74.13	.00	74.13	2,419.64	74.13
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	.00	.00	.00	5,522.31	.00
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	412.52	.00	412.52	.00	412.52
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	(.01)	(.01)	.00	(.01)
Totals	\$196,612.73	\$30,568.98	\$227,181.71	\$204,250.50	\$227,181.71

Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 10,322.66	\$15,284.53	\$ 25,607.19	\$ 29,662.91	\$ 25,607.19
Foreign Missions	109,029.76	3,515.43	112,545.19	92,517.96	112,545.19
FWBBC	17,318.63	3,515.43	20,834.06	20,943.33	20,834.06
Home Missions	50,445.58	2,751.18	53,196.76	48,933.09	53,196.76
Retirement & Insurance	1,322.68	2,139.83	3,462.51	3,014.74	3,462.51
Master's Men	2,287.98	2,139.83	4,427.81	3,595.07	4,427.81
Commission for Theo. Integrity	101.60	76.42	178.02	164.01	178.02
FWB Foundation	1,196.12	917.07	2,113.19	1,740.70	2,113.19
Historical Commission	97.31	76.42	173.73	164.01	173.73
Music Commission	93.89	76.42	170.31	150.22	170.31
Radio & TV Commission	87.50	76.42	163.92	150.20	163.92
Hillsdale FWB College	1,352.72	.00	1,352.72	1,511.08	1,352.72
Other	2,956.30	.00	2,956.30	1,703.18	2,956.30
Totals	\$196,612.73	\$30,568.98	\$227,181.71	\$204,250.50	\$227,181.71

Directory Update

CALIFORNIA

Harold Rogers to First Church, Visalia
Randy Williams to Farmersville Church,
Farmersville
John Hibbard to Village Chapel Church, Ceres,
from Amador Church, Pioneer

GEORGIA

Johnny Lewis to Corinth Church, Alma

VIRGINIA

Todd Tennant to Bloss Memorial Church, Ar-
lington

Housing Form

National Association of Free Will Baptists / National Convention

Cincinnati, Ohio • July 20-24, 1997

Print or type all information requested and mail or fax form to GCCVB/Free Will Baptist Housing Bureau by **June 20, 1997**. If form is faxed, do not call Bureau to check on receipt of fax. Keep your transaction report as proof of transmittal. You will receive acknowledgment by mail of your hotel assignment within two weeks of the time the form is received by the Housing Bureau. **NO TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE BUREAU OR THE HOTEL.**

DEPOSIT REQUIRED: An advance deposit of **\$100.00** is required for each room. Your deposit will be charged to your credit card by providing the information requested below. Deposits being made by check should be for **\$100.00 per room** payable to the GCCVB Housing Bureau and mailed to the address below. Forms received without credit card information or a check for the deposit will be returned and reservations will not be processed. Hotel refund policies vary.

Changes or cancellations should be made in writing to the Housing Bureau by June 20, 1997. You may fax changes to 513/621-2156 or mail to address below. After June 20, you must contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations. Check your hotel confirmation for instructions regarding cancellation policies and check-in times.

Number all hotels in numerical order of preference. Rooms are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. If your hotel choices are not available, you will be assigned to the next closest available hotel. Failure to receive your first choice hotel does not constitute an error.

◆ ◆ CIRCLE ROOM TYPE REQUESTED BELOW ◆ ◆

(Rooms with two beds are limited. Please utilize room with one bed whenever possible.)

Number Hotel choices in order of preferences ↓	HOTELS * Headquarters Hotel ** NYC Headquarters	SINGLE 1 bed / 1 person	DOUBLE 1 bed / 2 persons	DBL/DBL 2 beds / 2 persons	TRIPLE 2 beds / 3 persons	QUAD 2 beds / 4 persons
	* Hyatt Regency Cincinnati	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00
	Omni Netherland Plaza	\$102.00	\$102.00	\$102.00	\$102.00	\$102.00
	** Regal Cincinnati Hotel	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00

Rates do not include tax which is currently 10.5% in Ohio. Valet Parking is \$13 per day at hotels listed.

Indicate Special Requests: Wheel chair Accessible Non-Smoking Crib Other _____
 Rollaway (Upon availability at an additional charge.)

ARRIVAL DATE / / **TIME** **DEPARTURE DATE** / /

APPLY DEPOSIT TO: **MASTERCARD** **VISA** **DINERS CLUB** **DISCOVER** **AMEX**
CARD NUMBER _____ **EXP. DATE** _____
NAME ON CARD: _____ **SIGNATURE** _____

CHECK ENCLOSED. CHECK # _____

ROOMMATES: (LIST ALL OCCUPANTS OF ROOM)

(1) _____ (3) _____
(2) _____ (4) _____

PERSON TO WHOM CONFIRMATION SHOULD BE MAILED.

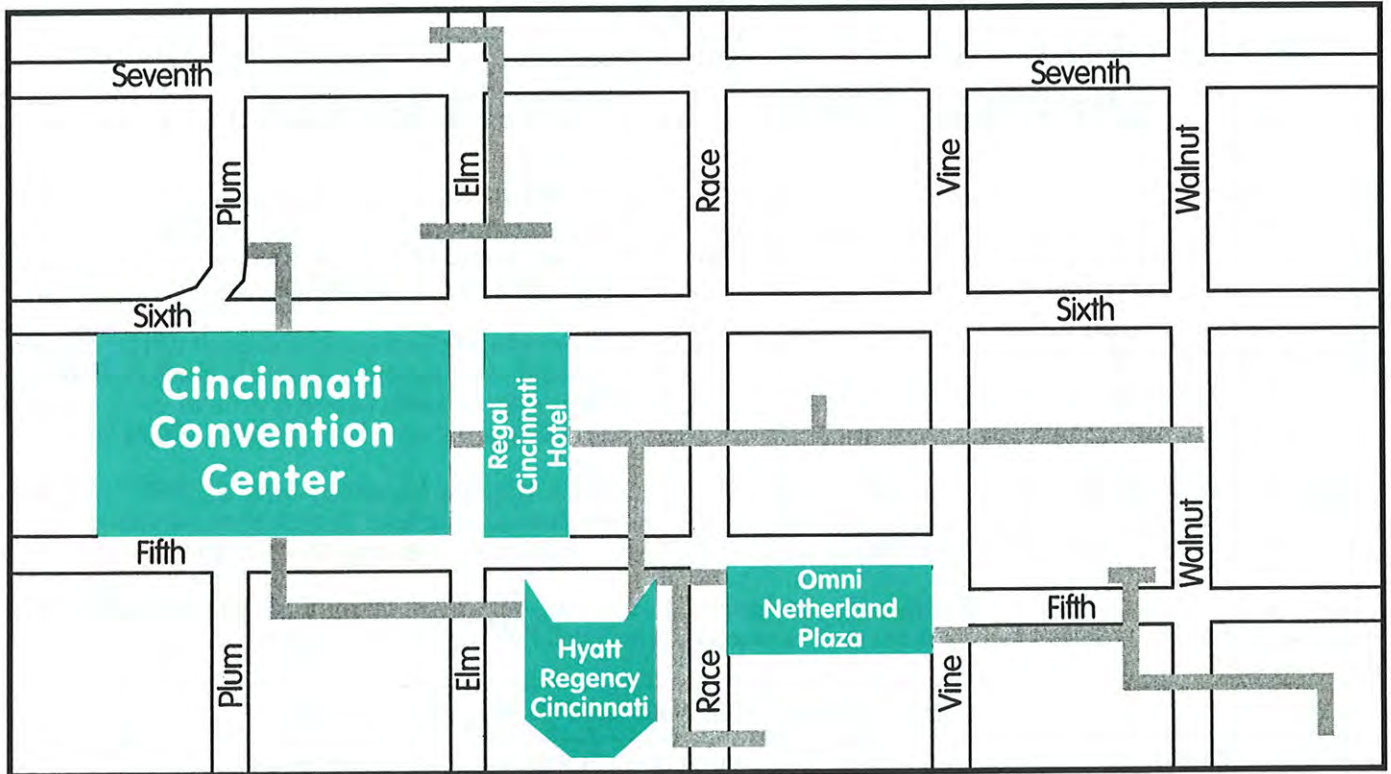
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

