

SEPTEMBER 1998

# CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



1998 Convention in Review

SEPTEMBER 1998

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VOLUME 45, NO. 9

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Melvin Worthington

## The Spectrum of Stewardship (IX)

**I**n this ninth study we focus on the *Stewardship of Testimony*. Stewardship of our testimony is important inside and outside the Christian community. Paul appealed in his epistles for his readers to live exemplary lives that the gospel might not be distorted, discredited, denied or despised.

### The Illustrations

Christians are described as *lights* in this world. Matthew declares, "Ye are the light of the world . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven," (5:14,16).

Christians are described as *letters*. Paul says, "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men" (II Corinthians 3:2).

Christians are further described as *laborers*. Paul argues, "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase . . . For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building," (I Corinthians 3:5-6, 9).

### The Implications

Stewardship of testimony includes our *disposition*. What kind of disposition do we have? Are we filled with malice, hypocrisy, hatred, envy and jealousy? In order to be an effective Christian, we must have a good disposition or attitude. One of the things which characterized the prophet Daniel was that he had an excellent spirit.

Stewardship of testimony in-

cludes our *deportment*. How do we live? Do we live separated, sanctified and spirit-filled lives? Paul reminds us that we are to live dedicated, disciplined and devoted lives.

He admonishes the Ephesian believers to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they were called (4:1); to walk not as the Gentiles, in the vanity of their mind (4:17); to be followers of God as dear children (5:1); to walk in love as Christ also hath loved us (5:2) and to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise (5:15).

Stewardship of testimony includes *dress*. The scriptures emphasize appropriate dress for men and women. Dress often reflects the attitude which individuals have toward themselves. Stewardship of testimony causes one to take seriously the way he dresses. Two principles to remember in the area of dress are modesty and appropriateness.

Stewardship of testimony includes our *deeds*. Those who have been saved by the grace of God are to be careful to maintain good works. They are to abound in the work of the Lord. Paul writes, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord," (I Corinthians 15:58).

Stewardship of testimony includes our *discipline*. Christians are described as disciples—disciplined followers of Christ. Those who maintain a consistent testimony in the world learn to buffet or bring their bodies under subjection. They learn self-mastery.

Paul says, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway," (I Corinthians 9:25-27).

### The Imperatives

Stewardship of testimony commences with *Transforming Grace*. Those who believe the gospel become new creatures in Christ. Conversion changes the character of a person. They pass from death unto life from darkness to light.

Stewardship of testimony continues with *Teaching Grace*. The grace of God which saves an individual teaches him to leave the old life, live the new life and to look for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Conversion changes the conduct of a person initially and continually.

Stewardship of testimony climaxes in *Toiling Grace*. Those who have been saved have been given the word and work of reconciliation. They are God's peculiar people—His authorized ambassadors. ■

### The Secretary's Schedule

September 1998

1-7 Korea

9-11 Convention Planning Trip  
Atlanta, GA

# Belief Behaves

By Thomas Marberry



Worship service in Tulsa Convention Center.

**T**he 62nd annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists met in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on July 12-16, 1998. This marks the eighth time that the national convention has met in the Sooner state.

Several ministers who spoke during the week emphasized the "Belief Behaves" theme from the book of James in the New Testament. Dr. Melvin Worthington, executive secretary, wrote, "Christians should remember that creed affects conduct, doctrine affects deportment and belief certainly affects behavior. Genuine belief evidences itself in godly behavior."

This article will not describe everything that happened during five hot and humid July days in the green country of Oklahoma. It will outline the major events that happened, the decisions made and the challenges issued.

### Preaching the Word

Free Will Baptists believe that the Bible is the Word of God, and the preaching of the Word is the central element in every national convention. That was certainly the case in Tulsa. Every preacher emphasized that Christians must live according to the teaching of scripture. They devoted much attention to the exposition and application of the Bible.

### Sunday Morning

The preacher for the Sunday morning worship service was Loyd Locklear, pastor of Woodhaven FWB Church in Woodhaven, Michigan, for the past 33 years. He used Isaiah 52:1-3 as his primary text. He stressed that many contemporary Christians have become complacent; they need to wake up to who God is and what He can do in their lives. He said, "We need to awaken to our first love."

### Sunday Evening

Randy Wilson, pastor of Bethany FWB Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, preached the Sunday evening



Randy Wilson (R) sings before preaching.

worship service message. He selected James 1:22 as his text. He emphasized that believers must put their faith

into practice and stressed that spiritual maturity is more than age, appearance, finances or academics. He challenged the congregation to resign from Satan's service and enlist in God's service.

### Monday Evening

David Taylor, pastor of First FWB Church in Tucson, Arizona, preached Monday evening. He used as his text I Samuel 15:22-23. Much of his sermon dealt with Israel's first king, Saul, and what we can learn from his example. Taylor noted, "Saul's disobedience did not come out of the clear blue. His actions betrayed his inward desires." He concluded his sermon by saying, "There is no substitute for obeying God."

### Bible Conference

In recent years, a Tuesday morning Bible conference has become part of the national convention preaching program. This year three veteran Free Will Baptist pastors were invited to preach. The first was Rev. George Lynn of Van Buren, Arkansas. He preached from Colossians 1:26-29 on the subject "Christ in You, the Hope of Glory." He stressed that Christ is the hope for the believer right now. He noted, "Our best is not good enough to give us victory." If we are to do what God wants us to do, we must allow Him to be in control of our lives.

The second preacher was long-time Mississippi pastor and home missionary, J. L. Gore. His subject was "The Crisis of Decision." He emphasized that Christian belief places us in a crisis situation. We must decide to follow Christ and follow Him completely. He stated, "When you make a decision, you must say 'no' to some things and 'yes' to others."

The final preacher for the Bible conference was Ohio native Thurmon Murphy who pastors First FWB Church in Wichita Falls, Texas. His text was I Corinthians 4:6; his subject was "Why We Believe What We Believe." In an interesting and challenging message, he pointed out that whatever we believe in matters of faith and practice must be based on scripture. It cannot be based on custom, tradition, votes taken in meetings, or what we may have heard other preachers say.

### Tuesday Evening

Rev. Edwin Hayes, executive secretary of the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists, preached the Tuesday evening message. He selected Matthew 15:22-28 as



Ohio executive secretary, Edwin Hayes.



Arizona pastor David Taylor (L).

his text. This is the beautiful story of a Canaanite woman who came to Jesus and asked him to have mercy on her daughter who was "previously vexed with a devil." Her faith was severely tested, but she continued to ask the blessing of Jesus until He granted her request. Rev. Hayes reminded the congregation, "If we never go through a test, we will never find out what kind of faith we have."

### Wednesday Evening

The final worship service of Convention '98 was the missions service on Wednesday evening. This is always the highlight of the convention, and that was certainly the case this year. The preacher for the service was R. Eugene Waddell who will retire as director of Foreign Missions at the end of the year after serving the department in various capacities for 39 years.

Rev. Waddell selected James 1:22-25 as his primary text. He pointed out that "God is a doer. He is that kind of God." In particular, God is a doer in the field of missions. It is His desire that all the



Altar service Wednesday night.

world have an opportunity to accept his Son, Jesus Christ. Waddell said, "God is at work in our world," and "There is something for everybody to do in this missionary business."

At the conclusion of this service, Waddell gave an invitation. A large number of people, both young people and adults, went forward and committed their lives to the ministry of spreading the Good News.

The preaching at Convention '98 was very good. It was solid, well-prepared, practical and biblical. It challenged us not only to believe the truth but to put it to practice in our lives.

### Teaching the Saints

A major purpose for every national convention is to prepare believers to serve Christ more effectively. Teaching and learning were at the forefront of this year.

### Sunday School

Mr. Garry B. Richey, a deacon in Southern Oaks FWB Church in Oklahoma City, taught the adult Sunday

School class Sunday morning. The lesson was based on Matthew 8:1-16 where Jesus performs several miracles. Mr. Richey gave an excellent presentation of the historical background of this important passage of Scripture.

He pointed out that this passage teaches us a great deal about the power of Jesus. Richey stated, "Jesus is the only one who can make us clean." This passage also explains how we as believers should present our needs to God. As Gary explained, "He teaches us to express our needs without making demands."

### *Sunday School and Church Training*

During the business session, Dr. Alton Loveless, director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department, gave delegates a report on the teaching and training program of our denomination. He noted that Free Will Baptist Sunday School literature is well received in the marketplace; over 40 denominations use our literature. Sales are increasing and our prices are competitive. Randall House student books average \$.50 less in cost than do those of most other publishers. Most important, however, is the fact that our literature is our literature; it reflects our doctrines and practices.

Sales and other income for the year ending November 30, 1997, totaled \$2.8 million. Total expenses for the year were \$2.7 million. All long-term debt has been paid. The department is debt free.

Dr. Loveless noted that the Primary and Junior curriculums have new writers and new formats. All levels of literature are receiving better design, color and graphics. He also noted that the department publishes a full line of Spanish-language literature and that sales of Spanish literature are increasing. The department has recently employed a bilingual staff member to better serve Spanish-speaking customers.

During his report the director recognized the contributions of two editors who will be leaving the service of the department. Dr. Irvin Hyman has edited the adult literature 12 years; Rev. James Forlines has edited the teen literature four years. Rev. David Kilgore will serve as the new adult editor.

Dr. Loveless stated that our Sunday School literature emphasizes evangelism. The plan of salvation is presented regularly.

The department presented one request to the delegates during the business session. They asked to operate on a calendar year basis as most other departments do rather than on a fiscal year. This request was approved without opposition.

### *Free Will Baptist Bible College*

Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, occupies a key position in the educational program of our denomination. President Tom Malone reported that a total of 372 students attended FWBBC during the 1997-

98 school year. These students came from 27 states, the U. S. Virgin Islands, and 8 foreign countries. Of this number, 65 were ministerial students and 65 were missionary students. President Malone noted that a good enrollment is expected for the fall of 1998.

Mr. Tom Sass presented the financial report for the college. He noted that total revenues for the 1997-98

school year were \$3,670,661; expenditures totaled \$3,640,684. The college finished the year in the black by \$29,997. Mr. Sass expressed the college's thanks for private gifts of \$932,795 during the year. The Paul Kettelman Memorial Christmas Drive for 1997 raised a record amount of \$335,508.39.

President Tom Malone announced that FWBBC has launched a \$12 million fund raising project. The goal is to raise \$6 million for the operation of the college and \$6 million for relocating to the new campus by the year 2001. He also announced that the college is raising money for a series of Heritage Scholarships. The interest which these funds earn will provide scholarships for ministerial students at the college.

The college has been considering the possibility of a name change, but no final decision has yet been made. Graduates who have transcripts which say "Free Will Baptist Bible College" sometimes find it difficult to enter certain countries which restrict the entry of Christians.

### *Spreading the Gospel*

Missions has always been very important to Free Will Baptists, and there have been few conventions in our history when as much attention was devoted to missionary outreach. Both the Home Missions Department and the Foreign Missions Department presented extensive reports of their activities during 1997. The Foreign Missions Department also honored Rev. R. Eugene Waddell who will retire on December 31, 1998.

### *Foreign Missions*

The Foreign Missions Department reported that as of December 31, 1997, some 105 missionaries were serving

in nine countries. In Cuba the ministry is maintained under the leadership of national believers. The department reported 89 organized churches and 239 mission works with 1,869 converts and 832 baptisms. The average Sunday School attendance was 9,769. Cuba reported 535 converts and 260 baptisms



**Moderator Carl Cheshier.**



**Some mechanics are pretty . . . Cheri Ham.**

during 1997. India reported 479 converts and 334 baptisms. Côte d'Ivoire reported 198 converts and 71 baptisms.

In his final report to the National Association, Brother Waddell gave a summary of major events in FWB foreign missions during the past year. He noted that the congregation at St. Nazaire, France, has begun construction of a new classroom/fellowship building. A total of 1,500 people attended the annual conference in India. Although Japan remains very resistant to the gospel, 16 people were saved in FWB churches during the year. Waddell also noted that we conducted two training sessions for leaders in the Southern Ural region of Russia. We are now assisting the Russian Baptist believers in the establishment of new mission works.

Director Waddell reported that after careful consideration by the Foreign Missions Board, the hospital in Côte d'Ivoire had been turned over to Ivorian leadership. The medical staff at the hospital found themselves spending much of their time completing government reports and defending the hospital against lawsuits filed by hospital workers. The hospital continues to function under the leadership of Ivorian Free Will Baptists.

Dr. Eagleton will continue to live at the hospital and serve as an advisor to the hospital for at least two years. Our medical missionary staff will concentrate its efforts on community health and village evangelism. This is certainly not the end of our medical mission in Côte d'Ivoire; it is a change in direction which is demanded by changing circumstances.

