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OF GOD'S KINGDOM.



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FIRST GLIMPSE

Superman Has Cancer

ERIC THOMSEN
MANAGING EDITOR



Photo: Mark Cowart

Superman has cancer. Not the muscle-bound hero in blue tights made famous in comic books—the *real* superman. Although born in the same decade, he bears little resemblance to the Man of Steel. He can't fly, has never leaped a tall building, and doesn't like to talk on the phone, much less change his clothes in a public phone booth (not that you can find one these days). Yet his feats are just as amazing in their own way.

The *real* superman taught me to read (at age two), to hit a baseball into the outfield, to climb trees with sturdy branches, and the proper way to flip a lure into the dark, swirling eddies along the edges of a riverbank. He walked with me along craggy mountain paths in Upper Yellowstone and pulled me choking and spluttering from the crashing waves of the icy Pacific.

He taught me to make a fire beside the rushing Rogue River rapids and read an old western aloud as we sat together on a ridge overlooking the Wind River Mountains in southern Wyoming. He demanded that I respect women and showed me how to live within my means, even when it wasn't easy.

He forged my character through a thousand boyhood adventures, and it wasn't until I became a father myself that I realized how hard Dad worked to teach me the lessons of life and love.

However, it was the lessons he didn't teach me that affected me most deeply—the early mornings when he sat bleary-eyed at the kitchen table poring over the worn pages of the Book I came to know as the source of his power; the hundreds of letters he penned to a young inmate struggling down the long path to recovery; his patience with struggling and sometimes apathetic congregations; his stubborn refusal to believe that anyone was

beyond help. He lived these unforgettable lessons in front of me, simply because they were the right thing to do.

Now the *real* superman has cancer—the kind treated with something far more powerful than kryptonite. I was hiking along a deserted riverbank in Minnesota when mom called with the news. For a long, heart-rending moment, the world stood still. No sidekick likes to confront the inescapable mortality of his greatest hero. With dread in my voice, I asked, “How is he taking it?”

I could almost hear Mom shake her head. “He’s outside working in the garden.” I couldn’t help but chuckle. Faced with cancer—an uncertain future—my dad has retained his faith, his smile, his hope in things eternal.

It may be superman’s greatest accomplishment. **ONE**

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LETTERS

Have something to say?

Say it! The editors of *ONE Magazine* look forward to hearing from our readers. Your feedback, comments, and suggestions are necessary and appreciated. Email editor@nafwb.org or send correspondence to:

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Antioch, TN 37011-5002

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

This issue on Stewardship was not only a great edition, but also very timely. In a time where greed is out of control, it is affecting the Christian community as well. Thank God for the dedicated and faithful ones.

Dr. Alton Loveless,
Farmington, MO

Why would David Brown omit the letter "h" on the word Pittsburgh every time the city's name was mentioned in his wonderful Carnegie Chronicles story? Proof reader's day off? Just curious. We enjoyed the story anyway.

Ron Bauman, Akron, OH

From the editor: *As much as I would like to say we misspelled Pittsburgh to irritate Steelers' fans, I can't. Evidently, I have spelled the name Pittsburgh wrong since childhood. So much for my sterling reputation as spelling bee champion! My apologies, Pittsburgh.*

As an avid blogger, I enjoy reading the online version of *ONE Magazine*. Do you publish RSS feeds to let me know when new material hits the site? This would be helpful to your readers.

Travis Penn, Illinois

From the editor: *Thanks for the suggestion, Travis. Starting with the April-May*

issue, www.onemag.org will publish RSS feeds. For more details, visit the site after April 6. If you have a suggestion for www.onemag.org, please contact editor@nafwb.org.

Please send me 40 copies of your magazine. I am planning to give one issue to each [can't give away the surprise] as a gift in May. I will be glad to pay for shipping or any other expenses. Please let me know if you can help me with this project.

Annette Whittenburg, Atkins, AR

From the staff: *Great idea, Annette! After each issue of ONE Magazine is printed, we retain the overruns (extra copies) for several months. If your church needs extra copies for outreach, shut-ins, or visitors, call 877-767-7659 or email editor@nafwb.org. We are glad to share the magazines as long as they last. We simply ask you to pay shipping and handling expenses.*

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Stories of the World Missions Offering

STORIES. WE ALL LOVE STORIES. From the time our parents tucked us in at night with “Once upon a time...” to the myriad of human-interest stories presented daily, stories capture our attention and fill our imaginations. Our Lord understands our penchant for stories. As we travel the pages of the Old Testament, we encounter story after story of God’s might and majesty as He worked in the lives of His people. The Master Teacher sprinkled His messages with stories to help listeners understand hard subjects.

What follows are stories: stories of children, church leaders, grandparents, and pastors. The common thread running through each of them is the World Missions Offering (WMO). As you enjoy each one, allow God to challenge you. Isn’t that what a good story does?



Lane and Grandma

After school each afternoon, little Lane Ward stays with his grandparents, Howard and Willa Ward, faithful members of Peace FWB Church in Florence, South Carolina.

One afternoon last year, the first-grader saw his grandparents rolling their change. Curious, he asked, “What are you going to do with all that money?” They explained they were giving it to the upcoming World Missions Offering at church.

“What can I do to raise money?” Lane questioned. He and his grandma decided to find aluminum cans and recycle them for cash. Grandma and Lane began an enthusiastic hunt. They looked everywhere for cans, even retrieving them from the side of the road. When it came time for the WMO in April 2008, they had raised \$60.

But did they stop? Oh no! They are still at it, and have already raised over \$300 for this year’s offering. To top it off, the now seven-year-old Lane asked Jesus to come into his heart while at home with his parents on a Sunday afternoon earlier this year.



ust Give 'Em One

One June evening I found our missionaries and the WMO weighing on my mind and went to bed with a heavy heart. I awakened around 3:30 a.m. with the missionaries on my mind. I couldn't let it go and couldn't go back to sleep, so I arose to read and pray. I told God that if He could do something with a preacher from Davis, North Carolina, I would do whatever He wanted. God put four words in my mind—Just Give 'Em One.

I started writing things down. I mulled over what God might mean by that phrase. He seemed to say, "Give the missionaries one of your paychecks." I thought of the missionaries again asking myself if they are worth it. Yes, they are! So, I eagerly responded with a "Yes, Lord." By giving a paycheck to the WMO, I help all international missionaries, and this thrills my heart.

God further impressed me with the urge to challenge my church family to also give up one paycheck. I jotted a list of church families. I added a modest number by each name and the total offering was staggering. I wondered, "What if other Free Will Baptist churches did this? What if *all* Free Will Baptists across the United States did the same thing?" I am confident money problems would not exist for any of our missionaries.

I told God I would be willing to do what He wanted me to with these thoughts. I shared the idea with my church family at Davis on Wednesday night. God compelled me to share it with the rest of my church family the next Sunday morning. At the end of the service, we met around the altar, and I asked each person who thought they could support this idea to raise his hand. I don't recall a single person without a raised hand.

I've shared this idea with a few others and received good responses. My wife Meresa designed a PowerPoint™ program so I could share this idea with others.

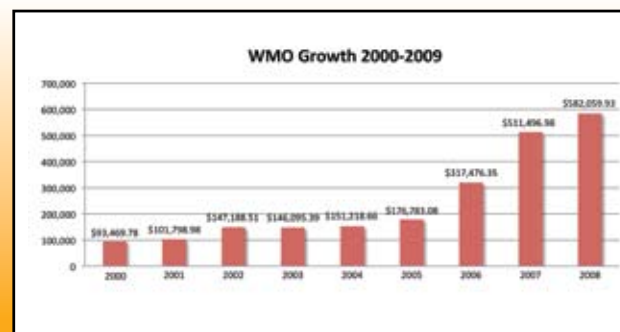
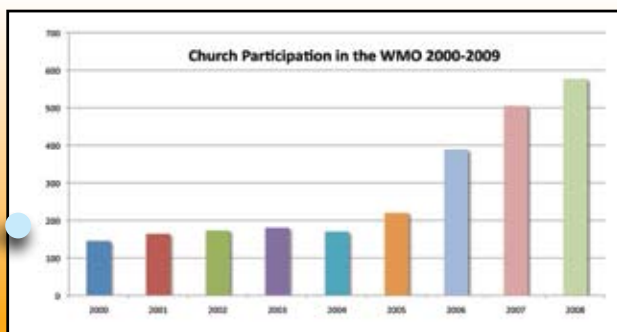
At the national convention in Charleston, West Virginia, my wife and I shared it with Henry Van Kluyve and his wife Virginia. James Forlines also came by, and we shared the idea with him. I haven't forgotten their responses: "Jimmy, I'm blown away" and "I'm overwhelmed." I was encouraged by their reactions and pray that God will use this idea to reach those in our FWB churches who don't give to missions.

ittle is Much

"Little is much, when God is in it" never seemed more real than when I read results from the first coin bank collection for International Missions. Who could have imagined such a great response and return based solely on collecting spare change? What amazes me even more is that results continue to grow each year as more and more people realize how easy and simple this program really is. It is something everyone from children's church through the senior adult classes can participate in, and God uses our "little" to accomplish "much."

A few years ago, Barry Simpson spoke at our church and made a statement that changed my thinking and challenged my heart. In short, he said something to the effect of, "Imagine if every Free Will Baptist gave to the International Missions offering the amount of their average monthly cell phone bill." In my head, I began calculating numbers and was astounded. I stood up to conclude the service and said, "My wife and I will take that challenge! I want to challenge each of you in this congregation to take this challenge as well." Little did I know what a difference it would make in our World Missions Offering.

A sign-up sheet was posted with the simple heading, "Minutes for Missions." One by one, families took the challenge. When all was said and done, we raised over \$560 with our coin banks and another \$1,093.14 with our cell phone



challenge—nearly doubling our offering from the previous year! While this may not be one of the mega-gifts that often grabs our attention, it was ordinary people faithfully doing their part to fulfill the Great Commission. Each year our program has gained a little momentum. I thank God that He uses the ordinary, small, and—by the world's standards—even insignificant people and gifts to accomplish the great!

Miles More

Peace can aptly be described as a missions-minded church. We have several thousand dollars in our monthly church budget for missions, but we wanted to do something special for the WMO in 2008. As a church, we regularly participate in the World Missions Offering, but this year we hoped to do something more.

At the first deacon's meeting of 2008, I told our men I wanted to challenge our people to give \$10,000 for the WMO—over and above our regular outside giving. We had experienced some tough years, and that was a pretty substantial goal for us. I told the deacons I was not going to challenge the church family to give, unless we as leaders were committed to give. I asked them to pray over the next month and announced I would pass out paper at the next meeting so they could write down the amount they would commit to give to the WMO. I also told them that if it was not enough, I would pass out more paper! We laughed and left.

The next month, I waited until the end of our meeting to pass out the paper. They wrote down their figures, and passed them to one of our deacons. I asked the deacon to add them up and show me the total. I began to cry and simply said, "That's enough; let's go home."

With our commitments secured, I shared a challenge of \$10,000 to the church family. For weeks we prayed and then staked out a simple plan. On April 13, Tim and Kristi Johnson and Jerry and Barbara Gibbs spoke to our church family. The ladies in our church planned an amazing missions banquet for Saturday evening. On Sunday, the children in our church presented large foam-core board checks totaling \$5,000.

On Sunday, April 27, 2008, early in the service, our church family brought their coin banks and placed them on the altar. Ushers piled them on carts and took the banks to count during the service. They only counted the checks and bills that Sunday; there was not time to count the change.

At the end of the service, we watched the big screen at the front of the sanctuary. One of our men had developed a presentation to reveal the amount of the offering. After summarizing our efforts in planning for the WMO, a ticker or counter began flashing dollar amounts on the screen. One thousand. Two thousand. Three thousand. When the ticker reached \$9,000, the count was delivered in hundreds, then later in ones at lightning speed building suspense. When the ticker finally stopped, the figure was over \$16,000! A fireworks display burst on the screen. Throughout the congregation there were shouts and tears!

Since I believed we would reach our goal, I requested James Forlines send a DVD thanking our church for the offering we had just received. Seeing the general director of International Missions and hearing him give a word of thanks and praise to the Lord proved a great encouragement to our church family. To us at Peace, he never looked and sounded better.



Ambassadors play a pivotal role in promoting the WMO and use of the coin banks. Their extensive travel to district meetings and local churches has raised awareness of and participation in the WMO. The 2009 Ambassador team is Jimmy Aldridge, Earnie Deeds, Galen Dunbar, J.L. Gore, Fred Hersey, Tom Hughes, Mark Price, Jerry Pinkerton, Norman Richards, David Shores, Henry VanKluyve, Fred Warner, and Rodney Yerby.

annah's Gift

Last year I responded to the WMO coin bank promotion and placed an order for the coin banks. When I received the banks, I took them to the Turning Point Church and challenged our teachers to take time with the children to explain missions and help them assemble the banks. It was a blessing to see the kids walking around between services with their coin banks. My six-year-old daughter Hannah came from children's church with her coin bank. She held it tightly but didn't make any comment about missions or the banks.

After lunch, we were standing around the kitchen table when Hannah entered with her coin bank and one of her piggy banks. Hannah said, "Dad, I want to take all of my change and put it in the WMO coin bank."

I asked, "Do you understand what this money goes toward?" She said, "Yes, missions." I then asked, "Do you know what missionaries do?" Hannah responded, "No," so I told her that the money in the coin banks would go to ministers all over the world to assist them in telling others about our Lord Jesus Christ. Hannah abruptly left the room and returned with a second piggy bank. She said, "Dad, can you break this bank open too? I want to give all I have so others across the world can hear about Jesus."

As selfish as children can sometimes be, Hannah showed not one selfish bone in her petite body as she gave all her change and broke open two personal piggy banks. She gave all because, at six years old, she saw a need for missions around the world.



My heart swelled with joy and yes, I have to admit it, some pride as I thought, "What could we do on the mission fields if more people had hearts like Hannah."

WMO—a Continuing Story

The story of the WMO over the last three years should cause every Free Will Baptist to rejoice. God honors the work of His people, and He can and will use us, if we'll allow Him. A growing number of churches are embracing the WMO as a means to touch men, women, and children who have never heard the gospel. Increasingly, pastors are planning their spring calendars to focus attention on ends of the earth ministry. A growing number of churches now understand the significance of the WMO and its vital place in Mission leadership's strategy to plant more churches overseas. It simply cannot be overstated—the size of the WMO directly impacts our ability to send missionaries. As the little boy in the Change the World Coin Bank video says, "When you give to the coin bank (WMO), people hear about Jesus; it's that simple."

About the Writers:

Grandma and Lane, by Trudy Miles, pastor's wife, Peace FWB Church, Florence, SC.

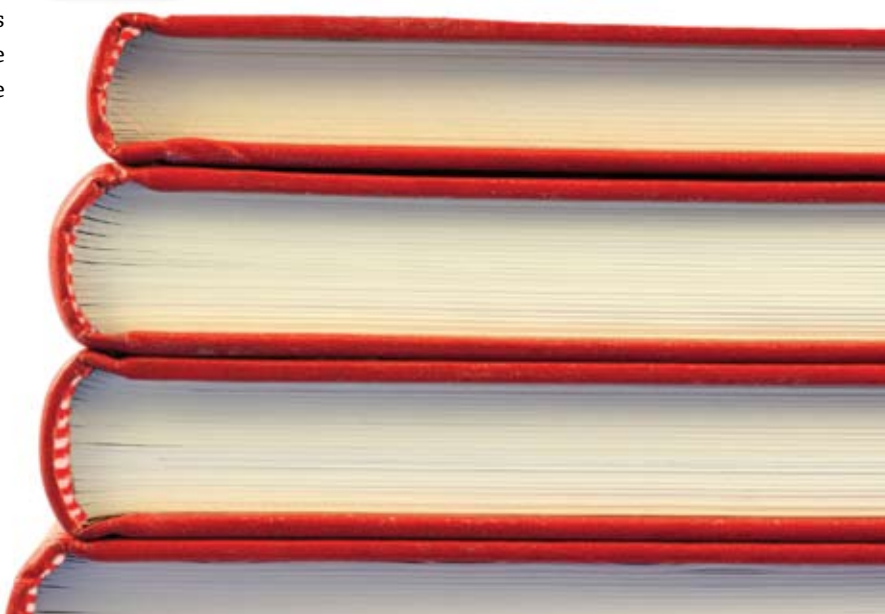
Just Give 'Em One, by Jimmy Mercer, pastor of Davis FWB Church, Davis, NC.

Little is Much, by Joe Beckon pastor of First FWB Church, Vernon, AL.