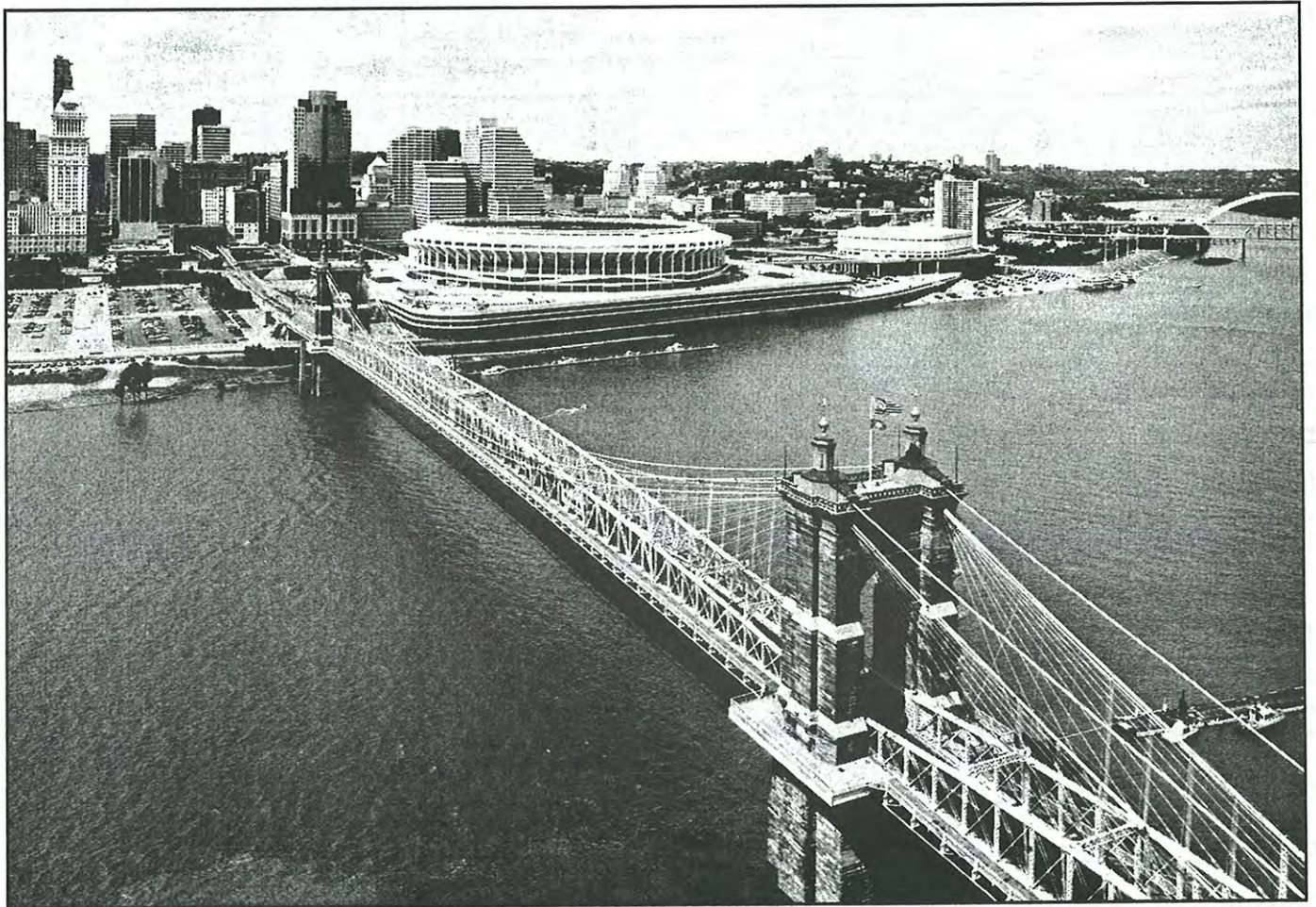
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ FAX (____) _____

MAIL OR FAX
By June 20, 1997 — To:
GCCVB
Free Will Baptist
Housing Bureau
300 West 6th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
FAX — 513/621-2156



 = Convention Center Skywalk



Cincinnati sits on the Ohio River

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

Pre-Registration Form

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

for
**National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Cincinnati, Ohio / July 20 - 24, 1997**

Please Print

Name: _____ Phone #: (____) _____ - _____
First or Name Desired on Badge Last Area Code
 City and State desired on badge: _____ Male Female
 Home Address: _____
Street Address City State Zip
 Church: _____
Church Name Church City Church Zip
 Pastor's Name: _____
 Hotel (if known): _____

Mail completed form(s) and fees to:

**Convention Registration
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002.**

Must be postmarked on or before **June 20, 1997.**

You may register for all three conventions on this form.

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

District Association: _____
Minister: Ordained Licensed Pastor
 (I certify that I am a member in good standing with the above named church and association which belong to the National Association.)
MISSIONARY: Foreign (Country) _____
 Home (State) _____
DELEGATE: Ordained Deacon
 State
 Local Church (\$25.00)
 National Board Member
 National Officer
VISITOR: [Visitors can not vote]

Meal Tickets:

	<i>Quantity</i>	
Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner	_____ x \$20.00	= \$ _____
Youth Workers Reception	_____ x \$7.50	= \$ _____
Music Fellowship Breakfast	_____ x \$12.00	= \$ _____
Hillsdale FWB College Lunch	_____ x \$15.00	= \$ _____
FWBBC Alumni Luncheon	_____ x \$15.00	= \$ _____
Master's Men Dinner (before conv.)	_____ x \$18.00	= \$ _____
<small>(\$20 at convention)</small>		
If Local Church Delegate	→ \$25.00	= \$ _____
Signed credentials card enclosed Yes! <input type="checkbox"/>		

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

(Check only one of the following:)
DELEGATE: Local (\$5.00)
 State
 State President or Field Worker
 National Officer
VISITOR: [Visitors can not vote]

Meal Tickets:

	<i>Quantity</i>	
WNAC Fellowship Dinner	_____ x \$15.00	= \$ _____
If Local WNAC Delegate	→ \$5.00	= \$ _____
(with signed local delegate form)		

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

(All those in 1st grade through age 24 **must** register to attend NYC.)
 (Ages 3-5 **must** register if attending Preschool Worship.)
 Are you a youth worker? Yes No
 If yes, are you over 24? Yes No
 Grade completed Spring 1997: _____ Age: _____
 Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____
 Parent's (or Guardian's) name: _____
 Youth Leader's name: _____

Registration Fee
 Pre-Registration Fee **\$18.00** = \$ _____
 On-site registration fee is \$20.
 Adults over 24 do not pay NYC fees. Competitors **also** pay separate entry fees.
You MUST register for NYC to purchase meal tickets/attend banquets (unless age 25 and up).

Meal Tickets:

	<i>Quantity</i>	
Children's Banquet <small>(grades 1-3)</small>	_____ x \$8.00	= \$ _____
Tweeners' Banquet <small>(grades 4-6)</small>	_____ x \$8.00	= \$ _____
Youth Banquet <small>(must be in grade 7 to age 24 or an accompanying youth worker)</small>	_____ x \$18.00	= \$ _____

For Office Use Only
 Rec _____ Ck/MO # _____ AMT \$ _____
 CK _____

Make ALL checks payable to FWB Convention.
No refunds mailed after June 20, 1997.

TOTAL \$ _____
 Check/Money Order **MUST** accompany this form.
 Enclose **ONE** check to pay all fees and tickets.

Pre-Register by June 20 and Pick up Your Convention Packet on Saturday!

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

Saturday, July 19
3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 20
1:00 p.m.

