

September 1986

Contact

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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More than 7,000 Free Will Baptists met in Tulsa's Convention Center for the Wednesday evening worship service.

Tulsa Convention Earns High Marks

By Larry Hampton

For the seventh time in 45 years Free Will Baptists traveled to Oklahoma for the National Association. This is the third time Tulsa has hosted the annual meeting. Conventions also met in Tulsa in 1955 and 1976.

Four things about this year's meeting made Free Will Baptists sing "Take Me Back to Tulsa."

First, consider the sweet spirit among conventioners. The wrangling characteristic typical of so many

recent meetings was absent. Things were so peaceful some wondered aloud if apathy had set in.

Second, most everyone seemed to enjoy the preaching. From the Sunday sermon by J. D. Norris, Jr. through the Wednesday night finale by Richard Cordell, most folks appeared pleased with the messages.

Third, convention music was outstanding. Blaine Hughes, music coordinator, has served with distinction the past 10 years.

Pianist Frank Breeden and organist Debbie Burden are to be commended for their work.

Danny Thomas, Cliff Donoho, Randy Sawyer, Joseph Cutler, Jerry Pilgrim, Raymond Lee and Blaine Hughes led spirited congregational singing. Such hymns as "He Lives," "To God Be The Glory," "Wonderful Grace of Jesus" and "All Hail The Power" set the tone for the services.

Special music really was special. Groups from Free Will Baptist Bible

College, Hillsdale FWB College and Southeastern FWB College represented their schools well.

The choir made up of Truth and Peace participants touched our hearts. The Mass Adult Choir directed by Doug Little excelled. After 10 years, the Men's Chorale seems better than ever. Vernon Whaley directs this group.

The Watchmen Quartet and Oklahoma Ministers Quartet are well known and well loved. (Unfortunately bass singer Jack Richey was unable to sing with the Oklahoma Ministers Quartet due to the death of his brother.)

1986 National Convention analysis was written by Larry Hampton, principal of Bethany Christian School, Norfolk, Virginia.

All convention photographs are provided courtesy of Bert Tippet, director of publications at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

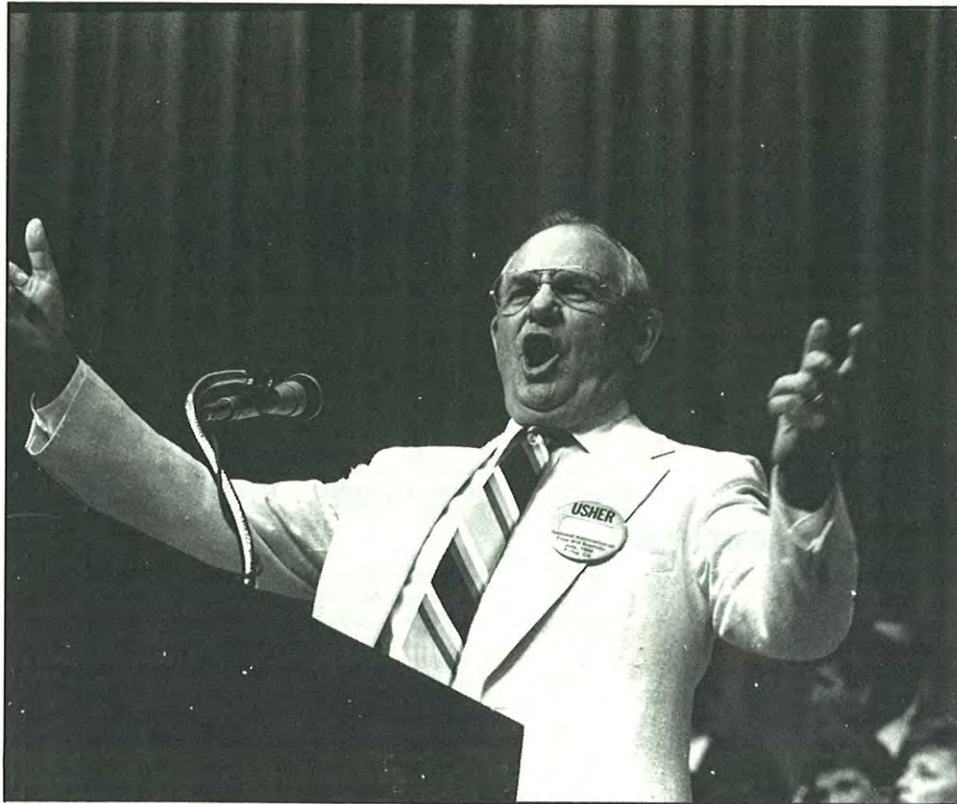
The Contact staff is grateful to Brother Hampton and Brother Tippet for their assistance in this special convention issue.



This year's soloists were superb—Beverly Riggs, Fred Hall, Malcolm Fry, Carla Williams and Ted Wilbanks. Dan and Teresa Runion also contributed greatly to our worship. And didn't we all enjoy Herman Hersey's piano solo?

Fourth, Oklahomans (and Tulsans in particular) were gracious hosts.

There are other reasons for giving this convention high marks. But I'll stop with these four. One more thing—Alabama, you've got your work cut out for you. God bless you as you prepare for next year's convention in Birmingham.



Usher Coordinator Raymond Lee (Greenville, N.C.) directs singing Tuesday evening.

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ELECTED IN TULSA 1986

The following were elected during the 50th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated.

GENERAL OFFICERS

Moderator Bobby Jackson (N.C.)
Assistant Moderator Ralph Hampton (Tenn.)
Clerk Waldo Young (Okla.)
Assistant Clerk Keith Burden (Okla.)

GENERAL BOARD

1987 Mark Vandivort (Ariz.)
Bob Thomas (Colo.)
Russell Lowe (Idaho)
Fred Jones (Mex.)

1988 Lloyd Morris (N. Mex.)
Tom Lilly (N.C.)
Jim Nason (N.E. Assoc.)
Paul Wood (N.W. Assoc.)
Delmar Sparks (Ohio)
Jack Richey (Okla.)
Earl Hendrix (S.C.)
Raymond Riggs (Tenn.)
Bobby Ferguson (Texas)
Dale Burden (Va.)
Carl Vallance (W. Va.)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1988 Tom Lilly (N.C.)
Jack Richey (Okla.)
Raymond Riggs (Tenn.)

BOARD OF RETIREMENT

1987 Lincoln Varney (Ky.)
1991 Roger Harwell (Mo.)

FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD

1987 Jerry Presley (Ill.)

1992 Joe Grizzle (Okla.)
Bill Jones (Texas)
Dean Dobbs (N.C.)

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE TRUSTEES

1992 Clarence Burton (Mo.)
W. B. Hughes (Va.)
Doug Little (Ark.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH TRAINING BOARD

1992 Connie Cariker (Okla.)
Edwin Hayes (Ohio)
Larry Clyatt (Ill.)

COMMISSION FOR THEOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

1991 Lonnie Skiles (Tenn.)

RADIO-TELEVISION COMMISSION

1991 Joseph (Sandy) Goodfellow (Tenn.)

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1991 David Joslin (Ark.)

Thank You For Your Contributions...



... Through the Cooperative Channel

Cooperative Channel Contributions

June 1986

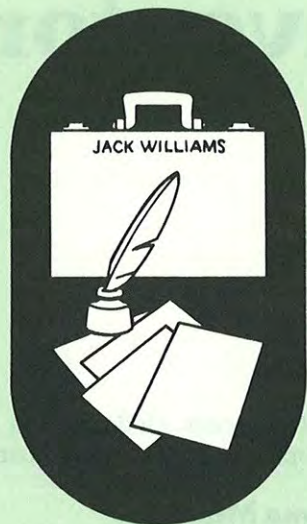
RECEIPTS:

State	Design.	COOP (Undesign.)	Total	June '85	Yr. to Date
Alabama	\$67.17	\$20.00	\$87.17	\$1,339.00	\$5,046.79
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	20.40	71.29
Arkansas	.00	4,151.75	4,151.75	3,826.24	25,175.17
California	50.00	1,087.22	1,137.22	974.96	5,157.70
Florida	.00	1,435.14	1,435.14	1,001.34	11,835.72
Georgia	4,461.42	.00	4,461.42	3,700.15	26,680.54
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	190.72
Illinois	7,195.03	1,007.25	8,202.28	6,886.10	44,340.35
Indiana	633.96	.00	633.96	516.58	3,255.56
Kansas	.00	14.13	14.13	50.95	359.20
Kentucky	.00	301.46	301.46	106.20	2,638.94
Michigan	2,709.29	1,919.15	4,628.44	4,340.11	30,367.60
Mississippi	39.25	339.85	379.10	10.25	2,538.83
Missouri	1,682.43	9,342.43	11,024.86	8,058.85	48,687.39
New Mexico	23.44	11.72	35.16	67.76	247.31
North Carolina	1,640.40	690.00	2,330.40	605.00	12,998.77
Ohio	373.30	2,270.00	2,643.30	2,636.00	14,879.10
Oklahoma	29,867.94	8,707.22	38,575.16	28,099.55	244,608.23
South Carolina	2,369.15	.00	2,369.15	.00	7,840.81
Tennessee	186.59	985.27	1,171.86	1,094.41	9,842.79
Texas	5,917.09	533.17	6,450.26	8,685.29	44,517.88
Virginia	140.00	20.00	160.00	197.12	2,813.65
West Virginia	2,246.74	257.12	2,503.86	3,411.67	19,224.18
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	18.00
Totals	\$59,603.20	\$33,092.88	\$92,696.08	\$75,627.93	\$563,336.52

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$479.09	\$14,307.85	\$14,786.94	\$14,136.41	\$88,721.62
Foreign Missions	43,991.03	4,320.55	48,311.58	36,463.78	285,732.70
FWBBC	1,884.61	4,320.55	6,205.16	6,251.21	38,629.98
Home Missions	11,213.13	3,381.32	14,594.45	10,890.24	101,040.16
Retirement & Insurance	105.81	2,629.91	2,735.72	2,582.49	15,892.21
Master's Men	27.57	2,442.11	2,469.68	2,390.86	14,378.21
Commission for Theo. Integrity	20.48	187.82	208.30	198.89	1,238.56
FWB Foundation	13.18	1,127.13	1,140.31	1,099.09	6,975.58
Historical Commission	25.06	187.82	212.88	198.89	1,240.77
Radio & TV Commission	55.06	187.82	242.88	193.63	1,441.62
Hillsdale FWB College	1,697.37	.00	1,697.37	1,188.17	7,647.47
Other	90.81	.00	90.81	34.27	397.64
Totals	\$59,603.20	\$33,092.88	\$92,696.08	\$75,627.93	\$563,336.52

Briefcase



The Hammer

Frank stole a claw hammer in New Mexico 14 years ago while employed at a construction site. He can't forget it. Frank's a Christian.

He says he never intended to steal the hammer or anything else for that matter. He'd driven to the local outlet of a nationally-known lumber company to pick up supplies.

As he waited for a clerk to fill his order, Frank idled through the displays admiring the tools. He absently dropped a \$13 hammer into the utility loop of his overalls. It felt good. He wanted one. The clerk called his order.

Next thing Frank knew he was back on the job with a new hammer. He planned to return and pay for it. He made three more trips to the lumber company but never paid for the hammer. He didn't know how to pay for it without admitting he'd stolen it.

Whenever Frank saw an 84 Lumber sign, guilt stabbed him. He considered sending a check or money order but kept postponing it. Some time later, Frank's work carried him to Atlanta, Georgia. He left New Mexico with that hammer theft gnawing at his conscience.

Then matters got worse. Frank rented an apartment in the suburbs. To his horror, he discovered an 84 Lumber outlet across the street from the grocery store where he shopped.

Every time he bought groceries, Frank stared at that big-as-a-barn 84 Lumber sign. He says it was God's way of reminding him that his account was not settled. Still, Frank delayed coming to terms with the stolen hammer.

But one day last fall, he wheeled into the 84 Lumber parking lot, marched inside and asked a clerk to show him the hammers.

Frank's heart pounded like a race horse in the stretch run. Then he saw it! The same claw hammer he'd stolen 14 years ago, except that the price was now \$18.

He picked up the hammer, stepped to the check-out counter and asked to speak with the manager. The manager was gone for the day.

Frank looked the clerk in the eye (a new employee no more than 19 years old), swallowed hard and told his story. The clerk paled when Frank confessed to stealing a hammer in another state 14 years earlier and now wanted to pay for it.

The clerk didn't know what to do, and stammered that company policy didn't cover such matters. But Frank remained adamant.

He wrote a \$20 check to pay for the stolen hammer. The flustered clerk stuttered that nothing like this had ever happened before. Frank left his story, his phone number and his address in case the manager wanted to contact him. At last, he was free.

For Frank, his happiest moment came 30 days later when his check to 84 Lumber cleared the bank.

He says that for the first time in years he can drive past an 84 Lumber sign without feeling like a thug.

He learned something valuable through it all—the righteous have a hard time getting comfortable after doing wrong.

In Frank's case, no one discovered his theft. Except God. No one pursued. But Frank heard footsteps every time he passed an 84 Lumber sign. He committed the perfect crime. However, his Christian conscience never slept, never forgot.

Frank hid his sin for 14 years. If you ask him, he'll tell you there's a better way. It's called confession and restitution.

