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# ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

DECEMBER-JANUARY 2012

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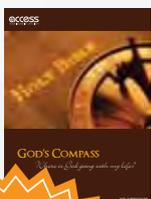
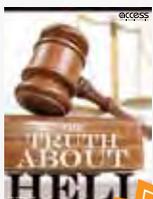
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# FirstGlimpse >>>>

## Uncle Bubba

### “Unca Bubba! Unca Bubba!”

He runs down the church hallway as fast as chubby little legs will carry him. With sandy blonde hair spilling over a cherubic face, his bright brown eyes and clinched fists express fierce determination, an 18-month-old on a mission.

I smile as I watch him run the gauntlet of legs, narrowly avoiding several collisions with unsuspecting adults. He continues the relentless search until his intent gaze reaches my brown dress shoes.

Immediately, he stops in his tracks. Eyes lift slowly until they reach my face, and a broad grin spreads across his face. “Unca B-u-u-u-bba!” he drawls with an unmistakable Tennessee accent before dashing forward to lock his arms around my knees.

Stooping, I pick him up. He throws his arms around my neck and snuggles close to my shoulder. “Unca Bubba,” he chirps happily.

“How are you this morning, Ethan?” I ask.

“Down!” he replies.

I can’t help but chuckle. The mission is complete. The moment his toes touch the tiles, he scampers off to Sunday School for the next big adventure.

I look up to see his mother, arms crossed, shaking her head with a rueful smile. “I hope you realize he has been asking for you non-stop since he woke up this morning. It sure makes it hard to carry on a conversation at breakfast.”

I catch myself whistling as I walk away toward my own Sunday School room. It’s a good day to be at church!

**So, now you know.** The secret is out. I’m Uncle Bubba—also known as Uncle Eric, Mister Eric, Brother Eric, sometimes Uncle Jen to my wife’s Sunday School toddlers, and even Uncle Buttercup on occasion. (That’s a long story, one best saved for another editorial.) In many ways, these names mean more to me than any other title but husband and father. Let me explain.

For more than two decades, I have been privileged to take part in the lives and spiritual development of children at Bethlehem Church. I have watched them grow physically, mentally, and spiritually. I have taught their Sunday School classes, prayed with their parents, celebrated their salvation, wept over their bad choices, and rejoiced to see them repent and grow in Christ.

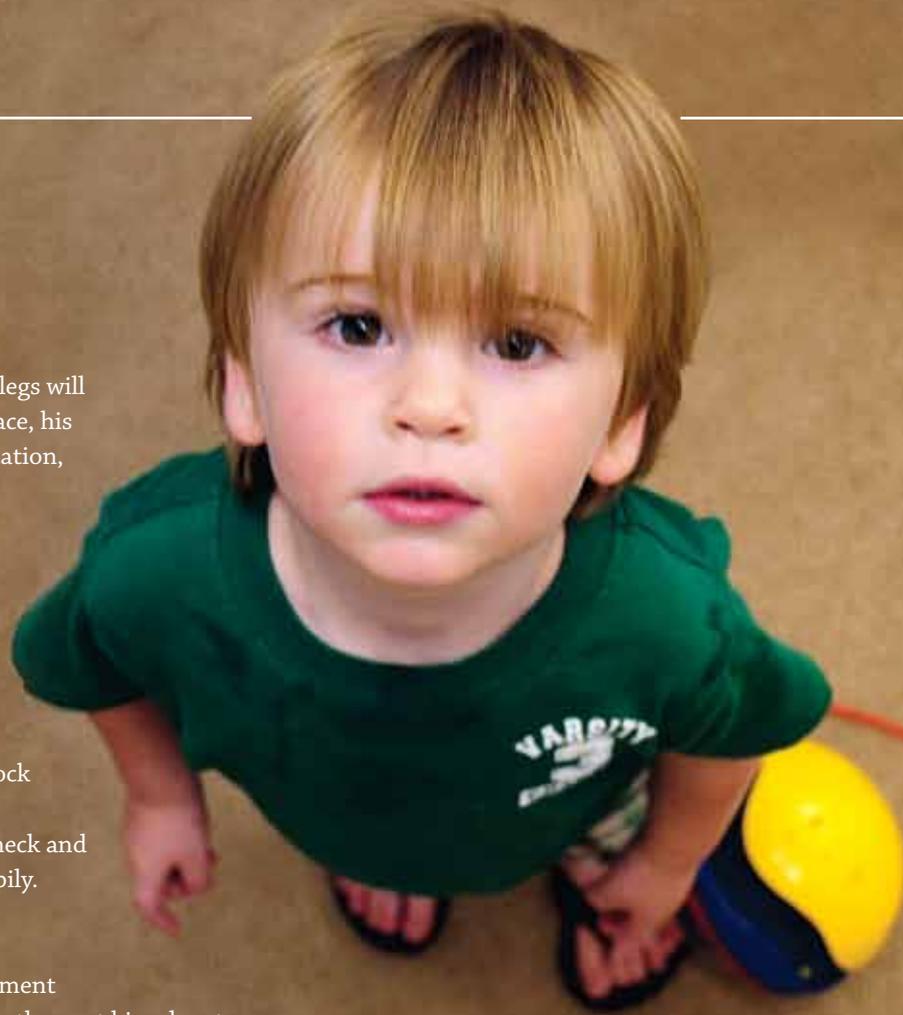
Today, many of those kids have children of their own, and the endless cycle has begun again—from the hug in the hallway to mature fellow-laborer for Christ. It’s a process you may know better as discipleship, and I’m proud to play a part. They call me Uncle Bubba. What do they call you? **ONE**

ERIC THOMSEN, MANAGING EDITOR

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A biblical and practical approach to personal and local church growth.

# *The* ORDINARY MEANS *of Growth* BY LIGON DUNCAN

## WE ARE LIVING IN A CONFUSED AND CONFUSING TIME FOR CONFESSIONAL

Christians (Christians who are anchored by a public and corporate theological commitment to be faithful to the Bible's teaching on faith and practice as expounded by the great confessions of the Protestant Reformation).

We are witnessing the final demise of theological liberalism, the rise of Pentecostalism, the beginnings of the so-called emerging church movement, the breakdown of evangelicalism, and an utter discombobulation about how the church is to conduct its life and ministry in an increasing "post-Christian" culture. All around us, in the name of reaching the culture with the Gospel, we see evangelical churches compromising (usually without intending to) in both message and methods.

It is not uncommon today to hear certain buzz-words and catch phrases meant to capture and articulate new (and presumably more culturally-attuned) approaches to ministry: purpose-driven, missional, contextualization, word and deed, ancient-future, emerging/emergent, peace and justice. Now, to be sure, there are points, diagnoses, and emphases entailed in each of these terms and concepts that are helpful, true, and timely. Sadly, however, the philosophies of ministry often associated with this glossary are also often self-contrasted with the historic Christian view of how the church lives and ministers. That view is often called "the ordinary means of grace" view of ministry.



## DISPUTE THE ASSUMPTIONS

The fundamental assumption underlying these new approaches is that “everything has changed,” and so our methods must change. I would want to dispute both parts of that equation. Whatever the entailments of our present cultural moment, constituent human nature has not changed (as R.C. Sproul often reminds us). And thus the fundamental human problem has not changed. Neither has the gospel solution to it. Nor have the effectiveness of God’s gospel means. Furthermore, one of the things that has always marked faithful and effective Christian ministry in every era and area of the world is a confidence in God’s Word, both in the gospel message and in gospel means. Faith still comes by hearing.

In sum, there are basically three views of gospel ministry. There are those who think that effective cultural engagement requires an updating of the message. There are those who think that effective ministry requires an updating of our methods. And there are those who think that effective ministry begins with a pre-commitment to God’s message and methods, set forth in His Word.

Thus, liberalism said that the Gospel won’t work unless the message is changed. Modern evangelicalism (and not just in its “seeker-sensitive” and postmodern permutations) has often said that the Gospel won’t work unless our methods are changed. But those committed to an “ordinary means” approach to church life and ministry say the Gospel works, and God has given us both the method and the message. This is vitally important in a time where one of the dominant story-lines in the churches has been that of methods unwittingly, unhelpfully, and unbiblically altering both the message and the ministry.

**Ordinary-means ministry believes that God has told us the most important things—in any and every context.**

## DO THINGS GOD’S WAY

Ordinary means of grace-based ministry is ministry that focuses on doing the things God, in the Bible, says are central to the spiritual health and growth of His people, and which aims to see the qualities and priorities of the church reflect biblical norms. Ordinary-means ministry is thus radically committed to biblical direction of the priorities of ministry. Ordinary-means ministry believes that God has told us the

most important things, not only about the truth we are to tell, but about the way we are to live and minister—in any and every context. Hence, God has given us both the message of salvation and the means of gathering and building the church in His Word.

However important understanding our context is, however important understanding the times may be (and these things are, in fact, very important), however important appreciating the cultural differences in the places and times we serve, the ordinary-means approach to ministry is first and foremost concerned with biblical fidelity. Because faithfulness is relevance. The Gospel is the message, and the local church is the plan. God has given to His church spiritual weapons for the bringing down of strongholds. These ordinary means of grace are the Word, ordinances, and prayer.

They may seem weak in the eyes of the worldly strong. They may seem foolish in the eyes of the worldly wise. But the gospel message is the power of God unto salvation, and the gospel means are effectual to salvation. These are the spiritual instruments given by God with which Christian congregational spiritual life is nurtured, the Spirit’s tools of grace and growth in grace appointed by God in the Bible.

## COMMIT TO GOD’S WORD

So, when we say ordinary means of grace-based ministry, we mean a radical commitment to following the direction of God’s Word as to both the message and the means of gathering and perfecting the saints. Ordinary-means ministry has a high view of the Bible, preaching, the church, the ordinances, and prayer. Ordinary-means ministry believes that the key things the church can do in order to help people know God and grow in their knowledge of God are: first, emphasize the public reading and preaching of the Word; second, emphasize the confirming, sanctifying and assuring efficacy of the ordinances, publicly administered; and third, emphasize a life of prayer, especially expressed corporately in the church. These things are central and vital but sadly often under-emphasized, under-appreciated, and undermined.

Ordinary means of grace-based ministry believes that God means what He says in the Bible about the central importance of these public, outward instruments for spiritual life and growth. God explicitly instructs ministers and churches to do the following things: “give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine” (1 Timothy 4:13); “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2); “teach all nations, baptizing them in the

name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19); "Take, eat; this is my body....drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins; ...this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come" (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:25-26); "I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made....I will there-

fore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands" (1 Timothy 2:1, 8).

## Ministry is not rocket science.

These are the main ways God's people grow. We are saved by grace (alone), through faith (alone), in Christ (alone). But the instruments, the tools of God's grace to bring us to faith and grow us in grace are the Word, prayer, and ordinances. Nothing else we do in the church's pro-

gram of ministry should detract from these central instruments of grace, and indeed everything else we do should promote and coalesce with them.

## KEEP IT SIMPLE

This means, among other things, that ministry is not rocket science. Gospel faithfulness does not require the minister to be a sociologist. Ministry is not determined (in the first place) by reading the culture but by reading the Word of God. The ordinary-means minister wants to connect with the culture, but when it comes to determining method and priorities he moves from text to ministry, not from culture to ministry. He neither changes his message nor his methods based on the polling of the most recent focus group (though he strives to be fully cognizant of the obstacles and opportunities that his biblical message and methods face in his particular cultural context). He fully understands there is no such thing as an unsituated biblical ministry, or an uncontextualized ministry (and so is careful not to universalize his particular cultural moment, nor to confuse it with universal, biblical norms). He also fully appreciates that some churches have unhelpfully baptized cultural norms and methods from the past, without realizing that baneful cultural influence. But he also knows that many churches, in the quest to contextualize the Gospel and the ministry, have in fact compromised them.

So he's constantly going back and

asking "what are my marching orders?" And when he remembers, it doesn't require a Ph.D. in semiotics to interpret them: preach the Word, love the people, pray down Heaven, disciple the church leaders, promote family religion, live a godly life. And what are the church's marching orders? Delight in the Lord's Day, gathering with the saints to drink in the pure milk of the Word every Sunday morning and evening, as families; pray together as a congregation once every week; worship and catechize at home in families; love one another and all men.

What will a church look like that is committed to the ordinary means of grace? It will be characterized by love for expository Bible preaching, passion for worship, delight in truth, embrace of the Gospel, the Spirit's work of conversion, a life of godliness; robust family religion; biblical evangelism, biblical discipleship, biblical church membership, mutual accountability in the church, biblical church leadership, and a desire to be a blessing to the nations. Along with this all, there will be an unapologetic, humble, and joyful celebration of the transcendent sovereignty of the one, true, triune God in salvation and all things. **ONE**

**About the Writer:** Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III is senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Jackson, Mississippi, and president of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals.

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Back to the basics of discipleship...

# DISCIPLESHIP

## From the Ground Up

BY TIM OSBORN

**Any good construction project begins with a solid foundation.** The same is true with discipleship. With that in mind, consider three foundational ingredients of discipleship: the task, the tools, and the target.

### Task of Discipleship

Matthew 28:18-20 uses the word *teach* in verses 19a and 20a, translated from two different Greek words. The first, in verse 19, is *matheteuo* and means, “to make a disciple.” In verse 20, the word *didasko* means, “to teach.” We get the English word *didactic* from it. In a real sense, discipleship is both a part of the process and also the whole process. It is more than just a Sunday School class or small group Bible study. It is the whole of the Christian life experience.

From the first day a person is saved, he becomes Christ’s pupil, His follower. Assimilation into the body of Christ is the next logical step of discipleship. However, ongoing training or didactic learning is also essential to producing Christ-like believers who, in turn, reach those around them for the Lord.

We tend to categorize churches into one of two categories—either a good evangelism church or a good discipleship church. The truth is you cannot be truly good at one if you neglect the other. Both are part of the Great Commission. The biblical process of discipleship always involves evangelism, assimilation, and discipleship. And while most churches struggle to be good at all parts of the process, every church should focus on success in all three areas.

## Tools of Discipleship

The most foundational tool of discipleship is the Word of God. It is essential to mold us into instruments God can use. We find godly principles and inerrant truth for living the Christian life within its pages. It is essential that every disciple have an intimate relationship with the Lord in which God speaks through His Word and the disciple speaks to God through prayer.

Most people readily recognize this first tool, but they might not realize the Lord can use other tools in addition to the Word. Consider the tool of service, learning through doing. In James 1:22-24 we read, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."

This passage makes it clear that the man who does not practice what he has learned is not much of a disciple. Ask anyone who has gone on a mission trip. He will tell you it is a life-changing experience! God honors and teaches those who are *doers* of the Word.

The Christian community is another tool. When we interact with other believers, it serves to deepen our discipleship. Fellow believers "sharpen" one another in their walk with God. Romans 15:14b and Colossians 3:16 encourage Christians to "admonish" one another, and in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Paul says, "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." The writer of Hebrews is fond of the phrase, "...exhorting one another." Other believers are great tools in our ongoing journey of discipleship.

One less popular tool of discipleship is adversity. When we go through adversity, God uses it to teach us things we could not learn any other way. I have pastored 25 years and have ministered to those with cancer all of those years. Until I got cancer, however, I had no depth of understanding as to what it really feels like to be told you have a deadly disease. God has used my battle with cancer to teach me things I could not learn elsewhere.

I praise God that things are going well with my treatment, but I also praise God that, through cancer, I had an opportunity to learn some things and experience a fresh intimacy with my Lord. I am thankful for the opportunities to disciple others suffering with cancer. None of this would have been possible without the tool of adversity.

Honestly, part of me would rather read the account of someone experiencing cancer than to experience it myself.

