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MAGAZINE

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The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

APRIL-MAY 2010

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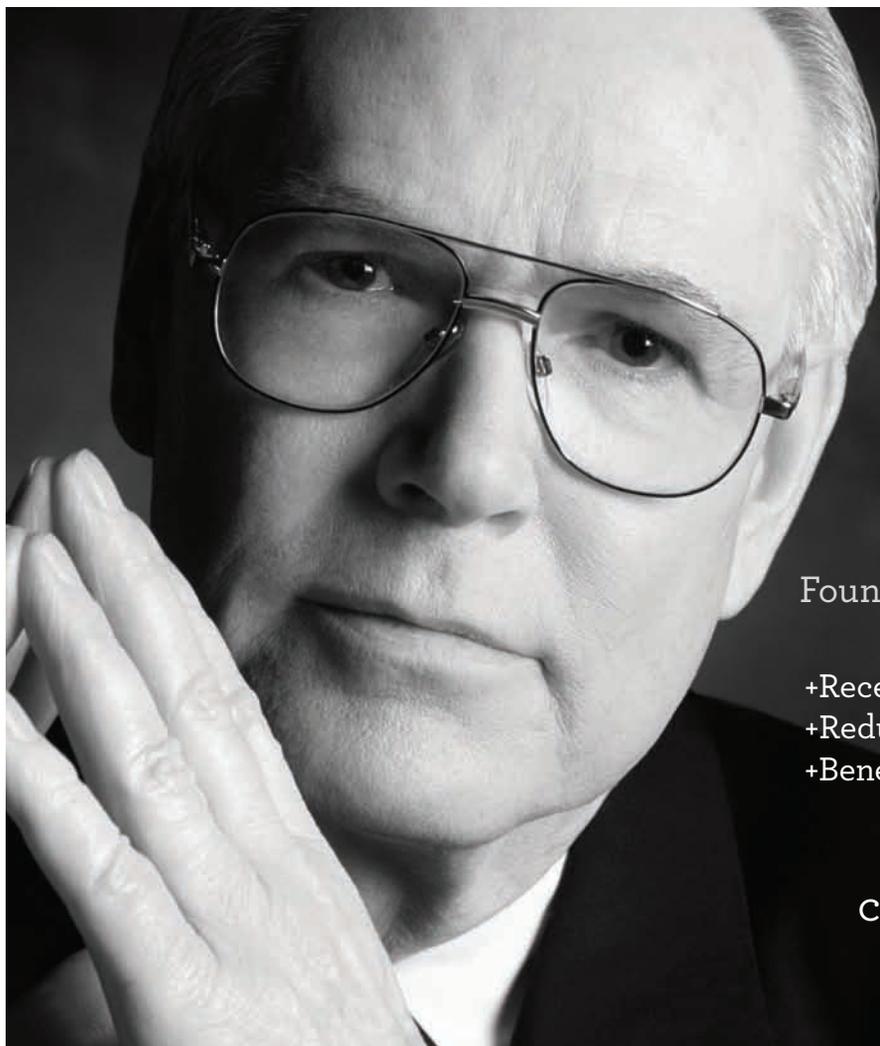


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TO COMMUNICATE TO
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FIRST GLIMPSE

Red Checking Pencils



*“What do you want for your birthday, Mom?”
 (Mom smiles) “Honey, you know what I want.”
 (Son scowls) “No, Mom! What do you really want?”
 (Mom sighs) “I really want red checking pencils!”
 (Scowl deepens) “But, Mom....”*

The conversation took place every year as my mother’s April 15 birthday approached. And every year, her answer irritated me more. I didn’t want to buy my mother red checking pencils. I wanted to buy something special—flowers, a necklace, a new watch, a novel—anything but those goofy pencils.

I resented the pencils. They represented countless hours my mother spent on weekends grading papers. They represented the hour of sleep I lost because she insisted on getting to school early, so she would be fully prepared when her class arrived. They symbolized the hundreds of kids who competed with me for my mother’s affection over the years. Why would I want to buy her more pencils?

As an early teenager, during one of those years when nothing is simple and everything is frustrating, I lashed out at my mother’s answer. “Mom, I’m not buying pencils. You know I don’t want to, and I don’t know why you always ask for them. I wish you weren’t even a teacher.”

Instantly, I knew I had said the wrong thing. Her face crumpled, and tears started down her cheeks. I tried to apologize, but I could tell my words had hurt her deeply. The moments stretched while she composed herself enough to reply, “Eric, have I ever told you why I am a teacher?”

She went on to explain that teaching was more than a job. It was her mission field, her ministry—the job to which God had

ERIC THOMSEN
MANAGING EDITOR



Photo: Mark Cowart

called her. “Every day, when I walk into the classroom,” she said, “I look into the face of children who need Jesus. I’m not a missionary serving in some village across the world, but I have a mission field in my classroom. How could I give teaching anything less than my best?”

Her words burned deeply, and suddenly I saw the red checking pencils in a whole new light. No longer were they mundane tools of an elementary school teacher’s daily routine. They took on eternal significance. And for 28 years, my mother used them to write the story of the Savior’s love across the hearts of her students.

Today, those red checking pencils still affect the way I think about life and work. As an editor, I see *ONE Magazine* as far more than words, phrases, and pictures. I pray that its message carries eternal significance.

As you read this issue that challenges you to find your role in world evangelism, I hope you ask yourself, “What are my red checking pencils?” **ONE**

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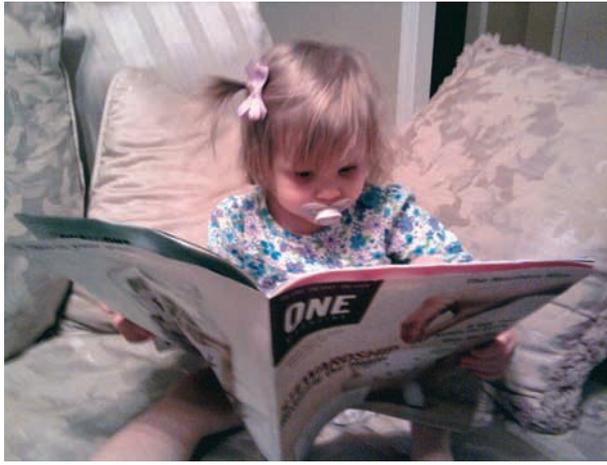
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LETTERS



ONE READERS START EARLY:

Thought you would like to see this picture of our granddaughter Lily. She chose this from the stack of books and magazines in the living room (that she's not supposed to touch) and climbed up on the sofa for some "before bedtime" reading. I guess we shouldn't be surprised from a baby born during the national convention.

—Diana L. Bryant, Florida

EDITOR'S NOTE:

After reading "\$5,000 Project" (February-March 2010), a *ONE* subscriber contacted Jeff Crabtree, home missionary to New Brunswick, Canada, to let him know he would soon receive a gift of \$5,000 toward the purchase of a new church piano. As always, the editors of *ONE* are deeply grateful to readers who demonstrate selfless generosity toward the Lord's work!

How would you prefer that we subscribe our church family to *ONE Magazine*? Send you a list? Or would you prefer they sign up online?

—Howard Gwartney, Arizona

FROM THE EDITORS: Thank you, Howard. The question about church lists is one we hear often. While we are not picky about list format (Word, Excel, etc.), we do ask churches to include only new subscribers and not their entire church directory. This saves the *ONE* database manager from hours of searching for duplicate addresses.

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■ An eyewitness to the earthquake in Haiti sees God at work in the midst of disaster.



WHEN GOD MOVED HEAVEN AND EARTH

BY PHYLLIS BASS

January 12, 2010 - 4:07 p.m.
via text message:

We are in Haiti. Pass the word.

From the moment we stepped from the plane in Port au Prince, it was evident that an all-knowing God had planned every moment of the trip. For the first time in all our mission trips to Haiti, *every piece* of luggage arrived with us—medicine, food, and yes, even a duffle bag filled with clean, pressed sheet sets. God knew there would be no other flights to bring the luggage.

We knew that when we left the airport, Haitians would surround us, grab our bags, insist on helping us, and expect

a tip. We counted to three then shouldered our way through the teeming crowd into the parking lot where we found team members who had arrived before us, and made our way to the waiting vehicles.

We loaded our gear and prepared for the 45-minute trip to Haiti Gospel Mission and Medical Clinic in Croix des Bouquet staffed by missionaries Joel and April Hess. To our dismay, one vehicle had a dead battery and had to be jump-started. The delay took several minutes—minutes that might have saved our lives!

4:53 p.m.

A mile and a half from the airport, we found ourselves at a standstill in heavy traffic. Suddenly, the vehicle began to shake in a rolling, jolting motion, tossing us around the interior like ragdolls. We strained to see what could cause such violent movements and watched in horror as the wall beside the road collapsed like a row of dominoes.

Jerry Johnson yelled *Earthquake!* and he was right. The shaking finally stopped, but traffic did not move for a long time. We were boxed in with no place to go and could see only a short distance ahead.

When traffic began to crawl forward, we understood the delay. We were forced to maneuver around debris from collapsed walls, stores, and homes. We could hardly believe our eyes, but the first glimpse of a man trapped under a pile of fallen bricks, head lying in a pool of blood, confirmed the severity of the disaster. Streets were a mass of confusion, with no emergency rescue service to call.

5:33 p.m. via text message:

We are all ok. Very sad. Dead bodies in the road.

About the Gateway Team DALE BURDEN, WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN HAITI MISSIONS 10 YEARS, ASSEMBLED THE EIGHT-PERSON GATEWAY TEAM TO CONDUCT A TRAINING CONFERENCE FOR PASTORS, A MEDICAL CLINIC, AND A RETREAT FOR WOMEN AT TWO MISSION STATIONS—CROIX DES BOUQUET, JUST OUTSIDE OF PORT AU PRINCE AND PIGNON, 70 MILES NORTH OF THE CITY. DEAN BULLARD AND CARY LANE LEFT FOR HAITI JANUARY 8, TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS AND PREACH IN NEARBY CHURCHES. BURDEN, CHRISTINA CHRISTIANSEN, HOWARD AND PHYLLIS BASS, AND JERRY AND PAT JOHNSON FLEW FROM NORFOLK ON TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 12, TO JOIN THEM.

We are trying to get to Joel and April's. Dean is driving. Devastation.

It took a long time to reach the mission compound, and when we arrived, the yard and clinic were filled with severely wounded men, women, and children. Christina Christiansen, the RN who accompanied the team, went to work immediately while the men began cleaning the clinic storeroom that had been damaged by the quake.

Pat Johnson and I headed to the missionaries' home to see how we could help. Their terrified young daughter met us in the yard, dreadfully afraid to enter her house. She cried, "My house is broken... the bump came and broke my house!"

I held her until she went to sleep and then joined Pat in cleaning up the debris. The kitchen shelves had fallen, and supper was splattered across the floor and walls. While Pat finished cleaning and took care of Michael, the missionary's son, I borrowed a laptop and began uploading pictures to facebook to let our families and church know what was happening and that everyone was safe. That night, we slept outside on cots, covered by mosquito nets and Mrs. Gott's clean sheets.*

Missionary April Hess described that unforgettable night in an email:

Our compound wall had fallen on a neighbor's daughter; she was covered in blood and rocks. I grabbed the keys, and left for the clinic where I found more than 30 other patients with bleeding wounds waiting for me.

Yet God is always on time. He had worked out His plan well in advance. A team from Gateway FWB Church was scheduled to spend the night at our house

before continuing to their final destination. They "just happened" to have an RN with them, and they were on the way to our house when the earthquake hit.

I'm not sure what time it was, but I remember I was suturing a patient's head wound when the nurse walked in the door and said, "My name's Christina. How can I help?" She was like an angel of mercy! We never looked at each other or stopped for small talk. We simply worked all through the night and into the next morning.

THE MISSION CONTINUES

The next day while Christina and the missionaries continued their work at the clinic, the team traveled to the little mission church in Croix de Bouquet where we were scheduled to lead an evangelism training conference. We were amazed to find 20 pastors assembled for the conference in spite of losing family members and members of their congregations in the quake.

The walls surrounding the facility were unsafe. One had collapsed, and another section fell while we were cleaning up the rubble. Although the church building had no major structural damage, no one would go in, fearful of continuing aftershocks.

In spite of the situation, the training conference became a time of much needed assurance and encouragement. My husband Howard taught classes during the morning and distributed bags of peanuts to the hungry pastors.

Meanwhile, neighborhood children mobbed me for the single bag of goldfish crackers I had brought with me. Miraculously, I remembered the French words for sit down from a high school class 40 years earlier. They sat, and I passed around the

little crackers two at a time until the bag was empty. The children were delighted to receive a few small crackers.

The next morning we returned to the mission church with Nurse Christina to distribute snacks, toys, and toothbrushes** to children. One earthquake victim rode with us back to the clinic for treatment.

I let Christina use my phone*** to request urgently needed items for the clinic. (Later, we learned that Gateway church immediately began collecting these items, and by the next week had sent 1,500 pounds of supplies to the clinic.)

That afternoon, pastors who had assembled at the church for the evangelism conference returned to their homes to check on family and church members, while we went back to the mission to regroup and plan our course of action.

ON TO PIGNON

I don't think anyone questioned that Christina should stay and help April in the clinic while we continued to Pignon. She had openly expressed her desire to use her nursing skills on the mission field. In the aftermath of the earthquake, God gave her an incredible opportunity.

However, we knew Pastor Peter needed the rest of the team's help in Pignon. He met us at the clinic late that afternoon to lead the way and told us that he had spent the morning searching for quake survivors, pulling 63 bodies from the rubble. Because the overwhelmed morgue and funeral home refused to take them, the bodies were tumbled into a mass grave.

The four-hour ride to Pignon traversed quake-damaged roads that resembled dried up riverbeds full of ditches, and we forded three deep streams. When we ar-





I HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE AWARE OF THE HAND OF THE LORD PREPARING AND GUIDING EACH STEP OF THE WAY.

rived, Pastor Peter's cousin immediately borrowed his truck and returned to Port au Prince to pick up family and friends awaiting rescue, but the temperamental vehicle broke down on the way.

Because our rental was the only means of transportation available, we sent team member Dean Bullard and an interpreter to pick up refugees. He brought back 11 people crammed into the vehicle. Both refugees and rescuers alike described the stench of death in Port au Prince and the cries of people begging to go with them.

TRAGEDY AT HOME

Dean's driving experience was called upon again. We received word that Pat Johnson's mother had died in the States. We could do nothing to get Pat home for the funeral; all commercial flights out

of Haiti had been cancelled for the foreseeable future. Once again, God moved Heaven and earth.

Her family called a relative who works for Christian relief organization Samaritan's Purse, and the organization offered to fly Jerry and Pat home to be with their family. Then on Sunday evening, I received a second text message, offering to fly our entire team back to the States... but we had to be at Port au Prince airport by 7:30 the next morning. Although the offer shortened our trip, we were unsure when we would have another opportunity to fly home, and we quickly accepted.

Did we regret the short trip to Pignon? Absolutely not! Because we went to Pignon, we were able to help Pastor Peter contact his family in the States about the illness and death of his sister. We were able to rescue refugees from Port au Prince. Our services about evangelism were especially meaningful because everyone was aware of the brevity of life and the urgency of leading family and friends to the Lord.

We had a wonderful time ministering to the ladies who gathered at the mission. Three people accepted Christ as Savior, and several rededicated their lives. Because we witnessed the needs firsthand, our church collected and shipped 39,000 pounds of food and supplies to be distributed to the thousands of Haitians fleeing to Pignon. God *knew* what He was doing

when He sent us there, even if His plans did not coincide with our own.

We left for Port au Prince after church, drove most of the night, only got lost once, and made it to the airport just in time. We were amazed when we saw the plane waiting to take us home. We expected a cargo plane with no seats. God provided a private jet.

As I look back at this life-changing experience, I could fill a book with examples of God's perfect timing and miraculous provision. I have *never* been more aware of the hand of the Lord preparing and guiding each step of the way.

I am so thankful He allowed us to be in Haiti at just the right moment, and I look forward to the day we can return. Someone asked me if I was afraid during the earthquake. I wasn't. I felt as though I was sheltered by the hand of the Almighty. The world might call it luck, chance, happenstance, or coincidence. I know better. My God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). He is my refuge and my fortress—the God who moves Heaven and earth. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Phyllis Bass is design director at Gateway FWB Church in Virginia Beach, VA.

NOTES: *Sunday night before we left, we gathered to pack for the trip. When we discovered that we still needed sheets, trip coordinator Dale Burden turned to Mrs. Gott, a lady in our church known for her ability to find supplies. She returned with 50 sets of sheets—all cleaned, folded, and pressed! We packed a huge duffel bag of sheets and even had to leave a few sets behind. We chuckled about Mrs. Gott and her sheets, but no one knew just how important they would be.

When I came home, I told Mrs. Gott how thankful we were for the sheets. She told me she didn't even know the person who gave them to her. Yet because of her donation, people who came to the mission for help were able to sleep on clean sheets.

