

APRIL 1998

# CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



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*Teaching  
Missions  
Awareness  
to Children*  
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*Franklin Meets the  
Romans Road*  
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*Mission  
Impossible*  
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## The Spectrum of Stewardship (IV)



Melvin Worthington

**T**his fourth study in the spectrum of stewardship series is a continuation of the *stewardship of truth* introduced in part three. Stewardship of truth encompasses the author, acknowledgment, authority, acceptance, appropriation and allegiance of truth—all covered in the third study. The *stewardship of truth* also includes the following.

### Articulation of Truth

Christians have the responsibility to preach, teach and testify of the truth. We have the responsibility of telling the truth when we engage in conversation with others. We preach the truth in love. We preach the Word in season and out of season. We articulate the truth concisely, correctly, compassionately and courageously. There is no substitute for careful and clear articulation of the truth.

Paul charges Timothy to, "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (II Timothy 4:2). This responsibility includes every believer.

### Absolutes of Truth

When a society claims there are no moral absolutes or any absolutes of any kind, God's stewards have a unique and unparalleled opportunity to share the moral absolutes found in the Word of God. That which really matters—Heaven, Hell, sin, holiness, salvation, service, stewardship—has not changed.

The absolutes of truth provide an adequate foundation for hope, holiness and happiness in a world filled with despair, discontent and disillusionment. Faithful stewards stand on these absolutes and find comfort and contentment in them.

### Adornment of Truth

Faithful stewards adorn the truth. Paul reminds Timothy of this fact when he says, "Not purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things" (Titus 2:10).

Again Paul says, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27).

As God's stewards, we must live what we preach and teach. We must recognize that we are lights in a dark world. We are salt that seasons society. Our lives must give credibility to what our lips communicate.

### Ambassadors of Truth

The Lord uses people as instruments to do His work on earth. We have been designated as ambassadors. We have been entrusted with the ministry (work) and message (word) of reconciliation and serve as models (witnesses) of reconciliation. Paul uses the term *ambassadors* to describe the individual and institutional responsibility of God's stewards.

He affirms these concepts when he says, "For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak (Ephesians 6:20), and, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" (II Corinthians 5:20).

Stewards are sent as authorized representatives of the Lord to demonstrate and declare the truth by their lives and lips.

### Adequacy of Truth

The truth sets people free from the bondage and slavery of sin and provides the necessary ingredients for growth and development in their Christian experience. Jesus declared that He was the Way, the Truth and the Life. He further declared that no one could come to God except by Him.

The truth remains the adequate instrument to bring us out of the darkness of sin and into God's glorious light of salvation. Faithful and obedient stewards need to learn, love, live and remain loyal to the truth.

Stewardship of the truth includes the author, acknowledgment, authority, appropriation, allegiance, articulation, absolutes, adornment, ambassadors and adequacy of the truth. One essential facet of biblical stewardship is the stewardship of the truth. Upon this foundation rests all others. How well are we fulfilling our responsibility as stewards when it comes to the stewardship of the truth? ■

### The Secretary's Schedule

April 1997

- 1-7 Russia
- 12-15 Genesis FWB Church  
Bristol, Tennessee
- 16-18 New Mexico District Association
- 25-26 First FWB Church  
Washington, North Carolina
- 26-27 CMP Board Meeting

# Teaching Missions Awareness to Our Children

By Barbara Haas



**T**he greatest missions awareness taught to our children is through our daily lives in our homes. By this, I mean that it's one thing for children to read about great missionaries such as David Livingston, Adoniram Judson, William Carey and others, but much more meaningful for your son or daughter to see missions and feel missions in their own heart, as they observe Dad and Mom on a daily basis in their home.

## Personal Obedience

How is this accomplished? "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13). When Jesus came into our lives, He told us to go and win others to Him. Knowing this, what is our first mission field as parents? "That's right, don't look any further . . . our children."

I've often heard my husband say to me that our children were our first mission field to pray for and to show them the path that leads to salvation. He also said that if we lost our children to the world, our own ministry would not have value in God's eyes.

Knowing this, what a responsibility we have in our homes, first of all, and then in our churches to reflect the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, to our lost children and then reach out to the lost around us.

I believe that God will hold us responsible for the lives we live before our children. We need to come to Jesus daily as father or mother, and ask Him to "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24).

It's impossible to talk to our children about missions when they never see a parent attending visitation in their

church. Worse than that, for a child to never see his dad or mom witnessing to someone else is heartbreaking. "He that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30b).

## Open Home

On the positive side, (what joys it will bring into your life personally and in the lives of your children) open your home to missionaries. Prepare a meal when they visit your church and invite them to fellowship with your family.

I can still see our children's big eyes as we would sit around the table and have missionaries share stories with them from the field. Who needed television when Pop Willey told such heart-stirring stories of his life in Cuba, or missionary Howard Gage relating adventurous wild animal stories of Africa?

Also, it doesn't hurt your child to sleep on a sleeping bag in a crowded bedroom, so he can give up his bedroom to a "real live missionary family." And if they are staying a few days with you, ask them to prepare a specialty dish from their field of service. Believe me, your kids will never forget those experiences.

## Start Early

Praying for missionaries . . . when does it start with your children and the youth in the church? Early in their lives! Every bedroom or Sunday School room should have something that reminds your child to pray for missionaries. Missionary maps, pictures, books, Bible verses on the wall and dresser.

Don't let missionary names be strange names to your

children. As you have family devotions, spend time praying for different missionaries. Maybe choose one a week. Pray for them; correspond with them. These things can also be done in your Sunday School classes and youth groups.

Invite a visiting missionary to speak in a Sunday School class or children's church. Have an international banquet during your missionary conference. Let the youth help get out the advertisement, set up and decorate the tables. Make them feel needed and you might be surprised at the end result.

God is still looking and calling for missionaries, and it could be your son or daughter. Do you have them prepared to obey and to say as Samuel of old, "Speak; for thy servant heareth."?

### **Eight Principles**

Do you want your child to serve the Lord whether it be as pastor, foreign or home missionary, homemaker or teacher?

The answer is simple:

**M**ake sure and pray that they will accept Jesus early in their lives.

**I**nsist that they have their daily devotions.

**S**pend time with your husband or wife, praying that your child will always obey God.

**S**eek God's face, so you can radiate Jesus in your daily life.

**I**nvoke missionaries into your home.

**O**bey God in prayer and giving abundantly to missions.

**N**ever be "unhappy" doing God's work...always joyful.

**S**urrender your daily desires to Jesus, so your children will know how much you love them and the Lord.

When God called us to go as missionaries to India, our oldest son was 16 and our youngest daughter six. We never once heard any of our five children say, "Why, Daddy?" They were taught early in life to respect and have confidence in the spiritual leadership of their father. They knew he would be directed by his Heavenly Father.

After selling all our furniture and moving to Nashville (preparing to go to India), word came a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving in 1967 that our visas had been rejected. Realizing that the Lord doesn't make mistakes, and after much prayer and meeting with the board, our lives were directed by God to the mission field of France.

When I look into the eyes of our six grandchildren in France, the Lord seems to say to me, "It pays to obey Me, Barbara, for if you and your husband had not gone to France, very possibly their father would be on his way to Hell and not to Heaven!"

Yes, teaching missions awareness to our children is teaching by our obedience to God, and as parents, demanding total obedience from our children so that as they grow older, they will willingly obey God and serve Him all their lives! ■

## **Attention High Schoolers!**

**What?** Stewardship Essay Contest

**Sponsor?** *The Together Way Plan*

**Who ?** The contest is open to all Free Will Baptist students in grades 9 through 12.

**Subject?** The subject of the essay must be on some aspect of Christian stewardship.

**Length?** Must be 400-600 words.

**Judged?** Essays will be judged on the development of the theme and its practical application. Punctuation and grammar will also be considered.

**Awards?**

1st place	\$100
2nd place	50
3rd place	25

The first place essay will be printed in *Contact*.

**When?** All entries must be post-marked **before** July 1, 1998.

**Address?** Must be mailed to:

**Essay Contest**  
**The Together Way Plan**  
**P. O. Box 5002**  
**Antioch, TN 37011-5002**



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Barbara (Mrs. Joe) Haas is a member of Emmanuel Free Will Baptist Church in Jacksonville, North Carolina, where her husband pastors. Joe and Barbara served as Free Will Baptist foreign missionaries to France.

A reminder that missions is people, not property.

# Franklin Walks the Romans Road

By George Harvey, Jr.



Sometimes we forget what missions is all about and judge missions success by the kind and size of buildings. Here's a true story that refocuses on what the Great Commission means.

One spring morning in 1996, I received a telephone call from the chaplain of the Maryvale Hospital in west Phoenix, Arizona. He was trying to locate me at the request of a family from McAlester, Oklahoma, whose son was in the hospital terminally ill.

## Waiting to Die

I drove 45 minutes to the hospital and met the Crone family from the First Free Will Baptist Church in McAlester, in the intensive care waiting room. Their son, Franklin, had cancer and was in intensive care. They told me that he was not a Christian

and they wanted me to visit with him.

When I entered the room, I saw a man with a mustache and beard that covered much of his face. He had long hair, earrings in his left ear and he was on a ventilator to help him breathe. His wife Jackie was standing beside the bed.

Even though Franklin was on medication for pain, he was conscious. He couldn't talk because of the ventilator and tubes in his throat, but he could nod his head when asked a question. I introduced myself as the pastor of North Valley Free Will Baptist Church and let them know that our church wanted to help them if they needed anything. After visiting for a few minutes, I asked if I could have prayer with them.

Then I said to Franklin, "Can you understand me?" He nodded yes. I then said, "Before I have prayer with

you, can I ask you a question?" Again he nodded yes. I said, "Are you a Christian, that is, have you ever repented of your sins and invited Jesus into your heart?" He shook his head no.

I said, "Franklin, deep down in your heart, would you really like to be right with God and know that all your sins are forgiven?" He nodded yes. Then I said, "If I can tell you from God's Word what He wants you to do, would you do it?" He nodded yes.

## Saved by a Nod

I walked him through the Romans Road to salvation. I wasn't sure if he would be able to understand me, so I took it slow and tried to be as plain as I could. I didn't know at the time how long he had or how much he could understand because of his condition and the medication. But I

felt an urgency. I knew one thing for sure, he had eternity before him.

When I had gone through the scriptures with him, I said, "Franklin, you said that you were not saved, and I appreciate your honesty. You also said that deep down in your heart you would like to be saved, didn't you?" He nodded yes. I said, "And you said that if you knew what God wanted you to do, you would do it, right?" He again nodded yes.

