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MAGAZINE

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APRIL-MAY 2011

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Piercing the Darkness

THE GOSPEL IN HARD PLACES

Unfounded Fears

A 22-Year Journey

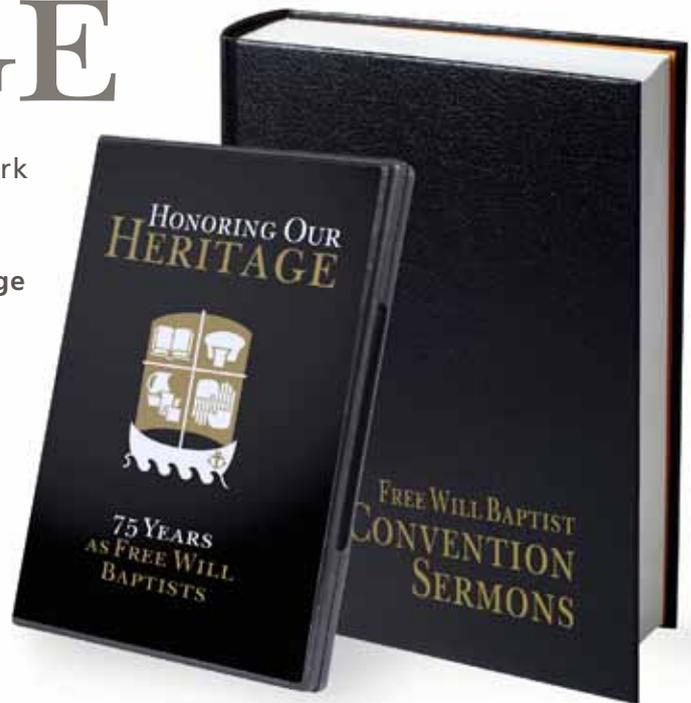


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The National Association of Free Will Baptists will mark its 75th anniversary at the 2011 convention in Charlotte. In light of this important milestone, the Executive Office has produced two commemorative items. **Honoring Our Heritage** is a stunning video documentary that takes viewers on an unforgettable trip through our rich history. **Convention Sermons** is a beautiful, thousand-page, hardbound volume that compiles sermons from 75 years of conventions. **Order one for \$15 or both for \$25.**

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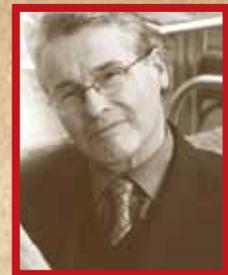
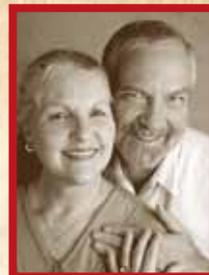


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TO COMMUNICATE TO
FREE WILL BAPTISTS A
UNIFYING VISION OF OUR
ROLE IN THE EXTENSION
OF GOD'S KINGDOM.



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FIRST GLIMPSE

“Quelle est la croix?”



“Quelle est la croix?”

My brain slowly deciphered the unfamiliar words. “What is the cross?”

I glanced down at the small pendant lying in my palm then back to the beautiful, young clerk. She smiled and nodded.

I stood in a quaint jewelry store on a quiet street two blocks from the bustling center of Nantes, France. Founded a century before the birth of Christ, the city has been ripped from the pages of a worn history book—narrow flagstone streets, vine-covered buildings, majestic château, ancient cathedral where the toe of Saint Peter’s marble statue has been rubbed away from centuries of kisses from passionate Roman Catholic pilgrims.

After a week with my French hosts, I ventured out on my own for the first time to find a souvenir—a very specific souvenir—for my wife. My quest for a Huguenot cross took me through twisting streets and tiny shops armed with only a well-worn map, a smattering of French words, and a smile. After long hours, my search finally ended at a small, corner shop with the tiny pendant lying in my palm.

The Huguenot cross is a cherished symbol of Protestant believers who endured severe persecution—even death—at the hands of Roman Catholics before the Edict of Nantes in 1598 granted them the right to practice their faith. The cross, which adds a dove and fleur-de-lis to the traditional Maltese cross, recalls centuries of faithfulness in the face of persecution.

As I looked into the curious face of the young Frenchwoman before me, I wanted so badly to communicate the deep symbolism behind the pendant—the hope and salvation the cross brings. She endured a long moment of silence as my mind groped

eric thomsen
managing editor



Photo: Mark Cowart

desperately for words. Finally, I held the cross up to the afternoon sunlight filtering through the windows and blurted out the only phrase I could remember: “Je crois...I believe.”

It was my first personal experience with the difficulty missionaries face when they step boldly across cultural barriers to share the gospel of Christ. They start as learners, acquiring new languages and learning history, culture, and traditions in order to build redemptive relationships. They encounter curiosity, suspicion, even outright antagonism as they enter close-knit communities bound by religion and tradition.

In recent years, American missionaries and missions agencies have encountered new challenges: the plunging value of the dollar, rising travel and living costs, and a growing hostility toward the influence of western culture.

In spite of these and other difficulties, dedicated, passionate, and innovative men and women continue to take the gospel to hard places. As you read this issue of *ONE Magazine*, travel with them—to Bulgaria with Tim and Lydia Awtrey; with Tim and Kristi Johnson to the Spanish city with a heart of stone; and to comfort a grieving military widow with Chaplain David Trogdon.

As you travel, learn more about what it means to take the gospel to the hard places and—more importantly—how you can help. **ONE**

TO OUR READERS: Perhaps you know someone who would like to be added to the *ONE Magazine* mailing list. Call 877-767-7659 or visit www.onemag.org for a subscription. The subscription is free, although donations are always accepted and appreciated.

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LETTERS

Have something to say?

Say it! The editors of *ONE Magazine* look forward to hearing from our readers. Your feedback, comments, and suggestions are necessary and appreciated.

Email editor@nafwb.org or send correspondence to:

ONE Magazine, Letters to the Editor, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002

ONE Magazine reserves the right to edit published letters for length and content.

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is too long in coming. When I received my first copy of *ONE Magazine*, I was tremendously impressed by both the editorial content and attractive graphics.

I intended to write and express my appreciation, but decided to wait and see if you could maintain the high standard you had set for yourself. My most recent copy tells me it is Volume 7, Issue 1, so it's time to say: "Congratulations for a job well done."

You do an excellent job of keeping me informed of our ministry together as Free Will Baptists. I especially appreciate your reporting of the annual national conventions. It has been some time since I have been able to attend.

Billy A. Melvin, Florida

Which issue of *One Magazine* had the article written by Bert Tippet regarding cancer?

Ann (via email)

FROM THE EDITOR: Thank you, Ann. Following the recent death of Bert Tippet, a number of readers have inquired about his article, "Ten Things Cancer Has Taught Me." This particular article did not appear in *ONE Magazine*. It appeared first in *Illumina*, the magazine for Free Will Baptist Bible College alumni, and later in *Fusion* devotional magazine published by Randall House publications. The text of the article is available upon request from: editor@nafwb.org.

I LOVE THE ONE MAGAZINE. I READ IT FROM COVER TO COVER. I WAS GREATLY BLESSED BY THE ARTICLE, "Why Be a Christian?" by Dr. Garnet Reid in the February-March issue. Romans 8:28 is my life verse, but he gave many wonderful insights in other verses in the chapter. Each time I read it I find something new to rejoice in. **Dorothy Cox, Kentucky**

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THE GOSPEL IN HARD PLACES

BY MARK MCPEAK

THE EMOTION WAS PALPABLE AS WE WATCHED THE SCREEN.

This young lady was an atheist, and now she has come to Christ.

This orphanage has given us an open door to meet the needs of the children while sharing our faith with them.

The International Missions staff was spellbound, eyes full of tears. Tim and Lydia Awtrey had just returned from their first term in Bulgaria. Though practically drooping with fatigue, their passion and excitement was inspiring.

It felt as though we were in Jerusalem or Antioch 2,000 years ago, hearing from Paul about the fruits of his missionary excursions. The Awtreys shared story after story, picture after picture, and opportunity after opportunity. A phrase kept coming up as they shared with us. “We just need more help!” “If only we had someone to help,” cried Lydia, “there is so much good to be done!”

THE AWTREYS WORK IN ONE OF THE HARD PLACES.

Bulgaria, like many other nations with miniscule populations of evangelical Christians, is a tough place to plant a church. For many years, this small, poor nation was under the iron boot of Communism. Religious ideas were crushed as quickly as they were introduced. People were “programmed,” both in their thinking and by life oppression, to avoid anything religious as the answer to their problems.

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” Kristi Johnson, missionary to Spain, shared this verse from Ezekiel 36 as she spoke about her family’s calling to a pueblo called Alpedrete. The town’s motto is “Heart of Stone.” Alpedrete was one of 8,000 towns, villages, and pueblos in Spain without an evangelical church. It’s not anymore! The Johnsons, along with their ministry partners the Edgmons, work in one of the hard places.

For many years, Free Will Baptists have believed we are called to send workers into the hard places. As we all work and pray for harvest, we deal with different stages of the process (as Paul described in 1 Corinthians 3:5-10). All of us would love to be where exciting harvest is occurring. Yet some people need to till the hard ground, or it may never experience harvest. We are thankful God still calls people to places where the ground is hard. Laborers in these fields take their cue from the Apostle Paul: “And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man’s foundation, but as it is written: “To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand” (Romans 15:20-21).

LIMITED ACCESS TO THE GOSPEL

As Paul indicated, places exist where people can readily hear and consider the message of the gospel. And then, there are the hard places. These places are hard spiritually. People have little or no access to the saving message of the gospel.

Each lost person, regardless of location, has the same need: to hear and believe the message of Christ. Without Him, we are all hopeless. Many times in the hard places no one is there to tell them. The Apostle Paul, after sharing the great news that *anyone* who calls on the Lord can be saved, asks, “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?” (Romans 10:14). In the hard

places this question is especially critical. *We all know the answer.* With no access to the message of the gospel, men and women cannot call on Christ for salvation, simply because they have not heard. In this sense, the hard places are heartbreaking!

Free Will Baptist International Missions is a pioneer church-planting organization. When the board opens a new field of work, careful consideration is given to the question of access. “When we enter a new country, we choose places without access to the gospel,” says Board Chairman Danny Williams. “Although this involves pre-evangelism—since some people groups know nothing at all about God, the Bible, or the atonement—it is worth it.”

MISSIONARIES FACE GREAT DIFFICULTIES

Free Will Baptists recently celebrated with national churches in countries like Cuba, India, Brazil, and Côte d’Ivoire. In each of these places, early pioneers carved out work in hard places. Now, the harvest is maturing, and we are working alongside our national brothers and sisters to facilitate exponential growth in souls saved, lives changed, and churches planted. Decades of backbreaking labor are paying off!

In some cases, missionaries spent their whole ministry seeing few people come to Christ. Still, they persevered, breaking up hard ground, painstakingly planting and watering, and making way for the potential harvest. So much investment with so little fruit can be extremely discouraging. Imagine being one of the only Christians in an enormous area, opposed by dark spiritual forces, attempting to overcome ignorance and false ideas. This is the life of the laborer in the hard places as they wait for the harvest.

The work can be overwhelming. When the first converts come to Christ, the joy is tempered by fatigue as the work of discipling spiritual infants is added to the burden of evangelistic need. Consider wearing the hats of evangelist, pastor, mentor, and, in many cases, administrator, worship leader, youth director, counselor, conflict manager, and so on. You need a big hat rack! Even when missionaries go as teams, the challenges of alternating stateside assignments and basic life issues often leave them overwhelmed and exhausted. (We’ll talk more about the harvest places in coming months.)



WILL YOU HELP IN THE HARD PLACES?

As we pray for and invest in continued harvest, we must not lose our focus and passion for the hard places, and we need partners in this effort. Will you help us?

Adopt a missionary or team of missionaries working in one of these hard places. Tim and Lydia Awtrey shared their great appreciation for Darren Walker and the people of First FWB Church in Washington, North Carolina. “They have become passionate partners with us,” enthused Tim. “They know what’s going on in our lives and the church, and they do whatever they can to encourage and help us.” You can do this by visiting www.fwbgo.com.

Commit to your adopted “hard place.” Build a relationship with the missionaries who work there. Follow their posts online and correspond with them. As you get to know the place they are working and the people they want to reach, you will become a prayer warrior, joining in the spiritual battle. We believe God will begin to do some amazing things in the partnership. This may lead, in some cases, to opportunities to go and minister beside the missionary and national.

Join the Help in the Hard Places partnership. Your financial commitment will help missionaries go beyond breaking up the hard ground to harvest. See www.fwbgo.com for more information.

May God raise up many who will be part of the solution to the Apostle Paul’s question, “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?” He answers in question form, “And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?”

Will you send help to the “hard places”? **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mark McPeak joined the Mission in April 2005, serving first as director of communications and then as deputy director of stateside operations. Although Mark joined a communications firm in middle Tennessee in February, his heart remains firmly attached to the International Missions community and purpose.

HEART OF STONE



By Kristi Johnson

FIVE YEARS AGO, ON A CRISP FEBRUARY morning in a little pueblo in Spain called Alpedrete, I sat surrounded by a group of people—amazed. This group of believers was meeting in an evangelical church for the first time in the town’s long history.

Alpedrete is a typical Spanish town with cobblestone streets, a place to get coffee and buy a barra de pan (loaf of bread), and a Catholic church sitting in the center of town. Known for its rock quarries, Alpedrete has produced stones for some of the most famous monuments in Spain, like the Royal Palace in Madrid. Because of this rich heritage, the town’s motto is “Alpedrete: Heart of Stone.” This is the place God called our family to plant a church...in the town with the heart of stone. A place where years of studying the Bible are necessary before someone

decides to soften his or her stone heart to its message.

You can imagine how excited I was that February morning when I looked around at the believers gathered in the town’s first-ever evangelical church.



Praying. Reading Scripture. Listening to God’s Word being shared. Just a few weeks earlier, one lady, with tears streaming down her face had said, “You don’t know how long I’ve prayed for a church here in my town.” And, on that particular Sunday morning, her prayers were answered in the center of the town with the heart of stone. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Kristi Johnson, her husband Tim, and her children Alejandro and Ana, have lived and worked in Alpedrete for seven years. To learn more about their ministry visit www.fwbgo.com/missionaries/johnson.



A MEMBER OF THE VILLALBA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH LOOKS BACK ON HER EXPERIENCE AT THE CHURCH...

A 22-Year JOURNEY

BY NIEVES ROA

I STARTED MY PERSONAL SPIRITUAL JOURNEY AS MANY OTHERS HAVE.

Our paths cross with someone, and there is a spark of love. I arrived at the (Free Will Baptist) church of Villalba on a Sunday in 1989. My friend Rosi took me. The love I received from members of the church was unbelievable, with so much joy reflected in their faces. They welcomed and received our children, my husband, and me. Though years have passed since then and will continue to pass, I know that—even though the faces of the Lord's family change—His love will always be faithful.

The Journey Begins

After the first few years we were in the church, it was time for the church to grow, to expand. We needed to grow to show people in Villalba and the region around us why we are here—not in a way that would make us seem spectacular or pretentious, but we wanted something *big*.

In Spain, religions recognized by the government (Roman Catholics, Evangelicals, Muslims, and Jews) have a legal right to request and receive land from the government to construct a building for their meetings. We did this and waited for years, but after following legal procedures and submitting the necessary documents to

local government, we were not granted that right. We decided to buy land after asking if we would be allowed to erect a building the size and type we wanted. So, putting the matter in the Lord's hands through much prayer, the church bought land.

Official Detour

Everything was planned; we had blueprints and were ready to go! Following the instructions of the city architect, we began construction. Then the local police stopped the construction. Jeff Turnbough visited city officials many times. People in the church did the same. Jeff and I personally interviewed the mayor on several oc-

casions. Meetings with secretaries. Meetings with architects. Everything stopped. We were denied the municipal license. The city architect, who had given permission to begin construction, was thrown out of the city council.

We made the decision to go to court because of the many inconsistencies on the part of local officials. After weighing the cost, in spite of all it meant for us to go to trial and the years it would take before they would decide whether to give us the license, we proceeded. We tried to move forward through many disappointments, so many questions and doubts.

Some people stayed faithful; others wondered if it was the will of God



for us to ever have a building on that lot. Many special times of prayer occurred. Finally, after nearly 15 years, we received a verdict. The court ruled we were right; we could build. We did not seek financial indemnification for the damage the delay caused us, even though construction costs and materials more than doubled in the time that transpired. But, the Lord's response had arrived, and we would carry out His work.

Another Start

A bank—and four souls whom I love for their courage and for placing their own mortgages, homes, lives, and salaries on the line for the next 20 years to sign for the bank loan—gave us the

funds to start building. It is only with real faith in the Lord's promises that people do these kinds of things for His work regardless of the money, opposing governments, or opposition from anything or anyone. We know the Lord always provides in His way.

Milestones

For 22 years, through the construction, we watched more people come to Christ. We received offerings for the building construction from people who live thousands of miles away, people we do not know. Women Active for Christ groups and many others gave money to help us. I don't think we can ever give back to them what they gave to us. Missionaries left loved ones to change cultures, learn a new language,

and share the gospel. So many things I've seen.

On behalf of those of us who reach beyond the parameters of this church into the mountains outside the city of Madrid, I—one person from this story—will testify this to you: If you are wondering whether or not you should, or if you can, build something for the Lord, do not doubt, do not hesitate, and do not be dismayed. He will be with you. He will do a great work. He will work through the obstacles. He will give you encouragement to keep going.