But the story doesn't end yet. There's more. You see, the theft didn't occur in New Mexico. It happened in California. The thief didn't move to Atlanta. He moved to Nashville. Frank didn't steal the hammer. I did.

And that's hard to admit publicly even after the healing of confession and restitution. I'm the guy who couldn't drive by an 84 Lumber sign without looking over my shoulder.

Proverbs 28:1 puts it so bluntly, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth...."

Now that I've regained the Lord's favor, perhaps it's your turn, dear friend. Does an unconfessed hammer hang somewhere in your closet? ▲

General Board



Taking Inventory

Clerk Waldo Young repeats a motion for General Board members.

The General Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists convened Monday, July 21 at 9:00 a.m. in the Tulsa Excelsior Hotel. Following Moderator Bobby Jackson's devotion from Jeremiah 17, Clerk Waldo Young took roll. General Board members and proxies were seated.

The Executive Committee report was read and each item approved. Among the items approved was a recommendation that the National Offices Management Committee be authorized to investigate the possibility of selling present national office property, relocating and building new facilities without any indebtedness to the National Association, and report their findings to the Executive Committee in its December meeting.

The General Board also authorized the Executive Office and the Foreign Missions Department to do a feasibility study concerning the possibility of

organizing an International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists.

Finally, the Board recommended Fort Worth, Texas, as the 1996 national convention meeting site.

Executive Office

Melvin Worthington, executive secretary, gave the Executive Office report. He stated that the Hymnal Committee is on schedule with research and preparation to publish a new Free Will Baptist hymnal in 1988.

Target 90, the five-year growth campaign adopted during the 1985 national convention, has been approved by 22 states.

Contributions through the Cooperative Channel for 1985 totaled \$938,278.56. Of this amount, \$374,804.51 was undesignated and \$563,474.05 was designated. Since 1979 designated giving has increased

by 318 percent. Undesignated giving (Co-op) has increased by 257 percent.

Home Missions

Roy Thomas, general director of Home Missions, related that a total of 58 missionary families served under the Home Missions Board during 1985. They labored in Canada, Mexico, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and 53 cities in 29 states. More than 1,500 conversions were recorded on the various fields. According to Thomas, eight new missionaries have been commissioned since January 1986. Five mission works became self-supporting.

Free Will Baptists have eight chaplains. There is an opening for another Free Will Baptist Air Force Chaplain.

"Roll Call Sunday" was observed on March 31, 1985, with 2,598 churches recording a total attendance of 208,049. This was an increase of 10,057 over "Roll Call Sunday" in 1984.



General Board members and visitors gather for Church Planters Rally.

In 1985 Free Will Baptists gave a record \$1,799,406.55 to Home Missions. The Church Extension Loan Fund swelled to \$700,000.

Master's Men

"In 1955," began Jim Vallance, general director of Master's Men, "Executive Secretary Stan Mooneyham declared a need existed for a layman's organization. That convention met at the Will Rogers High School auditorium in this city." Thirty years later Master's Men are busily working "All Together To Advance Christ's Kingdom."

The first Master's Hands Projects were completed in 1985. Men working with missionary builder Howard Gwartney constructed churches in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Elkhart, Indiana.

Project Tool Shed continued to assist missionaries. Over \$1,200 was given to missionaries in four countries.

Retirement

During 1985, pension fund assets increased 22.7 percent or \$15,410 a week, according to Herman Hersey, general director of the Board of Retirement and Insurance. Pension funds topped the \$5 million mark on July 1, 1986.

Foundation

The FWB Foundation was founded in 1980 to "establish equitable and continuing support through planned giving" of all aspects of denominational ministry. Herman Hersey directs the Free Will Baptist Foundation. In his report, Hersey noted that the Foundation may receive trusts of approximately \$300,000 in the near future.

The Benevolent Committee, which was started in 1984, will continue to operate for another year. The purpose of the committee is "to receive gifts toward the unpaid medical expenses of those who were in the Religious Employees Association's Plan." All funds received are administered jointly by the Executive Office and the Board of Retirement and Insurance.

Foreign Missions

This was the first time R. Eugene Waddell has reported to the General

Board. Waddell became general director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions in April when Rolla Smith retired. Waddell called the year a period of "transition, trials and testings."

Free Will Baptists now have 115 missionaries in eight countries. National workers continue the ministry in Cuba. An average of 5,000 people attended services each Sunday at 162 churches and missions in these countries where Free Will Baptists are laboring.

Gifts to Foreign Missions totaled \$2,518,547 in 1985. This was an increase of \$153,053 over the previous year.

Free Will Baptist Bible College

Free Will Baptist Bible College has been in operation for 44 years. For the

launched to eliminate this deficit and strengthen the college's financial base.

Sunday School & Church Training

According to Roger C. Reeds, general director, the Sunday School and Church Training Department introduced three major new products in 1985—Randall House Maps, a Free Will Baptist history book, and the blue hymn book.

Reeds indicated that the department plans to use computers extensively. In particular, all typesetting will be done by computer. Graphic Text Organizers will be employed by the typesetters. They will also do layout on these machines.

Randall House hopes to market its products in Australia, Canada and England. In addition, contacts have



General Board members W. H. Patterson (Ind.), Raymond Higgs (Tenn.) and Robert Owen (Fla.).

past seven years Charles A. Thigpen has led the school.

President Thigpen reported a total enrollment of 428 for the 1985-86 school year. He revealed that the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies program is being phased out. The Master of Ministry degree seems to have a broader appeal and is much less costly to administer.

Total gifts to the Bible College for the year came to \$790,650.38. Despite the generosity of the denomination's churches and individuals the college incurred a deficit for the second straight year. The school ended the year \$163,119 in the red. A two-year, \$2.5 million campaign has been

been made which may lead to Randall House products being used by 2,000 Black Free Will Baptist churches. Sales of Spanish curriculum are increasing.

The first volume of the new commentary should be available before the end of the year.

Curriculum sales last year totaled \$1,655,891.65.

The General Board voted for members of the Executive Committee to study ways to coordinate departmental projects so there will not be so many at one time.

Having completed all the items on its agenda, the General Board adjourned at 11:47 a.m. ▲

Five Men . . . Five Messages



J. D. Norris, Jr.

Sunday Morning

Milton Fields had the largest adult Sunday School class in the denomination, Sunday, July 20. Conventioners gathered in the Tulsa Convention Center Arena at 10:00 a.m. to study God's Word.

Fields, pastor from Columbus, Mississippi, taught the lesson from Galatians 1. He stressed the need for maintaining the purity of the gospel.

Robert Owen presided. Danny Thomas led singing. J. D. Norris, Jr., pastor of Lake Jackson FWB Church, Lake Jackson, Fla., did the preaching. Norris' text was John 3:16. He spoke on the "forgotten Son." He pointed out that Jesus has been forgotten in His Word, His love, His promises, His method, His power, His death and His coming.

Sunday Evening

Millard Sasser presided. Cliff Donoho led singing. Carl Vallance, pastor of Central FWB Church, Huntington, W. Va., did the preaching.

Vallance spoke on the believer's completeness in Christ. A survey of

Colossians showed that Christ is all we need for redemption, for reconciliation, for comfort and all we need at death.

Monday Evening

Doice McAlister presided. Randy Sawyer led singing. Bob L. King, pastor of Cramerton FWB Church, Cramerton, N.C., did the preaching.

Before the message, Clerk Waldo Young called the 50th session of the National Association to order. He introduced Moderator Bobby Jackson who gave the report of the Committee on Committees.

Connie Cariker, Oklahoma executive secretary, welcomed conventioners to Tulsa and Oklahoma.

King's assigned topic was "Philosophy for Growth." He stated that people who build great churches know God, have the right philosophy of sacrifice, have the right philosophy of separation, have the right philosophy about souls, and have the right philosophy of service.

Tuesday Evening

Ralph Hampton, Jr. presided. Raymond Lee led singing. Frank Wiley, pastor of Sunnyside FWB Church in Del City, Okla., did the preaching. Wiley's theme was "Personnel for Growth."

He listed five characteristics of those God will use in church growth. They must confess who Jesus is, have the character of Christ, have the compassion of Jesus, have a commitment to Christ, look forward to His second coming.

Wednesday Evening

Billy Walker presided as more than 7,000 Free Will Baptists gathered to worship God. Blaine Hughes led singing. Richard Cordell, pastor of First FWB Church, Guin, Ala., did the preaching.

Roy Thomas introduced the home missionaries that were present. R. Eugene Waddell identified the foreign missionaries for the congregation. (Missionaries marched in behind the flag of the country where they serve.)

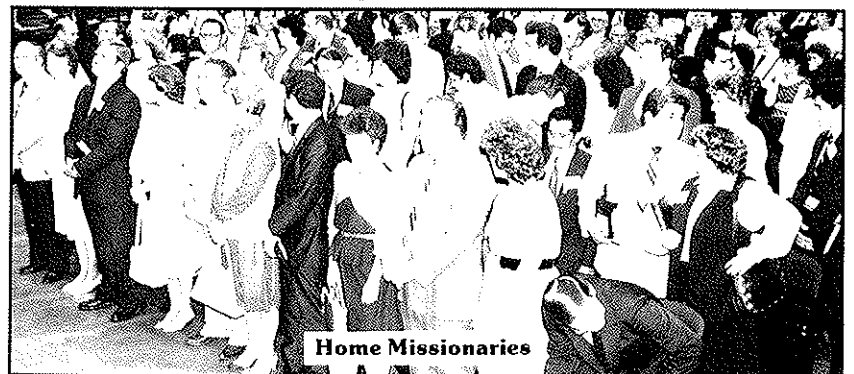
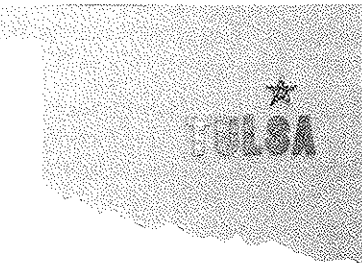
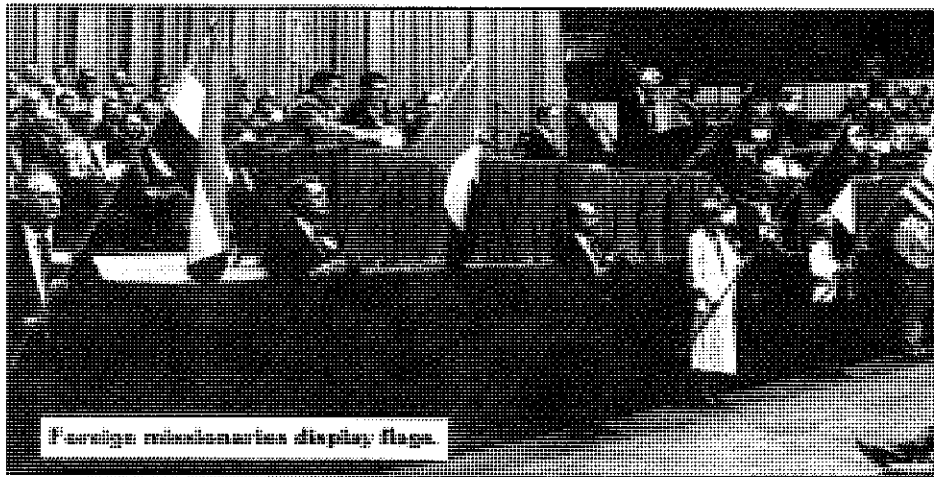
Conventioners gave more than \$19,000 in the annual missions offering.

The topic for the evening was "Program for Growth." As Richard Cordell developed the theme, he referred to a statement by Elmer Towns. He used Towns' observation as a challenge to increase soul winning. Towns noted, "Free Will Baptists are either immune to growth or infatuated with littleness."

Scores went forward at the conclusion of Brother Cordell's message on the need for greater involvement in evangelistic efforts. ▲



Richard Cordell



Bible Conference Recap

Four Preachers Preaching

R. E. Pixley, pastor of First FWB Church in Fort Smith, Ark., preached during the first service Tuesday morning. Pixley's sermon was based on Philippians 3:1-14. He urged listeners to look for the second coming of Christ. "Pre, post, or A, Jesus is coming again. Be ready." Frequent "Amen's" punctuated his sermon.

The second Bible Conference session featured **Brian Atwood**, pastor of Emmanuel FWB Church in Wabash, Ind. Atwood delivered a stirring appeal for excitement in church services. His message was titled "Sensation versus Stagnation."

Atwood believes excitement is the key to church growth. He quipped, "Some people go to church whether they need sleep or not." Atwood remarked, "A preacher who loses his enthusiasm will lose his people."

The Bible Conference then recessed for the WNAC Missionary Service. The Bible Conference reconvened following the lunch break.

A greatly reduced number assembled for the afternoon services. **Wayne Phillips**, pastor of Fellowship FWB Church of Flat River, Mo., was the first speaker of the afternoon. Phillips urged his audience not to lose

the wonder of conversion. He issued a challenge for believers to fulfill their duty to God (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

The final speaker of the day was **Nuel Brown**, executive secretary for the California State Association. Brown's sermon was taken from Philippians 3:13-16.