I said, "Franklin, I'd like to have prayer with you and your wife now. I know that it's tough on you and your family with you sick and in the hospital. I'd like to ask God to be with you and to bless you. I know you can't talk, but I know that you can pray in your heart and mind.

"If you really want God to forgive and save you, He will. So, Franklin, while I pray, why don't you tell God that you know you are a sinner. Tell Him you're sorry for your sins. Ask Him to forgive you, and invite Jesus into your heart. And if you really mean it, He will wipe the slate clean. He'll forgive you and make you a new person. Will you do that?" He nodded yes.

I prayed with and for Franklin and his wife. When I finished I asked Franklin if he had asked God to forgive him. He nodded yes. I asked him if he meant it; he again nodded yes. Then I asked him if he invited Jesus into his heart and he nodded yes.

I turned to Jackie, his wife, and asked her if she had also invited Christ into her heart and she said, "Yes." Praise the Lord!

After visiting a short while longer, giving them some verses on assurance and trying to encourage them, I left. I left praying that Franklin had understood and that he had really committed his life to the Lord for salvation. I confess that the concern about whether he got saved or just made a bargain with God did cross my mind.

### The New Man

The next day I went back to the hospital. Jackie was there as she would be as much as possible. When I entered the room after speaking to Jackie, I walked to Franklin's bedside and asked if he remembered me. He affirmed that he did.

I said, "Do you remember us talk-

ing about the Lord?" He nodded, and I said, "Do you remember inviting Christ into your heart?" He again nodded. I asked, "Did you really mean it?" He nodded yes again and my heart leaped with joy.

I continued visiting Franklin. A short time later he was moved to a nursing care facility in Phoenix. On one of my regular visits with him, I walked into his room and was startled and pleasantly surprised. The guy looked different. His hair had been cut, his beard and mustache had been shaved off and the earrings were gone.

He looked like a different man. After all, that's what God's Word says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Franklin not only looked different that day, he seemed different. He had such a pleasant attitude. I had gone to visit him praying that I could be a blessing to him, and he was much more of a blessing to me.

We talked (I talked; he wrote on his tablet) about him and his family and his concerns for them. We had a good visit.

I went home that day and told my wife Linda, "I'm absolutely amazed. I have been to see Franklin and here's a man who is looking death square in the eyes, and he has such a sweet peace about him." His was truly a "peace that passeth all understanding."

### More than Friends

Later, Franklin was moved to another adult care facility for the terminally ill in Scottsdale. I continued visiting him every other day.

One day when I visited him, the nurses were checking his equipment and medications. I said, "You ladies take care of Franklin. He's my friend."

At that Franklin shook his head no. I was surprised and asked, "Franklin, aren't you and I friends?"

He reached for his tablet and began writing. When he finished, he turned the tablet so I could see it. He had written, "BROTHERS" underlined with an exclamation mark at the end. I have never felt so privileged to be called, "Brother." I real-

ized more than ever that Franklin had truly committed his life to Christ.

He was concerned about leaving his family with no financial burdens, and he asked how much it would cost to have his funeral at our church.

I told him it wouldn't cost them anything and that we would help his family any way we could. As I started to leave, he picked up his tablet and wrote something. By then he was having more difficulty writing, so he had to scratch through it and start over often.

When he had finished, he turned the tablet so I could see it. He had written, "I love you, my brother!" We were brothers.

As the days and weeks passed, Franklin grew weaker. But his sweet spirit remained. On August 24, 1996, at the age of 38, Franklin Lee Crone went home to be with the Lord. I don't think I shall ever forget my brother Franklin and the blessings I received from knowing him. I am glad that God gave me the privilege of helping him find the way home.

Franklin never got an opportunity to attend our church after he was saved. But the most important part of missions is getting people into the kingdom of God. When I wonder what I am doing in Arizona, I think of Franklin. The Great Commission is not about buildings and programs; it's about the Franklins who cross our paths on their way to a rendezvous with God.

When you wonder if your prayers and financial support to missions does any good, remember Franklin. I'm glad I came to Phoenix, and I'm thankful that you gave. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend George Harvey, Jr., is a home missionary to Arizona. He pastors North Valley Free Will Baptist Church in Phoenix.



**How to plan a  
successful  
missions  
service.**

# Mission Impossible

By Martha Stone

**A** missionary is "a person who works to advance some cause." Some may feel that those who raise support for Free Will Baptist ministries are not "real" missionaries. However, if you have been called to go and advance some cause, you are a missionary!

There are many wonderful denominational causes that require the church's attention. The mission field is great at home and abroad, and often seems impossible. I know you want to help, because you invite us to share the ministry with you.

The acronym "ADVANCE" will remind you of a few things you can provide to make Mission Impossible possible.

## Announcement

Announce the service ahead of time. This will help the congregation prepare their hearts to receive the missionary. Eye-catching posters on bulletin boards will spark excitement and anticipation. One church was so excited about the service that they literally ran out to the van, started carrying in the information, the slide presentation, the screen, and I thought they would carry me in, too. And that would have been a tremendous task.

## Directions

Arriving on time is important in mission work. It takes about 30 minutes to set up, give or receive instructions, and welcome the congregation. So, precise directions are invaluable. Directions such as "Go to the big gray bus and turn left" or "turn at the little red house" tend to make a person nervous. I just hope that big gray bus isn't gone somewhere and that the owners of the little red house didn't paint it blue.

Many churches that I visit are located in rural areas. It is difficult to find a motel in the hills and hollows of some of our states. Upon arriving in one small town, I discovered that there was only one motel. When I went to check-in, I found the fire chief/mayor making up my bed, and the sheets were from the local hospital.

Please let us know where the nearest accommodations are located. We may be traveling late at night. If possible, offer to cover some of the expense. This would be an unexpected blessing to the strained and weary traveler.

## Visibility

Many hours and much expense has been spent preparing a display for

your information. Offer a position with the best visibility possible. One church set me up in their basement and told the folks that a presentation would be made after service. After the visiting preacher delivered his message from the front pew and his invitation from the communion table, everyone was in a big hurry to escape to their cars. I was, too, but I couldn't leave.

## Adequate Time

Allow missionaries enough time to adequately explain their ministry. People are skeptical, with cause, as to how their money will be invested. Awareness of a need helps potential donors make an educated decision concerning their financial involvement. One time I was expected to give complete details concerning the work in five minutes. It takes me five minutes to get to the pulpit!

## Nourishment

Often, time doesn't permit a missionary to eat before a service. Have your ladies prepare a meal or snack. Or arrange for someone to host him out to eat. This will offer a wonderful opportunity to get to know the missionary better and share some of your regional delicacies. I have eaten

hillbilly caviar, wedgies, funeral sandwiches, bear and even alligator. This token of love can cultivate friendships that will last for years.

## Challenge

Challenge the congregation to take time to shake hands and offer genuine welcome. This helps relieve anxious feelings. A warm, friendly smile works wonders and makes it so much easier to minister. One elderly gentleman took his job of welcoming me seriously. He came up and said, "Sister, I want to give you a kiss." How relieved I was to learn that it was only the candy-kind he was offering.

Getting the missionary's name, place of service and gender correct are important. At one service I was introduced as "Brother Martha from Heritage Home." Not only had I changed jobs, but . . . well, you get the point.

## Encouragement

The pastor is the key to a successful presentation. If you have been touched by what you have seen and heard, encourage the church to participate. I have never seen it fail. If the pastor is excited, the church will be too.

Set the example by trying to stay awake during the service. Your encouragement as you smile, nod your head and act interested helps the program flow smoothly, quickly and invigorates the missionary. If you can't wait for the last "amen," neither will your people.

You can make Mission Impossible possible. It's up to you. ■



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Mrs. Martha Stone serves as advancement coordinator for Harvest Free Will Baptist Child Care Ministries in Duffield, Virginia. She can be reached at (540) 523-2315.

# THE TOGETHER WAY

January 1998

Receipts:						
State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 540.80	\$ .00	\$ 540.80	\$ 540.80	\$ .00	\$ 540.80
Arizona	200.00	.00	200.00	200.00	.00	200.00
Arkansas	14,543.39	18,425.87	32,969.26	14,543.39	18,425.87	32,969.26
California	.00	914.97	914.97	.00	914.97	914.97
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	3,333.32	3,333.32	.00	3,333.32	3,333.32
Georgia	19,099.88	2,197.07	21,296.95	19,099.88	2,197.07	21,296.95
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	0.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	0.00	.00	.00
Illinois	10,513.90	2,759.93	13,273.83	10,513.90	2,759.93	3,273.83
Indiana	780.46	593.87	1,374.33	780.46	593.87	1,374.33
Iowa	90.00	263.25	353.25	90.00	263.25	353.25
Kansas	0.00	0.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Kentucky	589.84	564.54	1,154.38	589.84	564.54	1,154.38
Louisiana	10.00	.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	10.00
Maryland	.00	543.50	543.50	0.00	543.50	543.50
Michigan	8,206.46	1,887.72	10,094.18	8,206.46	1,887.72	10,094.18
Mississippi	2,717.11	136.51	2,853.62	2,717.11	136.51	2,853.62
Missouri	58,897.97	.00	58,897.97	58,897.97	.00	58,897.97
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	1,064.63	81.81	1,146.44	1,064.63	81.81	1,146.44
North Carolina	2,397.92	1,305.26	3,703.18	2,397.92	1,305.26	3,703.18
Ohio	7,864.63	2,047.72	9,912.35	7,864.63	2,047.72	9,912.35
Oklahoma	45,894.26	9,191.80	55,086.06	45,894.26	9,191.80	55,086.06
South Carolina	51,248.81	114.59	51,363.40	51,248.81	114.59	51,363.40
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	19,789.89	4,459.36	24,249.25	19,789.89	4,459.36	24,249.25
Texas	5,706.82	395.31	6,102.13	5,706.82	395.31	6,102.13
Virginia	1,048.59	50.00	1,098.59	1,048.59	50.00	1,098.59
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	209.01	.00	209.01	209.01	.00	209.01
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	139.79	4.26	144.05	139.79	4.26	144.05
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.03	.03	.00	.03	.03
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$251,554.16</b>	<b>\$49,270.69</b>	<b>\$300,824.85</b>	<b>\$ 251,554.16</b>	<b>\$49,270.69</b>	<b>\$ 300,824.85</b>

## Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 8,350.80	\$22,171.79	\$ 30,522.59	\$ 8,350.80	\$22,171.79	\$ 30,522.59
Foreign Missions	156,943.67	6,232.74	163,176.41	156,943.67	6,232.74	163,176.41
FWBBC	21,253.49	6,232.74	27,486.23	21,253.49	6,232.74	27,486.23
Home Missions	55,228.43	4,877.80	60,106.23	55,228.43	4,877.80	60,106.23
Retirement & Insurance	1,338.63	3,793.84	5,132.47	1,338.63	3,793.84	5,132.47
Master's Men	1,619.27	3,793.84	5,413.11	1,619.27	3,793.84	5,413.11
Com. for Theo. Integrity	73.65	135.50	209.15	73.65	135.50	209.15
FWB Foundation	912.13	1,625.94	2,538.07	912.13	1,625.94	2,538.07
Historical Commission	53.13	135.50	188.63	53.13	135.50	188.63
Music Commission	87.02	135.50	222.52	87.02	135.50	222.52
Media Commission	1,261.55	135.50	1,397.05	1,261.55	135.50	1,397.05
Hillsdale FWB College	1,512.67	.00	1,512.67	1,512.67	.00	1,512.67
Other	2,919.72	.00	2,919.72	2,919.72	.00	2,919.72
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$251,554.16</b>	<b>\$49,270.69</b>	<b>\$300,824.85</b>	<b>\$ 251,554.16</b>	<b>\$49,270.69</b>	<b>\$ 300,824.85</b>

Part four of an 11-part series on aberrant-Christian groups in America.

