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Of Free Will Baptists

APRIL 1970



FOREIGN MISSIONS



FRESNO COMMUNITY AND CONVENTION CENTER

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HELPING TOGETHER BY PRAYER

The story is told of a young couple bidding farewell to the church as they departed for an African field known as "The White Man's Grave." The husband said, "My wife and I have a strange dread in going. We feel as if we were going down into a pit. We are willing to take the risk and go if you, our home circle, will promise to hold the ropes." One and all promised.

Less than two years passed when the wife and little one God had given them died of a fever. The husband realized his days were numbered. Not waiting to send word of his return home, he started back at once and arrived at the hour of the Wednesday prayer meeting. He went in and sat unnoticed on a back seat. At the close of the service he went forward and awe came over the people as they saw death written on his face. He said, "I am your missionary. My wife and child are buried in Africa and I have come home to die. This evening I listened anxiously for some mention of your missionaries to see if you were keeping your promise, but in vain. You prayed for everything connected with yourself and your home church, but your missionaries were not mentioned. Now I see why I have failed as a missionary. It is because **you have failed to hold the ropes.**"

Would this be true if one of our missionaries suddenly appeared in our church? How often missionaries earnestly entreat us to pray for them. Yet I can not help wondering how many folk take the request seriously. Without a doubt, negligence in prayer is one of the greatest hindrances to world missions. The lack of missionary intercessors is the weak link in our missions outreach.

World missions was born in a prayer meeting, according to the book of Acts. This missions momentum was maintained because the church continued to pray. More than 30 times prayer is mentioned in Acts. It might well be called a primer on prayer. Peter's deliverance from prison and death in chapter 12 is only one of the miraculous answers to prayer. In the next chapter, the church at Antioch commissioned Paul and Barnabas as missionaries after a prayer meeting.

Paul recognized the need of prayer partners. "Always keep on praying," was his request to the Thessalonian church. He entreated the church at Rome to "agonize" in prayer for him (Romans 15:30). The church at Colosse (Colossians 4:3) and Ephesus (Ephesians 6) also received special prayer requests. Paul was well aware that the success of his missionary venture depended upon faithful prayer support. In his missionary exploits, he was sustained by God's grace because of prayer. The escape of Paul and Silas from the dungeon in Philippi is only one of the many instances where God intervened.

It was the prayers of a saintly woman in Kentucky that enabled Brother Willey, Sr. to find his way out of the jungles of Peru years ago when he was lost. The prayers of another lady in South Carolina sustained the Carlisle Hannas out in India during an hour of sorrow when their child was called home.

The "Haystack prayer meeting" at Williams College in 1806 sparked the modern missionary thrust from the United States. Jesus not only said "go ye," but "pray ye." Because His followers took Him seriously, great feats have been accomplished in world evangelism. Dr. A. T. Pierson declared, "Every step in the progress of missions is directly traceable to prayer."

Prayer, like electricity, is a mighty dynamic force that must be released and utilized. As gravity is a law of nature, so prayer is a spiritual law that moves God to action. The greatest ally of the missionary engaged in a spiritual struggle with satan is a faithful intercessor. The only way this invisible force can be conquered is through prayer. Prayer is the ultimate weapon in this warfare against the host of evil forces in a hostile world.

It is not possible for every one to go to the mission field, but no one can find an excuse for not praying. Effective intercession depends upon faith, discipline, perseverance and a sensitivity to the Spirit. When Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands, he prevailed over Ammalek. So we must hold up the hands of our missionaries who are in the front line battle. There is no substitute for an intercessor who is "helping together by prayer."



A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Jim Owen Jones

You can not trace the developments of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions without feeling a subdued but glorious surge of excitement.

The minutes of the annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists records those developments in simple language of humility and dedication. In those minutes you can watch young Thomas H. Willey father the Cuban Free Will Baptist Church . . . listen to Laura Barnards' plea for her India before the assembly of delegates . . . or watch India's doors close on a missionary era as young nationals strive to take over the work. You can witness the struggle and toil of Free Will Baptist missionaries who open one field after another—Ivory Coast, Brazil, Panama, Uruguay, Ecuador, and France. Slowly but surely in those first years the foreign missions department propagated a spirit of evangelism throughout the denomination. Men and women spent their lives for the Free Will Baptist endeavor and you can witness their lives burning out for God in those national minutes.

In this issue of **Contact**, we think you will be proud to learn about men and women and those hard times of growth that made God's Church a very real presence for thousands of people who would otherwise have not heard.

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APRIL 1970

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THE EMERGING CHURCH IN IVORY COAST

by J. Reford Wilson

MISSIONARY WORK is never impossible. It has the command and authority of heaven to accomplish divine purpose. This world has never provided a favorable climate for growth of the Church but like a mighty river the Church has pursued its course.

I have recently seen its objective fulfilled in contrasting cultures. I met an illiterate African chief and a French university professor of mathematics who had discovered a new way of life in Jesus Christ. Though miles apart geographically and poles apart culturally, both, through the new birth, had become sons of God (John 1:12). Could one say that the environment of ignorance and poverty in the African village was a more favorable climate for Christian missions than the enlightened and affluent French society?

The gospel message of love and grace has always been in conflict with powers enslaving men. It has survived the fires and prisons of tyrants. It has competed with false religions. The teachings and miracles of Jesus Christ were questioned by both religious and political authorities. His miracles attested to His claim of deity and His teachings of divine truth and human rights have never been excelled by any religious prophet or campus lecturer. His death and resurrection are the dynamics of the good news which delivers men from the powers of hell, even in African cultures.

The emerging church in Ivory Coast West Africa is proving that the Word of God is sufficient for all things. The missionary knows this, and expects social and cultural changes when the gospel message is believed.

A young African from a more advanced tribe leaves his area and becomes an evangelist to the most primitive tribe in his country. The gospel of love has broken social barriers.

Men who had bartered for their wives and thought of them only as property or for lustful pleasure heard the man of God declare that the Bible says, "Husbands love your wives . . ." The Christian men no longer live in separate huts or practice polygamy. They now build houses to live as a Christian family. Cultural changes from evil practices are a by-product of conversion experience. Literacy classes teach adults to read so the scriptures become meaningful. The purpose of such teaching is for people to know more about God. However, in learning to read, they also have the added benefit of reading pamphlets on health and learning that impure water and unsanitary conditions cause much of their sickness. Village life is improving.

Miracles confirm the Word of God. The missionaries

who have always had the Bible and lived under the influence of Christian teaching have seen basic doctrines questioned and tested. They have had to give interpretation of Biblical principles in a culture never before affected by Christian teachings. What constitutes marriage? Are polygamy and adultery synonymous? What does a convert do with his extra wives and children? What are the fruits of repentance and when is a convert baptized?

The church must have a good witness in the village as it emerges as a vital part of African culture. How should church discipline be exercised? How much authority should the missionary exercise over the young church? How much money should the missionary or mission board invest in the program of the local church? Who should build their places of worship? Who should support their pastors? In organizing the church, should the missionary have any official position? Should the national Christians have any voice in the policies of the foreign missions affecting the work of the churches? If there are schools and hospitals how much voice should the national church have in these institutions supported and staffed by missionaries? Who determines where the national church and the missionary expand into new areas? How long does the missionary remain in an evangelized field? These and many other questions affect the shape and destiny of an emerging church.

World affairs, political ideologies, philosophies and materialism present a different type of culture in which the missionaries work. It is well for the missionary to be intellectual but it is more important for him to be evangelistic. The missionary does not have to have an answer for all the political problems of the world nor be able to quote famous philosophers. But the missionary does have an answer to the sin problem and he can quote the greatest Authority. Missions are possible wherever man is found and missions have a message equal to the modern hour. The most exciting activity taking place in the Ivory Coast today is the thrust of Christian missions fulfilling the church's prophetic task in preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ.

The young church in Ivory Coast is emerging in the midst of these changes. It is an early church experience.