Together, we brothers in Christ the world over will accompany you through our prayers. And, if possible, we will help, working together for Him.

A big kiss (Spanish greeting), Nieves Roa **ONE**

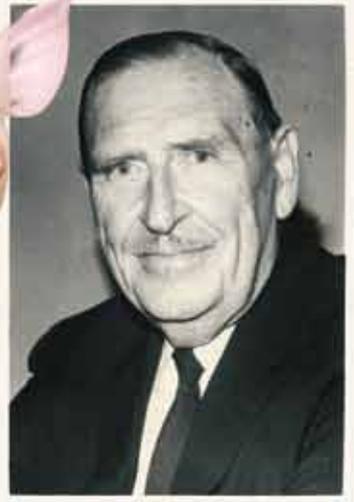
ABOUT THE WRITER: Nieves has been a member of the Villalba FWB Church since 1990. Nieves, along with her husband and two other couples, came to Christ in a home Bible study led by Jeff and Susan Turnbough in their home in Villalba. The couple was discipled and baptized in the Villalba FWB Church. Nieves played a key role in helping with negotiations with city officials. Her sister-in-law was the church's attorney throughout the 13-year trial.

We received the following note from Nieves after she wrote this article:

It is always good to remember. With the perspective of many years, it all seems like it was easier. Thank you for always being there, for being our friends and companions in this journey called life.

Jeff Turnbough translated Nieves' comments from Spanish. To learn more about the work in Spain, visit fwbgo.com/missionaries/country/spain/ Jeff and Susan have tilled the hard soil in Spain since 1981.





Pigs Paid the Passage

BY TIM JORDAN

I will always remember the day in my childhood when three preachers and a missionary came to our home for lunch. It was the last week of July 1952. My brother and I sat quietly and listened (a rare occurrence for sure) to the animated conversation of these four men of God.

Reverend S.T. Shutes was my pastor. Each weekend, he faithfully drove 35 miles from Colquitt, Georgia, to preach at Howard Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Southeast Alabama. T.O. Terry was a visiting revival speaker from North Carolina, and Ralph Bell was a neighbor who had only been preaching for a few months.

Then there was the missionary. Thomas (Pop) Willey was a big fellow—six and a half feet tall, with a booming voice and piercing eyes. When he spoke, everybody listened! He spoke with so much love and affection for the people of Cuba, and we hung on every word. He didn't slow down... even when his shirt became drenched with sweat. I really think he thrived on that south Alabama heat.

The lunch conversation ranged far and wide, from President Truman's pull out of Korea to the ongoing revival. It had been a good meeting. Many people had been saved, and the church was packed each night, with the windows opened so the crowds gathered outside could hear Reverend Terry preach.

Then the conversation took a turn that fascinated me. Preacher Shutes generously offered to crate up two pigs for

Mr. Willey to take back to Cuba. Ralph Bell's brother-in-law was station manager at the nearby Ashford, Alabama, train depot, and he assured Pop Willey the pigs would be properly crated and ready to travel.

Pop Willey was thinking far ahead of those fellows, and he quickly accepted the offer. He knew the pigs would save him ticket fare from Miami to Cuba because the freight line would need someone to care for them. When Preacher Shutes offered Pop Willey the pigs, he had no idea that he was also giving him a free ride back to Cuba...with the livestock. Pigs paid the passage!

As I grew older and met other missionaries, I learned that many of them are careful about saving money, because advancing the gospel can be very expensive. I also learned that I could help them save money and be blessed at the same time by providing a place in my home for visiting missionaries.

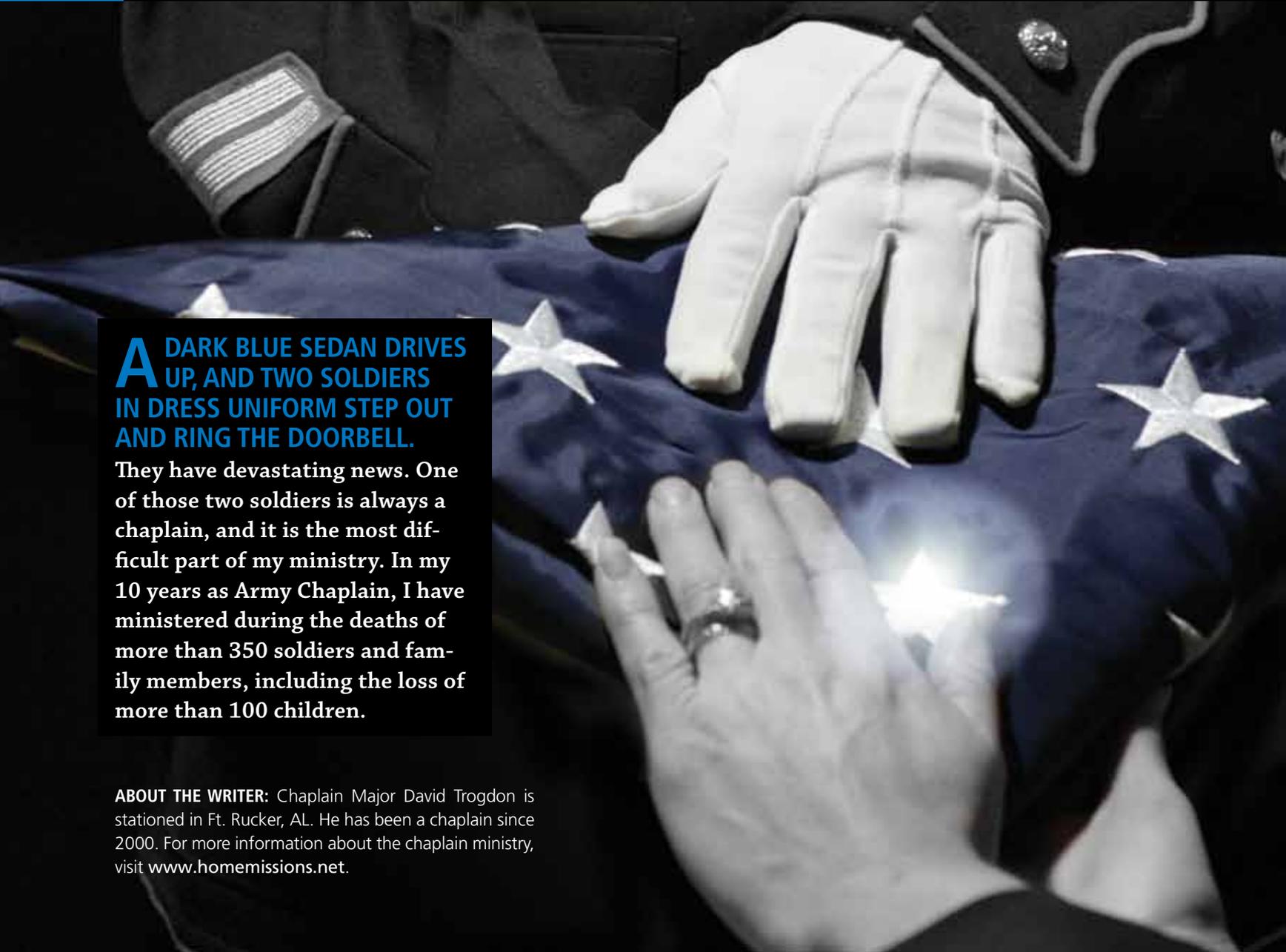
This ministry does not have to be limited to missionaries. We have kept a guest book for many years, and it is filled with preachers, national leaders, and college students. We see many of them each year at the national convention, and I like to imagine the great reunion we will have some day in Heaven.

As missions budgets get tighter, I challenge you to set aside a guest bedroom where missionaries can stay when they are in your area. If you can't offer a room, find *something* you can give. If God could use pigs, just imagine what He will do with you. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Tim Jordan is a member of First FWB Church in Dothan, AL. He and his wife Merle live in the nearby town of Cowarts.

THE GREATEST MINISTRY

You *Never* Want to Do BY CHAPLAIN (MAJ) DAVID TROGDON



A DARK BLUE SEDAN DRIVES UP, AND TWO SOLDIERS IN DRESS UNIFORM STEP OUT AND RING THE DOORBELL.

They have devastating news. One of those two soldiers is always a chaplain, and it is the most difficult part of my ministry. In my 10 years as Army Chaplain, I have ministered during the deaths of more than 350 soldiers and family members, including the loss of more than 100 children.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Chaplain Major David Trogdon is stationed in Ft. Rucker, AL. He has been a chaplain since 2000. For more information about the chaplain ministry, visit www.homemissions.net.

I call this ministry, “The greatest ministry I hope I never have to do.” Yet, honoring the dead is one of the key values of the chaplaincy, and this is the ministry that our Free Will Baptist chaplains have been called to do. I have learned much about grief and trauma ministry during the last 10 years. Let me share some lessons I hope you find helpful when you are called to help someone survive the worst day of his life:

Rely on God’s Provision of Grace.

It never gets easier. I never feel adequate or fully prepared to help a father whose son was killed in Afghanistan, a young couple who just learned their baby will not be coming home from the hospital to their newly decorated nursery, or the wife and five children of the soldier being laid to rest with full military honors.

While I am never adequate or prepared, God always is. His presence is real, and His grace is always sufficient. My trust is not in my own abilities or skills, but in the God of all comfort who has called me to do His work, even when it is a work I hope I never have to do.

Realize the Value of a Ministry of Presence.

Military chaplains often represent the presence of God on the battlefield, in the hospital, or even in the funeral home. Grieving families may remember little of what we say, but they always remember that you were with them during their pain.

Pray with them and stay with them, but don’t fall into the trap of thinking that you have to say something. Nothing we say to a grieving spouse or parent will stop the hurting or make their grief totally disappear. I have heard well-meaning friends say very hurtful things because they thought they had to say something. Follow the lead of the Holy Spirit and the advice from

God’s Word. Be “swift to hear, slow to speak...” (James 1:19). Your presence may do far more for the hurting than anything you say.

Remember Your Purpose. Grief ministry is about those who have been left behind, not about judging the eternal destiny of the deceased. If I know the person was a Christian, I can speak of them being in the presence of Jesus. If I didn’t know them or have no indication of their faith in Christ, then I focus on God’s comfort that is available for the family.

For children, I always try to reassure the parents that their child is in Heaven and safe in the arms of God. These parents can have hope through Christ that one day they will see their child again.

Don’t Judge Another Person’s Grief.

Everyone grieves differently. There is no right way to grieve, but usually the more unexpected the loss, the greater the grief. Thus, the loss of a child can be far more devastating than the loss of a grandparent. Remember, a miscarriage is also the death of a child, and the parents may grieve accordingly.

Finally, Avoid Misdirected Anger at God.

Cries of “why” may be expressions of pain, not an indication of loss of faith. If needed, you can gently correct any false ideas of God, Heaven, angels, or death in the days that follow.

Proclaim the Gospel. The greatest comfort we can provide to any grieving family is the hope of eternal life in Christ. When given the opportunity to pray, I always pray the gospel, and when leading a memorial service or funeral, I always preach the gospel.

Many people who would never attend a chapel service on Sunday will come to a memorial or funeral service,

and they need to be confronted with life’s ultimate reality, their own death, and the good news of eternal life in Christ.

Prepare Them for the Future. Too many times, a grieving family can be forgotten after the funeral. The following weeks can be extremely difficult. Much of the support seems to vanish as extended family and friends leave and go back to their normal lives. Also, for years to come, the anniversary of the death, birthdays, holidays, and other special days may unexpectedly bring the pain and grief crashing back into their lives.

Try to prepare the family for difficult times ahead and offer continual

WHILE I AM NEVER ADEQUATE OR PREPARED, GOD ALWAYS IS.

support so they can continue to heal. If possible, partner them with a committed Christian who has survived a similar loss and who can help them to survive as well.

God has given me an awesome privilege to serve Him and soldiers and their families every day as a Free Will Baptist Army chaplain. This privilege extends even to those times when I am called to do the greatest ministry I hope I never have to do.

I thank God for calling me and using me, by His grace, to help someone survive the worst day of his life and hopefully find the comfort only Christ can give. I hope that He will continue to do so in the future. Maybe you, too, will be thankful when He calls you and uses you to do the greatest ministry you hope you will never have to do.

Pro Deo et Patria—For God and Country! **ONE**



= AND THE
ANSWER
IS:

BY DONNIE BURKE

I would seriously question anyone who arrives on their mission field feeling fully prepared.

When our family arrived to begin the church planting process in July 2010, I realized my list of questions was growing by the day! We had no potluck dinner awaiting us, no group of church members eager to get to know us, no church bulletin from the previous week, and no pantry filled with groceries. As a matter of fact, there was no church building or property. No one knew us in Castle Rock, Colorado, and quite frankly, no one cared. What were we thinking? Was this really a sane thing to do with a young family? Well...yes. At least in our opinion!

The vision of what we hoped to accomplish for the kingdom of God was becoming a reality, and we couldn't be more excited. Yet questions still persisted. At every turn our family has seen God come through on His promises. Let me walk you through the first few months leading up to our first

meeting at a pizzeria! I can best help trace the steps by using the questions that crowded my mind during the beginning process. May I be so corny as to use a list that everyone will recognize?

WHO?

This first question rests heavily on

the mind of all missionaries. Who would possibly want to come to our church? The statistics all held true. Castle Rock is a bustling city that has retained a small town feel,



even though it is nestled closely to the southern reaches of Denver. The population within a ten-mile radius of the downtown area is quickly approaching 120,000.

Even so, who would want to come to our church? Who should we talk to first? Who should we target? Who would even care? Who? The question haunted us during the first several months. We began to pray fervently for the answer to the question.

Then along came another question.

WHAT?

This question piled on another problem to the church planting equation. What method would we use to approach or interest people? With statistics showing that nine of ten people in Castle Rock do not regularly attend church, what would get things started? Our answer seemed to be over-simplified. Food! We wanted to find something that bound all humans together in a non-threatening way. What is more comfortable than sharing an enjoyable meal together? Prayers regarding this idea became regular, and with the new strategy in mind, we began to think about logistics.

WHEN?

If food was the means to draw, when should we hold the meeting? We needed adequate time to meet and invite people. We gave ourselves a time frame of two months. I have to admit that once the date was set, we really got nervous. This was it! We were committed. No turning back.

My daydreams became the nightmare of having our first meeting with no one in attendance. I *really* couldn't sleep, and my prayer life stepped up another notch. At least we had a few things lined up: Food...check, time frame...check, location...uh...um...

WHERE?

Where in the world do you host a first meeting? Maybe the food seemed like a great idea, but what restaurant would be willing to host an event like ours during regular business hours? More prayers....

As you know, moving can be a very involved process. Settling takes months. One particular day found me sitting in the waiting area of a vehicle emissions testing facility, hoping my Jeep would pass inspection. (It didn't.) To pass the time, I struck up a conversation with the man next to me.

After noticing my obvious Georgia accent, he asked what brought me to Castle Rock. When I told him I was starting a church, he smiled and asked if we had a location for our first meeting. When I told him we didn't, he said, "Why don't you stop by Scoreboard Pizzeria and talk to my son? He and I own the place, and we would be glad to help out."

I'm sure he noticed as I pushed my dropped jaw back into place. "Could this really be happening?" I asked myself. "I knew I had prayed about it, but..."

"Oh, and by the way, I remember those first few meetings," he said. "My son and I helped start a church years ago."

Prayer again, but this time I asked the Lord to forgive my tiny, little faith. Method...check, timeline...check, location...check, but....

HOW?

How to go about the actual inviting process? People have jobs, door knocking is not permitted in most areas of Castle Rock, and we didn't know a soul, other than a few neighbors. How could we get the word out? Asking God to give us fruit seemed as if we expected God to send people to us.

The answer to our prayer came in a "can't see the forest for the trees" fashion. We realized that the most effective way to meet folks was during the

normal course of living routine. When Jesus gave the command to let your light shine, it wasn't meant to be used in flashlight function mode—click on, click off. Our light is supposed to shine *all the time*, not just during evangelistic outreach events. We quickly came to realize that people are more willing to open up to conversation about church and religion when they are not put on the spot.

Our method simply became carrying our invitation cards with us everywhere we went. When the conversation would allow it, we shared the reason for our move to Castle Rock. We met our core group in a wide variety of places including yard sales, a hot dog kiosk, a motorcycle ride, a car show, and, of course, our neighborhood. The *how* in our list of questions has actually been answered the easiest to answer—just meet folks anywhere and everywhere! So, we did, but....

WHY?

Why even consider putting our family in such a strange predicament? Our deep, Southern accents are hardly unnoticeable in Colorado. We *are* the outsiders. However, with every day that passes, our hearts become more burdened for the area. This *is* home now. We simply wanted to attempt the greatest thing we could for our Lord. Castle Rock is inundated with false religion and spiritual apathy. Our prayer is that God will use us to help bring the true





At every turn we realize that God is with us, even when the answers to the questions don't seem obvious.

light into this dark area through the ministries of Truth Free Will Baptist Church.

How did the pizzeria meeting go?

We were thrilled when 23 people showed up to see what these newcomers were doing! Since that first meeting, we have averaged 25 at Bible studies and core group meetings. The Lord pro-

vided a theater for our initial services through the every-day routine method. As I talked with Joe about purchasing his small trailer, he asked why we had moved to Castle Rock. When I told him about our plans, he smiled and said fate had sent me his way. At my puzzled look, he explained that he and his wife owned a theater and had decided to rent it to someone starting a church. The problem was to find such a person!

