

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

DECEMBER-JANUARY 2013-14

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MISSION: Discipleship



ROOTS

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Journey**

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UNIFYING VISION OF OUR
ROLE IN THE EXTENSION
OF GOD'S KINGDOM.

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First Glimpse >>>>

Whac-A-Mole



Whomp!

I slam the stuffed mallet down with full strength, only to see my chubby-cheeked target sink safely into his burrow. He reappears a moment later from another hole in the game board.

Whomp!

Missed again...but when the next feisty gopher pops to the surface, I'm ready.

Whomp! Whomp!

Owwwww! The protesting wail quickly turns to chortles of glee when another blow fails to connect.

Whomp! Wee-hee-hee-hee!

Two breathless minutes later, I confess to myself that 41-year-old reflexes are no match for robotic gophers, moles, or groundhogs...whatever the goofy things are.

I can't help but smile as I watch a kid at least 35 years younger than me step up to the game with confidence, pummel the ornery critters into submission, and set the high score in the process. No problem. Obviously, when animatronics prodigy Aaron Fechter invented Whac-A-Mole in 1976, he had a much younger player in mind.

Throughout the day, my thoughts return to my frantic efforts to whack those elusive moles. The silly game brings to mind the lifelong battle for holiness and against insidious habits that stand in the way. Perhaps you are all too familiar with "spiritual" Whac-A-Mole.

Whomp!

I control my temper, only to have a judgmental spirit raise its head.

Whomp!

I achieve self-control in diet and exercise and suddenly develop an addiction to caffeine.

Whomp!

The goal of reading through the Bible twice in a year collides with the start of football season.

Whomp, whomp, whomp! It never ends.

In Romans 7, the Apostle Paul revealed his own constant struggle with sin and the law.

"I am of the flesh, sold under sin" (verse 14).

Whomp!

"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" (verse 15).

Whomp!

"For I know that nothing good dwells in me" (verse 18).

Whomp!

Thankfully, Paul did not stop there. In chapter 8, he went on to encourage believers that God created us for more; He *wants* us to win! "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (verse 1).

So, how do we win this battle for holiness? Paul told the Corinthians to stay in the game. "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection" (1 Corinthians 9:26-27).

Whomp!

Game over. **ONE**

ERIC THOMSEN, MANAGING EDITOR

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Letters: Have something to say?

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

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

IN THE ARTICLE "IS GOD DOING A NEW THING?" in the October-November issue of *ONE Magazine*, I neglected to mention a very important part of our progress as a bilingual church in Chicago. Gowdy Cannon has been the point person in our church and on our Translation Team. He is passionate about our church being bilingual. He was the catalyst that started us down this road and was so committed to it that he went to Peru for a month to immerse himself in Spanish. I felt I needed to mention Gowdy's contribution to complete an accurate picture of the church. Thanks and keep up the good work at *One Magazine!*

—David Potete, Northwest
FWB Church, Chicago, IL

MY HUMBLE OPINION ON YOUR REQUESTS FOR suggestions, is that you continue to add short articles about Free Will Baptist history. I believe these highlights will help educate and pique the interest of those who do not know much of our history. I know we don't want to live in the past, but the word remember is found quite frequently in Scripture. I believe it has a place. I appreciate so much our publications and all you do at *ONE Magazine*.

—Winnie Vance Yandell, Chickasha, OK

FROM THE EDITOR: Thanks to Mrs. Yandell and many others who made suggestions for the 2014 redesign. Be looking for changes starting in the April-May 2014 edition, the 10th anniversary issue.

I WAS THRILLED TO SEE THE ARTICLES BY CLINT MORGAN AND JEFF TURNBOUGH IN THE OCTOBER-NOVEMBER ISSUE OF ONE MAGAZINE. Having been involved from the beginning, it is great to see what God has done and is doing in Panama today. One important group Jeff did not mention was the Free Will Baptist military families stationed in the Panama Canal Zone. Alton and Loretta Franks, from Texas, spent almost every weekend in the "bush" with me, trudging through mud, carrying a heavy backpack with Bibles and literature. There were others including the Jack Bess family from Oklahoma, John Adams, and others who were a great part of that story. I have written a detailed account of those early years, and it is my hope that everyone who had a part in this great missionary story will add his own account. The blog is "I Will Build My Church: History of the Free Will Baptist Church of Panama" (<http://www.iwbmc.com/>). For anyone wondering what it is like for anyone to be "crazy enough" to be a pioneer missionary, it should be interesting reading. Christ has certainly built His Church in Panama, and those of us who have had a small part in it can rejoice with Him. —Tom Willey, Jr., Bronson, Florida

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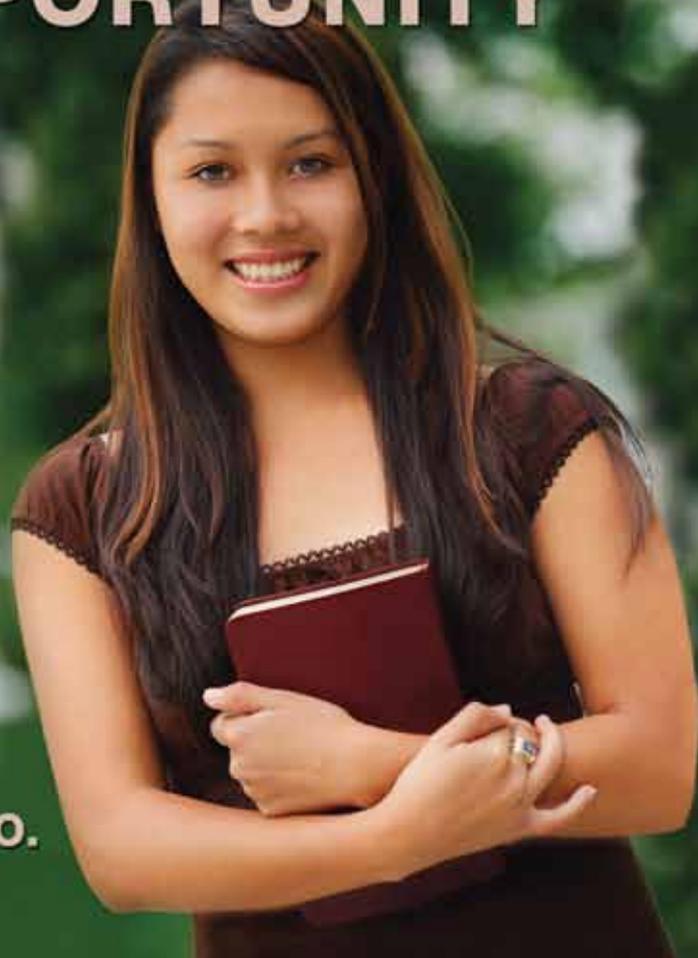
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OPPORTUNITY CAN BE YOUR NAME, TOO.



Reforming YOUTH MINISTRY

By Chris Talbot

A RECENT LIFEWAY STUDY RECORDED THAT 70% OF YOUNG ADULTS STOP ATTENDING CHURCH AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL.¹ TIME magazine reported that 61% of churched teenagers leave church and never return.² Whatever one's theological leanings, these statistics are sobering for any Christian. They beg the question, "Why the mass exodus from church?"

Books and speakers of decades past heralded entertainment-driven methods as the key to successful student ministry. Unfortunately, these models have run their course and failed to produce the promised results. It is time for youth ministry to claim the sufficiency of Christ's words when He said, "I will build My Church." By God's grace and His Word, we can begin the reformation that many youth ministries need.



BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF YOUTH MINISTRY

When developing a theology of any subject, our first resource is Scripture. Is it biblical to have youth ministry in the local church in the first place? If so, where do we find it? While there are no clear imperatives one way or another, Scripture does support youth-focused ministry. Two clear texts are Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. The Deuteronomy passage (known as the Hebrew *shema*) reminds readers of the importance of teaching young people basic truths of Scripture. In the Corinthian correspondence, Paul explains that people of all ages can be part of Christ's body.

While proof texts are helpful, perhaps the best way to view youth ministry is a gospel-driven ministry focused on students. In his book *No Guts, No Glory*, Alan Stewart states, "Our underlying assumption is that youth ministry is like any other gospel ministry—it is all about the proclamation and teaching of the gospel."³ Princeton Seminary professor Kenda Creasy Dean makes a similar statement: "What makes youth ministry distinctive is not its form, but its flock." Essentially, Dean argues that all ministry is biblical, and the only thing that makes youth ministry unique is the focus on a specific age group. She continues, "[Y]outh ministry acts more like a microcosm of the church than as an arm of education. When we minister to youth, we are doing exactly that: fulfilling the biblical mandate to minister to all of God's people."⁴

WHAT NEEDS REFORM?

There is a vast difference between what young people want and what young people need. That tension lies at the heart of youth ministry. In this consumer-driven culture, desires of youth are often fed by entertainment. This isn't a recent development; the blood has been in the water for some time.

During the 1940s, the Youth for Christ movement pioneered entertainment-driven youth ministry. They Christianized entertainment of their day with vaudeville-styled gimmicks: a performing "gospel horse," a faux Frank Sinatra, and a fun-focused message. In his book, *The Juvenilization of American Christianity*, Thomas Bergler describes their efforts: "For the leaders of the Youth for Christ movement, Christianity was increasingly becoming a product to be sold to customers via entertaining promises of personal fulfillment—with an added benefit of saving the world."⁵

It's easy for us to identify these approaches as "gimmicks," with the advantage of several decades of hindsight. However, it is difficult to identify such gimmicks when we're immersed in them. Today, many youth ministries are immersed in an updated version of the same thing. The numbers make it clear that we are in crisis mode. The "silver bullet" of youth ministry does not find its target in entertainment-based approaches.

Today, many lament the state of youth ministry. Entertainment-driven models attract by promising short-term, numeric results, claiming to "reach kids for Christ." Yet, these same ministries often vacate the second half of the Great Commission: "teaching them all the things [Christ] has commanded us." How do we know we are reaching students if we are unable to see them mature in Christ?

Even more serious is the impact youth ministry has on the Church as a whole. "What has become clear," a 1994 report to the Lilly Endowment stated, "is that youth ministry is ultimately about something much more than youth ministry...These [Christian youth] movements are redrawing the ecclesial map of the United States."⁶ A host of today's "alternative" church movements admit their intentional re-fashioning of worship styles and church polity is strongly rooted in youth ministry. Too often, adults seek churches that remind them of their youth group. If the currents of

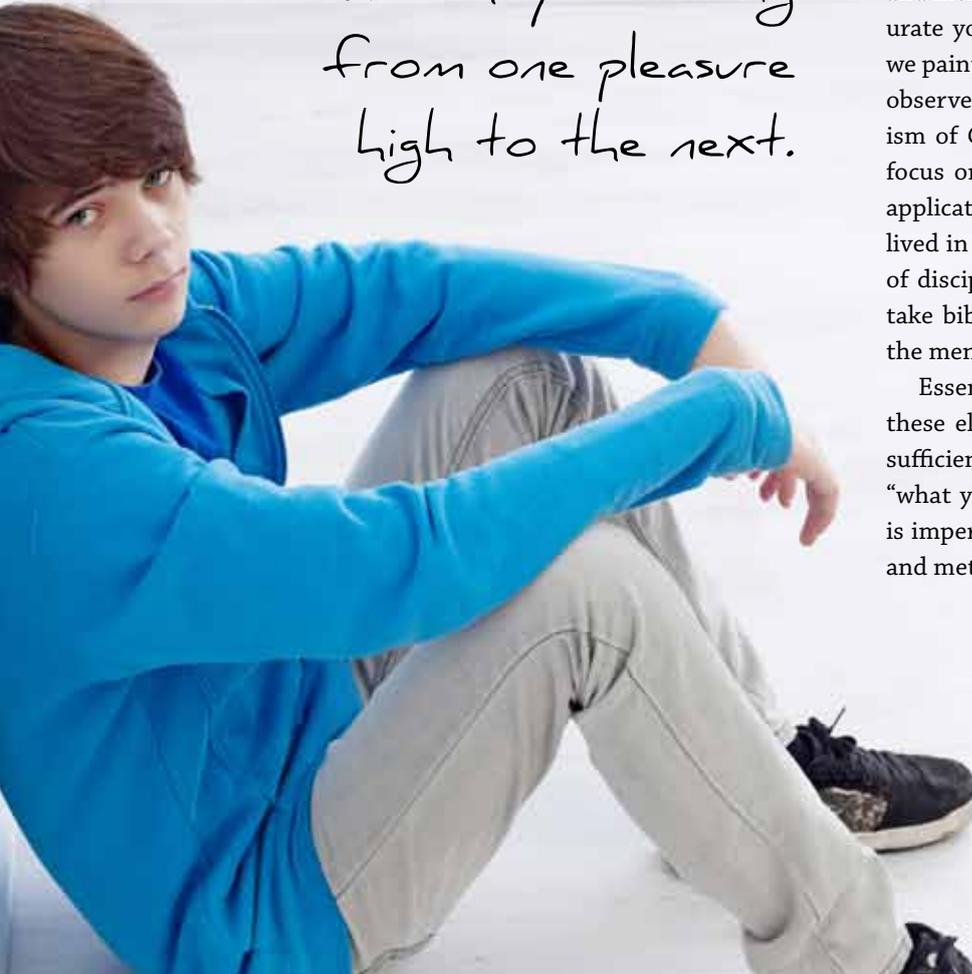
There is a vast difference between what young people want and what young people need.

youth ministry affect the church's theology and practice in coming decades, youth ministry has never been more important. Youth ministry is no longer just about youth.

GOD'S MEANS-OF-GRACE

To that end, we must ask, "How can we reform youth ministry?" To borrow a phrase from Brian H. Cosby, we can begin reform by "giving up the gimmicks." Founder of Young Life Jim Rayburn infamously wrote, "It's a sin to bore a kid."⁷ While Rayburn was most likely advocating for entertainment, Cosby notes, "[Youth] are bored because they are living from one pleasure high to the next. They're not encouraged to live out, for example, the content and method of ministry service." He continues, "America's youth not only need a ministry that seeks to communicate God's grace through the teaching of the Word, administration of the [ordinances], a life of prayer, gospel-motivated ministry, and grace-centered community—they actually want such a ministry."

The opposite of giving students what they want is giving



"[Youth] are bored because they are living from one pleasure high to the next."

them what they need—and a holistic means-of-grace ministry does exactly that. These means-of-grace include the Word, ordinances, prayer, service (ministry), and discipleship in the church. These are the very means by which God reveals His steadfast, committed love and grace to those who put their faith in Him. That is not to say that they work *ex opera operato*, or magically produce results.⁸ Rather, God will work through these means, because He has ordained them for the building of the Church. These are not common grace means, but special grace means—that is, grace made effectual in believers' lives via God's redemptive grace. As we allow these means-of-grace to become our "strategy" for ministry, we begin to see their sufficiency.

CONNECTING MEANS AND METHODOLOGY

One large question remains: "How does means-of-grace translate into methods?" The most pivotal tool is allowing the means to transform students into the image of Christ. God's means don't need our help. Rather than allowing videos, games, or events to become the focal point of youth ministry, let God's means-of-grace shape our practices. This makes the temporal elements of ministry secondary. Biblical content and methods of ministry cannot be divorced.

If Scripture is made central, then preaching, teaching, and memorizing Scripture will become a priority. As we saturate youth ministry in prayer (individual and corporate), we paint a beautiful picture of our dialogue with God. As we observe biblical ordinances, we note the beautiful symbolism of Christ's servanthood, death, and resurrection. Our focus on service cultivates cultural awareness and biblical application. As we serve with our students, they see life lived in light of the gospel. When we follow biblical models of discipleship, we see the community of our youth group take biblical form. These means-of-grace are influential in the mental formation of young people.

Essentially, we must keep first things first. If we allow these elements to become our means, we will display the sufficiency of Christ in our ministry. If the popular maxim, "what you win them with, you win them to" holds true, it is imperative that Christ occupy the center of our ministry and methods.

Brian Cosby writes, “Substituting the gospel-focused ministry for an entertainment-driven attraction is neither safe nor right, and God has called us to so much more than that.”⁹ Cosby is right. Entertainment culture in youth ministry will result in consequences that are neither safe nor right. We will build ministries of preference rather than transformational discipleship. Unknowingly, our ecclesiology will have a ripple effect that will affect the Church in years to come.

Furthermore, God has called us to more than entertainment. He has entrusted us with the message of reconciliation from our all-sufficient Savior. This is a magnificent honor and responsibility. As we turn back to historical, biblical models to grow youth in Christ, we will not only see students enjoy them, we will also see them transformed. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Welch College graduate Christopher Talbot is minister of students at Unity Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, North Carolina. To read more of his work on literature, ecclesiology, and hermeneutics, visit www.helywssocietyforum.com.

- 1 Scott McConnell, “LifeWay Research Finds Reasons 18- to 22-Year-Olds Drop Out of Church,” Lifeway.com, August 2007 (accessed February 1, 2013).
- 2 Sonja Steptoe, “How to Get Teens Excited About God,” Time Magazine, November 2006 (accessed February 1, 2013).
- 3 Alan Stewart (ed.), *No Guts, No Glory: Building a Youth Ministry That Lasts* (Kingsford: Matthias Media, 2000), 8.
- 4 Andrew Root and Kenda Creasy Dean, *The Theological Turn in Youth Ministry* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2011), 20.
- 5 Brian H. Cosby, *Giving Up Gimmicks: Reclaiming Youth Ministry From an Entertainment Culture* (Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing 2012), 63.
- 6 Ronald White, “History of Youth Ministry Project” (unpublished midproject report submitted to the Lilly Endowment, Indianapolis, Ind., August 20, 1994).
- 7 Quoted in Andrew Root and Kenda Creasy Dean, *The Theological Turn in Youth Ministry* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press 2011), 51.
- 8 This is a term used in Roman Catholic theology to refer to the supernatural work of the sacraments, regardless of the participant’s activity and/or disposition. Simply put, Roman Catholics believe that the sacraments confer special grace when performed with no condition on the participant.
- 9 Cosby, 27.