He developed five points: Dissatisfaction—"I count not myself to have apprehended" (v. 13). Devotion—"This one thing I do" (v. 13). Direction—"Reaching forth unto those things which are before" (v. 13). Determination—"I press toward the mark" (v. 14). Discipline—"let us walk by the same rule" (vv. 15-16). ▲

Scanning the Past, Planning the Future

At 9:00 a.m. Wednesday the denomination's yearly business conference began with the moderator's message. Bobby Jackson used Matthew 5:1-10 for his text. He pointed out that "church growth occurs when Matthew 5:16 is fulfilled."

The first item of business was reading the Credentials Committee report and seating the delegates. Next, the delegates heard a partial report of the General Board. Melvin Worthington gave the report of the Executive Office. He reported that the Leadership Conference will be held biannually with the next conference scheduled for 1987.

An All-Boards Conference will convene in December 1986. Board members will learn more about their role and responsibility at this meeting.

Worthington reported that Target 90 has been well received by the state associations. The overall goal for the campaign is a net increase in membership of 50,000 and the planting of 100 new churches by 1990.

The Home Missions Board report was presented by Roy Thomas, general director. Thomas reported an increase in giving of \$122,895.57 over 1984.

The Home Missions traveling team conducted 26 revivals on evangelism and church growth during 1985. Missionary builder Howard Gwartney helped construct two church buildings. An "Associate Missionary" program and a "Tentmaker" program were launched.

Phoenix, Arizona, has been designated as a target city by Home Missions. Their goal is to establish five new churches there before the National Association meets in Phoenix in 1990.

Jim Vallance, general director, reported on the Master's Men progress and goals. A "Decade of Discipleship" began in 1985. This year's theme

was "Committed to Christ's Commission."

Vallance shared his department's need for additional income. Approximately \$2,000 more per month is needed if the organization is to achieve its goals. The National Association approved a budget of \$84,450 for 1987.

The Board of Retirement has grown steadily since its beginning in 1969. During 1985, 42 new members joined the pension plan. Deposits to members' accounts increased by 77 percent.

Current pension fund assets stand at over \$5 million. General Director Herman Hersey stated that the fund increased at the rate of \$15,410 a week during 1985. Hersey assured delegates of the safety of these funds.

The administration of the department's hospitalization plan was turned over to the Allen Agency of Nashville, Tennessee. This step was taken because so few pastors are enrolled in the program.

Since the Free Will Baptist Foundation was created in 1980, over \$31,000 has been distributed to various denominational works. The two-fold purpose of the Foundation is "(1) to enable our people to better fulfill their stewardship obligation and (2) to accomplish together as a denomination what we cannot individually for a continuing support of the Lord's work." Herman Hersey serves as executive secretary of the Foundation.

Hersey also gave the report of the Benevolent Fund Committee. Approximately \$18,000 is needed to pay off unpaid debts caused by the failure of the Religious Employees Association. The work of the committee was extended for another year.

R. Eugene Waddell, general director, presented the report of the Foreign Missions Department. He listed the

following number of converts for each field: Brazil—96; France—24; India—114; Ivory Coast—371; Japan—10; Panama—116; Spain—24; Uruguay—62.

Free Will Baptists have 73 organized churches and 89 missions. The



Moderator Bobby Jackson

average combined Sunday attendance in these works is 5,056.

Waddell reported 30 ordained pastors in the various countries where Free Will Baptists labor. In addition, there are 57 licensed and lay preachers. We have eight Bible institutes with a total of 145 students.

Fourteen state associations have set goals for the Advance Celebration. These goals range from \$10,000 (Indiana) to \$140,000 (Virginia).

Waddell revealed that the Foreign Missions Board is considering the possibility of work in Australia.

Following lunch Assistant Moderator Ralph Hampton read scripture and led in prayer. Charles A. Thigpen then gave the report of Free Will Baptist Bible College. The college enrolled 428 students during the 1985-86 school year. This figure includes 24 graduate school students.

Each of the last two years the college has ended its fiscal year with a deficit. Thigpen explained that the problem centers in a decline in enrollment. Four years ago the college had 748 students. So although gift income has increased, student income has decreased drastically.

Also, the Graduate School has been costly. The M.A.P.S. degree is being phased out. The Master of Ministry degree is being offered instead.

President Thigpen predicted a balanced budget next year. Several steps have been taken to bring this about. A salary freeze has been imposed on all positions for next year. Some employees have taken voluntary salary reductions. Certain jobs have been eliminated. These measures will save the college \$242,000 over the next year.

The college has launched a two-year, \$2.5 million fund raising campaign. During that time the college will operate under a unified budget.

Next, Roger Reeds, general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department, gave his report. He announced that this department will continue to work toward a nine-year cycle for the adult Sunday School curriculum and a six-year cycle for teens. The department also plans to make a significant revision of Church Training materials.



Ernie Lewis (center) votes during business session.



Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington reports.



K. Eugene Waddell presents his first report as Foreign Missions director.



Usher Wesley Smith (Okla.) tallies votes with Clerk Waldo Young.

SCANNING PAST (From page 11)

Dale Burden and Alton Loveless were recognized for 12 years of service as board members.

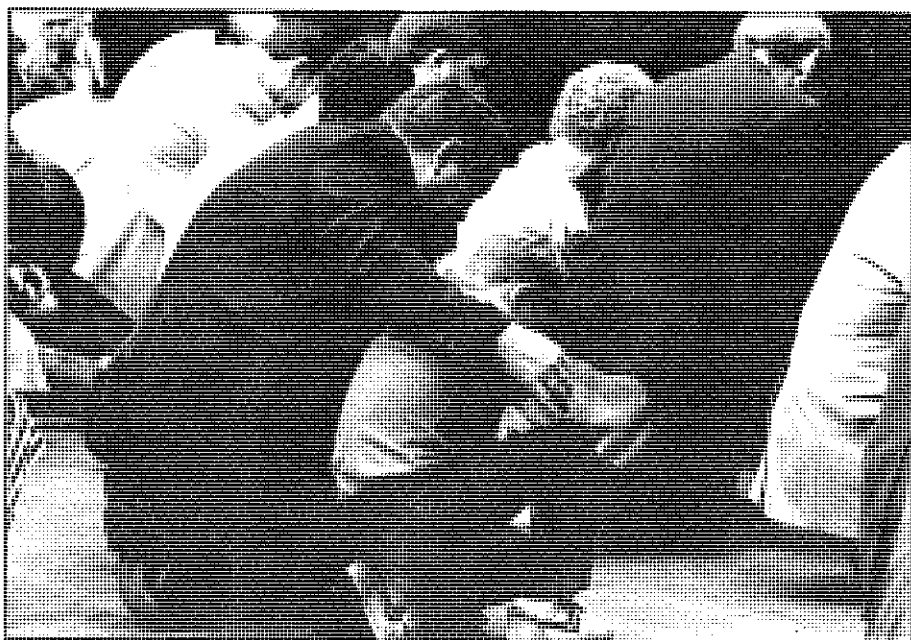
Spanish-speaking Free Will Baptists gave Reeds a plaque for his work in beginning the Spanish curriculum.

The report of the Commission for Theological Integrity was given by Fred Hall. According to Hall, the commission plans to publish a booklet on denominationalism as well as an annotated bibliography on the cults. Workshops on areas of concern to our people will be scheduled for centralized locations.

George C. Lee, chairman of the Radio-TV Commission, reported to the convention. Lee announced the resignation of Tom Malone, speaker for "Victorious Faith." Bob Shockey has been employed as the new speaker. The program is now 15 minutes long rather than 30. Lee stated that this format change would make it easier for a church to sponsor the program. "Victorious Faith" is currently heard on five stations.

Lee made a plea for immediate financial support. He also urged delegates to air the program in their localities.

Next, delegates heard the final report of the General Board and approved the feasibility study by the Executive Office and the Foreign Missions Department regarding an International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists. Delegates also voted to meet in Fort Worth, Texas, for the 1996 national



The most important business at the convention.



Oklahoma General Board member Jack Richey

convention.

After lengthy debate, the body authorized the Executive Committee along with the General Board to act upon the recommendation by the Management Committee study regarding selling the present national offices building and relocating.

At approximately 4:00 p.m., the business session recessed.

Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m., conventioners assembled for the final business session. Keith Burden, assistant clerk, read scripture and led in prayer. The delegates then got down to business.

Mary R. Wisheart gave the report of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention. A total of 1,008 registered for this year's convention. That figure included 15 missionaries from seven countries. Membership in Woman's Auxiliary climbed 362 in 1985 to 10,294.

Dr. Wisheart announced that *Co-Laborer*, the official WNAC magazine, will be increased in size. The periodical will also be published six times per year instead of four.

In other action taken during the WNAC meeting, delegates voted to raise \$50,000 over the next five years to build churches abroad. The "Eunice Edwards Fund for Churches Abroad" is named in honor of the first full-time WNAC Executive Secretary.

WNAC received \$134,810.83 in cash and non-cash gifts for missions



Southeastern FWB College Trio

and missionary objectives during the last seven months of 1985. The WNAC theme for 1988 will be "Them Also I Must Bring."

David Joslin presented the Historical Commission report. He noted that Free Will Baptists have both "a godly and goodly heritage. It is the work of the Commission to preserve the record of this heritage."

The Commission plans to publish and distribute the *50-Year-Record* before the 1987 national convention. The *50-Year-Record* (1935-1985) will include a general history of the National Association since 1935, minutes from the 1985 convention, individual department and agency histories, the three major 1985 convention addresses and appropriate pictures.

Randall House Publications will print 3,200 copies of the *50-Year-Record*. Each local church will receive a complimentary copy of the 150-page book. Approximately 700 copies of the publication will be available for purchase.

The Resolutions Committee suggested two resolutions which were adopted. One resolution stated the denomination's opposition to alcoholic beverages. The other expresses the convention's thanks for the hospitality of the Oklahoma State Association.

A third resolution proposed from the floor was also adopted. This measure voiced support for the President's Commission on Pornography.

The final report of the nominating committee was read and general officers elected. All officers were retained: Bobby Jackson, moderator; Ralph Hampton, Jr., assistant moderator; Waldo Young, clerk; Keith Burden, assistant clerk.

A motion calling for a rising vote of thanks for the general officers was approved.

At 9:44 a.m., Robert Picirilli made a motion to adjourn. Bobby Jackson recalled the words of Pastor Fred Hanson, "Football games are not won in the huddle but on the line." Jackson then added, "The national convention is the huddle. Your local church is the line."

Following dismissal prayer by Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington, the huddle broke up and the players returned to the line. ▲

1986 Convention Tapes Available

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

The cost of the tapes is \$3.00 each. Payment must accompany order. Select the tapes you wish to order by circling the number and place the quantity desired in the appropriate lines.

Tape Number	Subject	Quantity
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CONVENTION MESSAGES

1. J.D. Norris, Jr.
2. Carl Vallance
3. Bob L. King/"Philosophy For Growth"
4. Frank Wiley/"Personnel For Growth"
5. Richard Cordell/"Program For Growth"

CONVENTION BIBLE CONFERENCE

6. R.E. Pixley
7. Brian Atwood
8. Wayne Phillips
9. Nuel Brown

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

10. Howard Gwartney/NYC Keynote Service
11. Jeff Stegall/Youth Seminar-A/"Friendship"
12. Dean Stone/Youth Seminar-B/"Developing Spiritual Gifts"
13. Blaine Hughes/Youth Workers Dinner

WOMAN'S NATIONAL AUXILIARY CONVENTION

14. WNAC Seminar/"Women and Church Growth"
15. Vada Lee/WNAC Devotional
16. Sherwood Lee/WNAC Missionary Service
17. Cleo Pursell/WNAC Fellowship Dinner

MEET 'N' EAT

18. Billy Melvin/Hillsdale College Luncheon
19. Kevin Parrish/Master's Men Breakfast

MISCELLANEOUS

20. Bobby Jackson/Moderator's Message
21. Roy Thomas/Church Planters Rally

Please Complete the Following:

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Heard in Tulsa

"Do you want to get on God's 'A' honor roll? Be a soul winner."

-Richard Cordell-

"If your church is no different from others in your town, folks might as well draw straws to choose which church to attend."

-Bob L. King-

"Charismatics do not have a corner on the Holy Spirit. Independent Baptists do not have a monopoly on soul winning."

-J. D. Norris, Jr.-

"The last nation before damnation is stagnation."

-Brian Atwood-

"We get caught up in the theology of the coming of Christ and forget the fact of His coming."

-Nuel Brown-

"Knowing God and pleasing God cannot be a secondary or casual concern for any of us."

-Bobby Jackson-



Things the Convention Could Have Done Without

- People milling around during the services
- Children running in and out of the arena
- Clapping at the end of Frank Wiley's excellent sermon
- Scorching hot weather

Worth Noting

- Attendance on Wednesday night 7,393
- Missions offering \$19,860.56
- Phoenix, Arizona, has been designated as a Home Missions target city. Plans call for establishing five new churches in this metropolitan area over the next five years.
- Master's Men is celebrating 30 years of service during 1986.
- Contributions to national ministries totaled \$5,634,007.92 during 1985.
- Welch Library at Free Will Baptist Bible College has 50,341 volumes.
- Hundreds of Free Will Baptists attended a national convention for the first time this year.

Breakfast Anyone?