As I signed the rental agreement, I smiled and said a prayer of thanks to

God for yet another question answered. At every turn we realize that God is with us, even when the answers to the questions don't seem obvious.

This year we will host our preview and launch services and add team members Mark and Danielle McCraney. I'm sure that with these new adventures, we will ask many more questions. But we are determined to move ahead and watch for God's answers along the way.

ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: Donnie Burke is a Home Missions church planter based in Castle Rock, Colorado. Learn more about the Burkes and their ministry at www.homemissions.net.

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Piercing the Darkness

BY JEFF GOODMAN

LONESOME HIGHWAY

As my family and I drove across the country toward our new home in Marana, Arizona, my mind whirled with excitement. I imagined the wonderful things to come and all the new people we would meet. The next moment, a wave of darkness and doubt swept in, and questions began to fill my mind.

What was I doing moving my family to the desert? Who would want to hear us tell about the gospel? Where would the money come from? Were we going to the right place? On and on, my thoughts sank deeper into doubt. What-ifs continued to pour into my mind until I felt as though I would drown in uncertainty.

As my wife and child slept, I struggled not to turn the car around and speed back to the safety of my parents' house, our temporary home during the preceding months. Suddenly, my cell phone chimed. It was a miraculous sound, although I did not know it yet. I pulled into a rest area and pulled out my phone. It was an email from a mother I had pastored in Homerville, Georgia, 10 years earlier, asking me to call her children. I had not seen or heard from the

family in years, but the mother indicated that she had moved to Las Vegas. Her children, who were just kids when I knew them in Homerville, were ages 20 and 17.

When I called them, I couldn't believe my ears. They lived only a couple of miles from the apartment complex where we would make our new home. My doubts suddenly melted away in response to the faithfulness of our God. Curtis and Kerri helped us move into our apartment and have been to every Bible study since our church began. At our third Bible study, they asked Jesus to come into their hearts. They were far from God and still have a long way to go, but that's why we came to Marana, Arizona—to pierce the darkness with the light of God's love.

FIRST STEPS

The Marana team—Josh and Ashley Bennett, my wife Heather, and me—did everything humanly possible to prepare for our first meeting, held in the common area of the apartment complex. We were thrilled when some children arrived early until their father walked in the door, gath-



ered them, and told us his kids would have nothing to do with a Bible study. Our hearts were crushed and our spirits fell.

We joined hands, and Josh began to pray. One by one we cried out to God. It was in that moment we all realized our deep dependence on God to do the work. When the final amen was said, we sat staring at one another, waiting to see if anyone would come. Two minutes before the 6:00 p.m. meeting time, still no one had come. My heart began to break for myself and my team.

I could feel their disappointment and mine. Then the door opened, and a lady we had never met walked in to join our Bible study. Relief washed over us as more and more people came, including 12 we had never met. They brought the total to 24. I stood in amazement as I witnessed the might and faithfulness of God. Afterward, the team thanked God and praised Him for hearing and answering our prayers.

ENCOUNTERS DESIGNED BY GOD

Three meetings later, seven young people asked Jesus to be their Savior. Among them was Jessica, one of the managers of the apartment complex. We had become friends with her and enjoyed getting to know her. She is a very curious young lady and always asks a lot of questions. My wife watches her beautiful daughter Lily three days each week. Jessica was the first person we baptized in Marana, Arizona. I will never forget that day. God is working in her life, and we pray daily for her to draw closer to him.

The apartment complex sponsored a Trunk-or-Treat at Halloween, and we joined in. We decorated our cars and bought candy to hand out to all the kids in our little neighborhood. We met a young couple named Adrian and Amber at the event, and they invited us to their little girl's birthday party the next day. They were some of the nicest people I had ever met. They treated us like family, and we had a great time. They came to our next Bible study. After the service, they approached us, and Adrian, who has a Roman Catholic background, told us that Amber didn't understand anything we said.

I could see the embarrassment on her face at her lack of biblical knowledge, and I quickly assured her that we would

help her learn, that our friendship did not depend on their knowledge of the Scriptures. I saw relief flood over Amber's face as Adrian said, "I am so glad you told her that. She leaned over to me during the service and said, "I am so sad they will not want to hang out with me because I do not understand what they are talking about."

Her words broke my heart. I can't help but wonder if that is the way most unsaved people see Christians. We gave Amber a Bible and shared some passages to read, but she quickly became discouraged with her lack of understanding. She went out on her own and bought a children's Bible. She is reading it every day and asking us questions continually. This is why we came—to bring light into the darkness, to bring hope to the hopeless.

We planned a Christmas party to close out the year, and 50 people came. Thirty of them were new contacts, and we are excited about the potential to get to know them. One gentleman is in the Singapore military. He had just moved here to train for two years alongside American troops. As we began to talk, he became very excited. He told us, "My wife is a Christian, and she will be moving here in a few months. You have a church right here at the apartments. She was very worried about where she would be able to worship." Then he said, "I am not a convert...yet."

You have to love that word *yet*. It made me light up like a star. I pray that soon Desmin will come to know Christ. The really cool thing is that he is my next door neighbor! It is awesome to see God work in our lives to place us right where He needs us. Between 30-40 people who live in our complex belong to the Singapore military. I am praying my friendship with he will open a door to reach each one of these young people. I have never seen a non-Christian so excited about the opportunity to study the Word of God.

THE ROAD AHEAD

It has been an amazing beginning for The Marana Project, and we look forward to what God is going to do in this area. Each precious soul is far better than any treasure you could find of gold or diamonds. They are a treasure that lasts for all eternity.

No matter where you are in life, start asking God to help you pierce the darkness. He knows where you are needed, and the relationships He brings your way will bring true joy, both to you and to the one who hears of His grace, love, and mercy. Please continue to pray for The Marana Project, that God will continue to open doors and lead the way. **ONE**

Failure

BY TIM AWTRY

Failure. When I first saw the title of Kevin Riggs' book *Failing Like Jesus* (Randall House 2010), I thought, "That's one book I don't have to read. I've got failure down pat." Our family, after almost four years serving as missionaries in Bulgaria, had little to show for it.

We had just arrived back in Bulgaria after a short stay in the States to attend the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Seeing pastors, church members, and a stadium filled with people praising God had been tremendously encouraging. We also had the opportunity to bring two new members from our mission work in Bulgaria with us. For the first time in their lives, they saw thousands of believers in one place. We returned to Bulgaria ready to assault the gates of Hell with the good news of Jesus Christ.

After arriving, however, we sensed a change in some people in the church, especially those who had been part of the church before our arrival. Over the next few months, we realized the small, initial group did not want a church receptive to new believers.

They were not willing to pay the price that comes with sharing the gospel. Lydia, several others, and myself found ourselves between a rock and a hard place. Should we seek to appease the small group of believers who were here before us or reach new people? At the end of November, after several years of hard work, we found ourselves missionaries without a church.

But the mission was not dead. The calling from Jesus to reach the world still stood. We redoubled our efforts to reach the lost in Bulgaria. We decided to gather a small group to meet at our house. A man of little faith, I thought we might succeed in getting three to four people together to study the Bible.

True to form, God had other plans. At our first meeting, our little apartment was crammed with 15 people. People sat on the couch, chairs, and floor. Others stood in the doorway.

Most amazing to me was the arrival of Alex, a non-believer for whom we had prayed regularly for sev-

eral years. He declared that since we were making a fresh start as a church, he was going to make a fresh start, too.

Now we had an entirely different problem, one I had not anticipated. What were we going to do with all these people? The neighbors below and above our apartment were not going to put up with all this noise every Sunday morning!

We began looking for a place to meet, knowing that places to rent in Svishtov are extremely hard to find.



Should we seek to appease the small group of believers who were here before us or reach new people?

First Free Will Baptist Church in Washington, North Carolina, has partnered with Tim and Lydia Awtrey in Bulgaria since 2008. Below is a sample of some of the things they have done to make a difference in the hard places:

September 2008: sent a six-man group to visit, encourage the Awtreys, and see the work first-hand.

Christmas 2008: sent 150 shoebox Christmas gifts for outreach (Operation Christmas Child no longer distributes in Bulgaria).

2009 and 2010: delivered quarterly care packages with crafts, games, other needs for children's ministry.

Christmas 2009: sent \$1,500 and Christmas cards for use for Christmas children's outreach.

January 2010: sent \$2,000 to remodel storage room for children's classes.

April 2010: enjoyed a church team visit for encouragement; two teens joined this trip to interact with Bulgarian youth.

Summer 2010: housed Awtreys while in North Carolina for three weeks.

Christmas 2010: sent \$1,200 and cards for Christmas outreach.

2008-2011: communicate through Sunday morning Skype calls on a regular basis.



Just at the time when we felt defeated, God showed us that He is on His throne.



Yet, in just a few days, God gave us the opportunity to rent a small storefront room right around the corner from our apartment. Amazing! We sent out an appeal to help rent the building. Lydia and I decided to use our savings to get started until the necessary funds could be raised.

We planned for our first service in the new building. We all pitched in to get the building ready for the first service—putting together tables and chairs, throwing on a little paint, fixing the hot water heater, preparing children's crafts, installing heating for the building, etc. Retirees worked during the day, and others came in after work. In less than a week, we had created a usable place for the first service of New Life Free Will Baptist Church. This small group of new believers

chose the name New Life because it reflects the reality of whom they now are in Jesus Christ and what they want their friends, neighbors, and relatives to experience.

In spite of all the difficulties, God has continued to open new doors for us. Just at the time when we felt defeated, He showed us that He is on His throne. Every week since our church restart, non-believers have attended the church service. Contacts Lydia and I have made outside the church have blossomed. We enjoy regular Bible studies with non-believers and discipleship studies with those new to their faith. We've had many difficulties, but it feels like a breath of fresh air has infused us.

By any standard, we still have a long way to go. In a city of 50,000, just 20 people gathered in a small, storefront building doesn't spell success. Perhaps though, Jesus' standard of success and failure is not the same as our own. Failure or success is not contained in the size of the congregation. True failure is failure to go to the lost, offering them "new life!" **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Tim Awtrey, his wife Lydia, and kids Yanna and Alex work faithfully in an extremely hard place, a place where hearts often seem as cold as the temperature—post-communist, humanistic Bulgaria. To learn more about their ministry, visit fwgo.com/missionaries/awtrey.



REACHING FARTHER
every one
TOGETHER

NEWS around the world

First Students Graduate From Chame Seminary



Chame, Panama—Three students (one female, two male) graduated with a three-year diploma on January 8, 2011. Osvaldo, raised in the San Vicente FWB Church, has a heart for children's ministry and is a gifted singer, preacher, and teacher. He will work with Steve and Lori Torrison to begin a new church in Penonomé.

Julio, a Nicaraguan, has proven an effective, passionate evangelistic preacher and is working with Paul and Chrissy Collins to plant a church in Santiago. Stephany was converted under the Bunch's ministry in Chitré and is engaged to another student. She and her fiancé plan to pursue pastoral ministry upon his graduation. ■



Brazil—The Nova América FWB Mission in Campinas officially organized as The Nova América FWB Church on Sunday, January 11, 2011. The São José FWB Church sponsored the church seven years ago. The church, organized with 55 charter members, is saving to buy property and construct a permanent facility. ■



Spain—Six people accepted Christ as Savior in Spain on January 16, 2011. Three people were saved at the Esperanza Church (José Manuel, pastor) in Alcala, and three were saved Sunday evening at the Colmenar Viejo Church (Juan Carlos, pastor). ■



France—A young man began attending church after seeing the church's website, accepted Christ, and has requested baptism studies with Matt Price. ■



Panama—Seven new converts were baptized Sunday, January 23, in the Las Tablas FWB Church in Panama. On Sunday, January 30, a couple accepted Christ as Savior at the Good News FWB Church in Chitré, Panama. The couple's children have attended the church for some time. ■



Brazil: The Jaboticabal FWB Church in Brazil commissioned Rogério and Anice dos Santos for missionary service on Sunday, January 11. They are working with Pastor Raúl in Rivera, Uruguay, with a focus on evangelism and discipleship. ■



Panama—On Sunday, January 9, the note for the Chame property was burned and a symbolic transfer was made from New Tribes Mission to the Panamanian FWB Association. ■

Forlines Resigns, Morgan Named Interim General Director

Antioch, TN—James Forlines tendered his resignation as general director of Free Will Baptist International Missions February 10, 2011, in agreement with the board, according to Chairman Danny Williams. “After carefully considering the challenging circumstances we are facing, the board believes a change in leadership is necessary,” asserted Williams.

Forlines has a long and fruitful relationship with International Missions, as a leading supporting pastor, board member, and as general director since 1999. During his tenure, the Mission experienced rapid growth, structural reorganization, and financial development. Under Forlines’ oversight the Mission has seen extraordinary overseas growth in conversions, baptisms, and churches planted. An emphasis on partnering with national leadership around the world has been a hallmark of Forlines’ tenure.

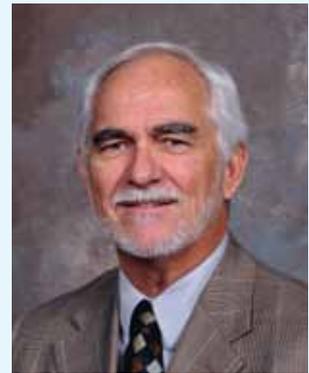
Williams expressed the board’s gratitude to Forlines and respect for his passion, integrity, and tireless efforts. His wife, Anita, has made countless sacrifices in support of James and the Mission, and the board extends special honor to her.

Forlines said of his time at International Missions, “I am grateful the Lord chose to use me for these years. To Him be the glory for the things that have been accomplished.”

Chairman Williams confirmed that veteran missionary and current Hanna Project director Clint Morgan has agreed to serve as interim general director. The board is confident that Morgan will provide effective leadership during the transitional period. Forlines will assist with the transition. The executive leadership of the Mission will now be comprised of Morgan as interim general director, Jeff Turnbough as deputy director of field operations, and Rob Conley as director of financial operations.

Board members attending the session were Danny Williams (AL, chairman), Randy Wilson (OK, vice-chairman), Tom McCullough (MI, secretary), Paul Creech (GA), Nelson Henderson (AR), Jeff Manning (NC), Greg McAllister (CA), and Robert Morgan (TN). Tom McCullough was unable to attend in person, but participated in the full session via SKYPE (Internet video conference call).

The full release can be read on International Missions’ website: www.fwbgo.com/news. ■



McPeak Resigns as Deputy Director

Antioch, TN—Mark McPeak, deputy director of stateside operations, submitted his resignation to General Director James Forlines on January 19, 2011. Forlines stated, “Mark has maintained a key role in his years here. He came at a strategic time and helped the Mission work through critical issues. He has been an advisor and friend.”



McPeak indicated several circumstances brought him to the point of tendering his resignation. He had been asked to shoulder the responsibility of development tasks—a role for which he felt ill equipped and which proved a crucial issue. “After much prayer and consideration,” McPeak determined, “the unsolicited offer of another position seemed a providential opportunity from the Lord.”

Sam McVay returned stateside on February 17, to oversee the World Missions Offering fundraising. He and June will begin their regular stateside assignment in June and return to Spain in January 2012.

McPeak’s tenure as deputy director with IM ended February 15. He joined the International Missions staff in April 2005 as director of communications. In April 2008, his role expanded to deputy director of stateside operations.

Mark joined a middle-Tennessee marketing and communications firm.

The full release can be read on International Missions’ website: www.fwbgo.com/news. ■

How *you* can give more to missions.

Next Level Giving

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN

IT IS RARE TO HEAR SOMEONE SAY, "I'M REALLY HAPPY WITH MY MISSIONS GIVING. I've given all I want to give this year." It is more likely to hear, "I am faithful in tithing, but I would really love to give more. I see so many needs, and I want to be a part of what God is doing in our world."

This reveals the heart of a steward, one who recognizes the need to give as a response to a gracious, giving God. Our Father never requires us to give what we do not have, but He is honored when we work creatively to increase opportunities for using the resources He has given us. Happily, there are countless ways to give to the cause of Christ at home and around the world—as individuals, families, and in partnership with other believers.

Lifestyle of Giving

I'm sure many readers are well past the beginning points of giving—ten percent, (a tithe) of all sources of income, plus offerings above the tithe. Once we establish a beginning point, we stretch and grow in faith as we learn other ways to give, reflecting God's concerns and His priorities as a lifestyle.

Early goals become insufficient, no longer challenging us. Retirees have an important influence and testimony through giving and have the privilege of setting the pace by their example and commitment.

Simple Ways to Increase Giving

Many retirees increase their missions giving by simply setting aside money weekly or monthly instead of waiting to give during their church's annual mission offering. Virtually all churches have a missions line in their budgets, allowing them to collect funds for later distribution. If you normally give \$400 to the annual international missions offering (a little over a dollar per day), by designating \$10.50/week during the year, your annual missions giving would increase to almost \$550. Two dollars a day would produce \$730—almost double your starting point! Ask God for specific guidance in setting personal and family goals for giving.



Doing More Together

As I was writing this article, a call came from my church to provide white socks needed by a team leaving soon for South Africa. Several people in my Bible study group are out of work, but nearly every one of them had resources to provide at least one pair of socks and thus have a part. Others can do much more, but the point is this: collectively we can always do much more than we can individually. Involving children and grandchildren in giving opportunities is a powerful way to teach them and to establish giving as a natural part of their lifestyles.

