

SEPTEMBER 1999

CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



.....
All in Accord

.....
**WNAC
Convention**

.....
NYC Write-up

.....
**The Theology of
Midnight**

INSIDE

SEPTEMBER 1999

VOLUME 46, NO. 9

ARTICLES

4 All in Accord

Thomas Marberry reviews the 1999 National Convention.

12 Convention Election Results

13 Tape Order Form

15 Passing the Torch

Suzanne Franks recaps the 1999 WNAC Convention.

17 No Wall Too High

NYC director Dean Jones analyzes the 1999 National Youth Conference.

Front Cover Photo

Waldo Young (L), clerk of the National Association for 30 years, receives a watch from Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington.

Back Cover Design

Ron Watson

Convention Photos

courtesy of Eddie Payne, support coordinator with the Foreign Missions Department.

COLUMNS

3 The Secretary Speaks

Business . . . Blessings . . . Benefits

24 The Department Pages

28 Green Tree Bible Study

A "New" Solution to an Old Problem

29 Especially for Young Preachers

Hospital Visitation II

30 Top Shelf

31 Briefcase

The Theology of Midnight

NEWS

19 Free Will Baptist Newsfront

Free Spanish Manuals
North Carolina State Association
West Virginia State Association
Ohio State Association
Missouri State Association
Missouri State Association
FWBBC Name Change
Kansas State Association
Southeastern College Gift
Roberson to Speak at Southeastern

22 Currently

Editor-in-chief: Dr. Melvin Worthington
Editor: Jack Williams
Editorial Assistant: Marilyn Pritchard
Circulation: Dari Goodfellow
Printed by: Randall House Publications

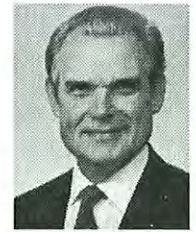
Contact (ISSN 0573-7796), published monthly by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt. View

Road, Antioch, TN 37013-2306. Address all correspondence and subscriptions to Post Office Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Phone 615/731-6812.

Annual subscription rates: Individual—\$12 per year, Church Family Plan—\$12 per year, Church Bundle Plan—\$12 per year. Periodical post-

age paid at Antioch, TN and additional offices.

Copyright privileges, reserved © 1999. Member of the Evangelical Press Association. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to CONTACT, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. USPS 130-660



Melvin Worthington

Business . . . Blessings . . . Benefits

The 63rd annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists met July 18-22, 1999, in Atlanta, Georgia. Preparation for the convention began in 1989 and continued during the 10 years prior to the Atlanta convention.

Planning and preparing the Free Will Baptist convention is a 10-year process which begins with site selection, continues during the intervening years and culminates with the actual convention.

The convention does not just happen. Long hours of planning and preparation go into a smoothly-run convention.

In the midst of all the details, the convention requires that we not forget the reason we have an annual meeting. It is the most important meeting during the year for Free Will Baptists. Three words summarize the Free Will Baptist annual convention—*business, blessings and benefits*.

Business

The annual convention is the business meeting of the denomination. Business is transacted which charts the course of the denomination.

This business should not be transacted hastily, haphazardly or halfheartedly. The eternal destination of souls hang in the balance. Delegates have a solemn, serious and sobering *duty*.

They should take seriously the obligation and opportunity to set the denominational course. Delegates should exercise *discernment* when reading and responding to reports presented by various agencies.

Delegates should exercise the proper *decorum* when seeking clarification on issues and information presented. Key words which characterize insightful delegates attending the business of the national association are *objectivity,*

opportunity and obligation.

If Free Will Baptists do not take time to transact denominational business with insight and integrity, the denomination will veer off course. One safeguard is to take seriously the business sessions of the national association each July.

Blessings

The national convention begins Monday evening. In order to accommodate attendees who arrive early, the Executive Committee meeting, Pastors/Laymen Conference, General Board meeting, pre-registration and registration, exhibitors, National Youth Conference and Women Nationally Active for Christ services are planned.

Days preceding the convention are a time of *shared fellowship*. Life-time friendships are established; old friends get together and reminisce. Misunderstandings and misinformation can be addressed. Fellowship during the days preceding the convention contributes to the enjoyment experienced during the convention.

Days preceding the convention are a time of *sharpened focus*. Ideas, information and issues can be discussed. It is a time of encouragement, enlightenment and enjoyment. We discover that we are not alone. Others have experienced what we are experiencing.

Days preceding the convention are

a time to *study facts*. Those who pre-register are given the *Digest of Reports and Convention Program*. Early arrivals have time to peruse the reports and attend the General Board meeting.

Familiarity with the facts enables delegates to transact business with greater insight and integrity. While pouring over audits, budgets and agency reports may seem to be boring, it is essential to effectively transact denominational business.

Transacting denominational business is a blessing. It is not boring. I have attended many state/district associational meetings where business was transacted. I have not found the transacting of associational business boring but rather a blessing. That has been true of National Association business as well.

Benefits

One benefit of attending the national convention is *information*. Attending the convention keeps me informed regarding the focus and finances of national agencies.

Another benefit derived from attending the convention is *inspiration*. Each convention is a source of inspiration. We rejoice in the blessings the Lord has poured out on us as a movement. Denominational reports presented during the convention prompt praise and rejoicing. The music, messages and meetings provide a time of inspiration for attendees.

Another benefit of attending the convention is *implementation*. Information and inspiration results in implementation of programs which were presented. The action of delegates is implemented by national agencies.

Next time you hear someone complain about denominational business, just say, "Business, Business, Business! What a Blessing!" ■

The Secretary's Schedule

September 1999

7-10 Convention Planning Trip
Anaheim, California

19 Urbana FWB Church
Urbana, Ohio

30- Christian Stewardship Association
Oct. 2 Dallas, Texas

All in Accord: Atlanta 1999

By Thomas Marberry



Convention Worship Service

The 63rd annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists met in Atlanta, the beautiful capital of Georgia, July 18-22. This was the first time the convention had met in Georgia in 26 years. During these five special days, Free Will Baptists gathered from across the United States, Mexico and several other countries. They shared a time of worship, service and praise to God. They preached, prayed, fellowshiped, learned and transacted the denomination's business.

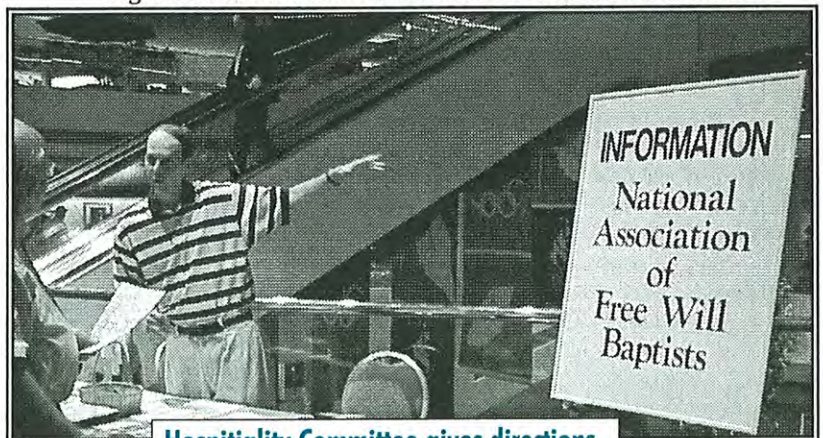
The theme of the convention, "All in Accord," was taken from Luke's summary of the early days of the church in Acts 1:14.

Almost every speaker emphasized unity and cooperation. They stressed that only by working together can we accomplish the task that God has given us. This emphasis on unity and cooperation was also evident in business sessions.

Good questions were asked and important issues raised, but there was a minimum of controversy. Delegates determined to move ahead with the important work of the denomination without being distracted by unnecessary conflicts.

During a Monday afternoon interview, Moderator Carl Cheshier explained the purpose of a national convention.

He said, "We come to the convention to be challenged and encouraged." He noted that the teaching and preaching up to that point in the convention had been outstanding. He summarized the condition of the denomination in



Hospitality Committee gives directions.

these words, "The reports given in the General Board indicate that the denomination is doing well."

Brother Cheshier called attention to some important issues which Free Will Baptists face today. The cost of the national convention continues to increase, and current

funding is simply not adequate. He stated, "The funding of the convention must be addressed this year."

Free Will Baptists are quite diverse and spread out geographically; this makes cooperation difficult. Cheshier noted, "We are coming together better than we have in the past. That bodes well for the future."

The moderator indicated his support for a proposal to increase the number of members who serve on the Executive Committee. He said, "Enlarging the Executive Committee is a good thing. It will broaden our base."

The annual convention of the National Association is a large and complex gathering. It helps bind us together and enables us to carry on essential work of the denomination. This article will not describe every facet of what happened, but it will present an overview of the convention and a summary of major decisions that were made.

Accord in Worship

The church exists for many reasons, but first and foremost of these is the worship of God. According to the Bible, God wants us to worship. We need to worship Him to bring growth and maturity to our own spiritual lives. Worship services were the highlight of the convention beginning with the Sunday morning service.

Sunday Morning

The preacher was Rev. Clifford D. Donoho who serves as pastor of Heritage FWB Church in Davenport, Iowa. He selected as his text Acts 2:41-47. In his sermon, Pastor Donoho outlined six scriptural tests of a church that is in one accord. These six tests were: Preaching of the Word, practice, power, perspective, performance and praise.



Cliff Donoho

He noted that when members of a church are in one accord, they do not just talk about ministry. They are active in preaching the Word, serving others and praising God with a true unity of spirit. He reminded the congregation that "a healthy church will see people saved." If members of a church are in one accord, they will show proper respect and appreciation for one another. Near the end of his sermon, Donoho emphasized that "Rumor is not evidence, and slander is a sin."

Sunday Evening



Danny Williams

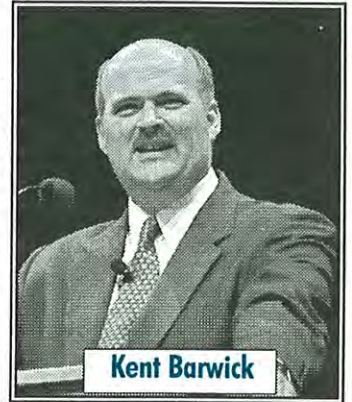
Rev. Danny J. Williams, pastor of First FWB Church in Winfield, Alabama, preached during the Sunday evening worship service. He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College and presently attends Trinity Theological Seminary. He selected Joshua 3:1-6 as his primary text. The sermon focused on crossing the Jordan River by the children of Israel under the leader-

ship of Joshua.

He stressed that this passage illustrates several truths which can help Christians succeed in difficult times. Before Israel crossed the Jordan, there was essential preparation. There was the promise of God's power. There was also effective progress based on God's preeminence. Near the conclusion of the sermon, Williams stated that "Christ must be first in all that we are doing."

Monday Evening

The preacher for Monday evening's worship service was Rev. Kent Barwick, pastor of Loyal Chapel FWB Church in Columbia, Tennessee. The subject of his sermon was "Seven Signs of a Healthy Church." Acts 2:42 was the principal text. According to this passage, seven different elements characterize a healthy church.

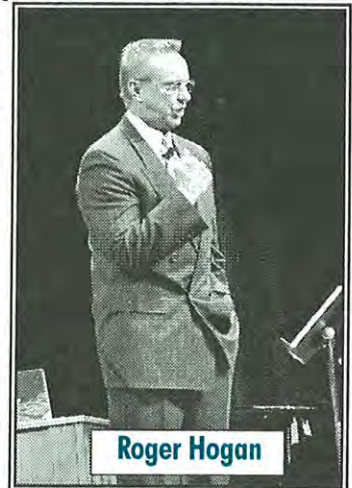


Kent Barwick

They are continuance, fear, signs and wonders, saints helping saints, believers all in one accord, praising God and divine addition. Barwick said that when a church is spiritually healthy, good things happen. Christians fear God; they continue in the faith; they serve one another. The Lord then adds new believers to the fellowship. During his sermon, Pastor Barwick asked a penetrating question, "Are you helping or are you hurting the church?"

Tuesday Evening

Rev. Roger L. Hogan, pastor of First FWB Church in Farmington, Missouri, and moderator of St. Francois District Association, preached the Tuesday evening message. His subject was "United We Can; Divided We Fail." The sermon text was Acts 4:31-37.



Roger Hogan

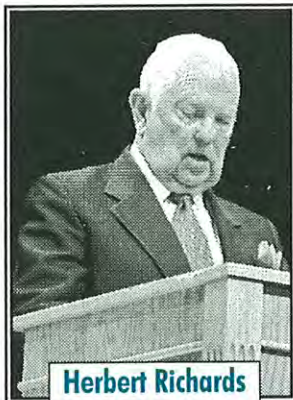
In his sermon Rev. Hogan focused on the unity which binds believers together. He talked about the basis of our unity, blight to our unity and blessings of unity. Christian unity is based on a common faith and a common spiritual birth. There is a blight to unity and that is a spirit of strife and contention.

Critical spirits and legalistic attitudes can do much harm to the work of God. Yet, when Christians unite, they can work together effectively to share the faith with others. He concluded his sermon by noting, "Every person deserves to hear the gospel."

Moderator's Message

It is customary that the moderator bring a short message at the beginning of the business session on Wednesday morning. This year Moderator Carl Cheshier did not bring the message himself. He invited one of our senior pastors, Rev. Herbert Richards of Bright Light FWB Church in College Station, Texas, to bring this short message.