**When Donna Williams said she wanted to give away her collection of Beanie Babies, it was an answer to prayer. The children at the clinic and orphanage—even teens in Pignon—loved them. She also provided two duffel bags of meat sticks, granola bars, fruit snacks, and nuts. My daughters supplied trail mix, crackers, and nutra-grain bars. Little did we know those snacks would serve as meals in the wake of the earthquake, both for us and for children from a destroyed orphanage.

***Before we left for Haiti, I was upset with my phone service because I could not upload photos to facebook. I called repeatedly to get the problem resolved—right up until we boarded the plane. During the call, I mentioned that I was going to Haiti and wanted to avoid international

charges. I was pleased to learn that although voice rates were outrageous, outgoing text messages cost only 35¢.

I encouraged my kids to text all they wanted, that I would text one person per day, and they could pass the word. At the time, I had no idea that my phone would become the team's only means of communication with our families after the earthquake. I was able to send information and pictures to my son-in-law—he's the one who talked me into getting a Blackberry—and he, in turn, kept family, friends, and church informed. Limited cell service began to be restored just before we left the island, but my T-Mobile® Blackberry miraculously worked every time we needed it. I just hate to see my bill.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him
should not perish, but have everlasting life.

— John 3:16

What will you give
to take the gospel
to the world?



April 25, 2010

WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING

FREE WILL BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS · WWW.FWBGO.COM

Heart for World Missions

by Barry Simpson

A Surprising Gift

As I hung up the phone in my office, I remember thinking, “Wow! Mrs. Doe* is not only generous, she is gracious and humble.” I could hardly wait to fulfill the promise that my wife Jena and I would take her out to dinner to express the Mission’s gratitude in a more personal way.

I made the call after learning of her very generous gift to the World Missions Offering (WMO). During our conversation, Mrs. Doe quickly described her interest in missions, especially international missions. She explained that her burden stemmed from the influence of her late mother, and the gift came from her mother’s estate. She wasn’t sure she would ever be able to give another like it.

A few months later, I made a second call to Mrs. Doe to let her know I was visiting her part of the country, and I wanted to say thanks over dinner.

She agreed to join us.

We met in front of the public library in her hometown before traveling to a nearby town for supper. My first impression was that she was much younger than expected.

(I learned later that she was in her late 60s.) Her car was a typical four-door sedan with no bells or whistles, just safe, dependable transportation.

*Actual name withheld at her request.

The supper conversation was enjoyable. We talked about missions and what God was doing through Free Will Baptist International Missions. I recounted my years as a pastor and explained how I had come to work for the Mission. Mrs. Doe told us about her mother, her church, and her lifelong passion for seeing the gospel spread around the globe. After finishing the meal, we prayed together and parted company.

A Friendship Develops

Over the next few years, Mrs. Doe and I periodically exchanged phone calls and emails. Earlier this year, while representing the Mission at an association meeting near her home, I gave her a call to see if she would meet me for lunch. Once again, she graciously agreed.

As conversation began to wind down, Mrs. Doe confided that she needed help preparing her will. I offered my assistance and recommended David Brown, director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, be included in the conversation. She asked for a week to pray about it and promised to call.

True to her word, a week later Mrs. Doe asked me to set up the meeting with David. In the meantime, she thought it would be helpful to share the extent of her estate, giving us some time for advance planning. A few days later, I received a detailed list of assets and a letter from Mrs. Doe. In part, the letter read:

Dear Mr. Simpson,

Enclosed is a list of my assets that you may share with Mr. Brown prior to our meeting.

Please pray for me to be a faithful steward of what I've been entrusted with. These times are so uncertain. May our wonderful Lord grant wisdom.

Does anyone else have a sense that we should abandon plans for caring for these earthly bodies and release as much funds as possible, as soon as possible, to get the gospel out immediately?

Thank you, Mrs. Doe

I've shared the letter (anonymously) with our ambassadors, with missionaries returning home from the field, and with the International Missions Board in December. I want these important team members to be encouraged by the commitment and generosity of God's people.

A month later, we met with Mrs. Doe at her modest home. We sat around her kitchen table and discussed her financial situation.

She described her love for the Lord, her longing to be a faithful steward, and her desire to get the gospel to those who've never heard. David and I helped Mrs. Doe shape an

estate plan that meets her financial needs and fulfills her wishes to be a good steward.

Mrs. Doe's estate plan includes a money management trust and a gift annuity, both managed by the Free Will Baptist Foundation. The money management trust will enable Mrs. Doe to make a substantial gift to a relative and receive a very competitive rate of return.

The gift annuity will provide a sizable tax deduction, ensure a guaranteed fixed income for life, and ultimately give her the satisfaction of knowing she will continue supporting the ministry of International Missions long after her death.

Changing the World

Furthermore, because Mrs. Doe wanted to impact global evangelism, she gave an immediate gift of \$50,000 to the World Missions Offering. Approximately one-third of that amount came from life insurance policies she no longer needed. She transferred ownership of the policies to International Missions, making it possible for the Mission to receive the current cash value. In turn, she received tax benefits she can spread over several years, if necessary.

For Mrs. Doe, the gift to the WMO was a way to express her burden for the unreached peoples of the world. Her subsequent planned gifts are further expressions of that same burden. In my estimation, Mrs. Doe is a wise steward. I have a feeling her mother would smile upon her daughter's generous gifts.

The beauty of the WMO is that *everyone* can participate. A child with a coin bank can be as excited, faithful, and generous as someone like Mrs. Doe. We can all be faithful, and we can all give something.

As we approach the 2010 World Missions Offering this April, I challenge all of us to follow the example of Mrs. Doe and give to the World Missions Offering. More importantly, let's follow her example by developing a genuine burden for world missions and the countless people who have never heard the gospel.

Remember the profound words of John 3:16? "For God so loved the world, that He *gave* His only Begotten Son!" How can we hold anything back when we have been so richly blessed? **ONE**

About the Writer: Barry Simpson is director of development for Free Will Baptist International Missions. To learn more about how you can give more effectively through the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, visit www.FWBGifts.org or call 877-336-7575.

THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF THE FAMILY FOR **WORLD** EVANGELIZATION

BY DR. ROB RIENOW

■ In Matthew 28, Jesus gave the Great Commission to His followers, “Make disciples.” I have little doubt that you would say you desire to be a Great Commission Christian. We want to see people repent, believe in Christ, grow in Him, and engage in kingdom ministry. But how are we doing?



How Are We Doing?

Thom Rainer's research¹ reveals a disturbing answer. He surveyed Americans to determine what percentage of the population considered themselves to be Christians based on having put their faith in Christ. Of those born before 1946, he found that 65% identified themselves as Christians because of their decision to trust Christ as Lord

1 Thom Rainer, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary School of Evangelism., <http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?id=6704>.

and Savior. For those born between 1946 and 1964, the number dropped to 35%. For those born from 1965 to 1976, it fell still further to 15%.

In shocking conclusion, among those born between 1977 and 1994 only 4% identified themselves as having put their faith and trust in Christ.

Evangelism and discipleship are in crisis in the United States, and it is a generational crisis. While we are win-

ning many adults to Christ, we are losing the souls of millions of our children.

What Can We Do?

Our instinct is to blame the church. We need a new youth pastor! But this crisis is not first and foremost a crisis of the Christian church, but rather of the Christian family. In the late 1800s, there was a clear understanding that the call to disciple children and teenagers was the responsibility of parents

and grandparents, and it was a role that could not be delegated to anyone else.

During the 20th century, however, Christians began to reflect secular culture and adopted the model of delegation parenting. Do you want your kids to learn to play the piano? Get them a tutor. Do you want them to learn basketball? Get them a coach. Do you want them to learn about Jesus? Get them a youth pastor. Your job is simply to drive the minivan and drop them off at all the institutions that will train your children.

In the summer of 2004, this crisis became personal for me. I had no plans to pass my faith to my own children. I had been a youth pastor for 11 years and was passing my faith to everybody else's children!

Personal repentance quickly spread to pastoral repentance. I had been ignorantly leading an unbiblical youth ministry. One of my favorite sayings was, "I have an unchanging message in a constantly changing package." In other words, the message of the gospel is unchanging, but the methods I use to reach teenagers will be constantly adapting to meet the changing youth culture. Big problem!

The Bible is not silent on the method. God doesn't say, "Here is the message of the gospel, get it to the next generation however you want." Throughout the Scriptures, God gives His ordained method for "making disciples" of the next generation, and we have ignored it to the peril of our children's souls.

What Must We Do?

What is that method? How has God ordained that the Great Commission be advanced to the next generation? God shouts the answer through the pages of Scripture. The family—parents and

grandparents—are called to take the lead in the spiritual training of their children and grandchildren.

If we are passionate about reaching our communities, our nation, and the world for Christ, we must return to the biblical model of our churches and our homes partnering together for Christ and for His Kingdom.

Here are three theological principles I hope will spark conversation, debate, and transformation in your family and in your church:

Foundation #1: God created families to be discipleship centers.

There is a lot of talk in the evangelical church today about the importance

■ YOUR MOST IMPORTANT CHRISTIAN MISSION IN THE WORLD IS TO IMPRESS UPON THE HEARTS OF YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN A LOVE FOR GOD.

of discipleship small groups. You have heard the buzz lines. "We need to do life together." "Discipleship happens in the context of relationships." "We need to return to authentic community." I believe that God loves discipleship small groups. He just has another name for them. He calls them families.

He wants every person to be born into the ultimate discipleship small group—a Christian family. Are you looking for authentic community? Are you looking for people to be real and genuine? Go home. I am sure you will find real relationships there. God created the family to shape the heart of every member of the family with a deep and abiding love for Christ and for His Word.

Foundation #2: The biblical purpose of parenting and grandparenting is to impress the hearts of children with a love for God.

Many parents have wondered, "God, why did you give me these children?" It is vital that we understand the answer to the question. God gives children to human mothers and fathers with the calling on those parents to do all in their power to impress the hearts of their children with a love for God and guide them safely home to their Father in Heaven.

Foundation #3: God has designed the family as an essential engine of world evangelization through the power of multi-generational faithfulness.

God's desire is to fill the earth, and ultimately the new earth, with worshippers of Christ. From the beginning in Genesis 1:28, the Bible teaches that a primary means of accomplishing this is for those who love Him to raise their children to love Him, who in turn raise their children to love Him. God created the family, under the equipping and accountability of the local church, to advance the gospel and the Great Commission to the ends of the earth!

If you are a mother or a father, a grandmother or a grandfather, your most important Christian mission in the world is to impress upon the hearts of your children and grandchildren a love for God. The Great Commission begins at home. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Rob Rienow is the family pastor at Wheaton Bible Church and founder of Visionary Parenting.

Global Means Home, Too



A weekend retreat brings a FWBBC freshman face-to-face with the neighborhood challenge of international missions. • By Jacob Culwell

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009, WAS A DAY OF GREAT ANTICIPATION ON THE CAMPUS

of Free Will Baptist Bible College. It was the first day of the three-day Global Missions Fellowship (GMF) retreat. Since the weekend followed the college's annual Missions Conference, our spirits were soaring as we waited for the bell that marked the end of classes and the start of the highly anticipated weekend.

Some went, I am sure, because they feel a calling to missions. I just wanted to be with friends and learn more about missions. I knew very little about missions beyond the fact that my church always took up love offerings for visiting missionaries.

Encounter the Unexpected

But something unexpected happened. The retreat focused on international missions turned into a personal revival—a revival focused on helping those here at home find Christ. For the first time, it really hit me that global missions refers not only to the 10/40 window but also my county, my neighborhood, my street—even next door. *Global means home, too!*

The weekend began like most other retreats. People piled into vehicles, asked for directions, took wrong turns, drove 135 miles east of Nashville, and eventually arrived—tired and hungry—at Fall Creek Christian Campground. We soon discovered—with many groans—that our food had not arrived.

Like most college students, we found creative ways to entertain ourselves while we waited, from climbing rafters to playing the signs game or the winking game or musical chairs. After the food finally appeared, we enjoyed a filling supper of chili and cornbread (not Mom's home cooking but quite welcome on a cold night). Then everyone headed to the chapel. We worshiped the Lord in song before cross-cultural specialists Clint and Lynette Morgan shared their testimonies describing how the Lord opened and closed doors to get them where they are today.

God at Work

On Saturday morning, Rachel Dennis, a FWBBC enrollment counselor who now teaches English in Laos, gave her testimony. After describing her gift for traveling and meet-

ing total strangers, she confessed her struggle to reach those closest to her, those in her own neighborhood. She reminded us that we shouldn't hide behind our strengths. After the service, we headed to Fall Creek Falls for an enjoyable hike, and several people showed off their rock climbing skills.

Heath and Joni Hubbard gave their testimonies when we returned, providing more practical suggestions for sharing the gospel where we are. Heath is director of recruitment at FWBBC, while Joni serves as student missions coordinator with Free Will Baptist International Missions.

After another filling dinner (and a failed attempt at building a campfire), we gathered in the dining hall where, instead of sitting and listening to others speakers give testimonies, it was our turn. Testimonies reveal a lot about people: their past, their desires, their hopes and plans, but most of all, what God has done in their lives.

We were awed by what we heard.

There is no way anyone could hear what I did that night and remain unmoved. It hit me deep in my heart in places I had never been touched before. I will always remember the lessons I learned that night. As we talked, someone recalled what Rachel Dennis said earlier—*Home*. As the importance of the topic hit each person in the group, I noticed a change. A sharp alertness and stillness filled the room.

Building Relationships

People expressed their belief that we have lost focus on the importance of home. It is sometimes easier to go across the world, learn a new language and culture, meet people we don't know, and share the gospel. At home, where we are comfortable, it is sometimes more difficult to share our faith, our Savior. We are afraid to share because we don't want to experience the pain of rejection.

One student hit the nail on the head when he said we need revival—not necessarily a tent revival with a fiery preacher but a revival within ourselves reflected in our actions. Only then can we effectively tell others what God means to us and share His love with friends and neighbors. As the conversation continued, a clear "picture" of this revival began to emerge.

An important part of spreading God's Word on a mission field is the necessity of building relationships, creating opportunities to witness, to introduce people to the God who is watching, loving, and waiting patiently to accept them.



Kindness is one of the simplest ways to start and build relationships with others.

How many times have we gone about our day caring only about our own needs? As students, perhaps we ignored a person with an armful of books because we were in a hurry. Perhaps we prayed only for ourselves rather than others we know are stressed by grades, money, or something else?

Before revival can start, we must surrender our will to God. This includes changing both outside actions and inside thoughts. We can help those around us by showing compassion, by not simply going through life thinking the only thing that matters is our own wellbeing. We must be nice to people and tell them we are thinking or praying for them. The simple words, "I am praying for you," can lift someone's spirit. To know someone is thinking of us and praying for us is the best feeling in the world!



About the Writer: Jacob Culwell is a freshman Business student at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church in Springfield, Tennessee. Read more about Free Will Baptist Bible College at www.fwbcc.edu.

Command, Not Suggestion

As the night slowly came to a close, someone remarked that it is not just "a good idea" to be kind to others. It is also a command. The Bible says the two most important things in life are to love God and to love our neighbors. While it is important to care about international missions, it is also for people here at home. We dare not ignore the lost and needy in our own neighborhoods.

GMF weekend will always stay with me. I want God to start a fire in my heart. I never want to forget the three big truths I learned: Love God, love man, and *global means home, too*. Help me start the revival! 

Tired of the up and down market?

You can enjoy guaranteed, fixed income with a gift annuity with the Free Will Baptist Foundation that ultimately benefits the ministry of International Missions. For more information, visit www.FWBGifts.org.



Free Will Baptist Foundation
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a greater **IMPACT**



Making History

Free Will Baptists made history in Birmingham, Alabama, July 15, 2006, when more than 400 people from eight states braved 100-degree temperatures and sweltering humidity to turn the focus of the annual Free Will Baptist convention outward.

Excitement grew as news about the one-day evangelistic campaign dubbed "Impact Birmingham" trickled back to the convention. "I just think it is amazing to see Free Will Baptists come together for something like this!" said participant Tina Brewer. "No matter what happens during the rest of the convention, we will always remember Birmingham for what happened today!"

As the Impact program nears its fifth year, Tina's statement has proven to be prophetic. From Birmingham to Little Rock (AR) and Charleston (WV) to Cincinnati (OH), Impact has left its mark on each convention city.

Lives Changed

In four years, 1,425 volunteers have reached out to these cities through door-to-door evangelism and kindness evangelism (children's fun fairs, neighborhood block parties, painting inner-city housing, feeding the hungry, and much more). Others carried out service projects for local churches by painting, pressure washing, clearing brush, cleaning carpets, and planting flowerbeds. In 2007, a team in Arkansas even built a storage barn in one day!

Mike Cox, pastor of the Forestdale FWB Church in Birmingham, summed up the effects of Impact on his church. "We are very grateful for this program. It was a rare opportunity to have nearly 200 workers do more in six hours than our church could do in months. They accomplished more than I dreamed."

