

MAY 1998

CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



.....
**Westward
Ho!**
.....

.....
**Pastoring a
Cooperative
Church**
.....

.....
Jethro Principle
.....

.....
Washed Up at 29

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The Spectrum of Stewardship (V)



Melvin Worthington

This fifth study in the spectrum of stewardship series addresses a second facet of stewardship—*stewardship of time*. The terms “time” and “times” occur over seven hundred times in the Word of God. Christians will give an account of how they utilize their time. One prevailing characteristic of many people is wasting time.

Complaints of not enough time to get all the things done which they must is the constant cry of many in today’s fast-paced world. Perhaps if we were more disciplined regarding the use of our time, we could get more done. Consider the following truths about the *stewardship of time*.

Concept of Time

Effective stewardship of time commences with the concept of time. God is not bound by nor does He measure time like humans. The biblical concept of time encompasses the past, present and prospect. For example, one’s experience of salvation may be viewed in these three tenses. Christians have been justified (past), are being sanctified (present) and will be glorified (prospect).

The life of Jesus Christ further illustrates this concept of time. He was pictured in the Old Testament, presented in the New Testament and promises to return the second time. Stewardship of time means that one remembers the past, rejoices in the present and reflects on the prospect.

Context of Time

Effective stewardship of time continues with the context of time. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reminds us that there is a time for everything. The *process, period, purpose and perspective of time* are addressed in these verses.

Time does not stand still. Good

stewards seize every opportunity to make their lives count for Christ. There is a time to work, pray, witness and wait. Blessed is the steward who does what ought to be done when it ought to be done.

Commitment of Time

The *prioritizing of time* remains a key issue when exercising stewardship of time. One’s priorities must be in order. The following order enables me to be a good steward of my time—Creator, companion, children, church, community and country. A steward’s first priority is to the Lord. When this priority is in order the others will fall into their proper place.

The *preserving of time* is another issue which stewards must address. Making time for things which are important takes discernment and discipline. Not wasting time remains the key to fulfilling our responsibility in the stewardship of time.

The *preciousness of time* sharpens the steward’s focus. Time is a pre-

cious commodity which should not be taken lightly. Time wasted or neglected cannot be recalled. It is gone forever. We cannot recall it or redeem it when it is gone. Stewards who recognize the preciousness of time will be better stewards of their time.

Challenge of Time

Stewardship of time requires that we *read the times*. Paul affirms this truth when he says, “And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”

“Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying: But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof” (Romans 13:11-14).

Stewardship of time requires *redeeming the time*. Paul admonishes the Ephesian believers to redeem the time (Eph. 5:16). Stewardship of time requires *responding to the times* (II Timothy 4:1-6). Christians need not throw up their hands in despair, disgust or discouragement but boldly proclaim the gospel. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

Constants of Time

Stewardship of time keeps in focus these things which never, never change—the invisible Sovereign, infallible Scriptures, indwelling Spirit, imperatives of service and individual stewardship. These constants remain as beacons for stewards and beckon us to fulfill our responsibility regarding stewardship of time. ■

The Secretary's Schedule

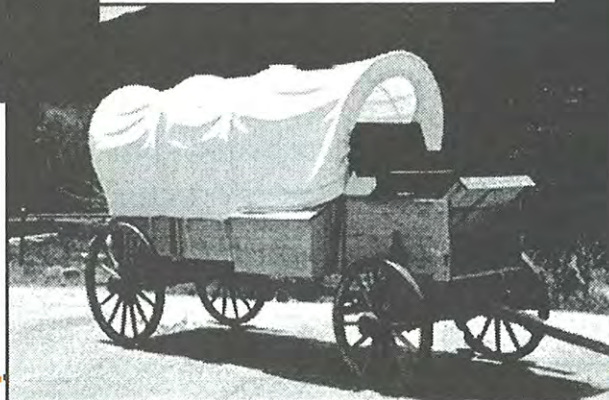
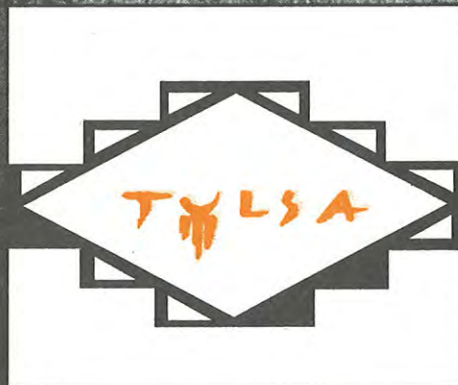
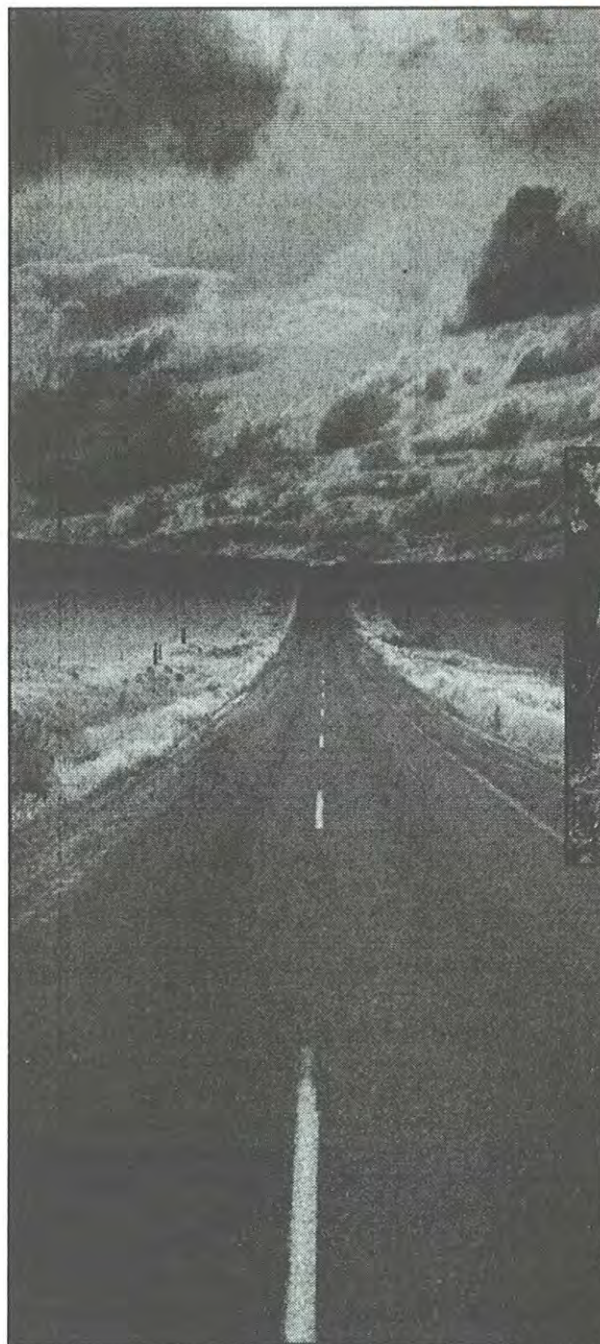
May 1998

- 1-2 Family Life Conference
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware
- 3 Townsend FWB Church (a.m.)
Townsend, Delaware
New Castle FWB Church (p.m.)
New Castle, Delaware
- 6-7 Florida State Association
- 8 Vanderbilt University Graduation
- 15-16 Michigan State Association
- 19-22 Convention Planning Trip
Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 26-27 RCMA Board of Directors Meeting
- 28-30 California State Association

Preview of the 1998 Tulsa Convention

Westward Ho!

By Marilyn Pritchard



Grab your hat and hop on your horse! Hitch up the Conestoga wagon. It's time to go West! Pull on your boots and hop the next train. Forget your spurs and catch the next plane. Or don your sneakers, load up the kids and hit the highway.

Whatever you ride, however you go, if you get to Tulsa the 12th day in July, you'll arrive just in time for the 62nd annual session of the Free Will Baptist National Convention.

For the eighth time in 57 years, Oklahoma will host the national convention. We first met in Oklahoma at Drumright in 1941. We went to Oklahoma City in 1946, Shawnee in 1952, Tulsa in 1955, Oklahoma City in 1968, and back to Tulsa for the next three: 1976, 1986 and 1998.

This is the biggest round-up of the year for Free Will Baptists. More than 7,000 delegates and visitors from 40 states are expected at the Tulsa Convention Center for the annual five-day meeting.

Since most of us don't sleep under the stars anymore, officials have blocked 1,375 rooms in seven hotels. Doubletree Hotel Downtown has been designated headquarters hotel. Adam's Mark is NYC headquarters hotel.

We're a hungry bunch and we know how to work up an appetite. No can of beans here. We have 3,334 meals booked in 21 different functions. They range from a 5-man breakfast to the 1,000-person Youth Banquet.

We know how to pack our saddle bags, and leave a fair amount of their contents behind. Cities look forward to Free Will Baptists coming to town. Since 1988 we have left anywhere from \$1.3 million to \$4.1 million in the convention city.

Of course we like to gather around the campfire (if it's air-conditioned) to meet and sing with our compadres. Sunday School, five worship services, Monday's Home Missions Rally, Tuesday's Bible Conference, a seminar or two, and more than a dozen meal functions confirm that we like a good get-together.

Bible Conference speakers include three pastors: George Lynn (Arkansas), Thurmon Murphy (Texas) and J. L. Gore (Mississippi). More than 900 ministers and laymen are expected to attend.

The Home Missions Rally will focus on growing cross-cultural outreach among Free Will Baptists. A major address by Dr. Paul Park from South Korea will highlight this two-hour conference. More than 2,000 attendees are expected.

Delegates will meet Wednesday and Thursday at Tulsa Convention Center to conduct denominational business. They are expected to approve budgets exceeding \$16 million and hear each national agency and commission give their annual report. Election of 32 board and commission members and general officers will be gavelled by moderator Carl Cheshier of Moore, Oklahoma.

Every cowboy knows you gotta have a motto. Our theme this year is "Belief Behaves," taken from James 1:22. Five men will address this theme during worship services:

Lloyd Locklear (Michigan), Randy Wilson (Oklahoma) and David Taylor (Arizona). Edwin Hayes, Ohio's executive secretary and Eugene Waddell, Foreign Missions' general director round out the speaking roster.

We include women and little cowpokes in this round-up. The two-day Women Nationally Active for Christ Convention and the four-day National Youth Conference meet simultaneously with the National Association.

This year's WNAC theme is "Stewardship of Life: Living Sacrifices." Two seminars will meet Monday afternoon in Tulsa Convention Center. The keynote service will honor retiring executive secretary-treasurer Mary R. Wisehart.

Oregon actress Julisa Rowe will participate in the activities. Tuesday afternoon she will present "Gathering Lotus Buds," which tells of the work and writings of missionary to India, Amy Carmichael. She is also guest speaker for Tuesday evening's banquet.

WNAC delegates will take care of business Tuesday at Tulsa Convention Center.

National Youth Conference activities include Bible competition, and a music and arts festival. Their theme: "Faith Works."

They will conduct separate worship services for all youth except for Wednesday evening's service when they will meet with the adults.