# The Counterfeit Jesus of Christian Science

By Tom Forehand, Jr.



**W**hile preparing for a radio-talk show several years ago, I phoned the local Christian Science reading room. After a short chat with the person who answered, I said: "As I understand it, Mrs. Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, taught that death is not real. Is that right?"

The hesitant voice replied, "Yes."

Then I responded, "The idea that death's not real is one of the most interesting concepts I've ever heard. I'd like to talk with Mrs. Eddy about that. Where could I reach her?"

A long period of silence ensued . . . Why? Mary Baker Eddy died in 1910! Yet, her aberrant-Christian "Science" lives on advancing a counterfeit Jesus. Christian Science (CS) can boast of having the late Jim Henson, Muppet creator, as well as world-class gymnast Shannon Miller as two of its members.<sup>1</sup>

## "God is Great, God is Good"

Paul's words comfort: "... all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans



8:28). Regardless, some Christians still struggle with the question: If God is all-powerful, infinite in wisdom and good (Daniel 4:35; Psalm 147:5 and Psalm 34:8), how can He allow sin, sickness, pain and even death to exist?

There is nothing wrong in asking this question. Yet there is something wrong when someone tries to answer it the wrong way. This is the legacy of Mrs. Eddy, a woman who tried to answer this perplexing question by *denying that the material world even existed.*

She wrote: "There is no . . . substance in matter . . . God is All-in-all . . . matter is mortal error . . . matter the unreal and temporal . . . man is not material."<sup>2</sup>

## Mary, Mary . . .

Mary Baker was born into a New England congregationalist home during 1821. At that time, America was inundated with waves of Emerson's "idealistic philosophy" and also with tides of a new fad—hypnotic healing.<sup>3</sup>

By 1862, Mary had experienced poor health, motherhood, widowhood and remarriage. Also by that year, she had come to believe she had been healed by Phineas Quimby who taught that "... disease is a malfunction of the mind."<sup>4</sup>

Before Quimby's death, she became one of his disciples. Soon after his death, Mary was injured in an accident and later claimed to have healed herself through Bible study and meditation. Thus were born the basic concepts of Mary Baker Eddy's healing "Science."<sup>5</sup>

During the next two decades, Mrs.

Eddy tried "to understand the implications of God as healer" while she shed Quimby's anti-religionist mind cures. She studied the Bible extensively, compiled her metaphysical beliefs, suffered a divorce and again remarried. In Boston during 1892, two decades before she died, Mrs. Eddy started The First Church of Christ, Scientist known as The Mother Church.<sup>6</sup>

Christian Science gave impetus to the New Thought movement and also became a religious grandparent of Unity School of Christianity.<sup>7</sup>

## No Pain, No Sickness

For Mrs. Eddy, sickness is a dream and pain is unreal—"Now is the time for so-called material pains and material pleasures to pass away, for both are unreal . . . Be no more willing to suffer the illusion that you are sick . . . sickness is a dream from which the patient needs to be awakened."<sup>8</sup>

Did Mrs. Eddy practice what she preached. According to Walter Martin, "sound evidence . . . is available to show . . . that throughout her life Mrs. Eddy made repeated use of morphine."<sup>9</sup>

Due to Mrs. Eddy's beliefs about sickness, some CS parents have been afraid to take their children to a doctor for normal medical treatment. Several years ago, I heard firsthand the anguish that such parents experience. According to Mrs. Eddy, a parent, who wrongly thinks that his child is ill, may even cause that particular illness to develop in the child.

Mrs. Eddy claims: "The act of yielding one's thoughts to . . . undue contemplation of physical . . . conditions induces those very conditions . . . The wise or unwise views of parents and other persons on these subjects produce good or bad effects on the health of children."<sup>10</sup> It must be asked: how many children have died because their CS parents refused them basic medical attention?

## No Sin . . . No Death

Unable to explain how a good God can allow evil to exist, Mrs. Eddy takes the easy, but heretical road of denying that evil abounds.<sup>11</sup> So for Mrs. Eddy, death is but a dream. She states that Jesus awakened "Lazarus from the

dream, illusion of death."<sup>12</sup> Yet, the Lord so seriously contemplated the death of Lazarus that "Jesus wept" (John 11:35).

Also, Jesus agonized over the thought of His own atonement on the cross for sinners (Matthew 16:21; 20:28; 26:39ff.; Romans 3:23). Not surprisingly, Mrs. Eddy also denies Jesus' atonement<sup>13</sup>; still the Bible holds that Jesus is the Lamb of God slain before the foundation of the world (John 1:29; 3:16; Revelation 13:8).

## "Another Jesus"

Mrs. Eddy's "God" is not personal but instead is a "principle."<sup>14</sup> Also, Mrs. Eddy rejects the Trinity. Unable to explain how one God can exist as three Persons, she denies biblical truths about Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

She writes: "The theory of three persons in one God (that is, a personal Trinity or Tri-unity) suggests polytheism (many gods), rather than the one ever-present I AM. 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord.'"<sup>15</sup>

Thus, she concludes; "The Christian who believes in the First Commandment is a monotheist (e.g. one God). Thus he virtually unites with the Jew's belief in one God, and recognizes that Jesus Christ is not God."<sup>16</sup>

Far from being an abstract "principle," God the Father exudes so much personhood that Christians may address him as "Abba" (Galatians 4:6). One can not lie to a "principle," but one may lie to the Holy Spirit, a Person (Acts 5:3-4). It is true that Christians are monotheists (believers in one God).

Yet, the Bible shows that the one God exists as three distinct Persons and each Person is affirmed to be God. Ironically, Thomas and Peter were both Jewish, yet one called Jesus "God" and the other labeled the Holy Spirit "God" (John 20:28; Acts 5:3-4). The Christian's main responsibility is *not to explain God* but *to proclaim God* as God is revealed in the pages of the Bible. Jesus' bodily resurrection defies rational explanation. Still, all Christians heartily and dutifully proclaim this doctrine!

Like many New-Thought adherents, Mrs. Eddy also tries to divide "Jesus" from the "Christ." Thus she teaches: Jesus' ". . . sufferings were the fruits of other people's sins, not of

his own. The eternal Christ, his spiritual selfhood, never suffered."<sup>17</sup> Conversely, the Bible teaches that "Jesus" was born as the "Christ" (Luke 2:11) and that the "Christ" also "suffered" (Acts 3:18). ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Tom Forehand, Jr., is the Tennessee Director of Watchman Fellowship. If you have questions about aberrant-Christian sects in America, contact Tom at P. O. Box 3035, Clarksville, TN 37043 or e-mail [taftj@juno.com](mailto:taftj@juno.com).

## Endnotes

(Recommended reading materials in **bold face**)

1. *Light* V.I., No. 4, p. 6; Jill Smolowe, "Don't Call Them Pixies" *Time*, V. 140, July 27, 1992, p. 56.
2. Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* (Boston: Trustees under the Will of Mary Baker G. Eddy, 1934), p. 468.
3. J. Gordon Melton, *Encyclopedia of American Religions*, 4th Ed. (Detroit: Gale Research, Inc., 1993), p. 143.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 144. Quimby was a hypnotist of the Franz Anton Mesmer tradition.
5. *Ibid.*, pp. 143-145.
6. *Ibid.*, pp. 145-146.
7. *Ibid.*, pp. 143-146, 149.
8. *Science and Health*, pp. 39, 381, 417.
9. **Walter Martin, *Christian Science*** (Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1957), p. 5.
10. Italics added by author. *Science and Health*, pp. 412-413.
11. Concerning evil's existence see Luke 22:3ff., 31ff.; Acts 5:3.
12. *Science and Health*, p. 493.
13. *Ibid.*, pp. 23-25.
14. Melton, p. 145.
15. *Science and Health*, p. 256.
16. *Ibid.*, p. 361.
17. *Ibid.*, p. 38.

# Tribute To Don Guthrie

By David A. Joslin



**H**e marched to the beat of a different drummer. But here stood a man of God, accepted and beloved by most. He was theologically conservative, yet innovative in his ability to blend traditional and contemporary concepts in the worship services of his congregation. Brother Don was a people-person. He witnessed constantly to those with whom he came in contact.

This was his third mission church. His first was the Harrah FWB Church in Harrah, Oklahoma; his second, the Collin Creek FWB Church in Plano, Texas, and his third, the Lake Hills FWB Church near Hot Springs, Arkansas.

It happened on Tuesday morning, January 27, 1998, as he was enroute from his home to a leadership meeting of the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists in Conway, Arkansas. A massive heart-attack struck him when he was only a few miles out of Hot Springs. He died instantly. He is survived by Elwen, his wife, and two children, Sarah and Phillip.

He was born September 21, 1953, in Gassville, Arkansas, the son of Paul and Ernestine Guthrie. Destined to be a leader, he was chosen to attend Boys' State when he was in high school. He was also selected to be listed with the "Outstanding Young Men of America." He earned a bachelor's degree from Hillsdale FWB

College, and a master's degree from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma.

He was a denominational man and very supportive of denominational outreach ministries. In Oklahoma, he served on the Credentials Committee of the First Oklahoma District Association and was the chairman of the Christian Education Board of the Oklahoma State Association. In Texas, he served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Hillsdale College, on the Texas Home Missions Board and the national Home Missions Board.

