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ONE

MAGAZINE

A Free Will Baptist Magazine

...

PASSING THE BATON

Full Circle

CRACKS IN THE DARKNESS

Winter Is Past

...

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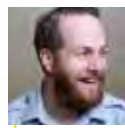
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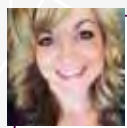
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First Glimpse >>

By the Number

I wish you could have been there when directors and associate editors recently met to mull over ONE Magazine's first decade in print.

"I can't believe it has been ten years," Ida Lewis, soon-to-be-retired publications editor for Home Missions, was the first to speak. "That first meeting seems like yesterday."

Yes and no. My mind wandered back to the moment when I looked around a conference table at a group of editors with more than 200 combined years of publishing experience and wondered, "What in the world am I doing here?"

Thankfully, the ONE editorial team broke the 32-year-old "new kid" in gently, and working together, we forged a new magazine. It was a historic accomplishment, fulfilling the decades-old dream of a unified publication (learn more, page 22). Sent free to nearly 60,000 homes, the first issue reached more Free Will Baptists than any other publication in the 200-year history of the movement. And it was only the beginning.

Over its first decade in print, the ONE Magazine team produced, printed, and mailed a staggering 3.4 million copies containing 3,452 pages, 1,014 articles, 300 columns, and 1,331 news releases. Free Will Baptists proved to be "fast movers," and 21,677 addresses changed (more than a third of subscribers) during the decade.

The first 60 issues covered many significant Free Will Baptist moments, from the death of beloved pioneer missionary LaVerne Miley to the incredible outpouring of love, money, and relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast.

We celebrated significant milestones—75-year anniversaries for International Missions, Women Nationally Active for Christ, Home Missions, and the National Association—and mourned the passing of a generation of giants such as Wade Jernigan, Roger Reeds, Eugene Waddell, Raymond Riggs, Bert Tippet, and many others. In short, as WNAC Director Elizabeth Hodges put



it, "ONE Magazine became synonymous with the Free Will Baptist story."

Ida Lewis continued: "I want Free Will Baptists to know it is a great thing to be Free Will Baptist, and I am so excited about what God is doing among us."

Free Will Baptist Foundation Director David Brown chimed in: "It bothers me to hear people say 'Free Will Baptists are done.' I want to tell them we are not done yet. Not even close! We are just getting started...and the best is yet to come."

The meeting closed with dreams about the future of the magazine: more online presence, renewed emphasis on the rich history and heritage of the movement, and someday perhaps, monthly issues.

As I listened to the excited discussion, my mind wandered away to Jack Williams' final editorial in *Contact* magazine in December 2004, where he wrote, "What I remembered most was that I was number six. Anything the magazine accomplished during my tenure built on the work of the editors who preceded me."

Make it seven, Jack. Make it seven ONE.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Keith Burden MANAGING EDITOR: Eric Thomsen ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Ken Akers, David Brown, Danny Conn, Elizabeth Hodges, Ida Lewis, Ray Lewis, Stephen Nelson, Sara Poston, Deborah St. Lawrence, Jack Williams
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letters:

Have something to say?

Say it!

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

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

Just a note to let you know how much I am enjoying ONE Magazine. I thought, “The Smooth Places” (December-January 2015, page 22) by Marie Drakulic on affliction was excellent. After 72 years of walking with the Lord, I can only say amen! I only hope that everyone who receives the magazine will read it. I haven’t finished reading the current issue, and I have already been blessed. Thank you and your staff for the great job you do.—*Dorothy Cox, Paintsville, Kentucky*

Please keep me on your mailing list! We love your magazine and want to make the enclosed donation for the subscription. God bless you.—*Via email*

From the editorial staff: A hearty thank you is due to those who make regular donations to the ministry of *ONE Magazine*. While the magazine is offered free of charge, these monetary gifts help offset the cost of production. Appreciated even more, however, are the words of encouragement and promises of prayer that often accompany these letters. May God bless your generosity and faithfulness.

Flourish!

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From **GENERATION** to **GENERATION**

TEACHING TO TEACH By Clint Morgan

Biblical Foundation

No verse in the Bible so clearly calls for and defines discipleship as 2 Timothy 2:2. The Apostle Paul gave his spiritual son straightforward advice on how to guarantee the ongoing propagation of biblical truth from generation to generation. Paul wrote to Timothy, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

His words are both practical and profound. Paul laid out foundational principles for every believer to practice. Missionaries in particular should emphasize this strategy for effective discipleship.

10-10-10 THEORY

Have you heard of the 10-10-10 theory of the missionary life? It is a humorous yet realistic lesson I present to mission students and young missionaries. It proposes that a missionary spends the first ten years on the field trying to earn credibility, the second ten trying to do something with that credibility, and the last ten wondering what in the world happened to his credibility. Although the time frames may not work out in precise ten-year increments, the basic phases tend to be accurate.

The missionary arriving on the field needs time to learn the culture and language so he can minister effectively. That period is generally followed by a time of building strong relationships that open the door for effective ministry and witness. As the missionary approaches retirement age, he may sense he is more and more out of step with the rest of the missionaries and the national leaders. This is mostly due to missionaries arriving with new missiology training while the national church matures and selects its own leaders.

Brett Harris—devoted follower of Jesus Christ, husband, and author—addresses the need for collaboration and learning from those of another generation: “The beauty of collaboration between older and younger generations is that we combine strength with wisdom—a surefire way to accomplish more for the glory of God.”

The last ten years of the missionary experience do not have to be spent wondering what happened to credibility. They can be dedicated to the nobler pursuit of assuring truths taught are properly assimilated into the next generation of missionaries,



In reality, from the outset of ministry, the missionary should be thinking of passing the baton to the next generation.

converts, and local church leaders. I can’t help but recall the statement made by a philosopher-physician to sum up the principle of giving yourself to influence others: “My happiness comes from the donation of my life in many ways for the current and for the future generations.”

In reality, from the outset of ministry, the missionary should be thinking of passing the baton to the next generation. The wise missionary looks far down the road and lays out three major strategies and commits to them: 1) adapt to the culture in which he ministers; 2) provide effective ministry that empowers local believers; and 3) exit with grace.

It all goes back to what Paul instructed Timothy, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” The formula presented to Timothy has proven true time and time again. Several examples can be found in the works established by Free Will Baptist missionaries.

Cuba

In 1960, Fidel Castro expelled all missionaries from Cuba. Free Will Baptist missionaries Pop and Mom Willey prepared for this day from the outset of their ministry in the island nation. They began training leaders from among the first converts. The Willeys understood that another generation of Cubans would not follow Christ if the first generation of believers were not well grounded.

When the Willeys were forced out of the country, they had already taught faithful men who were able to teach others also. In spite of great resistance and persecution, the Church in Cuba has experienced continued growth and expansion. Several new generations of Cuban believers have developed since the expulsion of missionaries nearly 55 years ago.

It has not been possible to assign personnel to Cuba for more than half a century. However, the work continues. Today, in Cuba, strong lay leaders, experienced pastors, and committed churches share a clear vision of taking the gospel to the whole island. This progress is possible because Pop and Mom Willey laid a solid foundation by sharing biblical truths to faithful men who taught others also.

Côte d'Ivoire

In November 1984, I gathered with other Free Will Baptist missionaries in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, for our annual meeting. As we assessed leadership needs in our churches, we were struck by the reality that after 26 years in the country we had only two ordained pastors. Several "lay pastors" dotted the landscape, but they needed more training before they could be recognized as qualified leaders.

With these thoughts before us, we pressed forward to turn this vision into a reality and opened the doors to the Free Will Baptist Bible Institute in October 1987. I will never forget the first day as I walked up the steps, looked into the classroom, and saw ten anxious faces staring back at me. I turned to my missionary colleague and said, "There sit our best friends or our greatest enemies." Fortunately, most of the 42 graduates of the institute have become some of our best friends and fellow ministers. Only two have fallen away, and one was taken in death.

On August 19, 2005, at the National Association meeting in Côte d'Ivoire, we passed the baton to the next generation of leaders for the Bible institute. The national church leaders selected a new director, Pastor Paul Ameizi, and his assistant, Robert Houessou, without any direct input from the missionaries. These leaders were ready to take the reins of the training institution and move forward.

The newly elected director, Pastor Paul, stepped to the podium and said, "I have three sentiments that weigh heavy on my heart today: **desire**—to see this Bible institute continue to train pastors and leaders for our churches; **conviction**—that this is what God wants me to do; and **fear**—fear that I cannot live up to the standard our American missionaries set for us."

Without doubt, Pastor Paul and the other teachers at the Institute were up to the task. Today, International Missions has no personnel in Côte d'Ivoire. Yet, according to statistics we received, the number of Free Will Baptist churches in the country has doubled in the last five years, and more than 100 people were baptized in the first six months of 2014.

It is evident the faithful men the missionaries taught have, in turn, taught other faithful men, who are now teaching more faithful men who will teach others also.

Panama

In October 2012, Jeff Turnbough, director of field operations, and Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, regional director of Latin America, attended the National Association of Free Will Baptist churches in Panama. During a meeting with church leaders, one stood and declared with great respect and humility that the Panamanian leadership had a word for the Mission. In essence, he stated the Panamanian believers were ready to take the responsibility of reaching their nation for Christ.

The missionaries could have been greatly hurt by this declaration had they not prepared themselves and the people for such a wonderful occasion. Missionaries won people to Christ, disciplined them, planted strong churches, trained leaders, and looked to the local believers to lead in the future. It was a missiological dream-come-true for the field personnel, the Panamanian Church, and the Mission.

January 8-13, 2015, many former missionaries, office staff, and Panamanian believers gathered for the official passing of the baton. As of this date, no Mission personnel will be assigned to Panama. That is, of course, unless we are invited by our Panamanian partners to come and work on a specific assignment.

The Mission family rejoiced with the Panamanian Church as the president of the *directiva* took the symbolic baton, thereby declaring that the things they had been taught they were now capable, willing, and committed to teaching to others.

Conclusion

Edmund Burke, British statesman, parliamentary orator, and political thinker, stated, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." We might take this thought and adjust it to say, "The only thing necessary for Christianity to die is for believers to fail to teach biblical truths to faithful men, who will teach others also."

At Free Will Baptist International Missions, we are committed to seeing the gospel reach the ends of the earth. Our missionaries will continue to teach others, who will teach others also, and in following this process, we will continue to see the Good News pass from generation to generation. **ONE**

About the Writer: Clint Morgan is director of Free Will Baptist International Missions. Learn more: www.fwbgo.com.

Free Will Baptist Missionaries leave the work in Panama in capable hands...

Passing the BATON

BY JUDY LYTLE



*Have you
ever participated
in team-building
activities?*

One common exercise calls for a person to fall backward, trusting two other team members to catch him. Another activity requires the team to use verbal directions to guide a blindfolded team member from point A to point B. These simple activities help create trust.

A good relationship of trust has to be established for any ministry to advance. Throughout the years of Free Will Baptist ministry in Panama, we have tried to build—and rebuild when necessary—a trust relationship with the Panamanian Church. At times, we felt like we were left to fall or stumble blindly on our own. I'm sure the Panamanians felt that way at times also. Over time, however, as we worked together, a mutual trust was built. Increasingly, we put our confidence in each other.

Building Foundations for Trust

In 1962, Tom and Emma Ruth Willey arrived to open Panama as a Free Will Baptist mission field. They probably thought about how they could bring Panamanians into a saving relationship with Christ, and how they could build trust relationships with new believers. They prayed for God to lead them to individuals who could be trusted with leadership responsibilities in the infant church. Sometimes, they were disappointed by the ones they trusted, but more often than not, their trust was honored.

Though they probably were not thinking about an exit strategy at the time, to reach that point, trust had to be established. It started from the very beginning, with Tom, Emma Ruth, and the new believers in Panama. They were pioneering a new work together.

When we arrived in 1977, an exit strategy was far from our thoughts. We arrived with goals of winning Panamanians to Christ and helping a mission work grow to the point of becoming an organized church. That was our mindset. We prayed for leaders to develop, and we prayed about when to turn a local church plant over to a national pastor. We never heard or thought much about turning the *entire* work of an established mission field over to national leadership. I suppose that wasn't on anyone's mind because, after all, Free Will Baptist mission works around the world were all in the infant or toddler stages.

From the start, missionaries in Panama were impressed by the Holy Spirit not only to lead efforts in church planting, but also to train national leadership. Local church classes, a Bible institute, and now a three-year Bible seminary that facilitates extension classes in different areas of the country met that need. Leadership training has always been a vital component of ministry in Panama. God also impressed missionaries to begin early in building trust with the national leadership and local church believers. For many years, we have worked alongside, not over, the Panamanian association of churches.

Fast forward to the 21st century. Both the Panamanian Association of Free Will Baptist Churches and International Missions anticipated January 11, 2015, with mixed feelings—feelings of joy, gratitude, and accomplishment and rejoicing for what God had done over the years dominated the emotional spectrum. But feelings of fear and apprehension were also present. After all, we were charting new territory. Panamanians looked forward to this day, but wondered if they could fulfill all the new demands. Fifty-three years after the beginning of the mission work, International Mis-

sions turned Free Will Baptist ministry in Panama over to the national church.

As missionaries, many thoughts ran through our minds. We wondered if we had done all we should to prepare the churches in Panama. Probably not, but we did what we could. We established churches, taught and trained lay people and pastors, grounded them in sound Bible doctrine, set an example to follow, and built a relationship of trust.

We had many of the same questions asked by parents of young adult children when their children spread their wings and leave the nest. When I left our oldest son on Richland Avenue to attend Welch College, I drove away questioning my parenting skills. Had we equipped him with the tools he needed to survive and thrive in this world? As each of our three sons left home to begin their lives as adults, we prayed we had been all God wanted us to be and had done all God wanted us to do to prepare them. We had to trust God to honor our efforts as parents. We had to trust our sons to remember and live out what they had been taught. We pray the same prayer for our “spiritual children” in Panama. Because of a long-established relationship, we trust them to continue.

Questions of Trust

Other questions come to mind. This is what missionaries work for, right? But is it too soon? Is the Panamanian Church ready for this responsibility? Could we just stay in Panama and work in other areas of the country?

Is it too soon? Free Will Baptists have been in Panama since 1962. At least 27 missionaries have ministered during these 53 years. A proven national church with mature, national leadership exists. Established churches, mission congregations, an association of churches working together, a training institute producing Christian workers, and many committed, praying people are present. They have earned our trust.

Are they ready for this responsibility? Yes. They aren't perfect. They will make some mistakes. We don't like to admit it, but we as missionaries made mistakes as well. None of us is perfect, and we all fall short at times. That being said, the Panamanians are equipped and ready to carry on the ministry, even though they won't do everything the way we might prefer. We can trust them.

Can't we just keep missionaries in other parts of the country? If your grown children continue to live in your home, are they really on their own? Panama is a small country, about the size of South Carolina. As long as missionar-

ies maintain a permanent presence in the country, national leaders will defer to them and will not feel at liberty to make their own decisions and chart their own course. It could stifle their growth.

Can we trust them to make their own decisions? They might not do exactly what we would like. It is hard to let go. We want just a little more time. We want to finish one last project. Yet, there will always be one last project. The parent in me wants to hang on. Oh, it is so hard to trust and to let go!

Examples From Scripture

We can learn from two beautiful examples of trust in the Bible as we consider the necessity to trust national leaders in all maturing mission fields. When Christ ascended into Heaven, He left 11 seemingly inept men staring up at Him. They were not highly educated. They weren't the religious elite of their day. They had followed Jesus for only three years. How could they possibly continue the work Christ had started? Impossible! They were sure to fail. They even doubted themselves. But when all was said and done, they trusted Christ and chose to obey His commands.

Christ had chosen them, instructed them, allowed them to fail, and still trusted them to continue His mission. With the help of the Holy Spirit, they changed the world. We mustn't take lightly the final instructions of Christ in Matthew 28:18-20. He trusted them to be His disciples and to make more disciples. He promised them His presence... always. The Great Commission is not just for North American Christians and missionaries. It is for *every* Christian from *every* tribe and nation around the world.

I find a second example of trust in the Apostle Paul. Three years was the longest he spent in any one area establishing churches. In both of his letters to the Corinthians, he admonished a weak and carnal church. But even with that in mind, in 1 Corinthians 1:4-9, we find Paul thanking God for them and confirming them. Knowing their weaknesses and failures, Paul still trusted them. He also trusted God to work through them.

Just because we no longer send career missionaries to Panama does not mean we say, "So long. You're on your own now. We'll see you in Heaven." Is that what we say to our children when they move out? Of course not! We nurture our bond, love, and relationship. We are still family. Our sons know we are here for them when they need us.

The same is true with the Church in Panama. We have a strong relationship. They desire to hear from us. They want to communicate via e-mails, Skype, telephone, and Face-

book. Short-term ministry teams are welcomed and needed. They will ask our advice at times, and may even request our assistance, but it will be when *they* see the need.

