

JANUARY 1999

# CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



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## Look! No Hands

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Dear Mark . . .

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A Clear and  
Present Danger

.....

Rifles, Glue and  
Lamp Shades

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JANUARY 1999

VOLUME 46, NO. 1

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## Back to Business

**T**he National Association of Free Will Baptists has a distinguished and distinctive history. We rejoice at what God has done since we organized in 1935. We have experienced growth in a number of areas—local assemblies, district and state associations, and national agencies. As the denomination begins its 64th year, let us remember our chief obligation—extending the kingdom of God around the globe. How easy it is to get sidetracked from the main business for which we exist as a denomination. We must put aside whatever diverts, divides and detours us from our chief obligation.

### Ambassadors

As individual Christians we need to evaluate our attitudes, actions and ambitions. Where are our priorities? Each of us needs to have a *broad vision*. We need a global focus to view the work of God from a biblical perspective. God is at work in the world, and this serves as an encouragement for us to serve wherever the Lord has placed us.

Each of us needs to honor *biblical virtues*. One distinguishing characteristic of Christians is that they live distinctly different from those who do not know the Lord.

We need to hold *basic values*. Free Will Baptists are in agreement on what really matters. We practice a holy life style. We adhere to the basic values which characterize the Christian community as reflected in the scriptures. Rather than ask how my needs can be met, I need to ask how I can meet the needs of others.

### Assemblies

Every Free Will Baptist church needs to cease bickering and backbiting and get back to the business for which it exists. Local churches

provide a biblical place for individuals to serve and minister. Teaching and preaching biblical virtues and loyalty to the basic values which characterize us as a movement will exalt the Lord Jesus Christ, enlarge the church and enhance the quality of our praise and worship.

Local assemblies need to reestablish the biblical priority of fulfilling the Lord's commission to the Church. This is our chief business. Every program needs to function in the light of this priority. Churches need an outward focus. When a church refuses to see beyond its own boundaries, members began to feud with each other. The church that loses its outward focus loses the right to exist.

### Associations

District and state associations exist to provide a channel for ambassadors and assemblies to fulfill the Lord's commission to preach the gospel to every creature. It is the concept that churches can do more together than they can separately that brings into existence associations on the district and state levels.

Associations need to get back to

### The Secretary's Schedule

#### January 1999

- 12 Directors' Meeting  
Antioch, Tennessee
- 12-15 Convention Planning Trip  
Atlanta, Georgia
- 16 Louisiana District Association
- 24 Pittsburg FWB Church  
Pittsburg, Illinois
- 31 Central FWB Church  
Royal Oak, Michigan
- 31- Feb. 3 Michigan Ministers Retreat  
Howell, Michigan



Melvin Worthington

business. Rather than being an end in themselves, they need to recognize that they are channels through which ambassadors and assemblies can fulfill their world-wide obligation to evangelize all nations.

### Agencies

Ambassadors need a local church, local churches need an association, associations need a state association, and state associations need a national association which has agencies to assist them in fulfilling the biblical mandate to carry the gospel around the globe. Every agency of the National Association of Free Will Baptists exists to assist in this specific task. While some agencies are more visible than others, all have unique roles in assisting denominational constituents and organizations to fulfill the Great Commission.

The organizational structure of the National Association recognizes that in order to fulfill the Lord's commission to evangelize the world there needs to be a cooperative effort. As a denomination we are organized for world-wide outreach. This is the business of every Christian and the denominational structure provides a channel which enables each individual to fulfill Christ's command.

The International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches, organized in 1995, provides a broader channel for associations in member countries to extend Christ's Kingdom. This broad fellowship serves as an encourager and enabler for member countries.

In light of the Lord's commission to the church, Free Will Baptists need to reaffirm and recommit ourselves to world evangelism. We need to understand our chief obligation and get back to the business to which we have been called. ■

# Dear Mark . . .

By Toni Elliott

Today is Tuesday, January 7, 1997. This is the first time since the accident that I could be by myself to think. The last six days have been a total blur. Without God, I could not have made it this far. He has held my hand the entire way. No, in fact, He has carried me so I could be strong for you and the girls. . . .

You may not remember New Year's Day, but our day started off normally. We drank morning coffee together and began the day. You left to finish the floors at your parents' house. We said our goodbyes until lunch. I brought you lunch and we planned New Year's night, never dreaming what the next hours would hold.

I was home cleaning when I heard sirens and fire trucks pass the house. Cold chills came over me. I went to the phone to see if you were okay. At that instant, it rang. A frantic voice on the other end said the fire was at your parents' house.

The girls and I rushed to the car and drove as fast as I dared. We began praying that no one would be hurt. When we arrived, I was told to keep the girls inside the car. I was devastated when I saw you. My heart broke with pain and love for you.

Your skin was falling off. You were in tremendous pain, yet you were still concerned about others. What a testimony! They would not let me ride in

the ambulance. I felt so helpless.

We arrived at West Carroll Hospital within minutes. Those were the longest hours I ever spent in my entire life. There were many complications. First, you began to swell and the doctor could not insert the breathing tube in your throat. Second, the proper medication could not be found, and third, fog set in and you could not be airlifted to the burn center in Greenville, Mississippi.

We finally raced 60 miles by ambulance to the burn center. I begged the driver to let me ride with them. He agreed. I prayed as you struggled for your life.

A doctor at the burn center told us you had a 50/50 chance. You were burned over 72% of your body with second and third degree burns. He said if you made it through the night, we were looking at four months in the burn center, if there were no complications. I knew you were in God's hands, but I still hurt so inside.

We were allowed to see you that

**"Man on Fire"  
revisited. Two years  
ago on January 1,  
1997, Mark Elliott  
was severely burned  
in a devastating  
New Year's Day fire.  
For the first time in  
print, here is the  
story behind the  
story told in the  
words of Mark and  
his wife, Toni.**

night. You were wrapped from head to toe and swollen twice your normal size. You were on the ventilator with 15-20 tubes running everywhere. We could smell your burned flesh. I tried to prepare the girls, but they were overwhelmed and had to leave the room.

The doctor told us we could not cry or get upset in your room, because you would sense it even though you were heavily sedated and in a coma. When we visited, we read the Bible to you and sang songs.

Minutes turned to hours which turned into days, weeks, months and now over a year. I started trying to take one day at a time. I realized I could not hold up one day at a time. Then I tried one hour at a time, and that did not work either. I had to depend on God and take one minute at a time. I relied heavily on Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

The telephone rang non-stop. Family support and Christian friends came

(continued on page 6)

**O**n January 1, 1997, I was in an explosion where fumes from a sealer I was applying to wood flooring burst into a 2,000-degree flash fire. I was fortunate that I saw the flames and was near enough to the door to attempt an escape. I knew when I saw the flames I was in trouble. I had to run through the fire if I were to escape alive. Those few seconds to respond were God's gift of life to me.

I recently discovered that just prior to the explosion, *Contact* editor Jack Williams had an unction from the Holy Spirit to pray for me as he worked in his office that New Year's Day. God was preparing the hearts of His people because a child of His was about to face the trial of his life.

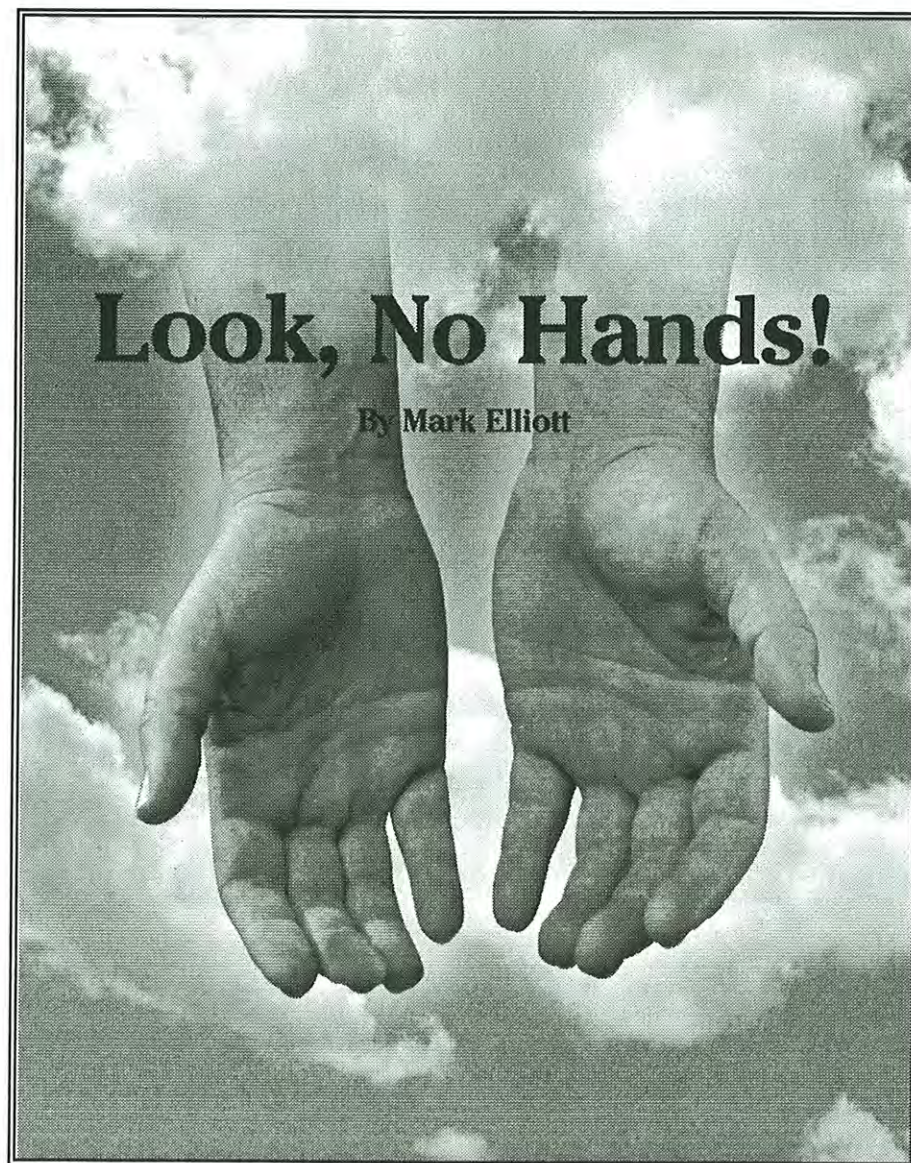
I ran through the fire, down the hallway, through the foyer and out the open front doors. I rolled in the yard for about 30 feet and then stood up. I felt the most horrific pain, every cell screamed. I could not escape it. I could not just close my eyes and forget it. I was in torment.

I cried out, "Please, dear God, don't let my face be scarred." I looked at my hands and all the skin was burst open like wieners on a really hot grill. I was burned over 72% of my body. I spent 78 days in an intensive care burn unit, and then two more months at the hospital. I have had 25 surgeries with more to go.

The accident left me with many scars, but the worst damage was to my hands. I have a right hand with the little finger and part of the hand removed to the wrist. It was completely skin grafted on the top side. On May 1, 1997, a lot of the bone had to be removed because of staph infection. Many in the medical field tell me that I am fortunate to be alive. The fingers and thumb are fixed with screws and metal plates. The hand specialist says it will remain a helper with little practical use.

The left hand remains the better one. The little finger was recently removed half-way. I have limited use of the left hand for which I am thankful. My fingerprints were burned off, which seems insignificant until trying to pick up something.

I've had to get accustomed to living without hands for the past two years. To pastor a church, teach special edu-



cation, be a husband and a father to two teenagers, and maintain a jail ministry has not been a small task. You might ask like the TV show, "How'd They Do That?" Yes, it has been "they." It has taken a lot of getting used to the idea of "they" helping me.

I was 6'3", 235 pounds and independent before the accident. I am still 6'3", 235 pounds and for the most part feel as helpless as a baby. I am now dependent on people, especially my wife. She has truly been a helpmate through it all. Never complaining, never growing weary in well doing, abounding with endless energy, love, devotion and a strong commitment to her wedding vows, in sickness and in health, for better, for worse.

Neither of us dreamed that at age 37 I would be so physically challenged. I took care of most physical tasks around the house, school and church.

Now I can't drive, write my sermons, dress myself, tie my shoes, mow the yard or do other normal activities I once did. However, God has surrounded me with loving and caring people who have helped me bear this burden.

I am very self-conscious about my physical appearance, especially my hands. I can not count the times I have noticed people staring at me. I walked into my wife's fourth-grade class and one student said, "Oh, gross!" Many times children have actually run from me.

