

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

# ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2011

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85	8.1%	85/85	7.1%
90	9.5%	90/90	8.3%

# ONE

MAGAZINE

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



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# FIRST GLIMPSE

## Ordinary Heroes



Photo: Mark Cowart

ERIC THOMSEN  
MANAGING EDITOR

### SHE STRAGGLES IN WITH A WEARY FACE AND DRAGGING

feet, straight from work. With a deep sigh, she drops her materials into the nearest chair and begins rearranging supplies and tables in preparation for the evening's activities. She finishes with no time to spare as the first group of kids bounces loudly into the room, laughing and singing, jostling one another for the best position near the front.

As her gaze wanders across the group of bubbly, energetic children, the change is remarkable. Tired shoulders lift; smile wrinkles form around her eyes; and the exasperated grimace slowly turns into a wide smile. Weariness forgotten, she launches into the lesson with the age-old question, "Hi, boys and girls! What did you learn about upstairs?"

She'll rest her tired feet next week when Vacation Bible School is over. Tonight, she holds eternity in her hands as she shares from a Wordless Book crafted from faded construction paper.

#### Ordinary heroes.

"I'm sorry the house isn't cleaner."

I can't help but chuckle. The house looks great to me, especially when you consider these brave foster-parents in their late 30s recently added two infant twins and their three-year-old brother to an already packed house. When I question their sanity with a smile, their response touches the depths of my soul.

"What else could we do? Nobody wanted them—premature meth babies with unending health problems. We had to take them. This was our James 1:27 moment. These children are our 'widows and orphans,' and we think God gave them to us."

I can't help but wonder if, in God's eyes, their house isn't the cleanest on the block.

#### Ordinary heroes.

He stays up late on Saturday night, working by the dim light of a small lamp to keep from disturbing his family. It's been a long week of construction in the heat of the Deep South, and he fights sleep as he reviews his text for the fourth time. He can't help but wonder if the extra work on the sermon will make any difference to his congregation as long as he doesn't run long.

His mind toys with haunting questions. "Will anyone listen?" "Is it really worth it—the long hours, the strain on my family, the countless late nights?"

The questions are answered by images that fill his mind—faces of young converts and old, a couple who made it through a rough patch in their marriage, the addict who turned his life around, young people leading worship, deacons who have given a lifetime to the church.

He shakes his head slowly before turning back to the worn pages before him. "Yeah," he mutters, "It's worth it."

#### Ordinary heroes.

Are you one? **ONE**

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

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## LETTERS

### Have something to say?

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

Email [editor@nafwb.org](mailto:editor@nafwb.org) or send correspondence to:

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

**I JUST FINISHED READING YOUR ARTICLE, "VICTORY OVER STRESS," BY ELIZABETH HODGES** in the recent issue of *ONE Magazine* (June-July 2011). In fact, I just finished reading it for the third time! It is one of the best articles I have read in *ONE*.

**Charles A. Thigpen, Macon, GA**

**I WAS WONDERING HOW ONE MIGHT GO ABOUT SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE TO ONE MAGAZINE.**

A member of my church has written a good article worth submitting. I'm sure you get hundreds of requests like these. I would just like to know if you take submissions.

**W. Thomas Holloway via email**

**FROM THE EDITOR:** Thomas, thank you for your question. It is true that *ONE Magazine* accepts article submissions. It is also true that we receive a large number of submissions and have very limited space in which to print them. While we are glad to read each article submitted to our editors, please consider two things to give your article more of a chance to appear in print.

First, the editorial staff works nearly six months in advance. Don't expect to see an article printed right away. For important news items, provide the appropriate amount of lead-time.

Second, each issue of *ONE Magazine* is based on a theme. These themes are set more than a year in advance, and they guide the editorial direction of each magazine. For a list of upcoming themes, contact [editor@onemag.org](mailto:editor@onemag.org).



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# THE FUTURE OF OUR PAST

BY MELVIN WORTHINGTON

## **The future results from past decisions.**

Denominational direction, distinctives, doctrine, and diversity remain vital concerns for those who hold membership in the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Each generation should be interested in passing its traditions and truth to the next generation. Free Will Baptist colleges and Randall House Publications have a unique opportunity and obligation to assist in charting the course for denominational agencies, associations, assemblies and ambassadors, thus perpetuating, promoting, and preserving doctrines and distinctives of our denomination.

Denominations that preserve, perpetuate, and promote their particular doctrine, diversity, and distinctives have their own educational institutions and publishing houses. Examples include Southern Baptists, Independent Baptists, Nazarenes, Assemblies of God, and Methodists. In each case, denominational publishing houses provide clear, concise, and comprehensive curriculum that perpetuates and proclaims the doctrines, distinctives, and diversity that uniquely characterize them.

Nothing is more challenging than the statement, “As go your publishing house and your colleges so goes your denomination.” Our educational institutions provide training and establish the tone for denominational harmony and hope. The publishing house provides the information, instruction, inspiration, and indoctrination for denominational hope and harmony. Working in concert, our denominational history, heritage, hope, and harmony are preserved, perpetuated, and promoted. Randall House Publications has, is, and will continue to make a specific and significant contribution to the history, heritage, and harmony in the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

## **The Role of Randall House: Its Value**

One value of Randall House is that it perpetuates our doctrine, distinctives, and diversity through curriculum, conferences, and commentaries. The curriculum conveys and champions our theology. The curriculum is written by Free Will Baptists from the Free Will Baptist perspective. The perpetuation of those doctrines and practices that characterize Free Will Baptists are clearly, correctly, consistently, and continually kept before denominational constituents

## ***Randall House preserves our history, heritage, hope, and harmony. Their materials bind us together, build us up together, bring us together, bless us together, and bond us together.***

who use Randall House materials. In the early years of my ministry, I pastored a Free Will Baptist church that did not use Free Will Baptist Sunday School literature. Harrold Harrison, who was employed by Randall House at the time, visited our church for services. He reminded me that Free Will Baptist churches should use Free Will Baptist literature in their Sunday Schools. He argued that no other curriculum championed the doctrine peculiar to our denomination. He was right. The church soon started using Free Will Baptist Sunday School literature. I have used Free Will Baptist literature since then with no regrets.

Randall House also provides resources for denominational constituents. Tools, texts, and training for leaders and volunteers are developed with denominational constituents in mind, and marvelous resources are available from Randall House. Executive Director and CEO Ron Hunter sums it up concisely when he declares, “We teach Deuteronomy 6 as God’s principle of sharing our faith with each generation and hold the same principle for preserving who we are as Free Will Baptists. If our parents do not know who we are, how can we expect our children to adopt it?”

Randall House offers a new training initiative called “The Free Will Baptist Legacy Tour” that will go to a three-state region and teach ministry leaders and parents how to transfer denominational distinctives to their children and grandchildren. It will feature Free Will Baptist history and beliefs, and provide easy ways to transfer the Free Will Baptist heritage from parents to children with the church as the primary equipper.

Randall House also preserves our history, heritage, hope, and harmony. Their materials bind us together, build us up together, bring us together, bless us together, and bond us together. The material taught in Sunday School classes or small groups will be one of the greatest determining factors regarding what your church believes.

### **The Responsibility of Randall House: Its Vision**

Randall House’s vision reflects the past. From its inception, the purpose of Randall House has been to provide comprehensive, coordinated, consistent, and concise curriculum with sound biblical content. Randall House has not deviated from that original purpose.

However, the Randall House vision also responds to the present, seeking to provide curriculum that is biblical, balanced, and beautiful. As evidenced by several awards for its publications in recent years, Randall House is responding to present realities confronting the church. Without disregarding our denominational heritage and history, Randall House seeks to reach individuals with the gospel and provide materials that denominational constituents can use to reach a lost world and teach them the Word of God. Randall House seeks to produce balanced, blended, broad, yet biblical materials and resources. In the light of the diversity that characterizes denominational constituents, the task of producing materials that will meet the needs of all denominational constituents remains a challenge and yet provides an opportunity to explore a variety of options that do not conflict with our doctrine, diversity, or distinctives.

### **The Reach of Randall House: Its Venues**

*Randall House has a unique venue.* The primary venue for Randall House is the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Its essential responsibility is to provide and produce resources, including curriculum, conferences, books, and commentaries to meet the needs of the constituents of the denomination.

Every Free Will Baptist church needs to use Randall House resources in order to pass the traditions and truths that make the denomination distinctive to the next generation. Refusing to use materials that promote the precepts, policies, and philosophies peculiar to the denomination demonstrates a lack of loyalty. We must not sacrifice our history and heritage on the altar of passing fads that will fade away by purchasing and supporting material from other publishers. In order to pass our doctrines and distinctives to the next generation, we must determine, demonstrate, and declare the importance of using Randall House materials in our churches.

*Randall House has unsatisfied venue.* Many people beyond the Free Will Baptist family hold to the fundamentals of the faith and are not satisfied with the resources provided by their particular publisher. Other groups do not have their own publishing house. Randall House provides resources for these groups. For example, the denomination

produced a Free Will Baptist hymnal. At the same time, it produced a generic hymnbook that was purchased by many beyond Free Will Baptist borders. Randall House continues to be both ministry and market-driven, and the unsatisfied venue remains a viable market for Randall House. Through creative and innovative methods, Randall House can find its niche in this market and thus minister to a broader audience beyond Free Will Baptists.

*Randall House also has universal venue.* Every Christian is not a Free Will Baptist, although they could be. Randall House needs to expand to provide resources that will minister to Christians in all movements. This can and should be done without minimizing the doctrines, distinctives, and diversity of Free Will Baptists. Many beliefs the denomination holds are consistent with other groups. Seeking to minister and to market to a broader, universal audience requires creativity and innovation but investing in the universal venue is not a waste of time or resources.

### The Record of Randall House: Its Viability

Randall House has done and is doing an excellent job in providing and producing resources for Free Will Baptists. Its ministry has been specific, significant, and supportive. Seeking to assist this generation to effectively transfer the faith and practices of Free Will Baptists to the next generation has been a significant challenge. While we must utilize biblical methods to communicate the biblical message effectively, it is worthwhile to consider changing one's approach from time to time. A different perspective develops a broad, balanced, bold, and beneficial outlook.

The challenge for Randall House is simple. Continue using creativity and innovation to design, develop, and deliver resources that will encourage and enable the next generation to embrace the faith and practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. The principle of "as goes our publisher so goes our denomination" is true, and Randall House is going the right way to insure the future of our past. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Executive Secretary Emeritus Melvin Worthington was executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists from 1979-2002.



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# ALL IN THE FAMILY



BY PAUL COLLINS

## Before Christians can effectively challenge the

modern trends that endanger the Christian family and home, we must first understand that God began human existence by instituting marriage and the family unit. The first community God established was the home. His first relationship with humanity existed in the context of the family long before the “church” was established. The Israelites had no formal place of worship until God instructed Moses to build the Tabernacle. Prior to this, worship took place in the home where it was directed by the husband and father, the spiritual head of the home (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

Families and the home have changed dramatically. Today, we minister to families of all shapes and sizes, with a wide range of members. In the church I pastor, few families include both a biological mother and father living under the same roof. Most families have been affected by divorce, and one of the parents is a step-parent. I would like to share some stories about the different kinds of families in our home missions church here in Virginia .



## The Blended Family: The Thompsons (dad, mom, *her* children, *his* child, *their* son)

This family packs the pew one Sunday but may only have three people the next week because of various requirements of the family members. They are new to our church, and we are excited about their potential to help us in many areas. They are willing and able to work anywhere. Also, a daughter-in-law is coming with them and is likely be the mother of the first new baby in our new nursery. His, hers, and ours has become the norm in a society without norms. God has already used them to excite our church and will continue to work miracles in and through them as they become more involved. This family is gift-wrapped by God in a blended package. We are thankful for them.



## The Traditional Family: The Bolins (dad, mom, two small children)

This is the family every church tries to target—a young working couple with two small children who love the Lord and serve as teachers and youth leaders. God sent this family, along with the dad’s grandmother, parents, and brother to us from Springdale, Arkansas, as a result of an article written about our church in *ONE Magazine*. They were transferred to Harrisonburg and visited in our congregation. This family has changed our church by leading our young people to compete in the National Youth Conference events at district, state, and national levels. They are gifts from God, and we are thankful.





### **The Extended Family: The Wheelers** (widowed mom and her adult daughter)

God tells us to care for this type of family in James 1:27—a mother caring for her adult daughter who, due to chemical and emotional issues, needs a strong support system and a church to be their rock, their friend, and their extended family. This youthful widow is a woman of God, a preschool Sunday School teacher, a pillar of strength, and an example to others of how to depend on the God who has promised to meet our needs. She ministers to us in many ways and allows God to use the miracle of her life and her positive outlook to encourage us. This family is God's gift and we are thankful.



### **The Single-Parent Family: The Rigglemans** (dad, adult son, and toddler daughter)

This family is broken and needs our ministry so much. The dad was saved out of severe drug and alcohol abuse. He has a three-year-old daughter whose mother is in prison. He has an adult daughter who resents him and an adult son he has helped bring to Jesus. He is now fighting for custody of his toddler daughter because she was taken from him last year after he slipped and consumed alcohol while on probation.

This August, he will try to convince a judge that he has been changed by the grace of God and has been faithful to work in our church, in addition to receiving counseling and being involved in Alcoholics Anonymous. This single dad has helped our church as a soul winner, reaching others who need help and care. He has used his occupation to save our church thousands of dollars by providing concrete work for our new church building. Please pray for his family and him. They are God's gift and we are thankful.

### **Your Family: (fill in the blanks)**

Your family may not be perfect, but you can be used by God to help build His church. You cannot change your past, but with God's grace and forgiveness, He can change your present and your future. You are God's precious gift to His Church. We are thankful for all the families God has given to us and the ones He is still going to send our way. Remember, God still uses families to build His Church. We are all His family when we ask Him to forgive us and come into our hearts to be our Lord and Savior. Welcome to the family. **ONE**



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Paul Collins and his family are planting the Harrisonburg FWB Church in Virginia.



# I Wouldn't Take **NOTHIN'** for My **JOURNEY** BY JIM MARTIN

**Little did I know that a prayer from my mom over 50 years ago would have a lasting impact on where I am today. Mom prayed, "Lord, make my son a servant of yours." I am confident that she didn't know this prayer would lead her son on a journey to serve in New York, hundreds of miles from home.**

When I was a boy, my mom and I enjoyed a very close relationship. She was my best friend. When I needed encouragement, answers, or when she was pushing me to succeed, she would ask, "Have you prayed about it?" Then she would say, "Just pray about it."

My experience with Dad was much different. My dad was a very wise man. I always wanted to help him but was never really allowed to do so. When our family got a new lawn mower, I thought it was the perfect opportunity to help. I put gas in the mower and cranked it up. After all, I had seen my dad do this, and it seemed so easy. I was hoping to surprise him with a freshly mowed lawn when he got home, and boy did I ever surprise him. It turns out that I missed the lesson on the importance of oil.

After sleeping on the matter, I developed a plan. The next day, I began working on the lawn mower. (Huge

mistake.) Well, I guess it wasn't really a bad idea, because it led that wise man to take me with him to church. He gave me small tasks to do with his keen eye watching me. I really believe I taught him how to be a wise father. This interaction with my dad at church is where I developed a love for God's house, and I also learned that if the work got done, somebody had to do it.

In 2006, at age 47, I had no plans to go anywhere. I was pretty much settled down. We had just remodeled our house, and it was nearly paid off. My family was located nearby. My son served with me in a church where I was pastor. Everything was going well.

Then, the news came that Dana and Betty Booth from Ohio were going to New York to start a church. I was thrilled. Since 1978, I had desired to go to New York to start a church. In the 1980s, I did some research and talked with Home Missions General Director

Roy Thomas, but something seemed missing.

I had scheduled Brother Booth to speak during our annual mission conference and told the church that if I couldn't go as a missionary, I wanted to do all I could to send someone. After he spoke, the spark turned into a flame as I learned that the Lord had also spoken to his heart in 1978 about planting a church in New York. It was then I realized that God had our paths cross for a reason, and my mother's advice came to mind. I prayed. The seed had been planted firmly for a New York church.

By the grace of God and the people who prayed with me, God led me to New York. Now, at age 51, I am doing many things I did when I started out working in the ministry—a bus route, children's church, and leading the music. I am busy and very happy. The lesson I learned from my dad so many years ago has kept me going. I love serving in God's house and helping where I can. If the work gets done, someone does have to do it, and I certainly can be that worker for the Lord.

To many of you who are comfortable and making plans to stay where you are because of retirement, family, or career, let me ask, "Have you prayed about it?" Many people, both in the United States and overseas, need to hear the gospel, and many missionaries could use extra hands, even some encouragement. Are you willing to help?

Oh, by the way, that something missing earlier in my story was another couple. God will always provide the tools we need to complete the tasks for Him...in His time. Please pray and let the journey begin. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Jim and Sylvia Martin are associate missionaries serving with Dana and Betty Booth as they plant a Free Will Baptist church in Rochester, New York.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO  
DIVORCE-PROOF YOUR MARRIAGE?

# 5 WAYS to Avoid **DIVORCE**

BY BARRY RAPER

.....

## **I WAS STANDING IN LINE AT A LOCAL DELI,**

waiting for my order when a man behind the counter offered breaking news to his co-workers about the death of 20th-century film icon Elizabeth Taylor. Several workers were behind the counter, moving about with direction and purpose. Not one of them paid attention to the news. So, the man said it again, "Liz Taylor died!" He still received no visible or audible response from anyone.

It was another reminder that no matter how large the life that ceases, life goes on for everyone else. Many young people do not even know the name Liz Taylor. But for most of those who do know her name, sadly, the first thing that comes to mind is the word *divorce*. Even though she passed off the scene, she represents a culture in which divorce is now the accepted norm.

For those of us living in such a culture, the question remains—is there any hope that we can avoid being



swept into the same mindset concerning divorce? Can we as Christians avoid it? The answer is, yes, we can. Here are five practical ways to avoid divorce. While the list is brief, it is a starting point for us who value and treasure God's gift of marriage.

## **1 Remove Divorce From Your Vocabulary.**

One problem with the current culture is that it can be characterized as a divorce culture. We all know the stats. Christians do not fare much better than the world when it comes to divorce rate. Why is that true? One reason is because divorce is considered a viable option for couples.

What we need is more couples committed to the permanence of marriage, not looking for loopholes. This is what Jesus stressed to those who wanted to center the attention on divorce (see Matthew 19). This is what I mean by taking divorce out of our vocabulary. Don't use it as an option, and don't use it as a weapon or threat against your spouse.

## **2 Build Hedges Around Your Marriage.**

Every year my wife and I attempt a garden. In the past we planted strawberries that have not always fared well. Part of the problem was we had not protected the plants from outside "predators"—most likely rabbits with a fondness for strawberries. We learned that a simple fence was necessary if we wanted the strawberries to grow untouched.

We can take the same sort of measure with our marriages. Build hedges of protection for the "garden" that is your marriage. Decide not to be alone with a person of the opposite sex other than your spouse. Find someone to hold you accountable. Set limits and accountability structures in the use of media. Take any step or precautions necessary to make the "hedge" a priority in your marriage.

## **3 Surround Your Marriage With the Right Kind of People.**

Church is important for your marriage. Paul counseled Timothy about the company he kept, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, *with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart* (2 Timothy 2:22, emphasis added)." Paul's counsel to Timothy to surround himself with godly people also holds true for marriage.

We sponsor a marriage retreat every year in our church,

offering practical encouragement and help regarding issues that couples face. We want our community to know that marriage matters to our church. Your local church is crucial in a divorce culture.

