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Apples of Gold

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The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

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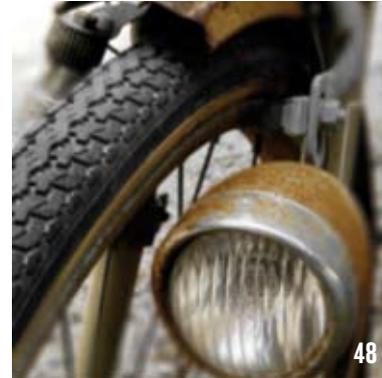
Master's Men

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ONE MAGAZINE

**TO COMMUNICATE TO FREE WILL BAPTISTS
A UNIFYING VISION OF OUR ROLE IN THE EXTENSION OF GOD'S KINGDOM.**

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ERIC THOMSEN
MANAGING EDITOR

FIRST GLIMPSE

HOMESPUN STEWARDSHIP

SHE STOOD FIVE FEET ON HER TIPTOES—five feet of whipcord and rawhide. Her seamed face and twisted, leathery hands bore the effects of 40 years of sun and wind on a sidehill farm in the Ozark Mountains of northwestern Arkansas. She and Pa eked out a living from flint rock and cedar on their 40-acre homestead. Together, they moved rocks, chopped trees, baled hay, doctored the livestock, and carved out a life. Along the way, they raised two boys—blond, mischievous, and full of life. She took her boys to church, taught them to pray, and read the Bible aloud each night while they drifted off to sleep.

My grandmother Lillie Thomsen (called Ma by everyone who knew her) was truly remarkable. As I listened to her stories, I saw the past reflected in her eyes, and came to appreciate several characteristics about her.

She was content. Ma did not have an easy life. The Arkansas hills did not treat my grandparents kindly, and she did not enjoy the “finer things” in life. But she never complained, she was grateful for what she had, and she always went out of her way to thank others for small kindnesses. She didn’t have much, but she shared what she had. She gave to the Lord faithfully, often leaving little for herself.

She loved small pleasures. Ma took delight in details. She collected stamps and coins, and during long winter nights she spent hours poring over them with a magnifying glass. She accumulated family history for years, and I will never forget the satisfied look on her face as she recounted her most recent discovery. Whether it was a steaming cup of coffee, a new picture of a grandchild,

a rosebud opening, or a piece of strawberry shortcake, Grandma reveled in the small blessings of life.

She loved nature. In his book, *Life on Sunnyside Farm*, which detailed the author’s childhood in rural Arkansas, David Motherwell described Ma as a “homegrown naturalist.” It was true. As a child, I remember pointing out obscure plants and asking, “Ma, what’s that?” She always knew. Few things pleased her more than an open window where she could hear and watch birds. Housework was difficult for Ma. She told me often that she just couldn’t wait to get back outside. “Boy,” she would say with a smile, “life is just too short to spend it cleaning the house.”

She never said an unkind word. I spent endless hours listening to Ma over the years. She described family, friends, and neighbors in great detail and recounted thousands of stories. Yet in all of our conversations, I never remember an unkind word about anyone. She chose to remember the good.

She loved God. She was never pushy, but you couldn’t spend much time around her without learning that she had a deep faith. As she read the Bible aloud during her final months, her quiet voice quavered with emotions. She wore her faith like a badge, without apology.

Ma didn’t change the world. But her gentle “homespun stewardship” meant the world to me. She would have marked her 94th birthday last Tuesday, but this year we didn’t celebrate over strawberry shortcake. Instead, I took a long, deliberate look at the vivid colors of fall, smiled, took a deep breath of crisp air, and thanked God for the tough little woman who quietly taught me to live with gratitude. □

LETTERS

My hat is off to the editorial team for taking the risk to publish, “Crossing the River Eros.” It was refreshing to read and feel the authenticity of the article. Besides being well written, it told a gut-wrenching story of a survivor. Thank you for including the information about Celebrate Recovery even though it is not a Free Will Baptist program.

I was equally touched by, “Only Five Days” written by my friend Keith Burden. I enjoy all of the news of the denomination included in *ONE Magazine*, but I also love the journalism the above-mentioned articles bring to the table.

Richard Kennedy, Owasso, Oklahoma

Two Great Men!

What a tribute to two great men of God! I am proud to say I have had the honor of calling Lee Evans [Working the Frisco Line] “Papa” and Jerry Milom [Your Church Can Grow] “buddy.” Now God has called them home. I was able to attend the funerals of both men and all I say is, “To God be the glory.” Thank you for the articles in last month’s *ONE Magazine*. Isn’t it wonderful how God uses laymen for such awesome tasks in His ministry.

Margaret Hampton, Pleasant View, TN

I just wanted to unsubscribe to *ONE Magazine* due to printing costs and environmental impact (since I can readily access it online). I was a little disappointed with the articles on the Emerging and Emergent Church movement. They seem pretty cursory with little depth.

Scott McNay, Moberly, MO

To our readers: As Scott pointed out, each issue of the magazine is available at www.onemag.org, making it accessible to missionaries and travelers worldwide, not to mention those who prefer the electronic edition. ONEmag.org contains longer articles, historical resources, and updates on the annual convention.

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Apples of Gold

BY DAVID BROWN

WHEN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS BEGAN TO ISSUE land grants to Revolutionary War veterans in the early 1800s, settlers flocked to the Northwest Territories of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. As part of the grant, each settler had to agree to plant 50 apple trees during the first year. Entrepreneur John Chapman went ahead of this migration and bought many tracts of land on which to plant

apple orchards. As new settlers arrived, he sold saplings to the pioneers.

John would plant an orchard, build a fence to keep out livestock, then leave the care of the orchard to a trustworthy pioneer who shared in the profits. John would move to another location and start again. His method was similar to a modern day franchise.

One might wonder why the government required settlers to plant apple trees. Was it one of the first examples of a special interest group? Did John lobby Washington? No, Congress knew life on the frontier was hard. Food was scarce, and they were convinced that apple trees would ultimately benefit everyone as a continuous and renewable source of food.

When Americans migrated northwest into Oregon and Washington, many of them took saplings with them. The great orchards of the modern Northwest are descendants of John's trees. I eat an apple with breakfast each morning, thanks—at least in some part—to John Chapman, better known by his nickname, Johnny Applesseed.

Save the Trees

Moses had something to say about fruit trees in Deuteronomy 20: 19, 20. He instructed the Israelites not to cut down fruit trees when they conquered the Promised Land. We still find relevant applications in Moses' words.

In a broad sense, we can ask ourselves if we are being good stewards of the environment. While I am not sure whether global warming is fact or fiction, one thing is certain. We have a biblical mandate to take good care of the earth. We should be reluctant to use resources that are not renewable. Perhaps we should ride a bike to work once a week to help improve the air quality, reduce the amount of oil we are using, and perhaps even improve our health.

However, Moses' words apply to our bodies as well. We are a "renewable resource" to the Kingdom of God. We

should take care of ourselves so we can serve God for many years.

Some time ago, I took part in a bicycle tour of the Natchez Trace to Tupelo, Mississippi. I learned a lot about my body during that tour. While I had ridden for long distances before, I had never ridden a long distance for three days in a row. I did not have the luxury of taking a day to recover as I traveled 206 miles in three days. During the ride, I learned that full speed is not an option. I backed off to about 80% of maximum effort. Nutrition and hydration are very important, so I ate lots of fruits and grains and drank water and energy drinks all day. Each night, I slept more than eight hours. The results spoke for themselves. I finished the tour strong, riding 86 miles the first day, 62 the second day and 58 on the last day.

The lessons I learned along the way apply to us all. We simply can't go full speed every day. None of us run a mechanical engine at full speed all the time. Why do we expect it from our lives? Yes, the work of the Kingdom is urgent, but it is better to pace ourselves for the long haul. Our lives are more like a marathon than a sprint.

Nutrition is important, both spiritually and physically. We must guard what and how much we put into our mouths, but also into the brain, spirit, and soul. The Bible is the best food and suggests the following "nutrients" in Philippians 4:8. "Whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. We should think on these things."

We need plenty of rest, exercise, and breaks from stress.

Granny Mac's Easy Apple Pie

Ingredients:

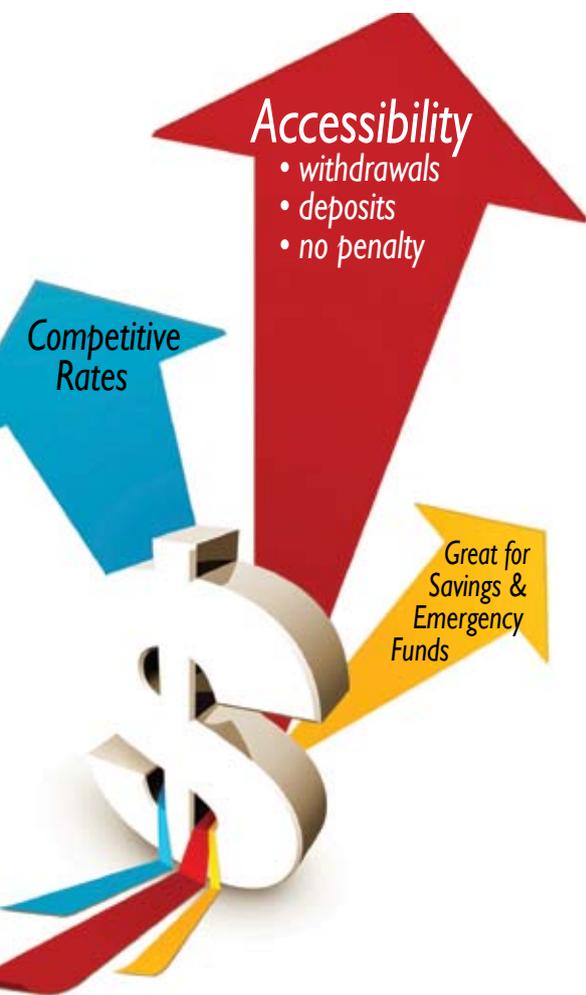
6 cups sliced apples	2 tablespoons flour
1 cup sugar	1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon cinnamon	1 tablespoon butter

Mix sugar, cinnamon, and flour together; put over apples and toss till apples are coated. Put in 9-inch pie shell. Sprinkle lemon juice over the apples. Put butter over the top of the apples in small chunks. Put top crust on and seal with a fork around the edges. Cut four small slits in the crust. Bake at 375° for 50-60 minutes until the pie is golden brown.

Lois MacPherson is well-known to her family and friends as a great cook! She lives in Sterling Heights, MI.



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It is not wise to spend monies received from bequests for current expenditures. Instead, these gifts should be diverted to endowment funds, providing perpetual income and serving as a constant reminder of the generous donors.

Spiritual rest comes through prayer when we let go of our burdens and give them to God. As songwriter Vernon Whaley wrote, "Cast your care on the Lord, because he cares about you."

Providing for Future Generations

We also find a financial application to Moses' command to spare the trees. Obviously, the fruit could be used for food. When a fruit tree is cut down, it no longer produces fruit. In similar fashion, when we die we will make no further contributions to God's Kingdom unless we prepare our assets to continue producing financial fruit.

This can be done through planned giving. Planned gifts generate a partial tax deduction, provide income for your lifetime, and yet at your death are converted to an endowment that produces perpetual income for ministries. You can also endow a particular ministry by making a bequest from your will that produces income after your death.

The concept also applies to the ministries that receive estate gifts. We must be wise. When someone dies and leaves their estate to our ministry, it is obvious that the ministry meant a lot to them. We also need to realize that their bequest is the last gift we will ever receive from them. It is not wise to spend monies received from bequests for current expenditures. Instead, these gifts should be diverted to endowment funds, providing perpetual income and serving as a constant reminder of the generous donors. By handling funds carefully, we allow these individuals to produce financial fruit long after they are gone.

Johnny Appleseed had a great business model. Unfortunately, his record keeping was somewhat haphazard, and his generosity often led him to give trees to those who could not afford them. Others took advantage of his generosity, purchasing trees with loans that were never repaid. Others bartered with him, exchanging clothing or food for trees.

As a result, John Chapman never owned a cabin, horse, or wagon. He carried all of his possessions on his person, and his bartered clothes did not fit well. He spent most of his life with bare feet, even in winter.

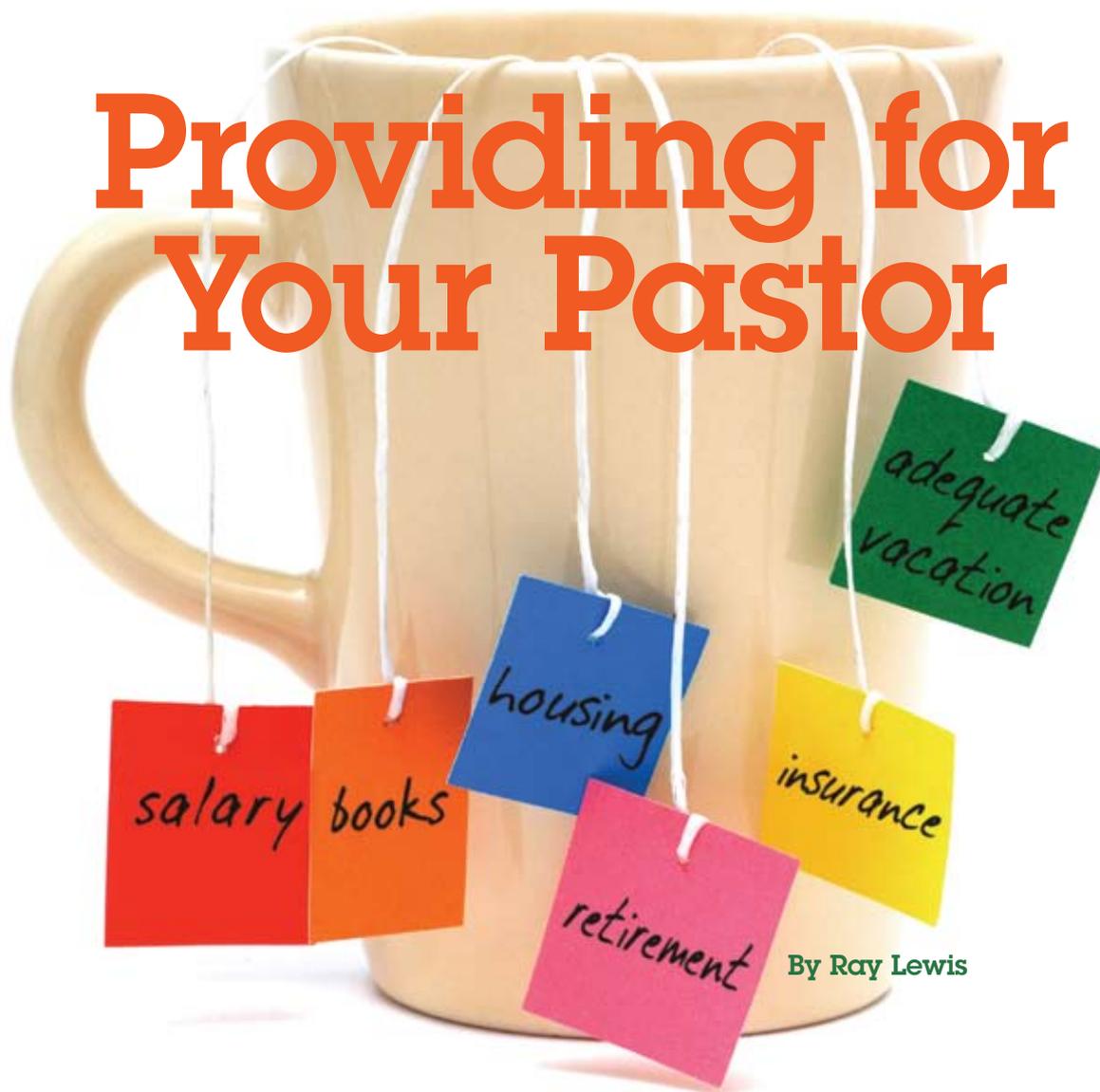
Despite his poor record keeping, when Chapman died in 1845, he was a wealthy man. He owned 1,200 acres of apple orchards worth over \$1 million even then. His estate would have been much larger if he had simply recorded the deeds to his property. He left everything to his sister, but taxes and litigation consumed nearly the entire estate.

As I consider the life of Johnny Appleseed, my thoughts wander. His estate spread across a region with a high concentration of Free Will Baptists. I wish there had been a Free Will Baptist Foundation to suggest he put the proceeds of his apple orchards in a gift annuity that paid income to his sister after his death. He would have avoided all estate taxes, and perhaps the lawyers back then would not have been as willing to sue a ministry because of poor record keeping. The proceeds from his estate would be exponentially larger today, still producing income for ministries around the world.

Today, there are numerous memorials to Johnny Appleseed across the Midwest, even a Disney cartoon about his life. But the statues, songs, and movies are not his legacy. His legacy is the apple I ate for breakfast this morning. Let's make sure we don't cut down the fruit trees. Take care of yourself, keep good records, and make plans to support the ministries you love long after you are gone. □

David Brown is director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. He and his family live in Nashville, TN. To learn more about planned giving and the work of the Foundation, visit their website at www.fwbgifts.org or call (877) 336-7575.

Providing for Your Pastor



Free Will Baptists are a diverse group! When you enter some of our churches, it is almost as if a holy hush has descended on the congregation. Everyone sits quietly, meditating, preparing hearts for worship. Just down the road however, it is like a family reunion every Sunday as people greet each other and catch up on the news of the week.

When the music starts, some churches rely on a Stamps-Baxter hymnbook or the *Rejoice* hymnal, while others read words projected on a screen. When some preachers proclaim the Word, they communicate in soft voices that require the congregation to listen intently in order catch every word. Others have booming voices that “shake the rafters.”

Yes, we are a diverse group with varying styles of worship. But we all have one thing in common; we love the one who stands before us each Sunday proclaiming God’s Word. The pastor is there when

we are saved, when we marry, when we suffer, and when we lose loved ones. We love him, and want to provide for him and his family.

Recently the Board of Retirement conducted a survey of all the pastors in the *Free Will Baptist Yearbook*. We received 622 responses. Our goal was to determine how Free Will Baptists are providing for their pastors.

Providing for the pastor is a biblical principle. Paul said, “Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach of the gospel should live of the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). Jesus told the seventy, “And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his hire” (Luke 10:7a).

