

MAY 1997

CONTACT

**Free Will Baptist
National Convention
Cincinnati, Ohio
July 20-24, 1997**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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The Two Floods

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Down to Business

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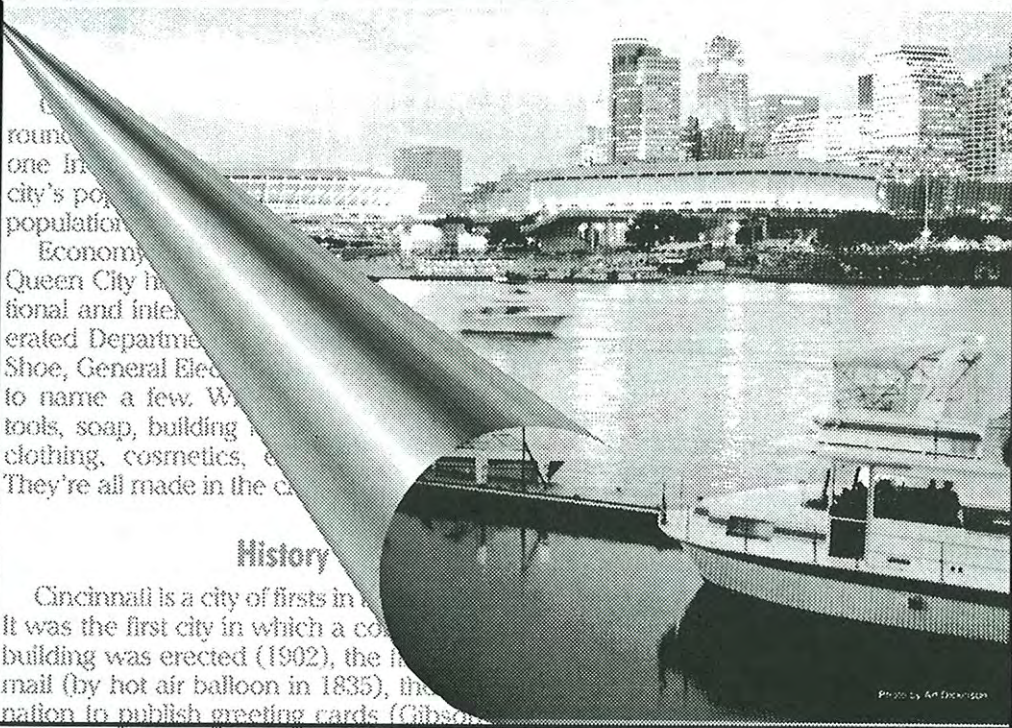
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My Little Brother, Billy

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Room With a View



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VOLUME 44, NO. 5

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Church Aflame

When revival fires sweep the church, there is excitement, enthusiasm, evangelism, education and edification. Someone recently commented regarding Free Will Baptists that while our doctrine was correct, our deportment consistent and our distinctives clear, we lacked a passion for Christ's Great Commission. Is that true? What characterizes the church when it is aflame?

Expound the Scriptures

The church aflame expounds the scriptures. Preaching the whole counsel of God is done week after week. Exposition of the Word of God occupies a prominent place in the church on fire. Strong scriptural sermons are preached consistently.

There is no substitute for exposition of the scriptures. Expository preaching remains one of the most effective methods when viewed from a long-range perspective. Pseudo-success may be experienced by falling prey to temporary methods which a contemporary culture demands, but lasting results come from expounding the scriptures.

Exalt the Savior

The church aflame exalts the Savior. From Genesis to Revelation the Lord Jesus Christ is exalted. God has given Him the preeminent place in all things. Jesus is not just present and prominent in the church which is aflame—He is preeminent. When Jesus is lifted up, He draws all men unto Himself.

The singing, sermons and services in the church which is aflame exalt Christ. When He is exalted, saints are conformed to His image, sinners are converted and service is commenced.

Nothing will do for us what a glimpse of Christ in all His glory will do.

Edify the Saints

The church aflame edifies the saints. God has made provision for the spiritual development of His children. He has given the church prophets, apostles, evangelists and pastor/teachers to perfect the saints.

Peter *directs* the process of growth when he says, "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby; if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious (I Peter 2:1-3).

Peter *details* the path of spiritual development when he says, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; And to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity" (II Peter 1:5-7).

Peter sums up spiritual growth with these words, "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ . . ." (II Peter 3:17-18).

The Secretary's Schedule May 1997

- 7-10** Florida State Association
- 16-17** Michigan State Association
- 20-23** Convention Planning Trip
Cincinnati, Ohio
- 27-28** RCMA Board of Directors Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana
- 30-31** Northeast District Association



Melvin Worthington

Exercise Stewardship

The church aflame exercises stewardship. Too often when the term stewardship is used we think only of money. Stewardship is more than money. Stewards are required to be faithful.

Paul declares, "Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58).

Stewards are required to keep their focus. Included in their focus is the proper use of their talent, time, testimony, treasure and tithe. All these areas give a comprehensive view of biblical stewardship.

Stewards are required to *face* the precepts of the Sovereign's ownership, saint's obligation and stewardship opportunities. The church which is aflame consistently, comprehensively, conscientiously and cheerfully embraces and exercises stewardship.

Evangelize Sinners

The church aflame evangelizes sinners. The theme and thrust of the Bible is that human beings are sinners who need to be saved. God's redemption in the Lord Jesus Christ is the essence of the gospel. This gospel is to be proclaimed to all the peoples of the earth. Evangelism remains the heartbeat and hub of the church which is aflame. Every believer has a responsibility to evangelize sinners.

The hallmarks of the church which is aflame are: exposition of the scriptures, exaltation of the Savior, edification of the saint, exercise of stewardship and evangelizing of sinners. It is my prayer that the Lord will set Free Will Baptist churches afire. ■

The Floods of '97

By Marilyn Pritchard



"The Ohio River has crested at Cincinnati but is receding slowly."

The reporter sounded grim. Water had swallowed whole neighborhoods, halted commerce and forced folks to stop and take a long hard look at what is really important. Homes had been destroyed, lives lost, possessions ruined.

Floods of this magnitude don't arrive without warning. Endless rain, saturated ground, rising rivers all warn of the impending threat. That was March and the flood of '97.

Another Flood

Most Cincinnatians are unaware of another flood swelling up to engulf their city in the next 60 days.

July 20-24 marks the 61st annual Free Will Baptist National Convention—which convenes in Cincinnati, Ohio. Thousands of Free Will Baptists will flood the city to conduct business, fellowship around meals, enjoy good singing, and soak up great preaching.

They know we're coming: We've reserved 1,200 rooms in three hotels along with space in the Cincinnati Convention Center. Banquet reservations for groups of 10 to 1,000 stand ready. Housing forms have been printed; reservations are pouring in. They've been warned.

Now, we probably won't make whole neighborhoods disappear in our wake or halt commerce (though we may *spend* a dollar or two while we're there). But wouldn't it be great if we could, under better conditions than March, get folks to stop and see what is *really* important!

First, though, maybe *we'd* better stop and take a look for ourselves at what's really important.

What do we Free Will Baptists have to offer the Queen City of the West?

Court intrigue or the King of Kings?

What do we have for this city midpoint on the Ohio River?

A torrent of ugly words or the Water of Life?

What can we suggest to the city that's a world leader in the production of soaps and detergents?

Dirty politics or the One who can cleanse hearts whiter than a fuller's soap?

In other words, will we spend our time tearing each other down, nit-picking and complaining, or will we ex-

emply the Lord we serve by our love—for one another, for others and for the Lord? Will they “know we are Christians by our love”?

A Look at the City

Cincinnati, Queen City of the West, is a well-rounded community encompassing three Ohio, one Indiana and three Kentucky counties. The city's population is 385,000, but the metropolitan population is 1.7 million.

Economy in the area is diverse and strong. The Queen City houses headquarters for several national and international companies: Kroger, Federated Department Stores, Chiquita Brands, U.S. Shoe, General Electric Aircraft Engine Group, just to name a few. What do you need—machine tools, soap, building materials, cans, chemicals, clothing, cosmetics, electronics, jet engines? They're all made in the city on the river.

History

Cincinnati is a city of firsts in the history books. It was the first city in which a concrete high-rise building was erected (1902), the first to have air mail (by hot air balloon in 1835), the first in the nation to publish greeting cards (Gibson Greeting Cards) and the first to have a licensed public TV station (1954). This was the first city in the nation to establish a Jewish Hospital (1850) and Jewish theological college (1875), Hebrew Union College.

The city of firsts made long strides in the field of fire-fighting by using the first practical steam fire engine in 1853, the first city to establish a municipal fire department. They were the first to install and use a fireman's pole.

Current

'Looking for something to do in your spare time while at the convention? Lists of great activities beckon for attention. For entertainment try Americana Amusement Park, Kings Island, Coney Island, Riverbend Music Center, river boat cruises, horse and buggy rides along with major league sports.

If informative activities are your bag, try the Cincinnati Fire Museum, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gar-

den, Museum Center at Union Terminal (containing three museums and an Omnimax Theater), the Golden Lamb Inn (licensed in 1803), John Hauck House Museum or Sharon Woods Village.

Perhaps your cup of tea is cultural experiences. You'll delight in Cincinnati Art Museum, Chamber Orchestra, Opera, Playhouse in the Park, Symphony Orchestra, the Contemporary Arts Center and the Taft Museum.

Budget limited? Check out some free attractions: Bicentennial Commons at Sawyer Point, on the Riverfront, Fountain Square and the Skywalk, Hebrew Union College/Gallery of Art and Artifacts, Kings Mills General Store and Christmas Shop (it's free to enter, but if you want to take something with you, you have to pay), the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County or the William Howard Taft National Historic Site.

Shopping/Dining/Parking

Did someone say shopping? Start with Lazarus or Saks Fifth Avenue and move on to Tower Place Mall which features 70 fashion shops and gift boutiques, food court and two full-service restaurants. If it's individual stores you're looking for, you'll find everything from apparel to hats, cut glass to brass, art to luggage and classy souvenirs.

Budget calling again? At least four outlet centers/stores beckon from the surrounding area along with several regular and specialty malls and shopping centers.

Numerous restaurants downtown wait to serve you at meal time. Hamburgers to steaks, Italian to Japanese: you should find something suitable for your taste, whatever it is.

Did I hear a request for parking places? At least a dozen lots sit within a two-block radius of the convention center and another half-dozen or so dot downtown.

Travel/Transportation

Three major interstates converge in Cincinnati. I-75 runs through the middle of downtown coming from Lexington to the south and Dayton to the north. I-74 from Indianapolis terminates at I-75 in Cincinnati. I-71 from

Columbus to the north and Louisville to the south also traverses the city.

Not driving? The Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport is just 15 minutes (12 miles) away in northern Kentucky. Airlines servicing the airport include American, Comair, Delta, Northwest, TWA, U.S. Air and United. Twenty dollars will get one to four people in a taxi from the airport to downtown hotels.

What if it downpours just before a big event? Don't worry. The Skywalk, a system covering 20 city blocks, links major hotels, department stores, restaurants, shops, Fountain Square and the convention center. You won't have to set foot outdoors if you don't want to.