Music Ministries

Tuesday morning the Tulsa Excelsior Hotel hosted the Music Ministries Breakfast. Minutes of last year's business meeting were distributed as well as a treasurer's report. Phil Long was chosen as vice president of Music Ministries to replace John Neal who resigned. President Doug Little presented an update on the work of the Hymnal Committee. The new hymnal is to be published in 1988.

Twelve members of the Men's Chorus sang two selections from their new album—"Brethren, We Have Met To Worship" and "Lean on Me."

Master's Men

The annual Master's Men breakfast was held Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. in the Tulsa Excelsior Hotel. Howard Gwartney, home missionary to Phoenix, Arizona, provided special music for the occasion.

Kevin Parrish, administrator, Northside Christian Academy, Stockton, California, was the featured speaker. Before delivering his address on knowing God's will, Parrish, a former newspaper editor, shared five hints for helping get church news printed.

Parrish's message was perceptive and practical. He counseled his listen-

ers "to listen to God, study His Word, pray, be patient and avoid disobedience" in order to know His will. He then listed 10 guidelines to follow in discovering God's will.

Raymond Lee, chairman of the Master's Men board, announced the Layman of the Year. Wendell Leckbee, a deacon in First FWB Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas, won this year's award.

Jim Vallance, general director of Master's Men, noted that 59 men had become LifeMembers of Master's Men prior to the convention. Funds from these memberships are placed in a trust with the Free Will Baptist Foundation.



Convention Bookkeeper Melody Hood smiles over the offering.

1987 BUDGETS ADOPTED

Executive Office	\$ 335,038.31
Executive Church Bonds	10,000.00
Free Will Baptist Bible College	1,863,000.00
Foreign Missions	3,518,900.00
(Includes \$160,000.00 Advance Budget)	
Home Missions and Church Extension	1,850,000.00
Master's Men	84,450.00
Retirement and Insurance	200,590.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation	19,750.00
Sunday School and Church Training	2,586,500.00
Radio and Television Commission	9,900.00
TOTAL	\$10,478,128.31

1986 REGISTRATION

National Convention	4,207
Ministers	833
Missionaries	77
State Delegates	106
Local Church Delegates	139
Standing Delegates	17
Non-Delegates	3,035
National Youth Conference	1,330
Woman's National Auxiliary Convention	1,008
TOTAL	6,545

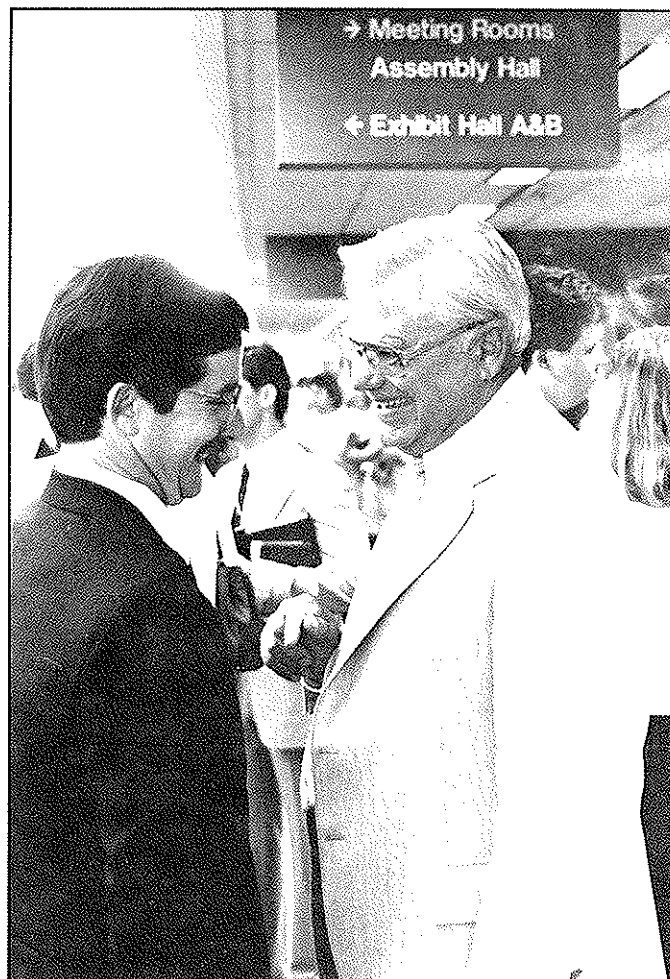
1987 CO-OP ALLOCATIONS

The Budget Committee recommended that gifts received through the Cooperative Plan be allocated to the national ministries* on the following basis:

1. Underwrite the Executive Office administrative budget above those gifts received directly.
2. Disburse the balance of undesignated funds to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

Free Will Baptist Bible College	23%
Foreign Missions	23%
Home Missions	18%
Board of Retirement and Insurance	14%
Master's Men	13%
Free Will Baptist Foundation	6%
Commission for Theological Integrity	1%
Historical Commission	1%
Radio and Television Commission	1%
TOTAL	100%

*All national ministries receive funds through the Cooperative Plan except for Executive Church Bonds and the Sunday School and Church Training Department which are self-sustaining.



Oklahoma moderator Jerry Dudley (R.) shares a chuckle with Tim Rolen (Calif.).

God's Wonders For Tomorrow

By Lorene Miley

If you've wondered why there's such an organization as the Woman's Auxiliary, the annual convention in Tulsa should have shown you: Missions. The two-day conclave held in Tulsa's Excelsior Hotel and Convention Center helped women to anticipate God's wonders on fields white already to harvest.



Missionary speaker Sherwood Lee

Fifteen missionaries from seven countries participated in the WNAC activities, beginning with a Monday afternoon growth seminar. Leaders such as Diane Thomas (NC), Martha Everson (GA), Linda Harvey (OK), and Tillie Oliver (OK) shared practical helps for enlarging our ranks.

Following the seminar, over 50 state presidents and field workers met with Executive Secretary-Treasurer Mary R. Wisheart and the WNAC Executive Committee to preview the auxiliary work for next year. President June Rolan appointed committees from the leadership to transact the convention's business.

An air of expectancy filled the Assembly Hall Tuesday morning as delegates and visitors packed the auditorium designed to seat 1500. Sherwood and Vada Lee, missionaries from Ivory Coast, gave the missionary emphasis during the morning session. Delegates remembered interceding for Sherwood and his medical staff during the spinal meningitis epidemic and rejoiced in his improved physical condition.



President June Rolan

The creative arts contest continues to fuel WNAC's literature fires. Twenty women were honored from among the 147 who submitted 402 entries in the five categories: art, articles, plays/skits, poetry and programs.

The afternoon session featured a missionary presentation titled "The



More than 1,200 women gather in the Tulsa Assembly Hall.



Presidents and Field Workers conduct annual meeting.



Mary R. Wisehart

Wonder of Children." Starlet Holmes set the mood as she directed the Oklahoma Women's Choir in several missionary compositions.

Lynette Morgan drafted other Ivory Coast missionaries to depict a typical children's class. Charolette Tallent and Cathy Crawford illustrated the wonder of children in France. This presentation overlapped into Linda Callaway's from Spain.

Judy Lytle modeled her Panamanian costume as she burdened us for

children south of the border. Molly Barker, veteran missionary to Uruguay, concluded with a challenge to reach a new generation as we anticipate God's wonders for tomorrow.

The first expected wonder should come as delegates approved enlarging *Co-Laborer* to a magazine for every Free Will Baptist woman, not just auxiliary members. Although costing only a few cents more, it plans to incorporate the Leader's Packet, the Minister's Wife newsletter, Communicator and the annual catalog. Watch for the first issue in 1987.

For the first time in many years, WNAC recommended a national project. This revolving loan fund for overseas land and building honors Mrs. Eunice Edwards, WNAC's first full-time executive secretary-treasurer, for her keen interest in missions. Four large mission buildings around the world now stand as a monument to

projects completed during her time in office.

This \$50,000 supplement to the states' existing missionary projects is designed to stretch over five years. With more than 10,000 dues-paying members, this averages \$1 per person yearly.

Mrs. Cleo Pursell, beloved lady of auxiliary, closed WNAC's activities as she addressed the 900 guests attending the Fellowship Dinner in the Excelsior Hotel's International Ballroom. A rising expression of appreciation concluded her terse, moving message.

During the Tulsa convention, we caught a glimpse of God's wonders for tomorrow with a possibility of His soon return. We left with a sense of expectancy and face the future in anticipation. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Lorene Miley is the editor of Co-Laborer Magazine.

**Welcome
to WNAC
Registration!**



1986 NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE REVIEW

By Jim Lauthern

Hearts and treasures abounded at the 1986 National Youth Conference. The plaza level of Tulsa's Westin Hotel housed most activities and competition. The theme, "Treasures of the Heart" from Matthew 6:21, was emphasized in many ways.

The Nashville Youth Evangelistic Team opened the conference with a special "Treasures of the Heart" program for youth during the Sunday School hour. Morning worship featured Len Davenport, staff member of the Youth Ministries Division at Randall House Publications.

The Sunday evening afterservice involved over 600 youth in an action-packed "treasure hunt" group activity.

Each morning of the four-day conference started with various youth workers sharing in "heart treasures" devotionals.

Two banners and treasure chests overflowing with gold and red hearts welcomed the 1,330 youth registrants. A special "Ye Olde Treasure Chest" booth provided competition materials and numerous "heart" souvenirs.

The Monday evening youth service in the Assembly Hall at Tulsa Convention Center featured Howard Gwartney as keynote speaker. At the conclusion of the message, praying youths filled the front of the hall. There were over 100 voices in the mass youth choir.

The Greater Tulsa Association Youth Evangelistic Team provided a skit, testimonies and special music. David Brawley from First FWB Church in Norman, Oklahoma, was featured youth service soloist. The 1,300-seat Assembly Hall overflowed with youth.

After the Monday evening service, the 1986 YouthFest presented Lisa Wallace and Doug Little in a musical concert.

Bible Competition and the Music and Arts Festival were outstanding

this year. The Pamplico, South Carolina, Bible Bowl team and the Albany, Georgia, Bible Tic Tac Toe team won first place. Bible Sword Drill winners included: grade six, J. R. O'Neal, NC; grade five, Lori Ann Locklear, NC; grade four, Kendra McMahan, NC. Bible Memorization winners were: grade three, Chrystal Edwards, OK; grade two, Jeremy Maxwell, AL; grade one, Katie Anderson, TX.

There were 109 Bible entries and 377 Music and Arts Festival entries. Competition was conducted Monday and Tuesday. Final Bible competition was held Wednesday morning. The Awards Celebration was held Wednesday after the evening service.

The Tuesday evening youth banquet featured a melodrama presented by participants of the Truth and Peace Youth Leadership Conference. The 750 attendees enjoyed a late evening meal, light-hearted drama and music, and great fellowship.

Wednesday afternoon provided two youth seminars, new Guidelines

seminar, and a youth sharing service of singing and testimonies. Youth workers gathered for a Wednesday afternoon meal and were challenged by Blaine Hughes on the subject of "Reaching Youth."

Children's activities throughout the conference included a Heart Hunt, Marshmallow Blast, parade, puzzle time, movies, sharing service, reader's theatre production, picnic and many other activities.

A special thanks goes to all the NYC staff members, volunteer workers, judges, section leaders, activities leaders, musicians and speakers who helped make NYC '86 a great success.

Special services, competition, wholesome fun activities, new friends, renewing old friendships, combined to provide an atmosphere of learning, serving and growing in the Lord. Many youth left the conference with a new zeal and purpose and with new treasures of the heart. ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jim Lauthern serves as director for the National Youth Conference.



Truth and Peace choir sings.

The personal side of the Tulsa Convention

Homecoming Every July!

By Ruth Creech Mullen

"I'm torturing my kids so I can see my friends," I explained over and over as I pushed Luke in the stroller while Laura tagged along behind. Both of them tired of the convention long before I did. It probably isn't the place for kids as I heard so many say. But I can't stay away. It's in my blood.

When we planned our Tulsa trip, I didn't expect to enjoy the entire convention. An eight-year-old and a not-quite-two-year-old definitely limit my attendance at meetings. I intended to see my friends and enjoy what I could, forgetting the rest.

How did it go? I didn't have to cook, wash dishes or clean house. That's reason enough to go for a housewife with small children.

Luke was sick until Tuesday noon, so I spent lots of time in the hotel room. Dr. LaVerne Miley made a "room call" to reassure me that Luke only had a virus. Nap time each day meant more time in the room away from the action.

My husband, Jim, took nap time duty on Tuesday and I attended the Woman's Auxiliary session. He strolled Luke during two night services so I could hear the sermon. Laura pushed Luke while I chatted with old friends. My sister helped out one night.

Was it worth it? Yes! My roots and sense of belonging to the Free Will Baptist denomination revolve around the national convention. I've attended nationals since I was a kid. Dad loaded the station wagon every July and off we drove to Little Rock, St. Louis, Fresno, wherever.

This year we were together again—Mom and Dad, Elizabeth and her crew, Rebecca and Mark, and my clan. Paul was the only one missing. (He will marry a wife soon and therefore he could not come.) We visited Mom's relatives in Oklahoma City before heading to Tulsa. It was a family reunion.



Did I see my friends? Yes, loads of them!

Mrs. Mildred Little babysat me while Elizabeth was entering this world. Later we became reacquainted when we worked in the Newport News, Virginia, church.