That, however, would be like saying I know what it is like to climb Mount Everest because I read about it in a book. Only the climber really knows what it feels like. The next time adversity comes, accept it as a tool for your discipleship. As Paul put it in Romans 8:28-29, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

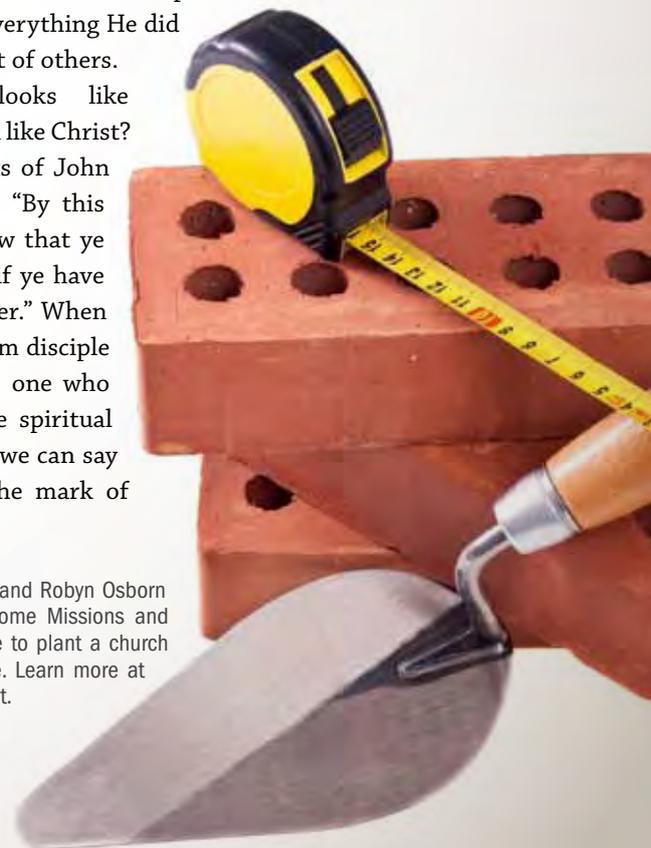
## Target of Discipleship

What does discipleship look like when and if it is perfected? Romans 8:28-29 sheds light on that question. It is the predestined plan of God for all believers to be conformed to the image of His dear Son. As the Scripture suggests, even the hardships of this life are used by God to work toward that end. Indeed, the Roman Christians were under constant persecution. They certainly needed God's assurance that man could, in no way, separate them from God's love and intervention. To the contrary, God used the persecution to mold them into the image of Christ, who also suffered at the hands of man for our good.

If we were to sum up Christ's life, we would have to say He lived for others. He died on the cross for others. He appeared after His resurrection for the faith of others. He saw the potential of others, and by associating with them, gave the Pharisees a reason to level personal attacks on Him. He reached out to others. He had compassion for others. Everything He did was for the benefit of others.

Discipleship looks like Christ. Do we look like Christ? The familiar words of John 13:35 remind us, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." When a disciple goes from disciple to disciple-maker, one who truly lives for the spiritual benefit of others, we can say we are nearing the mark of discipleship. **ONE**

**About the Writer:** Tim and Robyn Osborn are partnering with Home Missions and the state of Tennessee to plant a church in Oakland, Tennessee. Learn more at [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).



Big impact,  
small group...

# MICRO DISCIPLE SHIP

BY SCOTT CHEATHAM

How successful is the discipleship program of your church? While many churches offer a Sunday School or small group format, attendance in these classes has been declining for some time.

Even small groups are suffering, and a large percentage of those who attend church do not participate in these groups. The reality is that our culture is overscheduled. If you live in an urban area as I do, the opportunities for activities are numerous, and families are stretched thin.

In 2011, in response to this problem, we changed our discipleship focus. While I didn't want to do away with the Sunday School program, I also saw the need for implementing new ideas in order to bring about valuable changes in the lives of my congregation. Our desire at Rangeview Free Will Baptist Church was to increase commitment while deepening real spiritual growth.

So, we instituted IOU. The initials are known well enough, but for our families, they stand for the three relationships to which God has called us. Those relationships are Inward, Outward, and Upward. Inward in that we need to always cultivate our

spiritual growth, outward in that we should always be trying to serve others just as Jesus did, and upward as we worship and praise God each day for all He has done and continues to do for us.

To better cultivate these relationships, we started micro groups of two or three people of the same gender who gather weekly to read Scripture, confess sin, and pray. The goal is to encourage members to read 20-30 chapters of Scripture each week, discuss things with which they struggle, and talk about what they have learned from their weekly Bible reading, and then close by praying for others outside the church.

Each person identifies at least two people outside the church for whom to pray—six people per group. The goal is to get those people involved in a micro group

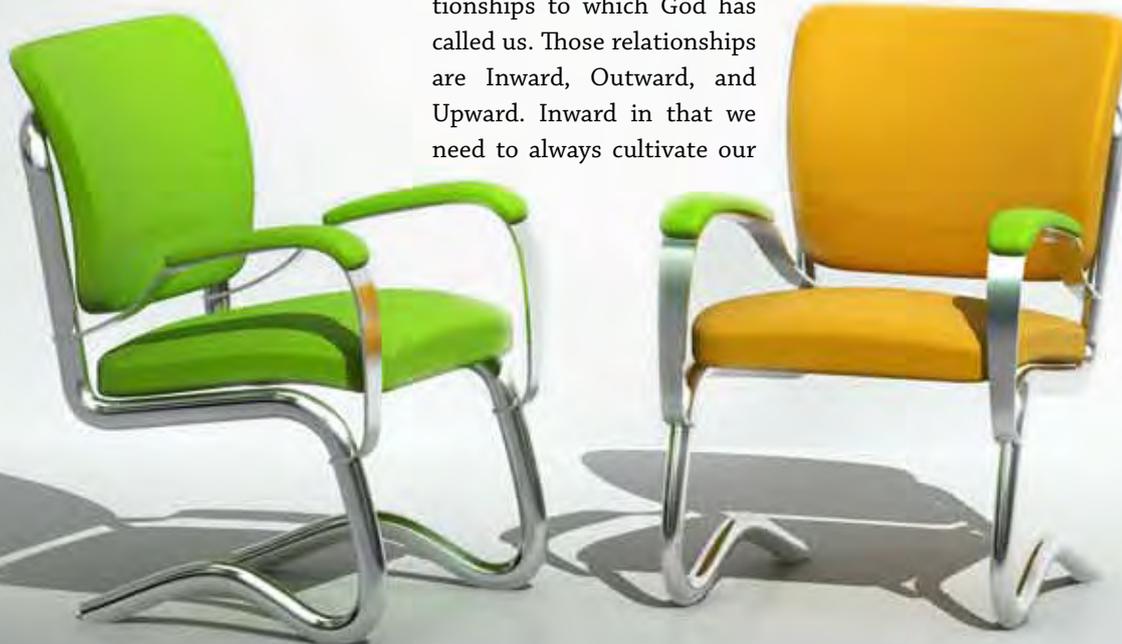
and ultimately in the church. When a group adds another person (four people), we ask them to split into two groups of two, and each group add another person.

The primary benefit to micro groups is that it is much easier to increase participation, because there are only three schedules to coordinate. In a small group, someone is almost always missing due to a conflict.

We have encouraged the teens to create similar groups with a little help. A micro group is a natural setting for the average teen, and many teens will not share openly in a larger group. Because serious discipleship takes place at the micro groups, large group gatherings can focus more on cultural subjects and a bit of fun.

I would like to share more about micro groups beyond this quick overview. Please feel free to contact me at 720-296-1719 if you would like to learn more about this exciting new way to disciple new believers. 

**About the Writer:** Home missionary Scott Cheatham and his family are growing a new church in northern Denver, Colorado. Find the church on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/rangeviewchurch](http://www.facebook.com/rangeviewchurch).



# Help!

## I (Still) Need a MENTOR

BY SARAH FLETCHER



### “How do we engage the older women?”

The question seemed ironic. Typically, the most perplexing and frequently asked question at WNAC concerns reaching younger women. Yet, these dedicated young Women Active for Christ genuinely sought help and direction. “We’re young mothers; we want to serve the Lord and teach our children to love God. But we really need guidance. We need the wisdom of older women in our church, and we’re just not sure how to get it.”

It’s not only young mothers. One 22-year-old single commented, “I want to connect with these women in my church, but it’s not like I can just go up and say, ‘Hey, you’re older. I need your advice and wisdom.’”

Several years ago, the church I attended sought to address this problem by initiating a mentoring program. We invited every woman to fill out a questionnaire indicating needs and interests. A sizeable group of young women expressed their excitement, but response from senior saints was almost non-existent. Among the 35-50-aged crowd who turned in their forms, most of them did not desire to *be* a mentor; they wanted a mentor themselves.

By design, God created us for relationship. We thrive as we interact and learn from others. Yet mentoring and guidance relationships rarely happen without intentional effort. In Titus 1, Paul told Titus that he left him in Crete to “set in order the things that are wanting.” How interesting that this epistle includes instructions for older women to teach younger.

Singles, newlyweds, young mothers, mothers of teenagers, empty nesters, midlife caregivers, and retirees alike desire words of encouragement or even warning from those who’ve

already walked the path that now lies before them. If every woman needs a mentor or life coach for every season, how do we engage these individuals?

The best way to find a mentor is to be one. Ohio WAC president Sarah Sargent is learning this firsthand. The twenty-something single claims her grandmother Ellen Sargent as role model, because, “She gives God the glory for every life-modeling moment. She has also never lost her joy, sense of humor, desire to have fun, or will to live life to its fullest.”

Sarah invests that same spirit into her church camp girls and the little kids and youth at her church. “I want to live like Christ because that’s His desire for my life, but I don’t underestimate my influence on young people either. I never want to be the excuse they give their parents for a bad choice they make, because they saw me do it.”

For Joan Ferguson of Tennessee, mentoring involved a cooking class. For three years, she invited junior high girls into her home once a month on Saturday afternoon to prepare a meal together. Each girl would bring her own dishes and necessary ingredients (emailed to them the week before) and leave with a recipe and ready-to-bake-or-serve meal for her family. The afternoons also included a snack and devotional. Joan didn’t do it all. She often invited other cooks in her church to come and share their favorite recipes and Scriptures with the group. “It was neat for me, because it gave me a chance to get to know my daughters’ friends. And when I invited different people in to teach the girls, it opened up relationships with other women of different ages.”

Girls benefitted as well. One mother noted, “It’s given my daughter skills

and the confidence she needed. Now every time we have company, she asks, ‘Mom, do you want me to fix my chicken dish?’”

Evelyn Smith of California practices lifestyle mentoring. She involves herself with people of all ages—teaching women to cook and can, devoting time for foster children in her church, inviting young people over to her house, and entertaining visiting evangelists and missionaries. “It’s part of who she is,” says her pastor’s wife Joanna Felts. “Hers is not an intentional sitting down, one-on-one mentoring, it’s more lifestyle, a ‘Well, I can teach you how to do this’ approach.”

She’s been doing this for years. She’s taught Sunday School, served as a volunteer at California Christian College, and embraced active roles in WNAC. This past April, she hosted a dinner for all women in her church—something she does annually. At 93, she now enlists help, but that’s all part of her mentoring lifestyle.

Occasionally, mentoring just happens. In my own life, two women I consider my greatest role models may not have even realized they were mentoring. They were just living out their faith.

God’s Word offers guidance for both younger and older women. From the Book of Ruth, we can glean the following mentoring principles.

**Offer acceptance.** Naomi the Israelite surely grieved when her sons married Moabite women. Yet, nowhere in the Book of Ruth do we find condemnation or criticism toward these daughters-in-law. When the sons died, these young women still felt a part of Naomi’s family.

Today, fear of acceptance keeps both younger and older women from

relationships. Women may view themselves as failures, not realizing the lessons others could learn from their past mistakes. Or they may fear asking advice of women whom they view as more holy.

**Seek to disciple.** Although the Bible does not specifically say Naomi led her to accept the ways of Jehovah, no doubt Naomi influenced Ruth directly or indirectly through her son. It was not chance that led Ruth to proclaim that Naomi’s God would become her God.

**Allow for others’ choices.** Naomi let Ruth make her own decisions. She did not demand that her daughters-in-law accompany her back to Israel. She even encouraged them to stay and make a new life for themselves. Yet Ruth chose to follow the ways of her mentor and her mentor’s God.

**Recognize the value of silence.** Naomi tried hard to persuade her daughters-in-law to remain in Moab. She encouraged them, praised them, and urged them. She released them from any obligation to her. However, the Bible says, “When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her” (Ruth 1: 18). Naomi knew the wisdom of words and the greater wisdom of silence. Women prefer listeners to lecturers.

**Offer good advice.** When Naomi learned that Ruth had gleaned in the field of Boaz, she advised her, “It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with his girls, because in someone else’s field you might be harmed.” Later, Naomi helped Ruth find a way to make her feelings known to Boaz. Naomi gave her a crash course in Jewish etiquette and protocol.

Many women today feel they have nothing to say or little to offer someone younger. Yet every woman can offer her experience.

Ruth accepted Naomi’s loving advice and willingly declared, “I will do whatever you say” (Ruth 3:5). We often hear the complaint, “Young women in our church aren’t willing to listen.” Maybe the problem lies in how we offer advice. Honey goes down smoother than vinegar.

After Ruth’s night at the threshing floor, Naomi inquired, “How did it go my daughter?” Naomi not only gave advice, she followed up on it. A one-time opinion may prove helpful, but long-term investments generally provide greater yields.

**Live and learn.** Naomi rejoiced in the marriage of Boaz and Ruth and the birth of their child. She did not live out her life through Ruth, but she did offer assistance and care to the extent that Naomi’s friends proclaimed, “Naomi has a son.” In the same way, Ruth offered strength to Naomi during a bitter, bleak time in her life. Ruth took the initiative to glean in the fields to provide for the needs of the older woman.

God desires us to rejoice and even partner in His blessings to others. We often learn from those we teach. We can find encouragement and refreshment as we see God’s strength and presence displayed in young lives.

No matter the season of life, God desires that we become Titus 2 women, learning His ways and sharing the things He’s taught us, then leaving footprints for others to follow. **ONE**

**About the Writer:** Sarah Fletcher serves as editor/designer of WNAC’s *Treasure* study guide and other WNAC publications. She also manages the WNAC website. She and her husband Keith live in Southern Illinois where he serves as pastor. Learn more about the ministry of Women Nationally Active for Christ at [www.wnac.org](http://www.wnac.org).

Don't neglect your training.

# FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP

BY JOHN BRUMMITT

“I am debt-free!”

It is shocking to hear, isn't it? This joyful exclamation arouses feelings of guilt and anger in those of us who still find ourselves in debt. We automatically begin to make excuses why we are not debt-free ourselves. Funny how those excuses sound better in our heads than they do when we share them aloud.

The world tells us we should grow up to be CEOs, movie stars, professional musicians or athletes, but the truth is, most of us will never reach top-tier status in our professions. While it is not wrong—maybe even admirable—to try to reach “the big time,” many young adults live a high-dollar lifestyle before they earn the income. When they finally realize they will never make “big bucks,” the financial damage has already been done, and they spend a lifetime paying for the mistakes of the first few years on their own. Consider a solution to this problem so it doesn't continue to the next generation.

MANY YOUNG  
ADULTS  
SPEND A  
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PAYING  
FOR THE  
MISTAKES  
OF THE FIRST  
FEW YEARS ON  
THEIR OWN.



“Financial Discipleship” is an odd pairing of words. The two seem to be from different worlds. The term *finance* has two meanings: (1) the control of money, the business or art of managing the monetary resources of an organization, country, or person; and (2) money required, the money necessary to do something (fund a project).

The term *disciple* describes a follower, someone who believes and follows the teachings of a leader, philosophy, or religion. Most often, discipleship is a religious term, far removed from the financial arena. This should not be the case. The Bible itself speaks often of finances and how to interact in financial situations. Teaching biblical financial principles should be a priority, both at home and at church. A quick search through the Bible reveals more than 60 passages

dealing with debt and money management.

Consider two examples: Proverbs 30:25 describes ants preparing their food in the summer to survive the winter months when resources are light or non-existent. It is a great analogy to retirement years when we can no longer work a full-time job.

Romans 13:8 commands readers to owe nothing, but to love one another instead. We should be sharing these principles and others like them with the next generation. Consider what a difference financial discipleship could make. Perhaps we could reduce divorce rates in our churches, since money problems continue to be the second leading cause of divorce in the United States. Financial discipleship could reduce the financial tension in our churches, leading to greater unity and teamwork.

God has laid out a simple plan for managing monetary assets. We are to (1) tithe the first fruits, Proverbs 3:9; (2) be content with what we have, 1 Timothy 6:6-8; (3) budget our income, Luke 14:28, Proverbs 27:23; and (4) prepare for the future, Proverbs 30:25. Imagine how it would change the lives of the next generation if they could grasp these basic financial concepts.

Consider this a simple call to financial discipleship in our homes and churches. Remember that God has given us tools for every facet of our lives, and we should seek to follow the biblical model, from spiritual health to physical wellbeing, family life, and especially, our finances. If we are good stewards over everything God has put into our care, there is no limit to what Christians can do for this world. **ONE**

About the Writer: A 2011 MBA/Finance graduate from Tennessee Technological University, John Brummitt is chief financial officer for the FWB Board of Retirement.

