

JUNE 1999

CONTACT

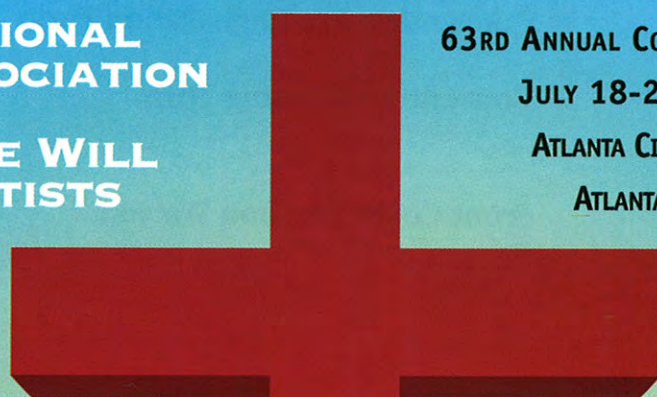
**NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL
BAPTISTS**

63RD ANNUAL CONVENTION

JULY 18-22, 1999

ATLANTA CIVIC CENTER

ATLANTA, GEORGIA



All **In**
Accord

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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**National
Convention
Program**
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NYC Program
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WNAC Program
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.....
Short Cut

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An Administrator



Melvin Worthington

At a recent gathering of meeting planners, each of us was asked to give our title and tell what organization we represented. When my turn came, I said that I served as executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists and briefly shared my responsibilities.

This caused me to ask four questions, "What does the term *executive secretary* mean? Could this term be precisely defined? Does the term accurately reflect my denominational responsibility? Does it have any biblical basis?"

The Title

The term *executive secretary* means, "A secretary having administrative duties, a paid full-time official who is responsible for organizing and administering the activities of an organization or association."

This basic concept is embedded in the word *governments* listed in I Corinthians 12:28, as one of the spiritual gifts. *Governments* comes from a word which means to steer. It suggests piloting in the church.

Another word which embraces the concept of executive secretary is *administration* (I Cor. 9:12). Administration comes from a word which means *an attendant*. It means to run on errands as an attendant. An administrator aids or serves.

The Task

The *Treatise* sets forth in detail the tasks which are incumbent upon the executive secretary. From time to time I find it profitable to read and reflect on the tasks mandated by the denomination for the Executive Office and especially the executive secretary.

This sharpens, stabilizes and shapes my focus. It keeps me from getting off

track and reacting impulsively. The tendency to misuse the position of executive secretary to further my personal agenda or the agenda of groups within the movement is always present.

The executive secretary is an *administrator*. An element in the definition is that he is a secretary with administrative duties. The *Treatise* states, "He shall administer the affairs of the Executive Office and carry out the responsibilities delegated to him by the National Association and the Executive Committee" (Article VIII, Section 9, A).

Administration is a spiritual gift and gifted administrators liberate other gifts to function. Miller notes, "Today's spotlight is on leaders; God's spotlight is on servants."

The executive secretary is an *articulator*. Again, the *Treatise*, captures the concept, "He shall seek to show through general promotion the correlation and interrelation of the national ministries. It is expected that he will promote impartially the total program of work as devised by all the departments . . . he shall keep close contact with pastors, state organizations and their affiliates. He shall represent the National Association to other bodies when in the interest of the denomination" (Article VIII, Section 9, B,C).

He serves as editor-in-chief of *Contact*, the official magazine of the

National Association of Free Will Baptists, which provides information for denominational constituents on a monthly basis.

The executive secretary is an *arranger*. He assists in organizing, ordering and operating the annual Free Will Baptist national convention, as specified by the *Treatise*. (Article VIII, Section 9, F).

The executive secretary is an *anticipator*. He must have a comprehensive and long range view of the operation, objectives and obstacles which the denomination will likely encounter. Again the *Treatise* implies this, "He shall fulfill all duties commensurate with his office and present such plans and procedures that he feels would be effective in the life of the denomination."

The executive secretary is an *activator*. Actions passed at the national convention are carried out by the executive secretary. He activates and administers the denominational programs delegated to him. He sets in motion the agenda adopted during the annual business meeting of the denomination.

The Trust

Serving as executive secretary is a serious and sobering responsibility. It is easy to lose focus and fall prey to those who clamor to implement their particular agenda.

The executive secretary is a *secretary*. He serves as an administrator. He is a *servant*. He serves denominational adherents. He does not drive the denomination but steers the denominational ship. He does not set the denominational agenda but administers it.

He is a *steward*. The title truly fits the job description. ■

The Secretary's Schedule

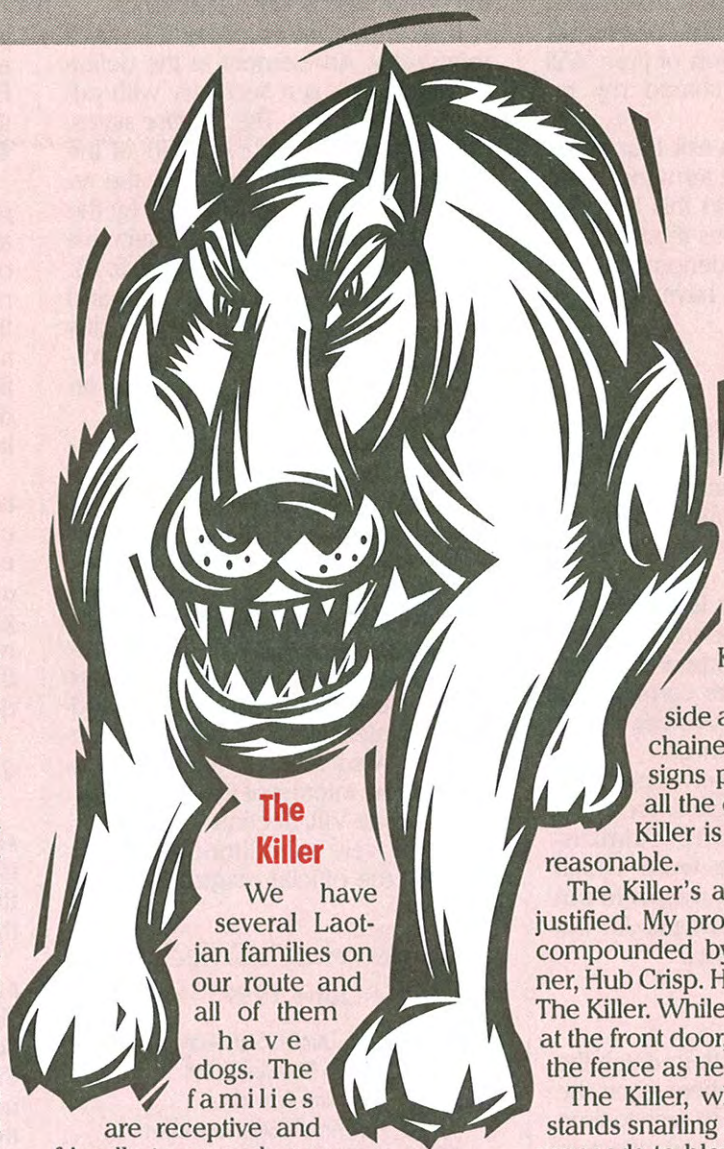
June 1999

- 7-8 North Carolina State Association
- 7-9 Missouri State Association
- 9-11 Texas State Association
- 11-12 West Virginia State Association
- 17-18 Virginia State Association
- 18-19 Kentucky State Association
- 24-26 Maryland State Association
- 25-26 Ohio State Association
- 26 Atlantic Canada District Association

What happens when a Saturday morning bus route grows teeth.

Laotian Dogs Don't Speak English

By Doug Lance



The Killer

Working a church bus route every Saturday is tough. Getting out of bed and on the route on mornings that are too hot, too cold, too rainy, too snowy or just good days to sleep is another challenge. Every Saturday we visit children and their families to find out how their week went and plead for them to attend Sunday School and church the next day. Sometimes it isn't easy dealing with their pets, dogs in particular.

Almost every family on our bus route has a dog. Big dogs usually pose no problems. It's those little ones from 10 to 35 pounds that seem to leave an impression on me (usually teeth marks).

My great-grandfather used to tell me, "A little dog will bite you twice, while a big dog is still thinking about it." He was right. Just accept that if you do bus ministry, dogs are one of the risks.

We have several Laotian families on our route and all of them have dogs. The families are receptive and friendly to us and, generally, so are their pooches. There is one dog that is the exception. I knew he was trouble the first time our eyes met. He's a small Spitz and weighs about 30 pounds. We call him "The

Killer."

The Killer lives inside a fence and is always chained. "Beware of Dog" signs post the warning. Of all the dogs I ever met, The Killer is by far the most unreasonable.

The Killer's attitude is somewhat justified. My problems with him are compounded by my visitation partner, Hub Crisp. Hub likes to aggravate The Killer. While I talk to the children at the front door, Hub gets as close to the fence as he can with the truck.

The Killer, who is already angry, stands snarling and growling as Hub proceeds to blow the horn, laugh at and make faces at the unfortunate dog. (Hub has the kind of face that looks like he's making fun of you even when he acts normal.) By the time I return to the truck, The Killer is

howling, butting the fence and foaming at the mouth.

I tell Hub every Saturday, "If he ever gets the chance, he'll chew my legs off because of you." I also tell Hub every Saturday, "Don't bother the dog today." Each Saturday he ignores my pleas.

Near Miss

This past Saturday when we drove to the house, The Killer did not go berserk and run out to the fence barking as usual. "He must be asleep in the garage," I said. As I got out of the truck, I cautioned Hub not to bother the dog. I looked back at him for effect, but I could tell I was wasting my breath.

Halfway up the sidewalk, a white blur bounded from behind the porch toward me. It was The Killer, and he was charging full speed with blood in his eye. I noticed immediately that there was no chain around his neck. At that moment I realized two very important things.

First, I'm saved. Should the worst happen, everything is all right between God and me. Second, dogs raised by Laotians have heard little or no English. They don't understand *stop, whoa, or that's a good boy*, spoken in English.

I put all my 300 pounds in gear and dashed for the truck with The Killer close on my heels. I snatched open the door and leaped inside. The startled Hub did not realize what was happening, but he caught on fast when my head hit the door jam and I slammed the truck door on my foot, just beyond The Killer's snarling, gaping jaws.

The Killer was now in a genuine rage. He had misjudged the distance it would take to catch me, and now Hub was laughing at him as he circled the truck growling and foaming at the jowls. When I finally caught my breath, I realized that Hub was laughing so hard the truck shook. I got tickled at him and began to laugh too (even though my head and foot were throbbing).

After three minutes of laughter with the dog circling the truck, we noticed the mother of the Laotian family standing at the fence. She had seen it all and was looking at us in unbelief. She probably wondered how two grown men could act like we did.

She calmly walked out the gate, put a leash on The Killer and led him back inside. She never smiled or changed expressions as the dog growled and tried to get free and back to us.

I got out of the truck and walked toward her. I knew she did not speak English, but she knew I was from the church because I had visited her home so often. I handed her a flier announcing Sunday's events at the church and some bubble gum for the children.

"He almost got me," I told her and smiled. She did not smile back. I thanked her and she nodded. I thought to myself, *My words don't mean anything to her dog, and they don't mean much to her either.*

Laotian Outreach

Our church has worked with the Laotians in our community for nine years. We visit them, invite them to church and are genuinely good to them. It has been a slow process, mostly because of the language barrier. We have tried to demonstrate God's love through our actions.