The most common problem I face is that people will not shake hands with me anymore. They want to grab my wrist instead. I wear splints on my hands and get a odd looks when out in public. I probably will never be able to wear my wedding band again because of skin grafts and my en-

*Dear Mark . . . (continued from page 4)*

from everywhere. Our Free Will Baptist denomination is fantastic. Prayers from all over the world lifted you up.

One of my hardest times came the day the girls returned to school. I had already decided I was not leaving your side. I knew their lives had to go on as normally as possible. As they drove away, I thought I would die. You were in the burn center and I could see you only at 12:00, 4:00 and 8:00 for 30 minutes each time. I felt so alone. Yet it seemed that God put His arms around me and said, "I'm here!"

One day I went to a pity party. My own. I told everyone I wanted to be by myself. I went to my room at the Lighthouse behind the hospital and locked the doors. I cried and cried and cried some more. I felt so sorry for myself. I began pleading with God, "Please let me hear from Mark." I kept saying, "If only I could hear you say, 'I love you,' one more time, or anything, just something." After several hours of crying and praying, a peace came over me.

I began preparing lesson plans for my substitute for the next week. As I pulled out my plan book, an envelope fell to the floor. I recognized the handwriting: Your handwriting! My heart almost stopped. It was a letter you had

written to me on our anniversary (Nov. 10). As I picked it up and began to read, it was as if God's voice said, "Well, you asked. Here it is!" Mark, you spoke to me through your letter when I needed it the most.

Surgeries began. You did a little better each day until January 18. Your fever went to 108, your blood sugar went over 500, your heart was racing, your blood pressure was high, and your kidneys were not functioning as they should. The girls and I were sent out of your room. I could hear nurses yelling and running to your room. I knew something was terribly wrong. We went to the chapel and began to pray. The doctor could not be found. He did not answer his pager or telephone, nor could the nurses find him at the hospital. Again we prayed.

When Dr. Love finally arrived and examined you, he said he could not guarantee that you would make it through the night. I was not allowed to stay in your room or the hospital for security reasons; I went back to my room at the Lighthouse. The doctor promised if he needed me he would call.

I clung to Isaiah 41:10, "Fear thou not, for I am with thee, be not dismayed, for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee. Yea, I will help thee,

yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

I tried to sleep, but about 1:00 a.m. there was a knock at my door. I froze. Two nurses were at the door and said Dr. Love needed to see me. I was so scared. I ran to the hospital. Dr. Love told me you were a little better. I knew in my heart that God would take care of you, me and the girls.

The Big Day arrived! We were out of the burn center after 78 days of intensive care, out of the Lighthouse after five months, and headed home to be with our girls. We would finally be a family again.

Through all of this I am certain that God has been with our family the entire way. No matter what the devil may dish out to us, wherever we may go, whatever good or bad decisions we make, God is with us. He loves us, forgives us of our failures and forgets our past sins.

Mark, you are a walking miracle! And I love you very much. ■

.....  
ABOUT THE WRITER: Toni (Mrs. Mark) Elliott teaches fourth grade at Forest High School in Forest, Louisiana.

*Look, No Hands! (continued from page 5)*

larged knuckles (due to scar tissue).

I told my wife that I wish I could get to the point that people would stop asking me what happened. She said, "Maybe this is God's plan so you can witness to them."

I do get tired, depressed, overcome with self-pity, feel helpless and cry myself to sleep from time to time. However, my wife refused to let me get wrinkles from soaking in self-pity. Having no hands is certainly a challenge, but it is not the end of the world for me.

As children, our ultimate goal was to ride our bikes with no hands. We thought this would somehow transform us in the sight of other kids. It seemed to be a rite of passage into adulthood. When you could ride with no hands, you knew you were no longer immature. You had overcome the great obstacle, fear. You were not afraid of the tribulations

(bruises, skinned knees, failed attempts) or the number of times it took to ride hands-free.

I can now see a boy who finally rides without hands and shouts with a loud voice and huge smile, "Look, no hands!"

Paul stated in Romans 5:3, "... we glory in tribulations." I compare this to children riding bikes with no hands. They glory in tribulations so they can be victorious. Life itself teaches us the greater the difficulty of the task, the greater the applause and approval.

The child glories in tribulation to walk.

The teenager glories in tribulation to graduate from high school.

The college student glories in tribulation to finish college.

The mother glories in tribulation to give birth.

The missionary glories in tribula-

tion to win souls.

The athlete glories in tribulation to win the game.

Paul states, "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things," (1 Cor. 13:11).

I am beginning to learn what it is to become a man. Now it's my turn to ride the bike with no hands. Pray for me. I want to smile while looking back and be able to shout for God's glory, "Look, no hands!" ■

.....  
ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Mark Elliott pastors Corbin Ferry Free Will Baptist Church near Forest, Louisiana.

*Editor's Note: For a fuller explanation about the accident that injured Pastor Elliott, see "Man on Fire!" in the January 1998 issue of Contact.*

**A significant religious experience.**

## **“Got Plans for Easter?”**

**By Joanne Less**

**H**aving been a high school teacher in Royal Oak, Michigan, for 30 years, I enjoyed countless gratifying and deeply satisfying experiences. Teaching children is a rewarding profession. Yet how often have I reflected upon my experiences with this truism: The teacher becomes the learner through her daily contact with children.

Learning . . . The search for truth has been a dominant motivator throughout my life. Not along conventional paths, my search was sometimes circuitous, certainly it was diverse.

In my early teens Mother enrolled me in a Sunday School class of the Christian Science faith. Later in college I became interested in philosophy. Studying the major philosophers, Kant, Hegel, Schopenhauer and others, I sought answers. I attended the Unitarian church and later joined that fellowship.

However, after college I came to Royal Oak and began a career teaching language, literature and writing to high school sophomores and seniors. Church attendance did not seem important; I was drifting. Until one spring day in 1977 . . .

As was my custom when students were giving oral reports, I sat at the back of the room, a member of the audience. The class period was nearly over, speeches concluded. I was finishing up my notes and assigning grades to those who had given their speeches. Seated nearby was Ruth, a sophomore in the honors English class. When I looked up, she asked, “Do you have special plans for the Easter vacation?”

“My mother who resides in a nursing home in Ohio will be visiting me for a week,” I told her. “We will

be eating out several times, one of her few pleasures. I was thinking, too, it might be nice if I knew of a church where we could attend Easter services. One with a ramp to the entrance since Mother uses a walker.”

Eagerly, Ruth informed me that her church had a ramp for those who could not manage the stairs. She made sure I knew where the church was located in Royal Oak. Easter fell late in April that year. A beautiful sunny day, the weather was mild, as if inviting us to venture out.

“Would you like to attend Easter services, Mother?” I told her about the conversation I had had with Ruth, her reassurance that the ramp would make it easy for her to use the walker and gain entrance.

During that church service my senses were suddenly awakened to the minister’s voice, the earnestness of his message:

For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only begotten  
Son, that whosoever believeth  
in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.

The passage from John 3:16 was all too familiar, but this time I felt a deep stirring in my heart. For days and weeks following our church visit, I wrestled with my thoughts—so diverse, the long search for truth. And now?

Behold I stand at the door  
and knock: If any man  
hear my voice, and open  
the door, I will come in  
to him, and will sup  
with him, and he with me.  
(Rev. 3:20)

That stirring, that awakening of thoughts long dormant led to several talks between the minister and me. There were questions I had, probing

and challenging this fundamentalist preacher. But always his counseling focused on Jesus Christ, the Great Physician, the only One through whom God’s redemptive plan of salvation frees us from our sinful natures.

Herein is love, not that  
we loved God, but that  
He loved us, and sent his  
Son to be the propitiation  
for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

The following September I had settled the questions once and for all. Standing before the church congregation one Sunday morning, I made a confession of faith. Providentially, ever since, my life has been lived in submission to God’s will for me. He meets my every need day by day. The truth is, to quote the Apostle Paul who wrote in his letter to the Philippians,

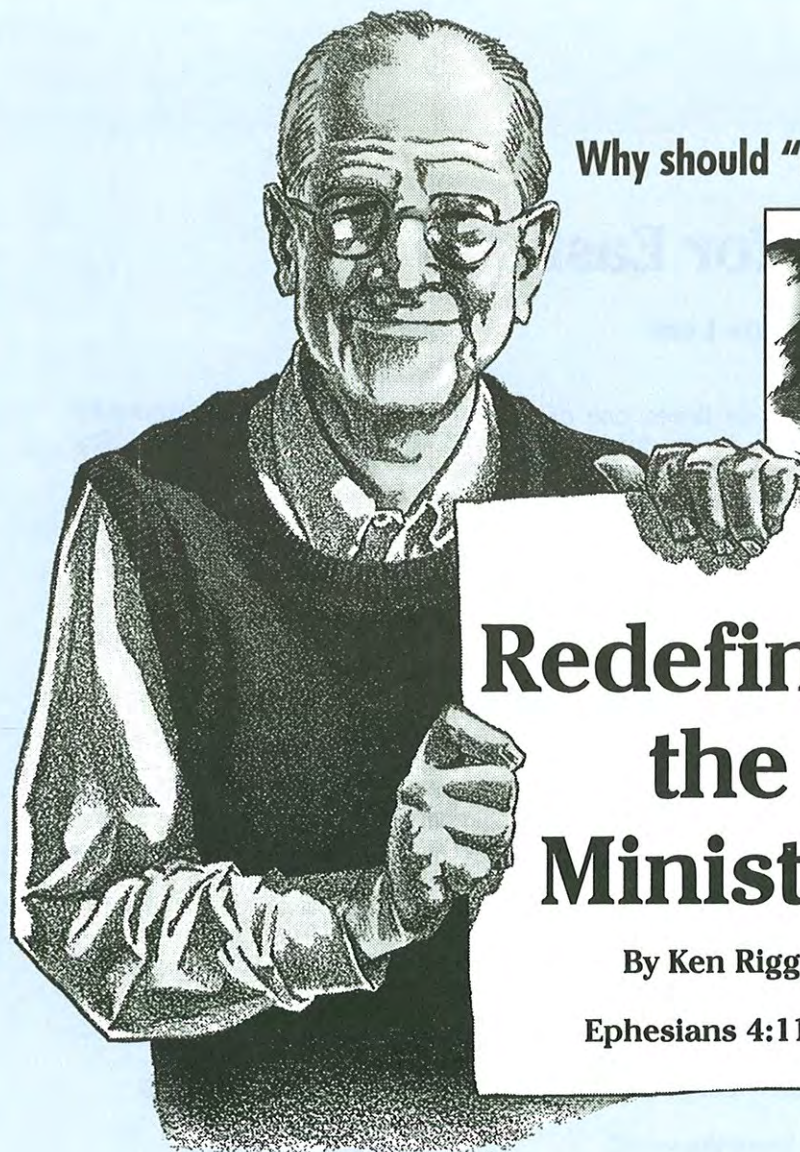
My God shall supply  
All your needs according  
to his riches in glory  
by Christ Jesus.  
(Phil. 4:19)

You may be wondering about that teenager, Ruth, who was instrumental in bringing about the transformation in my spiritual life. She was the pastor’s daughter. Her father is Reverend Milton Worthington. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Joanne Less is a member of Central Free Will Baptist Church in Royal Oak, Michigan.

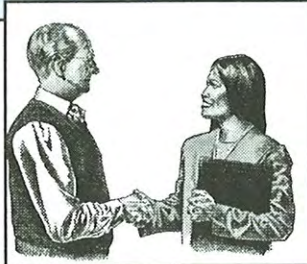
Why should "ministry" be limited to ordained clergy?



# Redefining the Ministry

By Ken Riggs

Ephesians 4:11-13



**W**hen you hear the word "ministry," what do you think? Many of us have a church background, were raised in church and have heard the word "ministry" frequently, but what does it really mean? Is it something that only preachers and missionaries do? Is it something that is only done in a spiritual context, such as at church? Is it possible to minister outside the four walls of the church? I honestly believe it is time for believers to redefine what the ministry is all about.

In the first two chapters of Genesis, God created the world and pronounced everything He made good. God made man and from man made a woman. In their original creation, they were perfect and without sin. In their original creation, they were told to subdue the earth, till the ground, have children, and take dominion over the earth and the animal kingdom.

However, Genesis 3 gives a different picture. Sin comes on the scene. The devil convinced Adam and Eve they could be just like God, or perhaps become gods themselves. Everything then changed. Mankind lost control over the earth; work was no longer enjoyable; bearing children became a literal pain; the earth itself was cursed and produced thorns; man began to work by the sweat of his brow and became separated from a holy God.

Matthew 4 and Luke 4 continue that kind of picture

when the devil tried to get Jesus to worship him. The devil even boasted about the fact that he was in control of everything. He even told Jesus He could have the world and everything in it if He would worship him. Quite a change. Before sin it was perfection; after sin it is perdition!

