

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

# ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

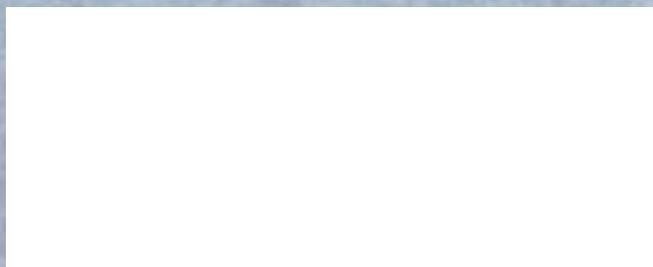
DECEMBER 2007/JANUARY 2008

[www.onemag.org](http://www.onemag.org)

**Discipleship Wears Sneakers**  
**JCrois: Go Make Disciples**  
**The Dangers of Debt**

# Discipleship:

**Leaving Tracks for Others  
to Follow**



# Louis Brautigan died in 1999.



This year, he will pay the tuition of three ministerial students at Free Will Baptist Bible College\*

Louis believed in educating ministers. Young ministers had an impact on his life, and he wanted to make it possible for young men to receive training at FWBBC. He established an endowment with the Free Will Baptist Foundation in 1994 that began to fund ministerial scholarships. After his death in 1999, his entire estate was contributed to the endowment. Thanks to Louis, pastoral students will continue to be educated until the Lord returns. You too can create a lasting legacy at Free Will Baptist Bible College by establishing an endowment through the Foundation. Contact us today to learn more.

\*Accumulated earnings from the Brautigan endowment since 1994 and 1999 are equal to three years of tuition cost for the 2007-2008 school years.



Free Will Baptist  
Bible College

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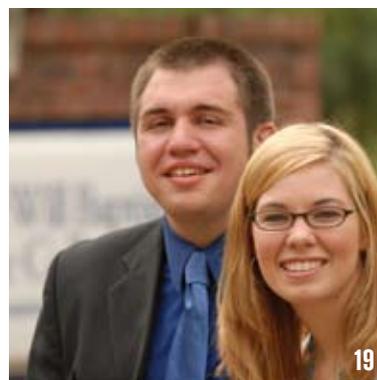
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# ONE MAGAZINE

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

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ERIC THOMSEN  
MANAGING EDITOR

## FIRST GLIMPSE

# UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL

“ERIC, ERIC, WAKE UP!”

The urgency in my wife’s voice (not to mention her fists pounding my shoulders and back) gradually invades my Nyquil-induced coma.

“The baby’s coming.”

The words strike like a lightning bolt. Throwing back the covers, I leap from the bed, shake the cobwebs from my befuddled brain, and declare at the top of my lungs, “I’ll go iron a shirt.”

The look on her face stops me in my tracks. Maybe I should have shaken the cobwebs a little harder.

“I’ll get the keys.”

I arrive at the hospital very wrinkled. So does my new daughter—a full two weeks ahead of schedule...

**Unexpected arrival.**

“My Mom’s at the airport.”

“What?”

“Mom’s at the airport.”

“Your mom?”

“Whose Mom do you think I’m talking about?”

“I thought she was coming in at 7:30.”

“She did.”

I glance at the clock.

“Oh no.”

“Yes, you were supposed to pick her up at 7:30 a.m., not p.m.”

“Oh no.”

“Oh yes.”

“Is she mad?”

“You’ll have to ask her...”

**Unexpected arrival.**

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, for the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.

I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left...

**Unexpected arrival.** □

*(Scripture adapted from Luke 17:33–35; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; 2 Peter 3:10, KJV)*

## LETTERS

Thank you for publishing the tribute to Dr. Malcolm C. Fry in the October-November edition of *ONE Magazine*. I appreciate how you highlighted Dr. Fry’s accomplishments, emphasized his organizational abilities, and discussed his love for Free Will Baptists. He was certainly a great man of God who loved his denomination.

I met Dr. Fry while he was serving Unity FWB Church in Smithfield, NC. He was my mentor as I struggled to pastor my first church. Although I received some formal education in Bible, most of the practical knowledge I received from Dr. Fry came informally. I learned by observing his positive Christian demeanor, his friendliness toward all, his love for serving the Lord, and his desire to do things properly.

He will certainly be missed. I hope I can have the same kind of impact on some young person that Dr. Fry had on me more than 20 years ago.

**Jeffrey L. Cockrell, Andrews, SC**

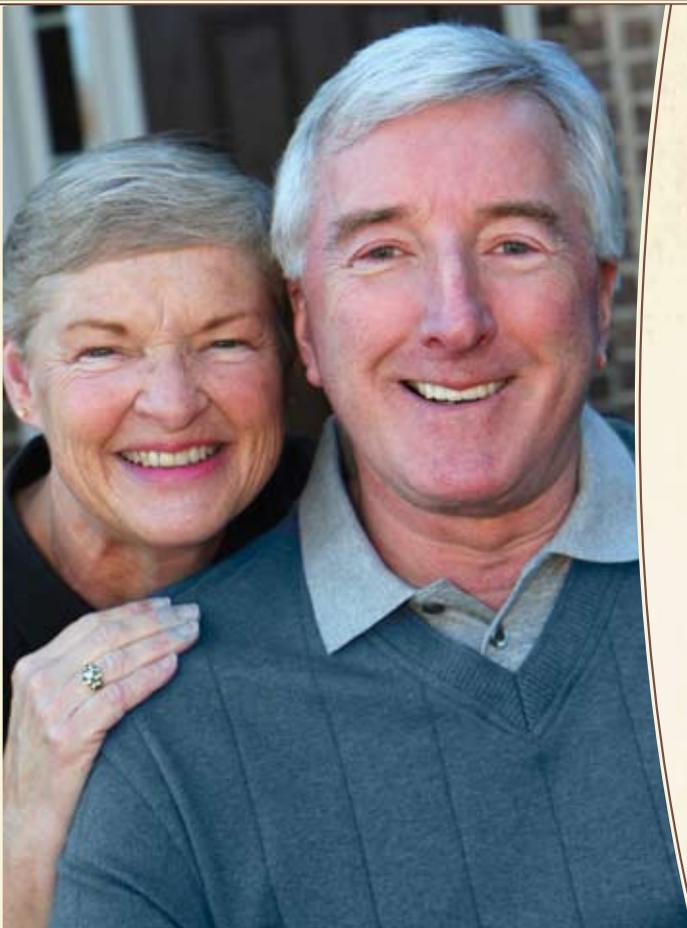
I recently had the honor of browsing through your August-September issue... what a blessing it was! My husband and I started attending a Free Will Baptist church over a year ago and became members recently. We thank God daily for leading us to the church. Thank you for your magazine, and may God continue to bless you.

**Trudy Bradstreet, Bridgewater, ME**

**Do you know someone who would like to receive *ONE Magazine*? It is easy to subscribe. Call toll-free at (877) 767-7659, visit [www.onemag.org/subscribe.htm](http://www.onemag.org/subscribe.htm), or send an email to [editor@nafwb.org](mailto:editor@nafwb.org).**

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PO Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002.**



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# discipleship

## wears SNEAKERS

**BY BARRY RAPER**

**LAST SPRING,** several Free Will Baptist Bible College students and faculty punished their bodies to raise money. Some of you reading this article contributed to their cause. The “punishment” I refer to, of course, is the pain experienced while running the Music City Marathon.

People from all over the nation pledged money and gifts to runners and walkers participating in the race. Thanks to local businesses, churches, and Free Will Baptist individuals, we now have

an award in place that honors a very special person.

### Gerald Turner Award

The Gerald Turner Leadership Award will be given annually in honor of Gerald Lynn Turner, former FWBBC Student Body President who died unexpectedly in late 2006 at age 22. While at FWBBC, he was a Christian Education major and was serving as a youth minister in Tupelo, Mississippi, at the time of his death.

Gerald excelled in many areas during his time at FWBBC. In addition to being a serious student,

he led FWBBC’s student body response efforts to help Hurricane Katrina victims. He also spearheaded the Excellence theme for students in 2005. He served as a summer intern in Oklahoma and went to Spain on a mission trip in preparation for full-time ministry.

President Matt Pinson said about him: “Gerald Turner had more promise than anyone of his generation. Young men like Gerald are so rare. He brought a warm heart, a hungry, inquiring mind, and a living faith to our campus.”



Gerald's greatest contribution was the visible, everyday example of Christ-like service and excellence. The Gerald Turner Leadership Award is one of the ways we remember his example, while at the same time challenging and encouraging Free Will Baptist youth to follow his lead.

### Lens of Scripture

The Christian Education and Youth Ministry Department at FWBBC is a vibrant, living, and practical discipleship vehicle to influence and mold the denomination's youth to think and feel deeply about the things of God, and to commit themselves to His service.

The goal of Christian education and youth ministry in a local church can be summed up in two brief statements—(1) to lead unbelievers to faith in Jesus Christ, and (2) to present every man, woman, boy, and girl mature in Christ. It is about making disciples—persons who are life-long learners and followers of Christ.

The Christian Education and Youth Ministry programs at FWBBC are designed to equip persons with a biblical philosophy and theology of practical ministry. It's discipleship that wears sneaker and meets communities where they are with a message of hope and encouragement.

We view the family as the foundational unit for passing along the Christian faith. Our task is to equip students to see their lives, their family, the local church, the ministry, and the world through the lens of Scripture.

### Leaders for Tomorrow

This discipleship-with-sneakers approach to ministry reflects the FWBBC Mission Statement "to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life." These leaders will then be trained and ready by God's grace to go into all the world and make other disciples for the glory of God.

That's discipleship. That's ministry. That's the Christian Education and Youth Ministry Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College. The plan is in place. The program is ready now for tomorrow's leaders who want training today.

Here at FWBBC, discipleship wears sneakers. We put people who want to serve in places where they are needed. We give them a biblical understanding of what service to others means, and we provide a warm Christian community of faith and learning. It's a safe place, a place of academic rigor, and a place that launches Free Will Baptist youth into God's great harvest field. □



*ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Barry Raper is Program Coordinator for the Christian Education and Youth Ministry Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College.*

**this discipleship-with-sneakers approach TO MINISTRY REFLECTS THE FWBBC MISSION STATEMENT "TO EDUCATE LEADERS TO SERVE CHRIST, HIS CHURCH, AND HIS WORLD THROUGH BIBLICAL THOUGHT AND LIFE."**



## *Roadside* Discipleship

BY CHAD KIVETTE

AS A HOME MISSIONARY TO GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO, I have been involved in many aspects of discipleship. I believe the task of discipleship is far more tedious than evangelism. Yet discipleship is vital to the longevity of a ministry. In two years in Colorado, I have seen Sunday church attendance double and Wednesday evening attendance triple. How can this be explained? I simply credit it to *Roadside Discipleship*.

Let me explain. In all of Jesus' teachings, His motto was never, "Do as I say, not as I do;" rather He was an example of what He taught. As we lead people to Christ, we must be the example for them to follow.

A few weeks ago, Armon and I were riding back to Grand Junction after taking our children to youth camp. (Armon was our first convert in Grand Junction.) What started out as an ordinary day ended in an amazing way. It was a day for *Roadside Discipleship*.

As we were driving the 50 miles home, we passed a lady on the side of the road trying to change a flat tire. Being the Christians that we were, we prayed that God would send her some help...not really. However, it is true that we did not stop until the Holy Spirit began to convict me. I turned the car around, and Armon and I offered to help. After a few minutes, I realized the lug wrench was missing, and we could do nothing without the proper tools.

At the time, I did not realize Stacy's flat tire was no accident. It was a divine appointment orchestrated by God Himself. As I apologized for not being able to change the tire, I pulled out a card and invited her to church. Have you ever gotten a funny look when inviting someone to church? I did that day!

Little did I know that Stacy had been praying that God would lead her to the right church. Stacy came the next Sunday and brought nine people with her. The following Sunday she returned with eleven people. Since that day on the side of the road, Stacy has not missed a single Sunday. Stacy and her husband are always present and bringing someone with them.

Armon learned the importance of being sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and the urgent need to share his faith. Because of that July day on the side of the road, our church has been blessed with Stacy, Bruce, and six children. Armon has since implemented a soul-winning class to teach others how to witness. "Reaching one, so they can reach one, so they can reach one." Isn't this what true discipleship is all about? □

*Chad Kivette and his family are home missionaries to Grand Junction, Colorado.*

# DISCIPLESHIP

## KEEP IT SIMPLE!

BY DEXTER GUIN



Discipleship is not complicated. Develop a good plan, buy good study materials, and give new converts a steady dose of fellowship.

**MANY YEARS AGO, A POPULAR PSYCHOLOGIST** coined the phrase, “More truths are caught than taught!” I thought about that statement as we raised our children. If that principle is true in child rearing, it is also true in developing new Christians. Young Christians learn more at church and around other faithful Christians than we can imagine.

They learn how to dress appropriately, how to sing hymns, and how to pray. They learn the importance of personal devotions, and how the Word of God affects daily life. Bit by bit, they experience discipleship.

Many discipleship studies are available, each with strengths and weaknesses. No matter which study used, each church should provide a course of instruction for new converts. Our church uses a little booklet from Partners in Ministry called “Seven Steps To Joy,” written by Tom Ward, Sr. The truth is, however, that most new convert courses seldom last more than a few weeks.

The process of discipleship goes far beyond a short series of lessons. True discipleship takes months and sometimes years. Often, new believers have a deep history of sin and may require longer periods of time to grow. They may need more individual help to gain victory in their lives. While discipleship studies are both helpful and productive, new believers need more in-depth, richer, fuller, and meaningful ways to ensure they mature into healthy strong believers.

One of the biggest steps for new believers is to become anchored and involved in a local church. Each new convert needs to be encouraged to start attending a local church immediately. A convert can receive no better help than being around other faithful Christians. Faithfulness in mature believers does wonders to encourage faithfulness in young converts. As a teenager, I remember hearing Hank Hollis (my pastor) say often, “We may not be able to do a lot of things, but we can all be faithful.” How true that has proven to be throughout the years.

It is also important to offer the new convert basic instruction in areas such as assurance of salvation, baptism, personal Bible reading, etc. The more that people are exposed to truth, the more likely they will absorb it.

Discipleship is not complicated. Develop a good plan, buy good study materials, and give new converts a steady dose of fellowship. No six, eight, 10, or even 12-week course will do more for a new Christian than a steady diet of regularly scheduled church services.

Remember that more truths are caught than taught! Simple? Yes. True? Yes. Those who are saved and immediately get involved in a good, Bible teaching, praying, and preaching church will grow in their faith!

So, how can we disciple a new convert? Love them enough to invite them to Sunday School, bring them to church at night, and ask them to join you for Bible study each Wednesday. In general, embrace them as a new member of the family of God. By doing so, you will love them into a closer relationship with Christ. Over time, you will be amazed at how much more they have caught than they have been taught! □

*Dexter Guin and his family are currently serving as home missionaries in Colorado Springs, Colorado.*

ATION OFFICE  
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0 MAY 1999  
PANAMA

# PASSPORT TO DISCIPLESHIP

By Judy Lytle

"I THANK THE LORD EVERY DAY FOR THE EXPERIENCES He allowed me to have as a result of E-TEAM 2006. I feel as if the Lord has allowed me to grow up mentally and spiritually. I just wanted to express to you both what an impact you have made on my life.... I am praying for you every day."

An E-TEAM participant sent this e-mail in January 2007 to his leaders of the previous summer. The words convey the bond often formed between students and leaders of E-TEAM.

Although they are an essential component of E-TEAM, leaders are seldom celebrated. Leaders may be tall or short, newlyweds or grandparents, employed or retired. Leaders may be missionaries, former missionaries, teachers, pastors, laymen, employees, and employers. Usually, leaders are a married couple.

## Profile of an E-TEAM Leader

David and Pat Shores have led E-TEAMS to St. Croix (2002), Uruguay (2003), and Brazil (2004). The Shores were introduced to the vision of FWB student missions by then retired missionaries Ken and Marvis Eagleton. Ken called his program TEAM—an acrostic for Teens Equipped and Active in Missions. The Shores say, "We were enthused, excited, and elated at the possibility of FWB young people visiting missionaries on the field, assisting in their ministry." The program needed young volunteers to participate, and it needed adults to donate time, energy, and leadership.

"We never dreamed we'd someday lead such a group," Pat declared. "When asked to do so, we carefully considered the responsibilities, prayed for guidance, and honestly evaluated our ability to take on this wonderful task. We accepted the challenge—in spite of being retirement-aged, unseasoned travelers."

During the 20-hour flight to Sapporo, Japan, a team member asked Pam and Seldon Buck (France 2006 and Hokkaido 2007) why they chose to be E-TEAM leaders. "He really wanted to know why we were willing to give up a big part of our summer to take a group of teenagers we didn't know to a foreign country. If asked that question prior to our first E-TEAM experience," Pam mused, "we may have said we wanted to become more involved in missions, or we wanted to visit a mission field. But after two E-TEAM trips, we confidently assert we participate to

establish relationships with, and impact the lives of the young people involved."

Retirees Billy and Geneva Walker served as E-TEAM leaders to Panama (2006) and Chicago (2007). When first approached to lead an E-TEAM, they replied, "Are you serious? You really want this senior adult couple to be leaders of a group of teenagers for three weeks?" Once over the shock, the 70-something couple was excited at the chance to be involved in mission work. "It was a challenge to keep up with 10 students," Geneva asserted, "but it was thrilling to watch as they realized they have a purpose in life."

## We Are Family

"This was my very first E-TEAM experience, so I was a little nervous about being in charge of seven teenagers for three weeks. They were great kids!" exclaimed Jane Johnson. Seven months before E-TEAM began, Pete and Jane began praying daily for "their" teenagers. Seven students were assigned to their Cuba team, and the Johnsons prayed for one each day of the week. They also began building relationships by e-mailing the students often.