The seminary has requested professors to come down and teach classes at least once a trimester. They continue to need financial help to maintain the seminary, help in church-planting efforts, and aid in the initial launch of sending out their own missionaries. Not only will Panama receive visitors from the States, from time to time, Panamanian leaders plan to come to the States and visit our churches. We can learn from them. As we get to know each other better, we can establish trust on all levels.

Look again at Paul's example. He stayed only a short time establishing churches, but he didn't abandon them once the church was planted. He returned to visit them. He communicated by way of letters. In those letters, he praised them, commended them, and corrected them. The recipient always knew he cared for them and trusted them.

We should do the same with all our mission works that have reached maturity. They are still part of us; they want to feel that bond, and continue in a relationship. Yes, they can carry on without us; but we still need each other. They need us to trust them.

To trust or not to trust? MY VOTE IS TRUST.



Trust Means Letting Go

Yes, leaving is what we work for but never seems to arrive. It is terribly difficult to know when to let go, when to step back and say, “Take over. You’re ready. It’s yours. We trust you.” This is hard to do. We want to remain in control and have the final say. We want to decide where money should be spent, and who should be in charge. Relinquishing control is hard; for some it is impossible. We wait for perfect people and a perfect time, but that will never come.

Apart from our need to control is the issue of trust. (I hope you’ve noticed how many times I’ve used the word *trust*.) It’s hard to find the perfect time to turn a mission work over to national churches, because we have difficulty fully trusting them.

We have a hard time trusting those from other countries. In most cases, it is not an issue of prejudice or a superiority complex (although, in some cases it is). It is more an issue

of not understanding the language and culture. Have you been in a room where people are speaking a language you can’t understand? You may assume they are talking about you, when really they are just talking. Lack of understanding leaves us uneasy and apprehensive. These feelings make it tough to completely trust others. This can be overcome. Even speaking different languages, we *can* get to know and trust each other. But *everyone* has to make an effort. It is not only a matter of us trusting the national church in Panama; it is a matter of us them trusting us. We will move forward with honesty, transparency, and open lines of communication.

As in trust-building exercises, when we fall backwards, we trust someone to catch us. It works both ways in a mutual trust relationship. That is what we have worked for these past 53 years. Can we trust the Panamanian church to be there for us? Can they trust the Mission and their brothers and sisters stateside to be there for them? To trust or not to trust? My vote is trust. **ONE**

About the Writer: Judy Lytle and her husband Steve have served as missionaries to Panama since 1977. Learn more about the Panamanian transition of leadership at www.fwbgo.com.

Around the World >>

Hodges Speaks at Panama Women’s Retreat

Chame, Panama—Free Will Baptist women throughout Panama gathered for the annual women’s retreat February 2-5, 2015. The main speakers, Elizabeth Hodges (executive secretary of Women Nationally Active for Christ) and Ariadna Riesgo (educational specialist for International Missions), addressed the theme “Women of Change.” Ariadna spoke on Esther on Friday evening. Elizabeth spoke on Deborah on Saturday and Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, on Sunday. According to Judy Lytle, “Both women spoke straight from Scripture and brought out basic truths we all needed to hear. They were compelling speakers.”

Approximately 90 women attended. Saturday night, the women enjoyed a fun time featuring “hat night.” A new board was elected Sunday, and current president Rosa was reelected.

Elizabeth Hodges visited the Panama Canal, attended the San Vicente’s church anniversary service, and visited the First FWB Church in Panama City. Dubbed Ely (ell-ee) by Ariadna, the Panamanians enjoyed meeting and hearing Elizabeth.

Judy Lytle helped Panamanian women organize the first retreat in 1988. The speakers that year were missionary Mabel (Mom) Willey and Dr. Mary Wisehart, WNAC executive secretary. The retreat has been an annual event since. ■



Missionaries Transition

Antioch, TN—Over the last few months, a half-dozen missionary families have transitioned to their host countries. In December, Rusty and Brenda Carney and their children Grace and Kelton headed to Hokkaido, Japan; Tim and Kristi Johnson and their children Alejandro and Ana returned to Alpedrete, Spain; and Robert and Judy Bryan returned to France, settling in a home near the St. Sébastien church in March.

The Crowe family (Josh and Alicia, Ruby, Ellie, and Josie) flew to Tokyo in January to begin their next term of service. Carlisle Hanna returned to India in January and traveled to South India in February for the ordination of three young men.

In March, Josh and Lydia Provow and their children (Naomi, Phoebe, Zoe, and Malachi) traveled to Bulgaria to begin a two-year internship to prepare for career missionary service. ■



THE JOHNSONS



THE CARNEYS



THE PROVOWS

Snapshots Around the World



Sapporo, Japan—Heath and Joni Hubbard graduated from language school February 20, 2015. A few weeks later, they moved their family from Hokkaido to Saitama, a suburb of Tokyo, to work with Ken and Judy Bailey at the Kamifukuoka Church.



Varna, Bulgaria—The New Life Church in Varna was able to rent a more permanent facility in January. They are now able to have events and services at times other than Sunday morning. Previous services were held in a hotel conference room.



Svishtov, Bulgaria—The New Life Church in Svishtov hosted the annual Women's Day Party, March 7. The holiday, similar to Mother's Day in the States, allows the church to celebrate the roles women play within their local fellowship. Several women who are not believers attended.



Tamilnadu, India—Three men were ordained to the ministry on February 15. Carlisle Hanna made the long journey from Sonapurhat to be present and participate in the ordination ceremonies in South India. This makes a total of eight pastors in South India; 16 men serve as pastors in North India. Almost all of the men are responsible for multiple churches.



Rivera, Uruguay—Uruguayan Free Will Baptist churches held their annual family camp in Rivera, February 14-20. Approximately 80 people participated. Jaimie Lancaster addressed the theme of discipleship, using *Simple*, a book written by Robert J. Morgan (pastor of The Donelson Fellowship, Nashville, Tennessee). Those 12 years and older participated in discipleship studies and received a copy of the book. Each church was given five copies to use as a starting point for their own discipleship classes. Children had their own classes, and several made professions of faith. ■



Pinar del Río, Cuba—The Cuban National Association of Free Will Baptists met February 23-March 1 with approximately 200 people present. Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, regional director for Latin America, attended and spoke.



Montevideo, Uruguay—English classes offer the opportunity to build relationships and eventually share the gospel on a personal level. In February, Tammy hosted a going away party for one of the ladies in her class. During the dinner, a lady asked a question that allowed Tammy to give a short explanation of the Bible's story. Of the eight ladies present, three are actively interested in the gospel.

REACHING SEAN

By
Darin
Alvis

Sometimes, small acts of kindness can open the door for outreach in a big way. For example, in summer 2014, while a mission team visited our church in Erie, Pennsylvania, the young people handed out water and trail mix at Perry Square Park. This particular area was new to us. We had heard that the homeless population often spent time at this park, and we prayed for an opportunity to be a blessing to them. When someone met Sean, it was clear that God had set up the meeting. Sean told the mission team he needed to get back to church and was looking for a church. We love to hear that, although in many cases, the words are not followed by action.

The next day, the same group of students visited another location, serving the community in a different way. As the team was cleaning up the property at the Boys and Girls Club, Sean approached again and told the team that the location was very close to his home. It had become apparent to those watching, that God was orchestrating these meetings.

To our delight, the next Sunday, Sean was at church with his girlfriend Kim and their five children. After a few weeks, Kim accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior. She had never been in a church service before visiting with Sean that first Sunday. Since that time, the couple has been faithful to attend Sunday services and

are willing to help when asked.

Because of this God-ordained meeting at the park, Sean and Kim have invited friends and family. Kim's sister visited church for the first time. One of their sons, Caden, has received Jesus into his heart. Kim volunteered with the Kids Sing Christmas Choir. They have been such a blessing to Team Flagship and the church family. It all started with a single, small act of kindness.

When we make a goal to reach the multitudes, we should be thankful when God brings us one person like Sean. Reaching one, who reaches one, who in turn reaches another one.

In John 6, Jesus used one boy to

make a great impact. His lunch of five loaves and two fish seemed so small, yet God used it in a big way. God can also use you, one person, to make a difference in your own area. We simply need to ask God to give us an attitude like Isaiah: "Here am I; Send me."

Try the following simple ideas to reach the Seans in your area:

- Hand out bottled water and snacks at local parks.
- *Clean up a non-profit organization.*
- Lend helping hands at a food pantry.
- *Place quarters in laundromat washers/dryers for the purpose of witnessing and praying.*
- Clean vehicle windshields at gas stations.
- *Clean public restrooms where allowed.*

You will be amazed at the many small acts of kindness that can make a big difference for eternity. **ONE**

About the Writer: Darin Alvis and wife Joy are associate missionaries and part of the team working with Daryl Grimes at Flagship FWB Church in Erie, Pennsylvania. Learn more about the church: <http://flagshipchurch.com>.



FULL CIRCLE

By Curt and Mary Holland

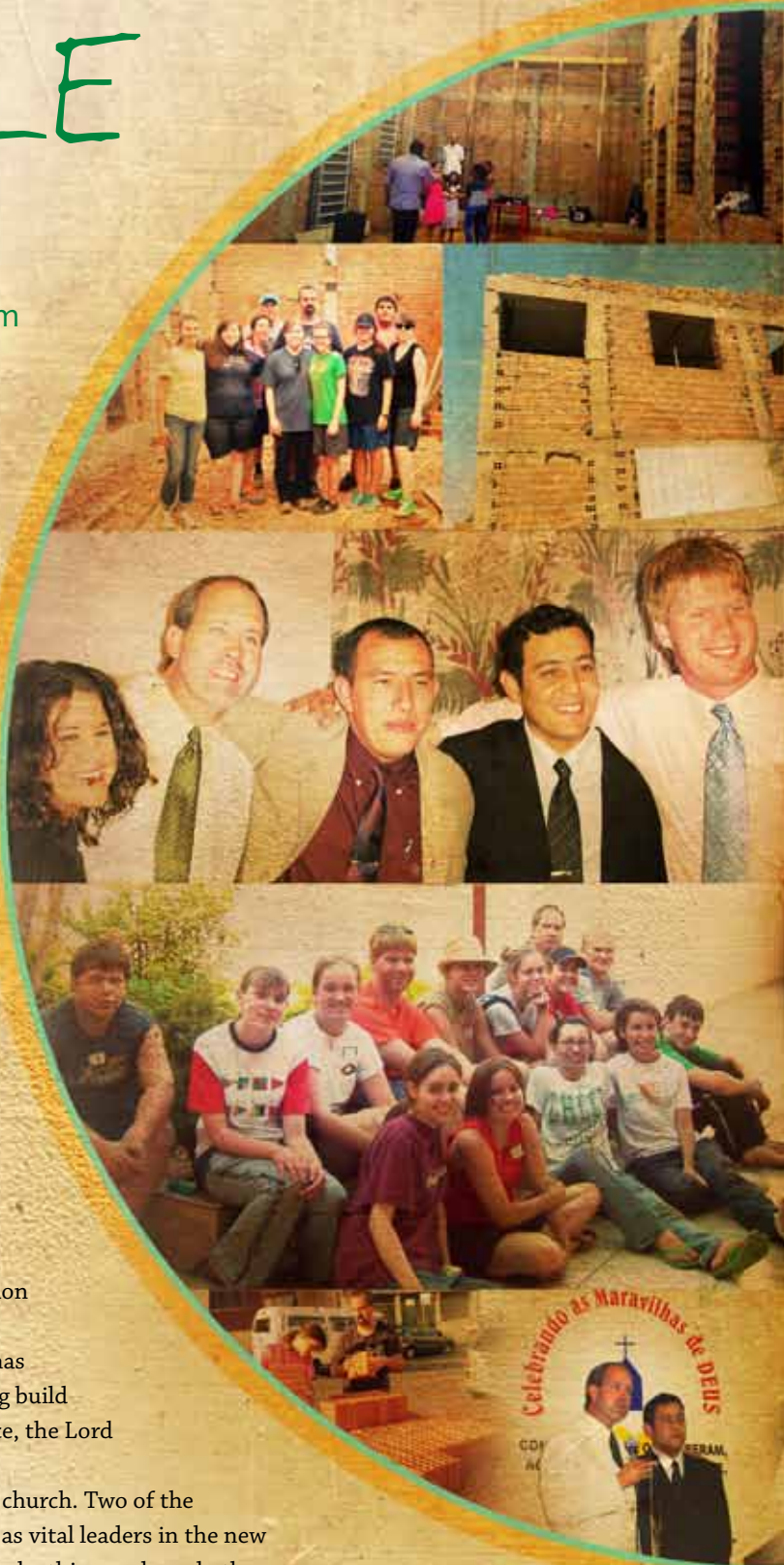
As she held my hand tightly, I wanted to appear calm and collected, but I was just as nervous as she. We had prayed about this day, planned for this day, and knew it was the right thing to do. However, as the plane sped down the runway then encountered thunderstorms and turbulence before reaching the destination, our hands became sweaty, and we found ourselves exhausted. We experienced many firsts that summer...first flight, first short-term missions experience, and first foreign country. Many short-term experiences have impacted us over the years, but the first molded us.

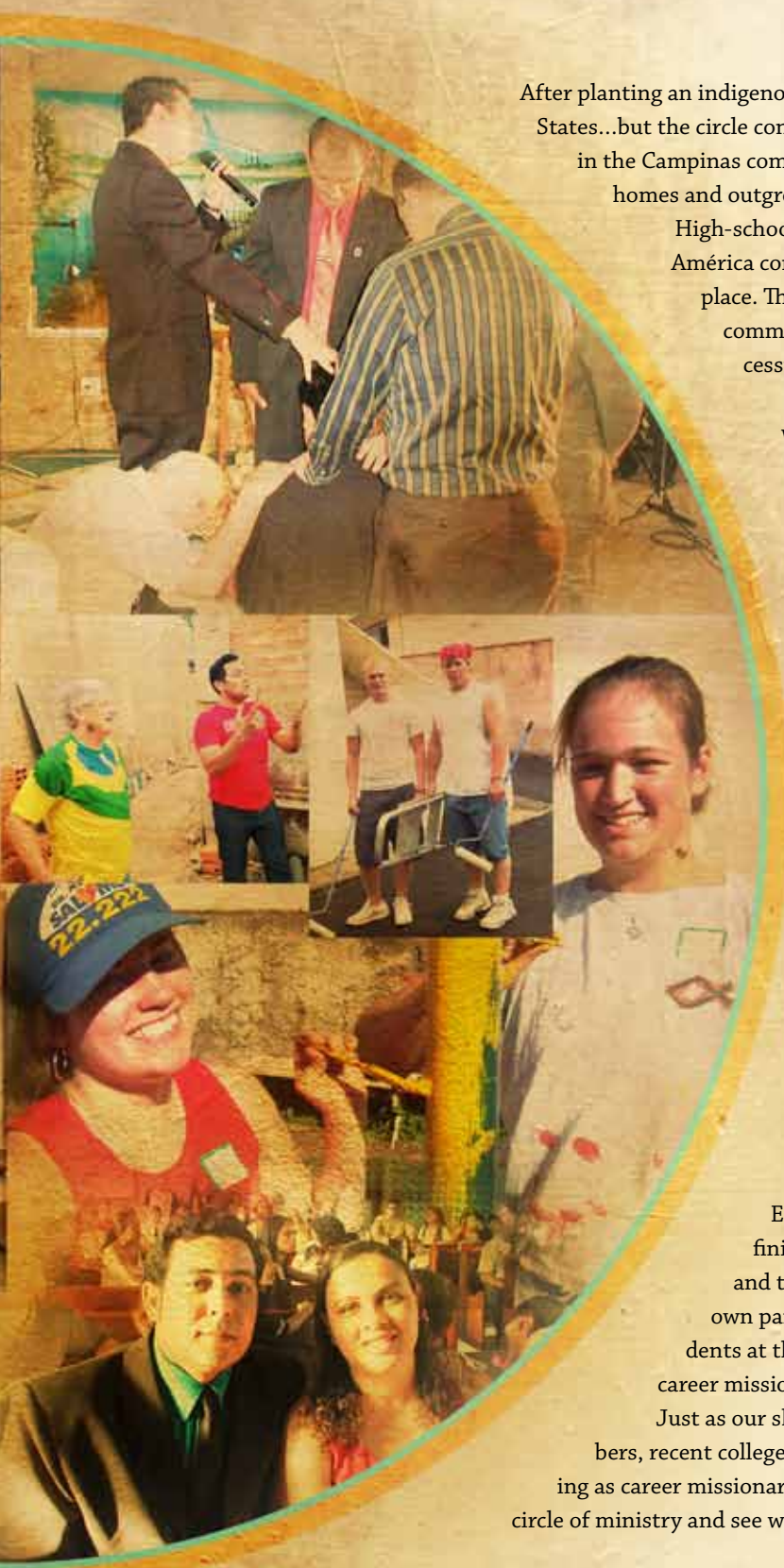
Pioneer missionaries challenged by short-term mission experiences had begun the first Free Will Baptist church in Campinas, Brazil. It was only fitting that our own summer experience at this church set into motion an ongoing circle of ministry for us, the Campinas church, and other short-term mission participants.