About the Author:

J. Reford Wilson is general director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. He returned in March from a tour of Ivory Coast, West Africa, where he visited Free Will Baptist churches and missionaries.

1935—"Present foreign mission work accepted by the National Association." Rev. I. J. Blackwelder made national secretary-treasurer of Foreign Missions. Miss Laura Belle Barnard and Tom and Mabel Willey approved. Barnard sailed to India.

1936—Willeys sailed to Panama.

1938—First Foreign Missions Board of the National Association selected: Revs. I. J. Blackwelder, Winford Davis, B. F. Rogers, Layman C. F. Goen, and Mrs. J. R. Bennett.

Miss Bessie Yeley adopted by National Association as missionary to Venezuela.

Receipts for first three years of foreign missions operation (1935-38) totaled \$7,228.03; disbursements totaled \$6,650.18.

1939—Miss Barnard's efforts to establish a mission in India approved by National Association. Willeys move to Nicaragua because of Panama political turmoil.

1940—Willeys enter Cuba and launch ministry there.

1941—Five applicants to foreign missions recorded by the National Association.

1942—Optimistic report to National Association spurs financial and prayer support for rapidly developing Cuban work.

1943—Cuba report shows six native preachers, one "Bible woman," five organized churches, 34 preaching points, eight horses, seven saddles, 60 benches furnished at various preaching points, 76 baptized believers, more than 200 probationers awaiting

baptism, 15 prospective students for training in Christian service, an area of approximately 100 miles being evangelized.

Henry Melvin sent on tour of Cuba, assists Willeys in organization of first Cuban Association of Free Will Baptists.

Miss Barnard granted permission by Department of State to return to India (after a leave of absence in 1942 during which time she taught at the Bible college in Nashville).

Miss Yeley returns to States from Venezuela, (later went to Cuba to assist Willeys and subsequently came under the jurisdiction of foreign missions board).

National Association approves recommendation of foreign missions board to establish a Bible school in Cuba. \$2000 set aside for purchasing school property.

1944—Cuban School of Missions opens Jan. 4, 1944, with seven students. An 18-acre tract of land is bought.

Miss Barnard unable to return to India because of war restrictions. Released by the board in Sept 1943, to teach Bible in public schools in Georgia, (during which time she wrote her book, *His Name Among All Nations*).

Board establishes goal of \$40,000 to pave way for post-war expansion. Administrative office set up at Monett, Missouri.

1945—Record receipts of \$22,112.95.

Miss Barnard returns to India.

Rev. and Mrs. Damon Dodd enter Cuba.

Board members Raymond Riggs and R. C. Wiggs visit Cuba.

This historical analysis of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions was taken from the *Minutes of the National Association*.

A CHRONOLOGY OF MISSIONS



1946—Foreign missions board completes incorporation. 22 students attend Cuban school.

Miss Barnard reports from India that the Free Will Baptist school of missions near Kotagiri numbers about 40 students.

1947—Two new missionaries sent to India—Mr. and Mrs. Paul Woolsey.

“Some few years ago we were searching diligently for missionaries to send out, now we have more applicants than we have money with which to send them out.”

Cuba's Pinar Association of Free Will Baptists records 10 churches and 40 preaching stations. School student body numbers 32.

Dodds return to States due to Mrs. Dodd's ill health.

Rev. Kenneth Turner who has conducted itineraries throughout the states since 1945 showing moving pictures of foreign missions ministries, records having traveled 31,471 miles, raised \$6,161.24, and had 64 persons present themselves to the Lord for special missionary work during his 11 itineraries in 1947.

State quotas instituted for first time as a means to reach an “annual total . . . of \$60,000 by 1950.” The total amount to be reached by 1950 would be \$146,500.

Rev. and Mrs. Dan Cronk recommended for service in India.

1948—Cronks and Miss Zalene Lloyd appointed to India, sail during summer.

Board affiliates with Evangelical Foreign Missions Association.

First class graduates from Cuban school.

1949—Cronks and Woolseys minister in Purnea District of India. Miss Barnard carries on work at Kotagiri.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilfong enter Cuba as missionaries.

1950—“Work in India and Cuba . . . going forward.” Miss Zalene Lloyd requests release by the board as missionary to India.

Film showing work in Cuba authorized by the board, made by Missions Visualized, Inc., of Portland, Oregon, an arm of E.F.M.A.

Board appoints Dodd to arrange first Missionary Conference at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Volena Wilson's application for service in India approved by the board.

1951—“Letter to Melitino” film makes debut.

Rev. Raymond Riggs elected secretary-treasurer

of the board and first promotional secretary, part-time.

Miss Barnard and Miss Wilson sail to India—Barnard for third term and Wilson on first term.

First reports of Mrs. Harold Stevens under South Africa General Mission.

Riggs authorized to move office to Detroit. Mrs. Hubert Sloan employed as bookkeeper.

1952—Free Will Baptist church organized in Kotagiri, South India.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlisle Hanna appointed to India, sail in fall.

Wilfongs released from duty in Cuba. But work progresses.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Calvery appointed to India.

1953—Sheila Hanna, infant daughter of Carlisle and Marie Hanna, missionaries to India, dies.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Phenicie and Miss Lucy Wisheart added to Cuba missionary staff.

Riggs placed on full-time promotional secretary duties.

Foreign Missions office moved to Nashville.

1954—Riggs visits India. Reports excellent ministries in both stations in North India and in South India. Mission school in South India said to be government-approved and heavily subsidized. 40 converts reported from a short revival.

Calvery application for visa to India refused as Indian government cracks down on missionaries entering the country, but Calvery is appointed to Japan and sails in October.

Eleven candidates apply for missionary service.

1955—Miss Yeley transfers ministry to Home Missions.

Calverys in language study in Japan.

Board reports 30 missionary candidates.

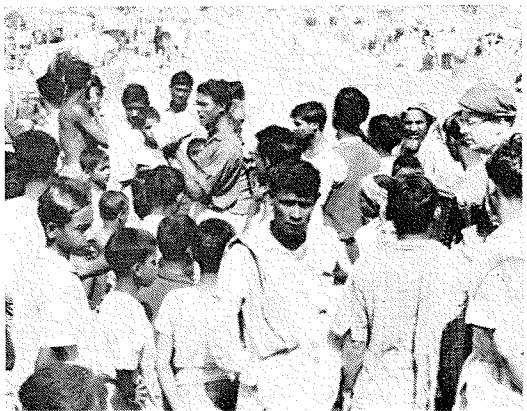
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hersey approved “for India or Japan;” Thomas Willey, Jr., approved for Cuba; Emma Ruth Bennett approved for Cuba; Miss Esther Ruehle, missionary nurse, approved for India.

1956—Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stevens assigned to survey two areas in Africa for possible missionary work.

Willey, Sr. and three Cuban pastors visit National Association convention.

Tom and Ema Ruth (Bennett) Willey enter Cuba. Herseys arrive in Japan.

1957—Territory in Ivory Coast, West Africa assigned to Free Will Baptists. Rev. and Mrs. Lonnie Sparks and Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Merkh approved for this field.



Cuba reports eight American missionaries and 22 national workers on payroll.

Japan reports four established meeting places.

Brazil surveyed as a mission field.

1958—Rev. Louis Moulton joins board as full-time promotional man. Office of General Director established by the board. Riggs becomes director. Moulton, promotional secretary.

First station in Africa opens in fall.

First station opens in Brazil at Campinas under Rev. Dave Franks, missionary, and Brazilian pastor.

Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Eagleton appointed to Brazil. Enter language school in fall.

Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Waid appointed to Japan, and sail in September.

Total membership of foreign churches number 4,153.

Rolla Smith becomes director of foreign missions.

1959—Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jones in France preparing for service in Ivory Coast with Merks and Sparkses.

Membership in Campinas, Brazil church increases to 100.

Miss Ruehle and Miss Eula Mae Martin and Ken Eagletons enter Brazilian work. Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Wilkinson appointed to that country.

