

REARING

CHILDREN



**contact**

Of The National Association Of Free Will Baptists

MAY, 1973

# When <sup>NOT</sup> To Take Your Child To Church

by Genevieve J. Waddell

I have six children and I'm a pastor's wife. The other Sunday morning I prayed for my little son to have no temperature by 9:00 or enough so I would have no doubt about keeping him at home.

Does that sound cruel? If you've never had children, you might not understand. All mothers understand exactly what I mean because my John had only a wee bit of a fever and was slightly fretful, just like he'd been so many Sundays this past winter. That morning his temperature was one degree above 98.6 degrees, that magic number that means "go" or "stay" on Sunday morning.

By 9:00, his fever was 103 degrees and an apparent ear infection that required extensive antibiotics set in. But, at least I had an answer and was spared that guilty feeling that has plagued me through six children.

So I decided to survey ten Nashville pediatricians and Dr. Ruby Griffin, our former missionary to Africa, to see when they thought a child should *not* be taken to church.

Let me make it very plain, however, that I am not talking about a child with a chronic illness or a child who is obviously sick. I am considering a child who feels puny, who has little or no fever and doesn't appear really sick. Yet — should I take him or should I not?

I am thinking only of children under twelve. A child older than that, perhaps some younger, should be able to discuss with you about going or staying, but we have a rule at home that cures some illnesses immediately. If you are too sick for church, you are too sick for anything else, too!

Independently, the doctors agreed that church nurseries are the ideal place for picking up "bugs," so check to be sure yours is sanitary.

The doctors also agreed that families should take each person's temperature when no obvious illness is present. Do this the same time of day for about a week. Then you will know when each person really has a fever. Some children have sub-normal temperatures and 98.6 would be a fever for that child. Others may run 99.1 all the time and that would not be a fever.

The pediatricians say that a child does not have a fever if his temperature is below 100.4. You can use that as the magic number, if his normal, average temperature is 98.6. In other words, a child has a fever if his temperature is almost 2 degrees above his normal.

Generally, if fever, sneezing, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea or signs of infectious diseases are present, a child should be kept home.

But know your child. If your child has a runny nose with clear nasal discharge during hay fever season, he might have an ear ache on Saturday night. Without fever, and no change in the nasal discharge, the child might be fine at church on Sunday. Just explain to the nursery worker that he has an allergy and not a cold.

If, however, a child has an ear ache with no known allergies, chances are he's contagious and is getting an infection. Also, any nasal discharge that is not clear, but yellow or green, is a sign of infection and the child is contagious.

A child can have a slight fever, maybe 100.5, at night and it will be gone the next morning. In most cases, doctors agree a virus is present and the child should be isolated for 24 hours. A child should not be exposed to others for at least 24 hours after running a fever for any reason because he might give another person what he has. The other reason is that children, especially those under three, are more apt to pick up additional infections or secondary infections if they are already sick.

And, incidentally, small babies, under four months, sometimes become critically ill and even die without ever running fever. They can have croup, flu, or pneumonia without a fever, so look for other signs of illness such as coughing, raspy breathing, changes in eating habits and crying. You should know whether or not your baby is fussy because he is lonely or because he's ill.

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Waddell is the wife of Eugene Waddell, pastor of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. The Free Will Baptist Bible College alumnus is a free-lance writer.*



The pediatricians I talked with seldom see measles anymore. One said he had not heard of a case in four years, but measles should be treated by a doctor and the child should be isolated until fever has been gone 24 hours and the rash is completely gone.

For mumps, all swelling should be gone before a child returns to church or plays much at home. Again, be sure fever has been gone 24 hours before he is around the other children.

Does your child have a nagging cough after a cold? If the cough comes from that silly tickle in the throat and the child hasn't had fever for 24 hours, he can go to church. Give him a cough drop — to his delight — which won't heal the throat but will stop the tickle, hopefully. A nagging cough that is deep-chested and painful should be treated for the child is infectious to others.

What about contagious diseases such as chicken pox? These diseases are actually contagious at least two days before the symptoms develop so you cannot guard against them completely. Keep a child inside until fever has been gone at least 24 hours and until the lesions are dry. As long as any sore has pus the child is contagious to others.

What if your child has been up, off and on, on Saturday night with the stomach ache or diarrhea or vomiting but feels fine on Sunday morning? If no fever has been present, if he feels fine, send him on to church. If, however, any fever is present he should be isolated 24 hours to protect himself and others.

One pediatrician said that the epidemic of viruses and flu in our public schools should be blamed on working mothers who send their children to school rather than miss a day's work to stay home with them.

You, too, have a responsibility to your church family. If your child has had fever within 24 hours, he should be kept home. If, however, he has no fever and all symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, etc. are gone, he is all right to go out. You should know your child well enough to determine how real or unreal his stomach aches are. Fever and listlessness are two good signs the child is not pretending.

God has given our children to us to rear and we are responsible to Him for taking care of them. He does not expect us to drag a sick child to church. On the other hand, He doesn't expect us to keep a well one at home.

One outstanding pastor's wife — one of our denomination's very best — told me that her son was weary, irritable and in general poor health. His sleeping habits were bad and he was a whiney child. The pediatrician inquired about the family's habits and discovered that the child was taken to a service almost every night. He seldom got to bed until very late and he was extremely fatigued. The doctor warned the parents of the danger they were exposing their son to. Those parents learned a valuable lesson before it was too late. God expected them to take care of their son and to serve Him, also. They worked out their schedules so that there was no conflict in the situation anymore.

I hope some of these guidelines will be helpful to you. As a pastor's wife, I know that people are watching me closely. Some who have never had children might find it hard to believe how many viruses little children contact those first few years of their life, but I am responsible for my children's health and I cannot afford to drag them to church when they have fever and are sick.

May I tell you about a couple I know? A young deacon and his wife had a new baby who has been the delight of our church. This has been an awful first winter for them because the baby has been sick so very much. When he is sick, the mother and daddy take turns coming to church. She comes in the morning and he babysits. That night he comes and she stays home. They have proven to us what I've known all along — a whole family does not have to stay home when the baby is sick!

I think all of what I'm saying boils down to one thing. If we love the Lord, we're going to do our best to do the right thing. I think, after talking with these doctors, that I have a better understanding of when I should keep my children at home if an obvious, high-fever disease is not present. I hope these ideas will be of help to you. Happy mothering! ▲

## CONTACT

VOL. XX, NO. 5

Many Christian parents readily adhere to the admonishment of Proverbs – “He that spareth his rod hateth his son . . .” but how many balance their childrearing by . . .

# Praising Children

By Jo Ann Riggs

Do you praise your children often?  
Are you generous in your praise?  
Do you praise your child when he cleans his room well?  
Do you genuinely thank your young daughter when she brings you wild, smelly flowers?  
Do you praise your child for his accomplishments in school? (Or do you only criticize the poor marks?)  
Do you comment favorably on his appearance (when he's dressed neatly)?

Is there a good balance between your criticism and your praise? Or, if you would be perfectly honest, would you have to admit that you criticize your child more than you praise him?

During Jesus' earthly ministry God openly praised Him on the Mount of Transfiguration when He proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Needless to say, none of us has a perfect child — as Jesus was. But there are many praiseworthy occasions in the lives of our children.

God commanded earthly parents to "...bring them (children) up in the nurture (training, education) and admonition (advice concerning faults, reproof) of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). He preceded this instruction with a warning against provoking children to wrath. There is a way to train and correct without making the child angry.

Perhaps the Lord demonstrated this truth in His dealings with His children in the seven churches of Asia (Revelation 2, 3). He reprimanded five of these seven churches, but when possible, He *first commended* them. He praised them for their works, labor, patience, intolerance of evil doers, tribulation, steadfastness, charity, service, and faith. After pointing out their admirable qualities, He gave the admonition. As a finishing touch, He added a promise of reward to each overcomer.

Christ did not compare the seven churches with one another. He did not say, "You five churches whom I have had to rebuke should try to be more like the churches of Smyrna and Philadelphia who are beyond reproof." Children should not be compared with someone else. Sometimes parents make comparisons in order to try to promote improvement, but usually all that is promoted is resentment toward the person or ideal held before him. An excellent way to promote improvement in your child is to



Rearing Children

use the "sandwich method." The first layer is *praise*. Praise the child for something he has done. Then offer your criticism, the meat, and instruct him in the correct way to do the project, or cleaning chore, or personal devotions. There's one more layer to place over your "meat of criticism" — and that is *praise*. End on a note of praise. Assure your child that you are confident he can do the thing about which you are giving instruction.