Miles More, by Donnie Miles, pastor of Peace FWB Church, Florence, SC.

Hannah's Gift, by Todd Black, Hannah's dad and pastor of Turning Point FWB Church, Spartanburg, SC.

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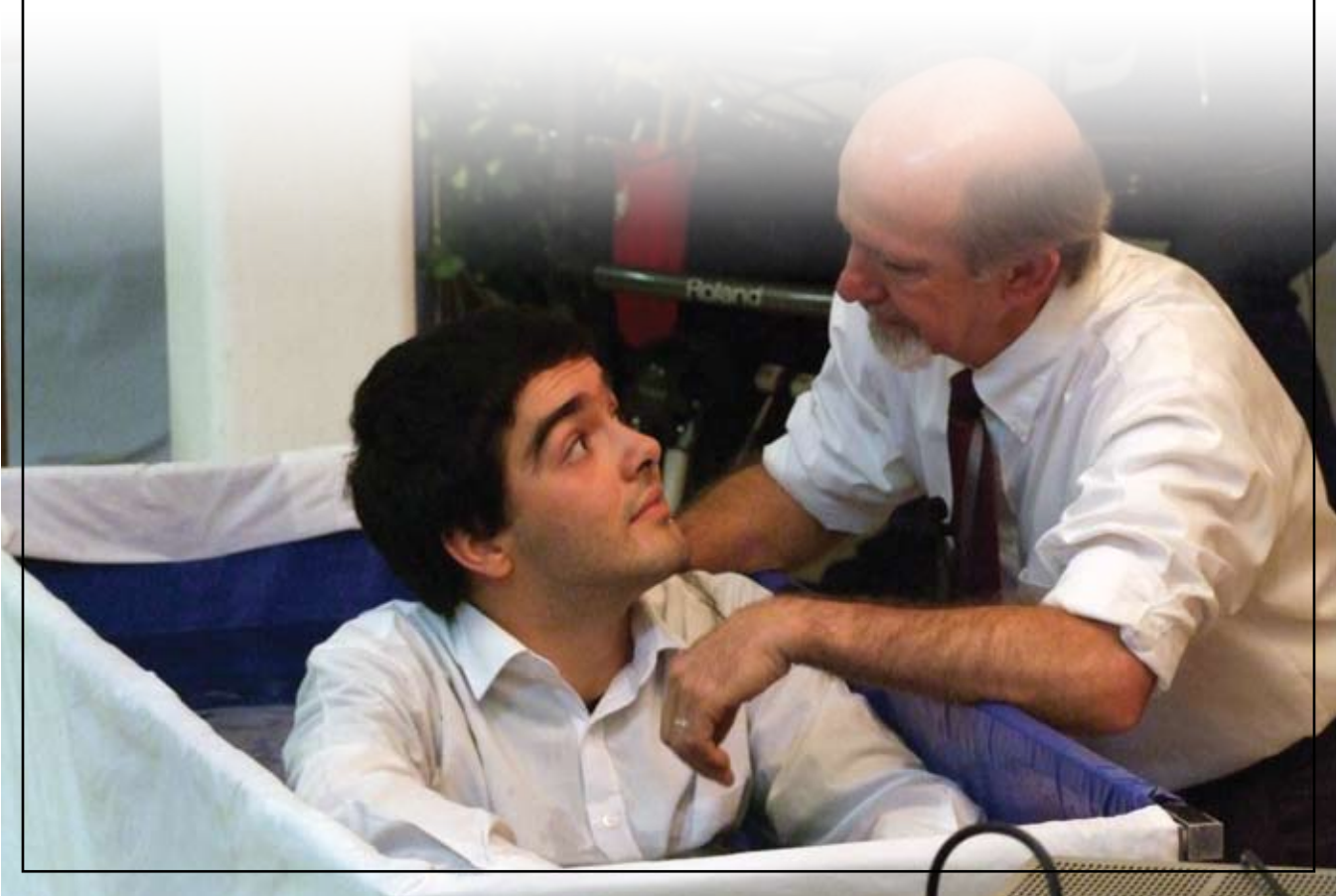
Praying to gods who have no ears
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Dennis Teague baptizes a new believer in France.

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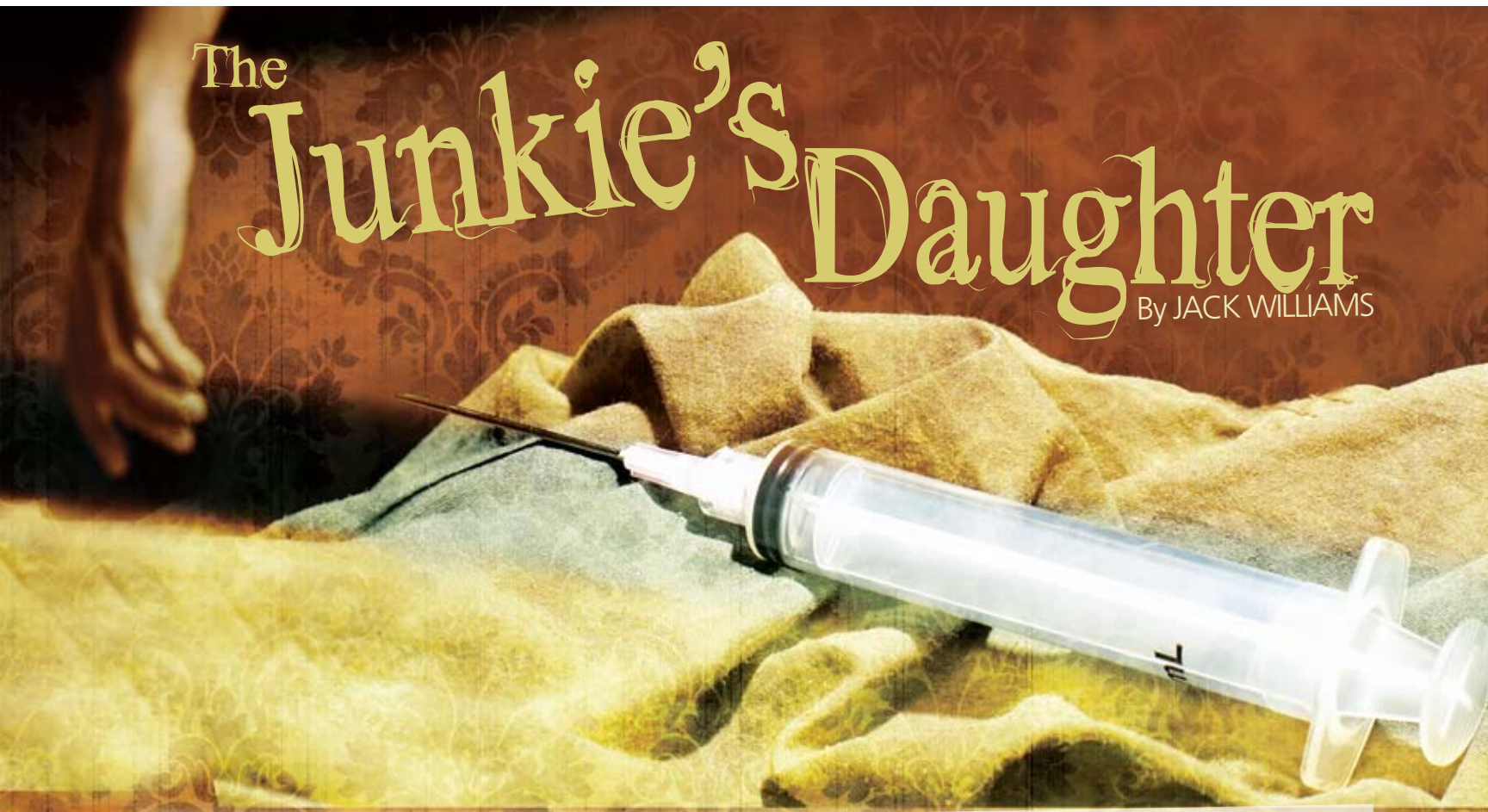


Verlin and Debbie Anderson depend on people who pray and give so they can serve cross-culturally.

She was an FWBBC Missions major who did not trust men.

The Junkie's Daughter

By JACK WILLIAMS



SHE STEPPED ACROSS A HOT-TOP

driveway in the rain through an open door into the Conference Room at Free Will Baptist Bible College, dark brown eyes riveted on a man dressed in black holding a yellow legal pad. They were alone.

"I don't trust men," she said, "and I don't like being alone with a man I don't know."

Cassandra Thompson had arrived—one of life's unedited dramas, a four feet, 11-inch volcano married to a Free Will Baptist deacon's son. The 35-year-old mother of three was a hidden fire pushing for expression. This is her story.

New Jersey Drug Culture

"Mom was a drug addict and an alcoholic," she said flatly. "She was a single mother with three daughters, all by different fathers. Things got so bad that while getting off the school bus I'd find myself saying, 'Please let her be high on weed and not drunk,' because my mom was a violent drunk."

Life in Bridgeton, New Jersey, was full of uncertainty for 14-year-old Cassandra. She never knew who would be in the house at night. Her mother didn't make it past the eighth grade, couldn't read or write, and had learning disabilities. She would disappear

for weeks at a time, leaving her three daughters alone in the apartment, frequently without food or electricity.

One of Cassandra's teachers was a Christian and took a personal interest in the scared teen who showed up at school reeking of pot and stale cigarettes. Knowing the girl had not eaten breakfast, the faithful teacher would take her to the cafeteria, then sit and listen as she talked.

Cassandra's grandfather was an unapologetic racist opposed to religion. He hated Blacks, Hispanics, and other minorities. Her grandmother was a Christian who prayed for and with her.

"They were my rock until they died when I was 12," she said. "Even though my grandfather was a racist and despised the fact that I was half-Puerto Rican, I knew I was his favorite grandchild."

An uncle abused her during her pre-teen years. Others knew about it, but no one dared confront him. He later served time in a federal penitentiary.

"Now you know one of the reasons I don't trust men," she said quietly. "The men in my life took advantage of me."

Daddy Was a Drug Dealer

Cassandra was 15 when she met her father, a Puerto Rican drug dealer.

"I dreamed about him when I was younger," she said. "I had big ideas about what kind of person he was...a good man who would show up one day and take me for long walks, take me to father/daughter events. But as soon as I met him, I knew different."

Sixteen years earlier, her father had a one-night encounter with her mother; nine months later Cassandra was born. The day he drove his snow-white Cadillac to the far-from-upscale apartment where Cassandra lived with her mother

and sisters, she went on full alert.

"He didn't have to say a word," she said. "When I saw him drive up, I already knew I couldn't trust him. A little clue was the long pinky fingernail for snorting coke. That's when I knew: Dad was the dealer—Mom was the user. He had all the material things we didn't—a candy-apple red Corvette, a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, plenty of cash, and a nice home."

North Carolina Turnaround

During Cassandra's 16th summer, her Aunt B and Uncle Herb invited her to attend camp with her cousins in North Carolina. While at camp, she had an encounter with God that turned her life around.

"The preacher spoke directly to my need from Psalm 139:5," she said. "I learned that Jesus died for me and knew me in my mother's womb. I discovered that while I did not have a great earthly father and mother who loved and cared for me, I did have a heavenly Father waiting for me with open arms, and He would never leave me."

The day before her scheduled return to New Jersey, Cassandra received a frantic call from her mother who said, "Don't come home! Me and your sisters are being evicted!"

Since her mother could not help and she dare not ask assistance from her drug-dealing father with police one step behind

him, she swallowed her pride and asked her aunt and uncle if she could live with them. They said yes.

"It was so good for me," she said. "They sent me to a private Christian school. I met Pastor Gordon Sebastian at Peace Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson; he baptized me. My heart broke for my family, and I prayed every day for their salvation."

Miracle on West End

Three years later during her sophomore year at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Cassandra received a call from her father. He had been caught in a police raid and sentenced to 15 years in prison. She continued praying that God would reach him behind bars.

"My dad became a Christian in prison," she said. "God didn't just quit with that, because Dad began preaching to fellow inmates in prison. He changed so much that he got out seven years early on good behavior."

Her father now preaches on Spanish radio in New Jersey and has started a Christian motorcycle club to reach others with the gospel.

Two years after her father's prison conversion, a woman grabbed Cassandra's mother by the arm as she was leaving an IGA grocery store, stared into her eyes, and told her that God was looking for her. The next day she went to church but was afraid to go forward during the invitation.

She returned home and called her daughter in Tennessee. That's when an 800-mile miracle occurred—Cassandra led her mother to Jesus over the telephone. She became a new person, free of drugs and alcohol. Cassandra's prayers had been answered.





I discovered that while I did not have a great earthly father and mother who loved and cared for me, I did have a heavenly Father waiting for me with open arms, and **HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE ME.**”

FWBBC Student by Accident

“Free Will Baptist Bible College was one of the happiest accidents that ever happened to me,” Cassandra said. “I didn’t decide to attend FWBBC; my uncle and aunt decided for me. Both their children attended, and they thought I should too. They were right. My previous life had no structure, but FWBBC changed all that. The school gave me structure and purpose and new friends and taught me how to study and live for God.”

She paid her way through FWBBC by working afternoons at the YMCA and through careful use of student loans. Best of all, she met some men she could trust.

“The teachers were exactly what I needed in my life,” she said. “One of the first men I learned to trust was a counselor, Dr. Neil Gilliland. I named my son after another great teacher, Dr. LaVerne Miley. And Eddie Payne was such an encourager.”

Cassandra’s best moments at FWBBC came during daily Prayer Band, those times when she learned about God’s work around the world and her place in it. She looked forward to the annual Day of Prayer when students waited alone before God for guidance and direction.

At first, she was embarrassed to be on campus. “There I was, the daughter of a drug dealer and a junkie sitting in classes alongside all those nice PKs and MKs (Preachers’ Kids and Missionary Kids). I soon discovered, however, that I was the only one bothered

by my background. Everybody else accepted me the way I was and made room for me in their hearts and lives. They made me feel welcome and wanted, and taught me how to become a woman for God. I was home!”

The Man She Trusts

Thirteen years ago, as a Missions major at FWBBC, Cassandra met another Missions major, a young man named Brent Thompson whose parents graduated from FWBBC in 1970.

She said, “Neil Gilliland had told me that because of all the baggage I was packing through life, it would take a very special man to marry me. I found that special man at FWBBC. We started out just friends. He never tried to crowd me. He was such a gentleman and a hard worker, and I learned to trust him. We married in 1995.”

Brent’s mother and father, Ernie and Lila Thompson (both employed at FWBBC), became the caring Christian parents Cassandra always wanted.

Cassandra and Brent have been foster parents for 10 children over a five-year period. “I’ve been where they are,” she said, “and I want to do what I can to help them.”

The Thompsons are members of Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville where they have worked in children’s church and the nursery, and rotate other church responsibilities as needed. Brent, a supervisor at a local HVAC company, also does volunteer ministry with the Gideons.

Something Big

Cassandra’s mother died September 9, 2008, at age 57. She practiced writing every day until her death in an effort to overcome her learning disabilities. During the funeral, Cassandra returned to New Jersey and faced the old nightmares from her youth—including the uncle who molested her and is now on parole.

Cassandra’s health has been a matter of great concern for the past seven years after she was diagnosed with arthritis of the spine. Every month or so, she must spend hours in a doctor’s office with an IV dripping into her arm to regulate the pain. Otherwise, she would be unable to walk.

“I’m willing to go anywhere and do anything God wants,” she said. “I feel like I’m on the mission field right here in Middle Tennessee. A few months ago, I sensed that something big was about to happen, that God wanted to do something different through me. I now know what the big thing is—God wants me to tell His story in my life. He wants me to write a book.”

Cassandra paused, then smiled and said, “The project scares me. Who would read something written by a junkie’s daughter? On the other hand, maybe it’s time for me to take the same advice I give to parents and children—don’t be afraid. If God can change a junkie’s daughter, He can guide me through this book project. I know I can trust Him.”

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jack Williams is director of communications at Free Will Baptist Bible College. **ONE**



Practical Principles for Sunday School Growth

By Keith David Kenemer

THE LAW ALWAYS WINS

Have you ever fought the law and lost? Whether we choose to go against the law on the interstate or a speed limit sign, lawbreaking is always a mistake—even in your Sunday School. The laws of Sunday School growth are as true as the speed limit sign or the law of gravity. If you go against these laws, they will win and your Sunday School will lose.

Law One: Classes reach their maximum growth (saturation point) within 18 to 24 months of their beginning. If an adult class has been in existence more than two years, it has reached a point where it will level off and stop growing.