Our efforts weren't very productive until we realized that to reach them, we had to get the Word of God to them in their language. A few years ago our pastor, Harold Blankenship, began distributing Laotian Bibles to all who wanted one. Through the giving of God's Word, we have seen souls saved and the Laotian ministry grow.

At the time we began distributing Bibles, the Laotian children rode our buses to church. We reached the children with the gospel because they attended our schools and were learning English. Many of the children have come to know Jesus Christ.

But the Laotian adults are still difficult to reach. They have not readily adopted the English language and they have been indoctrinated with Buddhist religion. Many of the adults want their children to do what is right in America, including going to church, but the adults still hold to Buddhist beliefs for themselves.

The adult Laotians remain in their own little world, bound by the chains of sin and false religion. They do not trust what they do not know. Some of them say that their dream is to return to Laos and be free. That dream will probably never happen. I pray that

they will see that no matter where you are, the only way to be truly free is to belong to Jesus Christ.

Our church has now begun a Laotian Sunday School Class for adults. Through the hard work of the teacher, Linda Crisp, several adults have become Christians and are faithful. We are excited about winning more of them to Christ.

Final Thoughts

We had a lot of laughs with the other bus workers about what happened to me with The Killer. We also know there are more important issues at stake.

There is one young Laotian teen named Tony who is very faithful to God. He is involved in the bus ministry and is a leader in our teen group. We have been praying for years and asking God to call one of our converts to the ministry. Perhaps Tony will be God's answer to help us reach the other Laotians with the truth. Please pray with us in this important matter.

Oh, while you're at it, you might pray for Hub, The Killer and me. Hub needs to learn how to follow instructions; I need more speed; The Killer needs to lighten up! ■



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Doug Lance is a member of Goshen Free Will Baptist Church in Mount Holly, North Carolina. He is active on the church's bus routes, and has the teeth marks to prove it.

The National Association of Free Will Baptists

63rd Annual Session/July 18-22, 1999

**Atlanta Civic Center
Atlanta, Georgia**



Clifford D. Donoho
Iowa



Danny Williams
Alabama



Kent Barwick
Tennessee



Roger L. Hogan
Missouri



Robert J. Morgan
Tennessee

Theme: "All in Accord"

Theme: "All in Accord"

Moderator: Carl Cheshier

Music Coordinator: Randy Sawyer/Lange Patrick

Organist: Carol Reid

Pianist: Jerry Carraway

Orchestra Conductor: Chris Truett

Registration Coordinator: George Harvey, Jr.

Headquarters Hotel: Marriott Marquis

Convention Office: Piedmont Room-B/Atlanta Civic Center

SUNDAY MORNING / July 18

10:00-10:45 **SUNDAY SCHOOL (Adults)** Civic Center Auditorium

Presiding: Matt Pinson
Song Service: Chris Truett
Adult Teacher: Tim Thompson

10:00-10:45 **SUNDAY SCHOOL (Youth)** Marriott Marquis
(See NYC Program)

10:45 Intermission

11:00-12:00 **MORNING WORSHIP (Adults)** Civic Center Auditorium

Presiding: Matt Pinson
Song Service: Chris Truett
Offertory: Bethel FWB Church Choir
Message: Clifford D. Donoho

11:00-12:00 **MORNING WORSHIP (Youth)** Marriott Marquis
(See NYC Program)

SUNDAY AFTERNOON / July 18

12:30-1:15 WNAC Executive Committee Luncheon (See WNAC Program) Marriott Marquis

1:00 Early Registration (Pre-registered only) Marriott Marquis International Hall North

1:15 Registration Orientation Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom IV

1:30-4:30 WNAC Executive Committee Meeting (See WNAC Program) Marriott Marquis

3:00 **REGISTRATION** for National Convention, WNAC and NYC Marriott Marquis International Hall North

5:00 Usher Orientation Civic Center Piedmont Room-A

5:00 Music Rehearsal Civic Center Auditorium

SUNDAY EVENING / July 18

7:00-8:30 **WORSHIP SERVICE** Civic Center Auditorium

Presiding: Ron Helms
Song Service: Daron Dwyer
Offering: Ron Helms
Offertory: Mass Choir
MESSAGE: Danny Williams

7:00-8:30	NYC WORSHIP SERVICES (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
8:30	Mass Choir Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium
8:30-10:00	Registration Continues	Marriott Marquis International Hall North
9:00-10:00	NYC Judges' Reception (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
9:00-11:00	NYC Activities (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
9:15	Music Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium

MONDAY MORNING / July 19

7:00-7:45	General Board Breakfast	Marriott Marquis Summit Room
7:00-9:00	Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium
7:30-8:30	Foreign Missionary Orientation (For Exhibit Schedule)	Marriott Marquis Trinidad/Madrid
8:00	Registration Continues	Marriott Marquis International Hall North
8:00-1:00	GENERAL BOARD CONVENES	Marriott Marquis Imperial Ballroom-A
8:30	NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
9:00-11:00	WNAC Nominating Committee (See WNAC Program)	Marriott Marquis

MONDAY AFTERNOON / July 19

1:00	NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
1:30-2:30	WNAC Seminars (See WNAC Program)	Marriott Marquis
3:00	Exhibit Area Opens	Marriott Marquis International Hall South
3:00-4:00	WNAC State Leaders Meeting (See WNAC Program)	Marriott Marquis
3:00-5:30	Pastors/Laymen Conference Presider: Keith Burden Speaker: John C. Maxwell	Civic Center Auditorium
6:00	Music Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium

MONDAY EVENING / July 19

7:00-8:30	WORSHIP SERVICE Presiding: Bobby Shepherd Song Service: Lange Patrick Session Called to Order and Moderator Introduced: Waldo Young, Clerk Appointment of Committee on Committees: Carl Cheshier, Moderator Welcome to Atlanta: William Smith Executive Secretary, Georgia State Association Special Music: Mass Choir	Civic Center Auditorium
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Offering: Bobby Shepherd
Offertory
Special Music: Mass Choir
MESSAGE: Kent Barwick

7:00-8:30	NYC WORSHIP SERVICES (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
8:30	Men's Chorale Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium
8:30-10:00	Exhibit Area Open	Marriott Marquis International Hall South
8:30-10:00	Registration Continues	Marriott Marquis International Hall North
9:00-10:00	Board of Retirement Information Meeting	Marriott Marquis London Room
9:00-10:30	NYC Activities (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
9:00-10:30	Youth Workers' Reception (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
9:15	Music Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium
10:00	Exhibit Area Closed	

TUESDAY MORNING / July 20

7:00-7:45	State Promotional Personnel Breakfast	Marriott Marquis Summit Room
7:00-8:00	Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium
8:00	Registration Continues	Marriott Marquis International Hall North
8:15	NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
8:30-10:30	Foreign/Home Missions Rally Speaker: Ron Owens Theme: <i>Uniting Our Vision Through Prayer</i>	Marriott Marquis Imperial Ballroom-B
9:00	WOMEN NATIONALLY ACTIVE FOR CHRIST (See WNAC Program)	Civic Center Auditorium
10:00	Exhibit Area Open	Marriott Marquis International Hall South
11:00	WNAC Missionary Service	Civic Center Auditorium

TUESDAY AFTERNOON / July 20

1:00	NYC Activities (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
1:30-3:00	Theological Trends Seminar Presiding: Leroy Forlines Subject: <i>Why We Practice Believer's Baptism</i> Speakers: Matt Pinson Paul Harrison	Marriott Marquis B-L-Z-S Rooms
1:30	WNAC Reconvenes (See WNAC Program)	Civic Center Auditorium
1:30-3:30	Sunday School Workshop Speaker: Alton Loveless Subject: "Trends in the American Community That Can Affect the American Church"	Marriott Marquis Trinidad/Madrid

4:00	Music Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium
5:00	Men's Chorale Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium
5:00-6:45	WNAC Fellowship Dinner (See WNAC Program)	Marriott Marquis
5:30	Music Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium

TUESDAY EVENING / July 20

7:00-8:30	WORSHIP SERVICE Presiding: Mike Mounts Song Service: Scott Bullman Special Music: Mass Choir Offering: Mike Mounts Offertory: Mass Choir MESSAGE: Roger L. Hogan	Civic Center Auditorium
7:00-8:30	NYC WORSHIP SERVICES (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
8:30	Men's Chorale Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium
8:30-10:00	Exhibit Area Open	Marriott Marquis International Hall South
8:30-10:00	Registration Continues	Marriott Marquis International Hall North
9:00-10:00	NYC Activities (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
10:00	Exhibit Area Closed	

WEDNESDAY MORNING / July 21

7:00-8:00	Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium
7:00-7:45	State Leaders Breakfast	Marriott Marquis Summit Room
7:00-8:30	Home Missions Board Breakfast	Marriott Marquis Calgary Room
8:00-11:00	NYC Competitive Finals (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
8:00-12:00	Registration Continues	Marriott Marquis International Hall North
9:00-11:45	CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSION Moderator's Message: Carl Cheshier Report of Credentials Committee and Seating of Delegates Partial Report of General Board Partial Report of Nominating Committee REPORTS OF NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS (Board members elected at conclusion of each report.) Executive Office: Melvin Worthington Sunday School and Church Training: Alton Loveless Foreign Missions: James Forlines Free Will Baptist Bible College: Tom Malone Master's Men: Tom Dooley	Civic Center Auditorium

10:00	Exhibit Area Open	Marriott Marquis International Hall South
12:00 Noon	REGISTRATION CLOSES	

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON / July 21

12:00-1:00	NYC Awards Ceremony (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
1:00	NYC Activities (See NYC Program)	Marriott Marquis
1:30-3:00	Music Commission Seminar Copenhagen/Stockholm/Amsterdam	Marriott Marquis
1:30-4:00	CONVENTION BUSINESS RECONVENES Scripture Reading and Prayer Assistant Moderator: Tim York	Civic Center Auditorium
1:35	REPORTS OF NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS (continued) Home Missions: Trymon Messer Board of Retirement: William Evans Free Will Baptist Foundation: William Evans Commission for Theological Integrity: Leroy Forlines Media Commission: Steve Faison Music Commission: Randy Sawyer Historical Commission: Thomas Marberry	
3:30	General Board Final Report Partial Report of Nominating Committee Election of General Board Members	Civic Center Auditorium
4:00	Business Session Recessed	
4:00	Men's Chorale Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium
5:00	Music Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium
6:00	Music Rehearsal	Civic Center Auditorium

WEDNESDAY EVENING / July 21

7:00-9:00	WORSHIP SERVICE Presiding: Sherwood Lee Song Service: Doug Little Special Music: Mass Choir Recognition of Missionaries: Trymon Messer/James Forlines Missions Offering: Sherwood Lee Special Music: Mass Choir MESSAGE: Robert J. Morgan	Civic Center Auditorium
8:30-10:00	Exhibit Area Open	Marriott Marquis International Hall South
9:00-11:00	NYC Awards Ceremony	
10:00	Exhibit Area Closed	

THURSDAY MORNING / July 22

7:00-8:00	Presidents Breakfast	Marriott Marquis Calgary Room
7:30-9:00	Sunday School Board Breakfast	Marriott Marquis Quebec Room
9:00	Exhibit Area Open	Marriott Marquis International Hall South