Yet with all that Impact has accomplished, one statistic stands above all others. In four years, 47 people have accepted Christ as Savior!

Looking Ahead

As the convention turns its attention toward Oklahoma City in 2010, a significant change will affect Impact. Although Master's Men has always worked hand in hand with the program, this year—for the first time—the department will organize and coordinate the day from start to finish.

"We are excited about the opportunity, and we invite everyone to join us as we work together to impact the people of Oklahoma City," said Ken Akers, Master's Men director. "This is a great opportunity for families to minister together before convention activities get too busy."

Starting at 9:00 a.m., July 17, volunteers for Impact OKC will partner with local churches to canvass nearby neighborhoods, sharing the gospel and inviting people to visit. In addition, a variety of service projects will be available. **ONE**

This is your chance to make an impact! Visit www.fwbmastersmen.org or www.onemag.org for more information or to sign up for this year's event.

What is **IMPACT?**

Impact is **SERVICE**.
Impact is **FUN**.
Impact **CHANGES LIVES**.

2006 – Birmingham, AL
2007 – Little Rock, AR
FOUR YEARS » FOUR CITIES

2008 – Charleston, WV
2009 – Cincinnati, OH

1,425 Volunteers
Thousands of lives affected
47 Salvation decisions

DO YOU
want to make an
IMPACT?



a Life
Transformed

By Michelle Forlines

How does one transform from a homeless drug-user to a follower of Christ involved in ministry?

For Bruno it has been a painful, 20-year journey.

Bruno grew up in a troubled neighborhood, amidst fights and gangs. A Catholic priest in his neighborhood took care of delinquent children and, at times, Bruno ran there for safety. Although Bruno hoped God existed, he could not understand how evil and good could exist together and why evil always seemed to win.

About 20 years ago, Bruno was living out of his car, using drugs, and feeling hopeless. He had hit rock bottom. Transformation began ever so slightly. First, Bruno found employment at a surf shop. Eventually, he became owner of the small company. This gave him the opportunity for the life he thought he wanted, but he still felt empty and lifeless inside. Bruno was in the right spot to hear God's voice.

Flirting with women was a normal part of Bruno's lifestyle, and a pretty young woman named Julie worked next door to the surf shop. A Christian, Julie took every opportunity to share about Jesus when Bruno came to see her. Although initially Julie was simply a pretty lady to flirt with, Bruno soon knew that somehow Julie held his chance at life. Bruno was receptive to the message of Jesus, felt conviction of his sins, and made the choice to follow Christ. Bruno never envisioned himself as a family man. Then the unthinkable happened. Julie and Bruno fell in love, married, and began their life together.

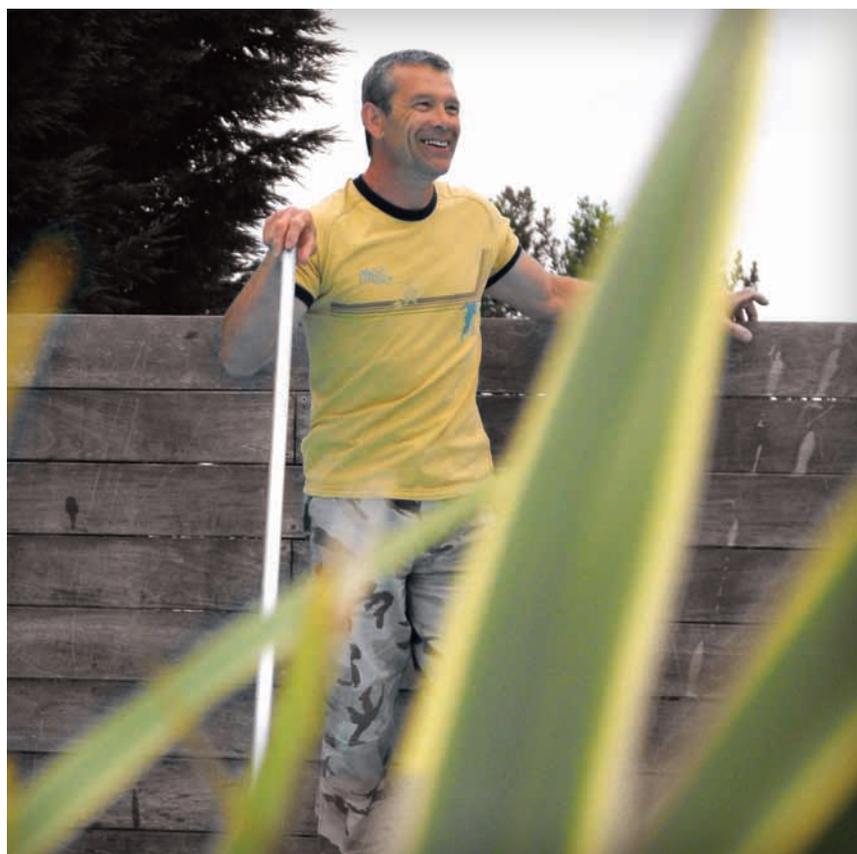
Bruno found his new Christian life was good, but painful. He brought up question after question, and Julie gently pointed him to Jesus each time. Bruno said he literally felt like his skin was being torn off as his old self and old life were ripped away to reveal a new creation. He was being liberated from his past. He was born again, entering the world as a follower of Christ. But it was a slow, excruciating process. It was two years before Bruno and Julie could pray together. It took time for Bruno to be anything but a spectator at church. God slowly worked in Bruno's heart, changing him from the inside out.

After many years of following Jesus, Bruno came to yet another turning point in his life. Bruno wanted to be a man after God's own heart. He began to feel a burning desire for others to know the same grace he had experienced. He wanted to see the walls of comfort and protection people built for themselves dissolve. He believed these walls prevented relationships with other people, as well as hindering relationships with God. He wanted people to feel as the Samaritan woman did when she met Jesus. Jesus met the woman where she was. He gave her true life and confidence, and she left joyful.

An opportunity to extend his ability to share with others came during church one Sunday. Bruno's pastor, Free

Will Baptist missionary Jerry Gibbs, asked if some in the congregation were interested in helping to lead and preach. It seemed his burning desire to serve God and share Him with others had just had hot coals heaped upon it. Bruno knew God was calling him in the direction of leadership and ministry.

Today, God is using Bruno in his church in St. Nazaire, France. He knows God has brought him to this place. The man who thought he never would be a family man is happily married and has two children. The man who was so far from God is now teaching, studying God's Word, and seeking God's Kingdom. The man who embraced a self-destructive lifestyle is now full of musical creativity, cooking, and building. Bruno is currently working at nearby hotel, renovating their house, and working in his church. He is praying for God's direction for future plans and the possibility of ministerial training. Bruno is thankful that God is faithfully, continually sanctifying and changing him. **ONE**



Bruno and Julie tell their story on IMPulse 6.1. Watch *All Things New* at fwbgo.com/impulse.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Michelle Forlines works as a nurse on a mobile unit in inner-city Memphis, TN.

THE NONES ARE COMING

BY RICHARD ATWOOD

What in the World is a None?

The *Nones* are people who claim no religious affiliation. According to an article in *The Week* magazine from November 6, 2009, a study by Trinity College found their numbers increasing. In 1990, eight percent of Americans claimed no religious affiliation. In this recent survey, that number had climbed to 15%. Their numbers are higher in the Northeast and the Pacific Northwest. *Nones* also have a higher percentage among younger people.

In *Jesus Among Other Gods*, Ravi Zacharias says, “Philosophically, you can believe anything, so long as you do not claim it to be true. Morally, you can practice anything, so long as you do not claim that it is a ‘better’ way. Religiously, you can hold to anything, so long as you do not bring Jesus Christ into it.”

Another survey by the National Opinion Research Center reveals that regular church attendance has fallen in the United States. In 1971, 41% of the population attended church regularly. In 2002, the number had dropped to 31%. Denominational loyalty has also eroded with churchgoers shopping around.

Southern Baptist researcher Brad Waggoner says, “There is no simple answer to why people are so restless.” Since younger people tend to be more nonreligious, some are concerned this may be a growing trend in America. Trinity demographer Ariela Keysar says secularism in the U.S. may one day rival the famed religious indifference of Europeans. “We’re not there,” she says, “but we are going in that direction.”

Philosophically, you can believe anything, so long as you do not claim it to be true. Morally, you can practice anything, so long as you do not claim that it is a ‘better’ way. Religiously, you can hold to anything, so long as you do not bring Jesus Christ into it.

Hope for Nones

A slim majority of the *Nones* believe in God, and a third say they pray weekly or daily. Fewer than 10% call themselves atheists. Even though more than three million people in America claim to be atheists, that number is only one percent of our population. This is true in spite of an all-out war by evolutionists and atheists in books, curriculum, TV shows, etc.

Many of the people who leave organized religion are leaving liberal, unbelieving churches. It has been noted that a large number are leaving the Roman Catholic Church as well. Erwin Lutzer, pastor of Moody Church in Chicago, states that the persecution in China during the Cultural Revolution wiped out theological liberalism. Maybe scandals and the liberal church’s lack of answers are starting to do the same thing here.

It has looked tough before. Spreading the gospel in the first century Roman Empire looked daunting. In the 1800s, infidel Robert Ingersoll claimed, “Churches are dying out all over the land.” A 1966 cover of *Time* magazine asked, “Is God Dead?” In each case, the church of God preached the truth and endured.

The devil would like for us to be discouraged and overwhelmed so we quit before we get started.

God is alive and well! He is working in America and in your town. Let us be realistic and admit that we have a challenge in America. At the same time, let us also remember that people still have needs only God can answer. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Richard Atwood is director of missionary assistance for Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Learn more at www.homemissions.net.

altar in the attic

By Mark Thomas

Thank the Lord for laymen!

Many of them listen to sermons from pastors several times a week. Sometimes, however, the Lord wants pastors to listen to the laymen. God used a layman (and time) to help me understand this better.

In 1997, the project to build a church addition in Greeley, Colorado, was nearing completion. The time had come to install the carpet and occupy the addition. The whole church family was excited to get into the new building. God had supplied in amazing ways on the pay-as-you-go project. It was almost complete, and it was debt-free!

Before the construction project started, the Lord raised up many people in the church to help with the building. One man donated the land and contributed the funds to “dry in” the building. A general contractor in the church drew the plans and did the framing. The church family gave sacrificially to the building fund. It was amazing to see how God used all kinds of people to do His work.

One special man the Lord sent to help was Ron Smith, a partially disabled drywall finisher recover-

ing from shoulder surgery. Over the years, he has volunteered his services for every Free Will Baptist church construction project in Colorado and Wyoming. In spite of great pain, he installed the drywall and finished it beautifully.

Ron is an amazing individual with a diverse background. He is also one of the best adult Sunday School teachers I have ever heard. After the drywall was done, Ron started building bookshelves for the pastor’s office.

Before long, the trim carpenters were done, the tile was laid, and the carpet installers were ready to put on the finishing touches. However, Ron felt impressed to build a light pulpit and some portable altars. The church already had a beautiful pulpit and altars, and building another set seemed unnecessary.

I tried my best to talk Ron out of building them to immediately clear out for the carpet layers. He insisted on building the pulpit and altars. He said, “If the Greeley church doesn’t need them, some other mission church will some day.” He built the pulpit and altars, and the carpet installation had to wait.

At the time, I thought he should have listened to me as his pastor. What I did not realize was that God had placed in Ron’s heart a conviction to build that church furniture. We ended up storing Ron’s pulpit and altars in the Greeley church attic for 10 years! Many times, I thought how crazy it was for Ron to build them. The truth is God had called him to do it.

When the Lord called me to start a church in Pueblo, Colorado, the pulpit and altars were brought down out of the attic. Now, I preach behind them every Sunday at the new Free Will Baptist Church.

On the day of our grand opening, a lady knelt at one of the altars Ron built. As she prayed, I recalled the day I did my best to talk Ron out of building that church furniture. I am so thankful Ron listened to the Lord instead of me that day. Sometimes, pastors need to listen to laymen! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Veteran Home Missionary Mark Thomas is planting a church in Pueblo, CO. To learn more about his and other home missions churches across North America, visit www.homemissions.net.

Remembering the Life and Ministry of Trula Cronk



Tribute

from a **FRIEND**

BY SANDRA FENDER HALL

WHEN I REMEMBER MY FRIEND

Trula Cronk, I think of compassion, friendship, missions, love for education, wisdom, love of nature, and dedication to family. She was a woman who walked with God.

Born June 7, 1924, Trula Gunter grew up in the Camp Creek area of East Tennessee, nestled in the Great Smoky Mountains along the Nolichucky River. As a child, she loved the outdoors—playing in the river, swinging in grapevines, and enjoying God’s creation.

The small Presbyterian mission school she attended as a young child fostered a love for learning she pursued throughout life. She loved to read for educational and spiritual enrichment as well as pleasure. In May 1939, during her high school years, her search for knowledge led her to live and study at the Free Will Baptist Children’s Home in Greenville, Tennessee. She was the first resident in the home that now bears her name: Trula Gunter Cronk Home for Children.

Trula’s desire to serve as a missionary to India developed at a young age. Her Sunday School teacher and pastor’s wife, Mrs. Brown, frequently shared with the class about her 15

years of missionary work in India. This testimony, along with the song “I’ll Go Where You Want Me To Go,” placed a burning desire in Trula’s heart to serve, and she surrendered to God’s call while at the children’s home.

During her senior year of high school, Trula visited Nashville, Tennessee, and met Daniel Cronk who also felt called to work in India. The two attended Free Will Baptist Bible College and were married in 1945. They moved to Columbia College (now Columbia International University) in South Carolina to further their education and departed for India September 8, 1948.

After 29 long days of traveling, they reached India and were met by Laura Belle Barnard. They served as pioneer missionaries for Free Will Baptists for 24 years, 1948-1972.

The Cronks were blessed to see many people from various sects come to know Christ as personal Savior. They spent much of their time developing friendships with the Indian people, teaching the Bible, and instructing in evangelism. They focused on teaching the Indian people to develop indigenous churches within their communities.

I had the honor of meeting Mr. Cronk in the late 1970s while a missions student at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He was the professor directing the mission program. Mrs. Cronk taught school and worked in the Social Security office in Nashville. During my training, Mrs. Cronk became ill and was hospitalized. My first memory of her was the visit a



friend and I made during this difficult time. When I left the hospital that day, I commented that although I had come to minister, she ministered to me. Later, I learned this was an enduring trait.

Mrs. Cronk was truly an example of the Proverbs 31 woman. She loved her son Randall, granddaughter Anka, and Anka’s mother Golf. She faith-



fully provided for their needs in any way she could. She was a respected asset in each of the communities where she lived. She was an active long-time member of Horton Heights FWB Church as an advisor, friend, leader, and teacher.

Trula enjoyed a close walk with God and knew Him as her Father. Her diligent study of the Word made her a great source of biblical knowledge and a wise counselor. She faithfully cared for her husband during his illness. After his death in November 1997, she talked about him often and missed him greatly.

In 2003, a stroke resulted in a long, demanding recovery period and Trula sustained permanent mobility damage. It was during this time I began to spend more time with her and came to know her as my friend and mentor. We are both from the Smoky Mountains—she from the Tennessee side and I from the North Carolina side. We fondly called them “our mountains.”

Blessed to fulfill her love of travel with trips around the globe, Trula’s favorite destination always remained the beautiful mountains of her youth. We became traveling companions.

When I journeyed to visit family and friends, she joined me as far as Greenville where she spent time with her own family and friends. Along the way, she livened up the trip with stories of her life and friends who lived in the area.

Though Mrs. Cronk had many friends in the States, and especially in the Nashville area, as she grew older and her health declined, she felt a strong urge to spend more time with her son Randall, a resident of Thailand. In preparation, she relocated to Greeneville, Tennessee, cherishing the unique beauty of each season in the mountains one more time.