The Tuesday evening Youth Banquet is slated to meet at Discoveryland. More than 30 seminars are scheduled for attendees. Several hundred teens plan to "Touch Tulsa" as they participate in service and work projects in the city.

This is no time to get caught out on the lonesome trail. Pack your saddle bags, put on your best smile, bring your family and head on out to Tulsa. The Sooners will have a big howdy and warm handshake waiting for you. ■

.....
ABOUT THE WRITER: Marilyn Pritchard puts her special brand on the convention while she works behind the scenes as convention office manager.

Convention in a Capsule

When:
July 12-16, 1998

Where:
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Theme:
"Belief Behaves"

Speakers:

Garry B. Richey
Lloyd Locklear
Randy Wilson
David Taylor
Edwin Hayes
Eugene Waddell

A Look at Who's Speaking

Garry B. Richey

Name: Garry B. Richey
 Age: 45
 Wife: Donna
 Ordained: 1984 (deacon)
 Position: Deacon, Adult SS Teacher, Song Leader
 Church: Southern Oaks FWB Church, Oklahoma City, OK
 Education: B.A., Oklahoma University
 Occupation: Director of Commodities Management, Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, Tinker AFB, OK
 Offices Held: CTS Board, 1st Oklahoma District Assoc.; Board of Trustees (Chairman 3 years), Hillsdale FWB College; Treasurer, 1st Oklahoma Assoc.
 Teaching: Adult Sunday School Class



Loyd Locklear

Name: Loyd Locklear
 Age: 62
 Wife: Marie
 Ordained: 1959 (minister)
 Position: Pastor
 Church: Woodhaven FWB Church, Woodhaven, MI
 Education: High School
 Pastored In: Michigan
 Offices Held: Moderator, Liberty Association; Member, Home Missions Board
 Speaking: Sunday Morning Service



Randy Wilson

Name: Randy Wilson
 Age: 40
 Wife: Donell
 Ordained: 1984 (minister)
 Position: Pastor
 Church: Bethany FWB Church, Broken Arrow, OK
 Education: B.A. Theology, Hillsdale FWB College; Master of Divinity, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; working on Doctor of Ministry degree at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
 Pastored In: Oklahoma; Instructor at Hillsdale FWB College
 Offices Held: Board of Trustees, Hillsdale FWB College
 Speaking: Sunday Evening Service



David Taylor

Name: David Taylor
 Age: 44
 Wife: Debe
 Ordained: 1984 (minister)
 Position: Pastor
 Church: First FWB Church, Tucson, AZ
 Education: B.A.; M.A. Biblical Studies, Rocky Mountain Baptist College
 Pastored In: Oklahoma, California
 Offices Held: General Board Member, NAFWB; Moderator, Chairman of Examining Board, First AZ District Assoc.; Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer of OK State Christian Education Board; Moderator, Kiamichi District Assoc.
 Speaking: Monday Evening Service



Edwin Hayes

Name: Edwin Hayes
 Age: 47
 Wife: Linda
 Ordained: 1976 (minister)
 Position: Executive Secretary, Ohio State Association
 Education: Assoc. in Business Admin., Franklin University
 Pastored In: Ohio
 Offices Held: Chairman, NAFWB Convention Steering Committee; Executive Secretary, Franklin Conference; Member, Sunday School Board; Moderator, Ohio State Association
 Speaking: Tuesday Evening Service



R. Eugene Waddell

Name: R. Eugene Waddell
 Age: 66
 Wife: Genevieve
 Ordained: 1952 (minister)
 Position: General Director, Board of Foreign Missions
 Education: B.A., FWBCC; M.A., Columbia Int'l University
 Pastored In: South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee
 Offices Held: Member and Secretary, Board of Foreign Missions; Asst. Moderator, NAFWB; Founding Editor of *The Free Will Baptist Witness*
 Speaking: Wednesday Evening Service



Before You Leave Home . . .

1. Pray for the convention, the speakers, workers and attendees.
2. Pre-register (save time in Tulsa).
3. Change the oil in the car or . . .
4. Be sure your plane ticket is in your hand.
5. Pack your comfortable shoes.
6. Bring your prescription medications.
7. Stop the mail and newspaper.
8. Put the dog in the kennel (or find a kind neighbor to care for it).
9. Unplug the iron.
10. Grab your Bible, a pen, something to write on.

1998 Oklahoma Steering Committee

Steering Committee Chairman	Jack Richey
Oklahoma State Moderator	David McDougal
Registration Committee Chairman	David Archer
Hospitality Committee Chairman	Dale Smith
Prayer Committee Chairman	Daniel Phillips
Ushering Committee Chairman	Don Wagner
State Auxiliary President	Jean Marie Rogers
NYC Advisor	Darryn McGee

Remember . . .

**Don't miss all the fun
by arriving late!
This convention's a
week earlier than
usual.**

WNAC Quick Facts

Date: July 13-14

Place: Doubletree Hotel and
Tulsa Convention Center

Theme: "Stewardship of Life: Living Sacrifices"

Features: Creative Arts Awards
Honoring Dr. Wisehart
"Gathering Lotus Buds"
Business
Seminars/Workshops
Fellowship Dinner

Speakers: Foreign Missionary Jean Deeds
Julisa Rowe
Erma Williams
Pam Flannagin

TULSA

NYC Snippets

Date: July 12-16

Place: Adam's Mark Hotel and
Tulsa Convention Center

Theme: "Faith Works"

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

Special Activities

Meals:

Fellowship of Encouragement Dinner Monday 4:45 p.m.	\$20.00
Children's Banquet Monday 5:00 p.m.	\$7.50
Tweeners' Banquet Monday 5:00 p.m.	\$7.50
Youth Workers Reception Monday 9:00 p.m.	\$10.00
Hillsdale FWB College Lunch Tuesday 12:00 noon	\$15.00

WNAC Fellowship Dinner Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	\$15.00
Youth Banquet Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	\$25.00
FWBBC Alumni Luncheon Wednesday 12:00 noon	\$15.00

Meetings/Seminars:

General Board	Monday
WNAC Seminars	Monday
Home Missions Rally	Monday
Bible Conference	Tuesday

Theology Seminar	Tuesday
Foreign Missions Seminar	Tuesday

WNAC:

Business	Tuesday a.m./p.m.
Honoring Dr. Wisehart	Tuesday a.m.
Banquet	Tuesday p.m.

NYC:

Competition	All Week
Youth Services	Each Night
Awards Ceremonies	Wednesday

Once You Get There . . .

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

Quick Guide to Tulsa

Population: 367,000 in the city itself
709,000 in the metropolitan Tulsa area

Location: Northeastern Oklahoma on the Arkansas River

Temperature: For July: 92.6° max., 72.5° min., 82.6° mo.

Points of Interest:

Discoveryland Outdoor Theater
Alexander Hogue Gallery of Art
Gilcrease Museum
Gershon and Rebecca Fenster Museum of Jewish Art
Philbrook Museum of Art
Tulsa County Historical Society Museum
Tulsa Port of Catoosa/Arkansas Waterway Museum
Keystone Lake
Mohawk Park / Tulsa Zoological Park / North American Living Museum
Oxley Nature Center
Spartan School of Aeronautics
River Parks
Thomas Gilcrease Home
Bell's Amusement Park
Perryman Wrangler Ranch - a dude ranch
Ted Allen Ranch - a working ranch
Woodward Park
Tulsa Rose Garden
Frankoma Pottery
Will Rogers Memorial
J. M. Davis Gun Museum
Cherokee Heritage Center at Tsa-La-Gi, near Talequah
Woolaroc Museum - a 3,600 acre wildlife preserve, museum, historic lodge and Y-Indian guide center
Golf Courses
Tennis Courts
Jogging Paths
Fitness Centers
Shopping: Eastland Mall (64 shops) / Eton Square / The Farm (43 shops) / Kensington Galleria / Main Mall / Southroads Mall / Tulsa Promenade (86 shops) / Utica Square (71 shops) / The Village at Woodland Hills / Woodland Hills Mall (145 shops)

When You Get Home ...

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

A Look Back

Year	City	Convention Value	Room Nights	Catered Meals	Registration
1997	Cincinnati, Ohio	\$3.1 Million	4,241	3,444	6,774
1996	Fort Worth, Texas	2.4 "	4,641	3,952	6,771
1995	Charlotte, North Carolina	2.5 "	4,880	4,273	6,972
1994	Little Rock, Arkansas	4.1 "	5,163	3,743	7,640
1993	Louisville, Kentucky	1.9 "	5,742	3,389	6,946
1992	Indianapolis, Indiana	3.0 "	4,409	3,719	6,119
1991	Charleston, West Virginia	3.0 "	6,229	3,664	6,538
1990	Phoenix, Arizona	1.8 "	4,164	2,812	4,352
1989	Tampa, Florida	3.0 "	4,444	3,291	5,707
1988	Kansas City, Missouri	1.3 "	4,212	3,157	5,866
1987	Birmingham, Alabama	1.5 "	4,261	3,683	6,159
1986	Tulsa, Oklahoma	1.08 "	4,596	3,815	6,545

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	SINGLE 1 bed / 1 person	DOUBLE 1 bed / 2 persons	DBL/DBL 2 beds / 2 persons	TRIPLE 2 beds / 3 persons	QUAD 2 beds / 4 persons
	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: **MASTERCARD** ☐ **VISA** ☐ **DINERS CLUB** ☐ **DISCOVER** ☐ **AMEx** ☐

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME ON CARD: _____ SIGNATURE _____

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED. CHECK # _____

ROOMMATES: (LIST ALL OCCUPANTS OF ROOM)

