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ONE

MAGAZINE

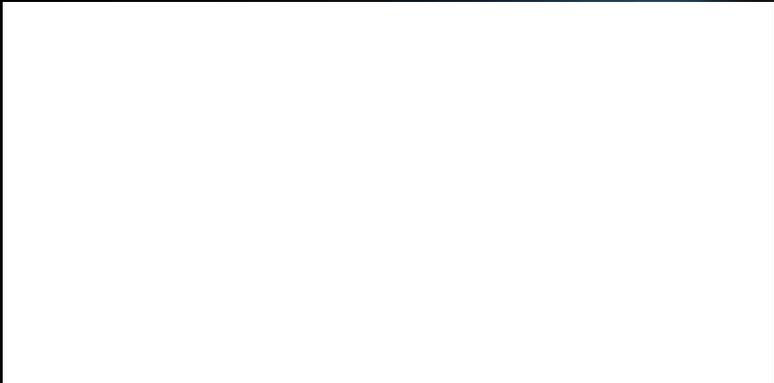
The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2014

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First Glimpse >>>>

Take Five

“Need to teach your child to handle money?”

The terse question from the local radio talk show host caught my attention. “Who doesn’t?” I thought to myself. “It’s eeeasy if you start early!” The confident host oozed enthusiasm. “Next Saturday morning, give your preschooler five bucks and hit up the local garage sales. Let her buy whatever she wants, even toys, but explain that when the money is gone, the shopping trip is over.”

No money. No spending. Lesson learned...seemed like a great idea at the time. After all, teaching a child to be financially responsible is crucial for every parent.

At seven o’clock sharp the following Saturday morning, I set out with an ecstatic four-year-old, crisp five-dollar bill gripped tightly in her little hands. “I can’t wait, Daddy!” she chortled, as she buckled into her booster seat.

“This won’t take long,” I chuckled to myself as I smiled at her in the rear-view mirror. “Her money won’t last past the first sale.”

Famous last words...

Four hours and 40 yard sales later, I admitted defeat. (Okay, maybe it wasn’t quite 40 sales, but it sure seemed like it.) “Peanut, we can’t fit another thing in this car. We’ve got to go home.” An image of my wife standing at the door with arms crossed and toe tapping suddenly flashed through my mind, and I shuddered.

“But Daddy,” she wailed, “I’ve still got four more dollars.”

My daughter (and her daddy) discovered an important lesson that day, but it had little to do with handling money. We both learned that when a tiny girl with enormous blue eyes, thick glasses, big dimples, and a bombshell smile asks, “Do I have enough to buy this?” The answer is usually, “Oh, honey, you can just have it!”

This five-dollar fiasco reminded me that most lessons in stewardship are more easily identified than taught...or learned. The February-March issue of *ONE Magazine* delves into this tough topic. From financial faithfulness (Matthew 25:20-21) and a proper view of possessions (1 John 2:15-17) to giving generously (2 Corinthians 9:7), living without debt (Proverbs 3:27), and embracing contentment (Hebrews 13:5), we are reminded that stewardship takes a lifetime to master.

Recently, I found myself short on cash when it came time to pay for lunch. With a sassy grin, my now 14-year-old reached into her purse, whipped out a handful of bills, and said, “Just let me know if you need more, Dad.” I guess those garage sales taught her something about handling money after all. ☐

ERIC THOMSEN, MANAGING EDITOR

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YOU OUTDID YOURSELF WITH THIS ONE.

Great job! Early in my ministry, I thought of being something or somebody. Whomp! Missed again! Romans 7 sure changed things and explained a lot. But 2 Corinthians 5:21 brought real understanding as I realized I had nothing of value to exchange with Him. My salvation is a free gift from Him, and the righteousness I have comes from Him. Wow! He took all my worthlessness and gave me His best. Truly, now, I am "Saint Paul." Not the apostle...the saint!

—Paul Keener, Westerville, Ohio

JUST A NOTE TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH MY

wife Jean and I enjoy your excellent magazine. It is a high quality publication that you can be proud to share with others. We were members of Capitol City FWB Church when we lived in Little Rock, Arkansas. Although we moved from Little Rock in 1988, and now attend a Southern Baptist church in our new community, we like to keep in touch with Free Will Baptists, who have come a long way in the past several years. Keep up the good work!

—Harlon and Jean Sory, Arkansas

I DON'T NORMALLY HAVE TIME TO READ ALL THE PUBLICATIONS WE RECEIVE IN THE COLLECTION

here, but I always enjoy issues of **ONE Magazine**. I want to say that the most recent issue (December-January, 2013-14) is a superb example. The choice of article subjects was great, especially the much needed emphasis on home missions work. I also very much agree with my good friend Winnie Yandell (Letters to the Editor, October-November 2013) that we need to be reminded of our history, or else we are doomed to repeat our failures as well as our successes. I also like the brief bios of the article writers. Keep up the good work, and may God continue to bless Free Will Baptists everywhere.

—Gary Fenton Barefoot, Curator, FWB Historical Collection, Moyer Library, Mount Olive College

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Real **Lives** at *Stake*

by Paul V. Harrison

FATHER'S DAY SURPRISE

June 20, 2010, began as most Father's Day Sundays had for the previous 20 years. I rose early, finished my sermon preparation, headed to church, and delivered God's challenge to fathers to the best of my ability. The afternoon, however, proved to be different . . . life-altering in fact. Around three, the doorbell rang at our Nashville home, and we opened the door to find our son Andrew and his wife Laura had traveled from East Tennessee to surprise us. What a great Father's Day gift!

But their presence, sweet as it was, was only the means of delivering an even more exciting message. Three days earlier, the two of them had rejoiced over a home test, and on that special day, Andrew and Laura presented me with...not a Father's Day card but a Grandfather's Day card. Needless to say, lots of hugging and crying occupied the rest of the afternoon. There's nothing like becoming a parent or grandparent for the first time.

UNEXPECTED DIAGNOSIS

Laura had her first ultrasound July 6, and they experienced the wonder of seeing their little one's pulsating heart. On September 14, they visited the doctor again to find out whether to buy blue or pink paint. Diane and I used the occasion as an excuse to make a run to Knoxville. We waited at their home and looked forward to more celebrating when they returned with the news.

I'll never forget the looks on their faces as they entered the living room where we waited. They weren't smiling. Their eyes were red and swollen. We didn't know what the news was, but we knew it wasn't good.

They learned their baby was a girl, but she had some serious issues. They had been given a list of possibilities, none encouraging: Down's syndrome, heart trouble, bowel abnormalities, hydrocephalus, etc. Things still weren't clear to the doctors, but testing had revealed enough to prompt them to begin preparing the parents for possible trouble. As our children sat on the couch, Andrew leaned over and hugged Laura's little tummy, crying and promising to love their little girl, no matter what. Diane and I did our best to hold it together and to comfort them.

On October 5, 18 weeks into Laura's pregnancy, she had another appointment for an anatomical scan of the baby. Diane and I headed to Knoxville again. We were all praying they would tell us the red flags were simply a false alarm.

It was not to be. Focused on the seriousness of the situation, a specialist took careful pictures of our granddaughter and zeroed in on the trouble areas. A genetic counselor explained that the baby's brain ventricles were enlarged, an indication of hydrocephalus with the possibility of significant brain damage and all sorts of other scary things. She brought up the possibility of abortion.

A few minutes later they met with the specialist, and Diane and I were invited to join them as he presented his findings. He explained that the baby apparently had some sort of blockage that had caused spinal fluid to build up abnormally in her head. That buildup was limiting the development of the brain, and retardation would likely result. He explained

that a shunt would have to be implanted surgically immediately after the baby's birth to relieve the pressure. It would drain the spinal fluid into the abdominal cavity, where it would be absorbed.

Listening to the doctor, I had an idea. "Doctor, maybe Laura is just not far enough along yet for you to be able to see everything. Is it possible that what you're seeing now will clear up?"

"No," he replied quickly. "This is far enough along to have a good picture of the situation. This baby has severe hydrocephalus, and it won't go away."

Andrew had mentioned that we were all Christians, and I recall the doctor saying: "I also am a Christian, and I believe in miracles. I've never seen one, but I believe they are possible. I will say this: if this baby is born and doesn't need a shunt, it would be a miracle." He made it clear that hydrocephalus could result in minor or major brain issues, but the prognosis for this baby, he said, pointed toward severe problems.

Stunned hardly captures what we felt. We walked out of that office and drove home without knowing what to say or think. Andrew and Laura were going to be parents, and Diane and I were going to be grandparents, but it was clearly not going to be anything like we had imagined.

THE LONGEST WAIT

Months of waiting followed, months filled with prayer and adjustments to our thinking. While I prayed for the miracle the doctor spoke of, I sought to accept what the *in utero* pictures were showing and what the doctors were saying: our grandbaby and our children faced some heavy struggles. As the months passed, Andrew and Laura settled on a name: Charlotte Rose. We would call her Charlie.

Because of the pressure from the fluid on the head, hydrocephalic babies are delivered C-section. Charlie's delivery was scheduled for February 15. A team of doctors would be there for her birth, after which she would be taken to the NICU. The next morning she would have a shunt surgically implanted at the children's hospital across the street. Such was the plan.

The morning of the 15th arrived, and we made our way to the hospital. Andrew and Laura were hustled off to the delivery area, while the rest of us settled into the waiting room. At 11:21, Charlie was born. She weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 21 inches long. Andrew could see the doctors looking at each other when she was born. They looked puzzled. They knew what hydrocephalic babies looked like, and Charlie didn't fit the picture.

Soon, the whole family invaded the delivery room, and before our eyes we found a beautiful baby girl. As the hours unfolded, tests indicated that she indeed had enlarged ventricles, but she was not hydrocephalic. The shunt surgery was cancelled. Mom, dad, and a healthy Charlie went home on February 18, a miracle.

LIVING MIRACLE, LASTING REMINDER

As I write this piece, Charlie is a vibrant two-year-old. She is doing great, and there's nothing grandpa and grandma love more than spending time with this precious little girl. I bounce her on my knee. I read books to her. I hold her little hand when we walk along. Praise God for my granddaughter!

I've narrated these traumatic events as a backdrop to the difficult subject of abortion. Usually when I deal with this topic, I discuss the philosophical and theological issues involved. The arguments against abortion are powerful. Overwhelmingly, it is only selfishness that argues for it.



Absence of Mourning

By Paul V. Harrison

When topped with gray in nature's time
One leaves our arms and earth's sweet clime
To breathe the air of life beyond,
We grieve and mourn the broken bond.

When younger ones in life's midstream
Shed flesh and blood for heaven's dreams,
The less sand passed the more the grief;
Our tears flow long when life is brief.

Then how, when hearts have just begun,
When limbs have never walked nor run,
Can death be sought, take eyes and voice,
And humans nod and call it choice?

Yet, while the arguments against abortion are important, they tend to be abstract, non-personal, and theoretical: When does life begin? What is personhood? But every day, Charlie reminds me that ultimately, abortion takes the life of a *real person*. If Andrew and Laura's baby had been aborted as the doctor suggested, Charlie would have been killed. Not a theoretical person, but Charlie.

We may not like thinking about it, but the million plus babies we abort in America each year are real people: Charlies and Johns, Marys and Bills. They face death before being named, but each is a person, and I expect God knows their names even if no one else does. The waste of life is hard to comprehend.

We should also consider the impact on mothers who abort. I know the pressure to end a pregnancy can be intense. Poverty tells many a woman she can't afford a baby. Shame over the exposure of an immoral sexual encounter also provides pressure for abortion, though this is declining with a 40% national non-marital birth rate. Still, parents and boyfriends often push for "taking care" of the pregnancy as a matter of convenience. A thousand arguments rise up and say abortion is the answer.

What is not said, I'm afraid, is that the trauma of abortion will remain with the woman for the rest of her life. She will forever know what she's done, if no one else knows. As the years pass, she'll think of how old her child would have been. She'll see her son or daughter's face reflected in young people she meets. Abortion comes with a price, and that price will be paid.

The movie *October Baby* came out in 2011. It tells the story of an abortion and its impact on several lives. The mother is well played by Shari Rigby, whose character struggles to come to terms with what she did as a young woman. When offered the part, Rigby called the producers and, amazingly, admitted she had "taken care of" an unplanned pregnancy in real life, many years before. She wanted the part, believing it was God's way of helping her make amends. God helped her find healing after years of pain and suffering. Pain goes along with abortion in more ways than one.

MAKING LIFE COUNT

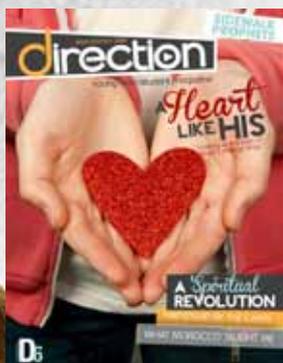
Here in Nashville every year, Aquinas College displays small white crosses on their campus to emphasize the vast number of lives lost through abortion. When you drive by, you are confronted with a sea of crosses splashed across

many acres of lawn. It's a profound visual reminder of the millions of babies lost to abortion. The truth is, however, that there should also be a "mother" cross and a "father" cross for every "baby" cross. When a mother and father carry the knowledge of what they've done to their own baby, how can anyone calculate the impact on their souls? Thank God for His forgiveness, but the impact of such a sin is hard to shake.

This is true also of all of us and our society at large. When we stand by silently in the face of such horrors, how can it not deaden our hearts to love and compassion? Abortion has a hidden moral price tag, and it is more than we can imagine. Only time will reveal its total cost. We must never forget that in the debate over abortion, real lives are at stake. **D6**

About the Writer: Paul Harrison served as pastor of Cross Timbers FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee, from 1991 to 2013. He also served as adjunct professor at Welch College for 17 years, teaching church history and Greek. Paul and his wife Diane have two sons and a granddaughter...Charlie.

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Money & the 7 Deadly Sins

BY BRENDA EVANS

“Just before the Great Recession, the average American household owned 2.8 cars and had more television sets than people,” James Surowiecki stated in a recent *The New Yorker* article. By the way, we used those 2.8 cars only one hour a day.

What is it with us Americans and money—too wooed, too wasteful, too worried that someone will get ahead of us? Yes, I think so. But I also think there’s a bigger question. Are we sinning in our relationship to the things we own, lease, and long for? Maybe.

I’ve been thinking about the seven deadly sins lately, especially whether I’m sinning those sins. It started with a newspaper article. Then I saw paintings by Jamie Wyeth, youngest of the three Wyeth artists, who used sea gulls to depict the seven sins. Stunning. Finally, I came to David—yes, our David, the biblical, contradictory one who said, “The Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer” out of one side of his mouth and “send for Bathsheba” out of the other. I am like him, of course, though I’m a peon and he was a king: child of Adam, child of God. Redeemed, but often lazy, lustful, greedy, gluttonous, vengeful, and proud. So are we all.

When it comes to money, the Seven Deadly Sins can overrun us like rogue elephants—fierce, muscular, formidable, destructive. We like money, long for it, and the elephants know it. Money gives us power, we believe, to rise above, look down on, take what we want, and do what we will. Money seduces...tramples down reason and will. Don’t misunderstand. Money is not evil. If it lures us to sin or causes us ill, we allow it. Let’s take a look, be warned, and stay protected against the rampages of these rogue elephants.



Gluttony, the Sin of Excess

When we think there's not enough, even though there is plenty, we are gluttonous for money. We gulp it down without thinking, swallow it without moderation or restraint. The signs are all over: over-indulgence, over-spending, over consumption. Shopping, grasping, hoarding. An insatiable appetite to get, have, keep. Gluttony puts desire above need. By impulse, we let the elephants in, or as Solomon says, weak-willed, we allow ourselves to be "broken into and left without walls" (Proverbs 25:28).