Rev. Richards used as his text several verses in Isaiah 6. He said, "We need to be reminded of the awful consequences of sin." He also said, "We need to be reminded this morning of His presence." It was good to hear a fine sermon delivered by one of the senior statesmen of our denomination.



Wednesday Evening

The final sermon of the convention was preached at the Wednesday evening missions service by Rev. Robert Morgan, pastor of Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee. The missions service is often one of the highlights of national conventions, and that was certainly true this year.

From the opening hymn, through the introduction of the missionaries and the sermon, to the final prayer, this was a moving service. At the conclusion of the service, a large number of men and women responded to the invitation to dedicate themselves to the service of God.

Rev. Morgan used several passages from Jonah as his text. He noted that Jonah is a book with much to say about missions. He stated that Jonah was one of the

greatest missionaries of the Old Testament. Jonah is a story of weeping, sleeping and reaping.

Jonah wept over the city of Nineveh just as believers today must weep over the lost. Just as Jonah slept, many believers today are spiritually asleep and not involved in the missionary enterprise. In the end, Jonah reaped a great harvest of souls. Rev. Morgan emphasized that in many areas of the world today, large numbers of people are becoming believers. He said, "We are really in a harvest time."

The preaching at the national convention is generally good because some of our most capable preachers are selected to bring the messages. The sermons at Convention '99 were even better than usual. They developed biblical teachings and applied them to our lives and ministries today. They were uplifting and encouraging. They helped us to see the value and necessity of working together to carry out the Great Commission.

Accord in Music

Music is an important part of Christian worship both at the local church and at the convention level. The music at Convention '99 whether vocal or instrumental, solo or ensemble, contributed greatly to the atmosphere of worship. It helped bring the congregation to an attitude of reverence and respect. It prepared them to hear and receive the message God had for them.

The Music Commission coordinates the musical portions of the services at the convention. Randy Sawyer and Lange Patrick served as music coordinators. Jerry Carraway served as pianist and Carol Reid as organist. Vernon Whaley directed the Convention Choir, and Chris Truett conducted the Instrumental Ensemble.

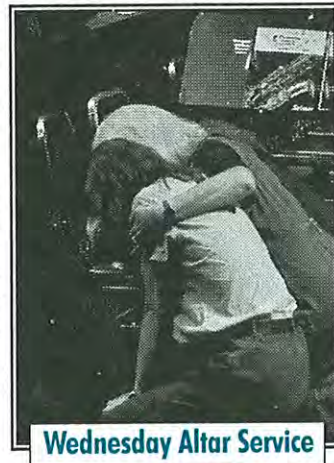


More than 100 singers from all across the denomination traveled to Atlanta before the convention and spent two days preparing and recording music. During these two days, they completed a recording project entitled *Worthy of Praise: Extending the Invitation to Blended Worship*.

This is a collection of hymns, gospel songs, southern gospel tunes and scripture songs. Some of these songs are new to Free Will Baptist churches; others are familiar and popular. Many of the songs on this recording were used as special music or as congregational numbers.

Many Free Will Baptists from around the country contributed to the ministry of music at Convention '99. The Convention Choir sang at each service; a select group of six singers often participated. The Instrumental Ensemble accompanied the congregational singing and performed during offertories.

The congregational singing was the best it has been in many years. Almost everyone in the congregation joined in singing a mixture of familiar hymns and newer songs and choruses. We truly worshiped together in song during the week.



Accord in Preparation

Christian education and training are an important part of the work of the denomination, and they received considerable emphasis during Convention '99. The convention began with the adult Sunday School class taught by Rev. Tim Thompson, pastor of Heritage FWB Church in Gilbert, Arizona. The lesson entitled "The Foundations of Justice" was based on selected verses found in Exodus 21.

According to Thompson, this chapter emphasizes several important spiritual principles. First, it teaches the importance of protecting human life. He noted that "When we take another life, we abrogate the authority of God." He also noted that "God insisted on reasonable remedies for injuries."

Second, it teaches the need to protect private property. Third, it teaches that we should protect the integrity and reputations of other people.

The two most important denominational agencies that deal with education and training are Free Will Baptist Bible College and Randall House Publications. Both of them gave detailed reports of their activities during the convention.

Bible College

Free Will Baptist Bible College (FWBBC) reported that it graduated 64 students in May. This was one of the largest graduating classes in recent years. Thirty-four of those graduates were planning to serve as pastors, youth leaders or missionaries. The college honored Dr. and Mrs. Robert Picirilli for a combined 71 years of service to the college and to the denomination (44 years for Dr. Picirilli and 27 years for Mrs. Picirilli). Dr. Picirilli has retired as academic dean,



Tom Sass (r) and Gary Fry attend the General Board Meeting.

but will continue to teach on a part-time basis.

According to the report distributed at the convention, 370 students enrolled at FWBBC during the 1998-99 school year. Total income for the year was \$3,769,162; expenditures totaled \$3,820,196, for an operating deficit of \$51,034. The treasurer noted that the financial situation of the college has improved considerably in recent years. In 1985 the college had a long-term indebtedness of approximately \$1.5 million. Today it has no long-term indebtedness.

President Tom Malone reported that many changes are taking place at FWBBC right now. The college anticipates that this fall's freshman class will be the largest in three years. The college is expanding its external studies program to serve the entire denomination more effectively.

The most notable change is the relocation to the new

campus. The existing campus is for sale. The college has launched a \$12 million fund-raising campaign including \$6 million for operations and \$6 million for construction of buildings on the new campus. During the campaign, some \$1.2 million in cash and \$1.8 million in commitments have been raised. The Board of Trustees has set a goal to begin construction in the year 2000 and move to the new campus in the fall of 2002.

Sunday School Department

The Sunday School and Church Training Department operates under the trade name Randall House Publications. Randall House provides a variety of different services for the denomination. It publishes commentaries, books, booklets, Sunday School literature, CTS literature and other publications which help Free Will Baptist churches in their ministries. Most items are published in English, but Sunday School literature and a few other resources are also published in Spanish.

Randall House does printing for other denominational agencies. It also operates a bookstore where a variety of different books and church supplies can be purchased in person or by mail.

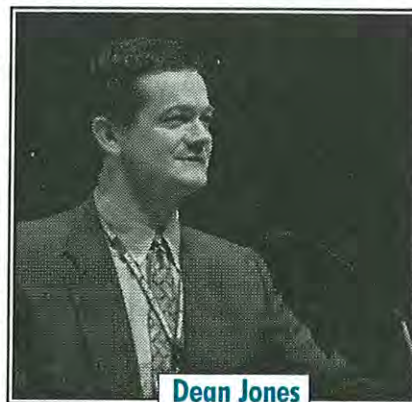
This department also provides another important service to the denomination. It sponsors the National Youth Conference (NYC) which meets every summer as a part of the national convention. NYC gives young men and women across the country opportunity to take part in various competitive activities. It also provides worship services, Bible studies and service projects for children and young people of various ages.

Alton Loveless, general director of the department, presented his report on Wednesday. He reported that our English-language Sunday School literature is used by many of our churches and by churches of approximately 40 other denominations. Free Will Baptist Spanish literature is also used by churches of many other denominations.

Dr. Loveless announced a new program to help Spanish-language Free Will Baptist churches. Because many of these churches do not have adequate funds to purchase Sunday School literature, Randall House will provide literature at no charge to them.

Total revenues for the 13-month period from December 1, 1997, through December 31, 1998, totaled \$3,060,560. Total expenses for the same period totaled \$3,218,744. Expenses exceeded revenues because this report included two Decembers, and the month of December is generally a difficult month financially for the department. The department has no long-term debt.

Director Loveless reported that Randall House is working on several important projects. *Systematics* by F. Leroy Forlines is being extensively revised and enlarged. The de-

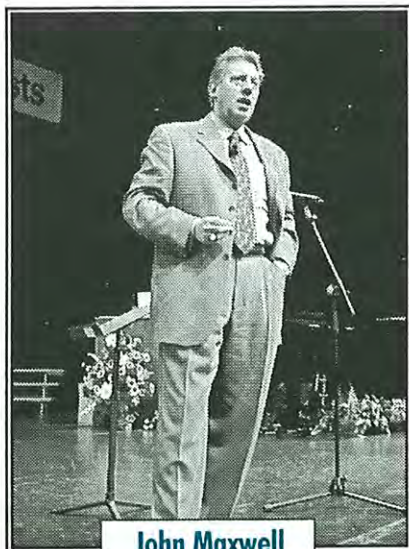


Dean Jones

partment is talking with several possible authors about contributing volumes to the Randall House Bible Commentary series in order to complete the New Testament as soon as possible.

Pastors/Laymen Conference

The convention program included a Pastors/Laymen Conference for the first time. Guest speaker was Rev. John C. Maxwell, founder and president of the INJOY organization.



John Maxwell

Maxwell speaks in person to more than 250,000 people each year. His specialty is leadership training for churches and other Christian organizations.

In his two-hour seminar, Rev. Maxwell told a large crowd of pastors and laymen about the importance of leadership. He noted that many pastors are trying to lead their churches without having received any training in leadership. They are doing the best they can, but they often fail

because they simply do not know how to lead their congregations effectively.

Rev. Maxwell stressed that in order to lead effectively, a pastor must relate well to other people. He must be able to equip others to serve Christ more effectively. He must also have an attitude of tenacity. He must be able to get back up and go on after failure. As he emphasized, "It is not what happens to me; it is what happens in me that counts."

Accord in Missions

Free Will Baptists are a missions-minded people. We take seriously the biblical mandate to go and make disciples of all nations. Missions is always at the forefront of every national convention, and that was certainly the case this year.



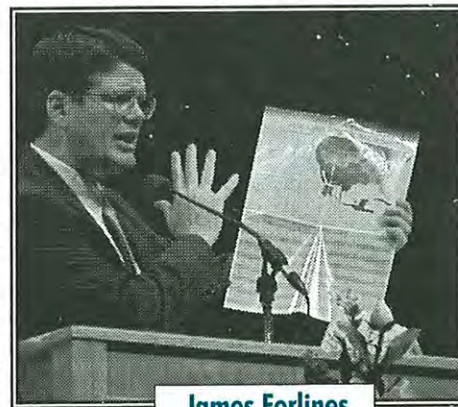
James Forlines (L), Trymon Messer

The Home and Foreign Missions Departments jointly sponsored a missions rally Tuesday morning. The speaker was Ron Owens who serves on the staff of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He provides leadership and conducts seminars on prayer, revival and spiritual awakening. He stressed the need to worship God and to pray.

He noted, "Worship is the fuel that drives missions." He concluded his sermon by asking, "Is your personal prayer life commensurate with the call God has placed on your life?"

Foreign Missions

Rev. James Forlines became general director of our Foreign Missions Department on January 1. He presented his first report to Convention '99, noting that 1998 was a fruitful year for foreign missions. During the year 1,703 people in 13 countries made professions of faith in Christ through efforts of Free Will Baptist foreign missions. The department reported 102 organized churches and 259 mission works. There are 43 ordained national pastors and 322 licensed



James Forlines

and lay preachers. Six Bible institutes are training 146 students to join the cause of world evangelization.

Some of our earliest mission fields report considerable growth. India, our first mission field, reported 509 conversions in 1998 with average church attendance

of over 4,000. Over 2,000 people attended the annual conference in Sonapur. Cuban Free Will Baptists reported 384 conversions with an average attendance of 2,292.

Japan has four ordained Free Will Baptist pastors. Japan reported 20 conversions last year. In Ivory Coast, 383 people were saved during 1998. France, Panama and Brazil also reported significant growth.

Director Forlines reported that the department faces several new challenges for ministry. We sent our first missionaries to Russia. Dr. John Chang has been employed to work in South Korea. He will assist in the development of a Bible institute and the organization of a Korean association of Free Will Baptists.

Financial support for foreign missions continues to grow. Revenues for 1998 totaled \$5,147,612; expenditures totaled \$5,227,320. The support services account has a deficit of about \$200,000. This account provides for the operation of the office in Antioch.

Home Missions

Mr. Trymon Messer gave the home missions report. This department is responsible to spread the gospel in the United States, its territories, Canada and Mexico. He stated that "The year 1998 was a great year for the Home Missions Department." During 1998 five mission churches went self-supporting. Fourteen new couples went out as home missionaries.

The department is involved in evangelizing several different ethnic groups. Leonid Morgun and Vladimir Lopuga are ministering to Slavic people in California. Ten Korean pastors are planting Free Will Baptist churches among people of Korean descent.

Ministry among Hispanic peoples continues to grow. Bud and Ruth Bivens lead the work in Puerto Rico. Chris and Carla Fannin were appointed to help them. Dr. Thomas L. Mar-



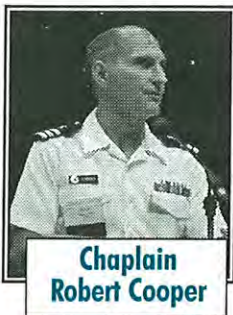
Luis Tijerina

berry has recently been appointed president of the Seminary of the Cross in Mexico. He and his wife Wilma moved to South Texas near the Mexican border. They will commute to the seminary each day.

In January 1998 the department held its third annual Missionary Training and Evaluation Conference. Special guest Stan Toler spoke to 125 pastors, missionaries and guests.

The November/December 1998, issue of *Missiongrams* was the final issue for that well-known publication. It has been replaced with a new magazine titled, *AIM, Advancing In Missions*.