## **4 Make Yours a Christ-Centered Marriage.**

Make yours a Christ-centered marriage because it really is about Him (See Ephesians 5). As Paul gave specific commands to both the wives (5:22-24) and the husbands (5:25-31), he communicated that their loving submission to each other is ultimately obedience and submission to Christ. For example, he told the wife to be subject to her husband "as to the Lord." He gave Christian husbands the great challenge to love their wives "as Christ loved the church."

One would be hard pressed to find a more Christ-centered passage in the New Testament. The reason this discussion on marriage says so much about Jesus is because marriage ultimately points to His glory. Paul said, "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Your individual marriage matters because it is a picture of the relationship Jesus has with the church.

## **5 Keep Your Personal Devotion to Jesus.**

Howard Hendricks conducted a study of men who had been derailed from the ministry. The overwhelming majority (and for many of them the failure was moral) could trace their eventual downfall to neglect of personal spiritual disciplines. It starts out small—one day without reading the Bible and prayer. Then it becomes two. Before you know it, the habit of getting alone with God becomes a thing of the past and the devil has a foot in the door.

Both spouses should make their personal walk with Jesus their top priority. The most important thing I can do for my spouse and our marriage is spend time alone with God daily. Make the commitment to get alone with God and then follow through with establishing the pattern of Jesus (see Mark 1:35) who made it His priority to get alone with His Father. Pray that your spouse's devotional life will be vibrant and growing. Do what you must to protect your spouse's time alone with God. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Barry Raper is the Christian Education and Youth Ministry program coordinator at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He pastors Bethel FWB Church near Ashland City, Tennessee.



# LAY IT ALL ON THE LINE

BY JIM KILGORE

**“God called me—not my family—into the ministry.”**

I could not believe what I was hearing as I sat alone in my truck. The speaker went on to tell his listeners that he sent his kids to another church each week, unwilling to have them sit in his new church work until other youth had been won to Christ and the ministry began to grow. I felt there was absolutely no biblical justification for what he had said, though he tried to find it. It was only a matter of months later that his ministry died. I was saddened but not surprised.

I am a home missionary to Greenfield, California, a place where no one in my family had ever lived. We knew no one here before we moved from the area where I had lived for 30 years. My wife Tracey had lived in Kern County all her life. The San Joaquin Valley was the only place my children Caleb, Hannah, Samuel, and Daniel had lived prior to this move. They followed me when I followed God’s calling to the Salinas Valley. They sat in this new work alone while we won other young people to the Lord.

A family member recently heard a man—the father of teenagers—speak in church. He told the congregation that he had been called to pastor years ago but put off his calling until his children were grown “for their good.” Some in the pews clapped for him. Again, I was disturbed. I could not help but wonder if the Holy Spirit had convicted the speaker as those words rolled off his tongue, if he were robbed of sleep that night as lost souls, empty pulpits, and empty pews filled his mind. Could he hear the words, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1).

I love my family deeply, and I would do any right thing for their physical and spiritual good, including putting them in their proper place of priority in my life according to the Word of God as shown in the following verses, “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of

**If adults, however, keep putting everything and everyone in front of God and His calling, what will our children learn?**

me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me (Matthew 10: 37-38).

The ministry of the Lord desperately needs servants, from pastors to nursery workers. If adults, however, keep putting everything and everyone in front of God and His calling, what will our children learn? Not service. Not sacrifice. Not obedience.

“Do as I say, and not as I do” is as ineffective as it is ridiculous. As long as your children remain in your home, they are called when and where you are called. They will learn to sacrifice when you do. They will learn to serve when you do. They will learn to love God when you do. They will learn to obey Him as you do. They will learn to lay it all on the line because they see you do it first. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Jim and Tracey Kilgore, along with three sons and one daughter, are planting a Free Will Baptist church in Greenfield, California.

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# hero on wheels

By Pam Hackett



*Bob and Vickie Norris were anticipating their 12th wedding anniversary when tragedy struck and changed their lives forever. On August 21, 1980, not far from their South Carolina home, a drunk driver traveling the wrong direction on the interstate hit Bob's 18-wheeler. The truck flipped seven times, pinning Bob under the wreckage and fuel tank. He could not feel his legs. Trained as an EMT and assistant fire chief, he knew the seriousness of his situation.*

*After a three-and-a-half-month stay in the hospital, rehabilitation, and recovery from a life-threatening staph infection, Bob returned home to his family as a paraplegic.*

## A Hero's Faith

Sitting in his motorized wheelchair, Bob, a large man of 6'3", now measured almost even with Vickie, a petite woman barely five feet tall. Eye to eye and equally committed, the couple decided not to let Bob's handicaps keep them from doing what they wanted. Claiming the message of Psalm 31:23, 24, they determined that this trial would not hinder their family from faithfulness to the Lord and His house.

Bob, Vickie, and their two children, Sonya (9) and Brad (6), would face the unknown together. Vickie became the ultimate caregiver, and the children assumed responsibilities foreign to most at such a young age. They learned early in life to assist their father in the tasks he was unable to do. Vickie spent many days in rehab learning how to exercise Bob's legs and take care of his physical needs.

## A Hero's Fight

Bob refused to allow himself a day of self-pity. In difficult times, he and Vickie found strength in Psalm 91:2: "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust."

For the next 30 years, Bob fought to live a normal life with his family. As their spiritual leader, he made sure his children attended church. The family's unwavering faith in the Lord kept them assured of God's blessings in store for them. They never gave up, and trusted Him to turn tragedy into something good for His glory.

## A Hero's Fame

Bob became everyone's Hero on Wheels. His steadfast faithfulness to the Lord and his family made him hero to Vickie and the children. Others marveled at his wisdom and perseverance. His church family especially admired him and enjoyed his wit. Bob was not beyond racing in his wheelchair and popping wheelies in the church parking lot.

With highly developed upper-body strength, Bob could work as hard as any able-bodied man. For several years, he and Vickie served as kitchen coordinators at Fairview Free Will Baptist Church. They worked weekly, maintaining its large main kitchen and serving area and keeping shelves and cabinets stocked with needed items.

## A Hero's Finish

More than anything, the Hero on Wheels longed to meet His Savior, and he worked to ensure that his family would join him someday on the heavenly shore. He lived Paul's words: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:12). Like his biblical example, Bob fought a good fight and finished well. When he died suddenly on July 6, 2010, the hero traded in his wheels for a heavenly crown.

## A Hero's Family

Bob Norris left behind a strong family of believers who continue his legacy of faith. Daughter Sonya and husband Brian Webb lead the youth at Fairview Church. They co-teach the college/career class and the Wednesday evening teen class, and direct the church's Upward™ sports program. Sonya sings in the choir and in the church's praise team. Brian's vision for the world led him on a mission trip to China. Together, they seek to instill faith and the family's heart for God in their sons, Ethan and Jacob.

Son Brad, wife Holly and children Kalyn and Landon also faithfully serve the Lord at Fairview, where Brad and Holly co-teach an adult Sunday School class. Holly sings in the praise team and choir, and they both assist with the Upward™ program. The couple heads up Fairview's annual community Thanksgiving Day meal, which last year fed 645 people. Along with the meal, their Sunday School class sponsors a Santa shop, providing clothes and toys (donated by the congregation) for families in the community.

While his hero dad was still alive, Brad endured surgery and treatment for colon cancer. He depended on his dad's great

strength as he fought his own battle for life. During 30 years of caregiving, Vickie Norris also faced health challenges, battling a recurring kidney disease as well as colon cancer. Both she and Brad now volunteer at the cancer center in their local hospital.

Despite continuing health difficulties, Vickie remains a faithful member of Fairview. She serves as assistant teacher of four-and five-year-olds on Wednesday evenings and participates in Young at Heart (senior saints) ministries. Active in Fairview Women Active for Christ, Vickie enjoys the fellowship, care, and prayerful support this group provides.

Besides her children and grandchildren, Vickie treasures Bob's Bible. Filled with verses he underscored and notes he penned with his personal perspective on wisdom, this Book that guided her husband's journey, offers guidance for her future path. As she turns to God's Word, she is reminded how much the Hero on Wheels loved his Lord, his wife, his family, his friends, and his church. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Pam Hackett is a member at large of the WNAC Executive Committee. An educator and an artist, she serves alongside her husband Tim, pastor of Fairview FWB Church, Spartanburg, SC.



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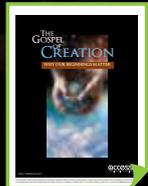
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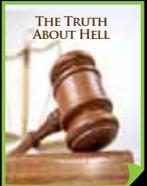
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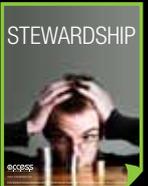
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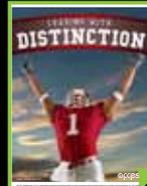


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# Lonely in the PARSONAGE



BY DAVID AMBURGEY

**It's a familiar scene repeated far too often in Free Will Baptist** circles and beyond. A church hires a new pastor. He and his family move into the parsonage, and the pastor's wife begins to decorate, to create a home. (Depending on the parsonage, this may prove to be quite a challenge.) She works tirelessly to make this strange, new place home for her family.

Her husband is away, for a new pastor hits the ground running. Perhaps he is out with a deacon to meet members of the church in their homes. He might be visiting a nearby nursing facility or making new contacts in the community. Maybe he is visiting church members who have trickled away from the congregation between pastors or became disgruntled with the previous pastor for a trivial reason. He quickly settles into the busy schedule that will continue as long as he remains at the church, and he still needs to prepare messages for the coming services. As he visits, he quietly hopes this new church will not need another Sunday School teacher. But if it does, well, he will make time for that too.

Back home, his wife continues working to create a home. Because the family moved during the summer, the kids are underfoot, running around, screaming, getting into things, exploring their new surroundings, and marking their new territory with crayons. Their mother promptly cleans up the marks and scolds them,

telling them to respect their new home because it belongs to the church. She doesn't want to mess up this house that doesn't really belong to her and, in her mind, never will.

Perhaps she has a job. Many churches do not pay enough for a single income to support a growing family. Some churches cannot afford insurance, and so to make ends meet the pastor's wife heads to work. She is glad to do so, for she knows that if her husband takes a job on the side, he will not be able to give himself fully to the work of the church.

As the leader of the church, the pastor comes under great scrutiny from his congregation and surrounding community. This is as it should be, for the Bible spells out the standards of pastoral behavior clearly. The scrutiny does not end with the pastor, however. Often, the same magnifying glass is turned to his wife and children with an unblinking gaze filled with unrealistic expectations.

We must remember that while God calls men to pastor churches, He does not call the wife into the same ministry. Allow a moment of explanation. The pastor's wife is called to be just that—the pastor's wife, the builder and caretaker of the home. Too often, congregations expect the pastor's wife to be a co-pastor of sorts. We may cringe at that statement, but we often treat her as if she is held to the same standards as the pastor.

It may come as a surprise that the Word of God does *not* list the qualifications for a pastor's wife. The list of qualifications in 1 Timothy 3 mentions her only in the phrase, "husband of one wife." Further on, we find the qualifications for a deacon and the expectations of his wife. The simple point is this. If the Bible doesn't hold the pastor's wife to an unreasonable standard, why do we?

*How often do we see the following scene played out in our communities?* A woman sees a friend at a beauty salon. She is a member of another church in town. The friend asks, "How do you like your new pastor?"

The woman replies with a broad smile, "Oh, he's wonderful—a good preacher, easy to get along with, and he even sings. Handsome too." Then she frowns and says, "But his wife..." You can fill in the blank with just about anything, "She's not friendly enough." "She doesn't talk to anybody." "She just comes to church and goes home." "She doesn't play the piano." "She doesn't sing." "She's not like our last pastor's wife." "She doesn't make those kids stay awake during the sermon."

The list can go on forever. Such criticism is not fair to the pastor's wife or the pastor. The quickest way to drive a pastor away from a church is to put unreasonable expectations on his family. He will take it personally, and he should.

Often, when a new family visits the church, people warm-

ly welcome them—at least they should. Women swarm around the lady to invite her into their circles in order to make her feel a part of the church family, unless the woman happens to be the pastor's wife. In many instances, churches expect the pastor's wife to make the first move to embrace the church family.

**Remember, the new pastor's wife is no different than any other woman that is new to your church.** She just happens to be married to the pastor. She is *not* June Cleaver, Wonder Woman, and Mother Theresa rolled up into a super saint. So, treat your pastor's wife just like you would any other guest to your church. Embrace her. Welcome her to the family. Understand that the only people she knows live in her house, a house that may be owned by the church. Her own family may live far away. Don't make her throw herself at your congregation to be accepted.

Don't let the pastor's wife become lonely in the parsonage. Accept her for who she is, and understand her role, which may be the most difficult in the church. She is the pastor's wife, his confidant and sounding board. She prevents him from making horrible mistakes, saying the wrong things, or reacting in anger. Her job does not necessarily put her in the limelight. She often works quietly behind the scenes, but her role is far more important than most church

## TOO OFTEN, CONGREGATIONS EXPECT THE PASTOR'S WIFE TO BE A CO-PASTOR OF SORTS.

members realize. She keeps the pastor's house in order (and sometimes keeps *him* in order, or at least in check).

So when you see that quiet, or sometimes not so quiet, lady who supports the pastor more than anyone else in the congregation keeping to herself, take it as a signal to include her in the circles of the church. She needs to be loved as much as (or more than) every other church member. You never know when she may be lonely in the parsonage.

Keep this in mind: the pastors who stay at a church longer are often ones whose wives and children have been embraced fully by their congregation, without unreasonable expectations. As you welcome your new pastor, don't forget to include his wife. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** David Amburgey is a writer and a minister. Find information on his latest book, *All Because of War* at [www.AuthorDavidAmburgey.com](http://www.AuthorDavidAmburgey.com).



**A** few years ago my father-in-law—whom I greatly respect—and I were talking and the subject of a Christian school came up. He said, “It would be great if every kid in America could get at least one year of Christian education.” I reflected on that statement. He was not a highly-educated man, but a wise and godly man who understood the value of important things like education.

Today, I write, not from the perspective of a professional teacher or a Christian educator, but as a parent who has seen my children and many others benefit from a Christ-centered educational experience. I write this article to challenge those who read it to consider a Christian education for children or grandchildren.



Let me say first that I realize, for a variety of reasons, not every Christian young person will be able to attend a Christian school. Let me also say that we still need godly, wise Christian teachers willing to teach in the public school system, to counter pervasive humanism that has crept gradually into public school curriculum. I am sad to see this humanistic culture and evolutionary exposure doom many Free Will Baptist young people to mediocre Christianity, and in some cases, to leave faith and church altogether.

C. S. Lewis, noted British theologian of the last century, witnessed this disturbing trend in 1943 England. That year, he published a book entitled *The Abolition of Man* in which he confronted the writers of British school curriculum and language (or *The Green Book* as he called it) for “subverting student values.” He also challenged the “subjective view of values as faulty,” pointing back to the ancient thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, and Augustine, who believed the purpose of education was to train children in “ordinate affections.” That is, to like and dislike what they should—to love the good and hate the bad. The ancients further believed that these values “must be taught through education.”

What Lewis saw in Britain, and what is happening currently on a wide scale in modern American education is called Moral Relativism. This philosophy is based on the denial of objective truth and reality (such as God’s truth revealed in the Bible). According to Moral Relativism, truth is only true if it’s true for you, making it relative. Free Will Baptist parents should be aware of how deeply this pervasive philosophy of education impacts children and counter it at every level possible, through education in the home, the school, and certainly at church.

## Why consider a Christian education?

The reasons and expectations are numerous, but consider a few:

- 1 **THE BIBLE IS TAUGHT AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM** and not as a literary subject or an ancient religious text to be criticized and ultimately rejected.
- 2 **THE SCHOOL SHARES YOUR VALUES.** Can you say this about your local school?
- 3 **SAFETY.** Most Christian schools provide a safe physical, emotional, and spiritual environment in which your child can grow and mature.
- 4 **THE TEACHERS LOVE GOD.** Having a teacher who genuinely cares about your children and their spirit makes a critical difference in life.
- 5 **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IS IMPORTANT.** Standardized test scores from Christian schools continue to rise above the curve.
- 6 **CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS RAISE HOPES FOR SUCCESS AFTER GRADUATION.** Not only can students perform well in college, but they are better prepared spiritually to face the tough challenges that life will give them because of a firm spiritual foundation taught in the Christian school.

It is time for Free Will Baptist churches to step up and support local Christian education in their communities. If your community has no Christian school, consider starting one with your association or other like-minded churches in your community. It has been my experience that community Christian schools are the strongest, both financially and spiritually. Christian education is education for eternity. It’s worth whatever sacrifice you must bear to make it a reality for your child or community.

I end with a quote from the great reformer Martin Luther: “I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not increasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt...I am much afraid that schools will prove to be the great gates of Hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth.” Like Martin Luther, it is imperative for Christians to place a high value on Christian education. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Free Will Baptist Chaplain (MAJ) Simpson is married to Patty and has two children, Keri and Casey, both attending Hampton Christian School in Hampton, Virginia. Chaplain Simpson holds a Bachelor of Arts from Trinity Baptist College, a Master of Divinity from Samford University, and a Master of Science in Counseling from Columbus State University.

## NEWS across the nation

### Missionary Updates

**ALLEN AND JENNY HALL, YORK, PENNSYLVANIA**—Our daughter Allison recently shared with a friend how to get to Heaven. After the girls finished praying, Allen followed up with the little friend to be sure she had assurance and truly understood. Allison had participated in the LYNTYS (Love Your Neighbor; Tell Your Story) evangelism class along with the adults and other children in our mission church. She had practiced how to tell others about Christ and was ready to share. She wasn't afraid to share her faith. That truly is the key to going beyond our praying for someone's salvation, to prepare to share the gospel.

**DAVID AND CHARITY SEXTON, SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA**—We have enjoyed some of the most fruitful days since the beginning of Cross Pointe Church. God has been working in a mighty way. When we finally received our portable baptistry, we baptized six people the first week. We celebrated Friend Day with 127 in attendance, three rededications, and many other decisions. The following Sunday, we had 114 present in the regular services. The Lord has allowed us to have more than 30 first-time visitors over a recent three-week period. Almost all of them have been back two or three weeks in a row. Several of these families have been coming on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights as well. These are exciting days for our church.

**JOSE AND SUHEY CORREA, GURABO, PUERTO RICO**—Our church celebrated the first anniversary for the glory of God. We have approximately 70 people in services each week. It is a blessing to see how God has added so many souls to the congregation and changed so many lives in just one year.

**TIM AND ANGIE RIGGS, MOBILE, ALABAMA**—On March 27, we had the privilege of baptizing 13 new converts. One of the 13 was a lady in her 60s. The other was a young lady in her 20s, and the rest were teens and children.

**HOWARD AND PATSY GWARTNEY, FLORENCE, ARIZONA**—Serving as a volunteer chaplain for the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, I served my 38th and 39th suicide calls this past month. One man was 60 years old and the other man was 27. People are in such despair these days. Suicide in our part of the country is epidemic. In Arizona, it is the ninth ranking cause of death, with an average of eight suicide attempts each day. Pray that I will minister to grieving families effectively, and that I can reach people before they attempt to end their lives.



## Introducing New Missionaries

CH (CPT) W. Lee Frye, Jr. is now in full-time military service as a chaplain for Free Will Baptists in the U. S. Army. He worked for some time as a chaplain in the National Guard. Chaplain Frye is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College and holds a Master of Theology degree from Luther Rice Seminary. Frye and wife Blair have a son, Hayden, and daughter, Lily.