When possible, sprinkle praise generously when correcting children. Colossians 3:21 cautions, "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Continual criticism makes a person angry and discouraged. He develops an attitude of defeatism. He also develops a self-critical attitude which often carries over into adulthood. He falls victim, often, to a very low concept of himself. He will not aspire to improvement because he thinks nothing better is expected of him. Each of us has an instinctive desire to be appreciated and praised for our accomplishments. One of the basic needs of man is the need for recognition. Recognition of our children's accomplishments tends to motivate them to even greater accomplishments and growth.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." May God help us to value our inheritance. Childhood passes so swiftly. It is heartbreaking to know that so many little ones are badgered day after day by the unkind words of irritable parents or guardians. How much happier their lives would be if just a few words of praise were given in season to show them they are loved and appreciated.

#### CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

- If a child lives with criticism,  
he learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility,  
he learns to fight.
- If a child lives with ridicule,  
he learns to be shy.
- If a child lives with shame,  
he learns to feel guilty.
- If a child lives with tolerance,  
he learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with encouragement,  
he learns confidence.
- If a child lives with praise,  
he learns to appreciate.
- If a child lives with fairness,  
he learns justice.
- If a child lives with security,  
he learns to have faith.
- If a child lives with approval,  
he learns to like himself.
- If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,  
he learns to find love in the world.

— Dorothy Noite

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** For a number of years, Mrs. Riggs was on the staff of Alabama's Free Will Baptist Children's Home at Eldridge. Her husband, Eustace, recently accepted the pastorate of the Russellville Free Will Baptist Church at Russellville, Alabama, after having been in full-time evangelistic work. ▲

# what's your problem?



By R. Eugene Waddell

**QUESTION:** *I was told that the Free Will Baptist movement believes that you can be saved without baptism. How do you explain 1 Peter 3:21 then? "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."*

**ANSWER:** Every serious student of the Bible eventually has to decide whether or not the Bible teaches that salvation comes by sacraments and ceremonies.

In reaching a position on this fundamental doctrine of baptism, one must not isolate one text such as the one you cited. It is essential that Scripture be interpreted by Scripture.

Many references clearly teach that salvation depends upon repentance and faith alone. Jesus repeatedly stated that the sinner would be saved if he would simply trust Him. (In the Gospel of John, note 1:12, 3:14-18, 3:36, 6:29, 47, 11:25-26.)

Paul taught that the sinner could be justified by *faith* alone. (See Romans 3, 4 and 5.) Paul lets us know his views on the essentiality of baptism when he says, "Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel . . ." (1 Corinthians 1:17).

Jesus forgave many sinners before they were baptized: the sinful woman in Simon's house (Luke 7:37-50); the blind man (Luke 18:35-43); and the justified publican (Luke 18:13,14). He saved the dying thief on the cross who couldn't be baptized (Luke 23:43). It is plain, then, that baptism is not a requirement for salvation.

First Peter 3:21 describes baptism as a "figure." It is symbolizing the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The context emphasizes this saving work of Christ for us. Verse 18 describes how the just One died for the unjust and verse 21 concludes by stating that we secure the answer of a good conscience "by the resurrection of Jesus Christ . . ."

The word translated "by" in verse 20 ("eight souls were saved by water") is often translated "through." The idea is that those eight in the ark were preserved while passing through the flood, not saved by means of the water. Likewise, baptism symbolizes judgment and safety. God's wrath flooded Calvary as Jesus died for our sins. But the Son of God marched victoriously out of the tomb. By faith we are united with Him and pass from death to life. Baptismal waters remind us that we have been preserved through judgment and are safely sheltered in the risen Christ.

*Readers may address their questions to Mr. Waddell at P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202 Please limit each question to one specific topic. There will be no personal correspondence regarding those questions which are not used in the magazine. The column will not necessarily be considered the official voice of the denomination relative to the problems involved.*

Is your home breaking up in this pressure packed society? Are you having problems with your teenagers? Are the communication lines broken between husband and wife? Has your family lost the art of enjoying being together as a family? These are questions that all of us have faced or will be encountering in the future. The simple fact that the devil hates Christian homes cannot be overlooked. The first family was

## A Training Center

by Joe Haas

# THE FAMILY ALTAR

destroyed by the devil and ever since the garden of Eden, he has been trying to undermine the most important institution on earth.

Our churches, communities and nation rise and fall by the strength of its families. Many times the devil has used a family that was out of fellowship with each other to hinder and destroy the working of the Holy Spirit in a given service in a church. I firmly believe that we must work to build strong families so that we can have young men and young women coming forth to carry on the work of the Lord. I am fully persuaded that the best way to combat the "spiritual famine" in our churches is to encourage our people to start and maintain family altar or family worship in their homes.

Our home is far from perfect and our children are ordinary children, but I feel

## For Children

that their lives have been touched by our daily fellowship around the Word and our praying together as a family. Barb and I have been married for 22 years and in the beginning of our marriage, even before Joey, our oldest son, was born, we established a family worship time in our home. I am quite sure that God has used this time of Bible study and prayer to mold our lives into one in His service.

Starting a family altar in our home seemed the right thing for us to do since family altar was a very important part of our individual families before we were married. When I was a boy at home with my parents, my father would gather all of the family around and we would worship God together in our family circle. Barb's father, the late Rev. R. A. Norris, stressed family altar very strongly in the churches where he pastored, and one of his dying requests was that each of his children maintain family worship in their homes.

May I say to you that the devil hates and fights the family altar and because of this, many give up and do not follow through after having started a time of family worship. We have had all kinds of interruptions during our family time . . . phone calls, people at the door, etc. While pastoring in the States, we finally made these rules for our family devotions. If the phone rang, whoever answered was to tell the calling party that we were having our family devotions and ask them to call back in 30 minutes. If the doorbell rang, they were to ask the person in and invite them to join us in our family altar. At every expense we have guarded our family time together because we know how important it really is to our Christian testimony and our family relations.

It is impossible to tell you the best time for you to have your family worship. This will differ with your family situation and you will have to

*ABOUT THE WRITER: With five children and a burden from the Lord, Mr. Haas left a comfortable Oklahoma pastorate to accept the call to the mission field of France. Today, the Mississippi native and his wife, Barbara, serve in Rennes.*

adjust your family worship to your individual situations. We have tried different times, but we have decided for our family that immediately after breakfast is the best time. There are less interruptions at this time and then, too, we feel that we should begin the day with morning devotions, as a family. Early in the day we can ask the Lord to lead and guide us in our day's activities for Him. Also, we can ask Him to protect us and our children from the evil one during that day.

If family altar is going to be effective, it must be made meaningful to each member of the family. Each one must feel that they are a very important part of the family worship time. We have always tried to sing a little and then read the Word with each one taking a part in the reading. Sharing in the reading is very good and especially so for us right now because this is about the only English that our children get to read since they are doing their studies in French schools. When our children were younger, we used some good books that had stories explaining the Bible texts and then gave a time for questions.

There are several books that I would recommend. They are: "Glad Moments With God" by Simons - Zondervan Publishing Co.; "Bible Readings For The Family Hour" by Simons - Moody Press; "God's World Through Young Eyes" by Gesch - Concordia Publishers; "Little Talks With God" and "More Little Talks With God." If you have small children, you will probably want to get one of these books from your local Bible bookstore. Since our children are getting older we are only using the Bible with each one taking a part. At the present time, we are in the book of Proverbs. Someone has said, "If a family reads the book of Proverbs through once each year with their families this will solve all of their family problems."

I read a very interesting article a few months ago about the affect that a family altar has on children. The story goes something like this. A boy from a good Christian home was on the battle front and one of his buddies asked him what time it was. The Christian fellow reached into his pocket and pulled out

his watch and told his friend the time. His friend looked at him in amazement and said "Your watch must be wrong." "No," replied the Christian, "this watch has never been wrong. You see I have never changed my watch to this time zone." Again his friend expressed amazement. The Christian soldier proceeded to tell his buddy that the time there on the front line was not important but it was very important for him to know exactly what time it was back home. At 7 a.m. each day, he knew that his family would be having their family altar and he wanted to pray at the same time so that he might feel the warmth of his family's love there on the battle front.

---

**"If family altar is going to be effective, it must be made meaningful to each member of the family."**

---

Yes, when our children have been brought up around the family altar, they have a certain assurance that they are being prayed for each day by those in their family circle. Have you given your children this security as they have left your home for college, military service or marriage?