# Living Legacy

When the board first approached South Georgia pastor L.C. Johnson and asked him to serve as founding president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, the soft-spoken southern gentleman resisted the appointment. But at their urging, Johnson graciously accepted, submitting to “the spiritual judgment of godly, experienced men.” It was a good choice.

Johnson proved to be a man of courage and vision, and for the next 37 years, he shaped a successful educational program at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Today, his legacy lives on in the lives of students and those to whom they minister.

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# CLOSE THE BACK

**THE LONGER I  
AM IN MINISTRY,  
THE MORE  
CONVINCED I  
AM AS TO THE  
IMPORTANCE OF  
DISCIPLESHIP.**

When Jesus gave the Great Commission in Matthew 28, He told His followers to “teach” (KJV) or to “make disciples” (NKJV, NIV). This includes the entire spectrum of Christian ministry and the advancement of the Kingdom: going into all the world, to every creature, among all nations; baptizing; and teaching those who choose to follow Christ to do all the original followers were commanded to do. Thus, a perpetual cycle of teaching all the nations as believers to go, baptize, and “teach to observe” is created.

The verb translated *teach* or *make disciples* literally means to “instruct or disciple.” In the original Greek, it is the imperative, with the other verbs being participial: “going, baptizing, and teaching them to observe all things.” David Mays (*The Mission Leadership Team*) makes a good case that what Jesus is calling for here—indeed, what He is commanding—is that His followers disciple all the nations as our highest priority, with our most intense focus, in every generation.

If we do not make disciples, we truncate the Great Commission. Merely “winning souls,” although the essential initial step, is not what Jesus is teaching in this passage. Three phrases, or concepts, have been spinning around in my mind for some time in regard to the subject of discipleship.

# DOOR

STEVE LYTLE

## CLOSE THE BACK DOOR.

By discipling the nations we avoid the all-too-common occurrence of seeing people come through the front door (respond to altar calls, go through baptism, make a public profession of faith), and very quickly exit through the back door (discontinue fellowship with the church, remain immature and non-productive, or fall through the cracks). It is far too easy to cop-out, saying they were not truly saved, though of course that is possible and certainly happens in some cases. But that is the entire point.

Thorough discipleship not only helps people find Christ, gain assurance of salvation, and chart a course

for growth but also helps prevent their desertion from the fellowship of the visible church. It is encouraging to see this emphasis growing in the countries where International Missions is working. Huge results may not be readily visible, but committed followers are emerging. Where committed, strong, well-disciplined believers are present, the foundation is laid for genuine numerical growth as well.

In our own ministry, I have observed the difference when I intentionally invest time, effort, and content into the lives of those who respond to an invitation to follow Christ. Those I just assumed would follow through often didn't.

## A MILE WIDE, AN INCH DEEP.

We must never equate numerical, statistical growth with spiritual growth. Rwanda, considered to be 80% Christian in the early 1990s, provides a shocking example. With a strong "Christian" presence—even many evangelical believers who faithfully went to church every week—an unspeakable genocide took place with a million people brutally murdered. Incredible amounts of preaching, literature distribution, and funding have taken place in parts of the world where great poverty and social need exist. While the public response seems to be great in crusades, the presence of the church remains superficial at best.

## EVANGELISM WITHOUT PLANTING CHURCHES.

Missionary to Bulgaria Tim Awtrey's passion when preparing to go out under IM was to see strong churches started; not just to do evangelism. Tim spent several years in Bulgaria evangelizing with a parachurch organization and saw a number of young people come to Christ. Unfortunately, when the students returned to their hometowns they had no churches to attend, and the few that were found, could not or would not assimilate new believers, especially of a different generation. The missing element? Church planting through serious discipleship.

In Panama, we are endeavoring to be serious with the focus of our seminary preparation. Second Timothy 2:2, Matthew 28:19-20, and Ephesians 4 are key passages for us. Our goal at the FWB Seminary in Chame is to make disciples who can and will also make disciples. Our students are involved in ministry on campus, and especially on weekends when they serve in Free Will Baptist churches. They visit, preach, assist with music, teach Sunday School, perform youth ministry, preach on street corners, and frequently share the gospel, seeking to lead people to Christ. At the same time, we emphasize the importance of building relationships, extensive Bible study, discipling marriages and families, and going much deeper than a superficial Christianity.

As an example, Cirilo Mendoza is learning that it isn't enough just to get someone to pray the sinner's prayer when they respond to the Romans Road or the Four Spiritual Laws. While not discarding proven evangelistic tools, Cirilo spends time in counseling coupled with serious Bible study and prayer with people he is seeking to lead to Christ. Making disciples takes time.

Efrain Gonzalez is learning that weekly meetings to study the Scriptures, with both seekers as well as new converts, is essential to both their growth and their grounding in the faith. He was doing this in his hometown of Las Tablas, but came to the seminary in Chame to receive further training. He asked to start a neighborhood evangelistic Bible study near the school. What an exciting concept!

## IT ISN'T ENOUGH JUST TO WIN SOULS, OR TO GET A DECISION.

We shouldn't foster the idea that "you're as sure of Heaven as if you were already there." We are striving after Christ followers, growing, committed disciples of Jesus. "Teaching all the nations" is God's plan. By striving to make disciples, to disciple all the nations, we have believers who worship, serve, introduce people to the Savior (evangelism), fellowship, and grow in discipleship. **ONE**

**About the Writer:** Steve Lytle and his wife Judy have been Free Will Baptist missionaries since 1977. They are currently serving in Panama. Read more at: <http://www.fwbgo.com/missionaries/lytle/bio>.

# Sharpening the Ax

BY OSVALDO ORTEGO

**THE SHARPER  
YOUR AXE, THE  
MORE EFFECTIVE  
IT IS FOR CHOPPING  
DOWN A TREE.**

Young men and women in the ministry are more effective if they are taught to "sharpen their axe." Axe sharpening occurs as a result of uniting one's gifts and talents with theoretical and practical preparations offered by Free Will Baptist seminaries.

A seminary education expands our vision of the scope of responsibility of every believer, giving us a clearer and more precise understanding of how to serve our Creator here on this earth. It shows us what tools we have naturally, and adequately equips and prepares us for the future. As a result, when we enter our field of service, we are more confident, courageous, and joyful. We can accomplish the job more effectively, thanks to the preparation and effort put forth in these seminaries.

Being in the ministry, I am able to reflect back and see that by traveling this path of seminary preparation, I am more capable to sharpen my axe for a more effective cut. I am certain I am now more qualified and effective than I was before. Every new day into my journey, I feel more confident and secure in what I am doing and see the changes, results, and blessings that the preparation has provided.

In Panama, the best way to use the tools provided by God is to enter the tool shed of preparation called Free Will Baptist Seminary Panama. **ONE**

**Oswaldo Ortego** is a Free Will Baptist pastor/missionary in Panama. Learn more at [www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com).

## News Around the World

### Turnboughs Return to States for Ministry



**ANTIOCH, TN**—Jeff and Susan Turnbough returned to Nashville October 12, 2011. Jeff and Susan have served in Spain throughout their 30-year career with the Mission. In addition to their responsibilities

in the greater Madrid area, Jeff became regional director for Europe and Russia in 2006. In 2008, he assumed the responsibility as deputy director of field operations.

At that time, the Mission followed the example of many other evangelical mission agencies and kept the Turnboughs in a cross-cultural environment to maintain an international perspective on Mission issues. Recent changes led the leadership team to revisit this. “With 30 years of experience, we believe Jeff can and will maintain that critical perspective,” stated Clint Morgan, general director of the Mission. “We also see immense benefit in Jeff working from the Antioch office, providing valuable input.”

Turnbough will continue to lead the field operations team, working shoulder-to-shoulder with the Mission’s new leadership. ■

### Adventure in the Big “Appledrete”



**SPAIN**—The Alpedrete Church concluded summer with an “Adventure in the Big Apple.” The week of September 5-9 was an exciting week of Vacation Bible School. Several families invited friends and extended family members. One of the older boys in the congregation invited a neighbor of his who had never been to an evangelical church. Although he was out of town on the first day of VBS, the friend came on Tuesday. Evidently, he liked it so much that he turned down get-togethers with other friends that week to attend VBS.

Another family invited a cousin who lives three hours away to spend the week with them so she could attend VBS. They were thrilled that her parents said yes, because most of their extended family has been adamantly opposed to their faith. The girl’s parents attended the VBS closing program. Eight of 34 children who attended VBS came from non-believing homes.

“Another blessing of VBS is watching the Alpedrete Church work together in ministry,” confided Lea Edgmon. “We are thankful for those who designed and painted sets, prepared and taught classes, took photos, swept and mopped floors, and served the Lord by serving the children who took part in the Big Apple Adventure.” ■

### Missions Conference in Panama

**PANAMA**—The first missions conference of 2011 was held on the campus of the FWB seminary in Chame on Saturday, September 17. The topics developed by missionary Stan Bunch and guest speakers Gustavo Gums and David Clines were the mission of the local church, the mission of the national church, and the mission of the cross-cultural church.

Seminary students stayed on campus for the conference and were joined by missionaries, pastors, and members of Panamanian FWB churches, bringing the attendance to 140 people. The national missions committee has the responsibility of organizing two conferences yearly. ■

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## Ambassadors Gather, Set World Missions Offering Goal for 2012



The 2012 ambassador team includes Jimmy and Janie Aldridge (Alabama and Mississippi), Earnie and Jean Deeds (Oklahoma), Galen and Barbara Dunbar (South Carolina), Tom and Nancy Hughes (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, and Northwest District), Mark and Deanna Price (Ohio), Norman and Bessie Richards (Kentucky), David and Pat Shores (Illinois), Henry and Virginia VanKluyve (North Carolina and Tennessee), Earl and Debbie White (West Virginia—not pictured), and Rodney and Mary Yerby (Alabama).

**ANTIOCH, TN**—Ambassadors for Free Will Baptist International Missions gathered September 12-13. Interim Director of Development Sam McVay honored Mark Price, Jimmy Aldridge, and Tom Hughes, five-year veterans of the ambassador program. At the time of the session, Free Will Baptists had given \$476,800 for overseas evangelistic efforts through the 2011 WMO. “This is the second largest WMO in history,” exulted one ambassador. “Even in the midst of a recession, Free Will Baptist people have proven faithful!”

As ambassadors discussed the program and methods for increasing participation, they expressed surprise and disappointment that less than 500 of the 2,400 denominational Free Will Baptist churches participate in the annual WMO. “That must change. We need to involve more churches,” one challenged.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the ambassadors voted to set the 2012 WMO goal at \$650,000 and motivate 650 churches to participate in 2012.

McVay stated, “This was my first time to be involved so closely with the ambassadors. These men and women dedicated their lives to the cause of global evangelism and their influence continues to make an incredible impact, inspiring people to make sure every woman, man, and child has an opportunity to hear the gospel. We are blessed to have this team leading our WMO effort.”

## Board Selects Clint Morgan as General Director



**ANTIOCH, TN**—On Tuesday evening, September 27, 2011, the Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions, during a called session in Nashville, Tennessee, voted to employ Clint Morgan as general director. Morgan has served as interim general director since February 10. On Wednesday, September 28, the board convened in the International Missions conference room with the new director to discuss strategies and plans for moving the Mission forward in its quest to win souls, plant churches, and train leaders.

“The board is thoroughly encouraged by the selection of Brother Clint,” declared Board Chairman Danny Williams as he announced the board’s decision to the office staff. “We are convinced his stellar performance as interim director and his ability to think strategically eminently qualify him to lead this organization.”

“I’m humbled by the board’s confidence in me and excited by this new opportunity to impact the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ,” Clint disclosed. “I have totally enjoyed these months getting to know and work with the office staff. I trust my tenure as general director will strengthen and encourage our Mission family scattered around the world. Please pray for me,” Morgan requested, “that I will lead with spiritual wisdom, strategic acuity, and consistent excellence.”

Clint and his wife Lynette, daughter of pioneer medical missionaries Dr. LaVerne and Lorene Miley, served with excellence in Côte d’Ivoire (1976-2005). The couple spent two terms in evangelism and church planting before helping initiate and establish a Bible institute for training Ivorian leaders. Clint received a special assignment from the board in 2002 to research the possibility of the Mission entering creative access areas of the world. As a result, The Hanna Project was born in 2004. Clint was named its general director in 2010. Clint has also served as a regional director since the program’s inception in 2004. The Morgans ministered in France from 2007 to 2011. Clint and Lynette have four children (Trey, Adam, Aaron, and Autumn) and six grandchildren.

Board members attending this special session were Danny Williams (AL, chairman), Randy Wilson (OK, vice-chairman), Tom McCullough (MI, secretary), Nelson Henderson (AR), Jeff Manning (NC), Greg McAllister (CA), Robert Morgan (TN), and Mark Price (OH). ■

# + Intersect >>>>

## Search Mode: Tips for Choosing and Using a Study Bible

“What kind of study Bible do you recommend?” I get that question often. As with other products on the market, the sheer number of choices boggles the mind. I stood at the Bible display in my local Christian bookstore recently and in a quick glance counted 45—yes, 45—study and specialty Bibles. I thought about buying the *Woman, Thou Art Loosed Bible*, but was afraid my wife might get the wrong idea! Seriously, we need to make an informed selection because this is the Word of God. While helps included in study Bibles are not infallible, they should reflect believing scholarship that builds up, not tears down our faith. With that in mind, let me offer a few tips for choosing a reliable study Bible.

**1. Know what a study Bible is.** There are many kinds of specialty Bibles, such as reference Bibles, devotional Bibles, children’s Bibles, and so on. Study Bibles, though, are unique in that they include a wide array of resources to help you better understand the biblical text and its context: maps, charts, graphs, other visuals, but especially study notes that serve as something of an on-site commentary on the Scripture text. Some sets of notes are more extensive and helpful than others.

**2. Know what a study Bible is not.** The notes and helps are no substitute for studying the Bible itself. “Search the Scriptures,” Jesus said, not “Search Scofield” or “Search Thompson.” Remember, it’s the text of Scripture that’s inspired, not the study notes.

**3. Make informed choices about study Bibles.** Do your homework. Check out contributors who wrote the notes. Often they are listed near the front of that particular edition, or the publisher will list them on the company website. Try to discover their theological slant.

The Harper Collins Study Bible is not conservative, for example. Scofield and Ryrie are dispensational. The New Spirit-Filled Study Bible is charismatic. As you might expect, The Reformation Study Bible is Calvinistic, while the English Standard Version (ESV) and Holman Christian study Bibles are moderately reformed and offer alternative interpretations of important passages. Some study Bibles are extremely specialized: the Apologetics Study Bible and the NIV Archaeological Study Bible, for example.

**4. Select a few key disputed passages** and check out what a particular study Bible’s notes say about those texts. Hebrews 6:4-6 is a good place to start.

**5. Remember that various study Bibles include different translations.** You want to choose an edition which has the translation you prefer. While this is not the place to get into a discussion of translations, remember that versions such as the KJV, NASB, and ESV are more literal (word-for-word or formally equivalent), while others such as the NIV and NLT are less so (dynamically equivalent).

**6. Use study notes judiciously.** Ask questions. Think as you read. Get a second opinion if you need to do so. If the NIV Study Bible’s note isn’t satisfying, check out the comment in the ESV Study Bible. Buy more than one kind and crosscheck them to supplement or confirm what you’re learning.

**7. Learn about delivery formats that suit your preferences:** software, smart phone apps, etc.

**8. Much better than relying on study Bible notes would be enrolling in Bible classes—**onsite, if there’s a solid Christian college nearby; online; or by downloading independently produced lectures. Study so you can make informed choices about what you’re reading.

**9. Don’t neglect other essential resources for Bible study:** concordances, Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias, atlases, and thorough commentaries.

**10. Remember the other qualities of a helpful reference Bible,** such as informative introductions to each book of the Bible, a detailed concordance, and a cross-reference index.

**11. Even the best study Bible is no substitute for personal Bible study,** preaching and teaching in a local church, and Sunday School.

**12. Always make application of what you read.** Study notes can’t do that for you. Don’t just ask what the text means; ask what it means for you in your setting right now.

**13. Be sure to check the typeface—**its style and size—for readability. Choose one that fits your eye well as you read. Large print editions are available for many study Bibles.

**14. Before you buy, investigate your choices.** Most of these Bibles are relatively expensive, depending on the particular style of the edition you choose. As best you can, determine what your money will be spent on ahead of time. Many publishers’ websites have sample pages so you can see the page layout, color graphics, and other features of a particular Bible.