WELCH by the Numbers

<p>1 Professor for Every Nine Students</p> <p>7 NCAA Division II Athletic Teams</p> <p>40 Programs of Study</p> <p>75 Percent of Business Graduates With Jobs</p>	<p>90 Percent of Students Receive Financial Aid</p> <p>99 Percent of Teacher Education Graduates Find Job Placement</p> <p>4,000,000 Dollars in Financial Aid Each Year</p>
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The DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

By Kevin Trimble



A 40-something man from Kenya recently attended my Bible study as we pondered questions about the sovereignty of God in the life of Samuel. “I just want to know more about God,” he told me. I was delighted. The best gift a chaplain can receive is a person who *wants* to know more about God.

As I sit outside my CHU (Containerized Housing Unit) in a valley near the city of Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, I can’t help but realize that God has placed me on a path filled with many opportunities to know God in a magnificent way. The road of life has many choices, rest stops, detours, and the occasional accident as we do our best to follow Christ. Just like my student at Bible study, I still want to know more about God.

Discipleship is learning more about God along the journey of our lives. When I consider the first disciples, I can imagine their hunger to know Christ better, more deeply—to understand and see through His eyes. Like us, however, the apostles struggled with issues that clouded their desire to know Him more. They worried about lunch in John 4, how much fish and bread they had in Matthew 14, and who was the greatest in Mark 9.

A few years ago, I began to realize that everyone has a story to tell, and if I would listen, I could learn his or her perspective on faith, whether agnostic, atheist, or Christian. Every person who pauses to share his or her story is on a journey. For many, it is a journey of faith, of discipleship. When I interview incoming soldiers and ask them to share their faith perspective, some indicate they are atheistic. I’m grateful for their honesty. Why? I want to know what brought them to this point. Many struggle with their faith and, like the student from Kenya, simply long to know more.

My journey started like many other Free Will Baptists. Raised in a rural, conservative church where church attendance was very important, the lessons I learned early prepared me to follow Christ. In fact, around age four, I invited Christ into my heart. (Even at a young age, powerful preaching made it clear that I did not want to go to Hell.)

This was the beginning. My journey led me through adolescence and college, into relationships and marriage, and multiple ministry opportunities. Looking back, I recognize times when I truly thought I knew God and would have considered myself an established disciple. Today, I realize how little I knew. More important, I also realize how little I know now. Discipleship isn't about how many Scriptures I can quote, how well I can exegete the Word, or the depths of my theological wisdom. Discipleship is about following Christ.

The simple meaning of the word is "one who embraces and assists in spreading the teachings of another." I like the way the *New Oxford American Dictionary* defines it. *Disciple* means "follower, adherent, believer, student, or supporter." In *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, we find that the Greek New Testament word for disciple is *mathetes*, literally, "learner or pupil." A disciple believes and follows the teachings of another, constantly desiring to learn more of his master's will.

Seminars, conferences, revivals, and training events are themed around the subject of discipleship. The New Testament teaches clearly on the subject. We understand the cost of discipleship. We recognize the need to conform to Christ by studying and practicing His Word, living a holy life, bearing fruit, and loving one another. Though I understand all of this, I still ask, "Does the constant bombardment of this information into our lives actually make us better disciples?" Perhaps, but there is a danger of *doing* discipleship without *being* a disciple. This can easily drive us into a mechanical, works-based, tradition-led lifestyle.

If our relationship to God and His Son, along with the work of the Holy Spirit, is a journey that culminates in Heaven, should our goal simply be to

know Him better? Of course!

Ministry for me now is about simple. If my theology is simple, people will understand it. Dare I say it? Soldiers like simple. I do as well. Simple discipleship involves three perspectives on the journey to know God more fully. Mark 8:34-37 reveals one of the many models of discipleship found in the New Testament. In this passage, Christ called His disciples to forget self, to surrender fully, and to follow Him.

How difficult is it to forget self? For me it is very hard, perhaps for you as well. When we do something good, we want praise. When we are hurt or offended, we want consolation. We live to massage, comfort, please, and love self. In his book *The Way of the Heart* Henri Nouwen speaks of desert fathers

THREE GREAT READS

The Way of the Heart
by Henri J.M. Nouwen

Following Christ
by Joseph M. Stowell

He Loves Me
by Wayne Jacobsen

who spend their entire lives forgetting self. We quickly dismiss this because our lives are too busy to live alone in the desert. How different would our lives be if we truly forgot self, if our selfishness were not in the way—what I want, how I feel, what I need?

If you think forgetting self is difficult, how much more difficult is full surrender to Christ? I'm sure you know the words to the old gospel song "I Surrender All." Have you truly lived those words? Forget the Facebook posts; the busy schedule; the activities, stuff, and nonsense that keep us from giving all to Christ. I challenge you to embrace a full,

complete, surrender to Christ. When was the last time you spent a day asking God for wisdom in every decision?

You would think following Christ is easy. In the military, I live in a pluralistic world that claims all faiths are valid. I'm sure the same is true for you. Whether you gather at an office party, go to a ballgame, or attend a family reunion, you quickly realize that "following Christ" is different than it has been in the past. Please understand, I continue to believe and preach that there is only one way to God—through Christ. He tells us He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Got it. No issue; it's just harder to live that out in a world where "anything goes."

Back to my journey...I'm still on the road to being disciplined, discipling others, and learning continually. Discipleship is a journey. Have I completely and fully mastered forgetting self? You bet...until someone steps on my toes. Have I learned to fully surrender? Of course, unless the path doesn't match my own plans; then I struggle.

Am I following Christ? Yes. Every day I get up with a determination to follow Him, "to be a fully devoted follower of Christ," as Joseph Stowell describes it. Sometimes, I am a miserable failure and wonder why God continues to put up with me. Yet, He continues to remind me that He loves me, and He is leading me along the journey closer to Him each day. He is making me His disciple—teaching, convicting, and convincing me daily. With each turn and twist, I am becoming a more ardent believer, a deeper student of the God I love and live for each day. To Him be glory! **ONE**

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MISSION: DISCIPLESHIP

BY TIM RIGGS

“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:18-20).

We refer to these familiar words of Jesus as the Great Commission—the great and abiding mission of the Church, which still applies to us in the 21st century. These verses can be summed up in two words: make disciples. Though times and methods change, the message and mission for both individual Christians and the Church remains the same...go and make disciples.

Easton’s Bible Dictionary defines *disciple* as a student or a person who believes Christ’s doctrine, rests on Christ’s sacrifice, and follows Christ’s example. Discipleship starts with reaching people for Christ and continues as we train them in the Christian life, teaching them to be like Jesus in everything. We must teach (and model) dedication, commitment, and service to the Savior through the local church.

Discipleship classes are crucial in this process. At Bay City, we take a new convert through a seven-lesson course called *Mastering the Basics*. Mobile is a hotbed for high school and college football (Roll Tide!). In football, if a player never masters the basics of the game, he will never reach his full potential. The same is true in the Christian life; so we lay a strong foundation, emphasizing assurance of salvation, daily time with God in Word and prayer, faithful church attendance, giving, and serving the church.

In addition, we spend time outside the church with new believers: praying, serving, and eating together—just as Jesus did with His apostles. It is our goal to see

new believers step from the darkness to become lights for Christ; from being helped to helping others; from being served to serving others, and from being reached to reaching others for Christ.

One lady in the Bay City church accepted Christ as Savior four years ago. She came from a family that was financially secure but spiritually lost. As a result, she grew up living a sinful lifestyle, which included having an abortion as a teenager. Through the ministry of our church, she found new life in Christ and is now a totally different person. Though her journey as a disciple of Christ has not been easy, she has been faithful. She is in church every time the doors open. She gives faithfully, and she has begun to influence others for the Lord as well.

She recently went through a class to help her overcome the emotional scars left by the abortion she underwent 20 years ago. She now counsels unmarried mothers-to-be, encouraging them to choose life rather than the tragic abortion she chose years ago.

This flourishing disciple has gone full circle, from a life of spiritual darkness to showing others the True Light and God’s love. Her story and others like it remind us time and again that our awesome God can take what the devil means for evil and bring something good out of it for His glory and the salvation of souls. That is the mission of discipleship. **ONE**

the LONGEST JOURNEY

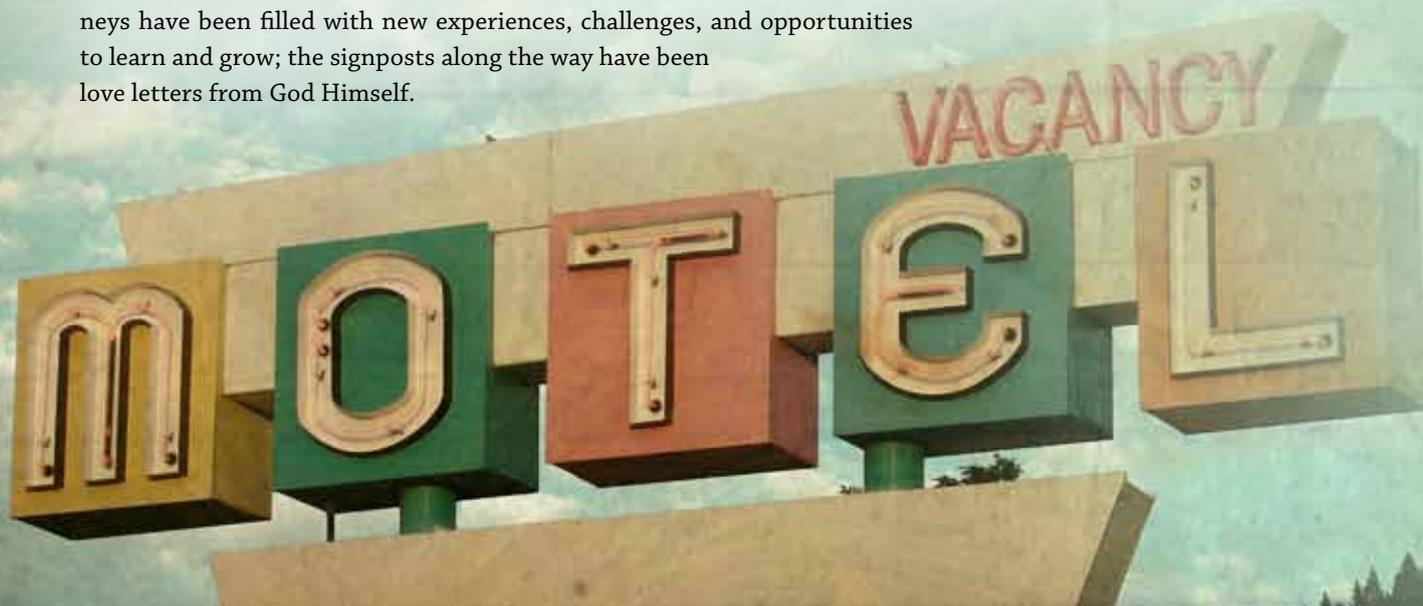
BY NORMA J. GOLDMAN

What's the longest journey you've ever taken? For most of us, we'd describe a trip of not much longer than a month. That seems like a long time to be away from home. As a child, my parents often drove from Texas across New Mexico and Arizona to California. That was before air-conditioned cars...you get the picture. It seemed like a journey of 40 years to me. There was that hot back seat, the boring landscape, and very little to entertain a wiggly young girl. If you're retired, you'll know what I mean when I say the highlight of the trip was the Burma Shave signs.

But what would you say to a journey spanning more than 60 years? I'm referring to the discipleship journey that began when you trusted Christ as personal Savior. Likely, it wasn't described as a lifelong journey, but you've discovered that it is.

It's the kind of journey Moses described in the Old Testament, when God (using Moses as His messenger) led His children out of slavery and into a new life, one that depended entirely on Him. We can all agree they were slow learners. The trip that should have taken days or months took 40 grueling years. It required unbelievable patience for God to prove His love, faithful care, and commitment to the 12 tribes in the hostile setting of a harsh desert.

Our personal journey out of slavery to sin and into a new life entirely dependent on Him was born out of His commandment to go, baptize, and disciple others. And as we've traveled, we've brought others alongside on a journey that will continue until life on this earth ends. Far from that boring childhood trip, our journeys have been filled with new experiences, challenges, and opportunities to learn and grow; the signposts along the way have been love letters from God Himself.



LEAD AND TEACH BY EXAMPLE

So what does this journey look like in retirement? We still lead and teach by example. We still learn; we model right living—trust in God, obedience to His Word, faithfulness in giving and serving. As we do, others observe and are strengthened in their own journeys. Who are you leading by example?

LEAD BY OVERCOMING

In overcoming hindrances like temper, harsh words, an unforgiving spirit, or lack of compassion, others observe and are challenged to do the same. In whatever setting we find ourselves, people are watching, observing, and measuring us against the teachings of Jesus. My pastor often says, “People don’t have a problem with Christians because we are different, but because we aren’t different enough.” What hindrance do you need to overcome today?

LEAD AND TEACH BY INVESTING

Investing, pouring one’s self into the life of another, is a constant theme in Scripture. As Jesus poured Himself

into The Twelve, they in turn poured themselves into others, turning the known world upside down for Christ. Some of you are church planters like those early disciples, while others are like the ones chosen to develop and mature the fledgling churches of the first century. Who and what are you investing in today?

LEAD AND TEACH BY LIVING JOYOUSLY

The people you and I gravitate to are those who see and nurture the good in others. We love being near those who are positive about their faith, grateful for God’s provision, and always see the best in others. Does the joy in your life draw others close? Who needs you *today* to nurture the good in them?

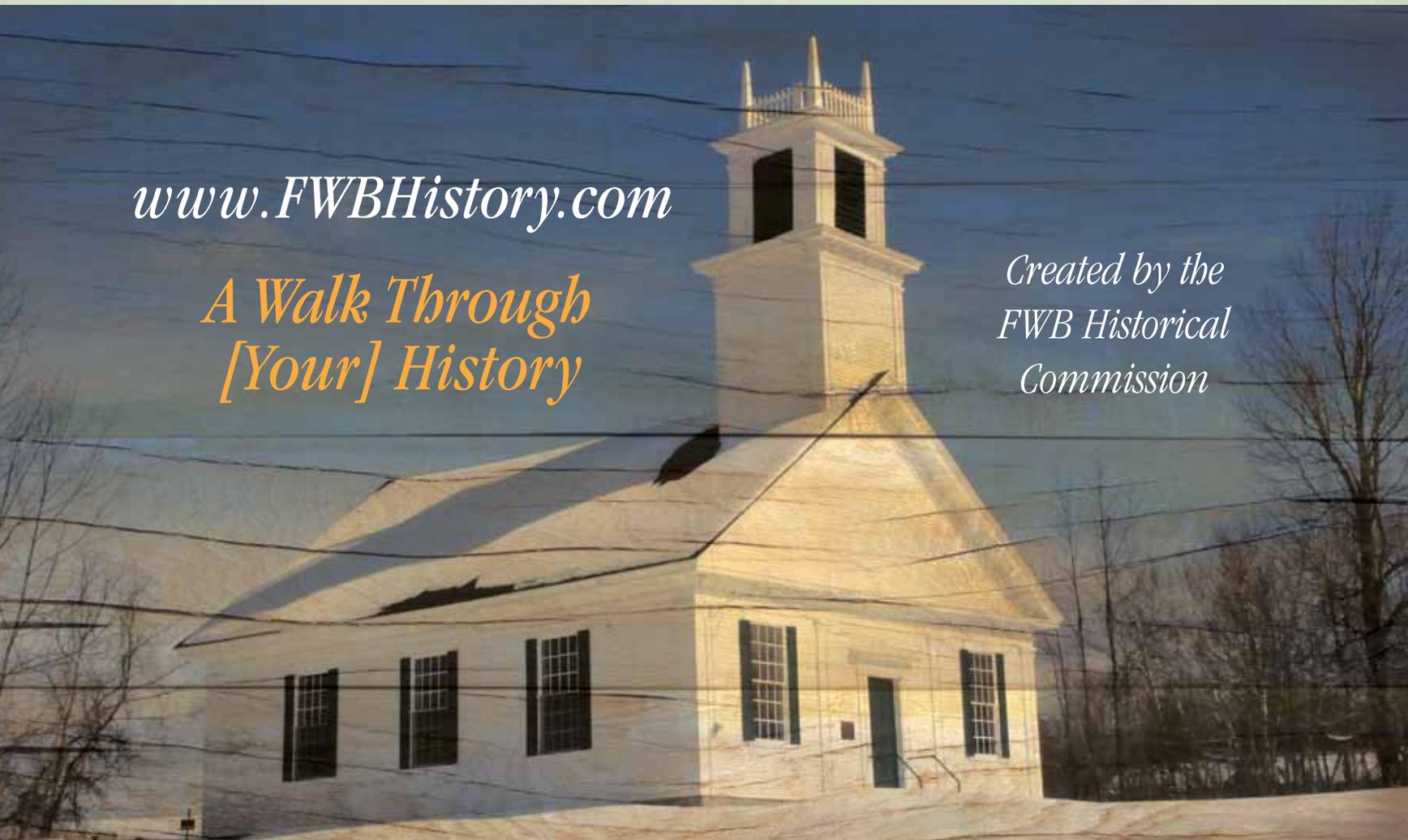
Our journeys are not for the applause of men. We only yearn to hear Him say at journey’s end, “Well done, good and faithful servant. . . Enter into the joy of the Lord.” **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys an award-winning writing career in her retirement. Learn more about the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement at www.boardofretirement.com.

www.FWBHistory.com

*A Walk Through
[Your] History*

*Created by the
FWB Historical
Commission*





Keep Them From **FALLING**

BY PATSY GWARTNEY

My husband stood, walked toward the pulpit, and fell flat on his face! I assumed he fell because he was extremely tired. After all, it was one of our last deputation services. After planting a Free Will Baptist church in Mesa, Arizona, 25 years earlier, we were anxious to complete deputation and return to Arizona to start another church in Pinal County. As my husband struggled to get up, the congregation gasped, and the pastor and several others rushed to assist him.

Suddenly, I saw his face and knew the fall had been staged to grab the congregation's attention. He stepped to the pulpit and said, "It's terrible to fall, isn't it? It's awkward. You feel foolish and helpless. Today, I would like to speak to you from 2 Peter 1 about how to keep from falling."

While traveling to raise money, we spent a great deal of time in the car. We planned, discussed, laughed, and cried

about what we would do differently this time, and what we would do the same. We were determined to do all we could—not only to get people to attend services, but to give the gospel a chance to make a difference in their lives.