A pastoral ministry and three small children later, we returned to Brazil as career missionaries. While in language school, we attended the same church in Campinas. That summer, the church was pivotal in mobilization by hosting the first TEAM (Teens Equipped and Active in Missions) of high school students. Today, we rejoice over second-generation E-TEAM members whose parents participated in those first trips.

During our second term of service, the pastor of the church in Campinas invited us to start a new work with him in the city. Ten years after helping build the physical structure of First FWB Church during our summer experience, the Lord allowed us to help build another church in the same city.

Five members from the First Church worked with us to begin the new church. Two of the five members, Paulo Cesar and Ana Paula, eventually married and served as vital leaders in the new church plant. From a garage gathering to a church building filled with people, this couple and others were instrumental in continued development.





After planting an indigenous, Brazilian church with Brazilian leadership, we returned to the United States...but the circle continued. Paulo Cesar and Ana Paula were asked to launch another church in the Campinas community, and the Nova América FWB Church began. After meeting in homes and outgrowing them, the congregation began looking for a larger location.

High-school E-TEAM students spent two weeks of their summer helping the Nova América congregation clean, paint, decorate, and inaugurate their first meeting place. These students also distributed hundreds of flyers and invitations so the community heard about the first service. These efforts contributed to a successful opening.

As I spoke during that inaugural service in Nova América, my mind wandered back 20 summers to our first, anxious flight. How could the Lord use two inexperienced, young “kids” to build His Kingdom? The truth is, He loves to use the inexperienced but willing hearts of those who dedicate themselves to His Kingdom.

The Nova América congregation is now building a permanent meeting place. Last summer, E-TEAM members once again served and encouraged the Nova América congregation in their ministry to their community. Another short-term preached one of the first sermons in the still roofless building.

HE LOVES TO USE
THE INEXPERIENCED
BUT WILLING HEARTS
OF THOSE WHO
DEDICATE THEMSELVES
TO HIS KINGDOM.

The summer of 2015 will continue the 30-year circle. Another E-TEAM and CMP (College Mission Programs) team will help put the finishing touches on the Nova América building. I will lead the college team and tell them about God’s 30-year circle and challenge them to fulfill their own part in global ministry. By the way, that first E-TEAM of high-school students at the Nova América church has a team member now preparing to serve as a career missionary, as well.

Just as our short-term experience led us to career missions, former E-TEAM members, recent college students, and past THP (The Hanna Project) participants are now serving as career missionaries—creating their own circles. Would you consider joining this global circle of ministry and see where God takes your willing heart? **ONE**

About the Writers: Curt’s passion is helping students and adults challenge and change their worldviews like his was in the summer of 1985. Currently, he accomplishes this as director of mobilization for International Missions. Mary recently earned her Ed.D from Lipscomb University and leads a nonprofit ministry, United for Hope.

CRACKS in the

DARKNESS

BY LYDIE TEAGUE

“As long as there is life, there is hope.” I don’t remember how many times I heard this proverb during my childhood from my Breton father and grandmother.

France still has life. Although, frequently, it seems people are without hope. France is known for high rates of depression and pessimism. And since the tragic terrorist attacks in Paris in January, fear has also taken hold.

Though often seen as a Christian country, in reality, France has a small percentage of born again Christians—only 0.2% in our area. Talking about God with someone is uncommon. People consider it an “intimate” subject. And, for a lot of people, the subject can turn into a big conflict. It is surely not easy to make contacts with people who are interested in talking about God or the Bible. I knew that. Yet prior to returning to France in September 2013, I was optimistic about meeting people looking for Jesus...many people.

I am certain that people in the city of Nantes and its suburbs would accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord if they knew more about Him. But after working hard for several months, and having a hard time finding people who would talk about God, our big questions were: How can we find them? How can we approach them and show them we are not a cult trying to indoctrinate them?

So, at the beginning of 2014, we began praying God would send us “good soil” like that in the Parable of the Sower. We cried out to God, hoping to meet people with hearts open to the gospel.

In April 2014, we had our first *JPense* event—an evening specially designed for people who have never been to church and who probably never would attend. The music, the environment, the sermon content—everything was planned to help participants feel comfortable, and to give them an opportunity to hear the gospel in a way they could understand. We had never seen anybody

do anything like this, so we didn't have a clue how people were going to react. Knowing how complicated it is to bring someone to a Christian event in France, we didn't know if we would have more than a few visitors. But we had almost 100 people at the very first event. The most amazing thing is, half of them were unbelievers!

Since then, we have had five similar events with as many as 130 people attending. We also offer discussion groups during the week where people can come and ask questions about God and the Bible. We address questions like "If God exists, why is there so much suffering?" A group called "Discovering the Bible" is available to those who want to know what the Bible contains. Almost every Tuesday and Wednesday night, I lead a small discussion group for non-believers.

This year (2014) was challenging (even if it was one of our best years). We battled fatigue, the sense of being overwhelmed, and criticism from other Christians because we are not doing evangelism the traditional way. It was sometimes hard to take.

A few Bible verses kept returning to my mind:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

Almost every week, on my way to a small group meeting with non-believers, I repeated that verse in the car.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). This verse was helpful when a dear friend told me our ministry was fruitless. My heart couldn't wait to see people reconciled with the Father, and it was hard to hear. But this verse came back to my mind. The work is not in vain.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). Having Jesus with us constantly overjoys me and gives me courage. If He is with me, anything is possible. He can work through my weakness. I simply need to trust Him and listen to the Holy Spirit.

Being part of the Free Will Baptist family was also a great support. Seeing the number of people praying for France and for us—people we even don't know—was so encouraging.

My husband Joel, who is optimistic and perseverant, was my greatest support. I can't thank God enough for a man who always reminds me what is important and who sets an example in his everyday life. This summarizes his life: "God asked us to do something. Let's do it. If we feel we can't do it, we need to trust in Him and do our best—learn, try, pray, learn again, try again, and always pray—no matter what." His great sense of humor helps our team and the people who attend our events, especially when we are talking about such touchy and difficult subjects.

Through the struggles, the doubts, and sometimes deceptions, the light is cracking through the darkness! The best part of 2014 started in October.

Mary called herself an atheist when she came to the first *Jpense* event in April. She said she met people during this event who had something different, something she wanted. She went back home and told her parents. They asked her to calm down because she was too excited.

Mary began attending *Jpense* discussion groups in September. One day, I said to her, "Imagine that Jesus is the Son of God, what would that imply for you?"

She responded, "I can't imagine Jesus is the Son of God, because I *know* He is the Son of God. The more I read the Gospels, the more I'm convinced He is the Son of God."

Back in her apartment that night, she prayed. She told God she was sorry for her sins and accepted His gift of salvation. She felt peace and something else she couldn't explain, a mixed feeling of relief and love. She was baptized December 6, in front of many people, and told them, "It was the best day of my life."

A few weeks later, another dear friend, Agathe, was saved during the Tuesday night discussion group. At the beginning of the discussion, she said, "I don't think I'm ready to become a Christian. Something is missing. A barrier stops me from accepting God's grace. I believe Jesus died on the cross for me, but I can't decide to follow Him now."

Of course, I asked her what the barrier was. We soon discovered she thought she was not "good enough" to be a Christian. After several questions and continuing discussion, I saw Agathe's face change. I could see she was praying as we talked with the rest of the group. Suddenly, she announced, "My barrier is gone! I just prayed and said to Jesus that I was sorry for my sins, and that I accept the grace He is offering me."

THROUGH THE STRUGGLES, THE DOUBTS, AND SOMETIMES DECEPTIONS, *the light is cracking through the darkness!*





She cried and said she felt so at peace, and there were no more barriers. She was also baptized December 6.

The story was almost the same for Mélanie. Both Mélanie and Agathe were scared to disappoint God or be hypocrites. Mélanie is Cyprien’s sister. Cyprien, Joel’s best friend, was saved in March 2012. He often talked to his sister and others, about his new faith, but Mélanie asked Cyprien to stop talking to her about Jesus.

A week after Agathe’s conversion, Mélanie and I had a discussion on Facebook. As we started to talk, I felt an incredible excitement, because I could see the Holy Spirit was moving. I ran to Joel’s office, and asked him to pray for her.

Mélanie said she believed in God; she believed Jesus died on the cross to pay for her sins. She said she wanted to know God, but she had not told Him all of this yet. She felt like a hypocrite because of her life. After I answered some of her questions, our discussion seemed to end.

After a little bit, she said, “I told Him...I told Him I was sorry. I said thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you for saving me. I want to be with You forever!”

She couldn’t stop crying and laughing. I couldn’t either. A few months earlier, she asked her brother to stop talking about Jesus, yet here she was...loving Jesus! That night she sent us a Bible verse (1 Peter 1:8-9), “Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

What a miracle to see people come to a *JPense* event and return home with a desire to read the Bible! Alex, Maxime, Mika, Yann, Pascal, and others are also getting closer to God. I see more cracks in the darkness. Thank you, Lord! **ONE**

About the Writer: Lydie Teague and her husband Joel are missionaries to Nantes, France. Learn more about *JPense* on Facebook or at www.fwbgo.com.

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Single Table		Joint Table	
Age	Rate	Ages	Rate
65	4.7%	65/65	4.2%
70	5.1%	70/70	4.6%
75	5.8%	75/75	5.0%
80	6.8%	80/80	5.7%
85	7.8%	85/85	6.7%
90	9.0%	90/90	8.2%



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Learning to appreciate the evangelism opportunities that come from counseling...

Beyond the Altar

BY TOM JONES



Dysfunction and isolation are reaching new heights in today's social media-driven culture.

The results are loneliness, confusion, and depression. Battling this current mindset, the pastor might be tempted to grasp his Bible tighter as he waves it over his head, strain his voice until his face turns red, and sling saliva to the second and third rows trying to “preach down conviction” on these individuals.

In spite of our best efforts, we see a younger generation distancing itself farther from the church. We conveniently write it off as a generation that simply doesn't want to hear the truth. Perhaps a different perspective is in order.

I feel confident that those who know me would attest that I have preached with passion and deep conviction throughout my 30-plus years in ministry. I love to preach, and I love to hear passionate, conviction-filled preaching. Anyone who has attended either of the two churches the Lord has allowed us to start here in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area will tell you we have never compromised on God's Word.

I must admit, though, I have recently developed a passion for another aspect of ministry—counseling. It's true. I love to sit down for a one-on-one conversation, allowing individuals to talk about whatever is on their minds. Yes, I hear some off-the-wall opinions, and I also hear some deep, hard, heavy things that are difficult to let go of at the end of the day. Yet, it is in counseling sessions that many people open up and let you share in their deepest pain.

I have learned this generation is actually very interested in the truth; they are simply looking for a place to be heard. The median

age at Keystone FWB Church is 35. Counseling offers a venue where these young men and women can speak openly and find the solution for their deepest needs. Over the last couple of years, out of 22 conversions, 75% occurred during counseling sessions.

While I would never diminish the importance of preaching, I strongly encourage pastors to open their doors to counseling. Many people are confused by life's experiences and by what they have been taught. They mistakenly believe God could never love them. Counseling gives the pastor a personal opportunity to share the truth from God's Word. Guess what...the majority will listen. Few things are more rewarding than the look on their faces when the message clicks, and they finally get it.

Pastor, consider this. It is not an insult when someone wants to talk to you privately rather than respond to an altar call. The Holy Spirit used something you said to touch an individual, to lead him or her to seek truth more deeply. Is it a waste of time? Or is God giving you an opportunity to connect on a deeper level with someone the Great Shepherd has assigned to your care? I suggest the second. What a blessed opportunity to share the truth of God's Word in a face-to-face setting and rejoice when that individual surrenders his life to the Lord. **ONE**

About the Writer: Tom Jones and his wife Pam are part of the church planting team at Keystone FWB Church in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Learn more: www.keystonefwb.org.

Welch College, World Missions, and the World Missions Offering

BY MATTHEW J. PINSON

I remember attending a seminar at the national convention about 13 years ago. The discussion revolved around the large numbers of missionaries retiring over the next several years. This was compared with dwindling numbers of students answering the call to cross-cultural missionary service.

I never would have dreamed a decade ago that Welch College would have so many students interested in service as career missionaries, “tentmakers,” and short-term missionaries.

Welch College is abuzz with missions. Our student-led Global Missions Fellowship (GMF) stimulates interest in missions and awareness of people groups around the globe in need of the gospel. GMF accomplishes this through daily student-led prayer services for missions, fundraising for missions projects, and student missions trips. GMF also sponsors “Missions Moments,” once a week in chapel.

GMF is symbolic of the college’s 71-year drive to play its part in the fulfillment of the Great Commission—and equip our students to do the same. We strive to make global missions not only a career but also a lifestyle. We want Welch to produce graduates who are Great Commission Christians.

We believe every one of our students can play a special role in this mandate. Some students are called to career missionary service, and we are educating them for that role at Welch. Our excellent B.A. in Missions takes missions education seriously, for majors and non-majors alike.

Headed by veteran missionary-teacher Dr. Ron Callaway, missions majors combine heart, head, and hands to master cross-cultural ministry. The Missions Program sponsors missions trips, internships,



missions conferences, retreats, and a host of other activities and events to make missions a central part of campus life.

Dr. Callaway is in an excellent position to train future missionaries. Not only is he a career missionary with four decades of cross-cultural missionary experience in places such as Spain, Panama, and Cuba, he also combines the heart of a missionary with the mind of a scholar. His students describe him as a spiritual mentor who guides them in the way of Christ.

Welch College's Great Commission emphasis impacts not only missions majors and minors, however, but also the entire student body. Students called into local church ministry—pastors, youth and family ministers, music ministers, and others—have the opportunity to stimulate a vision for missions in the ministry of a local church. Ministry majors explore the Great Commission mandate in the required course "Local Church and World Missions."

We recently opened an international business degree program because of the increasing numbers of creative access countries that need the gospel. Many students called to missions now major in international business to create access into closed and restricted access countries.

Other students major in business, teaching, counseling, or some other "secular" field. Many of them will become career tentmakers, working in restricted access countries. Others will surrender a period of time in their lives—a week, a month, a

year—in short-term missionary service, using their vocational skills to help reach unbelievers in another culture. All our graduates are taught to be involved in praying, giving, and sending.

Welch College's Missions Program works hand-in-hand with Free Will Baptist International Missions to educate missionaries thoroughly prepared for cross-cultural ministry. Leaders from both International Missions and Home Missions have a presence on campus, and we are training students to support denominational missions efforts.

The college's missions-as-lifestyle approach is probably the main reason that around 80% of all Free Will Baptist international missionaries have attended Welch College. We boldly continue our commitment to global missions, to being a Great Commission college for the glory of God in the 21st century.

Welch's commitment to world missions is the reason we support the annual World Missions Offering for International Missions. I encourage every Free Will Baptist church and individual to give to the World Missions Offering on April 26, 2015. Please give sacrificially to the work of world missions through the WMO, to further the spread of the Gospel of the Kingdom. **ONE**

About the Writer: J. Matthew Pinson became Welch College's fifth president in 2002. He is author or editor of numerous articles and books, including *Perspectives on Christian Worship* (B&H), *Four Views on Eternal Security* (Zondervan), and *A Free Will Baptist Handbook* (Randall House).

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Many Roads to

ONE

TRACING A
MAGAZINE FROM
DREAM to REALITY...



NOVEMBER 1953

Contact Magazine becomes the first official periodical of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, under the leadership of W.S. Mooneyham, with fewer than 500 subscribers and 16 pages. In 1964, the magazine expands to 28 pages, eventually reaching its final size of 32 pages in 1977.

1950

FEBRUARY 28, 1978

A 14-member **National Publications Committee** forms under the leadership of Chairman Jack Williams, editor of *Contact* magazine; Don Robirds, editor of *Heartbeat* magazine; and Bert Tippet, publications editor of Free Will Baptist Bible College.



**Free Will Baptist
Press Association**

FEBRUARY 1981 The **National Publications Committee** is renamed **Free Will Baptist Press Association** and expanded to include editors of state Free Will Baptist publications, writers, and printers. By 1985, the association numbers more than 50 members who sponsored annual writer's conferences, a young writer's contest, and a journalism scholarship for Free Will Baptist college students.

NOVEMBER 13, 1990 During a Press Association meeting, **Don Robirds**—at the suggestion of the national directors—**introduces the possibility of combining all denominational publications into a single magazine.** The idea meets with mixed response.

MAY 12, 1994 **Press Association meetings end** after a final journalism scholarship is awarded to Eric Thomsen, a senior at Welch College.

1970

1980

1990

JULY 19, 2001 Delegates to the 2001 convention in Detroit, Michigan, approve resolutions from the Georgia and Florida State Associations to establish a committee to consider the feasibility of unifying all national denominational publications. After a three-year process, the Publications Committee recommends the launch of a new magazine.