Jaime Hernandez is serving as an associate missionary in a joint project between the Home Missions Department and the Indiana State Mission Board. He will pastor Primera Iglesia Baptista Libre, a Hispanic mission in Elkhart, Indiana. Pastor Jaime studied theology in Mexico City where he also served as pastor and director of a Bible institute for nine years. He has written several articles on family issues, youth, and discipleship. He and his wife Abigail have four children: Daniela (9), Isaac (8), Juda (6), and Efrein (3).



Len and Lynda Blanchard are planting a new Free Will Baptist church in Oxford, Alabama. Oxford is one of two principal cities located in both Calhoun and Talladega Counties. The Blanchards are joint project home missionaries with the state of Alabama and Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Having pastored since 1982, the Blanchards come to Home Missions from a pastorate of 10 years at Shallowford FWB Church in Marietta, Georgia. ■

## A Recent Phone Call to My Office

“Hello, this is Richard Atwood.”

“Hi, I’m calling to see if your department is planning to start a church in (name of city).”

“No, we don’t have any plans at this time.”

“My son and his family live there. I have called a couple of churches and asked them to visit him, but they weren’t interested. It seems that no one wants to do that anymore.”

As the lady talked, her voice cracked, and she started to cry. “I’m worried about his spiritual condition, and I want someone to talk to them about the Lord.”

A Free Will Baptist pastor friend offered to drive two hours to visit them.

**This call made me think of two things:**

We need more good churches all over our country.

There is probably someone in every city that has a Christian who cares and prays for him. It might be a parent, grandparent, sibling, or someone who loves this person a thousand miles away. They are praying, “Oh, Lord, send someone in the city to reach out to them.” That someone might be you. And the person to reach might be somebody who cuts your hair, someone you see at the gym, or a person with whom you work. You could be an answer to prayer. ■



# Preparing for Their Future

BY: JOHN BRUMMITT

**HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW MUCH** financial planning is compared to birds and their nesting habits? “The early bird gets the worm,” your kids “leave the nest,” and you have to build a “nest egg” for retirement. While all of these must be considered for a solid financial plan, let’s focus on kids leaving the nest. Whether you have children now or plan to have them in the future, being prepared for them to leave home is a process you cannot start too early. Like building your “nest egg,” adjusting your financial plan to provide for your child’s secondary education will make life much easier down the road.

The Small Business Job Protection Act passed by Congress in 1996 established 529 provisions that had little to do with college savings. These laws have since been refined to create “qualified tuition programs,” one of the best ways to save for college. Governed by the Internal Revenue Code, section 529, they are commonly referred to as 529 Plans.

The plans fall into two categories, prepaid tuition plans and college savings plans. A prepaid tuition plan locks in the price of tuition at the college or university where the plan is purchased. The prepaid plan covers tuition and fees only, although excess funds can be used for qualified expenses. Prepaid plans place limits on the age and grade when the plans can be purchased and set limits for the duration of the enrollment period. Since prepaid plans are established through the university or college your child plans to attend, the control of the funds rests with the school. Still, many prepaid plans are backed or guaranteed by the state in which the school is located.

College savings plans allow more freedom. These funds can be used for any college tax-free as long as used for “qualified higher edu-



**LIKE BUILDING YOUR “NEST EGG,”  
ADJUSTING YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN  
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SECONDARY EDUCATION WILL MAKE  
LIFE MUCH EASIER DOWN THE ROAD.**

**WHETHER PREPARING FOR YOUR CHILD TO “LEAVE THE NEST” OR BUILDING YOUR OWN “NEST EGG” FOR RETIREMENT, REMEMBER THAT TIME IS ALWAYS YOUR GREATEST INVESTMENT TOOL.**

cation expenses.” These expenses include anything needed for your child to go to college. College savings plans have no age limit or grade requirements like prepaid plans, but they have a contribution limit of \$200,000. Since college savings plans are invested in the market they do carry a certain amount of risk, but their potential for growth is increased.

So which 529 Plan is right for you? One way to answer this question is to consider how much time you have before your little one will head off to college. If your child is already in high school, prepaid plans are appealing. If you know what school your child plans to attend, it may be beneficial to lock in the current tuition rate and hedge against future tuition increases. If your child is young, a college savings plan may be a more feasible option, allowing you to build up college funds at a much earlier date and gain from the benefits of compounding interest.

Once your family decides on which type of plan will

best serve the goals set for your child’s secondary education, make adjustments to your budget to reach the financial goal you have set. Be as diligent in making contributions to your child’s 529 Plan as you are to saving for your own retirement. It is always easier to pay voluntarily into a college fund, than to pay off school loans with additional charges and interest.

Preparing for your child’s college career (like any other life-changing event) is easier with a plan. Whether preparing for your child to “leave the nest” or building your own “nest egg” for retirement, remember that time is always your greatest investment tool. It’s true. “The early bird gets the worm.” 

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** John Brummitt is Chief Financial Officer for the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement.

Sources: <http://www.sec.gov/investor/pubs/intro529.htm>  
<http://www.renitaowenscpa.com/pdf/The-ABCs-of-529-Plans.pdf>



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# Stay Put, Relocate, Downsize?

By Norma Jackson Goldman

**This issue dedicated to marriage and family provides** a wonderful opportunity for singles, couples, and families to give thought to a subject often relegated to the bottom of “to do” lists. Should retirees stay put? Relocate? Downsize? The issue is complicated because so many factors enter into decisions about living arrangements in retirement. If ever there were a time to be unemotional and objective, this is it. While we can’t explore each option in great detail, we can raise important, thought provoking questions.

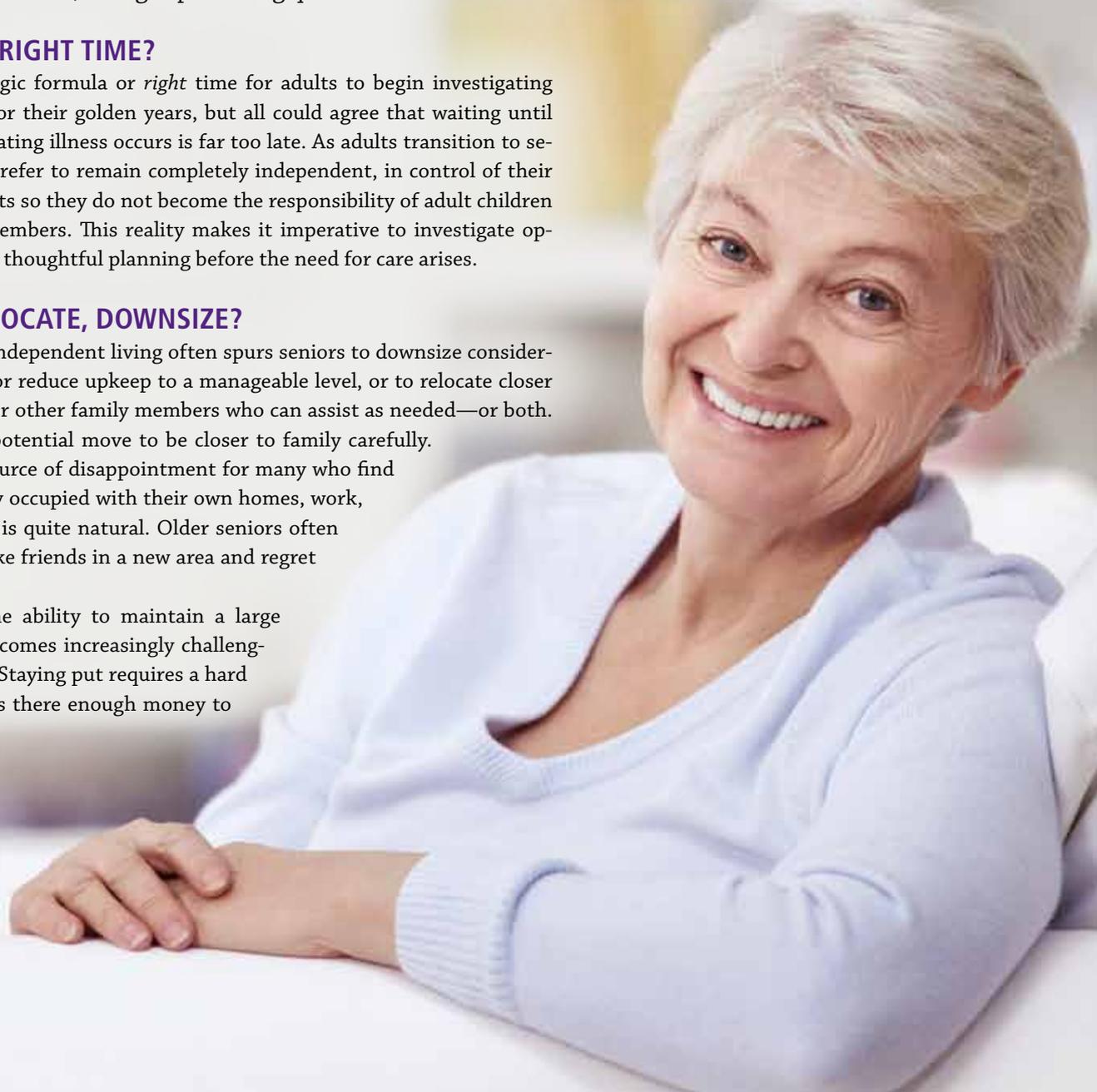
## WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME?

There is no magic formula or *right* time for adults to begin investigating housing options for their golden years, but all could agree that waiting until sickness or debilitating illness occurs is far too late. As adults transition to senior years, most prefer to remain completely independent, in control of their living arrangements so they do not become the responsibility of adult children or other family members. This reality makes it imperative to investigate options and do some thoughtful planning before the need for care arises.

## STAY PUT, RELOCATE, DOWNSIZE?

The desire for independent living often spurs seniors to downsize considerably to eliminate or reduce upkeep to a manageable level, or to relocate closer to adult children or other family members who can assist as needed—or both. Think through a potential move to be closer to family carefully. This has been a source of disappointment for many who find their children fully occupied with their own homes, work, and family, which is quite natural. Older seniors often find it hard to make friends in a new area and regret the move.

Realistically, the ability to maintain a large home and yard becomes increasingly challenging as people age. Staying put requires a hard look at finances. Is there enough money to



live on in addition to home upkeep? Will the financial picture change when one spouse dies? Are both partners in good health? Whether the decision is to relocate or downsize, it should be accomplished while seniors are healthy and can manage the stress of a major move.

## WHY WOULD I NEED ASSISTED LIVING OR LONG-TERM CARE?

Consider the conditions that almost certainly lead to long-term care. If you find yourself single, over 60, with no close relatives nearby, today is a good time to start! Having sole responsibility for your own healthcare decisions requires investigating options and planning well in advance of need. The same is true for couples where either spouse has current ongoing health issues (heart, lung, kidney, diabetes, family history of dementia, etc.). And none of us know when or if an illness will suddenly change our health picture.

These are tough realities, and many emotional considerations cloud the issue. "I'm not ready," "I don't want to live with a lot of old people," "I love my home and my own things," or "I'm in such good health now, I don't even want to consider long-term care" may be thoughts running through

your mind just now. There are many positives, however, to assisted living or senior residential communities. Many find they are happy to be free of lawn care, home maintenance, and even daily meal preparation.

Cost and quality of care are prime considerations. For example, the average cost of long-term care in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Texas ranges from \$6-7,000/month for a semi-private room, and the quality of care varies widely. In Alabama and Mississippi costs are slightly less.<sup>1</sup> These costs are far outside the budgets of average households. Many adults wisely begin their planning with long-term care insurance and especially those plans that include a built-in inflation factor. The earlier this type of insurance is purchased, the lower the cost.

Whatever the decision—relocate, stay put, downsize—the time to plan is now. **ONE**

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

<sup>1</sup> Source: 2009 Metlife Market Survey for Long-Term Care Costs



# Give it twice.

Looking for a way to help both family and charity? A popular option is the Give it Twice Trust.

This type of trust is often funded with an IRA or another taxable retirement plan. When the trust is invested, it produces income for your children for a number of years, and then provides perpetual funding for Free Will Baptist Bible College.

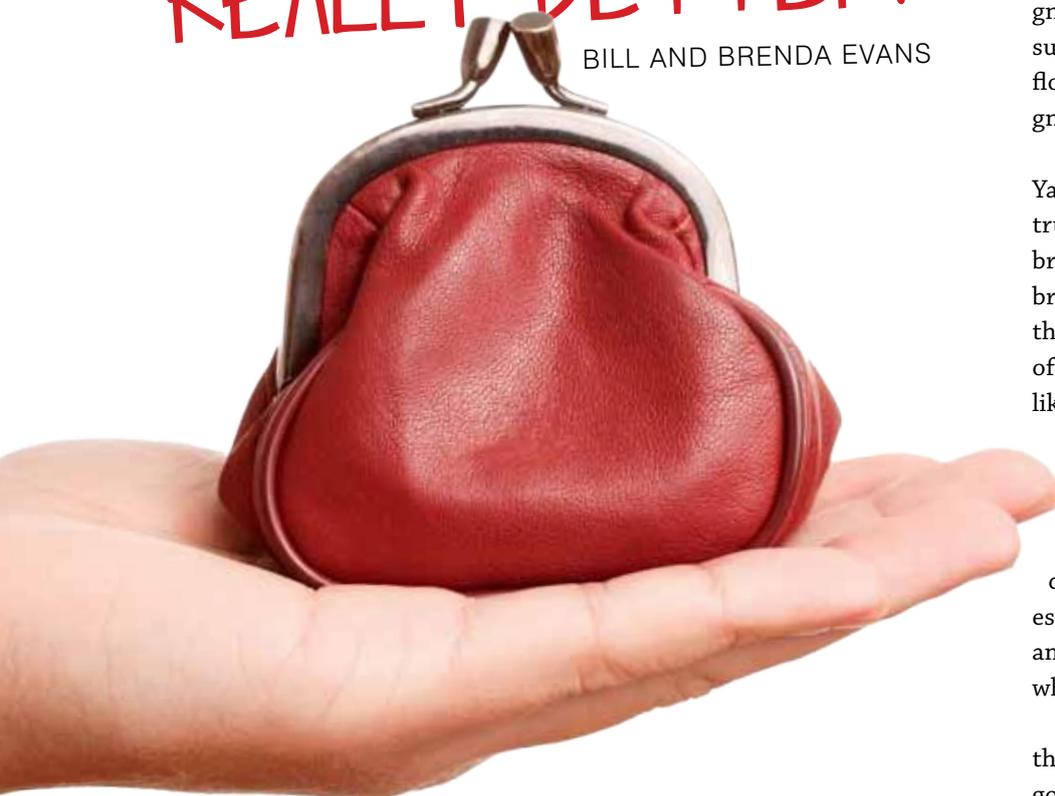
A trust enables you to provide your children or grandchildren an inheritance while enjoying valuable income and estate tax savings from your gift. For more information contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation today.



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# is MORE REALLY BETTER?

BILL AND BRENDA EVANS



**Datchie saw blue smoke, she said, the worst color you can see unless you're longing to die.** At 88 and in weakened health, Datchie was ready. Blue smoke, to her, was the opaque veil between this life and the next, and she was eager for the next.

Besides her blue smoke, a small home, chocolate drop cookies, handmade quilts, and a beige trash can with a \$20 bill scotch-taped to the bottom, Datchie had very little except good friends and a daughter who loved her. Though she flirted with poverty every day, Datchie lived a rich life. She was not destitute, just money poor. The \$20 was her only "stash" of cash and her monthly income check was tiny, but she had friends and joy and no genuine needs.

Datchie taught me that wealth and poverty are slippery words, hard to get a firm grasp on. Proverb writer Agur must also have found them tricky because he asked God to give him "neither poverty nor riches." Poverty might turn him to thievery, he reasoned. Riches could lead to apostasy (Proverbs 30:8-9).

Of course, deep poverty is easier for us to grasp. It is utter destitution, a life-threatening powerlessness to provide food and shelter for oneself or family. Late in World War II in Cerignola, Italy, hungry residents had no meat, salt, sugar, or milk and only small rations of wheat flour. Once the hard wheat cradle of Italy, Cerignola was slowly starving.

So when a nearby Army Air Force squadron, Yanks, as the Italians called them, brought a truck load of Spam, dried eggs, milk, and white bread, one man declared that the Americans had brought "richness" to their town. The truth is, the airmen gave the food because they were tired of dried eggs and Spam, neither of which seemed like "richness" to them.

Christians go back and forth between opinions on poverty and wealth as well. Many idealize poverty, at least austere frugality, and claim that the pursuit of wealth is a deadly trap from which no good Christian can escape. John Wesley and Randy Alcorn, for example, preach that we should give away all except what is needed for barebones living.

Most of us say we fall somewhere between the extremes of hot-footed pursuit of riches and godly self-restraint, yet mostly we get all we can and spend all we earn. The philosophical middle ground or what the Greeks called the Golden Mean isn't what most of us practice when it comes to money. So what should our attitude be?

Jesus, at first glance, seems to come down on the side of poverty. To the Rich Young Ruler He said, "Sell all you have and distribute to the poor... and come, follow me (Luke 18:22). Yet, He said nothing like that to the well-to-do women who provided for Him and His disciples (Luke 8:3).

Nor did He pressure the wealthy Zacchaeus to sell all and give to the poor. He let Zacchaeus decide for himself. Why didn't He poke His finger in the short man's face? Because, as F. F. Bruce says in *The Hard Sayings of Jesus*, Jesus never makes

poverty either a means of grace or a test of obedience.

If Jesus didn't idealize the spiritual benefit of poverty, neither should we. For those Christians who call poverty a discipline of abstinence or simplicity, Dallas Willard in *The Spirit of the Disciplines* says, "No." Genuine poverty is not about either abstinence or simplicity. It is about "crushing deprivation and helplessness," and is simple only in the sense that it puts a person "in a straightjacket tied to a tree" and leaves him "torn and fragmented" by multiplied hardships of life.

## JESUS NEVER MAKES POVERTY EITHER A MEANS OF GRACE OR A TEST OF OBEDIENCE.

If Jesus doesn't call poverty spiritual, does He call wealth evil? Again, no. It is Christians who have prejudice against wealth, Dallas Willard says. Admittedly, Jesus warns His followers: "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:24). And in the parable of the sower, He cautions that "the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word" (Matthew 13: 22).

But Paul adds perspective on Jesus' comments about wealth. In 1 Timothy, he addressed the issue twice. First, warning that ambition for riches may lead to destructive lusts and to love of money that destroys and brings "many sorrows" (6:9-10). Yet several lines later he speaks to "those who are rich" and reminds them to avoid haughtiness and not to trust in the uncertainty of wealth. Furthermore, he affirms that God gives us richly all things to enjoy. Then he urges the wealthy to "be

rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share" (6:17-19).

Willard says that Paul's exhortation to the rich has an interesting logic: "If giving is good, having is also good. If giving much is good, having much is also good. If giving more is good, having more is also good."

And what about Jesus' commands to help the poor, the weak, the disenfranchised? He says give to the poor, the hungry, any who ask. Invite the destitute, the maimed, the lame, and the blind to our feasts. Give our coats, distribute alms, lend expecting no re-

turn. How can we meet those expectations if we ourselves are in near-poverty? As Willard says, "Being poor is one of the poorest ways to help the poor."

Deuteronomy chapters 29 and 30 are startling in their relevancy on how to view possessions. The Israelites found themselves at Moab, ready to enter the Land of Promise. There, Moses reiterated the covenant at Sinai (Horeb), beginning with "You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes.... Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do" (29:2, 9). Moses' choice of the word *prosper* strikes me as both visceral and intellectual. Emotionally, our viscus—an internal organ such as heart, liver, intestines—is stirred by the hope of prosperity. Our longings or sorrows erupt from our hearts, we say. The ancients' thought deepest emotions came from the liver or bowels. Either way, Moses' words stir deep yearnings within us—yearnings for success,

prosperity, wealth.