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

PERSON TO WHOM CONFIRMATION SHOULD BE MAILED. (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

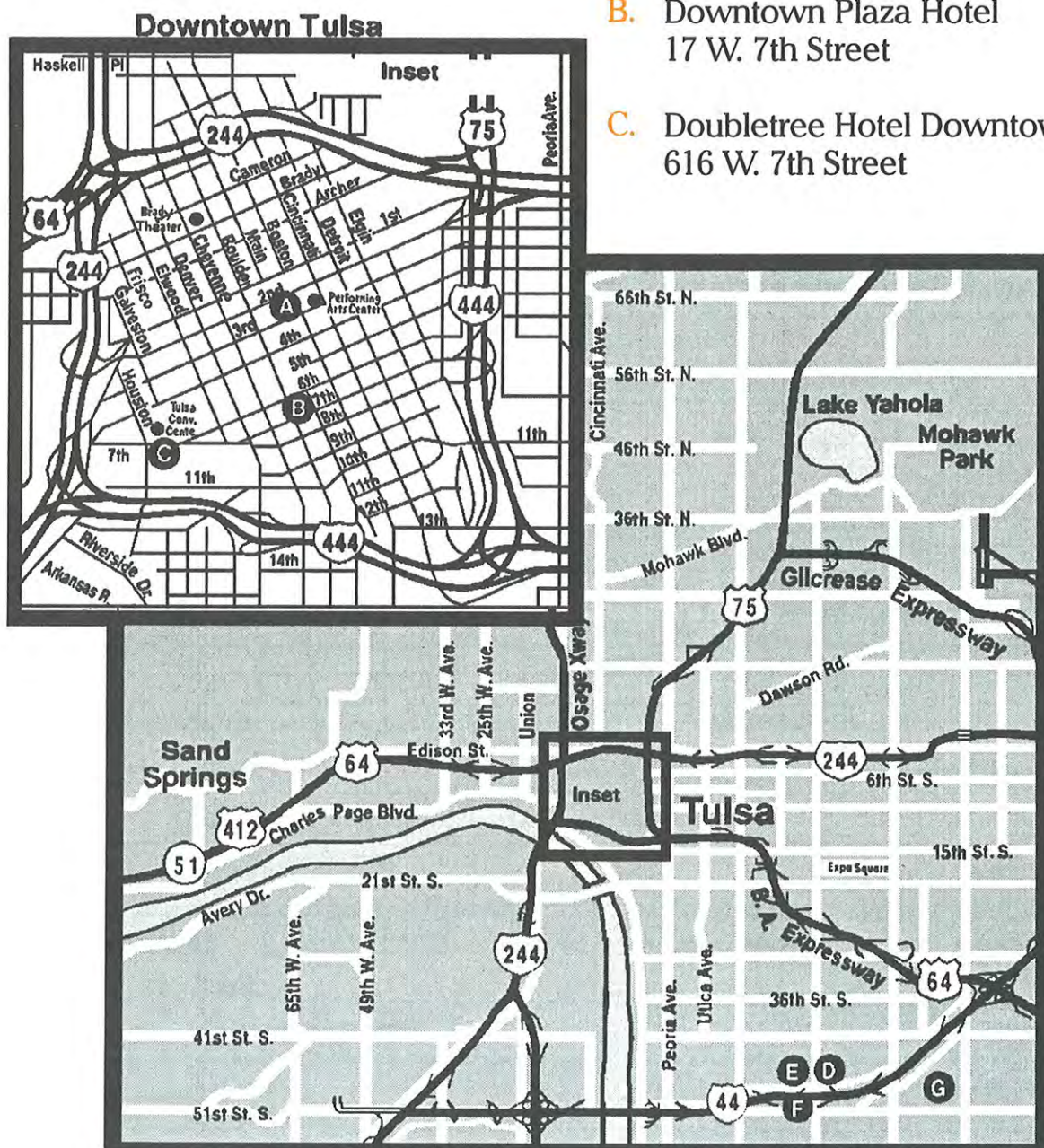
Tulsa, OK 74119-1298

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 / 5:00 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

You don't have to do it all yourself.

Living the Jethro Principle

By Vernon Whaley

Guilty. I confess. I am guilty of not asking for help, guilty of trying to do it all myself. Guilty of thinking no one can do it quite as well as I. Yes, I'm guilty. I'm guilty of not seeking help until I'm in trouble and everyone, including myself, is in a tizzy.

To those watching, people like me look over-committed, unorganized, unstructured and generally unprepared. At which we usually retort, "Look at how much I'm getting done. If you had this much to do, you'd be crazy too!"

By nature, I am prone to put too much on my plate (even when I eat). I often take on more than one person can do in a lifetime. As a result, I constantly battle over-commitment, misperception, missed opportunities and unrealistic deadlines.

It's when I get into the thick of things that all the demands, deadlines and expectations come crashing down on me. I usually wait until I get a sick feeling in my stomach to confess, "I've got to have some help."

Cincinnati Overload

The reality of this problem surfaced at the 1997 Free Will Baptist National Convention in Cincinnati. I was given responsibility to organize and manage the Music Commission's convention booth. That seemed like a simple enough thing—order a few pieces of music and sell it at the convention.

But with the booth came responsibility for organizing and directing a reading workshop—the time when we show the music we want to sell in the booth.

Then came the worship services. Hey, that's not too tough—a couple of hymns, a prayer, scripture reading

or two, sprinkle in a praise chorus and boom, a worship service.

Not!

"This service needs a place for the college ensemble groups," I was told, "and, would you do something special, something our people will really like?" That meant locating extra music, scheduling extra rehearsals, corresponding with four colleges, securing soloists, accompanists, writing a new arrangement to one of the songs and writing a brass part to yet another.

Before the dust settled, I was told to organize and operate the booth. This meant contact publishers, select music, sell music, inventory music, keep up with the funds. Then I had to host and coordinate the workshop which meant selecting people to help with the workshop, write up advertisements, contact convention personnel for special media support and move the music to the meeting hall.

There was more! Enlist, rehearse and direct a college choral ensemble. Be available to sing just in case, and direct the Tuesday night music ministry.

See what I mean? It wears me out just telling you about it.

Not Enough Help

At that point, I solicited help from my wife and children. Not enough. A husband and wife team from Oklahoma came and helped. Still not enough. We added three ministers of music. Still not enough help. *Where are those other Music Commission members when you need them!*

We were too busy to attend business meetings, Youth Conference competition or banquets (and my wife had already purchased tickets). Those of us not participating in the services or rehearsing with groups stayed at the booth. Only a few min-

utes for fellowship with friends were left at the end of the day.

By Tuesday, we felt disgustingly sorry for ourselves. All of us were overworked, run ragged, criticized for being late sending out music, working all the time, and we generally felt unappreciated.

I knew I had crossed the line when my wife, who has the unbelievable gift of making the best out of the most awful situation, declared, "Vernon, you have to get someone else, I'm not doing this again."

We had it bad. Had we abandoned the servant's heart and spirit? Had we lost focus? You bet.

Breakfast? What Breakfast?

Wednesday morning came for the annual Music Fellowship Breakfast. God had poured His blessing on the service the night before. We enjoyed the banners, sang, testified, read scripture and worshiped as the preacher shared the Word. But come morning, we were mired in defeat.

In spite of the great program planned for the Music Fellowship Breakfast, only half the tickets sold and the Commission was left with a horrible bill. Even some ministers of music and pastors known for their music efforts and organization didn't show.

That was when a minister of music colleague said, "You know why they're not here?"

I shook my head and said, "No."

"They don't feel needed," he continued, "They are not here because they do not feel needed."

Go Jethro!

Exodus 18 tells how a father-in-law, Jethro, reached out to help an over-committed servant, Moses, better min-

ister. He made a typical, perceptive and very father-in-law observation: "Moses, you are working all the time."

Moses worked from early morning to night. His work was needed. It was for a good cause. He listened, counseled and judged. Jethro saw through the busy-ness of ministry and detected a glaring flaw that demanded immediate attention.

"What are you doing?" Jethro asked. "The thing that thou doest is not good."

Jethro told Moses that he was wearing out himself and his people. Even though Jethro recognized and honored Moses as God's anointed, he rebuked his son-in-law for not sharing the work of the ministry with others. Simply put, the task was too great to do alone, even for this great leader of Israel.

His father-in-law, with what must have been heaven-sent wisdom, suggested that Moses restructure, down-size and focus. So Moses reorganized, taught and trained leaders, and divided up the responsibilities.

Judges were appointed to help bear the burden (Ex. 18:22). Moses learned a vital and life-changing lesson (Ex. 18:23). He learned the principle that it takes an army of people, working together, to get God's work done.

The Lord is teaching me new lessons about sharing the ministry with others and about the dangers of violating the Jethro principle. My experience at the 1997 national convention taught me three important principles for life and ministry:

Feel Needed

First, people will serve when they feel needed. It was as if the Holy Spirit said, "Vernon, at the heart of this problem is pride." It wasn't that I didn't want help. I was glad to have help. I was afraid of failure. Isn't that the way it is with most of us?

We say, "I'd rather do it myself; that way I can be sure things are done right." Such an attitude leaves no platform for sharing the task with others. It leaves no room for fellowship. It leaves no room for mentoring others. It is sin.

Ask For Help

Second, I need to demonstrate willingness to ask for help. God's people always respond when they

know there is a need. I didn't ask for help until it was almost too late.

The easy thing to say is, "If they are really interested in music and worship, they would ask if I need help." It takes a certain amount of humility to ask someone to serve with you. Maybe the words of the men's chorus state it best: "Lord make me humble enough to ask my brother to serve me."

Build a Team

Third, doing the work of the ministry is all about building a team. It takes time to build a team: time to plan, time to teach people what to do and time to organize everyone into a group.

Building a team demands trust. The leader must believe in his people, trust them to make the right decisions and turn loose of the control. This is crucial for long-term success. People buy into our program when they feel that they are part of the team.

Will You Help?

Well folks, I'm asking for help. It's time to divide the task, to share in the battle and the victory. For nearly 10 years, a small group of men and women affiliated with the Music Commission have devoted themselves to developing the music ministry at our national convention.

Our mission is seven-fold:

1. Renew focus on genuine worship.
2. Involve more people in the music ministry of our Association.
3. Provide practical opportunities for college involvement in the worship ministry of the denomination.
4. Bring a sense of stability and continuity to the quality of music in the denomination.
5. Maintain and provide music for the national convention's evening services.
6. Provide musical assistance to our church family.
7. Develop a program for teaching and training our children how to worship through music.

The music program at our national convention has grown and developed to the place where we must restructure. That's where we need your help. You don't have to be a super musician to be of service.

Consider this:

The Booth

We need help in the booth—inventory music, stock shelves, sell music, explain to customers how to use music more effectively in their churches and more.

The Workshop

We need servants willing to help with the workshop—select music, call publishers, secure sample packets, communicate with the Randall House personnel, design and assemble packets, inventory stock, place packets in chairs before the sessions, confirm prices and more.

The Worship Services

We need musicians to help in worship services—recruit musicians, develop and keep an accurate roll, help secure musicians for the band and orchestra, select music, purchase the music, write arrangements, make rehearsal tapes, send out music to participants, rehearse musicians at the convention, move equipment, meet and rehearse with keyboard/instrumental players, meet and rehearse with special singers.

And this year, we need help coordinating a professional, live recording with the convention choir—make rehearsal tapes, make photocopies and mail music to participants, help develop a mailing list, send out invitations to participants and more.

The work cannot be done by one or two, or even a dozen people. Like the U.S. Marines, we need "a few good men" . . . and women. Wanna help? Contact the Music Commission, and we'll put you to work. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Vernon M. Whaley is associate professor of church music at Cedarville College in Ohio. He is a member of the Music Commission.

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

The Counterfeit Jesus of Unity

By Tom Forehand, Jr.

We live in a day when one Bible-belt school district supports a teacher who allows students to write about "reincarnation" but not about "Jesus." So it should be asked: what aberrant-Christian group has done more to popularize reincarnation in America than the Unity School of Christianity?