We set about the task of settling in Pinal County. We began to make friends and share the gospel with people to help them become Christ followers. Foremost in our minds was the thought that we wanted to do our best to see their lives transformed, to make disciples, to keep them from falling.

As we discussed how to make disciples, we decided to base our discipleship on 2 Peter 1:5-11:

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."

These key concepts of faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity became the basis of *everything* we do in church planting to make disciples.

FAITH

We must teach converts to put faith in Christ alone for salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 makes it clear we are not saved by works, but by grace. Yet, sometimes we forget the part of verse 8 that says we are saved by grace through faith. Repentance includes faith in Christ, turning from sin and the world and to Christ. As believers grow in grace, we must teach them how to live by faith through the Holy Spirit.

Church planters demonstrate faith by trusting God to meet the needs of the new church—a place to have services, workers to carry out the work of ministry, and funds needed to accomplish these goals. Converts need to see us trust God to keep us on the field and to stay with it when things get tough.

VIRTUE

Moral excellence has virtually been lost in American society. Teaching people about virtue includes biblical character qualities of holiness, honesty, faithfulness, and modesty. Church planters should lead by example, teaching converts to live holy, hard-working, and happy lives. We must do our best to restore dignity, honor, and excellence in both church and community. Succumbing to laziness and apathy in our lives will not help us make strong disciples.

KNOWLEDGE

The Bible must be the basis of everything we teach. It is amazing to see where people turn for guidance and counsel. They seek knowledge in the wrong places. Every discipleship class, church activity, and worship service must be based on learning what the Bible says and its practical application to daily life.

TEMPERANCE

The people to whom we minister are prisoners of Satan's war against them. They are victims to lives controlled by out-of-control passions. We are a society of over-spending, over-indulgence, and the resulting depression. Heeding God's Word and listening to the counsel of the Holy Spirit will help new believers develop self-control instead of chaos, peace rather than turmoil, and patience in the place of anxiety.

PATIENCE

Nothing develops patience like church planting. Dealing with people and their problems helps develop patience. You can't plant a church without dealing with people. It cannot be avoided. Church planters should not only demonstrate patience in dealing with church people, we must show patience with unsaved neighbors, business owners, and difficult county and city officials.

GODLINESS

Christlikeness can be demonstrated through the life of a church planter. Teaching by example to be like Christ in what we say, how we dress, where we go, and what we do will allow us to be salt and light where God has placed us.

It has become increasingly important to please the Lord in our services. If our music, message, and methods cater to unsaved attendees or carnal Christians, but offend and grieve the Holy Spirit, we have accomplished nothing as church planters. Christ called us to make disciples, not just attract a crowd. People must be transformed by the power of Christ and become new creations in Him.

BROTHERLY LOVE

One of the greatest problems church planters face is helping converts forgive those who have wronged them and rid their lives of bitterness. If a new Christian does not learn this key concept, he will stumble and fall. Learning to forgive others, being kind to them, and avoiding resentment that leads to bitterness will cause a new Christian to be a light shining in a dark world to draw others to the Savior. Church planters must set the example daily by living out the gospel in kindness, extending forgiveness to others.

CHARITY

Dysfunction plagues most homes in America. Only a close walk with Christ and time spent in His Word will enable families to become a happy, successful unit. The marriage relationship we model should teach converts to love their spouses as Christ loves the church. We must show them how to love their children, discipline them in a godly way, and teach them character qualities that will keep them from falling into the numerous traps Satan sets for them.

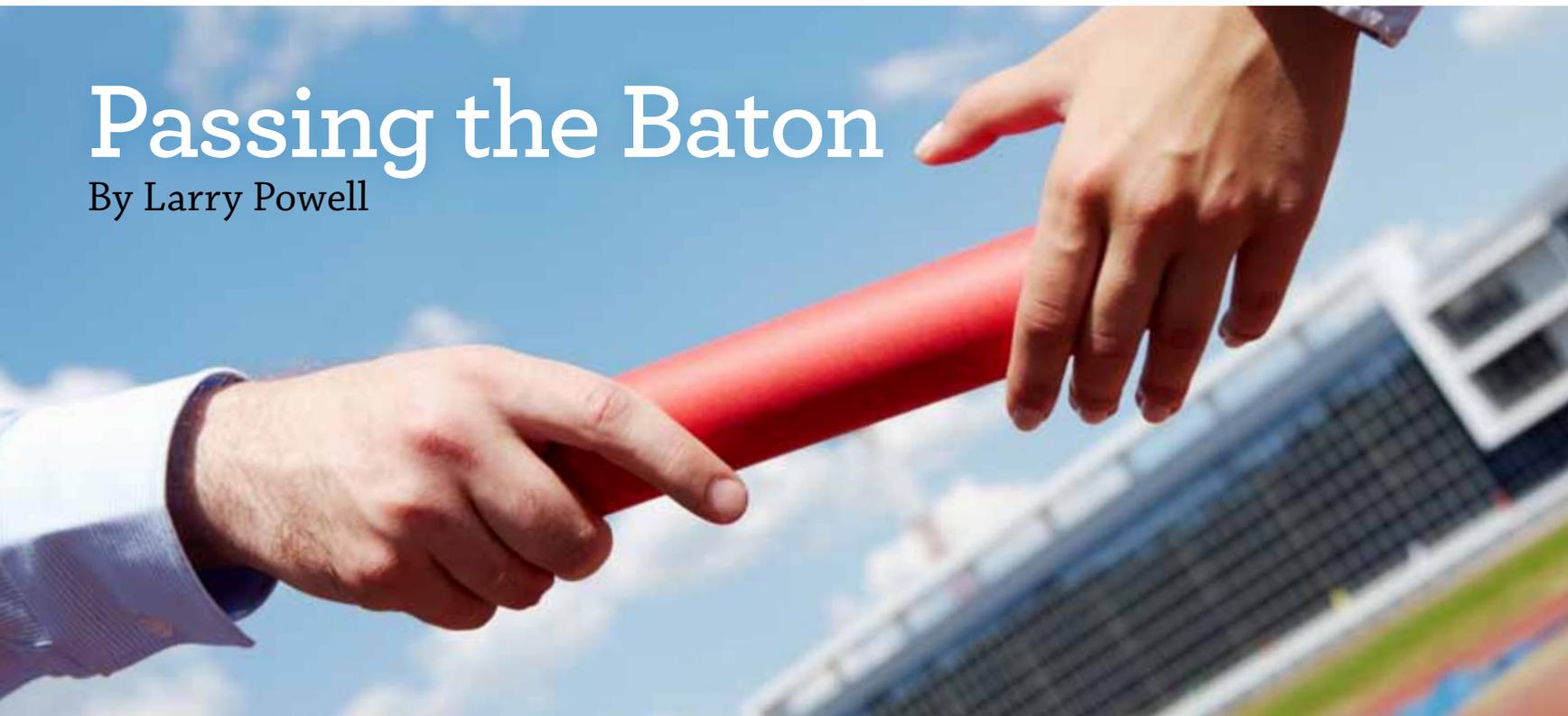
These simple concepts from 2 Peter will help us teach people how to change direction in their lives...from Hell to Heaven. We can rescue them, keep them from falling, and make disciples. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Patsy Gwartney and her husband Howard are planting a new Free Will Baptist church in Florence, Arizona, the "Cowboy Cradle" of the Great Southwest. Learn more at www.homemissions.net.

News About the Nation

Passing the Baton

By Larry Powell



I am passing the baton to my friend who has a love for the past and a vision for the future of Home Missions North America. David Crowe has a unique perspective as to who we are as Free Will Baptists. He has a working knowledge of our history and a comprehensive understanding of our mission of communicating the gospel and making disciples.

David has served with Home Missions for 18 years. He and I often chuckle about all the titles he has held in our department. He has been director of missionary assistance, director of church growth, and director of development. It is my pleasure now to introduce him as the new general director.

David is certainly qualified in many ways to take up the baton and run the race. He loves our church planters and prays for their success every day. Our missionaries can sense his heart for their families and their

mission. Brother David is loved by our pastors and people across America.

He has preached over 1,300 revivals in our churches, colleges, mission conferences, and denominational meetings. He is a friend to pastors and a great encourager

DAVID LOVES OUR CHURCH PLANTERS AND PRAYS FOR THEIR SUCCESS EVERY DAY.

to church families. Our people often quote from his unforgettable sermons entitled, “Hands Held High,” “Balcony People,” and “Even Now.” Our people are proud to be Free Will Baptists when they hear his inspiring sermon series on Free Will Baptist history and heritage. Some 195 men have responded to the call of gospel ministry as he gave the challenge to serve.

David has a keen interest in the ministry of Free Will Baptist chaplains who serve in the military around the world. He will be able to pray with and for them effectively as he himself served as a chaplain’s assistant for 15 years in the Army National Guard. During that time, he led some 300 military men and women to trust Christ as Savior.

Perhaps some people may not think of David as an academic, but he earned a B.A. from Welch College, a Master of Divinity and a Ph.D. from Moody and Liberty University, along with several other degrees. He has used his education effectively to be a blessing to many.

David hails from his beloved state of Alabama where he met and married his wife Kathey. She is an inspiration and encourager.

As I pass the baton to my friend, David Crowe, let us all pray that he will serve and finish well. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry A. Powell served as general director of Home Missions from 1999-2013.

A Legacy of PASSION

By David Crowe

For 12 years, it has been my privilege to work with General Director Larry Powell as he led Home Missions. Brother Powell will retire at the end of this year, and he and his wife Wanda will devote more time to each other, their children, and their grandchildren. As I thought about writing this article, many things came to mind. I could simply give you the Powells' resume, and you would be impressed with their education, their experience as three-time home missionaries, and their faithful service pastoring established churches. I could tell you all Home Missions accomplished under his direction and leadership, and you would be thrilled.

I chose, however, to take a different approach. Let me tell you about Larry Powell the man. Many times, we know people only

from a distance. We see them at national conventions and speak briefly with them, if at all. We see their pictures or read their articles, but really do not have an opportunity to get to know them. I want to share what I have learned about Larry Powell as a close, personal friend.

When he first came to Home Missions as general director, one of the first things that impressed me was his passion—passion for souls, for church planters, for established churches and their pastors, and for his office staff. I listened to him pray for others, and watched as tears ran down his face. I saw him agonize over decisions that would affect the lives of others. God truly placed a heart of compassion in Larry Powell.

Not only do I love his passion, I've learned from his preaching. Brother Larry has some wonderful preaching gifts. He enunciates every syllable in English or Spanish. He can say more in 25 minutes than many preachers can in an hour. (I'm still working on this.) He preaches with his head, and he preaches with his heart. He means what he says, and he has something to say.

During the time I have spent with the Powells, I have watched them live out their purpose. Many people in ministry spend their lives trying to determine their purpose in the Kingdom. Larry and Wanda understood and answered their call early in ministry and have been living and fulfilling

BROTHER LARRY PREACHES WITH HIS HEAD, AND HE PREACHES WITH HIS HEART.

that purpose since. What a joy to see God's servants living His purpose for their lives.

God blessed Home Missions, as well as my own life and the life of my family, when He allowed our paths to cross with Larry and Wanda Powell.

Larry, we will miss you, and we pray God's best for both of you in this new stage of your ministry. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: David Crowe was named general director of Home Missions in July 2013. He and his wife Kathey live in Cane Ridge, Tennessee, and attend Rejoice FWB Church.

Home Missions Welcomes New Staff Member



Antioch, TN—Home Missions is pleased to announce that Brad Ransom has assumed the post of director of church planting, following the resignation of previous director, Richard Atwood. Brad will work directly with missionaries and their families to help and encourage them in their work.

Ransom moved to Oklahoma from Southern California after high school graduation in 1980 to attend Hillsdale FWB College. He has been in full-time ministry since 1981 and is a lifelong Free Will Baptist. Brad graduated from Hillsdale with a Bachelor of Theology degree in 1988. He went on to complete both Master and Doctor of Ministry degrees in Christian Counseling as well as a Master of Arts in Evangelism and Church Planting.

He has been a member of the Oklahoma State Christian Education Board, the Hillsdale Board of Trustees, and the Oklahoma State Mission Board. He also served as moderator of Oklahoma's Center Association and was a member of the Center Association Executive and Credential Boards.

Ransom most recently served full-time as the mission director for Oklahoma Free Will Baptist Missions from January 2007 to August 2013. Prior to this role at the Oklahoma State Office, he was senior pastor at First FWB Church, Sulphur, Oklahoma, from December 1993 to January 2007. He also served on the pastoral staff at First FWB Church, Ada, Oklahoma, from 1988-1993, and at Grace FWB Church and Logos Christian School, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from 1980-1988.

Brad and Lori, his wife of more than 32 years, have three grown sons and seven grandchildren. ■

New director of church planting shares his vision for the future...

The Future of Home Missions

— BY BRAD RANSOM —

During my recent move to Nashville to begin my duties with Home Missions, I was reminded that I'm not as young as I used to be. Unloading heavy boxes of books, furniture, and endless trips from the U-Haul to the door took their toll on my body. I am so thankful for the volunteers who showed up to help us. There is no way we could have done it alone.

In much the same way, I am constantly reminded that the work to which God has called me is much bigger than my capabilities, and I certainly cannot do it alone. Similarly, as our denomination ages, and as we prepare for the future, we need to be reminded that the work ahead is bigger than what any of us can do alone.

The hope for a strong denominational future is church planting. Many of our churches are aging, and the natural process of attrition is taking its toll. If we fail to plant strong churches today, our future will be compromised. Home Missions is the church-planting arm of the denomination, and we firmly believe we can do more by working together than we have

ever done before. The following simple points outline my vision and strategy for the future of Home Missions, and what we can accomplish as we work together to plant churches in North America:

- Increase awareness of the need for planting churches.
- Develop a close relationship with Free Will Baptist colleges to train future church planters.
- Begin an active recruiting program to create a “pipeline” to identify potential church planters at every stage in the process.
- Create a solid assessment process to help potential missionaries recognize strengths and weaknesses as potential church planters.
- Ongoing training program that begins with orientation and never ends.
- Offer an individualized coaching process that gives every church planter a teammate for accountability and idea sharing.
- Facilitate extensive networking channels for church planters.
- Develop strategy training at every level from itinerate to post organization.
- Continue ongoing evaluation.

If we fail to plant strong churches today, our future will be compromised.

The future is bright and Home Missions desires your prayers. We are here to serve the local church, districts, and state associations. If we can assist you, please don't hesitate to call. [ONE](#)

ABOUT THE WRITER: Brad Ransom is director of church planting for Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Learn more: www.homemissions.net.



“EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY”

By Dustin Walters

Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:20-21: “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever, amen.” This verse has taken on a deeper meaning to me during my time at Welch College.

I am not Paul, nor am I a member of the Ephesian Church. But I agree with Paul that God is able to do more than we ask or think. When God chooses to act in this way, it is for His glory—something I have learned as God has been faithful to me during my time at Welch College.

College Decision

Throughout my life, I have known the importance of attending college. Dad never attended college but always tried to convey its importance to me. I will be the first in my immediate family to graduate from college, which brings a sense of pride and motivation for my studies.

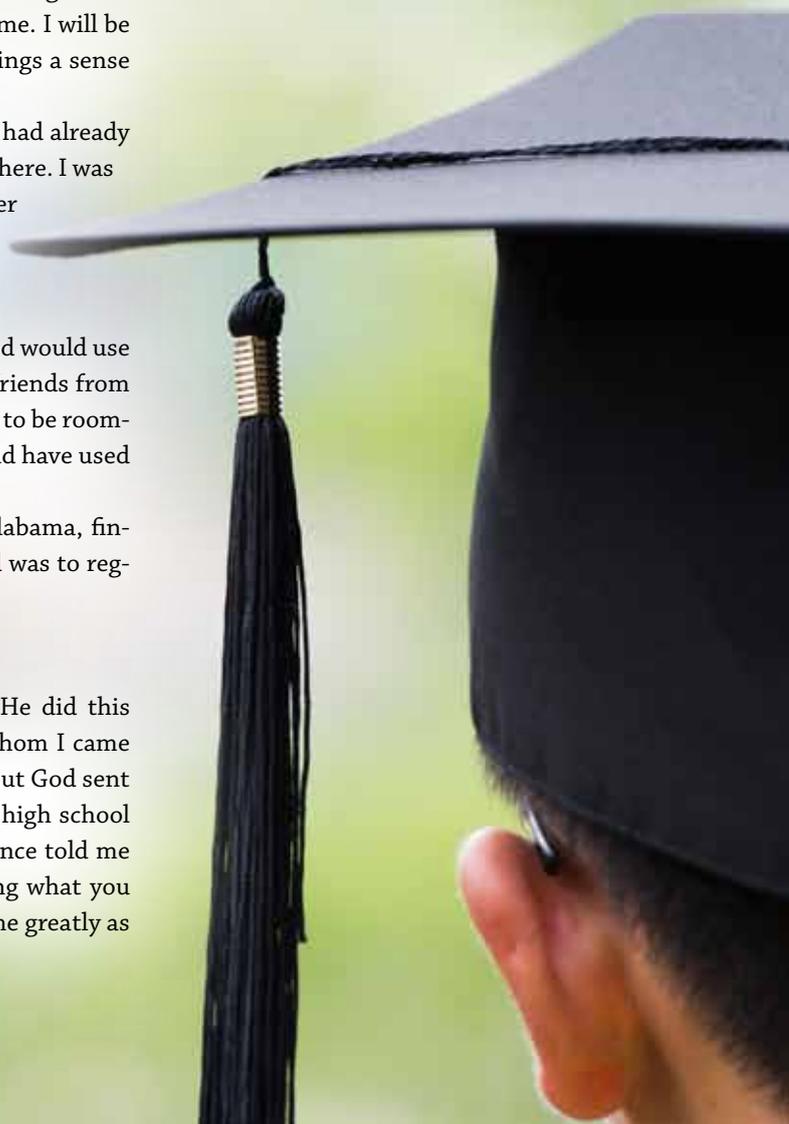
During high school, I never set my mind on a particular college. I had already answered the call to the ministry, but opportunities opened up elsewhere. I was a football manager, and a school in North Alabama presented an offer to be the manager there. Between a Pell Grant and the scholarship, my schooling would have been paid for without much worry. This was a great relief for my family and me.