In Arkansas, he continued serving on the national Home Missions Board, and was chosen as chairman of the State Youth Board. He was a member of the Lake Hamilton Optimist Club, and the U.S. Army National Guard.

Memorial services were conducted January 30 at Lake Hills Church by officiating ministers: Rev. Doug Little, Rev. David Sutton, Rev. Randall Williams and Rev. David Joslin. Honorary pallbearers were members of the Arkansas State Association and the national Home Missions Boards. The service was attended by over 500 people, including 100 ministers from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee.

A tribute was paid to Brother Don

when the two-year-old mission church he led had 133 in attendance on Sunday, February 2, 1998, with seven additions and five rededications. Two others united with the church the following Wednesday night.

Evangelist Wade Jernigan, when informed of this, noted: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth . . . their works do follow them" (Rev. 14:13). "By faith, Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice . . . and by it he being dead yet speaketh" (Hebrews 11:4).

Another tribute was paid to Don Guthrie when the local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Lake Hamilton High School informed his wife Elwen that the student body planned to raise \$10,000 for a college scholarship for Phillip to be given to him on his 18th birthday. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend David Joslin is promotional director for the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists.

# Personal Evangelism that Really Makes a Difference.



## 10 Ways to Change YOUR World

By Geoff Tunncliffe

**T**he challenge to “go, give or pray” rings out from church pulpits and missions conferences around the country. But while Christians often leave these meetings inspired and ready to act, many have no clear direction as to where to begin or what they can do specifically, even in their own neighborhood or community. Changing the world is a tall order!

Here are 10 simple, specific action steps that can help you follow through on your desire to be a world changer, a “Great Commission” Christian. Warning: don’t try to accomplish everything at once!

Instead, treat these ideas like items on a menu and select just a couple of suggestions. Then decide on a time frame (e.g., three, six, 12 months) and take action. You may want to accomplish several easy steps before moving on to the more difficult ones.

Bringing the light of the gospel to a world in darkness is too great a task to be accomplished by just a few. The entire body of Christ must get involved. But it can start with you, and it can start today. May the Lord help you as you step out to change the world.

- 1 Put your loose coins in a jar each day. At the end of the month give what you have collected to a worthy cause.

*Global Snapshot: One billion people do not have access to health care, education, and safe drinking water.*

- 2 Do an act of service without anyone knowing what you are doing.

*Global Snapshot: Just less than 50 percent of the world’s families live on an annual income of \$4,500 or less.*

- 3 Pray that your children (or children you know) would seriously consider missionary service.

*Global Snapshot: Most people make faith decisions before they reach the age of 20.*

- 4 Read a missionary biography; find out how others got involved in changing the world.

*Global Snapshot: It is estimated that 120 million people are presented with the gospel for the first time each year.*

- 5 Help an elderly neighbor with a difficult project such as shoveling snow, washing windows or cleaning gutters.

*Global Snapshot: Twelve percent of North Americans are over 65 years old.*

- 6 Go on a prayer walk in your city. As you pass by, pray for people in their homes or business.

*Global Snapshot: By the year 2025 it is estimated 62 percent of all Christians will live in urban areas.*

- 7 Organize a rich person/poor person lunch. Provide three-fourths of the participants (randomly selected) with small amounts of rice and vegetables, and the other one-fourth with a full course meal. Watch the reaction!

*Global Snapshot: Rescue missions in North America serve over 28 million meals annually.*

- 8 Familiarize a recently arrived immigrant with your city. Explain the transportation system, the schools, local laws, shopping, etc.

*Global Snapshot: There are between 3-4 million Muslims in North America.*

- 9 Telephone a missionary; overseas calls are less costly than you may think. (Just remember the time difference!)

*Global Snapshot: You can call anywhere in the world for less than \$10.*

- 10 Have a “coming home” shower for a retiring missionary.

*Global Snapshot: Unless someone goes to share with them, over 1.1 billion people have little chance of hearing the gospel. ■*

.....  
**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Geoff Tunncliffe serves as associate international director of International Teams, a team-based ministry serving in 25 countries. He also chairs the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada’s Task Force for Global Missions.

Reprinted by permission from David C. Cook Church Ministries.

**62nd Annual Session**

# **National Association of Free Will Baptists**

**Tulsa, Oklahoma  
July 12-16, 1998**

**Theme:  
"Belief Behaves"**

**Loyd Locklear  
Michigan**



**Randy Wilson  
Oklahoma**



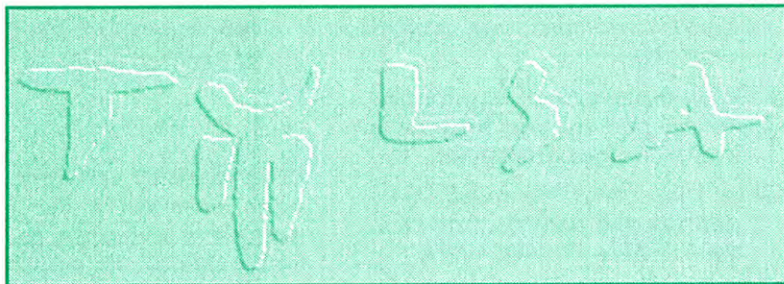
**David Taylor  
Arizona**



**Edwin Hayes  
Ohio**



**Eugene Waddell  
Tennessee**



# Housing Form

## National Association of Free Will Baptists / National Convention

### Tulsa, Oklahoma • July 12-16, 1998

**Print or type** all information requested and mail or fax form to NAFWB Housing Bureau by **June 12, 1998**. If form is faxed, do not call Bureau to check on receipt of fax. Keep your transaction report as proof of transmittal. You will receive acknowledgment by mail of your hotel assignment within two weeks of the time the form is received by the Housing Bureau. **NO TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE BUREAU OR THE HOTEL.** Do not contact hotel directly before June 12. All reservations, changes and cancellations should be made with the NAFWB Housing Bureau prior to June 12.

**DEPOSIT REQUIRED:** An advance deposit of **\$100** is required for each room. Your deposit will be charged to your credit card by providing the information requested below. Deposits being made by check should be for **\$100 per room** payable to the NAFWB Housing Bureau and mailed to the address below. Forms received without credit card information or a check for the deposit will be returned and reservations will not be processed. Hotel refund policies vary. The NAFWB Housing Bureau *prefers* credit cards rather than checks.

**Changes or cancellations** should be made in writing to the Housing Bureau by June 12, 1998. You may fax changes to 918/599-6154 or mail to address below. After June 12, you must contact the hotel directly to make changes or cancellations. Check your hotel confirmation for instructions regarding cancellation policies and check-in times.

Number **all** hotels in numerical order of preference. If all hotels are not "numbered," and your preferred hotel/motels are sold out, the NAFWB Housing Bureau will choose a hotel/motel for you.

#### ◆ ◆ CIRCLE ROOM TYPE REQUESTED BELOW ◆ ◆

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

Number Hotel choices in order of preference ↓	HOTELS	1 bed / 1 person	1 bed / 2 persons	2 beds / 2 persons	2 beds / 3 persons	2 beds / 4 persons
	Doubletree Downtown (Headquarters)	\$79	\$79	\$79	\$79	\$79
	Adam's Mark (NYC Headquarters)	\$82	\$82	\$82	\$82	\$82
	Downtown Plaza	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
	Holiday Inn Select	\$68	\$68	\$68	\$68	\$68
	Trade Winds East (Best Western)	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
	Trade Winds Central (Best Western)	\$53	\$53	\$53	\$53	\$53
	Holiday Inn Express	\$69	\$69	\$69	\$69	\$69

Rates do not include **tax** which is currently 13% in Oklahoma.

Free Parking at all hotels (\$9 valet parking at Adam's Mark; satellite parking free).

Indicate Special Requests:

- ☐ Wheel chair Accessible    ☐ Non-Smoking    ☐ Crib    Other \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Rollaway (Upon availability at an additional charge.)  
 [By Fire Marshall Law, a rollaway cannot be placed in a room with 2 beds.]

ARRIVAL DATE	/	/	TIME	DEPARTURE DATE	/	/
--------------	---	---	------	----------------	---	---

APPLY DEPOSIT TO:		<input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> DINERS CLUB <input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX
CARD NUMBER	EXP. DATE	
NAME ON CARD:	SIGNATURE	

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED. CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

ROOMMATES: (LIST ALL OCCUPANTS OF ROOM)

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

PERSON TO WHOM CONFIRMATION SHOULD BE MAILED. (Please Print or Type Clearly.)

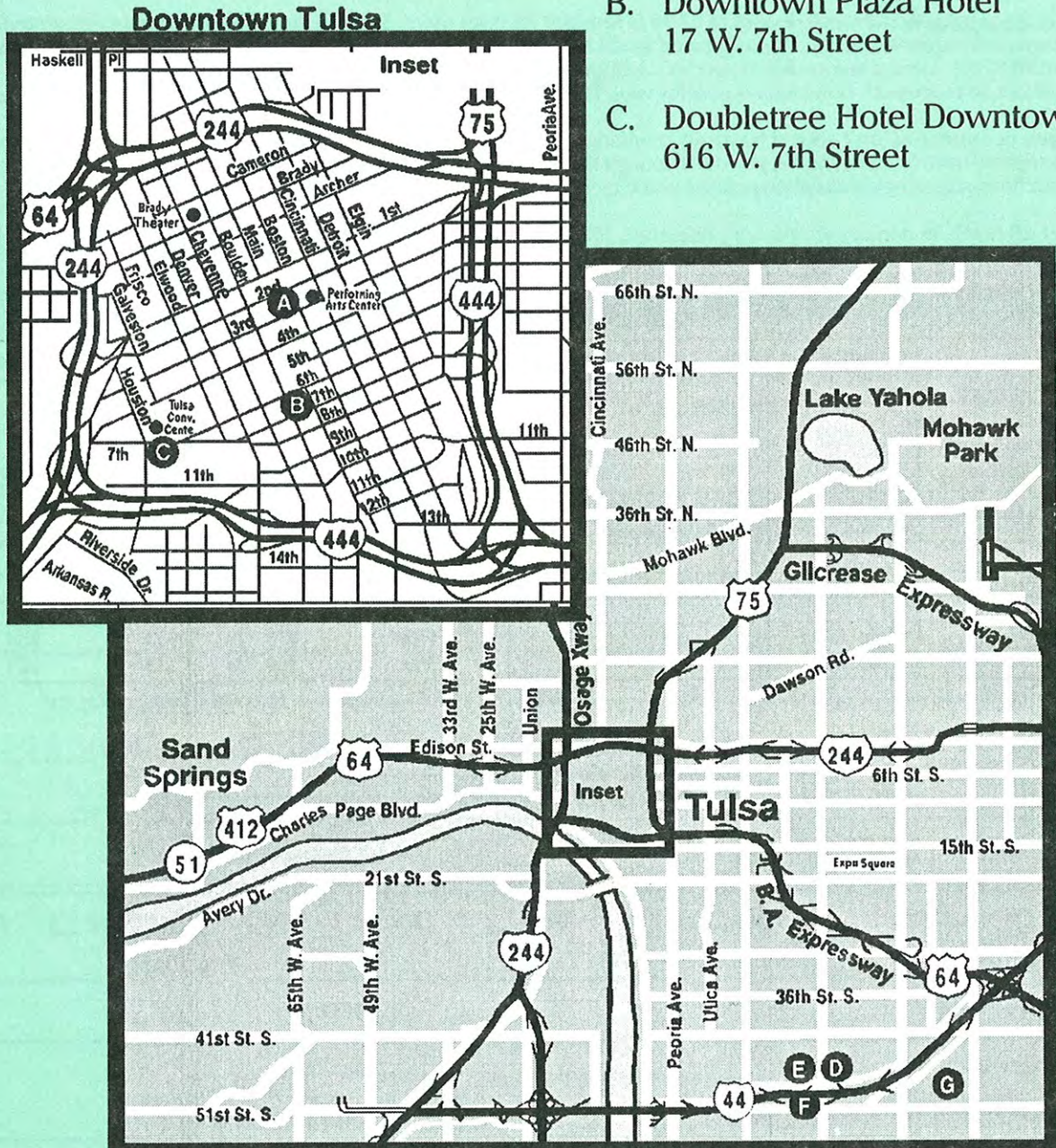
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL OR FAX**  
 By June 12, 1998 — To:  
**NAFWB**  
 Housing Bureau  
 616 S. Boston, Suite 100  
 Tulsa, OK 74119-1298  
 FAX — 918/599-6154