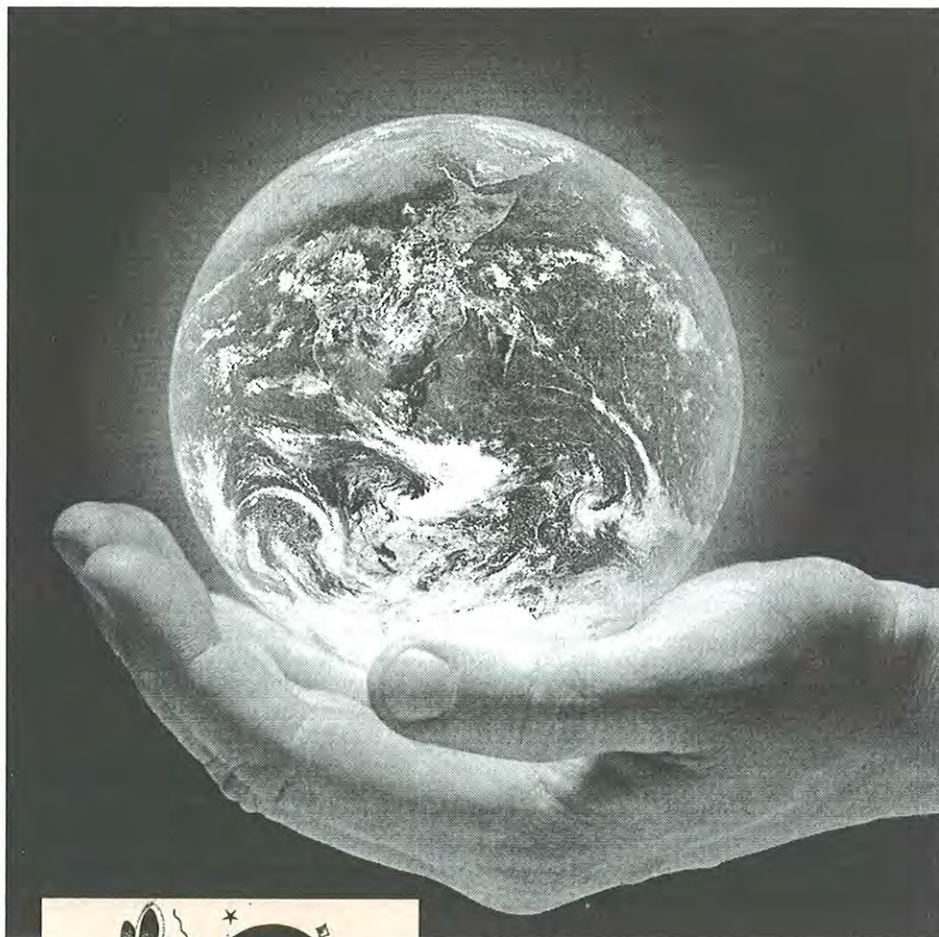
Unity, founded by the husband-and-wife team of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, claims to cross all religious and denominational boundaries by allowing one: "to practice [his] religion [whether Presbyterian, Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist or Islamic] . . . and to do whatever [he feels] is right and necessary to establish [his] own right relationship with God . . ."¹ Yet, Unity circulates another bogus Jesus Christ.

From New Thought . . .

Emma Hopkins was prominent in Christian Science (CS) when she left that movement in 1885; soon she started a work known as New Thought (NT). Unlike CS, NT affirmed the existence of a material world. NT "leaders reasoned that poverty was as unreal as disease and taught its students to

live out of the abundance of God."²

By 1890, Ms. Hopkins had visited Kansas City where she was welcomed by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore who became her students.³ Myrtle, affected by tuberculosis, had read widely in metaphysics and the occult. She had



also been influenced by CS since 1886 after hearing an independent CS lecturer declare "I am a child of God and therefore do not inherit sickness."⁴ Her husband Charles had spent 20 years of his life involved in Spiritualism.⁵

By 1896, Mr. Fillmore had swallowed a double dose of Hinduism. One spoonful came from transcendentalist Ralph Waldo Emerson, influenced by the Bhagavad Gita. The other came from Swami Vivekananda who "settled in America after the World's Fair of 1893."⁶

Charles revamped the eastern view of reincarnation that he felt was pessimistic: "man, bound by his karma [sin debt], is in an almost endless struggle of birth, death, and rebirth seeking to work out the accumulated effects of the sins of past lives."⁷

Unity's more optimistic brand of reincarnation holds that it "is a token of God's love for us whereby, if we

lose the body, we may be reclothed with another, to try again to complete the great work the Father has given us to do."⁸

... To New Age

The Fillmores, wanting to retain a "Christian emphasis" while NT wanted to acknowledge "all religious traditions of value," soon strayed from the NT fold.⁹

The Fillmores published widely, expanded their healing ministry and launched several money-making schemes centered around prayer, prosperity and health. These efforts included mailing thousands of spiritually-treated red leaves and new paper dollars; small "prosperity banks" and special home blessings were also offered.¹⁰

During World War I, Unity advertised: "Do you want to keep [a soldier in the trenches] from harm? . . . Send us \$1.00 and we will send him a year's subscription to *Weekly Unity* and a copy of 'Bullet-Proof Soldiers,' and Silent Unity will hold him in prayer."¹¹

After legally incorporating Unity in 1914, the Fillmores were criticized for maintaining control of all the corporation's stock.¹² In 1940 Charles wrote, ". . . we cannot be very happy if we are poor . . . It is a sin to be poor."¹³

Apparently, some of his descendants took these words (and the family's financial empire) to heart. Some fifty years later we find that one of them is Unity's president while another is Chairman of the Board.¹⁴

Today, ". . . the ministry of Unity is one of prayer" where "a vigil . . . is maintained night and day, seven days a week" in response to hundreds of thousands of annual requests for intercession.¹⁵ Two of Unity's leading publications are *Unity* and *Daily Word*.¹⁶ According to author Ruth Tucker, Unity "has embraced the New Age Movement . . . [and its philosophy] is entirely compatible with New Age concepts."¹⁷

"Another Jesus"

Unity proclaims an impersonal, abstract, pantheistic God—"Each rock, tree, animal, everything visible, is a manifestation of . . . God . . . Childlike, untrained minds say God is a personal being."¹⁸

1. Jesus Is *Not* The Only Begotten Son—Charles Fillmore, tries to separate "Jesus," the man, from "Christ," a so-called higher self. He believes that "Christ was not killed on the cross," nor was "Jesus . . . the only begotten Son of God . . . [Who] overcame for us . . ."¹⁹ In Unity, Jesus is an example or the Way Shower—"Christ struggled through repeated incarnations before he was able to demonstrate perpetual incarnation through the body of the historical Jesus of Nazareth." By following his example, Unity believes that human beings can do the same in a human body.²⁰
2. Man *Is* God—"This divine nature is in us all . . ."²¹ Fillmore calls this divine nature "... the Christ." He also claims that ". . . each of us has within him the Christ, just as Jesus had . . ."²² Thus, Fillmore can urge everyone to affirm "I am the Christ, son of the living God."²³ Prayer can be concluded, "... in Unity, is the climax of self-deification."²⁴

Yet the Bible affirms that God is as personal as a "Father" (Gal. 4:6). God is separate from, yet involved in, His creation (Ps. 102:25-27; Col. 1:16-18). Christians are not divine by nature. Yet Christians, because of God's indwelling Spirit, are partners with the indwelling Christ (II Pet. 1:4; Heb. 3:14).

Jesus, the Messiah, is uniquely the God-Man, creator of all things (I Cor. 8:6). "Jesus," the Bible states, "was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death" and was born as *the Christ* (the Messiah) in a human body prepared by God the Father (Heb. 2:9; Matt. 2:4; Heb. 10:5).

Regardless of Fillmore's allegorical interpretations of scripture, the Bible teaches that this same *Christ* suffered by shedding His blood for us (Lk. 24:26, 46; I Pet. 1:19). This same *Christ* was crucified (I Cor. 1:23), died (Rom. 14:9), rose from the grave and sits at the right hand of the Father. And this same *Christ* will visibly return (Col. 3:1, 4) to reign with His believers (Rev. 20:4).

Jesus is not "a" Christ but is "the" Christ (I Jn. 2:22; 5:1). Jesus warned His followers not to believe anyone who claimed to be "the Christ" (Matt. 24:5, 23, 24). ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverent 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.

Endnotes

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

1. James Dillet Freeman, "Unity Leaves No One Out." (Unity Village, Mo.: Unity School of Christianity, n.d.), pp. 5-6.
2. J. Gordon Melton, *Encyclopedia of American Religions*. 4th Ed. (Detroit: Gale Research, 1993), p. 149.
3. J. Gordon Melton, *Encyclopedic Handbook of Cults in America*. Rev. Ed. (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1992), p. 137.
4. Ibid.
5. James W. Teener, "Unity School of Christianity." A Dissertation . . . For Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1939), p. 4.
6. *Encyclopedia*, p. 144; Teener, p. 106.
7. Teener, p. 173.
8. Ibid.; also, see Unity's Statement of Faith, Article 22.
9. *Encyclopedia*, p. 149.
10. Teener, pp. 47, 52, 54, 67.
11. Ibid., p. 65.
12. Ibid., pp. 60, 67ff.
13. Charles Fillmore, *Prosperity* (Kansas City: Unity School of Christianity, 1940), p. 60.
14. Rick Branch, "Unity School of Christianity." *Watchman Expositor*, V.10, No. 9, 1993, n.p.
15. Freeman, p. 5.
16. *Encyclopedic Handbook*, p. 144.
17. "New Age New Thought: A Unity Perspective." (Unity Village, Mo.: Unity, n.d.), p. 15; Ruth A. Tucker, *Another Gospel* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1989), p. 190.
18. H. Emilie Cady, *Lessons In Truth* (Kansas City: Unity School of Christianity, 1932), pp. 8, 11.
19. Teener, pp. 181-182.
20. Ibid., pp. 172-173 footnote 3; also see Unity's Statement of Faith, Articles 3, 15.
21. *Metaphysical Bible Dictionary* (Lees Summit, Mo.: Unity School of Christianity, 1950), p. 333.
22. Ibid., p. 150.
23. Ibid.
24. Teener, p. 131.

How to work with church staff and boards.

Pastoring a Cooperative Church

By Jim Puckett

Pastoring has its privileges, one of which is working in a Christian environment among people who function as a unit to see that church programs operate smoothly. Whether full- or part-time staff or a volunteer board member, these individuals make pastoring a joy. Their support, work and input are a tremendous encouragement to a pastor.

On the other hand, without the work, support and cooperation of these people, a pastor's job can be difficult and disheartening. When he's overworked, second guessed, undermined and opposed, his heart will become heavy and his efforts diminished. Nothing causes discouragement like feeling that you must battle not only the world and the devil, but also struggle with those who should be comrades.

Unity among workers is the goal for any organization, but is absolutely essential for a church . . . "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Sometimes conflict is not deliberate but simply results from not knowing how to function together. Here are a few suggestions for working with staff and board members.

The Church Staff

Relationships

With God. Without a doubt, a vital relationship with God is basic when selecting staff members. If this area is right, imperfections can be handled and skills developed.

With church family. For staff members, the church is our "company." We make our living at the church's expense, and we owe it our time and loyalty. Staffers should be grateful for the place and people God has given us to serve. Remember, we serve God by serving people.

With one another. The church staff should develop goals that support their common mission, and a plan for achieving those goals. Good

job descriptions can divide duties, but each should be willing to do whatever is needed to see that the work of God and the church is done.

With family. A person who loses his family loses his effectiveness. Family obligations are a priority, but should not interfere with routine work hours except in emergencies. Family time should be a part of our daily planning.

Responsibilities

Job description. Giving this simple document to staff members can prevent problems in the future. It forces the church to zero in on exactly what is needed and how that job should be performed. It can also be used to plan and track the work, giving both the church and worker a tangible performance measurement.