Convention '98 paid special tribute to five missionaries or former missionaries who died during 1997 and early 1998. Rev. Archie Mayhew who served as a missionary to Côte d'Ivoire for 17 years died October 26, 1997. Rev. Daniel Cronk who served in India for 25 years died November 20, 1997. Rev. Donald Sexton who served eight years in France until he was forced to return home by illness, died December 17, 1997. Mrs. Mabel "Mom" Willey who served in Panama and Cuba died January 16, 1998, at the age of 92. Mrs. Marie Hanna, who first went to India with her husband Carlisle in 1952, died in India April 23, 1998.



**Cuban Association president Ramon Sanchez (c), wife Marguerita and Thomas Marberry.**

After the Foreign Missions report was given Wednesday afternoon, Rev. Joe Grizzle, out-going chairman of the Foreign Missions Board, presented the Waddells with a plaque in recognition of their years of service to Free Will Baptists. Tributes were given by Janice Banks, Don Robirds and Dr. Robert Picirilli. Delegates and visitors expressed their thanks to him for a job well done.

Total income for the Foreign Missions department during 1997 was a record \$4.9 million. Expenses totaled \$4.7 million. Last year 1,605 churches supported foreign missions; 166 of them gave \$5,000 or more. The department recommended a budget of \$6.3 million for 1999.

## Home Missions

Director Trymon Messer began the report of the Home Missions Department by presenting a plaque to the widow and children of Rev. Don Guthrie, a member of the Home Missions Board who died suddenly on January 27, 1997. In addition to his service on the board, Rev.



**Melvin Worthington (L) confers with moderator Carl Cheshier.**

Guthrie was one of our most capable church planters. He began one church in Oklahoma and one in Texas. At the time of his death, he was serving as a state missionary in Arkansas.

Messer then gave a current status summary of our home missions work. He stated that 1997 was a good year for the department. In January it sponsored the Second Annual Training and Evaluation Conference with approximately 100 missionaries, pastors and other visitors in attendance. On Roll Call Sunday 1997 (the last Sunday in March) 271,457 people worshipped in Free Will Baptist churches with 1,410 conversions. Average attendance for home missions churches was 109. On Roll Call Sunday 1998, some 216,236 people worshipped in our churches with 1,073 conversions.



**Courtesy car driver Richard Larson (R) waits at the information table.**

**Thomas Marberry, theology and Greek instructor at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma, wrote the 1998 National Convention analysis.**

**Convention photographs are provided courtesy of Eddie Payne, support director of the Foreign Missions Department.**

**The Contact staff is grateful to Brother Marberry and Brother Payne for their assistance in this special convention issue.**

The first Cross-Cultural Institute was held on the campus of the Seminary of the Cross in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, May 19-25, 1997. This is a one-week training conference jointly sponsored by the Home Missions Department, the Seminary of the Cross and Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

Mr. Messer reported that seven new missionary couples were appointed in 1997. Three missionaries became self-supporting during the year, Rev. James Childers in South Carolina, Rev. Jim Nason in New Hampshire, and Rev. Howard Gwartney in Arizona. He also reported that the department received record gifts of \$3.3 million.

At its May 1997 meeting, the board adopted a mission statement for the department: "Home Missions exists to exalt Jesus Christ and fulfill the Great Commission by using the efforts of missionaries and chaplains to communicate the gospel, make disciples, and plant new churches within the United States, Canada, Mexico and the U.S. territories such as the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico (Matthew 28:19-20)."

At the Home Missions Rally on Monday afternoon, Mr. Messer presented Dr. Paul Park who has recently been employed to coordinate mission work among the Korean people. He has already organized three Korean mission works in the United States. Within the next few months, Dr. Park will be leading a delegation of Free Will Baptists from the United States on a visit to South Korea. The goal will be to begin establishing Free Will Baptist congregations in South Korea.

Mr. Messer also introduced Rev. James Munsey and several representatives of the Free Will Baptist work in Mexico. They gave a brief report on the status of the Mexican Association of Free Will Baptists and brought greetings from the Free Will Baptist people of Mexico.

The director announced that a North America Strategy Forum will be held in Nashville on January 7-8, 1999. This meeting will include missionaries, pastors, representatives of our colleges, and others who have an interest in evangelism and church growth. Its purpose will be to develop a strategy of evangelism for our denomination.

### Enjoying the Music

Music is an integral part of Free Will Baptist life and worship, and no national convention has ever enjoyed better music. The Music Commission planned and organized an excellent program. The Mass Choir provided special



Pianist Jerry Carraway.

music every evening and also led the congregational singing. A large instrumental ensemble and brass quintet often participated in the congregational singing and special music. Excellent accompaniment was provided by piano, electric keyboard and guitar. Congregational singing was great this year. It was obvious that the people enjoyed singing to the accompaniment of the Mass Choir and the Instrumental Ensemble.

On Sunday morning The Calvaryman Quartet from First FWB Church in Hartville, Missouri, sang several traditional gospel songs. The congregation was blessed, and many people responded with hearty "amens."

A group of 114 musicians from across our denomination came to Tulsa several days early and prepared a convention recording called "Glory, Honor, and Praise: An Invitation to Blended Worship." This recording includes several new songs as well as a number of traditional hymns. The recording is specifically designed to be used by our churches in their worship services. The Music Commission has prepared a music book, an accompaniment tape and a listening tape. These helps can be ordered from the

Music Commission.

### Finishing the Business

Free Will Baptists from all over the country went to Tulsa both to worship and to take care of the business of the

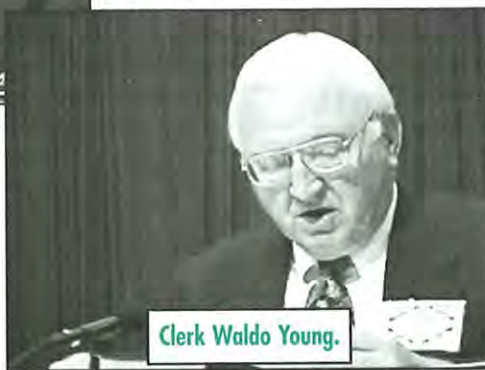
denomination. The National Association of Free Will Baptists is a large organization, and many important decisions must be made every year. This year the business was handled in a speedy and efficient manner with a minimum of controversy.

The most important item of business is the election of officers, board members and commission members. These are the men and women who will guide our work. A chart of the election results is included in this article.

The delegates changed the way in which the nominating committee operates. They adopted a constitutional amendment which provides for a seven-member nominating committee to be appointed by the moderator. The moderator will appoint the nominating committee one year in advance; the nominating committee will meet at least three months before the national convention and nominate at least one person for each office to be filled. A brief biography of each nominee will be prepared and distributed. The expenses incurred by the nominating committee will be paid from the convention fund.



Music coordinator Randy Sawyer.



Clerk Waldo Young.

This change was made because most of the voting body felt that the nominating committee needs to be selected in advance, so that it has time to gather information and recommendations concerning those who are nominated for various offices. On Thursday morning, Moderator Carl Cheshier appointed the nominating committee for the 1999 session. They are: Jack Richey, OK, chair; William Smith, GA; Jim Marcum, NC; Bobby Shepherd, AR; Matt Upton, CA; Ernie Lewis, IL, and David Taylor, AZ.

Several other items of business were also approved during Convention '98. The body accepted the invitation of West Virginia Free Will Baptists to meet in Charleston for the national convention July 20-24, 2008.

The delegates voted to reimburse the Commission for Theological Integrity the money it had expended in its study of the Promise Keepers movement. The amount was \$1,385.08.

The convention decided that the Executive Office is the proper agency to handle disaster relief funds if and when the need arises.

On Thursday morning the convention considered two resolutions which passed without opposition. The first affirmed support for the position enunciated by Sen. Trent Lott that the Bible regards homosexuality as a sin. This resolution also affirmed our desire to reach homosexuals with the gospel in a spirit of love. The second resolution expressed thanks to Oklahoma Free Will Baptists for their hard work and hospitality during the convention.

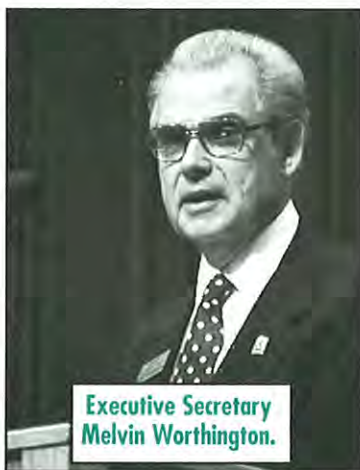
## Serving the Denomination

There are several commissions and agencies which perform valuable and necessary services for the National Association. Each of these agencies gave reports of their activities.

### Executive Office

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington gave the report of the Executive Office, the Budget Committee, and the Ministerial Family Life Committee. Dr. Worthington noted that the Executive Office continues to operate smoothly and commended the work of the office staff. The Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign closed December 31, 1997. Gifts and pledges for this campaign totaled \$307,620.33. Monies will continue to be received until the National Offices building is paid for, but the campaign will not be actively promoted. As of December 31, 1997, the indebtedness on the building was \$282,168.92. Dr. Worthington anticipates that the building will be paid for by the year 2000.

The General Assembly of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches will meet October 12-16, 1998, in



Uruguay. The theme will be "The Church, Culture, Customs."

Gifts to national ministries in 1997 totaled \$10 million which is the highest in the denomination's history. Together Way Plan gifts totaled \$3.2 million. Of this amount \$442,000 was cooperative and \$2.7 million designated. Per capita giving was \$49.72.

At the close of his report, Dr. Worthington called the convention's attention to the budget shortfall in the Executive Office budget. He noted that in 1997 the Executive Office received \$221,227 from the Cooperative Plan and \$100,925 in designated gifts for a total of \$322,152. This was \$43,848 below budget.

### Ministerial Family Life Committee

The Ministerial Family Life Committee presented an interim report to the delegates. Work has been completed on "Step-by-Step Procedures" for discipline of local church members and ministers. This document is now being reviewed by an attorney. When this review is completed, the final report of the committee will be presented.

During the Thursday morning business session, Dr. Worthington presented the report of the Budget Committee. It recommended budgets totaling \$17,788,175.80 for all denominational boards, commissions and agencies. The budgets were approved and are included in this article. The committee also recommended that the National Association maintain the current distribution of Together Way gifts. This recommendation was approved.

### Master's Men

The Master's Men Department was created 41 years ago to serve the men of the Free Will Baptist denomination. Mr. Waymon Ray, chairman of the Master's Men Board, presented the report. He noted that 1997 was a trying but rewarding year. At the annual meeting of the board on December 2, 1997, Mr. Jim Vallance resigned after 14 years of service as director.

In his report to the convention, Mr. Ray noted some of the accomplishments of Jim's years of service. The Life-Member and LifeFriends programs were started and produced an endowment of over \$100,000 which will benefit Master's Men perpetually. The Helping Hands and Master's Hands projects have saved Free Will Baptists approximately \$4 million in building costs. Under Jim's leadership, the Build-A-House program began. This program has already raised \$20,000 for the department.

Immediately after Mr. Vallance's resignation, the board began a search for a new director. It received several resumes and interviewed four men for the position. By a unanimous vote, the board voted to employ Rev. Tom Dooley, pastor of Harrison FWB Church in Minford, Ohio,



for this position. Total income for the Master's Men department in 1997 was \$140,391. Expenses totaled \$135,018. After several years of struggling financially, the department is now paying its own way.

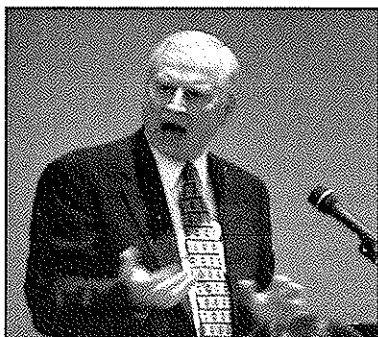
### Retirement

Rev. Bill Evans gave reports of the Board of Retirement and the Foundation. He reported that 1997 was a record year for the Retirement Department. Total assets increased \$2.9 million during the year reaching an all time high \$17.2 million at the end of the year. New deposits were the highest ever, exceeding \$1.1 million. The number of participants in the denominational retirement program continues to increase. During 1997 the department enrolled 66 new participants, 37 of whom were age 40 or younger.