Family altar is a wonderful time for you to pray for all of our missionaries both home and foreign. If you do not have a missionary map with the pictures of our missionaries, I would urge you to write to the missions departments and ask for one. Praying for missionaries daily will do two things. First, it will let your children know that you are really interested in missions, which is winning souls. Secondly, it will undergird our missionaries. You may never know at the time you are praying just how much we missionaries need your prayers here on the field. The forces of the devil, evil spirits and demons hover over missionaries like dark storm clouds. The missionaries need your daily prayers so that they can be victorious in their work for Him.

Family altar is the place to bring your family problems to the Lord, to be placed at the foot of the cross. Children are affected by the fact that their family asks God to help them in their daily needs. We must instill the fact of God's presence in the lives of our children so that they will feel free to call upon Him in times of need in their daily life.

The results of family altar are many and you certainly will want these to be a part of your family. (1) At an early age, your children will know that Jesus died for them and wants to save them. (2) A deeper understanding and love between husband and wife are experienced because of family altar. (3) Family worship creates the climate of fellowship and happiness in a family circle. It is impossible to pray effectively if you have a wrong spirit. It is equally as impossible to get up from a spirit-filled prayer time and begin to quarrel. (4) Your daily fellowship around the Word with your family will fortify your children to face the temptations of the devil for that day. The children are able to unburden their hearts in family devotions and find compassionate, understanding parents to share with them in each problem they face. (5) Your children will more readily find God's will for their lives.

The list of blessings could go on and on; but suffice it to say that a home without a daily meeting with God as a family is missing God's best.

Parents, will you discuss the need of your family to have daily devotions as a family?

Fathers, will you say with Joshua of old, "As for me and my house we are going to serve the Lord"? Can you really say that you love God if you do not love Him enough to daily meet Him around an altar with your family?

Pastors, will you consider the spiritual needs of your church and by God's grace lead your church families to start and maintain family worship? ▲

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
KEYNOTES 12th ANNUAL  
C.C.C. BIBLE CONFERENCE**

FRESNO, CALIF. — The Reverend Rufus Coffey, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, keynoted the annual Bible Conference at California Christian College, March 7-9.

Mr. Coffey was supported on the program by Jay Constant, missionary pastor of the Vacaville Free Will Baptist Mission at Vacaville, California; Riley Haskins, Director of C.C.C.'s Southern Extension at Bellflower; and Milan Ruble, pastor of the Valley Free Will Baptist Church, Wenatchee, Washington.

Parents, alumni, friends and visitors numbered in excess of 300 during the conference. "This was forty-eight hours with God," one was heard to say in describing his feelings about the twelfth annual gathering.

Over 60 prospective students shared the campus and services in "Hospitality Days," which were held in conjunction with the conference.

According to college officials, this conference dramatically underlined the need for an immediate extension to the present College Chapel and the expansion of other plant facilities, especially classrooms.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

**newsfront**

**FIRST-TIME PARTICIPANTS NAMED SUNDAY SCHOOL WINNERS**

NASHVILLE, TENN. — A number of churches who participated for the first time in the Spring Enlargement Campaign sponsored by the National Sunday School Department found themselves in the winner's list at the completion of the national drive.

Twenty-two states were represented in the "Magnify The Cross of Christ"

Sunday School Enlargement Campaign which began March 4 and continued through March 25.

Sunday schools reporting their results marked up an impressive 41.25% gain in average attendance over their October, November, December, 1972 average.

The winners were as follows:

Division	Church	Oct.-Dec. Avg.	Camp. Avg.	Increase
A 1st	Bethel - Hampton, Va.	511	684	33.86%
2nd	-----	----	----	-----
B 1st	Grace - Greenville, NC	453	625	37.97%
2nd	First - Bakersfield, Ca	413	504	22.03%
C 1st	Trinity - Greenville, NC	332	470	41.57%
2nd	Fellowship-Flat River, Mo.	323	407	26.01%
D 1st	Bethel - South Roxana, Il	275	346	25.82%
2nd	Owasso - Owasso, Ok	296	361.5	22.13%
E 1st	West Dayton — Dayton, Oh	160	275.5	72.19%
2nd	Lockhart - Lockhart, SC	178	263	47.75%
F 1st	First - Huntsville, Al	140	336	140.00%
2nd	South Side - Paintsville, Ky.	108	220	103.70%
G 1st	First - Joplin, Mo	69	139	101.45%
2nd	North Modesto - Modesto, Ca	64	116	81.25%
H 1st	Valley Heights - Salina, Ok	19	65.5	244.74%
2nd	Highland Park - Stillwater, Ok	39	94	141.03%



STANDING BENEATH THE BANNER which boldly proclaims the conference theme, Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey delivers a keynote address during the annual Bible Conference at California Christian College. Seated is the Reverend Wade Jernigan, president of this Free Will Baptist college.

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THOSE ATTENDING THE NATIONAL . . .**

**Page 10 — Preview Of The National**

**Page 14 — Tickets To Meal Functions**

**Page 12 — Housing Reservation Form**

**Page 16 — Delegate Credentials**

**Watch The June Issue for a complete program of the 1973 National Association**



## PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS GET CALIFORNIA TAX CREDIT

WHITTIER, CALIF. — Free Will Baptist families who have children enrolled in Christian schools in California will benefit from the bill that was signed into law by Governor Ronald Regan in mid-December. The law provides that a tax credit will be given to parents whose children attend Christian schools.

"The fact that California has pioneered tax credit legislation will add momentum to a federal tax credit bill that is pending before the United States Congress this legislative year," observed a spokesman for the California Association of Christian Schools.

The new law provides a family with an adjusted gross income of less than \$15,000, a state income tax credit of \$125 for each child for whom tuition has been paid in a non-public elementary or secondary school. For families with adjusted gross incomes from \$15,000 to \$18,000, the law provides tax credits ranging from \$100 to \$25 per child.

## DEATH CLAIMS PIONEER MINISTER IN TEXAS

WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS — For 56 years, the Reverend John A. Brooks, Sr. preached the Gospel to which he was ordained in 1917. But on February 24, 1973, all preaching ceased for this man whose influence was exercised during those years as a pioneer for Free Will Baptists in Texas.

The 79-year-old minister retired from pastoring actively in 1966 and became the associate pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Wichita Falls which he organized 21 years ago.



## MISSOURI CHURCH OBSERVES 40th ANNIVERSARY

MONETT, MISSOURI — Three former pastors joined the congregation of the First Free Will Baptist Church and their current pastor, the Reverend James McAllister, in observing the church's 40th organizational milestone Sunday, February 25.

In climaxing February as Anniversary Month, Dr. James Davis of Franklin, Tennessee, returned to his former pastorate to preach a series of messages during that weekend. Present for the special services on Sunday were two other former pastors, the Reverends W. K. Weston and O. T. Allred. Brother Allred organized the church and served as its pastor for many years.

Pastor McAllister, who assumed the leadership of the church in July, 1970, reports the average Sunday school

attendance has risen from 100 to 220 during the past 2½ years. The church is presently operating three buses and conducts a children's church. The church currently holds the distinction of having the largest Sunday school in this Ozarks town of 6,000 population.

The church's 500 seat sanctuary is a recent addition to their facilities. The completion of the new building brought the value of the church property in excess of \$180,000.

The church regularly supports every phase of the denominational program. In addition to the Cooperative Plan of Giving, the church contributes to home and foreign missions, Missouri's youth camp and Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, Oklahoma.

## PASTOR'S FUNERAL FIRST SERVICE IN NEW CHURCH

ROGERS, ARK. — Even though the occupancy of the newly constructed Pea Ridge Free Will Baptist Church was anticipated in the immediate future, the Reverend Horace Knox, pastor of the church since its inception six years ago, did not live to deliver the first message in the new sanctuary. Instead, the Reverends Cecil Garrison and Bruce Phillips conducted the funeral service for Pastor Knox in the new sanctuary on March 10. The 67 year-old minister

went to be with the Lord March 7.

Mr. Knox had long been active in the work of Arkansas Free Will Baptists. He served as moderator of the Old Mtn. Zion Association of Free Will Baptists for 32 years and had pastored several churches in the Rogers area. He was also active in county and city government.

Construction on the Pea Ridge Church, located on a five-acre tract at the corner of Davis Street and Lee Town Road, was begun last July.