Convention in a Capsule

When:
July 20-24, 1997

Where:
Cincinnati, Ohio

Theme:
"Church Aflame"

Speakers:
Bill E. Sawyer
Robert L. Prichard
Matthew L. Upton
Earl Hendrix
Melvin Worthington
Jerry L. Norris

A Look at Who's Speaking

Bill E. Sawyer

Name: Bill E. Sawyer
 Age: 63
 Wife: Mildred
 Ordained: 1958 (deacon)
 Position: Deacon, SS Teacher
 Church: First FWB Church, Gastonia, NC
 Education: High School
 Occupation: Registered Land Surveyor, Vice President of Robinson & Sawyer, Inc.
 Offices Held: Chairman of Board of Directors of Camp Arrowood; Chairman of "United We Build" campaign, music director 30 years
 Teaching: Adult Sunday School Class



Earl Hendrix

Name: Earl Hendrix
 Age: 59
 Wife: Gwen
 Ordained: 1968 (minister)
 Position: Pastor
 Church: First FWB Church, Inman, South Carolina
 Education: Diploma, Piedmont Bible Institute; B.A., Bob Jones University
 Pastored In: South Carolina
 Offices Held: Clerk, Moderator, South Carolina State Association; Moderator, Beaver Creek Association; Board of Retirement; Home Missions Board
 Speaking: Monday Evening



Robert L. Prichard

Name: Robert L. Prichard
 Age: 59
 Wife: Lona
 Ordained: 1958 (minister)
 Position: Pastor
 Church: Cleveland FWB Church, Cleveland, OH
 Pastored In: Ohio
 Offices Held: Moderator, Cuyahoga-Lorain Conference; Board of Directors, Ohio State Association; Assistant Moderator Ohio Association; State Moderator, Ohio Association
 Preaching: Sunday Morning Service



Melvin Worthington

Name: Melvin Worthington
 Age: 60
 Wife: Anne
 Ordained: 1957 (minister)
 Position: Executive Secretary, National Assoc. of FWB
 Education: B.B.Ed., Columbia International University; Th.B., B.Div, Th.M., Th.D., Luther Rice Seminary; M.Ed., Georgia State University; Ed.D., Vanderbilt University
 Pastored In: Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina
 Offices Held: Clerk, SC State Association; Assistant Moderator, Moderator, Georgia State Association; Asst. Moderator, NAFWB, Chairman, SS/CT Board
 Speaking: Tuesday Evening Service



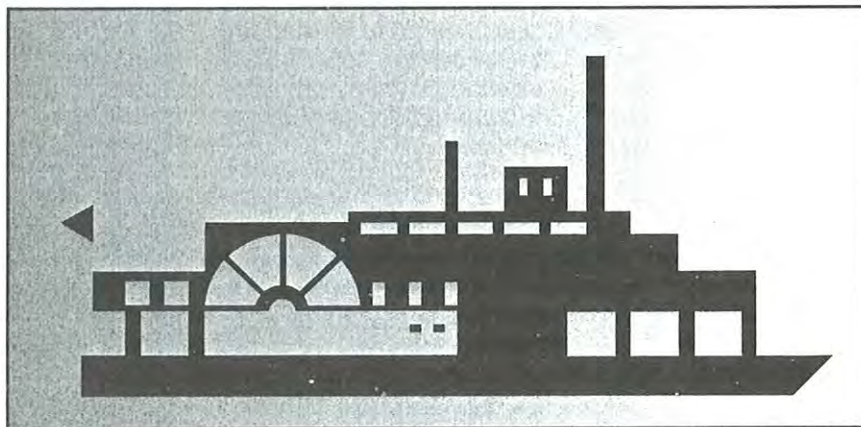
Matthew L. Upton

Name: Matthew L. Upton
 Age: 38
 Wife: Rita Jo
 Ordained: 1984 (minister)
 Position: Pastor
 Church: The FWB Church of Stockton, California
 Education: High School
 Pastored In: California
 Offices Held: Assistant Moderator, California State Association; Moderator, California State Association; Assistant Clerk, California State Association
 Speaking: Sunday Evening Service



Jerry L. Norris

Name: Jerry L. Norris
 Age: 54
 Wife: Brenda
 Ordained: 1964 (minister)
 Position: Pastor
 Church: Calvary Fellowship FWB Church, Fenton, MO
 Education: B.A., FWBBC
 Pastored In: South Carolina, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri
 Offices Held: Chairman, Missouri Board of Christian Education
 Speaking: Wednesday Evening Service



Special Activities

Meals:

Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner	
Monday 4:45 p.m.	\$20.00
Children's Banquet	
Monday 5:00 p.m.	\$8.00
Tweeners' Banquet	
Monday 5:00 p.m.	\$8.00
Youth Workers Reception	
Monday 9:00 p.m.	\$7.50
Hillsdale College Lunch	
Tuesday 12:00 noon	\$15.00
Youth Banquet	
Tuesday 9:00 p.m.	\$18.00
WNAC Fellowship Dinner	
Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	\$15.00
Music Fellowship Breakfast	
Wednesday 7:00 a.m.	\$12.00
FWBBC Luncheon	
Wednesday 12:00 noon	\$15.00
Master's Men Dinner	
Wednesday 4:45 p.m.	\$18.00

Meetings/Seminars

General Board	Monday
WNAC Seminar	Monday
HM Church Growth Conference ...	Monday
Church Growth Forum	Tuesday
Theology Seminar	Tuesday
Music Seminar	Tuesday

WNAC

Business	Tuesday a.m./p.m.
Missions Service	Tuesday a.m.
Banquet	Tuesday p.m.

NYC

Competition	All Week
Youth Services	Each Night
Awards Ceremonies	Wednesday

Before You Leave Home . . .

1. Pray for the convention, the speakers, the workers, the attendees.
2. Pre-register (it'll save time in Cincinnati).
3. Change the oil in the car or . . .
4. Be sure you have your plane ticket.
5. Pack your comfortable shoes.
6. Collect your prescription medications.
7. Stop the mail and paper.
8. Put the dog in the kennel (or find a kind neighbor).
9. Unplug the iron.
10. Remember your Bible, a good pen, something to write on.

1997 Steering Committee

Steering Committee Chairman	Edwin Hayes
Ohio State Moderator	Robert Prichard
Registration Committee Chairman	William Hayes
Hospitality Committee Chairman	Billy Sharpston
Prayer Committee Chairman	Mike Mounts
Ushering Committee Chairman	Roger Childers
State Auxiliary President	Sandy Mounts
NYC Advisor	Manuel Lopes



**How
Far
from
Here
to
There?**

Once You Get There . . .

1. Tip the bellman.
2. Unpack your walking shoes.
3. Pray for the speakers.
4. Check out the exhibits.
5. Attend worship services.
6. Fellowship with friends.
7. Make new friends.
8. Wear your sunniest smile.
9. Participate in seminars.
10. Attend a luncheon.
11. Take pictures.
12. Tip the waitress.
13. Cheer the kids as they compete.
14. Check out the NYC art gallery.
15. Order tapes of favorite speakers.
16. Meet a missionary.
17. Subscribe to *Contact*.
18. Call Home at least once.
19. Get to know a national leader.
20. Say, "Thanks," to a Buckeye.

Quick Guide to Cincinnati

Population: 385,000 in the city itself
1,700,000 in the metropolitan Cincinnati area

Location: Southern Ohio on the Mississippi River

Phone Numbers:

Academy of Medicine (24 hours/7 days) . . .721-2345
AAA Emergency762-3222
Police (Cincinnati Proper)765-1212
Police (Hamilton County)825-2280
Emergency (Police and Fire)911
Ambulance Service (24 hours/7 days) . . .531-1077
Time721-1700
Weather241-1010
Talking Yellow Pages333-4444
24 Hour Information Line421-INFO

Points of Interest

Americana Amusement Park
Behringer-Crawford Museum, Covington, Kentucky
Bicentennial Commons at Sawyer Point, Pet Rose Way
Carew Tower Observatory
Cincinnati Art Museum
Cincinnati Fire Museum
Cincinnati Reds
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
Coney Island
Contemporary Art Center
Hebrew Union College-Gallery of Art and Artifacts
Horse and Buggy Rides
John Hauck House Museum
Kings Island
Kings Mill General Store and Christmas Shop
Mainstrasse Village, Covington, Kentucky
Museum Center at Union Terminal
Riverboat Cruises
Taft Museum
Warren County Historical Society Museum
William Howard Taft National Historic Site



Fountain Square

A Look Back

Year	City	Convention Value	Room Nights	Catered Meals	Registration
1996	Fort Worth, Texas	2.40 Million	4,641	3,952	6,771
1995	Charlotte, North Carolina	2.50 "	4,880	4,273	6,972
1994	Little Rock, Arkansas	4.10 "	5,163	3,743	7,640
1993	Louisville, Kentucky	1.90 "	5,742	3,389	6,946
1992	Indianapolis, Indiana	3.00 "	4,409	3,719	6,119
1991	Charleston, West Virginia	3.00 "	6,229	3,664	6,538
1990	Phoenix, Arizona	1.80 "	4,164	2,812	4,352
1989	Tampa, Florida	3.00 "	4,444	3,291	5,707
1988	Kansas City, Missouri	1.30 "	4,212	3,157	5,866
1987	Birmingham, Alabama	1.50 "	4,261	3,683	6,159
1986	Tulsa, Oklahoma	\$1.08 "	4,596	3,815	6,545

WNAC Quick Facts

Date: July 21-22

Place: Omni Netherland Plaza Hotel and Cincinnati Convention Center

Theme: "Expanding Knowledge"

Features: Creative Arts Awards
Parade of Books by FWB Women
Business
Missionary Service
Seminar—"The Importance of Study"
Fellowship Dinner

Speakers: Foreign Missionary Debbie Griffin
Home Missionary Jeff Crabtree
Lorene Miley
Debe Taylor
Mary R. Wisehart

NYC Snippets

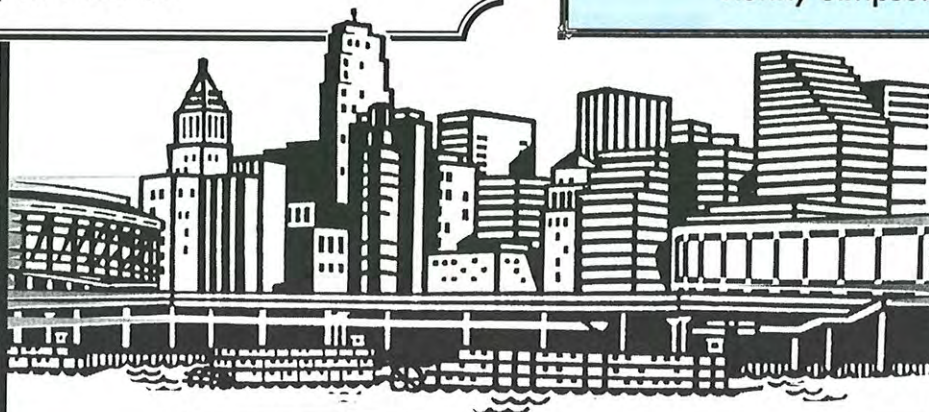
Date: July 20-23

Place: Regal Cincinnati Hotel and Cincinnati Convention Center

Theme: "Walk in the Light of the Lord"

Features: Bible Competition
Music and Arts Festival
Seminars
Youth Worship Services
Age-Specific Activities
Youth Banquets

Speakers: Joey Wilson
Jeff Nichols
Brian Williams
Jeff Dunn
Mark Stripling
Kenny Simpson



When You Get Home ...