# TULSA

## Accommodations

- A. Adam's Mark Hotel  
100 E. 2nd Street
- B. Downtown Plaza Hotel  
17 W. 7th Street
- C. Doubletree Hotel Downtown  
616 W. 7th Street



- D. Best Western Trade Winds East  
3337 E. Skelly Drive
- E. Best Western Trade Winds Central  
3141 E. Skelly Drive
- F. Holiday Inn Express  
3131 E. 51st Street
- G. Holiday Inn Select  
5000 E. Skelly Drive

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

# Pre-Registration Form

for  
**National Association of Free Will Baptists**  
**Women Nationally Active for Christ**  
**National Youth Conference**  
**Tulsa, Oklahoma / July 12 - 16, 1998**

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

## Please Print

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

Mail completed form(s) and fees to:

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

Must be postmarked on or before **June 12, 1998.**

**You may register for all three conventions on this form.**

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

District Association: \_\_\_\_\_

**Minister:** ☐ Ordained ☐ Licensed ☐ Pastor

(I certify that I am a member in good standing with the above named church and association which belong to the National Association.)

**MISSIONARY:** ☐ Foreign (Country) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Home (State) \_\_\_\_\_

**DELEGATE:** ☐ Ordained Deacon  
☐ State  
☐ Local Church (\$25.00)  
☐ National Board Member  
☐ National Officer

**VISITOR:** ☐ [Visitors can not vote]

#### Meal Tickets:

#### Quantity

Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Workers Reception \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Hillsdale FWB College Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
FWBBC Alumni Luncheon \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**If Local Church Delegate** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$25.00** = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed credentials card enclosed ..... **Yes!** ☐

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

(Check only one of the following:)

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

**VISITOR:** ☐ [Visitors can not vote]

#### Meal Tickets:

#### Quantity

WNAC Fellowship Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**If Local WNAC Delegate** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$5.00** = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
(with signed local delegate form)

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

(All those in 1st grade through age 24 must register to attend NYC.)

(Ages 3-5 must register if attending Preschool Worship.)

Are you a youth worker? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, are you over 24? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grade completed Spring 1997: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's (or Guardian's) name: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Leader's name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration Fee

Pre-Registration Fee \_\_\_\_\_ **\$18.00** = \$\_\_\_\_\_

On-site registration fee is \$20.

Adults over 24 do not pay NYC fees. Competitors also pay separate entry fees.

**You MUST register for NYC to purchase meal tickets/attend banquets (unless age 25 and up).**

#### Meal Tickets:

#### Quantity

Children's Banquet (grades 1-3) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7.50 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Tweeners' Banquet (grades 4-6) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7.50 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Banquet (must be in grade 7 to age 24 or an accompanying youth worker) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

#### For Office Use Only

Rec. \_\_\_\_\_ Ck/MO # \_\_\_\_\_ AMT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CK

Make ALL checks payable  
to FWB Convention.

**No refunds mailed after  
June 12, 1998.**

**TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Check/Money Order MUST accompany this form.  
Enclose ONE check to pay all fees and tickets.

# Pre-Register by June 12 and Pick up Your Convention Packet on Saturday!

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

**Saturday, July 11**  
**3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, July 12**  
**1:00 p.m.**

Pre-Registration ends June 12, 1998

## Meal Information

Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner . . . . \$20.00

Monday, July 13 / 4:45 - 6:30 p.m.  
Convention Center / Exhibit Hall - B

Children's Banquet . . . . . \$7.50

Monday, July 13 / 5:00 p.m.  
Doubletree Hotel / Manchester-Geneva Ballroom

Tweeners' Banquet . . . . . \$7.50

Monday, July 13 / 5:00 p.m.  
Doubletree Hotel / Buckingham-Windsor Ballroom

Hillsdale FWB College Lunch . . . . . \$15.00

Tuesday, July 14 / 12:00 noon  
Doubletree Hotel / Buckingham-Windsor Ballroom

Youth Banquet . . . . . \$25.00

Tuesday, July 14 / 9:00 p.m.  
Discoveryland

Youth Workers Reception . . . . . \$10.00

Monday, July 13 / 9:00 p.m.  
Doubletree Hotel / Woodward Room

WNAC Fellowship Dinner . . . . . \$15.00

Tuesday, July 14 / 5:00 p.m.  
Doubletree Hotel / International Ballroom

FWBBC Alumni Luncheon . . . . . \$15.00

Wednesday, July 15 / 12:00 Noon  
Doubletree Hotel / Buckingham-Windsor Ballroom

# FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

## Mabel "Mom" Willey Dies at 92

BRYAN, TX—One of the pioneer Free Will Baptist missionaries to Panama and Cuba, Mabel Alice Bailey Willey, died January 16 at the home of her daughter in Bryan, Texas. Mrs. Willey was 92.

Mrs. Willey and her late husband, Thomas H. Willey, began their missionary careers among the Choco Indians in Panama in 1938. After Mabel survived a bout with blackwater malaria, they returned to Miami in 1939.

By the summer of 1940, the Willeys packed up and moved to Jaruco, Cuba, where Mabel assisted her husband in a training program for Cuban pastors.

The Willeys moved to the province of Pinar del Rio in 1942 where they established the Cedars of Lebanon Seminary and trained Free Will Baptist pastors 16 years. Mabel served as instructor and administrator.

While on a visit to Miami in 1960, the Willeys were denied permission to return to Cuba. They finally opened the Free Will



Baptist Refugee Center on Southwest Eighth Street in Miami, responding to the needs of thousands of Cubans who fled the oppression of the Castro regime.

After her husband died in 1968, Mabel Willey began an extensive ministry of her own, speaking at missions conferences, women's seminars and retreats in the USA, Japan and Europe.

While in her mid-60s, she started a ministry to professional women in Panama which included the wives of some of the

highest ranking government officials of Panama.

In 1977, Willey was one of the first former U.S. missionaries allowed to return to Cuba for a visit. She went back six times before her death. On one of those visits, in 1988, the Cuban government allowed the reopening of Seminario Los Cedros del Libano.

Willey finished her autobiography a month before she died. The book, titled *Beyond the Gate*, will be published by Randall House.

Funeral services were conducted January 24 at Ebenezer FWB Church in Miami. Rev. Eugene Waddell, general director of the Foreign Missions Department, preached the funeral message.

Mrs. Willey is survived by one daughter, Barbara W. Moehlman of Bryan, TX; one son, Thomas Willey, Jr., area director for the Miami office of World Relief; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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## Southeastern Sets Camp Meeting

WENDELL, NC—Eight speakers will deliver sermons at the April 20-22 Old Fashioned Camp Meeting sponsored by Southeastern FWB College, according to President Billy Bevan.

The preachers include six pastors—Harold Blankenship (Goshen FWB Church in Mt. Holly, NC), Larry Ball (Wildwood FWB Church in Wilson, NC), Greg Bevan (Stafford FWB Church in Stafford, VA), Curtis

Linton (Cornerstone FWB Church in Tulsa, OK), James Sanders (First FWB Church in Chester, SC), Danny Smith (First FWB Church in Louisville, KY).

Home Missions staffer David Crowe and veteran Ohio minister Clyde Perry will also preach.

Special music will be provided by the Sadler Family and the Wilburns. The college's Cooperating Board will meet Tuesday afternoon.

## Rev. Hobert Ashby With The Lord



DAYTON, OH—Long-time Ohio pastor and leader Reverend Hobert Ashby died January 16 after an extended illness. Funeral services were conducted January 19 at First Dayton FWB Church with Ashby's life-long friend, Evangelist Willard Wilcox, officiating.

Brother Ashby (72) was converted in 1949, and ordained as a Free Will Baptist minister in October 1956 a few weeks before he

turned 31. He began pastoral duties in 1957 at Fairborn FWB Church (Ohio) where he served three years.

On January 6, 1961, the Virginia-born minister launched what would become the flagship of his life's work. He accepted the call to pastor First Dayton FWB Church.

For the next 33 years, Ashby led the Ohio congregation with an innovative and creative flair. Under his tutelage, some 30 men answered the call to preach. When he retired in 1994, the congregation named him pastor emeritus.

His influence reached well beyond the local church, however. Pastor Ashby served twice as moderator of the Ohio State Association, and served 22 years on the state's Executive Committee.

He preached at the Free Will Baptist National Convention in Anaheim, California, in 1980. Delegates elected him to a six-year term on the national Home Missions Board.

Reverend Ashby was a man of numerous strengths. He had the unusual ability to listen well and analyze personal as well as business problems. He kept his balance emotionally and spiritually during social turbulence.

Many Free Will Baptist leaders considered Hobert Ashby their friend and confidante. A gifted teacher, he was a perceptive and resourceful Bible preacher.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II (1943-1946) aboard the *USS Crux* in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

Brother Ashby is survived by his wife Betty; one daughter, Pamela Sue Roberts; and one son, Dr. Stephen Ashby who is also a Free Will Baptist minister.