It was a joy for my daughter Rachel and I to visit her little home. Rachel looked forward to seeing Mrs. Cronk and hearing her stories. Trula had the gift of hospitality. In spite of failing health, a warm meal always awaited us, bedcovers were turned down, and Rachel always heard a story about Trula’s life before bedtime. We woke to the smell of a country breakfast of bacon, eggs, biscuits, coffee, and all the trimmings. In Trula’s home, everyone ate together at the table. After breakfast, she shared a devotion seemingly custom-prepared for

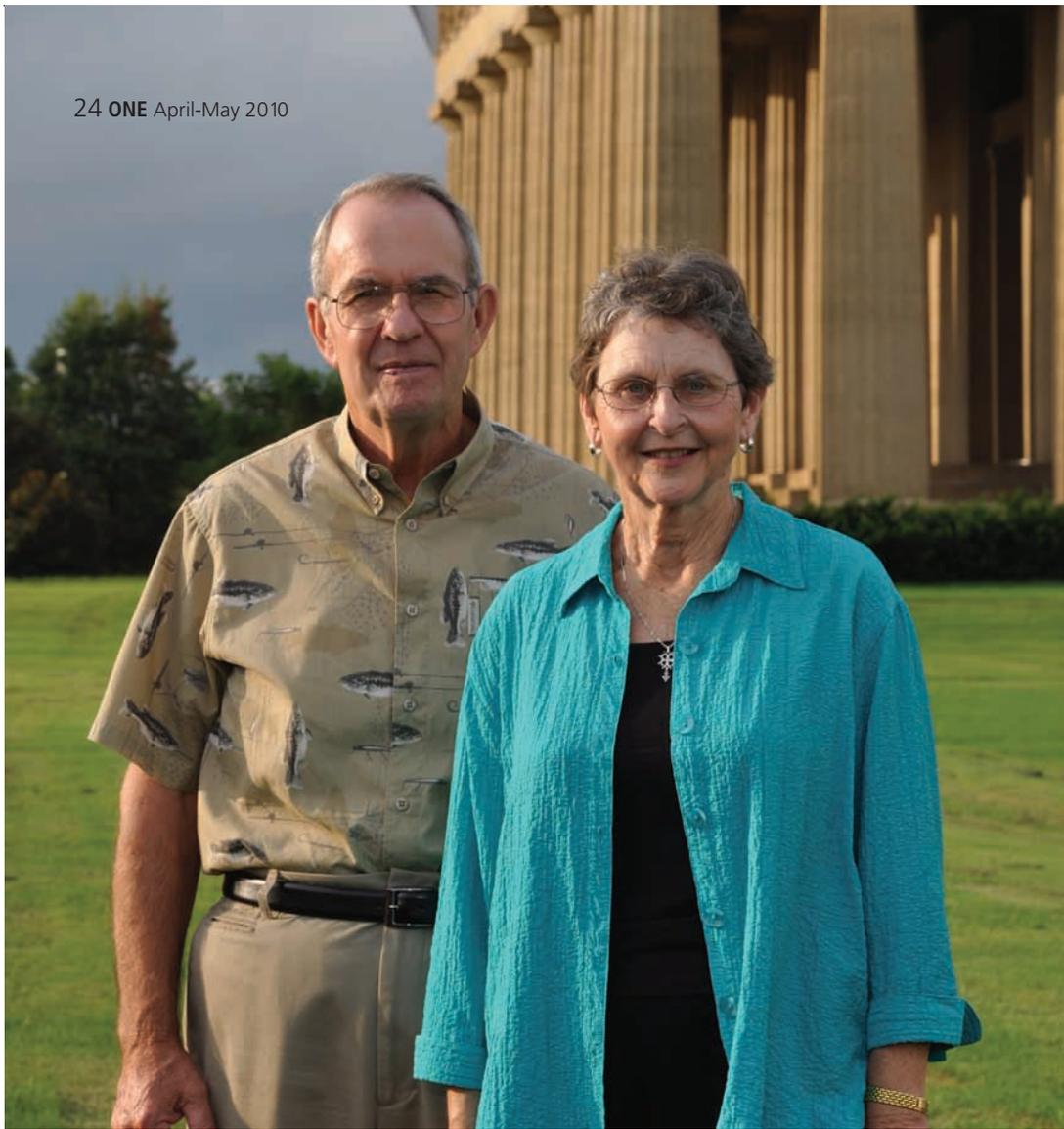
my needs. Everyone who visited with her remembers tea-time in the afternoons. She called everyone together for tea, a sweet snack, and a short fellowship time.

Mrs. Cronk moved to Thailand in August 2005. Rachel and I were blessed to visit her in November 2008. Randall had created a comfortable home for her, surrounded by the beauty of nature that she enjoyed so much. She greatly enjoyed her time with him but missed her friends and family. Unfortunately, her health continued to decline.

God granted her wish to be reunited with Mr. Cronk and to meet her Savior face to face on Monday, December 21, 2009. She is greatly missed, but my life and the lives of many others were richly blessed by our time with her.

One of her favorite verses was “O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good; because his mercy endures forever” (Psalm 118:1). **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Sandra Fender Hall is a 1981 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. She served as a short-term missionary to Japan from 1981-1982. She received her Master’s degree from Oxford Graduate School in 2009.



A RETIRED AMBASSADOR

BY JIMMY ALDRIDGE

MY DECISION TO ACCEPT International Missions' invitation to be an ambassador dates back to 1956. As a freshman at Free Will Baptist Bible College, I surrendered my life to Christ to serve Him anywhere, anytime, by any means.

While a student at FWBBC, I met Janie, a young lady who shared the same vision and commitment. In time we were married, became Free Will Baptist missionaries, and for 37 of the best years of our lives ministered together. In retirement, we have continued to assist with mission work in Russia. Over the years, we have shared the joy of partnering in God's plan of redemption for the lost peoples of the world.

A 2008 trip to Ivory Coast to cel-

ebate 50 years of Free Will Baptist mission work in that country was a foretaste of heaven! We saw answers to prayer walking all over the stadium where we met. For 22 years, we were a part of the witnessing, ministering team of missionaries in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. Thanks to the "senders" at home, the whole team was able to stay. God supplied the financial means through His people in Free Will Baptist churches across America.

Today, the fruit of long years of labor is evident and growing. Those early years were tough, but God always prevailed. Truly, missionaries are laborers together with Him. But so are the dear people who interceded for us and supported us with their money, prayers,

and letters of encouragement.

And the work goes on. Our overseas mission works and churches continue to multiply and flourish, bringing people to Christ and His salvation. The harvest is great! The challenge is awesome! It gives me great satisfaction to be part of that.

Serving as WMO ambassador for International Missions in Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi permits Janie and me to renew friendships with people who have faithfully supported missionaries around the world for many years. We also have the opportunity to invite new people to invest in the most meaningful undertaking of their lives—sharing the gospel with those who have never heard it.

God is honoring His Word. The people who were saved and taught to be disciples when we were missionaries are now spreading the gospel and making disciples of their converts! Among other endeavors, the World Missions Offering provides support for all Free Will Baptist overseas Bible institutes, developing the leadership essential for continued growth. Knowing this, I am honored to serve another year as an ambassador for the World Missions Offering.

In April 2010, Janie and I will be among the thousands of children, teens, families and seniors on fixed incomes who will fill coin banks, write checks, and give joyfully, as we are able. Our gift is an act of love and obedience. We want to spread the Good News of His love and salvation everywhere and thus continue to fulfill His command to the church.

Will you join us? Do what you can, and together, we can do more than we ever dreamed possible. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Retired missionary Jimmy Aldridge served for many years in Côte d'Ivoire and on the Mission's administrative staff. He and his wife Janie currently reside in Alabama.

NEWS

around the world



CHAME, PANAMA—The 22nd annual Panama national women's retreat began with dinner on Friday, February 5, and concluded after lunch on Sunday, February 7. Several first-timers were among the 104 women attending. Though only 85 beds were available, no one complained about sleeping on a thin foam mattress on the floor. The theme for the weekend, "Watch, There Are Signs," reflected the theme verse, 1 Peter 4:7. Music, speakers, and dramatic presentations emphasized the truth of the coming of Christ and how each person should watch, wait, and be prepared.

Valentina de Pérez, from the San Vicente FWB Church, was the primary speaker. She, along with her parents and siblings, were among the first converts in the Free Will Baptist work in Panama. ■



DOROPO, CÔTE D'IVOIRE—On February 9, 2010, nearly 50 volunteers began their first day on the Save-a-Life Five team. The team remained in Côte d'Ivoire for a week, serving as God's hands and feet to the mostly Muslim and animist villagers. Lives were changed both physically and spiritually. Read more about this amazing trip at www.fwbgo.com. ■



TOKYO, JAPAN—Ken and Judy Bailey were pleased when a couple stopped by the Kamifukuoka Church in February to request English lessons. A few days later, another woman came in and requested Bible studies in English. The couple and lady have begun their lessons. The Baileys are praying God will use the studies to work in their hearts. ■



ALPEDRETE, SPAIN—The first evangelical church group to worship in the city of Alpedrete, Spain, celebrated its fourth anniversary on Sunday, February 7. The congregation began with 18 people and now regularly runs around 50 people. ■



RIBEIRÃO PRETO, BRAZIL—After three years in the system, the plans for the Second FWB Church of Marincek in Ribeirão Preto have been approved, and the foundation is being laid. Bobby and Geneva Poole are training leaders for this congregation. ■



CHAME, PANAMA—The Chame Bible Institute in Panama began the first semester of the school year on March 12. Three students are pursuing their final year of studies. Five second-year students and three first-year students are engaged in training. ■

NEWS

around the world

Missionaries Announce Resignation

ANTIOCH, TN—Over the last several months, the Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions has regrettably accepted the resignations of eight missionaries.



Paige Autry and **Cindy Hall** were initially appointed to serve a short-term assignment in Brazil. When their paperwork became tied up in bureaucratic red tape, the board issued a one-year leave-of-absence and they took teaching positions in a mission school in the Virgin Islands. As other events delayed their ability to enter Brazil, both women decided to resign and continue their ministries in St. Croix. Their resignations were effective October 21, 2009.



Eddie and LaRhonda Bowerman resigned December 31, 2009, for health reasons. After efforts to take the gospel to the Kuna Indians were blocked, the couple served faithfully in a variety of facilitating ministries in Panama. They focused their energies on training children and youth workers, teachers, and pastors through seminars, retreats, Bible institutes, and the Chame seminary. Eddie forged valiantly ahead despite severe health challenges. When he could no longer obtain adequate medical care in Panama, the family returned to the States.



The board voted to accept the resignations of **Andy and Andrea Moore** and **David and Annette Aycock** on March 1, 2010. The couples work together in the Barbacena region of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Recent policy decisions by the board and administrative staff led them to believe they should take their ministries in a different direction. The Moores' resignation is effective April 30, 2010; the Aycocks will stay with the Mission through May 31, 2010.

Memorial Service Scheduled for April 17

GREENVILLE, TN—A memorial service to honor former missionary Trula Cronk will be held at Doughty Stevens Funeral Home in Greenville, Tennessee, Saturday, April 17. Visitation is scheduled from 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m., and the service will begin at 4 p.m. A graveside service will follow immediately. The beloved missionary died Monday, December 21, 2009, in Thailand where she lived with her son.

Mrs. Cronk and her husband Dan served 24 years as Free Will Baptist pioneer missionaries to India (1948-1972), crossing caste divisions to reach India's "untouchables" with the gospel.

Trula is also remembered as the first resident of the children's home in Greenville, Tennessee (a part of Free Will

Baptist Family Ministries), in 1939. She later attended Free Will Baptist Bible College, graduating in 1945. Read more about Trula's remarkable life and ministry in "Tribute From a Friend," page 22.

The Cronk family requests that friends and colleagues purchase Gideon Bibles (\$5 each) rather than flowers. The Bibles will be distributed in India and Thailand. If you are unable to attend the memorial, contact Craig Warner at Gideon's International: (615) 564-5000.

Doughty Stevens Funeral Home

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Greenville, TN 37745
423-638-4141



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to raise awareness in young people about the millions without Christ.



HE MUST
INCREASE
BUT I MUST **DECREASE**
BY JOHN BRUMMITT

As more and more people become health conscious, they are looking for ways to become more physically fit. At our office, we recently started a wellness committee to provide guidance and assistance for the physical wellbeing of our employees. This is the first in a series of articles about health and wellness.

CHURCH GROWTH

If our bodies are the temples of God, and we fail to keep them in shape, what does that tell others about God? Obviously, the quote from John 3:30 in the title of this article doesn't refer to obesity...or does it? If Christians are supposed to die to selfish desires and put God's will first, that includes all areas of our lives.

Ben Franklin once said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." More than 200 years later, we still don't grasp the concept. Today, two out of three Americans are overweight or obese. Childhood obesity has tripled in the past two decades. As Christians we should set the example of good health and fitness, not blend into the crowd. Sadly, most congregations look no different than the rest of the American population.

Overindulgence—including overeating—is a sin. Proverbs 23:20-21 warns us about the effects of overindulgence. So does the U.S. Surgeon General who reports that obesity is responsible for 300,000+ deaths every year.

Many people describe themselves as "emotional eaters." When depressed or stressed, they find comfort in a bag of Oreos. Should Christians turn to anything but God? According to the surgeon general, "3.8 million Americans carry over 300 pounds, and the average adult woman weighs a staggering 163 pounds." When we turn to a bag of cookies rather than opening our Bibles, how can we say God has first place in our lives?

GUARDING THE TEMPLE

Obesity destroys the temple of God. Deaths due to obesity are second only to tobacco-related deaths in the United States. One of every eight deaths in America is due to an illness directly related to being overweight or obese.

With all the health information and warnings available at our fingertips, many of us continue to destroy the temple God has given us by overeating, getting insufficient sleep, and limiting physical activity. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul? "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own" (1 Corinthians 6:19). Just look at all the health problems directly related to being overweight: Type-2 diabetes, heart disease, asthma, joint issues, back pain, high blood pressure, and emotional and mental health problems.

"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20). Obesity is poor stewardship of the body. As Christians, we must care for our bodies in such a way that we are physically able to do whatever God asks.

Obesity also creates poor stewardship of financial resources. The estimated annual cost of obesity in the U.S. is just under \$123 billion. Imagine what could be done with healthy bodies and extra funds if we took better care of what God has given us.

Overeating indicates walking in the flesh rather than the Spirit. Without control over our physical bodies, how can we say we have control in any other

area? First Corinthians 6:12 reminds us that just because something is lawful, doesn't make it profitable. We often refer to Acts 10:10-15 as a blanket that covers eating whatever we want, but we disregard passages that talk about the importance of moderation.

LAY ASIDE THE WEIGHT

In Daniel 1, we find Daniel and his friends making nutritional choices that led to healthier bodies and sharper minds. God honored their commitment. When we care for our bodies, we enhance our service for God, and we set a better example for others to follow.

Although we are servants of the Living God, we are still sinful humans. We struggle with temptation like everyone else, but we have a "secret weapon" unbelievers don't have. According to 1 John 5:14-15, we can ask God anything, and He hears us. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

If you need help getting your health on track, turn to God first, and be willing to do whatever it takes to get your temple into a shape that pleases God. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: A 2004 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, John Brummitt is business manager for the FWB Board of Retirement. He began working for the Board of Retirement in spring 2006. An avid runner and founder of a middle-Tennessee running club, he chairs the wellness committee for the Free Will Baptist National Offices.

Health statistics taken from:
www.americansportsdata.com/obesityresearch.asp
www.surgeongeneral.gov/news/testimony.htm

**OBESITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
 300,000+ DEATHS EVERY YEAR.**



WHEN HELP HURTS

By Norma Jackson Goldman

IT WAS A SAD DAY FOR A LOVELY retired senior in my neighborhood. Seventy years old, widowed, and living on a limited income, she was unable to pay an outstanding debt on the home where she and her late husband lived for more than 30 years. Although the original mortgage was paid off, family members experienced financial difficulties. In compassion, she took out a second mortgage to help. The debt increased as more and more appeals for help came. Ultimately she owed more than the house was worth, and unable to handle the debt, the bank foreclosed.

In today's perilous economic climate such stories are not uncommon. Many parents work well into retirement years to assist adult children and other family members who have lost

are concerned, our usual good judgment and sound money management practices are completely set aside by emotional ties.

WHEN SHOULD WE HELP?

Determine whether the request is a genuine need, not a want. Many young families want bigger houses, new cars, the latest gadgets, and nice vacations—all wants, not needs.

If the need is genuine (a tutor for a child struggling in school, technical training for a young widow) and the parent(s) can meet the need without endangering their own financial stability, they should formalize the agreement in writing.

The agreement may simply state you are making a cash gift, and no repayment is expected. Or, the agree-

ment about what was agreed upon. If the same person repeatedly requests help, the written agreements are a tangible reminder to you both that an unhealthy pattern has developed.

WHEN SHOULD WE NOT HELP?

The concept of earning and saving to pay for what we desire is a sound money management principle and cannot be learned too early in life. Insisting that adult children follow this principle actually affirms their independence.

There are times when it is appropriate to help a family member with debts, but they are rare; doing so only perpetuates inappropriate behavior. It is far better to assist with financial counseling, allowing them to work

THE CONCEPT OF EARNING AND SAVING TO PAY FOR WHAT WE DESIRE IS A SOUND MONEY MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLE AND CANNOT BE LEARNED TOO EARLY IN LIFE. INSISTING THAT ADULT CHILDREN FOLLOW THIS PRINCIPLE ACTUALLY AFFIRMS THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

jobs, gotten into credit card debt, need additional education, or simply prove to be poor money managers.

Most of us grew up in Christian communities where helping others was an integral part of life. We learned (sometimes the hard way) to save and spend wisely, to prepare for an uncertain future, and to assist those less fortunate. And so we should.

But it is also true that people unwittingly and unintentionally encourage bad money management by repeatedly "bailing out" family members. Once a pattern of behavior is established, it becomes harder to say "no" to new requests for help. When family members

ment may say you're making a cash contribution to be repaid in a certain way, by a certain date, or under certain terms and conditions.