A reputable, thorough, reliable study Bible is your friend, not your enemy. Believing scholars who contribute resources to these Bibles are sharing insights learned over many years of intensive study. God gifts His Church with people of wisdom and knowledge, and we are better for the insights they share with us.

*Note: I am grateful to my wise friend Ralph White of Logos Bookstore for his insights as a Bible student and bookseller as I prepared this column. [ONE](#)*

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

*“My God Is Able” —  
the amazing story of God’s provision in hard times.*



*God's White Envelopes*  
*By Wayne Spruill*

*He Giveth and Giveth and Giveth*

WHEN I ENROLLED AT FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE IN 1968, I HAD AN AGREEMENT WITH my dad that I would work during the school year and summer to earn the down payment for my school bill, and he would make the monthly payments. I was responsible for all incidentals—clothing, books, Krystal™ burgers, or corsages for Brenda. God provided me good jobs including Family Booterie, Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, and Randall Bookstore.

The first two years I rode the bus downtown to work evening and Saturday shifts at the Booterie. This often spoiled date time, but it was necessary and I thank the Lord for supplying the job opportunity. Like many of my friends, I worked hard to earn what I could. Looking back, I take my hat off to those married guys who worked full-time, took care of family, and went to class.

During my three years in the dorm, I formed a lifelong friendship with a brother who later was the best man at my wedding. He worked some and traveled with the college quartet, but frequently had envelopes slid under his door containing \$20 (two days' wages) or more. I often wondered "Why not me, Lord?" I admit a little spark of jealousy.

But God gave me steady jobs, and I do not recall a really tight time financially. He provided income for many years, and though we were never rich and at times pinched a little, there was always food on the table and gas in the car.

## *Hawaiian Experiment*

We relocated to Hawaii in 1985 to open a Christian bookstore. I'm convinced the real reason the Lord sent us there was to work in the local Free Will Baptist church that was struggling at the time. Naturally, Satan tried his best to derail our plans. For instance, the first check our "silent partner" sent bounced. I'm not sure the business end of the store ever improved from there, though the Lord blessed, and we saw lives changed. Shortly after we opened the store, a longtime family friend conducted a revival at the church. He had a great tenor voice, and he dedicated a song to Brenda and me, because he had been in the bookstore business and knew the challenges we would face.

The song was "He Giveth More Grace," and I do not remember having heard it before, but it was then I realized that God would supply all my needs. That was when the envelopes started to slide under my door. One time a church sent us \$600 with a note, "Put this on our account; we have extra and thought you might need some cash."

Another time (1994), Brenda had been seriously injured in a car accident and could not teach, and then had to teach two months from a wheelchair. One morning when I took the children to school, the principal met me with an envelope of cash. "We understand that Brenda would rest better if you folks had a new mattress." Yes, there was enough to buy a new mattress. He Giveth.

## *Virginia Mission Outreach*

In 2000, we moved to Virginia and worked with Union Mission Ministries. Satan tried his best to destroy our faith. Among other things, the transmission in our van went out. I was in a Free Will Baptist pastor's office talking with him about Rescue Mission needs. As I prepared to leave, he reached into his wallet and gave me a hundred-dollar bill to put toward transmission repair.

But God did not stop there. On my way back to the office, I met with my pastor who gave me a check from the church for \$700, the amount I needed to cover parts. The mechanic had agreed to let me pay for the labor over a few months. During the next few years, the pastor continued to slip me envelopes from (as he called it) the Spruill "Mission Account." These always seemed to come when there was a need. And He Giveth.

While in Virginia, my muscular dystrophy surged, and I had to start using a wheelchair. It "just so happened" that a power wheelchair had been donated to the mission, so guess who got to use it! He Giveth. As time passed, we found it more difficult for me to handle the responsibilities of running three thrift stores, and it was necessary for me to go on full disability.

It was also growing more difficult for Brenda to serve as administrator of an assisted living facility and provide the caregiver needs I now required. In 2002, with the Lord providing the means, we bought a van with a hoist in the back that could lift my empty chair and put it in the van. And He Giveth.

## *Return to FWBBC*

In August 2004 the Lord opened the door for us to return to FWBBC. Brenda had previously worked as secretary to the dean, Dr. Charles Thigpen, in the mid-70s and we both graduated in 1972. Although we felt at home because we had so many friends on faculty and staff, this was something new. The old campus buildings were not wheelchair-accessible, but we immediately saw ramps put in place and an apartment remodeled with my needs receiving top consideration. And He Giveth.

During the first two years on staff at FWBBC, as I visited the MDA Clinic at Vanderbilt Hospital, the doctors saw my need for better wheels. Before long, via my disability, medical insurance, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association, I had a new wheelchair with the capability of rising up, tilting back, and (to the joy of students and grandchildren) could

even do wheelies. And He Giveth.

A minor problem—the new wheelchair weighed 350 pounds. One evening as Brenda put the chair in the van, the hoist cable broke, dropping the wheelchair to the pavement. We really needed a ramp van. If you know anything about this type van, they cost about \$20,000 more than the same model without the ramp. The Lord led us to a dealership that specializes in such vans, and they had a one-year-old van with a do-able price tag. We worked a deal, though the monthly payment was \$100 more than what I had been paying. For the next couple of years, a designated gift of \$100 came each month from an anonymous giver in our church. Yes, He Giveth Again.

Though the ramp van makes travel easier, overnight stays are expensive when you cannot room with family or friends because their houses are not wheelchair-accessible. During the years that Brenda's dad (Luther Sanders) had physical problems, it was amazing how the Lord provided "envelopes" to pay for hotel costs when we visited Dad. When the Lord called him home, we were again blessed when we received a "couple" of envelopes. We were excited as the Lord provided the means for our son to fly to Texas via an envelope that someone left on his back door. He Giveth and Giveth.

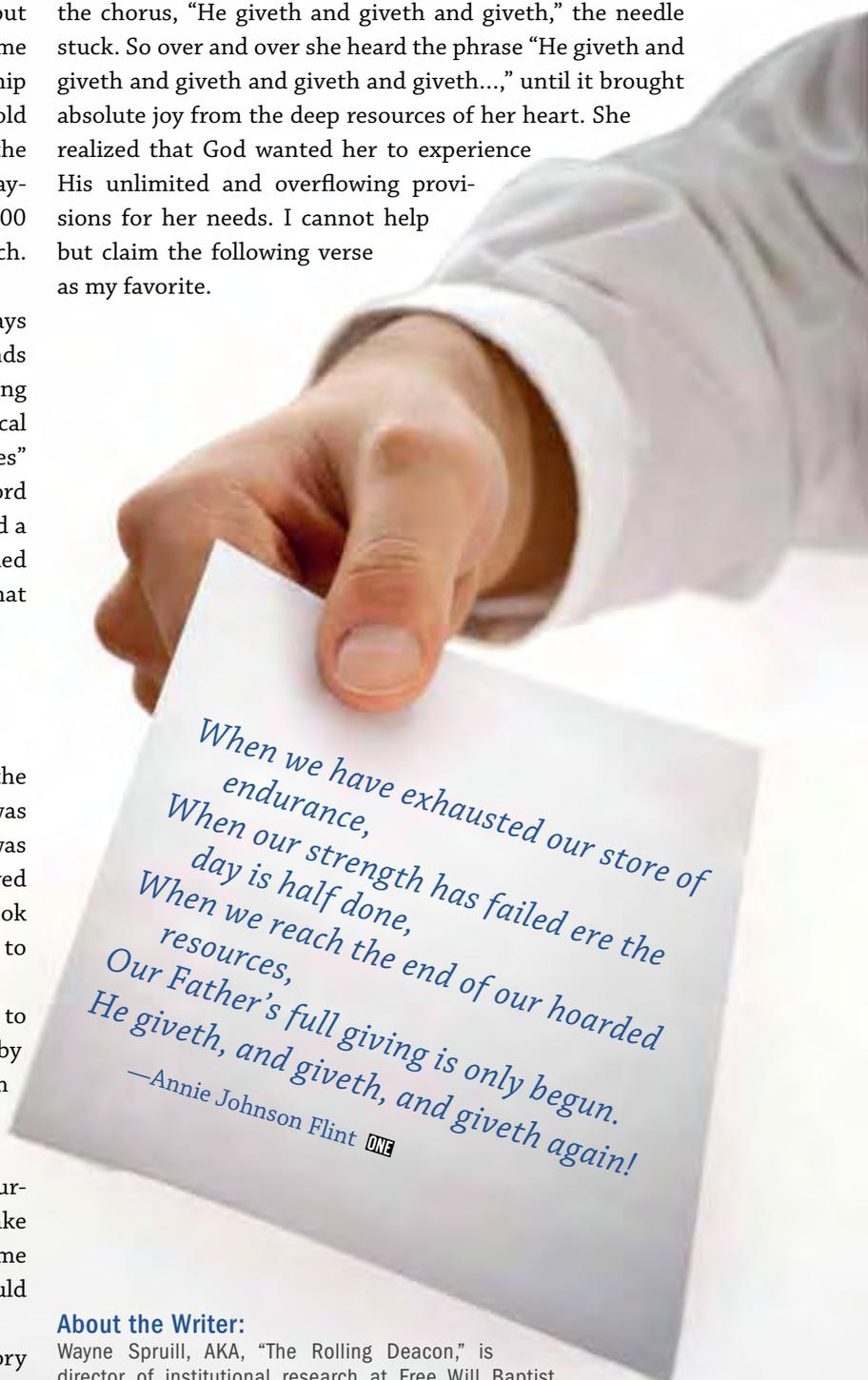
### *Miracle on West End*

On March 17, 2011, as Brenda and I turned into the FWBBC driveway at 3606 West End Avenue, our van was rear-ended. I was tossed around like a rag doll; the van was totaled, and my new wheelchair (December 2010) received major damage. Brenda and I were miraculously only shook up and sore. The other driver's insurance paid for repairs to the chair and gave us current "value" of my van.

Current value did not give me a new vehicle, so I had to come up with a good down payment. Yes, you know it by now. The day of the accident after we got back home from the ER, a longtime friend handed me \$200 cash and said, "This is for McDonald's and those things that will pop up." As the weeks passed and negotiations with the insurance company and dealer continued, we were set to make the purchase. That's when He did it again. My pastor came by, handed me a plain white envelope, and said that I could not ask any questions. I didn't!

A missionary from India shared the following story about this song. It was in the 1940s when the song was newly released. Some caring individual from the States sent her

the record through the mail. They had no idea how discouraged the missionary was, or how exhausted her resources were. She excitedly loaded her Victrola record player and began playing this new inspirational song. When it got to the chorus, "He giveth and giveth and giveth," the needle stuck. So over and over she heard the phrase "He giveth and giveth and giveth and giveth and giveth...." until it brought absolute joy from the deep resources of her heart. She realized that God wanted her to experience His unlimited and overflowing provisions for her needs. I cannot help but claim the following verse as my favorite.



*When we have exhausted our store of  
endurance,  
When our strength has failed ere the  
day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our hoarded  
resources,  
Our Father's full giving is only begun.  
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!*  
—Annie Johnson Flint **ONE**

#### **About the Writer:**

Wayne Spruill, AKA, "The Rolling Deacon," is director of institutional research at Free Will Baptist Bible College. His wife Brenda is administrative assistant in the college's Business Office.

FWBBC introduces a cutting-edge program to help new students succeed in college.

# ACCESS to Success

BY GREG KETTEMAN



**FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE (FWBBC) HAS MADE A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO BOOST EDUCATIONAL QUALITY** for its first-time-in-college (FTIC) students. It's called QEP or Quality Enhancement Plan, a practical, hands-on program that adds sizzle and practical, measurable results to the hectic world of first-year students.

The entire college family has focused its attention on FTICs and new transfer students with the aim of seeing these students “get out of the gate” with a solid first-year performance. When students have a successful first year, they are positioned to complete their programs of study on time, with less cost, and with better results.

The FWBBC Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focuses on academic results but recognizes that academic success is a product of both personal spiritual maturity and individual development of intellectual ability. The FWBBC QEP—Access to Success—brings the college's community of faith and learning together around the goal of every student being successfully educated to be a leader who will serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life. Access to Success helps every FTIC student fully enjoy a successful Bible college experience.

## Four Practical Goals

Access to Success has four broad goals for FTIC students:

**1 Improve freshman grade point average (GPA) by .50.**  
In a study of six previous years, FWBBC FTIC students scored an average GPA of 2.19 (4=A, 3=B, 2=C, 1=D). The average GPA for all students during this period was 2.69. As FTIC students achieve an improved GPA average, they will not need to spend their next years struggling to overcome a less-than-desirable first year.

**2 Eighty percent of all freshmen will achieve at least a 2.0 GPA during fall and spring terms.**  
This goal is related to the first goal. The difference is that it seeks to define improvement in the GPA by improvement in the GPAs of many FTIC students rather than a stellar performance by just a few that raises the average. The idea is for every student to improve his first-year GPA.

**3 Freshmen will pass 10% more credit hours.**  
This goal measures FTIC success in another way. It's obvious that if a student improves his GPA this means he has passed more courses. However, some students have marginal

GPAs but still pass the required courses. While not every student makes A's, we are just as interested in the success of students who may not make A's, but through determination and hard work pass the credit hours they attempt.

**4 Major field and CAAP tests will show 5% improvement beginning in 2014.**

Every student who enrolls in FWBBC takes a standardized test in his area of study. All students take a comprehensive Bible exam as well as a test to determine beginning knowledge in his field of study. During the senior year, students take the standardized test again (sometimes referred to as an “exit exam”). The results are then compared to results from their freshman year and analyzed to determine how much students have improved since their first year in college. A 5% improvement is significant on nationally normed exit exams.

This goal is looking ahead to the time that today's freshmen graduate, and we believe that a more successful freshman year will result in a positive difference in the exit exam scores.

## Access to Success Initiatives and Purposes

FWBCC faculty, staff, administrators, and students worked together to develop Access to Success. In order to achieve the FTIC student goals of our QEP, several initiatives were put into place.

### The Populi System

The college installed a new web-based student information system known as Populi. The Populi Student Information Management System was adopted so that students can have immediate, personal, secure access to their academic, attendance, and financial data. Faculty, staff, and administration can also access student information via Populi.

We believe that by providing students with up-to-date information about their attendance and academic progress, as well as information about each course, professor, assignment, and test, students will always be aware of their standing in these areas.

### Revamp Freshman Orientation

The college totally revamped the freshman orientation experience so that FTIC and transfer students will be able to build social relationships in the peer group and be exposed to vital information before other courses begin. The revamped orientation course now occurs before upper-class students return to campus in the fall. Freshmen and transfer students are able to move into dorms, meet with advisors, begin building relationships with peers, and encounter their first college course during this time.

We believe that by building relationships and providing vital information to FTIC students before anything else happens in the term students are able to establish their collegiate footing earlier.

### Peer-Mentoring Program

The college began a peer-mentoring program, focused on FTIC students. Peer mentoring offers early, individual social

and spiritual support for first-time students to enhance academic motivation and commitment to the college. Peer mentors are selected from upper-class applicants and trained to serve in this important role with their freshman peers.

We believe that signaling to FTIC students that Christian peers are looking out for their best interests encourages new students to more quickly integrate and assimilate into this community of faith and learning.

### Freshman Coordinator

The college plans to employ a freshman coordinator (beginning January 2013) to manage and monitor the QEP, including development of freshman profiles, establishment of a formal tutoring program (the college currently has a volunteer tutoring program), and work with peer-mentors.

We believe that having a credentialed, experienced, faculty-level individual who carefully and skillfully leads Access to Success will result in increased numbers of successful FTIC students.

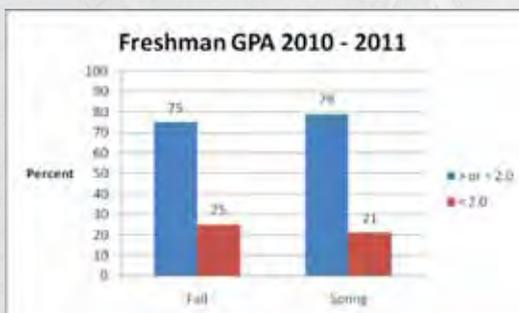
### Formal Tutoring

The college will begin a formal tutoring program in August 2013 to systematically address student academic needs by providing trained, managed, one-on-one tutorial assistance. The current volunteer tutoring program is manned by student volunteers, most of whom are teacher education majors. This volunteer program serves its purposes well.