1. Give thanks for blessings of the convention.
2. Soak your tired feet.
3. Retrieve Rover from the kennel.
4. Resume the paper and mail.
5. Listen to your favorite sermons again on tape.
6. Get those pictures developed.
7. E-Mail a missionary.
8. Read that new book you purchased.
9. Plan to pre-register next year.
10. Share convention blessings with your church.

LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

—1997—

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____
is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will Baptists
from _____ FWB Church.

_____ of _____, _____
(District Association) (City) (State)
_____ or _____
(Pastor) (Church Clerk)

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

If your church sends you to the national convention...

Take Care

of

Business

By Ben Scott

Whose business is the annual national convention? But first of all, *what* is it? It's not a political gathering, although at times it may be sprinkled and spiced with a few caucuses here and there.

It's not merely a social function, but the hearty handshakes, the hugs, the howdies and the how-are-you's set a warm tone for a family reunion type gathering. It's a pretty good sized family, too, with lots of brothers and sisters.

The Good Times

It's not a carnival nor a picnic nor a parade. It does seem, however, that most folks park their problems for a few days. A holiday atmosphere prevails. They're ready for some hallelujah choruses and some red-hot, Heaven-blessed preaching.

They're even braced and bristled for business. And if a few raindrops dampen the parade, and if a few ants show up at the picnic table, never

mind. There'll be an abundance of food for those who wish to eat, and there'll be crumbs sufficient for any who came just to nibble.

The national convention means different things to a diverse congregation. In more recent years, many hundreds of our youth made their presence known. They're present to participate in a wide range of competitive and social activities under the direction of the National Youth Conference.

Parents and youth workers come in droves to oversee our denomination's most precious resource, our youth. But even though we tout our tots and teens, relishing their every achievement, some of us "ole-timers" inwardly hope that we're not assigned a room in the hotel designated, youth headquarters. Nothing personal. It's the elevators!

Something for Everybody

There's something at the national convention for everybody. The preacher can find his place at the

table. Laymen can fit well into their niche. So can the ladies and the missionaries and the executives. There's something there for us all. It's a music-lovers' feast. A buffet. A smorgasbord.

It has been my privilege to attend 49 sessions of our denomination's annual meeting. Most of those trips were taken by auto with Mrs. Scott and the boys in earlier days aboard the family ship.

Often the trip was made in company of another church family or two. More than once we stopped at a roadside table, tore into a can of Spam and had an enjoyable, economical meal.

Really, Spam's not that bad. Put a slice of red-ripe tomato on it, doctor it up with some other stuff, and it makes a right nice sandwich. Cuts down on expenses considerably. Besides that, it's fun.

Even though we never thought a trip to the national convention belonged in the vacation category, in retrospect, I must confess that many of those trips were mighty enjoyable. And for most of them we got our

meals, motels and mileage paid by a caring, considerate, loving church.

Church Responsibility

That brings me to the reason I was invited to produce this article. Lots of sincere, supporting laymen have at one time or another raised serious questions. Questions like: "What is the church's responsibility in regard to sending their pastor and/or youth-music director?"

And then, "What is the pastor's responsibility to the church?" And finally, "If the church sends a delegate, what are his responsibilities?"

From a pastoral ministry dating from the mid-40s to the mid-90s, I simply share some personal observations and opinions.

Should the church pay the pastor's expenses to the National Association? Yes, by all means! And make it enough so he can take his family. It'll prove to be a good investment.

The pastor needs to go, to see, to grow, to learn. Truth is, many of our younger pastors simply could not go without some financial assistance. Send your youth/music director, too. Most churches, I believe, understand and accept this as part of their responsibility to those who serve in these positions.

Pastor Responsibility

Pastors, music directors, youth ministers . . . Don't take this privilege too lightly. Sure, you should enjoy the trip. If you can get away a day or two early, clear it with your board and do it. If it feels a little like vacation, don't squelch it.

But remember, you're on a business trip—National Association business. And you're representing your church. Be conscientious and conservative. Go easy on the \$12 T-bones and the \$15 filets!

Attend the seminars. Be there for the worship services. You'll benefit from the banquets you can attend. The alumni meetings are great for renewing old acquaintances.

When it comes time for the business sessions, take your seat on the convention floor with the voting delegation. It's not only your privilege, it's your responsibility. Take notes. Vote. Speak up if you want to. Listen a lot.

And when you get home, give your church a report. Deal mainly with the progress, programs and prospects.

While you're at it, express thanks to your church for making it possible for you to attend. Bring copies of important resolutions, and if you can obtain them, bring some copies of the *Digest of Reports*.

Delegate Responsibility

The church's delegate. Some have asked, "Does the delegate vote his personal conviction or does he vote the way he knows his church would wish him to vote?" Good questions.

In my opinion, the church is at liberty to give instruction to the delegate. This is particularly the case if it is known that an important issue is to be considered. Should the delegate not be in agreement with the church's instruction, then he probably should excuse himself from the position.

In matters that arise from the floor, the delegate should be at liberty to weigh all the arguments, draw his own conclusion and vote his personal conviction.

The national convention . . . There's nothing else quite like it. It will certainly test your stamina. But if all goes well, you'll come home exhausted, but invigorated; broke but blessed; drained but dedicated and determined. And you've got a whole year to get ready for the next one. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Ben Scott retired in 1995 after 50 years in the pastorate. He served 12 years on the Board of Trustees at Free Will Baptist Bible College and 10 years as moderator of the Arkansas State Association. His three sons (Fred, Len and Randy) all pastor Free Will Baptist churches.

Directory Update

NORTH CAROLINA

James Stepps to Friendship Church, Pink Hill from Poplar Hills Church, Hemingway, SC.

Larry Davis to Shady Grove Church, Durham from Bethany Church, Norfolk, VA.

Wade Parker to West Calvary Church, Smithfield from Ahoskie Church, Ahoskie.

Nelson Koonce to Faith Church, Washington from Emmanuel Church as school principal.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Don Craft to Calvary Church, Georgetown from New Hope Church, Jacksonville, NC.

VIRGINIA

Rick Gatten to Chestnut Hill Church, Big Island.

Fred Bates, Jr., to Bethany Church, Norfolk from Cava Church, Virginia Beach.

OTHER PERSONNEL

Lee Smith to First Church, Savannah, GA, as minister of youth. ■

Surprise
your
Pastor!

Send him to the
National
Convention
in
Cincinnati.

He was converted in a cornfield.

My Little Brother, Billy

By Bobby Jackson

Billy entered this world little. He was born prematurely, weighing about two pounds. In July 1934, there were no hospital nurseries or incubators for such babies. Mother placed the little fellow on a pillow before an open fire in the fireplace to keep him warm. Billy was dealt a poor hand to begin this game.

When he was four, one Saturday morning in February, he watched Mother go away in a car to die in an automobile wreck. That left two little boys, seven and four, without a mother.

Sharecropper's Boy

A stepmother came along within a year. She was only 16. The following 10 years would be years of struggle, extremely hard work and serious abuse.

Life as sharecroppers was abuse enough. Labor began when the child was young. It was long and difficult. Daddy believed in working only half a day, and it didn't matter which 12 hours that was.

There was also abuse at home. Today, these little boys would be removed from the home. When Billy was six, the stepmother beat him with a stick, leaving blue bruised streaks across his back.

There was no lingering hatred nor bitterness in Billy. He loved her. As a young man he tried to help materially. He always stayed in touch. When she died, Billy wept and said, "She was the only mother I ever knew."

Billy began school still a bit premature. He missed many days and was asked to repeat grade two.



Bobby and Billy Jackson

Cornfield Conversion

In the fall of 1949, Billy was 14, the older brother 17. It was early Sunday morning. The two were in the cornfield pulling soybeans, stalk and all, to feed to the hogs. The older had given his heart to the Lord the night before and told Billy about the experience.

Billy looked across that row of beans, with tears in those big eyes and said, "You mean you've become a Christian and would go to Heaven if you died?" As best he understood, his brother assured Billy he was serious.

Billy responded, "Then I want to be a Christian and go to Heaven when I die."

The two of them knelt in the field

between rows of corn and beans. With no Bible, no preacher, no knowledge of scripture verses, only faith that the Lord who received one the night before would receive the other, if he gave himself to Him. Billy gave himself to God in the cornfield; that changed the rest of his life.

Teenage Preacher

Within a year the older went away to college and Billy began preaching. Billy had no money. He would hitchhike to churches and youth meetings. Some nights when he could not get home, he would stop and sleep under the shelter of a tobacco barn.

Conflict continued at home. One day when he was 17, he finally walked away from the troubled home and didn't go back.

For a short time Billy lived, worked and attended school around New Bern, North Carolina. During this time he met and married Shirley Gaskins. He called on that

older brother for the wedding.

College Years

In the fall of 1953, he entered Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. Billy worked 40 hours a week at H.G. Hill's grocery store for 50 cents an hour, and tried to carry a load at college. During that time the school gave minus quality points for failing a subject.

Billy got behind in quality points and never was able to make them up. When time came to graduate, he had enough hours but lacked quality points. Meanwhile, the school had changed the system, no longer giving

minus points.

Under the new system he could have made it, but there was no grandfather clause in the change. While he possibly could have taken more hours and obtained the necessary points, it just didn't seem that important to Billy. No doubt he could have obtained a degree by correspondence, but degrees never were his main pursuit.

The Little Churches

He went away to become pastor to "little" churches. In some of those churches, he had a very fruitful ministry. One half-time church approached Billy about preaching two Sundays per month. He told them that he would preach every Sunday and take pay (\$50 per week) for two Sundays. He would preach the other two for no pay, accepting whatever offering came in. They agreed.

After a month or so, the men of the church noticed those off-Sunday offerings were a bit more than \$50, so they changed their policy to pay the preacher \$50 every Sunday and put the extra money in the treasury. Thus, the church went full-time. Billy's pastoral package was \$50 per week.

In one revival in this church, there were over 60 people saved. Billy baptized about 50.

Billy worked with his hands to subsidize his ministry during all those early years. With boundless energy and no lazy bone in his body, he worked.

Big Problems

In Augusta, Georgia, he attempted to build a mission church. There his third child was born, a total diabetic. Some clause in small print in his health insurance policy gave the company an out from paying the exorbitant medical bills. Billy operated a taxi service and service stations to pay off that debt while he continued trying to build the church.

Billy wanted to build a big church for Jesus. He didn't understand why he worked tirelessly, lived a morally clean life, tried to preach the gospel as best he understood it, and never built a large church. It may be that the solution to his puzzle is understanding the Lord's measure of "big" and "little."

Last Pastorate

With his debts paid, Billy left Augusta. Two years later he landed in Jacksonville, North Carolina. There he would spend the last 18 years of his ministry. The work prospered and the church grew, but then leveled off at 150 to 200 in attendance. Not a big church as men measure churches.

A pastor appreciation service one evening became emotionally moving as people gave witness to Billy's service among them. A black lady stood, with tears trickling down, and told of the night when "Brother Billy" came to sit all night with her family and sick child. Another told of an accident and that when he arrived at the emergency room "Brother Billy" was already there and stayed with him through the terrible ordeal.

