

SEPTEMBER 1997

# CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



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**National  
Convention  
Review**

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**WNAC Review**

.....  
**NYC Review**

.....  
**Sunday Morning  
Shooters**

# INSIDE

SEPTEMBER 1997

VOLUME 44, NO. 9

## ARTICLES

### 4 Church Aflame

Thomas Marberry reviews the 1997 National Convention.

### 15 Convention Election Results

### 15 Convention Tape Order Form

### 16 Expanding Knowledge

The 1997 WNAC Convention in review.

### 18 Walk in the Light of the Lord

The 1997 National Youth Conference in review.

### Front Cover Photo:

Moderator Carl Cheshier and South Carolina pastor Earl Hendrix.

## COLUMNS

### 3 The Secretary Speaks

Critic or Contributor?

### 26 The Department Pages

### 29 Top Shelf

### 30 Especially for Young Preachers

A Daily Prayer Schedule

### 31 Briefcase

The Sunday Morning Shooters

## NEWS

### 20 Free Will Baptist Newsfront

Winford Davis Dies  
California State Association  
FWBBC New Campus  
Tennessee Church Breaks Ground  
FWBBC Summer Camp  
Ohio State Association  
Michigan State Association  
Southeastern College Missions Conference  
FWBBC Prayer Chapel  
FWBBC Prayer Chapel  
Missouri State Association  
Maryland State Association

### 24 Currently

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## Critic or Contributor?

**C**ritics have always been among us. In my travels, I overhear many conversations critical of Christians, churches, religious leaders, government and more. I am appalled at the hatred and hostility which emanates from critics. We all have plenty of critics. Where are the contributors? Critics point out the problems but seldom present any solutions.

I often ask myself which word characterizes me—critic or contributor. Do I just see the problems or do I seek to provide solutions to problems? Do I make a contribution or do I sit by and remain a critic?

### The Critic

Critics are often *misguided*. They listen to other critics rather than seeking to find the truth for themselves. They often have a mob mentality and overreact through emotions rather than objective analysis of the issue. Before we talk about others, we need to talk to them.

Critics are often *misinformed*. They do not take the time to verify their information and do their homework regarding issues they seek to address. It is sad when someone spreads inaccurate information that is repeated as if it were true. Let's check out the facts before we take action.

Critics are often *misinterpreters*. They have a tendency to interpret information based on their own assumptions rather than what the writer or speaker intended. When we interpret something an individual has written, we need to make sure we explain it to the satisfaction of the writer. Make sure it accurately expresses the writer's intent and meaning.

Critics are often *malicious*. They are mean spirited and a menace to the harmony of any organization. Their spirit reflects hostility toward

individuals and institutions. Critics disrupt, damage, discourage, distort and destroy in the name of right.

Critics are often *manipulators*. They make every effort to enlist others to do their bidding and be their spokesmen. They believe that they have the correct position on every issue and determine to make their view the only view which can be held in the organization.

Critics are often shortsighted. Their focus is frequently motivated by their own agenda. They appeal to the base nature of human beings.

### The Contributor

Contributors are *thinkers*. They take time to peruse materials related to any issue and thoughtfully come to a decision. They are concerned about how to resolve the issue. They think through and explore possible solutions. They ask how they can help build the work rather than blast it. They want what's best for everybody.

Contributors are *truthful*. They tell the truth, the whole truth, in love. Truth to them is of primary importance. They do not deceive, distort nor disrupt the harmony in the organization to which they belong. They do the right thing in the right way. They believe that focusing on truth provides the foundation for dealing with issues which arise.

### The Secretary's Schedule

September 1997

2 North Warren FWB Church  
9-12 Convention Planning Trip  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

9/28-10/2 Christian Stewardship Association  
Kansas City, Missouri



Melvin Worthington

Contributors are *tender*. With tenderness they deal with issues. They exhibit charity toward all men as well as brotherly love. They remember Jesus saying that the world would know we belong to Him by our love for one another. Compassion, cooperation and consistency characterize the contributor.

Contributors have *tenacity*. They wrestle with issues and find biblical solutions. They can not be satisfied until issues are resolved in a manner that the individual and institution can move forward. They patiently persevere when critics throw up their hands in despair and threaten to quit. Contributors will not be intimidated.

Contributors are *thankful*. The National Association of Free Will Baptists has made tremendous strides since its organization in 1935. I am thankful for the Lord's blessings on our denomination. Thankfulness characterizes those who have made a positive contribution to our progress. Contributors give loving loyalty to denominational efforts.

### The Challenge

There is a right way to criticize. It's done in gentleness with an open hand, not in anger with a clinched fist. Being a Free Will Baptist provides the opportunity for me to be a *critic* or *contributor*. I can be a "do it my way or else" critic or I can be a thinking, thankful contributor. I want to go on record as one who chooses to be a contributor. I hope you will join me. ■

# Church Aflame

By Thomas Marberry



Foreign Missions exhibit goes up on Monday morning.

**T**he National Association of Free Will Baptists met in the beautiful city of Cincinnati, Ohio, for its 61st annual convention. This was the third time that Ohio Free Will Baptists had entertained the national, and they did an excellent job preparing and planning for the convention.

The annual convention is the only time during the year when Free Will Baptists from all parts of the country, and even some from abroad, get together for worship and fellowship. It is a time to pray together, worship together, sing together and renew old friendships.

A national convention means different things to different people. For some, it is a time to involve children in programs and activities of the National Youth Conference. For others, it is a time to learn about what Free Will Baptists in other parts of the country are doing.

It is also a time to participate in the decision-making process of the denomination as reports are presented and votes taken on a variety of issues. It is a time when we become more involved in the missionary work of our denomination.

The theme chosen for Convention '97 was "Church Aflame." This is a theme which implies life, vitality, growth and revival.

In a pre-convention interview, first-year moderator Rev. Carl Cheshier expressed his concern, "We need revival. We are not growing much as a denomination. We need something to spur us out into the vineyard."

Rev. Cheshier also expressed his desire to build a better spirit of cooperation in our denomination. "I want us to focus on growth, working together and harmony, but not at the expense of compromise. We have fussed and fought for so long."

The new moderator expressed his goals for Convention '97 in these words, "I hope we can develop a better spirit of cooperation. I hope we can channel our energy and resources into reaching people."

This article looks back at Convention '97. It will outline the major events and the most important decisions. It will also present some interpretation and analysis of what went on in Cincinnati during four hot and humid days in July.

## Aflame in Worship

Revival implies a genuine commitment to the worship of God, and this commitment was evident in Cincinnati. The worship services were well attended and marked by a spirit of joy and enthusiasm.

There were five major worship services. Four of the preachers were Free Will Baptist pastors. One sermon was delivered by Melvin Worthington, executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

### **Sunday Morning**

The preacher for the Sunday morning worship service was Rev. Robert L. Prichard, moderator of the Ohio State Association and a pastor in Cleveland. He used Luke 24:13-27 as his text.

Pastor Prichard emphasized the role of preaching in church growth and revival. He reminded us that we have a message to announce to a world that needs desperately to receive it. He stressed that preachers must take people as they are and let them know that God loves them. In his sermon he said, "If we expound the scriptures, they work."

### **Sunday Evening**

During the Sunday evening service, Pastor Matthew L. Upton, moderator of the California State Association, preached from John 12:32. In his sermon, he emphasized that it is the work of Jesus to redeem men and women.

Upton noted that "it is the exalted Savior who reaches



**Ohio moderator Robert Prichard.**

seeks to get its members actively involved in ministry. He concluded by reminding the congregation that a church is edified when sin is exposed.

work of God.

He noted that edification of the saints does not happen automatically. The church must make the edification of its members a specific aim. He stated that "a church nurtures its members." A church also



**California moderator Matt Upton.**

### **Tuesday Evening**

Dr. Melvin Worthington, executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, brought the Tuesday evening message. He selected as his text several verses taken from I Corinthians 4 and I Peter 4.

Dr. Worthington's sermon dealt with the role of stewardship in church growth and development. He stressed that stewardship involves more than money. It also includes

time, talents, energy, influence, etc. He discussed the focus of stewardship, the facets of stewardship, the foes of stewardship and the faithfulness of stewardship.



**Wednesday night speaker Jerry Norris (L), president Gene Norris and song leader Greg Kettelman.**

people." He also noted that God uses believers to share the message of redemption. He emphasized that "God wants to use all of us. I don't believe there are any second-class citizens in the Kingdom of God."

### **Monday Evening**

Rev. Earl Hendrix, pastor of First FWB Church of Inman, South Carolina, preached during the Monday evening service. His text was taken from Ephesians 4:7-16. His sermon stressed the need to edify and equip the saints for the

### **Wednesday Evening**

The missions service Wednesday evening was the outstanding worship experience of the week. The preacher was Pastor Jerry L. Norris of Calvary Fellowship FWB Church in Fenton, Missouri. He preached on evangelism and used many different examples from the Bible to illus-

trate different types of evangelism.

He pointed out that there are different motives for evangelism and different ways to evangelize. There is no one method or strategy which will work in every situation. He reminded us that the messengers in biblical times were generally laymen.

In the closing part of the message, Rev. Norris discussed why it is important to win souls. He said that the church should win souls because of the peril of Hell, because of the price Jesus paid, because of the products soul winning produces, and because of the power of Jesus to save.

On Wednesday evening, many young people committed their lives to serve God in whatever way He might lead them. The worship services were an important part of Convention '97. They will continue to influence us in the future.

## Aflame In Music

Music plays an important role in worship for Free Will Baptists, and that was certainly true during Convention '97. The quality and variety of music presented has improved each year. This year the congregational singing was outstanding; it was often accompanied by the instrumental ensemble and brass choir.

The evening services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday included outstanding musical programs. Tuesday evening was the most outstanding. Ensembles from four Free Will Baptist Colleges (Free Will Baptist Bible College, Southeastern FWB College, Hillsdale FWB College and California Christian College) sang. They also



Convention organist Carol Reid.

combined to form a group under the direction of Dr. Vernon Whaley. The group was accompanied by the instrumental ensemble and Mr. Charlie Pagnard, an outstanding trumpet player with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. Their rendition of "Look and Live" brought amens from all over the convention center.

On Monday evening the Mass Choir sang "Oh What A Savior" under the direction of Rev. Doug Little. They were

accompanied by the brass choir, piano and tympani.

A number of individuals and groups from Free Will Baptist churches sang during the week. These included Bill Gardner, Tammy Taylor, the Convention Ensemble, the Jim Tumbough Family, the Morlans, the Sweetener Rain Trio, Curt and Becky Gwartney, and Oneida and Jeff Martin. On Wednesday evening a special men's chorale sang under the direction of Dick Martin.

The music did more than entertain us; it brought us into the presence of God. The Music Commission and Music Coordinator Randy Sawyer are to be commended for their work. They brought together an outstanding musical team.

There were two other special musical activities during the week. At 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning, the Music Fellowship held its annual breakfast. Charlie Pagnard of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra performed and then talked about his Christian life and ministry through music.

On Wednesday afternoon the Music Commission held its annual Choral Clinic. For a payment of only \$19.95 those who participated in the clinic were able to purchase about \$200 worth of recent Christian music.