Pre-Registration ends June 20, 1997

Meal Information

Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner \$20.00 Monday, July 21 / 4:45 - 6:30 p.m. Hyatt Regency / Regency Ballroom D-E-F-G	Music Fellowship Breakfast \$12.00 Wednesday, July 23 / 7:00 a.m. Regal Hotel / Colonnade Room
Children's Banquet \$8.00 Monday, July 21 / 5:00 p.m. Regal Hotel / Bronze Ballroom-A	Youth Workers Reception \$7.50 Monday, July 21 / 9:00 p.m. Regal Hotel / Colonnade Room
Tweeners' Banquet \$8.00 Monday, July 21 / 5:00 p.m. Regal Hotel / Bronze Ballroom-B	WNAC Fellowship Dinner \$15.00 Tuesday, July 22 / 5:00 p.m. Hyatt Regency / Regency Ballroom
Hillsdale FWB College Lunch \$15.00 Tuesday, July 22 / 12:00 noon Hyatt Regency / Regency Ballroom F-G	FWBBC Luncheon \$15.00 Wednesday, July 23 / 12:00 Noon Hyatt Regency / Regency Ballroom A-B-C
Youth Banquet \$18.00 Tuesday, July 22 / 9:00 p.m. Convention Center / Ballroom A-B	Master's Men Dinner \$18.00 Wednesday, July 23 / 4:45 p.m. (\$20 at convention) Regal Hotel / Bronze Ballroom-A

FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

College Presidents Meet For Fellowship

ANTIOCH, TN—The presidents of the four Free Will Baptist colleges met February 10-11 for a time of fellowship and exchange of ideas, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington. The participants included President Billy Bevan (Southeastern Free Will Baptist College), President Tom Malone (Free Will Baptist Bible College), President Jim Shepherd (Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College) and President James McAllister (California Christian College). The two-day gathering took place at the National Offices building in Antioch.

The purpose of the informal meeting was to discuss the philosophy, purpose, plans, programs and role of each college regarding Christian education in the Free Will Baptist denomination. The attendees addressed numerous issues including common ground on which to develop a comprehensive and consistent program of Christian education.

They also considered how the four colleges located in strategic areas coast to coast could work together to encourage a spirit of cooperation in Christian education. Such a program could lessen tensions and diminish the friction and fragmentation among our constituents.

A spirit of harmony and humor characterized the discussions. The consensus was that the mission statements of all four schools embraced the following concept: To train Christian workers through high-

er education for service in Christ's Church.

The discussions encompassed a wide range of topics including, but not limited to: How do we view ourselves—competitors or colleagues? Do we trust each other—if not, why not? Are we producing denominationally aware, compatible and loyal graduates? How can the regional accreditation of Free Will Baptist Bible College benefit our other colleges?

Other topics included, what basic courses can all four colleges agree to teach that every Free Will Baptist student needs? How can we reduce tensions (real and imagined) that prevent a greater unity between our four colleges? What about a faculty exchange program?

This historic meeting provided a unique opportunity to address issues confronted by each college. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington said, "The harmony, honesty and absence of hostility which prevailed during the meeting was encouraging. I believe this meeting was a great beginning. The meeting lays a foundation for future cooperation among all four schools for the common good of the entire denomination. Differences do exist and will need to be addressed in future meetings."

Tentative plans call for the four college presidents to meet annually for an exchange of ideas, information and institutional concerns. Plans also call for a Presidents Breakfast during the national convention.

Master's Men Director Clarifies Statement

ANTIOCH, TN—Master's Men director James Vallance issued a statement clarifying a news item which was included in a four-page insert provided by Master's Men and printed in the February 1997 issue of *Contact*. The news item concerned merger discussions between the Home Missions and Master's Men Departments.

Mr. Vallance said that he

wrongly stated that the Home Missions Department wanted to drop the merger proposal. The intent of a January 2 letter from the Home Missions Department was to delay merger talks while other pressing cross-cultural matters were addressed, *not* to cancel the talks.

Vallance said, "I regret the wrong statement printed in 'The

Handshake', an insert in *Contact*, which might put Home Missions and Brother Trymon Messer in a bad light. My understanding was not consistent with the intent of the letter sent to our department. Neither Brother Messer nor the Home Missions Department deserves any wrong interpretation of intent or malignment by my words or actions."

Arsonist Burns Church Bus

BUENA PARK, CA—An early morning fire on Sunday, January 19, destroyed a bus used by New Beginning FWB Church to ferry 30 neighborhood children to worship service, according to Nancy Luna, who filed the story in *The Orange County Register*.

Pastor Don Harbert, who was left scrambling to provide transportation for the children, said, "We are just in awe that someone would take a piece of God's property and burn it to the ground."

At press time, no arrest had been made. Orange County Fire Authority arson investigators said

the blaze might be linked to two bus fires that occurred at a nearby church.

"In both cases, the fires were intentionally set," Orange County Fire Authority Capt. Scott Brown said. "And in both cases they were set with a flammable liquid." Brown said the department was treating the fires as separate incidents but that the similarities forced investigators to examine a possible link.

Two buses owned by the First Church of the Nazarene, a half-block away from New Beginning Church, were destroyed by van-

dals more than a year ago. That case is still under investigation.

In both arsons, the locked doors on the 65-seat buses were pried open. Brown would not speculate whether the churches were targeted or were victims of random attacks.

Pastor Harbert said the church had planned on selling the bus and buying a van. "Now we can't replace it, and our dreams of having a new van are up in smoke."

New Beginning FWB Church is a member of California's West Coast Association.

Retired Minister, Rev. John Floyd, Dies

CHARLOTTE, NC—The Reverend John Eugene James Grant Floyd (90), a retired Free Will Baptist pastor, evangelist and church planter, died November 21, 1996. Funeral services were conducted November 24 at Goshen FWB Church in Mount Holly with Revs. Harold Blankenship, Rudolph Outlaw and Harold O'Dear officiating.

Brother Floyd, a North Carolina native, was converted July 10, 1927, licensed to preach in 1942 and ordained in 1946. He struggled with the call to preach 15 years, fearing that his inability to read and lack of formal education would hinder him.

He overcame tuberculosis at age 24 but still refused to preach. Six years later at age 30, after overhearing a doctor tell his wife Rose that he would die of pneumonia, he finally accepted the call to preach.

Rev. Floyd began pastoring First FWB Church, Marion, NC, in 1946, leading the church to grow from 29 members to 412 members. He pastored several other churches in the 1950s and 1960s, including Sea Level and Cedar Island FWB Churches, and Calvary FWB Church in Jacksonville.

According to his granddaughter, Sheila Scarborough (Madison, TN), Brother Floyd dreamed of a brick church on a mountain ridge in 1973. So, at age 66, he began pastoring Adwolfe FWB Church in Virginia. The church grew from 60 to 160 in Sunday School, added

130 members, baptized 100 members, had four men called to preach and paid for a new parsonage.

Known as a man of prayer, Rev. Floyd prayed that 100 men would enter the ministry through his preaching. Some 132 men did answer the call to preach, including his son, a son-in-law, two grandsons and a nephew. Also, Miss Volena Wilson went to India as a missionary.

Brother Floyd preached in 37 states, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Jerusalem. He organized 15 churches and preached revivals in 100 churches. He witnessed more than 23,000 professions of faith in response to his 7,500 sermons preached. He had a continuing radio ministry for 30 years.

Ten years ago, John and Rose moved to Mount Holly, NC, and lived with their son Don until 1994 when Rose entered a nursing home, where she died in February 1995. John resided at Brookwood Retirement Center close by. John had an active

tract ministry there and was instrumental in leading 14 people to the Lord at both facilities.

John held his last revival in September 1996, in Hubert, NC, at the First FWB Church.

In the week prior to his death at Carolina Medical Center in Charlotte, John led four people to the Lord, including one of his doctors.



Bible College Enrollment Totals 364 For Year

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College enrolled 364 students from 28 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands and nine foreign countries for the 1996-97 school year, according to Dr. Charles Hampton, Registrar.

By states, the enrollment broke down as follows:

Alabama	25	Louisiana	1	Pennsylvania	1
Arkansas	13	Maryland	1	South Carolina	10
Arizona	2	Michigan	9	South Dakota	3
California	2	Mississippi	7	Tennessee	73
Colorado	2	Missouri	19	Texas	3
Florida	15	Nebraska	1	Virginia	13
Georgia	16	New Mexico	3	Washington	2
Illinois	47	North Carolina	21	West Virginia	4
Indiana	13	Ohio	13	Virgin Islands	1
Kentucky	13	Oklahoma	11	Foreign	20

By classes, the students numbered 112 freshmen, 100 sophomores, 78 juniors, 63 seniors and 11 special students. Ministerial students numbered 67, and 76 students prepared for missionary ministries. Other breakdowns were:

Men	197	Single	306	Free Will Baptist	330
Women	167	Married	58	Other	34

Foreign countries represented this year are Brazil (2), Canada (10), France (1), Korea (1), Pakistan (1), Panama (2), Romania (1), Russia (1) and Spain (1).

College officials encourage pastors, youth directors and parents to continue directing young people who want to serve Jesus Christ to FWBBC.

