

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE

MAGAZINE

A Free Will Baptist Magazine

MISSION: Stewardship

...

SIMPLE THINGS

God Robbers?

HE STOOD IN MY SHAME

The Gift of Discipleship

...

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Why Give to
MISSIONS?

What does your future ministry look like?

Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy son's sons.

—Deuteronomy 4:9



What impact could you have on your family by preparing now to serve them in full-time ministry later?

ONE

MAGAZINE

TO COMMUNICATE TO
FREE WILL BAPTISTS A
UNIFYING VISION OF OUR
ROLE IN THE EXTENSION
OF GOD'S KINGDOM.

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FirstGlimpse >>

THE LAST LETTER

“This will be your last letter...”

While I knew the day would come eventually, I am surprised by the surge of emotion as I read these words. After 13 years and nine months of “sponsoring” a child from Tanzania, the monthly letters—106 of them—are a highlight of the Thomsen-house routine.

The lines of his letter blur as my mind wanders back through the years to the first picture that introduced us to Emanuel. Four years old, with a round face, mischievous smile, bare feet, and electric blue, floral print pants—what

a character! That smile won our hearts, and not long after his fifth birthday, we began sending a few dollars each month to provide food, clothing, basic hygiene products, and a Christian education.

Our church youth group joined us in supporting him, and together we enjoyed watching Emanuel mature and grow into a solid student, an avid soccer player and fan, and a talented artist. Though half a world away, as we read his letters and posted the drawings he sent, Emanuel almost felt like one of the group.

In 2007, however, not long after his tenth birthday, we received the best letter of all. “You will be happy to know that I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior,” he wrote. He had no idea! Sadly, in the same letter, Emanuel also begged, “For my mother and father, please keep praying to accept Jesus and stop drinking.” Our hearts broke, and we accepted the challenge.

The years blurred as primary school gave way to secondary school and the normal adjustments of adolescence. While his grades dipped slightly, Emanuel remained a strong student

and completed his education, earning a diploma. The monthly letters gradually evolved from child-like observations regarding family, school, sports, and weather, to an adult understanding of the world around him and Emanuel’s desire to become an influential member of Tanzanian culture.

Not long after he earned his diploma, a letter arrived from Emanuel’s mother. She shared that it would be some time before her son would have an opportunity to write, because (and I could hear the pride in her words) he was away at police academy, preparing to become a member of the local force. Then, in answer to years of prayer, she acknowledged her own faith in Christ and shared her life’s verse. She thanked us for supporting Emanuel and begged us to continue praying for him. She didn’t need to ask.

My mind returns from the past, and I glance down at my final picture of Emanuel. The big-eyed four-year-old has been replaced with a tall, broad-shouldered, confident young man. But that mischievous smile will never change.



Would you like to make a difference in the life of a child?

Partner with Village of Hope Uganda (www.villageofhopeuganda.com) to provide housing, education, food, medical care, counseling, and salaries for teachers, nurses, and other staff members.

Sponsorships start at only \$30 per month, and 100% goes to the child you sponsor. **ONE**

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letters:

Have something to say? *Say it!*

The editors of *ONE Magazine* look forward to hearing from readers. Your feedback, comments, and suggestions are necessary and appreciated.

Email editor@nafwb.org or send correspondence to:

ONE Magazine,
Letters to the Editor,
PO Box 5002,
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

ONE Magazine reserves the right to edit published letters for length and content.

My husband Jim and I loved the editorial “Quillie” (October-November 2016, page 4), about a dear friend of ours. When we married, we rented a small mobile home from Quillie and Janie Hansley, our landlords and next door neighbors. I never met a sweeter, more dedicated man. He was exceptional in many ways, but something that stands out about him were his prayers. He was such a quiet man, his prayers were fervent and effective. He was small in stature but a spiritual giant. You are right that there are countless “faithful men across our denomination like him, who labored wherever God planted them, without fanfare or recognition, working long hours all day and preparing sermons at night.” My father, Rev. Cecil Combs, was also one of them, and Quillie reminded me of him. Thank you for giving honor to those whose work is often overlooked and underappreciated.—*Judy Puckett, Oklahoma, via email*

Elizabeth, Just read your article about our trip in *ONE Magazine*. (“Too Old?” December-January 2017, page 38) You wrote a great summary of the trip to Kazakhstan. I was glad to see almost as many pages about THP as retirement savings. Just made me homesick for Kazakhstan, though.—*Joan, via email*

I enjoyed “Why I’m Staying” in the December-January issue of *ONE Magazine* (page 9). Matt Bracey said some things that I’ve often thought, and he did so very clearly and directly. I appreciate it.—*Rodney Yerby, Alabama*

An open letter to *ONE* readers: In April 2017, the Foundation will award \$500,000 in grants to eligible Free Will Baptist ministries.

Every ministry that is a member of the National Association of Free Will Baptists is eligible. All levels of membership are included: local churches, district associations and their owned ministries, state associations and their owned ministries, and national agencies and commissions. Completed applications are due March 15 by regular mail. No telephone, fax, or email applications will be accepted. Notifications of grant funding will be sent by April 30. For more information, or to request a grant application, visit www.fwbgifts.org or call 877-336-7575.—*David Brown, Director, Free Will Baptist Foundation*

Don't miss your last shot...

to play in the 2017 Deep South Golf Tournament, March 29-31, Albany, Georgia

Enjoy a three-day, 54-hole, two-man scramble sponsored by Master's Men. A bargain at \$325, the fee includes green and cart fees at award-winning Stonebridge Country Club, three nights of lodging, three breakfasts, and two dinners. Don't miss a chance to enjoy unforgettable fun, fellowship, and fast greens!

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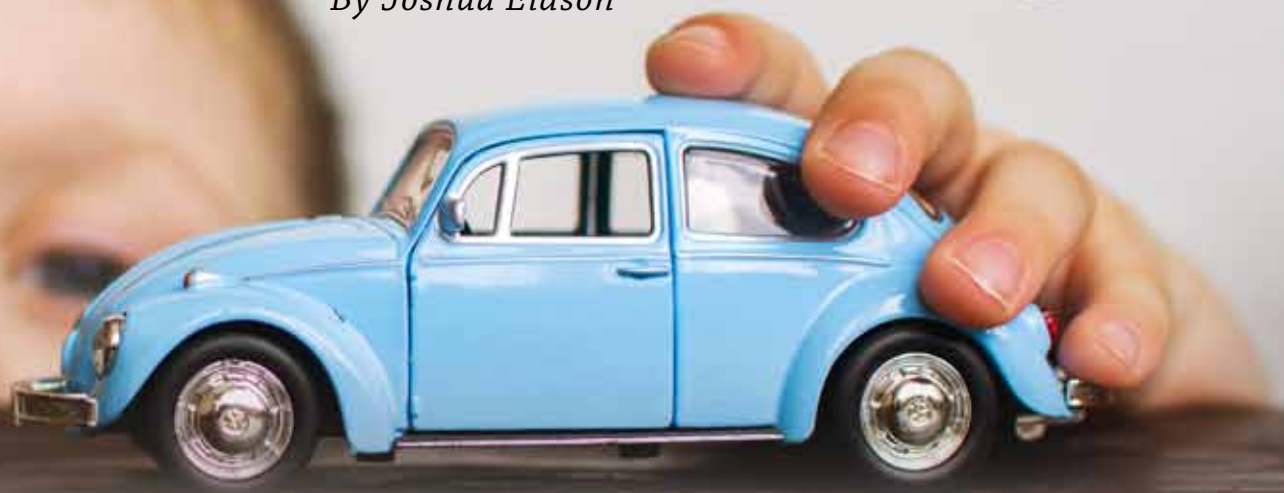


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PERSONAL *Stewardship*

By Joshua Eidson



*What is your reaction when you hear the term **stewardship**?*

I've met several people who automatically assume it is a passive-aggressive way for the local church to ask for more money. I must confess, when I hear stewardship is the topic, I assume I already know what it means, that I don't need to be told again. But as I've struggled to write this article, I've thought over this topic more than ever. I've come to realize I had a narrow understanding of it, and I haven't been a very good steward.

When I say I haven't been very good at it, I don't mean I've been reckless or amassed insurmountable debts, but like most biblical principles stewardship is a matter of the heart. My heart, from as early as I can remember, has been selfish and discontented. I can recall a particular instance as a child when this became apparent. I was at a store with one of my grandmothers, and I "threw a fit" because I didn't get a toy on that visit.

Notice, I said, "on that visit." I was accustomed to and assumed I could get something that day, just like the many other similar shopping outings with her. I felt entitled. I am quick to spot this attitude of entitlement in others, but I often fail to see it in myself. This attitude still rears its ugly head on occasion even now, and I find myself making financial or time decisions based on what serves my wants. This is not how a Biblical stew-

ard should operate. Biblical stewardship moves our motivations for how we use resources beyond ourselves.

Stewardship is an awesome responsibility when we realize it is really a relationship. God desires and invites us to share in His vast wealth in order to partner with Him in fulfilling His purposes with those resources. How do we embrace this role with proper motivation and live it out?

Humility, contentment, and grace are the three principles that combine to create a firm foundation for a spirit of stewardship to flourish. I must acknowledge that all "my" belongings and resources are not my own. They are blessings on loan from my Creator to use for His will and not my own comfort. It takes humility to accept a place as a steward and not the owner or creator. Humility prepares us for the role of a steward.

Along with humility comes the need to develop a heart of contentment. I must recognize how blessed I am and be grateful for all God has entrusted to me. This doesn't mean I stop striving for my best or the best of my family, friends, or church. It is simply a change of perspective and purpose. "I have enough; now, what can I do to help improve the lives of others and further God's Kingdom on earth." Contentment allows me to focus on what is best for others.

Finally, I must be willing to accept God's grace. I will mess up while trying to live out biblical stewardship, but God's grace is sufficient. This is not an excuse for not trying but conceding that God can and does work through our deficiencies. Grace provides us freedom to live

a life of stewardship to the best of our ability and understanding, out of a heart to honor Him. God's grace completes our imperfect stewardship.

**Contentment
allows me to
focus on what is
best for others.**

Stewardship, when lived out, is an act of faith. As my pastor recently mentioned in a sermon, our kingdom words and works should align and equal one another. This is a particular area on which God and I are still working. I encourage you to think through the motivations behind your daily activities and financial choices, and see if any areas stand out when viewed through the lens of stewardship. If you find an area, pray about it and try to refocus your motivation for it. May we all be known as faithful stewards of our Lord's resources.

If you would like help in creating a church or personal stewardship plan, please contact the Board of Retirement: boardofretirement@nafwb.org or 877-767-7738. **ONE**

About the Writer: Joshua Eidson is accounting administrator for the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement (www.BoardofRetirement.com). A native of Middle Tennessee, Joshua graduated from Welch College in 2007, where he earned a B.S. in Business Administration. He and his wife Rachel have three children.

Is it really a choice?

NO ONE WANTS TO THINK ABOUT DYING, but sometimes, what is easiest is not what is best. Since 2013, the Free Will Baptist Estate Plan has helped more than 1,400 Free Will Baptist families avoid the months and years of the legal and financial nightmares of probate that often result in an 5-7% loss of estate holdings. The process is brief with the FWB Estate Plan...and will cost the estate nothing.

MAKE THE OBVIOUS CHOICE to gain peace of mind about your family's future. Contact the Foundation today to learn more:

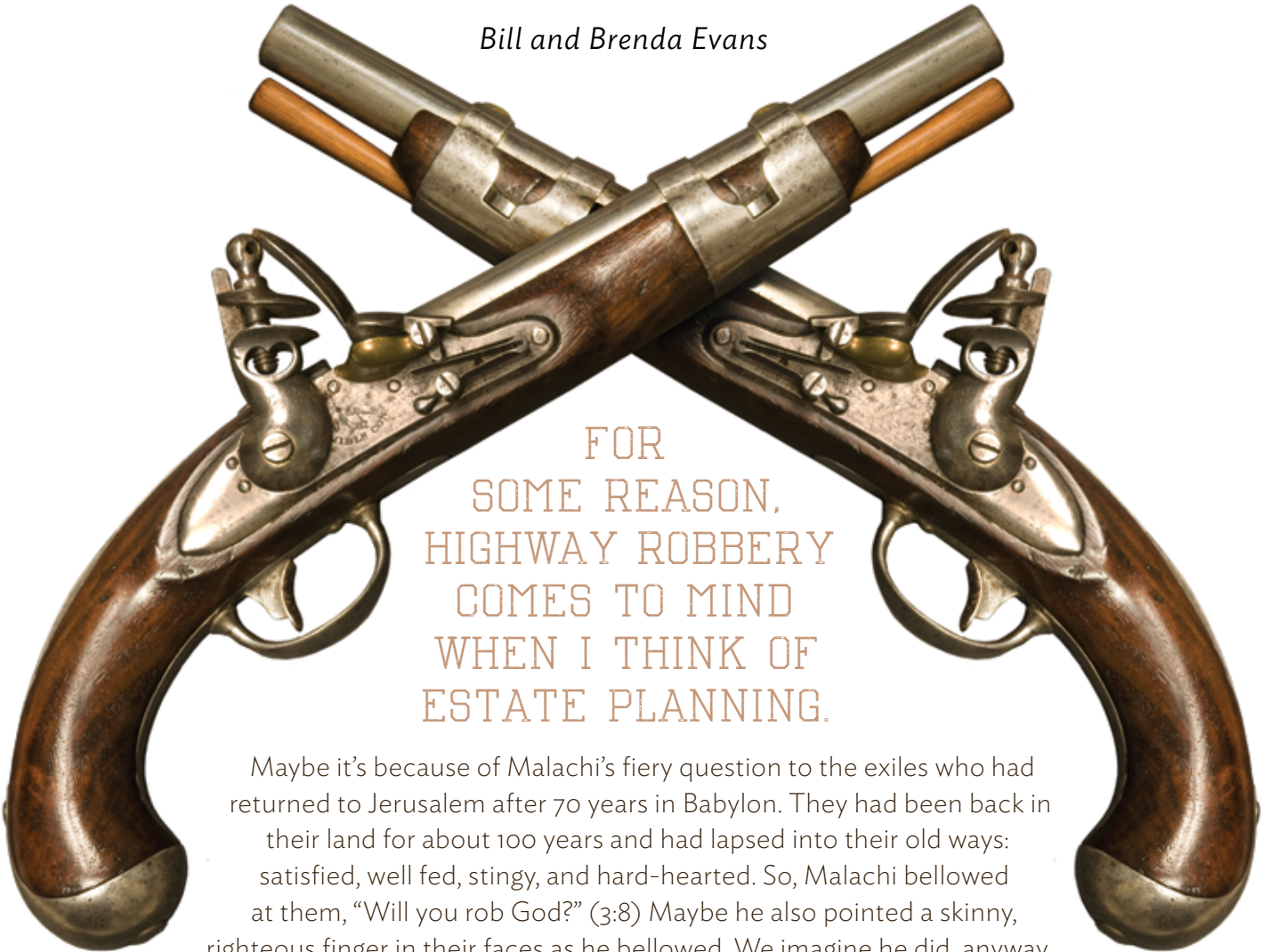
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GOD ROBBERS

▫ *Estate Planning: Robbing God or Doing Right?* ▫

Bill and Brenda Evans



FOR
SOME REASON,
HIGHWAY ROBBERY
COMES TO MIND
WHEN I THINK OF
ESTATE PLANNING.