Write it down. No job description is effective unless it is in written form.

Make it clear. Be honest and upfront about your expectations. Any gray areas should be clarified and discussed at the time of hiring. Among these are such issues as office hours, vacation and sick leave, after-hours obligations, pay during time away for revivals and conferences, expenses covered, participation in church activities by the staff member and his/her family, tithing, etc.

Evaluate. No one expects perfection, especially early in an employee's tenure, but regular (annual or biannual) evaluation is beneficial both to the pastor and staff member. It identifies accomplishments and gives workers feedback for improving performance when/where needed.

Accountability. Everyone is accountable to someone . . . this is biblical and practical, and is the greatest insurance that we will do what is best for the church in every situation. The pastor serves as the director of church programs and ministries, and overseer of the staff . . . the CEO if you will, of the functional body.

Staff members should be hired by, and are accountable to the pastor as the under-shepherd and their supervisor. This line of supervision is the proper channel for resolving differences and employee problems.

Recreation

The need. Members don't always view their pastor or church staff as such, but we are ordinary, mortal beings just like others who need time to ourselves. Constant dealings with people and their problems, especially in spiritual matters, can be physically and emotionally draining. When they have extra work and time obligations, staff should be compensated with extra time off or some remuneration that values their contribution and makes them feel appreciated.

The benefits. Time away from the concerns of the job are essential if we want creative, well-balanced people. A regular day off with complete freedom to escape phones, people and pressure will give the church a more zealous employee.

The Church Boards

Orientation

When boards are established, their purpose, function and limits should be specifically expressed in the church's constitution. As members are elected to various boards, or when a pastor begins to serve a new congregation, he is responsible to discuss these functions with them.

Obligation

To the pastor. Board members owe a pastor their loyalty to support the program and the direction he is leading the church, since the church has entrusted this leadership to its pastor. This leads to unity for the entire body.

(continued on page 23)

FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Reverend Ken Turner Dies At 90



MONETT, MO—The Reverend Kenneth Turner, a Free Will Baptist minister for 66 years, died February 8 after a lengthy illness. He pastored at least 12 churches in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas. He was 90.

Converted at age 14 in a Mis-

souri revival meeting, Brother Turner was licensed to preach in 1931 and ordained in 1932. He attended Free Will Baptist Bible College after graduation from Stella (Mo.) High School.

Ken appeared on television in Joplin in the late 1950s as the Great Kento, performing magic which he used as object lessons in his ministry. He traveled to Cuba three times to help establish the mission work there, the first time during World War II in 1942.

Turner took numerous pictures and made a film of the Cuban work. For 15 years, he traveled the United States raising funds for foreign missions.

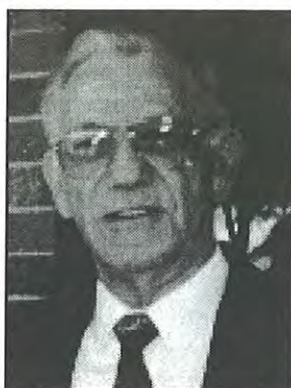
Rev. Turner was always active in denominational outreach serving five years as president of the

Free Will Baptist League (now CTS), 10 years as Missouri statistician, and numerous terms in district associations, as clerk, moderator and other duties.

Funeral services were conducted February 12 at First FWB Church in Monett where he was a member at the time of his death. Reverends Morris Dodson, Ken Dodson and Gary Packer officiated.

Rev. Turner is survived by his wife of 69 years, Jewell Roller Turner; one son, David Turner of Cassville, MO; one daughter, Virginia Troumbley of Lee's Summit, MO, one brother, Noel Turner of San Mateo, CA; four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson.

Alabama Pastor, Trellis Mayhall, Dies



GUIN, AL—Funeral services were conducted February 1 for Reverend Trellis Mayhall, pastor of Free Water FWB Church in Guin. He was 64 years old and served 31 years as a Free Will Baptist minister. He died January 29 in Birmingham at Carraway Medical Center.

Born in Haleyville, Alabama, on September 13, 1933, Reverend Mayhall was ordained to preach in 1964. He pastored churches in Florida, Georgia, Indiana and Alabama. He served twice as pastor of Free Water FWB Church in Guin (1973-79, 1988-98).

Three men answered the call to preach during his Free Water pastorate—Dwayne Hammontree, Keith Rhudy and David Gilbert.

Brother Mayhall was active in denominational work beyond his local church serving as moderator of Alabama's Jasper Association, Executive Board member, General Board Member, Ordaining Council member and other duties. He graduated from the Alabama Bible Institute in the mid-1970s.

Nancy Mayhall, Trellis' wife, said of her husband, "Trellis was my friend, my pastor, my earthly hero and a man of great strength. His life revolved around serving God and people."

In keeping with Pastor Mayhall's wishes, the funeral at Free Water FWB Church was a celebration of praise with his favorite hymns sung. Five ministers spoke of Mayhall's life—Dennis Haygood, Greg Rucker, Edward Puckett, Dwayne Hammontree and Donald Kivette.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Nancy Wisdom Mayhall; two daughters, Rochelle Bevan and Karen McConaghy; three sisters, one brother, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Nominating Committee Announces Nominees

ANTIOCH, TN—The 1998 national convention Nominating Committee released a preliminary list of nominees for boards, commissions and general officers on March 7. Chairman David Joslin said, "The committee will meet Monday afternoon, July 13 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, immediately after the General Board session to finalize the report. Other names may be placed in nomination at that time."

This year the Nominating Committee is composed of General Board members from states beginning with the letters A-M.

Chairman David Joslin said, "One of the purposes of this committee is to publish the name of those nominated, so that editors could inform their constituency prior to the national convention."

Free Will Baptist Bible College Trustees

Replacing Richard Bowers (Alabama)

Richard Bowers
John Hollis (Illinois)

Replacing Larry Powell (Georgia)

Larry Powell
Mike Gladson (North Carolina)

Replacing Doug Little (Arkansas)

Ed Cook (Arkansas)
Leonard Pirtle (Oklahoma)
John Hollis (Illinois)
Steve Ashby (Ohio)
Randy Hill (Florida)
Bob Lewis (Colorado)
Stanley Outlaw (Tennessee)
Ronnie Blanks (Missouri)

Foreign Missions Board

Replacing David Shores (Illinois)

David Shores

Replacing Joe Grizzle (Oklahoma)

Doug Little (Arkansas)
Tim Hall (Kentucky)
Galen Dunbar (South Carolina)
John Smith (California)
Leroy Cutler (Florida)
Orville Hood (Oklahoma)
Larry Haggard (Oklahoma)
Rick Bowling (Mississippi)
Milburn Wilson (California)

Replacing Dean Dobbs (North Carolina)

Paul Harrison (Tennessee)
Sherwood Lee (South Carolina)
Matt Pinson (Georgia)
Jim Nason (New Hampshire)

Jeff Manning (North Carolina)

Edwin Hayes (Ohio)

Gary Curry (Oklahoma)

Dann Patrick (North Carolina)

Doug Little (Arkansas)

Sunday School / Church Training Board

Replacing Will Harmon (Arkansas)

Will Harmon
Curtis Linton (Oklahoma)

Replacing Edwin Hayes (Ohio)

Mike Mounts (Ohio)
Brian Hampton (Tennessee)

Jerry Norris (Missouri)

Roger Duncan (Florida)

Dickey Dees (Mississippi)

Replacing Larry Clyatt (Illinois)

Michael Waddell (Florida)
Randy Scott (Arkansas)

David McGowan (Michigan)

Sam Hensley (California)

Home Missions Board

Replacing Don Guthrie (Arkansas)

Ken Dodson (Missouri)
Howard Gwartney (Arizona)
Ed Cook (Arkansas)

Commission for Theological Integrity

Replacing Fred Hall (Tennessee)

Matt Pinson (Georgia)
A. B. Brown (North Carolina)

Media Commission

Replacing Steve Faison (Georgia)

Steve Faison
Jim Mertz (Colorado)

Music Commission

Replacing Bill Gardner (Tennessee)

Bill Gardner
Danny Baer (North Carolina)
Theron Scott (South Carolina)

Historical Commission

Replacing Mary Wisheart (Tennessee)

Stanley Outlaw (Tennessee)
Paul Kennedy (California)

Executive Committee

Replacing Glen Johnson (Virginia)

Glen Johnson
Delmar Sparks (Ohio)

Replacing Jack Richey (Oklahoma)

Jack Richey
Joe Cagle (South Carolina)

Jim Marcum (North Carolina)

Replacing Charles Thigpen (Tennessee)

Charles Thigpen

Thurmon Murphy (Texas)

Vergel Maness (New Jersey)

Delmar Sparks (Ohio)

General Officers

Moderator:

Replacing Carl Cheshier (Oklahoma)
Carl Cheshier

Assistant Moderator:

Replacing Tim York (Kentucky)
Tim York

Clerk:

Replacing Waldo Young (Oklahoma)
Waldo Young
Keith Burden (Oklahoma)

Assistant Clerk:

Replacing Keith Burden (Oklahoma)
Keith Burden
Randy Bryant (Florida)
Steve Trail (Arkansas)

Pike To Speak at Southeastern Graduation

WENDELL, NC—Southeastern FWB College's newest staff member, Reverend Johnny Pike, will speak at commencement exercises May 14, according to President Billy Bevan. The graduation is set for 10:00 a.m. at First FWB Church in Raleigh.

Brother Pike was named vice president of the college in December. He will be in charge of missionary outreach and development.

For the past 13 years, Rev. Pike has pastored Tabernacle FWB Church in Kinston. He previously pastored in Clarksville, TN, and Charlotte, NC, where he served as a home missionary.

Pike served 10 years on the North Carolina Mission Board. He is founder and president of Local Church Missions, and outreach to eastern Europe.

South Carolina Opposes Gambling

FLORENCE, SC—Delegates to South Carolina's 56th annual state association passed a strongly-worded resolution opposing "all forms of gambling, including lotteries, video poker, bingo halls, etc." Clerk Todd Smith said the February 26-27 gathering met at First FWB Church in Florence.

Delegates instructed officials to send copies of the resolution to the governor of South Carolina and members of the state legislature.

Moderator Sherwood Lee was re-elected. He gavelled the 171 attendees, including 101 ministers and 32 lay delegates, through business sessions.

In other action, delegates instructed promotional director Ron Moore to send copies of the National Association's Family Life Committee Report to every Free Will Baptist minister in the state. They also encouraged ordaining councils to consider using the

material during their procedures with individuals to be licensed or ordained to the ministry.

A final resolution recommended that all state boards invite the promotional director to sit in on their meetings in order to "better facilitate the gathering of up-to-date information."

The association presented a plaque of appreciation to Reverend Fred Kirby for his long years of leadership as South Carolina's home missions director.

Promotional director Ron Moore reported that for the first time in many years all state ministries and missionaries operated in the black financially.

South Carolina pastors James Sanders and Murrel Young joined FWB executive secretary Melvin Worthington in preaching sermons during worship services.

The 1999 state association will meet February 25-26 and will be hosted by the Beaver Creek Association.

See you in **TULSA**



Moving?

Contact wants to go with you! Please send us your new address and a current mailing label.