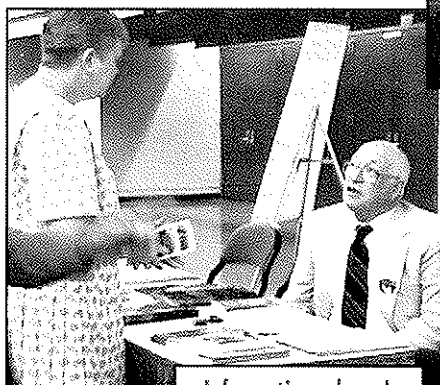
Earnings for the program continue to be good. Returns for 1997 were 15.557%; returns for the last 10 years average 9.494% per year. The cost of operation for the plan is quite low, only 1.9145% in 1997. In his report, Rev. Evans stated that it is his goal to reduce the cost of operation in the future to 1% or less of assets. The retirement program is owned and operated by Free Will Baptists. It offers safety, stability and good earnings to pastors and other denominational employees.

### FWB Foundation

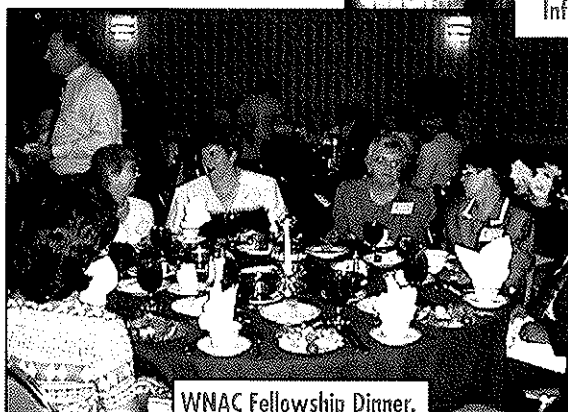
The Foundation exists to manage in the most effective manner possible financial assets placed in its care by individuals, churches and other donors. The donor determines how those assets are to be used and how



Board of Retirement director, Bill



Information, please!



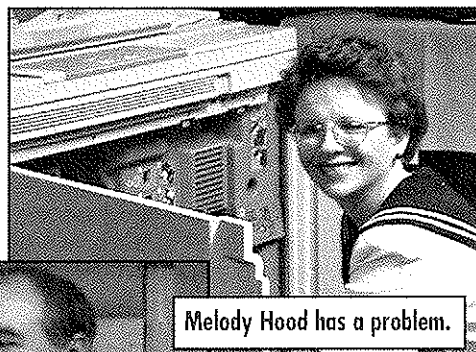
WNAC Fellowship Dinner.

the income will be distributed. At the present time the Foundation manages funds benefiting several national departments, colleges,

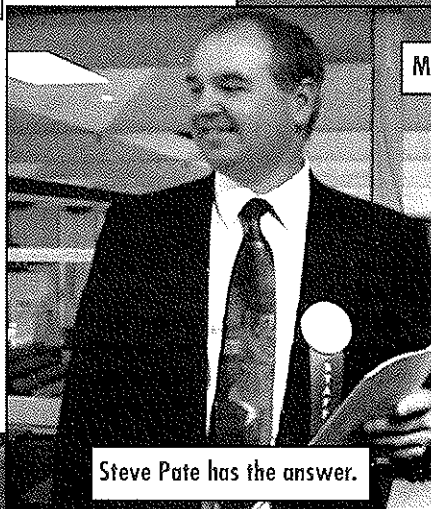
state projects and local churches. An individual may establish a revocable trust, unitrust, gift annuity or endowment. During 1997 over \$138,000 was distributed to various departments and agencies by the Foundation. It provides a vehicle by which Free Will Baptists can provide for their families and also benefit the Lord's work in different ways.

### Commission for Theological Integrity

Four commissions perform specific and important services for the denomination, and each presented reports during the convention in Tulsa. The Commission for



Melody Hood has a problem.



Steve Pate has the answer.

tegrity reported that the second annual Theological Symposium met on the campus of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College on October 24-25, 1997. The third annual symposium will meet on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College November 6-7, 1998.

The commission also sponsored a seminar on Tuesday afternoon at the convention which dealt with Postmodernism. This is a way of thinking which affects many aspects of modern life, and it is the desire of the commission that Free Will Baptist people be aware of and able to recognize this influence in our society.

### Music Commission

The Music Commission has been busy during the past year. It completed a recording project prior to the convention in Tulsa. This project includes nine hymns and gospel songs which can be used in our church services. The songs are arranged so that they can be sung by many Free Will Baptist church choirs. Music books, an accompaniment tape and a listening tape will soon be ready. These can be ordered from the Music Commission.

The Music Commission also published a quarterly publication, *Reasons to Rejoice*, which provides readers with a variety of helps for developing an effective music ministry in a local church. Subscriptions are available from the Music Commission.

## 1999 Budgets Adopted

Executive Office.....	\$ 604,358.15
Free Will Baptist Bible College.....	4,137,724.00
(Includes \$1.2 million in unrestricted gifts)	
Foreign Missions.....	5,565,821.10
(Does not include \$776,350.00 Vision Projects)	
Home Missions.....	3,500,000.00
Master's Men.....	150,150.00
Retirement and Insurance.....	361,014.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation.....	97,400.00
Sunday School and Church Training.....	3,338,758.55
Commission for Theological Integrity.....	2,800.00
Historical Commission.....	4,375.00
Music Commission.....	7,100.00
Media Commission.....	18,675.00
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$17,788,175.80</b>

### Historical Commission

Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart gave the report of the Historical Commission. She announced that the commission had recently completed an inventory of the national, state and district minutes which are found in the Historical Collection. Copies of this inventory were distributed to delegates. She asked the help of the delegates and visitors in obtaining copies of minutes which are not presently in the collection. The commission would like to have as many dif-



Save a chair for me ....

ferent national, state, and district minutes as possible in the collection.

Dr. Wisheart noted that the commission has approximately \$20,000 in its account at the present time. The commission plans to use some of these funds to provide loans and grants for research and writing projects in Free Will Baptist history. It plans to use a large portion of these funds to help maintain the historical room in the library on the new campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College. That is where the historical collection will be housed.

### Media Commission

The Media Commission experienced some of God's richest blessings during 1997. In cooperation with the Florida State Association, the commission completed two television commercials which promote our denomination. The Tennessee State Association gave \$1,200 which was used to produce four radio commercials, three in English and one in Spanish.

The commission reported that it has several plans for the future. It plans to develop a 3-5 minute video including a 30-60 second personal message from the pastor which a local church may use in its outreach or new member orientation programs. It plans to design a personalized

## 1999 Together Way Allocations

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

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

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

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

postcard suitable for sending to visitors or church absentees. It also plans to provide print slicks which a local Free Will Baptist church can use to place an advertisement in a newspaper or local yellow pages.

The commission invites churches, individuals, and state associations to partner with it in bringing these plans

## 1998 Registration Report

National Convention .....	4,108
Ordained Ministers .....	785
Ordained Deacons .....	166
Licensed Ministers .....	14
Local Church Delegates .....	68
State Delegates .....	82
Home Missionaries .....	79
Foreign Missionaries .....	46
National Board Members .....	19
National Officers .....	4
Non-Delegates .....	2,845

National Youth Conference ..... 2,035  
 Women Nationally Active for Christ ..... 963

**Grand Total** ..... 7,106

to reality. The members of this commission have devoted much time and energy in recent years to Free Will Baptist work. They are accomplishing a great deal of work with a small budget. They deserve to be commended.

## Sharing The Fellowship

Convention '98 was a special time in many ways. A spirit of unity, cooperation, and dedication pervaded the entire week. Perhaps the best part was the fellowship. It was good to see friends from different regions visit together and share

what the Lord is doing in their lives. It was our pleasure to have a large number of fellow Free Will Baptists from other countries share in the meeting. Rev. James Munsey is to be commended for bringing a large delegation from our work in Mexico. We were certainly blessed by their presence.

Mr. Gary Curry of Ada, Oklahoma, helped to bring the president of the Cuban Association of Free Will Baptists and his wife to the convention. It was their first time to attend a national convention in the United States. Pray for Ramon and Marguerita; they returned to Cuba early in August.



**Guess who forgot to pre-register!**

Dr. Paul Park, cross-cultural home missionary to Korean people, and Rev. Nickolay Sobolev, a pastor in Russia, added a great deal to the special spirit of Convention '98. They helped us to see some of the many opportunities for outreach and evangelism which are available to Free Will Baptists.

## Conclusion

The 62nd annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m. on Thursday morning. The business was completed in record time with a minimum of disagreement and conflict. In his closing remarks to the delegates, Moderator Carl Cheshier said, "This has been a very positive meeting. These are exciting days to be a Free Will Baptist."

In a brief post-convention interview, Rev. Cheshier commended the work of several departments and agencies including the Music Commission and the Media Commis-



**Sherwood Lee (R), Carlisle Hanna, Earnie and Jean Deeds.**



**Convention hero, Sandy Goodfellow.**

sion. He noted that our denomination has a very positive attitude. The pastors, delegates, and visitors seemed ready for outreach and growth.

The moderator also said, "The preaching was very good. I was very pleased to see the way in which the denomination honored two of its long-time servants, Dr. Mary Wisheart and R. Eugene Waddell."

In this interview, Rev. Cheshier did call attention to one issue that must be addressed, the funding of the national convention. The national meeting is becoming more expensive every year, and the denomination must develop a funding mechanism to cover this cost.

Convention '98 is now history. It gave us an excellent overview of the current status of our national work. The denomination is making significant progress in several areas. Our foreign mission work is growing. On several of our

mission fields such as India, Ivory Coast, and Cuba, significant numbers of people are being saved and

new churches started. National leaders are developing on these and other mission fields. The Foreign Missions Department is extending the ministry of Free Will Baptists into Russia, China and other areas. Later this year, a group of Free Will Baptists will visit South Korea and examine the possibility of ministry in that country.

The Home Missions Department is reaching out into several new areas. Seven new missionary couples were appointed in 1997. Three mission churches became self-supporting. Significant steps are being taken in the area of cross-cultural ministry, especially in outreach to Hispanics and Koreans.

The Master's Men department has a new director. It is making a careful examination of its goals, methods and ministry. It is seeking to serve the men of our denomination in the most effective manner possible.



Chief usher, Raymond Lee.

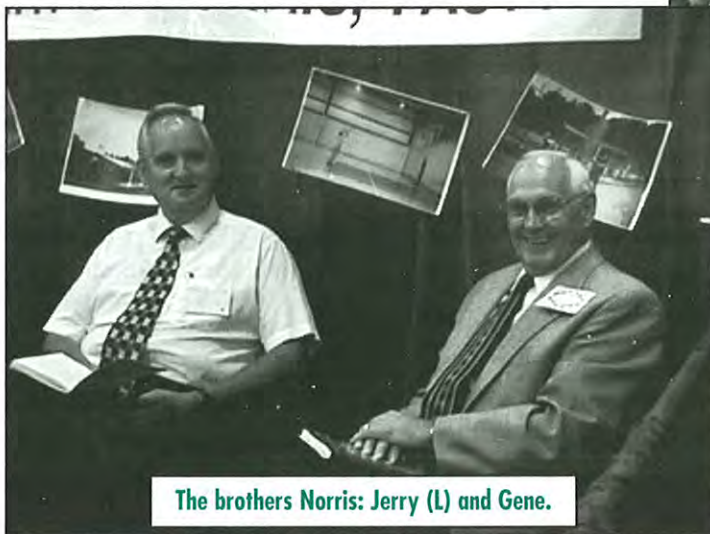
The Board of Retirement and the Foundation are improving the effectiveness of their service and helping to provide wise management for our financial resources. Although their budgets are small, the four commissions are serving us well and helping to prepare us to serve the Lord in the next century.

Free Will Baptist Bible College is making important strides. The enrollment is increasing every year. The financial support is increasing, but it is not increasing fast enough. It will take a major commitment on the part of the denomination to build the new campus, provide for the college's regular budget and improve faculty salaries.

It was good to be a Free Will Baptist at Convention '98. The challenges are great, but the rewards are even greater. Plan now to join us in Atlanta, Georgia, July 18-22, 1999, for



Delegates study the issues.



The brothers Norris: Jerry (L) and Gene.

the next national convention. Next year, everyone gets to stay in the headquarters hotel. We have reserved 1,400 rooms in the Marriott Marquis Hotel in

downtown Atlanta. ■



Louisiana pastor Mark Elliott tells how he survived the fire.



Don't look at me. I didn't do it.