Maybe it's because of Malachi's fiery question to the exiles who had returned to Jerusalem after 70 years in Babylon. They had been back in their land for about 100 years and had lapsed into their old ways: satisfied, well fed, stingy, and hard-hearted. So, Malachi bellowed at them, "Will you rob God?" (3:8) Maybe he also pointed a skinny, righteous finger in their faces as he bellowed. We imagine he did, anyway.

The truth is, the Israelites were highway robbers of sorts, like the thieves on horseback in Great Britain during the 1600 and 1700s who waylaid and robbed travelers. These British “knights of the road” were glossed over, glamorized, even considered socially superior to others who had no horses, so traveled and robbed on foot. It’s amazing how we put a pretty shine on our sins. Americans aren’t exempt either. In the Old West, highway robbers were simply called road agents. Aussies called theirs bushrangers. But by any other name, robbers were robbers. Still are.

Malachi, in the first line of his book, called his message “the *burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi*” (italics ours). His words were, indeed, heavy and harsh. The Lord found no pleasure in His people, Malachi revealed. They were indifferent, impure, and disobedient. God was angry, thus His accusation: “You have robbed me.” He was talking about sacrifices and offerings when He said it (3:9).

Our giving matters to God. *How* we give matters. *When* we give matters. *Why* we give matters. God’s word to Malachi and His people makes it clear that sometimes God’s people resort to “highway robbery,” socially acceptable to some, but still robbery as far as God is concerned. Wonder where the idea came from that we should simply divide our estate among our children? A good and wise estate plan can take us out of that category, so let’s look at who needs an estate plan and why. Everyone should consider at least tithing on his or her estate.

WHO NEEDS AN ESTATE PLAN?

Anybody who...

- *Wants to simplify things for heirs.*
- *Wants to keep the courts out of family business.*
 - *Wants to be protected if incapacitated.*
- *Wants to avoid court-appointed guardianship.*
- *Wants to bless and support FWB ministries.*
 - *Will eventually die.*
 - *You, me, all of us, in other words.*

WHY HAVE AN ESTATE PLAN?

Because we have scriptural precedents and mandates for that. Old Testament law was emphatic regarding how property was to be held, used, and passed along. Call it God’s estate planning.

The Law was clear, too, on compassion and generosity to God’s work beyond one’s own family, especially those in genuine need. Providing for Levitical temple workers and priests responsible for their nation’s spiritual life was part of that requirement as well. God’s work was carried on because God’s people gave.

The New Testament is also just as clear: take care of those in need and provide for our Christian ministries. Free Will Baptist Foundation, working with Cornerstone Estate Planning, helps all of us Free Will Baptists find ways to do that.

Another way of thinking about why we need an estate plan is to consider our God-given instinct to protect and provide for those we love and for whom we are responsible: ourselves, our families, and our denominational ministries. The first two, ourselves and our families, are easier because humans are naturally self-serving.

The good thing is, with a purposeful estate plan we can also protect and provide for the FWB ministries we love. Maybe we should call that The Triple-Do-Right-Plan: the right estate plan, at the right time, for the right purpose.

At the end of 2016, in at least 19 states and 250 churches, more than 1,400 FWB families had created estate plans that will take care of them and their families but also will direct \$15 million to support and extend FWB ministries.

Mike Wootton of Cornerstone says these 1,400 families have caught the right vision. “I want to brag on those who have seen what they can do with a good estate plan,” Mike says. “These brothers and sisters are looking down the road. They see ahead to what they can do for the Kingdom work in the future by simply making a good plan now. They are ‘keeping the wolves at bay,’ especially those in sheep’s clothing, and supporting the Free Will Baptist ministries they love after their deaths.”

All kinds of FWB ministries are benefitting from the faithfulness of those who made estate plans that continue to support the Lord’s work after their deaths. As God’s children, they believe in giving both tithes and offerings. We all do, don’t we? But sometimes we forget about the increases we have enjoyed in investments and properties over the years. What plan do we have in place to honor the Lord with our tithes and offerings on that increase after our deaths?

These 1,400 families have decided that stewardship of their assets is not just about the here and now. Let’s call them Triple-Do-Righters, because they have seen that it’s about all of their time, even the future, and they’ve established a plan to take care of that.

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINARS

Free Will Baptist Foundation works through local churches to help individuals accomplish their estate planning goals. Free Will Baptist Foundation Director David Brown states, “We go at no charge to a church and teach stewardship and estate planning. No church is too large or too small. Then we follow up with individuals who want more information. And, by the way, no individual estate is too large or too small for our help.”

Questions addressed include:

- What is probate?
- What are the limitations of wills?
- What happens if you are incapacitated?
- What are the negatives of joint ownership?
- What is durable power of attorney?
- What is a revocable living trust?

All those areas are related to how we deal with what we own. One of the targeted topics is to explain, in full, a revocable living trust—a legal document that, like a will, contains instructions for what we want to happen to our assets when we die.

Revocable Living Trusts help you:

- Keep control of your assets.
- Prevent the court from controlling assets if you become incapacitated.
- After your death, avoid probate, save time, and maintain the privacy of your beneficiaries.

WHO CONTROLS THE TRUST?

You do. If you and your spouse are co-trustees, either will receive instant control if the other becomes incapacitated or dies. If something happens to both of you, or if you are the only trustee, the

successor trustee you have named in the trust will step in at your death.

For those individuals or families who decide to choose the Free Will Baptist Estate Plan, the legal fee is \$2,300. That includes services the staff gives to help an individual or family establish their plan, as well as help at the end after a trust holder dies. The Foundation will assist with advice and guidance to survivors as well.

Why have the right estate plan? In order to be Triple-Do-Righters rather than highway robbers, make the right plan, at the right time, for the right purpose. Don't rob God! **ONE**

About the Writers: Bill and Brenda Evans live in Ashland, Kentucky. Bill is former director of Free Will Baptist Foundation, and Brenda is a retired English teacher. Visit www.fwbgifts.org for more information on planned giving that benefits your favorite ministry.

Mary's enduring legacy...

Mary* died in 2011, after a long and fruitful life. Yet, during her first six years in Heaven, she has given \$25,000 each to Welch College and Free Will Baptist International Missions through an endowment established with Free Will Baptist Foundation before her death. She is walking the streets of gold today, but these worthwhile ministries still benefit from her enduring legacy on earth.

Why not create your own enduring legacy by establishing an endowment through Free Will Baptist Foundation to benefit the ministries you choose? Contact the Foundation today for more information.

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*Not her real name

Brown on **Green** >>

The Coach Is Watching

A football team is made up of many positions. Much attention is focused on the key offensive players who have the ability to score touchdowns—the quarterback, running backs, and receivers. Defensive line players also find themselves in the spotlight when they make a sack or cause a fumble. Defensive backs are heroes because they can intercept a pass, thereby stopping a drive or even scoring.

Perhaps the most overlooked group of players is the offensive line. Usually, the only time their names are mentioned is when a penalty has been called on them. They rarely score; they rarely make the highlight reels. No one pays attention to the offensive linemen except the coach. But you can be sure the coach is always watching the offensive line, because little happens on offense unless they do their jobs.

Running backs cannot score a touchdown unless the “big uglies” open up holes in the defense for them to run through. The quarterback cannot connect with the receiver for a touchdown unless the offensive line prevents the defensive line from sacking the quarterback. A football team will not be successful unless the five men up front do their jobs.

The same is true in the Church. Often, the people who make the biggest difference for the Kingdom of God are not pastors, missionaries, or others with highly visible ministries but those who pray and support those on the front lines.

Generous people also make a difference in the Kingdom. In fact, generosity is listed as a spiritual gift in Romans 12:8. The Foundation has been blessed to

encounter some of these generous people. They have set up planned gifts that will support various FWB ministries after their deaths. The Foundation currently manages planned gifts totaling over \$2.5 million. Many ministries and individuals have set up Money Management Trusts that earn more than \$1.6 million. Through their generosity, individuals and ministries can use this funding to further the Kingdom of God. Few know who these individuals and churches are, but you can be sure the “Coach” is watching.

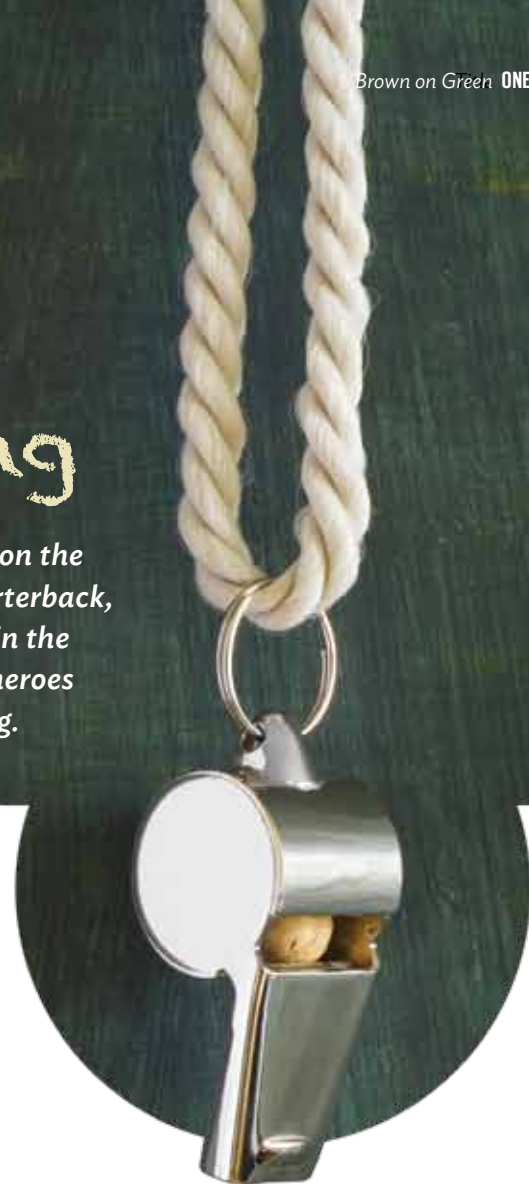
The Foundation manages endowments of more than \$8 million that produce income of over \$400,000 for ministry every year. Generous individuals and churches left these funds to the Foundation as perpetual gifts to benefit ministries until Jesus returns. In many cases, these individuals already have gone home to their reward, or a church may not be in operation anymore, but their generosity continues to make a difference. I know the “Coach” took notice.

The Foundation, with the help of Cornerstone Estate Planning, has made the Free Will Baptist Estate Plan available to every Free Will Baptist. So far, over 1,400 families have taken advantage of the

program. Out of this number, more than 500 families have at least tithed on their estates, generating at least \$15 million in gifts to ministries after their death. Again, no one else may notice, but the “Coach” is watching.

In 2017, the Foundation will award \$500,000 in grants to various FWB ministries. The Lord has blessed the Foundation tremendously through the years, and now it will deliver generously back to the denomination as the “Coach” watches.

When you watch the Super Bowl this year, don’t forget the unknown offensive linemen who play such a key role in the game. Let them remind you of those unknown prayer warriors and generous souls who make a difference in the Kingdom of God. I guarantee you, the “Coach” is watching. **ONE**





DECREASES OVER TIME

BY JOHN BRUMMITT

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN HOW THE STOCK MARKET WORKS.

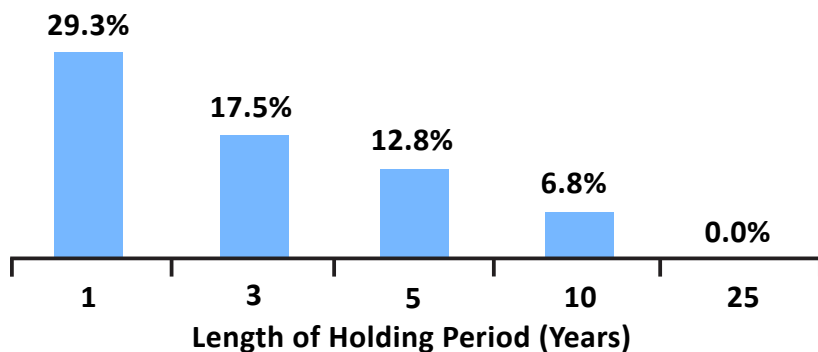
I got my first real experience in a college business finance course where we were “given” \$25,000 in imaginary funds and told to invest in no less than five different stocks. At the end of the semester, we analyzed our portfolios to see who had made the best picks. Fun exercise. At the end of the semester my portfolio value was close to \$50,000! The interesting thing to me was that four of my five stocks had less value than my initial investment. One company had driven all of the performance. Of course, all of the stock picking on my part was blind luck in that exercise. This taught me that to reduce the risk of loss in your portfolio you need time and diversification.