JULY 21, 2004 Kansas City convention delegates overwhelmingly approve the recommendation to move forward with the new publication. The magazine (yet to be named) replaces six existing magazines: *Aim* (Home Missions), *Heartbeat* (International Missions), the *Master's Men Newsletter*, *Bulletin* (Free Will Baptist Bible College), *OutReach* (Randall House), and *Contact* (Executive Office).

DECEMBER 6, 2004 An Oversight Committee, consisting of departmental directors and Executive Secretary Keith Burden, hire Eric Thomsen to become managing editor. "It's a God Thing," declares Executive Secretary Keith Burden. "It has been amazing to watch Him work through this process that would never have succeeded without His blessing."

2000

10

years in print

A LOOK BACK AT STORIES
AND EVENTS THAT SHAPED
THE FIRST DECADE...

APRIL 8 *ONE Magazine publishes its premier issue.* The bimonthly publication is mailed free to nearly 60,000 homes after national departments and agencies work together to combine mailing lists. This nearly doubles the number of Free Will Baptists readers reached by any previous publications.



MARCH 15 *Pioneer missionary Dr. LaVerne Miley dies.* The Free Will Baptist minister, medical doctor, missionary, and college professor established a hospital in Ivory Coast, West Africa, where he served as a medical missionary for 19 years while planting eight churches.



JULY 17 *Delegates to the national convention* in Louisville, Kentucky, make the Free Will Baptist Foundation a separate denominational agency. Bill Evans is named first full-time director.



AUGUST 29 *Hurricane Katrina strikes the Gulf Coast.* Free Will Baptists respond by donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to relief efforts and sending an army of relief volunteers to the Gulf Coast.

2005

JULY 14 *Master's Men celebrates 50 years in ministry.*

DECEMBER 7 *International Missions opens Bulgaria as a new field* after the 2001 census indicated less than one percent of the population was Evangelical Christian.

Free Will Baptist
+ Disaster
Relief

JULY 22 In the wake of *Hurricane Katrina*, delegates to the 2006 national convention approve a national Disaster Relief Plan developed by a relief task force from seven states.

MAY 15 *Dr. Wade Jernigan dies at age 78.* The well-known preacher and educator organized at least 25 Free Will Baptist churches, and played a major role in both Hillsdale College and California Christian College.

JULY 15 *Nearly 400 Free Will Baptists gather in Birmingham for the first Impact,* a one-day evangelistic campaign in the convention city. Three hundred ninety volunteers provide more than 1,000 hours of service, visit 508 homes, distribute 800 flyers, share the gospel 33 times, and rejoice as six people make professions of faith.



SEPTEMBER 15 *International Missions purchases facilities* in Chame, Panama, from New Tribes Mission, for a permanent Bible seminary facility.



JULY 18 *Tim and Lydia Awtrey* are approved as the first Free Will Baptist missionaries to Bulgaria.

AUGUST 24 *Malcolm Fry*, creator and director of CTS dies at age 79.

JANUARY 24 *Herman Hersey*, founder and former director of the Board of Retirement and the Free Will Baptist Foundation dies.

2006

2007

2008

MARCH 21 *Free Will Baptists celebrate two missions milestones:* 50 years in Brazil and 50 years in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).



FEBRUARY 20 *The Cuban Free Will Baptist Association* celebrates 65 years of Free Will Baptist work in Cuba.

MAY 2 *Roger C. Reeds*, founder of Randall House Publications, dies following an extended illness.

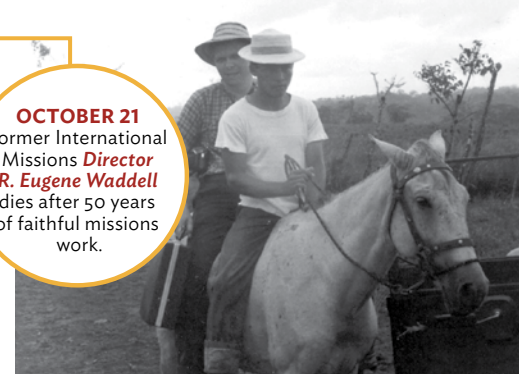
OCTOBER 20 *Templo Rosa De Sarón* in Monterrey, the first Free Will Baptist church in Mexico, celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

JULY 17 *Delegates to the 2007 national convention* in Little Rock, Arkansas, vote to restore the Ridge Church in New Hampshire in light of its historical significance. Master's Men volunteers complete renovations in just over four years.

NOVEMBER 19 *Free Will Baptist Bible College* purchases 66 acres in Gallatin, Tennessee, as the home for its new campus.

OCTOBER 7 *The International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches* gathers in Nantes, France, for its fourth triennial meeting. International delegates explore the possibilities of sending missionaries from their own countries.

OCTOBER 21 Former International Missions *Director R. Eugene Waddell* dies after 50 years of faithful missions work.





APRIL 13
Raymond Riggs, first general director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions (1953-1959) dies at age 93. During his tenure, the Mission grew from seven to 30 missionaries serving in six countries: Brazil, Japan, Spain, and Ivory Coast in addition to India and Cuba.

JULY 20
Truth and Peace celebrates 25 years. The annual student leadership conference exists to train, motivate, and encourage high school students to impact their world through biblical leadership.

JANUARY 12
Free Will Baptists are among the first to respond to the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti that resulted in 175,000 deaths. An eight-member team from Gateway FWB Church (Virginia) arrives just before the earthquake. They are among the first American eyewitnesses to the devastation. Their photographs appear on most major news networks, and news agencies follow their relief efforts closely.



2009

2010



SEPTEMBER 23
Randall House launches the D6 Conference, influencing an international shift toward family ministry.

DECEMBER 21
Trula Cronk, pioneer missionary to India, dies.



JULY 20 **Women Nationally Active for Christ** celebrates its 75th anniversary by electing Tennessean Elizabeth Hodges as the sixth executive director.



JULY 9
At a memorial service for **Reverend O.P. Stokes** and his wife Ruby, attendees learn that the couple left an estate gift of \$1.2 million to four Free Will Baptist ministries: Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, Home Missions, International Missions, and Welch College.



MARCH 15 **Rolla D. Smith** dies at age 92. He served as the general director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions (1959-62; 1975-86).



JUNE 3 **The Missouri State Association** celebrates its 100th anniversary with 173 churches in 19 associations.

2012

2013

JULY 18
Delegates to the Memphis convention approve changing the name Free Will Baptist Bible College to Welch College after John L. Welch and his wife Mary. Welch served as first moderator of the National Association.

SEPTEMBER 7 **Ralph Hampton** dies at age 77. He served as Free Will Baptist moderator nine times (1987-1996) and assistant moderator six times (1981-1987). He also served as an employee of Welch College for 50 years.



JULY 23
Home Missions celebrates 75 years of ministry.



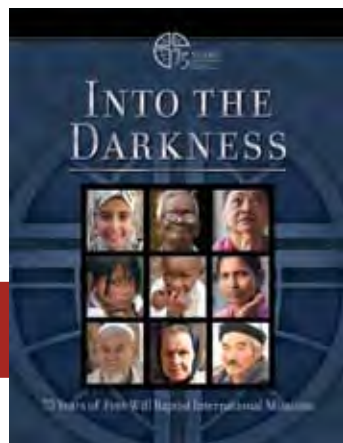
JULY 23 **Foundation Director David Brown announces a partnership with Cornerstone Estate Planning** to provide comprehensive estate planning for Free Will Baptists. In less than two years, the program enrolls more than 600 families in 13 states.



APRIL 5

A total of 65 walkers begin the Go10 Walk for the World to loud cheers and applause, with a local law enforcement escort. Over the 84-day, 2,500-mile fundraising effort, nearly 2,000 walkers retrace Laura Belle Barnard's steps across 14 states, carrying a traditional Indian Bible and passing a well-worn baton from group to group. The walk ends at the National Youth Conference after raising more than a million dollars for missions.

JULY 5 *International Missions celebrates 75 years of ministry* on the day Laura Belle Barnard first set sail for India. The anniversary is accompanied by the release of *Into the Darkness*, a comprehensive history of Free Will Baptist missions work from 1935-2010.



JANUARY 5 *Bert Tippet*, denominational leader and longtime director of communications at Welch College, dies after serving the college for nearly 45 years.



SEPTEMBER 27 The International Missions Board selects *Clint Morgan* as general director after a year as interim director.



DECEMBER 8 *Leroy Forlines* retires from his post as professor of Systematic Theology at Welch College after nearly six decades (1954-2011).

2011

JULY 29 *Foundation Director David Brown* celebrates the \$60 million milestone by announcing a grant program to benefit Free Will Baptist ministries by disbursing \$500,000 over 10 years.

JULY 30

After a two-year, in-depth process, the *WNAC Executive Committee* recommends the organization become a national department and join *The Together Way Plan* of support. Delegates to the Ft. Worth convention approve the request, and during the same business session, vote to allow Master's Men to cease being a national department in order to merge with Home Missions.



randall house

OCTOBER 1
Randall House
launches academic imprint.

2014

SEPTEMBER 3 *Home Missions and International Missions* form a unique partnership to organize and implement joint, cross-cultural ministry projects in North America. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is named as the first project.

NOVEMBER 29

J.D. O'Donnell, former Free Will Baptist moderator and long-time president of Hillsdale College in Moore, Oklahoma, dies at the age of 85.



OCTOBER 18 *Family Ministries* celebrates 75 years by dedicating newly constructed Stokes Academy. The organization, which began in Tennessee in 1939, as the Free Will Baptist Home for Children, now operates facilities in four states, with the largest annual budget of any Free Will Baptist organization.

**20****DECEMBER 1**

David Crowe becomes director of Home Missions, replacing retiring director Larry A. Powell.



MARCH 30 After a 25-year quest, a grateful group of believers dedicates the *Villalba Church in Spain*, the first Protestant church on the northwest side of Madrid.

NOVEMBER 15

Major David Trogdon, Free Will Baptist chaplain, receives the Witherspoon Award. The prestigious award is the highest honor a military chaplain can receive.



Before You Start Packing

BY RAY LEWIS

My retirement clock is still counting down. In the February-March issue of ONE Magazine, I listed several things we should do during the last year of employment. I want to continue that line of thought in this article.

One of the most important decisions retirees face is, “Where should we live?” When my wife Ida and I were younger, we thought we would move back to our hometown when we retired. Our family lived there. We had friends there, but time brought about change. Over the years, our children grew up, we became grandparents, my mother-in-law moved in with us, and my own mom passed away. Going back home would not be like going back to the home we left 40 years earlier. Our family and friends did not sit around waiting for our return. They went on with their lives and experienced the same changes we had.

So what should we do? First, we pray for the Lord’s guidance. Proverbs 3:6 says, “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” We depended on Him for direction during our working years and will continue to trust His leadership in retirement.

Then we consider our options. Do we stay in Nashville where our children grew up and consider it home? Do we stay here but look to downsize? Do we move to be near our children and grandchildren? Do we move in order to take advantage of new ministry opportunities? Do we look for a warmer climate, a colder one where we can enjoy the snow, or perhaps some place in between?

My first thought is, “There is nothing better than being near the best two grandchildren in the world.” We would enjoy getting to attend ball games, recitals, grandparents’ day at school, impromptu pop-in visits, and many other activities we currently miss out on because we live several hours away. Are these reasons enough to pack up almost 50 years of history and move to a place where the only people we know is family?

Deciding where to retire isn’t a simple process. You must consider a list of things before calling the moving van. Here are a few key items to research before you start packing:

Cost of Living. One of the first things to consider before moving is, “Can I afford to live there?” Check the cost of living in your desired area and make sure your money will last. The area you choose can greatly impact how far your retirement dollars will stretch. Determine projected income including pension income, savings, Social Security, investment income, and/or part-time employment income. Compare that figure with projected living expenses such as utilities, groceries, gas/transportation, taxes, and possible health care costs. It is crucial that the new location fit your budget.

Healthcare. One of the major concerns when considering a new location should be the availability of quality healthcare. Due to age, most retirees need these services more than before. Check out local hospitals and health facilities for both quality and proximity to your home. It can also be helpful to research retirement communities in the area, in case you require such services later on.

Taxes. If you’re thinking about a move to another state, it’s a good idea to check the income taxes, real estate taxes, and even the sales tax rates for the area you’re considering. The tax burden varies widely from one location to another. Federal taxes change little, no matter where you live, but state and local taxes vary. Property taxes also fluctuate from state to state, and even city to city.


The weather. Shoveling snow is obviously not ideal for retirees, but neither is a summer filled with 100-degree scorches. It is important to find a place with a median temperature and conditions where you and your spouse are both comfortable throughout a long-term retirement.

Family and Friends. The hardest part of relocating is leaving family and friends. Will you be able to see your family and loved ones? Don't move so far away that you never get to see your friends, children, and grandchildren. Being near family and friends is critical as you age and need more help with day-to-day activities. If you choose to live close to family members, however, remember they had their own friends and activities before you moved. Don't expect to be the center of their world just because you move near them.

Crime. No one wants to live in a high-crime area. By researching crime rates and statistics for various areas, you can learn more about the safety of a town or neighborhood. Local police are happy to discuss concerns you have about the area. Crime reports let you review crime statistics for different neighborhoods. How will you feel walking around the streets?

Part-time employment. You may want (or need) to work in retirement to supplement your income. If you plan to work part time, do you have an opportunity to earn an acceptable paycheck doing something you like doing? Check it out in advance.

One of the greatest benefits of retirement is having time to do the things you enjoy most. Finding the right place to live is an important part of that equation. Through careful homework and by considering all the alternatives, you can ensure your retirement is everything you want it to be. **ONE**



Being near family and friends is critical as you age and need more help with day-to-day activities.

About the Writer: Ray Lewis is outgoing director of the Board of Retirement. He and his wife Ida live in Antioch, Tennessee. For more information about retirement and financial planning, contact the Board of Retirement at (877) 767-7738 or online: www.boardofretirement.com.

Devising GENEROSITY

Brenda Evans

I love dictionaries: my red, grease-smudged Webster's, my computer's New Oxford American, my husband's collection of Bible dictionaries, and even those maybe-they-are-reliable-and-maybe-they-are-not online resources. So when I recently started thinking about generosity, I went to my dictionaries, but only after turning to Scripture first, because the prophet Isaiah had already been goading me about what generosity really means: **"A generous man devises generous things"** (Isaiah 32:8).

My elementary teacher, Emma Groves, told us never to define a word by using a form of the word, so I went to the dictionaries. *Generosity*, I discovered, is about the readiness to give or help and about the art of being plentiful, open-handed, liberal and noble, as opposed to mean or low. It's also about action, as G. H. Gerberding says, "A liberal soul carries a blessing with him."

Generosity moves us out of ourselves and toward a noble conscience and character that mulls over the needs of others. Remember how, one Sabbath day, Jesus scolded the small-hearted leader of the synagogue whose mind could easily settle on his thirsty donkey, but could ignore the suffering woman who had been bent and crippled for 18 years (Luke 13:10-17)? That man certainly carried no blessing with him. So I went back to Isaiah 32:8: "a generous man devises generous things."

Just how does a person become generous?

John MacArthur points out that generosity comes from "that which is within" (Luke 11:41). His point is that giving begins as a heart-and-mind intersection that conceives and designs generous things. Which means we must guard against having the cold eye, closed hand, and "brightly sceptical" and "belittling" attitude that Triptweeze touts in *Screwtape Letters*. Triptweeze (*Screwtape*, too, of course) would like us Christians to be silent when we ought to speak, and to laugh when we ought to be silent. For devilish purposes, it is good for a person to think only of himself, never of others.

The Bible is replete with stories of people giving from within. For example, generosity flourished during Israel's wilderness wanderings. It's such an unlikely place with its physical barren-

ness and deprivation. The Sinai Peninsula had no storage units, and certainly no refrigerators for extra quail and manna. But Moses reported in Exodus that the people repeatedly gave generously during the building of the tabernacle. Who were these givers? Everyone “whose heart was stirred...and whose spirit was willing,” Moses says. A giver is an individual whose heart and mind (emotion and will) converge to see the need and are “lifted up” to generosity. Both commentators and translators note that the concept of lifting up is a quality of heart and mind that births noble generosity that moves people away from a focus on self to a focus on the needs of others.

Again in Exodus, and later in Leviticus, the Lord commands this purposeful liberality of soul. In Exodus 23 and Leviticus 19 and 25, Moses gave clear exhortations for how to design just and compassionate judgments and provisions for the poor. Partiality either for or against the poor in matters of law is forbidden. If a man falls into poverty, he must be given help. Gleanings must be left in the field for hungry neighbors and strangers. Where Triptweeze would belittle and sneer, God’s people must deal nobly and generously.