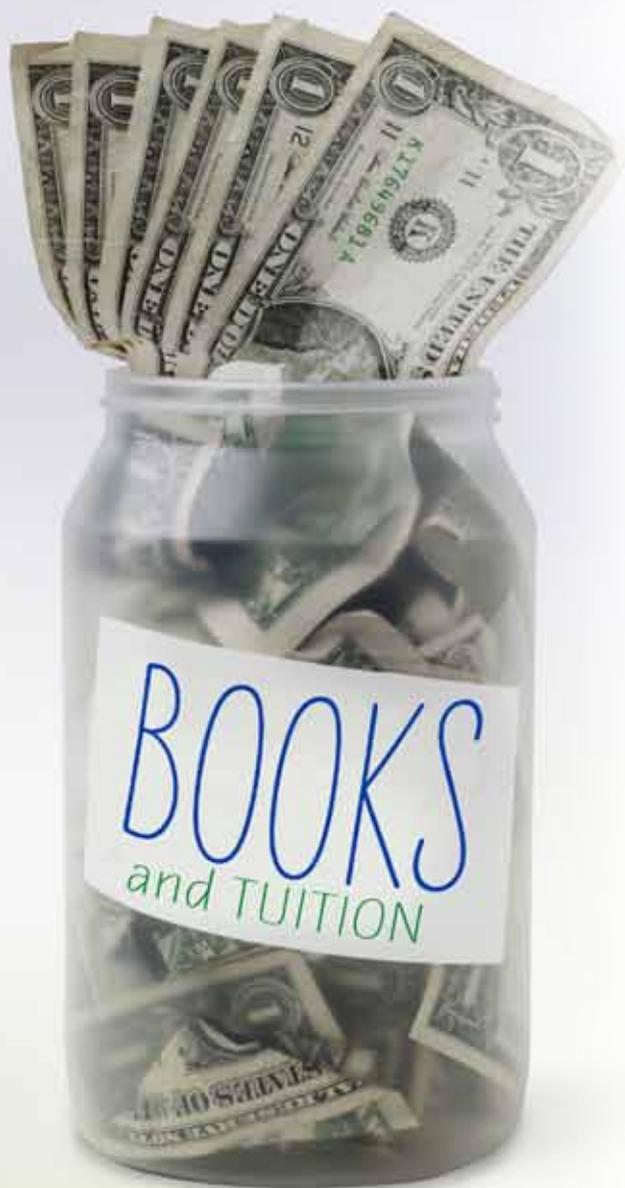
I had prayed about the opportunity before it arrived. I thought God would use me to “shine the light” at a secular school. After all, one of my best friends from high school was planning to play on the football team. We were going to be roommates, and I thought I would be his spiritual mentor. While God could have used me there, He had a better choice in mind.

I completed the admission process at the University of North Alabama, finished all necessary paper work, and was admitted. All that remained was to register for fall classes.

What God Wants

God began to deal with me about the decision I was making. He did this through personal prayer and study, but also through others with whom I came in contact. I made the decision to attend Welch College on my own, but God sent several people who helped me see what God could do. One was my high school librarian, Lesa Parker. She had attended Welch College. She never once told me that I should as well, but she asked me the question, “Are you doing what you want to do, or what God wants you to do?” This question convicted me greatly as it related to my college choice.





I was so focused on how I could pay for school, that I did not trust God as I should.

God continued to convict me about college. A Welch faculty member, Terry Forrest, was influential in my decision. He called me one afternoon while I was at work. When he called, I was sure God wanted me to attend UNA because everything had fallen into place. Brother Forrest proposed that the enemy opens doors just like God does. He asked pointedly, “If God has called you to be a preacher, don’t you think you need to study to be a preacher and not something else? Why would you want to get a degree in a field that God did not call you to?” He told me that he wanted me to pray earnestly about this, and that he would be praying for me as well. If Terry Forrest prays for you, you should prepare for God’s leading. I’m grateful that prayer still changes things.

Time went on, and I began to sense that God might be leading me to Welch, but I wasn’t ready to submit to His calling. Then, I read 2 Chronicles 25:9, and the passage spoke to me clearly.

The story of King Amaziah should be studied and loved by all Christians. God told Amaziah to trust Him as mighty in battle. Amaziah did what we would all do based on natural wisdom. He hired an army. But God instructed Amaziah not to use his mercenaries. His instructions left Amaziah “questioning his investment” in verse 9.

After reading that passage, God really convicted me about where I would go to school. It seemed as though the Holy Spirit was saying, “If God can give you \$1,000 for a semester of school, what makes you think He can’t give you \$10,000 for a semester?” God was showing me through the Holy Spirit that I didn’t fully trust Him. I was so focused on how I could pay for school that I did not trust God as I should. So, I continued seeking a way to make ends meet on my own.

Work Hard and Believe God

I think it is biblical to have a strong work ethic, but too often, I rely entirely on my own talents and abilities. God showed me that I should trust Him because He owns “the cattle on a thousand hills.” God is the best provider anyone could hope for. He is, after all, *Jehovah-Jireh*.

Clearly, I was relying on my own power and wisdom to attend college. I had been taught self-reliance from an early age—if you don’t work, you don’t eat. No doubt, Christians should be hard working above all others. However, we must realize why we are working: to bring glory to Jesus.

More Than Money

To those considering Welch College, I urge you: do not allow money to be the determining factor. I ask you to search yourself and determine whether you really trust God or not. One note of caution: I am not advocating a “prosperity gospel,” where, if you just trust God, everything will be given to you. But if you really believe God is calling you to Welch, He will provide a way.

He has provided for me “exceedingly abundantly” as the KJV renders Ephesians 3:20-21. God did not pay for my schooling up front. I have endured many struggles, and it has not always been easy to make my payments; but God has provided. He has provided through faithful sup-

porters sending random money; He has provided through loans, scholarships, and the faithful giving of those within our denomination. And He has provided me with a great job.

Wait on God

I see God's faithfulness as it relates to my school bill. My first semester at Welch started out in the hole— \$1,700 behind on payments. I began to doubt God. I said, "God, I thought You wanted me to come here. How can I come if I can't pay for it?" God reminded me to trust Him once again. In one month's time, my first semester was paid in full—\$10,103. I could have never done this on my own. God did it!

By the time I started my second semester, I had a job at UPS. I was still uncertain how I would come up with enough money for just another month. After making payments and adding scholarships, I re-

mained short by \$272 (a large debt for a college student). God came through again. I had to work overtime during Christmas, but God used the extra wages to provide the means.

After completing my third semester at Welch College, I worked 12-hour days throughout the summer and on the final Friday of the summer I calculated I would be \$671 short on the fall semester payment. On Monday, I was paid. You want to guess the amount? \$686. God came through again.

I stand amazed at God's goodness. He has provided exceedingly abundantly for me at Welch College, and I know He will do the same for others who place their complete trust in Christ. Consider the words of Ephesians 3:20-21: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

God will provide for His children. Not so we will obtain more wealth and earthly glory for ourselves, but that His glory will be proclaimed throughout the world. He is worthy of all glory and honor forever.

If God calls you to Welch College, He will provide the means for you to be here.

I pray God will use my story as a reminder that He is faithful and able. I pray for each person who reads this. You might be considering Welch College. Some of you might choose to help others attend by providing financially. I pray that you obey the Holy Spirit in your response. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dustin Walters is a junior Pastoral Training major from Hamilton, Alabama, where he attended Winfield FWB Church. Learn more about Welch College at www.WELCH.edu.

Just one slice...

Have you considered leaving a portion, a

"slice" of your estate to Free Will Baptist ministries?

If every Free Will Baptist household tithed on its estate,

it would produce \$600 million. When invested, this money

would produce \$30 million annually for the work of the denomination,

enough to fund **30% of every national ministry** gift budget and **10% of the average church budget**.

The Free Will Baptist Foundation recently partnered with **Cornerstone Estate Planning** to provide

seminars to churches and organizations. We believe if Free Will Baptists are challenged to give estate gifts, they will

respond and make a huge impact for the next generation of Free Will Baptists. Contact our office for more information:

foundation@nafwb.org | 877-336-7575 | www.FWBGifts.org





February 23
2014



Ketteman Student

SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE

Each February, the Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive raises funds for scholarships provided by Welch College to deserving students.

Who benefits from the scholarship drive?

Numerous groups of students benefit. The college provides scholarships for children of Free Will Baptist pastors and students with high academic standing. International students and students with financial need also receive funds from monies raised by the Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive.



How much scholarship money does the school provide?

In 2012, Welch College awarded students a record \$1,094,864 in institutional scholarships.

Must a student have a particular major to qualify?

Recipients of scholarship funds pursue a variety of majors. Any student who qualifies, regardless of major, receives scholarship assistance.



Will my gift really make a difference?

Scholarships given to Welch students are often the difference between whether or not they can attend the college. Every gift is significant.

How can I give?

Use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift. You may also give at: Welch.edu/giving. In addition, you may give through electronic fund transfer (EFT), sometimes referred to as a bank draft.

Equipping students to change the world.



News at WELCH

Dorm Enrollment Increases by 24%



NASHVILLE, TN—Fall 2013 Welch College dorm enrollment rose 24% over fall 2012 stats, with full-time equivalency (FTE) enrollment also increasing from 235 last fall to 264 students, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. Total enrollment statistics indicate 333 students from 23 states and three other countries.

One of the most exciting developments is the number of dorm students enrolled this semester. College officials report 187 dorms students, a 24% increase over last year’s numbers.

President Matt Pinson said, “We’re thankful to God for this blessing of a large increase in dormitory and FTE enrollment. After a decrease in enrollment following the onset of the Great Recession, this is the first year we’ve seen a major increase. This is the largest dorm increase we’ve seen in decades, and we are grateful to the Lord for His providential blessing.”

“There’s a tremendous spirit of excitement on campus,” Dr. Pinson continued. “Our prayer is that not just the increase in numbers but the Holy Spirit, by the power of His Word, will create an unparalleled zeal in our students this year. I ask our Welch College supporters to pray that the student body will become more and more deeply committed to holy living, Christian worldview thinking and cultural engagement, and evangelism this year.”

President Pinson continued, “I commend Debbie Mouser, Nathan Willhite, Daniel Armstrong, and the entire enrollment management staff for their diligent work in bringing in this class of 87 new students, our largest incoming class since 2006.”

At press time, the college reported 91 freshmen, 85 sophomores, 54 juniors, 36 seniors, 26 non-degree/part-time students, and 41 special students. The student body includes 187 dormitory students, 49 commuter students, 11 Adult Degree Program students, 64 Lifetime Learning students, and 22 Online students. There are 172 male students and 161 female students.

Provost Dr. Greg Ketteman said, “It is our mission to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life. The mission is not limited to just a few students, but it is for as many students as God directs to Welch College. Enrollment increases mean that God is blessing us with the opportunity and responsibility to pursue the mission of Welch College in more lives. We are thankful that God has entrusted us with preparing these Christian leaders, and we are anxious to see how He will work this year.”

Student numbers by state:

Alabama	13	North Carolina.....	24
Arkansas	16	Ohio	12
California	3	Oklahoma	3
Florida.....	11	South Carolina.....	11
Georgia.....	10	Tennessee.....	151
Illinois	8	Texas	1
Indiana.....	2	Virgin Islands	1
Kansas.....	1	Virginia	12
Kentucky.....	5	West Virginia.....	2
Louisiana	1	Wisconsin	1
Michigan	7	International	25
Missouri.....	8	(Canada, Cuba, and Panama)	
Mississippi.....	5		

To contact Welch College for more information, email recruit@welch.edu or visit the college’s website at www.welch.edu.

Constitution Day Features Former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales



NASHVILLE, TN—Alberto Gonzales, former Attorney General of the United States, addressed Welch College students, faculty, and guests for Constitution Day, Thursday, September 19.

The son of migrant workers, Judge Gonzales grew up in Houston, Texas. He joined the Air Force after high school where he served a brief time before attending the U.S. Air Force Academy. He later transferred to Rice University, completing a bachelor's degree in political science in 1979. From there, Judge Gonzales was accepted into Harvard Law School where he earned a J.D. in 1982.

After practicing law in Houston as a partner at a major firm, Mr. Gonzales served in several key positions in state government including Associate Justice of the Texas Supreme Court and Secretary of the State of Texas.

Judge Gonzales was appointed to the position of U.S. Attorney General by former President George W. Bush and was sworn into office on February 3, 2005, making him the first Hispanic to receive appointment as the head of the Department of Justice. He also served as the White House Counsel to the President prior to his appointment as Attorney General.

Judge Gonzales currently holds the Doyle Rogers Distinguished

Chair of Law at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he teaches Constitutional Law.

In his address, Mr. Gonzales recounted some of the most memorable moments during his time as a member of President George W. Bush's staff and gave listeners an inside look at what goes into the decisions and policies that come from the White House and affect the entire nation and the world. During the days and weeks immediately following the horrible events of September 11, 2001, it became undeniably evident to Gonzalez that, "in our darkest moments when we feel most vulnerable, most Americans still turn to God."

He spoke of the importance of integrity and personal morality in the positions of leadership in our country. He asserted that despite the problems and challenges we face as a nation, "we will still stand for what is right, even if we stand alone. America is still a defender of liberty."

After speaking, Judge Gonzales took time to meet with students and guests, shaking hands and taking photos.

President Pinson said, "We were so pleased to have Judge Alberto Gonzales with us for Constitution Day. He takes citizenship seriously, and so do we at Welch College. We were honored to have area pastors, churches, and high schools join Welch students, faculty, and staff members to hear the former Attorney General remind us all what it means to be a Christian citizen of the United States."

Preaching Team Visits Eastern North Carolina Churches

NASHVILLE, TN—Seven Welch College ministerial students traveled to Eastern North Carolina September 7-8 to preach and represent the college in area churches, according to Christian Service Director John Murray.

The group left campus around 2:00 a.m. Saturday, September 7, to preach in churches belonging to North Carolina's Coastal, Palmer, and Pamlico Associations. Mr. Murray said, "We were blessed with wonderful weather, welcoming pastors, and receptive churches." In all, the preaching team traveled 1,538 miles and ministered in ten churches.

Several student-preachers commented on the experience:

Mike Hollis: "God really used the service this morning. The people at Ahoskie FWB Church welcomed me and made me feel at home. Pastor Jeff Cockrell (Ahoskie FWB Church) was a godly example and encouragement. I praise the Lord for giving me the opportunity to preach the Word."

Dustin Walters: "Every time I am presented with an opportunity to share Welch College, I consider it a true honor. God has used

preaching trips like this to challenge and encourage me in my calling to ministry."

David Dell: "It was a great privilege to travel for Welch College. God moved mightily during the service. The people of Peace Chapel FWB Church (Washington) were such an encouragement to me. I was blessed to have a wonderful church for my first preaching trip."

Stephen Bozeman: "I had the privilege of being at Cove City FWB Church with Pastor Bobby Bragan. It is a great experience to see what is happening in different areas of our denomination."

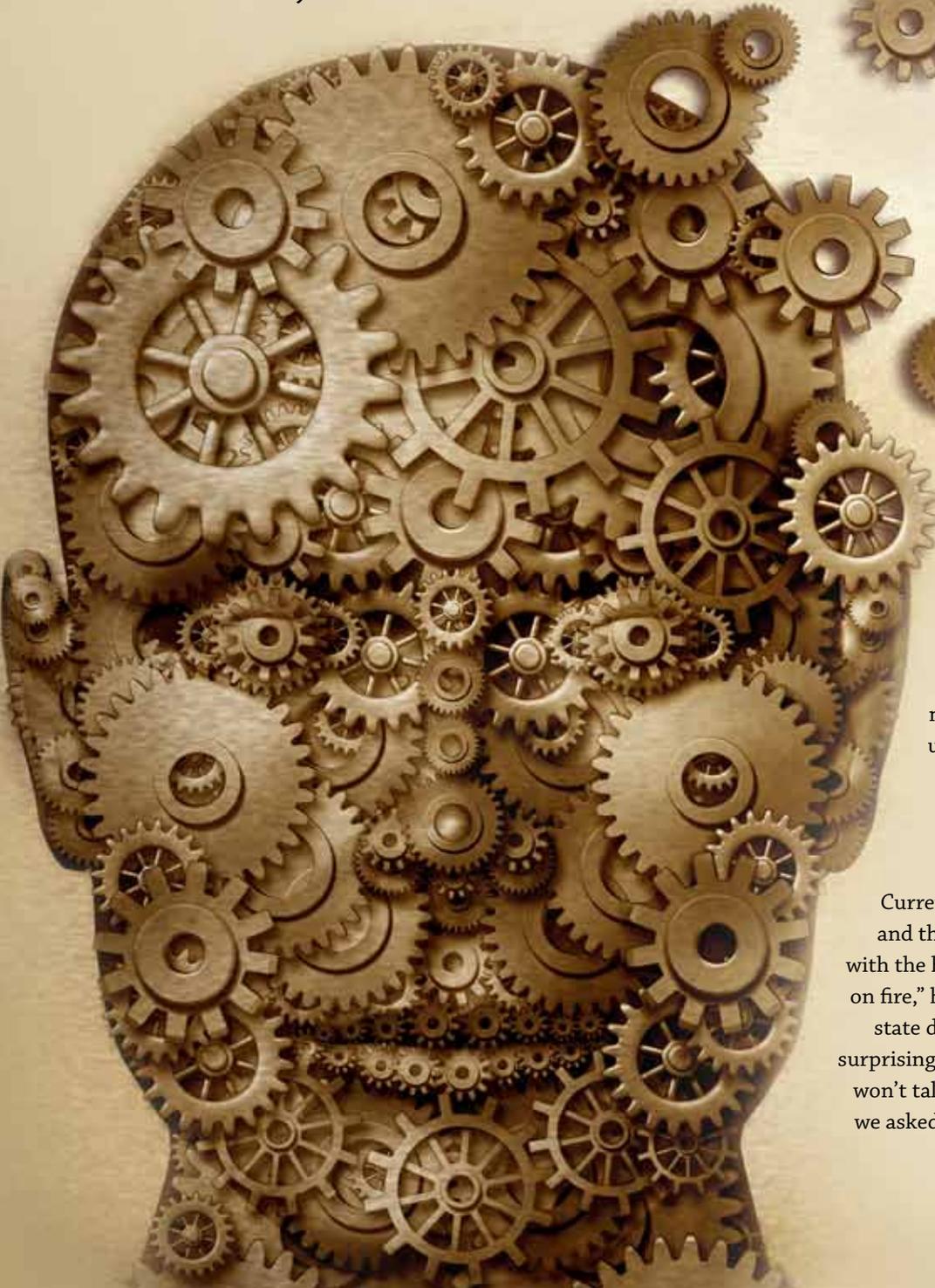
Cody Balfour: "I'm thankful to have gone on this preaching trip. Through the preaching of God's Word, Christ is lifted up. The people at Cardinal Village FWB Church (Jacksonville) were gracious and attentive."