# 1998 Convention Tapes Available

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

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

Tape Number	Subject	Quantity
-------------	---------	----------

## Convention Messages

- |                   |                   |       |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 1. Loyd Locklear  | Sunday Morning    | _____ |
| 2. Randy Wilson   | Sunday Evening    | _____ |
| 3. David Taylor   | Monday Evening    | _____ |
| 4. Edwin Hayes    | Tuesday Evening   | _____ |
| 5. Eugene Waddell | Wednesday Evening | _____ |

## Seminars

- |                                  |   |                     |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 6. Theological Integrity Seminar | "Dealing with the Influence of Postmodernism" | _____ (2 tapes/\$5) |
| 7. Foreign Missions Seminar      | "Ministry Opportunities in Russia . . ."      | _____ (2 tapes/\$5) |

## Women Nationally Active for Christ

- |                             |                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 8. Seminar                  | Erma Williams               | _____ |
| 9. Ministers' Wives Seminar | Pam Flanagan                | _____ |
| 10. Devotional              | Jean Deeds                  | _____ |
| 11. Special Service         | "Honoring Mary R. Wisehart" | _____ |
| 12. Fellowship Dinner       | Julisa Rowe                 | _____ |

## Bible Conference

- |                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| 13. George Lynn    | _____ |
| 14. J. L. Gore     | _____ |
| 15. Thurmon Murphy | _____ |

## Miscellaneous

- |                     |                           |       |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| 16. Paul Park       | Home Missions Rally       | _____ |
| 17. Carl Cheshier   | Moderator's Message       | _____ |
| 18. Garry B. Richey | Adult Sunday School Class | _____ |

Please complete the following:

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## Elected in Tulsa

The following were elected during the 62nd annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated:

### General Officers

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

### General Board

1999 Rick Cash (Alabama)  
William Smith (Georgia)  
2000 Vergel Maness (New Jersey)  
Len Blanchard (New Mexico)  
Jim Marcum (North Carolina)  
Jim Nason (Northeast Association)  
Brent Nix (Northwest Association)  
Delmar Sparks (Ohio)  
Jack Richey (Oklahoma)  
Joe Cagle (South Carolina)  
Charles Thigpen (Tennessee)  
Thurmon Murphy (Texas)  
Glen Johnson (Virginia)  
Carl Vallance (West Virginia)

### Executive Committee

2000 Delmar Sparks (Ohio)  
Jack Richey (Oklahoma)  
Charles Thigpen (Tennessee)

### Sunday School and Church Training Board

2004 Will Harmon (Arkansas)  
Brian Hampton (Tennessee)  
Michael Waddell (Florida)

### Home Missions Board

1999 Ken Dodson (Missouri)

### Foreign Missions Board

2004 David Shores (Illinois)  
Doug Little (Arkansas)  
Terry Eagleton (Tennessee)  
Sherwood Lee (South Carolina)

### Free Will Baptist Bible College Trustees

2004 Richard Bowers (Alabama)  
Larry Powell (Georgia)  
Steve Ashby (Ohio)

### Master's Men Board

1999 Earnie Taylor (Illinois)

### Media Commission

2003 Steve Faison (Georgia)

### Theological Integrity Commission

2003 Matt Pinson (Georgia)

### Music Commission

2003 Bill Gardner (Tennessee)

### Historical Commission

2003 Paul Kennedy (California)

## 1998 WNAC Convention

# Living Sacrifices

By Suzanne Franks

**T**he 63rd annual WNAC convention registered 963 people during its July 13-14 meeting in Tulsa. The drama, music, messages and programs directed minds away from the heat outside Tulsa's convention center to consecration and new beginnings.

### General Session

#### Devotion

Missionary to Brazil, Jean Deeds, spoke from the theme



Executive Committee: Standing (L) Mary R. Wisehart, Everyl Getz. Seated (L) Debe Taylor, Diana Bryant, Debbie Burden, Marjorie Workman, JoAnne King.

passage, Romans 12:1-2, contrasting the Old Testament sacrificial system with today's command to be living sacrifices. "We are asked

to offer ourselves to God—not as an offering for sin—but an offering of praise and worship and service."

Emphasizing the profoundness and extent of renewal needed in the unregenerate mind, Deeds declared, "All our ideas about right and wrong, values that are a part of us from childhood, religious beliefs, even concepts of our culture so subtly ingrained in us must be examined in the light of God's full revelation."

#### Music

Music coordinator, Lorie Carey, led congregational singing. Sharon Beam accompanied on the organ, and Rita Wilson on the piano. Two trios provided special music. The Rose family sang in the morning and Jan Clay, Tracy Payne and Sherri Sloan in the afternoon.

### Business

WNAC president, Everyl Getz, presided during Tuesday's general session which started at 9:00 a.m.

Delegates elected Mrs. Marjorie Workman to succeed Dr. Mary R. Wisehart as Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Oklahoma WAC president, Jean Marie Rogers, officially welcomed WNAC participants to Tulsa.



Outgoing Executive Secretary/Treasurer Mary R. Wisehart.

#### Reports

Mary R. Wisehart gave the Executive Secretary-Treasurer's report. She thanked Executive Committee members and staff who served throughout her 13 years in office.

The resolutions committee submitted four recommendations to the Women Nationally Active for Christ convention:

1. In 1998, to grant Silas in Côte d'Ivoire \$1,000 from the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund.
2. In 1999, to give \$1,000 each to Robert Houessou and Paul Amieze for their studies at the seminary in Abidjan from the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund.
3. To reaffirm our commitment to the Bible as God's Word and as the guidebook for a happy and harmonious marriage, and to the teaching and practicing of the truths taught in Ephesians 5:22-23.
4. To go on record as commending the Southern Baptist Convention for their stand on those same scriptures. All resolutions carried.

#### Creative Arts Awards

Delois Loveless assisted *CoLaborer* editor, Suzanne Franks, in presenting awards for WNAC's Creative Arts Contest. First place winners in four categories are:

Programs: "How to Live a Holy Life," Ruth Bivens, St. Just, Puerto Rico

Articles: "How Can There be Hope . . . When There is None?" Judy Delong, Hager Hill, KY

Poetry: *The Storm*, Vicki Turner, Cartersville, MO  
Contest, Kristin Nettles and Kimberly Roderique, O'Fallon, MO.

Plays: *Miss Proverbial Woman*



Incoming Executive Secretary/Treasurer Marjorie Workman (L) with outgoing Executive Secretary/Treasurer Mary R. Wisehart.

### New Beginnings: Special Service Honoring Dr. Mary R. Wisehart

Extraordinary care was taken to plan the special service honoring Dr. Mary R. Wisehart. The result: a genuine

celebration of thanksgiving to the Lord for giving us this precious servant of God.

Starting with a harp prelude medley, the service flowed from one tribute to another with the Harris mother-daughter team. Suzann narrated and AnnaGee played the harp.

Molly Barker, missionary to Uruguay and Brazil, spoke of Mary R. Wisheart as a friend and caring and thoughtful person.

Academic colleague and long-time friend, Dr. Robert Picirilli, spoke of her educational contributions to FWBBC. As a full-time faculty member for 30 years, she made a difference by giving herself to her students. "She is the kind of friend who accepts you for who you are, yet at the same time influences you to become something better without ever diminishing you."

Suzann Harris read the words to the hymn that Dr. Wisheart wrote, *Emblems of Thy Condescension*, while Carol Malone mimed footwashing. Lisa McGee sang one of Miss Wisheart's favorite hymns, *His Eye is on the Sparrow*.

Yvonne Hampton spoke of Miss Wisheart as a professional and enumerated many of her contributions to WNAC.

Jack Williams gave his perspective on her as a unique



A special service honoring Dr. Wisheart places her in the spotlight.

individual. They have served together as convention planners and on the Historical Commission. He pointed out that she is the only Free Will Baptist woman in the world to earn a CMP (Certified Meeting Professional) designation.

Cross Timbers Singers performed an arrangement of *Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners* for the offertory.

WNAC President Everyl Getz presented Dr. Wisheart with airline tickets to Uruguay for the International Fellowship of FWB Churches and a laptop computer. Fulfilling one of Miss Wisheart's long-time dreams, Everyl Getz announced the balance of monies that came in for her retirement gift will start a fund in her name for a new organ for Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Laura Thigpen, Suzann Harris, Yvonne Hampton, Marjorie Workman and Randy Fosse served on the planning committee for the service.

## WNAC Special Feature

Tuesday afternoon at 1:30, WNAC reconvened to experience Amy Carmichael's story, *Gathering Lotus Buds*. Actress Julisa Rowe (Artists in Christian Testimony) delighted and challenged the audience with her performance.

## WNAC Fellowship Dinner

Each year the host state raises money to help with convention expenses. Oklahoma Women Active for Christ raised a total of \$14,000, half of which went for expenses. At the



Looking toward the future . . .

Tuesday evening fellowship dinner, WNAC's president acknowledged Oklahoma WAC's decision to give to missions in lieu of decorations and favors. They gave \$7,000 to Oklahoma's Total Support Program which supports 25 state, home and foreign missionaries.

Actress Julisa Rowe performed a monologue as Francis Ridley Havergal. The monologue consists of a personal testimony of Francis Havergal through the hymn she wrote: *Take My Life and Let it Be*.

## WNAC Seminars

A total of about 400 women attended the two concurrent WNAC seminars.

### *Stewardship of Life—Living Sacrifices*

Debbie Burden, WNAC Executive Committee member, presided at the seminar designed for state WAC leaders. Erma Williams from Ada, OK, spoke on total commitment. Gideon thinned out the army to take only the serious soldiers to battle. "Most Christians," remarked Erma Williams, "have not given up their agenda for God's."

### *WNAC Ministers' Wives Seminar*

WNAC Executive Committee member, Joanne King, presided at the Ministers' Wives Seminar. She introduced Pam Flannagan from Shiloh FWB Church in Bratt, FL.

This pastor's wife and mother of five daughters shared how Romans 8 related to her pain and healing as she dealt with the loss of her 16-month-old daughter. Through her journey, she learned surrender.

Pam looked at three people who yielded to God's purpose. Hannah surrendered her mind and plans for Samuel. After Lazarus' death, Martha surrendered her heart, love and feelings. At Gethsemane, Jesus surrendered His will to the Father. Pam affirmed, "God doesn't just want to make us victorious but to reveal Himself to us, that we might learn of Him and grow."

Convention attendees left with a renewed sense that true worship does not exist without surrendered hearts and lives. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Suzanne Franks serves as editor of *CoLaborer* magazine.

## 1998 National Youth Conference

# Faith Works

By Dean Jones

**F**aith Works was the theme of the 31st annual National Youth Conference, July 12-16, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Brenda Harrison, Oklahoma Sunday School teacher, started the conference Sunday morning, using Horizon curriculum. Steven Loveless, a Missouri youth pastor, spoke during morning teen worship service. Donald

Myers of Taylor, Michigan, served as teen music coordinator. The after-service activity was held in the Adams Mark Hotel and over 250 young people joined in a concert of prayer. They upheld their churches, pastors, peers and their world before the Lord.

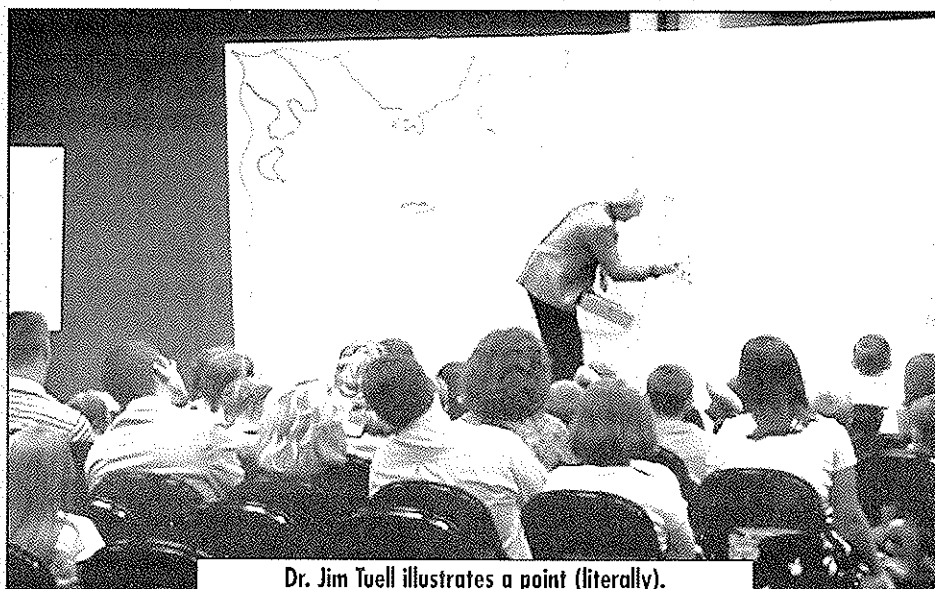
Tuesday was another day of competition with Bible competition reaching the semifinal round. Instrumental-

ists, puppeteers, ensembles, choirs and chorales packed competition rooms. Attendees visited the art galley where nearly 100 entries were displayed. They also purchased conference souvenirs and their favorite T-shirts at the NYC sales booth.

