



Contact

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A black and white photograph showing a person sitting on a bench outdoors. The person is wearing a light-colored jacket and a dark hat, and is looking down with a thoughtful or somber expression. They are positioned under the shade of a large tree with dense foliage. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting like a park or a public square.

"The irony is that when we hold a grudge, in actuality the grudge holds us."²³

Beyond Bitterness

reminders stand as signposts to help you on your way.

The first sign is clearly marked, "FORGET." When someone wrongs you, simply forget it. Put it out of your mind; do not allow yourself to dwell upon that particular incident. Too many Christians "bury the hatchet" only to dig it up again and use it as leverage against another believer.

"The putting of a great injury out of one's mind and refusing to think about it, does, in my judgment, constitute forgiveness," wrote G. Campbell Morgan to a friend.

Likewise, the New Testament word used most often for forgiveness literally means "a putting off" or "sending away." When Old Testament writers refer to forgiveness, they frequently speak of "blotting out" or "remembering no more." Forgetting is at the very heart of forgiving.

In contrast to the first sign, the second reads, "REMEMBER." Remember Christ's example of forgiveness.

When someone has hurt you and bitterness begins to well up within, think of the Lord Jesus' words on the cross: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). The Son of God forgave those murderers of history's most heinous wrong while we so often refuse to forgive petty offenses.

Speaking of a forgiving spirit among believers in both Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:13, Paul ties in the example of Christ. "Even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye," he says.

We need only look at Stephen's example in Acts 7:60 to see this principle put into practice. Remembering the forgiving spirit of his Lord, Stephen exclaimed of his slayers, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

CONSIDER YOURSELF" — so reads the third signpost on the road to a forgiving spirit. The person who harbors a bitter, unforgiving attitude harms only himself.



By Garnett Reid

A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city" (Proverbs 18:19). What was true in Solomon's day is still true today.

Consider Mr. Wounded Pride and Mr. Truly Sorry, brothers in the Lord, charter members of the same Free Will Baptist Church and long-time friends—that is, they used to be friends. Nine years ago Mr. Sorry flew off the handle and said some harsh things about Mr. Pride. Having realized his wrong and repented, Mr. Sorry apologized in earnest to his friend and asked forgiveness.

Mr. Pride, though somewhat reluctant, then recited that famous, well-worn line, "I forgive you." Yet to this day, the two men sit on opposite sides of the church and have nothing whatsoever to do with each other. Strange forgiveness, wouldn't you say?

The golden rule of this age expresses itself in the philosophy, "Do unto others because they have done unto you." Our world teaches us to retaliate; when someone attacks you, strike back.

As a result, the least spark of tension in a church often drives an immovable wedge between God's people. A chip on the shoulder of a believer is dead weight and only hinders the work of the Lord.

Yet the Bible exalts true forgiveness, the attitude which says "I forgive" from the heart as well as from the lips. This forgiving attitude, as God describes it in His Word, is clearly linked to spiritual growth.

The road to a forgiving spirit, though long and often uphill, is accessible and open to traffic. You can travel this road and become a forgiving Christian. Four simple

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BITTERNESS (from page 3)

Jesus tells a parable in Matthew 18 about a king who displayed forgiveness to a servant. Yet the servant refused to forgive one of his debtors; consequently, the king punished him.

The Lord then gives this warning to us: "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

Bitterness and an unforgiving spirit poison the whole man; whereas a good relationship with the Lord depends, to a great degree, upon a good relationship with His children (See Matthew 5:23-24). The irony is that when we hold a grudge,

in actuality the grudge holds us. It eats away at our spiritual health like a deadly disease.

John Chrysostom's words still apply to all Christians: "Let us not thrust the sword into ourselves by being revengeful."

The final signpost displays another important reminder: "**DO NOT CONSIDER YOURSELF.**"

An unforgiving spirit finds its source in selfishness. Someone has dared to assault that most sacred shrine called "self," and we are not about to let them get by with it.

Too many Christians show this attitude by filing incidents away only to use them later to their own advantage. How foreign is this selfish influence of the world to the selflessness of our Lord.

Each of these signposts is painted upon a background of spiritual maturity. Forgetting the offense and remembering Christ's example come easily to the Christian who is growing in the Lord. A mature believer recognizes bitterness to be a deadly poison extracted only from selfishness.

But spiritual babes cannot digest the "70 times 7" brand of forgiveness taught by Christ (see Matthew 18:21-22 and Galatians 6:1).

This forgiving spirit does not mean, however, that we are to stand defenseless, inviting offenses and exhibiting some sort of "martyr complex." Christ Himself exhorts, "If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him . . ." (Luke 17:3).

Yet He continues, ". . . and if he repent, forgive him." Even in defense against hurtful wrongs, the mature Christian does not manifest a bitter, vengeful spirit of retaliation.

Any Christian can learn to be a forgiving person. Granted, the learning process is long and difficult for many; yet the end product is precious in God's sight.

Mr. Sorry and Mr. Pride? You will find each still on his own side of the church, never so much as casting a glance in the other's direction. It may be too late for Mr. Pride—but not for you and me.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Garnett Reid is pastor of Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. ▲

Layman of the Year

ATTENTION PASTORS

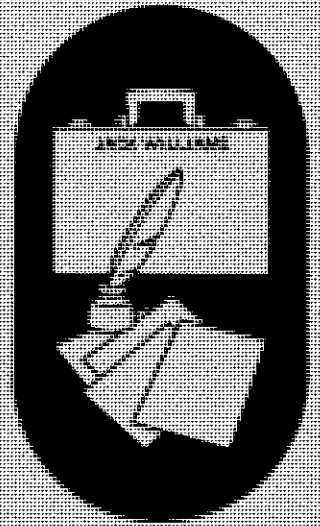


In a few days you will be receiving details of the annual "Layman of the Year" Award sponsored by the Master's Men Department.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to recognize one of your outstanding laymen.

A reminder that you **DO NOT** have to be a member of Master's Men in order to participate.

Briefcase



The Death Seller

Ninety days ago a generation of emotion-hardened Americans who thought they'd seen everything and were well beyond ordinary shock experienced brutality on a level so macabre it convulsed the nation.

News of one of the most cruel hoaxes ever perpetrated on the human race thundered across America like a destructive mountain avalanche. It was the aftermath of Jonestown, Guyana's "white night", a cyanide-fueled suicide drill.

Jim Jones, an American boy with an old-fashioned Methodist background and Disciples of Christ credentials, who had built a West Coast super church and even had San Francisco politicians carrying his favor, betrayed a trust and stole the world's most precious right from members of his People's Temple—the right to live.

Rev. Jim Jones, 47, the man who wanted to be God, died horribly and his devotees with him. But they didn't die quietly and certainly not with the dignity Jones promised. "Revolutionary Suicide" left the same stench as Belsen, Auschwitz and the rage of Cambodia, forgotten lessons from the past. Jonestown hybrid itself as paradise, the promised land. Too late People's Temple cultists discovered themselves inmates in a village of the damned, their self-acclaimed messiah a demented madman.

PUBLIC OUTCRY

Jonestown is quiet today. But the wrenching death screams of poisoned children shattered the 1978 holiday season. More than 910 bodies decaying under Guyana's tropical sun demanded answers a stunned world couldn't provide.

The San Francisco-based suicide cult struck headlines in ugly rivulets

from three continents. Millions of dollars stashed in numbered Swiss bank accounts were traced to banks in Panama and then to the Russian embassy in Georgetown. Rumors of elite death squads that survived to avenge the Jonestown carnage on Temple defectors and political enemies chilled San Francisco's Bay Area.

Public outcry was swift. On December 4, U.S. News and World Report editor Marvin Stone called for a federal crackdown to police religious bodies. Stone was joined by nervous and outgrouped citizens urging the government to create judicial barriers restraining religion run amok. Overreaction by the press came dangerously close to handing an already greedy government enough incendiary fodder to burn the Church's first amendment rights and cancel constitutional guarantee of non-interference.

Some say it is still too early to bring conclusions on the Jonestown madman. That may be true for a Congressional committee investigating for history and an irate, puzzled nation. Head-hunting newspaper reporters may have to patch opinion rather than facts while waiting for more details to surface. But the Jonestown riddle won't be solved by Congressional committees or media experts or the academic community.

Only theologians armed with Bibles know what caused the bizarre Guyana insanity. The Bible student won't puzzle long before unraveling the Jonestown horror. More than 2500 years ago the Bible autographed Jonestown: "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12)

PICKING UP THE TAB

Jim Jones hated the Bible. He often and publicly spat on the Bible,

slammed it to the floor, cursed it, stomped it and told his followers to preach "Jim Jones" not the Bible. Jones was guilty of multiple adulteries, sodomy, lying, child abuse—name the sin and Jim Jones personified it. He faked healings to deceive the gullible, bullied those he couldn't deceive, mocked anyone who believed his charade and built his private utopia on a network of swindles, threats and jail.

The verdict was in on People's Temple long before that ill-omened hood-aid plot November 18. Those who mock God pay terrible consequences. The very book Jones despised and reviled wrote his epitaph: "... the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23a). Maybe Jim Jones sediton go down alone. They drag with them confused pilgrims who tethered their souls on the false claims of paranoid megalomaniacs.

Who picks up the tab at Jonestown? Lynn, Indiana's Ku Klux Klan where Jim Jones grew up under a Klansman's hand? Or Marxism, since Jones never batted an eye about his lifelong commitment to Socialism? What about the FBI and CIA, both of whom held risky dossiers citing Jones' activities in everything from blackmail and brain-washing to abuse of non-profit tax-exempt status and threats of direct physical abuse?

While numerous unexplained factors Gordon Guyana's tragedy with blame enough for everyone, we must not stand idly by and allow scoffers to erroneously indict and slander the Lord's Church. For Jim Jones prostituted the very name "church". He rejected the church's Bible, blasphemed its Savior, recruited her members and scuttled its teachings.

Leave the warrant for growing such a spirit of anti-Christ somewhere other than the Church doorstep.

When a man raises a defiant, clenched fist as did Jones, he being blind leads others who are blind into the black holes of history. A

Saga of Super Amendment



Will the ERA legions flex their legislative muscles and shake off unpopular opposition or will one of ERA's Achilles' heels deliver it an unwitting death blow before the unexpected 1982 donnybrook?

Illinois pastor's wife, Susan Burgess, carves a brass tacks and lace swath across the bureaucratic haunches of the 56-year-old ERA amendment, now only three state legislatures shy of becoming constitutional reality.

By Susan Burgess

It's a travesty! It's an outrage! It's a farce!

No, it's Super Amendment! Destined to leap male chauvinism in a single sentence, more powerful than a housewives' revolt, as slow as the seven-year itch—Super Amendment is taunted and tainted, loved and hated, celebrated and debated!

Yet somewhere on the way to ratification Super Amendment (in real life the Equal Rights Amendment) lost its momentum and stalled in a quagmire of misinformation, ignorance, suspicion, libel, innuendoes and downright lies.

First introduced to Congress in 1923, the Equal Rights Amendment bounced from committee to floor and back to committee for 49 years. Eventually, the House of Representatives passed the resolution, and the Senate confirmed that endorsement March 22, 1972.

But ERA was destined to undergo the same vacillation in state legislatures. Within 24 hours of the Amendment's submission to states for ratification, Hawaii's legislature enthusiastically ratified ERA. After one year on the field, ERA had won approval in 30 states. Only eight more state ratifications were needed for the $\frac{3}{4}$ majority necessary for inclusion in the United States Constitution.

SEPARATING JEERS AND CHEERS

However, that was the end of ERA's smooth sailing through legislative seas. Just five states negotiated ratification in the next five years. Three states that ratified within a month (Nebraska, Tennessee and Idaho) later fought the current that had swept them downstream and voted to rescind their ratification.

Even though ERA was introduced in all 15 remaining states it was defeated at least once in each legislature. For example, in Illinois ERA was defeated seven times from 1972-1978. Each defeat in Illinois triggered a reintroduction of the resolution by proponents.

Although state legislatures can be forced to vote down ERA each time it is introduced, states who have once ratified the Amendment apparently cannot change their minds. In past decisions regarding rescission of ratification on constitutional amendments, the Supreme Court ruled that Congress is the proper forum for such "political questions" to be resolved.

President Carter has already sought legal counsel on the validity of rescissions involving this amendment. The Department of Justice issued an opinion, based on an 1868 Supreme Court decision concerning the 14th Amendment, that rescission has no effect.

Rescission is not the only thorny problem plaguing the 37th Amendment. It also became entangled in the first case of extended deadline for ratification. Even the controversial 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote passed all required state legislatures in 15 months, although the petition for women's franchise had been around in America since 1648.

In fact, most proposed constitutional amendments were not even limited with a voting deadline. But somehow ERA was burdened with a seven-year nemesis. Super Amendment just couldn't succeed in such a short time. So in October, 1978, Congress extended ERA's deadline for ratification 39 months. The new D-Day is June 30, 1982. A provision allowing states to reverse ratifications during this extension was defeated.