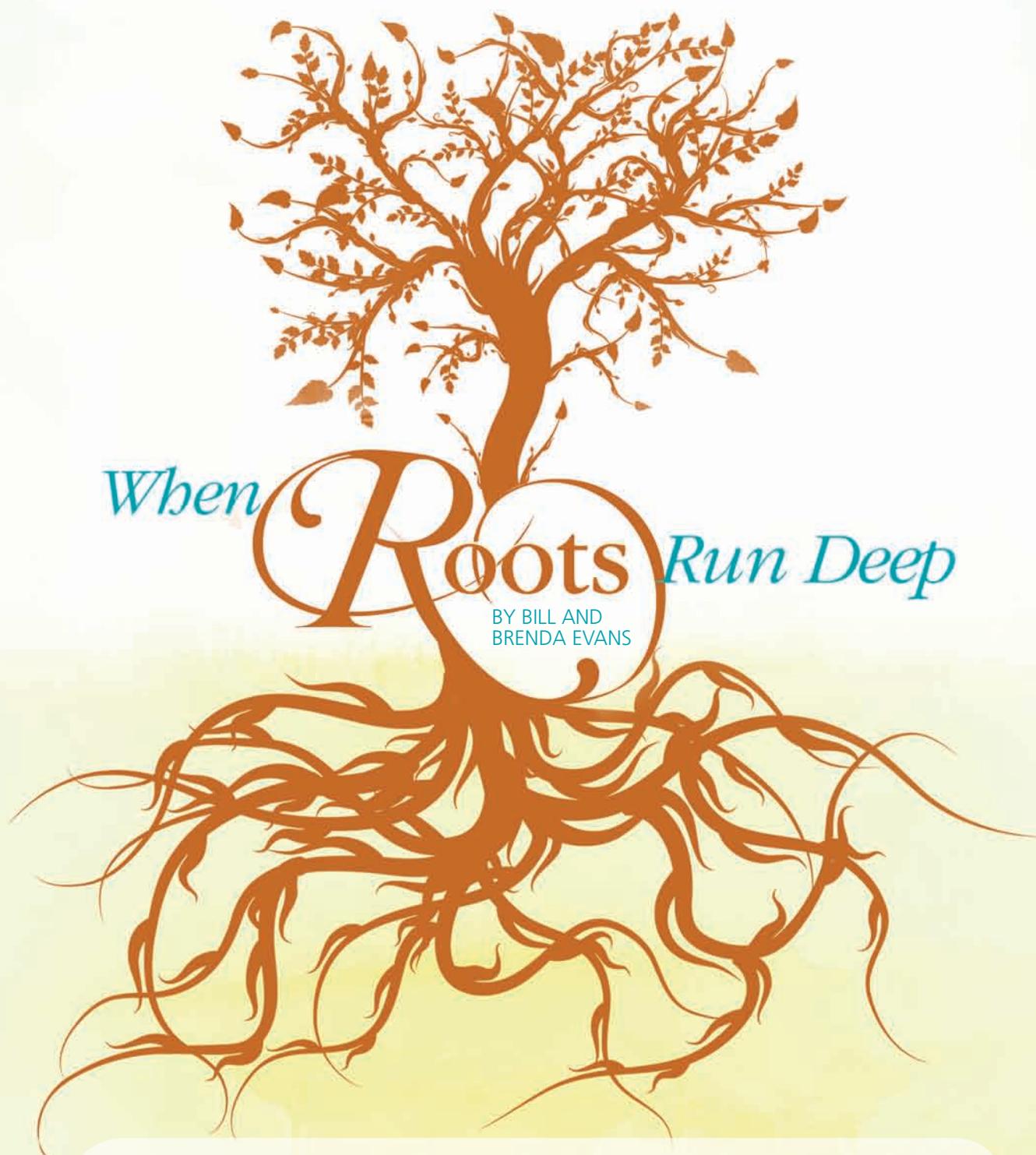
Example: Your grandson needs technical training to get a better job. You agree to give him the money with no repayment expected if he successfully passes the course. If he does not, then you are to be repaid within a specific time frame. Be sure to have the agreement notarized.

Creating a written agreement insures that both parties fully understand your intent, and his/her responsibility. Such written agreements assure there can be no dispute later

through the problem successfully. In no event should you provide assistance when it means you will not be able to meet your own obligations, or that you will take on debt you may be unable to repay later.

Successful money management is a critical life skill. Inappropriate financial help may very well undermine or prevent a young adult's growth and development. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance writing career in her retirement. Learn more about the Board of Retirement at www.boardofretirement.com.



When **R**oots *Run Deep*

BY BILL AND
BRENDA EVANS

The gardener said, “Spread a smattering of blood and bone meal deep into the soil to draw roots down where they will grow and thrive.” Like a man or woman, I thought, whose roots go deep into good soil then branch out in all directions to impact others.

Robert Bilton Perry's roots certainly run deep and spread wide. His soul's calling is to be a good messenger of the Gospel. "I love people. My desire is to connect with them and influence them for Christ," he says.

Like his father before him, Robert was born in a two-story log house in Pardee, West Virginia, built in the 1850s by Robert's grandparents. It was in that same house that his life first turned toward God. When he was five, his grandmother took him to church where he learned Bible stories from tiny picture cards.

He learned early what a compelling love for the lost would do to a man. His Uncle Bud Perry rode horseback hundreds of miles over remote and dangerous West Virginia mountains to preach the Word. Robert recalls family members "chiseling" Uncle Bud's stiff, weary bones out of the saddle after his long preaching tours.

Robert's mother nourished his spiritual soil as well. "She showed me what it means to care for people. Dad bought flour in 55-gallon barrels. When women from the neighborhood visited and Mother saw a need, she sacked up flour and sent it home with them. No one was going hungry as long as we had food. At times, our home was like a hotel with both Mother and Dad cooking. Everyone was welcomed and fed."

Indeed, Robert's family has been blood-nourished soil for his spiritual growth. His face breaks into a smile when he talks about Katheryn, his only sibling. "She's one smart gal. Always has been. And she's like me—loves people," he says.

Then there is the 1920s photograph of his father on his horse along with fellow West Virginia Mounted State Police. "My father is one of the few mounted police that rode out of the mountains alive during the Prohibition of the 1920s. Most who went into a moonshiner's territory did not live to tell about it."

Beyond blood kinship, a second blood-rich soil sustains Robert—his church. His early memories include a red-hot pot-bellied stove, women with starched flour-sack dresses, four neighborhood brothers who were ministers, and Mrs. Bailey, the local midwife who swung perilously close to the red-hot stove when she "got happy in the Lord," as Robert calls it.

"I thank the Lord for those who delivered the Word in those hard times. I was 18 when I was saved. It was the fall of 1946. My father had been killed in a mine accident in the spring of that year. I had a college scholarship but

needed to provide for my mother and aunt, so I worked instead of going on with my education."

Work was something Robert already knew. By age nine he kept the furnace and fireplaces going for a neighbor's large house and cut their grass during the summer. At 13, he worked at the coal company's store on Saturday. His senior year in high school, he got off the bus every afternoon, went to the Lorado Coal Company's payroll office and kept books at a tall ledger desk "posting charges in red, payroll in black," as he recalls.

Eventually he was elevated to assistant manager in charge of all the buying and employees for six coal company stores.

He also had a youthful exuberance for getting people to listen to the gospel in those early days. "I bought cigarettes for two army buddies early in the 1950s just so they'd go to chapel with me. I never smoked myself, but I found that was a way to get them to hear the message," Robert says.

"I also had a plan to teach the jitterbug to some of my friends in exchange for their going to church with me."

By his mid-20s, Robert was active in community organizations like the Rotary Club which gave aid and gifts to children impaired by polio and poverty. His church, too, gave "poundings" for those needing food and basic life provisions. These early demonstrations of Christian love added to the model his parents had left him: A good man loves and helps his neighbors.

On a damp November day in 2009—almost 60 years later—we visited Robert and found him still at this thing of loving others. We rode along with him while he made three food deliveries to neighbors. Though 81, he serves the hungry, the homebound, and the aged. "I find great reward and satisfaction in doing things for people," he says. His zeal for bringing people to Christ has not waned, though he hasn't bought cigarettes or jitterbugged lately. Twenty-nine years as a business owner of Man Clothing and Jewelry brought him in contact with hundreds of people, and he learned that friendliness and kindness are not only good business, they are good Christianity. A smile, a handshake, an arm around your shoulder—that is the real Robert Perry, a man who knows how to demonstrate Christ's command to love others.

"Even now in my late years, I want to meet new people, make friends, and impact them for Christ. I have a contact list of about 100 people that I call or visit. One young mother I've worked with for two years got saved recently. I

He learned that friendliness and kindness are not only good business, they are good Christianity.

had knocked on her door lots of times and told her if she'd get her children ready, I'd take them to Sunday School. Eventually she came, too, and finally found the Lord."

Robert's community roots branch out far. If he invites you to lunch with a few friends, 50 people may show up as they did the November day we ate with him. With a gleam in his eye and a wide grin, he introduced us to his "extended family" at START, an acronym for Seniors Taking Active Roles Today. START is a community organization that brings together seniors from around the city for fellowship and service projects.

Other civic and social issues occupy him as well because, as Roberts says, "A little nudge, a little help changes people." So he gives time and energy to the Corridor G road project that will improve travel in southwestern West Virginia, the local library, Salvation Army projects, a neighborhood food pantry, and a much-needed bridge in the town of Man. Robert does what he can to make his community a better place to live.

While Robert's hands spread out across his state, his heart is reserved for the Lord's work. "I love our denomination, our doctrine—free will, free grace, free salvation—and our people." He goes to the national convention every

year, as well as state and district meetings. He has taught Sunday School for more than 40 years and regularly leads congregational singing at his church. He is currently working to bring independent Free Will Baptist churches into the West Virginia State Association.

Furthermore, Robert puts his money where his heart is. In his will, he benefits three denominational agencies, as well as his home church. "I've had a real good journey with the Lord. Stewardship brings out the servant in us, and it gives me satisfaction to be a good steward. I hold to being trustworthy in everything, including what happens to my assets. I want them to be used wisely. Making a will and benefiting my denomination is the way I can do that."

As we said, Robert Perry's roots run deep and spread wide. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITERS: Bill Evans, former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, lives in Catlettsburg, KY, with his wife Brenda, a retired English teacher. They are proud grandparents of seven. To learn more planned-giving options offered by the Free Will Baptist Foundation, visit www.fwbgifts.org.

Now that is capital gain!

Seventy-five years ago, Free Will Baptists had no churches (or missionaries) on foreign fields. Today, thanks to the efforts of pioneers like Laura Belle Barnard, LaVerne Miley, and Pop Willey, 1,081 churches stretch across 11 countries on five continents. **Now that is capital gain!**

Some capital gains are not so great, however, and create taxes. Why not establish a unitrust with the Free Will Baptist Foundation to support missions while avoiding capital gains taxes?



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BROWN

on green

BY DAVID BROWN

Planning for retirement always raises a lot of questions. How much will I need? How much do I need to save? How much will Social Security pay?

Unfortunately, the answer to all these questions depends upon each individual's unique circumstances. Instead of specific answers, let's focus on general information.

You will need to replace a minimum of 70% of your working income for retirement. For most people this will come from Social Security and either an employer-sponsored pension or individual retirement account (IRA). Company pensions which have a defined benefit based on the number of years an employee worked are becoming less common. They are being replaced by contribution plans where both employee and the employer contribute toward a retirement fund.

Social Security benefits are based on a sliding scale which gives lower-income individuals a higher percentage of replacement income than those with higher incomes. For example, an individual who has income of \$20,000 will receive a benefit from Social Security equal to 51.4% of his income, but an individual earning \$60,000 will receive a benefit equal to 33.4% of income. Obviously, if the goal is 70%, the lower-income individual is closer to reaching that goal.

People often wonder what the most critical factor is when saving for retirement. The rate of return is important, but it is not the most critical factor. It is very important that you take enough risk to reach your goal. Many choose to be too conservative for fear of having negative returns. The critical factor in saving for retirement is time. Starting early will lower the amount you need to save on a monthly basis.

Consider three individuals who are 25, 35, and 45 years

of age who will each receive 40% income replacement from their Social Security benefits. They each need to invest in such a way that their retirement savings will replace the remaining 30% so that they will reach the minimum goal of 70% of their income in retirement. Each of the individuals is investing the same way and earning an average return of eight percent. The 25-year-old will only need to save four percent of his income. The 35-year-old, who has waited 10 years longer to start, will need to save 6.8%; and the 45-year-old will need to save 14.2% since he waited even longer to start saving.

Those who start late saving for retirement do have options. Besides increasing the amount they save, they can also take more risk and invest for a higher return. Unfortunately, when you have fewer years before retirement, this strategy can prove costly if the economy experiences a severe downturn close to your retirement date. Another option is to work beyond normal retirement age. Waiting until you are 70 will raise your retirement benefit from Social Security by over 30% and add years to accumulate more in your retirement account. The key to saving for retirement is to start early and to be consistent. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: David Brown became director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation in 2007. Send questions to David at david@nafwb.org. To learn how the Foundation can help you become a more effective giver, call 877-336-7575.

For more information about Social Security, or to download an online retirement guide, visit the following websites: <http://cgi.money.cnn.com/tools/retirementplanner/retirementplanner.jsp> or www.ssa.gov.

NEWS at FWBBC

96 FWBBC Students Make President's / Dean's Lists

The fall 2009 semester at Free Will Baptist Bible College ended with 96 students earning academic recognition, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. Nineteen students made all As and were placed on the President's List—five seniors, five juniors, two sophomores, and seven freshmen. Seventy-seven students earned a B average or higher and were placed on the Dean's List—20 seniors, 19 juniors, 16 sophomores, and 22 freshmen.

President's List: "A" Honor Roll

Anderson, Cason (Jr.) - Antioch, TN
Baumann, Kristyn (Jr.) - Marietta, GA
Brand, Briley (Fr.) - Chocowinity, NC
Carpenter, Elijah (Fr.) - Church Hill, TN
Caudill, Allison (Sr.) - Paintsville, KY
Clem, Kristina (Jr.) - Decatur, IL
Downing, Jennifer (Sr.) - Blytheville, AR

Driggers, Maggie (Fr.) - Turbeville, SC
Driggers, Mary Kathryn (Jr.) - Turbeville, SC
Gitschlag, Eric (Fr.) - Dickson, TN
Higgins, Miranda (Sr.) - Cookeville, TN
Howard, Thomas (Fr.) - Troy, MI
Hunt, Michael (Fr.) - Wagoner, OK

Inman, Brett (Sr.) - Lebanon, MO
Jolly, Lauren (Jr.) - Glasgow, KY
Moore, Jeffrey (Fr.) - Rogersville, MO
Speer, Katie (Sr.) - Nashville, TN
Trimble, Rachel (Soph.) - Nashville, TN
Willaford, Jason (Soph.) - Jacksonville, NC

Dean's List: "B" Honor Roll

SENIORS

Atkins, Alyssa - Chapmansboro, TN
Caudill, Alice - Pierceton, IN
Cobb, Kathryn - Columbus, IN
Collins, Rachel - Harrisonburg, VA
Cox, Allison - Antioch, TN
Crozier, Joshua - Lancing, TN
Crozier, Megan - Lancing, TN
Davis, Randi White - Florence, AL
Drake, Eric - Cedar Hill, TN
Eller, Mary - LaVergne, TN
Enger, Tricia - Pace, FL
Gillikin, Paul - Harkers Island, NC
Hajek, Samantha - St. Charles, MO
Huey, Shane - Tupelo, MS
Owens, Bethany - Garner, NC
Owens, Jesse - Franklin, TN
Pool, David - Aulander, NC
Pool, Elizabeth - Aulander, NC
Provow, Joshua - Fredericktown, MO
Ward, Kurston - Van Buren, AR

JUNIORS

Benninghoff, Samuel - Smyrna, TN
Bequette, Rachel - Marquand, MO
Brown, Rachael - Dearborn Heights, MI
Dennis, Nicholas - Vilonia, AR
Fawver, Rachael - Knoxville, TN

Forrest, Lauren - Ashland City, TN
Franks, Nathan - Mt. Olive, AL
Garner, Ashley - Homerville, GA
Harden, Kimberly - Kirksville, MO
Kernan, Christopher - Desloge, MO
Kyburz, Faith - DeSoto, MO
Munsey, Juliana - Antioch, TN
Munsey, Matthew - Antioch, TN
Nelson, Megan - Old Hickory, TN
Price, Lacey - Wheelersburg, OH
Reyes, Amanda - St. Genevieve, MO
Shaffer, Hannah - St. George, WV
Stokes, Sara Ann - Nashville, TN
Williams, Paige - Florence, SC

SOPHOMORES

Ayers, Rebekah - Moundville, AL
Boney, Marshall - Virginia Beach, VA
D'Ablaing, Andrew - Lawrenceburg, TN
Douglas, Thaddeus - Macon, GA
Gaddis, Kayla - Marion, NC
James, Rebecca - Manor, GA
Jeffreys, Georgia - Red Bay, AL
Jones, Caleb - Olive Branch, MS
Nelson, Stephen - New Bern, NC
Ouding, Andrew - Delton, MI
Pickens, Robin - Nashville, TN
Ramos, Leigha - Ashland City, TN

Reeder, Steven - Doe Run, MO
Richards, Shawn - Joelton, TN
Smith, Gregory - Whittemore, MI
Snow, David - Old Hickory, TN

FRESHMEN

Catinella, Natalie - Madison Heights, MI
Creech, Deborah - Macon, GA
Culwell, Jacob - Greenbrier, TN
Cyrus, Robert - Louisa, KY
DeLong, Terry, Jr. - Millersville, TN
Dingus, David - Nashville, TN
Fite, Morgan - Mt. Juliet, TN
Hobbs, Brittany - Farmville, NC
Johns, Matthew - Ashland City, TN
Munsey, Rachel - Newport, TN
Norris, Sarah Jo - Chesterfield, MI
Parsell, Laina - Ina, IL
Pierce, Aaron - Tupelo, MS
Pointer, Christen - Russellville, AR
Risden, Megan - Clinton, TN
Suggs, Jeremy - Columbus, GA
Thornsby, Frank - Oil Springs, KY
Tolbert, Phillip - Paw Paw, MI
Ward, Hannah - Van Buren, AR
Weeks, Bradley - Nashville, TN
Weeks, Jonathan - Nashville, TN
Wilkerson, Allison - Coker, AL

87 Attend FWBBC Fall Welcome Days



PHOTO: (L) FWBBC students Nathan Barlow (IN), Hanna McQuin (IL), Courtney Edwards (SC), and Director of Recruitment Heath Hubbard serve up portions of Low Country Boil.