Have you ever wondered what would have happened if Adam and Eve had not sinned? What would the world be like without sin? Art, music and culture would have never deteriorated to what it is; it would have been good and wholesome. Language, society and humor would be clean and decent; politics, athletics, movies, printing, and law would be just, honest and fair. Get the picture?

Everything that now bothers us would not be bothering us. Life would have continued to be a perpetual Garden of Eden, but note that even before Adam and Eve sinned, they were busy, industrious and creative. In other words, before they sinned, everything they did was in praise and adoration to God. It could not have been any other way.

But the fact is, Adam and Eve did sin, and from that time to this, mankind and his surroundings have been going down hill. The devil has been successful in taking over the affairs of mankind. The devil boasts about the fact that he is in control of everything.

The devil said to Jesus, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give

it to whomever I wish" (Lk. 4:6)

But note the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on the earth . . ." (Matt. 28:18). In other words, Jesus is saying, "I have come to take it back! What has belonged to the devil is now mine!" Note carefully the next words. We call them the Great Commission. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations . . ." (Matt. 28:19).

What is He saying? He is telling us to go and tell people that when they come to Him, He will give them the ability to make wonderful, beautiful and glorious what the devil has made profane, filthy and vulgar. He is in the house and He is in charge. This earth is not the devil's but God's. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof . . .," says David.

For too long we have limited the Great Commission. Yes, it involves evangelism; yes, it involves soul winning. I firmly believe and practice both of them. I also believe one of the reasons we are not seeing evangelism and soul winning flourish is because we have forgotten, or perhaps have never known, what else the Great Commission involves. Because of the Great Commission, we have been given marching orders to not only evangelize but to do anything and everything to the glory, praise and honor of Jesus Christ. It is at this point that we need to redefine the "ministry," and its proper context within the church.

### Four Negative Aspects

By showing the negatives, I am referring to those things that we actually do, and have even thought we were doing the right thing, while in reality we may have been mistaken.

#### Wrong Concepts

We have thought and practiced the attitude that going to church was the equivalent of being a Christian. That may seem harsh and we may want to deny it, but I guarantee that many who attend church think they have fulfilled their responsibility. Church is something they do. Church is someplace they go. They do and go but don't realize that church is not just what you do and where you go. Church is actually where you go to be refreshed, inspired and trained to do whatever work it is that you are doing. Church is where you go to receive the energy and the instruction to be the best Christian you can possibly be on your job. Church, in the truest sense, is what you are.

It has been said by others that we have succeeded in getting people to "DO" church. They know what to do. They know how to act. Many of us have become quite professional at it. We know what to say and how to say it. We know how to look. We know when to sit, when to stand. We know what is expected and what is accepted. For too many, once they leave the location of the church, it has little, if any, impact on what they do the rest of the week. Too many do not consider what they are doing as a "ministry."

#### Conformity vs. Conversion

We have equated conformity with conversion. If you doubt this, watch what happens in your mind when you see someone, even in church, who does not have the same set of standards and values that you have. You may

not know them, but if they dress differently than what your standards allow, you assume they are not saved. On the other hand, if they look good, have the length of hair and skirt hem that you think is appropriate, you assume they could be a Christian. How tragic!

Some of the most popular cults in the world look like good Christians but they are not. I fear that sometimes we are more concerned with an outward appearance than we are with an inward relationship. Do not get me wrong. Christians should be careful of their attire, but I do not believe for a minute that conforming to a set of rules, regulations or dress codes is the same as conversion.

### Unbiblical Distinctions

We have highlighted some ministries and ignored others. I am an ordained minister of the Gospel. I believe in a divine call. (I can assure you, if I did not feel the call of God, I would have given up a long time ago.) Being an ordained minister does not give me any special advantages. I am no better than others. I am a Christian first, and being a Christian demands that I do everything and anything to the glory of Christ.

I recognize that some of this may have happened because we make a distinction between "full-time ministry" and "part-time ministry." I am a full-time pastor and receive a salary from the church I serve. Does that make me any better than those who are employed elsewhere? Is it not just as appropriate for others to serve the Lord with all their being even though they may receive a paycheck from a secular world?

A former colleague of mine referred to this as ministry with a capital "M" and ministry with a small "m." The capital "M" refers to those engaged in a ministry as a livelihood while the small "m" refers to those whose livelihood comes from other sources.

I do not believe the Bible makes a distinction between those whose livelihood is paid by the church and those who are supported by other means. I have been in situations where a person may have sensed a call of God to preach or go to a mission field and they are bragged on for being sensitive to the leading of the Lord. Yet those who do not feel such a leading, but are serving the Lord just as faithfully are seldom bragged on or encouraged. Too often they are criticized for not choosing a professional ministry, or a ministry with a capital "M."

Let's face it, if everyone entered a full-time ministry, who would we serve? If every member of a congregation was a full-time pastor, who would be in the congregation?

### Confusion about the Kingdom

We have equated the church with the kingdom. The church is not the kingdom and the kingdom is not the church. The church is where believers come to be trained, inspired, and encouraged. The kingdom is where we work. Someone said it like this: *the church is the locker room; the kingdom is the playing field.*

For too long we have thought, and maybe even taught, that all a believer has to do is come to church. Be faithful to the services, the doctrines and the policies of the church and everything will be okay. All that does is keep us within

four walls. We are to be "... in the world ...," the kingdom, without being "... of the world ...". One of the greatest miracles of all is the fact that Christ can keep us from the worldly systems while at the same time giving us opportunities to influence others to get out of that system.

### Six Positive Aspects

Let me suggest six practical principles about how we should view the ministry. If you have not read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, you must! Briefly, note two basic observations: (1) there are a variety of ways to serve, and (2) there is one common denominator. The variety of ways to serve is referred to as (a) "... different kinds of gifts ...", (b) "... different kinds of service ...", and (c) "... different kinds of working ...". The common denominator is stated in three different ways but it is actually only one: (a) "... the same Spirit ..."; (b) "... the same Lord ..."; and (c) "... the same God."

### *Know the Lord and Know That You Know the Lord*

It should be obvious that only those who know the Lord can actually serve Him. What does it mean to know the Lord and know that you know Him? It means that you have had a conversion experience; it means that you have an ongoing, growing relationship with Him; it means that you know more about Him than you did when you were first converted.

I am convinced there are many good believers who know they are saved, have a growing relationship with Him but have never come to grips with the fact that what they do as a means of making an income is also their ministry. In too many cases, it's because they have assumed the "ministry" meant you were a preacher or a missionary. They should not be blamed for that, however. They have learned that!

It may not have been intentional, but for too long the church has left that impression. If you doubt that, ask those young people who do not go to a Christian college if they are preparing for a ministry. Ask those Christian teachers who are teaching in the secular world if they consider their teaching a ministry. Ask those in the church who have secular jobs if they realize what they are doing is a ministry. Some will recognize what they do as a ministry, but the vast majority will not.

### *Be Connected to the Church*

I believe in the local church. I believe that every born-again Christian should become affiliated with a good Bible-believing church. I am suspicious of people who claim to have a ministry but are not part of a local church. There are other organizations outside the church that are valid ministries, but I still believe every believer needs to be connected to a local church. It is the local church that gives you fellowship, accountability and responsibility. Remember, the church is not the kingdom and the kingdom is not the church. The church is where we receive the strength to do the work we are called to do in the kingdom.

### *Do What You Do as a Calling and an Anointing of God*

To hear some speakers you would think that only preachers have the Holy Spirit. The Bible clearly teaches

there is no group of people who has a monopoly on the Holy Spirit. There is no such thing as a Holy Spirit Elite Club. Every believer has the Holy Spirit. Every believer has the indwelling potential to do great works for God. The working of the Holy Spirit is not confined to things that are just spiritual. The church should be praying for a scientist who is a Christian to discover a cure for cancer. The church should be praying for a generation of political science students to be Spirit-filled. The church should be praying for writers to write books, novels, plays and films that will glorify the Lord.

Not only should the church be praying for new generations to come on the scene with this attitude, the church should be praying for those who are presently seeking to use their abilities as a ministry. Have we prayed for professional football player Reggie White who has not been afraid to speak out against homosexuality? Have we prayed for elected officials in Washington who are not afraid to let their faith be known? Have we prayed for cartoonist Johnny Hart as he writes his "Wizard Of Oz" series? Have we prayed for Christian musicians in the broad field of music as they seek to use that medium as a ministry?

Go back to the book of Genesis. Before the fall and the entrance of sin, Adam and Eve were instructed to be creative, to be industrious. I firmly believe if Adam and Eve had not sinned, every area of life today would be a glorious tribute to God. Art, literature, music, politics, education, science and a host of others you could name would be bringing praise and adoration to the God of all creation. Are we so blind that we think when the Bible says we are to do everything "... heartily as unto Him ..." that it means only those things that we classify as being spiritual?

### *Never Let What You Do Be Done in a Shoddy Way*

I remember grading a paper for a student of mine. His spelling and grammar left much to be desired. When I gave his paper back he was shocked that I had given him a low grade. That was bad enough, but then he said, "Why did you mark off for spelling and grammar? You're not the English teacher." He had failed to get the concept that everything a Christian does should be the very best.

Whatever a Christian does should be the very best. That does not mean we should develop an attitude of perfection in the sense that we are never satisfied, but it does mean we should constantly be striving for excellence.

One of the highlights of my life was when I served on the faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College. While I served as Director of Student Teaching, one of my responsibilities was assigning students to various schools in Nashville for student teaching. One of those schools was the Akiva School, the Jewish school located behind the College.

I remember telling my students this: "You are not going to Akiva to evangelize. You are going to put into practice what you have been taught in the classroom. We are being allowed to use their facility and we must respect their religious differences."

Later on in that year, the Rabbi called me in for a conference. One of the young ladies from the college had a cross on her graduation ring. The Rabbi asked me to tell the young lady to not wear the ring when she was in the classroom.

Both the young lady and I complied with his request. Was that a compromise? I think not. It was showing respect.

I believe in personal soul winning but when a person is hired to do a job, their main responsibility is to give eight hours of the best work they can. The soul winning should be an outgrowth of the excellence on the job. Try not doing a good job and see how far you get in trying to win your boss to the Lord. Try doing a good job, and even going the extra mile and see if that does not make a better impression. Try witnessing to your waitress at your favorite restaurant without leaving her an appropriate tip and see how far you get in telling her about Christ. Lousy employees make for ineffective soul winners, and cheap tippers cheapen the gospel.

### *Have the Proper Ambition*

There are two kinds of ambition. One is that which is based on the teachings of the Bible and is wholesome, holy and pure. The other one seeks only for the approval and praise of others. Let your imagination go for a moment. What would happen where you work if you told your boss you had been praying for him and asking the Lord to give him direction and wisdom. What would happen if your boss knew you were sincerely interested in the growth of his company? What would happen if he knew you were more interested in the success of his company than you were in your own personal success? You get the picture.

The ministry God has given you is to be for the glory of the Lord and the edification of others. Guard yourself against using your ministry as a stepping stone for something else. That does not mean God will not lead you to something else, but just be sure it's God who is doing the leading instead of selfish ambition.

### *Be Constantly Renewed in Your Spirit*

Not every one has the privilege of being around Christian people all the time. I have worked in the secular world. I have worked in construction. I have worked in the print shop. I have been around those whose language is not always clean. This is again one of the reasons for being faith-

ful to your local church. You need the church for that continual cleansing that comes from the Word of God.

When you work in the secular world, you need a constant habit of reading the Bible. The world is not always a friend to grace nor to your Christian life style. Another miracle of Christianity is the fact that you can be in the world without becoming part of it, but I must be honest and say, you have to work at it. You must make a conscious decision and effort to keep yourself clean, but it can be done.

Let's go back to the beginning. The great commission is not limited to just soul winning. A part of the great commission is the fact that all believers have a responsibility to share their faith with others, but it's also the responsibility of the church to help others see that everything they do is to be done for the glory of the Lord.

Jesus said, "... go and disciple others..." The word "disciple" in this sense is not a noun but a verb. As a verb it refers to something I am to be doing. To disciple others carries the idea of teaching. The church has an obligation to teach every believer that in whatever field of work they are involved in is a ministry. One missionary of days gone by said it like this: "I'm a missionary by profession, but I repair shoes to pay the expenses." All believers are ministers first and their means of employment is the way they pay their bills. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Ken Riggs pastors West Meade Fellowship in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He taught 23 years at the college, chairing the education department for 18 years.