Billy built and ministered to one of the few, maybe the only, truly racially integrated churches among Free Will Baptists.

Among The Anonymous

Billy was one of that large group of preachers who serve with little recognition. They are always at the National Association. They never serve on a committee or board. They seldom, if ever, speak on the floor. They are part of the whole. He did preach once at a Tuesday Bible Conference.

This world never noticed. While he was dying in the hospital at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, his wife had difficulty with motel accommodations. Tar Heel basketball fans got priority. There will be no streets nor buildings named after Billy.

In the kingdom of God, that's a different matter. No one can say where the servants' places are. Jesus made it clear that the greatest are those who are servants.

The "little" children are big in His kingdom. He turns things upside down; the first are last and the last are first. It may be in that world, the older brother will be Billy's little brother.

In a small part of this world, Billy was important. To the boys and girls in the Children's Home at Turbeville, South Carolina, Billy was a great man. A few years ago at Christmas, he and his church bought and personally delivered to each child his own new bicycle.

To those people he loved and ministered to in their times of trouble and sorrow, "Brother Billy" was very important. To all of them my little brother Billy was a **Big, Big** man.

Early Riser

So many Sunday mornings Billy got up early to go to the house of the Lord and prepare for the services. On March 2, 1997, Sunday morning at about 6:00 a.m., Billy rose up early to go to the Lord's house, the one David referred to in Psalm 23, not to prepare, but to dwell with the Lord in His house forever. ■



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

Rev. Billy Jackson 1934-1997

Reverend Billy Gray Jackson, 62, died March 2, following surgery at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. Funeral services were held at the Cardinal Village FWB Church in Jacksonville, NC, where he pastored the last 18 years of his ministry. Rev. Johnny Bullman, Rev. Wingate Hansley and Mike Padgett officiated. Burial was in Onslow Memorial Park.

Rev. Jackson was born in Wayne County, North Carolina, and pastored churches in Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina. He was ordained on December 29, 1954.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley Gaskins Jackson of Jacksonville; a son, Kevin Gray Jackson of Pink Hill, NC; two daughters, Rhonda Willaford and Pamela Meekins of Jacksonville; two brothers, Bobby of Greenville, NC, and Quinton of Barhamsville, VA; a sister, Nancy McKeel of Carrollton, VA; and six grandchildren.

Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign
February 1997
Update

State	Goal	Gifts	Balance
Alabama	\$76,397.63	\$ 5,006.15	\$71,391.48
Arizona	1,228.93	2,883.71	(1,654.78)
Arkansas	76,860.94	43,422.13	33,438.81
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	33,799.91	26,684.49
Montana	27.48	100.00	(72.52)
Nebraska	102.08	119.00	(16.92)
New Mexico	596.80	630.55	(33.75)
North Carolina	59,118.06	7,131.40	51,986.66
Northeast Association	883.41	270.00	613.41
Northwest Association	1,087.58	201.00	886.58
Ohio	40,923.66	19,588.10	21,335.56
Oklahoma	92,271.60	10,432.08	81,839.52
South Carolina	18,335.75	3,102.00	15,233.75
South Dakota		175.00	(175.00)
Tennessee	78,557.09	62,673.75	15,883.34
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	\$279,231.18	\$487,352.21



THE TOGETHER WAY

February 1997

Receipts:

State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	February '96	Year To Date
Alabama	\$ 316.01	\$.00	\$ 316.01	\$ 153.94	\$ 652.84
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Arkansas	12,636.84	12,367.77	25,004.61	34,116.47	48,968.55
California	55.00	891.54	946.54	835.53	1,798.70
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Georgia	12,380.84	3,461.91	15,842.75	15,743.53	42,936.27
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	10,316.52	.00	10,316.52	8,576.17	22,346.16
Indiana	2,397.66	382.96	2,780.62	.00	3,903.45
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	655.90
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	200.00	.00
Kentucky	105.00	1,012.85	1,117.85	398.00	1,721.65
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	10.00	.00
Maryland	.00	719.33	719.33	.00	719.33
Michigan	12,356.30	3,730.10	16,086.40	17,085.43	24,216.00
Mississippi	320.25	350.80	671.05	443.95	1,100.12
Missouri	46,368.93	.00	46,368.93	10,404.91	76,345.67
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	862.88	46.44	909.32	125.68	1,322.42
North Carolina	1,354.00	275.00	1,629.00	931.15	4,476.70
Ohio	9,276.61	4,446.87	13,723.48	10,891.61	21,851.64
Oklahoma	72,443.13	.00	72,443.13	71,215.55	126,364.14
South Carolina	21,805.74	120.87	21,926.61	18,000.93	51,467.70
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	12,722.75	1,646.26	14,369.01	6,504.34	26,409.80
Texas	.00	.00	.00	14,221.26	14,609.19
Virginia	1,677.24	50.00	1,727.24	853.55	1,801.37
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	6,947.00	108.45	7,055.45	.00	7,055.45
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	412.52
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.13	.13	.00	.12
Totals	\$224,342.70	\$29,611.28	\$253,953.98	\$210,712.00	\$ 481,135.69

Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 9,155.25	\$14,805.61	\$ 23,960.86	\$ 27,113.69	\$ 49,568.05
Foreign Missions	140,648.29	3,405.28	144,053.57	105,893.08	256,598.76
FWBBC	12,867.93	3,405.28	16,273.21	15,866.38	37,107.27
Home Missions	52,893.90	2,665.01	55,558.91	49,990.06	108,755.67
Retirement & Insurance	1,210.61	2,072.78	3,283.39	2,722.68	6,745.90
Master's Men	1,917.26	2,072.78	3,990.04	3,483.12	8,417.85
Comsn. for Theo. Integrity	123.67	74.05	197.72	160.15	375.74
FWB Foundation	771.75	888.34	1,660.09	1,664.68	3,773.28
Historical Commission	106.89	74.05	180.94	160.15	354.67
Music Commission	71.20	74.05	145.25	160.15	315.56
Radio & TV Commission	81.31	74.05	155.36	160.12	319.28
Hillsdale FWB College	1,153.29	.00	1,153.29	1,141.68	2,506.01
Other	3,341.35	.00	3,341.35	2,196.06	6,297.65
Totals	\$224,342.70	\$29,611.28	\$253,953.98	\$210,712.00	\$ 481,135.69

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 _____

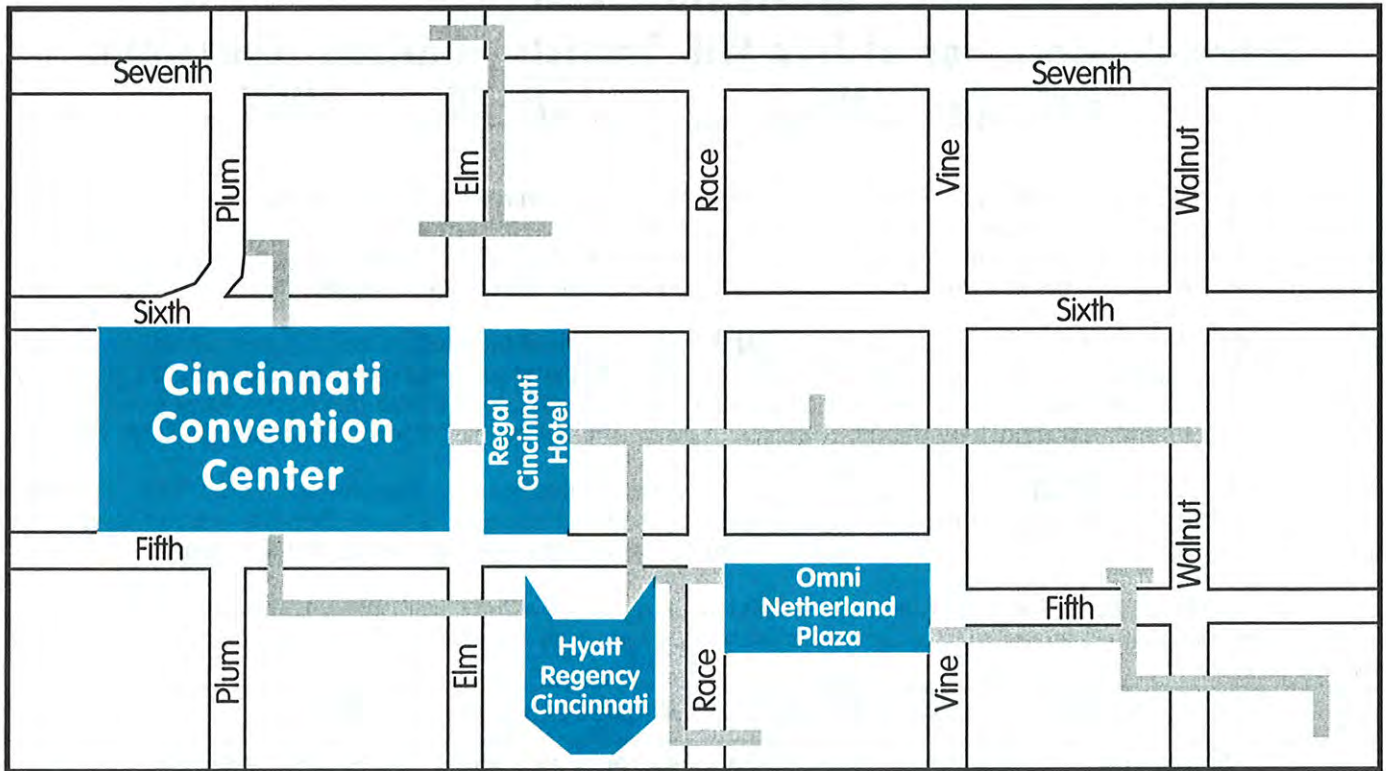
ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