Dr. Wade Jernigan and Dad have taken opposite sides on every issue ever raised at a national, I'm sure. Yet he's a dear friend both to Dad and us kids. (Doesn't that say something remarkable about my father?)

Rebecca Pugh became a friend at nationals long ago when we were sprouting wings of independence and could be away from our parents some.

Phil Ange goes back to the eighth grade and all through high school and college days. We were on the 1971 Bible Bowl team that won the national competition.

Margie Halliburton Patton and I were best friends for four years at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Dr. Lorenza Stox was on staff at Faith Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina, when Jim and I taught school there fresh out of college.

Rita McDuffy taught me how to pull my first-ever practical joke. We short-sheeted two preachers' beds (Thurmon Murphy and Roy Norie) at a Texas state meeting.

The Larry Wilson family were members of our church in Garland,

Texas, and we had not seen them in two years. Rev. and Mrs. Fred Dutton pastor the Garland Church now, so we caught up on news of our other friends there.

Rev. and Mrs. Herman Hersey pastored the Garner, North Carolina, church when Jim got saved, and they lived next door to his family. My ties to them go so far back I can't remember their beginning.

Becky Williams spent the night at our house when the Free Will Baptist Bible College choir tour came through Arkansas in February.

Rev. Jim Purcell directed camp in Arkansas, and Laura made sure I saw him. That was someone she recognized.

It's a diverse group with ties of varying duration and different relationships. But they are my friends. And I'm glad I went.

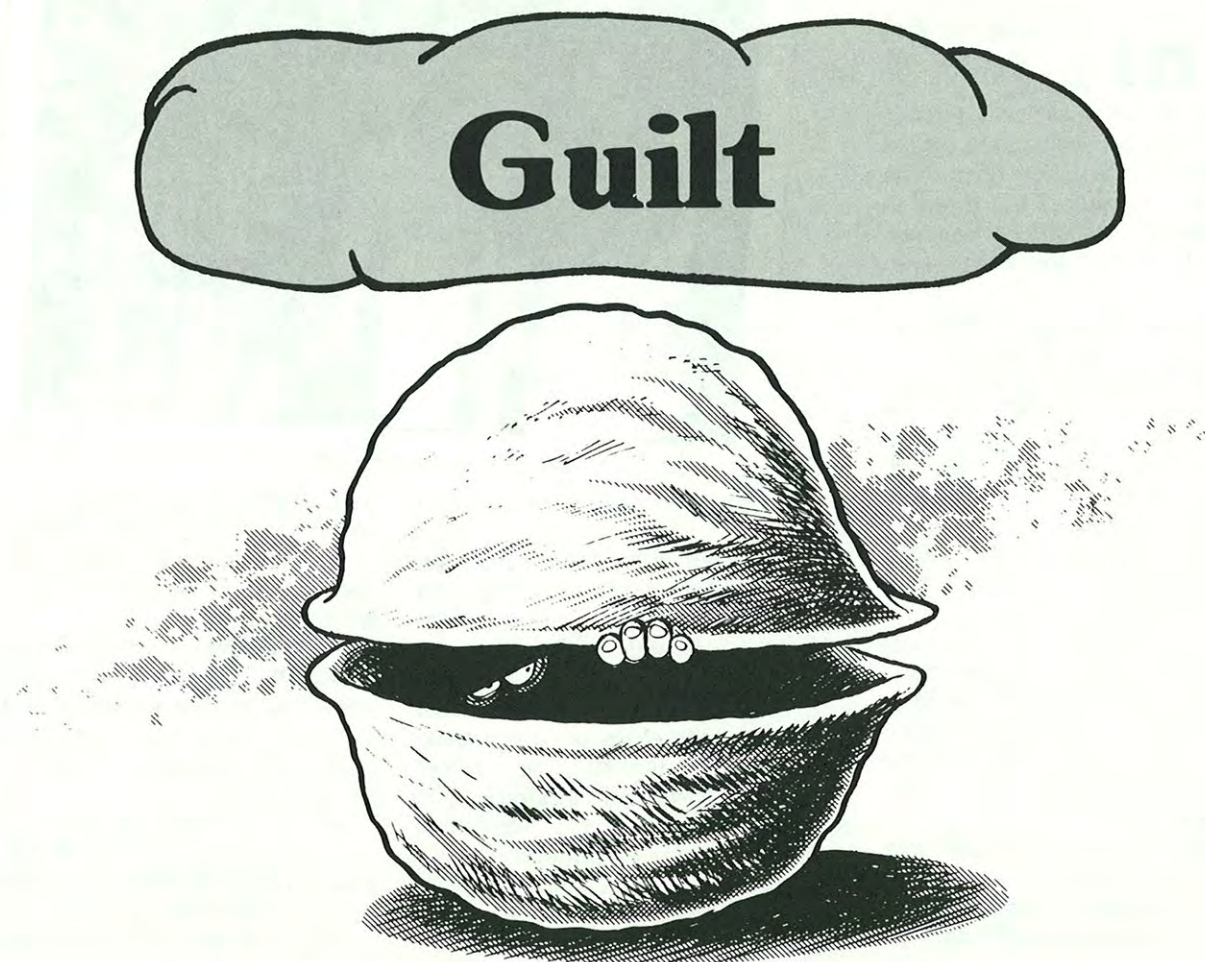
In years to come I want my kids to feel the way I do about the national convention. It's homecoming for me every year in July! ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Ruth Mullen is a member of Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas, where her husband, Jim, pastors. She is the daughter of Reverend Ronald Creech, director of development at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Part three of a five-part series.

Living With

Guilt



By Malcolm Fry

A man is carried in on a stretcher, and the people gawk at his twisted body and say "paralysis." But Jesus looks beyond the man's physical handicap and says "guilt." The scene is taken from Matthew 9:1-8.

People thought this man needed therapy, but Jesus said the man needed reconciliation with God. He recognized that the man's real problem was his guilt. In some inexplicable way this was tied to his paralysis.

Meaning

Guilt is an expression of the conscience which is a product of our

emotions. It is a feeling of disapproval. A sense of guilt occurs when we violate our inner code of conduct, such as at income tax time.

Conscience is an imperfect mental faculty. At times it condemns us for mistakes and human frailties that cannot be avoided. Then at other times it remains silent in the face of indescribable wickedness.

Individuals who suffer from extremely low self-esteem often feel the disapproval of God as well. This is particularly true of some who suffer from certain, and obvious, deformities.

No guilt should be considered to have come from God unless the

behavior was an expression of willful disobedience.

Manifestations

Guilt works like an inescapable video-tape machine that refuses to forget the mistakes we have made. It infects our relationships and makes us ill. It makes us paranoid and produces all kinds of spin-offs if it is not resolved.

Guilt has repercussions throughout one's body. In the New Testament, Jesus looked at physical conditions and saw them as a need for reconciliation. Health came as He touched that point.

Did you ever get a splinter in your finger or foot? Later it festers and your whole body wants to push it out in any way it can. Guilt is exactly like that. The particles of its debris lodge within us. They fester until they are pushed out.

So often the pushing urge spills over into our other relationships. We come to fear each other. We are afraid to look honestly into each other's eyes, and we become a little paranoid.

Further, guilt shrivels us and affects our physical health. The real roots of the nervous twitch, the morbid fear and the crippling depression are often found in a guilt-ridden recollection of the past. A conscience that's shriveled and infected spills over with dramatic internal repercussions. These internal responses can in turn filter down into tissue, muscle and bone, turning us into sick or immobilized persons.

Shakespeare speaks to the point in a line from Richard the Third, a very devious man. In one scene he soliloquized about the condition of his life: "My conscience has a thousand several tales, and every tale condemns me for a villian. Perjury, perjury in the highest degree. Murder, murder in the direst degree. All these several sins, all used in such degree, all throng to the bar, all crying, guilty, guilty! I shall despair."

Guilt is the same with us. It has the same destructive power. When guilt goes unsatisfied, life remains unwhole. Let's not deduce from this that all physical illness is a product of guilt.

Guilt comes in various ways. Sometimes it is a false guilt. False guilt is hard to pin down. It fails to focus on any specific action which is biblically wrong. False guilt needs no forgiveness, so there is no reason to confess it to God.

Sometimes through personal relationships, people dump their own guilt on us and it becomes ours. But if we carry this guilt, its oppressive effects will be the same as if it were our own.

Whatever bothers us is real, and we must bring it before Christ, just as they

essarily mean we are blameless before God.

Regardless of what we feel, the ultimate test of one's acceptability to our Lord is found in Romans 8:1: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,

Guilt

We are afraid to look honestly into each other's eyes and we become a little paranoid.

brought this man on the pallet. Unless we are forgiven there is no hope for happiness or strength or health. We can't get the scourge of guilt out of our system unless Christ ultimately touches you and me.

So let's face it—in order to be whole, we must recognize that guilt makes us sick.

Methodology

We cannot be justified in God's sight by balancing each evil act by a corresponding good deed. If we do, we'll soon be behind the proverbial eight ball. Guilt demands confession.

Confessions are a vaccine, keeping all the things of yesterday from lingering within and spoiling by staying on as old viruses of past diseases. We must get guilt out of our system by making confession (and retribution, if necessary) in order to become free.

The answer is Jesus Christ. We grasp this freedom by faith. Jesus said, "But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins...I say to you, 'rise, take up your bed and go home'" (Luke 5:24). Stand up and claim the forgiveness.

Perhaps you feel unworthy to have God do anything for you. You should know that this door is always held open by a nail-scarred hand. There is always room at the foot of the cross to find the complete healing of guilt. The healing is there—health and wholeness are still available.

Remember: all guilt is not harmful. It can be a powerful motivation for responsible behavior. God is not the author of all feelings of guilt. The absence of guilt feelings does not nec-

who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Our prayer should be, "Our gracious, forgiving, heavenly Father, I do want to wade into that healing stream that flows from the foot of the cross. My life has accumulated the dirt of the world. It has worked its way under my skin and left me scarred and marred with the residue of guilt. I hunger to hear Your voice saying, 'Your sins are forgiven.' So I ask forgiveness and am fully ready to make any restitution that will make me one with You and with all the others in my life. In the name of the One with the nail-scarred hands. Amen."▲



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Malcolm C. Fry pastors Unity Free Will Baptist Church, Smithfield, North Carolina.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

KENTUCKY NAMES EVANGELIST PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY

NAPLES, KY—Evangelist Tim York, based in Louisa, KY, was elected promotional secretary at the 47th annual Kentucky State Association June 20-21. Reverend York, a Kentucky native and a Free Will Baptist Bible College alumnus, succeeds former promotional officer Mike Carter.

Evangelist York (24) has conducted more than 200 revivals. In addition to his revival meeting ministry, he preaches on numerous radio stations.

Reverend Mike Carter (Turkey Creek) and Reverend James Kelly Caudill (Nippa) shared the moderator's gavel during the two-day meeting. Delegates then elected Mike Carter as moderator for 1986-87.

In other action delegates voted to incorporate the Kentucky State Association. In addition, the moderator appointed a five-man study committee to review the by-laws and make recommendations for revisions to the 1987 session.

Delegates rejected a proposal to amend the constitution and begin the state association business session on Friday, citing inconvenience to lay delegates who work five days a week.

Ohio Executive Secretary Alton Loveless preached the keynote address Friday evening from Acts 9. Jack Williams preached Saturday morning.

The 1987 association meets June 19-20 at Grayson FWB Church.

MARYLAND HONORS LESTER HORTON

NEW CASTLE, DE—Delegates to the 20th annual Maryland State Association surprised Moderator Lester Horton with a plaque honoring his "30 years of faithful service" to the Free Will Baptist denomination.

The plaque was awarded during the June 19-21 session conducted at the Free Will Baptist Church in New Castle, Delaware. Reverend Horton has not missed a quarterly meeting in 30 years. He pastors Fairwood FWB Church, Fairfax Station, Virginia.

In other action delegates adopted Target 90 and the Foreign Missions Advance Celebration. They also endorsed Reverend Jim Sasser as a joint-project home missionary to establish a new church near Andrews

Air Force Base. The state has more than \$10,000 in a special fund to begin the work.

Pastors David Reese and Vergel Maness received awards of appreciation for establishing new churches in the state association.

Four sermons punctuated the business activities. Three preachers developed the program theme, "Responding to Our Responsibilities"—Pastors Bob Breeden, Steve Bevan and Curtis Byrd. Foreign Missions Overseas Secretary Jimmy Aldridge addressed the Friday Woman's Auxiliary session.

The 1987 state association meets June 25-27 at Bloss Memorial FWB Church in Arlington.

LEADERS ATTEND TWO— DAY PRAYER RETREAT

NASHVILLE, TN—Leaders from the eight Free Will Baptist national agencies laid aside administrative duties July 1-2 and spent two days in prayer and fellowship at Henry Horton State Park near Nashville.

The 48-hour prayer vigil focused on the national convention, specific agency needs and the future of the denomination. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington said each leader gave a 30-minute presentation of his area of responsibility which was followed by a season of prayer for the work.

Participants included Charles Thigpen—Free Will Baptist Bible College, Roy Thomas—Home Missions, R. Eugene Waddell—Foreign Missions, Herman Hersey—Board of Retirement/FWB Foundation, Mary Wisheart—Woman's National Auxiliary, James Vallance—Master's Men, Melvin Worthington—Executive Office, Roger Reeds—Sunday School and Church Training.