When we think of providing for the pastor’s needs, we think of his salary package. Our goal should be to provide a pay package large enough to take care of our pastor and his family. In our sur-



vey, 89 pastors reported incomes less than \$10,000 while two received over \$100,000. The median package was \$30,000–\$39,999. Of those receiving this amount, one was part-time, eight were bivocational, and the rest were full-time. There were 15 high school graduates, three Bible institute graduates, 19 with some college, 34 college graduates, nine with a master's degree, two with doctoral degrees, and seven did not respond.

The minister's housing allowance is the most important tax benefit available to ministers. For the purposes of this survey, we did not separate housing from the total pay package so we have no statistics to share. Voting to designate part of the pastor's wages as housing is a great way to help him reduce his tax liability. The pastor pays no federal tax on housing, so this amount is excluded from his W-2. He does pay SECA tax on it, however.

Providing retirement benefits is a way for the church to show the pastor that we care about his future needs as well as the present ones. Here at the Board of Retirement, we believe every church should participate—at least the entry level of \$10 per month. Currently, 247 pastors receive employer (church) contributions into their accounts. They are composed of 32 bivocational, one interim, eight part-time, and 206 full-time pastors.

With the cost of health insurance shooting up, many of our ministers do not carry adequate insurance coverage. Churches should strive to help provide at least minimal coverage. In our survey, 212 reported that their church provides some level of insurance coverage. This group was made up of five part-time, six bivocational, and 201 full-time pastors.

Pastors need a break just like the lay members. The church should allow vacation time with pay. The pastor should not be required to start as a new

employee in accumulating vacation time when going to a new church. Of those 619 pastors who responded to this question, 105 do not receive a paid vacation, 51 receive one week, 304 receive two weeks, 96 receive three weeks, 44 receive four weeks, and 19 receive five or more weeks.

An occasional day off is not always enough. A sabbatical can provide relief from "burn-out." Only 15 ministers surveyed receive an occasional sabbatical,

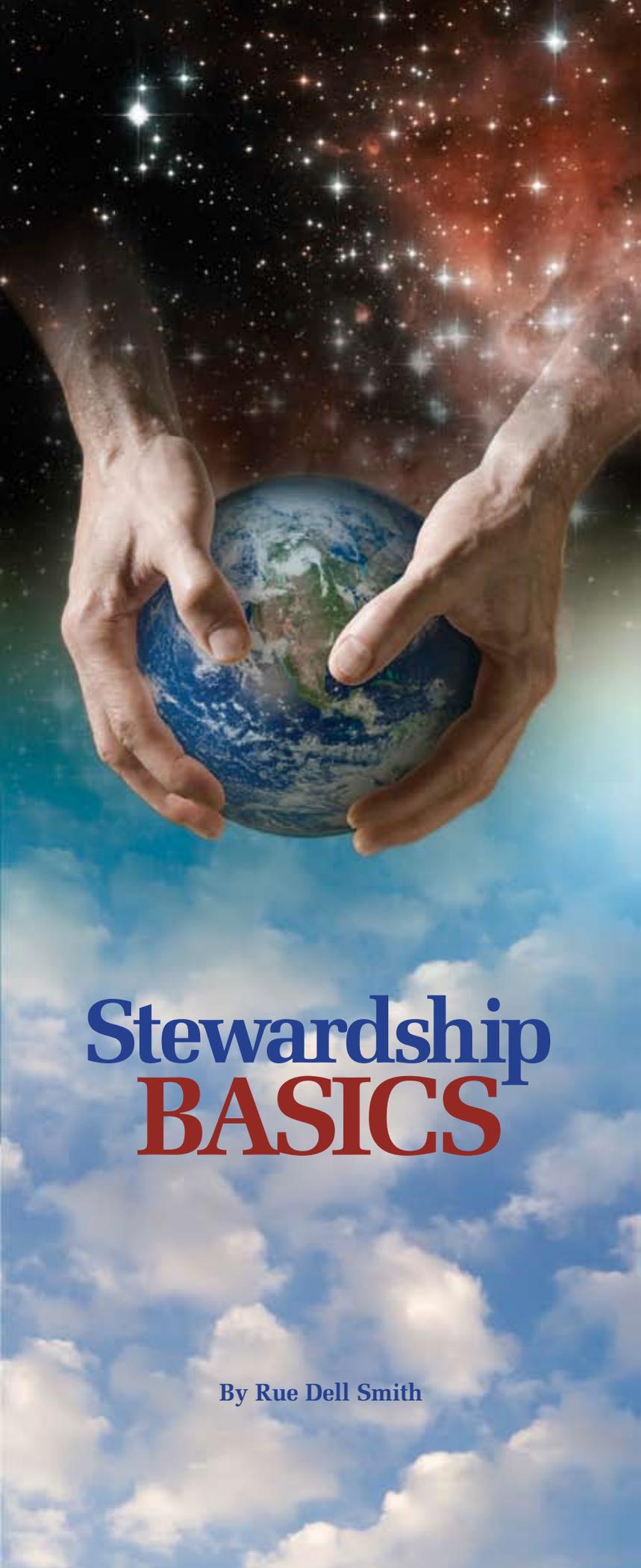
51 were not sure, 544 said no, and one replied, "if needed." Some of the comments that accompanied this answer were: "Had to resign to get one;" "They think the pastor doesn't need one;" "I have no desire for one;" "I wish;" and "one in 22 years."

In the eyes of the IRS, ministers have a dual tax status. They are employees for tax purposes and should receive a W-2 Form from the church. However, pastors are self-employed for Social Security purposes. Most churches do not think about the fact that the pastor is responsible for the entire 15.3% SECA (same as FICA for employees) instead of just the 7.65% that non-ministerial employees pay. Churches should provide at least the same amount for the pastor as they do for other employees. One hundred seventy-two of the pastors who responded to the survey receive this Social Security Offset.

In addition, the survey revealed that 205 pastors receive either a church-provided vehicle or auto allowance expense, 76 receive a book/study helps allowance, 126 receive an allowance for ministry related meals, 226 receive reimbursement for travel, and 332 have their expenses paid to national, state, and local association meetings.

How well does your church provide for your pastor? I hope your pastor does not feel like one who sent the following note with his survey. "Pastors are like a pair of shoes, walked on until worn out, then thrown away." Let's do our best to provide for our pastor. Not all churches can provide all of the above, but every effort should be made to meet our pastor's needs in a fair and equitable way. □

Ray Lewis is the director of the Board of Retirement. He and his wife Ida live in Antioch, TN. For more information about retirement and financial planning, contact the Board of Retirement at (877) 767-7738 or visit them online at www.nafwb.org.



Stewardship BASICS

By Rue Dell Smith

“And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward” (Luke 16:1–2). The word *stewardship* means an administration, a dispensation, or economy.

The text reveals that a rich man (symbolizing God) had committed goods to his steward (symbolizing mankind) for administration. The steward was accused of wasting the goods of the rich man. If the accusation were true, his stewardship authority to handle the goods of his master would be revoked.

The Word of God makes it clear that by the act of creation alone, everything belongs to God. He takes His creation seriously, and in Scripture, we find several characteristics of God’s stewardship.

The Motive of God’s Stewardship Is Love. Love gives. First John 4:7 says that God is Love. John 3:16 declares that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. Love always gives.

The Method of His Stewardship Was Creation. In this grace dispensation, He even surpasses His original creation work by creating us new in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Purpose of God’s Stewardship Is the Kingdom. It is possible that before the war in Heaven (Revelation 12) and the fall of man (Genesis 3), God’s Kingdom was in perfect harmony, but now it seems to be in revolt and disarray. However, God will produce a kingdom that is undivided and undisputed. Jesus will be seen and recognized as King of kings and Lord of lords.

To develop and fulfill His Economic purposes, God placed stewardship authority in the hands of the Son. Although known on earth for only 33 years, Jesus shares eternity with the Father.

The Power of His Stewardship Is Unlimited. “All power is given unto me in heaven and earth... Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...” (Matthew 28:18b–19a).

The Person of His Stewardship Is the Church: “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Ephesians 5:25).

The Plan of His Stewardship Is Redemption: “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost” (John 19:30). The words *it is finished* are from the Greek word *telestaia*. The word has been found on ancient invoices in Palestine, and means the debt is paid in full. Jesus gave the Holy Spirit steward-



“Our stewardship of treasures or things must spring from a conviction that everything belongs to God, that we are just an administrator following His wishes.”

ship control over the heart of the believer.

The Holy Spirit's stewardship cannot be separated from God's dealings with man. All the attributes of God the Father and God the Son are inherent in the Holy Spirit, and He applies these to the believer. Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever” (John 14:15, 16).

The believer can be assured of his master, his mission, and his ministry. God has made the believer an heir of everything to which Jesus is an heir. The believers become stewards or administrators as the Holy Spirit guides them. The Apostle Paul stated, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together” (Romans 8:16–17). If we deny our administrative responsibility, we deny our inheritance.

Stewardship of Time

Benjamin Franklin said, “Don't waste time; it's the stuff life is made of.” Jesus is Lord of time and history. Galatians says, “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (4:4–5).

Stewardship of Talents

Talents refer to the gifts or abilities we have, whether they are learned, inherent, or God-given, they must be used properly. Such talents include music, singing, oration, writing, teaching, meeting people, sports, engineering, architecture, art, or computer technology. The list could go on and on. God will use any of these or other talents if we use them as stewards for His glory.

One of the greatest needs in this matter of stewardship is the complete surrender of our talents to Him. Evangelism is hard work, but it is also a talent. The power of personal witness can never be replaced. Jesus said, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Stewardship of Our Treasures

This involves our possessions, which belong to God anyway—stocks, bonds, investments of any kind, and our salaries. Our stewardship of treasures or things must spring from a conviction that everything belongs to God, that we are just an administrator following His wishes.

I'm convinced that Christians should tithe. This principle was established before the law of Moses. Abraham tithed. Israel tithed. Malachi said, “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:8-10).

The tithing principle is a good place to start, but it is only the beginning. This passage makes it clear that God had been robbed of offerings as well as tithes. The Bible teaches us that through tithing we witness that we have a living high priest. “And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth” (Hebrews 7:8). Stewardship of things or treasures will teach us that all we have is God's, and we are only His managers according to His House Law. □

Reverend Rue Dell Smith is a Home Missionary to Monroe, LA.

Will my **Money** last?

By Norma Jackson Goldman

For those facing retirement, one of the most difficult questions to answer is “Will the income I’m depending on last throughout my retirement years?”

It’s a good question, but there are no simple answers. Consider these realities:

- People are living longer.
- Traditional pensions are fading from the scene.
- Savings have grown at a slower pace in recent years due to declining interest rates.
- The long-term viability of Social Security is a subject of national debate.
- Soaring health care costs can change a comfortable retirement income into a “barely getting by” income.
- Retirees depending on part-time work cannot be sure that their health will allow them to continue as long as desired or needed.

Before long, a workforce of more than 75 million will be dependent on Social Security as their primary source of income in retirement. For a few, savings will supplement their Social Security income. For fewer still, different types of investments will contribute money. However, a good retirement scenario is one in which a retiree has several sources of income—a pension, savings, some investments (stocks or bonds) and Social Security.

As you anticipate retirement, list your planned sources of income. Are there steps you can take to improve your situation? Could you step up your savings or contribute more to investment plans? Could you dedicate all future salary increases to savings and/or investments? Could you reduce income requirements and living expenses by downsizing, using a portion of the sale of property for new investments/savings? Can you develop a strategy to ensure your mortgage has been paid off by retirement?

To make savings and investments last over your lifetime, most financial planners suggest investments that earn three to five percent each year. Since earnings have been less than three percent on ordinary savings accounts for the last sev-

eral years, you will have to aggressively seek savings institutions that pay more. And don’t forget to consider the tax implications of money drawn from investments.

Upon reaching retirement, consider converting your 403(b), 401K, or IRA assets into an annuity—a vehicle to provide a stream of income over a single or joint lifetime. The Board of Retirement plan offers six different annuity options. We can help you select the best one for you.

We have a natural tendency to think retirement is far away, that there will be plenty of time to plan for it. In reality, a little time is the best possible news! You have time to increase savings and investments, allowing funds to grow over the years. But time has a way of sneaking up on us, and retirement years come much sooner than you think. Scripture admonishes believers to plan for the coming winter. A little time spent in planning now will yield rich rewards when retirement day finally arrives! □

Former magazine editor Norma Goldman enjoys a freelance writing career in her retirement. She lives in Nashville, TN. For more information about the Board of Retirement, call (877) 767-7738





abandoned to his call

By Mark McPeak

“HE IS NO FOOL WHO GIVES WHAT HE CANNOT KEEP TO GAIN THAT WHICH HE CANNOT LOSE.” Jim Elliot was only 22 when he wrote these words in his journal on October 28, 1949. Seven years later he proved he meant them. Elliot and four friends were murdered by the Auca Indians whom they were trying to reach with the gospel.

The history of the Church is filled with stories of people like Jim Elliot who abandon everything to follow the Lord. The example was set by our Lord Himself. He abandoned paradise and laid aside His glory to redeem us (Philippians 2:6-8). He gave His all.

In 2008, International Missions will adopt the theme *Abandoned to His Call*. We may never be called upon to give our lives in the way Jim Elliot did, or in the manner of many of our own missionaries. However, it should be costly for us to rise to the call He has placed on us as a people. At the Mission, we believe these next months and years are some of the most critical in our history. If each of us is willing to be obedient to His call, God can do mighty things through us.

A MOVEMENT OF GOD

“Contrary to popular belief, Islam is not the fastest growing religion; it is evangelical Christianity,” states Patrick Johnstone, best known for the prayer guide *Operation World*. In his upcoming book, *The Future of World Evangelization in the 21st Century*, Johnstone predicts the 21st century is likely to resemble the first three centuries of the Church and be characterized by massive global growth (GMI World, Fall 2007).

God is moving in our world, calling people to Himself in unprecedented multitudes. Free Will Baptists must do our part in this global surge. In fact, God is already moving on the hearts of our people, calling them to abandon themselves to reach the lost. In record numbers, they are answering. More young people than ever in our history are expressing interest and making preparation to serve overseas.

TWO QUESTIONS

Dr. Neil Gilliland, director of member care at International Missions, recently discussed their passion with some of these young people. “They asked some challenging questions we are going to be called upon to answer,” Neil recalls. “First, will you send us to the hard places?” Like Jim Elliot, many students today are willing to abandon the comforts of home in favor of a passion to reach the most unreached.

These students are looking for opportunities to spread the gospel in dangerous and difficult places. Many will serve in creative or restricted-access areas—where they cannot enter as missionaries. What a privilege for Free Will Baptists to send dedicated workers to these new frontiers, where there are so few believers!

Their second sobering question, according to Dr. Gilliland, was, “Will there be adequate resources to send us?” Young Free Will Baptists have watched our missionaries labor to raise enough money to follow their calling. Fundraising has been especially grueling for young, newly-appointed workers who start from zero to build their support.

I watched recently as David and Angie Outlaw and their five children made final preparations to leave for Central Asia. Even though they are extraordinarily gifted, David and Angie maintained a grueling schedule for many months to raise the necessary support for a four-year term.

The Outlaws are typical Americans in many ways. They have friends at school and church. The boys play baseball, and dad helps coach. They like to go out for pizza and watch their favorite programs on TV. But they’re leaving it all. They seem crazy to some people; they are forsaking their home, two sets of loving grandparents, other family support, and lifelong friends. Why? Because they have abandoned everything to answer the call of God on their lives.

WHO IS CALLED?

So, what about the rest of us? Is the challenge to be *Abandoned to His Call* just for intrepid young people? Is it just for missionaries like the Outlaw family? Or does Jim Elliot’s challenge apply to you and me?

Giving up what we cannot keep to gain what we cannot lose...isn’t this wisdom for us all?

As you see *Abandoned to His Call* throughout 2008, don’t just think of individuals who have left all to take the gospel around the world. Immediately after the Apostle Paul declared in Romans 10:13, “for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,” he described God’s plan and the people He will use to tell the world His good news.

THE PREACHER AND THE SENDER

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” Like Elliot, our “wave” of young candidates, and the Outlaws, God calls people to go and tell—even to the hard places.

Paul’s logic continues, “And how shall they preach, except they be sent?” It’s amazing to think that God has entrusted His gospel to this plan and system. He calls some of us to go, from everywhere to everywhere with His message. He calls the rest of us to send. In fact, Paul implies there is no going without sending.

“I believe God blessed America and the West with great prosperity for one purpose,” proposed Trula Cronk, veteran

More young people than ever
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overseas.

missionary to India. “He gave us so much, so we could use it to take the gospel to those in the world who so desperately needed it.” I will never forget her conclusion, “I’m afraid when we stand before God we’ll be ashamed to answer for our stewardship. We took what He gave us for the nations and used it for ourselves.”

Why aren’t we willing to give up what we cannot keep? Our houses get larger, our possessions multiply. After all, He has blessed us, hasn’t He? All the while, people around the world have no one to tell them about eternity. Those who want to go seem always to lack the resources they need. This is a challenge for me. It is a challenge for you.

Trula’s words, combined with Paul’s, help me understand there is a “call” for each of us to obey. We are all called to participate in the “giving up,” in the “abandon.” The preachers who go and the senders who support—we must each obey so the world can know His love and His great name.

Am I *Abandoned to His Call*? Are you?

Mark McPeak has served as International Missions’ director of communications since April 2005.

FINANCES\$ IN A NEW CHURCH

BY RICHARD ATWOOD

WHEN I WAS A PASTOR IN A HOME MISSIONS church, it never seemed to fail! Every time I would preach on stewardship, we would have visitors. I was afraid that I was only confirming their idea that the churches only want your money. This fear is magnified in a new church where you have only new people. But to be faithful to the Word and to build a stable congregation, stewardship must be taught.

WHAT WE TEACH HOME MISSIONARIES

The pastor should tithe. A pastor who doesn't tithe is like a bank robber who is president of the bank. Some pastors rationalize that they don't get paid enough to tithe, or that they sacrifice their time rather than their money. While both may be true, they do not justify disobedience to God's Word.

The pastor should make sure his personal finances are in order and obey biblical principles. Financial professional Larry Burkett says that the number of pastors in debt, going bankrupt, and having marital problems as a result of financial difficulty is roughly the same as the general population. He cites financial problems as the number one reason pastors leave their ministry. The average Christian pays 450% more in interest each year than tithes.