FWB Foundation Delivers Endowment Gifts

ANTIOCH, TN—The Free Will Baptist Foundation delivered more than \$23,000 in endowment gifts to various Free Will Baptist ministries January 15, according to William Evans, director. The gifts came from endowment funds managed by the Foundation.

For the entire year of 1996, over \$45,000 was delivered to the following ministries:

Foreign Missions	\$15,188.15
Master's Men	5,906.90
The Together Way	2,263.40
Free Will Baptist Bible College	4,385.96
Home Missions	4,071.44
Board of Retirement	5,034.66
Free Will Baptist Foundation	295.22
Contact	259.88
Women Nationally Active for Christ	504.55
Hillsdale FWB College	733.74
Trula Cronk Home for Children	263.73
State and Local Ministries	6,110.00
Total	\$45,017.63

Endowments are permanent gifts invested so that income is available for ministry. These gifts continue to give year after year. The Foundation manages gifts for every national agency and will accept gifts of any amount to these endowments. For information about endowments, please contact the Foundation.

Retreat Attracts 1,000 Women

GOLDSBORO, NC—The 13th annual East Coast Ladies Retreat met November 8-9, 1996, at Faith FWB Church in Goldsboro. Some 1,057 women from 61 churches registered for the two-day event.

The retreat theme was, "God Can Keep His Promises." Speakers included Brenda Vaughn of Hidden Treasure Christian School, and two members of Faith Church—Jessica Clarke and B. Smith. Ray and Ann Gibbs provided special music.



East Coast retreat includes Noah's Ark replica.

The church was decorated with a Noah's Ark theme which included a large replica of the ark.

Host pastor Dann Patrick said, "Our ladies worked

hard to have a great retreat and were rewarded with record attendance and numbers of rededications as well as two salvation decisions."

The 1997 retreat will meet November 7-8 at First FWB Church in Raleigh.

Second Preaching Conference Set At Pigeon Forge

PONTIAC, MI—The second annual preaching conference sponsored by a group of ministers to promote revival among Free Will Baptists will meet June 16-18 at the Grand Hotel and Conference Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Registration coordinator David McGowan said the 1997 theme, "Help Build the Fire," will feature nine preachers.

The three-day conference begins Monday with a 4:30 p.m. prayer meeting, continues with 11 preaching services, two women's seminars, a teen special and concludes Wednesday evening with a testimony time. Registration cost is \$10 per pastor; families and others register free.

Conference music will be coordinated by Danny Baer (NC). Connie Burks (AR) and Gail Barnard (NC) will lead the ladies' forum. Jim Fairchild (MD) will speak during Tuesday's teen activities.

The following ministers will preach during the conference: Roy Helms (AR), Danny Smith (KY), Bob Thebeau (MO), Rudolph Outlaw (NC), Bob Shockey (TN), Billy Bevan (NC), Mike Hutsell (AR) and Karl Sexton (VA). J. Royce Thomason (TX), who edits *Voice in the Wilderness*, will speak twice.

Several exhibits will be available for attendees. Pastors are encouraged to bring items for The Idea Center. Arkansas pastor Roy Helms chairs the steering committee.

For more information, contact:

Help Build The Fire
c/o David McGowan
1750 Baldwin Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48340

Church 810/335-6011
Home 810/338-8781

Discount Air Fares to National Convention Available

ANTIOCH, TN—The National Association of Free Will Baptists has made special travel arrangements for attendees and their families who will be flying to the National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 20-24, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington.

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

Discounts for air travel to Cincinnati have been secured on Delta Air Lines. The airline offers a 5% discount on excursion rates and 10% discount on full coach fares. These fares cannot be purchased through another travel agency or directly with the airlines. These are contracted group airfares. First class tickets may also be booked if desired.

Artists Travel Corporation has contracted for travel dates July 17 through July 26 for the convention.

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

- ♦ your name
- ♦ number of passengers
- ♦ home phone number
- ♦ correct mailing address
- ♦ city of flight origin
- ♦ business phone number

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

Instrumental Ensemble to Perform at National Convention

ANTIOCH, TN—The all-volunteer instrumental ensemble will perform in July at the 61st annual Free Will Baptist National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, according to instrumental director Chris Truett.

The ensemble will accompany congregational singing each night (except Sunday) in the Cincinnati Convention Center, Mr. Truett said. Ensemble participants will practice Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. The hour-long rehearsals will be conducted in the convention center.

Truett said, "We are inviting anyone from ninth grade up to participate in the instrumental ensemble. We would like to have more adults in the group. Last year was a success, and we want to expand the group this year."

Those who wish to participate in the ensemble must notify Mr. Truett by June 1. Musicians should send their name, address, phone number, church name, type of instrument played and number of years' experience with the instrument to:

Unity FWB Church
Attention: Chris Truett
2725 East 14th Street
Greenville, NC 27834
919/756-6485

Music will be mailed by Mr. Truett to each instrumentalist who responds by June 1.

Pastor **Ken Dodson** reports two baptisms and three new members at **First FWB Church in Park Hills, MO.**

Members of **Fellowship FWB Church in Bryan, TX**, began building a prayer chapel in February to honor pioneer missionary **Mabel Willey**. Pastor **Lynn Wood** said that a widow in the church started the building project with a \$500 gift. The church will place a plaque in the prayer chapel naming those who give to the project. Sister Willey is a member of the church.

Attendance surged from 50 to 120 in six months at **Lowery FWB Church, Twin Oaks, OK.** Pastor **Douglas Carey** reports 20 rededications, eight new members and four baptisms. The new class for couples/singles averages more than 20. The congregation also started a sanctuary choir and a drama team. Their recent "For Men Only" service attracted 50 people.

Pastor **Carlie Lloyd** reports 29 conversions and 12 baptisms at **West Madison FWB Church in Madison, WI.** Brother Lloyd conducted 181 home Bible studies and made 4,029 home visits during 1996. Someone drove an ice pick through two of his tires while he conducted a Saturday night Bible study in an area with known drug dealers.

Home missionary **Len Blanchard** has been on the move in **Carlsbad, NM.** In the past 21 months, he made 2,200 personal contacts, witnessed 10 conversions and welcomed 17 new members to **Carlsbad FWB Church.**

The first convert at **Berea FWB Church in Battle Creek, MI**, will have a story to tell in years to come. She was baptized in a whirlpool by Pastor **Robert Trimble** . . . the new congregation meets at the Holiday Inn Express.

Evangelist **Billy Fields (Indiana)** logged 250 days in services during 1996. That included 30 revival meetings, dozens of conversions and numerous gospel singings. He signed a recording contract with Morning Star Records. Fields is currently ministering to 200 churches in 20 states.

First FWB Church in Metter, GA, has occupied their new 7,200-square-foot building almost one year. The building project took eight months to complete. Pastor **Johnny Beasley** is the grandson of church founder, **J. F. Reardon.**

Bloss Memorial FWB Church in Arlington, VA, welcomed new pastor, **Todd Tennant**, and scheduled homecoming on April 20. Founding pastor, **Ken Walker**, will speak. Charter members are requested to call Deacon **Bobby Wilson** at 703-538-6744.

After relocating last fall, **Ozias FWB Church in Pearson, GA**, noted significant growth with 32 more people in services. Pastor **Rowan Sirmans** baptized seven converts.

Pastor **Jerry Norris** reports 11 new members at **Calvary Fellowship FWB Church in Fenton, MO.**

Members of **Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, TN**, voted to build a two-level worship center. More than \$950,000 had been pledged in a capital campaign prior to the vote to build. Pastor **Robert Morgan** welcomed nine new members.

Evangelist **Van Dale Hudson** leases minivans from **Sam Stevens Motors in Amory, MS.** The company sponsors regular worship services for employees, and Brother Hudson addressed the entire group recently. But not from atop his minivan!

They're called, "Taylor Made Sermons." They are two volumes of extensively outlined Christmas sermons preached by Pastor **David Taylor**. Each volume contains seven sermons in spiral binding. David pastors **First FWB Church in Tucson, AZ.**

Members of **Eggville FWB Church in Tupelo, MS**, celebrated 100 years of community outreach by building a new sanctuary. **Gerald Gann** pastors.

Looking for a church to pastor? Consider **Cross FWB Church near Iola, TX.** Without a pastor, the congregation just finished building a three-bedroom, two-bath brick parsonage.