In the years since that first experience, I have furthered my education and practice in the stock market. While I now have a team picking which stocks will be winners, I still understand that a diversified portfolio has a much better chance for positive returns with the wider range of investments I hold. And the longer I hold those investments, the lower my risk of loss become.

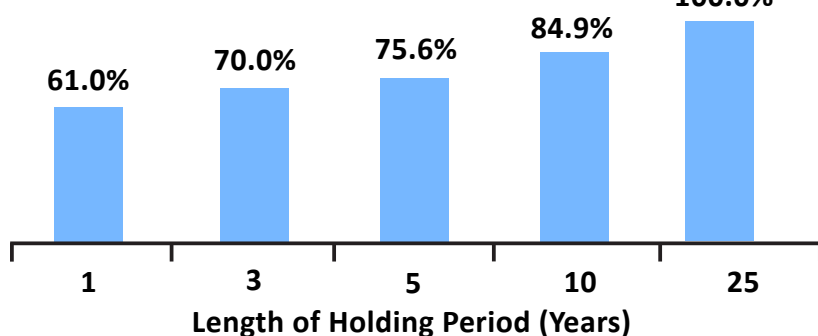
When it comes to investing in the stock market, too often people jump in after all the major growth has already happened. Much like hearing about a great sale three days late and getting to the store on the last day after everything has been picked over. You take what is left, but the limited selection and offerings must be examined closely if you are going to purchase. Picking from stocks that have already had big gains doesn’t mean they will have big gains going forward, and many times they head in the opposite direction.

The idea of buying an Apple, Inc. or an Alphabet, Inc. (Google) and riding the gains all the way to the top is a rare thing. Also, it is very hard to do on a consistent basis. Having a diversified portfolio from different sectors of the market gives you less risk of loss based on one or two companies. The closer your portfolio is aligned with the market, the more your returns will match or beat what the market is doing.

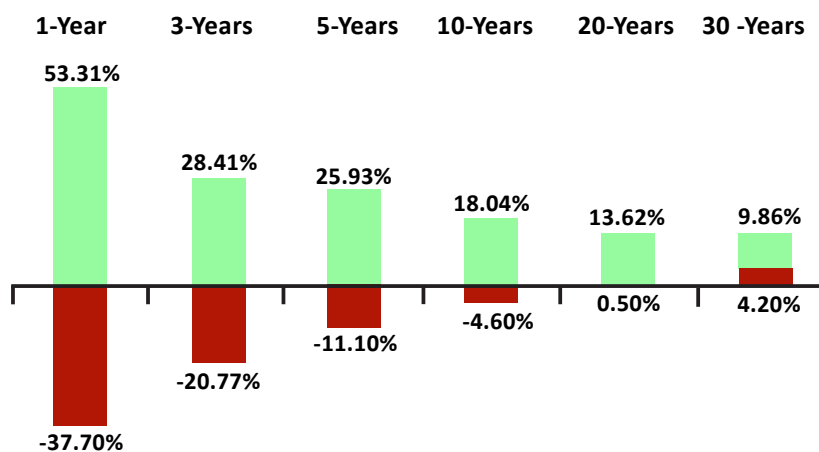
Historic Probability of Negative Return



Historic Probability of Stocks Outperforming Bonds



Best and Worst Annualized Real Returns



For most people, the idea of the stock market is foreign. It doesn't work the way we naturally think about things. When markets are going down is the time you should buy, but the natural reaction is to sell and protect assets from losses. When markets are running up and have had good returns, we should be looking for exits to capitalize on gains. It just doesn't seem natural. We want to wait and see things going well before getting in and want to jump out at the first sign of a downward turn. Turning to bonds even though we have several years until retirement, or planning to withdraw our investments entirely can also hurt our growth.

Even in a one-year time period, investors have a 61% chance of stocks outperforming bond returns. The longer your timeline, the closer that chance moves to 100%. Historic returns of the stock market show that the longer you hold your investment, the less chance you have for a negative return. Even if you were to pull out the worst 15-year span from the market from 1926 to 2009, you would still have positive earnings.

As you look at the volatility of the stock market in its day-to-day action, try to remember you invest for a long timeline. With a diversified portfolio, the risk of loss falls as your time period grows. **ONE**

About the Writer: John Brummitt became director of the Board of Retirement in January 2016. He graduated in 2011 with an MBA from Tennessee Tech University. A 2004 graduate of Welch College, he has been with the Board of Retirement since the spring of 2006. Learn more about retirement options: www.BoardofRetirement.com.

MAKING
MINISTRIES

Better:

FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

By Bill and Brenda Evans

BASF is a chemical corporation founded in 1865 and based in Germany. Many years ago, the company ran an interesting commercial on television. The commercial showed carpet being laid and said, “We don’t make the carpet; we make it last longer.” It continued with video of a car being painted and said, “We don’t make the paint; we make it brighter.” The commercial concluded with, “We don’t make a lot of the products you buy; we make a lot of the products you buy better.”

The goals of Free Will Baptist Foundation are similar. We don’t educate students, we are not a missionary sending agency, and we are not a church. Our service is to partner with every Free Will Baptist ministry and make them better by providing financial assistance directly to ministry and individuals. We provide direct funding to ministries to support them in their work. The staff of Free Will Baptist Foundation stands ready to serve in many ways to make our ministries better.

The Foundation was “born” in July 1980 with a single, unique mandate, according to Director David Brown: “Our sole purpose is to serve our people and our Free Will Baptist ministries. Our financial services are not about us, but about helping our people and our denominational ministries—always has been; always will be. This began under founding director Herman Hersey, carried forward under director Bill Evans, and continues with me. We’ve all known what we were called to do, and we do it.”

“Our board reflects that uniqueness,” he continues. “It’s a large board made up of nine members elected by the National Association, plus the directors for each of the national departments. Our board understands that our purpose is to provide financial services to our people and our denominational ministries. That’s why we exist.”

This year, as the Foundation approaches age 37, its assets have grown from \$0 in 1980 to more than \$70 million in 2017. It certainly has lived up to its mandate of financial service under the Lord’s banner.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

The Foundation works with each national department, as well as local, state, and regional ministries, individuals, and families in the denomination to offer services in five areas: money management trusts, endowments, planned gifts, estate planning, and grants.

Money Management Trusts. A money management trust is a fully revocable agreement that earns a variable rate of return (while the rate is variable, we have remained at 2.75% since 2008). MMT funds are invested conservatively and, throughout the years, have earned 1-2% above inflation. These trusts are available to churches, other types of FWB ministries, individuals, and families. Many use an MMT for savings or emergency fund. The minimum beginning deposit is \$1,000.

Endowments. Endowments are gifts to benefit denominational ministries so the principal is preserved while the earnings are “harvested” to support the donor’s ministries of choice. The original gift remains in place perpetually. The concept is rooted in the Old Testament idea that the Israelites were to live off the land but not consume it. Endowments do just that: preserve the principal but pass the earnings along to the donor’s favorite FWB ministries.

Planned Gifts. Planned gifts enable donors to fund gift agreements with cash, real estate, stocks, bonds, or other



assets during their lifetimes while retaining much of the financial benefits from those assets. Charitable gifts, annuities, unitrusts, and annuity trusts are among several options that allow donors to receive income and professional management for life. Planned gifts share four main characteristics: the donor receives a partial income tax deduction and an immediate income stream. The income received is tax advantaged and, in some cases, tax-free income. At his or her death (or deaths in the case of a joint agreement), the balance of the trust transfers to the chosen Free Will Baptist ministry.

Estate Planning. The Foundation, in collaboration with Cornerstone Estate Planning, offers full-service estate planning for Free Will Baptist families and individuals. (See “God Robbers?” on page 8 for more information.) Over 1,400 families have utilized this service, and many are directing a portion of their estate to Free Will Baptist ministries.

Grants. In April 2017, the Foundation will award \$500,000 in grants to eligible Free Will Baptist ministries. These grants are funded by realized gains on appreciated, dividend-paying stock and, to some extent, excess earnings.

Every Free Will Baptist ministry that is a member of the National Association of Free Will Baptists is eligible. All levels of membership—local churches, district associations and their owned ministries, state associations and their owned ministries, and National agencies and commissions—are included. Please contact the Foundation for a grant application.

Grant proposals will be considered under the following stipulations:

- Preference will be given to projects that benefit multiple FWB ministries.
- Preference will be given to long-term, capital, and self-perpetuating projects.
- Applicant organizations must demonstrate sound financial practice, have been in existence for at least two years, and the senior leader (president, chairman, pastor, etc.) of the organization must have been employed by the applying organization for at least two years.
- Applications must be typed, address questions concretely and specifically, and observe specified length.
- Applications are due March 15 of the applying year by regular mail. No telephone, fax, or e-mail applications will be accepted.
- The inquiry should include the project timeline, total program budget, estimated project amount sought from the Foundation, and the source of other funds. Notifications of grant funding will be sent by April 30 of the applying year.

For financial services and guidance, Free Will Baptists have the Foundation whose staff is committed to serve. Visit the website at www.fwbgifts.org or call 877-336-7575 (toll free) to learn more. **ONE**

About the Writers: Bill and Brenda Evans live in Ashland, Kentucky. Bill is former director of Free Will Baptist Foundation, and Brenda is a retired English teacher. Visit www.fwbgifts.org for more information on planned giving that benefits your favorite ministry.



In giving, you receive...

To create a charitable gift annuity, you transfer an asset to the ministry of your choice. In return, that ministry agrees to make lifelong payments to you, a loved one, or another person you designate. Each payment is a fixed amount, depending on the age of the person receiving payment. You will enjoy the security of regular income, along with charitable deductions, tax-free income, and blessing of supporting your ministry of choice long after you are gone.

{ SINGLE TABLE }		{ JOINT TABLE }	
Age	Rate	Age	Rate
65	4.7%	65/65	4.2%
70	5.1%	70/70	4.6%
75	5.8%	75/75	5.0%
80	6.8%	80/80	5.7%
85	7.8%	85/85	6.7%
90	9.0%	90/90	8.2%

Contact Free Will Baptist Foundation: foundation@nafwb.org | 877-336-7575

Why Give to **MISSIONS?**

By Robert Conley

I know it's difficult to tell now, but I used to have the fullest head of reddish-orange hair you could imagine. And, boy, was I the classic redhead—stubborn, quick-tempered, and non-stop energy. I remember several “encounters” with my parents when they would use the proper “motivation” to curb my activities and behavior (if you know what I mean). Sometimes, the motivation was a simple “because I said so.” Other times, that motivation was of the “or else” variety. As I grew older and more mature, my motivation grew out of spiritual maturity, calling me to a higher place, or a deeper walk with Christ.

Our Christian walk is often similar. Specifically, our support for missions mirrors my childhood “encounters.” Why should we pray for and financially support missions?

“Because I said so”

Tithing and giving is commanded in the Old Testament and affirmed in the New Testament. The tithe or tenth was a requirement of Mosaic Law, but Christ offers us freedom from the law to do *more* than is required. So, if you are wondering if you should give to support your local church and missions, the simple answer is, “Yes, because God said so.” Here at IM, our theme continues to be “Except They Be Sent” (Romans 10:15). We must send those who carry the voice of truth.

“Or else”

This takes a more negative tone. But let's be real: when God's people don't support God's work, negative consequences occur. Budgets are reduced, salaries are cut, personnel are reduced, and



ministry is scaled back. In his report to the National Association this past summer, IM General Director Clint Morgan cited a detailed analysis of our financial status. Between 2010 and 2015, it is estimated that IM “lost” about \$7.6 million dollars in donations not given, based on trends prior to 2010. That is \$7.6 million dollars of ministry that did not happen through IM. We hope the ministry we were unable to do happened somewhere, but we shudder to think what those resources might have done. What souls weren’t reached? Whose lives weren’t changed? What marriages were lost? Which believers weren’t disciplined? What churches remain unplanted because we, as believers, didn’t consider the “or else?”

Another thing to consider in the “or else” category is the closing window of opportunity for this enterprise of missions. Are forces at play in the world that could hinder, limit, or completely forbid missionary activity, or at least hinder it from a United States-based entity? We must go forward now, while the opportunity is still available.

“Spiritual Maturity/Higher Place”

I think we, as believers, are all somewhere along the path of spiritual growth. As part of that learning process, sometimes (even as a mature believer) I need to give and do things simply because God said so. Other times, I need to consider the “or else.” But, at some point, we should begin to resonate with God’s heart for the world. God’s love for the world was absolute. He devised a plan to die in our place. He determined to sacrifice His only Son for us. He values us so deeply and longs for that relationship with us.

Oh, that we as His people would have the same depth of commitment and yearning to see souls saved, lives changed, believers disciplined, and churches planted so they can see souls saved, lives changed, believers disciplined, and churches planted so they can see souls saved.

So, why should we give sacrificially to missions? Because God said so...or else...until we find ourselves in rhythm with the very heartbeat of God to see a lost world find true meaning and purpose as believers, followers, and sold-out disciples of Christ.

ONE

About the Writer: Rob Conley is director of financial operations at Free Will Baptist International Missions. To learn more about how you can get involved, visit www.FWBGO.com.

THE DRAWER

By Curt Holland

Danny and Michael have worked in Central Asia many times.

Each year, after long and strenuous days of physical labor, they typically leave their work clothes (hard to come by in Central Asia) with those who work at the Hope Centers. Yet, they leave more than their clothes. They leave blood, sweat, and their hearts as well.

This year, they visited a Hope Center where they had worked on a previous trip. The guys renewed their friendships and shared tea with the workers they have grown to love over the years. After many hugs, smiles, and greetings, everyone prepared to sit down for tea.