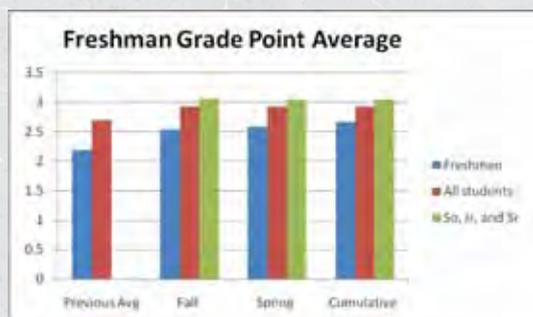
However, we believe that a professionally managed, formal tutoring program will provide an even greater level of academic support for FTIC students.

## First Year QEP Results

In the first year, Access to Success has already made an impressive difference for students. The following facts illustrate this:



- Freshmen earned 88.5% of the credits they attempted.
- FTIC students registered a cumulative average GPA of 2.58 in the spring, topping the previous five-year freshman GPA average of 2.19 and close to achieving the .50 target increase.
- Seventy-nine percent of FTIC students finished the year with at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Freshman class attendance was 88.8% compared to 91% for all students.
- As a class, freshmen withdrew from fewer courses (only 17 courses for the entire year) and passed 88.8% of the courses in which they enrolled.



- The freshman fall-to-spring retention target was 67%. The actual freshman fall-to-spring retention rate was 88.6%.
- Freshmen gave high marks to the revamped orientation experience and the newly implemented peer-mentoring program. Ninety-eight percent of last year's FTIC students passed their first college course (orientation), many with A's or B's!
- Ninety percent of freshmen gave their mentors credit for supporting and encouraging their spiritual and intellectual growth during their first year in college. Freshmen rated the peer mentoring program as very important in their first-year experience.

## What's Ahead for QEP?

Trained FWBBC peer mentors greeted new FTIC students as they came to campus this fall. We continue to provide the Populi Student Information Management System so that all students can access up-to-date information about their courses, attendance, and grades. The revamped Freshman Orientation course opens the college world to FTIC students. We are eager for new students to experience a successful first year of college.

The next steps in the QEP are development of a prototype freshman profile and accepting resumes from individuals who are interested in the freshman coordinator position. (Email [gkettelman@fwbbc.edu](mailto:gkettelman@fwbbc.edu) for more information.)

We hope you will pray for the Lord's blessing on FWBBC as we seek to be faithful in the task of educating these Christian leaders to serve Him, His Church, and His world. **ONE**

**About the Writer:** Greg Kettelman serves as provost at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

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## News at FWBBC

### West Virginia Native, Jeff Bennett, Named Business Associate



**Mr. Jeff Bennett**, a fourth generation West Virginia Free Will Baptist, has accepted a full-time business associate position at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Tom Sass, vice president for financial affairs.

“Jeff Bennett is a great fit for the college,” Mr. Sass said. “Not only is he skilled in the specific office and accounting procedures we need, but he has been active in local and state Free Will Baptist activities in West Virginia, and has a strong reputation in his home church.”

Mr. Bennett brings a broad range of experience from the business community where he served 10 years with the West Virginia Educational Broadcasting Authority—five years as procurement officer and accountant (2006-2011) and five

years as master control operator (2001-2006). He previously served three years in data processing with Appalachian Laboratories, Inc. His FWBBC responsibilities will include general ledger account reconciliation, preparation and distribution of monthly financial reports, accounting data entry, assisting with monthly payroll processing, preparing reports to external agencies, student-related projects, and other duties as necessary.

Mr. Sass said, “This is an important hire for the college at this time. Jeff Bennett is coming on board with multiple skill levels, which means that we can now move forward with reorganizing the Business Office after a number of staffing adjustments the past two years due to retirements and a down economy.”

The son of a Free Will Baptist minister, Jeff was converted at age 11. He served as

youth director, outreach coordinator, and Teen Sunday School teacher at Kilsyth Free Will Baptist Church (Mount Hope). Well known for his leadership in state youth work and journalism, he also serves as interim design editor and publisher for *The Messenger*, quarterly publication of the West Virginia State Association, and administrator for the state association website.

He graduated cum laude from Concord University in 2007 with the Regents Bachelor of Arts degree.

“Growing up, I remember being awestruck when missionaries visited our church,” Jeff said, “thinking how amazing it would be to serve the Lord around the world and lead others to Christ. I look forward to ministering with the FWBBC college family and helping to send laborers into the harvest.”

### Gary Fry Appointed to Church Relations Post



**Reverend Gary Fry**, executive director for the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists since 2004, has been named vice president for church relations at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to President Matt Pinson. Reverend Fry will complete his Missouri duties in January 2012 and begin his FWBBC responsibilities in February.

President Pinson said, “We are delighted that Gary Fry has agreed to join the FWBBC leadership team. He brings a sterling reputation as a denominational leader and Christian gentleman. For 12 productive years, he served on the Board of Trustees, 10 years as chairman. He is exactly what we need as we reach out to churches, parents, and pastors with the

urgent message of biblical higher education for Free Will Baptist young people.”

A Missouri native, Reverend Fry has coordinated the work of the Missouri State Association as editor of the *GEM Magazine* and executive director since 2004. He also served on the General Board and Executive Committee for the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Converted at age nine, Reverend Fry was ordained at 17. He graduated from FWBBC in 1972 and pursued graduate studies at Assembly of God Seminary (Springfield) after returning to Missouri as a youth pastor. He later pastored five years in Florida (1976-1981). His 23-year signature pastorate at First Free Will Baptist Church in Mountain Grove (1981-2004) marked him as rising leader. During those fertile decades, he led his church

to found Mountain Grove Christian Academy and KFFW, a Christian radio station.

“I’m looking forward to this new challenge,” Fry said. “I believe in the mission of Free Will Baptist Bible College. I believe that FWBBC is the answer to the educational needs of our denomination. I’m eager to meet with pastors regarding what FWBBC can do for their congregations, and how they can help the college build a stronger financial base and increase enrollment.”

Gary and Cynthia (Allen) Fry met while enrolled at FWBBC. They married and had three children; their youngest daughter (Katy) is a sophomore at FWBBC. Their oldest daughter (Jessica) lives in Nashville and son (Thad) lives in Mountain Grove. Cynthia died in 2008.

## Students Awarded \$50,000 in Scholarships



Twenty-nine Free Will Baptist Bible College students received almost \$50,000 in endowed scholarship funds during a special chapel presentation August 26, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. Individual awards ranged from \$500 to \$3,000. Scholarship recipients were selected from among applicants by the college administration on the basis of need, academic achievement, and character.

“These funds will make a significant difference for about 30 students this year,” Dr. Ketteman said. “At last count, some 64 endowed scholarships continue to provide funds for FWBBC students. We’re thankful for those who have established this means of perpetually providing funds so that students can study at FWBBC and prepare for ministries of service. We hope others will come alongside them and create their own endowed funding.”

At present, the college reports \$1 million in endowed scholarships. The 64 endowments were created by local churches, by family members in memory of loved ones, by individuals or organizations, or for other reasons. All provide funding that enables Free Will Baptist students to pursue a Christian education. The college also awards \$800,000 annually in institutional scholarships.

FWBBC encourages individuals and organizations to consider establishing scholarship endowments. Those interested in additional information on how to set up endowments may contact:

David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement • 615-844-5205 • Email: [dwilliford@fwbbc.edu](mailto:dwilliford@fwbbc.edu)

### Recipients of Fall 2011 Endowment Funds:

Deana Barwick (GA)

Kristina Clem (IL)

Jacob Culwell (TN)

Christopher Davenport (TN)

Nicholas Dennis (AR)

Elizabeth Hill (VA)

Carol Holland (TN)

Georgia Jeffreys (AL)

David Landers (AR)

Derreck Lute (OH)

Jacob Manning (NC)

Jade Monroe (OK)

Keegan Murfin (TN)

Stephen Nelson (NC)

Margaret Paxton (IN)

Judson Phenicie (AL)

Aaron Pierce (MS)

Andrew Pierce (MS)

Christen Pointer (AR)

Lacey Price (OH)

Leigha Ramos (TN)

Kaylee Ray (AR)

Amanda Reeder (MO)

Kayla Sample (IL)

Brittani Sims (MI)

Phillip Tolbert (MI)

Jared Wall (NC)

Dustin Walters (AL)

Jason Willaford (NC)

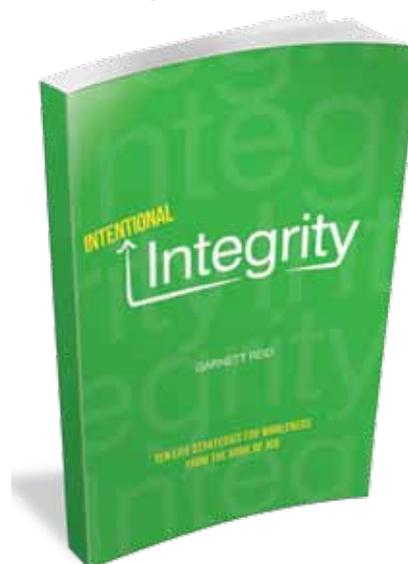
## Garnett Reid Writes Book for Men, Launches Blog

A new book by Dr. Garnett Reid, Old Testament specialist in the Theological Studies Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College, came off the press at Randall House Publications in September. *Intentional Integrity: Ten Life Strategies for Wholeness From the Book of Job*, a 128-page soft cover volume priced at \$11.99, is geared toward men, but can be helpful for all who want to live lives of integrity.

Dr. Reid fills the pages with examples from the life of Job and demonstrates what it means to live out a life of integrity. The book explains how a life of faith can flourish in times of crises as Job’s integrity survives the ash heap. Reid writes with deep biblical insight about the value a life of integrity brings to the individual.

“The book reminds us that when we bond our lives to truth, to the person of

God in a living relationship, the result is integrity,” Reid said. “Job’s fierce trial of fire refined, rather than consumed, his crown of integrity, and permits us to un-



derstand that we too can make faith personal and keep it practical today. While this is a book written for men, it has something for every child of God.”

In preparation for the book’s release, Dr. Reid launched a blog titled “Letters of Intent,” in which he writes about integrity as well as other subjects. Follow the blog at [GarnettReid.com](http://GarnettReid.com). The site will be updated regularly and permits reader interaction with the author.

Garnett Reid joined the Bible faculty at FWBBC in 1982. He writes the widely respected “Intersect” column for *ONE Magazine* and publishes regularly in professional theological journals. A 1977 FWBBC graduate, Dr. Reid holds the Ph.D. degree in Old Testament Interpretation from Bob Jones University. His wife Carol is librarian at FWBBC.

# Giving *and* Receiving Support



By Norma Jackson  
Goldman

**Early in retirement people spend a good deal** of time sorting through changes in daily routines, new work and leisure opportunities, and re-establishing more frequent contact with extended family and friends. By the second or third year, they begin to wonder how they ever found time to work! Inevitably, people experience challenges that require the giving and receiving of support from family and friends. After a lifetime of hearing, “It is better to give than to receive,” we convince ourselves that we prefer being on the giving end, but the choice is not always ours to make.

Being part of a large, thriving congregation provides the opportunity to observe many Christian individuals and families. And there seems to be a clear and observable contrast between busy, involved, and caring people and those who are less engaged, lonely, and lacking a positive outlook.

Alice came to Bible study class about a year ago at the urging of a caring sister. She had serious health issues, had lost her job, and was finding it difficult to maintain a positive attitude. She wondered if God really cared for her. After only a few weeks in a loving, caring environment, we saw big changes in Alice. She was the first to volunteer to help prepare a fellowship dinner and genuinely seemed to enjoy class events. We prayed for her when she had surgery, and she received the love and attention gratefully. Today, she gives support and encouragement to others in the same ways that she once received it.

## When Sickness Comes

Those who pride themselves on extreme independence experience a shock when faced with debilitating medical conditions that require outside help. It is painful to watch them receive help and support in their struggle to regain health. But when others quickly respond with offers to drive them to doctor visits, prepare and serve meals, mow lawns, rake and weed gardens, and carry out such tasks with genuine love and concern (and sometimes humor) it gradually transforms reluctance into gratitude.

## Supporting a Caregiver

Virtually every retiree knows one or more friends who have been tasked with caring for an aging parent or relative. This is truly an act of grace, but the caregiver also needs critical support while carrying out their labor of love. Picking up mail, seeing that the grass is mowed, checking on the house while they are away, preparing meals, providing light housekeeping, and sending notes of love and encourage-



ment go a long way toward easing the caregiver's load. Such kindnesses are a great source of comfort, and they ease the financial burdens associated with extended caregiving.

## Friendships Promote Health

God designed us to live in community, and regular, face-to-face contact with friends is essential for wellbeing. Healthy retirees make friendship a priority. Shopping together, doing service projects, eating out, hunting, and fishing are all activities friends can share. These occasions allow time for meaningful conversations where joys, hurts, fears, and questions can be shared in the safety of a friend's counsel.

## In Times of Trouble and Loss

There is no comfort like that of a friend. Jesus modeled ways to share care and concern that His followers can give in times of loss. The best friends say, "Don't worry about \_\_\_\_\_." I'll take care of that." Good friends know what must be done and move quickly to do it.

People seldom respond when someone says, "Let me know if I can help." Often the best thing a friend can do is simply to be there, quietly in the background, and ready to step forward when needed. Giving and receiving help demonstrate the love of Christ in a language everyone can understand. **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).



# New Release

BY MARK MCPeAK

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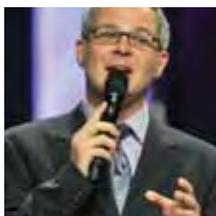
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In the past 10 years, the College has engaged in 131,365 hours of Christian service, more than 13,000 hours of service to the Nashville community each year.



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As you give to the Ketteman Christmas Scholarship Drive, together we will be able to fund institutional scholarships, which will enable students to continue preparing to serve Christ, His Church, and the world through biblical thought and life.

## **Ketteman Christmas Scholarship Drive** **Funding the Future - December 2011**

Free Will Baptist Bible College: 3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205  
800-76-FWBBC | [www.fwbbc.edu](http://www.fwbbc.edu)

Money is a dangerous thing to trust.

# MONEY: *The Consolation Prize*

By Brenda Evans



**Arethusa's Holsteins live high.** There's a sign on their barn that reads "Every cow in this barn is a lady; please treat her as such." These ladies eat protein-enriched hay and lie on soft Canadian wood shavings in a flyless barn. Tails and hides are vacuumed daily then treated with hair care products like Pantene and Artec. And they have lovely names such as Veronica and Melanie.

In return, they give milk that brings \$4.49 a half gallon, about twice the national retail average. Down the road, a rival dairy farmer scoffs. He calls his cows "working girls" and neither grooms nor names them. His Holsteins give good milk, he says, and customers pay just \$2.79 a half gallon.

Arethusa's owners are high-fashion shoemakers whose slingbacks cost \$575 a pair. But recently, it's been milk and not shoe leather that occupies their minds. Milk and exclusivity, that is. Classy cows produce classy milk, you know. And in case you're wondering, Arethusa's milk is non-organic because, along with hair products and fly spray, they use antibiotics.

As amusing and ridiculous as the concept of classy milk is, it's an interesting measure of what we think money buys these days. I've talked about possessing and using money in previous months, and I'm riding the money horse again this month.

## Let me briefly recap those past two articles.

For Christians, possessing wealth is good. It gives us, God's redeemed people, the responsibility under Him and His power to own, direct, and use wealth for just, righteous, and true purposes. That means we must be disciplined and generous in our use of money—both lavish and frugal. Motivated by love yet restrained by wisdom.

But that's about possessing and using wealth. What about trusting wealth? Can we possess and use money yet not trust it? I think we can. I'll make a few points about that.

Money messes with our minds. Think about the connection between elitism, entitlement, exploitation, and money. And what about our dependence on it and its tyranny over us? If we have a lot, we think we're self-sufficient. If we have little, we fall into self-pity.

I'm convinced we can possess money, lots of money, yet not be possessed by it. But it's not easy. Jesus, Paul, James, and many others have made strong cases on that point.

The thing is, money is our security. One night several years ago, my husband Bill and I met death in a dark alley. We bolted forward, trying to outrun him. And eventually we did, by the Lord's grace. But a year later we came out of that alley shaken. In addition to running for our lives, we had made new money goals, revamped our savings and retirement plans, started putting away every copper we could find in preparation for the future.

And that's another problem with money. Enough of it makes us feel safe, certain about the future, a future that we cannot possibly know. "I've got it covered. I'm in control," we say. But we're wrong. James nails us for that. It's arrogance, boasting, presumption, he says (4:13-16). We don't even know about the end of today, much less the time yet to come, next year, next decade.