Mr. Murray said, "These men are always excited about preaching God's Word. I am encouraged about the future of the Free Will Baptist denomination when I experience the hearts of these young men and their ability to communicate God's Word."

Called
by God to

THINK

By Bill and Brenda Evans



F. Leroy Forlines doesn't worry about many things these days, but the phrase, "It doesn't matter," does trouble him, especially when he hears it from a Christian.

To Forlines, professor emeritus of Theology at Welch College, many things matter, but none more than that Christians use our total personality—mind, heart, and will—to discover what matters to God and, therefore, should matter to us.

Mr. Forlines is author of six books, along with numerous articles and pamphlets.

Currently, he is working on a book on secularism and the relationship of church and state, starting with the history of the word *secularism*. "That set me on fire," he says. That fire has taken him into church-state documents, Supreme Court cases, and some surprising Jefferson and Madison documents that he won't talk about until the book comes out. Recently, we asked him about the mind and its role in finding truth to live by.

EVANS: At least one person I know says some Christians are called by God to think. Do you agree?

FORLINES: That is the way it has worked out for me. My circumstances, as I look back, were preparing me. I was brought up in a strong home with Christian character. Integrity was the most important thing. My father had a third-grade education but was well-respected. He and Mother married when she was 15. She went through seventh or eighth grade but was intelligent and well read.

We were in the lower culture. Papa was two rungs up from a day worker and one rung up from a sharecropper who only got half of the crop. Papa got two-thirds because he owned his own equipment. In 1929, three years after I was born, too much rain destroyed his tobacco crop, the same year the stock market crashed. I'm 87, and I think my age is a great advantage because I was living during the Great Depression and World War II, well before the student movement of the 1960s that rejected the truth of right and wrong.

EVANS: Can you pinpoint a time or event that pressed you toward a life of the mind?

FORLINES: As a child, I had a very strong sense of *why*. Not that I ever asked Papa that, but I mulled on why, and I worried a lot. The most important thing was the law of non-contradiction: a thing cannot be both true and not true. That idea has been painfully imbedded in me since childhood.

I got out of high school at 16 and five years later came here to college [Welch]. It was 1948. Those five years between, I read Sgt. York, was a grease monkey, and did little that a moron could not have done. When I got here, I argued a lot. I think I made all my professors mad because I would forget who I was talking to.

Robert E. Picirilli was in his first year, too, and we were both in the Arminian Theology class Dr. L. C. Johnson taught. We began just talking though our theology, sorting out things. Theology came alive to me, spurred me. That may have been the most important class ever taught in shaping the theological direction of this college and our denomination's view of Arminianism. Over the years, Dr. Picirilli and I have had many strong exchanges. You might say we became sparring buddies, but that class was where I first began to do hard-down thinking.

EVANS: What is hard-down thinking?

FORLINES: Something you do to work a thing out, figure out what you're saying and thinking and what it means to

you. In search of truth, it is important to know what other people write or say on a subject. You have to research, be informed, but then it gets down to what you think and why you think it. That's hard-down thinking.

EVANS: These days we read a lot about brain science. Do you differentiate between brain and mind?

FORLINES: Yes, because there's a great difference. Among the secular academically elite, only matter matters. There's no soul, only brain. But human personality involves mind, heart, and will, not just brain and body. Without mind, heart, and will, there is no right and no wrong, so we are left to fight our way through a nihilism that has no religious or moral principles.

EVANS: As a thinker, do you go into the fight with a blank slate or with preconceptions?

FORLINES: I go in with my full personality, who I am as a human being. My worldview, my life view, my mind, heart, will. We have all that to draw on. Take just one part, the subconscious. It is a vast storehouse of knowledge that exists below the conscious mind that we can call up at a moment's notice. A name, the tallest person you know, all sorts of things you've stored there. It can even do research while you sleep or talk or do anything else.

It is like when I was growing up, the raisins my mother cooked with did not have seeds, but the cluster raisins my father bought for Christmas did, and as a child I wondered how that was, but I didn't ask. Years later, the boys downstairs said to me, "Seedless grapes make seedless raisins." There was the answer.

EVANS: (laughing) You call your subconscious mind "the boys downstairs"?

FORLINES: Yes, my students liked that, but that is just the subconscious level. We have all sorts of things going on in our minds. For example, my mind looks for ways to bring things together.

EVANS: What do you mean "bring things together"? A synthesis?

FORLINES: It's an integration. How everything fits together. Let's say truth is spherical, like a globe. On a globe, Tennessee is small, so we take it out and put it on a flat map to try to understand it better. But then, we have to put it

back on the globe to see how it fits in the bigger context or we miss the full truth of what Tennessee is. We can't understand what we have until we see where it fits with other things. If we don't bring things together, we come up with wrong answers.

In universities, specialization tends to lose integration, so you have fragmentation. You may be an expert on one part of a thing but an ignoramus on the whole. I don't want a heart specialist who only studies the heart and not its function in the body as a whole. He's got a fragmented view.

EVANS: Is fragmentation part of what is wrong with the statement "It doesn't matter"? Is it looking just at yourself and not seeing the larger context?

FORLINES: It's more than that, and I talk about it a lot in my book *The Quest for Truth*. For example, Truth with a capital T matters because Truth exists outside the knower and it is for living life. It is not just a cold, dry collection of abstract and impersonal ideas. The attitude that Truth doesn't matter has destroyed our culture.

EVANS: In what way?

FORLINES: Morals, for example. Questions of right and wrong—honesty, purity, self-control, those kinds of things. Ideals, too, values such as dignity, honor, good manners, masculinity, femininity, and many others. Propriety is another ideal we've lost. I don't hear people ask, "Is it appropriate?" anymore. Anything goes, and the Church has fallen into that. And there's civility. Do we do anything to civilize our people or foster good taste? These have suffered under the pressure of our culture, and I'm not talking about money or where you stand on the socio-economic ladder. It doesn't take money to be civilized. As I said, I grew up in a lower culture, but I knew those things mattered. I believe they still do.

EVANS: You have spoken about your childhood several times, also that you worried and were lonely. Were you a deprived child?

FORLINES: In socialization, yes. My situation was not very good. I had three older sisters and a younger brother, but I longed for some boy my age to move into our neighborhood. I was functional at school and at church, but that's all. I lost out on other things. So when I could drive, I made up my mind that I would get involved even if I embarrassed myself. Back then, you dated on Saturday nights, so I had a date with about 38 different girls.

We are in a troubled culture, and I don't think many in this culture feel they are being spoken to.

EVANS: Just one date with 38 different girls?

FORLINES: (laughter) Yes. I was shy, but I worked on it. That's why I emphasize social relationships, friendship, how to have conversations. God designed us for relationship. That need is no less real than our need for air, water, food, and cannot be ignored without serious consequences. It is not good to be a loner. Loners are troubled people. I've written about that, too.

EVANS: You mentioned intellectual integrity at one point in our conversation. Let's go back to that. What do you mean by intellectual integrity?

FORLINES: Let me tell you two stories. I was called to preach when I was 19. When I graduated from college the first time, Mother wrote me a letter. In it she said that the day I was born she asked the Lord to call me to preach. She had never told me that. She wanted it to be God's call not hers, and it was.

Then some years later, while I was preaching I told a congregation that God was able, He cared for them, and if they would turn a thing over to Him and believe, He would take care of it. During the invitation, I thought, I wish I could get it to work for me like I'm telling them. That's when I knew I could not make myself live on and on by a lie.

A preacher can't be careless with the truth or how he delivers it. He may exegete a passage and hardly anybody be moved; so it is not just about correct information even if that information is about God. We are in a troubled culture, and I don't think many in this culture feel they are being spoken to. Sermons are not heard or listened to.

We preachers can learn something from fiction. Fiction connects with something in you, or you wouldn't read it. Sermons have to come alive to you as well, connect to your total personality. When something true comes through your mind and into your heart and will, you register its value, its importance to you. It becomes Truth to you. Something you can live by, and something you can die by. **ONE**



+Intersect >>>

The Promise of His Coming . . . Twice

Since it's the season, let's talk about the coming of Jesus. But which one, you say. That's a great question and raises some crucial points. Though separated by different purposes and a length of time unknown to us, His two comings are inseparably linked. For instance, angels play a prominent role in both advents (Luke 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:7). Then there's the worship aspect seen in both (Matthew 2:2, 8; Revelation 19). Two mentions of a star link the two as well (Matthew 2:2; 2 Peter 1:19). We even know what the Lord is wearing both times (Luke 2:7, 12; Revelation 19:12-16).

Yet the contrasts between Christ's first and second appearances also stand out. He came the first time humbly, meekly; when He returns, it will be in glory and in triumph. The New Testament begins and ends with the coming of Jesus. In Matthew 1:1, He is "Jesus Christ," Jesus Messiah, the Anointed One come to begin a mission. In Revelation 22:20, He is "Lord Jesus," *kyrie 'Iésou*, the Sovereign One come again to complete that mission.

So What's Wrong?

Understand that I embrace these scriptural truths with glad faith. But I am uneasy about Christ's return. Not with Him and His promised coming, but with my own heart's attitude about the whole event. My disquiet stems from my own mixed feelings, feelings that I suspect mirror the way the Church at large feels.

Have we—have I—become so culture-soaked, so much at home in the world that the thought of leaving this place disturbs me, even repels me, though it means leaving to be with Christ in the most perfect place possible suited just for us? Are we so crystallized in our on-screen, specially effected media modes of an entertainment-driven lifestyle that the reality of the second coming and the real person at its center take on for us the semblance of nothing more than a trailer for another superhero movie? Are we numb in our *de facto* denial of Jesus' return? Is it just another unit of Sunday School curriculum we acknowledge and affirm without affecting how we live?

The Scripture offers a better alternative. Christ's return is:

- A catalyst for spiritual growth (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4).
- A motivator for good works (2 Thessalonians 2:17).

- A propellant for reaching people with the gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).
- An opportunity for believers to live faithfully in the meantime (2 Thessalonians 1:4; 3:3-4).
- A prompt to appreciate fellow Christians (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4).
- An incentive to final hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13; 5:11).

Maranatha—The Last Word

Early Christians treasured this hope in the Lord's return by greeting each other with the word *maranatha*. Paul used it to close First Corinthians (16:22)—ironically, a letter to a troubled church desperately needing a final word of hope. Though this Aramaic word is really a phrase, scholars debate whether it means, "Our Lord has come" (declaring His first advent) or, "Come, O Lord" (requesting His second advent).

I cast my vote with the latter view as reflected in the comments of the great French biblicist F. L. Godet. He offers a curious idea about Paul's use of *maranatha* here. "Could it be," he mused, "that as the apostle closed the letter with his own signature (16:21), he also, as was customary, pressed his personal seal on the wax lock? And since those who copied the letter could not reproduce the seal itself, they sim-

ply transcribed the word on the seal, the word *maranatha*.” Paul’s last words, if Godet is right, served as an enduring reminder to the Church and as an earnest prayer to Christ—the same words that conclude the Bible itself.

I suspect the Magi prayed the same prayer some 21 centuries ago. I know we should, too.

Someone’s Coming!

For me, the maranatha hope comes to life in a family incident many decades ago. In 1944, my Uncle Cairwell’s bomber was shot down over East Prussia. For many months, my grandmother and her family had no idea what had become of her oldest son, my mother’s brother. Only later did a few censored letters get through to them from his POW camp in

Germany. They gave no hope, however, that he would return home soon or ever.

Several months later, on a hot summer afternoon, as my grandmother, grandfather, and their seven children tended to their large East Tennessee garden, a cloud of dust rose up on the rough country road toward the crest of the hill. Before anyone else knew what was happening, my grandmother dropped her hoe, threw off her apron, and sprinted (as best she could) toward the road. Sure enough, her instincts had told her that this car, this arrival, was special—that this was her eldest boy, the POW, coming home. And she was right! The taxi from Knoxville crunched to a stop, and those hills and pastures had a front row seat to a wonderful reunion.

A precious one had returned. **ONE**

Intersect: where the Bible meets life is a regular column written by Dr. Garnett Reid, a member of the Bible faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

News at Randall House

D6 Leaves an Impression on Dallas

Dallas, TX—The D6 Conference returned to Dallas for the fifth time, September 25-26, the first of two D6 conferences held in 2013. More than 1,200 attendees were reminded that families were designed to *make an impression* on their children, that the church must be ready and willing to help parents pass their faith to the next generation. More than 30 speakers, from main stage to breakout sessions, addressed important topics such as “Connecting Church and Home,” “Dealing With Prodigals,” and “Leading the Church With a D6 Heart,” among many others.

Conference Coordinator Brandon Roysden said, “it is really an incredible experience to see so many people gather to focus on God’s original evangelism strategy. We hope our attendees left encouraged and challenged to make God the central component of their homes and churches.”

The annual conference is built around Deuteronomy 6:4-9, the foundational passage for biblical parenting. The goal of the conference is to provide resources and inspiration to help parents and churches pass faith to the next generation effectively.

Ron Hunter, Randall House executive director and D6 Conference director, praised D6 Conference Coordinator Brandon Roysden for his excellent handling of the preparation and planning of the many details that made the conference a success. Hunter said, “Brandon is a very capable and analytical leader who quickly ramped up in a year when everything we did required double effort but also presented double opportunities. Brandon’s addition to the Randall House leadership team has already proven to be an excellent choice.”

A second D6 Conference met in Louisville, Kentucky, October 16-18. Read the full conference review in the February-March issue of *ONE Magazine*.

Helen Pack Honored



Columbus, OH—Helen Pack, 91, of Heritage FWB Church, Columbus, Ohio, retired from her Sunday School teaching position after 73 years. Mrs. Pack is daughter of Jay Francis Preston, one of the early pastors of Bell’s Chapel FWB Church near Louisa, Kentucky, where she taught her first class.

Her husband served as a deacon in the Welch Avenue, Heritage Temple, and Heritage FWB churches, before his passing. Her sons, Bob and Ed Pack, have both been involved in church ministry. Bob was a deacon of the Welch Avenue and Heritage Temple churches, and Ed was a music professor at Hillsdale College, Moore, Oklahoma and presently is the Minister of Music at the New Castle FWB Church in Oklahoma.

On the day of the presentation, four generations of her family were present and a great-granddaughter was baptized during the commemoration service.

Mrs. Pack has used Randall House material since its beginning and was very knowledgeable about the adult classic material as well as the D6 teacher books. Dr. Tim Stout, pastor, offered accolades for her dedication and length of service to the church and denomination. Michael Boggs, Minister of Christian Education, presented Mrs. Pack with a plaque and vase of roses.

My Name Is BARREN

By Elizabeth Hodges

“He Knows My Name,” the WNAC theme for the year, focuses on the lives of 12 women and the implications of their lives for women today. With these thoughts simmering in my brain, I began to ponder women known as barren: Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Hannah, the Shunamite woman, and Elisabeth, just to name a few.

Consider the culture in biblical times. The Jewish people looked upon children as a “heritage from the Lord” (Psalm 127:3), sources of strength and blessing (Psalm 128:4-5).

In contrast, childlessness was viewed as a grave misfortune or severe punishment. It simply was not socially acceptable. Barrenness led to the assumption that God was displeased with these women.

Thus, in the lives of the women listed above, their miraculous conceptions were obvious acts of God—merciful attention from the Almighty. These women sought the Lord to ask for a child. As Hannah told Eli, I “have poured out my soul before the Lord...For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of Him” (1 Samuel 1:15, 27). God heard the prayers, opened wombs, and gave life.

For obvious reasons, my attention kept returning to my namesake Elisabeth. Luke 1:5-8 describes her predicament: “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was one the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blame-

less. And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.”

Elisabeth’s situation was complicated because her husband was priest. Yet, Scripture specifically mentions that both Zacharias and Elisabeth were “righteous before God... and blameless...walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.” The couple had reason to be less than blameless from a cultural point of view. From Luke’s gospel, we know they were “well stricken in years,” that is, just plain old. What a testimony of trusting God even when you don’t understand.

Perhaps you remember how the rest of Luke 1 unfolds. When Zacharias’ turn came to fulfill the duties of priest, the lot fell on him to burn incense in the temple of God. As he performed his duties, “the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of the incense” (verse 10). The angel of the Lord appeared to Zacharias and told him his prayer has been answered, that Elisabeth would bear a son (verses 13-14).

Zacharias’ response was very normal, “How can I to be sure this will happen? You know I am an old man, and my wife is an old woman.” Gabriel told him he would not speak again until the baby boy was born. Zacharias left the inner Temple, returned to the people, and “beckoned unto them, and remained speechless” (Luke 1:22). The crowd obviously assumed he had seen a vision since he had been inside so long. After his priestly work was completed, he returned home.



ARE WE FAITHFUL, RIGHTEOUS, AND BLAMELESS DURING OUR BARREN TIMES?

Just imagine the written communication between Zacharias and Elisabeth as he shared the details of what happened to him in the temple. Scripture does not record her reaction, but I can picture her laughing, much like Sarah in the Old Testament.

As Luke reveals, it happened just as the angel promised. “After those days his wife, Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me to take away my reproach among men” (Luke 1:24-25). Elisabeth testified that God had been at work. No longer would she be scorned. She was about to become a mother. No longer barren but blessed.

Can you even imagine the praise sessions she and Zacharias shared during those five months when she hid her pregnancy? He couldn’t utter a sound, but he could write. She voiced praise to God for both of them in a time that surely felt surreal.