"When we met, we immediately 'clicked' and felt like we were family. We had daily meetings, devotions, and prayer, and showed our teenagers we truly cared about them. By the end of the trip, our teens were calling us Mom and Dad, and we actually felt like they were our own kids. What a great experience!" Jane concludes, "We still e-mail back and forth and are interested in what our kids are doing."

"We became a family that loved and cared for each other, not just members of a team," pronounced Pam and Seldon Buck. "We saw each other at our best...and worst! We laughed together, cried together, and prayed together."

## The Potential

"Each year we've lived the same cycle: meet the students, get acquainted, share, give and take, facilitate reconciliations, pray together, learn together, finalize the program for the field, and finally, go to the airport as a team," proclaim veteran leaders Pat and Dave. The Shores saw the young people, not just as high school kids, but also as the future of FWB missionary activities. "We found their new ideas, fresh approach to ministry, beyond-belief talents, and commitment to serving the Lord refreshing. We fell in



Clockwise from top: Mary Yerby (L) with an E-TEAM member; Peter Johnson; Pam Buck meets new friends in Japan.

## E-TEAM Eagleton-Teens Equipped and Active in Missions

- Established 1992
- Over 600 young people have participated, many multiple times.
- 1992—one team, 10 students, two leaders
- 2007—nine teams, 76 students, 18 leaders

## E-TEAM LEADER REQUIREMENTS

- Married couple
- Good health
- Commitment to entire 3.5 week E-TEAM experience
- Desire to disciple and mentor youth
- Member of FWB Church

To apply to be an E-TEAM leader or for more information, please contact us at:

[go@fwbgo.com](mailto:go@fwbgo.com)  
(877) 767-7736

love with them, and worked to bring them together, not as a group, but as a team.”

### The Experience

Dave and Pat make it sound simple: “As leaders, all we had to do was get them together, escort them to the designated country, introduce them to the host missionaries, then step back and watch God glorify Himself through them.”

Usually, upon arrival the team is ushered straight to ministry. Both leaders and students work hard. They paint, clean, and roof. They lead devotions, plan daily activities, and pray. They present open-air song and mime programs, conduct children’s carnivals at churches, give gospel pre-

sentations in schools and civic organizations. They pass out tracts and invitations, testify and preach on the streets and in parks.

Teams receive a first-hand glimpse of mission work in progress. They learn that people worship differently, but God stirs hearts and is active around the world. Cultural differences don’t negate an individual’s need for God. Seeing missions up close and personal is life changing.

“I knew the history of our FWB work in Cuba, and having the opportunity to go was exciting,” writes Jane Johnson. “I saw Mom and Pop Willey’s legacy, and was encouraged to find our Cuban brothers and sisters in Christ are still as faithful as they were back in the 1950s. What a blessing

## E-TEAM LEADERS

Ken and Marvis Eagleton  
Brazil, 1992  
Uruguay, 1993  
Mexico, 1995  
Brazil, 1996  
Russia, 1997

Terry and Jamie Eagleton  
Panama, 1993  
Côte d'Ivoire, 1994  
France, 1995  
Russia, 1997  
Spain, 1999

Fred Hersey  
Japan, 1994

Jonathan and Teresa Snow  
Japan, 1994  
Panama, 2007

Kenneth and Rejane  
Eagleton  
Brazil, Araras, 1997

Glenn and Janet  
McReynolds  
Panama, 1997

Ron and Linda Callaway  
Cuba, 1998  
Cuba, 2001

Steve and Judy Lytle  
Panama, 2000  
Cuba, 2005

Jim and Mark Cowart  
Brazil, Belo, 2000

Suzanne Franks  
Brazil, Belo, 2000

Tyrell and Bethany Wagner  
Puerto Rico, 2001  
Cuba, 2006

Robin Shipp and Rebecca  
Webber  
St. Croix, 2001  
Chicago, 2002

Fred and June Hersey  
Japan, 2001

David and Pat Shores  
St. Croix, 2002  
Uruguay, 2003  
Brazil, 2004

Stan and Brenda Bunch  
Puerto Rico, 2002  
Cuba, 2003

Tim and Terri DeCresie  
Mexico, 2002  
Mexico, 2003  
Mexico, 2004

Sean and Jill Warren  
Japan, 2002

Mark and RaeAnn Cowart  
France, 2002

Shane and Joy Davison  
Panama, 2003  
Uruguay, 2004

Rodney and Mary Yerby  
Tokyo, 2003  
Russia, 2005  
Brazil, 2007

Jerry and Janice Banks  
Hokkaido, 2003

Sean Mercer  
Nashville, 2003

Curt and Mary Holland  
Brazil, 2003

Josh Crowe  
Chicago, 2004

Mark and Shannon  
McWhorter  
Hokkaido, 2004

Michael and Wendy Walker  
Panama, 2004

Tyler and Kellie Penn  
St. Croix, 2004

Curt Holland  
Brazil, 2005

Amber Holland  
Brazil, 2005

David and Bethany Lytle  
Hokkaido, 2005

Stephen and Denise Gray  
France, 2005  
Hokkaido, 2006

Mick and Rachel Donahue  
Panama, 2005

Tommy and Barbara Boyd  
Uruguay, 2005  
Mexico, 2007

Josh and Alicia Crowe  
Tokyo, 2006

Dave and Becky Franks  
Mexico, 2006

Shiloh and Nicole Hackett  
St. Croix, 2006

Sam and Monicabeth Horne  
Spain, 2006

Billy and Geneva Walker  
Panama, 2006  
Chicago, 2007

Stephen and Beverly Parks  
Chicago, 2006

Seldon and Pam Buck  
France, 2006  
Hokkaido, 2007

Peter and Jane Johnson  
Cuba, 2007

Michael and Sherry Wolf  
Tokyo, 2007

Jamie and Monica  
Greenway  
St. Croix, 2007

Jonathan and Teresa Snow  
Panama, 2007

Jim and Linda Hutchison  
France, 2007

the Cuban believers were to each member of our E-TEAM! We wanted to help them and encourage them, but I feel we were the ones encouraged."

### The Rewards

The bond does not end when good-byes are said. Many continue to stay in touch through e-mails and phone calls. "We have answered our cell phones many times to hear the voice of one of our team members saying 'Hey, just called to talk,' or 'How are you doing?'" says Pam Buck. "These young people have forever touched our hearts and enriched our lives. We pray for them, we give guidance when asked, we console them in sad times, and we celebrate with them in happy times. Encouraging them to always put God first and seek His will for their lives, seeing them leave their comfort zone and take a hard look at the things they value most, watching God open their eyes and reveal the Great Commission, building relationships with young people who love God and want to serve Him—all of these are reasons to be E-TEAM leaders."

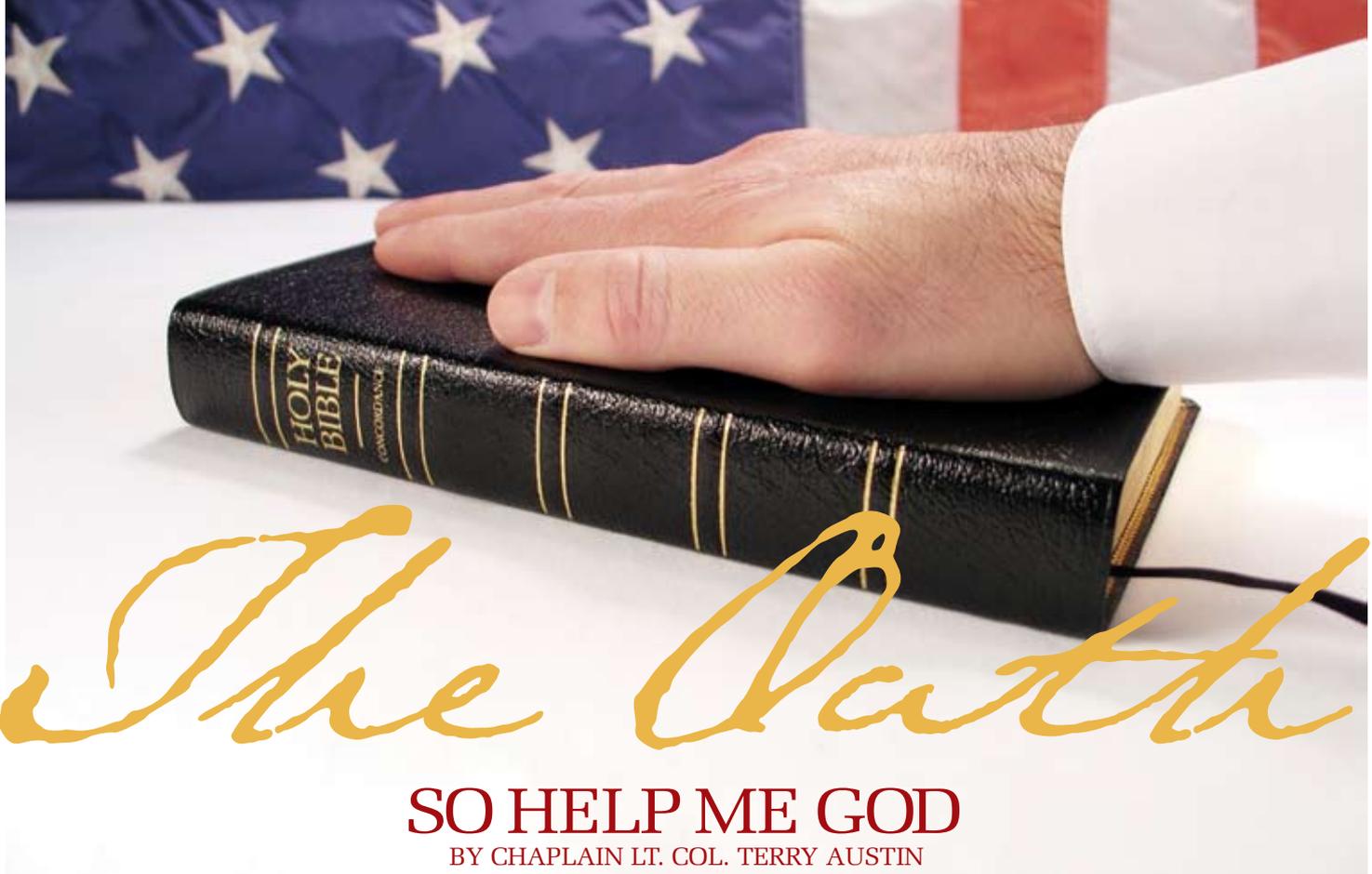
Billy and Geneva attest, "Sometime in the future, we believe we will see some of these young people actively engaged in mission work. It's humbling to think maybe we had a part in their decisions."

### The Challenge

The importance of the leader role becomes more and more apparent with each E-TEAM we send. Not everyone is cut out to be an E-TEAM leader. Not everyone can be away from work or family for three weeks in the summer. Not everyone has the health and stamina to meet the demands of the rigorous schedule. But those who answer God's call to be involved in cross-cultural ministry and mentoring teens are in for the challenge of a lifetime. Effective leaders approach the entire experience as a ministry and mentoring opportunity, not just a trip overseas.

Are you up to the challenge? □

*Judy Lytle is the recruitment coordinator for the International Missions Department. She and her husband Steve live in Antioch, TN.*



**SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MAN'S** existence, making promises, taking vows, and swearing oaths has served as a contract between two parties. It is hard to believe that not long ago, one could give his word, and it was as good as a written contract. In today's society, with its altered lifestyles and convoluted definitions, a promise is recorded on paper and witnessed by others. Each contract is accompanied by so much paperwork—requiring so many signatures—that sometimes we forget the basic principle of a promise, a personal commitment to fulfill our word.

Many Christians raise objections to taking oaths or swearing an oath. This, among other reasons, has caused military service to be looked upon with disfavor. Yet throughout history, the Christian community has fought and sacrificed their lives in the military to ensure we remain a free society, free to worship God as we choose. Many have served God and country while displaying great honor, yet secretly torn because of the military oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. I believe many

soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and other patriots struggle with an inner conflict because they lack understanding about oaths and taking oaths.

As a young Marine, I remember my own struggle with this dilemma. I took an oath as a Marine, but after trusting Christ as my Savior, I read in Matthew 5:34, where Jesus said I was not to swear an oath at all.

How could I be a good Christian and fight for my country? How could I swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic while maintaining integrity to God and His Word?

An oath is a solemn appeal to God, asking Him to witness the truth of a statement or the sincerity of a promise. The one taking the oath appeals to God to help him fulfill that obligation. Oaths are binding, not to be used lightly or in normal conversation. Yet, when Jesus instructed His followers not to swear at all during the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:33–35), this was not the case. Society in His day treated oaths far too casually.

We must interpret these words of Jesus in light of biblical history and the audience to whom Jesus was speaking. Jesus taught us to be deadly serious about taking oaths, calling on God to help us fulfill our obligation in sincerity and total commitment. An oath or vow goes far beyond an agreement between two people. An oath is an agreement between the person swearing the oath and God. There can be no greater commitment.

When I trusted Christ as my personal savior I made a commitment; I took an oath; I made a vow. When I raised my right hand as a Marine and as a soldier, I stood before God in total sincerity and asked Him to be my witness, to help me fulfill my vow.

God has blessed our country with men and women willing to take a solemn oath to defend our country and our way of life. We are free—free to worship as our consciences lead us. It is imperative that we live worthy of their sacrifice and take time to thank those who sacrifice so much to provide us the freedom we enjoy. □

*Chaplain Terry Austin is currently stationed in Lorton, Virginia.*

LIFELONG DONORS OF TIME AND MONEY  
LEAVE A GREAT EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW.

# Legacy

## GLEN AND LILLIAN SESSIONS

LIST HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS AS HEIRS



“A FREE WILL BAPTIST COUPLE, BURDENED FOR the cause of missions, has named the National Home Missions and Foreign Missions Departments as recipients of their entire estate.”

This was the beginning of an article written in 1984 by John Gibbs, then director of development for the Home Missions Department. The article referred to Glen and Lillian Sessions who made their home on a mini-farm in Hitchita, Oklahoma. The Sessions were pleased to know that their estate would be instrumental in bringing people to Christ long after they were in Heaven.

Glen and Lillian celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on February 14, 2005. Lillian went to be with the Lord later that year, followed in 2006 by her husband, Glen. The couple loved the Lord and felt a deep burden for missions, both at home and around the world. Their forethought and generosity will make it possible for Free Will Baptist missionaries to continue to take the name of Christ around the world.

Perhaps other Free Will Baptist families will consider the Lord's work when penning their wills. Brother and Sister Sessions were always reluctant to receive any credit or praise. They felt their gift was a small contribution compared to what they gained by their salvation.

Those who would like to follow the example set by Glen and Lillian Sessions are encouraged to contact the FWB Home Missions or FWB International Missions Departments at PO Box 5002, Antioch, Tennessee, 37011-5002, for more information on how you can help further the gospel of Christ long after the Lord has called you home.

# of Giving

BY RICHARD ADAMS

## HYMAN WITH THE LORD

REVEREND HERMAN HYMAN OF Santee, South Carolina, went to be with the Lord in January. He was a great servant of the Lord. For many years, he served as a tentmaker (self-supporting church planter) for the Home Missions Department, pastoring the Immanuel FWB Church in Santee.

The church, though small in number, had a big heart for Home Missions. They established a plan to raise a large offering for Benjamin Randall Day, and 25 church members put the plan to work. In 2002, their offering was \$11,799.78, or \$472.00 per person. In 2003, they gave \$13,930.41, or \$557.22 per person. In 2004, the last year Hyman pastored the church, their offering was \$16,349.57—an offering of \$653.98 per member. What an amazing example!

Pastor Hyman wanted to see everyone in the world come to a saving knowledge of the Lord. He especially felt it was important to strengthen our churches in America. He be-

lieved that building more Bible-believing churches would lead to more converts around the world by increasing the number of pastors to fill pulpits, students to send to college, workers for overseas ministry, and supporters to provide for these ministries.

He was also convinced that the world has moved to our doorstep, and we are quickly becoming an ethnically diverse country. Within the increasingly diverse population are more and more people who have never heard the gospel. We must be ready to share the gospel.

Herman was a great man of God, and he and his wife Patsy were real friends to the Home Missions Department. Herman was a great traveling partner and a hard worker in the vineyard for the Lord. The supporters of the Home Missions Department, and countless others whose lives he and his ministry touched, wish to express deep appreciation for his work and his love for the Lord and Free Will Baptists. □

*Dr. Richard Adams is the director of development for the Home Missions Department in Antioch, TN.*

# JCROIS

## JCROIS: GO MAKE DISCIPLES

**I STOOD IN THE DOORWAY LISTENING TO WORDS** that seemed to come directly from the mission statement of JCrois. A young lady stated that every time she attended the annual youth conference she learned something to help in her Christian life. I listened with interest as she told how the 2006 conference on world religions proved especially helpful in responding to the diverse religions she encountered at the University of Nantes.

JCrois (which means “I believe it” in English) is an annual youth conference scheduled the last weekend of August in France. Initiated by FWB missionaries with the help of an American team, and in cooperation with other evangelicals in the area, the conference has a two-fold purpose: 1. Give our Christian youth in France answers to today’s questions, and 2. Provide opportunities for our Christian students to develop leadership skills through hands-on experience. This year’s conference (August 24–26) focused on daring to speak up for Jesus in our present world.

### **FAITH BUILDERS**

Seminars equipped and encouraged participants to start conversations with total strangers, use their spiritual gifts to witness, and provided

other practical means to share their faith. Three of our more mature young adults, accompanied by one of our leaders, actually went to downtown Nantes and began conversations with total strangers...to tell them about Jesus. Even though no one accepted the Lord, the students exchanged cries of victory.