Members of **Western Hills FWB Church in Fort Worth, TX**, adopted a project to help a needy family last Christmas. Results: The church found the family a house, a job, a car and provided furniture for the house. The family is now attending the church. **Louis Nettleton** pastors.

After **First FWB Church in Carthage, TX**, called **Jeffrey Conner** as pastor, 42 visitors showed up to hear him preach. The church has since organized a Master's Men chapter, started Monday night visitation and established a follow-up program.

Pastor **John Meade** reports 14 conversions, eight rededications and 25 baptisms at **Southwest FWB Church in Columbus, OH.**

Samantha FWB Church in Leesburg, OH, baptized 14 converts and welcomed 14 new members. Members honored Pastor **Wiley Perkins** for 25 years of leadership by giving him a new Ford Taurus.

First FWB Church in Columbus, OH, welcomed 10 new members and began a class for converts. Nice timing. **Larry Sparks** pastors.

Members of **Bloom FWB Church in South Webster, OH**, plan to enlarge their fellowship hall. Pastor **Roger Lavender** reports 11 conversions, nine baptisms and numerous rededications.

What a great problem facing Pastor **Lucian Baker**. Too many people want to attend morning worship services at **Pleasant Hill FWB Church in Delaware, OH.** Their solution? They added 1,800 square feet to the building and now conduct two morning worship services.

Pastor **David Malone** is now full time at **Peace FWB Church in Granite City, IL.** He retired from McDonnell Douglas after 35 years. The congregation promptly sold their property, purchased new property and began making plans to build. ■

WOMEN NATIONALLY ACTIVE FOR CHRIST



Woman's Window on the World

By Mary R. Wisehart

From My Window

A continual feast! I couldn't believe it. My devotion for the day suggested that I read Proverbs 15:15.

In the spot where I read devotions, I keep several versions of the Bible. (Reading from different versions can sometimes give me a new insight on even familiar scriptures.)

I read from the NIV first.

"Wait a minute," I said, "Does the KJV say that?"

I reached for the KJV, and yes, there it was. "He that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast."

The Contemporary Version read the same way and so did the NKJV. The Amplified Bible had the same words, except it added, no matter what the circumstances.

Sometimes we take ourselves and our positions and assignments much too seriously. The responsibility for the universe burdens us down.

I think God must have a good laugh at us sometimes as we struggle with issues that are entirely in His control. Jesus said, "Thou canst not make one hair white or black." Then why should we try to carry the weight of the world on our shoulders? Why should we think that anxious days, sleepless nights, frantic hurry and worry can change people or circumstances?

Our Father is in control. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills and the gold and silver are

His. We stand to inherit as His sons and daughters. Isn't that reason for rejoicing?

Isn't that a reason to have a merry heart?

Take time for a feast, a continual feast of rejoicing over the good things that God provides.

Hey, guess what? This feast will not add calories nor disturb weight control. It will not clog up the system with cholesterol.

Keep a merry heart and feast as often as you like.

Register for The Glorieta Retreat

"God's School House" is the theme for WNAC's 1997 retreat, emphasizing the 1997 theme, "Expanding Knowledge."

Three hundred women registered in 1995 for the WNAC retreat at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Glorieta, New Mexico.

You may be a part of that retreat in 1997. You will enjoy good music, sit under the instruction of experienced teachers, and hear testimonies of how God has taught His children.

Everyone who attends the sessions will receive a certificate of achievement.

Check the March/April issue of *Co-Laborer* for a registration blank or write for one at WNAC, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, Tennessee 37011-5002.

See the May/June *Co-Laborer* for specifics about the program. ■

WNAC Local Delegate Credentials

This certifies that _____ is an authorized delegate to the WNAC

Convention of Free Will Baptists from the _____ (Group Name)

women's group of _____ Free Will Baptist Church, _____ (Church Address)

_____ (Church Name)

Signed _____ or _____ Date _____
(Local Coordinator) (Local Secretary)

Important: This form properly signed and accompanied by a \$5 registration fee entitles a local delegate to register for voting privileges in the WNAC convention. Only one delegate allowed per church.

Clip and attach to Convention Pre-Registration or bring to the WNAC Convention.



BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Housing Allowance

By Ray Lewis

Each year, many ministers pay excess taxes because they fail to take full advantage of a housing/parsonage allowance. Every minister should have a portion of his salary designated as a housing allowance. Some churches mistakenly believe that the provision of a housing allowance to a minister will increase the church's budget. This is not true. The housing allowance costs the church nothing but greatly benefits the minister.

A minister may exclude from taxable income the least of (1) the amount of the allowance; (2) the fair rental value of the house and furnishings plus the cost of utilities; or (3) the amount spent to provide a home.

For a minister living in church-owned housing, the allowance may have only modest value to cover incidental expenses such as maintenance, furnishings and utilities. But a properly designated housing allowance may be worth thousands of dollars in tax saving for ministers living in their own homes or rented quarters. For the minister without a housing allowance, every dollar of compensation is taxable for federal income tax purposes.

Ministers may exclude the housing allowance under the following rules:

The allowance must be officially designated before payment by the church. If a minister's actual housing expenses are or will be higher than initially estimated and designated, the church may prospectively amend the designation during the year. A retroactive amendment of housing allowance is ineffective. The designation should be stated in writing, in an employment contract, or, at a minimum in the church budget and payroll records.

Only actual expenses, up to but not exceeding the amount of the church-designated allowance, can be excluded from income. The expenses must be paid from ministerial income earned in the current year. There are no provisions to carry over "unused" housing expenses to the next year.

Some ministers believe they may automatically exclude every dollar of the housing designation adopted by the church without limitation. This practice may cause a significant underpayment of income taxes. The housing designation is merely the starting point. If actual expenses or the fair rental value is lower, the lowest amount is eligible for exclusion from income.

Allowable housing expenses are:

- Utilities (gas, electricity, water), and trash collection
- Local telephone expense (base charge)
- Decoration and redecoration
- Cleaning
- Structural maintenance and repair
- Landscaping, gardening, and pest control
- Furnishings (purchase, repair, replacement)
- Personal property insurance
- Personal property taxes
- Down payment on purchase of housing
- Housing loan principal and interest payments
- Real estate commission, escrow fees
- Real property taxes
- Condominium fees
- Homeowner's association dues
- Mobile home space rental

Ministers who own their homes and who itemize their deductions are eligible to deduct mortgage interest and property taxes on Schedule A even though such items were excluded as part of the housing allowance exclusion.

Some ministers living in parsonages are confused, have never heard of, or just ignore their responsibility for the "fair rental value" of the parsonage. Virtually any other worker who receives rent-free use of an employer-provided home must include the fair rental value of the home in his or her gross income for both income tax and social security tax purposes. Ministers, however, do not include the fair rental value of a church-provided parsonage in their income for income tax purposes. This is a very real benefit. This must be included in computing the social security or self employment tax, however.

Many ministers think they are not receiving a tax "benefit" unless they can "deduct" something on their tax return. In fact, some clergy erroneously "deduct" the fair rental value of a parsonage from their church compensation for tax reporting purposes. This practice clearly violates federal tax law. It is not reported anywhere on Form 1040. In effect, the exclusion is "claimed" by not reporting the parsonage's fair rental value as income.

We have an obligation to "render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's." But as ministers we should take advantage of the exclusions we are allowed. ■



FOREIGN MISSIONS

The Cry of the Heathen

By Laura Belle Barnard

In 1946 pioneer missionary Laura Belle Barnard wrote these words to Winford Davis of Monett, Mo., who for years served as foreign missions treasurer and operated out of his home:

We have witnessed a succession of heathen exhibitions that demonstrate the power of Satan, the strength of his grip upon these souls and his militant resistance of the gospel. For nearly a week they celebrated with great fervor the festival of one of the deities. Day and night the mad noises of drums, fifes, singing, dancing, shouting seemed not to cease. Drinking, you might be sure, had its part. Men, with no clothes, painted their bodies in colors and patterns to imitate some particular animal—tiger, leopard, panther—attaching a tail, long ears, tufts of hair about the face in order to make the representation more perfect. All trace of humanity seemed to have disappeared.

On top of this festival, two outstanding men died suddenly in one of the outcaste villages (not of the Kota tribe with whom I work) within a few hours of each other. All seemed to feel this was a visitation from the gods.

God's Voice Unheard

We hoped all might realize the voice of the true God was speaking. But, instead, they made their funeral celebrations more elaborate, attempting to appease the gods. Doubtless the death of two men in one day indicated the deities were still unappeased, unsatisfied with their excesses. So the volume of funeral music and vocal dirges was amplified.