But *prosper*, as used here, implies more. Exegetes say it is both imperative and conditional: *Do* consider, *do* look carefully, become intelligent, prudent, act wisely. *Then* you will be successful (prosper) in the land I am bringing you into. Can we find a better 21st-century guide to thinking about wealth than that?

American Christians are renowned for financial imprudence, for stupidities. Go back to Deuteronomy 29 and 30. Stand there before the Lord among the hoi polloi. Hear the blessings; hear the cursing (29:14, 15). Then choose, but choose well; cling only to Him, not to prosperity (30:19, 20). Among other things, these passages tell me not to be possessed by my possessions, as Dallas Willard warns.

Jesus commanded the Rich Young Ruler to give his soul away. His command to us is the same, and our triune God is the only one in a position to require that of us. What does that entail? Unreserved commitment to manage our possessions under his double mandate of love God and love our fellowman. Together, those two compel us to manage our wealth to the praise of God and the aid of those in spiritual and physical need.

Willard calls this "the right use of our possessions." To abandon the goods of this world to the enemies of God is to fail. Godly men and women must assume the responsibility, under God and by His power, he says, of "owning and directing the world's wealth and goods."

So, yes, managing more wealth is better. But letting our wealth manage us is not. **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, KY. They are proud grandparents of seven.

# BROWN on green

## DEATH TAXES

**It has been said the only two things you cannot escape are death and taxes.**

Unfortunately for some, even death will not stop taxes. During the last few years, federal estate tax law has been on a roller coaster ride of ups, downs, and constant changes. In 2005, estates were taxable if they exceeded \$1.5 million. By 2009, that number had increased to \$3.5 million with the top tax rate ranging from 45% to 47%. In 2010, estate tax went away completely. Congress is still struggling to find a permanent solution, but a patch has been put in place for 2011 and 2012 making \$5 million the threshold for taxable estates with the top tax rate being set at 35%.

For many years, state death taxes were tied to federal estate tax laws, but with the constant change of the last few years many states uncoupled their state death tax from the federal and set their own rates and taxable thresholds. Unfortunately, many states have set the taxable estate amounts considerably lower than the federal threshold, and many people may find their estates escaping federal estate tax only to be hit by their own state death tax.

Estates exceeding \$1 million are taxable in 11 states. While the top tax rate for state tax is considerably less than the federal rate, several states have a top rate of 16%, and three states range from 18-20%. The worst double whammy is found in New Jersey where estates larger than \$675,000 are taxable, and the top rate is 16%. Ohio has the lowest taxable estate threshold at \$338,333. However Ohio's top tax rate is a relatively low 7%.

Many people, even those in the middle class, may find their estate qualifies for state death taxes. It is reasonable to expect many will have retirement accounts alone that will push their estates into taxable territory. What should you do if your estate exceeds your state death tax threshold? First, you should consult with a local attorney. You could relocate to a state with no death tax. In some cases, a married couple can split their estate so each portion will fall under the minimum taxable estate. You can also make charitable bequests from your estate to reduce the taxable amount. You may be able to systematically transfer small portions of your estate to your heirs using the annual gift tax exclusion (currently \$13,000 a year).

It's true that death is certain, but with careful planning, you might escape state death taxes by using the laws in your state. **ONE**

# worst state estate Taxes

State	Exemption	Tax Rates
District of Columbia	Estates under \$1 million	Top rate of 16%
Maine	Estates under \$1 million	Top rate of 16%
Maryland	Estates under \$1 million	Top rate of 16%
Massachusetts	Estates under \$1 million	Top rate of 16%
Minnesota	Estates under \$1 million	Top rate of 16%
New Jersey	Estates under \$675,000	Top rate of 16%
New York	Estates under \$1 million	Top rate of 16%
Ohio	Estates under \$338,333	Top rate of 7%
Oregon	Estates under \$1 million	Top rate of 16%
Rhode Island	Estates under \$850,000	Top rate of 16%
Tennessee	Estates under \$1 million	Top rate 9.5%

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

# The King of Books

BY DANNY CONN

*This year marks a unique milestone in Bible history: 2011 is the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. No other book has exerted such an influence on the world. A review of the history and climate of its production will help us appreciate the profound impact this translation has had on the English-speaking world.*

*In 1567, James VI, king of Scotland came to the throne after his mother, Mary Queen of Scots, was forced to abdicate the crown. Mary was a staunch Roman Catholic, but the Scottish lords were Protestants. When Queen Elizabeth of England died in 1603, her cousin James VI of Scotland became James I of England.*

*As the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, James took an active role in matters of the church. Shortly after assuming the throne, he called for a meeting to hear of the "things pretended to be amiss in the Church," which stemmed from complaints made by the Puritans. The Hampton Court Conference, January 1604, was convened to hear these matters. Puritan leader, Dr. John Reynolds, proposed a new translation of the Bible, and although the suggestion met some resistance, it caught the attention of the king.*

## THE WORK COMMISSIONED

James called for the work to be done by the “best learned” of the universities and the church. The primary financier of the project was London printer, Mr. Robert Barker, who invested up to £3,500 pounds, for which he was awarded the copyright.

Although the king originally proposed 54 translators, the number was reduced to 47 during the three years before formal work began. The translators were divided into six committees: three for the Old Testament, two for the New Testament, and one for the Apocrypha.

Fifteen rules for translation were provided, which reflect, at least to some degree, the preferences of James I.



## THE RULES TO BE OBSERVED IN THE TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE:

1. The ordinary Bible read in the Church, commonly called the *Bishops Bible*, to be followed, and as little altered as the Truth of the original will permit.
2. The Names of the Prophets, and the Holy Writers, with the other Names of the Text, to be retained, as nigh as may be, accordingly as they were vulgarly used.
3. The old Ecclesiastical Words to be kept, *viz.* the Word *Church* not to be translated *Congregation* &c.
4. When a Word hath divers Significations, that to be kept which hath been most commonly used by the most of the Ancient Fathers, being agreeable to the Propriety of the Place and the Analogy of the Faith.
5. The Division of the Chapters to be altered, either not at all, or as little as may be, if Necessity so require.
6. No Marginal Notes at all to be affixed, but only for the Explanation of the *Hebrew* or *Greek* Words, which cannot without some circumlocution, so briefly and fitly be express'd in the Text.
7. Such Quotations of Places to be marginally set down as shall serve for the fit Reference of one Scripture to another.
8. Every particular Man of each Company, to take the same Chapter, or Chapters, and having translated or amended them severally by himself, where he thinketh good, all to meet together, confer what they have done, and agree for their Parts what shall stand.
9. As anyone Company hath dispatched anyone Book in this Manner they shall send it to the rest, to be consider'd of seriously and judiciously, for His Majesty is very careful in this Point.
10. If any Company upon the Review of the Book so sent, doubt or differ upon any Place, to send them Word thereof; note the Place, and withal send the Reasons, to which if they consent not, the Difference to be compounded at the General Meeting, which is to be of the chief Persons of each Company, at the end of the Work.
11. When any Place of special Obscurity is doubted of Letters to be directed, by Authority, to send to any Learned Man in the Land, for his Judgement of such a Place.
12. Letters to be sent from every Bishop to the rest of his Clergy, admonishing them of this Translation in hand; and to move and charge as many as being skilful in the Tongues; and having taken Pains in that kind, to send his particular Observations to the Company, either at *Westminster*, *Cambridge* or *Oxford*.
13. The Directors in each Company, to be the Deans of *Westminster* and *Chester* for that Place; and the King's Professors in the *Hebrew* or *Greek* in either University.
14. These translations to be used when they agree better with the Text than the *Bishops Bible*. *Tindoll's*. *Matthews*. *Coverdale's*. *Whitchurch's*. *Geneva*.
15. Besides the said Directors before mentioned, three or four of the most Ancient and Grave Divines, in either of the Universities, not employed in Translating; to be assigned by the Vice-Chancellor, upon Conference with the rest of the Heads, to be Overseers of the Translations as well *Hebrew* as *Greek*, for the better Observation of the 4th Rule above specified.

## THE WORK INITIATED

The work began in 1607. Each committee member translated the same section individually, and then met as a committee to review, discuss, and agree on the preferred rendition.

After the initial translation, a 12-member review committee revised the entire work. The review process continued for nine months. Two of the Review Committee members superintended the work during the printing process, which took an additional two years. It was published in May 1611.

## THE WORK EXPLAINED

Realizing their work could be viewed with suspicion, the translators wrote a rather lengthy preface—the *Translators to the Reader*—to explain their intent for producing a new translation. In order for people to be able to meditate on Scripture, translation was necessary. “But how shall men meditate in that, which they cannot understand? How shall they understand that which is kept close in an unknown tongue?” In defense of being accused of heresy for daring to make a translation of the Scriptures, they cited the example of the Septuagint, recognizing it was not a perfect work, but still a useful one:

*The translation of the Seventy dissenteth from the Original in many places, neither doth it come near it, for perspicuity, gravity, majesty; yet which of the Apostles did condemn it? Condemn it? Nay, they used it, . . . which they would not have done, nor by their example of using it, so grace and commend it to the Church, if it had been unworthy of the appellation and name of the word of God.<sup>1</sup>*

To those who questioned the validity of a translation, they replied:

*Now to the latter we answer; that we do not deny, nay we affirm and avow, that the very meanest translation of the Bible in English, set forth by men of our profession, . . . containeth the word of God, nay, is the word of God. As the King’s speech, which he uttereth in Parliament, being translated into French, Dutch, Italian, and Latin, is still the King’s speech, though it be not interpreted by every Translator with the like grace, nor peradventure so fitly for phrase, nor so expressly for sense, everywhere . . . No cause therefore why the word translated should be denied to be*



*the word, or forbidden to be current, notwithstanding that some imperfections and blemishes may be noted in the setting forth of it.<sup>2</sup>*

There is no record of the translation being presented to the Privy Council or being ratified by the royal authority, in accordance with the king’s original order. However, since the Bishops’ Bible was not printed after 1611, the King James Version (KJV) became the largest English Bible in publication, thereby making it the official Bible to be used in churches, in accordance with the king’s 1541 Injunction. Some scholars consider this the technical “authority” for the 1611 Bible. In this view, the KJV is authorized more by default than by fiat. The king’s printer apparently had some justification for asserting it was “appointed to be read in churches.” There does not seem to be any challenge to this claim, and it is clear the publication was the result of the king’s Hampton Court Conference. So, while there may not have been a final official ratification, it seems reasonable to conclude that the 1611 Bible enjoyed royal sanction. This was only the fourth English Bible to have royal license of any sort.

## THE WORK REVISED

The first major revision of the King James Bible was produced at Cambridge in 1629. It expanded the marginal notes concerning the text and gave attention to punctuation and italics. The 1638 Cambridge revision made extensive revision of text, italics, and marginal readings.

The 1762 Cambridge edition included extensive revisions, but most copies were destroyed in a fire. A revised edition in 1769, printed in Oxford, built on that work became known as the Oxford Standard Edition. A host of other printings and revisions were produced in England and America, but none eclipsed the Oxford Standard, which is found in most King James Bibles today. Though frequently printed and revised, no other English Bible was produced between 1611 and 1881.

## THE WORK ADMIRER

It is widely accepted that the King James Bible is the most printed book in history, with more than a billion copies printed. Although this number is impossible to prove, it illustrates the immense popularity of this version of the Bible. The KJV still accounts for about 15% of all American Bibles purchased.

The King James Bible served a significant role in shaping the English language and hymnody. For more than a century it has been lauded as “the noblest monument of English prose.” Numerous factors contributed to its popularity. It drew from the best scholars in biblical languages of its day. A large committee, from various doctrinal views, diligently compared the existing translations to produce the rendering that best communicated the literal expression in the contemporary language. Its literary value and linguistic style was unequalled. Its prose and poetry worked its way into the every day language of the people. Lacking objectionable marginal notes, it was adopted by churches of varying theological positions. Along with being printed in a large pulpit size, it was also available in smaller editions, which made it affordable for personal use. In short, it appealed to the king, the church, and the home.

The fact that we are celebrating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible is a testament of its enduring quality. It has served well for generations of English

*"It is widely  
accepted that the  
King James Bible  
is the most printed  
book in history..."*

speaking believers. May the blessing of the KJV translators, to those who translated the Scriptures before them, be applied to their noble effort as well:

*Therefore blessed be they, and most honoured be their name, that break the ice, and giveth onset upon that which helpeth forward to the saving of souls. Now what can be more available thereto, than to deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they understand?<sup>3</sup> ONE*

About the Writer: Dr. Danny Conn is editorial director at Randall House Publications.

Taken in part from, *The Heritage of the English Bible*, by Danny Conn, Ed.D., Randall House, 2011.

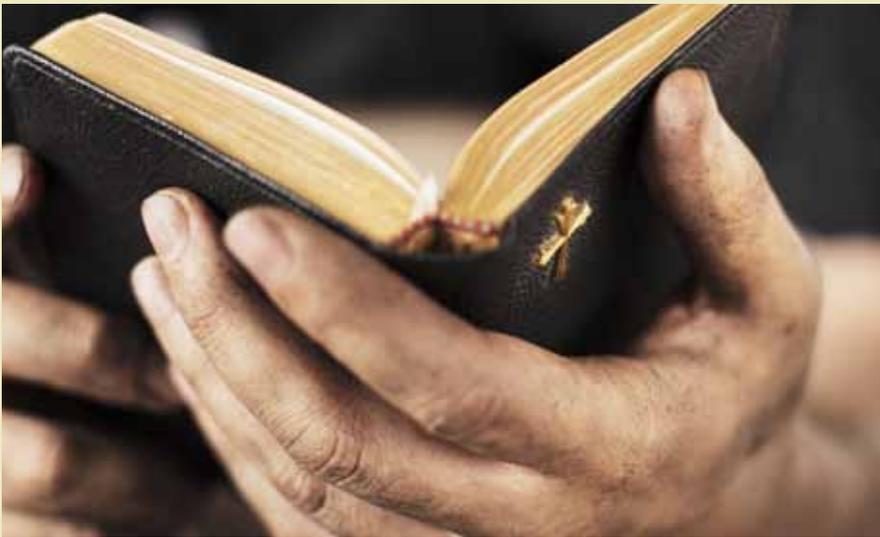
## ENDNOTES

- 1 *King James Version of the Holy Bible*, “The Translators to the Reader” [book on-line] (London: Robert Barker, 1611, accessed 21 November 2010) available from [http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/kjv.i\\_1.html](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/kjv.i_1.html); Internet.
- 2 *Ibid.*
- 3 *Ibid.*

# WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE

By Ken Riggs

**“Be ready to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you.”**



**Over the years, this phrase from 1 Peter 3:15 has almost become a passion for me. To rephrase it simply, be ready to tell people why you believe what you believe.**

One of my college professors, who taught a secular subject at a secular college, taught this lesson by example. A rather large man, he lectured to his Saturday morning class each week while sitting cross-legged on the desk. One Saturday, he announced that his subject for the next class would be “Why I am a Christian and believe the Bible is true.” He went on to tell the class he would not force anyone to come and hear such a lecture.

Quite frankly, I was surprised to hear this on a secular campus, and I thought few would attend the lecture. To my surprise, not a single student was absent. As he began, the professor gave us two reasons for his lecture. If he failed to speak on the subject, he was afraid many students in the class would never hear the gospel. Second, he wanted believers in the class to know clearly why we believed what we believed in order to communicate our beliefs to others. Although this took place in the early 1970s, I have never forgotten that day.

Since that time, I have striven to state clearly to others why I believe what I believe, particularly as it relates to the Bible. I have always believed the Bible but I haven’t always been able to explain why. Today, I believe the Bible more than ever, and I know why I believe it.

## Influence on Society

As a society, we have seen and experienced the influence of the Bible—in the words of U.S. Presidents, civilization itself, America as a nation, and in education. Space does not permit a lengthy listing of examples, but I hope the following will suffice.

## Presidential Words

“It is impossible to govern the world the world without the Bible” (George Washington).

“The Bible makes the best people in the world” (Thomas Jefferson).

“But for this book, we could not know right from wrong. I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man” (Abraham Lincoln).

“No educated man can afford to be ignorant of the Bible” (Theodore Roosevelt).

“The whole of the inspirations of our civilization springs from the teachings of Christ. To read the Bible is a necessity of life” (Herbert Hoover).

More recent Presidents could be cited along with world leaders, military generals, scientists, and historians who have also expressed their belief in the Bible as the Word of God.

## Civilization Itself

Much of our present day calendar and its holidays stem from the Bible. Literature, art, and music often find origin in the Bible. When you consider the great art in many museums—such as DaVinci’s *The Last Supper*—or listen to Handel’s *Messiah*, it is unmistakable that the Bible has had a profound impact upon civilization.

## America as a Nation

Belief in the Bible led to the discovery of the New World. “In the name of the most Holy Trinity who inspired me with the idea and afterwards made it perfectly clear to me that I could go to the Indies from Spain by traveling the ocean” (Christopher Columbus, 1492). It was this same belief that led the Pilgrims

to seek religious freedom in this country. Today, many of the 50 states still refer to the Bible in their constitutions. With a rare exception, elected officials continue to place their right hands on the Bible and vow to obey the Constitution of the United States as they begin their terms in office.

## Education

The Bible had a profound influence on American education in many areas. In 1647, Massachusetts passed *The Old Deluder Satan Act*. This law stated that any community with more than 50 families had to establish a school for the purpose of teaching children to read so they could read the Bible "...ere that old deluder Satan..." captivate their minds. The colonists were so intent on education that they imposed a fine on communities that refused to comply.

In 1780, the Sunday School Movement began under the leadership of Robert Raikes, Christian newspaper editor from Gloucester, England. At the time, child labor was popular, and many children worked six days a week in local factories. The only day they did not work was Sunday.

Mr. Raikes hired a lady named Mrs. Meredith, and together they began schooling children each Sunday in her kitchen. The simple curriculum consisted of reading, writing, arithmetic, and religion, and the children studied these subjects for six to eight hours each Sunday. Not everyone was pleased with the idea, and Raikes was labeled a heretic for doing such a thing on Sunday, but his idea began to spread. John and Charles Wesley were captivated by the idea, and when they came to preach in America they established similar schools that came to be known as Sunday Schools.

Formal education had long been reserved for the rich and wealthy, but Raikes sought to educate the poor. It soon became obvious that his idea could work and led to more widespread educa-

tion for the poor. Schools became known as "pauper" schools, a name later changed to public schools. Today, what started in Mrs. Meredith's small kitchen has come to be known as public education.

Many present day universities also trace their beginnings to the Bible. Schools like Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Columbia were started for the express purpose of training young men for ministry.

## Hospitals and Medicine

Take a drive through your community, and you will notice quickly that many hospitals are religious in nature. The very emblem of medicine is a serpent wrapped around a pole. Read Numbers 21:8, 9 to learn the story of that icon. The fields of medicine and psychology have long acknowledged the importance and power of prayer and faith in the healing process.

## Indestructibility Under Stress

The Bible has always been under attack, yet it has never been defeated. It stands in spite of political, religious, and philosophical persecution.

## Political and Religious Persecution

More than one political leader has tried to rid the world of the Bible. Consider Roman Emperor Diocletian. In A.D. 303, he sought to destroy all existing Bibles by burning them. He posted a sign reading, "Extinct is the Bible." Diocletian has been dead for nearly 1,800 years, but the Word of God continues. Countless others have tried to destroy the Bible as well, to no avail.