Local food pantries, clothing outlets and rescue missions rely heavily

on gifts of food, gently used clothing, and volunteers to meet urgent needs. In most cities and towns of America this ministry has become increasingly international in scope.

Going Is Giving

Retirees are in a great position to give by going on short-term mission trips. Others who are not physically able to go often help pay travel expenses of volunteers that can. Bible study classes give new or like-new Bibles and study materials and supplies to be used by volunteers. These gifts are powerful evidences of the love of God to an unbeliever.

Prayer Is Giving

All can participate meaningfully by praying. This begins well before departure and continues through the time of ministry and beyond so that seeds planted will grow, producing a rich harvest. Prayer brings God's people into alignment with His plans, purposes, and desire to redeem a lost world. He delights in proving Himself faithful to answer the prayers of His children.

As you evaluate your own giving, how is God leading you? Are you ready to take your missions giving to the next level? **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance career in her retirement. The award-winning writer lives near Nashville, TN. Learn more about retirement options at www.boardofretirement.com.



Jennifer's way with words, her transparency, and her biblical insight are the three main ingredients of this delicious read. Meet Jonah as you have not met him before, and as you do, meet yourself hidden in the nooks and crannies of his story. Be challenged, uplifted, and inspired as you interact with the God of second chances.

Jennifer Kennedy Dean

*author of numerous books, including the best-selling *Live a Praying Life*; Executive Director of the Praying Life Foundation.*

Devlin communicates principles from the adventures of Jonah in a unique manner that brings it to life for readers wrestling with similar issues today. Her words provide ample hope that God is a God of second chances. You will not be disappointed.

Jan Kern

*author of the *Live Free Series**

Jennifer's passion for God – for living a life of obedience to Him – shines through every page, encouraging us to choose obedience for ourselves and experience the blessings and rewards it brings!

Christin Ditchfield

*author of *A Family Guide to the Bible**

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Change of Plans

Have your plans ever changed when you least expected it? When our family moved to Shallowford Free Will Baptist Church in Marietta, Georgia, I had no plans to move again. I loved the church, the people, and the pastor. God really did some amazing things while we ministered there. We started a Junior Youth Camp for the North Georgia Association and saw many young people accept Christ as their personal Savior. In my mind, everything was going as planned.

All that changed one day when a friend called and asked if I would consider becoming a home missionary. When I answered yes without any hesitation, it shocked both of us. After some time in prayer and fasting, Jessica and I knew God wanted us to start a church in Colorado.

The Journey Begins

We set out on one of the most challenging journeys we

have experienced in our Christian lives. Don't misunderstand. We met really great people on itinerate and made many new friends. Our struggle came in raising monthly support.

Because we really knew only a handful of people in Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia, I opened the *Free Will Baptist Yearbook* and started calling pastors I had never met. I asked them to let me speak in their churches and present our plans to start a church.

We began traveling to various churches throughout the region but received little or no monthly support. I couldn't help but wonder what I was doing wrong. My heart began to break because I didn't think I would ever get to Colorado. Some friends suggested that maybe it wasn't God's will for us to go to Colorado after all. Their words were agonizing. How could something that burned so strongly in my heart not be God's will? I pleaded with God for answers. I could not believe that He would give us this burden and then make it unreachable.

Unexpected Answer

During a trip to Kentucky, I spoke with an area pastor. He shared a story that occurred during their building program. They had worked all day trying to get trusses put up before a storm arrived. They finished the work and went home. The next day, they were devastated to learn that the storm demolished everything they had built.

After surveying the damage, he met with an insurance adjuster. They were determined to start over. What the pastor said next spoke volumes to my heart. One man asked, "Have you ever thought maybe God didn't want you to build this church?" Without missing a beat the pastor replied, "No, I just thought Satan didn't want this church built because it would be used for God!"

It's interesting how God puts the right people in our lives to serve His purpose. Those were the words I needed to hear! Satan was not going to make the journey easy, but God would sustain us!

A Bump in the Road...Literally

My wife Jessica and I talked all the way home about this important lesson we had learned. We laughed and cried, excited because we knew we would make it to Colorado. Then the devil struck again. We pulled off the interstate to get something to eat. As we left the restaurant, our van was hit broadside. The impact was so great that it pushed the driver's seat into the rear passenger seat. I was pinned in



the van and couldn't move. Rescue workers strapped me to a board and took me to the emergency room.

Our van was totaled, my collarbone was broken, and my emotions were running wild. I thought of my kids. If they had been with us, they might have been killed. Satan began to attack. "You know this is the final straw. Look, just another setback. Home Missions isn't going to let you go now. All those supporters are going to give up. It doesn't look as if you will make it to Colorado."

In that moment I began to weep. All I could think about were the people in Colorado, but my fears failed to materialize. Home Missions reaffirmed their stand and my supporters continued. God never fails. He is faithful to care for us.

Westward Bound

On Saturday, July 17, 2010, we left our temporary home in Alabama and began the long journey west. Jessica and the kids were excited because this would be their first opportunity to see our new home. God had helped us find a place to live just when we needed it. Jessica and I realized that the house would be the starting place for the new church and the place where our kids would grow up.

Doorbell Ministry

The morning after we arrived, our kids got up early to explore their new neighborhood. They had been on the road with us for a year and a half. They were ready to make some friends. They did. Now, our doorbell seems to ring nonstop; our house has become the central hangout for the neighborhood kids, and we love it! We are building relationships with each of these kids.

I once read a statement that said, "People should not be just another notch on your spiritual belt." Building relationships puts you out there, makes you vulnerable and approachable. As the saying goes "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." That has been our heartbeat since moving here. We want people to know that we genuinely care about them.

Breaking the Ice

In preparation for coming to Colorado, I read numerous books on church planting and spent time with seasoned missionaries, but nothing really prepares you for being there. Some days I still find my heart racing with excitement. I want to be sure we plant a successful Free Will Baptist church which glorifies God.

As we prepared for our first Bible study, we considered various ways to invite people. You only have one shot at making a first impression, so how could we get them to the door and let them see us as neighbors? Jessica came up with the idea of handing out chocolate chip cookies. After hours and hours of baking, we handed out chocolate chip cookies and invitations. The cookies were well received, and they opened the door to some great conversations with our neighbors!

The Beginning

Perhaps you have heard the old saying, "sitting on pins and needles." That's how we felt as we waited for our first Bible study. What if no one showed up? I couldn't sleep the night before and finally went downstairs to read my Bible



and pray.

That afternoon, Jessica and I prayed and waited for 6:30 p.m. to arrive. I asked Jessica what she would do if no one came. She said "I'm gonna cry!"

To be truthful, I probably would have, too. At 6:28 p.m. the first person arrived, and before long, our house filled with 20 people. After we served the homemade barbecue sandwiches we had prepared, I watched and listened in amazement to all the people God had brought to our home for the first Bible study.

Afterwards, we heard things like; "I have surgery next week. I won't be able to attend. Now I wish I hadn't scheduled my surgery for Tuesday." "You

guys have brought that southern hospitality to Colorado." "Your family moving to our neighborhood was one of the best things that has happened to our family."

Jessica and I thanked God for what He had done. We knew it was nothing we had done. It was all God. Our next three Bible studies averaged 23 people. God has made it clear that He is going to build His church here, and we are thankful to be part of it. God has blessed us with some great people. They are excited about the church and anxious to be a part of what is happening.

We realize there will be mountaintops and valleys in the days to come. We do miss our families, but we know that we are at home! We are exactly where God wants us, doing exactly what He wants us to do. I don't always have the answers, and sometimes I can get very anxious about plans for the church. As one writer put it, "God has a plan for my life, and that's all I need to know." It feels good to be home! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Barry, Jessica, Austin, Abby, and Braden Long are a church-planting family starting a Free Will Baptist church in the Denver, Colorado area.

Provide and Protect

What happens in the future will impact your loved ones and your estate. This makes careful planning important to ensure your loved ones are well cared for, and that your estate is not subject to unnecessary taxation by the state. It is also a great way to continue giving to a Free Will Baptist ministry through a bequest.

The Free Will Baptist Foundation would like to help you organize and plan for the future with a **free Wills Planning Guide**.

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BROWN on green

IRA Giving

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALLOWS individuals to deduct tithes to their church as a charitable contribution on Schedule A of their tax return. If your itemized deductions are over \$11,400 (the standard deduction), you can use itemized deductions to save on your taxes. Many times, a working couple buying a house while tithing faithfully to their church will far exceed the standard deduction.

The standard deduction for couples over 65 is \$13,600. Many older couples cannot deduct their tithes as a charitable contribution because they do not meet this threshold. Retired couples often have completed payment on their home mortgage, so they lose this large itemized deduction available for most working couples.

Fortunately, recent tax cuts passed by Congress allow individuals over 70.5 to make tax-free transfers from

their IRAs to charitable organizations. This makes it possible for senior individuals to get a tax benefit for charitable gifts. After age 70.5, individuals are required to take minimum distributions from IRAs, which are taxable income. Diverting this distribution to your church or other ministries will mean the transaction is not taxable.

Since you were going to tithe anyway, why not make the gift from your IRA instead of your checking account? Using this method will reduce your taxable income by the amount transferred to the ministry. For instance, a retired couple with a taxable income of \$40,000 a year could transfer \$4,000 from their IRAs to make the tithe they were intending to make and, at the same time, reduce their taxable income to \$36,000.

The maximum amount that can be transferred is \$100,000, and the

distribution must come from an IRA. You cannot make transfers from other retirement plans like a 403b or 401k. This provision is temporary and will expire at the end of 2011 unless Congress acts to extend it. Seniors ages of 70.5 and above should take advantage of this tax break and act now to give generously. You may be able to give more because you are reducing your taxable income.

Consider a gift to your local church or a national ministry. The World Missions Offering is in April! [ONE](#)

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

RETIRED COUPLE:

Benjamin Randall VIII
and Sarah Palmer Randall

AGE: Both 75

JOINT INCOME: \$39,301

BENJAMIN'S IRA VALUE: \$50,000

SARAH'S IRA VALUE: \$50,000

RMD FROM BOTH IRAS: \$4,367

(RMD Required Minimum Distribution)

TOTAL TAXABLE INCOME: \$43,668

AMOUNT OF TITHE: \$4,367

PAYING TITHE OUT OF REGULAR INCOME AGI:

\$22,768

*(Income after standard
deduction and exemptions)*

TAXES DUE: \$2,578

PAYING TITHE OUT OF IRA ACCOUNT AGI:

\$18,401

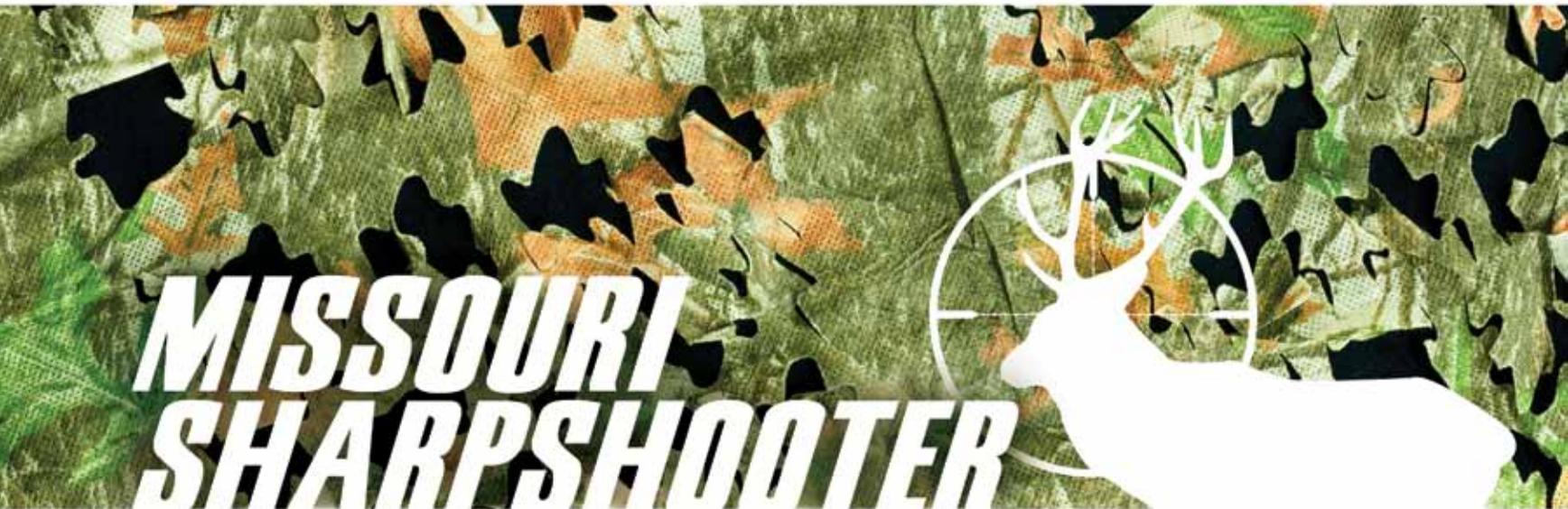
*(AGI reduced by \$4,367
by tithing from IRA)*

TAXES DUE: \$1923

TAX SAVINGS: \$655

For more information, contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation: www.fwbgifts.org or fwbgifts@nafwb.org.

A teenage shootist from Adair County, Missouri, won two Big Buck contests before enrolling as a music major at FWBBC.



BY JACK WILLIAMS

OUTFITTED IN CAMO GEAR AND A HUNTER'S

Specialties cap, 17-year-old K.D. Harden stares at the world from the front cover of *Rack* magazine (December 2007 issue) while posing with a record-setting 24-point buck shot in the heart from 120 feet by a .243 rifle. The lead article teaser beneath the photograph shouts: "Getting an Amen in Missouri!"

"Guess what we did with that big deer as soon as we hauled it out of the woods by tractor, photographed, and field dressed it?" K.D. asked. "We loaded it in the truck and took it to Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church, so I could enter our pastor's Big Buck contest. I won and got a Buck knife, which I later gave away."

Later that day, the Harden family drove around Hazel Creek community with the trophy buck, stopping at Hazel Creek Taxidermy long enough for K.D. to enter another Big Buck contest and win a full shoulder mount.

SHOOTER WITHOUT A GUN

The pages turned quickly, and 18 months later K.D. locked the .243 rifle in a closet, relocated to Tennessee, and enrolled as a music major at Free Will Baptist Bible College. That's where K.D. learned how to track and bag game more

elusive than wild turkeys and white-tail deer—rigorous Bible and music classes, international mission trips, choir tours, ministry teams, and campus leadership roles.

K.D.'s first outreach ministry at FWBBC began in 2008 as a member of Rejoice Ministry Team, a touring musical group that travels thousands of miles promoting the college. By 2009, K.D. had been named as a campus SLG (Spiritual Life Group) Leader. The 2010-2011 academic year marks K.D.'s third year as Music Department secretary, a position with never-ending responsibilities that demand a professional hunter's woodcraft to flush out wily scheduling details.

'THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE'

"My goal in life is to be a music teacher," K.D. said. "We hear so much about how there's not much light in public schools, and I want to help change that. I want my light to shine so people can have an opportunity to come to Christ. When I first enrolled at FWBBC, I had some attitude issues. But I've long since learned that whatever God wants is what I want to do, and wherever He wants me to serve is the place I want to be. His plans and timing are better than mine!"

That noble life-goal may be no more than a rifle shot

away, since K.D. consistently makes the Dean's List and prompted this observation from Dr. James Stevens who chairs the Music Department: "It has been a great pleasure having K.D. as my music assistant the past two years—hard working, dependable, fun to work with, and exhibits outstanding Christian character."

Like most students, K.D. carries a heavy academic load, balancing course requirements with job responsibilities and personal spiritual growth. A five-member FWBBC team led by Missions Program Coordinator Ron Callaway spent 10 days ministering in Cuba during the summer of 2010—K.D. Harden was one of the team members who worked with Cuban Free Will Baptist youth as a vocalist and musician.

"Yes, I can play a guitar when needed, but my best musical instrument is my voice," K.D. said. "I've been using it to praise God in church and youth camps since I was 10 years old."

GOD'S ORCHESTRA

The value of carving personal quiet time from the daily rush of collegiate life is a frequently heard admonition for FWBBC students. However, a Missouri sharpshooter's idea of quiet time sometimes startles fellow students.

"My favorite quiet time is to go deer hunting about 6:00 a.m., standing in God's creation listening to His orchestra in the timber," K.D. said. "An owl hoot, a squirrel chattering, wind in the trees...the quiet presence of God. Other people sit in a rocker or take a walk, but I prefer my quiet time with a rifle in my hands, waiting for an eight-point buck to step from the brush."

Whenever possible, K.D. travels back to Missouri for seasonal hunting during breaks in the academic calendar. The extended Harden clan is at home with shotguns and rifles in the deep woods, and K.D. knows that any hunting time in the schedule will find a covey of relatives locked-and-loaded, eager for another trophy hunt.

The youngest of three children, K.D. became Dad's (Carroll Harden) shadow at age seven watching him shoot squir-

rels and deer. By age 12, K.D. got serious about deer hunting and hit the woods with a .30-06 pump rifle that kicked so hard Carroll replaced it with a single-shot .243—the rifle that brought down the famous 24-point buck.

David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement at FWBBC, said, "K.D. loves guns, hunting, singing, and people. If you have a job that needs to be done, call K.D., and it will be done right. Consistent, reliable, rock solid—that describes K.D."