Cuban revolution overthrows Batista government. "Today all of Evangelical Christians in Cuba are much encouraged by the liberty that they have to preach the Gospel under their new leader Fidel Castro. We ask that all who read these lines or hear this report, be much in prayer that Cuba will remain free and independent giving liberties to the preaching of the Gospel."

Miss Barnard resigns from work in India.

Six churches reported established in Japan.

1960—Joneses, Merks, Sparkses minister in Ivory Coast.

Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley, Rev. and Mrs. Lonnie Palmer on itinerary work, to go to Ivory Coast. Two stations established—one at Koun and one at Goumere. A third, at Doropo, is under construction.

The Bobby Pooles and the Bobby Aycocks appointed to Brazil.

Despite political turmoil in Cuba, Free Will Baptist churches thrive, numbering 27 with 100 preaching points. Cuban staff asked to formulate proposal for making Cuban work self-propagating. Willeys and Lucy (Wisehart) Lima comprise the staff.

North India hostel ministry numbers 30 youngsters. The mission reports 200 baptized Christians, and ministers in 26 villages. South India mission

reports two organized churches, and is working in 35 villages. Baptized believers number 112. Staff includes three ordained ministers, two lay preachers, and one Bible woman. Three elementary schools are maintained with a staff of nine and an enrollment of 325. Two kindergartens are maintained with two teachers and 60 pupils. Approximately 1000 enrolled in 21 Sunday schools with a total staff of 15. Miss Wilson is the only American missionary representing Free Will Baptists in South India.

1961—Aycocks and Pooles added to Brazil staff.

Willeys unable to return to ministry in Cuba because of Castro regime.

New field opened in Uruguay. Paul and Amy Robinson sent there as first lay missionaries sent by the board.

Moulton resigns.

Jerry Ballard joins office staff as promotional secretary.

Heartbeat is launched with limited circulation of 15,000.

1962—Rolla Smith resigns, replaced by J. Reford Wilson as general director.

Ballard becomes director of publications and information (later to be changed to director of communications).

Rev. Rufus Coffey employed as director of conference ministries.

Mileys in residence at Doropo. Translation work by Sparks and Jones progressing. Merkh in construction work. Palmers enter Goumere.

Brazil work expands. Sammy and June Wilkinson join staff.

Cuban churches continue "faithful and effective ministry."

Project CERF begun by foreign missions board with Willey, Sr. in charge.

Japan ministries expanding. Four groups meeting at Bihoro, Abishiri, Koshimizu, and Tsubetsu. Four groups meeting in Tokyo.

India missionary ministry going forward.

Willeys, Jr., transferred to Panama.

John and Barbara (Willey) Moehlman go to Panama.

Bill and Barbara Fulcher join Robinsons in Uruguay.

Heartbeat, publication of foreign missions, reaches 25,000 circulation.

1963—Medical clinic at Doropo completed.

Jimmie and Janie Aldridge and Eddie and Sandra Payne appointed to Ivory Coast.

Brazil now has five regular church groups and



seven preaching points.

Earnie and Willie Jean Deeds and Pat Sturgill (later becomes Pat Franks) and Mary Ellen Rice appointed to Brazil.

Cuban pastors reported leaving the island for fear of their lives.

Japan missions continue to enlarge their outreach.

South India work increasingly taken over by capable nationals.

North India under threat of Chinese communists along northern border.

Bill and Barbara Phipps appointed to Panama, Bill to be a missionary pilot.

Uruguay work expands into border city of Livramento.

Benito Rodriguez of Cuba employed as editor of Spanish publications.

1964—New appointees to Brazil include Rev. and Mrs. Louis Coscia, Rev. and Mrs. Walter Ellison, Rev. and Mrs. Jim Combs, and Rev. and Mrs. Don Robirds.

Rev. and Mrs. Archie Mayhew appointed to Ivory Coast.

Miss Molly Barker (R.N.) to Uruguay.

Ella Rae Jones and Pat Tyson appointed to Ecuador.

Bible institute begun in Ivory Coast.

Property purchased for Brazil Bible institute.

Japan, Ivory Coast, Uruguay all report opening up new areas of ministry.

Filmstrips, *Unto the Uttermost*, *The Awakening Giant*, and *Japan Today* produced.

1965—Twelve new missionaries, appointed last year, arrive on the field.

Reports say that no Free Will Baptist churches in Cuba have been closed. But there are restrictions on worship services.

Ballard and Wilson tour mission fields.

1966—Missionary family now numbers 74 adults, 75 children. 49 of adults in first term of service.

New film, *Carnival of Pretense*, premiers at National Association convention.

Cuban pastors under increasing pressure. Some have been imprisoned. Others flee to States. But worship goes on.

Pat Tyson and Ella Rae Jones join World Radio Missionary Fellowship as Free Will Baptist missionary nurses in Ecuador.

Merkhs appointed to France to open new field.

Aldridges join Ivory Coast staff.

Rev. and Mrs. Howard Gage given special as-

signment there and Norman and Bessie Richards appointed to Ivory Coast.

Jim and Olena McLain appointed to Japan.

Molly Barker joins Uruguay staff.

Ellisons appointed to South Brazil-Uruguay field.

1967—Missionary staff numbers 77 adults and 82 children.

Rodriquez carries on CERF operations in Miami and Willeys, Sr. travel across States.

Henry Van Kluyve becomes director of deputation, replacing Coffey.

Volena Wilson on medical leave from India. Will not return.

McLains leave for Japan.

Phipps returns from Panama on medical leave. Will not return.

Estenio and Anita Garcia of Cuba appointed to Panama.

"Hold the line" policy instituted by the board. Proposal made to review financial structure and other policies.

1968—Reports from all fields indicate steady growth.

"Hold the line" policy lifted.

Veteran missionary Thomas H. Willey, Sr. dies of extended illness in Miami.

John and Connie Craft join missionary staff in Brazil.

Mary Ellen Rice on leave of absence.

1969—Missionary staff numbers 73 adults, 90 children.

Of eight fields operating, there are 47 organized groups, 26 national pastors, 2,805 baptized believers, and more than 5,000 attending meetings.

Ella Rae Jones and Pat Tyson resign. Continue ministry in Ecuador independently.

Exceptional single gift of \$4,898 recorded.

Heartbeat circulation at 47,000.

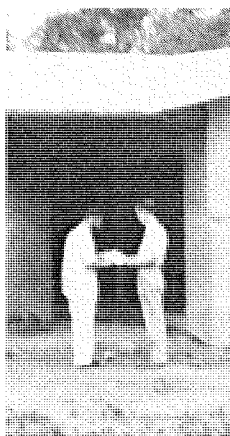
Film library enlarged. Plans underway to revamp film system in cooperation with Sunday school and large distribution agency.

Retired missionary Bessie Yeley dies.

Sherwood and Vada Lee, and Maurice and Marie Robert and Judy Bryan begin language study in Cousineau arrive in Ivory Coast as new missionaries. Switzerland, preparing for literary ministry in Ivory Coast.

Joe and Barbara Haas arrive in France to join Merkhs.

Foreign missions 1969 annual report shows record receipts for one year of \$604,419.32. Per capita giving averaged \$3.27. December receipts of more than \$70,000 is largest ever recorded—nearly ten times the total amount received during the first three years of foreign missions.





An early photo of Raymond Riggs and Gladys Sloan



I. J. Blackwelder



Henry Melvin



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Willey Sr.



Raymond Riggs and board member in Cuba



Mrs. Gladys Sloan



"Pop" Willey gets professional advice in painting

GREAT MEN AND WOMEN OF MISSIONS

by Jerry Ballard

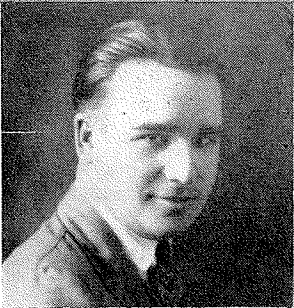
Great men with God are those

It is somewhat of a paradox that an infinite, all-powerful God would choose to use finite, weak men to accomplish His global mission of redemption. Yet it's nonetheless true.