Law Two: New classes grow faster, win more people (for Christ), and encourage constant growth. New classes inject life in a Sunday School, creating an atmosphere of expectation.

Both these laws come directly from creation. God ordained growth; His command was to “grow and multiply.” Growth requires organization and preparation. Plants must be spaced at various distances and crop rows have to be so

far apart. Growing a business requires constant change. Even the farm pond must have fresh water coming in and water going out or it will stagnate.

You may ask, “What do these things have to do with my class? I’ve been going to the same class for years. I really like my teacher and all of my friends are there.” Look around. Do you see new people coming into your class? Are members leaving the class to minister inside or outside your church? Are there two or even three generations of families either in the class or are possibilities for that class?

Most Sunday Schools today have two adult Bible classes. One was started years ago for young married couples. The problem is that class now has grandparents in it. Is that your situation? It is at my church. How is growth possible in such churches? I recommend you take three steps.

First, assemble a task force made up of a cross-section of people representing the leadership, age groups, and workers in your ministry. Second, identify all adults who are

members of the Sunday School, church, or are prospects for the classes. See what new adult classes would look like if you were to reorganize by starting new units. At least be willing to look at the possibilities.

Finally, cover these efforts with prayer, asking God for guidance and to reveal His will in these matters. Remember, He's the one who said, "Grow and multiply." Then have the task force make the tough decisions and present them to the people.

A fresh tool now available from Randall House is *FUSION*, the new curriculum for adults. It can be a great way to start that new class. Call your Church Ministry Consultant today for assistance in this "grow and reproduce" possibility. **ONE**

About the Writer: Keith D. Kenemer is director of Christian education, Corner Stone Church, Murfreesboro, TN. Learn more about Sunday School at www.randallhouse.com.



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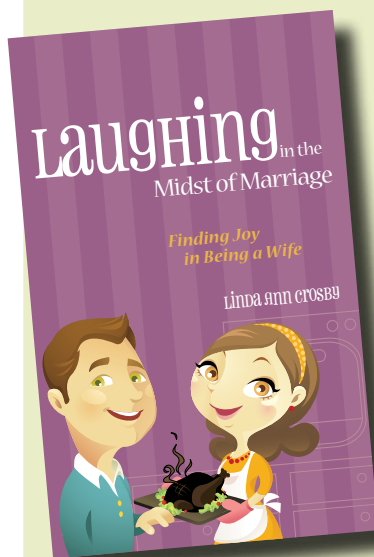


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The reader will laugh, cry, and relate to each story as the author shares from her own personal experiences in over 20 years of marriage. Through the author's practical tips and Biblical applications, the reader will understand that her attitude is crucial to the happiness of the home.

Linda Ann Crosby is a speaker for women's events, moms clubs, and homeschool groups. Her first book was entitled *Laughing in the Midst of Mothering* published by Randall House in 2008. Linda has been a contributing author for various book, articles and newsletters over her writing career. She currently leads a women's mentoring ministry in her local church. Linda lives in Phoenix, Arizona with her husband, Rick, and their three children.



Is Church Growth a **WASTE** *of* **TIME?**

BY G.K. RUTLEDGE

I SOMETIMES WONDER IF CHURCH GROWTH IS A WASTE OF TIME!

That's right. You heard me, and I meant it.

Deep down you're glad someone finally said what you have been thinking and feeling.

Sometimes it feels like church growth is a waste of time and money!

I wish I had all the money back I have spent on church growth books and church growth conferences. I don't care if it's purpose-driven, seeker-sensitive, or program-related, that money would have been better spent feeding the poor, helping the homeless, or for that matter, wadded up and thrown in the fireplace.

I wish I could take back all the sleepless nights wondering why my church isn't growing like the one down the street.

Church growth seems to be a waste of time, money, and worry.

Here is why. The Church—as the body of Christ—is an organism, not an organization, and you can't grow an organism.

Think about it. Baseball players who inject themselves with unnatural growth hormones get banned from baseball. You don't put a juiced-up athlete on a pedestal and tell all the other athletes to model themselves after him.

Why we hold juiced-up churches in high esteem I will never understand.

Don't get me wrong. Growing the church is important, but chasing the latest fad in church growth is a waste of time. Marketing and programming can grow the organization of the church (the business side), but you can't really grow the organism (the body side) of the church. Only God can create a living organism. Sure, we can clone, but we can't create.

Want your church to grow? Turn your attention to building an environment where growth is possible. Make sure the soil is rich, and the weeds are few. Water it. Feed it. You can prepare the church for growth, but you can't program the church for growth. Only God can create and make living things grow.

The next time you receive a brochure advertising the next "sure-fire way to grow a church" in the mail, spend your money on something more useful...like an Oreo Blizzard at the local Dairy Queen.

Hey, for the cost of the conference, maybe you can take your whole family to Dairy Queen. And next Sunday, instead of counting attendance, evaluate your environment. Is it conducive for growth? If it is, don't worry about the numbers. Work the ground and trust the One who created the Organism called Church. **ONE**



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The Four Tims

BY RICHARD ATWOOD
An "Ideas You Can Use" article

TIM IS A POPULAR NAME FOR FREE WILL BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARIES. Missionary Tims stretch across the U.S. map: West—Tim Lewis, Utah; North—Tim Byers, Ohio; the Deep South—Tim Riggs, Alabama; Mid-south—Tim Osborn, Tennessee. I asked each Tim to share some of their successful ideas for outreach. No matter where you are located, outreach takes prayer, loving people, and preaching the truth. Maybe these men will stir your thinking about outreach in your community.

Tim Byers

OUR CHURCH IN ASHTABULA, OHIO, HAS grown through a strong youth program. Young people today look for people they can trust. We are trying to be those people.

Activities include snow tubing and sledding, field trips to baseball games, and amusement parks. We do things that are fun with the cause of Christ in mind. We become their friends, part of their lives, and when a crisis comes—as it always does—we are there with the gospel of Jesus to help them through it. Over time, word spreads and teens invite



their friends to join them at church.

We have come to know many adults because their kids came to church. It is one of our goals to reach

people you wouldn't normally see in any church—those struggling with alcoholism, drugs, and other addictions and problems. We have started many programs to help those we reach such as Celebrate Recovery (www.celebraterecovery.com). Programs with different emphases may change throughout the year, but all are centered on helping people make the right decisions.



Not everyone becomes a success story. I could share some sad stories about people who go back to their old lifestyle, but we are deeply thankful for those we can help and reach for the Lord.

Tim Riggs

SINCE MOVING TO MOBILE, ALABAMA, in December 2006, we have tried many creative ways to get the gospel out and to let people know there is a Free Will Baptist church in the area. Hundreds of flyers have been distributed; two large ads appeared in the newspaper, and 4,000 attractive, color postcards were mailed. One family came the first Sunday because they received a postcard in the mail.

They never stopped coming, and today they work in different ministries of the church. Door-to-door visitation is our primary, regular method of outreach, and it has brought about the most growth. In fact, 65-70% of new attendees in the 21-month history of Bay City FWB Church have come as a result of visiting door-to-door in the community.

Big events also provide a great opportunity for bringing in new people. We recently sponsored a booth at the city's Azalea Festival and hosted a big Fall Festival and a Christmas play followed by a meal.

Our church members invite family members and friends to a monthly fellowship meal held after the Sunday morn-



ing service. It is easier to invite someone to church when you invite him to a delicious (and free) southern buffet. Eating together provides a great way to meet new people, and it also gives our church people a chance to establish relationships with the visitors.

Tim Osborn

MUCH OF THE OUTREACH FOR OUR new church in Oakland, Tennessee, revolves around sermon series. Mass mailings, newspaper ads, and door-to-door saturation all promote an upcoming series. That provides an opportunity to invite people to something new, so we are not just passing out the expected church flyer or brochure every time.



I try to be creative and make the series and sermon titles catchy. One such series was entitled "Christmas Special," using the titles from old Christmas movies for the four sermons. The sermons and subtitles were:

Miracle on 34th Street: The True Miracle of Christmas
(A sermon about the Virgin Birth)

The Grinch: a Christmas Gift for the Heart (A sermon about how God can change your heart)

A Christmas Carol: A Man's Journey to Faith.
(A sermon about salvation)

The Nativity (No subtitle is needed for this one,
it was simply the biblical Christmas Story)

Using creative sermon themes lets people know you have something new going on at your church, yet it places preaching at the heart of the ministry.

We also participate in community activities as a way to meet people. Our church joined the Chamber of Commerce, well worth the \$150 annual fee. Using the Chamber mass-mailing permit saved more than the dues with our first mass mailing. Two families we met through the Chamber now attend our church.

I also serve as the chaplain for a local fire department. As chaplain, I have opportunities to minister to firemen and their families on a weekly basis. The fire chief and his family, the assistant chief and his family, and another fireman and his family attend our church.


**Tim
Lewis**
SIXTEEN OF OUR ADULTS WRAPPED

hundreds of gifts for free at the mall on the last Saturday before Christmas. Some shoppers even went out to their cars and came back with a dozen or more gifts to be wrapped, and we wrapped them all. Everybody received information about our church, and when people asked why we were doing this, we simply told them we wanted them to know God loved them. This gave our church free publicity and was a great way for our people to focus on outreach during the holidays.

One of our most effective outreach events has become an annual tradition. Each summer we host a community barbeque, often with the help of a visiting mission team. Held at the park that borders our church property, we prepare hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks, and all the fixings, as well as a mini-carnival and prizes for the kids. We usually serve 500-600 hot dogs and hamburgers. Again, we do not accept donations. We tell people that this is our way of sharing the love of Christ. Almost without exception, visitors attend our service the following Sunday.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Richard Atwood is the director of missionary assistance for the Home Missions Department. To learn more about Free Will Baptist Home Missions, visit www.homemissions.net.

New Missionaries

The Home Missions Department would like to extend a welcome to the following recently-approved missionaries:



BARRY AND JESSICA LONG are relocating to Denver, CO, to work with Home Missionary Scott Cheatham. Barry and Jessica hail from the state of Alabama. Long attended Free Will Baptist Bible College and Central Alabama Community College. He has served as associate pastor for churches in Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia.

In the southeastern part of Denver, the population is approximately 363,857, and only nine percent claim to be evangelical protestant. The need is great. Only seven FWB churches are located in the state and only one church in the north Denver area. The Longs have three children, Austin, Abby, and Braden. Please pray for this family as they join the mission work at Rangeview Community FWB Church.



BRIAN AND EMILY WILLIAMS will plant a Free Will Baptist church in Buffalo, NY. The Williams family comes to Home Missions from a pastorate at Highland Drive FWB Church in Lincolnton, NC, where they have served since 1997.

Brian earned a bachelor's degree in Bible and Pastoral Theology from Southeastern Free Will Baptist College, and plans to have his Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Evangelical Seminary in spring 2009.

Buffalo is New York's second largest city, known for its culture, education, and medical research. It is also known as the "City with a Heart." Free Will Baptists currently have little representation in New York. Brian and Emily will plant the first Free Will Baptist church in the Buffalo area. Please pray for Brian, Emily, and their children, Leah and Lauren, as they embark on this new venture for the Lord.

From the Ends of the Earth TO THE **HOUSE NEXT DOOR** BY LARRY POWELL

The mission of the Home Missions Department is North America. We reach families for Christ without leaving our homeland. God has a heart for the nations, including the neighborhood where you live. It is likely that the face of your neighborhood has changed during the past several years. By the year 2050, statistics tell us that 102.6 million Hispanics will call the United States home. And that is only one ethnic group of the dozens growing quickly in America's towns and cities.

SALT AND LIGHT in Lexington, Kentucky

RUFO GOMEZ AND HIS FAMILY are sharing Christ with the Hispanic population in Lexington, Kentucky, where Dr. Gomez has a radio broadcast and marriage-counseling ministry. Sunday attendance at his mission church ranges from 95-135. He is reaching professionals and businessmen as well as those working at factories and farms. Recently, his mission opened a new work in the neighboring city of Winchester.

WITNESSING In West Palm, Florida

PEOPLE FROM ALL REGIONS OF South America have relocated to West Palm, Florida. Andres Sancho is fervently sharing the gospel and winning people from many nationalities to Christ. His congregation recently had to move to a larger facility. The new meeting place will seat 200 people. This talented, young preacher has the ability to connect with people and win them to Christ. He is building a strong Free Will Baptist church among the diverse people of West Palm.

SOWING SEEDS in South Carolina

FERNANDO BUSTAMANTE IS A tremendous soul winner. He pastors a thriving church in Effingham, South Carolina. He also has held services for two years in Columbia and recently opened a new mission at Evergreen FWB Church in Conway. Brother Fernando teaches practical methods of soul winning at the seminary in Inman and is training several young preachers for ministry in Mexico.

OPPORTUNITIES in Oklahoma

The entire Botello family is involved in mission work in Oklahoma. Alfredo Botello is senior church planter in Bartlesville. The work has exceeded all expectation and has grown rapidly. Both of Alfredo's sons are missionary pastors. Gamiel has begun a thriving mission in the Woodlawn area, and Israel has begun a mission in McAlester. What a talented family! We are blessed to have them in Oklahoma reaching the Hispanic community with the message of redemption.

CELEBRATING VICTORY in California

The need to plant churches in California is crucial. Nationalities from all points of the globe are represented in this diverse and growing state. A church is being planted in Chula Vista, and has established a congregation of seventy. Two families from the church will return to Mexico to plant churches among the Mixteco Tribes, using the Otomanguan language spoken by some 400,000 people. In addition, a new mission has been started in Salinas.

The churches listed in this article represent only five of the 23 Hispanic mission works now established in several states. Much credit is due to the Gwen Hendrix Seminary in Inman. This school has produced 67 graduates working among the Hispanic community in America. Rick Bowling, director of Hispanic ministries, under God's anointing and leadership, will continue to aid in bringing success in our efforts to reach the Hispanics in North America. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry Powell is director of the Home Missions Department. Read more about the ministry of Free Will Baptist Home Missions at www.homemissions.net.



Smart giving.

Give to any Free Will Baptist ministry with an IRA rollover.

Congress recently changed the rules for charitable gifts made from IRA accounts. If you are over age 70 1/2, the Federal government now permits you to rollover up to \$100,000 from your IRA to charity without tax. Consider Martha's story.

A retired county administrator, Martha decided to make a gift of \$2,000 from her IRA to her church for a special project. Martha requested a transfer of part of her minimum distribution amount. It was easy for Martha to make the gift, and she was happy to help her church without increasing her taxes.



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SECURE INVESTMENTS IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

By Norma Jackson Goldman

Despite the past year of economic uncertainty, disappointment and confusion, Christians can take heart in the certainty that investments made from an eternal perspective are entirely safe. One very positive outcome of the country's economic challenges has been a heightened awareness of the things that really matter, causing many to reestablish priorities.

A focus on international missions is one of those priorities, and it springs directly from the marching orders we received when Christ said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...." We accept this as what it is—a direct command of high priority, not a 'divine suggestion.' The 21st century provides believers with unprecedented opportunities to be involved in this task of making disciples. We literally can "go" in many ways.

Let me illustrate first with the story of David and Melva, a faithful, committed Christian couple and parents of two lovely daughters. They have raised their girls to be aware of the implications of the Great Commission as they themselves have been throughout their faith walk. Now in retirement, they have the joy of seeing one of their daughters

move to Africa where she will begin work on translating the Bible for a people-group that presently has no Bible in their language. David and Melva's lifelong ministry of giving, going and praying continues to produce eternal investments through their daughter.

Brent is a retired health care industry executive. He and his wife journeyed to Brazil to volunteer in a medial clinic. The work of the clinic and its volunteers was supported by a huge team of prayer warriors here in the States. While patients waited in long lines for treatment, Brent and his wife told them about Jesus and prayed not only for their medical issues, but for their souls. Isn't this the same approach our Savior used?

"He showed concern and demonstrated the genuineness of His love for them by meeting both physical and spiritual needs."

Elizabeth has been involved in childhood ministry and publishing all of her adult life. While on a two-week mission trip, she felt and responded to God's call to give the

last years of her professional work life in overseas ministry to children, and in teaching young churches how to reach children for Christ. Rather than thinking of slowing down in retirement, Elizabeth is excited at the prospect of embarking on a whole new life purpose.

A retired couple we know uses their homemaking and handyman skills to manage a team house in a foreign country. Short-term volunteers work out of the team house to minister to the struggling churches there. Friends and family support the work with supplies, encouragement and prayer—but all who participate are “going.”