Because of adverse weather, there were several details unfinished at the time of Mr. Knox's death. One of these was the lack of pews. Members of the congregation arranged to borrow chairs so that the funeral services for the man who had led them almost to the completion of their new church home could be conducted therein.

The next day the congregation began holding regular services in their new structure.

# NATIONAL PROGRAM REVAMPED FOR 1973

## Gives Added Emphasis To Fellowship Around The Word

by Eugene Workman

Six inspirational messages based on the theme "Discipleship: The Church's Responsibility" will be interspersed with the business transactions at the 37th annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists when it convenes July 9-12 in the Macon Coliseum, Macon, Georgia.

The program format has been altered by confining national departmental reports to questions which may arise after delegates have reviewed reports as submitted to the *Digest of Reports*. The time saved by condensing the presentation of reports will be utilized by sharing two additional messages — one at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday and the other at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The Macon Coliseum, the city's adaptable arena-type auditorium, will serve as the site of the convention's business and worship sessions. Several of the larger meal functions will be catered in the Coliseum's Monument Room. Macon-Hilton is the headquarters hotel where several smaller dinner meetings will be held. Pre-convention meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Board will be at the Hilton Hotel. W.N.A.C. will utilize the Sheraton Motel for their pre-convention meetings.

The competitive activities for youth, sponsored annually by the C.T.S. Department, will be conducted in the Mulberry Street Methodist Church, located one block from the headquarters' hotel. After-service social activities for teens will also take place in the Mulberry Street Church. However, activities for the Junior Adventurers will be staged in the Macon-Hilton.

Since the location of the Macon Coliseum is not within close walking

distance of hotels and motels, the Transportation Committee of the hosting Georgia State Association will operate shuttle buses between the Coliseum and the three main housing areas before and after each main service.

### A SUNDAY FEATURE

A trend which has gained momentum in the past two years is for many persons attending the meeting of the national body to arrive in the convention city on the Saturday preceding the official opening conclave on Monday evening.

The early arrival has afforded delegates and visitors a time of fellowship prior to the convention sessions although many are involved in pre-convention meetings. Nevertheless, these "early arrivers" have given many Free Will Baptist churches in and near the convention cities "full houses" on the Sunday prior to the opening of the National Association.

Since White Oak Church is the only Free Will Baptist church in Macon, the Executive Committee has arranged an additional Sunday service in the Wesleyan Room of the Macon Hilton Hotel to accommodate the crowds. Sunday school will convene at 10:00 a.m. with mass classes in the primary-junior, teen and adult levels. Pre-school children will accompany their parents during the Sunday school hour. Worship service will be at 11:00 a.m. The Reverend Jack Williams of Fresno, California, will be the speaker. Mr. Williams is Academic Dean at California Christian College. He is a native of Louisiana, a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College and a former pastor in Arkansas.

However, the Reverend Joe Owen, pastor of the White Oak Church, states

that their auditorium will seat 300. He invites Free Will Baptists to help his congregation break attendance records on Sunday, July 8. The church is located at 1047 Jessamine Street.

### NYC HIGHLIGHTS

Headlining the keynote service of the National Youth Conference on Sunday evening, July 8, will be Mike Crain, a twenty-eight year old black belt Karate expert, who has become well known in Christian circles through Karate for Christ, Inc.

Crain, an alumnus of Tennessee Temple School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, is able to do such feats as using a sword while blindfolded to cut in half a melon which is lying on the stomach of a helper. He can break fourteen inches of concrete or six inches of boards with his bare hands.

Crain practices King-Fu, which is a "Chinese style" Karate, not depending on the building up of callouses on the hands. He depends upon speed, snap and concentration.

Last year Crain spoke to over 50,000 students in high school assemblies and held evangelistic campaigns in churches throughout America.

New to the program of the NYC this year is "Teenspiration '73" — a program of Christian music and drama geared to today's youth. The two-hour program on Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. will be directed by The Conquerors, an evangelistic team composed of Vernon Whaley and Jonathan Thigpen. Each of the top winners in the three divisions of the declamation contests will give his winning presentation during this new feature.

The Music and Arts Festival, scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, is



WILLIAMS



CHRISTENSEN



BARNARD



SHOCKEY



PICIRILLI



KENEMER

being expanded to include eight divisions. An increased number of entries in this festival indicates it will be a popular area of competition this year.

Scheduled for a time change this year are the competitive activities. They will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Monday, July 9, and continue throughout the day. Finals for all competitive events will begin at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

**W.N.A.C. PREVIEW**

The entire schedule of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention will wear a new look when they convene Tuesday, July 10, at 9:00 a.m. in the Macon Coliseum.

All reports and business, including the election of officers, will be transacted during the morning session in order that an added feature can challenge delegates and visitors Tuesday afternoon. Winnie Christensen, a leader in home Bible studies and author of the best sellers *Caught With My Hands Full* and *Caught With My Mouth Wide Open*, will be the speaker for a special two-hour seminar on "Mission Outreach to Our Community." The afternoon session is open to all interested church workers.

Miss Laura Belle Barnard, long-time missionary to India and now on the faculty of Free Will Baptist Bible

College, will be the featured speaker at the W.N.A.C. Banquet Monday, July 9, at 5:00 p.m. in the Macon Coliseum.

**LAYMEN AND PASTORS**

The annual session planned to aid laymen and pastors in their outreach at the local level will feature a panel on "Church Extension." Mr. Bob Shockey, who assumes his new post as Director of the Home Missions Department June 1, will preside at this session on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in the Hilton Hotel.

Dr. Robert Picirilli, Registrar at Free Will Baptist Bible College and former moderator of the National Association, will be the featured speaker for the annual Pastor's Dinner on Tuesday, July 10, at 5:00 p.m. in the Macon Coliseum. His topic will be "Contemporary Charismatic Confusion."

Mr. Keith Kenemer, a lay evangelist who recently launched Sunday School Revivals, will be the featured speaker at the annual Layman's Breakfast Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. in the Macon Coliseum. Mr. Kenemer is currently being used of the Lord in many sections of the Free Will Baptist denomination to stimulate new interest in winning people to the Lord through the local Sunday school. His ministry is based in Portsmouth, Virginia.

**NATIONAL MUSIC FELLOWSHIP**

After a period of inactivity, the National Free Will Baptist Music Fellowship is planning a breakfast meeting, according to Vice-President Vernon Whaley of Albany, Georgia. The group will meet Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m. in the Macon-Hilton Hotel. Two music men from our denomination will share ideas and helps for improving and developing both the adult and youth volunteer choirs.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SEMINAR**

The Sunday School Department is sponsoring Dr. Elmer Towns in two seminar sessions Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Dr. Towns is a well-known author, evangelist and Christian educator. Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, moderator of the National Association and Manager of the Editorial Division of the National Sunday School Department, will join Dr. Towns in an autograph party Tuesday morning at the display booth of the Sunday School Department. Dr. Towns' latest books are *Is The Day of the Denomination Dead?* and *Capturing A Town for Christ*. A major section of Dr. O'Donnell's newest book, *A Survey Of Church History*, is devoted to Free Will Baptist history. It was released in early May. ▲



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS  
APPLICATION FOR HOUSING RESERVATIONS**

**Macon, Georgia**

**July 9-12, 1973**

Please fill out form completely and mail to:

**F.W.B. Central Housing Bureau  
Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 169  
Macon, Georgia 31202**

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE CLEARED THROUGH THE F.W.B. CENTRAL HOUSING BUREAU. Each request must give definite date and approximate hour of arrival, and include names and addresses of all persons who will occupy the rooms requested. If it is necessary for

you to cancel a reservation, please notify the Housing Bureau promptly. At least four choices of hotels/motels are desirable. Reservations will be filled in order of receipt. Make your reservations before June 27, 1973. Confirmation will be sent to you after May 1, 1973.

**ACCOMMODATIONS DESIRED:**

**RATE DESIRED**

_____ Room(s) for one person (one full size bed)	\$ _____ to _____
_____ Room(s) for two persons (one full size bed)	\$ _____ to _____
_____ Room(s) for two persons (two double beds)	\$ _____ to _____
_____ Room(s) for ( ) three or ( ) four persons (two double beds)	\$ _____ to _____
_____ Room(s) with twin beds for two persons	\$ _____ to _____
_____ Suite-Parlor and ( ) one bedroom ( ) two bedrooms	\$ _____ to _____

HOTEL	1st choice .....	3rd choice .....
OR		
MOTEL	2nd choice .....	4th choice .....