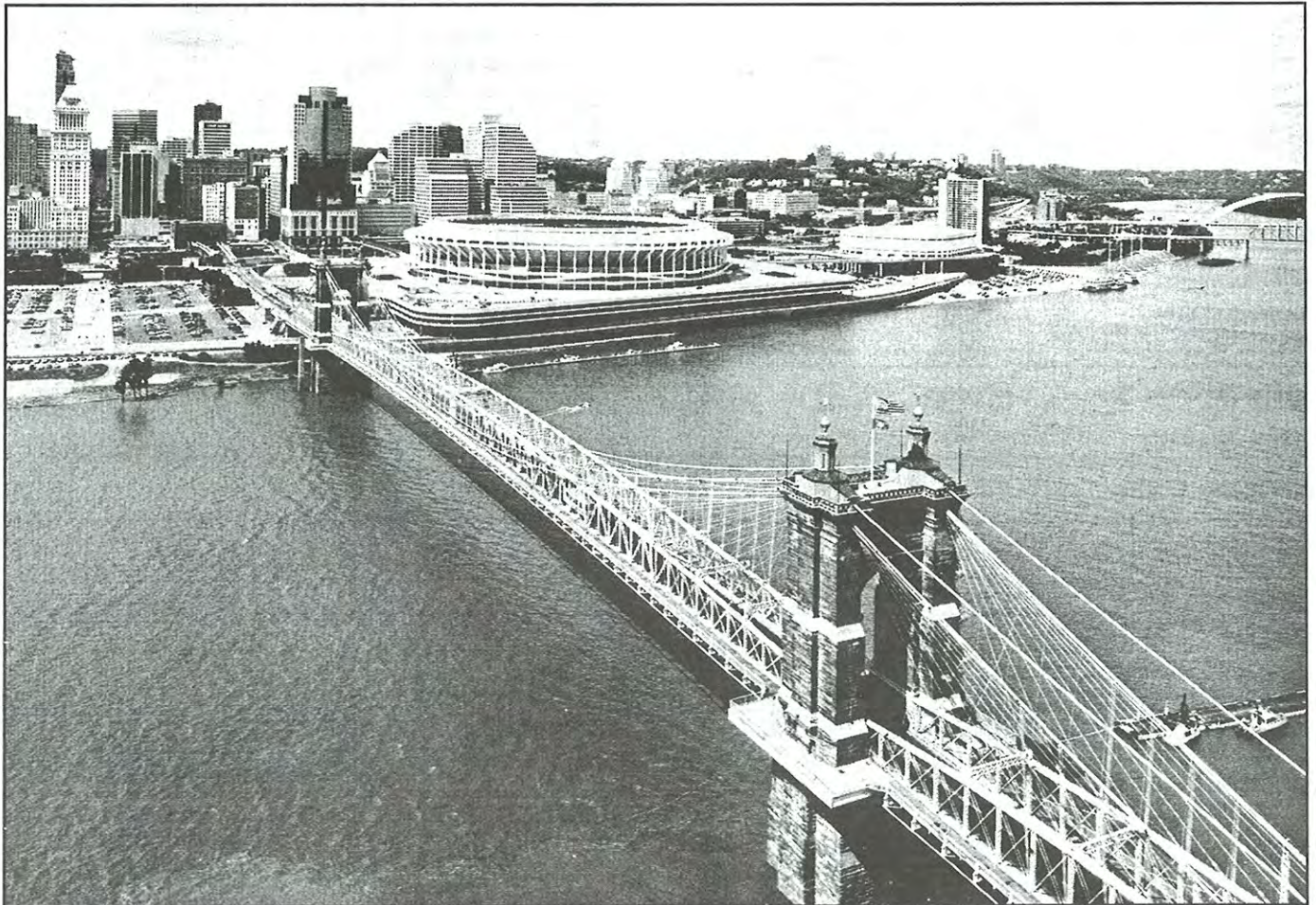
PHONE (____) _____ FAX (____) _____

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

May 1997, Contact 15



— = Convention Center Skywalk



Cincinnati sits on the Ohio River

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

Pre-Registration Form

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

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

Please Print

Name: _____ 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:	Quantity	
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.) (\$20 at convention)	_____ x \$18.00	= \$_____

If Local Church Delegate —————> **\$25.00** = \$_____
Signed credentials card enclosed **Yes!** ☐

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

(Check only one of the following:)

DELEGATE: ☐ Local (\$5.00)
☐ State
☐ State President or Field Worker
☐ National Officer

VISITOR: ☐ [Visitors can not vote]

Meal Tickets:	Quantity	
WNAC Fellowship Dinner	_____ x \$15.00	= \$_____

If Local WNAC Delegate —————> **\$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:	Quantity	
Children's Banquet (grades 1-3)	_____ x \$8.00	= \$_____
Tweeners' Banquet (grades 4-6)	_____ x \$8.00	= \$_____
Youth Banquet (must be in grade 7 to age 24 or an accompanying youth worker)	_____ 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

Hillsdale College President Resigns



MOORE, OK—President Jim Shepherd, who has led Hillsdale FWB College since 1989, announced his resignation to the college's Board of Trustees in February. Shepherd will serve through June 30, completing eight and one-half years as president. He served as vice-president of student affairs for three and one-half years prior to his tenure as president.

In his announcement to the Board of Trustees, Shepherd said, "It has been my privilege to serve the Lord, Free Will Baptists, and Hillsdale in this capacity. I believe in the worthiness and vitality of Hillsdale's mission, 'To train men and women for service in the Christ's kingdom.' I pledge my enthusiastic, unqualified support for Hillsdale, its new president, the Board of Trustees, and Free Will Baptists."

Hillsdale successfully defended attempts to strip its accreditation and student financial aid during Shepherd's tenure, and it was awarded candidate status by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools.

Shepherd told the faculty and staff, "One of the greatest joys of my life has been to work side-by-side with you, people of commitment, faith and character. Together, we have contributed to the preparation of our students for their life's work, we have seen God work in mighty ways."

At the request of the graduating class, Shepherd will deliver the commencement address on May 9.

The Board of Trustees has selected a Search Committee to secure a new president. The members are: Will Harmon (TX), Pam Hudson (MO), James Murray (OK), Randy Wilson (OK), and Carl Cheshier (AR).

Rev. Tommy Burch, Builder-Teacher, Dies

BRYSON CITY, NC—Reverend Tommy L. Burch, former social studies instructor at Free Will Baptist Bible College, died December 13, 1996. He was 72. During his 20 years at the college, Burch was a builder and a teacher, as at home in work clothes as in suit and tie.

Reverend Burch was a native of Brewton, Alabama. He was an ordained Free Will Baptist minister who pastored as well as taught and built. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Burch took early retirement from FWBBC in 1979 at age 55 in order to establish Burch Christian Enterprises, an organization he planned to use to help churches avoid financial and building problems.

Burch became involved in building projects in 1948, eventually securing his general contractor's license. He built homes, churches and commercial buildings in several states.

In a 1979 interview (*Contact*, April) as he prepared to launch Burch Christian Enterprises, he said, "Many of our pastors just need someone they can trust to give them sound financial advice. I've been in the business for 30 years. I want to help and I believe I can."

Reverend Burch is survived by his wife of 53 years, Laverne; one son, Tommy Burch, Jr., and two grandchildren.



Hillsdale Spring Enrollment Up 30

MOORE, OK—As a general rule, enrollment on college campuses declines in the spring. But with the help of 30 new students this semester, Hillsdale broke that rule. For only the second time in the history of the college, spring enrollment exceeded fall enrollment.

This enrollment has a full-time equivalency of 103.13 or seven more full-time students than fall. The statistics are as follows:

	Fall '96	Spring '97
Enrollment	117	135
On Campus Residency		
Dormitories	64	65
Apartments	11	14

Hillsdale also recently placed its first official web page on the Internet. Since that time, many people from all around the country have contacted the college using the E-mail option.

The web page will continually be updated with new information and options. The web page can be found using many of the popular WWW search engines such as Yahoo and Alta Vista, or by going directly to the page. The address is as follows:

www.flash.net/~hillsdal

To E-mail the school directly, the addresses are:

Admissions/Recruiting:
gosaints@flash.net

Administration/Business:
hillsdale@flash.net

Missouri Church Destroyed By Fire

NIANGUA, MO—Arsonists set fire to Amity FWB Church just east of Niangua, according to Pastor J. W. O'Neal. The fire which occurred December 30, 1996, prompted frantic phone calls to members at 3:20 a.m. The 100-year-old building was a total loss.

The burning was the third act of vandalism against the church. Vandals broke into the church on November 21 and December 12, and smashed windows.

Two teens were arrested in connection with the vandalism. One juvenile and an adult were taken into custody concerning the fire. Local authorities believe the suspects are responsible for a trailer fire, another church burglary, and 250 incidents of mail-

box vandalism in a 90-day span.

Members of Amity FWB Church continued services in their homes. The church plans to rebuild and continue to minister in the community.

The church began in 1895 under the name of New Home FWB Church, but was changed to Amity by 1924. Low attendance resulted in the doors closing in 1992. However, Reverend J.W. O'Neal returned as pastor in August 1996 and the church began conducting services.

Within four months, the congregation averaged 40-plus in attendance, added 15 new members and reported 89 at their Christmas play. Five days later arsonists burned the church.

Music Commission To Sponsor Choral Clinic

CINCINNATI, OH—The Free Will Baptist Music Commission will sponsor a 90-minute choral clinic during the national convention in Cincinnati, according to Randy Sawyer, commission chairman. The clinic will be led by Dr. Vernon Whaley and will preview new releases by publishing companies.

Reverend Sawyer said that those who register to attend the choral clinic will receive a packet of music and a substantial discount on featured products. There will be a \$15 registration fee per person to attend the clinic.

The choral clinic is scheduled Wednesday, July 23, at 1:30 p.m. in the Hyatt Regency Cincinnati Hotel.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Music Ministries Breakfast featuring trumpet player Charlie Pagnard meets at 7:00 a.m. in the Regal Cincinnati Hotel. Mr. Pagnard performs with the Cincinnati Symphony.

Tickets for the Music Ministries Breakfast cost \$12. See order information on the convention pre-registration form to secure tickets.

Coming Next Month:

- ☐ Convention Programs
- ☐ The Treasure of Older Ministers
- ☐ 21st Century Fathers
- ☐ Last Chance to Pre-Register

Tennessee Quarterly Holds 15th Annual FWBBC Rally

NASHVILLE, TN—The Northern Quarterly of Tennessee's Cumberland Association, composed

of 24 Free Will Baptist churches, conducted its 15th annual rally for Free Will Baptist Bible College on Sunday night, February 23. Their goal of \$23,000 for the college was quickly exceeded and the total received continues to grow.



The rally was held at Pleasant View Christian School and was attended by hundreds from the churches and the college. Some felt it was one of the best attended rallies in several years. Dr. L. C. Johnson, FWBBC's first president, now retired, brought the message.

The service also included music by the college's Rejoice! ensemble and the college choir. The Evangelists drama team presented a skit on the peril of being unprepared to die.

Over the decade and a half that churches of the Northern Quarterly have held the rally, they have raised more than \$240,000 for the college. These rally gifts are over and above what the churches do for FWBBC during the rest of the year.

Roy Harris, stewardship development director for the college, said, "It is always a pleasure to work with the people of the Northern Quarterly as we plan and execute the rally. They are truly loyal friends of the college!"

Hillsdale College to Host Theology Symposium

NASHVILLE, TN—The Commission for Theological Integrity will sponsor the second Annual Free Will Baptist Theological Symposium at Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma. The symposium will begin the afternoon of October 24 and conclude midday, Saturday, October 25.

The symposium will provide an opportunity to share in-depth study of biblical and theological issues. Any Free Will Baptist—pastor, layperson, student—is invited

to prepare a paper to read at the symposium.

June 1 is the deadline for reserving a place to read a paper. Those making reservations will receive written confirmations with guidelines on writing and presentation.

Direct questions or requests for presentation slots to: Leroy Forlines at 615-383-1340 / 615-292-8709 or any other Commission member.

South Carolina Considers Term Limits

SPARTANBURG, SC—Delegates to South Carolina's 55th annual state association passed a resolution instructing the Executive Committee to study a plan of term limits for all Executive Committee officers. The committee was further instructed to accept letters with suggestions that might be sent to them on this subject.

The resolution passed during the February 27-28 session at Peace FWB Church in Spartanburg. Some 139 delegates and visitors registered for the meeting, according to newly-elected clerk Todd Smith.

Delegates also received a \$439 offering for the family of Reverend Billy Jackson. (Brother Jackson died March 2, just two days later.)

In other action, delegates approved three constitutional changes, one concerning the Home for Children.

Moderator Sherwood Lee gavelled through his first term in leadership. He was elected to a second term. A meeting highlight included plaques of appreciation honoring Earl Hendrix and David Aycock for their years of service as state moderator and clerk.