During 1998 the department received record offerings of \$3,975,676. The department ended the year with the general fund in the black and missionary deficit accounts of \$107,112.30. The Church Extension Loan Fund provides loans to mission churches and established churches to buy land and construct church buildings. It made loans of \$2,277,573.16 in 1998. The loan fund now has a total of \$12,851,952.41 in outstanding loans to Free Will Baptist churches.



Chaplain Robert Cooper



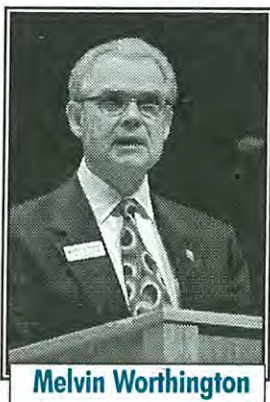
Chaplain Dickie Anderson

Accord in Service

Several denominational agencies exist specifically to serve the needs of Free Will Baptist churches and individuals. Each agency gave a report at Convention '99.

Executive Office

Dr. Melvin Worthington gave the report of the Executive Office. He noted that the 1998 Leadership Conference met in Nashville. The 1999 Leadership Conference will meet December 6-7 at Regal Maxwell House Hotel.



Melvin Worthington

The International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches, Inc., met October 12-16, 1998, in Uruguay. Representatives from USA, Japan, Mexico, Uruguay, Brazil, Panama, Spain, France and Cuba met for four days of meetings, planning and fellowship. John Poole of Brazil was elected president; Daniel Dorati of Panama was elected vice president; Melvin Worthington of the USA was elected secretary-treasurer. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8-12, 2001, in

Gifts for national ministries in 1998 totaled \$11.2 million. *The Together Way Plan* gifts through the Executive Office totaled \$3.6 million. Of this amount \$608,297 was cooperative and \$3,004,636.43 was designated. Per capita giving was \$56.08.

Dr. Worthington advised delegates that indebtedness on the National Offices Building in Nashville was \$59,225. He urged support for the Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign to pay off this indebtedness by December 31.

Board of Retirement

The Board of Retirement exists to help pastors and denominational employees provide financially for their retirement years. Director Bill Evans reported that 1998 was a year of record activity for the department. He shared the following statistics:

Most new enrollees in one year	—	108
Most contributions during one year	—	\$1,527,119
Largest dollar amount of settlements	—	\$1,246,478
Largest dollar volume in annuities (lifetime income)	—	\$395,163
Lowest management cost	—	1.86%

As of June 30, 1999, the department was managing more than \$20 million in retirement funds.

Director Evans noted that during 1998 Oklahoma joined Missouri, Arkansas, Florida and Georgia in providing state sponsorship and financial assistance to pastors who participate in the denomination's retirement program. He encouraged all pastors to enroll in the program.

Foundation

Bill Evans also serves as director of Free Will Baptist Foundation. He reported that at the close of its first year of operations in 1981 the Foundation managed \$150 in assets. It now manages more than \$8 million. Evans gave the following summary of the types of agreements and amounts which the Foundation manages.

Endowments	\$	966,559
Charitable Remainder Unitrusts		285,006
Charitable Remainder Gift Annuities		596,615
Revocable Trusts (standard)		2,746,226
High-Yield Revocable Trusts		28,009
Special Projects		2,258,729

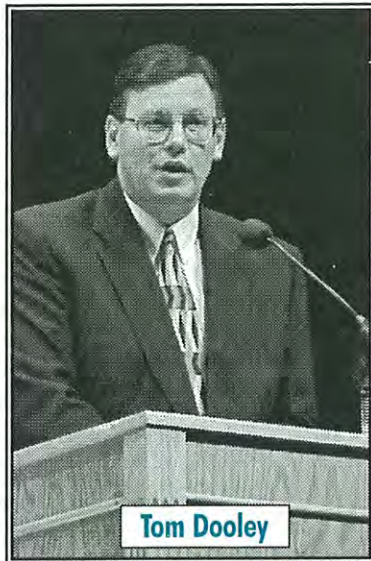
The Foundation provides a trained and knowledgeable staff who can assist churches and individuals to manage their funds effectively and at the same time provide funds for denominational causes.

Master's Men

Master's Men is the laymen's organization for Free Will Baptists. It exists to promote five goals among men of our denomination. These are: discipleship, fellowship, soul winning, stewardship and edification. Director Tom Doolley noted that 1998 was the best financial year in the history of Master's Men. In May the department was able to erase its indebtedness to the National Association.

The department began sponsoring "Family Enrichment Conferences" which challenge men in their roles as leaders in their homes and churches. The department also challenged local chapters to start "Burden Bearer Prayer Ministries" in their churches to support pastors, churches and our denominational worldwide outreach in prayer on a regular basis.

The Master's Men is planning an event called "Operation Outreach" with home missionary Tommy Jones in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in October. The goal is to bring at least 200 men to Pittsburgh and spend a day helping this mission church with door to door evangelism, taking surveys and passing out literature.



Tom Dooley

Media Commission

The Media Commission assists Free Will Baptist churches and associations in sharing the gospel through the print and broadcast media. The commission now has two TV commercials and four radio commercials which can help acquaint a community with who Free Will Baptists are and what we believe.

The commission is working on two new projects. It can help local churches prepare a video brochure to share information about their ministries. It has also prepared attractive ad slicks which may be used in local newspapers.

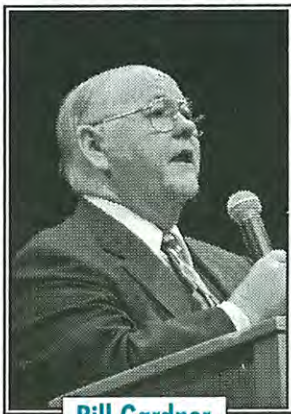
For a church or an association that will send a monthly gift of \$50 or an annual gift of \$600, the Media Commission will provide that church or association with its own custom web site.

Music Commission

The Music Commission provides a variety of services for the denomination. It coordinates the musical program for the national convention each year. It also develops and markets music and other materials that can help local churches develop more effective music programs.

In each of the past two years the commission has sponsored recording projects prior to the national convention. The 1998 project was entitled *Glory, Honor and Praise: An Invitation to Blended Worship*. Because this project was so successful, another recording project was done in 1999 prior to the convention in Atlanta. It was entitled *Worthy of Praise: Extending the Invitation to Blended Worship*.

These projects include listening cassettes and CDs, accompaniment cassettes and CDs, orchestral



Bill Gardner

Words Worth Remembering

"We are never alone." — Carl Cheshier

"I want the kind of growth that will be there next year." — Kent Barwick

"I remind you that we are in a spiritual business." — Roger L. Hogan

"I would like to say a word of gratitude for having been given this awful responsibility."
— Robert Morgan

"When we take another life, we abrogate the authority of God." — Tim Thompson

"God established safeguards to protect the family." — Tim Thompson

"I like the fact that we are autonomous in our church government." — Roger L. Hogan

"Being a Christian is not what I do; it is what I am." — Clifford D. Donoho

"God hates discord among his people." — Roger L. Hogan

"I want my church to be a part of something that is bigger than we are." — Robert Morgan

"It is prayer that unites the church to the living God." — Roger L. Hogan

"God says, 'I want you sanctified. I want you clean'." — Danny J. Williams

"God has no lone rangers." — Carl Cheshier

"It is not God's will for your church to be weak, anemic, and barely hanging on."
— Clifford D. Donoho

"We want to double our missions presence in ten years." — James Forlines

"Most of us have never really been trained to do what we are called to do." — John C. Maxwell

"Don't ever equate the spirituality of the pastor with the size of the church." — John C. Maxwell

"We can know victory in our hearts and lives tonight." — Danny J. Williams

"We have been upon the mountain top the last few days." — Herbert Richards

"God is not looking for outstanding people, but for people who are willing to stand out from the crowd." — Carl Cheshier

"I know what it is like to die. All I can see is the bright light at the end of the tunnel."
— Kent Barwick

"The cripples in life's race are always those who withhold forgiveness." — Carl Cheshier

"We need a healthy wholesome fear of God." — Clifford D. Donoho

"You can have a large church without it being a healthy church." — Kent Barwick

"It bothers me that people settle for substandard church lives." — Kent Barwick

"Life is more important than property." — Clifford D. Donoho

parts and choral books. Churches and individuals can purchase these materials for use in their local music programs.

The Music Commission also sponsors a music workshop each year at the convention. This workshop puts music from a variety of publishers into the hands of Free Will Baptist musicians. Participants pay a registration fee of \$19.95. They then receive a package of new music worth approximately \$150.

Historical Commission

The Historical Commission encourages the collection and preservation of important historical information about Free Will Baptists. It also encourages research and writing in the area of Free Will Baptist history. It prepared an inventory of minutes in the Historical Collection and distributed copies to delegates at the 1998 national convention in Tulsa. Some copies of this inventory are still available. One of the Commission's on-going goals is to help furnish a "history" room on the



Thomas Marberry

2000 Budgets Adopted

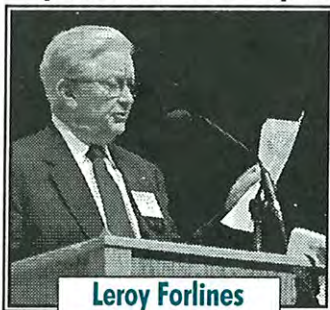
Executive Office.....	\$ 641,726.88
Free Will Baptist Bible College	3,720,000.00
(Includes \$1.2 million in unrestricted gifts)	
Foreign Missions	6,177,658.04
(Does not include \$776,350 Vision Projects)	
Home Missions	4,100,000.00
Master's Men	220,842.00
Retirement and Insurance	382,134.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation	132,200.00
Sunday School and Church Training.....	3,427,012.10
Commission for Theological Integrity ...	2,800.00
Historical Commission	4,800.00
Music Commission	45,850.00
Media Commission	2,100.00
Total	\$18,857,123.02

new campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The Commission's current project is to publish a Free Will Baptist historical guidebook to help researchers and writers locate information about the history of our denomination. It will include a list of organizations and individuals who have collections of historical materials.

Commission for Theological Integrity

The Commission for Theological Integrity exists to encourage theological reflection and to help preserve our doctrinal heritage. It sponsors a theological seminar each year at the national. The 1999 seminar examined the issue of baptism. It explained the difference between infant baptism and believer's baptism and why Free Will Baptists practice believer's baptism.



Leroy Forlines

The commission also sponsors an annual Theological Symposium when Free Will Baptists are invited to read papers they have written on differ-

ent theological subjects. The reading is followed by questions and discussion. The 1999 Theological Symposium will be held on the campus of Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma, on November 4-5.

The Commission plans to publish the first issue of a theological journal in cooperation with our Free Will Baptist colleges. Free Will Baptist Bible College and Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College have each contributed \$1,500 to this project. An additional \$3,000 needs to be raised for this project. Matt Pinson will serve as editor; Paul Harrison will serve as assistant editor.

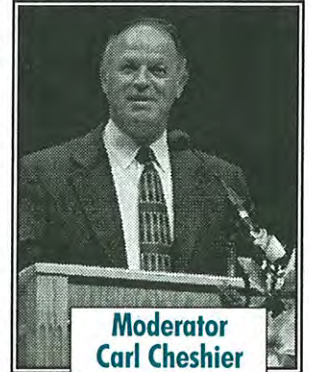
Accord in Business

The National Association of Free Will Baptists is a large operation. Annual budgets for all national departments and agencies total almost \$19 million. Important decisions must be made every year about the work of the denomination. Delegates to Convention '99 are to be commended for the manner in which they transacted the denomination's business. Reports and recommendations from various agencies were carefully reviewed. Decisions were made in a Christian spirit.

The most important item of business each year is the election of officers and board members. Those elected are the men and women who will guide the

work of the denomination. A chart of election results may be found at the end of this article.

Delegates voted to increase membership of the Executive Committee to 13 members. This increase will insure that all areas of the denomination are adequately



Moderator
Carl Cheshier

2000 Together Way Allocations

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

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

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

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

represented on this important committee.

The voting body approved two resolutions submitted by the states of Arkansas and Georgia which addressed the issue of higher education in our denomination. These resolutions called for the appointment of a task force on higher education. One of the goals of this task force will be to facilitate better communication and cooperation among Free Will Baptist colleges in an effort to better serve our young people.

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington will chair the task force. The presidents and academic deans of our four colleges in the United States and our seminary in Mexico will serve by virtue of the positions they hold. The moderator will appoint five additional members who are not affiliated with any of our educational institutions. The cost of this task force will be paid by the convention fund.



New clerk Keith Burden (L) and retiring clerk Waldo Young.

Delegates devoted some time to the increasing cost of the national convention. They voted to increase the representation fee from \$25 to \$50 per church.

During the business session Thursday morning, the voting body selected Cincinnati, Ohio, as the site for the national convention in 2009.

The body closed its business session by giving a rising vote of thanks to the Georgia State Association for its kindness and hospitality in hosting the convention in Atlanta. Delegates also gave a standing vote of thanks to Rev. Waldo Young for 30 years of service as clerk of the National Association.