PASTORS SHOULD CONSIDER THE FOLLOW PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVELOPING STEWARDSHIP IN A YOUNG CHURCH:

- Teach and preach openly about finances.
- Teach the congregation about giving, but don't overdo it. Teach on all of stewardship, not just giving money.
- Include a lesson on giving in new convert and membership classes.
- Preach an annual stewardship message or series.
- Use humor when preaching about a serious subject like money.





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For more information on charitable remainder trusts, please contact the **Free Will Baptist Foundation** at **(877) 336-7575** or log on to our web site at **www.FWBGIFTS.org**. We look forward to helping you!



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- Don't apologize when teaching about giving or when taking an offering. Make it a joyful event. **Tithing is a privilege, not a chore.**
- Sponsor an annual stewardship banquet to celebrate the victories of the last year and to provide vision for the New Year.

In *The Dynamics of Church Finance*, James D. Berkley sums up the stewardship challenges that face pastors. "Most pastors don't enter the ministry for the delightful opportunity to raise money, or really to think about it much, for that matter. Pastors want to preach, teach, counsel, and pray. Conducting the annual stewardship campaign ranks way down on the list for most pastors, somewhere near cleaning up after junior high banana split night and handling irate phone calls. Yet, the financial strength of a congregation determines much about its spiritual life and effectiveness. Like it or not, the pastor plays a leading role in the general financial tenor of the congregation."

Howard Dayton, Jr. says about church finance, "Jesus talked much about money. Sixteen of the 38 parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing one out of 10 verses (288 in all) deals directly with the subject of money. The

Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions."

In *Letters to Scattered Pilgrims*, Gordon Cosby described an impoverished widow whose small offering concerned the deacons, who felt it was too much of a burden for her. "I went and told her of the concern of the deacons. I told her as graciously and as supportively as I knew how that she was relieved of the responsibility of giving. As I talked with her...tears came to her eyes. 'I want to tell you,' she said, 'that you are taking away the last thing that gives my life dignity and meaning.'" People need to give.

The missionary, whether planting churches at home or abroad, has the privilege of sharing the blessing of giving to those who come into their churches. At the same time, the missionary must always be able to bring in and maintain funds for their individual accounts that enable them to stay on the field of service.

This may seem to be an insurmountable task at times, but in serving the Lord through His guidance, more and more recognize and embrace the blessing of giving to the Lord through the work here on earth. □

Richard Atwood is director of missionary assistance for the Home Missions Department. He and his wife Sandy live in Antioch, TN.



One [thing you lack]

BY DIANNE SARGENT

Nothing satisfied
his cravings,
especially not
money or
possessions.
He had plenty
of those things.

*Dianne Sargent is managing editor
at Randall House Publications.*

HE REALLY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE IT, and he just couldn't get a handle on it. Hunger gnawed at his insides and enveloped his entire being. It never seemed to go away. He denied himself no pleasure or luxury; yet the frustration and sense of hopelessness remained. Nothing satisfied his cravings, especially not money or possessions. He had plenty of those things. He had even risen to a position of authority and leadership, and yet he wanted more...what?

A new teacher had come to town, causing quite a stir among the religious leaders and prominent men of the city. It was said He claimed to know the way to eternal life. For the most part, His followers were not wealthy, and yet they seemed to be contented. He had given them purpose and meaning for their lives and promised them eternal life in Heaven with Him when they died. Maybe that was what he was looking for. He certainly had been successful as far as other men were concerned, but purpose and meaning for his life as well as eternal life...well, that was certainly worth checking into.

Today was the day. He would ask Jesus what he needed to do in order to gain eternal life. Surely he could do something—some act of service, or some cause he could support to satisfy His demands. He had kept the Law, even from childhood, and was well respected for one so young.

As he drew near to Jesus, a sense of urgency overcame him, and he began to run. Running up to Jesus, the young man knelt before Him and asked, "Good Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered, "You know the command-

ments: do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, and honor your father and mother.”

Astonished, the young man replied that he had done these things his entire life. Lovingly, Jesus looked into the heart of the young man and said, “Yet you lack one thing. Go sell all you have, give it to the poor, and come follow me.”

The young man could not believe his ears. Give away everything he had inherited from his father, the fruit of years of labor, to those who had nothing and would never have anything? That was unheard of! As the realization of what Jesus was asking settled into his mind, the young man dropped his head and slowly turned and headed toward his home. The gnawing hunger remained, but he just could not do what Jesus had asked.

The young man wanted something he did not have, something he thought he desperately needed, but he was not willing to release his grasp on what he held to seize what Jesus offered. One thing stood in the way, and everything else paled by comparison. The one thing he lacked mattered the most.

principle, to take on the identity of Christ. It wasn't a list of priorities; it was all or nothing.

While this particular individual turned away sorrowful, at a later date, believers in Macedonia were able to do what Jesus had asked this young man to do. They freely laid aside all claims to earthly possessions and willingly gave of their meager means to meet the needs of others less fortunate. Paul, referring to the churches in Macedonia, said that “...in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us” (2 Corinthians 8:2–5).

What makes a person able to give to others when doing so causes deprivation? What causes the joy that comes from sharing with those in need when you don't even have enough for yourself? How can you look beyond the temporal to the eternal, from the earthly to the heavenly?

Those Christians in Macedonia knew the answer—they gave themselves first to the Lord. What the rich young man in Mark 10 failed to understand was the need to completely surrender his own identity to the identity of Christ; to become totally His. Jesus did not need that young man's money or possessions. Jesus is the Creator and God of all the earth. What did that young man have that Jesus could possibly want or need? Yet, Jesus had everything the young man needed and earnestly craved. But the way was too hard, the price too steep.

A PERSONAL QUESTION

What identifies you? Are you still holding on to the things of this world while your soul craves the eternal? Can you identify with the young man in Mark 10 or with the believers in 2 Corinthians? One went away sorrowful for he had great possessions while the believers in Macedonia rejoiced in the goodness of God amid abject poverty, willingly giving to others. When you give Jesus the temporal, He willingly gives you the eternal. That decision should be a no-brainer!

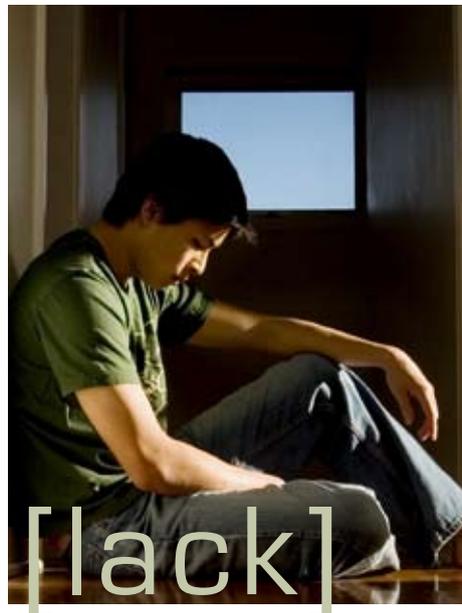
Letting go of the temporal and focusing on the eternal is the deepest meaning of stewardship. Many people equate stew-

What identifies you? Are you still holding on to the things of this world while your soul craves the eternal?

THE CRAVING

Preachers proclaim it; professors teach it; authors write about it, yet so many of us fail to incorporate it into our lives. Like the rich young man in Mark 10, we want that gnawing feeling to go away—that deep hunger that keeps us from being completely satisfied. But too often we're not willing to pay the price to make that happen. We, too, lack the one thing that matters most.

Jesus did not ask the young man to make a list of the most important things in his life, making sure to put Him at the top of the list. No. Jesus asked him to get rid of everything he possessed to follow Him. Jesus asked him to lay aside his identity, to shed all ties to the earthly, the temporal, and become His dis-



ardship with paying their tithe faithfully. While tithing is an essential part of the equation, stewardship goes far beyond giving God one-tenth of what you earn.

If Jesus had asked the rich young man to give one-tenth of his possessions to the poor, I'm sure he would not have considered that too high a price to pay. But Jesus asked for the whole person. Jesus wanted all back then, and He still wants all today. Until He has your all, you still lack one thing.

Do you struggle to keep Christ at the top of your list? Make it easy on yourself. Throw the list away. Give yourself to God, and let Him give back to you out of the abundance of His riches in glory. The one thing you lack still matters the most. □

Thanksgiving Bride

BY JOHN ARLON HAWKE



Barbara was working as a receptionist at a grain mill in Richmond, Virginia, when she took her used car with the bad brakes in for service and met that handsome young man at the Western Auto counter. One look at her and the Western Auto guy decided she was the girl for him. Ron asked her for a date in June 1958; they married five months later on Thanksgiving Day. She was 19, he 21.

"Before we left on our honeymoon," she said, "he had to fix a flat tire on the car. That was the beginning of surprises in our marriage."

Barbara says that she has always been different, finishing high school mid-year in February after studying business. "That took some of the glitter off graduation. February in Richmond is not a pretty time."

Converted at age seven, she was the daughter of an electrician who worked on airplanes in World War II. Serving God became her life, even though her parents did not attend church.

"I'm a Free Will Baptist and I love the Free Will Baptist people," she said. "Always have, always will."

MIRACLE IN TENNESSEE

Ron began preaching, and the family (now with two children) headed to Tennessee to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College. Western Auto had shifted him from store to store up the corporate ladder, so he requested a transfer to Nashville.

“We stayed in Nashville four years,” Barbara said. “Ron went to college full-time and worked hard to make the Dean’s List. I took night classes and worked during the day.”

Things were tight financially, so Ron’s sister decided to supply shoes and clothes for the two young children while he was in college.

“I’m telling you, it was a miracle,” Barbara said. “Our children did not grow while Ron was in college. They wore the same size shoes and clothes four years. We felt like the Israelites in the wilderness when their shoes didn’t wear out. But when Ron took his first pastorate, those kids grew like weeds!”

THE WORKING MOM

Ron and Barbara’s pastoral career took them to seven states—Arkansas, North Carolina, Florida, Texas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Like many young ministry couples, they moved frequently.

“It seemed like we moved every 18 months,” Barbara said. “I loved every minute of it. I felt so close to God as a pastor’s wife. I usually taught children’s classes, and I enjoyed the fellowship.”

Barbara was definitely not a stay-at-home mom. “After unpacking at a new church, the first thing I did was look for a job. I never had trouble finding work with my business background. I understood computers and was unafraid of new technology.”

She admits that sandstorms in the Texas panhandle were tough on her. “I felt isolated, a long way from everywhere. And, oh, that wind.”

15-YEAR GUARANTEE

When Ron’s pastoral ministry ended in 1993, he and Barbara returned to Richmond. Ron had opened an account with the Board of Retirement in 1976 and contributed to it as funds were available. He started quietly,

Am I too old to be a missionary? I want to find my ministry place whether it’s teaching children, leading VBS, or something else. Why, I’d even marry another preacher and start over again!

depositing \$500 now, \$200 then, and other monies as he could.

“Having that plan in place gave me a ‘Thank you, Lord’ attitude,” Barbara said. “If something had happened to Ron when the children were small, that would have been all we had.”

She settled Ron’s account in 2003, shortly after his death, choosing a 15-year guaranty that provides a monthly check. She named Free Will Baptist Bible College as recipient to receive the balance of her payout in the event she dies before the 15-year period is up.

“This is one way I can benefit my favorite ministry. We never had a great deal of money, but we always had enough,” Barbara said. “Others could do the same thing to assist a favorite ministry if they would.”

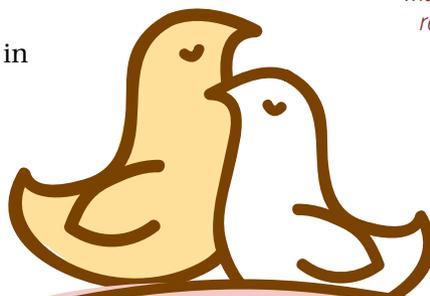
READY TO RELOCATE

Barbara loved the pastorate. “I wish we could have stayed in full-time ministry longer. It’s a hard thing not being a pastor’s wife. Life just doesn’t seem right without it.”

She paused. “Am I too old to be a missionary? I want to find my ministry place whether it’s teaching children, leading VBS, or something else. Why, I’d even marry another preacher and start over again!”

Clear ringing laughter precedes her trademark statement, “I’m good at packing and unpacking. If God points me to a place of ministry, I’m ready to move again.” □

John Arlon Hawke is a freelance writer and journalist with a wide range of publishing experience. He currently makes his home just south of Nashville, TN. To find out more about the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement and Insurance, call (877) 767-7738 or visit www.nafwb.org.



HAPPILY EVER AFTER



WHAT ARE WE
WAITING FOR?

BY JOHN BRUMMITT

PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD THE HUMOROUS STORY.

A town was being evacuated because of a flood. One man refused to leave his home. Floodwaters had reached the first step of his front porch when rescue workers arrived in a four-wheel drive. He told them, "Don't worry about me; the Lord is going to take care of me."

Before long, water covered the porch. A second group of rescue workers arrived in a boat. Again the man said, "Don't worry about me; the Lord is going to take care of me."

The rain continued, and the floodwaters rose, eventually reaching the gutters on the man's house. He was sitting on the roof when a rescue helicopter swooped down to whisk him away. Again he refused, telling the rescue party the Lord would take care of him.

The rain continued, and as water crept around the man's ankles, he started to pray, "I don't understand, Lord. I am still waiting for you to rescue me."

The Lord answered him tersely, "I sent a four-wheel drive, a boat, and a helicopter. What else do you want?"

While we chuckle at the man's misguided thinking, we also learn a valuable lesson. While most of us do not wait for floodwaters to reach our ankles before taking action, we sometimes expect God to send a miracle instead of taking advantage of the provisions He already has in place.

One area we do this most is in finances. The way to escape the "flood of financial troubles" is ready and waiting for us, but we decide to "wait on the Lord" to salvage our poor financial planning. Throughout the Old Testament, God laid out ways to deal with finances and debt. The basic principles are still the same: Owe no man anything; give a portion back to the Lord; store up for the lean times.

"Owe no man anything" (Romans 13:8a).

Avoiding debt is a principle the Lord gave mankind in the time of Moses, yet we still struggle with debt today. We must be careful not to become indebted by overstretching finances for things we really do not need. God has promised our needs will be met, but sometimes we confuse what we want with what we need.

To avoid debt, set up a budget. See where money is going. If your spending is frivolous, you may need to make some changes. If your finances have stretched to the breaking point (or beyond), stop overspending. Don't allow debt to turn you into a slave.

Give back a portion to the

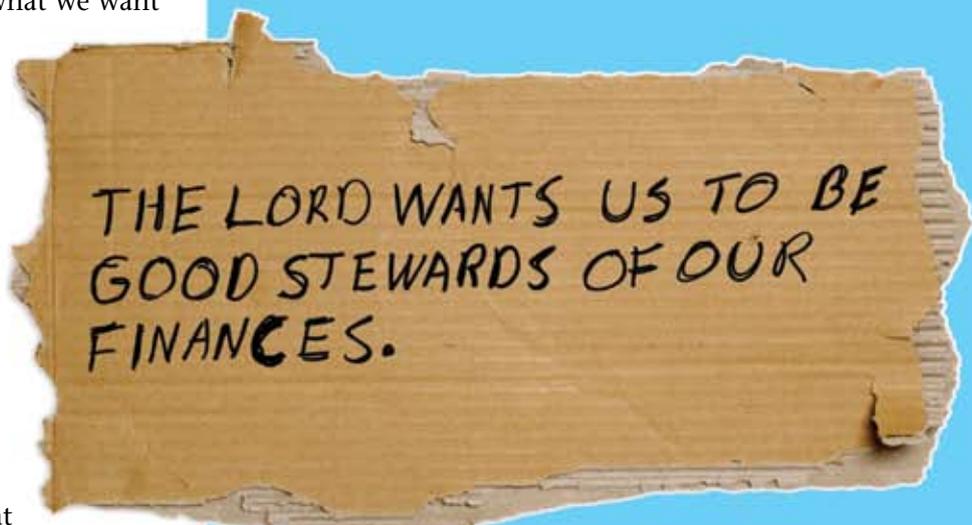
Lord. This is one of the first commands from the Lord. Too often, when we stretch ourselves thin through overspending, we withhold our tithes and offerings. Beware that cheating the Lord robs you of the blessing of giving.

While it is true that God doesn't "need" your money to carry out His work, He has established tithing to provide for His workers—the people who minister to you week after week. You may think your small weekly tithe does little to help the church, that your money won't be missed if you stop giving. But if many church members thought this, the church would soon be unable to function. Give cheerfully to express your gratitude for God's blessings. Your actions will result in personal, spiritual growth.

Store up in lean times. In Genesis 41, Joseph guided the nation of Egypt to save for seven years to provide grain for the coming famine. We do things a little different now, but the basic principle remains. Save while you are working to provide for the time when you no longer receive a paycheck.

Notice an interesting fact in the story of Joseph; he started saving from the first harvest. He didn't wait until the sixth year to prepare for the famine. He saved a small amount from each harvest. The principle is still true. Saving a little each pay period is easier and more effective than trying to "do it all at once" in the years just preceding your retirement.

The Lord wants us to be good stewards of our finances. He wants to bless our efforts. This does not mean we can simply "wait on the roof" for God to pour out miraculous blessings. If we do, we will miss the small blessings He sends every day. Don't wait on a miracle when God already has a plan! □



THE LORD WANTS US TO BE
GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR
FINANCES.

JOHN BRUMMITT is the business manager for the Board of Retirement and Insurance. Find out more about the programs offered by the Board at (877) 767-7738 or visit their website at www.nafwb.org.



YOSHIKAZU ISHII BEGAN LIFE AS SOMETHING OF an anomaly. He was born into a Christian home in the Kansai area of Japan. Members of a Nazarene congregation, his parents took him to church consistently. As a young boy Yoshikazu was well liked by the church people. Although this continued as a teen, according to Ishii, he was an excellent actor or hypocrite throughout his junior and senior high school days.

He led three lives, particularly during his high school years. He was a fine young man at church, a model youth. At school and with his teenage friends, he was a model rogue. He ran around with a bad crowd, stole bicycles and motorcycles, and was notorious as someone who knew how to have a good time. Before God, and even in his own eyes, he was a hypocrite. He was lonely, troubled about his conduct, ashamed of his double life, and generally miserable.