Seven sermons and devotions kept attendees spiritually alert. They included the moderator's message by Sherwood Lee; sermons by Pastors Robert Rose and John Cody, and Home Missions staffer David Crowe; devotions by Pastors Tony Snowden, Keith Bartlett and Billy Baker.

The 1998 state association will meet February 26-27 at a church to be determined in the South Carolina Conference.

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.

Arizona Re-Elects George Harvey

TUCSON, AZ—The 45th annual session of the Arizona District Association re-elected Moderator George Harvey, Jr., to his third term during their March 8 meeting. Fifty-one people registered for the meeting at First FWB Church in Tucson.

Delegates nominated Tucson pastor David Taylor as their representative to the General Board of the National Association in 1998-1999. They allocated \$250 for current General Board member George Harvey, Jr., to help defray his expenses.

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington and Phoenix pastor Harmon Herndon preached during worship services. Anne (Mrs. Melvin) Worthington addressed the women.

Members were urged to raise at least \$725 for foreign missions during April. Officials noted that the youngest mission work, Desert Springs FWB Church in Sierra Vista, was able to repay in advance a loan that had been secured from the district mission account.

The 1998 session will meet March 18 at a site to be determined.

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
- ♦ correct mailing address
- ♦ number of passengers
- ♦ city of flight origin
- ♦ home phone number
- ♦ 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.

NEEDED VOLUNTEERS

Free Will Baptist Bible College is looking for a few good men, women, and teens to work on campus in June for a day or a week! We need painters, yard workers, and "gophers."

If you would like to help, write or call:

June Volunteers
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205
Phone: 1-800-76-FWBBC
Email: Alex@FWBBC.edu

Pastor **Jim Turnbough** reports 35 conversions during a revival at **Trinity FWB Church** in **Greenville, NC**. Some 125 teens attended the meetings.

Reverend **Harry Lee**, 82-year-old Free Will Baptist minister, died November 21, 1996. Brother Lee began preaching at age 35 and pastored several churches in and around McAlester, OK. He was a great friend to Hillsdale FWB College.

Woodland Heights FWB Church in **Martinsville, VA**, held its first-ever Stewardship Banquet and raised more than \$1,000 to pay on the church debt. **Clayton Cordell** pastors.

Members of **Bloss Memorial FWB Church** in **Arlington, VA**, dedicated a prayer room in memory of a former deacon, **Max Puckett**. One hour each day, some member spends one hour in the room praying for the church.

Home Missionary to **Canada**, **Jeff Crabtree**, reports 11 people for Sunday morning worship service on March 2. He ministers in **Fredericton, New Brunswick**.

Pastor **Lonnie Salyers** reports 17 baptisms at **Yorkshire FWB Church** in **Manassas, VA**. The church also started a class for couples and a ministry at Birmingham Green District Home.

Hughson FWB Church in **Hughson, CA**, wants a full-time pastor. The congregation of 35 is located in a rural, farming community. Interested persons should contact **Charles Heitchler** at 209-521-0782 or write 2332 Weldon Avenue in Modesto, CA 95350.

Pastor **Bobby Bowers** celebrated 30 years at **First FWB Church** in **Greenville, SC**. Members gave him a plaque and a \$1,000 check.

First FWB Church in **Darlington, SC**, spent \$50,000 in five weeks to renovate its sanctuary. Members said the new carpet, paneling, windows, lights, sound system and more were worth the five weeks meeting in the fellowship hall. **Michael McAuley** pastors.

Parkway FWB Church in **Spartan-**

burg, SC, burned the \$250,000 mortgage, according to Pastor **Leon Simmons**. The church began in 1964 and was known as Heron Circle FWB Church until it relocated in 1989.

More than 100 people have been saved the past year at **Community FWB Church** in **Florence, SC**. Pastor **William Justice** said that the congregation completed more than \$24,000 in renovation projects: a 54-car paved parking lot, new church sign and steeple, and new flooring in several areas.

South Carolina promotional director **Ron Moore** said that the five-year project to purchase property to house the state promotional office and bookstore has been completed. The final \$14,300 payment was made in January.

Just over a year ago, tornadoes destroyed the family life center at **Vista FWB Church** in **Van Buren, AR**. Members rebuilt and then gave \$50,000 to missions. Pastor **George Lynn** and members presented a check to Promotional Director David Joslin.

Members of **Harmony FWB Church** in **Warren, AR**, honored **Clifton Rodgers** who was ordained as a deacon 50 years ago. The church presented a plaque to Rodgers.

Youth at **Rose Hill FWB Church** in **Monticello, AR**, led a campaign to raise funds to rebuild a church in Puerto Rico which had been destroyed by a hurricane. The youth decided to raise their pastor's weight in pennies. They collected 295 pounds of pennies. No, Pastor **Larry Doggett** is not that heavy, but they sent the \$501 along anyway.

After 10 months on itinerant in six states, Home Missionary **Bill Phillips** moved to **Salt Lake City, UT**, in February. Brother Phillips is the first Free Will Baptist missionary to the state of Utah which is 75 percent Mormon. Services were scheduled to begin March 30.

Members of **Alabama FWB Church** in **Blackshear, GA**, purchased a double-wide mobile home for new pastor, **Jeff Davis**. Attendance promptly jumped

from 22 to 42. Deacon **Alvin Roberts** was honored for 10 years of perfect attendance at Sunday School.

Pastor **Rick Dablemont** reports 26 conversions and 24 new members at **Cuba FWB Church** in **Cuba, MO**. The church purchased 8.9 acres in July 1996 for a future worship center. The entire purchase price (\$50,600) was paid off in five months. Members burned the new land mortgage in January.

Arkansas minister **Raymond Chronister** published a sermon outline book recently. Series I contains 24 outlines on "Moses—The Man of God." Chronister serves as senior adult pastor at **Cavanaugh FWB Church** in **Fort Smith**.

Members at **Parker's Chapel FWB Church** in **Greenville, NC**, pledged to raise \$100,000 for the activities center at **Southeastern FWB College**. Pastor **Lorenza Stox** scheduled a special day with the college choir in December. The church raised more than \$64,000 in one day. They also housed and fed the 60 choir members.

Contact welcomes **First News**, publication of **Frist FWB Church** in **Lebanon, MO**. **Ken Haney** pastors.

The **WNAC** at **O'Kean FWB Church** in **O'Kean, AR**, made 36 lap quilts for residents at Lawrence Hall Nursing Home in nearby Walnut Ridge. Mrs. **Inez Getson** cut out most of the quilts. **Jarvis Reed** pastors.

Hartville FWB Church in **Hartville, MO**, burned the mortgage on their bi-level, 4,300-square-foot parsonage. Pastor **Melvin Moon** said that members paid off the mortgage in less than three years and increased outside giving while doing it. Member **Bob Drugger** donated land for the parsonage.

Hold onto your hats, folks. This one is special. **Ina FWB Church** in **Ina, IL**, honored **Bob** and **Evelyn Laur** for a lifetime of service to the church. The church gave recognition to Bob for 45 years of perfect attendance! That's 2,350 consecutive Sundays without a miss. **David Shores** pastors. ■

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Changing Majors: Let Him Lead

By Jennifer Garrett, 1996 Graduate

I registered as a Missions major in the fall of 1991, confident that the Lord wanted me to be a missionary. Even my roommate that year was a Missions major. But at the close of my freshman year, I felt that God wanted to use the "real" me—my natural interests and talents. As a female who loves sports and children, I decided to change my major to Physical Education. I'm also a lover of the outdoors and was blessed to be on the staff at Camp Cumberland during the summer of 1994. There I learned much about outdoor sports such as climbing, camping, mountain biking, etc. The following fall, I decided to take a class in Youth Ministry. Since *Education of the Exceptional Child* and *Adapted Physical Education* were parts of the curriculum, I was required to take those classes as well. (I'm telling you this for a reason.)

Like many other FWBBC students, I worked at the Green Hills YMCA Fun Company's before-after school child care for a few years while in college. During those years, I worked at three elementary schools and had a daily relationship with several hundred children. Through God's intervention in circumstances and class schedules, I was able to teach Physical Education at Julia Green Elementary School in the spring of 1995.

In the fall of 1996, I heard of the need at the YMCA for tutorial help with teens in a group called Y-Club. After getting the consent of FWBBC's Christian Service Director, I adopted tutoring at the YMCA as my Christian Service opportunity that semester. I was privileged on occasion to lead in devotions before hitting the books. It was during those times that I became increasingly aware of the desperate needs in the lives of these teens. Some needed a safe home, a loving parent, or healing from sexual abuse, but *all* of them needed to know what it's like to be Abba's child. As my college career came to a close that semester, so did my relationship with those teens—or so I thought.

During the spring of 1996, the Teen Outreach Director of the Green Hills YMCA, Michael Sorley, got in touch with me, informing me that he needed an associate because the Frist Teen Center was to open in May. I interviewed three times in April and May, my last one being right after the Senior Breakfast the day before Graduation. That Wednes-

day night, Michael phoned to ask if I would be the Associate Outreach Director of the Teen Center. Ecstatically, I answered, "YES!"

Since June 10, 1996 (my first day to work at the Teen Center), we have implemented many programs and events. We have taken a rafting trip, a camping trip, and a caving trip—things I learned through my camp counselor experience while a student at FWBBC. With each trip, we've had an evangelistic devotion at the close of our day. We do a character development and team building program at Bellevue Middle School, stressing the Biblical characteristics of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Who do you think those teens are that I see every day in the Teen Center or at Bellevue Middle School? Yes! They are the same kids I spent my days with at Fun Company and Julia Green Elementary! We also work with the International Club at Hillsboro High School. I would say that being a Missions major for just a semester has been beneficial to me. We have also had a teenage boy with William's Syndrome in our program for almost two years. Due to the classes I had in college that deal with special needs students, I've been able to better serve and understand this teen. The class I took in Youth Ministry has been invaluable as it relates to my job every day. You see, now I can really see that "in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Many more programs and events will be created and planned, but the very heart of them all will continue to be "helping persons grow in *spirit*, mind, and body"—the mission of the YMCA. And I will continue to play Show-and-Tell about being Abba's child so that I may answer Jesus' prayer "that they may all be one" (John 17:21).

So, don't be discouraged if you change majors a few times. Who knows what He has in store for your future? ■



Jennifer, a native of Nashville, graduated from FWBBC in 1996 and is now employed by the Nashville YMCA.

HOME MISSIONS



Cross-Culture in the Caribbean

By David Crowe

In 1996, the Home Missions Department was given the task of leading in the cross-cultural ministries in North America and United States Territories. Many such ministries already existed with plans for expansion, as well as the beginning of many new cross-cultural endeavors.

As Free Will Baptists attempt to win people of all races and cultures, God has given us a tremendous opportunity to reach people from all over the world right at our doorsteps. If we are to reach them for Christ and teach them to reach others for Christ, we are going to have to provide more cross-cultural training for our pastors, our students and our church leadership.

Home Missions has taken the first step to provide training in a cross-cultural setting by establishing, in partnership with Hillsdale FWB College, a cross-cultural institute, the Seminary of the Cross, in Reynosa, Mexico. Here, pastors and students can receive invaluable training for ministry to Hispanics.