The conference is for Christians, but we have seen the Lord use JCrois to bring participants to salvation. One young lady, a frequent church attendee, gave her heart to the Lord at the 2006 conference and was back again this year to confirm her decision. Last year, at the end of the conference, another girl shocked us with her confession. Although a professing Christian, she had been contemplating becoming a Buddhist. After our seminars on world religions, she asserted she’d never leave the Lord for Buddhism.

Challenging our youth to total commitment to the Lord is always part of our program. Every year invitations to respond are issued. Typically, around 20 young people make some kind of spiritual commitment during the conference.

Our Nantes and St. Sébastien FWB churches join us for the closing service on Sunday morning. At this year’s conference, something extraordinary happened. As attendees were invited to



BY DENNIS TEAGUE

commit to fully serve the Lord, we saw as many adults respond as youth. What a service it was! What an encouragement! Who knows, perhaps this youth conference can be a source of renewal in our churches.

### LEADERS IN TRAINING

Our FWB missionaries carry a small part of the workload for JCrois. Young adult Christians from our churches and others in the area carry the major burden. Thus, they are learning by doing—one of the basic principles of the conference. We give them responsibility, knowing they will have questions. But our answers come in response to real situations they are facing in their lives and/or ministry.

We intentionally unite training and ministry, believing the best way to learn the skills of ministry is by doing ministry. Do they make mistakes? Of course they do. But what a beautiful opportunity for them to learn leadership and discipleship skills, as well as cultivate an attitude of humility.

We just completed our fifth JCrois and most people are saying it was the best organized, with the best program, and the best worship of all. I believe this is the result of the young adult team growing and learning to do ministry. They pre-

pared this year's JCrois while I was on stateside assignment. With help from Matt and Christina Price, they pulled it all together and the Lord blessed. Over the years, my role, and the role of other missionaries, has dramatically changed. In reality, the missionary team plays a supporting role. What a pleasure it is to watch God use these young French people perform the ministry to which He has called them. Many of them are taking the skills they learn at JCrois and using them to minister in their local churches.

So, where do we go from here? Next year's dates are set. The theme is under discussion. We realize we need to expand this ministry. Between now and next year's conference, I will take some of our student leaders and visit churches in Nantes and surrounding areas to present JCrois, creating yet another opportunity for them to learn ministry skills. We also need to find extra income to expand—another challenge for our young adults to develop skills in the Lord's work.

Isn't this my role? To go, and make disciples who will do ministry among their own people.

Isn't that what each of us is called to do? Go, and make disciples. □

*Dennis Teague and his wife Carol are veteran missionaries to Nantes, France.*

# Christmas

## IN A BOX

BY CHRISTI SMITH



**HOT CHOCOLATE. SNOW.** Christmas trees. Good food...and plenty of it. Time with family. These are just a few of my Christmas memories. While international missionaries may have Christmas trees and good food, they typically celebrate the holidays far from their families.

For two years, Josh and I served in Spain as short-term missionaries. One of our favorite memories is receiving gift boxes for our son Nicolas around Christmas. Often the package came from someone we did not know or from a church we had never visited. However, every box served to remind us of the many people praying for and thinking of us even though we were far away. It was also humbling to know they were thinking about and praying for our children.

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AND THEIR  
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[WWW.FWBGO.COM](http://WWW.FWBGO.COM),  
OR CALL  
(877) 767-7736.

After leaving Spain, we returned to Michigan and began to serve in Josh's home church. As a result of our missionary experience, we found creative ways for our youth group to support missionaries. One program we instituted involves each student adopting a missionary kid for the holiday season.

We start early, usually in September, and provide a list of missionary children currently on the field. We ask each student to consider prayerfully which child or teen to adopt. It's a blessing to see the thought and consideration they give to this ministry as they fill a small plastic box with toys, candy, and a letter of encouragement. During the early part of October they bring their packages: packed, wrapped, and ready to ship. We urge them to pray over their box—pray for all the people who will touch the box during its journey and, ultimately, the missionaries who are the box's destination. Josh and I pray the students will realize God is so much bigger than Detroit, Michigan, and He is using them to fulfill His Great Commission.

This Christmas, when you sip hot chocolate in front of your lighted and decorated tree, remember to pray for those who have answered God's call and left their families to share the Gift of Christmas all over the world. □

*Christi Smith and her husband Josh served as short-term missionaries to Spain. They are in the application process to become career missionaries.*



## MIKE PHILLIPS, FWBBC INSTRUCTOR, COMPLETES DOCTORATE



**MIKE PHILLIPS, EXERCISE SCIENCE PROGRAM** Director and Athletic Director at Free Will Baptist Bible College, completed requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree at Middle Tennessee State University in October 2007. The degree will be awarded during graduation ceremonies December 15.

Provost Greg Ketteman said, "We are so pleased for Dr. Phillips and his family. He has worked hard to complete his doctoral studies, while at the same time maintaining his teaching duties at FWBBC, his home responsibilities, and his local church involvement. Mike is such an encouragement and example to our students."

Dr. Phillips' degree is in Health and Human Performance with concentrations in Physical Education and Sport Management. The 60-hour Ph.D. degree program included a dissertation titled "Student-Athletes' Perception of Head Men's Basketball Coaching Competencies at 15 Selected NCCAA Division II Christian Colleges."

Mike has been part of the FWBBC faculty since 2002. He is a member of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville where he serves on the Global Outreach Committee.

"My major concern now," Dr. Phillips said, "will be oversight of the Exercise Science Department at FWBBC and strengthening athletics in general at the college."

## FWBBC SETS SPRING WELCOME DAYS

**FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE** will host Spring Welcome Days on campus March 27-29, 2008, according to Jeff Caudill, director of enrollment services. Some 150 students, plus parents, pastors, and sponsors, are expected to attend the three-day event.

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

The cost to attend Spring Welcome Days is \$35. Students may register online at [www.fwbcc.edu/welcomedays](http://www.fwbcc.edu/welcomedays).

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



## FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE ENROLLS 324 STUDENTS

**FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE** College enrolled 324 students from 25 states and two foreign countries for the 2007 fall semester, according to Dr. Greg Ketteman, Provost. While enrollment statistics indicate a robust student body, the numbers are somewhat lower than last fall's 22-year high enrollment of 383.

Dr. Ketteman said, "We were so pleased to have a large graduating class last spring. At the same time, we recognized that graduating this large group would create challenges for us in terms of fall enrollment. The dip in enrollment is not unexpected. Numbers cannot communicate the quality of our students, and our incoming freshmen are blessed with a great deal of God-given talent and tremendous potential."

At press time on September

19, the college reported 209 dormitory students, 64 commuter students, 24 Adult Degree Program students, and 27 Lifetime Learning students. Officials set the full-time student equivalency at 287. Ninety-eight students are enrolled in ministry-related fields.

By classes, they include 79 seniors, 60 juniors, 72 sophomores, 80 freshmen, 32 non-degree/part-time students, and one special student. There are 164 women and 160 men in the student body.

Explaining why he expects final registration figures to rise, Dr. Ketteman said, "The Adult Degree Program includes two additional registrations in late September and early November. By the time all registrations close next spring and we get a final count, we

anticipate registering close to 350 students for the 2007-2008 academic year."

### By states, students number:

Alabama	10
Arkansas	15
California	2
Colorado	1
Florida	12
Georgia	12
Idaho	1
Illinois	14
Indiana	5
Kansas	3
Kentucky	7
Maryland	1
Michigan	15
Mississippi	6
Missouri	18
North Carolina	46
Ohio	9
Oklahoma	1
Oregon	2
South Carolina	13
South Dakota	1
Tennessee	107

Texas	4
Virginia	15
West Virginia	2
International	2
(Canada, Mongolia)	

President Matt Pinson said, "We've had a great beginning to a promising new academic year with change in the air. The students have brought energy and high expectations to the campus. We're excited about relocation activities, about the new academic programs in pre-nursing and science. We're also delighted with the response to our growing Online/Lifetime Learning program, as well as our Adult Studies Program."

Here are three ways to contact Free Will Baptist Bible College for more information: Call 800-76-FWBBC, email [recruit@fwbcc.edu](mailto:recruit@fwbcc.edu), or visit the college's website at [www.FWBBC.edu](http://www.FWBBC.edu).

# LIFT-OFF!

BY GREG KETTEMAN

**GET READY FOR CHANGE!** Free Will Baptist Bible College is launching new degrees in the fields of pre-nursing, biology education, and biology. Yes, it's different. Yes, it's something we've never done before. Yes, it's necessary. And Yes, I want to tell you why we're making this move at this time. Here are eight reasons why FWBBC is expanding into new academic areas.

- **Because we need scientists, scientific researchers, science teachers, and health care professionals who understand the true source of all that can be known.**

Since 1942, Free Will Baptist Bible College has stood for the truth about the creation of man and the universe as revealed in the Bible. We have trained thousands of pastors, missionaries, Christian men and women who are in business or who are teaching English, physical education, or history. Many of our graduates serve as music ministers, youth ministers, or work in the field of psychology.

While there has been and continues to be a need for Christians in the field of science and health sciences, until now FWBBC has not undertaken the education of Christian young men and women who envision serving the Lord as high school science teachers and nurses, or who are preparing to be physical therapists, dental hygienists, or who plan to go on to medical school, dental school, veterinary school, or pharmacy school. This is changing.

- **Because we want to impact the lives of the bright, gifted, motivated young adults who sense God leading them into careers in nursing, science, medicine, and health care.**

Imagine having 20 or 30 LaVerne Mileys, Paul Gentusos, Mark Pascals, or Molly Barkers enter medical practice or nursing in a few years! Imagine the impact of Christian nurses and doctors who give their time and talents as medical missionaries. Imagine the lifelong impression a Christian biology or chemistry teacher will leave on the lives of hundreds of students. Imagine Christian physical therapists and pharmacists who received their undergraduate degrees from Free Will Baptist Bible College. Imagine the roles that these Christian leaders might have in our churches and communities, in our denomination, and in our world.

- **Because Christian doctors, nurses, and science teachers need the serious grounding in the Word of God that Free Will Baptist Bible College provides.**

We are a Bible college. Every student at FWB Bible College take a 30-hour core of Bible and theology courses. Every course taught at FWBBC is taught in light of the absolute truth of God's Word. A doctor, nurse, science teacher, pharmacist, or physical therapist who receives his undergraduate degree at FWBBC will understand the truth, power, and unity of God's Word and will recognize it as his guide for every part of his life.

- **Because we believe that a Christian worldview should anchor any training in the fields of science and health sciences instead of non-Christian paradigms that currently dominate these fields.**

For too long, young adults who wanted to be trained in the fields of science or health professions have had to go to secular colleges and universities for their undergraduate training. Many

*Eight reasons why Free Will Baptist Bible College is launching pre-nursing, biology education, and biology degrees.*



***“We need Christian thinkers, writers, and ethicists who can skillfully wield the tools of science to serve Christ.”***

of these young adults lose their moorings in secular educational settings dominated by atheistic, evolutionary paradigms. Many gifted young men and women are lost to Free Will Baptists, and sometimes lost to the cause of Christ.

**• Because Christian and public high schools, colleges, and universities need Christian science and health sciences teachers who have been trained from a Christian worldview.**

The lack of science teachers in both Christian and public schools has become a national crisis. In order to deal with this crisis, many states have enacted policies that permit individuals with degrees in science and math to be hired with no teacher education credentials in order to fill the many vacant teaching positions in the schools. A Bible college-trained science teacher, prepared in courses taught from a Christian worldview, will have multiple opportunities to enter teaching.

**• Because there is a great need for Christian thinkers and writers trained in the fields of science and health sciences as the Christian community faces an unprecedented tidal wave of bioethical issues ushered in through advances in science and technology.**

Since the Enlightenment, the Bible has been under assault by secular naturalists for its assertion that God created the earth, plants, animals, people, the solar system, the galaxies, and the universe. Charles Darwin's 19th-century theory of natural selection and evolution of species became the accepted scientific explanation for the existence of plants, animals, and people. Many American colleges and universities originally founded to serve Christian churches and denominations were swept up in the tidal wave of evolutionary theories about origins that gained a foothold in higher education before the industrial revolution. As a re-

sult, for over a century many American public school science teachers, scientific researchers, and medical doctors have been trained under a naturalistic, evolutionary paradigm that does not recognize God.

The scientific method has led to many remarkable achievements in the past century, yet, regrettably, it has also served the godless agenda of secularists as a tool to “debunk” traditional religious beliefs about our origins. Today, as we face new questions about genetics, stem-cell research, and cloning, we need Christians trained in these fields to provide leadership and insight from a biblical perspective. We need Christian thinkers, writers, and ethicists who can skillfully wield the tools of science to serve Christ.

**• Because we need medical doctors who will take a stand against practices such as abortion and euthanasia.**

Today, we are reaping the results of the secularization of medicine and science. Abortion is commonplace and legal, and lawmakers are under pressure to legalize unrestricted genetic engineering and euthanasia. Part of the reason for widespread complacency and even support for these practices is that health and science professionals are not typically trained from a Christian perspective. While we have correctly recognized the great need to address the godless theories of secular humanism in our thinking and writing, our efforts to have a strong Christian influence in medical ethics and practice must include having an important role in the intellectual and spiritual development of those who become doctors, nurses, and scientists.

**• Because the Lord expects us to employ the talents He gave us to glorify Him; He is coming back soon.**

Need I say more?

***So what is FWBBC doing to put qualified instructors in place who can lead the new push into the biological, pre-nursing, and science fields?***

In January 2007, FWBBC employed Mr. Ian Hawkins to anchor the developing science and biology programs. Hawkins—a lifelong Free Will Baptist, an FWBBC alumnus, and a science scholar—holds a double major in chemistry and biochemistry from East Carolina University. He just finished a 70-hour graduate program in biological science at Vanderbilt University and is currently working to complete his doctorate in chemistry at Middle Tennessee State University.

Nine years ago, FWBBC secured the services of Dr. Ahad Nasab to teach math and science as a member of the college's adjunct faculty. Dr. Nasab was converted to Christ after a fellow college student shared the plan of salvation with him. He holds graduate degrees in engineering, physics, and math from Georgia Institute of Technology. Along with Mr. Hawkins, Dr. Nasab will play a pivotal instructional role in the science and biology programs. Dr. Nasab also teaches at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

This fall, a 2+2 Nursing Program with Bel-

mont University has begun. FWBBC students will receive the Associate of Science degree in Biology and, upon acceptance at Belmont, will then be able to graduate with the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree after completion of their final two years at Belmont. FWBBC plans to begin granting its own BSN in 2009 following state Board of Nursing approval.

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Biology Education is also underway this fall. FWBBC science majors will graduate prepared to teach general science, biology, and chemistry. Beginning in fall 2009, students will be accepted into the Bachelor of Science in Biology degree program. This program is designed to prepare young men and women who plan to enter medical, dental, veterinary, or pharmacy schools, or who plan to enter the field of scientific research, or who plan to pursue further training as a dental hygienist or physical therapist.

Do you have questions about the new degree programs? I'd like to hear them. Email me at [gketteman@fwbbc.edu](mailto:gketteman@fwbbc.edu), or call (615) 844-5227. □

*Dr. Greg Ketteman is Provost at Free Will Baptist Bible College.*



*Do you remember?*

*Lifelong friends*

Dr. Johnson's chapel messages

Paul Ketteman's wit

*Rush week*

Leroy Forlines' impressions

*Missions conferences*



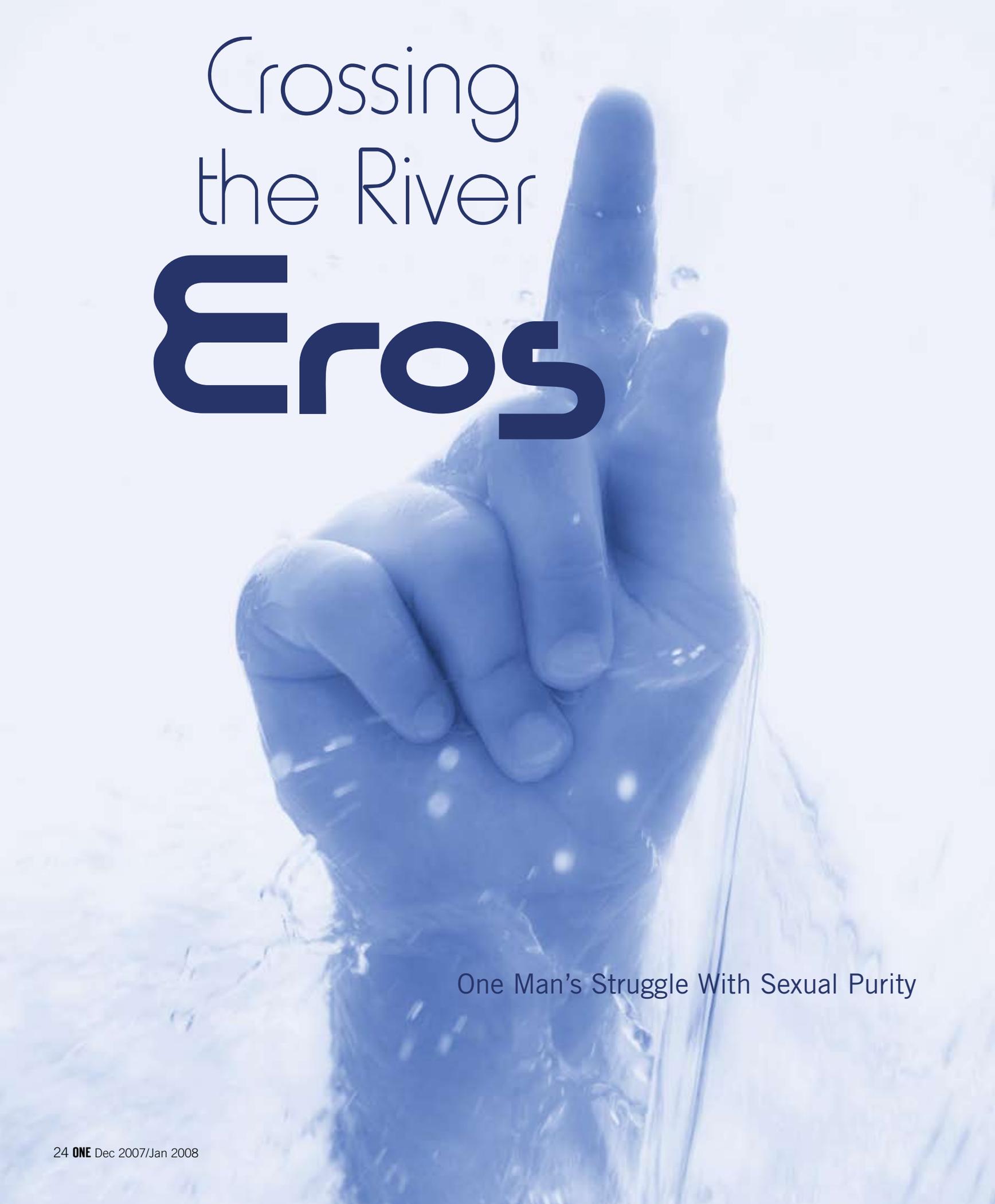
*Will you remember Free Will Baptist Bible College?*

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- Percentage of your estate
- Specific asset
- Residue of your estate



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A hand holding a glass of water, with a blue tint over the entire image. The hand is positioned in the center, holding the glass, and water is visible inside and splashing around the base of the glass. The background is a bright, light blue gradient.