Seventy-one prospective students from 12 states and 26 churches attended Fall 2009 Welcome Days November 19-21 at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Jeff Caudill, director of enrollment services. With parents and sponsors, the campus visitors numbered 87 for the three-day event.

Mr. Caudill said, "We were delighted to have such a promising group of high school students on campus and look forward to a number of them enrolling, several as early as next fall. The college community really came together to host the event with current students sharing their rooms with guests and answering questions. Faculty and staff assisted with the Friday evening

meal and prepared desserts. We couldn't have asked for better cooperation."

Visiting high school students attended classes and chapel, interacted with FWBBC students, enjoyed a performance by the music and drama department, participated in Friday evening's Low Country Boil, attended a financial aid seminar, and more.

"I have decided to come to FWBBC," said Ron Carter, a visiting student. "I tried to get away from the idea of attending FWBBC. However, coming to Welcome Days helped me decide that I want to be here as a student."

Provost Greg Kettelman hosted a Friday reception for high school seniors, recent graduates, sponsors, and parents. ■

Will Harmon, Tim Hall to Address FWBBC graduates

NASHVILLE, TN—Two leading Free Will Baptist pastors, Will Harmon (Arkansas) and Tim Hall (Kentucky) are scheduled to challenge the 2010 Free Will Baptist Bible College graduating class May 6-7.

Reverend Will Harmon, senior pastor at Cavanaugh Free Will Baptist Church in Fort Smith, will address the graduates during 10:00 a.m. commencement exercises Friday, May 7. Kentucky pastor Tim Hall (First FWB Church, Owensboro) will bring the baccalaureate message Thursday evening, May 6, at 7:00 p.m.

President Matt Pinson said, "Every year we look forward to this special time of celebrating with our graduates as they complete their FWBBC studies. The entire college family comes together to honor them for their years of academic rigor. Several of the graduates will step directly into ministry roles and begin making a difference in some local church. Others will shift gears and pursue master's degrees or other professional training. We're proud of all of them, and we hope you can join us in this salute to some of the finest young men and women in America."

Texas native Will Harmon formerly chaired the Board of Trustees at Hillsdale FWB College and the Executive Board for the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists, and served as vice chairman of what is now the Board of Randall House Publications. He graduated from Hillsdale College in 1983 with a bachelor's degree, and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Will was converted at age six and began preaching at age 12. He has pastored four churches in 26 years in Texas and Arkansas, and has led the Cavanaugh Church since 1997. Will and Angie Harmon have three children.

Tim Hall, an FWBBC alumnus and Kentucky native, began pastoring in 1978, and has invested his entire pastoral ministry in two churches—First Free Will Baptist Church in Owensboro (1978-1982, 1989-present) and First FWB Church in Glasgow (1982-1989). He served 11 years as moderator of the Kentucky State Association and five years as moderator of Green River Association. National responsibilities include current duties on the Board of Retirement and previous service on the General Board. Converted in 1970, he was called to preach in 1977 and ordained in 1978. Tim and Jana Hall have two adult sons. ■

Flames Benefit Raises Almost \$2,500

The Flames hosted a December 7 benefit basketball game to raise funds for Matt and Amanda Dunlap, FWBBC alumni who lost all their belongings except for a few photographs in a December 5 house fire, according to FWBBC men's basketball coach Nathan Willhite. The event raised \$2,482 for the Dunlaps.

Coach Willhite said, "It turned out to be a great evening. I'm glad we could help a family in need. Matt Dunlap and I have been friends since our college days at FWBBC, and Amanda and I grew up together. Their lives reflect the type of students FWBBC is proud to graduate. This was an opportunity for the college community to express support and appreciation for the Dunlaps and their ongoing ministries."

Due to a facilities conflict at nearby Pleasant View Christian School where Matt Dunlap serves as athletic director and men's basketball coach, the December 7 game between PVCS and Aaron Academy had already been moved to Picirilli Activities Building on the FWBBC campus. With assistance from PVCS athletic department personnel, Willhite organized the benefit evening.

The FWBBC men's basketball team sold admission tickets and concessions. Coach Willhite's father grilled burgers, and the game officials (Bill Harris, Jeff Keith, Sam Young, and Tim Arrington) donated their services. FWBBC students, faculty, and staff pitched in with their time and money. All gate and concession proceeds for the event went to the Dunlaps.

Matt Dunlap graduated from FWBBC in 2007. His wife Amanda, who works at Next Door (an organization that helps women in times of crisis), graduated in 2005. ■

Kevin Hester Publishes Book Review



The Journal of Early Christian Studies (Winter 2009 issue) published a two-page review by Free Will Baptist Bible College professor Kevin Hester in which he examines Bernard Green's 2008 book, *The Soteriology of Leo the Great*. Green's volume is part of the Oxford

Theological Monograph Series (Oxford University Press).

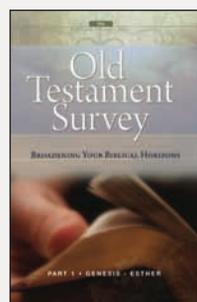
Dr. Hester concludes that while the cost of Green's book (\$130) limits its classroom use, "it sets out a good beginning for what I hope will be a new flurry of scholarship on the long neglected topic of Leo as a theologian."

Hester identifies chapters four through six as the strongest part of the work and the most germane to Green's thesis that Leo's soteriology is focused on the unity of two natures in the one mediator. The first two chapters present the historical background, describing the growing Christian presence in Rome as well as damage done by clerical and monastic infighting, the influence of Ambrose, waffling on the Pelagian issue, and the debate on Nestorianism.

Appointed program coordinator for Biblical and Theological Studies at FWBBC in 2008 where he also teaches History courses, Dr. Hester is a regular presenter at theological and educational forums. His first book, *Eschatology and Pain in St. Gregory the Great: The Christological Synthesis of Gregory's Morals on the Book of Job*, was published in 2007 by Paternoster Press.

Hester graduated from FWBBC with a B.A. (1993), earned an M. Div. at Covenant Seminary (1997), and a Ph.D. at Saint Louis University (2000). He joined the FWBBC Bible faculty in 2003. ■

Garnett Reid Revises ETA Bible Survey Book



Dr. Garnett Reid, chair of the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College, served as revision editor for the 2009 update of Evangelical Training Association's *Old Testament Survey, Part 1: Genesis-Esther*. The 12-chapter, 128-page soft-cover volume is part of ETA's ongoing Bible and Theology Series.

"I was honored to be part of this effort to keep biblical study materials relevant and fresh," Dr. Reid said. "This book is one of ETA's basic curriculum tools for Bible students. The revisions provide a look through 'new eyes' at Old Testament history and the unfolding story of redemption. It is more than a rehash of previous materials, and includes expanded sections and upgraded language that connect with today's complex culture."

The latest revision under Dr. Reid's direction retains the original classic outlines of Dr. Samuel Schultz, but 90% of the content is new. The volume remains sensitive to the adjustments necessary to streamline and expand the commentary. The Old Testament has come under closer scrutiny than ever in recent years, and the relevance of studying the Old Testament must be reaffirmed to Christians in each generation.

Dr. Reid has been a member of the FWBBC faculty since 1982. He writes the "Intersect" column for *ONE Magazine* and is a frequent conference speaker. He publishes regularly in professional journals such as *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*, *Integrity: A Journal of Christian Thought*, and others. ■

+ INTERSECT

where the BIBLE meets life

Child Sacrifice - 2010 Style



Photo: Mark Cowart

DR. GARNETT REID

chairs the Bible Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

HOW MUCH ARE YOUR CHILDREN WORTH TO YOU?

What price would you put on their lives? Would you dare risk their souls? Tucked away in the folds of Old Testament narrative is the short, sad story of a man named Hiel. Evidently this firebrand got so caught up in Ahab's sweeping initiative to mainstream idol worship in Israel that Hiel's sons paid for it with their lives (1 Kings 16:33-34).

"At the cost of his firstborn . . . and of his youngest son," Hiel spearheaded the rebuilding of Jericho, the moon goddess' worship center. In pursuing this project he thumbed his nose at God, so to speak, directly defying a divine demand to leave Jericho in ruins (Joshua 6:26). The graves of his boys said more about the man than the rebuilt city ever could.

How despicable can a man get? Surely we would never dream of sacrificing our kids to pursue our own agenda, especially if we think our quest a godly one. Would we?

"I SMELL DEATH"

"I smell the beginning of death coming for evangelical Christianity," I recently heard D. A. Carson comment. He went on to add the condition qualifying that assessment: "If we don't prioritize winning our young people to Christ." We must not assume a generation raised on Veggie Tales and schooled in the pledge to the Christian flag is necessarily secure in Christ.

EUNICE OR ELI?

Scripture repeatedly calls us by precept and example to this most basic of all missional goals. God's intent in choosing Abraham was to ensure that Abraham's children would carry on his legacy of covenant loyalty (Genesis 18:19). Believing families in Israel were to instill faith in their children through purposed teaching and holy living (Deuteronomy 6:6-8). According to Paul, a lifetime of learning the ways of God from Lois and Eunice brought Timothy to the place where he embraced the gospel personally (2 Timothy 3:14-15). Standing against these purposed parents were Eli and Samuel, leaders both. But their sons apparently ended up outside the covenant (1 Samuel 2:12; 3:13; 8:3, 5).

LET'S BE SPECIFIC

So what should Christian parents do to help children choose to follow Christ? Don't expect your faith to suffice on their behalf. And we certainly can't choose the gospel for them. Yet when we intentionally saturate our homes with biblical thinking and consistently practice the lifestyle biblical thinking fosters, the more likely they are to embrace faith. I offer the following strategies as suggestions not guarantees.

Talk about the gospel with them. Be direct. Be clear. Be persistent. Check to be sure you know what the gospel is, then look for segues to tell it to your kids.

Pray for their salvation. Pray daily. Pray with passion. Call their names before the Lord. Expect Him to answer.

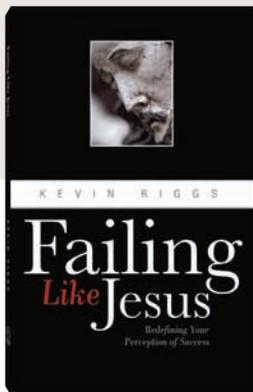
"Grow" your children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," as Ephesians 6:4 insists. The word translated *nurture* suggests training or working hard to achieve an end. *Admonition* speaks of how and what we think. Challenge and correct their ideas with what the Bible says. Don't let your kids get away with lazy thinking that just buys into what they're hearing from friends or popular media. You may have to read up on those trends yourself, and find out what solid writers and bloggers with a biblical worldview are saying. It's not that you want to come down with a heavy hand and risk "provoking your children to wrath," as Paul says. But you do want them to know that being a Christian is a sensible way to live.

Be sure they see you live out the gospel consistently. Tragically, too many parents who like to think of themselves as Christians have signed off on the cost and the consistency required to actually be Christian. All our talk about the gospel amounts to a great big zero if our lives fail to back it up.

Though not writing from a Christian viewpoint, Mike Males' comment packs a wallop: "The deterioration in middle-aged adult behavior has driven virtually every major social problem over the past 25 years."

Let it be true of your home and your children that in years to come when they ask, "what do these stones mean" (Joshua 4:21-24)—that is, what is our family's faith all about?—your answer will sound a note of rejoicing and not regret. That's a dividend well worth any price. Incidentally, Hiel means "God lives." But his boys died. **ONE**

new releases from randall house



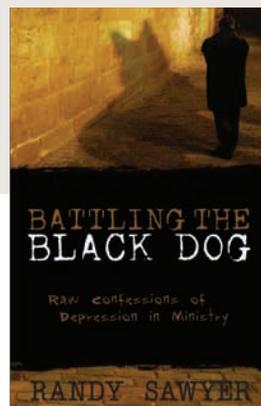
Take a closer look at the ministry of Jesus on earth where He faced many challenges, people who misunderstood Him, and the perception of a failed ministry.

Jesus stood up to the challenges and understood His identity was wrapped up in His relationship with His Father, enabling Him to perform for an audience of One. Until you come to the place where you are at peace with performing for an audience of One, you will either focus on applause or failure.

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LEADER **PROFILE**

by Ron Hunter Jr.

Leadership comes in all forms and sizes, but the

results are the same. Leaders **influence behavior** and **make a difference in people's lives**.

Profiling leaders shows a diverse combination of traits, but **impacting lives** is always a common theme.



TOMMY SWINDOL

TOMMY SERVES KIRBY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH. He is among the finest youth ministers in our denomination. His ability to communicate the Word shows his close walk and selfless attitude. His ability is surpassed only by his humility. I recently observed Tommy through the ministry of some of his youth who led worship at all the services of the Michigan State meeting. They did an awesome job and conveyed the humble spirit of confidence in God.

Tommy grew up in Mississippi attending Tupelo Free Will Baptist Church with his parents. Even though he had a full-ride track and field scholarship from Ole Miss, God had other plans for his life and the lives of numerous people he would impact as a result of saying no to Ole Miss and yes to pursuing ministry by attending Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Tommy married Jessica who started out as his best friend and the relationship grew from there. Their two girls, like many siblings, are polar opposites with Anna Claire being most particular and Emily who is a rough-and-tumble kind of girl.

Tommy mentors quite a number of youth pastors. His maturity and spiritual depth far exceed his chronological age. His desire is to see people recognize and respond to God's wholehearted devotion so that it will propel them to wholehearted devotion toward Him.

Tommy Swindol, you are a great leader! **ONE**

Quiet time routine:

First thing most mornings when he gets to the office because he relies on that counsel for the rest of the day. He sticks to certain books reading them over again. Currently, he is studying Romans.

Ideal date for you and your wife:

Dinner and a trip to Borders Bookstore. They prefer a place where they can interact, laugh, and cut up rather than just sit quietly together.

Tommy's kids and one-word descriptors:

Anna Claire (5) Quirky-Princess
Emily (3) Bulldog

Favorite books:

The Knowledge of the Holy – A. W. Tozer
And the Shofar Blew – Francine Rivers
Simple Church – Thom Rainer

Biggest failure:

Neglecting his family during his first year of ministry. His wife, his "wisest counsel and best friend" helped him see it and make the needed adjustments for a successful family and ministry.

Talents used in ministry:

Tommy is a captivating communicator and loves sharing the word from the stage or standing in line at the store.