Another method of training is for pastors and students to spend some time on the field where our missionaries are ministering in a cross-cultural setting. For instance, they might spend some time in Miami, Florida, with José Rodríguez who ministers to Cubans, or with Jeff Crabtree in New Brunswick, Canada, who ministers to French Canadians. They might visit Miguel Vera in Puerto Rico who ministers to Americans, Puerto Ricans and people from the Dominican Republic.

But if our pastors and students really want to get the feel of a culturally and racially integrated church, they need to spend some time with Ron and Barbara Dail in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Free Will Baptists can be proud of the cross-cultural ministry we have in the Caribbean. Through their Christian school and their church, they minister to many races and cultures. They work together, they worship together and God has blessed their ministry. They have over 350 students in the school and average 200 for Sunday morning worship. They are also helping a congregation of 40 to 50 people on the island of St. Lucian start a church. They are providing a pastor and financial aid to help this group.

If we want to give our people a *real picture* of cross-cultural ministry, then we need to

show them what is being done in St. Croix. Larry Powell started the work and it is being continued today as a shining example, that Free Will Baptists *can* work and worship cross-culturally. They are training students and church members who will, in many cases, return someday to the land or island of their birth. They will take with them a Free Will Baptist heritage that will spread to others.

Let's not miss out on the great opportunity that God has placed in the hands of Free Will Baptists. May our departments, our colleges, our churches, and our members realize that day is ending and the night is coming when no man works. Let us win men, women, boys and girls of *all* races, colors, cultures and creeds! ■

Join the
Home Missions
Department
in Cincinnati
for the
Church Growth
Conference
Monday afternoon
July 21.

Send Birthday Cards

When Connie Cariker traveled with the Home Missions team, he presented a seminar on the pastor ministering to his church family with birthday cards. I was impressed with his ideas and immediately employed this method of communication. Birthday cards not only recognize a church member's birthday, but can also express appreciation for that person.

Collect the Data

For several weeks, include a bulletin insert to collect the name, address and birthdate of every church member and child. You should do this at least yearly to update newcomers. Place the information in a large notebook.

Write January 1 on the first page, January 2 on the second page, all the way to December 31 on individual sheets. Record names on the birthday sheets in ink. Write addresses in pencil. Utilize each line, leaving enough space for future entries.

Purchase Birthday Cards

Buy birthday cards in boxes, possibly a year's supply at once. Often Christian bookstores sell them at a discount if you purchase 10 or more boxes. Shop the card sales. Select cards for children, men and women.

Begin Sending Cards

Once or twice a month, devote several hours to writing the cards. Include personal comments in the cards to encourage church members who are bereaved or sick. Take advantage of this opportunity to express appreciation to faithful church officers. Provide challenging words to young people. Use the card to be a "pastor through communication."

Plan Ahead

Plan to mail the card two or three days before the person's birthday. Write that mailing date where the stamp will be placed. Put the cards in a convenient spot where you can be reminded each day to mail them. Place the stamp over the penciled-in mailing date.

A Silent Ministry

Don't discuss this ministry from the pulpit or in conversation. When people thank you for the card, just say, "you're welcome." Make as little fanfare about this method of encouragement as possible. This is personal communication to church members and their families. Include a different message in each card.

Tax Deductible

You may be able to deduct the expenses from your income tax under ministry expenses. Postage and cards for a year are expensive. However, you'll find that the Lord will provide the funds as you accept this ministry of encouragement and challenge to your church family.

Make Mistakes Graciously

You won't get all the birthdays recorded the first year. Add to your notebook as you learn of omissions. You don't need to apologize. Names may be misspelled occasionally and the receiver of the card may correct you publicly. Smile, correct the spelling, and be sure to spell the name correctly next year.

Some may reject the cards. Send them anyway. (If you don't, they may criticize you.) You may send a card on the wrong day. Mark that mistake down as a learning experience and



Dennis Wiggs

correct the date for proper mailing next year. And—be sure to place your return address on the cards.

Use Your Computer

Once you adequately secure birthday records, you may want to produce mailing labels. You could include "Happy Birthday" on the label above the name and address. You may want to install a program that will print out the list of birthdays each month.

Personalize the Cards

Some companies promote cards embossed with a message and your name. To be effective, the cards need to be in your handwriting. This is a wonderful method of communicating kindness to your church family that you may be unable to express in conversations.

Everyone loves to get mail. This tool of encouragement can produce excitement and appreciation by those who receive your cards. Your card may be the only recognition of a person on his special day.

Don't Expect Recognition

Few church members are likely to recognize your birthday. Perform this card ministry without looking for personal reward. Realize that most church members don't send cards. Many don't know how to respond to their birthdays being recognized. Just exercise this part of your ministry as unto the Lord. He knows why you spend the time and finances. As good stewards of our calling, the Lord will reward us properly and in His own time. ■

Philip—The Learner



Robert E. Picirilli

The Gospel of John is the *only* one to give us information about the apostle Philip. The Synoptic Gospel writers mention him only in the lists (Mt. 10:3; Mk. 3:18; Lk. 6:14; Acts 1:13), always naming him fifth—after Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

John relates four incidents that involve Philip. First is his call to be a follower (not apostleship at this point) of Jesus (Jn. 1:43-46). This took place the day after Andrew and John first encountered Jesus as a result of the Baptist's testimony of Him as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

There we learn that Philip was from the same home city as Andrew and Peter, Bethsaida on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Greek influence was strong in the area, and so it is not surprising that Philip, though a Jew, has a Greek name (from *phil* + *hippus*, horse-lover).

Note that Jesus found Philip, not the other way around. His encounter with Philip was by His own design. He did not come across Philip by accident, but sought Him out. Jesus is always the seeking Shepherd.

Like Andrew, Philip went immediately to enlist another. He located Nathanael, probably a friend, and said essentially the same thing as Andrew: "We have found the Messiah!" Only instead of "Messiah" he identified Him as "the one of whom Moses and the Prophets spoke, meaning precisely that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised one, the Lord's Anointed. If Nathanael had doubts that the Messiah could be from Nazareth, Philip's answer was "Come and see."

The second incident occurs at the feeding of the 5,000 (Jn. 6:5-7). The hunger of the large crowd following Jesus has become a concern. Jesus prepares to intervene and begins by

testing Philip: "Where can we buy bread for these to eat?" Philip's hometown was not far away and he would know the area.

Philip answers practically and cautiously: he calculates and concludes that the prospect of buying bread for this multitude is unrealistic. The earnings of 200 days wouldn't be enough, Philip recognizes; feeding this crowd is beyond their means. But Jesus was not limited to natural means, and when He was finished Philip had even more reason to believe that He was the promised one (note v. 14).

Move now to the last week in Jesus' ministry (Jn. 12:20-22). He has been welcomed into Jerusalem by the parade of the palm branches, and the crowds throng Him in the temple courtyard each day.

People from far and near swell Jerusalem as the Passover draws near, and among them are some Greeks who had come to worship during the holy season, perhaps proselytes to the Jewish faith. They have experienced a growing desire to see and hear Jesus for themselves, and so they approach Philip to seek audience with Him.

Philip, perhaps not wanting to take the responsibility alone, asks Andrew and together they convey the request, and probably the seekers, to Jesus. Now Philip learns, from Jesus' strange words (vv.23-26), what he will understand only later: that the promised Messiah must die and asks the same of those who follow Him.

Just a day or two later, on the night before Jesus' crucifixion, probably between the Upper Room and the Garden (Jn. 14:1-11), Jesus speaks of His impending departure, and of the way to His destination. Responding to Thomas, He reveals that He is going to the Father, that He Himself is the way, and that in knowing Him they know

the Father and share His destiny.

Philip is ecstatic: "Lord, make the Father known to us, and we will be content." But in the emotion he reveals how little he has understood. Gently, firmly Jesus corrects him. "Philip, in all this time I've been with you, haven't you come to know me? Then understand that in knowing me you have come to know the Father."

If an *apostle* is one sent, he must be a *disciple* first. A disciple is a learner, a student who sits at the feet of his teacher and masters the teacher's principles. We don't have much trouble tracing the course of Philip's development.

He began following Jesus with the conviction that He was the promised one prophesied by Moses and the Old Testament prophets. He learned that Jesus is not limited to natural means; that He is master of the elements; that Jesus is Messiah for Jews and Greeks, and that the way of the Messiah means self-sacrifice and service; that Jesus is One with the Father, whom one knows by knowing Him.

Philip was no doubt sent forth as his Master's apostle, even though we are dependent on tradition for any information. After the suspicious embellishments are removed, it seems fairly safe to say that Philip preached far and wide, especially in upper Asia Minor and perhaps penetrating into Scythia and France. Apparently he was buried in Hierapolis in Phrygia after he was crucified, like Jesus praying for his persecutors.

What seems clear, then, is that Philip learned well in the school of Jesus. A disciple is not above His master. ■

Steps to the Sermon, Revised

H.C. Brown, Jr., H. Gordon Clinard, Jesse J. Northcutt, and Al Fasol

(Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1996, 229 pp., hardback, \$24.99).



Thomas Marberry

This book was first published in 1963. Since that time it has been used as a textbook in college and seminary preaching courses. Preachers of many denominations have found it to be a useful guide to sermon development and delivery.

The original authors (Brown, Clinard and Northcutt) all taught preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth; they are now deceased. They were recognized as outstanding preachers and effective teachers of preaching. Al Fasol studied under the original authors; he has taught preaching at Southwestern since 1973.

The basic assumption is that preaching is fundamental to the work of the Christian church. There is no task which is more important and more essential than the faithful proclamation of the Word of God.

Fasol stresses that preaching is not just proclamation, it is communica-

tion. More, it is the effective communication of God's truth to the people. This communication is necessary if the lost are to be saved and the saints matured in the faith.

The authors suggest an eight-step plan which will help a preacher to preach with greater effectiveness and confidence. First, he must understand the task of preaching and how that task relates to his particular situation.

Second, he must bring together the needs of the congregation and the resources of scripture to define the sermon idea. Third, he must interpret the biblical text correctly.

Fourth, he must organize the material of the sermon (explanation, application, illustration and argument) in an effective and understandable way. Fifth, the preacher must develop and mature the idea of the sermon.

Sixth, he must formulate the structure of the sermon. Seventh, he must finish the sermon. Eighth, he must deliver the sermon.

The book devotes one chapter to each of these important steps in the development and delivery of the sermon. The authors present helpful suggestions for accomplishing these eight steps. In particular, they outline different ways in which the sermon content may be arranged and presented.

The book is written in a clear, understandable style. It can be used by preachers of different denominations and different levels of education. A busy pastor who has the responsibility of preaching several times a week needs the kind of help this work can give him.

Fasol has retained much of the book's original content. He has improved the arrangement of that content and included new ideas and concepts. It is a volume which should serve the next generation of preachers as the original edition served the last. ■

BEYOND BELIEF



YOUTH UPDATE

HELP MAKE A LOVE BOX FOR A NEEDY CHILD

The **National Youth Conference** in cooperation with **World Relief** announces the following project for our summer convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

World Relief is asking for help in filling a needy child's life with joy and happiness. Help us make sure deserving children are not forgotten when it comes to basic needs for improving their lives.