Everything changed when he met Jesus at a church youth camp. The camp evangelist spoke directly to the hearts and situations of those present. "Even though you are not lovable in your own eyes, and possibly in the eyes of others, God still loves you. He loves you so much that He gave His Son to die for even a rascal like you." The message penetrated Ishii's heart and he accepted Christ as Savior. A new person was formed from a rascal.

NEW LIFE

Yoshikazu felt God leading him into the ministry. After he graduated from high school, he went directly to Kansai Bible College. Another anomaly. Usually, young Japanese Christians attend college before committing to Bible school. God used his days at Bible school to shape his thinking and his future.

Two Free Will Baptist young men from Hokkaido, the northern island of Japan, were also studying for the ministry. During a school break, one of them invited Ishii to visit Hokkaido. Apparently, he liked the less hectic pace and after graduation, Yoshikazu moved to Hokkaido to see what doors God would open. God provided a job at a peat moss factory owned by a member of Koinonia FWB Church in Nopporo, an area of the city of Ebetsu, Japan. Ebetsu is a suburb of Sapporo, the capitol city of Hokkaido.

During Ishii's time in Ebetsu he attended the Koinonia church and was a tremendous help with the work and to me personally, as I was responsible for the church at that time. Yoshikazu especially enjoyed working with the young people, many of whom were experiencing some of the same problems he faced as a teenager. After a couple of years, the church asked if he would consider working as youth pastor. He served as an assistant pastor for a year learning many valuable

THE PASTOR WAS A RASCAL

By Dale Bishop

lessons before God led him back to Kansai. Ishii was not sure why God wanted him to move, because he really enjoyed working and living in Hokkaido. However, he followed God's leading and spent two years as assistant pastor in a larger evangelical church.

At the invitation of Pastor Kawasaki of the Ai No Sato FWB church in Sapporo, Ishii and his new wife moved to Sapporo to work as assistant pastor of the church there. He worked closely with the Ai No Sato church and the young people of our other churches in the area. Ishii was instrumental in the formation of a group called FIC, Friends in Christ. The young people meet twice each month for fellowship, Bible study, and mutual encouragement. His ministry has greatly blessed and influenced their walk with Christ. Yoshikazu was licensed to preach by Free Will Baptists on October 8, 2000, ordained in October 2001, and assumed the pastorate of the Bihoro FWB Church in 2002. Bihoro, begun in 1956, is one of the first Free Will Baptist churches in Japan.

Pastor Yoshikazu and his wife Emi have two young children, a daughter named Akari and a son named Tsukasa. Since arriving in Bihoro they have been instrumental in reaching out to families with young children. Although the Ishiis are from the city and a very different area of Japan, they are working hard

to learn the culture and fit into the small town, rural lifestyle of eastern Hokkaido.

NEW HORIZONS

Some of Pastor Ishii's members come from surrounding towns and have opened their homes for him to lead Bible studies in an effort to reach their neighbors with the gospel. His teaching and leadership have encouraged them to broaden their vision, looking beyond their own homes to the lost around them. Pastor Ishii has studied in Korea and visited China, Panama, and the United States. He was the Japanese representative at the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists in Panama in October 2004. He shared his report on the work in Japan and enjoyed the fellowship with the representatives from the various fields where Free Will Baptists are ministering. His good nature and enthusiasm made him well accepted and a fine representative.

Ishii's travels have given him a vision for international missions as well as reinforcing his vision for ministry in his own country. He desires to be instrumental in aiding missionaries as they seek to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. He strives to keep the needs of the world before his people by giving them information and inviting furloughing Japanese

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JAPANESE PASTORS



Kawasaki, Toshikazu—Converted August 1971; ordained July 1984. Pastors Ai No Sato FWB Church. Worked with Jerry and Janice Banks at Kita Hiroshima, before planting Ai No Sato church. He is married to Satomi, and they have four children between 15–21 years old.



Ishii, Yoshikazu—Ordained October 2001. Pastors Bihoro FWB Church. Married to Emi, they have two children.



Keiichi, Kimura—Converted June 1987; ordained August 1998. Pastors Kita Hiroshima FWB Church. Studied at Hillsdale College in OK, and then Tokyo Bible School. He and his wife, Sachiko, have two children: a daughter in junior high and a son in grammar school.



Sadao, Hirabuki—Ordained 2002. Pastor of Koinonia FWB Church in Nopporo, Ebetsu. Married to Mayumi, they have three children and three grandchildren.



Matsuda, Takeshi—Ordained April 2000. Pastors Taihei FWB Chapel, a new mission work in Sapporo, Japan. He and his wife, Eiko, have one son who is studying for the ministry at Tokyo Bible School. They are also attempting a ministry among the emotionally challenged in the area.



Kojima, Kiyoshi—Ordained 2003. Pastors Iriso FWB Church. Graduate of Kansai Bible College and Tokyo Christian Seminary.

national missionaries to share their work and burden from his pulpit. For many years the Bihoro FWB Church has joined other Free Will Baptist churches of Japan in supporting the Lord's work in India. Currently, they support the Volena Wilson FWB Bible Institute in South India where future pastors, evangelists, and church planters are trained.

Pastor Ishii is a fine example of the pastors God is

calling to lead His Church—in particular the Free Will Baptist churches in Japan. Please pray for him and the other pastors who are examples of servant leadership in the Free Will Baptist churches of Japan and around the world. Ask God to keep them strong, true, and committed to Him Who is building His Church. □

Dale Bishop and his wife Sandra have diligently shared the gospel in Japan for over 30 years.



Where Are They Now?

Paul and Amy Robinson

By Neil Gilliland

Every July, thousands of people crowd into the Smithville town square in DeKalb County, Tennessee, to hear the sounds of banjos, mandolins, and fiddles and watch cloggers and flat-footers dance to old mountain melodies. On a quiet side street, just off the main thoroughfare leading into town, is a rather modest house that blends in with the others on the street. No historical markers or signs honor Paul and Amy Robinson, the couple who lives there.

The truth is, while their house sits on that quiet street, their home is in another small town much further south. Rivera, not unlike Smithville, has a town square—the Plaza Internacional. Sitting on the border of Brazil and Uruguay, Rivera is home to Paul and Amy. A return visit several years after their retirement prompted them to write* exultantly, “Home again! Yes, back ‘home’ after 10 years.” They were greeted with a three-hour grand *benevenida* (welcome) with music, hugs, kisses, tears of joy, and speeches from their old friends. You see, it was in Rivera that they, along with their children Ken and Rebecca, spent the better part of 30 years ministering the love of Christ to the people who embraced them, and no doubt, to thousands of others whose lives they touched.

When Paul and Amy left the mission field, they returned to Smithville near Paul’s birthplace. They are actively involved in the First FWB Church of

Smithville. For a number of years, the energetic couple was involved in Hispanic ministry through their church. Currently, most of their ministry to Spanish speakers is one-on-one, and they refer their new friends to Hispanic churches in the area. Amy also teaches English as a second language.

Their son Ken also lives in Tennessee, a few hours from where Paul grew up. Rebecca lives in Michigan—near Amy’s roots.

If you happen to be in Smithville when the Jamboree cranks up and find that little side street, spend a few minutes with one of the most genuine men in the world and one of the classiest ladies God ever created. Paul may not play a tune on the banjo, but he will entertain and bless you with marvelous stories from back home in Uruguay. Amy may not clog for you, but she will make your heart dance for joy as she tells you of the people into whom they poured their lives.

Page three of the October 1960 Free Will Baptist Foreign Mission Board minutes records these words: Interview with Paul Robinsons and Bill Fulchers—Motion sustained that these candidates be approved for Uruguay. One simple sentence—a sentence that impacted thousands of lives from Smithville to Rivera, and all stops between! □

Neil Gilliland is director of member care for the International Missions Department.

**Heartbeat, vol. 43, no. 6, Nov/Dec 2003, page 6*

GPS-X RETREAT ANNOUNCED



ANTIOCH, TN—International Missions will host its second GPS-X (Global Purpose Seekers eXperience) September 18–21, 2008. The retreat is a component of the GPS program initiated in 2007 to equip students in grades 7–9 to make decisions according to the will of God.

During the GPS-X event, students engage in cross-cultural missions training and service projects as they learn biblical

principles about decision-making. Activities are enhanced by working alongside stateside missionaries, FWBIM staff, youth workers, and college missions students.

For more information about GPS or GPS-X, contact the mobilization team: go@fwbgo.com or (877) 767-7736. Visit the IM website (www.fwbgo.com/Go/student) for a glance at the 2007 retreat, more information, and a downloadable registration form.

NICHOLS TAKE LEAVE-OF-ABSENCE



ANTIOCH, TN—The Free Will Baptist International Missions Board approved a one-year leave of absence for veteran missionaries Darrel and Lila Nichols. The Nichols will use this time to seek the Lord's direction for their future ministry.

Darrel and Lila were appointed in May 1982 as church-planting missionaries in the country of Côte d'Ivoire. Unrest forced a reduction in missionary presence in the West African nation, and the Nichols were assigned to Panama in 2003.

The Nichols served two years as Missionaries-in-Residence at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, OK. Currently, the couple lives in Oklahoma City, OK. Darrel plans to continue serving Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College as Lila completes her elementary education degree at Northeastern State University. Steve Lytle, director of field operations, encourages, "Please pray for Darrel and Lila to receive wisdom and guidance during this time."

IM BOARD MEETS

ANTIOCH, TN—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions met December 5–6, 2007, at the missions office in Antioch, TN.

The two-day meeting yielded the following actions:

Cathy Crawford (France), Matt and Cristina Price (France), and Tim and Kristi Johnson (Spain) were reappointed for another term on their fields of service.

A one-year leave of absence was granted to Darrel and Lila Nichols (Panama) to begin January 1, 2008.

Cameron Lane (AR) and Mark McPeak (TN) were reelected for three-year terms on The Hanna Project board.

The 2008 World Missions Offering goal was set at \$750,000.

Bill Evans (TN) was appointed to a two-year term on the Mission's Advisory Council.

The 2008 VISION projects budget was amended to include \$500,000 for an orphanage in Tajikistan planned by The Hanna Project.

The Candidate Committee interviewed four couples. Four candidates received preliminary approval; two candidates received preliminary approval in April 2007, but were given permission to proceed for final approval in April 2008; and two candidates were approved as affiliates. Damon and Kim Cagle received approval as professional servants (affiliates) seconded to ELIC.

Board members participating were: Nelson Henderson (AR); Sherwood Lee (SC); Jeff Manning (NC); Tom McCullough (MI), secretary; Jerry Norris (MO); Bill Van Winkle (TX); Danny Williams (AL), chairman; David Williford (TN); and Randy Wilson (OK), vice-chairman.



MISSIONARIES CELEBRATE SPAIN'S PASTORS

VILLALBA, SPAIN—Spain's National Ministries Team, Jeff and Susan Turnbough and Sam and June McVay, hosted an appreciation dinner for the three pastors of FWB churches on Wednesday, December 5.

Held at a local restaurant, pastors Jhon Fredy, José Manuel and wife Carmen, and Juan Carlos and wife María del Carmen were treated to an excellent meal, a card, gift, words of encouragement, and special prayer. All 10 missionaries participated in honoring these bivocational pastors.

Missionaries were overwhelmed at the emotional reactions of these men and women of God. José Manuel, pastor of the Esperanza FWB Church in Alcalá, capped the evening with his thanksgiving for all those present coming to his home country of Spain to share the gospel. Jhon Fredy (Villalba FWB Church) is Colombian and Juan Carlos (Colmenar Viejo FWB Church) and family are Cuban.



TWENTY-ONE BAPTIZED

CAMPINAS, BRAZIL—Pastors Osmír (São José church) and Paulo César (Nova América mission work) baptized 21 new converts from the two churches and two mission works in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, on Sunday, December 9. The São José church hosted the event.

Four people baptized several months ago were accepted for membership in the São José church in the same festive evening service. Approximately 250 people filled the sanctuary to celebrate with these new converts.

NEW CHURCH DEDICATED IN JAPAN

TOKYO, JAPAN—Believers from all three Tokyo church plants gathered on November 11 to dedicate the building for the newest work in the Tokyo area. Members of the Kamifukuoka Church, the new church plant, were joined by Christians from the Iriso FWB Church and Good News Chapel to celebrate the rental of a building and permanent place for worship.



The Nomura family, partnering with missionaries Ken and Judy Bailey, hosted multiple Bible studies and English classes in their home to help form a nucleus of believers.



LATIN AMERICA PRAYER INITIATIVE

ANTIOCH, TN—A prayer initiative for FWBIM missionary efforts in Latin America was set for February 2–5, 2008, to coincide with *Carnaval* celebrations in the region. *Carnaval*, observed in various ways from country-to-country, is generally a weekend of excessive indulgence leading up to Mardi Gras and the beginning of the Lenten season.

Like the creative access region prayer initiative during Ramadan 2007, this project used an important religious festival expressive of the spiritual opposition to evangelism and church-planting efforts in the countries of Brazil, Panama, and Uruguay as a context for prayer.

Additional prayer initiatives for Europe and Asia are planned. Visit our website (fwbgo.com/pray) or contact the mobilization department at (877) 767-7736 or go@fwbgo.com for more information.

WWW.FWBGO.COM

Visit often for the latest in International Missions news.



Making Ministry

Simple.



By Scott Cheatham

HOW CAN WE PLACE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION about being a Christian into the hands of people searching for Jesus? **SIMPLE!**

Robert J. Morgan's book on the basics of the Christian faith is a staple of our resource library at Rangeview Community Free Will Baptist Church in Denver, Colorado.

We began using *Simple* this past spring as we launched a sermon series based on the book during the Easter season. After picking up a copy at the 2006 convention in Birmingham, I began plans to integrate it into the ministry of our church as soon as possible. First, I identified what I felt would be the best time to introduce the book. I decided on Easter Sunday.

From there, I designed a custom invitation using the book's graphics and placed these in the hands of our people. They in turn used them to invite their friends. Every person who walked through our doors on Easter Sunday received a copy of the book as an incentive to return. We ordered an extra case of books to be sure we had enough. Despite a blizzard on Easter Sunday, 12 new people came through our doors and gladly took their complimentary copies of the book. For the next five weeks, each message was based on one of the five parts of the book. Since then, we've integrated the book's information into our ministry process here at Rangeview.

We use the books as a way to follow up on newcomers. When we visit with new families, I give them a copy of *Simple* to help answer their initial questions about becoming a Christ follower.

For the future, I am developing an interactive curriculum of newcomer lessons that will utilize *Simple*. The book will be an integral part of our "Rangeview Connections" class that will share the history, vision, and ministry process of our church. As we share the gospel of Jesus Christ with new families, *Simple* will be an integral part of opening doors to grow our church plant here in the Rockies!

Simple is a flexible, easy-to-use book that can be integrated into any style of ministry program. It can be used on its own, as a giveaway, or as part of a larger class for newcomers. For us, the book will continue to be a valuable addition to our church.

I am thankful for the author and the staff at Randall House Publications for putting such a tremendous tool in our hands to help people understand what it means to be a Christian. □

SCOTT CHEATHAM is a pastor and church planter in Denver, CO. He and his wife Rebecca have been married 19 years. They have three children.

Photo: Mark Cowart



THE INCONVENIENT BEATITUDE

As far as they knew, they'd never see him again. The little band of men sat with Paul aboard a cramped freighter docked at the Lion's Port on the Latonian Gulf. The setting sun reddened as it sank over the once-glorious city of Miletus on the Asia Minor coast. These brothers had traveled 25 miles overland from Ephesus, then crossed the 12-mile-wide gulf to sit at the apostle's feet one last time.

Jesus' Hardest Saying?

Paul's discussion with them took several turns. He talked about his suffering, his total abandon in finishing Christ's course for his life, and the truths he would die for—a death which might come sooner than later. After reminding them of his tears and warning them of grave dangers to their faith, Paul commends these Ephesian leaders to the Lord.

But he's not through; there's one more thing he adds. Paul quotes his Master, the Lord Jesus. These words of Jesus aren't found anywhere else in the Bible. No gospel writer includes them. The saying is an otherwise unknown beatitude—perhaps Jesus' hardest saying of all.

Simple Enough

After Paul mentions his own example of laboring to meet a need, he adds: "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35). The words are so simple that they need no detailed exegesis. All they need is practice.

When did Jesus say this? Was it when His disciples were watching the widow give her last mite to the temple treasury? Maybe He mentioned it to the 12 when He sent them out, or as He was giving

away the 12 baskets of leftovers after He had fed the multitude. Jesus says almost the same thing in Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you."

Perhaps it was in a different setting altogether, such as in one of those "down times" away from the crowds with His disciples. Whenever the Lord said these words, evidently they impressed Paul since he makes similar comments in Romans 15:1, Galatians 6:2, and Ephesians 4:28.

I Could—If I Would

Given human nature, I suspect Jesus had to repeat this beatitude often. The truth is we need to hear it ourselves over and over. In our culture of insatiable consumer capitalism where we produce mainly to satisfy our over-indulged lifestyles, what Jesus said cuts us to the heart. At least it should.

Paul saw it that way. He labored so that he could give to the weak. Maybe, just maybe, I ought to do that, too. I could cut back on what I spend on myself so that a missionary account wouldn't be so far in the red. I could set a place at my table for an indigent man in the community I've been trying to win to Christ. I feel sure I could give up a Saturday round of golf to sit with a friend's father in an assisted living home so my friend could have a few free hours. I could—if I would.

To be sure, there's nothing wrong with receiving. Our Father gives us richly all things to enjoy, Paul himself says (1 Timothy 6:17). It's good to receive. Receiving testifies to the goodness of the Giver to the receiver. But it's better to give. Giving testifies to the goodness of the Giver in the receiver. That's the real blessing. □

Dr. Garnett Reid is a member of the Bible faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

HOME MISSIONS Introducing New Missionaries



JOSUE AND CRISTINA RIVERA will serve as Hispanic Missionaries in West Virginia, planting a Hispanic church in the Eastern Panhandle area. Josue and Cristina both grew up and were married in Moultrie, Georgia, and have two beautiful daughters, Brianna and Michelle. Josue was called to preach under the ministry of Rev. Fernando Bustamante while living in Moultrie. Both graduated from the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute in South Carolina. They spent two years starting a Hispanic ministry in Darlington, South Carolina, under Rev. Bustamante. After much time in prayer, the Lord has led the Riveras to Charles Town, West Virginia, to pastor the Hispanic church there.