Even religious leaders have sought to get rid of the Bible, condemning those who believed it as heretics and radicals. John Wycliffe and William Tyndale opposed such religious tyranny and fought to translate the Bible into the language of the common man. Both men risked their lives for the Bible. Both were persecuted publicly for their faith, an attempt to discredit their beliefs and discourage others from believing the Bible. Ironically, their

work stands to this day, and their actions inspired generations of men and women to stand strong on their belief in God's Word.

## Philosophical Persecution

Philosophers through the ages have sought to discredit the Bible. Joseph Stalin wanted to eradicate the influence of the Bible in his homeland of Russia. He sought to drive it out by destroying both the book and believers, yet the Russian church remains alive and well. Thomas Paine boasted he had gone through the Bible with a knife like a farmer cuts down weeds in the field. He predicted the time would come when not a single copy of the Bible would remain, yet today the Bible remains the most influential book in print, sold on the shelves of most bookstores.

In a 1965 *TIME* magazine article, popular skeptic Thomas Altizer posed the question, "Is God dead?" His arrogant questions planted seeds of doubt in a generation of young minds, but obviously, he was wrong, and his philosophy is seldom mentioned today. In contrast, the Bible continues to thrive. Politically, religiously, and philosophically, the Bible continues to face attacks, yet it continues.

## Instruction and Inspiration

Your attitude determines what you believe about the Bible. If you are indifferent, you will not be convinced completely of its truth. Many are ignorant about the Bible. Some are ignorant because they do not know any better. Others are ignorant by choice. Yet those who are open to teaching and instruction will come to appreciate its truth.

The Bible gives us inspiration and instruction in two areas: belief and behavior. What you believe determines how you behave, and how you behave demonstrates to others what you believe. What you believe—or don't believe—about the Bible determines what you believe about all other areas of life and is reflected in

your behavior. If you doubt this, check yourself on creation or evolution, humanity and sin, values and morality. What you believe about these biblical subjects deeply affects your behavior.

How does the Bible inspire you? The Bible can lift your spirit in times of discouragement, raise your morale in difficulty, bring you encouragement in times of doubt, and comfort you when you face death. Believe me, I have experienced each of these, and the Bible has never let me down!

### What if?

But what if I'm wrong? What if the Bible is not true—no Heaven, no Hell, no God, or eternal life? For nearly 20 years, I have taught classes at Nashville State Community College. I never announce to my classes that I am a believer or a minister of the gospel, but they quickly get the idea.

On many occasions, students ask what I believe about morality, faith, and the Bible. One particular student proudly claimed to be an atheist during the first class of the semester, and he was determined that I would not change his mind.

For an entire semester he sat close to the front, was very polite, participated in discussions, and was a good student.

Near the end of the semester, I called him aside after class and told him the two of us had something in common. He was shocked. "What do we have in common? You believe in God, Jesus, and the Bible, and I don't."

I responded quickly, "Notice what you just said. You said you believe there is no God, no Jesus, no Heaven, no Hell, or eternal life. What we hold in common is faith. Any time you say you believe, you express faith. It simply boils down to what you choose to believe. By faith, I believe in God. By faith, you don't, yet we both believe." Having gained his attention, I continued. "Suppose I'm wrong and you're right. Suppose when I die, I learn everything I believed wasn't true. Will it hurt me to have believed it anyway? On the other hand, if you die and discover that I was right and you were wrong. You've got a big problem, but it will be too late to do anything about it."

My student replied soberly, "You've got a good point. You've almost con-

vinced me there is a God, but I'm not ready to say for sure yet."

He left, and I haven't seen him since. I hope he got my point.

I hope you get my point too. While I can't prove the truth of God and the Bible in a scientific way, what I've observed about its influence certainly gives me comfort and assurance. The Bible has stood the test of time, and it has never let me down. Recently, I preached the funeral of a dear friend. In the message I told listeners, "I've never met a Christian who regretted his faith when it came time to die."

I've settled the question in my mind. I believe the Bible is the only authoritative and inspired Word of God. As a pastor friend of mine once said, "I still don't understand some things in the Bible, but what I do understand keeps me so busy I just don't have time to worry about the rest!" **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Dr. Ken Riggs has been an ordained Free Will Baptist minister and educator since 1963. He recently published the book, *They Call Me Doc*, available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## NEWS at FWBBC

### Men's Resident Director Shifts Focus

Reverend Michael Oliver, who completed two years as men's resident director at Free Will Baptist Bible College in May, announced plans to shift his ministry focus this summer to the college's Institutional Advancement Office where he currently serves as administrative assistant.

"My family and I had a wonderful experience working with the young men in FWBBC's Goen Hall," Oliver said. "We watched with joy as dozens of teen-aged boys enrolled as freshmen and matured as serious students and Christian gentlemen. We faced a number of challenges and opportunities, and God gave us grace for it all."

Oliver graduated with his bachelor's degree in General Christian Ministries in May. Michael, his wife Kim, and sons Seth (12) and Jon-Albert (9) plan to relocate from Goen Hall to a new parsonage under construction at Stony Point Free Will Baptist Church in Vanleer (Tennessee) where Oliver pastors. He will commute daily to FWBBC.

David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement, said, "For the past two years, Michael has worn a lot of hats—full-time college student, pastor, resident director, administrative assistant for the Advancement Office, husband, and father. He's a great asset to the college and a fine example as an employee." ■

## NEWS at FWBBC

### Board of Trustees Recommends Name Change

During its May 4-5 meeting preceding commencement exercises, the Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees voted 8-1 to recommend that the college change its name to Welch College, according to Chairman Terry Pierce. The name change proposal was presented to delegates for discussion at the 2011 national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, and will be voted on during the 2012 national convention in Memphis.

The recommendation came one year after the Board authorized college officials to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of such a move. This spring, FWBBC surveyed nearly 10,000 constituents about the proposed change, and results indicate that alumni, donors, and other denominational stakeholders strongly support the idea. Meanwhile, college administrators continue to speak with pastors, churches, and focus groups about issues driving the name change—recruitment, graduate access to restricted-access countries, alumni concerns, campus relocation, donor support, and more.

In related action, the Board voted to initiate discussions with prospective buyers to sell individual campus buildings that do not impact student life and studies directly. All funds from the

sale(s) will go toward relocation efforts and will be applied to debt reduction on the Gallatin property purchased in 2008 where the college plans to build on a 66-acre tract in nearby Sumner County. Funds from the sale(s) will significantly lower the loan's principal and interest payments. A portion of the savings will be board-directed toward a limited amount of capital repairs on the West End campus.

The Board also voted to honor Dr. Milton B. Fields, FWBBC's vice president for institutional planning, who retires this summer after 17 years of leadership at the college. Dr. Fields was presented a plaque during commencement activities citing his role as an innovative and visionary educator. He filled a number of critical positions during his FWBBC career, including chairman of the Teacher Education Department (1994-1999), academic dean (1998-2006), and vice president for institutional planning (2006-2011). A retirement dinner was held in his honor May 26.

President Pinson said, "We had a great Board meeting, and I thank God for those nine good men who gave so generously of their time and insight to provide direction and oversight of Free Will Baptist Bible College." ■

### 33 Graduate in Commencement Exercises

Free Will Baptist Bible College conferred degrees on 33 students from 12 states during commencement exercises at Memorial Auditorium on Friday, May 6, according to President Matt Pinson. Students completed degrees in multiple programs ranging from two-year associate's degrees to four-year bachelor's degrees. Forty-two percent of the class graduated with honors.

Dr. Eddie Moody, pastor at Tippett's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Clayton, North Carolina, challenged graduates to "Do the Hard Thing," as he spoke from Psalm 15. "Hard things pay off," he said. "We have a heritage and this college because somebody did the hard thing." He urged hearers to honor those who do right, to use tact and wisdom when handling truth, to embrace loyalty in the church and home and community. Moody is a 1989 FWBBC graduate and associate professor and department chair at North Carolina Central University. Randall House recently published his book, *First Aid for Emotional Hurts* and a booklet series titled *First Aid for Your Emotional Hurts*.

Free Will Baptist Executive Secretary Keith Burden delivered an 18-minute baccalaureate message from 1 Chronicles 22, emphasizing preparation, people, and principles. He reminded

graduates that God was worthy of their best, that it was time to "get up and go to work." Burden pastored 27 years in Oklahoma and California, and served 22 years as an officer of the National Association of Free Will Baptists before being elected executive secretary in 2002. The Oklahoma native is editor-in-chief of *ONE Magazine* and a graduate of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

Kathy Murphy, a member of the teacher education faculty, was named Academic Advisor of the Year. President Pinson presented plaques to retiring vice president for institutional planning Milton Fields, citing his 17 years as an academic leader and visionary, and to Tom Sass, the college's vice president for financial affairs, for 25 years as chief financial officer.



## 2011 Graduates with Majors and Honors

### *Associate of Science in Biology Degree*

**Deborah Lynn Creech**  
Macon, GA

### *Associate of Science in Business Degree*

**Valerie Louise Conner**  
Madison Heights, MI

### *Associate of Science in Ministry Degrees*

**Michael Adam Holloway**  
Soddy Daisy, TN

**Steven Nicholas Robeson**  
Jerome, ID

**Jena Lorraine Simpson**  
Joelton, TN

**Jeremy Shane Suggs**  
Colquitt, GA

**Brian Michael Vitoritt**  
Virginia Beach, VA

### *Bachelor of Science Degrees*

**Cason Earl Anderson \*\*\***  
Nashville, TN  
*Youth Ministry*

**Rachel Dawn Bequette \***  
Marquand, MO  
*Business Administration*  
*International Emphasis*

**Desirae Hope Clark**  
Virginia Beach, VA  
*Biblical and Ministry Studies*  
*Missions*

**Joshua Miles Coker \***  
Iuka, MS  
*Psychology*

**Mary Elizabeth Eller**  
LaVergne, TN  
*Child Development and Learning*  
*Licensure K-6*

**Rachael Michelle Fawver \***  
Knoxville, TN  
*Early Childhood*  
*Licensure PreK-3*

**Rodney Adam Garrett**  
Desoto, MO  
*Music Performance*

**Samantha Kaye Hajek \***  
St. Charles, MO  
*Child Development and Learning*  
*Licensure K-6*

**Robert Shane Huey**  
Tupelo, MS  
*Church Music*

**Lauren Holt Jolly \*\***  
Glasgow, KY  
*Psychology*

**Christopher Lynn Kernan**  
Desloge, MO  
*Christian Education*

**Michael Anthony Oliver \***  
Nashville, TN  
*General Christian Ministries*

**David Anthony Pool \***  
Aulander, NC  
*History*  
*Licensure 7-12*

**Misty Rose Waldrop**  
Clarksville, TN  
*Early Childhood*

**Kurston Shea Ward \*\*\***  
Van Buren, AR  
*English*  
*Licensure 7-12*

**Robert Owen Wilkerson**  
Belleville, MI  
*General Christian Ministries*

### *Bachelor of Arts Degrees*

**Miriam Hardin Bishop \*\***  
Greenville, NC  
*English*

**Nathan Robert Franks \*\*\***  
Mount Olive, AL  
*Biblical and Ministry Studies*  
*Missions*

**Christa Colleen Hill \*\*\***  
Norton, VA  
*English*

**Michael Dale Isom**  
Keller, TX  
*English*

**William Thomas Holloway**  
Albany, GA  
*Biblical and Ministry Studies*  
*Pastoral Ministry*

**Sara Nicole McAllister \***  
North Little Rock, AR  
*English*

**Juliana Joy Munsey \*\***  
Newport, TN  
*Biblical Studies*  
*Missions and Business*

**Kevin Lee Murray**  
Gastonia, NC  
*History*

**Jordan Nathaniel Osborn**  
Cordova, TN  
*Biblical and Ministry Studies*  
*Pastoral Ministry*

**Sara-Ann Ellen Stokes**  
Nashville, TN  
*Biblical Studies*  
*Psychology*

\* Cum Laude

\*\* Magna Cum Laude

\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude



## Student Body Elects Officers

Five undergraduate students at Free Will Baptist Bible College were elected by their peers to serve as 2011-2012 Student Body officers.

**Frank Thornsbury**, sophomore History major from Oil Springs, Kentucky, was elected president. Vice-president is sophomore **Alex Knox**, a Psychology major from Ashland City, Tennessee. **Taylor Ford**, a freshman Nursing major also from Ashland City, will serve as secretary-treasurer.

Junior Pastoral Ministry major **Greg Smith** from Whittemore, Michigan, was elected chaplain and will provide spiritual leadership for the student body. Another Pastoral Ministry major, freshman **Richie Kyburz** from DeSoto, Missouri, will serve as worship leader.

# + INTERSECT

where the BIBLE meets life

## E-Readers Must Be Readers

BY GARNETT REID

**Shock. Heartbreak. Grief.** *“This can’t be happening.”*

I found myself in denial as I read the headline. Our local bookstore—my favorite hangout—had filed for bankruptcy and would soon close. No more chilling on the comfortable sofas skimming the latest best-sellers or meeting favorite authors at book signings.

Experts are confirming what I had feared: we are no longer a print culture. My bookstore found that out the hard way. Image now rules. Books as we know them are an endangered species—maybe. I’m a holdout, though.

### E-Books and THE Book

I have nothing against e-books, mind you. Kindle, Nook, SonyReader, and all the others pose no threat to this non-techie. I do spend a lot of time online and confess to minimal social networking, however. Some of my family and friends do the e-book thing; I’m delighted they enjoy that. But cuddling up with a nice screen offers no appeal to this bibliophile.

With that disclaimer on the table, I offer my real concern about where our culture—especially our Christian culture—is headed with regard to books and reading. When we neglect the larger world of reading in general, neglecting THE Book, the Bible, naturally follows, particularly in an increasingly secular culture.

My evidence for that conclusion is largely based on experience and ob-

servaion, I admit. After 30 years of teaching college students, more and more of them confess that they don’t like to read, period. They also let me know that they don’t read the Bible that much, either. The rate of biblical illiteracy today is staggering; dozens of studies support that fact.

### Three Reasons

While there may be many reasons for this tragic and dangerous trend, I suggest only three here. The first may surprise you, and I’m not sure I can prove it. I fear that despite the benefits offered by reliable, modern translations of the Bible, the sheer number of translations on the market may be a hindrance to the church’s collective familiarity with Scripture. The recognition factor of familiar phrases and verses when one version was the

standard now seems minimal across the evangelical church community. That situation may or may not squelch interest in Bible reading. I suspect it does, though.

Another factor contributing to the increasing neglect of reading Scripture is the decline of reading across the board. One recent Survey of Public Participation in the Arts notes a 17% downturn in reading among 18 to 24-year-olds from 1982 to 2002. People read fewer books now. They more often surf and skim quickly online to find what they want, then move on. Anyone who reads mystery novels knows that more authors are responding to this trend by writing short chapters.

The third and, to me, most significant reason why more people struggle with serious Bible reading involves the nature of e-reading. Nicholas Carr and others contend that increased time online and reading screens actually reroutes our brain circuitry. We become accustomed to snippets of texts and short bits of data. Searching and hyperlinking distract our attention and reduce concentration.

In the early days of books, readers learned to follow an extended line of thought through a succession of pages. As one writer puts it, however, “thinking substantively in a sound bite culture” is tough to do. What e-readers want is a wide variety of info delivered with speed and connectedness on screen. With this “power browsing,” the net grabs our attention only to scatter it quickly.

### We Need to Read

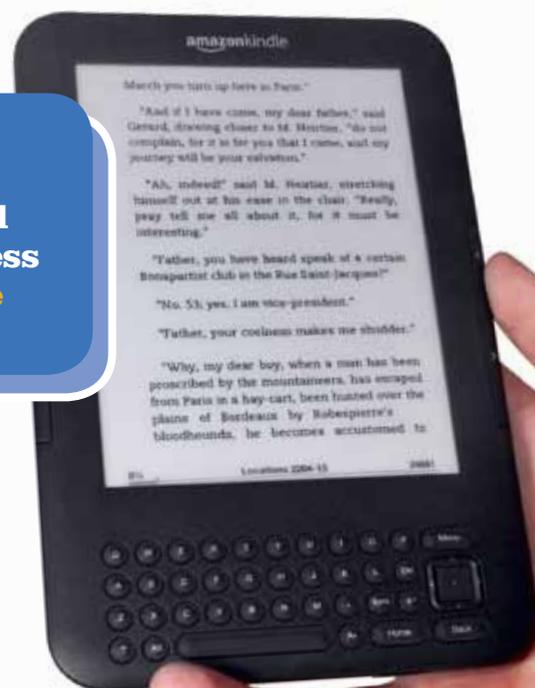
To be sure, it takes time to read

Scripture thoroughly and carefully. But not as much time as you may think. An average reader can read the book of Judges in an hour-and-a-half, Ecclesiastes in half-an-hour, Jonah in seven minutes, Hebrews in 45, and First Corinthians in 40 minutes. He can read the entire New Testament in only 16 hours, and the whole Bible in 72 hours of steady, concentrated reading.

To paraphrase Paul, trusting God comes through knowing God, and knowing God comes through reading God's Book. I'm all for studying the Word, whether it's on a page or online; whether I'm on a beach or a bus, in the mood or out of sorts. We need to read. God's people must follow the example of the Berean Christians in Acts 17 who investigated the Scriptures closely. Learn the details—the stories, verses, and concepts of the Bible. But master the big picture, too—the sweeping storylines that portray God's work in human history as He revealed it in words. As Eugene Peterson exhorts, we should hold out for "traveling widely in Holy Scripture."

In truth, one of the most evident ways we love our God is in taking the time to read carefully what He tells us. **ONE**

**After 30 years of teaching college students, more and more of them confess that they don't like to read, period.**



**INTERSECT: Where the BIBLE Meets Life** is a regular column written by Dr. Garnett Reid, a member of the Bible faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

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# THOUGH THE EARTH BE MOVED

BY RUTH MCDONALD



## WHEN FOUNDATIONS TREMBLE

**NOTHING'S BEEN THE SAME IN JAPAN SINCE MARCH 11.  
IT TRULY WAS ONE OF THOSE "WHERE WERE YOU WHEN...?" KIND OF EVENTS.**

At 2:46 on Friday afternoon, March 11, I was upstairs in our house in Tokyo, sorting and pricing items for an upcoming bazaar at my children's school. As I worked through a box of old Christmas decorations, I came across an ancient, ugly wreath. I considered throwing it away but then thought, "If I take off this pitiful bow, maybe someone will buy it." As I began to untwist the ragged bow, the room began to shake.

Earthquakes are not unusual in Tokyo, and this one started like many others. I expected it to be over in a few seconds. As the house continued to shake with more intensity, I realized this was no ordinary quake. Grasping the handrail, I made my way downstairs as though I were on a lurching, pitching ship at sea. My husband and I met in the *genkan*, hurriedly put on our shoes, and went outside. Standing in front of the house, we watched as the

cars danced and jumped in the driveway, utility poles swayed and bent, and the houses in our neighborhood rattled and tilted. The ground shifted beneath our feet, making it difficult to keep our balance. Fearing the collapse of buildings around us, we made our way to an open field nearby, joining neighbors who had also fled their homes.

At some point, I began praying aloud, "Lord, help us! Lord, protect our girls at school! Lord, protect the people

who are at the epicenter of this earthquake!” After an extremely long three and a half minutes, the shaking finally stopped.

That’s when I discovered I was still grasping that tacky Christmas bow in my hand! I laughed at my neighbors’ curious expressions as they looked at what I had selected to bring from my home in the moment of evacuation.