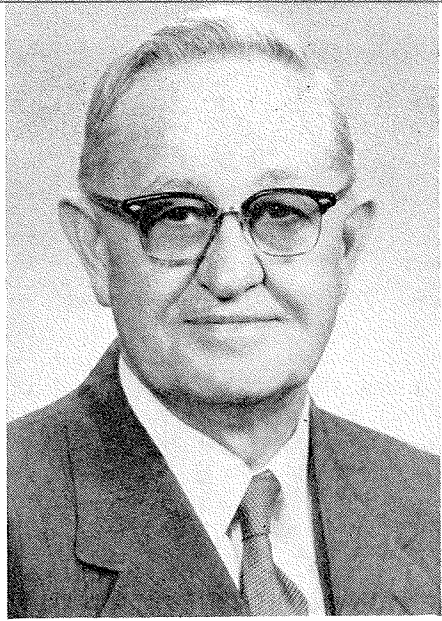
He could have used angels through whom He would proclaim the gospel to a lost human race. Or he could have communicated directly to all living creatures as He did to Adam in the garden. But He chose to work through men instead.

The reason is fairly obvious. Were God to use angels or even more direct methods in making salvation available to all men everywhere, He would encounter less problems. He also would receive less glory. Angels aren't plagued with an inherent heart to sin. Men are. And it brings glory to God when men with free wills choose to obey Him rather than their natural inclinations.

So what makes a great man or woman in God's program of world evangelism? Innate ability? High intelligence quotients? Popular influence? Not necessarily. God has chosen to take the



Early Photo of Melvin (top) and Blackwelder



John Welch



Mabel Willey (front) and co-worker Edith Phenicie



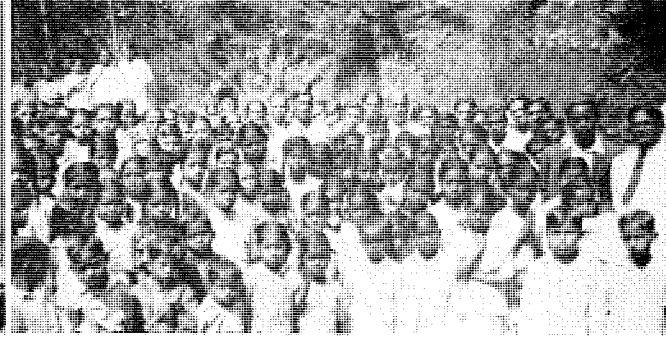
Volena Wilson



Laura Belle Barnard



Barnard writing book



Fruit of labor in South India (Not pictured: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Woolsey and Sterl Phinney)

who have yielded their wills to His, who have allowed His purposes to become paramount.

weak to rout the strong, the simple to confound the wise.

Great men with God are those who have yielded their wills to His, who have allowed Him to become pre-eminent, His purposes to become paramount.

God found such men and women in the early days of the National Association of Free Will Baptists and used them to initiate the present denominational missionary movement.

He found pastors like John Welch who received missionary offerings before the regrouping Free Will Baptist movement had missionaries to support. He used men like Sterl Phinney, I. J. Blackwelder and Henry Melvin who pushed the cause of missions when it was unknown and often unpopular.

And God found those who were willing to give themselves totally to His cause on foreign soil. Laura Belle Barnard became the first Free Will Baptist missionary of the modern era when she set sail for India in 1935.

That same year, God led into the

Free Will Baptist movement an experienced missionary and his committed wife. Thomas and Mabel Willey became the personification of missions across the nation as a young denomination struggled to find its place in God's plan of redemption. They opened Free Will Baptist work in Latin America in 1936 and ultimately established the Free Will Baptist movement in Cuba.

In Paul Woolsey, God found a son with enough faith to overcome a severe physical handicap in order to establish a beachhead in North India. He and his wife served only one term, but their fruit remains.

Women have fulfilled valiant roles in the course of mission history. Volena Wilson joined Miss Barnard in South India in 1951. Ultimately the entire responsibility of the South Indian missions was placed on her shoulders. And the Lord honored her faith. Today, the South Indian church is a strong voice for Christ in that part of the world without a resident missionary.

On the home front, God found others

He could use for His glory. Raymond Riggs assumed promotional responsibility for the foreign ministry at a time when the program was in the red and missionaries had not received their allowances for several months. The denomination rallied to his cry for the regions beyond, and the Free Will Baptist overseas program was stabilized. In 1953 he became the department's first full-time director.

God gave Mr. Riggs the help he needed during those development years in the person of Mrs. Gladys Sloan who continues to serve in the foreign department today as bookkeeper. Her faithful behind-the-scenes ministry has often gone unnoticed by the denomination, but not by the Lord she loves and the missionaries she serves.

Other names could be added to this list. These are only representative. But without these, the story would have been a different one. Wherever Free Will Baptist missionaries serve today, they do so because others before them pioneered the way.

the religious world

Unanimous Vote Sets Protestant Unity Plan

St. Louis (EP)—Nine representatives from as many Protestant denominations voted unanimously here to create before the end of this decade the largest Protestant church in the world.

The plan now goes to the individual denominations for consideration of the merger whose union would be called "The Church of Christ Uniting."

The unified church would include "all that is indispensable to each of us" and yet be "unlike the churches any of us has known in our past separateness," according to the 145-page plan of union.

A week of revision brought the plan to its present form. Now the Consultation on Church Union will forward the plan to participating groups whose constituencies total 25 million people. Ratification is expected in the mid-1970's.

Institute To Finance Work In Search For 'Noah's Ark'

Washington, D. C. (EP)—The Arctic Institute of North America has agreed to help remove tons of ice covering an object on Mount Ararat which some believe to be remains of Noah's Ark.

Dr. Melvin G. Marcus of the geography department of the University of Michigan has been asked by the institute to serve as chief scientist of an excavation team that will begin work this summer.

Scientists are far from sure that Noah's Ark has been located, but they are interested in the wooden object buried beneath a glacier on the peak in Eastern Turkey.

Explorers have long searched for the Ark, which according to Genesis, came to rest "on the mountains of Ararat."

Professors Claim Southern Baptist Biblical Concept Is 'Inadequate'

Atlanta, Ga. (EP)—The Association of Baptist Professors of Religion charged here that the Biblical concept of most Southern Baptists is "inadequate" for the modern age.

T.C. Smith of Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina, president of the association, called for a "new look" at the canon, message, and authority of the Bible.

"We need to come up with a concept that is more suitable to ourselves, our students, and our Convention," he said, adding that more freedom is essential to a modern understanding of Scripture.

In calling for a new probe into the depth of the Bible's message, Mr. Smith said that scholars who use the historical-critical method of Biblical research are "following Christ . . ."

Christ "contradicted the self-assumed authority of the rabbis who accepted no new revelation," the Furman professor said. It is "the Bible, not God, that we are questioning."

He reasoned that modern Christians should have as much liberty in determining "their canon" as the church fathers had in their time. He criticized recent attacks against members who "doubted the infallibility of the Bible."

Beneath Jerusalem, A Pre-Christian City Uncovered

Jerusalem (EP)—Below the bustling Arab market of Old Jerusalem an Israeli archaeologist has discovered a lifeless city 2,000 years old.

A network of large rooms branching off from alleys and passageways are to be found there, the labyrinths running all the way to ancient Jerusalem's gate—some a mile away.

Mud and debris that had clogged the spaces for centuries have been hauled away carefully in buckets. Water drips from ceiling into rooms that stink of decay.

The city is said to have disappeared when the Romans destroyed the Great Herodian Temple in AD 70 and plundered Jerusalem's Jewish property.

Child Evangelism On TV

Grand Rapids (EP)—A national television ministry begins this fall on selected stations, sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship headquartered here.