Before the Lord allowed the wanderers to enter their Promised Land of milk and honey, he recapitulated his laws, including those on just and noble generosity. Moses’ record in Deuteronomy 15 is an example. At the end of every seven years, a lender was required to surrender his claim and give “the Lord’s release” to any neighbor or brother who owed him money (15:1-2). Or if a man had a Hebrew bondservant, he had to release him in the seventh year, and he could not send the freed man away empty-handed. He was required to supply him generously with sheep or goats, grain, and wine, remembering his own servitude in Egypt (15:12-15). In addition, an Israelite was never to harden his heart or close his hand against those in need. “For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, ‘You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy’” (15:11). Or as commentator C. F. Keil translates the concept in another place, “let your hearts and minds work together to drive you to act nobly and purposefully to serve the needs of others.”

If the Lord’s commands do not motivate us, what will?

In 2013, American individuals, corporations, and foundations gave \$335 billion to charities. Individuals, however, were responsible for 75% of that amount, according to a study by

Indiana University’s Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and the Giving USA Foundation. What made us give? According to the Lilly study, a large number said it was their responsibility to give, and they believed their giving would make a difference. Some gave for personal satisfaction or were on a board or a volunteer for the charity and believed in its cause. Others gave simply because they were asked. Only about 40% gave because of religious beliefs.


Other studies at University of Chicago, George Mason, Yale, and Harvard add more insight. Not surprisingly, heart-tugging human-interest stories spur giving, along with advertising a gift from a big-name donor. Public recognition, getting a name out there as a donor, and social media pressure motivates some people. Others give because it makes them “feel good,” like a surge of the pleasure chemical dopamine. Not all reasons for giving are noble and good, though I think they should be.

How then do we become, as Isaiah 32:8 says, generous people who devise generous things?

First, assess our motives.

- Am I obeying a scriptural mandate?
- Am I making a measured decision from a biblical convergence of volition and emotion?
- Am I fulfilling a duty or responsibility?
- Am I looking for commendation or public recognition?
- Am I mostly considering the social or political rewards I will get?
- Am I making a show of my generosity (See Isaiah 58)?
- Am I consuming myself what I could be giving?

Next, determine how to give with generosity. I could talk about percentages here, and I do believe in tithing, but a tithe is where we start, not where we end. Beyond the tithe are offerings where we can (and should) devise “the generous things” Isaiah described. Regarding the poor and needy, C. S. Lewis said, “I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.... If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small” (*Mere Christianity*).

I don’t have all the answers about generosity. But I can say here at the end of my thoughts that we should commit ourselves to being like the person G. H. Gerberding described: a liberal soul who brings a blessing to others. 

WINTER is PAST

By
Norma Jackson
Goldman

LIKELY, YOU ARE REJOICING THAT WINTER IS PAST,
AND THAT SPRING HAS MADE A WELCOME APPEARANCE.

We've just come through an unusually cold winter—the kind that makes us want to turn up the heat, eat lots of soup, and hope for the warming trend that heralds the coming of spring.

What is it about spring that renews our hope, increases our optimism and pushes us into a flurry of activity? Our first thoughts are to make a list—what must be done to prepare? Bed clearing, seed planting, and shrub trimming ensure a beautiful growing season, whether your yard is large or small. The Creator planned each season to present joys and challenges that draw us nearer to Him, and the rebirth of plants, flowers, and animal life cause us to reflect within our spirits about His call on our lives.

If you were to make a similar list, preparing for this current season of your life, what would it look like? Do you need to plant seeds in the hearts of unsaved friends and loved ones? Is the “bed” of your own heart clear and ready to bloom with the fragrance of God? Is there pruning to be done? Spring is the perfect time to make sure we are free from the “debris” of the past year—disappointment, failed ventures, a bad health experience, a challenging move, or a financial setback. Of course, this is the work of God’s Spirit, but you have the daily opportunity to choose to work with God in His plans for this present season. In so doing, you point people to Him.

I just experienced the loss of my sister. Hers was not an easy life; she faced what most consider daunting obstacles. But at her memorial service, she was characterized as an overcomer, a person of joy and laughter, and the one most likely to light up any room she entered. Because of her personal challenges, her children did not have an easy start, yet each one spoke with hope and optimism that would make you believe they had a privileged upbringing. I came away comforted, renewed in my faith in God’s provision and care, and thankful for opportunities to plant seeds in my own family.

PLANTING SEEDS

No matter what “season” you are in—mid-life or golden years—it is still spring, still a time for planting seeds. Since none of us knows how long we have, it’s best to plant them now. This is your time to speak the truth of the gospel, your time to plant seeds of encouragement, guidance, and wisdom in the hearts of those God places in your path. The harvest depends on what you plant!

A HEART FREE OF DEBRIS

Even before seed planting, every heart needs to be clear of debris, the “leftovers” from any past experiences that threaten to hold us back or prevent the growth that God intends. Make a conscious choice to put the past behind and to concentrate on the good things ahead, the work of God’s kingdom in and through you.

A CAREFULLY PRUNED SPIRIT

What hinders your growth? Pruning unhealthy thoughts and habits makes room for spiritual growth! Perhaps there’s a neglected relationship that needs to be restored, a fresh approach to your daily time with God, or even a renewed focus on family priorities. Living intentionally in every area of life is the mark of a growing, maturing believer.

AN EXPECTANT HEART

Just as we look forward to the first evidence of spring, we anticipate with expectant hearts the fruit God will produce in us and through us during this present growing season. Will this be your best harvest ever? **ONE**

About the Writer: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance career in her retirement. The award-winning writer lives near Houston, Texas. Learn more about retirement options at www.boardofretirement.com.



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Brown on Green >>

How Low Can It Go?

The price of crude oil has been in a steady decline lately. How low can it go?

The short answer is nobody knows. Perhaps a short history of crude oil prices would be helpful. The price historically has been measured per 42-gallon barrel, a throwback to the early days of the oil industry, when crude oil was actually stored in barrels. Barrels haven't been used in decades, but the 42-gallon measurement price continues to be used.

From 1946 to 1973, oil prices were extremely stable ranging from one to three dollars a barrel. In October 1973, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC, Arab members of OPEC) declared an embargo, refusing to sell oil to Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and the United States. These countries had assisted Israel in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when Egypt and Syria attacked Israel in an attempt to regain territory lost to Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War.

The embargo caused oil prices to jump to almost \$12 a barrel overnight. Even though the embargo was lifted in March of 1974, oil continued to trade in the range of \$10 to \$15 a barrel for the next five years. In 1979, oil spiked again due to the Iranian revolution, which decreased global oil supply by 4%. This caused oil to rise again, from around \$15 to almost \$40 in less than a year. Following the spike, oil prices stabilized for the next five years at \$30 to \$40 a barrel.

In 1986, however, Saudi Arabia caused prices to drop dramatically when they began to pump more oil to capture market share. This caused oil to drop to around \$13 a barrel and hurt the United States oil industry severely. For the next four years, oil prices stabilized at around \$15 to \$20 a barrel. A short-lived spike occurred in 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait, and oil spiked to \$27 before settling again at \$15 to \$20, where it stayed for nine years.

From 2000 to 2014, the price of oil was based strictly on an economic principle of supply and demand. Prices steadily rose from around \$20 a barrel in the early 2000s until spiking at \$133 a barrel in 2008, before falling all the way to \$39 in the depths of the Great Recession in 2009. The price spike in 2008 was the result of demands from China and other developing nations, before new developments in oil exploration began to meet the demand. After 2009, oil prices climbed steadily, peaking at over \$100 in 2011. Oil traded between \$80 and \$100 until its last peak of \$103 in May of 2014.

Today, we find ourselves in a similar situation to the one in 1986. OPEC has not cut production and, at the same time, the United States oil industry has developed new methods to dramatically increase oil production, driving prices down quickly. You could say that OPEC is playing an oily game of chicken with U.S. oil producers.

OPEC knows it costs more to produce oil in the States than it does in their countries, and they are making a play for market share. Some OPEC countries are screaming that the price of oil has gone too low. These OPEC nations depend on oil revenues to run their governments and are exerting pressure to cut production in order to raise prices.



OPEC is playing an oily game of chicken with U.S. oil producers.



Some analysts believe we may see oil prices drop into the \$30's before the market stabilizes. Others believe that a steady \$50 to \$70 price range will develop in the near future. One oil official from Saudi Arabia recently said we may never see \$100 oil again. I hope he's right! **ONE**

About the Writer: David Brown, CPA, became 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.

Intersect >>

Lessons from the redemption of the firstborn, Part 2

LIFE BELONGS TO THE LORD



In the February-March issue, we learned that redemption is costly. Life is at stake, and life is required for it to occur, that sacrifice must be made for redemption to take place. This “redemption of the firstborn” is the bedrock of our faith. Because we have violated God’s standard of holiness, mankind has been condemned to death and must be purchased (redeemed) from the bondage of sin and shame.

In this article, in light of the Easter Season, we will examine several New Testament passages that make it clear that Jesus is, indeed, our Passover lamb, the One whose life was given to buy the pardon for our lives of sin.

LUKE 22:15-22 — The Lord’s Supper

And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He said, “Take this and share it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes.” And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold, the hand of the one betraying me is with me on the table. For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed.”

1 CORINTHIANS 5:6-8 — Christ, Our Passover

In this passage, Paul rebuked the Corinthians regarding their blatant sexual immorality, and in doing so he appeals to Christ,

the Passover lamb sacrificed for us:

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

COLOSSIANS 1:13-20 — Christ, Firstborn of Creation, Firstborn From the Dead

For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. And He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

THE PRACTICES OF OUR LIVES MUST DEMONSTRATE THE *REALITY* OF OUR REDEMPTION.

He is also head of body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Because our lives have been redeemed in Christ, we are called to lives that offer signs of our redemption, then passed to future generations, as Paul says, "so that he himself might come to have first place in everything." Two important principles flow out of the redemption of the firstborn for us to put into practice daily.

First, we sacrifice what is most precious/valuable to us in order to show our trust in and devotion to the One who redeemed us. We give Him the first of our time and things. We practice tith-

ing and giving offerings sacrificially as a means of demonstrating our dependence upon our Redeemer. We owe Him everything, and we must rely upon him for everything.

Second, we make our own lives "living sacrifices" to God, subduing our lusts and desires to show the transforming work of his redemption in us (Romans 12:1-2). Living sacrifices do not conform to this world (of materialism and degradation) but are transformed by the renewing of our minds. This is how we demonstrate the will of God, and it is good, acceptable, and perfect. This is how we apply the principle of Christ our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7), putting away the leaven of malice and sin and celebrating with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The practices of our lives must demonstrate the reality of our redemption. By living holy lives, we make it clear to those around us that life belongs to the Lord...even our own. **ONE**

About the Writer: Matthew McAfee is coordinator of Theological Studies at Welch College. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Welch College, Master's degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and University of Chicago, and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. from University of Chicago.

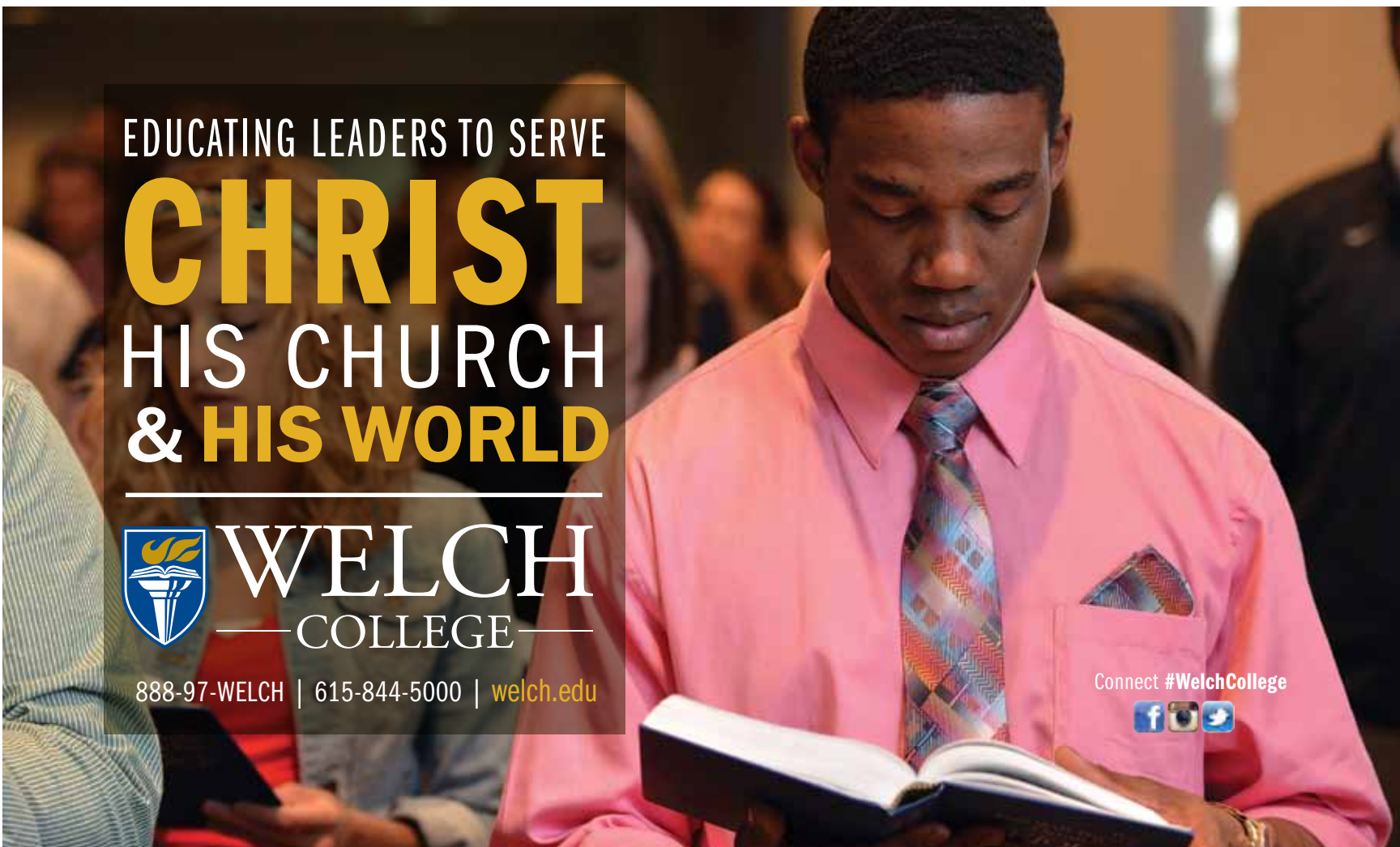
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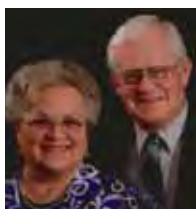
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At Welch College >>

College Receives \$25,000 Gift



Welch College recently received a gift of \$25,000 for the use of updating and improving student-centered technology and computer equipment from the James Carrington family, according to Craig Mahler, vice president for financial affairs.

The gift was given in memory of Mr. Carrington's late father, J. L. "Jimmie" Carrington of Chocowinity, North Carolina. Jimmie Carrington served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was an active member in his church and community. His legacy of selfless service and giving lives on through the generosity of his family.

The gift provided new computers for the library and Student Center, new computers and software for the music department, installation of WI-FI in the classroom building, and upgrades to WI-FI in other student-centered areas on campus.

Welch College Vice-President for Financial Affairs Craig Mahler said, "The college cannot say enough to express our gratitude for the generosity and selflessness displayed by the Carrington family. We see this as another way in which God has miraculously provided for the college's current and pressing needs and are thankful that His people are sensitive to His calling to give."

President Matt Pinson said, "We are thankful to the family of Jimmie Carrington for this gift for needed technological improvements on campus. The gift, like all gifts to Welch College, goes to help students and to fulfill the mission of the college to educate leaders to serve Christ, His church, and His world through biblical thought and life. This gift is a wonderful testament to Mr. Carrington's faithfulness and the generosity of James Carrington and his family." ■

Student Body Sponsors Revival



The Welch College student-led revival took place October 5-8, and featured church planter Marc Nepl. He challenged students to make sure they are intentionally using

their testimonies and education and strategically placing themselves where the gospel may be spread most effectively.

Student body Chaplain David Dell said, "We were blessed to have Brother Marc share his heart with us. His faithfulness in preaching God's Word and his passion for furthering the gospel left a profound impact on the students of Welch College. The Holy Spirit worked mightily in each service, and we look forward to the great things God is going to do on and through our campus as a result."

Marc and his wife Casie are currently raising funds to plant a church in urban Portsmouth, Virginia, through North American Ministries. The Welch College societies raised \$1,333.03 for their work during the revival. ■

Former Administrator Receives Award



Orlando, FL—The Board of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) recently awarded Dr. Milton B. Fields with the Biblical Higher Education Award for his decades of service to education and to ABHE.

After nearly two decades of service as a teacher and administrator in Alabama and Mississippi public schools, Milton Fields began his tenure at Welch College, where he spent more than 20 years in a variety of educational leadership roles, including chairman of the Teacher's Education department, academic dean, vice-president for institutional planning, registrar, and advisor to the president.