DANCING WITH SADIE

Two Missouri natives who work at the college and have known the Harden family for decades—Ernie and Lila Thompson—invite K.D. to their home for overnight visits where they reminisce about Missouri, eat well, and laugh a lot.

One morning Ernie (FWBBC's cleaning operations supervisor) and K.D. hitched a pony named Sadie to a two-man cart and started down a nearby sloping street. They enjoyed the ride until Sadie decided it was time to go home and headed back up the hill toward the open gate. The cart shifted and the weight of two adults made the cart tip backwards. Ernie went one way, K.D. went another way, and Sadie went her own way.

Lila Thompson, FWBBC's Business Office secretary, said, "I remember the day K.D. showed me how to make noodles with only one egg, a handful of flour, and a little salt. We rolled out the dough paper-thin, let it dry for a few hours, cut it into 1/16 inch strips, cooked them in chicken broth, and made a wonderful meal. K.D. can do more than shoot and sing!"

BROWN-EYED MYSTERY

Brown-eyed K.D. Harden, who stands 5'-8" tall and is at home in coveralls and gum boots, was saved at age six and has been a member of Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church

MY FAVORITE QUIET TIME IS TO GO DEER HUNTING ABOUT 6:00 A.M., STANDING IN GOD'S CREATION LISTENING TO HIS ORCHESTRA IN THE TIMBER.



in Kirksville for 15 years. Church members know K.D. as a singer, camp worker, spinner of yarns, guitar player, hero to local youth, a trustworthy leader who does not panic when life gets hard, and a young adult who respects parents.

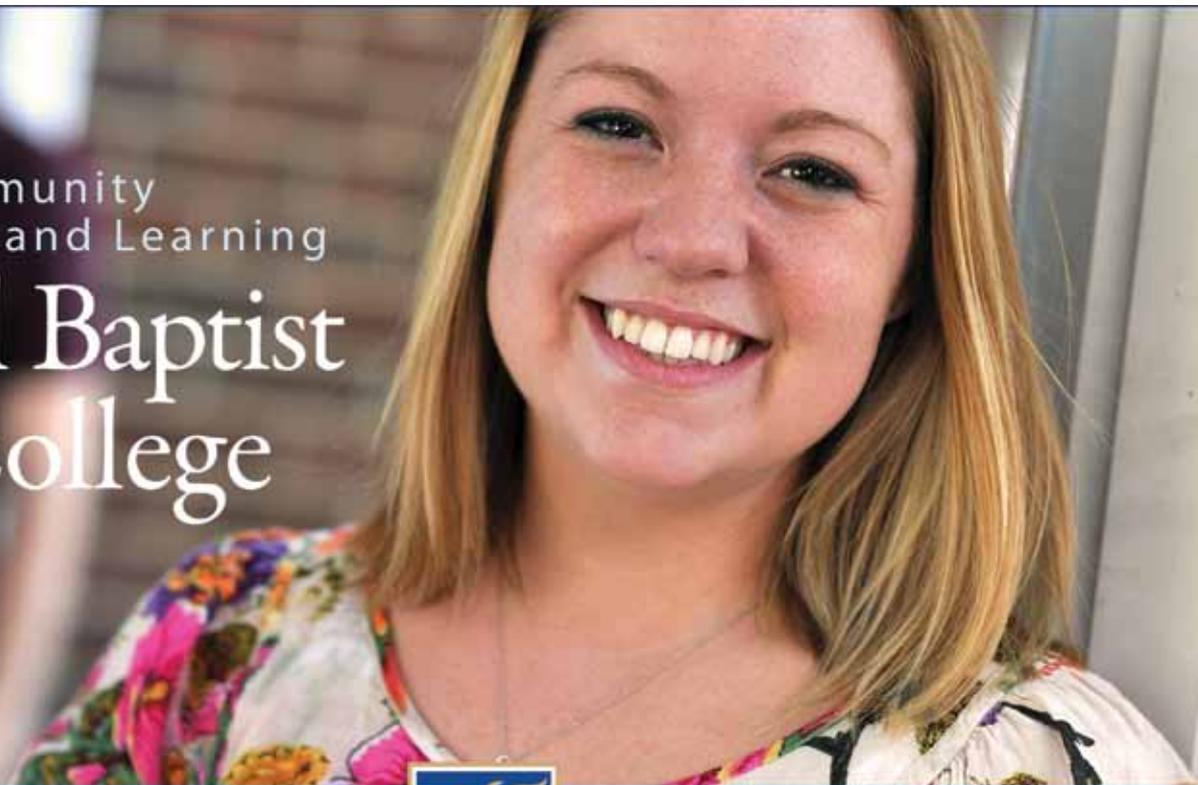
I PREFER MY QUIET TIME WITH A RIFLE IN MY HANDS, WAITING FOR AN EIGHT-POINT BUCK TO STEP FROM THE BRUSH.

“Carrol and Denise Harden (my mom and dad) are some of the best people in the world,” said K.D., a non-graduating senior this year. “Whatever I am as a Christian starts with them. They lived the life before me and took me to church. They are amazing spiritual leaders in the community.”

Back in Adair County, K.D.’s tough-as-leather reputation includes big knives, trophy bucks, and centerfire rifles. But in Tennessee, the Missouri sharpshooter wears a dress to class. For you see, “K.D. Harden” is better known at Free Will Baptist Bible College as *Kimberly Dawn Harden*, third floor resident assistant in Polston Hall, the women’s dormitory. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jack Williams is director of communications at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

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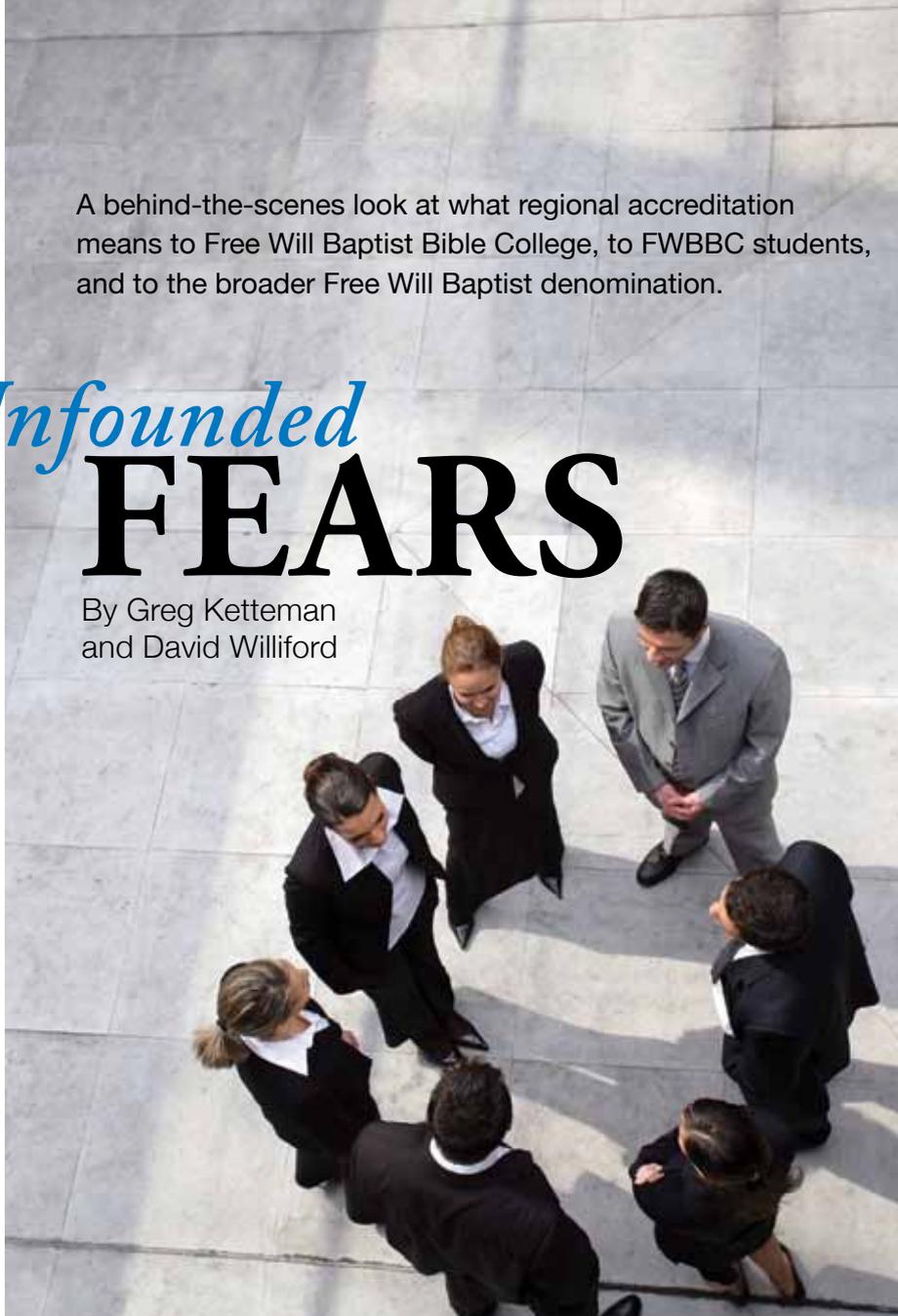
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*Listed in *U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges 2011.*

A behind-the-scenes look at what regional accreditation means to Free Will Baptist Bible College, to FWBBC students, and to the broader Free Will Baptist denomination.

Unfounded FEARS

By Greg Kettelman
and David Williford



“Regional accreditation would ruin the Bible College! The government will tell you what you can and can’t teach. It will destroy the college as we know it.”

“If we are regionally accredited, the government will require us to hire unsaved professors to teach at the college. It might even require us to teach evolution instead of creationism.”

Early Discussions

Before pursuing regional accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), there was trepidation among Free Will Baptists regarding the impact this would have on FWBBC’s solid stance on biblical inerrancy, belief that all truth is God’s truth, and biblically-centered teaching. There were fears that the school’s tradi-

tional, conservative, Christian culture would be brought into question and that changes required for accreditation would result in the college losing control over its Bible-centered curriculum.

Much of the concern stemmed from the belief that SACS was somehow a part of the federal government and that accreditation was tantamount to having the federal government dictate the

content of our curriculum and the character of our culture. Following the college’s successful 10-year accreditation reaffirmation process with SACS this year, it is a good time to review just exactly what regional accreditation means for the college, her students, and the Free Will Baptist denomination.

Realities

Many mistakenly believe that SACS is affiliated with or run by the federal government. The reality is that SACS is an association of colleges and schools that join voluntarily for the purposes of sharing and implementing best collegiate practices, conducting peer review, and working as an association to improve higher education. SACS accreditation is about excellence in college teaching and administration, not about determining college curriculum.

While best collegiate practices call for institutions to provide each student with a well-developed course syllabus on the first day of class, FWBBC has never been called on to justify the fact that the course is Evangelism and Discipleship, Biblical Basis of Missions, or Christ in the Old Testament or to make changes in our curriculum. While peer review calls on the college to submit documentation about healthy patterns of student campus life, we have never been called on to change our regular Spiritual Life group (prayer group) meetings, Christian service activities, or daily chapel times with Bible-based messages. And while SACS accreditation calls on the college to be a part of improving higher education, the college has never been sanctioned or reprimanded because, in our view, improvement of higher education centers on a biblical worldview.

Rather than being a threat to FWBBC’s existence and freedom, SACS accreditation actually provides support for our right to exist in an increasingly hostile, secular environment. Fears

about the agenda of the federal government are well founded if one reviews the history of secularism in the public schools and in many colleges, both public and private. Federal and state legislation and regulation of K-12 education has become increasingly hostile to conservative, biblical thought and practices and there is little doubt that the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) wants to do for higher education what it has done for public elementary and secondary education. Today the USDE continues to seek more control over higher education. Our accrediting associations, including SACS, are not taking this lying down.

The fact is that SACS and other large, voluntary regional accrediting associations play an important role in preventing the federal government from having its way with U.S. colleges and universities. Few institutions in America value their autonomy and right to independent thinking more than American colleges and universities. Membership in large, regional accrediting associations provides some leverage in dealing with the designs the USDE has on American institutions of higher education. Without these large, regional associations few institutions would have the funding, personnel, and clout necessary to successfully defend their autonomy against efforts of the federal government to control and regulate everything from college personnel to curriculum.

Current Dangers

In a December 2008 annual SACS association meeting in San Antonio, TX, association members were warned that the federal government was eyeing higher education, hoping to translate public demands for accountability into greater control and regulation of American colleges and universities. We were urged to stand together against such control and regulation and remain committed to the

historic precedent of autonomous curricular decision-making.

As a member of SACS, FWBBC shares this common concern with public universities like the University of Virginia, the University of Tennessee, and the University of Alabama, and with private colleges and universities like Vanderbilt, Lipscomb, and Johnson Bible College. FWBBC will come to different conclusions about what should be the heart of our curriculum than will say Vanderbilt or the University of Alabama. But our membership in a regional accrediting association strengthens and protects our curricular autonomy and helps us to preserve our Bible-centered curriculum.

have been doing that anyway?" Yes, we should, and we have done some things along this line, but this forced us to look long and hard at how we were doing business and find ways to better serve our students. It is a good thing for the school, because it is a good thing for our students.

Would we have focused on this without SACS requiring it from us? The honest answer is, probably not as soon and probably not as well. The truth is all of us benefit when someone holds us accountable. We "elevate our game" when we know we are accountable to someone else. That's human nature, and this is one example of how SACS helped us

"We promote Christian growth and maturity, and each spring our graduates are testimonies to God's work in their lives through the ministry of FWBBC."

Benefits

What benefits does accreditation bring? Here's one example. One of the requirements for our reaffirmation with SACS was that we develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that would focus on some aspect of campus life. In the plan we were to select an area of campus life that we want to improve, document the need, and develop a strategic plan to address that need.

We chose to look at how our freshmen assimilate into campus life, and see if we could do a better job helping new students succeed in their college experience. Out of that study came a document that set forth a plan of mentoring by older students, enhanced tutorial help, and better access to campus opportunities.

Some may ask, "Well, shouldn't you

to do a better job at what we really want to do well.

By the way, the accreditation team was so impressed with our plan that several members suggested we market it as a model for other schools!

Other benefits include recognition and transfer of our college credits nationwide and internationally, acceptance of our students' diplomas by employers who require regionally accredited degrees, acceptance of our students' diplomas for graduate school admission, and FWBBC accountability for use of best practices in higher education in the classroom, business office, and administrative offices. Accountability in an accrediting association like SACS for the use of our resources also helps to ensure wise use of denominational, state, and individual support.

Has SACS Changed Us?

Yes and no. Accreditation has changed us because it requires that we devote some resources to planning, implementation, assessment, evaluation, and reporting. But shouldn't these things be part of what any excellent college does? While SACS membership is not free, its benefits add great value to the education FWBBC students receive and to the FWBBC diploma.

Accreditation has not changed us because all of our faculty, staff, and administration are Christians. We still require daily chapel attendance, weekly Christian service assignments, and dorm prayer meetings. We still have a day of prayer each semester, the annual Bible Conference, and missions retreats. Our students are still required to testify that they know Christ as their personal Savior, and they are encouraged to live out their testimonies every day. We

promote Christian growth and maturity, and each spring our graduates are testimonies to God's work in their lives through the ministry of FWBBC. We still evangelize in our community, and we still stand for the historic Christian faith, and we still emphasize our Free Will Baptist distinctives.

Our students still dress professionally when they go to class. We still require attendance at cultural events designed to broaden our students' perspectives and enhance their appreciation for the arts. In short, we still do what the college began doing in 1942.

Conclusion

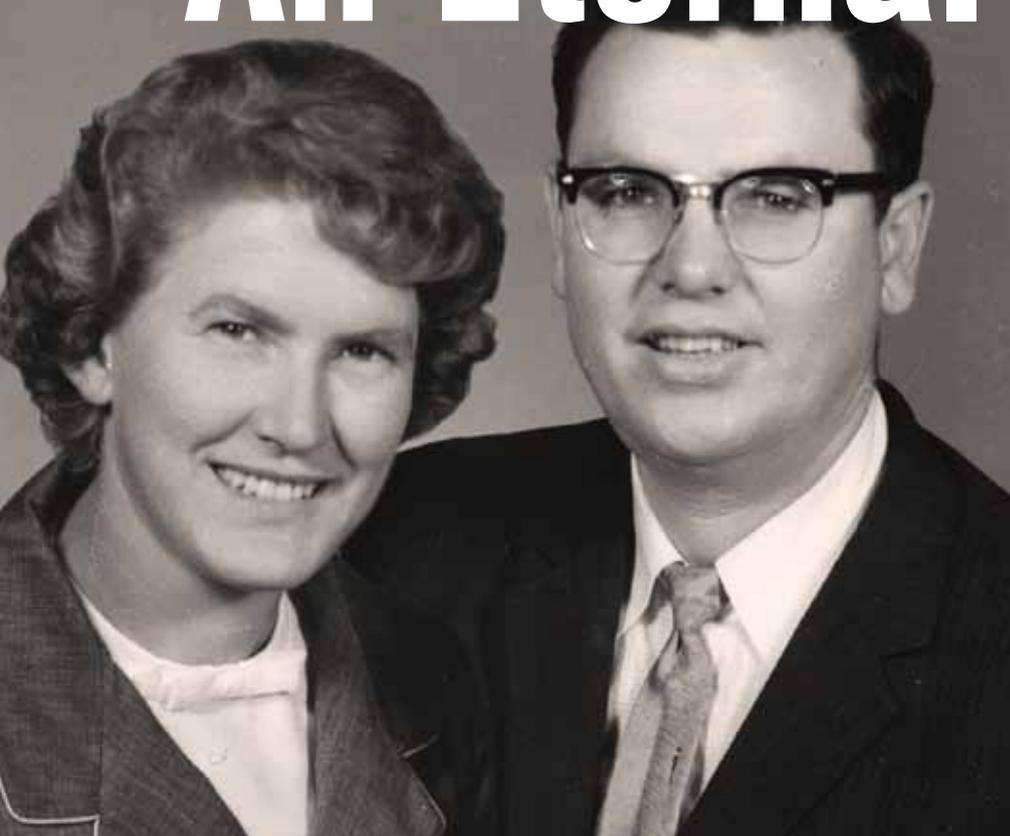
So, has SACS accreditation been a good thing for FWBBC? In spite of some early fears by some of us, the answer is yes. It proclaims to everyone that FWBBC is serious about Christian higher education. It affirms the belief of our

people that when they send their young people to FWBBC, they are getting a quality education. It confirms the Christian commitment to quality education of those who graduate, verifying their preparation for service in Free Will Baptist churches, schools, and agencies. It assures graduate schools that our graduates are coming to them well prepared for the rigors of graduate work. It reassures employees that the FWBBC graduates they hire have been challenged and prepared both morally and intellectually for the positions they seek. And most important of all, it helps us to do a better job of what we do: "Educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life."