Increasingly, we see that believers are not content just to send money—although there is a great need for mission offerings—but they prefer to be personally involved as well. Sometimes that means going, sometimes it means providing resources so others can go. It often involves enlisting and training others, and sometimes it means telling the stories that inspire others to lend a hand.

Being personally involved *always* means prayer. Praying for more workers, for specific ministries, for financial resources, for specific people groups, and geographic areas is part of God’s plan. We can “go” in the quiet places of our hearts so that as God acts on our requests in accordance with His plans and purposes, He also reveals His will for us—what He would have us do, where He would have us go and where He would have us focus our energy and resources.

As you take regular inventory of where you are financially, I invite you to do the same with your spiritual investments. Be encouraged in the fact that they are entirely, eternally secure. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance writing career in her retirement. She lives in Nashville, TN.

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NEWS around the world

CHAME, PANAMA: The annual FWB convention in Panama was held January 10-11, 2009. Over 400 people enjoyed the times of worship and fellowship. Thirteen new believers were baptized, including an older gentleman who had never attended church until his father-in-law passed away. The Panamanian Association honored Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman in appreciation for their work in launching the seminary. Three seminary students received certificates for completing their first year of school and gave their testimonies. Those three students began their second year of school in March, and a handful of students have begun their first year. ■



CREATIVE ACCESS: The grand opening for the bookroom in Central Asia was January 11. Present for the event were 15-20 local people, plus Central Asia team members, and women on the Christmas Joy team. The students were extremely excited to have access to English books and DVDs. The room will double as an English classroom until the library can become self-supporting. The book room will be used as an avenue for building relationships with students and others who visit. ■



VILLALBA, SPAIN: The Villalba FWB Church building is nearing completion. The church bought this property in 1989 and began construction in 1991. They were told they did not have the correct permit and spent the next 13 years battling in the court system until they received a permit. Construction began again on December 24, 2007, and is scheduled to be completed by early April 2009. Upon completion, the building will be the only evangelical church building on that side of Madrid. ■



NEWS

around the world



CHÂTEAUBRIANT, FRANCE: Steve and Becky Riggs, Cathy Crawford, and Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson have begun a new church in Châteaubriant. Their first official church service was held in a local Christian couple's home on January 11, with 11 adults and five children in attendance.



COLMENAR VIEJO, SPAIN: The executive committee of the FWB Association in Spain held their annual meeting January 17 at the Colmenar Viejo Church. A representative from each of the Colmenar Viejo, Esperanza, Villalba, and Alpedrete churches attended. Each pastor brought positive and encouraging reports from his church. The Esperanza church members are renovating a storefront building and hope to move in soon.



CREATIVE ACCESS: Dale and Alyssa Harvey, workers in Central Asia, returned to the States March 14. The Harveys went to Central Asia for one year to teach English and assist other workers in the area. They not only taught English classes but coached a volleyball team, helped in organizing a bookroom, and were involved in many outreach activities.



EL CAPURÍ, PANAMA: Members of the Good News FWB Church in Chitré traveled over an hour to El Capurí on January 30. The group ministered in the small town for three days by showing an evangelistic film, hosting a children's day, and ending with a traditional church service. An average of 40 people attended each event and eight people professed Jesus as their Savior.



HOKKAIDO, JAPAN: The Japan Field Council met for a short retreat in Hokkaido in January before beginning their missionary strategy planning session in Ebetsu. Rob Morgan, pastor of The Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, TN, was the guest speaker. The missionaries spent four days discussing future ministry plans.



MARINCEK, BRAZIL: Bobby and Geneva Poole returned to Brazil January 10. The Marincek Church had good attendance and two new families joined the church during the Poole's six-month absence. The first Sunday Bobby preached three children accepted the Lord. Plans for a new building for the Marincek Church are still in the city's engineering department, but are getting closer to approval.

SAVE-A-LIFE FOUR



The Hanna Project took a team of 36 people

to Côte d'Ivoire February 7-21. The group was divided into five teams: a medical team, construction team, vision team, and two outreach teams. Sixty surgeries were performed and 150 consultations given by doctors and nurses. The construction team built a mini soccer court and repainted the outside of the Doropo hospital. Over 550 people received eye examinations, with nearly 300 of them receiving a pair of glasses. The two outreach teams visited 50 villages. Over 5,000 people heard the gospel and 189 accepted Christ as their Savior.



INTO THE DARKNESS

*75 Years of Free Will Baptist
International Missions*



INDIA

The Broken Cistern or the First Frontier

*I*t flows down the sides of the northeastern Himalayas. It courses in currents across the heartland. It surges in cyclical monsoons across the south and inundates the low-lying plains. Water is sacred to the people of India because their very lives and livelihood depend on it. It was along the silt-laden shores of the Brahmaputra, the Indus, and the Ganges River that their civilization first developed. Ancient traditions, religious beliefs, and social structure established thousands of years ago continue to flow in and through its culture like a never-ending spring. So why do the people languish? Why do only a minute number hold power and money while hundreds of thousands stumble naked in the streets, dying of hunger, cold, and thirst? The problem lies in the source of their hope. Longing for a better life, millions pilgrimage to the rivers to cleanse their bodies and sin-sick souls. But they drink from a broken cistern. Polluted water that does not quench. A hope that cannot save.

In addition to Islamic and Buddhist influence, India is lost in a heritage of dominant Hinduism that shapes the very core of its culture. One of the oldest religions in the world, its basic tenets stem from a variety of writings called the Vedas considered sacred by Hindus. These ancient writings encourage polytheism in its most ardent form, leading followers to embrace and worship millions of deities. The most important are Brahma, who they believe created the universe; Vishnu, the one responsible for preserving creation; and Shiva, the great destroyer. In all, these and many other gods make up one universal spirit known as Brahman. Hindu theology teaches that animals as well as humans have souls. Animal worship often takes precedence over human well being, and the streets reek with the stench of an epic moral miscalculation.

Facing abject poverty and seeming hopelessness, what motivates a Hindu? Each wants to achieve spiritual perfection, or Moksha. They must earn their way up the spiritual ladder dictated by the Vedas. At the top of India's hierarchy or caste system are the Brahman, or priests/scholars. Next are the Kshatriyas, the rulers and warriors,



ABOVE RIGHT: Snake charmers still practice their art in the streets.

ABOVE LEFT: The Himalayas' Mt. Everest, on the border with Nepal, is the world's tallest mountain at 29,028 feet.

RIGHT: The Taj Mahal draws millions of visitors annually.



Mission Facts

Close to 25,000 believers flood more than 300 churches in the provinces of Bihar and Tamil Nadu each Sunday as a result of the work of a handful of dedicated men and women. Indian workers have reached into Nepal and Bhutan with the gospel.

followed by the Vaisyas, comprised of merchants and professionals. Last are the Sudras, the laborers and servants. Below the rungs of the ladder, the mud beneath the feet, are the untouchables—a social class so low no other caste member can even speak to them. Rules within each caste are strict. No one breaks rank. No one marries or interacts outside his class. Each person is destined

to remain within the confines given in this life, with the hope of being good enough to be born again through reincarnation into a higher caste. Once they have been good enough in enough lives, they exit the system through Moksha, where their eternal soul simply fades into the oblivion of the universal spirit.

With beliefs that hinder health and hope for almost all her inhabitants, it seems India would be ready for change. In fact, it was the desperate cry from this land and its people that called out to missionary pioneers like Laura Belle Barnard and others. Eager to carry a cup of cool water to parched lips, they forged this foreign land in the hope of redeeming life in every way possible. But the roots of tradition and custom run deep. Though missionaries engage the culture, exposing the lies and proclaiming the truth, conversion comes at a very high cost. To receive Christ is often to be rejected by family, community, and caste. Many Indians want to believe, but are frightened by the persecution they know will come. The harvest in India is ripe, but the fields are fraught with danger. The cost of evangelism must be counted well. God has sent stalwart servants who have begun the work of laying a foundation of truth. He will continue to raise up laborers to build upon it. It is time they feel the cleansing power of unearned righteousness. It is time they taste and see that Jesus Christ, the only Living Water, has come to satiate their thirsty souls.



UPPER: India's poverty, as demonstrated by the many people who still dwell in small grass and mud huts, can be overwhelming.

MIDDLE: The floor serves as both bed and table for millions of India's common people.

BOTTOM: Hindu women guard their children in hopes of guiding them to a better status in the next life.

INDIA	
CAPITAL	New Delhi
LARGEST CITY	Mumbai
AREA	1,269,210 sq. mi.
POPULATION	1,147,995,904
CURRENCY	Rupee
PER CAPITA INCOME	\$977
RELIGIONS	
Hindu	80.5%
Muslim	13.4%
Christian	2.3%
Sikhs	1.9%
Other (Buddhists, Jains, Jews, Zoroastrians, Bahai, Tribal)	8.1%

Source: ciaworldfactbook.gov



LAURA BELLE BARNARD

PSALM 16:11

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.



What possesses a young, single woman to sacrifice her life? To forfeit the comforts and companionship of home? To embrace a foreign culture where Satan's lies have ravaged its people? To call home a place of dust and death, where victims riddled with disease and despair cling desperately to false hopes in more than 300 million gods?

Laura Belle Barnard explained it simply before the 1935 General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists at Black Jack Church near Greenville, North Carolina. Her answer was Psalm 16:11, her life's verse that captured the source of passion that fired her brave soul. Wherever Jesus was, Laura Belle was at home. The surroundings didn't matter. The sacrifice was never too great. Her joy, her deepest pleasure, was found in the presence of her Savior. And if He was moving in India, that's where she wanted to be.

With \$150 from the treasury and an additional \$85 from a freewill offering, Laura Belle left her Georgia roots, crossed the Atlantic, and set foot on South India's soil. She immediately began the task of learning the difficult language in Kotagiri, a small village nestled in South India's western mountain range. Upon completing her studies, she turned to the Kotagiri community around her. A quick study of the deeply entrenched caste system revealed a point of obvious neglect from previous missionaries. Though predecessors had made inroads into some of the four predominant class systems, an enormous population characterized as "untouchable" had been ignored.

These outcasts drew Laura Belle's attention and lured her merciful heart.

As Jesus walked among the lame and lepers of His day, Laura Belle Barnard lived among the world's poorest and neediest people. Though straining against opposition from Hindu priests, plagues, and dire working conditions, Laura Belle and her coworkers labored to establish hope in her community. Over the next 22 years, her efforts bore fruit in the form of two schools, four churches, and numerous Christian workers equipped to continue her efforts. In addition to the church plants in Kotagiri and Gopalapuram, Sunday schools were established to reach the overwhelming number of children in the area. Workers ministered to the children's physical and spiritual needs. As they grew in stature and truth, these children became leaders trained to help their own people find true life.

Laura Belle Barnard's example of obedience and self-sacrifice did not go unnoticed in India or her homeland. Her boldness pricked the very conscience of an entire denomination of Free Will Baptists. When she returned from the mission field in 1957, her



UPPER LEFT: Pioneer missionary Laura Belle Barnard, in her pith helmet, and colleague Volena Wilson stand with some of the men and boys in training in South India.

BOTTOM: A diligent student and teacher, Miss Barnard types material for a class at FWBBC.



vision and conviction had inspired many others to join Christ's cause, not only in India, but other strategic lands as well.

Though stateside, she continued her evangelistic calling as head of the missions program at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Drawing from 22 years of intense missionary experience, she taught, trained, and equipped many others to

prepare well and to succeed in the distant places where her students would carry the gospel. She became close confidant and friend of faculty and students alike, inspiring them with her obedience that flowed from love for her Savior. She authored two books, *His Name Among All Nations*—a book of missionary apologetics and history—and *Touching the Untouchables*, a tribute to the work and people among India's poorest souls. She also

established a ministry to migrant workers in her hometown of Glennville, Georgia, for which she was honored by the Glennville Chamber of Commerce.

Throughout her life, Laura Belle remained firm in her calling. She also made it clear that all of God's children bear the same responsibility. Without apology, she called her brothers and sisters in Christ to lay down their lives for Christ's sake and the souls of the lost. On March 9, 1992, Laura did indeed lay down her life after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Now in the arms of her precious Lord and Savior, her witness continues to compel God's people through the words of Christ.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

MATTHEW 16:24-26

UPPER: Laura Belle dons her sari as she poses with India Christian family members.

MIDDLE: The Kotagiri Bank held special importance for the missionary seeking to exchange dollars for rupees.

BOTTOM: Miss Barnard poses with students near the end of her tenure in India.

Condensed from a story originally written by
Laura Belle Barnard

LOST TREASURE

Sahayammal's Story

Mother and baby sat huddled in the corner of a dark and dirty hut. Time had run out for her newborn. The father had decided. "You are Koopai," he named her—the Hindi word for "trash." Through gritted teeth, he carried out the ancient commands of his demon-gods. Taking her far from her mother, her hut, and any hope, he dumped her on the jungle floor like her name implied and walked away.

Only days old, alone in a savage jungle, she should have died. The elements, the animals, the world was against her. But God wasn't. El Roi, the God who sees, saw Koopai. And what He saw was beautiful.

By a miracle, a kind woman discovered the dying infant. She and her husband nursed her to health. Nearby, Christian doctors and nurses tended to Koopai's needs, and shared with her the truth of Christ's love. Though later her adoptive parents died, she had found a forever family in the body

of Christ. She learned to see herself as God did—His precious treasure. No longer was she Koopai. Now she was "Sahayammal"—the helper. Her

new name defined her life's mission: to help others like her find the treasure of Jesus.





ABOVE: Well-wishers filled the pages of Miss Barnard's autograph book during her stateside ministry between terms in India.

வைக் கேட்டபொழுது அதிகமாய்ப் பங்கு,
9 மறபடியும் அரமுகிக்கும் போய், இயே
சுவை கோங்கி: கீ எங்கேயிருந்து வந்தவன்
என்றான். ¹அதற்கு இயேசு: மறுத்தார் ஒன்
10 தும் சொல்லவில்லை. அப்பொழுது பிலாத்து:
"கீ என்னோடே பேசுகிறதில்லையா? ²உன்
னைச் சிறுவனாய் அறைய எனக்கு அதிகார
முண்டென்றும், உன்னை விடுதலைபண்ண
எனக்கு அதிகாரமுண்டென்றும் உனக்குத்
11 தெரியாதா என்றான். இயேசு பிரதயுத்தா
மாக: பாதிலிருந்து உமக்குக் கொடுக்கப்
பாதிருந்தால், ³என்மேல் உமக்கு ஒரு அநி
காரமும்தாது; ⁴ஆதலையினாலே என்னை உம்
மிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தவனுக்கு அநிகராவ
12 முண்டு என்றான். அதுமுதல் பிலாத்து அவ
னை விடுதலைபண்ண வகைதேடினான். ஆதல
கன் அவனை கோங்கி: இவனை விடுதலைபண்
னினால் கீச் சாயனுக்குச் சிசேயிதனல்ல;
⁵தன்னை ராஜாவென்கிறவன் வெவ்வேறு அவன்
சாயனுக்கு விசேயி என்று சத்தமிட்டார்கள்.
13 பிலாத்து இந்த வார்த்தையைச் சிசேயி