# Crossing the River **Eros**

One Man's Struggle With Sexual Purity

A MAN STANDS ON THE BANK OF A RAGING river. No matter where he positions himself, icy spray drenches him as the torrent hurtles over a breathtaking falls. The man would like to cross the divide to a land that is warm and dry, filled with lush vegetation and beautiful, delicious fruit.

Though the man can see an occasional steppingstone between him and the opposite bank, he cannot imagine crossing the raging waters where many have perished. Some slipped off the rocks and were swept downstream. Others tried swimming across, but the frigid waters paralyzed them.

The man has read the ancient tales of others who crossed this river. Even though the legends describe the great peril, he wonders if perhaps the river was not as wide or deep, or if those who crossed were superhuman, not ordinary men like him.

The river has many names: lust, unbridled passion, lasciviousness, sexual temptation, the way to destruction, river of death. Yet the name Eros seems to capture them all.

Eros is an ever-swelling river, fed constantly by the runoff of a melting culture, and rising in surging currents from long hidden crevices in our souls, from bodily urges, from mental caches of secret images, and from choices made so consistently they become habit.

Many laud the river Eros as a wonderful place for recreation and entertainment. While it is true the falls exhibit a heady excitement, and daredevils riding the waves tantalize the crowds, it is also true that few return from their deadly adventure. It is certain no one escapes unscathed, especially the innocent bystanders who become victims of relationships poisoned by betrayal, bitterness, and broken promises.

***How do I know so much about this river?***

I too stood on the banks of Eros. I longed to cross to the other side where the blessings of faithfulness waited. I waded along the shore trying to find a shallow, safe place to cross. I started to cross, only to fall victim to the tor-

rent, chilled to the bone by its icy waters.

Today, I am nearing the other side. Though I am cold and wet from frequent slips along the way, the far bank is much closer than the lonely shore I left behind seven years ago.

During the crossing, I was encouraged by others who crossed before me. They stood in the shallows and shouted encouragement, called out warnings, extended hands, and encouraged me that, with God's help, I would finish the crossing without being swept away.

As I retrace my steps, please take note. If you are satisfied to play in the waters of Eros in spite of danger, you might as well quit reading now.

### FIRST STEPS

In December 2000, I found myself dabbling along the river's edge, invigorated by the chilly waters. I found a relatively safe (or so I thought) pool on the Internet where I pretended to be a great swimmer. Yet each time I stepped out of the frigid waters, I felt numb. I became more and more emotionally detached from the people around me.

I returned to the pool frequently, even swimming with strangers. At first, I was a little embarrassed, but the strangers encouraged me to enjoy splashing, and gradually I forgot my shame. I often wondered if my fellow swimmers enjoyed the pool as much as I did.

One day, however, when I dove into the river, I couldn't touch bottom; I began to panic. I sensed I was near to drowning, and my life began to flash before my eyes. In my mind, I saw my loved ones standing on the bank, growing distant. I was losing them, and they were losing me, yet they had no idea I had entered the water.

When I finally reached the surface and struggled to shore, I was terrified of the water even though I did not realize its full danger.

They stood in the shallows and shouted encouragement, called out warnings, extended hands, and encouraged me that, with God's help, I would finish the crossing without being swept away.

Soaked and shivering, I began to walk up and down the bank calling out for help. I soon encountered others doing the same thing.

Some leered, taking pleasure in my shame, but others offered me towels with which to dry and cover myself. I found great comfort in knowing I was not alone. I entered an online forum, telling my story to whoever would listen.

Before long, I realized the virtual world of the Internet would not help me cross. The stones were on the very edge of the river. I could step only a few feet from the bank. The rock of “online accountability” seemed wobbly at best. It was part of the shadowy world that had enticed me previously into sinful activities. I dared not put my full weight upon it lest I tumble into the icy water again.

In my search for solid footing, I turned to devices designed to protect people from the dangers of the river. These life jackets—software filters, filtered Internet providers, and accountability software—were by no means foolproof. If I wanted to get wet (which I still enjoyed in spite of my fear), I could find a way around the protective devices. It was time for the next big step—personal confession.

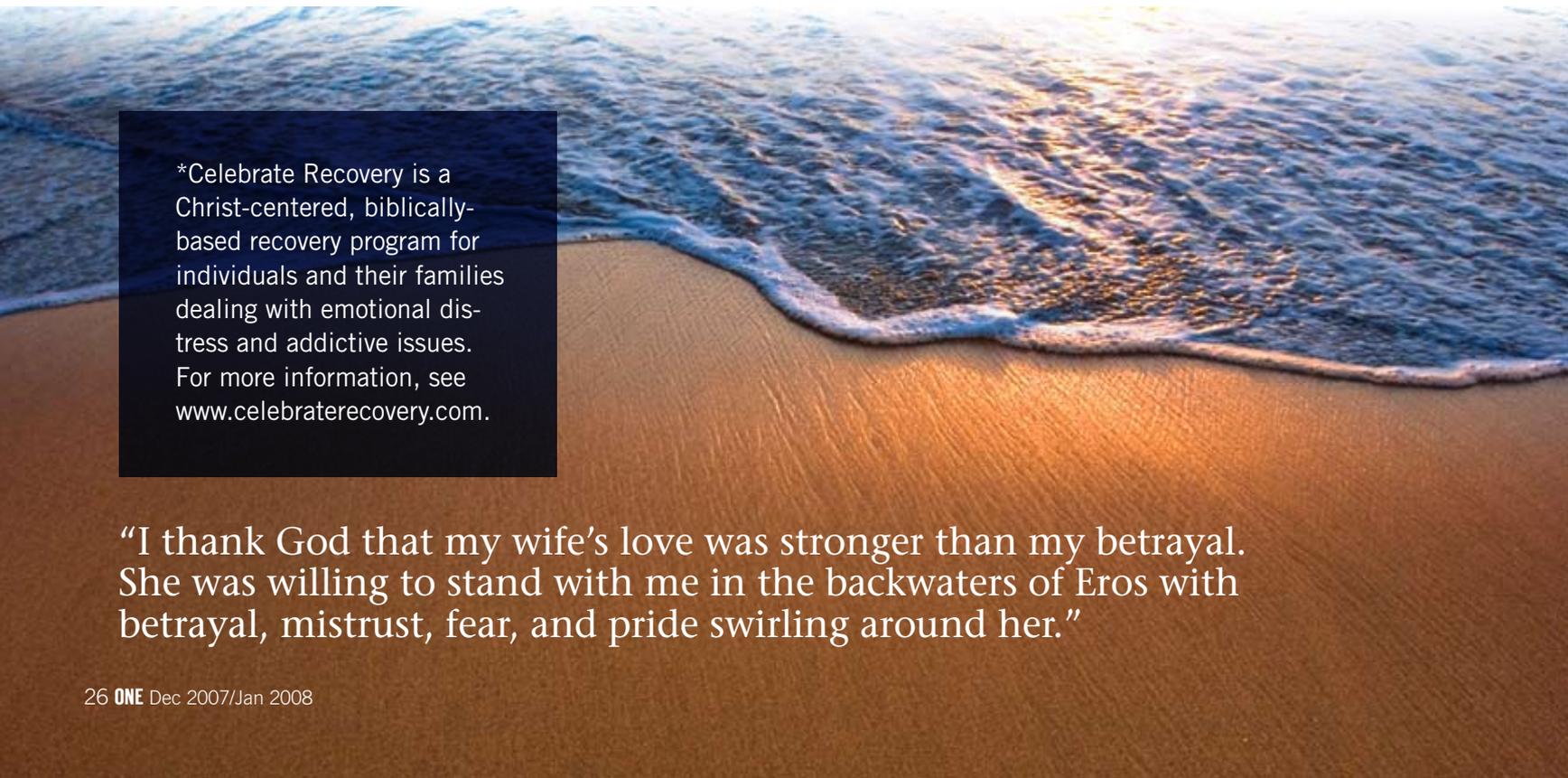
## INTO THE CURRENT

I chose the coldest day of the year for the next step. On a frigid winter's day, I told my wife about my swim in the river. Together, we talked to our pastor. Of the two, he found it easier to extend grace and forgiveness. After the initial shock, my wife had to deal with the emotional upheaval caused by my near drowning in the murky waters of sexual sin. At times, I thought our relationship was over—destroyed by dangerous and selfish choices.

These were the most dangerous and frightening moments of my river crossing. I faced intense emotional rapids, heart-pounding currents of feeling, and the frightful roar of intense soul-searching. Yet each day took me farther from the shore. The process was painful but exhilarating. I had stepped from the shallows of Eros into an ocean of grace. Warm, refreshing, loving water brought healing to my soul.

I thank God that my wife's love was stronger than my betrayal. She was willing to stand with me in the backwaters of Eros with betrayal, mistrust, fear, and pride swirling around her.

Confession paved the way to the secure stone of personal accountability. I joined others crossing the river



\*Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, biblically-based recovery program for individuals and their families dealing with emotional distress and addictive issues. For more information, see [www.celebraterecovery.com](http://www.celebraterecovery.com).

“I thank God that my wife's love was stronger than my betrayal. She was willing to stand with me in the backwaters of Eros with betrayal, mistrust, fear, and pride swirling around her.”



Photo: Mark Cowart

## A MATH SESSION WITH MISTER AL

**SHE JUST COULDN'T GET IT.** EIGHT-year-old Adelaide Delong was having trouble with her math homework. So she decided to ask Mr. Al—her neighbor on Mercer Street there in Princeton—for help. He seemed to know some things about math.

Al was a genial, wizened old gentleman with frizzy white hair surrounding his smiling face like an electric halo. Not only did he help Adelaide with her homework, Al also became known for unofficially tutoring many of the local school children in his home. They would “bribe” him with fudge, and he would share cookies with them.

Adelaide made a wise choice in seeking Mr. Al's help. You see, years earlier while a 26-year-old second-level patent office clerk, Al had done some remarkable things with math and physics.

In a four-month span, he discovered the quantum theory of light, explained Brownian motion, proved the existence of atoms, and developed arguably the most revolutionary equation in the history of science: energy equals mass times the speed of light squared— $e=mc^2$ .

Although he was known to local school children as “Mr. Al,” the rest of the world knew him as Albert Einstein.

Consider these parallels on an infinitely greater scale than Adelaide and Einstein:

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,  
who inhabits eternity,  
whose name is Holy:  
I dwell in the high and holy place,  
and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,  
to revive the spirit of the lowly,  
and to revive the heart of the contrite.  
(Isaiah 57:15)

One writer says that the entire New Testament is a running commentary on this one verse. Here it is: the Bible's message, the heart of the great God and the only hope for people captured in a few lines of poetry written 27 centuries ago. The everlasting God, quintessential in righteousness and far beyond our approach, chooses to live with us who are broken, who have hit the ugly rock bottom of our self-centered sin.

Now the high, holy One comes down to give us life. He lives with us to enliven us. This is the chain of grace—“downward mobility,” as some put it—from *transcendence* to *immanence* for *deliverance*. We can't go where He is, but He can come here, and He has. He does. When He comes to you, welcome Him—not to give you help with math, but to give you life. □

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

and side-by-side we waded on. Their friendships encouraged me greatly. I knew if I slipped and fell, they would reach out and help me regain my balance.

### DEEP WATER

As time passed, I realized something about the water of Eros. Some of it flowed from deep within. I learned to identify the sexual currents, but other strong currents stemmed from childhood events and deep-seated inadequacies I had tried to hide. I encountered a deep and frightening pool called depression. It was the deepest point of the crossing, dark and foreboding.

God directed me to several professional guides who pointed me to the sources of the whirlpools of unresolved anger, the need for control, and co-dependency.

### SEEING THE OTHER SIDE

I discovered Celebrate Recovery\*, and my river crossing was shared within the context of a support group. I

realized that I was not alone. Crowds of men and women brave the cold waters every day—and not just the river Eros. Everyone has a river to cross. For many it is a lifelong journey.

Today, while I still haven't reached the far side of the river, I continue to press on. I have turned my attention to helping others. I have joined those in the shallows, calling out to crossers, warning them about the dangerous holes and raging rapids.

Most important, I direct others to my heavenly Guide who, though often unrecognized, unseen, and unacknowledged, never left my side. I find comfort knowing that He, though tempted like all men, walked across Eros as if it were dry ground. □

*About the writer: Although he has chosen to remain anonymous, the writer has spent nearly 30 years in Christian ministry. As a result of his experience with Eros, he has become a leader in an organization that helps those struggling with addictive behavior and codependency.*



# The Rug Weaver

*Bill and Brenda Ervin*

The first time I saw Mary I thought she could have been Ma Joad from Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. Even before she spoke, I could tell she was strong—someone with backbone. She seemed self-restrained, even melancholy, a woman accustomed to hard times, yet unafraid.

In measured words she began to tell me her business: she had money—plenty of it—but she wanted more use out of it than she was getting. It was as simple as that.

Mary has much experience in making life simple. She has been a rug weaver by avocation, one who interweaves two kinds of thread or fabric—the warp and the woof—to form rugs from rags or elaborate yarns. Her thoughts that day were as simple as rag strips attached to a loom, yet as intricate as a finished rug. She faced two financial issues: her responsibility to care for herself and her determination to benefit others serving the same Lord she served. That was all.

In some ways Mary had already done both. Catherine Mary Weidlich was one daughter among the five sons of an immigrant poultry farmer. As a child, she worked hard in her father's three-story chicken house, mostly out of sight and out of mind. She wondered if neighbors knew she existed, for in her own family she felt invisible.

By the end of high school Mary had grown beautiful, lithe, and self-dependent, but socially overshadowed by others, especially her father and brothers. When she married Hubert and became Mary Myers in her mid-20's, she had a long-established pattern of faithfulness to family, deference to men, public quietness, and deep empathy for others.

I saw this reflected in her eyes during our first conversation. The 61-year-old widow was a stalwart woman who knew what it was to suffer, to struggle, to serve, to do her part. With her chin up, she looked me in the eye, said what she wanted, and wanted more than she was getting.

Mary and Hubert's long marriage was a partnership in money and many other ways. By trade, Hubert was a linotype operator at the Parkersburg News in West Virginia. By hobby, he made furniture and cabinets. He was their main source of income.

However, twisted and misshapen legs and feet limited Hubert's mobility, a result of polio as a child. Mary did the physically strenuous work. When the chimney soot needed sweeping, she climbed onto the roof and took care of it while Hubert scoured the bathtub. In the summer, Mary tended the garden and canned vegetables; Hubert made furniture or sharpened knives.

In other ways, Mary contributed to their income both directly and indirectly. For one thing, she wove rag rugs on two looms and demonstrated weaving at craft shows, adding her sales to their income. Indirectly, she was frugal to a fault—sometimes by choice, sometimes by Hubert's demand. New dresses and luxury items were not approved, therefore not purchased.

Still, Mary talked (when she occasionally talked) about their exchanging "man duties" and "woman duties" because of Hubert's physical limitations. It was something she was committed to, despite the strain it placed on her. Nor was the financial collaboration a slight load. But she adhered rigidly and irrevocably to Hubert's weekly savings plan whether it was comfortable or not. Mary was stoic: "If we can do it, others can," she told her friend Barbara Samms.

After Hubert was gone, talking about money to me or anyone else was not easy. She was never much of a talker anyway, because as Barbara says, "She never was allowed to, either in childhood or in marriage." Invisible as a child, Mary was not asked her opinion. After marriage, Hubert became the spokesman and decision-maker about money and other areas of life as well.

Doing was more important than saying anyway, to Mary's way of thinking. And Mary chose to do what she could. Throughout her married life, Mary kept a valid license but never drove. Despite his disability, driving was something Hubert could manage well enough with a few mechanical modifications. So Mary chose to stand aside, to defer to him. "If I drive, it will take away from him," she said.

Mary's life, like her rug weaving, has been paradoxically simple yet richly complex. She always knew her mind, but she rarely spoke it. She earned money, but another told her how to use it. Her looms were, in some ways, the frame on which she strung, not only the mottled threads of warp and woof, but her very life.

Mary engaged herself with weaving, and her kind of weaving—on a floor loom—occupied all of her body and mind. In simplest terms, weaving occurs when longitudinal warp threads interweave with latitudinal woof threads.