Conclusion

Convention '99 was an outstanding meeting. It was a large conven-

Elected in Atlanta

The following were elected during the 63rd annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated:

General Officers

Moderator Carl Cheshier (Oklahoma)
Assistant Moderator Tim York (Kentucky)
Clerk Keith Burden (Oklahoma)
Assistant Clerk John Hibbard (California)

General Board

2001 Rick Cash (Alabama)
Stephen Robinson (Arizona)
David Joslin (Arkansas)
Fred Hanson (Atlantic Canada)
Doice McAlister (California)
Mark Thomas (Colorado)
Millard Sasser (Florida)
William Smith (Georgia)
Earl Jenkins (Idaho)
Ernie Lewis (Illinois)

2002 Chris Clay (Indiana)
Dale McCoy (Kansas)
James Patton (Kentucky)
Ron Parker (First Louisiana)
Jay Baines (Maryland)
Luis Felipe Tijerina (Mexico)
Gene Norris (Michigan)
J. L. Gore (Mississippi)
Nathan Ruble (Missouri)
Bill Brown (New Jersey)
Tim Byers (New Mexico)

Executive Committee

2001 David Joslin (Arkansas)
Doice McAlister (California)
Millard Sasser (Florida)

2002 Gene Norris (Michigan)
Nathan Ruble (Missouri)
J. L. Gore (Mississippi)

Home Missions Board

2005 Lynn Wood (Oklahoma)
Ken Dodson (Missouri)
Harold Blankenship (North Carolina)

Board of Retirement

2005 Milburn Wilson (California)
Ron Barber (Oklahoma)
Henry Van Kluyve (North Carolina)

Master's Men Board

2005 Ernie Taylor (Illinois)
Don Neal (Indiana)
Mike Mounts (Ohio)

Media Commission

2004 Mirchael Jones (South Carolina)

Music Commission

2001 Scott Bullman (Oklahoma)
2004 Randy Sawyer (North Carolina)

Historical Commission

2004 Robert Picirilli (Tennessee)

Theological Integrity Commission

2004 Jeff Manning (North Carolina)

tion. A total of 6,592 ministers, deacons, missionaries, delegates and visitors registered for the National Association, the National Youth Conference, and Women Nationally Active for Christ. Attendance and participation in worship services and various seminars was excellent. This indicates that there is a great deal of interest in the work of the National Association.

The worship services were well-planned and organized. The music touched everyone. The preaching was biblical, practical and pointed. It moved our hearts, challenged our heads and occasionally stepped on our toes. The missions service Wednesday evening was the highlight of the convention. When the invitation was extended, many men and women went forward to dedicate themselves to spreading the gospel both at home and abroad.

We as a denomination must recognize that Free Will Baptists in other countries are just as independent and autonomous as we are. We cannot and should not expect to make their decisions for them. It is a joy to see our foreign mission program moving into several new countries like Russia and Korea.

The home missions program continues to grow and mature. We are sending out more church-planters than ever before. Cross-cultural ministry is becoming more important. The department is working with state associations and local congregations to plant churches among Korean-Americans, Slavic-Americans and Hispanic-Americans.

Perhaps the most encouraging thing in our denomination right now is that we can see a greater sense of unity and cooperation than we had a few years ago. Our Foreign Missions and Home Missions Departments are cooperating more closely today than they have in the past. The Educational Task Force can help bring closer cooperation between our educational institutions. Even though we have our differences, we are truly one denomination, and we can accomplish much more when we work closely together.

Some important issues were addressed at Convention '99. The issue of convention funding had to be ad-

1999 Convention Tapes Available

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

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

Tape Number	Subject	Quantity
Convention Messages		
1.	Cliff Donoho Sunday Morning	_____
2.	Danny Williams Sunday Evening	_____
3.	Kent Barwick Monday Evening	_____
4.	Roger Hogan Tuesday Evening	_____
5.	Robert J. Morgan Wednesday Evening	_____
Women Nationally Active for Christ		
6.	Seminar Genny Waddell	_____
7.	Devotional Lynette Morgan	_____
8.	Missionary Service Shirley Combs	_____
9.	Fellowship Dinner Brenda Vaughn	_____
Seminars		
10.	Theological Trends Seminar	_____
11.	Sunday School Workshop Alton Loveless (\$5)	_____ (2 tapes/\$5)
Miscellaneous		
12.	John Maxwell Pastors/Laymen Conference (\$5)	_____ (2 tapes/\$5)
13.	Ron Owens Foreign/Home Missions Rally	_____ (2 tapes/\$5)
14.	Herbert Richards Moderator's Message	_____
15.	Tim Thompson Adult Sunday School Class	_____

Please complete the following:

Name _____
 Address _____ Total Tape Cost _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Plus Postage **\$2.00**
 Amount Enclosed _____

Please send **Check or Money Order** to:
Sandy Goodfellow — 500 Wilclay Drive — Nashville, TN 37209

dressed, and it was. It will need to be addressed again in the future. Expansion of the Executive Committee will facilitate communication and help insure that all areas of the denomination are represented in the decision-making process.

It has been my pleasure to serve as convention press office for several years, but this will be my last year to fulfill this responsibility. I have accepted the presidency of our seminary in Mexico, and I will have new and different responsibilities in future national conventions. It has been an honor to work with Free Will Baptist men and women from around the country. *Que Dios les bendiga.* ■

.....
 ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Thomas Marberry is president of the Seminary of the Cross in Mexico.



Mark King

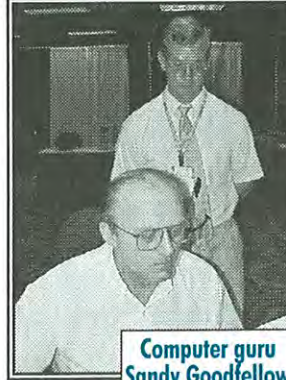
Packing up to leave.



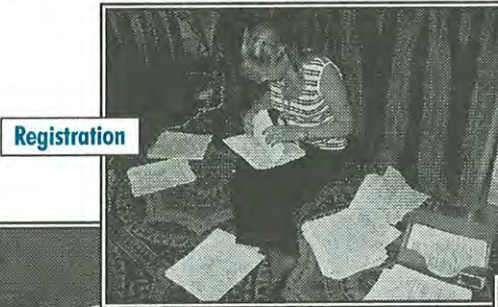
Raymond Lee



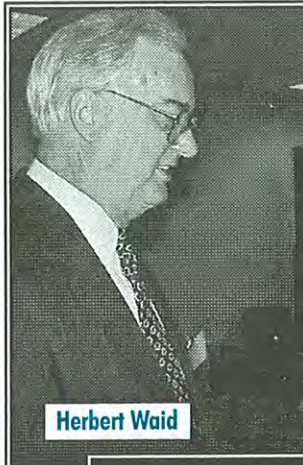
Charles Denman



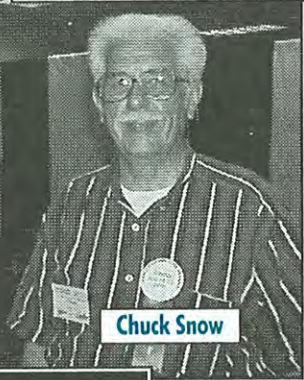
Computer guru
Sandy Goodfellow



Registration



Herbert Waid



Chuck Snow



Chris Truett



Exhibitors move in.

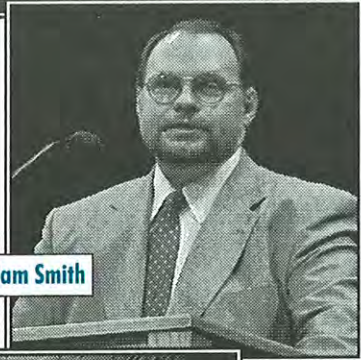


Sherwood Lee

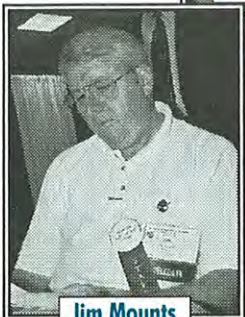
Carlisle Hanna



Some
blow
their
own
horns.



William Smith



Jim Mounts



Waldo Young

Melvin Worthington



More reports!

1999 Registration Report*

National Convention	4,042
Ordained Ministers	678
Ordained Deacons	134
Licensed Ministers	16
Local Church Delegates	69
State Delegates	74
Home Missionaries	88
Foreign Missionaries	32
National Board Members	46
National Officers	4
Non-Delegates	2,901
National Youth Conference	1,680
Women Nationally Active for Christ	870
Grand Total	6,592

*This report reflects the total number who registered for the three combined conventions: National Convention, NYC, WNAC. By actual count, some 5,523 individuals registered, some for one or more conventions. At the same time, several hundred attend each year who do not register.

Passing the Torch

By Suzanne Franks

Hot Atlanta welcomed the 64th WNAC Convention held July 19-20. Some 870 women who registered experienced that famous Georgia hospitality. They came from around the globe to worship Jesus Christ, conduct business and celebrate the passing of the torch.

WNAC Seminar

Monday afternoon women and men packed the Marriott Marquis Imperial Ballroom to attend the WNAC Seminar, "How to Handle Depression."



Genny Waddell

WNAC president-elect Debe Taylor introduced speaker Genny Waddell for her one-hour seminar. Attendees left with 40-plus pages of handouts. The Nashville-based writer spoke on the topic from experience, extensive research and years of Bible study.

WNAC State Leaders Meeting

WNAC executive secretary-treasurer Marjorie Workman presided in the State Leaders Meeting. The seminar called "Show and Tell" brought together women from five states who shared creative ways to involve women in WNAC.

General Session

Tuesday morning women trekked across the bridge over Interstates 75/85 to reach the



Marjorie Workman

Civic Center Auditorium for WNAC's general session. WNAC vice president Debe Taylor presided in president Everyl Getz's absence. Susan Forlines lead congregational singing. Shirley Kimbrel accompanied on the piano and Carol Reid on the organ.

Missionary to Côte d'Ivoire Lynette Morgan brought the devotional. Lynette and fellow missionary Deleen Cousineau are passing the torch to seminary students' wives in Bouna. They teach classes to help future pastors' wives develop intellectually, physically and spiritually.



Lynette Morgan

Following a solo by Henrietta Brown, Georgia WAC President Gail Smith welcomed attendees to WNAC's 64th Annual Session.

Dr. Mary R. Wisheart assisted *Co-Laborer* editor Suzanne Franks in presenting awards for WNAC's Creative Arts Contest. First place winners in four categories are:

Plays: *WNAC Enlistment Skit*, Jackie L. Utley, Broken Arrow, OK

Programs: "The Priorities of a Career Woman," Joan Warren, Oilton, OK

Articles: "The Pastora," Ruth Bivens, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

Poetry: *Today*, Lori Marshall, Surprise, AZ

Marjorie Workman gave the executive secretary-treasurer's report. Delois Lovel presented four

items submitted by the Resolutions Committee. All resolutions passed. They are as follows.

1. Be it resolved that we grant \$1,000 scholarships to Robert Houessou and Paul Amiezi for their studies at the Free Will Baptist seminary in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, for the year 2000, from the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund.
2. We recommend that the Foreign Student Scholarship Fund be named the "Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship Fund" in honor of the woman who started the fund.
3. We recommend that the Memorial Student Loan Fund be named the "Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart Loan Fund" in honor of her many educational achievements.
4. We recommend that local, district and state WAC groups consider increasing their monthly gifts to the WNAC office for the General Fund.

Peggy Outland read the Nominating Committee report, and delegates elected the following officers.

President — Debe Taylor (AR)

Vice President — Joanne King (NC)

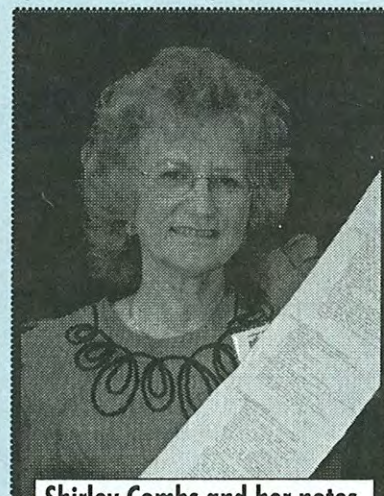
Secretary — Diana Bryant (FL)

Members at Large — Yvonne Brown (CA), Debbie Burden (OK), Dawn Sweeney (TN)

Paige Goodman played a flute solo for the offertory; special music followed by Danny and Bobbi Thomas.

Missionary to Brazil Shirley Combs

directed hearts to consider the greatness and power of God. God is miraculously building the home for street children which Shirley Combs directs.



Shirley Combs and her notes.

Only about 10% of donations for construction of the home came from outside of

Brazil as Christians and non-Christians alike sacrifice to build Lar Nova Vida.

"I'm glad you sent us not just to rescue these little ones," she says, "but to put Jesus in their hearts. That one day they can soar with Him on the strength of His wings, on the strength of His power."

Special Feature

After a quick lunch, men and women reassembled in the Civic Center for WNAC's special feature.



Diana Bryant

Under the direction of Diana Bryant, the audience heard stories of three families who are passing the torch.

Emily Dempsey Malone passed the torch to her son Wallace and daughter-in-law Eunice. They had a son Tommy who is president of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Four of his five daughters and niece Sarah participated in the program. Their flames shine brightly from Nashville, Tennessee, to China.

Lorene Miley passed the torch to daughter Lynette Morgan and grandson Adam. Each of these is spreading or has spread the flame of evangelism in Côte d'Ivoire.

Janice Banks is passing the torch to missions students at Hillsdale FWB College. Her son and daughter-in-law Justin and Leslie Banks are carrying the torch to the Kunas in Panama.

At the conclusion, Pam Flannagin sang "Find Us Faithful" and women passed torches all over the auditorium symbolizing those who pass the torch as teachers, mothers, neighbors, senior citizens, etc.