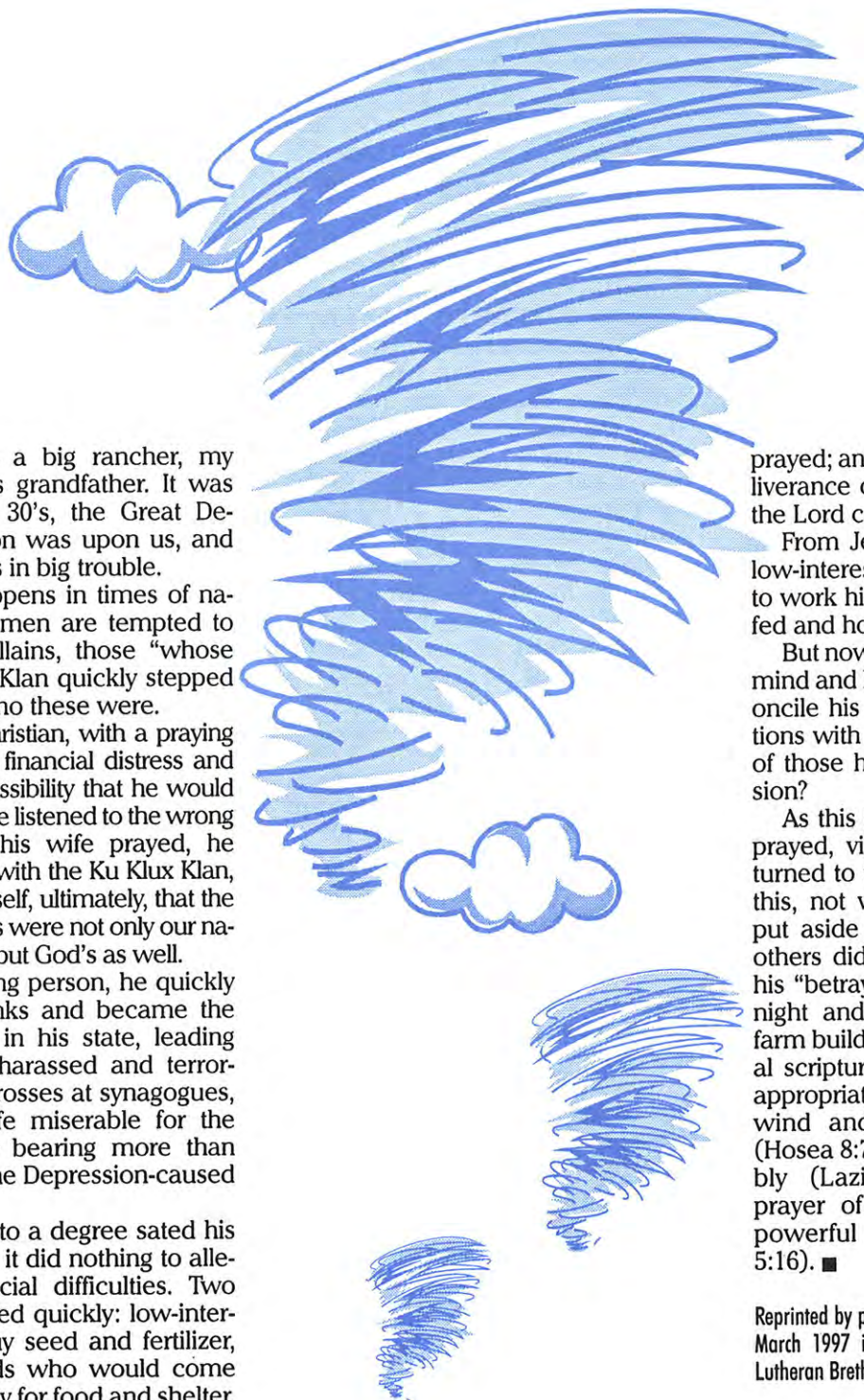
## BEYOND BELIEF



He turned to the Klan. She turned to prayer.

## Reaping the Whirlwind

By Ted Lazicki



**H**e was a big rancher, my friend's grandfather. It was in the 30's, the Great Depression was upon us, and he was in big trouble.

As often happens in times of national distress, men are tempted to look for the villains, those "whose fault it is." The Klan quickly stepped in to point at who these were.

He was a Christian, with a praying wife; but in his financial distress and the very real possibility that he would lose his ranch, he listened to the wrong voices. While his wife prayed, he threw his lot in with the Ku Klux Klan, convincing himself, ultimately, that the Jews and Blacks were not only our nation's enemies, but God's as well.

Being a strong person, he quickly rose in the ranks and became the Grand Dragon in his state, leading them as they harassed and terrorized, burning crosses at synagogues, and making life miserable for the Blacks already bearing more than their share of the Depression-caused deprivation.

Though this to a degree sated his thirst for blood, it did nothing to alleviate his financial difficulties. Two things he needed quickly: low-interest loans to buy seed and fertilizer, and farm hands who would come and work simply for food and shelter. While he agonized over this, his wife

prayed; and with exquisite irony, deliverance came, a deliverance only the Lord could have fashioned.

From Jewish bankers came the low-interest loans, and Blacks came to work his fields, asking only to be fed and housed.

But now a new agony gripped his mind and heart—how could he reconcile his past convictions and actions with deliverance at the hands of those he had hated with a passion?

As this battle raged and his wife prayed, victory came—and he returned to the God of his youth. But this, not without pain. Though he put aside his torch and his hood, others did not; and in revenge for his "betrayal," they came one dark night and burned his house and farm buildings to the ground. Several scripture texts seem particularly appropriate here: "They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind," (Hosea 8:7); but a better one, possibly (Lazicki paraphrase), "The prayer of a righteous woman is powerful and effective," (James 5:16). ■

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# FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

## International Fellowship Meets in Uruguay



Delegates and Observers at 1998 International Fellowship.

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY—The second triennial gathering of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches (IFOFWBC) met October 12-16, 1998, in Uruguay for business and fellowship. Secretary-Treasurer Melvin Worthington (USA) said that 32 delegates and observers from nine countries met for the five-day conclave.

The IFOFWBC Executive Committee met October 8 preceding the triennial session to prepare budgets and finalize recommendations for the General Assembly. President John Poole (Brazil) presided.

Some 100 people joined in opening worship services Monday evening at Camp Villa Bautista in La Tuna, about 45 miles from Montevideo. Attendees came from Cuba, Spain, Mexico, France, Panama, Brazil, Japan, Uruguay and the United States of America.

Three speakers developed the theme, *The Church, Culture, Cus-*

*toms*. James Forlines (USA) spoke on the *Church*, Jimmy Aldridge (USA) spoke on *Culture*, and Jean Carlo Ache (Brazil) spoke on *Customs*. Following the presentations, delegates and observers spent each morning discussing the three areas.

Afternoon sessions were devoted to IFOFWBC business. Delegates approved the IFOFWBC poster, logo, colors, letterhead, envelope, organizational chart, bylaws, membership application form and procedure, three-month and annual reporting forms, contents of the IFOFWBC *Handbook* and newsletter, *The Free Will Baptist International Journal*. Delegates also approved procedures to use in promoting the IFOFWBC, guidelines for countries which host the General Assembly meeting, and translators for the contents of the IFOFWBC *Handbook*.

Delegates authorized the Executive Committee to design a

membership certificate, and develop and prepare a covenant agreement for member countries to be presented for consideration at the 2001 General Assembly meeting. Delegates adopted a three-year budget (1999-2001) totaling \$8,640. The budget calls for each member country to contribute \$20 per month.

Morning sessions began with a devotion, evening sessions concluded with a sermon. The climax of the meeting was the observance of the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing.

The next General Assembly meeting will meet in the United States of America on October 8-12, 2001. The Executive Committee will meet October 5-6. Executive Committee members elected for three-year terms are John Poole, president; Daniel Dorath, vice president; Melvin Worthington, secretary/treasurer.

## Church Sponsors Child Abuse Seminar

NASHVILLE, TN—Sixty-five people attended a two-hour child sex-abuse seminar sponsored by Cross Timbers FWB Church in Nashville, according to media spokesman Fay Forlines. The October 12, 1998, seminar took a year to plan, advertise and prepare materials.

A panel of six resource persons participated in the event. All six are members of Cross Timbers Church with three holding doctorates in psychology. Drs. Peter Wilson, Brad Thomas and Jon Forlines were joined by public school psychologist Shawn Hartzog, registered nurse Barbara Bilbrey and seminar chairman Leroy Forlines.

Pastor Paul Harrison called the seminar a smashing

success and was pleased with response by attendees. The seminar was free to the public and was advertised on local radio and television stations.



(L) Barbara Bilbrey, Jon Forlines, Paul Harrison, Brad Thomas, Leroy Forlines, Shawn Hartzog.

Written comments about the seminar indicated that the results were worth the effort: "Knowledgeable speakers; all very informative, well-researched; timeliness of the subject; the caring attitude of the presenters; questions and answers."

Dr. Fay Forlines said, "The seminar happened for a reason. God allowed a half-dozen people intensely interested in helping hurting people to come together in one church. They could have

chosen to be cooperative or competitive. They chose to be cooperative, thereby multiplying their effectiveness for Christ and His cause."

## Oklahoma Adopts \$3.9 Million Budget

GLENPOOL, OK—Delegates to Oklahoma's 90th annual state association adopted a \$3.9 million budget on Thursday morning of their October 12-15, 1998, meeting which convened at Faith FWB Church in Glenpool. The largest budget in the history of the state work included \$410,000 in Cooperative Plan funds and a \$2 million budget for Hillsdale FWB College, as well as a \$1.2 million state mission budget.

The unrestricted Cooperative Plan funds will be allocated according to the following percentages: Hillsdale College (33%), National Ministries (24%), State Executive Office (22%), State Mission Department (15%), C. E. Department (6%).

Clerk Keith Burden reported that 378 registered for the association, although more than twice that number attended evening worship services. Registered attendees included 136 ministers, 41 lay delegates, 20 deacons, 21 missionaries and 160 visitors.

Delegates approved a constitutional change concerning the executive secretary's title. That office will now be called "executive director." Ernest Harrison, Jr., succeeds Jack Richey as the state's promotional officer.

In other action, delegates authorized Hillsdale College to initiate a \$2.9 million capital stewardship program to raise funds for construction of a 41,000-square-foot, chapel-conference complex. The proposed structure will seat 1,000 and include class-

rooms as well as a commercial kitchen.

Delegates also approved a "Pastor's Retirement Plan" for pastors whose churches participate in the Cooperative Plan. The plan allows five percent of unrestricted cooperative funds to be placed in the pastor's retirement account through the Free Will Baptist national retirement program.

Moderator David McDougal was elected to his fifth term. A special plaque was given to Pastor Homer Young by the Mission Board for leading the El Reno mission work to full-time status.

Four ministers preached sermons on the association theme, "The Word of God." The four ministers were Glenn Lewis (First Church, Pryor), Lewis Perry (Stratford Church), Jack Richey and Glenn Hood (Blue Bell Church, Sapulpa).

Some 167 people attended the Tuesday Ministers Conference to hear three sermons on the theme, "The Cross and the Believer's Life." The three speakers were Albert Jarrett (McAlester), Paskel Bevan (Seminole) and Doug Carey (Twin Oaks).

The State Mission Department sponsored a 90-minute Missions Forum Monday afternoon to answer questions regarding Oklahoma's Total Support Program (TSP).

The 1999 state association will meet October 11-14 at First FWB Church in Norman.

## California Christian College President Resigns

FRESNO, CA—The president of California Christian College resigned after 13 years and will turn his full-time attention to pastoral duties, according to John Smith, chairman of the CCC Board of Trustees. Reverend James McAllister, president since June 1986, will leave the college after commencement exercises in May, and work exclusively as pastor of Harmony FWB Church in Fresno.

For the past 13 years, McAllister has served in the dual role as college president and pastor.

Brother McAllister has pastored 42 years in three states—Kansas, Missouri and California.



Widely used in church-growth and evangelism conferences, he also served as moderator of the Missouri State Association, and on the national Home Missions

Board. He has organized four churches.

Board Chairman John Smith said, "He [McAllister] will be available as a resource person for the new president during the next year. Both CCC and Harmony Church have enjoyed record growth during these past 13 years. We pray for God's continued blessing for Brother Jim."

The Board of Trustees has begun the search for a new president. Applications and suggestions may be mailed to:

**Rev. Shelby Farmer**  
3933 North Merced Avenue  
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

## Cason Reaches 50-Year Ministry



MOREHEAD CITY, NC—Dr. Mance Cason, pastor of First FWB Church in Morehead City, marked 50 years in the ministry during a special celebration on October 11, 1998. Church members and friends hosted a reception after the morning worship

service to salute his ministry.