9:00

CONCLUDING BUSINESS SESSION

Civic Center
Auditorium

Scripture Reading and Prayer
Assistant Clerk: Keith Burden
NYC Report: Dean Jones
WNAC Report: Marjorie Workman

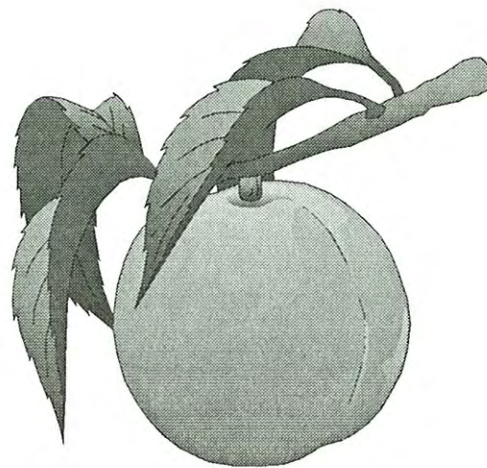
Report of Committees:
— Registration Committee
— Budget Committee
— Obituary Committee
— Resolutions Committee
Nominating Committee Final Report
Election of General Officers

11:45

Adjournment

12:15

Exhibits Closed
(30 minutes after convention adjournment)



LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE CARD
—1999—

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____
is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will Baptists
from _____ FWB Church,
_____, _____, _____
(City) (State) (District Association)
_____, _____ or _____
(Pastor) (Church Clerk)

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

WNAC LOCAL DELEGATE CARD
—1999—

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____
is a duly authorized delegate to the WNAC Convention of Free Will Baptists from
the _____ women's group
(Group Name)
of _____ Free Will Baptist Church
(Church Name)

(Church Address)
Signed _____ or _____
(Local Coordinator) (Local Secretary)

IMPORTANT: This card properly signed and accompanied by a \$5 registration
fee entitles a local delegate to register for voting privileges in the WNAC
convention. Only one delegate allowed per church.

National Youth Conference

32nd Annual Conference / July 18-21, 1999

Atlanta, Georgia

Theme: "No Wall Too High"

Conference Director: Dean Jones

Program Director: Steve Greenwood

Children's Coordinator: Lisa Jones

Conference Office Manager: Kristy Baker

Conference Registration Coordinator: Jill Pointer

Conference Pre-School Worship Coordinator: Katie Greenwood

NYC Headquarters Hotel: Marriott Marquis

NYC Office: Marriott Marquis / Imperial Registration

NYC Storage: Marriott Marquis / Press Room

(NYC operates under the auspices of the Sunday School and Church Training Department.)



Dean Jones



Steve Greenwood

SUNDAY MORNING / July 18

10:00-10:45 **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Preschool Class (Ages 3-5) Marriott Marquis Copenhagen Room

Children and Tweeners' Class (Grades 1-6) Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom IV

Teen Class Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III

10:45 Intermission

11:00-12:00 **MORNING WORSHIP**

Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5) Marriott Marquis Copenhagen Room

Children and Tweeners' Worship (Grades 1-6) Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom IV

Teen Worship Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III

SUNDAY AFTERNOON / July 18

12:15 NYC Personnel Luncheon Marriott Marquis Bonn Room

3:00 NYC Registration Marriott Marquis International Hall North

4:00 Turning Point/Horizon Pre-Test Session #1 Marriott Marquis Quebec Room

4:00 IMPACT ATLANTA Orientation Marriott Marquis Chablis Room

5:00 YET Showcase Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III

SUNDAY EVENING / July 18

7:00-8:30 **NYC WORSHIP SERVICES**

Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5) Marriott Marquis Copenhagen Room

Children and Tweeners' Worship (Grades 1-6) Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom IV

Teen Worship Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III

8:30-10:00 Registration Continues Marriott Marquis International Hall North

9:00-10:00 NYC Judges' Reception Marriott Marquis Trinidad / Madrid

9:00-10:00 Children's Activities Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom IV

9:00-10:00 Tweeners' Activities Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III

9:00-11:00 Georgia's Jungle Gym (Open for grades 7-12) Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom I

MONDAY MORNING / July 19

8:00 Registration Continues Marriott Marquis

8:00-5:00 Art Gallery Open Marriott Marquis Consulate Room

8:00-6:30 NYC Exhibit Area Open Marriott Marquis Lobby

8:30 NYC Assemblies (Required of ALL Competitors and Coaches)

Music and Arts Assembly Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III

Bible Bowl Marriott Marquis Sydney Room

Bible Tic-Tac-Toe Marriott Marquis Bonn Room

Sword Drill/Memorization Marriott Marquis London / Zurich

9:00 NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES Music and Arts Section 1 Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III

	Music and Arts Section 2	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom IV
	Music and Arts Section 3 Copenhagen/Stockholm/Amsterdam	Marriott Marquis
	Music and Arts Section 4	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III
	Bible Bowl	Marriott Marquis Sydney Room
	Bible Tic-Tac-Toe	Marriott Marquis Bonn Room
	Bible Sword Drill	Marriott Marquis London/Zurich
9:00	IMPACT ATLANTA Orientation	Marriott Marquis Chablis Room
10:00	Bible Memorization	Marriott Marquis London/Zurich
10:00-12:00	IMPACT ATLANTA	Marriott Marquis Chablis Room

MONDAY AFTERNOON / July 19

1:00	NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES	
	Music and Arts Section 5	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom IV
	Music and Arts Section 6 Copenhagen/Stockholm/Amsterdam	Marriott Marquis
	Music and Arts Section 7	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III
	Music and Arts Section 8	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom IV
	Bible Bowl	Marriott Marquis Sydney Room
	Bible Tic-Tac-Toe	Marriott Marquis Bonn Room
	Bible Sword Drill	Marriott Marquis London/Zurich
1:00-2:00	Climbing Gear Youth Children Youth Workers	Marriott Marquis Trinidad Room Summit Room Calgary Room
1:00-3:00	Georgia's Jungle Gym	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom I
2:00	Bible Memorization	Marriott Marquis London/Zurich
2:00-3:00	Climbing Gear	Marriott Marquis Summit Room
2:00-5:00	IMPACT ATLANTA	Marriott Marquis Chablis Room
3:30-4:30	Turning Point/Horizon Pre-Test Session #2	Marriott Marquis Quebec Room
5:00	YET Showcase National YET	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III

MONDAY EVENING / July 19

7:00-8:30	NYC WORSHIP SERVICES	
	Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5)	Marriott Marquis Copenhagen Room

	Children and Tweeners' Worship (Grades 1-6)	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom IV
	Teen Worship	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III
8:30-10:00	Registration Continues	Marriott Marquis
8:30-10:00	NYC Exhibit Area Open	Marriott Marquis Lobby
9:00-10:30	Wall Builders Concert	Marriott Marquis Imperial Ballroom-A
9:00-10:30	Youth Workers' Reception	Marriott Marquis Trinidad/Madrid
9:00-10:30	Georgia's Jungle Gym (Open for grades 1-6)	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom I

TUESDAY MORNING / July 20

8:00	Registration Continues	Marriott Marquis
8:00-5:00	Art Gallery Open	Marriott Marquis Consulate Room
8:00-6:30	NYC Exhibit Area Open	Marriott Marquis Lobby
8:15	NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES	
	Music and Arts Section 9 Copenhagen/Stockholm/Amsterdam	Marriott Marquis
	Music and Arts Section 10	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III
	Bible Sword Drill	Marriott Marquis London/Zurich
	Bible Tic-Tac-Toe	Marriott Marquis Bonn Room
9:00-12:00	Turning Point/Horizon Playoff Rounds	Marriott Marquis Sydney Room
9:30	Bible Memorization	Marriott Marquis London/Zurich
10:00-11:00	Climbing Gear Youth Youth/Adults Children Youth Workers	Marriott Marquis Trinidad Room Quebec Room Sydney Room Quebec Room
10:00-12:00	IMPACT ATLANTA	Marriott Marquis Chablis Room
11:00-12:00	Climbing Gear Youth Children	Marriott Marquis Trinidad Room Sydney Room

TUESDAY AFTERNOON / July 20

1:00	NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES	
	Music and Arts Section 11	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom III
	Music and Arts Section 12	Marriott Marquis Copenhagen Room
1:00-2:00	Climbing Gear Youth	Marriott Marquis Calgary Room
1:00-3:00	Climbing Gear Adults	Marriott Marquis Calgary Room

1:00-4:00	IMPACT ATLANTA	Marriott Marquis Chablis Room
2:00-3:00	Climbing Gear Youth Workers	Marriott Marquis Calgary Room
2:00-4:00	IMPACT ATLANTA	Marriott Marquis Chablis Room

TUESDAY EVENING / July 20

7:00-8:30	NYC WORSHIP SERVICES	
	Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5)	Marriott Marquis Copenhagen Room
	Children and Tweeners' Worship (Grades 1-6)	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom IV
	Teen Worship	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III
8:30-10:00	Registration Continues	Marriott Marquis
8:30-10:00	NYC Exhibit Area Open	Marriott Marquis Lobby
9:00-10:00	Children's Activities	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III
9:00-10:00	Tweeners' Activities	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III

WEDNESDAY MORNING / July 21

8:00	Registration Continues	Marriott Marquis
8:00-12:00	Art Gallery Open	Marriott Marquis Consulate Room
8:00-5:00	NYC Exhibit Area Open	Marriott Marquis Lobby
8:15-12:00	FINAL BIBLE COMPETITION (In Chronological Order) Bible Tic-Tac-Toe Bible Bowl Bible Sword Drill Turning Point/Horizon	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III

10:00-11:00	Climbing Gear Youth Youth Workers Children's Workers	Marriott Marquis Trinidad Room Quebec Room Sydney Room
10:00-12:00	IMPACT ATLANTA	Marriott Marquis Chablis Room
11:00-12:00	Climbing Gear Youth Youth Workers Children	Marriott Marquis Madrid Room Quebec Room Sydney Room

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON / July 21

1:00-2:00	Climbing Gear Children's Workers Youth Workers	Marriott Marquis Sydney Room Calgary Room
2:00-3:00	Climbing Gear Youth Workers	Marriott Marquis Quebec Room
2:00-5:00	IMPACT ATLANTA	Marriott Marquis Chablis Room

WEDNESDAY EVENING / July 21

7:00-8:30	NYC WORSHIP SERVICES	
	Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5)	Marriott Marquis Copenhagen Room
	Children and Tweeners' Worship (Grades 1-6)	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom IV
	Teen Worship	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III
8:50-9:00	Children's Choir Presentation	Marriott Marquis
9:00-11:00	NYC Awards Ceremony	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom II, III
11:00-12:00	Truth and Peace Reception	Marriott Marquis

This program is subject to change!