We went back into the house and surveyed the damage—a broken lamp, mirror, and vase. Books scattered across the floor. Furniture slightly rearranged. “Whew! We got off easy!” we thought. We had no idea how true that was.

## IN THE AFTERMATH

Apocalyptic movies are not my favorites, but I’ve seen a few scenes complete

**THE SCENES BROADCAST IN MY LIVING ROOM ON MARCH 11, HOWEVER, WERE COMPLETELY REAL AND TOO HORRIBLE FOR MY MIND TO GRASP.**

with terrifying computer graphics. The scenes broadcast in my living room on March 11, however, were completely real and too horrible for my mind to grasp. We watched a 90-foot wall of water hit the eastern coast of Japan. Five-story buildings were swept away; entire towns were decimated; people were literally running for their lives. We sat and watched in horror as some were washed out to sea.

In a matter of minutes, life ended for around 28,000 people. Most of them were aware of the tsunami warning and fled to safety as planned. Unbelievably, more than a hundred designated evacuation sites were swallowed by the giant wave that drove ashore at the

speed of Japan’s famous bullet train with enough force to mangle steel.

In a matter of moments, 200,000 people became homeless evacuees, living without even the most basic of life-sustaining supplies.

The 9.0 magnitude quake permanently changed the coastline, shifting the entire island eight feet to the east and sinking the coastal areas over three feet into the sea. Even the tilt of the earth on its axis has altered four inches as a result of the Great Tohoku-Kanto Earthquake. As incredible as those facts are, the change in the hearts of Japan’s people has been almost as dramatic.

About 36 hours after the quake, we met with our little group of believers at the Good News Chapel here in Tokyo. Japanese do not usually show emotion, but on this day strong men wept as they called out to God for His intervention in the nuclear disaster. A lady grieved for her hometown of Minami Sanriku, where 10,000 residents were simply gone. Another couple led in prayer for their nephew who was among the brave workers risking life and health at the Fukushima Power Plant.

God Himself spoke as we read together from Psalm 46: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.”

He whispered His peace as we continued: “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.”

## HOPE SPRINGS FROM TRAGEDY

A few hours after the quake, mis-

sionaries and Japanese Christians around the Tokyo area met for an organizational meeting to begin relief work for the hard-hit Tohoku area. Some six years earlier, a young missionary named Jonathan Wilson had begun laying groundwork for a Christian disaster response network. He applied for a government license, printed literature, and started a database. Like Noah building the ark when no rain was falling, he spent six years gathering contact information from Christians willing to help in the event of a major disaster.

Overnight, CRASH (Christian Relief, Assistance, Support, and Hope) changed from a mere database to a full-blown relief organization. The first 747 aircraft arrived carrying 97 tons of relief goods from Samaritan’s Purse, and suddenly missionaries and others were plunged into a different kind of ministry than they’d ever envisioned for Japan.

For many evacuees, Christian volunteers were the first to arrive with water, food, and life-sustaining supplies. To date, four base camps have been set up to facilitate relief and recovery ministries to those most affected by the events of March 11. More than 50 relief organizations and hundreds of volunteers, including teams from Free Will Baptist International Missions, have been mobilized to bring hope and healing to the people of Japan.

The church in Japan has changed. Comprising only one-half of one percent of the population, Christians have long felt powerless to make a difference. Add to that the non-confrontational culture and the resistance of the public to the message, and you have a recipe for a weak and discouraged church. But God is changing and empowering His people.

A young believer from a church in the devastation zone stood in the de-





bris and wept as he said, “The people who lived around our church were swept away by the tsunami and are gone. I never did anything for any of them. May God forgive me and enable me to spend the rest of my life loving people in His name.”

Seven members of the Baptist church in Fukushima work at the radiation-tainted Tokyo Electric Power Company. Though one of them fled the jobsite in fear, he returned with his Bible and a newfound determination to tell the other workers about the hope

and healing found in Christ.

As a man in our Tokyo congregation said, “We shouldn’t be surprised at recent events in Japan. God told us in the Bible that these kinds of things would happen before the return of Christ. We just need to be busy getting the word out that His coming is getting near!”

We live 250 kilometers from the hardest hit area of Japan, yet daily life for our neighbors changed. Food shortages, blackouts, fear of radiation in the water, daily aftershocks, and financial loss became the “new normal” in our area. Uncertainty, anxiety, and a willingness to talk about real emotions became a sign of a post-March 11 nation.

### AN OPEN DOOR

After countless prayers for the harvest in Japan, it seems the hearts of the people are changing. People are receiving Bibles and Christian literature eagerly. According to one Japanese pastor in the Tohoku area, “Some are

accepting Christ without question.” Volunteers are given opportunities to pray with survivors, to counsel with children, and even to do radio broadcasts on the emotional help that can be found through Christ. God, through His people, is reaching evacuation centers, government offices, and even a group taking refuge in a Buddhist temple.

As one missionary in Sendai said, “Now is the time to ask God for Japan. Let’s believe for this earthquake to be a sign of the Lord shaking the old structures that resist Him, and that like Paul and Silas, we will see a massive turning to Him. Pray also that now we will see a spiritual tsunami that will wash over Japan with the healing power and love of God.” **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Ruth McDonald and her husband Donnie have been missionaries to one of the hard places since 1986. Read more about the McDonalds and the ongoing relief work in Japan at [www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com).

# THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING!

## IN MAY,

THESE ARE JUST A HANDFUL OF THE LIVES YOU IMPACT WITH YOUR GIFTS, ESPECIALLY THE ANNUAL WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING IN APRIL.

- ✿ the first convert in a creative access ministry in France was baptized.
- ✿ four people in Santiago, Panama, accepted Christ during an evangelistic campaign.
- ✿ 250 children and parents heard the gospel during a children’s festival in Nantes, France.
- ✿ the church in Marincek, Brazil, used its new sanctuary for an outreach to women.
- ✿ Pastor Jérôme baptized 11 believers in Côte d’Ivoire.
- ✿ the Rivera church voted to become the first self-supporting Uruguayan FWB church.

Thank you for giving to this year’s WMO and for sharing the life-changing gospel with people in France, Panama, Brazil, Côte d’Ivoire, Uruguay, and other parts of the world.

# NEWS

## around the world

### Funding System Adjusted to Meet Denominational Needs

**ANTIOCH, TN**—“Even as we implemented the approved new funding system in January 2010,” stated Danny Williams, International Missions’ board chairman, “we acknowledged that we might need to make future adjustments.” After continuing conversations with pastors and laymen, state and national leaders, supporters of both designated giving and general giving, the board determined adjustments needed to be made.

Discussions with various segments of the Mission’s constituency revealed that many, if not most, of our Free Will Baptist people prefer designated giving. Some of these same people were willing to support the Mission and global evangelism efforts regardless of the funding structure; however, when designating their funds, they indicated they give more.

The following adjustments have been made:

- 1) Strategic Ministry Partnerships (SMPs) are eliminated. Instead, each missionary has a fund (i.e., Poole Fund, Barker Fund, Awtrey Fund, Price Fund) for his comprehensive support and ministry. Every contributor is considered a partner with no requirements or restrictions concerning the amount given.
- 2) Donors may contribute designated or undesignated gifts. Undesignated gifts will be used to support the entire work of the Mission around the world. Designated gifts will be applied as designated—to individual missionary funds or partner field ministries (Russia, Cuba, etc.). Donors may inquire at any time as to the fund balance of the missionaries or projects they support.

“I am confident that a perfect funding system does not exist,” Interim General Director Clint Morgan asserted. “However, the board and leadership team have diligently considered, discussed, and sought God’s direction to provide a support system that is reflective of the realities of our constituency, appreciated by each donor, and capable of producing the resources necessary to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.” ■



**Brazil**—Though the new auditorium for the Marincek FWB Church in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, was not furnished for services, it did not deter the congregation from using it for an outreach event. A mother/daughter banquet was held in May with 81 women and girls present. ■



**Panama**—Lori Torrison is teaching a parenting class at the Penonomé public library. Many young women do not have the needed support during pregnancy and beyond. ■



**France**—The Nantes FWB Church hosted a children’s festival on Saturday, May 28. Over 100 neighborhood kids swarmed in for the festivities. At least one lady visited the church because of the festival. ■



**France**—Gaelle was baptized on May 22 in Aix en Provence, France. She is the only Christian in her family. ■



**Uruguay**—David and Kendra Dodson returned from Uruguay on May 26. They are currently on leave of absence while determining where they, with their unique gifts and talents, “fit” in cross-cultural ministry. ■



**Panama**—The second major outreach event in Santiago led to four people accepting Christ as Savior. The St. Vicente FWB Church participated in this effort, providing drama and music as well as distributing invitations. ■



**France**—A couple who attended the Nantes church for three years was baptized in May. Their teenage son began looking for answers to life and biblical questions, was saved, and baptized two years ago. Two more of their five children have also accepted Christ as Savior. ■



**Bulgaria**—In celebration of the Day of the Child in Bulgaria, the Svishtov church hosted games in a local park. Christians were afforded opportunities to speak with parents through this outreach event. ■



**France**—Anna was baptized in a joint service of the Châteaubriant and St. Sébastien churches on June 19. ■



**E-TEAMS IMPACT EIGHT LOCATIONS:** Major flight delays, rescheduling, and lost luggage did not deter the 80 students and 16 leaders participating in E-TEAM 2011. Students traveled to Brazil, Chicago, Cuba, France, Japan, Panama, St. Croix, and Uruguay. Teens distributed literature, assisted with vacation Bible schools, interacted with local teens, shared testimonies, sang, performed mimes, participated in English classes, assisted with disaster relief, enlivened children's events with painting faces and making balloon animals, and learned about the culture and history of their host cities.



**Uruguay**—The Rivera FWB Church is on track to become the first self-supporting FWB church in Uruguay. Pastor Carlos will be a full-time pastor.



**Brazil**—Three Christian teens died in a late-night car accident Saturday, June 4, in Campinas, Brazil. The boys had been participating in an outdoor prayer meeting. All three boys—Danilo, Miquéias, Rodrigo—had vibrant testimonies. Although the São José congregation has been rocked by their deaths, they have had opportunity to minister to the boys' unsaved family members and friends. ■



**Panama**—After many delays, Lázaro and Ariadna emigrated from Cuba to Panama on June 2. The couple will be taking on much of the responsibility of operating the Chame Bible Institute. ■



## McDaniels Resign, Join TEAM

**ANTIOCH, TN**—The board accept the resignations of Patrick and Jill McDaniel on May 25, 2011. “After much prayerful consideration,” the McDaniels wrote, “we have decided that, in light of the current financial situation and restrictions on sending missionaries, we must seek another avenue for getting to the field...to plant churches among those who have no opportunity to hear the gospel.” Patrick and Jill were approved for service in creative access ministries December 2010. However, the approval stated that they would wait indefinitely for deputation and employment by the Mission due to the Mission's financial constraints. ■

# What's the **IMPACT?**

What the **D6 CONFERENCE** is Doing to Shape **FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES** and **HOMES**



**I WENT TO D6 TWO YEARS AGO AS A MOM.** I had visions of my children growing up and doing great and mighty things for the Lord in the long-term, and I knew I wasn't going to see my visions come to reality when my biggest short-term goal was "yell less." I needed direction.

I got to D6 and realized that I had set my expectations way too low. I was there to refocus and recharge my family. Others were there to refocus and recharge the entire body of Christ. It was like a light bulb moment for me. I saw the way the family unit is woven throughout the Bible. God's design was for His name to be passed down through the generations from parent to child, inside the home.

I immediately jumped on board. I can get behind a church revolution that aims to equip the family to take back ownership of its spiritual health. A lot of parents believe that church is for learning God the same way that school is for learning Algebra. The result? We are producing people who rank God's importance in their lives right up there with...Algebra. If He doesn't penetrate the walls of our homes,

it *will* be communicated that He isn't important.

As parents, we shouldn't find this overwhelming. On the contrary, we should find it empowering. Finally, there is a better plan than just take them to church and hope it sticks. It's been God's plan all along. — Jessica Jordan Swindol



**ATTENDING THE D6 CONFERENCE HAS CHALLENGED EVERY AREA OF MINISTRY AT OUR CHURCH.**

We knew the correct philosophy—that the home is the primary spiritual influence on a child's life—but struggled to build that philosophy into our regular programming.

That's where D6 comes in. While there, we learned how to program based

on the correct philosophy of ministering to families—God's way!

The resources found at this conference will expose you to a biblical foundation of family ministry and equip you to put it into every aspect of your church ministry. From infants to senior saints, everyone will see a major shift in your church philosophy of ministry.

I can't recommend this conference enough. Do whatever it takes to get your leaders there! Thank you, Randall House, for your cutting-edge work and vision to see the next generation of Free Will Baptist churches ready to change the world, one home at a time!

— Darin Gibbs



**IN THE SHORT TIME THE D6 CONFERENCE HAS BEEN AROUND, IT HAS MADE GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO MY LIFE.**

It came into being during the high school years of two of my grandsons who attend the church where I pastor.

The first conference pointed out boldly the great losses of youth from our churches. The sessions highlighted the need to prepare our youth to stand strong against the many faith-

destroying challenges they face today.

The resources and program highlights at the first D6 Conference strengthened our resolve and equipped us with resources to accomplish this goal. We have seen great results as our daughter and her husband implemented these resources in their home over the last few years.

Through the continuing D6 conferences, we are being encouraged to further implement programs and strategies that equip the families of our church to stem the tide of church-raised youth who desert the faith during the high school and college years. I anticipate many improvements in this area of ministry in our churches.

There are many offerings at the typical D6 conference, and I believe everyone will find something helpful for their ministry and personal life. I encourage all who can to give it a try; I think you will find something both pleasing and profitable.

— Pastor John Smith

**D6 Conference** →

DALLAS, TX • SEPTEMBER 21—23, 2011

# LEADERPROFILE

by Ron Hunter Jr.

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



## TIM YORK

Imagine being in downtown New York City on September 11, 2001. You feel the ground rumble and see people running for safety. You head out into the streets to see what is happening, and all you find is chaos. You rush up to the nearest firefighter to get directions, and you see the urgency on his face. You see his lips moving, but you can't hear what is being said because you are deaf. Who will communicate with you to give you directions?

In the Buffalo, New York, area 70,000 deaf people need spiritual direction for matters of far greater urgency than any terrorist attack. Tim and Amanda York felt God calling them to start not one but two churches in the Buffalo area—one typical church, and one entirely for deaf people. Amanda is a gifted signer, and together they will begin the first deaf Free Will Baptist church.

Tim, originally from Kentucky and raised by godly parents, felt called to preach at age 12. When asked why he felt God called him, he quickly responded, "Being aware of God's universal plan for evangelizing the world, recognizing my personal responsibility in achieving the Great Commission, and having established a slave mentality toward Christ created a recipe for God to place His call upon my life."

Tim holds an M.A.R. in evangelism and church planting and an M.R.E. in discipleship. But his calling and passion to step out in unique ways are what make him a leader. Leaders don't move in large packs. They launch out ahead of others where they must go, not where people think they should go. **Tim York, you are a great leader!** ONE

### What are the top three books you have read (other than the Bible)?

*The Unexpected Journey* by Thom Rainer

*The Vanishing Conscience* by John F. MacArthur

*Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell

### What is your one indulgence?

Starbucks coffee

### Describe your quiet time.

Personal Bible study of specific book or topic and the reading of a Psalm and Proverb daily mixed with listening to podcasts of great sermons.

### What gifts and talents do you feel God has given you?

American Sign Language (ASL), administration, discipleship teaching, creative design, and playing stringed instruments.

### Describe an ideal date for you and Amanda.

I love spontaneous dates ranging from putt-putt, to sharing a hotdog at farm-league baseball team. Once a year we save our money to go to a UK basketball game and cheer until we are hoarse.

### Paper or Plastic Questions Mountains or Ocean?

Ocean

### Music or Talk Radio?

Talk Radio

### Coke or Pepsi?

Coke

### Email or Texting?

Texting

### Mac or PC?

Do they still make PCs?

*Taking the next step in men's ministry.*

# WHAT'S NEXT?

BY ERIC K. THOMSEN

**“I want people to know that Master’s Men is more than sports,” says Director Ken Akers with a smile. “Don’t get me wrong. We enjoy softball and golf, and they are a great way to fellowship and raise funds, but they are a very small part of what we do.**

**Master’s Men** is about promoting spiritual growth among Free Will Baptist men. We want to develop men of purpose, purity, and passion—men who are serious about loving God, leading their families, and serving their churches and denomination. Stronger men build stronger homes, and stronger homes make stronger churches.”

Master’s Men brings together groups (or chapters) of Free Will Baptist men in local churches regularly for fellowship, Bible study (using studies provided by Master’s Men), and service activities. In addition to these local church activities, men across the nation work together to carry out cooperative projects, from training to building Home Mission churches to providing Free Will Baptist disaster relief. Consider the opportunities available to you in the coming year.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Free Will Baptist Disaster Relief has become an integral part of the mission of Master’s Men. After Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005, Free Will Baptists responded by giving hundreds of thousands of dollars to storm victims. The overwhelming response made it clear Free Will Baptists needed an organized plan to channel relief efforts and supplies to victims of natural disasters. Master’s Men assumed responsibility for coordinating these efforts for the denomination.

In 2010, the department spearheaded relief efforts in Haiti after a powerful earthquake leveled the island nation. They rebuilt an orphanage dormitory destroyed by the quake, installed water filtration systems after a cholera outbreak further threatened the health of the islanders, and constructed greenhouses to provide thousands of seedlings that will provide nourishment to starving Haitians.

In recent months, Free Will Baptist volunteers have re-

mained busy providing relief to cities in the tornado-ravaged areas such as Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and Joplin, Missouri. To join the Free Will Baptist Disaster Relief team, visit [www.fwbmastersmen.com](http://www.fwbmastersmen.com) or call 877-767-8039.

In July, Master’s Men coordinated **Impact Charlotte**, the annual one-day, outreach event held in conjunction with the Free Will Baptist convention. Since 2006, more than 2,000 volunteers have participated in neighborhood outreach, renovated churches and homes, and canvassed neighborhoods with door-to-door evangelism. These men, women, and young people have seen 47 people come to know Christ as a result of their efforts.

**Operation Saturation** is an annual joint project between Master’s Men and Free Will Baptist Home Missions. On August 27, 2011, volunteers—both men and women—from across the nation will gather in Buffalo, New York, to participate in a one-day information blitz. Under the direction of home missionaries Brian Williams, Darin Alvis, and Timothy York they will blanket neighborhoods near NorthPoint FWB Church, going door-to-door with flyers, surveys, and other relationship materials about the new congregation.



**Ongoing Ridge Church** maintenance will continue August 15-19. After four years of intense renovation, the annual project will turn its attention to upkeep and minor repairs. No special skills are needed, and everyone is encouraged to participate. "If you can lift a paint brush, you qualify for this trip," said Akers.

In previous years, volunteers repaired the sagging roof, replacing joists and worn shingles. They painted the exterior, removed two deteriorating chimneys, reinforced the bell tower, repaired drainage problems under the church, and renovated the interior of the sanctuary.

The church, which began meeting in 1793, was constructed in 1820-21, making it the oldest standing Free Will Baptist church structure. The project began after delegates to the 2007 convention voted to help the New Durham congregation (which no longer meets at the Ridge Church) maintain the aging structure in light of its historic significance.

**CMI (Count Me In) Conferences** are state and regional events that challenge men to a deeper spiritual walk while teaching them to mentor others effectively. The next CMI Conference will take place October 20, 21 on the campus of California Christian College in Fresno.