Titled, "The Treehouse", the pro-

ject has been described by one church leader who previewed the video tape, as "the most fantastic opportunity of a lifetime."

Dr. Frank R. Mann, CEF executive director, said 96.9 per cent of all American families own televisions and the opportunity to minister to tens of millions of unchurched youngsters is unprecedented.

Asians To Map Lit Strategy

Singapore (EP)—Key evangelical literature leaders were scheduled to gather here April 6-11 for the All-Asia Literature Strategy Conference.

The purpose of the week-long meeting was to plan methods of cooperation and strategy in broadcasting the gospel through printed media to the 1.9 billion people of Asia—more than 50 per cent of world population.

Jerry Ballard, director of communications for Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, attended the conference as a resource consultant.

Chaplains Keep Industry Humming

New York (EP)—Employees on the job have spiritual needs too, and more and more business establishments are hiring chaplains to help keep production levels high through "good morale."

"There may be as many as 100 industrial chaplains in the U.S. today," said the Rev. G. Jack Boston, chaplain and chief counselor for Holly Farms Poultry Industries, Inc. of Wilksboro, N.C.

Boston told a UPI reporter that the number of chaplains in industry has nearly tripled since World War II.

Particularly strong in the South, the popularity of the industrial chaplain is spreading. International Telephone and Telegraph Co. has four chaplains working north of the Arctic Circle among its 1,000 employees manning a radar network.

The chaplain's role has been proved effective in saving money for the firm by keeping people on the job.

action:stateside

Plans Underway for National Convention

Nashville, Tenn.—Departments at the National Offices here are moving full-steam ahead with plans for the 34th annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey said that all departments are formulating plans for the large gathering of Free Will Baptists and that they expect more than 2500 persons to attend.

The Church Training Service, sponsor of the National Youth Program which meets simultaneously with the convention, has put together a program featuring national competition among state winners, Project LIFE, a Spanish-Mexican festival, a special "youth-spirational," and an excursion into Redwood country. Theme of this year's program for youths will be taken from John 1:3—"All things were made by Him."

The Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, which also meets at the same time, will be built around the theme, "Ministering Unto Christ." (Matthew 25:40b). Keeping to its historical pattern, the WNAC will begin with the Executive Committee Breakfast Monday morning at the Del Webb Towne House, and at 1 p.m. will present the Study Committee Report to state presidents and field workers. Registration also begins at 1 p.m. After the Tuesday session of the WNAC, a fellowship dinner will be held.

The theme of the National Association Convention will be, "Thy Word Is Truth." Convention headquarters will be in the Del Webb's Towne House. Reservations may be made through this one central office: Fresno Convention Center, % Mrs. Maxine Waters, Fresno, California 93703.

Cramerton Pastor to Lead Revival in Canada's New Brunswick Primitive Baptist Church

Bath, New Brunswick, Canada—The pastor of Cramerton Free Will Baptist Church, Cramerton, N.C., Rev. Roy Rikard, is scheduled to preach in a revival crusade here April 19-29, at the Primitive Baptist Church.

He will also speak each morning at

the New Brunswick Bible Institute, a boarding school of about 100 students.

The minister requests prayer for this unique revival among descendants of the earliest Free Will Baptist founders of the North.

Two Bible College Students Organize Summer Evangelistic Team

Nashville, Tenn.—Two Free Will Baptist Bible College students, Jon Thigpen and Vernon Whaley, have organized an evangelistic team, named the Conquerors, to work among Free Will Baptist young people this summer.

Jon, the 18-year-old son of Free Will Baptist Bible College dean and former National Association moderator, Reverend Charles Thigpen, is a freshman at the Bible College and has been preaching for over three years. Vernon, a Bible College junior and talented singer and choir leader, will feature trumpet solos in the services. Vernon is the son of Lee Whaley, former home missionary to Alaska.

Pastors or youth conference directors interested in scheduling the Conquerors should contact the Home Missions Department, who is sponsor for the team. They will be available for services from May 22 through August 16.

Vernon Whaley (left) and Jon Thigpen



Decatur, Alabama Church Dedicates New Building

Decatur, Ala.—Dedication services in the new sanctuary of the recently organized Free Will Baptist Church here Feb. 20-22 marked a major achievement of the Alabama State Home Missions Board.

Begun as a mission in August, 1968 under the leadership of Rev. E. B. Ledlow, the congregation established itself as a self-supporting church in January, 1969, relocated and occupied its new sanctuary Dec. 14, 1969.

As many as 150 persons attended the three-day ceremony, including many Free Will Baptists from surrounding churches. Rev. Homer Willis, director of the National Home Missions and Church Extension Department, preached in four services, and Rev. John Edwards, secretary-treasurer of the State Home Missions Board, delivered the dedication address on Saturday.

Conference Draws Record Crowd

Nashville, Tenn.—In spite of rain and cold, crowds exceeded 1100 at two evening services of the Free Will Baptist Bible Conference held at the college campus here March 16-19.

Speakers for the four-day meeting included Bible college instructor, Rev. Leroy Forlines, Rev. Dean Moore, Rev. Milton Worthington, and Evangelist Bobby Jackson. Rev. Bill Gardner of New Castle, Indiana provided special solos each service.

Highlights of the meeting included Alumni gatherings, special music by the Bible college choir, presentation of plaques to churches making outstanding contributions to the college, and a freshman play, "The Black Sheep."

Honorary membership to the Alumni Association was awarded to Dr. and Mrs. L. C. Johnson, Dean Charles Thigpen, Rev. Henry Melvin, and Rev. John L. Welch.

Alumni officers elected for 1970 are Tom Malone, president; Blaine Hughes, vice-president; Peggy Jo McElhinney, secretary-treasurer; Joe Jones, member-at-large; and Leroy Scudder, endowment committee member.

CCC Urged to Move Ahead

Fresno, Calif.—Dr. John Mostert, Executive Director of Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges, Wheaton, Illinois, spent two days on the California Christian College campus recently. The administration had requested Dr. Mostert to visit the campus for the purpose of giving guidance to the College program.

Acting upon the recommendations offered by Dr. Mostert, CCC is encouraged to forge ahead. Plans are being made which will enable the College to comply with requirements stipulated by the Association. Colleges on the West Coast that have met the requirements of A.A.B.C. have had little difficulty in getting regional accreditation. It is believed by the administration that the present course is the right direction for this Free Will Baptist College.

Rural Church Doubles Attendance

Nashville, Tenn.—What chance does a rural church have these days? Especially one that is seven miles from the nearest town and attendance is averaging only 46?

According to the decline of most rural churches in the last 10 years, the chances are slim, but the Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Tommy Street has not only contradicted the norm but has doubled its attendance in the last seven months.

“Total involvement” is the key to this growth, according to Street. Members began to rally when the young minister took the pastorate. Twenty-six decisions have been recorded, including six conversions, 19 rededications, and one called to preach. Members plan to launch a bus ministry soon with funds that are being accumulated, and they plan to build a new addition to the church to house three classrooms and provide overflow space for the auditorium. Prayer offerings at Wednesday night prayer meetings have enabled the church to purchase an air conditioning system.