Throughout his career, and presently in his retirement, Fields has served as consultant to many Christian schools and colleges and their leaders and served on ABHE's Commission on Accreditation as a team evaluator, evaluation team chair, team trainer, commission member, Appeal Board member, and commission staff representative/consultant.

According to the recent news release from ABHE, Fields is "admired and beloved for his gentleness, infectious humor, and folksy Southern charm by the many ABHE staff and members who have worked with him over the years....Milton exemplifies every aspect of the Biblical Higher Education Award and richly deserves the gratitude and esteem we seek to bestow upon him through this grateful recognition."

Each year at its annual meeting, ABHE recognizes one individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in advancing and assuring quality biblical higher education. ■

President's/Provosts Lists Announced

The fall 2014 semester at Welch College ended with 115 students receiving academic recognition, according to Provost Greg Kettelman. Twenty-six students made all A's and were placed on the President's List—9 seniors, 4 juniors, 9 sophomores, and 4 freshmen. Eighty-nine students earned a 3.25 GPA and/or all A's and B's and were placed on the Provost's list—15 seniors, 26 juniors, 33 sophomores, and 15 freshmen.

President's List: "A" Honor Roll

Stacy Allison (Fr.) TN
Charity Brown (Sr.) TN
Derek Cominskie (Sr.) VA
Anna Grimsley (So.) GA
Alyssa Hill (Fr.) VA
Elizabeth Hill (Sr.) VA
Meagan James (So.) TN
Audrey Jordan (Sr.) TN
Benjamin LaBerge (So.) TN
Renee Lancaster (So.) TN
Casey Lewis (Sr.) NC
Jacob Lute (Fr.) OH
Melissa Nelson (Sr.) NC
Carson Outlaw (So.) TN
Emily Parrish (Jr.) NC
Meaghan Ptak (So.) TN
Laura Riggs (Sr.) TN
Samuel Riggs (So.) AL
Sean Taylor (Sr.) VA
Larissa Thomas (Jr.) AR
Greg Tucker (Sr.) TN
Cherish Tuttobene (Jr.) TN
Jeannine Tuttobene (So.) TN
Elisabeth Webster (So.) VA
Ryan Whitiker (Fr.) TN
Zuri Zuniga (Jr.) AR

Provost's List: "B" Honor Roll

SENIORS

Stephen Bozeman (GA)
Nathaniel Brimer (VA)
Reese Brown (TN)
Nathaniel Austin Deel (TN)
David Dell (VA)
Josh Dunbar (AR)
Joel Forlines (TN)
Dakota Herren (NC)
Lesley Jenkins (TN)
Madison Lindgren (CA)
Deandra Lindsay (TN)
Derreck Lute (OH)
Matthew Mouser (TN)
Elizabeth Snow (TN)
Cody Truett (FL)

JUNIORS

Kameron Ailworth (TN)
Eric Armstrong (AL)
Anna Campbell (TN)
Shelby Cominskie (VA)
Hannah Driggers (SC)
Hanna Dunham (OH)
Celeste Ford (TN)
Jared Forlines (TN)
Abigail Greenwood (TN)
Trevor Holden (AR)
Michael Hollis (NC)
Amy McDonald (TN)
Jessica Melvin (TN)
Rebekah Morgan (TN)

John Newland (TN)
Courtney Pennington (FL)
Maria Petty (IL)
Amy Pickett (AR)
Eric Pope (NC)
Leah Sexton (VA)
Joshua Simmons (TN)
Hannah Skaggs (KY)
Paula Stonerock (OH)
Kristin Trussell (FL)
Zach Vickery (AL)
Reid Wilkerson (TN)

SOPHOMORES

Zachary Barefield (AR)
Autumn Blades (TN)
Jordan Chandler (TN)
Staci Clarke (OH)
Alexander Crawford (AR)
Daniel Dell (VA)
Camille Driggers (SC)
Morgan Droll (IL)
Joslin Ferguson (TN)
Anna Forlines (TN)
Damaris Guzman (WV)
Kayla Hall (FL)
Ashton Johnson (OK)
Sammy Johnson (TN)
Kayla Kimbrell (SC)
Dakota Madden (AL)
Steven Marsh (FL)
Caleb Milling (TN)

Mackenzie McNeese (TN)
Caleb Montgomery (AL)
Tyler Norris (AL)
Hannah Pappas (SC)
Ellen Parrish (NC)
Shelby Payne (IL)
Travis Persinger (IN)
Daniel Reeves (VA)
Claire Ryan (IL)
Matthew Saunders (TN)
Benjamin Scott (TN)
Lauren Strickland (NC)
Will Thornton (TN)
Kelsey Turner (MS)
Hope Walker (IL)

FRESHMEN

Rachel Anderson (TN)
Amy Bozeman (GA)
Josh Chapman (MO)
Eleanor Conley (MO)
Macie Cothran (TN)
Elizabeth Johnson (VA)
Jonathan Lewis (IL)
Hailee Mann (TN)
Mackenzie Moody (NC)
Michaela Reynolds (RI)
Layton Smith (MO)
Anna Stone (TN)
Allison Wade (MO)
Lydia Webster (VA)
Whitney Wright (OH)



POWER T H R O U G H VISION

By Jim McComas

“here there is no vision, the people perish.”

The story is told of a church that painted Proverbs 29:18 over the baptistery. With time and age, however, the first letter chipped and faded, so the verse ended up reading, “here there is no vision, the people perish.” Sadly, this may be closer to the truth in many churches than we would like to admit.

Many thoughts, theories, plans, and programs exist when it comes to church revitalization. Opinions on the subject are as plentiful as the number of churches that are struggling and need help. Neither my department nor I claim to have all the answers, but we all can agree on this: the first step to solving any problem is admitting that there *is a problem* and addressing it.

North American Ministries is proud to facilitate that conversation by hosting the “Acts 1:8 Power Conference for Church Growth and Leadership,” which will be held May 25-26, in Branson, Missouri. While it is impossible to cover every area of church revitalization in two days, the goals of this conference are to provide a launching point for anyone interested in dealing with the topic, as well as providing fellowship, encouragement, and helpful resources for church leaders.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday breakout sessions will cover a wide variety of topics. Pastor and author Rob Morgan will teach four sessions on time management from his new book *Mastering Life Before It's Too Late: 10 Biblical Patterns for Pleasantly Productive People*. Pastor and homiletics professor Jeff Jones will teach the "how-tos" of expository preaching. Singer/songwriter Aaron Wilburn will offer advice on choosing the proper music for the worship service. Brad Ransom and Jim McComas will share practical ideas for church growth and outreach. This conference truly will offer something for everyone.

Services on Monday and Tuesday nights will feature preaching from Jeff Jones, pastor of Hilltop FWB Church in Fuquay Varina, North Carolina, and North American Ministries Executive Director David Crowe. Southern Raised, one of the most highly acclaimed young musical groups in the country, will provide special music, along with Christian humorist and songwriter Aaron Wilburn. Expect some surprises along the way. It will be an experience to remember!

We want this to be a conference for the entire denomination.

Both childcare and Spanish interpretation will be offered. Bring the whole family, enjoy Christian fellowship, and take advantage of beautiful Branson, Missouri, as well.

We feel so strongly about the need for this event that we are offering it absolutely free. The steps to attending are simple:

Contact Teresa Womack in our office (615-760-6132) or email teresa@nafwb.org to pre-register. We need to know how many folks to plan for, and it will also sign you up to receive a free "goody bag" containing books, resources, and more.

Contact Stone Castle Hotel and Conference Center (417-335-4700) to make your hotel reservations. Make sure you mention the Free Will Baptist conference to receive the special convention rate of only \$62.95 per night plus tax. A free, hot buffet breakfast is included.

As I write this, more than half of the blocked hotel rooms have already been reserved, and folks from 12 states have signed up. Excitement is high for this historic conference. The only question is, will you join us?

May it never be said of our churches and our denomination: "here there is no vision, the people perish!" ONE

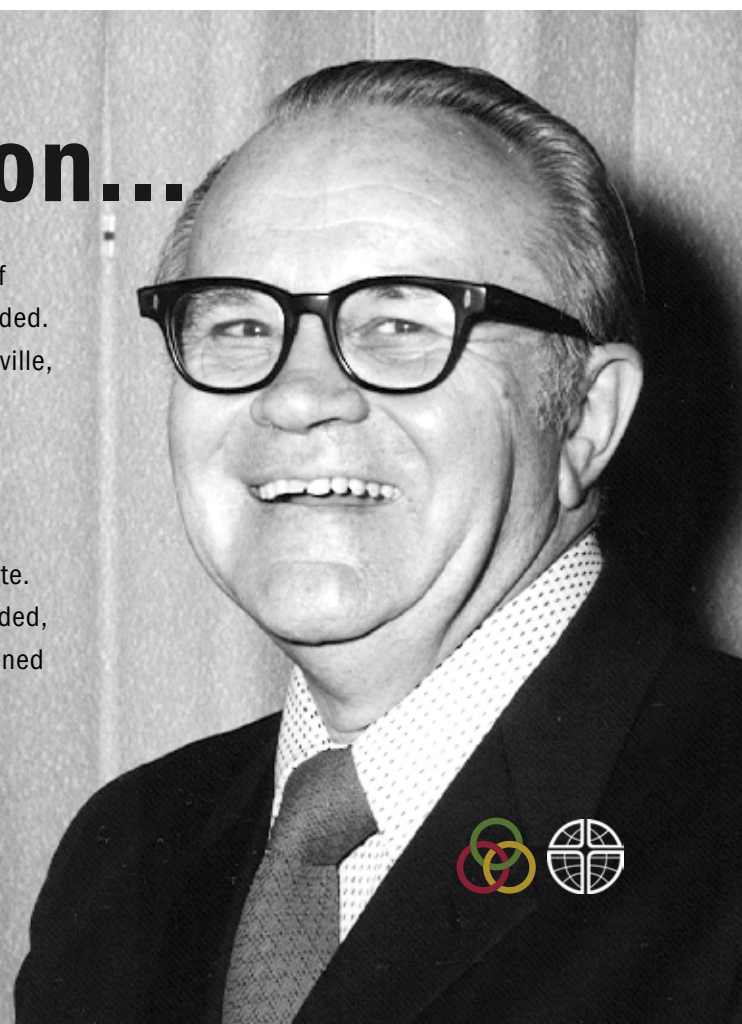
About the Writer: Jim McComas is director of church revitalization for North American Ministries. Learn more: www.HomeMissions.net.

Legacy of innovation...

When Raymond Riggs became the first full-time secretary-treasurer of International Missions in 1950, it was clear a full-time director was needed. In 1953, he opened an office in the new Headquarters Building in Nashville, Tennessee. Riggs began a campaign of awareness, publishing books and pamphlets, including Laura Belle Barnard's *His Name Among All Nations*, and *A Modern Jonah* by Paul Woolsey. Riggs also produced a 16mm film, *Letter to Melitino*, which recounted the powerful story of the work in Cuba and the birth of the Cedars of Lebanon Bible Institute. As a result of his innovative work, awareness blossomed, support expanded, and the scope of Free Will Baptist missions increased as new fields opened in Japan, West Africa, and Brazil.

Create your own International Missions Legacy today with an endowment through the Free Will Baptist Foundation:

877-336-7575 | www.fwbgifts.org | foundation@nafwb.org



Across the Nation >>

North American Ministries Introduces College Internship Program

North American Ministries (Home Missions) is excited to announce a college internship program beginning this summer.

We are working in cooperation with Free Will Baptist colleges to recruit students to serve a 10-week internship at a Free Will Baptist church plant in North America. Some schools may offer college credit for the program, and the experience will be both challenging and rewarding, as students engage in hands-on ministry and develop relationships that will likely last a lifetime.

The purpose of the Church Planting Internship Program is to give college students the opportunity to explore church planting to discover or help define their calling in ministry. Our vision is to find next generation church planters who will join our team in planting Free Will Baptist churches across North America.

Each intern will serve in roles custom-tailored to fit his or her personal gifts, talents, and the expectations of the church plant leader. Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to: children, youth, outreach, music, audio/visual, preaching, teaching, etc.

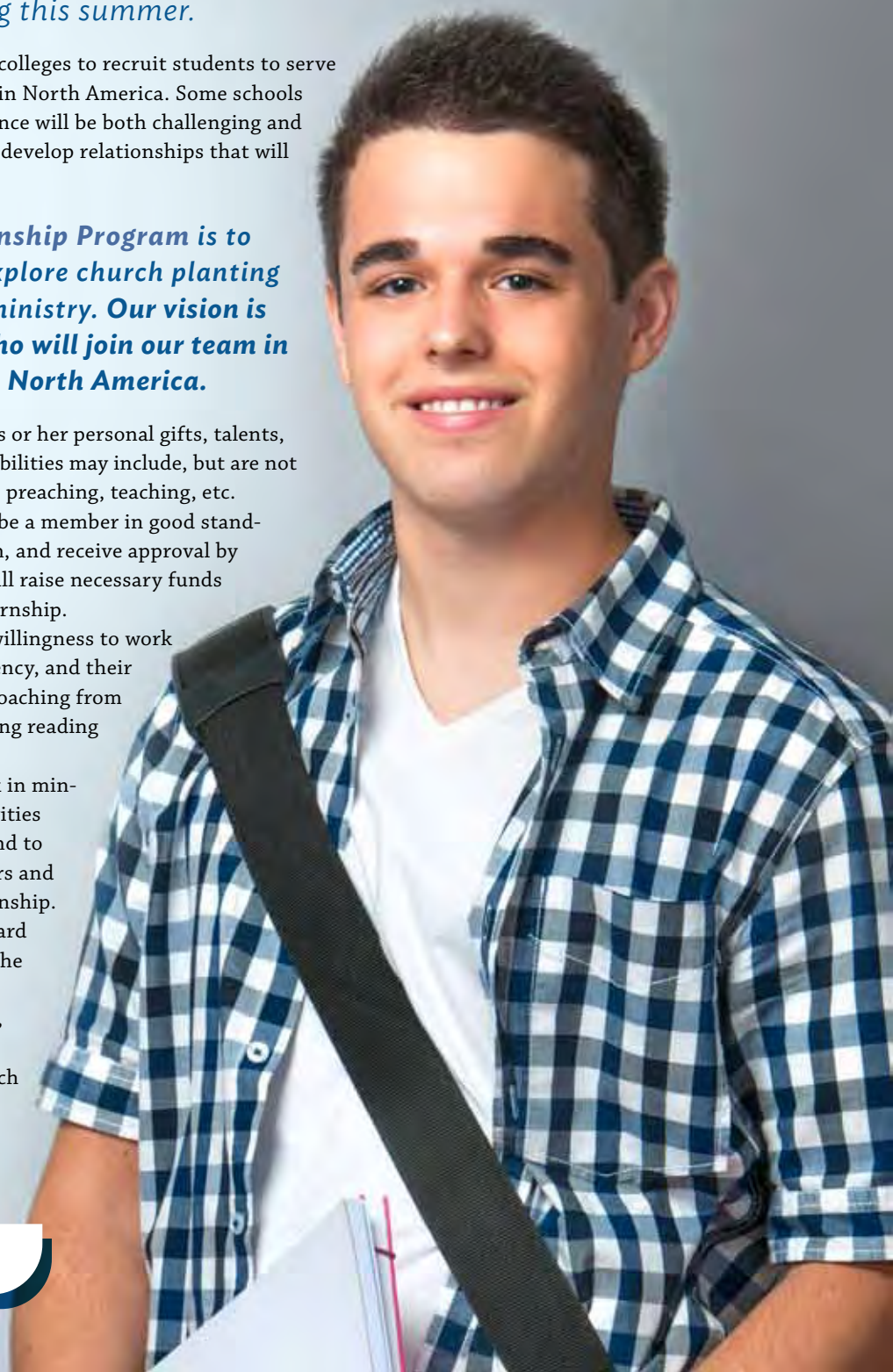
To serve as a church planting intern, applicants must be a member in good standing at a Free Will Baptist church, complete an application, and receive approval by North American Ministries. After approval, the intern will raise necessary funds for travel and other finances needed throughout the internship.

Applicants must be committed to excellence and the willingness to work under the leadership of a church planter, the sending agency, and their college, and be committed to an academic program and coaching from the church planting team where he or she serves (including reading required materials).

Interns can expect to work 25 or more hours per week in ministry related activities, to submit a weekly report of activities to the supervising church planter and Home Missions, and to submit a written report (newsletter or blog) to supporters and constituents halfway through and at the end of the internship.

Church planting interns will receive free room and board during the program, usually with a family or families in the local church plant. Hotel accommodations should not be expected. The church plant will provide a weekly stipend, depending on the congregation's financial ability. Other benefits may be awarded based on the ability of the church plant and the intern's performance.

To apply,
visit our website:
WWW.HOMEMISSIONS.NET.