They also had opportunity to hear and sing some of the

## 1998 Together Way Allocations

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

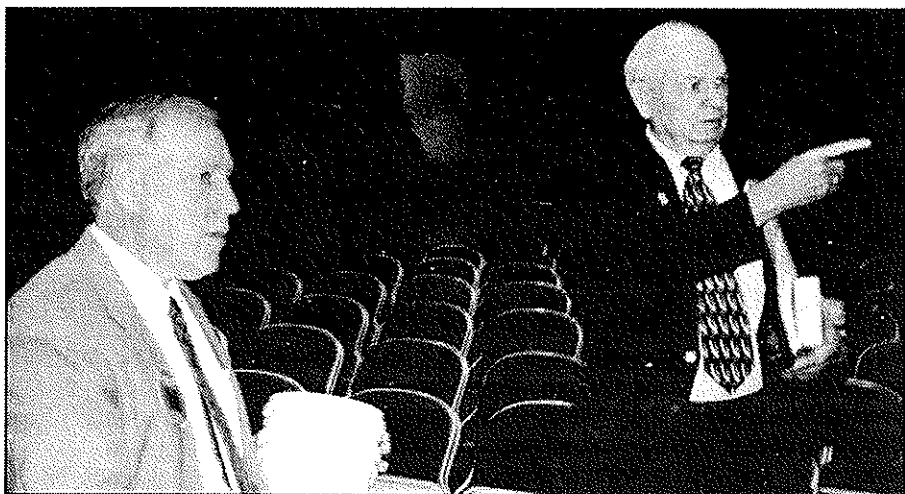
1. Underwrite the Executive Office Administrative Budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 45% of cooperative gifts.
2. Disburse the balance of cooperative gifts to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

Free Will Baptist Bible College .....	23.0%
Foreign Missions .....	23.0%
Home Missions .....	18.0%
Retirement and Insurance .....	14.0%
Master's Men .....	14.0%
Free Will Baptist Foundation .....	6.0%
Commission for Theological Integrity .....	0.5%
Historical Commission .....	0.5%
Music Commission .....	0.5%
Radio and Television (Media) Commission.....	0.5%
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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



Instrumental Ensemble director Chris Truett.



Chief usher Raymond Lee (R) points the way.

best Christian music currently available. Convention '97 gave Free Will Baptist musicians a good opportunity to learn what is happening in the field of church music.

### Afflame In Outreach

Free Will Baptists have always been a missionary-minded people, and they still are today. Our home and foreign missions programs continue to grow, develop and mature. We are sending more missionaries to more places both at home and abroad than at any time in recent history.

### Foreign Missions

According to the Foreign Missions Department, some 1,516 people accepted Christ in 12 countries during 1996 as a result of Free Will Baptist missionary work. We now have 86 organized churches and 371 mission works on foreign fields. There are now 45 ordained ministers and 264 licensed and lay preachers.

In Cuba alone, 18 new missions were started in 1996. Thirty young men answered the call to preach. Thirty-four young people are serving abroad this summer. Nineteen students have just returned from Russia and Panama as a part of the Teens Equipped and Active in Missions (TEAM) program.

retire this year after 34 years of service in Uruguay and South Brazil.

During 1996 Free Will Baptists gave a total of \$4.5 million to foreign missions. Total expenditures for the year were \$4.4 million. Delegates approved a \$5.7 million budget for 1998.

### Home Missions

The Home Missions Department also reported many positive developments during 1996. Six new missionary families were appointed.

They were: Dwain and Debbie Crosby to the Conroe, Texas, area (Joint Project workers with Texas), Keith and Sheila Perkins to Cincinnati, Ohio (Joint Project workers with

Several new missionaries were appointed in recent months. They include David and Annette Aycock (Brazil), Sam and June McVay (Spain), Ginger Harrison (Côte d'Ivoire), Traci Epps (Côte d'Ivoire), Kevin Stacey (Central Asia), Verlin and Debbie Anderson (Côte d'Ivoire), Anthony and Lea Edgmon (Spain) and Tim and Kristi Johnson (Spain). The board changed the status of Mirial Gainer from associate missionary to career missionary.

During Convention '97 the denomination officially recognized the contribution of Fred and June Hersey to Free Will Baptist foreign missions. They will soon retire to Dothan, Alabama. The convention also noted that Walter and Marcia Ellison will



Monday song leader, Scott Bullman.



General Board Breakfast on Monday morning.

Ohio), Chris and Jan Clay to Indianapolis, Indiana (Joint Project workers with Indiana), Derek and Missy Bell to Lewisburg, Tennessee (Joint Project workers with Tennessee), and Jerry and Julie Barron who were reappointed to Mexico.

The department is becoming more involved in cross-cultural ministry. Jean Guernier was approved as a Joint Project worker with the state of Florida. He is ministering to and reaching his own Haitian people in the Deerfield area. His church has an attendance of approximately 40 people.

During the week of May 19-25, 1997, the Home Missions Department co-sponsored a Cross-Cultural Institute with Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma, and The Seminary of the Cross in Reynosa, Mexico. This institute was designed for people from the United States who have an interest in cross-cultural ministry (especially in working with Hispanics).



**Home Missionary Jeff Crabtree.**

Mr. Trymon Messer, Home Missions general director, reported that the Church Extension Loan Fund loaned more than \$2 million in 1996. This makes a total of 119 churches which have borrowed money from this program. Income for the department in 1996 totaled \$3.3 million. A budget of \$3 million was approved for 1998.

The department reported that 2,553 churches participated in Roll Call Sunday with a total attendance of 211,283.

On Monday afternoon the department sponsored a Church Growth Conference with Rev. Richard Adams as the principal speaker. At this conference it was announced that the Build My Church campaign is within \$93,000 of reaching its goal of \$1,000,000 to help buy land and build buildings for churches in urban areas.

Director Messer also discussed the Missionary Training and Evaluation Conference which will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, on January 5-7, 1998. This year the program of this conference will emphasize church growth.

The special speaker will be Dr. Stan Toler, nationally known speaker on church development and pastor in residence at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma. The conference is open to all interested pastors. Those who would like to attend should contact the Home Missions Department for more information.

## Aflame In Education

Convention '97 provided opportunities for growth and learning. It began with an excellent Adult Sunday School class taught by Bill E. Sawyer, a member of First FWB

Church in Gastonia, North Carolina. Mr. Sawyer discussed Revelation 3:1-22. He gave a comprehensive discussion of the historical background of Sardis and Philadelphia. He outlined the problems these churches were facing and lessons that we can learn from them.

Two of our national departments have special responsibilities in the area of education and training—Free Will Baptist Bible College and the Sunday School and Church Training department.

## Free Will Baptist Bible College

President Tom Malone presented the report of FWBBC. He noted that 1996 was an excellent year for our Bible College. In December it received regional accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

This is a major step forward for the college; FWBBC is the first Free Will Baptist educational institution to receive regional accreditation. This accreditation will make it easier for students to transfer their credits to other colleges and universities.

It will also make it easier for teachers trained at FWBBC to receive certification to teach in different states. The college continues its long-standing accreditation with the AABC.

Work is continuing on campus relocation. Step two has been introduced which includes beginning construction of the road that leads to the new campus site and construction of an open air prayer chapel. Plans are being developed for a capital campaign to raise funds for the construction of the new campus.

During the 1996-97 school year, the college enrolled 364 students (including 67 ministerial and 76 missionary). Although it is difficult to predict what the enrollment will be during the fall semester, President Malone is expecting a five percent increase in enrollment over last year.

Tom Sass gave the financial report for the Bible College.



**Melvin (L) and Milton Worthington entertain assistant clerk Keith Burden.**

As of May 31, the college had total assets of \$4.7 million and liabilities of \$430,929. Total revenues for the year were \$3.4 million; expenditures totaled \$3.4 million. Private gifts provided \$1 million in unrestricted funds revenues.

## Sunday School & Church Training

The Sunday School and Church Training Department occupies a central role in the training efforts of our denomination. It publishes our Sunday School literature as well as a variety of books, commentaries, tracts and other materials.

Dr. Alton Loveless gave the report on the operations of this department noting that the agency has made considerable financial pro-

## 1997 Convention Registration

<b>National Convention</b> .....	<b>3,833</b>
Ordained Ministers .....	774
Ordained Deacons .....	124
Licensed Ministers .....	20
Local Church Delegates .....	60
State Delegates .....	73
Home Missionaries .....	76
Foreign Missionaries .....	38
National Board Members .....	23
National Officers .....	4
Non-Delegates .....	2,641
<b>National Youth Conference</b> .....	<b>2,105</b>
<b>Women Nationally Active for Christ</b> .....	<b>836</b>
<b>Grand Total</b> .....	<b>6,774</b>

department. It sponsors the National Youth Conference, Truth and Peace, the Youth Evangelistic Team, and youth workers retreats.

## Church Growth Forum

Convention '97 included something new, a forum on church growth. On Tuesday morning, three speakers addressed different aspects of this important topic.

Rev. Richard Atwood was the first speaker; he discussed a number of important practical issues in church growth. He stressed the need to develop better

people skills in our churches.

Atwood said, "Don't use people but work with them." He also stressed the importance of having enthusiasm and joy in the church. Nobody likes to attend a church that is dull and boring. He cautioned churches about how they use their workers, "Give them one job; don't wear them out."

Rev. Ronnie Adkins was the second speaker of the forum. He discussed the priorities of church growth. He said that if our churches are to grow, they must have the right kind of pastors. They need pastors that experience spiritual fullness and expound the scriptures faithfully.

Adkins noted that if churches are to grow, they need the right kind of people. He emphasized, "You



gress in recent years. The department's debt load has been reduced considerably.

They were able to pay off a loan for the purchase of a new press 41 months early. This early payoff saved thousands of dollars in interest. The department hopes to be debt-free by 1998.

The department has approximately 125 writers and produces 2,600 Sunday School lessons per year. It distributes Sunday School literature in both English and Spanish. The Spanish curriculum is now complete and is being used by Spanish-speaking churches in this country and in Latin America.

Director Loveless noted that there is a large market for Spanish literature in this country. He said that 10% of the Spanish-speaking world now lives in the United States.

Loveless reported that the department has completed the installation of a new computer software program which will facilitate communication within the department. He stated that our publishing house now has communication facilities comparable to those used in other publishing houses.

During the fiscal year ending November 30, 1996, the department reported net sales of \$2.3 million. Net assets as of November 30, 1996, totaled \$1.7 million.

Ministry to youth is an important part of the work of this



NYC director Dean Jones and Texas moderator David Sutton.

can't build a church with people who are not willing to renounce the world."

Adkins then stressed that in order to grow, a church must have the right kind of program. It needs a program which empathizes obedience to the scriptures, fellowship, the ordinances of the Gospel and prayer.

The final speaker of the Church Growth Forum was Rev. Connie Cariker. He used Psalm 147:1-11 as the text for his sermon. He emphasized that the church today must go and look for the wounded. He pointed out that

many people have been hurt by sin. They have even been wounded by religion, and they need the kind of restoration that only Christ can give.

Rev. Cariker used illustrations from his own ministry of wounded people whose lives have been made whole. He stressed the role of the Sunday School in bringing wounded people to faith in Christ. He shared examples of children from bad home backgrounds who came to faith in Christ through the Sunday School and are now faithful Christians.

Free Will Baptists recognize our need for evangelism and church growth. This forum was an effort to provide in-



Milburn Wilson (L) and convention writer Thomas Marberry.

struction and encouragement to pastors and church members who want to see their churches grow.

## Aflame In Service

The National Association of Free Will Baptists is a large operation. It has several boards, commissions and agencies which perform necessary tasks to help our denomination operate effectively. They provide needed support for our programs of missions, evangelism and church growth.

## Executive Office

The Executive Office is administered by Dr. Melvin Wor-



The convention is a family affair with the Yorks from Kentucky.

thington, executive secretary of the National Association. This agency provides numerous services to our people. It publishes *Contact*, plans the annual national convention, promotes the work, represents Free Will Baptists, raises funds and provides other services.

Dr. Worthington serves as secretary-treasurer of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches. He announced that the next General Assembly of the International Fellowship will meet in Uruguay on October 12-16, 1998.

The Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign is a fund-raising program to pay for our new national offices building in Antioch, Tennessee. Contributions to this program through December 1996 totaled \$277,000. It will be continued through December 1997 when totals will be determined. We are scheduled to receive final payment on the Murfreesboro Road property in 1997 also.

The Rest of the Family Offering totaled \$9,810 in 1996. September 28, 1997, has been designated as Rest of the Family Sunday for this year, and Dr. Worthington encouraged Free Will Baptists to give generously to this offering.

The Together Way Plan gifts for the Executive Office ministry in 1996 totaled \$320,333. Of this amount, \$206,668 was cooperative and \$113,665 designated. The 1996 Executive Office budget totaled \$350,000; the office had a shortfall of \$29,666.



Florida executive secretary Millard Sasser.