WNAC Fellowship Dinner

About 440 men and women gathered for a feast of food, fellowship and faith-building instruction.

Brenda Vaughn gave her testimony



Brenda Vaughn

of how God managed to do His work in spite of tragedy. A house fire left 65% of her body with 2nd and 3rd degree burns. Her two-year-old daughter, Becky, suffered

burns on 95% of her body.

Through long months of hospitalization, God taught her that He loved her, He would never leave her or forget her in any circumstance.

Becky is a 23-year-old college student. Her body carries scars and she is in a wheel chair. She was saved at age 6 and asked her dad to write a gospel tract

for her because she wanted to tell people what happened to her. The Vaughns

receive letters from people all over the country who have been saved or been encouraged by the tract.

She says of her daughter, "When I feel sorry for her, I think of all the people who will be there because of her. When we are able to share in His glory, our suffering won't even be worthy of being compared with the glory we will see there. I wonder who I'll feel sorry for."

Brenda Vaughn co-wrote with her pastor husband their story in the book *More Precious than Gold: The Fiery Trial of a Family's Faith*.

One person at each table got to take home the centerpiece which was provided by Georgia WAC. Each centerpiece was a numbered and signed piece of Georgia pottery. GWAC also put together jars of pecans, peanuts or homemade jelly for each person who attended to take home.

Conclusion

As long as FWB women pass the torch to younger women, the Great Commission will continue to burn in our hearts as we do our part to spread the good

My antennae are cuter.



Debe Taylor models hard hat.



Debe Taylor models soft hat.

news to every nation. Thanks be to God that hot Atlanta ignited the flame of passion for God's work all over the world.



Gail Smith



WNAC Executive Committee meets.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Suzanne Franks is editor of *Co-Laborer* magazine.

1999 National Youth Conference

No Wall Too High

By Dean Jones

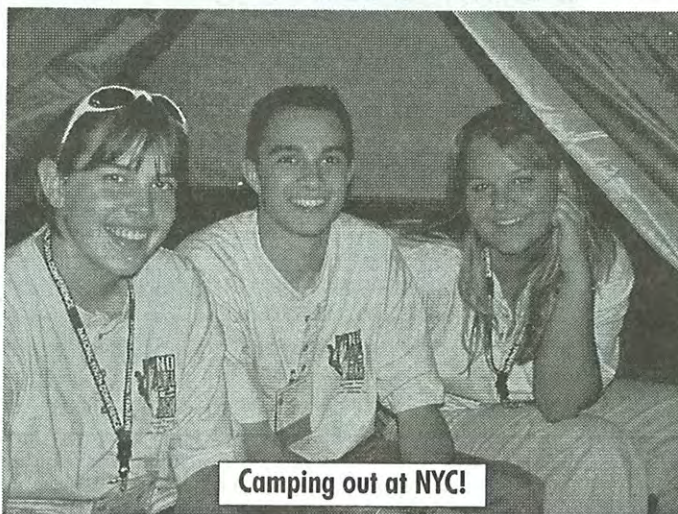
"No Wall Too High" was the theme of the 32nd annual National Youth Conference, July 18-22, in Atlanta, Georgia. Joel Hampton, Georgia pastor, started the conference Sunday morning, using Horizon curriculum. Barry St. Clair, founder of Reach Out Youth Resources, spoke during the teen worship services. Donald Myers, Taylor, Michigan, served as music coordinator for teen worship.

The Sunday evening teen worship service featured special music by a mass youth choir comprised of Georgia students. Following the service, teens joined in the Georgia Jungle Gym to enjoy Human Joust, the Bungee Run, Bouncy Boxing and a 28' inflatable Climbing Mountain!

Bible Competition and the Music and Arts Festival started Monday morning and continued through Wednesday morning. There were 587 entries and 1,687 registrants.

Monday evening's teen service featured music by the Truth and Peace student leadership conference, under the direction of Michael Hollifield, conference staff member. The after-service activity included over 250 young people joined together in a Concert of Prayer. They upheld their churches, pastors, peers and their world before the Lord.

Tuesday was another day of competition with Bible Competition winding down to the semifinal round. In-



Camping out at NYC!

strumentalists, puppeteers, ensembles, choirs and chorales packed competition rooms.

During the conference, attendees visited the art galley where nearly 100 entries were displayed. They also picked up conference souvenirs and their favorite T-shirts at the NYC sales booth.

Wednesday morning featured Bible Competition Finals. The Greenwood, Arkansas, team won **Bible Bowl** competition and the Mt. Vernon, Illinois, team won **Tic-Tac-Toe** competition.

Other 1999 winners were **Turning Point** – Ashley Vandivort, Tennessee
Horizon – Hollie Hubbard, Texas.

Bible Memorization:
1st Grade – Miranda Thomas, Arkansas
2nd Grade – Nicole Shelton, Tennessee
3rd Grade – Kirsten Clancy, Kentucky.

Bible Sword Drill:
4th Grade – Alisha East, Arkansas
5th Grade – Jacob Peerson, Arkansas
6th Grade – Kendal Brown, Arkansas.

During the course of the four-day conference, 30 workshops and semi-

nars were presented for children, teens and youth workers on various ministry and practical subjects. "Reach That Guy – Impact Atlanta" project allowed over 600 opportunities to take the gospel to the streets.

Some volunteered mornings and afternoons to serve at nearly a dozen agencies in the Greater Atlanta area. They sorted donated clothing, worked with homeless children and adults, cleaned warehouses, painted, cooked and served meals to the homeless, did gardening for a food kitchen and spruced up areas of Atlanta.

Preschool worship (ages 2-5) services were held each day. This exciting program provided an opportunity to minister to the youngest Free Will Baptists. Upon check-in, each was assigned to a team. Then they were led through a series of centers throughout the service including: worship and singing, role play, crafts, snacks, sensory center and motor skills.

Children (grades 1-3) and Tweener (grades 4-6) worship services were conducted Sunday morning and evening by Johnny and Gail Miller – Arkansas children's pastors. Children's services for the rest of the week were conducted by *Baskin' n' Sonshine*, a clown ministry team from Georgia.

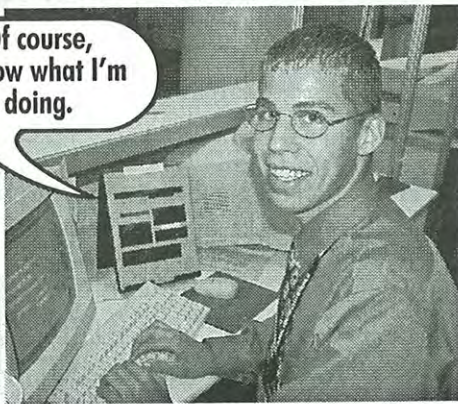
Hundreds of decisions were made during the services, including many for salvation. Speakers challenged our students to commit their lives to a living God and serve Him daily.

Some 2,000 people gathered for the Awards Celebration Wednesday evening. All Bible Competition and Music and Arts Festival winners were recognized. The 2000 Youth Evangelistic Team was announced. These 12 high school youth were top scorers in the 1999 Music and Arts Festival. They are:

- Joshua Walls (North Carolina)
- Carrie Stewart (Tennessee)
- Laura Ellis (Illinois)
- Lindsey Scott (Missouri)
- Paul Bryant (Florida)
- Ryan Bowlin (Missouri)
- Mary Catherine Harris (Oklahoma)
- Joshua Riggs (Tennessee)
- Katie Boudreau (Illinois)
- Amanda Turner (Arkansas)
- Timothy York (Kentucky)
- Kyle Jarman (Oklahoma).

Trophies, ribbons, medals, certificates and scholarships were awarded. Special Awards were given to the following:

Of course, I know what I'm doing.



Youth Group of the Year – First FWB Church, Ada, Oklahoma

Youth of the Year – Mitch Cooper (Oklahoma)

Youth Worker of the Year – Mark Stripling (Arkansas).

One by one, winners were announced and walked across the stage for special recognition. Congratulations to all the youth who entered the competitive activities. You are all winners!

It would be impossible to conduct a conference of this magnitude without the assistance of the Truth and Peace Leadership Confer-

Who can spell "Colquitt"?



NYC is serious.



ence. These 72 youth gave life to the planned activities. They were divided into various areas of responsibility. They did a super job. Participants had been in leadership training two weeks prior to the National Youth Conference.

At the conclusion of the Truth and Peace conference, several awards were presented. The NYC staff selected Mitch Cooper (Oklahoma) and Amanda Smith (Oklahoma) for **Outstanding Leadership Awards**.

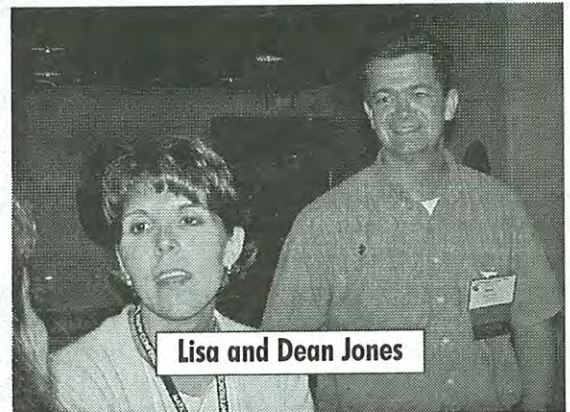
Special appreciation is due to all pastors, parents, youth leaders, coaches and judges who work with our youth. A special thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who helped make the 32nd Annual National Youth Conference a success.

We have implemented many changes and hope to see even more in the fu-

ture. We are eager for your input. If you have ideas or suggestions for speakers, seminars or changes, please mail them to us at:

Truth and Peace Conference
P. O. Box 17306
Nashville, TN 37217.

When people think back to the 1999 NYC in Atlanta, some will remember the soaring temperatures, or maybe all the streets containing the word "Peachtree," but I will remember the hundreds of young people who shared their lives with us for a week. Lives which hopefully returned home different than when they arrived. Lives which will live out their faith in the coming years. Lives which will lead us to the 33rd youth conference

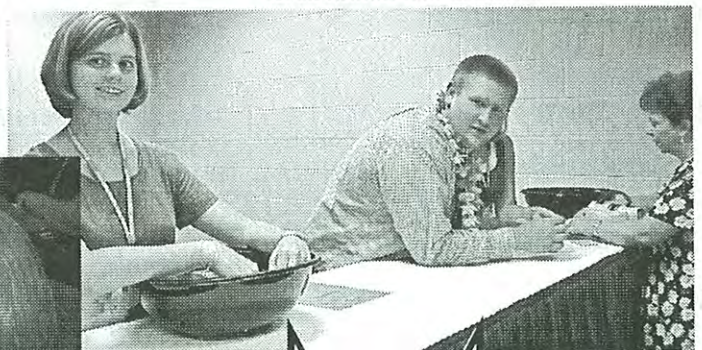


Lisa and Dean Jones

in Anaheim, California, where they will . . . Press Toward the Goal! ■

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

Don't just stand there. Go register.



FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

Randall House to Provide Free Spanish Manuals

NASHVILLE, TN—The Sunday School and Church Training Department Board voted to provide free Sunday School manuals for every Hispanic Free Will Baptist church in the world, according to Dr. Alton Loveless, general director of the department.



Dr. Alton Loveless (center) presents literature to Mexican pastors.

This project will include all Hispanic churches presently under the direction of both the Home and Foreign Missions Departments. The agencies will provide shipping expense to deliver the literature to churches here and abroad.

Dr. Loveless said, "I did not want our Hispanic churches who cannot afford Sunday School materials to be without it, when we had ample literature to provide them at this time. The gift of this material will not only help the churches today, but it will also provide teachings from the Word of God for future generations.

"I could not see these precious little ones and their youth deprived of these biblical teachings of our beliefs while they are impressionable. Not only will the children be blessed, but the adult training will be

enhanced since the adult teacher books are excellent commentaries."

Casa de Randal (division of Randall House Publications) was already giving Sunday School material to Free Will Baptist churches in Cuba, but this action will make literature available to congregations in Spain, Panama, Uruguay, Puerto Rico and Mexico. Free Will Baptist churches in the United States which have Spanish services may contact Dr. Loveless or the Spanish division personnel about receiving Casa De Randal's Sunday School literature.

Randall House will continue to promote and sell its Spanish literature to about 40 denominations.

Great Preaching at North Carolina Meeting

MARION, NC—Delegates left the 37th annual North Carolina State Association on June 7-8 praising the spirit of enthusiasm, the fellowship and the powerful preaching services. Promotional director Jim Marcum said, "Several stated that this was the best state meeting they had attended in years."

Moderator Randy Stone gavailed the 172 registered attendees through the two-day session

which met at First FWB Church in Marion.

Four ministers preached during the meeting. Pastor Reuben Cason (Unity FWB Church, Smithfield) preached on prayer. Pastor Rudolph Outlaw (First FWB Church, Hubert) preached on "Stand." Mission pastor Ral Alsbrook (Harvest FWB Mission, Charlotte) preached on "A Heart for the Harvest."

Promotional director Jim Marcum preached on "Preaching the Gospel." Home Missions staffer David Crowe preached on "Holding Up Holy Hands."

Ninety-two ministers and 22 lay delegates registered for the meeting.

The 2000 state association will meet June 5-6 at Victory FWB Church in Goldsboro.

West Virginia Re-Elects Luther Morgan

CHARLESTON, WV—Moderator Luther Morgan completed a two-year term behind the gavel, and delegates to West Virginia's 54th annual session elected him to a second term at the June 11-12 session. Reverend Morgan resides in Huntington and has been active in the state for more than 40 years.