CLEAR Teacher of the Year

Sunday is a busy day for **Stanley Seibert**. He not only teaches the upper elementary class of the Sciotodale Free Will Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Ohio, but he also serves as Sunday School superintendent. In this dual role, Stanley routinely encourages parents to use CLEAR products at home with their children during the week. He also ensures that students take the materials home to use with their parents.

Seibert, who has been a part of the Sciotodale Church since the late 1970s, taught the preschool class before assuming his present teaching position.

Pastor Aaron Reed stated, "Ever since CLEAR was introduced, Stan has been passionate about using and promoting it. He knows that CLEAR is an excellent tool to draw families closer to Christ. He is an inspiration to me."

Stanley Seibert was the CLEAR Teacher of the Year 2007. Your teacher could be the CLEAR Teacher of the Year 2008.

- Does your teacher capture the attention of students and relate to them on their level?
- Is your teacher confident in his or her knowledge of God's Word?
- Does your teacher inspire students to study the Bible and apply its truths to their lives?
- Does your teacher seek to grow spiritually and desire for his or her students to grow as well?

If so, urge your pastor, minister of education, or Sunday School superintendent to nominate your teacher for the CLEAR Teacher of the Year Award. Nominees for CLEAR Teacher of the Year must currently be teaching from the CLEAR Sunday School Curriculum. All age groups are eligible, but only one winner will be chosen.



To place a nomination for CLEAR Teacher of the Year, visit us online at www.CLEARcurriculum.com/teacher. If you prefer, write or call Randall House Publications, 114 Bush Road, Nashville, TN 37217, (800) 877-7030, to request an entry form.. The deadline for CLEAR Teacher of the Year nominations is **April 30, 2008**.

The CLEAR Teacher of the Year will receive 3 days, 2 nights stay at the national convention in Charleston, West Virginia. The prize includes transportation (\$.125 per mile), food (\$120 for three days), and lodging.

Additional prizes include:

\$200 decorating allowance for the winner's classroom
\$100 gift card to Randall Bookstore for books and supplies.

A press release to the winner's hometown newspaper and state FWB newsletter, with a picture and write-up in ONE magazine as the award winner.



I'M COMING TO



FWBCC!

A Wal-Mart supervisor, a home-schooled journalist, a missionary kid, and an eighth grader with a nose for history explain why they plan to study at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

THE WAL-MART SUPERVISOR *By Tim Hutchinson*



Hello, my name is Tim Hutchinson, and I'm 24. As of this writing, I work at Wal-Mart as an hourly supervisor. My parents both attended Free Will Baptist Bible College, and as a preacher's kid, I grew up in churches all over the South. I was home-schooled from age 5 to 16.

At 16, I was legally old enough to get a job, and immediately did so. Suddenly forced into constant contact with customers and co-workers, I quickly learned how to get people to talk to me about anything and everything if I approached them correctly. People twice my age began to ask my advice in situations way beyond my knowledge and experience.

After several years of this, I've decided to explore this apparent skill further. I want to learn to listen and help people in a professional, Christian manner.

I never gave college much thought over the years, because I had no clue what I wanted to do. I considered it a waste of money to go four years and get a degree I didn't really want, just because it was expected of me. Recently, I have acquired the drive, focus, desire, and a goal that I want to reach.

A degree in psychology, with emphasis on Christian counseling is my goal, and Free Will Baptist Bible College is where I want to earn it. FWBBC provides the atmosphere I want, with people who grew up in much the same way I did. I want to continue my education while surrounded by Christians, whose goals and ideals are in concert with my own, with peers whose pressure is the positive kind, and with staff who want to see me succeed not only in my classes, but in my life-long walk with God. □

ABOUT THE WRITER: **Tim Hutchinson** came to Tennessee by way of Dublin, Georgia, where his parents pastor a Free Will Baptist Church. He now considers Nashville home where he works as a supervisor at Wal-Mart.

THE HOME-SCHOOLED JOURNALIST *By Crystal Hodges*



I was 13 when I decided to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College. That was also about the time I started to get a strong calling and interest into missions, and discovered my interest in video production and photography.

When I heard what Tim Crowson was doing in Tokyo (Japan), I started to feel a calling to do the same thing when I get older and have the chance. Right now, I feel called to either Japan or Spain. But I realize that God may call me to another location, maybe even someone here in California, or He may change what subjects I plan to major in at college.

I'm completely open to what He has planned for my life, because I know it's not about me and what I want; it's all about Him and what He wants. Not only was it my calling to missions that pointed me to FWBBC...I had heard from people I know and trust about the small community and the closeness of the students. I couldn't think of anywhere better to go. And that's why I plan on attending FWBBC. □

ABOUT THE WRITER: **Crystal Hodges** (age 16) is home-schooled and hopes to enroll at FWBBC in 2009. She lives in California and is a member of Clovis Free Will Baptist Church. She writes the "Souled Out" column in WNAC's *Together With God* magazine.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Have you considered studying at Free Will Baptist Bible College? No matter what your interests, there's something at FWBBC for you. We train Christian leaders, pastors, musicians, youth ministers, and missionaries. We also offer degree programs for the business community, for health care professionals and teacher education specialists, for psychologists, coaches, international studies, and more.

Want to know more? Email recruit@fwbbc.edu. Check out the college website at www.fwbbc.edu, or call (800) 76-FWBBC.

I want to go to college and become an elementary teacher. I believe God laid it on my heart as a child. I absolutely love kids. One way I am able to work with kids now is by coaching Upwards basketball.

I plan to enroll at Free Will Baptist Bible College in the fall of 2009. I have visited the campus many times, and I love the atmosphere and the people. I have been able to spend time with many of the students. They are so friendly! The college is not too big and not too small, but just right, in my opinion.

My grandfather, John Murray, is a professor and the Christian Service director at FWBBC. I love being around him, because he knows almost everyone, so I get to meet new people every time I visit.

I believe that FWBBC will provide the education and training I need in order to become a teacher. Going to FWBBC will provide the chance to make Christian friends that will last a lifetime. I also believe that going to FWBBC will help me grow in my faith and become a stronger Christian.

While visiting the college, I have had several opportunities to attend chapel services and missions conferences, which challenged me and helped me grow in my faith. I am really looking forward to being in a Christian school surrounded by fellow Christians. Public school does not usually provide that kind of experience. □



ABOUT THE WRITER: *Morgan Fite* (age 16) is a junior at Mt. Juliet High School in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. She did missionary work three years with her mother and brother in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Morgan is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville.

THE HISTORY DETECTIVE *By Austin Deel*



“The aim of education should be to teach us how to think rather than what to think,” said James Beattie.

In a sense, he is right. Most of the science out there today is largely based on the theory of Charles Darwin. As a Free Will Baptist, I don’t share Darwin’s view, and I would rather not have to put up with those theories all the way through college when I am taking different subjects to send me on my way in the real world.

I know that I can trust Free Will Baptist Bible College to teach me the same subjects I would take in a regular college, but at FWBBC the subjects are taught from a Christian view.

Since I want to become a professor of English and history, I want to learn these subjects, especially history, out of a curriculum based on facts drawn from the Bible. I want to have the right view of these things, not the tainted one the world offers. I can trust the FWBBC teachers to give me the right information.

A second reason for attending the Bible College is that the students are Christians. Because Christians are different from people of the world, I won’t have to deal with behavioral problems as much as if I were going to a non-Christian college. This way I can learn and get more out of the classes.

I can safely say that Free Will Baptist Bible College is where I will go to college after I graduate high school. It has everything I am looking for, and I can’t wait to attend. □

ABOUT THE WRITER: *Austin Deel* (age 13) is in the eighth grade at Martin Luther King Magnet School in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a member of LaVergne Free Will Baptist Church in LaVergne, Tennessee.



FRESHMAN CLASS ELECTS OFFICERS

THE FRESHMAN CLASS at Free Will Baptist Bible College elected the following officers for the 2007-2008 school year:

- President—Holly Rains (Missouri)
- Vice-President—Andrea Shattuck (South Carolina)
- Secretary/Treasurer—Lauren Jolly (Kentucky)
- Chaplain—Chris Talbot (Michigan)
- Worship Leader—Nic Dennis (Arkansas)

This year's Freshman Class includes 80 students out of a student body numbering 324 from 25 states and two foreign countries.

Photo: Front Row (L-R): President Holly Rains, Vice-President Andrea Shattuck, Secretary/Treasurer Lauren Jolly. Back Row (L-R): Chaplain Chris Talbot, Worship Leader Nic Dennis.

21 ATTEND FWBBC'S FALL WELCOME DAYS

TWENTY-ONE HIGH SCHOOL students from six states participated in Free Will Baptist Bible College's 2007 fall Welcome Days October 19-20. The event brings prospective students to campus where they experience college life firsthand.

According to Jeff Caudill, director of enrollment services, "Welcome Days guests were able to tour campus, interact with some of our students, learn about the financial aid process, and be challenged from the Word of God. Visiting students were able to see both the fun side and the serious side of FWBBC campus life."

Spring semester 2008 Welcome Days meets March 27-29, and is expected to attract more than 200 students, parents, and sponsors.

COLLEGE CHOIR SETS SPRING SCHEDULE

THE 30-VOICE Free Will Baptist Bible College Choir will give 11 performances March 6-12 during a six-day tour through Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Dr. James Stevens, choir director and chairman of the FWBBC Music Department, invites area churches to join with host congregations for the vocal presentations as the College Choir travels to America's heartland for its annual spring tour.

For more information about tour dates and times, please visit www.fwbcc.edu/About/CollegeChoirSchedule.html.

COLLEGE NAMES INTERIM BASKETBALL COACH

BRIAN JAMISON, 27-year-old account executive with the Worcester Sharks semi-pro hockey team (MA), has been named interim men's basketball coach at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Mr. Jamison, a Nashville native, assumed his duties November 12.

While a student at FWBBC (2000-04), Brian played point guard four years with the Flames basketball team under the leadership of three coaches. He attends Donelson FWB Church in Nashville.

Mr. Jamison said, "This will be like coming home to me. The Flames' tradition is such a part of my life from my days as a player and student at FWBBC. I'm looking forward to working with these young men and seeing them develop as a team and as Christians. The Flames make a big impact wherever they play. We have a great opportunity to influence Free Will Baptist youth for Christ."

HESTER PUBLISHED



DR. KEVIN HESTER, professor of Biblical and Ministry Studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College, published his first book in 2007, a 150-page volume titled *Eschatology and Pain in St. Gregory the Great: The Christological Synthesis of Gregory's Morals on the Book of Job*. The volume is part of the *Studies in Christian History and Thought* series

printed by Paternoster, an evangelical English publishing company.

The book, an adaptation of Hester's doctoral dissertation, focuses on the two major themes of eschatology and pain in the five-volume work of St. Gregory the Great.

"Hester's writing is clear and direct," said Dr. Carole Straw, history professor at Mount Holyoake College. "His arguments are persuasive. This is an admirable first book."

Dallas Theological Seminary's Dr. Jeffrey Bingham said, "For those who seek pastoral perspective from Job and other biblical texts, [Hester's work] will provide insight into the deeply Christological, contemplative, and moral nature of Gregorian spirituality."

Hester, age 36, graduated from FWBBC (1993), and subsequently earned the M.Div. degree (1997) at Covenant Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. (2002) from Saint Louis University. Copies of Dr. Hester's book may be ordered at www.amazon.com.



COLLEGE SELECTS GALLATIN FOR THE NEW CAMPUS

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE (FWBBC) has selected a 66-acre site in Gallatin, TN, on which to build a new campus, according to Relocation Consultant Colonel Mark Johnson. The site is a short drive from the college's current campus on West End Avenue. College officials signed a contract on November 19, 2007. Because of a confidentiality clause, terms of the contract cannot be disclosed until all required city approvals have been obtained, and the contract has been finalized.

President Matt Pinson said, "The Board and administration could not be more pleased with the purchase arrangements. We believe that we received an excellent price from the owner for this prime property on which to relocate. The confidentiality clause will be lifted as soon as the contract has closed, and we will share more details with our constituency."

The larger campus site will allow FWBBC to build outdoor sports facilities for students, and provides plenty of parking space for students, staff, and campus guests. In addition, the college can design a campus from the start to fit current and future needs. The site is near medical and educational resources, surrounded by new housing developments, and is still in the Greater Nashville area.

Colonel Johnson assured FWBBC's constituents that freeway accessibility to the new campus site would mirror what the college enjoys in its current location.

President Pinson said, "This property in Gallatin is everything we were looking for in a new campus. It's more than seven times the size of our current campus, which means that we will not have to cap enrollment and curtail new programs. We will have room to construct adequate buildings for instructional needs and to house students."

Sumner County's exploding economy, along with Gallatin's inviting small-city atmosphere, means that the college will have the benefits of the larger Nashville community as well as the charm and convenience of the Gallatin/Hendersonville communities. "We have

Photo above: FWBBC leaders present for the contract signing. Seated: President Matt Pinson. Standing (L-R): Sandy Goodfellow, Director of Plant Operations; Mark Johnson, Campus Relocation Project Consultant; Milton Fields, Vice President for Institutional Planning; Greg Ketteyman, Provost; David Williford, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; Jon Forlines, Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students.

been welcomed by city officials and business leaders," Pinson said. "We believe that we've found our new home after searching long and hard for a new campus."

Station Camp High School, Knox Doss Middle School, and an elementary school now under construction are located across the street from the new campus site. Volunteer State Community College is two miles away. The \$18 million Sumner Regional Healthplex-Wellness Center is under construction less than a mile from the campus site, and will be completed in early 2008. Affordable housing in a wide range of prices is readily available in the area for faculty and staff needs, and numerous employment opportunities for students.

Gallatin officials project rapid population growth in the next five years as the area's surging economy attracts high-end shops, malls, jobs, healthcare facilities, and an array of restaurants and housing developments.

The college originally planned to purchase the Sumner County property in tandem with the sale of its West End Avenue campus in Nashville. However, after the proposed buyer notified the college in March 2007 that he was unable to go forward with the purchase, the college administration and Trustees became convinced of the need to proceed and secure the Gallatin site, even though a construction timetable for the new campus has not been set.

Read more about the purchase, get reaction from the Gallatin community, and view pictures at www.onemag.org/new_campus.htm.

COLLEGE SETS SPRING WELCOME DAYS

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE will host Spring Welcome Days on campus March 27-29. Some 150 students are expected to attend the three-day event.

Jeff Caudill, director of enrollment services, said, "This will be an eye-opening weekend for high school sophomores and juniors. They will get a chance to experience life on the college campus, meet teachers, attend classes, check out financial aid options, and get acquainted with some of the finest young people anywhere."

The cost to attend Spring Welcome Days is \$35. Students may register online at www.fwbcc.edu/welcomedays.

For more information, call (800) 76-FWBBC or email recruit@fwbcc.edu.

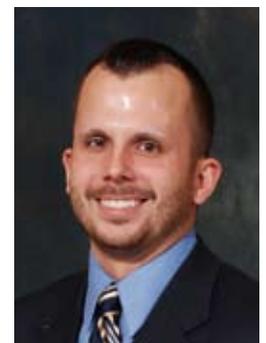
RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR RESIGNS

RYAN LEWIS, director of recruitment since 2005, recently resigned to accept the associate pastor position at First FWB Church in Amory, Mississippi, according to Jeff Caudill, director of enrollment services.

"Ryan has been a great representative for FWBBC. He is a good communicator and was at his best explaining how an education with a Christian worldview could benefit prospective students," Caudill said. "We will miss his commitment to excellence and his positive attitude on campus. He is a good friend, and we wish him well in his new responsibilities."

Ryan graduated summa cum laude in 2005 with a degree in Exercise Science. He was voted Most Outstanding Student his senior year and was included in *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*.

Ryan is the son of Reverend Ernie Lewis, pastor of Blue Point FWB Church in Cisne, Illinois, and assistant clerk of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. His brother Derek is a sophomore at FWBBC





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Jerry's Legacy Lives On



JERRY MILOM, 60-YEAR-OLD DEACON AT BETHEL FWB Church near Ashland City, Tennessee, died unexpectedly October 18, 2007, at the family-owned print shop. His ministry as a Sunday School growth specialist was featured in the article "Your Church Can Grow" in the October-November 2007 issue of *ONE Magazine*, along with his long-time friend Terry Forrest who coordinates the Pastoral Ministry program at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Jerry's last out-of-state trip with Terry to conduct a church growth seminar was to First FWB Church in Dothan, Alabama. On the Sunday after his death, the church reported a nearly 40% increase in Sunday School, with 220 for worship. Twelve new members were enrolled in Sunday School and two people were saved.

Earlier, Jerry had provided Sunday School growth materials for an Arkansas church (First FWB Church in Batesville). On the Sunday after his death, Sunday School attendance surged from 101 to 170, with 202 for worship, 27 first-time visitors, and three conversions.

Jerry's final growth campaign was at Bethel FWB Church where he served as Sunday School superintendent. On the Sunday following his death, Bethel had four conversions and a groundswell of people stepping forward publicly, volunteering to fill the gap in the ranks. Seven days later, the Bethel Church had its second-highest Sunday School attendance in history with 389 people and its highest-ever October average attendance. The 382 Sunday School mark was a 32% increase over the previous Sunday. □



Does the Bible Fit in

How Free Will Baptist Bible College taught one man to study the Bible.

My earliest memory of Sunday School is sitting on a slatted bench that was so high my legs could not reach the floor while a nice lady read the Bible lesson to us. The lesson was on the back of a card with a colored Bible picture on the front side. This took place in the same room where everyone else was having Sunday School. The “lesson” took no more than five minutes. It would not have taken that long, but she had to help all of us find our pennies for the offering and then separate us from our money.

Several years later, as a seventh grader, I found myself in a small Sunday School class with two of my younger brothers, ages nine and six respectively, plus a high school drop-out. Class may have taken 10 minutes some Sundays. We did get an education by listening to the other class in the auditorium, however.

The teacher would call on different members of the class to read a particular verse and comment on it. The usual comment was, “I believe this verse

pretty well explains itself.” To which the teacher responded, “I believe you are right.”

Getting Serious About Bible Study

It was not always that way. Things were quite different in the Sunday School I attended for two years prior to the “I believe it explains itself” class. For one thing, a new convert in her 80s challenged a group of fifth and sixth graders to learn the names of the books of the Bible in proper order. We did, with pride.

My Sunday School teacher was a young man just out of military service. Due to lack of space, we met in the pastor’s study. We soon discovered *Smith’s Bible Dictionary*, *Cruden’s Concordance*, and *Clarke’s Commentary*. Those handy resources added a lot to our class discussions.