Sloth, the Sin of Indolence

I recently read Dr. L. C. Johnson's message from Proverbs about a lion in the street. He was president of Welch College all those years ago, but I still hear his voice in my head, round, easy, and almost informal:

"Now, a lion is a dangerous animal. I think you know that. They are usually in cages, yet this one is out. But the sluggard, the lazy, or the indifferent man says, 'Well, I will just turn over and pull the cover up over my head, go back to sleep, and let the lion go'.... But now, what would I do if there were a lion in my street? Well, I would try to find somebody who had experience in handling lions."

The indolent man, as Dr. Johnson said so eloquently, does nothing. He does not act. He is a loafer, a slacker, a hanger-on, a man without discipline or diligence who doesn't pull his own weight, even when he can, even when he knows to do good with himself, his talents, his money (James 4:17). He's succumbed to the sin of sloth.

Greed, the Sin of Covetousness

Greed is a heart's ache, an intense craving for stuff. It is a grubbing sin that God abhors (Psalm 10:3), forbids (Exodus 20:17), and punishes (Micah 2:3). This love of money is inconsistent with believers because it is characteristic of the wicked. Jesus said it originates in the heart and defiles us inside and out. Habakkuk says a greedy man, like Hell and death, is never satisfied. The love of it is the root of all evil, Paul says, and a sin that can cause a man to miss Heaven (Ephesians 5:5).

Paul gives an antidote to greed in 2 Corinthians 8: first give ourselves to the Lord, he says; then give ourselves to others; and finally give money, goods, or time for the relief of the saints. "See that you excel in this act of grace," he exhorts. The joy of generosity can stanch greed.

Lust, the Sin of Obsession

Obsession for money begins as an intrusive desire that besieges us so intensely we allow it to capture and finally enslave us. This lust becomes what A. B. Simpson calls "a controlling principle of life." Money—and what we think it will buy—becomes our end-all and be-all. Headlines affirm that American believers are particularly vulnerable to a money-power-sex cycle. Money ignites feelings of power, power touches off privilege, privilege sets fire to an *I deserve* attitude which implies all sorts of sexual and social rights, entitlements, and sins. A stubborn biblical constancy toward money snuffs this cycle at its beginning and keeps the elephants away.

Envy, the Sin of Discontent

Envy comes from the heart, according to Jesus (Mark 7:22), but is nurtured through our eyes, which Simon J. Kistemaker calls "the channels to man's soul." What we see fans discontent into bitterness, even hatred toward those who have what we do not, and so envy catches fire and burns on, consuming us inside out.

In *Purgatorio*, Dante suggested that we look too much. He and Virgil encountered the envious huddled together against boulders, their eyes sewn shut with iron threads. Not looking, not seeing, Dante implies, halts envy at the door. I believe he and Jesus would agree on three modern rules: don't stroll the mall, don't surf Internet sales sites, and don't chase after the rich and famous. In other words, don't look, and you will be able to stop the envy elephant at the door.

Wrath, the Sin of Rage

Money maven Warren Buffet says if you have an IQ of 25 or higher, all you need beyond that is "the temperament to control the urges that get people in trouble." Rage over money is common. Fixation, fear, and regret whip us into a furor, sometimes against ourselves, sometimes against others. Maybe it's loss aversion, in which the pain of loss is greater than the pleasure of gain. Maybe it's bad-buy or bad-sell decisions. Maybe we hold on too long or let go too soon. Maybe it's over-confidence or believing the wrong advisor. Maybe our spouse spent too much. Whatever the cause, we're angry! Evaluation of financial crises through the lens of rage rather than the lens of common sense and biblical imperative is never wise. Keep rage away or make bad decisions worse.



Pride, the Sin of Self-Exaltation

Pride began with Satan and has marched unflinchingly through centuries of Scripture and history, straight into 2014. Humility is a lost virtue. Pride is alive and well. Yet pride is illusory. We actually believe the planet we walk on is ours (cattle, hills, soil, sky above, treasures below) and we are in charge.

Pride is delusional, too. We do not always know everything about everything, including how to best use our money. Regarding that, Dr. Terrance Odean, professor of finance at the Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley, says, “We all need a healthy dose of self-doubt and humility.”

Let’s acknowledge what is ours and what is not, what we can do and what we cannot. Let’s lose our pride. Admit our sins. Control our passions. Keep our hearts. Submit our wills. Speak our gratitude. When it comes to money and sin, we can keep those rampaging elephants out if we wish. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Brenda Evans is a retired English teacher. She and her husband Bill (former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation) live in Cattlettsburg, Kentucky. They are proud grandparents of seven.

A Legacy of Leadership...

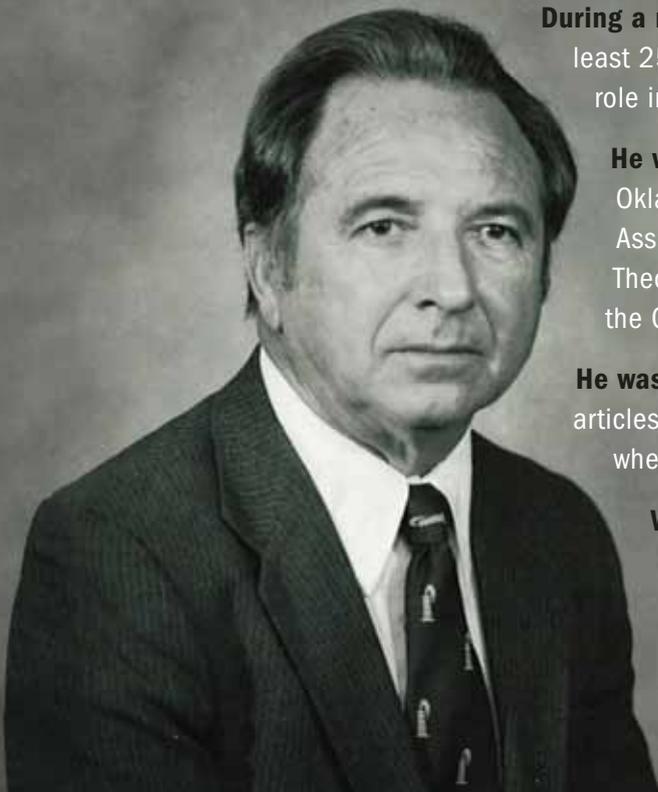
During a ministry that spanned six decades, Dr. Wade Jernigan organized at least 25 Free Will Baptist churches, preached 800 revivals, and played a major role in developing Hillsdale FWB College and California Christian College.

He was active at every level of the denomination: moderator of the Oklahoma State Association, executive secretary of the California State Association, chairman of the Home Missions Board, member of the Theological Commission, home missionary to Idaho, and member of both the General Board and Executive Committee of the National Association.

He was a prolific writer who produced four books, 60 songs, poetry, numerous articles, and college textbooks. Perhaps Jack Williams summed his life up best when he said, “Wade was a leader wherever he served.”

Why not start your own legacy of leadership today, with an endowment through the Free Will Baptist Foundation?

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“It’s Mine!”

BY HEATH FERGUSON

Teaching children to share is one of the most important yet difficult tasks parents face.

Every time my daughters play together, they start out chummy and courteous but end with doll hair flying, broken plastic limbs, and shouts of “Mine!” hurled at one another. The loser of the battle begins crying and tattling, and the winner immediately flips into defense mode, explaining why the toy belongs to her. Children have a built-in sense of ownership, and relinquishing possessions to another’s control is totally foreign.

Sound familiar? The truth is, adults often have the attitudes of children, but perhaps without all the childish fighting and yelling “Mine!” We like ownership. We own our cars and our homes, and we guard closely the belongings we work hard to acquire. Nothing is wrong with acquisition, but something is infinitely wrong with the attitude. Every item, every dollar, every talent, and every minute—they all run through the hands of God first and ultimately belong to Him. We are only stewards of what He has allowed us to manage.

The word *steward* dates to medieval times and means “keeper of the hall.” In that day, the lord of the manor retained legal authority and ownership but delegated day-to-day operations of management to his appointed steward. The steward guaranteed that every detail was overseen and that the manor functioned properly. It is this idea of stewardship to which God has called us.

When we view our possessions through eyes of stewardship rather than ownership, many challenges simply fade away. When we understand that our finances belong to the Lord, giving a tithe becomes a joy, a steward giving back to his Lord. Every moment given to us comes from the One who made the day, and how we manage those moments relates directly to our understanding of stewardship.



Many people talk about church people who work hard and have ownership in their church or “sweat equity” in church buildings. We would be more accurate to say they are God’s buildings. When we arrive at that realization, our level of responsibility to God’s property increases. When we understand that everything is God’s, we will give it the proper valuation, and, in turn, that affects the way we respond.

Jesus told a parable in Matthew 25 about three stewards given a portion of goods and instructed to manage those goods. Two were “good and faithful servants,” the other was “lazy and slothful.” What was different? The way they viewed the goods in relation to the Lord. Basically, the Lord has only one requirement for the steward, found in 1 Corinthians 4:2: “Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.” The Lord requires simple faithfulness, obedience in the activities of today, trusting God to take care of the future.

“Lord, help us to not view our belongings and time as ‘Mine!’ but rather an opportunity from you to manage it well. Give us the mindset to take care of the goods You have entrusted to us with excellence and responsibility to the Maker of it all.” **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Heath Ferguson is a church planter located just north of the thriving and fastest-growing metropolis of Houston, Texas. He and his wife Jamie have been married 12 years and have two daughters, Katelyn (7) and Ashlyn (2).

Ripe and Ready... *Are You?*

BY BRAD RANSOM

Jesus said, “Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”
(John 4:35)

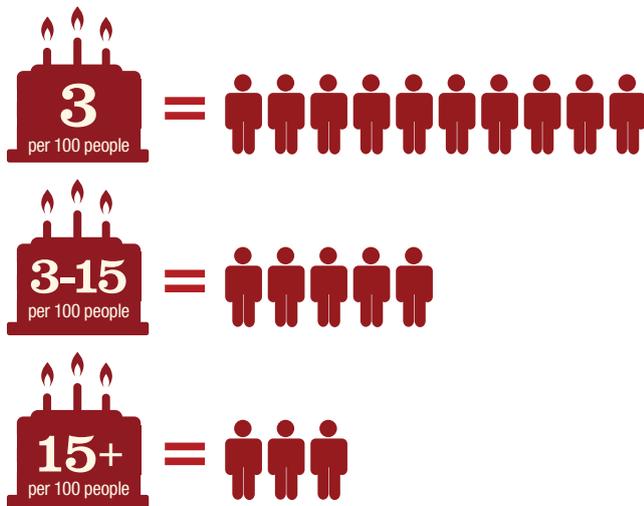
Free Will Baptists are a diverse group of people.

We debate several issues among our ranks, including eschatology, but at the end of the day we agree on what’s most important, the common belief that Jesus’ return is imminent.

Sometimes, I wish I knew exactly when Jesus was coming back. Some have tried to predict the day and time (which we know is impossible) but the bottom line is that we need to live every day like it is the last day before He returns. **If we really lived like that, how would our lives be different? Let me suggest a few things:**

- 1. We would witness more.** If we knew the return of Jesus was going to be in our lifetime, we’d be more serious about telling others about Him. I’ve read some statistics that suggest most Christians never share their faith with others.
- 2. We would give away more money.** If we lived like Jesus was coming back any day, we wouldn’t need to save for retirement or plan our estates to leave money to others. (I’m creating a scenario, not promoting irresponsibility.) We would give everything away, like they did in the first-century Church, to advance the cause of Christ.
- 3. We would send more missionaries and plant more churches.** If we lived like Jesus is returning soon, we would feel the urgency of getting the gospel out to as many people as quickly as possible.

An article in *Christianity Today* cited a report by Bruce McNichol that among evangelical churches, those under three years in age reach, on average, ten people for Christ for every 100 members in a given year. Churches between three and 15 years old reach five people per year for every 100 members. Churches over 15 years old reach three people per year for every 100 members. According to the article, “Ninety percent of all churches reach their peak in attendance, outreach, and giving by their 12th birthday.”



In a study of Anglo churches from 1987-89, it was discovered that new churches baptized 13 people for every 100 members. In another study, it was noted that churches ten years old or older average 2.5 baptisms per year, per 100 members, and churches ten years old or younger average 10.8 baptisms per year, per 100 members.¹ These statistics demonstrate the lifecycle of churches. As a general rule, new churches win more people to Christ.

So, why aren't we planting more churches? We must examine two issues to fully address this question. First, it takes money to plant a church—a lot of money, especially if we target demographic areas with little evangelical witness. Second, it takes church planters willing to go to the hard places and dig something out of nothing. Church planting is hard work. It is not for the lazy or the weak of heart. If we had more of these two things, we could plant more churches.

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

At Home Missions, we have renewed our commitment to the cause and hope you will renew yours as well. We will work hard to plant new churches across America. We are in the process of developing new strategies and models to help us be more effective in our current situation. We will work to understand our context better and utilize our resources to develop programs and training that will better equip those we send. Would you pray with us that God will open the wallets of our people and send us men who are willing to plant, water, cultivate, and reap the harvest?

To give financially to Home Missions or to learn how to become a church planter, visit www.homemissions.net. The fields ARE ripe. Jesus IS coming soon. We need YOU to partner with us to win as many as we can before it's too late. **ONE**

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¹ "Churches Die With Dignity," *Christianity Today*, January 14, 1991, p. 69



Weary Traveler

by Carol Reid

Weary traveler. From John Bunyan to Bill Monroe, the picture of the pilgrim, loaded down with fatigue, struggling to reach his destination, is an image familiar to all of us. We identify. Just look at the word: W-E-A-R-Y = WE-ARE. And WE ARE weary.

PROBLEM

Weariness is part of the human condition, a result of the curse on mankind in Genesis 3. Age is not a factor; Isaiah 40 reminds us that even young people grow weary. Activity level is not a factor; whether we work 60 hours a week or sit in a hospital room, weariness is a problem. Occupation is not a factor: day care worker, ditch-digger, accountant, or ticket-taker—we all struggle with weariness.

Weariness takes many forms, depending on its cause. Weariness can result from physical fatigue when we've worked in the garden, cleaned the house, or even shopped all day long. At other times, when we're unable to do any of that because of health reasons, we are still weary. Weariness

can stem from emotional fatigue when stress, obligations, pressures, discouragement, and grief weigh us down. We can even experience spiritual fatigue, fighting the attacks of the evil one in relentless battles.

Throughout Scripture we meet weary people:

- ❖ 2 Samuel 23:10: The warriors are so weary that their hands cramp around their swords.
- ❖ Jeremiah 9:5: The people wear themselves out committing sin.
- ❖ Isaiah 43:22: Israel is even weary of God.
- ❖ Habakkuk 2:13: People are weary for nothing.
- ❖ Genesis 27:46 and Job 10:1: Rebekah and Job are weary of their lives.

What about you? How would you fill in the blank? I am weary of _____. I am weary of my kids? My bills? My disease? My pain? My needy friend? My job? My assignment in life?

It's a good thing that neither Galatians 6:9 nor 2 Thessalonians 3:13 stop with "Be not weary." No, Scripture goes on to say, "Be not weary *in well doing*." So, what is "well doing"? These passages give us some clues:

- ❖ 2 Thessalonians 3:10 lays out the principle: if you don't work, you don't eat.
- ❖ 2 Thessalonians 3:11 exhorts those who are disorderly, lazy, busy bodies.
- ❖ 2 Thessalonians 3:12 commands believers to work quietly and earn their own living.
- ❖ Galatians 6:2 encourages us to bear one another's burden.
- ❖ Galatians 6:5 teaches us to bear our own burden.
- ❖ Galatians 6:4 says to prove or test our work.
- ❖ Galatians 6:8 brings up the principle of sowing and reaping; we are to sow to the Spirit.
- ❖ Galatians 6:6 and 6:10 remind believers to give to the work of the Lord and His servants.