Women Nationally Active for Christ

64th Annual Session / July 19-20, 1999

Atlanta Civic Center Atlanta, Georgia



Marjorie Workman
Tennessee



Everyl Getz
Texas



Shirley Combs
Brazil



Brenda Vaughn
South Carolina



Lynette Morgan
Côte d'Ivoire



Genny Waddell
Tennessee

Theme: "Leadership: Passing the Torch"
Scripture: II Timothy 2:2
Hymn: "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"
Music Coordinator: Shirley Kimbrel
Worship Leader: Susan Forlines
Organist: Carol Reid
Pianist: Shirley Kimbrel
Registration Chairman: Christine Daniel

SUNDAY AFTERNOON / July 18

12:30-1:15	WNAC Executive Committee Luncheon	Marriott Marquis Bonn Room
1:15	Registration Orientation	Marriott Marquis Marquis Ballroom IV
1:30-4:30	WNAC Executive Committee Meeting	Marriott Marquis Summit Room
3:00	Registration	Marriott Marquis International Hall North

MONDAY MORNING / July 19

9:00-11:00	WNAC Nominating Committee	Marriott Marquis Calgary Room
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MONDAY AFTERNOON / July 19

1:30-2:30	WNAC Seminar	Marriott Marquis Imperial Ballroom-A
	Theme: <i>How to Handle Depression</i> Presiding: Debe Taylor Speaker: Genny Waddell	
3:00-4:00	WNAC State Leaders Meeting	Marriott Marquis Imperial Ballroom-A
	Presiding: Marjorie Workman Topic: <i>Show and Tell</i>	

Tuesday Morning / July 20

9:00	WOMEN NATIONALLY ACTIVE FOR CHRIST	Civic Center Auditorium
	Presiding: Everyl Getz Congregational Singing Devotional: Lynette Morgan Special Music: Henrietta Brown Welcome: Gail Smith Creative Arts Awards: Suzanne Franks Credentials Committee Report / Seating of Delegates Executive Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Marjorie Workman Resolutions Committee Report Appreciation Committee Report Nominating Committee Report	
11:10	MISSIONARY SERVICE	Civic Center Auditorium
	Congregational Singing Offering Offertory: Paige Goodman Music: Danny and Bobbie Thomas MESSAGE: Shirley Combs	

TUESDAY AFTERNOON / July 20

1:30	WNAC Reconvenes	Civic Center Auditorium
	Congregational Singing Music: Jeremy, Joni, Justin Thomas Registration Committee Report WNAC Special Feature: Diana Bryant <i>Passing the Torch</i>	
3:00	Adjournment	
5:00	WNAC Fellowship Dinner	Marriott Marquis Imperial Ballroom-B
	Invocation: Joanne King Speaker: Brenda Vaughn Benediction: Dawn Sweeney	

Start the Summer Vacation off Right . . .



**Subscribe to CONTACT
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Complete the form below and mail to:

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P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Please sign me up for Contact:

Name

Address

City

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☐ Payment Enclosed (\$12 / year).

☐ Bill Me.

Please send a gift subscription to:

Name

Address

City

State/Zip

THE TOGETHER WAY

March 1999

Receipts: State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 496.02	\$.00	\$ 496.02	\$ 1,411.89	\$.00	\$ 1,411.89
Arizona	988.61	214.40	1,203.01	988.61	214.40	1,203.01
Arkansas	13,838.34	10,835.11	24,673.45	41,767.18	41,901.88	83,669.06
California	.00	1,384.97	1,384.97	.00	3,688.55	3,688.55
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	120.00	6,000.00	6,120.00	218.93	6,000.00	6,218.93
Georgia	22,338.71	1,545.15	23,883.86	62,947.29	5,723.62	68,670.91
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	8,579.75	2,005.06	10,584.81	23,620.45	6,069.60	29,690.05
Indiana	1,072.40	796.72	1,869.12	3,060.23	1,003.43	4,063.66
Iowa	90.00	564.00	654.00	180.00	1,197.61	1,377.61
Kansas	.00	42.82	42.82	.00	147.89	147.89
Kentucky	1,232.30	683.24	1,915.54	2,400.90	2,150.49	4,551.39
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Maryland	.00	131.25	131.25	.00	6,137.68	6,137.68
Michigan	2,278.06	120.00	2,398.06	26,727.23	6,159.45	32,886.68
Mississippi	11,507.36	641.15	12,148.51	19,280.67	876.15	20,156.82
Missouri	47,333.64	11,887.57	59,221.21	134,228.97	36,184.01	170,412.98
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	257.91	18.95	276.86	1,524.31	82.15	1,606.46
North Carolina	926.89	500.00	1,426.89	4,200.38	10,052.94	14,253.32
Ohio	8,326.41	2,934.66	11,261.07	25,557.71	9,691.01	35,248.72
Oklahoma	56,272.23	14,345.22	70,617.45	169,341.31	33,451.63	202,792.94
South Carolina	46,815.85	.00	46,815.85	134,661.77	.00	134,661.77
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	2,707.65	1,542.50	4,250.15	26,020.57	3,385.50	29,406.07
Texas	10,743.12	542.89	11,286.01	25,008.82	896.23	25,905.05
Virginia	239.95	.00	239.95	1,818.19	.00	1,818.19
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	107.80	.00	107.80	5,808.91	263.62	6,072.53
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	188.03	11.61	199.64	778.41	38.78	817.19
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.04	.04	.00	.22	.22
Totals	\$ 236,461.03	\$ 56,747.31	\$ 293,208.34	\$ 711,552.73	\$ 175,316.84	\$ 886,869.57

Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 1,684.86	\$ 25,536.29	\$ 27,221.15	\$ 5,892.29	\$ 78,892.51	\$ 84,784.80
Foreign Missions	158,695.75	7,178.54	165,874.29	433,943.68	22,177.58	456,121.26
FWBBC	18,308.10	7,178.54	25,486.64	45,378.63	22,177.58	67,556.21
Home Missions	51,923.97	5,618.00	57,541.97	189,726.96	17,356.39	207,083.35
Retirement & Insurance	270.28	4,369.54	4,639.82	1,079.54	13,499.41	14,578.95
Master's Men	434.96	4,369.54	4,804.50	1,126.87	13,499.41	14,626.28
Com. for Theo. Integrity	45.88	156.05	201.93	124.72	482.12	606.84
FWB Foundation	162.53	1,872.66	2,035.19	1,181.75	5,785.48	6,967.23
Historical Commission	22.16	156.05	178.21	64.04	482.12	546.16
Music Commission	32.32	156.05	188.37	57.94	482.12	540.06
Media Commission	42.55	156.05	198.60	97.50	482.12	579.62
Hillsdale FWB College	1,576.32	.00	1,576.32	4,675.42	.00	4,675.42
Other	3,261.35	.00	3,261.35	28,203.39	.00	28,203.39
Totals	\$ 236,461.03	\$ 56,747.31	\$ 293,208.34	\$ 711,552.73	\$ 175,316.84	\$ 886,869.57

Pre-Register by June 18 and Pick up Your Convention Packet on Saturday!

*Early pick-up available at
Atlanta Marriott Marquis
for those who pre-register.*

*Saturday, July 17
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, July 18
1:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.*

Pre-Registration ends June 18, 1999.

News Flash!

Just in time for the convention . . .

— Step onto the Information Super Highway —

Check our web page at **www.nafwb.org**

for a pre-registration form, housing form and
delegate cards that can be printed from your computer.
Fill them out and send them in.

While you're there, check out links to
other denominational agencies.
You might be surprised at what you find.

Check out the changes. It's as easy
as A-B-C:

- A ltered pre-registration form.
- B adges that are attractive.
- C onfirmation letter.

See Page 16 for the new pre-registra-
tion form. Check out the new badge
design on this page.

(The real badge will be prettier;
it will be in full color!)

National Association of Free Will Baptists

Atlanta, Georgia

July 18-22, 1999

Johnny

John Doe

Anytown, ST

Ord. Min./WNAC/Visitor

Pre-Registration Form

for

National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Atlanta, Georgia / July 18-22, 1999

DEADLINE:

Must be **postmarked**
on or before
June 18, 1999

Please Print: (Only one person per form—make copies if needed.)

Name: _____
First or Name desired on badge _____ Last _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: (____) _____ - _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

Church Name: _____ City _____ State _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Note: You may register for all three conventions on this form.

National Association Registration

Voting Delegates:

All voting delegates must be members in good standing of a Free Will Baptist church.

- ☐ National Officer
- ☐ National Board Member
- ☐ State Delegate
- ☐ Local Church Delegate (\$25)
- ☐ Foreign Missionary
- ☐ Home Missionary
- ☐ Ordained Deacon
- ☐ Ordained Minister

Non-Voting Attendees:

- ☐ Licensed Minister
- ☐ Visitor

WNAC Registration

Voting Delegates:

- ☐ National Officer
- ☐ State President
- ☐ State Field Worker
- ☐ State Delegate
- ☐ Local WAC Delegate (\$5)

Non-Voting Attendees:

- ☐ Visitor

National Youth Conference Registration

Pre-Registration Fee: \$20*

◆ Grades 1-12 *must* register to attend NYC events.

◆ Ages 2-6 *must* register if attending Pre-school Worship.

Birthdate: ____/____/____ Age: ____

Grade completed Spring 1999: ____

Parent/Guardian name: _____

Youth Leader's name: _____

Payment must accompany this form for:

Tickets:

Youth Workers Reception (\$15)	Quantity _____	x \$15\$	_____
WNAC Fellowship Dinner (\$28)	Quantity _____	x \$28\$	_____

Delegate Fees:

Local Church Delegate (\$25)	(Must enclose a signed delegate card; see Contact, page 9.)**\$	_____
Local WAC Delegate (\$5)	(Must enclose a signed WNAC delegate card; see Contact, page 9.)**\$	_____

Youth Registration Fee:

Pre-Registration Fee (\$20)\$	_____
*On-Site Registration Fee: \$25		
Total\$	_____

Send one check for total amount — payable to FWB Convention.

**Delegate cards available on website: www.nafwb.org

Mail to:

Convention Registration
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
16 Contact, June 1999

Confirmation letter will be mailed to
all those pre-registering.

For Office Use Only

Date Rcv'd _____
Ck/MO# _____ Amt _____
From _____

Housing Form

National Association of Free Will Baptists / National Convention

Atlanta, Georgia • July 18-22, 1999

Print or type all information requested and phone, mail or FAX form to the hotel of your choice by **June 18, 1999**. If form is faxed, keep your transaction report as proof of transmittal. You will receive acknowledgment of your hotel assignment by mail within two weeks of the time the form is received by the hotel. All reservations, changes and cancellations should be made directly with the hotels.

DEPOSIT REQUIRED: An advance deposit of **\$135 per room** is required. Your deposit will be charged to your credit card by providing the information requested below. Deposits being made by check should be for **\$135 per room** payable to the hotel of your choice and mailed to the address below. Forms received without credit card information or a check for the deposit will be returned and reservations will not be processed. Hotel refund policies vary. The hotels *prefer* credit cards rather than checks.

Changes or cancellations should be made directly with the hotel. Check your hotel confirmation for instructions regarding cancellation policies and check-in times. Reservations received after June 18, 1999, (or once block is full) will be on a space and rate available basis.

If you mail or FAX the housing form, number hotels in numerical order of preference. If your preferred hotel is sold out, your form will be sent to the other hotel listed on this form.

◆ ◆ CIRCLE ROOM TYPE REQUESTED BELOW ◆ ◆

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

Number Hotel choices in order of preference ↓	HOTELS	SINGLE 1 bed / 1 person	DOUBLE 1 bed / 2 persons	DBL/DBL 2 beds / 2 persons	TRIPLE 2 beds / 3 persons	QUAD 2 beds / 4 persons	PARKING
	Marriott Marquis (Headquarters)	\$109	\$109	\$109	\$119	\$119	\$10/day valet
	Hilton Atlanta & Towers (Overflow)	N/A	N/A	\$119	\$119	\$119	\$12/day valet

Rates do not include tax which is currently 14% in Georgia.