Tuesday evening's worship service featured Brad Sneed of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He challenged young people to start the trend of unity among their youth groups and pray that it would spread to their churches and states. Hundreds responded to invitations during the week.

Wednesday morning featured Bible Competition Finals. The Red Bay, Alabama, team won both the Bible Bowl and Tic-Tac-Toe competitions. Congratulations to Marlin Saint, the Red Bay Bible Bowl coach, on seven consecu-

the victories. Mr. Saint announced his retirement this



Dr. Jim Tuell illustrates a point (literally).

Myers of Taylor, Michigan, served as teen music coordinator.

Sunday evening's teen worship service featured music by Truth & Peace Youth Leadership Conference, under the direction of Deanna Hollifield, conference co-director. Allen Pointer of Russellville, Arkansas, challenged the audience to not follow the path of the Titanic, but to stay true to God. After the service, teens joined in the Tulsa Twister Corral to enjoy human bowling, the bungee run, bouncy boxing and live armadillo races!

Bible Competition and the Music and Arts Festival started Monday morning and continued through Wednesday morning. There were 558 entries and 2,035 registrants.

Monday evening's teen service speaker was Larry Jones, president and founder of Feed the Children, Inc., of Oklahoma City. Before speaking, a special presentation of over 1,000 love boxes were given to his organiza-



Darren and Lisa McGee find seats for everyone.

year. The two individual competitions, Turning Point and Horizon, proved to be exciting. Two pretesting times determined finalists. The 1998 winners were Turning Point—Laura Ham, Tennessee, and Horizon—Katie Ham, Tennessee.

During the four-day conference, over 30 workshops and seminars were presented for children, teens and youth workers on various ministry and practical subjects. Our "Teens Touching Tulsa with Love" project allowed over 300 opportunities to take the gospel to the streets. Some volunteered their mornings and afternoons to serve at five different agencies in the Greater Tulsa area. They helped sort donated clothing, working with homeless children and adults, cleaned warehouses, painted, and cooked and served meals to the homeless. Faith Works tracts were printed for young people to share with those they met during their stay in Tulsa. Preschool Worship (ages 3-5) services were held each day.

This exciting program provided an opportunity to minister to the youngest Free Will Baptists. Upon check-in, each was assigned to a team. From there they were led through a series of centers throughout the service including: worship & singing, role play, crafts, snacks, sensory center and motor skills. Our thanks goes to Darryn and Lisa McGee (Oklahoma) and their assistants for their devotion to this exciting ministry program.

Children (grades 1-3) and Tweeners (grades 4-6) worship services were conducted Sunday morning and each evening by Dr. Jim Tuell—the spray painting preacher. During his lessons, Dr. Tuell lead the children through the entire Old and New Testaments, the life of Jesus and the life of Paul by spray painting on giant sheets of styrofoam.

The Monday afternoon Children's and Tweeners' Banquet was a highlight with nearly 400 children and parents gathering to see Bruce Bennett (Oklahoma) conduct an evening of humor, fun and music, and the Norman First FWB Youth Group (Oklahoma) present I.M.A.G.E.

Wednesday evening concluded with a joint worship service in the Tulsa Convention Center with Rev. Eugene

Waddell, director of the Foreign Missions Department, speaking. Some 3,000 people gathered for the Awards Celebration Wednesday evening. All Bible Competition and Music and Arts Festival winners were recognized.

The 1999 National Youth Evangelistic Team was announced. These 12 high school youth were top scorers in the 1998 Music and Arts Festival. They are: Eric Puschman (MI), Matt Thornburg (OH), Mary Catherine Harris (OK), Lindsey Scott (MO), Greg Graf (MO), Russell Cooper (OK), Cassandra Godfrey (NC), Jennifer Johnston (IL), Ben Parker (OK), Ryan Bowlin (MO), Kristina Bolta (FL) and Laura Munsey (TX).

Trophies, ribbons, medals, certificates and scholarships were awarded. Special awards were given to the following: Youth Group of the Year—First FWB Church, Locust Grove, Oklahoma; Youth of the Year—Christi Wilson (Alabama), and Youth Worker of the Year—Bruce Bennett (Oklahoma).

It would be impossible to conduct a conference of this magnitude without the assistance of the Truth and Peace Leadership Conference. These 72 youth gave life to the planned activities. They were divided into various areas of responsibility. They did a super job. Participants had been in leadership training two weeks prior to the National Youth Conference.

At the conclusion of the Truth & Peace Conference, several awards were presented. The youth selected Ben Parker (Oklahoma) and Christi Wilson for Best All Around awards. The NYC staff selected Mitch Cooper (Oklahoma) and Holly Beeler (Tennessee) for Outstanding Leadership awards.

Special appreciation is due to all pastors, parents, youth leaders, coaches and judges who work with our youth. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who

helped make the 31st Annual National Youth Conference a success.

We have implemented many changes and hope to see even more in the future. We are eager for your input. If you have ideas or suggestions for speakers, seminars or changes, please mail them to P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217. When people think back to the 1998 NYC in Tulsa, some will remember the soaring temperatures or maybe the long lines. I will remember the hundreds of young people who shared their lives with us for a week. Lives which hopefully returned home different than when they arrived. Lives which will live out their faith in the coming years. Lives which will lead us to the 32nd youth conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where they will see that there is "No Wall Too High!" ■



One of NYC's younger participants ponders serious matters.

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

# FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

## West Virginia Unites Past and Future

INWOOD, WV—Delegates to West Virginia's 53rd annual state association joined hands with the past and future during their June 11-13 session.

The Thursday night session met at Curtis FWB Church in Harper's Ferry, a church started in 1867 by Free Will Baptists for freed slaves near the campus of Storer College. The college operated 90 years after Free Will Baptists established it to train former slaves. *Contact* editor Jack Williams spoke about the history of the church and college.

Saturday afternoon delegates turned toward the future as they organized the 97-charter-member Heritage FWB Church in Inwood, less than 20 miles from Harper's Ferry. This culminated six years of work by Pastor Rus-

sell Wright and the mission congregation. Pioneer minister Carl Vallance preached the organizational sermon.

Clerk Norwood Webb reported that 268 people registered for the association which met at Heritage FWB Church following the special Thursday service in Harper's Ferry. Moderator Luther Morgan led all business sessions; he was re-elected for a two-year term.

State leaders introduced a modified program format to delegates which included three workshops on Sunday School and VBS, a missions session by Alice Smith (missionary to Africa) and ideas for youth by NYC Director Dean Jones.

Delegates handled several constitutional changes. One pro-

vides that state meeting sites and program be determined two years in advance. Another re-instated the five-member Publications Board to print the state paper. All five board members elected were from the Heritage FWB Church in Inwood.

The Mission Board presented two checks, each for \$6,687, to home missionary Russell Wright and to Alice Smith for foreign missions.

West Virginia ministers Lewis Hall and J. L. Varney preached sermons developing the association theme, "Keep Your Eyes on Heaven."

The 1999 state association will meet June 11-12 at Loudendale FWB Church near Charleston.

## North Carolina Elects Stone

KINSTON, NC—Delegates to North Carolina's 36th annual state association elected Fayetteville pastor Randy Stone as moderator. Reverend Stone pastors Calvary FWB Church. Delegates also elected Cary pastor Nate Ange as assistant moderator. Ange pastors Landmark FWB Church.

Promotional director Jim Marcum said that 217 people registered for the June 8-9 session

which met at Tabernacle FWB Church in Kinston. Some 114 ministers attended, as well as 73 lay delegates.

In other action, delegates tabled a resolution from the Randall Association recommending that the state Nominating Committee be comprised of associational moderators. The Executive Committee will consider the resolution and report to delegates in 1999.

Five ministers preached sermons during the meeting. Tennessee pastor Ronnie Adkins joined four North Carolina ministers on the preaching program: Jim Marcum, Tim Stout, Guy Owens and Pat Hall.

The 1999 state association will meet June 7-8 at First FWB Church in Marion.

## Cariker Keynotes Indiana Meeting

INDIANAPOLIS, IN—The 38th annual Indiana State Association took on a Western flavor as Tulsa, Oklahoma, pastor Connie Cariker preached sermons developing the association theme, "By All Means Save Some." Cariker pastors West Tulsa FWB Church. He formerly served as Oklahoma's executive secretary.

State clerk Larry Hamilton reported that 188 people registered for the June 19-20 meeting at Peace FWB Church in Indianapolis. The statistics include 44 ministers, 58 deacons and 88 visitors.

Moderator Robert Helms was re-elected to his second term. Helms pastors Faith FWB Church in Chandler.

Delegates authorized a constitutional change to expand the Executive Board by adding the chairmen of the Home Missions Board and the Camp Committee.

Attendees heard Ed Daniel present a seminar on Sunday School Growth.

## Second Graders Cheer Gospel Music

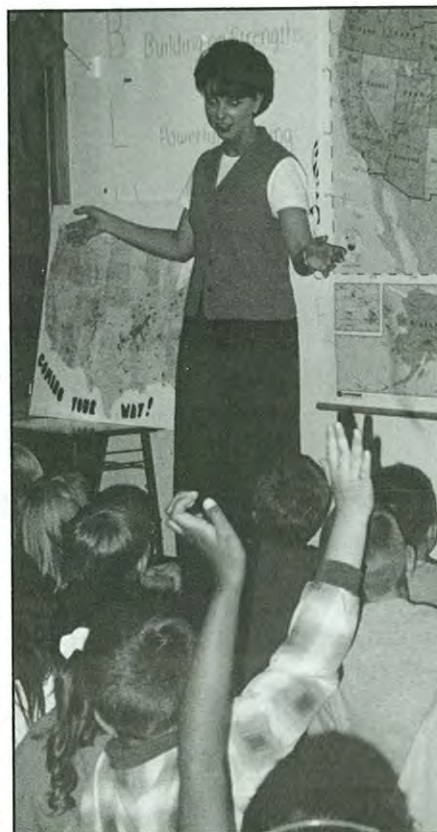
WAYNESVILLE, MO—Second graders at East Elementary Accelerated School in Waynesville spent two weeks in May studying various career options. The warmest welcome from the 150 second graders went to a representative for southern gospel music.

Becky Jones, of the Hartville, MO, based group, The Stanley Jones Singers, gave a 50-minute presentation about opportunities in southern gospel music. She supported her presentation with a map, pictures and a video.

The Stanley Jones Singers are members of Rock Chapel FWB Church in Hartville.

Becky Jones said that the children were full of questions and requested autographed pictures. Parents told teachers from the south-central Missouri public school that their children were enthusiastic about the music presentation.

Six second grade teachers coordinated the event: Kathy Davenport, Linda Olney, Doug Boldt, Carolyn Denton, Sheila Funkhouser and Mary Hornack.



Becky Jones and the second graders.

## Church Honors Senior Saints

GARFIELD, AR—Eighteen senior members of Freedom FWB Church in Garfield were honored with testimonies of appreciation and a special plaque this spring, according to LaWanda Ash, church reporter.

Ash said, "Each one was presented a plaque of appreciation, a corsage and day calendar from the church.

Several from the church spoke about the special memories they had from members of the senior group."

A plaque was placed in the church honoring "The



(L) Pastor Arthur Galloway, Wayne Elington, Midge Elington, Vivian Dean, Chet Dean, Frank Mann.

Saints Gone Home." The plaque carried the names, date of birth and date of death of church members who have died.

Pastor Arthur Galloway leads the congregation. Those honored included: Elmo and Ruth Ash, Frank Mann, Helen Edens, Cleo Grimes, Leona Henson, Dimple Henson, Chet and Vivian

Dean, Velma Robinson, Paul Howerton, Verbal Clark, Elsie Phillips, Edward and Ollie Doyle, Wayne and Midge Elington, and Minnie Foster.

## Michigan Church Sets Attendance Mark

TAYLOR, MI—After four years of steady attendance increase, Kirby FWB Church in Taylor set a new

Two years ago architect Karl Geizer met with the church's long-range planning committee and developed a Phase 1 plan, including a new sanctuary with an elevator to make the building handicap accessible. The new sanctuary will seat 400, while the current sanctuary will serve as a multi-purpose building.

However, the growth surge now requires a revised Phase 1 plan. The parsonage will be relocated and parking will be increased. A balcony, sound room, office suite, large foyer and a nursery area must be added.

Pastor Trimble, in his fifth year at Kirby, said, "We need more than sanctuary space. Sunday School classes and Wednesday night programs face the same space problems."



(L) Pastor Mike Trimble and Donald Myers.

record with 368 people in one service, according to Pastor Mike Trimble. "It has not been unusual to put out chairs for additional seating recently. We've had several Sundays with attendance well above 300."

Associate pastor Donald Myers serves as worship leader, pianist and youth coordinator. He formed a nine-instrument praise band and a vocal praise team.