1. 38, 13.
2. 27, 12.
3. 14, 30, 1.
4. 28

5. 3, 14.
6. 15

7. 30, 1.
8. 9, 22.
9. 53

10. 3, 14.
11. 14, 44

12. 23, 2.
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14. 29, 26.
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வை கோங்கி: ஆதலையினாலே என்னை
எழுதாமல், தான் ஆதலையினாலே என்னை
அவன் சொன்னதாக எழுதும் என்றார்கள்.
பிலாத்து பிரதயுத்தாமாக: நான் எழுதினது
எழுதினதே என்றான்.
போர்ச்சேவகர் இயேசுவைச் சிறுவனாய்
அழைத்தபின்பு, ¹அவருடைய உயிரிசைவனை
எடுத்தது, ஒவ்வொரு சேவகனுக்கு ஒவ்வொரு
பக்காக காது பகாக்கொடுத்தான்; அங்கிலையையும்
எடுத்தார்கள். ²அந்த அங்கி இசையல்லாமல்
மேலே தொடங்கி முழுதும் செய்யப்பட்ட
தாயிருந்தது. அவர்கள்: இதை நாம் சிபியை
14 மல், யாருக்கு வருமோ என்ற இதைக்குறித்
தல் சிபியைப்போலவாம் என்று ஒருவரோ
டொருவர் பேசிக்கொண்டார்கள். ³என் வன்
திரங்களைத் தங்களுக்குள்ளே பங்கிட்டு, என்
உடையின்மேல் சிபியைப்போலவாம் என்
திர வேதவாக்கியம் கிறையெழுத்தாகக்
போர்ச்சேவகர் இப்படிச் செய்தார்கள். இயே
சுவின் சிறுவனையினாலே அவருடையதாயும்,
⁴அவருடைய தாயின் சகோதரி கிரெயோப்
மரியாமலும், மகதலேனும் மரியாமலும் கீச்
கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது இயேசு
முடைய தாயையும் அருகே நின்று ⁵தமக்
அன்பாயிருந்த சேவகையும் கண்டு, தம்மு
ய தாயை கோங்கி: ⁶இந்தியே, அதோ,
மகன் என்றான். பின்பு அந்தச் சேவகை
17 கி: அதோ, உன் தாய் என்றான். ⁷அத்
முதல் அந்தச் சேவகை அவளைத் ⁸தன்னிட
வந்துக்கொண்டாள்.
கன்பின்பு, எல்லாம் முடிந்தது என்று ⁹28
சு அறிந்து, ¹⁰வேதவாக்கியம் கிறையெ
ழுத்தாக: தாகயா யிருக்கிறேன் என்றான்.
கிறைந்த பாதிரிசம் அக்கே வைக்கப்பட்ட
19 து; அவர்கள் கடற்காணானைக்காடியிலே
து, ஈசோப்புத்தன்மில் மாட்டி, அவர்
20 னிடத்தில் நீட்டிக் கொடுத்தார்கள்.
அக்கே காடியை வாக்கினபின்பு, ²¹முடிந்தது
21 என்று சொல்லி, தலையைச் சாய்த்து, ²²ஆவி
யை ஒப்புகொடுத்தார்.
அந்தநான் ²³பெரிய ஒய்யானுக்கு ஆயத்த
31 காணா யிருத்தபடியினால், உடல்கள் அந்த ஒய்
யுகாவல்லே சிறுவனையில் இராத்தபடிக்கு, ஆதற்
கன் பிலாத்துவினிடத்தில் போய், அவர்களு
டைய காலெலும்புகளை முறிக்கும்படிக்கும்,
உடல்களை எடுத்துப்போடும்படிக்கும் உத்தரவு
கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்கள். அந்தப்படி போர்ச்
32 சேவகர் வந்து, அவருடனேஉடல் சிறுவன
யில் அழைக்கப்பட்ட முத்தினவனுடைய கால
லெலும்புகளையும் மற்றவனுடைய காலெலும்
புகளையும் முறித்தார்கள். அவர்கள் இயேசுவை
33 னிடத்தில் வந்து, அவர் மரித்திருக்கிறதைத்
கண்டு, அவருடைய காலெலும்புகளை முறித்
கயில்லை. ஆகிலும் போர்ச்சேவகரின் ஒருவன்
34 ஈட்டியினாலே அவருடைய விலாவின் குத்தி
து; ³⁵உடனே இரத்தமும் தண்ணீரும் புறப்
பட்டது. அதைச்சண்டவன் சாட்சிக்கொடுக்க
35

Bible Conference
May 15, 1951
Dear Miss Barnard,
I enjoyed reading about you before
I met you and now I enjoy hearing
you talk as you have done in this Bible
Conference.
May the Lord bless you abun-
dantly as you return to India.
Brethren a prayer for me sometime.
Your Sister in Christ
Mrs. George M. Lavin
P.O. Box 157, Herman, Calif.

BOTTOM: Indian musicians pose for the camera with their native instruments.



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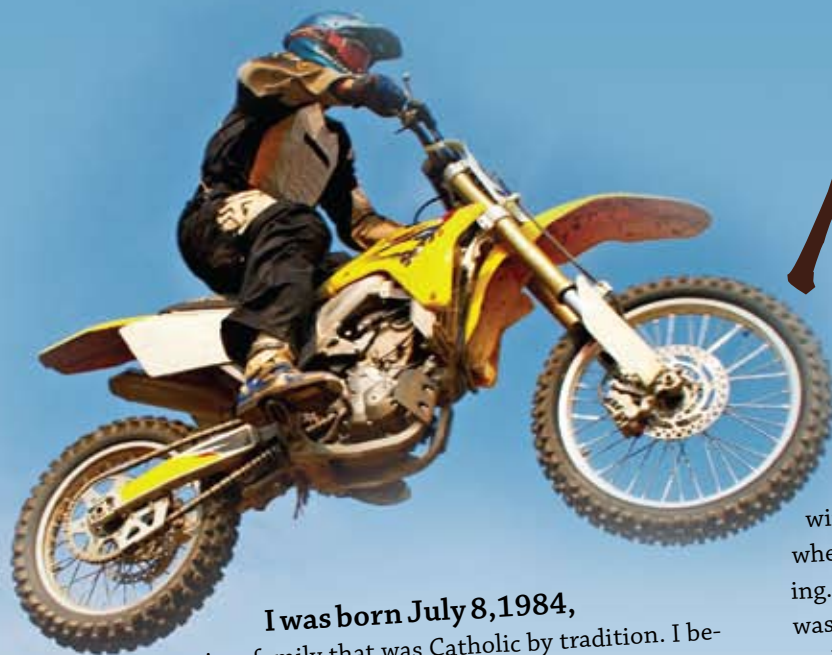


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MAX

A New Chapter Begins

Translated by Dennis Teague

I was born July 8, 1984,

in a family that was Catholic by tradition. I became a Christian August 31, 2008. Between the two dates, I got lost somewhere and never could find the way to the house of God.

I refused God very young, and as a result I felt very alone early in life. I satisfied myself in childhood dreams until I reached the age to go into junior high school where I discovered a cruel, brutal, and mean world I had never seen before. I failed the sixth grade because of a teacher that terrorized me.

My parents decided to send me to another school where I stayed during the week, returning home only on the weekends. While at this school, my life changed forever. The first day, a student (who later became my friend) punched me hard. It was only the beginning of a long year when I became a punching bag for my classmates. Needless to say, I hated them. I also hated my parents for sending me there, but I especially hated God and anything associated with Him. Where was He? Had He ever done anything for me?

When I returned to school for the second year, I decided that things were going to change. If I needed to, I could also become mean and bad. So that is what I did. When I reached high school, I thought things would change, but I encountered some of my former classmates and, of course, they had not forgotten how to treat me. I dreamed of seeing them all burn. At that time I hated the whole world. This hate, this rage, this anger slowly consumed me. I became violent and aggressive. At age 16, I began to drink and do other stupid things.

I thought I had found a way of life that completely satisfied me. I got involved in motorcycle racing, and that calmed me down some. But even though my anger was somewhat calmed by this activity, I always felt alone,

without hope. I could not forget the past. Years followed where I slept badly, with nightmares every night. Drinking. Fighting. Raging. Anger. Hate. I wanted to die. This was my life.

Just when I thought I had found my miserable way of life, God brought Joel into my life through a common friend named Cyprian. Joel talked to me about God, about Jesus. My first reaction was to deny His existence. But a deep discussion one night made me rethink. The events in my life seemed to fit together too well for it all to be just an accident. Even the difficulties I had endured began to make sense. I started attending church fairly regularly for about a year. I began to believe in God, but I only used Him when I needed Him. I thought I had overcome all of my demons. I was really egotistical and very proud. But my demons caught up with me. The rage and anger were not gone, and I still carried this burden with me. I became completely lost.

Tony Anthony once wrote: "There are, in my soul, dark spots where I have no desire to enter, and I certainly do not want to give anyone the right to enter." That was exactly what I felt. I did not want to give anyone access to the dark areas of my heart and my spirit—even God. It was hopeless to think that I could.

Using the world of the motorcycle racing, I arranged for myself a little, idealistic world that did not take long to crumble. I had failed and felt that I would never be able to get back up. I had reason to believe that I could not do it by myself.

On Sunday morning, August 31, 2008, I crawled out of bed to go to the church service of JCrois at the church at Nantes. I sat in a chair, but I didn't know what I was doing there. I really felt bad. I felt that I had nothing in common with the people around me. I couldn't stand them. I had a desire to strike out at them just like in the past. I wanted to destroy something beautiful. I detested myself.

And then the preacher of the day, Raphaël Anzenberger, began his sermon. He told us to stop writing the first chapter of our lives—a chapter full of failures—to let God take the pen and write the second chapter of our lives. I felt a great sadness. My burden was crushing me completely, and I felt I had no strength left to carry it. I was going to simply fall in my chair and cry when suddenly I felt the need to respond to the call of Raphaël. He asked all those who wanted to give the pen to God to get up and come pray with someone. I struggled, but the urge became more and more strong.

Finally, I went to the front to see Dennis Teague. I was petrified and did not understand what was happening. I felt like someone was carrying me. I could not think. Dennis asked me to get on my knees and pray with him. I repeated the prayer, completely out of breath. I asked Jesus to save me, and I gave Him my life.

It is written in the Bible: "If the Son sets you free, you are really free." I got up really free! Since then, life does not

have the same flavor, the same meaning. What was eating me up yesterday, today no longer exists. Even so, I am not more worthy of the love of the Lord. I am not stronger, nor better; but I know that every day God loves me and helps me.

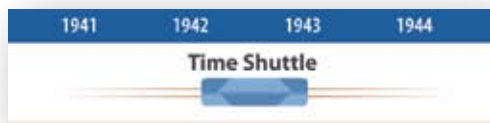
I sense His presence so much more than before, and it is marvelous to sense the peace of the Lord in my heart. I know I must stay on my guard and be constant in my prayers, because I am a weak man and I can fall. It is God who gives me the strength to move forward every day, and what I want the most in the world is to respect His will and to follow the way he has designed for me.

I am Maxime. I am 24 years old, and on August 31, 2008, I was born...again **ONE**.

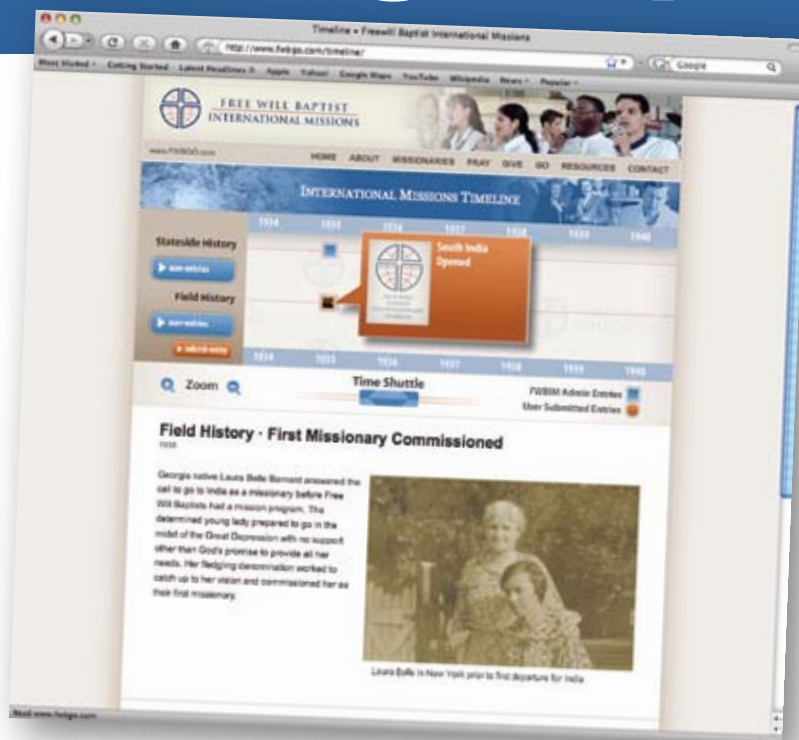
ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR: Dennis Teague has been a missionary to France since 1974. Currently, he is serving in the church at Nantes. Translated September 17, 2008.

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Photo: Mark Cowart

DR. GARNETT REID

is a member of the Bible faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Whatever Became of Honor?

In Malachi 1:6 the Lord inquires, “A son honors his father If then I am a father, where is my honor?” We might well ask today, where is honor at all? Even the term “honor” is rare in our pop culture vocabularies. We hear it when a defendant addresses the judge in court:

“How do you plead?”

“Not guilty, your honor.”

We hear that kind of thing a lot, it seems. The promise to “love, honor, and cherish” still finds its way into some marriage vows. Merchants “honor” coupons. Boy Scouts still take the Scout oath: “On my honor I will do my duty” We laud war heroes with the highest decoration: the Congressional Medal of Honor. Maximus greeted his men in *Gladiator*, “Strength and honor.”

But by and large, “honor” is one of those concepts that seemed to “fade away” with old soldiers, crew cuts, and the end of the All-American 1950s era.

Honorable Achievements?

In his book *Honor: A History*, James Bowman comments:

What is honor? The problem in the present Western world is that no one seems to know (We are witnessing) a virtual disappearance of the word from the vocabularies of English and other European languages.

Yet however far we have strayed from the notion of honor, we can’t escape it altogether. Like justice, virtue, and integrity, honor is one of those core principles of truth we can’t escape because they’re built into us. Our Designer who fashioned us in His own image gave us a sense of moral awareness. We are hardwired for honor!

Honor implies a standard, a fixed measure against which our thinking, our conduct, and our achievement can be measured. When we deny that standard, anything goes; no one is right or wrong, and no basis exists for labeling something honorable or dishonorable. Honor becomes irrelevant except as popular opinion decrees it. It’s whatever is cool, whatever feels good, whatever sells.

No Shame

The opposite of honor is shame, and there is no shame anymore—unless, of course, you believe that there is such a thing as an absolute standard of right and wrong. Then culture tells you that you ought to be ashamed because you’re intolerant and

hateful! When we reject a transcendent standard outside of self, external to us and our human nature—God’s standard—then whatever society values is all that’s important. Whatever the majority honors becomes honorable. No wonder the ancient Greeks lamented, “What is left when honor is lost?”

Honor to Whom Honor

What a contrast with the biblical view of honor. The word translated “honor” in the Old Testament refers to that which is weighty or significant, that which has importance and worth. The Greek word for “honor” denotes merited recognition; it is “giving credit where credit is due.”

Listen to Scripture when it identifies appropriate channels for honor:

Honor the Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:23).

Honor each other (Romans 12:10).

Honor the wisdom of those who have lived long (1 Timothy 5:17).

Honor those with authority over you (Exodus 20:12; 1 Peter 2:17).

Honor your body by controlling it (1 Thessalonians 4:4).

Honor your mind by pursuing wisdom (Proverbs 3:35; 4:7-8).

Honor marriage (Hebrews 13:4).

Honor righteous living (Proverbs 21:21).

These are not eight separate categories, but one—a single whole which flows out of the preeminent commitment to honor that supersedes all others: Honor God. “Those who honor me I will honor,” the Lord says in 1 Samuel 2:30.

Mrs. Crutchfield’s Challenge

The American writer Walker Percy speaks of students he knew “who got all A’s but flunked life.” When I saw that statement recently, I recalled that I had heard it before. It came many years ago from my eighth grade English teacher, Mrs. H. Lenore Crutchfield.

She was an elegant, refined, African-American lady who took me on as a special project (and boy, did I need it!). She challenged me, motivated me, pushed and prodded me to be more than average. “You must do your best,” she insisted. “It’s a matter of honor.”

And so it is. It’s a matter of His honor. **ONE**

NEWS at FWBBC



Simpson, Webb to Address FWBBC Graduates

NASHVILLE, TN—Two outstanding Free Will Baptist ministers, Barry Simpson (Tennessee) and Harold Webb (North Carolina), are scheduled to challenge the 2009 Free Will Baptist Bible College graduating class in May.

Reverend Barry Simpson, director of development with the Free Will Baptist International Missions Department since 2007, will address the graduates during 10:00 a.m. commencement exercises Friday, May 8. Simpson's wife Jena, an FWBBC alumnus, serves as the college's Life-time Learning/T.E. Associate.

North Carolina pastor Harold Webb (Liberty Free Will Baptist Church, Marion) will bring the baccalaureate message Thursday evening, May 7, at 7:00 p.m.

President Matt Pinson said, "Commencement week is an important occasion for the entire college family, and especially for graduating seniors. This special time always brings us face-to-face with our mission as a college—to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through Biblical thought and life. We hope you will join us as we celebrate with our 2009 graduating class."



Kansas native Barry Simpson served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps before enrolling at FWBBC and graduating in 1986 with a bachelor's degree. He did graduate studies at Reformed Theological Seminary. Simpson served 22 years on the New Hope Free Will Baptist Church staff in Joelton, Tennessee, 16 years as senior pastor. His denominational experience includes a term as vice president of the Free Will Baptist Foundation Board, eight years on the board of Pleasant View Christian School, four years on the FWB Family Ministries Board (Greeneville,

TN), 15 years with Cumberland Camp Board, and 17 years as treasurer of Cumberland Association's Northern Quarterly.