The entire gaggle of legislative pitching and balking, ratifying and rescinding, hindering and extending, has almost completely obscured the original intent of ERA. In 1972 the pros and cons were distinct. Decisions were clear-cut—either you were for women being equal to men or you abhorred the idea.

In the the beginning of ratification proponents said women were treated unfairly by the law, their husbands, employers and little kids. Opponents said American women held the most respected position ever attained by mankind. (Proponents would have said "womankind," but that turned out to be only a peripheral issue.)

From her ivory tower the "true" Christian/American woman looked with disdain on equal opportunities to barter in the money market with newly created rights of credit, jobs, promotion and education. But even the most defensive of homemakers did like the idea of equal pay for equal work.

Then both combatants started jumping from opposite ends of the seesaw toward the middle with never a care for keeping a sane balance and never a fear of leaping on unrelated issues and tottering off completely.

Proponents decided equal meant equal, and women should be entitled to all the fun that men had in the Armed Forces. After all typing at a safe desk stateside was not nearly as adventurous as floating on a battleship. Opponents decided equal meant equal, too, and women should never be exposed to the indignity of sharing a public restroom with a man.

All were shocked, but if one imagined atrocity could upset an enemy, then surely two would send her reeling. Now it was rumored that ERA meant physical education, locker rooms included, must be coed and lesbian marriages would be legalized.

Involved in the battle of topping the other side with horror stories, participants plotted artillery which could be seen and felt as well as heard. The pros dressed in suffragette white; the cons, in stoplight red. The happy homemaker showered her wavering legislator with homebaked bread; the liberated woman pressed daisies on complaisant Congressmen and was in turn serenaded with the violin.



SAGA (from page 7)

From the positive to the negative, the war games escalated. If cons could boycott Girl Scout cookies because Girl Scouts endorsed ERA, then pros could boycott convention centers in states where ERA hadn't been ratified.

With all the excitement jousts seemingly forgot where they started. Opponents now say American women have all the rights ERA is supposed to initiate. And that's true. The 1963 so-called Equal Pay Act, the 1964 Equal Rights Act, the 1972 Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the 1972 Higher Education Act, the 1973 Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, the 1975 Equal Credit Opportunity Act—all guarantee equality in the public realm, which is where proponents first wanted equal rights.

Proponents now compromise, "ERA would add a certain symbolic weight to the women's movement." This seems a mile request compared to original demands.

These discrepancies arose because everyone neglected to find out what the ruckus was all about before the war started. No one took time to answer sane, basic questions about our culture, our religion, our hopes, our aspirations, our needs. It is time everyone did.

FACING REALITY

First, what are our lives really like now? It is very courageous and just to say women are equal in every way to men if they are. But has anyone ever really tried to find out?

“... God did not create everyone equal—except in one area, that of His love given abundantly to every person.”

Some men are twice as smart as their wives; some wives are twice as smart as their husbands. Most men are physically stronger than their wives. Yet some women could whip the socks off their diminutive husbands. Some women love going to an outside job everyday and leaving house, spouse and kids to fend for themselves. Some men hate doing the same thing.

Maybe in the recent past everyone felt they didn't have a choice. Their roles were molds with no escape hatch. But that really isn't true. There have always been women who have gone out and done whatever they wanted. (Compare Judge Deborah, businesswoman Lydia, Queen Elizabeth I, Florence Nightingale, Annie Oakley, and that woman down the street who has worked for 30 years in a factory.)

The reason most women stayed home is because they *wanted* to do so. Our culture (not any written laws) taught little girls to be sweet small mommies who grow up to be sweet big mommies with neat, happy homes.

In a minority of cases such subtle teaching was wrong. Some girls dislike baby dolls no matter how they are presented. But for girls who showed no inclination to cook and keep house and yet who were not lazy, there was little incentive to go to college and find satisfying careers.

Culture molds natural instincts. That doesn't mean women who seem to naturally hate being housewives really have no natural instincts of motherhood. Motherhood and housewifery are separate things. It does not matter that somehow they have become synonymous in our time.

The virtuous woman in Proverbs 31 was involved in much more than keeping house. She spun wool, cooked, dabbled in real estate, exercised, conducted inventory, volunteered for charity work, was involved in every aspect of merchandising and debated political issues. Yet her husband trusted and praised her, and her children called her happy.

The perfect mind is not muddled with cultural expectations, but is still open to natural reactions and God-given inclinations. These God-given inclinations include motherhood and wifehood. God intended woman and man to complement each other. (See 1 Corinthians 11:11.)

To go against this God-ordained law is to pervert human sexuality. Thus the "right" of lesbian and ergo homosexuals to marry and adopt children is no "right" at all, but indeed a serious wrong in the natural and spiritual realms.

What our lives are really like now involves our cultural molding, our created sexuality, and our God-given distinctives as individuals. Therefore, any man-made laws must not neglect these areas. Laws must allow individuals the right to choose their own place in life with God's help and direction.

ALLOWING DISTINCTIONS

Another basic question which must be answered before any attempts to challenge the social system is this: Should there be room in the law for reasonable distinctions in the treatment of men and women?

Definitely there must be if there actually are differences in male and female. Guilt requires many conscientious people to say there are no differences that can be allowed in the law. This guilt stems from the racial civil rights movement. Then everyone discovered to their horror that they were prejudiced.

Actually Christians should have known from the beginning that color of skin and hair really make no difference. God's own Son Jesus did not have lily white skin. Everyone has a slightly different hue of skin and hair.

Some black people are not as smart as some white people, just as some wives are dumber than their husbands. But that is an individual distinctive, not racial or gender.

But are distinctives now allowed in the law based on collective individual distinctives or true gender characteristics? Certain laws indicate both answers are correct in specific situations.

“In some ways ERA could save money . . . when the 50 state governments are eliminated and everything goes directly to the federal government.”

There has probably been little deliberate discrimination against women just because they are women without their consent (such as prostitution, pornography and habitually battered wives). This was not true in the racial issue.

Over half the people in the world are female; so this is not a case of minority suppression. Of the other portion of the population, all but a tiny percentage once had a close personal relationship with a woman. No one was born without a mother being involved, and most people spend the majority of their childhood living with their mothers. In contrast, some communities had no racial minorities in the '60's; they have none now.

Perhaps the only way a woman was ever treated unequally mentally and emotionally was when she allowed herself to be. Equality is a state of mind. One can be the second in line for the throne and still feel like a failure because he isn't the heir, but another can be John Doe and feel like a king.

Since it is hard to conceive that women in this country were oppressed without their own consent, then laws now labeled oppressive must be examined. For instance, laws limiting weights lifted and hours worked for women employees exhibit gender *and* individual discrimination.

Many a mother has stayed up all night with sick children and taken care of the rest of the family the next day because daddy had to get his rest. There is no limit on housework hours unless the wife limits them. Before a woman applies for a job, she should see if the job requires she work longer than she personally feels she can. Laws limiting working hours for women are gender discriminatory.

Contrarily laws limiting weight lifted are individual discriminatory. An Amazon might lift 200 pounds; her 100 pound sister down the block can't manage to pick up her 30 pound three-year-old. In order for the job to be held as *equally* by an Amazon as a weakling, weight limits are set. For that weakling to say she is capable of lifting 200 pounds would be foolish and debilitating.

Equality of individuals cannot be legislated. Even God did not create everyone equal—except in one area, that of His love given abundantly to every person.

So in certain physical ways all men are different from all women. That's what makes them men or women. Therefore, separate restrooms can be construed to be necessary. Again this is a cultural prohibition, also. If the majority of people want separate public restrooms, they should have them since this certainly is not an issue that hinges on legal equality.

But other issues do hinge on legal equality, such as Social Security benefits, divorce proceedings and estate taxes. In these instances reality was the basis for the law; reality must underlie any changes made.

However, reality may not reign if ERA is ratified. Jean E. Maack, ERA Illinois president and chairperson for ERA Political Action Committee, stated, "For large estates, federal tax laws still discriminate since homemakers' contributions are given no economic value."

In her next paragraph she discussed child support payments and divorce. "ERA . . . should ensure that decisions in divorce will be based on individual circumstances including the nonmonetary value of homemakers' contributions, the earning power of both spouses, current resources and the children's welfare."

Thus, if homemakers' contributions were given monetary value for estate taxes (inheriting and leaving), then they will have to be given monetary value for child support. This means the husband's share of support would be lowered. Housewives' contributions are consistently given no value now, and the score is one for housewives (low or no share of child support) and one against (high estate taxes).

“The United States Constitution can't be expected to compensate for shaky marriages.”

If ERA is consistently applied—and consistent application is a big argument for passage since the equal opportunity acts have passed—then housewives' work will be assessed to have monetary value. Then the score would be one for women (low estate taxes) and one against women (equal share of child support).

The score would still be tied, but with one gigantic difference. Paying taxes from the proceeds of an estate is possible because the estate has *real* monetary value. But paying rent and buying food from housewifely contributions which have only *arbitrarily applied* monetary value will be a tricky number to perform at the supermarket check-out.

Will housewives present a voucher signed by a reliable agent (the ex-husband or said-supportable children) that she washed three sinks of dishes in 24 hours and is thus entitled to \$7.95 worth of bread, milk and cheese?



If ERA means housewives will be able to receive Social Security benefits for their work at home, that means they will have to pay the same premiums every working person does. Since the Social Security Administration probably won't accept honor vouchers for hours worked either, the real money will have to come from the husband's paycheck. And that means at least another 6.05 percent of their income the family won't have to use now.

Society must be seen as it was and is; it cannot be covered with a blanket of euphoria. Housewives don't earn money for housewiving; husbands share what they earn while they are alive and want to continue sharing when they're dead. If a husband doesn't, he's married to the wrong wife. The Constitution can't be expected to compensate for shaky marriages.

SPARING THE CONSTITUTION

This prevalent tendency to insist that the Constitution provide for every contingency necessitates the most crucial question: Is a Constitutional Amendment the proper vehicle for improving the legal status of women?

With ratification of ERA by ¾'s of the states would go the responsibility to oversee its implementation. The second section of the proposed amendment gives Congress the power "to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provision of this article."

Such legislation would involve minimal marriage age, prison regulations, child custody, insurance rates, welfare, protective labor laws, inheritance, survivor's benefits, dower rights (portion of deceased husband's real property allowed to widow for her lifetime) and many other regulations.

The power to handle these laws now is invested in the state governments. A state legislature attempts to conform its laws to the convictions of the state's residents and to ignore differing views held by people living in distant states.

Putting the federal bureaucracy in charge is sure to evolve into a legal shambles practically overnight. In the two years allotted for the laws to be rewritten to conform to ERA, everyone, except unknown bureaucrats intent on reshaping society to their specifications, will be thoroughly displeased.

In some ways ERA could save money, say opponents, when the 50 state governments are eliminated and everything goes directly to the federal government. Even if that were true, saving money and the federal government are paradoxical. But it is true that the more legislation passed, the more money spent.

Every conceivable needed point of legislated equality has been passed with the various equal opportunity acts. Even the most vigorous proponents admit ERA would be just life insurance for surviving women's libbers.

Why then does the big push for ratification continue? Perhaps it's just a matter of pride, of not being willing to

give in. Or perhaps the fight lingers because ERA proponents are not satisfied with what has already been accomplished. Maybe they really do want to realize all the preternatural points of contention attributed to their platform.

If the former is true, Americans can afford to patiently wait for June 30, 1982, to arrive. If the latter is reality, the ratification of ERA is a dangerous terror lurking in the shadows of legislative halls in 15 states.

But everyone will have to wait and see if fiction becomes fact. Clues to the authentic intentions of ERA do exist. To find them requires shifting through myriad subterfuges, deceptions and falsehoods.

One leading Senator either told bold-faced lies or was completely ignorant about the current status of women in the United States and Israeli armies. Proponents of ERA misquoted the United State Constitution. Opponents stated as fact what was really conjecture. The National Organization for Women supports ERA, abortions and the privilege of lesbians to teach in public schools and have child custody rights.

As with many issues involving non-Christians, the ERA is tainted with sin and iniquity. If sides had to be chosen, the decision unfortunately would be based on whether it is better to be aligned with proponents characterized by lying deceptions or opponents known for wild, uncouth imaginings?

But there is a more sensible position. Reasonable, righteous people can turn to God's Word. God gives every person, regardless of race or gender the right to come to Him.

When the relationship with God is correct, human relationships fall into proper perspective. God says, "Submit yourselves one to another," and, "Be of the same mind one toward another."