## Music Commission Presents *Glory, Honor, and Praise*

ANTIOCH, TN—The Free Will Baptist Music Commission in conjunction with Prism Music completed recording of a Mass Choir project titled, *Glory, Honor, and Praise (An Invitation to Blended Worship)*, created by Scott Bullman and Vernon Whaley. The effort includes such traditional favorites as *Victory in Jesus* and *Are You Washed in the Blood* as well as newer songs like *Crown Him King of Kings* and *To the Lamb Upon the Throne*.

"We feel that too often, the singers and musicians become performers and the congregation merely spectators in a service," reported Music Commission chairman Rev. Randy Sawyer to delegates of the National Association at their July meeting in Tulsa, OK. "The concept of blended worship using familiar songs allows the entire congregation to participate with the choir, praise teams and solos in uplifting, heart-felt worship."

All 10 songs from the disc were used by the Mass Choir during convention worship services. The response was astounding, indicating that the arrangements captured the musical heart of Free Will Baptists at the convention.

The product is available on CD and cassette for personal listening enjoyment, as well as choral books and orchestrated accompaniment CD and cassette to be used in churches across the denomination.

Prices are as follows: Choral Book — \$5.95, Listening Cassette — \$10.95, Listening CD — \$14.95, Accompaniment Cassette — \$70, and Accompaniment CD — \$80. Two church packages make ordering easy: #1 (25 choral books, 5 each listening CDs and cassettes, and 1 accompaniment CD or cassette), \$350. #2 (50 choral books, 5 each listening CDs and cassettes, and 1 accompaniment CD or cassette), \$510.

Send orders including shipping and billing addresses to:

Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church  
2518 Una-Antioch Pike  
Antioch, TN 37013

E-mail orders to:

Bgardner2@AOL.com

Indicate preference of CD or cassette accompaniment.

## Colorado Elects Bob Lewis

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO—Grand Junction pastor Bob Lewis was elected moderator by delegates to Colorado's District Association which met May 16 at Harvest FWB Church in Colorado Springs. He succeeds Cheyenne, Wyoming, pastor Russell Johnson in that post.

Clerk Jim Mertz said that 40 people registered for the meeting, including five ministers. Assistant mod-

erator Roger Raper led business in the absence of the moderator.

Delegates voted to give Jonathan Lewis \$500 for a mission trip to Russia.

Foreign Missions Department staffer Fred Warner preached during the association.

## California Church Pursues Bilingual Outreach

GREENFIELD, CA—After 43 years of ministry service with English-speaking pastors, a California congregation hopes to refocus their outreach to the burgeoning Hispanic community. Members of Greenfield FWB Church are searching for their first full-time bilingual pastor, according to Gayle West who chairs the pulpit committee.

The church made the shift to catch the Hispanic wave after their city of 4,500 doubled in size in the last decade to 9,200, and brought the population mix to 75% Hispanic, 24% White and 1% others.

A recent survey among members in the rural, agricultural area revealed that they want to major on growth and outreach, and feel that they are ready to follow a bilingual pastor in that direction.

Church attendance with the nine pastors in 43 years never climbed above 75, and now hovers at 30. However, members have committed themselves to a \$38,000 annual salary package in order to support a pastor with new ideas.

The church, located 35 miles south of Salinas and 50 miles from Montgomery, is debt-free and has property the size of three city lots on which to expand.

Interested persons may contact:

Gayle West	or	Holt Seawell
P. O. Box 1179		408/674-3775
Greenfield, CA 93927		
408/674-3550		

## Missouri Adopts \$1.7 Million Budget

LEBANON, MO—Missouri's 85th annual state association adopted three major budgets for 1999 with a combined \$1.7 million outreach. Executive Secretary Nathan Ruble said that delegates approved budgets for the Cooperative Plan (\$410,000), Show-Me Plan (\$403,000) and state bookstore (\$465,000).

The June 8-10 session met in Lebanon at the Kenneth Cowan Civic Center. Moderator Ken Dodson gave business sessions for the 438 people who registered. Some 91 ministers and 100 lay delegates, along with 247 visitors, attended.

Cuba FWB Church pastor Rick Dablemont will succeed Ken Dodson as moderator. Dodson completed his three-year term in 1998.

Four ministers developed the association theme, "Christian Loyalty." Springfield pastor Gene Howell preached on, "Loyalty to Christ." West Plains pastor Ronnie Blanks preached, "Loyalty to Other Christians." Blue Springs pastor Alvin Hook preached, "Loyalty to the Christless."

Hillsdale FWB College president Carl Cheshier preached on, "Loyalty to the Church."

Tuesday afternoon the Christian Education Board sponsored a church growth workshop. Oklahoma pastor Curtis Linton spoke.

The 1999 state association will meet June 7-9 at the Civic Center in Lebanon.

## Southeastern Sets Missions Conference

WENDELL, NC—The fall Missions Conference at Southeastern FWB College will feature four speakers, according to President Billy Bevan. The October 15-16 gathering will use the theme, "Are You Helping With the Harvest?"

The speakers include Dr. Clarence Sexton, founder and president of Crown College. Dr. Sexton pastors Temple Baptist Church in Powell, Tennessee.

Other speakers are Hemant Patel, a missionary to India; Mark Riggs, missionary to Spain; Johnny Pike, vice-president of Southeastern College.

The college choir will present a mini-missionary concert. Southeastern students who visited mission fields during the summer will give their testimonies.

## Arkansas Church Turns Gold

PINE BLUFF, AR—Three hundred members and friends showed up at Oak Park FWB Church in Pine Bluff for a two-day celebration as the church observed its golden anniversary (50 years) of service to the community. The June 6-7 event began with a Saturday morning golf tournament and an evening cookout for 200 with entertainment by Mike Hollifield from Nashville, Tennessee.

Pastor Ed Cook then led all-day festivities on Sunday as 300 people gathered for morning worship services. During the Sunday School hour, Jim Puckett spoke to the entire church on "Renewing Your Vision." Puckett, who now pastors in Oklahoma, was the church's first student to graduate from Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The morning worship speaker, Elro Driggers, spoke from Acts 2 on the example of the early church. Driggers was the church's first full-time pastor.

The Jubilee celebration continued with a noon meal hosted by the church and an afternoon of singing, led by Jeff King.



(L) Jim Puckett, Elro Driggers, Pastor Ed Cook.

Two cars collided on a rural **Arkansas** highway in April. A 71-year-old woman died as a result of the accident. While that sort of thing happens every day on the nation's roadways, this one was different. The lady who died had sung in the choir at **Boles FWB Church** for 65 years. Her name was **Maudie Inez Speaks**. Relatives said, "She . . . taught Sunday School and held about every office in the church for 65 years." **Pat Ray Boggs** pastors the church.

Members of **Antioch FWB Church** in **Russellville, AR**, broke ground for a 300-seat auditorium, according to Pastor **R. H. McCuin**. The 4,800-square-foot building will also include a nursery/toddler care center.

Pastor **Steve Utley** said that construction began in mid-May for a new fellowship hall at **Rescue FWB Church** in **Whittington, IL**.

The ministry of **Fairwood FWB Church** in **Fairfax Station, VA**, was featured in *The Connection*, a weekly newspaper. The story spotlighted the church's programs for youth, singles, women and small singing groups, as well as the unique pastor, **Lester Horton**.

**United FWB Church** in **Walnut Ridge, AR**, dedicated their 320-seat sanctuary, according to Pastor **Dale Blackwell**. Some 240 people gathered for the event, and Arkansas promotional director **David Joslin** preached the dedicatory message. The old sanctuary was remodeled, giving the church 14 classrooms. The six-year-old church has 155 members.

Ground breaking for a new auditorium at **Freedom FWB Church** in **Marion, IL**, occurred on May 10, according to Pastor **David Mishler**. Earlier, members outfitted Pastor Mishler with a surprise sports coat, pants, shirt and tie.

Two weeks of hard work by members of **Immanuel FWB Church** in **Joliet, IL**, paid off with major renovations, according to Pastor **Jerry Myers**. Mem-

bers painted, paneled and carpeted the sanctuary and choir areas.

When **Bud** and **Ruth Bivens** arrived in **Puerto Rico** to minister, they received a Sunday evening surprise. "Evening" church services begin at the unlikely time of 4:00 p.m. because of the high crime rate. People are reluctant to leave their homes after dark.

The annual Fox Hunt Benefit in **Turbeville, SC**, directed by **Wayne Oxendine**, raised \$16,500 for the **Free Will Baptist Home for Children**. **James Wilhide** serves as superintendent.

**Unity FWB Church** in **Conway, MO**, honored four 90-year-old members, according to Pastor **Dan Talbott**. Three of the four were present for the time of fellowship and worship: **Beulah Freeman**, **Lawrence Caffey**, **Mack Nickell**. **Mabel Chastain** was unable to attend.

Missionary pastor **Vernon Long** needed a lot of help, and he got it. Renovation for **Jackson FWB Church** in **Jackson, MO**, began in November with volunteers swarming the site. Dedication services were conducted in April with 42 people attending. Missouri executive secretary **Nathan Ruble** and Home Missions Board director **Dale Skiles** preached.

**Northwest FWB Church** in **Chicago, IL**, has taken on an international flavor, according to Pastor **David Potete**. Visitors to the church include Ukrainian immigrants, Hispanics and various European ethnic groups.

Home missionary **Jeff Sloan** reports 27 conversions and 32 baptisms in the last year at **Harvest FWB Church** in **Fort Wayne, IN**. Forty-five people committed themselves to Harvest as their church home. The congregation purchased five acres on which to build. The land is debt-free.

Pastor **Dennis Keen** baptized 18 converts at **Mt. Calvary FWB Church** in **Perryman, MD**.

Attendance has tripled at **Olivehurst FWB Church** in **Olivehurst, CA**,

according to clerk **Laura Foster**. During the past year, members installed a new floor in the sanctuary. **Emery Webb** pastors.

Pastor **Bruce Moore** said that **First FWB Church** of **Houston, MO**, hopes to build a \$100,000 family life center. The pastor planned to ride a bicycle 1,000 miles as an incentive to help raise the needed funds.

Eighteen converts in five weeks. That's the word from home missionary **Bill Phillips** in **Sandy, UT**. "I've run out of Bibles to give new Christians. I'm writing my own commentary on I John for people who have no Bible knowledge whatsoever," Phillips confirmed.

**Friendship FWB Church** in **Flint, MI**, sold their building and purchased 22 acres in Davison Township on which to relocate. Worship services meet in Burlington at a Christian school during the transition. **Curtis Lilly** pastors.

Two Michigan churches merged to form **Heritage FWB Church** in **Taylor**. **Grace FWB Church** and **Brighter Hope FWB Church** merged under the leadership of Pastor **A. Lee Shepherd** who pastored more than 25 years in the state.

Members at **First FWB Church** in **Barnsdale, OK**, honored Pastor **Edgar Beaver** with a plaque, a card with \$130, and a quilt with all the family names on it.

The day before a revival was scheduled to begin at **Iron Chapel FWB Church** in **Lindsay, OK**, vandals used red paint to write hate messages on the church. "Death to Christianity," "666," and other messages were painted on the building. Fifty people scrubbed the paint away in one hour. Pastor **Barry Clagg** said the revival continued as scheduled with 16 conversions, 14 baptisms and six new members.

The mission work at **Aiken, SC**, began construction on an 11,000-square-foot facility, according to Pastor **Mark Barber**. The \$225,000 structure will include a 225-seat sanctuary, four Sunday School rooms and day care facilities. ■

## Directory Update

### GEORGIA

Henry Shellman to Trinity Church, Maok from First Church, Opelika, AL

Mitch Griffin to Cool Springs Church, Norman Park

### OHIO

Bill Alford to Island Road Church, Grafton

Fred Crank to Mansfield Church, Mansfield

Wayne Keith to Pleasant Hill Church, Delaware from Mansfield Church, Mansfield

### SOUTH CAROLINA

John Keen to North Spartanburg Church, Spartanburg

Rusty Conyers to High Hill Church, Scranton

Brian Bird to Pine Grove Church, Jefferson

## MASTER'S MEN CORRECTION

Page 27 in the August issue of *Contact* carried the wrong dates for the *Illinois Regional Master's Men Conference at Camp Hope in Ewing*.

The correct dates are

**September 10-12.**

We regret the error.