A loom facilitates that process by holding the warp taut so that the woof can be interwoven with them.

Don't forget, too, that weaving is a precision craft. The preparation begins with a design plan. Next, you select colors and yarn (or fabric strips if you are weaving a rag rug), thread the heddles that will guide the warp strands, load the shuttle's bobbin with the woof yarn or strips, and if all has gone well, you can then begin to weave.

Mary refers to weaving as a full body workout—feet press the treadle and hands manipulate the shuttle, first to one side, then the other. The warp and woof: interweave, interweave, interweave, again and again and again with no rest for the weaver. Gradually, a pattern emerges and a rug takes shape, blossoming into a finished creation.

By the time I met Mary, she had already done what she could—everything was in place on the loom, so to speak. She had a simple financial design in mind: to provide for herself for the rest of her life and to give generously to those

who served the Lord. The warp and woof were ready, the heddles threaded, and the shuttle poised for weaving.

When we sat down to talk about money, we talked simply about what her financial "rug" would look like when completed: This plan would

- preserve the principle she had accumulated.
- benefit her financially very well because of her age.
- increase her cash flow to meet her long-term needs.
- give lasting gifts to the Lord's work.
- offer good tax benefits.

Within a few weeks, Mary had pressed the treadle and moved the shuttle—the weaving had begun. She funded a Charitable Gift Annuity that would do what she wanted to do. Over the next six years, she arranged five more gift annuities that continue to sustain her financially today and will benefit the work of Free Will Baptist Bible College and International Missions for many years to come.

Reflecting back on the warp and woof of Mary's life, I think she, like the Mary who poured rare fragrant oil over Jesus' head and feet, has "wrought a good work." She has done what she could, and her weavings speak as a memorial of her (Mark 14:2-9).

When I asked Mary if I could tell her story, the story of a modest rug weaver whose thrift, planning, persistence, and generosity are a model for us all, she paused for a moment. Then, with a slight smile, she nodded her consent. For Mary believes that we all ought to be doing, not just saying. □

Brenda Evans is a retired English teacher, mother of three, and grandmother of seven. She and her husband Bill live in Nashville, TN.

## THE TWO SIDES OF CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

Gift annuities are like an intricately woven rug that is useful on both sides.

### THE DONOR'S SIDE

- guarantees a partially tax-free lifetime income, based on age.
- gives an additional immediate income tax deduction.
- provides a gift to FWB ministries.
- requires an investment of only \$5,000 or more.

### THE CHARITY'S SIDE

- provides a gift to sustain ministry into the future.
- gives encouragement that the charity's needs will be met.
- allows charity to make long-term budgetary planning.

A comptroller talks about accountability...finance-based and faith-based.

# The Accountability



**TRADITION SAYS THE APPROPRIATE GIFT** for the fifth wedding anniversary is a wooden item. While a modest gift of this kind can normally be purchased for a loved one for a few hundred dollars, Corporate America recently “celebrated” the fifth anniversary of an arranged marriage that will drain millions of dollars from corporate bank accounts. The union was forged with the signing of The American Competitiveness and Corporate Accountability Act of 2002, better known as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

The legislation was penned in response to a series of corporate scandals involving improper accounting techniques that led to the misstatement of company financials—and ultimately—the prosecution and subsequent conviction of numerous well-known and respected members of the corporate community.

Just as the intent of the legislation was to restore financial accountability public corporations, the Word of God (which, by the way, has been the standard of accountability for generations) sets

forth the same principle for the Christian, both individually and corporately.

## Faithful Managers

Although each publicly traded company is responsible to many, the organization primarily answers to the owner or primary stockholder. Failure to maintain or increase the value of the stockholder’s investment is fiscally irresponsible.

In the same way, Christians should faithfully manage the resources God has placed in our care. This personal responsibility must encompass all aspects of our daily life. It is important that we heed the command of Paul by glorifying God in all that we say and do.

God has blessed each of us with a unique ministry and equipped us to be faithful managers by increasing His “investment” in us. When we understand that everything belongs to God and is merely “on loan” to us, it is far easier to dedicate ourselves to the task of leading others to Christ through daily interaction. In business terminol-

# Factor



By Craig Mahler



ogy, our task is to increase “the bottom line” by producing “net income” for the Kingdom.

## Fruitful Followers

When Jesus called the 12 disciples in Matthew four, He promised to make them soul winners if they faithfully followed Him. We have the same promise. Our “bottom line” for the Kingdom is to reach others, so they too experience assurance of salvation and the transforming presence of God.

That’s why we must ask for God’s protection from the appearance of evil. Do you know the heartbreaking reality about the scandals that led to the ratification of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act? The lives of many innocent individuals were adversely affected through no choice of their own.

It is the same when Christians are slothful or lack discipline. Not only can the financial well being of others be affected, but our actions have an eternal impact.



*Reverend Craig Mahler is comptroller at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He serves as youth pastor at First Free Will Baptist Church in Carthage, Tennessee.*

## Face the Facts

So how do the architects of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act ensure that accountability is restored to the business community? The answer is the audit, a thorough examination of company financials by an independent and unbiased source.

Christians too face a thorough examination that is both necessary and profitable for every child of God, and God is the examiner! Churches and individuals often fall into the trap of comparing themselves to others. We must remember that we are accountable to God individually. We will answer to Him for every action.

Here’s a provoking and sobering thought—many of us are not as responsible with God’s investment in our lives as we think we are, or as others think we are. With that in mind, we must take whatever measures are necessary to restore accountability to God. Start today. After all, God’s final audit is already scheduled. □



# the dangers of debt

Norma Jackson Goldman

## According to USA Today,

“soaring healthcare costs are hitting seniors at a time when more employers are cutting back on retiree medical and pension benefits.” Yet with advances in healthcare and lifestyle, people are living longer—75.5 years for men and 90.7 years for women! Contrast those figures with a life expectancy in 1957 of 66.4 for men and 72.7 for women. What does this mean for people contemplating retirement or those who are already there?

While the essentials of a good retirement plan might be in place, unusual increases in any category of expense could cause a comfortable budget to become extremely tight. Seniors report the major budget-busters are overuse of credit, rising health care and prescription drug costs, and higher real estate taxes. These are but a few of the reasons seasoned financial professionals urge seniors to continue saving into retirement, to live beneath their incomes, to avoid credit, and to resist taking on new debt.

In addition to higher living expenses, many seniors make unwise choices, especially when they acquire new debt with no way to repay it. Consider an average couple in Charlotte, NC. Wife Carolyn is 65 and husband Charles is 68. After Carolyn developed serious health issues, the couple depleted their savings and now use credit cards to pay medical

bills. Earlier, they took out loans to help a grandchild with college expenses, using all their discretionary funds to do so. This choice, however well intentioned, has put them at risk. Carolyn can no longer work, and Charles feels he must stay at home to help his wife. Unfortunately, the unwise earlier choice means that Charles must work at least part-time to keep their heads above water, with no hope of repaying the education loan.

Others, through no fault of their own, encounter serious, life-threatening ailments that consume huge amounts of income and/or savings. Catastrophic illnesses easily deplete otherwise healthy savings and devour home equity—not to mention the retirees' peace of mind.

The result of these demands for dollars is that great numbers of seniors are tempted to take out a second mortgage, jeopardizing the security of what is likely their greatest single investment. Hardly a day passes that homeowners do not get one or two solicitations, urging them to use a second mortgage to pay off credit card debts, medical bills, or the costs of remodeling.

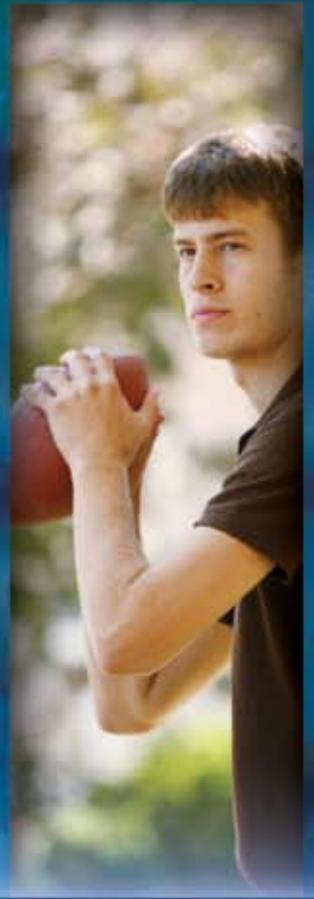
However, the pressure of a second mortgage coupled with other unexpected expenses often proves too daunting, causing many retirees to file bankruptcy. Seniors are now the fastest growing segment of the population to file personal bankruptcy. Seniors who opted for early

retirement continue to move reluctantly back into the workforce, albeit at lower salaries. While the effects of the huge surge in baby boomer retirees has not been fully felt, over the next decade or so the full impact could erode the two systems that currently shore up retirement income—Social Security and Medicare. Some economists believe that when this happens, a decrease in benefits is inevitable.

In 1992, 53.8% of seniors 55 years old were in debt, averaging \$29,309 while only 31.9% of seniors 75 and older were in debt, averaging \$7,769. By 2004, those numbers had soared, with 60.6% of seniors 55 owing an average of \$51,791 and 40.3% of seniors 75 and older owing \$20,234 on average.

As black as this picture appears, there is hope. The ‘preventive medicine’ of regular saving, avoiding credit, and resisting the temptation to take on the debts of others is great prescription for a healthy financial lifestyle. With healthier lifestyles, more senior citizens in the workplace past 65, and many more delaying retirement altogether, there are plenty of opportunities for seniors to avoid the dangers of debt! □

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



*giving you more*

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

[www.FWBBC.EDU](http://www.FWBBC.EDU)



*F*or more than sixty-five years Free Will Baptist Bible College has been entrusted with the education of students for service to Christ, His Church, and His world. Our continued aim is to prepare students who will provide leadership for our churches and missions here and abroad, and serve as salt and light in a variety of professions, bearing witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We're doing this by renewing our commitment to cutting-edge ministry training that meets the needs of Free Will Baptist churches in an increasingly complex world. We're doing it by expanding program offerings, giving students choices in majors and career fields such as biology, health sciences, and nursing. We're also doing it by moving forward with plans to relocate the college to a new campus in the Nashville area so that we can better meet the needs of students as we prepare them for leadership and service.

Here at FWBBC, it's all about students who want to do the will of God and about providing the education to help them fulfill their calling. Your support of the Kettelman Scholarship Drive helps students afford an FWBBC education. Many students who receive Kettelman Drive aid would be unable to attend the college were it not for your financial support.

I ask you to partner with us and give a generous Christmas gift for students who need your help. Your gift will enable students to find their calling to leadership and service in the church and community, and be equipped to fulfill that calling—and to change the world. Thank you for your prayerful generosity.

In Christ,

J. Matthew Pinson

“ The Business Department faculty teaches more than facts. They teach practical applications. ”

Kristen Helms  
Business Major



# giving you more POSSIBILITIES

Are you looking for an education in business? Or do you know a student with a penchant for history or biology? No matter what the interest, chances are, FWBBC has a degree that allows you to pursue the career of your choice. Check out our latest degree-offerings:



“ The Biological Sciences at FWBBC make a strong connection between the Bible and Science – two things meant to be interwoven. ”

Nathan Trimble  
Biological Sciences Major

## Bachelor of Science in:

- *Biblical and Ministry Studies Major with General Christian Ministries Track*
- **Biology Education Major**
- *Biology (pre-health related career; accepting majors in 2009)*
- **Business** (with emphases in economics and leadership)
- *Child Development (teacher licensure)*
- **Early Childhood Major**
- *Exercise Science*
- **History**
- *History (teacher licensure)*

## Associate of Science in:

- *Biology (pre-nursing)*
- **Business**
- *Early Childhood*

“ FWBBC offers many opportunities, both for ministry and for the secular work place. After receiving my undergraduate degree in History, I plan to enroll in law school. ”

Matthew Bracey  
History Major



*“The Music Department at FWBBC has some of the best music professors in the field. They care about us and want us to excel in our studies.”*

*Josh Owens  
Church Music Major*



*giving you more*  
**PROGRAMS *of* STUDY**

Biblical Studies

Biblical Studies (teacher licensure, 7-12)

Biology (health sciences, beginning 2009)

Biology Education (teacher licensure, 7-12)

Business Administration

Business and Economics

Business and Leadership

Child Development and Learning  
(teacher licensure, K-6)

Christian Education

Church Music Ministries

Church Music and Youth Ministry

Early Childhood

Early Childhood (teacher licensure)

English

English (teacher licensure, 7-12)

Exercise Science

General Christian Ministries

History

History (teacher licensure, 7-12)

International Studies

Interdisciplinary majors

Missions

Music Education (music teachers, K-12)

Music (vocal performance)

Music (instrumental performance)

Pastoral Ministry

Physical Education (P.E. teachers, K-12)

Pre-Law

Pre-Med

Pre-Nursing

Psychology

Sports Management

Youth Ministry

ROTC

Associate of Arts Degree

Associate of Christian Ministries Degree

Associate of Science in Biology Degree

Associate of Science in Business Degree

Associate of Science in Early Childhood Degree

Evangelical Training Association (ETA) Diploma



# KETTEMAN STUDENT *Scholarship Drive*

## *Investing in our students' lives*

For more than 65 years, FWBBC has been giving you more — more pastors, missionaries, educators, and musicians. And now we're giving you more nurses, attorneys, counselors, and business professionals. Named in honor of Paul Ketteman, our first student and long-time promotional director, the Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive raises funds for institutional scholarships and allows FWBBC to give even more to our denomination and to the kingdom of God.

With all of the exciting opportunities offered at FWBBC, we need your support more than ever before. Please join us in our efforts by donating to the Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive. You can help our students attain the skills needed to make a living and, more importantly, make a life through FWBBC.

*Your generous donation will help provide our students with:*

- Institutional scholarships and financial aid for those seeking to excel at FWBBC
- More academic programs
- Funding for overseas internships
- An opportunity to take advantage of our new Online Learning program
- An emphasis on spiritual development through prayer groups and weekly Christian services

*Won't you be a part of this commitment to invest in our students' lives?*

## *Ways to donate*

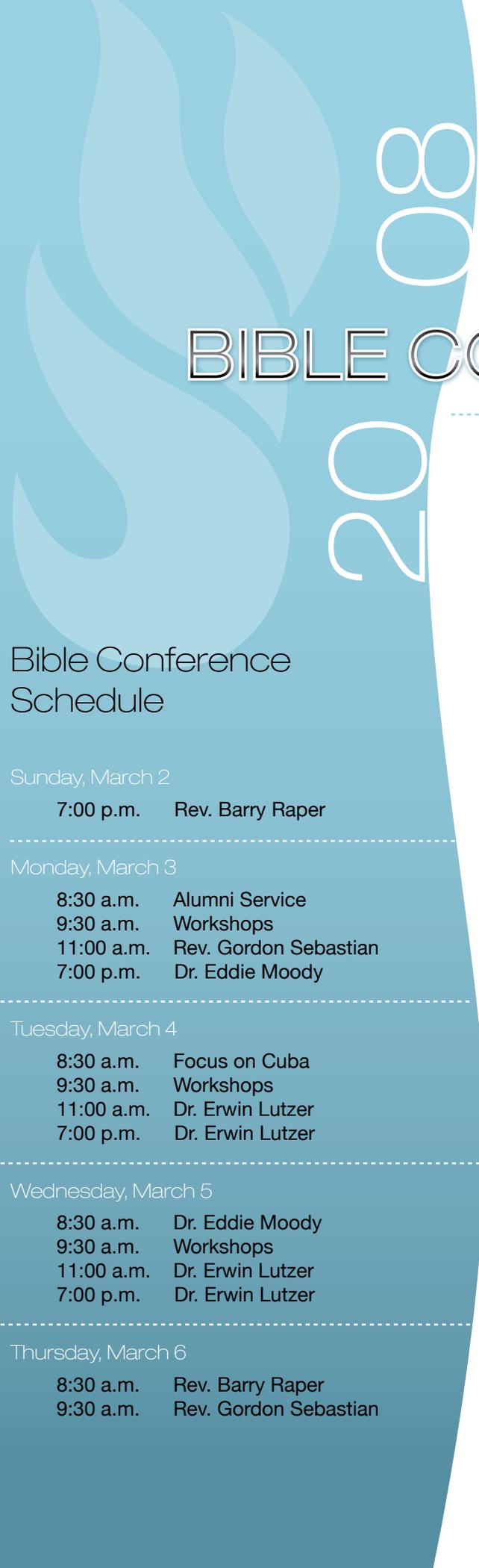
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Please fill out the information on the addressed Ketteman envelope that is attached in this insert and submit it, along with your gift to FWBBC.

### *Give by phone:*

Make a credit card donation by calling 800-76-FWBBC.

Learn more about giving opportunities by visiting [www.fwbcc.edu/Giving](http://www.fwbcc.edu/Giving).



# FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE BIBLE CONFERENCE MARCH 2 - 6

## Bible Conference Schedule

Sunday, March 2

7:00 p.m. Rev. Barry Raper

Monday, March 3

8:30 a.m. Alumni Service  
9:30 a.m. Workshops  
11:00 a.m. Rev. Gordon Sebastian  
7:00 p.m. Dr. Eddie Moody

Tuesday, March 4

8:30 a.m. Focus on Cuba  
9:30 a.m. Workshops  
11:00 a.m. Dr. Erwin Lutzer  
7:00 p.m. Dr. Erwin Lutzer

Wednesday, March 5

8:30 a.m. Dr. Eddie Moody  
9:30 a.m. Workshops  
11:00 a.m. Dr. Erwin Lutzer  
7:00 p.m. Dr. Erwin Lutzer

Thursday, March 6

8:30 a.m. Rev. Barry Raper  
9:30 a.m. Rev. Gordon Sebastian

## Workshop Schedule

Don't miss the exciting workshops each morning at 9:30 a.m.  
Check the schedule below and decide which workshops to attend.