After visiting one of the bereaved homes and showing due respect and sympathy, I passed on to the other home, returning unexpectedly by the first home a little later. Just in front of the door the male dancers were performing their funeral serenade, apparently under the influence of drink. How

pathetic that even at the funeral the thoughts of a sin-ridden people are corrupt. As the Word of God says, "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5b).

Call for Laborers Unheard

I spent four years (in the United States) trying to get people to see, and to persuade them to come. I sometimes feel my very life is wearing away with trying to picture these darksome chapters of heathen life. And, if I were to judge by the number who are surrendering their lives for the work and the speed with which they are hastening out, I would have to add, "And all to no avail!"

As for my personal life, I can only say that being alone here, held responsible for a task worlds too big for me, has been a blessing in disguise, for it has thrust me back upon the Lord and forced me to test His power and promises. The world can never imagine the blessed manna with which He has fed me and delighted my soul through these experiences.

God's Sovereignty Expressed

In summary and conclusion: "God is not helpless amidst the wreckage of His plans. He is Master of the situation." If we have failed, disappointed ourselves and our God, He will master the wreckage and debris, bringing forth light, beauty, life out of the darkness of failure's confusion and life out of death. ■



Laura Belle Barnard was the first missionary to go abroad under the auspices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Pray for Laborers

*"The harvest truly is plenteous,
but the labourers are few;*

*"Pray ye therefore the Lord of
the harvest, that he will send
forth labourers into his harvest."*

—Matthew 9:37b, 38



MASTER'S MEN

Master's Men Conference Set April 24-26

By James Vallance

Like Father . . . Like Son!

Mark your calendar for the annual homecoming event for Free Will Baptist men. You do not have to be a member of Master's Men to participate. This event is planned to gather men and provide them opportunity to meet, pray together, worship together and go home challenged to serve the Master.

This conference holds promise of being the best ever, with some special additions to the program activities.

James Evans leads a canoe expedition down Buffalo River. This activity will be limited to 20 persons. We hope this will be a father/son group. They will canoe all day Thursday and Friday, but will spend the nights with us in camp, and attend the evening services.

Evangelist Billy Fields is scheduled to sing in concert Thursday evening, before worship services and speak on Friday morning.

Keith Kenemer, well-known among Free Will Baptists for his expertise in Sunday School growth and presently employed by Evangelical Training Association as a consultant in national church training, will speak twice about strengthening the father-son relationships in Christ.

Sam McVay, missionary appointee to Spain, will share material about relationships between the heavenly Father and His special Son. Sam's life experience includes 21 years as a youth pastor at Cofer's Chapel FWB in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Thursday golf package is set for an 8:00 a.m. tee time at Montgomery Bell State Park, located near Dickson, TN. The course plays at 6,056 yards from the men's tees and is set in the hills. Appropriate prizes will be awarded during the conference for the winners.

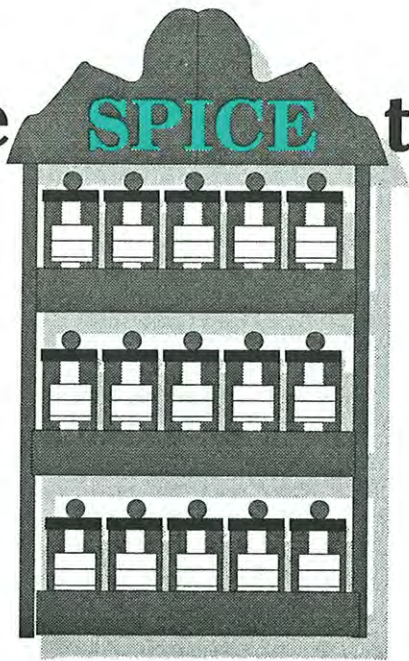
Friday afternoon activities include sports activities for those who want to burn off some energy. Also planned is a time of devotions at a waterfall not far from camp.

Don't even think about missing this 19th annual conference at Camp Linden in Tennessee. Only God knows the blessings you will enjoy this year. Plan to attend. Bring your father or your son. Get in on all the special activities.

The Cost?

Basic camp with five meals	\$65
Two-day canoe trip with overnight at camp, 5 meals	\$90
Thursday golf, two-man scramble	\$40

Add some **SPICE** to your life:



Meet with us
in
Cincinnati
July 20-24, 1997
for the National
Convention



Dennis Wiggs

Preparing for The Future

Maybe you signed the waiver to be exempt from contributing to the Social Security system. I will not discuss in this article the pros and cons of your decision. However, please give me your undivided attention if you write "Exempt Form 4361" on your tax return each year.

Your decision states that you are conscientiously opposed to the acceptance of public insurance and medical benefits. Therefore, you are not required by law to deduct 15.3% from your salary provision to the Internal Revenue Service.

What About The Future?

I believe that the young preacher should wisely invest the amount that he does not pay into the Social Security program. Too many of us older preachers have neglected to exercise this wise stewardship. Life has rushed by. Retirement or disability without adequate provisions now face men who have burned out their lives in the ministry. The young preacher must begin now. Waiting another day is too late.

Wise Stewardship

"I can't afford it!" You cannot afford not to, Brother! Would your widow have the finances to bury you this week in the event of your death? ("Oh, young preachers don't die," you say. Write or e-mail me. I can give you the names of several preachers who died in their 30s.)

Would your widow have enough funds to help her get settled in another town? Is money available to send the children to college? "The church will provide financial assistance," you declare. Now, Brother, think that statement through.

Most churches are not going to sustain a new pastor financially plus support your family. If you don't exer-

cise wise stewardship, no one is going to do it for you.

Begin a Program

Develop your own plan and stick to it.

First, bank free. Visit several banks and determine how this can be accomplished. Refuse to pay service charges.

Second, establish a savings account. Let the bank transfer from your checking account a certain amount each month to the savings account. Forced savings pays off. Don't touch that savings account! If you must borrow money, you may want to use that account as collateral and pay it back as soon as possible.

Third, establish an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and invest the maximum every year.

Insurance?

For the young preacher, term insurance until about age 50 would be the least expensive. How much? Determine the funds your widow would need to get settled in a home if you are living in a parsonage. Leave her enough provisions for five years of financial security. Consider the number of children and determine how much they will need for a Christian college education.

Medical Insurance?

Medical coverage should be provided by the church you pastor. Such an adequate provision would greatly benefit the church, especially in the event of a serious illness by the pastor or family member. Shop around. Seek group coverage if at all possible.

You may want to evaluate Christian organizations that provide medical benefits, such as the Christian Brotherhood Newsletter (1-800-269-4030)

or The Christian Care Ministry (1-800-374-2562).

Where Do I Get The Money?

The 15.3%. If you are not paying that amount to the Social Security system, I believe you are obligated to take that exact figure and invest it wisely for the benefit of your family. Determine the amount that 15.3% represents. Sixty dollars a week? One hundred dollars a week? Write it on a piece of paper.

From that figure, begin to place so much in a savings account, an IRA, insurance protection, annuities, mutual funds, etc. Discipline yourself. Young preachers have far greater opportunities today to make wise investments than we older ministers had when we were your age.

If You Pay Social Security

The Social Security provision at age 62 or 65 will not adequately fund you with a lifestyle that you are presently enjoying. The program was not established to do so. The wise, young preacher will project his mind 30 or 40 years ahead.

Where do you want to be financially at retirement? Divide that number by the number of years before you reach 62. Then, establish a financial plan to systematically set aside so many dollars each week to reach that goal.

Designate two hours this week, establish the 15.3% amount, sharpen your pencil to determine the amount you must take out of your salary provision each week to invest for the protection of your family. I'll be with the Lord by the time you reach retirement. Either you or your widow can place flowers on my grave in Ayden, North Carolina, and utter a prayer of thanksgiving for the above suggestions. ■

James, the Martyr

As with John, there is more than one man of note named James in the New Testament—including a second one among the original twelve. This one is another of the first four, together with his brother John nicknamed “Sons of Thunder” by Jesus (Mk. 3:17). Like Peter and Andrew, these two sons of Zebedee were fishermen, earning their living on the Sea of Galilee.