Then how much is enough? *Money* magazine recently asked, "How much money would you need to feel secure?" Twelve percent said \$500,000; 38% said more than \$2 million. Others were somewhere between. My experience is that the amount I think is enough keeps moving—and always higher.

So I aim at saving everything I possibly can. Though retired, Bill and I still save money every month. Another goal is to live frugally yet freely, wisely yet generously under the Lord's guidance. The other thing we're working on, and this is the hardest, trust the Lord—not money—to take care of us until death.

Author Kathleen Norris lives on a treeless plain in the western Dakotas. She knows what is dear. On this bare plain you visit a tree as if it were a person. "Scarcity makes things more precious," she says. "What is enough? The more I can distinguish between my true needs and my wants, the more I am shocked to realize how little is enough." I need discernment and faith to attend only to my true needs and to godly wants.

Then of course, we live as if money means everything. As if dollars buy all we want. We lean on money, trust it as if it keeps all our options open.

My father used to call some things "no account." It might have been a tool, a mule, or even a man. Whatever it was, I knew that thing was worthless in his eyes. When will we admit that money is no account for those things that bring us deepest satisfaction and hope? Can we really buy everything we want at Macy's, Wal-mart, Juicy Couture, E-Bay, or a high-end car dealership?

We lean on money, trust it as if it keeps all our options open.

John MacArthur shocked me recently when he called me, and people like me, practical atheists. People who live life, make plans, buy and sell as if God does not exist. As if money makes us secure, gives us status, makes us happy, and that's all we need and want. He and James and, of course, Jesus are hard on people like us. People whose needs and wants are only material, physical.

James terrifies me with his description of these self-indulgent practical atheists. Their silver and gold testify against them. They are wailing, exploitive materialists, hoarders fattening themselves for slaughter. They are like my father's corn-fed steers who didn't know the knife was coming. Yet the Lord Almighty hears them. He knows what they are (5:1-6). I want to distance myself from them. Then I remem-

ber that James wrote this letter to his brothers (and sisters) in Christ (1:1-2), people like me. So I am warned against trusting and leaning upon money for my needs and wants.

Have you ever gotten a consolation prize? You know, it is better than nothing, a step above, but quite a long step below the real prize, the winning prize.

I don't want to walk on heretical ground here, but I think Jesus does a little tongue-in-cheek thing in Luke 6 about consolation prizes.

He pronounces both blessings and woes to a mixed group of saints, seekers, and sinners (Luke 6:17-26). In his woe to the rich, he says they have already received their consolation (or comfort as some translators say). Either way, Jesus seems to mean, "You've already gotten your prize, second best and earthly, but your prize, nonetheless."

Wealth is a prize all right, a good gift, but not the big one, not the best one. Not the eternal, forever, heavenly one. It's a consolation prize. I'll not settle for it. I want the real thing.

Money is a dangerous thing to trust. It messes with my mind. It gives me false security. It doesn't mean everything, although I sometimes act like it does. It doesn't give me what I really want and need. It's the consolation prize, not the real thing. **ONE**

**About the Writer:** Brenda Evans, a retired English teacher, lives in Cattlettsburg, KY, with her husband Bill, former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. Learn more about life and money at [www.fwbgifts.org](http://www.fwbgifts.org).

## Brown on Green >>>>

### Handling the Lord's Money

Churches need to be careful in handling money given to the church. Unfortunately, this has become a problem area, even in fundamental churches where 32% report embezzlement. The actual rate is probably higher, because many cases go unreported. In light of this grim statistic, consider taking a few simple steps to reduce the chances of this happening in your own congregation.

It is very important to separate duties as much as possible. For instance, since the treasurer usually writes all the checks, ask a different person to deposit the money into the bank. Stamp every check *for deposit only* as soon as the offering is counted. A minimum of two people should count the money, and rotate this responsibility among several people so the same pair does not count every time. Deposit funds as soon as possible. If available, use the night depository on Sunday night.

Have the bank statement sent to someone other than the treasurer who can review the bank statement and checks written. This person should also look for unfamiliar vendors

and checks made out to cash. Send contribution receipts and encourage donors to report discrepancies between their records and church records. Use contribution envelopes, especially for those who give cash. The church should insist on receiving a regular financial statement at least once a quarter.

Handling the Lord's money is more than just avoiding embezzlement, however. It is important to manage the resources given to the church wisely. Like an individual household, every church should have a budget and monitor spending closely. A church should build up an emergency fund to take care of large or unexpected expenses such as replacing a roof or air conditioning unit. Generally, two to three months of church expenses are sufficient, but in some cases, more may be needed.

Churches also should have a policy about handling bequests. Since this is the last gift the church will receive from an individual, it should be put in more permanent funds, such as a building fund or endowment to support the church. Investing the Lord's money is very important. Investing as a fiduciary of a charitable organization is different from making your own individual investments. Those who make decisions about investing are held to a high standard.

Many churches have discovered that Money Management Trusts offered by the Free Will Baptist Foundation are a good place to park emergency and other long-term funds. We should all be careful in how we manage the Lord's money. We will give an account one day. **ONE**

**The** : 15% of all churches. 25% of evangelical churches.  
**EMBEZZLEMENT** : 32% of all fundamental churches.  
**Problem** : Don't let *your church* become an embezzlement statistic.

# Developing Disciples

BY KEN AKERS

*An effective Master's Men Chapter facilitates spiritual growth in men. The Word of God will call men to intimacy with God, purity of life, leadership in the home, faithful worship, mentoring others, commitment to the mission of the local church and denomination, prayer for their pastor(s), and a burden to share the gospel.*



The paragraph above was taken from the Master's Men manual called, *The Master Plan*. The mission of Master's Men includes five purposes, one of which is discipleship. When I read this statement, I have to ask myself, "Are we doing enough to accomplish this task?"

## Are we facilitating spiritual growth in men?

Through Direction Bible Studies, we provide quality Bible lessons that address important issues men face. These range from dealing with temptation to soul winning and godly living to being the type of husband and father God wants every man to be. The studies are designed to bring men closer to God, and there is no doubt that the closer we get to God, the better men we become.

When we experience a truly intimate relationship with God and focus on Him, we also will have better and closer relationships with those around us. CMI Conferences provide training and encouragement for better relationships. The

We give men opportunities to put what they learn to work through active outreach—disaster response, Impact, mission trips, and work projects. We encourage men to get involved, not only in denominational work, but in their local church as well. Through Operation Saturation, a joint project with Home Missions, and periodic mission trips, we give men the opportunity to share the gospel.

Finally, we strongly encourage our men to support and encourage their pastors. At Master's Men, we believe that together great things can be accomplished.

## Yes, we are!

We are dedicated to facilitating spiritual growth in men. We just need more men to be part of what we are doing. We need more pastors involved. We want to partner with church leaders. We know we can help men across the denomination develop a closer relationship with God.

**We encourage men to get involved, not only in denominational work, but in their local church as well.**

conferences deal with issues of purity, leadership, worship, and mentoring, and give men opportunities to fellowship, establish new friendships, and forge accountability relationships.



**WE ARE SO CONVINCED WE CAN HELP THAT** we are giving the first year of membership free to any new chapter of Master's Men. We will provide **free Bible Studies** and great opportunities to participate in Master's Men activities. For a free copy of *The Master Plan*, or for more information, call or email our office. Let us help you help your men.

Contact us today: [www.fwbmastersmen.org](http://www.fwbmastersmen.org), 877-767-8039, or [masters@nafwb.org](mailto:masters@nafwb.org). ONE

**About the writer:** Ken Akers is director of Free Will Baptist Master's Men.

## News From WNAC and MM

### Shine 75! Sending Them Out through the Seminaries

By Larry A. Powell  
Home Missions Director



Free Will Baptist ministry among Hispanic peoples continues to thrive. Rick Bowling, who oversees Hispanic ministries for Home Missions, recently reported 33 new congregations nationwide. The single most influential factor in this

surge of church growth and ministry development among Hispanics involves Free Will Baptist seminaries.

Free Will Baptist seminaries in Altamira and Reynosa, Mexico, have trained and sent out hundreds of Christian missionaries, ministers, and leaders. The Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Institute, with campus located in Inman, South Carolina, has produced 130 missionaries, ministers, and lay workers. Satellite seminaries in

Johnson City, Tennessee, Houston, Texas, and Los Angeles, California, have graduated 178 lay leaders, missionaries, and ministers who have gone to work in the fields of the Lord.

In 2010, Women Nationally Active for Christ initiated *Shine 75!*, a national project “lighting the way for a new day of ministry among Spanish-speakers.” Women set a goal of raising \$75,000 with gifts to be divided equally among these three North American seminaries. As Home Missions director, my heart is grateful for WNAC and their vision and passion to support seminaries in Mexico and the United States. This financial support will ensure that these seminaries continue to train workers for the vast harvest fields in North America.

May God enable women to reach this goal. Literally thousands of precious souls will hear the gospel because of their generosity and through the outreach of the seminaries. For more information on how you can contribute to this worthy project visit [www.wnac.org](http://www.wnac.org) or call 877-767-7662. ■



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# Why Don't YOU Help Plant a Church?

BY LARRY A. POWELL



**We are the ecclesia.** We are the Church, called out and sent into the world. As you read the Bible, you quickly become aware of a sending pattern. God called and sent Abraham to establish a special people and nation. He called and sent Joseph to Egypt to save and grow a nation. God called and sent Moses to rescue and deliver that nation from bondage. He sent Jonah on a mission to perishing people in Nineveh. Then, in the most amazing event in history, God sent His own son to a lost world of fallen humanity. Equally amazing is the fact that Jesus called and sent His dis-

ciples to share this message of hope. He said, “As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you” (John 20:21b).

Make no mistake. He is sending you as well!

Home Missions has a pressing need to send missionaries to plant churches and tell others about Jesus. The population of the United States is approximately 312 million. I have read estimates that as many as 259 million people claim no relationship with God and Christ.

Why not send your church to work with a church planter?

I am appealing to pastors and churches to get involved with home missionaries. Help a church planter saturate his community with the gospel by going door-to-door, through community mailings, by advertising on newspapers, radio, television, or any other method that comes to mind. I am so thankful for church families who send missions teams and volunteers with resources to partner with home missionaries.

## God will send you if you are willing to go!

Ask our church planters, “How can we help your new church reach your community for Christ?” Refine your plan, pack your van, and hit the road to help. Your church family will be a tremendous encouragement to home missionaries. God will send you if you are willing to go!

I often speak to graduates, technically and vocationally trained young couples, and challenge them to leave their towns and move to a growing southern city, to the mid-Atlantic, or to the Rocky Mountain region. I challenge them to start their own business or find jobs in those communities in order to help a home missionary carve out an exciting, new church in that city.

Wonderful opportunities are waiting across North America. Why not ask God to send you? **ONE**

## Home Missions Welcomes **NEW MISSIONARIES**



*Tyler and Kellie Penn* are planting a church in Champaign, Illinois, a joint project between the state of Illinois and Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Tyler received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Training from Free Will Baptist Bible College. He pastored First FWB Church in Decatur, Illinois, for 10 years.

Champaign/Urbana is a metropolitan area with more than 200,000 people. It is home to the University of Illinois, which enrolls more international students than any other public university in the United States. More than 7,000 international students attended the school during the 2010-2011 school year. Please pray for Tyler, Kellie, and their children, Mason, Millie, and Madden (an adopted son who will arrive in early 2012).



Home Missions welcomes *Reverend Jay Baines* as an associate missionary. He is participating in a parenting program for planting Free Will Baptist churches. Jay is pastor of Townsend FWB Church in Townsend, Delaware. Brother Baines and the Townsend Church are partnering to plant a new Free Will Baptist church in Magnolia, an area of South Dover, Delaware. Jay will conduct services in both areas.

He graduated from Southeastern FWB College with a Bachelor's Degree in Bible/Pastoral Theology and a minor in music. He holds a Master of Arts degree from Liberty University and is pursuing a Master of Divinity program at Liberty as well. Jay has ministered in Delaware for 19 years and has now pastored all three churches there. He feels it is important for the local church to be involved in church planting. The Townsend Church was started in the same way. His church is excited at the prospect of a hands-on church plant. Please pray for Jay, wife Annette, and their sons Caleb, Matthew, and Jonathan (currently attending Liberty University), and the Townsend congregation as they endeavor to plant a new Free Will Baptist church. **ONE**

# THE BEGINNING OF A New Journey

BY JAY BAINES

On September 25, 2011, *Journey Church: a Free Will Baptist Fellowship*, held an official launch service in the Fire Hall in Magnolia, Delaware. Journey Café opened at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and fellowship followed by a worship service.

This moment was the fulfillment of a vision that began in the late 1980s, when New Castle FWB Church in New Castle Delaware sent 20 people, under the leadership of Pastor Richard Atwood, to plant a new church in nearby Townsend. In 1989, the Townsend FWB Church was born. Built into the very DNA of this church was the desire and vision to one day reproduce itself and start another church further south in Delaware.

For years, the leadership of the Townsend church put funds aside in the annual budget to help prepare for this endeavor. After 22 years, the Townsend church has become the parent of Journey Church.

In October 2010, the deacons and I reached the conclusion that it was time to see this vision through. We started a weekly Bible study in the home of a family in the target area. More than 30 people from Magnolia who attended Townsend Church became the core launch team for Journey Church. April 3, 2010 marked the first get acquainted meeting and Bible study. We hosted a cookout followed by prayer and Bible study, and 57 people showed up that evening.

Each week thereafter we gathered for Bible study with 30-35 people attending. We began searching for a place to meet, and after many phone calls, relocated to the Magnolia Fire Hall. We named September 25, 2011, as the official launch date with two pre-launch services planned, one in July and one in August. We began to advertise and used *Outreach, Inc.* to send 5000+ postcards to the targeted area, in addition to newspaper ads and invitation cards that people used personally to invite guests. We began to promote and



ask the Townsend Church to be praying for these pre-launch services. It is vital to have the support and participation of a parent church, especially in the early days.

I am grateful that the Townsend church congregation and leadership supported the idea of my being pastor of both churches for a while. This will help the church become established without the heavy financial burden of a full-time pastor's salary. I personally believe that many churches are capable of planting other churches using this model as a guide. We now have three Free Will Baptist churches in the small state of Delaware using this model. It is our prayer that God will be glorified in this endeavor.

## What are the results of all the preparation?

- 108 people attended the official launch service, 60 from the targeted area. The first offering was \$1,040.
- One first-time visitor rededicated her life to the Lord and promises to be back.
- People from Townsend Church and Journey Church are united for the common purpose of building God's Kingdom.
- Many unchurched and unsaved will hear the gospel as we live out our mission: Love all; Serve all; Worship One!
- Our prayer is that other churches will catch the vision and get involved in church planting.

We are learning as we go, and it is exciting to see daily what God is doing on this Journey. If we can encourage and serve you in any way, give us a call or email us at [www.journeychurchfwb.org](http://www.journeychurchfwb.org). If you would like to support us for a year or two, please contact Free Will Baptist Home Missions. They will be glad to tell you how to get involved.

# THANK YOU *for Your Service*

By Chaplain (MAJ) David Trogdon

**We have all seen cars with yellow ribbons** reading, "Support Our Troops." If you have a yellow ribbon on your car, and you support our troops, I would like to thank you for your support and for your prayers. I am an "old soldier" and remember a time when we were not allowed to wear our uniforms in public places because our service was not appreciated. Now, I often enjoy the blessings of being appreciated and often hear "thank you for your service." I will never forget the tears that came to my eyes when we received a standing ovation at the Atlanta airport as we exited our plane for R&R during a 15-month tour in Iraq.

I am always blessed and humbled when someone sees my uniform and thanks me for my service. I am blessed because I see how appreciative people really are, and how much they really do support us. I am humbled because I am a chaplain and soldier only by the grace of God. God and Free Will Baptists have provided me the wonderful blessing of serving soldiers and their families. So, I would like to take this opportunity to say, "Thank you for your service!"

*In many ways, it is easier for the soldier than for the spouse and children left behind.*

While I am thankful for the support and appreciation soldiers receive, there are some heroes who often go unnoticed. They go unnoticed because they don't wear a military uniform. They may never deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan, but they are heroes just the same. These unknown heroes are military families. They are true heroes for so many reasons. They follow us around the world as we move every two or three years. They endure multiple long deployments and long separations. I have been separated from my family for 3.5 out of the last 10 years. This is not unusual for a military family. They endure many hardships and sacrifices that so often accompany military life.