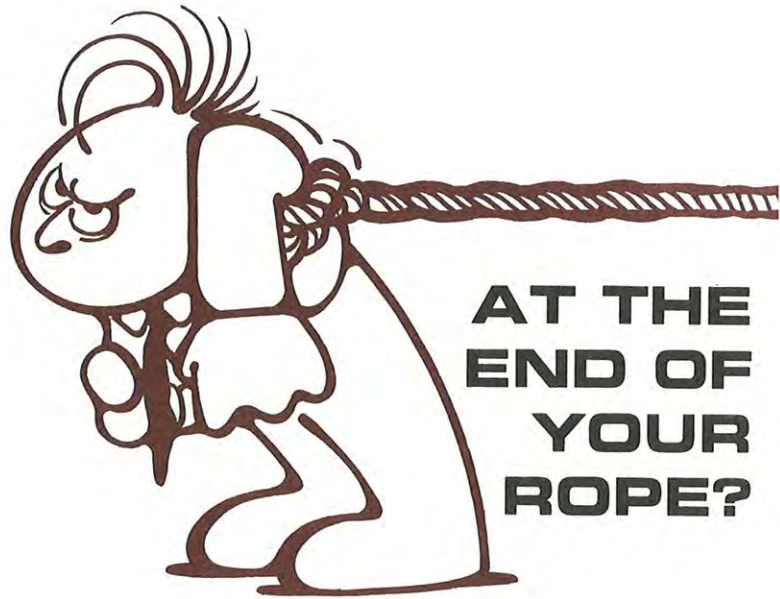
A constitutional amendment won't give a woman intelligence, ability or a happy home. Those are gifts from God. Perhaps that is the clue to those who push ERA the hardest. They haven't looked to God for the solution to their *failures* in life.

But the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment won't take away security, love and a happy home either. Perhaps that is the clue to those who fight ERA the hardest. They haven't looked to God for the solution to their *fears* in life.

After all the rhetoric and reasoning, interpreting and pleading, the real need is not for a constitutional amendment but for God's mending of lives ripped by distrust and disappointment.

When God mends, inequality ends.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Susan Burgess is a member of Hazel Dell Free Will Baptist Church, Sesser, Illinois. She formerly served as CONTACT's Editorial Assistant. ▲



**AT THE
END OF
YOUR
ROPE?**

Don't be fearful of putting Junior, Sis and Mom to work when the church volunteer staff takes a seasonal siesta. Chuckle your way through this novel approach to redefined and benevolent family favoritism.

Nepotism in the Church?

Why Not?

By Chuck Snow

Nep'otism, *n.*
"Favoritism shown to nephews and other relatives; bestowal of patronage by reason of relationship rather than merit."

Or so says Webster. And if anyone had a way with words, he certainly did.

CHAIRMEN OF THE BORED

"Sorry I can't help you, but . . ."
"Look, speaking's just not my talent."

"I have bought a piece of ground and I must needs go and see it." (Excuses aren't new, are they?)

"I'd like to tonight but we're getting ready to go out of town *next month*."

"I was just on that committee a couple of years ago."

"The choir? This fall air makes my throat hoarse on Sunday mornings" (after the ballgames).

"Be glad to! Any night except Monday through Friday. Oh yes, we're bowling on Saturday nights now also."

"Our national publications? Of course. Uh, let's see, there's 'Heartache', 'Intact', 'Missiongraph', and, well, actually I've delegated my family to take care of those things."

"I'm too nervous to keep the nursery" (Cub Scout den mother).

"I'm sorry Sunday is Missions Day, Preacher, but I've had tickets to this all-night sing for five weeks now."



"Take my wife and let her be, consecrated, Lord, to thee."

"Our church isn't growing much anyway, so why persist in visiting?"

"How about some place of service other than the usher board? I'm asthmatic, you know."

"It's certainly not that the Lodge is more important, but they're depending on me."

"Witness to sinners? Why? We can't defeat 'em."

... ad infinitum ...

OPEN, SESAME!

Sound familiar, pastor? Music director? Youth leader? Of course it does. The words themselves may vary from excuse to excuse, but the tenor of it all adds up to the age-old cop-out. "Let George do it."

You say it's enough to drive a person to an institution? Well, you're exactly right.

"You mean . . .?"

That's right. When you can't seem to motivate others within your group to "quit themselves like men" (or women, whichever the case may be), and accept and perform prescribed church related roles, then it's high time you went to the Institution—yours, that is. It's better known as the family, God's first institution.

DON'T QUAV— SHAKE THE QUIVER

While escaping from what can oftentimes amount to somewhat of a carnage of disastrous proportions, you will not only be delivered from your slough of despond, but at the same time might just unearth that vast trove of virtually unlimited resource and talent inherent in those of your own household; lying in abeyance, as it were, to be dutifully discovered, aptly assimilated and discreetly deployed.

Use that precious wife and those fine children God has so graciously loaned you, zeroing in especially on those young tender ones. "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." (Psalm 127:3-5).

First, however, we need be totally honest in our "nepotism" terminology, which is actually not true nepotism in the strictest sense of the definition which we have cited at the outset of our proposal. We say honest because of the "by reason of patronage rather than merit" portion residing within the framework of the definition as originally proffered.

Having completed our modification then, the express import of our usage of the term would be that we simply get down to brass tacks and begin to utilize in a greater way our families for His honor and glory.

CHARGE!

We've said to utilize and deploy the family. In what manner? In several ways. You, no doubt, have on your list utilization in the area of the music ministry. How about office help, the bulletin, telephone calls, getting the announcements together for the upcoming revival and ensuing holiday season?

Building maintenance seems to be another area of general lack. Pitch in with those exuberant, full-of-themselves energy burners. Make your own list and assign opportunities from it to your respective new found co-workers.

JUST LIKE CLOCKWORK

A word of caution. While rejoicing o'er your new found lode, exercise special caution not to overdo it. Think of these times of general congregational letdown as being temporary. Your special cognizance will help you and yours from becoming what is often referred to as another little church within the church. A pendulum is a mighty handy thing as long as it maintains proper balance. So take special precaution not to swing it back too far

the other way.

And when the status quo of the general body does revive, a *tempo* don't let up in promoting and cultivating your family. Continue to use them, as previously stated, discreetly. But use them. Exploit those talents.

Don't be found as so many have in the past, pastor and layperson alike, so involved "in the work of the Lord" and entrenched in the sincere guise of winning and edifying the world, that their families, saved though they might have been, continued to go virtually unnoticed and undeveloped as a result.

Lest the importance of the potential power and loyalty of our families leave us anon, we would do well to remember the story of the wise father field mouse and his family who had their comfortable harvest time home in Farmer Brown's hay.

The younger mice came home one day in a frenzy, telling Daddy mouse they would have to move at once. Farmer Brown's friends were going to help him cut and rake the hay. Daddy mouse, undaunted, merely said, "It's not time to move, yet."


The next day's ill tidings were similar, but this time it was the farmer's neighbors who were going to help gather up the hay. Again, Daddy mouse's reply: "It's not time to move yet."

The third day, the little mice approached their father, and this time the situation had taken on a yet different appearance. Farmer Brown and his son were going to harvest hay themselves. To this and without hesitation, Daddy mouse replied, "Now is the time we must move."

Let's get serious about our "nepotism."

Why not?

ABOUT THE WRITER: Chuck Snow is a deacon in Decatur Free Will Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia. He is also Georgia's Masters Men State Senator. ▲



Seven days after the Guyana horror, Pastor Jake Creech preached this sermon to his congregation in Dunn, North Carolina

Why?

By Jake Creech

Last Sunday horrible news broke in this country and told a story that has startled and puzzled our nation.

If you have watched TV, listened to a radio or read a newspaper this week you are familiar with the name of Reverend Jim Jones and his People's Temple headquartered in San Francisco, California. A commune of 900 men, women and children had been established in Jonestown, Guyana, South America. There is no word in the human language to adequately describe what took place in that commune one week ago.

First reports indicated that after United States Congressman Ryan-California and two newsmen were killed in an ambush at the Jonestown airstrip, approximately 408 men, women and children including the notorious sect leader died in a mass suicide and murder ordeal.

Later reports told us that number nearly doubled to approximately 775 dead; a later tally revealed over 900 dead. Doctors and nurses who were members of the commune, at the direction of their leader, prepared a poisonous drink to be administered in this horrible ordeal.

Mothers took syringes and squirted poison into their babies' mouths before taking the poison

themselves. Most of the number died from the drink. Others were shot to death. Jim Jones then killed himself with a pistol.

The United States government will spend millions of dollars investigating this ordeal and transporting bodies of the dead home.

All of this was done in the name of so-called religion. Goes to show religion is not enough. One question, among many others, has loomed in my mind this week concerning this tragedy. Why did these people do this?

What would cause individuals to willingly submit themselves to such an ordeal, most of them, from



WHY (from page 13)

reports that have been given, without hesitation? How can you account for such action on the part of intelligent human beings?

I think there are four basic reasons underlying the Jonestown slaughter.

DEDICATED TO WRONG PERSON

The members of People's Temple were dedicated to the wrong person.

Rev. Jim Jones was no ordinary person. He was a man of great charisma (many gifts). He knew how to sway multitudes. Reportedly in the beginning he was very loving and showed unusual compassion toward the needs of people. His kindness made his followers relate to him in a special way.

People like to be loved and made to feel a part of something. He was a father to many who needed a father. He provided a family for those who had no family. Many reported that Jones made them feel at home.

However, he was a blind leader of the blind and as Jesus warned, both have fallen not only into the ditch but also to their deaths physically and spiritually.

It is alright to be dedicated to a person, if that person is the right person. But when men only become followers of men, and dedicate themselves to men instead of God, their dedication will always lead them in the wrong direction.

Jesus calls men to a life of dedication. Not to another man, but to Himself. The kind of dedication He calls for is a life of self-denial, taking up a cross and following Him unreservedly.

The Psalmist said, "It is better to put confidence in the Lord than to put confidence in princes" (Psalm 118:8-9).

These people died because they were dedicated to a man. A man with a warped sense of values. A man who led them to their deaths.

DEVOTED TO THE WRONG CAUSE

Not only were they dedicated to a person (who was a false Christ) but they were devoted to the wrong cause.

The cause was very humanistic in its inception. Jones was a leader in the civil rights movement wanting to wipe out racism and sex discrimination. His commune was described as ageless. He promised a purpose for living. His cause was a good cause, so he said.

He promised peace of mind and soul, freedom from responsibility. His cause would make better people, and he taught that his cause was worth dying for. He had so programmed his band that they were devoted to his cause even though it meant death.

He schooled followers to die or kill others for the cause. Reports verify that at times he told them to drink a supposedly poisonous potion which later proved to be harmless.

They say he told them on the day of their deaths to die with dignity.

I wouldn't say they died with dignity. They died the death of fools like Saul devoted to a cause that was a farce and sham, a cause that led them to Hell.

David, when he fought and killed the giant, fought for a cause. He asked, "Is there not a cause?" (1 Samuel 17). Instead of David dying, the giant died. There was a divine cause.

Make sure you are devoted to the right cause—Christ and the gospel.

DECEIVED IN COMMITMENT

They were deceived in their commitment at Jonestown.

People who had property and money gave it to Jones. One couple who was unwilling to give their property were to be sent as missionaries to Africa but refused, yet lost all they had.

Others testified "I gave him my money." These had committed their all for a better life but were deceived in their commitment. They have been deceived in their commitment to death.

Thank God we can know when we commit ourselves to Jesus Christ, we will never be deceived.

The Bible warns "Be not deceived."

Ephesians 4:14 suggests there are cunning and crafty men who lie in wait to deceive.

Ephesians 5:6, "Let no man deceive you with vain words."

II Corinthians 11:13, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ."

II John 7, "For many deceivers are entered into the world."

Whenever you follow a deceiver, you get what a deceiver has to offer.

When we are committed to Jesus Christ, we are not deceived. He is the Truth. We get what He has to offer.

DEMON POSSESSED IN ACTION

They were demon possessed in their action.

Only the devil could inspire such an action. The devil is out to destroy both body and soul.

Many have died as martyrs to the cause of Christ but none have died as murderers for His cause.

Jesus calls us to lay down our lives for His sake, but He does not call us to take our own lives or the lives of others for His cause.

Stephen was martyred; John the Baptist was beheaded. Paul was imprisoned and put to death. James was killed with the sword. Polycarp was burned at the stake rather than deny his faith in Jesus. But their deaths were different.

They were dedicated to the right Person. They were devoted to the right cause. They were not deceived in their commitment. They were possessed with love for God.

Stephen could in his death see Jesus at the Father's right hand. Paul could exclaim, "To die is gain." Polycarp, as they came to him saying "Swear, and I will release thee; reproach Christ," could answer, "Eighty and six years have I served him and He never once wronged me—how then shall I blaspheme my King who hath saved me?"

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jake Creech is pastor of Prospect Free Will Baptist Church, Dunn, North Carolina. Mr. Creech is an advisory member of the Board of Sunday School and Church Training. ▲

Constructing Friendship

By Jo Ann Hurst

A bereaved father sat at a table smothering his face in his folded arms. He was oblivious to family, neighbors and clergy who tried to offer consolation. He refused to be reached by their kind words.