Indicate Special Requests:

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

Three ways to make hotel reservations:	By Phone	By FAX	By Mail
Marriott Marquis: (Headquarters)	404/521-0000	404/586-6247	Attn: Reservations 265 Peachtree Center Ave. Atlanta, GA 30303
Hilton Atlanta and Towers (Overflow)	404/221-6300	404/221-6301	Attn: Reservations 255 Courtland Street N.E. Atlanta, GA 30303

ARRIVAL DATE / / TIME DEPARTURE DATE / /

APPLY DEPOSIT TO: MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER <input type="checkbox"/> AMEx <input type="checkbox"/>	
CARD NUMBER _____	EXP. DATE _____
NAME ON CARD: _____	SIGNATURE _____

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED. CHECK # _____

ROOMMATES: (LIST ALL OCCUPANTS OF ROOM)

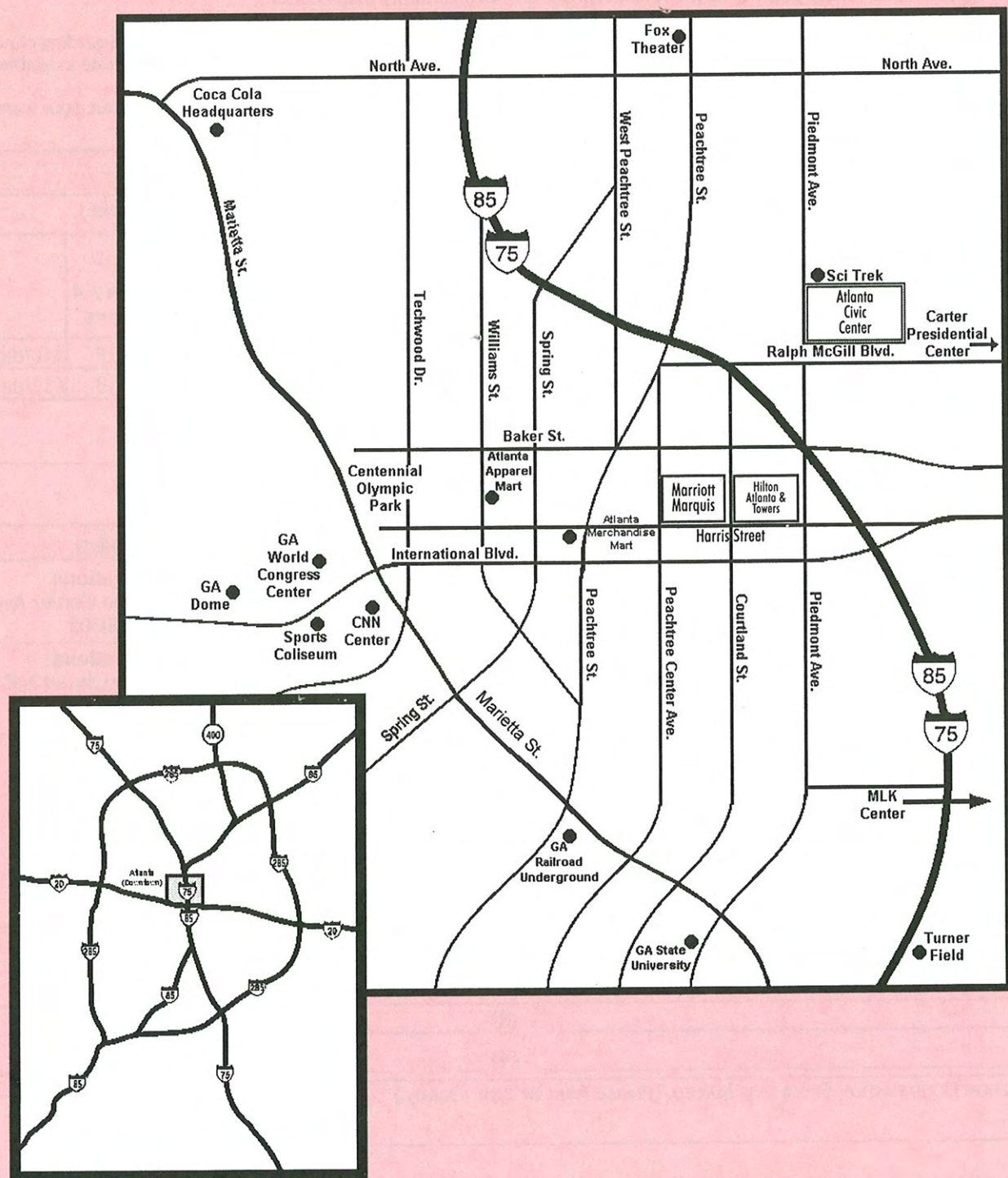
(1) _____	(3) _____
(2) _____	(4) _____

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

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
 PHONE (____) _____ FAX (____) _____

Send only
 one (1)
 form per room.

Atlanta Accommodations



(SHADED AREA ENLARGED TO SHOW DETAIL)

FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Reverend Herman Greenwood With The Lord

WARREN, AR—Reverend Herman Abram Greenwood, a Free Will Baptist minister for 46 years, died March 22. He was 81. He invested more than four decades of preaching and teaching in two Arkansas district associations, Saline and Little Missouri River.

A native of Warren and a life-long farmer, Brother Greenwood's bivocational ministry began in 1953 when he preached his first sermon Sunday evening at Pleasant Valley FWB Church near Warren on June 21. He was ordained in 1954.

Herman had been saved 20 years before he was called to preach. In a 1982 *Contact* article he said, "My call is different from others I know about. Mine was all joy. I didn't run from God, but I wanted to be sure."

As he considered the call to preach, Greenwood said, "I preached to my tractor. It never got saved,



but it sure did run good. I was a poor hill farmer, in debt, no money and too timid to speak in public."

Always active in associational work beyond his pastorates, Brother Greenwood brought a sense of balance and good humor to the ministry. He took the work of God seriously; he set his hand to the gospel plow with purpose and never looked back.

Funeral services were conducted March 24 in Warren. Reverends Kevin Jewell, Roy Grice, Jr., and Ed Cook officiated.

Reverend Greenwood is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ruthie Mae Greenwood; three sons, Mitchell Greenwood of Warren, Gerald Greenwood of White Hall and Louis Greenwood of Alma; two daughters, Betty Radcliff of Kirby and Judy Moore of New Hope; one brother, 12 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Georgia Pastor, Lamar Parrish, Dies



ALBANY, GA—Reverend Lamar Parrish, 65, recent pastor of Fellowship FWB Church in Albany died at 4:00 a.m. on February 9. His wife Marjorie said he began praying at 2:00 a.m. and prayed until 4:00, when he looked up at her and died. His last two hours on earth were spent in intercessory prayer.

Brother Parrish preached as a Free Will Baptist minister in his home state of Georgia for 48 years. He began preaching at age 17, was ordained in 1952 and began his pastoral ministry at St. Paul FWB Church

near Tifton in the Union Association.

Former Georgia executive secretary Herbert Waid said about Parrish's early years, "Sometimes he would not get enough offering to pay for his gas. Sometimes he went by bus."

Parrish labored in five of Georgia's associations, pastoring 11 churches, all as a bivocational minister. He served four years as Georgia's assistant moderator (1975-79).

In 1972 he began a mission work between Moultrie and Albany which became Fellowship FWB Church. Herbert Waid said, "Preaching was Lamar's life. He was not much for idle chit-chat, but he could talk for hours about the Bible and spiritual matters."

Reverend Parrish is survived by his wife, Marjorie; one daughter, Laree Findley; one son, Gordon Parrish, and six grandchildren.

Alabama Minister, John Edwards, Retires

DOTHAN, AL—After 46 years in the ministry, Dr. John A. Edwards retired on March 31. He pastored 41 years in his home state of Alabama, completing 17 years in his final pastorate, Eastside FWB Church in Dothan.

The 73-year-old minister pastored three years in Tennessee (Woodbine FWB Church) and two years in Arizona (First FWB Church, Tucson). However, he invested four decades pastoring three Alabama churches—First FWB Church in Dothan, First FWB church in Decatur and Eastside FWB Church.

Dr. Edwards' work extended beyond his local pas-



torate. Nationally, he served on the General Board, the Executive Committee and the Home Missions Board.

On the state level, he moderated the Alabama State Association 25 years, and served five years as an Alabama state missionary.

Locally, he served 23 years as moderator of the Alabama-Florida State Line Association. He was also elected to local mission boards and ordaining councils.

Dr. Edwards' future plans include revivals and pulpit supply. His new address is: P. O. Box 423, Pinckard, AL 36371.

Phone number: (334) 983-1909.

Master's Men Miracle

ANTIOCH, TN—Four years after the Master's Men Department's indebtedness reached almost \$118,000, Board chairman Waymon Ray presented a \$95,000 check to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington, eliminating the debt.

The check was presented on March 30 during the Board's spring meeting at the National Offices Building. Master's Men director Tom Dooley asked Dr.

Worthington to join Board members in his office for the formal presentation.

Since 1995, interest from the Master's Men Endowment has been paid on the \$118,000 debt, reducing the total to \$95,000 this spring.

Director Tom Dooley and Master's Men Board members praised God for the generosity that allowed the large debt to be eliminated.



Master's Men chairman Waymon Ray (L) gives \$95,000 check to Melvin Worthington. Other board members: Don Neal (L), Johnny Fowlkes, Thurman Pate, Jr., Earnie Taylor, Jerry Atwell, General Director Tom Dooley, Clarence Lewis, Cliff Donoho.

Arizona Re-Elects George Harvey

TUCSON, AZ—Home missionary George Harvey, Jr., was elected to his fourth term as moderator by delegates at the Arizona District Association. Sixty-four people registered for the March 13 meeting. This included six ministers, 13 lay delegates and two deacons.

Tentmaker home missionary Jerry Rayburn preached on "Big Mountains, Little Faith". Rayburn leads Desert Springs FWB Church in Sierra Vista. Deacon Walt Spears of First FWB Church in Tucson brought the afternoon devotion from Acts 17:22-24.

In other action, delegates elected Pastor Charles Marshall of First FWB Church in Phoenix as assistant moderator.

The 2000 district association will meet March 11 at First FWB Church in Phoenix.

Louisiana District Re-Elects Richards

SLIDELL, LA—Delegates to the ninth annual session of the First Louisiana District Association elected Home Missionary Norman Richards to his third term as moderator. The January 16 session met at New Hope FWB Church in Slidell.

Fifteen people, including three ministers, registered for the meeting. Free Will Baptist executive secretary Melvin Worthington preached during the worship service from Romans 5:15-20.

Delegates voted to send letters of inquiry to two non-represented churches in Baton Rouge and Pineville, requesting clarification of their intentions regarding membership in the association.

The next meeting of the First Louisiana District Association will convene January 15, 2000, at Heritage FWB Church in Shreveport.

Illinois Adopts \$200,000 Budget

SOUTH ROXANA, IL—The Illinois State Association adopted a \$204,600 budget during its March 19-20 meeting at Bethel FWB Church in South Roxana, according to Promotional Secretary David Shores. The budget includes \$100,000 for The Together Way Plan.