## 1998 Budgets Adopted

Executive Office .....	\$ 597,466.84
Free Will Baptist Bible College .....	3,891,646.00
(Includes \$1.1 million in unrestricted gifts)	
Foreign Missions .....	5,010,401.45
(Does not include \$773,850 Vision Projects)	
Home Missions .....	3,000,000.00
Master's Men .....	143,000.00
Retirement and Insurance .....	355,665.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation .....	108,450.00
Sunday School and Church Training .....	2,961,252.35
Commission for Theological Integrity .....	2,400.00
Historical Commission .....	4,375.00
Music Commission .....	8,400.00
Radio and Television (Media) Commission .....	9,850.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$16,092,906.64</b>

Together Way Plan gifts for national ministries topped \$9.6 million. Some \$2.4 million came through the Executive Office.

### Master's Men

The Master's Men is our national layman's organization. It exists to assist Free Will Baptist men in the areas of



Hi! My name is Fred. Warner (L), Hersey (R).

fellowship, discipleship, soul winning, stewardship and edification.

Master's Men has selected January 1 each year as a special day of prayer. Through a program called "One Sweet Hour of Prayer" each Master's Men chapter is encouraged to spend one hour on that day praying for our missionaries, pastors and other full-time workers.

The Master's Men organization provides a number of services. Through the efforts of this department, the men of our denomination have built almost 80 churches; they have saved many thousands of dollars in building costs.

Director James Vallance reported that the Master's Men continues to make progress in reducing its indebtedness. During the past three years that indebtedness has been reduced by over \$43,000. The LifeMember Endowment Trust Fund shows a slow but continuous growth. At the end of 1996 the balance in that trust fund was \$103,800. The earnings from the trust fund go to help underwrite the operation of the Master's Men Department.

The Master's Men Conference held each April provides time for men to gather for an extended weekend. The preaching, teaching, testimonies and singing are always top quality. The next conference is scheduled April 24-26, 1998.

Each year the Master's Men sponsors a number of athletic events including a golf tournament and a softball tournament.

Director Vallance noted that there has been some discussion of a merger between the Home Missions Department and the Master's Men Department, but no final decision has been made. Discussions will continue, and reports will be given to the National Association as information becomes available.

### Board of Retirement

The Board of Retirement and Free Will Baptist Founda-

tion are two small but very important agencies. The Board of Retirement manages the various retirement programs which are available to full-time employees of Free Will Baptist agencies. This includes pastors, missionaries and other workers.

This department began operations in 1969. At the end of its first year, it had 35 participants who had a total of \$11,707 in their retirement accounts. At the end of 1996 there were 1,086 participants with accounts of \$13 million. Since it began in 1969, the department has paid out more than \$4.3 million in retirement benefits.

The Board of Retirement maintains a diversified investment portfolio consisting of loans (19.81%), stocks and mutual funds (41.12%), bonds or other fixed rate instruments (32.44%), and cash or cash equivalents (6.63%).

### FWB Foundation

The Free Will Baptist Foundation began operations in 1980. It manages a variety of trust funds which have been set aside to benefit Free Will Baptist agencies. The Foundation does not decide who receives any of the funds; that decision is made by the donors. At the end of 1996, the



The three best smiles in Cincinnati.

Foundation managed a total of \$4.4 million. During 1996 it distributed \$104,068 to local, state and national agencies.

### Commissions

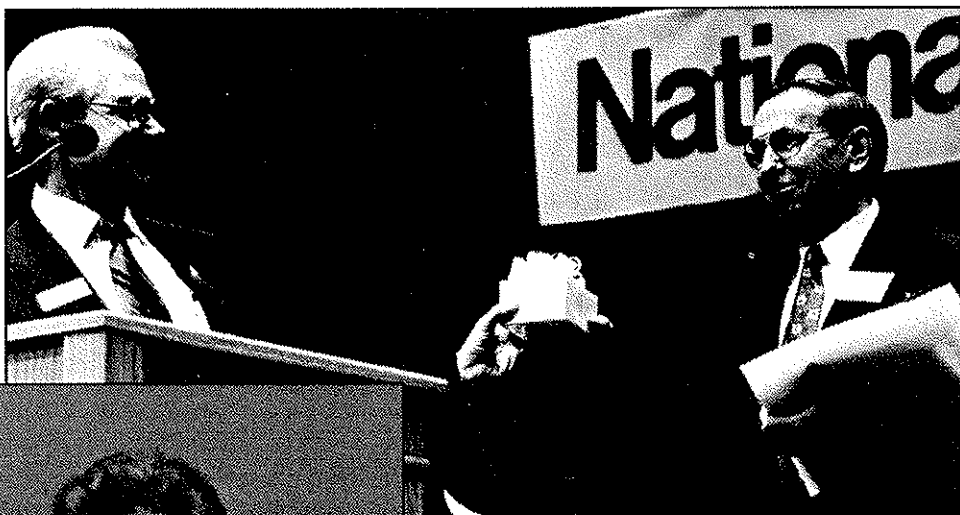
Four commissions have been created to provide specific services for the National Association of Free Will Baptists. They are the Music Commission, the Historical Commission, the Radio-Television Commission and the Commission for Theological Integrity. Each commission presented a report on its work during the past year.

The Music Commission is preparing a series of sound tracks to accompany the *Rejoice Hymnal*. These sound tracks can provide accompaniment for congregational or special singing.

Work is nearing completion on a *Companion* to the *Rejoice Hymnal*. This volume will contain hymn stories, historical data and short devotional thoughts based on the hymns in *Rejoice*. The Music Commission plans the musical portions of worship services at the national convention

each year and conducts a music workshop. Most of its work is behind the scenes, but this is one of our hardest-working commissions.

The Historical Commission is responsible for collecting, preserving and organizing important historical information about Free Will Baptists. It also encourages and assists where possible in historical research and writing which relates to Free Will Baptist history.



Former moderator Ralph Hampton (R) accepts watch and plaque.



Master's Men Dinner speaker LaVerne Miley and wife Lorene.

The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection is housed in the library at Free Will Baptist Bible College. The Historical Commission has provided some funds to help with the preservation and storage of these materials. The Commission encourages associational clerks to send three copies of their annual associational minutes to the Historical Collection at FWBBC. They will then become a part of the historical archives of our denomination.

The Radio-Television Commission has been quite busy in recent months. In cooperation with the Florida State Association, it produced the first television commercial for Free Will Baptists. This commercial can be shown on local television stations to acquaint people in the area with the work of our denomination. The production of this television commercial is an important step for Free Will Baptists.

The commission continues to produce a 15-minute radio program called *Victorious Faith*. James Vallance serves as host of the program and Rev. Bob Shockey as preacher.

Because of the expanding nature of its ministry, the commission requested that its name be changed to the Free Will Baptist Media Commission. This request was approved during the business session.

The Commission for Theological Integrity exists to acquaint our people with current trends in doctrine. The commission conducts seminars and meetings on different theological issues. Sometimes it publishes booklets on items of interest to our denomination.

On October 25-26, 1996, the commission sponsored a Theological Symposium on the campus of FWBBC in Nashville. Thirteen papers were read on different theological subjects. This symposium was well received, and a decision was made to continue them.

Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma, extended an invitation to the commission to hold the 1997 Symposium on the Hillsdale campus. This invitation was accepted; the next symposium will be held October 24-25 on the Hillsdale campus. This symposium will include a discussion of the book, *The Death of Truth*, by Dennis McCalum. Those interested in

attending the symposium should contact Leroy Forlines at FWBBC or another member of the commission.

### *Promise Keepers Controversy*

At most conventions, the report of the Commission for Theological Integrity is briefly considered and approved. That was not the case this year.

At Convention '96 in Fort Worth, the voting body had asked the commission to prepare a report on Promise Keepers. They approved a motion which asked the commission to address specific issues about Promise Keepers in this report.

In response to this request, commission members prepared a 40-page written report in which they addressed the issues which they were directed to research. Much of this report consisted of an analysis of the strong points and weak points of Promise Keepers. In their research the commission members made use of the doctrinal statement and other documents published by Promise Keepers.

The commission's report was discussed at the Theological Trends Seminar Tuesday afternoon and again during the Wednesday business session. It provoked heated debate. On one hand, some considered the commission's report too weak. They wanted to see in the report a condemnation of Promise Keepers. On the other hand, some believed that the commission had done what it was asked

to do. The first group did not want to accept the commission's report; the second did.

At times during the business session, the debate and discussion became somewhat confused. It seemed that some thought if they voted to accept the commission's report, they were voting to endorse Promise Keepers. A motion was made from the floor to substitute a statement condemning Promise Keepers for the commissions's report. After several minutes of sharp debate, this motion was adopted by a vote of 298-236.

The issue of Promise Keepers came up again briefly at the final business session Thursday morning. The body voted to accept the report of the commission concerning Promise Keepers and include it in the minutes.

### *Double In A Decade*

At the final business session Thursday morning, Convention '97 received the report of the Double in a Decade Committee. This committee recommended that supervision of Sunday School and church growth programs be delegated to the Sunday School and Church Training Department and the Home Missions Department. They also recommended that the Double in a Decade Committee continue to operate in order to facilitate the cooperation of different denominational agencies. The recommendations of the Double in a Decade Committee were approved by the National Association.

### *Aflame In Business*

Not everyone goes to the National Association primarily to attend the business sessions, but the business of the denomination is important. For that reason, the business sessions were well attended this year. Reports of the various departments and agencies were discussed, questions asked and answers given. Boards and agency directors were held accountable for their work.

Elections are the most important item of business which



**Georgia pastor Glenn Poston and wife Sara.**

a National Association considers. When it elects men and women to various positions, it is determining future direction.

New board members were elected this year to the Home Missions Board, Master's Men Board, Board of Retirement, General Board and Executive Committee. One new member was elected to each of the four commissions. The general officers were elected to serve again for 1998.

The Home Missions Board honored Milburn Wilson and Glenn Thomas who rotated off the board after serving the maximum 12 years. The Master's Men Department honored Howard Gwartney for 12 years of service. The Board of Retirement honored Ron Barber and Milton Hollifield for their years of service.

The adoption of budgets for the various agencies was a key part of the work of Convention '97. The Budget Committee recommended the approval of departmental budgets totaling \$16 million for 1998. This recommendation was approved. The committee also recommended a formula for allocating cooperative gifts.

Two other items of business were completed quickly.

The Executive Committee recommended Little Rock, Arkansas, as the site for the July 15-19, 2007, national convention. This recommendation was approved.

The Executive Committee also recommended that the denomination continue the present system of electing general officers for one-year terms with no limit on the number of terms an individual may serve. This recommendation was also approved.



**Randall House editor-in-chief Keith Fletcher (R) and missionary to Japan Fred Hersey.**

### *Conclusion*

Convention '97 is now history, and in many ways it was an outstanding convention. The attendance was good; a total of 6,774 people registered for the National Convention, the National Youth Conference and the Women Nationally Active for Christ. The worship services and the business sessions were well attended.

There seemed to be a genuine desire to worship and serve God. A spirit of love and fellowship seemed to characterize all the services. The congregation became actively involved in the worship with excellent congregational singing. There were many "amens" and several in-

stances of sustained applause.

Revival and church growth were the two key ideas of Convention '97. Statistics reported to the National Association reflect that our denomination is growing, but that growth is not as rapid as it should be.

Encouraging reports were presented by both home missions and foreign missions. Three of our oldest fields (Cuba, India and Côte d'Ivoire) are experiencing significant growth. People are being saved; new churches are being developed; national leaders are being trained; national organizations are being formed.

Several new missionaries have been appointed to Spain. We pray that the appointment of these new missionaries will help restore that important field.

New opportunities for ministry have opened up in the countries that were part of the Soviet Union. Free Will Baptists are seeking to carry the gospel to more different areas and in more different ways than ever before.

Good things are happening in home missions. New missionaries are being sent out into new areas. Mission churches are becoming self-supporting. The work continues to grow in Mexico and Canada. The relocation of the Seminary of the Cross to the city of Reynosa is a positive move. There is much work yet to be done, but the work is well underway.

Señor Ramón Zúñiga Barron is the first Mexican Free Will Baptist to serve as president of the Seminary. He is well qualified for the job.



The two Whales—Vernon (L) and son Jeremy.

Director Trymon Messer is developing a closer working relationship between the Home Missions Department and other Free Will Baptist agencies, including our colleges.