In many ways, it is easier for the soldier than for the spouse and children left behind. Imagine being separated from your spouse for 12-15 months at a time. Imagine facing the constant fear of seeing a government sedan pull up in front of your house or flinching every time you hear the doorbell. Imagine being on the phone with your soldier during a rocket attack. Imagine wondering if you will ever see him or her alive again. Imagine living and dealing with your soldier's TBI (traumatic brain injury), his combat stress reactions, his



impatience, and his nightmares after he finally redeploys back home. Imagine living in Germany with three little ones without speaking German. All you can do is survive, all on your own, while your husband serves in Afghanistan. Imagine doing all this and still loving and supporting your soldier.

If you are a spouse or a family member of a soldier, airman, sailor, or marine, you most likely do not have to imagine at all. For others, maybe now you can see why our family members are the true heroes that deserve our appreciation and support.

The next time you see a soldier or other military member in uniform with spouse or family at church, in a restaurant, or at the airport, don't forget to thank his family members for their service, too. If you know family members who have a loved one deployed, don't forget to pray for them and constantly check on them. Don't forget about them. Let them know you truly love them and truly support their service. They are true heroes, uniform or no uniform! **ONE**

**About the Writer:** Chaplain Major David Trogdon is stationed at Ft. Rucker, AL. He has been a chaplain since 2000. For more information about the chaplain ministry, visit [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).

## Ten Easy Ways to Support Military Personnel and Their Families

- 01.** Send a care package: [www.herobox.org](http://www.herobox.org)
- 02.** Buy a soldier lunch at a drive-through, airport, or restaurant.
- 03.** Pay for portraits of the soldier's family.
- 04.** Send e-books or mp3 gift cards via email.
- 05.** Pay the cell phone bill for a month.
- 06.** Offer to take the kids on a special outing.
- 07.** Honor military families with a special service at church.
- 08.** Post a blog honoring a friend or family member in the military and send the link.
- 09.** Give them time to adjust when they return home.
- 10.** Pray for them faithfully and let them know you do.

# Searching for Security?

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Age	Rate	Ages	Rate
65	5.5%	65/65	5.1%
70	5.8%	70/70	5.4%
75	6.4%	75/75	5.7%
80	7.2%	80/80	6.3%
85	8.1%	85/85	7.1%
90	9.5%	90/90	8.3%



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# LeaderProfile >>>>

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



>>>>>>>> David does not dress like most pastors, but as a Free Will Baptist pastor in uniform, he is responsible for 5,000 soldiers and their family



members, the five-unit ministry teams of the 1st Aviation Brigade, and 500 soldiers and family members at the chapel where he pastors. Chaplain Major Trogdon has deployed to Kuwait and Iraq (twice), once with combat engineers and once with EOD (explosive ordinance disposal). He is stationed at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, but currently at Ft. Gordon for a three-month school in leadership to prepare him for the rank of lieutenant colonel.

How does the son of an Indiana pastor end up a soldier who pastors the heroes serving our country? David felt God's calling on his life at age 12. David preached his first sermon at youth camp not long before joining the Army. He served nine years before submitting to the call on his life. He returned to FWBBC, and after graduating in 1991, he began to pastor Tippett's Chapel FWB Church in North Carolina. While pursuing a Master of Divinity from Southeastern Theological Seminary, he established connections with other chaplain candidates who God used to call David back to the military, this time in a new role.

David describes a chaplain as a "pastor in uniform" who ministers to military families. David quickly gives credit to his dad who helped him learn every facet of pastoring. David's goal is to do God's will and says that 95% of a chaplain job—or any ministry leader for that matter—is growing deeper in love with God and your family. David is proud of his kids and "perfect" grandkids.

David, you are a great leader! ONE

**Describe your quiet time.**

"I struggle like everyone but like to spend time with God before work when distractions begin. I combine reading of books and the Word."

**Describe your leadership style.**

"I have coined the term C3 Leadership, where leadership includes character (being Christ-like), caring (servant-style leadership), and competence (in what you learn and are called to do)."

**Describe an ideal date for you and Connie.**

"Dinner, a movie, and a walk—any time away from the computer or phone."

**What is your biggest failure?** "I have been hard on myself through self-imposed perfectionism. The idea of perfect at work, even ministry, has taken me away from caring for my family. My 'biggest guilt' is being deployed during my daughter's 16th year. We will never be able to recapture family moments. We need boundaries. The Army can always send another chaplain, the church can get another pastor, but your children cannot get another dad."

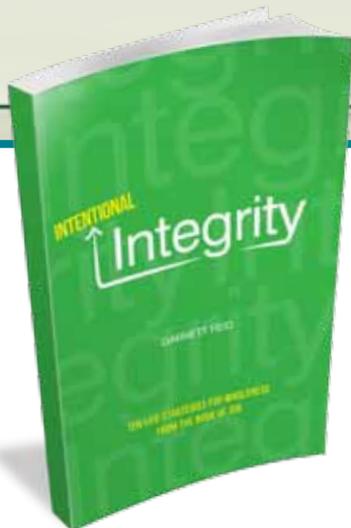
**What is your one indulgence?** Starbucks: tall, strong coffee with cream.

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

- *Don't Waste Your Life* by John Piper
- *Slave: the Hidden Truth About Your Identity in Christ* by John MacArthur
- *And the Angels Were Silent* by Max Lucado

**Paper or Plastic Questions**

- >> *Mountains or Ocean?* Mountains
- >> *Music or Talk Radio?* Music
- >> *Coke or Pepsi?* Diet Pepsi
- >> *Email or Texting?* Texting
- >> *Mac or PC?* PC



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Seats in an intensive care unit waiting room should have seatbelts, because sometimes, the ICU waiting room feels like a rollercoaster.

# The ICU Rollercoaster

BY JEFF NICHOLS

My family and I recently endured 18 days in the ICU waiting room in my hometown in Mississippi while my brother battled complications from lung cancer surgery. The lessons learned and moments lived will stick in my mind for a very long time.

## **Life turns into a rollercoaster in an intensive care unit waiting room.**

Every four hours, you get to see your family member or friend. Will it be good news? Bad news? Did the doctor say respirator or ventilator? What is ARDS? Do I need to decide something today? How do those nurses do it? Only four more hours before I get to see them again!

How many people have sat in those uncomfortable chairs enduring the same wide range of emotions? How many have been called back to receive “the news”? How many hugs, cries, screams, sobs, and snores have filled that room.

Families are contained in close quarters for indefinite periods—sleeping, crying, watching, waiting. Waiting for news. Waiting for hope. Being visited by people living their normal lives before they come in, who step into the whirlwind of the roller coaster for a short while before stepping back out into the calm breezes of routine.

Using the rollercoaster analogy, here are some things to remember when your turn comes to ride the ICU waiting room roller coaster:

**You are not alone.** On the rollercoaster, you are linked together with quite a few other people. Some you may know. Most you don’t. Some have ridden this ride before. Others are rookies. But you are linked together, whether you like it or not.

Some have been on the ride for weeks—the veterans. Others just started—the rookies. No one really knows how long it will last. Only that it is filled with ups and downs. So get to know your fellow riders. God may have a purpose for your “adventure” together.

**There will be sudden drops, twists, and turns and some will turn you upside down.**

Twists and turns make a rollercoaster an adventure, but they are not so much fun in the waiting room. But twists and turns are reality. Some of them will turn you upside down...and inside out. At 2:00 a.m. his vital signs were good, and everything looked stable. At 6:00 a.m. he has developed blood clots in his legs cutting off blood flow to his legs and feet. Did they say amputation?

**It's hard to see the bottom of the drop.**

The first big drop, the one that gives the coaster car the momentum for the rest of the ride, is a doozy. When you drop down that hill at breakneck speed, it's hard to see the bottom of the hill. When a loved one is in medical freefall with unexpected complications popping up daily or hourly, it's hard to envision when, or how, it will stop. When will it level out? And when it does, there may be another hill to climb with a drop waiting on the other side.

**People who are pregnant, people with back injuries or heart conditions should not ride.**

No one in a fragile medical condition should ride a rollercoaster. Period. But a rollercoaster has nothing on the ICU waiting room. The ICU rollercoaster is not for the faint of heart. Some can't handle it—much less visit the patient. Don't judge them. Not everyone is equipped for the ride.

**Keep hands and feet inside the cart at all times.**

Pull your shoulder harness down securely around your shoulders. You must follow the rules of the ICU. Before visiting your patient, turn off cell phones. Wash your hands before and after your visit. No more than two visitors per patient. You may not see the need for these rules, but in the end, it's for the health of your loved one (or you). Don't give the nurses and other hospital staff members a hard time. Understand that they are doing their best to help your loved one.

**Employees look so comfortable and relaxed around such hysteria.**

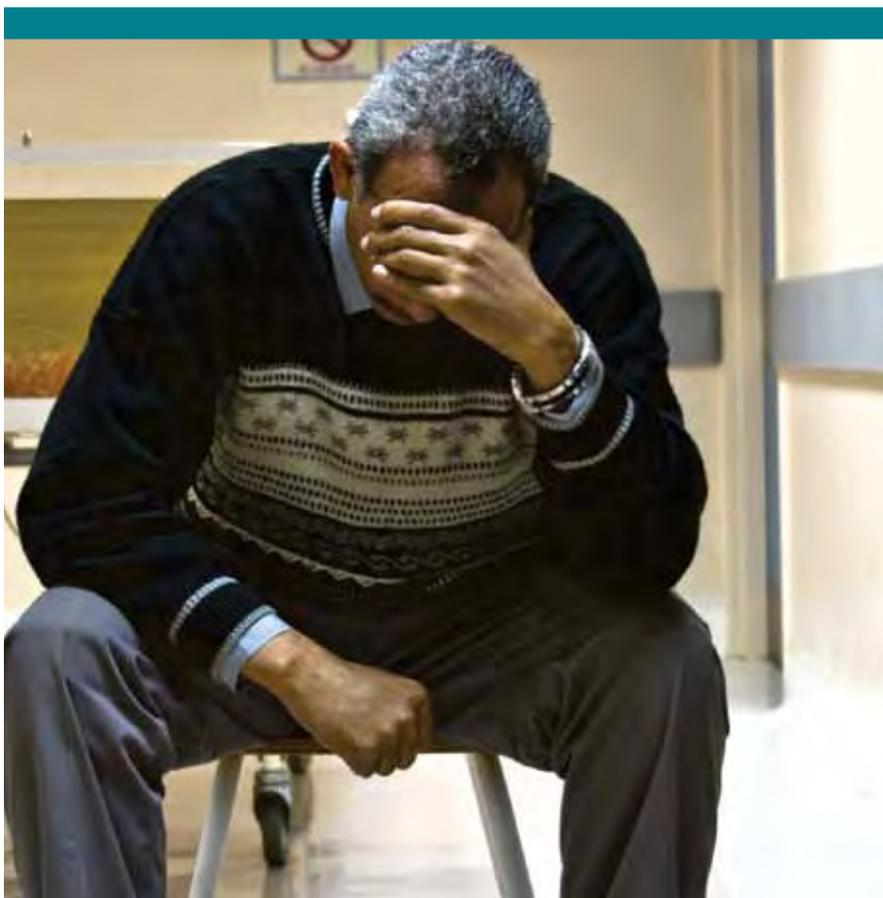
Have you ever seen the faces of roller coaster attendees? They look bored. What seems thrilling to you has become old news to them. They have seen it all a thousand times. It's just another ride.

Nurses, doctors, technicians and other personnel who work in the ICU are special people who feel comfortable in such an environment. They instinctively know what to do in crisis situations. They work 12-hour shifts and remain just as sharp at hour eleven as they were in hour one. They are exceptional.

Ministers also stick out on this ride—not because of the way they dress but how they carry themselves and the peace they bring with them. They bring a calm, assuring presence to the room because they are comfortable here. And they may be the only one. They are in the waiting room because they want to be. They've ridden the ride many times with many families. They know the possible outcomes. They are available to warn, comfort, listen, counsel, pray, and just be there.

**After the ride comes to a complete stop, push up your shoulder harness and make your way to the exit.**

No one wants to take the ICU rollercoaster ride, yet most people find themselves on it when least expected. Are you ready? And if you find yourself on the ride unexpectedly, remember that it did not take God off-guard. Psalm 139:16 tells us, "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." The ride will end one day, one way or another. He knows. He is there, and He will be waiting for you. **ONE**



**About the Writer:** Jeff Nichols is executive pastor at Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, TN.



# GOING DEEPER:

## The 2011 D6 Conference

BY ERIC K. THOMSEN



Not long ago, my friend Katie shared an incident that happened during her family's Caribbean vacation. Despite a lifelong fear of the ocean, she scheduled a guided snorkeling excursion to a reef off the coast of Honduras. "It can't be that bad," she told herself, picturing the colorful and friendly backdrop of Disney's *Finding Nemo*, complete with bright, playful fish and gently swaying coral fans.

To her surprise and dismay, after outfitting her family with snorkeling gear, the guide loaded them into a small fishing boat and sent it skimming over the waves, farther and farther from shore. When it finally came to a stop, she peered with dread into the murky depths, wondering what she had gotten herself into. The guide cheerfully announced that the water beneath them was 180 feet deep then instructed them to sit on the edge of the boat and roll off backwards into the rolling waves. Katie was terrified!

Her husband Matt slipped into the water without hesitation. Her young sons perched on the side of the boat to follow, then looked to Katie for approval. For a long moment, she fought down the urge to grab them both and hold them tightly within the safety of the boat. But taking a deep breath, she smiled shakily and nodded. They slipped into the water, leaving her alone with her fear.

Summoning all of her courage, Katie adjusted her mask and snorkel, leaned back, and dropped into the deep. As the waves closed over her head, she got her first glimpse of endless blue fading into inky darkness. She panicked. Hyperventilating, she clawed her way to the surface, desperate for sunlight and oxygen.

After regaining her composure, she turned to see her husband in the distance, waving impatiently. She swam quickly to catch up with her family, and joining hands, they swam together behind their guide through the deep water.

What happened next was magical. An enormous wall of coral rose up before them from the ocean depths. Her boys pointed excitedly with eyes huge behind their masks, as schools of bright tropical fish streamed around them. For the next two hours, the family followed their guide through

an enchanted underwater world—one far more beautiful than any Disney animator could create.

"I am so glad I didn't let fear keep me from sharing that experience with my children," Katie told me quietly. "The guide told us later that the section of reef we visited is the most beautiful, but it can only be reached through deep water. It was a good reminder for me that sometimes, you have to be willing to go deep with your kids to get where you want to be."

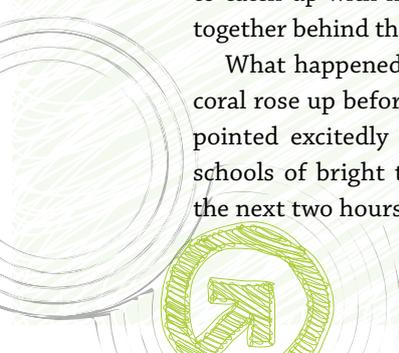
As I listened, I couldn't help but think that Katie's story paints a vivid picture of the D6 Conference. For two incredible years D6 has challenged and changed the landscape of ministry in America by emphasizing the importance of family discipleship based on Deuteronomy 6:5-7, where God commands dads and moms to take every opportunity to impress God's Word upon their children.

The response to the conference has been overwhelming. Attendance has grown by more than 40%, numerous ministry partnerships have been forged, and the D6 message has found its way into churches and homes across America and around the world.

Nearly 2,300 attendees from 500 churches in Canada, England, France, Norway, Puerto Rico, 42 states, and more than 30 denominations gathered in Dallas, Texas, September 21-23, for the third D6 conference while nearly 4,980 watched the conference from their homes via live streaming. But with its third conference, D6 left the familiar shoreline—the familiar message—for deep water, asking attendees, "What's next?" for this growing movement.

Fifty-nine speakers addressed tough but vital topics ranging from parenting, marriage, sexuality, and divorce prevention to the importance of truth, and strategies for developing kids (and adults) with a Christian worldview. The messages were thought provoking, challenging, and sometimes painful:

David Platt, author of the bestselling book *Radical*, confessed to being "over his head" as a writer, pastor, and father but went on to remind listeners that in light of lost millions,



Christians must embrace tasks larger than they can handle themselves.

Veteran Youth Pastor Doug Fields challenged church leaders to stop “making suggestions from the pulpit we aren’t living out at home.”

Author Dannah Gresh challenged parents to avoid traps set by an over-sexualized culture and “simply let kids be kids.”