Together Way funds will be allocated: National Association (28%), Illinois Board of Missions (24%), Promotional Fund (12%), Youth Camp Board (16%), General Fund (9%), C. E. Board (5%), CTS (4%), Ministerial Scholarship Fund (1%), Master's Men Board (1%).

Moderator Larry Clyatt was elected to his 11th term. The 40th annual session registered 153 people, including 34 ministers, 26 deacons and 35 lay delegates.

The Quad Cities District sent representatives for the first time. The district, which includes churches along the Mississippi River both in Iowa and Illinois, joined the state work in 1998.

Three ministers developed the association theme, "Responding to God's Open Door." Retired minister Leon McBride preached on revisiting the past. Promotional secretary David Shores preached on relating to the present. Missouri executive secretary Nathan Ruble preached twice—reaching for the future and responding to God's open door.

Missionary to France Dennis Teague spoke at the Friday evening Missions Banquet. Host pastor William Crank addressed the Master's Men Breakfast. The Christian Education Board sponsored a Tuesday evening seminar led by Alton Loveless, general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

The 2000 state association will meet March 17-18 at Peace FWB Church in Granite City.

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South Carolina Launches Historical Commission

INMAN, SC—Delegates to South Carolina's 57th annual state association established a nine-person Historical Commission, according to Clerk Todd Smith. The Commission is composed of one member from each of the state's eight conferences, plus a director elected during the February 24-26 session.

Darlington pastor Joe McKnight was elected director of the Commission. Members will research the state association's history and prepare a report no later than the 2003 session. They were also charged with preparing a permanent archive at the state promotional office. The terms of all members and the director expire in 2003.

Moderator Sherwood Lee was elected to his fourth term. The Beaver Creek Association hosted the state delegation at New Life FWB Church in Inman. Eighty-seven ministers and 37 lay delegates registered for the meeting, along with numerous visitors.

Six resolutions claimed the attention of delegates.

One resolution instructed the promotional office to schedule a series of education seminars at various locations across the state on the pastor's taxes, FWB Retirement program, legal issues, doctrine and Sunday School growth.

Other resolutions opposed gambling, cited intra-associational issues regarding ministerial credentials and rebuked President Bill Clinton's behavior.

Three sermons and four devotionals peppered the agenda. Sermons by Cornerstone FWB Church pastor Steward Norris (NC), Southeastern FWB College president Billy Bevan and Tabernacle FWB Church pastor Ralph Byars highlighted the meeting.

Officials recognized five churches and one individual for financial support and service. Delegates adopted a \$125,000 budget for the promotional office and bookstore. During 1998, the state churches gave more than \$719,000 to denominational causes.

The 2000 state association will meet February 24-25 in the Central Association.

Christian School To Open In Kentucky

PAINTSVILLE, KY—After six years of planning, the Johnson County Christian School will open its doors this fall with K-5 through fourth grade, according to Board of Trustees vice-president James Kelly Caudill.

The Johnson County Conference, a member of the Kentucky State Association of Free Will Baptists, agreed with a five-man Board of Trustees in December 1993 to pursue the idea of a Christian school in the area. The Board of Trustees secured a deed to 46 acres of commercial property and proceeded to

erect a building.

At press time the property was paid for and the newly-erected building 98 percent debt-free.

The Board of Trustees includes: President Herbert Arms, James Kelly Caudill, Jim McKenzie, Harry Neal Frisby and Herbert Slone. The six-person Planning Committee includes: Emogene Burton, Pam Rowland, Linda Webb, Hurston Hall, Paul Provence and Todd Shelton.



Johnson County Christian School (Kentucky).

"A record response in faith promise giving," said Pastor **Henry Van Kluyve** when members of **First FWB Church** in **Beaufort, NC**, pledged \$30,000 in 1999 to missions. Last year, members pledged \$24,600 and gave over \$25,000. The congregation supports nine foreign and seven home missionaries.

Contact welcomes the **Church Mouse**, publication of **North Warren FWB Church** in **Warren, MI**. The 10-pager includes a message from Pastor **George Johnson**, an editorial by **Teresa Johnson**, general church news and helpful hints for readers.

Pastor **Osmundo Corrales** and members of **Resurrection FWB Church** in **Culver City, CA**, celebrated 11 years in their new building. Pastor Corrales heads up a strong Hispanic outreach in the Los Angeles area. He was converted in Cuba under the ministry of the late Thomas Willey.

When members arrived for services recently at **First FWB Church** in **Henderson, TX**, the first thing they saw was a new 4'x8' lighted sign sitting out front. Pastor **John High** said the sign was purchased when former member **Mary Brown's** estate donated \$4,000 to the church. The church also brought **Mark Davidson** on staff as youth minister.

Pastor **John Meade** reports 11 converts and nine baptisms at **Southwest FWB Church** in **Columbus, OH**.

Pastor **Eddie Young** reports seven conversions and baptisms and six new members at **Pleasant Hill FWB Church** in **Dover, TN**. Church officials announced plans for the Dale Dryer Pavilion, a \$10,000 project funded by a gift from the family.

Harrison FWB Church in **Minford, OH**, witnessed six conversions and two rededications. **Gary Dheel** pastors.

Twelve new members joined **First FWB Church** in **Austintown, OH**. Pastor **Bruce Beal** also reports five conversions and seven baptisms.

A member of **Pleasant Valley FWB Church** in **Pedro, OH**, announced his

call to preach—**Todd Bevins**. Pastor **Don Friend, Jr.**, reports two conversions and six new members.

Members of **Greater Columbus FWB Church** in **Columbus, OH**, purchased another van to transport people to services. The church also installed a kitchen downstairs for special events. Pastor **Bill Pitts** reports two conversions and four rededications.

Pleasant Hill FWB Church in **Delaware, OH**, began three ministries in one month, according to Pastor **H. Wayne Keith**. Two of the ministries were for church youth. Five new members joined the church.

Pastor **John Haney** and the **Symmes Valley FWB Church** in **Willow Wood, OH**, have been busy. Haney reports 21 conversions, 12 baptisms and 10 new members. They also added appliances in the fellowship hall and completed building repairs.

The **Oklahoma Ministers' Retreat** met March 8-10 in Wagoner. Guest speakers were Drs. **Talmadge Johnson** and **Stephen Green**.

Let's hear it for **Bob Laur!** Bob has not missed church since 1952; that's 47 years of perfect attendance. Pastor **David Shores** and members of **Ina FWB Church** in **Ina, IL**, helped Bob celebrate.

The good news from **Peace FWB Church** in **Granite City, IL**, is six new members and three baptisms. **David Malone** pastors.

The harmony is better at **Harmony FWB Church** in **West Frankfort, IL**, since **Blane Allen** got saved and five other people joined the church. **Kenneth Edwards** pastors.

There's a \$70,000 remodeling project underway at **Temple FWB Church** in **Winter Garden, FL**. Pastor **Jack T. Woods** said the money and effort are being invested in the church's auditorium.

Unity FWB Church in **Mulberry, FL**, celebrated eight years of service in April, according to Pastor **Ron Draper** who began the church as a mission in a local women's club in 1991. Since

then, the congregation purchased a building and four adjacent lots, and paid the 15-year mortgage in two years. They broke ground seven months ago for a 300-seat auditorium.

Members of **Victory FWB Church** in **Auburndale, FL**, launched a different kind of outreach, according to Pastor **Eddy Hicks**. The church is providing transitional housing for the needy. They use two houses owned by the church to provide temporary shelter. Four people have been converted so far as a result of the ministry.

Pastor **Ernest Mitchell** said that members of **Grace Trinity FWB Church** in **Tampa, FL**, meet in a remodeled house that includes a sanctuary and class rooms. After rezoning is completed, they plan to install a steeple and a permanent sign.

Trinity FWB Church in **Lakeland, FL**, purchased property and moved into their newly-remodeled building this spring, according to Pastor **Cecil Williamson**. State executive secretary **Millard Sasser** preached the dedication service.

Reverend **Charles W. Bryant**, 65, died January 7 after several months of kidney disease. Bryant had most recently pastored **Calvary FWB Church** in **Jacksonville, FL**, and **Grace FWB Church** in **Orange Park**. He taught school 32 years. Brother Bryant was called to preach at age 16 and pastored in North Carolina and Georgia as well as Florida. He is survived by his wife, Beverly, and five children, one of whom is **Randy Bryant** who pastors **Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church** in **Vero Beach, FL**.

Bayshore FWB Church in **St. Petersburg, FL**, organized on February 7, according to Pastor **Curtis Alligood**. Members paid a \$250,000 debt in nine years. Congratulations! ■



BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Time to Change!

By William W. Evans

My first memories of church were different. The building was a white-framed structure with handmade pews and no classroom space. Individual classes, when offered, were held in a corner. Sometimes they were separated by muslin sheets hung from wires. Services consisted of fellowship, congregational singing, a Bible lesson either behind the hanging sheets or under a tree and generally once or twice each month a sermon. The speaker was generally referred to as "the preacher." Only occasionally did he live in the immediate community. Air-conditioning was by funeral home fans and elbow grease in the summer and wood or coal burning stoves in the winter, if it wasn't too cold and the fire had been started early enough and hadn't gone out.

Today we have a nice auditorium with two or three services each week. Two or three messages are now delivered by "the pastor." He is assisted by a public address system and often either taped, video-taped or both. Classes of closely-defined groups are taught in educational buildings equipped with numerous ages and interest-related features. We are cooled in the summer and warmed in the winter by central units controlled by thermostat.

Some things sure have changed. We often call it progress. They have become so common that young people can't imagine previous arrangements. Almost all these physically visible changes occurred because of changes in the world around us.

However, some things haven't changed. God, the Bible, the plan of salvation, the depraved nature of man, Satan, coming judgement.

Which still leaves some things in the process of change. Among these are local church thoughts on congregation size, location, ministry and financial responsibilities to pastors.

Housing for instance. Fifty years ago, very few Free Will Baptist churches considered the preacher's housing. Pay often consisted of a cash, free will offering. In other limited cases a minimal salary was offered. This was the situation in our quarter- or half-time churches. Preachers served two to four churches within driving distance and generally were called one year at a time.

Then with an increased emphasis on a full-time schedule and a preacher for two or three services per week, we needed a man on site.

So . . . church-provided housing became a simple answer to having a readily-available home for our preacher. This solved the problem of rapid pastoral changes, the need for down payments and reselling. A good solution for short-term preachers/pastors.

Now we are into a period when longer pastorates are desired by both parties. This has led to another change—a housing allowance. More of our churches find this an attractive solution. Pastors are located in the general community and have the benefit of building equity. The church is relieved of maintenance and providing a one-size-for-all dwelling.

There are other areas where longer term, full-time pastorates require consideration . . . such as benefits. This may include such things as transportation, insurance, tools (books) and retirement. Let me focus on retirement needs. Other items will be considered in future articles.

Retirement does not end a Christian's relationship with the Lord nor his service. It does change the paid relationship. The dictionary defines retirement as "the act of retiring or condition of being retired; withdrawal, removal, etc."

Live long enough and retirement will come to you. It may be by personal choice, the result of physical limitation or by an act of the church. It may be a change from full-time service to a less demanding part-time position. It may open the doors of volunteering in areas of mission, either or both home and foreign; various state or local programs, camps, struggling churches, schools and colleges. There is no limit to the personal ministry needs in your own community.