At the missions service on Wednesday evening, an offering of \$24,800 was received. This offering will benefit our mission works.

Free Will Baptist Bible College is experiencing the blessings of God. Enrollment is increasing as is the level of financial support. Last December the college obtained regional accreditation. That is a significant milestone in the development of FWBBC.

The greatest challenge which the college faces at this time is development of its new campus. This will be a long and costly process, but there is no other alternative if the college is to continue its growth.

One thing that contributed to success of Convention '97 was the outstanding facilities we enjoyed. Three large hotels were located within one block of the convention center. Stores and restaurants were close by. We heard few complaints about the facilities other than a few problems with the sound system in the convention hall.

With the exception of the debate over Promise Keepers, the business was handled well. There was much interest in the various reports. Good questions were asked and good answers given. A question was raised in the General Board concerning the salaries paid top administrators. This issue will be reviewed by the various boards; it will probably come up for additional discussion in future National Associations.

The bitter debate over the Promise Keepers issue raises some questions about how such issues should be handled on the floor of the National Association. During the debate, few people seemed to be strong supporters of Promise Keepers.

Based on the discussion which took place on the floor, it is doubtful that many Free Will Baptists have a strong desire to become involved in this movement. This raises the issue of whether or not Promise Keepers is really a serious threat to our National Association. It probably is not.

Another aspect of the debate concerned the treatment of the Commission for Theological Integrity. The members of this commission did not ask to write the report on Promise Keepers; they were asked to do so by the National Association. They were asked to study certain specific areas and report on them. They did what they were asked to do and did it well. They did not deserve the criticism they received.

There is another issue which needs to be considered. Is the floor of the National Association the appropriate forum to deal with issues like Promise Keepers? Free Will Baptists are democratic and congregational in their government. Decisions about becoming involved in Promise Keepers or other organizations will not be made at the national level. They will be made at the local church or individual level.

Participation in Promise Keepers and other interdenominational organizations is certainly an important issue for Free Will Baptists. We must ask, however, if the floor of the National Association is the most appropriate forum for addressing such issues.

I express my personal thanks to those who worked so hard to make Convention '97 a success. I thank God for His blessings upon our denomination. Unless Jesus returns before then, plan to attend Convention '98 in Tulsa next July. ■



Convention photographer  
Eddie Payne.

## Elected in Cincinnati

The following were elected during the 61st annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

### General Officers

Moderator Carl Cheshier (Oklahoma)  
Assistant Moderator Tim York (Kentucky)  
Clerk Waldo Young (Oklahoma)  
Assistant Clerk Keith Burden (Oklahoma)

### General Board

1998 Jim Marcum (North Carolina)  
Brent Nix (Northwest Association)

1999 Richard Cordell, (Alabama)  
David Taylor (Arizona)  
David Joslin (Arkansas)  
Dwayne Broad (Atlantic Canada)  
Doice McAlister (California)  
Mark Thomas (Colorado)  
Millard Sasser (Florida)  
Herbert Waid (Georgia)  
Earl Jenkins (Idaho)  
Ernie Lewis (Illinois)  
Robert Helms (Indiana)  
Larry Collins (Kansas)  
Jim Patton (Kentucky)  
Ron Parker (First Louisiana)  
Lester Horton (Maryland)  
James Munsey (Mexico)  
Gene Norris (Michigan)  
J. L. Gore (Mississippi)  
Nathan Ruble (Missouri)

### Executive Committee

1999 Gene Norris (Michigan)  
Nathan Ruble (Missouri)  
David Joslin (Arkansas)

### Home Missions Board

2003 Ronnie Adkins (Tennessee)  
Jim Puckett (Oklahoma)  
Lloyd Locklear (Michigan)

### Master's Men Board

2003 Clarence Lewis (Tennessee)  
Thurman Pate, Jr. (Tennessee)  
Cliff Donoho (Iowa)

### Board of Retirement

2003 Jim Lowe (Ohio)  
Roger Harwell (Missouri)  
Bill Ferguson (Michigan)

### Commission for Theological Integrity

2002 Leroy Forlines (Tennessee)

### Media Commission

2002 Bill Gardner (Tennessee)

### Music Commission

2002 Douglas Little (Arkansas)

### Historical Commission

2002 Jack Williams (Tennessee)

## 1997 Convention Tapes Available

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

The cost of tapes is \$4.00 each. Payment must accompany order. Select the tapes you wish to order by circling the tape number and placing the quantity desired in the appropriate lines.

### Tape Number Subject Quantity

#### Convention Messages

- |                       |                   |       |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 1. Robert Prichard    | Sunday Morning    | _____ |
| 2. Matt Upton         | Sunday Evening    | _____ |
| 3. Earl Hendrix       | Monday Evening    | _____ |
| 4. Melvin Worthington | Tuesday Evening   | _____ |
| 5. Jerry Norris       | Wednesday Evening | _____ |

#### Seminars

- |                                     |  |                         |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 2 tapes for \$6 { 6. Leroy Forlines | "Commission Report on Promise Keepers"   | 2 tapes for \$6 { _____ |
| 7.-8. Alton Loveless                | "Newer Faces in Sunday School"           | 2 tapes for \$6 { _____ |
|                                     | "Trends that Affect the American Church" | 2 tapes for \$6 { _____ |

#### Women Nationally Active for Christ

- |                                    |                         |       |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| 9. "The Importance of Study"       | WNAC Seminar            | _____ |
| 10. WNAC State Leaders Meeting     |                         | _____ |
| 11. Debbie Griffin                 | WNAC Devotional         | _____ |
| 12. Jeff Crabtree                  | WNAC Missionary Service | _____ |
| 13. "Parade of Books by FWB Women" | Special Feature         | _____ |
| 14. Mary Wisehart                  | WNAC Fellowship Dinner  | _____ |

#### Church Growth Forum

- |                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| 15. Richard Atwood | _____ |
| 16. Ronnie Adkins  | _____ |
| 17. Connie Cariker | _____ |

#### Meet 'n' Eat

- |                     |                                     |       |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 18. LaVerne Miley   | Master's Men Dinner                 | _____ |
| 19. Knute Larson    | Fellowship of Encouragement Meeting | _____ |
| 20. Knute Larson    | Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner  | _____ |
| 21. Charlie Pagnard | Music Fellowship Breakfast          | _____ |
| 22. Carl Cheshier   | Hillsdale College Luncheon          | _____ |

#### Miscellaneous

- |                   |                            |       |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| 23. Richard Adams | Church Growth Conference   | _____ |
| 24. Carl Cheshier | Moderator's Message        | _____ |
| 25. Bill Sawyer   | Adult Sunday School Lesson | _____ |

### Please complete the following:

Name _____	Quantity Ordered _____
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## 1997 WNAC Convention

# Expanding Knowledge

By Suzanne Franks

**F**or several days this summer, downtown Cincinnati expanded to fit thousands of Free Will Baptists, and 836 women registered for the WNAC convention. Tuesday afternoon inside the Cincinnati Convention Center a special parade occurred—a parade of books written by Free Will Baptist women.

### Parade of Books

Producers Barbara Chafin and Diana Bryant organized the parade. Nine out of 15 Free Will Baptist women authors made live appearances to review some 21 books. Authors who were not present sent a friend, a daughter or a sister-in-law.

Attendees also got sneak previews of three books in the making by Genevieve Waddell, Mary R. Wisheart and Eleanor Grindstaff.

After the parade of books, traffic jammed the exhibit area around the WNAC booth where many of the books were available for sale.

### WNAC Fellowship Dinner

Mary R. Wisheart furnished the convention highlight at the WNAC Fellowship Dinner as she traced her journey from a farm in southern Missouri to her unexpected destination as executive secretary-treasurer of WNAC.

"My hope is that as I recount my journey," she said, "it will cause you to remember the work of God's grace in your life. And you will be able to give thanks and honor to Him."

Her home church had a major influence on her life. "Aunt Ollie Wisheart taught my first Sunday School class. She taught us to memorize scripture and gave us rewards when

we could recite a whole chapter."

"God had a plan for my life and I wanted to follow His plan. I wanted my life to be one that was lived for Him," she said concerning her early commitment at youth camp.

She told how God went ahead of her. Work in the business office at Free Will Baptist Bible College, summer work, and a cow helped her get through college. Her dad

gave each of his daughters a cow.

"When I needed money, Dad would buy my cow," she chuckled. "When her next calf came he would ask, 'Do you want the calf or the cow back?' I always took the cow because I knew I could sell her back at the end of the semester."

After 25 years at Free Will Baptist Bible College, the Lord seemed to say, "Lift your foot and I will tell you where to place it." The new place was as executive secretary-treasurer of WNAC in 1985.

### Worship

Two missionary duets provided



Carol Reid gives book report.

special music before each Tuesday morning speaker. Missionary Debbie Griffin brought the devotion and took us on a visit to Japan. She told of a mother desperate to help her son who asked, "Would you be willing to teach me the Bible?" Through this knowledge, she met Jesus.

Ohio native and missionary to Canada Jeff Crabtree brought the message on expanding knowledge in the Word of truth. He spoke from II Peter 3:17-18 on why and how we should study.

### Business

Ohio WAC President Sandy Mounts officially welcomed WNAC participants to Cincinnati.

### Executive Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Mary R. Wisheart gave the executive secretary-treasurer's report noting that in 1996, WNAC received 51 requests for new or reorganized groups. So far 19 groups have organized in 1996. WNAC is debt-free except for what is owed on the national office. WNAC's second Western retreat will take place at Glorieta, New Mexico, on October 10-12.

Dr. Wisheart praised God for the opportunity to serve as executive secretary-treasurer for the last 12 years. Free Will Baptists now have six national women's organizations around the world. She confirmed that 100 percent of designated giving goes where it is designated.



Speaker Debbie Griffin.

President Everyl Getz requested that members submit names for a replacement for the present executive secretary-treasurer who plans to retire in December 1998.

### Report of Resolutions Committee

The resolutions committee, chaired by Peggy Outland, submitted three recommendations to the WNAC convention.

One resolution authorizing WNAC to print and sell job description booklets with officers' duties similar to "My Job Booklets" printed in the 1950's did not pass.

Another resolution concerned publicizing Provision Closet items

that are needed and designing a Provision Closet card for MKs with Tanya Hart's help.

The final resolution

granted a \$1,000 scholarship from the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund to Silas in Côte d'Ivoire for the coming school year.



Debe Taylor (AZ).

### Election of National Officers

Three officers were re-elected for

two-year terms: Everyl Getz (TX), president; Marjorie Workman (TN), vice president; and Diana Bryant (FL), secretary. Three new officers came on board as members of the executive committee: Debbie Burden (OK), Joanne King (NC), Debe Taylor (AZ).



President Everyl Getz.

### Creative Arts Awards

Delois Loveless assisted CoLaborer editor Suzanne Franks in presenting awards for WNAC's Creative Arts

Contest. First place winners in four categories are as follows:

Programs: Arlene Branum (Purcell, OK)

Articles: Judy Brinkley (Smithfield, NC)

Poetry: Loretta Masters (Wise, VA)

Plays: Ruth Evans (Flower, TX)



Suzanne Franks (L) presents Creative Arts awards.

### WNAC Seminar

About 300 women expanded their knowledge concerning Bible study at the Monday afternoon seminars. WNAC President Everyl Getz presided at the seminar which focused on Bible study. Lorene Miley presented a challenge to study the Bible. Debe Taylor explained various Bible study methods. Carol Reid and Shirley Sharpston gave book reviews.

### WNAC State Leaders' Meeting

Mary R. Wisheart presided at the State Leaders' Meeting and provided the presidents and field workers with packets.

Diana Bryant spoke from her experience as Florida WAC president on how to plan and make state meetings interesting. Florida's state meeting sponsors a reception and invites all women (not just WAC). The recep-



(L) Diana Bryant (FL), Wanda Powell (GA), Delois Loveless (TN), Gwen Hendrix (SC).

tion is a time to promote WAC and to give everyone a chance to meet missionary speakers. A state meeting provides a great opportunity for WAC to be visible.

Focus lit up as Wanda Powell (GA)

gave tips on how to deliver great programs. A great program requires planning and study. The woman who will give a good program must do her homework and someone must advertise.