### MONDAY A.M.

#### COUNSELING MINISTRY

##### **Families in Crisis: When Trauma Strikes**

Dr. Eddie Moody Pastor

Tippett's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, North Carolina

#### PASTORAL / PREACHING

##### **How to Stay 40 Years at One Church**

Reverend Gordon Sebastian Pastoral Consultant

Peace Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, North Carolina

#### MUSIC

##### **More Than Music: Blending Voices in a Choir Setting**

Dr. James Stevens Chairman, Music Department

Free Will Baptist Bible College

#### THEOLOGY & CULTURAL TRENDS

##### **Youth Culture and Ministry Today**

Reverend Barry Raper Program Coordinator,

Christian Education and Youth Ministry Department

Free Will Baptist Bible College

#### OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

##### **Effective Church Publications**

Reverend Bert Tippett Director of Church Relations

Free Will Baptist Bible College

#### FAMILY MINISTRY

##### **Give Them Books, Give Them Wings**

Mrs. Carol Reid Librarian

Free Will Baptist Bible College

# Conference Speakers



**Dr. Erwin Lutzer**

Senior Pastor at Moody Church in Chicago, Illinois.  
Author of 22 books.



**Dr. Eddie Moody**

Pastor, Tippet's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church (Clayton, NC) / Chair, Department of Counselor Education, North Carolina Central University.



**Rev. Gordon Sebastian**

Pastoral Consultant, Peace Free Will Baptist Church (Wilson, NC).



**Rev. Barry Raper**

Program Coordinator, Christian Education and Youth Ministry Department / Free Will Baptist Bible College.

## TUESDAY A.M.

### COUNSELING MINISTRY

**Families in Crisis: Addiction Recovery**  
Dr. Eddie Moody

### PASTORAL / PREACHING

**Building a Church Staff**  
Reverend Gordon Sebastian

### MUSIC

**Stylistic Hymn Playing**  
Dr. Linda Shipley Music Faculty  
Free Will Baptist Bible College

### THEOLOGY & CULTURAL TRENDS

**The Emergent Church: An Evangelical Postmodernism?**  
Dr. Kevin Hester Bible and History Faculty  
Free Will Baptist Bible College

### OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

**Creating an Effective Website**  
Reverend Bert Tippet Director of Church Relations  
Free Will Baptist Bible College  
Eric Thomsen Managing Editor *ONE Magazine*  
National Association of Free Will Baptists

### FAMILY MINISTRY

**Biblical Resources for Christian Families**  
Mrs. Melinda Pinson Wife of the President  
Free Will Baptist Bible College

## WEDNESDAY A.M.

### THEOLOGY & CULTURAL TRENDS

**Where Do We Go From Here?—Becoming a Counter-Cultural Influence in Today's Pluralistic World**  
Dr. Erwin Lutzer Senior Pastor  
Moody Church, Chicago, Illinois

### MUSIC

**Resources for Choirs**  
Dr. James Stevens

### OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

**Building an Evangelistic Church**  
Reverend Gordon Sebastian

### ALUMNI EVENTS

This year the classes of 1958, 1983, and 1998 will be honored. A fellowship meal and a relocation update for all alumni are scheduled Tuesday evening.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

Other special activities on campus and around Nashville will give you a break from services and workshops. Note the features below.

#### Monday Evening 6:00 p.m.

The College Choir

#### Tuesday Evening 5:00 p.m.

Alumni Fellowship Meal and Relocation Update

#### Wednesday Evening 6:30 p.m.

The Music of FWBBC  
Rejoice

For Accommodations near the college, please contact the following hotels. Be sure to tell them that you are attending a Free Will Baptist Bible College-sponsored event.

**Baymont Inn**  
5612 Lenox Avenue  
615-353-0700

**Hampton Inn**  
1919 West End Avenue  
615-329-1144



# Do you know a student who should attend Free Will Baptist Bible College?

Go online to [www.FWBBC.edu/referral](http://www.FWBBC.edu/referral) or fill out the card in this magazine!



*You play an important role in our recruiting efforts!*

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# Mary's Way

BY JOHN ARLON HAWKE

## "I MOVED SO OFTEN THAT I FELT LIKE A CHECKER!"

That's how Dr. Mary Ruth Wischart described her early years as a single teacher living in campus housing at Free Will Baptist Bible College. "We always had to pack up everything when the semester ended and we went home. We never knew where we'd be living when we got back."

Perhaps that's why Dr. Mary (as many call her) and two other single women employed at FWBBC pooled their resources in 1969 and invested in a west Nashville house not far from the campus.

## MYRTLE SALUTATORIAN

Life for Mary Wischart began in 1932 on an Oregon County farm near Myrtle, Missouri.

"I grew up in a family of six sisters," she said. "My dad was a man of few words. He was quiet, steady, and never raised his voice at anybody. Mother and Dad taught us to make our own decisions and deal with the consequences, which meant that if I bought the wrong dress, I still had to wear it."

After one of her sisters married, Mary Ruth's dad told her, "I'm not going to give you away, and if you get married, I'm not coming to your wedding." She believed him.

"Mother was a strong woman," she said. "She liked being treated as a person, not some fragile flower, and so do I. She said there were two kinds of people in our family—those who fainted and those who exercised some will power and didn't. I was not a 'fainter.'"

Converted at age 10, Mary Ruth joined Myrtle FWB Church. According to her sister (Dr. Lucy Hyman), she sang tenor in a women's quartet while in high school and got rave reviews at an all-night singing. She graduated as salutatorian from Couch High School in Myrtle, after promising Mrs. Eunice Edwards at





DR. MARY WISEHART WITH WNAC OFFICERS. BRENDA EVANS, JUNE ROLEN, NANCY TRIMBLE, ANNE WORTHINGTON, CLARA PICCIRILI, CLEO PURSELL, GENELLE SCOTT.

the Missouri Youth Camp that she would consider attending Free Will Baptist Bible College for one year.

### 30 YEARS AT FWBBC

Mary Ruth worked her way through FWBBC, earning a B.A. degree in 1955. She taught 29 years in the English Department, chairing the department much of that time. She did more than prepare classroom lectures, however. She earned three more degrees (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.) at George Peabody College.

She began nearly three decades at FWBBC as a speech instructor ("I was scared to death!") before moving to English in 1956. The class she enjoyed teaching most was "Milton." Her favorite poet is Robert Frost.

That sparkling career as an English teacher, playwright, poet, and drama enthusiast almost didn't happen. She went home after her freshman year thinking she would be unable to return because of finances. However, FWBBC president L.C. Johnson contacted her about working in the college office, and she returned.

### WNAC VISIONARY

Wishart completed her work at FWBBC in 1985 and was elected executive secretary-treasurer for what was then Woman's National Auxiliary Convention (WNAC). At age

52, she began a new career as a CEO and meeting planner, a dual role she held 13 years.

One of her duties was coordinating the annual convention. Approaching the task with her usual energy and creativity, she quickly moved to the front of the class, earning the Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation in 1989, the only Free Will Baptist woman to hold the designation.

She also continued her writing career, producing bi-monthly editorials (Words for Women) for *CoLaborer* magazine and monthly columns (Woman's Window on the World) for *Contact* magazine. She wrote *Sparks into Flame: A History of WNAC* (1985), compiled/wrote *Beyond the Gate, the Autobiography of Mabel Bailey Willey* (1998), revised the *WNAC Manual* (1995), and edited *The 50-Year Record of the National Association of Free Will Baptists* (1988).

Another first-ever designation came when Dr. Wishart served 10 years on the Free Will Baptist Historical Commission and chaired the commission, the only woman to serve in either capacity.

### BUMPS ALONG THE WAY

"I've had it so easy," Mary Ruth said, "while some of my friends have had it so hard." Perhaps easy is in the eye of the beholder. For instance....

## FAST FACTS ABOUT MARY WISEHART

**College Nickname:** Squirrel

**A Favorite Book:** *The Wounded Healer*

by Vera Phillips and Edwin Robertson

**Most Outstanding Student:** Free Will Baptist Bible College

**Writer:** Sunday School and Church Training curriculum, *Depth* (devotional booklet)

**Member:** Cofer's Chapel FWB Church, Nashville, Tennessee

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., George Peabody College, 1976

M.A., George Peabody College, 1961

B.A., George Peabody College, 1960

B.A., Free Will Baptist Bible College, 1955

Diploma, Couch High School (Myrtle, Missouri), 1950

## POSITIONS HELD

1985–1998 WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer

1988–1998 Free Will Baptist Historical Commission

1979–1985 President, Cumberland District WAC

1978–1985 WNAC Field Worker

1965–1969 President, Cumberland District WAC

1956–1985 Faculty, Free Will Baptist Bible College

Dr. Wisheart battled cancer three times (1987, 1993, 2001), undergoing chemotherapy twice and surgery three times. Shortly after retiring from WNAC in 1998, she was mugged in Uruguay. The thief stole her purse, passport, credit cards, traveler's checks, and broke her left wrist.

Two years later, she fell and broke her left arm, requiring shoulder replacement. During the recovery period, she typed emails one-handed using all caps.

There have been other bumps and surgeries, including a burst appendix at age six. However the hardest thing she ever did was go into her sister's (Marie) apartment and remove her belongings after she was killed at age 42 in an automobile accident.

## SINGLE WOMEN WHO RETIRE

Deciding that she would probably not marry but live as a single person, Dr. Wisheart took the advice of long-time friend (Mrs. Mary Welch): "As a single woman, live as though you'll get married, but save as though you'll never get married."

Her early retirement funds were channeled through her 30-year employer, Free Will Baptist Bible College. When she came to WNAC in 1985, she enrolled in the Free Will Baptist retirement plan, subsequently settling her account in 2003 and choosing a single life annuity.

"I was only in the plan 19 years," she said, "but the annuity checks are a big help. More women should consider participating in this program."

She selected WNAC as annuity beneficiary after her death. "Don't worry," she laughed, "the annuity is not so large that they'll be tempted to kill me in case I live too long!"

## MARY'S WAY

What's ahead for Mary Wisheart? She's bright, she's curious about life, and her schedule is demanding. For the past three years, she has served as a volunteer greeter at Nashville's Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art and does volunteer work in the gift shop.

She zips around Music City keeping business appointments and networking with friends, and takes an active role caring for 89-year-old former WNAC executive secretary-treasurer Cleo Pursell. She keeps her hand in the field of journalism, and she's the nursing home volunteer ombudsman for Middle Tennessee. She has volunteered in the women and teen prisons and traveled from Europe to Africa, Cuba to Brazil. There's more, but you get the idea.

Cancer can't stop her, a mugger didn't detour her, and deadlines don't frighten her. Since she's not a fainter, Mary Wisheart simply exercises more will power and gets the job done. That's Mary's Way. □

*John Arlon Hawke is a free-lance writer and editor. He currently makes his home just south of Nashville, TN.*



The FWBBC story continues....

# The Spirit

TO CASUAL OBSERVERS WHO SEE THE FIVE WORDS *Free Will Baptist Bible College* or who drive past the tree-lined campus, FWBBC may be nothing more than nine acres and 17 buildings, and they wonder why eyes mist over at the mention of an educational institution barely 65 years old.

To them, Free Will Baptist Bible College is simply a two-block rectangle crowded onto Nashville's storied Mansion Row, a place of manicured lawns with aging campus structures that speak of early 20th century architecture and a by-gone era.

If they think about it at all, they remember FWBBC as an exit on the I-440 beltway, a quaint landmark on West End Avenue, or a solemn academic community where young men sport neckties and ladies wear dresses to class.

But there's more, so much more. Let me explain.

## Yesterday's Legacy

Free Will Baptist Bible College is an *idea*, an idea that began in November 1935 with a vote to appoint an education committee as a fractured and scattered

have left footprints on every continent as they pastor churches, staff far-flung mission fields, teach in Christian schools, Sunday Schools, and public schools, serve as military chaplains, operate businesses, hold public office, carry badges in law enforcement, boost the nation's workforce, influence local congregations, and shine the light in dark places.

Free Will Baptist Bible College is *people*. It's alumni like Carlisle Hanna pushing into Northern India with the gospel and Lee Whaley starting a church in Alaska's frozen northland. It's Roger Reeds building a Sunday School Department, Wade Jernigan church planting in Idaho, and LaVerne Miley carving out a hospital in Africa. But it's also thousands of younger alumni who keep the flame burning in Chicago and Green Bay, in Kazakstan and Bulgaria.

## Today's Reality

The face of Free Will Baptist Bible College today is crowded classrooms and aging buildings filled with modern technology and eager students who can hardly wait to graduate and impact the world.



denomination came together to organize the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Free Will Baptist Bible College is a *dream* that began while bombs exploded and cultures and philosophies clashed in the madness of World War II. The dream found life in one building, one man (a 28-year-old president), and eight students who against all odds formed a Christian community of faith and learning in September 1942.

From that quiet launch, more than 6,000 alumni

The eight students of 1942 are now 400-plus students from 25 states and five foreign countries. The one building on Richland Avenue has grown to 17 buildings. That 28-year-old president retired and finished his course. FWBBC is now led by its fifth president, a broad-shouldered visionary with the same hungry mind and original fire that compelled L.C. Johnson to exchange the pastorate for a classroom.

Today's students circle the globe on short-term mission trips. They use the Internet as a research

# and the Flame

By Jack Williams

tool; they experience life earlier and more intensely. They're more internationally aware than previous generations. They arrive on campus drenched in the celebrity worship of postmodern culture, searching for something better, something that they heard exists in a place called Free Will Baptist Bible College.

They rediscover the idea, believe in the dream, and learn about the people who created yesterday's legacy. Somewhere amid the rigor of academic requirements, the intense relationships where iron sharpens iron, and those splendid days of prayer when Heaven comes down on campus, one by one they find their calling and make their way to duty stations around the world.

## Tomorrow's Promise

The shining promise of Free Will Baptist Bible College tomorrow is a firm grasp on traditional Bible-centered curriculum that produces pastors and missionaries, chaplains and teachers, youth workers and musicians, as well as expanding programs of study that respond to the growing interest in science and

more space, room for athletic fields and parking, with buildings designed for collegiate activities and engineered to harness the best in modern technology. The process is slow, the cost high, the demands staggering. But it must be done, and we must start now.

## Bridge to the Future

President Matt Pinson told the faculty and staff as the 2007–2008 academic year began, "We are serious about growth. We are serious about expanding our programs of study. We are serious about long-term solutions. We are serious about relocation. But we're also serious about being patient and waiting on God."

Dr. Pinson's observation is a reminder of the college's early history. During the seven long years between the 1935 vote appointing an education committee to investigate starting a college and the 1942 opening, the spirit never wavered, the flame never failed.

The spirit and the flame from FWBBC's early days drive the vision to build on yesterday's legacy while facing today's reality and reaching for tomorrow's promise.



health sciences, biology, and nursing.

Tomorrow's promise points toward master's level studies in ministry, theology, and education. It includes practical online learning, international studies, adult education, a new generation of faculty members with specialized and advanced degrees, and new ways of telling the old, old story.

Part of the centerpiece for tomorrow's promise is relocating from this comfortable neighborhood of mansions and tall trees to a bold, new campus with

The first verse of the college's alma mater ends with the words, "God's truth learned here and friendship dear will ne'er from us depart."

There's a fresh wind blowing across the Free Will Baptist educational landscape. Tomorrow's leaders are training today at Free Will Baptist Bible College. It's a name they trust, and so can you. Come, join us in this family of old friends and new ideas. □

*Jack Williams is director of communications at Free Will Baptist Bible College.*



## AMBASSADOR PROGRAM CONTINUES

**ANTIOCH, TN**—Eleven men have been identified as Ambassadors for the 2008 World Missions Offering (WMO). Eight of the men gathered at the National Offices in Antioch, TN, September 24–25, 2007, to celebrate the success of the 2007 WMO. Due to the Ambassadors' efforts, a record amount of \$485,000 has been received for the 2007 WMO (as of September 27, 2007).

Directors Barry Simpson (development) and Mark McPeak (communications) led Ambassadors to organize and plan their travels for the 2008 WMO. These men will attend district meetings coast to coast from January to April to raise awareness of and participation in the WMO. They will invite churches and pastors to participate in the *Change the World* coin bank project—an innovative supplement to the WMO.

IM Ambassadors bring a wealth of ministry experience in overseas missionary service, pastoral service, and associational/denominational leadership. "We give thanks to God for these men," Barry said, "and are thrilled to have them on our team."

Selected to serve as 2008 Ambassadors are Jimmy Aldridge, Earnie Deeds, Galen Dunbar, Fred Hersey, Tom Hughes, Mark Price, Norman Richards, David Shores, Henry Van Kluyve, Fred Warner, and Rodney Yerby.



## GPS-X RETREAT

**LEWISBURG, TN**—International Missions made history September 20–23 when 33 students from eight states gathered for a multicultural missions weekend.

Designed to give students interested in missions (but too young to participate in E-TEAM) an outlet, Global Purpose Seekers-eXperience (GPS-X) was held at Horton Haven Christian Camp in Lewisburg, TN. Seminars focused the youth on making decisions within God's will for their lives.

Missionaries Matt and Cristina Price (France), Dale and Allysa Harvey and Heath Hubbard (Creative Access), Mitch and Rachel Donahue (Spain), and Nathan and Linda Snow (Japan) rubbed shoulders with the students, sharing their country's culture, language, and spiritual needs.

Leaders and students traveled to Nashville on Saturday and separated into four groups, encountering people of other cultures, serving, and eating ethnic foods. Project hosts Nashville Rescue Mission, Siloam Clinic, Servant Group international, Ultimate Goal (soccer ministry to Hispanic children), and Paragon Mills Elementary School jolted students from their comfort zones. One group heard a young Kurdish believer's testimony of God's saving grace and protection. "These junior high students conducted themselves with maturity," stated Judy Lytle. "They were willing to work hard, regardless of the assignment."