Mark Holmen, pioneer of the *Faith at Home* movement, asked, “How do we keep the D6 movement going when our culture is always ready for the next big thing?”

Texas Pastor Voddie Baucham explored God’s purpose for marriage and emphasized the importance of male headship in the home.

Free Will Baptist Bible College Professor Garnett Reid encouraged his listeners that God is faithful (*hesed* in Hebrew) to us, and he reminded parents that their own day-in and day-out faithfulness to God is the best heritage they can leave to their children and grandchildren.

When Randall House Director Ron Hunter stepped to the stage on Thursday evening, he challenged parents to leave the beach, to get beyond splashing in the shallows, and to dive into the deep and dangerous waters of discipleship where you ask kids tough questions that address their needs, desires, and beliefs. “It is when we are willing to risk conflict in communication with our children,” he said, “that the overlap between their questions and our response provides our most valuable opportunity for influence. Don’t miss that chance by playing it safe.”

Will conference attendees rise to these and other challenges presented to them at the 2011 D6 Conference? Will they take their families deeper into discipleship? Will they ask the tough questions? Will they guide their children through the murky waters of a culture seeking to destroy them? Only time will tell. But one thing is certain. After this conference, they know it’s time to get out of the boat!

**About the writer:** Eric K. Thomsen is managing editor of *ONE Magazine* and Victoria’s dad. Pray that God will help him get out of the boat.

The annual D6 Conference, hosted by **Randall House Publications**, equips churches to partner with parents to create a home environment designed to pass faith to the next generation. Learn more about D6 at [www.d6conference.com](http://www.d6conference.com).



## What is NEXT?

Highlights of the 2011 D6 Conference

Wednesday, September 21

**D6 opens with a bang!** Pre-con Labs feature 50+ workshops led by presenters such as **Dr. Richard Ross**, Ft. Worth resident and founder of *See You at the Pole* and *True Love Waits*; Christian apologist **Sean McDowell**; **Phil Vischer**, *Veggie Tales* creator; **Garnett Reid**, author of *Intentional Integrity*; and **Rob Reinow**, author of *Visionary Parenting*.

**Out of the Ordinary!** Churches and youth groups from across the Dallas area join D6 attendees for a night of praise appropriately called, “Out of the Ordinary.” The concert features best-selling Christian bands **Leeland** and **Sanctus Real**. High-energy music, coupled with the excitement of visiting church and youth groups creates an unforgettable evening for everyone.

Thursday, September 22

**Doug Fields**, author of *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry* and founder of *Simply Youth Ministry*, challenges Christian leaders to avoid the misconceptions, unrealistic expectations, and spiritual exhaustion that sometimes accompany ministry. He warns against the latest trend in ministry—discipleship too focused on kids and teens when true family ministry includes the entire family: mom, dad, grandparents, marriage, parenting—everything. He proposes a return to the ministry model that says, “**Follow me as I follow Jesus.**” He asks the blunt question, “**Are we making suggestions from the pulpit we aren’t living out at home?**”

**David Platt**, author of *Radical*, confesses to the audience that he is in over his head—as a conference speaker, pastor, husband, and father. Yet, in light of 4.5 billion lost people in the world, Christians don’t have time to play games with their lives and churches but need to embrace a task that is much larger than their own capabilities. He encourages listeners to stop “playing church” and warns that “we have taken the Water of Life from the gospel and replaced it with Kool-Aid in an attempt to get people to taste it.” He shares three words of exhortation about reaching the next generation from Luke 9:57-62:



1. Teach them to treasure the person of Christ more than the possessions of this world. Show the next generation that Christ is enough by not getting caught up in the endless pursuit of possessions.
2. Teach them that God's Kingdom is infinitely more important than their family. Responsibility to God supersedes any human relationship, including those in our homes. He poignantly challenges parents to **"raise a generation of kids who are so concerned about reaching the lost they won't even show up for our funerals."**
3. Train them to love the Lord enough to gladly leave their homes behind.

**Emerson Eggerich**, author of *Love and Respect*, explains that the majority of marital conflicts are caused by lack of love by men and lack of respect by women. Yet married couples can break this "crazy cycle" by understanding God-given distinctions between male and female. He encourages husbands to think of themselves as an oyster and their spouses as sand. The "irritant" reveals a true and better nature.

Bestselling author **Dannah Gresh**, leader of a movement to encourage lifelong purity in girls and teens, explores the theology of sexuality. She challenges listeners to live out godly marriages as a way to pass faith to their kids. Why? Because the world has over-sexualized the next generation of young people, and without a consistent godly example of marriage, boys and girls are likely to fall into the sexuality traps set by the culture around them.

Randall House Executive Director & CEO **Ron Hunter** introduces three levels of conversation every parent should have with their kids.

**The shoreline.** Relaxing, simple conversations that work at all levels.

**The shallows.** Step into the water. Engage in basic dialogue and disagreement. Real relationships begin with deeper level conversations.

**Into the deep.** Get out of the shallow and speak to their needs, desires, and beliefs, even at the risk of confrontation and disagreement.

Through story and song, **Steven Curtis Chapman** shares the story of his faith journey, from the childhood story of his family's conversion when he was a boy to his discovery of music, the biggest influences on his life, meeting his wife in college, and the doors God opened to make his calling to ministry through music possible and the amazing ways God has used that music around the world to bring men and women to Himself.

In perhaps the most painful yet poignant moment of the conference, the Christian artist and songwriter shares publicly, for the first time, the details of how God sustained his family through the tragic loss of his daughter Maria in May 2008. **"I don't have all the answers about why this happened"** he told a tearful audience, **"and given the opportunity, I would still just want my little girl back. But I have learned one thing for certain. Life may be hard, but God is still God, and He is faithful."**

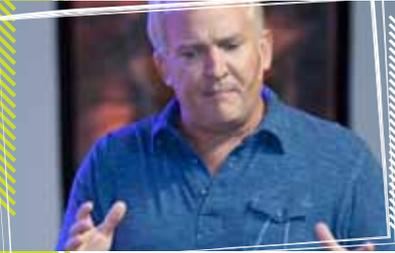
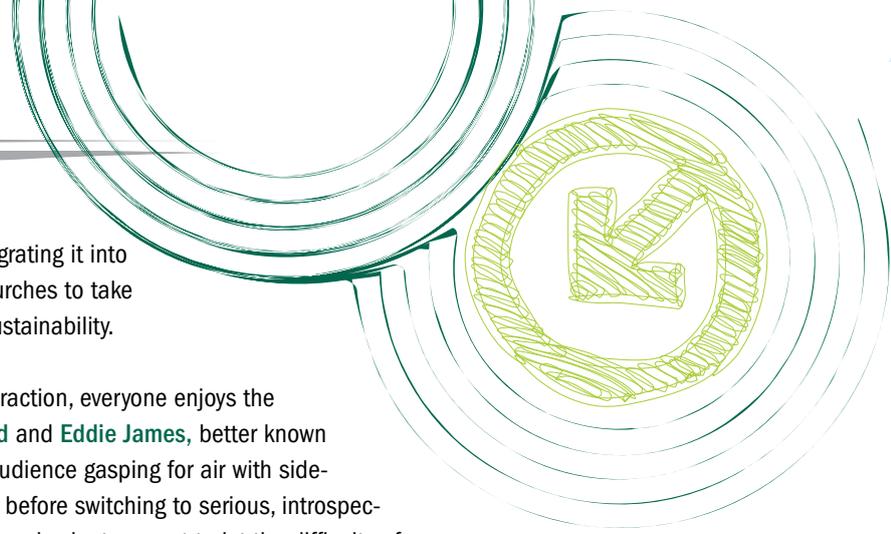
Friday, September 23

**Voddie Bauchum**, pastor of Grace Family Baptist Church in Spring, Texas, challenges listeners to stop longing for the "good old days," because the only good days are found in Genesis 1 and 2 before the Fall. He explores God's three purposes for marriage from those good days: procreation, illustration, and sanctification. He argues for male headship in the home based on Genesis 2 when God created the woman after, for, from, and by the man.

A four-member student ministry panel consisting of **Josh Griffin**, **Allyson Evans**, **Allen Pointer**, and **Wayne Rice** fields tough questions from the audience about the balance between youth and family ministry. All panelists agree that good youth ministry does not build walls but creates unity. Josh Griffin reminds listeners, **"NextGen ministry doesn't take a village; it takes a church!"** If training starts when students reach the teen group, it's too late. True "youth ministry" starts at a very young age.

*Faith at Home* pioneer **Mark Holmen** reminds listeners that being a faith at home church is not about creating new "family programs" but weaving family ministry





into the fabric of the church itself, integrating it into every every ministry. He challenges churches to take family ministry beyond possibility to sustainability.



After hours of intense training and interaction, everyone enjoys the comic relief offered by **Tommy Woodard** and **Eddie James**, better known as **The Skit Guys**. The duo leaves the audience gasping for air with side-splitting sketches and hilarious improv before switching to serious, introspective sketches that encourage ministers and volunteers not to let the difficulty of ministry deter them from their calling.



Free Will Baptist Bible College Professor **Garnett Reid** encourages listeners that God is faithful (*hesed* in Hebrew) and reminds parents that everyday faithfulness to God is the heritage they will leave to their children and grandchildren.

Speakers **Voddie Baucham** and **Josh Griffin** close the conference with prayer after an auditorium filled with thousands of people stands in silence for several minutes interrupted only by the sound of weeping. **ONE**



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# Labor of Love

By D. Ray Lewis

At this year's National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, the Board of Retirement launched the Labor of Love Campaign with the long-range goal of providing supplemental retirement benefits to retired Free Will Baptist ministers and lay employees who need assistance in meeting daily needs.

The first phase of our campaign seeks 1,000 generous individuals, churches, WNAC and Master's Men chapters, Sunday School classes, or other groups who will pledge at least \$10 per month for one year or make a one-time gift of at least \$120 to fund an endowment with Free Will Baptist Foundation.

Each gift will be permanently recorded in a *Book of Remembrance* displayed in the Board of Retirement office. The following donors have already contributed the campaign:

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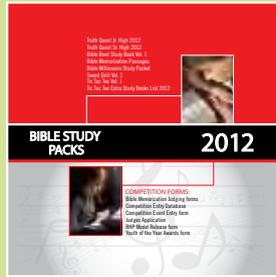
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## :NYC News

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### Youth Worker Gathering

For the past four years, Free Will Baptist youth workers from across the denomination have been gathering in Orlando, Florida, for a few days of networking, encouragement, and fellowship. The 2012 Youth Worker Gathering is set for March 6-7. Watch for more details at [www.fwbgathering.com](http://www.fwbgathering.com) or send email to [scm@randallhouse.com](mailto:scm@randallhouse.com).



### Buck-A-Week

You can make a difference in someone's life in Buffalo, New York, and Nantes, France. These are the projects for the 2012 Buck-A-Week offering. Contact Randall House to get a free Buck-a-Week bank, email [youth@randallhouse.com](mailto:youth@randallhouse.com) or call 800-877-7030.

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## : News About the Denomination

### Hillsdale College Hosts 2011 Theological Symposium

**Moore, OK**—The 2011 Theological Symposium met October 17-18 on the campus of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma. The symposium, an annual event sponsored by the Commission for Theological Integrity, features papers on pertinent theological issues read by their authors. Each presentation is followed by lively discussion regarding the issues presented.

This year's program featured nine papers, four on specific areas of Jonathan Edwards's theology: sin and depravity, atonement and justification, perseverance, and divine foreknowledge and human freedom. The Commission plans to publish the papers in a book.

To find out more about the forthcoming book, contact Leroy Forlines: [leroyf@fwbbc.edu](mailto:leroyf@fwbbc.edu) or Matt Pinson: [president@fwbbc.edu](mailto:president@fwbbc.edu). ■

### Integrity Theological Journals Available for Purchase

**Antioch, TN**—The Commission for Theological Integrity has back issues of the *Integrity* Theological Journal (volumes 2 through 5) and would like to make these available to pastors for \$6 each (including postage). If you would like to purchase the journals, please send a check payable to the Commission and indicate which volume(s) you want.

**Mail payment to:**  
National Association of Free Will Baptists  
5233 Mt. View Road  
Antioch, TN 37013-2306  
Attn. Melody Hood. ■

# Walking in MEMPHIS

BY STEPHEN NELSON

After celebrating 75 years as a denomination at the 2011 convention, Free Will Baptists may wonder, “Where do we go from here?” The simple answer is Memphis.

The bustling city of Memphis sprawls along the banks of the Mississippi River in southwestern Tennessee. The area that would later become the city was brought into the Union as part of the Jackson Purchase negotiated in 1818. The city itself was founded May 22, 1819, by several investors including future President Andrew Jackson. At its inception, Memphis was only four blocks wide and home to around 50 people.

In the years since, Memphis has grown exponentially, thanks in large part to its location on the Mississippi River. Today, it is the largest city in Tennessee with a population of 680,000 (1.2 million in the greater metropolitan area).

The most recognizable landmark in the city is the final home of Elvis Presley. And while Graceland is certainly not the focus of the Free Will Baptist convention, it receives more than 600,000 visitors each year, making it one of the most visited homes in the country. Only the White House in Washington, D.C., and the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina receive more visits.

Memphis is also home to the Grizzlies professional basketball team, 2010 playoffs Cinderella. The FedEx Forum, home court of the Grizzlies is also the venue for many concerts and events.

Known for a rich musical heritage and mouth-watering barbeque, Memphis is sure to have something for everyone.

When needing a break from competition, business meetings, and seminars, conventioners will find Memphis has much to offer in the way of family entertainment.

One such attraction is the Memphis Zoo. It is reasonably priced and offers discounts for large groups, making it a great option for youth groups. Those traveling with children will want to visit the Children’s Museum of Memphis, which is packed full of fun and educational exhibits. For music lovers, the Gibson guitar plant will provide an interesting and enjoyable option. Located directly across from the FedEx Forum and the Westin Hotel, the factory offers tours of the facility with an inside look at the process of making the world-renowned instruments from start to finish.

Free Will Baptists will meet in Memphis for only the second time. The last meeting, which took place in 2002, marked the end of one era and the beginning of another as Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington retired after 23 years, and current executive secretary Keith Burden was elected to be his successor.

With 75 years in the rearview mirror, Free Will Baptists look to the future with excitement, waiting with anticipation for what God has in store. May God bless us all as we live for Him daily and bring us together next year when the “Free Willers” go “Walkin’ in Memphis.” 



**About the Writer:** Convention Press Intern Stephen Nelson is a senior English major at Free Will Baptist Bible College. To find out more about convention internship, contact Convention Manager Ryan Lewis at the Executive Office: 877-767-7659 or [ryan@nafwb.org](mailto:ryan@nafwb.org).

Photo: Mark Cowart



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

## One to ONE >>>>

### *Taking a Stand*

I answered the call to preach the summer between my sophomore and junior year of high school.

During the second semester of my junior year, my English class included a section on American literature. One exercise in this study was reading plays.



One day at the end of class our teacher assigned reading parts for a particular play. I was selected to read the part of a character named Robert. We would be reading the play aloud in class the next day.

That evening, as I was dutifully doing my homework, I opened my literature book and began reading through the play. My heart began to sink. The character I had been assigned used profanity. While I feared the disapproval of my teacher, and worse, the ridicule of my classmates, I knew I could not participate in this assignment.

I arrived early the next morning to explain to my English teacher that I could not read my assigned part because the character used profanity. Although she explained it was “only a play” and the character was simply using “colorful language,” I politely, but firmly, requested I be excused from participating.

I thought that was the end of the matter. Wrong! When class began, the teacher proceeded to explain to the rest of the class my dilemma and the fact that I had asked to not participate in reading the play. Then she asked, “Who would like to read the part of Robert?” I

wondered who would volunteer.

There was an awkward silence. No one moved a muscle. No one raised a hand. No one volunteered. In that moment I experienced a profound sense of affirmation from my classmates. Later, several of them told me they respected me for taking a stand and that’s why they did not volunteer.

The teacher read the part of Robert. I’ll always believe my report card reflected her disapproval of my decision. Incidentally, I had this same teacher the following year for speech class. She predicted I would never make it as a public speaker because I stuttered.

Please don’t miss the point of this story. I am not attempting to pat myself on the back. I did what any Christian should do under those circumstances. For me, it was confirmation that God was pleased with my actions. It also confirmed that other people really do respect those who take a stand for what is right.

Is taking a stand for what is right always appreciated by others? Honesty dictates I tell you no. Sometimes we do face derision. But, regardless of what happens, our Father is always pleased when we take a stand for Him. **ONE**

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