Before everyone was seated, the dear “grandmother” of the Hope Center called Danny and Michael into a side room. Curious to see what she wanted, they followed her to a makeshift closet. She knelt down and, as she slowly opened a drawer, said, “I have been praying you would return!”

As the contents of the drawer came into sight, the men recognized the clothes they had left behind three years earlier for others to use. The “grandmother” said, “I washed your clothes, pressed them, and put them in this drawer, believing you would return and help us again.”

Needless to say, these grown men needed the grandmother’s apron to dry their eyes. Their clothes, and most of the hard work and sore muscles they endured over the years in Central Asia, were long forgotten. The drawer, however, reminded them of the relationships they built through their acts of service. The people of Central Asia appreciated their labors of love, but the love of their hearts had remained, placed in a drawer for safekeeping. ONE



About the Writer: Curt Holland is director of The Hanna Project, a non-governmental organization with the mission of bringing help, hope, and healing to those in need around the world. Get involved: <https://hannaproject.com>.

Simple Things:

Practical Tips for Assisting Missionaries

By Jennifer Thomsen



When overseas missionaries return from their fields of service, you can help meet a number of needs in their lives. Sometimes, missionaries are too embarrassed (or too shy) to admit they need help. Other times, they are unaware they need assistance. Some of the following ideas may apply for missionaries living in your area. Others are for those who visit your church.

Easing Transition

When missionaries return for stateside assignment, one of their first, and favorite, stops is the Steward Provision Closet located in the Women Nationally Active for Christ office in Antioch, Tennessee. I have watched missionaries stand and gaze around at all the goodies with tears streaming down their cheeks.

Thanks to the generosity of ladies across the Free Will Baptist denomination, missionaries receive a variety of items for their home, from bedding and kitchen items to bathroom accessories. The provision closet is a wonderful ministry that blesses missionaries. If you give to the provision closet already, whether by donated items, gift cards, or money, please continue to do so. You are making a difference.

However, missionaries also need less familiar items—provisions for their pantry, medical necessities, and cleaning supplies. Missionaries do not bring these things home in their suitcases, and it is expensive to stock them. If your church or ladies' group can help provide these staples, or provide gift cards for the missionary to purchase the items, it will be an incredible blessing.

Most missionaries do not own homes in the States. When they return, they rent a house or apartment. Sometimes, areas change while they are away, and missionaries may be unaware of the extent of the changes. It is helpful to advise a missionary regarding places that might be dangerous or provide information about high-achieving school districts. You are an expert on your area. You know the grocery stores with the best prices, which restaurants serve the tastiest food, and the stores, restaurants, and other merchants that should be avoided. Sharing your knowledge in a friendly way will be greatly appreciated.

A Listening Ear

You never know what a missionary has faced while he or she has been serving in another country. Missionaries have stories they would love to tell, but the stories may not come immediately. Give missionaries time to process their most recent term on the field. Whether the stories are good or sad, they are heartfelt and need to be shared. Missionaries long for people to show

genuine interest in their ministry as well as them personally. Providing a listening ear and an open heart means a world of difference to a person who has been immersed in another culture.

At Church

Whether your church serves as a missionary's home base or hosts a missionary for a single Sunday, you can do several things to make their visit easier. Show them around your church. If their children are interested in attending a class designed for their age group, help them find the right classroom. Go one step further and introduce them to students their age. It can be extremely awkward for missionary kids (and even adult missionaries) to introduce themselves, so make introductions for them. And leave them with someone you know will be friendly and welcoming.

If the church furnishes lunch, invite the missionary family to sit with you. If lunch isn't provided, invite them to lunch, either at a local restaurant or in your home. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to get to know them better. If a missionary family has visited your church before, don't expect them to remember you after meeting thousands of other people. This can prove embarrassing for both parties.

Missionary kids sometimes feel like fish out of water. Accustomed to a different culture, they sometimes feel as though they don't fit in either culture. Compliment them and do all you can to bring them "out of their shells." They long for friendship, so make sure they feel included. Whatever you can do to make these children feel loved and special will not only encourage them but also their parents.

At Home

The last and most important thing you can do for missionaries is to pray. They need your prayer in many areas—traveling mercies, readjustment to the States, ministry needs, family issues, and more. Sometimes, they are unaware of their needs, and need someone to go to the throne of God on their behalf.

This list of suggestions may not seem like much, but when adjusting to a different culture, even simple things mean a world of difference. Sometimes, the smallest encouragement will go a long way. You may never know how much difference your simple act of kindness made in a missionary's life. **ONE**

About the Writer: Jennifer Thomsen joined the International Missions team in August 2012. She and her husband Eric attend Bethel FWB Church in Ashland City, Tennessee, and have one daughter, Victoria.

Around the World >>

Board Holds Year-End Meeting

Antioch, TN—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions met December 7-8, 2016, in the Antioch, Tennessee, offices. Jeff Manning presided over his first meeting as board chairman.

Will Harmon, Cameron Lane, and Rodney Yerby—elected at the NAFWB convention in July—participated in their first IM board meeting. The trio arrived early to attend a time of orientation on Monday, December 5, prior to participating in the Leadership Conference (December 5-6) and board meeting.

“Our three new board members meshed well with those already serving,” observed Manning. “We enjoyed a sweet spirit throughout the meeting.”

The board voted to change the status of several IM employees and affiliates:

- In December 2013, Matt and Halie Deckard received approval as interns with The Hanna Project. However, the couple began experiencing a pull toward serving with a partner organization. The board voted to release the Deckards from their internship commitment and give them a partnership blessing as they pursue ministry with Jungle Kids for Christ in Ecuador.
- The board voted to restore Dr. Neil Gilliland to director of member care. During the financial downturn, Neil was placed on part-time status as member care consultant.
- The board voted to officially recognize Trif and Vanya Trifonov as members of the IM Bulgaria team.
- The board voted to officially recognize Manu and Noemí as members of the Malaga THP team in Spain.

The board granted Reese and Charity (Dankson) Brown a partnership blessing, as they serve with a partner organization as English teachers overseas. Reese, the son of David (director of FWB Foundation) and Temisia Brown, was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee. Charity, the daughter of Mike and Debbie Dankson, was born in Winterville, Florida. The couple graduated with honors from Welch College in 2015. The Browns hope to leave for Asia in August 2017.

The board approved an operational budget of \$5.95 million for 2017. Projected self-funded programs carry the total budget to \$8.2 million. Impact projects, The Hanna Project trips and projects, student missions, etc. require fundraising separate from the operational budget.

“Our time together was punctuated by praise for the Lord’s work among Free Will Baptists internationally, and by reminders of Satan’s desire to hinder that work,” Chairman Manning summarized.

General Director Clint Morgan concurred, adding, “This year, for the first time in several years, the meeting was not dominated by financial issues. It is always a joy and honor to work with these godly people focused on laboring ‘with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.’”

All board members (Jeff Manning, chairman, NC; Jeff Nichols, vice-chairman, TN; Mark Price, secretary, OH; Janice Banks, OK; Nelson Henderson, AR; Robert Posner, TX; Will Harmon, AR; Cameron Lane, AR; Rodney Yerby, AL) were in attendance. ■

Family Burns Idols

Côte d’Ivoire—In November, Pastor Sié Roger Noufé reported that a man and his wife accepted Christ as Savior in Dokodouo, a village about 20 miles from his church. The couple and their six children burned their fetishes (idols) in public as their testimony to abandoning the way of the fetish to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Common objects mixed with the firewood—most noticeably a slim, wooden doll. Fetishers believe spirits that control a certain aspect of their lives inhabit these common objects. Those who worship the idols do so out of fear, constantly seeking to appease the spirits. Burning the idols is frightening for those who have always lived in fear of them, but faith in Jesus brings a new sense of freedom in Christ. ■

Convention of People with Disabilities Held

Cuba—The third national convention of people with disabilities was held October 22-23, 2016, on the campus of Los Cedros del Libano (Cedars of Lebanon) Free Will Baptist seminary in Pinar del Rio, Cuba.

Ariel Gomez, a leader of the Nuevo Amanecer (New Dawn) ministry, stated, “God has been faithful, and the third convention of people with disabilities is a fact. Thanks to everyone who prayed and supported us one way or another, and those who serve to manifest the love of Jesus. May the Lord bless you in the same loving way in which you have served these people.” ■



Alpedrete Congregation Presents Musical



Spain—On November 12, the Alpedrete Church presented a musical journey through biblical history that culminated in the Christmas story. Around 175 people filled the seats of the Alpedrete Cultural Center and witnessed the multi-scene, dramatic presentation. This was the first year the Alpedrete Cultural Center provided the church with a date for a performance in Alpedrete. For the last several years the congregation's performances were held in the nearby town of Collado Mediano.

"From Eden to Bethlehem: Salvation Has Come" featured scenes from the Garden of Eden and the lives of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and Jonah. The stories traced God's promise of salvation through Scripture. The presentation concluded with the birth of Jesus as the stage filled with children and adults proclaiming, "Salvation has come!"

More than 50 people from the church performed onstage. A crew of sound technicians, costumers, and stagehands worked behind the scenes.

The church provided an encore performance in a nearby town on December 17. City officials in Moralarzal offered to host the production at their cultural center, free of charge. ■

Snapshots Around the World



Brazil—Clovis and Cristina Leandro (see the October/November issue of *ONE*) held an outreach event in Boa Esperança, October 23. Many people came for haircuts, diabetes testing, and children's games. The town has no evangelical churches. A donation has allowed them to purchase land for a church in the village. Several children and adults have accepted Christ as Savior.

Spain—Three young people were baptized in the Alpedrete Church, Sunday, October 23. More than 90 people crowded into the small space to be part of the service.

The Hanna Project—Eighty-three students participated in the fall semester of English, computer, and French classes in southern France. Shane and Joy spearhead this ministry.

Brazil—Seven people from the Second FWB Church in Araras, were baptized October 30. Pastor José Assunção of the Marabá FWB Church assisted pastor Israel Paranhos do Nascimento, who has yet to be ordained. On November 27, Pastor Paulo César baptized seven more people at the Nova América FWB Church in Campinas.

Japan—Daiki, in Tokyo, Japan, accepted Christ as Savior. He studied the Bible with Heath Hubbard prior to the Hubbard's stateside assignment.



DAIKI AND HIS MOTHER

Panama—Pastor Cirilo Mendoza baptized three young people in the Good News Church in Chitré, on Sunday, October 30.

Côte d'Ivoire—Pastor Kobena Gboko Yao of the Gouméré FWB Church baptized 13 people on Sunday, November 27.

France—Myriam (Mimi) Le Louarn departed for France as a two-year intern December 14. She will work with young people in the J'Pense ministry.



Cuba—Pastor Samuel Ramos arrived in the States on October 4 as an official representative of the Cuban Free Will Baptist Directiva. He traveled extensively, raising awareness and promoting the partnership between Cuban Christians and the Mission, before returning to Cuba November 18.

Wet Eyes

By Curt Holland

I like airports and love to travel, although I'm not sure why. Airports are where my three young daughters remember saying good-bye to their me-ma and papa, and seeing them cry until it hurt. My mom always asked, "Why do you want to return to your country of ministry?" My answer was always the same, "The people!"

As I sat listening to the conversation of the most recent team with The Hanna Project in Central Asia, I was reminded of those wet eyes. Most nights we had a debriefing time about the various activities of the day. Without fail, someone would have wet eyes during our discussions.

The love many THP workers have developed over the years for the people they serve is profound. Why would volunteers give up vacation time and financial treasures to share their talents (and sweat) working from sunup to sundown in a faraway land?

Now, I know. Those wet eyes are their heartfelt emotions spilling out so others can see them. Those wet eyes are not from 12-plus hours on a cramped airplane, or from enduring the challenging local cuisine for days on end. It is not because THP team members have "extra" cash lying around their houses or under their sofa cushions.

No, their wet eyes demonstrate that team members' hearts are with people with whom they have rubbed shoulders, poured cement, and painted walls over the years. Wet eyes happen when members give their time to provide "Help,



Wet eyes demonstrate that team members' hearts are with people with whom they have rubbed shoulders, poured cement, and painted walls over the years.

Hope, and Healing" to those who need it most. Their actions always seem to bounce back, and they become the ones who receive love, kindness, and gratitude in many ways. Their hands become calloused, their backs sometimes ache, but their hearts are always filled until they flood over into wet eyes.

Do you love people? Are you willing to endure the difficulty of long plane rides and strange foods to demonstrate love for people in faraway places? If

you answered yes to some or all of these questions, The Hanna Project has a place for you. Come and join us in 2017. We can't guarantee much when it comes to airports, work details, and especially, food, but we can guarantee you wet eyes if you let your heart become full. **ONE**

About the Writer: Curt Holland is director of The Hanna Project, a non-governmental organization with the mission of bringing help, hope, and healing to those in need around the world. Learn more: <https://hannaproject.com>.

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April 30, 2017



Partners in the Gospel



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NAVIGATING THE DEMANDS:

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR MINISTRY WIVES

By Carolyn
Riddick

Navigating is defined as “planning and directing the route or course of a ship or other form of transportation, especially using instruments or maps.” This often implies traveling with care or with difficulty. We are all on different “courses” as ministry wives—young, middle-aged, or older with varying gifts, backgrounds and needs. Each course has its unique difficulties and challenges.

One pastor’s wife described her role as getting a job for which she never applied. Then she wrote a funny script to illustrate:

Husband: Honey, I got you a job today.

Wife: Really? Okay, but I wasn’t looking for a job. I have plenty to do here running the household and raising the kids. That was our plan, right? For me to stay home with the kids so you could fully dedicate yourself to the ministry.

Husband: Yeah, yeah. But I really need you to take this job for me.

Wife: Well, okay, just tell me what to do and when it needs to be done by, and I will do everything I can to make it happen.

Husband: Well, right now there are no specific responsibilities. Basically, it’s just doing anything at church that no one else steps up to do or wants to do.

Wife: Oh, my, that is a tall order. Okay, I’ll do it. I guess we could use the extra money anyway. Things are always tight around here on a pastor’s salary.