Gwen Hendrix (SC) spoke on how to keep business meetings interesting. "Keep it short," she emphasized.

Delois Loveless (TN), who was field worker in Ohio for many years, encouraged field workers to read the Manual, Yearbooks and Co-Laborer.

By the end of the week, downtown Cincinnati shrank to its normal size. On the other hand, we hope



Even missionaries have to stop and rest once in a while. Just ask Patti McCullough.

WNAC participants will continue to expand their knowledge of God's Word and God Himself through diligent study and prayer. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Suzanne Franks edits Co-Laborer magazine.

# Walk in the Light of the Lord

By Dean Jones

**W**alk In the Light of the Lord was the theme of the 30th annual National Youth Conference, July 20-24, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Jeff Jones, North Carolina pastor, started the conference Sunday morning, using Horizon curriculum. Brian Williams, a Kentucky youth pastor, spoke during teen morning worship service. Donald Myers of Taylor, Michigan, served as music coordinator for teen worship services.

Sunday evening's teen worship service featured special music by Truth & Peace youth leadership conference, under the direction of Deanna Hollifield, conference co-director. Rev. Jeff Dunn (Columbus, OH) challenged the teen audience to Walk In God's Light. Following the service, teens joined to sing "Happy Birthday" to the National Youth Conference, as a giant cake was rolled to the stage. They were later treated to 800 cupcakes!

Bible competition and the Music and Arts Festival started Monday morning and continued through Wednesday morning. There were 634 entries and 2,105 registrants.

Monday evening's teen service speaker was Rev. Mark Stripling of North Little Rock, Arkansas. The after-service activity, held in Cincinnati Convention Center, saw over 200 young people come together for a Concert of Prayer. They upheld their churches, pastors, peers and their world before the Lord.

Tuesday was another day of competition with Bible competition winding down to the semifinal round. Instrumentalists, puppeteers, ensem-

bles, choirs and chorales packed competition rooms.

During the conference attendees visited the art galley where some 150 entries were displayed. They also bought conference souvenirs and favorite T-shirts at the NYC sales booth.

Tuesday evening's worship service featured music of the National Youth Evangelistic Team. The message was delivered by Kenny Simpson (Nashville, TN). Hundreds of young people responded to invitations during the week.

The annual Youth Banquet was

Tuesday evening. Some 750 hungry youth enjoyed a hearty meal and were later treated to the antics

and challenge of Tom Tufts. Tom, a youth speaker from Michigan, challenged the audience to not just wear the Christian label, but to shine the light.

Wednesday morning featured Bible competition finals. The Red Bay, Alabama, team won Bible Bowl

competition. The Greenwood, Arkansas, team won Tic Tac Toe competition. The two individual competitions, Turning Point and Horizon, proved to be exciting. Two pretesting times determined finalists.

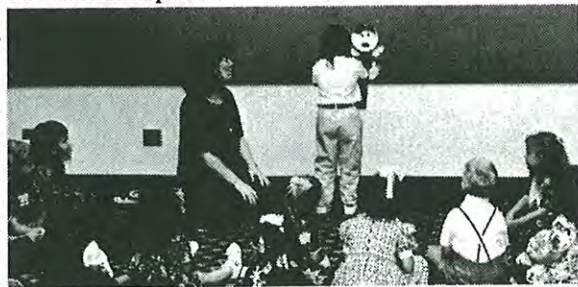
The 1997 winners were Turning Point—Laura Ham (TN) and Horizon—Amy Brewer (KS). Bible Memorization Winners were: 1st Grade—Rachel Trimble (AR), 2nd Grade—Keri Carter (FL), and 3rd Grade—Jacob Peerson (AR). Bible Sword Drill Winners were: 4th Grade—Kendal Brown (AR) 5th Grade—Emma Amos (AR), and 6th Grade—Jackson Watts (SC).

During the four-day conference, over 30 workshops and seminars were presented for children, teens and youth workers on various ministry and practical subjects. Our Spotlight Cincinnati project allowed over 400 opportunities to take the gospel to the streets. Some volunteered their mornings, afternoons and evenings to serve at 11 different agencies in Greater Cincinnati.

They helped do landscaping, sort donated clothing, work with homeless children and adults, serve as counselors at a summer day camp, clean warehouses, paint, and cook and serve meals to the homeless. Special Walk In the Light tracts were printed for young people to share with those they met during their stay in Cincinnati.



NYC director Dean Jones.



Pre-School Worship activities.



Nine winners receive trophies.

Strobelight Station offered students a place to exert excess energy and test skills in the giant boxing ring, velcro wall, human bowling alley or bungee run. Younger students had the chance to participate in carnival games.

Preschool Worship (ages 3-5) services were held each day. This new program provided an opportunity for us to minister to the youngest Free Will Baptists. Upon check-in, each was assigned to a tribe of Moses. From there they were led through a series of centers throughout the service including: worship & singing, role play, crafts, snacks, sensory center, and motor skills. Our thanks goes to Darryn and Lisa McGee (OK) and their assistants for their devotion to this exciting new program.

Children (grades 1-3) and Tweener (grades 4-6) worship services were conducted Sunday morning and each evening by Johnny Miller (AR), Gail Miller (AR), Joey Wilson (OK), Jeff Nichols (TN), Kathy Douglas (GA), Randy Lack (OK), and David Huett (MO).



**Four winners take it home.**

Services included many types of programming: storytelling, puppetry, music, clowning, as well as a gospel message. The Monday afternoon Children's and Tweener's Banquet was a highlight with nearly 400 children and parents gathering to see Kirby Kids (MI) present Good Kings Come in Small Packages, and the Tecumseh Puppet Team's (OK) humorous presentation.



**Either he's lost a contact lens or this job drives him to his knees!**

Wednesday evening concluded with joint worship services in Cincinnati Convention Center. Jerry Norris (MO) spoke. Some 3,500 people gathered for the Awards Celebration Wednesday evening. All Bible competition and Music and Arts Festival winners were recognized.

The 1998 National Youth Evangelistic Team was announced. These 12 high schoolers were top scorers in the 1997 Music and Arts Festival: Eric Pushman (MI),



**Eric Thompson (MI) and a winner**

ville, TN 37217.

At the conclusion of the conference, several awards were presented. Youth selected Riley Kern (OK) and Emily Wood (OK) for Best All Around Awards. The NYC staff selected Jason Matthews (TX) and Emily Wood (OK) for Outstanding Leadership Awards.

Special appreciation is due to all pastors, parents, youth leaders, coaches and judges who work with our youth. A special thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who helped make the 30th Annual National Youth Conference a success.

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

When people think back to the 1997 NYC in the Queen City, some remember soaring temperatures or maybe long lines. I remember hundreds of young people who shared their lives with us for a week. Lives which returned home different than



**Everybody wants to talk about competition.**

Emily Kettelman (TN), Seth McKinney (NC), Lance Garner (FL), Carrie Stewart (TN), Ryan Worsley (GA), Christie Wilson (AL), Chris Wright (OK), Holli Watson (AR), Jared Mounts (OH), Jenny Lewis (TN) and Eric Wood (OK).

Trophies, ribbons, medals, certificates and scholarships were awarded. Special awards were given to the following: Youth Group of the Year—Ina FWB Church, Ina, Illinois; Youth of the Year—Riley Kern (OK) and Leyda Munoz (KY), and Youth Worker of the Year—Dock Hoilman (VA).

One by one, winners were announced and walked across the stage



**Big smiles and trophies make the hard work worthwhile.**

for special recognition. Congratulations to all who entered the competitive activities. You are all winners!

It would be impossible to conduct a conference of this magnitude without the assistance of Truth & Peace Leadership Conference. These 72 youth gave life to the planned activities.

they arrived. Lives which will lead us to the 31st youth conference in Tulsa where "Faith Works!" ■

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

# FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

## Denominational Pioneer, Rev. Winford Davis, Dies

MONETT, MO—Rev. Winford C. Davis, 93, of Monett died May 5. He had been a Free Will Baptist preacher for more than 70 years and filled an active leadership role in the denomination for many years.

Brother Davis was converted at age 12 in a brush arbor revival. He preached his first sermon at the Macedonia FWB Church on January 13, 1926, and was a member at Macedonia at the time of his death. He pastored churches 60 years, including 40 years at Macedonia in various tenures.

He served 19 years as secretary-treasurer of the Missouri State Association. He was a member of the national Board of Education that led the denomination to establish Free Will Baptist Bible College.

As secretary-treasurer of the Foreign Missions Board, he made three trips to Cuba: in 1942, as part of a group sent by the National Association (traveling under blackout all night because of submarine activity in coastal waters); in 1944, accompanied by his wife, Burnice, to make a



check of the missions office and "cover the field," mostly on horseback, spending nights in homes of the natives; and in 1946, to receive title to some land for the Foreign Missions Board.

Rev. Davis helped establish Missouri's monthly magazine, *The Gem*, and served three and a half years as its editor-manager from a printing office in Monett.

He kept comprehensive records of his ministry, and those records for the first 60 years give evidence of God's working in a country preacher's life. He preached 9,100 sermons, won 2,170 souls to the Lord, and re-

ceived 1,385 members into the church.

He traveled 380,772 miles, not counting the trips to Cuba and three trips to Israel. He conducted 159 revivals, officiated at 173 weddings, and conducted 621 funerals. He organized 13 churches, baptized 871 converts, ordained 25 ministers, licensed 40, and ordained 30 deacons.

He also did evangelistic work in Flint and Detroit, Michigan, and on the Atlantic coast. Records for the last 10 years are not available.

Funeral services for Brother Davis were conducted May 8 in Monett, Missouri, by Lee Neill, pastor of Macedonia FWB Church, and Ted Davis, a nephew. Burial was in Bethel Cemetery, up the road from his farm home.

Survivors include his wife, Burnice; a daughter, Sue Henderson of rural Monett; two sons, Dr. James Davis of Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and Rick Davis of Shell Knob, Missouri; 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## California Thanks Nuel Brown

FRESNO, CA—Delegates to California's 54th annual state association surprised Executive Secretary Nuel Brown with a plaque of appreciation for his 10 years of leadership. District associations also sent letters commending Brown.

The June 5-7 gathering met at California Christian College. Moderator Matthew Upton led busi-

ness sessions and was re-elected to his third term. Attendance topped 228, including 48 ministers, 79 lay delegates and 28 deacons.

Four pastors developed the association theme, "Seeing the Harvest." Speakers included James McAllister (Fresno), Carl Young (Petaluma), Eric Thompson (Bakersfield) and Homer Young (OK).

Cooperative Plan allocations were determined: California Christian College (34%), State Office (30%), State Mission Board (18%), National Association (11%), State Auditorium (4%) and State Youth Board (3%).

The 1998 state association will meet May 28-30 at Garden Grove FWB Church in Garden Grove.

## Work Begins on New FWBBC Campus

NASHVILLE, TN—Members of the Free Will Baptist Bible College administration and staff met on the college's new campus site the morning of June 20 to see work begin on a road from U.S. 41-A to the center of the campus. President Tom Malone and Stewardship Development Director Roy Harris spoke briefly on the significance of the event. Dr. Malone then asked those present to form a circle while Ralph Hampton, chairman of the Biblical Ministries department, led in prayer.

This phase of work on the new campus includes construction of a prayer chapel and a road.

The 21-foot, 10-sided prayer

chapel will give visitors a place from which to see where future buildings will be constructed. Renderings of the buildings will help them visualize the new campus. The chapel will eventually be relocated.

Concerning the significance of the building, Mr. Harris said,

"Prayer and chapel have always been at the very heart of what FWBBC is all about."

The road begins at a new entrance to the campus property and runs about 3,000 feet to the prayer chapel. It will give visitors and workers easy access to the 123-acre site.

The Stewardship Development Department calls this phase of campus relocation "Step 2: Developing the Land." The estimated cost is \$250,000. A brochure describing it is available from the college.

A formal ground-breaking service will be held



Staff and administration gather to begin work on new FWBBC campus. in the future.