Trymon Messer Dead at 82



Antioch, TN—Trymon Messer, former director of Free Will Baptist Home Missions, died January 10, at age 82. Messer was born in 1932, in Pontotoc, Mississippi, to sharecroppers Wiley and Annie Laurie, one of ten children. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps, and at age 19, went to war in Korea, where he served as a mine specialist, advancing from private to sergeant, and earning four medals for valor.

After completing his tour of duty, he returned to Tennessee and married his neighbor and sweetheart Opal, his first and only girlfriend. The couple moved to Chicago to begin their lives together, but Trymon knew something was missing. He had not fulfilled a promise to become a Christian, made to his mother at age 13, when she lay on her deathbed as a result of injuries from a tragic fire that also claimed the lives of his brother and a sister. In an effort to fulfill that promise, Trymon and Opal drove a thousand miles across five states to meet with an old friend who had become a Free Will Baptist preacher. The couple was converted, and Trymon spent the rest of his life serving the Lord.

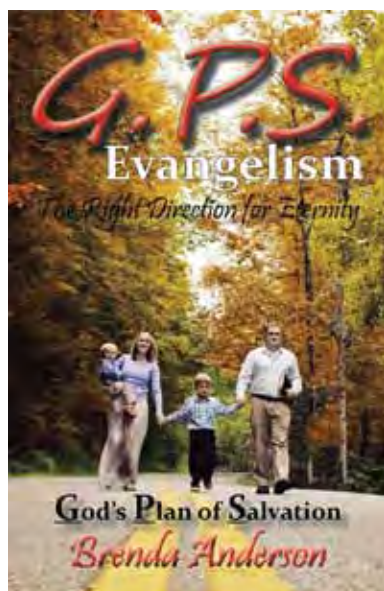
As a 34-year-old layman, Trymon accepted the pastorate of

First FWB Church in Salina, Kansas, when the congregation could not find a pastor. Eleven years later, when he resigned, the congregation had mushroomed from two families to a record attendance of 859, completed three building programs, and helped start five additional Kansas churches. During this time, Trymon chaired the Kansas Mission Board and was elected to the Hillsdale FWB College Board of Trustees. In 1973, he was elected to the Home Missions Board. He was twice named Layman of the Year, by Hillsdale FWB College in 1964, and again by Master's Men in 1969. He was sought by pastors nationwide to lead church-growth conferences.

Home Missions named him associate director in 1978, at age 45. His practical, biblical knowledge and sense of humor made him one of the organization's top spokesmen. He became general director in 1995 and completed 25 years with the department, retiring in 1998.

"Trymon was also a good soldier for the Lord," said David Crowe, current director of Home Missions. "In simple faith, believing that God could do anything, he faithfully served his Commander-in-Chief."

Messer leaves behind his wife Opal and children Michael, Rick, and Amy. ■



West Virginia Free Will Baptist Authors GPS Evangelism

Alum, West Virginia—Free Will Baptist author Brenda Anderson recently published *GPS Evangelism*, a guidebook providing tools to evaluate whether evangelism is optional; to mobilize any church in outreach efforts; and to help more people discover the Word of God.

"With a GPS program in your own church," Anderson shared, "you can enlarge God's kingdom by leading others to His side. This aggressive and organized system can help small, mid-sized, or even large churches to mobilize and energize their congregation to help others find their way to Christ."

Brenda and her husband Glen (Bub) live in Alum Creek, West Virginia, and attend McCorkle Free Will Baptist Church. Throughout 39 years of marriage, the local church has been a vital part of their lives. Brenda is a Bible teacher, speaker, and writer and assists Bub in his role as director of evangelism at their church. The couple also operates Whispering Pines Lake, a recreational fishing site. The couple is passionate about the church and promoting aggressive and organized evangelism designed to bring souls to the kingdom of God.

GPS Evangelism is now available on LifeWay.com, Amazon.com, or Crossbooks.com. ■



A Tribute to Trymon Messer
from the current director of Home Missions...

*I'm
Going
to*
Miss Him

BY DAVID CROWE

*Throughout our lives God places
special people in our paths.*

He uses them to shape and mold us into what we will become in Him. God has placed many wonderful men and women as examples in my own life to influence, encourage, love, pray, teach, and even rebuke me. These men and women have become an important part of who and what I am, where I am, and where I'm headed. Trymon Messer was one of those special people.

Trymon was born in Pontotoc, Mississippi, as one of ten children. A few years ago, I preached a revival in Pontotoc, and while there, I called Trymon and told him I had checked every paved road, dirt road, and pig trail in and out of Pontotoc, Mississippi, and something terrible had happened. When he asked what had happened, I told him someone had stolen every sign that said, "Birthplace of Trymon Messer." All I heard on the other end was a click. He didn't think my joke was funny, because he never sought recognition or acclaim. But I can assure you that if I lived in Pontotoc, Mississippi, I would have put up those signs. He meant that much to me.

I first met Trymon in 1978 in Nashville, Tennessee. My wife Kathey and I had just moved to Nashville, where I had enrolled as a freshman at Welch College. One afternoon, I drove out to Murfreesboro Road to the National Office Building for a tour and to meet the personnel in the various departments. Dr. Roy Thomas and Trymon Messer were the first two people I met when I entered the building. Dr. Thomas had just become the general director of Home Missions, and Trymon had been hired as associate director. After I introduced myself, I expected them to go back to their offices and allow me to roam the building on my own, but instead, Trymon told me to follow him. He introduced me to everyone in every department. When we finished the tour, I assumed he would get back to his busy schedule, but he led me into his office and told me to sit down. We talked for over an hour, and he treated me with such kindness and encouragement that I left that day as a different man than when I arrived. Kathey and I were just a couple of kids who been married just over a year. I had never pastored a church and had only been preaching six months, but Trymon treated me like I was someone important.

I have never gotten over that meeting, and I never will. Little did I realize that 17 years later, Trymon would hire me to help him at Home Missions when he became the general director. He was my hero; he was my friend; he was my mentor, and he was my boss. After he retired from Home Missions, for the next 12 years, he continued to encourage me and give wise counsel. When I was selected to be the general director after Larry Powell retired, Trymon was excited for me, and so com-

plimentary and gracious. *I am going to miss him.*

I observed three simple things in Trymon Messer that were an example to me and to thousands of others:

Trymon was a good soldier. He served his country with honor and courage as a Marine during the Korean War. He was a decorated veteran and one of the most patriotic men I have ever known. I guess this was one of the many things about Trymon that helped to forge our friendship over the years, because of my own military background. Trymon was also a good soldier for the Lord. In simple faith, believing that God could do anything, he faithfully served his Commander-in-Chief. *I am going to miss him.*

Trymon was a good servant. One of the things that impressed me about Trymon was that no matter what position he was given, and no matter how many great and miraculous things God did through him, he never let it go to his head. Trymon was always down-to-earth, willing to do whatever he could to help. He had a true servant's heart. I see this missing in so many Christians today. We would rather be served than to serve others. *I am going to miss him.*

Trymon was a good soul-winner. Trymon was probably the best soul-winner I have ever known. He had an unusual way of putting people at ease and seeing things in them they could not see themselves. I heard him tell those soul-winning stories time and time again, and I would still laugh and cry every time. He witnessed to people and then believed God would convict them and save them. He truly believed that God could do and would do what He promised.

Trymon only went to the fifth grade in school, but he was one of the wisest men I have ever known. He was an ordained deacon, but he was the "preachingest" deacon I ever met. He used to say he didn't know Spanish because he was still trying to learn English, but he wrote a book titled, *God Did It*, that has been read by thousands in English, and translated into Spanish. Today, it is being sent around the world.

Trymon's funeral was more like a revival service than a funeral. He has this life "behind him" now, and he waits for us. I am going to miss you, Brother Trymon, but I'll see you later. **ONE**

WHAT IN THE WORLDVIEW?



By Ruth McDonald

I'll never forget the day I rode home from the doctor wearing new cat-eye, tortoise-shell glasses. Not only did I feel very cute and stylish, I was in absolute awe of the details of the world outside my daddy's car. Until that day, I had seen only a small fraction of the leaves, birds, flowers, and road signs. And I hadn't even realized it.

We all see the world through an individual set of glasses, figuratively speaking. With the correct prescription, we can see the world as it really is. If our prescription is incorrect, however, the view is distorted, though we may or may not realize it. Simply put, the way we view and interpret the world around us is our worldview.

Throughout history, people have attempted to answer common questions about the world. Where did all of this come from? What happens to us after we

die? Is there absolute right and wrong? If there is, how do we know? What is the standard for making moral, legal, and ethical decisions?

The very fact that we desire to answer such questions is a gift from God. According to Genesis, God created man in His own image, setting humans apart from all other created beings. As smart as our pets may be, they are not prone to ponder philosophical questions. Solomon wrote of humans, "He hath set the world

in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end" (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The Hebrew phrase translated "the world" in this verse is *eth-haolam*, which can also be understood as eternity, literally "everlasting to everlasting." God placed this desire to understand life's deep questions in our hearts because we are eternal beings. He has placed eternity—a deep curiosity about our origins and our spiritual significance—in our hearts.

The northern island of Japan boasts some of God's most beautiful landscapes. As a Christian, I see the beautiful snow-capped mountains, deep blue lakes surrounded by emerald forests, and the vastness of the ocean, and I think, "What a great Creator we have!"

I am always startled when the thoughts of my non-Christian Japanese friends do not run in the same direction. Instead, they think, "Wow! The meteor that created this lake really must have been something" or "I wonder what these mountains looked like before the volcanic eruptions?"

It seems as though we are viewing completely different landscapes. Or, maybe we are wearing a completely different prescription in our "glasses," and the view seems different because of distortion. While my worldview has been shaped by my knowledge of and belief in the Bible, theirs has been heavily influenced by science and naturalism.

In Psalm 19, we read that the heavens declare the glory of God and there is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Yet, while God left a witness in nature, it is not easily understood without the explanations in His Word, and the right prescription applied to spiritual eyes.

The importance of our worldview goes far beyond the overall quest for meaning and purpose. It also makes all the difference in how we feel about everyday issues of life: money, shopping, parenting, career choices, marriage, divorce, sex, abortion, same-sex marriage, entertainment choices, disabilities, sickness and death. In other words, our worldview affects pretty much everything.

What Is a BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW?

In an attempt to answer their deepest questions, humans have created a virtual pantheon of religions and belief systems. Even those who deny the idea of religion

attempt to explain the world around them with complex systems of thought such as secular humanism, existentialism, deism, and postmodernism. While most of the world's people wouldn't put a particular label on their philosophy or worldview, they all have one.

Okay. So people living in other countries have a non-biblical worldview, and many non-Christian Americans do, too. What about Christians living in the United States? What about us? We all share a biblical view of the world, right?

According to a recent survey by the Barna Research Group, only 4% of Americans hold a "biblical worldview." Even more alarming, results showed that the number of born-again Christians holding a biblical worldview was only 9%.

Consider a short sampling of the questions asked by the researchers:

Do absolute moral truths exist?

Did Jesus Christ live a sinless life?

Is God the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe, and does He still rule it today?

Is salvation a gift from God that cannot be earned?

Is Satan real?

Does a Christian have a responsibility to share his or her faith in Christ with other people?

Is the Bible accurate in all of its teachings? (1)

How is it possible that only 9% of Christians answered yes to all of these questions? Are we also in danger of letting our biblical worldview erode into a distortion?

The answer, quite simply, is yes! The world around us is sliding at an alarming rate into a godless mindset that denies the validity of faith and morality. We are

bombarded daily with attacks on biblical truth, both blatant and subtle. Like fish swimming in tainted water, we ingest harmful thoughts and ideas simply by existing in our environment.

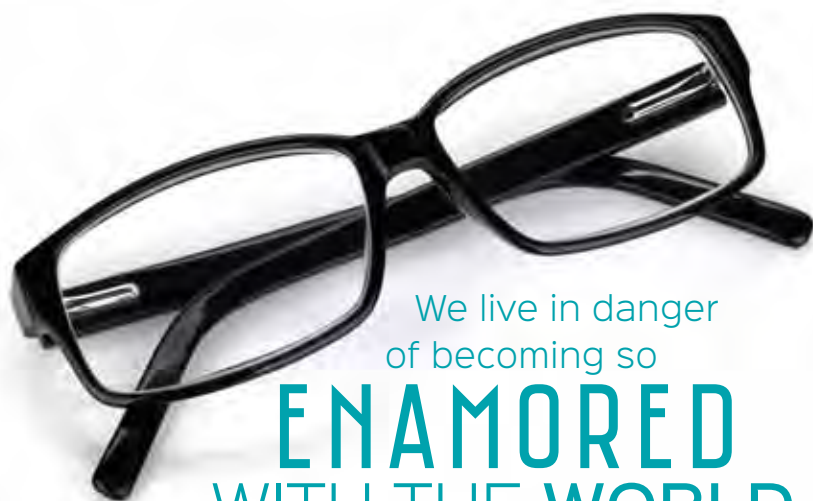
Simply put, any attitude, opinion, or moral judgment we encounter must be measured by the only unchanging standard of truth, the Word of God. In Hebrews 13:8, we are pointed to Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever. Truth and morality do not change. They are found in Christ, as revealed in the Bible. Any philosophy that does not agree with God's truth is therefore not true, and to accept it would be to step out of a biblical worldview.

How Do We Maintain a BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW?

If we are like fish swimming in tainted water, how can we keep from absorbing the harmful "substances" and endangering our biblical worldview? Like any aquarium, the key component is a good filtration system. We must filter everything we encounter through the Word of God. As Paul stated in 2 Corinthians 10:5, we should be "casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

What we see portrayed by videos, television, advertising, and social media often will not pass the test of God's filter. If we are careful to keep the filter in place, we will be able to discern error and discard it before it affects our thinking. Bringing every thought captive encourages us to set a guard on our thoughts and filter out everything that does not agree with God's truth. Our culture is not neutral: it is openly hostile to God and His truth.

In Romans 12:2, we are warned that the world is trying to squeeze us into its mold. Never has this been truer. We are assaulted constantly with stories that play upon our sympathies and, if we



We live in danger
of becoming so
**ENAMORED
WITH THE WORLD**
around us that we actually become captive to it,
rather than to Christ.

are not vigilant, lead us to cheer on evil behavior and causes that do not represent God's truth at all. We are prone to condone evil behaviors if people we love exhibit them.

Sometimes, a change of environment is advisable. If an aquarium is too filled with gunk to support life, it is time for a water change. If your work, school, or social environment is no longer compatible with spiritual life, you may need to ask God to move you to another tank. It is better to admit that the filter is not up to the task than to overestimate our ability to deflect and catch every pollutant and die a slow death due to toxins.

It is also important not to add pollutants to our environments. While non-biblical messages and influences are unavoidable, we certainly have some control as to what degree of exposure we allow. No filter can strain out a constant barrage of sin, dysfunction, violence, and immorality. Yet, if we are honest, at times, most of us

willingly expose ourselves to a harmful amount of impurity.

We live in danger of becoming so enamored with the world around us that we actually become captive to it, rather than to Christ. It is a story as old as the Garden of Eden, and we find ourselves thinking, "Did God really say...?"

What would happen if we ran our daily viewing, reading, and entertainment through the filter of "whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8). Would it make a radical difference in our daily choices?

Interacting With **DIFFERENT WORLDVIEWS**

While we live in an absolute battlefield, with a war raging around us, we need to

remember whom we are fighting. The enemy of our souls and the souls of those we encounter is none other than Satan himself. People, on the other hand—even those with opposing worldviews—are not the enemy. Even our sensual, perverted, antagonistic culture is not the enemy. No matter how much our co-workers, neighbors, and public figures reflect the mindset of the enemy, they are not the enemy themselves. Instead, they present an opportunity to share the love and saving knowledge of Christ.

Just as we would not get angry with a blind man for his helplessness, we must guard against being defensive and mean-spirited to those who are, according to the Bible, spiritually blind. Second Corinthians 4:4 describes them as those "whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Jesus didn't come to heal the healthy but the sick. The Church is not only here to minister to Christians but also to those with differing worldviews as well. They are one of the main reasons we exist.

It is easy to get angry in the face of the opposition. However, it is important to remember that people, even those who oppose God, are His workmanship, created in His image, with eternity in their hearts. Our most effective weapon is prayer. Satan blinds spiritual eyes, and only Christ can remove the blinders and allow the spiritually blind to see the truth.

The powerful words of Zechariah, spoken thousands of years ago, remain true today. The battle will be won "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

ONE

Leader Profile >>

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

Robert Posner, Jr.

Every leader in this column possesses qualities and characteristics that make him or her worth reading about.

Over time, you find repeated styles and traits among these leaders, and occasionally you read about a unique leader who challenges your thinking. Robert is unique in multiple ways, but you will understand quickly why he is different. Robert has pastored for 23 years, 17 years at Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Plano, Texas. He and his wife Judy are blessed with three adult children: Bethany, Anna, and Nate, who all live in Plano and serve in some capacity as volunteers at the church.