Activities included a time of tribute from members and family. Letters of commendation were read from friends across the denomination, as well as a brief history of Dr. Cason's life. The church then gave him a plaque of appreciation and a gift certificate.

Cason, a native of Cordele, Georgia, was ordained to preach in 1948. In addition to pastoral duties, he has been active in the broader denominational work. Dr. Cason served eight years as Georgia's executive secretary (1961-69).

He is a past president of Georgia Bible Institute. He chaired both the Georgia Christian Education Board and state Bookstore Committee. He worked 25

years in youth camp. He moved to Morehead City in 1986 to pastor First FWB Church.

Brother Cason is active in his district and state associations. He served eight years on the Habitat for Humanity's Family Selection Committee. He also was president of the Carteret County Ministerial Association.

Twelve men have answered the call to preach under Cason's ministry, including his two sons. One son (Rick) pastors Victory FWB Church in Goldsboro; another son (Reuben) pastors Canton FWB Church.

Dr. Cason is an alumnus of Norman Park College, Georgia Bible Institute and Free Will Baptist Bible College.

**Coming Next Month . . .**  
**Pictures and Reports on the**  
**1998 Leadership Conference**

## 51 Attend Theology Symposium

NASHVILLE, TN—The third annual Free Will Baptist Theology Symposium met November 6-7, 1998, at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Symposium spokesman Daryl Ellis said that 51 people attended the two-day event to hear 10 papers presented on a wide variety of subjects.

The presenters included six pastors, two college professors and two graduate students. Spirited interchange followed several papers.

The Theology Symposium is sponsored by the Commission for Theological Integrity. Spokesman Daryl Ellis said that the 1999 symposium will meet November 4-5 on the campus of Hillsdale FWB College. The deadline for requests to present a paper at the 1999 symposium is March 1.

Copies of individual papers from the 1998 symposium may be purchased for \$2.50 each, or the entire set of 10 for \$15. Send check made payable to the *Commission for Theological Integrity*/1405 Butterfield Road/Aurora, IL 60504.

## 1998 Theology Symposium Papers

Paper#	Presenter	Subject	Quantity
1	Paul Harrison	Pastoral Turnover and the Call to Preach	_____
2	David Fite	Who Does What in God's Work: A Biblical Approach	_____
3	Garnett Reid	The Setting and Purpose of the Aramaic Quotation in Jeremiah 10:11	_____
4	Ramon Zuniga	Christian Faith on the Human Pilgrimage	_____
5	Brad Thomas	The Healing Relationship: God's Presence in Pastoral Counseling	_____
6	Daryl Ellis	The Local Church and the Body of Christ	_____
7	Thomas Marberry	The Wideness of Mercy: The Debate Continues	_____
8	Kevin Hester	Sources and Content of Medieval Pastoral Care	_____
9	Matthew Pinson	The Diversity of Arminian Soteriology: Thomas Grantham, John Goodwin and Jacobus Arminius	_____
10	Terry Eagleton	The New Testament Teaching on the Role of Women in the Assembly	_____
11	Complete set of 10		_____
			Quantity Ordered _____
			Total Cost _____
			Amount Enclosed _____

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Aurora, IL 60504

## Shockey to Extend Soul Winning Outreach

CHAPMANSBORO, TN—After attending the National Soul Winning Directors Institute in November 1998, Evangelist Bob Shockey returned home determined to extend his evangelistic ministry to directly assist soul winning in the local churches. Effective February 1999, the Tennessee-based evangelist will offer a three-day emphasis on soul winning with the goal to set up a Soul Winning Directors Institute (SWDI) in local churches which will operate under the direction of the pastors.

Reverend Shockey said, "The program to set up SWDI can be done in conjunction with revivals or other conferences. Ideally, the three-day program should precede a revival meeting. Of course, I can do it following a revival or during a revival."

Shockey said that SWDI is a 13-week program after the initial three-day set-up emphasis. "The great part is

that the pastor doesn't have to do it himself. Another minister in the church or a committed layman can serve as director to train others after he is trained."

The SWDI program includes tapes, videos, notebooks and other materials. The goal is to build a church-wide soul winning program.

Shockey served eight years as director and associate director with the Home Missions Department, 10 years on staff at Free Will Baptist Bible College and five years as a full-time evangelist.

For additional information contact:

**Bob Shockey**  
3520 Thomasville Road  
Chapmansboro, TN 37035  
615/746-3498

## Randall House Awards Employee Service

NASHVILLE, TN—Thirteen employees at Randall House Publications were recognized in October 1998 during a special awards banquet saluting their combined 137 years of service, according to general director Alton Loveless. Seventy co-workers and family members gathered to participate in the event.

Awards were given for 30, 20, 15, 10, 5, 2 and 1 years of service. Mrs. Myrtle Reeds received the highest award for 30 years of continuous service. She has been responsible for several ar-



**Myrtle Reeds receives 30-year award from Director Alton Loveless.**

eas of curriculum development and presently serves as children's editor.

Three employees received 20-year awards—Rebecca Beverly, Angelia Duke and Vaughn Horton. Two staffers—Linda Cantrell and Joy Simpkins—received 15-year awards.

Former general director Dr. Roger C. Reeds was guest speaker.

Dr. Alton Loveless reminded attendees, "Today we have more than 453 combined years of service among our employees."

## Louisiana Deacons Celebrate 104 Years



**Deacon James Frith holds the celebration cake while Deacon R. M. Butler and his wife Bonnie give support.**

LAKE PROVIDENCE, LA—Two men who helped pioneer Free Will Baptist work in North Louisiana were honored at Corbin Ferry FWB Church (Lake Providence, LA) on September 6, 1998. Deacons R. M. Butler and James Frith have served a combined 104 years as ordained leaders.

Pastor Mark Elliott led the special day activities which included tributes to the two deacons as well as a time of fellowship with friends afterwards. Both deacons were ordained in the late 1940s when Free Will Baptist churches began organizing in Louisiana's delta region.

Deacon James Frith was a charter member of Corbin Ferry Church when it organized on July 17, 1948, under the leadership of the late Reverend W. P. White.

A year later in 1949, a few miles west of Bayou Macon, Deacon R. M. Butler became a charter member of Sardis FWB Church near Oak Grove. His father, Sam Butler, also served as a deacon in the church.

R. M. Butler served 12 years at the Sardis Church before changing demographics and fluctuating economy closed the church's doors in 1961. He then moved his membership to Corbin Ferry FWB Church where he continued as a community leader.

Good news for the hard-pressed churches and workers in north Louisiana. Help has arrived in the form of Reverend **Rue Dell Smith** who began a home missions work in the city of **Monroe** last September. After three weeks of Thursday night meetings, the group reports 15 in attendance. Brother Smith stays on itinerary most of the time. If you have friends or relatives in the Monroe area, send names and addresses to **Ricky Gross**, 4522 Dowd Road, Collinston, LA 71229. Or call 318/281-5014.

Just so you'll know, money *does* grow on trees in **Ashland City, TN**. At least it did on one particular (money) tree last September when members of **Bethlehem FWB Church** surprised Pastor **Randy Corn** with a basket of gifts and a money tree with \$1,100 worth of fruit on it for Pastor Appreciation Day.

How did Pastor **Bill Van Winkle** do it? First, members of **Fulton FWB Church** in **Fulton, MS**, raised \$4,520 in cash during their annual missions conference. Then members committed themselves to give over \$1,000 per month to missions for the first time in the church's history. The monthly missions giving is above regular tithes and offerings.

Less than three weeks after doctors discovered that he had brain and lung cancer, Reverend **Donald Morris Seay** died. Brother Seay (63) was pastor at **Arcadia FWB Church, Arcadia, SC**, when he died August 5, 1998. He had led the congregation 38 years, the second longest tenure in South Carolina's Beaver Creek Association.

**South Carolina** youth camp director **Donnie Miles** reports 20 conversions, 46 rededications, one call to preach and one call to the mission field among the decisions during 1998's three weeks of camp activities.

**Charles Tapp**, deacon at **First FWB Church** in **Inman, SC**, was named Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998 in North and South Carolina. The Entrepreneur of the Year Institute selected Tapp after C & C Trucking, a firm that he and his wife Carolyn began in 1978 with a

\$2,000 bank loan, grew to a multi-million dollar business with a fleet of 17 trucks. When he received the award, Tapp publicly thanked his pastor, Reverend **Earl Hendrix**, for his influence and leadership.

A mission work calling itself **Low Country FWB Church** in **North Charleston, SC**, purchased land and began clearing it to build a new church. Working Saturdays, members expected to finish clearing the land within three weeks and then move a 40' x 60' modular office building on site to seat 50 people.

Pastor **Sam Henderson** baptized 14 converts at **Green Rock FWB Church** in **Colona, IL**. Two Hispanic members from the church began a Sunday School in nearby Moline that averages 20 children in attendance. **Jessie and Christina Correa** lead the Hispanic outreach.

Members of **Temple FWB Church** in **Darlington, SC**, raised more than \$3,100 for the South Carolina Home for Children in Turbeville, according to Pastor **Todd Parrish**. The church also reports six new members and one man who answered the call to preach.

Renovations at **Crossroads FWB Church** in **Effingham, IL**, included new carpet in the auditorium and resurfacing the parking lot. Pastor **John Hollis** said that all work on the auditorium was finished in October.

They don't have a pastor but they do have a new steeple at **Mt. Pisgah FWB Church** in **Cabool, MO**. Ninety-eight people attended dedication services led by Missouri executive secretary **Nathan Ruble**. The church was established in 1928 and built a new sanctuary in 1993.

The pastor driving that new Chevrolet Metro is **Leon Gibson**. Members of **Spring Grove FWB Church** in **Jesup, GA**, gave him the vehicle on Pastor Appreciation Day.

And the pastor hitting those hot licks on that new Martin flat top guitar is **Jimmy Rozier**. The good folks at **First FWB Church** in **Warner Robins, GA**, did that for him and gave his wife a gift

certificate on Pastor Appreciation Day.

Another **Georgia** church did it differently. They gave a dinner in honor of Pastor **Matt Pinson**. Then members of **Colquitt FWB Church** presented Matt and **Melinda** with a basket full of cards, checks, gift certificates and other goodies.

For the first time in 30 years, **New Hope FWB Church** in **Jesup, GA**, conducted a Vacation Bible School. Some 94 students attended and gave a \$1,464 missions offering. **Michael Crews** pastors.

Get 'em before the preacher down the road beats you to them! Long-time pastor **Raymond Chronister** just completed his *Series 2 Sermon Outlines*, a 72-page spiral-bound collection of outlines. This series includes 26 sermons—nine on the evidence of a Spirit-filled life, four on the sayings of Paul, five on faith, five on Jude and three others thrown in for good measure. Order Series 2 (and Series 1) for \$3 each from Brother Chronister at: P. O. Box 23546, Barling, AR 72923. Or from the Christian Supply Store in Conway.

Members of **Cross Keys FWB Church** in **New Oxford, PA**, erased a 29-year debt when they raised a \$51,000 special offering. Pastor **Allen Joines** called it a miracle Sunday when 235 people attended. The large offering exceeded the debt by 10%, so members gave the extra to missions.

Pastor **David Reece** reports 50 rededications during a revival at **Heritage FWB Church** in **Fredericksburg, VA**. The church is experiencing steady growth.

Sixty-four charter members joined **First FWB Church** in **El Reno, OK**, during organizational services, according to Pastor **Homer Young**. Some 131 people attended to help the church organize. Evangelist **Wade Jernigan** preached the organizational sermon. Pastor Young said plans call for a new auditorium to seat 500 within three years. ■

## Directory Update

### ARKANSAS

Jim Turnbough to Allen Chapel Church, Batesville from  
Trinity Church, Greenville, NC

### GEORGIA

Wayne Miracle to Statesboro Church, Statesboro from  
Pine Level Church, Alma

### KANSAS

John Smith to First Church, Topeka  
Bryan Byrd to First Church, Emporia  
Dale McCoy to First Church, Wichita

### OHIO

Gary Dheel to Harrison Church, Minford  
Danny Minton to Puritan Church, Hamden

### TEXAS

Rick Futch to Pine Prairie Church, Huntsville  
John High to First Church, Henderson

## Know someone who deserves a journalism scholarship?

Each year the Evangelical Press Association awards several scholarships to deserving students. They must be 3rd or 4th year undergrads when they receive the grant and planning on a career in print journalism.