The **National Softball Tournament** and **Golf Challenge** will be held August 4-6 in Nashville, Tennessee. Softball teams will enjoy two days of high-impact tournament competition—at least five games—with other Free Will Baptists from across the denomination. Golfers will enjoy the annual Golf Challenge at Windtree Golf Course in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. The two-man, best-ball tournament will be followed by an awards ceremony and barbeque lunch in the clubhouse.

## WHAT WILL YOU HELP MASTER'S MEN DO NEXT?

Director Akers is the first to admit he has tackled a big job. "Master's Men is a department of one," he quips. "With only one full-time employee and a part-time assistant, we lean heavily on the support of Free Will Baptist men and women to get the job done. Without prayer, volunteers, and financial support, Master's Men would be unable to continue this ministry."

His statement begs the question. What will you help Master's Men do next? Join Master's Men, whether through support or personal participation, to make a difference in and through the lives of Free Will Baptist men. 

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

## THE MISSION OF MASTER'S MEN

**The Master's Men Department exists to accomplish the following purposes:**

### DISCIPLESHIP

An effective Master's Men chapter facilitates spiritual growth in men. Faithful teaching of the Word of God calls men to intimacy with God, purity in life, leadership in the home, faithful worship, mentoring others, commitment to the mission of church and denomination, prayer for pastor(s), and a burden to share the gospel.

### STEWARDSHIP

Master's Men members are taught to support the ministry of the local church and denomination financially. They learn that stewardship involves not only giving to the Lord's work, but giving their lives to advance Christ's kingdom.

### SOUL-WINNING

Master's Men mobilizes men of the denomination out of spiritual lethargy and challenges them to influence their families, communities, and workplaces with the life-changing message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### EDIFICATION

Master's Men equips men to serve the Lord through their local church by developing them into spiritual leaders.

### FELLOWSHIP

Men need the examples and encouragement other men can provide. One of the greatest benefits of a Master's Men chapter in any church is the relationships that develop as the result of a common commitment to the person of Jesus Christ.

**Does your church need a Master's Men chapter?**

**WITH YOUR PAID MEMBERSHIP TO MASTER'S MEN, YOU WILL RECEIVE:**

- Membership for every man in your church.
- Direction Bible Studies.
- Meeting Planning Guides.
- Priceless Opportunities for Fellowship and Inspiration.

**Visit [WWW.FWBMASSTERSMEN.ORG](http://WWW.FWBMASSTERSMEN.ORG), or call 877-767-8039 to learn more.**

## NEWS WNAC and MM

### Michigan Women Provide Over \$14,000 in Mission Household Goods



**ANTIOCH, TN**—Michigan Women Active for Christ donated and delivered over \$14,000 worth of goods for the Steward Missionary Provision Closet. The Closet, an ongoing ministry of WNAC, supplies new household goods, appliances, and gift cards for Free Will Baptist international and home missionary families, Bible institutes and other mission-related endeavors, all at no cost to missionaries or mission agencies.

Michigan WAC field worker Katy Taylor and her husband Rudy brought the trailer-full of gifts to the WNAC offices early Saturday morning, April 23. WNAC Director Elizabeth Hodges and husband Eddie, along with FWBIM missionaries Sam and June McVay, welcomed the Michigan guests. The three couples worked together most of the day, sorting goods and stocking Closet shelves.

Since the Closet's inception in 1962, Michigan WAC has led the way in this effort. Women in the Wolverine State stockpile items throughout the year to bring to their annual WAC state meeting. Volunteers load the items and make the 10-hour trip to personally deliver the goods. WAC groups participating in this year's effort include Harmony, Comstock, Benton Harbor, North Warren, Central, Woodhaven, Heritage, Rouge, Trinity, Ten Mile, First FWB of Hazel Park, Pontiac, FWB Chapel, and Kirby. ■

Since the Closet's inception in 1962, Michigan WAC

### North Carolina Church Finishes Scholarships

**JACKSONVILLE, NC**—"How much more would it take?" inquired Larry Haggard, pastor of First FWB Church, Jacksonville, NC, after WNAC Executive Director Elizabeth Hodges shared pictures and information about 2010 Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship recipients with this congregation. Adriana Evangelista da Silva, Alessandra de Paula, Ana Paula de Carvalho, and Daniela Emiliano each received gifts to cover 18 months of tuition costs at Free Will Baptist Bible institutes in Brazil. The North Carolina church now plans to fund the remaining amount for each woman's two-year study program.

This scholarship, named in honor of the former WNAC leader, provides financial assistance for promising Free Will Baptist individuals pursuing ministry training within their own countries or geographic regions. Delegates to the WNAC Convention annually select and approve recipients based on recommendations from Free Will Baptist mission leadership. Scholarship amounts vary according to need and available funds (gifts designated within that year). ■

## Pray, Give, Exercise

**ANTIOCH, TN**—Women’s groups across the nation will bend their knees and stretch their vision during the 2011 PreThanksgiving Week of Prayer for National Home Missions, November 14-18. In coordination with the “Body Builders” theme, this year’s event offers women opportunity to exercise prayer and giving through fitness-related activities. The annual five-day prayer observance promotes focused intercession for Free Will Baptist Home Missions needs throughout North America and encourages giving to the Mission: North America Offering. Last year, WAC groups contributed over \$8,000 to this special offering.

WNAC observes two weeks of prayer each year in conjunction with seasonal holidays: PreEaster Week of Prayer for World Missions in the spring and PreThanksgiving Week of Prayer for National Home Missions in the fall. WNAC also encourages women’s groups to designate a third week of prayer for state-sponsored Free Will Baptist mission efforts.

**For more information or to request free PreThanksgiving Week of Prayer resources, email [office@wnac.org](mailto:office@wnac.org) or call 877-767-7662.** ■



## WNAC Thanks Faithful Supporters



**ANTIOCH, TN**—Women Nationally Active for Christ ended the fiscal year in the black, thanks to generous gifts from churches and individuals. Support for the WNAC office totaled \$127,078.30, including \$3,397 given through Together Way/Rest of the Family offerings. The rest came largely through designated gifts to the general fund, faith promise support and the WNAC Mother’s Day Emphasis Offering, as well as money collected in membership fees and earnings from the Marjorie Workman Endowment. These monies, coupled with budget cuts and concerted cost-saving measures enabled WNAC ministries to cover daily operational costs, office rental, equipment and supplies, salaries, resource development, and promotional travel. ■

## Master’s Men Sponsors Trip to Alaska

**NORTH POLE, ALASKA**—Master’s Men sponsored a men’s missions/fishing trip July 2-9. The trip began with Sunday worship at Northern Lights FWB Church where Ron Wallace pastors. The church treated the visitors to an adventurous meal of moose, bear, reindeer, halibut, and other local flavor.

On Monday, the 16-person team of volunteers removed the existing church entrance and replaced it with a larger, wheelchair-friendly ramp. The next morning, they embarked on a seven-hour trip to Valdez where they enjoyed several days of good fishing before returning to the church to finish the work project.

“We had a great time,” said Director Ken Akers, “and I am thankful for the men who participated in this trip, especially for their cooperation and hard work.” ■



# NEWS about the denomination

## David F. Wells to Address Leadership Conference



**ANTIOCH, TN**—Dr. David F. Wells, author of the book, *Courage to Be Protestant*, has been named keynote speaker for the 2011 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference to be held December 5-6 at the Marriott Nashville Airport Hotel, according to Executive Secretary Keith Burden.

The annual event, which provides a meeting venue for denominational boards and agencies, is open to any Free Will Baptist minister or leader. The two-day meeting features nightly worship services, a full slate of workshops, and free time for fellowship and networking.

Dr. Wells is Distinguished Senior Research Professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Wells received his B.D. from the University of London; Th.M. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Ph.D. from Manchester University (England); and was a post-doctoral Research Fellow at Yale Divinity School. He is a council member of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals. The Cambridge Declaration came about in 1996 as a result of his book *No Place for Truth, or Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology?*

To register for Leadership Conference, contact the Executive Office: 877-767-7659.

## Randall House Receives Awards

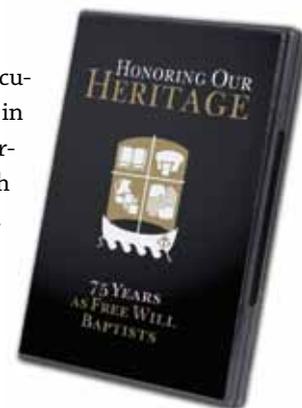
**CHICAGO, IL**—Three devotional magazines from Randall House received high honors at the Evangelical Press Association, which convened in Chicago May 4-9. *Explorer's Guide* received the Award of Excellence for Youth Publication while *FUSION* garnered the Award of Excellence for Devotional Magazine. In the Higher Goals division (which focuses on individual areas of the magazine), the *Brink* received a first place award for Publication Design and *FUSION* received a fifth place award in the General Article Short category for "Killers" by Matt Crain.

The contest honors the best work done by EPA publications during the previous calendar year. EPA members publish some 310 periodical titles with a combined audience of more than 22 million, including familiar names such as *Focus on the Family*, *Christianity Today*, *Leadership*, and *In Touch*. Danny Conn, Randall House editorial director, commented, "We are grateful that our people have a curriculum that combines sound doctrine with excellent content and design. It is an honor that Christian publishers are looking at the Free Will Baptist publishing house as a leader in devotional magazines."

Randall House CEO Ron Hunter said, "Considering that over 300 quality Christian magazines and publications comprise the Evangelical Publishers Association, it is humbling to be counted as the best devotional magazine, the best designed magazine, and the best youth magazine. These awards prove that solid substantive biblical content combined with design excellence results in a relevance that changes lives."

## Heritage Video Available for Purchase

**ANTIOCH, TN**—*Honoring Our Heritage* is now available for purchase. The stunning video documentary was commissioned for the 75th anniversary celebration at the national convention in Charlotte, NC, and a segment of the documentary was shown each night during convention worship services. It takes viewers on a revealing tour through Free Will Baptist history, from English General Baptist forerunners in the 1600s to the highlights and struggles of the 20th Century. Purchase the DVD (\$15 each or two for \$25) by contacting the Executive Office: 877-767-7659 (Shipping and handling not included).



HONORING OUR

# HERITAGE

*Celebrating 75 Years*  
of the National Association  
of Free Will Baptists



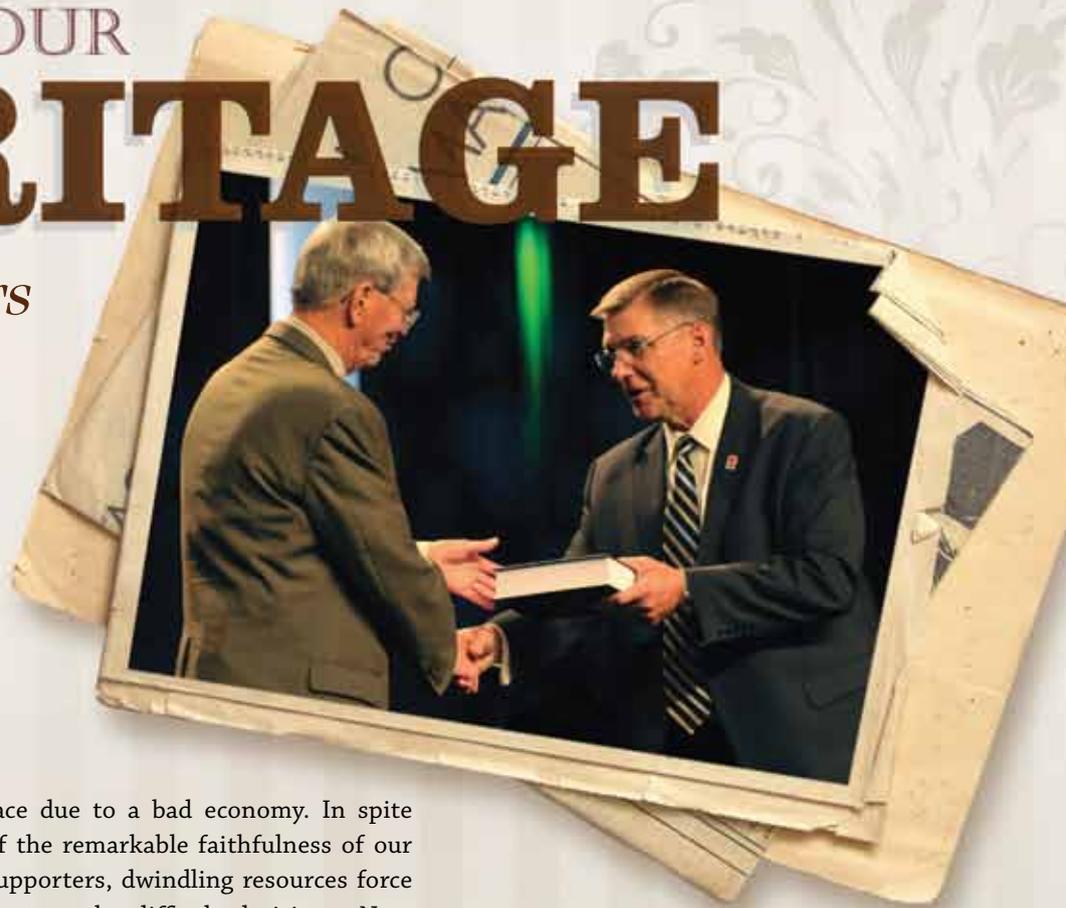
**Global finances may be** in a tailspin, but when more than 6,000 Free Will Baptists met in the second-largest banking city in the nation July 17-20, it was clear to everyone that the Great Commission has not been rescinded by a struggling economy!

Delegates to the 75th Free Will Baptist national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, heard directors from each national agency sound the same note—belt-tightening fiscal responsibility, essential staff cuts, lower budgets, and hold-the-line adjustments—whatever it takes to win souls, build churches, educate tomorrow's leaders, and keep the gospel light shining into the dark places of the world.

Executive Secretary Keith Burden captured the spirit of the convention when he told delegates: "All of us are painfully aware of the obstacles we

face due to a bad economy. In spite of the remarkable faithfulness of our supporters, dwindling resources force us to make difficult decisions. Nevertheless, we remain resolute in our commitment." And when the 75th session closed Wednesday evening, attendees left with a deep sense of mission, holy purpose, and a "we can do this" attitude.

The meeting marked the sixth time the National Association of Free Will Baptists has convened in the Tar Heel State to conduct denominational business. The convention first met in North Carolina in 1945 as World War II drew to a close. They did not meet in a plush, modern convention center but in the Free Will Baptist Orphanage at Middlesex. More recently, the city of Charlotte has welcomed the National Association three times (1979, 1995, and 2011).



## Celebrate

Free Will Baptists gathered in Charlotte for more than business. They came together to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Two important commemorative items published by the Executive Office helped mark this important milestone. *Honoring Our Heritage*, a video documentary, treated viewers to a 400-year tour through Free Will Baptist history, from English General Baptist roots in the 1600s to highlights and challenges of the 20th Century. A segment of the documentary played before each evening service, drawing wide praise.

*Convention Sermons*, a hardbound volume of more than a thousand pages,

*"Dwindling resources have forced us to make tough decisions. Nevertheless, we remain resolute in our commitment." –Keith Burden, Executive Secretary*

compiles 75 years of convention messages. Executive Secretary Keith Burden presented the first copy to Sunday evening speaker, Dr. Robert E. Picirilli, honoring him for preaching at the national convention for the sixth time—more than anyone except L.C. Johnson, long-time president of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Each day, *The Convention News* published a commemorative edition styled after a historical Free Will Baptist publication. Each paper included a short vignette about Free Will Baptist thought and history.

## Worship

In light of the historic nature of this meeting, the Executive Committee selected the theme "Honoring Our Heritage" and challenged convention speakers to explore historic doctrines that set Free Will Baptists apart from other groups.

Music Coordinator Chris Truett created an exciting slate of worship services that included a North Carolina choir drawn from Bethel and Unity FWB Churches, a 100-voice convention choir, an orchestral ensemble, and a vocal accompaniment group. Every service was characterized by enthusiastic congregational singing and unforgettable music.

Rodney Holloman, North Carolina pastor and chair of the Bible department at Southeastern FWB College, taught Sunday School from 2 Peter 3:9, explaining the importance of "joining God where He is working." He warned listeners not to permit snares such as nationalism and racism to interfere with God's mission of evangelizing all nations.

Greenwood, Arkansas, pastor Jim

Walker delivered the Sunday morning message. His theme: *Honoring Our Heritage*. Walker focused on the importance of preserving God's laws for future generations and emphasized the importance of finding and being spiritual heroes.

Sunday evening belonged to Robert E. Picirilli (TN), author, theologian, and retired FWBBC staffer, who spoke on *Free Will*, defining it as one of the key elements of Free Will Baptist doctrine but warning listeners that "independence from God is our destruction."

A heartfelt moment occurred Monday evening when Chaplain (Major) Brad Hanna, son of speaker Billy Hanna, introduced his dad via video feed from Afghanistan. Major Hanna deployed with the 45th Infantry Brigade of the Oklahoma Army National Guard in June. After a few emotional moments, Hanna (GA) delivered a powerful discourse on *Free Grace*. Stating that we can only appreciate grace when we understand the "mess we are in," Hanna reminded listeners that man is helpless, yet through God's grace, he is never hopeless.

On Tuesday, North Carolina pastor Jeff Jones tackled the subject *Free Salvation* using the parable of the great supper (Luke 14:15-24). He reminded listeners that all Christians, as God's servants, should encourage reluctant sinners to come, and God Himself extends salvation's invitation to everyone—regardless of station in life, race, income, or education.

Executive Secretary Keith Burden wrapped up the week by prompting Free Will Baptists to return to strong biblical and theological teaching and preaching. He asserted, "God does not change; He does not lower His stan-

dards to meet our lifestyles." Burden challenged the denomination to reaffirm its commitment to the inspiration and authority of Scripture; to "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12), and to witness to all men, everywhere.

## Serve

At 9:00 a.m., Saturday, July 16, 258 participants from 10 states and 19 churches arrived in Charlotte a day early and took to the streets distributing information about local churches. They visited 330 homes and contacted 280 individuals. Their efforts marked the sixth annual one-day evangelism and service campaign called Impact.

Nearly 2,000 volunteers have participated since the event began. "We look forward to Impact all year," said Marcia McCarty. Her family has participated every year, and according to Marcia, they can no longer imagine a national convention without it. "We drove all night to get here and slept in the parking lot. But we didn't miss it!"

Volunteers went to work. At Bessemer FWB Church, a team painted a fellowship building and landscaped the exterior.





Others finished out drywall at Joshua Youth Camp in Abermerle. Still others visited Springwood FWB Church in Belmont to help the church host a neighborhood block party.

Visitors enjoyed a cookout, live southern gospel music, dunking booth, inflatable bounce games, a water slide, groceries, and a rummage sale—all free for neighbors of the church.

Monday to Wednesday, 489 Reach That Guy participants from 47 churches donated 1,953 hours to 23 worthy organizations such as Second Harvest Food Bank, Samaritan's Feet, and Crisis Assistance Ministries. On Wednesday, 92 people lined up to donate 93 units of blood during the annual American Red Cross Blood Drive. Eighty-five were first-time donors.

Reach That Guy, a Free Will Baptist outreach program fueled largely by students, continues to grow. The program began in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1996.

## Serious Business

When General Board members arrived in Room 207 of the Charlotte Convention Center on Monday, July 18, they found a 196-page *Digest of Reports* filled with data, proposals, and budgets waiting for them. Four hours and 20 minutes later, Moderator Tim York requested a motion to adjourn.

What did the General Board do in less than five hours? They heard every national director explain what his agency had accomplished the previous year, voted to recommend a 2012 denominational budget of just under \$25 million, and recommended that the July 21-24, 2019, national convention meet in Cincinnati, Ohio.