Three ministers preached sermons developing the 1999 theme, "Come, Let Us Reason Together." Pastor George Burns (Maple Lane FWB Church in St. Marys), Pastor Tom Blake (Heritage FWB Church in Inwood) and Foreign Missions staffer Fred Warner shared pulpit duties.

Clerk Norwood Webb said that 275 people registered for the two-day session which met at Loudendale FWB Church in Charleston. That included 97 ministers, 19 deacons and 36 lay delegates.

Checks for \$7,024 from the State Missions Board were presented to the Home Missions and Foreign Missions Departments. The funds were designated for the Russell Wright account (home missionary)

and for the four West Virginia missionaries.

State Mission Board members Rickie Holstein and Ivan Asbury presented plaques to 13 West Virginia churches recognizing their gifts to missions.

State Cooperative Plan funds will be allocated: General Fund—20%, Christian Education—9%, State Paper—15%, Missions—25% Promotional Director—27%, National Ministries—4%.

Delegates approved constitutional changes authorizing that the state moderator (or assistant moderator), promotional director and General Board member be given \$600 each to attend the annual Leadership Conference.

Dr. Alton Loveless, general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department and WNAC Executive Secretary Marjorie Workman conducted seminars for delegates Friday afternoon.

The 2000 state association will meet June 9-10 at Cornerstone FWB Church in Sophia.

Ohio State Association Registers 455

COLUMBUS, OH—The Friday evening worship service at the Ohio State Association numbered 455 people, according to Executive Secretary Edwin Hayes. Some 78 ministers, 31 lay delegates and six deacons registered for the June 25-26 session at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus.

Moderator Robert Prichard led business activities in this the state's 61st annual meeting. Delegates elected the Cleveland pastor to serve his seventh term.

Attendees gave a record missions offering of almost \$8,600, to be divided between state missions (50%), state office (40%) and state youth outreach (10%).

In other action, delegates adopted a \$374,000 Together Way budget. The funds will be allocated: State office (52%), national ministries (30%), state missions (15%) and state youth ministries (3%).

Manuel and Margaret Lopes received plaques of appreciation for their work with the state youth

program. Manuel chaired the state Youth Board for several years.

Three ministers preached sermons developing the association theme, "Valiant for the Truth." Ohio pastors James McComas (Canaan FWB Church, Creston) and Kenny Klaiber (Pine Grove FWB Church, Ironton) joined Foreign Missions Director James Forlines for pulpit duties.

The 2000 state association will meet June 23-24 at Heritage Temple in Columbus.

Missouri Adopts \$1.1 Million Budget

LEBANON, MO—Missouri's 86th annual state association adopted budgets surpassing \$1 million, according to Executive Secretary Nathan Ruble. The vote approved a \$530,000 state budget and a \$584,000 Together Way Plan budget.

The June 7-9 session met at Lebanon in the Cowan Civic Center. Moderator Rick Dablemont led business sessions and was elected to a second term. Some 356 people registered including 87 ministers and 93 lay delegates.

Former moderator Ken Dodson was recognized for serving three years behind the gavel.

Delegates also adopted a ministerial scholarship program to assist graduate and undergraduate students.

Four speakers developed the association theme, "The Unchanging Word for a Changing World." The speakers were Pastor Ken Dodson (First FWB Church, Park Hills), Pastor Melvin Moon (Hartville FWB Church),

youth pastor Curt Gwartney (Fellowship FWB Church, Park Hills) and Home Missions Department general director Trymon Messer.

A stewardship workshop was conducted for attendees by Al Taylor who directs stewardship education with the Church of God in Cleveland, Tennessee.

The 2000 state association will meet June 5-7 in St. Peters, Missouri.

Bible College Trustees Considering Name Change

NASHVILLE, TN—The Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees is giving consideration to changing the name of the 57-year-old institution. They invite Free Will Baptists to submit suggestions.

President Tom Malone says the proposed renaming does not indicate any shift from the school's Bible-college stance. Neither is it an attempt to dilute its identity with the denomination. "The college will continue to clearly identify itself as a Free Will Baptist institution," he says.

Trustees will review the names submitted when they meet in December. Suggestions for a name change should be sent by November 15.

If you wish to submit a suggestion, please mail it, with your name and address, to:

Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205

Email submissions may be sent to:

president@fwbbc.edu

Southeastern College Receives \$2.4 Million Gift

WENDELL, NC—During the spring meeting of Southeastern FWB College's Board of Directors, a Free Will Baptist layman informed the board that he planned to give the school \$2.4 million, according to President Billy Bevan.

One million dollars was given to establish a scholarship fund for needy students who wish to attend the college. Another \$1.4 million was given to pay off the school's indebtedness.

President Bevan said, "My heart was broken by the generosity of this man and the goodness of God. It is a moment I will never forget."

Bevan announced the gift on Tuesday night at the college's Camp Meeting after Dr. Dann Patrick preached on "The Fourth Man." The Board of Directors had learned of the gift Monday afternoon and were asked to hold the news until the conclusion of the Tuesday evening preaching service.

Southeastern College began in 1983 at Virginia Beach, Virginia, with 89 students. The college enrolled 135 students in September 1998 at its new campus in Wendell, North Carolina.

Kansas Elects McCoy Moderator

TOPEKA, KS—Delegates to the 38th annual Kansas State Association elected Wichita pastor Dale McCoy as their new moderator at the close of the business session. Reverend McCoy pastors First FWB Church. He succeeds Larry Collins as moderator.

State clerk James O. Brewer reported that 66 people registered for the June 10-12 meeting which convened at First FWB Church in Topeka. That included 10 ministers, 13 lay delegates and two deacons.

Hillsdale FWB College president Carl Cheshier preached four times. Korean evangelist Paul Park spoke once.

Scott Collins and Evelyn Metcalf were recognized by delegates. Metcalf for her service as state auxiliary president and Collins for his summer missionary work as a member of Team Spain '99.

Fifty-two people attended the Friday evening State Auxiliary Banquet. Four new Kansas pastors gave their testimonies and shared their visions for their churches.

Clerk James Brewer said, "We had an excellent spirit. The business sessions went well with a great sense of unity."

The 2000 state association will meet June 8-10 at First FWB Church in Ulysses.

Roberson to Speak at Southeastern

WENDELL, NC—The opening service for Southeastern FWB College's fall semester features Dr. Steve Roberson, co-pastor of Gospel Light Baptist Church in Walkerton, North Carolina. Roberson has served 26 years with his father, Dr. Bobby Roberson.

The August 30 opening service takes place on the Southeastern campus at Wendell.

In addition to speaking at the opening service, Dr. Roberson will conduct a three-day campus revival at Southeastern. He preaches to 700 teens each Sunday in his teen church. He also plans all youth activities at the church and heads up the teen soul winning program.

Roberson serves as administrator for the 640-student Gospel Light Christian School. He coaches the varsity basketball team at the school as well.

Southeastern president Billy Bevan said, "I believe that God is going to enable us to get off to one of our best starts ever."

There's a new church meeting on Thursday nights in **Norman, OK**. They go by the name **Crossland FWB Church**. Nineteen people met for the first service at 3801 NE 60th Street on June 24. The offering was just over \$400, not bad for a Thursday night crowd. The preacher who started it all is **Wade Jernigan**. This makes the 25th Free Will Baptist church that Wade has helped start.

Brent Patrick's job just got bigger at **Southeastern FWB College in Wendell, NC**. After three years as business manager and business professor, Brent will wear the promotional director's title. He drops classroom duties but retains business manager responsibilities as well as the promotional role.

California director of ministries **Nuel Brown** received a \$2,000 travel gift certificate from the state association in appreciation for his leadership work in the Golden State. He's a happy man . . . and probably on the road to some faraway fishing hole as you read this.

After a fellow in a hurry missed the curve one foggy **Michigan** morning, the **North Warren FWB Church** pulled his car from astraddle their church sign. The man in a hurry needed another car. They needed a new sign to replace their demolished 1981 model. Pastor **George Johnson** now knows which church to preach in on Sunday. He says the sign is great but what's happening inside with conversions and baptisms is even better.

Hank Murray called and said **Light-house FWB Church** in **Carlsbad, NM**, needs a pastor. The church was formerly called Carlsbad FWB Church. Interested ministers may call 505/885-8562. Oh, the reason an announcement appears in "Currently" is because there are zero ministers available in this western state. Please help them pray for a pastor. They are serious and so are their circumstances.

After 50 years as a Free Will Baptist minister, Dr. **J. M. Dutton** retired in March. He served 20 years at his last pastorate—**Hanks Memorial FWB**

Church in **Alton, AL**. During his half-century ministry, Brother Dutton served as moderator of three Alabama associations—Birmingham District, Cahaba River and Progressive.

Thanks to a generous \$200,000 gift, **Alabama's Trinity Camp** near **Guin** constructed a 9,375-square-foot building. The multi-purpose structure includes a basketball court, chapel, three classrooms and quarters for two cooks, according to **Rick Cash**, promotional director.

Bethel FWB Church in **Tanner, AL**, relocated from Decatur and dedicated their new building on April 18. The church averages 40 in attendance and is the only Free Will Baptist church in Limestone County. Pastor **Jarel Reeves** drives 55 miles to preach, but he put his farm up for sale and plans to move closer to the church.

Home Missionary **Dennis Haygood** has located **Southpark FWB Church** in **Huntsville, AL**, in a 2,800-square-foot building which seats 100. The church occupies a five-acre site in Jones Valley.

Before Pastor **Steve Loveless** moved to **Tulsa, OK**, to lead **Lawnwood FWB Church**, he served as police chaplain in **Farmington, MO**. A Farmington reporter wrote an article about Loveless titled "Farewell To A Friend" after the police department presented a plaque of appreciation to the minister. The article cites Loveless' professional work with accident victims, domestic violence calls, other emergency situations and with personal problems that police officers had.

Antioch Community FWB Church in **Mt. Sterling, OH**, witnessed 17 conversions. **Jim Blankenship** pastors.

Pastor **Wiley Perkins** reports nine baptisms at **Samantha FWB Church** in **Leesburg, OH**.

Groundbreaking ceremonies on April 24 kicked off work on the construction of a new sanctuary at **Pleasant Valley FWB Church** in **Pedro, OH**. The church reports eight baptisms, four conversions and four new members. **Don Friend, Jr.**, pastors.

Big smiles at **Cleveland FWB Church** in **Cleveland, OH**. Pastor **Robert Prichard** baptized 15 people and reports eight conversions.

Almost 100 volunteers from 10 **Illinois** churches gathered at **Victory FWB Church** in **Mascoutah** on May 15 intending to visit every home in town. Eighteen teams of five people shared "Operation Saturation" with residents. Pastor **Jon Cannon** said the volunteers carried brochures, advertisements for the church, a schedule of worship services and a gospel message. The mayor joined team members in Chevy Park for a meal after they completed their work.

Pastor **Gene Outland** reports five conversions at **Hazel Dell FWB Church** in **Sesser, IL**.

Members of **First FWB Church** in **Wagoner, OK**, celebrated their 40th anniversary. Two charter members attended—**Mary Ellen Hunt** and **Nathan Jones**. **Jimmy Layne** pastors.

When the Woman's Auxilliary at **Collinsville FWB Church** in **Collinsville, OK**, decided to raise \$1,000 toward a new church building, they got everything right. **Bonita Hayes** presented an oversized \$2,000 check to Pastor **Herman Wood**. The check was so large that treasurer **Kaye Raper** had to help them hold it. Some big problems are nice.

Pastor **David Malone** reports five new members and two baptisms at **Peace FWB Church** in **Granite City, IL**.