We don’t get as much information about James as about John or Peter. The name appears in our English versions as a translation of the Greek *Iakobos*, “Jacob.” He appears in the synoptic description of the call of the four (Mt. 4:21,22; Mk. 1:19,20; Lk. 5:10); both Matthew and Mark seem to make a special point of the fact that James and John not only left their occupation but in doing so left their father. We might assume therefore that they were close; at least the father and brothers were in business together.

James also appears in the lists (Mt. 10:2; Mk. 3:17; Lk. 6:14; Acts 1:13), where the order always begins either with Peter, Andrew, James, and John, or Peter, James, John and Andrew. Only those four are named in Mk. 1:29 and 13:3.

James is one of the inner circle of three at the raising of Jairus’ daughter (Mk. 5:37; Lk. 8:51), the Transfiguration (Mk. 9:2; Lk. 9:28), and the withdrawal in Gethsemane (Mk. 14:33). He and his brother are involved as a pair in at least two incidents: namely, when they offered to call down fire from heaven on a village of Samaritans who refused to host Jesus overnight (Lk. 9:54); and when they asked for special seats of power with Jesus in His Kingdom (Mk. 10:35, 41). They were certainly not humble by nature.

This last incident no doubt takes on special significance, obviously in-

tended to teach us something important about discipleship, a lesson not to be found in emulating James and John. They had misunderstood the nature of their call, and of Jesus’ expectations of them.

They still thought in the old ways, that significance is to be found in power and that one should strive for the most prominent position possible. In that spirit they asked—or had their mother ask (Mt. 20:20)—for the places of honor at Jesus’ side.

Jesus challenged them: “Are you able to drink the cup I must drink, to be baptized in the way I will be?” Their ambition and self-confidence were not dampened: “We are,” they naively affirmed. But they had much to learn, both about the route Jesus must take to His throne and what would be required of them on their way.

Jesus understood what they did not, as well as the principle they had not yet mastered. “The way things are among the powerful of this world is not the way they are to be among you,” he said. “Greatness in my kingdom is not found in power but in servanthood. If you seek significance, seek it in being a slave to the others. This is what you will soon see in me.”

And that is exactly what happened. First in the suffering and rejection of Jesus Himself, and then in their own experiences they learned the meaning of what He said on that occasion. James came to understand the cup and the baptism very well, and acquitted himself a true disciple of His Master when it was his turn to drink the bitter cup brewed by men in their rejection of God.

We are not surprised, then, when James appears in the record for the last time in Acts 12:2. What we read there is brief and straightforward: Herod set out to harass the church,



Robert E. Picirilli

and “he killed James the brother of John with the sword.”

So far as we know, he was the first of the twelve, except for Judas, to die, and thus the first of the apostolic martyrs. We can gather from this that he was a leader among the disciples, else Herod would surely not have focused on him. Even so, he found his place of greatness in submission to the service of the gospel and in emulating the pattern of His Master. There is no truer way to be a disciple.

But a question arises; Herod next sought the life of Peter, who escaped: was James in some way of lesser faith than Peter? No such conclusion is justified. The simple fact, typically unexplained in scripture, is that some times God delivers from death, and some times He delivers through death. Hebrews 11, for example, tells not only of those for whom God stopped the mouths of lions, like Daniel, but also of those who were “sawed in half,” like Isaiah.

The mysterious ways of God cannot be explained simply in terms of human faith and failure. In such instances we too must learn the lesson James and John had to learn. Our destiny, like His, lies in serving Him and others in His name, and in selfless submission to His will, even when the cup is poisoned and the immersion is death.

There is an ancient tradition that before his martyrdom James crossed the Mediterranean as a missionary and founded many churches in Spain, accounting for the fact that three scallop shells are often used as his symbol and that he is the patron saint of Spain. Even if this were true, we would be sure that his greatness is not in that but in being an obedient slave of the Master. ■

Believers in Business

By Laura L. Nash

(Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994, 302 pp., hardback, \$19.99).



Thomas Marberry

Laura Nash formerly taught at Harvard Business School; she now serves as adjunct associate professor to Boston University's School of Theology and School of Management. She is the author or co-author of several books on business ethics and values.

This book grew out of a series of lengthy interviews with more than 85 CEOs of large and small corporations who profess to be evangelical believers. Several CEOs wished to remain anonymous, but most are identified.

The interviews examined how these successful business leaders bring their Christian faith to bear on their business and professional lives. Dr. Nash sought to determine where the tensions are between Christian commitment and making a profit in a competitive secular business environment. She found that not all evangelical CEOs encounter the same tensions, nor do they all resolve them in the same ways.

Dr. Nash found that seven tensions occur most often. They include the love of God and pursuit of profit, love and the competitive drive, people needs and profit obligations, hu-

mility and the ego of success, family and work.

The tensions are real; Christian business leaders face them every day. The interviews revealed some of the creative ways, successful and unsuccessful, in which different CEOs have dealt with them.

At the end of her study the author draws several important conclusions. One is that these evangelical CEOs reflect a distinctly Christian world view which influences their business and personal decisions.

An important aspect of this world view is an emphasis on relationships. They seek to build relationships with employees and customers. They also "encourage employees to relate to each other and to the marketplace." They tend to respect and value the contributions which employees make to a firm.

Contrary to popular stereotypes, these Christian business leaders are not naive; they reflect considerable wisdom and understanding. They give effective leadership to the businesses they head.

The Christian world view of these leaders enables them to take a long-

range look. They are not obsessed with their own positions and making an immediate profit. They focus on the long-term good of the company and its employees.

As Dr. Nash notes, "This religious outlook . . . gives them a profound *distance* from many of the things on which other business people place ultimate value: profit, steady growth, and personal status. This distance contributes greatly to their ability to take risks and make rational judgments when the heat is on. They can afford to fail; they can protect themselves from getting too carried away with their own success."

This book presents some first-class research. It also presents the author's ability to carefully analyze a large amount of information and draw appropriate conclusions from it. This work can help Christian business leaders understand and respond to the tensions that they will inevitably face.

It can also help pastors and fellow church members understand something of what it means to be a Christian in business today and how we can minister effectively to them. ■

BEYOND BELIEF™



© 1987 Roger Judd

COMPETITION TIME

It's that time of year again when voices are bellowing, instruments are tuning, costumes are being hemmed, puppets get new hair, artistic juices start to flow, and those creative writers pull out the old dictionary!

As you know, there are many changes in the guidelines for this summer's competition. They include:

- ***Deletion of College-age competition***
- ***Require a fourth Bible Memorization Judge***
- ***Require churches with four or more music/drama/art entries to have Bible entries***
- ***Limit the number of entries a student may enter to three***
- ***Merge vocal duets, trios, quartets, quintets, sextets, chorales, and choirs into more manageable groups***
- ***Revision of Oral Communications categories to include speech and mime***
- ***Redevelopment of Creative Writing Essay category which must relate to the theme of NYC***
- ***Addition of a new Electronic Media category***
- ***Major revisions of the Creative Arts category***
- ***Totally revised judging sheets***
- ***A new 100-point judging scale***

Of course there are other changes. You and your competitors will find exciting changes which will give new opportunities and exciting challenges in many areas of competition.

Make sure your church and coaches have the new guidelines. You may order your new guidelines by calling Randall House Publications at 1-800-877-7030.

If you have any questions about the new guidelines or the 1997 National Youth Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, please call the Youth Ministries Division at (615) 361-1221 ext. 344 or 346.

OUR READERS COMMENT

Sunday School Teacher Writes

I really enjoyed "Escape from the Living Death" by Paul Harrison (October 1996). It has encouraged me to be more compassionate to others.

Adam Clagg
Sunday School Teacher
Corinth Free Will Baptist Church
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Calls For More Lay Leaders

Thank you for Dr. Wade Jernigan's article, "A Wildcatter Christmas" (December '96). Each generation must have faithful, courageous people who will follow the example of the Apostle Paul (II Thesalonians 3:7-9).

Also, note that the success of Wade's story depended upon a committed team of modern day Aquila, Priscilla, Phoebe, etc. (Acts 18:1-3, 26; Romans 16). Free Will Baptists have a strong history of lay leaders maintaining the church when an ordained preacher was unavailable.

My wife, Louise, and I remember an earlier time when we saw a Free Will Baptist preacher about once per month, while weekly Sunday School, prayer meeting and church business was conducted by lay leaders. Can we train lay leaders for such a 21st century challenge?