Doing well includes caring for our families, earning a living, avoiding laziness, helping others, doing our best, planning for the future, and giving to God's work. Yes, we may be weary, but not in those things.

"Umm," you say, "You're not helping me here. I'm tired of those 'well-doing' things, too. I'm wrung out. I'm exhausted. I'm discouraged. I'm just weary."

I know. And our gracious heavenly Father knows, too. He has given us a prescription for dealing with our problem.

PRESCRIPTION

First, take care of our bodies. Rest. Eat right. Exercise. Recreate. Connect.

God's principle from Creation—from the very beginning—is a day of rest. So, what is your day of rest? Our busy lifestyles and demanding careers, our multi-generational families, our near and long-distance friendships, our wired and digitized and ever-connected technology consume our

waking days. We have trouble going to sleep at night, much less taking a day off for rest. For some of us, even Sunday seems less than restful by the time we've taught children's church, cooked Sunday dinner, gone to choir practice, and maybe added a baby shower and a meeting or two to the day.

But the physical curse of weariness *demand*s we take care of our bodies with rest according to the design and model of our Creator. What needs to change in your life to accomplish that?

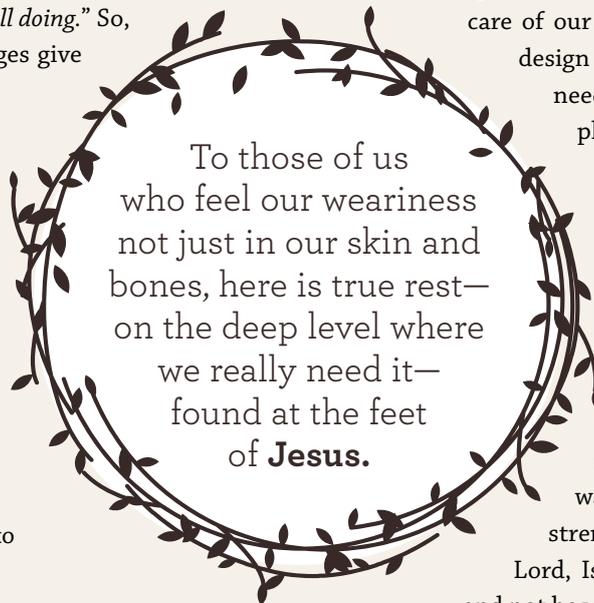
Second, know that our Heavenly Father does not grow weary. Isaiah 40:28-30 reminds us that He is still in charge. No matter how difficult our loads, no matter how weighed down and weary we feel, He can handle it.

Isaiah 40 goes on to encourage us with a third principle. If we wait on the Lord, He will supply the strength we need. When we wait on the Lord, Isaiah 40:31 promises, we can run and not be weary. (That's amazing to a little, fat

lady like me who can't run 10 yards without my tongue hanging out.) We can walk and not faint. My mother is mostly confined to her wheelchair, but what a promise—to walk without tiring. We can mount up with wings like eagles. We're soaring here; we're flying to mountaintops, above the storms. We're strong and powerful and beautiful and inspiring. When we wait on the Lord—our powerful Creator, who never grows weary—we know strength and hope and provision. Trust Him: His plan, His wisdom, His timing, and His love for you. He is a good God who wants what is best for each of us.

A fourth reminder comes from Hebrews 12:3. Most of us remember the first two verses of the chapter—the "cloud of witnesses" and the "run with patience" parts. But verse three points us to Jesus. In our weariness, consider Him. When we start to drag and falter in our well-doing, think about all Jesus endured for us. "How can I do less than give Him my best and live for Him completely, after all He's done for me?" the words of an old chorus implore.

Then, remember the truth from Matthew 11:28-30—the sweet invitation of our Savior to "come to me." If we are weary, heavy laden, Jesus promises rest. Maybe we need to spend a little more time with Him. Notice that verse 29 assures us that He will give rest for our souls. To those of us



who feel our weariness not just in our skin and bones, here is true rest—on the deep level where we really need it—found at the feet of Jesus.

PROMISE

Back we go to Galatians 6:9 for the bright conclusion of the verse. Don't grow weary in well doing, because in due season, we *will reap*. There's a harvest ahead. Don't give up now.

We often work because a reward lies ahead.

- ❖ The trip is long and tiring, but we look forward to visiting with friends and family or our wonderful vacation.
- ❖ The work week is difficult, but we cross off our "to do" list, anticipating Friday, when we'll go out to dinner with our spouse—or maybe see the grandkids.
- ❖ The yard work seems exhausting, but we find reward in the beautiful hydrangeas or the glimpse of a blue bird in the backyard.
- ❖ The hike is strenuous, but the view from the hilltop is glorious.
- ❖ The dinner preparations take all day (for a meal that people finish in 15 minutes), but our guests are happy, and the fellowship is sweet.

Our work is validated by the reward. No matter what our harvest looks like, God has demonstrated this principle throughout His creation: we reap what we sow. Our labor counts. Our work is noticed. God sees and rewards what we have planted. So, don't grow weary. Don't give up.

William Carey, "father of modern protestant missions," took the gospel to India in 1793, only to meet with poverty, the death of his son, the mental illness of his wife, malaria, and a host of other discouragements. It was not until 1800, seven years after his arrival in the country, that he baptized his first convert. Seven years of toil and hardship and weariness passed before he saw any fruit.

When Carey died in 1834, after spending 41 years (without a furlough) in India, he left behind 700 converts, Bible translations, educational and social reforms, and the beginning of a powerful worldwide missionary movement. His tireless well doing continues to produce fruit—even today—because he diligently planted the gospel in India.

God is faithful. In due season, we will reap if we faint not. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Carol Reid serves as WAC Representative for Middle Tennessee and actively participates in WAC at Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church. Longtime librarian at Welch College, Carol has authored numerous Bible studies for *Treasure*, WNAC's quarterly study guide. See www.wnac.org.

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UNPLUGGED

BY MARIE
DRAKULIC

A dear friend of mine does not own a cell phone. She has a landline. Remember those? The phone you have to plug into the wall and stay in the house to use? She says cell phones take too much energy. Crazy, right? Well, maybe she isn't so far off base.

I knew I had a problem when my email stopped working on my phone, and I actually had to go to the computer to read it. Oh no! Perish the thought! It was only a glitch in the server, and lasted only a couple of days. Still, I wasted hours fussing over this minor issue. Shortly after, words from 1 Corinthians began rolling around in my mind. "All things are lawful unto me, but I will not be *brought under the power* of any" (1 Corinthians 6:12, emphasis mine). Another translation uses the word *mastered*.

I suddenly realized my smart phone had mastered me. It was practically glued to me 24/7. At home, it followed me to every room. When I went out, it was in my hand, my purse (attached to my shoulder), or my pocket. It even ended up in bed next to my pillow at night. And when I listened to a sermon on fasting, I knew I needed some time "unplugged."

I write this in the middle of a week away from my phone. Sure, I have used it to make ordinary calls, and a few times I have used my "smart apps," but I have, with the Lord's strength, denied myself from using it every waking moment.

Here are a few things I have learned:

- *My smart phone can't do everything, and I can function without it.*
- *Some people really do appreciate a phone call rather than a text message.*
- *It is more important for me to enjoy spending time with my kids rather than making sure I post about them.*
- *I don't need to reach for my phone before I reach for my Bible or pray in the morning.*
- *My iPhone is not I Am.*

Please do not misunderstand; I am not saying smart phones, tablets, or other advances in technology are bad. I am only saying my iPhone had become a god in my life. Wow! That is hard to write, even harder to admit. How could something so material and so breakable ever become greater than Him? Though a smart phone has many beneficial and practical uses, it had become a weight in my spiritual walk with the Lord.

Is something weighing you down today? Maybe you don't struggle with a smart phone like I do. Maybe you struggle with food, television, or work. None of those things are wrong on their own, but when they distract from the Lord and become little gods in our lives, we have a problem. Remember what the writer of Hebrews said? "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1).

In a few days, my phone will become smart again, and I will plug back in. I pray I have learned to reap the benefits without letting it master me. God is God alone. May I always recognize that "every good and every perfect gift is from above" (see James 1:17) and meant for His glory...even smart phones!

ABOUT THE WRITER: Marie and Tony Drakulic are team members with Daryl Grimes, planting Flagship FWB Church in Erie Pennsylvania. Learn more at: www.flagshipchurch.com.

TIME to MENTOR?

By Norma Jackson Goldman

One of the least discussed areas of stewardship is the use of time. Most stewardship discussions revolve around money and spiritual gifts. While it is true these should be at the very core of discipleship teachings, how we use our time is equally important.

Allocating time so everything gets done and our lives stay in balance requires a lot of energy and planning. At day's end, most of us find things still left on the "to do" list. Even in retirement, when everyone assumes they will have loads of free time to do all sorts of interesting, challenging, and rewarding things, time has to be managed.

One of my favorite stories involves a wonderful couple I'll call Sally and Fred. After retirement, Fred bounded out of bed each day saying, "What are we going to do today, Sal?" She went along for several weeks, thinking up fun places to go, but his retirement dream burst one day when Sally responded, "I don't know what you're going to do, but I'm going upstairs and sew!" Clearly, his dream of how to spend retirement didn't match hers.

Many retirees find rich rewards in *mentoring*—the process of walking alongside another person, focusing on some area of growth and development or simply "doing life" together. Several retired couples in our church have agreed to mentor a young couple for a period of months, loving, guiding, and encouraging them to build a strong Christian marriage. In some cases, these mentors serve as "adopted" grandparents to their children.

Currently, I mentor a beautiful young woman. She is a strong and faithful believer, wife, and mother. I knew of her commitment to Bible study, worship, and prayer, so I was taken aback when she asked if I would be her mentor. It seemed to me that she already had everything needed to be a true Proverbs 31 woman.



“I need your wisdom and experience,” she encouraged. “I need you to point out pitfalls we might encounter and how to deal with them so that my marriage remains strong and my children will be raised to honor God.” The fact that she is thinking in this direction was an enormous encouragement to me. It tells me she is intentionally taking steps to ensure her family will thrive despite the challenges every marriage and family experience.

During weekly meetings we study Scripture, especially Proverbs, which take us into rich discussions about relationships, character, attitudes, and living in ways that please God. I’ve come to appreciate the investments she is making in her family—prayer support for her husband, attention to the schooling and spiritual education of their two beautiful girls. She examines her personal strengths and weaknesses and how they contribute or detract from goals that honor God.

As you can guess, during this time I’ve re-evaluated my own character, relationships, and goals; the process has been rewarding, making me more intentional about choices and decisions. I suspect I’ve learned a good

deal more than she has, and I have benefitted from our thought-provoking discussions.

My son-in-law mentors young men in “life skills.” Many boys today grow up with no one to teach them how to perform basic electrical and plumbing chores, how to look for a job, maintain a car, or paint a room. He builds confidence and competency into these young men. What better use of time than to invest in the life of another? What better way to honor God?

Might God use you to mentor another believer—someone at work, at church, or in your neighborhood? God is sure to bless such an investment of time. **ONE**

About the Writer: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance career in her retirement. The award-winning writer lives in Houston, Texas. Learn more about retirement options at www.boardofretirement.com.

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LITTLE SURPRISES *By Steve Riggs, Châteaubriant, France*

I don't remember who said it, or even when, but at some point during my student years I heard someone say: "The only thing you know for sure about ministry is that it won't work out like you expect it will."

We make plans and strategies. We set goals and objectives—all good and necessary. But it rarely seems our plans work out exactly the way we think they should. Perhaps it's one of the ways the Lord reminds us it really *is* His work, and He alone gets the glory. Perhaps it's a means to test our motivation for ministry. Or, perhaps, it's His way to humble us when we think we have all the answers. Then again, maybe it's none of these. Maybe it is just a constant reminder that we need Him and must trust Him.

I have come to appreciate that things don't always work out like I expect them to do. Sometimes, I find the Lord has "little surprises" that accomplish greater things than we had planned. One of those little surprises has been a Chinese student by the name of Gao (pronounced Go) we have had the joy to get to know this past summer.

It all started with a phone call from a friend who asked if we could help a Chinese student coming to Châteaubriant. Just the fact that a student from China would show up in this relatively obscure French village is a surprise in itself. With one phone call, we were able to help Gao find lodging. It was also my privilege to meet with him regularly for discipleship studies.

Gao's story—like all of our stories really—is pretty remarkable. He came to France to study at the University of Nancy. He came in contact with other Chinese students who



are Christians. They introduced Gao to Bible studies led over SKYPE by a Chinese Christian living in the United States. After a short time of participating in these studies, Gao became a follower of Christ. During the past summer, it was my privilege to have a part in his spiritual growth, teaching Him the Bible...in French.

We have both laughed about the odds that we would meet. Gao doesn't speak English. I certainly don't know any Mandarin. Yet, here we are studying God's Word together in French—an aging American missionary in a small French town and a young Chinese believer who met Christ in France through a SKYPE Bible study. Go figure! Well, I guess I really can't figure it out, but I have enjoyed this little surprise God inserted in my finely-tuned plans.

Because of gifts to International Missions, I was in Châteaubriant at the right time to minister to a young, Chinese Christian and many others seeking Christ.

ABOUT THE WRITERS: Steve and Becky Riggs began working in France almost 30 years ago. Late in 2012, they moved to Châteaubriant, a central city in an area of 31 towns with little evangelical presence, to work with a French couple to plant a church.

CHANGING LIVES, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME *By Kenneth Eagleton, Brazil*

A few days ago, I received a phone call from Sergio and Claudia. It had been some time since we had talked, and they wanted to chat and exchange news about our families. In 2004, while Rejane and I were living in Belo Horizonte, and I was leading the church there, this couple and their two teenage daughters walked into a service on a Sunday evening. I approached them, introduced myself, and asked if they would accept a visit at their home. They readily agreed.

When I arrived at their apartment, I had barely walked in the door when they began pouring out their hearts. They had been wealthy real estate developers until the company failed, and they lost everything. They were left with debts, civil law suits, and unemployment. Their marriage was under tremendous strain. I learned later they were considering suicide. They had reached rock bottom.



Before, they didn't need God, but in their despair, they desperately searched for Him. Sergio grew up in a nominally Protestant family and Claudia in a Catholic one, but they knew nothing about the Bible or salvation. We began weekly Bible studies and, by the third or fourth week, both gave their lives to the Lord. The girls soon followed. I had the privilege of discipling and baptizing this family and seeing God change their lives in amazing ways.

The road back to financial stability has been a long and painful one, but the Lord has honored their faithfulness. They found jobs and eventually assumed ownership of a real estate office. They have been able to get out of debt, settle their lawsuits, and buy a home.

But the greatest change happened inside their home. God restored their marriage and their family. Although we moved away from Belo Horizonte in December 2005, we have maintained contact with them. God has given them a desire to help other couples going through marital problems. They received training from a marriage enrichment organization

and lead weekly meetings with couples taking the course.

During our phone conversation, they related the results of their most recent course. Five couples came to take the classes as a last attempt at getting help for their marriage before they filed for divorce. God has done a work of restoration in the marriages of all five couples. Praise the Lord!

Sergio repeated what he has said many times: "You are our spiritual parents. Every time we give our testimony of how the Lord saved us and restored our family, we tell them He used you in our lives." Claudia asked, "Do you have any more Bible studies on the Christian family you could pass on to us?"

I am so thankful for those who have given generously so we can minister to people like Sergio and Claudia, people who continue to minister to others.

ABOUT THE WRITERS: Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton currently live in Campinas, Brazil. Kenneth serves as regional director for Latin America and Côte d'Ivoire. He also coordinates and teaches in the Bible institute in Campinas.



A WIDOW'S MITE *By Bobby and Geneva Poole, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil*

Every Sunday, during the worship service at Marincek FWB Church in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, the words "your faith-promise for missions" are uttered.