Harold Webb completed a bachelor's degree at FWBBC in 1989. He was called to preach at age 30 and arrived on campus in 1984 with his wife Linda and two children. Five years later, he graduated with a B.A. degree in Pastoral Training. He served three years (1989-1992) at Central Free Will Baptist Church (Michigan) as a pastoral apprentice with Dr. Milton Worthington. His signature work began in 1992 when he accepted a pastoral call to Liberty Free Will Baptist Church where he continues to lead the congregation. Reverend Webb is active in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Association and served two terms as moderator. ■

Mike Phillips Accepts Tennessee Tech Position

Dr. Mike Phillips, exercise science program director and athletic director at Free Will Baptist Bible College, has accepted a position with Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville) to head up a new graduate program in Sport Management. He began his new duties in January.

Provost Greg Kettelman said, "We wish Mike well in his new role, and we will miss his influence on campus. He has been a vital part of the faculty and FWBBC family since 2002, and has been an example as a Christian gentleman and a professional in his field. We learned to trust and depend on him."

Phillips completed a Ph.D. program in October 2007 at Middle Tennessee State University. His degree in Health and Human Performance included concentrations in Physical Education and Sport Management. Before joining the FWBBC faculty, he served as adjunct faculty member at Roane State University and Tennessee Tech.

Dr. Phillips said, "FWBBC has been my home for six years, and I consider the faculty, staff, administration, and students my family. It's hard to leave FWBBC, but I feel that God is moving me in this direction." ■

NEWS at FWBBC



Martha Fletcher Named Executive Assistant to FWBBC President

Mrs. Martha Fletcher, a 1978 FWBBC graduate, has been named executive assistant to the president and began her new duties January 2, 2009. She succeeds Melissa Lewis who resigned in the spring of 2008.

President Pinson said, "Initially, Mrs. Fletcher will serve a dual role, as executive assistant to the president and relocation assistant. In addition to working closely with the President's Office, she will assist Bob Bass (relocation project consultant) and FWBBC fundraisers Melvin Worthington and Bill Evans as they interact with donors."

For the past nine years, Mrs. Fletcher has worked as front desk coordinator at Nashville Vision Associates, serving as liaison between patients, doctors, insurance groups, and more. This will be her second employment at FWBBC, having served as women's dormitory supervisor 1975-1978.

A member of Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville for 34 years, Martha has served in numerous capacities, including chairman of the church's Christian Education Board. Her brother, John Carter, chairs the General Education Department at FWBBC.

Mrs. Fletcher said, "I love Free Will Baptist Bible College. I look forward to helping the school transition to a new campus through fundraising efforts, special events, and whatever else needs to be done to make the dream of a new campus a reality."

The mother of three grown children (Bethany, Mary Beth, and Nathan), Martha enjoys mowing her four-acre yard, sewing, and cooking. She likes lighthouses and collects tea cups. ■



Peggy Jo McElhinney Dies

Miss Peggy Jo McElhinney, long-time business employee at Free Will Baptist Bible College, died December 4, 2008, after a brief illness. She was 69. She began working at FWBBC in January 1959 as a 19-year-old bookkeeper, was promoted to bursar in 1968, and to assistant treasurer in 1986, a position she held until her retirement June 30, 2004. After retirement, she continued serving the college as a volunteer.

Tom Sass, vice president for financial affairs said, "Peggy Jo will be sorely missed. She was a 'walking encyclopedia' of knowledge when school-related questions arose.

"Always an efficient and hard-working individual, she was self-sacrificing in her ministry at FWBBC. What an impact she made—from accurately accounting for millions of dollars to making coffee for the staff or 'un-jamming' the office copier. Best of all, Je-

sus Christ was first in her life."

A Missouri native, Peggy Jo served four FWBBC presidents—L.C. Johnson, Charles Thigpen, Tom Malone, and current president Matt Pinson. Before coming to FWBBC, she studied business at Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (now Truman State University) on scholarship and worked at the F.W. Woolworth Company.

Her ministry stretched beyond the walls of FWBBC. She served for many years as Sunday School secretary at East Nashville Free Will Baptist Church. She also served as treasurer of the Nashville chapter of Christian Business Women. ■



Is Your Church IRS COMPLIANT?

By D. Ray Lewis

THE RETIREMENT PLAN YOUR CHURCH/AGENCY provides its ministers and staff is a valuable benefit to them, and to the employer seeking to retain talented, energetic staff. Last year the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued new regulations that provide the most significant changes for 403(b) retirement plans in over 40 years.

These Regulations went into effect on January 1, 2009, and affect every church, Christian school/college, and state/national agency that sends money to any 403(b) retirement plan for its employees.

In the past, the role of the employer has mostly been limited to sending contributions to an account set up by an employee. Under the new regulations the employer must take a more active role in monitoring 403(b) arrangements to ensure that the retirement plan is in compliance with the new regulations. Failure to provide prop-

er oversight, as prescribed, puts the employees' funds at risk of immediate taxation.

Areas where the employer may have added responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- *Monitoring annual contribution limits for all plans.*
- *Monitoring distributions, including loans, hardship withdrawals, and required minimum distributions for each 403(b) plan.*
- *Ensuring timely remittance of contributions to vendors.*

The Board of Retirement will provide support for those adopting the Free Will Baptist Plan. If you offer other plans or programs, you must work with the other vendors to bring them into compliance with the new regulations.

The new regulations are not difficult to implement if the church's retirement plan is solely with the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement. In fact, to become fully compliant, many employers will need to invest less than an hour. Below are some of the regulations that impact the church.

Written Plan Document Requirement

Churches/employers that send contributions to more than one 403(b) plan for its employees must maintain a written plan document that describes all material plan provisions.

The Board of Retirement provides general plan documentation for the Free Will Baptist Plan. However, since each church in this plan has flexibility related to certain plan provisions, the church must complete and retain a copy of an *Eligibility and Participation Schedule* (available at <http://www.boardofretirement.org>) that includes rules and procedures addressing:

- *What income sources will be considered as compensation?*
- *Which employees are eligible to participate in the retirement plan?*
- *What contributions will the employer/church make on behalf of employees?*

Information Sharing Requirement

Participants, employers and plan providers have more steps to complete if the employer makes contributions to more than one investment provider or allows plan participants to move money from one 403(b) investment

provider to another while in-service. There are new requirements for sharing information:

- *If you allow contributions to be made to multiple investment providers, you may need to share information with the providers.*
- *If you allow participants to move their accounts from one investment provider to another, you may need a written Information Sharing Agreement.*
- *If you have multiple investment providers, you will need to identify and list all investment providers approved for ongoing contributions and those approved for contract exchanges only.*

The Board of Retirement makes compliance easy!

If an employer makes contributions to the Board of Retirement as the sole provider and does not permit participants to move money to other investment providers, an Information Sharing Agreement between investment providers will not be needed. The employees can still move money from other retirement plans or IRAs tax-free through a direct rollover.

The Board of Retirement has been dedicated to enhancing the financial security of our plan participants for almost 40 years. Our employees stand ready to help you. Please email us at BoardofRetirement@nafwb.org or call (877) 767-7RET (877-767-7738) for additional information. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: D. Ray Lewis has been the director of the Board of Retirement since 2005. He and his wife Ida live in Antioch, TN.



DANNY'S WAY

How many roads must a man walk down
Before you call him a man?

In 1939 at Race Pond, Georgia, on the eastern edge of the Okefenokee Swamp, a man could find just one wide road to walk down—U.S. 23 that led north to Waycross and Atlanta or south to Jacksonville and the barrier islands lying up against the relentless Atlantic.

For a small boy, most roads were just paths whirling with gnats, mosquitoes, and the smell of fresh-cut lumber. Danny lived on the fabled “Trembling Earth” of Seminole lore, the swamp with man-eating alligators and insect-eating plants where earth, air, fire, and black water reformed a boy’s inner landscape, but offered no way out.

The tent-church was humid, swelled with sweating bodies and swirls of sawdust stirred by comings and goings. Six-year-old Danny sat on the front row, watching, because he had never been to church before. A neighbor had promised him Mike and Ike gingerbread men and lemonade if he would come that day. Across the aisle, a nursing baby lay on his mother’s arm. Danny was there to collect on his bargain.

The preacher’s deep voice bellowed a challenge, and the congregation rumbled “amens.” The mother laid her baby down, rose suddenly, gyrated with joy and shouted “Glooorry!” Danny sprang up, bolted down the sawdust aisle, out of the tent, and all the way home. It was six years before he went to church again.

Young Danny Dinkins’ father was a woods foreman for a timber company in Okefenokee. “Every few weeks, we would travel the 20 miles to Waycross. Daddy gave each of us a quarter. My older brother would buy a book. My next brother would get candles or matches to make a fire. I always bought candy.” After his family was permanently out of the sawmill camp, Danny did return to church and was saved in a Methodist service.

But in many ways Danny was still a floating island of peat trembling on dark acidic water. “My parents were away from the Lord—and me, too, in my teen years,” Danny says. “At 14, I lied about my age to get a job clearing land for buried cable for AT&T. The boss knew I wasn’t 16, but he told me he would give me 65 cents an hour if I’d be there at 6:00 the next morning with gloves, an axe, and a file.”

OUT

BY BRENDA EVANS

Danny also looked down the wrong road for a pattern to follow. “There was a motto over the door to my junior high: We become like those whom we constantly admire. A new photographer came to town and put up pictures of a WWII vet leaning back in a chair with a cigarette in his hand, smoke circling above his head. I thought he looked handsome and cool, so I went out and bought cigarettes and ended up smoking for 20 years.”

“But I learned something from whatever I did, especially if it was a failure. When I finished high school in 1950, I went to work for a sawmill. Officially I was bookkeeper. Actually I kept the time sheet, commissary, and pulled lumber off the conveyor chain. My boss was a hard taskmaster, but he trusted me, and eventually let me use his ’50 green Plymouth to court Faye.”

“Every week he’d give me a check to deposit at the bank to cover payroll. One time I stuck the check in the glove compartment, went to get Faye, and forgot all about it. That caught up with me, of course.”

For Danny, the way up and the way down have sometimes been the same. By 1976, after 25 years of marriage to Faye, Danny was prospering financially but missing some-

thing. Finding it took him down a road that led back to the Lord. “Faye had never left church, so I started with her at a Methodist Church. About 10 years later we began attending Philadelphia FWB Church and really began to grow in the Lord.”

With a grin, Danny says that in 1982, the “need-more” urge caught up with him again. “I had learned that all a man can do working with his hands is feed himself. So I decided to buy something and sell something to make a profit. I studied and got my realtor’s license. The first house I listed sold within a week.” In the years that followed, Danny and Faye developed a flourishing real estate business and also bought homes, fixed them up to rent or sell.

When you walk into Danny and Faye’s office on West Main Street in Folkston, Georgia, you see that they have found the right road out. It’s an odd mixture of what Danny calls fist-and-skull furniture—old hardwoods with a grain, luster, and sturdiness that outlive people—and new pieces like the backgammon table made by a friend with half a dozen kinds of wood.

A 1915 Grafonola plays their collection of 78 RPM Deca, Mercury, and Columbia records. Along the walls and

For Danny and Faye the way out of the black-water swamp starts with an irrevocable commitment to the Lord and a strong marriage.

on desks are pictures and scriptural passages that speak of faith, hope, and community. Hot coffee is always in the pot, and in winter there is homemade fruitcake.

For Danny and Faye the way out of the black-water swamp starts with an irrevocable commitment to the Lord and a strong marriage. Keeping a balance of marriage, family, church, and business includes time for relaxation and wise money decisions.

Right now, Danny enjoys his motorcycles. Over the years they have bought horses, boats, an airplane, and golfed for relaxation, but the best is motorcycles, he says. "If you have only 15 minutes you can straddle that thing and enjoy that 15 minutes. Plus you don't have to fence it, feed it, tow it to a river, look for it in the woods, or tie it down in a hangar. It's perfect."

Regarding money, Danny says, "Don't put dollar signs on everything. A few years ago the Lord laid it on me to divest

and we sold off a lot of property. That gave us time to take care of each other." The Dinkins also transferred cash and property into a charitable trust at FWB Foundation with a goal of providing income for their lives and supporting the Lord's work after they are gone.

For Danny and Faye it is not how many roads you walk down but whether you find the right one. On the back side of Danny's business card is a prayer: Lord, I am convinced there is nothing that can happen to me this day that You and I cannot handle together. No question. He has found the way out. **ONE**

About the Writer: Brenda Evans lives in Catlettsburg, KY, with her husband Bill. To learn more about the planned giving options offered by the FWB Foundation, visit www.FWBGifts.org.

NOMINATE YOUR TEACHER

for **CLEAR Teacher**
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Does your teacher use CLEAR curriculum?

Does your teacher capture your interest and relate to you on your level?

Does your teacher intentionally work to become a better teacher by attending workshops, TEAM Church, the D6 Conference, etc.?

Does your teacher go outside the classroom to help students grow in spiritual maturity and Christian service?

The **CLEAR Teacher of the Year** will receive 3 days, 2 nights stay at the 2009 national convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. This prize includes food, lodging, a transportation allotment to the convention, a \$200 decorating allowance for his or her classroom, and a \$100 gift card to Randall House.

Randall House sponsors this award annually. *To nominate your teacher, visit clearcurriculum.com/teacher and complete the online form, or call (800) 877-7030 for more information.*

BROWN

on green

BY DAVID BROWN

Staying Balanced in a See-Saw Market

THE MARKET GOES UP. THE MARKET GOES DOWN. Lately it has all been down, but it is difficult to make decisions about the stock market either way. When it goes down, should I sell or buy more? When stocks go up, should I sell and take my profits, or should I hang on to see if it goes higher? Most people don't invest in individual stocks but wisely choose a diversified portfolio in a mutual fund or a family of funds. Even in these situations, decisions about investing are trying.

Two opposite philosophies have emerged in this arena. One group believes you should buy and hold. When the market is rough you just ride it out, agonizing through losses, celebrating when it rises. The other philosophy is called market timing. The idea is to exit the market before it hits bottom and to buy when it starts to rally. In theory, the investor avoids much of his loss and will enjoy substantial gains when the market rally begins.

While the market timing method works in theory, in practice it does not work well for most of us. The reason is that timing the market means investing a lot of time studying the market to determine the exact best time to sell or buy. Since most of us do not study the market daily, it is likely we could

miss on both ends which results in poorer performance than the buy and hold method.

The stock market moves in cycles, both in a downward market and an upward direction. However the biggest gains in an up market cycle tend to occur early in the cycle, and the biggest losses tend to be in the early stages of the downward cycle.

Therefore, missing on either end can be disastrous for a market timer. The investor who buys and holds may see values decline dramatically but will also see a huge surge when the market turns. Unless you have the time to closely follow the market, you should buy and hold but hang on because sometimes the ride can be wild. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: David Brown became the director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation in 2007. Send your questions to David at david@nafwb.org. To learn how the Foundation can help you become a more effective giver, call 877-336-7575.



To learn more about the
Free Will Baptist Foundation,
visit www.FWBGifts.org.

★ LEADER profile

Leadership comes in all forms and sizes, but the results are always the same. Leaders influence behavior and make a difference in other people's lives. Profiling leaders shows a variety and diverse combination of traits and characteristics, but impacting lives is always a common theme.



Jeff Jones

What do you get when you cross leadership with tenacity? Jeff Jones. Jeff pastors Hilltop Free Will Baptist Church in Fuquay-Varina just outside of Raleigh, NC. Jeff came to this church right out of college and worked as the youth pastor and assistant pastor under Rev. Billy Bevan for seven years.

His tenure as pastor started in 1996, and since that year the church has grown from averaging 268 to 766 in 2008. Hilltop just completed a major building project, opening a new auditorium that will seat 1,000 people, and a phase II multi-purpose building. While these are impressive achievements, Jeff will tell you that seeing 156 people become followers of Christ in first time decisions last year is what his heart beats for.

Such accomplishments are not without struggles. Early last year, Jeff was in a motorcycle crash that broke his back, four bones in his right arm, and rendered his left arm completely powerless. His wife Rose became his arms when he could not feed himself, dress himself, or even hug her in return. The couple grew up together in the same church and have been married for 24 years.