TEACHER of the Year

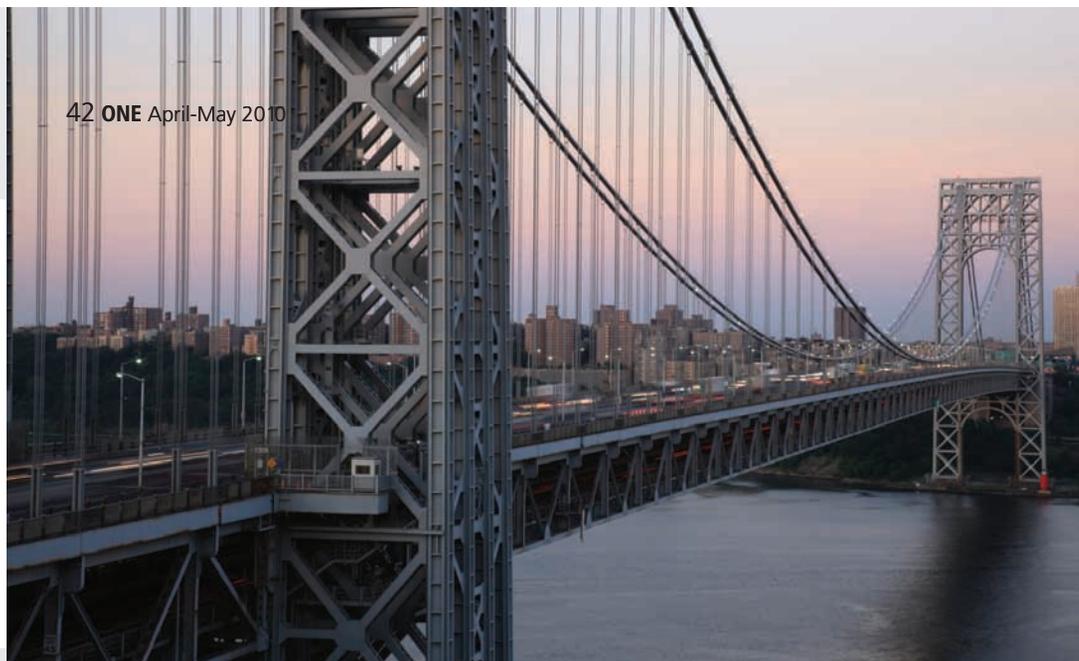


- » Does your teacher **USE D6 CURRICULUM?**
- » Does your teacher **CAPTURE YOUR INTEREST** and **RELATE TO YOU** on your level?
- » Does your teacher **INTENTIONALLY WORK TO BECOME A BETTER TEACHER** by attending workshops, teacher training sessions, the D6 Conference, etc.?
- » Does your teacher **GO OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM TO HELP STUDENTS GROW** in spiritual maturity and Christian service?

Then he or she is a candidate for the CLEAR Learning System Teacher of the Year.

To nominate your teacher, go to www.d6curriculum.com/toty, or email contactus@d6curriculum.com for a form.

The CLEAR Learning System Teacher of the Year will receive a D6 Conference prize package to the 2010 D6 Conference in Dallas, TX. This prize includes three night's lodging, \$100 meal allowance, \$100 conference book allowance, and a transportation allotment. An additional guest registration to the D6 Conference will also be included.



Crossing the Hudson

Remembering the Life and Ministry of Alvaro Larrahondo

BY ALEXANDER J. CUEST

“A GOOD name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold” (Proverbs 22:1).

ALVARO LARRAHONDO—BELOVED friend, father, brother, and pastor—answered the call to the ministry in 1985 in the Latin American nation of Panama. With his lovely wife Nelly by his side, the Colombian native and father of six started his first church in Panama. God rewarded his efforts, the church grew, and souls were added to the kingdom.

As Pastor Alvaro continued to listen to the Holy Spirit, his love for lost souls deepened. In time, he became president of the Free Will Baptist churches in Panama. Throughout his ministry, he continued to have full confidence

that God was with him, and time and again God rewarded his faith.

After returning from conventions in Florida and California, Pastor Alvaro felt God calling him and his family to move to New York City. Clearly, this was a monumental undertaking. Yet the family remained obedient. In 1991, he started a church in Queens, New York.

With no place to meet, the congregation was forced to meet in homes, yet many were saved and the congregation grew in faith. Later, many of these men and women followed Pastor Alvaro across the Hudson River to New Jersey, where he started Christ the Total Solution Free Will Baptist Church in the city of Elizabeth.

The church continues to flourish today under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, building upon the solid foundation established by Pastor Alvaro Larrahondo. It was here that I met this great yet humble man. I often wish I had enjoyed more time to hear more about his life’s journey.

Throughout his ministry, Pastor Alvaro remained dedicated to counseling Christians—not just making new converts. I once asked him to explain what he meant by the word *Christian*. I thought once someone accepted Christ, he was a new creation with all of God’s goodness, power, and strength. So, why counsel Christians? What could

possibly be wrong with them?

Pastor Alvaro patiently explained that he sought to teach God’s people godly principles and foundations, to help them grow in Christ. Such a task seems impossible, but Pastor Alvaro understood that with God, all things are possible.

God continues to show me new things in this ministry. Principles and foundation will always hold a high priority in our church, and we continue to disciple the men and women that God brings to our congregation. We, too, walk by faith so His purpose continues to be written in the heart of each new believer.

I wish I could report that a large number of converts has been added to our congregation, but it has not been that way yet. Nevertheless, we have witnessed slow and steady growth in this congregation as the Lord guides them in their daily walk with Him and in their ministry work. They are learning the importance of being obedient and waiting upon Him for further instructions.

Although Pastor Alvaro recently went to be with the Lord, his name and example have not been forgotten! I continue to marvel at the multitude of souls he reached under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is with joy and love that we remember our pastor, and Christ the Total Solution continues in his footsteps. The congregation understands that the journey before them remains long and hard, but our vision for the future remains. To God be the glory! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Alexander J. Cuest pastors Christ the Total Solution Free Will Baptist Church in Elizabeth, NJ.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Alvaro Larrahondo was converted under the ministry of “Pop” Willey. For many years he served as a tentmaker with the Home Missions Department.

A SCARY RIDE

BY JEFF GOODMAN

BEING A CHRISTIAN CAN BE A REALLY exciting journey, but it all depends on whether or not we are willing to get on the ride. I have always had a fear of theme park rides, and I often get motion sickness from riding them. While in high school, I once visited a theme park with my church youth group. Not wanting the others to think I was a wimp, I hopped on one ride after the next. That's what led to my passing out on the bumper cars. Yes...the bumper cars!

After enduring three roller coasters and several other spinning rides, I was so sick that I begged the guys to ride the bumper cars. I thought it would give me time to recover. I was wrong. The last thing I remember was an older lady crying out, "I killed him!" after her car collided with mine. Next thing I knew, I found myself in a wheelchair on my way to the first aid station.

Church was a blast the next Sunday. Cliff Donoho, the church planter who had started my church in Salem, Illinois, got up and announced, "We only had one ac-

cident at the theme park. Jeff Goodman passed out on the bumper cars." I have never lived that down.

Although I no longer ride roller coasters, I learned something that day about the thrill of the ride. As a home missionary preparing to start a church in Marana, Arizona, I have begun the ride of my life, and the journey is changing me. A raging fire to plant a church is growing inside me.

As I prepared to travel and raise support, I thought I would tire of sharing the same message over and over. However, each time I share the vision, the passion inside of me grows. My resolve to build a church becomes ever more intent, and I am more focused on the task God has laid before me. I am leaning on the promise of Matthew 6:33. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

I must admit something. I almost did not get on the ride—this journey I'm on. I was comfortable and content after pastoring the Homerville Free Will Baptist Church (GA) for 10 years. I never saw my-

self leaving the church, and to be honest, I didn't want to leave. It was a great church with great people, and I loved my ministry there.

Several years ago, however, my teammate Josh began to pray: "Lord, stretch me. Lord, make me uncomfortable, and Lord, do big things." I began to pray with him, and God soon led me to start this new adventure. The ride has not been easy, and when I stop and think about the ups and downs that await, I have to admit it scares me, even makes me a little queasy. But what a journey! What a thrill to be on this ride! All I can tell you is "...seek ye first the Kingdom of God..." and don't let your fears keep you from the ride of a lifetime.

On behalf of the Marana Team, we are thankful to each individual who is helping turn the Marana vision into reality. Follow our progress at www.themaranaproject.com or follow us on facebook. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jeff Goodman is a member of the Marana Project, a team starting a new church in Marana, AZ.

Finishing STRONG AND STARTING WELL

BY REV. LARRY A. POWELL

A New Church in Puerto Rico

JOSE AND SUHEY ARE NATIVES OF PUERTO RICO.



They recently graduated from Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Free Will Baptist Seminary in Inman, South Carolina. It is their desire to return to Puerto Rico to plant a Free Will Baptist church and minister to those who need the Lord.

Jose, Suhey, and their two children have already moved to Puerto Rico to live temporarily with Jose's parents in Trujillo Alto. Let me encourage states and churches that understand the urgency of starting a work in Puerto Rico to send funds to the Jose Correa account. Meanwhile, pray for this young family as they settle into the place where God has called them to labor. ■

Wonderful Response

DURING 2009, SEVERAL CHURCH PLANTERS' accounts slipped gradually into a deficit. We sent out an appeal letter for those accounts, and it has been truly amazing to see the response from churches and faithful supporters.

In particular, I want to mention the Gahanna Free Will Baptist Church in Gahanna, Ohio, pastored by Curtis Booth. This congregation responded with a gift of \$65,000 to erase all of the deficit missionary accounts. Home Missions is deeply grateful for this pastor and congregation who helped us end 2009 with no deficit missionary accounts. ■

Soul-Winning Efforts

I CONTINUE TO BE AMAZED AND GRATEFUL to God for the hundreds of people coming to Christ through the faithful efforts of our Home Missions North America church planters. From the Mid-Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains Region, they are "salt and light" on new frontiers, touching hundreds of lives with the eternal truth that Jesus saves! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry Powell is general director of the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department. Learn more about the work of Home Missions at www.homemissions.net.

Introducing Darin and Joy Alvis



Darin and Joy Alvis are associate missionaries to Buffalo, New York. They will work with home missionaries Brian and Emily Williams to plant a Free Will Baptist church in that area. Darin is a graduate of Southeastern Free Will Baptist College with a bachelor's degree in Bible and Pastoral Theology and a minor in Missions. Darin and Joy have three children: Dalton, Dylan, and Melissa. Buffalo is the second largest city in New York State with a population of more than 300,000. Please pray for the Alvis family as they make the transition to Buffalo.

NEWS in publication

Clarence Lewis to Join Free Will Baptist Family Ministries



Clarence Lewis, assistant director and chief operations officer of Randall House Publications, will assume similar duties at Free Will Baptist Family Ministries in Greenville, Tennessee. The Arkansas native served twice at Randall House—nine years under Roger Reeds and nearly eight years under Ron Hunter. Prior to his return to Randall House in 2002, Clarence was a partner in Lewis Letterworks, a Nashville-based printing company.

When addressing the Randall House team, Clarence said, “Sometimes we need to take inventory of our lives and get out of our comfort zones. I feel I have prepared Randall House for my departure with nearly eight years of implementing policies and procedures to carry it forward. I am not *leaving* Randall House. I am *going* to the children’s home.”

Ron Hunter, who hired Clarence soon after becoming executive director remarked, “Clarence is a valuable friend and professional colleague. We cannot stand in the way when God moves someone to a new ministry. Clarence loves challenges and has helped us solve numerous ones here. I will miss him, and so will the Randall House family.” Ron asked Clarence to provide his insight in key areas for the remainder of the year. Clarence will remain on staff until the middle of May.

When asked about the replacement plans for the position, Mr. Hunter stated, “We have asked our team of employees to stretch these past two years, and now it is time for our leadership to stretch. We plan to absorb these duties among existing leaders who are very capable. We continue to develop our leadership and believe this to be the best stewardship of funds. When someone leaves Randall House, we never assume we need to continue that position as it was; we always examine creative new ways to continue ministry.” ■

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Free Will Baptist
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*National and regional accreditation approved.

Join the Rush...

WHEN UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

opened Oklahoma Territory (a government-controlled area known as the Unassigned Lands) to settlers in the late 1800s, it created a vast migration into the territory. The action was a response to “Boomers,” pioneers who had already settled on government land without permission.

To distribute the 640-acre plots of land fairly, the government held a series of land runs—virtual races to claim predetermined parcels of land—between 1889 and 1895. On April 22, 1889, more than 50,000 settlers gathered along the edge of the territory for the first run. What followed was bedlam.

Pioneers in large covered wagons known as “prairie schooners,” cowboys on horseback, immigrants pulling European-styled handcarts, people on foot, and even riders on velocipedes (primitive bicycles) raced off to stake their claims. Some, remembered as “Sooners,” cheated the system, crossing the line early to claim prime spots of land.

In a matter of hours, the once sparsely populated region was teeming with people, and the area that eventually became known as Oklahoma City was especially popular. Nearly 10,000 pioneers placed claims in the area, and by 1900, that number had more than doubled. Not long after Oklahoma became the 46th state in 1907, the city was dubbed the state’s capitol, wrenching the title from neighboring Guthrie.

Following the discovery of oil in Oklahoma, the city boomed, becoming the center of the state’s commerce. Today, the city is the largest metropolitan area in the Central Plains. The nation’s third-largest city in land area, Oklahoma City ranks 29th in population with just over a half million residents.

Join the Rush

Another rush will take place July 18-21, when 6,000 Free Will Baptists pour into Oklahoma City for the 74th national convention. They won’t travel in covered wagons but in cars and planes, by bus, and yes, some

will even arrive on foot (see page 29 for more details).

These convention “pioneers” will discover many changes since the association last met in the city in 1968. No longer a sleepy, frontier town, Oklahoma City boasts a revitalized downtown area that blends western heritage with modern culture and commerce.

Getting Around

Located at the crossroads of Interstates 35, 40, and 44 in the center of the state, Oklahoma is easy to find and easier to navigate. Flying? Will Rogers International Airport provides 26 non-stop flights from major U.S. cities. The airport is a short shuttle ride from the city.

Once in downtown, most popular destinations are only a brief walk away. Visitors can also explore the city for a quarter on the Oklahoma Spirit Trolley, which runs Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Download a trolley schedule and route map at www.gometro.org/trolley.

Convention-goers who stay in outlying hotels along Meridian Avenue will enjoy free shuttles to and from Cox Convention Center. Shuttles will run constantly from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Plan 20 minutes for wait time and trip.

For the Kids

With 25 museums, Frontier City theme park, and a world-class zoo, Oklahoma City is a great place to take the kids. Little buckaroos will enjoy the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum while the 215,000-square-foot Oklahoma History Center will bring the state’s colorful history to life. Nothing says summer fun to kids like the city’s 15 “spraygrounds,” interactive water parks with assorted spray features. Be prepared to get wet!

Sporting Chance

Golfers will be delighted to discover 17 public courses in the greater Oklahoma City area while baseball fans will want to take in a game at AT&T Bricktown Ballpark, known affectionately as “The Brick.” The park is home to the



TO OKC

www.VisitOKC.com

Oklahoma City RedHawks Triple-A Baseball Team, the Texas Rangers top farm club. Oklahoma City also boasts the Lazy-E Arena, the world's premier rodeo facility, hosting more than 25 championship events each year.

If golf, baseball, and rodeo don't satisfy your sports cravings, you can always visit Jim Thorpe Museum and Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame, the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum, or the International Museum of Gymnastics—something for everyone!

Free-for-All

Travelers on a budget will have access to a wide variety of free or low-cost activities scattered across Oklahoma City including the following:

- *Historic Oklahoma City Stockyards* are located just minutes from downtown. Visitors will see real cowboys and craftsmen at work while browsing Oklahoma's most complete variety of western shops.
- *Martin Park Nature Center* is a great spot for kids of all ages. This wildlife sanctuary includes more than three miles of hiking trails, a museum, library, and more. Open Wednesday through Sunday (9-6).

- Visit the *Oklahoma Railway Museum* where kids can explore old passenger cars and a working steam engine.
- Bring a frisbee and let it fly at one of the city's three disc golf courses, located at Dolese Youth Park, Will Rogers Park, or Woodson Park.
- Extreme sports fans, bring skates, bike, or board and head to *Mat Hoffman Action Sports Park*, largest skate park in the state. Open daily from dawn to 11:00 p.m.
- Enjoy a relaxing walk along more than 70 miles of trails winding throughout Oklahoma City from the shoreline of Lake Hefner to the banks of the Oklahoma River.

Don't Miss the Memorial

The National Memorial and Museum honors victims and survivors of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The 30,000-square-foot museum recalls the sights and sounds of that fateful day through voices, images, and artifacts. The free outdoor memorial is open seven days a week and the museum is open Monday–Saturday (9-6) and Sunday (1-6). Admission is \$10. [ONE](#)



Introducing Nominees for the Standing Boards and Commissions

Antioch, TN—The following have been nominated for board and commission positions to be filled in 2010 at the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, according to Mark McCraney, Nominating Committee chairman:

2010 Convention Election Schedule*

Board of Home Missions

2011

Replacing Harold Blankenship (TN) – Resigned

Nominee: Bob Lewis (TN)

West Virginia native **Bob Lewis** graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College (TN) in 1974. As Free Will Baptist home missionaries, he and his wife Brenda planted three churches in Colorado and Virginia during a 28-year ministry with the department. Bob currently pastors Oaklawn FWB Church in Chapmansboro, Tennessee.