Then another friend walked quietly to the grieving man and spoke only his name, "Franklin." They stared into each other's face and each saw the other's tears. They spoke no words, but they were communicating and understanding by way of a friendship constructed through the years.

It is a small mystery that even though the Lord is always near us, we still need friends. God made us that way. Friendship is a God-given treasure to mankind and should be cherished to stem daily frustrations and trials.

FRIENDSHIP'S SPECIFICATIONS

Since friendships must be built, what are the ingredients and speci-

fications for construction? Friendships are usually formed by spontaneous—rather than designed—actions, events and circumstances. But some ingredients like mutual trust, respect, loyalty and admiration are common factors.

Friendship is more than the adulation of fans. That lasts only so long as the one admired performs to please or the team wins. The profession of coaching carries a high job-

hazard/mortality rate. There seems to be an unwritten rule, "If you don't win, you don't stay." It's an example of job evaluation which depends on the skills and performance of others. Such friendship is a superficial pretense.

Friendship is more than the camaraderie of classmates at



FRIENDSHIP (from page 15)

reunion or co-workers at a convention. It encompasses but exceeds the concern for each other found in most local churches. However, Christians will find that the friendships which endure and have the most meaning are those formed with other Christians—because Christ is the bond between them.

Time is a prime contributor to friendships under construction. There must be time to determine whether a friendship remains intact following testings and stresses.

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“Fair weather friend” is often applied to friendly relations which dissipate when troubled times befall one member of the friendship. Time is necessary to weather the seasons of a friendship.

Heartaches in family life, business reverses, job frustrations and personal losses on the one hand, and individual successes, recognition, affluence, property acquisitions and popularity on the other hand are seasons of trial to friendship.

They do not happen in successive order, and it requires time to experience them. Only true friendship will survive them all. Even though a sense of comradeship may be shared early in an association, time and stress will prove the mettle of the friendship.

Just this year I contacted my “best friend” from school days after an absence of more than 20 years. Our correspondence stirred old feelings of companionship which had been latent but not forgotten through all that time.

Another person I hold in that elite category of “best friend” is a sister-in-law who married into the same family as I on the same weekend. She lives in Oklahoma where I have not lived for 25 years. We see each other two or three times a year, maybe; talk by telephone a few times each year and almost never write.

But we are still best friends. We can count on each other. We know how each feels about things. We have cried together and prayed together. We have laughed together and suffered together. Our friendship endures. It was constructed through circumstances and our responses to them—not by design or effort.

FRIENDSHIP'S ENEMIES

All friendships are prey to certain enemies. Jealousy is as deadly to a friendship as it is to any other relationship. It is easy to befriend someone when he is down. It brings out the good Samaritan instincts within us and builds our ego to be the one who helps.

But when the unfortunate friend becomes independent or affluent, notice whether concern turns to

jealousy.

Selfishness, inconsideration and untrustworthiness can slay a budding friendship.

So will smothering. This is my term for people who place friendship on the same level as marriage. They require a friend's total allegiance to the exclusion of all other associations, exceeding that of a faithful spouse.

If one friend wants to go fishing or dining with another acquaintance, the other party feels rejected, threatened and betrayed. The “smotherers” want all other fellowship and associations to cease. This attitude can suffocate a joyous friendship till it dies.

Friendship is one of the “good and perfect gifts” which comes from the Father, and all enemies of friendship are influences of the Destroyer. The enemies should be recognized as such and replaced with understanding, love, joy, peace and the other fruits of the Spirit.

Jesus said “Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I have commanded you.” In becoming His friend, we draw other friends to ourselves in the doing—friendships under construction.

I have a Christian friend who has remained loyal for more than 30 years. This friend has shared all my seasons: Seasons of loneliness and blissful joy, seasons of illness and vibrant health, seasons of my many failures and mild successes, seasons of anger and seasons of repentance, seasons of meagerness and seasons of sufficiency, seasons of dejection and reasons of expentancy.

Excusing my failures and forgiving my faults, laughing with me and weeping for me, understanding me, yet upholding me.

I've found no better friend than he—my husband—who commands the best from me and gives me his strength when mine is gone.

My wish for every reader is that each has such a friendship as this under construction.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jo Ann Hurst is supervisor of Word Processing Center, a federal agency, in Nashville, Tennessee. Her husband, Joe Hurst, is a Free Will Baptist minister. ▲

Let's Put Some Life in The Wednesday Night Service



By Trymon Messer

For many churches, the Wednesday night service seems to be a burden. We are too fundamental to give up the old prayer meeting night, so we go to church and try to get through the service some way.

For many churches, the auditorium is abandoned for some small, out-of-the-way classroom down a dark hallway or in the basement where a few gather to sing someone's favorite hymn. This is followed by a few minutes of dry Bible study.

If a visitor did come, he couldn't find the meeting room without a lot of trouble, and then would find very little if any real, sincere prayer or preparation put into the service. Consequently, the people go home weary, empty and defeated because so few came and the group seemed so pitifully small. But many times the outsider wonders why he came at all!

Let's put some life in the Wednesday night service! If it's worth having, then make it a blessing for the people. Yes, I believe it is worth having!



LET'S PUT (from page 17)

Too many preachers put all their preparation and special emphasis on the Sunday morning service. That is when the sinners come.

But I believe great preparation should be placed on the Wednesday night service. That is when the saints come, and the saints need to be fed. The growth of the church depends on the saints. This is not to say we should not emphasize the Sunday morning service and make it the best we possibly can, but we should do the same for the saints on Wednesday night.

On Sunday morning most of the faithful people are involved in bus work, teaching Sunday School, working in children's church or other duties and by Sunday night are worn out and can't enjoy the service to the fullest. However, Wednesday night can be a real time of refreshing for them. It should be a "service for the saints."

Our best sermons should be for God's people, building them up in the faith, feeding their souls and challenging their hearts for reaching the lost. Our best song service and special music should be for God's people. There should be much prayer by the music director concerning the Wednesday night singing so it can be a real blessing to the people of God.

We should create an air of excitement for the Wednesday night service and have someone at the door of the well-lighted, main auditorium to welcome God's people as they

come. This will make them feel welcome and important to the cause of Christ.

There should be a few good songs that are uplifting to the faith. We might like to break up in small prayer groups once in a while, but should always come back together for a heart stirring message from the pastor. The people should never be sent home without something from God's word.

It is no wonder that Thursday night visitation is dead if we send the people home that way Wednesday night. If the Wednesday night service is dry, boring and cold, there also won't be much life Sunday morning. So let's enliven the Wednesday night service!

Here are some suggestions for keeping Wednesday night alive:

1. Put a great emphasis on the Wednesday night service. Put much advance preparation into this service. Plan ahead by announcing the service and putting the meeting time and place in the church bulletin and midweek paper. Prepare a challenging sermon in advance.
2. The song service should serve to bring their minds back to God and bless their hearts, so it should be the best it possibly can. Instruct the music director or choir director to put much advance preparation in this part of the service. Have him plan the special music well in advance and also select some lively, gospel hymns to help revive and refresh the people.
3. Much prayer should go into the Wednesday night service. Have the people give their prayer requests, pray for these requests regularly, and then rejoice together and praise God when the prayers are answered.

4. You might want to have a time of heart warming testimonies, but don't take the whole service for these. Keep the service moving at a good pace.

5. Always have a good, heart warming and heart stirring message. Our people are exposed to filth and sin all week, and it is often difficult for them to keep their minds pure and on spiritual things. A challenging sermon from the word of God will not only help fight sin in their lives but will also help them see their responsibilities in winning the lost to Christ.

6. If you have a Bible study, make it instructing and simple. Involve your people in discussion. Keep the service alive!

7. Give an invitation regularly, especially for Christians to yield their lives to be witnesses, to get involved in the visitation program, to work the bus routes, to teach, to tithe, to have family altar or to do any other things that will cause their lives to grow in Christ and be fruitful.

No matter what you have in this service, put some life into it. Do everything with enthusiasm. I believe the Wednesday night service can be the key to our people living victorious Christian lives and can be a springboard for a zealous and exciting Thursday night visitation program. Let's try it! Let's put some life in the Wednesday night service!

ABOUT THE WRITER: Trymon Messer is Associate Director of Home Missions Department, Nashville, Tennessee.

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COMING NEXT MONTH . . .

- **Bail Out!**
- **How to Defang Anxiety**
- **One in a Million**
- **Hispanic-Americans: Challenge of the 80's**
- **There's a Gay Bar on Main Street**



FREE WILL BAPTIST
newsfront

FWBBC BIBLE CONFERENCE TO HONOR JOHNSON

NASHVILLE, TN—Dr. Jim Mercer and Rev. Jack Stallings will be featured speakers at Free Will Baptist Bible College's spring Bible Conference, March 11-15. The conference will also provide the occasion to honor Dr. Johnson for his 34 years as president of the college.

Dr. Mercer, long-time personal friend of Dr. Johnson, has been a popular speaker in past conferences at the college. His wit and practical preaching have endeared him to Free Will Baptists. Mercer travels as a full-time evangelist and makes his home in Pontiac, Michigan.

Rev. Stallings, a native of Missouri, has established a well-deserved reputation as a capable pastor and an excellent preacher. He graduated from FWBBC in 1966 and in 1969 received his M.Div. at Covenant Theological Seminary. He has pastored Free Will Baptist churches in Tennessee, North Carolina, Florida and Mississippi. Stallings now pastors Collinswood Free Will Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia.

A prime feature of the 1979 Bible Conference will be a program on Wednesday morning reviewing Dr. Johnson's ministry at FWBBC. Alumni also plan to honor the retiring president at their meeting on Tuesday.

Free Will Baptists across the denomination are invited to attend this special 1979 Bible Conference at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

1978 MINUTES MAILED

NASHVILLE, TN—Minutes of the 42nd annual session of the National Association which met in Kansas City, Missouri, July 16-20, 1978, were mailed in December to district clerks.

If national Minutes have not arrived in your area yet, please contact your district clerk to see if distribution was handled properly. District clerks should write or call the Executive Office if 1978 Minutes have not been received.

HERITAGE TEMPLE DEDICATES \$2 MILLION FACILITY

COLUMBUS, OH—More than 2600 filled Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church (formerly Welch Avenue Church) in Columbus October 29, 1978, to celebrate completion of an impressive \$2 million sanctuary.

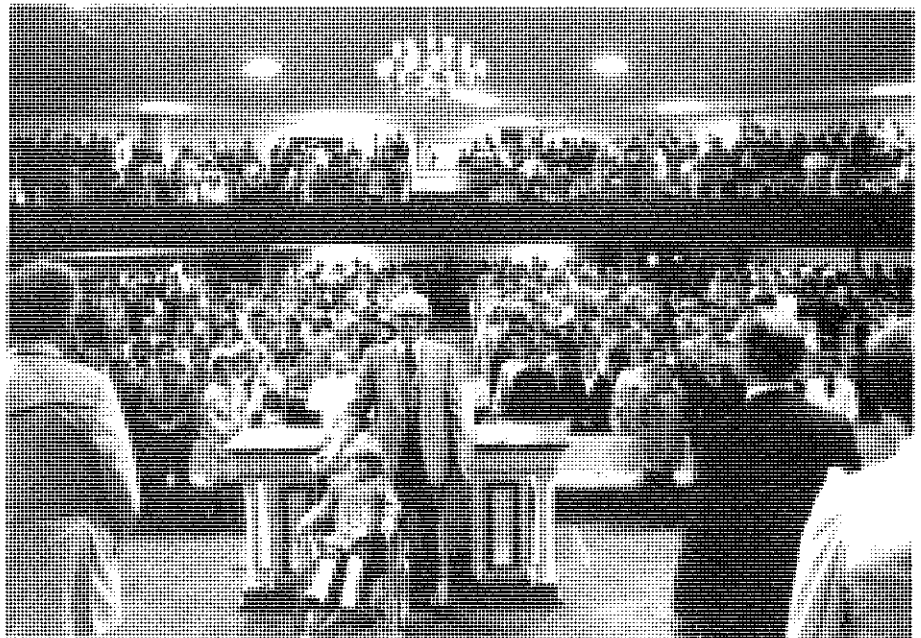
The new structure houses 33,000 square feet of floor space. Although appraised at \$2 million, Heritage Temple was constructed at less than half that price. Pastor Paul Thompson said the cost was kept low because members gave thousands of hours of volunteer labor.

Heritage Temple is located on 16 acres on Columbus' South High Street, a major city thoroughfare

with easy access to the freeway system. Because of the building's unique inner design 90 percent of the 2600 seats are within 75 feet of the pulpit.

The opening service focused on little Rachel Neal, wheelchair-confined granddaughter of Joe and Lena Skaggs who gave the church its first two acres at the present location in 1975.

October's dedication culminated a six-year vision for Heritage Temple. The congregation grew from 50 to over 1000 in their 24 years on Columbus' Welch Avenue necessitating expansion.



newsfront

(continued)

BETHEL BIBLE COLLEGE NOW BETHEL BIBLE INSTITUTE

PAINTSVILLE, KY — Action by the Board of Trustees changed the name of this Paintsville-based school from Bethel Bible College to Bethel Bible Institute bringing the institution's name in line with its objectives.