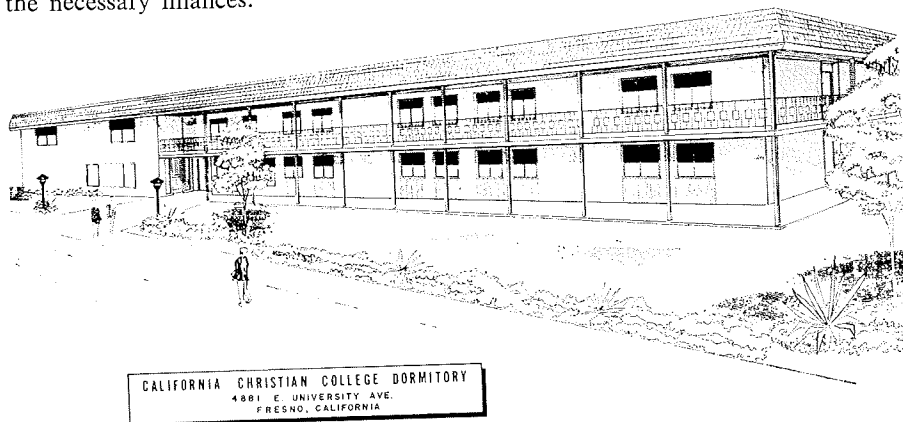
FWBBC Announces Summer School Plans

Nashville, Tenn.—A three-week summer school offering six courses to pastors, laymen, and high school seniors has been announced by Dr. Robert Picirilli, registrar of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

(Continued on page 16)

CCC Announces Plans for New Dormitory

This dormitory is to be built before the Fall Semester of 1970 on the California Christian College campus. On March 12, 1970, the College Board of Trustees voted to build the building and approved the plan of the President for raising the necessary finances.



THESE RECENTLY COMPLETED BUILDING PROGRAMS:

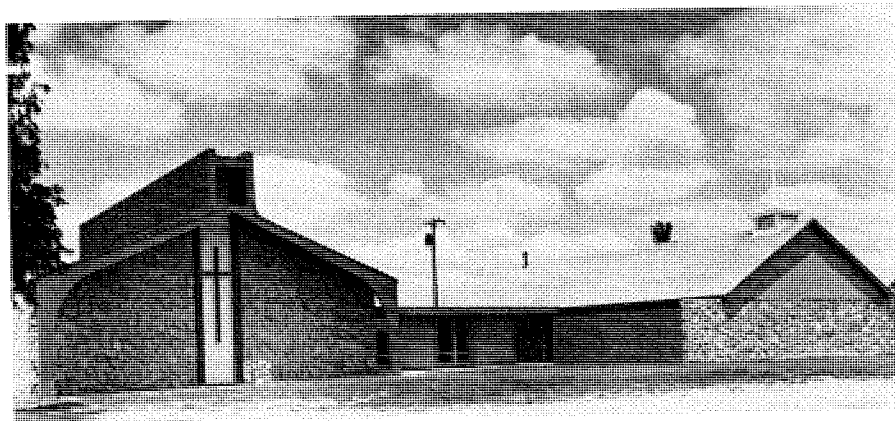
First Free Will Baptist Church Of Owasso, Oklahoma

Organized—1957

Attendance five years ago (1965) was 23. Families shared in paying of utilities. Phase I of the Building Program included a new sanctuary and office building, now valued at about \$100,000. Phase II included the remodeling of the original building into educational facilities to accommodate 280. Phase II was launched by a \$50,000 bond program under direction of Executive Church Bonds, Inc. Future plans are to buy additional property for future growth, and to build an educational building for day nursery and Christian Day School. Sunday school attendance now averages 115 with as many as 167 for preaching. Average monthly income is \$2,300.

Pastor: Rev. Bob L. Ketchum

Address: 708 N. Atlanta Owasso, Oklahoma 74055



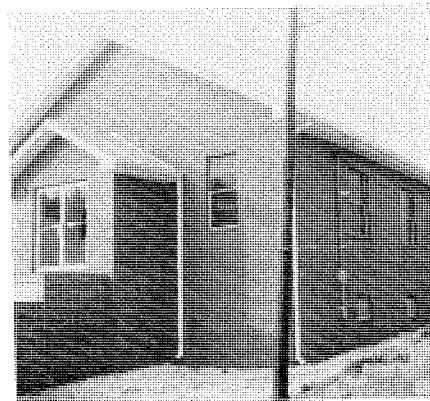
Morgan Branch Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Hampton, Tennessee

Organized—1943 \$25,000 Bond Issue

The Morgan Branch Chapel church issued bonds to construct a two-level sanctuary with basement that houses five classrooms, an office, and utility rooms. Auditorium is carpeted and has stained glass windows. Membership is 115, with average attendance of 80.

Pastor: Rev. Frank Davis

Address: Rt. 1, Hampton, Tennessee



by Jerry Ballard

"Ye Shall Be Witnesses"

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"
(Acts 1:8).

The Greater Cause

THE YOUNG MAN sits on the crude floor. His wife is busy making the baby comfortable on a makeshift pallet. New and strange sounds come through the window. This is to be home for the next five years, and the feeling is one of sober reflection. Is it really necessary that he leave the comforts of home and travel to this remote corner of the world to preach the gospel? Is there not some other way?

Everyone had looked with suspicion at him and his family when they arrived in the village this morning. Now knowing the native vernacular, he couldn't tell them he meant only good. Even now they are wandering around outside waiting for another look at the white people.

In the distance the awesome sound of jungle percussion continues as a backdrop for the insect-infested life into which he has dropped. The romance of foreign missionary service dwindles into oblivion. Nothing is left but the stark reality that no material or humanitarian enticement is sufficient motivation for one to spend his life in a culture so radically different from his own. There must be a greater cause.

And there is. It's the cause for which Paul left familiar territory for Asia, Carey for India, Livingstone for Africa, and Hudson Taylor for China.

In God's plan of redemption for the world, cause is clearly shown why men should forsake all so that they can take the gospel "unto the uttermost part of the earth."

This plan is revealed in the Bible, the Book of Redemption.

The Scriptures show that man is lost and in need of a savior (Romans 3:23; 5:12). God, demanding propitiation for sin, sent His Son, the Lord Jesus, to suffer, the Just for the unjust, so that His wrath might be satisfied and man's sin forgiven through the atoning work of Christ on the cross (Romans 1:18; 2:2; 3:24, 25; 5:18).

The Bible reveals further that Christ is the only one through whom man can come to God and receive forgiveness for sin and inherit eternal life. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5). "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12, see also John 14:5, 6).

With these facts in mind, the impact of Jesus' words in John 20 increase in import: "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost." Even so, every believer is commanded to do likewise. Why? This is God's plan. There is no other way. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things" (Romans 10:13-15).

Yes, this is sufficient reason for the young man to stay,

not as a martyr, but as a victorious child of God in the center of God's will for his life. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:18-20). This is the "why" of missions.

Why Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions?

THE DIVINE obligation of carrying the gospel of salvation to the world is directed to the Church, not to a certain segment but to the entire body of believers. Free Will Baptists as part of the body of Christ have a distinct place in God's plan for world evangelization. It is not unlike God's commission to similar groups, but it is distinct in that it is a work God has given to this denomination, a gap that must be filled, or the hedge will be broken.

Churches affiliated with the National Association of Free Will Baptists realize that men are lost and that God's plan is that men go into all the world with the good news of redemption. Thus they join in a cooperative foreign missionary program through the board of foreign missions. The prayerful support of Free Will Baptists provides a denominational witness today in Africa, Central America, Cuba, Europe, India, Japan, and South America.

How It Began

FREE WILL BAPTISTS historically have been a missionary movement, being among the first to send missionaries to many areas of the world.

By the turn of the century, the denomination was maintaining one of the most extensive missionary programs of that day.

In 1911, Free Will Baptist missions operations were merged with that of the Northern Baptist Convention, now called the American Baptist Convention. For more than two decades, non-merger churches were without a missionary program. These churches regrouped in 1935 to form the National Association of Free Will Baptists, and one of their first official acts was to establish a board of foreign missions and resume a missionary-sending ministry.

The first missionary of the new association was sent to India in 1935. Two others were sent to Latin America the following year. And a Free Will Baptist missionary program was re-born.

God's blessing in the denomination's program has been clearly evident. His chosen men labored during those first years to rekindle a flickering missionary concern. By mid-century, this flicker had become a flame, and Free Will Baptists took their place as one of America's aggressive missionary organizations. And yearly, more missionaries are thrust . . . unto the uttermost.