Board of Trustees of Free Will Baptist Bible College

2014

Replacing Bob Bass (TN) – Resigned

Nominee: Jeff Crabtree (Atlantic-Canada)

Dr. Jeff Crabtree pastors Serenity FWB Church, the home missions church he and his wife Donna began in Fredericton, NB, Canada, in 1996. A 1979 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College (TN), Crabtree earned Masters of Divinity (M.Div.) and Theology (M.Th.) from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary (VA), and a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree from Acadia Divinity College at Acadia University (Nova Scotia). Jeff served seven years as the Virginia representative to the General Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, and 12 years as a member of the Board of Randall House Publications. He was a member of the Virginia Executive and Home Missions Boards, and served briefly as the Virginia State Promotional Secretary.

2016

Billy Hanna (GA) – (eligible for reelection)

Terry Pierce (MS) – (eligible for reelection)

Replacing Steve Ashby (OK) – (ineligible for reelection)

Nominee: Michael Armstrong (OH)

Alabama native **Michael L. Armstrong** is assistant principal of Northwest Elementary School in Wheelersburg, Ohio. The 1984 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College (TN) earned the Master of Science in Educational Administration degree from University of Dayton (OH) in 1993, and has since received both elementary and high school principal certification for the state of Ohio. He has 23 years of experience as teacher, administrator, and athletics coach. Michael is a member of Porter FWB Church in Sciotoville, Ohio.

Board of International Missions

2016

Tom McCullough (MI) – (eligible for reelection)

Danny Williams (AL) – (eligible for reelection)

Replacing Sherwood Lee (SC) – (ineligible for reelection)

Nominee: Greg McAllister (CA)

Greg McAllister is senior pastor at Harmony FWB Church in Fresno, California. A 1978 graduate of Hillsdale FWB College (OK), Greg earned a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary (CA). He has served as the California representative to the General Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, and served roles as moderator, assistant moderator, and clerk of both the Missouri and California State Associations of Free Will Baptists.

In addition to pastoring churches in California, Missouri, and Oklahoma, McAllister held roles as registrar and academic dean at California Christian College. He authored the book *Leading Questions: A Free Will Baptist Discipleship Manual* (Randall House, 1985) and has been a regular contributor to denominational Sunday School curriculum.

Board of Randall House Publications

2016

Tim Eaton (OK) – (eligible for reelection)

Tim Owen (FL) – (eligible for reelection)

Joe Wilson (TN) – (eligible for reelection)

Executive Committee

2013

Tim Campbell (AR) – (eligible for reelection)

Rick Cash (AL) – (eligible for reelection)

Replacing Fred Hanson (Atlantic-Canada)

Nominee: David Shores (IL)

David Shores is promotional secretary of the Illinois State Association. After graduating from Free Will Baptist Bible College (TN) in 1965, the Illinois native began a pastoral ministry that has spanned five churches and 50 years. David has served as Illinois representative to the General Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists and served as a member of the International Missions Board. Currently, he pastors First FWB Church in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Commission for Theological Integrity

2015

Craig Shaw (OK) – (eligible for reelection)

Historical Commission

2015

Darrell Holley (TN) – (eligible for reelection)

Media Commission

2015

Travis Penn (IN) – (eligible for reelection)

FWB Music Commission

2015

Chris Truett (NC) – (eligible for reelection)

General Officers

Moderator – Tim York (TN)

Assistant Moderator – William Smith (GA)

Clerk – Randy Bryant (FL)

Assistant Clerk – Ernie Lewis (IL)

*Not electing: Home Missions, Retirement, Master's Men, FWB Foundation

Pre-Registration

National Association of Free Will Baptists



WNAC | NYC | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, July 18-21, 2010

One Form Per Person | Register Online: www.nafwb.org | 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 (Authorization Required)
- Local Church Delegate (Delegate Card Required) **\$100**

NON-VOTING:

- Licensed Minister
- Attendee (includes infants and toddlers)

Tickets:

FWBBC Alumni and Friends LuncheonQty _____ x \$25 = _____
Wednesday, July 21, 12:00 pm
Friends of Hillsdale ReceptionQty _____ x \$15 = _____
Wednesday, July 21, 4:30 pm

National Association Information: www.nafwb.org

National Youth Conference

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 (\$10)

Fee covers attendance to NYC worship services and competitive activities.

Tickets:

Tim Hawkins LiveQty _____ x \$10 = _____
Tuesday, July 20, 9:30 pm

NYC Information: 800-877-7030 or www.fwbny.com

Women Nationally Active for Christ

VOTING DELEGATES:

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

NON-VOTING:

- Missionary
- Attendee

Tickets:

WNAC LuncheonQty _____ x \$25 = _____
Tuesday, July 20, 12:00 pm

WNAC Information: www.wnac.org

Register April 5–June 18, 2010 (postmarked)

No Refunds After June 18

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 Housing 2010



NOTE: Reservations can only be made by telephone or internet directly through the hotel.

1 PREPARE PERSONAL INFORMATION

The following will be needed when making reservations:

- +Name(s)
- +Address, City, State, Zip
- +Phone/Email
- +Credit Card Information
- +Special Requests:
 - Non-Smoking Room
 - Wheelchair Accessibility
 - Rollaway Bed
 - Crib

2 CONTACT YOUR HOTEL OF CHOICE

(See the chart to the right.)

Reservations will open at 9 am, CST / 10 am, EST, Monday, April 5, 2010. Hotels have been instructed **NOT TO ACCEPT** reservations before this time.

- +Hotels may limit the number of reservations made by an individual.
- +Cut-off date: June 18, 2010.

3 RECEIVE YOUR CONFIRMATION

NEW HOUSING POLICY: A non-refundable, one night deposit will be charged per room on June 1, 2010.

Links to hotel websites can be found at www.nafwb.org.

**Cox Convention Center
1 Myriad Gardens
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-9219**

Cambria Suites OKC Airport
4410 Southwest 19th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
Phone: 405-688-3300
Rate: \$99 King or Double Queen Suite
Complimentary Parking
Group Code: LNAFWB

Renaissance OKC Convention Center Hotel & Spa
10 North Broadway
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Phone: 800-468-3571
Rate: \$139
Parking: \$8 Self-Park / \$25 valet (in/out)

Colcord Hotel
15 North Robinson Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Phone: 866-781-3800
Rate: \$129 King and Double/Double
\$179 Superior Corner King
Parking: \$7 Self-Park / \$10 Valet
Group Code: 1682

Residence Inn by Marriott OKC Downtown/Bricktown
400 East Reno Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
Phone: 405-601-1700 / 800-MARRIOTT
Rate: \$159 1 Bedroom Suite
\$269 2 Bedroom Suite

Courtyard by Marriott Downtown
2 West Reno
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Phone: 800-217-9905
Rate: \$129
Parking: \$12 Self-Park / \$20 Valet

Sheraton OKC Hotel
One North Broadway
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Phone: 405-235-2780
Rate: \$139
Parking: \$10 Self-Park / \$20 Valet

Embassy Suites Oklahoma City
1815 South Meridian Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
Phone: 800-EMBASSY
Rate: \$129 King Suites
Complimentary Parking
Group Code: FWB

The Skirvin Hilton Hotel
One Park Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Phone: 405-272-3040
Rate: \$145
Parking: \$10 Self-Park / \$20 Valet (in-out)
Group Code: FWB

Hampton Inn & Suites OKC / Bricktown
300 East Sheridan Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
Phone: 405-232-3600
Rate: \$115 Standard Rooms
Parking: \$8 day (in-out)
Group Code: FWB

Wyndham Garden OKC Airport
2101 South Meridian Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
Phone: 405-685-4000
Rate: \$99
Complimentary Parking
Group Code: 0701XXXNA

Hyatt Place Airport
1818 South Meridian Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
Phone: 888-492-8847
Rate: \$89
Complimentary Parking
Group Code: NFWB

Complimentary Shuttles will be provided from the following:
+Cambria Suites
+Embassy Suites
+Hyatt Place
+Wyndham Garden

Things to do @NYC in OKC

- + Make a difference in someone's world through **REACH THAT GUY** service projects.
- + Experience a cross-cultural simulation in the **GLOBAL PURPOSE SEEKERS INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR**. Attend other GPS sessions to discover how to make wise choices and learn to discern God's will.
- + Participate in the **BIBLE COMPETITION AND MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL** and perhaps earn a spot on the 2011 Youth Evangelistic Team.
- + Enjoy the hilarious comedy of **TIM HAWKINS** after the Tuesday evening service.
- + Be a part of the historic **GO10 WALK** as it concludes a 2,500-mile trek.
- + **ATTEND SEMINARS** that will help equip you to defend your faith.
- + **WORSHIP WITH HUNDREDS OF OTHERS** each evening and hear challenging speakers inspire you to be a faithful witness wherever you are.

+ Check out **LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**:

OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL, OKC BRICKTOWN, FRONTIER CITY THEME PARK, CELEBRATION STATION, ASA NATIONAL SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME, INTERNATIONAL GYMNASTICS HALL OF FAME, NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM, SCIENCE MUSEUM OKLAHOMA, BLUE SAGE GLASSBLOWING, STOCKYARDS CITY, AMERICAN BANJO MUSEUM, BRICKTOWN CANAL

See more attractions listed at www.okccvb.org

2010 NYC WORSHIP COORDINATORS

- + **Katie Greenwood** Preschool Worship + **Johnny Miller** Children's Worship
- + **Steve Greenwood** 456 Worship + **Christen Pointer** Teen Service Stage Manager



2010 NYC TEEN SERVICE SPEAKERS

- Zach Hinson** Sunday AM + **Curt Gwartney** Sunday PM + **Brian Williams** Monday PM + **Clint Morgan** Tuesday PM



NEWS

about the denomination

Free Will Baptists Assist in Haiti Relief Efforts

ANTIOCH, TN—Following the January 12 earthquake that devastated the island nation of Haiti, Free Will Baptists nationwide contributed money, supplies, and volunteer labor to assist the recovery efforts in Haiti.



Ken Akers, director of Free Will Baptist Master's Men, is managing the distribution of funds received by the National Offices through ministry partners in Haiti.

Akers has been making annual trips to Haiti since 1999, to work with Mountain Faith Mission, an independent, evangelical mission started by Lee and Molly Carroll in 1948. The well-respected organization has a long track record of service through an orphanage, trade

school, bakery, school, and medical clinic. Each year, they sponsor Vacation Bible Schools for thousands of children.

“Part of the difficulty in Haitian relief work is knowing your money will be used for its intended purpose,” Ken said. “We have a long-term relationship with Mountain Faith Mission, and we can be confident they will use the funds where it will do the most good, both now and in the months to come.”

Ken recently returned from a trip to deliver medical supplies to the mission. A team of nurses and volunteers accompanied him. The group set up a temporary medical clinic in a vacant church building, began making repairs to the mission facilities, and held nightly revival services for local villagers.

A second trip to the island is scheduled for early May. Contact Ken at ken@nafwb.org for more details or to find out how you can get involved.

Free Will Baptist relief efforts continue on a regional level. An eight-member team sponsored by Gateway FWB Church (VA) arrived in Haiti not long before the earthquake struck. They were among the first American eyewitnesses to the extent of the devastation. Their photographs appeared on most major news networks, and both regional and national news agencies followed their efforts closely. Their mission objective quickly changed to include medical assistance and relief for earthquake victims.

The intense media coverage resulted in a generous outpouring of support. As a result, Dale Burden, who has been organizing mission trips to Haiti since 1999, is working to establish a full-time work on the island.

Since the earthquake, the Gateway church has shipped a container to Haiti filled with 39,000 pounds of supplies—90% food. Several team members have made plans to return for longer terms of service, and the church has hired a full-time director to oversee the efforts.

You can support the mission financially, provide supplies, or follow the progress of their work at www.gateway-fwbchurch.com.

Impulse International Mission Trips, founded by Ohio Free Will Baptist Bill Hayes, has teamed up with other mis-



sion agencies to provide relief supplies. Impulse took a team into Haiti March 1-5, via the Dominican Republic. They purchased food and medical supplies in Santa Domingo then crossed the border to deliver the supplies to the Mountain Faith Mission orphanage. Learn more about their trip and read about coming trips at www.impulsemissions.com.

Arms of Compassion (ACM) ministries in Oklahoma, founded by Free Will Baptist pastor John M. Hewett, is making long-term plans to send volunteer teams to assist quake victims. Learn more about their efforts at www.armsof-compassion.org.

Ken Akers summed up the drastic situation on the island. “On the best day, life in Haiti is difficult! After the earthquake, it became unbearable. While immediate emergency response was important, this is going to be a long-term relief effort, and I think that is where we come in. Six months from now, the need will still be great. Anything you do to help the people of Haiti will be deeply appreciated.”

Concerned individuals can contribute to the denomination’s Disaster Relief Fund to help underwrite both immediate and long-term assistance on the ravaged island. All donations will go directly to relief efforts. ■

Send contributions to:

NAFWB: Disaster Relief Fund
PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002



PHOTO CREDIT: Phyllis Bass, Dean Bullard,
Gateway Free Will Baptist Church

ONE TO ONE

How I “Gage” a Missionary

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



Photo: Mark Cowart

I DO NOT RECALL THE EXACT MOMENT I MET

my first real, live, foreign missionaries, but I'll never forget the impact they made on me. As a young boy living in a small community, I attended a church that was off the beaten path. Other than the evangelists who conducted revivals fairly regularly, our congregation didn't hear that many visiting speakers. Needless to say, my curiosity was aroused when I arrived early that Sunday evening and saw the various artifacts the missionaries had on display.

One item in particular caught my attention. Neatly draped across the communion table was a gigantic snakeskin. It must have been more than ten feet long! Other articles included a crude bow and arrow set, handmade earthen pottery, and photos of the mission field.

Everyone in attendance sat spellbound as missionaries Howard and Willie Gage told of their experiences at the medical station in Doropo, Ivory Coast, West Africa. I could almost smell the smoke from the camp fires that dotted the African landscape and hear the distant beating of tribal drums as they spoke. I remember wishing the service wouldn't end.

I was especially impressed by the ease with which missionary Gage shared his story. His homespun humor and Eastern Oklahoma colloquialisms didn't seem to fit the persona of an international missionary. He appeared to be more at home in work clothes than a suit and tie. The Gages were some of the most approachable, humble people I ever met.

Fast-forward more than a decade. I was attending college

and serving as minister of music and youth at the Free Will Baptist church in Pryor, Oklahoma. The Gages had retired from missionary service and were members of that congregation. We had the privilege of visiting in their home on different occasions and getting to know them better. In the years that followed, I had the opportunity as a young pastor to work with Brother Howard in various denominational settings.

I learned a lot from the Gages. What I learned helped shape my perspective on missions and how I gauge those who serve the Lord through this unique calling. I learned that you don't have to be exceptionally gifted to be a successful missionary. God is more interested in attitude than aptitude. You can use something as simple as a hammer and saw to fulfill the Great Commission.

I learned there is no statute of limitations when it comes to answering God's call to the mission field. Howard and Willie were more advanced in years than most missionaries when they left for the Dark Continent. When most would have argued, "I'm too old," they said, "Here am I; send me."

I learned there is no way to calculate the impact your life can have for the kingdom. The Gages had no idea that Sunday evening that they would be speaking to a young boy who would one day serve as executive secretary. They were simply being faithful and obedient to God's call on their life, and He used their influence to shape the future of our denomination. That's why they will always be the "gauge" by which I measure all missionaries. **ONE**

Double the Fun!

National Softball Tournament

This August, join softball teams from across the nation to compete in the annual tournament sponsored by Master's Men. Enjoy two full days of high-impact tournament play.

Team Fee: \$300 by July 6

August 6-7

Register Today!



National Golf Challenge

Arrive a day early and compete in the National Golf Challenge at Pine Creek Golf Course in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee.

August 5

MASTER'S MEN | 877-767-8039
www.fwbmastersmen.org

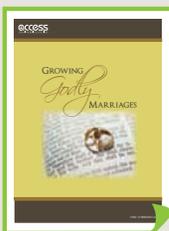


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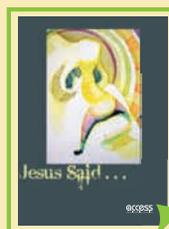


GROWING GODLY MARRIAGES The institution of marriage originated in Eden and continues today. Older dictionaries define marriage as a union between a man and a woman; newer dictionaries define marriage simply as the union between two people. What changed?

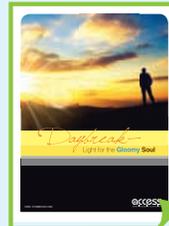


POP GOES THE CULTURE This five-lesson study addresses specific elements of pop culture that influences a teenager's life. You will discuss a Christian approach to movies, music, TV, materialism, and image.

JESUS SAID... This four-week study focuses on the timeless lessons Jesus taught. It will help older children & pre-teens explore the events of Christ's life and discover biblical principles for handling anger, frustration and disappointment, treating others properly, and faithfulness when it seems all has been lost.



DAYBREAK A study of God's comfort and truth for those dealing with sadness, emotional struggles, or depression.





REACHING FARTHER
every  **ne**
TOGETHER

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