"The change in name reflects the nature of the school," confirmed BBI President Dr. J. D. O'Donnell. "We were not a college. We were not doing college level work. We are adult education; our program is just not built on a college curriculum. The name 'institute' reflects the nature of the curriculum."

BBI mothers satellite schools in surrounding areas while maintaining a strong Paintsville base operation. Institute officials chose to not limit outreach to one location and those students who could drive to Paintsville for regular classes.

O'Donnell said BBI recruits local faculties at extension sites to complement instructors from Paintsville. Although a number of satellite instructors are college trained, O'Donnell assured that BBI would not restrict itself to degreed persons.

"We will be using some men who do not have degrees," he related, "but who can teach. They are ministers and laymen who have developed themselves and shown that they are capable of teaching."

"The BBI program is designed to challenge young people to attend our Bible Colleges," O'Donnell concluded, "also we hope to train teachers for local churches. Then we want to offer whatever assistance we can to ministers already pastoring who cannot go off to college."



FIRE RAVAGES TENNESSEE PARSONAGE

GREENEVILLE, TN—The parsonage of Harris Memorial Free Will Baptist Church, Greeneville, was destroyed by fire Tuesday morning, November 21.

Pastor Robert J. Morgan and his wife were awakened by the cries of their 11-month-old daughter, Victoria, whose nursery was near the origin of the blaze. The Morgans were only able to call the Camp Creek Fire Department before escaping the pre-dawn blaze.

Except for a cut on the pastor's hand, the family sustained no injuries. However, the house and its contents valued at \$35,000 perished. The fire apparently started from an unused living room wall heater which shorted out igniting

furniture.

Harris Memorial Church is located in the Camp Creek community adjacent to the Free Will Baptist Home for Children. They had recently completed a \$28,000 educational building. The church's general board is seeking the Lord's guidance and provisions for a new parsonage.

Rev. Morgan, in a sermon following the fire, referred to Psalm 104:4 and concluded, "Our Lord who makes flaming fire His ministers can now use this tragedy to accomplish wonderful ends. Let's give Him thanksgiving in all things, for all things work together for good. Let's dedicate ourselves afresh to Christ, then watch to see what He will do."

TWO SONS ORDAIN 50-YEAR-OLD FATHER

ARKADELPHIA, AR—Rev. James E. Mutchler was ordained to the ministry November 4, 1978, by his two sons, Mike and Phil.

The unusual ordination service was conducted at First Free Will Baptist Church, Arkadelphia, where James Mutchler now pastors. Mike Mutchler, pastor of Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Conway, preached his father's ordination message. Another son, Phil, who lives in Nashville, presented the charge.

The senior Mutchler retired from the United States Army and moved to Clarksville, Tennessee, in 1966. Ten years later Mr. Mutchler moved

to Nashville, attended Sylvan Park Free Will Baptist Church and began praying about a full time ministry.

Shortly after Brother Mutchler was licensed to preach, the factory where he was employed as maintenance supervisor closed temporarily and changed ownership. He waited on the Lord, and on October 1, 1978, the First Church of Arkadelphia contacted Mutchler about pastoring their congregation.

Before surrendering to the ministry, Brother Mutchler had served in various capacities in the local church—Sunday school teacher, Sunday school superintendent, visitation outreach and guest lecturer.

NINE SAVED DURING WEST COAST EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

BAKERSFIELD, CA—The Conference on Evangelism conducted in First Free Will Baptist Church, Bakersfield, December 4-6, drew participants from five states. Nine people knelt at the altar to receive Christ during conference invitations. Numerous rededications and consecration commitments were made.

More than 600 crowded into the sanctuary to hear the conference theme, "Preaching Christ," developed in nine sermons, three each by Connie Cariker, pastor of West Tulsa Free Will Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Trymon Messer, associate director, National Home Missions Department and Roy Thomas, general director. Pastors and laymen from California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon and Oklahoma filled the Bakersfield church to overflowing.

An unusual testimony service was a conference highlight. At a similar gathering in 1977 people were challenged to witness and win souls. This year (1978) several stood to testify of souls they had won. One pastor wept for joy as he related leading his father and mother to Christ and then baptizing them. His father is 88.

Several pastors told how their churches had grown since the previous conference.

The National Home Missions Department has other conferences planned for Tulsa, Oklahoma, February 26-28 and Modesto, California, March 24-26.

NEW AUDITORIUM DEDICATED BY ILLINOIS CONGREGATION

JOHNSTON CITY, IL — Members dedicated a new \$200,000 brick auditorium December 10, 1978, at First Free Will Baptist Church, Johnston City. The 350-seat structure, although valued at \$200,000, was built at a cost of only \$90,000.

Pastor William Mishler says the \$90,000 includes church furniture and new musical instruments. Mishler attributed the \$110,000 savings to volunteer labor by men of the church who did most of the work at no charge to the congregation.

Because of the church's pay-as-you-go philosophy, two-thirds of the building's total cost was raised while construction was under way. The group owes but \$30,000 for the new edifice which took about one year to complete.

Rufus Coffey, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, preached the dedicatory address. Former Pastor Claude Childers gave the dedicatory prayer.

FIRST CHURCH-SPONSORED REST HOME DEDICATED

CANDLER, NC—North Carolina's Blue Ridge Association dedicated the Western Free Will Baptist Rest Home, November 25, 1978. The new \$200,000 structure is located at Candler, 10 miles west of Asheville. The three and a half acre site was given by Rev. and Mrs. Elmer Keener in memory of Mrs. Keener's father, the late Lynn Jason Ward, former member of Canton Free Will Baptist Church.

"The purpose of the home," says Rev. James C. Lynn, Sr., "is to provide proper care for the elderly. Our aim is to meet their needs mentally, socially and spiritually as well as physically."

The one-level rest home will house 16 residents in eight rooms with space for administrative offices, a therapy room, kitchen and dining areas, lounge and a laundry-storage room.

Major funds for the project resulted from the sale of a 370 acre tract near Burnsville which was given to the association by Mr. J. Sol Hensley before his death some years ago. Gifts from churches, auxiliaries, individuals and a \$60,000 bond issue furnished the balance of the funds.

Future plans call for facility expansion to accommodate 32 residents and provide an on-site manager's residence.

Herman L. Hersey, director of the National Board of Retirement, brought the dedicatory message. He charged the group to "make this home a place where people will receive something they cannot receive anywhere else—spiritual help. If this home is to be just another place to put people when they are old," he warned, "there is no reason for its existence. The state can do that."

He concluded by challenging them "to provide ways for the residents to minister in the community, churches and denomination."



Western Free Will Baptist Rest Home, Candler, NC



newsfront

(continued)

MISSION GIVEN \$10,000; PAYS OFF LAND

RICHTON, MS—Culminating a five-month campaign spurred by Bill Robinson, Pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, Columbus, Mississippi Free Will Baptists presented Greenwood missionary Steve Nichols the \$10,000 he needed to pay off a land purchase.

The dramatic move took place at Mississippi's State Association meeting November 3-4 at Richton. Individuals and churches had been

urged to purchase yards of land for \$10 per 13½ square yards. Missionary Nichols' home church, Tupelo Free Will Baptist Church, was the largest contributor buying up \$2,170 in land.

Pastor Bill Robinson championed the Greenwood project so the mission would be relieved of their debt in order to start construction of a new building this spring. The group presently meets in a mobile chapel.



L. Bill Robinson, Steve Nichols, Wendell Walley, William Atkinson

172 SWARM CAMPUS FOR 'WELCOME DAYS'

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College welcomed 172 high school students and their sponsors during campus "Welcome Days," November 30-December 2, 1978. Visitors came from 37 churches in 13 states to sample life and studies at FWBBC.

The response was enthusiastically favorable:

Alabama pastor: "The choir, drama, students, teachers, film, variety program and food were all great."

Tennessee junior: "Welcome Days has given me a spiritual 'high.'"

Missouri senior: "These few days have made me seriously consider coming to Bible College next year."

West Virginia senior: "Everybody here is so friendly. I know they are God's children because you can feel the warmth of their love."

Alabama senior: "I have never

been in a place where the people were so friendly. There are no strangers here. It's really a very special place."

Georgia senior: "The only reason I came to Welcome Days was because my mother wanted me to . . . Welcome Days has made me do a complete about-face."

Campus visitors attended two classes, enjoyed a special choir/drama program and were treated to a variety of special events, in addition to sampling general campus life at FWBBC.

The college will host a spring "Welcome Days" April 12-14, 1979. The cost is only \$7.50 per visitor. For more information, or to make reservations, write:

Welcome Days
Free Will Baptist Bible College
Box 50117
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

900 ATTEND NOVEMBER CONFERENCE

NEWPORT NEWS, VA—Pastor Don Pegram and the First Free Will Baptist Church of Newport News, Virginia, hosted the fourth annual Pastor's and Worker's Conference November 20-22, 1978.

An overflow crowd of 900 attended the Monday evening service when Dr. Wally Beebe and Dr. Jack Hyles shared the podium. One church from Suffolk was represented en masse with 100.

Dr. Rudy Atwood was the conference pianist and favored the congregation with mini concerts throughout as well as conducting a workshop on church music. Atwood served as pianist for the Old Fashioned Revival Hour with Dr. Charles E. Fuller for 31 years.

Dr. Wally Beebe conducted two practical workshops dealing with building a growing church in a rural community and the Jolly Sixties. Rev. Nate Ange, youth director at Fairmount Park Free Will Baptist Church, Norfolk, developed a youth ministry workshop.

Mr. Brian Peters and Mr. Ron Christ, staff members of the host church, conducted workshops on children's ministries and follow-up respectively. Rev. Gene Parisher, pastor of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, held a workshop on church finances.

An innovative program change occurred the second afternoon as the Nicky Chavers Academy of Arts presented a moving dramatization of actual history dealing with the Mayflower pilgrimage.

Free Will Baptists were represented in speakers by Rev. Dale Burden, pastor of Fairmount Park Church; Rev. Roy Thomas, general director of the Home Missions Department; and Rev. John Gibbs, pastor of Wooddale Free Will Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Plans for next year's conclave include a return to Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston, North Carolina.



Currently . . .

By
JACK WILLIAMS

The police department at **Concord, CA**, has a new chaplain. He is **Bob Thomas**, pastor of **Concord FWB Church**. One day a week Thomas rides with officers in the patrol cars, observes them making community calls and talks with officers about the Lord.

Four missionary speakers were featured at the November 6-8 missions conference at **Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, OK**. Spearheading the three-day session were **Dock Caton**, missionary to Spain; **Jerry Banks**, missionary to Japan; **Mike Cousineau**, appointee to Ivory Coast; and **Lynn Miley**, missionary to Ivory Coast.

First Oklahoma Association authorized the mission board to secure a \$100,000 loan in order to build the first unit for **Choctaw Mission Church**. Missionary Pastor **Jerry Dudley** said the funds will be expended to construct a building to seat 150 people with 13 classrooms.

A new publication has appeared from **Mt. Calvary FWB Church, Hookerton, NC**. **Free Will Baptist Alert** was published December 1978. The first edition zeroed in on why Christian schools in North Carolina have decided not to give the state competency tests. **Jack Cox**, pastor of the church, edits the publication.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission were commended by Free Will Baptists in that state for supplying the fish pond at **Camp Beaverfork near Conway**. State officials reported an abundance of catfish which was a most enjoyable recreation for young people at camp this year.

Forty-five rededications in six months has boosted attendance at **Bethel FWB Church, Little Rock, AR**, from 25 to 70. Pastor **Mike Brooks** says that in addition to the spiritual progress being made the church also installed a baptistry which is used regularly, painted the church and secured new pews.

Trymon Messer, associate director of Home Missions Department, was guest speaker at **First FWB Church, Star City, AR**, for an October 29 Miracle Day. The 272 participants in morning worship gave a National Home Missions offering of \$600. **Gary Thomas** pastors.

Four days this past December members of **Grant Avenue FWB Church, Springfield, MO**, gathered to hear **Dr. Joseph Humphrey** in a carefully planned family life seminar. Host Pastor **Millard Sasser** confirmed that **Dr. Humphrey** was not only a minister but

also a professional Christian counselor. The meeting was conducted December 10-13.

CONTACT welcomes the newsletter of **First FWB Church, Farmington, MO**. **Jim McAllister** pastors.

Very few church dedications get everyone involved, but Pastor **Connie Cariker** and members of **West Tulsa FWB Church, Tulsa, OK**, managed the almost impossible at their December 17 dedication of the new adult education building. Every class had its own dedication during the Sunday school hour. Every class member participated on the great occasion.