Husband: Well...actually, honey, there is no salary!¹

Thom Rainer recently posted results of an informal survey with open-ended questions for ministry wives at Thomrainer.com. As I read, I couldn’t help but identify with several of the things these pastors’ wives wished they had been told about ministry:

¹ Thom Rainer. “What Pastor’s Wives Wish They Had Been Told.” ThomRainer.com: April 6, 2013.

1. I wish someone had told me to just be myself.

I must realize my limitations and gifts. I can’t be someone else. I must be who God made me to be. Trying to make everyone happy was a heavy burden as a young pastor’s wife. I am a “fixer,” and it took me a long time to learn I could not “fix” many things about people and the church. I had to learn to trust the only One who truly can fix everything.

I also had to realize emotional ups and downs are normal. We are all energetic and happy sometimes and irritable or upset at others. I thought I had to have everything all together and be positive. I thought I should never yell at my kids or cry myself to sleep. But, the truth is, I am human, and I am broken. Amazingly, God uses me anyway. Doubts and dry spells come, and it’s okay. Elijah, Moses, and David all experienced such times.



¹ Thom Rainer. “What Pastor’s Wives Wish They Had Been Told.” ThomRainer.com: April 6, 2013.

2. I wish someone had prepared me to deal with the criticism. I had to learn to stop internalizing negative experiences, conflicts, or criticisms—especially those in relation to my husband, family, and ministry. I had to be careful not to harbor resentment. Sometimes, dealing with the church’s expectations was difficult, but in time, I also learned that many of those expectations were self-inflicted, my perception of what the church wanted me to be.

3. I wish someone had reminded me that my husband is human, and that he needs me. My husband may be the pastor, but he is human...just like me. I was and continue to be careful to guard his reputation. Sure, he has faults, but no one hears them from me. I pray for him daily, and I am his number one cheerleader. He needs to hear that I respect him now more than ever. I am his confidant, his safe place to vent. I am invaluable to him. Having me “in his corner” bolsters him physically, emotionally, and spiritually. I am his safe place.

4. I wish someone had told me how to live in a glass house. Through the years, we learned that even though the congregation was watching our lives, we did not have to be controlled by their expectations. Rather than striving for perfect children, a perfect marriage, perfect finances, and so on, we simply made it our goal to make our home a place of peace, rest, and order. It is easy to become lonely in a glass house, and sometimes, it becomes necessary to set boundaries (while being careful not to build walls).

5. I wish someone had told me the church has some really mean people. As Marshall Shelley noted in his familiar book

Well-Intentioned Dragons: “All of us in ministry have met a few dragons—some well intentioned and some whose intentions were highly suspect.” He suggests biblical ways to deal with the dragons.

First, be sure we are not creating “imaginary dragons” out of paranoia. If the dragon is real, however, we must go to that person in love and listen with an open ear, mind, and heart. Pray with her. If attempts at reconciliation are rejected, continue to pray. And, when you have done your best to restore broken fellowship, square your shoulders, hold your head high, keep serving the Lord, and trust Him to bring you through the fire.

At some time, every ministry wife will encounter assaults that stun and bewilder—betrayal by close friends, false accusations, personal attacks, and so on. At times, we may want to run away, but we must pray, give it to the Lord, and let Him fight the battle for us. Claim Psalm 55:22: “Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.”

6. I wish someone had told me my schedule would never be normal. Ministry lives are very busy. Expect that. Work with your husband in the areas of time management and organization. Learn to expect the unexpected, and understand that busyness is a way of life today more than ever, and not just for the pastor’s family.

As a pastor’s wife for nearly 50 years, I have a straightforward piece of advice for every ministry wife: no one is going to take care of you but yourself. You cannot effectively navigate the demands of being a pastor’s wife if you don’t take time to care for yourself. You cannot play the blame game. Accept responsibility and live out Romans 12:1-2.

Physically, your body is the only vehicle with which to serve God. This concept of presenting the body as a living sacrifice will look different to each person regarding weight control, diet, fitness, and rest. Understand, it is your decision what goes into your body and how you care for the body. Strive to approach every situation with the goal of bringing honor and glory to God.

Emotionally, you are the only one who can make the decision to be healthy. Find ways to restore beauty and creativity in your life. Maybe you need some sunshine, five minutes of quiet, or time “out with the girls.” Paint a picture, listen to music, learn to play an instrument, journal, enjoy a craft project, etc. Whatever it is, find a way to restore emotional health when you find yourself becoming empty inside.

Spiritually, take responsibility for your walk with God. You need quiet time, but no one else can make you exercise this spiritual discipline. This is not time to prepare for ministry responsibilities but to strive to become more intimate with God. Ultimately, our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against Satan himself. We must clothe ourselves with the armor of God, on guard and ready to fight. You can be sure the enemy will target your weak areas with temptation, depression, and discouragement. Let God renew your strength through each moment you spend with Him.

Remember, God chose you to serve as a ministry wife. He gifted you to be a complement to your husband. You have the opportunity to touch many lives through the course of your ministry, and only eternity will reveal the impact of your willing obedience. The last thing I really wish someone had told me about this life? What a blessing it would be! **ONE**

LEADERSHIP WHITEBOARD

How to Lead a Meeting || BY RON HUNTER JR., Ph.D.



LEADERSHIP QUOTE

WHEN THERE IS TRUST,
CONFLICT BECOMES NOTHING
BUT THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH,
AN ATTEMPT TO FIND THE
BEST POSSIBLE ANSWER

—PATRICK LENCIONI

RECOMMENDED BOOK:

*THE FIVE DYSFUNCTIONS
OF A TEAM*

BY PATRICK LENCIONI

Imagine your leadership growth
if you tackled the six books
recommended each year.

To be very clear, this white-board topic is not about meetings where information or details are shared about some event. If you simply wish to inform people, send them an email and don't waste their time. But if you want to gather and inspire people toward significant goals, then allow input and collaboration. The result gives the group ownership to passionately help the idea succeed and shape the direction. When leaders understand why people meet, the fundamentals of the meeting change from leader directed information to a think-tank environment.

If collaborative meetings help groups decide on activities, strategy, and higher-level decisions, then what should you change about how meetings are conducted? Leaders should provide an agenda of discussion items ahead of time to help people think through the problem for possible solutions, research costs, best-practices of others, and consider alternatives. If the attendees know your goals ahead of time, then the group might come up with numerous ways to accomplish them. A goal is not the method for accomplishing an end result—it is the end result with many avenues to get there. Leaders cast vision for goals but followers help you discuss how to get there because the followers are typically the ones to do the leg-work and would like to share input. After the collaboration, the leader still makes the final call.

This type of collaboration requires a comfortable leader willing to listen to the people around him or her. There is a very important phrase we use at Randall House often—seek what is right over *being* right. Always trying to win the argument loses the followers and their desire to help it succeed. Create an environment that allows healthy disagreeable discussion, so that you teach the group to be critical of ideas rather than people. Not agreeing with an idea is not the same as disparaging the person who brought the idea. The quality of input from people in the room is directly tied to their perception of whether the honest feedback is accepted. Never be afraid to have disagreements in meetings, it is the foundation of trust to which great accomplishments can be attained. **ONE**



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He Stood in My

Shame

BY MARIE DRAKULIC

“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted” (Isaiah 53:4).

I pulled the lid off a box labeled “memories.” Inside, it spilled over with cards, letters, ticket stubs, and journals. As I took them out piece by piece, I wasn’t feeling nostalgic. Fear gripped my heart. I knew what I was about to do would be hard, incredibly hard—the reopening of wounds that had left gaping holes in my soul. Flipping through the pages of my life, I read these words: I don’t want another guy to touch me. I’m sick of being used to the point that it disgusts me. How will I face a good Christian man with my revolting past? I feel so dirty.

My heart dropped into the pit of my stomach, and I could feel the enemy close. I said a quick prayer that the Holy Spirit might help me take every thought captive (2 Corinthians 10:5), and I kept reading. Going back a few more years, I returned to the place where the breaking began. I waded into the horrifyingly graphic details, and the memory of it haunted me. And I felt those emotions all over again—empty, worthless, broken, and disgusting—shame.

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

The day had finally come. She was caught. She always knew it would end someday. He never really loved her anyway, but she pretended he did. It was over—the dream, the man, maybe even her life. The Bible never shares her name, but I know her story well. She is the woman caught in adultery. On that fateful day, the religious leaders, those who thought themselves above reproach, marched her to Jesus. It may be the first recorded walk of shame. Humiliated, I imagine she never lifted her head. Maybe she believed she deserved her punishment. Certainly she hadn’t expected to receive grace.

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus stood beside her in the shame. The only One that truly could condemn her chose to rescue her instead. This isn’t the only time Jesus was marked by the company He kept. His treatment of the outcasts from religious society did more than raise a few eyebrows. “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” They asked His disciples (Matthew 9:11).


Aren’t we still like this today? Keeping far from the “dirty” out of fear that, if we get too close, a smudge will rub off on our own shoulders and taint our precious reputations. In our homes and in our churches, we avoid the broken and lost. We don’t want to be associated with their shame. Yet, Jesus made it a priority to go to the lepers, the adulterers, and the thieves. He didn’t just allow them to sit in His sermons. He invited them into a relationship with Him. He visited their homes, ate at their tables, and drank from their wells.

For years, like this broken woman, I was among those who stood on the outside. Everywhere I went I was labeled

by my sin. But when others ran, Jesus drew near.

“He hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:12b).

In our homes and in our churches, we avoid the broken and lost.



I held the papers torn from my childhood diary in my hands. What should I do with these memories? Share them? Hide them? In the end, I decided to burn them, because that’s who I was, not who I am.

The next morning, with the visions of my sin still playing in my mind’s eye, I went for a walk...just Jesus, me, and my playlist. And the familiar lyrics made my heart pause: “Jesus...who stands in the fire beside me.” Every time I’ve heard these words before I’ve felt a gratitude that the Lord stands with me in every trial, but this morning, those words reminded me: I stood with you in your shame.

Jesus got so close to me that my dirt covered Him. The brutality of the cross was more than painful; it was shameful. Beaten and naked, He was mocked and forsaken. He remained there, in that awful place, for me, for all my sin. He didn’t do it because He had to, but because He wanted to. That’s how much Jesus loves me.

How long has He whispered, “Marie, I love you,” just waiting for me to hear? He called me by name, because He saw past my shame to the person He created me to be—His beloved.

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that I should be called the daughter of God, and that is exactly what I am! (1 John 3:1). **ONE**



“I AM NEVER GOING TO CHURCH AGAIN!”

By Amy Cruz

My name is Amy Cruz. I am a happily married young woman. I have an amazing one-year-old child and another on the way. I am a youth volunteer in student ministry, and I am on the tech crew for the worship team at The Springs Church in Marana, Arizona. To look at me today, you might think I grew up in church. But, the truth is, if you went back five years ago and told me this is where I would be, I never would have believed it. I grew up attending a very large Roman Catholic church with my family. I usually fell asleep, never made an effort to listen or be involved, and never connected to God or other churchgoers. No one made an effort to say hello to me or to my family, and this made me bitter towards church; eventually I stopped going all together.

During high school, I moved even further away from any idea of God or the church. It was worse than just saying I was an atheist; I was actively looking for other gods or idols to make me feel whole. I struggled with depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem. I was always angry, and my behavior was reckless as a result. After high school, I went to college with no idea of what I wanted to do and dropped out after three semesters. Everything in my life was meaningless. I never guessed that God was already working to draw me to Himself. He cared, and I had no idea.

I started working at a telecommunications job and found myself in a mentally and physically abusive relationship. I began to make friends at my job, among whom was a man named Damon. I earned a promotion, which helped boost my low self-esteem. As time went on, I broke away from the bad relationship and started spending more and more time with Damon. His friend and his brother were playing in the worship band at The Springs Church, and they invited us to visit. They were all so into it that I decided to come along. I started going to The Springs Church in 2014. Damon had been baptized when he was young, but I knew nothing about being "saved."

After the first Sunday, I posted on Facebook that I would never go to church again. But God was softening my heart. I got pregnant, and that was the first time I felt convicted. I had a miscarriage, and that rocked me. All of those old feelings of needing security came flooding back. I wanted to do better for Damon and myself. I kept going

with Damon to church. A while later, I got pregnant again and knew I needed to make up my mind about the life I was going to live for my family.

Our daughter was born in June 2015. Shortly after, I was saved in a Sunday morning service. I said yes to the God who had loved me all along. I knew He accepted me, and it made a change in me. I was baptized in September. Damon rededicated his life to Jesus and got baptized again soon after. Pastor Jeff married us in the church, in front of our family and close friends.