Jeff believes strongly in Christian education, and it is no surprise that Hilltop operates a Christian school. He paid his own way through high school at a Christian school. Jeff teaches homiletics at Southeastern Free Will Baptist College where his oldest daughter studies Christian education. Jeff is quick to point to some strong influencers in his life—growing up under Pastor Dann Patrick, feeling the call to ministry while Randy Sawyer was preaching in youth camp, answering the call to preach two years later while Van Dale Hudson was preaching in a conference, and the close friendship of Danny Dwyer, one of his professors.

★ About Jeff:

Quiet Time Routine: Prays while walking more than three miles and then sits down to read and dwell on one chapter a day, digging into study tools to better understand it.

Ideal date for you and your wife: Each week either a Wednesday lunch or Friday dinner at one of their favorite restaurants, Carabbas, Firebirds, or Outback.

Kids and a one-word description of each: (two girls) Stacie (19) focused; Leslie (14) live wire.

Favorite books:

1. *Changed Into His Image* by Jim Berg (most challenging book)
2. *Pastoral Guide to Sermon Preparation* by Jerry Vines (best help in preaching)
3. *Point Man* by Steve Farrar (great challenge on Christian manhood)
4. *Dr. C: The Vision and Ministry of W. A. Criswell* by Robert A. Rohm (favorite biography)
5. *Job, A Man of Heroic Endurance* by Charles Swindoll (read before my accident)

Biggest Failure: Not completing his masters from Bob Jones (with only 22 hours left)

One Indulgence: Chocolate Thunder From Down Under (Outback Dessert)

Jeff, like Job, has stood through some enduring tests, and the people around him are better for it. He pours his heart into young preachers, teaching them by example the strength of solid expository preaching. Jeff has good friendships beyond the close circle of friends in which he moves. While talking with Jeff during his interview, he bragged on his church and deflected the spotlight from himself. He loves his wife and girls. **Jeff Jones you are a great leader!**

2009 NYC Teen Service Speakers

SS Teacher - Randy Rains, youth pastor; Farmington, MO
 Sunday AM - Tommy Swindol, youth pastor; Flat Rock, MI
 Sunday PM - Jason Taylor, missionary; Yuma, AZ
 Monday PM - Allen Pointer, youth pastor; Russellville, AR
 Tuesday PM - Ken Ham, president, Answers in Genesis/Creation Museum

2009 NYC Worship Coordinators

Katie Greenwood - Preschool Worship Coordinator
 Johnny Miller - Children's Worship Coordinator
 Steve Greenwood - 456 Worship Coordinator
 Jacob Riggs - Teen Worship Coordinator



Special NYC Offer

The Creation Museum is offering a discount rate for NYC attendees during the National Youth Conference. A special coupon will be available at the NYC for attendees to take to the Creation Museum to purchase the discount tickets.

Adults (13-59): \$13.95
 Seniors (60+): \$10.95
 Children (5-12): \$7.95

**CREATION
MUSEUM**
 Prepare to believe.



NYC attendees are encouraged to visit this museum. Saturday or Sunday afternoon will be a great time to add this special attraction to the NYC experience. Thursday morning on the way home is another option. A quick walk through the museum exhibits will take a couple of hours. Plan half of a day or more to fully experience everything it offers. Visit www.creationmuseum.org for more information. Through a special arrangement with the Creation Museum, discount tickets to King's Island can be purchased online at www.visitkingsisland.com/creationmuseum.

How Can I Know?

How to discern the will of God is a big question for teens. This year at the NYC, the Global Purpose Seekers (GPS) sessions will train teens to make wise decisions by consulting five satellites:

- Scripture—The Bible is our source of divine wisdom and revelation.
- Prayer—Communication with God is a two-way channel.
- Conscience—The leading of the Holy Spirit convicts, convinces, and guides.
- Godly mentors—Seeking wise counsel for advice and confirmation.
- Experiences—God has equipped, directed, and gifted each person uniquely.



Each satellite will be presented through seminars and activities at the National Youth Conference. Students will also be able to participate in a simulated cross-cultural experience by visiting a mock international marketplace bazaar. The capstone event will be a concert of prayer on Tuesday evening led by Neil Gilliland.

Students who attend all five satellite sessions will receive special recognition during the NYC Awards Ceremony.

Ragged A

By JANICE DONOHO

HE SAT ALONE AT HIS DESK QUIETLY

eating his sandwich. No one talked to him. He was tall, overweight, and pale-skinned with fiery red hair and wire-rimmed glasses. You could tell his clothes were not name brands, nor did he look like other teenage boys. After talking with him for a few moments, it was apparent something was different about Andy.

This difference caused him to be an outcast of sorts from his fellow students. My heart went out to my classmate as I watched him eat his lunch alone—surrounded by classmates yet ignored by everyone. My brother and I were new to the school, and we weren't sure exactly how to approach this strange boy.

My family and I had recently moved to the area to plant a church. When the youth leaders planned a youth outing to try to build up our youth group, my brother and I decided to invite our new classmates and



friends. On a whim, my brother invited Andy to join us. To everyone's surprise, he showed up for the evening of pizza, bowling, and ice cream.

That night we learned more about Andy. His parents had abandoned him as a baby, and he lived with his grandparents. They didn't go to church but sent him to Christian school so he would "stay out of trouble." Our hearts were saddened for this boy, and the youth group befriended him. Eventually, he began to come to church on a regular basis. He became deeply involved in our church family and found a place to belong.

Throughout the next year Andy blossomed into a confident, strong person who wanted to live for the Lord. Perhaps it wasn't his strong point, but Andy loved music and loved to sing before the church. When he sang, it was clear that he sang only to the Lord. God's presence moved among our congregation. It was evident that lives were touched and changed through my classmate's love for his Lord.

I learned early in my parent's ministry that my brother and I were home missionaries as well. We realized that we could reach people like Andy more easily than our parents. We made it our goal to invite our friends to church, and to share the gospel with them when possible.

It was an awesome sight to see them come to church, and sometimes their parents would come, too. Most exciting was when they gave their hearts to the Lord. It was a wonderful feeling to know we had a hand in building the Kingdom for Christ.

Now that I work in the Home Missions Department, I have a special place in my heart for missionary children. I understand what they go through. I understand what it's like to leave your home to move to a place where you don't know anyone. I also understand what an amazing opportunity these children have. They are missionaries too. The role they play is important, and they have a great responsibility to witness and win people to Christ. These children are the future leaders of our churches, our denomination, and our nation.

They need our support, encouragement, and prayer during these vital years. It can be difficult growing up in today's world. It isn't easy for kids to stand up for what is right and to be the example and shining light their peers need to see. Today's world is filled with pressures and temptations. Yet, with our prayer and encouragement, these children will be awesome warriors for Christ, playing an important role in leading others to the throne of grace. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: In the last few issues of *ONE Magazine*, the Home Missions Department has featured articles written by missionary kids across the nation. As a former HMK, Janice Donoho has a special place in her heart for this unique group of young people. She currently serves as secretary to Richard Atwood, director of missionary assistance. Learn more about the ministry of Free Will Baptist Home Missions at www.homemissions.net.

Andy

IT ISN'T EASY for kids to stand up for what is right and to be the example and shining light their peers need to see.

SOME GAVE ALL

By John C. Carey

ON OCTOBER 10, 2008, I had the honor of spending part of the day with 45 former soldiers and family members from the 82nd Engineer Combat Battalion, also known as the Blue Babe Battalion (after Paul Bunyon's fabled ox). While celebrating their annual reunion in Springfield, Missouri, this group of veterans visited Fort Leonard Wood, my duty station since January 2007. These gentlemen are great Americans who served their country through some turbulent times.

The Blue Babe Battalion was part of a mass mobilization of American Troops to Germany, ordered by President John F. Kennedy to protect Berlin and West Germany from a possible Soviet Invasion. The engineers remained in Germany after the crisis and later relocated to Warner Barracks in Bamberg, Germany.

The Battalion spent the last 40 years of its existence in Bamberg. The name was officially changed to the 82nd Engineer Battalion after 1977, and they continued to make history until 2006. I know this well, because I was the battalion's chaplain when its Flag/Colors were cased during an inactivation ceremony, March 2006.

On this day, however, I shared a memorable luncheon honoring the veterans at the post's Pershing Club. As I listened to discussions ranging from the presidential race to sports teams and athletes, I couldn't help but feel warmed by the friendship and camaraderie shared by this modern-day "Band of Brothers," a bond forged by hours of training and combat.



I asked God's blessings at the luncheon and again at a ceremony honoring the history of the 82nd Engineer Battalion at the Post's U.S. Army Museum. Colonel Robert Tip-ton, Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School, and CSM Robert Wells, the Engineer School's Regimental Command Sergeant-Major, attended the event and hosted the ceremony.

During the afternoon, I joined the veterans for a tour of the base, and for several hours I listened closely as the old comrades swapped "war stories."

My hours with these veterans gave me some great memories, but one moment shared with Roland Joiner stands apart. He pointed out the words emblazoned on a jacket another veteran was wearing. "All gave some; some gave all." Then he told me the story of his half-brother, Thomas Long, killed in action in Vietnam in 1967. Every soldier who loses a brother-in-arms will never forget that loss, even years later.

Those words "Some Gave All" were used in a song written in 1992 as a tribute to those men and women who have served and sacrificed for freedom. The lyrics include:

*I can't forget the look in his eyes,
or the tears he cried
As he said these words to me:
All gave some, and some gave all;
Some stood through for
the red, white, and blue
And some had to fall. And if you ever think of me,
Think of all your liberties and recall, some gave all.*

The brave American veterans with whom I spent a memorable October day know much about giving some, and they are well acquainted with the memories of those who gave all.

God has greatly blessed the United States, and I believe His hand is still on our nation. Even in days of economic uncertainty and war, we have much for which to be thankful. America has thrived for almost 233 years now and remains a "beacon of hope" around the world. A large part of this

is due to the efforts of men and women in today's Armed Forces who defend our liberties at home and abroad, often in harm's way. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines know well the meaning of the words "selfless service."

Servicemen and women understand order and sacrifice and the power of word and authority. Jesus Himself recognized a centurion, today's equivalent of a sergeant major or commander, for his faith (Matthew 8:5-10).

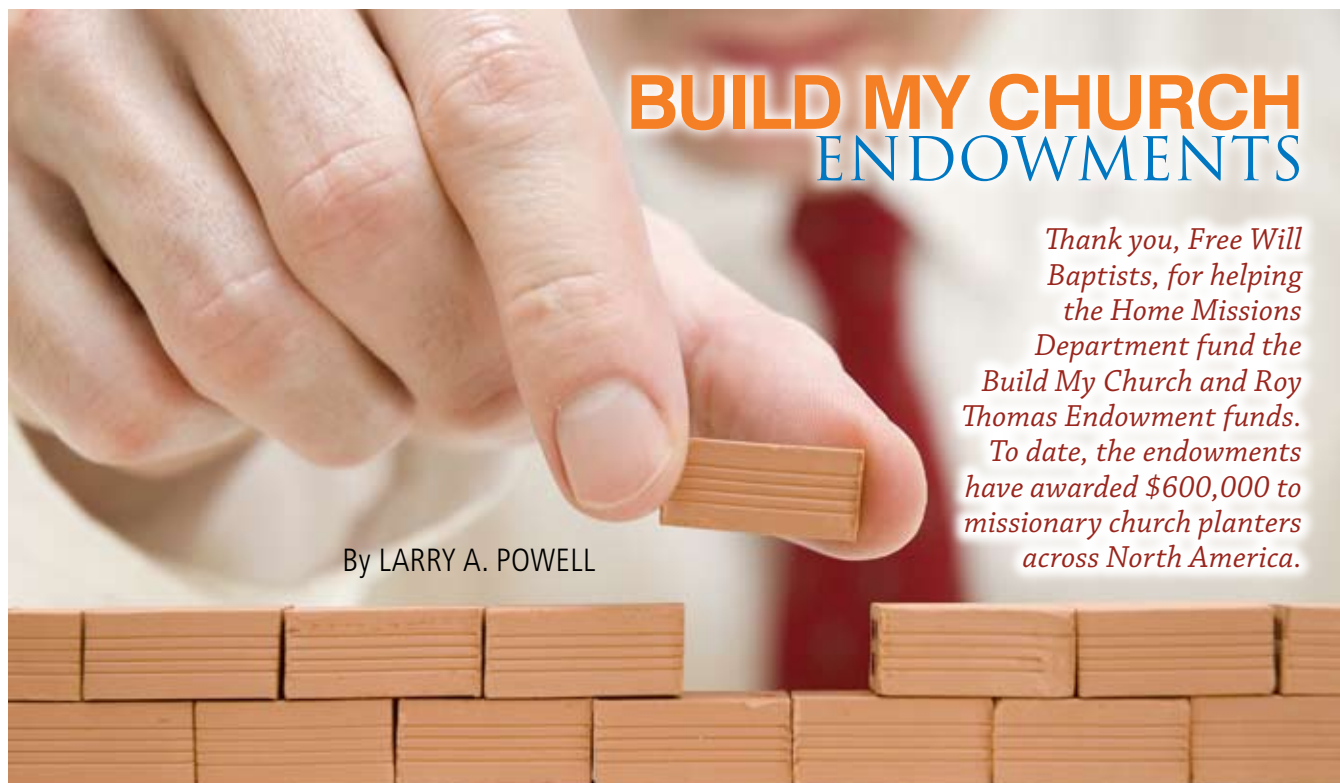
Yes, soldiers train, defend, and sacrifice for freedom and our way of life each and every day. It takes sacrifice to be a chaplain as well, as we share the pain of deployment. Still, it's an honor and a blessing to minister to soldiers and veterans. This is where God wants me.

Freedom is never free, as the saying goes, and brave Americans today, like those brave veterans from the 82nd Engineer Combat Battalion of the past, defend and pay the price for our freedom time and again.

Jesus understands sacrifice better than any one of us could imagine. Soldiers' sacrifices—past, present, and future—pale in comparison to what He did for us. A divine soldier in a battle against eternal darkness, Jesus chose to die for our sins so every man and woman could be saved and spend eternity with Him. He made the ultimate sacrifice. But when he rose again, He won the final battle against death, hell, and the grave. **ONE**



ABOUT THE WRITER: CH(cpt) John C. Carey is a chaplain representing Free Will Baptists in the U.S. Army, 2nd Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment. He is stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. To learn more about the ministry of Free Will Baptist chaplains, visit www.homemissions.net.



BUILD MY CHURCH ENDOWMENTS

Thank you, Free Will Baptists, for helping the Home Missions Department fund the Build My Church and Roy Thomas Endowment funds. To date, the endowments have awarded \$600,000 to missionary church planters across North America.

By LARRY A. POWELL

Two Million Dollars

Each million-dollar endowment is invested in the Church Extension Loan Fund, and the money is loaned to Free Will Baptist churches across the United States. Interest earned each year is awarded to two church planters who need to purchase facilities or complete a church building program. Your contributions have helped build 15 new Free Will Baptist churches. Eight are now self-supporting works.

The funds were also used to purchase property at the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota, where Free Will Baptists have established a ministry among the Ojibwe. The Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Seminary in Inman, South Carolina, has also

benefited from the endowments. The school was established to train Hispanic pastors stationed across America.

A New Endowment

The Home Missions Board recently established a third and final endowment to honor Carolyn and Richard Adams. Richard and Carolyn were a tremendous blessing to the work of Home Missions for many years. After a long battle with cancer, Carolyn went home to be with the Lord just over a year ago. Richard retired last year after serving 18 years as director of development for Home Missions. He spearheaded the establishment of these endowments that have been and will be a blessing to many.

Perpetual Benefits

The Adams endowment currently contains \$124,236. As it grows, it will continue to help home missionaries. Many have made a contribution already, and others have asked how to give. You may send a one-time gift or designate a monthly gift to Home Missions and the Adams Endowment.

Once again, the department wishes to thank those who so willingly contribute to the work of Home Missions in North America.

ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry Powell is general director of the Home Missions Department. Learn more about the ministry of the department at www.homemissions.net.

82 Attend Welcome Days

Eighty-two students and sponsors from 10 states gathered on the Free Will Baptist Bible College campus November 6-8, 2008, for Welcome Days, according to Jeff Caudill, director of enrollment services. The group included 67 high school students and 15 sponsors.

Mr. Caudill said, "Students came from as far west as Arizona, as far east as Virginia, as far north as Michigan, and as far south as Alabama. What made this Welcome Days so special was the extensive interaction between our guests and our students, especially on Thursday and Friday nights. They had plenty of unstructured time to share common interests and respond to questions. The students really connected with each other."

Twelve high school seniors were among the 67 who registered for the three-day event. The action-filled schedule included attending classes, a musical presentation by FWBBC ministry groups, and a reception hosted by President Matt Pinson—all topped off by a three-hour Fall Festival on the college's front lawn.