Preparing for these future opportunities is the challenge. Each church needs to join its pastor in preparing for his future retirement. It should be a systematic preparation over the service life of the man. Forget what has or has not been done. It should begin today. Start now. Financial advisors recommend investing about 10% of working life income for retirement. Those who start later in life should do more. If your church can't afford that, then do something less, but do something. Just \$5 a week earning 9% over 40 years will grow to over \$100,000. That could be a tremendous help toward retirement.

Write or call our office for help and additional information. ■



FOREIGN MISSIONS

End of a Search in Japan

By Sandra Bishop as edited by Janice Banks



Mrs. Takako Hattori (right) stands with her daughter and husband.

"Moshi, moshi."

"Hello? Yes, this is the Bihoro FWB Church. Service begins at 10:30 a.m. You've never been before? That's okay. We'll be glad to have you. Yes, we'll be waiting to see you this morning. Good-bye." This was the telephone conversation I had the second Sunday morning of July 1998.

Decided to Go to Church

Dale goes across the island once a month to preach for two churches without pastors. Bihoro is one of them. That morning Takako Hattori decided to go to church since it was raining and she couldn't work in her garden anyway. She cried through the whole service.

Takako's mother had attended church with friends before marriage. Her father found his wife's Bible and started reading it. He became involved in Catholicism. He taught his daughter about a loving God. However, he later reverted to Buddhism. Her mother thought he was weak and made fun of him.

Her Personal Search

Takako then began her own personal search for meaning in life. She read a Christian book. It was her first time to read the words of the Bible. Continuing to search, she studied Jehovah's Witnesses' beliefs. These didn't ring true so she

stopped. While reading Christian author Ayako Miura she learned about praying in God's name. She was trying to find God while serving idols, yet praying for her family in Jesus' name. Still she didn't have the answers.

Daughter Saved

Takako got married and raised three children, still feeling like a child herself with no real purpose in life. In the fall of 1996 her married daughter called and said, "Mama, the children and I have become Christians. Don't get mad! I have found what I was searching for in Christ Jesus. Even if problems arise, I'll be all right. God loves me."

Later Takako reminisced, "While I was wandering in the wilderness of sin like the Israelites, my daughter's family was serving the true God. I was very thankful but still hadn't realized what I needed to do to find God."

After some friends came to visit her and tried to get her involved in a cult, she realized she needed to get rid of all items used in false worship. So on January 15, 1998, she burned all religious paraphernalia, preparing to give herself to God. Not long after this, I received the phone call. She was earnestly seeking God. Mrs. Hattori believed and was baptized November 8, 1998.



Sandra Bishop currently serves with her husband, Dale, in Nopporo, a suburb of Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan.

Attend the Conference**"Uniting Our Vision Through Prayer"**

8:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesday,
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at the National Association in Atlanta
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MASTER'S MEN

Strategies of a Godly Leader

By Tom Dooley, General Director

Recently, I read the story about the day Continental Flight 1713 crashed. It had been snowing all day in Denver. Due to cancellations on other airlines, the flight was almost full, 77 people had boarded.

The captain of the plane did not seem worried when a flight attendant questioned him concerning the competence of his 26-year-old copilot who had just completed DC-9 flight training eight weeks earlier. He assured her that he would be at the controls. He wasn't. What he didn't reveal was that neither pilot had any experience flying in severe weather conditions. They failed to visually check the wings and have them de-iced every 20 minutes before takeoff.

According to the *Reader's Digest* article, instead of checking the wings, "they fell into a pattern of aimless chatter about one of the stewardesses." As a result of their incompetence, Flight 1713 crashed seconds after takeoff. Twenty-eight people lost their lives, including both pilots. The cause of the crash was not poor weather, but poor leadership.

Marriages and families crash and burn in our society for the same reason. The lack of leadership, godly leadership. What does it take to be a godly leader as a man?

Faithfulness with Energy and Abilities

Most men spend at least 40 hours per week at work, some of a lot more than that. When we are not at work, we are often preparing for work, thinking about work or having a stress-induced nervous breakdown because of our work!

Too often, instead of enabling us to use our energy and abilities to make a positive impact on society and provide for families, our work becomes our first priority over our family.

Faithfulness with Mind and Body

Paul reminds us in I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Jesus warned . . . "That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart

(Matt 5:28)." Gentlemen, we must be aggressive in combating mental temptation. When a magazine cover, a TV show, movie or whatever tempts us, it's time to do battle. James 4:7 says, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Faithfulness with Time and Opportunities

I read about two 4-year-old boys talking. One asked, "Do you have a daddy?" The other boy nodded his head yes. "Does he live here? I don't ever see him."

The other boy responded, "No, he doesn't live here, he just sleeps here."

One study revealed on average that fathers only spend about 37 seconds of personal interaction with their middle-school kids every day. Ephesians 5:16 says we are to be "redeeming the time, because the days are evil." That is especially true with our families.

Faithfulness with Soul and Spirit

A father's greatest responsibility is to pass on his faith to his children. One accomplishes this first by modeling a Christlike life. What you do is far more important than what you say.

Second, exercise spiritual leadership in your home. Talk about God. Teach your children biblical principles as you interact to everyday life. Pray with and in front of your children. Their most basic understanding of the significance of prayer and a personal relationship with Christ is what they see in you. Make worship a priority. Most of us will not let our kids miss school unless they are ill, yet many of us can find any number of reasons for missing church.

Do you have what it takes? Be a godly man! Be a godly leader! ■

Master's Men Events

August 12 National Golf Tournament
August 13-14 National Softball Tournament



WOMEN NATIONALLY ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

Woman's Window on the World

By Marjorie Workman

Christmas year 'round without the hustle and bustle. Yes, yes, yes. Gifts, toys, school supplies without fretting over money. Yes, yes, yes. Household needs met without straining the budget. Yes, yes, yes. Women Nationally Active for Christ continues to provide for Free Will Baptist missionaries through the missionary provision closet and the MK program.

Two missionaries share their perspective of the meaning of the gifts provided.

From Arkansas

Ede Zuniga, missionary to Hispanics in Springdale, Arkansas, writes, "When I was unpacking some of the kitchen items (cookware, glasses, serving plates, toaster, blender, silverware, coffee maker, etc.), I prayed: *Lord, help me to serve your people using all these things.* In three months, we shared meals with 22 people, (considering that we are gone most weekends, it is a great 22 blessings). We shared not only taquitos, but we also sang and told them about our great Friend and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"I also brought some bed linens and towels. I assigned one each for Zuri and explained how God wants to protect him with this symbolic blanket. He asked, 'Why did God not give you and papa two blankets instead of one?'

"'Cause we are married,' I replied.

"'Okay, I understand,' he said. 'That is why you sleep together.'

"Crayons, pens, pencils, books, coloring books, cassettes, flash cards and glue that we got, we are using for the English class with the Hispanic people at church. We started with four students, now we have eight. Most of them are married, so we started having Bible classes for the children on Saturdays. We have nine children.

"My sons Zurisadai (Zuri) and Zealtiel (Zea) were included in the blessings. They got some toys and I do not have to explain how they are using them.

"God bless all the ladies who support the missionary closet. You are partners in our work. 'Greet [the ladies], they have been co-workers in our ministry for Christ Jesus' (Romans 16:3)."

From Puerto Rico

The second letter comes from Ruth Bivens, missionary to Puerto Rico.

"I would like to thank the ladies who supply the provision closet. Since I came into this missionary career in a little different way than most, I did not need a lot of things until we moved to Puerto Rico. I shipped some kitchen items but left our house in South Texas as complete as possible for people who would come there and need it. I was able to get dishes, Tupperware, an iron, blender and coffee maker from the provision closet. Those items are very expensive here and that was a special blessing to me.

"This past trip to mission conference I accompanied Maria Alfaro, a Cuban missionary wife from Florida, to the provision closet. She asked me to go with her since she speaks only a little English. I had so much fun that day. It was like a wedding shower, a birthday party and Christmas all at once for a sweet lady who weekly stacks her furniture to make room for the worship service in her living room. From the things she selected, I would guess that her little kitchen was sparsely equipped. It's better now.

"Thanks to women all across the nation, Maria enjoys a much more comfortable life today. She thanked everyone she saw for sheets, pillows, towels, kitchen towels, Tupperware, an iron and coffee maker, even some toys for her children and odds and ends.

"I remember—in my previous life—auxiliary projects where we had to send items to the provision closet. Until my first visit there, I tried to imagine just what that might be. When Maria asked me I told her, 'It's like going to Wal-Mart, except you can take what you need and it is free.'

"The delight in her eyes was worth the trip. Thank you for all you do, have done and will continue to do to help the missionaries. God will bless you for blessing us. When our home is more comfortable, this missionary wife can concentrate on 'the work' with more energy—thanks to you."

Christmas year 'round! Praise the Lord. ■



Garnett Reid

Profile of Commitment (Part I)

Eleven billion dollars—no, not million; I said *billion*. Suppose someone died and left you that amount in a will. That's the premise in a recent best-selling novel. There's only one hitch: the heiress is a gospel missionary serving in a third-world jungle and wants no part of the fortune. She is committed to God and her work; no amount of persuasion will move her.

Such a plot sounds ludicrous in today's "grab for it all," blue chip, market-driven economic climate. If our society showcases commitment at all, it is usually the kind that bumps us up the ladder to the next highest income bracket or into the gated subdivision across town.

Some sociologists have coined a term for our culture's money-mad disease: "affluenza." Even in the church some surveys identify only one of every four members as "committed Christians," measured by the most modest of standards.

In a day when commitment seems such a low priority item on many agendas, God's church must not dilute the challenge His Word demands. Hebrews 10-13 presents three characteristics of people committed to this challenge. This month we consider the first characteristic: ***what people of commitment are willing to let go.***

Because he has a true perspective on the relative value of material possessions, the committed believer can let them go. The uncommitted think they are risking little; in fact, the eventual cost of the casual, indifferent life is great. According to Hebrews 10:34, the early church "joyfully" accepted the plundering of their property because they knew they had better treasures in Heaven.

The same awareness of eventual reward prompted Moses to choose

Christ's "reproach" over Egypt's riches (11:26). No wonder Martin Luther urged that two "conversions" were necessary: one of the heart, the other of the purse. We betray our shallow commitment when we sacrifice eternal treasures for that which seldom lasts even in this life.

Moreover, because committed believers understand the true nature of this world's pleasures, they can do without them. Again, Moses' choice to turn his back on all that Egyptian royalty offered, pleasures included, for a junket with a group of desert-wandering malcontents seems absurd—until viewed through the lens of a faith commitment (11:24-25).

Yet we, too, the readers of the Book, stand at the same juncture. In 12:1-2, the writer invites us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us" and run faith's course with commitment's clear vision.

Amazingly, when we set our hearts on pleasing Him, God's infinite store of grace substitutes lasting contentment in place of those trivial pursuits we abandon (13:5). Life's true pleasures emerge only when their empty rivals fade from our affection.

Because he realizes that God's approval is worth more than society's acclaim, the committed believer can also let go of that acclaim and the accolades that go with it. The faith of Enoch (11:5) and Noah (11:7) stood

out in bold relief against their unbelieving generations. Abraham's commitment to God's call meant leaving his family and an idolatrous culture (11:8-10). We have already noted Moses' choice in which he spurns Egyptian prestige and affluence.