The **Gulf Coast Association** was formed on November 10 in Alabama. Two churches, **Sunset FWB Church of Bay Minette** and **First FWB Church, Mobile**, formed the new district association. Alabama State Moderator **Jack Rollins** assisted in the organization. **Garry Winsett** was elected moderator of the Gulf Coast Association.

The annual teacher training course at **Tupelo FWB Church, Tupelo, MS**, was conducted by **Harrold Harrison**, assistant director of Sunday School and Church Training Board, January 29-February 1. Pastor **Billy Bevan** confirmed that the training session was for Sunday school and CTS teachers but issued a strong appeal to prospective teachers and children's workers to participate.

Now don't you wish you were a member of **Rock Springs FWB Church, Thebes, IL**? Pastor **Lloyd Crain** surprised the 14 families of Rock Springs Church this Christmas by giving each family a gift subscription to **CONTACT** Magazine. You don't have to wait until Christmas to give **CONTACT** to a friend. You might subscribe on some other special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary or just because it would be a good thing to do.

They had never done it that way before at **First FWB Church, Selma, AL**, but Pastor **Steve Pryor** and members decided to try anyhow. This past December the congregation invited missionary **Lynn Miley** and Foreign Mission Director of Deputation **Henry Van Kluyve** to share in the first annual missionary conference. Several parents and youth committed themselves for prayer support of missions. Miley received \$145 per month in faith promises. A cash offering to missions in excess of \$1400 culminated the mid-December session.

Home Missionary **Jim Summerson** reported double blessings recently. The Northern Illinois Quarterly Conference purchased \$10,000 of the church bonds sold by

Faith FWB Church in Milan. Later the Faith Church conducted its first missionary conference with almost \$300 in faith promise giving.

Larry Wilson heads up the bus ministry at **North Modesto FWB Church, Modesto, CA**. Like most bus ministries the immense work is thankless at times. But on a recent Sunday Brother Wilson felt a touch of accomplishment when 22 parents of bus children came to the morning worship service. **Ronn Jackson** pastors.

Christian Cable Television, channel 5, in **Columbus, Ohio**, now carries a special youth television program originating in **Williams Road FWB Church**. Pastor **James Blair** reports the 30-minute Saturday afternoon program airs from 2:30 until 3:00 p.m.

A youth group of **First FWB Church, Tulsa, OK**, has launched a community wide campaign to collect 4400 books of S&H Green Stamps in order to acquire a 17-passenger van for **Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, OK**. **Bill Campbell** is chairman of the drive. Target date to reach their goal is Easter. **Don Jones** pastors.

December 14 marked another milestone for the **Department of Retirement and Insurance** in Nashville, TN. Director **Herman Hersey** reported enrolling the 500th and 501st persons in the denomination's retirement program. Mr. Hersey said the enrollment was small but significant in the department's growing area of service to Free Will Baptists.

Did you know that the Oklahoma outlaw, **Pretty Boy Floyd**, was reached for Christ by Sister **Nettie Metcalf**, pastor of the Free Will Baptist Church in **Seminole, OK**? Someone sent a clipping from a Seminole newspaper to **Rev. John West**, Free Will Baptist Pastor-at-Large in Tulsa, carrying the story. Brother West printed it in his December issue of **Optimism**.

And speaking of outlaws, one or more burglarized the **Sand Springs FWB Church, Sand Springs, OK**. Pastor **Lonnie Hall** said that property valued at \$1000 was stolen.

There's a story of this preacher who took a trip to the holy land last fall. When he returned to his church there was a new car with license plates installed and taxes paid waiting for him. The church was **Westside FWB Church in Sapulpa, OK**. The preacher with the keys to the new car is **Millard McGuire**.

Twice a year **Cofers' Chapel FWB Church, Nashville, TN**, awards a \$250 scholarship to a worthy college student in honor of Rev. and



Mrs. **John L. Welch**. The last honoree, Mr. **Tim Hutchinson**, after receiving the award said, "When I came to church last Sunday I had decided that I could not afford to attend Bible College during the spring semester. I would work full time and try to earn enough to go the next semester. Then you surprised me with your \$250 Welch Scholarship. With it I can attend this spring." Hutchinson is a Senior at Free Will Baptist Bible College. **Gene Waddell** pastors.

One of the newest ministries at **Trinity FWB Church, Greenville, NC**, is the library media center in the auditorium building. Librarian **Nelda Highsmith** and assistant **Vicki House** are busy cataloging books, supplies and equipment. Pastor **Van Dale Hudson** recounted that most members of Trinity were availing themselves of the helpful resource center.

CONTACT welcomes **Pioneer Pointers**, publication of **Pioneer FWB Church, Ash Flat, AR**. **Terry Forrest** publishes the newsletter; **Johnny Hale** pastors the church. **Ideal Printing Company** of Ashland City, TN, prints the brochures free.

A word to any Free Will Baptist parents whose sons may be entering the armed forces at **Fort Campbell, KY**. It was recently learned that every soldier entering Fort Campbell meets with the chaplain and attends monthly classes on ethics, faith, marriage and child rearing in a program begun by the post commander **Army Major General Wickham**. Since the program began the AWOL rate has dropped 75 percent and the reenlistment rate is the highest in the country.

John L. Smith, a nationally known opponent of Mormonism, spoke December 8-10 at **First FWB Church, Monett, MO**. Smith served as a missionary for 20 years in Utah. He has delivered more than 4500 messages in colleges, churches and seminaries in 40 states about the menace of Mormonism. **James Davis** pastors.

When it was time to call the new pastor, members of **Mt. Olive FWB Church, Laneville, TX**, decided it was time to spruce up the parsonage to welcome Pastor **A. F. Ferguson** and his wife. The people gave the parsonage a shiny new paint job inside and out, laid new carpet throughout the entire house and then bought the pastor's wife a new stove to cook on.

An intriguing sermon was preached at **Butterfield FWB Church, Aurora, IL**, in November by **Jerry Ballard**, executive director of **World Relief Commission**. His sermon had the sticky title "The Uneasy Con-

science of Rich Christians in a World of Hunger."

It was a strange development in Virginia's Tidewater area when for nearly 48 hours after a November election the public was told that the Sunday closing laws were defeated in Virginia Beach. Newspapers were filled with boasts of how businesses were going to be open Sundays in Virginia Beach and eventually force the opening of stores in adjoining municipalities. One day later a colossal error in vote counting was reported. The Sunday closing laws were still valid. Pastor **Dale Burden** and members of **Fairmount Park FWB Church** were in the vanguard opposing the defeat of Sunday closing laws.

We hear that members of **Hazel Dell FWB Church, Sesser, IL**, are trying desperately to lose weight. It appears that their penny-a-pound march sponsored in November by the woman's auxiliary proposed that every member of the church give a penny a pound to National Home Missions as a gift. **David Burgess** pastors the weight conscious congregation.

Radio-pastor-at-large **Ralph Staten** of **Knoxville, TN**, speaks each Saturday morning on station **WKVQ**. His 15 minute program is called Free Will Baptist Moments of Meditation. Staten also prints a monthly publication, the **Congregational Crusader**.

Members representing three generations of the Proctor family were saved at **First FWB Church, Dickson, TN**, last October. In a two-week span Pastor **David Hicks** led 47-year-old **Edna Proctor** to the Lord, then Mrs. Proctor's 26-year-old daughter **Kathy**. Next came 48-year-old **Walter Proctor** (Kathy's father). Finally Grandma **Fronie Proctor** (71) became a Christian.

Roy Thomas, director of Home Missions and Church Extension, has published a booklet on home missions describing the what, where, why, who and how of missions. The 15-page booklet may be obtained by writing the Home Missions Department.

A new Free Will Baptist Church was organized in **Bakerton, WV**. The new church called **Frank Nick** as pastor. **C. Reed Mullins**, Maryland State Association Promotional-Secretary, and **Lester Horton**, pastor of **Fairwood FWB Church, Fairfax Station, VA**, met with the 18 charter members to assist in the organizational meeting.

How would you like to be challenged to pay the operating cost for one day at **Free Will Baptist Bible College**? That's exactly what Director of Public Relations **Paul Kettman** did in his December newsletter to college supporters. Kettman said it cost \$1164 per day to operate the school. A layman took him up on the idea a year ago, liked it so well that he tried it again this year even though the operating cost had gone up.

The 10th annual Free Will Baptist **Ministers Conference** in Michigan was conducted February 6-9 at **Pine Hills Camp, Brighton, MI**. Director of Home Missions **Roy Thomas** was guest speaker during the four day session.

They're growing a number of young businessmen at **First FWB Church, Murfreesboro, TN**. Under the direction of **Larry White** the children's church completed a fund raising project and presented \$50 to the church for bus repair and expenses. **Burl Brewer** pastors.

Children have begun adopting children at **Lawnwood FWB Church, Tulsa, OK**. Pastor **J. C. Morgan** smilingly reports that the nursery, beginner, primary and junior departments of his Sunday school have each adopted a child from the **Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Greeneville, TN**. It's a noble idea; we hope it catches on in other churches.

The winter should be warmer at **Carroll FWB Church, Twin Mountain, NH**, thanks to the generosity of **Victory FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC**. This past Thanksgiving the Goldsboro Church gave a \$500 offering to help pay for insulation of the New Hampshire structure. **George Lee** pastors the generous congregation.

Guy Owens, North Carolina Minister-at-Large, looked like a left over Christmas tree when he said goodbye to the congregation of **Bethlehem FWB Church, Kannapolis, NC**. Pastor **Bill Newsome** invited Owens to their city for revival which resulted in 12 decisions. Following the revival, members of the church showered Brother Owens with an array of gifts from Cannon Mills.

Wow! Did they ever have a testimony meeting at **First FWB Church, Russellville, AR**? It was Monday before Thanksgiving when Pastor **Fred Warner** invited the flock together for their annual Thanksgiving supper. One hundred fifty were present for the meal, 130 stayed for the testimony time and verbally praised the Lord until 10 p.m. Those who are wondering what happened to old time testimony meetings should check with Brother Warner.

Central FWB Church, Huntington, WV, boosted the building fund treasury on November 26 with a \$6,072 offering. **Carl Vallance** pastors.

The **Commission on Theological Liberalism** now has 10 publications for sale including its latest offering, "Inerrancy" by **Leroy Forlines**. Those wishing to secure copies of Commission publications should write **Leroy Forlines, P.O. Box 50117, Nashville, TN 37205**.

Thanks to eight teenagers who rocked 10 hours on November 17, the **Free Will Baptist Home for Children in Greeneville, TN**, received \$500. The teens were members of **Mt. Zion FWB Church, Joelton, TN**. Pastor **Rodney Bailey**, his family and other adults served refreshments and helped keep the teen rockers awake during their 8 p.m.-6 a.m. marathon. ▲



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

**COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT
November, 1978**

RECEIPTS:

State	Nov. '78		Nov. '77	Yr. to date
	Co-op	Design.		
Alabama	\$ 26.50	\$. . .	\$. . .	\$ 1,814.13
Arizona	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,174.73
Arkansas	3,613.64	. . .	3,391.54	28,995.55
California	691.99	(691.99)	869.83	9,213.71
Florida	299.78	(283.12)	192.83	3,900.16
Georgia	748.61	(192.00)	115.00	4,113.60
Hawaii	. . .	. . .	100.00	200.00
Idaho	. . .	. . .	252.55	260.97
Illinois	1,295.64	. . .	1,324.90	14,542.56
Indiana	50.00	. . .	. . .	200.00
Iowa	505.80	. . .	. . .	2,794.32
Kansas	185.07	. . .	. . .	1,610.11
Maryland	179.26	. . .	130.00	930.99
Michigan	717.40	. . .	. . .	2,451.99
Mississippi	128.32	. . .	104.26	1,099.33
Missouri	4,799.33	(4,799.33)	5,054.70	55,225.32
New Mexico	. . .	. . .	. . .	90.28
North Carolina	403.19	(79.00)	174.00	2,550.93
Northwest Assoc.	267.19	. . .	. . .	656.05
Ohio	. . .	. . .	851.59	8,220.42
Oklahoma	. . .	. . .	6,843.15	57,681.86
Tennessee	1,478.09	. . .	699.32	11,558.21
Texas	176.61	. . .	. . .	2,444.38
Virginia	86.15	. . .	27.65	456.39
Virgin Islands	187.00	. . .	125.00	1,577.40
West Virginia	. . .	. . .	19.80	199.01
Interest	. . .	. . .	. . .	398.69
Totals	\$ 15,839.57		\$ 20,276.12	\$ 214,361.09

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 5,480.37	\$(1,195.27)	\$ 5,053.87	\$ 69,728.35
Foreign Missions	3,160.45	(1,750.20)	5,154.22	48,695.72
Bible College	2,602.98	(1,230.75)	3,345.74	31,697.05
Home Missions	2,010.97	(992.24)	2,884.63	28,288.66
Church Training Serv.	1,212.09	(385.71)	1,719.73	16,554.97
Retirement and Ins.	1,012.18	(351.11)	1,439.59	13,136.73
Layman's Board	276.48	(83.66)	545.72	4,847.62
Commission on Theological Liberalism	84.05	(56.50)	132.62	1,311.99
Other Ministries	. . .	. . .	. . .	100.00
Totals	\$ 15,839.57		\$ 20,276.12	\$ 214,361.09