It was not until I was in high school that I had a Sunday School class where we got serious about the Bible. Several of us actually studied our lessons ahead of time and read the suggested daily Bible

Your Life?

By Ralph Hampton

readings. The preaching was another matter. My father was a thoroughly committed Bible preacher. He loved to preach doctrinal sermons. I knew for sure what Free Will Baptists believed and why before I was a teenager.

Facing Reality at FWBBC

Now I have told you all of this to tell you that although I had read a great deal out of the Bible, I had never read the Bible through until I came to Free Will Baptist Bible College. I did read the New Testament through the summer before I left home for Bible College.

In the years I spent as a student at FWBBC, I learned more about the Bible and its teaching than I had learned in a lifetime. I really was not prepared for college level Bible studies. In those days, the assignment was to read the Bible two hours outside of class for every hour in class. There was no way rapid reading could help get that assignment done quickly.

For the most part, the students I started college with were no more prepared than I was. When we graduated, we did not know it all, but we were well prepared, we thought, to establish Christian homes and return to minister in our local churches. The years have pretty well verified our assessment. In the years since, I have met many of the Lord's faithful servants who have spent a lifetime in reading the Bible, and you can tell it.

Reaching Today's Students

Things have changed since 1955, especially since the 1980s. Many students still begin their careers here with as little or less Biblical knowledge. However, there is a much greater need for Biblical and theological knowledge.

Young people today face far more serious challenges. The authority of the Bible on moral issues such as abortion, lying, cheating, stealing, sex outside of marriage, homosexuality, and homosexual marriage is rejected by their cultural generation. No one has a right to confront anyone else on any issue. Values and tastes are determined by television, popular music, and generational opinion.

Free Will Baptist Bible College is more committed than ever to help our students deal with these issues and prepare them to minister to their generation. There are no easy answers. We are continuing to examine our Bible and Theology curriculum to see how we can better prepare our students.

We redesigned our Bible program last year to provide more time to equip our students to deal with contemporary worldview thinking. Christian worldview thinking in contrast to contemporary, secular philosophies is a part of virtually every course in our curriculum.

Learning How to Live

Graduates in every program major in Bible and Theology as well as in their chosen career fields. Students do need to know how to make a living, but they also need to learn how to live for Christ in a culture that is becoming increasingly pagan and secular. It was that truth that led me to Free Will Baptist Bible College, when it looked as if communism would sweep the western world. I told my friends that I came to Free Will Baptist Bible College, not to learn how to make a living, but to learn how to live. □

Ralph Hampton chairs the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College where he has taught since 1958. He is a former moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.



FROM PEA RIDGE TO CANE RIDGE

By David Crowe

LIFE AND MINISTRY ARE FILLED WITH TRANSITIONS. WE live in an ever-changing world surrounded by changing cultures and societies. My earliest memories of church are at Free Water Free Will Baptist Church in a little community in northwest Alabama called Pea Ridge.

As you can imagine, Pea Ridge is not a thriving metropolis. Free Water was a small country church where they sang Stamps-Baxter hymns with shaped-note music. Services were sometimes loud and often emotional. When people prayed, they all prayed out loud and really loud. Our pastors didn't have college degrees and most of their sermons had no outline (imagine that). But over the years, God has called preachers from that little church who minister in almost every area of our denomination. My childhood experiences remind me that God can use small churches in rural and remote places for His glory and His honor.

When I was nine years old, we moved to town. In Winfield, Alabama, we joined the Winfield FWB Church where we were introduced to the many ministries of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. It was here as a boy and teenager that I first heard men like Roy Thomas, Fred Warner, Charles Thigpen, Bobby Jackson, Joe and Nate Ange, Bob Shockey, and many other great Free Will Baptist preachers. I participated in Bible Sword Drill, Bible

Tic-Tac-Toe, and Bible Bowl, learning more about the Bible and memorizing hundreds of verses of Scripture. I met my wife, Kathey, and during a youth revival preached by Nate Ange, I surrendered my life to Christ and answered the call to preach at age 19. It was at the Winfield FWB Church that I preached my first sermon and was encouraged to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College (maybe because they heard my first sermon!).

After four years of Bible College, several years of seminary, four years as a youth and assistant pastor, two years as a full-time evangelist, and four years pastoring two different small rural churches, I found myself in Tennessee, the 28-year-old pastor of the Cookeville Free Will Baptist Church. God blessed my ministry, and I thought I would either die or retire while pastoring the Cookeville Church. In 1995, however, Trymon Messer came to Cookeville and told me that he had been chosen to be the general director of Home Missions after the retirement of Dr. Roy Thomas. He said that he had prayed about who he would hire as his associate, and I was the man. I had no aspirations for the job, nor did I intend to apply. However, I promised him that I would pray about it. Kathey and I prayed for seven months before God finally convinced us that this was His will for our lives.



David Crowe is director of development for the Home Missions Department in Antioch, TN.

I began working for Home Missions on the first day of February 1996 as director of missionary assistance. I moved my family to Antioch, Tennessee, and for five years I visited 20–25 home mission families each year to preach, fellowship, train, and encourage them. During this time, I also preached in many established FWB churches and promoted Home Missions.

Richard Atwood joined our staff and became director of missionary assistance while I became the director of ministry helps. My new role was to promote church growth, evangelism, and encouragement in established churches. With Larry Powell as general director, my title was changed to director of church growth and evangelism and eventually shortened to director of church growth. I have served in this capacity seven years.

After 12 years, my title is about to change again. When Dr. Richard Adams, director of development, retired in January 2008, I assumed his responsibilities. I am in charge of the Church Extension Loan Fund and responsible for raising a million dollars for the Richard and Carolyn Adams Endowment, as well as planning and hosting the Heritage trips that are sponsored by Home Missions.

Please pray for me, my wife Kathey, and my secretary Sarah Hadley during this transition. It's been a long jour-

ney from Pea Ridge, Alabama to Cane Ridge, Tennessee. The journey has taken nearly 50 years. Along the way, I've preached over 1,000 revivals, conferences, and youth camps in every state where we have Free Will Baptist churches. I've been an assistant pastor, youth pastor, pastor, full-time evangelist, and have held more titles at Home Missions than I care to remember. However, I'm more interested in helping pastors, people, and churches than I am in holding a title.

Pray that God will use me to continue to promote the Heritage Book Club, the Benjamin Randall Offering, the Church Extension Loan Fund, and the Richard and Carolyn Adams Endowment. Ask Him to give me strength to continue visiting our churches, encouraging pastors and their families. My heart is—and always has been—with our pastors and our churches. Without you, there would be no need for Home Missions or any other department.



God has brought me from one ridge to another, and while many things have changed during these 50 years, Jesus has never changed! I still preach and love His unchanging Word. From Pea Ridge to Cane Ridge...imagine that. □

Reflections of a Missionary Daughter

By Rachel Martin



When my parents announced that they were moving from Birmingham, Alabama, to Rochester, New York, to help start a mission church, I was apprehensive. However, when God began speaking to my heart, I caught a glimpse of why they wanted to go. My vision has been altered since.

As a 22-year-old, I had no idea what it would take to start a church, but I quickly learned that the first thing I had to do was gain the proper perspective. When my family visited Rochester last fall, my mother and I were not impressed, but as we boarded the plane to make our way home, our hearts remained in New York. The faces of the people we met made their way into our minds, and God quickly showed us what this was all about. It didn't matter if we were unimpressed or unsatisfied. God had work for us to do, and we had to keep our eyes focused on that.

After settling in New York, I had the selfish notion that because I had given of myself to come, that God

would just flood the church with lost souls. It didn't take long to find out this was not the case. I dedicated myself to committed prayer. I've always been a firm believer in the power of prayer as I've watched God do miraculous things throughout the years, but never have I personally cried out to Him more than the past 10 months. Sometimes I shed tears of joy, sometimes tears of loneliness. Other times, I cried tears of pure frustration. Through each new emotion, I've learned that it can be entrusted to God.

Although my perspective changed, and my prayer life became more committed, I still found it difficult to stay encouraged. As a church, we were praying, witnessing, and making regular visits to those who were hurting, so I couldn't understand why God was not answering my prayers to send more people our way.

One night, during a conversation with my mom, it hit me. I was venting my frustrations about the lack of growth in our church and how discouraged I had

become. She lovingly looked at me and said, "Rachel, God obviously wants a church here or He wouldn't have called us. If He wants a church here, then He's the one who will build it."

It is hard for us to see sometimes that just because we do all the right things, God still has a timetable that He is working on. We can water, and we can plant, but only God brings the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6-7). It was this moment when I realized our mission would take more than a proper perspective and committed prayer. It would also take an unwavering perseverance.

At times, my desire to go back to Alabama is great—back to a town with my family and friends who I know and love, back to what is comfortable. When I go through those lonely days, the faces of the kids in our children's ministry come to mind. I remind myself



The Booths (L) with the Martin family.

that this ministry may be their only way to learn who Jesus is, and how much He loves them. I can't give up on them, even if it means that I have to endure some uncomfortable moments. Sometimes, their faces are what keep me here.

I've found myself begging God for answers, and the best one that He gives me is peace. My heart goes out to missionaries, both home and international. I find comfort in knowing I'm not alone. I'm one worker among many, and we're all working to reach as many for the Lord as possible. Those thoughts always put a smile in my heart and on my face. I am thankful to be used of God.

"If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me" (Psalm 139:9-10). □

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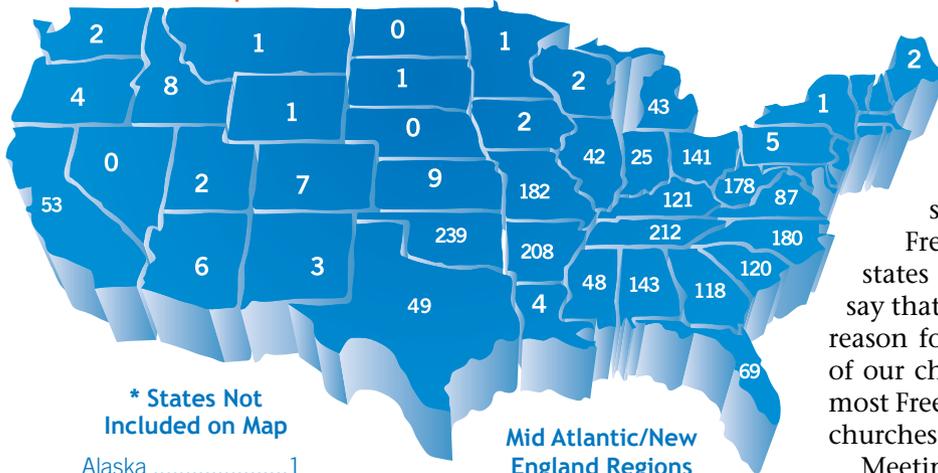


Free Will Baptist Foundation
Phone Toll-Free: (877) 336-7575
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Email: foundation@nafwb.org

Running the Numbers

By Tom Jones

Free Will Baptist Churches Per State *



* States Not Included on Map

Alaska	1
Connecticut	0
Delaware	2
Hawaii	1
Maryland	2
Massachusetts	0
New Hampshire	2
Rhode Island	1
Vermont	0

Mid Atlantic/New England Regions

Connecticut	0
Delaware	2
District of Columbia	0
Maine	2
Maryland	2
Massachusetts	0
New Hampshire	2
New Jersey	3
New York	1
Pennsylvania	5
Rhode Island	1
Vermont	0
Total Population	62,039,371 (US Census Bureau 2006)
Total Number of FWB Churches	18
1% of FWB Churches	

Top 12 States in Number of FWB Churches

Oklahoma	239
Tennessee	212
Arkansas	208
Missouri	182
North Carolina	180
West Virginia	178
Alabama	143
Ohio	141
Kentucky	121
South Carolina	120
Georgia	118
Virginia	87
Total Population	70,582,799 (US Census Bureau 2006)
Total Number of FWB Churches	1,951
81% of FWB Churches	
• Source: 2007 FWB Yearbook	

WHEN I WAS INTRODUCED TO FREE WILL BAPTISTS in northwest Arkansas back in 1978, I assumed that every state was like mine. I thought Free Will Baptist churches were as plentiful in all states as they were where I lived. It is probably safe to say that many reading this article feel the same way. The reason for this conclusion is simple. Eighty-one percent of our churches are located in 12 states! In other words, most Free Will Baptists are surrounded by Free Will Baptist churches.

Meeting people like Roy Thomas, Trymon Messer, and John Gibbs, helped me realize my assumption was completely wrong. After traveling to Pennsylvania a few times to visit my wife's family, I understood this certainly was not true of that state. God used the men mentioned above to call me to be a home missionary to the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area in 1995.

Since that moment, my burden has increased for the 12 Mid-Atlantic and New England states (including the District of Columbia). According to the *2007 Free Will Baptist Yearbook*, there are 18 FWB churches in these 12 states, 0.75% of all our churches. Four of the 18 are currently mission works under the Home Missions Department. Yet the population of these 12 states numbers over 62 million. Only four percent of the people are evangelical Christians. This is in America!

I compared the top 12 states in number of FWB churches to the 12 previously mentioned, and the results are staggering. The population totals just over 72 million with 28% being evangelical Christians (there is much work to do in these states as well). In these 12 states, we have 1,951 FWB churches, 81% of our total number of churches.

Praise the Lord for the work that is being done in these areas. However, we must realize that America remains a mission field. Let's pray together that people will answer the call to go to the needy areas in America and love these people and preach the gospel to them.

Many seem to be reluctant to consider the possibility, let alone respond to the call. It is mind-boggling to think that in 2007 some states in America still have no Free Will Baptist churches. The need is great, and we must be willing to answer the call. Perhaps God is calling you! □

Tom Jones is a veteran missionary planting a Free Will Baptist church in Greensburg, PA.

VICTORY AT WHITE EARTH RESERVATION



BY LARRY A. POWELL

THE HAND OF GOD IS UPON THE MINISTRY OF George and Kathy Lemelin who minister to the Ojibwe tribe in Ogema, Minnesota. My heart was deeply burdened when I visited the reservation, and the Lemelins shared their hopes and aspirations for reaching these needy souls. They are a people held in bondage and great darkness by our enemy. Pray with us that the power of Satan will be broken, and the message of salvation will have life-changing results among the men, women, and children of the Ojibwe.

George, Kathy, and their children have a tremendous love for these native people. Just recently they had Family Week at the church. George spent four days preaching on the needs of families. The reservation is filled with broken marriages and lives shattered by alcohol, drugs, and demonic oppression. The attendance in these services was phenomenal with 41 average and 64 as a high attendance.

Free Will Baptists have a major opportunity to

impact the Northern Tribes of America on these reservations among the lakes. Our missionaries are asking us to help them purchase the church building they are meeting in at present. For approximately \$10,000, they can purchase the land and the building. We are asking Free Will Baptists to reach out to this native tribe by purchasing this facility.

Please send your gift to the Home Missions Department earmarked "White Earth Church." Brother George has long-range plans to build church and school facilities on the 37 acres recently purchased for \$20,000.

We have a window of opportunity. We must not miss it! Help our missionaries have victory at the White Earth Reservation for the Ojibwe people. □

Rev. Larry A. Powell is general director of the Home Missions Department in Antioch, TN. For more information about Home Missions, visit their website: www.home-missions.net.

Curve *in the* Trail

By Brenda Evans

PIG TRAIL WAS DANGEROUS, EVEN FOR A RISK-TAKER. GIVE A BOY TWO wheels attached by a few steel rods, a set of handlebars, a dare-devil cousin, a curvy mountain path, and you have trouble. Not that David liked trouble. He did, however, like taking risks, and still does unless it involves finances.

Narrow, steep, and curvy, Pig Trail was a dirt path for animals with four feet—not boys on Stingray bikes. But David and his cousin Steve saw great potential for fun and danger on that path down the side of one of those Ouachita Mountains in Malvern, Arkansas.

Speed and thrills are worthy goals for a young boy. David was ready for the challenge, willing to endure the struggle up for the exhilarating ride down. He knew what to do: skillfully peddle, lean, turn, skid, evade, and above all have no fear. Undoubtedly, his skill would take him down safely—he hoped.

Unfortunately, David and his cousin had not figured on what a young boy might call “the luck of the curve.” And so they streaked on, weaving, wobbling, reveling. The curve was steep and sharp; the crash sudden and spectacular, a mangled mishmash of metal, rubber tires, and boy flesh. They understood why early makers of bicycles had called them bone-shakers. Picking up the pieces, they fixed what needed fixing and limped home.

Bigger Curves

David Brown is now 50, far away in both age and experience from his Pig Trail days on the banana seat of a Stingray bike. Yet to this day, he occasionally is a risk-taker and always a fixer. In fact, cycling, as he now calls it, is in some ways an analogy for his life.

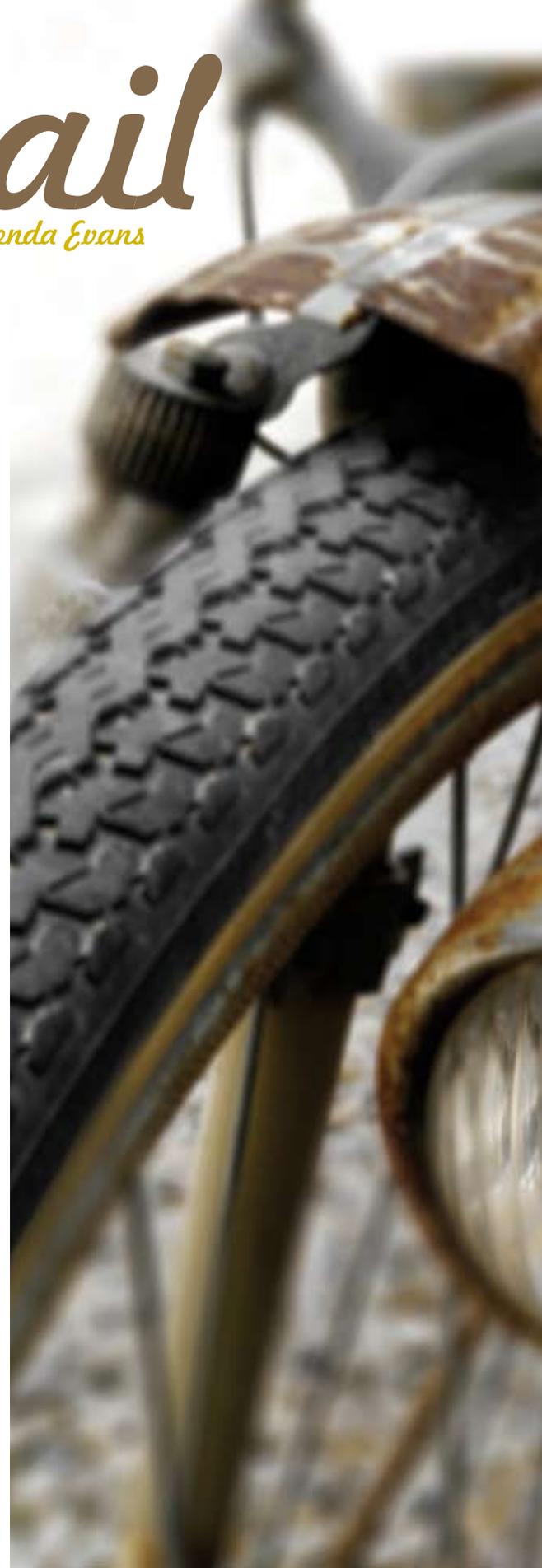
At age 14, he knew that the Lord had placed a special calling on his life. He did not know the specific direction it would take. Nor did he know that there would be more dangerous curves along the way.