## "Beyond Reasonable Doubt Seminar" Set

WHEATON, IL—Evangelical Training Association (ETA) and a committee of East Tennessee and Southeastern Virginia Free Will Baptist pastors will sponsor the first regional *Beyond Reasonable Doubt Seminar* on May 22-23. The 10-hour seminar dealing with apologetics and focusing on Christian evidences will meet at First FWB Church in Elizabethton, Tennessee.



The speaker will be Nashville pastor, Robert J. Morgan. The *Beyond Reasonable Doubt Seminar* is based on Morgan's recently published ETA textbook by the same name. Seminar participants will receive a copy of the book plus additional handout materials.

ETA president Jonathan N. Thigpen said about the seminar, "Whether a strong believer, someone who struggles with doubts or a skeptic, Robert Morgan's clear and powerful teaching will help you reach a verdict that could change your life."

Joining ETA in bringing this seminar to East Tennessee is a seven-man steering committee composed of Rev. Dexter Brummitt, Tow River Association; Rev. Jim Cox, Tennessee Board of Christian Education; Dr. James Kilgore, Family Ministries; Larry Laughlin, Union Association; Rev. Phillip Poston, host pastor and Appalachian Association; Rev. Greg Sergent, South East Virginia; and Dr. Charles A. Thigpen, promotional secretary for the Tennessee State Association.

The seminar begins Friday night with registration at 6:30 p.m. and instruction from 7:00-10:00 p.m. Saturday registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with teaching from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and lunch provided by the host church. The cost of the seminar is \$20 advance registration and \$24 at the door. Students are \$10. Registrants are invited to bring an unsaved friend at no extra charge (the friend will receive a free book and syllabus). Group discounts are available.

Those completing the course will be eligible to receive one ETA course credit. For registration and additional information call ETA at 1-800/369-8291, Ext. 3, or write to ETA, Box 327, Wheaton, IL 60189. The e-mail address is [evtrain@aol.com](mailto:evtrain@aol.com).

## FWBBC Seeks Youth Ministries Teacher

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College is looking for a teacher in youth ministry and Christian education. Experience and appropriate education are required.

Any person interested should send a resume and written testimony to:

Dr. Robert E. Picirilli, Academic Dean  
3606 West End Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Telephone: 615/844-5235  
Email: [repic@fwbbc.edu](mailto:repic@fwbbc.edu)

## Family Ministries Encourages Unique Offering

GREENEVILLE, TN—The Free Will Baptist Family Ministries in Greeneville plans a special offering emphasis in May to assist abused and abandoned children, according to Dawn Sweeney, church relations coordinator for Family Ministries.

Sweeney said, "We face a crisis in America. More and more children are being devalued and discarded as easily as unwanted trash. The numbers of abused and abandoned children are rising so quickly in our country that experts can't keep up with the numbers. Fortunately, Free Will Baptists have been given a chance to change some of these awful circumstances."

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries (FWBFM) encourages churches and individuals to participate in their outreach to abused and abandoned children with a special offering in May, known as the "Mother's Day Offering."

The P.A.T.H. Shelter (part of FWBFM outreach) serves children coming out of emergency situations; that is, children who were living in unsafe environments or with dangerous people. Being a short-term house (the children only stay from one to 30 days), FWBFM's shelter touches the lives of hundreds of abused children each year.

Dawn Sweeney said, "We can make a difference in the life of a hurting child. No, we can't reach all of them, but we can change some. We are changing America's families one child at a time. And you can help us do it."

FWBFM can be reached at 90 Stanley Lane, Greeneville, TN 37743. Or call 423-639-9449.

## FWB Foundation Delivers Endowment Gifts

ANTIOCH, TN—The Free Will Baptist Foundation delivered more than \$39,000 in endowment gifts to various Free Will Baptist ministries January 15, according to William Evans, director. The gifts came from endowment funds managed by the Foundation.

For the entire year of 1997, over \$138,000 was delivered to the following ministries:

Foreign Missions	\$32,310.48
Master's Men	12,496.66
The Together Way	5,053.65
Free Will Baptist Bible College	26,380.39
Home Missions	8,949.09
Board of Retirement	10,574.10
Free Will Baptist Foundation	615.57
Contact	615.50
Women Nationally Active for Christ	1,141.95
Hillsdale FWB College	1,529.91
Trula Cronk Home for Children	5,549.91
State and Local Ministries	33,760.50
Total	\$138,977.71

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

## Convention Meets a Week Earlier

If you plan your vacation around the national convention, remember the earlier date this year.

The July 12-16 dates are one week earlier than usual.

The decision to meet one week earlier was voted by delegates in 1988 because the Tulsa Convention Center was not available during our usual convention time one week later.

We will return to the regular July schedule in 1999.

## Instrumental Ensemble to Perform at Convention

ANTIOCH, TN—The all-volunteer instrumental ensemble will perform in July at the 62nd annual Free Will Baptist National Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, according to instrumental director Chris Truett.

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

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

group this year."

Those who wish to participate in the ensemble must notify Mr. Truett by June 1. Musicians should send names, addresses, phone numbers, church names, types of instruments played and number of years' experience with the instruments to:

Bethel FWB Church  
Attention: Chris Truett  
1936 Banks School Road  
Kinston, NC 28504  
919/522-2451

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

## Discount Air Fares to National Convention Available

ANTIOCH, TN—The National Association of Free Will Baptists has made special travel arrangements for attendees and their families who will be flying to the national convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, July 12-16, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington.

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

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

Artists Travel Corporation has contracted for travel dates July 9 through July 18 for the convention.

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

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

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

### LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE CREDENTIALS —1998—

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

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

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

Here's a book worth the \$5 price tag. The title of the 62-page paperback is **Shirley**. "Shirley" is a Free Will Baptist man who lives in Tennessee. The story is true, downright humorous at times and quite interesting. Order from: **Shirley Phipps/2744 Poplar Springs Road/Cookeville, TN 38506**.

Contact welcomes *The Leaf*, publication of the **Oak Grove FWB Church in Greeneville, TN**. **Rodney Bailey** serves as editor of the six-page publication. **Chris Fannin** pastors.

The Mid-South Pastors' and Workers' Conference met February 16-18 at **Northport FWB Church in Northport, AL**, according to conference chairman **Randy Wright**. Speakers included North Carolina pastor **Randy Sawyer**, Foreign Missions Department staffer **Fred Warner** and Birmingham minister **Lewis Drummond**.

**Townsend FWB Church in Townsend, DE**, dedicated their 600-seat, 17,000-square-foot building. Pastor **Richard Atwood** said that the new structure also includes eight classrooms and offices. Some 478 people attended the dedication event.

Members of **Lifegate FWB Church in Tyler, TX**, honored retired minister **A. F. Ferguson** for his 66 years of faithful service to Free Will Baptists. The 88-year-old preacher received a scrapbook of cards and letters, as well as several gifts. **Robert Posner** pastors.

The **First Oklahoma Association Mission Board** will sponsor its first annual Great Commission Conference April 30-May 1. The two-day gathering will be hosted by **Calvary FWB Church in Norman**. Speakers include Home Missions staffer **David Crowe** and Evangelist **Wade Jernigan**.

Pastor **Gordon Sebastian** said that 3,534 visitors attended **Peace FWB Church in Wilson, NC**, in 1997. He also reported 104 conversions and 152 rededications. Offerings for the year hovered at the \$600,000 mark.

**Bloom FWB Church in South Webster, OH**, purchased 79 acres and a

much-needed van, according to Pastor **Roger Lavender**. He reported 20 conversions, 12 new members and 14 baptisms.

Thirty-four baptisms and 28 new members have Pastor **Brian Phillips** smiling big at **Wyandotte FWB Church in Mansfield, OH**.

**Urbana FWB Church in Urbana, OH**, reports 11 baptisms and nine new members. **Roger Childers** pastors.

Pastor **Sam Henderson** conducted two baptismal services to accommodate nine converts and still had four candidates to go. Members of **Green Rock FWB Church in Green Rock, IL**, celebrated a special "Family Week" to encourage families.

Some 82 students at **Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN**, made the honor roll for the fall semester. Eleven students made the "A" honor roll.

**Mt. Calvary FWB Church in Perryman, MD**, reports 75 conversions, 72 baptisms, 37 new members and 15 rededications in 1997. **Dennis Keen** pastors.

**Raymond and Winona Riggs** Day at **Cookeville FWB Church in Cookeville, TN**, honored the out-going couple for more than 50 years of service. The Riggs received a plaque designating Raymond as pastor emeritus. Tennessee promotional director **Charles Thigpen** gave words of thanks from the entire state. **Sterl Paramore** pastors.

Pastor **Hal Calhoun** led groundbreaking services for a \$600,000 church building in **Fall Branch, TN**. The church will also have a new name—**New Life FWB Church**. Some 130 people attended the ceremony for the structure which will seat 300. The congregation began planning the move two years ago and purchased 19 acres in a subdivision near Kingsport. Calhoun has led the church for 15 years.

Contact welcomes *Share the Hope*, publication of **Cavanaugh FWB**

**Church in Fort Smith, AR**. The four-page, three-color newsletter includes an editorial by Pastor **Will Harmon**, as well as pertinent local church news.

Christian Service Director **John Murray** reports that **Free Will Baptist Bible College** students led 104 people to the Lord during the fall semester. In addition students preached 471 sermons, taught 766 classes, distributed 2,930 tracts, dealt with 1,195 people about their spiritual needs and witnessed 158 other decisions.

**Harmony FWB Church in Parkville, MO**, celebrated 20 years of service. The church began in 1977 with 39 charter members. Pastor **Jimmy Kiser** said that 129 people attended homecoming activities. Former pastor **Kevin Jackson** preached.

Pastor **Jerry Copeland** reports 25 baptisms at **Way of the Cross FWB Church in Sallisaw, OK**.

Country churches can grow. Attendance more than doubled to 150 at **Lowery FWB Church in Twin Oaks, OK**, in one year. Pastor **Doug Carey** reports 10 more conversions, 11 baptisms and 39 new members. The church outgrew its facilities and erected a 3,200-square-foot building in which to worship.

Members of **Westside FWB Church in Checotah, OK**, burned the mortgage. **Lloyd Morris** has pastored the congregation since 1987.

**Georgia** Free Will Baptists raised more than \$2,500 to purchase a van for Carlsbad, NM, home missionary **Len Blanchard**. The project began at the 1997 state association when **Gerald Brown** brought the need to the attention of delegates.