Executive Secretary Worthington praised the compassionate and cooperative spirit that prevailed. He said the group discussed tentative plans to make the prayer retreat an annual event preceding the national convention.

HAYES, SPARKS TO LEAD OHIO

COLUMBUS, OH—Two Ohio pastors, Edwin Hayes of Columbus and Delmar Sparks of Westerville, answered the state's call to lead the 146 churches and 10,000-plus members in church growth and association business at the June 26-28 meeting in Columbus.

Delegates to Ohio's 48th annual state association elected Reverend Hayes as moderator for 1986-87. He pastors Columbus First FWB Church. Reverend Sparks, Ohio's General Board member, was named to coordinate Ohio Target 90 activities. Sparks pastors Westerville FWB Church.

Two hundred registered for the three-day meeting at Heritage Temple FWB Church. They heard three sermons developing the association theme, "Walking With God in Fellowship."

Association speakers included Home Missions Director of Development John Gibbs, FWB Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington and Ohio Administrative Assistant William Pitts.

The 1987 state association meets June 25-27 at Heritage Temple FWB Church, Columbus.

INDIANA TARGETS BLOOMINGTON FOR MISSIONS PROJECT

WABASH, IN—The Indiana State Association agreed to target the south central city of Bloomington for the next home missions project at its June 20-21 meeting. Officials expect to implement plans that will rally state-wide support for the new church.

The 26th annual session met at Emmanuel FWB Church in Wabash. Reverend Archie Ratliff moderated the meeting. New officers elected included: assistant moderator—Robert Helms; clerk—Glen Johnson; assistant clerk—Jeff Little; treasurer—Bill Gardner.

Reverend Ronald Creech (Free Will Baptist Bible College) preached the introductory sermon Friday evening. Chesterfield pastor James Forlines and Southeastern FWB College representative Joe Haas brought messages Saturday morning.

The 1987 session will meet June 19-20 at a site to be selected at a later date.

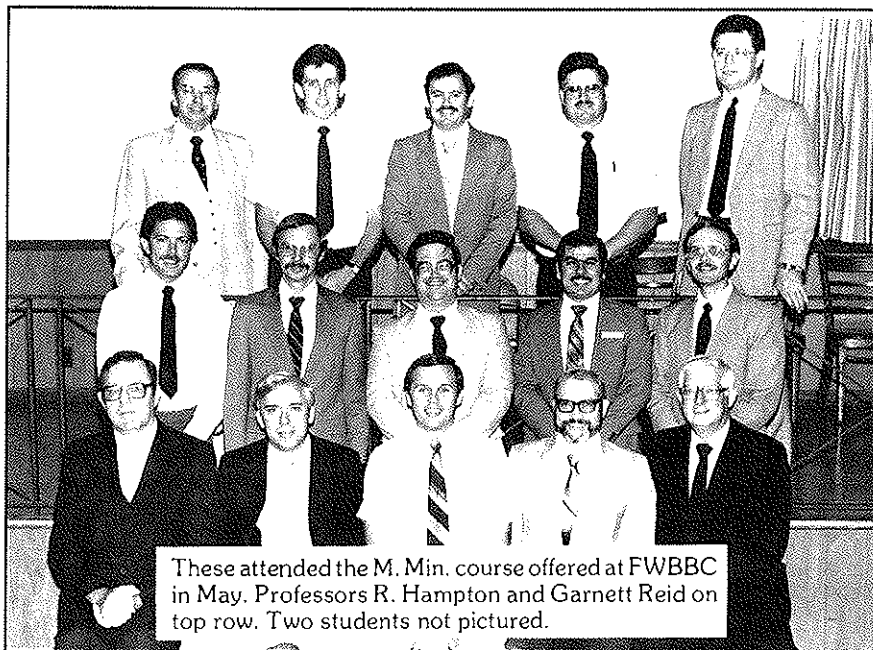
MOODY PRESS, RANDALL HOUSE CO-PUBLISH PICIRILLI BOOK

NASHVILLE, TN—Moody Press and Randall House Publications will co-publish a book about the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul. The eight-chapter trade paperback scheduled for release in October retails for \$7.95. Dr. Picirilli is Academic Dean at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

In his book, Dr. Picirilli combines features of the commentary approach, New Testament introduction and other technical studies to produce a comprehensive text. The book covers the life, times and epistles of Paul. It is titled *Paul The Apostle*.

The book studies Paul against the backdrop of Greco-Roman and Jewish cultures. A full perspective of Paul's life and ministry are gained through introductions and brief analyses of each Pauline epistle. The end result is a product suitable for pastors, teachers, collegiates and other serious students of the scripture.

Paul The Apostle will be available through Randall House Publications and other Christian bookstores throughout the nation in October.



These attended the M. Min. course offered at FWBBC in May. Professors R. Hampton and Garnett Reid on top row. Two students not pictured.

15 ATTEND FWBBC GRADUATE COURSE

NASHVILLE, TN—Fifteen Free Will Baptist preachers came to Free Will Baptist Bible College for a week of graduate study May 19-23, according to Ralph Hampton, dean of the Graduate School.

The course entitled "Preaching The New Testament," concentrated on the book of Ephesians. During the week of study, the preachers delved into the book, discovered its central truths and blocked out a series of messages to take home to their congregations.

This second course in the Bible College's new Master of Ministry program is designed to help preachers

who cannot leave the pastorate, but who want additional training.

The next two courses planned for the program are:

Pastoral Leadership
December 29, 1986-January 2, 1987

Pastoral Counseling
May 25-29, 1987

For more information on the Master of Ministry program, write or call:

Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 383-1340

CANADIANS ELECT HANSON TO EIGHTH TERM

HARTLAND, N.B., CANADA—Moderator Fred Hanson, pastor of Upper Brighton and Wakefield FWB Churches, was elected to an eighth term by delegates to the June 26-29 session of the Atlantic Canada Association of Free Will Baptists. Hanson also serves as General Board member for the Canadian churches.

In his moderator's message, Rev. Hanson spoke to the 300 worshipers at St. John Valley Bible Camp from II Corinthians 6:1-13. The delegation included 10 pastors and 29 lay delegates as well as visitors from the United States.

Holmesville FWB Church pastor Rev. Paul Creech was elected clerk of the association. Delegates recognized Dianne Antworth as Canada's first graduate from Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Rev. David Boggs, pastor of Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus, Ohio, keynoted the association worship services, preaching five sermons on victorious Christian living from the book of Joshua.

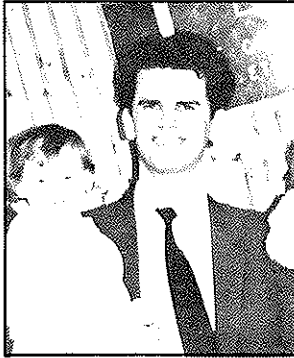
The 1987 session will meet June 25-28 at St. John Valley Bible Camp.



newsfront

(continued)

SOUTHEASTERN SETS NOVEMBER MISSIONS CONFERENCE



Tynevez



Kirkland



Coffey

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—Southeastern Free Will Baptist College will host its fourth annual Missions Conference, November 9-11, according to Lorenza Stox, dean of the school. The conference begins Sunday evening at 6:30 and concludes with the Tuesday evening service.

Speakers include Pastors Gerard Tynevez, Mickey Kirkland, Richard Cordell and Professor Raymond Coffey. Gerard Tynevez pastors the Free Will Baptist Church in Rennes, France. He attended Emmaus Bible College in Switzerland and was assistant to Joe Haas in the Bible Institute in France. His wife, Francoise, will

speak to the ladies during the conference.

Reverend Mickey Kirkland pastors Lighthouse FWB Church in Montgomery, Alabama. The church, begun as a mission work under Kirkland's leadership, grew to a self-supporting church in four years.

Dr. Richard Cordell pastors First FWB Church in Guin, Alabama, and for years has coordinated the successful Alabama Missionary Conference.

Professor Raymond Coffey teaches on the faculty at Southeastern FWB College. He also chairs the Department of Biblical Studies.

30 ATTEND BIBLE COLLEGE MUSIC CAMP

NASHVILLE, TN—Thirty young people from 12 states attended Free Will Baptist Bible College's first summer Music Camp, held on campus June 3-29. The biggest delegations came from North Carolina (7) and Illinois (6).

The camp was directed by Rodney Whaley, director of FWBBC's Concert Choir. Other adult teachers in the camp included Richard McDonald and Ruth Slaten. Several FWBBC students also assisted.

After a week of group and private lessons and rehearsals, the campers presented Sunday morning programs at local Free Will Baptist churches. The final event of the week was a Sunday evening concert at Woodbine Free Will Baptist Church.

The college plans to repeat the Music Camp next summer. Watch for announcements of the date.

AD SPACE AVAILABLE FOR 1987 DENOMINATIONAL YEARBOOK

NASHVILLE, TN—Full or half-page ads in the 1987 Free Will Baptist Yearbook are available to Free Will Baptist churches, schools, colleges, institutes, bookstores, state offices, children's homes or other denominational agencies, according to H. D. Harrison at Randall House Publications.

Agencies may submit black and white glossy prints of their facility and pastor/officers for inclusion in the yearbook with the purchase of space. A full-page ad with two photos is \$100. One-half page ads are \$60. Additional photos are \$5 each.

A copy of the 1987 yearbook will be sent free to every church affiliated with the National Association of Free Will Baptists. In addition hundreds of copies are purchased by pastors and laypersons. Many travelers use the guide to locate Free Will Baptist churches and agencies when away from home.

The deadline for receiving copy and photos for inclusion in the 1987 yearbook is November 1, 1986.

Forms and further information are available from Randall House Publications, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact H. D. Harrison.

Jesus and the Bible

By Michael Rogers

I am convinced that if a man applied himself to studying and preaching only the four gospel accounts of Jesus—the words He taught, the examples He set and the deeds He performed—His ministry would end and He would still be thousands of sermons short of what could have been preached.

For you see, Jesus is all. The Old Testament is Jesus concealed. The New Testament is Jesus revealed. The Acts of the Apostles are in actuality the Acts of Jesus. The Epistles are the churches He built. The Revelation is what Jesus said was, is and is to come.

Nothing I can add can appeal to the hearts of men like Jesus can. All the

world's greatest men, its authors, poets, philosophers, scientists, statesmen and politicians cannot accomplish as much for mankind as Jesus can by His simple words of compassion, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

So preachers, preach the Old Testament for *reflection*, preach the Acts for *motivation*, preach the Epistles for *illustration*, preach the Revelation for *inspiration*, but preach the Gospels for the *glorification* of Jesus Christ! ▲

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Michael E. Rogers pastors Mt. Moriah Free Will Baptist Church, Ethelsville, Alabama.

Bethlehem FWB Church, Ashland City, TN, secured a 15-passenger Dodge van, according to Pastor **Tom Scott**. The church will use the van to transport community people to church.

The Master's Men Chapter at **First FWB Church, Blakely, GA**, led the congregation in remodeling church facilities. The Master's Men assisted in window installation, painting, pouring sidewalks, and building ramps for the handicapped. **Roger Russell** pastors.

Thirteen couples met at Freeland House in Apworth Forest Conference Center near North Webster, IN, in May for the second annual **Indiana Ministers' and Wives Retreat**. Activities included sports, fellowship and video seminars. The 1987 session will meet May 7-9 at Apworth Forest.

The June Vacation Bible School at **First FWB Church, Manchester, TN**, broke attendance records, says VBS Coordinator **Barbara Thrasher**. **Donnie Fletcher**, a newly-called minister, led a contest between the boys and girls to raise funds for Home Missionary Vernon Long. The group raised more than \$100. **Ray Cathey** pastors.

After serving six years as California's executive secretary, **Paul Kennedy** said he plans to participate in establishing a new Free Will Baptist church in Amador County in the Pioneer/Pine Grove area. Mr. Kennedy was elected moderator of the California State Association in June.

It happens once in awhile—members of **Garden Grove FWB Church, Garden Grove, CA**, learned that an individual the church had helped "get back on his feet" stole blank checks from the church check book and proceeded to forge and cash them for several hundred dollars. **Lynn Wood** pastors.

Pastor **E.B. Condit** estimated damage to **Campbell FWB Church, Campbell, CA**, during a recent fire at \$50,000. The fire originated in the baptistry area when a circulating pump overheated. The church met in the multi-purpose room of the educational wing for eight weeks until the auditorium renovation was complete.

Members of **Sherwood Forest FWB Church, El Sobrante, CA**, celebrated their 30th anniversary in May. Twelve charter members were present for the day's activities. The Sherwood Forest Church was home for California Bible Institute, the forerunner of California Christian College. **Milburn Wilson** pastors.