## Tennessee Church Breaks Ground on \$2.2 Million Building

NASHVILLE, TN—After four years of careful planning, members of Donelson FWB Church in Nashville gathered on the church's lawn June 15 to break ground for a two-level worship center. The \$2.2 million structure is designed to be multi-purposed with a stage that rises into the wall and seats that are easily removed, allowing the room to be used for fellowship, sports, childcare and educational activities.

"This building is not a 'gymnasium,'" said a representative of Hardaway Construction Company, the contractor. "When people come to worship on Sunday, they will see virtually no evidence the room can be used for sports. We've never seen anything quite like it."

During groundbreaking ceremonies which took place in bright sunshine on Father's Day, church moderator Van Stewart

took a final ceremonial vote to proceed with construction.

Nine members of the church then lined up with golden shovels to turn over the first sod. Pastor Robert J. Morgan, quoting Psalm 102:18, told the crowd, "Let this be built 'for a future

generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord.'" Charter member Mrs. Oleda Rudy Lundquist offered the groundbreaking prayer.

Completion of the 32,600 square foot facility is expected by Easter 1998.



Donelson FWB Church breaks ground. (Photo by Mark Cowart)

## 69 Attend FWBBC Summer Camp

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College hosted its 1997 Summer Camp on campus June 22-27, welcoming 69 campers from 12 states, according to Kenny Simpson, camp director and director of recruitment. Campers chose from among four camps the college offered: basketball, music, drama and missions.

The camp consisted of training sessions

in the specialty chosen. It also included daily chapel services, an afternoon at Opryland USA and evening challenges. The multi-

tude of public decisions made included one camper who was saved and another who answered the call to preach.

Campers praised the evening services as times when God did a significant work in their lives.

"The final program was spectacular," says Mr. Simpson. "Many parents commented on how wonderful it was to see and hear young people testifying to what God is doing in their lives."



Summer campers at FWBBC

## Ohio Adopts \$315,000 Budget

COLUMBUS, OH—The 500 registered attendees at Ohio's 59th annual state association adopted a \$315,000 budget, according to Executive Secretary Edwin Hayes. The cooperative funds will be allocated in the following manner: State Office (52%), State Missions (15%), National Missions (30%) and State Youth (3%).

Seventy-six ministers, 33 lay delegates and five deacons registered for the June 27-28 meeting at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus. Moderator Robert Prichard was elected to his fourth term of service.

Delegates voted to support the 1996 resolution adopted by the National Association boycotting Disney Corporation.

Three churches received plaques recognizing their top giving efforts to home missions. The three churches were Westerville, Dailyville and Hillsboro.

Executive Secretary Edwin Hayes said, "We broke our State Ministry Offering record this year by raising \$7,300 in the Friday evening service. The 1996 offering was \$5,777, a record at the time. More than 60 churches gave \$100 each for the special offering."

After the Friday evening service, delegates were invited to an open house at Ambassador Bookstore to see the remodeled facilities.

Three ministers preached sermons developing the state theme, "Preach the Word." Speakers included Ohio pastors David Schug (Ironton) and Keith Perkins (Loveland), and Michigan pastor Loyd Locklear.

The 1998 state association will meet June 26-27 at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus.

## 125 Attend Michigan

ECORSE, MI—The 41st annual Michigan State Association met May 16-17 at Seventh Street FWB Church in Ecorse. Some 125 people registered, according to Promotional Secretary Gene Norris.

Twenty-five ministers, 29 lay delegates and eight deacons followed Moderator J. B. Varney's leadership in business sessions. Varney was elected to his third term.

Attendees honored former promotional secretary Charles Cooper with a plaque of appreciation as he retires from his pastoral role. He had served as both pastor and state promotional secretary.

Delegates adopted a \$225,000 state budget. They also voted to increase term limits for standing board members from two to three terms.

Flint pastor Carl Lilly and Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington preached during worship services.

The 1998 state association will meet May 15-16 in the West Michigan District at a church to be determined later.

## Southeastern Conference

WENDELL, NC—The fall missions conference at Southeastern FWB College meets October 16-17, according to President Billy Bevan. The annual gathering is the highlight of the fall semester, Bevan related.

This year's theme, "Have You Counted the Cost?", is taken from Philippians 3:7. Speakers include Reverend Lonnie Sparks, Reverend David Cox and Home Missionary Jim Fairchild.

President Bevan said, "Our choir will be presenting a mini-missionary concert, along with testimonies from student missionaries who spent the summer in Africa, Panama and Moldova."

## Missouri Sets '98 Budget

PARK HILLS, MO—The Missouri State Association adopted a \$1.4 million budget during its 84th annual session at Fellowship FWB Church in Park Hills, according to Executive Secretary Nathan Ruble. The funds will be allocated: State and National Ministries (\$607,000), Book Store (\$437,300), Show-Me Plan (\$360,000).

The June 2-5 gathering attracted 575 registered attendees, including 89 ministers and 83 lay delegates. Moderator Ken Dodson presided. He was re-elected to a third term.

Delegates passed a resolution opposing the change in Missouri's prison chaplaincy title and job description. The state Christian Education Board sponsored a tax workshop for ministers with B. J. Worth as speaker.

Four ministers preached sermons developing the association theme, "When They Had Prayed." Missouri pastors Ronald Graham (Hurryville FWB Church), Glenn Rehkop (Grace FWB Church) and Dale Skiles (South Fremont FWB Church) joined Foreign Missions staffer Fred Warner on the preaching program.

The 1998 state association will meet June 8-11 in Lebanon.

## Volunteers Help Build Prayer Chapel

NASHVILLE, TN—Fifteen volunteers from three states met in Nashville June 23-27 to work on the first building to go up on Free Will Baptist Bible College's new campus. The building, a 10-sided prayer chapel, is located in the center of the new campus. It will be a place for visitors to gather as they visualize future buildings on the 123-acre property.

The volunteers, some taking vacation time and others retired, came to Nashville to give from a few days to a week of their time. A few worked on campus, painting and cleaning. Most put down the floor and raised the roof for the chapel.

The work was supervised by FWBBC's maintenance staff workers, Bruce Bilbrey and Mike Anderson. Local volunteers helped design the chapel, acquire materials and provide for out-of state volunteers.

This is the fifth year for some volunteers. In the past, they have re-roofed buildings, done yard work, painted and carried out a multitude of other tasks for the college.

The volunteers this year came from Virginia, North Carolina and Alabama.

President Tom Malone and Sandy Goodfellow, director of plant operations, expressed deep appreciation for the men and women who came as volunteers.



Volunteers work at new Bible College site.

## Maryland Honors Lester Horton

MARTINSVILLE, VA—Delegates to Maryland's 31st annual state association watched as officials presented a plaque of appreciation to Pastor Lester Horton of Fairwood FWB Church (Fairfax Station, VA). Horton served as moderator, promotional secretary and General Board member since 1968.

The June 19-21 session met at Woodland Heights FWB Church in Martinsville. Seventy people attended, including 14 ministers, four deacons and 16 lay delegates.

The association theme was "In His Likeness." Three pastors preached sermons during worship services—Jay Baines (New Castle FWB Church), Greg Bevan (Stafford FWB Church) and Lester Horton.

Missionary appointee to Spain, Anthony Edgemon, addressed the Friday evening youth banquet.

In other business, delegates adopted a \$29,885 budget, allocating \$21,000 to the joint home missions project in Waldorf,

Maryland, projected to go self-supporting within the next year. Moderator David Reece was re-elected for a second term.

Delegates passed a resolution declaring their continued use of the King James Version of the Bible in association meetings. A second resolution passed stating that delegates did not sanction the Promise Keepers movement.

The 1998 state association will meet June 18-20 at Mt. Calvary FWB Church in Perryman.

Pastor **Winston Sweeney** baptized six converts at **Fellowship FWB Church** in **Kingsport, TN**.

Members of **Tippett's Chapel FWB Church** in **Clayton, NC**, celebrated their annual "Callaway Way" Sunday in June. The group planned to raise \$5,000 for the Panama/Cuba foreign missionaries, Ron and Linda Callaway. They did that and then some, topping \$18,600 in gifts. **David Trogdon** pastors.

Home Missionary **Terry VanWinkle** reports 60 first-time visitors at **Southern Hills FWB Church** in **Overland Park, KS**. He baptized 12 converts and welcomed seven new families to the church fellowship.

After four years in **Springfield, IL**, the **Heritage FWB Church** averages 52 in attendance, according to **Ken Doggett**, missionary pastor.

Pastor **Odus Whitehead** reports 98 visitors one Sunday at **Faith Chapel FWB Mission** in **Jacksonville, FL**. He recently baptized three converts.

Baptizing converts makes any pastor happy. That's especially true for Pastor **Jeff Crabtree** of **West Fredericton FWB Church** in **N.B., Canada**. Two converts in their 70s asked to be baptized. Jeff led them to Christ in their home.

Home missionary to **Indianapolis, IN**, **Chris Clay** baptized three converts—a man in his 60s, a man in his 70s and a 12-year-old girl. The work goes on.

**Bob Lewis** said it was muddy, cold and dangerously swift . . . but he still had a lot of fun baptizing those three converts in the Colorado River. Bob pastors **Westgate FWB Church** in **Grand Junction, CO**.

Attendance at **Valley FWB Church** in **Sandy, UT**, jumped from 10 to 20 in four weeks. Home Missionary **Bill Phillips** said that more than 13,000 fliers had been placed in area homes. He also placed ads in Utah's two largest newspapers.

The VBS at **Fulton FWB Church** in **Fulton, MS**, raised \$360 for the Jerry

Pinkerton family, missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. **Bill Van Winkle** pastors.

**Dr. Larry Condit** celebrated 25 years as pastor of **Capitol FWB Church** in **Sacramento, CA**, this summer. He started with two women and five children in 1972. The church is one of the leading congregations in California.

**Mae Sneed** resigned after 40 years as secretary/treasurer of the local auxiliary at **Rescue FWB Church** in **Whittington, IL**. Fellow members expressed appreciation with a card and flower arrangement. **Steve Utley** pastors.

**Calvary Chapel FWB Church** in **Jacksonville, FL**, was named church of the month by radio station WMCU. This resulted in the church's morning worship service being aired live each Sunday during June. Pastor **Randy Hill** leads the congregation.

Members of **Martin Hill FWB Church** in **Booneville, MS**, completed a 350-seat sanctuary. Pastor **Rick Bowling** said that a grand piano had been given to the church.

More than 200 people gathered to help members of **Pearce Chapel FWB Church** in **Smithville, MS**, celebrate their 102nd anniversary. Member **Hattie Duncan** was honored with a plaque and a \$100 gift. One of the celebration highlights was the unveiling of the 1924 picture showing 75 people being baptized. **Tommy Street** pastors.

**Antioch FWB Church** in **Burnsville, MS**, reported extensive damage after a thunderstorm caused a fire. **Michael Edwards** pastors.

The **Alabama State Association** plans a fellowship meeting for bivocational pastors during their November session, according to Promotional Director **Richard Cordell**.

Reverend **Amos Peace**, 75, died this year after 30 years in the ministry. Brother Peace was an Osage Indian. He worked in a mission church in **Pawhuska, OK**, serving members of his own tribe. He also pastored churches in

Claremore, Nowata and Collinsville. Amos and Dorothy Peace were married 58 years.

**Chesnee FWB Church** in **Chesnee, SC**, organized with 110 members, according to Pastor **James Childers**. The congregation grew from 13 to 110 in less than six years. Brother Childers also reports six baptisms and six new members.

When the motor died on Pastor **Joel Nason's** car, he had no way to continue bringing folks to **Heritage FWB Church** in **Laconia, NH**. Not to worry. To the rescue with a 15-passenger van came **Linneaus FWB Church** (Houlton, ME) and Pastor **James Pittman**. Way to go, guys!

From best to worst. That's the story that Home Missionary **Tim Coats** tells about attendance at **Harvest Time FWB Church** in **Rapid City, SD**. A record 78 people showed up on Roll Call Sunday this spring. Seven days later the worst blizzard in a long time showed up at church with 70 MPH winds. Attendance—0.

**New Hope FWB Mission** in **Slidell, LA**, got a timely boost from the city when workers placed three metal signs with the church name and location at strategic intersections. **Norman Richards** pastors.