Staff received positive feedback and high praise from students and adult sponsors. "A mission program for this age group is long overdue," encouraged a youth pastor. Many students asked if they could participate again next year.

GPS membership kits are available to students in grades seven, eight, and nine, even if they were unable to attend the GPS-X event. Dates for next year's GPS-X will be announced in the near future. Visit [www.fwbgo.com/Go/student](http://www.fwbgo.com/Go/student) to request a kit or e-mail [gps@fwbgo.com](mailto:gps@fwbgo.com).

## GROWTH CONTINUES IN CAMPINAS

**CAMPINAS, BRAZIL**—Four people were baptized at the First FWB Church in Campinas on Sunday night, September 16. Marli was saved a few months ago during an invitation given at the end of a service where Kenneth Eagleton preached. Cristiane, Marli's daughter was also baptized. Milena and Ludmila are the daughters of Martha, a faithful Bible institute student. Lucas Lima is the pastor.

A different aspect of the church's ministry is being emphasized each week at the Nova América FWB Mission Church in Campinas. On September 16 the emphasis was on discipleship and Pastor Paulo César invited Kenneth Eagleton to preach. Two men rededicated their lives. The mission church is currently meeting in a rented hall, but is in the process of acquiring two city lots on which to build.



## SÃO JOSÉ CHURCH SERVES COMMUNITY



**CAMPINAS, BRAZIL**—Pastor Osmír and the congregation of the São José FWB Church in Campinas, Brazil, determined to “step-up” their outreach within their neighborhood. Saturday, September 22, the church hosted a day of free services for the community.

Seminars on dental hygiene, depression, cancer prevention, and sexually transmitted diseases were held. Four barbers cut 119 heads of hair. Nurses checked glucose levels for 80 people and blood pressure for 115. Ten people obtained legal advice from two lawyers. Six people received psychological counseling. Food, donated by church members and local businesses, was distributed to the poor.

Common law marriage is prevalent in the area. The church took 13 applications from couples desiring to legalize their relationships through a joint community wedding service.



Church members provided some of the professional assistance, solicited the participation of other professionals, organized and publicized the event, served snacks, and interacted with those who took advantage of the free services.

According to Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, “The community’s awareness of the church has been significantly heightened.” The missionary continued, “Pray, as people see their needs met, they will realize they have spiritual needs only Christ can satisfy.”



## CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

**COLMENAR VIEJO, SPAIN**—The Colmenar Viejo church, led by Cuban pastor Juan Carlos Cabrerias and his wife María del Carmen, celebrated its third anniversary on Sunday, September 9. The service was filled with praise for God’s blessings on the small congregation. Spanish pastor José Manuel Parrón of the Esperanza Church in Alcalá brought the anniversary message. The day concluded with a fellowship time and refreshments for the 40 people in attendance.

# TARGET: NEW ENGLAND

BY RICHARD ATWOOD

**MY WIFE SANDY AND I** recently drove through the northeastern United States and New Brunswick, Canada, to visit home missionaries. The Northeast is a beautiful part of the country and contains a lot of American history, but the area is very needy spiritually. The good news? More and more Free Will Baptists desire to plant churches in that area.

Our first stop was York, Pennsylvania. This growing area lies 100 miles west of Philadelphia. FWB missionaries Allen and Jenny Hall are just getting started. Although they had services during the summer, their actual grand opening service was in September.

York, PA: The Hall Family.



North Kingstown, RI: Bill Reynolds with the Atwoods.



Fredericton, New Brunswick,  
Canada: Jeff Crabtree.



Eight Free Will Baptist church groups have come from across the nation to help the church in York. They were instrumental in getting out the word that a new church was starting. The church currently meets in a Sheraton Hotel conference room.

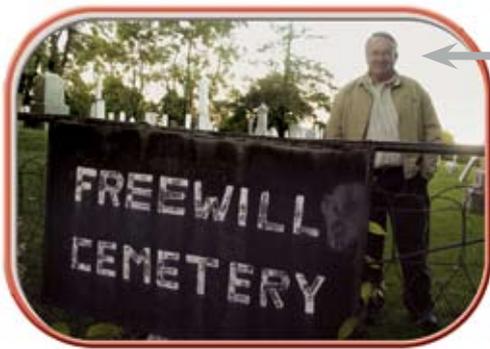
The next stop on our route was North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Bill Reynolds is a Rhode Island native, so he has the right accent for this area. He even knows how to cook lobsters! The church meets in a rented building in a new shopping center. Bill's wife Christy plays the keyboard and does an excellent job leading the music. The church has purchased three acres of land in

a great location for \$300,000. Bill is working hard to raise money to pay for the land. When the loan has been retired, the church plans to acquire a loan from the Home Missions Department and build their own facilities.

From Rhode Island, we drove to Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, where Jeff and Donna Crabtree are home missionaries. The congregation meets in a new building (9,300 square feet) located on 19 acres. Jeff and the congregation have done a lot of work on the building, aided by several FWB church groups. They have a beautiful church building and a friendly group of people. Eastern Canada currently has about a dozen churches. Jeff hopes to start a Bible institute to train workers and see more churches planted in Canada.

Our next stop was Rochester, New York. Dana and Betty Booth and Jim and Sylvia Martin are starting a Free Will Baptist church in a fast-growing area just south of Rochester. After starting in a hotel, the church in Rochester now meets in a rented facility. The new church is near the home of David Marks, Free Will Baptist evangelist in the early 1800s. Dana and I visited the American Baptist Historical Society to see several of the records and papers of the northern Free Will Baptists. The display included several letters written by Benjamin Randall.

On our way south, we swung through Pennsylvania and visited Greensburg, a growing suburb of Pittsburgh. Tom and Pam Jones, son-in-law Nate Altom, and daughter Jenna have begun their second work in the beautiful city. The church holds services in a Courtyard Marriot Hotel meeting room. It is tough for church planters to find affordable buildings that they can use all week. However, the church has been blessed! Pam and their three daughters do a great job singing!



Rochester, NY: Dana Booth at the site of an early FWB cemetery.



Greensburg, PA: The Jones and Altom families.

In the late 1800s, some 500 Free Will Baptist churches were scattered across the northeast. Today, fewer than 20 churches are located in the region. However, our home missionaries are dedicated, hard-working people who know they are in a fight against the devil. Their job isn't easy, but God is working. They are determined to see the lost won to Christ. Is God calling you to help start a church in the Northeast? □

*Richard Atwood is the director of missionary assistance for the Home Missions Department. He and his wife Sandy often spend time with church planters across the nation.*

## Remembering CLAUDE:

An open letter from Jeff Crabtree...

The first person I led to the Lord after I moved to Fredericton was Claude Dickinson. He and his wife accepted the Lord at the same time. Claude was 68. He and his wife were baptized a month later in a motel pool where we rented space to worship. Family members were awed to visit them and find Bibles and lesson sheets on the kitchen table as they completed their Bible study.

We were emphasizing Bible study at that time, and Claude read every book of the Bible. He was an avid reader who soon became strong in his faith. In the early years, he served as usher and helped us in VBS.

When we began to work on the church building, Claude was physically unable to do much manual labor, but he followed sheetrock hangers and put in screws so they could hang more sheets. He also helped paint the interior.

Claude passed away this year two weeks before the 10-year anniversary of his baptism. The day before his passing, while in the Intensive Care Unit, he said to me, "Jeff, I don't know what I would have done without you." We both knew he was thinking about the day when he accepted the offer of God's salvation. Heaven's door was close, and Claude saw clearly the value of that initial meeting with Jesus in his living room.

Though Claude was gone, he was not silenced. I had given him the opportunity to select his own funeral text, and he did. I introduced the message by telling those present that these were Claude's words, his message. People who knew him well recognized that he had lived true to the text he picked, and that he was asking them to do the same. Later that week, Claude's son-in-law Mike, unable to get Claude's final message out of his mind, trusted Jesus as his own personal Savior.

Thank God for Jesus, His living Word, all who share the Good News and all who accept it—and those who send out the messengers.

A low-angle photograph of the Statue of Liberty, showing her head with the crown, her right arm raised holding the torch, and her left arm holding the tablet. The statue is green and set against a blue sky with light clouds.

# The **Urgency** of Church Planting *in North America*

By Larry A. Powell

THE ISRAELITES FOUND THEMSELVES SUFFERING IN BONDAGE OVER AND OVER when they allowed the sinful culture of the nations around them to infiltrate their land, homes, and families. They dabbled with pagan gods Baal, Dagon, and Asherah. Each time, they were shackled and broken, defeated by worshipping false gods. Each time, however, Jehovah sent a deliverer, and Israel turned back to the true God. They experienced victory and freedom from their captivity.

The Statue of Liberty stands in New York harbor with arms outstretched to the nations of the world. She speaks these words:

***“Bring me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”***

Larry A. Powell is the director of the Home Missions Department. He and his wife Wanda live in Nashville, TN.

## America is in the Pursuit of Idolatry

The huddled masses have been arriving on our shores for more than 200 years, each culture bringing their idols with them. They bring the gods of Buddhism, Shintoism, Hinduism, Islam, and many others. These pagan religions have invaded our colleges and universities. Their teachings are gradually invading the work place, television, and shopping malls across our homeland.

Americans are embracing idolatry. Everywhere, their temples, mosques, and shrines are rising to pay tribute to blind gods. Islam is growing at an alarming rate in our country. It has always been true that people search for something greater than themselves—someone or something they can look up to. The devil continually searches for ways to distract people from the one true God. Providing many choices, a myriad of gods, is one of his methods.

## The Invisible War

Our missionaries are entrenched on the battlefields of North America, at war against Satan and the demon gods that surround us. God has placed church planters strategically in towns and cities across the USA armed with the message of truth. Through God's power, the weapons of their warfare are mighty, "pulling down the strongholds" of deception. They faithfully proclaim the unpopular message that Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven.

## Empowered by Prayer

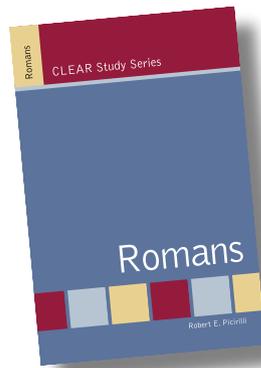
Will you pray that God will empower these missionaries/church planters with the message of repentance, grace, and faith in Christ alone? Pray that God will use them to deliver America from the clutches of sin and idolatry! Pray for their success in building bridges to families with God's love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Thank you for faithful financial support of these soldiers of the cross. We must be vigilant to share the gospel light in the United States. Our godly foundation must be preserved in order to reach the world. We must resist the influx of "Canaanite gods." □

# In Review FEATURES

***A Son Comes Home*** by Joseph Bentz  
ISBN 9780892655687

*A Son Comes Home* tells the story of an extraordinary and life-changing summer in the life of an American family. The main character, Chris LaRue, is a graduate student and college instructor in his early 20s. He has drifted from his family and his faith. As he returns to spend the summer with his family, he will face his former fiancée, his father's grave illness, and problems in the life of his younger sister.

This book is a family story in several senses—an individual family, an extended family, and a church family. The story is carefully crafted to demonstrate the complexity of relationships. It tells of prodigal sons and daughters, ordinary people who stray from the Lord during their times of darkness and squander what He has given them. They take matters into their own hands and try to force their own solutions with disastrous results. It is also ultimately a story of coming to one's senses, of confession and forgiveness, of reconciliation with God and with each other. This novel shows it is never too late to come home.



**CLEAR Study Series** – Excellent resources for pastors, church leaders, and Sunday School teachers

***Romans*** by Robert E. Picirilli  
ISBN 9780892658732

*Romans* is an excellent study guide for Paul's epistle. This installment in the CLEAR Study Series contains 39 lessons to serve as a complement to Sunday School or personal Bible study. Robert E. Picirilli served as academic dean and professor of Greek and New Testament studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, for more than 40 years.

### More titles in the CLEAR Study Series—

- Daniel*** by Douglas J. Simpson
- Galatians*** by Robert E. Picirilli
- Hebrews*** by Milton Crowson
- Revelation*** by Damon C. Dodd



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

# POSITIONING YOUR CHURCH

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF MINISTER OF EDUCATION—  
AN INTERVIEW WITH STEVE LINDSAY

BY RON HUNTER

For 112 years, New Hope Free Will Baptist Church has enjoyed a rewarding ministry in a rural setting. Today, the church is located in a fast-growing suburb 20 miles from a major city. In the last 15 years, the church has increased worship attendance by 53%, Sunday School by 76%, and youth by 190%.

Ron Hunter, director of Randall House Publications, recently spoke with Minister of Education Steve Lindsay about his role in church leadership. For many years, Lindsay worked alongside Senior Pastor Barry Simpson who recently became the director of development for the Free Will Baptist International Missions Department.



RON: Steve, the most incredible stat is your ratio of Sunday School attendance to worship attendance. What is it today?

STEVE: We average between 90 and 95%. We broke the 300 barrier in 2006 and averaged 304 with 280 in Sunday School.

RON: How has your position changed while at New Hope?

STEVE: I started as youth director in the spring of 1993. After graduating from Free Will Baptist Bible College I became the full-time associate pastor/youth pastor. In 1996, I began the transition into the minister of education role.

RON: What does the position of Minister of Education (ME) look like?

STEVE: Ephesians 4:11-15 describes how to work beside my senior pastor to provide opportunities to engage believers in both church and community. This involves organizing learning times like Sunday School, midweek programs, small groups, and teacher/worker training. The ME concentrates on people growing in their walk with God. Nothing is more gratifying to the ME than for a believer to use his or her gifts in the church. I help believers connect with a ministry based upon passion and capability.

RON: As an ME do you focus on one age group in the church?

STEVE: The ME must focus on the broad picture. While I may provide training for specific age groups, I do not devote my time to just one specific group. As I transitioned from youth pastor to ME, I began to recognize my youth group begins in the nursery. Beyond this, my involvement in their development extends into adulthood. If the age groups are not tied together in principles and leadership, then you face a whole new set of problems.



RON: Did your youth group suffer from this changing role?

STEVE: In retrospect, this broad approach enhanced our youth work. Our people became more involved in youth ministry. Now a team of youth workers accomplishes more and finds greater fulfillment. More people work together rather than relying on staff leaders, and this brings all ages together.

RON: What programs brought about most of this growth?

STEVE: While many good programs are available, programs come and go. What has proven to be the most beneficial to our ministry is identifying the principles of growth. We evaluate every program based upon the purpose and goals of our church.

RON: What principles have you found to be indispensable?

STEVE: “Flake’s Formula” is the perfect start. It has been proven through the years—even with the many changes in the church landscape—that it is critical to maintain a lower ratio of teachers to students by age.

Another vital principle is that church and Sunday School must be outwardly focused rather than inwardly focused. When the church is ready to accept guests in the same way we do our close friends, we make it as much their church as the people who have been here 20 years. We must remove the “insider mentality.”

This all points back to knowing your purpose as a body of believers. Find programs that match your principles; not the other way around.

RON: That’s great advice, but how hard was it for your church to understand and follow these changes?

STEVE: Overall, our people embraced the idea. Looking back, I am not sure any of us fully understood what the ME did outside of maintaining the Sunday School. We learned the ME position is far more encompassing than one age group or one program. As we began learning together, some were uneasy, even a little threatened by the idea of change. Nevertheless, our people have been supportive and willing to allow me to try, fail at times, and try again. This encouragement has given us many small and large successes through the years.

RON: What was the biggest hurdle to cross in growing your Sunday School?

STEVE: We had to be patient, working the principles without chasing the latest programs, but also allowing the necessary time for lasting change. Casting vision and keeping it in front of the church body is very time consuming and often drains leaders physically, emotionally, even spiritually. To communicate vision requires providing the information in many formats to be understood and embraced. But casting vision is not sufficient by itself; we had to equip our people and move forward with the changes to see the vision become reality.

RON: What advice would you give any pastor contemplating hiring a minister of education?

STEVE: Take the time to learn the role of a minister of education. Be sure the church leaders and people understand the responsibilities of the position. Be prepared to give the authority and respect that come with the responsibilities. Be open to making changes as needed, because growth never comes without change. Be ready to look outward and not inward, meeting your guests’ needs rather than your own preferences.

RON: What would you say to someone who wants to find training for a youth pastor contemplating a transition into the role of minister of education?

STEVE: Find the right mentor—one who understands principles of Christian education. Network with others in the field. Read books about these principles and rely on Randall House as a great resource. □

# Don't miss this shot...

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



March 26-28, 2008



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

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

**Email:** [masters@nafwb.org](mailto:masters@nafwb.org)

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



**Course Information:** [www.MeadowLinksGolf.com](http://www.MeadowLinksGolf.com)

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**\$2,500** pays **\$177** annually for life of which **\$114** is tax free\*

**\$10,000** pays **\$710** annually for life of which **\$455** is tax free\*

**\$50,000** pays **\$3,550** annually for life of which **\$2,279** is tax free\*

Age	Single Life Rate	Joint Life Rate
55	5.5%	5.0%
60	5.7%	5.4%
65	6.0%	5.6%
70	6.5%	5.9%
75	7.1%	6.3%
80	8.0%	6.9%
85	9.5%	7.9%
90	11.3%	9.3%

\*Fixed annual income based on current single life rate at age 75



# CLEAR

## *Teacher of the Year 2008*

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

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

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

### *Additional prizes include:*

- \$200 decorating allowance for the winner's classroom.
- \$100 gift card to Randall Bookstore for books and supplies.
- A press release to the winner's hometown newspaper and state FWB newsletter with a picture and write-up in *ONE Magazine* as the award winner.