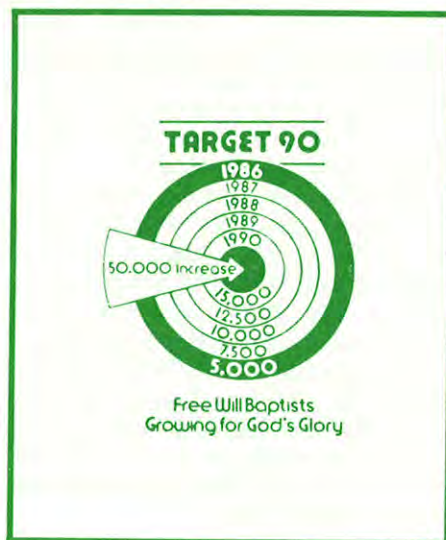
Pastor **Johnny Conyers** of **Center Point FWB Church, Vilonia, AR**, praised a group of youngsters he called "Preacher's Pals." The active youngsters raised more than \$300 for Free Will Baptist children's homes. Pastor Conyers said the group plans to make this an annual event at the church.

Pastor **Richard Cordell** celebrated 11 years at **First FWB Church, Guin, AL**, this summer.

Free Will Baptist minister **Arnold Woodlief**, Marianna, FL, baptized two inmates at Jackson County Jail in Marianna. Rev. Woodlief, the jail chaplain, said a Jackson County sheriff department lieutenant as well as the jailer assisted in the baptism by transporting the inmates from jail to Turner's Landing for the baptism.

Pastor **Earl Johnson** said members of **Poplar Hill FWB Church, Hemingway, SC**, invested \$20,000 in a church enlargement program. The renovation project expanded the 960-square-foot fellowship building to more than 1800 square feet. In addition, the men renovated the roof and bricked the exterior walls. Pastor Johnson said the fellowship building is now valued at more than \$55,000.

South Carolina Promotional Director **Norwood Gibson** spoke at **Tabernacle FWB Church, Coward, SC**, during "Senior Citizens Day." During the day's activities, several senior citizens taught Sunday School classes as well as assuming responsibilities as Sunday School superintendent. The church gave each senior saint a bud vase of flowers during the morning service. **Harry Cooper** pastors.



Members of **Free Welcome FWB Church, Conway, SC**, completed a major remodeling and expansion program adding 1600 square feet of floor space. **Pastor Brook Sykes** said the \$28,000 project included two classrooms, pastor's study, storage room and new hallways which connect the fellowship building with the auditorium/educational structure.

Mrs. **Kay Mourse** was elected president of the newly-organized senior saints program at **Faith FWB Church, Darlington, SC**. **Billy Vanderford** pastors.

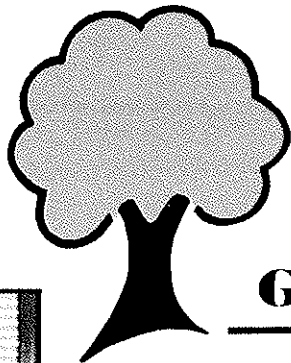
Darwin Wright, mayor of Anderson, SC, presented the key to the city to Pastor **Norris Hawkins** during dedication services at **First FWB Church, Anderson, SC**. The 3200-square-foot, \$74,000 structure began as a mission of Beaver Creek Association in 1980. The mission purchased 4.5 acres in 1982. The current facility includes a 120-seat auditorium with baptistry, five classrooms, a fellowship hall and multi-purpose area. South Carolina Promotional Director **Norwood Gibson** spoke during the Sunday morning services. Beaver Creek Home Missions Board member **Bobby Bowers** preached the dedication address.

The Beaver Creek Bible Institute (SC) graduated 22 students with three-year diplomas, according to Director **J.B. Smith**. Graduation ceremonies were conducted at **First FWB Church, Chester, SC**. Beaver Creek Bible Institute conducts classes at **Fairview FWB Church** in **Spartanburg** as well as **First FWB Church** in **Chester**. Instructors for the past school year included pastors **Tim Hackett**, **David Carter**, **Homer Arrowwood** and Mr. **Ralph Byars**. The Institute has completed 19 years of service to South Carolina Free Will Baptists.

Every conference in the South Carolina State Association has adopted the Target 90 program, according to Promotional Director **Norwood Gibson**. Each conference elected a coordinator to work with the state outreach efforts.

Pastor **Mike Mutchler** of **Grand View FWB Church, Oregon City, OR**, reports more than 50 conversions this year.

Contact welcomes "Central Communique," publication of **Central FWB Church, Royal Oak, MI**. **Milton Worthington** pastors. ▲



Green Tree Bible Study



Robert E. Picirilli

Acts 2:42-47

The Church in Acts—Character of a Growing Church

This little passage gives a most interesting description of the earliest New Testament church. As a summary, it emphasizes the features that marked the life of that church. No doubt these characteristics were essential to the growth epitomized in v. 47: "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Apostolic teaching (v. 42a)

"Doctrine" (Greek *didache*) means teaching. The teaching was that which was given by the apostles. It had authority because it originally came from the Lord. That teaching has been set down in the scriptures for us.

The true church is one that is constituted on and characterized by the practice of the teaching of Christ as handed down by His designated apostles. Christ's Word is the source of the life of the church.

Fellowship (v. 42b)

The Greek word thus translated (*koinonia*) means, literally, having in common. Christians stand on common ground in their experience of the saving grace of God. That makes them want to express their fellowship in various ways.

Two ways the early church expressed this commonality are given here. "The breaking of the bread" (literal translation) apparently means the observance of the Lord's Supper, which the early church probably celebrated in connection with a common meal together. "The prayers" (also literal) suggests that they had regular

times appointed to meet for prayer and worship.

Such things done together both demonstrate and promote fellowship. *Awe at the mighty work of God (v. 43)*

The word translated "fear" (Greek *phobos*) suggests a reverential wonder that stands in awe of God, apparently the same thing that is often called "the fear of the Lord" in both Old and New Testaments. This kind of fear causes one both to worship and to obey God.

Note that this awe of God was increased as a result of mighty works done through the agency of the apostles. The mighty works of God revealed in the scriptures increase our fear of Him. So do the mighty works that He does even yet, especially in the supernatural changing of people's lives by regeneration and sanctification.

Sharing a common lot (vv. 44, 45)

First, these verses say that they "were together." "Together" translates a phrase (Greek *epi to auto*) that refers either to being counted as part of the group, or to assembling together at appointed times and places. Perhaps each implies the other.

Then we read that they "were having all things common." Apparently, v. 45 illustrates what this meant in a practical way. When some had needs, others who had more than they needed were willing to sell and divide.

The point of the whole thing is that they regarded themselves as sharing a common lot in life, both before God and in the world. What affected one affected them all. They were part and parcel of one another.

Faithfulness to a common purpose (v. 46)

The "daily continuing" in the temple refers to the fact that those first Christians, Jews all, assembled daily at the Temple for the appointed times of prayer. Only, by common agreement, they met together at such times under "Solomon's colonnade" (cf. 5:12), which ran along the eastern side of the outer court.

Furthermore, they also met together, from one of their homes to another, for fellowship meals. Because they were thus united in their worship and fellowship, they took their food in joy and simplicity of heart.

Praising God (v. 47a)

This probably picks up on the last part of v. 46: the joy and openness of heart led naturally to praising God. They recognized in Him the source of all their blessings.

Favor with people (v. 47a)

They manifested such unity and joy that those around them could not help feeling favorable to them. In other words, they made such a favorable impression on others, with their behavior and attitudes, that it was easy to witness and influence people for the truth they preached.

We might also find the Lord adding to our churches on a regular basis if we were characterized the same way this early church was. We had better realize that the life of our churches is observed by the world around us. The impression we make on them affects directly our ability to influence them to our Lord.▲

Directory Update

CALIFORNIA

Nick Huntley to Elmwood Church, Stockton

FLORIDA

Jeff Lunsford to Friendship Church, Jacksonville from Mt. Olive Church, Davie

MICHIGAN

Roger Cooper to First Church, Hazel Park from Faith Church, Romeo

NORTH CAROLINA

Mike Harrell to Peace Chapel Church, Washington from Grace Church, Rocky Mount

SOUTH CAROLINA

Perry Lloyd to Bay Branch Church, Timmons ville

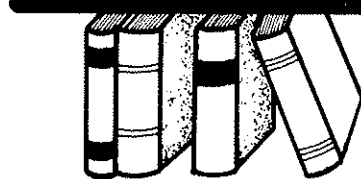
TEXAS

Gary W. Smith to First Church, Grand Prairie from Decatur Church, Decatur, GA

OTHER PERSONNEL

David Aycock to Bloss Memorial Church, Arlington, Virginia as minister of music and youth

Top Shelf



Thomas Marberry



Charles F. Stanley, *Confronting Casual Christianity* (Nashville, Broadman Press, 1985, 167 pp., hardback, \$7.95).

The greatest obstacle to church growth today is casual Christianity. Far too many Christians do not take seriously enough their commitment to Christ and His work. If more Christians get actively involved in the work of the Lord (including prayer, serving, giving and witnessing), the church would grow much more rapidly.

In this volume, Charles Stanley addresses this problem in a practical and biblical way. He begins by pointing out that apathy among God's people has been around since biblical times. He cites examples in both the Old and New Testaments of men and women who missed the blessings God wanted them to have because they were not totally committed.

Yet, this author recognizes that it is not enough just to talk about the problem. We must seek answers. In particular, there needs to be more emphasis given to preaching and teaching on commitment.

Stanley analyzes the biblical concept of commitment. He stresses that according to the New Testament a Christian does not just make a commitment to do something. He makes a commitment to a person, Jesus Christ. This commitment must be

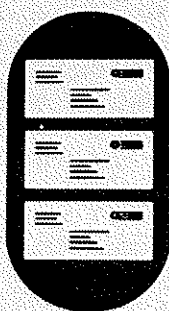
total and not partial; selective obedience is not real obedience.

God has always called people to commitment. The author considers the example of Moses and the call to commitment which Moses received. God did not call Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt until after he had undergone a long period of training and preparation. Total commitment requires preparation.

Stanley reminds us that our commitment will be tried and tested. We should view these times of trial as opportunities for further growth and development. During these times of trial we learn more about who we are and who God is. We learn more about God's grace and provision for us.

Some barriers stand in the way of commitment. Like Jonah we may resist the call of God in our lives. We may fear failure; we may fear the unknown. We may try to run from God or bargain with Him. These barriers must be overcome if we are to reach a point of total commitment to God.

This is a valuable book for our day and time. Our generation (and every generation) must learn the meaning of commitment. Authentic Christianity cannot exist without it. ▲



OUR READERS COMMENT

TIME TO AID OLDER MINISTERS

Once again the editorial hammer found a nail needing a great deal of attention. The article, "The View From Pisgah" (June 1986), by Steven Hasty was excellent. It is indeed sad to see so many of our senior ministers who have given their all to their churches and who are so soon forgotten.

The Bellview FWB Church is to be commended for their fine response to the retirement needs of Brother and Mrs. Dodd.

I know of another church that responded to their pastor's medical disability by ignoring the need. Their pastor's final hospital bill and his funeral expenses were substantially paid by a local Lion's Club.

I really don't know which is the more common response, however, I would suspect that the latter is far too common an experience.

Dr. Milton Fields, Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Columbus, Mississippi

LIKE MISSING A FRIEND

Enclosed is my \$9.00 check; please enter my subscription to *Contact* for one year.

I have not received *Contact* for two months and it seems as though I have missed a dear friend. Keep up the good work. *Contact* is surely a great Christian family magazine.

This is one Free Will Baptist who would like to say thanks.

Reverend Gary Smith, Pastor
First Free Will Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

TEEN Scene

The revised edition of *Guidelines* is now available. This book will be the official standard for the Music and Arts Festival and the Bible Competition for the 1987 National Youth Conference.

The publication reflects research from denominational input during the last three years. Many suggestions were considered in compiling this revision.

Here are some of the changes:

- Bible Memorization for grades one, two and three has been rearranged to more effectively meet age-level needs, and includes memory and devotional materials for each age level. The revised scoring system gives a broader base for judging.

- Bible Sword Drill for grades four, five and six remains unchanged in content. However, there are changes in drill procedure.

- Bible Tic Tac Toe and Bible Bowl competition remain the same.

The complete Bible competition system for grades 1-12 is quite comprehensive. Each level builds on the previous level. Bible Memorization and Bible Sword Drill assist the child in learning God's Word and learning how to properly use God's Word. The six-year program of Bible Tic Tac Toe and Bible Bowl takes a teen through the entire Bible.

- The Music and Arts judging form has been revised from a level of seven areas to four areas. This simplification will allow judges to concentrate on performance and give more time to record suggestions to the participant.

- Instrumental music has been rearranged in divisions.

- There are several revisions in the Creative Arts and Creative Writing categories.

There are also additions to the competitive materials.

- The Oral Communications category now includes individual competition in extemporaneous speaking, dramatic speaking, poetry, prose, puppets/ventriloquism and interpretation of scripture. Group entries include puppets/ventriloquism, dramatic duo, readers theatre and skits.

- A new category is Multi-Media. This will feature radio spots, slide programs, film, video and multi-image presentations.

- A division has been added to include large instrumental ensembles of bands and orchestras.

The revised edition of *Guidelines* may be purchased from Randall House Publications for \$4.95. Get your copy now and get involved in the Music and Arts Festival and the Bible Competition. ▲



Putting Away Childish Things

By Floyd Wolfenbarger

Childlikeness is a quality praised by Christ. In fact it is a condition for entering the kingdom. The mature man possesses a growing simplicity, an eager willingness to learn and an open trust.