Home Missionary **Ron Dail** reports 21 new members in **St. Croix, Virgin Islands**.

The bus ministry is in high gear at **Heritage FWB Mission** in **Shreveport, LA**. Pastor **Ron Parker** says that about 15 children attend Sunday morning and Wednesday evening, thanks to the efforts of **Swee** and **Dorothy Weldon**. The bus carries a legal limit of 17, which means the group needs a larger bus or a second van. Nice problem.

Two new churches have been welcomed by **Oklahoma Free Will Baptists**. **Lighthouse FWB Church** in **Haskell** (New Life Association) and **Heaven Bound FWB Church** in **Stigler** (Ki-arnichi Association). ■

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

State	Goal	Gifts	Balance
Alabama	\$76,397.63	\$ 5,036.15	\$71,361.48
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	30,060.88	8,118.31
Hawaii	184.54	727.26	(542.72)
Idaho	353.37	25.00	328.37
Illinois	16,176.29	4,949.47	11,226.82
Indiana	7,868.27	1,846.75	6,021.52
Iowa	266.99	.00	266.99
Kansas	1,287.82	280.00	1,007.82
Kentucky	35,454.34	5,949.29	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	33,809.91	26,674.49
Montana	27.48	100.00	(72.52)
Nebraska	102.08	119.00	(16.92)
New Mexico	596.80	630.55	(33.75)
North Carolina	59,118.06	7,131.40	51,986.66
Northeast Assoc.	883.41	270.00	613.41
Northwest Assoc.	1,087.58	201.00	886.58
Ohio	40,923.66	19,588.10	21,335.56
Oklahoma	92,271.60	10,432.08	81,839.52
South Carolina	18,335.75	3,102.00	15,233.75
South Dakota		175.00	(175.00)
Tennessee	78,557.09	65,092.03	13,465.06
Texas	11,547.20	7,516.52	4,030.68
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)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$766,583.39</b>	<b>\$282,804.46</b>	<b>\$483,778.93</b>



**June 1997**

Receipts:		Year To Date		Year To Date		Year To Date	
State	Designated	Co-op	Total	Designated	Co-op	Total	Total
Alabama	\$ 326.03	\$ .00	\$ 326.03	\$ 2,738.20	\$ .00	\$ 2,738.20	
Arizona	1,119.90	70.50	1,190.40	2,868.15	235.00	3,103.15	
Arkansas	17,138.45	14,689.05	31,827.50	75,838.06	74,026.28	149,864.34	
California	.00	1,243.21	1,243.21	55.00	5,963.04	6,018.04	
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
Florida	73.76	.00	73.76	170.88	12,000.00	12,170.88	
Georgia	14,182.61	2,223.10	16,405.71	106,658.18	17,016.90	123,675.08	
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
Illinois	7,358.65	1,827.20	9,185.85	55,221.14	14,276.83	69,497.97	
Indiana	810.65	517.97	1,328.62	5,988.97	1,291.60	7,280.57	
Iowa	90.00	466.60	556.60	220.00	1,580.50	1,800.50	
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
Kentucky	4,250.00	30.29	4,280.29	7,347.50	3,104.51	10,452.01	
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	50.00	.00	50.00	
Maryland	.00	843.75	843.75	.00	2,341.78	2,341.78	
Michigan	11,625.99	2,533.55	14,159.54	66,045.04	16,253.52	82,298.56	
Mississippi	.00	202.30	202.30	614.75	2,172.14	2,786.89	
Missouri	45,045.96	.00	45,045.96	267,964.33	.00	267,964.33	
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
New Mexico	567.52	53.76	621.28	4,536.30	313.16	4,849.46	
North Carolina	225.00	1,017.75	1,242.75	5,295.04	7,543.01	12,838.05	
Ohio	5,983.85	2,101.77	8,085.62	44,783.29	18,825.40	63,608.69	
Oklahoma	54,464.65	.00	54,464.65	352,552.84	269.00	352,821.84	
South Carolina	18,262.58	133.57	18,396.15	181,974.67	614.19	182,588.86	
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
Tennessee	11,790.82	515.36	12,306.18	55,860.22	9,214.31	65,074.53	
Texas	11,452.47	802.97	12,255.44	43,098.32	2,269.33	45,367.65	
Virginia	39.49	.00	39.49	4,997.00	125.00	5,122.00	
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
West Virginia	5,178.51	45.56	5,224.07	27,582.77	343.32	27,926.09	
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
Canada	90.78	6.80	97.58	869.02	31.47	900.49	
Northwest Association	.00	15.00	15.00	.00	15.00	15.00	
Northeast Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
Other	.00	.07	.07	.00	.16	.16	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 210,077.67</b>	<b>\$ 29,340.13</b>	<b>\$ 239,417.80</b>	<b>\$ 1,313,329.67</b>	<b>\$ 189,825.45</b>	<b>\$1,503,155.12</b>	

**Disbursements:**

Executive Office	\$ 9,510.62	\$ 14,670.08	\$ 24,180.70	\$ 60,411.14	\$ 94,912.85	\$ 155,323.99
Foreign Missions	125,801.44	3,374.11	129,175.55	789,415.34	21,829.89	811,245.23
FWBBC	13,811.70	3,374.11	17,185.81	83,784.41	21,829.89	105,614.30
Home Missions	46,761.85	2,640.62	49,402.47	320,949.09	17,084.25	338,033.34
Retirement & Insurance	1,117.47	2,053.80	3,171.27	7,439.50	13,287.75	20,727.25
Master's Men	1,763.31	2,053.80	3,817.11	11,917.25	13,287.75	25,205.00
Com. for Theo. Integrity	89.99	73.35	163.34	685.94	474.58	1,160.52
FWB Foundation	746.09	880.21	1,626.30	5,635.21	5,694.75	11,329.96
Historical Commission	89.99	73.35	163.34	582.53	474.58	1,057.11
Music Commission	76.32	73.35	149.67	532.18	474.58	1,006.76
Radio & TV Commission	76.32	73.35	149.67	577.12	474.58	1,051.70
Hillsdale FWB College	1,162.69	.00	1,162.69	7,560.16	.00	7,560.16
Other	9,069.88	.00	9,069.88	23,839.80	.00	23,839.80
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 210,077.67</b>	<b>\$ 29,340.13</b>	<b>\$ 239,417.80</b>	<b>\$ 1,313,329.67</b>	<b>\$ 189,825.45</b>	<b>\$1,503,155.12</b>



## HOME MISSIONS

*Letter from Sandy, Utah***By Home Missionary Bill Phillips**

I just wanted to take a moment and share with you what has taken place just this week. Brother Carlie Lloyd sent me a letter with the name and address of Cecil and Barbara Willis. They just moved out here from Johnson, Tennessee. They moved to Morgan, Utah, which is about 50 miles from Sandy. I visited with them last night. They have been searching for a gospel-preaching church since they arrived and discovered that there isn't one in all of Morgan County.

Can you imagine an entire county without the gospel? There is nothing there but Mormon churches. Where are those people going to learn of the saving grace of our Lord?

It just broke my heart as I drove home and passed by several small towns and thought of all those souls doomed to a devil's hell. There are hurting people here with no hope and no future without Jesus. I felt so inadequate for the need.

What happens to all those souls if this work [in Utah] fails? No one has reached them before. Starting next week, I'll be doing a Bible study in Morgan on Thursday nights in hopes that I can reach some for our Lord and get a core group going.

Perhaps someday another missionary will come to Utah and start a work in Ogden that can reach Morgan county. I know it is 50 miles away and will take some of my time from the Sandy church, but how can I ignore these lost souls?

Like everyone on the mission field, sometimes the mountain just seems too tall to climb, but how can we not try? I don't even have the right words to share this burden. I just needed to talk to someone and ask for prayer. I know that you care and that you'll understand better than just about anyone. I wonder if you'd begin to pray with me that Jesus would send more laborers into the harvest here in Utah.

We need at least two more missionaries to have a church within reasonable driving distance for the people of Salt Lake Valley. We can't just turn these people over to the Mormons. The really sad thing is that we are not just talking about having Free Will Baptist churches for people to attend, but we are talking about a total absence of the gospel.

My people deserve to have a chance to learn of Jesus. It is heartbreaking to think of so many places in this great land that have an over-abundance of gospel-preaching churches, and my people often don't even have one. It hadn't ought to be that way. I'm just a country boy preacher, but I know that this isn't right.

I'm not the best we've got, and these people deserve the best. Please pray that our Lord will forgive my failures and use me anyway. I guess maybe I was right when I said that God sent me here to show what He could do because no one will ever believe that I did it.

Thanks for caring about the lost souls of Utah. ■



## FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

### *Financial Aid and FWBBC*

By Peggy Hampton, Financial Aid Director

Financial aid has become a fact of educational life. Many students simply cannot afford to go to college without it.

Peggy Hampton, Free Will Baptist Bible College's Financial Aid Director, responded to the following questions about FWBBC students and financial aid.

*How many FWBBC students received financial aid in 1996-97?*

We had 254 who received financial aid (federal and/or institutional) last year. Stated another way, 70% of our students received some form of financial aid.

*How much money was awarded to FWBBC students last year?*

Our students received \$1,163,205.31 in all types of aid. This includes Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, Federal Loans, Federal Work Study, institutional scholarships and loans, and campus jobs.

*What is the maximum a student can borrow?*

Institutional loans are limited to \$1,600 per semester (\$3,200 per year), with a maximum cumulative loan debt set at \$5,600.

Federal loan limits are much higher. The amount a student can borrow is determined by classification: 1st year, \$2,625; 2nd year, \$3,500; 3rd through 5th year, \$5,500. Undergraduates are allowed to borrow up to \$23,000 through the federal loan program. Independent students may qualify for additional unsubsidized Stafford funds, and parents with dependent students may use PLUS Loans if need remains.

*How can a student get the maximum benefit from financial aid?*

The student should apply as early as possible after January 1 for the upcoming award year. The priority deadline for FSEOG and institutional scholarships is April 15. State funds are usually exhausted by May 1.

*Is the need/demand for financial aid growing?*

Yes! As education costs escalate, the need for additional financial aid grows as well.

*What new financial aid benefits have we found*

*since FWBBC became regionally accredited?*

The biggest change has come in aid available to Tennessee residents. Eligible Tennessee students may receive a Tennessee Student Assistance Award simply by applying for federal aid. In addition, eligible students may apply for the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, the Minority Teaching Fellows Program, the Ned McWherter Scholars Program and the Tennessee Teaching Scholars Program.

*What is the default rate of FWBBC students?*

We are please to report that the latest Cohort Default Rate released by the Department of Education for FWBBC is 1.6%. A school must have a rate of 25% or less to continue to participate in federal aid programs.

*Do you have any final suggestions for those who may need financial aid?*

Parents and students should plan ahead for college. Many students are unable to attend because they have given no thought to college until they are near high school graduation. Students *think* they will be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant, but find out too late that their family makes too much money.

Loans are always available, but students should try to avoid excessive loan debt. Savings or a pre-paid tuition plan are good options to reduce the need for loan debt. ■



**Visit our FWBBC web site!**

- ◆ Prospective Students
- ◆ Alumni
- ◆ Pastors
- ◆ Other friends



## FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

# Stewardship in Money Management

By David Brown

Money management is one of the most important obligations faced by individuals or organizations. It is important to be good stewards of what God places in our hands. Few individuals feel qualified as money managers. Some follow the example of the poor steward in Matthew 25 who buried his talent rather than take risks. The Lord of the poor steward rebuked him for not using the talent he received.

Carrying large balances in checking accounts that earn no interest is like burying the Lord's money. Even shifting funds to a passbook savings account or interest bearing checking account produces no real earnings after inflation. This means that an account may actually lose purchasing power—like burying the Lord's money.

You should not be satisfied with low (at or below the rate of inflation) rates of return. Neither can you take unreasonable risks with the Lord's money. Short to medium term investments should not expose the principal to risk. Those who manage the Lord's money should strive for a good return and eliminate or minimize the risk.

The Free Will Baptist Foundation seeks to solve this dilemma for individuals, churches and organizations through revocable trusts. Our revocable trust portfolio is pooled for investment purposes enabling the investment of larger amounts. Laddering maturities enables us to continually reinvest in higher return investments.