ONE

ABOUT THE WRITERS: Greg Kettman is provost at FWBBC; David Williford is FWBBC's vice president for institutional advancement.

An Eternal Legacy



In 1948, Dan and Trula Cronk began evangelizing the aboriginal Santal tribe of north India. It was the start of a 27-year ministry in which God worked miraculously in both individuals and churches. Today, the Cronk's legacy lives on, both in the work they started and through the endowment in their name.

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NEWS at FWBBC

James Stevens Compositions Published

Dr. James Stevens, chair of the Music Department, received word that Sunmin Music, the largest church music publisher in South Korea, will publish “Go Into All the World,” a missions anthem he wrote for the Go10 Walk for the World sponsored by Free Will Baptist International Missions. The music was performed for the first time on June 19, 2010, at the FWBBC Go10 Rally and was also performed during the 2010 national convention in Oklahoma City.

In December 2010, Sunmin Music also commissioned Dr. Stevens to compose a new wedding anthem based on the success of his song, “Without Love, We Have Nothing,” which has been recorded on more than 200 commercial CDs worldwide. The new anthem, “Unquenchable,” is based on Song of Solomon 8:6-7.

Dr. Stevens indicated that Sunmin Music has agreed to publish another anthem titled, “The Greatest Gift Is Love,” and is considering publishing two books of original piano compositions by Stevens. Dr. Philp Landgrave of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville, KY) has also commissioned Stevens to write an anthem for a special music celebration to be held at the seminary July 11-12.

The internationally renowned Boys Choir from France performed Dr. Stevens’ anthem “Without Love, We Have Nothing” at the Seoul Arts Center in Seoul, South Korea.

Dr. Stevens has been a member of the FWBBC faculty since 2004 and serves on the Free Will Baptist Music Commission. He has won numerous ASCAP Standard Awards for Composition and written more than 325 songs. ■

Etta Crittenden Receives ‘Distinguished Professor’ Award

Etta Crittenden, adjunct Teacher Education professor since 2005, received Tennessee Reading Association’s “Distinguished Professor Award” during its 2010 conference, in Murfreesboro. Randall B. Kincaid, instructional supervisor of the Sevier County Reading Association nominated her for the award.

Mr. Kincaid said in his recommendation letter: “Etta’s outstanding qualities as an adjunct professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College have been demonstrated through her leadership skills in presenting current research and strategies in reading to her students. She is very knowledgeable, considerate, and professional. Principals in the Nashville area are fortunate to have students from FWBBC as part of their staff. Etta’s guidance allows her students to become teachers of knowledge in all areas of the curriculum and to take leadership roles.”

An Oklahoma native, Miss Crittenden is a double alumna at FWBBC, graduating in 1976 (B.A.) and 1980 (B.S.). She earned a master’s degree in education at Tennessee State University (1993) and will complete a doctor of education degree in 2011 at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. In 2003, she began serving as K-12 Reading Coordinator for the Tennessee Department of Education, supporting reading teachers throughout the state. Her current TDOE role is director of early elementary instruction.

“I was both surprised and honored to have been selected as the recipient of this year’s Distinguished Professor Award,” Miss Crittenden said. “There are many higher education professors and members of the Tennessee Reading Association who are deserving of this honor.”

Crittenden has broad experience as an educator—serving 10 years with Christian academies (1976-1986), 16 years with Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (1986-2002), and two years as Mathematics/Reading Consultant with the Tennessee Department of Education (2002-2003).

Dr. Thurman Pate, Teacher Education chairman at the college, said, “We are so pleased that Etta has been recognized by her professional colleagues as a top educator in Tennessee. This honor helps support our claim that FWBBC Teacher Education students receive instruction on teaching and reading from the best in the state!” ■

43 Attend Fall 2010 Welcome Days

Forty-three students and sponsors from 10 states and the Virgin Islands attended Fall 2010 Welcome Days, November 18-20, according to Rusty Campbell, director of enrollment services. The group included 19 students from Tennessee, five from Illinois, four from Arkansas, three from Michigan and Virginia, two from Florida, North Carolina, and Ohio; and one each from Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Campbell said, "What a great group of students to have on campus! They showed up well prepared with questions about the transition from high school to college. They brought positive attitudes and an obvious interest in FWBBC's academic programs as well as campus life. We hope they all decide to enroll here."

Visitors had a full schedule that included two nights in the dormitories and a "Preparing for College" seminar. Thursday evening featured a Dinner Theater and an Italian dinner as the Evangel Players performed comedy sketches. Students attended classes Friday and heard 2010 FWBBC graduate Jesse Owens speak in chapel. The President's Reception for seniors, parents, and sponsors met in Thigpen Theater after chapel. A campus-wide scavenger hunt acquainted visitors with the 17 campus buildings. The Gold/White Flames basketball night closed out Friday activities. Students participated in a jingle contest to advertise FWBBC's proposed new name, "Welch College."

Comments from three campus visitors reflected the spirit of the Welcome Days event:

Rashaun from North Carolina: *"I really liked the environment of the school. It's a good community, and I plan to be here in January."*

Will from Tennessee: *"The people are so nice here; I've had a really great time."*

Gene from Michigan: *"I had students in my congregation who attended FWBBC, but I had never visited the campus. I am impressed with everything that goes on here. My daughter is seriously considering attending after she graduates from high school."* ■

89 FWBBC Students Make President's / Provost's Lists

The fall 2010 semester ended with 89 students earning academic recognition, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. Seventeen students made all A's and were placed on the President's List—six seniors, four juniors, five sophomores, and two freshmen.

Seventy-two students earned a B average or higher and were placed on the Provost's (formerly Dean's) List—20 seniors, 17 juniors, 18 sophomores, and 17 freshmen.

President's List: "A" Honor Roll

Anderson, Cason (Sr.) TN
Ayers, Rebekah (Jr.) AL
Eller, Mary (Sr.) TN
Franks, Nathan (Sr.) AL
Hagood, Kimberly (So.) TN
Hill, Christa (Sr.) VA
Hollifield, Audrey (Fr.) TN
Looney, Jordan (Jr.) TN
Martin, Michael (So.) OH
Moore, Jeffery (So.) MO
Nelson, Megan (Sr.) TN
Pointer, Christen (Jr.) AR
Riley, Jimmie (Jr.) KY
Sample, Kayla (So.) IL
Sims, Brittany (So.) MI
Trotter, Audrey (Fr.) TN
Ward, Kurston (Sr.) AR

Provost's List: "B" Honor Roll

Seniors

Atkins, Alyssa - TN
Bequette, Rachel - MO
Clem, Kristina - IL
Fawver, Rachael - TN

Forrest, Lauren - TN
Gaddis, Kayla - NC
Hajek, Samantha - MO
Harden, Kimberly - MO
Holloway, Thomas - GA
Jolly, Lauren - KY
Kernan, Christopher - TN
Kyburz, Faith - MO
Munsey, Juliana - TN
Murray, Kevin - NC
Price, Lacey - OH
Ramos, Leigha - TN
Richards, Shawn - TN
Rish, Rebecca - IN
Snow, Robin-Lyn - TN
Tolbert, Phillip - MI

Juniors

Bradford, James - IN
Brown, Beth - KY
Carnathan, Christy - MS
Carpenter, Elijah - TN
Duttine, Katie - WV
Echols, Brittany - AL
Fitzgerald, Autumn - GA

James, Rebecca - GA
Jeffreys, Georgia - AL
McCuin, Hanna - KS
Nelson, Stephen - NC
Perry, Edith - TN
Shearon, Michael - TN
Snow, David - TN
Trimble, Rachel - TN
Ward, Hannah - AR
Willaford, Jason - NC

Sophomores

Bryan, Katie - TN
Butcher, Kiley - IN
Conner, Ellen - TN
Conner, Valerie - MI
Culwell, Jacob - TN
Cyrus, Andrew - KY
Fite, Morgan - TN
Gitschlag, Eric - TN
Hagood, Nathaniel - TN
Hobbs, Brittany - NC
Hovis, Bethany - MO
Johns, Matthew - TN
Munsey, Rachel - TN

Ouding, Andrew - MI
Paxton, Maggie - IN
Pierce, Aaron - MS
Pointer, Catie - AR
Wilkerson, Allison - AL

Freshmen

Blake, Shelby - TN
Bushey, Lisa - TN
Coats, Bethany - SD
Dankson, Brooke - TN
Ford, Taylor - TN
Fry, Katy - MO
Helms, Brandon - MI
Hutchinson, Timothy - MI
Kyburz, Richie - MO
Manning, Jake - NC
Mouser, Matthew - TN
Nelson, Melissa - NC
Scott, Kaitlen - TN
Thomas, Miranda - AR
Walser, Alana - TN
Whitworth, Emily - TN
York, Anna - TN ■

+ INTERSECT

where the BIBLE meets life

Bible Contradictions... Again!



Play ball! Time to dust off the cleats, the pine tar, and the leather.

Get those arms in shape! The boys of summer are thawing out after a long winter.

A season of a different kind apparently has arrived, too. With the recent wave of writings from the “New Atheists,” we should have expected the second wave that followed. They now allege we can’t trust the Bible. Sam Harris, author of *The End of Faith*, and his group Project Reason have published an infographic (fancy chart) titled, “Contradictions in the Bible.” This curious e-tableau claims that Scripture belies itself some 439 times.

Nothing New Here

A closer look at each of these supposed gaffes reveals nothing new. In fact, some are downright ludicrous. It’s easy to answer most of the claims. Bible students have done so down through the ages. Harris, for example, nitpicks when he asks, “Was Jonah swallowed by a fish or a whale (see Jonah 1:17 and Matt. 12:40)?” The Hebrew and Greek terms are general words for sea creatures, however, and are not intended to be species specific.

Other supposed problems show unfamiliarity with the context surrounding the texts in question. For instance, when Harris alleges the Old Testament is confused about whether Yahweh is a God of wrath (Isaiah 34:2) or not (Isaiah 27:4), he ignores the context of each verse. The day when God establishes His kingdom will be one of reward (“no wrath,” 27:4) for the righteous and one of punishment (“rage,” 34:2) for the wicked. In wrath, He remembers mercy!

Praying, Judging, and Marrying

Disregard for context applies as well for Harris’ criticisms of: (1) whether or not Christians know how to pray (Matthew 6:9-13 and Romans 8:26—Jesus instructs us how to pray, but sometimes in our limited knowledge we don’t know what to pray for); (2) whether or not we are to judge (Matthew 7:1 and John 7:24—Don’t speak harshly, Jesus says, but use discernment); (3) whether believers may marry unbelievers (1 Corinthians 7:12 and 2 Corinthians 6:14-17—Paul prohibits Christians from marrying non-Christians in 2 Corinthians 6, but also refers about a case where one partner has become a Christian while the other has not in 1 Corinthians 7). The chart includes other claims like these.

Harris’ infographic also points to larger theological issues that require more intricate analysis. These supposed contradictions also

have reasonable answers that become fertile soil for teaching truth. Such is the case for the alleged conflicts between Paul (“justification by faith” in Romans 4) and James (“justification by works” in James 2). So, too, the complementary accounts of creation in Genesis 1 and 2 are not at odds with each other; instead, each chapter reveals a separate facet of the character and creative design of God.

What “Contradictions” Teach Us

Dealing with this skeptical mindset is not new to me. In fact, as a rebellious teen I went through a season when I also tried to find mistakes in the Bible. I recall on one occasion impishly showing my youth pastor Galatians 6:2, which tells us to bear each other’s burdens, and verse 5 where Paul instructs each of us to bear our own burden. “A contradic-

tion!” I boldly asserted.

He patiently explained that two different Greek words are translated “burden” in these verses. One describes a load too heavy for one person to carry (verse 2) and the other a responsibility one person must carry alone (verse 5). By the way, this supposed discrepancy is in Harris’ chart as well!

Since then, I have drawn a few conclusions about this whole business of looking for contradictions in the Bible.

No one is going to find a problem that has not been found, studied, and explained reasonably. Scholars have dealt with these issues for centuries.

When someone tells me there are contradictions in the Bible, I ask him to name one. Usually he can’t. He has not searched out any of them for himself. Even if he has, I assure you he has not done the research to find a reasonable answer.

The fact that there are difficult texts

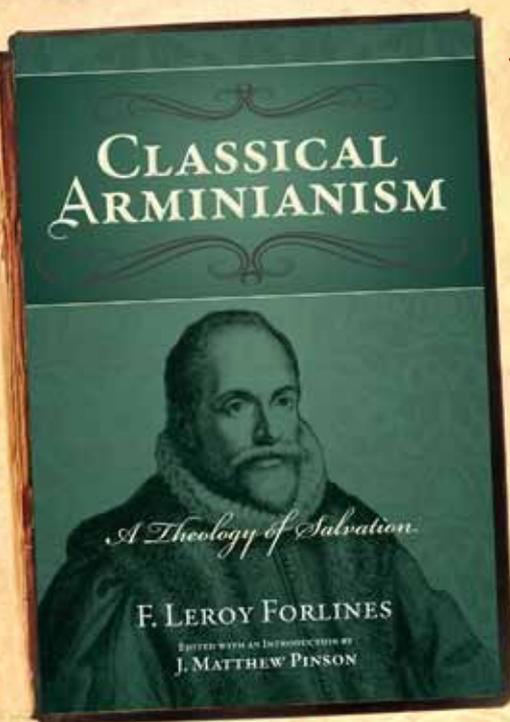
in Scripture serves two purposes. First, they disprove any notion that Christians tried to “smooth out” or erase those difficulties. Second, they challenge us to think harder, study more, and seek a better understanding of this perfect book.

I go back to what the Bible says about itself. B. B. Warfield’s century-old syllogism still works for me:

The Bible claims to be the Word of God. God cannot lie. Therefore the Bible cannot lie. ☐

In the box score, that’s a “0” in the error column, regardless of what the latest infographic may claim.

INTERSECT: Where the BIBLE Meets Life is a regular column written by Dr. Garnett Reid who chairs the Bible Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College.



New Release

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In this current environment of growth within traditional Calvinism, Arminians of all denominations are looking for a good resource from an Arminian perspective. Once again, Forlines and Pinson have worked together to provide such a resource. This book is a valuable contribution to the Arminian-Calvinist debate.

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LEADERPROFILE

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.



TIM HALL - KENTUCKY

A second-generation pastor is not uncommon but a second-generation pastorate is. Tim, a veteran pastor of 33 years, has served in his home church since 1989. It is the same church his father planted and pastored for 29 years. As a respected leader both in Kentucky and throughout the denomination, Tim is known for his mild demeanor and gifted insight of people and Scripture.

Gravely ill for three months, Tim's dad passed away two weeks after Tim's high school graduation. Not fully realizing the profound impact of that event and the role his dad played in his life, Tim began to seek answers. After three years of various experiences and misplaced directions, he found God's healing and calling on his life. He relies on God's Word as the overflow of his study fills the congregation and community in both convicting and convincing ways.

Tim's study of "member care" provides a framework of tracking people from first visit through discipleship. His study and developments over the past seven years gave insight over how to close the "back door" of the church. The results are evident as the church continues to grow.

Tim and his wife Jana like to hike together. They log a couple of serious trails every year. Over the past 10 years they have hiked over 150 miles of trails leading through the waterfalls and valleys of the Smoky Mountains. Their favorite dates include long conversations while eating at Cheddars or Texas Roadhouse.

Tim's quiet time involves various devotional tools but always includes finding and capturing one key thought for the day and journaling it. By the way, Tim's grandfather was a pastor as well, and that makes Tim a third generation pastor in a second generational pastorate. **Tim Hall you are a great leader!** 

One-word descriptors for his kids:

Jason (32) philosophical-analyst
Jordan (27) scientific

Biggest Failure:

Tim talked about having a "deeper, greater and world-changing prayer life." While he described this as a failure, it was evident to me that his prayer life is stronger than most leaders I know.