Every **Love Box** you donate spreads a message of Christian love and hope to needy children somewhere in the world. Here's how you can help:

1. Decorate a **Love Box** of your choice (empty shoe box or similar box).
2. Assemble your **Love Box** with new items from the list below.
3. Mark it for either a **Boy** or **Girl**.
4. Enclose a note of encouragement and/or a gospel tract (English or Spanish).
5. Seal your **Love Box** and either bring it with you to the National Youth Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, or mail it to:

"Operation Outreach: Love Box"

National Youth Conference
114 Bush Road/P.O. Box 17306
Nashville, TN 37217

6. Due to shipping requirements, all packages must be received by July 30, 1997.
7. If you would like to help further, you may enclose, in a separate envelope, a small donation (suggested \$5 gift per box) to help cover shipping and distribution costs overseas and into needy areas of America. Please attach envelope to the **outside** of the box and clearly mark it **donation**.

Suggested Gift Items

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| • Pens | • Small Pencil Sharpeners | • Stickers | • Bar Soap |
| • Pencils | • Construction Paper | • Safety Scissors | • Toothbrush |
| • Crayons | • Ruled Paper | • Erasers | • Toothpaste |
| • Rulers | • Colored Markers | • Shampoo | • Comb/Brush |
| • Mouthwash | • Washclothes | • Lotions | • Small toys |

We have set a goal of **5,000 Love Boxes** to be delivered to the National Youth Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. We hope you will encourage your Sunday School classes, Children's Church members, youth groups, and others to help us in this exciting project of sharing with those in need. Will you do your part?

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY NEWS

Boomers, Generation X Alike

SANTA BARBARA, CA (EP)—After the “lost generation” of baby boomers abandoned organized religion in droves, many expected the “baby busters,” also known as Generation X, to be even less interested in church. However, a decade of national polling results suggests that members of Generation X are no less religious than the baby boomers who came before them. In fact, faith is more important in the lives of baby busters in significant ways.

“Overall, we must conclude that, popular rhetoric notwithstanding, the prognosis for organized religion generally is quite good,” notes David W. Machacek, who presented a study on “Generation X and Religion” at a recent meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.

Machacek studied religion and social attitudes from 1983 to 1994, using polling data from the General Social Surveys collected by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. Rather than finding a “post-Christian generation,” he found that baby busters aren’t all that different from baby boomers.

For instance, 40% of baby busters who stated a religious preference said they attend worship services at least twice a month. That’s much less than the 55% of people born before 1946, but only slightly less than the 43% of baby boomers who attend church frequently.

Machacek found less denominational loyalty among Generation X. Among baby busters, 31 percent said they are strongly committed to their denomination, compared to 38% of boomers and 49% of older Americans.

The percentage of Generation Xers claiming no religious preference was 13%—up only slightly from 11% among boomers. The study also suggested that conservative churches are having much more success attracting baby busters than liberal churches.

In some ways, baby busters place more of an emphasis on faith than boomers do. About one in four busters expressed a great deal of confidence in organized religion, slightly more than the 22% of boomers who responded that way. Slightly more busters than boomers (40% to 37%) say it is important to attend church regularly, and significantly more Generation Xers (47%) say church teachings are important in making personal decisions, compared to 41 percent of boomers.

Atheist Groups Stripped of Tax Status

HOUSTON, TX (EP)—Two of the five non-profit organizations founded by atheist leader Madalyn Murray O’Hair have lost their tax-ex-

empt status because of tax code violations, the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

The Charles E. Stevens American Atheist Library and Archives Inc. and the Society of Separationists Inc. lost their tax-exempt status, according to an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) spokesperson quoted by the paper. The IRS spokesperson would not elaborate on the violations which led to the loss of non-profit status.

O’Hair rose to prominence decades ago with the lawsuit which led to the 1963 Supreme Court decision outlawing government-sponsored prayer in public schools. She, her son Jon, and her granddaughter Robin have been missing since September 1995; two other atheist groups controlled by O’Hair were later found to be missing \$627,500.

William Murray, O’Hair’s estranged son, attempted to assume guardianship of his mother’s estate in her absence, but withdrew that effort when the legal costs proved to be too high. Murray withdrew his petition because he was afraid he could be held liable for the expenses of an attorney appointed to investigate the disappearance of his mother. Murray, who was the plaintiff in O’Hair’s landmark suit, has been estranged from his mother since becoming a Christian in 1980.

The *Houston Chronicle* reported that someone has been using and paying the bills for the American Express card issued to O’Hair’s granddaughter, Robin. An account at Lord and Taylor in New York is also active and has been paid in full, according to the newspaper. Those financial activities suggest that O’Hair and the others are still alive.

At the time of their disappearance, Jon and Robin Murray were being asked by the IRS to turn over \$750,000 they had allegedly taken from a non-profit atheist group for their own use.

Religious Freedom Waning in Russia

WASHINGTON, DC (EP)—Religious freedom is declining in Russia, and government agents are threatening the rights of religious minorities, according to Lawrence Uzzell, a Moscow representative of the Keston Institute of Oxford, England, which studies religious freedom in formerly communist nations.

Freedom of worship was widespread after the collapse of the Soviet Union five years ago, but that freedom has been lessened since 1993, Uzzell told the U.S. Commission for Security and Cooperation in Europe, a body charged with monitoring compliance with the 1975 Helsinki Accords.

“In religious freedom as in many other areas of life, Russia is to a large extent a lawless state,” said Uzzell, who urged the U.S. and other Western nations to make it clear to

Russian leaders that they cannot expect to gain full partnership with the Western world while they continue and even intensify violations of fundamental rights, including rights guaranteed by their own constitution.”

Although Russia’s 1993 constitution guarantees religious freedom and makes all religions equal before the law, “this guarantee has turned out to be largely meaningless in practice,” according to Uzzell. Many of Russia’s provincial governments have enacted laws regulating religious activities, and are returning power to bureaucrats who were previously employed by the Soviet government to “control religious life in the interests of the state.”

Russia’s Orthodox Church is free of such restrictions, says Uzzell, and some Orthodox clergy seek to use the power of the state to suppress competition from non-Orthodox faiths. For instance, churches can lose their accreditation if their actions create “religious dissension”—in other words, if they preach against the Orthodox Church.

NCC Perpetrates ‘Great Church Fire Hoax’

WASHINGTON, DC (EP)—The National Council of Churches (NCC) should apologize for perpetrating the “great church-fire hoax,” according to Diane Knippers, president of the Institute for Religion and Democracy (IRD). Knippers charged the NCC with creating the church story to raise money for its liberal conservative agenda, even though there is no evidence that black churches burn more frequently than white churches.

“The NCC is pushing the church arson story to justify its thesis that America is on the verge of a race war,” Knippers told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Knippers said, “Every assault upon a church is despicable, but the NCC has exaggerated the church burning phenomenon so as to promote its radical agenda and to smear conservatives—especially conservative Christians—as racists.”

Knippers cited studies by *USA Today*, the Associated Press and the *Wall Street Journal* which demonstrate that black churches are not burning more than white churches, and that overall church arsons have actually declined in recent years.

Knippers noted that an NCC racial justice officer has blamed “domestic terrorism” on “homophobia, the militias, presidential politics and talk of welfare reform and the crime bill.” ■

Room With a View

If you could go anywhere in the world the week of July 20-24, where would you go? No, not Hawaii . . . everybody does that. Florida? Wrong again. Florida in July is muggy and crowded with strangers trying to get away from it all.

Be creative. What is the one place where people really, *really* want to see you this July? What event do a lot of nice folks work hard all year long planning so that you, the wife and kids can spend five incredibly stressful days eating junk food, staying up late, getting up early and running all day long?

That's it! The annual national convention. You can spend July 20-24 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Aren't you glad that's settled? Now let's work out the details.

The Cost. Don't look at me like that. You know there are no free rides. Look, even if you hide in the hall closet and lock the kids in the utility shed all that week, they still gotta eat. Why not feed 'em in Cincinnati instead of the local Sonic?

Yes, there are plenty of quick food places downtown so leave your cooler at home. McDonald's set up shop less than a block from the convention center. Umm, smell those fries.

The hotels are too expensive? Well . . . the sticker price does cause one pause. But there's the convenience, the quality and the fact that you only do this once a year. Across the street from the convention center in a high-rise hotel is not a bad place to be.

Yep, I like Hojo's prices, too. And Motel 6. But have you tried setting up a convention for 6,000 people in the parking lot at Red Roof? The sound system is awful and the seating area is littered with rusty Chevys.

Besides, you gotta drive five miles to breakfast, drive five miles downtown in heavy traffic, drive five miles back late at night in pouring rain, pray

for a parking space and then pay for it, and finally round up the kids from three hotels and the convention center at midnight before driving five miles back to the bargain motel across the state line. Not a fun thing.

The Benefits. Let's start with no cooking all week long. Thank you, ladies. Somebody else makes the beds, empties the trash and fluffs the towels. Settle down, ladies. Somebody else vacuums, sweeps, washes dishes . . . Hold the applause, please.

A room with a view. Picture yourself pulling back the heavy curtains from the window of your air-conditioned room overlooking downtown Cincinnati, and contemplating life as you watch people no larger than ants dodge cars on the streets 12 floors below.

Room service. Breakfast in bed is not a fantasy. It can happen to you this July. Hot coffee that you didn't have to get up and make; fresh juice that you didn't have to squeeze; Jimmy Dean sausage and eggs over easy that some wonderful cook prepared especially for you.

Your own elevator. Since your home probably does not come equipped with an Otis elevator, you'll be pleased to learn that the convention hotel of your choice provides four or more, available 24 hours a day.

A few of your friends and their well-behaved children may occasionally join you in the elevator for an excursion to the hotel lobby. Or you may prefer to take the business route and stop at each floor to admire the carpet.

More Benefits. Never set foot outside the entire week. All three major hotels connect to the convention center by overhead walkways.

And if it rains, like it did in Fort Worth last year, chuckle at all those unfortunate people who chose to stay at Brand X across the Ohio River while

you amble casually through a glass-enclosed, overhead walkway to your luxury hotel and personal elevator.

On a more practical level, consider the side benefits to the family car. You've been wanting to buy new tires for months now, but you feel guilty because there's still 5,000 miles of tread left on your Dunlops. Fret no more.

This is your chance to whisk away 3,500 of those unwanted miles in just over a week. Imagine how pleased Mr. GoodWrench will be when you drive the family car into his service bay the week after the convention, order an oil change and filter, and new radials all around. You might want him to check that transmission leak while he's under the hood.

The Decision. Now it's up to you. We've considered the very reasonable costs of attending the convention, and the wildly numerous benefits you'll receive. We certainly do not want to pressure you, of course. You are quite capable of distinguishing between the opportunity of a lifetime for your family this summer and the dull, dreary alternative of staying at home and vegetating on the couch.

Put it to a vote. Ask your children if they prefer to stay home and mow the yard in 98° heat July 20-24, or if they would be willing to eat pizza three times a day for a week. Then ask your wife if she wants to scour the bathrooms and help you scrape paint off your bass boat that week, or if she'd prefer a quiet, leisurely five days in a modern hotel with maids and chefs at her every beck and call.

Say, have you ever wondered where people who live in Hawaii and Florida go for a summer vacation? They go to Cincinnati, Ohio, that's where! Let's meet them there. I'll catch you in the Queen City at the national convention. ■



Jack Williams

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