Planned arrival date .....	time .....	a.m.....	p.m.....
Planned departure date .....	time .....	a.m.....	p.m. ....

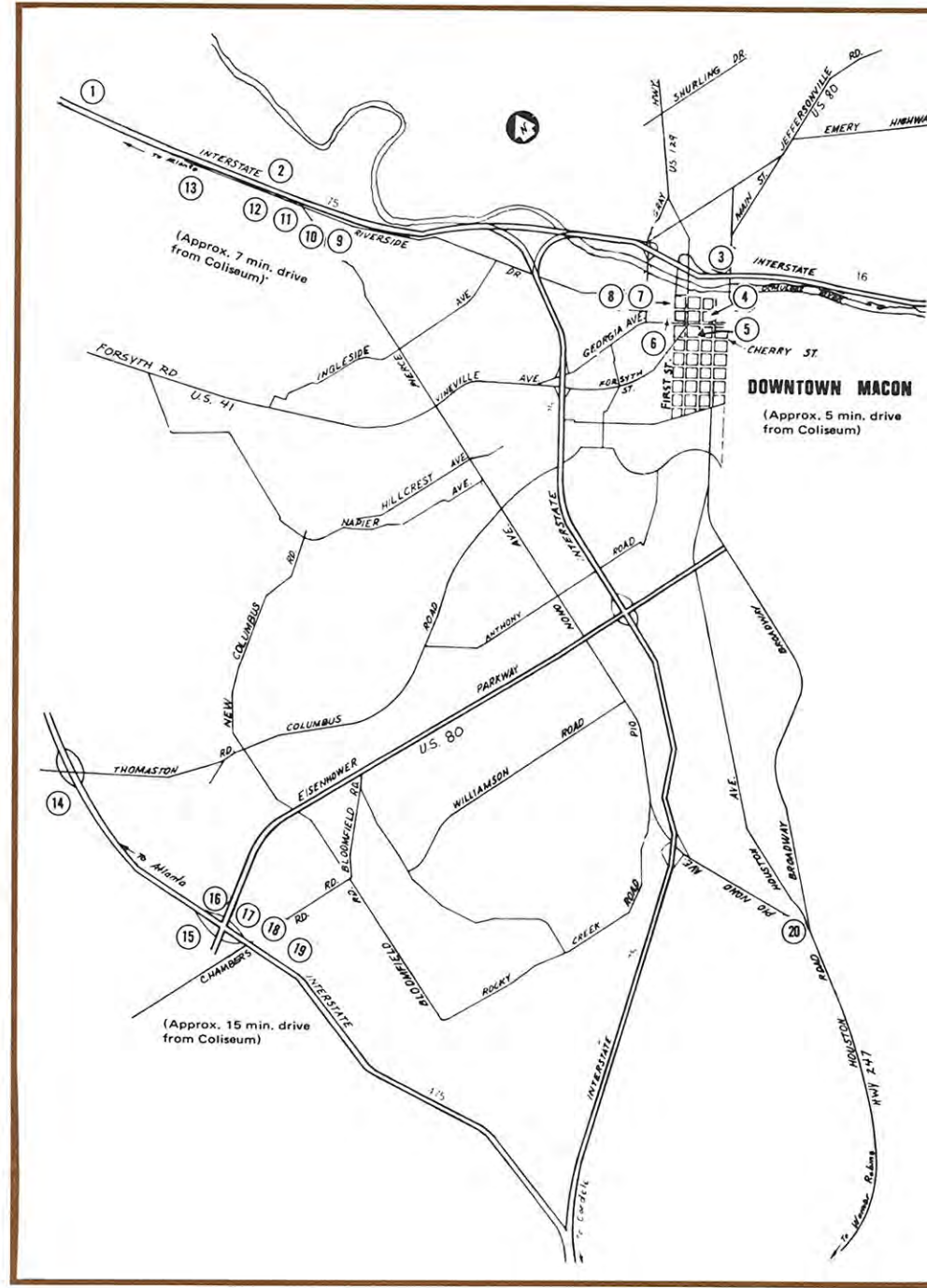
NAMES OF OCCUPANTS	Street	City	State	Zip
1 _____				
2 _____				
3 _____				
4 _____				
5 _____				

(Names of all parties must be listed. Please print names and complete addresses.  
We cannot confirm unless rooms requested balance with number of persons listed.)

SEND	Name _____
CONFIRMATION	Address _____
TO:	City _____ State _____ Zip _____

12/CONTACT/May '73

HOTEL / MOTEL	SING. (1 person)	DBL. (1 bed, 2 people)	DBL.-DOUBLE (2 beds, 2 people)	TRIPLE (2 beds, 3 people)	QUAD (2 beds, 4 people)
1. MACON TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER					
2. SHERATON MOTOR INN (W.N.A.C. Headquarters; Children under 18 free when with parent in same room)	\$12	\$15	\$18		
3. MACON COLISEUM					
4. TOWN PAVILION OF MACON	\$10	\$12	\$13	\$ 3 ea. extra person	
5. DEMPSEY MOTOR HOTEL	\$10	\$14	\$16	\$ 4 ea. extra person	
6. MULBERRY STREET METHODIST CHURCH (Youth Fellowship / Competitive Activities)					
7. MACON HILTON (Headquarters Hotel; Children under 17 free when in same room with parents.)	\$15	—	\$20	\$23	\$26
				(Rollaway — \$6 extra)	
8. HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN	\$11	\$14	\$16.50	\$ 3 ea. extra person	
9. RAMADA INN NORTH	\$12	\$15	\$18	\$ 3 ea. extra person	
10. HOWARD JOHNSON'S NORTH	\$12	\$16	\$18	\$ 3 ea. extra person	
11. ALPINE LODGE		\$13	\$15		
12. HERITAGE MOTEL	\$10	\$12	\$14	\$ 2 ea. extra person	
13. AMBASSADOR MOTEL	\$ 8	\$10		\$13.50	\$16
				(5 people — \$18)	
14. TRAVELODGE	\$10	\$12	\$15	\$ 3 ea. extra person	
15. HOWARD JOHNSON'S WEST	—	—	\$18	\$ 2 ea. extra person	
16. RAMADA INN WEST upstairs	\$10	\$15	\$16	\$ 2 ea. extra person	
downstairs	\$12	\$15	\$18	\$ 2 ea. extra person	
17. HOLIDAY INN WEST	\$12	\$16	\$18	\$ 3 ea. extra person	
18. DAVIS BROS. MOTOR LODGE (Free breakfast every morning for every guest)					
upstairs	\$ 8	\$12	\$14	\$ 4 ea. extra person	
downstairs	\$ 9	\$14	\$16	(12 years or older)	
19. TOWN & COUNTRY MOTEL	\$ 8	\$10	\$12	\$ 2 ea. extra person	
20. MAGNOLIA COURT	\$ 7	\$ 9	\$11	\$ 2 ea. extra person	



# Racing Toward The Finish Line

By Dr. Robert Picirilli

The famous passage in Philippians 3:12-14 takes an added clarity when we look at it in the original Greek. There Paul indicates he is pressing "toward the mark for the prize." In the whole passage, the Greek athlete is in Paul's mind, particularly the runner.

In verse 12, for example, the word translated "follow after" is the Greek *dioko*, which means to pursue, to chase. The very same word is translated "press" in verse 14. We should picture the apostle Paul, then, as in hot pursuit of the goal he has before him in his Christian life.

Then look at verse 13: "reaching forth unto those things which are before." The Greek word translated "reaching forth" is *epekteinomai*, which literally means to stretch oneself out for. If you have ever watched the athletes in a race, you know exactly what this means. As they near the tape that represents the finish line, they lean

forward as far as they can, each one hoping and straining to be the very first one to touch the tape with his chest.

Such is the picture Paul draws for us. He is in a hurry to cross the finish line. As he pursues his goal, he stretches himself forward eagerly, reaching out for the prize that waits for the finisher of the race.

## gems

from the  
Greek New Testament

Another word has interest for us. The phrase "toward the mark" refers to the finish-line itself. The word translated "mark" is *skopos*, which comes from a verb that means to watch, look out for. The "mark," then, was the place indicated at the end of the race, and every runner had to keep his eye on that goal, measure his pace accordingly, and sprint for it when it came in view.

Paul had that finish-line in view all the time. He did not look aside lest he stumble, or slow his pace, or swerve from the right direction. His eyes were fixed on the mark, and he pursued that goal — that "one" goal — relentlessly.