Reverend J. Mark Vandivort, Pastor
Sunset Free Will Baptist Mission
Flagstaff, Arizona

Getting Better

I appreciate *Contact*. The stories are getting better all the time.

Reverend Jack T. Woods
Winter Garden, Florida

A Happy Reader

Contact is a wonderful blessing to us!

Reverend Ron Scott
Laredo, Texas

Informative Publication

I have enjoyed the magazine for many years and wish to thank you for such a nice magazine at such a reasonable price.

I think *Contact* is a really great and informative magazine. I am so proud that our denomination has this publication available for us.

Oma A. Viles
Muldrow, Oklahoma

Subscribes For Others

Add these eight names and addresses to your mailing list. Maybe they will read it and receive some of the blessings found therein.

James Orr
Paducah, Kentucky

Something Went Wrong

The last *Contact* (November 1996) was a mess, what went wrong?

Pastor J. R. Shade
Landmark Free Will Baptist Church
Sperry, Oklahoma

Editor's note: Most of the typographical errors in November were traced to a deteriorating hard drive in our computer.

Enjoys Reading

I sure enjoy reading the *Contact* each month.

Nettie Shepherd
Nashville, Tennessee

Pastor Voices Concern

It is noteworthy that men who subscribe to the same articles of faith and to the same written practices have such different senses of vision or hearing. Without any attempt to be facetious or insulting, I must reply to the writings of two leaders in the January issue.

On page two, Brother Worthington, writing about change, listed some new programs and publi-

cations and then inferred that obedient people of vision with creativity and innovation are valiantly leading Free Will Baptists to obey the Great Commission. No mention was made of several changes which have produced headaches, heartaches and setbacks such as those which produced denomination-wide forums in December 1995 and July 1996.

On the next two pages, Brother Carl Cheshier described the recent forums at Nashville and Fort Worth as fruitful and reconciliatory. I must ask, "Who was reconciled? And on what issue were we reconciled?" I failed to catch the miracle.

We all should rejoice over genuine godly togetherness when it exists, but I fear that Brother Carl has made some gross overstatements. We should be positive people and we should support progress; we must also be realistic.

We must never forget that men like Jeremiah and Martin Luther were severe critics of changes that some men applauded. Brethren, several improper innovations have sailed us into troubled waters, and some aren't ignoring the winds that push us or the icebergs that lurk ahead, hidden to the unwary.

Reverend Robert Helms, Pastor
Faith Free Will Baptist Church
Chandler, Indiana

Good Deal

This is one of the really good deals. (On a subscription renewal invoice.)

Wendell Leckbee
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Enjoys Magazine

I haven't received a magazine for a couple of months. I took a new church so that may be the reason. I'm enclosing my new address.

I really enjoy your magazine.

Reverend Cecil Farmer
Norton, Ohio



Jack Williams

The Resurrection News

The bad news came Friday when Roman soldiers rolled a large stone on Jesus' tomb. The good news came Sunday when behind the stone the living Rock of Ages stirred. With a shrug of His shoulders on the third day, Jesus divided time, crushed the tempter and led Captivity captive. He was alive!

Before dawn that Sunday, those who had died in faith from Adam to the repentant thief just hours earlier, moved en masse with Jesus from Paradise to Heaven. It was the greatest exodus *never* seen by man.

The long line stretching from Eden to Noah's flood through Babylon and the flashing swords of Rome, stepped upward—the heroes of faith and the anonymous faithful known only to God. When the stone moved on the third day, it forever vindicated Job's faith and Jeremiah's tears.

This was the Great Gettin' Up Morning seen dimly by prophets and poets, the promise that allowed generations to die in faith, trusting in the unseen hand of God. It was resurrection day.

Just how important is the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus? The Apostle Paul wrote that Jesus' resurrection was the touchstone of Christian truth. Everything rose or fell on this one fact.

Jesus told believers and unbelievers alike that He would rise from the dead. He never flinched nor stuttered when saying it. He wagered the truth of all He taught on this one great act—He must literally rise from the dead.

It was the resurrection of Jesus that His enemies feared most (Mt. 27:63-64). The first lie told after the resurrection was that it never happened and that His disciples stole the body away: it was a desperate lie by des-

perate men. Early that Sunday, money changed hands and the lie rewrote history for some (Mt. 28:12-15).

But within days, hundreds, then tens of thousands believed the resurrection truth. Terrified disciples stepped from hiding to preach fearlessly. Resurrection power opened jail doors in Jerusalem, started churches in Antioch, sent missionaries to Asia Minor and ultimately conquered the mighty Roman Empire.

The issue was a simple one, really. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, Christianity could be relegated to the scrap heap of man-made religions.

But the Christians sang a new song. They preached a new message. God had come down to earth as a man. He had lived among us, walked with us, talked to us, died for us and rose from the dead to save us. There had never been a message like that.

After Jesus' resurrection, nothing was ever the same again. Not in Israel, not in Rome, not in all of creation.

"He Arose!" Christians sing, and cynics shudder. "He Lives!" Christians preach, and the powers of darkness retreat.

Critics can not explain the changed lives, the different attitudes or the salvaged homes. They rush to press with books to disprove the resurrection. They hoot at faith to embarrass believers. But every Sunday morning, a hundred million voices across America lift as one, "He Lives!", and the agnostic has no where to run.

Fanatics may twist the truth. Enemies may ridicule it. The unconcerned may ignore it. But rising above it all, the resurrection shouts hope from every church door; it reverberates in every hymn; it rolls across the

nation like the sunrise.

We are a people inexorably tied to the resurrection. America has many agendas today, but the original purpose that called men to these shores was the freedom to worship. They came to the New World because of the resurrection truth.

The resurrection is as fresh and new and powerful today as it was that Sunday when Mary wept outside the tomb. Their lives were no more changed that first day than ours can be this day. They finally stopped trying to explain the resurrection and began to live in its power. So can we.

There is one Name above all others, and there is one truth that shines brighter than the rest. That truth is the resurrection of Jesus.

Without the resurrection, there is no Great Commission. Without the resurrection, there is no Upper Room power. Without the resurrection, there is no Ascension and there can be no Second Coming to right the wrongs of history.

Jesus said of Himself, "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore . . . and have the keys of hell and death" (Rev. 1:18). No one tried to debate that point with Him.

Perhaps the greatest truth of all, as far as we are concerned, is that the resurrection is more than a doctrine; it is a *person*. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection . . ." (John 11:25).

Christianity is not religiously inclusive—acknowledging many ways to God. Christianity is exclusive. Jesus said clearly, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

That's not bad news; that's good news. That's the resurrection news!

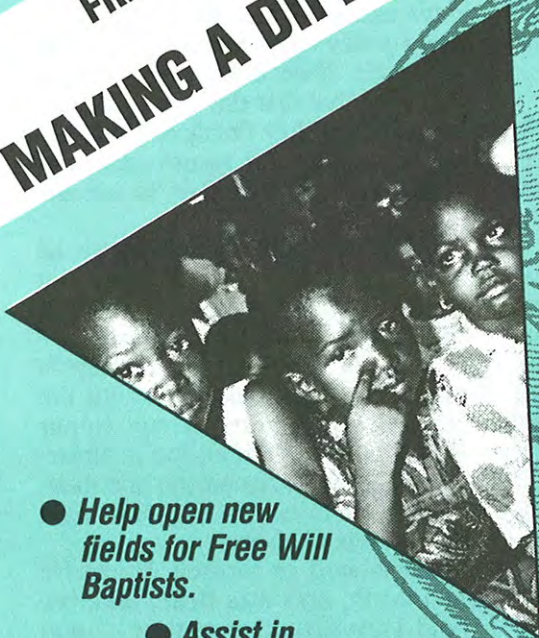
Periodical
Postage
Paid

CONTACT

P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

**THE
TOGETHER
WAY**

**FREE WILL BAPTISTS
are
MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**



**You, too,
can
make a
difference
this April!**

Lives are being
transformed
around the
globe!

1997 Goal:
\$100,000

- *Help open new fields for Free Will Baptists.*
- *Assist in preparing new missionaries for a fruitful ministry.*
- *Help missionaries attain their support needs and function more freely.*
- *Provide pastoral care and encouragement for your missionaries.*

Give to the annual
**Laura Belle Barnard
World Missions Offering
April 27, 1997**

The Together Way offering for Foreign Missions.

Earmark gifts for "World Missions Offering" and send them to:
FOREIGN MISSIONS, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002