They also recommended changes in the Free Will Baptist Foundation charter and heard Clerk Randy Bryant read the names of members appointed to four national committees: Nominating Committee (7), Credentials Committee (5), Obituary Committee (5) and Resolution Committee (5).

### In other business, delegates...

*Elected* 36 board and commission members including general officers (4), Executive Committee (3), General Board (11), Home Missions Board (3), Board of Retirement (3), Master's Men Board (3), FWB Foundation Board (3) International Missions Board (1), Commission for Theological Integrity (1), Historical Commission (1), Media Commission (2), and Music Commission (1).

*Approved* a \$24.7 million denominational budget for 2012. (See *Convention at a Glance* for more details.)

*Discussed* the proposed FWBBC name change 25 minutes Tuesday afternoon before sending it back to the Board of Trustees for an official vote in 2012.

*Voted* to take the July 21- 24, 2019, convention to Cincinnati, Ohio.

*Learned* that effective 2012, the

## Convention at a Glance

### Registration

National Association .....	3,836
National Youth Conference .....	4,026
WNAC.....	830
<b>Total *</b> .....	<b>6,064</b>

\*Actual count. Some attendees register for more than one convention.

### Speakers

- Sunday School - Rodney Holloman (NC)
- Sunday Morning - Jim Walker (AR)
- Sunday Evening - Robert E. Picirilli (TN)
- Monday Evening - Billy Hanna (GA)
- Tuesday Evening - Jeff Jones (NC)
- Wednesday Evening - Keith Burden (TN)

### 2012 Budget

Executive Office.....	\$724,450
FWBBC.....	\$5,676,323
FWB Foundation .....	\$488,957
Home Missions .....	\$5,000,000
International Missions.....	\$7,250,000
Master's Men .....	\$140,511
Retirement and Insurance ...	\$474,000
Randall House .....	\$4,936,000
Theological Commission .....	\$8,050
Historical Commission .....	\$3,270
Media Commission.....	\$3,000
Music Commission .....	\$4,125
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$24,708,686</b>

### Elections

#### Executive Committee (2014)

- Chris Clay (IN)
- Gary Fry (MO)
- Venny VanHoose (KY)

#### General Board (2014)

- Indiana: Chris Clay
- Iowa District: Jim Martin
- Kansas: Zane Brooks
- Kentucky: Venny VanHoose
- Mexico Association District: Bud Bivens
- Michigan: Gene Norris
- Mid-Atlantic District: Wayne Hale
- Mississippi: Larry Reynolds

Obituary Committee report will include both the names and pictures of deceased ministers and board members.

*Gave a Thumbs-Up* to Randall House Publications for winning three prestigious awards during the 2011 Evangelical Press Association including Best Design, Best Youth Magazine, and Best Devotional Magazine. Randall House competed with 300 other Christian publishers for the awards.

*Voted* to disburse funds from The Together Way Plan to national agencies according to the following formula: underwrite the Executive Office administrative budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 45% of cooperative gifts. Disburse the balance of cooperative gifts—FWBBC (23%), International Missions (23%), Home Missions (18%), Retirement & Insurance (14%), Master's Men (14%), FWB Foundation (6%), Commission for Theological Integrity (0.5%), Historical Commission (0.5%), Music Commission (0.5%), and Media Commission (0.5%).

*Thanked* the North Carolina State Association for hosting the 2011 national convention.

*Honored* J.L. Gore for 27 years of service on the General Board representing Mississippi, 17 of those years on the Executive Committee.

*Heard* Home Missions Director Larry Powell announce that Hispanic churches are winning 100 people to Christ every month and that Free Will Baptists are planting their first church in a deaf community, the only denomination to launch such a program.

*Agreed* that two decisions by the Board of Retirement would provide long-term benefits for program participants—authorizing Critical Illness Insurance and establishing the Labor of Love Endowment Fund to help ministers prepare for retirement.

*Smiled* when the FWB Foundation announced a \$2.2 million increase in

assets, now topping \$40 million, and listed six benefits of planned giving.

*Praised* the Media Commission for providing live streaming for 2011 convention worship services. Responses from around the world expressed appreciation for harnessing technology to include Free Will Baptists globally in the annual gathering.

*Welcomed* the first report from rookie WNAC Executive Director Elizabeth Hodges who informed attendees that WNAC joined other national agencies in *ONE Magazine* in 2011. WNAC and Master's Men now share office space and staff in the National Office Building, a decision that cuts expenses for both organizations.

*Pushed* proposed charter and by-law changes from the FWB Foundation to the 2012 convention.

*Congratulated* Master's Men for launching a new ministry, CMI (Count Me In) Conferences, an effort designed to focus on men's issues and mentoring men. Master's Men led multiple disaster relief efforts to Haiti, as well as other stateside disaster relief projects in Alabama, Tennessee, Missouri, and Arkansas.

*Enjoyed* shorter reports by national agencies—30 minutes from boards and 15 minutes from commissions.

*Registered* 6,064 attendees for three concurrent conventions (including 632 ordained ministers).

*Stood* to honor retiring board members: Ron Barber (22 years, Board of Retirement), Milburn Wilson (12 years, Board of Retirement), Mike Mounts (12 years, Master's Men).

*Saluted* James Forlines, former general director of International Missions for 13 years of visionary leadership.

*Stood Again* to honor Alice Smith who retired after 36 years as a missionary to Ivory Coast, West Africa.

*Questioned* International Missions Interim General Director Clint Morgan

Missouri: Gary Fry

New Jersey District: William Brown

New Mexico District: Mark Shores

### **Home Missions Board (2017)**

Bob Lewis (TN)

Robert Thebeau (MO)

Randy Wright (AL)

### **Board of Retirement (2017)**

James Beasley (SC)

Tim Hall (KY)

Danny Baer (NC)

### **Master's Men Board (2017)**

Clay Burgett (OH)

Tom Harmon (IL)

Cliff Donoho (TN)

### **FWB Foundation Board (2017)**

Waymon Fields (AL)

Bobby Edwards (TN)

Melvin Worthington (NC)

### **International Mission Board (2012)**

Mark Price (OH)

### **Theological Commission (2016)**

Paul Harrison (TN)

### **Historical Commission (2016)**

Jeff Cockrell (SC)

### **Media Commission**

Monte McKenzie (GA) – 2013

Adam Carnes (NC) – 2016

### **Music Commission (2016)**

Donnie Burke (CO)

### **General Officers**

Moderator: Tim York (TN)

Assist. Moderator: William Smith (GA)

Clerk: Randy Bryant (FL)

Assistant Clerk: Ernie Lewis (IL)

about zeroing out missionary accounts at the end of the calendar year.

*Adjourned* at 2:10 p.m. to meet in Memphis, Tennessee, for the 2012 convention. **ONE**

# New Directions for WNAC

## 76th Annual Convention of WNAC | Charlotte, NC | July 19

### Embracing the theme

*Body Builders*, nearly a thousand women, individual members of the body of Christ, came together to strengthen each other. The one-day event, Tuesday, July 19, included times of worship, sharing, planning, and celebrating God's work among the women of WNAC.

### Sharing

From an early-morning interactive seminar to a late-night reception for

state leaders, women strengthened each other through sharing. Individuals voiced answers to prayers, and offered proven ideas for building women's ministries. Two afternoon brainstorming sessions attracted over 100 women who made suggestions and gleaned creative ideas from others.

### Planning

Women adopted guidelines for the Mary R. Wisehart Scholarship program. WNAC will designate \$1,000 annually to each of the five Free Will Baptist colleges. Scholarship committees at the respective schools will select a young woman as recipient according to the guidelines provided.

Women voted to send \$1,200 in Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship monies for students at Seminary of the Cross in Reynosa, Mexico. Women also agreed to extend *Shine 75!*, the WNAC national project until July 2012. *Shine 75!* seeks to raise \$75,000 for Free Will Baptist Hispanic Bible institutes in the U. S. and Mexico. To date, donations to the project exceed \$27,000.

Delegates unanimously approved Diana Bryant (FL) as WNAC president and gave a rising vote of thanks to Shirley Jackson for her service as acting president during the past year. Attendees glimpsed pages of a new publication, *Treasure*, set to premiere in September, and took a virtual tour of *Body Builders*, a 12-month spiritual fitness plan.

### Celebrating

In her report to the convention, Executive Director Elizabeth Hodges cited a two-percent rise in membership and an increase in giving. Despite economic downturns, women gave over \$560,800 to missions and ministry causes. WNAC

ended its fiscal year in the black—the result of major budget cuts and effective cost-cutting measures. During her first year as director, Mrs. Hodges visited 18 of the 22 states where WNAC claims affiliates.

### Worship

North Carolina women under the leadership of Diane Bridgman welcomed conventioners, provided outstanding music, and hosted a luncheon extraordinaire. Pastor's wife Carolyn Dwyer, speaker for the midday event, shared personal accounts of individuals whom God has used to strengthen her spiritual life. She challenged listeners to make a list of their own body builders and express thanks to those individuals for the impact made on their lives.

Panama missionaries Steve and Judy Lytle reminded worshipers that God gives spiritual gifts for the purpose of building the body of Christ. When believers exercise those gifts effectively, the body grows—under the overarching principle of love. Citing that God sometimes equips believers with differing gifts for different seasons of life, the Lytles enumerated ways God has allowed them to assist in building His body over their many years in ministry. They offered profiles of Panamanian believers and detailed how God is using each one's giftedness to build His Church in this region of the world.

"Today is an exciting time," stated Director Elizabeth Hodges, "as we seek to build the body of Christ by strengthening each other through WNAC." ☐

**Photos** (clockwise): NYC worship; anxious NYC competitors; Reverend Keith Burden delivers the Wednesday night sermon; WNAC business session.

### 2011-2013 Executive Committee

President: Diana Bryant (FL)  
 Vice-president: Pam Hackett (SC)  
 Secretary: Jan Clay (IN)  
 Members-at-large:  
 Amy Johnson (IL)  
 Jonda Patton (KY)  
 Janie Campbell (AR)

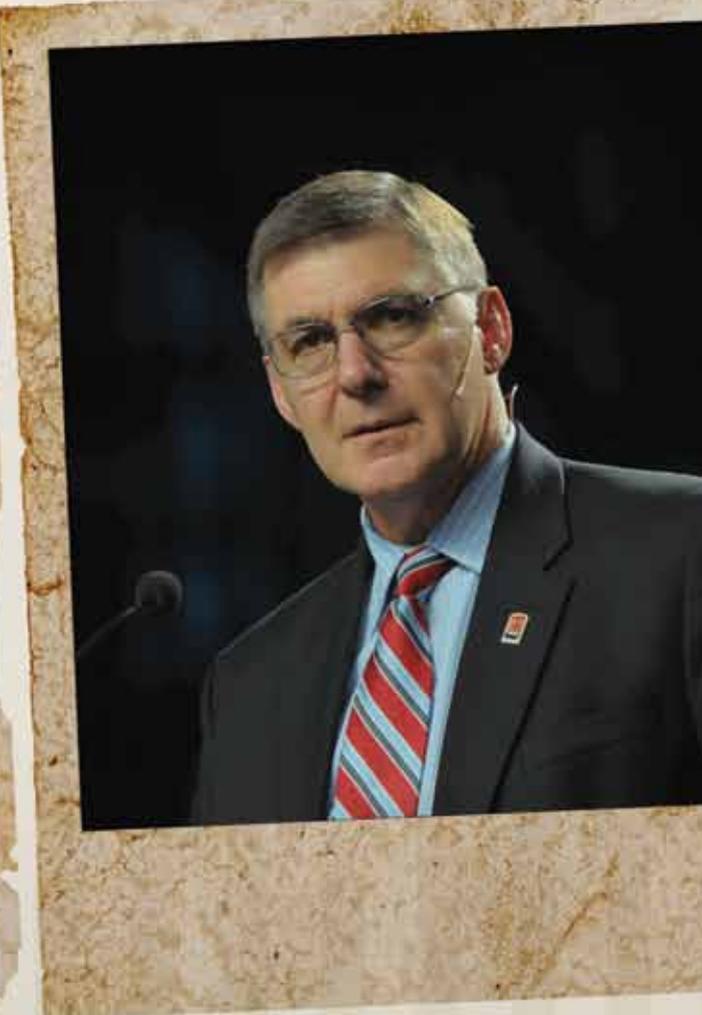
**Worship offering:** \$1,606.95

**Registration:** 830

### In Other Actions:

- + Designated \$1,200 in Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarships for students at the seminary in Reynosa, Mexico.
- + Extended the current WNAC National Project *Shine 75!* until July 2012.
- + Approved guidelines for the Mary R. Wisehart Scholarship, a \$1,000 scholarship awarded annually to a young woman from all five FWB colleges.
- + Resolved to stand and pray with California WAC in support of *Proposition 8* and the legal definition of marriage.





# The Free Will Baptist Heritage Continues

## National Youth Conference | Charlotte, NC | July 17-20

### A celebration of heritage

is not complete without catching a glimpse of the future being constructed on the foundation laid in the past. After all, what good is a heritage not passed to the next generation? The National Youth Conference provides a peek into the bright future of Free Will Baptists.

### Service

This week, we watched Free Will Baptist young people grasp the concept of service. Whether it was the feet-washing service of Truth & Peace or the nearly 2,000 hours of community service volunteers donated through Reach That Guy projects, Free Will Baptist

young people served others with grace and humility.

Not only do they have a heart to serve, they have also inherited a heart for missions. Students applauded the news of Tim and Amanda York going to Buffalo, New York, to help establish a church for the deaf. They contributed \$3,738.85 to the Buck-A-Week missions offering and took home a thousand Buck-A-Week banks with a commitment to fill them in anticipation of reaching a \$50,000 goal in 2012. Any person or youth group who wants to join the challenge can email [NYC@RandallHouse.com](mailto:NYC@RandallHouse.com) to request a bank.

### Competition

The next generation has a wealth of talent. Through the 972 competition entries, students demonstrated a wide variety of talents. Music, drama, and creative arts are but a few of the categories allowing FWB youth to dis-

cover, develop, and dedicate their talents to God's service. Free Will Baptist colleges offered more than \$100,000 in scholarship money to winners. A team of the top-scoring contestants was selected for the 2012 Youth Evangelistic Team, which will minister in home mission churches in Texas next summer.

### Worship

A love for the Word of God is also evident. Students, youth leaders, and young adults flocked to worship services, reaching near-capacity crowds. More than 400 contestants participated in Bible memorization and Bible game events, including the new group memorization. An impressive amount of biblical content has been absorbed by participants in Bible competition.

## The National Youth Conference at a Glance

### Registration .....4,026

Truth & Peace ..... 105

Competition Entries ..... 972

*Courageous* Screening..... 1,700

### Reach That Guy

489 volunteers

1,953 volunteer hours

47 churches participating

**Youth of the Year:** Shelby Lynn Pruitt  
(Catlettsburg, KY)

**Youth Group of the Year:** Sulphur  
Springs Junior Youth (Northport, AL)

**Youth Workers of the Year:** Aaron  
and Casey Pontious (Nashville, TN)

**Buck-A-Week offering:** \$3,738.85  
2012 Projects: NorthPoint FWB  
Church in Buffalo, NY; student  
center in Nantes, France

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Donors..... 92

First-time donors..... 85

Units collected ..... 93

### 2012 National YET Team

Michael Hollis (NC)

Lindsey Duncan (FL)

Evan Pell (GA)

Larissa Thomas (AR)

John Daniel Newland (TN)

Camille Driggers (SC)

Joshua Sloan (OK)

Rachel Ayers (AL)

Joseph Summerlin (AL)

Bridget Coffee (KY)

Kody Madden (AL)

Lane Murphy (OK)

Zuri Zuniga (AR)

## Values

Common values are being passed to those participating in the National Youth Conference. Students cheered during the screening of *Courageous* when the characters made good choices and took a stand for integrity. Throughout the week, they showed respect for their elders and lived up to the reputation others have set before them. **ONE**

*"I think it is safe to say the Free Will Baptist heritage is in good hands."*

*—Danny Conn, NYC Director*



## Convention Coverage Team

### Reporting

Business	Jack Williams (TN)
Worship	Deborah St. Lawrence (TN)
	Ida Lewis (TN)
WNAC	Sarah Fletcher (IL)
NYC	Danny Conn (TN)
Impact	Ken Akers (TN)

### Video

Victor Albright (TN)

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 Michelle Morgan (SC)  
[creationcaptured.wordpress.com](http://creationcaptured.wordpress.com)

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 Mary Yerby

### Editorial

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 Eric K. Thomsen  
 Jack Williams

### Design

Sondra Blackburn  
 Eric K. Thomsen

# ONETOONE

## Expert Traveler



### I TRAVEL A LOT.

Of necessity, a good deal of my travel is by air. Therefore, I spend a considerable amount of time in airports. After the terrorist attacks of 9-11, airport security has, understandably, become more stringent and time consuming. Occasional travelers continue to be frustrated with the inconvenience, but frequent fliers have become accustomed to the rigid requirements of the TSA.

One accommodation airports have made to lessen the hassle for those who fly frequently is a line at the security checkpoint labeled “Expert Travelers.” This allows those who fly often to avoid delays encountered in the regular security lines. People who choose this option understand the screening process and know how to move expeditiously through it.

Recently I entered the “Expert Traveler” lane at an airport and found my place in line behind three young adults—two men and a woman. The young men had been cleared and obviously were waiting for the young woman beyond the initial checkpoint. She, on the other hand, was involved in a lengthy conversation with the TSA officer.

The reason for the delay soon became apparent. Although she had a valid boarding pass, she did not have a photo ID. I looked on in disbelief. Needless to say, the people in line behind me had become exasperated travelers rather than

expert travelers. Honesty dictates that I tell you I shared their exasperation.

Thankfully, TSA agents pulled the young lady aside and allowed the rest of us to present our required documents and complete that phase of the screening process. In a matter of minutes I was placing my shoes, coat, belt, the contents of my pockets, and laptop computer in a plastic bin on the conveyer belt. After successfully negotiating the full-body scan, I gathered my belongings and made my way to the boarding gate for my flight.

During the flight, I began to reflect on that bizarre experience. I struggled to reconcile in my mind how anyone, during this time of heightened security, could think they could pass through security without having the required documentation.

Then it occurred to me—the same thing happens in the spiritual realm all the time. People assume they are going to Heaven, but their hope has no biblical basis. They mistakenly believe they are God’s children when they have never experienced the new birth. Entering Heaven without being converted is like trying to get through airport security without a valid ID. You can’t.

Sadly, God’s judgment is more exacting than any TSA agent or x-ray machine. Someone might occasionally slip through the airport screening process, “But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth” (Romans 2:2). Make no mistake about it, “the Lord knoweth them that are his” (2 Timothy 2:19).

Are you certain about your spiritual identity? When you stand before the Lord one day, will there be evidence that you are a child of God? The Bible admonishes you “to make your calling and election sure” (2 Peter 1:10). Have you made the necessary arrangements to go to Heaven, my friend? That’s one trip you don’t want to miss. **ONE**

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

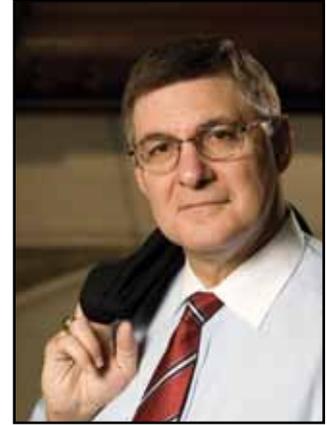


Photo: Mark Cowart



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