We note, further, "the high calling." Literally, "high" is *ano*, "upward." Evidently Paul refers to the time when he will be "called up" to stand before God. Some specially-honored athletes in the Greek and Roman games were not awarded their prizes in the stadium yard, but were summoned up before the king or emperor to be presented their trophy by the royal observer himself. Paul anticipates just such a reception in heaven.

Finally, note the "prize," in Greek *brabeion*. This word comes from the Greek word that means the judge or umpire of the race. The "prize," then, is literally that which is awarded by the judge. Usually, the prize was in the form of a garland (crown) of flowers placed on the victor's head. Paul expected such a "crown" (2 Timothy 4:8). Nor should we forget that Jesus Himself is the "umpire" who will award the prize (Hebrews 12:1,2). ▲

### REQUESTS FOR TICKETS TO MEAL FUNCTIONS 1973 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Number	Meal	Total
_____	<b>W.N.A.C. Banquet</b> — \$4.00 each Monday, July 9, 5:00 p.m. / Macon Coliseum Speaker: Miss Laura Belle Barnard	\$ _____
_____	<b>Music Fellowship Breakfast</b> — \$2.75 each Tuesday, July 10, 7:00 a.m. / Hilton Hotel	\$ _____
_____	<b>Pastor's Dinner</b> — \$3.75 each Tuesday, July 10, 5:00 p.m. / Macon Coliseum Speaker: Dr. Robert Picirilli	\$ _____
_____	<b>Layman's Breakfast</b> — \$2.75 each Wednesday, July 11, 7:00 a.m. / Macon Coliseum Speaker: Keith Kenemer	\$ _____
_____	<b>FWBBC Alumni Luncheon</b> — \$2.50 each Wednesday, July 11, 12:30 p.m. / Macon Coliseum	\$ _____
Total Enclosed		\$ _____

PLEASE PRINT: NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL REQUEST TO: Ticket Sales, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tenn. 37202  
All Requests Must Be Received By July 1, 1973.

### TICKETS TO MEAL FUNCTIONS AT NATIONAL MEETING NOW AVAILABLE

For the first time in a number of years, tickets to all of the meal functions held during the National Association of Free Will Baptists will be sold in advance.

Because the caterers require an advance confirmation of 72 hours for the number who will be attending the various meal functions, several of the meals must be definitely confirmed even before the National Association convenes. The advance sales will greatly aid those in charge of these meals to make a more accurate confirmation so that provisions will be made for all those who desire to attend. In past years, planners have worked with a 24 hour advance confirmation.

Tickets for all of the meal functions, except those of the National Youth Conference, will be available by using the form provided in this issue. Those attending the youth banquets should correspond directly with the C.T.S. Department.

Please send a check or money order with each request. Do not send cash. All tickets must be ordered by July 1.

Send requests to: Ticket Sales, P. O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

## A Reply To A Sunday School Student's Lamentations

Dear Mr. Harrison,

This is an answer to your "The Lamentations of a Sunday School Student," published in the January, 1973, issue of CONTACT.

I am one of 53% in America who cannot name one of the four Gospels. I cannot name three of the thirteen books written by the Apostle Paul, and since I am not in high school, I cannot hold the distinction as you did of being one person in thirty-eight who could name three Old Testament prophets, or three of the Ten Commandments.

I do not care much for TV or baseball characters yet, and so far, Peter, James, and John are names of my relatives.

Your record of seventeen hours a year in exposure to religious instruction in Sunday school would probably be more than twice my exposure to religious instruction.

My Sunday school teacher is ABOVE average, however. She is a woman about thirty-five and she has been teaching in our Sunday school for years. She CANNOT do her lesson preparation on Saturday night in about one hour, as you described, because she not only uses the aid of the Bible and the teacher's quarterly, but other books, charts and visual aids as well. She may not teach every Sunday but so far, I can recall only two Sundays she has missed in over a year. (Vacation?)

She has never been late, out of breath or frustrated (at the beginning of our class!). I have no difficulty in getting excited about the lesson because she not only lets me participate in my class, she encourages it! She knows the value of student participation and the use of visual aids because apparently someone did tell her "that in a life time we learn 83% through the eye-gate, 11% through the ear-gate, 3½% through the sense of smell, 1% through the taste buds, and 1½% through the sense of touch."

However, your statistics are too astounding for me to digest. I'd prefer to say my Sunday school teacher shows me pictures of Jesus loving little children (eye-gate?); she teaches us many songs, such as 'Jesus Loves Me,' (ear-gate?); she lets me help arrange and smell the freshly cut flowers that sometimes decorate our room (smell?); she serves us cookies and water in a loving manner whereby we say grace before we eat (taste buds?); she caresses me when I fall, kisses the tears away when someone takes "my" toy away (touch?)!

My teacher is warm and friendly; she greets me by my name when I first arrive at Sunday school. She gives me the assurance I need to feel free to explore and experiment. She knows that I learn a great deal from watching her — that I imitate what I see and that I identify with those whom I admire. Even though I am easily frustrated at times, she knows just when to lend that extra encouragement. She lets me look at picture books, slide, play with blocks and even clay! She knows how to provide an atmosphere for creative living!

I am very young and I spend no more than one-half hour a week watching TV compared to your 23 hours.

I am not a freshmen in college so I cannot give an answer to your Bible placement test. However, as a regular attender in Sunday school, these are my "revealing results":

1. I can sing "Jesus Loves Me" — "B-I-B-L-E" — "Deep and Wide" — "I Have A Little Light" and with assistance I can sing many other Bible related songs, such as, "Jesus Loves The Little Children."
2. My tables grace may be described as "sing-song" (God is Great, God is Good, etc.,) but I have even reminded my Mommie and Daddy to say the blessing while eating out in a restaurant! (They remind me, sometimes, at home, however.)
3. I say my prayers at night.
4. I'm even getting old enough to say, "Jesus get me well?" when I was sick last time.
5. I am beginning to learn some Bible scriptures; "Honour thy father and mother," (Eph. 6:2) because my parents believe in NOT sparing the rod, (Proverbs 13:24 and Eph. 6:4).
6. I can make the hardest hearts melt when I smile and say "I Love You"; and sometimes evade what might have been punishment by giving a hug or kiss and saying, "I'm sorry, Mommy!" (Daddy!).

My teacher, Mr. Harrison, attends the leadership training course offered by our church where she also had the opportunity to meet my Mommy and Daddy to discuss her program, in part, and to discuss my habits, attitudes and personality traits and character. She knows how crucial the formative years are — she has young children of her own! I am satisfied I have a consecrated, competent and capable teacher and leader! She is a Christian and I love her!

You see, Mr. Harrison, I am only TWO years old — but I love going to Sunday school. Recently, I cried when Mommy took sister Karen to church and I had to stay home with Daddy because I was too sick to attend.

Thank you, Mr. Harrison, for your informative article. If all my future teachers are as informative and Bible — Christ — oriented as the present one, I will never feel cheated as you felt. I will be able to "identify Matthew as the tax-collector who turned disciple;" "the book of the Bible where the Ten Commandments are found;" and the "parables of Jesus" along with many scriptures!

Thank you, Mr. Harrison, for caring about my future by encouraging churches to have better teachers!

Sincerely,  
Eric Nixon  
Maitland, Florida  
(By his Mother  
Mrs. R. M. (Dora Ann Brown) Nixon)

# THE SALVATION OF INFANTS

By Leroy Forlines

Frequently, the question is asked: Do children dying before they reach the age of personal accountability go to heaven? There is very little information in the Bible that is related to this subject. The Bible is addressed to people who are capable of hearing it and responding. Its basic concern is for those who can respond and will be held accountable if they do not. However, there are some definite intimations on the subject.

When David's child was sick he fasted and prayed that he might be spared. But when the child died, he arose and ate. His servants inquired about the fact he ceased to fast after the child died. David explained, "While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, 'Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.'" (II Samuel 12:22-23).

David's, "I shall go to him" is an expression of his assurance that he

would be with the child after death. This was a source of comfort to him. The inclusion of this in the Bible gives God's stamp of approval on David's conviction that he would be with the child after death.