I finally understand the feeling of being included and comfortable at church. The anger and bitterness towards God is gone. I'm making the effort to live my life for Christ and for my growing family. It's not easy! Having God doesn't make all things stress-free or erase my past, but I finally have the strength to get through the really hard days. I can acknowledge what I have done and finally forgive myself because Christ forgave me. **ONE**

About the Writer: Amy and Damon Cruz attend The Springs Church in Marana, Arizona, where Jeff Goodman and Josh Bennett are church planters. Learn more: <http://thespringschurchmarana.com>



Across the Nation >>

Highlights and updates from North American Ministries



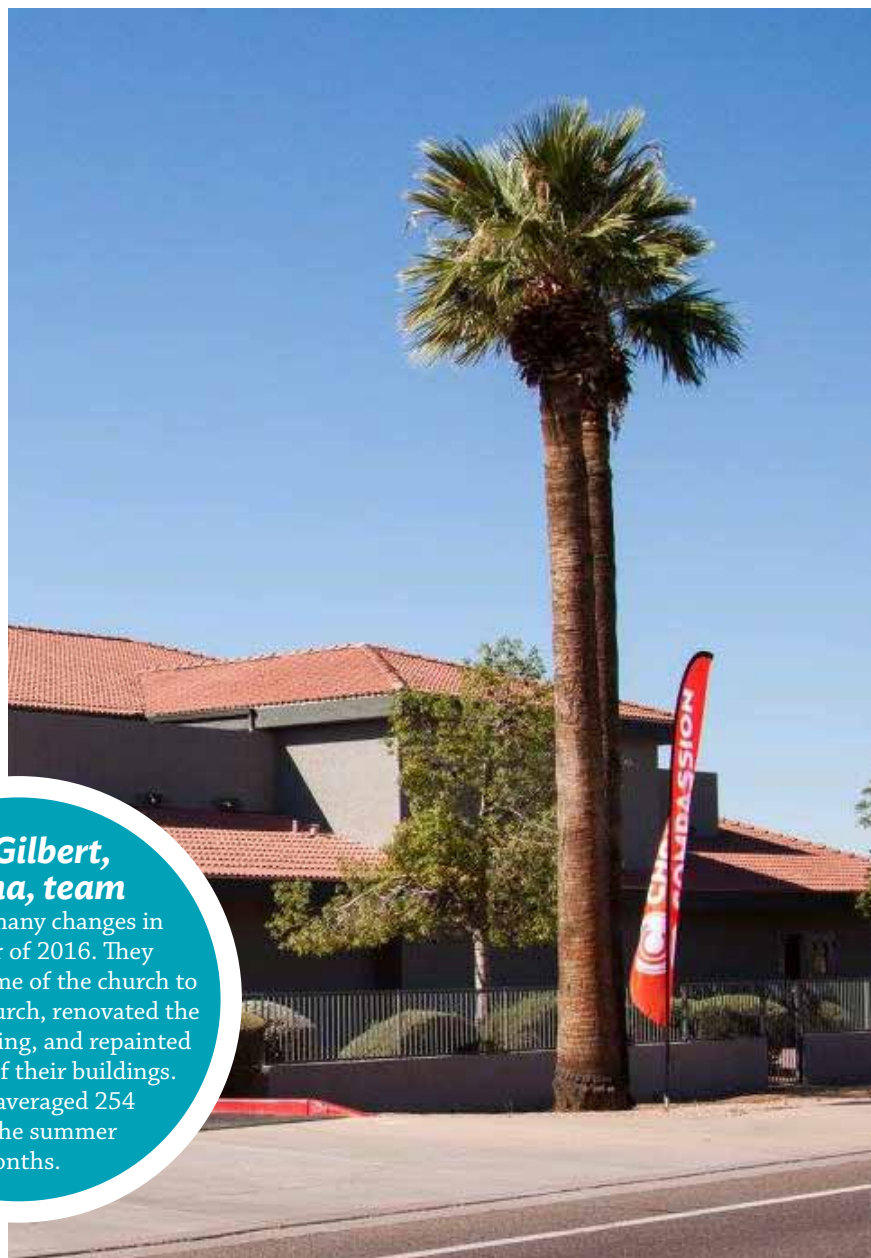
Meet Jordan Osborn

Jordan Osborn recently was appointed lead pastor of Faith FWB Church in Oakland, Tennessee, after the resignation of Scott and Amy Bee. Jordan is the son of Robyn Osborn and the late Tim Osborn. Tim planted the Faith Church in 2007 but died of cancer in 2014. During a brief interim period, Scott and Amy Bee helped stabilize the church, helping the congregation through the difficult process of losing a beloved pastor. Jordan was named lead pastor in the summer of 2016. “We are proud of Jordan,” said Brad Ransom, director of church planting. “He is stepping up to lead the church and finishing what his father started.” The church plans to go self-supporting at the end of 2017. ■

Summer Slump?

The Irvine, California, team of Stephen and Lauren Kimbrell and Amos and Melissa Dillard launched September 18, 2016, with 295 in attendance. In their first month they averaged 130.





The Gilbert, Arizona, team

underwent many changes in the summer of 2016. They changed the name of the church to Compassion Church, renovated the children's building, and repainted the exterior of their buildings.

They also averaged 254 during the summer months.





The Portsmouth, Virginia, team, led by Marc and Casie Nepl and Kevin and Beth Bass, reported 30 salvation decisions in June 2016 with an average of 118 in attendance through the summer of 2016. Pretty good for a church less than a year old!



The Clarksville, Tennessee, team led by Chad and Paula Kivette and Brian and Melissa Lewis averaged 246 through the summer of 2016.

The Marana, Arizona, team led by Josh and Ashley Bennett and Jeff and Heather Goodman, averaged 238 through the summer of 2016.

Greenfield, California, sadly said goodbye to Pastor James Kilgore and his wife Tracey. Jim resigned and held his last service October 30. The California State Missions Board and North American Ministries are working through the transition at this time and will report the future direction in coming issues. Heritage FWB Church is a strong work, and we commend the Kilgores for their hard work and dedication to the ministry.

Cross Cultural ministry continues to go very well. North American Ministries currently has six full-time Hispanic pastors who oversee the Hendrix Bible Institute, as well as 48 Spanish-speaking churches. The churches have seen hundreds of salvation decisions in 2016. The greatest challenge facing these church plants is struggling accounts. Several Hispanic pastors have accounts in the red. If you would like to contribute to one (or more) Hispanic pastor's accounts, please visit www.fwbname.com/Planting/CrossCultural and make your gift online. Or, you can contact our office: 877-767-7674.



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PASSING THE TORCH:

A Tribute to Chaplain Ernest Harrison

BY CHAPLAIN BRAD HANNA

Chaplain Ernest Harrison had an impact on me through the years that I only recently began to realize and to fully appreciate. Many Free Will Baptists, especially in Oklahoma, knew Ernest well and loved him. He was a beloved pastor, colleague, and friend to many in our fellowship. Ernest went home to be with Jesus on July 31, 2016.

I became more familiar with Ernest while he was serving as executive director for the Oklahoma State Association. My family had moved to Oklahoma as church planters under the Oklahoma Mission Board in 1998. During one of our conversations, Ernest said to me, “Brad, you are young, and you look like you are in good shape. Have you ever thought about being an Army chaplain?”

I had given only brief consideration to the chaplaincy while a seminary student. However, my reply to him was that I could not do that because I was the pastor of a young church. It was then that he introduced me to the National Guard and the concept of citizen soldier. “Brad, I have been in the National Guard for over 16 years, and I have never deployed. We serve just one weekend a month and two weeks a year.”

We all laugh at that statement now. Prior to 9-11, the National Guard was used as a strategic reserve, there just in case something happened. The National Guard was rarely called upon during the Cold War years and following. However, when the War on Terror began, everything changed.

The National Guard sounded good to me. After a couple of years of prayer and research, I began serving as an Army chaplain. It was not long before both Chaplain Harrison and I deployed overseas. From this point on, I began to see Ernest

from a different perspective than most. I saw a man willing to get dirty as a soldier in order to be at the right place to serve men and women in the military. I saw someone who kept a good attitude through challenging circumstances and continued to let his light shine. I observed him sharing the gospel unapologetically to hardened warriors, seeking hope and peace for their lives. I saw an encourager who welcomed new chaplains and committed to praying for us and giving advice when requested. Chaplain Harrison was a soldier’s chaplain. He had no problem taking off his coat and tie in exchange for camouflage and a Kevlar helmet. To this day, I have yet to hear one negative word spoken about this great man from anyone with whom he served.

It was only a few years after I joined the reserves that I sensed the call to serve as a chaplain full time. Fifteen years later, when I look back at anything God may have done through me, I am reminded that it took a man like Ernest Harrison to present the opportunity for this unique ministry. It was his prayer that God would send more men into the harvest field of military ministry. In some ways, I feel as though he simply passed the torch to me to carry a little further down the trail.

I am where I am today because of Ernest Harrison. I will always be thankful for him. When that final roll call is given and the eternal reveille sounds, I pray that others will be able to say of me, as we can say of Ernest, “He was a good Soldier of Jesus Christ. Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Well done, my friend! Thank you for your service to God and country. **ONE**

About the Writer: Chaplain (Major) Brad Hanna serves as a full-time Free Will Baptist Army Chaplain with the Oklahoma Army National Guard. Learn more about chaplain ministry: www.FWBNAM.com.

Hands Held High:

A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT

BY DAVID CROWE

The 2016 theme for North American Ministries was “Hands Held High: A Ministry of Encouragement.” Everything we did last year revolved around that theme—the exhibit at the national convention; our directories and other literature; the Power Conference in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee; and the November offering. My staff and I promoted and preached on this theme in over 200 different churches across North America last year. And, at the Power Conference in May, we kicked off a new ministry.

For years I have seen the need for ministries to encourage Christian workers as they face attack by Satan and his systems of the world. The church and all Christians are under attack on a daily basis, and this isn't going to improve. I've met more discouraged pastors, evangelists, church planters, and missionaries in the last ten years of my ministry than in the previous 30 years combined.

I began to see this need when I was a pastor in Cookeville, Tennessee. I experienced it personally as I was discouraged from time to time as a pastor, but God always put an encourager in my path and in my life to help hold up my weary hands. I had always seen the need for more encouragers, but God has a way of driving home His truth in our hearts in a way that we never forget or get over.

While pastoring in Cookeville, I preached a revival for a young pastor in another city. It quickly became obvious that he and his wife were discouraged and about to leave the church and ministry altogether. Some of their church people had disagreed with him on an issue, and as a result, were trying to run the pastor and his family away from the church. They tried to starve them out and treated them in ways that were unkind and unchristian. I wish I could tell you revival broke out that week, and everything got better. But, by the end of the revival meeting, things had actually gotten worse. As I stood in their driveway preparing to get into my car and return to a church and congregation that loved me and my family—people who were unusually gracious, generous, loving, and kind—I watched the tears run down their faces. I prayed with them and tried to encourage them.

When I got home to Cookeville, God began working on my heart about how we could help and encourage that young family. I thought about the story in Exodus 18, when Moses stood on the mountain overlooking the valley of Rephidim as the Israelites were battling the Amalekites. As long as Moses held up his hands in surrender and worship to God, the Israelites continued winning, but when his hands began to lower, the Amalekites began winning the battle. The thing that saved Israel that day was that Moses had taken Aaron and Hur with him to the mountaintop.



When they realized the battle would be lost if they didn't help Moses, they grasped Moses' arms and helped him raise them so the battle could be won that day.

After considering this story, I presented a plan to our church that I felt God would use to bless that young pastor and his family. I could not have imagined what God was going to do for me, for our church, and for our people as a result. God used us to bring that family to Cookeville, and for two weeks He let us love them, encourage them, help them, strengthen them, and hold up their weary hands. That was just the beginning. Over time, God allowed us to bring other discouraged pastors, evangelists, church planters, and international missionaries and their families to spend

I've met more discouraged pastors, evangelists, church planters, and missionaries in the last ten years of my ministry than in the previous 30 years combined.

a few days with us, or even a few weeks, allowing us the wonderful opportunity to love and encourage them. We became Aaron and Hur to them as we helped lift their weary hands up before God. We simply called this program, "Hands Held High: A Ministry of Encouragement".

I have been working for North American Ministries (Home Missions for all you old school people like me) for 21 years, and I have seen and met many discouraged Christian workers across our denomination. I have done what I could on a personal level to encourage them. When I became director of the department three years ago, I hired men for my staff that I knew had hearts for encouragement. Over the last three years, everyone in our office has been working hard to be available to churches and pastors and to provide resources and training in the areas of church planting, revival, church growth, and church revitalization. At the Power Conference in Pigeon Forge in May, we officially kicked off this new ministry for the department.

We have asked 75 churches to partner with us in two areas of support: 1) support the program financially by providing \$1,000 each year that will go into a special account used only for this ministry; and 2) support the program personally by hosting a discouraged couple or family for a few days or weeks so that they can love them, encourage them, and help lift their weary hands so they can be recharged and revitalized for ministry. When we hear of discouraged Christian workers, we will contact them and connect them with one of our partner churches that can meet their needs of encouragement. Funds for travel and accommodations will be paid either by the host church or the Hands Held High account. We hope to form a nationwide network of Christian counselors upon whom we can call to help with needs that require professional counseling. Counseling expenses will also be paid by the fund.

I believe God has given us a window of opportunity to encourage these discouraged servants of God, and I want to do all I can to take advantage of this opportunity. I've seen what this can accomplish on a local church level, and I'm excited about what God can and will do with this ministry on a national level.

If you would like to support the ministry of Hands Held High, please call or contact our office. If you know a couple or a family that needs help and encouragement, contact the North American Ministries office: PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011. Our toll free number is 877-767-7674. **ONE**

About the Writer: Dr. H. David Crowe is the Executive Director for Free Will Baptist North American Ministries: www.FWBNAM.com.



BUS MINISTRY LAUNCHED ME INTO MISSIONS

By Cynthia Spruill



Bus ministry saved my life, and is ultimately what helped launch me into missions. I must credit my wonderful parents for their willingness to send me to church on the bus. I will forever be grateful to my dad for waking me and helping me get ready every Sunday morning to be picked up by a faithful bus driver. I know I would not be the woman, mother, or wife I am today if it were not for the bus ministry of Hyde Park FWB Church in Norfolk, Virginia.

When I was eight years old, I surrendered my life to Jesus. I will remember that moment for the rest of my life. During the Sunday School hour, I asked my teacher several questions about salvation. She helped me understand and then knelt in the floor with me to pray the sinner's prayer. The next week, she sent me home with a Bible that had my name on it. From that point on, I was challenged regularly to memorize Scripture and Bible stories. Though I struggled to understand many things, I knew in my heart I was exactly where God wanted me to be, because He made it possible.

Today, we often note the challenges and problems a church can face because of bus ministry. But little is said about the challenges facing the bus riders. For example, I had no understanding of certain church terminology. I did not identify the Bible as a sword, nor did I recognize my friends as a youth group. I didn't even know what a youth group was, much less that I had become part of one. If it were not for that bus picking me up week after week, I may never have known what it truly means to be "set apart."