This method of investing has allowed the Foundation to deliver returns to revocable trusts that exceed inflation by 2-3%. However, good returns on an investment are not the only criteria that should be used to judge an investment. Investors must demand accountability, availability, adaptability and safety in any short to medium term investment vehicle.

### Accountability

We report directly to you every year at the national convention in July. We present financial statements that are independently audited by a certified public accountant. We also send statements on each revocable trust.

### Availability of Funds

We will deliver the funds within seven days of written notice. The trust document asks that you

give us 30 days notice when you plan to revoke all or a portion of your trust. However, it is our policy to deliver your funds within seven days. Since you are not required to commit your funds for any specific period of time, there is no penalty for early withdrawal.

### Adaptability

Our revocable trusts can be adapted to meet the need of any individual, church or organization. Churches may need to accumulate funds for a new building. State or district associations may need to save for special projects. Individuals may use a trust to gather college funds for their children, to save for a large item purchase or as cash reserves for emergencies. They can even be used to generate extra income. Retirees may need access to the principal while increasing monthly income.

### Safety

You can rest assured that the funds the Foundation manages in your revocable trust are safe and secure. Our revocable trust portfolio is invested in two types of federally-backed financial instruments. A portion of our investments are in certificates of deposit at banks which have FDIC or FSLIC insurance. The remainder of our portfolio is invested in securities that are backed by the United States government, such as notes and bills issued by the treasury department or other agencies of the federal government.

### Benefit Free Will Baptist Ministries

The Foundation handles only revocable trusts that directly or indirectly benefit a Free Will Baptist ministry. An individual(s) who wishes to set up a revocable trust with the Foundation must designate a Free Will Baptist ministry as beneficiary of at least 20% of the trust assets upon his (their) death if the funds are not withdrawn earlier. Of course, any Free Will Baptist church or organization may set up a revocable trust for their own benefit. Establishing a trust also benefits the Foundation in that a small service fee is generated from the funds it manages. For more information, please call or write the Free Will Baptist Foundation. ■

# Flame of Love: A Theology of the Holy Spirit

Clark H. Pinnock

(Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996, 280 pp., hardback, \$24.99)



Thomas Marberry

**C**lark Pinnock is Professor of Theology at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario. In evangelical circles today his views are both influential and controversial.

This book is subtitled "A Theology of the Holy Spirit," and it does contain valuable material on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. It also contains, however, material on a variety of other subjects which are only indirectly related to pneumatology.

More than anything else, this book is Clark Pinnock's theological autobiography. It tells the story of his theological pilgrimage with all of its twists and turns.

Pinnock is no mean scholar; this book documents the depth and breadth of his scholarship. He demonstrates a high degree of understanding of and commitment to the Bible as the Word of God. He also demonstrates much understanding of Protestant, Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox writings on pneumatology and other subjects.

The author is not hesitant to criticize traditional theology when it fails to do justice to the teachings of scripture. For example, since the time of John Calvin many Protestants have

emphasized the penal nature of the atonement. They stress that the death of Christ was a satisfaction designed to appease the wrath of God.

Pinnock recognizes that there is biblical evidence to support such a view. He recognizes, however, that the biblical writers do not always interpret the death of Christ in penal terms. Several passages of scripture emphasize that Christ died in order to reconcile the world to God. Pinnock argues for a more balanced view of Christ's atonement.

In his study of the atonement and in several other areas, Pinnock makes a contribution to modern theology. His examination of the role which the Holy Spirit played in the life and ministry of Christ is excellent.

Some aspects of his thought are, however, quite troubling. He argues that infant baptism is just as valid as believer's baptism, in spite of the fact that there are no examples of infant baptism in the New Testament.

He devotes one section of the book to speaking in tongues. On the one hand, he writes "... it is not necessary to speak in tongues," but in the next paragraph he says that "... speaking in tongues is a noble and edifying gift."

The most difficult and troublesome section of the book is chapter six where Pinnock examines the relationship between the Holy Spirit and salvation. He does not argue that all will be saved in the end. He notes that "God wants humans to love him freely and accepts the risk that some will refuse."

He does argue that salvation is not limited to those who make a profession of their faith in Christ. In his view, the grace of God is universal and people may respond positively to the grace of God without any knowledge of or personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

This book is both insightful and disappointing. He rightly emphasizes that we must develop our theology from the total message of scripture. The insights of theologians are valuable, but even the greatest theologian can never be the final authority.

Yet, it seems that Pinnock is not always himself true to the message of scripture. He is quite correct in his assertion that the Holy Spirit works in the lives of men and women everywhere. He should recognize that the Holy Spirit works to bring them to faith in Christ and not to save them independently of that faith. ■

## BEYOND BELIEF



DON'T DRINK THIS WATER!



...YOU'LL NEED ALL OF IT TO PRIME THE PUMP - THEN YOU CAN DRINK ALL YOU WANT, FILL ANY CONTAINERS YOU HAVE. JUST LEAVE THIS BOTTLE FULL FOR OTHERS.

A FELLOW TRAVELER



P.S. THE WATER IS FREE. THE LESSON IN FAITH TAKES THE ENTIRE CANTEN.



# A Daily Prayer Schedule

**L**ast month I encouraged you to establish a daily, systematic Bible reading schedule. In conjunction with this, develop your prayer plan, too. This project will demand more self-discipline than the daily, Bible reading.

### Determine the Method

Purchase your "prayer book." A well-bound, hard-back book about the size of your Bible would be a good investment. At least 100 pages will be needed eventually. You will use the same book for many years.

On the front page, record your name, address and the date you are beginning the prayer book. Write as neatly as possible in the book. Maybe you should print.

Divide the book into several categories, such as: Family, Church Family, Unsaved, Missionaries and Special Requests.

Record the names of your family members on the first few pages. Skip several lines between the names to provide space to record future births and marriages.

Put the names of your church members in alphabetical order. In the Church Family section, record the names from A to Z, last name first. Skip three lines between the names to add additional names who become part of your church family. Divide this list equally between Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Develop a section for the unsaved. Set aside several pages. Record the names of those you are praying for. When that person is converted, put a check beside the name and write the date of the decision. For the active, burdened pastor, this list will probably grow faster than all the others put together.

Set aside a section for foreign missionaries. Write at the top of the page the country followed by the names of the missionaries serving in that mission field. Skip three lines between the names. Skip three pages between the countries.

Establish a section for home missionaries. Record their names and the place of service.

Designate a section for special prayer requests that apply to your pastorate, community, denomination, etc.

You may want to add other categories.

### Use the Prayer Book

After reading God's Word devotionally, open your prayer book. Pray for your immediate family by name and needs. You may want to record specific needs beside their names.

Pray for members of your congregation by name and by day. You may want to pray for those whose names end in A through C on Monday, D through G on Tuesday, etc. Record specific prayer requests by their names. Write down the date and how the Lord answers that request. As new members are added to the church, record those names in the alphabetical listing.

Then, pray for the missionaries. You may want to pray for the missionaries in Brazil on Monday, those in India and France on Tuesday, those in Ivory Coast on Wednesday, etc. As the years expire, your list will include deletions and additions. Mark through the names when leaving the field; add the names of new appointees.

Pray for the home missionaries by states.

Next, pray for the unsaved. This is a page of great excitement. As the unconverted trust Christ as Savior,

record the date of their conversion with a big check by their names.

The pages of special request will be marked probably more than any other page. As church projects are completed, personal needs met and goals accomplished, record how the Lord met the need.

### Value of Prayer Book

As prayers are answered, names added or deleted and dates recorded, your prayer book will reveal how the Lord has worked. This personal record of your daily prayer time will become even more personal as the years pass.

Following this plan assures you of praying for everyone you ought to pray for. Calling upon the Lord on behalf of others by name and need intensifies your burden and concern. Recording the answered prayer is a reminder of the Lord's fulfilled promises. Those you pray for are encouraged to know that your prayer time includes them by name.

If you change churches, develop a new book. I do.

Some computer programs allow for this planned prayer time to be installed on a hard drive. That may be okay; however, a prayer book developed in your own handwriting can become a personal and fulfilling means of obeying Paul's admonition to the young preacher, Timothy, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men." ■



Dennis Wiggs

## The Sunday Morning Shooters



Jack Williams

**W**hen I was just a pup, the boys in my childhood ran uncurried and unshod from the first day of June until the last day of August. Our most intellectual literary pursuit involved reading the sports pages or the latest issue of *Superman* comics.

The uniform of the day consisted of dirty jeans. That's all—no shoes, no shirt, no hat, no gloves. A late afternoon watermelon or a swim in the bayou made the perfect ending to a summer day.

**Weekends usually started** with a cowboy double feature on Saturday night. To the more irreligious of us, Sundays were times for shooting. We began our hunts at 6:00 a.m. and shot until everybody's ammo was gone. That usually took us about four hours.

We shot more and hit less than any bunch you've ever seen. We were the original gang that couldn't shoot straight.

Between the watermelon and the Sunday hunts, we clocked at least 10 hours a day in the fields hoeing cotton, picking cotton, hating the sight of cotton, hauling hay and praying for rain so we could go to town. That's probably why I like rain so much now—rain means it's too wet to plow.

**Somewhere in that mix of** summers, I discovered that late July and August were revival months in local churches. My first revival experience occurred at the tender age of eight when I ended up under a tree on a bayou with three girls and a teacher, none of whom wanted to be there. Especially me, since an uncle, whom I have since barely forgiven, lassoed me into his necktie that hung down just north of my knees.

That was the last revival meeting where I tried to make a fashion statement. Three years later I went again, and that one was no fun. I'm not sure

who preached or what he said, but when he finished I was in trouble. I left church more than a little uneasy about eternity.

For the next five years, I both loved and hated summer revival meetings. It seemed that everybody was going to Heaven except me.

**The boys of summer** marked my life. As unlikely as it seems, from that group of Sunday morning shooters, God called two of us to preach—Thomas James Kennedy and me.

You'd like Thomas James. He was the toughest kid on the bayou, tall and strong, yet gentle with a smile that lit up the swamps. He also had more common sense than the rest of us combined.

If I don't tell you, you won't know that Thomas James had another distinguishing characteristic besides tough, strong and gentle. He was black. I often forgot that back then and still do when telling others about him.

The color of his skin never seemed as important as the man inside it. The fact that Thomas James could hit a knuckleball clear across the pasture made a far greater impression on me than his skin pigmentation.

**Something ugly happened** late one Saturday night after a cowboy double feature. I was about 12 years old. At the time it didn't seem ugly, just awkward. Years later I learned that the ugly thing had a name.

We were waiting for the hardware to close so that our entire family plus Thomas James could pile in the pickup truck and roll down five miles of gravel roads home. I kept urging Thomas James to come inside where it was more comfortable and look at some pocket knives with me.

But no matter what I said, he refused to enter the store. He looked at me as if I should understand why he couldn't do that. Naive me, I didn't un-

derstand and he couldn't explain it. Finally, I gave up and walked back inside to admire the new Case knives.

**Thomas James put** his hands in his pockets and hunkered down next to the plate glass window . . . and stared inside. Something in his eyes haunts me till this day. That was my first encounter with the ugly word . . . *racism*. And I didn't even know what it was.

I don't hate many things in life, but racism is one of them. Thomas James was my friend and later my brother in Christ. Whatever diminishes him diminishes me. To his credit, Thomas James rose above that Saturday night and knocked racism clear across the pasture.

**One summer when** I was in college, I stopped by the Kennedy house on a hot July afternoon. They called Thomas James from the field where he was plowing. I heard a rush of footsteps and turned. There was that big smile, tears in his eyes and a bear hug from the toughest kid on the bayou.

He told me what God had been doing in his preaching and revival meetings. I told him about my struggles in Greek class and Bible doctrine. The years fell away and we were boys again laughing our way through the 1950s.

One final hug, the dust from his overalls clinging to my blue suit, I went back to college; he went back to the plow.

**As I drove away** through the cotton fields, I suddenly realized what God had done for Thomas James and me. He had quietly taken guns out of our hands and replaced them with swords—swords hammered from the Word of God. The boys of summer had finally learned to shoot straight—and with the right ammo. ■

CONTACT

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