Applications for the 1999-2000 academic year must be received by March 1, 1999. For an application write to:

**The Evangelical Press  
Association  
314 Dover Road  
Charlottesville, VA 22901**



### October 1998

Receipts:						
State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 540.29	\$ .00	\$ 540.29	\$ 5,056.12	\$ .00	\$ 5,056.12
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	2,841.29	94.30	3,435.59
Arkansas	6,635.93	11,167.33	17,803.26	127,869.11	146,953.91	274,823.02
California	.00	1,107.16	1,107.16	.00	11,174.66	11,174.66
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	.00	.00	275.21	14,999.98	15,275.19
Georgia	18,536.96	2,011.45	20,548.41	193,076.76	20,107.98	213,184.74
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	5,811.08	1,784.40	7,595.48	86,437.81	22,101.68	108,539.49
Indiana	1,021.89	101.32	1,123.21	10,612.80	2,624.61	13,237.41
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	450.00	2,408.25	2,858.25
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	200.00	60.14	260.14
Kentucky	1,419.71	311.36	1,731.07	9,695.93	5,211.23	14,907.16
Louisiana	10.00	.00	10.00	90.00	10.00	100.00
Maryland	.00	651.95	651.95	.00	2,979.75	2,979.75
Michigan	13,504.68	2,321.02	15,825.70	127,351.60	26,745.64	154,097.24
Mississippi	.00	.00	.00	66,571.22	4,830.60	71,401.82
Missouri	39,052.32	12,943.73	51,996.05	397,883.83	83,352.48	481,236.31
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	803.84	41.92	845.76	9,439.67	456.35	9,896.02
North Carolina	1,914.98	1,404.55	3,319.53	15,069.84	13,247.39	28,317.23
Ohio	18,202.41	3,001.43	21,203.84	89,260.48	26,323.53	115,584.01
Oklahoma	63,292.30	10,056.26	73,348.56	512,634.05	92,491.95	605,126.00
South Carolina	53,980.59	105.01	54,085.60	434,062.62	985.89	435,048.51
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	15,929.45	2,379.10	18,308.55	122,399.99	16,944.38	139,344.37
Texas	5,412.38	67.73	5,480.11	67,646.63	4,330.58	71,977.21
Virginia	587.71	.00	587.71	7,093.35	175.00	7,268.35
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	4,491.84	113.06	4,604.90	30,530.62	1,037.38	31,568.00
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Africa	12,960.00	.00	12,960.00	12,960.00	.00	12,960.00
Canada	256.39	6.86	263.25	1,710.57	74.43	1,785.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	80.75	264.13	344.88
Northeast Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.09	.09	180.00	.57	180.57
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 264,364.75</b>	<b>\$ 49,575.73</b>	<b>\$ 313,940.48</b>	<b>\$ 2,331,480.25</b>	<b>\$500,486.79</b>	<b>\$ 2,831,967.04</b>

### Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 1,662.54	\$ 22,309.04	\$ 23,971.58	\$ 33,747.48	\$225,218.83	\$ 258,966.31
Foreign Missions	175,247.36	6,271.34	181,518.70	1,406,538.46	63,311.55	1,469,850.01
FWBBC	20,270.16	6,271.34	26,541.50	149,806.99	63,311.55	213,118.54
Home Missions	58,342.90	4,908.00	63,250.90	632,049.21	49,548.18	681,597.39
Retirement & Insurance	432.28	3,817.34	4,249.62	5,941.01	38,537.48	44,478.49
Master's Men	345.00	3,817.34	4,162.34	7,567.42	38,537.48	46,104.90
Comm. for Theo. Integrity	55.93	136.33	192.26	539.44	1,376.39	1,915.83
FWB Foundation	553.01	1,636.01	2,189.02	4,876.15	16,516.16	21,392.31
Historical Commission	22.31	136.33	158.64	315.83	1,376.39	1,692.22
Music Commission	33.83	136.33	170.16	340.27	1,376.39	1,716.66
Media Commission	44.62	136.33	180.95	3,006.37	1,376.39	4,382.76
Hillsdale FWB College	1,669.71	.00	1,669.71	14,906.91	.00	14,906.91
Other	5,685.10	.00	5,685.10	71,844.71	.00	71,844.71
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 264,364.75</b>	<b>\$ 49,575.73</b>	<b>\$ 313,940.48</b>	<b>\$ 2,331,480.25</b>	<b>\$500,486.79</b>	<b>\$ 2,831,967.04</b>

## HOME MISSIONS

*What Should We Do?*

By Trymon Messer

When the Home Missions Department was given the responsibility for Cross-Cultural Ministry, I was overwhelmed with this awesome task. Everywhere we looked there were multitudes of ethnic people and no way to communicate with them because of the language barrier. The Home Missions staff and our prayer partners began praying that God would open doors of opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ, bring them into God's family and join with Free Will Baptists.

Then I was introduced to Dr. Paul Park, a South Korean minister living in Anaheim, California. He met with and was approved by the Home Missions Board. Dr. Park came on board with a heart filled with excitement and enthusiasm at being the first South Korean Free Will Baptist. While on itinerate, he has crossed our country blessing and challenging the hearts of our Free Will Baptist people. At the same time, he has, with fervent zeal, indoctrinated all his Korean preacher friends with his new-found Free Will Baptist doctrine.

As of today, our department has applications for eight South Korean pastors who want to meet with our board to become Free Will Baptist home missionaries. Five of them have already started Free Will Baptist churches. A previous issue of *Mission Grams* reported that Dr. Park led a delegation of representatives

from our national offices to South Korea. Dr. Park and fellow pastor, Dr. Chang, arranged for us to meet with approximately 70 pastors who are interested in becoming Free Will Baptists.

I have also been introduced to Leonid Morgun, a Russian from the Ukraine who has been teaching at California Christian College. He and three other Russian pastors want to meet with our board in December. They, too, want to be Free Will Baptists. There will be others to come to us for the same purpose.

My question to you is, "What should we do?" Do we take this as doors that God is opening to us and step out on faith? Thank you! I felt that you would say, "Let's go for it!" That's what we have done, and by the time you read this article, you will have new Korean and Russian brothers and sisters in Christ joining the Free Will Baptist forces.

Our problem is that we have no funds for this area of ministry. Many of these pastors do not speak enough English to go out and schedule services for itinerate. I am asking that you pray and help us as much as possible. When God moves, He really moves. Our Free Will Baptist Cross-Cultural Ministry is expanding at a fast pace. Let's thank the Lord and praise His dear name, and allow Him to work through each and every one of us to fund this ministry. ■



Dr. Paul Park (Row 1, center) and a group of South Korean believers.



## *Sunday School Prompts Church Growth*

By Alton Loveless

Growing churches have many things in common. The most common is that growing churches have direction. They are on a mission and their members tend to be excited and supportive of the purpose of their church.

Numerical increase lies at the heart of God's will for His church, because every number represents a person brought to the Lord. They have learned that reliance upon a single means or entry point designed to usher people into a lasting relationship with Christ is insufficient. They see salvation as the starting point, but recognize discipleship and training as additional needs.

Whether one agrees with every method used by a church is another matter entirely. However, after much research over the last 30 years, I can carefully state that the following things exist in growing churches. Most do not do all of the programs listed, but somewhere each uses some, and have learned where they can grow best and reach the most from that location or age group.

High on the list in growing churches is teacher training. They convert and teach people who believe as they do.

Second, there is a strong emphasis on the Word of God.

Third, evangelism is the heartbeat of every program. It is the fuel that fills the classrooms, training sessions and church membership.

Fourth, in order to fulfill the Great Commission, they believe that every person has a mandate from God to reach everyone available. They do not see numbers as their main goal. They see the salvation of every individual as their only goal.

Last, growing churches believe in strong discipleship training. Reaching a person for Christ is not completed until they are grounded in the Word of God and enabled to reach others.

Many church growth specialists see the Sunday School as the greatest method of evangelization for the church. They see the Great Commission as:

- (1) Going (evangelizing),
- (2) Baptizing (assimilation),
- (3) Teaching obedience (discipling).

One thing for sure is that growing churches have taken a look at what they were doing and

have put their focus on outreach. In fact, nearly 50 percent of a growing church budget is directed toward growth and outreach.

Someone once said there are three things that cause people to change:

- (1) When they hurt enough that they have to.
- (2) When they learn enough that they want to.
- (3) When they receive enough that they are able to.

Growing churches know their potential within an area. They have studied who to reach and how to do so. They have a plan and they are working their plan. They took time to look around them and prayed to the Lord for the right way to reach them.

They have identified the age groups in their area. They know the Seniors (those born during or prior to 1926) which represent more than 40 million. They see the group known as Builders that were born between 1927 and 1945. They know this part of society represents over 44 million. However, they know the largest groups are those known as the Boomers (1946-1964) and Busters (1965-1983). The Boomers represent 79 million and the Busters 68 million. (Teens represent only 22 million in America.) They have learned that the needs of each vary and each have different value systems. While there is sometimes a struggle for the church that is expanding, they have dedicated themselves so sincerely to reaching people for Christ that prayer and relationships have become paramount in their decision making. ■



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

## FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

# On the Move to a New Campus: A Relocation Campaign Update

By Roy Harris, Advancement Director

"Overwhelming" and "exciting" are two words that come to mind when I think of the progress being made to relocate and build a new campus for Free Will Baptist Bible College.

## Overwhelmed...

We have simply been *overwhelmed* at the outpouring of support from so many of our Free Will Baptist people.

Evangelist Bobby Jackson, who was moderator of our National Association for 10 years and is a graduate of FWBBC, has agreed to serve as Honorary National Chairman for the Relocation Campaign. Brother Jackson will serve as an advisor to the campaign and as an ambassador representing the college in its efforts to build and move to a new campus. Brother Bobby is truly a man of God and we are honored that he is willing to give of his time, talent and support by joining the Relocation Team.

Dr. Charles Thigpen, past President of Free Will Baptist Bible College, who spent his life in ministry for our college and denomination, is also a member of the Relocation Team. Others include: Rev. Leon McBride (IL), Mr. Greg Ketteman (TN), Mr. Jack Forlines (NC), Evangelist and former Public Relations Director Bob Shockey (TN), Rev. David Reece (VA), Mr. Van Stewart (TN), Rev. Tim York and the State Executive Board (KY), Rev. Wayne Miracle and the State Association Leadership (GA), Rev. Doug Little (AR), Rev. Wendell Walley (NC), Rev. Richard Bowers (AL), Rev. Gary Fry (MO), Rev. Mike Mounts (OH), Rev. Richard Barnes (VA), Dr. Roger Reeds and Mr. Sonny King (TN), and Rev. Randy Bryant (FL). Many others also have given their time and become part of the relocation effort.

We are overwhelmed by the willingness of so many to help us by becoming part of our national effort to raise the funds needed to relocate Free Will Baptist Bible College. We will continue our efforts to enlist many other Ambassadors across the nation and around the world. The effort to relocate FWBBC will be successful if God makes it successful. But it will also require the help of many unpaid volunteers who believe in the college and are willing to invest their time, talent and finances.

## ...And Excited!

We are not only overwhelmed but we are *excited* at the progress already achieved in the campaign effort. The first year of most campaigns of this nature is consumed with writing and producing materials needed for the campaign, enlisting and organizing volunteers to help with the campaign, and beginning the effort of asking folks to become involved financially. Many campaigns of this nature barely break even during that first year. Many commitments are made during the second and third years of the campaign. *Good News*—we are ahead of schedule just a few months into the Relocation Campaign. We are approaching the \$600,000-mark for the campaign. The total we have on the books for cash and commitments from the purchase of the land through our present efforts has now reached \$1,000,000.

God has been good and our Free Will Baptist people have been very receptive. There is much yet to be done, but we "have traveled a far piece" since we began. Please continue to pray for the effort. Pray also for the wisdom and guidance of our God who "owns the cattle on a thousand hills" and whose resources are more than sufficient to build *A New Campus to train a New Generation* to serve Christ and His Church in the 21st Century. ■



Rev. Roy Harris has undertaken the massive job of raising funds to move the college to its new 123-acre site and to build the dormitories, student center, dining hall, gymnasium, offices, library, classroom complex and other buildings that will be FWBBC's new home. Mr. Harris, in addition to pastoring in Kentucky, North Carolina, and Georgia, served as Dean of Students at FWBBC.



## FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

*A Fresh Start*

By Frank Giunta

While discussing his childhood, James recalled how pleasant it was to receive a fresh new unmarked piece of paper on which to draw anything he chose. He related how approaching a new year always affected him that very same way.

He said, "When I look back over the closing year, I am seldom completely happy with my use of it. But seeing the new year, stretched out before me and completely untouched presents an exciting challenge."

With excitement, he told of his new goals for 1999. There would be an increase in his personal Bible studies, some additional time alone in prayer. He intended to pursue some educational goals and expand some friendships. He hoped to have some time for his favorite hobby, woodworking.