Quiet Time Habits:

Reads leadership books and does character studies from the Bible.

Who is your favorite author?

John Butler, followed closely by David Jeremiah

What are your top three books of all time?

The Quest for Truth
by Leroy Forlines
Pilgrim's Progress
by John Bunyan
The Normal Christian Life
by Watchman Nee

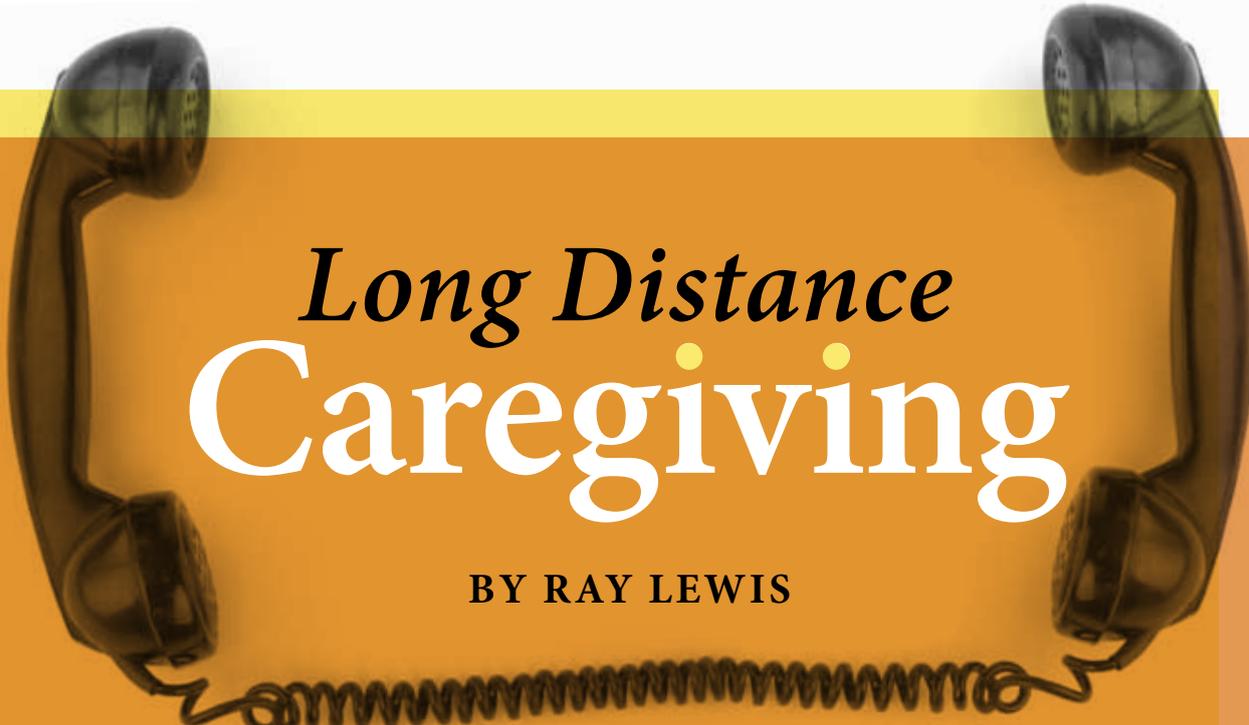


Home Connection is a new one-stop resource for connecting the entire family based on the D6 curriculum. This simple two-page download gives parents a weekly Scripture passage to read as a family, ideas to help them pray together as a family, and suggested activities families can do to put their faith in action. In addition, Home Connection also lets parents know exactly what each member of the family is learning in small group, LIFE group, or Sunday School.

It's as simple as **read, pray, and do** . . . and it's **FREE!**

 Download your copy at www.D6curriculum.com/home-connection.





Long Distance Caregiving

BY RAY LEWIS

In the most recent issue of ONE Magazine, I wrote about caring for elderly loved ones in your home. This is not always an option. If moving closer to the one needing extra care or having them move closer to you is not possible, how can you stay on top of your loved one's care from a distance?

It would be great if our loved ones all stayed healthy and well. The fact is, too many won't. During my grandparents' day, families lived close together, neighbors looked out for one another, and when an elderly person needed something, many people were around to offer help. Things are different today. Families are spread out, and more and more people find themselves faced with the crisis of an aging relative who needs care.

The Distance Dilemma

Living far from a loved one who needs daily care is not easy. Many times the caregiver feels helpless. They love and want the best for their aging loved one, but they have their own lives and responsibilities. They may have a home, family, and job, all of which need their attention. The problem becomes, "How do I fit it all in?"

Like every other major event in your life, long distance caregiving takes planning. Without proper planning, you may be headed for a crisis. It takes time and effort to provide long distance care, but the more you prepare before a crisis arises, the better

your chances of making confident and appropriate decisions.

Steps in the Right Direction

As you assume your role as a long distance caregiver, you'll need to establish an effective plan. The following are just a few suggestions to help you get started.

●● **Get Organized.** The many details of caregiving can be overwhelming. The way to solve this problem is to be organized from the start. Maintain a record of vital information about your loved one's medical condition and legal or financial issues. Include

contact numbers, insurance information, account numbers, and other important details.

●● **Check Into Available Community Services.** Look for services that fit the needs of your loved one, such as transportation, meals on wheels, medication reminders, running errands, community centers, professional care/companionship, etc.

●● **Set Up a Contact List.** As a long-distance caregiver, you need to stay in touch and informed. One of the best resources is to enlist the help of others. Meet your loved one's neighbors and close friends. Get their phone

numbers, and give them your emergency contact information. Ask them to check in on your loved one and contact you if there are any needs or problems. This list can ease long distance caregiving stress and provide support and care for your loved one.

●● **Recognize and Acknowledge Your Own Limits.** As your loved one requires increasing levels of care, you may become overwhelmed. Accept the fact that it is impossible for you to provide all the help your loved one needs. It is important for you and your loved one to realize when caregiving goes beyond your capabilities.

●● **Don't Be Afraid to Ask for Help.** As a caregiver, you don't have to do it alone. Consider a family meeting to discuss your goals, air feelings,

and divide up duties.

●● **Check for a Mail Carrier Alert Program.** Many mail carriers and utility workers are trained to spot signs of trouble. They report concerns, such as accumulated mail or trash, to an agency that will check on the older adult. This is a service of the United States Postal Service and many local nonprofit organizations. Contact the local post office or ask your mail carrier for information.

●● **Talk About the Hard Subjects.** Some things are hard to bring up with the loved one, but they help ensure the loved one's wishes will be carried out, even if they become incapacitated. Do they have an up-to-date will, and do you know where it is? Do they have a living will? Have they established

power of attorney for health care and finances, and is the documentation complete and available? What about a living trust that allows them to transfer assets and avoid probate and other legal problems?

I hope these suggestions will prove helpful to you when and if you find yourself in the position of long distance caregiver. It will not always be easy. Many long-distance caregivers feel guilty about not doing enough or spending enough time with a family member in need of care. When you encounter such feelings, remind yourself that you are doing your best for those you love. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: D. Ray Lewis joined the Board of Retirement in 1982. He became director in 2005 after serving for several years as assistant director.

Equipping Parents with an **Experience**, a **Skill**, and a **Tool**

607
GENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Based on Deuteronomy 6:07

Equipping Parents at Church to Impress Faith on their Kids at Home

Everyone is talking about training parents to drive faith at home, but **how** and **where** in our church programming do we actually do this?

What if there was a way to equip parents to lead their families spiritually that integrates right into your existing discipleship process? If your church is asking these same questions, then check out 607! 607 is a drop-in family worship experience that can be adapted to any church programming model.

The **607 Experience**

One of the top reasons parents talk to their kids so rarely about their faith in Christ is because they simply don't know how to, due to lack of experience.

The **607 Experience** gives churches a downloadable curriculum to host nine interactive Family Worship Experiences built around nine popular holidays. Many churches are looking for special programming on holidays—**607** can help with this. Each event comes equipped with the sermon/teaching curriculum, brief video to illustrate and reinforce learning, activities that engage the family in relationship with one another, and much more!

607 provides parents an experience at church that gives them the confidence to lead their kids spiritually at home.

- A layered approach - choose the holidays that work for your church, or use all nine!
- A drop-in program - can be used on a Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday evening, Saturday evening, or a special event.
- Equips and resources the Senior Pastor/Lead Pastor to emphasize a life in Christ with sermon enhancers, interactive activities, and illustrations that motivate listeners to drive faith at home.
- So much more than motivation! Parents will leave this experience with a skill and a tool to help them implement generational discipleship.

Explore more at **D6family.com/607**
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Impress Faith on Your Kids by Mark Holmen

Mark Holmen's book, **Impress Faith on Your Kids** is designed for a faith at home campaign launch, a discipleship initiative, or even a parenting class. In this **brief** read, Mark will motivate parents to become active in the spiritual development of their kids as well as teach them **how** to engage with their children and teens at home. It's the perfect companion to the **607 Experience!**



UNSAFE SAFES:

BY BILL AND BRENDA EVANS

Samuel thrust his hands into a dented Chase and Sanborn coffee can and fished out two handfuls of rusty nails, then a plastic lid he had trimmed to fit beneath the nails. When he tilted the can, I saw the Krugerrands—dozens and dozens of \$50 gold pieces with a soft luster.

“Wow,” I said. “I’ve never seen Krugerrands before.”

He grinned: “These are what I wanted to show you.”

Samuel was a There’s-No-Place-like-Texas 72-year-old sporting low-heeled boots, jeans, and a plain western shirt. His sandy hair was clipped short and brushed to the side. He was put together like a Friday Night Special. The glint in his eyes was warm, sincere.

Then there were the Krugerrands. Outside, his detached one-car garage was clapboard; inside, open studs. It contained a shelf of miscellaneous tools and a short workbench. Between the studs a dozen three-pound coffee cans filled with rusty nails, nuts, bolts, and screws sat along a concrete footer. Under the rusty nails, each can contained stashes of gold Krugerrands.

I didn’t fail to grasp the irony of it. Samuel’s “Texas spread,” a modest white clapboard house and detached garage, stood between Corpus Christi—Latin for Body of Christ—and the 825,000-acre King Ranch, which is larger than the state of Rhode Island and the symbol of one man’s enormous hold on wealth. Like many, Samuel was trying to balance his life between the two—Christ and gold.

A SAFE Investment

Samuel was clear about the Krugerrands. He had purchased them long ago, paying just over their \$50 face value. Along the way, he sold them as needed at their gold value. While he was certainly not the millionaire next door, he was certainly a well-fixed bachelor living modestly and giving generously. In fact, his clapboard house and garage had already been placed into a life estate agreement with the Christian charity for which I worked. He would maintain the property and live there until death, at which time the property would be sold to fund missionary evangelism around the world.

But Samuel was worried—and rightly so. “I’ve been

thinking...someone might come in here after I die and haul these old coffee cans to the dump. I just want you to know what’s under these nails and put it in the record, because that’s for missionary work.”

I asked why he bought the Krugerrands in the first place. “Part for retirement and part for the Lord. A lot will be left, I’m sure, for Him. I don’t need much. Krugerrands are better than gold bullion, you know, because bullion has to be assayed each time it’s traded. I can take these to a collector or precious metal trader. The market price is good right now.”

I understood his reasoning. Some investors were high on gold and silver—precious metals—both for their escalating value and for inflationary hedge. Samuel was one of

DIAMONDS, KRUGERRANDS, AND SCORCHED GREENBACKS

those. His Krugerrands were both valuable and beautiful.

Larger and thicker than a US half-dollar, each coin is minted with 22-karat gold alloy and contains one troy ounce of gold. On one side of each coin was a leaping eland; on the other, the profile of former apartheid South African president Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger. First minted in 1967, the coins exploded in popularity, reaching their investment peak in the early 1980s, when the coin held an 89% share of the entire gold coin industry. By the end of that decade, however, some of the luster, both literally and monetarily, had worn off.

IRRATIONAL Response

I was amazed on two counts. First, I held Krugerrands in my hand, something I'd long wanted to do. Second, Samuel's "safe" for protecting his gold was far from safe. Samuel seemed like such a wise, common sense kind of guy, but storing his Krugerrands in coffee cans under rusty nails was neither common sense nor wisdom. Truth is, Samuel's unsafe safe wasn't the first I'd seen. I'd been shown these kinds of "safes" in homes, garages, basements, and yards of otherwise smart people all over the place.

Two sisters in the upper Midwest hid lots of money in their antique spool chest under stacks of store coupons. One former military man put 1,700 silver medallions in PVC pipes and buried them in his greenhouse and flowerbeds. A Long Beach woman stowed three enormous diamond rings in the pocket of a housedress hung in her crowded closet. She was certain her diamond cache was safe and secure. I wasn't.

A widow in St. Louis put \$20 bills in her stash of Reader's Digest Condensed Books. A businessman hid enormous wads of unreported cash in a large safe deposit box at his bank in hopes that Uncle Sam would never know. My aunt stuffed a fist of \$100 bills into the opaque globe of a lamp she rarely used. They were safe until she forgot about her greenbacks, turned on the lamp, and scorched them to flaky ashes.

Why do otherwise smart people resort to unsafe safes? I've heard it all over the years: liquidity, convenience, con-

trol, and independence. Then there's the matter of distrust, including banks and Uncle Sam. Speaking of the government, I've met both laymen and preachers who create "safes" to avoid taxes. Income, whether received over the table or under, should be accounted for ethically to both God and Uncle Sam. Jesus said so in no uncertain terms.

Most often, unsafe safes are about power to do what I want, when I want, with what is mine. Or at least that's how we rationalize it. This-Is-Mine trumps all other motives, but it doesn't trump Jesus' parables, nor the Old and New Testament teachings on stewardship.

Find a BETTER OPTION

Why avoid unsafe safes? First, improperly protected assets are highly vulnerable to fire, theft, or loss...and remember, possession is nine-tenths of the law. Second, in his parable of the talent, Jesus condemned the one who "buries" rather than "grows" the assets in his hand. When not invested to grow, money loses value and is needlessly eroded by inflation and time.

Third, hiding large caches of money or valuables is irresponsible stewardship, although a small cash stash may be legitimate. Debit cards and ATMs offer speed and convenience as well as safety. Fourth, distrust of banks or Uncle Sam is mostly misplaced. Certainly, stay alert, check bank statements (bank employees are human), watch your assets as godly stewards must, get good tax advice and be cautious, but avoid paranoia and irrationality. Reasonable trust is not gullibility.

Fifth, look beyond your local bank or investment firm for safe places for your assets. The Free Will Baptist Foundation offers several safe options including revocable trusts with interest rates higher than Money Market Accounts and most CDs, and a list of deferred giving arrangements similar to Samuel's Life Estate.

So don't resort to unsafe safes. There are better ways to protect and grow your assets. 

ABOUT THE WRITERS: Bill Evans, former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, lives in Cattlettsburg, KY, with his wife Brenda, a retired English teacher.



End of the JOURNEY

BY BILL CAMPBELL

ONE NIGHT WHILE PRAYING, GOD SPOKE to my heart and gave me a vision to raise \$100,000 for the Home Missions project in the Florence/San Tan Valley area of Arizona where home missionaries Howard and Patsy Gwartney are serving. As I prayed, little did I know where God's hand would lead me over the next several months. I said, "Lord, here am I; send me. I am ready to go."

I shared this burden with a few close pastor friends and asked them to join me in prayer concerning the matter. Those men have stood by me through the entire journey, and I would like to give them a big thank-you.

A few months later, my grandson Chris and I flew to Florence, Arizona, to attend the first service at Christ's Church Free Will Baptist. I went looking for confirmation from the Lord. I wanted to be certain that I understood the vision correctly and the journey that God wanted me to take. At the conclusion of the service, a gentleman gave me a check for \$5,000, payable to the Home Missions Department and designated for the Florence, Arizona, Land Fund. It was the confirmation I needed! I knew the Lord would bless my efforts, and I determined to do my best.

Not long after returning from Arizona I asked Roberta, a dedicated Christian lady, to marry me. I had been

a widower for some time, and the Lord saw fit to send this sweet lady to be my helpmate. While we were dating, I had shared the vision God had given me to help the church acquire land on which to build. I knew that after our wedding, we would visit Arizona, so I began to pray for God to give Roberta the same vision and burden for the

As I prayed, little did I know where God's hand would lead me over the next several months.

project. We were married in December 2007 and visited the Gwartneys in January 2008. When we returned home, we both knew God was leading us to take this journey.

We began traveling on weekends, speaking in churches and raising funds while paying our own expenses. The first stop was First Free Will Baptist Church in Fayette, Alabama, on April 26, 2008. Scott Montgomery had asked us to begin the project at the church where he pastored. We would like to express our appreciation to his church for starting a journey we will never forget.

Over 27 months, our travels took us through Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Tennessee. After I was laid off from my

job in September 2009, we continued to travel and raise funds toward the \$100,000 goal. After medical problems made knee replacement surgery necessary, our journey ended in July 2010 at Center Point Free Will Baptist Church in Atoka, Oklahoma.

A total of \$84,881.25 has been raised for this project and funds continue to come in. Special appreciation goes to five churches in Alabama that were very generous to this project. They collected offerings to help pay travel expenses for the last two months we were on the road.