Little did Elisabeth know what God had in store. During the next month, Gabriel visited her cousin Mary and delivered the long-anticipated news that the Messiah would be born. Mary was young, unmarried but engaged, and in a terrible predicament. Mary had one simple question, “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (Luke 1:34). Assuring Mary that her pregnancy was the work of God, Gabriel told her, “Behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:36-37).

After receiving the shocking news of her impending birth, Mary traveled to spend some time with Elisabeth. (Can you

blame her?) Perhaps you remember what Elisabeth said in her greeting to Mary? “Whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me” (Luke 1:44)? There had been no email, snail mail, texts, or phone calls. God revealed this news to Elisabeth before Mary’s arrival. I can only imagine the depth of the conversations between these two expectant mothers, one “well stricken in years” and one unmarried, yet both obedient to the Lord’s touch on their lives.

Both women delivered their babies, men who would impact their world. One prepared the way for the long-awaited Messiah, and the other changed the course of eternity. Elisabeth gave birth to John the Baptist, and her husband’s voice returned after he wrote down the name of their son. What fountains of praise flowed from his mouth after nine months of silence. What an impact this had on the community and those who had watched these events unfold. Many years later Jesus reflected on his cousin, “Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he” (Luke 7:28).

During the many years she suffered as a barren woman, I cannot believe Elisabeth ever imagined the blessings awaiting her in old age. She knew she would give birth to a man-child long before the days of ultrasound technology. She was among the first to learn the Messiah would be born. She encouraged Mary during a difficult time in her life.

What a privilege! Not only was she given the blessing of a son, but he was also destined to be the greatest prophet born to a woman. He prepared the way for the “Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Barren? Oh, yes...for many years. But blessed beyond measure.

What about us? Are we faithful, righteous, and blameless during our barren times, so God can indeed bless us to be a blessing to others? **ONE**

TAKING CONTROL of Your Health

By Edward E. Moody, Jr.

Health and health care are hot topics!

How will the decisions made in Washington impact health? Will the latest medical advances help defeat disease and illness? While government decisions and research breakthroughs are important, the key to better health for most Americans lies in good decision-making.

After examining the results of a long-term study, Friedman and Martin (2011) noted that the best surgical procedures and most powerful pharmaceuticals of today are considered very successful if they extend life for several years, but our daily health decisions have a much greater impact in determining the length and quality of our lives.

What determines your health?

The health you enjoy (or endure) is a product of your genetic composition, life experiences, and decision making. Your genetic makeup and past experiences increase your risk for heart disease, cancer, stroke, and dementia. Your decisions about how you live can increase or decrease your risk for illness too.

Therapeutic Life Changes (TLCs)

Therapeutic Life Changes have been found to improve health, reverse the impact of bad decisions, and mitigate the impact of bad genes and experiences. The 10 TLCs described in *First Aid for Your Health* were derived from research. However, it is interesting to see they also are found throughout Scripture.

The first three TLCs actually address spiritual health, which is intertwined with physical health. In an examination of 42 studies involving 126,000 participants, the results indicated that religious involvement increased survival by 29%. Though these studies involved many religious practices, a large number of the participants characterized themselves as Christians and church attenders. Consider a few of the Therapeutic Life Changes that will improve health.

1. Really go to church.

Attending church weekly out of intrinsic motivation (based on a devotion to God) benefits physical health. One



study involving 5,286 people examined the risk for death over a 28-year period. Those who attended church weekly were 36% less likely to die during follow-up than non-attenders.

In fact, an examination of 21 studies with 107,910 participants indicated that religious attendance was associated with a 37% increase in survival. Sadly, many head off to the gym on Sunday morning thinking it is good for their health, unaware that spiritual health provides a more solid foundation.

2. Have a daily quiet time of Scripture reading and prayer.

When we read our Bible and pray, it helps develop a sense of coherence, which is linked to better health. Sense of coherence is a research term for how people make sense of the world and deal with the challenges and pressures it presents.

Throughout a six-year study, those who engaged in quiet time activities were 47% less likely to die during follow-up. Many studies indicate that Scripture reading has a calming effect that lowers blood pressure and mitigates the impact

of anxiety, stress, negative thinking, and a tendency to exaggerate problems. Prayer, in particular, may lead to stronger Natural Killer (NK) cell response. NK cells strengthen the immune system. When they are weak, we are at greater risk for cancer and other health problems.

3. Sleep well.

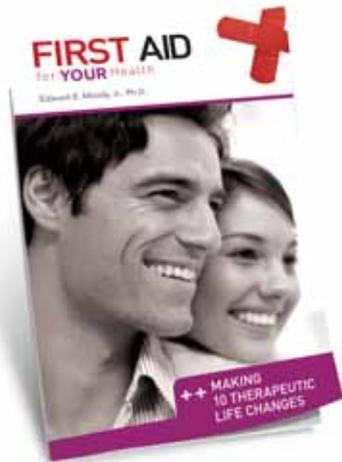
Good health is tied to good sleep. Insufficient sleep is linked to the development of many chronic diseases. If you have sleep problems, develop a consistent sleep and wake schedule by formally marking the end of daytime activities and the beginning of evening with relaxing activities.

If you have trouble falling asleep, avoid caffeine after lunch. Avoid bright light in the evening, especially in the hour or two before bed. This includes light from the televi-

sion and computers. Avoid taxing activities around bedtime (heavy study, text messaging, Facebook, or prolonged, intense conversations). Instead, read in a quiet room or listen to calming music help to prepare you for bed.

If you are a follower of Christ, your body is the “temple of the Holy Spirit,” so it is important to care for it. Consider the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) from the perspective of good and bad health. If you’ve been blessed with good health, remember that maintaining good health puts you into a position to serve. If you have bad health, use the health you have to the best of your ability.

I challenge you to practice these simple TLCs as a good steward of the health God has given you. **ONE**



ABOUT THE WRITER: Edward E. Moody, Jr. chairs the Department of Counselor Education at North Carolina Central University. He also pastors Tippett’s Chapel in Clayton, North Carolina. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor. To order materials from his First Aid series, visit www.RandallHouse.com.

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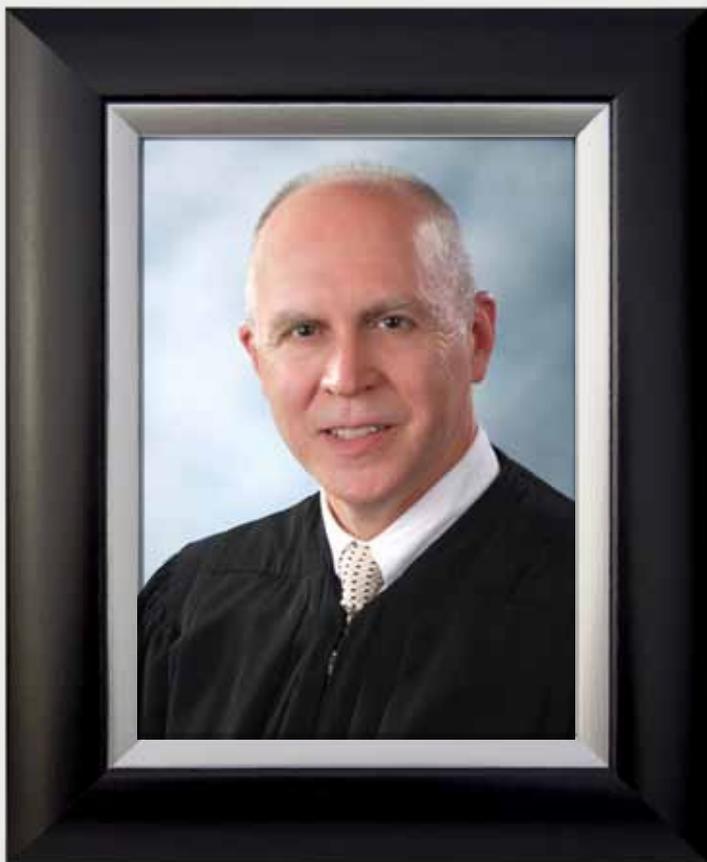
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LeaderProfile >>>>

Leadership comes in all forms and sizes, but the results are the same. Leaders influence behavior and make a difference in people's lives. Profiling leaders shows a diverse combination of traits, but impacting lives is always a common theme. by Ron Hunter Jr.

Phillip Whiteaker >>>>



Many Free Will Baptists are influential yet quiet leaders. Phillip Whiteaker, chairman of the FWB Foundation Board, is such a leader. (The Foundation manages over \$50 million for the purpose of serving ministries within Free Will Baptists and the body of Christ.)

For 16 years, Phil served as an elected circuit judge for the state Arkansas, and currently is an elected judge for the Arkansas Court of Appeals. Ordained in 1986, Phil serves as the worship pastor at First FWB Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas. When you see Phil, you see a leader whom God placed in a unique position within the legal system, yet Phil continues to be very involved in his local church.

He and his wife Terrie (married 28 years) describe their ideal date as dinner and a theatrical production such as a musical or a play. They live close to both their son Chris (age 27), and daughter (Jesse, age 23) and their only grandchild Bri (age 5). Phil and Terrie both teach *Fusion* to adults in Sunday School. Phil says serving together in church forms a real bond between the two of them.

Phil loved history and American government as a boy, and as a teen found he had significant interest in political affairs. He decided to major in political science in college but wound up with a double major in political science and pastoral ministries. Unsure of what to do after graduation, he took the LSAT (Law School Admission Test) and applied to law school. He was accepted, and to this day, he acknowledges God's hand in his career, guiding him along this journey.

When describing God's will for his life Phil said, "It has been something that 'but for' (to use a legal term) the direction and hand of God upon my life, would never have occurred in the way that it did.

Phil brings wisdom, candor, an analytical mind, and technical expertise to a national board. Boards find balance when combining pastoral insight and lay professionalism.

Phil, You are a great leader! 

What does your quiet time look

like? In the culturally cluttered world, quiet time is hard to come by. Most days I use my commute time to commune with God in prayer, recognizing God's goodness in my life, and worshipping Him with songs from my heart

What do people misunderstand

about your leadership style? Decisiveness is a casualty of war from my professional training. As a judge, I am trained to listen, ask questions, reach a judgment, and make the decision. Such mental training is not easily shut off, bleeds over into my personal life, and can be mistaken for arrogance or callousness.

What would you like to see Free

Will Baptists do in the next 5 or 10 ten years? Become a unified group of believers not blinded by bias, prejudices, or personal agendas. A group with a single solitary purpose: Be more like God and glorify His name.

What are you reading right now?

Forgotten God: Reversing the Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit by Francis Chan
American Illness: Essay on the Rule of Law by F. H. Buckley

What are your top three books

(other than the Bible)?
Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain*
The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis
Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

* Note: His favorite author is Mark Twain.

Paper or Plastic Questions

>> *Mountains or Ocean?* Ocean
>> *Music or Talk Radio?* Music
>> *Coke or Pepsi?* Coke
>> *Facebook, Email, twitter, or texting?*
Email
>> *Mac or PC?* - PC
>> *Socks or house shoes?* House shoes



OUR

Gift

TO YOU



FWBIM News

explore
our new site



The LSC



Last Days of Summer



McKey Accepts Senate Confirmation

I Love Christmas!

The décor—especially nativities—are reminders that Jesus is Emmanuel, the ever-present Savior. The lights. The smell of fresh-baked cookies, cakes, and breads. Oh, and the gifts. It's been years since I thought about opening gifts myself. It's all about the giving—watching my children and grandchildren open their gifts. What a treat! The surprises, the squeals of joy, and the occasional oops. It wouldn't be Christmas without them all.

Recently, International Missions launched a new website. You might call it **our gift to you**. Many of you responded to last year's survey about the previous website and your wish list became our to-do list. We worked hard, even delaying the unveiling of the new site until we were sure our gift would fit your needs.

So, go ahead, boot up your computer or tablet. Grab a cup of hot chocolate, coffee, or spiced cider. Join me, and we will unwrap this gift together. I hope your eyes light up with joy and excitement.

Welcome Home... Page

The new home page is simpler, easier to navigate. Many of you told us the primary reasons you visit the site are to find up-to-date prayer requests and to make donations. **Pray** and **Give** are prominent to make that easier. Beneath the slideshow, you will find the three most recent news items, with a link to take you to all the news. Missionary news updates are duplicated in the main feed and featured on the missionary's home page as well. We added social media integration site-wide. You catch the first glimpse of this in the live feed from Facebook and Twitter at the bottom of the homepage. Want to see your Twitter posts on our homepage? Just add #fwbim.

A glance across the top of the page also reveals links to the FW-BIM blog, WMO information, videos, missionary profiles, and the store. We will open these smaller packages in a few minutes. First, let's unwrap and revel in the larger components of your gift.

We Three...Essentials

PRAY, GO, GIVE: three essential elements of the ministry of Free Will Baptist International Missions. Each of these sections has been redesigned, simplified, and beefed up.

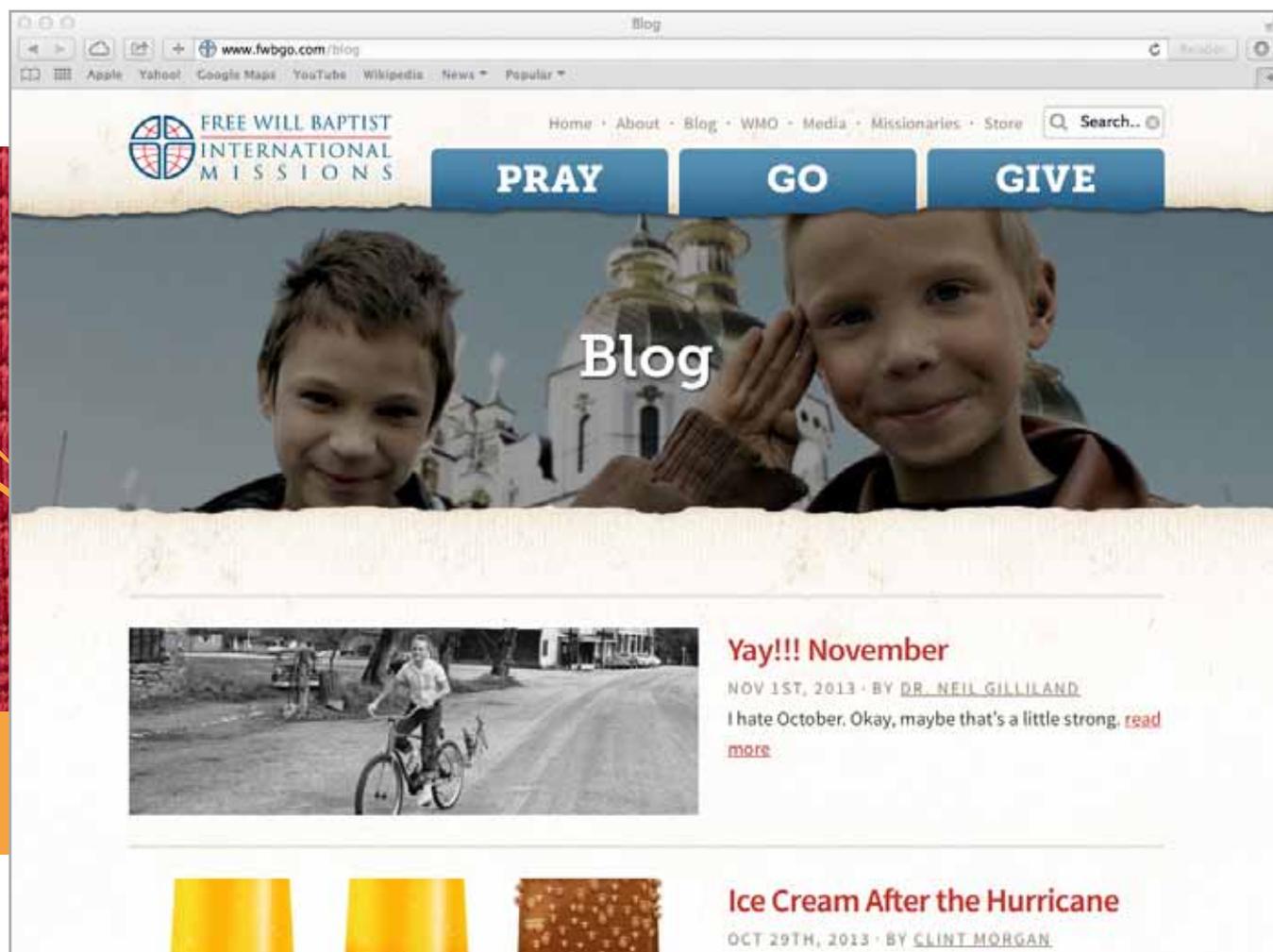
PRAY. Click here, and the most recent Hotline prayer requests (posted each Wednesday) unfold. Global Prayer Initiatives promote prayer during specific times of the year for specific people groups. Banners on the front page alert you to current opportunities for which prayer is needed. *Missionary prayer requests* take you to their specific prayer needs.

GO. You can explore opportunities to *go* based on time (from a two-week trip to career missions), interests (teaching English, counseling, church planting, etc.), or location (the country you wish to serve). Links to online applications and/or additional information are provided. A *Student Missions* link is on the main *Go* page so high school and college students can easily find information pertaining to them.

GIVE. You may notice the most changes here. Simplify was the key word we heard regarding the previous site. Now, donations can be made on one page. No more clicking through several pages to finally reach "make donation." Those with a MyIM account on the old website automatically had all information imported into the new site. Login is quick and simple. Setting up the account could not be easier. Just make a donation and the account is set; login information will be emailed to you.

Making a donation in memory or in honor of someone is also effortless. Receipts acceptable to the IRS are emailed directly to your inbox. Donation accounts are divided into three sections: general (includes IMPact projects), student missions, and missionaries. Enter amounts in any or all of the categories, and the site will track a running total.

Links to information about the World Missions Offering, planned giving, special giving opportunities, and setting up an automatic checking account deduction are also available on this section of the site.



Finishing Touches

Most gifts these days include accessories to make the outfit shine or the electronic purchase function better. Think of the links across the top of the Home Page as finishing touches to your gift.

About includes the purpose statement and core values, history, news feed, staff and board photos and bios, annual report downloads, and a Contact Us link. Expect the history pages to be a gift that keeps on giving as we expand content to include PDF downloads of *HeartBeat* articles, former missionary information, and more.