DIRECTORY UPDATE

GEORGIA

Joseph Alday to Friendship Church, Waycross from Calvary Church, Blakely

Elzie Franks to Pine Level Church, Norman Park

Alton Everson to First Church, Valdosta from Mt. Ararat Church, Eastman

Marshall Kennedy to First Church, Cairo

A. C. Truluck to Satilla Church, Hazelhurst from Rocky Pass Church, Marion, NC

Irvin Hyman to Colquitt Church, Colquitt from Bethany Church, Timmons ville, SC

KENTUCKY

John Gilliland to First Church, Glasgow

ILLINOIS

Wayne Meade, Jr., to First Church, Springfield

MISSOURI

Bill Van Winkle to South Side Church, St. Louis from First Church, Berkeley

NORTH CAROLINA

Washington Miles to Union Chapel Church, Chocowinity from Cedar Grove Church, Williamston

Richard Barnes to Kendall Acres Church, Sanford

OHIO

Roger Childers to Urbana Church, Urbana

Larry Saylers to Pine Grove Church, Ironton

OKLAHOMA

Richard Terry to Lake Area Church, Cleveland from First Church, Topeka, KS

James Van Winkle to Pretty Water Church, Sapulpa from Lone Chimney Church, Pawnee

Doyle Baker to Garden Heights Church, Sand Springs from Madison Avenue Church, Tulsa

Charles Flynn to Liberty Church, Bristow

TENNESSEE

Doyle Pruett to First Church, Greeneville from Alexander Church, Olive Branch, IL

OTHER PERSONNEL

Danny Thomas to First Church, Albany, GA, as minister of music from First Church, Savannah

Dennis Teague to Sherwood Forest Church, El Sobrante, CA, as associate minister from France as foreign missionary

PART VI

By Leroy Forlines

Christian liberty seeks to avoid both legalism and license. License opens the way for sinning. Legalism seeks to express every ethical decision in the form of a law.

Christian liberty does not deny all use of law in the expression of Christian ethics. The New Testament repeats all of the Ten Commandments except the Sabbath commandment. Also, passages such as Romans 1:29-31, I Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21 and Ephesians 5:3-5 contain moral teachings that have the force of law.

However, the New Testament does not attempt to spell out all Christian responsibility in the form of a law. Christian liberty functions in that area of Christian responsibility that is not spelled out in terms of a direct command or prohibition in the New Testament.

Legalism has taken two basic approaches. One approach is what I call "long list" legalism. The other approach is what I call "short list" legalism.

"Long list" legalism takes the principles taught in the New Testament and seeks to make laws that cover all ethical situations not dealt with in the New Testament. A very serious-minded Christian with a very sensitive conscience can easily become a victim of "long list" legalism.

For some, they basically impose their legalism on themselves. Others impose their legalism not only on themselves, but seek to impose it upon others also.

The Pharisees of Jesus' time were "long list" legalists. They worked on the assumption that the whole of life was to be lived in submission to God, and that this divine responsibility could be expressed in laws. They took the idea of law far beyond what was stated in the Mosaic Law.

In what is referred to as the tradition of the elders in Matthew 15:2 and Mark 7:5, the Pharisees had developed a detailed set of laws to

On The High Wire With "Long List" Legalism

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE



govern every phase of life. Jesus was very opposed to the legalism of the Pharisees (See Matthew 23:1-36).

The conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees did not center around the Mosaic Law as such, but around additions to Mosaic Law that the Pharisees had developed in the tradition of the elders (frequently called oral tradition or oral law).

There has never been a group of people in the history of the world that has come close to taking legalism as far as the Pharisees did. We do have to resist tendencies

toward legalism in our day, but very few, if any, are involved in a legalism that would come anywhere near to the legalism of the Pharisees.

The fallacies of "long list" legalism are many. Since every ethical decision is expressed in the form of a law, the only question asked is: Is it right or is it wrong? This makes all ethical decisions a matter of conscience. The way is open for mechanical obedience. Genuine heart motivation is stifled.

The relationship between the person and God, and the person and others becomes more like a relationship to a code than a personal relationship. (For a more complete discussion of the fallacies of this type of legalism see *Biblical Ethics* by Leroy Forlines, pp. 122-125.)

"Short list" legalism is seldom recognized as legalism. What many people call Christian liberty is "short list" legalism rather than Christian liberty. "Short list" legalism limits ethical concern to that which is dealt with directly in the New Testament by a command or prohibition.

By limiting concern to that which is specifically commanded or prohibited in the New Testament, it limits all ethical concern to that which is mentioned in terms of law in the New Testament. Since it limits its concern to law, it is legalism. I call it "short list" legalism because it ends up with a much shorter list of laws than the legalism referred to above.

"Short list" legalism is grossly inadequate. Many situations that we face today did not exist at the time of the New Testament. To limit ethical concern to things specifically mentioned in the New Testament is to open the way for license in many areas where Christians should have strong ethical concern.

The Christian must not restrict his concern to that which has the form of law in the New Testament. He must discover Christian values and principles from the New Testament and apply them to the various situations he faces. The next article will elaborate on how this can be done and how we can avoid both legalism and license. ▲

Those Little Foxes!

OUR WOMEN SPEAK



By Fleda Snow

"Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes" (Song of Solomon 2:15).

THE FAMILY IN JEOPARDY

The "little foxes" that spoil the vine and the tender grapes are as their adult counterparts crafty, carnivorous, agile, pesky, here and gone-in-a-moment creatures. In the natural realm some glitter like silver (the silver fox); other species are the red, gray, black, arctic and blue fox. Regardless of the type, however, all are spoilers and devastators.

Alike in their devastation are their "spiritual kin," provoking fright, anger, outright fear, selfish desires, lack of courtesy and respect.

They spread undue criticism, bickering, intolerant dogmatism, sharp sarcastic remarks, unwise economics and spawn a great host of others almost too insurmountable to enumerate.

Please consider that it is the little, almost unnoticed things, which slip into the home to disrupt and mar, and which if not properly held in check, can even lead to the eventual ultimate destruction of these vines—our lives—which collectively comprise the home.

THE FAMILY IN AWARENESS

Just as there are little foxes to spoil the vine, there are also little things that help to guard the vine in the home.

Naturally, it goes without saying that all of the family members, in order to guard against these unholy predators, should first seek Christ and His kingdom (See Matthew 6:33), regarding Him as preeminent in their lives.

Read and study the Word. Continually uphold great Bible truths placing special emphasis upon such holy instruction as the divine order of the home, i.e., God, Christ, the husband, wife and the children as set forth in the scriptures. Pray without ceasing.

Culminate these practices in each member being a burden bearer for his fellow member. From these and other spiritually derived virtues, more love, mutual trust and confidence will abound as regarding others within the circle.

Further, the integrity of each family member will be discovered in

a freshness that had hitherto not existed. All these combine to bolster this greatly needed guard.

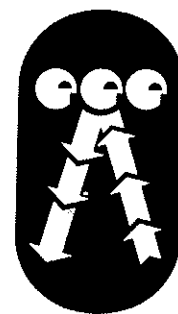
And how about the following for family sustenance and defensive awareness? Church attendance by *all* family members. Meetings of a nature which serve to feed the family unit as a whole as well as on an individual basis: your district, state and national associations; local and national Bible and missionary conferences; Christian films in sister fundamental churches or those shown on an area basis. Add to these additional ideas that you can tailor to your own family.

Let's continue our "guard" with family recreation and games that, again, involve *all* the family members: word games, Bible quizzes, games while you travel in the automobile, ping pong, croquet, viewing a wholesome family oriented television special (if you can find one), times of reading to the children by mom and dad, and on and on.

Families, today more than ever, we need to be on guard against the "little" things that would hinder our fellowship between each other and between us and our loving Lord.

To further insure the needed security we are all wishing to sustain in our homes, let's please covenant to restrict our pets to such as dogs and cats and parakeets, and post the sign on the door of our hearts: No foxes allowed.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Fleda Snow is a member of Decatur Free Will Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia. She is a Sunday school teacher, church organist and president of the district Woman's Auxilliary. ▲



Light on Life's Questions . . .

By Wade T. Jernigan

QUESTION: *Our pastor never seems to have anything fresh to say in the pulpit. What can we do to let him know without hurting him?*

ANSWER: Failure to prepare something new and fresh for the congregation is common with some preachers. Laziness, preoccupation or lack of love for the Bible causes this sad state of affairs. Motivating pastors to cultivate study habits that will produce soul feeding sermons is a difficult task.

If you are a leader and speak publicly on occasion, deal with Acts 6 where Peter made it plain that he and the Apostles would give themselves continually to prayer and the ministry, pointing out the unreasonableness of leaving the Word of God. Show Paul's concern for quality preaching when instructing Timothy (see II Timothy 2:15).

Maybe you are not given the opportunity to speak. When that's the case, try to provide the pastor with some reading material. Give him a gift subscription to a good magazine on preaching and sermon preparation. On his birthday or some such special occasion, buy him a book that deals with effective preaching.

Engage your pastor in some in-depth Bible study. Ask him difficult questions that require study before answers. Suggest topics and subjects to him that would be of interest to all.

Don't forget to pray regularly for your pastor. If after regular prayer for him things have not changed and if none of the above suggestions have helped, then go to him in love and say, "Pastor, I love you but you simply are not feeding me."

Then have a good private (keep it private afterwards, too!) conversation with him about the matter.

Readers may address their questions to Mr. Jernigan 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.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL LEADER WARNS AGAINST EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (EP)—Christian schools are failing because they copy the "godless" public schools' emphasis on extracurricular activities and don't concentrate on academics, the administrator of a Christian school charged here.

Ralph Mawdsley, superintendent of the Fourth Baptist Christian Day School for 10 of its 12 years, told a conference of Baptist pastors and workers at the school that parents and teachers are increasingly emphasizing that sports, drama, music and leisure time activities are more important to students than studying the Bible, English and the arts.

Mr. Mawdsley, whose school has 565 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, said, "It is the problem of activity-centered education that is destroying the public education system we believe is wrong. We started day schools because the Word of God has not been taught in public schools and there are serious academic deficiencies in the public system."

'POT' SAID TO CAUSE MORE HARM THAN CIGARETTES OR ALCOHOL

OAKLAND, CA (EP)—Two researchers studying the effects of marijuana said prolonged use causes more physical harm than cigarettes or alcohol. Marijuana can lead to emphysema and bronchitis, and cause damage to the brain, lung, liver, reproductive system and chromosomes, according to Dr. David Harvey Powelson, a psychiatrist and former professor at the University of California at Berkeley, and Dr. Ethel Sassenrath of the University of California at Davis.

Dr. Powelson, who has observed marijuana smoking students since 1964, noted that they gradually lost their ability to think. He observed that in some cases, students were not even able to understand "something as simple as a proverb like 'Don't count your chickens before they are hatched.'"

Another ill is that, unlike alcohol which is flushed out of the body in a day, THC, the drug in marijuana, is trapped in the system for four to six weeks, Dr. Powelson explained. Thus there is an accumulating effect among frequent pot-smokers, he remarked. "So people who use marijuana even socially are stoned all the time although they are not aware of it."

According to the psychiatrist, "Marijuana also ages you about twenty times as fast as alcohol."

PEOPLE'S TEMPLE EXPERIENCE MAY LEAD DISCIPLES TO PROVIDE FOR EXPULSIONS

INDIANAPOLIS (EP)—Following revelation that cult leader Jim Jones was a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister, the head of that denomination said it will consider initiating a procedure for removal of errant congregations from fellowship.

In a pamphlet distributed to outsiders, Mr. Jones wrote that his "People's Temple is an extensive ministry based on the practical teachings of Jesus as literally set forth in Matthew 25, in which He admonishes us to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and minister to the sick and imprisoned."

Mr. Jones stressed in the pamphlet that he was "an officially ordained minister of the 1.4-million-member Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination." The Church's 1978 Yearbook and Directory lists Mr. Jones as an ordained minister "with recognized standing," connected with the People's Temple Christian Church. Regional officials of the denomination in California said a review was made when local authorities began investigating Mr. Jones' movement last year, but no action was taken.

According to the Rev. Kenneth L. Teegarden, general minister and president of the denomination headquartered here, the Christian Church "prides itself on its openness to congregations as well as individuals" and does not now have a procedure for removing a congregation from its rolls.

"Under our church policy," he said in a prepared statement, "it is neither possible nor has it been desirable to conduct investigations of the activities or ministries of local congregations. We have stood firmly for a variety of styles and approaches to Christian missions and ministries. However, because of the awesome tragedy, we will initiate at the earliest possible moment a proposal to determine whether this denomination which has prided itself on an openness to congregations as well as individuals wants to develop a procedure, which it does not now have, for removing congregations from fellowship."