**Hillview FWB Church in Reynoldsburg, OH**, reports five baptisms and five new members. **Bill Hayes** pastors.



## FOREIGN MISSIONS

*Days Like These*

By LaRhonda Bowerman

Mama said there would be days like these.

This is a familiar phrase, but not one that has been completely true in my life. Mom never told me about some days, but she probably never knew those days would come. I may be caught unaware or surprised at times by circumstances in life, but God knew all along what was going to happen. He knew there would be days like these.

*Days of Discouragement*

God knew I would be discouraged while trying to learn Spanish. I have had several of those days since we've been in Costa Rica. Some days it has seemed hard to remember the very basics I had learned not long after arriving in Costa Rica. Some days I don't know what people are saying to me, and other days people don't know what I'm saying to them. Discouraging times come when I think that we will still have to learn the language of the Kuna Indians after having learned Spanish. And I know their language will be even harder to learn than Spanish has been. God knew I would face days like that.

And the Lord knew that some days I would feel very lonely in a country where I couldn't communicate effectively. He foresaw days when I would want to express my thoughts and feelings but would be unable due to insufficient vocabulary. He knew that some days I would like to join in on a conversation, but due to my slowly developing thoughts in Spanish, the conversation would move beyond what I wanted to say. God knew about those days, too.

*Days of Missing Family*

God knew there would be days when we would miss our family and friends back home. He knew we would experience the painful goodbyes with the realization that it would be a long time before we would be able to see them again. He knew we would realize how much time we have been missing from the lives of those who mean so

much to us. God knew we would get mail from our parents telling us how much they are missing their granddaughters. He also knew that some friends and acquaintances would go on to be with Him, and we would be unable to attend the funeral.

*God Knew Our Need*

Yes, God was aware that I would face moments when I would just want to cry and fall at His feet. He knew. And because He knew, He was able to prepare ahead of time for those days and to give me just what I needed. From the couch in our living room I can look outside our front door and see a mountain. That's not unusual, especially since we are located in a valley. Mountains are all around us. The amazing part is that a cross stands on top of that mountain. Out of all the houses in San Jose we have one with a view of a cross on top of a mountain, and we can see it from our living room.

God knew ahead of time that I would need that cross. He also knew beforehand that another cross was needed. He knew His Son would have to die on that cross, and He allowed it to happen. He did it for me, for you . . . and for the Kuna Indians of Panama. They still don't know. But He knew, and we know.

I'm thankful God gave me the cross on the mountain here in San Jose. It reminds me of what God has done for me and for others. It has encouraged me during this time of Spanish language study. And it has reminded me daily why I'm doing this. I am thankful that God knew there would be days like these. ■



LaRhonda Bowerman and her husband, Eddie, have now completed language study in Costa Rica and are in Panama continuing preparation for their ministry to the Kuna Indians.

## REACHING UNREACHED PEOPLES

Don't forget to participate in the annual  
**WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING**  
April 26, 1998



## WOMEN NATIONALLY ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

### *Woman's Window on the World*

By Mary R. Wisehart

#### *From My Window*

"Why don't you write down your stories?" people kept asking Mrs. Mabel Willey every time they heard her tell the stories.

I kept after her insistently, so fearful that she would not finish the stories in time. Finally she decided that I should help her write them.

Her stories come from diaries, journals, letters and from personal interviews. I have tried to let her tell the stories in her own words and from her own perspective.

We started our work in 1995 and finished just before her death in 1998.

On January 15, 1998, about 11:00 a.m. Mrs. Willey slipped quietly through the last gate. She is now in the presence of her Lord.

After a memorial service in the Fellowship FWB Church in Bryan, Texas, her body went to Miami for a funeral service at Ebenezer FWB Church, where Benito Rodriguez pastors.

How fitting it was to hear voices singing together in Spanish and in English "Like A River Glorious," her favorite hymn. How it would have pleased her to hear a service translated in Spanish and in English so that all "her people" could understand. And how she would have rejoiced as the combined choir from the Cuban churches in Miami sang "Wonderful Grace of Jesus."

The funeral was a fitting celebration of a life lived to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Below is an excerpt from the book, *Beyond the Gate*. Our goal is to have the book ready by the national convention in July.

#### *Panama: Mud and Stars*

Thomas was going to leave by ship from Galveston to survey the field in Panama for Free Will Baptist work. Since he would be gone about a year, the children and I were to stay in Texas. We rented a house there in Bryan. Sterl Phinney was the pastor at the Free Will Baptist church, and the people took wonderful care of me.

In Panama, my husband found a place where he thought we could get in and get started with a ministry to the Indians, the Choco Indians in the southern part of Panama.

We sailed for the field of Panama September 15, 1936. Tommy was four and Barbara was two years old. In my diary I recorded how

happy we were to be realizing our calling, going as God's ambassadors to Panama. Interestingly enough, we docked in Havana, Cuba, September 20. I recorded, "What a beautiful sight!" At one o'clock on September 22, we started on the last leg of our journey. About 7:30, we landed in Cristobal.

On Monday morning we started looking for a place to live. We found a two-room apartment with a kitchenette and a shower, but we were thankful to the Lord for even this place.

From there we moved to El Valle to a mud hut. Our hut had a thatched roof and dirt floors.

One day Thomas had gone to visit the Indians. He often left me and the children alone in the mud hut. Indians were around, examining us curiously, but we couldn't speak to them because we didn't know the language. That evening the children came in and I saw they were covered all over with little brown insects. I hadn't had any experience with ticks before, but I knew that they had to come off. I bathed the children through my tears that evening, picked off the ticks and put them to bed.

After they were in bed asleep, I went outside and knelt down by a old stump. I was overcome with emotion. I complained to the Lord, "Lord, all I ever wanted was a beautiful home. Is this my beautiful home? This mud hut with a thatched roof with creatures falling from the ceiling? And what about my children? Can I bear this for them?" I continued weeping and praying there by that stump.

Then it seemed that my Lord spoke to me. He asked, "Can you not live in this mud hut for me? Remember what I have done for you."

My heart was stirred. I did remember His love and His care for me. I remembered my vows to Him.

"Yes, Lord," I prayed, "I can live in this mud hut for you. I give my desire for a beautiful home, my children, my husband—all of us to you. Do with me what you will."

Suddenly, peace surrounded me. I rose from my knees, and that mud hut might have been a mansion since my Lord had placed me there. It looked altogether different to my eyes.

■

## BOARD OF RETIREMENT

*Young Now but Going on 67*

By Bill Evans

Do you need a good retirement program? There are hundreds of possibilities from which to choose. Promotional materials sure can be eye-catching and the sales reps persuasive. How can you determine what is right for you?

Those who provide information or suggestions to use their product or service may have a vested interest in your decision. Check actual results of the organization, product or company before you commit your funds. That means you should examine the returns, risk, rules, costs and convenience of any arrangement you decide upon.

Returns are the first and most obvious area you should consider. Our plan calculates earnings monthly and credits them twice yearly. Below are annualized returns for the life of our plan.

**FWB Retirement Returns**

One year, 1997	-16.36%
Last 3 years, 1995-1997	-15.98%
Last 10 years, 1988-1997	-9.39%
Life of the plan, 7/1/69-1997	-9.06%

A second major area for any investment/retirement consideration is risk. Many people see risk only as the danger of loss of principal but there is also the risk of inflation, the loss of purchasing power. Risks must be viewed from both perspectives.

The Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement is committed to a conservative investment approach. Because we serve young people just beginning their retirement savings as well as many nearing retirement, we use a balanced investment policy. An itemized listing of each investment we have would be too lengthy for this article, so I have attached a summary of our holdings on December 31, 1997.

**Retirement Investment Vehicles**

Cash or equivalents	- \$2,168,661	12.44%
US Govt. agency oblig.	- 5,101,370	29.26%
Stocks	- 7,394,448	42.42%
Church Loans	- 2,768,635	15.88%
Total Investment	- \$17,433,114	

A third area to consider when making retirement decisions involves operational rules and regulations. Investigate how the plan works, since everything that glitters is not gold.

Each investment vehicle used for retirement planning will have individual guidelines and restrictions. Study them.

While the particulars of our Free Will Baptist plan are too complex for a single page, our rules are written to comply with the IRS regulations for the 403(b) section of the Code. When possible those regulations are adjusted to benefit our participants and to allow us the best management methods and returns. Since some misinformation about our plan continues to circulate, don't take others' word. Look at our plan yourself. Contact our office for official publications and information.

Fourth, consider cost. What does it cost to operate our program? Total cost for the operation for 1997, including salaries, rent, travel and promotion was \$329,302.64, or 1.8% of funds under management. Compare our cost with your other options; you will find that we are very competitive.

Finally, what about convenience? What difference does convenience make to anyone? Those who want to manage your money will try to make it easy and simple for you; we do, too. Consider the following:

1. Several of our state associations provide supplemental or matching contributions for those serving within their boundary.
2. The plan is portable, it moves with the individual. Every FWB employee can have retirement contributions invested with us. For churches with multiple employees, one check can contribute to each individual account.
3. We provide continuity for the church and treasurer. A routine for handling deposits, acquiring answers and promoting the denominational family can benefit both church and worker.
4. Investments are screened according to our FWB convictions: No investments are held in producers of tobacco, alcohol, gambling, Hollywood entertainment or pornography.
5. Because our plan was originated and continues to be administered by Free Will Baptists, it is designed to address our needs.

Decide now to begin provisions and preparations for retirement. Consider your options for an investment vehicle by gathering information and history on the avenues available to you. Start with the Free Will Baptist plan. Then make your decision and be faithful to contribute something each month. In addition to a retirement plan, diversify by making other investments.

Some day you will face retirement. Let us help you get ready. ■

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. . . and anyone else you  
might suggest.

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

## Love Your Congregation

**O**ne of the great responsibilities for the young preacher is getting along with people. Christians are human beings who possess unique and different personalities. The young preacher must learn to work with everyone without offending or compromising. What a challenge!

The young preacher will never please everyone all the time. He shouldn't even try. However, it would benefit his ministry to set a goal of ministering to his congregation as effectively as possible.

### Love Them

Jesus declared, "Love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34). Remember the three disciples who requested seats of authority? The other disciples were angry and jealous. Remember Simon Peter proudly declaring that he would never deny Christ?

Remember Judas Iscariot jingling the betrayal money in his purse at the Last Supper? Remember the disciples forgetting about the miracles of feeding the 4,000 and 5,000 and then questioning Jesus how He would provide their needs? Hard to love such stubborn, faithless, myopic followers. But Jesus loved them and commanded us to love them too.