Typically updated twice a week, the **Blog** features brief articles ranging broadly from stories of life on the mission field to mission strategy to life lessons learned. General Director Clint Morgan, the most prolific IM blogger, shares the page with other staff members, board members, and an occasional missionary. One of the best new features is the ability to comment on postings. Blogs may be thought provoking, heartwarming, challenging, or encouraging. So, go ahead, spend an afternoon catching up and let us know what you think!

The annual **World Missions Offering (WMO)** has a featured spot on the site. Visit this section to sign up for 2014, to find others who are participating in your area, or to check upcoming dates for the offering. You will also find downloadable resources for promotion, children's classes, informative bulletin inserts, and more. The *Idea Bank* allows you to share the progress your church is making and your ideas for supporting the WMO in your community. Add your story and photo to those already compiled here.

Visit the **Media** page to watch or download videos. The current featured video was shown at the National Association in Tampa, Florida, and features highlights of Carlisle Hanna's 60-plus years in India.

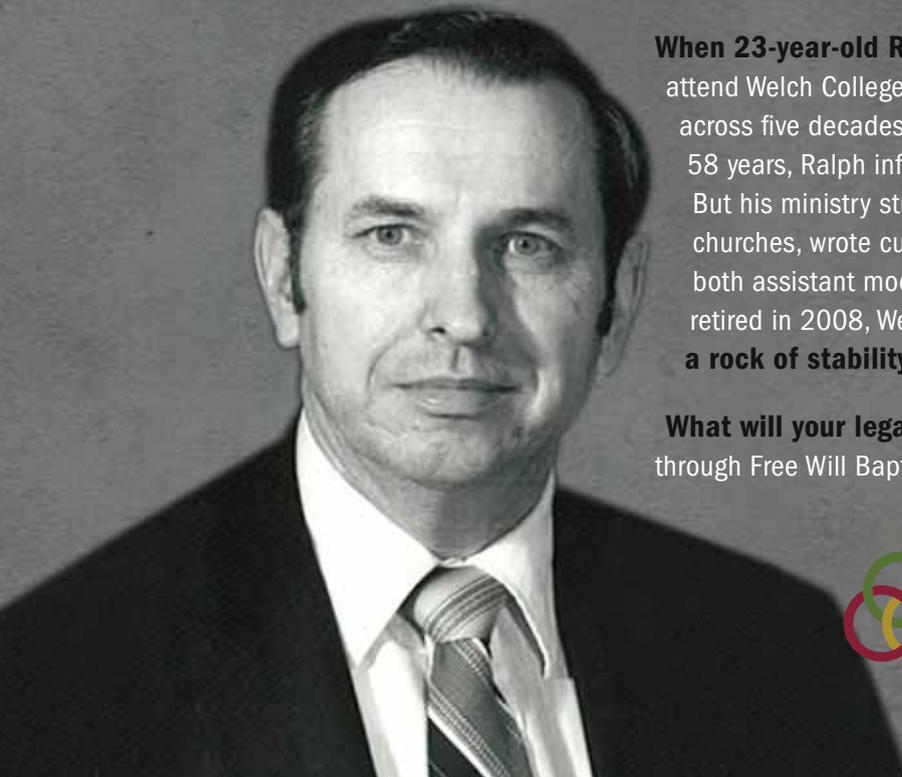
The **Missionaries** page provides information on all current missionaries. Read their news and sign up to be notified as they post new items. Download newsletters. Send messages of encouragement or ask for more information through the Contact tab. Read and pray for recently listed requests or support a missionary financially from their individual pages.

The **Store** has also been simplified, yet has more options. Creating an account allows you to review your order history and eliminates mundane data entry. Check to see if your order has been shipped. Review products you have purchased so others will have a better idea if it meets their needs.

FWBGO.com... It's our gift to you, and I hope it becomes a well-used, oft-referenced friend as you seek to fulfill your role in the Great Commission. Merry Christmas from International Missions. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Deborah St. Lawrence is communications manager for International Missions. To make suggestions regarding the new site, contact her at deborah@fwbgo.com.

A Legacy of Quiet Strength...



When 23-year-old Ralph Hampton left California in the early 1950s to attend Welch College in Nashville, Tennessee, he began a journey that stretched across five decades. The college hired him to teach after graduation, and for 58 years, Ralph influenced many generations of Free Will Baptist students. But his ministry stretched far beyond the college campus. He pastored seven churches, wrote curriculum for Randall House Publications, and served as both assistant moderator and moderator of the National Association. When he retired in 2008, Welch College President Matt Pinson said it best, **"Ralph was a rock of stability...We will miss his quiet strength."**

What will your legacy be? Start your own legacy today with an endowment through Free Will Baptist Foundation:



Free Will Baptist Foundation
www.fwbgifts.org | 877-336-7575
 (now on Facebook)



Must Be Nice

BY LORI TORRISON

I'm looking at my Facebook news feed. A pastor friend in the United States just posted pictures of their church sanctuary remodel. It is gorgeous! Everything is shiny and new: sparkling chandeliers, up-to-date media and projection system, and a lovely stained glass window. I can almost smell the new carpet. I think to myself, "Must be nice."

I glance down my news feed to see pictures of a mission work in the mountains of Panama. The sanctuary has a tin roof, clearly visible because there is no ceiling. The windows have no glass or screen, just decorative concrete blocks for

air and light. The floor is unfinished cement, no tile. They do have a sound system...one speaker and a microphone. During services, it is cranked up to full volume—partly because that is the Latino way—but mostly because they know people sit in their homes around the church. Those people, at least for now, would never consider darkening the door of the church but strain to hear every note, every word, wondering if perhaps the people in that tin-covered, concrete-block building have what they so desperately crave.

And I am not sure how to feel.

I am reminded that my mission has little to do with buildings, décor, and comfort and everything to do with sharing the good news...

I know that for my pastor friend, and most others in my home culture, remodeling the sanctuary, or building a bigger, better fellowship hall is not extravagant. It is the norm. It is the necessary means to reach a culture zooming ever forward with i-this and smart-that, and further away from the “little, brown church in the vale.”

But in my heart culture—the one I have come to love despite frustrations; the one my children were born into and will always carry with them—I feel jealousy. Anger. Bitterness.

“Really?” I think. “I’m sure you got the best deal you could on that new rock wall in the children’s center, but you could have built an actual wall here instead. Four of them, in fact!”

Must be nice.

Just before my high horse breaks into a trot, a still small Voice brings to mind some other posts that crossed my news-feed recently. Maybe in an African village, someone looks at my page and thinks, “Really? Clean, running water? Must be nice.” Someone in Iran says, “Really? Your church has never

been torched after you’ve been beaten and dragged to jail? Must be nice.” Someone in China, who sneaks to a secret meeting in a basement lit by a single bulb, where they dare speak only in whispers, says, “Really? REALLY?”

Must be nice.

Suddenly I don’t feel jealous or angry or bitter anymore. I am reminded that my mission has little to do with buildings, décor, and comfort and everything to do with sharing the good news that one day my Panamanian brothers and sisters will join a multitude from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues in the most extravagant place of all. And we will all sing glory at the top of our lungs. Forever.

Will. Be. Nice. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Lori and Steve Torrison were appointed as career missionaries to Panama in July 2004. After assisting Stan and Brenda Bunch with a new church plant in Chitré, they moved to Penonomé to work with a Panamanian to plant a new church.

CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE!



A How-To Manual for Christian Living, latest in the Direction Bible Study Series from Master’s Men, provides practical, real life lessons from the Book of James in an easy-to-use, reproducible format. James is the best “how-to book” ever written. In just over 100 verses, James gives readers 54 clear guidelines—the ultimate manual for successful Christian living.

To order the new study, or to order previous titles in the series, visit www.FWBMastersMen.org or call toll-free: **877-767-8039**.



News Around the World

Collins Resign

ANTIOCH, TN—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions voted to accept Paul and Chrissy Collins' resignation on August 27, 2013. The Collins fulfilled speaking engagements already on their calendars and returned to Panama to say good-bye and close out their ministry. Their resignation was effective October 31, 2013.



According to Jeff Turnbough, "Very few international missionaries have the opportunity to experience the transition of missionary leadership to national church leadership. I am thankful for the missiological training that gave them a clear focus to see this, believe in it, and work to make it happen."

Paul and Chrissy added, "We cannot express just how much we love our IM family. They have been so supportive and prayed with us as we experienced hardships. We hope we can continue to serve the Kingdom together."

Appointed to missionary service in April 2008, the Collins family arrived in Panama in August 2010. When they returned to the States at the end of February 2013 for stateside assignment, they left a congregation in the hands of Panamanian Pastor Julio and his wife Cynthia.

The full release can be read on fwbgo.com/news. ■

Church Sponsors IM Missionary Retreat



ANTIOCH, TN—Stateside missionaries, IM staff, and board members gathered at Ozark Conference Center in Solgohachia, Arkansas, in August. First FWB Church of Russellville, Arkansas, handled the expenses and logistics of the four-day gathering. Church members prepared and served excellent meals (including a Thanksgiving feast) and provided thoughtful touches and gifts throughout the time. The retreat concluded with all participants attending the Russellville church on Sunday and enjoying a BBQ lunch with those who made the retreat possible.

Attendees offered nothing but praise for the time together. Rusty Carney may have summed it up best: "I am in disbelief that the effort of a single church paid for, organized, cooked, cleaned, and served for this retreat. What a blessing to get to know some of the members of Russellville First! Spending time with and hearing the stories of other missionaries from other fields (a rare experience) and spending time with office personnel and board members was a highlight. Our hearts are full. Thank you, First FWBC of Russellville."

Find additional information and retreat photos at fwbgo.com/news. ■

McVay Accepts Stateside Position

ANTIOCH, TN—International Missions recently announced that Sam McVay, missionary to Spain, accepted the stateside position of associate director of advancement. Sam will assist development efforts at the Mission by visiting churches to promote the work and by helping missionaries on stateside assignment be more effective in developing partnerships and support relationships. The transition to stateside ministry occurred in early October.



General Director Clint Morgan stressed that the move is "shifting a valuable team player to a place where his gifts can be maximized for the Mission and for the cause of global evangelism."

International Missions, like most non-profit organizations and especially missionary sending agencies, has been adversely impacted by the global economic downturn that began in 2008. The Board of International Missions and the office team are making every effort to manage the resources available and to grow funding and develop partnerships through an advancement strategy. The decision to move Sam McVay into a stateside role is a component of this strategy.

Read the full release on fwbgo.com/news. ■



CÔTE D'IVOIRE—The National Association of Free Will Baptist Churches of Côte d'Ivoire met August 12-16. Regional Director Dr. Kenneth Eagleton reported the number of churches has doubled in the last 10 years and are led by 37 ordained pastors. ■



FRANCE—The St. Sébastien congregation elected Gilles Roger as pastor in September 2013. They also edited their bylaws and chose a new leadership counsel. ■



BULGARIA—Bulgarians Trif and Vanya Trifonovi joined the church-planting team in Bulgaria in July. They and their three children are working to plant a church in Varna, a city on the Black Sea. ■



URUGUAY—Uruguayan Free Will Baptists gathered for their National Association in September. Pastors and missionaries encouraged one another with reports of recent salvation decisions and new members. Items on the agenda included discussions regarding a leadership training program and planting new churches. Only one in 15 people in Uruguay knows Christ as Savior. ■



THE HANNA PROJECT—THP took its second team to Japan's devastated tsunami area September 5-17. The team focused on construction, working on homes in Yamada, Ophenatu, and Sendai. ■



PANAMA—More than 100 people attended the one-day missions conference held September 28 on the Chame seminary property. The conference theme—*Living the Call Together*—will serve double-duty as the 2014 Panamanian denominational theme. ■



BRAZIL—Eight people were baptized at the São José Church in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, on Sunday, August 4. ■



PANAMA—Two people were baptized at the Buenas Nuevas (Good News) FWB Church in Chitré, Panamá, on Sunday, September 8—a total of eight baptized this year. ■

IS MY WILL ENOUGH?

By Ray Lewis



Every adult should have a will, whether 25 or 75 years old. Contrary to what many people think, wills are not just for senior citizens. Many people think estate planning is done once they've gone through the trouble of making a will. They think a will is the "last word" on who gets their assets at their death. If you are one of these people, I advise you to think again.

Be aware that your will may not be the controlling document in disposing or distributing some assets upon your death. Beneficiary designations automatically override your will. So, if you change your will, make sure you change your beneficiary designation as well.

Beneficiary designation is the act of naming one or more persons to receive benefits when you die. Do you know the beneficiaries on your retirement account, life insurance policies, or living trusts? These accounts are "beneficiary-designated accounts," meaning your beneficiary designation overrides your will and other legal documents. Therefore, it is extremely important to be aware of who is currently listed as your beneficiaries.

Because so many accounts are beneficiary-designated, it is very important that you review all beneficiary designations regularly, at least every few years, but certainly after you experience a life-changing event.

Some examples of when you should update your beneficiary designations include:

- If you were single when you opened a beneficiary-designated account and listed a parent or sibling as the beneficiary, and then forget to change the designation after getting married, your parent or sibling—not your spouse—will receive those assets when you die.
- If your beneficiary dies before you.
- In the case of a divorce, if you fail to change the beneficiaries on your beneficiary-designated accounts, your ex-spouse could wind up with your retirement funds and the proceeds from your life insurance policies, even if your will states otherwise.
- Something we don't like to think about, but unfortunately happens: you might get upset with a beneficiary and write them out of your will. If they are still listed as the beneficiary on a beneficiary-designated account, they will still receive those assets.



Too many people neglect to update their designations on the flawed assumption that the instructions in their wills dictate distribution of funds after death.

In each of these circumstances, someone other than the person you want to receive your assets may still end up claiming the bulk of your assets if you do not also change the beneficiary designation on your accounts.

Too many people neglect to update

their designations on the flawed assumption that the instructions in their wills dictate distribution of funds after death. That is not so. Remember that the beneficiary-designation form controls. To make sure your assets go to the person you want to receive them

when you die, make sure to update all beneficiary designations whenever a major event in your life warrants such a change. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: D. Ray Lewis has been the director of the Board of Retirement since 2005. He and his wife Ida live in Antioch, TN.



The Gift that gives back.

A Gift Annuity through Free Will Baptist Foundation will help Welch College continue to train men and women for full-time Christian Service while you enjoy competitive rates, payouts based on age, limited tax deduction, and tax-free income. Learn more today:

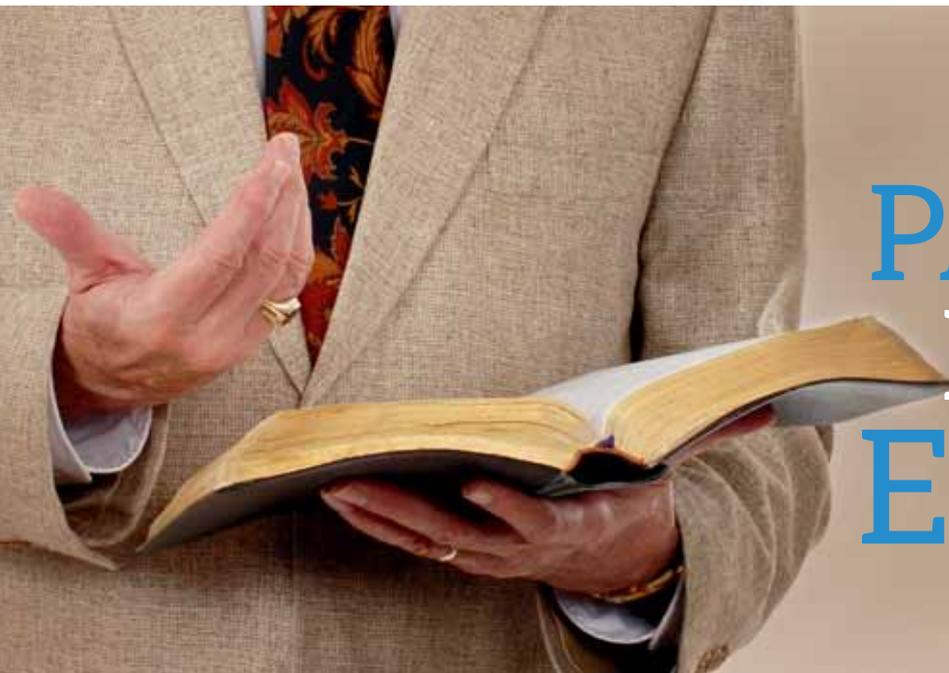
SINGLE TABLE		JOINT TABLE	
Age	Rate	Ages	Rate
70	5.1%	70/70	4.6%
73	5.5%	73/73	4.8%
76	6.0%	76/76	5.2%
79	6.6%	79/79	5.6%
82	7.2%	82/82	6.1%
85	7.8%	85/85	6.7%
88	8.4%	88/88	7.6%
90+	9.0%	91/91	8.6%

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PASTOR, PREACHER, EXAMPLE

By Jeff Cockrell

WE ARE IN A NATIONAL CRISIS WHEN IT COMES TO BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE.

In the book *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know*, Stephen Prothero discusses essential biblical information every person should know. During his research, Prothero discovered that 60% of Americans cannot name five of the Ten Commandments, and half of high school seniors describe Sodom and Gomorrah as a married couple.

The local church pastor plays a key role in instilling vital biblical knowledge. The pastor's job is to teach the Bible and to preach the whole Word of God without apology. However, some of the most important biblical lessons he shares will come through the example of a godly, dedicated life. In the Pastoral Epistles, the Apostle Paul charged Timothy and Titus to preach the Word (2 Timothy 4:1-5), but he also presented a number of lifestyle challenges to men who answer God's call to preach

EXAMPLE

A pastor must be *blameless* (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). This refers to observable conduct. Obviously, pastors are not perfect, but they should strive to live above reproach. Paul emphasizes this characteristic in verse 2—*of good behavior*—and again in verse 7—*a good report of them which are without*. When a church allows a person of unsavory reputation to hold the position of pastor, it creates a reproach. Evangelist George Whitefield often said he would rather have a church with ten righteous men than a church with 500 at whom the world laughs.