“I almost died when I was 20,” David says. “I passed out in a college classroom because I had lost so much blood. My friends Randy Riggs and Tim Landers picked me up and carried me outside.”

“At 20 I thought I was indestructible. I’d always considered myself a fixer—if there was a problem, I would take care of it. And I thought that’s what the doctor would do with this. Besides, 20-year-olds don’t die. Looking back on it now, I know that’s not true.” After being diagnosed with a perforated intestine caused by Crohn’s Disease, David underwent complicated surgery and more life-threatening blood loss, but eventually he recovered fully with no recurrences.

Although that near-death experience was more sobering than a bad curve on Pig Trail, not surprisingly, David found a way to get a laugh out of it: “Randy Bryant (now clerk of the National Association of Free Will Baptists) was my roommate at the time, and I still tease him about being the roommate that almost killed me.”

After that curve in his life, David picked himself up, let the Lord fix what needed fixing, and finished his bachelor’s degree in 1979. He enrolled in a program in accounting at Tennessee State University, finished the coursework, sat for the CPA exam, and began a brief stint in public accounting. In May 1992, he joined the staff of the Board of Retirement and the Foundation as their accountant. In August 2007, he became the Foundation’s third director.





But those years held other turns. By 1997 he and his wife Temisia had two children, a boy and a girl—four-year-old Reese and baby Adra.

“Adra was born with a heart condition called Tetralogy of Fallot. At three months, the doctor didn’t like the oxygen levels in Adra’s blood, so he wanted to operate. Usually surgery is delayed until about six months or even later, but Adra’s oxygen levels were bad,” David says.

And so at three months of age and a little more than eight pounds in weight, Adra underwent heart surgery to repair a displaced aorta, narrowed pulmonary valve, a hole in the ventricular septum, and a thickened wall in the right ventricle. David had not expected this kind of curve in a life that had seemed to be moving just fine.

“Her heart was no larger than her tiny fist. I couldn’t imagine doing this. The hardest thing for me was the question—what am I supposed to do? I like to fix things, fix problems, and I’d always been able to do that. What I learned with Adra was that sometimes there is nothing for me to do. Sometimes God needs to do it.”

Learning to Let Go

Taking his own hands off the handlebars of his life was not easy, for it was entirely about trust—turning loose of the control and letting the Lord negotiate the risky road ahead. But David did it. And so he, Temisia, and young Reese trusted and waited. Today, Adra is almost 11. She’s healthy, thriving, and able to pedal her own bike.

As director, David has the oversight of over \$41 million at the Foundation, but he still cycles. These days he rides a Gunnar 27-speed bicycle with three chain rings on the crank and nine sprockets on the rear hub. The steel Gunnar, weighing less than 22 pounds, is certainly a different machine than a Stingray. It is made for speed and distance, not for Pig Trail.

“Sometimes I go as fast as I can for distances of less than 20 miles. It’s called time trialing. At other times, I’m working on distance, not speed. Then I’ll cycle for 40 or more miles, training for endurance and stamina. Stressing my body de-stresses my mind,” he says. Besides, he sees the parallel to his personal and professional life.

David keeps his mission and the mission of the Foundation focused and purposeful just like his cycling. As director, he says it is about two main things: people and money. And he has settled into the saddle of this vehicle, ready for both the time trial and the distance.

“It’s easy to talk to people about money,” he says. “When they come to me, my job is not to tell them what to do with their money. My job is to find out what they want to accomplish and then

show them how to do it.” In some ways the work of the Foundation is as simple as that.

“We are the planned giving arm of the denomination. That means that we help individuals, churches, and denominational agencies plan how to best use their financial resources.” David sees this ministry as parallel to a cyclist’s concentration on the road—looking ahead with clear unobstructed vision and purpose.

“We must think and plan ahead. What we are doing today impacts what we can do tomorrow both as individuals and as a denomination. For example, if our denomination builds a strong support base of endowments, we can underwrite the administrative costs of our various ministries in the future. Hopefully, in the next 20, 30, or even

Taking his own hands off the handlebars of his life was not easy...letting God negotiate the risky road ahead.

50 years from now, we may accomplish this goal. At that point, on-going gift income can be used to grow the work of each ministry while endowments pay the administrative costs.

“Both as individuals and as a denomination, we have come to this concept late in the race. Look at large institutions such as Harvard and Yale—over 30 percent of their operating costs come from endowments. In the past we have concentrated almost entirely on fundraising for current needs; now we are beginning to look ahead, around the next curve, to underwriting the future of our departments’ ministries. Individuals and families see what trusts and other agreements can do for them. It is an exciting time.”

David is both determined and realistic about the importance of the work of the Foundation: “This approach—planning today for tomorrow—is crucial to our continued growth both as a denomination and as individuals. That is why the service the Foundation offers is so important for us all.”

“We are here to serve our people. We want to get our message out, a message that is especially timely for people 50 and older. We are available. Our pledge is to serve with financial integrity and expertise.”

David is focused and prepared for the course ahead, for the time trials and for the distance. Cycling has taught him that time trials improve his endurance and distance training improves his speed— it takes both to get the job done. □

Brenda Evans is a retired English teacher, mother of three, and grandmother of seven. She and her husband Bill live in Nashville, TN. To learn more about the Free Will Baptist Foundation, call (877) 336-7575 or visit their website: www.fwbgifts.org.

Julio's Journey

By Vicky Garcia

MY HUSBAND JULIO SLIPPED ACROSS the Mexican border into Texas at age 15 in search of a better life. His abusive childhood had been filled with long hours of hard work and constant reprimand. When his uncle jokingly asked if he wanted to flee to the United States, Julio stuffed a single change of clothes into a bag and started the long and dangerous trip. It was the best day of his life.

After crossing the border, Julio lived in Dallas, Texas, with his aunt and uncle for a year. One day he met a man who told him he could make a lot of money working in the onion fields near Glennville, Georgia. Eager to make more money, he traveled to the small town that would eventually become home.

Not long after arriving in Glennville, he began to wonder if he had been misled. He found himself living in a camp for homeless migrant workers. When a man came to the camp to hire workers, Julio was the first volunteer. The man gave him a job planting pine trees, provided him with housing on his farm, and treated him like one of his own children. Julio worked for the family for 15 years.

Julio was very limited in communication during his early years in the States because he spoke little English. A quick and willing learner, he soaked up the language like sponge. Before long, he could communicate with little difficulty. As the years passed, Julio became more comfortable with his new life.

When Julio and I met through a mutual friend, it was a case of love at first sight! In spite of my feelings, I was cautious about entering into a serious relationship. I had a two-year-old daughter, and she was my top priority.

I also worried about how my parents would react to a Mexican boyfriend. I need not have worried. My daughter loved Julio from the start, and she melted Julio's heart in return. When my parents saw that Julio was a hard worker and well respected in our small town, they quickly accepted him.

My first impulse was to walk across the border and lose ourselves among the millions of illegal immigrants living in the States. To His credit, Julio refused.

During a discussion with my pastor, Julio asked God to come into his heart. Raised in the Roman Catholic Church, Julio had never liked the religion, but he did not know any other way. His conversion was the final step in our budding relationship. One year after we met, we were married at beautiful St. Simon's Island, Georgia.

In January 2004, we were thrilled to learn we were expecting a baby. Our new son Mason was born the following September, the same day our new preacher and his family arrived from North Carolina. Reuben Cason and his wife Terry quickly became close friends. Julio and I were hungry for

God's Word. Our close friendship with the preacher was like having a personal Bible instructor 24/7.

When we dedicated Mason to the Lord a few weeks later, we promised God that we would bring our child up in a godly family, attending church faithfully, living lives that would be a good example to our children. We joined the church the following week.

While I had accepted Christ as Savior as a child, I had never been baptized, so Pastor Cason baptized us together. A few months later, our daughter followed our example and asked Jesus to come into her heart. We were overjoyed. The pieces of our lives continued to fall into place. Little did we realize that our new and growing faith would soon be put to the test.

Journey of Faith

We applied for Julio's residency papers (Green Card), filling out and submitting a mountain of paperwork. This was a tedious and expensive pattern that continued for nearly two years before we finally received an appointment to pick up his papers after an interview at the American consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Because of Julio's status in the country, we found ourselves dreading the trip.

On the night before we left, our church family gathered around us, and Pastor Reuben prayed for our safety and for God's will to be done. Our flight (my first) took us to El Paso, Texas, and we rode in a taxi across the Mexican border. I remember my excitement as I finally saw my husband's homeland.

The next morning, as we waited in a clinic for Julio's required physical, we met Victor and Jamie Hernandez,

Julio found himself living in a camp for homeless migrant workers, wondering what he had gotten himself into.

a young couple from Illinois who were also seeking residency. We established a friendship immediately.

When we returned to our hotel, we were surprised to see Jamie and Victor. We got to know them over coffee. Victor was inquisitive when he found out that Julio was a Christian. He wanted to know more about the God who takes fears away. Julio and I began to tell them about God's might, that He is with us on the mountaintop and in the valley. Before the night ended, we led them to our room, and together we prayed that God would accomplish His will.

The next morning, the hotel shuttle driver dropped us off at the American consulate with our new friends, Jamie and Victor. When we reached the gate of the compound, the Mexican police informed us that only Victor and Julio could enter. Moments later, Jamie and I were alone on the street, frightened and cold, waiting anxiously for the hotel shuttle to return us to the hotel.

Back in my room, I began to pray fervently for Julio. As the hours ticked by, I grew anxious. Eventually, I found myself in the hotel lobby, peering through the windows for my husband to arrive. Nine long hours after he entered the consulate, my exhausted husband stepped from a taxi. As I ran to greet him, I could sense the news was not good.

Julio fell into my arms. The consulate had denied his visa and banned him from applying again for 10 years. My first impulse was to walk across the border and lose ourselves among the millions of illegal immigrants living in the States. To his credit, Julio refused. I immediately called Pastor Reuben, and he reminded me that we had prayed for God's will. Now, we had to

trust Him.

Victor and Jamie received the same news. In frustration, Victor questioned why God would let this happen. I reassured him that God was still holding our hands, just like he promised. Victor thanked us for sharing God with them. While he did not get a visa, he received something far more precious.

Separate Lives

The interview changed our lives forever. The pain of separation loomed over us like a thick fog. When I boarded the plane to start home, I thought my heart would break. The pain was like none I had ever experienced. As I look back, I realize that Jesus carried me through those dark, dark days. I prayed all the way home for Julio, and for God to give me the strength I would need for the days ahead.

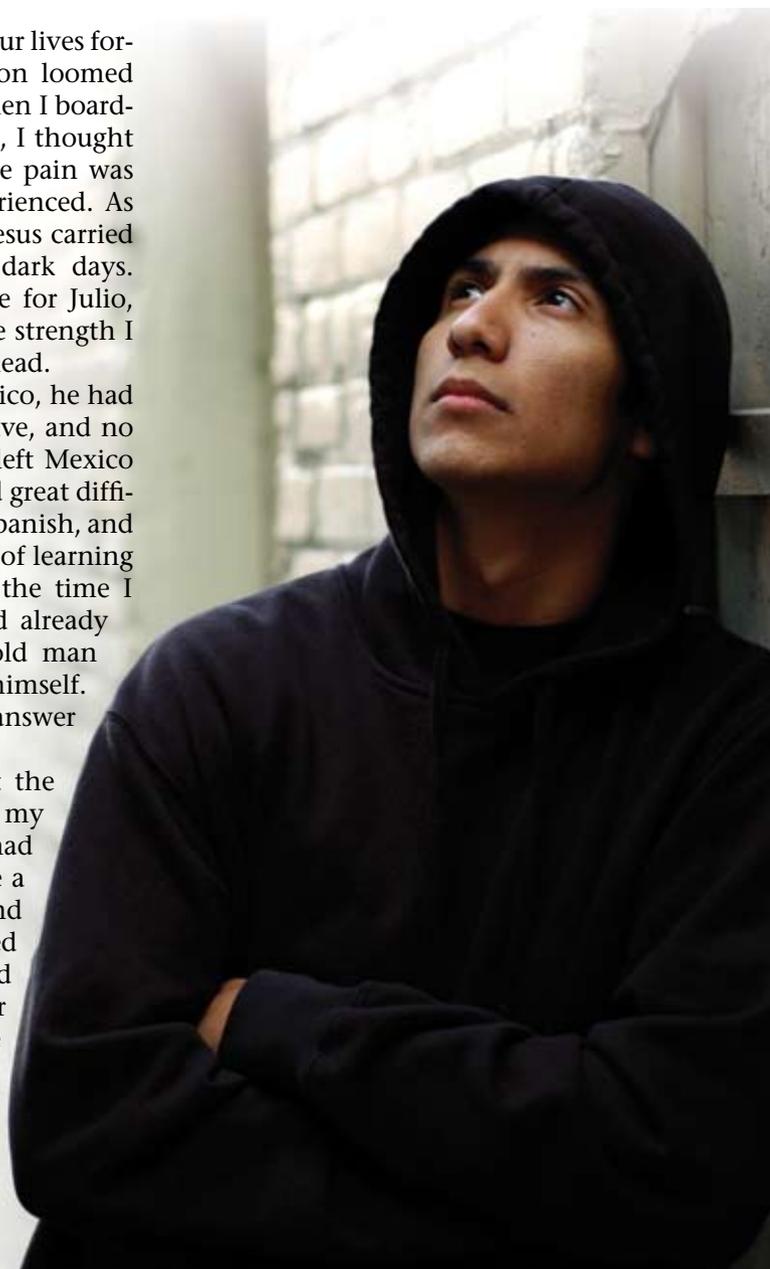
When I left Julio in Mexico, he had little money, no place to live, and no place to look. Because he left Mexico at such a young age, he had great difficulty reading and writing Spanish, and he faced the daunting task of learning another language. Yet by the time I arrived in Georgia, he had already rented a room from an old man who lived in a house by himself. God had already begun to answer my prayers.

I remember little about the next few weeks. Although my heart was still aching, I had no time for grief. I became a single parent overnight, and the responsibilities seemed endless. My children cried morning and night for their daddy. As a stay-at-home mother, I was faced with an increasing pile of bills

(especially the international phone bill) and no substantial income.

Thankfully, my parents stepped in to help, giving me time to contact senators, congressmen, and lawyers—someone, anyone who would tell me that it was just a matter of paperwork to get my husband back. That never happened.

In the meantime, Julio was searching desperately for work in Mexico,





Julio with his parents in Dolores Hidalgo, Guanajuato, Mexico.



Julio with classmate Chindo Duarte.



The Garcia Family, Christmas 2007.

but everywhere he turned, he hit a brick wall. He had no legal papers for the States or for Mexico.

I've never experienced such a lonely Christmas. Don't misunderstand. Our church was kind and provided bountiful gifts for the kids. But my heart was in Mexico where I knew Julio waited, lonely and depressed.

Just when I thought I could stand the separation no longer, our church family bought tickets for me to visit Julio. Again, God quietly reminded me that He was still holding my hand.

The month-long visit was a shock. The tiny house where Julio lived did not compare to the comfortable tourist hotel of my previous visit. Living conditions were poor, and I cried frequently—selfishly missing my comfortable home. Eventually, I adjusted to the dusty cement floors and cold water, and learned to focus on the pleasure of being with my husband.

The month passed far too quickly. When I left, the pain of separation was so intense that it felt new again. No sooner had I arrived in the States than I began planning to return. Yet days stretched into months as I scoured the Internet looking for inexpensive tickets. Just when I reached the point of despair, I found tickets. Again, God reminded me that He was still holding my hand.

I made plans to leave for Mexico as soon as my daughter's school year came to an end. Our financial situation continued to be tight, but time and time again, God provided. People in the community helped. Families from our daughter's school poured out support.

God was at work in Mexico as well. As Julio reconnected with family and friends he hadn't seen in years, he had many opportunities to share his faith. The longer he stayed in his homeland, the more he began to view Mexico as a mission field. After two months of struggling with the decision, Julio contacted the Seminary of the Cross in Altamira about studying for a degree. The next morning he boarded a bus for the 24-hour ride to the seminary.

The early days at the seminary were far from easy. Julio often asked himself, "What am I doing here?" As a young Christian, he knew little about the Bible—he couldn't even name all of the books. Before long, however, he mastered the basics and began to excel in his classes.

On June 1, 2007, the entire family left for Mexico. When the three of us embraced Julio in the airport, I was jubilant. Our family was finally together again, if only for a short while. Our return-trip tickets were dated August 14.

Our lives changed drastically as we learned a new culture and a new way of life. As the weeks went by, I began to understand that Mexico might be the place where the Lord wants us. I stayed busy cooking for E-TEAM and other mission groups that visited the seminary.

Still Holding Our Hands

For the first time, I began to see our experience as an opportunity rather than a burden. I realized that with God's help, Julio and I could accomplish anything the Lord has in store for us. Rather than trying to bring Julio back across the border, I found myself content with the idea of a life and ministry in Mexico.

August 14 came, and we chose not to use the return tickets. Julio's seminary classes started again on August 27, and I began to homeschool the children in September. Mexico is now our home.

When I sit and think about my life, I am overwhelmed by the realization that we have started over with nothing. Yet I ask the Lord daily to give me the strength I need, and I know He will provide for us. After all...He is still holding our hands.