Contact
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
615/731-6812
E-mail: dari@nafwb.org

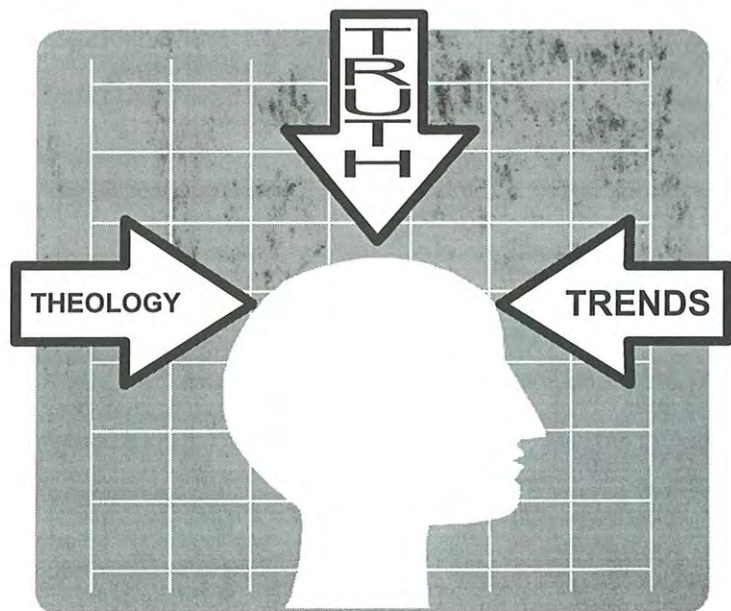
Thank You!

Mark Your Calendars!

Third Annual Theological Symposium

Sponsored by the Commission for Theological Integrity

November 6-7, 1998



On the Campus of
Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205

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.

Directory Update

GEORGIA

Steve Faison to Cedar Springs Church, Blakely

NORTH CAROLINA

Larry Ball to Wildwood Church, Wilson from Southside Church, Hickory

Daryl Grimes to Hope Church, Plymouth from First Church, Reidsville

Mark Hope to Victory Church, Leiland

Jim Summerson to Haven Church, Raleigh from Mt. Calvary, Hookerton

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.

Pastor **Lynn Davenport** reports a 15 percent increase in morning worship attendance with a 135 average at **Trinity FWB Church** in **Bridgeton, MO**. Church giving turned around dramatically from one year ago when offerings were \$600 *under* budget monthly, now are \$400 *above* budget.

First FWB Church in **Columbus, GA**, broke their attendance record by 29 when 159 people attended Grandparents' day, according to Pastor **Willie Martin**. Heavy rains did not deter the special day emphasis. The oldest grandparent present was 88-year-old **Marguerite Martin**, the pastor's grandmother.

Home Missionary **Terry Van Winkle** baptized 32 converts in 13 months at **Southern Hills FWB Church** in **Overland Park, KS**. He said that 750 new homes will be built within one mile of the church's new land site in the next three years.

Pastor **Gene McCard** baptized 10 converts at **Cross Roads FWB Church** in **Cochran, GA**. The children's church outreach includes 38 children. After praying for years for a pianist, the church now has two.

The congregation of **Ebenezer FWB Church** in **Glennville, GA**, dedicated their new 3,500-square-foot fellowship hall in January, erected at a cost of \$185,000. The church also purchased seven adjoining acres which will be used for parking and athletic fields. Pastor **Larry Powell** said that the church remodeled their old educational wing.

Pastor **Roger Duncan** and members of **Seffner FWB Church** in **Seffner, FL**, joined other pastors to pledge \$40,000 to support **Free Will Baptist Family Ministries** in **Greeneville, TN**. The generous pledge came at the conclusion of a Thursday morning session during the church's annual January Camp Meeting. Family Ministries executive director **James Kilgore** served six years as administrator of the Seffner

Christian Academy.

A Christian school will open in **Woodbridge, VA**, this fall. Pastor **Dave Nobles** said the new K-6, **Bethel Christian School** will use the School of Tomorrow curriculum. He urged members of **Bethel FWB Church** to raise \$10,000 by Easter to help launch the school.

North Five FWB Church near **Lebanon, MO**, dedicated a new church building in January. A member gave 1.5 acres to the church and the congregation purchased another 1.5 acres. The group had been meeting in rented facilities since 1992. **Edward Ruble** pastors.

Flood waters damaged **Roaring Creek FWB Church** in **Newland, NC**. The **Blue Ridge Association** gave a \$1,000 love offering to assist with repairs. **J. D. Wilson** pastors.

Southeastern FWB College in **Wendell, NC**, received a 15-passenger, 1996 Ford van and a new travel trailer. The van was given by **Joe Vernelson** in memory of his father, **J. D. Vernelson**. Joe is a member of **Parker's Chapel FWB Church** in **Greenville, NC**. **David Eastwood** gave the travel trailer.

Members of **Faith FWB Church** in **Darlington, SC**, honored Pastor **Sam Truett** for his 30 years of faithful service in the ministry. Executive Secretary **Melvin Worthington** preached the celebration message. Truett's ministry includes 21 years at **West Calvary FWB Church** in **Smithfield, NC**, and nine years in South Carolina.

Pastor **John Hollis** reports a record high of 198 people attending **Crossroads FWB Church** in **Effingham, SC**. Last year the congregation witnessed 21 conversions and baptized 17. Men of the church constructed a 720-square-foot workshop/garage area.

The Williamson County (IL) Transportation System gave **Harmony FWB Church** in **West Frankfort, IL**, a bus after the church completed an application for one of six buses owned by the

county. **Kenneth Edwards** pastors.

Pastor **N. R. Smith** now has a place to call home. Members of **Hilltop FWB Church** in **Wewoka, OK**, purchased a parsonage. Congratulations to both pastor and church.

Sixteen years after **Westgate FWB Church** in **Shawnee, OK**, began as a mission work, the congregation became debt-free. Pastor **Mike Fields** said that 15 people joined the church last year. The church began in 1981 under the leadership of **Delbert Akin**.

It's big, it's beautiful, and it's almost all paid for! Members of **First FWB Church** in **Pryor, OK**, dedicated their new education and fellowship building in January. The structure includes 14 class rooms and an activity center in its 8,200 square feet. Pastor **Glenn Lewis** said the building cost \$300,000 to erect, and the congregation owes less than \$17,000 on the project.

Soon after **Burt Hall** landed as pastor of **White Rock FWB Church** in **Phenix City, AL**, the church received eight new members. Then the congregation of 200 returned the favor, purchasing a parsonage for the new pastor.

After experimenting with early worship services on Sundays for four months, Pastor **David Archer** reports that 70 people attend the early service. Members of **Faith FWB Church** in **Glenpool, OK**, issued \$70,000 in promissory notes to build a 5,000-square-foot addition to the family life center.

He did it again. Eighty-three-year-old **Rev. Owen Barger** retired from pastoring for the third time. He led **First FWB Church** in **Weatherford, TX**. Pastor Barger stands less than five and one-half feet tall, but he casts a Texas-size shadow in the ministry. ■

(continued from page 17)

To the church. Leadership positions demand that board members be regular in their church attendance, responsive to people, mature in their decisions and unselfish in their motives. It's not a matter of pleasing people, but listening and responding to God's leadership.

To the Lord. Board members who are in touch with God will not be out of touch with His people. Keeping a warm heart toward the Lord and a commitment to bring Christ to the world is at the heart of our obligations.

Appreciation

Acknowledge board members publicly, giving credit where it is due. The board's ideas and efforts should be a source of pride to the pastor, and he sets the example in expressing appreciation for their service.

Limitation

Boards are not formed to "run" the church, but to "serve" the church. Ideally, members are selected because they are mature, respected individuals who put the good of the church above their own preferences. They are not rulers, but servants.

Jesus told us, "... I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." I'm convinced that The Church will prevail, and it sure helps the local body if everyone is working to make their church a co-operative church. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend James R. (Jim) Puckett pastors Harrah Free Will Baptist Church in Harrah, Oklahoma. He also serves on the national Home Missions Board.

THE TOGETHER WAY

February 1998

Receipts:

State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 396.28	\$.00	\$ 396.28	\$ 937.08	\$.00	\$ 937.08
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	200.00	.00	200.00
Arkansas	19,499.19	13,828.70	33,327.89	34,042.58	32,254.57	66,297.15
California	.00	1,127.58	1,127.58	.00	2,042.55	2,042.55
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	.00	.00	.00	3,333.32	3,333.32
Georgia	17,609.73	707.33	18,317.06	36,709.61	2,904.40	39,614.01
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	8,733.01	1,929.89	10,662.90	19,246.91	4,689.82	23,936.73
Indiana	1,076.28	.00	1,076.28	1,856.74	593.87	2,450.61
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	90.00	263.25	353.25
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Kentucky	1,164.72	609.05	1,773.77	1,754.56	1,173.59	2,928.15
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	10.00	.00	10.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	543.50	543.50
Michigan	4,514.27	1,261.34	5,775.61	12,720.73	3,149.06	15,869.79
Mississippi	8,360.44	736.40	9,096.84	11,077.55	872.91	11,950.46
Missouri	39,952.80	.00	39,952.80	98,850.77	.00	98,850.77
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	584.49	49.75	634.24	1,649.12	131.56	1,780.68
North Carolina	2,643.00	1,110.00	3,753.00	5,040.92	2,415.26	7,456.18
Ohio	5,776.95	2,452.51	8,229.46	13,641.58	4,500.23	18,141.81
Oklahoma	20,667.73	8,691.65	29,359.38	66,561.99	17,883.45	84,445.44
South Carolina	22,555.98	118.08	22,674.06	73,804.79	232.67	74,037.46
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	9,364.71	499.89	9,864.60	29,154.60	4,959.25	34,113.85
Texas	12,340.81	565.18	12,905.99	18,047.63	960.49	19,008.12
Virginia	507.29	25.00	532.29	1,555.88	75.00	1,630.88
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	4,154.36	100.89	4,255.25	4,363.37	100.89	4,464.26
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	106.12	5.16	111.28	245.91	9.42	255.33
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	(0.05)	(0.05)	.00	(0.02)	(0.02)
Totals	\$180,008.16	\$33,818.35	\$213,826.51	\$ 431,562.32	\$83,089.04	\$ 514,651.36

Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 6,137.70	\$15,218.28	\$ 21,355.98	\$ 14,488.50	\$37,390.07	\$ 51,878.57
Foreign Missions	95,618.97	4,278.03	99,897.00	252,562.64	10,510.77	263,073.41
FWBBC	12,360.27	4,278.03	16,638.30	33,613.76	10,510.77	44,124.53
Home Missions	56,928.01	3,348.02	60,276.03	112,156.44	8,225.82	120,382.26
Retirement & Insurance	890.22	2,604.01	3,494.23	2,228.85	6,397.85	8,626.70
Master's Men	987.28	2,604.01	3,591.29	2,606.55	6,397.85	9,004.40
Com. for Theo. Integrity	60.75	92.99	153.74	134.40	228.49	362.89
FWB Foundation	673.53	1,116.01	1,789.54	1,585.66	2,741.95	4,327.61
Historical Commission	42.30	92.99	135.29	95.43	228.49	323.92
Music Commission	33.54	92.99	126.53	120.56	228.49	349.05
Media Commission	1,446.07	92.99	1,539.06	2,707.62	228.49	2,936.11
Hillsdale FWB College	1,096.23	.00	1,096.23	2,608.90	.00	2,608.90
Other	3,733.29	.00	3,733.29	6,653.01	.00	6,653.01
Totals	\$180,008.16	\$33,818.35	\$213,826.51	\$ 431,562.32	\$83,089.04	\$ 514,651.36



HOME MISSIONS

The Virgin Islands—Cross-Cultural Ministry

Free Will Baptists have had a Virgin Islands ministry since December 1967 when Home Missionary Larry Powell began a work in Christiansted. This was one of our first cross-cultural ministries. Ron and Barbara Dail currently serve in this area ministering to ethnic groups including African-American, Caucasians, Hispanics, Asians and Indians from Trinidad. Many African-Americans are immigrants from other islands who came to the Virgin Islands with a green card and later became United States citizens. The major languages spoken are English, Spanish and Creole.