5 TEENS DIE IN ACCIDENT FOLLOWING PRAYER MEETING

UPPER SADDLE RIVER, NJ (EP)—Five teenagers driving home from a prayer meeting were killed here when their Volkswagen van crashed head-on with another van. Two brothers in the Econoline van also were killed.

Police Chief Andrew J. Otens said the driver of the Econoline was driving at a high rate of speed in a hilly 40 mph zone, had just passed a car in a two-lane highway, and was still in the lane of oncoming traffic when it struck the Volkswagen—which had just come over the crest of the hill.

The five teenagers were returning from a youth prayer meeting at Pasack Bible Church in nearby Hillsdale.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS' APPEAL ON TAX REJECTED IN NORTH CAROLINA

RALEIGH, NC (EP)—Superior Court Judge A. Pilston Godwin, Jr., has rejected an appeal by 83 Christian schools for an injunction which would bar North Carolina from assessing unemployment taxes against them to cover teachers and other employees.

Judge Godwin said the schools had failed to exhaust other available "remedies" before asking for an injunction. He held that the schools could have appealed the tax issue to the North Carolina Employment Security Commission before seeking court action.

The injunction would have prevented the state from collecting the taxes pending final disposition of a suit filed recently by the schools challenging the constitutionality of such action.

Howard G. Doyle, chief legal counsel for the North Carolina Employment Security Commission, said after Judge Godwin's ruling that the state has no plans to prosecute the Christian school leaders for refusing to pay the taxes. He said no further action would be taken while the issue is being resolved in the courts and in administrative hearings, because "what we are trying to do is to be fair to everybody."

RUSSIA PERMITS IMPORTATION OF BIBLES BY BAPTISTS

LONDON (EP)—Soviet authorities have given permission for the importation of 25,000 Russian Bibles—the largest shipment of Bibles to the USSR in history—according to a United Bible Societies announcement here.

The import permit was granted to the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christian-Baptists in the Soviet Union. It is asking the European Region of the United Bible Societies, which embraces more than 50 national Bible societies throughout the world, to supply the Bibles, as well as 2,000 Russian concordances.

Russian Baptists have taken delivery of about 10,000 Bibles printed by the Orthodox Press in Moscow during the last few years. But demand for Scripture considerably exceeded supply and so the application for the import permit was made.

"Ever since the 19th century there has never been such a large import of Bibles into Russia at any one time," said Dr. Ole Van Luyn, regional secretary for Europe for the UBS. "The last major consignment of Bibles sent into the Soviet Union was in 1947 when 10,000 were allowed in."

BANK REFUSES TO PAY 'CALL-IN' PLEDGES TO THE PTL NETWORK

CHARLOTTE, NC (EP)—The North Carolina National Bank has stopped paying the PTL television network for telephoned pledges charged to caller's credit cards without signed authorization, and the financially-troubled network has taken its money out of the bank and placed it in another. It refused to say how much money is involved in the account.

PTL officials said they signed an October 24 contract with the bank on the pledges, under which it would take the pledges to the bank and receive cash for them. Should a caller renege on a called-in pledge, the network was obligated to refund the money to the bank.

A PTL spokesman said North Carolina National honored the agreement for only two weeks; and that during the first week \$6,000 of the \$70,000 charged pledges were not accepted and were repaid by the network.

Mr. Bakker said NCNB officials "feel if we went under, there'd be nobody to come back on. They just don't understand the stability of contributions. They're just more of a business bank and don't understand the financial nature of an organization this size." He again expressed confidence that the network's debts estimated at \$6 million or more, would be wiped out completely by January.

Meanwhile a Floyd County, Kentucky, couple has been identified as those who recently bought a \$195,000 home in an exclusive residential section of Charlotte in which Mr. Bakker and his family will live rent-free. Harry and Judy Ranier, who operate coal, real estate and stock care businesses, are the benefactors Mr. Bakker had refused to identify. Mr. Bakker, in announcing acquisition of the house, said he and his wife would live in it rent-free but would not accept title to it. They already own a \$79,000 home at Lake Wylie, another fashionable area south of Charlotte.

"They're extremely wealthy people," Mr. Bakker said. "They like to help ministers."

JUDGE RULES BIG BROTHER AGENCY MAY INFORM MOTHER WHEN ESCORT IS 'GAY'

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (EP)—Men seeking to be "big brothers" may be asked whether they are homosexual, and if the answer is "yes," mothers of "little brothers" may then be informed a judge here has ruled.

Hennepin County Judge Robert Schumacher overruled a hearing examiner in the case.

The examiner had ordered Big Brothers, Inc., not to make such inquiries unless they asked all applicants their sexual preference and passed the answers on to mothers of prospective "little brothers" in all cases.



HIGH SCHOOLS' OUTSTANDING STUDENTS SUPPORT RELIGION, MORAL VALUES

NORTHBROOK, IL (EP)—The nation's outstanding teenagers "are keen on religion and maintain traditional moral values," according to results of the Ninth National Opinion Survey of Who's Who Among American High School Students.

The survey showed that 92 percent of student leaders believe there is a personal God or "vital force" in the world, 90 percent said religion plays a significant role in their own moral standards and actions, 81 percent belong to an organized religion, and 62 percent attend services weekly.

Of the 318,000 "high achievers" featured in the 1978 edition of Who's Who, 50,000 students whose biographies were received by July 1, 1978, were sent survey forms and some 21,500 returned the questionnaires. These 21,500 responses formed the base of the Ninth National Opinion Survey.

MS. O'HAIR, ATHEIST CENTER HELD GUILTY OF SLANDER

AUSTIN, TX (EP)—Madalyn Murray O'Hair and her American Atheist Center here have been ordered to pay \$80,000 in damages to a former employee of the center—Susan Lee Strobel—who charges Ms. O'Hair slandered her by calling her a thief on Oct. 25, 1977, in the presence of reporters.

Kenneth Bassford, foreman of the state district court jury, said 10 members of the 12-member jury had agreed Mrs. Strobel should receive \$60,000 in exemplary damages and \$20,000 in actual damages.

Ms. O'Hair, who said she would appeal the decision, said, "This is exactly what I would expect from a jury of malice-filled Christians." Austin police, investigating Ms. O'Hair's charge that Mrs. Strobel stole program tape from the Atheist Center, said their investigation proved the accusations to be "unfounded."

NEW BIBLE VERSION BEST SELLER, WILL INCREASE FIRM'S PROFITS

NEW YORK (EP)—Not only is the publication of the New International Version of the Bible news in religious circles, it is a welcome note in the field where they spell prophet with an 'F.'

The Wall Street Journal reports that Zondervan Corporation's exclusive 30-year contract to publish the version is a "blessed" event. The first press run of 1,200,000 copies was sold out before the book went on sale October 27.

According to the business daily, "Zondervan raised its earnings prediction 10 cents a share, to \$1.85, and its sales prediction \$3 million, to \$41 million, for the year. In 1977, the concern earned \$1.5 million, or \$1.41 a share on sales of \$32.7 million."

SEMINARIAN'S WIFE DOUBLES AS POLICE WOMAN

LOUISVILLE, KY (EP)—Neighbors of a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary student probably got pretty curious when his wife left the apartment with different men at all times of the night.

But when police closed the loop around a huge fencing operation, much of the credit for recovery of \$2.5 million in stolen merchandise and the indictment of 119 suspected criminals could go to Sherry Pegram.

Mrs. Pegram, wife of Wilson Pegram, a religious education student at the seminary, posed as the girlfriend of an undercover buyer of stolen goods, or "fence," while working for the Jefferson County Police Department. She and the agent bought stolen items and narcotics in a Louisville apartment while the transactions were recorded secretly on videotape.

In July, while the undercover agent was on vacation, Mrs. Pegram alone purchased more than 50 vehicles, including a truck carrying seven 1978 Cadillacs valued at more than \$150,000. She bought the cars for \$6,000.

After the police closed down the fencing operation, Mrs. Pegram admitted that she had "surprised herself" by remaining so calm throughout the undercover work. "But," she explained, "you can't be scared at a time like that. The criminals can tell."

When her husband graduates from seminary, Mrs. Pegram said that she might like to become a police officer. But she said, "I'm committed to Wilson's ministry and don't want to make such a permanent decision."

TIME FOR CHURCH TO PAY TAXES, SAYS SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTOR

RALEIGH, NC (EP)—Holding that the time has come for churches to begin paying taxes, the Rev. W. W. Finlator, pastor of the Pullen Memorial Baptist Church here, has asked the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to reconsider the tax-exempt status of its own properties.

With taxpayers all over the country growing more resentful over rising property taxes, particularly since passage of California's Proposition 13, he said tax-cutting moves will sweep the nation and result in more attention being directed to tax-exempt property owned by churches and organizations.

"Therefore," Mr. Finlator said, "it is propitious for churches and denominations to raise serious questions about their own tax-exempt property" before the public begins raising such questions on its own.

Tax-exempt status on church-property places Baptists in particular, in a contradictory position in view of their historical concern for separation of church and state, he said. ▲

By
L. C. Johnson, President
Free Will Baptist Bible College

Our spirit of denominational hopefulness in the 1930's had to be translated into a program that would lead to establishment of an educational program to produce leadership for our churches.

God gave us certain men (and I will only name a few to illustrate) who were so dedicated to the cause of Christian education they were willing to make tremendous sacrifices for its realization: J. R. Davidson of Georgia, James F. Miller of Missouri, Melvin Bingham of Oklahoma, George Dunbar and J. L. Welch of Tennessee and L. R. Ennis of North Carolina.

There were others, but these men in particular worked many years creating interest in an educational institution and also developing among our constituency a belief that we could have such an institution.

PORTABLE BIBLE INSTITUTES

Brother L. R. Ennis led in a movement to establish portable Bible institutes. These were conducted across our denomination and capitalized on the spirit of hopeful-

Over My Shoulder

PART II

Road to the Beginning

ness brought about by the organization of the National Association in 1935. These institutes were two weeks in length but created a spirit of enthusiasm that would eventually lead to a formalized educational program.

There were very few men among us who had any kind of proper educational degrees to head such an institution. Various ones who had degrees were called upon to teach in the institutes.

I learned many years later that Brother Ennis used these young men, with whatever degree of training they had, with the purpose in mind of looking them over to determine which of them might be a good prospect to head an established, formalized educational program. I happened to be one of the young men Brother Ennis used.

Little did I realize when invited to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for a two-week institute that at the end of the session, Brother Ennis would express to me that he thought I should be the one to head the establishment of an institution in Nashville, Tennessee.

I was literally shocked at the idea and as far as I can recall, totally dismissed it from my mind as being preposterous. I had never thought in terms of any kind of educational

career. My college training had not been in preparation for such a task.

COLUMBUS VOTE

Out of these institutes the spirit had now grown to a point our elder statesmen felt the time had come to recommend to the National Association that such a school be established. This occurred in July, 1942 at Columbus, Mississippi.

These men of God who had served on the Board of Christian Education and worked since the formation of the National Association to begin a school were overwhelmed with emotion when the National Association approved their recommendation to establish Free Will Baptist Bible College.

I shall never forget these brethren calling me—a young man 28 years old—into a room and telling me they were convinced that I should head the movement. Even though I had no convictions of my own that I should undertake such a task—for I had not even considered it as a part of my life's plan—I felt I could not question the judgment of these godly men, even though I could not understand how they could come to this conclusion.

Thus I accepted the responsibility, but could only assume my duties in September due to other commit-

ments. The first day of September, 1942, I drove up in front of 3609 Richland Avenue, to the one building and to the 200 × 200 foot lot which constituted our campus at that time, to assume my duties.

I walked into an empty building with no desks, no books and little knowledge about how a school should be operated.

Brother L. R. Ennis had handled all correspondence with prospective students, and I knew little of what to expect in the way of enrollment. So in the early part of September, 1942, eight or nine students (we have never known exactly which) appeared on campus and constituted our original first semester student body.

Miss Laura Belle Barnard, who was on furlough from India, joined me as the other member of the faculty. Brother Henry Melvin, a local pastor, agreed to teach the few courses in music that we offered. Thus Free Will Baptist Bible College became an actuality.

How many there were who challenged that it could be a successful undertaking, I do not know. I do know that the building of a spirit of hopefulness had not been completed, but now must be translated into a living reality and proof provided that the undertaking could be successful. ▲

CONTACT

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Second class postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee

1979 Writers' Contests' Deadlines

March 5

**Sunday School and Church Training
Department Contest**

Send entries
with \$10 registration fee to:

Dr. Malcolm Fry
SS & CT Writers' Contest
P. O. Box 17306
Nashville, TN 37217

For further information
see December '78 *CONTACT*

March 1

WNAC Creative Writing Contest

Send entries to:

WNAC Writing Contest
P. O. Box 1088
Nashville, TN 37202

For further information see January-March '79 *CO-LABORER*