*Rejoice... Give Thanks...and Sing*



**REJOICE**

The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book

Colors: Red, Green, & Blue

Pew Editions \$12.98

Accompanist Edition \$24.98

**1-800-877-7030**



### June 1998

Receipts: State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 604.95	\$ .00	\$ 604.95	\$ 3,394.15	\$ .00	\$ 3,394.15
Arizona	1,224.05	258.70	1,482.75	2,692.17	403.20	3,095.37
Arkansas	10,599.34	11,306.14	21,905.48	78,733.95	81,853.32	160,587.27
California	.00	1,218.37	1,218.37	.00	6,779.05	6,779.05
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	75.43	6,666.66	6,742.09	157.21	9,999.98	10,157.19
Georgia	14,685.99	2,027.40	16,713.39	109,453.56	10,940.21	120,393.77
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	8,030.17	2,395.17	10,425.34	58,001.38	13,798.83	71,800.21
Indiana	1,913.31	147.69	2,061.00	6,772.19	1,770.90	8,543.09
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	270.00	1,062.55	1,332.55
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	200.00	44.29	244.29
Kentucky	1,107.00	529.48	1,636.48	5,338.06	3,330.29	8,668.35
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	40.00	10.00	50.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	1,599.80	1,599.80
Michigan	13,304.74	3,292.09	16,596.83	61,182.33	13,302.98	74,485.31
Mississippi	6,558.63	324.44	6,883.07	42,540.77	3,133.45	45,674.22
Missouri	29,978.23	12,912.03	42,890.26	242,361.37	35,045.14	277,406.51
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	780.55	30.27	810.82	6,213.29	317.15	6,530.44
North Carolina	1,547.58	1,803.00	3,350.58	9,901.95	8,493.66	18,395.61
Ohio	11,333.58	2,069.50	13,403.08	47,094.42	15,135.35	62,229.77
Oklahoma	58,055.06	9,217.42	67,272.48	279,059.21	56,542.86	335,602.07
South Carolina	34,221.57	112.66	34,334.23	247,538.71	755.83	248,294.54
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	26,095.38	925.54	27,020.92	76,522.04	9,518.62	86,040.66
Texas	7,368.04	404.94	7,772.98	45,770.86	2,811.41	48,582.27
Virginia	540.76	25.00	565.76	4,557.42	175.00	4,732.42
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	209.01	.00	209.01	16,023.16	580.33	16,603.49
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	181.07	9.26	190.33	955.19	41.45	996.64
Northwest Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.02	.02	.00	.21	.21
Totals	\$ 228,414.44	\$ 55,675.78	\$ 284,090.22	\$ 1,344,773.39	\$ 277,445.86	\$ 1,622,219.25

### Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 2,025.18	\$ 25,054.11	\$ 27,079.29	\$ 27,180.34	\$124,850.57	\$ 152,030.91
Foreign Missions	149,528.82	7,042.97	156,571.79	812,563.95	35,096.88	847,660.83
FWBBC	13,017.76	7,042.97	20,060.73	83,105.01	35,096.88	118,201.89
Home Missions	56,746.33	5,511.91	62,258.24	344,997.11	27,467.14	372,464.25
Retirement & Insurance	317.39	4,287.02	4,604.41	4,576.00	21,363.28	25,939.28
Master's Men	424.70	4,287.02	4,711.72	5,382.37	21,363.28	26,745.65
Comm. for Theo. Integrity	48.23	153.12	201.35	348.40	763.01	1,111.41
FWB Foundation	451.34	1,837.30	2,288.64	3,430.07	9,155.79	12,585.86
Historical Commission	27.59	153.12	180.71	225.55	763.01	988.56
Music Commission	23.61	153.12	176.73	252.97	763.01	1,015.98
Media Commission	35.22	153.12	188.34	2,863.42	763.01	3,626.43
Hillsdale FWB College	1,695.32	.00	1,695.32	8,704.42	.00	8,704.42
Other	4,072.95	.00	4,072.95	51,143.78	.00	51,143.78
Totals	\$ 228,414.44	\$ 55,675.78	\$ 284,090.22	\$ 1,344,773.39	\$ 277,445.86	\$ 1,622,219.25

## FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

*"I Am Committed To This Task!"*

By Dr. Milton Fields, Academic Dean



*FWBBC's  
new Dean  
shares his  
vision of  
what the  
college  
was, is,  
and will  
be.*

I first heard of Free Will Baptist Bible College when I was about 12 years old. Several teachers from the school were conducting a Bible institute at the Children's Home in Eldridge, Alabama. My father and mother attended. For the next ten years or so I learned more about the school and continued to see Bible College personnel at National Associations. Like so many preacher's kids, we spent most vacations going to these national meetings.

Several of my friends went to the school, but that was not what I had planned for my life. I entered Mississippi State University to major in aeronautical engineering. When I vacillated between college and the Army, my father convinced me to go to the Bible College for just one year. I did—at age 23. Five months later I accepted a call to the ministry.

Up to the point of entering FWBBC, I just wanted to get an education, develop a career, and make money. At the Bible College my very patient teachers were interested in much loftier goals—serving Jesus Christ and His Church. I was thinking about 20 to 30 years in a job and then retirement. They were trying to interest me in eternity and, under their teaching, soon I was.

As a student, I spent many hours listening to Dr. Johnson, Dr. Thigpen, and Miss Laura Belle Barnard talk about the more important things in life. There was the need to see the world as God sees it: a multitude of lost humanity, a church turned in to itself without a vision of its real work, and Christians, uninvolved in Christian service, who seemed unaware of the tremendous need around them.

Free Will Baptist Bible College was then—and is now—a place where young men and women are challenged to serve Christ and His Church. It is a place offering educational excellence, involved Christian service, and a strong Bible curriculum. It is a place where teachers and staff are all committed Christians, serving Christ sacrificially with untiring effort. It is a place where Christian young men and women begin their Christian families (as I did 33 years ago).

Most parents are convinced that college is a good investment. It is, as far as enabling the student to make good money; however, independence in retirement is nothing to brag about since many college-trained workers retire dependent on social security or family for necessary support. None of the six state universities I attended made any effort

to equip me to enjoy living nor did they even attempt to prepare me to live beyond a career and the average life of 70-plus years.

The state university taught me that man is a creature of habit—pure habit, born out of evolution; a creature of intellect, feeling, physical movement, and totally self-reliant. Free Will Baptist Bible College taught me that man is a spiritual creation and that, without spiritual life, real living can never take place. The Bible College also taught me that in the beginning God created, that He loved me, died for me, and offers me the opportunity to fellowship with Him everyday. Our college taught me about God's Word, about prayer, about ministry, and eternity with God.

Today our school stands proud on its tradition of quality and excellence in education, Christian graduates serving admirably around the world, and Bible-trained leaders in churches throughout the nation. Many people, who formerly had no hope, have come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior as a result of Christian service required by the school while a student is here and required by the graduate's love of Christ after he leaves. Their pulpits may vary. For some, service is a foreign mission field; for others, it is a bank, a classroom, a business, or a home mission church.

Free Will Baptist Bible College is committed to God's Word, to a Bible-based curriculum and Christian liberal arts education, to maintaining a faculty of high academic and spiritual quality, to the young men and women of our denomination, and to quality Christian leadership and service within our denomination from our graduates.

We are a college on the move. We are moving to your state, to your town, to cities around the world as our graduates take their place in God's church, and one day we will take our place in the Kingdom of God, and we plan to take a whole host of new believers with us.

From a small boy in rural Alabama who knew little of the College, God has given me the privilege of serving at the school. He has even given me the opportunity to take a leadership role. My conviction is that we have a proven history of preparing our graduates to serve Christ in whatever capacity He may lead them. I am committed to the task that this is and will continue to be Free Will Baptist Bible College. ■

## FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

### *Wills— Important or Unimportant?*

By Frank Giunta

I have heard it a million times—well, maybe that's a slight exaggeration, but I have heard it a lot—"I don't need a will, my estate is too small."

Now, that may seem true to the average person and on the surface it may appear that way, but there are at least two fallacies in the statement:

1. Most people have a larger accumulation of assets in their estate than they realize.
  - a. A home.
  - b. Additional real estate.
  - c. Insurance policies.
  - d. CD's and/or IRA's.
  - e. Retirement plans with cash-out values.
  - f. Personal property, collections and antiques.
  - g. Savings and checking accounts.
2. Even if your estate is modest and below the federal taxable level, it may face unnecessary legal fees, drawn out probate processes and fees, or not be distributed according to your wishes.

When someone says, "If you don't have a will, be assured that the state has one for you," they are not joking.

In the Missouri State Legal Code, for example, there are 16 major references on dying intestate, that is without a personal will. They contain detailed directions for the distribution of an estate under various survivor conditions, such as:

- 1) a spouse and children;
- 2) no spouse but children;
- 3) a spouse but no children;
- 4) no spouse, no children but parents;
- 5) no spouse, no children and no parents.

What kind of will should you have? There are several types available: an attorney-drafted will; a computer-generated will; a stock form will found in office supply stores; and a holographic or hand-written will. Although these are available, some may not be honored as valid in your state. Even where various types of wills are valid, there may be strict legal requirements in their completion; such as, two or three witnesses being required; reference to each one who is a pretermitted heir whether benefiting them or

not; and other technical issues.

Consider these areas when you start to think "WILL":

- ❖ Each state has jurisdiction over the will of its citizens with regulations covering every possible situation.
- ❖ It is wise to get help from someone who has expertise in the area of estate planning in the state of your residence.
- ❖ Be aware that no state makes provision for your favorite charity if you do not include it in your will.
- ❖ Many Christians remember the Lord's work for at least a tithe in their will.
- ❖ You may direct through your will the establishing of an endowment to continue your monthly giving to special ministries.

It seems apparent that having a personal will could be the difference required in accomplishing your specific wishes. Otherwise, the state will distribute your assets according to its laws which may be expensive, prolonged and contrary to your individual family needs.

If you have delayed in this vital stewardship strategy or simply need some guidance in getting started, contact me through our national office or directly at 573-335-6240. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Frank Giunta is field representative for the Free Will Baptist Foundation.



## HOME MISSIONS

*Second Annual Hispanic Ministries Conference*

By Pam Anis

For those who have not yet attended the Hispanic Ministries Conference in Mexico, sponsored by the Home Missions Department, Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, and The Seminary of the Cross, let me invite you to consider putting that event on your list of things to do. You will learn a great deal about the way of life and the dedication of our Free Will Baptists in Mexico.

We crossed the border into Reynosa, Mexico, on June 1 and arrived at the Seminario Bíblico La Cruz to participate in the conference orientation. Participants came from Alabama, Arizona, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

We were greeted by Ramón Zúniga, president of the seminary, and his wife, Ede, who would be teaching classes during the conference. We were also introduced to the most important person we would meet during our stay in Mexico, our cook for the week, Elvira Gonzalez. She also prepares lunch for the seminary students during the regular school year and stayed over to provide for our group. Several seminary students also stayed over to help out during the conference.

Each morning after breakfast we began with a Spanish class taught by Ede Zúniga. Rigoberto Lumbreras spoke to us on *Winning Hispanics to Christ*. The Catholic Bible was explained to us by Thomas Marberry from Hillsdale College. Alton Loveless, general director of Randall House Publications, shared the *Spanish Ministry of Randall House Publications* and all that is being done there to aid in Free Will Baptist Hispanic outreach.

*Catholicism in Mexico* was addressed by Luis Felipe Tijerina. During one of our outings away from the campus, we were taken on a tour of the National Shrine Of Our Lady Of San Juan Del Valle. This helped bring home firsthand the hold that Catholicism has on the Mexican people. The Tijerinas spoke to our group on the *Hispanic Home and Family Life*. This provided an understanding of the differences in the two cultures.

James Munsey, coordinator of Free Will Baptist work in Mexico, provided insight into *Understanding and Working With Hispanics*. The Spanish Bible was shared in depth with us by Ramón Zúniga who joined James Munsey in discussing the *Free Will Baptist Work in Mex-*

*ico*. As you can see, there was a definite time of learning made interesting by the different perspectives of those teaching.

Chapel services were an especially good time for all to worship and sing songs of praise in English and Spanish. The amount of talent represented was unbelievable, and the music was uplifting both in the services and during our time of relaxing. In three chapel services during the course of the week, the seminary students performed in dramatic presentations. At times we had an interpreter and at times we did not. We began to understand what it was like to contend with a language barrier. We also broke into smaller groups and had opportunity to attend our Mexican churches in the area.

Several volunteers signed up to help with a three-day Vacation Bible School at the Canal Road Church located near the seminary property. Even though we had to prepare from one to two hours before each session, we enjoyed working with the children during the Vacation Bible School on Wednesday through Friday. Each song had to be learned and practiced in Spanish! Each memory verse and scripture for the stories had to be written on posters and practiced in Spanish! Also, the storyteller had to rehearse the stories in Spanish! The children were wonderful and well-behaved, and almost every child attending would stand and recite the memory verse given the previous day.

Several in our group participated in the unique opportunity for in-home visits with Mexican families. They left with their host families on Saturday afternoon, stayed overnight and went to church with them Sunday morning before returning to the seminary.