The leader of the service asks those present to bow their heads in prayer and invites those who brought gifts to the Lord to drop their tithes, offerings, and faith promises in the wooden box at the front of the church.

We have tried to teach Brazilian believers it is their responsibility to send the gospel to the world. Most of them know that churches and congregations in the States provide our financial support. Over the years, we have heard people say, "How thankful we are that someone so far away, was willing to give, so Bobby and Geneva could come and preach the gospel in Brazil."

Along with other Free Will Baptist missionaries, we have taught "our" disciples that every Christian has the responsibility to go and "preach the gospel to every creature." The Marincek FWB Church is helping to support an ordained pastor from First FWB Church in Ribeirão Preto and a family from the Jaboticabal FWB Church who work as mission-

aries to Uruguay, in cooperation with the Free Will Baptist work in that country.

In September, we received an email from one of these workers expressing a critical need for \$400 to meet their children's educational expenses. I shared the email with the church and asked them to pray. That very morning, without knowing the need, a dear lady gave \$450 saying it was her accumulated "faith promise."

Dona Luiza is an elderly widow and faithful servant of the Lord. She lives in a simple four-room house. I imagine her monthly retirement pension is less than her "Faith Promise to Missions" offering.

For the past two years, the Marincek FWB Church has participated in the World Missions Offering, and our people have given well. They are thankful for the sacrificial gifts of those in the United States and the gifts of love that sent missionaries around the world. Our people are learning "it is more blessed to give than to receive." We are thankful that so many in the States have given so others could hear the gospel, follow Christ, and participate in the call to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. 

ABOUT THE WRITERS: Bobby and Geneva Poole served more than 50 years with Free Will Baptist International Missions. Geneva was welcomed home November 20, 2013. Read more on page 27.



WORTHY, WILLING, *and* READY TO WORK

BY MARK MCPEAK

“WE’VE NEVER TAKEN A BIG OFFERING FOR MISSIONS. BUT, THIS YEAR WE ARE EXCITED AND WE’RE GOING TO GO ALL-OUT!”

The excitement in her voice was evident. I got off the phone and said a prayer of thanks for yet another church fully on board with the World Missions Offering. They set a goal of \$2,000, a significant amount for their small church. Their total topped \$5,000!

Only one of nearly 700 churches that participated in the 2013 effort, First FWB Church’s passion is a small picture of what happens every April. Thousands of people, most of whom will never know each other, come together to accomplish something extraordinary in a simple way.

WORTHY—A CAUSE WORTH SUPPORTING

Jesus told a series of three stories in Luke 15, beginning with these words, “What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?” (Luke 15:4).

In these stories about a lost sheep, coin, and son, He reveals the heart of God for finding and saving the lost. He gives us a glimpse into Heaven and the passion of God when He says, “Joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance” (Luke 15:7).

Jesus’ teaching comes full-circle in John’s stunning vision on the Isle of Patmos. John sees a Lamb, slaughtered as a sacrifice, in the throne room of God. The Lamb is receiving worship by those redeemed “out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” (Revelation 5:9).

His Sacrifice was to redeem people from everywhere on the earth. Yet so many have still not heard. An article by Natalie Crowson (“Perfect Strangers: Christians Living Among Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims,” *Lausanne World Pulse*, November 2007) cites startling statistics that prove the need for more cross-cultural missionaries. The majority of unreached people are concentrated in areas where they will never know a Christian personally.

GOD'S PEOPLE MAKE THEIR HEARTS AVAILABLE, AND HE LEADS THEM TO GIVE GENEROUSLY.



- Only 10.4% of Muslims in Asia personally know a Christian, while 67.8% of Muslims in North America know a Christian.
- Only 13.3% of all Muslims worldwide personally know a Christian.
- Among Hindus and Buddhists worldwide, only 14.1% know a Christian.
- Asia is the most isolated continent with only 13.3% of the more than 3.6 billion people claiming to know a Christian.

• Eighty-six percent of all Hindus, Muslims, and Buddhists do not know a Christian.

In Romans 10, Paul cited with clarity the dilemma of these least-reached ones, “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?” Who will tell the least reached if no Christians live around them and among them?

The WMO supports the work of Free Will Baptist missionaries around the world. Some specifically target these groups—the most unreached. Some work in places where the Church is maturing to the point they also want to reach out to the nations. Visit fwbgo.com to read their stories!

Send Hope to the Hopeless—the theme of the 2014 WMO—is about uniting our hearts and our efforts with the Father, who rejoices greatly when even one is reached with the message of the gospel.

WILLING—HEARTS COMMITTED TO OBEDIENCE

Repeatedly, we hear stories of great sacrifice related to the World Missions Offering. God’s people make their hearts available, and He leads them to give generously. This principle is beautifully taught in the Exodus. When the Israelites were miraculously delivered from bondage in Egypt, God made provision for them through their captors: “the Egyptians...lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.”

As the Israelites followed the Lord through the wilderness, they depended on Him for every need. He instructed them to build a place for Him to dwell with them. It is amazing to see

how the Lord “asks” for His people’s participation. Rather than demand that they give (what He has already provided), He appeals to their hearts: “Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver, and brass...” (Exodus 35:5). The people responded in obedience, with enough to build the Tabernacle and much more!

God’s work always moves ahead through the willing obedience of His people. Funding His Great Commission, like building the tabernacle, is a highly important project. More than \$800,000 was given to the WMO in 2013. We made no crisis appeal. With no coercion, God’s people simply considered the worthiness of the cause and gave generously from willing hearts.

In 2012, during the worst of the impact of the global financial crisis, the Mission leadership was driven to their knees. Through prayer and fasting, the Lord made it clear that funding the Mission would be about His people responding to Him in obedience. He has provided, and He will continue to move on the hearts of His people to support what is important to Him. The only question, the same one answered in the desert so many years ago: will God’s people have willing hearts?

WORK—PEOPLE EAGER TO WORK

First Free Will Baptist Church took on their WMO goal with all their might. Though uncertain how they would reach their goal, they determined to get their hands dirty. They planned a yard sale, sponsored a spaghetti dinner, and gave out Change the World coin banks to everyone. Their tireless efforts paid off. It was as though they lived Paul’s encouragement to the Corinthians, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

We celebrate all the individuals and churches like First Free Will Baptist that will never have their stories told. Their story is simple, with no miracles and no awards. They have a cause they value, willing hearts, and hands ready to work.

This is how God is providing for His work of global evangelism. This is how God is funding the World Missions Offering. This, in reality, is how it has always been. In the end, He deserves the glory in this simple story. It is all about Him. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mark McPeak is director of advancement for Free Will Baptist International Missions. Learn more about the 2014 WMO: www.fwbgo.com.

News Around the World

THP Position Vacated

ANTIOCH, TN—International Missions recently made the difficult decision to vacate the position of stateside administrator for The Hanna Project due to ongoing financial difficulties. Administrator Darren Portell remained employed through January 31, 2014. The Mission's NGO (non-governmental organization) now operates without this position. Developing and executing projects is the responsibility of the director of field operations and regional directors.

"Our love and regard for Darren Portell could not be greater," said Jeff Turnbough, director of field operations. "Darren and his wife Dana have been valuable members of the IM team and family for more than a decade. We hope and expect the Portells will return to serve with IM in some capacity in the near future. Their service has been exemplary. Unfortunately, as we analyze our current financial challenges, we believe temporarily eliminating this position is a wise course of action."

Although the position of stateside administrator is vacated indefinitely, THP will continue to operate and fulfill these vital purposes. Details about this decision can be found on fwbgo.com/news. ■



Geneva Poole Welcomed Home



RIBEIRÃO PRETO, SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL—Geneva Poole, veteran missionary to Brazil, entered her heavenly home on November 20, 2013. Diagnosed with lung cancer in April 2012, Mrs. Poole began an aggressive regimen of treatment, but eventually the

cancer spread to other parts of her body. Even as cancer raged, her trust in the Lord and His plan for her remained firm, as did her determination to continue to serve Him as He provided strength.

Bobby and Geneva were appointed to missionary service in Brazil in April 1960. Married in September, they entered Brazil as newlyweds in December of that same year. The couple served faithfully through the tenures of all six general directors of the mission.

When the Pooles entered Brazil, less than 2% of the people claimed to be Protestant Christians. Today,

that number has risen to approximately 23%. Ribeirão Preto, an educational center in the state of São Paulo, has been the Pooles' place of service since February 1962. They started four churches in the area. Geneva continued to plan, develop, and prepare Vacation Bible School materials and teach in the seminary over the last year.

Geneva accepted Christ when she was 13 years old, at Lebanon FWB Church in Effingham, South Carolina. At a young age, she developed a conviction that God wanted her on the mission field. That conviction was confirmed while at Welch College.

Bobby and Geneva gave 53

years of faithful missionary service and have spent the last few months preparing to retire on December 31, 2013. Over the years, they engaged in prison ministry, prepared Bible studies, established a long-running radio ministry and telephone answering service that shared Scripture 24/7, sponsored Vacation Bible Schools, began and promoted camps and retreats to foster spiritual growth and encourage community, and founded a Bible institute/seminary that has trained men and women for more than 40 years.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 8, at Lebanon FWB Church in Effingham, South Carolina. ■

Board Makes Difficult Decisions

ANTIOCH, TN—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions met in December to celebrate the accomplishments of 2013 and deal with difficult issues. “We praise the Lord for the blessings of this year—souls saved, churches planted, leaders developed, and young people called to reach the nations,” said Danny Williams, board chairman. “God has been faithful to IM for more than 78 years and we believe great things are ahead.”

“In 2013, meetings held with overseas leaders on several of our fields point to a future of great advancement,” reported Jeff Turnbough, director of field operations. “All around the world, people have followed Christ as a result of our Free Will Baptist works and are now laboring to fulfill the Great Commission. And, we rejoice in the young people sent to their fields and the ones approved for service in 2013. These are some of the finest workers I’ve shepherded through the process.”

“Although we struggled to make extremely difficult decisions about finances, we are hopeful and focused on the future of our work globally. The leadership team and the board believe good stewardship principles demand these hard choices be made now to establish a healthy financial foundation for the years to come. By doing this, opportunities to grow and expand the work, to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, can be fully realized,” said Williams.

In the context of several years of financial challenges, the board reviewed facts about another challenging year. The expense budget for 2013 was set at \$6.7 million, yet the total income for the year is projected at only \$6.0

million. This shortfall represents a multi-year trend, thankfully interrupted by an extraordinary financial year in 2012. In light of this trend, the IM leadership believes it vital to establish a strict, conservative 2014 budget. The board approved a budget of just over \$5.8 million for fiscal year 2014. This represents a reduction in operational expenditures of over \$900,000 (a 15% reduction) over the approved 2013 total.

“As you can imagine, cutting nearly \$1 million is very painful,” says Clint Morgan, the Mission’s general director. “Almost every part of our organization will feel this pain.” Reductions in the IM home office, which first started with the global financial crisis in 2008, continue as three vacant positions are left unfilled. Even more painful, was the decision to vacate the position of stateside administrator for The Hanna Project, affecting veteran worker Darren Portell and his family. In total, the reductions in the office equal more than \$250,000.

After much prayer, working from a balanced budget perspective, most partnership budgets were cut by 50%. This affects church planters in Russia, Cuba, Central Asia, and more. Field budgets received hefty cuts. Japan missionaries lost \$88,000. Uruguay missionaries saw a reduction of \$45,000. India ministry budgets were cut by \$41,000. The work in France will operate with \$32,000 less, and so on.

“Not only will our IM fields feel the sting of the reduced budgets significantly,” lamented Director Morgan, “But, as far as I know, this is the first time in the history of the Mission, we had to make the heart-wrenching decision

to reduce our field missionary staff.” The approved budget includes the loss of one missionary from the team in France—veteran Cathy Crawford. Cathy, approved in 1982, has worked primarily in personal evangelism, writing and distributing tracts, and holding Bible studies with women interested in learning more about Christianity. The decision was based on a review of the current work in France, ongoing field needs, and future field strategy. “We are thankful for the 30-plus years of faithful witness and hard work Cathy has invested in France,” Morgan stated.

Veteran missionary to Uruguay, Molly Barker, chose to retire after 50 years of faithful service. Miss Barker has spent the last six months in the States undergoing two knee replacement surgeries and therapy. When presented with the financial challenges, Miss Barker determined her retirement to be good for the needs of the Mission. While filling her other responsibilities, Miss Molly has overseen the work on the St. Teresa church building in Rivera, Uruguay, for the past several years. She hopes to see the project concluded in 2014. “For 50 years, Miss Molly has labored among the Uruguayan people, faithfully sharing the gospel,” Morgan said. “We honor her for her dedication and longevity of service.”

“Though bathed in prayer and seeking God, nothing about these decisions was easy,” reiterated Clint Morgan. “Our board valiantly led us to seek a realistic, balanced budget, making the deep, but necessary cuts, to ensure that Free Will Baptist International Missions will continue to send Light into the darkness and Hope to the hopeless for years to come.” ■

Panamanian Institute Graduates Three

CHAME, PANAMA—Saturday, November 30, marked the fourth graduation at the Free Will Baptist Seminary in Panama. By the time the graduates marched down the aisle, some 120 people were present to witness the event.

A total of 16 graduated from different levels. Eleven received certificates for completing the first level in the extension program. Two full-time students, Samuel Santos and Jesús González, received diplomas in biblical studies. Three students, Edwin Escudero, Efraín González and Stephanie Concepción, received diplomas in theology after completing the three-year program that includes a thesis.

Edwin is assisting Pastor Daniel Dorati in his home church on a part-time basis. Efraín was elected pastor of the Las Tablas FWB Church. Stephanie returned to her home area, Bocas del Toro, to continue her studies in the university and also begin an evangelistic/discipleship program among the young people from her tribe, the Teribe. ■



Filling More BASKETS

By D. Ray Lewis

Retirement marks a major change in our lives, a shift in our pattern of living. For 30 years or more, work has been our most time-absorbing activity. Our whole schedule has been structured around work. Eating, sleeping, weekends, and vacations largely have been determined by the demands of the job. Suddenly, this activity will be dissolved.

The word *retirement* conjures up all kinds of reactions from people. Many think about it and can't wait to begin. They view retirement as the moment when they finally will have time to do all the things they did not have time to do during their working years.

Others consider it with dread, wondering what in the world they will do with themselves. Still others realize that retirement is just another transition of life, and they plan for it. With proper planning, retirement can be the most fulfilling and rewarding time of life.

Over the years, how often have you longed for time away from day-to-day obligations to do what you wanted? Time is precious, and when a few free moments come along, we cherish them. They always seem to end far too soon—never *enough* time.

In retirement, we face the opposite situation, the potential for loads of free time. Aside from sleeping and eating, we will have close to 100 hours at our disposal each week. What to do with all this free time? Your newfound freedom from the workplace provides a chance to fulfill your dreams. Take advantage of it!

In planning for leisure time, we need to begin by asking some important questions: *What were my interests in the past? What are my present interests? What have I always thought I'd like to do but have never done?*

You may know exactly what you want to do. You may have special projects lined up or perhaps a “whole lot of nothing” planned. That's fine. But if you are like most people, after the projects are completed and the initial excitement wears off, you will find yourself at loose ends. It is a very unusual person who can continue doing nothing and remain happy. Most of us need something to do, a mission. As long as we have regular duties,



Retirement provides a good time to work at something you choose to do rather than something you have to do.

we don't have to think about how to keep occupied. But after retirement, time will not fill itself.

Consider variety in spending your time. The old saying "Don't put all your eggs in one basket" applies not only to investments but also to time. Too often, people find they've put their lives into a "one-basket pattern" of work and family. The transition from busy career to leisurely retirement is a wonderful chance to find and fill more baskets.