This is why I know bus ministry saved my life. Today, I have the honor of knowing the importance of hiding God's Word in my heart and how to present it to others. I value the importance of true discipleship and taking interest in teaching others. I am passionate to reach out, because someone reached out to me.

When I grew old enough to obtain my driver's license, I began to drive myself to church. And when I was old enough to date, I knew to seek a Godly man. But I never thought that I would be worthy to be a pastor's wife because I was just a "bus kid." But here I am—wife to a pastor and church planter. I like to think I've been raised in the church, by the church, and for the church, because the church taught me how to be morally and biblically right.

While bus ministry may seem like a thing of the past, it still works. I know this because of my experience. I think it is important to understand you cannot have a productive bus ministry without the support of the church. Bus ministry was simply the tool that took me to church. It was the church that taught

me the importance of Bible study and accountability. It was the church's responsibility to love me in Christ, lead me to Christ, and disciple me in Christ. Those were the keys that allowed me to return, stay, and grow as a Christian.

Today, I proudly share my utmost respect and appreciation for the church because of how it was presented to me in my youth. The core elements that made up the church were displayed for me week after week. I learned, because of the servant hearts and willing workers who stepped up, reached out, and loved a bus kid like me. They were willing to be used for my sake. I learned how to pray because of prayer warriors who prayed over me and with me. I experienced real, authentic love, because it surrounded me at church. I never felt alone or out of place.

Through that experience, I believe I experienced church as it should be. The church reached out to me and loved me the way Christ loves the Church. And, because I chose to receive that love, I am now responsible to extend it to others. And that is how bus ministry launched me into missions. **ONE**

About the Writer: Cynthia Spruill and her husband Carl will be planting a church in Hawaii with team members Chris and Megan Davenport. Learn more: www.FWBNAM.com.

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BUILDING ON THE LEGACY:

A College in Transition

Reflections From President Matt Pinson

It is a wonderful time at Welch College. In December, we completed our final semester at the historic West End campus, and we are working feverishly to make the move to the new Gallatin campus this month.

I can't tell you how hard our faculty and staff members have worked to provide quality care and instruction for students while preparing for this once-in-a-lifetime campus relocation. If you could see what I've seen over the last months, you would join me in thanking them for their dedication to Christ, Welch College, and the students who have been entrusted to us.

This is the most unusual year in the history of Welch, and our faculty, staff, students, and parents have been unusually cooperative in coping with the circumstances of this once-in-a-lifetime event. Students are nearing the end of a very long winter break, and we will return to classes using the same cutting-edge, online format we use for our online program. Shortly thereafter, we plan to move students into their new campus home. Faculty and students received training for this online educational experience, utilizing best practices for online teaching and learning.

Excitement is building as we anticipate a new beginning on a pristine campus. More than two decades ago, Dr. Tom Malone and his leadership team began to sense the need for relocation. The exorbi-

tant land prices in the college's Richland-West End neighborhood, accompanied by new, stricter zoning requirements, made it impossible for the college to plan for future expansion. Yet this situation also created the ability to sell the West End campus for a price that would provide most of the funding necessary for building a new campus. These funds, with the addition of capital campaign funds, have made relocation a reality.



When we sold the campus in the summer of 2015, the college was \$4.2 million in debt. Our plan was that, after the five-year, \$6.5 million *Building on the Legacy* capital campaign, we would be in no more than that \$4.2 million in debt. But God has blessed *Building on the Legacy* beyond our wildest expectations. Donors have provided enough funds to surpass the original \$6.5 million goal, and we already have raised money we thought would take five years to raise.

Because of this, the board has authorized an increase the five-year *Building on the Legacy* goal to \$14.5 million. The additional funds will allow us to build a new chapel-auditorium and be debt free at the end of the five-year campaign!

We need you to stand with us to invest in the education of young people who will change their world for the kingdom. While most of the campus has been completed, we will be in construction mode for several years. We plan to complete construction of the gym/activities center this summer. Then we plan to begin designing and building the chapel-auditorium. We need your help now more than ever to bring these plans to completion and do so debt-free.

Finishing the campaign debt free is not just something we want, it's something we really need. The original plan I mentioned would have meant that we would have to pay debt service on the loan, costing more than \$300,000 per



year. Think of what we will be able to do for students, with your help, if we don't have to service that huge debt. That's why we're asking you to help us not only finish the buildings but erase the debt. We want to be good stewards. Please help us so we can invest in your young people rather than make principal and interest payments for the next 20 years.

Thank you for your investment in Free Will Baptist young people. Your gifts to the *Building on the Legacy* campaign are helping make the relocation of the Welch College campus possible. Future students who are not yet born will someday walk on the campus you helped build. Their lives will be challenged and their hearts transformed by the biblically based education they will receive. They will impact the world for Christ...because of you.

Thank you seems inadequate, but I hope you know how grateful I am. And, I hope you make plans very soon to visit the new campus you're helping to build. **ONE**

About the Writer: Dr. J. Matthew Pinson is the fifth president of Welch College, where he has served since 2002. He and his wife Melinda have two children, Anna and Matthew.

At Welch College >>

Welch College Ranks #31 Among U.S. News & World Report's Best

Welch College received notification that it ranks 31st among “Best Regional Colleges” (South Region) in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2017 edition of *America's Best Colleges* guidebook according to President Matt Pinson.

“We are so pleased that Welch College is not only ranked among America's best colleges but is moving up in the rankings,” President Pinson said. “This respected national study confirms that the college's academic programs are recognized by the broader academic community as well as our supporters. It's also another reminder to prospective students and their parents that Welch College remains a top-quality institution of higher learning that delivers its educational promise.”

The “Best Regional Colleges” category includes 334 institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in the liberal arts, and in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education. Colleges in this category are ranked within four geographic regions: North, South, Midwest, and West.

U.S. News rankings offer opportunity to judge the relative quality of institutions based on widely accepted indicators of excellence: peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and more.

Welch College received especially high marks in three strategic areas—percent of classes under 20 students (89%), average first-year retention rate (69%), and freshmen in top 25% of high school class (52%).

Provost Greg Kettelman said, “This marks the tenth time Welch College has been included in the *U.S. News* listing of best colleges. This is a testimony to the hard work our faculty and staff pour into our students. Their commitment to excellence is paying off in national recognition among professional educators that Welch provides a rigorous collegiate academic setting for serious students. Our goal is to create a stimulating learning environment where education is more than books and classes. We are truly a community of faith and learning.” ■

Enrollment Increases Again

Welch College enrolled 348 students from 23 states, one U.S. territory, and three other countries for the 2016 fall semester, according to Provost Greg Kettelman. Enrollment statistics indicate a diverse student body with a wide range of academic interests.

Kettelman said, “We are pleased to see a healthy fall enrollment that includes a promising freshman class. Enrollment in our graduate, online, and Lifetime Learning programs will continue through the semester, and we anticipate final semester enrollment to approach 375 students.”

At press time, the college reported 173 dormitory students, 28 commuter students, 19 graduate students, 5 Adult Degree Program students, 66 Online/Lifetime Learning students, and 57 dual enrollment students. Officials set the fall semester 2016 full-time student equivalency (FTE) at 262.

By classification they include 63 Freshmen, 58 Sophomores, 66 Juniors, and 51 Seniors, as well as graduate, non-degree part-time, and dual enrollment students.

By states, students number:

Alabama – 18	North Carolina – 26
Arkansas – 13	Ohio – 6
California – 1	Oklahoma – 4
Connecticut – 1	Pennsylvania – 2
Florida – 13	Rhode Island – 3
Georgia – 11	South Carolina – 11
Illinois – 14	Tennessee – 145
Indiana – 2	Texas – 5
Kansas – 2	Virginia – 12
Kentucky – 4	West Virginia – 1
Michigan – 4	Virgin Islands – 4
Mississippi – 6	International – 32
Missouri – 8	(Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba)

President Pinson said, “With 348 enrolled students at Welch College, this fall represents the highest number we've seen in ten years. Our FTE is up nearly 5%, and dorm, online, and dual enrollment also continue to grow. Last spring, Welch launched its graduate program, and already we have nearly 20 students enrolled in graduate courses. These developments are positive and encouraging, and we are thankful to God for His provisions during this momentous time of excitement and transition.”

To contact Welch College for more information, email recruit@welch.edu or visit www.welch.edu.

Daniel Webster to Serve as Director of Enrollment Services

North Carolina pastor Daniel Webster has been selected as director of enrollment services at Welch College, according to David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement.

"We're so excited to announce Daniel's appointment," Williford said. "He is already working part-time as director of marketing and recruitment for the online program. He'll come on in a full-time capacity in February 2017, continuing his online work and also serving as a field representative and enrollment counselor for the college. Then he'll move to Middle Tennessee in June and assume his role as director of enrollment services."

Williford continued, "When Debbie Mouser began her more intensive role as director of recruitment, we needed someone to direct the administrative and strategic operation of enrollment and retention at Welch. As we discussed potential candidates, Daniel's name quickly rose to the top."

Webster will continue to serve as an adjunct instructor in theological studies, a post he assumed earlier this year. Derek

Altom, acting director of enrollment services, said, "Daniel has been doing an excellent job as director of recruitment and marketing for the online program, and this year he helped us plan Welcome Days and Senior Days. He's a natural with numerous ideas on how to make on-campus events better, and with the ability to look at things from all angles. When we began discussing Daniel's candidacy for this position, I thought, 'What a wonderful fit for this job!'"

Webster comes to Welch with 13 years of full-time ministry experience and a background in promotion, marketing, and recruiting. During and after college, Webster played an active role in the promotional department at Gateway Christian College, where he received a bachelor's degree in Sacred Music. His ministry there included singing in groups, preparing and leading student groups, and representing the college at conferences and association meetings. He has also worked in marketing and customer relations for GEICO.

Webster served ten years as an associate pastor at Gateway FWB Church in Virginia



Beach, Virginia, where he managed various ministries, including music, media, worship, and single young adult ministry. Since 2013, he has served as lead pastor of Glad Tidings FWB Church in Asheboro, North Carolina. Webster has written for *The Brink*, the young adult curriculum at Randall House Publications, since 2014, and he currently serves as clerk of the North Carolina State Association.

Webster holds two master's degrees, a M.A. in Biblical Studies from Maranatha Baptist Seminary and a Master of Biblical Studies from Virginia Beach Theological Seminary. He is concurrently seeking a M.Div. and a M.A. in Church Music at Maranatha.

Daniel met his wife Kimberly (Fisher) while in college at Southeastern FWB College. Daniel and Kimberly have three children: Aaron (8), Julianna (6), and Noah (4).

President Matt Pinson said, "We're elated to have Daniel Webster coming on board full time in this capacity. He has just the right combination of background, talents, and skills for this job. But what's more, he sees this as a calling and ministry. Daniel is a great fit and will move us forward at our new campus in Gallatin." ■



Intersect >>

Good Works and the Christian Life: A Look at Titus, Part One

Introduction

If the pastor of any Free Will Baptist church quizzed his congregation about Ephesians 2:8-9, what would be the result? For example, let's say he pulled out one word and had a fill-in-the-blank quiz: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of _____, lest any man should boast."

Did you get it right? Even if you could not answer it on the spot, most folks within our churches understand, at least intellectually, that works do not save us. While we maintain that good works do not save us, what exactly is the role of good works in the life of a Christian? What is the proper motivation for good works in the local church?

The short letter from Paul to Titus speaks volumes about good works. It is a key theme that surfaces in the book. A cursory glance at the letter reveals the following references to "good works":

Titus is urged to show "thyself a pattern of good works" (2:7).

The purpose of Christ's redemptive work is to "purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (2:14).

One of the essentials Titus is tasked with reminding people is "to be ready for every good work" (3:1).

A healthy reminder is provided in Titus 3:5 that salvation is not based on merit, but grace: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us."

Post-belief action is summarized by careful devotion or maintenance of good works, "they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works" (3:8). "And let our's [our people] also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful" (3:14).

From these references, the following basic expectations emerge for the individual Christian and the local church. We will frame them each of these as "BE" statements:

- BE a model of good works.
- BE zealous for good works.
- BE ready for good works.
- BE devoted to good works.



Looking in and Looking Ahead

Space will not allow further exploration of these expectations. In the next issue, however, we will explore these four responsibilities and ask questions to, hopefully, spur us on to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24). As you contemplate the theme of stewardship in this issue of *ONE Magazine*, don't forget the stewardship represented by a life of good works. While we are saved by faith alone, in Christ alone, the saving faith described in the Bible is never alone; it is always accompanied by good works.

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." **ONE**

Clarity Amid the CONFUSION OF CULTURE:

A Review of *Sexuality, Gender, and the Church*

Identity says something about a person's faith, heritage, and basic presuppositions. In this age of widespread identity crisis, we must know what we believe.

The authors of *Sexuality, Gender, and the Church* offer clarity on issues relating to human sexuality and the church's response through a return to the fundamental truths of our faith and tradition as Free Will Baptists. The result is a volume that is both for the moment and from the past. It is a reminder of who we are so we can meet the challenge of being in the world and not of it.

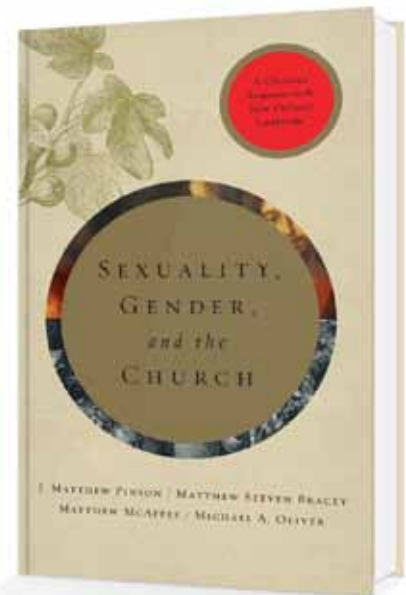
Obergefell, the Supreme Court decision that effectively legalized same-sex marriage, confirmed in legal opinion the distorted view of sexuality and gender pervasive in television, movies, and social media. What was once a cultural problem became a legal one as well. This problem demands a robust response.