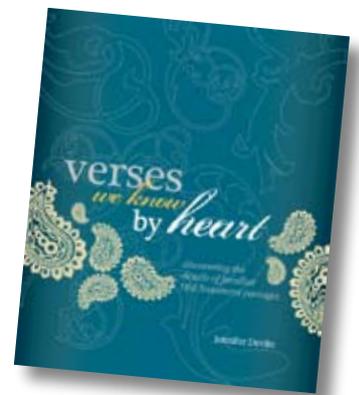
The Garcia family lives at the Seminary of the Cross in Altamira, Mexico.

In Review FEATURES

Verses We Know by Heart

by Jennifer Devlin
ISBN 9780892655656
Price \$10.99

Verses We Know by Heart is a new small-group study of six major Old Testament passages. The reader will gain a more insightful look into the background, context, and meaning of each familiar passage. The variety of topics covered in the study applies to various stages of life. It gives the reader opportunity to take answers found in God's Word and make modern day applications.



Royal by Blood

by Jennifer Johnson
ISBN 9780892655700
Price \$10.99

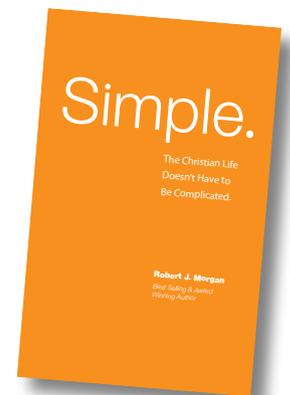
The *Royal by Blood* group study is ideal for teen girls and young ladies in college. The six-week study explores the role of royalty and service the believer is called to fulfill in God's family. Each reader will learn how to relate to God, family, and friends based on the value God places on His creation. Every young lady will take away a greater personal value placed on her as a child of God.



Simple. The Christian Life Doesn't Have to Be Complicated

by Robert J. Morgan
ISBN 0892655623
Price \$7.99; \$4.99 each when purchased by the case (24 books)

The premise of *Simple*, written by best-selling author Rob Morgan, is that the Christian life doesn't have to be complicated. Morgan explains the ABCs of Christianity—assurance, baptism, church, devotions, and evangelism. Although *Simple* is intended for new Christians, more mature believers can also read this straightforward volume with profit. Randall House Publications is offering a special rate to churches, organizations, or individuals buying this helpful title by the case (24 books).



All products reviewed above can be purchased from Randall House.
Call (800) 877-7030 or visit www.RandallHouse.com.

The Legacy of D6

BY DIANNE SARGENT

Some people count their blessings because they were born into a prominent family of wealth and prestige. Others decry the fact that their family always struggles to make it to the next payday. Then there are those, like me, whose parents focused, not on wealth and fame, but on the eternal truths of God's Word and their responsibility to instruct their children in the ways of God.

From an early age, I remember Bible stories read as I drifted off into restful sleep. As I grew in understanding, those Bible stories gave way to Scripture reading. I was encouraged to ask questions and to read the Bible for myself. At no time were inquiries pushed aside or counted too hard for me to understand. If I asked a question, it deserved an answer.

Later, during my teen and young adult years, I was instructed in doctrine and the more difficult passages in the Bible. Yes, throughout this time I attended Sunday School, but my parents did not leave my soul's destiny in the hands of someone who might or might not have a clear understanding of Scripture. They took seriously the Lord's admonition in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, which says,

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."

Did my parents' instruction at home make a difference in my life? I think it did. I may not have done everything just as it should have been, but in times of trouble and difficulties, God's Word guided, directed, and sustained.

When faced with the task of rearing two boys as a single mom, I remembered the instruction I received as a child at home. The knowledge and faith gained during those years sustained me during some of life's hardest battles. So, I would follow the example of my parents. I believed God's Word held the answer; it certainly did for me and I was sure it would be the answer for my boys.

So began the reading, talking, and explaining the truths of God's Word. As the boys grew in understanding and the desire to know, any topic was fair game. No question was brushed aside. Yes, they too attended Sunday School, but I did not leave their spiritual education completely in the hands of someone whose understanding might be less than it should be. Did it pay off? I think it did. Are they any more special or gifted than any other mother's son? No, but the emphasis placed upon God's Word enabled both boys to make some hard decisions in order to follow God's will for their lives.

My eldest son, Brian, is a chaplain candidate, studying at Columbia International University. He will return to active duty in the Army as a career missionary to the men and women of his assigned unit. Chris, the youngest son, has finished his master's program in psychology with plans to serve as an international missionary wherever God leads. The legacy continues with the teaching of their children. Do they leave their children's spiritual education totally up to the Sunday School teacher? No. Questions are answered and principles discussed. Home instruction is still the key.

Randall House Publications recognizes that home instruction is a vital link in teaching children and thereby reaching families with the gospel. CLEAR curriculum has been designed to aid parents in the biblical instruction of their children. It offers products that bridge the gap between Sunday School and home. Would my job as a parent have been easier and more effective if I'd had the opportunity to use products such as these? Absolutely! And my parents would have rejoiced to know that such educational tools were provided by their denomination for in-church and at-home use.

The legacy my father passed down to me continues. Now my sons are passing along the same biblical instruction to their children, and I am part of a denomination that is providing the necessary tools to make that responsibility easier and more effective. What kind of legacy are you passing to your children? Why not make it a D6 legacy? □



DIANNE SARGENT is managing editor of Randall House Publications. She lives in Nashville, TN.





PRE-REGISTRATION **National Association of Free Will Baptists**

Women Nationally Active for Christ | National Youth Conference
Charleston, West Virginia | July 20-23, 2008

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

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Country (Missionary Only) _____ Home Phone (_____) _____
 Cell Phone (_____) _____ Email _____
 Church You Attend _____
 Church Location: City _____ State _____

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

VOTING DELEGATES:

- National Board/Commission Member
- Ordained Minister
- Ordained Deacon
- State Delegate
- Local Church Delegate (Delegate Card Required) **\$100**

NON-VOTING:

- Licensed Minister
- Attendee **(includes infants and toddlers)**

Tickets:

Celebrate! International Missions Dinner Qty _____ x \$34 = _____
(Tuesday, July 22, 5:00 pm)

FWBBC Luncheon Qty _____ x \$25 = _____
(Wednesday, July 23, 12:00 noon)

National Association Information: www.nafwb.org

National Youth Conference

NYC or Competition Questions: 800.877.7030 or scm@randallhouse.com

SELECT ONE—

PRESCHOOL:

- Ages 3-5 (Attending Preschool Worship) \$25*
- Ages 0-5 (Not Attending Preschool Worship) NO FEE

STUDENTS:

- Grades 1-3 (\$25)*
- Grades 4-6 (\$25)*
- Grades 7-12 (\$25)*

* On-site registration \$35

COLLEGE AGE / ADULTS:

- Attending NYC Events (\$10)
 Fee covers attendance to NYC worship services, competition, activities, etc.

Tickets:

Night of Comedy With Michael J. Hollifield..... Qty _____ x \$10 = _____
(Tuesday, July 22, 9:00 pm)

NYC Program Information: www.fwbny.com

Women Nationally Active for Christ

VOTING DELEGATES:

- National Officer
- State President
- State Field Worker
- State Delegate
- Local WNAC Delegate (Delegate Card Required) **\$10**

NON-VOTING:

- Missionary
- Attendee

Tickets:

WNAC Luncheon Qty _____ x \$25 = _____
(Tuesday, July 22, 12:00 noon)

WNAC Information: www.wnac.org

Register April 7–June 15, 2008 (postmarked)

No Refunds After June 15

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Check (Payable to FWB Convention)
- Credit Card (Visa or MasterCard only)

Card # _____

Card Holder _____ Exp ____/____/____

Return Form and Payment to:

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

PO Box 5002
 Antioch, TN 37011 / FAX: (615) 731-0771
 Questions: (877) 767-7659 / convention@nafwb.org

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

CONVENTION HOUSING08

NOTE: Reservations can only be made by phone or Internet and must be made directly through the hotel.

1 PROVIDE PERSONAL INFORMATION

(Provide the following information when making reservations.)

- Name, Address, City, State, Zip
- Phone
- Email
- Credit Card Number & Expiration Date
- Special Requests:
 - Non-Smoking Room
 - Wheelchair Accessible Room
 - Rollaway Bed
 - Crib

2 CONTACT YOUR HOTEL OF CHOICE

(See the chart to the right.)

3 RECEIVE YOUR CONFIRMATION NUMBER

Reservations will open at 9 am, CST, and 10 am, EST, Monday, April 7, 2008.

Hotels have been instructed **NOT TO ACCEPT** reservations before this time. Reservations must be made by **June 15, 2008**.

For More Information:
Toll-Free (877) 767-7659
Local (615) 731-6812
Web www.nafwb.org

Charleston Marriott Town Center (HQ) 200 Lee Street East Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: (800) 228-9290 www.CharlestonMarriott.com Group Code: FWBFWBA	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$119*	\$119*	\$119*	\$119*	\$119*

Embassy Suites Hotel 300 Court Street Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: (304) 347-8700 (800) 362-2779 www.embassysuites.com Group Code: FWB	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$154*	\$154*	\$154*	\$154*	\$154*

Holiday Inn Express Civic Center 100 Civic Center Drive Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: (304) 345-0600 Group Code: NFB	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$85*	\$85*	\$85*	\$85*	\$85*

Hampton Inn Downtown Charleston #1 Virginia Street West Charleston, WV 25302 Phone: (304) 343-9300 Group Code: C-FWB	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$95*	\$95*	\$95*	\$95*	\$95*

Charleston House 600 Kanawha Blvd. E. Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: (304) 344-4092 Group Code: FWB	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$84*	\$84*	\$84*	\$84*	\$84*

Best Western-Charleston Plaza Hotel 1010 Washington Street East Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: (304) 345-9779	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$79*	\$79*	\$79*	\$79*	\$79*

Fairfield Inn 1000 Washington Street East Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: (304) 343-4661	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$89*	\$89*	\$89*	\$89*	\$89*

Ramada Charleston 400 2nd Avenue South Charleston, WV 25303 Phone: (304) 744-4641 Group Code: FREE Suites Available: \$99*	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$83*	\$83*	\$83*	\$83*	\$83*

Microtel Inn 600 2nd Avenue South Charleston, WV 25303 Phone: (304) 744-4900	Queen Queen Bed With Sleeper	King King Bed With Sleeper	Dbl/DbI 2 Queens With Sleeper		
	\$69.95*	\$72.95*	\$89.95*		

Wingate Charleston 402 Second Avenue South Charleston, WV 25303 Phone: (304) 744-4444 Group Code: NAFB Suites Available: \$99*	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$89*	\$89*	\$89*	\$89*	\$89*

*Prices do not include applicable taxes and city fees.



2007 MASTER'S MEN MOTORCYCLE RALLY

HIGHWAY 99, CALIFORNIA—On October 6, 2007, California Free Will Baptists came from the north and the south to take part in the first-ever California Master's Men Motorcycle Rally. Riders from the southern part of the state rumbled north on highway 99, led by Master's Men Director Kenneth Akers. At the same time, riders from the north were rumbling south, led by National Master's Men Board Chairman Clifford Donoho.

The two groups met at high noon on the campus of California Christian College. Following a barbeque lunch and devotion, both groups fired up their bikes and headed out for a ride through Wonder Valley located in the beautiful California Sierra Foothills.

Participants enjoyed the event, and plans are underway for 2008.

2007 THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM MEETS

MOORE, OK—Symposium participants gathered on the campus of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College October 22-23, 2007, to discuss theological issues facing today's church. The annual symposium, sponsored by the Commission for Theological Integrity, is structured around the presentation of papers on a variety of topics.

This year's topics ranged from homosexuality and terrorism to the authority of Scripture and pop culture. Key contributors included Stephen Ashby (OK), John Carter (TN), Leroy Forlines (TN), Paul Harrison (TN), Edward Moody (NC), Matt Pinson (TN), and Milburn Wilson (TX).

The papers presented during the meeting will be edited and compiled into a seven-chapter book to be published by Randall House Publications and the Commission for Theological Integrity. The book, *Christianity and Cultural Issues* will be released summer 2008.

The 2008 symposium will meet at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN.

CAROLYN ADAMS WITH THE LORD

ANTIOCH, TN—Carolyn Adams, long-time employee of the Home Missions Department, went to be with the Lord on November 10, 2007, after a long battle with cancer.

Married to Dr. Richard Adams in January 1959, Carolyn spent 48 years being a model helper to her husband and mother to her family. She served the Lord faithfully as a pastor's wife before she became a vital part of the Home Missions family for the final 17 years of her life.

Mrs. Adams was a talented singer and continually served the Lord through her music across the denomination. Carolyn loved the Lord, her family, and Free Will Baptists. She spent her life encouraging and ministering to many through her sweet attitude, humble heart, and love for the Lord. Her presence will be greatly missed.

MONTERREY CHURCH CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

MONTERREY, MEXICO—More than 130 people gathered in Monterrey October 20, to celebrate 50 years of ministry at Templo Rosa De Sarón, first Free Will Baptist church in Mexico. The church started in 1954 under the direction of Home Missionaries Arthur and Jennell Billows, and organized officially in 1957.

Current pastor Hilarino González and his congregation welcomed visitors from six congregations, including founder Jennell Billows who addressed the assembly briefly. Howard Munsey, president of Berea Ministries, was the guest speaker in the rousing worship service, with translation by Dr. Thomas Marberry, dean of the Seminary of the Cross in Reynosa, Mexico.

Luis Felipe Tijerina, moderator of the Association of Mexico and recently elected vice-president of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches, congratulated the church on reaching the milestone milestone. Eric Thomsen, editor of *ONE Magazine*, presented the congregation with a plaque honoring their faithfulness.

During an afternoon service the congregation enjoyed a video history created and presented by Gabriel and Marcos Gonzalez, sons of the pastor. At the conclusion of the video, Pastor Gonzalez presented one of the original church tiles to members of founding families in the church. The service closed with prayer for the next 50 years of ministry.

FWB FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW TRUST RATE

ANTIOCH, TN—The Free Will Baptist Foundation recently announced a Money Management Trust rate of 4.55% for the period between January 1 and June 30, 2008. The rate is set for six months to reflect the market interest rate. These trusts are available to Free Will Baptist churches, organizations, and individuals (individual trusts have certain restrictions). Although the Foundation does not offer FDIC insurance, the agency primarily invests in AAA rated, government backed securities. Money Management Trusts work much like money market accounts. Additional deposits in any amount may be made at any time earning the stated rate, and withdrawals may be made without penalty. More information can be obtained by calling toll-free (877) 366-7575 or by email at foundation@nafwb.org.



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

KEEP IT SIMPLE

RECENTLY, MY WIFE AND I (aka—Nana and Papa) were caring for our grandsons while our oldest daughter and son-in-law were away celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary.

Our daughter left detailed, handwritten instructions for every eventuality known to man. Here is an example (verbatim):

Remote Control

*To turn TV on: press **red TV** button (middle of 2nd row). Next you will need to turn on the satellite: press the **clear SAT** button (top left) and then the **blue select** button (very center). Once the satellite is on you can change the channels by either pushing the up and down arrows or by punching in the channel number manually. The television must be on **channel 60 (in the living room) and channel 3 (in the master bedroom)** in order for the satellite to work. To change something on the television itself you must first press the clear TV button. The yellow button pauses the TV and the double arrows fast forward and rewind programming.*

The bedroom TV works a little differently. The living room is controlled by the big gray dish network remote #2 only. The one in the bedroom requires 2 different remotes. To operate the bedroom TV (turn on and off and adjust volume) you use the flat gray remote. To change the satellite channels you use the dish network remote #1.

I don't consider myself technologically challenged. However, that remote control got the best of me on more than one occasion. Whatever happened to the days when there were only two knobs on the TV set, the on-off/volume control and the channel selector? How did watching television get so complicated?

I'm afraid the same thing has happened in the church when it comes to Christian stewardship. Somehow we've taken a simple, biblical concept and made it complex. Please don't misunderstand—I'm all for innovation. But, if we're not careful, we can turn something basic into something very complicated.

Man has failed to improve on God's simple plan. Scripture gives every believer a *starting point* for supporting the Lord's work financially. It's called the tithe...10 percent...simple. It doesn't require a degree in math to figure out. Simply divide by 10!

I'm not being overly simplistic or legalistic. God's Word makes it clear: the Lord honors those who honor Him with their substance. Free Will Baptist churches and ministries would have few financial concerns (perhaps none) if every member practiced tithing.

I didn't say Christian stewardship was easy. I said it's simple. There *is* a difference. Tithing requires discipline, faith, obedience, and sacrifice—qualities in short supply today, but highly esteemed by God.

If you are not presently supporting the Lord's work financially, accept God's challenge in Malachi 3:10—"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

After all—it's simpler than operating a remote control, and much more rewarding. □

Don't miss this shot...

2008 Deep South Golf Tournament
Meadow Links at George T. Bagby



March 26-28, 2008



The 54-hole, two-man scramble will raise funds for the Master's Men Department of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Enjoy challenging golf and great food, while renewing old friendships and making new ones. Tournament fees are only \$300 and include green and cart fees, three nights of lodging, three breakfasts, and two dinners. For extra rounds, pay only a cart fee of \$10.

Register: (877) 767-8039 / (615) 760-6142

Email: masters@nafwb.org

By Mail: PO Box 5002 / Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Meadow Links 
Golf Course at George T. Bagby

Course Information: www.MeadowLinksGolf.com

SCM HEADLINERS . . .

The **National Youth Conference** has something for everyone: dynamic age-graded worship services, youth Bible study and ministry development training, seminars for youth workers, Reach That Guy service projects, Buck-a-Week missions support offering, and much more.

REACH THAT GUY. Check out what is happening at www.reachthatguy.com.

reach
THIS GUY
TOO

Reach This Guy Too. We are grateful that youth groups travel across the country to minister to the needs of people during the convention through Reach That Guy. Reach This Guy Too encourages youth to get involved in service projects in their local communities. Download artwork for RTG2 at www.SCMin.com.

Buck-A-Week offers a way for young people to develop the practice of regular, consistent, planned missions support. Students are challenged to set aside one dollar per week and deliver that offering to the Tuesday night NYC service. Featured projects this year include the Salt Lake City Mission Church, the Nehemiah Project in Spain, and Chame Property in Panama. Be involved in global outreach.

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