Church members are like the 12 apostles. Inconsistent. Weak. Double-tongued. Unfaithful. Love them anyway! Remember that the young preacher is not perfect. It may take as much grace for the congregation to love the man in the pulpit as for him to love those in the pews.

### Love Them Anyway

Every born-again believer has value, even those with odd habits and idiosyncrasies. The young preacher

must love those in his congregation as they are.

Tolerate the loud, demanding board member. Pray more fervently for the backsliding young believer. Visit the complaining, disgruntled widow. Shake everyone's hand. Give a smile to those who look the other way. Wave. Exercise the determination to aggressively treat everyone with the same respect.

### Some Suggestions

- Pray regularly for all your flock. Divide the membership list into five equal parts. Pray for the first group on Monday, the second group on Tuesday, etc.
- Speak to everyone. Before and/or after the worship services, try to shake everyone's hand and give a kind greeting.
- Visit. Yes, I know that ladies work outside the home and people work different shifts. But try to spend a few minutes of fellowship with each church member once or twice a year.
- Pray over the telephone when church members call about a burden or a blessing.
- Be with your church family when they face surgery, death or disappointments. Attend the weddings. Rejoice with them over a new job or a promotion. A young preacher will touch the lives of every church member in some special way in just a few years.
- Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, spiritual birthdays, births of babies, sickness and death with a card. Mail it to their home.
- Speak well of your flock. Criticism or condemning words will not accomplish anything. Be careful how you make cutting remarks



Dennis Wiggs

to other preachers about the sheep the Lord has given you.

- Tell them "I love you in the Lord."
- Love without physical affectation. Be careful of your contact with the opposite sex. Learn to love everyone spiritually without being physically attracted.

### Love Without Partiality

People are prone to jealousy. The young preacher should be careful about giving more attention to some than others. Treat everyone equally. Shake hands on one side of the church this Sunday and on the other side next Sunday. Visit without discrimination. Preach to both sides of the congregation. Exercise genuine love to all groups in the church.

### Is It Possible?

Yes, it is possible to love even the unlovely. The Lord can work a special grace in our hearts. Even a casual reading of I John reveals how important it is for believers to love not only their friends, but even enemies.

Young preacher, everyone in the congregation may not treat you with respect. They may never do anything for you besides attend church services. However, ask the Lord for the grace and strength to prove your love for those the Lord has placed in your watch care. Love your congregation. Watch the love grow as you remain at that church as long as the Lord allows. ■

# YOUTH UPDATE

## National Youth Conference

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

Here are some of the highlights you'll find at NYC'98 in Tulsa!

- *Preschool Worship Services (ages 3-5)*
- *Children's Worship Services (grades 1-3)*
- *Tweener Worship Services (grades 4-6)*
- *Teen Worship Services (grades 7-12)*
- *Tulsa Twister Coral Recreation Area*
- *Armadillo Races*
- *A Trip To Discoveryland*
- *35+ Workshops for all ages*
- *The beautiful Adam's Mark Hotel*
- *Hundreds of Service Projects to help the residents of Tulsa*
- *Old Friends*
- *New Friends*
- *Meet Freddy the Faithful Frog (our mascot)*
- *Dr. Bob Tuell (the spray-painting preacher!)*
- **A LIFE-CHANGING,  
HEART-GRIPPING,  
4-DAY JOURNEY TO A  
FAITH-FILLED LIFE!**



If you have any questions about the new guidelines or the 1998 National Youth Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma, please call the Youth Ministries Division at (615) 361-1221 ext. 344 or 346.

## The New Context of World Mission

By Bryant L. Myers

(Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1996, 68 pp., paperback, \$12.50).



Thomas Marberry

**D**r. Bryant L. Myers is vice president for Strategy and Christian Mission at World Vision International, and executive director of MARC (Mission Advanced Research and Communication Center). He has been actively involved in missions in various capacities for a number of years. He is the author of one previous book and several articles on different mission topics.

According to Dr. Myers, the purpose of this book is "... to provide a brief, easy to read, yet comprehensive description of the world in which Christian missions is to take place as this century closes."

This small book gives a short, concise summary of the current status of Christian missions around the world. Myers uses numerous attractive charts and graphs to present essential information about the Christian world today.

He tells where the largest numbers of Christians live and where the

fewest live. He outlines where most missionary work is being done and where it is not being done.

Myers understands that Christian missions are affected by a variety of social, economic and political factors. He explains which countries are the richest and which are the poorest, which have the greatest degree of freedom and which have the least, which cities are the largest, and which countries have the largest percentage of children.

He gives brief overviews of the Christian church in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and other regions.

The author presents many interesting and important facts which many Christians may not know. Listed below are some important statements from the book.

"A very large proportion of those who have not heard the gospel are also poor."

"Over 55 million Chinese are living

outside mainland China."

"Of the 925 million absolute poor in the world, 211 million (or 23%) are Christians."

"Nearly 70% of all evangelicals live in the non-Western world."

"The percentage of Christians active in some form of mission today is at an all-time high of 36%."

"Africa is experiencing the fastest church growth of any region."

"Europe has more nominal Christians than the rest of the world put together."

Free Will Baptists are a missions-minded people, and April is Foreign Missions month in our denomination. This is a good time to learn more about the world in which we live and what is being done in that world for the cause of Christ. Myers' book can help us become more knowledgeable and understanding about world missions. It can also help us pray and give more effectively. ■

## BEYOND BELIEF

THE JONAH EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION HIT SOME TRAVEL SNAGS  
EN ROUTE TO THE NINEVAH CRUSADES.



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## I Will Not Believe!

**J**ust before Easter in 1993, a Memphis State University student overheard this conversation between a hospital chaplain and a hospital staffer as they passed in the hallway.

Staffer: "Good morning."

Chaplain: "Good morning."

Staffer: "It's Easter."

Chaplain: "It's Easter."

Staffer: "He is risen."

Chaplain: "Maybe."

**Do you harbor secret** doubts that the resurrection is true? Do you wonder if Jesus *really* rose from the dead like preachers claim or is it simply a wonderful story that never actually happened? Does it all sound like idle tales repeated on dark nights when people are afraid?

Don't worry. You're not alone. Those who were there on the spot 2,000 years ago when the resurrection event took place were just like you. They didn't believe it either. And they really wanted it to be true because they had seen Jesus die.

The four Gospel accounts leave little doubt that the possibility of Jesus' resurrection never occurred to His friends, His family or His followers. Only Jesus' enemies remembered His words that He would rise after three days (Matthew 27:62-64).

**Far from eagerly** awaiting the triumphant resurrection moment, Jesus' chief disciple (Simon Peter) denied that he even knew Jesus and publicly cursed the very idea (Matt. 26:69-75). All this happened before the crucifixion. Peter certainly never considered the possibility of the resurrection. He thought his whole life was over.

What about Joseph of Arimathea who begged the body of Jesus from Pilate (Matt. 27:57-60)? Did he ask for Jesus' body so that he would be the first to witness the resurrection three days later? No, he only wanted to

bury the body in dignity. The resurrection was not an issue for Joseph.

More to the point, what was on the minds of Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome when they showed up at sunrise Sunday morning? Did they rush to the sepulcher eager to meet the resurrected Christ? Not a chance. They worried over who would move the stone so they could get inside the tomb and anoint the dead *body* of Jesus (Mark 16:1-4). No resurrection talk here.

**Take it from me,** nobody was smiling on Easter morning 2,000 years ago. They were all trying to piece their lives together and disappear into anonymity.

What about the Twelve? By Easter morning, they were the Eleven. Judas had committed suicide, so we know that he had no thoughts of Jesus' resurrection (Matt. 27:5). The others were a study in despair.

After Jesus finally managed to convince Mary Magdalene that He was alive and not the gardener (John 20:15), she went directly to the apostles and told them that Jesus was alive and she had both seen and talked with Him. They did not believe her (Mark 16:11). And Mary gave a *very* convincing account of the resurrection.

Even after several women told the apostles that Jesus was alive, they considered it just so many "idle tales" and wrote it off as the hallucinations of hysterical women (Luke 24:11).

**What finally convinced** the unbelieving apostles that Jesus had risen from the grave was the only thing that could convince them—a personal visit from Jesus Himself.

After two disciples rushed back to Jerusalem telling how Jesus met them on the road to Emmaus and had dinner with them (Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12-13), the apostles shrugged it off.

When Jesus did appear to the

apostles, He rebuked them for not believing all the witnesses who had seen Him after the resurrection (Mark 16:14). That stings.

This may come as a surprise to you, but after a day-long trail of resurrection witnesses, the apostles could not be convinced of its authenticity. As they discussed the confusing events of the day, Jesus suddenly appeared in a locked room with them. Were they overjoyed to see Him? Not hardly. They were terrified (Luke 24:36-37).

**Then there was Thomas.** Yes, Thomas, the absent apostle who had been somewhere else when Jesus appeared to the others (John 20:24). The women who had seen the resurrected Jesus could not convince Thomas. The 10 other apostles combined could not convince him.

That's when Thomas uttered those now famous words we remember so well, "... *I will not believe,*" (John 20:25). For a week Thomas hung around the others telling them the resurrection was not true. He simply could not accept it.

Jesus appeared to Thomas eight days later and made a reluctant believer of him (John 20:26-28). At that time He said something that spans the centuries and touches us today: "... Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed," (John 20:29).

**I'm one of those who** has not seen Him. But I believe. And, like Jesus promised, I am blessed.

Good morning.

It's Easter.

He is risen.

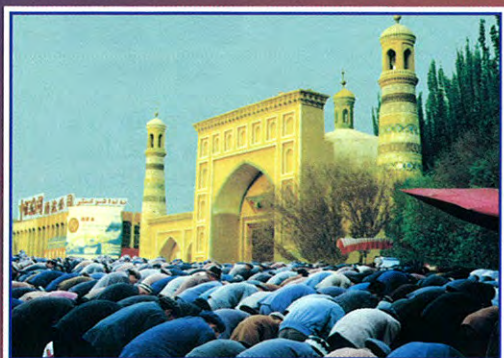
Yes! ■



Jack Williams

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## Foreign Missions Month

*Making a bold thrust  
in 1998!*

# REACHING UNREACHED PEOPLES

*Help Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions reach  
unreached peoples and hasten Christ's return!*

## Annual World Missions Offering April 26, 1998

1998 Goal:  
**\$100,000**

### *Your gift will*

- Enable missionaries to discover unreached peoples.
- Provide for active recruitment of missionaries.
- Help train new missionaries.
- Provide pastoral care for the missionary family.

*This is the only annual offering to meet these  
administrative needs.*

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