Playing, exercising, entertaining others, and simply relaxing all have their proper place. But retirement can also be a great time to try new things. Being active is the best way to feel good about yourself and your life, and being active brings you into contact with others, providing mutual stimulation and excitement.

Many retirees return to the classroom. For several years, I taught in the Adult Community Education program in Nashville, Tennessee. I always had several retirees in these classes. When I asked one older gentleman why he was taking my class, his response was typical of many other retired students. He told me that all the years he worked, he kept telling himself that when he retired he would learn two things: to type and to play the piano. He was not only taking my typing class, he was also taking private piano lessons. He had discovered the secret of *filling more baskets*.

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

Many retirees enjoy traveling. This is more than sightseeing. It promotes interaction with other people in other places. Many organizations sponsor trips designed for retirees.

Retirement also provides opportunities for volunteerism. From numerous opportunities in the local church to other worthwhile organizations, retirees should continue to use skills, talents, and services developed during working years.

Many retirees return to the job market. Some do this to supplement their income. Others just want to do something productive. Retirement provides a good time to work at something you *choose* to do rather than something you have to do.

The list goes on and on of ways to use leisure time in retirement. There are so many opportunities that you could easily become overwhelmed in deciding what activities will be most rewarding. Remember, you have earned your leisure time and concentrate on those activities that interest you the most. **ONE**



Thank you

Horse Branch FWB Church, Turbeville, South Carolina; Holt & Mary Lou Seawell, Mt. Vernon, Washington - In Memory of John Hiltibidal; Mr. & Mrs. Jack Taylor, Cookeville, Tennessee - In Memory of Don Taylor; and James Beasley, Turbeville, South Carolina for the donation to the Labor of Love Campaign. Learn more at www.boardofretirement.com.



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NO!

Don't Touch Your **RETIREMENT!**

By John Brummitt



A recent Charles Schwab survey found that 52% of people surveyed found retirement accounts more confusing than health insurance.

It makes sense that people are confused. Most feel as though their retirement account is nothing more than a savings account where they deposit money monthly so they can have something in retirement.

Contrary to this belief, strict rules apply to retirement accounts, whether a 401(k), 403(b), or an IRA. The IRS requires retirement plans and their participants to adhere closely to certain rules and regulations. Some exceptions the IRS does allow, however, make for unwise decisions when it comes to your retirement account. These actions have a detrimental effect on your nest egg down the road, even if they might not seem extreme at the time.

Taking a Loan

Borrowing money from your own retirement account is a common practice. While the IRS allows retirement loans, stop and consider several major drawbacks. First, loan rules are strict: you are charged interest on your own funds and set up on an automatic payment system through your payroll (if under an employer's plan) or through your bank account.

The money is also subject to taxation. And since your retirement funds are tax-deferred, but the payments you return have been taxed, you are taxed *twice* on the amount you borrow. Finally, consider the loss of interest from your investments, which can add up to hundreds of thousands of dollars depending on the loan and your account.

Cashing Out When Changing Jobs

This is another big NO! But it happens all the time. People change employment, and they cash out their retirement and spend it on something other than retirement. If you are in the middle of a job change, please don't do this. You will automatically lose 20% in federal taxes, and if you are under the age of 59-and-a-half, you pay a 10% penalty for early withdrawal to the IRS. You give up 30% of your retirement account before you ever receive a dime. Instead, explore rollover options or just leave your money where it is (if the company allows you to do so and you are happy with returns).

Buying Stock in One Company

This can be appealing to someone looking to make good returns on their investment. The problem is, when you put all of your eggs in one basket, if the company fails or has a bad year, your retirement can suffer drastically. Diversification is the key to growing retirement funds over an extended period of time. Diversification spreads funds among many companies and reduces the risk of loss in your portfolio. While you may still experience a loss in your overall portfolio, it should not continue over the long term of your investments.

Stopping Contributions at the Matching Rate

According to most financial advisors, you should set aside 10-15% of your current income into a retirement account starting at age 25 to maintain your current lifestyle throughout retirement. Many people ask, "Should I stop contributing to my retirement to pay off debt?" Always contribute at least enough to receive the employer match to your retirement account. If not, you miss out on an important pay-package benefit, and also put yourself further behind in retirement planning. This makes it difficult to make up ground when you begin making contributions again.

Timing the Market

NO! Even people with advanced degrees in economics and finance, who have studied the market and past cycle patterns for years, have problems timing the market to make money. Don't take unnecessary risks with funds set aside for retirement. Bad timing, even by one day, can have a huge impact on your retirement savings. Study after study has demonstrated that the best results for retirement growth come from placing your funds in a diversified portfolio built on a long-term strategy.

Timing the market means frequent trades, which adds fees to your account. Not only do you take a chance on losing on your investment due to timing miscalculations, but on the trades themselves. If you wish to "play around" with day trading or timing the market, set aside some funds for play, but don't touch your retirement funds if you want to gain the maximum possible before you retire.

Setting up a retirement account is only the first step in building a secure retirement for you and your spouse. The years between the initial contribution and first withdrawal have to be in line with your goals for retirement. Sure, IRS guidelines (and even your retirement plan) allow you to do many things, but just because you can doesn't mean you should! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: John Brummitt graduated in 2011 with an MBA from Tennessee Tech University. A 2004 graduate of Welch College, he has been with the Board of Retirement since the spring of 2006.

PLANES, TRAINS... and FREE WILL BAPTIST HISTORY

BY IDA LEWIS

On a beautiful summer morning, 23 Free Will Baptist pastors and their wives, along with the Home Missions staff, boarded a bus to begin the 2013 Heritage Tour of New England. Join us on an exciting trip through Free Will Baptist history with a peek inside the pages of my travel journal.

LaGrange to Richmond... Barely

At the first stop in LaGrange, North Carolina, we visited the grave of Joseph Parker, associate of Paul Palmer. David Crowe, tour guide and Free Will Baptist historian, related facts from the early days of the southern movement and the work of Paul Palmer and the Parker brothers in the eastern part of the state. From there, the group headed to Norfolk, Virginia, to visit the downtown church where early Free Will Baptist preacher John Colby is buried. It was remarkable to see a cannon ball from the Revolutionary War still embedded in the sidewall of the church.

In a rush to reach the next appointed destination, the bus deposited all luggage and passengers in front of the wrong railroad station in Richmond, Virginia. With only minutes to spare and luggage flying everywhere, passengers and luggage were redirected and made it to the right station in the nick of time to board an overnight train to Boston, Massachusetts.

Headed North

A bus tour through Boston included a trip to the *USS Constitution*, the Old North Church, King's Chapel and Burying Ground, Boston Common, and many other points of interests. The next day we traveled to Parsonsfield, Maine, to see the first school established by Free Will Baptists, Parsonsfield Seminary. We visited founder John Buzzell's grave and toured the Free Baptist Church building.



We stopped at Ocean Park, Maine, a town built for the northern Freewill Baptists' centennial celebration in 1881. We explored a most unusual building where these early Free Will Baptists gathered to worship. Octagonal in shape and very large, the Temple, as it is called, seats 2,000 with side galleys and a balcony. A gracious gentleman from the area provided a rich history that included the Free Will Baptists who built the town. As we walked the lovely streets of Ocean Park, we discovered Randall Drive, Colby Street, and other pine-shadowed lanes named for early Free Will Baptist leaders.

Rhode Island Time

One of the highlights of the tour was a visit with missionaries Bill and Christy Reynolds, who are planting a church in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. For Home Missions office workers, it was a treat to visit with these missionaries and their congregation. While we work with missionaries on a regular basis, we don't often have an opportunity to visit their churches. The people at Beacon FWB Church did not disappoint. Everyone was gracious and considerate, and the facilities are a beautiful yet practical place in which to worship. The services were inspirational. We enjoyed the preaching of Dann Patrick and Henry Horne. Afterward, the Beacon congregation shared an enormous spread of typical New England fare. We feasted on clam "chowdah," stuffed clams, chicken, casseroles, deserts, and much more.

Ride to the Ridge

The last day of touring was spent with Jim Nason, former Free Will Baptist home missionary to New Hampshire. Jim planted and grew a solid

church in New Durham and has remained to carve out a wonderful and far-reaching ministry that is a shining testimony to the power and glory of God. The group was treated to a barbecue feast provided by a church member and his company.

Our final stop was the "Church on the Ridge," first church in the northern movement. The stories of Benjamin Randall, John Buzzell, John Colby, and others who traveled countless miles to preach the gospel made the visit to the first church even more meaningful. We are grateful to the many volunteers who have had a hand in preserving and renovating the building over the years. Seeing how early Free Will Baptists worshiped made us truly appreciate how the Lord has blessed Free Will Baptists today.

The rainy day didn't stop us from visiting Benjamin Randall's grave located near the church. Standing above his grave is a monument inscribed with the following words: "The Scriptures our rule of faith and practice. Salvation free and possible for all." I can't think of a better way to summarize this trip through history.

The tour that took us from eastern North Carolina to New Durham, New Hampshire, gave us a new determination and desire to follow the example of previous generations and make a difference in our world for the glory of the Lord. We returned home with a deeper respect for our Free Will Baptist heritage. If you are interested in learning more about the history of Free Will Baptists, I encourage you to contact the Home Missions Department and ask about the historical collection or visit www.FWBHistory.com. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Ida Lewis is publications editor for Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Learn more about Free Will Baptist Home Missions at www.homemissions.net.



First St. Croix Student Attends Welch College

Nashville, TN—Akelam Romain moved to Saint Croix from the island of Dominica, where he attended high school at the Free Will Baptist School. Akelam now attends Welch College and is majoring in Business. He is the first student from the Free Will Baptist School of St. Croix to attend Welch College. Learn more about the Free Will Baptist church and school in the Virgin Islands at www.stcroixfwb.com. ■

MAKING THE PIECES FIT

New Academic Programs at Welch College BY ALLAN CROWSON

Each piece of a jigsaw puzzle contributes directly to forming the puzzle's complete image. Any piece out of place affects the image all the other pieces create. At Welch College, our mission is to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life. That is the picture all the "pieces" of the college display.

TRADITIONAL EDUCATION

Many are familiar with our traditional college program, mostly for dorm students recently out of high school. They may not understand that we also have three other programs that have their own role to play in achieving our mission.

LIFETIME LEARNING COURSES

First are Lifetime Learning courses. They run during a normal campus semester but involve no classrooms or set times for class. We deliver the content online, using the campus Populi system familiar to all our students. In a few cases, we also distribute the content on CD or DVD.

These courses are similar to the correspondence courses popular years ago. Students interact only with the instructor, not with other students. They engage the course content on their own time and schedule, while still meeting various course deadlines. Lifetime Learning courses appeal to campus students who have course scheduling difficulties, but they are also popular with students who have temporarily moved away from Nashville.

ADULT DEGREE PROGRAM

The second is the Adult Degree Program, or ADP. It helps adult students complete degrees already begun elsewhere. Students with the equivalent of two years of course work can enroll in this program and complete their college degree with evening courses. Courses run for seven

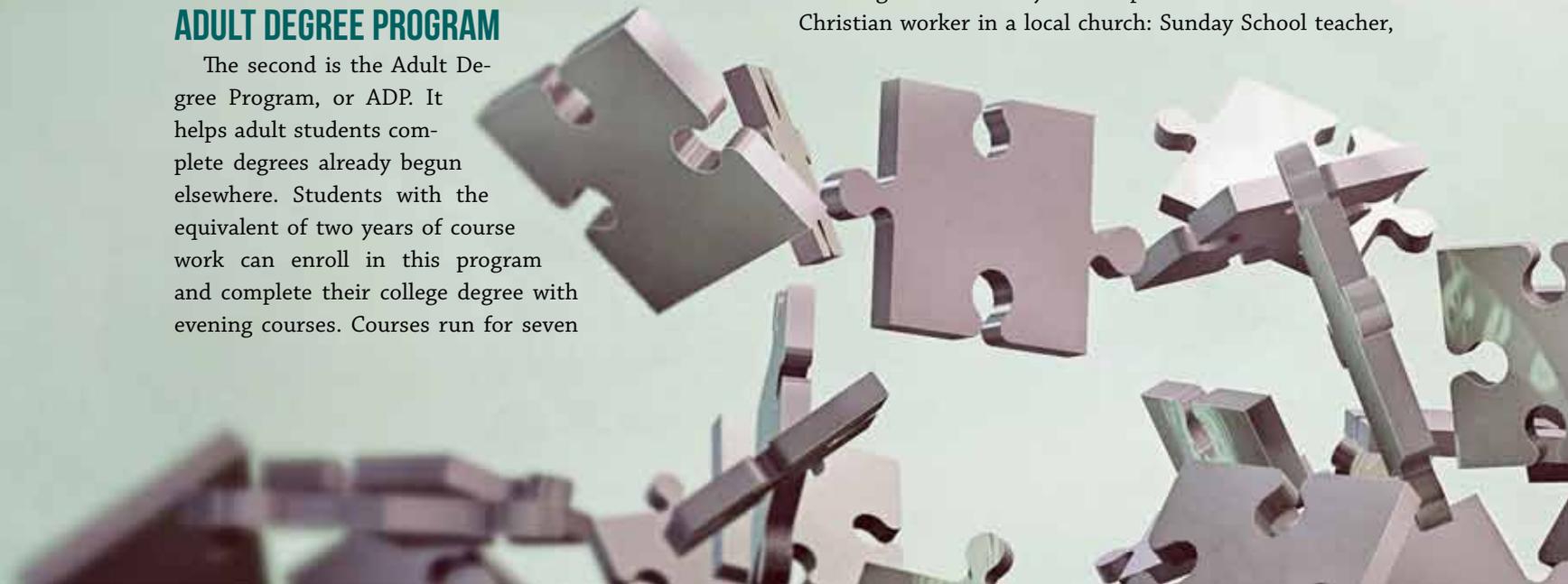
weeks, allowing two sessions of courses during a campus semester.

These courses appeal to people in the Nashville/Middle Tennessee community. Many ADP students come from congregations that are not Free Will Baptist, allowing us to reach out to people we might never be able to influence otherwise. Students who have some college credit, but less than a two-year degree, can enroll in our online program, which brings us to the third additional piece of the puzzle.

ONLINE PROGRAM

The Online Program has its own pieces that fit together to respond to the needs of non-traditional or adult students. These are people who, for one reason or another, find themselves already active in adult life. They are usually married, with children, and are often engaged in a local church ministry of some sort. We work with them where they are, with the time constraints and life responsibilities they bear, to help them carry out the mission.

The first piece began in 2008, with the Associate of Science degree in Ministry. It is a perfect fit for the serious Christian worker in a local church: Sunday School teacher,



youth worker, deacon, WAC participant, etc. It combines a solid background in Bible and doctrine with practical ministry-related courses. Students can often use what they learn during the week the very next Sunday!

Most of the graduates of this program have indicated that they would gladly continue with us for a four-year program if we had one. Other potential students have asked about non-ministry courses, such as business. To satisfy these needs, we expanded the online program with some additional pieces, to include:

- *The original Associate of Science degree in Ministry*
- *The Associate of Science degree in Business*
- *The Associate of Arts degree*
- *A four-year degree, the Bachelor of Science in General Christian Ministry.*

The Associate of Science in Business features the same core of Bible and Christian doctrine, but replaces many of the ministry courses with business courses: accounting, management, marketing, economics, and so on. It is great for the serious Christian who needs both biblical and business education to meet the challenge of serving Christ more effectively in the business world.

The Associate of Arts degree fits students who plan to pursue a four-year degree, but have not yet decided which one or where. It features a strong core of Bible and Christian doctrine, along with general education courses.

Of course, the excitement this year involves the Bachelor of Science degree in General Christian Ministry. This degree is designed for Christian workers and pastors who wish to go even further than the two-year program can take them. They will study theology, including eschatology. They will extend what they learned in the Associate Degree's Bible

survey courses with even deeper investigations of books of the Bible such as Isaiah, Romans, or Hebrews. Christian philosophy, apologetics, and world religions (with particular emphasis on Islam) prepare students to engage an unbelieving world from a solid theological, philosophical, and practical base. They round out their education with additional general education courses in literature and history.