---

## CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

---

This inference may not be as strong as a direct statement saying the child was saved, or that all children dying in infancy are saved. However, the inference is there and has value. It would be impossible to reconcile David's statement with the idea that babies dying in infancy go to hell. The words of Jesus about little children are also helpful. We read in Matthew 18:2-3, "And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, Ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

On another occasion when the disciples rebuked those who brought little children to Jesus He said, "Suffer

little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

These statements made by Jesus do not say that little children would go to heaven if they die. But the favorable statements that Jesus made of little children would have been strange if He had viewed them as being doomed for hell. It is far easier to fit these statements of Jesus in with the idea of little children going to heaven if they die than of their going to hell if they die.

There may be the absence of a direct statement about infant salvation in Scripture, but all of the evidence points to infant salvation. There is none against it. However, there is one problem. The Bible says, "He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18). No one would propose that babies believe in Jesus. If they do not, how can we think about infant salvation?

Some people do not believe in infant salvation. They do not think of infants

## MAKE MACON THE YEAR OF THE LAY DELEGATE!

### DELEGATE'S OFFICIAL CREDENTIALS

THIS CERTIFIES that \_\_\_\_\_  
is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will

Baptists from \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of church)

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(District Association) (City) (State)

(Only one signature is required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Moderator or Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk or Secretary

**IMPORTANT:** All delegates must present this form properly signed to be registered.

It won't be long now until July 9 when the National Association of Free Will Baptists will convene in Macon, Georgia. Let's make 1973 the year of the lay delegate. Ministers have been outnumbering the registered lay delegates by about 3 to 1. Your church has probably been sending your pastor who is a standing delegate. Make provision this year for one lay delegate. Elect a delegate and send him or her to the meeting with a registration fee of ten dollars and credentials signed by your pastor and church clerk. Let's have every local Free Will Baptist church represented by a lay delegate in Macon!



as needing salvation. Those who take this point think of infants as being "safe" not "saved." However, there are others who believe that the whole human race was identified with Adam's sin and thereby condemned. According to this view, infants need salvation.

It is obvious that if infants are saved, that they will not be saved on the condition of faith. Is it possible to think of infants being saved differently from those who are older? There are two categories of guilt — racial and personal guilt. The infant has only racial guilt. He has not yet sinned so as to be personally accountable for his sins. If there are two categories of guilt, is it not possible for there to be some difference in the way salvation is applied for each category?

There can be no difference in that it takes the death of Christ for the forgiveness of sins whether racial or personal. However, to require faith for forgiveness is not the same for an infant as it is for the one personally accountable. The one personally accountable can respond with either faith or unbelief. The infant cannot respond. The only way an infant can be called an unbeliever is to refer to him simply as one who has not responded in faith. He is not one who has responded with unbelief.

Why does God require faith from those personally accountable? It is because God has created us with a will. They are capable of deciding what they want. God will not give them salvation if they do not want it. They are capable of being held responsible. To give them salvation without getting a response would be to transgress the fact that they have a will. God will not transgress that will. So, He offers salvation on the condition of faith and holds them responsible for a response.

There is no transgression of the infants will in giving forgiveness of his racial guilt apart from faith. His will has not developed to the point that he can respond to the Gospel with either faith or unbelief. There is nothing to keep God from applying forgiveness to the infant apart from faith.

In view of the definite inferences that infants are saved; and in view of the fact that there is no transgression of the infant's will in forgiving him of his racial guilt; and in view of the fact that God longs to redeem; we have a firm conviction that those dying before the age of accountability are saved.



---

## WORDS FOR WOMEN

---

# When Women Pray-- And Keep On Praying

by Dorothy Cox

Oddly enough, a dramatic upsurge in attendance began when we were without a pastor. For several years the men in our church were not involved in its various ministries. Women took the more active role. But all the time some of us continued to pray that God would touch the hearts of our men and help them see their responsibility to God and our church. Even though we saw little results, we continued to pray that God would move in their hearts. Women were faithful in different activities, but growth was virtually at a standstill.

During the last five months our church has seen unprecedented growth. Our Sunday school has more than tripled. Many have been saved. Rededications have resulted in renewed spiritual vigor. Our giving has shown remarkable increases.

What happened in this Eastern Kentucky church?

As we prayed for a new pastor, and as the men were involved in filling our pulpit Sundays and Wednesdays, a marvelous change began taking place. Our men began moving anxiously into leadership roles. During our planning sessions for the fall Sunday School Campaign, our men suggested we divide the town and go door to door inviting people to Sunday school and church. This we did. And the men came out to visit, too. Our Sunday school experienced noticeable growth even before our new pastor arrived. As we grew, our numbers increased on visitation night. The joy of enthusiastically serving the Lord became contagious. By the time our pastor arrived, our people were anxious to support him in his visitation program. In a short period of time we averaged 25-30 on visitation.

Soon God began moving in another direction. The property adjoining our church became available and the church voted to step out in faith and purchase the property. We were confident of

future growth and knew our present building was inadequate.

With a small van we began bringing in visitors. We now have two large buses in addition to the van. Volunteers agreed to teach new classes, assist in children's church, drive buses and be bus captains.

We praise God for His many blessings to our church. And we praise Him for using *us* as channels through whom He accomplishes His purposes. Thank God for men and women who allow God to work in and through them.

Surrounding churches have experienced a spiritual awakening as they have seen what God is doing in our midst. Believers from other churches attended a teacher training course at our church conducted by Brother Harrold Harrison of the National Sunday School Department. They went back to their churches with their flame of enthusiasm burner brighter for our Lord.

Yes, God is working in Eastern Kentucky. We praise Him for what He is doing. But this is true everywhere believers are living in union with God.

In response to the many prayers of faithful women, God sent us a pastor to provide leadership in our church. We know when we invite people to our church that they will hear a message from the Lord. This encourages visitors to continue coming.

To you women who have struggled for years with little help from the men in your church, just start praying and keep praying that God will work in their lives.

God has answered us "exceeding abundantly above all that we asked or thought."

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Cox is an active member of the Southside Free Will Baptist Church at Paintsville, Kentucky. She is a member-at-large of the Executive Committee of the National Woman's Auxiliary.* ▲

# Kentucky Paper: Rich Historical Source

By Mary R. Wisheart

Recently Mrs. Ernest O. (Nellie) Griffith presented a bound volume of the Free Will Baptist *Advocator* to the history collection. The *Advocator* began in August, 1945 and was the official Free Will Baptist paper for Kentucky until its death in 1950. Mrs. Griffith was sole editor for the life of the paper. Mr. G. E. Ratliff was associate editor, and Gertrude Bowe was a frequent guest editor.

Featured on the front page of the first issue was the Kentucky Free Will Baptist Orphanage, Louisa, Kentucky. The orphanage consisted of a house on 111 acres of ground, bought by Kentucky Free Will Baptists for \$13,500.

The paper, a well-edited monthly, used news items, original manuscripts and selections from Free Will Baptists in Alabama, California, Georgia, Kansas,

## HISTORY CORNER

Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, as well as Kentucky. The wide range represented suggests Free Will Baptists' interest in one another and their appreciation for the work being done by their fellow Christians everywhere. News items included not only events and people in Kentucky, but also news from the National Association and the work of Free Will Baptists in all the states mentioned as well as in India and Cuba.

Papers such as the *Advocator* are especially valuable to the history of Free Will Baptists because they frequently give details about the work which would never be mentioned elsewhere. Quite often they give clues which lead to a new, fruitful area of investigation. Sometimes they print a fact which is just the one needed to fill in a part of the picture and make a complete whole. A few examples from the Kentucky paper will illustrate the kind of items helpful in historical research.

A paper, the Free Will Baptist *Missionary Review*, is mentioned and quoted from in the March, 1948 issue. The October, 1948 issue included reports from the first youth camp held in California and from the second session of the Missouri camp. In

December, 1947, the paper reported on a newly organized church in Newport News, Virginia, including exact date and the names of people involved. The paper also included letters from Miss Laura B. Barnard and the Paul Woolseys in India and T. H. Willey, Sr. in Cuba.

Mrs. Griffith is to be commended both for preserving the file of papers

and for presenting them to the historical collection. Even though the paper covers a relatively short period of time, it is a rich historical source, as are other state or local Free Will Baptist papers. The historical collection can benefit from any collections of such periodicals.