Three baptisms and four new members have Pastor **David Shores** on the move at **Ina FWB Church** in **Ina, IL**. ■

BEYOND BELIEF

© 1995 ROGER JUDD



THE TOGETHER WAY

June 1999

Receipts:

State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 517.64	\$.00	\$ 517.64	\$ 3,378.12	\$.00	\$ 3,378.12
Arizona	2,475.53	.00	2,475.53	3,464.14	214.40	3,678.54
Arkansas	16,419.51	12,337.85	28,757.36	91,113.08	89,357.96	180,471.04
California	.00	688.90	688.90	.00	6,498.41	6,498.41
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	80.20	.00	80.20	299.13	6,000.00	6,299.13
Georgia	23,501.31	2,045.55	25,546.86	134,364.05	11,059.38	145,423.43
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	7,336.70	2,277.87	9,614.57	48,380.62	12,141.69	60,522.31
Indiana	.00	82.80	82.80	5,023.81	1,293.25	6,317.06
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	270.00	1,741.81	2,011.81
Kansas	.00	31.34	31.34	.00	252.92	252.92
Kentucky	1,664.81	496.77	2,161.58	5,869.71	3,663.30	9,533.01
Louisiana	10.00	.00	10.00	150.00	.00	150.00
Maryland	.00	581.02	581.02	.00	8,741.48	8,741.48
Michigan	15,497.13	1,903.58	17,400.71	84,683.17	15,077.00	99,760.17
Mississippi	.00	.00	.00	38,056.09	2,355.18	40,411.27
Missouri	26,764.63	12,702.28	39,466.91	235,265.85	72,317.85	307,583.70
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	.00	.00	.00	3,401.41	190.71	3,592.12
North Carolina	527.85	1,434.67	1,962.52	8,024.32	12,958.48	20,982.80
Ohio	17,804.53	3,100.13	20,904.66	65,510.88	18,286.25	83,797.13
Oklahoma	55,277.02	21,397.70	76,674.72	326,914.97	63,000.92	389,915.89
South Carolina	36,051.84	.00	36,051.84	261,579.72	.00	261,579.72
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	19,697.64	1,226.05	20,923.69	68,498.01	7,537.67	76,035.68
Texas	12,426.03	249.47	12,675.50	55,292.26	1,985.87	57,278.13
Virginia	694.44	.00	694.44	4,665.87	.00	4,665.87
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	3,126.08	62.33	3,188.41	16,678.42	483.74	17,162.16
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	246.48	13.21	259.69	1,717.28	74.11	1,791.39
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.07	.07	.00	.35	.35
Totals	\$ 240,119.37	\$ 60,631.59	\$ 300,750.96	\$ 1,462,600.91	\$335,232.73	\$ 1,797,833.64

Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 2,892.74	\$ 27,284.19	\$ 30,176.93	\$ 12,034.82	\$150,854.59	\$ 162,889.41
Foreign Missions	144,364.98	7,669.89	152,034.87	897,003.42	42,406.94	939,410.36
FWBBC	17,692.15	7,669.89	25,362.04	103,614.59	42,406.94	146,021.53
Home Missions	69,044.63	6,002.52	75,047.15	393,245.88	33,188.07	426,433.95
Retirement & Insurance	311.82	4,668.64	4,980.46	2,529.66	25,812.92	28,342.58
Master's Men	349.09	4,668.64	5,017.73	2,319.29	25,812.92	28,132.21
Com. for Theo. Integrity	24.91	166.75	191.66	254.23	921.92	1,176.15
FWB Foundation	439.71	2,000.82	2,440.53	2,187.44	11,062.67	13,250.11
Historical Commission	4.12	166.75	170.87	122.14	921.92	1,044.06
Music Commission	21.28	166.75	188.03	140.99	921.92	1,062.91
Media Commission	33.90	166.75	200.65	209.77	921.92	1,131.69
Hillsdale FWB College	1,643.70	.00	1,643.70	9,401.69	.00	9,401.69
Other	3,296.34	.00	3,296.34	39,536.99	.00	39,536.99
Totals	\$ 240,119.37	\$ 60,631.59	\$ 300,750.96	\$ 1,462,600.91	\$335,232.73	\$ 1,797,833.64

HOME MISSIONS



Memory of a Lifetime

By Chaplain Major Terry Austin

As I watched the news, I saw a reporter in Skopje, Macedonia, describing the terrible circumstances of Ethnic Albanians forced to leave their homes and everything they counted precious in life. I pictured the field they might be in and the location of the reporter. I even rehearsed how the airport in Skopje is laid out.

It is hard for me to imagine that five years ago I served as chaplain for the soldiers of Operation Able Sentry stationed in Skopje. My ministry in Macedonia involved holding worship services, visiting the observation posts along the border, working with local nationals and religious leaders and contacting local missionaries. It was a wonderful ministry that benefitted American soldiers serving in a faraway place and conducting a very unusual mission.

I must admit that before I went to Macedonia I did not know where it was. In fact, every time the Army has sent me somewhere, I have had to find it on a map in order to know where I was going and to learn something about the region. While there, I found myself without the luxuries most Americans enjoy, but I learned something from the local people and the missionaries during my six months of service in that region.

As poor as most of the people were in that area of the world, I learned that life for them is precious. Their wrinkled, weather-worn skin, missing and broken teeth were almost unnoticeable because of the brightness of their smiles. They loved seeing American soldiers and knew they were there to help maintain their way of life and keep them from becoming a part of a war just north of their border. Communism had robbed them of many opportunities to have even basic items that would improve their quality of life. But they had life and it was precious to them.

Phil and Lilly Boer, missionaries to Macedonia, hold a special place in my heart. I learned of their great love for the Albanians, Serbians, Macedonians, Americans and anyone else with whom



they came in contact. Even in the midst of tense times they chose to stay close to the people God called them to serve. Lilly is Serbian. Her hometown, Pristina, is often in the news, and I cannot help but think of her and Phil when I hear it mentioned. I know they are concerned about their relatives and the events taking place there.

Who would have thought that I would have the privilege to recall such an event and have the insight and specific prayer knowledge for such a time as this? God often involves us in ways we do not totally understand, but, we can

learn from the events and the people we become involved with to know how to pray and why it is important to pray.

As you pray, please remember the Boer family and the great opportunities to reach Serbs, Albanians and Macedonians for Christ. ■

Terry Austin has served as a chaplain for Free Will Baptists in the United States Army since 1989 and as a chaplain in the National Guard prior to that time. He and his family are currently stationed at Fort Bragg, NC.

This is a prime example of the many opportunities afforded our Free Will Baptist chaplains in their respective branches of service. We are thankful that our denomination is allowed to have representation in our country's chaplaincy program.



RANDALL HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

Changes for Which the Church Must Prepare

By Alton Loveless

Every expanding and growing church is aware of the changes around it and is preparing to meet those needs. The following groups in which they are training include:

Singles Classes

The singles growth factor is one of the fastest growing ministries in expanding churches. They know that this part of our society now represents 50% of our country. The never-married or the single-again is a targeted group by these churches.

Ushers/Greeters

A church pledged to growth has greeters who welcome new people as they visit the church for the first time. The newcomer sees the church like the greeter from his/her personality. Growing churches choose friendly and cordial people to service the entrances to their church. They train them to give direction and keep order.

Likewise, these churches do not use the term *visitor*. They have learned that the word *visitor* alienates. The word *guest* comes closest to what an outsider desires to be called because it places the feeling of one honored. We also know that a guest will probably not fill out your "visitor's" card because he knows the reason for it. He wants to make the selection to come to your church without pressure.

Enlightened outreach leaders in growing churches develop other ways to get names and addresses and use the friendship method to channel them to the church and the Lord Jesus.

Nurture

Because growth in some churches has been greater than they prepared for, many have designed cassettes, books, correspondence courses, videos, library and tutors to help those who want to learn more than the church staff can give. These are but a few things growing churches are doing to nurture.

Discipleship

Always in the agenda of the growing church is the discipleship of newer converts or transfers. Within these local churches are programs designed to teach or train. The job is never fin-

ished, because these outreaching churches are always bringing in new ones to be disciplined.

Aging

As the country becomes more elderly, the church is seeking ways to reach them. Churches have learned that those over age 65 have outnumbered teens since December of 1983. They represent more than 44 million. Half of all people who have lived beyond 65 live now. Nearly 12 percent of the American population is over age 65. Twenty percent of those in this age group attend church.

Also, this group is multiplying three times faster than the rest of the population. By the year 2010, one-fourth of all Americans will be over 65. In the same year, one out of four will have children who are 65 also.

Youth

Today, there are 22 million teens in the U.S. The social problems of the last three decades have contributed to many of the ills of this age group. Ten percent of all teens under age 18 have grown up with a single parent or step-parent. Statistics reveal an alarming future for many of our teens. Children of divorced parents are more likely themselves to:

1. Divorce.
2. Never be saved.
3. Go to jail.
4. Not believe in God,
5. Not get a high paying job.
6. Not finish school.
7. Not own a home.
8. Not get a permanent job until mid 20's.
9. Not get married.
10. Not go to college.
11. Not be involved in ministry, and
12. More likely to commit spousal abuse.

Therefore, the church will reach a new youth different from the young people of past eras. An understanding of teens will take on a new challenge.

Today's church must prepare for all groups along with the changes they will bring. ■

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

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Relocation Plan "On The Move"

By Roy Harris, Advancement Director

I want to thank you for your interest, prayers and support as we endeavor to relocate Free Will Baptist Bible College and to build a new campus.

Good things are happening. Let me tell you about just a few of them.

- A dear couple in Durham, North Carolina—Mr. And Mrs. Joseph Lowe—have made a \$500,000-commitment. They are members of Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church and have loved and supported FWBBC for many years. The money is coming from the sale of some property, which could be worth even more than \$500,000!
- We received \$50,000 from the sale of First Free Will Baptist Church in Petal, Mississippi. A road was being built through their property and they wanted some of the proceeds from the sale to go toward the new campus. Their church will live on in the lives of the young people who will be trained on our new campus.
- We have surpassed our goals for the first year of the Relocation Campaign. For instance, we hoped to raise \$100,000 in cash by May 31. We were at nearly \$200,000 by that date! We had also hoped for \$1 million in cash/commitments by that date; the actual total was \$1.7 million! That has grown now to over \$1.8 million and could be \$2 million by the time you read this!
- We have linked up with the Missionary Tech Team, a group of Christians who will help us design and build our new campus and save us hundreds of thousands of dollars! These men include some 200 Christian architects who volunteer their time for projects like ours. Furthermore, our project leader, Mr. Bob Schill, is an architect who *specializes* in designing and building colleges and universities, further evidence of God's direction!
- We have set a target date of August 2002 to be on our new campus! That time line was developed with help of those with Missionary Tech Team. Although many factors could affect that estimate, we and the Tech Team feel it is "do-able."
- Relocation Campaign Steering Committees are



Bob Schill, project director for the Missionary Tech Team, points out features on the new campus site.

now functioning in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Steering Committees are forming now in Indiana, the Maryland State Association, Michigan, Ohio, and Virginia. I will be working over the next 12-18 months to establish support bases in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia.

- The Missouri State Association has set a goal of \$100,000 to be raised through the state office. Chairmen of five state committees hope to raise several hundred thousand for the drive.
- Rev. Leon McBride, Relocation Chairman for Illinois, has challenged his state to raise \$1 million for the new campus!
- The Blue Grass Association (eastern Kentucky) voted in April to raise \$50,000 for the drive in memory of Rev. Ted Green, whose powerful ministry was such a blessing to many people throughout our denomination.

These are just a few of the things that convince us God's hand is upon this great effort. Free Will Baptist Bible College is "On The Move." Become a part and move along with us! ■



FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

What Does the Foundation Offer You?

By William W. Evans, Director

The Foundation Provides . . .

... Cooperation Rather Than Competition.

Each ministry in our denomination is represented by individuals who are highly motivated and interested in that ministry. As a result our actions have occasionally been interpreted as competitive fund raising. The Foundation serves all our agencies without pressure or prejudice, allowing donors to make their choice as to the agency(ies) benefitted, amount of gift and/or time of receipt.

... Economy Rather Than Expenses.

Downsizing and outsourcing are two key elements in retaining productivity and profitability in the commercial world. Should not our denomination consider these options?

Economy of scale is another often used term when cost is considered. It can refer to many things. Consider staff—highly trained individuals are much more economical than multiple groups of less qualified workers. Economy of scale certainly refers to investments.

Combining investments often lowers cost, generally producing higher returns. For instance, check your local bank on their C.D. rates for \$1,000, \$50,000 and \$100,000.

The Foundation offers economy in both areas to our members and agencies from the individual member to the largest organization.

... Consistency Rather Than Confusion.

Mom used to say, "Too many cooks spoil the soup." Immediate gifts are fairly simple to make but deferred gifts can be quite complex. Consistency in details of operation, management and reporting are important for the donor, charity and custodian.

... Impartiality Rather Than Partiality.

We serve Free Will Baptists whether an individual or ministry—not as an agency that solicits individual ministry gifts. This allows us the freedom of serving regardless of who receives the benefits. Many donors choose to benefit several ministries not just one or two; we can relieve them of making multiple-gift arrange-

ments. A few have chosen to remain anonymous and we certainly can help with this desire.

... Multiple Oversight Rather Than Singular.

The Foundation is supervised by a 16-member board, the largest in our national work. Nine (9) are elected from the floor of the national convention. The seven (7) remaining members are the executive secretary and the head of each auxiliary or department of the National Association. This broad representation provides oversight, input and influence from each of our programs, providing safety for our operation.

We have experienced tremendous growth during the last few years—from \$930,000+ in various agreements as of July 1993 to just over \$7 million now.

We manage over 270 different agreements for individuals, churches, camps, local and state associations. Some operate similar to savings accounts; some provide lifetime income to the donor and benefits to ministry only after the donor(s) death; others provide immediate and permanent income streams to ministry.

Why Do We Need the Foundation?

"To encourage and motivate the making of contributions, donations and gifts by deed, will, contract, trust agreement or otherwise, for the advancement, promotion, extension and maintenance of the various causes, objects and institutions now or at any time hereafter fostered or officially sanctioned by the National Association of Free Will Baptists of the United States of America."

Who Does the Foundation Serve?

"... the Free Will Baptist denomination and any of its agencies, associations and affiliated churches located within the United States of America or any foreign country."

How Can the Foundation Serve You?

Check out our literature, give us a call or come by and talk directly to one of us. ■



Garnett Reid

A "New" Solution To An Old Problem

As we saw last month, the "good news" is that God has chosen to bless Abraham's family and through them, to extend His blessing to the whole world (Gen. 12:1-3). A problem seemed to complicate this plan, however. Moses' comment to the wilderness generation of Israelites expressed it well: "Ye have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you" (Deut. 9:24).

A persistent strain of sin and covenant disloyalty infected God's people Israel as it infects all of us. The Lord had given the Mosaic covenant (law) as a means for them to demonstrate their allegiance to Him. They simply would not submit to His covenant demands, though.

For a litany of how rebellious Israel had been, read the indictments by the prophets in such passages as Isaiah 1:1-15, Jeremiah 2:1-3:10 and Ezekiel 20:1-32.