Paul referred to the pastor's actions again in 1 Timothy 4:12, charging young pastors to be “an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” In Titus 2:7, he challenged young leaders to provide a “pattern of good works.” The pastor must be an example, both in public and private. He must be characterized by love, refusing to be bitter, resentful, or vengeful and forgiving when wronged. He should provide an example of faithfulness and moral cleanness.

This includes his marital relationship (Titus 1:6; the husband of one wife). Leviticus 21 prohibited a priest to marry

a divorced woman or have any blemish on his moral character. The same holds true for today's pastor.

Paul told Timothy to be moral in attitude (1 Timothy 3:2; vigilant, sober, and given to hospitality). He should be well balanced, calm, and collected in his spirit, not swayed by sudden impulses. *Sober* refers to a serious attitude about life and ministry tempered by hospitality or a kind, welcoming temperament.

Paul also made it clear that the pastor must be a master at teaching the Word of God (1 Timothy 3:2; apt to teach). Charles Spurgeon was pastor of Metropolitan Tabernacle in London for 31 years. Throughout those years, he preached to a regular crowd of 5,000. The only thing that prohibited larger crowds was the size of the auditorium. Spurgeon did not fill the building through visitation programs, magnificent choirs, or with a fleet of buses. (The church didn't even have an organ.) Spurgeon merely stood and preached, and people listened.

He must also be a disciplined manager. Paul used the phrase *rule well*—literally lead—in 1 Timothy 5:17 to describe the duties of the pastor. He is to provide loving guidance for the church. Luke 10:34 uses the same word to describe the compassion of the Good Samaritan toward the man who had been robbed and beaten. In Acts 20, Paul instructed pastors, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

Titus 1:7 also infers pastors should be mature in social matters (not given to wine), not given to physical violence (no striker) but gentle in dealing with people. Second Timothy 2:24 states, “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.” This maturity in social matters should also be evident in a pastor's financial dealings—aboveboard, without jealousy, greed, or coveting. Paul wrote to Ephesian pastors in Acts 20, “I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.” Peter reminded his readers in 1 Peter 5, “Feed the flock of God which is among you...not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.”

Coveting is often the first step to flagrant sin, and covetousness goes well beyond finances. Pastors should avoid coveting the abilities of others. Instead, pastors should accept the spiritual gifts of others with delight, recognizing they are crucial to kingdom work.

Paul emphasizes one pastoral duty above all others—preach! Yet, this action will accomplish little without the proper lifestyle.

The pastor's maturity should carry over into spiritual matters (not a novice; 1 Timothy 3:6). Paul went on to say that a recent convert should not be a pastor because it will expose him to great danger: “lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.”

Godliness is to be the pastor's activity. Paul uses the Greek word for exercise in 1 Timothy 4:7, (from which we derive the modern word gymnasium). Paul paints a picture of an athlete straining to win with all his might. Any Christian who wants to excel in godliness must work at it, and the pastor is no exception. A weightlifter doesn't build his muscles overnight; it takes time and work.

PREACHER

Paul emphasizes one pastoral duty above all others—preach! Yet, this action will accomplish little without the proper lifestyle. One Sunday, a young man was invited to be the guest preacher at a church. He preached on Exodus 20:15: “Thou shalt not steal.” The next morning, the preacher stepped on a city bus and handed the driver a dollar bill. After the driver gave him change, the preacher went to the rear of the bus and counted the change. He discovered that he had received too much and quickly told the bus driver, “You gave me too much change.”

The driver responded, “Yes...a dime too much. I gave it to you on purpose. You see, I heard your sermon yesterday, and I watched in my mirror as you counted your change. If you had kept the dime, I would never again have any confidence in your preaching.” **ONE**

Pastor, preach the Word! Live the Word! People's lives are depending on you as pastor, preacher, and example.

Brown on Green >>>

The Great Recession and Church Income Decline

According to recent surveys, church income declined from 2008-2010. Why did this happen? One reason certainly had to be the recession and its aftermath. The congregation may be full of faithful tithers, but when they are laid off, 10% of zero is still zero. In some cases, the unemployed receive income from unemployment benefits, but often diminished substantially. Others suffered pay cuts, which also reduces giving.

In addition, low inflation rates prevented Social Security raises. Many retirees could not increase tithing without an increase in income; therefore, this group of faithful givers could not offset declines elsewhere. While the Lord can move on the hearts of givers to do more, until unemployment begins to drop, it is hard to imagine church giving will increase from an economic standpoint.

It is also likely that some church members viewed their giving to the church as discretionary spending to be cut first during hard times rather than a biblical mandate. Many people made it a priority to save and build reserves during the recession. Perhaps some chose to take from God the money they saved.

The decline in giving was not severe, with the average drop in offerings around 3%. However 21% of the churches surveyed reported a drop of at least 10%.

This and other surveys of giving pat-

terns raise some disturbing trends. Americans are generous people, and non-Christians in the U.S. give around 1% of their income to all charitable causes. Christians are three times as generous on average, giving 3% of their annual income. When you consider that a portion of Christian giving does not go to churches, this means Christians are missing the 10% standard for tithing by a long shot.

I like to think that the Free Will Baptist giving percentage is much higher. Since a giving survey has never been done of only Free Will Baptist churches, it is difficult to determine. Some anecdotal evidence suggests we may be doing better when comparing our denominational giving on a pro rata basis to other denominations. During a series of stewardship seminars for Free Will Baptists, noted author and church leader Stan Toler noted that, "Free Will Baptists are among the most generous people in the world, but they are seriously underperforming."

Let's live up to the first part of that statement by tithing at a minimum and supporting other ministries by giving beyond the tithe. **ONE**

Free Will Baptists Giving*

83 average congregation size.
27 number of households per congregation
\$53,624 average church income
\$1,986 average annual giving per household
*Based on statistics from the annual *FWB Yearbook*.

U.S. Census Statistics

\$51,017 average household earnings
\$5,101.70 potential tithe from each household
\$137,746 potential income from average church

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

\$54,000 *By Ryan Lewis, Convention Manager*

As reported in the October-November issue of *ONE Magazine*, the cost of the 2013 convention was difficult to swallow. Free Will Baptists left many of the contracted downtown convention hotel rooms empty, forcing us to pay \$54,000 in attrition penalties. That kind of disaster doesn't have a line item in the budget!

Negotiating a convention hotel block is difficult. It requires a delicate balance between blocking enough rooms for everyone but only as many as the convention can fill. This year, we encourage you to help fill the convention room block to avoid costly attrition penalties.

Housing for the 2014 convention will open Monday, May 5, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. CT (10:00 a.m. ET). Attendees will be able to make reservations by phone or online. A complete housing form will be published in the February-March issue of *ONE Magazine*.

The convention has made one change to the housing policy in 2014. Rather than charging a non-refundable deposit of the first night's room and tax for each reservation, a cancellation penalty will be charged instead. This means individuals and groups will no longer have to pay for each reservation up front. Instead, you will only be charged the first night's room and tax if you cancel a reservation. Reservations will be transferable between individuals, and attendees will again have the opportunity to post available rooms on www.nafwb.org.

In Fort Worth, the convention has contracted rooms at four downtown hotels: the Omni Fort Worth, the Sheraton

Fort Worth, the Historic Hilton Fort Worth, and the Courtyard by Marriott.

The *Omni Fort Worth* is located directly across the street from the Fort Worth Convention Center (FWCC) and will serve as the headquarters hotel. With a rate of \$151, the hotel features complimentary wifi throughout the hotel, a full-service Starbucks in the lobby, and \$15 parking (valet or self). **Attendees should be aware that the hotel has a limit of three reservations per person.**

The *Sheraton Fort Worth* offers a rate of \$146 and is just over a block away from the back door of the FWCC. It offers complimentary high-speed Internet, \$18 valet parking, and \$10 self-parking.

Two blocks from the FWCC is the *Historic Hilton Fort Worth*. The hotel has a rate of \$129 with \$15 valet parking.

The *Courtyard by Marriott* is located four blocks from the FWCC and one block from Sundance Square, Fort Worth's entertainment and shopping district with more than 25 restaurants. The room rate is \$129 with \$20 valet parking.

Overall, you'll find that each of these hotels offers a convention rate well below their normal rates. I encourage everyone to stay in convention hotels to take advantage of the opportunity. While the convention has nothing to gain from attendees staying in convention hotels, it has a lot to lose if they don't. **ONE**

About the Writer: Ryan Lewis is convention manager for the National Association of Free Will Baptists.



Omni Fort Worth Hotel (HQ)

1300 Houston Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
1.800.THE.OMNI (6664)
Rate: \$151
Valet Parking: \$15
Self Parking: \$15
(no in & out privileges)

Sheraton Fort Worth Hotel & Spa

1701 Commerce Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
888-627-8556
Rate: \$146
Group Code: NAFWB7
Valet Parking: \$18
Self-Parking: \$10

Historic Hilton Fort Worth

815 Main Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
Rate: \$129
Group Code: FWB
Reservations: 817-870-2100 or
1-800-HILTONS
Valet Parking Only: \$15

Courtyard by Marriott Downtown

601 Main Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
1-800-321-2211
Rate: \$129.00
Group Code: FREFREA (one bed) or
FREFREB (double beds)
Valet parking: \$20.00

Hit the **TRAIL TO TEXAS**

By Emily Faison

The last time Free Will Baptists met in Texas, the Internet was a new innovation, WWJD bracelets were all the rage, and iPhones hadn't been invented.

Next summer, when the 78th National Association of Free Will Baptists returns to Fort Worth for a fourth time, the world will undoubtedly look a bit different. But some things haven't changed. Fort Worth remains the "Gateway to the Real American West," complete with cowboys, rodeos, and good old-fashioned fun. Visitors can explore Fort Worth Zoo or The Stockyards, visit Sundance Square, spend an afternoon at the Museum of Western Art, or attend a Texas Rangers baseball game. In Fort Worth, self-titled "City of Cowboys and Culture," visitors find something for everyone.

When 6,771 Free Will Baptists assembled at the convention center in 1996, the 60th convention was themed, "I Will Build My Church," based on Christ's assertion in Matthew 16:18 that he would set His Church on the Rock. Convention speakers and seminars sparked discussion regarding ways to revitalize ministry to advance the kingdom and build up believers in contemporary culture.

In 2014, the convention will revisit the importance of reaching the culture with the theme, "Principles of Sowing and Reaping." A number of transitions will take place at the meeting. Debbie Burden will experience her first convention as registration coordinator, Kevin Justice will continue his role as convention music coordinator, and the Media Commission will expand their online presence to archive services.

At the 47th National Youth Conference (NYC), Brandon Roysden will shift into the role of conference manager, and

previous coordinator Danny Conn will assume a more focused role as competition manager.

NYC will focus on the theme, "Authentic," from Psalm 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer." The return to Fort Worth recalls the 1996 conference when young people took to heart the theme "Takin' It to the Street...the Gospel." During the inaugural year of Reach That Guy, volunteers partnered with Fort Worth Union Gospel Rescue Mission and the Fort Worth Area Food Bank. They stocked shelves, passed out tracts, and donated more than 2,500 gift packages filled with school supplies and personal hygiene products to needy children.

The last time Free Will Baptists met in Fort Worth, lives were changed, God moved, and we expect the same next summer. So, hit the trail to Texas! We will see you there.

About the Writer: Emily Faison served as convention press intern at the 2013 National Association of Free Will Baptists.



News About the Denomination

2014 Nominees Requested

ANTIOCH, TN—The 2013-2014 Nominating Committee, which will serve through the national convention in Ft. Worth, Texas, is prepared to receive nominees for the 2014 convention elections, according to Edwin Hayes (OH), committee chairman. The committee will meet March 3-4, at the National Office Building in Nashville, Tennessee, to consider nominations and compile a slate of nominations for the positions to be filled. The report will be presented to delegates at the July 2014 meeting.

The following board and commission positions will be filled in 2014: Randall House Publications (3), International Missions (3), Welch College (3), Commission for Theological Integrity (1), Historical Commission (1), Music Commission (1), Media Com-

mission (1), General Board (10), Executive Committee (3), and General Officers (4).

Nominations, accompanied by a brief resume, must be submitted in writing exclusively to the chairman on or before Friday, February 14.

Contact Chairman Edwin Hayes:

Edwin Hayes, Ohio State Office
7554 Slate Ridge Boulevard
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
614-751-1192
ehayes@ambassadorbible.com ■

Convention Registration Coordinator Retires



ANTIOCH, TN—Dari Goodfellow retired October 31, after 14 years as Convention Registration Coordinator for the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Each year, Dari juggled thousands of pre-registration forms, kept onsite lines short, and answered hundreds of questions from convention registrants. In addition to her work at the convention, Dari also worked as the annual Free Will Baptist *Yearbook* coordinator, maintaining a database of all pastors and churches and formatting and editing collected data for publication in the annual *Yearbook*.

“Dari has been a valuable team member,” said Executive Secretary Keith Burden. “We wish her all the best as she enters a new chapter of her life.”

“Dari has been a valuable team member,” said Executive Secretary Keith Burden. “We wish her all the best as she enters a new chapter of her life.”

Dari’s convention responsibilities started long before the 2000 convention in Anaheim, California, when she began her role as registration coordinator. In 1982, she joined the convention staff, working with her husband Sandy to record convention services. In 1991, she accepted a position in the Executive Office and worked in the convention Exhibit Hall for several years, managing the Executive Office booth and selling subscriptions to *Contact* magazine. “Since the beginning,” Dari says, “I have loved seeing and connecting with Free Will Baptist friends at the convention. It was always a highlight of my year.”

Dari relinquished the position to Debbie Burden, who has worked as Executive Office receptionist since 2004, and convention exhibit manager since 2008.

As Dari looks back over her tenure as registration coordinator, she points to improvements in the registration process as her greatest accomplishment. “Through the years the registration process has been streamlined considerably and is now almost painless.” She quickly adds two pieces of advice for convention-goers: “Always pre-register and do it online. Then, once you get onsite, remember the most important ingredient of any good registration process...patience!”

Daughter of Fred (deceased) and Altha Keifer, Dari graduated from Welch College in 1970 with a B.A. in Bible and a minor in Missions. She worked at Welch College twice: 1968-1971, and again 1980-1991. She and Sandy also served with Free Will Baptist International Missions as associate missionaries to Japan, 1979-1980. The couple has three children—Jill (Sean) Warren, Kelly (Barry) Powers, and Cpt. Steven (Hollye) Pierce—and eight grandchildren.

Dari shares parting words of gratitude. “I want to thank Melvin Worthington, former executive secretary, who hired me and gave me the opportunity to serve; thanks to Jack Williams, *Contact* magazine editor, mentor, and friend; the wonderful registration volunteers who made my job easy each year; and, best for last, the Executive Office staff who are an awesome group to work with.” ■

Photo: Mark Cowart



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

One to ONE >>>>

Under the Influence of Discipleship

They came forward during the invitation and committed their lives to Christ. Like any dutiful pastor, I wrote down their names and address and went to visit them the next day. After getting better acquainted, I offered to meet with them weekly to go through a series of 13 new convert lessons. They were interested, so I gave them a Bible, study materials, and scheduled our first lesson for the following Monday.

Hank and Connie had virtually no church background. He was a former member of the Hell's Angels. Her first marriage had ended in an ugly divorce. They were classic examples of "newborn babes in Christ."

The first lesson was appropriately titled "Assurance of Salvation." It was obvious

Hank and Connie had given much time and thought to their answers. Although they were biblically illiterate, their answers were refreshingly honest and transparent.

At the conclusion of the lesson I asked, "Is there anything in your life that is in disobedience to the teaching of Scripture?"

After a thoughtful pause Hank asked, "Does a bench warrant for my arrest qualify?"

I said, "Yes, I think a warrant for your arrest qualifies."

A few months prior to his conversion, Hank had been arrested for driving under the influence. In addition to jail time, he received a hefty fine. Since he had lost his job, he had no money, and he never paid the fine. As a result, a warrant had been issued for his arrest.

I told him he needed to turn himself in. It

was obvious he was reluctant. However, after I explained I would go with him, he consented. I picked him up the next morning and drove him to city hall. Before getting out of the car, we prayed and asked the Lord for courage and a good outcome.

Once inside, we located the appropriate office and asked to speak to the judge. We were told he was unavailable. We spoke to the office manager instead. I explained that Hank had recently committed his life to Christ and was attempting to do the right thing. Without a word the office manager stepped away and walked into the judge's office. In a matter of minutes he returned and said, "Sir, can you pay this fine within the next 90 days?" Dumbfounded, Hank nodded and said, "Yes!" The office manager tore the bench warrant in two and said, "You're free to go."

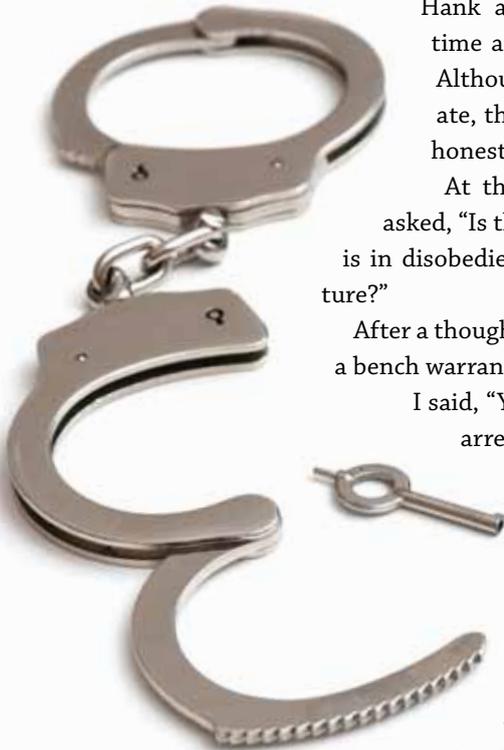
In the parking lot, Hank grabbed me, gave me a big bear hug and asked, "Does God always answer your prayers like that, Preacher?"

I said, "No...but God does always honor His children when they do the right thing."

Over the next 12 weeks I watched them grow spiritually. We discussed subjects like growing as a Christian, the gospel ordinances, tithing, and sharing their faith. I had the privilege of baptizing Hank and Connie and seeing them become members of our church.

Discipleship! The process can be very demanding and time consuming. There are no shortcuts or quick-and-easy approaches to do it successfully. However, nothing is more gratifying or rewarding than helping new converts mature in their faith.

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). **ONE**



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