I don't wish to discourage childlikeness, but I do deplore childishness, a very different thing. To be childish is to cling to interests and attitudes we should have outgrown.

A person can manage a farm, operate a business or govern a country and still be childish. I have observed that domestic break-ups, church splits, corporate collapses can often be blamed on childish attitudes.

This malady shows itself in resentment when our own plans are upset or our ideas are unadopted or when life doesn't play our game. Sometimes when misfortune shatters a cherished dream or family duty ties us to some narrow road, we get peevish. Such a childish spirit refuses to believe that God's plan for us is always greater and more fulfilling than to live in pursuit of the petty desires of the self-centered mind.

Another sign of the childish spirit is to be absorbed in things—in money, in possessions—and to lose the meaning of things. It's a child's way to spend his days playing with toys. So much of what is important—prayer, missions, soul winning—is neglected while we play with our toys. When our major interests in life are sports, possessions, money or the little successes that feed our pride, we are clinging to childish things.

It is childish to always take the short view. A child's woes are very real—to him! But maturity shows that they are trifles. Some day he will smile at what once brought tears. Such fretfulness cares for tomorrow, but the peace of God has eternity in view.

In childlike fashion, let us trust our loving Father while at the same time we put away childish things. ▲

Especially
For Young
Preachers

Save Money

"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest" (Proverbs 6:6-8).

The young preacher usually receives just enough income to live. Most preachers never save any money, but every preacher needs a savings program. Even if he has debts, he should establish and sustain a consistent method of saving money.

1. Fill out a form that authorizes your bank to transfer a certain amount from your checking account to a savings account each month. As little as five dollars is better than nothing. Do that today.
2. If you pay insurance premiums on a policy that accumulates cash value, you can borrow from the company periodically. Invest that loan at a higher interest rate. Pay the interest on the insurance loan yearly.
3. Buy a small piece of land. Buy stocks and sign up for the dividends to be re-invested to buy more stocks. Purchase a church bond. All the above can be done through a bank loan.
4. Many utility companies allow you to purchase tax-sheltered stock from them on a monthly payment plan.
5. Invest in an IRA, the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement or both. Just a few dollars each month add up to a large investment, if you start early in your ministry.
6. Prepare a budget each year. Keep a record of expenditures in a well-outlined book.
7. Seek income tax information for further savings. B. J. Worth's "Income Tax Law for Ministers" is published each year and provides excellent guidelines.
8. Be frugal (not stingy) and spend every dollar carefully. Try to buy nothing unless it is on sale.
9. Ask the Lord's guidance in your method of saving and your purchases. Trust Him to provide what you need.
10. Give a tithe of your total receipts to your church. Then always set aside funds each week for offerings.

Yes, the Lord may come before you reach retirement age. However, He may not. As a young preacher, live as if the Lord may come today, but make financial plans as if you will someday live off the investments and savings of your younger years. You'll be glad you did.

Next Month: Type and File Your Sermons.

Dennis Wiggs



BIBLE SOCIETY LEADER NOW PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—Philippine President Corazon Aquino appointed the president of the Philippine Bible Society, a partner of the American Bible Society, as her country's ambassador to the United States.

Having served his country as a legislator since 1949, Ambassador Emmanuel N. Pelaez has long been active in a number of Christian organizations including Prison Fellowship International.

Bible work on a systematic basis began in the Philippines 86 years ago, but the American Bible Society made its first contact with the Islands in the 1820s when it dispatched a gift of scriptures in Spanish.

TEXAS STATE COURT WILL DECIDE IF BUILDING SITE IS PLACE OF WORSHIP

DALLAS, TX (EP)—Is church property that will be used for a house of worship subject to property tax while the church building is under construction? That's the question a Texas state district court will answer in a case involving First Baptist Church of Richardson, Texas, and the Dallas County Appraisal District.

The appraisal district says the church was not using its facilities as a regular place of worship at the beginning of the 1985 tax year, and therefore is liable for about \$100,000 in taxes. Church leaders contend that the facilities have been used for worship, and therefore should be exempt from taxation.

Construction on the church's new \$13 million facility has been underway for about two years.

"The case can have far-reaching effects on the establishment of new missions if money given for missions is required to be diverted to government coffers in the form of property taxes," warned attorney Gary Nash, a member of the church's finance committee.

Roy Armstrong, lawyer for the appraisal district, contends that until the church is completed and used regularly for worship, it is not tax-exempt, but he admits, "There really aren't any cases like this that have been decided under the property tax code."

Nash notes that in 1951 the Texas Supreme Court ruled that a charity hospital in Houston qualified for tax exemption even while under construction because without construction work there would be no charitable clinic, therefore the construction qualified as use of the property for religious purposes.

BOOK DETAILS FINANCES OF MORMON CHURCH

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (EP)—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly known as the Mormon Church, has an estimated \$8 billion in assets and annual revenues of \$2 billion, 75 percent of which is from tithes, according to a new book.

The Mormon Corporate Empire is probably the most comprehensive book ever published about the finances of the Mormon Church, which uses its great wealth to finance aggressive outreach programs.

Authors John Heinerman and Anson Shupe don't disapprove of the church's financial strength, but they do question the secrecy of Mormon finances.

Many of the church's holdings are concentrated in areas which combine profit and power. The church owns \$548 million worth of communications assets, including two television stations, a daily newspaper in Salt Lake City, \$54 million of Times Mirror Co. stock, and holdings in book and movie companies. The church also operates the world's largest private satellite system.

Most of the church's wealth lies in real estate, including 1,528 square miles of farmland, the nation's largest ranching enterprise. The church also owns canneries, granaries and flour mills, all of which contribute to the church's goal of self-sufficiency.

The Mormons also have large insurance investments, including Beneficial Life Insurance Company. And they own \$190 million of blue chip stocks ranging from AT&T, IBM, and Marriott (the Marriotts are Mormons), and another \$255 million in utility stocks.

According to Heinerman and Shupe, the church's current investment strategy reflects a belief in the coming millennium. They claim that Mormon financial managers are liquidating long-term holdings in favor of short-term notes and Treasury bills.

CALIFORNIA PASTORS WILL ENFORCE WEDDING STANDARDS

MODESTO, CA (EP)—Minimum standards for couples who seek weddings will be adhered to by 63 pastors in Modesto, California.

The standards require a four-month minimum waiting period, during which at least two counseling sessions must be completed by the engaged couple. Modesto clergy signing the agreement explained that this was because "couples who seriously participate in premarital testing and counseling will have a better understanding of what the marriage commitment involves."

Jim Tally, singles minister at Modesto's First Baptist Church, suggested the adoption of marriage preparation standards. "It's too easy to get married," he explained, "therefore there are too many divorces."

HINDU ZEALOTS PERSECUTE CHRISTIANS IN INDIA

CUTTACK, India (EP)—An organized group of Hindu zealots launched a statewide campaign of harassment and persecution against missionary evangelists and Hindu converts to Christianity in Orissa, India, according to the World Literature Crusade.

Members of the RSS, a group of Hindu believers who worship the traditional gods of Hinduism, are reportedly paid to incite local villagers throughout the state to oppose Christians in their communities.

"Believers are being harassed by the RSS in every way," says Bijoy Roul, the assistant director for Every Home Crusade in Cuttack, India. "The children of believers are not even allowed to attend local schools unless they forsake the Christian religion."

Two thousand RSS delegates from around the state recently gathered in the city of Cuttack for a rally in which strategies for harassment of Christians were planned. "The leader of the group openly criticized Christianity and its activities," reports Bijoy. "We do not know what the situation will be in the future."

"EHC workers have met with scattered opposition from Hindus and Moslems in India since the first Every Home Crusade was launched in 1964," recalled Dr. Dale Kietzman, president of World Literature Crusade. "But this most recent upsurge in organized RSS opposition could escalate into a major problem."

BIBLE STILL SCARCE COMMODITY IN CHINA

LOS ANGELES, CA (EP)—Non-members of the government-recognized Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) in China still find it practically impossible to obtain Bibles, although TSPM officials claim Bibles are available, according to Open Doors News Service.

According to Open Doors, evidence of rampant discrimination against house church members was recently illustrated in a case involving believers living in Zhejiang Province, where they number more than 300,000. According to a recent visitor to China, preachers from the largely rural province were allowed to purchase 600 Bibles from the TSPM Church offices in the city of Wenzhou. Upon returning to their village the next day, they were told by security police that their lack of membership in a recognized church made them ineligible to buy Bibles. The Bibles were seized and their money was not returned.

Believers attending the TSPM church in Kunming told the visitor that "it has been a long time since they received any Bibles, there is a great shortage and there isn't much hope of getting any more in the immediate future."

While the Chinese government has approved the printing of a specified amount of Bibles in an agreement between the International Bible Society and the Three-Self Church, Open Doors expressed doubts that supplies will meet current demands. Much demand for Bibles is being created by revivals sweeping throughout the country. ▲



THE SECRETARY SPEAKS

By Melvin Worthington

Thoughts in Tulsa



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Free Will Baptists

The 50th annual convention in Tulsa had special significance for me. This unusual and unique convention caused me to review and reflect on Free Will Baptist history. Ours is a distinctive and distinguished history. We'd do well to never forget it.

Our *heritage* came to mind. Free Will Baptists of the past laid a solid, sufficient and strong organization. Denominational distinctives were marked and maintained. Our heritage includes a simple and scriptural organization; a spiritual, sacrificial and systematic outreach; and clear, concise and consistent objectives.

Our *hopes* also came to mind. While we presently emphasize church growth on the Target 90 campaign, I recalled that our purpose for existence includes church growth. Our *Treatise* confirms that "the Free Will Baptist denomination is a fellowship of believers united in attending the witness of Christ and the building of His Church throughout the world."

The Realization

Participating in convention proceedings made me keenly aware of the wide diversity among Free Will Baptists. We came from 40 states to Tulsa, and yet our diversities seemed to make us one.

The *musicians* brought different sounds and styles to the convention stage. That made the music outstanding, music that spoke to the hearts of attendees. There was music to fit the musical tastes of all Free Will Baptists.

The *ministers* further demonstrated the diversity which character-

izes us as a denomination. Each communicated with a naturalness consistent with his personality. May we be delivered from the smallness which demands sameness.

The *subjects* were different. Although all preached the Word, each emphasized a specific truth. Together, they hammered the themes of servanthood, sacrifice, separation and soul winning. Listening to the messages made me aware of the balance which is essential in the work of God.

The *spirit* of each preacher was different. Some were loud, some soft. Some were slow and deliberate while others were excited and humorous. Nonetheless, each preacher did what he could to minister to the convention. Every message was outstanding to somebody.

The Resolutions

As the speakers spoke, the singers sang and the business transacted, God stirred my heart. I resolved by God's grace to do some things.

I resolved to give loving and loyal allegiance to my Lord. My relationship with Him must be maintained at all

cost. Nothing must detract, detour or damage that unique relationship. I must trust Him and obey Him.

I further resolved to express *appreciation* for all God's children, and especially members of the Free Will Baptist fellowship. Criticism, complaining, censuring and condemning of God's child has no place in the conversation of the Christian. It takes effort to express appreciation. May God help me to appreciate my brethren.

I also resolved to give *greater attention to witnessing*. As salt, light and ambassadors for the Lord, the program of the Church demands that we evangelize, educate and edify. Thank God for the emphasis of this convention which made me once again conscious of my responsibility as an ambassador of and witness for Christ.

I finally resolved to be more *agreeable*. Disagreeable Christians often hinder the work of God. There's a place for questions and honest disagreement. The true test, however, is the spirit which prompts such disagreements. Free Will Baptists would be better off if we did not feel it was a sin to be agreeable. While our convention must not be characterized by compromise and complacency, we can also do without needless confusion and conflict.

Being agreeable does not mean we are apathetic or headed toward apostasy. Nor does disagreement mean that we distrust and despise one another. This convention reminded me that it is possible to disagree agreeably.

Perhaps Tulsa was the first step in learning how to trust one another again. ▲

The Secretary's Schedule

September 2-6	Convention Planning Trip Birmingham, Alabama
September 12-13	Texas Pastors and Couples Retreat San Antonio, Texas
September 14-17	Peace FWB Church Indianapolis, Indiana
September 21	Fellowship FWB Church Kingsport, Tennessee

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Commission
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Commission Members:

Sandy Goodfellow, TN	1991
Larry Hampton, VA	1990
James Vallance, TN	1989
George Lee, NC	1988
Guy Owens, NC	1987

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST RADIO & TELEVISION COMMISSION

The Commission was created in 1983 during the National Association in Columbus, Ohio. The five members were charged to "formulate and execute plans to bring into being radio and television programs commensurate to the needs and opportunities of our people."

The purpose of the Commission is "to broadcast plainly and powerfully the Word of God with a view to winning the lost, strengthening believers, and encouraging active involvement in Free Will Baptist churches."

Fifteen-minute programs are produced for weekly airing where possible. Local churches and associations are asked to provide financing for air time on local stations. Tapes are furnished by the Commission.

Rev. Bob Shockey serves as speaker for the broadcast, titled, "VICTORIOUS FAITH." He started preaching in 1955. Shockey has served the denomination in many capacities, including five years as General Director of the National Home Missions Department. He now serves as Christian Education Director and Campus Pastor at the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Pray for, support and listen to "VICTORIOUS FAITH."