To place a nomination for CLEAR Teacher of the Year, visit us on line at [www.CLEARcurriculum.com/teacher](http://www.CLEARcurriculum.com/teacher). If you prefer, you may write or call Randall House Publications: 114 Bush Road, Nashville, TN 37217, (800) 877-7030.

The deadline for CLEAR Teacher of the Year nominations is April 30, 2008.

it's **NOT** about  
**me**  
*John 3:30*

What's New at  
**SCM?**  
Find out at [OutpostX.net](http://OutpostX.net)

**NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE**  
July 20-23, 2008—Charleston, WV

**2008 NYC Theme:**  
It's Not About Me

He must increase, but I must decrease  
John 3:30



-----  
There will be a **\$10 fee for adults** to register for the 2008 National Youth Conference to attend NYC activities, including competition. Student fees have not been raised, even though expenses have increased. We are grateful that so many adults support the youth activities. Still, we are faced with the challenge of providing space to accommodate such large crowds.

We appreciate your support of the National Youth Conference. It is our desire that the conference be a premier youth event worthy of your investment. Please share ideas and recommendations. Send email to [scm@randallhouse.com](mailto:scm@randallhouse.com) or call **(800) 877-7030**.

Competition Guidelines corrections, updates, and changes available online at [www.fwbny.com](http://www.fwbny.com).

Extra Study Books for 2008 Bible Tic Tac Toe  
1 Chronicles, Zephaniah, Malachi, Colossians, James

Bible Tic Tac Toe Volume 3 and Bible Sword Drill booklet Volume 3 have been revised. Be sure the edition you are using has the 2007 reprint date.

The 2007 Buck-A-Week donations totaled **\$7,451.43**. That offering helped construct a church building for the White Earth Indian Reservation in Minnesota and supported Bible institutes in Russia, Cuba, India, and West Africa. The 2008 contributions will go to help build a church in Salt Lake City and support the Nehemiah Project in Spain and the Chame Property Project in Panama. What are you doing to reach your world? Support global missions with a buck a week. Contact Randall House at (800) 877-7030 for offering envelopes and contribution posters to help track your progress.

Free Youth Camp Bible Lessons based on the NYC theme, "It's Not About Me," will be available in the spring as a free download at [www.fwbny.com](http://www.fwbny.com).

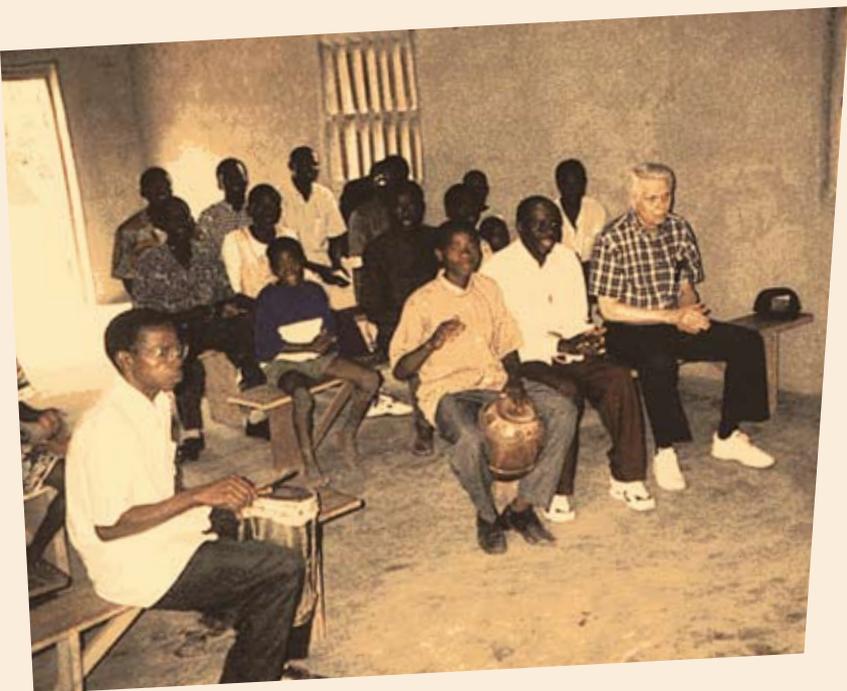
Visit [www.fwbny.com](http://www.fwbny.com) for additional information about Truth & Peace Leadership Conference, Reach That Guy, free NYC downloads, and other useful resources.



The success of Reach That Guy is a demonstration of the missionary/servant heart of FWB young people. Every summer, FWB young people travel across the country to help Reach That Guy. But what about THIS guy? The one that is near. Who will travel across town or across the street to be of service to those in need in the local community? We can have an even greater impact in the lives of people nearby. We have the opportunity to minister to their needs more frequently, more personally.

**RTG<sup>2</sup>** Let's Reach This Guy Too. RTG2 is a service project promotion for the local church. Download RTG2 artwork at [www.SCmin.com](http://www.SCmin.com). If you already have something going, great! Keep up the good work. Let's all do what we can to serve those who are close, to Reach This Guy Too.





# A LIFE LIVED WELL

REMEMBERING R. EUGENE WADDELL

BY JAMES FORLINES

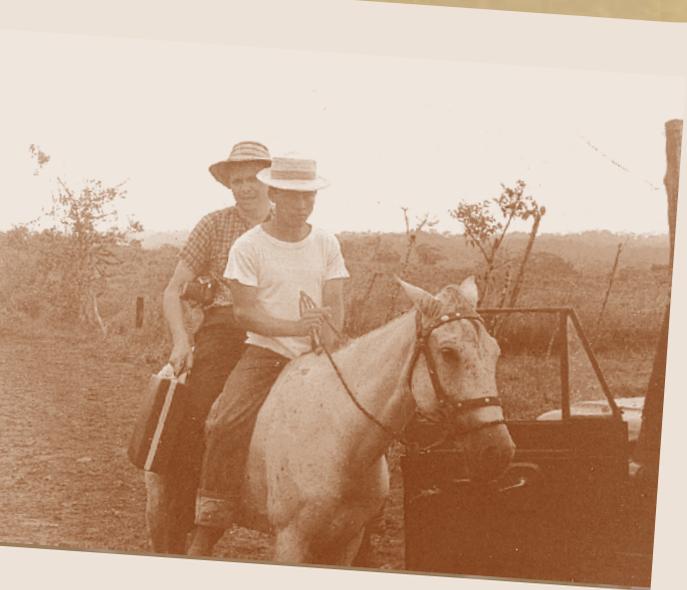
ON SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 21, 2007, Brother R. Eugene Waddell finished his race. He fought a good fight, and yes, he kept the faith. Early on that Lord's Day he saw his Lord face to face. For Free Will Baptist people around the world, Heaven is more precious now, and this earth has lost some of its appeal.

From August of 1952 until his death 55 years later, Gene Waddell served as an ordained Free Will Baptist preacher. In his first year at Free Will Baptist Bible College, he was deeply challenged through missionary prayer band and missionaries who spoke in chapel. It was clear that his vision was set for those who had never heard the gospel message.

This vision directed him, after graduating from FWBBC, to attain an M.A. in Missions from Columbia Bible College (now Columbia International University). When he entered the pastorate, he immediately sought to challenge people to become involved in missions. His passion led to an official connection to Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions (now International Missions) from 1959-1998. The last 12 of those years he served as general director.

As we look back at a life lived well, several exemplary characteristics of Brother Waddell are worthy of emulating.

He had a unique gift of encouragement. At the visitation and funeral one thing was clear: everyone present felt as though they were special to Gene. He made you feel that way. To missionaries he was a "pastor." To his pastors he was a confidant



PHOTOS (FROM LEFT): WORSHIPPING IN COTÊ D'IVOIRE; AS MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD; GENERAL DIRECTOR WADDELL; TRAVELING BY HORSEBACK IN URUGUAY; PAUSING FOR CONVERSATION IN CUBA.

and friend. As his successor as general director of the Mission, I found him a dependable source of strength.

He was a man of integrity. When problems arose, he faced them squarely. He was loved and respected by missionaries and national leaders wherever he traveled. In the African village of Panzarani the Lobi chieftain presented him with a royal robe, bow and arrows, and the name "Sogouri," which means "one who calms problems and resolves differences."

He had a burning passion for the lost, clearly seen during his years as general director of FWBIM. He actively continued reaching out to the unsaved until the very end of his life. During his tenure the Mission began ministering in Russia, Mongolia, China, and Central Asia. Under his leadership 64 missionaries were appointed, overseas church attendance almost doubled, and the TEAM summer missions program for high school students was initiated. After 26 years of isolation, Waddell spearheaded the effort to reconnect with our Free Will Baptists in Cuba.

The International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches met in Nantes, France, October 7–12 of this year. Most of the delegates knew, loved, and respected Brother Waddell. They passed around a multi-paged card to write notes to him and his wife Genevieve. I had the privilege of sharing those messages with him just days before he died.

He was excited about the future of Free Will Baptists. When told of the committee formed to provide a means for Free Will Baptists outside of North America to go as missionaries to the ends of the earth, he said, "Is that nothing short of a miracle?" He had longed to see that, and I'm glad he heard about it on the last bend of his race.

Thank you, Brother Waddell, for your inspirational example of finishing well. □

DURING A FLIGHT FROM CAIRO, EGYPT, to Amman, Jordan, I found myself on a Royal Jordanian airliner that was completely full and very warm. Most passengers had removed their outer garments to cope with the temperature, yet a small group of men retained their sportcoats. This puzzled me, because I knew the men had to be hot.

Flights into Jordan took longer in the 1970s, because the air space above Israel was closed to planes that were not landing there. The pilot had to fly farther north, turning over Lebanon to enter Jordan.

During the flight, one of the men wearing a sportcoat stood from his seat and made his way toward me looking for something to read in the Arabic language. I had a publication of his choosing and gladly handed it to him so he could return to his seat.

Later, he returned the publication with a warm smile of appreciation. I reached out to pat his shoulder in response. He moved back quickly, and my hand fell on the largest gun I had ever touched, hidden under his jacket. Immediately, his palm delivered a stinging slap to the side of my face. The smile was gone. Instead, he placed his forefinger over his lips with a vehement gesture to be quiet.

While I sat in shock, he returned to his seat. Every few moments, he would glare over his shoulder with a grim expression, repeating his gesture for me to remain silent.

I grimly fought down panic. At the time, planes were hijacked regularly, and the Jordanian airline had one of the worst safety records in the world.

Convinced I needed to do something, I pulled from my wallet a clergy card issued by the state of Ohio. With the state coat of arms, the card looked very official. Taking a deep breath, I passed the card to the gunman. To my surprise, his expression of concern quickly changed to one of relief. He returned my card along with his own, which identified him as a Sky Marshall. It was my turn to be relieved.

When the plane landed in Jordan, the men in sportcoats moved forward with practiced precision. I saw them apprehend a man carrying a wooden box. They began to remove the contents, and even from a distance it was soon apparent that the box contained a disassembled submachine gun.

Now I knew why the Marshall slapped me, and why he did not want to be revealed to the suspect before the proper moment. I thanked God for His protection through these men.

I thank the Lord regularly for our country, our military men and women, police and fire personnel who have pledged their lives to guard our well-being.

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:17). □

*Adapted from the Farmington Press, Doug Smith, Editor*

*Dr. Alton Loveless is the former director/CEO of Randall House Publications, Nashville, TN. He is a freelance writer living in Farmington, MO, and has written for national and international publications.*

# THE SKY OVER CAIRO

BY ALTON LOVELESS



## INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP MEETS



**NANTES, FRANCE**—More than 50 participants from 13 countries met October 7–12, 2007, for the fourth triennial meeting of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches. The meeting, hosted by local French congregations, featured worship, fellowship, and business carried out in a spirit of international solidarity.

Participants enjoyed rousing services each morning. Keynote speakers Keith Burden (USA), Greg Bastin (FRANCE), Ramon

Sanchez (CUBA), and Euribiades Gonzalez (PANAMA) delivered messages on the subject, “The Progress of the Gospel.” Jeff Turnbough (SPAIN) and Robert Bryan (FRANCE) presented daily workshops titled, “Leadership Matters,” during afternoon sessions. The seminars addressed the universal challenges of communication and leadership.

Attendees explored the possibilities of sending missionaries to other cultures. “It was a hair-raising moment to witness,” says photographer Judy Lytle (USA). “I felt as though we were watching history—like Mrs. Barnard starting all over again.”

In other business, delegates elected a new slate of officers to the Executive Committee. Gerardo Acevedo (URUGUAY) was elected president; Luis Felipe Tijerina (MEXICO) vice-president; and Steve Lytle (International Missions Department, USA) secretary-treasurer.

Tentative plans were made for the 2010 Triennial meeting July 22–25, in Oklahoma City, immediately following the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Secretary-Treasurer Steve Lytle summed up the historic gathering, “This was a highly successful meeting founded upon a strong sense of solidarity and participation, with an emphasis on seeking creative ways to share the gospel in other countries around the world.”

## HILLSDALE COLLEGE SEEKS FAVORITE RECIPES FOR VIRTUAL COOKBOOK

**MOORE, OK**—A virtual cookbook featuring recipes from friends of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College around the world will be available next spring. The book will be available for downloading on individual computers, where it can be stored or printed by the purchaser.

The Hillsdale Auction Committee is currently seeking recipes for the cookbook, “Friends of Hillsdale.” Recipes should be submitted electronically if possible. Each recipe should list ingredients first, then directions for preparation. Names and locations (churches or towns) should also be included with the recipes. Current and former Hillsdale students should include the years they attended and/or graduated.

Recipes can be emailed to Auction Director Dorthy Harris at dharris@hc.edu. Deadline for submitting recipes is Wednesday, January 2.

Funds raised from the sale of the virtual cookbooks will be a part of the auction proceeds. For more information, contact Dorothy Harris (405) 912-9022.

## CHURCHES GIVE ON FATHER’S DAY



**ANTIOCH, TN**—Thirty-five churches participated in the Father’s Day Offering to benefit the Master’s Men. The department extends thanks to the following churches for their contributions to the Father’s Day Offering:

Pine Grove FWB Church .....	Buckatunna, MS	Waipahu FWB Church .....	Waipahu, HI
Victory FWB Church .....	Goldsboro, NC	Liberty FWB Church .....	Millington, TN
First FWB Church .....	Houston, TX	Grace FWB Church.....	Orange Park, FL
Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church .	Vero Beach, FL	First FWB Church .....	Mt. Vernon, IL
Northside FWB Church .....	Pocahontas, AR	Shady Grove FWB Church.....	Clarksville, TN
Airport FWB Church .....	Tulsa, OK	First FWB Church .....	Austintown, OH
Sunshine FWB Church.....	Huntington, WV	Liberty FWB Church .....	Ayden, NC
Sunnyside FWB Church.....	Oklahoma City, OK	First FWB Church .....	Ypsilanti, MI
First FWB Church .....	Morehead City, NC	Mt. Pleasant FWB Church.....	Centerville, AL
First FWB Church .....	North Little Rock, AR	Bay FWB Church .....	Hartsville, GA
First FWB Church .....	Lexington, KY	Blue Point FWB Church.....	Cisne, IL
Liberty FWB Church .....	Waycross, GA	Grace FWB Church.....	Johnson City, TN
Cookeville FWB Church.....	Cookeville, TN	Hannon FWB Church.....	Liberal, MO
Tom’s Creek FWB Church .....	Nippa, KY	Serenity FWB Church.....	Fredericton, NB, Canada
Woodbine FWB Church.....	Nashville, TN	Corinth FWB Church.....	Waynesboro, MS
Limestone FWB Church .....	Limestone, TN	First FWB Church .....	Amory, MS
Rejoice FWB Church.....	Nashville, TN	Center Point FWB Church .....	Vilonia, AR
First FWB Church .....	Conway, AR		



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

## ONLY FIVE DAYS

ON MAY 14, 1984, I HELD my daughter Katie in my arms and said “hello” to her for the first time at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A little more than 23 years later

she held our five-day-old granddaughter in her arms and said “goodbye” at the same location.

During one of the most difficult moments of this ordeal, someone asked what I had learned from this experience. I’m not quite sure what I said at that moment, but since I’ve had a chance to think about that question, here are some of my thoughts. I learned that:

- **GOD IS FAITHFUL.** I cannot tell you I understand what has happened or why, because I don’t. I cannot presently see what good will come of this. I cannot tell you I am rejoicing, because my heart is still broken. Nevertheless, I *can* tell you in spite of everything we have gone through, God has never abandoned us...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee—Hebrews 13:5.

- **FAMILY MATTERS.** Outside of my commitment to Christ, nothing matters more to me than my family. I am proud of them. They have been models of strength, grace, and courage in the face of adversity. They have conducted themselves with dignity, integrity, and compassion under extremely difficult circumstances. Our children have passed through the fire and their faith

has emerged like precious gold. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth—3 John 4.

- **FRIENDS ARE A TREASURE.** Quite frankly, this experience would have been unbearable without our friends. The strong embraces and shoulders to cry on—the visits at the hospital, phone calls, e-mails, cards, flowers, food, gifts, and many, many prayers helped us keep our heads above water when it looked like we might drown in despair. The support system for our family has been overwhelming. We can never repay folks for all the kindnesses they have shown. We give thanks to God always for you all—1 Thessalonians 1:2.

- **I CAN’T AFFORD TO MISS HEAVEN.** Since the first day I heard our daughter was pregnant, I started praying her child would come to know Christ at an early age. I never imagined she would “know” the Lord the way she knows Him at this moment. I’m looking forward to getting to know my granddaughter better. Five days were simply not long enough! I believe she is in heaven, and I aim, by the grace of God, to join her there some day.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away—Revelations 21:4. □

*In loving memory of Karoline Bea Stokes  
September 2, 2007–September 6, 2007*



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If you know a student who's interested in pursuing a health sciences degree, be sure to fill out a referral card in this magazine and mail it in today!



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