Of special note once more, however, is the example of the early church in 10:32-33. They endured public abuse with a confident spirit of endurance. In a similar fashion, the reader is encouraged to "go forth" to Jesus outside the camp, "bearing his reproach" (13:13).

Finally, because they see that there is more to life than just the here and now, committed believers do not fear death. Abel's faith testifies beyond the grave (11:4). His confidence in God as the source of life—even resurrection life—compelled Abraham to obey despite the apparent threat to his son's life (11:17-19).

The Israelites defied death when they walked between the watery walls of the Red Sea (11:29) and waged unconventional warfare against Jericho (11:30). All these believers, together with the faithful company who endured destitution, affliction and torment (11:36-38), typify the greatest example of commitment: "Jesus . . . who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross" (12:2).

Eleven billion dollars, the treasures of Egypt or a cross—only one is really worth the cost of commitment. ■

COMING NEXT MONTH . . .

- ➡ The Next Level
- ➡ When Angels Dress Like Airbags
- ➡ Your Church Constitution
- ➡ Reach Those Who Ridicule the Bible
- ➡ Lay Ministry Revolution



Dennis Wiggs

The Young Preacher's Appearance

This article is mostly my personal opinion. You may disagree with some of my observations. That's all right. However, please read this article. Write (2709 Oaks Road, New Bern, NC 28560) or e-mail your response (denniswiggs@always-online.com).

What You Wear

A young preacher (older one, too) should dress professionally when he visits in the hospital. Once I stood at a hospital information desk as another pastor approached the desk and requested the list of patients. He was wearing denim jeans and a tight-fitting polo shirt.

The lady asked, "Are you a preacher?" "Yes," he stated. "Well, you don't look like one!"

I quietly agreed with the hospital employee. The minister was dressed well for playing golf or fishing, but not for visiting in the hospital. The minister will be better received if he wears a tie, jacket and matching trousers. He represents the Lord and his church at the bedside of a sick church member.

It seems to me that hospital personnel have more respect for the preacher if he dresses neatly and professionally. Of course, that may not always be possible if he is called in the middle of the night or another awkward time.

What You Say

The young preacher needs to be careful about his words. Slang words shouldn't fall from the preacher's lips. The conscientious preacher should be extremely careful about any expression that degrades the name of God.

And, young preacher, don't just be careful about your words, but also take care of the breath that produces your speech. Offensive breath can turn people away. When you leave

the pulpit, place a mint in your mouth.

Always keep a breath refresher of some kind in your pocket. When you witness for Christ or carry on a normal conversation, your breath should be pleasing, not offensive, to listeners. Don't stand too close! Give people a comfort zone.

What You Project

Once just before stepping into the church pulpit area during a funeral, the other pastor told me that he almost hanged himself that morning on his lapel microphone. A smile beamed across my face when I walked toward the pulpit. Did my wife straighten me out after the funeral!

That experience still reminds me to be careful of my actions, especially in the presence of the bereaved. Even when the young preacher drives in the funeral procession, he needs to be careful, remembering that people are observing him.

While entering a cemetery, a pastor in the passenger side told me that there was a "light" buried in the north corner of the cemetery. Puzzled, I couldn't figure that one out, until he said "an Israelite" was buried there. I laughed heartily. Too heartily. The bereaved saw my actions.

When the ushers come down the aisle to receive the offering, the pastor should place his tithing envelope or check in the offering plate. He is setting an example. The congregation recognizes that the preacher is practicing what he preaches. That's not pride. It's leadership.

Social Graces

Shake hands. I believe that every hand ought to be shaken either before or after the services, if possible. Personal contact is valuable. The preacher will learn people's prob-

lems, fears, frustrations and blessings while shaking hands. Many people attend church services with heavy burdens. A touch and a kind word can relieve some of that difficulty.

At the same time, the preacher, young or older, should be careful about other physical contact with the opposite sex. Maybe some preachers can freely hug the church ladies, but most of us shouldn't. Maybe an older lady can occasionally get a slight hug from the young preacher. However, wholesale hugging and kissing of church members can be dangerous.

The young preacher should be careful about counseling the opposite sex. I have a window in the door of my study where others can easily see, but not hear, the person being counseled. When a woman just had to get counseling one Saturday morning, I asked our school principal to come to the office that morning. He brought his wife and two boys! That was four-fold protection.

And, young preacher, match your clothes. Keep food off your tie. Polish your shoes. If you think the shirt is dirty, it probably is. Stand in front of the mirror and say to yourself, "I am a preacher. God help me to be the very best ambassador possible." ■

Defeating Darwinism by Opening Minds

By Phillip E. Johnson

(Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997, 131 pp., paperback, \$9.99)



Thomas Marberry

Phillip E. Johnson is a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley where he has taught for the past 30 years. He is a graduate of Harvard and the University of Chicago. Early in his career he served as a law clerk for Chief Justice Earl Warren. He has written several books including *Darwin on Trial* and *Reason in the Balance*.

Many people today accept the theory of evolution as if it were fact. This is not only true of scientists; it is also true of men and women in various walks of life. Many Christians have consciously or unconsciously accepted this theory as the most likely explanation for the origin of life. Some attempt to reconcile evolutionary teachings and the Bible; other believers have simply never considered seriously the implications of the evolutionary hypothesis for their faith.

The evolutionary teaching does not, however, totally dominate the debate and discussion. An increasing number of people (both Christians and non-Christians) are beginning to challenge the theory of evolution. The vast majority of scientists today advocate this theory, but some are challenging it. Scientists who have the courage to challenge evolution often suffer professionally for doing so.

Defenders of evolution are often well educated, persuasive and committed to their task. They are not easy opponents in debates and discussions. Yet, as this author points out, they often use arguments that are biased and based on insufficient evidence.

Christians and others who challenge the popular evolutionary hypothesis must learn how to recognize these arguments and respond to them in a loving but factual way. We need what the author of this book calls "a baloney detector." He explains, "A baloney detector is simply a good grasp of logical reasoning and investigative procedure."

For example, the author emphasizes that defenders of evolution make very selective use of the fossil record. Rarely do they point out the small number of fossils that actually contribute anything of value to the debate. Neither do they point out the huge gaps in the fossil record.

As Johnson writes, "They rarely inform the public about the far greater mass of contrary evidence, such as the absence of ancestors for the major animal groups that appear in the Cambrian explosion."

Defenders of evolution often quote authorities as if a statement from a famous scientist is always true. Our author correctly points out that "Nothing

is true just because some big shot says it is true." The veracity of a statement depends on the facts behind the statement and not on the identity of the person making the statement.

Evolutionists often use *ad hominem* arguments. Rather than attacking the evidence or the facts, they attack the person who is challenging the evolutionary hypothesis. Once again the person making the argument is not the issue, the evidence is what should be discussed and debated.

Dr. Johnson writes this book from a strongly Christian perspective. His goal is not just to present facts that Christians can use to win debates. His goal is to give Christians a better understanding of an important issue in our modern world. He seeks to prepare believers to be intelligent and effective witnesses for Jesus Christ even when they are discussing difficult and controversial issues.

The author stresses the importance of showing love and concern for those who present and defend evolution. They are not the enemy; the evolutionary philosophy is the enemy.

This is a good book. It gives us the kind of information we need to enter into this important discussion in a meaningful way. ■

BEYOND BELIEF



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Short Cut

During the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, the American contender for the 100-meter dash unexpectedly came in second. The winner was a fiery young Canadian named Ben Johnson who set new Olympic and world records.

However, after the race, Olympic judges took Johnson's medal from him and erased his world-record mark. That's because Ben Johnson took a short cut—he had an illegal substance in his body when he ran the race. The saddest part is that he probably could have won without cheating.

Johnson's short cut embarrassed the Canadian people, betrayed the Olympic spirit and branded him as a cheat at the most critical moment of his life. The whole world was watching.

Most short cuts in life are risky. Many are illegal. They all come with high price tags. While we may cheer the high school senior who skips college and leaps directly to the NBA because of his basketball skills, none of us want a heart surgeon who skipped medical school operating on us. We want to be sure that the hand holding the knife belongs to someone who went the full measure.

When a woman gets pregnant, the full measure is to spend the next 18 years with her husband raising a responsible child who can make a contribution to society. The short cut is abortion.

The man who wants a new car gives full measure when he gets a job and makes monthly payments for five years. The short cut is to smash a window and hot-wire someone else's vehicle.

But some who take short cuts walk through the church door on Sunday.

For instance, Bart and Irene wanted to appear more generous than they were after making a financial gift to their local church. They told church

leaders that they had sold some property and put all proceeds from the sale in the church treasury. They lied.

They held back some of the money, and in their greed claimed a larger deduction than was merited. What happened? Bart and Irene both dropped dead in church one Sunday morning. It scared the living daylights out of the whole congregation. This is a true story. I changed the names. Check Acts 5 for the details.

Many short cuts show up early in life when we are the most vulnerable. Potiphar's wife offered Joseph a tempting short cut from slave to secret lover (Genesis 39). To his credit, Joseph had enough character to refuse an illicit liaison with a powerful woman. It cost him a prison sentence. But Joseph gave full measure and ended up as governor over all of Egypt.

Some short cuts show up late in life when we're old enough to know better. Sarah and Abraham concocted a scheme to help God when she was 90 and he 99 (Genesis 16). What a disaster. Which goes to show that just being older does not exempt people from dumb mistakes. Sarah and Abraham were never quite the same after the debacle with Hagar.

On the other hand, Jesus gave full measure every time. On three occasions after Jesus' 40-day fast, the devil offered Him short cuts to avoid the cross (Matthew 4). The textbook on how to handle short cut temptations begins and ends right here. Jesus quoted scripture. He rebuked the devil. He launched His public ministry on the high road of obedience.

Jesus never took a short cut in the plan of God for redemption. Yes, He sweated as it were great drops of blood (Luke 22:44) while agonizing in prayer in Gethsemane. But He still gave full measure at the cross until He

could triumphantly say, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Nothing left undone. Every prophecy fulfilled. The final detail in place.

Something must change for us, something elemental. Editor David Rinden addressed this specific problem in *Faith & Fellowship* (Sept. 1998). The next three paragraphs are his.

On one of the tombs of an Anglican bishop in London's Westminster Abbey is this epitaph: "When I was young and free and my imagination had no limits, I dreamed of changing the world. As I grew older and wiser, I discovered the world would not change, so I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change only my country. But it too seemed immovable.

"As I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt, I settled for changing only my family, those closest to me, but alas, they would have none of it.

"And now as I lie on my deathbed, I suddenly realize: If I had only changed myself first, then by example, I would have changed my family. From their inspiration and encouragement, I would then have been able to better my country and, who knows, I may have even changed the world."

When I was a boy, I took a short cut through a cane brake to get home one night. Every sound whispered unseen threats since I knew there was a better road I could have taken. In the middle of the cane brake as I jumped a shallow creek, a cottonmouth moccasin raised its head from the shadows under my feet. In that precise moment, still razored in my mind, I would have given anything for a second chance to take the long road home.

Today, the whole world is watching to see if Christians will give full measure in life. Let's make sure we take the right road home. Besides, there's probably another snake in the



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