Robert is serious about prayer, Scripture, and family. While a teenager, he felt God's call to the ministry and was both nervous and unsure about surrendering to it. His youth pastor, Doug Henderson, encouraged him and provided opportunities for him to teach. Even with a supportive youth minister, Robert was frightened by two experiences that almost kept him from the ministry.

The first occurred during a failed speech where Robert's embarrassment gripped him to the core. The second came from a distasteful experience in community college, after which he wanted no part of higher education.

A year or so after the second event, Robert shared his apprehension about God's call with his friend Tim Rabon. Tim committed to pray with Robert ten minutes each day about Robert's career and calling. Within a month, the call overwhelmed Robert, and he surrendered. As a result, Robert makes prayer a priority. Prayer, Scripture, and family—things he learned from his mother's example. Described as one of the greatest sources of support, Robert credits his mom for her prayers, love, and encouragement.

His quiet time routine involves repeated readings through a specific book in the Bible over several months. He reads a chapter and sometimes journals his thoughts. Other times, he outlines major points, but in Robert's words, "I let The Book consume me." He does not read commentaries until he has spent many hours and weeks studying Scripture itself. After 3-6 months, he considers what commentators say about the cultural setting and difficult passages. He does not read the Bible for sermons, but at times, he shares what he is learning with his congregation.

Robert and Judy both spend serious time studying Scripture, working with young adults, and both are prayer warriors. His entire life and ministry is the result of prayer.

Robert, you are a great leader! ONE



What connects you and Judy these days?

We share several mutual passions: missions, mentoring others in their faith, reading books, and seeing either a play or watching a movie.

What does your ideal date look like?

We thrive on uninterrupted time together. The ideal date consists of three items: a tasty, unhealthy dinner; a play or movie; and uninterrupted time into the middle of the next day. We usually only get two of the three.

What are you reading right now?

Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy
by Eric Metaxas

Love & Respect by Emerson Eggerichs
The Great Divorce by C. S. Lewis

How would others describe your leadership style?

I think they would say I like to be personally involved, and that while there is value in the 30,000 feet perspective, I like to be close enough to help with the ups and downs in people's lives. They would say I delegate only to help others grow. That I see benefit in failing as well as succeeding. Everyone knows I believe God works mightily in those whom other people reject. And hopefully, they recognize that my patience comes from reliance on the Lord.

Why do you feel that God called you to ministry?

Since I found Christ, my burden for others has increased. I work to teach and make the complicated simple; doing so encourages others. I also have a soft spot for the underdog, the rejected, and the outcast. I realize God's grace did not give up on me, and I cannot give up on others.

NYC News >>

#truth

JULY 19-22, 2015

JOHN 8:32



Special Reminder

All Competition Event Entries

Deadline - June 1

Individual entries and state competition results must be sent to Randall House by June 1

The competition event schedule will be posted online at **www.verticalthree.com** by June 15, and a complete competition directory will be available online by July 1.

NEW CTS Guidelines for 2016
Don't miss the coaches' meeting at NYC to hear about changes and new events.

**Groups making hotel reservations for eight or more, see special note on page 52.*

NYC Speakers



**Sunday AM
Corey Minter**
is lead pastor at New Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Joelton, TN.



**Sunday PM
Dr. Charles Jackson**
is a science professor at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, OK.



**Monday PM
Joe Wilson**
is associate pastor at Kirby Free Will Baptist Church in Flat Rock, MI.



**Tuesday PM
Mark Mittelberg**
is author of The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask (With Answers and the Reason Why Faith Makes Sense.

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About the Denomination >>

Former Moderator J.D. O'Donnell Dead at 85

Liberty, Texas—J. D. O'Donnell, former moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists died November 29, 2014. A graduate of Bob Jones University, he later continued his education at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he completed B.D. and Th.D. degrees.

Dr. O'Donnell was involved in Christian higher education for much of his career. He served as a professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College (now Welch College) from 1961-1965. In 1965, he became president of Hillsdale FWB College (known then as Oklahoma Bible College), where he served until 1971. Under his leadership, Hillsdale was relocated to the current campus three miles south of Moore, Oklahoma. He was an outstanding educator who contributed much to the lives of his students and to higher education among Free Will Baptists.

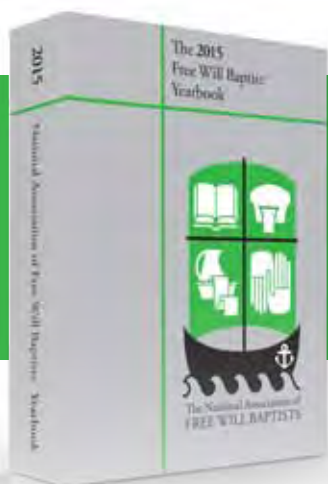
He held a number of positions within the denomination, including membership on the Radio-TV Commission, Chaplain's Commission, and Commission on Theological Liberalism. He worked for a time as editorial manager for the Free Will Baptist Sunday School Department, and served as assistant moderator of the National Association from 1969-1970 and moderator from 1971-76.

Dr. O'Donnell was also successful as a pastor, serving five Free Will Baptist churches between 1949 and 1973. In the closing years of his ministry, he pastored successfully in the United Methodist denomination, retiring from pastoral ministry for the last time at age 78.

He was author of five books and co-author of two. Several of his books, such as *Faith for Today* and *Handbook for Deacons*, are still in use today.

O'Donnell is survived by his wife Jean and sons Dan and Daryl.

Adapted from an obituary written by Dr. Thomas L. Marberry, friend and former student.



2015 Yearbook Now Available

Antioch, TN—The 2015 Free Will Baptist 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, contact Randall House Publications at 800-877-7030 or visit www.RandallHouse.com.

Pre-Registration

2015 National Association of Free Will Baptists

NAFWB | NYC | Grand Rapids, Michigan | July 19-22, 2015

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

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country (if outside USA) _____ Phone (preferably cell) _____ - _____ - _____

Email Address _____

Church You Attend _____ Church City _____ State _____

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

Voting Delegates

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

Non-Voting

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

National Association Information:

877-767-7659 | www.nafwb.org

Tickets

WNAC Laughter and Latté Qty _____ x \$15 = _____

Monday, July 20, 8:30 p.m.

Welch College Alumni &

Friends Luncheon Qty _____ x \$30 = _____

Wednesday, July 22, 12:00 noon

Please note: There will no longer be WNAC registration for the national convention.

National Youth Conference

Preschool

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

Students: \$25

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

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

*Competitors must pay \$25 conference fee in addition to competition fees already paid.

College Age | Adults: \$15

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

- ☐ Adult Attendee

Tickets:

The Skit Guys Qty _____ x \$10 = _____

Tuesday, July 21, 9:00 pm (\$12 onsite/at the door)

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

Register April 1 – June 19, 2015 (postmarked) No Refunds After June 19

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

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

Card # _____

Card Holder _____ Exp ____/____

Signature _____

RETURN TO:

Convention Registration

PO Box 5002

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

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

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

Convention Housing

2015 National Association of Free Will Baptists

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel (HQ)*

187 Monroe Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
800-253-3590
Rate: \$139
Mention NAFWB for group rate.
Valet Parking: \$23 per night
Self Parking: \$15 per night
Limit of 7 reservations per individual.*



Courtyard by Marriott Downtown

11 Monroe Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
877-901-6632
Rate: \$129
Mention NAFWB for group rate.
Valet Parking: \$23 per night
Self-Parking: \$15 per night
Limit of 7 reservations per individual.*



JW Marriott Grand Rapids

235 Louis Street NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
800-971-4762
Rate: \$144
Mention NAFWB for group rate.
Valet Parking: \$23 per night
Self-Parking: \$15 per night
Limit of 7 reservations per individual.*



Major Changes are coming to the reservation process for 2015. Here are the three important things you need to know about making reservations this year:

1. Online reservations will open Monday, May 4, 9:00 a.m. CT (10:00 a.m. ET). No phone reservations will be accepted on this day. Links to online reservations will be at www.nafwb.org.

2. Phone reservations will open Tuesday, May 5, 9:00 a.m. CT (10:00 a.m. ET). Internet reservations are highly encouraged by the Amway Grand. Due to limited reservation staff, call-in reservations may experience wait times in excess of an hour on Tuesday. Calls will be answered in the order received. The Amway Grand is not responsible for lost calls, or if the block sells out prior to speaking to an agent.

3. *Group reservations. Due to individual reservation limits imposed by each hotel, groups making eight or more reservations should contact convention manager Ryan Lewis (877-767-7659) between February 1 and April 24 for information on making group reservations.

1. Prepare Personal Information

You will need the following:

- + Name(s)
- + Address, City, State, Zip
- + Phone/Email
- + Credit Card Information
- + Special Requests:
 - Wheelchair Accessibility
 - Rollaway Bed
 - Crib

2. Contact Your Hotel of Choice

Online Reservations will open at 9 am, CT, 10 am, ET, Monday, May 4, 2015. Hotel links will be at:

www.nafwb.org.

Phone Reservations will open at 9 am, CT, 10 am, ET, Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

Hotels have been instructed **NOT TO ACCEPT** reservations before this time.

3. Things to Remember

- + **A non-refundable cancellation fee of the first night's room and tax will be charged for any cancelled reservation.**
- + Hotel rates do not include 15% tax.
- + Available rooms may be posted at www.nafwb.org for transfer.

**Reservation Cut-off date:
Friday, June 19, 2015**

2015 Election Schedule for Standing Boards and Commissions

Introducing 2015 Convention Nominees

Home Missions 2021

Earl Hanna, South Carolina
(replacing Earl Hanna, South Carolina)

Tim Stout, Ohio
(replacing Tim Stout, Ohio)

Mike Cash, Arizona
(replacing Ron Parker, Louisiana—
ineligible for re-election)

Mike Cash has pastored East Valley FWB Church (AZ) since 2003. Before arriving at East Valley, he was associate pastor/youth pastor at Hilltop FWB Church (NC) from 1997-2003. He graduated from Southeastern FWB College with a Bachelor's Degree in Bible with Pastoral Theology and Missions. Mike has served as moderator of the Arizona State Association since 2009 and is treasurer of the Alumni Association of Southeastern FWB College. He is active in the Phoenix community as chaplain of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department, volunteer counselor at area crisis pregnancy centers, and by coaching little league football, basketball, and baseball teams. Mike and his wife Misty have one son, Dylan.

Board of Retirement and Insurance 2021

Larry Clyatt, Florida
(replacing Larry Clyatt, Florida)

Rick Dement, Missouri
(replacing Rick Dement, Missouri)

Ron Barber, Oklahoma
(replacing Jack Daniel, Georgia—
ineligible for re-election)

Ron Barber is active in both the youth and music programs at Bethany FWB Church (OK), as well as serving as deacon and trustee. He is a CPA and attorney with 34 years of experience advising both for-profit and non-profit organizations. In addition to practicing law, he manages business interests and market investments for private individuals with holdings in excess of \$1 billion. He has served on the Board of Directors for more than 30 organizations, including previous terms on the Board of Retirement for 20 years (10 as chairman). Ron earned a B.S.B.A. from University of Arkansas in 1977 and the J.D. from University of Tulsa College of Law in 1980. He and his wife Debbie have two adult children, Ben and Maggie, and three grandchildren.

Free Will Baptist Foundation 2021

Gene Williams, North Carolina
(replacing Gene Williams, North Carolina)

Rick Locklear, Michigan
(replacing Rick Locklear, Michigan)

Phil Whiteaker, Arkansas
(replacing Phil Whiteaker, Arkansas)

Commission for Theological Integrity 2020

Rodney Holloman, Tennessee
(replacing Rodney Holloman, Tennessee)

Historical Commission 2020

Eric Thomsen, Tennessee (replacing Eric Thomsen, Tennessee)

Music Commission 2020

Bryan Hughes, North Carolina
(replacing Bryan Hughes, North Carolina)

Media Commission 2020

Travis Penn, Indiana
(replacing Travis Penn, Indiana)

Executive Committee 2018

Glenn Poston, Tennessee
(replacing Glenn Poston, Tennessee)

Mike Wade, Oklahoma
(replacing Mike Wade, Oklahoma)

Edwin Hayes, Ohio
(replacing Edwin Hayes, Ohio)

Edwin Hayes is executive secretary of the Ohio State Association, where he edits Ambassador magazine, directs the Ohio Bible Institute, directs the annual Ohio Men's retreat, oversees Ambassador Bible Bookstore, and performs the denomination's promotional work for Ohio. Edwin previously pastored his home church, Columbus First, from 1980-1993. He earned a degree in Business Administration from Franklin University in 1983, and has served as clerk of the Randall House Board, as Ohio State Moderator, and as a member of the Franklin Conference Mission Board. He has also written a number of articles for denominational publications. Edwin and his wife Linda have two daughters, Julie and Holly.

General Officers

Moderator:
Tim York, Tennessee
(replacing Tim York, Tennessee)

Assistant Moderator:
William Smith, Georgia
(replacing William Smith, Georgia)

Clerk:
Randy Bryant, Florida
(replacing Randy Bryant, Florida)

Assistant Clerk:
Ernie Lewis, Illinois
(replacing Ernie Lewis, Illinois)

The following boards do not elect members in 2014: Welch College, International Missions, and Randall House.

Photo: Mark Cowart



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

ONE to ONE >>

THE “Y” IN THE ROAD

I had played my final high school football game. The next morning, my dad and I pulled away from our house in his pickup truck before daylight. We were going on a weeklong hunting expedition in Nebraska. I was excited, to say the least.

I sat wide-eyed in the passenger’s seat as we traveled down unknown roads and viewed unfamiliar scenery. My anticipation heightened as my father outlined the plans he had for us once we reached our destination. Our journey was briefly interrupted when we stopped to purchase fuel and get a bite to eat.

It was late afternoon, somewhere in Kansas, when we pulled off the road.

My dad confessed that he was tired and wanted me to drive for a while. He didn’t have to ask twice. I was more than happy to accommodate.

Driving on an unfamiliar interstate highway was a teenage boy’s dream.

We hadn’t gone very far when I heard a familiar, rhythmic sound...my dad was snoring. He was sound asleep. I have often wondered if that was a sign of his faith in me or simply a matter of fatigue. Since he never said, I will assume it was more the former than the latter.

Just as I was getting comfortable behind the wheel, a highway sign appeared and caught my attention. It announced that the

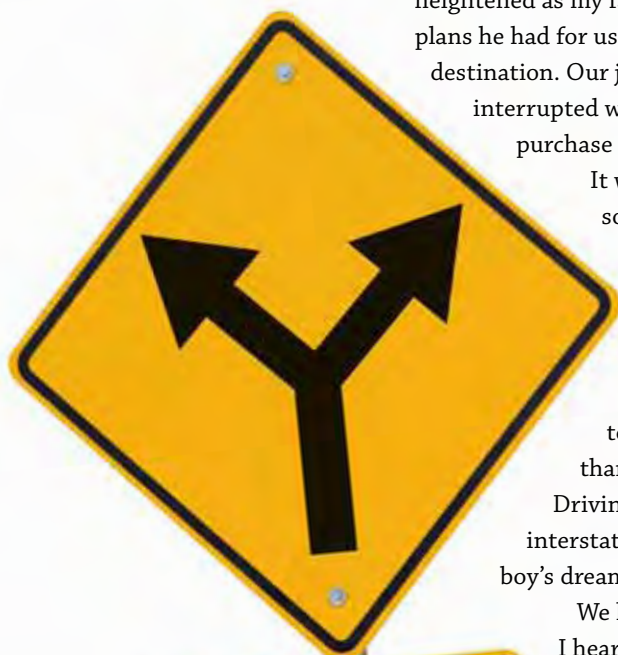
interstate would split in one mile. I had 60 seconds to make a decision. In typical male fashion, I opted not to awaken my dad to ask for directions. I decided to trust my own instincts. Bad move.

It was about an hour later when my father stirred from his slumber. “Where are we?” he asked. I explained the dilemma I had faced and the decision I made. He retrieved the road map from the glove box and discovered I had chosen incorrectly.

Thankfully, we did not have to backtrack. We turned onto an alternate route and eventually managed to get back on the proper road. My mistake cost us an extra hour in traveling time but taught me a lifelong lesson: you are better off following a road map than trusting your instincts.

The Bible warns about the danger of trying to find your own way spiritually: “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). Fortunately, we don’t have to find our own way spiritually. God has given us clear directions in His Word: “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it...” (Isaiah 30:21).

Through the years I’ve encountered many “Ys” in the road. Honesty dictates I tell you I have not always made the best decision. However, I can tell you God’s road map has never steered me wrong. His clear, written directions in the Bible are far superior to my often unreliable instincts. **ONE**



Skills Needed!

The Music Commission invites musicians (age 15+) to participate in the convention choir and orchestra in Grand Rapids this July. Those of at least third-year skill level will enjoy playing with musicians from all over the country. If you'd like to be involved or have questions, contact the commission: music@nafwb.org.

**We look forward to worshipping
with you in Grand Rapids!**

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One Generation ...to the Next

Psalm 145:4



APRIL 26, 2015

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