In *Sexuality, Gender, and the Church*, Pinson puts forth a historical treatment; McAfee offers a theological

one; Bracey deals with the legal and political aspects; and Oliver rounds out the analysis with a chapter on what it means to minister to those affected by the recent upheaval in sexual ethics. Indeed, this volume is a veritable toolbox for pastor and layman, young person and parent. It is an indispensable resource for Free Will Baptists looking for clarity amid the confusion of culture.

Pinson writes that we are not the first generation to grapple with sexual immorality. The first-century church dealt with it, our Free Will Baptist forebears in England and America dealt with it, and now we must respond. This is a great reminder that we are not alone in our defense of the faith, and that our defense need not change. Our guide has been, is, and will continue to be the gospel.

McAfee, Bracey, and Oliver help



readers understand the application of this gospel response in our various capacities as ministers, citizens, and parents. Analysis centers on the supposition that the gospel has power to change individuals and cultures alike and highlights the necessity of a response characterized by biblical integrity and compassion. The sum total of their efforts is a book as practical as it is timely. I encourage all Free Will Baptists to pick up a copy soon.

The Gift of Discipleship

BY DAVID WOMACK



What is the best gift you can give someone? Obviously, that depends on the recipient. What you'd give your husband or wife might differ from what you'd give a niece, nephew, or co-worker. The occasion also determines what the best gift might be. Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Administrative Assistant's Day are unique, so you probably want the gift to reflect the occasion.

Most of us give generously to our children, yet sometimes we neglect the gift of ourselves through discipleship.

Most people appreciate any gift, regardless how simple or small, because it is a gesture of thought. Receiving a gift means someone thought of you enough to select a gift for you. Of all the gift possibilities, our attention is one of the best gifts we can give. Attention is an investment in a relationship. Husbands and wives invest daily through *attention* to each other. Parents invest in their children with the same gift of daily attention. We may not be able to make time for our friends on a daily basis, but we intentionally keep our relationships healthy by making time for them. It's good to give the gift of attention often.

Jesus provides the perfect example of how to show people we care by giving them our attention and investing ourselves in them. This is the essence of discipleship, an investment of our time and selves to help another believer grow in faith and faithfulness to Christ. This is the gift of attention with a higher purpose. Discipleship is walking with another believer and helping her learn to navigate life as a follower of Christ.

We probably give more gifts to our children and grandchildren than anyone else; we can invest a small fortune in the gifts we give them. Yet, one of the wisest investments we can make in our families is simply discipleship. This is the biblical model prescribed in Deu-

teronomy 6: intentional time spent sharing our love for God and His Word with our children. Most of us give generously to our children, yet sometimes we neglect the gift of ourselves through discipleship.

Discipleship is the most important investment we can make in our children. So, why is it so difficult to initiate? Sometimes, selecting the perfect gift for our children can be agonizing, even paralyzing. But when we know exactly what we want to give them, our anxiety is replaced with anxious excitement because we anticipate their reaction and the joy the gift will bring them. If we can imagine how positively discipleship will impact our children's lives, we will be excited to begin the journey with them as soon as possible.





The benefits of discipleship outlast any other gift or investment we could give our families. Discipleship changes a person's perspective, purpose, and potential. When we make time and give deliberate attention to discipling our children, it demonstrates we care about them. **ONE**

About the Writer: David Womack was ordained as a Free Will Baptist minister in 1987 and has served churches in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Illinois. He joined the Randall House team in August 2010, and serves as director of customer service and sales. David and his wife Teresa live in Hendersonville, Tennessee.



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Curriculum Discipleship Plan

2016-17 Scope and Sequence

April 2017 - New Testament

*Choosing Jesus as King and Ruler
(Matthew)*

- Week 1 - The Humble King
- Week 2 - The Crucified King
- Week 3 - The Risen King
- Week 4 - The King's Commission
- Week 5 - The King's Return

May 2017 - Special Topic

*God's design disrupted and a
healthy hunger (Biblical Sexuality)*

- Week 1 - Biblical Purity
- Week 2 - Guard Your Heart
- Week 3 - God's Design
- Week 4 - Made in the Image
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Pre-Registration

2017 National Association of Free Will Baptists

NAFWB | V3 | LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY | JULY 16-19, 2017

One Form Per Person | Register Online: www.nafwb.org | Name Badges Required for All Convention Events

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Country (if outside USA) _____ Email _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Church You Attend _____ Church City _____ State _____

National Association (All voting delegates must be members in good standing of a FWB church.)

Voting Delegates

- ☐ National Board/Commission Member
- ☐ Ordained Minister
- ☐ Ordained Deacon
- ☐ State Delegate (Authorization Required)
- ☐ Local Church Delegate (Delegate Card Required)

Non-Voting

- ☐ Attendee (All Ages, Including Infants and Toddlers)

Tickets

WNAC Laughter and LattéQty_____ x \$15 = _____
Monday, July 17, 8:30 p.m. (\$20 onsite; limited quantity available)
Welch Alumni & Friends LuncheonQty_____ x \$30 = _____
Wednesday, July 19, noon (\$35 onsite)

National Association Info: 877-767-7659 | www.nafwb.org

Vertical Three Conference (formerly NYC)

Preschool

- ☐ Ages 3-5, Attending Preschool Worship - \$25 (\$35 on-site)
- ☐ Ages 0-5, Not Attending Preschool Worship - NO FEE

Students: \$25

Any student or competitor* attending any CTS competition or event
MUST pay \$25 V3 conference fee (\$35 on-site).

- ☐ Grades 1-3
- ☐ Grades 4-6
- ☐ Grades 7-12

*Competitors must pay this \$25 V3 conference fee **in addition to**
CTS competition fees already paid to Randall House.

College Age | Adults: \$15

Adults attending any competition or event MUST pay \$15.

- ☐ Adult Attendee

Tickets:

ENGAGE Student Ministry LuncheonQty_____ x \$30 = _____
Monday, July 17, noon

The Skit GuysQty_____ x \$12 = _____
Tuesday, July 18, 9:00 pm (\$14 onsite/at the door)

NYC Information: 800-877-7030 | www.verticalthree.com

Register April 3 – June 16, 2017 (postmarked) No Refunds After June 16

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- + Check (Payable to FWB Convention)
- + Visa, Discover, or MasterCard only (both debit and credit cards accepted)

Card # _____

Card Holder _____ Exp ____/____

Signature _____

RETURN TO:

Convention Registration

PO Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011 / FAX: 615-731-0771

Convention Questions: 877-767-7659 | convention@nafwb.org

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- + Phone/email
- + Credit card information
- + Special requests: wheelchair accessibility, rollaway bed, or crib

2. Contact the Hotel.

- + **Online reservations** open on Monday, May 8, 9:00 a.m. CT (10:00 a.m. ET). Links to online reservations will be available at www.nafwb.org. No phone reservations will be accepted on this day.
- + **Phone reservations** will open Tuesday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. CT (10:00 a.m. ET). **Online reservations are encouraged to avoid long wait times.**
- + **Group Reservations:** Groups making ten or more reservations should contact convention manager Ryan Lewis (877-767-7659) between February 1 and April 29 for more information regarding group reservations.

3. Things to Remember:

- + Hotels have been instructed **NOT TO ACCEPT** reservations before opening day.
- + Hotel rates do not include 16.07% tax.
- + **The first night's room and tax will be charged for any canceled reservations.** The charge is non-refundable, but reservations are transferable. Available rooms may be posted at www.nafwb.org for transfer.

Reservation Cut-off Date:
Friday, June 16, 2017

Visit www.NAFWB.org for additional information.

About the Denomination >>

2016 Leadership Conference Focuses on Intergenerational Leadership

Antioch, TN—One hundred fifty-five pastors and church leaders from 23 states and a Canadian province gathered December 5–6, at Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel, for the 2016 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference. During the two-day conference, speakers explored the theme *Developing Young Leaders*.

Three panel discussions focused on the subject from a variety of perspectives. The opening panel featured five veteran leaders: Carl Cheshier, former convention moderator and former president of Randall University; Dr. Danny Dwyer, former pastor, professor at Southeastern FWB College, and Rekindle program coordinator; Jeff Jones, pastor at Hilltop FWB Church (NC) and professor at Southeastern FWB College; Rob Morgan, teaching pastor at The Donelson Fellowship (TN) and noted author and speaker; and Dr. Melvin Worthington, former executive secretary of the National Association and long-time pastor.

A Tuesday morning panel featured the unique viewpoint of the presidents of the four Free Will Baptist Colleges: Wendell Walley, California Christian College; Tim Eaton, Randall University; Jim Marcum, Southeastern FWB College; and Matt Pinson, Welch College.

The final panel session Tuesday evening highlighted younger leaders: Josh Baer, pastor of Cramerton FWB Church (NC); Paul Bryant, pastor of Cross Creek FWB Church (MS) and member of the Randall House board; Daniel Edwards, pastor of Faith FWB Church (IN) and member of the NAFWB Executive Committee; and Barry Raper, pastor of Bethel FWB Church (TN) and pastoral ministry program coordinator at Welch College.

Between panels, featured speakers provided relevant, practical information regarding the challenge of passing leader-

ship to the next generation. Mike Wade, executive director of the Oklahoma State Association, presented strategies for train-



ing and mentoring young pastors. Dr. Ed-die Moody and Dr. Greg Kettelman focused on trends and shifts in culture that have led to the need for the younger generation to step forward in leadership. Dr. Moody pastors Tippet's Chapel FWB Church (NC)

and The College Choir, directed by Dr. James Stevens. They renewed friendships over banquet-styled meals and during free time. A number of national boards met in conjunction with the conference, including the Executive Committee, Board of Retire-



and is a member of the board of trustees at Welch College. Dr. Kettelman is provost of Welch College.

"This is a conversation that needs to continue among Free Will Baptists," Executive Secretary Keith Burden noted. "Our future is bright, but we dare take nothing for granted. Young leaders are the lifeblood of the denomination."

In addition to keynote sessions and panels, attendees enjoyed music provided by Welch College, including Rejoice ensemble

ment, Free Will Baptist Foundation, Home Missions, International Missions, Randall House, and Welch College.

"This has been an invigorating conference," said Timothy York, church planter to Buffalo, New York. "It was refreshing to hear leaders of the denomination grapple with generational differences so together we might effectively reach our communities for Christ."

For information about the 2017 Leadership Conference, visit www.nafwb.org. ■



Southeastern Announces Spring Conference

Wendell, NC—Southeastern Free Will Baptist College will host the "Road to Revival" Spring Preaching Conference April 10-11, 2017. The two-day meeting will feature speakers Gene Williams, pastor of Parkers Chapel FWB Church (NC); Ron Davis, chairman of Southeastern's Bible Department and director of student affairs; Dr. Curtis Linton, pastor of Cornerstone FWB Church (OK); David Sexton, pastor of CrossPointe FWB Church (VA); and Jeff Jones, pastor of Hilltop FWB Church (NC). Sounds of Victory Choir will provide conference music, along with an alumni choir and quartets during the concluding service.

The college will simultaneously host *Discover Your Calling*, a mini-conference for teens and sponsors, sponsored by *Youth Aflame*. The event, held Monday, April 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., includes lunch and afternoon activities for student attendees. Southeastern will additionally host an alumni luncheon and reunion on Tuesday.

For more information about the annual conference, visit www.sfwbc.edu. ■

Photo: Mark Cowart



KEITH BURDEN, CMP
Executive Secretary
National Association
of Free Will Baptists

ONE to ONE >>

I DO NOT LOVE IT

Our family has established a few holiday traditions at Christmastime.

Following the Christmas Eve service at church we enjoy a meal together at a restaurant. On Christmas Day we sing happy birthday to Jesus before blowing out the candles on a cake baked especially for the occasion. We also gather with loved ones to exchange and open gifts.

This past Christmas we attempted to eliminate some of the chaos by dividing the gifts into stacks for each recipient. To further uncomplicate the process we decided to allow each person to open one gift at a time, starting with the youngest member of the family.

Our three-year-old grandson, Phillip, had the honor of opening the first package. He excitedly removed the ribbon and ripped away the wrapping to reveal a new pair of pajamas. He was unimpressed, to say the least. As the process continued, other grandchildren opened presents, mostly toys or games on their “wish list.” Squeals of delight and exclamations of “Oh, I love it!” were common expressions of joy.

Eventually, the time came for Phillip to open a second present. He looked over the stack of gifts carefully before making his selection. This time, he was more subdued and he opened the treasure cautiously. The look on his face was priceless as he stared in disbelief at the contents...a piece of rope. With disappointment in his voice, he

announced to us all, “I do not love it,” and quickly exited the room.

Little did he realize another gift was intended to accompany the lariat rope—two six-shooter cap guns with holsters. It was a perfect ensemble for the aspiring little cowboy. In time, we managed to coax him back into the living room to open his remaining gifts. Needless to say, his demeanor changed when he finally eyed the toy pistols.

Later, as I reflected on the incident, I was reminded that I am not unlike my grandson. My prayer life looks more like a Christmas wish list than the biblical spiritual discipline it’s supposed to be. I approach my heavenly Father with certain expectations, and if they’re not met, I tend to be disappointed.

The truth is, the Lord doesn’t always give us what we want. Instead, He wisely and lovingly gives us what we need. Unfortunately, our spiritual immaturity and short sightedness rob us of the ability to see past our selfishness and appreciate the gifts He sends our way.

Occasionally, God allows us to receive things we didn’t ask for...things that bring heartache, disappointment, and even pain. We are inclined to cry out, “I do not love it,” and run away from our Father rather than running to Him. When those times come, we must not lose sight of the fact that there are many good gifts remaining to be opened. So receive each gift from God in the spirit it is given. You will love it! “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights” (James 1:17a). **ONE**



A top-down view of several hands holding open books on a rustic wooden table. The scene is dimly lit, with the light source coming from the side, creating a warm, scholarly atmosphere. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box in the center.

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