However, this seemed much like last year's resolutions and the year before that. One new addition was his determination to make some financial provisions for his family and the Lord's work.

Although James was quite capable in his business, he wisely sought counsel on arrangements beyond his expertise. Here is the counsel we shared with him.

1. As long as he was able to work, he could provide for his family's needs, but what if sickness or tragedy should disable him? What if he experienced an early death? How would his income be replaced? Insurance, both life and disability can assist in this area. By compiling a list of the family's present expenses plus a margin for inflation through the child-rearing years and also for his wife through her expected life time, he would know the approximate amount of protection needed. He could then consider the option of term or cash value insurance, or a combination of the two, to provide the protection at an acceptable price. A combination approach allows canceling part of the coverage when it is no longer needed, say when children leave home.
2. He could give a low income property he had inherited for a lifetime income. It had appreciated in value and would be subject to large capital gains tax if he sold it, but given

to the Foundation in a trust agreement he would avoid that tax. He would also get a healthy tax deduction, increase his present income, provide a future stream of income for his family, and finally make a generous gift to his church and denomination.

3. He would use the increased income to fund arrangements for the children's education or other future needs of the family.
4. Several other options provided through the increased income included: additional reserves for the family; gifts or loans during life to the children for housing; gifts to children following the death of James and his wife; and special gifts for ministry opportunities.

This was going to be a different kind of year for James, achieving solid financial goals for himself and his family, as well as making provisions for the Lord's work. The new picture of his house was being drawn in an orderly fashion.

Perhaps you have struggled with a special need for your family. Your Free Will Baptist Foundation is well equipped to help you chart a workable plan to help you achieve your goals. You may reach us at the national offices (615) 731-6812 or you may call me direct at my home office (573) 335-6240. ■



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

## Just Call Him Faithful

**T**he home run feats of Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa energized the Major League Baseball season during the summer of 1998. Another record, though, was set without much fanfare. Cal Ripken, Jr., established a new mark by playing in his 2,632nd consecutive game for the Baltimore Orioles, then took a day off. Three years ago Ripken eclipsed a hallowed standard many said would never fall: Lou Gehrig's 2,130 games in a row. Ripken's new record no doubt will endure for years as a standard for consistency and durability.

In biblical terms, we'd call this faithfulness. This month's Green Tree study and the next three will highlight the Old Testament's portrayal of God's faithfulness, an assured promise all of us need as we encounter a new millennium just ahead.

At the close of Genesis 11, however, the human condition displayed anything but faithfulness. Disloyalty to God and its consequences had rocked creation up to this point, culminating in judgment through the flood and at Babel. To stem the tide and bring wayward creation back into His favor, the Lord singled out one family—Terah's—and pledged Himself in covenant faithfulness to bless the whole world through Terah's son Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:1-21).

The story line of scripture from Genesis 12 through Revelation is, in essence, how God worked in history to bring blessing to the earth through Abraham's family, specifically in the person of Jesus Christ (see Isa. 61:1-9; 65:17-23; Acts 3:25-26; Rom. 4:16-25; Gal. 3:6-29).

Yet from a human perspective, this redemptive highway presents some "bumps" en route to its destination. In fact, one huge question looms over the book of Genesis after

chapter 12. Will God overcome several key threats which seem to jeopardize His covenant with Abraham? In other words, will God be faithful to His promise? Each time the covenant is threatened, the Lord responds with a resounding "Yes!"

At several key junctures where the covenant seemed in peril, God communicated His faithfulness through a particular name given to Him. Four of these names take on special significance. Each one is a compound form using the name *El*, a Semitic term denoting God in His power and might.

In Genesis 14, God revealed Himself as "the most high God" (*El Elyon*, vv. 18-20). This name suggests both God's *sovereignty* in assisting Abraham to defeat a vastly superior coalition of kings (vv. 1-16) and His *holiness*, since He is "high" above the idols of Canaan.

Later in chapter 16, Sarah forced her Egyptian maid Hagar to leave the household. The Lord then found Hagar and comforted her with the assurance of blessing for both her and her unborn son. To commemorate the event, Hagar identified God as "the God who sees" (*El Roi*, pronounced "R-," in v. 13). This name celebrates God's *awareness* and *compassion*.

At least 13 years after this episode, Abraham, now 99 years old, still had no heir who would inherit the covenant (Gen. 17:1). In order to assure Abraham of His *power* and *provision*, God identified Himself as "the Almighty God" (*El Shaddai*). This name became the definitive name for God in the period of the patriarchs, showing up time after time to confirm His covenant promises (Gen. 28:3; 35:11; 43:14; 48:3; 49:25).

Finally, in Genesis 21:33, Abraham called on "the name of the LORD, the everlasting God" (*El Olam*). This name especially indicates God's *enduring faithfulness*, a pledge Abra-

ham recognized as he reclaimed a well in the land promised to him as part of the covenant.

Sadly, we can't count on most good things to last. Not long ago I shed a tear when I drove past the spot where my Dad's lab used to be. He spent nearly 50 years of his life there as an engineer; now a parking lot desecrates the site. The Deluxe Sandwich Shop on Nashville's Eighth Avenue, once home of the greatest chili dogs known to man, is now a boarded-up shell of a building. In such an unreliable world, how encouraging to know that "the eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27). Not even Cal Ripken can top that one! ■



Garnett Reid



*Moving?*

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

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

*Thank You!*

Please allow 4-6 weeks for an address change.



Dennis Wiggs

## Plans for the New Year

**A**re you ready for the new year? Here are several suggestions that can benefit you in this new year. All the recommendations demand organization and self-discipline. However, they will produce much profit and personal satisfaction.

### Save All Sale Receipts

Designate a box for you, your wife and the entire family to deposit receipts from every purchase. A long wooden or metal recipe box would be ideal. Place the container in the kitchen or someplace easily accessible. Remind family members (kindly, of course) to place receipts in the box. You'll be surprised at how many times you dig through that box searching for a receipt of an item you want to check the price on to return. If merchandise breaks or proves to be of inferior quality, the receipt will assist you in returning the item or securing a replacement without additional charge.

At the end of the year, place all receipts in a file folder and label it 1999 Receipts. Then, next January start over again and place receipts in the same box. You'll probably refer to a file two or three years to retrieve a sales receipt to prove you purchased a certain item at a certain price.

### Place Warranties in a File

Most purchases carry a warranty. Even a small watch, water hose or tool provide some type of warranty. That new purchase may appear to be unbreakable. Don't assume that. The average shopper will find items every year that break or do not work as they should. Warranties or guarantees should be placed in a file. Every couple of years, thumb through the file and destroy warranties that are out of date.

### Get a Will

I was "afraid" to go to the lawyer's office and secure a legal will. In the back of my mind something seemed to say that registering a will would mean I would die soon after. My brother-in-law, John S. Craft, died at age 38, leaving behind a wife and four children. I immediately went to the lawyer's office and had a will drawn up. That's been nearly 20 years ago and I'm still alive.

You don't want the courts determining who takes care of your children if you and your wife die at the same time. Get a will.

### Plan a Budget

With pencil and paper or a computer program, record all expected expenses for the upcoming year. Try to account for all anticipated income. Then balance the two. Budget tithes, offerings, taxes, auto expenses, home mortgage and/or housing expenses, medical bills, food, clothing, recreation, education, etc.

If the budget just won't balance, make the shortage a daily matter of prayer. As you exercise frugality, give to the Lord and pray, you will be pleasantly surprised to watch the Lord send additional funds. A simple budget will reveal where your money goes and how you need to cut unnecessary expenses.

### Develop a Financial File

During the year, place receipts of items that are tax-deductible in designated files. For example, auto, housing, office, books, newspapers, magazines, medical bills, etc., can be used to reduce your taxes. By placing receipts in different files, your preparation for filing income taxes is much easier.

### Set Spiritual Goals

Determine where you will read in your Bible this year. I read the four Gospels over and over again for three years in a row. I read Acts through Revelation several times another year. This past year, I very slowly read the history book of Acts. What a blessing! Decide the direction of your devotional Bible reading and stick with it.

Write some spiritual goals in your prayer journal. For example, witness to an unsaved person every day, pass out a certain number of tracts each week, fast and pray during certain times, write a missionary each week, visit a mission field, write out a sermon each week, visit a rest home each week, and other goals you would like to reach.

### List Prayer Requests

Pray expecting God to answer! This year can be more exciting as you check off your prayer requests as they are answered. List the names of hardened sinners. Write down the seemingly impossible prayer burdens. Record personal and family requests. This new year may be the best you ever experienced since becoming a Christian.

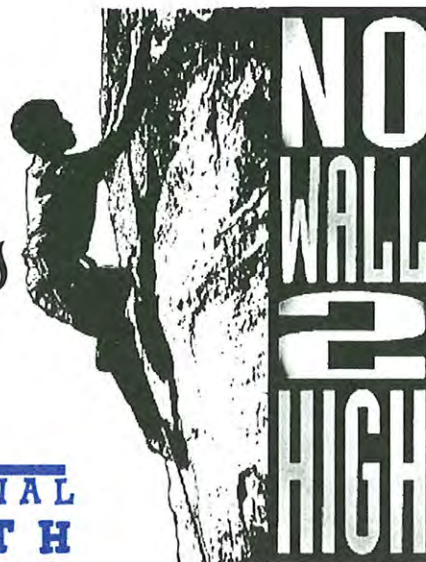
### Expect a Great Year

Be optimistic. Stop grumbling. Approach every new day with enthusiasm. Express your love to your wife and children on a daily basis. Stop looking in; look out to help meet the needs of others. Live every day as if that day the Lord may return. Young preacher, it will be a good year as the Lord ministers to our every need for His honor and glory. Don't miss the blessings. ■

# YOUTH UPDATE

## 1999

### The Year In Preview



\* February 7 - FREE WILL BAPTIST YOUTH DAY

YOUTH DAY '99

\* February 12-14 - NATIONAL YOUTH WORKERS RETREAT  
Branson, Missouri

NATIONAL  
YOUTH  
WORKERS  
Retreat

❖ February 19-21 - NATIONAL YOUTH WORKERS RETREAT  
Cumberland Falls, Kentucky

\* March 18-21 - T&P2 JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
Camp Beaverfork, Arkansas

T&P<sup>2</sup>

\* March 25-28 - T&P2 JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
Camp Hope, Illinois

\* June 18-27 - NATIONAL YOUTH EVANGELISTIC TEAM TOUR  
Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee

\* July 5-22 - TRUTH & PEACE STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, Nashville, Tennessee & Atlanta, Georgia

☆ July 18-22 - NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE, Atlanta, Georgia

☆ September 15 - SEE YOU AT THE POLE

☆ December 31 - YOUTH 2000 STUDENT CONFERENCE, Nashville, Tennessee

Youth2K

For More Information About These Events, Please call 1-800-877-7030 or write to the Youth Ministries Division at P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, Tennessee 37217 or [youth@randallhouse.com](mailto:youth@randallhouse.com).

## *Beyond the Gate: The Autobiography of Mabel Bailey Willey*

By Mabel Bailey Willey with Mary Ruth Wisehart

(Nashville: Randall House Publications, 1998, 145 pp., hardback, \$19.95).

**T**his is the life story of a very special lady, Mabel "Mom" Willey, who served Christ and Free Will Baptists faithfully for more than 50 years. After a brief term of service in Panama, she and her late husband Thomas "Pop" Willey founded the Free Will Baptist work in Cuba in 1942. They continued to labor there until forced to leave in 1960. During those years they worked side by side with Cuban Free Will Baptists to establish a church which has stood the tests of time and adversity and continues to bear faithful witness to Christ today.

Mrs. Willey begins her story by discussing her childhood and family background. She was born June 13, 1905, in Huntsville, Alabama, to Willis and Mable Star King Bailey. Her father was part owner of a furniture store and also owned some rental property. Because they enjoyed some financial security, Willis and Mable gave their children opportunities to attend school and travel which many children did not have.

She was raised in a Christian home; her family belonged to the First Methodist Church in Huntsville. She was always thankful for the training she received in that church during her childhood and adolescence.

Her father died of diabetes in 1918; her brother returned home from military service with an injury that prevented him from providing for the family. Suddenly the family

fortunes changed, and Mabel began working at age 16 to help provide for the needs of the family.

She found a job in a dentist's office in Atlanta and began attending the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. A spirit of missions pervaded that church and young Mabel Willey soon caught the spirit. Her life would never be the same again.

She felt the call to be a missionary, but she knew she needed training. From 1925-28, she attended Toccoa Falls Bible Institute in northern Georgia. She then went to Nyack Bible College in New York City where she felt the call of God to serve in India. But there was no opening for her. After graduation she accepted a teaching position in a mission school in Tampa, Florida. She taught one year then returned to Atlanta to prepare for service in the Philippines. There she met Thomas Willey. They had a common desire to serve the Lord in His mission field. They were married July 23, 1930.