Hosea 11 depicts the Lord struggling, as it were, with the decision of what to do with His wayward people. He considers venting His wrath in full against them (v. 9), but in one of the most moving scenes in the Old Testament, this compassionate, gracious God resolves *not* to give up on His disobedient children (vv. 8-9).

Instead, He pledges to implement a new covenant with them. The most extensive presentation of this covenant occurs in Jeremiah 31:31-34. We must note at the outset that some of its elements are not *totally* new. A measure

of continuity exists between the old (Mosaic) and the new.

For example, the same God initiates both. His covenant partners in both are Abraham's descendants (Jer. 31:31), even though Hebrews 8 suggests that the new covenant expands to encompass all who are of faith, not just Jews (see also Gal. 3:6-9). The new covenant also shares the goal of all the covenants: a mutual relationship between God and His people (Jer. 31:33b).

Observe also that the same law (*torah*) is implanted within the hearts of new covenant believers. As Romans 8:4 explains, those who "walk after the Spirit" fulfill the righteousness of the law. This design is precisely the purpose of the new covenant: to bring about a changed will within the sinner so that he wants to do right. I'll say more below about the implications of this change.

If the new covenant is not new in these respects, you say, then how is it a *new* covenant? Three features testify to its radical "newness."

First, according to Jeremiah 31:33, this work of God *changes a person's heart*; He puts His law "in their inward parts" (Jer. 31:33). Although I cannot develop the thought here, I am convinced that this describes nothing less than regeneration. No wonder Jesus was surprised that Nicodemus had read the Old Testament but knew nothing about the new birth (John 3:10)!

If regeneration through the new covenant internalizes the law within our hearts, it follows that Christians should not demean the role of law in our lives. The moral law still has its place by emphasizing that God still has expectations from His people as to how they are to live. In this way law serves the purposes of grace.

Second, the new covenant *provides a person with direct, immediate knowledge of God* (Jer. 31:34a). To "know" God in this sense is to have a mutual relationship with Him, person-to-person, living in submission to His will. All the people of God can come to Him directly without the mediation of a priest or animal sacrifice, as was the case under the old covenant.

The basis for this direct access to God lies in the third provision of the new covenant. All of its *benefits issue from forgiveness of sin* (Jer. 31:34b), a forgiveness provided not through those animal sacrifices, but through Jesus Christ and His atoning death on our behalf:

And for this cause He is the mediator of the new testament (covenant), that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance (Heb. 9:15).

Here, then, is the gospel in the Old Testament: God plans to bless the whole world through Abraham's family, and the new covenant provides the blueprint for that plan. ■



Dennis Wiggs

Hospital Visitation II

Since the young preacher will probably spend much time visiting church members who are patients, hospital etiquette is necessary. It is most important that a "man of the cloth" minister professionally, compassionately and purposefully in the hospital room. In a previous article, I listed some don'ts of hospital visitation. Let me review a few of the don'ts, then list some do's.

Don't Do These

Don't sit on the bed. Don't even touch the bed.

Don't stay too long.

Don't talk about yourself. Don't explain your own illnesses.

Don't quote Romans 8:28. Patients have told me that almost everyone cites this verse.

Don't visit if you are sick. Make a telephone call and explain why you did not visit.

Don't stand on the oxygen tube, eat the patient's food or pour yourself a cup of water.

Don't ask the nurse to take your blood pressure.

Don't fall asleep in the chair while the patient is talking.

Do These

Dress professionally with a tie, coat, matching trousers, socks and shoes.

Pray before you enter the hospital, asking the Lord to use you effectively.

Park your vehicle on the opposite side of the parking lot. Walking is good exercise.

Place a mint in your mouth.

Smile!

Say, "good morning" or "good afternoon," to everyone, including doctors and nurses.

Be kind, not demanding, to the employee at the information desk.

Walk the steps. Excellent exercise.

Knock semi-loudly on the patient's door. Listen for a response. Open the door slowly.

Clearly identify yourself. Often patients are medicated, hard of hearing or visually impaired.

Ask if it is convenient to visit at that particular time. If not, back out and return later.

Speak optimistically when you visit the patient.

Stay in the room 15 minutes or less, unless the patient is near death.

Introduce yourself to everyone in the room.

Talk about spiritual matters.

Pray, remembering the patient and the visitors by name.

Leave a church brochure with your name on it. Patients often forget you visited.

Record in your pocket calendar the name of the person visited and room number.

Wash your hands immediately for your safety but also for the next patient you visit.

A Ministry

One of the most effective ministries a young preacher will experience will be visiting church members and others in the hospital. Fruitful visits demand preparation. Maybe the young preacher ought to ask himself how he would like to be visited. What would be his expectations of a pastor? What could the preacher do to be offensive? Since this is such a valuable pastoral ministry, much study should be given on how to be as effective as possible.

Hospitals and hospital chaplains offer seminars on this subject. Books and tapes can be purchased to benefit the serious young preacher. (Maybe the material is provided by those of different theological persuasion, but still the suggestions can be beneficial.)

Pray

Sometimes the atmosphere may not be conducive for praying. A loud television or several talking people may cause you to consider not praying. But under most circumstances it would be better to pray. (The Lord can hear you over the television.)

Remember that visiting patients in the hospital is a ministry. The visit may be the only one they remember. Once I visited a church member in the hospital's intensive care unit. The lady seemed to be unconscious. I read Psalm 23 and prayed. After the Lord chose to raise her off the bed of sickness, she testified that the only thing she remembered in that critical care room was my reading God's Word and praying. ■

Directory Update

NORTH CAROLINA

Rusty Conyers to Maranatha Church, Greenville

OKLAHOMA

Jimmy Howell to Hugo Mission, Boswell
Steve Loveless to Lawnwood Church, Tulsa
DeArthur Yandell to Chickasha Church, Chickasha ■

A Theology As Big As The City

By Ray Bakke

(Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997, 221 pp., paperback, \$12.99).

Ray Bakke is the executive director of International Urban Associates in Chicago and professor of Global Urban Mission at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored several urban churches during his ministerial career. For the past 30 years he has lived and worked in Chicago. He has spoken in conferences on urban evangelism in many cities of the world and is regarded as a leading authority in the field.

This book is the author's personal testimony. It is the story of how God took a young man of Scandinavian descent from the small town of Saxon, Washington, to the city of Chicago and used him to minister to urban people of every race, color and ethnic origin. It is an interesting and enjoyable story.

Yet, it is more than just the author's life story; it is the story of his theological pilgrimage. It outlines the books he has read, the scholars who have influenced him and the things he has learned. Ray Bakke is both an excellent student of the Bible and an excellent student of urban life and culture.

Urban missions is the greatest challenge which the church faces today. As Bakke explains, "The spectacular growth of large cities on this planet represents an awesome challenge to the church of Jesus Christ on all six continents. In 1900, eight percent of the world's population lived in cities. By the year 2000, that number will be nearly 50 percent."

Most non-Christians today live not in rural areas but in large urban centers that are often multi-ethnic and multi-cultural. The modern missionary is much more likely to live in the city than in the bush.

In the last century evangelical Christianity often focused on cities. Dwight L. Moody and other evangelists did much of their work in the large cities of this country. Many evan-

gelicals today have adopted a rural and suburban mentality.

Many Christians believe "that the Bible is a very rural book about a very rural God who makes gardens and whose favorite people are shepherds and vine growers, and whose least favorite folks are urban dwellers." Some even think that "to walk with God eventually requires a departure from the city."

Bakke challenges these assumptions. He notes that during the first century of the Christian era, the church was strongest in the great cities of the Roman Empire. Paul founded churches in the urban centers not in the rural areas. The rural areas of the Roman Empire remained pagan for centuries.

A considerable portion of this book is devoted to the interpretation and analysis of key passages of scripture that relate to cities. For example, in chapter nine of his book Bakke examines Jeremiah 29 which is Jeremiah's letter to the exiles in Babylon.

In this passage Jeremiah encourages those Israelites He has sent to Babylon to settle down, raise families and seek the welfare of the city to which God has sent them. According to Bakke, this passage teaches us something about how we should view the great cities of our world.

Chapter 16 of the book is significant; it notes that Jesus spent most of His public ministry in Galilee not in Jerusalem. Galilee was a much more



Thomas Marberry

urban and international area in the first century than many modern Christians recognize.

Only four miles north of Nazareth stood the large capital city of Sepphoris. Jesus ministered in the Decapolis, an area which was named for the 10 cities located there. To view Jesus as primarily a rural preacher and teacher is clearly incorrect.

This is a well-written book, and there is much we can learn from it. The careful analysis of key biblical passages can help us develop an urban theology of our own.

The author's willingness to follow the call of God to urban ministry can challenge us to do the same. His understanding of the literature available on urban ministry encourages us to do a deeper study of this important area.

There is, however, one thing in the book that concerns me. The author is conservative theologically and committed to a traditional Protestant understanding of salvation. Yet, he speaks very highly of Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox and others who have a sacramental concept of salvation.

He stresses the need to present a united front as we confront the pagan world of today. I have some concern that his emphasis on unity and cooperation could lead to compromising essential biblical teachings. That we must not do. ■

The Theology of Midnight

Theology lessons at 1:00 a.m. don't usually keep me awake, but the one last Wednesday did. It raged for three hours and demanded that I re-examine my priorities at daylight.

Industrial-strength allergies and a pollen count higher than my 30-year mortgage shoved me out of bed. Too miserable to read, I clicked on the television to the public broadcasting station where Theology 101 had just started.

A film crew traveled upriver to the Brazil/Venezuela border to document a primitive tribe's day-to-day life. Seemed like typical *National Geographic* stuff at first—isolated village, dreadful medical conditions, a hunter/gatherer lifestyle, lots of water and trees and vines.

Then the film darkened and a culture of vengeance emerged. A society filled with murder, deceit and adultery. The hour-long documentary focused on the tribe's worship of demons and destructive drug use.

During the weeks that the crew lived in the village, four tribal members died. They filmed the villagers' wretched despair as death overwhelmed them. A quiet voice, as if from God, whispered to me, "This is how people live who have never heard of Jesus."

By that time, I was wide awake. After guzzling a quart jar of day-old tea, I settled back on the front row for part two of the midnight theology lesson. An innocent-sounding title flashed, "Remembering the Camps."

The second documentary was shot in stark black and white in the more than 300 death camps scattered over Nazi-occupied territory as well as Germany. What began as a defeated nation's effort to pull itself up by its economic bootstraps after World War I turned evil as the Nazi's broken cross

overshadowed Germany.

Adolph Hitler's *final solution* opened the doors of holocaust. The nightmare years of the National Socialist Party built gigantic death factories, the likes of which had never been seen on earth. The fiery ovens seared the conscience of civilization as six million Jews disappeared behind closed doors and never returned. The madness of Hitler's twisted mind came within a historical heartbeat of drawing Nazi darkness across the rest of the world.

Nothing escaped the uncensored film shot in 1945 when the Allies unlocked the camp gates. Dead bodies piled like cordwood on trucks were dumped in huge open graves. That quiet voice, as if from God, whispered to me outside the wire at Auschwitz, "This is how people live who reject Jesus and embrace nihilism."

I turned off the PBS channel and sat alone at 3:00 a.m., the voices of dead millions swirling in my head. That's when part three of the theology lesson began.

Pulling on my jogging clothes, I stepped out into the dark morning. Night birds called. Neighborhood dogs cursed each other. The three-mile walk seemed longer as the weight of the unsaved world settled on my shoulders. South America's demon worshipers and the occult-worshiping Third Reich pursued me. Somewhere in the darkness, the night birds stopped singing.

Where was my America in this awful mix? We have better medical facilities than the primitive tribe, but our land like theirs is polluted with the same sins of vengeance, murder, deceit and adultery. We have more machines and more gadgets, but the same wrongs.

What about my America and the Nazis? The Nazis at first ignored the



Jack Williams

church in Germany. Then they prostituted the church to baptize their twisted creed of racial superiority. When pastors spoke out in horror, the mailed fist of Nazi arrogance struck swiftly to silence the church and punish dissenting clergy.

Finally, the Nazis ran past Calvary and substituted the swastika for the cross. They created a new god for people to worship, the angry god of National Socialism.

By the grace of God and His praying people, my America still stands like a city of light against the darkness. We stand precariously. The marching feet of the armies of hate echo in our streets. How so very close to absolute chaos we live.

And if the light goes out in America, the dark of that subsequent darkness will make Nazi Germany's national suicide seem docile by comparison. For we hold at our fingertips the power to unleash a nuclear holocaust on earth.

The theology lesson ended when I touched the front door. The living room light chased away the shadows, the demons, the Nazis. There atop my briefcase lay God's *final solution* for mankind—a Bible—a Bible alive with hope, vibrant with resurrection truth, certain in the promise of coming judgment.

The clock of time has moved past midnight. The last dawn stirs outside the door. Class is almost over. We who love America must take her hand and lead her again to the altars where gospel-preaching churches proclaim true liberty and true freedom.

Perhaps, then, a quiet voice, as if from God, will whisper, "This is how people live who love Jesus." ■

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

Periodical
Postage
Paid

SEPTEMBER 1999

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
			1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	

Family Day!

Remember To Support The Family...

The Rest Of The Family.

- Executive Office
- Retirement & Insurance
- FWB Foundation
- Master's Men
- Women Nationally Active for Christ
- National Youth Conference
- Commissions: Theological Integrity, Music, Historical, Media

SPECIAL OFFERING SEPTEMBER 26