Students enrolled in the online program attend a virtual campus, where they have access to their courses, but also to one another. Students can form interest groups to discuss subjects important to them. This can include their course work, but they can also form groups focused on parenting, part-time pastoring, hobbies, and more. Along with the required online discussions that are a part of each online course, these student groups have the potential to involve students in healthy and effective personal growth.

Christian Service has always been an important feature of a Welch College education, and this remains true for our online program. Students work with an Online Christian Service Director who advises students in choosing a service that will serve the Lord and others in their own community. Students set goals for their service, and report on their service experience.

These four pieces—Traditional, Lifetime Learning, Adult Degree Program, and Online Learning—fit together to form a clear picture of Welch College and its mission: to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life. To learn more, visit www.welch.edu (for the campus program) or www.welch.edu/adult-online-learning (for the non-traditional programs). We would love to hear from you! **ONE**



ABOUT THE WRITER: Allan Crowson is director of online and Lifetime Learning studies at Welch College.

■ News at WELCH COLLEGE

FORUM 14/Bible Conference to address “The Gospel for Life”

Welch College will host the annual FORUM14/Bible Conference March 9-11. The event will be held on the campus of Welch and will focus on the theme, “The Gospel for Life.” Through plenary and breakout sessions, speakers will address the implications of the gospel for evangelism, discipleship, Christian living, ministry, and public ethics.

The event promises to be engaging and informative with a wide range of highly accomplished speakers set to address this important topic. The featured speakers will be Ajith Fernando and Dr. Russell Moore.

Ajith Fernando, internationally acclaimed speaker and author, is the teaching director of Youth for Christ in Sri Lanka. Prior to his current position, Mr. Fernando served as national director of Youth for Christ in Sri Lanka for 35 years. A graduate of Asbury Theological Seminary, he is a visiting lecturer at Colombo Theological Seminary and author of 15 books published in 20 languages, including *Jesus Driven Ministry* and *Sharing the Truth in Love: How to Relate to People of Other Faiths*. He is actively involved in a grassroots ministry to reach the urban poor in his area with the gospel. Mr. Fernando will speak several times over the two-day conference.

The event will also feature Dr. Russell Moore, who will speak on Monday, March 10. Dr. Moore is President of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, a post he assumed after many years as vice president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Moore is author or editor of five books, including *The Kingdom of Christ* and *Tempted and Tried*. Highly respected as an ethicist and cultural commentator, Dr. Moore brings fresh, well-informed perspective to the topic of the implications of the gospel.

Four outstanding Free Will Baptist ministers will also address conference attendees.

Dr. Jeff Manning has been senior pastor of Unity FWB Church in Greenville, North Carolina, since 1991. A 1986 Welch College graduate, Dr. Manning serves on the Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions and also teaches as an adjunct faculty member in expository preaching at Welch College. He earned his D.Min. in expository preaching in 2002 from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His blog can be found at <http://www.jef-manning.org/blog/>.



Jeff Nichols recently celebrated 20 years of service on the ministry staff of The Donelson Fellowship, a Free Will Baptist church in Nashville, Tennessee, where he serves as executive pastor. He is a 1987 graduate of Welch College and holds an M.A. degree in Business Science from Trevecca Nazarene University. Before his current position, he served as children’s pastor and youth minister in Missouri.

Chris Talbot is a 2012 graduate of Welch College serving as minister of students at Unity FWB Church in Greenville, North Carolina. He is currently pursuing an M.A. in Ministerial Studies at Grace Theological Seminary and is a regular contributor to the Helwys Society Forum, <http://www.helwysocietyforum.com>.

Vice President for Institutional Advancement David Williford will speak Sunday night to open the conference. Williford joined the Welch College staff in 2002 after 27 years of successful pastoral ministry, including several years as promotional director for Florida Free Will Baptists. A 1979 graduate of Welch College, he also completed an M.A. in Pastoral Studies at Welch and additional graduate study at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

President Matt Pinson said, “This is shaping up to be one of the best conferences ever. We have an excellent slate of speakers addressing the most important topic we must consider: the gospel and its implications for private and public life. All are invited to come and join the conversation.” ■

Two Welch College Professors Receive Doctorates



Welch College professors **Ian Hawkins** (left) and **Barry Raper** (right) both completed defense requirements for their doctoral dissertations and officially received their degrees, according to Dr. Greg Ketteman, provost.

Ian Hawkins is the Biology and Science Department program coordinator at Welch College. He began his tenure as professor in 2006. He successfully defended a two-part dissertation on April 14, 2013. Part one was entitled, "Virtual Versus Hands-on Laboratories: Which Is Best for Electrochemistry?" Part two was entitled, "Synthesis of Aurones Using a Deep Eutectic Solvent." He received the Ph.D. in Math and Science Education from Middle Tennessee State University at the school's August 2013 Commencement.

Barry Raper is program coordinator of the Youth and Family Ministries Department at Welch College and pastor of Bethel FWB Church near Ashland City, Tennessee. He graduated from Welch in 1999 and returned as a member of the faculty in 2006. He received a Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Spirituality on May 17, 2013. The topic of his dissertation was "Teaching Biblical Meditation as a Means to Transformative Prayer to Students at Welch College."

Dr. Ketteman said, "Doctors Hawkins and Raper embody the very best about the faculty at Welch College. While these godly men have carried heavy loads throughout their respective doctoral programs, their courses have reflected serious academic depth, breadth, and excellence in pedagogy. We are thankful for their examples of diligence and humble service, and we congratulate them on completing their programs." ■

Welch College Hosts 101 Students at Welcome Days

One hundred one prospective students representing 17 states attended Fall 2013 Welcome Days at Welch College, November 7-9, according to Debbie Mouser, director of enrollment services.

The 70 young ladies and 31 young men who visited campus attended classes and chapel and interacted with Welch students. Seniors, parents, and sponsors also met with President Matt Pinson during a Friday morning reception.

The visiting students toured the campus, enjoyed comedy and entertainment with area youth minister Jon Forrest, and closed out the night by cheering on the Welch College Flames basketball teams and playing dodgeball.

This was the first visit to Welch College for more than half of the visitors. The students praised the hospitality and helpful-

ness of the Welch College faculty, staff, and students during their visit.

Mrs. Mouser said, "I was very pleased with the number of visitors on campus for Welcome Days, and I am thankful we had the opportunity to present Welch College to them. This marks the highest number of visiting students for a Fall Welcome Days in quite some time. We look forward to future correspondence with these students, parents, and sponsors as they consider this important decision."

Welch College will host Senior Days February 6-7, 2014, and Spring Welcome Days April 17-19, 2014. **For more information, contact the Enrollment Management Office: recruit@welch.edu.** ■

+Intersect >>>>

Texts, Apps, and “Glowing Rectangles”

Teaching the Bible in a Post-Christian Culture, Part One

SCRIPTURE. CHURCH. TEACHERS.

The Lord gifts kingdom people to build up His Church through caring, nurturing, cut-to-the-chase teaching. When I think of my opportunities to teach the Bible through the years, a flood of gratitude wells up to God, my teachers, and my students.

FROM JACK’S CLASS TO SIBERIA

My first teaching gig came courtesy of Jack Nicholson, a Sunday School teacher at my home church. He asked me, at the tender age of 14, to teach his class of senior saints. I’ve forgotten the lesson, but not those heroes of faith who patiently endured the 20 minutes that seemed an eternity to me. Mr. Nicholson took a risk when he asked, but he was saying he believed in me.

Since then, I have taught toddlers, junior boys, middle-schoolers, teens, and adults. Lessons came at camps, in school auditoriums, at retreat centers, during conferences, in hospitals and health-care facilities, in living rooms, at a church basement in Siberia, in undergraduate and graduate college classrooms, by the beach, and perched on mountains. And every occasion, every lesson, had this in common: the subject was Scripture.

WHERE DOES TEACHING FIT?

But now, I’m a bit worried. Teaching the Bible seems less and less a priority in some congregations. Music, media, management, multi-ministries—all are good things in their proper place. But have we given up or shoved to the margins intentional efforts to nurture disciples who, like Apollos in Acts, would be “mighty in the Scriptures”? Where does teaching the Bible fit into the life of the local faith community? Many are calling this a “post-Christian” era in the West, especially in the United States and Europe. In many places, fewer people attend church. More discount or reject the Bible. The public square has shoved Christianity to the fringes of the culture. It’s okay to be a Christian; just don’t say much about it or try to bring its influence into the public arena where everything must be secular and non-religious. This is not the time

to marginalize Bible teaching, but to mainstream it.

FIRST OF SEVEN STRATEGIES

With this current climate in both church and culture, here are seven strategies for teaching the Bible in a culture given more to expression than education, more to self than Scripture.

1. BE A SEE-THROUGH TEACHER.

I mean this in two ways. First, be transparent. Parker Palmer says we teach who we are. Live your life with God at the center. Cultivate your relationship with Christ and consistently



engage the spiritual disciplines. Give priority to expressing who you are rather than impressing with what you say.

Then, as author David McCullough says to teachers, “show your students what you love.”

Teaching techniques are important, no doubt. We must improve and grow in our methods. But, as Palmer observes, technique is what you use until the teacher shows up! In this sense, then, an objective one, we must be “see-through,” transparent, vulnerable, one “with” those we teach.

DETECTIVE WORK

Yet there is another way to be a “see-through” teacher, a more subject-

ive way. We must “see through” to a mastery of the content we teach. Be persistent in studying your subject. Know your stuff! A good educator is like a detective: inquisitive, wanting to know more, tracking down leads, asking questions, investigating every angle of content.

In many circles today, the teacher is expected to be more of a facilitator than an expert. She participates with her students in constructing meaning, in discussing the subject to find its relevance and application to her students. No experts allowed!

But you don’t have to choose. Be both! Yes, engage the learner in meaningful collaboration, but don’t slight content. Study the text of Scripture.

Don’t downplay or neglect exegesis and careful analysis of the biblical materials. The rabbis taught that to study

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO MARGINALIZE BIBLE TEACHING, BUT TO MAINSTREAM IT.

is to worship. Yes, as Jay Parini claims, great teachers love their students—but they also love their subjects! 

Next issue: Texts, Apps, and “Glowing Rectangles”—Teaching the Bible in a Post-Christian Culture, Part Two.

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

WELCH by the Numbers

1 Professor for Every
Nine Students

7 NCCAA Division II
Athletic Teams

40 Programs of Study

75 Percent of Business
Graduates With Jobs

90 Percent of Students Receive
Financial Aid

99 Percent of Teacher Education
Graduates Find Job Placement

4,000,000
Dollars in Financial Aid Each Year

(ZERO Reasons to go anywhere else)



1.888.97.WELCH
www.Welch.edu



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#WelchCollege

Brown on Green >>>>

A Significant Boost



We want to serve the denomination, and this important ministry will help Free Will Baptist families.

Over the last few years, a number of pastors have asked the Free Will Baptist Foundation to develop an estate-planning seminar for churches. The Foundation had begun creating this program, but it was slow in developing.

In July 2012, Mike Wootton of Cornerstone Estate Planning had an exhibit at the national convention, and after talking together, we realized his company was doing exactly what we needed. In 2013, the Foundation officially partnered with Cornerstone Estate Planning and began to host estate-planning seminars in Free Will Baptist churches.

The partnership has been an overwhelming success. We have already helped over 200 families set up an estate plan. The purpose of this partnership is threefold. We want to serve

the denomination, and this important ministry will help Free Will Baptist families. We also believe that if you give Free Will Baptist people an opportunity to make an estate gift, they will do so. We have seen this time and again when Free Will Baptist families leave an estate gift to their church or other Free Will Baptist ministry.

Finally, the Foundation wants to develop relationships with our people. The estate planning service we offer is more than just developing and delivering legal documents. We stay in contact with every family with an estate plan to make them aware of their opportunities to establish an endowment, to use the Foundation's money management services, or to make a planned gift.

Over 35 pastors have allowed us to present this seminar in their churches.

Whether presented during the Sunday School hour or on Sunday night or Wednesday night, the presentation has been well received. Families who have decided to use the estate planning service have made six figure estate gifts to their local churches. We believe the program has the potential to significantly boost estate gifts to Free Will Baptist ministries over the next 25 years.

Cornerstone and the Foundation are in the process of expanding the scope of these seminars from coast to coast, but it may take a few years to develop all areas of the country. Please be patient as this ministry grows.

Every pastor should consider scheduling a seminar in his church as soon as possible. Please contact the Foundation office to learn more or to schedule a seminar for your 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.

CORNERSTONE CONVERSATION

Foundation Director David Brown sits down with Mike Wootton, president of Cornerstone Estate Planning, to talk about the importance of estate planning, avoiding probate, saving taxes, and being a good steward.

DAVID: I already have a will. Why would I want a revocable living trust?

MIKE: Contrary to what you've probably heard, a will may not be the best plan for you and your family, primarily because it does not avoid probate when you die. A will must be verified by the probate court before it can be enforced.

Also, because a will only goes into effect after you die, it provides no protection if you become incapacitated. So, the court could easily take control of your assets before you die, a concern for millions of older Americans and their families.

Fortunately, there is a simple and proven alternative, a revocable living trust. It avoids probate after you die and lets you keep control of your assets while you are living, even if you become incapacitated.

DAVID: What exactly is probate?

MIKE: Probate is the legal process by which the court pays your debts and distributes assets to your heirs after death. If you own property or timeshares in other states, your family could face multiple probates, each one according to the laws in that state. Other challenges of probate:

It takes time—months, years, and sometimes even longer. You really don't know. Many assets cannot be distributed or sold without court approval.

Your family has no privacy. Probate is a public process, so any "interested party" can see what you owned and learn your creditors. The process to contest your will can expose your family.

Lack of control. The probate statutes determine how much it will cost, how long it will take, and what information is made public.

DAVID: Doesn't joint ownership avoid probate?

MIKE: Not really. Joint ownership usually just postpones probate. With most jointly owned assets, when one owner dies, full ownership does transfer to the surviving owner without probate. But if the owner dies without adding a new joint owner, or if both owners die at the same time, the asset must be probated before it can go to the heirs.

Watch out for other problems. When you add a co-owner, you lose control. Your chances increase of being named in a lawsuit or losing the asset to a creditor. You can also encounter gift and/or income tax problems.

With some assets, especially real estate, all owners must sign to sell or refinance. If a co-owner becomes incapacitated, you could find yourself requiring court approval even if the incapacitated person is your spouse.

DAVID: Why does the court get involved if someone is deemed incapacitated?

MIKE: If you can't conduct business due to mental or physical incapacities (Alzheimer's, stroke, heart attack, etc.), only a court appointee can sign for you—even if you have a will. (Remember, a will only goes into effect after you die.)

Once the court gets involved, it usually stays involved until you recover or die. In these cases, the court, not your family, oversees how your assets are used to care for you. This public process can be expensive, embarrassing, time consuming, and difficult to stop if you recover. And it does not replace probate at death. Your family could have to go through the court system twice.



Photo:
Mike Wootton (right)
and Troy Sadowski (left).



DAVID: Does a durable power of attorney prevent this?

MIKE: A durable power of attorney lets you name someone to manage your financial affairs if you are unable to do so. However, many financial institutions refuse to recognize this unless it is also on their form. And, once accepted, it may work too well, giving someone a “blank check” to do whatever he or she wants with your assets.

DAVID: What is a revocable living trust?

MIKE: A revocable living trust is a legal document that, like a will, contains instructions for what you want to happen to your assets when you die. Unlike a will, a properly written and properly funded revocable living trust avoids probate at death, can control all of your assets, and prevents the court from controlling your assets if you become incapacitated.