While pastoring in North Carolina, they became acquainted with Free Will Baptists and decided to join this small, struggling denomination that had little missionary vision or outreach. They devoted the rest of their lives to serving Christ with Free Will Baptists. They worked diligently to develop a missionary vision in their adopted denomination.

They went first to Panama to work among the Indians there, but the polit-

ical situation soon forced them to leave. They then turned their attention to Cuba. They helped plant churches in several different areas and establish the Cedars of Lebanon Bible Institute in Pinar del Rio province. They did a good work. As a result of their efforts, many Cubans came to know Christ and were trained to win others. Changing political conditions forced them to return to the United States in 1960.

After their return to the states, Thomas became ill and died of cancer in 1968. Mabel was devastated. With the help of other believers, she put her life back together and continued her service for the Lord. From 1970 to 1980, she served as a missionary to Panama along with her son Tom and his wife Ruth. There she taught women from every social class to love and follow Jesus. In 1980 she returned to the states to continue her life of ministry here.

As long as her health permitted, Mom continued to teach Bible classes, visit Free Will Baptist churches and help the cause of missions in every possible way. She was even able to visit her beloved Cuba several times. She died January 15, 1998. Near the end of her earthly life, she closed this book with these words, "I do not know what He has for me yet in this life. I do look forward, however, to the next great adventure when I shall be like Him for I shall see Him as He is." ■



Thomas Marberry

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## RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY NEWS

### "Allah" Not God of the Bible

WETZLAR, GERMANY (EP)—Criticizing efforts to minimize the fundamental differences between Christianity and Islam, the Rev. Horst Marquardt, president of the German branch of the Lausanne Committee, told the German news service IDEA that emphasizing the similarities between the two world faiths had led to the "unfortunate misconception" that "Allah and the God of the Bible are the same."

Marquardt said Germans are greatly confused in their assessment of Islam. He notes that Islam differs from Christianity in significant ways, including denying the Trinity, denying Christ's resurrection and denying that Jesus is the Son of God. He noted, however, that Christians who point out these significant differences are increasingly dismissed as "fundamentalists" by Muslims and Christians alike.

Marquardt said Islam must bear responsibility for icy relations with evangelicals, noting that Islam has often nursed the image of "the Christian enemy" with "often fatal consequences."

### People Attend Church But Do Not Worship

VENTURA, CA (EP)—Other than watching television, the most popular activity on weekends is not watching NFL football games or making a long-distance call to distant family or friends. According to the Barna Research Group, on a typical Sunday more than 75 million adults attend worship services at Christian churches. That is more than triple the number of adults who will tune in for football games on a typical Sunday during the regular season.

But according to researcher George Barna, what's really amazing is people continually return to churches, week after week, in spite of their failure to accomplish the most important reason

for coming: to connect with God. Barna says new research shows a majority of people who attend worship services at Christian churches leave the church without feeling that they experienced God's presence.

In a nationwide survey among people who attend Christian churches, Barna discovered that in a typical weekend, less than one-third of the adults who attend church services say they feel as if they truly interacted with God. In fact, Barna's survey data reveal that one-third of the adults who regularly attend Christian church services say that they have never experienced God's presence at any time during their life.

Barna said his research has found that inappropriate mixing of music styles can hamper worship, as can sermons which are "biblically accurate and well constructed but too long, too complex, too impractical and too pedantic."

### "Banned Books Week" Called a Fraud

CHICAGO, IL (EP)—The American Library Association (ALA) observed its "Banned Books Week," but representatives from Focus on the Family condemned it as a fraud. Focus on the Family called upon the ALA to "stop the name-calling, stop the hysteria and stop deceiving Americans through its agenda-driven promotion of 'Banned Books Week.'"

Though the ALA promotes "Banned Books Week" as a campaign against censorship, Focus on the Family argues that most of what the ALA calls "censorship" is really the legitimate expression of parental concerns about the age-appropriateness of certain materials in schools.

"There is no book-banning conspiracy taking place in America today," insisted Tom Minnery, vice president of public policy for Focus on the Family.

"'Banned Books Week' is nothing more than an effort to bully any parent, teacher or librarian who may disagree with the ALA's agenda."

Of the 122 so-called incidents of "censorship" reported in the past year, the ALA report listed only one in which a library removed material from its collection—and that was because of the library's own policy against carrying pornography.

A total of 17 reported incidents of "censorship" involved public libraries, and only one other incident among those resulted in action—a New Jersey public library moved six sexually-explicit books to adult-only access.

### Hindus Launch Missions Campaign Among Christians

NEW DELHI, INDIA (EP)—Hindus in north-east India are launching a campaign to convert Christians to the Hindu faith. Arbind Bhattacharya of the Hindu World Council told the newspaper *Asian Age* that a campaign is being organized to spread Hinduism among India's Christians.

Though a Hindu outreach campaign may be new, India is no stranger to proselytism efforts. Over 700 foreign and more than 11,000 native Christians in India are reportedly engaged in evangelistic activities. Of India's one billion people, 82% are Hindu, 12% Muslim, and only about 3% Christian.

Christian missionaries have come under attack from radical Hindu politicians who charge some of the missionaries with supporting separatist movements. ■

## Rifles, Glue and Lamp Shades

**W**hile waiting in a bank for a colleague to make a deposit, I picked up a copy of *Tennessee* magazine. The editor's column caught my eye with this opening salvo, "I was raised just a rifle shot from the mountains."

How far is a rifle shot? Who cares! It's close. The words rivet the reader's attention. The creativity in that one sentence energized me the rest of the day. All he said was that he lived close to the mountains, but oh, how well he said it.

**Okay, so you're not** stuck in a bank waiting for someone to make a deposit. Maybe you're locked in a chess match like Henry Buckle and need to make better use of your time.

In 1851, Mr. Buckle wrote two chapters of his *History of Civilization* while waiting for Elijah Williams to make his 25th move in the fourth game of their match in London. I don't know if Henry Buckle won the chess game, but he gets my vote for creatively redeeming the time.

**Perhaps you face** awkward circumstances with no creative outlet for your skills. You might try William S. Porter's remedy when he reached the lowest point in his life.

On April 25, 1898, Mr. Porter began a three-year prison term for embezzlement. But he did not make a bad situation worse. While in prison, he began writing short stories under the pen name of O. Henry. By 1927, the Doubleday company had printed a 1,317-page hardcover book titled, *The Complete Works of O. Henry*, which included one of America's most beloved Christmas stories, "The Gift of the Magi." Not too shabby for a fellow who started out on the wrong side of the criminal justice system.

**Of course, some creative** ideas are better than others. Paul Flynn

tells about the New York debutante who appeared at a Texas dude ranch and said, "I've never ridden a horse before in my life."

Her obliging cowboy host replied, "No problem, Ma'am. We'll just find you a horse that's never been ridden, and you can start together." I hope the debutante had a good relationship with her HMO. And the cowboy a good lawyer.

**Fred Smith**, a unique Christian businessman, wrote an article for *Leadership* titled, "Does Anyone Know What *Creative* Means?" He lists eight essential qualities for creativity. My favorite is #3, dissatisfaction.

"Creative people love to have options," Fred writes. "They love to drive home a different route each day. They refuse to drop down to the floor like a toddler and start crying, 'I can't.' They know there are multiple ways to do almost everything."

Have you taken a second or third look at the options in your life? There may be another financial answer, a different approach to job interviews, a fresh solution to retirement boredom. Kick open a few doors. Turn yourself loose.

**You don't know Art Fry**, but you probably use his discovery every day in your office. Art worked at the 3M Company which encouraged employees to spend 15 percent of their time on any project that interested them.

Art also sang in the choir at church, and grumbled every Sunday when the small pieces of paper he used to mark the pages of his hymnal invariably fell to the floor. Then he remembered an adhesive developed by a colleague that everybody thought was a failure because it did not stick well.

He coated the adhesive on a paper sample and found that it not only made a good bookmark, it was also

great for writing notes that he could leave in place as long as he wanted to, then remove without damage.

You guessed it. Art Fry hit the ball out of the park with a failed glue experiment. The 3M Company ran all the way to the bank with Art's failure they called Post-It™ notes. We also call it creativity.

**All right, so not everybody** cheers the Art Frys in life. For instance, a banker told a young inventor to remove "that toy" from his office. The young inventor was Alexander Graham Bell. "That toy" was the telephone.

Most people give up on creativity too soon. Henry Ford's largest original investor sold all his stock in 1906. Roebuck sold out to Sears for \$25,000 in 1895. Today, Sears may sell \$25,000 worth of goods in 16 seconds.

One witty pundit observed, "The next time somebody offers you an idea that leaves you cold, put it on the back burner. It might warm up."

**The most amusing** and creative solution to a problem occurred the day a lady boarded a Boeing 727 wearing a lamp shade on her head. Jan Milligan, then a junior pilot, was deputized by two senior pilots to find out why. Here's what the lady wearing the lamp shade told Jan.

"If I checked it as luggage, it would be smashed. If I carried it on board, the flight attendant would make me stuff it under my feet or squeeze it into the overhead bin. So I wore it!"

Add pizzazz to your life this year. Just take a few detours. Make friends with a Muslim neighbor. Brainstorm with a first-grader. Pet somebody else's dog. Turn out all the lights and listen to the night sounds. That bump you hear may be a fresh idea trying to wiggle past the burglar alarm in your brain. For heaven's sake, open your mind and let it in. ■



Jack Williams

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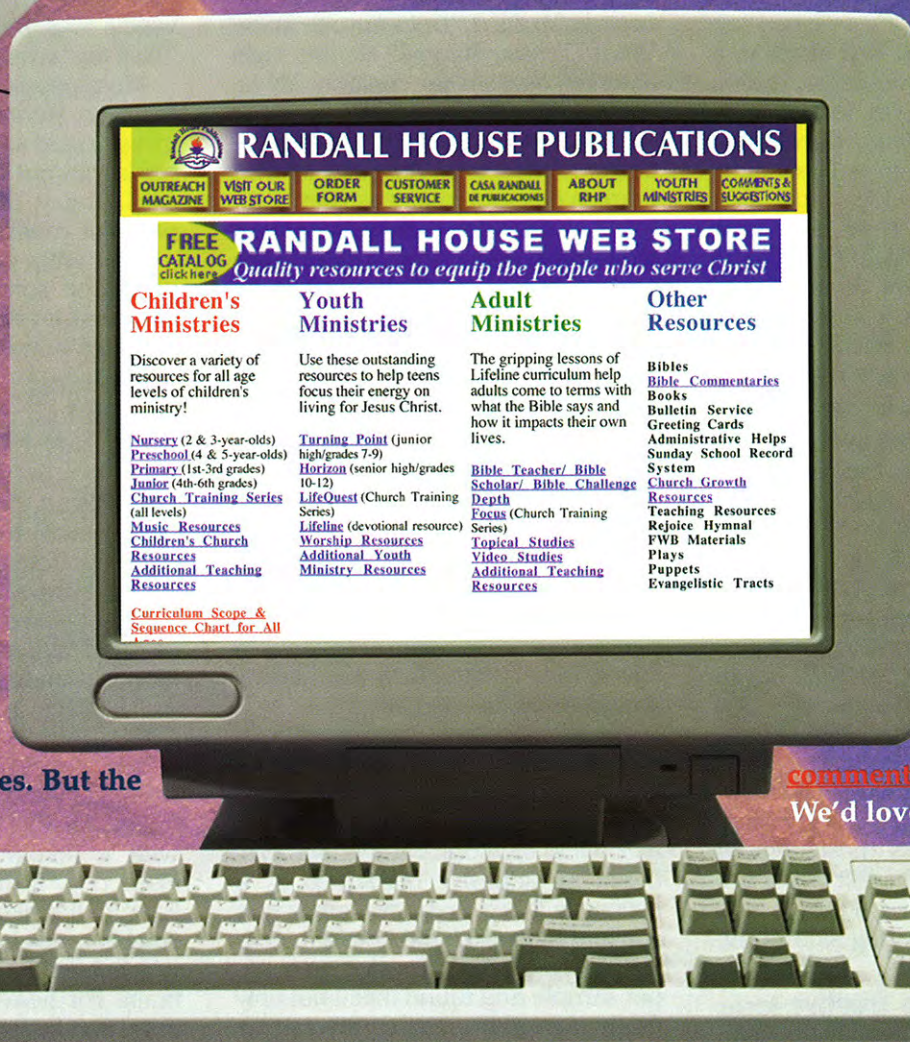
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