God's blessings poured down upon us as we learned, struggled to communicate with the Mexican people while learning the Spanish language, and as we worshiped together. We even had a little time for shopping and sightseeing in Reynosa and Progreso. This conference proved to be important to everyone involved, and gave us more insight and gifts from God than we ever expected. ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Pam Anis is secretary to David Crowe, director of missionary assistance with the Home Missions Department.



## RANDALL HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

*Before Growth Comes . . . We Must*

By Alton Loveless

Forty-three years ago I attended my first national convention at age 17. As a newly-ordained Free Will Baptist preacher, I thought I could have told the leadership how to run the show. What I knew then seems so dim today, but the light of His truth still reigns bright. My love for Him and our people are upon my life as I slowly complete my tenure of service for His cause. My observation is totally mine but I think my experience, age and service helps me share it.

I see our faith and trust faltering, and our denomination needs to return to a stronger and deeper commitment to the Christ of our salvation.

We must take a look at our faith in what He wants to do in and through us.

We need to:

- a. Define our Purpose—that's Motive.
- b. Discover our Potential—that's Measure.
- c. Determine our Priorities—that's Manner.
- d. Direct our Program—that's Message.

Remember the Lord builds His church with:

- a. A Sanctified Preacher.
- b. A Separated People.
- c. A Salvaging Passion.
- d. A Saturating Program.

I am a denominational person owing my conversion to this movement, but frankly I'm not sure God is as thrilled that there is a Free Will Baptist denomination as I am. I am sure He is concerned about my indifference to the lost or my lack of reaching the lost here and around the world.

He is more concerned that people are saved than that we continue as a denomination. The reason any organization exists is to fulfill its preamble. If we waver here, we lose our reason to be.

The responsibility is ours. We may:

- a. Shirk it, because we are afraid to undertake it.
- b. Shelve it, because we are anxious to defer it.
- c. Shed it, because we are tired of hearing it.

Or,

- a. Shoulder it, because we are ready to fulfill it.
- b. Share it, and be wise in distributing it.

Men on every level who are known as leaders, but whose pride robs of true repentance,

can create a dike holding back the needful revival for themselves and those they influence.

The streams of revival are held back when cold hearts continue to hold ill feelings. We will never experience revival and restitution:

Until pastors and parishioners forgive each other.  
 Until churches and conferences forgive each other.  
 Until states and leaders forgive each other.  
 Until every organization can say, I forgive!  
 When all our people: from president to pastor; leader to layman; can practice Matthew 18:15 . . .

Then and only then will we move forward. Until we do, one must surely be fearful in saying as John did, *"Let us go that we may die with him."* How can He forgive us our trespasses when we don't.

May the fountains of the Water of life, the washing of regeneration once again flow and flood every member of our denomination. When revival starts, new churches will begin, new converts will be taught, and then love will solidify. ■



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

# ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PREACHERS

## Use Forms

**T**he young preacher will be called upon to respond to specific requests that demand a decision. Rather than handle a request every time it surfaces, develop certain forms that provide answers to help make your decision easier. Here are a few suggestions.

### Marriage Questionnaire

When engaged couples (or their parents) request that you conduct the wedding, give them the Marriage Questionnaire. This will save time when you set up the first counseling session. The couple will also get a hint of your position on weddings. Furthermore, by filling the questionnaire, you will have needed information at your fingertips before and after the wedding.

This form could ask the full names of the engaged couple, the addresses, telephone numbers and the names of the parents. However, the most valuable questions would ask how long they have dated, have they been married before, and why they want to marry each other.

Questions also provide a tool for establishing biblical and moral principles by asking if dancing will be encouraged at the reception, if alcoholic beverages will be served, and other pertinent questions.

In the form, certain statements could be made about fees, cleaning the church and fellowship hall, and other items for them to consider.

Several counseling sessions before the wedding are advisable. This questionnaire could be used to record your notes made during these sessions. Of course, all this material should be filed for future reference.

### Baptismal Form

Besides providing some basic, biblical guidelines for baptism, this form

should record the full name, address, birthdate and sex of the one to be baptized. This information helps you record the necessary items to include in the certificate and in the records to be kept by the church. A file of all baptized believers should be sustained in a place of safekeeping. Baptismal certificates are appreciated by most of those who are baptized.

### Church Member's Form

Church members providing valuable information to the pastor can benefit the operation of the church. This form can be distributed in the church bulletin over a period of a month. The information should be stored in a computer or in a notebook. The questionnaire should list the member's full name, sex, address, birthdate, telephone number, place of employment, spouse's name, children and their birthdates. Every two or three years this information may need to be updated.

### Death Request Form

When pastors preach on death and its consequences, it is a good time to mention wills, written requests and methods of burial (embalming or cremation). A form could be provided for the church member to list suggestions for funeral services that would benefit the pastor, church musicians and family members at the death of this individual. Funeral homes often provide excellent materials on this subject.

### Spiritual Concern Form

Providing a small form for church members to indicate the name or names of the unconverted is beneficial to the pastor and his outreach ministry. This form should not only include the name, sex, age and address of an unbeliever, but it may be wise to ask the



Dennis Wiggs

member if he/she has witnessed to this prospect. This form could be distributed several times a year to secure the names of the unsaved.

### Decision Form

When someone goes to the church altar for a salvation decision or to join the church, it would be helpful to the pastor if a basic form and a pen or pencil were placed in the hands of the decision maker. Perhaps a deacon or church clerk could be assigned the responsibility of making sure this form is filled out and given to the pastor immediately after the church service.

### Benevolent Form

The pastor is often called on to assist people with finances to pay rent, buy food and other needs. Rather than field every call without adequate information, a Benevolent Form can be extremely helpful (this is primarily for those outside your church). Before the one requesting help is interviewed, ask the person to give information such as full name, address, age, sex, health, place of employment, spouse's name, children and their ages.

Expect the person to write on the form the request and why. It would be ideal if this form could be provided by the church secretary before you see the person. After the form is completed, then you (or the deacons) can interview the person. Often this form will scare away people who are attempting to take advantage of the church.

### Forms are Available

I will be glad to send you sample forms for a couple of dollars to cover printing and mailing costs. E-mail your request to [dwiggs@juno.com](mailto:dwiggs@juno.com) or call 252/638-1297. ■

## Faith Alone

By R. C. Sproul

(Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1995, 221 pp., hardback, \$16.99).



Thomas Marberry

**T**he doctrine of salvation (soteriology) has been at the forefront of theological debate and discussion in recent years. The controversy over "Lordship Salvation" which began among Dispensationalists has now spread to other parts of the evangelical community. The publication in the spring of 1994 of a document titled *Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium* (ECT) has added a new dimension to this debate.

ECT is a 26-page document produced by a working group of Evangelicals and Roman Catholics. Those who contributed to this document frankly admitted that they were acting as individuals and not as official representatives of the Roman Catholic Church or of the different protestant denominations from which they came.

The document which they produced calls for cooperation between Evangelicals and Catholics in such areas as social justice, ethics, religious freedom, abortion, etc. This portion of the statement Sproul does not challenge. He recognizes that Evangelicals and Catholics may, at times, need to

cooperate on different social issues.

There are, however, certain statements in ECT which Sproul strongly disputes. ECT states that "All who accept Christ as Lord and Savior are brothers and sisters in Christ. Evangelicals and Catholics are brothers and sisters in Christ."

Sproul points out, quite correctly, that this statement implies an acceptance of the Roman Catholic view of salvation. Apparently, those evangelicals who signed this document believe that the Roman Catholic view of justification is just as true to the teachings of scripture as the protestant view developed by Luther, Calvin and other reformers. This opinion Sproul will not accept.

Most of this book is devoted to a comparison of the traditional protestant and Roman Catholic views of justification. Sproul examines several important statements by Luther and Calvin on justification. He also carefully examines the Roman Catholic position as presented by the Council of Trent.

Sproul notes that the protestant view of justification emphasizes the forensic nature of Christ's work. A person is justified because the righteousness of

Christ is imputed to him and not because of any good works he has done.

The Roman Catholic Church teaches the doctrine of infused righteousness. This means that the righteousness of Christ is infused into a person when he participates in the sacramental system of the Catholic church. The statements of the Council of Trent also emphasize the role of human works in obtaining salvation.

The author stresses the importance of the doctrine of salvation by faith alone. He argues that this is a basic biblical doctrine which must be maintained.

This book has certain limitations. It is doubtful that all modern Catholics view justification in exactly the same way the Council of Trent did. It is also doubtful that all modern evangelicals view justification just as Luther and Calvin did. In fact, Luther and Calvin did not agree on every detail.

This book does, however, remind us of one important fact. There are significant theological differences between Roman Catholicism and traditional Protestantism. We must be careful that we do not compromise the faith. ■

## BEYOND BELIEF



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## Keep the Seventh Dollar

**O**ne Saturday afternoon a little girl knocked on the door at our house. "Here are the cookies you ordered," she smiled up through her freckles.

"Are you sure I ordered cookies?" I asked. She was. In fact, she was six dollars sure and had come to collect.

I decided to give her a one dollar test. I handed her some dollar bills as she handed me the two boxes of cookies I didn't order.

The freckled entrepreneur said, "Mister, you paid me seven dollars. The cookies just cost six."

"The six dollars are for the cookies," I told her. "The seventh is for you because you're honest."

She grinned big and her eyes sparkled. I thought it was a good test. She must have also, because she came back the next Tuesday selling M&Ms. That's when my wife admitted she had ordered the cookies.

**People will surprise** you if you give them a chance. Some surprises are better than others, of course, but they all teach us something.

For instance, former Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, got three surprises while walking past a construction site. He asked three men mixing concrete what they were doing.

The first laborer stared at him and said, "collecting a paycheck." The second, more animated, answered, "constructing a wall." The third, with great enthusiasm, stood up and proudly said, "building a cathedral."

The difference? A sense of purpose in the men's outlooks.

**The person who** would change the whole world starts out changing something more manageable. Well-known writer Kurt Vonnegut suggested the goal of putting a small part of the planet into safe, sane and decent order.

Vonnegut explains, "A painter thinks, 'I can't fix the whole planet,

but I can at least make this square of canvas what it ought to be.' And a sculptor thinks the same thing about a lump of clay or marble. A writer thinks the same about a piece of paper."

The principle here is that he who is unwilling to make a little difference when he can is usually out of position to make a big difference when he would like to.

**One story of a man** making a big difference when it mattered most concerns General J. E. B. Stuart, a trusted officer of General Robert E. Lee during the Civil War. Upon Lee's death a handwritten note was found among his personal effects. It said, "You can count on me—JEB."

No doubt Lee knew he could count on this man of sterling character who had proven himself personally, interpersonally and professionally.

Dr. William Brown asks, "Would those to whom you answer know that they can count on you? Your answer will be yes if you are recognized as one who can be counted upon to do the right thing, especially when the going gets tough."

**We are free** to determine our own attitudes toward life and our circumstances. Never mind that experts trot out the latest research as evidence that we should feel this or that way.

Remember the humorous blurb from *Changing Times*: "You can't always go by expert opinion. A turkey, if you ask a turkey, should be stuffed with grasshoppers, grit and worms."

**This hit me where I live** when Marilyn, one of our staffers, described an incident in a grocery check-out line. The cashier was from another country and didn't realize that experts had decreed he should be surly and unhappy about his station in life.

When Marilyn's turn came to check out, the cashier said with a



Jack Williams

strong oriental accent, "Hello, ma'am. Is ma'am okay today?" Ma'am was okay and inquired about the cashier. His enthusiastic reply, punctuated with exclamation points, went something like this:

"I am great! I love my job! I love my customers! I love my boss! I always have good day! I not have bad day in about two year! It always good day!"

Talk about a day brightener. Hang the experts; that Kroger cashier was selling the best product in the store—zest for life.

**Oh, sure, sometimes** you can do nothing but grin and bear it. Take the case of the cheap grandson.

My daughter called last August laughing. Her insurance company had issued a check for 60¢ for her \$2,700 baby boy delivered in the spring. There was an accompanying note that the insurance company was sure the hospital would discount the fees.

All parties concerned seem to have ironed out their differences. The 60-cent boy still lives with his parents; neither the insurance company nor the hospital want him back.

**People really do want** to trust one another. I was in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, airport about 6:00 a.m. last January when a herd of young wrestlers and their sponsors (about 20 people) dropped their luggage at my feet and asked if I'd watch it while they looked for breakfast.

Before I could say no, they trooped off in search of toast and cereal. Half an hour later those champion West Virginia wrestlers returned to claim their bags from a stranger in the TWA waiting area. They all said thanks.

I wonder how they knew I could be trusted to guard their luggage and trophies. Maybe that was my test. Do I get to keep the seventh dollar? ■

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