Cost of living is high, especially food. Even though there is plenty of land for raising crops, due to infrequent rainfall, very little food is grown on the island. Food must be shipped in and is 15-25% more expensive than on the mainland. Regular shopping is also limited on Christiansted to a K-Mart, catalog shopping and the QVC network. There are no shopping malls or department stores.

Weather remains quite warm throughout the year, with an occasional low of 72°, so warm weather clothing is all that is required. Air conditioning is used year-round, especially by workers from the states. Many islanders prefer the tropical breezes and live in homes with open designs, allowing breezes to flow through.

But during hurricane season the breezes can become hostile. A few years ago, Hurricane Hugo destroyed the Free Will Baptist church and school. Facilities were rebuilt by Howard Gwartney, Sr., and the Home Missions Helping Hands Team. Much of the island's water supply is collected from rain and stored in cisterns under homes.

The ministry, under the leadership of Ron Dail, has continued to grow reporting 419 in attendance on Roll Call Sunday, 1997. There are 41 staff members including 10 from the States. Even though the islands are beautiful and can be enjoyable, it does take sacrifices to remain for an extended time in an area that can seem quite confining.

Brother Dail and the workers teach, preach, conduct regular door-to-door visitation, have a bus ministry and sponsor a weekly prison ministry. Some work with youth in the church and in the area of music.

The Christian School is a vital part of ministry on the island in connection with the mission church. The school is more like a missionary school because many students are not Christians and are not from Christian homes. This provides an opportunity to go into homes and witness to parents as well as students. Currently, 340 students are enrolled in grades K-3 through 12.

Students come from all races including Arabs (Muslims). Many Arabs now on the island own numerous businesses. Brother Dail believes some Arabs have been saved, but they must be quiet about their salvation in their homes because they will be persecuted by their own families. The church is also sponsoring another church on a different island.

The Virgin Islands are considered a United States territory, but it's like a foreign field with many of the same problems as other countries. This is an important part of the cross-cultural ministry of the Home Missions Department. Please pray for Ron and Barbara Dail as they continue to minister in Christiansted. ■

The school is in desperate need of a principal at this time. If you would like more information or have an interest in this type of ministry, please contact us:

Home Missions Department
P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

The influence of a godly principal in this mission field can be far-reaching.



Do We Have a Problem?

By Alton Loveless

Our denomination was basically and continues to be a rural or small town people. Since 1985 our report forms have provided a record of our churches to check whether they be city or rural. These records reveal that in 1985 we had 738 churches in the city and 496 in rural areas. The recent report showed we had 1,112 in the city and 1,342 in the rural areas of our country.

Please note that we have added 846 churches in the rural areas. Either this is a 170% increase, or our rural churches have begun to report. In any case, it reveals that we have more rural churches than previously known.

During the same period we added only 374 churches in a town or city. This was only a 49.2% increase. Today 45.4% (1,112) of our churches come from towns. From this figure, only 367 are in cities with a population of 50,000 or above. This represents only 14% of our entire denomination. These statistics indicate that 86% of our churches are either rural or from towns less than 50,000.

As the last report shows, 54.6% of our churches are rural. Yet our people are moving to the city and our churches and denomination have failed to follow them.

Since 1986 we have another tabulation program called Roll Call Sunday. While this may not be the best way of showing our real attendance, it does give a thermometer of the size and direction of our churches over a 12-year period.

In 1986 we reported 2,593 churches, and our most recent year (1997) reported 2,551. While this appears to be fewer churches, it should be noted that the 12 years of reporting averaged 2,599. We reported 220,799 in 1986 and a record 271,457 in 1997.

However, my research showed some alarming as well as astounding facts. The poll revealed that 92.3% (2,421) of our churches were responsible for 72.3% of our total attendance. To put it simply, 92% of our churches produced 169,322 people out of our total of 234,271. This showed that 92.3% of all our church averaged less than 100 on Roll Call Sunday and represented 72% of the denomination's size.

To look at it from another side, 7.7% of our churches were responsible for 64,948 of our attendance or 28%. Better than a fourth of our denomination comes from 191 churches that re-

ported attendance above 200 on that same yearly response. Our average attendance was 90.2.

While I rejoice in this information, I am concerned with our future. Let me share why by showing our church sizes. The church size and quantity will appear first and that size percentage will follow.

Zero-24 had 336 churches. This represents 13% of our denomination. The next level is the 25-49 with 748 representing 28.9%. Fifty-74 had 531 churches representing 20.4%. The 75-99 level had 339 churches which accounted for 13%. The 100-149 level had 321 churches accounting for 12.4%. The 150-199 had 132 churches in this attendance area and represented only 5% of our size.

Since the 7% running the larger attendance represents so many levels, I will give you the simple stats about them beginning with size range first then quantity of churches. 200-249 (81); 250-299 (39); 300-399 (36); 400-499 (14); 500-599 (9); 600-699 (5); 700-799 (2); 800-899 (3); 900-999 (1); 1,000-2,000 (5); no churches between 2,000-3,000; but 3,000 (1).

The 200-299 size group has declined over the last 12 years while the 300-399 has increased. This is also true of the next levels up to 800-999 which lost out to the 1000-2000 which grew from two churches in 1986 to nine in 1997. The last two years showed the emergence of one church with over 3,000.

I am grateful for the growth we have had but concerned that our small churches are becoming smaller. Much of this is due to the rural moving into the cities as forecast by the demographic experts. However, another may be due to our lack of concern for the lost still left there.

May we allow our knowledge of this information to stir us to do a better job reaching and teaching those we can win for His kingdom. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Alton Loveless is general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Moving Forward With Relocation

By Roy Harris, Director of Advancement

Free Will Baptist Bible College has officially moved forward with its plans to relocate the campus. The College presented a three-stage plan for relocation to the National Association a few years ago.

Stage One called for: 1) Repayment of the land purchase funds, 2) Adopting a long-range plan for relocation and, 3) Developing a master plan for the new campus. Stage One has been virtually completed and the college has moved into Stage Two of the relocation plan.

Stage Two calls for: 1) Planning and implementing a capital campaign to raise the difference between the anticipated revenues received from the sale of the present campus and the estimated cost of new campus construction, 2) Authorizing and securing detailed drawings (blueprints), 3) Developing a plan detailing the continued operation of the college during the move and, 4) Finalizing details for disposing of the West End property.

The first step in Stage Two is to plan and implement the capital campaign. The campaign to relocate FWBBC was officially launched during Bible Conference and will be called "The Campaign to Relocate Free Will Baptist Bible College" (or Relocation Campaign, for short). The Relocation Campaign will last for three years with commitments extending for up to five years. The campaign will be done in four phases. Phase 1 has been completed and involved taking a survey of our Free Will Baptist people to see if there are enough financial and human resources available to make the campaign a success. Almost 93% of those surveyed felt that it was very important for the college to relocate. Almost 75% said they would support the move over and above their current levels of giving to the college. Some 58% said they would help by volunteering their time to help with the relocation effort.

Phase 2 of the Relocation Campaign was begun on March 10, at Bible Conference, and will conclude on July 31. Phase 2 will involve: 1) Designing and producing campaign materials, 2) Identifying and recruiting volunteers to help with the campaign, 3) Establishing a detailed timeline for the next three years, 4) Beginning to identify givers and asking for financial gifts for the campaign and, 5) Preparing an updated report for the National Convention in Tulsa.

Phase 3 will begin on August 1, 1998 and last until May 31, 2001. It will involve: 1) Finalizing the campaign structure, 2) Refining the organization of volunteers, 3) Planning and publicizing special events involving the campaign, 4) Defining the time limit and dollar amounts needed and, 5) Aggressively seeking financial commitments for relocation.

Phase 4 will begin after receiving the last commitment for the campaign and end when all commitment periods have expired.

We are excited about moving forward with the relocation process. The next big step is raising the funds needed to move the college. We estimate that approximately \$6 million must be raised over the next five years to make relocation feasible. God has given us the opportunity to build a modern campus in a new location where the same old fashioned principles found in the Word of God can be taught to future generations of Free Will Baptist young people.

We are entering a new millenium with the opportunity to build a new campus that will be adequate for training young men and women, through Bible-based education, to serve Christ and His Church for the next 100 years, if Christ tarries His coming. With the Divine help of the Almighty and the prayers and sacrificial support of our Free Will Baptist people, we can see this dream become a reality. Let us have the mind of Caleb "for we are well able with the Lord's help to go up at once and possess the land." Let's trust the Lord, take the bold steps which are necessary, and see the dream become a reality. Surely the Lord, who has begun this good work, will see it through to completion as we move forward with relocation! ■



Roy Harris was appointed Director of Advancement by the FWBBC Board of Trustees at its December 1997 meeting.

Mr. Harris will direct the campaign to relocate the college to a 123-acre site just outside of Nashville.



FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

The Small Gift (It's Bigger Than You May Think!)

By Frank Giunta

*For want of a nail, the shoe was lost;
for want of a shoe, the horse was lost;
for want of a horse, the rider was lost;
for want of a rider, the battle was lost;
for want of a battle, the kingdom was lost.*

The message is simple, little things are often not little at all when considered in the entire scope of things.

People give gifts to the Lord's work with an apology attached, "I'm sorry the gift is so small." Our Lord regarded the widow's mite as greater than all other gifts given that day.

Have you noticed that the local church and our national ministries are largely supported by hundreds, or thousands of modest "little" gifts? This is not to down-play large gifts—they're wonderful—but most of us do not have the budget to make such a gift. Do not let Satan rob you of a blessing by influencing you to defer giving simply because your gift is small.

I did an estate plan for a widow in Oregon who told of her meager beginning. She married during the depression and never had more than a couple of pennies left at the end of each month. After two years of saving, she had only accumulated 63¢. She used this to buy a dozen baby chicks and some feed.

Over the years 63¢ of chickens and feed grew into an estate valued in excess of three million dollars.

During our planning she said repeatedly, "The Lord just blessed it." At the close of our session she shared her investment secret, "I never made a move without first committing it to the Lord." *Good advice for each of us.*

Little gifts may be like a single strand of thread, very weak alone, but coupled with hundreds more they have great strength. Increased to thousands, their strength is amazing.