DAVID: How is it possible for a revocable living trust to avoid probate and prevent court-controlled assets at incapacity?

MIKE: When you set up a revocable living trust, you transfer assets from your name into the name of your revocable living trust, which you control. For example: “Bob and Sue Smith, husband and wife” to “Bob and Sue Smith, trustees under trust dated (month/day/year).”

For all intents and purposes you no longer own *anything*. Don’t panic! (Said with a smile.) Everything now belongs to your revocable living trust, which *you* control, leaving nothing for the courts to control when you die or become incapacitated. The concept is simple, but it will keep you and your family out of the courts.

DAVID: Do I lose control of the assets in my revocable living trust?

MIKE: Absolutely not! You keep full control. As trustee of your revocable living trust, you can do anything you could do before—buy and sell assets, change or even cancel your trust. (That’s why it’s called a revocable living trust). You pay income taxes the same way you always have. Nothing changes but the names on the title.

DAVID: Is it hard to transfer assets into my trust?

MIKE: Certainly it takes some time and energy to get things in order. But it is easier for you to do it now rather than sorting it all out through the courts, or putting your children through the agony of probate if something happens to you?

DAVID: If something does happen to me, who has control?

MIKE: If you and your spouse are co-trustees, either one of you can act and have instant control if one becomes incapacitated or dies. If something happens to both of you, or if you are the only trustee, the successor trustee you select will step in.

DAVID: What does a successor do?

MIKE: If you become incapacitated, your successor trustee looks after your care and manages your financial affairs as long as needed, using your assets to pay your expenses. If you recover, you automatically resume control. When you die, your successor trustee pays your debts and distributes your assets. All of this is done quickly and privately, according to instructions in your revocable living trust, without court interference.

DAVID: Who can be successor trustees?

MIKE: Successor trustees can be individuals (adult children, other relatives, or trusted friends) and/or corporate trustee. If you choose an individual, you should name more than one in case your first choice is unable to act.

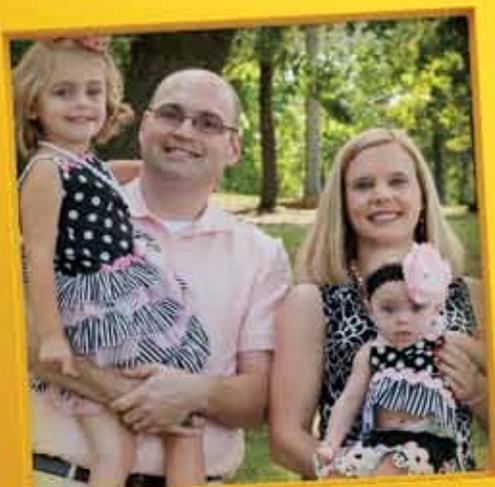
DAVID: Who should have a revocable living trust?

MIKE: Age, marital status, and wealth really do not matter. If you own any titled assets and want your loved ones (spouse, children, or parents) to avoid court interference at your death or incapacity, consider a revocable living trust. You may also want to encourage other family members to have one so you won’t have to deal with courts at their incapacity or death. Planning ahead, making the most of the assets God has given you...these are important elements of stewardship that everyone should take seriously. **ONE**

*To learn more about estate planning, contact Free Will Baptist Foundation:
877-336-7575 or visit www.CornerstoneEstatePlanning.com.*

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.



ADAM CLAGG

What is your one indulgence? Little Debbie Christmas Tree Cakes
What is your biggest success? Hearing my four-year-old daughter talk about Jesus.

What are you reading right now?
Passporter's Walt Disney World Guide by Jennifer Marx
The Anxious Christian by Rhett Smith
Winning With People by John Maxwell

What are your top three books (other than the Bible)?
Getting Things Done by David Allen
The Leadership Challenge by Kouzes and Posner
The Star Trek: The Next Generation by Larry Nemecek

What would you like to see Free Will Baptists do in the next five or 10 years? In the near future, I would like to see Free Will Baptists as the fastest growing Evangelical movement because of our commitment to evangelism and discipleship. I would like to see a larger movement of people who choose to be in the same association because we believe the same and love each other, even if we disagree about ministry styles.

Paper or Plastic Questions

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

Most men are wired to “fix” things, but Adam Clagg acknowledges some of his biggest failures come when he tries to do that instead of simply trusting God. I asked Adam about his quiet time, and his answer was challenging to all pastors. He finds a relaxing spot on his screened porch and concentrates his reading in the Psalms. He chooses a Bible without any study notes, sharing, “It helps me stay focused and avoid wandering into sermon preparation.”

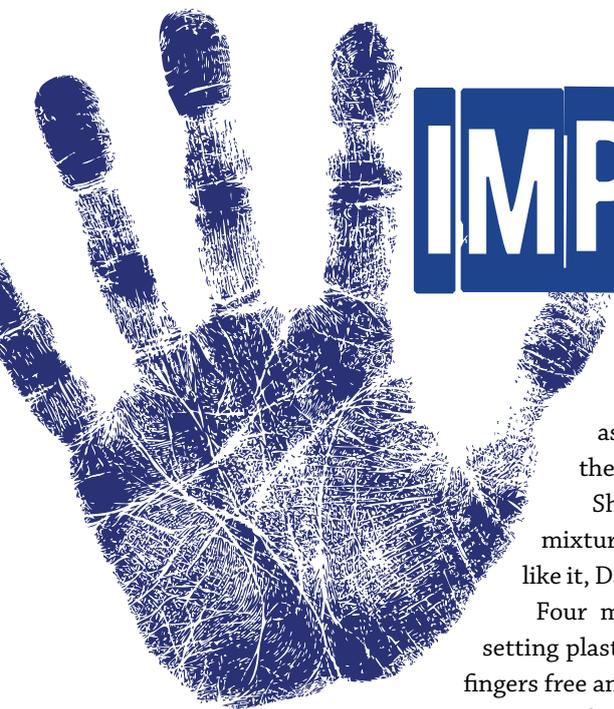
An ideal date for Adam and his wife Jenny revolves around a love for good food—dinner at a Japanese steakhouse or Cracker Barrel both qualify—and then catching one of their favorite television shows. One tradition they began as a couple is an annual trip to Disney World, now more enjoyable with their two kids. Adam describes Lilly (4 years old) as energetic and Hannah (10 months) as delightful.

Adam's parents played an important part in his spiritual development. His father planted a church when Adam was a teenager. As a result, Adam worked in almost every position imaginable except women's ministry director. This experience helped prepare him for God's call to ministry. In 2000, Adam began to serve on staff at Covenant Church.

After graduating from Welch College in 2002, Adam went full time as associate pastor. Having completed his doctorate in education from Liberty University, Adam also serves as an online faculty member at Grand Canyon University. “I've always enjoyed local church ministry and I am humbled that God called me to be one of His few pastor-teachers in the community.”

Sadly, Adam's father retired due to early on-set dementia. Adam stepped into his father's shoes and has led the church since 2012. “My work as a pastor, professor (online faculty), and writer all flow from my calling,” Adam remarks. His faithfulness serves him well as a fourth-generation Free Will Baptist.

Adam, you are a great leader! ONE



IMPRESS:

The 2013 D6 Conference

BY ERIC THOMSEN

“Like this, Daddy?”

My four-year-old daughter made a face as she pushed her small hands firmly into the wet plaster.

She crinkled her forehead as the cold, slimy mixture squished between her fingers. “I don’t like it, Daddy. Do I have to keep my hands in here?”

Four minutes later—hours to her—the quick-setting plaster hardened enough to let her wiggle her fingers free and scamper back to her toys.

Ten years later, I gaze at those tiny plaster handprints and marvel that her hands were ever so small. I recall a thousand treasured memories—the first time she said, “I love (wuv) you”; the enormous, pink bunny that crossed the country in our small car because she refused to leave it behind; the herd of stuffed animals kept under her bed...on her bed...around her bed; the “rock collection” her mother discovered under clothes in her dresser drawer; her excitement on her first camping trip. I can’t help but smile.

Those days, months, and years slid by quickly, and the tiny hands that struggled to color inside the lines learned to play beautiful piano concertos, bake cupcakes, spike volleyballs, and knit intricate creations. And one day, out-of-the-blue, a young woman appeared at the breakfast table to take the place of my barefoot tomboy.

I can’t help but wonder about other moments that passed unnoticed as my daughter watched my faith, marriage, ministry...and struggles. Moments when my words, actions, and decisions influenced her growing relationship with God. Moments when I left a permanent impression—spiritual handprints, you might say—on her life.

No one holds more spiritual influence in the life of a child than her parents. God created the family so His name could be passed through the ages, generation to generation (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). And it is crucial for churches to equip parents to fulfill this command. That is why the D6 Conference exists.

Impressed

At the two events, D6 Dallas and D6 Louisville, more people attended this year’s events than in 2012: with over 1250 in Dallas and nearly 1,300 attendees in Louisville from Australia, Canada, France, India, Korea, New Zealand, Uganda, and certainly from the United States. The two D6 events, Dallas held in September and Louisville on October 16-18, mark the fifth year for the D6 Conference. An additional 2,000+ online viewers joined them as some of the main stage sessions streamed live around the world. These parents, teachers, and church leaders took part in the conference to learn new ways to impress faith on the next generation.



Over three days, a slate of 40 speakers addressed subjects ranging from marriage to culture, parenting, church ministry, purity, and more. But at the heart of each message was a single underlying theme: IMPRESS.

Blogger Heidi Hensley captured an accurate picture of the conference on her blog (heidmhensley.com): “D6 is an outstanding conference with something for everyone in ministry. The prime focus is families, but there are tools for women’s ministry, men’s ministry, kid’s ministry, and more. One of the best methods of training I have ever received is learning experiences shared by others. That’s D6.”

Heidi’s right. Consider just a few of the lessons and experiences shared throughout the conference:

Dr. James Dobson, best selling author and founder of *Focus on the Family* and *Family Talk*, urged conference attendees not to sacrifice marriage and children for the sake of ministry ambition, but to remember, “it doesn’t matter what you or your children accomplish as long as they are there on that great day when you reach the other side.”

Dr. Tim Kimmel, founder and executive director of *Family Matters*, identified thriving families as those with outwardly focused parents deliberately trying to lead their kids spiritually. “God’s love is best transferred through spiritually thriving families, is best captured through churches and homes that reflect His heart, and is best delivered through a well-thought strategy guided by God’s truth and tempered by His grace.”

Derek Bell, director of development and vice president of FWB Family Ministries, stressed the need for providing a godly example to the next generation. We are the only example our young people have. It’s our actions, not our words, that show them how to live out our faith.

Timothy Paul Jones, award-winning author, scholar, and professor of family ministry at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, challenged parents to teach their children to join the story of God’s redemptive kingdom. “Don’t limit God,” he challenged. “Invite them to be part of a story for the ages...there is no boundary to the story God is writing around the world.”

First Impressions

The D6 conference reaches far beyond main stage speakers. People flooded the hallways between sessions, sharing common experiences, swapping ideas, and sometimes praying together over shared burdens.

Many D6 attendees arrived a day early to attend 40 Pre-con Labs led by presenters such as John Trent, bestsell-

2013 D6 HIGHLIGHTS

DALLAS SEPTEMBER 25-26

For the first time, D6 expands to two cities. More than 1200 attendees travel to Dallas, Texas, for a one-day conference where over 30 speakers address important topics ranging from conflict management to dealing with prodigals.

LOUISVILLE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Many attendees arrive a day early to take part in Pre-con Labs featuring more than 40 workshops led by a wide variety of presenters.

SEEDS FAMILY WORSHIP kicks things off with energetic worship songs with lyrics taken directly from Scripture.

BETH GUCKENBERGER, co-founder of Back-to-Back International Ministries, challenges listeners to lead their families to become ministers of God’s peace, cutting through the chaos of culture to reflect His light into dark places. “Reckless faith is trusting the Who when you don’t know the when, where, why, or how.”

ED STETZER, president of Lifeway Research, encourages listeners that proven statistics indicate that a strong, Christian marriage between active, engaged believers has the best chance to successfully impress faith on the next generation. “No real researcher believes that Christianity is dying in America...not one!”

THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 17

DR. TIM KIMMEL urges attendees to make families and churches extensions of God’s love and havens for His grace. “I want to treat my kids the way God treats His kids.”

DR. JAMES DOBSON

warns young church leaders, especially men, about the dangers of success (especially early) and urges them not to sacrifice marriage and children for the sake of blind ambition.



THURSDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 17

New **D6 MINIS** deliver abbreviated, intentional sessions with a specific challenge or strategy from a number of speakers in rapid-fire succession:

MARK HOLMEN, founder of Faith@Home reminds listeners that Deuteronomy 6 instructs us to love God first before we pass our faith to our children. Why? Our children naturally love what we love.

MIKE TRIMBLE, pastor of Kirby Free Will Baptist Church, Flat Rock, Michigan, shares three simple tips about “The Talk,” and teaching children about godly purity and sexuality: 1) have a plan, 2) know what you are going to say, and 3) create an event to remember.

TOMMY SANDERS, professor at East Texas Baptist University, explains that today’s children often base their beliefs on media messages because they get conflicting messages from their parents about faith. He challenges parents to make their faith clear to children in both word and action.

LYDIA RANDALL, author of *My Faith Box* and director of the Faith Path, encourages leaders to take a deliberate step back from busy schedules to schedule time for the spiritual development of children.

LENEITA FIX, program development director for Asian Youth Ministries, challenges families to accept the challenge of inner-city ministry because “a changed parent is a changed family; a changed family is a changed neighborhood; and a changed neighborhood is a changed city; and a changed city...well, that is a changed world.”



MEGAN LACEFIELD, children’s worker at New River Church in Weatherford, Texas, shares practical steps to combine the ministry efforts of any church into a single-focused unit working together to impress faith on the next generation.

FRIDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 18

DRS. LES AND LESLIE PARROTT, husband and wife team that has authored dozens of books and founded the Center for Relationship Development, tackles the tough topic of conflict in marriage, reminding the audience that conflict is often the result of faulty perceptions and gender differences. They list three simple solutions for resolution: qualify the importance of the issue; confront the issue; and work together to solve the issue without attacking one another.

ROB RIENOW, well-known author and founder of Visionary Parenting, shares a singular plea: “The patterns and commands from the Early Church, as revealed to us by God through the Bible, are sufficient for all ministry today...and family ministry was woven throughout the methods of the Early Church.”

DAVE STONE, pastor of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, shares three simple gifts that all kids (and adults) need to receive: value, grace, and love. He encourages listeners to realize how much God values them, and to accept his love, grace, and forgiveness.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 18

ROBERT J. MORGAN, bestselling author and pastor of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, explains that even D6 parents sometime become L15 parents, that is, Luke 15 parents who deal with a prodigal child. He encourages L15 parents to allow their grief cycle to become a grace cycle, with five stops along the way: pain, prayer, patience, peace, and, finally, praise.

RANDALL HOUSE CEO RON HUNTER announces that D6 Conferences will continue in two locations in 2014, as D6 returns to Dallas, September 18-19, and Louisville, October 2-3.

ing author and founder of the Center for Strong Families; Walt Mueller, president of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding; Allen Pointer, director of the Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference; and Brian Haynes, creator of Legacy Milestones and author of *Shift: What It Takes to Finally Reach Families Today*.

Seeds Family Worship kicked off the week with the appropriate song, “Impress Them Upon Your Children,” with lyrics taken directly from Deuteronomy 6:4-6. The energetic group, started when worship leader Jason Houser was asked to write songs to help kids remember Bible verses during Vacation Bible School, connects families to Christ through songs that take their lyrics from Scripture.

Shane and Shane, Texas-based band known for acoustic praise music, led the audience in worship throughout the confer-

Decisions we make today about values within family will affect our grandchildren’s grandchildren.

ence. As the melody of “Christ Alone: Cornerstone” echoed from the ballroom, several hotel employees joined the crowd, drawn by the powerful sound of the 1,300-voice choir. “Now, that’s good music!” said one hotel kitchen worker when he reluctantly returned to his workstation.