This progress is no accident. It is God's doing. God's concern is still for the souls of men everywhere. And His blessing is with those whose hearts beat with His heart.

A Ministry of Faith

THE LORD JESUS said, "I will build my church." He brought men into this building process when he commanded, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". Knowing that this "going" activity would bring occasions of great oppression to those seeking in the will of God to accomplish this objective, the Lord added the divine perspective, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth . . . and lo, *I am with you* always!"

This ministry of world evangelism and establishing congregations of believers wherever converts are won is God's business. He has commanded Free Will Baptist congregations in America to herald forth the message of redemption to all men. And along with every command is the fully commensurate promise of fulfillment. As Free Will Baptist churches accept their share of "great commission" responsibility, and as God calls forth from these churches young men and women who are first approved by God and then by God's people, and as concerned men and women pray and give to send these approved ones to the regions beyond, the great promise of the Lord to build His church reaches new proportions of fulfillment.

Was God really serious when He instructed His followers to take the gospel to all men? Will He really build His church among every tribe and nation? Is He able to meet every need along the way in completion of the task? In other words, is He really *with us*?

These are the foundational questions upon which the entire missionary ministry is based. And to be a vital part of God's redemptive process for the human family, every participant must be grounded in simple, childlike faith that God can and will build His church . . . through faithful men . . . anointed by His Spirit . . . operating on resurrection power . . . His power.

That's why we say that Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions is a ministry of faith . . . faith for spiritual power to overthrow the strongholds of Satanic bondage, bringing the light of the glorious gospel into the darkness of heathenism . . . faith that God will provide through His concerned people every material need to see His work accomplished.

Financial matters, in most cases, provide the greatest tests of faith that the servant of God is called upon to experience. His survival on the field and the effectiveness of his ministry is so decisively related to his material support that his own inner peace is often correlative to his faith that God will supply every need. Thus it is imperative that the foreign missionary know what it means to trust God explicitly, for material needs. It is one thing to look to a denomination for support, but quite another thing to look to God for support through a denomination. Only God is able to provide even beyond that which we ask for or even think possible. The limiting factor? Our faith.

Together, the board, home staff, and missionary look to the Lord for His provision of funds necessary to meet annual budgets. It is a relationship of faith in which each member must have an abiding trust in the Lord, or corporate spiritual power is affected. With such abiding faith, each member of the missionary team obligates himself to continual, daily, fervent prayer that God will glorify Himself as material and spiritual needs are faithfully met.

It is in this perspective that Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions is *a faith mission*. All budget appropriations are totally dependent on God's provision through His people. And as budgets are met by God's grace and power, the

missionary family must forever give God—and Him alone—the praise for His marvelous provision.

As The Church Sends Forth

THE HOLY SPIRIT makes it abundantly clear in Romans 10 that men cannot be saved unless they turn to the Lord . . . that they cannot turn to the Lord unless they believe He can save them . . . that they cannot believe unless they hear the Good News of the Word of God . . . that they cannot hear unless someone accept the responsibility of taking the gospel to them . . . and that the missionary cannot take the gospel to the lost and dying unless someone else accepts the responsibility of sending him.

This is God's divine plan for proclaiming the gospel to all men. It begins with a redeemed congregation of people concerned about the souls of men. The mission of the church as clearly revealed in scripture is no more and no less than spreading the gospel to all men everywhere and making disciples in all nations. This responsibility of the local believer includes every soul from his next-door neighbor to the remote native in the hinterland of Africa or Asia.

The sending obligation of the local church in world evangelism is not always accepted. Often it is passed to those who are willing to be sent. This is revealed in such expressions to the missionary as, "What *you* are doing is really a good thing." The transferal of responsibility has been subtle, but it is there. What a difference it is when the church at home is so concerned over its biblical obligation that young people are challenged from birth to go forth with the message, that it becomes "what *we* are doing," the local believer heart in heart with the missionary. All too often, the first word about missions heard in the local congregation comes from outside, rather than being the natural, spiritual response of consecrate members.

Also, the sending responsibility often is transferred to the board of foreign missions. The missionary ministry is sometimes erroneously referred to as "the board's business." Pastors can be heard saying, "I'm going to see if I can't get my people to help *you fellows* in *your program*." Such commonly heard thoughts belie the fact that the local congregation and its pastor often seek to relegate vicariously to others the Lord's direct command.

The success of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions is directly related to the willingness of Free Will Baptist churches to accept their biblical responsibility in world missions. The foreign missions department is nothing more than an extension of local church witness.

Responsibility for sending forth those called from among us rests on the shoulders of every pastor and layman who is part of the Free Will Baptist denomination. And as congregations across America rally to the commands of scripture, the Macedonian call from unreached lands around the globe, and the burden of those who yield their lives for foreign service, the gospel is proclaimed throughout the nations, and the great commission is fulfilled as all men are given at least one chance to hear and as the Lord Jesus builds His church among all people. It is in this perspective that Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions is *a denominational mission*, an arm of local Free Will Baptist congregations reaching throughout the world.

About the Author

Jerry Ballard is director of Communications for the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department. This excerpt is taken from the missions handbook, Unto the Uttermost, written by Mr. Ballard.

comment

by Cleo Pursell



YOUR LOAD LIMIT

Did you ever cross a bridge where a sign was posted in big, bold letters, "LOAD LIMIT, 5 TONS"?

Thinking in terms of day-to-day stress and strain, what is *your* load limit? It is said that everyone has his breaking point. Certainly we all have our physical limitations and there are times when we think as Paul that we are "pressed beyond measure." It may be a lingering illness that is a constant irritation—"a thorn in the flesh." It may be some other hindrance which prevents us from doing our best for our family, our church, or on the job. Sudden financial reverses with increasing indebtedness, or loss of confidence in a trusted friend may cause discouragement.

One of the heaviest loads to bear is when we must face the reality of sudden death in the family. When grief is new it is very hard to pray, "Thy will be done." Our hearts and minds are numbed with pain—we wonder why this had to happen to us!

In such times of testing it is comforting to know that "for every pain we must bear, for every sorrow, every care, there is a reason. For every grief, for every trial, for every weary, lonely mile, there is a reason . . ." and God knows the reason.

It was the darkest period in George Frederick Handel's life. He was getting old and a stroke left him partially paralyzed. His vision was failing. He had lost a fortune in money and was bankrupt. Just as he reached his load limit, a manuscript was left at his room with the request that he develop it into a musical composition. Warily he tossed the pages aside and crawled into bed but he could not sleep. The words kept running through his mind: "Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, saith your God . . . The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light . . . For unto us a Child is born . . . Glory to God in the highest . . . Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"

Unable to sleep, he went to his piano and began to write. For three weeks he wrote feverishly. Finally, with tears streaming down his face he said: "I do believe I have seen all Heaven before me and the great God Himself." Handel's joyous *Messiah* came to us from out of defeat and suffering.

Reached *your* load limit? Then paraphrase 1 Corinthians 10:13 thus: ". . . God is faithful, who will not suffer me to be tempted above that I am able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that I may be able to bear it." And remember, *a hero is one who knows how to hang on one minute longer.*

gems

from the Greek
New Testament



by Robert Picirilli

Luke 16:9 is a very troublesome verse. Jesus has just related the parable of the rogue steward who stole from his master and used the financial accounts of some of his master's debtors to "purchase" for himself a welcome into their good graces after being fired from his job. Then Jesus turns and says: "Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations."

The Greek original helps put us on the right track for understanding this verse. Two things, in particular, are important. First, the word "of" means *by means of*. (This is the preposition *ek*, which is translated *by* in Romans 1:17: "The just shall live *by* faith.") What Jesus is talking about, then, is the *use* we shall make of money. The point is that the rogue steward had used money shrewdly to accomplish something more important than money itself. We, too, then, should *use* money as a means of winning friends.