The Free Will Baptist Foundation can join small gifts together with many others. The arrangement is called an endowment. Presently we manage 37 individual and general endowments. Here is a list of agencies that benefit from those gifts.

Local Churches	FWB Bible College	Hillsdale College
Foreign Missions	Home Missions	Master's Men
WNAC	The Together Way	AL State Assn.
Contact	OK State Missions	Board of Retirement
	Trula Crank Home for Children	
	Build a House Master's Men Project	

Several of the organizations have more than one endowment established in their behalf.

A minimum thousand dollar contribution is required to establish each endowment. However, once a general endowment is established, anyone can add any amount to it at any time. Your little gift, a single strand, can become a part of a big gift, multiple strands.

By contributing to an endowment, you help provide continuous funds the ministry can depend upon from month to month.

Each Endowment gift may be 100% tax-deductible as a charitable gift in the year delivered.

So, you see the little gift isn't really little at all. Like the song by Kitty Louise Suffield: "Little is much when God is in it!"

For more information, contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002 or call our field representative, Frank Giunta at (573) 335-6240. ■



Dennis Wiggs

Encourage Missionaries Via E-Mail

By Dennis Wiggs

Many overseas missionaries have access to a telephone line. Most, if not all, home missionaries purchase telephone service. However, overseas telephone calls are expensive; even calls in the states can run up a bill. Letters (snail mail) often take several days or weeks to be delivered. The new method of communication to missionaries is e-mail (electronic mail). The electronic messages sent between computers are stored until read.

Young preachers who own a computer and subscribe to an electronic mailing service should take advantage of this efficient technique of conveying messages. Now, preachers are able to communicate with home and foreign missionaries in just a few seconds via e-mail. Missionaries are able to transmit emergency prayer requests. This new service is a more efficient method of "talking" to those who may need to hear your "voice."

It is not necessary to pay a monthly fee to the World Wide Web. E-mail services are available without cost. The free Juno e-mail service is quite popular among preachers and religious organizations. (The long distance call is free only to those who live in the larger cities.)

E-Mail Mailing List

The directories produced by the Foreign Missions and Home Missions departments list the missionaries home and abroad who have electronic mail capabilities. The booklets give all the information you need to begin sending messages electronically. Check the latest directories. Enter the names of the missionaries in your e-mail address book.

Recognize Special Events

One of the best reasons for com-

municating with missionaries and their families is to recognize their birthdays or some other special event. Preachers are not known for their letter-writing. Just zip off a few words of happy birthday, congratulations, thank the Lord for your faithfulness, etc. The missions directories provide needed information.

E-Mail Ethics

Keep it short. State your reason for writing in a few words. As e-mail develops, the electronic mailboxes get stuffy. Often junk mail clogs up the telephone lines just as your own mailbox collects unwanted or unneeded mail. Learn to write missionaries in a few words, expressing your appreciation for their ministry, assuring them of your prayer support, and sharing what the Lord is doing in your life or church.

Receive Mail Gladly

Missionaries are using the electronic mailbox as a way of informing supporters about specific prayer requests. Print these requests. Share them with your congregation. Personally take them to the Lord in prayer during your prayer time.

Don't Expect Answers

Electronic letters are not fan mail correspondences. Remember how busy the missionary is. Refrain from asking questions that demand research or preparation. And, if you really do need a question answered about the missionary's ministry, be patient and wait for the answer.

Be Careful What You Say

Remember, mail delivered electronically may not be personal. Being careful what is said is good advice

even with our conversations, but especially true when words are recorded in a computer's hard drive.

Sign Your Name and Address

Some e-mail addresses are quite ambiguous. It is better to state your name and full address at the bottom of the letter. Don't demand that a missionary guess who you are and where you pastor.

Produce Positive E-Mail

Missionaries are often lonely ambassadors. An inspiring message on a computer screen may be just what they need. Share verses of scripture that have been a blessing. Even a rib-tickling joke may be challenging. Maybe a sermon outline or a quote or a poem could encourage a faithful servant struggling to keep that mission church open. Use the computer as a tool of spiritual blessing. ■

Coming Next Month

- ♦ Convention Program
- ♦ WNAC Program
- ♦ NYC Program
- ♦ New Age Movement

YOUTH UPDATE

Help Make A Love Box For a Needy Child

The National Youth Conference in cooperation with Feed The Children announces the following project for our summer convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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

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

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

"Operation Outreach: Love Box"

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

6. Due to shipping requirements, all packages must be received by July 30, 1998.
7. If you would like to help further, you may enclose, in a separate envelope, a small donation (suggested \$5 gift per box) to help cover shipping and distribution costs overseas and into needy areas of America. Please attach envelope to the **outside** of the box and clearly mark it **donation**.

Suggested Gift Items

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

We have set a goal of **5,000 Love Boxes** to be delivered to the National Youth Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Rev. Larry Jones, President of Feed the Children, will be speaking at our Monday evening Youth Worship Service. We will present the boxes to him during the service. We hope you will encourage your Sunday School classes, Children's Church members, youth groups, and others to help us in this exciting project of sharing with those in need. Will you do your part?

On This Day: 365 Amazing and Inspiring Stories about Saints, Martyrs and Heroes

By Robert J. Morgan

(Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1997, 384 pp., hardback, \$14.99).



Thomas Marberry

The author of this unique volume is Rev. Robert J. Morgan, pastor of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He is an active Free Will Baptist pastor on the state and national levels. In recent years he has written a number of books on a variety of practical topics. Each book reflects a freshness and vitality often lacking in Christian literature today.

Church history is a fascinating but often overlooked discipline. Many contemporary Christians have little awareness of the rich heritage and history of the Christian faith. They often know little about the men and women who have contributed so much to the spreading of the gospel.

Good books on church history are available today, but many are large, comprehensive, difficult to read and expensive. Morgan wrote this book to give us brief, fast-paced stories of faithful men and women of ancient and modern times. The stories can

inspire us and challenge us to a deeper commitment to Christ.

Pastor Morgan tells about William Tyndale, the father of the English Bible. Tyndale was born in a small village near the Welsh border about 1490. He studied at Oxford University where he studied the New Testament and the work of Erasmus, then the greatest expert in the biblical languages.

Tyndale began to translate the Bible into English so that it could be read by the people of Britain. Soon his life was in danger, and he fled to the Continent. There he continued his translation work and smuggled portions of the English New Testament into Great Britain. By 1525 the New Testament was complete.

On May 21, 1535, he was captured and imprisoned. On October 6, 1536, he was tied to the stake, strangled and his body burned.

Fanny Crosby was born in New York in 1820. When she was six weeks old, she caught a cold in her

eyes. A doctor prescribed mustard poultices, and she was left virtually blind for the rest of her life. In spite of her blindness, she excelled as a student, teacher and writer. She recited poems before Congress and became the friend of presidents.

In 1851 she attended a revival at the John Street Methodist Church in New York where she received Christ as her personal Savior. Fourteen years later she met the famous hymn-writer William Bradbury who encouraged her to write hymns.

On February 5, 1864, she wrote her first hymn at the age of 44. When she died some 50 years later, she had written more than 8,000 hymns.

On This Day is an interesting book. It devotes one page to each day of the year, and that one page contains the story of a great Christian and an appropriate passage of scripture. Get this book and spend five minutes a day with it. It will be time well spent.

BEYOND BELIEF



Washed Up at 29

Sometime in July 1969, S.R. Buck moved in with us and stayed 29 years. He came home with me a few days after our son Brad turned six months old. The best way to describe "Buck" is to say that he was comfortable to be around and never seemed to mind when Brad got a bit rambunctious, something he excelled at doing.

We were a family of four transplanted Southern Caucasians, while Buck was toasty brown in color. Nobody seemed to notice the color difference in the California sunshine.

We had some good years together. Buck made a hit with all the neighborhood kids. It was not uncommon to hear giggles from the living room as Buck and three or four kids romped and stomped through the California years. He was always on the bottom of the pile.

That ended, however, in 1977 when we moved from the warm San Joaquin Valley that Buck loved to a colder Nashville. Oh, sure, he came with us . . . moved right in like one of the family. But I could tell that things weren't the same.

As the kids got older, they spent less time with Buck; you know the drill. Their lives filled with school and music lessons and other friends . . . all those factors that indicate two children pushing hard for adulthood. Which left Buck with not much to do, since the four of us usually checked in to change socks and go again.

Occasionally there would be an awkward moment when friends dropped by for coffee and seemed startled to see Buck sitting quietly in front of the television. He never spoke to them. More than one person whispered that we should do something about him. And too, there was his color. I'm sure they meant well, but they just didn't understand.

We postponed the inevitable as long as we could. We didn't want to face the confrontation and emotional hurt we knew was coming. It almost got out of hand two years ago when my wife told me to *do something* about Buck or else.

He had refused to move from the living room; we all were forced to constantly step around him. Trouble was averted temporarily when we bought a second television and Buck took up residence in the back bedroom in front of the old TV set, of course. He seemed angry at the world in general and me in particular.

Nobody could communicate with Buck anymore. When the kids, now married, came back to visit, they would make passing comments about how old and frail he looked. They kept *their* children away from Buck. That's when we knew that he needed more help than we could provide. So we tried to locate outside assistance.

In late January this year, we began the process. After a few phone calls, two nice men from the Salvation Army came by the house one day to spend a few minutes with Buck. My wife and I were encouraged by their visit until they started to leave. They shook their heads and said there was nothing they could do for him and left.

I was stunned and a little irritated. The Salvation Army had so many resources that it didn't seem possible they couldn't find a spot for him in one of their programs. But no. They were sorry; however, they thought Buck was too far gone to change now. I hate to say this, but I wondered if it was Buck's color that shut the door.

We left the matter alone for two weeks while I was out of town on business. But when I flew home from a conference in Indianapolis, Buck had not improved. Reluctantly, we made more calls.



Jack Williams

We discovered that Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee had some openings and might be interested. We took Buck by one of the South Nashville outlets to let the workers there evaluate him. A sad-eyed man spent about two minutes with him and said, "No." Just like that! I was embarrassed for Buck, and for my son-in-law who had gone, too.

Back home again, we moped around several days, miserable at the turn of events. We were almost out of options.

Since Buck was unable to function as he once had, we called the Disabled American Veterans headquarters hoping to find somebody who could help. After we explained the situation, the circumstances and mentioned Buck's age, the phone counselor told us they saw no way they could find a place for him. It was heart-breaking.

We were on a dead-end street. We spoke with a few friends, none of whom wanted to get involved. No, I don't hold it against them, but I was surprised that no one except us seemed to even care what happened to the old boy.

This is embarrassing for a grown man to admit, but when the day came that Buck had to leave our house, I simply could not stand to be there and watch him leave.

My son-in-law, a fine young man, borrowed his dad's pickup truck one Saturday in February. He coaxed Buck into the truck "to take a ride." Two hours later he returned . . . alone. It was like a death in the family. We paid him \$10, because that was the fee for accepting the 29-year-old S.R. Buck (the Sears and Roe-Buck) couch at the city dump. ■

CONTACT

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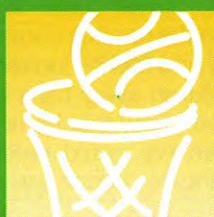
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