After five years, Tommy Woodard and Eddie James—the comedy duo better known as The Skit Guys—are a staple of the D6 Conference. Their comedy left listeners laughing hysterically, welcome relief from hours of intense training. The sidesplitting comedy sometimes turned serious, however, with introspective sketches that encouraged leaders not to let the difficulty of ministry keep them from fulfilling their calling to impress their faith.



Final Impact

After three days of intense fun, fellowship, and training, the 2013 D6 Conference came to an end. Thirteen hundred people sat in silence for 60 seconds, contemplating changes to be made in their

lives and ministry before Tommy Swindol, minister of young adults at Donelson FWB Church, Nashville, Tennessee, dedicated those decisions to God. During the final moments of the conference, attendees joined Shane and Shane for one final, thunderous refrain of “That’s How You Forgive.”

D6 Coordinator Brandon Roysden reflects on another successful conference: “The D6 Conference is a wonderful example of what can happen when a group of people pull in the same direction and care deeply about the things God cares about. Generational discipleship is His plan, and we want to provide a platform where parents and ministry leaders learn from each other about how that applies in their particular context. I can hardly wait for next year!”

With more people attending the combined conferences this year than in Dal-

las last year, the D6 movement continues to shape the body of Christ in family and discipleship. Dual conferences will continue in 2014, as D6 returns to Dallas, September 18-19 and Louisville, October 2-3. Follow the developing details of the 2014 conferences at D6Conference.com.

Ron Hunter Jr., executive director of Randall House and D6 Conference director, shared with the attendees a description of the ceiling of the divinity school examining room inside the Bodleian Library at Oxford. “The 500-year-old, ornate stone carved details of the vaulted ceiling, include statues, fan shaped designs, and emblems all of which took 85 years and three generations of masons. What the father started, his grandson would complete for us to enjoy today. Decisions we make today about values within family will affect our grandchildren’s grandchildren.” **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Eric K. Thomsen is managing editor of *ONE Magazine*.



**YOUR
VOICE MATTERS
IN
FAMILY
MINISTRY**

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

D6 | 2014
conference

DALLAS, TX | SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2014

LOUISVILLE, KY | OCTOBER 2-3, 2014

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ONE DAY PLUS

\$209 LOUISVILLE, KY
TWO DAY

News About the Denomination

Theological Symposium Meets at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

MOORE, OK—The 2013 Theological Symposium met at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College for its annual, two-day event, October 28-29. Sponsored by the Commission for Theological Integrity, this year's papers included a broad range of topics:

Matthew Bracey: Making Melody Unto the Lord: A Practical Theology of Song

Tim Campbell: A Solemn Appeal for a Serious Approach to Licensure and Ordination

Charles Cook: Myth, Fact, or Both? Navigating Competing Claims in Secularization Theory

Kevin Hester: To Marry Is to Burn? Lessons on Marriage and Spirituality from a Celibate Monk

Thomas Marberry: The Lucan Travel Narrative: A Journey into Conflict

Matthew McAfee: Covenant and the Warnings of Hebrews: The Blessing and the Curse

Jesse Owens: The Necessity of an Historical Adam for Biblical Soteriology

Matthew Pinson: A Consideration of Whosoever Will: A Biblical-Theological Critique of Five-Point Calvinism

W. Jackson Watts: Crafting a Free Will Baptist Apologetic

Following each presentation, presenters fielded comments, critiques, and questions from attendees. These discussion periods often led to constructive dialogue concerning the paper's application in the local church. Well-attended, this year's symposium afforded students, pastors, church leaders, and laymen an opportunity to interact and discuss the issues confronting our denomination both today and in the future.

This year, two new members were added to the commission: Randy Corn, pastor of Bethlehem FWB Church in Ashland City, Tennessee, and W. Jackson Watts, pastor of Grace FWB Church in Arnold, Missouri.

You may purchase the spiral-bound collection of papers for \$25. You may also order back issues of Integrity Theological Journal for \$6 each (including postage). Please make checks payable to Commission for Theological Integrity and indicate the volume number for journal requests. Send orders to:

Commission for Theological Integrity

Attention: Matt Pinson

3606 West End Avenue

Nashville, TN 37205

Make plans now to participate in the 2014 Theological Symposium, October 27-28, 2014, at Welch College in Nashville, Tennessee. To find out more, contact Commission Chairman Matthew Pinson: fwbtheology@gmail.com. ■

Classic Sermon Index Launched

NASHVILLE, TN—On November 12, 2013, Paul Harrison, Free Will Baptist pastor and long-time member of the Commission for Theological Integrity, launched ClassicSermonIndex.com, a website housing a vast collection of historical sermons.

The 42,000 sermons date to the second century and are indexed by primary biblical text for simple searching. Each sermon is cataloged according to principal text, author, book title, and page number within the book in which it is recorded. Because the vast majority of the material is hyperlinked, the index is like having thousands of sermon books neatly organized at one's fingertips, and the collection continues to expand daily.

Harrison served as pastor of Cross Timbers FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee, from 1991 to 2013. He also served as adjunct professor at Welch College for 17 years, teaching church history and Greek. His work on the epistles of James and Jude appears in the Randall House Bible Commentary Series, and he has written many other articles for publication. He is a graduate of Welch College (B.A.), Middle Tennessee State University (M.A.), and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div., Th.D.). ■

Pre-Registration

2014 National Association of Free Will Baptists

WNAC | NYC | Ft. Worth, Texas | July 27-30, 2014

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

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Missionary Country (if outside USA) _____ Phone (preferably cell) _____ - _____ - _____

Email Address _____

Church You Attend _____ Church City _____ State _____

National Association

(All voting delegates must be members in good standing of a FWB church.)

Voting Delegates:

- National Board/Commission Member
- Ordained Minister
- Ordained Deacon
- State Delegate (Authorization Required)
- Local Church Delegate (Delegate Card Required)

Non-Voting:

- Licensed Minister
- Attendee (includes infants and toddlers)

Tickets:

Welch College Alumni & Friends Luncheon Qty _____ x \$30 = _____
Wednesday, July 30, 12:00 noon

National Association Information: www.nafwb.org

National Youth Conference

Preschool:

- Ages 3-5, Attending Preschool Worship - **\$25** (\$35 on-site)
- Ages 0-5, Not Attending Preschool Worship - NO FEE

Students: \$25

Any student or competitor* attending any NYC competition or event MUST pay \$25 (\$35 on-site).

- Grades 1-3
- Grades 4-6
- Grades 7-12

*Competitors must pay \$25 registration fee in addition to competition fees already paid.

College Age / Adults: \$15

Adults attending any NYC competition or event MUST pay \$15.

- Adult Attendee (No students or children)

Tickets:

NYC Event Qty _____ x \$10 = _____
Tuesday, July 29, 9:00 pm

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

Women Nationally Active for Christ

Voting Delegates:

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

Non-Voting:

- Missionary
- Attendee

Tickets:

WNAC Laughter and Latté Qty _____ x \$15 = _____
Monday, July 28, 8:30 p.m.
WNAC Missionary Mingle Luncheon Qty _____ x \$25 = _____
Tuesday, July 29 11:30 a.m.

WNAC Information: 877-767-7662 | www.wnac.org

**Register April 1 – June 27, 2014 (postmarked)
No Refunds After June 27**

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- + Check (Payable to FWB Convention)
- + Visa or MasterCard only (both debit and credit cards accepted)

Card # _____

Card Holder _____ Exp _____/_____/_____

RETURN TO:

Convention Registration

PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011 / FAX: 615-731-0771

Questions: 877-767-7659 / convention@nafwb.org

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

Convention Housing

2014 National Association of Free Will Baptists

Omni Fort Worth Hotel (HQ)*

1300 Houston Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
1-800-THE-OMNI (843-6664)
Rate: \$151
Valet Parking: \$15
Self Parking: \$15 (no in & out privileges)
Mention 2014 NAFWB for group rate.
Limit of 3 reservations* per individual.



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
Limit of 9 reservations* per individual.



Historic Hilton Fort Worth

815 Main Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
Rate: \$129
Group Code: FWB
Reservations: 1-800-HILTONS
(445-8667)
Valet Parking Only: \$15
Limit of 9 reservations* per individual.



Courtyard by Marriott Downtown

601 Main Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
1-800-321-2211
Rate: \$129
Group Code: FREFREA (one bed) or
FREFREB (double beds)
Valet Parking Only: \$20.00
Limit of 9 reservations* per individual.



+ Reservations can be made by
telephone or Internet.

+ Room rates do not include
applicable taxes (15%).

+ Cancellations will be charged one
night's room and tax per reservation.

1. Prepare Personal Information

You will need the following:

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

2. Contact Your Hotel of Choice

(See details above.)

Reservations will open at 9 am, CT,
10 am, ET, Monday, May 5, 2014.

Hotels have been instructed **NOT**
TO ACCEPT reservations before this
time.

+ Cut-off date: Friday, June 27, 2014.

3. Receive Your Confirmation

On Monday, May 5, links to
hotel reservations will
be available at:

www.nafwb.org.

*Groups making reservations that
exceed the hotel limit policy may
contact the Executive Office for more
information: 877-767-7659.

2013 Conference Develops Visionary Leadership

NASHVILLE, TN—“Lead to Succeed: Principles for Visionary Leadership” was the theme of the 2013 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference, which met at Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel December 9-10. Dr. Stan Toler, author, leader, and pastor was the featured speaker for general sessions and seminars throughout the meeting.

Despite challenging weather conditions, more than 120 Free Will Baptist pastors and church leaders from 21 states and one Canadian province gathered for the annual event, which provides a meeting venue for denominational boards and agencies but is open to every Free Will Baptist minister and leader.

The conference featured worship services, practical instruction, and plenty of time for conversation and networking. “Leadership Conference gives pastors, state leaders, and national board members practical ways to enhance their missions and visions for all facets of ministry,” said Ryan Lewis, conference director. “This year, Dr. Toler shared crucial principles of leadership to help Free Will Baptists advance the Kingdom...vital training for anyone who shepherds others in ministry.”

Stan Toler pastored for over 40 years before becoming general superintendent for the Church of the Nazarene. He also served as vice president for John C. Maxwell’s INJOY Leadership Institute for more than a decade. A best selling author of more than 100 books, Toler has taught seminars and trained church and organizational leaders worldwide. Toler encouraged conference attendees to be visionary in their leadership, claiming victory through God’s strength.

“Stan Toler has been a great friend of Free Will Baptists over the years,” said Executive Secretary Keith Burden. “He understands firsthand what pastors and church leaders face in ministry, and his messages were practical and encouraging.”

Evening services featured music provided by the Welch College Men’s Quartet, Rejoice Ensemble, and the 42-voice College Choir directed by Dr. James Stevens.

All national boards met in conjunction with the conference, including the Executive Committee, Board of Retirement, FWB Foundation, Home Missions, International Missions, Master’s Men, Randall House, Welch College, and Women Nationally Active for Christ. Home Missions also hosted an afternoon reception to honor outgoing General Director Larry Powell for 12 years in the position.

In addition, a seven-member committee met to consider the moral and legal implications of same-sex marriage on Free Will Baptists. The special committee was appointed by Tim York, moderator of the denomination, as directed by the General Board at the national convention in Tampa. Recommendations will be brought to the 2014 convention for consideration.

The 2014 Leadership Conference will return to Nashville Marriott Airport Hotel December 8-9. ■



Free Will Baptists to “Impact” Ft. Worth

FT. WORTH, TX—Over the eight-year history of the program, more than 2,500 Free Will Baptists have participated in the one-day outreach program called Impact. Held on the Saturday preceding the national convention, this program gives convention-goers an opportunity to serve the host city through door-to-door evangelism, service projects, community outreach events, and more.

This year, on July 26, Impact will turn its attention to Ft. Worth. Please visit www.fwb-mastersmen.org for more information and to register for the location you choose. Everyone who registers before June 16 will receive a free Impact Tampa t-shirt.

Teams should plan to start Impact Ft. Worth by 9:30 a.m. They will work for three-five hours (with lunch provided by the local church). ■

NINE YEARS, NINE CITIES



2006 – Birmingham, AL

2007 – Little Rock, AR

2008 – Charleston, WV

2009 – Cincinnati, OH

2010 – Oklahoma City, OK

2011 – Charlotte, NC

2012 – Memphis, TN

2013 – Tampa, Florida

2014 – Ft. Worth, Texas

2,526 VOLUNTEERS

Thousands of Lives Affected
Many Salvation Decisions

Help us make an
IMPACT!

Photo: Mark Cowart



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

One to ONE >>>>

An Example of Whole-Life **STEWARDSHIP**

I recently helped officiate the funeral of a lifelong friend. I had the extraordinary privilege of growing up in a church under the influence of godly laymen like Brother Bill, who modeled a high level of Christian commitment and integrity. Though many of them are gone, their influence on my life continues today.

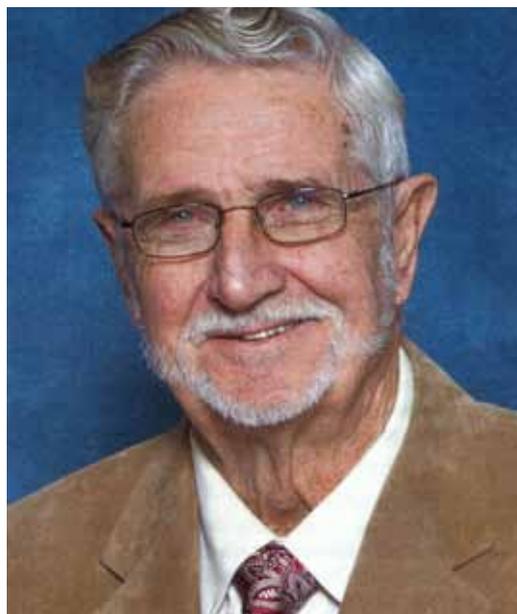
Brother Bill was first and foremost a follower of Christ. Of all the hats he wore in his lifetime (and he wore many), he was most proud and outspoken about his relationship with the Lord. When it came to his children, he didn't care what profession they chose as long as they were Christians.

He was a devoted student of the Word. He believed in the inerrancy of Scripture and spent countless hours studying its pages and learning its principles. He leaned on those principles frequently when advising others or dealing with problems in his own life. He developed a vast knowledge of God's Word and a remarkable ability to understand it in the context of daily living.

He was a man of prayer. His children fondly remember how he led "devotional times" around the breakfast table, reading Scripture and leading them in prayer. He almost always closed his prayers by saying, "Lord, keep us humble and faithful." Those two words sum up his life as well as any.

Speaking of faithfulness, he was unfailingly faithful to his local church. If the doors were open, he was there...with his family. He served for years as the song leader in his church and loved gospel music with a real message. He believed in giving his very best in everything he did, even if it meant extra effort and practice every now and then.

He came from humble beginnings and endured hardship from an early age. As a result, he learned to love everyone and didn't treat



anyone differently because of title, position, power, or possessions. He modeled compassion in both his personal and business dealings.

Bill was a successful businessman, even though he never considered himself "successful." He was disciplined and worked hard. He believed whatever possessions he enjoyed were simply "loaned" to him by the Good Lord, and God expected him to do the right thing with those possessions. He supported his local church with his time, money, and talents. His generosity to benevolent causes, education, and Christian ministries is well documented and speaks for itself. He viewed himself as a temporary custodian of God's blessings. It is obvious he understood the meaning of "whole-life" stewardship.

Down through the years, Bill Barber and many others like him have been the bedrock upon which our denomination rests. I'm praying God will raise up others to carry on his legacy. **ONE**

*In loving memory of Bill J. Barber,
Poteau, Oklahoma*

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