Missing from our bound volume of the *Advocator* are three issues: August, 1948; June, 1949; and October-November, 1949. Perhaps someone has these in his files and would like to make the *Advocator* complete. ▲

## Thank You for Your Gifts to the . . .

### COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT

March 1973

#### RECEIPTS:

State	Mar. '73		Mar. '72	Yr. to Date
	Coop	Design.		
Alabama	\$ . . .	\$ . . .	\$ . . .	\$ 941.88
Arizona	70.53	(70.53)	. . .	167.03
Arkansas	1,247.08	. . .	1,190.60	3,055.28
California	595.35	(141.20)	577.57	1,835.71
Florida	291.30	. . .	213.65	2,665.92
Georgia	547.10	. . .	562.30	2,142.97
Idaho	61.58	. . .	. . .	294.33
Illinois	624.66	. . .	1,201.27	3,700.76
Indiana	81.92	. . .	121.00	81.92
Kansas	. . .	. . .	171.00	. . .
Kentucky	336.73	. . .	226.64	711.92
Maryland	65.00	. . .	. . .	239.49
Michigan	. . .	. . .	. . .	45.20
Minnesota	27.80	. . .	53.14	100.96
Mississippi	29.63	. . .	38.23	195.71
Missouri	2,487.35	(2,487.35)	2,205.00	8,288.97
North Carolina	75.00	. . .	85.00	405.00
Ohio	805.43	(5.00)	828.70	2,391.83
Oklahoma	281.82	(218.82)	2,703.53	3,702.89
Tennessee	251.39	. . .	101.03	734.97
Texas	197.32	. . .	123.47	655.70
Virginia	47.29	. . .	27.16	257.72
West Virginia	. . .	. . .	25.00	25.00
Wyoming	. . .	. . .	6.00	. . .
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$8,061.28</b>		<b>\$10,460.29</b>	<b>\$32,641.16</b>

#### DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Dept.	\$3,867.30	(724.72)	\$ 3,220.92	\$12,300.67
Foreign Missions	1,432.80	(853.36)	2,323.50	6,554.40
Bible College	1,157.42	(585.62)	1,992.62	5,655.62
Home Missions	857.76	(492.20)	1,366.38	4,086.15
Church Training Ser.	340.10	(140.53)	683.33	1,782.68
Retirement & Ins.	243.97	(84.32)	502.66	1,332.49
Layman's Board	113.86	(14.05)	292.73	704.03
Commission on Theological Liberalism	48.07	(28.10)	78.15	225.12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$8,061.28</b>		<b>\$10,460.29</b>	<b>\$32,641.16</b>

By Leroy Forlines  
Dean Of Students  
Free Will Baptist Bible College



## The Wisdom Of Exercising Tolerance

Liberty, tolerance, and intolerance are all taught in the New Testament. Paul taught liberty from the yoke of bondage of Old Testament Law (Galatians 5:1). He also taught the liberty of each Christian to study the evidence and make up his own mind about practical issues (Romans 14:5).

Tolerance is taught in II Thessalonians 3:14-15. Paul says, "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle . . . have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother." In such a case there is less than approval and fellowship, but yet there is not rejection.

Intolerance is taught in Titus 1:10-11. Paul exhorts, "For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers specially they of the circumcision, Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses . . ." Such people represent a threat to the very foundation of our faith. They are not to be given liberty. Neither are they to be tolerated.

It is absolutely impossible for any group of people of any size to escape differences of opinion. Free Will Baptists are certainly no exception. The question is: How do we handle our differences of opinion?

It is very easy to decide how to handle some cases. No two people are in total agreement on everything. Yet, there are people whom we know that we give unqualified approval. In such cases we feel that the differences are to be experienced within the framework of liberty. Each may express his own opinions and differences, but he does not place "labels" on those who may differ. Fellowship does not suffer in such cases.

It is also easy to handle cases on the other extreme. By easy, I mean it is not complicated to figure out what approach to take. It may take courage to do what is necessary and certainly a degree of wisdom is necessary. However, we cannot tolerate that which strikes at

the very foundation of our faith. Neither can we tolerate that which is an attack upon doctrines that make us Free Will Baptists. We respect believers with different viewpoints on some doctrines, but we are a fellowship of believers with a common set of doctrines.

The difficulty comes in how to deal with cases that neither fit in the category where we give full liberty, nor in the category where there can be no tolerance. Before coming to the question of how to deal with such cases, let it be said that it is highly important that we recognize that there are many things that fall into this category. The person who takes the approach of intolerance toward everything in thought and deed with which he disagrees is in for trouble and will cause trouble. On the other hand, in a situation where nothing meets the force of intolerance decay and corruption will set in.

How we stand up for issues must not only show a concern for truth and right. Our approach must also show an interest in unity (Ephesians 4:1-3. Note verse 3). There are some issues over which it may be important enough to divide. But division, when it is unnecessary, is a mark of carnality (I Corinthians 3:3). Most issues that we face must be discussed with a high interest in unity guiding our approach while an interest in convictions determines our stand.

We do not want a situation where nothing is challenged. It makes all of us more careful when we realize that what we do or say may be challenged. Everyone needs the corrective value of accountability. We may sometimes get more challenge than is necessary, but that is not as bad as no challenge.

We will never get to the point that challenge and controversy will be handled to everybody's satisfaction. But wisdom, maturity, dignity, and poise can cut the negative results considerably and increase our effectiveness.

Perhaps one of the most important points to keep in mind is to accurately assess the seriousness of the issue. If we underestimate the seriousness of the issue, we will not use weapons necessary to success. On the other hand, if we overestimate the issue we will bring in heavy artillery when small arms will do. Even our friends get embarrassed when we use heavy artillery to kill a sparrow. If that be the case, we certainly will weaken our chances with our critics and the uninformed.

When we feel disposed to speak out on an issue, it should be our aim to persuade and convince. This requires communication. To have our guns drawn when we approach someone calls for defense on their part. A person in a defensive frame of mind is seldom convinced by his opponent. We need to cultivate that kind of respect and give the kind of respect that makes it possible to gain the ear of those with whom we differ. This affords the opportunity of getting the other person to consider our viewpoint. Under such circumstances, we may convince him, or if we are wrong he may convince us. It creates the atmosphere for clearing up misunderstandings. Because of misunderstandings, many have fought bitterly when there was no essential difference. Barriers have been erected unnecessarily when with a touch of wisdom understanding could have been reached.

When moderate attempts fail, it may be necessary on some issues to resort to more drastic means. But when we have wisely sought to avoid a show down, many people will have become convinced that stronger measures are necessary and will stand behind us when a show down becomes necessary.

May we on the one hand have the courage and the conviction to stand for what is right. On the other hand, may we be "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). ▲

# VIEWPOINT

**CONTACT**  
**P. O. Box 1088**  
**Nashville, Tennessee 37202**

Second-class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

# OUR READERS COMMENT

Dear Mr. Coffey:

I continue to be impressed with your publication for its format and contents definitely show efforts toward meeting the needs of its readers in today's society.

Sincerely,  
Gary Fenton Barefoot  
Librarian  
Mount Olive College  
Mount Olive, N.C.

Dear Bro. Workman:

The CONTACT magazine for the month of March was received today . . . I did especially appreciate the article by Sister Barbara Dunbar . . . it is wonderful to learn of the way God is blessing those with whom I attended Free Will Baptist Bible College . . .

Prayerfully yours,  
Evangelist Arnold Woodlief  
Marianna, Florida 32446

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Moving? Please let us know four weeks in advance of your change of address. Send your name as it appears on your subscription label and include both your old and new addresses.

Your cooperation will help us keep subscription costs at a minimum since the postal service charges 10¢ for each change of address they furnish.

CONTACT MAGAZINE  
P. O. BOX 1088  
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37202

## Contents

MAY, 1973



<b>When Not to Take Your Child To Church</b>	2	Genevieve Waddell
<b>Praising Children</b>	4	Jo Ann Riggs
<b>What's Your Problem?</b>	5	R. Eugene Waddell
<b>The Family Altar!</b>	6	Joe Haas
<b>Free Will Baptist Newsfront</b>	8	Staff
<b>National Program Revamped For 1973</b>	10	Eugene Workman
<b>Racing Toward The Finish Line</b>	14	Dr. Robert Picirilli
<b>A Reply To A Sunday School Student's Lamentations</b>	15	Dora Brown Nixon
<b>The Salvation Of Infants</b>	16	Leroy Forlines
<b>When Women Pray – And Keep On Praying</b>	17	Dorothy Cox
<b>Kentucky Paper: Rich Historical Source</b>	18	Mary R. Wisheart
<b>The Wisdom Of Exercising Tolerance</b>	19	Leroy Forlines
<b>Our Reader's Comment</b>	20	Readers

Editor-in-Chief: Rufus Coffey / Administrative Editor: Eugene Workman / Circulation: Lucy Boyle, Jean Stone