Roberta and I enjoyed a 27-month honeymoon, traveling with the Lord during the first part of our marriage. What a wonderful way to begin life together. We surrendered everything to the Lord, and He led us every step of the way. We laughed, cried, prayed, and fellowshiped as we went, enjoying every minute. We have been in

many beautiful churches, met great pastors, and became acquainted with wonderful Free Will Baptist people who were kind to us and gave generously to the project.

God made all of this happen, and we give Him all the credit for this historical milestone on our journey to Heaven. I hope you will join us in praying and supporting the Gwartneys and the Home Missions project in Florence, Arizona. **ONE**



ABOUT THE WRITER: Bill Campbell is an active layman for the Lord and Free Will Baptists. He has been involved in missions work on the state level and in numerous areas across the nation for many years. Bill and his wife Roberta continue to follow the Lord's leading as they work for Him.

awaken
Romans 13:11

NYC YOUTH CONFERENCE

LOOK AROUND.

What do you see going on in your world? Are things getting better? Are we moving closer to world peace, harmony, and justice? I don't think so. ***It's time to WAKE UP!*** The world is broken. Broken people cannot provide peace and justice. That is why Jesus came. He came to fix this broken world. He offers salvation and a relationship with Him that will overcome the problems of this world. What are you going to do about it?

Find out what you can do.

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Matt Markins – Teen Worship Coordinator

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NASCAR Hall of Fame
www.nascarhall.com

Charlotte Knights AAA
www.charlotteknights.com

U.S. National Whitewater Center
www.usnwc.org

Visitor Info Center
www.charlottesgotalot.com



CONVENTION SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR MONDAY

A note from WNAC Executive Director Elizabeth Hodges: To avoid conflicts with NYC competition events, WNAC plans no activities for Monday, July 18. Meetings begin at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 19. Four distinct sessions with scheduled breaks between each segment allow women to come and go as needed. We pray these changes will better meet the needs of women with vested interests in children involved in NYC activities. The WNAC meeting room and NYC competition rooms lie in close proximity within the convention center. This should also expedite traveling between the two conferences. See you in Charlotte.



fwb21

The 2011 FWB21 Panel
Insight for Free Will Baptist
Twentysomething Leaders

what?

The **FWB21** panel is a discussion among leading Free Will Baptists on topics that young Free Will Baptist leaders need to hear.

topic?

The topic for this first **FWB21** panel is "Denominational Identity + Kingdom Mindedness." The panelists will be discussing the tension between being a Free Will Baptist and a member of the kingdom as a whole.

when?

On Monday at 9PM, July 18, during the 2011 National Convention of Free Will Baptists in Charlotte, NC.

where?

Charlotte Convention Center, room 208, Charlotte, NC

who?

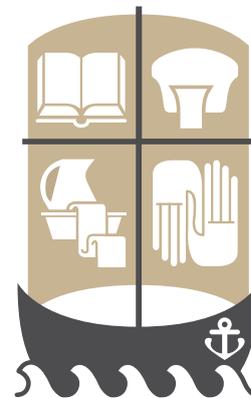
The panelists are: Curt Gwartney, Charles Cook, Matthew Pinson, David Potete, Archie Ratliff, and Karl Sexton

how much?

The panel is completely free. In fact, choice of a free book goes to the first 50 people who show up.

2011 NATIONAL CONVENTION | CHARLOTTE, NC | JULY 17-20

HONORING OUR HERITAGE



Photos (L to R): Final meeting of the Western Association, 1935; Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, TN; 1956 Convention officers (clockwise), Charles A. Thigpen, W.S. Mooneyham, Dean Moore, Thomas Hamilton, Harold Pitts.

Free Will Baptists from 12 states and 15 district associations gathered at Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in November 1935. They arrived at the two-story, brick building in Nashville, Tennessee, to form a new fellowship they dubbed, *The National Association of the Original Free Will Baptists*. Though these denominational pioneers met only three days, their decisions were monumental as they put aside long-standing differences to lay an organizational foundation that would stand in decades to come.

A NEW BEGINNING

It wasn't easy. In fact, delegates wisely adopted the newly revised *Treatise of Faith and Practices* by unanimous vote without hearing it read aloud, following a motion to that effect by Rev. Lizzie McAdams. Damon Dodd captured the scene in his book, *The Free Will Baptist Story*:

"The motion was met with an immediate second, and the vote was overwhelmingly unanimous. This meant that the National Association of Free Will Baptists was now an official reality, that, at last, Free Will Baptists were united in a common cause.

The entire congregation was caught up in the spirit of the momentous occasion. Strong men embraced each other and wept tears of joy and victory. The shouts of rejoicing Chris-

tians were lifted in praise to God.

At last, someone started an old hymn, the vast congregation joined in, an old-fashioned handshake ensued, and amidst such rejoicing and praising the Lord, the Holy Spirit's stamp of approval was placed upon that transaction."

It was 10:15, Thursday morning, November 7, 1935.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER

When the National Association of Free Will Baptists meets in Charlotte, North Carolina, July 17-20, it will celebrate the 75th anniversary of that timeless moment. Much has transpired in the years between.

The denomination has swelled to more than 180,000 members in 2,371 churches across 35 states and five continents. Modest offerings received at that first meeting have grown to an annual budget of more than \$25 million as eight national departments carry out the ministry of the denomination across the nation and around the world.

A single missionary in 1935 has grown to a force of more than 100 international missionaries serving in 20 countries and 114 home missionaries in 26 states, Canada, Mexico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. A national Bible college and other regional colleges have been established to train Free Will Baptists for both ministry and professional vocations.

A flourishing Board of Retirement gives churches an opportunity to provide for the future of pastors and staff members, while the Free Will Baptist Foundation provides perpetual giving opportunities for those who wish to continue supporting the work of Free Will Baptists after their death.

Randall House Publications continues to expand production of Free Will Baptist Sunday School curriculum, and in recent years, those products have spilled over into use by other denominations and groups.

Women Nationally Active for Christ and Master's Men assist local churches in their quest to involve every Free Will Baptist in Christian ministry.

Our Heritage is a stunning video documentary that takes viewers on an unforgettable trip through Free Will Baptist history, from the oppression faced by our English General Baptist forerunners in the 1600s and the early development of Free Will Baptists in America to the highlights of the 20th Century and the growth and development of a fledgling denomination.

A segment of the DVD will be shown before each service, and the full-length documentary will be available for purchase at the convention.

Convention Sermons is a beautiful, hardbound book containing more than a thousand pages of sermons collected



Photos (left to right): Rolla Smith, Lorene and LaVerne Miley; Wade Jernigan preaches.



Photo (above): The 1971 convention in Nashville, TN.

The 75-year road hasn't been easy. The denomination has endured turmoil from without and within—from the subtle influence of declining societal standards to disagreements over doctrine, polity, and personalities. Yet through all the challenges, Free Will Baptists have held fast to the basic tenets of their faith: free will, free grace, and free salvation.

As the National Association of Free Will Baptists turns its attention to the conclusion of its first century, the movement remains committed to the ideals that brought it together and dedicated to the possibilities that lie ahead.

MARK THIS MOMENT

To mark this important milestone, the Executive Committee planned this year's convention around the theme, "Honoring Our Heritage." Speakers at the Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evening services will define free will, free grace, and free salvation. On Wednesday evening, Executive Secretary Keith Burden will look into the future to the promise and challenges that lie ahead.

The Executive Office has produced two important commemorative items to be released at the convention. *Honor-*

ing Our Heritage" from 75 years of conventions. Timeless messages from men like LaVerne Miley, L.C. Johnson, and Robert Picirilli will encourage you, challenge you, inspire you, and give you a glimpse into Free Will Baptist life for three-quarters of a century. You will find both book and DVD at the Executive Office exhibit.

Each day, *The Convention News* will publish a special edition with commemorative articles from Free Will Baptist history printed on traditional newspaper imprints from the past. Each paper will include short vignettes about that particular publication and how it shaped Free Will Baptist thought and history.

Make plans now to join the 75th celebration in Charlotte, as we honor our heritage. One thing is certain. You will never have another opportunity! **ONE**

About the Writer: Eric K. Thomsen is managing editor of *ONE Magazine*. To learn more about the National Association of Free Will Baptists, visit www.nafwb.org.

Reserve your copy of *Convention Sermons* and *Honoring Our Heritage* today:
877-767-7659 | editor@nafwb.org





Pre-Registration

National Association of Free Will Baptists

WNAC | NYC | Charlotte, North Carolina | July 17-20, 2011

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 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 Luncheon ...Qty _____ x \$25 = _____

Wednesday, July 20, 12:00 noon

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:

- Adult Attendee (College age and older) \$10
(No students or children)

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 Luncheon.....Qty _____ x \$25 = _____

Tuesday, July 19, 12:00 noon

WNAC Information: www.wnac.org

Register May 9–June 17, 2011 (postmarked) No Refunds After June 17

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 2011

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 details to right.)

Reservations will open at **9 am, CST / 10 am, EST, Monday, May 9, 2011.**

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 17, 2011.

3. Receive Your Confirmation

On May 9, links to hotel reservations will be activated at:

www.nafwb.org.

Hampton Inn Charlotte Uptown

530 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 800-HAMPTON (426-7866)

Rate: \$114

Group Code: NFB

Hilton Charlotte Center City

222 East Third Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 800-HILTONS

Rate: \$139



Marriott Charlotte Center City

100 West Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 800-228-9290

Rate: \$129



The Westin Charlotte (Headquarters)

601 South College Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 866-837-5167

Rate: \$139



Hilton Charlotte Center City

Hilton Garden Inn Charlotte Uptown

508 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 877-StayHGI (782-9444)

Rate: \$119

Group Code: NFB



Omni Charlotte

132 East Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 800-THEOMNI (743-6664)

Rate: \$129



NEWS

about the denomination



Foundation Trains Free Will Baptist Leaders

ANTIOCH, TN—The Free Will Baptist Foundation sponsored a tenth year of training for regional and national Free Will Baptist leaders, January 10-14, in Tampa, Florida. The weeklong course prepares leaders for their roles in denominational planned giving, according to General Director David Brown.

Participants included Florida pastor Steve Berry; Danny Baer, academic dean at Southeastern Free Will Baptist College; David Williford, vice-president for institutional advancement at Free Will Baptist Bible College; and Gene Norris, promotional secretary for Michigan Free Will Baptists.

“We are pleased that more than 40 Free Will Baptist leaders have attended the training course since we began the program 10 years ago,” said Brown. “We continue to strive to elevate denominational awareness about the benefits of long-term financial planning, and the Foundation has seen dramatic growth in planned gifts and endowments since the first course in January 2002.” ■



WNAC Welcomed to *ONE Magazine*

ANTIOCH, TN—Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC), the 5,000-member auxiliary arm of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, will join the *ONE Magazine* family in the June-July 2011 issue. The announcement comes on the heels of a January 4 meeting, when WNAC Executive Director Elizabeth Hodges petitioned the Oversight Committee to unite with the eight departments and agencies that currently underwrite and produce the magazine. Members of the committee approved the request unanimously and enthusiastically.

“I’m delighted that WNAC has chosen to make this move,” said Keith Burden, executive secretary of the denomination and editor-in-chief of *ONE Magazine*. “Having every department represented in the pages of *ONE* is a great step forward in the unity and solidarity of Free Will Baptists. This action sends a clear message that WNAC wants to continue their integral role in denominational endeavors. I applaud Elizabeth Hodges and the members of the Executive Committee for their decision.”

The WNAC Executive Committee approved the move unanimously during its December 2010 meeting. “This is history in the making,” said Executive Director Hodges. “When we considered statistics revealing the vast majority of magazine readers are women, we quickly realized it is crucial that our organization be represented in the publication with the most widespread readership among Free Will Baptists. As we enter a new chapter of WNAC, our goal is to reach every generation of women; *ONE Magazine* will help us reach that goal.”

Together With God, the magazine currently published by WNAC, will undergo a format change in the Fall 2011 issue. See www.wnac.org for more details.

ONE Magazine continues to fulfill the dream of a unified denominational magazine. For many years, each agency of the denomination published its own independent correspondence. In contrast, *ONE Magazine* combines the resources of all denominational agencies into a bi-monthly periodical sent free to nearly 60,000 homes. Find the magazine online at www.onemag.org. ■

ONETOONE

Taking Too Much For Granted

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

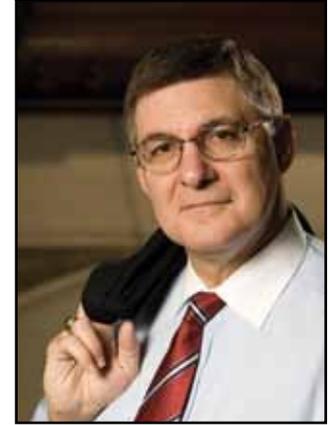


Photo: Mark Cowart

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF PARTICIPATING IN A building project in the Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, in the early 1990s. Altogether there were nine Free Will Baptists from the United States who spent the better part of three weeks building the youth center at Bondoukou. For me, it was a life-changing experience. In the process I learned a lot about the mission field and myself.

Like most Americans, my knowledge of how things worked in an international mission setting was, at best, limited and superficial. This experience brought to light a number of misconceptions and the fact that I had taken too much for granted.

For one thing, we take creature comforts for granted. Except for the missionaries' automobiles, there was little or no air conditioning. We sweated—profusely! Thankfully fans were available; however, they are of little value if there's no electricity. In Côte d'Ivoire the power seemed to be off a lot.

We've become accustomed to driving on good roads in the States. "Good" is a relative term in the bush country. A rough ride seems to be the order of the day there. It's no wonder missionaries' cars wear out so quickly.

Food is another staple we take for granted. Most food we buy at the supermarket can be readily prepared. Not so in Bondoukou. Meat, vegetables, and fruit purchased at the open air market requires painstaking preparation. If you don't disinfect it, you'll probably get sick.

I discovered we take many common resources and conveniences for granted. In the building process this proved to be particularly noticeable. Generally speaking, lumber is not immediately available. Unless you place your request in advance, you are probably going to wait a few days for the saw mill to fill your order.

Of course, there are no ready-mix trucks. Concrete is mixed by hand. Gravel for the mixture is made by repeatedly smashing large rocks together. The whole process is a time-consuming, back-breaking chore.

Most of us take getting to church for granted. One of the first things I noticed at an African church service was the conspicuous absence of automobiles. A few Ivorian believers rode mopeds or bicycles. Most of them walked.

There were no padded pews, indoor restroom facilities, attended nurseries, expensive musical instruments, or high-tech sound systems. Occasionally, worship had additional challenges when the message had to be translated into another tribal dialect.

Lest you think I only focused on the things the African Christians *do not* have, let me hasten to point out some of the things they *do* possess. They have the joy of the Lord. It's written all over their faces and evidenced in their voices as they sing. They have self-discipline and extraordinary patience. Small children sat on wooden benches and listened intently without being disruptive. Services typically lasted two or three hours!

They hold missionaries in high esteem and treasure the Word of God. They value Christian fellowship and exhibit true courage as they bear witness of their faith in Christ. They are genuinely proud to be Free Will Baptists. In significant ways, they are much better off than North American believers.

Honesty dictates I tell you I am occasionally prone to drift into complacency. Fortunately, there is a simple antidote...recalling my experiences in Côte d'Ivoire. When I do, God gently reminds me to not take too much for granted. 

Drop in...

National Golf Challenge

Compete in the National Golf Challenge at Windtree Golf Course in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee.

August 4

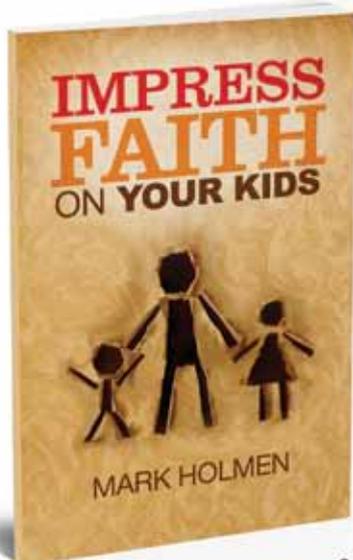
Softball Tournament

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.

August 5-6

Register Today!

Master's Men | www.fwbmastersmen.org | 877-767-8039



\$11.99

ISBN 9780892656127

Or, buy in large quantities for a group study or a church-wide campaign!

\$9.99 when sold in qty's of 25
\$8.99 when sold in qty's of 100 or more!

Impress Faith on Your Kids

by Mark Holmen

Are you looking for a solid resource to equip parents to disciple their kids at home? Mark Holmen's book, *Impress Faith on Your Kids* (releases April 2011) will motivate parents to become active in the spiritual development of their kids as well as teach them "how" to engage with their children and teens at home.

Parents will love this book because they will see their families grow in their faith in Christ, and pastors will rejoice as they watch their families thrive both inside and outside of the church experience.

How can churches best use this groundbreaking book?

Impress Faith on Your Kids is designed for a *faith at home* campaign launch, a discipleship initiative, or even a parenting class. In this book, Mark helps parents and grandparents understand the important and critical nature of transferring faith from generation to generation, but he doesn't stop with vision. This brief read will mobilize dads and moms into action based on the practical, biblical insight of Deuteronomy 6:7.

- Mobilizes parents from vision into action
- A brief read filled with practical application
- Biblically solid...focuses on living out generational discipleship
- Sure to teach parents "how" to begin leading their kids spiritually
- Priced to be sold in group study quantities or church-wide purchases

Buy your copy today!

by randall house

D6family.com/607

randallhouse.com

Millions of children have never heard

"Jesus Loves Me"

Give to the WMO. Send someone to tell them.

April 24, 2011



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