NEWS at FWBBC



Heath Hubbard, director of recruitment, said, "A number of students took the time to tell me how much they enjoyed the weekend, and that they are considering enrolling at FWBBC. The seniors had an opportunity to meet with faculty counselors and discuss enrollment at the college."

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- Those wishing to complete a degree
- Adult learners needing a flexible schedule

NEWS about the denomination



STUDENT BODY ANNOUNCES HANNA PROJECT FUNDRAISER

NASHVILLE, TN—The student body of Free Will Baptist Bible College is partnering with The Hanna Project to support the Morocco Water Project. Please plan to attend this first annual spaghetti supper and silent/live auction, Saturday, April 25, 2009, at the FWBBC Cafeteria. Dinner will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will be served until 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children under 12, with a maximum of \$24 per family.

The silent auction will be conducted between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and the live auction will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. If you wish to donate items or services for either auction, please contact Darin Coyle (615) 772-7878 or darinscfd@comcast.net. The students have set a goal to raise \$20,000 for this much-needed project in order to demonstrate Hanna's objective of bringing help, hope, and healing.

To learn more about The Hanna Project and the Morocco Water Project, visit www.hannaproject.com. ■



RIDGE CHURCH RENOVATION CONTINUES

New Durham, NH—Phase three of the Ridge Church renovation project will begin August 17-21, 2009, according to Project Coordinator Ken Akers. "We need a small army of volunteers to participate in this important phase of renovation. No special skills are needed. If you can lift a paint brush, you qualify!"

In phase three of the project, volunteers will turn their attention to the interior of the church building, patching the plaster and painting the walls.

During phases one and two, skilled laborers repaired the sagging roof structure, replacing joists and worn shingles, removed and replaced peeling paint, removed two deteriorating chimneys, reinforced the bell tower, and repaired drainage problems under the church.

The congregation, which began meeting in 1793, completed the current building in 1820, making it the oldest FWB church structure in existence.

Delegates to the 2007 national convention in Little Rock, AR, voted to help the New Durham congregation (which no longer meets in the Ridge Church) maintain the aging structure in light of its historical significance.

Volunteers who would like to participate in the project should contact Ken Akers at ken@nafwb.org, call (877) 767-8039, or visit www.fwbmastersmen.org. ■



MASTER'S MEN ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVES

ANTIOCH, TN—The Free Will Baptist Master's Men Department will launch new initiatives in 2009, according to Director Ken Akers. The first, a series of regional conferences for men, will be based on the recently announced theme, Count Me In (CMI).

"Each CMI Conference will take a direct approach to helping men develop spiritual depth and challenge them to mentor other men," said Nashville pastor Tim York, volunteer and coordinator for the conferences. "We want to help those who attend to influence the next generation of godly men." Dates for the regional events are forthcoming.

The Build-a-House program has been resurrected in 2009 after a ten-year hiatus. The fundraising initiative helps to underwrite general fund costs for the department through building and selling homes for a profit. The current Build-a-House project will be led by Illinois pastor Bryant Harris and Tom Harmon, a member of the Illinois Master's Men board. They will construct a three-bedroom, two-bath home on a beautiful wooded lot in Benton, IL.

Harris and Harmon need volunteers (both men and women) who will volunteer their professional talents to the project, with the goal of saving thousands in constructions costs. "The Build-a-House project may prove to be a most beneficial fundraising effort for the department," Ken Akers commented. "I am counting on Master's Men supporters to help make it a success."

Volunteers should contact Ken Akers at ken@nafwb.org, call (877) 767-8039, or visit www.fwbmastersmen.org for more information. ■

2009 YEARBOOK RELEASED

Antioch, TN —The 2009 *Free Will Baptist Yearbook* came off the press in February. The Yearbooks have been mailed to district association clerks for distribution of complimentary copies to local churches.

If you wish to purchase a copy for personal use, call Randall House Publications at 800-877-7030, or visit www.randallhouse.com. ■

CONVENTION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Antioch, TN—The annual Free Will Baptist Convention Intern Program offers a unique behind-the-scenes look at convention planning, logistics, and daily operations. This

hands-on program will give students valuable experience in the world of business operations.

Interns will join the convention staff during the 2009 convention in Cincinnati, OH. Participants will work in one or more of the following areas: registration, audio/visual, technical set-up, exhibition, ushering, media, or safety/security. The students will receive training before the convention, on-site training and guidance, and room and board. College credit is available for interns through a partnership with Free Will Baptist Bible College.

For more information, contact Convention Manager Ryan Lewis: ryan@nafwb.org or 877-767-7659. The deadline for application is May 1. ■

Destination... Cincinnati

In just a few short months, thousands of Free Will Baptists will converge on Cincinnati, Ohio—the city by the river—for the 73rd annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Convention organizers expect a great turnout. They have reserved more than 1,200 rooms in five hotels near the Duke Energy Convention Center.

About the City

Cincinnati, originally (and unpopularly) known as Losantiville, was first settled in 1789 and grew slowly until Fort Washington was erected. With the convenient protection of the fort and the city's convenient location along the banks of the Ohio River, Cincinnati grew rapidly, and the city soon became the county seat.

The city became a center for farming and meat processing. It also grew into a huge trading market. During the Civil War, Cincinnati served as a recruiting and organizing center for the U.S. military, helping its businesses to thrive and the city to grow even larger. It soon became the largest city in Ohio and the most densely-populated city in the United States.

Cincinnati Skyline

Today, Cincinnati is the third largest city in Ohio and continues to grow. It has been acknowledged for its many economic opportunities among the many

corporations that call it home. These include Proctor and Gamble, Kroger, Chiquita Brands, GE Aviation, Macy's, and Fifth-Third Bank among others.

Home to the Cincinnati Reds baseball team (a nod to the Cincinnati Redstockings, first professional team in baseball history), the city also cheers on the Bengals National Football League team and a variety of minor league teams.

The citizens of Cincinnati are well-known for their ingenuity. Their city was the home of the first municipal fire department (1853), the first air mail system (by hot-air balloon, 1835), and the first concrete highrise building (1902). More important, at least for National Youth Conference participants, the city is also credited with the invention of the hotdog.

Attractions

From amusement parks to museums, convention goers will have little difficulty finding things to do in and around Cincinnati. King's Island amusement park, located just north of the city, was recently voted "Best Theme Park for Families in the Midwest."

Others will want to visit the Cincinnati Fire Museum, the Cincinnati Zoo, the Museum at Union Terminal (with three museums and an OMNIMAX theatre), or perhaps most interesting, the Creation Museum.

Located seven miles west of the Cincinnati Airport, the Creation Museum presents a walk through history through the eyes of creation science. Designed by former Universal Studios exhibit director, this state-of-the-art 70,000 square foot museum brings the biblical account of creation to life. With computer-generated visual effects and life-sized dinosaur animatronics, everyone in your family will be captivated by



the museum's account of the creation story.

If you are traveling on a limited budget (Aren't we all?), Cincinnati offers many free attractions. These include the Bicentennial Commons at Sawyer Point, the scenic Riverfront District, Fountain Square, and the Harriet Beecher Stowe House. Or take an airconditioned stroll through the historic buildings in downtown via the Skyway.

For shoppers, Cincinnati offers an abundance! From Tower Place Mall in the city center to outlying shopping malls, boutiques, and specialty shops, the area is replete with opportunities to invest in the local economy.

Travel

Three major interstate systems converge in Cincinnati. Interstates 71, 74, and 75 reach Cincinnati from all points of the compass.

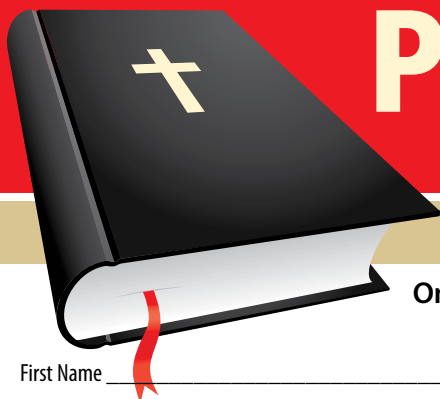
Those traveling by air will likely arrive at the Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky International Airport, a convenient 15-minute drive from downtown.

Worried about big city traffic? Leave your worries in other cities. Cincinnati offers a convenient, climate-controlled Skyway system that allows pedestrians to move around the downtown area in comfort. Covering 20 city blocks, the Skyway system links major hotels, shopping malls, restaurants, shops, Fountain Square, and the Duke Energy Convention Center.

To learn more about Cincinnati, visit the city's website: www.cincyusa.com.



www.cincyusa.com



PRE-REGISTRATION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

WNAC | NYC | Cincinnati, Ohio, July 19-22, 2009

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

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Country (Missionary Only) _____ Home Phone (_____) _____
Cell Phone (_____) _____ Email _____
Church You Attend _____
Church Location: City _____ State _____

National Association

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

VOTING DELEGATES:

- ☐ National Board/Commission Member
- ☐ Ordained Minister
- ☐ Ordained Deacon
- ☐ State Delegate
- ☐ Local Church Delegate (Delegate Card Required) **\$100**

NON-VOTING:

- ☐ Licensed Minister
- ☐ Attendee (includes infants and toddlers)

Tickets:

Friends of Hillsdale ReceptionQty _____ x \$15 = _____
Tuesday, July 21, 8:30 pm
FWBBC LuncheonQty _____ x \$25 = _____
Wednesday, July 22, 12:00 pm

National Association Information: www.nafwb.org

National Youth Conference

NYC or Competition Questions: 800.877.7030 or scm@randallhouse.com

SELECT ONE—

PRESCHOOL:

- ☐ Ages 3-5 (Attending Preschool Worship) \$25*
- ☐ Ages 0-5 (Not Attending Preschool Worship) NO FEE

STUDENTS:

- ☐ Grades 1-3 (\$25)*
- ☐ Grades 4-6 (\$25)*
- ☐ Grades 7-12 (\$25)*

* On-site registration \$35

COLLEGE AGE / ADULTS:

- ☐ Attending NYC Events (\$10)
Fee covers attendance to NYC worship services, competition, activities, etc.

NYC Program Information: www.fwbny.com

Women Nationally Active for Christ

VOTING DELEGATES:

- ☐ National Officer
- ☐ State President
- ☐ State Field Worker
- ☐ State Delegate
- ☐ Local WNAC Delegate (Delegate Card Required) **\$10**

NON-VOTING:

- ☐ Missionary
- ☐ Attendee

Tickets:

WNAC LuncheonQty _____ x \$25 = _____
Tuesday, July 21, 12:00 pm

WNAC Information: www.wnac.org

Register April 6–June 15, 2009 (postmarked) No Refunds After June 15

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Check (Payable to FWB Convention)
- Credit Card (Visa or MasterCard only)

Card # _____

Card Holder _____ Exp _____/_____/_____

Return Form and Payment to:

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

PO Box 5002

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

Questions: (877) 767-7659 / convention@nafwb.org

Office Use Only: Date _____ CK# _____ Amt \$ _____ From _____

CONVENTION HOUSING09

NOTE: Reservations can only be made by telephone or Internet directly through the hotel.

1 PROVIDE PERSONAL INFORMATION

(Provide the following when making reservations.)

- + Name,
- + Address, City, State, Zip
- + Phone
- + Email
- + Credit Card Number & Expiration Date
- + Special Requests:
 - Non-Smoking Room
 - Wheelchair Accessibility
 - Rollaway Bed
 - Crib

2 CONTACT YOUR HOTEL OF CHOICE

(See the chart to the right.)

3 RECEIVE YOUR CONFIRMATION

Reservations will open at 9 am, CST, and 10 am, EST, Monday, April 6, 2009. Hotels have been instructed **NOT TO ACCEPT** reservations before this time.

- *Hotels may limit the number of reservations made by an individual.
- *Cut-off dates vary by hotel.
- *One night deposit required.
- *Cancellations within 72 hours of check-in date will result in loss of deposit.

Links to hotel websites can be found at www.nafwb.org.

For More Information, call toll-free (877) 767-7659.

Garfield Suites Hotel

2 Garfield Place
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Phone: (800) 367-2155
1-Bedroom Suite \$99
2-Bedroom Suite \$129
Valet/Self Parking \$21 per day
Group Code: Free Will Baptists
Cut-Off Date: June 1

Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza

35 West 5th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Phone: (800) HILTONS
All Rooms \$139
Valet Parking \$21 (overnight charge)
Group Code: FWB
Cut-Off Date: June 19

Hyatt Regency Cincinnati

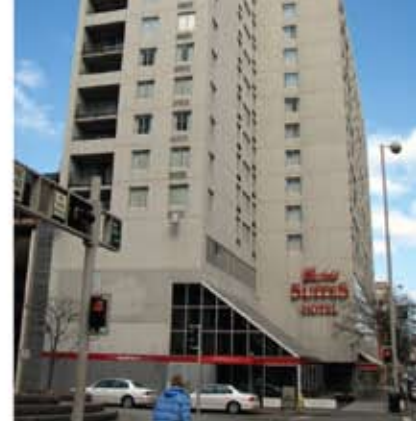
151 West 5th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Phone: (888) 421-1442
All Rooms \$129
Overnight Parking \$20
Self Parking \$14 (with in and out privileges)
Group Code: G-GFRE
Cut-Off Date: June 19

Millennium Hotel Cincinnati (HQ)

150 West 5th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Phone: (800) 876-2100
All Rooms \$122
Valet Parking \$20 (with in and out privileges)
Group Code: DE00075773
Cut-Off Date: June 19

Westin Hotel Cincinnati

21 East 5th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Phone: (800) WESTIN1
All Rooms \$139
Self Parking \$15
Group Code: NGB17A
Cut-Off Date: May 4



ONE TO ONE

Music in the Ears of God

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



Photo: Mark Cowart

MY WIFE AND I CELEBRATED VALENTINE'S DAY BY

going out to dinner and attending a performance by the Nashville Symphony. The concert featured an internationally known violinist who played and also served as guest conductor.

We arrived at the concert hall early. The indescribably beautiful, state-of-the-art facility is known for its wonderful acoustics. There is not a bad seat in the house. People from every walk of life attended the sold-out performance.

As I perused the program, I found information about the visiting artist and details about events and activities for the up-coming season. However, one section in particular caught my attention—a list of financial supporters.

These individuals or families were listed in categories based on their level of giving. The top tier was comprised of those contributing \$1 million annually. Next were \$500,000 donors, followed by \$100,000 patrons. The program listed several pages of names. Obviously, it takes a lot of money to fund such a world-class operation.

In advance of the performance, orchestra members made their way to the stage and found their seats in their assigned section. Some tuned their instruments; others played selected portions from pieces to be performed that evening. All in all, it created a noisy, dissonant, unorganized mess...a cacophony.

Finally, the lights dimmed and applause erupted as the maestro made his entrance. Members of the orchestra and the audience stood to their feet in respect for this gifted musician. After taking several bows, he assumed his position, and the concert began.

One after another the orchestra performed classical pieces written by world-renowned composers. Even a person

with limited knowledge and appreciation for these works of art could not help but notice their degree of difficulty. The talent and skill of those professional musicians was astounding. The music was beautiful and mesmerizing.

During the course of the performance, it occurred to me that this concert was a graphic illustration of the church as it fulfills the Great Commission. God, in His wisdom, brings together individuals from different backgrounds with varying gifts and abilities. Each one plays a distinct, yet vital role in the task of world evangelism.

Some have the capacity to contribute financially in an extraordinary way. Others give on a smaller scale. But, everyone must do his part. There are no insignificant donors when it comes to funding the work of the kingdom!

Like those musicians, individual Christians must commit to excellence and possess a cooperative spirit. Carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth is not a solo performance. It is a group effort. Separately, their contributions may be small and insignificant...even discordant at times. But collectively, God blends our efforts into beautiful harmony.

In a symphony, success is achieved when the eyes of every member focuses on the conductor, responding at the precise moment in the appropriate manner. God is our conductor. As He raises the baton, where is your focus? Are you following His lead? Do you know your role in the Great Commission? Are you willing to do your part?

As a denomination, we must work together to reach the lost. Nothing pleases God more or produces greater harmony. The concert is already under way. Join us as we make music—music in the ears of God. “Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27). **ONE**

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**Listed in U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges 2009.*



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If you are wondering about the economic road ahead, consider the security of a Charitable Gift Annuity that will benefit Free Will Baptist International Missions. A Gift Annuity not only provides you with a fixed income but also allows you the advantage of a charitable tax deduction.



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