But there is an important contrast between the kind of friends we should make and the kind he made. His were for the convenience of *this* life; ours ought to be in reference to the *eternal* habitation. In other words, then, we ought not to use money simply to purchase things that will make it more comfortable for us in this life. Instead, as spiritually-minded men, we ought to make use of our money as an *instrument* for the extension of the kingdom. Money is necessary for certain causes, and when we see it in its proper light we can use it for the winning of those who will welcome us into heaven. We can use money to increase the number of our companions in the everlasting home.

One other thing about the Greek original helps us get this idea clearer. The King James translators translated "When ye fail," obviously allowing the parable to influence them too much instead of translating the Greek words literally. Actually the words simply say, "When it fails," meaning money itself. In other words, the verse should read: "Make to yourselves friends by means of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when it fails, they may receive you into everlasting habitations."

The whole idea is then much clearer. Jesus was emphasizing the temporary nature of money. Even the men of the world are shrewd enough to use money as a mere instrument for the purchase of things more important than money itself. And we ought to be even wiser than this. Recognizing that money will pass away with this world, let us use it as an instrument for the accomplishment of things in reference to eternity. Then we will be doing what Jesus said in another place: "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

(Continued from page 12)

A maximum of four semester hours of college credit can be earned at the school which is scheduled for May 25-June 12. The following courses are to be offered:

Highlights of the Old Testament	.....2 hrs.	Forlines
Principles of Expository Preaching	.....2 hrs.	Thigpen
Education in the Local Church	.....1 hr.	Thigpen
Minor Prophets	.....1 hr.	Johnson
Church Polity	.....1 hr.	Picirilli
Inter-Testamental Period	.....1 hr.	Picirilli

National Laymen Called To Challenge

Nashville, Tenn.—A challenge has been presented to Free Will Baptist laymen, according to Jack S. Forlines, National Chairman of the "Dollars From the Scholars" campaign. The challenge is to raise an average of one dollar for each Sunday School member to be used for Phase II of the expansion program of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Each Sunday School is encouraged to participate in the 10-week campaign March 29 through May 31. Laymen throughout the nation will be enlisted to help in the campaign.

According to Forlines, Phase II of the Expansion Program of Free Will Baptist Bible College is expected to consist of a women's dormitory and cafeteria, a gymnasium-auditorium, and a library wing.

Funds raised through the campaign should be sent to Free Will Baptist Bible College, 3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37205. The funds should be designated for "Dollars From the Scholars".

Theological Commission Distributes Booklets

Moore, Okla.—The Commission on Theological Liberalism has announced that it is distributing free upon request two booklets published by the commission in 1967 and 1968.

The booklets, *The Scandal of Christianity* by Dr. J. D. O'Donnell (1967) and *Issues Among Evangelicals* by Leroy Forlines (1968) are available upon request. Write:

Dr. J. D. O'Donnell
P. O. Box 343
Moore, Oklahoma 73060

Churches ordering several copies should send \$1.00 to cover postage and handling.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
State Clerks Urged to Be Accurate in Reporting to National Association**

State clerks are encouraged by the Executive Department to be especially careful as they complete reports for the 1970 National Association Convention from the state associations.

In the past, most reports have been incomplete and extremely inaccurate. Since statistics about the denomination's churches are used for official reports to the United States Government, and since churches' exemption status is determined by the accuracy of the reports, the executive department requests that clerks take unusual precaution in filling out the letters from the state associations. District and local letters to the higher bodies are also obligated to be accurate, since it is from these that state clerks get their statistics.

Each responsible person is asked to join in this effort.

Ministers Seeking S.S. Exemption Warned of April 15 Deadline

BALTIMORE (EP)—The Social Security Administration warned here that most ministers have until April 15 to request exemptions from Social Security coverage.

A request must be based on the minister's opposition to receiving Social Security benefits "by reason of conscience or religious principle." The exemption applies only to wages earned "in the exercise of his ministry."

Evangelist Available for Revivals

Nashville, Tenn.—Rev. Arnold Woodlief of Marianna, Florida, has asked **Contact** to announce that he is available for revival meetings. During his ministry as an evangelist, numerous persons have made professions of faith and rededicated their lives. Interested persons may write him at 410 West Milton Ave., Marianna, Florida 32446. Phone: 482-4659.

Thank You for Your Gifts to the . . .

COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT

January, 1970

RECEIPTS:

STATE	FEB. 1970	FEB. 1969	Yr. to Date	Designated
Alabama	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,206.27	\$
Arkansas	996.59	1,202.57	1,576.17	
California	507.44	880.99	939.56	
Florida	224.19	174.15	287.41	10.00
Georgia	398.70	—	1,096.39	
Idaho	36.31	29.84	58.01	
Illinois	833.13	1,165.09	1,707.71	
Indiana	—	62.75	—	
Kansas	185.00	—	185.00	
Kentucky	55.77	109.81	232.86	
Michigan	382.14	353.84	549.64	352.73
Missouri	2,917.05	2,665.85	4,554.88	
North Carolina	86.20	172.18	88.20	
Ohio	15.00	84.36	305.20	
Oklahoma	2,312.56	1,480.85	4,143.16	19.54
Tennessee	156.69	63.07	318.69	
Texas	—	130.24	207.72	
Virginia	23.44	21.76	44.00	
Washington	—	29.45	22.45	
Wisconsin	—	10.00	—	
West Virginia	—	—	25.00	
TOTAL	\$9,130.21	\$8,636.80	\$17,548.32	\$382.27

DISBURSEMENTS:

Exec. Dept.	\$3,284.04	\$3,208.78	\$ 6,548.09	\$ 49.54
Foreign Missions	2,079.83	1,737.12	3,774.40	247.73
Home Missions	1,126.90	1,029.08	2,082.92	40.00
Bible College	1,581.90	1,631.55	3,149.05	35.00
Church Training Service	551.34	542.81	1,053.59	
Board of Retirement & Insurance	285.67	271.38	526.80	10.00
Laymen's Board	165.40	162.06	310.09	
Commission on Theological Liberalism	55.13	54.02	103.38	
TOTALS	\$9,130.21	\$8,636.80	\$17,548.32	\$382.27



Free Will Baptist Bible College

SUMMER SESSION May 25 - June 12

ACADEMIC LEVEL AND LOAD LIMIT

Full college credit will be allowed by Free Will Baptist Bible College for all courses taught during the summer session and will be applicable toward a degree or diploma. However, the courses may be taken without the intention of working for college credit. In such cases, the higher level of work required for college credit need not be maintained.

A total of four semester hours may be earned during the summer session. Classes will meet every day except Sunday.

PROVISIONS FOR ROOM AND BOARD

College dormitories and dining hall will be available to all students, married or single. A limited number of

rooms will be available for married couples, though no provisions can be made for cooking.

EXPENSES

Registration	\$ 5.00
Tuition	18.00 per hour
Room	25.00
Board	40.00

If you plan to attend, please notify the College as soon as possible. Arrangements will be made for your arrival on Monday, May 25. You may register when you arrive. Classes begin May 26.

For more information write:

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

3606 West End Avenue

Nashville, Tennessee 37205

CONTACT
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

Second Class Postage Paid at Nashville, Tennessee



dial missions hotline

THE LATEST NEWS AND PRAYER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR
MISSIONARY MINISTRY IS AS CLOSE AS YOUR TELEPHONE.

Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions has installed a prayer information service called "MISSIONS HOTLINE." It is a special three-minute pre-recorded telephone message containing late news developments and prayer requests received direct from overseas.

Simply by dialing 615/242-1771, you may hear three minutes of the latest news and prayer information received directly from missionaries in the field. This new service provides you with instant information on the progress and needs of your foreign missionary ministry.

Messages normally are updated twice weekly on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. This makes it possible for you to have the latest possible news and prayer information for midweek and Sunday services. However, urgent prayer bulletins may pre-empt the "HOTLINE" at any time.

Dial code 615, number 242-1771 right now and every time you desire the latest news about your missionaries. Cost of the service is the regular station-to-station charge from your city to Nashville.



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